





“THE PEOPLE’S PAPER”

THE ALABAMA

Bazette



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VOL. 18. ISSUE 10 ~ July 2018

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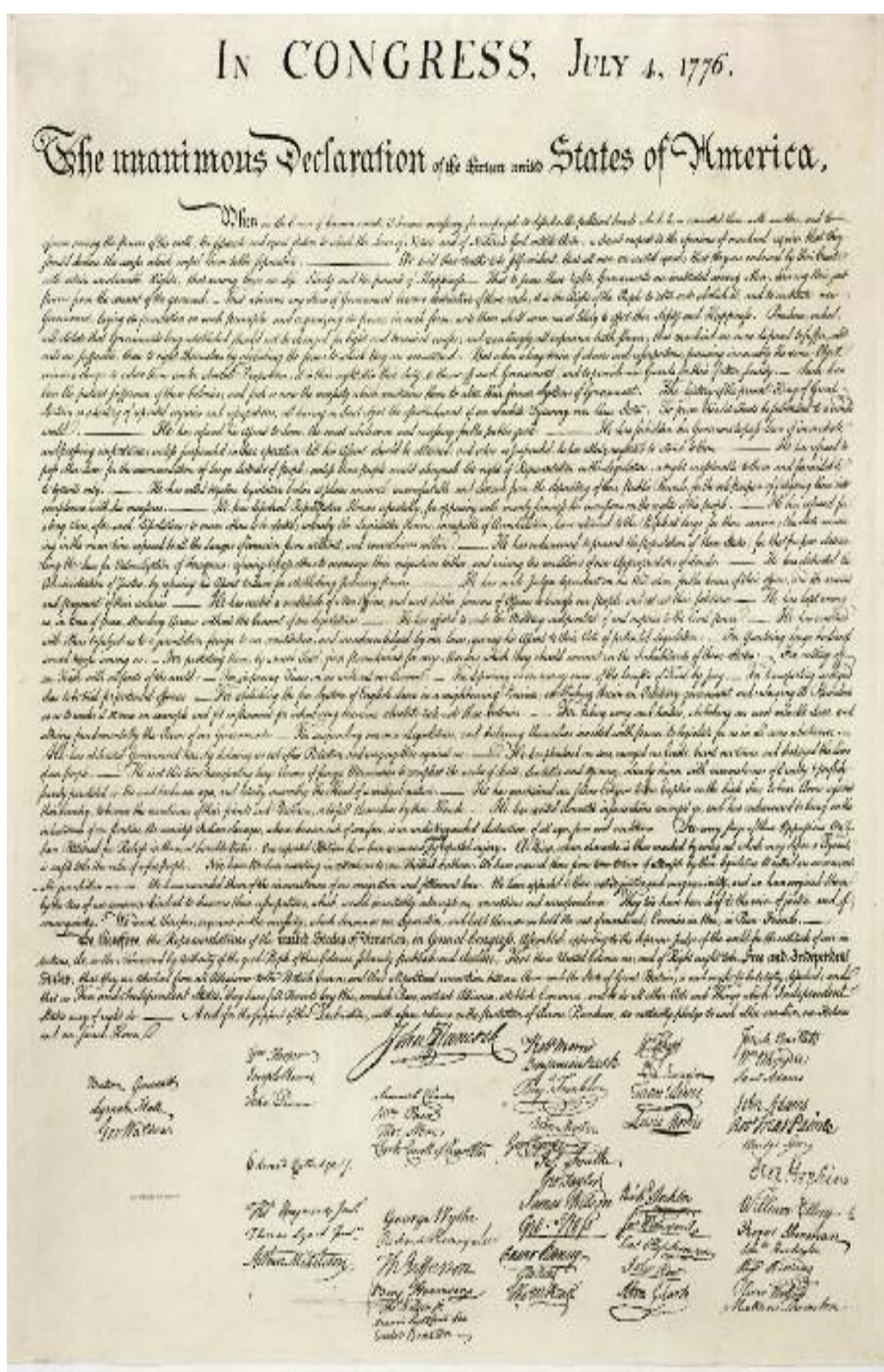
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The Liberty Bell

is an iconic symbol of American independence, located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Once placed in the steeple of the Pennsylvania State House (now renamed Independence Hall), the bell today is located in the Liberty Bell Center in Independence National Historical Park. The bell was commissioned in 1752 by the Pennsylvania Provincial Assembly from the London firm of Lester and Pack (known subsequently as the White-chapel Bell Foundry), and was cast with the lettering "Proclaim LIBERTY Throughout all the Land unto all the Inhabitants Thereof", a Biblical reference from the Book of Leviticus (25:10). The bell first cracked when rung after its arrival in Philadelphia, and was twice recast by local workmen John Pass and John Stow, whose last names appear on the bell. In its early years the bell was used to summon lawmakers to legislative sessions and to alert citizens about public meetings and proclamations.



Almighty God, who has given us this good heritage, we humbly beseech Thee that we may always prove ourselves people mindful of Thy favor and glad to do Thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought out of many kindreds and tongues. Endow with the spirit of wisdom those who in Thy name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be peace and justice at home, and that through obedience to thy Law, we may show forth Thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in Thee to fail. Amen

Pray this prayer by George Washington for our nation.

A double minded man is unstable in all his ways. James 1: 8 KJV

Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do. James 1: 8 NLT



DECISION 2018

Run-offs



See unofficial information ballot on page 8B.

GAZETTE PUBLISHING
12 East Jefferson St.
Montgomery, AL 36104

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE PAID
MONTGOMERY, AL
PERMIT #69



Hours:
Monday - Friday
9 am - 5:30 pm
Saturday 9 am-5 pm

1778 E. Main Street
Prattville, AL 36066
334.365.6552



ROBSERVATIONS...

by Robert Tate

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TDS (Trump Derangement Syndrome)

I had a professor while I was working on my Masters who once told me to never write when I was angry. Through the years, I have generally heeded this advice. Once in print, those words are never going to disappear. This week has been one of those angry political weeks and I have intentionally stayed away from my computer wanting to calm down before putting thoughts on paper. But a deadline is a deadline. I wanted to write but my anger was at such a fever pitch that I had to put this Robservation on the back burner for several days. Did it help? Not a lot, although this version is infinitely tamer than versions 1-5. Why? Glad you asked. Because every day, this topic is staying in the news and we cannot get away from it.



Trump Derangement Syndrome

A **mental** dysfunction causing those detractors with hateful thoughts and **feelings** about **Donald Trump** to go unhinged.

Facebook Drama! When I first heard the term **TDS**, I thought it was kind of funny. After the past weeks, however, I am convinced that it is actually a real thing. People hate President Trump so much that no matter what he does, he is a villain. Sarah Sanders said it best when she said that Democrats are going to have to decide whether they love this country more than they hate President Trump. Imagine the headline, “Trump cures cancer!” The liberal, fascist response? “That b_stard is putting doctors and nurses out of work. Imagine all the folks in big pharma! What about them?” Trump signs a deal with North Korea. “How dare he talk to that despot!” Uhhh, I remember several months ago, the same idiots were lambasting the President for talking too roughly about North Korea. He sits down and negotiates with Kim Jong Un and he is still the bad guy. Robert De Nero stands up at the Tony Awards last week and says, “I’m going to say one thing: F*** Trump. It is no ‘longer down with Trump,’ it’s F*** Trump.” As if that were not bad enough, the entire audience of self-absorbed millionaires applauded wildly. Can anyone imagine if a conservative said the same thing about Obama while he was in office? Heck, Rosanne Barr lost her show for much less and yet we have people openly cursing the President, comparing him to an Orangutan, making images of him beheaded and nobody in the media, other than Fox News, says anything about it. Just google the words of acting hack, Peter Fonda and what he said about the President’s son, his wife and Sarah Sanders. Disgusting. But luckily, I think the Secret Service will be paying Mr. Fonda a visit shortly. The blind hatred of these people is increasing daily and is at a level never before seen.

My wife and I have a friend whom we have known since 1987 when we first got to Germany. My wife and I were two goofy “kids” on a new whirlwind adventure overseas and our friend “Gladys” and her husband “Corky” were the much older, mature and seasoned professionals. I was just a 1Lt and her husband was a prior enlisted, senior Captain making me about 15 years his junior. They kind of took us in and helped us out a lot our first two years there. Almost every Sunday after church was a great get together at their house. Well, Gladys has been posting these incredibly ridiculous anti-Trump things on Facebook and the other day I couldn’t stand it anymore. “Gladys, do you really believe all this crap you are posting?” Now enter WWII. Wow! After a huge back and forth, I have finally had to tell her that I am not going to argue anymore because I value our friendship too much. Besides, when I fight, I fight to win. I don’t fight to fight. I have lost or alienated more than one friend or family member after one of my debates. If I am going to debate someone, I generally crush them without mercy because that is who I am. And I really hate to say this but TDS has completely taken over her thinking like one of those mind-controlling earwigs from “Star Trek – The Wrath of Khan.” Fighting with pure emotion, devoid of any real fact, is the surest way to get your head squashed by me.

But all this leads up to the current debate with the illegal immigrant kids on the border. Unlike my friend Gladys said, I am not a monster and yes, I do have a heart. But I have to say that I am thoroughly miffed at the predictable turn this argument has taken. Let’s take the words of the always vocal and seldom intellectually honest Elijah Cummings (D) MD from a couple of days ago. *“Even if you believe immigration should be halted entirely we all should be able to agree that in the United States of America, we will not intentionally separate children from their parents, we will not do that. We are better than that. We are so much better. We should be able to agree that we will not keep kids in child internment camps indefinitely and hidden away from public view. What country is that?”* Where was his outrage and crocodile tears when Obama was in charge? https://www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2018/06/19/cummings_blasts_republicans_for_child_internment_camps_at_border_what_country_is_this.html

Then we have the always clueless and never intelligent Nancy Pelosi saying that Trump’s executive order reuniting families has not gone far enough because “federal immigration officials should not be detaining and prosecuting border crossers at all.” Really, Nancy? Just let anyone and everyone come into our country whenever they want? This coming from the brainless Californian who said a way to cut down on illegal border crossings was to cut the grass so they couldn’t be smuggled through it. SIGH!! Then she pontificated, “The President’s Executive Order seeks to replace one form of child abuse with another. Instead of protecting traumatized children, the President has directed

his Attorney General to pave the way for the long-term incarceration of families in prison-like conditions.” I have often wondered how she finds her way home at night. Hmmm.

This sudden uproar sickens me because this has been going on at our border for years. Years! Administration after administration has chosen to do nothing but now it is somehow President Trump’s fault. Trump is evil! Trump is the Devil! Trump is like Hitler! Yes, my friend Gladys actually said this but a carefully crafted argument I demonstrated exactly how Obama, except for skin color, was closer to Hitler than Trump is. Trump is putting these kids in “concentration camps.” No, their irresponsible parents, or those posing as parents, are putting them there by breaking our laws. I saw some scrawny snowflake on the news this morning saying how we should not have borders, how we have to let everybody in and that Trump’s executive order was worthless because he is just covering for the crisis he himself created. If I could have reached through the television and throat punched this punk into his safe space, I would have. He is repeating the same garbage my friend Gladys spouted and I have seen on television again and again by the leftist that none of this ever happened until Trump came into office. I got one for you: Shut up and do some reading!

Let’s cut to the chase here. Many of the lazy and dare I say worthless members of Congress have had dozens of years to rectify this problem but instead they have sat on their butts deciding which Confederate Memorial to tear down next, what school to rename, what stupid fish to save at the expense of California farmers or what additional gun law they need to create. No. This is your bailiwick, fix it!! Instead, you have the bloated Cummings and his ilk demanding President Trump sign an executive order to change the laws already on the books. Then today I heard some idiot Democrat arguing that President Trump can’t sign anything without them seeing it? Another, as advertised, is threatening to sue Trump for overreach. What the hell is wrong with these people? They won’t do their job, they blame Trump for a law he didn’t create, insist he sign an executive order and now some are saying Trump is trying to be a dictator because he just signed an executive order they wanted supplanting existing law. To these people, term used loosely here, there is nothing President Trump can do to satisfy them.

Record low Black and Hispanic unemployment, stock market surging, overall unemployment at decades low, potential peace in North Korea, GDP approaching 4% - you name it. Just Google Trump’s successes in his first 500 days. Here is the bottom line before I get too angry again.

1. Something needs to be done at the border. I will give you that much. But what? I don’t know. I do know that allowing every human being on planet earth to come here is not the answer. Sorry, Nancy.
2. President Trump did NOT create this crisis at the border; others did and many others sat by and did nothing for years.
3. The cost of illegal immigration to our country is increasing and unsustainable. As long as we have elderly American citizens unable to afford healthcare and basic necessities and American veterans who are homeless, committing suicides daily and seeking medical care from the VA and not getting it, not one dollar, NOT ONE needs to go to any illegal immigrant. Sorry, my people, all Americans, come first in my world. Take a look at the following link: <https://www.fairus.org/issue/publications-resources/fiscal-burden-illegal-immigration-united-states-taxpayers>. It will give you a true picture of the real cost of illegal immigration at the state, local and federal level. If that doesn’t anger you, nothing will.
4. There is currently no foolproof way to verify that these kids coming across the border are actually the children of the accompanying adults. Fact. Human trafficking is big and many of the immigrants who have already shown they have no respect for our laws will have little respect for some the children they are bringing across the border. Not to mention there are some nine consulates and an embassy in Mexico where these people can go to seek asylum. They do not have to come to our border, but of course, that would turn attention away from the leftist agenda.
5. This did not become an issue until the latest economic statistics came out clearly demonstrating the successes of the Trump administration. The leftist have nothing else but to conjure up these crises on an almost weekly basis. They are persistent, I have to give them that.
6. Finally, the surest way to ensure these children are not separated from their parents is of course not to sneak into our country illegally. Imagine that. Yes, Gladys. I have a heart but it is inextricably tied to my brain and the rule of law. To condemn our president for upholding laws already in place is the true mark of the hysterical socialist and anarchist movement within the People’s Democratic Party. Let’s force Congress to get off their butts and do their jobs instead of kicking the proverbial can down the road even further. Hand the President, within 30 days, a bill he can sign into law. Don’t denigrate him for the mistakes of others and for not upholding the laws his oath is requiring him to protect.

For example, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi said the executive order does not go far enough because federal immigration officials should not be detaining and prosecuting border crossers at all.

Pelosi said in a statement:

The President’s Executive Order seeks to replace one form of child abuse with another. Instead of protecting traumatized children, the President has directed his Attorney General to pave the way for the long-term incarceration of families in prison-like conditions.





Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers

Steve Flowers is Alabama's leading political columnist.
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Best races of the year have been for Attorney General and Lt. Governor

June 27, 2018

The best races of the year have been for Attorney General and Lt. Governor, as well as Agriculture Commissioner and for the 2nd Congressional district.

The Attorney General post is considered the best stepping stone to Governor and U.S. Senator. It is very high profile and prosecutes bad guys who go to jail and cannot vote against you, and you look like a good guy to the rest of the law abiding voters in the state. Therefore, in recent years it has attracted ambitious politicians rather than veteran dedicated prosecutors. These aspirants were novices at being lawyers, much less prosecutors. They sought the position for political posturing rather than the job as the state's top law enforcer. We have not had a tough former DA since the days of Bill Baxley and Charlie Graddick.

As the race began, there were three major candidates with prosecutorial experience. Troy King had been Attorney General, Alice Martin had been the U.S. Attorney in the Northern District of Alabama and had handled numerous major high-profile convictions. Even the Bentley appointee, Steve Marshall, had been a district attorney.

Troy King had begun the race as the front runner simply because he had some name identification from having been Attorney General. Early polls showed him with around 27 percent with Martin and Marshall at 10-12 and Chess Bedsole at 5-6.

The final results wound up mirroring the amount of money spent by the candidates. There was an amazing correlation to money equals media equals name identification, which results in votes. "Money is the mother's milk of politics."

Troy King and Steve Marshall ended up in a dead draw with 28 percent each. Alice Martin got 23 percent and first-time candidate, Chess Bedsole, got a surprising and impressive 21 percent. He got a great vote in Mobile and Birming-

ham, especially in the silk stocking boxes. His \$1 million media buy did not hurt.

The runoff between Troy King and Steve Marshall will be interesting. Again, it will probably boil down to money. Marshall made the runoff by outspending Alice Martin significantly. He used the power of incumbency to strong arm contributions. Both candidates will have to go negative. Marshall is more vulnerable. He campaigned for Obama and was a Democrat only a few years ago. He was appointed DA by Democrat Don Siegelman and was appointed Attorney General by Robert Bentley. These are not good calling cards in a GOP Primary runoff. King will be the favorite on July 17.

The winner will not get a free ride in November. The aforementioned Don Siegelman's son, Joseph Siegelman, won the Democratic nomination on June 5 and will be a viable opponent in the Fall.

The Lt. Governor position has very little power. However, over the past few decades the Lt. Governor has risen to Governor quite a few times. Therefore, this race has gotten a lot of attention from voters and campaign donors. Twinkle Cavanaugh entered the race as the favorite simply because of name identification. Will Ainsworth and Rusty Glover had very little of that. However, Ainsworth came to the dance with the ingredient to buy name ID. Money is that recipe. He had it and he spent it. Twinkle wound up with 43 percent to Ainsworth's 37 percent and Glover's 20 percent.

Twinkle will be a slight favorite in the runoff. However, if Ainsworth spends another million and stays with negative or some say comparison ads, it will be close.

Rick Pate bested Gerald Dial 40 to 30 in the Agriculture Commissioner race despite Dial outspending him with a catchy jingle ad. Alabamians inexplicably have a way of ascertaining who is the farmer in that race. Pate was the only farmer. The Alabama Farmer's Federation Endorsement helped him in the first primary.

Over 61 percent of the 2nd Congressional District GOP voters voted against incumbent Martha Roby. Bobby Bright may very well win this rematch, which has been years in the making. Bright is well known and liked in the District, especially in the Wiregrass where he was born and raised as well as in Montgomery where he was Mayor for 10 years.



Ronald A. Holtsford

that is somewhat evident by the current number of Californians leaving to settle in other states which has California losing more residents than those that move in.

A gentleman by the name of Tim Draper began the division proposition of California into six states and has now narrowed it down into three states. There are now enough signatures to place the proposition on the ballot in November.

The proposition is to change the state into three states called, Northern California, California and Southern California. Interestingly enough Los Angeles is not included in Southern California but rather the "new" California. Northern California would include the capitol of Sacramento. Because "new" California would include Los Angeles and thus Hollywood it would be a more affluent state. Southern California may be a wild card in that it may be more in the middle of how much of the country thinks. One California county has not been mentioned and could potentially merge into Nevada.

The equity of living in the current California has had a huge effect on lower and middle class residents. To illustrate, a one-bedroom apartment in Los Angeles of about \$2,200 per month is about \$3,400.00 in the San Francisco area. Certainly even a one-bedroom apartment in Los Angeles far exceeds the average cost in Alabama.

Article Four, Section Three of the United States Constitution reads,
1: New States may be admitted by the Congress into this Union; but no new State shall be formed or erected within the Jurisdiction of any other State; nor any State be formed by the Junction of two or more States, or Parts of States, without the Consent of the Legislatures of the States concerned as well as of the Congress.

Consider historically that the State of West Virginia was carved out of the State of Virginia during the War Between the States. Constitutionally, I would suggest that the statehood of West Virginia was done illegally even though the State of Virginia had seceded. While the seceding states were returned to the Union after the War, Virginia remained as two separate states.

So what would the process be for a division of California? After an affirmative vote by the citizens of California it would be considered by California legislature, the California Supreme Court and then Federal and even the Supreme Court of the United States. If the division was successful then there would be two Senators from each of the three states, assuming those Senators then in office would occupy seats in their respective states. Because House representation is based

How Can California Divide Itself Into Three Separate States?

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on population there may be some change in House membership since populations would shift even though they would grossly be unchanged.

Should the vote pass and as well in the California legislature and California Supreme Court I would think there would be opposition by most or all Republican Senate and House members. But at this point while I cannot look into a crystal ball and foresee the thinking of the United States Supreme Court. I think the allowance of separation of statehood of California would be a dangerous precedence to other states. What if the state of Huntsville (Alabama) were to come to exist? While it would be a relatively affluent and conservative state, it would definitely damage the economy of Alabama and I can see the possibility of some areas of other states that feel they bear a greater economic burden or simply have a very different way of thinking wanting to break away as well.

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

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The Alabama
Gazette

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*Published by: Alabama Gazette Publishing, LLC
Volume 18 - Issue 10 Copyright 2018
The Alabama Gazette 16 pages- 2 Sections*

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

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The Education Station... *By Bobbie Ames*

Independence Day ~ July 4

An Independent People are Wholly Dependent upon God

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Dr. Max Lyons
Director of Teaching Services
Foundation for American
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Chesapeake, Virginia

... because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.
Romans 8:21

I will walk at liberty, for I seek Your precepts.
Psalm 119:45



The Pennsylvania State House was hot, humid, and charged with emotion as representatives for the thirteen colonies came together in June and July of 1776 to consider severing their allegiance to their mother country, now considered an oppressive government. They pledged their lives, fortunes and sacred honor and risked conviction for treason in order to gain liberty for themselves and posterity. On July 4, 1776, the *Unanimous Declaration of the Thirteen United States of America* was passed unanimously. Eleven years later, the Constitution was framed, based upon its principles.

These dates are more important than most of us realize. On July 4, 1776, a nation was born, whose citizens have enjoyed a greater degree of civil liberty than any other previous nation in history, since the nation of Israel in the Old Testament.

Samuel Adams, called the Father of the Revolution, after signing *The Unanimous Declaration* on August 2nd said that:

We have this day restored the Sovereign to whom all men ought to be obedient, and from the rising to the setting of the sun, let His kingdom come.¹

Is it true that with the birth of our nation, the Sovereign God was restored to His rightful place in civil affairs? Did this act allow His kingdom to come on the earth in a fuller measure than previously? Let us explore these questions more fully.

Take 30 Minutes

Take time to read the actual document and examine how its principles are timeless, giving us wisdom for the restoration of our great nation.

In addition to the indirect references to God and Biblical principles, there are four direct references to God in *The Unanimous Declaration*. The first reference that we come to is the phrase, “laws of nature and of nature’s God entitle them . . .” This is a powerful statement indicating God as the Supreme Lawgiver. The “laws of nature” refer to the laws that God made that apply to all men, that can be known even if one does not have God’s written revelation.

These include laws against murdering or stealing. This natural law condemned Cain for killing his brother, many years before God put in writing, Thou shalt not murder.

The “laws of nature’s God” refer to the law of God as codified in the Bible—written revelation. America’s founders taught that men were to be subject to the Supreme Lawgiver and to His Law, His Word. They knew that only then would the Lord, the first Founding Father, bless this new nation. As George Washington stated in The First Inaugural Address, “the propitious smiles of Heaven, can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right, which Heaven itself has ordained . . .”²

Volumes have been written on the preamble to *The Unanimous Declaration*, particularly concerning this sentence:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The truth that all men are created equal is derived from the Bible, and for the first time in history, an attempt was made for a nation to live by it. We also observe that the authors of this document declared their belief in and reliance upon God, the Creator. This is a powerful affirmation, for He who creates must also sustain. This is why they often referred to God as their provider by calling Him *Providence*. Finally, they also indicated God as the all-powerful Creator who alone is the author of rights, which (since man does not grant them) cannot be taken away. This was a deliberate and bold break from the past, for in the history of mankind, civil government always established itself as the grantor of rights.

The next section of the Declaration details that right, and even duty, of the people to properly steward their civil government. Just as the people are to steward themselves (self-government), their family (family government), their church (church government), and their voluntary associations (voluntary government), they are also to steward their civil governments. This is a responsibility given to them by God, and they must alter or abolish their civil government as is necessary to bring it into conformity to Biblical principles. In I Samuel 12, we see Samuel giving an account of his judgeship to the people. He asks to be judged by the people, that they may have an opportunity to be stewards over their civil government. Of course we know that they chose foolishly by asking for a king, and they were judged (I Samuel 12:19).

Tyranny Exposed and Rebuked

Thomas Jefferson once stated, “God who has the power to force us to do His will, didn’t.” The essence of tyranny in civil government is the abuse of power. The next section of the Declaration lists the abuses of King George. The list is quite extensive and makes very interesting reading, especially in light of

the historic parallels. If we were to bring similar charges to our civil governments today that are exercising powers beyond their Biblical jurisdiction, we would have quite a long list as well. Let us enumerate a few examples, appropriate to America today:

Establishing A Secular Culture

- 1. Demanding an application of the “separation of church and state” that effectively denies many public expressions of Biblical Christianity such as displaying Christian symbols and public prayer
- 2. Favoring non-Christian expressions over Biblical ones

Suspending Assemblies

- 1. Persecuting, harassing, and in some cases closing down Christian schools and homeschools
- 2. Forbidding Bible studies, prayer, or other expressions of Christianity in government schools

Usurping Power

- 1. *Judicial activism* effectively turning judges into lawmakers.
- 2. *Executive orders* that greatly expand the power of the executive branch beyond its constitutional limits
- 3. Mandating school attendance through compulsory education laws, usurping the rights of parents

Harming The Citizens Through Policies And Practices

- 1. The establishment of public schools producing millions of functionally illiterate citizens
- 2. Overstepping its jurisdiction and passing many laws thought to protect us (seatbelt and helmet laws, mandatory vaccinations, minimum wage laws, etc.)

Economic Tyranny

- 1. Interfering in the free market in myriads of ways
- 2. A taxation rate that is way beyond what is Biblically considered tyrannical (e.g., 10% was considered tyrannical: see I Samuel 8)
- 3. False philanthropy: multitude of wealth redistribution plans that effectively steal from some to give to others

Violations of Conscience

- 1. Enforcing attendance in government schools where unBiblical ideas are diligently inculcated on a daily basis
- 2. Taxpayers forced to finance such things as government schooling, welfare and abortion
- 3. Removing rights of health care providers to refuse to perform procedures to which they are opposed

God Is The Supreme Judge

After pleading their case by listing the grievances against King George, the signers of *The Unanimous Declaration* submitted their case to the Judge. They knew and recognized the fact that there existed lesser judges, however their case was being tried before the Supreme Judge of the world, the Lord Jesus Christ. “Appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world,” indicated that God is the ultimate and supreme Judge, who is judged by no man, yet stands in judgment of all, including civil rulers and governments. When it was stated that they were appealing “for the rectitude of their intentions,” this indicated that they believed that they were declared righteous; that is, that they were acting in accordance with God’s Word and the King was not.

The Unanimous Declaration was as much a declaration of *dependence* as it was a declaration of independence. God used Dr. John Witherspoon, Presbyterian pastor and later President of the College of New Jersey, to add the phrase *with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence*. This indicated that their hope and trust in this life is not in man but in a God who cares for His creation and watches over all, ordering their steps and intervening in their lives. We know that God did intervene many times during the long war to finally win their independence. They repeatedly acknowledged the evident protection of God. In so many circumstances they would have been defeated had not God miraculously intervened. Washington at one point was prompted to acknowledge this:

The great Director of events has carried us thro’ a variety of Scenes during this long and bloody contest in which we have been for Seven Campaigns, most nobly struggling.³

Finally, they continued to act according to Biblical covenant as they vowed to, “mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.” Of the 56 signers, many of them would soon lose their lives, and many would have to forfeit their wealth. There is a cost to liberty, and they were more than willing to pay it.

Liberty Still Needs To Be Purchased

Liberty has never been and never will be free! John Philpot Curran, Irish statesman and orator stated,

It is the common fate of the indolent to see their rights become prey to the active. The condition upon which God hath given liberty to man is eternal vigilance; which condition if he break, servitude is at once the consequence of the crime and the punishment of his guilt.⁴

As Biblical Christians, God is holding us responsible for the stewardship of the liberty He has given us. Accordingly, there are questions that we need to ask ourselves continually:

- 1. Do I understand God’s view of liberty, both internal and external?
- 2. If so, am I willing to submit myself to Him, that I may walk in liberty?
- 3. Do I have the heart of God for the liberty of my posterity? Based upon my actions today, will my children, grandchildren, and succeeding generations, have a greater degree or lesser degree of civil liberty?
- 4. What is God asking me to do so that this generation and the many to come will walk in the *glorious liberty of the children of God*?

Endnotes

- 1. David Barton, *The Myth of Separation* (Aledo, Texas: Wallbuilder Press, 1989), 98
- 2. John Frederick Schroeder compiler, *Maxims of George Washington* (Mount Vernon, VA: The Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association, 1942), 170
- 3. Ibid, 166–167
- 4. George Stimpson, *A Book About A Thousand Things* (New York, NY: Harper and Brothers, 1946)



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John Sophocleus

THINK

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Alabama Power finally ‘zaps’ the Canary in the Drummond Mine: time to ‘dissolve’ the BCA...



Bill Britt (4/18/18 *Alabama Political Reporter*) stated current and former BCA members thought the board’s vote to demand Canary’s resignation was good news for the State’s future and those close to the process were angry Chairman Hand wanted to keep Canary until the fall. *APR*’s sources said this was an attempt for the BCA to further influence election outcomes. The plan was to control campaign donations and win enough races to stage a comeback. Hand seemed willing to risk everything protecting Canary, one source said other BCA board members saw no upside to challenging the seven most influential companies in the State to continue Canary’s largess. Some of the ‘seven sisters’ have in fact exited these past weeks.

A political operative who speaks regularly with individuals at BCA said staffers see the future as unclear if not fatal. “It’s time. The sooner we make this change, the better, is what people are saying,” the source said, within BCA, Canary has his loyalists, but it only goes so far. “We are at risk of losing our biggest members, which basically mean we are swirling around the toilet waiting for one more giant flush all because of this guy [Canary],” said a staffer.

“I’m sorry, it’s time for a change,” as quoted in the *APR* article further noting another source who said these corporations may not immediately leave BCA altogether but would substantially reduce their dues payments to around \$1,500 to \$2,000 a year instead of the hundreds of thousands or millions they presently pay.

The *APR* article made a compelling forecast; if the threat came to fruition, it would cripple BCA at a critical time when Alabama is rebuilding after the failed leadership of Canary and his minions. Some of those demanding Canary’s resignation (most notable Alabama Power, Blue Cross Blue Shield and Regions - the only Fortune 500 Company headquartered in our State, last I checked) exiting leaves a ‘power vacuum. What will fill that vacuum is what political insiders, swamp monsters and other big govt. redistributionist are buzzing about as I type...

“What was amazing,” according to *APR*’s person with intimate knowledge of the meeting, “is that there were executive board members who had no idea there was even a problem with Canary.” Over the last several years, Canary has painstakingly stacked the board with members who don’t pay attention to politics and believe Canary has been leveling with them on every issue. The ‘seven sisters’ voted to remove Canary but Chairman Hand and a few loyalists refused to act, concocting schemes to give Canary more time. Establishment apparatchiks of Riley, Inc. and the BCA (BIG Business Council of Alabama as Sen. Rice recently dubbed the organization) have shown great acumen circumventing the will of members and general welfare of our citizens. From my vantage point it seems many individuals are BCA members for insurance purposes (think Felon Hubbard getting well rewarded for mandating auto insurance) providing a decent revenue stream from those not paying attention to the corruption they’re subsidizing.

“If these guys give Canary a day beyond May, it shows that Canary and Hand have outfoxed the big players,” said one of *APR*’s informers. In addition to prominent corporate leaders, the article claimed no secret US Sen. Richard “Cash-register” Shelby made his disdain for BCA’s leadership clear since being outed in Felon Hubbard e-mails. Shelby made it widely known Canary was no longer welcome in his office; loss of access means avenues to accomplish corporate welfare redistributions from the District of Corruption unlikely. “Sen. Shelby made calls letting folks know that he was done with Canary,” said a close advisor in the *APR* report. Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Shelby is touted as one of the most powerful men in the country. Little surprise a big govt. Democrat turned Republican ‘public servant’ like Shelby had no problem colluding with the Canary, Hubbard, Riley, et al machine until Felon Hubbard e-mails released embarrassingly showed the harm Shelby has aided and abetted in our State. Sad how many think the redistributions they champion to specific groups do not harm the general welfare of citizens being taken from to subsidize the largess and fat paychecks to these political hacks and so-called economic developers.

Canary has reportedly been letting people know his days are numbered, as he positions himself for the most pay he extract out of BCA. The *APR* quoted a former BCA board member with, “He wants a big payout. What he deserves is to be reminded that Alabama is a right-to-work state something he’s always pushed on other folks.”

Columnist Steve Flowers (7/25/17) wrote about his tenure in the 1980s and 1990s State Legislature where the duopoly result was not as pronounced and political identity was either a big govt. conservative pro-business legislator or big govt. a liberal pro-union/pro-trial lawyer legislator. Weak willed legislators picked one side or the other ‘progressing’ us into the extremist mess we observe today. Flowers decided early to be on the side of business and took a leading role/sponsored most of the Tort Reform redistributive legislation. Readers can decide for themselves if the reform has been an improvement with individuals less accountable/responsible for their actions in the courts; nonetheless his tort reform activities (according to Flowers) led most observers to rate him an arch pro-business conservative.

While those like Flowers assert torts as the reason for BCAs birth/creation others have told me a more encompassing and important reason - proffering an environment to keep commerce regular to promote the general welfare of citizens in our State instead of the specific interests of big business (corporate welfare recipients) trial lawyers, etc. Morphing from a more general welfare goal/mission (following in the path of other orgs like the AEA more interested in wealth transfers to a specific group over our general welfare) the BCA grew to become the most powerful organization in Alabama. Failed businessmen like Felon Hubbard, who could not survive except for corrupt activities believed their own rhetoric that somehow getting economic development type redistributions in their favour was an indicator of being an outstanding business person/entrepreneur. This ‘non-profit’ org grew out of control and extremely difficult to discipline in a State with such uncompetitive ballot access laws, hyper-gerrymandering, etc.

Flowers wrote, “When Bob Riley became governor in 2002, he orchestrated a game plan to take control of the BCA. He succeeded and put his boy, Billy Canary, a Washington political insider in control. Canary was a political hack who would carry out dirty tricks and chicanery for George W. Bush and Karl

Rove. Bob Riley and Mike Hubbard controlled the BCA through Billy Canary. Riley still continues to pull the strings and make money. Under Canary’s and Riley’s reign, BCA has abandoned its mission of supporting business and the general well-being of the state and now, in the opinion of many, does more harm than good. Billy Canary’s leadership goes past simple failure and begins to enter the realm of causing real harm to the state and the businesses he represents. Canary once boasted of his position on convicted Speaker Mike Hubbard’s “kitchen cabinet.” However, in the Hubbard trial, Canary was less than convincing on the stand as his memory fades on issues discussed with Hubbard. Some of those issues were part and parcel of the 12 felony convictions that removed Hubbard from office. Most folks expected Canary would be indicted with Hubbard. Now, BCA and Canary face possible involvement in the north Birmingham corruption investigation that has already resulted in one House member’s confession to crime.”

Columnist Flowers further explained, “Some observers believe the scandal surrounding an anonymous ethics complaint that scuttled Dr. Craig Pouncey’s bid to be the state superintendent of education may lead back to Canary. The Board of the BCA and everyone concerned with the future of Alabama should be asking why in the world Canary has taken a once proud and effective organization into such controversial issues that have so little to do with core business interests. The answer is simple - Billy Canary has numerous conflicts of interest. During his tenure as president of the BCA, Canary has continued to maintain outside consulting contracts that pose clear conflicts with his role at BCA. However, this should come as no surprise since Billy Canary’s home is New York.” No doubt Canary (inserted by Boob Riley soon after his installation as Governor) and Felon Hubbard are kindred spirits in this regard.

Alabama Power withdrew from the BCA, "effective immediately," according to a letter from CEO Mark Crosswhite dated June 18th. Dennis Pillion (dpillion@al.com) cited the letter where Crosswhite wrote Alabama Power exited the powerful business group because the organization had "needlessly alienated federal and state officials, failed to communicate with its own members, squandered our collective corporate goodwill, allowed its financial health to decline, and become a divisive force in our State." The letter was addressed to BCA Chairman Perry Hand, stating the power company had expressed concerns with BCA leadership since August 2017, with "no meaningful response," and "At this point, further discussions would be fruitless and a waste of everyone's time." Crosswhite further explained Alabama Power was a founding member of the BCA, but the company has become "concerned that membership in the BCA has become a liability rather than a benefit." The BCA released to AL.com a letter addressed to Crosswhite in response to Alabama Power's decision, saying the utility had not been a member of the group since April because of nonpayment of dues... still no shortage of hubris in the BIG Business Council of Alabama’s upper level bureaucrats even as they see the ‘seven sisters’ disengage.

The exchange describes numerous conversations between Crosswhite and BCA leadership, in which the letter says Crosswhite "asked that the committee remove our President and CEO [William J. Canary] by May 1 or June 1." Political insiders intuit the importance of the dates with the election cycle. According to Pillion, the letter says the BCA Executive Committee was scheduled to meet this week to approve a "transition plan" aimed at "having a new CEO installed no later than January 1, 2019." The timing is important. This is a fight to the death to get an AG and appeals court judges to bailout Felon Hubbard and protect his unindicted coconspirators. Massive amounts the BCA plowed into the final days of the (Bentley installed) Marshall campaign to make sure two malleable candidates made the Republican primary run-off AG race speaks for itself. With the help of always last place Bedsole’s huge ‘I’m the Trumpiest’ ad blitz, the small government/anti-corruption voters easily duped by big govt. Democrats (like Regan, Shelby, Trump, et al) turned Republican rhetoric made sure the AG candidate who’s actually disciplined the BCA was boxed out. Now, it really doesn’t matter which of the three (King, Marshall or Siegleman) are installed, the cronyism of The Alabama Don and Bobbin’ for Dollars in Montgomery is safe... If BCA had not plowed hundreds of thousands into the Marshall campaign the final days before the primary, Martin gets into the run-off and you’d witness more than one fella turnin’ yella.

In spite of his rhetoric, there was no room for compromise - without the corporate welfare queens and protectors of the Felon Hubbard gang remaining in power at the BCA, this massive campaign spending would not have happened. "I have worked to find areas of compromise, but you [Crosswhite] have made it clear that compromising is not an option," Hand said according to the [AL.com](http://al.com) report. They further quoted two Republican State senators affirming the withdrawal is a major blow for the BCA. "That's a big deal," Sen. Cam Ward [R-Alabaster] said. "That's a big seismic shift there. I think the question is now, where does the Power Company go? Do they create a whole new organization? Do they maybe join another organization out there? There was an assumption that when the Republicans took over the BCA got everything they wanted and that was never really the case. And a lot of that had to do with the changing nature of the Republican Party. You had a lot of populist folks who kind of honestly resented some of the ways that BCA may have tried to persuade them to vote for an issue one way or another."

Sen. Dick Brewbaker [R-Montgomery] noted BCA relationships with some lawmakers had become strained. He said (still to AL.com) BCA's support of Common Core curriculum standards in schools has also caused some friction. "Some of the positions they've taken on things that didn't have anything to do with business, whether it's Common Core, or autism, or issues like that, it generated a good bit of ill feeling among some Republicans. And I'm sure that hurt their ability to pass legislation in the state Senate," Brewbaker also affirmed losing Alabama Power membership is significant in the following quote. "If you're the on the board of the BCA -- and I'm sure the Southern Company is probably the biggest business interest that operates in Alabama, I can't think of a bigger one -- that is a huge deal."

Sen. Ward offers the most pressing question on the matter... where do the ‘seven sisters’ go? Decades ago Alabama Power/Southern Company were members of the Auburn Policy Research Center which was on its way to be advocate for the general welfare of our State until corrupt administrators captured by the Lowder/Felon Hubbard ‘public servant’ gang killed the Center and the successful econ program increasingly attacked by less productive faculty and champions of big govt. The deleterious spirit of not wanting to compete has grown strong roots on the Plains of Dixie. The two most notable in the fight to block “*Billion Dollar Bob’s*” Amendment One tax explosion and the ‘new and improved’ **BIG** Business Council of Alabama were **John Rice** in the traditional arena and **Mark Bodenhause**n on the emerging internet scene. Mark is no longer with us and dearly missed by those who remember how well he championed liberty against the big govt. extremists.

This leaves Sen. Rice who has been more effective than anyone else in our State at blocking and containing Big BCA extremism since the Riley/Felon Hubbard installation of coconspirator Canary in 2003. Some readers may recall

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The Chambliss Commentary

Marcia Chambliss



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

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

Wandering in the Wilderness

Because of my Biblical worldview, for which I do not apologize, my view of current culture and events is filtered through that belief, and I can’t help but reflect on the similarities of the mindset of many in our nation with that of the Israelites many centuries ago.

After generations of captivity in Egypt, the Israelites were finally free of the tyranny of their harsh taskmasters and were being led by Moses into their Promised Land. But as with anything worthwhile, the journey wasn’t easy. You remember the story – they were soon grumbling about the traveling conditions – with many thinking that maybe life wasn’t so bad back in Egypt. You also know the rest of the story – their disobedience and unbelief in God resulted in their forty years of wandering in the wilderness.

It’s our human nature to crave a belief in something or someone, and that same human nature tends to make idols of the things we crave most. And in the world of politics, that idol is government and power. Sadly, as our culture has drifted further from placing our faith in God, our citizens have also allowed government to become our idol with an ever-increasing appetite for government to solve all ills of our society regardless of the cost. Government has become our god.

I suppose I reflect a bit more on our dependence on government this time of year as I see the red, white, and blue adornments at retail establishments in preparation for the festivities surrounding our nation’s birthday. I wonder how many Americans consider that the proper reference to the holiday is Independence Day rather than the 4th of July, but perhaps that’s a fitting refinement as we continue to move further away from any semblance of independence from our government.

We tend to forget that liberty means putting more distance between us and the government, not less. We live in a nation where freedom was bought with the blood of patriots willing to sacrifice everything for freedom, and yet we seem so willing to let it slip away by giving government the ability to control our lives. We constantly ask for government to “fix” our healthcare system, our schools, our broken families, and our poverty-stricken neighborhoods without recognizing that an over-reaching government was the root cause of so many of

those problems.

Yet we continue to wrestle with the same issues election cycle after election cycle. It would appear that those we elect are wandering through the same wilderness, except that I’m far more inclined to be of the opinion that not solving problems is the political end game, particularly for those elected to multiple terms, as unsolved problems provide ample campaign fodder for the next run for office. The repeated failure by both political parties to address our serious border/immigration problem is a prime example as we have one party beholder to the special interests profiting from cheap labor, with the other committed to open borders in an effort to expand their political base. In the middle are Americans who are being deliberately misled regarding past administration’s policies, and emotionally manipulated by a mainstream media with a leftist bias. This is the same media that essentially condones the inhumane tactics of Planned Parenthood and the horrendous practice of late-term abortion by labeling it as a choice.

We all have our idols, and I confess that political activism was one of mine with my misplaced hope and trust in a political system. When I was at the height of that activism season, I remember being consumed with all things political, unable to get enough news regarding politics at any level, and, shamefully, the insider gossip that was embedded in it. Politics is intoxicating and addicting, and in my case, I allowed it to affect my emotions by keeping me in a state of perpetual anger, and forgetting that my real enemy is a spiritual one who works day and night to bring chaos into this world. While I have not and will not completely abandon my political involvement because I consider it a responsibility owed as a citizen, I now realize that I must place healthy boundaries on my participation and remove it from its idol status in my life.

So I will reflect this Independence Day on the many blessings provided to our great nation, but with the knowledge that misplaced hope and faith in politics and our government rather than fully in my LORD God can only draw me deeper into the wilderness, and into a place that will never bring me, or anyone else, true and everlasting peace.

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by John Sophocleus

the BCA

my March 2017 *Alabama Gazette* column [<http://www.alabamagazette.com/story/2017/03/01/opinion/consider-the-olive-branch/993.html>] to this end of getting the BCA back on their original mission of promoting the general welfare by keeping voluntary commerce regular in our State. In the Spirit of opening a dialog to facilitate a peaceful effort to move forward, Sen. Rice delivered the following quote:

“We all love to protect and promote our home state of Alabama as a good place to live, work, worship, play, become educated, marry, raise children, enjoy family life, start businesses, prosper, and retire. The problem with this theory is the governance and guides instilled in our state government have been designed of late to enrich a few and burden the remainder of Alabamians with low paying jobs, low expectations and low confidence in public schools, difficulty in establishing new business free from government favors or regulations, and expensive college degrees. This system exists by design of the newest political bullies who have the laws and rules written to accomplish these goals. Alabama has lost her gains in education scores, has become slow to track the economic gains of other states, and has seen its' elected officials become felons and corrupt to big business to the detriment of the remainder of the citizens. Now would be the time for those who control the money flowing to campaigns for Alabama's elected officials to take a strong look at the results of the past election cycles since 2010. The Business Council of Alabama and related big business associations who control PAC contributions and distributions are in control. They have pushed Common Core to the detriment of our children and families and now, big business owns the results and those results are not good. So for our friends in the business of politics in Alabama, look at your results. You own it. For our governor and legislative leaders, you are co-owners. Pray up Alabama.”

We have their answer. No civil dialogue between Rice and the BCA occurred that I know of; few have more sweat equity than Mr. Rice in the attempt

to get the BCA he helped build back on course. More failed Riley/Siegelman business incentives and deleterious transfers impeding our State continue to proffer the usual contracting result. I observed Canary on the witness stand in my Lee County Circuit Court - he impressed me as one of the worst among the ‘public servants’ who testified on behalf of Felon Hubbard. It was foolish to think any of these political predators would change... If you’re looking for someone to shepherd the BCA toward promoting the general welfare again you may want to begin by allowing Rice to explain the history which built the BCA and her noble beginnings **before** it morphed into the destructive redistributive entity we observe today. If the ‘seven sisters’ want to charter a new no nonsense, truly non-profit organization, getting a short list of participants from Sen. Rice is a sound place to start.




IN MEMORY OF TED SOPHOCLEUS

Many thanks for all the kind correspondences on the passing of my Uncle Ted Sophocleus. The Maryland flag was indeed lowered half-staff to honour/recognize his tenure as one of the longest serving members in the MD State Legislature's history.



Theodore Sophocleus



The Letter of the Law

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

By John Martin

The purpose of a law, any law, is a singular objective—protecting people from the wrongdoings of other people. To be moral, just, legitimate, and Constitutional, it must meet that criterion. Otherwise, it is usurpation and oppression.

Laws that are obviously just are those against murder, bodily harm, theft, destruction, and any other actions that hurt or violate other people and/or their property. These can be readily understood by any civilized person. Common sense dictates that only a few laws are needed to protect people in this manner.

But we all know that all over the world, we have an enormous hodgepodge of laws that are fundamentally and morally wrong—that instead of protecting people, they protect specific groups and often allow them to violate other people. The presence of laws that violate legitimate laws has been stated as an “insurmountable conundrum of all statist philosophies.”

Examples can be found everywhere. In many cases, people who enforce our laws are often allowed to do things that would land most people in prison. A classic example is civil asset forfeiture, a

law that allows police and others to plunder innocent people at will. Enforcers have seized millions of dollars from thousands people on real or imagined pretenses that the money (or property) was in some way connected to a crime. This same law is also structured to make recovery very expensive and extremely difficult. (Did you know that nearly every Federal Reserve note in your pocket will test positive for traces of cocaine and other illegal drugs?)

Less extreme examples are much more common. Nearly everybody at some time or another has received at least a few unwarranted traffic citations. Over the years, the fines and court costs have skyrocketed from minor inconveniences to major financial losses. Points against drivers’ licenses and increases in insurance premiums impose additional burdens.

Safety regulations have been another sore point. Every individual is responsible for his own safety. It is his right to judge his actions and the risks he is willing to take. Government has no business or right to interfere unless these actions can be proven to be dangerous to others.

Over the years, government has had less and less respect for private property. Eminent Domain abuses have been on the rise for several decades. Authorities have arbitrarily declared that some properties are “wetlands” and have imposed draconian restrictions on their uses and development. Municipalities have instigated hostile annexations of outlying properties and then imposed zoning and other land use restrictions in addition to jacking up the property taxes, ostensibly for city “services” that the landowners never wanted.

The really scary bottom line is that politicians never tire of creating more and more reams of new oppressive laws. Some, like consensual “crime” laws (recreational drugs, prostitution, gambling, etc.) are widespread. Others are so absurd that anyone with common sense cannot imagine why they should ever exist. Certain communities in California have prohibited residents from collecting the rainwater that falls onto their houses. Some in Florida won’t let homeowners grow vegetable gardens in their front yards. Still others prohibit mini-wilderness spots on vacant lots and back yards.

There is an old saying that ignorance of the law is no excuse. In times long gone, when nearly all laws were reasonable, brief, and few, compliance was not very difficult. But with today’s huge volume of mostly illegitimate and unconstitutional laws, compliance is utterly impossible. One source claims that the average American commits about three felonies every day. What would they be? Your guess is as good as mine. Enforcement, of course, is also utterly impossible. Otherwise, every one of us could be in prison.

If our legislators really want to do something to improve our state, they should forget about concocting piles of new laws. Instead, they should first seek out abusive laws that should be repealed, and then draw up bills to do exactly that.

I strongly recommend that everybody read a small book, ***THE LAW***, by Frederic Bastiat. It is an all time classic, and it is just as pertinent now as it was when it was written back in 1850. If I was a teacher in high school or college, it would be required reading for every single student.

THE LAW can be read and downloaded for free at several web sites.

www.mises.org
www.fff.org



Ed Jones
Staff Sports Editor

years. We both are old-timers when it comes to sports. Many cups of coffee we have drank at Chappy’s Deli. John had never mentioned his amazing career in tennis. Being a successful tennis coach at Huntingdon College was known by everybody in sports here in Montgomery. But, as I looked into the background of John McWilliams, it was obvious that we have had quite a legend walking among us in anonymity. I am indebted to my friend Bill for leading me to this story.



John McWilliams, number one player and captain of Crimson Tide Tennis Team - 1956

so favorable look and said, “Boy you’ve got to work in the store on Saturday.” That was the end of that. John worked in the store that Saturday.

From 1952 to 1957, John played on the University of Alabama Tennis Team. He was the number one player and captain for three years. After graduation he got his first taste of national competition by competing in the Southern Men’s Circuit and National Clay Court Championships with partner Ray Senowski. They took one of the best doubles teams in the country to three sets. In 1957 and 1958, he was on the winning team of the Chicago Pro Doubles two years in a row. In 1964, he and Nadine Netter won the Eastern Mixed Doubles Tournament.

John’s career is so hard to comprehend that I think it is best understood in chronological outline form. My most interesting story was when John was the tennis pro at The River Club in New York City from 1964 to 1967. It was there that he taught private playing lessons to Bishop Fulton J. Sheen, Senator Robert Kennedy, Jacqueline Kennedy, Dina Merrill, Cliff Robertson, Mildred Natwick, Huntington Hartford and James Van Allen. How about that!

It would take three columns to due justice to the tennis exploits of John McWilliams so we decided to show what we could in pictures, and list some of his many accomplishments:

- Called service line during the U.S. Open for four years.
- Called service line when Rod Laver won his first Grant Slam in 1962.
- Officiated and umpired matches on the Jack Krammer Pro Tour, The Pan American Games and the National Clay Court Championships.
- Conducted clinics in Chicago with Althea Gibson at Comenski Park.
- Narrated a history of tennis at the Worlds Fair in New York.
- Director of Tennis Sales and Promotion for Wilson Sporting Goods in New York City 1958-1964.



John McWilliams presents the first yellow tennis balls ever used in a professional match to Australian player, Lew Hoad. Hoad won at Wimbledon five times in his career.

TENNIS ACROSS AMERICA



Editors note:

One afternoon in June my telephone rang and it was an old Auburn buddy, Bill Marks. Bill and I went to Lanier together where he played on the tennis team. Bill went on to play for Sewanee University. We had talked many times, mostly about Auburn. But, that was not the purpose of his call. He reminded me of what a great tennis back-ground that a mutual friend of ours had. Coach John McWilliams is the individual that he was talking about.

I have known “Coach” for probably twenty

John was born in Birmingham, but soon moved with his family to Huntsville. His daddy had played a little tennis in Pine Apple and Oak Hill where he grew up. At an early age, John was exposed to his daddy’s interest in tennis. When John’s parents moved to Selma he was in the sixth grade. Tennis courts were more available there. John participated in all sports throughout junior high school. But, the real lure of tennis got stronger as he read about all the tennis greats and saw pictures of them in action magazines. By the time John was in high school he was the best player in Selma. He organized and captained the tennis team at Parrish High School.

When John qualified for the National Junior Championships while playing for Parrish High School in Selma, he was excited. So, he went to talk to his father about going to the tournament. He said, “Dad, I really would like to go to this tournament.” His Dad looked at him with a not



Coach McWilliams thanks Tennis Pro Rod Laver for coming to Huntingdon in 1994 to play an exhibition and conduct a clinic. Laver won the Grand Slam of tennis twice, in ‘62 and ‘69. Laver is the only player in history to win the Grand Slam twice.

- Tennis Sales Director for Bancroft Sporting Goods – 1970-1972
- Member of the Alabama Tennis Hall of Fame.
- Member of the Huntingdon College Sports Hall of Fame.

Tennis Pro at the following locations:

- Charleston Tennis Club, Charleston, West Virginia
- The River Club, New York City
- Houston Racket Club, Houston, Texas
- Selma Country Club

In 1972 John came back to Selma to begin a new venture in tennis. He began a coaching career that has never really ended.

He was hired at Marion Military Institute in 1980 where he coached the college and the high school teams. His high school team won the State Private School Tournament in 1987 and his college team qualified for the National Junior College Tournament 1988 and 1989. While at Marion, he founded the **Alabama Tennis Academy**, which attracts young people from all over the south-east.

The last stop on this extraordinary journey brought John McWilliams to Montgomery as the head coach of the men’s and women’s tennis teams at Huntingdon College. John was never just a head coach even as much as that entails. He held camps and clinics all over the state. Ever the promoter , John was able to bring the great Rod Laver to Huntingdon for an exhibition and clinic on the Huntingdon Campus in 1994. Rod is the only player in tennis history to win two Grand Slams.

Today, John is content to occasionally “coach” his granddaughter, Anna and her daddy John IV. It is my belief that John enjoyed teaching the young children more than any of his accomplishments. He has devoted the later part of his life developing young tennis players. His **“Tennis Across Montgomery”** has involved thousands of young tennis hopefuls just like he was when he got started in Selma over seventy-five years ago. At the age of 84 John McWilliams, “Coach” John McWilliams, can talk tennis as long as you can listen. But, he can’t play very well anymore. He has earned the right to rest for a while!



Coach John McWilliams with son John McWilliams, IV and granddaughter Anna - Where else? On the tennis court.



Commissioners Corner, PSC

Commissioner Chris “Chip” Beeker, Jr.

Alabama the Beautiful

The beginning of summer is approaching and we are nearing my favorite time of the year. Summer in the south brings with it vacations, weekends spent outside, outdoor activities, and a multitude of other opportunities. It is a great chance to get out and enjoy our wonderful state parks. I am certainly biased to Alabama but some of the world’s most beautiful natural sites can be found within our state and many of those are at Alabama state parks.

Alabama is home to 22 state parks, each having an individual flavor. There are many things that you and your family can do at these parks. Those include golfing, fishing, hiking, bicycling, swimming, and many others. Quite often you will also find that a state park offers a great place to stay during your visit. Some parks have resorts while others feature cabins, cottages, or excellent campgrounds. In fact, Wind Creek State Park, located on Lake Martin, has one of the largest state-owned campgrounds in the entire country.

I urge you to find out about the different ranger-led events that many of our state parks regularly offer. These events present outstanding opportunities to go on hikes, make crafts, listen to an educational presentation, or even watch a movie. A park employee is always on hand to make sure that everyone has a great and safe time. Most of these events will fit every budget because they are free. What a wonderful way to spend time with your family and create memories that will last a lifetime!

At the risk of causing you to not think about other parks, I would like to highlight a few of them. In northeastern Alabama you will find Cathedral State Park, an unbelievable natural phenomenon. Inside this mammoth cave you will find “Goliath”- one of the largest stalagmites in the world. It measures 45 feet tall and 243 feet in circumference. Those of you living in central Alabama should take advantage of Oak Mountain State Park, the largest of our state parks. There you can rent boats, hike, or ride your bicycle on one of the BMX courses. And, of course, in the southern part of our state you will find Gulf State Park in Gulf Shores. There you can enjoy the stunning white sand beach while you watch the surf and seagulls. Again, please don’t think that these are the only state parks you can visit. Contact the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to find out more about the others.

I truly appreciate the great outdoors and realize how fortunate we are to live in a state that is home to these marvelous examples of God’s handiwork. I hope that you and others in our state take advantage of these parks by visiting them soon and often. Whether you’re on a day trip or a weekend getaway, there’s something for everyone at an Alabama state park. Get outdoors and enjoy Alabama the Beautiful!

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



Steve Long

Woods & Waters

with Steve



Conservation is Now the Key to Outdoor’s Future

Conservation. It's a word with a whole lot of different meanings to different people. While the general idea might be the same, it's a distant after thought for many Americans. To those of us in the outdoors, hunting, fishing, hiking or camping, conservation is a constant effort to maintain the precious resources we have.

As a member of QDMA, conservation is one of my primary goals. After all, you can't go deer hunting if there aren't any deer left! The amount of research and education we invest in is tremendous, but the constant effort pays off in spades. We've seen Alabama become, and remain, a deer hunting destination, which brings in plenty of cash flow to both our State and local businesses. With careful management, it'll surely stay that way, too.

There are plenty of challenges, of course. Chronic Wasting Disease, or CWD, is a serious illness that can absolutely decimate a deer population. It spreads easily and quickly throughout the herd, silently eliminating the deer population, out of our sight. Careful management and regulatory action can help stymie the spread of CWD, and Alabama has so far been up to the challenge. Keeping deer from being brought across state borders, for instance, has been a wise move.

Speaking of regulatory action, Alabama's red snapper season is going incredibly well, so far. There are some real big fish being caught down in the gulf, and we have our state government and its it's hard working officials to thank for that. The federal regulators wanted to keep us to a meager handful of days to fish, using the data they had. However, through programs like Snapper Check, the data obtained convinced the powers that be to let the State determine the season for itself. Conservation, when all the gears are moving smoothly, lets us enjoy our hunting and fishing heritage, not only today, but tomorrow as well.

Naturally, we've still got plenty of work ahead of us. As most of you Turkey Hunters know, we're in the middle of a rough spot for turkey conservation. Simply put, there ain't a lot of turkeys out there. Both the experts and us good ole boys agree that something is going on out in the woods, and it's going to take some work to address it. Between habitat loss, over predation, and some unusual weather, the turkey population has seen better days. If we drop the ball on this, we will probably end up like it was decades ago, when seeing a bird was near a miracle, much less harvesting one.

Fortunately for both the critters and us, there's a lot of help to be given in the name of conservation. Private organizations like QDMA work hard everyday to help improve and maintain deer herd numbers and quality. The state also has plenty of fine folks in charge of public lands and the wildlife in our state, doing everything they can to protect what resources we have.

Ultimately, the responsibility for conservation falls to each one of us individuals. If hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities are gonna be around to enjoy for years to come, we've all gotta work together to see it through. My work with QDMA has only strengthened my resolve to help maintain what we have, and I encourage all of you to keep conservation on your mind this year, going forward. Engaging in programs like Game Check, Snapper Check, and the like can only help out the cause. If you're fortunate enough to be a part of an organization like QDMA, spread the word and study up.



Thanks to programs like Snapper Check our future looks bright. Emily Palmer with a nice Red Snapper with FiNatics Charters out of Dauphin Island AL.

The way I see it, the Outdoors is a gift to all of us, and I intend on leaving that treasure for those who follow behind us, better and richer than I found it. I hope all of you can share in that belief as well, because, if we Outdoorsmen win the fight for conservation, then every one of us also wins. So get out there, keep those woods and waters looking good, and go get'em!

Kritter Korner

American Badger

An American Badger, are they considered fearless and vicious as we have portrayed them for years? The answer is they are no less vicious than any other animal when it comes to cubs, food or dens. However, there is another badger species that carries that title with full respect of all species. It’s the Honey Badger, considered the most fearless and vicious of all badger species. The American Badger is a brown fur-covered mammal with short legs and low profile. The head appears pointed and small for the body. They have short ears and a short, furry tail.

Badgers weigh 10 to 20 lbs. The body is flattened, and the legs are short and stocky. The fur on the back and flanks of the animal ranges from grayish to reddish. The ventrum is a tan color. The face of the badger is distinct. The throat and chin are whitish, and the face has black patches. A white dorsal stripe extends back over the head from the nose.



GarLyn Zoo

Badgers are found primarily in the Great Plains region of North America. Badgers occur north through the central western Canadian provinces, in appropriate habitat throughout the western United States, Badgers prefer to live in dry, open grasslands, fields, and pastures. Badgers are also known to live in open

habitats in eastern Washington, including desert, sagebrush, grassland, meadows, and grassy bald spots on high ridge tops. They can be present in open forest (primarily Ponderosa Pine) with grassy ground cover.

Badgers are carnivorous (meat eaters). They eat a variety of small animals, including pocket gophers, ground squirrels, moles, marmots, prairie dogs, wood rats, kangaroo rats, deer mice, and voles. They also eat insects and birds.

Badgers are solitary animals that are mainly active at night. They tend to be inactive during the winter months. They are not true hibernators, but spend much of the winter in cycles of torpor that usually last as long as 29 hours. (Toper: a state of motor and mental inactivity with a partial suspension of sensibility.)

Badgers are known to be excellent digging machines. Their powerfully built forelimbs allow them to tunnel rapidly through the soil and other substrates. They construct underground burrows for protection and sleeping. A typical badger den may be as far as 9 feet below the surface, contain approximately 32 feet of tunnels and an enlarged sleeping chamber. Badgers use multiple burrows within their home range.

If threatened, they attack explosively with hissing, growling and biting. Mating occurs in late summer or early autumn. The actual gestation is only 6 weeks. They have litters of 1 to 5 offspring, with an average of 3, born in early spring. Females are able to mate when they are as young as 4 months old, but

males do not mate until the autumn of their second year. Most females mate after their first year. Female badgers prepare a grass-lined den before giving birth. Badgers are born blind and helpless with only a thin coat of fur. The eyes of the youngsters open at 4 to 6 weeks old. The young are nursed by their mother until they are 2 to 3 months old. The cubs (young badgers) may emerge from the den as early as 5 to 6 weeks old. Juveniles disperse at 5 to 6 months.



Ron VanHerwyn



nature.mdc.mo.gov

Did you know? **1.** Badgers have extremely keen vision, scents of smell and hearing. **2.** Badgers have lived to be 26 years old in captivity. **3.** American badgers are solitary. **4.** European badgers are sociable. **5.** Badgers are good at digging burrows. **6.** Badgers help to control rodent populations.

Ron's Kritter Kids (wildlife education)

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

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



Monitoring Your Earnings Record Can Really Pay Off

You work hard for your money. You’re saving and planning for a secure retirement. Now you need to make sure you’re going to get all the money you deserve. Regularly reviewing your Social Security earnings record can really pay off, especially when every dollar counts in retirement.

If an employer did not properly report just one year of your work earnings to us, your future benefit payments from Social Security could be close to \$100 per month less than they should be. Over the course of a lifetime, that could cost you tens of thousands of dollars in retirement or other benefits to which you are entitled. Sooner is definitely better when it comes to identifying and reporting problems with your earnings record. As time passes, you may no longer have easy access to past tax documents, and some employers may no longer be in business or able to provide past payroll information.

It’s ultimately the responsibility of your employers — past and present — to provide accurate earnings information to Social Security so you get credit for the contributions you’ve made through payroll taxes. But you can inform us of any errors or omissions. You’re the only person who can look at your lifetime earnings record and verify that it’s complete and correct.



So, what’s the easiest and most efficient way to validate your earnings record?

- ✓ Visit www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount to set up or sign in to your own my Social Security account;
- ✓ Under the “My Home” tab, select “Earnings Record” to view your online Social Security Statement and taxed Social Security earnings;
- ✓ Carefully review each year of listed earnings and use your own records, such as W-2s and tax returns, to confirm them;
- ✓ Keep in mind that earnings from this year and last year may not be listed yet; and
- ✓ Notify us right away if you spot errors by calling 1-800-772-1213.

More detailed instructions on how to correct your Social Security earnings record can be found at www.social-security.gov/pubs/EN-05-10081.pdf.

Securing today and tomorrow requires accuracy and diligence on our part and yours. You’ll be counting on Social Security when you reach retirement age. Make sure you’re getting every dollar you’ve earned. You can access us any time at www.socialsecurity.gov.

Kylie’ McKinney, SSA Public Affairs Specialist, can be reached by e-mail at kylle.mckinney@ssa.gov.

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Sheriff Derrick Cunningham



Montgomery County Alabama Sheriff's Office



Chief Deputy Kevin J. Murphy

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www.montgomerysheriff.com

(334) 832-4980

Camp Show n' Tell

July 31st - August 3rd

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

THIS IS NOT A BOOT CAMP!

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

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



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Firearms Familiarization Course

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

July 14 October 13
August 11 December 8

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

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

Course Requirements:

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



Pistol Permit Questions?
334.832.1335 or 334.832.1337
Course Questions or to Obtain an Application?
Lisa Crenshaw@mc-ala.org

334.832.1339

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

Project Lifesaver

Project Lifesaver is a practical way to keep your loved one safe and reassure their friends and family that by just wearing a special bracelet, they can be safe all the time! Alzheimer's is a disease of the brain that causes



a steady decline in memory. Nearly 5 million Americans have Alzheimer's or some related illness, i.e., Autism or Down Syndrome which is occurring more and more and also needs to be addressed. No matter what illness your loved one suffers from, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office is committed to assisting the community one day at a time to make sure your loved one is safe!

WORKING TOGETHER

By agencies working together and pooling their resources in order to find ways to help people that suffer from memory impaired illnesses; our plans are to issue bracelets to everyone that suffers from a memory-impaired illness. With that being said, if one of the registered persons in the program wanders off, anyone that comes in contact with your loved one will know who to contact. The main contact person on the bracelets will be the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office. It will also contain a personal pin number that is registered to the victim. Once contact is made with the Sheriff's Office, we will notify the caregiver of their location. There has been incidents when a person has wandered to another state. These bracelets will let law enforcement officials or any agency from any state make contact with us, making sure your loved one is returned safely.

PLEASE remember this is not a program to find out personal facts or information about a person, but a program to help a caregiver find and return a loved one. The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office is dedicated to working with you to make this happen!

TECHNOLOGY BRACELETS

Sheriff Cunningham has a Deputy assigned to the program for registration. This program was founded in April 1999 by the Chesapeake Sheriff's Office. It uses state-of-the-art personalized radio transmitters on identified persons who are at risk of wandering away from their homes and becoming lost.

These are the statistics from the National Alzheimer's Association:

- 60% of people with Alzheimer's disease wander and become lost
- 75% are repeat wanderers
- 46% may die if not found within 24 hours

Hopefully with the use of these transmitter bracelets to assist victims that have a history of wandering, we can reduce the national statistics here in Montgomery County. Also with the use of the identification bracelets we will be able to let the caregivers know that we care about the safety of their loved ones!

Sheriff's Office APP

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

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

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

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



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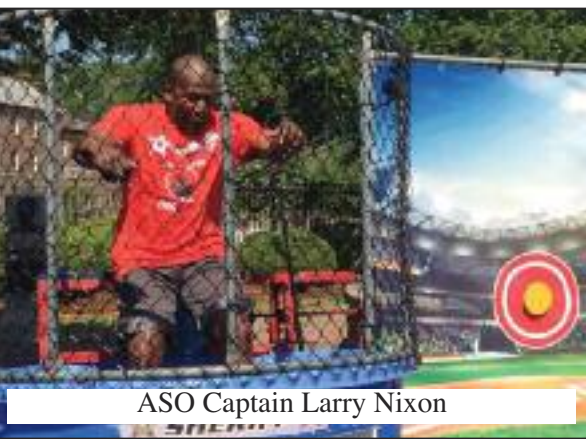
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Central Alabama Crimestoppers



Eddie Eagle, Sheriff Sedinger, McGruff the Crime Dog



ASO Captain Larry Nixon



ASO Investigator Steven Geon



ASO Lt Steve Adams

The Autauga County Sheriff's Office had a blast at the 2018 Prattville CityFest! It was a HOT day and we would like to Thank Everyone who came out to help "Cool Off" our Deputies, News Anchors and Cops, in an effort to raise much needed funding for the Central Alabama CrimeStoppers. Through your

generous donations we were able to exceed our goal we had set this year! We hope to see you next year at the Prattville CityFest. We would also like to give a shout out to AKD for sponsoring and designing the shirts for the dunking booth participants.

Autauga County Weather Sirens

According to the repair company the weather sirens are working. A silent test has been conducted and the system passed. We will be conducting a full functional test on the 3rd of July @ 10:00 a.m., weather permitting.



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Prattville Pops Band Director Job Description and Qualifications

The Prattville Pops are currently seeking applications for the position of **Band Director**. The Band is sponsored by the City of Prattville and falls within the purview of the Prattville Cultural Arts Department and the Prattville Creative and Performing Arts Council. The Pops are dedicated to bringing traditional band music to the community through a series of yearly performances and fostering a social environment for its members through rehearsals and events. This is a non-audition band.

The Director will be responsible for leading the band in rehearsals and performances throughout the year; be a liaison with the City of Prattville and participate in events related to promotion of the arts within the Prattville Community.

Minimum qualifications include a senior in college majoring in or a college degree in Music (Performance, Education, Theory or Composition) as well as experience as an assistant/associate or head band director in a school, university, community or other setting. The Director will also serve in a non-voting capacity on the Board of Directors of Prattville Pops.

Qualified applicants may submit a resume and cover letter to prattville-pops@earthlink.net or for more information contact the Special Events Office for the City of Prattville at 334-595-0851.

Deadline for submittals is August 1, 2018. Qualified applicants will be contacted for an interview with the Board of Directors.

Prattville/Autauga Farmers Market

May 26, 2018 to

September 15, 2018

Prattville, Alabama

7am - noon



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

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



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Remember when if you heard bells jingle you ran to the street to get your favorite frozen treat. There are not enough Good Humor trucks roaming the neighborhood now a days, and that is a shame. We have to go to the store to get our favorite treats. Like a Drumstick; a cone filled with ice cream and the ice cream sticking out is dipped in chocolate and then peanuts. A real treat is when you get to the bottom of the cone and there is a chunk of milk chocolate waiting for you. Fudgsicles; not really chocolate and no special coating, just to die for decadence of industrial chocolate taste and density to keep it from melting too fast. Just slow enough to keep it from dripping all over you. Well sometimes. Some people call them Creamsicles, I call them Dreamsicles. Maybe because I dream of them every summer. Where else can you mix dairy and citrus and freeze it on a stick? A Pushup Pop was a good substitute for an ice cream snack if there was some flavor besides vanilla. I am not a fan of vanilla ice cream. Klondike Bars; How far with you go for a Klondike Bar? This treat has been around since the 1920's and can be found in about any grocery store, gas station, and convenience store and in dozens of different flavors. Also, found in my freezer in any of these flavors, Mint Chocolate Chip, Krunch, Rocky Road, Heath, and Oreo.

Another sign of summer is the menu for our supper club this month. The entrée is Conecuh dogs and hamburgers. I'm bringing a grilled appetizer, but I am not sure what I will grill. The bag of small colorful bell peppers always lends itself to some sort of appetizer. Halved and laid out like little boats and then stuffed with whatever tickles your fancy and then grilled produces a perfect finger food.

I was scrolling through the internet looking for ideas and noticed a new crop of recipes for hamburgers. You heard of the IHOP-IHOB publicity brew ha-ha? Well the reports I read were favorable. The Big Brunch burger is a soft brioche bun with a special sauce, sound familiar. Loaded with a hash brown patty, then a patty of Black Angus, American cheese, hickory-smoked bacon and then an over easy fried egg.

Restaurants are required to follow food safety rules, even when serving an over easy egg on a hamburger. However, with the Fourth of July barbecues, picnics, and other outdoor eating events it is important to you pay attention to the time and temperature rules. The CDC says there are 76 million cases of food-borne illness every year in the United States. There is an easy rule to remember to keep you and your guests as safe as possible. If the temperature where you are having your outdoor soiree is below 90 degrees, the food can stay out for a maximum of 2 hours. If the temperature is above 90 degrees then a maximum of one hour is allowed. There is still another catch. If the food is in direct sunlight, these rules do not apply. Sunlight will heat up the food very quickly. Even dishes such as salads need special attention. Remember a few items that can stand the high temperatures of an outdoor feast are condiments, like hot sauce, mustard, catsup, and relish. Butter will melt but will be safe, and pickles have enough acid to keep the bacteria at bay. Over half of the food sold in the United States is grown in developing countries. Their safety standards may not be the same as ours. That is important if you are serving fresh uncooked items. And it can be a concern even for food items from the U.S. Remember romaine? Thanks be! our cookies and chips will be safe left out; just do not let them get wet.

Greek Pasta Salad with Sun-Dried Tomato Feta Dressing

Depending on the ingredients, there are plenty of salads that can be served outdoors. Acids in the dressings, the oil, and salt will help protect them. This salad is one to try. It is colorful is good for an outdoor meal.

Ingredients

- 16 oz. rotini
 - Good olive oil
 - 1 pound garden fresh tomatoes, medium diced
 - 1 red bell pepper, chopped
 - 1 yellow bell pepper, chopped
 - 1 cucumber, sliced and quartered
 - 5 sun-dried tomatoes in oil, drained
 - 3/4 cup pitted Kalamata olives pitted and diced
 - 1 pound feta cheese, medium diced
- Serves 12**

Feta Dressing

- 1- 8.5 oz. jar sun-dried tomatoes in oil
- 1 cup fresh packed flat-leaf parsley
- 1/4 cup freshly grated parmesan
- 2 peeled garlic cloves
- ¼ cup almonds
- 1/4 cup red wine vinegar
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes



Instructions

1. Cook pasta in generously salted water according to package directions. Drain, rinse with cool water, and toss with 2 tablespoons olive oil in a large bowl.
2. Add tomatoes, bell peppers, cucumber, and sun-dried tomatoes, feta and olives.
3. Add all of the Sun-Dried Tomato Feta Dressing ingredients to a food processor and process until finely chopped.
4. Add Sun-Dried Tomato Feta Dressing to the pasta and toss until evenly coated. Cover and refrigerate at least 2 hours before serving, best if overnight.
5. Toss salad with additional olive oil, feta, and fresh parsley before serving if desired.

Recipe Notes

- * As the amount of oil in sun-dried tomato jars can vary, you may want to add additional olive oil to taste if the pasta does not seem moist enough before serving.
- * A high quality Feta makes all the difference in this salad. Taste several brands and take your pick.

I have a question for you! I read an article that stated as you travel across the South, the further west you went, the sweeter the tea. I lived in Florida, Alabama, and Texas and I think just the opposite is true. Let me know, through the Alabama Gazette.

Southern Cuisine

There are signs everywhere that summer has arrived!

Besides the obvious signs of it being too hot and too humid. There are more boats on the Alabama River, the plants in your garden are growing and starting to produce. I already have about two pounds of blueberries and a basket of peaches, thanks to neighbors and friends with great gardens. I have been picking peaches and pears but that much from my trees. Farmer Markets are in full swing. There is the smell of BBQ in the air almost everywhere. There are comments about how we complained about the cold during the winter and now the comments are wishing the winter would come back. People are wearing flip-flops. You can drink a beer on the porch. You change from drinking hot chocolate to iced tea. The humming you hear is not from a heater but from the mosquitoes that are louder than humming birds and just as big. The sun is coming up excessively early and is going down way too late. But wait, daylight savings time will screw that up even more. Alongside the ham and meat loaf served at Dinner on the Grounds, there is BBQ brisket and ribs. The tomatoes in the salads taste like they came from a garden instead of from a grocery store. There are new commercials pushing new cold drinks, iced coffee, and frozen desserts.



If you want to show off your grilling skills and try your hand at being a hamburger patty connoisseur, try different mixtures of the meats used for the patty. A combination I like is to mix a pork sausage and beef. I have mixed a 50/50 ratio, of 1-pound ground pork breakfast sausage and 1 pound of lean ground beef. I freeze the 6-ounce patties and use them for both breakfast biscuits and for grilled hamburgers. Another tasty mix is a combination of andouille sausage and ground beef. Pulse a 4 ounce smoked fully cook andouille sausage in a food processor and mix with 12 ounces of 90/10 ground beef sirloin.

While I was in college, one of my favorite burgers was the Yellow Submarine. It was a patty formed with American cheese in the center. When you bit into the burger, the hot gooey cheese would run out. I found a recipe that is a very good upgrade from American cheese. It used pimienta cheese instead and you froze the cheese before you formed a beef patty around it. My upgrade would be using Jalapeno Palmetto Cheese.

Another rendition of the classic burger patty would be a Mexican chorizo Burger. You can buy Mexican chorizo but make sure you use a very lean ground beef. chorizo has a high fat content that renders orange oil when it cooks. I make my own chorizo using lean pork and I can adjust the seasoning. For me it has to be spicy and lots of garlic. Mix 6 ounces of chorizo with 10 ounces of lean ground meat.

Where you have a choice of ingredients for a hamburger patty, your choices when it comes to a hotdog is somewhat limited. There are different brands of hotdogs with some added ingredients, but you are limited. Where the artwork comes to play are the toppings you can think of for your hotdog. Wrap the hotdog in sliced pastrami, place in bun and top with sauerkraut and 1000 Island dressing and you have a Reuben Dog.

Here is a list of options that could would go on a hotdog. You may like it. Try Kimchi, Balsamic onions, Giardiniera, (it in the relish section of your grocery store), Furikake, (seaweed, sesame seeds and bonito), Old Bay, Peanut Butter, grilled pineapple, Mac and Cheese, Peaches with chopped green onions and a fruit chutney, to list a few. There is no hard fast rule that your hotdog bun has to have a hotdog in it. Ever heard of a Caroline Bird Dog? Chicken tenders, chopped bacon, cheese and honey mustard. If Chicago, can have a hotdog named for it, how about the Slow Cooker Pulled Pork with Alabama White Barbecue sauce, Conecuh Sausage Dog. If nobody has thought of that yet, I claim it! You will be hungry just trying to say it. Of course don't forget the sweet tea to wash it all down.

If I do not get to claim the Slow cooker Pulled Pork with Alabama White Barbecue Sauce, Conecuh Sausage Dog, I already have claimed this recipe and won First Place in the a cooking competition. It was years ago but it is still listed with my other award winning SPAM recipes at Foodnetwork.com. The name for this recipe is about as hard to say as the Alabama Dog recipe.*

Napa Valley Stuffed Grape Leaves With Six Pepper SPAM*, Fruit Relish and Pine Nuts.

Recipe by David Spooner

Ingredients

- One 12-ounce can SPAM*
- 1 teaspoon Six Pepper Spice, or mixed color peppercorns, plus more to taste
- 1/4 cup pine nuts
- 1 jar grape leaves

Makes four, serves two.



Yogurt dipping sauce

- 1/4 cup plain yogurt
- 1/4 cup strawberries, cleaned and hulled
- 1/4 cup fresh figs, and stemmed
- 2 tablespoons honey, plus more to taste

Fruit Relish

- 1/4 cup dried mango, diced into 1/4-inch cubes
- 1/4 cup dried papaya, diced into 1/4-inch cubes
- 1/4 cup dried apple, diced into 1/4-inch cubes
- 1/4 cup dried figs, diced into 1/4-inch cubes
- 1/4 cup raisins
- 1/4 cup sugar, plus more to taste
- 1/4 cup vinegar, plus more to taste

Directions

- Place the SPAM* in a meat grinder, and grind until it reaches the consistency of ground sausage.
- Heat a skillet over medium heat. Add the SPAM* and the Six Pepper Spice to the skillet, and cook until desired degree of doneness. Add more pepper, as desired. Remove from heat.
- In a medium bowl, combine the meat with the cooled Fruit Relish. Add the pine nuts, and stir until just combined.
- Spread 1 grape leaf out on flat surface, vein side up. Place about 1/4 cup meat mixture on each leaf, and roll it up like a small burrito or a 3-inch cigar. Repeat with remaining grape leaves.
- Place the stuffed grape leaves in a steamer, and steam for 3 to 5 minutes, or until completely heated through.
- Yogurt dipping sauce***
- Add the yogurt, strawberries, figs, and honey to a blender or food processor. Blend until combined, adding more honey as desired. Set aside.
- Serve the steamed grapes leaves with the yogurt dipping sauce.

Fruit Relish:

- Combine all ingredients in a small non-reactive saucepan. Add 1/4 cup water, and cook over medium heat until fruit softens. Taste for seasoning, and add more vinegar, sugar, or water, as necessary. The relish should be dry. Remove from heat and let cool.
- Maybe I will serve my Stuffed Grape Leaves at Supper Club! I wonder if there is a SPAM* Dog.
- Remember it is hot, check for kids and pets.
- SPAM is a registered trademark of Hormel Corp.



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

Worldviews Shaping American Culture

Worldviews Shaping American Culture What’s Your Worldview?

**You’ve got a worldview. Everybody has one.
What’s a worldview?**

**It’s everything you believe about what’s real and what
really matters in life.**

**It’s the filter by which we process all of our information.
The lens through which we understand reality.**

Ronald Nash in his book, **Worldviews in Conflict**, defines it this way:
“A worldview is a set of presuppositions (or assumptions) which we hold
(either consciously or subconsciously) about the basic makeup of our world.”
Can you name the top 3 worldviews shaping American culture?

Mikel Del Rosario, a Professor of Apologetics and World Religion at William
Jessup University, recently wrote an article in which he outlines the top 3
worldviews in America:

1. Historic Christianity

This is the main version of something called ethical monotheism. This is
the idea that God’s real; that God created us and gave us a real moral law.
And all people everywhere are obligated to obey the moral law — whether
they want to or not. Some things, like loving your parents, treating others
as you would like to be treated and telling the truth, are really good. Other
things, like hurting a child, murder, lying or treating others unjustly, are
really wrong.

The next two represent the major movements of the opposite camp.

2. Scientific Naturalism

What’s this? Think X-Men. No matter how out there something might seem
(like bending metal just by thinking about it), absolutely everything can be
boiled down to physical processes (like a genetic mutation). This view says
only the physical world is real. You’re pretty much just your brain. And
everything you do is just the result of things like your genetics and how
you were raised.

Another key idea: Science is the only way we know things. If you can’t
measure something in a lab or use science to prove it, you can’t know it. So

World Views



you can say you know Advil will help with your headache. But you can’t say
you actually know God exists.

3. Postmodern Relativism

For this one, think, “live and let live”. All truth and reality is relative to you
or your community: “That’s true for you but not for me.” It’s supposed to be
a feel-good, politically correct worldview where no one’s perspective is ever
wrong about anything—especially when it comes to spiritual things (unless
you happen to think Christianity is actually true). Another key idea is words
don’t really mean anything. You decide what words mean to you.
These two worldviews agree you can’t know things about stuff you can’t see,
touch, taste, hear or smell. This directly challenges historic Christianity which
teaches that we can know the truth and the truth will set us free (Jesus, John
8:32).

So, there you have it. The top three worldviews shaping American culture:
Christianity, Naturalism, and Postmodernism. Which one most shapes your
views?

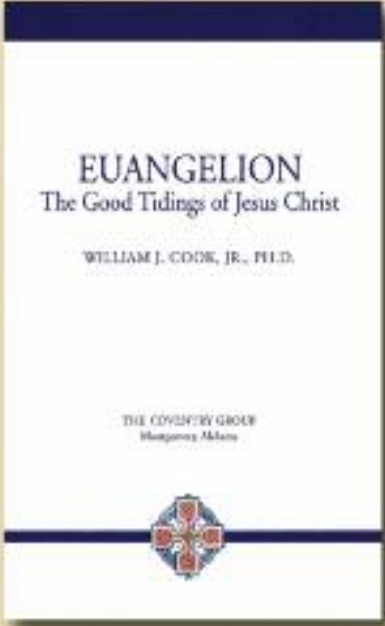
Whatever your worldview, a person’s worldview can be changed. It happens
all the time. People can perceive reality in a new way. When people change
from being cynical, critical, and sarcastic to being trusting, kind, and gracious,
it encourages us not to give up.

There’s always hope...people can and do change!

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Patricia Killough



Have a
Happy 4th of July

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alabamagazette@gmail.com

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

Bishop Names Davis as Director of Connectional Ministries & Conference Secretary



Bishop David Graves is pleased to announce a projected appointment for the role of Director of Connectional Ministries & Conference Secretary. Rev. Ashley Davis, current associate pastor at Woodland UMC in Pike Road, Alabama for the past five years, will be appointed in this new role effective July 1, 2018.

“After an extensive interview process with several highly qualified lay and clergy candidates, a team of seasoned professionals determined that Rev. Davis was the best selection for this appointment. Ashley is very gifted and will bring a multitude of talents to the

conference office. The role of conference secretary is quite time consuming and we felt it was best if it was combined into an existing leadership staff position. She will be able to make an immediate, positive impact on our conference and I am looking forward to working with her.

Rev. Davis is a life-long United Methodist and is a native of Luverne, Alabama. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Auburn University and a Master of Divinity degree from Emory University's Candler School of Theology. Prior to her service at Woodland UMC, she served in campus ministry at the Troy University Wesley Foundation for eight years. Following her time in campus ministry, she served the Trinity-Wallsboro charge for three years. She is the mother to her 15-year-old son, Will.



Dr. Walker, Ashley and Will

Sunday, June 24th was Rev. Ashley Davis’ last Sunday at Woodland United Methodist Church. After Ashley’s sermon, a reception was held in the fellowship



hall in her honor. Her father, Dr. Patrick Walker of Luverne, was in attendance for her final sermon at WUMC and reception. The church presented her with a new robe and a quilt made from some of the tee-shirts she had worn over the past years. Many members attended the reception to wish Ashley well. Ashley will be greatly missed at WUMC but we wish her God’s blessings at her new job.

Excerpt from the Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Church

2018 Meeting Schedule



Breast Cancer Support
Group Meetings

Tuesday, July 10th
Practicing Healthy Soul Care
Presented by Rev. (Ret.) Susan L. Beeson
Breast Cancer Survivor

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Home Town Community News

July Birthdays



- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Alan Moore | Miriam Head (88th) |
| Butch (Mary) Moseley | Lansdon O’Mailia |
| Linda Foxworth | 15 Joan Collier |
| 2 Ralph Davis | Farley Pugh |
| Lexie Turnipseed | Summer Rice |
| George Pugh | Paige Stringer |
| Voncille Talley | 16 Charlie Lamar |
| 4 Audrey Grant | Sherry Tucker |
| Peggy Hubbard | 18 Linda Carleton |
| David Johnson | Ann Marie Dean |
| Lynn McKinley | Laurie Smilie Sanders (91st) |
| Cindy Smith | Sharon K. Walker |
| 5 Ann Emory Harris | 19 Geneva Henderson |
| Kathy Ingram | Mary Lamar |
| Joyce Todd | Emma Ruthe Walker |
| 6 Pres. George Bush (72nd) | 20 Tony Mitchell |
| Vicki Davis | 22 Sara Ellis (80th) |
| Skip Mainor | Freddie Strength (69th) |
| Glenn Stringer | Vangie Walmsley |
| Amber Wooten | 23 Alana Jones Breedlove |
| 7 Knox Crowe | Helen Broadway |
| Carolyn Grant | Zachery Dibole |
| Willie B. Jackson | Matthew Grant |
| Taylor Mills | Rusty Moseley |
| Brian Mosley | Jim Scott |
| Greg Mosley | 24 Barbara Garrett |
| Cindy Young | 25 Sara Boyd (90th) |
| Betty Vann | Ashley Corbin |
| 8 Mickie Ann Boyd | Rod Nowakowski |
| Helen Dibole | Becky Windham |
| Fred Setzer | Brantley Woodall |
| 9 Joe Douglas | Ty Woodall |
| Katherine Kirk | 26 Jason Adams |
| Kathryn Ann Sikes (5th) | Judy Mann |
| Doris Wallace (89th) | Stacy Dickinson |
| Irene Woodham | 27 Jimmy Norman (60th) |
| 10 Jeffery Horton | 28 Arnold Fuller |
| Pam Stewart | Melanie Higgins |
| Al Webb | 29 Hilda Glover |
| 11 Abby Boyd | 30 Shawn O’Mailia |
| Luke Frady | Emory Tucker |
| Ann Green Tucker | Ronnie Wallace |
| James Tucker | 31 Brenda Davis |
| Trenton Windham | Meloney Gwin |
| 12 Cary Dean | Caroline Vocino |
| Bonnie Williams | Marie Hudson |
| 13 Jeremy Dickinson | Stephanie Randall |
| 14 Annie Burchard | |

Happy Birthday Daniel

Daniel Selvage celebrated his 10th birthday on May 21st. The cookie cake was at school, the cheesecake was in Birmingham and the ice cream cake was at his aunt Leen’s house. His big celebration was an Alaskan cruise on the Emerald Princess with stops in Ketchikan, Tracy Arm, Juneau, Skagway, Alaska and Victoria, Canada. He went on the cruise with aunt Leen, his mother, sister and GoGo.



They loved going to Discovery Camp onboard the ship.

Happy Anniversary

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2 Bob & Liz Morris | 19 Don & Nancy Rabren |
| 3 Everett & Alice Cole (46th) | 20 Spears & Carrie Rhodes |
| Dennis & Karen Weber | 21 Justin & Bethany Mims |
| 7 April & Hugh Smith, III (10th) | Shannon & Cindy K. Miles |
| 8 Bill & Charlotte Gaston | 26 Blake & Amanda Wise |
| 10 Fred & Jeanette Waldo (58th) | 28 Archie & Charlotte Mote (62nd) |
| 12 Dorothy & Glenn Fuller (60th) | 31 Zachery & Jennifer Gibbs |
| 16 Laird & Sarah Bone | |

Sympathy to the families of...

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| Browder, Hilda Carol (64) | died May 25, 2018 |
| Newell, Jane Redden (82) | died May 25, 2018 |
| Page, Rachel Almeleh (97) | died May 27, 2018 |
| Hughes, Samuel Camp (9) | died June 4, 2018 |
| Burt, Hampton “Sonny” (75) | died June 13, 2018 |
| Brown, Margaret Ann “Maggie” (78) | died June 14, 2018 |
| Wisnewski, Robert Carew (93) | died June 14, 2018 |
| Holloway, Jr., John Malcolm (78) | died June 15, 2018 |
| Chambless, Jr. William Henry “Bill” (71) | died June 17, 2018 |
| Killough, Lee (85) | died June 18, 2018 |
| Eisen, Catherine “Cathy” Horton (62) | died June 19, 2018 |
| Rouso, Jeanette Cohen (97) | died June 20, 2018 |

TODAY'S WOMAN

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



Years and Laughter:

**Suspended Chief Probate Clerk,
“I’m not taking the fall for a con.”**

By Amanda Walker

One reason Wilcox County stays broke is because people steal. That is not in any way meant to take away from the gross mismanagement we’ve come to call normal, but theft happens too often and audits are too few. The latest sin to slither out of the courthouse emerged when the bank called retiring Probate Judge Jerry Boggan and informed him that funds were not sufficient for the checks that were being presented. Now I don’t know, but I would think that in that very moment, the Honorable and kind Judge Boggan may have fainted. There’s some history. Some nasty history I hate to bring up because it is in the past. It is lumped in with a lot of other not so long ago ugly history that Wilcox County is – more or less – trying to get beyond. In 1999, Judge Boggan was removed from office – with pay as the law states – by the Court of Judiciary after being found guilty of depositing \$23,000 from the Probate Office account to his personal account. He then gave the appearance of returning the money with a false deposit ticket. He was found guilty. He was ordered to pay restitution. And then the very next year, in 2000, Wilcox County voters put Judge Boggan right back in as Probate Judge where he patiently remains today, awaiting the runoff election set for July 17, that will begin his countdown to the sweet freedom of retirement. But I still think he would have welcomed a couple of Tums and a sniff of whiskey when the bank called about the latest shortage in the Probate account. Judge Boggan approached the County Commission with the matter at last week’s meeting. Chief Probate Clerk, Shekita Jenkins, a resident of Camden, allegedly wrote a check to herself for just over \$12,234. She cashed the check in Thomasville. Two other checks totaling \$5,985.94 were written to made-up names. Jenkins has been placed on suspension. This case continues under state investigation and audits are still ongoing. Jenkins had been out on leave recovering after having a tummy tuck along with liposuction to her abdomen, flanks, upper and lower bra rolls, and inner thighs. According to a post on Jenkins’ Facebook page, her procedures totaled \$14,250, and were performed by Dr. Curves in Atlanta. Her surgery was a known fact to her co-workers and around town, but when the news of theft allegations became public, Jenkins became angry and commented under the article to me personally saying, “I will not take the fall for a con.” She eluded in other comments to Judge Boggan, possibly because of his well-known past transgressions. But due to his past, paired with his being on his way out of office...maybe another con could be conning us. Jenkins has since deleted her Facebook account.

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



*Trisstun Wright Burrows
Ms.Wheelchair America/Alabama 2005*

Trisstun’s Tidbits...

*By: Trisstun Wright Burrows
www.trisstunwrightburrows.com*

“Celebration of Freedom”

The Fourth of July and fireworks go hand in hand in the USA. We impatiently wait for darkness to settle in, as we join the crowds at the city park or the riverfront. Soon, our waiting pays off as a small streak of light hisses upwards, and the sky is filled with an explosive ka-boom, colorful sparkles and lovely designs. Fireworks are for celebrations...our country’s birthday, for example, or a homerun at the ballpark. Wouldn’t it be fun to celebrate Jesus with fireworks? After all, He was born and died on the cross to save us from our sins. I really can’t think of a better reason to celebrate. Can you? In a firework show, the best is saved for last. The concluding climax fills the sky with deafening noise and blazing light. Similarly, we will save our best fireworks, our biggest celebrations for those events that stir heaven itself...a life transformed, a sinner who repents, a wandering soul found by our seeking God. ***“I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.” (Luke 15:7)*** So, on this day and every day, let’s praise and celebrate Him because in Christ we are free indeed! **Many Blessings!**



Become a Master Gardener!

The Autauga County Extension office is recruiting for the fall **2018 Master Gardener class. Classes will begin Wednesday, September 5th.** The deadline to register is Friday, August 10th, 2018 and the cost is \$150.00. The Master Gardener program will consist of **12 weeks of class and hands-on training.** For an application please contact the Autauga County Office at (334) 361-7273. The fee associated with this class is \$150.



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Judge Peggy Givhan

Southern Gardening Potpourri for July by Peggy Givhan

SNAP. CRACKLE. POP. Firecrackers, fireworks and even laser light shows celebrate the 4th of July. We see flags displayed throughout towns and neighborhoods even red, white and blue market lights a blaze at night. Everyone wants to say Happy Birthday to our country in their own way, but please be aware of the dangers of the myriad fireworks. Always have a safety plan in case things go south.

Now lets turn our attention to the garden setting and size up what needs to be done. First of all, I am aware that much of the vinca, geraniums, lambs' ears, and other drought resistant flowers have drooped with the rainfalls and depressed sunlight. All of these plants need to dry out. My potted geraniums were in larger outdoor pots, which held water and just about drown these. Always check for soggy pots, and remove the plants before implementing drainage control. I just took out the smaller pots of geraniums out and drained to larger pot. My problem turned out to be a clogged drainage hole.

Gardening in the shade is one topic I am having more and more interest in since my neighbors' trees and my oak trees are practically forming a canopy over most of the area. I did have a tree man limb up some of the lower branches to let in more light, but now I have partial shade. In a border with the most shade, I have planted several varieties of hosta, along with hydrangeas as a back drop. Instead of impatiens or begonias, which are go to plants for the shady environment, I planted stands of coleus, Lime Wizard (lime colored), Volcano (rusty red), and Bellingrath (variegated green, salmon and cream) which are readily available varieties in our area. And to make the area look a little more dramatic, I added giant elephant ears in three spots.

I have always liked to have my cake and eat it too. And we can do this by designing portable flower centerpieces for the home. First of all measure your indoor containers, and obtain outdoor pots with drain holes to grow the plants. These can be terra cotta, black plastic or any type really. They will need to be smaller than the indoor container. If some of the outdoor container is taller than your indoor container, purchase Spanish moss to hide the edge. Now decide what flowers to plant that will fill the pot to be brought from outdoors to indoors and placed into the container. The pot can contain one variety of flowers, such as Dragon Wing begonias, or the newest variety of landscape begonia call "Big", or get creative with herbs and flowers, or flowers paired with trailing succulents. Referring to the landscape begonia "Big", the leaf shape is similar to the regular mounding types, but much larger. I recently purchased a small tray which

are a beautiful creamy pink. You can experiment not only with different flowers, herbs, succulents, but also bulbs. Anyway, keeping the plants growing outdoors in the proper light situations, allows you to have instant indoor pots of flowers when needed.

PLANT OF THE MONTH--BLOOD LEAF (Iresine herbstii)

I have been reading some articles on tropicals, and ran across this plant. If you like giant fancy coleus, you will love blood leaf. It is a tropical perennial in zones 9-10 which would include the panhandle of Florida and even New Orleans I, but an annual in our zone 8. We would have to protect it in our winters. Blood leaf grows quickly and spreads up to 3' across.



The bright magenta foliage is quite a sight. It hails from Brazil, is tolerant of neglect, and grows well in bright shade,. To propagate, take cuttings to root, or sow the seeds in potting soil and barely cover the seed. The variety that is the showiest would be Purple Lady. My sister in Athens, Georgia has bought me a plant which I will immediately plant in a large outdoor pot. I will keep tabs on it progress and report later.

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY AND GOOD GARDENING.

DECISION
2018
Run-offs

July
17th

VOTE

U. S. CONGRESS

DISTRICT 2

Republicans

Democrats

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☐ Martha Roby

Constitutional Offices

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Democrats

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☐ Twinkle Andress Cavanaugh

ALABAMA CIVIL APPEALS

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Democrats

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Democrats

☐ Troy King

☐ Steve Marshall

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Republicans

Democrats

☐ Gerald Dial

☐ Rick Pate

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PLACE 1

Republicans

Democrats

☐ Brad Mendheim

☐ Sarah Stewart

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DISTRICT 26

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Democrats

☐ David Burkette

☐ John Knight

ALABAMA CRIMINAL APPEALS
PLACE 2

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Democrats

☐ Chris McCool

☐ Rich Anderson


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