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John 11:25

March 27

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

Ronald Reagan

2016 Political Year "STRANGER than EVER"

Let's get the easy stuff out of the way. **Hillary Clinton** had a good night, stumbling in places where she was expected to stumble. But she benefited from a solid African-American support in the south and snatched a significant victory over **Bernie Sanders** in Massachusetts. Senator Sanders is not going to give up his quest any time soon, but, in the absence of an indictment arising out of Clinton's email adventures, Hillary looks well set to take the Democratic nomination in due course.

And that brings me to the Republicans. There was no fresh earthquake, but the aftershocks of what had already hit the GOP were only marginally less devastating. **Donald Trump** romped home in a series of victories that would have been unthinkable just a few months ago. But the Republican establishment can take a few crumbs of comfort from the fact that 'The Donald's' triumph was not quite as complete as some were beginning to anticipate. Averaged across the twelve states, percentage-wise he scored in the mid-thirties. Impressive, but far below the 49 percent he took in a recent CNN poll of Republican voters. His delegate haul—less than half those up for grabs on Tuesday—fell short too: Trump's path to the magic 1,237 (the number of delegates required to secure the nomination) is not clear yet.

Building on earlier success in Iowa, **Ted Cruz**, the junior senator from Texas, prevailed in his state, in Oklahoma next door and Alaska. Cruz is a hardliner, clever, abrasive and don't-you-forget-it devout.

But most of the Republican establishment would rather work with the more emollient **Senator Marco Rubio** from Florida and the Republican most likely to beat Hillary. Once again, Rubio failed to live up to his advance billing, but he managed to win in Minnesota and—an achievement these days—ran Trump close in Virginia. Overall, however, he was outscored on Tuesday by Cruz and a loss to Trump in the Florida primary on 15th March would be a blow from which he would probably not recover.

If one ignores retired neurosurgeon **Ben Carson**, plugging on despite poor results for self-promotional reasons of his own, that leaves Ohio governor **John Kasich**, now positioning himself as a moderate of sorts and as someone's vice presidential pick. His results did not amount to a great deal, But he is not pulling out yet.

So what's next? Trump, who has long since transcended what were thought to be the rules of the American political game, will sweep on through outrage and gaffes, the strong favorite to win the GOP nomination and the strong favorite to lose against Hillary. Republicans who oppose Trump are focusing on his failure to win over more than half of their voters. Their best hope is that the non-Trump forces can coalesce behind one credible champion—Rubio or Cruz—in sufficient numbers to put to a stop to a momentum driven by forces much greater than any of the candidates in this race. Failing that, they have to pray that, between them, Rubio, Cruz, Kasich and the good doctor can amass sufficient delegates to take the fight against Trump all the way to the Republican convention in July. Yes, these are long shots, very long shots.

Meanwhile, Hillary is measuring the drapes for the White House.

Andrew Stuttaford is a contributor to National Review. Article abridged for length.

Super Tuesday Turnout	Democrats	Republicans
2012	8.3 million	4.6 million
2016	4.2 million	8.5 million

For example, in Texas 2.4 million ballots were cast for the 2016 contest compared to 1.4 million in 2012.

With the Death of Justice Scalia, What Happens Next?

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Justice Antonin Scalia

SHUNNED BY COMBINE

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Story by:
Gazette Sports Editor
Ed Jones



"BUILDING YOUR CHILD UP!"

Oswaldo Chávez
MS, LMFT-S, LPC-S, NCC
Clinical Counselor,
Non-profit organization.
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WITH THE DEATH OF JUSTICE SCALIA, WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

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



Article III of the United States Constitution establishes a supreme court. The text of Section One and the first paragraph of Section Two of Article Three reads as follows:

Article III.

Section. 1.

The judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services, a Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office.

Section. 2.

The judicial Power shall extend to all Cases, in Law and Equity, arising under this Constitution, the Laws of the United States, and Treaties made, or which shall be made, under their Authority;—to all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls;—to all Cases of admiralty and maritime Jurisdiction;—to Controversies to which the United States shall be a Party;—to Controversies between two or more States;— between a State and Citizens of another State,—between Citizens of different States,—between Citizens of the same State claiming Lands under Grants of different States, and between a State, or the Citizens thereof, and foreign States, Citizens or Subjects. In all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, and those in which a State shall be Party, the supreme Court shall have original Jurisdiction. In all the other Cases before mentioned, the supreme Court shall have appellate Jurisdiction, both as to Law and Fact, with such Exceptions, and under such Regulations as the Congress shall make.

Note that in the establishment of the Supreme Court there is no establishment as to the number of Justices. The Supreme Court began with a Chief Justice and five associate justices. The number of justices fluctuated until 1869 when it became standard to have nine justices.

Article Two, paragraph two allows the President to nominate Supreme Court justices;

He shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States, whose Appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by Law: but the Congress may by Law vest the Appointment of such inferior Officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, in the Courts of Law, or in the Heads of Departments.

The words, “advice and consent of the Senate” have become the rallying cry of the Republicans as to why President Obama should not nominate a justice to replace Justice Scalia citing that this is a lame duck presidency in an election year. Should a liberal justice be confirmed the balance of the Court would be shifted

and juxtaposed to the will of the people should a Republican President be elected.

President Obama and the Democrats rightfully support the President’s directive to nominate a new justice. The Republican majority in the Senate could block any Obama nominee but certainly not without a future fight should the Democrats be later positioned to block a significant Republican issue.

If President Obama does not nominate a justice (this is not a position he will take) during the remainder of his term or the Senate refuses to confirm his nominee, what might happen?

- (1) A Constitutional issue could arise without a decision being made due to deadlock of conservative versus liberal justices since eight justices now sit on the Court.
- (2) The next President of whichever party would nominate a justice but can run into Senate confirmation issues.

However, an interesting observation is that there is a seventeen day window between the time that new Senators take office and a new President takes office. If the Democrats win a Senate majority and regardless of which party wins the Presidency, President Obama’s nominee could be confirmed with a 2/3 Senate vote within that seventeen day window.

Another interesting thought that has been around is that President Obama might nominate U.S. District Court Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson. While Judge Jackson is not an appellate judge she could be just the justice that Obama might be able to push through. She is a Harvard law school graduate and clerked on the U.S. Supreme Court. Her husband is the twin brother of House Speaker Paul Ryan’s brother-in-law. When Judge Jackson was confirmed in 2012, Congressman Ryan praised her many attributes and she was confirmed without any opposition. Certainly, Republican opposition to Judge Jackson would be awkward after such support.

Judge Jackson is not the only name being speculated on at this time and also includes Attorney General Loretta Lynch in addition to many others.

The United States has at times functioned with an even number of Justices on the Supreme Court. While Congress is for the most part very divided between Republicans and Democrats, the Supreme Court is not as blatantly open on the opposition of its members to one another based on their leanings and one would hope that a reasonable Court would work hard to decide the most difficult decisions following the death of Justice Scalia who not only was the most senior Associate Justice but a most respected jurist by those that knew him.

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

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

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Have a Happy and Blessed Easter!



Marcia Chambliss



Engage Educate Empower

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The Government and Society We’ve Created

Many of my conservative friends, mostly those in my generation or older, continue to be amazed that an avowed socialist – disguised as “democratic socialist” – can be so popular with the youth of our nation.

Like so many of my friends, I’ve attributed the appeal to the liberal bent of our public education system. While that absolutely has an enormous impact, I think there are other elements that those of us who call ourselves conservatives have been missing.

But one factor has been apparent to my favorite talk radio host **Mark Levin** and he’s talked about it for quite some time. Far too many people in our country have even been offered an opportunity to vote for a true conservative – certainly not since the days of **Ronald Reagan**. Instead, we’ve been fed a steady diet of “corporate conservatism” and candidates who embrace it, only serving to feed the beast of crony capitalism, which by definition profits those who enjoy close “friends and family” relationships with the governmental state and therefore is not a true free market system. The result is a generation of young adults who don’t see the value of capitalism because the version they’ve experienced is politically corrupt and destructive to many Americans.

It’s the version of cronyism that results in certain industries being bailed out by the government while others are allowed to fail. Or, cronyism that provides economic tax incentives from the government for one segment of industry while creating bureaucracies with cumbersome regulations for others; in essence, picking the “winners and losers” for those privileged enough to buy influence from those we elect to office. For those without political influence, their businesses close or employers are located overseas, and an undercurrent of anger and resentment brews.

Instead of experiencing a true free-market capitalist system, we have a government that subsidizes select industries while ignoring others and then wonder why a younger generation thinks capitalism doesn’t work. Additionally, conservatives who proclaim to detest “big government” are far too willing to re-elect those who enable it because voter attitudes change quickly when it’s suggested that reducing government will threaten the federal funding that is funneled back to the districts.

As I’ve read various commentaries regarding the willingness of younger Americans to embrace even a hybrid version of socialism, there is another component that strikes me as more alarming.

In remarks delivered in 2013 at the Lanier Theological Library in Houston, Texas, recently deceased Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia expressed the following:

"For in order for capitalism to work -- in order for it to produce a good and a stable society -- the traditional Christian virtues are essential... The governmentalization of charity affects not just the donor but also the recipient. What was once asked as a favor is now demanded as an entitlement...The transformation of charity into legal entitlement has produced donors without love and recipients without gratitude. ... It's not my place or my purpose to criticize these developments, only to observe that they do not suggest the expanding role of government is good for Christianity."*

Does that expansion of government perhaps explain what we are seeing so frequently in our society? We’re certainly seeing resentment from those forced by greater taxation to provide more and more of their disposable income for rapidly increasing numbers harboring an entitlement mentality, and expecting even more government services regardless of the cost. The resentment and lack of gratitude has manifested itself in the current presidential cycle on both sides of the political aisle.

By ceding our own individual responsibilities to the government to provide solely for our retirement and health care, funding of an education, and caring for the poor and other social charities, I’m afraid we’ve done little to convince subsequent generations that limited government is of any benefit to their lives or livelihood.

We’ve long sowed the seeds of big government and are unfortunately seeing the harvest.

****http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/09/09/antonin-scalia-capitalism_n_3894153.html***

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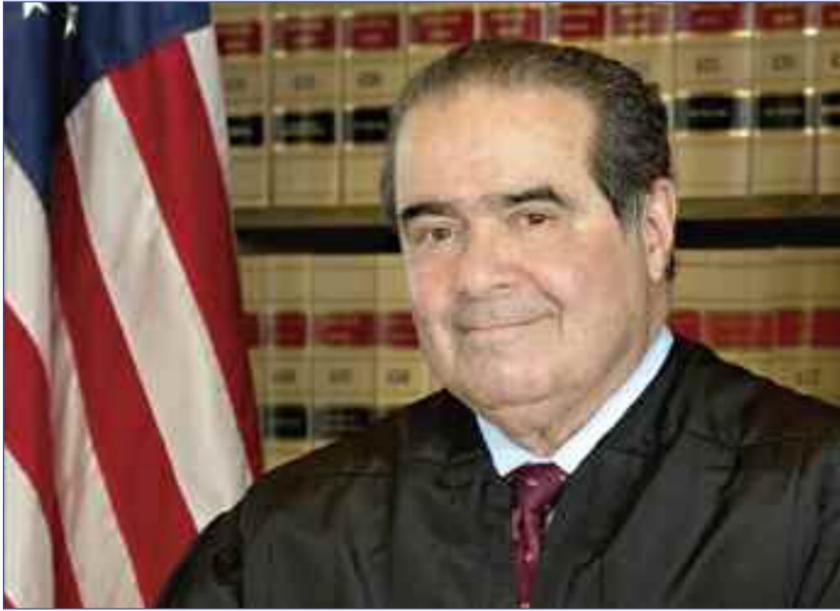
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The Education Station...

Dedicated to the memory of Justice Antonin Scalia

By Bobbie Ames

The Origin of Liberty in Government Established by the U.S. Constitution



Justice Antonin Scalia

With the death of Justice **Antonin Scalia**, the court is now equally divided between the Constitutionalists and those who oppose traditional interpretation of our Law. With recent drastic changes in American culture, there are cases pending before the high court at the present time which could literally further destroy the moral absolutes in our culture. As of now, the court is equally divided between "right and left." There is great speculation about Justice Scalia's replacement on the bench.

Immigration and the aggressive Refugee Resettlement Movement is moving swiftly at the present time, and the case before the court could reverse a lower court ruling to delay the Obama plan.

Religious non-profits are seeking an exemption from the Affordable Care Act's mandate that employers must pay for the cost of collective bargaining, even if they object to the union demands.

Affirmative Action, long a hot topic in university admission programs that take race into consideration, will come under scrutiny by the court.

Perhaps the most controversial case challenging the Court will be the Abortion issue. Reproductive Rights have been front and center since 1992. The "rights of a woman and her own body" have clouded the issue of a "right to life." Will the Court place restrictions on physicians and facilities to protect that most fundamental right of all, which is Life?

The real issue is it all concerns the Constitution as the Supreme Rule of Law in America. While our citizens have enjoyed freedom and liberty since 1788, it has not always been so with any other people, in any other country, on any other continent on the globe. This is an amazing story.

Men tried to establish a government for centuries before 1788, but their experiments never produced freedom and liberty for the individual. The cycle moved from a mob, to a monarchy, sometimes to democracy, more often to tyranny, to autocracy, or feudalism. None brought the promise of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." No indeed, each one brought suffering, oppression, misery, and most often violence. Tyranny and military despotism crushed the hearts and ideals of men, and left them with no security. There was no regard, or even recognition of an individual's God-given "rights."

The English, more than any other people, understood their own history. They knew well the oppression of their kings, and preserved the Magna Carta in their hearts, while it was ignored and denied in the daily life of England's ruling classes.

We, as Americans, truly claim that the Magna Carta is the basis of American Liberty. Behind that parchment lies the history that you and I have enjoyed. The story of this history has been denied to generations in America's government schools since the early 1900's. This sad, but glorious history, belongs to every American as it relates to the long and relentless struggle by a brave and united people against the misrule of kings.

I have visited numerous times that meadow at Runnymede, on a little island in the River Thames, where King John of England was given the choice of a "pen or the sword." He chose the pen, and signed the Great Charter, rather than the sword which would cost his life. It was an admission of using arbitrary rule, and his acceptance of limited powers. In that meadow in June, the year 1215, they saw that Law was made Supreme in England.

For the first time in History, the Magna Carta provided the restraint of written law to apply to all men. This marked a decisive step toward what would become Constitutional Government in the future.

- Their rights were clarified.*
- No one was to be dispossessed of his property except by due process of law, or by a judgment of his peers.*
- A trial by jury was assured, with the right of an appeal.*
- Fair taxation was assured by consent of the people's representatives.*

That last provision will of course remind us of the slogan of the American Revolution: "**No Taxation Without Representation.**"

The Great Charter established four fundamental principles into law that live today. They are:

- A king must rule in accordance with the law and desires of his people.*
- Government is a contract, with each party accountable, and called to account.*
- Individual rights are clearly stated.*
- The king has specific restrictions.*

400 years later, King Charles I violated the ancient rights and principles of the Magna Carta. The people acted. On June 7, 1628, Parliament withheld money until Charles was forced to sign "*The Petition of Rights.*"

Continuing to Ignore the "Rights" cost Charles his life on the headman's block in 1649, and the English monarchy was not restored until 1660.

Those principles in the "*Petition of Rights*" are a vital part of our United States Constitution:

- Taxes are levied only with the consent of Parliament.*
- Troops are no longer boarded in private homes.*

- Martial Law cannot be declared in time of peace.*
- Citizens have the right of trial by jury of one's peers.*

England lived another 28 years under the peace through the rule of law, until King James II attempted an absolute monarchy, which brought his abdication. The Revolution of 1688 settled the power of Parliament and English Law. Parliament elected William and Mary as rulers. Political liberty triumphed in England with the "*The Bill of Rights*" in 1689.

The influence and indeed the very principles in the "Bill of Rights" and "The Petition of Rights" are expressed in the first eight amendments to our United States Constitution.

In the 1600's, when these events were taking place in England, the founders of the American colonies followed their conscience to seek liberty elsewhere. It meant facing uncertainty, privation and sufferings, but they conquered a wilderness, and reached their goal of freedom and liberty in a New World.

The Founding Fathers of our nation knew their history, and learned the lessons of history. One of the greatest tragedies of our day is that recent generations of Americans do not know their own history. If they did, there would be a public outcry to protect Liberty in every public square, and in every voting booth.

The Founding Fathers learned History reading the writings of the men who fought for liberty. Among them were John Locke, William Blackstone, and the French philosopher, Baron de Montesquieu. Providentially used were the political sermons of John Witherspoon, Charles Wesley, George Whitefield, Samuel Davies, Jonathan Mayhew and so many others.

John Locke was the leading philosopher of the Whig Party in England. His vision for a government was outlined in his Treatises of Government published in 1690. According to Locke, the "God given rights of man are "life, liberty, and property." To protect his God-given rights, man must form a community by a social contract. The ends of political society are to have a uniform interpretation of the law, to establish those rights given to the individual of "*life, liberty, and property.*"

The first 8 Amendments to the Constitution set forth those rights, privileges, and immunities.

Baron de Montesquieu approved of the English system, but he added to it, something that has been dramatic and essential: The Separation of Powers.

We see the wisdom of his promoting the division of power into the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government as set forth in our Constitution. Sadly, we see the tragic damage of abuse and overreach in the various branches of government, in our nation, at every level, due to violating the Constitution.

Sir William Blackstone, in his Commentary of The Laws of England, analyzed and clearly set forth what would become the basis of American Law. Every signer of the Declaration of Independence, and those at the Constitutional Convention had internalized Blackstone's writing. Righteous law was a sacred trust to them, as it should be to us.

The writings and lives of James Madison, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and his son, John Quincy Adams, and so many others, verify their understanding and commitment to the Rule of Law. Locke and all the others mentioned above, vowed that these rights could not be deprived to any man, because they were given by God.

Could it be that any group of people have actually lived out such a faith and practice? After many decades of studying History and visiting Plymouth, Massachusetts so many times, I am still inspired by the lives and history of the Pilgrims. I have written about them before, and their Mayflower Compact.

No people have ever displayed more Christian courage and charity than this group of Christians seeking freedom of religion. Their faith and persistence saw them through every tragedy and every challenge. Their "Compact" written and signed aboard the Mayflower, was a political covenant in harmony with their religious doctrine which guided their relationships and their world view. Even in a wilderness, with a small group of people, law was necessary.

Under the American Constitution, the cause of human freedom has been served. Today, that document is in danger because it is no longer sacred in the hearts of many American citizens. **Too many who are in elected offices do not revere this document.** Its future in our land will determine our freedom and our liberties. It will determine our right to life, the expression of our thoughts and values, our freedom of religion, our rights of assembly, petition and action, and our property rights and civil liberty.

In my library, I have a recently republished book of Political Sermons of the American Founding Era, 1730-1805. It contains one thousand pages of these political sermons. Today, the pulpits of America are silent concerning our great God-given heritage of law, which is clearly based on God's Word.

For 30 years, Justice Antonin Scalia was faithful to his charge to protect our God given rights through faithful loyalty to the Constitution. His intellect, his brilliance and his personal faith shines through his faithfulness in the following words.

Quotes from Justice Antonin Scalia

"It is of overwhelming importance ... who it is that rules me. Today's decree says that my Ruler, and the Ruler of 320 million Americans coast to coast, is a majority of the nine lawyers on the Supreme Court. ... This practice of constitutional revision by an unelected committee of nine, always accompanied ... by extravagant praise of liberty, robs the People of the most important liberty they asserted in the Declaration of Independence and won in the Revolution of 1776: the freedom to govern themselves." Obergefell v. Hodges.

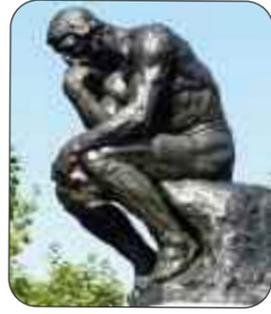
"Except as limited by a constitutional prohibition agreed to by the People, the States are free to adopt whatever laws they like, even those that offend the esteemed Justices' 'reasoned judgment.' A system of government that makes the People subordinate to a committee of nine unelected lawyers does not deserve to be called a democracy. Obergefell v. Hodges.

"[T]he enshrinement of constitutional rights necessarily takes certain policy choices off the table. Undoubtedly some think that the Second Amendment is outmoded in a society where our standing army is the pride of our Nation, where well-trained police forces provide personal security, and where gun violence is a serious problem. That is perhaps debatable, but what is not debatable is that it is not the role of this Court to pronounce the Second Amendment extinct." D.C. v. Heller.



John Sophocleus

THINK



**Believe in Mike Hubbard? ENOUGH ALREADY!
Time to Go to Trial...**

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

The current epicenter of Alabama corruption was quaking from recent affidavits submitted to Judge Walker's Circuit Court on Speaker Hubbard's [R - Auburn] criminal indictment. These rumblings prompted inquiries for my thoughts as an active participant in the District 79 campaign to elect Sandy Toomer. Some seem to think I may've been one of the architects of the 'whisper campaign' alleged in court documents surrounding Barron Coleman's affidavit. I was aware of no whisper campaign. In a small minority (of ONE it seemed at times) who supported Senator Whatley's 2014 primary re-election while at the same working and praying to remove Hubbard pollutant(s) from Montgomery I was treated with caution. My support of Whatley placed me at odds with Mr. Coleman's 'political strategy.' I wasn't shy about communicating disagreement with him at that time. Some ask why my bride's old pick-up tailgate boldly displaying a Toomer yard-sign on one side with Whatley on the other is STILL my Facebook picture; because I think it the biggest political 'strategy' mistake committed in Alabama these past years.

In full knowledge of Judge Walker's request to hear from anyone with information on the matter, there's no reason for me to submit yet another affidavit to his court. ENOUGH ALREADY! This sound jurist, in great prudence to make sure an over-privileged 'affluenza' type defendant has been allowed to exhaust every possible avenue (however unreasonable) to not face trial has led to the inevitable abuse of process. It has slowly digressed and decayed into the circus we now observe as the Speaker devoted so much influence, money, power and time successfully stalling the process for far too long so other NON-related issues are clouding and obfuscating the justice being delayed and denied. It is painfully overdue for these alleged felonies to be tried and move onto inevitable appeals. Sadly the Speaker has not devoted effort to address the charges, as it may have pared down to something less overwhelming for the court to address. Some readers will recall I found Judge Jacob Walker an outstanding jurist; his legally correct text in summary judgments aided our unanimous (8-0, Roberts was not yet seated) 2005 victory in the SCotUS.

When government attorneys wanted to continue stalling (as we were homeless from the unlawful/wrongful taking of our house at the time) Judge Walker finally said enough. The \$59,800 asserted when they made us homeless magically became \$145,000 the day before they would have to face a jury. This was still \$30,000 below non-government paid appraisals and some berated us for not going to trial. We were not going waste the court's time over such a small amount (only money) when the civil rights issues in the federal courts were most important to stop Dial, Hubbard, Little, Riley, Rogers, Sewell, Siegelman, et al types (and their crony contractors) from doing this to others. As I've grown older/wiser - I understand those berating us were correct -- always go to court against thieves simply to make it more costly to them in this world and more importantly to get them to lie under oath to be more costly in their most important judgment in the next. Making them incur cost this way is one of the last deterrents remaining.

Back to our current circus that the Speaker has worked so long and hard to set up in Lee County which Judge Walker must now address. In the reading of the available (indeed limited) documents, it seems Mr. Coleman is playing a very calculated game of semantics and parsing of words. Nothing new in the political arena, perhaps most infamous of late is President Clinton's, "It depends on what the meaning of 'is' IS," or "I was never alone in the White House with Monica Lewinski." When's the last time you think ANYONE was alone with only one other in the White House - the last two Brits leaving when trying to burn it down during the War of 1812; the first two back in upon regaining control of DC during the War? I found Barron Coleman very articulate, extremely bright with a sound moral compass but at risk of sounding harsh, also very young and immature. An effective strategist (political or otherwise) cannot let their passion override their reason.

There are many underlying power-players in this 'Battle Royale' embarrassment unfolding in Lee County. The most notable/powerful in the mix are the AEA (teachers' cartel) v. the BCA (corporate welfare recipients) who are two of the most deleterious forces destroying our State. Productive citizens of Alabama hosting these two huge parasites find little solace debating which is killing us more quickly. Many assert Coleman is a loyal advocate for the AEA. Disdain, which ranges from childish to irrational at times, for Sen. Whatley clouds Mr. Coleman's judgment. Understandably the AEA hates Whatley's honesty telling them what they don't want to hear, but he's a rare voice on Goat Hill (with Pittman, Samford, et al) about budget realities. Some care more about the long-run general welfare of our State over the specific interest of groups wanting redistributions in their favour. Hard not to see someone as an 'ankle-biter' when whining about this active duty Senator wearing his uniform on Memorial Day or continuing to carp on long since dropped and unfounded charges of domestic abuse.

This childish, irrational disdain appeared to drive the strategy to spend (by some estimates over \$600k) on Andy Carter to defeat Sen. Whatley in the 2014 primary. Champions of big govt. like the AEA or BCA can/will spend vast amounts of money taken from donors to win, yet I could not understand a political 'strategist' willing to disadvantage a campaign which could've removed Hubbard in the primary and let Lee County (and hopefully federal) courts also do their job. Once Toomer was perceived (true or not) the AEA candidate as seen increasingly more connected to Andy Carter, I spent most of my time trying to dispel the notion to undecided voters I engaged convinced Toomer was a shill for the AEA. This wouldn't have been as troublesome in the general election if Sandy had decided run as a write-in in the general election, but it was a game changer in a Republican primary. When AEA 'volunteers' descended upon District 79 with a Carter sign in one hand and Toomer sign in the other - we unpaid volunteers couldn't overcome the perception -- it was over. Hubbard bombing the airwaves with negative ads and landline robo-calls kept most voters away from the polls and the Speaker had no trouble getting his minions to carry the day in yet another low turnout victory. Sadder still someone like Whatley who's had the courage to stand up against Hubbard in the past (esp. taking his lumps to remove Lowder from the Auburn BoT) are pushed to be more beholden to corrupt BCA thugs when facing such huge AEA sums amassed against him.

The plot sickens... now one of Hubbard's most devoted sycophants, Rep. Jack Williams [R - Vestavia] was "compelled to write a letter and gather signatures" (according to WSFA News' 2/18/16 report) to request the DoJ investigate Alabama's AG. Indeed after several score the corrupt Republicans are back in power and using the same old hegemony playbook. Of course, many Alabamians applaud federal investigation into the matter - esp. of those like Rep. Williams and other 'public servants' in the "fibers of democracy" he claims to hold so dear. It would be refreshing to see this also 'blow-back' on them like Hubbard's ethics laws he paid lip service to when passing them, to now claim they're unconstitutional to discipline him. Those of Rep. Williams' character and integrity give little thought to their laws applying to their own actions, so

blinded and engulfed in hubris. DoJ investigating the Hubbard alleged felony, tied to what Rep. Wren has already pled guilty to (as it is also a federal crime), would be a sound place to start. Perhaps Rep. Williams' invite will make the DoJ feel more welcomed to address the current 23 Hubbard felony indictments and curb corruption some more via federal charges. I was impressed Obama's DoJ correctly stated Don Seigelman's sentencing was insufficient for charges he was found guilty of committing in federal court, perhaps we'll see similar courage toward deterrence against the current corruption. Who knows? - maybe Mr. Williams can also invite the NCAA to come to Auburn and address Edgenuity, Inc. and AD Jacobs e-mails to Hubbard, director of compliance McGlynn, etc... let's REALLY clear the air as Rep. Williams espouses!

Specifically, the prosecution claims (and provided proof to the court according to the Alabama Political Reporter) Mr. Coleman a confidential informant to their Special Prosecution Division since Fall 2012 to acquire information on Hubbard and other individuals where all communications between the State and Coleman are privileged. No prosecutorial misconduct to be found there as conversations between Deputy AG Matt Hart and Coleman, "were all lawful and appropriate, because they were all conducted in the context of Coleman's status as an informant," according to the State's filing in Walker's court. One may assume in Rep. William's 'democracy' the prosecutor can't get information to reduce the number of wrongful arrests and wasted resources to our economy this sycophantic politician zealously and hypocritically claims to loathe. It was also reported Special Agent Jack Wilson (ALEA) concluded after interviewing Coleman about his affidavit that Coleman had not alleged any violation of criminal law. Wilson also "recommended that no formal investigation be opened into the matter of Coleman's allegations."

I found nothing in reading Coleman's affidavit (even if completely verified as fact in the court) sufficient to dismiss the Grand Jury indictment. I saw no allegation Deputy Hart leaked Grand Jury information (thus the careful Coleman word parsing) and those charged with investigating violation of Alabama Rules of Professional Conduct have no criminal activity to address. Again ENOUGH! - stop stalling Mr. Speaker. Judge Walker has made it clear in his Court any prosecutorial misconduct would have to meet the well established Nova Scotia criteria - i.e., misconduct which demonstrably influenced/impacted the Grand Jury's decision on the indictment. The 'new and improved' Hubbard Dream Team of lawyers continue grasping for the Court to compel Deputy Hart to testify as a witness. This would disqualify him from the case and proffer even more delay. These past 14 months, the defense has failed to provide any legal precedent compelling pre-trial testimony from a prosecutor. As they run out of time and tactics seems the best they could coerce is a carefully parsed affidavit from a former confidential informant for the AG. If they think Jake Walker is going to set such a despicable precedent to reward this circus act - they've lost their minds. The court has suffered everything from selective prosecution improper Grand Jury empanelment, exceeding the Grand Jury's jurisdiction, Grand Jury term expiration, to asserting unconstitutionality of Hubbard's own Alabama Ethics Laws. Judge Walker has recently denied nearly all of these frivolous motions.

If Rep. Williams is successful in getting the DoJ to investigate I will be submitting my request and affidavit as voter and citizen of Lee County as an informant. While Mr. Coleman's 'strategy' to go after Sen. Whatley at the expense of the Toomer campaign was very foolish (but not unethical) another, most damaging blow to Toomer was unethical from my vantage point. I very publicly requested all Lee County legislative delegation members NOT sign onto the significant pay raise (approx. \$15,000 or about 16 percent) for Lee County Sheriff Jay Jones. Pay raises of this sort normally become effective the next election cycle - why not this time? I'm a strong advocate of the "you knew the salary when you ran" perspective. If pay for the position was out of line, then it could've been addressed and raised before this past election cycle to possibly attract better candidates at the higher salary - especially with this race unopposed and how difficult it is to get third party candidates on the ballot and/or write-ins to be competitive in general elections.

I concur with those who saw this as political pay-back to a Sheriff who publicly asserted "I Believe in Mike Hubbard" in hundreds of political ads while Speaker Hubbard was under ACTIVE investigation by a Lee County Grand Jury in Sheriff Jones' jurisdiction where stalling has Hubbard later indicted on 23 counts AFTER the primary race. This smacks more of taxpayer funding of a political endorsement than pay adjustment. The chief law enforcement officer to be on the airwaves for Grand Jurists to hear and observe while charges are under active investigation smacks of malfeasance well beyond poor judgment. Behaviour of this sort from any sheriff in our State merits ethics investigation, NOT an immediate pay raise. I take no delight in typing this - I think this sheriff is a nice guy. I've asked him to explain/justify this or at least as publicly apologize (preferably before the trial) for possible misconduct or impacting the decision of this jury as he did schilling for Speaker Hubbard in 2014. Of course, this is merely observing a symptom - a powerful pollutant like Speaker Hubbard unchecked will degrade many otherwise good folks. I've witnessed his cancer spread from Auburn University, to the city, to the county to the State.

In closing, I'd like to read former State Sen. John Rice's affidavit (perhaps also sealed by the court?) likely to be the most direct, non-parsed and truthful text on the matter. Rice was Toomer's campaign manager so I think both Messrs. Rice and Toomer's affidavits may be most enlightening on the word game I suspect Mr. Coleman is playing. Before these tremors I planned to write on the next AFLG anti-corruption lawsuit John Rice told me was forthcoming on misuse of public funds by county elected officials. The Alabama Constitution prohibits use of public funds for private use and may well also violate the Alabama Ethics Law on 'private gain'. E.g., if a county sheriff has their union dues directly paid with county funds instead of her/his own purse in violation the Alabama Constitution Article 94 (and possibly also violates the Ethics Law) then what other laws is this elected official willing to ignore?

Section 94 (as amended by Amendment 558) bans counties, cities, towns or other subdivisions of this state to grant public money or a thing of value to any association or corporation whatsoever. The two (very limited) exceptions are: (1) where a subdivision of the state, after a vote, may alienate property for public parks, recreational facilities, or housing; (2) for plaques and trophies to promote excellence in the field of education. My understanding was Rice planned to address potential violations where public funds are transferred to private associations. Some examples are:

- Alabama Sheriffs Association
- Alabama Probate Judges Association
- Alabama District Attorneys Association

Continued on page 5A

Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers

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



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



You know the outcome of our presidential preference primary yesterday. I do too, today; however, this column had to go to press a few days prior to the primary. Therefore, I will have to report and analyze your voting in a later column.

One thing I do know is that we had a lot more attention paid to us in the Heart of Dixie because we had an early primary. The legislature is to be applauded for moving us up to participate in the March 1st SEC primary.

It was fun while it lasted but we can say goodbye to presidential candidates in the Heart of Dixie for the remainder of the campaign. Whoever wins the GOP nomination will have to concentrate on the 10 battleground states during the fall.

Under our Electoral College system of selecting a president, we do not elect a president by a direct vote whereby the presidential candidate who gets the most votes nationwide is elected president. The votes in each of the 50 states are tallied and the candidate who carries each state gets all of that states electoral votes.

Let us use Alabama as an example. We have seven Congressional seats and two U.S. Senate seats. Therefore, we have nine electoral votes. California, the largest state in the union, has 55 electoral votes. They amazingly have 53 Congressional seats, which means they have nearly eight times as many people in the Golden State as we do in Alabama.

The bottom line is that the Electoral College system favors the larger states, which tend to be liberal and Democratic. This system also gives inordinate importance to states that are demographically blended to make them swing states. They are unpredictable and can swing to the Democratic or GOP candidate in the presidential race. The other 40 states essentially become irrelevant. We in Alabama are going to reliably vote for the Republican nominee even if it is Donald Duck. California is going to vote for the Democratic candidate even if it is Mickey Mouse.

Therefore, simple math tells you that if the larger states like California and New York are going to vote for the liberal Democratic candidate and smaller states like Alabama and Kansas are going to vote for the conservative Republican candidate, then the advantage goes to the Democrat. You might say that the hay is already in the barn in about 40 states, us included.

Because the Electoral College favors a liberal Democrat, **Hillary Clinton** will more than likely be our next president. A Republican almost has to have a straight flush in all 10 swing states and must carry Florida and Ohio, the two king key swing states.

Less you feel cheated, our forefathers appear almost clairvoyant with their foresight in evening the playing field between the small and large states. We have an inherent inordinate advantage in the U.S. Senate. We have two U.S. Senators and California has two U.S. Senators, even though each of their senators has eight times as many constituents as ours. So before you complain, put yourself in the shoes of a Californian. Their vote does not count in a presidential race and they have about as much representation in the U.S. Senate as a cow in Montana.

However, our constitutional fathers left them one bastion of power. The U.S. House of Representatives calls for each congressional district throughout the country to have the same number of people. Everybody counts the same. Therefore, an assumption can be made that presidential politics favors a Democrat and the U.S. Senate favors the Republican Party.

Thus, the battleground is the U.S. House of Representatives. Political analysts suggest that the 58 seat Republican control of Congress will continue into the future. That is because of projected population shifts to mostly red states in the south and west and Republican dominance of state legislatures, which draw congressional district maps in most states. This Republican control of state legislatures, which not only occurred in Alabama but throughout the country, gave the omnipotent power of the pencil to the GOP. When liberal Democrats drew the line they created coalition districts of different liberal groups – blacks, Hispanics and progressive whites. The demographic changes occurring in the country favor a Democratic president, but the urbanization of the Democratic ranks has hurt their chances of regaining the U.S. House.

This scenario has entrenched the Republican control of Congress. There are packed districts that are very red Republican conservative seats and very blue liberal Democratic seats and very few moderate lawmakers on Capitol Hill. This is also a recipe for gridlock.

March 2, 2016

More Traffic Signal Solutions

By John Martin



John Martin

Last month I described how the Finnline and adequate yellow time can put an end to dangerous panic stops at signaled intersections. Here are some additional remedies to improve the traffic flow.

The legitimacy of installing a signal for a private property is dubious at best. And because of the way many are timed, they are particularly obnoxious.

A few weeks ago, Walmart opened a new store on highway 231 across from the Garrett Coliseum in Montgomery. Like at every other I had seen, it had a signal installed at its entrance. Because it—like

many of the others—trips immediately as soon as one vehicle pulls up to the exit, it can pile up as many as 40 or 50 on the highway every minute or two.

One solution is to prohibit installing signals for private properties. If that should prove impractical, they could at least be timed so the green lights on the highways do not change immediately—they would change only after at least 30 seconds have passed. That would allow several cars to accumulate at an exit and pass through each time a signal is tripped. As soon as the exiting traffic has passed, the light would change and remain green on the highway for no less than two minutes before turning red again. The stops on the highway, for a typical time period, would be reduced three or four fold. The highway's capacity and flow would be greatly increased.

This same strategy should be applied at every intersection along highways and major arteries. Some lights are already timed in this manner, but there are many that trip immediately.

At any signaled intersection, the green light should always default on the highway. The light should never change unless it is tripped. And unless cars continue to pass over the tripping device during each cycle, the green on the side road and the red on the highway should be minimal—no more than 30 seconds.

There are many highways that have signals that spontaneously turn red and

stop traffic when absolutely nothing comes along to trip them. And often, the lights remain red for one or two minutes while dozens of angry motorists sit and watch nothing but the wind cross the highway. These abominations should be eliminated immediately.

Protected left turns can also be nightmares. For starters, there are far too many of them. The only time a protected left turn is desirable is when a substantial amount of the traffic flow actually turns left—25% at the very least. I can't even count the numerous intersections along major highways that have protected left turns for miniscule side roads that have almost no traffic. This enables a single car to pile up dozens of others coming from the opposite direction. In addition, the protected left turn often stays green long after the last car has passed over the left turn sensor, long enough for eight or ten cars when perhaps one or two, and often none, actually turn left. Eventually, the backed up traffic on the highway gets a green light.

There are two types of protected left turns. The more desirable turns from a green arrow to circular green, which allows people to continue to make left turns as long as the oncoming traffic has cleared. The other, undesirable type changes from a green arrow to red. If someone is waiting at one of these, he has to sit and wait for the light cycle. A dozen or more cars coming the other way must also stop and wait before they can proceed. When this is multiplied by numerous similar signals, traffic flow suffers.

There are many intersections that need signals for only a few peak hours each workday and none at all on weekends and holidays. A very simple way to improve the flow is to program these signals to go into flash mode during all non-peak hours—yellow on the highways and red on the side roads. This is already practiced on a few inner city streets and highways during late night and early morning hours, but these hours could be greatly expanded and extended to the outlying and rural areas.

And finally, there are some intersections that should just not have signals, period. The street and highway departments are reluctant to disclose the criteria that are applied to warrant a signal, but from my own experience, I have observed numerous intersections that would be better off without them, but not even a single one that did not have a signal but needed one. As usual, our overgrown government agencies tend to over-regulate almost always and under-regulate almost never. We need to turn that trend around.

This Amended Section of the Alabama Constitution was designed to protect taxpayers' dollars by prohibiting transfer of public funds to private associations or corporations where they may not be tracked. In some instances of the organizations outlined above (and others like them) public funds are used to hire lobbyists advocating additional tax revenues in their favour. Ironically, tax-payers are funding lobbyists seeking to raise their taxes. Recently, a spokesman for the Association of County Commissions of Alabama was quoted advocating for increased taxes. This one example of why this prohibition is important to Alabamians. I would've guessed Barron Coleman to be one of the attorneys the AFLG would use to pursue curbing this abuse in Alabama - after the tactics I suffered taking eminent domain abuse all the way to the SCotUS, I couldn't help but think the coercion Mr. Coleman may have been subjected to by the Hubbard/Riley machine triggered the recent quake episode of affidavits in Lee County.

Continued from page 4A

Believe in Mike Hubbard?

- School Superintendents Association
- Alabama Municipal Court Clerks and Magistrate Association
- Alabama Association of School Boards
- Alabama League of Municipalities
- Association of County Commissions of Alabama
- Alabama Association of Circuit and District Judges
- Alabama Circuit Clerks Association
- Association of Alabama Tax Administrators
- Chambers of Commerce

The Alabama Gazette



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Published by:
Alabama Gazette Publishing, LLC
Volume 16 - Issue 6 Copyright 2016
The Alabama Gazette 20 pages- 2 Sec.

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

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Woods & Waters with Steve



Steve Long

ADVISORY BOARD MEETS, DISCUSSES SEVERAL CHANGES FOR COMING HUNTING SEASONS

Hope everyone's having a good break so far! By break, I'm of course referring to the lull in hunting after the end of deer season! Naturally, as we hunters and outdoorsmen are back home, deciding what to do with that freezer meat, there are lots of folks whose jobs are really kicking into high gear

The Conservation Advisory Board (CAB) is going to meet next month to discuss some major changes in deer, turkey, and small game hunting. The CAB is the governing body of sorts over season length, bag limits, and other important standards for our hunting and fishing seasons. They have quite a few things on their agenda, but what stands out to me, and many other hunters, are the adjustments they are considering to make to season length and bag limits to deer, turkey, and small game seasons.

For deer, the CAB is looking to review a change to make the entire state of Alabama have deer season run through February 10th, instead of just the Southern Zones. A similar proposal would also cut out the 10 day blackout period in the middle of December. So if this were to take effect this year, it would be providing time all the way from November 21st through February 10th for gun season throughout the state!

All of that data we put in each year from Game Check and our harvest records plays a pretty significant role in this decision making, so it's pretty nice to see all of that diligence pay off with a better season that aims to improve hunting quality and deer management quality. There are other forces at work, of course, but it still feels good to know that we can contribute directly to impacting the sport we love.

Another consideration for this board is a reduction in both season length and bag limit for turkeys this year, being recommended by a study being conducted by Auburn University. Their study is about a year and a half into its 5 year course, and still has a ways to go. The recommendation being given is to take some early measures to help address our state's fading turkey population by reducing hunter pressure and impact, but personally, I feel that it's not going to do the turkey

population any good. The main problem I've seen with our turkey population has more to do with predation from boars, coyotes, and other natural hazards, and less to do with hunters over-harvesting. It'd be one thing if we could make a change by adjusting our hunting habits, but those predators don't follow seasons and bag limits. They eat and kill when they feel the need to.

There are many factors that go into these things, and personal thoughts aside, we still need more time and data to make sure these decisions are the correct ones. I know I'll be joined by many other hunters as we wait to see what the advisory board will do. Just like the rest of us waiting, I'm more than sure that the folks on the board are going to do what's right for not just us hunters, but for the game we hunt, and the sport we love.



A nice turkey taken last season by Robbie Perry of Mobile at Great Southern Outdoors

Buster Reynolds

jrmills49@gmail.com



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Annual Wild Game Supper

The
**Charles Robinson
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Game Supper**
was held at
**Eastmont
Baptist Church**
on **Thursday,**
February 11th.



Clay and Kim Dyer

After the meal, a program was held in the sanctuary. Lance Maddox, music director, led everyone in praise music before the guest speaker, **Clay Dyer**, gave his inspirational speech.

Clay is a professional sport bass fisherman. Dyer was born without any lower limbs, no arm on the left side and a partial arm on the right. His motto for life is "**If I can, you can.**" Clay is 38 years young.

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Bass Pro Shops Crappiemasters To Host Alabama River and Lake Jordan, AL National Qualifier/Alabama State Championship April 29, and 30, 2016.

Bass Pro Shops Crappiemasters, along with the City of Prattville, and the Elmore County Commission will be hosting a National Qualifier Alabama State Championship on Friday and Saturday, April 29 and 30 on the Alabama River and Lake Jordan out of Prattville, Alabama.

Tournament week will include a Meet The Pro's Event at Bass Pro Shops in Prattville also Wednesday night from 6:30 to 8pm, and is free and open to the public. Boat launch both tournament days will begin at Cooters Pond at 5:00am, with tournament weigh in both days also being held at Cooters Pond beginning at around 3:00pm Friday and Championship Saturday.

There will be a Free Kids Fishing Rodeo on Saturday morning for ages 15 and under at Pratt Park in Prattville with registration from 8am to 9am, and the hands on skills and techniques seminar to run from 9 to 10:30am with every participating child winning a prize pack.

Who's afraid of the Big Bad WOLF?

Over the years if people heard Wolf they would shutter with fear, because of the stories and urban legends we were brought up to believe such as Little Red Riding Hood, Three Little Pigs, and don't forget the greatest urban legend the Werewolf. The fear of getting bit by a wolf would surely turn you into a blood thirsty murderous werewolf preying on humans. So as you can see the wolf has lived with these stories and legends for centuries.

The truth of the matter is wolfs are non aggressive by nature and are very solitaire. They are private animals, and very family oriented. Wolves are legendary because of their spine-tingling howl, which they use to communicate. A lone wolf howls to attract the attention of his pack, while communal howls may send territorial messages from one pack to another. Some howls are confrontational. Much like barking domestic dogs, wolves may simply begin howling because a nearby wolf has already begun. Wolves are the largest members of the dog family. Adaptable gray wolves are by far the most common and were once found all over the Northern Hemisphere.

But wolves and humans have a long adversarial history. Though they almost never attack humans, wolves are considered one of the animal world's most fearsome natural villains. They do attack domestic animals, and countless wolves have been shot, trapped, and poisoned because of this tendency. In the lower 48 states, gray wolves were hunted to near extinction, though some populations survived and others have since been reintroduced. Few gray wolves survive in Europe, though many live in Alaska, Canada, and Asia. Wolves live and hunt in

packs of around six to ten animals. They are known to roam large distances, perhaps 12 miles in a single day.

These social animals cooperate on their preferred prey, large animals such as deer, elk, and moose. When they are successful, wolves do not eat in moderation. A single animal can consume 20 pounds of meat at a sitting. Wolves also eat smaller mammals, birds, fish, lizards, snakes, and fruit.

Wolf packs are established according to a strict hierarchy, with a dominant male at the top and his mate not far behind. Usually this male and female are the only animals of the pack to breed. All of a pack's adults help to care for young pups by bringing them food and watching them while others hunt.



Ron VanHerwyn



SHUNNED BY COMBINE

A 6'-5", 235 lb. quarterback that never lost a game in college (14-0) did not receive an invitation to compete in the NFL Scouting Combine. He also led his team to the 2015 NCAA National Championship. From my vantage point, he was the MVP of the championship game. So, what's the problem? It is that Alabama's **Jake Coker** was not on any scouting lists in 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012. Why? He had never started a game since his senior year in high school, that's why. The chemistry on this

**Sports Editor,
Ed Jones**

2015 team was excellent, all for one-one for all. Without **Derrick Henry**, Alabama was mediocre. Without center **Ryan Kelly**, Alabama was good. Without Jake Coker, Alabama does not win the national championship. He was the perfect quarterback to run the offense that **Coach Nick Saban** forced **Lane Kiffen** to implement. Take away the Ole Miss game where Kiffen talked Saban into starting **Cooper Bateman** instead of Jake Coker. The decision almost cost the Tide a chance at the SEC title. When Coker was finally put in the game, Ole Miss was comfortably ahead. The only way to catch up was to throw, throw, throw. As a result Coker had two passes intercepted. However he did pull Alabama within striking distance. Ole Miss hung on desperately for a six point win, a game that Alabama should have won. For fourteen games Jake Coker ran the Alabama offense as if he had designed it. His main asset was his ability to avoid turnovers. The power running of Henry set up the Alabama passing game which developed into a lethal weapon.

What difference does this really mean to me. I don't have a dog in the fight! Well, maybe I do. I have studied, played, coached and written about the game of football for over 60 years. Through happenstance it has been my good fortune to meet many great players, coaches and NFL scouts, from whom I learned a lot about the game. It has been a passion of mine. I probably was infected the night that I saw my uncle, **Tommy Jones**, playing fullback for the Camden Tigers in 1943. The lights shining on those flashy helmets, the pageantry of the game, the excitement of the crowd left an indelible picture in my mind as I sat on my fathers shoulders in order to see this spectacular event. I was only five years old. The disease has been with me for seventy-two years, unfortunately.

One of those football people that influenced me was a local hero who played football at Loretta, now known as Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School. **Milt Von Mann** was a 5-9" Marine combat veteran of the bloody war in Korea. He looked to be about 4' - 9" wide across his shoulders. After Korea, Von Mann played for **Coach Frank Mosley** at Virginia Tech. Milt went on to coach at several high schools and colleges, finally settling down in Nashville as a counselor at Father Ryan High School, where he had previously coached. During his career, he met many NFL scouts. As a result, he became a scout for the Cincinnati Bengals. He became interested in the players that he had scouted who were not drafted. So he started a combine for players that had been overlooked, or who had not had an opportunity to play in college. That's where I come in. I helped Von Mann run these "minor league" combines in Birmingham and Nashville. In coaching, one learns a lot about people. What makes them tick. What motivates them. What they will do in a crisis situation. How they can overcome some physical deficiencies and excel anyway. We did not have as much success in placing overlooked players with teams in the NFL, AFL or CFL. But, we had a few, and that made it worth it to Milt. Bad health forced Von Mann to give up this dream. He started writing a book, he said because of what he had seen me do when I left coaching. That may or may not have been his inspiration. He did finish a book entitled The Lonely Hunter. It was about the travails of an NFL scout constantly on the road. My experiences with Milton Von Mann are important to this story to alleviate any doubt that the process of me evaluating talent is not that of a neophyte. Unfortunately, my friend passed away before he could get his book in print and on the market. It was a great story!

Nick Saban took quite a chance on hiring Lane Kiffen in the spring of 2014. The brash young coach had already failed at the Oakland Raiders, Tennessee and Southern California. His father **Monte Kiffen** was one of the most respected defensive coaches in the country. The father did his job well and kept a low profile. His desire to be a head coach is unknown to me. But his knowledge of defensive football was questioned by no one. The son, who grew up in this football environment, decided to excel on the other side of the football. There is no question as to his ability to coach offense. However, he has never kept a low profile like his daddy. He had been loud, antagonistic and braggadocios in his three head coaching jobs. Obviously, that was not a good approach. Some were surprised to see Saban reach out to a person like this who was unemployed with few opportunities in front of him. Most coaches considered him to be a problem that they did not need. Nick Saban had the foresight and the confidence to hire "Lane Kiffen's mind" in the belief that he could control his mouth. After thinking about the hire, it occurred to me that Nick Saban was the only coach in America that could control Lane Kiffen. That he did! Lane Kiffen now seems like a little boy who knows he had been wrong and has found a man to straighten him out, and maybe in the long run, help him get another head coaching job. This is yet to be determined. From my standpoint, Lane Kiffen has learned more from Saban than Saban has learned from Kiffen's creative offensive mind.

All of this is to say that Nick Saban tried to give Kiffen as much control over the offense as he was comfortable with in the 2014 season.

In my mind, **Blake Sims** had to be the starter in the first game in 2014. He had earned it through his dogged determination to be a good football player. He was a good football player. It was also in my mind that by mid-season Jake Coker would be playing as much or more than Blake Sims. However Lane Kiffen's mind ran away from him as he constantly adjusted each game plan to feature **Amari Cooper** and Blake Sims. Sims set many Alabama passing records with this approach, surprisingly with Derrick Henry on the bench. However, there was no 2014 national championship in the Alabama record book. Amari Cooper, **T. J. Yeldon** and Derrick Henry were the players to build the offense around, not Blake Sims. Sims is not to blame for not winning the 2014 championship. It was the plan. Who designed the plan? Lane Kiffen.

Before the start of the 2015 season, I talked with Coach Saban about his offense that had set many passing and total offensive records in 2014. Yet, this offense could not produce in the playoffs, ie., Ohio State in the semi-finals of the first four team NCAA Championship. Coach Saban rarely gives a straight answer. He likes to keep people guessing. My main question to him was about a statement he had made after the 2014 season saying that "Alabama got away from who we really are." His indication to me was that he felt that he had given too long a leash to Lane Kiffen, which resulted in a real struggle to get to the championship play-offs. Go back and look at the tape of the Ole Miss game, the Arkansas game, the LSU game and of course the debacle of the Ohio State game.

There is a misnomer that Ohio State mauled Alabama. Dissect that game and you can see where Alabama's game plan disintegrated. The players played hard and could have won handily. In other words, Blake Sims set many passing records for Alabama, but this was not Alabama.

Alabama is used to pounding teams into submission by the fourth quarter. Astonishingly, the lack of using the best running back in America in place of an injured T. J. Yeldon allowed good defense (Ohio State) to double Amari Cooper. Doubling Cooper left one-on-one opportunities with the other receivers.



Jake Coker hoists the trophy after the Tide wins the 2015 National Championship

However, Kiffen wanted to prove how talented he was in taking a 5-11 fifth year senior who had never started a game at any position and turn him into a great quarterback. After all he was smart enough to have recruited Sims to Tennessee. It worked. Blake Sims is now in the record books at Alabama as one of the greatest passers ever. What is not in the record books is a 2014 national championship. Alabama was so close, but so predictable - Sims to Cooper from every imaginable position on the field. At the same time two great running backs were basically pass blocking for most of the season. T. J. Yeldon carried most of the load with the future Heisman trophy winner Derrick Henry sitting on the bench. With Yeldon only 80% in the game with Ohio State, Derrick Henry ran the ball only 13 times at an average of over 8 yards per carry. The game was put in the hands of Blake Sims instead of Henry. Not Sim's fault. The decision was made by Kiffen. That is why my conversation with Coach Saban before the 2015 season made me believe that he would give Kiffen less control over an offense that has always been built around two good, powerful running backs who could wear the opponent down in the fourth quarter. A passing game off of this type of attack is what Alabama is known for. It is what Saban is known for. It is what Coach Saban taught Lane Kiffen in the 2015 season. There is a national championship in the Alabama record book because Saban's experiment with Kiffen finally paid dividends as Kiffen learned to listen to Saban. Maybe Kiffen will be a head coach some day. However, he handled the quarterback situation with selfish motives. This cost Alabama a national championship in 2014, and may have caused a deserving young man a chance to be invited to the NFL combine. The combine is like a job interview with 32 national football teams.

There is a silver lining in this story for Jake Coker. Because of his size, his arm, his brain, and his competitive nature and his proven record as a champion, he will get a good look by the scouts at Alabama's pro-day in Tuscaloosa after the combine is over. It is my belief that he will be offered a free agent contract by several teams. This process will allow Coker to pick the team he wants, instead of being drafted in the sixth round by the Cleveland Browns. In my judgement, he would have only been drafted in the late rounds even if he had gone to the Combine. The intangibles that Jake Coker has cannot be measured by his athleticism. You have to give him a team and a football.

Alabama sent an impressive group to the combine which started on Wednesday, February 24th in Indianapolis, Indiana. It was interesting to watch. **Reggie Ragland, Jarren Reed, Ryan Kelly, Cyrus Jones, Kenyan Drake, Derrick Henry, Dominick Jackson** and **D. J. Pettway** were the nine players selected by the NFL scouting combine.

Surprisingly, Auburn sent nine former players as well. Two of these players did not play for Auburn in 2015. **D'haquille Williams** entered the 2015 season as a potential first round pick. His chances were considerably diminished when **Coach Gus Malzahn** dismissed him from the team. His off the field behavior has cost him millions of dollars. Some people never learn! **Devaunte Sigler** played considerably as a freshman at Auburn but transferred to Jacksonville State. The other Auburn players who were invited made contributions to the 2014 and 2015 seasons. **Peyton Barber, Shon Coleman, Kris Frost, Jonathon Jones, Ricardo Louis, Cassanova McKinzy** and **Avery Young** all have good chances to be drafted.

As impressive as it is to send nine players to the combine, Ohio State is sending 14 and Notre Dame 10. Even though Alabama won the national championship, it is my opinion that Ole Miss will have more first round picks than Alabama. Look for left tackle **Laremy Tunsil, Robert Nkemdichi**, the outstanding defensive tackle that played fullback on the goal line and **Laquon Treadwell**, maybe the top wide receiver in the draft. The three should go in the first round.

All of this attention is geared toward 300 players improving their draft status for the NFL Draft, April 28 through April 30 in Chicago. Their performance at the Combine can make them millions or lose them millions.

What a problem to have!



Bench - Bar & Beyond

By Judge Dale Segrest

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

Judge Philip Dale Segrest

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LAWYER ADVERTISING

Lawyer advertising turns most people off. That includes many members of the legal profession itself. Ads that include boxing gloves, horses, tigers and big trucks may be mildly amusing the first time you see them, but add little to the image of the legal profession and nothing to the dignity of law. Those of us who still regard law as a gift of God that allows humans to live peaceably together have difficulty seeing how the commercial advertising of legal services as a commodity can be justified. If ever I appear in a legal ad on TV, I may be the truck driver in the Alabama Hammer's commercial.

So why doesn't the State regulate legal advertising? After all, law is authenticated and ultimately enforced by the state. That is the "commodity" that attorneys deal with in their practice, so why shouldn't the practice of law, including advertising, be closely regulated. Is the skill that is required for applying law to divorces, child custody, wills, personal injuries and other litigation just another commodity like a bag of sugar or sack of potatoes? To engage in the legal profession requires rigorous education. Admission to the bar, generally speaking, is regulated by the states.

Until the 1960s, regulation of law practice was almost completely a State function. The states may have exercised questionable judgment when, as in the State of Alabama, the regulation of the profession was largely delegated to the Bar Association itself, which operates generally under the authority of the State Supreme Court. People in the profession are still regulating themselves.

The 1960s brought changes. Public interest law firms emerged, to facilitate and bring about needed social change. The "Trial Lawyers" Association emerged. A more accurate description would have been "Plaintiffs' Lawyers," because that association promotes the interest of the lawyers who bring lawsuits, rather than defending them. Plaintiffs' lawyers serve a very useful and necessary function, and must be able to bring their services to the attention of prospective clients.

The image of the legal profession has never been good, and seldom been accurate. The pre-Civil War mythology of the rugged individualist lawyer has persisted, Atticus Finch perhaps being a poignant 20th-century example. However, the rugged individual lawyer is insignificant in the United States. The Civil War assured the dominance of industry over the agrarian economy. The

Industrial Revolution happened. Large law firms emerged to serve the needs of the industrial economy. Firms such as a Cravath firm in New York hired the top students graduating from the top law schools to represent corporate America in the Courts and legislative halls. They had open lines of communication with the big business and insurance companies that they represented. Selling their services was totally different from sales by other lawyers who had to wait for the client to show up at their door. The pre-60s "legal ethics" served the interest of corporate America and the large law firms very well, but were a major problem for small non-corporate firms who represented plaintiffs.

The changes that occurred in the 60s brought Federal intervention. *Goldfarb v. Virginia State Bar*, 421 U.S. 773 (1975) was the U.S. Supreme Court decision that began deregulation. The United States Supreme Court found that the schedule of minimum charges utilized by the Virginia Bar Association violated the Sherman Antitrust Act. State regulation of the legal profession came into question, despite the need for regulation, and the nature of what was being regulated.

Then, in *Bates v. State Bar of Arizona*, 433 U.S. 350 (1977), the United States Supreme Court held that lawyer advertising is commercial speech protected by the First Amendment. **The Fourteenth Amendment applies the First Amendment to States.** Because of that decision, the power of States to regulate lawyer advertising is very limited.

-Amendment 1

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

States do most of what they do through laws and regulations. The court system is a part of State government, and lawyers are described as "officers of the court." To say that States can't regulate the practices used by lawyers who are specially licensed to peddle the State's power doesn't make good sense. Law, and the ability of states to "promote domestic tranquility," is adversely affected by advertising that makes law and lawyers look silly.

However, returning to the "legal ethics" that sheltered big business and its lawyers will not solve the problem. Creative regulation that will empower lines of communication between members of legal profession and the people who need their services is desperately needed. The internet could play a vital role.

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Continued from page 8A

"BUILDING YOUR CHILD UP!"

keep his frame of reference positive. To place things into perspective, I struggled with this same negative thought pattern growing up and at times still struggle with this issue but I have learned through the therapeutic process and life that focusing on the negative does not change the situation. I have come to learn that it is better to focus on a solution to the problem than to dwell on something that is in the past and cannot be changed. My wife and I often have to redirect my older son to describe positive events or situations in his daily routine because he will dwell on the negative. My wife often tells our two little boys that they are good boys, they are smart boys, and I have added God loves them and to love themselves. I have used these lines with clients and had much success!!!

My eight year old is one of the best wrestlers in the state of Alabama for his weight group and hardly ever loses a wrestling match. However, when he started to lose recently he started to cry and as his father and his coach one of my goals

for him was that he stay focused on trying his best. I try to teach him often how the difficulty and pain he feels in wrestling matches can teach him how to better cope with life as an adult. I don't focus on winning or losing! Wrestling is like life, the wrestler is battling another person but really many times they are battling themselves. There are a lot of ups and down in the match there is fear, happiness, excitement, anxiousness, disappointment, confidence, exhaustion, boredom, sadness, insight, etc. etc. I think and feel my older son will soon be able to conquer his negative mindset it will just take practice, practice, and more practice just as it does with life!!!!

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

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ROBSERVATIONS...

by Robert Tate

My Seattle Adventure...revisited

First of all, I have to apologize for this column. I first wrote this way back in early 2011 but as I read over it, I felt it remained current in its scope and thought. The reason I am not adding a new column is that I am currently recovering from surgery I recently had and to be honest, at the moment writing is among the last things on my mind to do. I do think, however, for my next Robservation I will discuss my surgery. But here is my column with a few editorial additions and I am looking forward to getting back to the keyboard next month. Cheers!

MY SEATTLE ADVENTURE

In my travels with Delta, I have the opportunity to see many great cities. To be honest, there are none that I really hate going to. Each has its own exciting things to see and experience. Without any doubt, my favorite city in our entire system is Seattle. I'm not quite sure why but I love it up there. Whether rainy, sunny, cold or hot, I totally enjoy getting out and walking downtown. To be sure, there are definitely some strange folks roaming the streets there but I still love it. **Pikes Market**, the **Seattle Museum of Flight**, the **Space Needle**; you name it.

Well, about three weeks ago, I was walking around downtown in one of the prettiest days I had seen in a while. I stopped to get something to eat and while I was sitting at my table, I saw a young Nation of Islam (NOI) man standing on the street corner hawking their newspaper, *The Final Call*. I watched him for about 15 minutes and my curiosity got the best of me and demanded that I buy a copy of their paper since I had never read one before.

"Why would you spend a dollar on that paper?" Easy. As a military historian, if there is one thing I adhere to, that is the Chinese strategist Sun Tzu's warning of knowing your enemy. Now before you go all democrat on me, I am not saying that the Nation of Islam is the enemy but I am saying that since we (NOI and non-NOI) rarely see eye-to-eye on anything, especially when it comes to Israel, isn't it a good idea to try and understand from where they are coming and know how and what they think? Sure it is. In fact, it is a great idea.

Like a little kid with a new toy, I took the paper and hurried back to my hotel room so I could read in peace and quiet. When I read it, to be honest there were several interesting articles although I disagreed with most. On the back inside cover of the paper, however, there was a page titled, *The Muslim Program*. On this page were two "doctrines" if you will. One titled *What The Muslims Want and What The Muslims Believe*. If you ever want to truly understand someone who doesn't think like you do, the best thing you can do is read their doctrine. Regardless of what someone says in public, their underlying doctrine still drives, even if behind closed doors, their behavior and certainly what they think. That being said, below I have reproduced part of the Muslim Program. A very small portion of it, I cannot argue with (i.e. 1, 2 and 3). They make sense. Most of the remaining document, however, no comment. I'm sorry, but I simply cannot wholly accept any of the remaining tenants. I just can't. Perhaps in Bernie Sanders' "Amerika," but not my America.

We have already determined in our society that separate but equal is not equal, that dividing up the country (with all the stated demands) is not and should not happen, that taxation should be required of EVERYONE and I'm sorry but the brainless idea prohibiting inter-racial marriages is just plain stupid, racist, bigoted and un-Biblical; sorry, deal with it. You have to understand that I am a black guy married to a Hispanic woman for almost 26 years (30 now). For you "Christians" out there who think the same thing, yeah I know some of you are still around, you too are just as wrong!! If you ever want to debate the supposed Biblical denouncing of inter-racial marriage – bring it. And race mixing?? Just shut up.

Yes the practice of Islam should be allowed without suppression in our country, but so should every other religion. As for the idea that all believers of Islam currently held in federal prisons should be released, don't hold your breath. If that were the case, everybody in prison would become Muslim just to get out. It ain't happenin'!!

But take the time, read this "manifesto" and try to understand the mindset of the Nation of Islam. I think you will find it an interesting read. Note that all italicized words in parenthesis are my comments; not the NOI's. And remember, these words are their doctrine, their ideas and their words.

WHAT THE MUSLIMS WANT

This is the question asked most frequently by both the whites and the blacks. The answers to this question I shall state as simply as possible.

1. We want freedom. We want a full and complete freedom. (Cool)
2. We want justice. Equal justice under the law. We want justice applied equally to all, regardless of creed or class or color. (Cool, no problem)
3. We want equality of opportunity. We want equal membership in society with the best in civilized society. (I can live with this)
4. We want our people in America whose parents or grandparents were descendants from slaves, to be allowed to establish a separate state or territory of their own--either on this continent or elsewhere. (Where?) We believe that our former slave masters are obligated to provide such land and that the area must be fertile and mineral rich. We believe that our former slave masters are obligated to maintain and supply our needs in this separate territory for the next 20 to 25 years--until we are able to produce and supply our own needs. (Whoa!) Since we cannot get along with them in peace and equality (Huh? Why?), after giving them 400 years of our sweat and blood and receiving in return some of the worst treatment human beings have ever experienced, we believe our contributions to this land and the suffering forced upon us by white America, justifies our demand for complete separation in a state or territory of our own. (What the . . . ?)
5. We want freedom for all Believers of Islam now held in federal prisons. (Huh? I'm laughing right now!) We want freedom for all black men and women now under death sentence in innumerable prisons in the North as well as the South. We want every black man and woman to have the freedom to accept or reject being separated from the slave master's children and establish a land of their own. (What?) We know that the above plan for the solution of the black and white conflict is the best and only answer to the problem between two people. (Actually, it is not!)
6. We want an immediate end to the police brutality and mob attacks against the so-called Negro throughout the United States. (Mobs?) We believe that the Federal government should intercede to see that black men and women tried in white courts receive justice in accordance with the laws of the land (How about everybody receive justice IAW established laws) -- or allow us to build a new nation for ourselves, dedicated to justice, freedom and liberty (say what?).
7. As long as we are not allowed to establish a state or territory of our own, we demand not only equal justice under the laws of the United States, but equal employment opportunities--NOW! (And, uh. . . ?) We do not believe that after 400 years of free or nearly free labor, sweat and blood, which has helped America become rich and powerful, so many thousands of black people should have to subsist on relief or charity (Repeal Welfare??) or live in poor houses. (Poor houses? Call Nancy Pelosi, now!)
8. We want the government of the United States to exempt our people from ALL taxation as long as we are deprived of equal justice under the laws of the land. (Right!)
9. We want equal education--but separate schools up to 16 for boys and 18 for girls on the condition that the girls be sent to women's colleges and universities. We want all black children educated, taught and trained by their own teachers. (Really?) Under such schooling system we believe we will make a better nation of people. The United States government should provide, free, all necessary text books and equipment, schools and college buildings. (Not happenin'!) The Muslim teachers shall be left free to teach and train their people in the way of righteousness, decency and self-respect. (Sharia??)
10. We believe that intermarriage or race mixing should be prohibited. (Duh!) We want the religion of Islam taught without hindrance or suppression. (What if those teachings contradict the US Constitution?) Questions?

Community Lifestyles

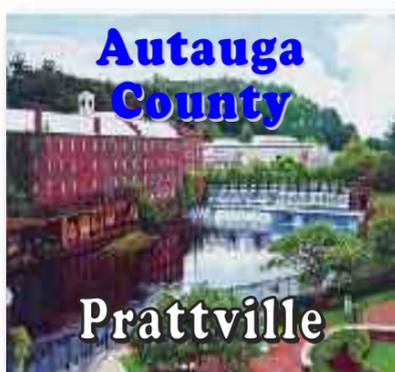
We are proud to announce that The Alabama Gazette is also being delivered in parts of Crenshaw, Butler, Pike and Lee Counties. If you cannot find the Gazette in your area, please check out our website: www.alabamagazette.com



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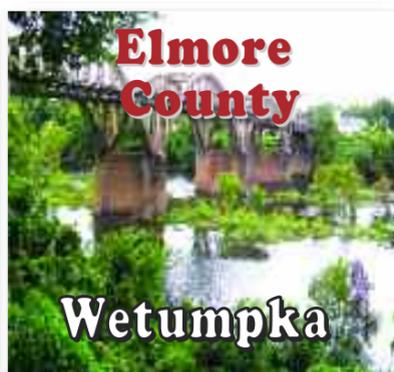
Cities, Towns and Communities:
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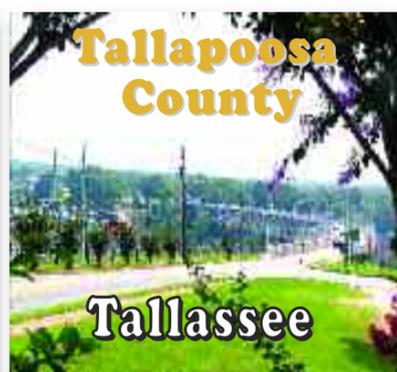
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Surrounding Town and Communities:
Tallassee, Rockford, Deatsville, Kent and Red Hill



Judge Peggy Givhan

Southern Gardening Potpourri for March

by Peggy Givhan

What a month we have before us, with the Ides of March, Easter and the first day of Spring right upon us. In March our neighborhoods shimmer with spring flowering trees and shrubs along with bulbs bursting with such sweet fragrances. Hurrah for Spring. We also associate spring with spring cleaning in our homes. Well, we can also include spring cleaning in our flower beds. This will include raking away old soggy mulch, broken dead twigs, and sticks. If the last cold snap killed other plant material such as cannas, Christmas Holly, and outdoor ferns, then take these out of the beds and into the humus pile or rubbish heap.

As I have mentioned above, bulbs are synonymous with this time of year. I read recently in a garden catalog about early bulbs for the lawn. Planted now, these bulbs will be up and blooming before the grass needs to be mown or they can be delayed until after the last mowing in the late fall. A variety of bulbs provide a rich tapestry of vivid color a full 2 months before the late spring and summer bloom of the growing season. The show is over about the time the grass greens up and starts growing. At the first cutting, raise the mower deck on the highest setting to allow for the bulb foliage to dye back naturally or to photosynthesize. This process will ensure that energy will be stored for a more robust bloom next spring.

The following make for good lawn bulbs: crocuses, dwarf irises, grape hyacinths, squill, snowdrops, and spider lilies (which bloom in the fall, but can be planted now).

My irises have multiplied tremendously over the past 6 years, to the extent that the blades are smaller and the blooms are smaller also. So, it is time to divide and transplant. If we do this now which is about a month before they bloom, we

must dig them up carefully, leaving the feeder roots along with the corms. Otherwise, it will take them longer to reestablish. Irises thrive even in very poor soil. Their main requirement is excellent drainage. After they are transplanted, a top dressing of compost will pick them up even more. It is also good to water them weekly until they are established.

If we are going to have a vegetable garden, there is wisdom in pairing plants together that are known to repel a certain pest that would otherwise attack the other plant. For instance, plant basil and tomatoes in close proximity as the basil has properties to overcome disease and pests for the tomato plants. Beans and cilantro are a good combination since cilantro attracts a species of parasitic wasp that attacks the Mexican bean beetle. Beans and potatoes are good planted together since the beans dispel Colorado potato beetles, while the potatoes repel the same vicious Mexican bean beetle. Also plant lettuce with sweet alyssum since the alyssum attracts predatory insects that fed on aphids which are a scourge for lettuce.



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The Arbor Day Foundation is making it easy for everyone to celebrate the arrival of spring by planting trees.

Join the Arbor Day Foundation in March 2016 and receive 10 free white flowering dogwood trees.

The free trees are part on the non-profit Foundation's Trees for America campaign.

With planting instructions included, the trees will be shipped at the right time for planting, between March 1 and May 31. The 6 to 12 inch trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge.

Arbor Day Foundation members also receive a subscription to *Arbor Day*, the Foundation's bimonthly publication, and *The Tree Book*, which contains information about tree planting and care.

To become a member of the Foundation and receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution to **TEN FREE DOGWOOD TREES**, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410, by March 31, 2016. Or join online at arborday.org/march.

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Employee Recognition

In January of this year, I had the pleasure of swearing in Deputy Courtney Ward. You might recognize Deputy Ward's name as an all-star basketball player from Florida State University. Below is the article recently published on www.seminoles.com.

The ACC Women's Basketball Legends program honors both players and coaches from each of the ACC's 15 schools who have contributed to their respective institutions rich tradition.

Ward contributed to the FSU program in many ways as a solid point guard from 2007-11. The native of Montgomery, Alabama, was the floor general during a very important era in FSU Women's Basketball history, guiding the Seminoles to two ACC regular-season titles and an NCAA Elite Eight appearance in 2010.



While at FSU, Ward shattered the career assists record with 602, being the only Seminole not only to record 600 or more assists but also 500 or more dishes as well.

She was lethal from beyond the arc, finishing second in program history with a 39.8 shooting percentage from downtown, which included going 50 percent as a sophomore.

Ward ended her FSU career as a two-time All-ACC player, establishing herself as one of the best point guards in the conference during her time in Tallahassee. As a junior she was the catalyst that helped lift the Seminoles to their first NCAA Elite Eight trip, scoring in double figures in 23 games, leading FSU in assists in 24 games and also leading the Seminoles in steals in 16 games as they finished with a then-school record 29 wins.

Ward finished her solid career averaging 8.9 points, 3.4 rebounds and 4.5 assists. She is employed by the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office and serves as the head girls basketball coach at Sidney Lanier High School.

Tickets for the ACC Women's Basketball Legends Brunch are \$35 each. Information on purchasing tickets may be obtained at the official ACC website: <http://theacc.co/WBB16LEGENDSTIX>



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

Citizens Academy

We are enrolling for our first Citizens Academy for 2016!
Course Starts Monday, March 14th



It is our belief that the citizens are the most valuable assets in our community. Without your assistance, our tasks would be more difficult to complete. The Citizens Academy includes members from all communities of Montgomery County. The academy meets for six (6) consecutive weeks, but only one (1) night per week for one (1) hour. The participants of the Citizens Academy are guaranteed to have fun while learning about the duties and obligations of the Sheriff's Office.

While our ultimate goal is to make you aware of what is going on in your community and make you aware of how to report suspicious activities/crimes as well as how things are handled from a law enforcement perspective. I can assure you fun will be had by all who are in attendance and Sheriff Cunningham looks forward to meeting each and every one of you!

- TO ENROLL**
- * Visit our Website - www.MontgomerySheriff.com
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 - * Request via FAX - 334-832-7113
 - * Request via Phone - 334-832-1339
 - * Pick Up an Application @ 100 S. Lawrence Street, Montgomery, AL 36104

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Sheriff Cunningham would like to invite all children between the ages of 4-11 years to come out for our annual Easter Egg Hunt! It will be held on Saturday, March 26, 2016, and will start promptly at 4 pm. Thank you to Auburn Montgomery (AUM) for once again hosting this event on their grounds at Senators Drive in the North Parking Lots (next to the AUM soccer fields).



Please plan to attend and make sure that you and your child/children are there by 3:45pm so that everyone can begin hunting at 4:00pm. We ask that you bring an empty Easter basket for the event.

Let's make this a special family time event to celebrate Easter... and remember it's all about our youth!

Firearms Familiarization Course

Our February Firearms Familiarization Course was a huge success! Sign up now for our March course and learn now to protect yourself! We know that learning how to protect yourself is very important in today's world. Our course is held one Saturday a month and has been scheduled for the following dates:

- Saturday, March 12th • Saturday, April 23rd
- Saturday, May 14th • Saturday, June 11th
- Saturday, July 9th • Saturday, August 13th
- Saturday, September 24th • Saturday, October 8th
- Saturday, November 12th

The class is held at our Firing Range and lasts all day and is FREE to Montgomery County citizens! The morning session is classroom instruction on firearm safety and firearm laws. The afternoon session allows citizens to practice shooting on our Firing Range for the remainder of the class. All classes are under the instruction of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Range Master.

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 - Complete an Application for the Course

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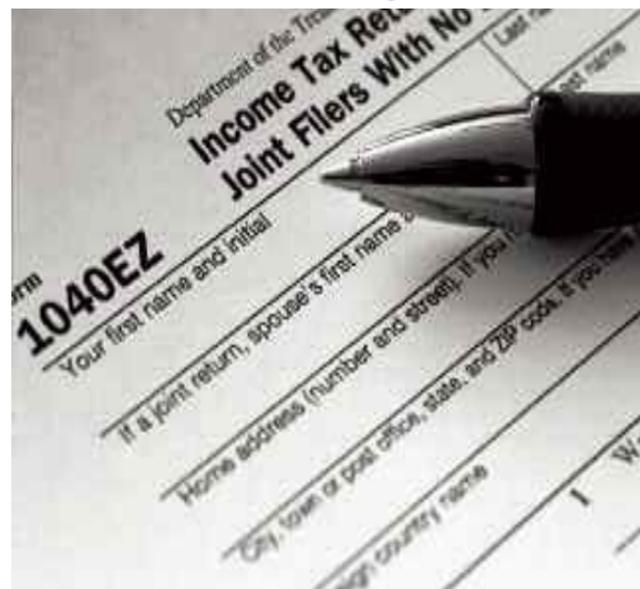


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Sheriff Joe Sedinger



The Autauga County Sheriff's Office would like to say a big "Thank You" to the Prattville Service League for their continued support for the Sheriff's Office and the McGruff the Crime Dog campaign.

The Sheriff's Office received a \$1000 grant to purchase McGruff books, bags, bookmarks, and other items used to promote the McGruff campaign. We appreciate all the support from the community so the Sheriff's Office can continue to move forward.



Prattville
 "The Preferred Community"

Prattville's Way Off Broadway Theatre
 is excited to announce its production of *On Golden Pond*
March 3-20, 2016.

This well-known play by Ernest Thompson focuses on long-time relationships, mending relationships, and unexpected new relationships. The production will be directed by Jason Morgan, who recently directed WOBT's production of Godspell.

The play opened on Thursday, March 3, at 7:30 p.m. and other performances will be held weekends through March 20. Performances will be Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door and may be purchased on line by credit card here. Tickets also can be purchased by calling or visiting the Special Events Office at 203 West Fourth Street in Prattville Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. This production of *On Golden Pond* is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

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



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

Gazette Seniors...

GIVE THEM WHAT THEY DESERVE

Men may consider themselves over the hill if they no longer suck in their stomach when a pretty girl walks by.

Dr. John Bitter
Editor
Senior Section

Out there in a world best describer as "Geriatrica" exist a group of old folks one might best be described as the Geriatric class. These folks were best described by author Tom Brokaw as "**The Greatest Generation.**" Their "greatness" has now faded somewhat. Their offspring have left the nest. Usually one of the pair has now gone to his or her reward; and living in the old homestead just ain't what it used to be.

So, now many have found haven in an institution called "Independent Living Facility." These are usually apartment-styled living facilities that cater to this particular group; a population that is normally still somewhat independent, but is now relatively alone in the world. They get about fairly well, but are not content with the chores that go with this independence.

To meet this need, a half century ago entrepreneurs created a haven called "Independent Living," where these folk could find a place to live out the rest of their lives in relative comfort.

Unbeknownst to most; however, many of those who provided these facilities that catered to this special group had more than the best interests of their senior residents in mind.

For many of these entrepreneurs, the profit motive dominated. The brochures they put out describing their senior **Utopias** painted a rosey picture, but the realities, it turned out, were somewhat different.

At about the time that this particular group began looking for a haven in which to live out the remainder of their lives more than a half century ago a group of Congressional leaders were busy putting together the "**Older Americans Act,**" a document designed to set some standards for care of the nation's senior population, of which they were now members.

And quick to recognize this situation was Congress, which enacted a bill entitled the "Older Americans Act," designed to meet this need.

In this document those charged with the task separated senior living situations into three groups: *Independent Living, Assisted Living, and Nursing Homes.*

Standards of care were set up for each level, commensurate with the needs of each particular group. It was assumed that there were elders who, for various reasons, had decided that maintaining the old homestead was now too much of a chore, and that they would be content to live in some sort of apartment complex designed to accommodate senior citizens who didn't need much looking after, but did want to surrender a portion of this chore to someone else; **independent seniors.**

The assumption was made, then, that some sort of apartment-type housing would be just the ticket, and so limited standards were set up for "independent living."

The next level of institutional living, they assumed, would be that which provided some degree of assistance to seniors, as they went about living out their remaining years. This level called for varying degrees of assistance, since they would appeal to elders requiring such care. And "**Assisted Living**" facilities standards were set up to accommodate the needs of seniors falling into this category. And to make sure that they were met, specific parameters for care and service were set. And, appropriate enforcement means were established in order that these seniors wouldn't be taken advantage of.

Of course the cost of living at one of these establishments was somewhat greater than that at an independent living facility, since a greater level of care was provided,

The third level of care was **nursing homes**, and this should be self explanatory. Very stringent standards were set for this environment; and even then there's a goodly amount of dancing about by managers of these facilities as it relates to

standards and levels of care. But that's another story.

As the years passed the attraction for these three types of facilities increased. More and more seniors found that living at the old homestead was becoming a greater chore, so why not let someone else do all these yard and housekeeping chores?

Moving into an assisted living facility was a good idea, but stringent standards existed there, and making such a move was not as easy as it appeared. Plus, it was a little more costly; since meeting the attendant standards was more expensive; and Big Brother was watching.

Government oversight was non-existent at independent living facilities, so standards were also virtually non-existent. One can be sure of that since most of these facilities were owned by for-profit investors, for whom the bottom line was gospel, service and other amenities were kept to a minimum, and before long the glossy brochure presented to eager applicants for residence at an independent living facility, often promised more than was actually delivered. But they cost less, so residents were obliged to put up with less. But they didn't always like it.

Add to this was the fact that many seniors who should be living at an assisted living facility were spooked by the cost, and would seek accommodation at an independent living facility, even though appropriate care they might need was not provided, but the "headhunters" there were all too eager to oblige. Unfortunately, this resulted in a facility designed to accommodate residents who were, in fact, independent, being overwhelmed by a growing population of residents dependent on motorized wheelchairs, walkers, and other forms of "assistance."

So, what's the answer to this paradox?

The answer is, for the appropriate government agencies to be permitted and encouraged to take a closer, and stricter, look at the services provided by independent living facilities, and to set some firmer standards for the services provided, accompanied by strict enforcement requirements.

There's no reason why the resident at the assisted living facility can't feel that he or she is getting his or her money's worth, while the resident at the independent living facility often is not; and there's nothing he or she can do about it.

These are important factors our lawmakers should consider as they work to provide us with a new Older Americans Act.

So far, the 114th Congress has directed its attention to the Act as originally written, focusing still on only a portion of the senior population. The Act still only addresses the needs of a portion of the senior population, while continuing to ignore a significant population of seniors who reside in facilities that purport to serve them, but which fall shamefully short of meeting the original goal. The Older Americans Act still only addresses the needs of some of our seniors, not all of them; which is a shameful disservice of our Congress as it relates to our senior citizens.

If the managers of these facilities are to provide adequate service to seniors assurances should be made that they do it right; not just as little as they can get by with.

Our senior citizens, who have given so much to their country, the Greatest Generation, deserve no less.

Equality

An appropriate analogy relating to Hillary Clinton's security classification problem can be found in George Orwell's *Animal Farm*: "**All animals are equal; but some are more equal than others.**"

Senior Transportation

Too many public transportation systems are unable to handle the needs of older adults and the disabled.

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PILOTS FOR CHRIST

We go through life thinking, "That would never happen to us," but truth is **NOTHING** is guaranteed. We don't know what tomorrow holds or even the next minute for that matter. **BUT GOD** does and that is why *Pilots For Christ* is in existence.

PFC is a group of Christian pilots and volunteers whose aim is to help those in need of transportation due to medical reasons and are not able to travel any other way but by plane. *PFC* is not an air ambulance or a medical aircraft but they believe that it is their mission through the call of our Holy Father to help those that are in need and can not afford the costs.

Pilots For Christ does not receive any form of government funding and does not get reimbursements from insurance companies. They are fully funded by individuals, churches, civic organizations, and businesses. If you feel that the Lord has put it on your heart to make a contribution please visit their website at www.pilotsforchrist.net, and as always your gift is tax deductible.

"Whoever is kind to the needy honors God."

~ Proverbs 14:31



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



TWEETING ISN'T JUST FOR THE BIRDS

By **Kylle' D. McKinney**

Ten years ago, on March 21, 2006, the CEO of Twitter sent out his first tweet. It's appropriate, with spring coming, that the famous CEO was *chirping* in a format that the world now embraces as a vital form of interactive communication. Similarly, Social Security is no stranger to social media.

Updated regularly, *Social Security Matters* is our blog. It's our hub for Social Security news, like new features to *my Social Security*, changes in policy, retirement planning, and benefit information. The blog allows us to address issues in a longer format than a tweet or typical social media post. Check out Social Security Matters at: blog.socialsecurity.gov and select "Get blog updates" if you want to stay informed.

Social Security uses social media just like you might. At www.facebook.com/socialsecurity we share information, post programmatic changes, and things you need to know. You can follow us and get regular updates on your computer or smartphone through Facebook. While you're at it, go and "like" a few posts or "share" them with friends and loved ones.

Even though there's a lot to say when it comes to retirement benefits and Medicare or disability, Social Security is great at condensing messages down to 140 characters. Our Twitter account is a valuable resource for news and updates. You can follow what we're up to and even engage us at twitter.com/socialsecurity.

Is all this on-screen reading making your eyes tired? Well, you can visit our **YouTube** page for fun and informative videos. In the past, we've had celebrities appear in our public service announcements. And you can see a few feline stars in some of our most popular videos. Visit:

www.youtube.com/socialsecurityonline to start watching.

Remember, you can always share our social media pages with friends and family. They will be grateful to know about the many online services we provide. Feel free to send us a tweet and connect with Social Security!

THE MARSHALL MOMENT

DR. RICK MARSHALL
Eastern Hills
Baptist Church
Montgomery, Alabama

Soul Searching

WHAT TO REMEMBER WHEN YOU NEED TO REMEMBER

In a speech made in 1863, Abraham Lincoln said "We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth, and power as no other nation has ever grown. **But we have forgotten God.** We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us."

We sometimes forget the gracious hand that blesses us every day with choice bounties! "We in America need to wake up and look up, pray up and praise up!"

I heard the story of a man in Tampa who committed a spur-of-the-moment robbery while on his way home from a late-night drinking session. A very drunk Mr. Prendergast forced his way into the house through an open upstairs window, filling a suitcase with cash and valuables before setting the living room on fire to cover his tracks. He then escaped through the back door and made his way home, chuckling all the way.

Only as he turned the corner into his own street, however, and discovered three fire engines outside his house, did he realize that in his drunkenness he had, in fact, burgled and ignited his own property. His comment was: "I had no idea I had so many valuable possessions."

Perhaps it is a good time to ask ourselves about our own sense of gratitude. Are we more inclined to whine when things don't go our way or to find encouragement from the blessings we enjoy in spite of the challenges?

If you are a Bible student, let me suggest two out of many passages which speak to this subject. They are **Psalms 103** and **Philippians 1:1-6**. These words are like treasures stored in a chest for us to do for our soul what a prescription from our physician can do for our physical difficulties.

For believers, there is no greater blessing than the assurance of forgiveness. Not far from New York, there is a cemetery with a grave, which has inscribed upon its headstone just one word—"Forgiven." There is no name, no date of birth or death. There is no epitaph, no elaborate eulogy—just that one word, "Forgiven." Forgiveness of our sin is only possible through Jesus Christ.

Years ago a young man had quarreled with his father and he left home. He continued to keep in touch with his mother and wanted very badly to come back home for Christmas but he was afraid his father would not allow him. His mother wrote to him and urged him to come home but he did not feel he could until he knew his father had forgiven him.

Finally, there was no time for any more letters. His mother wrote and said she would talk with his father, and if he had forgiven him, she would tie a white cloth on the tree which grew along the railroad tracks near their home. If there was no white cloth on the tree, it would be better if he went on.

So the young man started home. As the train drew near his home he was so nervous he couldn't look. He asked a friend who was traveling with him to tell him what the tree looked like. A few moments later the friend said, "Oh yes, I see the tree." The young man asked, "Is there a white cloth tied to it?" For a moment the friend did not say anything. Then he turned, and in a very gentle voice said, "There is a white cloth tied to every limb!"

What Christ did for believers on the cross becomes God's way of tying a cloth of forgiveness for each of us. His story could well be our story except that our sin is different from his sin. But unlike his parents, God does want our apology in the form of confession of Christ and repentance! And this story reminds us of another story in scripture, does it not? The prodigal son who came to his senses and more importantly, the Father who ran to meet him and forgive him.

The Psalmist talks about being delivered from the pit. (103:4) Have you ever been there? Sometimes it is the direct result of wrong choices like the Prodigal Son Jesus spoke about. Sometimes it's like what happened to Joseph in the Old Testament. Others did him wrong. Or maybe it is like Joseph who was lied about and ended up in jail. That's pit living.

Have you ever said about something that happened to you, "Well, this is the pits?" I honestly think all of us have been there in some form. Something bad or negative happened to us in life and we felt like we were in a deep pit of some kind and needed to be lifted out. When you are in the midst of living in the pit, remember who cares for you where you are.



For that reason the words of Paul to the Philippians means so much to me. He says, when you are in the pit remember these three things. **One**, remember Godly relationships. Paul wrote from prison. He was encouraged by the love that congregation had shared. **Second**, Paul remembered God's gifts of grace and peace. "Grace shines brightest when problems are the darkest." Grasping this simple truth helps us to discover that the "luster of grace is not diminished by the ashes of adversity." Grace always precedes peace. When you consider and incorporate the grace of God in your heart the reward is the peace that only God can give. **Third**, Paul suggests we rejoice in our tribulations. I confess that's hard and not attained every moment. But consider Paul's experience. It was while in jail that God worked a miracle that attracted the attention of a hardened jailer who asked to have what they had. Never discount the potential for your witness even in your worse trials.

"Today upon a bus, I saw a lovely maid with golden hair; I envied her -- she seemed so happy, and how, I wished I were so fair; When suddenly she rose to leave, I saw her hobble down the aisle; she had one foot and had a crutch, but as she passed, a smile. Oh God, forgive me when I whine, I have two feet -- the world is mine.

And when I stopped to buy some sweets, the lad who served me had such charm; he seemed to radiate good cheer, his manner was so kind and warm; I said, 'It's nice to deal with you, such courtesy I seldom find'; he turned and said, 'Oh, thank you sir.' And then I saw that he was blind. Oh, God, forgive me when I whine, I have two eyes, the world is mine.

Then, when walking down the street, I saw a child with eyes of blue; he stood and watched the others play, it seemed he knew not what to do; I stopped a moment, then I said, 'Why don't you join the others, dear?' He looked ahead without a word, and then I knew he could not hear. Oh God, forgive me when I whine, I have two ears, the world is mine.

With feet to take me where I'd go; with eyes to see the sunsets glow, with ears to hear what I would know. I am blessed indeed. The world is mine; oh, God, forgive me when I whine."

"Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits..."



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Reflections

By Michael J. Brooks

GOD'S JUSTICE IS JUST

I must admit I found it just as addictive as I'd been told. When I began watching "**Making A Murderer**," I could hardly stop until I'd digested all ten hours.

The series tells the story of Steven Avery of Manitowoc, Wisconsin who spent 18 years in prison for a rape he didn't commit. A single strand of hair provided enough DNA evidence to exonerate him. He proceeded to file a lawsuit against those who prosecuted him and suddenly found himself accused of another murder. Avery's mentally-challenged nephew confessed to assisting in the murder, though he later recanted his confession. Avery's blood was found in the victim's automobile, but then it was discovered a vial of his blood in police custody had been tampered with. And so it goes.

We believe in our system of justice in America, but sometimes justice can be flawed. It was at least in Steven Avery's first conviction. And it was in Tombstone, Arizona where I saw George Johnson's grave in Boot Hill Cemetery. The epitaph says, "Hanged by mistake." His daughter explained that Johnson was accused of stealing a horse, but later it was discovered he'd purchased the horse.

Justice wasn't just.

The Bible is clear that one day we'll face God's justice. The apostle Paul wrote, "**For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ**" (2 **Corinthians 5:10**).

At the final judgment justice will be just. God is the bookkeeper who has recorded our deeds, our words and our thoughts. A popular gospel booklet a few years ago suggested God will simply play a movie of our life. Perhaps. Another theologian suggested the judgment books of God are simply the Bible's way of referring to the mind of God. In other words, he doesn't need to write it down. Whatever the case, there's no room for error.

Furthermore, there will no appeals since God's judgment is always final.

I saw another interesting grave in Boot Hill. It read "Frank Bowles / Born Aug. 5, 1828 / Died Aug. 26, 1880." Bowles died at age 52. But the epitaph continued: "As you pass by, remember that as you are, so once was I / and as I am, you soon will be / Remember me."

Death is our common possession. It was not the plan of God in the beginning, but entered the world when our first parents rebelled against the Lord. As Paul wrote in Romans, "**and so death passed to all men, for all have sinned**" (Romans 5:12).

Death is coming for all of us. And then we'll face our creator and give full account of our lives. If you died today, would you be ready to meet God?

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



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Hours of Operation
Lunch: Monday - Friday 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Dinner: Monday - Friday 2:00 PM - 7:30 PM
Sunday Lunch: 10:45 AM - 2:45 PM
Closed on Saturday




How to Cook Like a Professional Chef at Home

Every home baker or chef has asked the same question at some point: why don't my cakes or dishes look and taste like the ones from my favorite restaurant? The answer: culinary professionals know secrets and tricks that most home chefs don't. Some of these are simple and easy to adopt in your kitchen.

Position Wisely
 Pans should be as close to the center of your oven as possible for even cooking. And don't allow pans to touch oven walls or each other. It's all about air flow and circulation. Place pans on different racks if you are cooking in them concurrently and align them so they are slightly offset (but close to the center of each rack), to allow heated air to circulate nicely.

Avoid Cold Ingredients
 Avoid using cold eggs because mixtures with them won't emulsify properly. Don't use hard, cold butter. Softened butter is better for leavening baked goods and creating an airy, tender texture. And when cooking with it, cold butter won't melt consistently to flavor vegetables and you often wind up scalding it in the pan.

Leaving butter on the counter for an hour to soften up is time consuming, and it still won't distribute evenly and can leave a mess of leftover butter. A better alternative is the new Biem butter sprayer, a first-of-its-kind kitchen tool that lets users convert a stick of real butter from solid to liquid spray in seconds. It controls portioning so you use less butter, uses no chemical propel-

lants and leaves the unused portion un-melted and in stick form, ready to return to the fridge. More information is available at www.biemspray.com.

Avoid Substitutions
 Use exactly what a recipe lists. For example, if a recipe specifies sugar, use white granulated sugar. Brown sugar or raw sugar doesn't have the same consistency as granulated sugar. And substitutions like agave or maple syrup don't have the same chemistry and will impact the science behind the recipe.

If a recipe calls for butter, using something else, particularly something artificial, will color the flavor. Imitation butter sprays are chock full of additives and artificially-flavored oils that just don't taste like the real thing. Always use real, natural ingredients.

"I've been around long enough to live through the evolution of butter to margarine and the eventual discoveries of trans fats and their impact to our health that has brought people back to butter," says Doug Foreman, creator of the new Biem butter sprayer and founder of Beanitos and Guiltless Gourmet. "Seems like eventually science always discovers natural is better."

Get Precise
 Weigh your ingredients using a proper kitchen scale. And learn how to measure teaspoons and tablespoons correctly.

Cooking and baking are sciences and art, so small changes and little tricks can make a big difference in the finished products.

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Southern Cuisine

I was reading about Southern cooking traditions, the standards that define a Southern kitchen and a Southern cook and realized that the knowledge on how to fix these staples, these meals, these time tested dishes, is slowly passing away. It is becoming a lost art in homes everywhere in America not just the South, where the children are not learning the basics of cooking, let alone, the traditional meals that bind generations.

You have seen lists before, that tell that you have lost your "Southern-ness" if you can't make deviled eggs, don't use bacon "drippin's" as a seasoning, have never made a Hummingbird cake, and don't have a cast iron pan. Why have we lost these traditions? Is it the life style that we follow? Are we spending time with our children and teaching them the things that our parents taught us or are we letting the schools, television and the internet do our parenting.

An excuse is "There isn't enough time?" Well guess what, there is enough time and this month there is plenty of time to cook with your children and become parents again. Its call Spring Break. Look at it this way. If you spend time with your children in the kitchen they will be encouraged to try different foods, eat less fast food, they will learn about nutrition and it will help with their math and reading skills.

Your children will feel like they have contributed to the family, you have spent quality time with them and they are not sitting in front of the TV or the computer.

I researched everywhere, getting advice about cooking with your kids and I didn't quite like most of the advice. There are levels, somewhat divided by age, on what a child can and you will let do in the kitchen. There are sharps knives, hot utensils, hot stoves and these can ruin an otherwise happy time in the kitchen.

Also the attention span is less than the wait for something to bake. So I am taking the approach that all children with varying degrees of skill can help prepare any meal. Give them the chores you think they can handle. The youngest can wash produce, measuring and pour ingredients, mix ingredients, and placing items on a cookie sheet or pan before it is placed by you in the hot oven. Older children can crack eggs, read the recipes, grate cheese, and operate a can opener. Don't set them up to fail, let them build their confidence with smaller chores and progress to harder tasks as they become familiar with the tools and food they are working with. Words of praise for a task well done will build confidence also.

Deciding on the meal that you can fix with your children is important. If it is too difficult, your children will not be able to help. Look at each part the meal and divide it up by difficulty. Salads can be tackled by the younger children, grilling and frying should be left up to the older experienced children and the adults. I came to the decision that the fewer ingredients are the best and something that can be eaten right away is even better. So don't fix Slow Cooker Coq a Vin. The recipes here are very simple and are a good start to introducing your kids to the kitchen.

Before you start any cooking, make sure you go over safety and cleanliness in the kitchen. Decide who is doing the cutting and oven loading and unloading. Even pay attention to what your helpers are wearing. Are their clothes going to interfere with their safety? Stress sanitation, no licking the spoon and then stirring with it.

STICKY GLAZED PORK RIBS

Adult preparation would be to cut and separate each rib.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 lbs or more pork spare ribs
- 5 tablespoons honey
- 5 tablespoons low sodium soy sauce
- Salt and pepper

METHOD

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
2. Rub ribs with salt and pepper and place in roasting pan.
3. Mix soy sauce and honey in a small bowl. Brush mixture over each rib until completely covered.
4. Bake for about 30 minutes. Then turn oven to 425 degrees and bake for about 10 minutes more. You want the sauce to be thick and sticky.
5. Serve hot with plenty of napkins.



www.tripadvisor.com

The parents need to set aside plenty of time and have plenty of patience. The dividends will be a closer knit family and more confident children



Every meal should start with some sort of appetizer or snack. A snack that is always popular to eat is some sort of salsa and chips. Normally you go to the store buy a jar of something made in New York City and chips from a kettle in Vermont. This recipe is very simple, with two vegetables that need chopping and seven cans to open and one bottle to be opened. The chips can be made using a pizza cutter, making it easy for younger children. Baking in the oven can be monitored by the adults.

The other recipes here can make up an entire Southern meal with black eyed peas, Cole Slaw, and pork ribs that can be made mostly by your children. Look at the order of preparation, the ribs need to marinate so prep them first. While they are marinating make the other two dishes. While the Texas Caviar and the Cole Slaw is chilling put the ribs in the oven and while they are baking, clean up and set the table. Talk about the ingredients, where do they come from, why do we eat them? Even have the children use some of their artistic ability to make a menu. When everyone is seated give everyone at the table a menu like eating in a restaurant. Place the chef's name by each menu item. Make it theirs!

COLE SLAW

I know that there are as many different recipes of Cole Slaw as there are recipes for Tuna Salad. The following is a basic Southern recipe and can be easily made by your children.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 bag of Cole Slaw mix
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp celery seed
- 1 tablespoon vinegar or to taste
- 1 tablespoon sugar or to taste
- About 1 cup Dukes mayonnaise

METHOD

1. Mix sugar, salt, vinegar and mayonnaise and taste. If suitable add to cabbage and mix well.
2. Place in icebox until chilled.

TEXAS CAVIAR

With baked Tortilla Chips

INGREDIENTS

- 1 can black eye peas, drained
- 1 can black beans, drained
- 1 can yellow corn, drained
- 1 can white corn, drained
- 1 small can sliced black olives, drained
- 2 cans Rotel tomatoes, drained, (they come at different heat levels, pick for your taste)
- 1 chopped bell pepper
- 1 chopped onion
- 1 small bottle Italian dressing

METHOD

1. Place all items in large bowl, add dressing and stir to mix.
2. To serve right away, cold, place all ingredients in icebox to cool before making.
3. Serve with baked chips.

Baked Tortilla Chips

- 1 package of whole wheat tortillas
- Olive oil
- Salt

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees
2. Using a pastry brush or your clean fingers, lightly coat one side of each tortilla with olive oil and sprinkle with salt
3. Use a pizza cutter, to cut each tortilla into triangular pieces, eight per tortilla.
4. Spread chips on sheet pan and bake for about 15 minutes, until crispy and brown.
5. Serve with Texas Caviar.



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Patricia Killough



Home Town Community News

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

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

March Birthdays



- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Brett O'Neal | Betty Lossman |
| Donna Ross | David Hancock |
| Jean Bennett | 16 Lisa Gordan Hester |
| 2 Amie Dean | 17 Lowell Hattaway (84th) |
| Bill Oates | 18 William Watters Box |
| Norma Renfro | George McKinley (70th) |
| 3 Frank Reynolds | Robert Singleton |
| 4 Todd Cole | Jacque Takacs |
| Russ Russell | Kayla Woodall |
| 5 Glen Yost | 19 Charlotte Crane |
| 6 Gayle Bosworth | Keisha Glasscock |
| Emmett Poundstone | Frances McGuire |
| Marjorie Wright | 20 Connie Crowe |
| 7 Everett Cole | 21 Hannah Yost |
| Laura Lane | Murlyne Clements |
| Tony Law | Dorothy Lasaine |
| Michael Carroll | 22 Charlie Bodiford (89th) |
| Brad Wallace | Kentston Whigham (4th) |
| 8 Frances Ard | 23 Ben Garrett |
| Linda Clayton | Laura Hudson |
| David Ehrlich | Morgan James |
| 9 Courtney Whigham | Brandy Landreau |
| 10 Jane Grubbs | Dawn Lane |
| Paula Lansdon | Lallage Neil |
| Cory Smith | 24 Robert Adams |
| Jeanne Villar | Zenia Mims |
| Michael Weldon | 25 Deborah Cox |
| 11 Dr. John Bitter | Hunter Hannon |
| Glenn Harper | Wanda Madison |
| Herb Meadows | 26 Ruby Macon |
| 12 Angie Ferreira | 27 Renee Grant |
| Linda Richardson | Cynthia Harper |
| Samantha Jane Rice (6th) | Wendy Powell |
| 14 Brian Takacs | 31 Carlie Corbin |
| Dana Webster (62nd) | |
| 15 George Handey | (Send us YOUR Birthdays!) |
| Sandy Stephans Rogers | |

Birth Announcement

Twins
Gavin Noah and Anastasia Meadow Takacs
 were born on February 17, 2016 to **Scott and Kay Takacs** of Manassa, Virginia. Grandparents are Rich and Jacque Takacs, great grandparent Dora Ann Wallace and proud aunt Ann Takacs are all from Pike Road, Alabama.



Gavin Noah Takacs



Anastasia Meadow Takacs

Happy Anniversary

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 Ed & Dot Truitt (64th) | 18 George & Lynn McKinley |
| 5 Frank & Helen Ralph | 19 Johnnie & Shirley Yarbrough |
| 7 Bobby & Myra Mills | 21 Craig & Mindy Trotter (7th) |
| Jim & Barbara Garrett | 23 Paul & Cynthia Harper |
| John & Melanie Higgins | 25 Tim & Nicole Sansom |
| 9 Fred & Connie Crowe | 26 Elvin & Cam Stanton |
| Sonja & Steve Campbell (43rd) | 27 Al & Conni Barnett |
| 14 Nicholas & Sally Corley | Mike & Cindy Smith |
| 15 Jim & Linda Richardson | 29 Bill & Vickie Gulsby |
| Ken & Linda Stringer (55th) | |
| 17 Wallace & Frances Bush (70th) | (Send us YOUR anniversaries!) |

Sympathy to the families of...

- Burleson, Mary Jule Hawthorne (57)died January 17, 2016
 Boychuck, Dorothy (91)died January 26, 2016
 Green, Rev. Michael Jerome (57).....died January 29, 2016
 Cook, Calvin Kelly (88)died January 30, 2016
 Henig, Eunicedied February 4, 2016
 Reese, Betty Ann (76)died February 4, 2016
 Mountcastle, William R. (49)died February 6, 2016
 Roberts, Elizabeth Elaine (16)died February 6, 2016
 Thorington, Charlotte Rawls (77).....died February 6, 2016
 Cox, Peyton Elizabeth (13)died February 7, 2016
 Estes, Norman Robert (76)died February 10, 2016
 Lane, Dala Verne Thompson (83)died February 10, 2016
 Gardner, Gilbert (80)died February 11, 2016
 Hardin, Marianne P. (90).....died February 12, 2016
 Britton, Jerry Fleming (77).....died February 16, 2016
 Grant, Edward Wayne (73)died February 18, 2016
 Hutto, Ilene Gilbert (100)died February 18, 2016
 Rouse, James L. (Jimmy) Jr. (95).....died February 18, 2016
 Bozeman, Ruth Greene (87)died February 19, 2016
 Fields, Nolan Burton (19)died February 20, 2016
 Young, Joyce Holley (84)died February 20, 2016
 Matthews, Caroline Ball (89).....died February 21, 2016

In Memoriam Harper Lee

April 28, 1926 - February 19, 2016
 Beloved author of "To Kill a Mockingbird" and
 Monroeville, Alabama native.

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



Hugh Gordon Turns 90

A big celebration was held on Saturday, February 20, 2016 at the Hope Hull UMC, Woman's Club Annex for Hugh Gordon.

A large number of family and friends were in attendance. The party was given by his family.

Hugh is retired from AT&T.

At left, a special friend, Wheeler Kervin, reads letters of congratulations from Sen. Richard Shelby and Sen. Jeff Sessions.

Bal Masqué

Pam Singley has been a member for twenty-one years. She participated in the Bal Masqué presentation on Saturday, January 30, 2016.

Pam and Pearl Capel have been friends since the 4th grade. Pam and Paula are Woodland UMC friends.



L-R: Paula Lansdon, Pearl Capel and Pam Singley



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

TODAY'S WOMAN

2016 Meeting Schedule



Breast Cancer Support Group Meetings

Support group meetings are free, do not require registration and convene the 2nd Tuesday of each month at:

Frazer United Methodist Church

6000 Atlanta Highway • Room 8114 • Mathison Activity Center • Montgomery, AL

5:30 PM Social time with light meal
6:15 PM Program followed by Q & A

Tuesday, March 8

Friends on the Journey Together

Presented by Friends & Breast Cancer Survivors
Lee Hayes & Jannah Bailey

Tuesday, April 12

Finding My Purpose

Presented by Julia Upton, Breast Cancer Survivor

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www.thewomenofhope.org



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Trisston's Tidbits...

By: Trisston Wright Burrows
www.trisstonwrightburrows.com

"Good News"

Easter is upon us. This is the day we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the grave. This is the event that conquered sin... it conquered death... and it made it possible for you and for me to have a personal relationship with God!

Perhaps, today, this is the first time you've ever heard or understood this Good News.

If so, I want to tell you something: Jesus died on the cross for you. He wore a crown of thorns and was nailed to a tree because He loves you... and He wants to have a personal relationship with you today. Ask Jesus into your heart today. Surrender your life.

Trust me, it will be the best decision that you will ever make.

For Jesus himself tells us, **"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die."** John 11:25

On Easter, and every day, Rejoice in that Jesus lived, died, and arose for you, my friend. Jesus **LOVES** You!! And He wants to have a relationship with you, so that you may have eternal life.

Happy Easter & Many Blessings!



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75th Anniversary

Stacie Vinson attended the Named Dropper's 75th anniversary party on Saturday, February 20, 2016.

Stacie started shopping at the store when it was originally Bronson's.

Stacie will be 92 in May of this year.

The Book Shelf



Lilly breathes via a ventilator connected via a tracheotomy tube 24-7, and through God's love and presence in her life, it remains a joyful one. Advocacy for people with disabilities remains a part of her mission in life, and she still hopes to make a difference in this world!

Lilly resides in Montgomery, Alabama, with her husband, Ray, of twenty happy years. They have a blended family of four children and four beautiful grandchildren! Three of their grandchildren belong to Douglas, who is in the navy stationed in Florida. One grandchild belongs to their daughter, Jennifer, in Tennessee. Their other two sons Jason and Trevor live

in Louisiana and north Alabama.

She has been working on this autobiography for 30 years and it covers her childhood, college years, employment years, self advocacy, advocacy for people with disabilities, relationships, triumphs and sorrows.

Prices: Softback Cover - \$19.99 from www.Xlibris.com/Bookstore.
E-Book @ Amazon, or Barnes and Noble or Xlibris \$6.99.

Book Signing:
March 17th - Easter Seals
12:30-2:00



Local teen gets selected to meet TOP Agents from Hollywood to New York City!

After thousands of auditions across the United States, Canada, and as far away as Australia and South Africa – Local, McKala Crim, gets selected to perform in front of top agents, castings, managers, and producers in July 2016 at the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Resort!

McKala will begin preparing for the opportunity of a lifetime, offering direct access to agents and castings for the possibility of representation! A week filled with master level education, auditioning for the latest castings for television, film, music producers, voice overs, top fashion agents from around the world!

The ARTS represents all ages, and celebrates the success of over 25 years of placing children, teens, and adults into offers of representations with castings worldwide.

If you would like more information please contact:
Stephanie Redick at kccrim3@gmail.com or cell: (706) 220-6004.

I always knew our children were a blessing from God. Never understanding at the time how blessed I would be. Watching McKala grow from a baby to the beautiful young lady she is today has been amazing. I can't put into words my journey with McKala, because it has always been a part of my life with her. Pride fills me to the point I want to explode. Knowing that I have instilled great values into her is one thing, but to see her practice those are another. There are times of stress, but to see her defeat her fears, stress is easily replaced with love, pride, and joy. I ask everyone for prayers as we go through the next steps of her journey. I pray for the Lord to guide us. My prayer for McKala is to have wisdom, conviction, and strength to be true to herself.....Stephanie Redick



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