



4TH of July CELEBRATIONS

Montgomery

Montgomery- 4th of July Family Picnic - Riverfront. Enjoy a picnic by the river. Coolers, food and beverages are allowed.

Live Music begins at 6 p.m. with fireworks at 9 p.m.
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www.visitingmontgomery.com

Free

July 4th 1776...
the DAY we became
A Sovereign nation

We should **ALL** take a moment and
THANK GOD for His guidance
in this Great Country of Ours!

Alexander City, AL (Eclectic, AL)

Annual 4th of July Blast*
Lake Martin Amphitheater (the AMP)
5:00 p.m. Gates open.
6:30 p.m. Activities, food and more
9:00 p.m. Fireworks
Admission \$10 per person
over 6 years old

Prattville

Independence Day Celebration*

9:00 a.m. Parade in Downtown
Prattville

10:00 a.m. BBQ/Camp Stew Sale
at Pratt Park

6:00 p.m. Gates open at Stanley-
Jensen Stadium for music, children's
area, food and more.

9:00 p.m. Fireworks

Free

(*Bring your blankets
and lawn chairs)

Pike Road, AL

SummerFest 2017*
The Waters

Pike Road, Alabama

4:30 p.m. Gates Open

5:30 p.m. Summerfest Begins

9:00 p.m. Fireworks

Admission charged.

Wetumpka

4th of July Celebration 2017*
Gold Star Park

6:30 p.m. Entertainment
(Gold Star Park)

9:00 p.m. Fireworks.

Free

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ROBSERVATIONS...

by Robert Tate

Where Can We Find Such Men??

"What General Weygand has called the Battle of France is over... the Battle of Britain is about to begin. Upon this battle depends the survival of Christian civilization. Upon it depends our own British life, and the long continuity of our institutions and our Empire... But if we fail, then the whole world, including the United States, including all that we have known and cared for, will sink into the abyss of a new dark age made more sinister, and perhaps more protracted, by the lights of perverted science. Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties, and so bear ourselves, that if the British Empire and its Commonwealth last for a thousand years, men will still say, This was their finest hour."
- - SWC

I was watching Wonder Woman the other day and watched a trailer for the upcoming movie, Dunkirk. The late Spring early Summer of 1940 was clearly a do-or-die moment in world history. The Nazis had restarted their Blitz after the Phoney War had shut things down and they now continued their march throughout Europe. Almost every country at this point had felt the sting of the German advance. Standing in their way, the British. Even they, at this stage of the war could do little to assuage German dominance on the battlefield and by late May of 1940, found their expeditionary forces pushed up to the sea with their backs to the English Channel.

In perhaps one of the most dramatic symbolic "fingers" in human history, the British refused to surrender and in true fashion of one of the world's greatest civilizations, they mustered men, boats and the Royal Air Force and in a ten-day operation, they successfully rescued some 338,000 men from the beaches of France. These men became the backbone of the "new" British army that helped rout the Nazi scourge out of North Africa, Italy and Western Europe. I watched the trailer and in light of current events, I wondered to myself, "Where did they find such men?"

Such men? Yeah, such men. Men who suffered over 220,000 casualties to include 35,478 known dead in the fight for North Africa. Such men? Yeah, such men. The same men who night after night from 1940 through the end of the war manned their bombers and flew into the freezing night skies over Germany in a bid to help destroy German industry and shorten the war. The same group of men who suffered over 55,500 killed out of 125,000 airmen who served their country. Yes folks, that is over 44% and the highest casualty rate of any branch in the British military.

Yet today, I look at the news and without a doubt, Sir Winston Churchill, Hugh Dowding (Commander RAF Fighter Command) and Sir Arthur Harris (Commander of RAF Bomber Command) are spinning at warp speed in their graves. Today in England, there is an invasion taking place in their land and it seems as though few if any politicians want to even acknowledge it, let alone do something about it. Where are such men and women who are willing to stand up and fight for their civilization? Where are such men and women who want their society to stand tall and not be forced to bow down to a group of people who have absolutely no desire or plans to assimilate into British society but openly discuss the destruction of England (and Europe) as we know it? Instead of telling their citizens to "run, hide and tell" (you cannot make this stuff up) where does the "stand up for your people and kick the snot out of those who want to destroy you" come into play?

The threat is there for everybody to see. It is in the open. It is growing. Their violence is picking up speed at a phenomenal rate; whether it be the Manchester concert featuring Ariana Grande, the massacre on the London Bridge or the dozens of attacks that luckily have been stopped. The radicalized Muslims in England are hell-bent on one thing. Domination. To ignore it, is stupid. To deny it, even more so and for politicians there I would argue borderline criminal. It is there, it is in their face, it is not going away. Not until they make it. The British people are facing an occupation in every sense of the word yet without bullets, tanks and bombs. Where can we find such men willing to say enough of this crap?

I recommend staying away from most of our mainstream media and expand your sources looking overseas for reliable information. Too few here seem to want to talk about reality, to discuss that proverbial 800-pound gorilla in the corner flinging poo at everybody. Many European websites are a treasure trove of information for how life has become over there. Here are a couple of links that point to the growing rise of No-Go Zones not just in the U.K. but throughout Western Europe. Can you believe it? There are entire areas within countries in Europe that if you are not Muslim, especially a woman, you had better not be caught there. Beatings, rapes, you name it. Many of these countries have

willingly ceded their authority in these areas and have allowed Muslim immigrants to basically throw out local laws in favor of Sharia Law. Some have told local women not to go out at night alone because they are tempting rapist to have their way with them while others have told local schools that they can no longer have pork on their menus because it may offend the refugees. I hate to say this but any westerner who thinks this is a good idea is a moron. Sorry but it is true. Take a read:

<http://www.breitbart.com/london/2017/06/13/sweden-50-per-cent-rise-no-go-zones/>

<http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2015/01/21/europes-muslim-no-go-zones-documented-on-video/>

<http://searchlight-germany.blogspot.com/2017/06/run-hide-and-deny-in-london-islamic.html>

I found one article from the Gatestone Institute International Policy Council to be especially interesting. Go to <https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/2367/european-muslim-no-go-zones> for an interesting but powerfully disturbing read. This article asserts that these "no-go" areas are the "by-product of decades of multicultural policies (i.e. social globalization) that have encouraged Muslim immigrants to create parallel societies and remain segregated rather than become integrated into their European host nations." The article further states that in Britain, for example, "a Muslim group called Muslims Against the Crusades has launched a campaign to turn twelve British cities – including what it calls "Londonistan" – into independent Islamic states. The so-called Islamic Emirates would function as autonomous enclaves ruled by Islamic Sharia law and operate entirely outside British jurisprudence." Are you guys getting this?

Don't get me wrong. Weak, indecisive and morally shallow leadership is not only to be found in England. The traitorous and morally bankrupt German Chancellor Angela Merkel is her very own brand of pathetic weakness. Here is another beauty. In this article, it states that in France, "large swaths of Muslim neighborhoods are now considered "no-go" zones by French police. At last count, there are 751 Sensitive Urban Zones (Zones Urbaines Sensibles, ZUS), as they are euphemistically called. A complete list of the ZUS can be found on a French government website, complete with satellite maps and precise street demarcations. An estimated 5 million Muslims live in the ZUS, parts of France over which the French state has lost control." They, and other outlets, further assert these No-Go zones can be found in Germany, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland the Netherlands, Italy, France, England, Belgium and other countries as well. Remember those old WWII documentaries that showed Europe being overrun by the Nazis and how the entire map started turning red and they increased their dominance? Guess what, it is happening again but through differing methods.

Just because there is a big ocean between us and Europe, don't think for one second we are immune. Just for the record, let's be clear here. Am I saying all Muslims are this or that? Don't be silly. Or as I like to say, "Don't go Democrat on me." But to shove your head in the ground and ignore the clear threat that is out there, you are being foolish. Just in case you have forgotten, here is another link for you to read. <http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article6537.htm>. This is a copy of Osama bin Laden's "Letter to America." Go ahead read it. His manifesto which outlines clearly what people like him think and believe. He clearly tells us that unless we do what it says, they will continue to attack us forever. No other way about it. I for one am willing to take him and others like him at his word. Remember what happened when the whole world ignored the manifesto titled "Mein Kampf" from the little guy with the goofy mustache? Sometimes, just sometimes, folks will actually tell you what they really mean and plan to do. I for one am willing to take these guys at their own word. Ever hear the expression, "better safe than sorry?"

A final word from my friend Winston, "We shall go on to the end. We shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, we shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be. We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender. . . ." Now that is what I call resolve. No namby-pamby, snowflake, wimpy, testosterone-less, run-hide-tell philosophy here. Just you, me, dirt, mud, knife, gun, I'm-gonna-take-it-to-your-sorry-butt-until-you-leave-me-the-heck-alone attitude. Here is a news flash for too many people out there - - some things are worth fighting for. Indeed, this is becoming the U.K.'s most pitiful hour.

Yeah, where do we find such men?

Hoping for a Blessed and Wonderful Fourth of July for Everyone!!



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IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

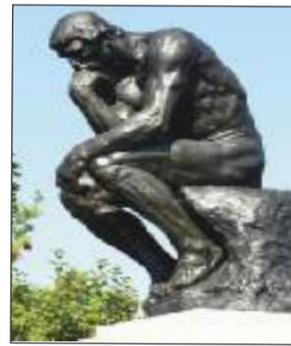
God Bless America

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

John Sophocleus

You can email me at: GazetteSophocleus@gmail.com.

THINK



Hodgkinson's Disease: how House members 'progressed' into larger targets

Congressional shooter James T. Hodgkinson most reproduced quote (linked to a [Change.org](#) petition) asserted, "Trump is a Traitor. Trump Has Destroyed Our Democracy. It's Time to Destroy Trump & Co." Fascinating how many this past decade sincerely asserted Obama and now Trump have somehow single-handedly accomplished such great damage. Extremists of this sort refuse to understand we were not designed to be a democracy; those who've shilled loudest for democracy have 'progressed' us into oligarchy. We were in fact designed to be a representative republic of sovereign States. Given the success of traitors (as per Article 3, Section 3 in our Constitution, not Hodgkinson's and other extremists' definitions) long before Messrs. Obama and Trump, we're now a forced coalition of states suffering increasingly less representation under the unconstitutional 435 limit.

A brief overview of Article 1, Section 2 (30,000 rule) offers some insight on why our current House of Representatives no longer lives up to its Constitutional nomenclature. When the document was under construction during the federal Convention of 1787, the only request made by George Washington was the ratio of representation be set at 1 representative for every 30,000 inhabitants. The rule under consideration at the moment was 1 for every 40,000. Some States did not want all population counted to redistribute power in their favour which helped set the stage for the 'Trail of Tears' and later war between the States. On June 18, 1929, Congress capped the size of the HoR to 435 members. As population grows, real representation decreases - or as my friend James Hines explains, "produces a fuzzier picture with fewer pixels." Legislation which successfully passes a Constitutionally correct Congress would more likely be representative of the population instead of the gerrymandered and logrolled oligarchical result we currently observe.

The Constitution specifies, "The number of Representatives shall not exceed one per thirty thousand, but each State shall have at Least one Representative;..." In any given State, there would be one representative for the first 59,999 people. At 60,000 people, the State is apportioned a second member (two representatives for 59,999 would violate the constitutional provision cited above) and so forth. This illegal action formalized Congress' de facto violation of the Constitution, as the 30,000 ratio had been exceeded throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. Today, we are approaching 800,000 to 1. Some find it impossible to believe our esteemed, ethical members of Congress would do anything unconstitutional; regrettably it happens on a regular basis. I'm sure it doesn't escape some readers a 1929 House more comfortable in their ability to hold onto office and enjoy even greater political benefit from gerrymandering passed one of the most protectionist tariffs in US history triggering the Great Contraction/Depression.

Text in Federalist Numbers 55-58 conveys the founding fathers' concern of having too many/too few representatives since the uniting States were being structured as a representative republic, NOT a democracy. Capping the size of the HoR continually increases the power of each House member making them larger targets as they're 1/435th of a vote over 325 million (and growing) instead of the more diluted 1/10,000th of a vote in a Constitutionally correct result envisioned by Washington. Some may recall another nut, Jared L. Loughner, shooting Gabby Giffords (AZ - 8th Congressional District) at her 2011 "Congress on the Corner" event in Tucson. I found Congresswoman Giffords a good person with sound intuition something was fundamentally wrong as implied by the event's title. It is irrational to think any Congressperson can effectively represent hundreds of thousands of citizens. My guess is she's never been taught to understand the structure of the document she took an oath to uphold. Worse still, most look to poorly trained so-called "Constitutional scholars" like President Obama or Justice Roy Moore instead of actually reading the text of the document well enough to understand the originalists' intent as Scalia stressed.

James Hodgkinson is more a symptom; the disease is a bi-polar political process producing ever more addicted and demanding parasites dependent upon redistributive government to get their 'fix' as they destroy themselves and our posterity. One block (evidenced by the 25% of eligible voters who went Trump) are champions of the more deleterious corporate welfare recipients. The other seemingly more pervasive block (evidenced by the 25% of eligible voters who went Clinton) champion social welfare recipients like Hodgkinson's rant for more wealth redistribution in his favor. Easy to imagine voluntary charity orgs would not subsidize a person of this sort, clearly wealthy enough to donate to campaigns, post his vitriol, purchase guns and ammo, etc. Hard to imagine Clintons doing as well in a competitive environment outside of the political world, little different from Trump who shown himself such a poor businessman even with eminent domain abuse, subsidies and other tax breaks in his favor which would be less objectionable if given voluntarily.

This deleterious spirit is easily found at the more micro level as poor businesspeople who are politically connected are 'enabled' to stay in business with redistributive 'fixes' taking jobs from otherwise productive, successful entrepreneurs. We then waste even more effort, money, time and Spirit removing felons (like Hubbard last year) taking even more out of our economy. The nation's productive citizens hosting these parasites grow weary and retreat from the economy, making it even more difficult to feed the addicts, so their discourse gets more vituperative and deadly. A one in ten thousand Congressperson is less likely to attract a nut's attention - it certainly wouldn't enjoy anywhere near the same amount of media attention. When does shooting a county commissioner (who may be of similar character and integrity as a median Congressperson) who represents about 30,000 make national news?

The irony is a Constitutionally correct HoR would fill a small sized baseball stadium instead of fielding a game between duopoly parties. The reality is, if we followed the document (esp. if Congress only addressed those few things authorized to the federal govt.) our incidences of political addiction to wealth redistribution would not be as profound as we observe today. The HoR was purposefully designed to make it difficult for special interests to get their legislation through a representative body charged with promoting the general welfare.

I've also written in the past how the 435 limit impacts the electoral college. 'Small' (low population) states must have a minimum of three electors, distorting the result from the original intent. For example Montana has ONE House member (instead of about 30) to make national headlines for attacking a reporter yet ALL one million+ Montanans must endure being represented by this one member from their state instead of his being an embarrassment to only one of Montana's thirty (if Constitutionally correct) House districts. There's plenty of incivility to go around and nothing new under the sun. Brutal beatings in Congress instead of allowing peaceful, voluntary exit as designed put us on a path of great death and destruction - I see little evidence to suggest we will not observe a similar result under our current hegemonic structure.

I don't think the average citizen can see the problem any more than my poorly trained Congressman who wouldn't be (esp. with reduced ability to gerrymander under the 30,000+ population constraint) my HoR member under a Constitutionally correct result living 75 miles away. He's shown himself a

very willing sycophant promoting more transfers to addicts if the money is right; it was effortless to support Pres. Trump after berating candidate Trump, as long as he gets a cut. Congressman Rogers has made it very clear he doesn't care about interacting with his non-paying constituents. I find it reassuring when someone of his character and integrity thinks poorly of me for pointing out text of this sort he's taken an oath to uphold. Don't hold your breath expecting my Congressman to introduce legislation to abolish the 435 limit and restore representation toward the designed result - the Spirit of George Washington is not in this piece of carbon nor most of his fellow members. It is revealing Mr. Rogers WILL make the trip to Auburn to shill on behalf of Felon Hubbard before sentencing; don't waste your breath asking him to attend a 'town hall' meeting. Some may remember how Hubbard reacted to a shooting scare on Goat Hill... it is clear he knew how much he was stealing from his actions in office - please pray for these lost souls who preyed upon us.

As a lowly citizen I publically request moving forward to a part-time, constitutionally correct Congress as promised where House members each represent just over 30,000 people with no more staff than a general secretary who serves several members at the same time. No big paychecks, nor separate retirements to avoid the SSA Ponzi scheme they've created, no skirting the government health insurance they mandate, etc. No doubt a 10,800 member HoR will have the extremists babbling. Feel free to join them as long as you don't mind the results of the 'fuzzy picture' as James Hines would say. More importantly, this will make campaign money disappear as individuals and specific groups will not be willing to pay much to HoR candidates for wealth transfers in their favour, when each member's vote will have such a small net impact.

Some are touting the \$40 million in spending on the special election for the House seat in Georgia as the most in US history. Although I'd like to see it in inflation adjusted terms, it is still a third more than the next highest nominal dollar amount. We would not observe such great spending if the seat was 1/10,000th and it would be impossible to identify an individual [or small group of] House member(s) who would make a difference on the margin to be bought. I laugh at those calling this special election a 'bell weather' or will signal a major 'sea-change' if the Democrat wins... a change between the blue poison or red poison is of little solace to those trying to live well. One political pundit (among those who predicted the Clinton victory so well) said it is the canary in the coal mine... WOW, how many dead canaries does it take before you see all the dead workers around you? Please no nasty e-mails about our BCA Canary who is similarly blind but still breathing.

Would a HoR which adjusts to population in this fashion mean little would 'get done' in DC? YES!!! The few bills which make it through a 30,000 rule body for the Executive to consider would be truly representative of the people - again this is the worst nightmare of the extremists who've so long benefitted from the unrepresentative results. The median, productive citizen would be amazed at how much their lives (i.e., general welfare) would improve if the federal government moved forward to only do those few things enumerated really well and left the rest to more competitive State and local governments to accomplish.

In closing, I can think of no other city in history a greater failure living up to their namesake than Washington, DC. Ironically, the country he fought valiantly to break from has a much more representative government than our federal government with the capitol which bears his name. How ashamed Gen. Washington would be; I am ashamed on his behalf. If these shadows go unaltered, no doubt 'Hodgkinson's disease' will continue to metastasize, Washington's only request (to reduce the 40,000 to 1 down to 30,000) is the cure for this spreading cancer. Some of our corrupt politicians will find it difficult to survive 'chemotherapy' of the sort this wise general prescribed 230 years ago. When our now forced coalition of once sovereign States meets the usual fate of all command economies, it will be the failure to meet this sage request by George Washington I'll find most haunting.

Postscript: Our Congressman Mo Brooks made the news as one enumerated on Hodgkinson's list. Much like the brave few who stood against Felon Hubbard on Goat Hill, Congressman Brooks stood against 'Trumpcare' (to be vilified by the president and his fellow corporate welfare queens) as an effective advocate for liberty over the big govt. addicts on the left and right. Little wonder Brooks would be targeted by extremists and (unlike Speaker Hubbard) showed courage under actual fire. I was surprised Brooks threw in for the August 15th special election after the Republican Super-PAC to protect incumbent Senators (in what universe is a Senator installed by corrupt governor who made a resignation deal to avoid prosecution an incumbent?) credibly threatened anyone who ran against their "Big Money/Bunny" establishment 'incumbent' installed without an election. Taking on the powerful tyranny of Mitch McConnell and "Cash Register" Shelby shows political courage. It will be interesting to see how low turnout is for this summer date and even more interesting timing for Sen. Whatley's duopoly party legislation recently enacted.

This special election will be our first without "free"/open voting in primaries/run-offs. Some voters who may want to weigh in if Moore is in a likely run-off will be blocked. Will big govt. establishment (corporate welfare advocates) voters blocked in a Moore runoff help the ousted Chief Justice win the Senate seat over recently installed Sen. StrangeLuvGov? Not allowing taxpayers to vote in the primary/run-off of their choice is wrong... time for the duopoly parties to pay for their own (oft low turn-out) primaries and run-offs and have ALL candidates (regardless of party, independent, etc.) pay the marginal cost to be placed on general election ballots the State IS obliged to provide. Primaries have become more about fundraisers for our duopoly parties than communicating voter preferences. Lack of cross-over voting will shepherd Alabama to even more polarized results. Most folks a couple scores ago said they'd eat dirt and die before voting Republican, now say the same about voting Democrat. Instead of replacing the corrupt modern Democratic Party, Alabama let the known corrupt Republican Party back into our state to give us the usual/easily predicted result. The Republicans are now doing the same protection of the duopoly to become like many other backward, uncompetitive states. Last I checked, two more states gave up straight ticket voting (a smaller problem than our oppressive ballot access laws) for Alabama to now be one of only eight states [Alabama, Indiana, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Michigan, South Carolina, Utah] still allowing this despicable practice. So, when Alabama voters get fed up with the corrupt Republican super-majority, they'll bounce back to the equally corrupt modern Democrats and nothing will change except the monikers on the Dial to Shelby political types. There will be more symptomatic violence and vitriol as voting communicates little information with only two corrupt choices, but no politician will have the courage to address the disease of failed representation, lack of political competition and tyranny. The only noticeable difference will be which addicts/parasites receive their 'fix' at the moment; to hosts like myself it really doesn't matter if I'm being sucked dry by a blue tick or a red tick.



UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

MARTHA ROBY

ALABAMA'S SECOND DISTRICT



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

President Trump Signs Historic VA Reform Bill into Law

WASHINGTON, D.C. – President Donald Trump today signed into law the Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017, historic VA reform legislation.

The new law expands the 2014 VA reform law by granting VA Secretary Dr. David Shulkin increased flexibility to fire, suspend, or demote any VA employee – regardless of rank – for poor performance or misconduct. The law also contains increased protections for whistleblowers who expose wrongdoing within the VA.

U.S. Representative Martha Roby (R-Ala.) was present at the White House for the bill signing and said the law brings unprecedented, long overdue accountability to the VA.

“I was honored to be at the White House as President Trump signed this historic VA reform legislation into law,” Roby said. “For far too long there has been a culture of complacency at the VA, and our own Central Alabama VA became a prime example of poor performance, negligence, and even abuse. These new accountability standards and whistleblower protections will lead to better care for veterans. I appreciate the commitment President Trump and Secretary Shulkin have shown to work with Congress to enact long overdue changes at the VA.”



fox.news

(AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

President Donald Trump signs an Executive Order on "Improving Accountability and Whistleblower Protection" at the Department of Veterans Affairs, Thursday, April 27, 2017, in Washington.

New Law, Policy Change Are Good News for Veterans

I was honored to be on hand at the White House as President Trump signed the Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act into law. It was one of two recent developments that will bring significant improvements to veterans' services in this country.

For the last several months, Congress has been working to build upon the VA reforms we passed in the wake of the 2014 veteran wait list scandal. That law took an important step to increase accountability by making it easier to remove high ranking VA officials. However, our efforts to extend that flexibility to fire problem employees down the chain of command to rank-and-file workers were unsuccessful due to objections from the Obama Administration and the then-Democratic Majority Senate. I've always maintained that senior managers aren't the only ones responsible for misconduct at the VA. Everyone entrusted with the care of veterans should be accountable for a high standard of service and integrity.

Another improvement we've needed is protection for whistleblowers who come forward to expose wrongdoing. The brave whistleblowers who told me the truth about the misconduct and abuse at the Central Alabama VA faced serious retaliation for their efforts, and many others around the country have reported similar treatment.

The new law grants Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. David Shulkin increased flexibility to fire, suspend, or demote any VA employee for poor performance or misconduct. It increases protections for whistleblowers and establishes a new independent office within the VA specifically to look out for those who bring misconduct to light. Another important provision of the new law streamlines the hiring process for VA medical center directors. I personally advocated for this new authority after bureaucratic problems delayed the hiring of a new director for the Central Alabama VA for more than two years.

To be clear, most VA employees care deeply for veterans and work hard to offer the best care and service, but for too long a culture of complacency has allowed some to get away with poor performance, negligence, or misconduct. Our veterans deserve the very best care we can give them, and I believe those who depend on the VA will be better served as a result of these reforms.

Earlier this month, Secretary Shulkin announced the VA is finally modernizing its patient health record system and bringing it in line with the platform used by the Department of Defense. This is long overdue. It has never made sense to me that the VA would use a different health record system than the military. Think about a veteran who has recently returned from a deployment who has symptoms of PTSD or another battlefield injury. They need access to care right away, but too often they have trouble because the systems don't communicate properly. We hear from veterans every day who face these gaps in health care, and it is past time the problem was fixed. Congress has prioritized funding for modernizing the health record system, and I am very pleased Secretary Shulkin is using his authority to make this change.

Our new reform law and this important policy change within the Department of Veterans Affairs show that Congress and the Trump Administration are working together to turn around the VA and improve services for veterans. I appreciate President Trump and Secretary Shulkin for their commitment to working with lawmakers to put these important changes in place.

Three years after the waitlist scandal erupted in our own backyard, I remain directly engaged in pushing for improvements at the VA facilities Alabama veterans count on. Last week I met with VA Inspector General Michael Missal and his staff in my office for an update on their efforts to perform facility inspections and investigate allegations of wrongdoing. I also held my regular call with Central Alabama VA Director Dr. Linda Boyle and her team to go over various issues facing the system. On both a national and local level, the endless saga at the VA has demonstrated the importance of strong, consistent oversight. As your Representative in Congress, I intend to keep applying that oversight and I will continue to keep you updated on our progress.



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.

www.steveflowers.us



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

In Alabama politics many times appointments to political offices filled by an acting governor have an adverse effect on that appointee if and when they seek election to that office for a full term. Every time George Wallace appointed someone to a political post, even in the prime of his popularity and power, they invariably lost in the next election.

Well folks, ole Dr. Bentley ain't George Wallace and his appointment of Luther Strange to the Senate seat vacated by Jeff Sessions may come back to haunt Big Luther. His appointment is even more problematic due to the appearance of collusion surrounding the appointment. The taint of the Bentley appointment hovers over Big Luther's tall head in Washington.

Lyndon Johnson had a similar cloud over his head when he arrived in the U.S. Senate in 1948. It was known that he had stolen the Texas Senate seat when he arrived. When that U.S. Senate seat came open, he made the decision to roll the dice and go for broke. Lyndon did not know that the legendary governor, Coke Stevenson, would enter the race

Coke Stevenson was a legendary Texas icon. He was the epitome of a Texas gentleman and revered. He was Texas' Horatio Alger and Davy Crockett combined. He raised himself from age 12, built a ranching empire, was Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives and a very popular Governor of Texas. Stevenson was above reproach. He would not lie, steal or cheat and Texans knew that about old Coke.

On the other hand, Lyndon Johnson had already earned the reputation in Texas that he would continue to earn in Washington – he would do whatever it took to win. He was totally corrupt and ruthless without any semblance of a conscience.

Johnson applied modern day politics to that era. He introduced polling and what it meant in detail. He even used a helicopter to fly from town-to-town and land on court squares to speak and shake hands, but mostly he used negative and false campaign mailings to attempt to destroy Stevenson's stellar reputation.

Stevenson was from a different era. He refused to go negative and would not reply to any negative accusations no matter how maliciously false.

Johnson was able to utilize this massive media blitz because he had more campaign funds than any candidate in Texas history. He had unlimited financial backing from the giant Brown and Root Company of Texas, which is now Halliburton Corporation. They were then, as they are now, the recipients of gigantic government construction contracts. Johnson was their boy and would do their bidding as their senator so they poured money into the race like water.

Johnson outspent Stevenson 10-1, but it was not enough. When the votes were counted on election night, Stevenson had won by a narrow margin. However, the election was not over; Stevenson was about to be counted out.

The Rio Grande Valley along the Texas and Mexican border was known as the region where votes could be bought. Most close elections were decided in these counties, which would come in days after the original count with just the right number of votes needed to win the election. This is how Johnson won by only 87 votes in a race where over one million votes were cast.

Johnson became known as "Landslide Lyndon" in Washington because of this 87-vote victory. It was also an allusion to how he had stolen the seat. Some people think that the nickname "Landslide Lyndon" stems from Johnson's landslide victory over Barry Goldwater in the 1964 presidential race, but it was actually from the 1948 Texas Senate race.

A legendary tale that is attributed to Johnson in this infamous race claims that in the days following the election, while garnering enough votes for victory, Johnson and the political bosses of the Valley counties were going through cemeteries and taking names of dead Mexicans off the tombstones to register voters. They could not decipher one of the names and asked Lyndon what to do, Johnson quickly replied, "Give him a name, he's got as much right to vote as the rest of them in this cemetery."

June 28, 2017

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

The Chambliss Commentary



Are We Really an Independent Nation?

Marcia Chambliss

As you celebrate this Independence Day with family, friends, and all the commercialized activities that this day has come to represent in our culture, perhaps you'll reflect a few minutes on this question: How much independence do we really have from our government?

Since our government controls our education system, our health care system, and numerous other industries owing their profits or even existence to government bailouts and subsidies, it appears that the American government of today is a far cry from the one envisioned by those who fought and died for liberty and self-rule over 240 years ago.

We have more laws on a federal, state, and local basis than I can even dare to imagine, and that doesn't include regulatory laws on each and every industry. As an example, over a thousand bills were introduced during the 2017 Regular Session of our Alabama Legislature, and while only one-third of that number passed, even those legislators who voted on those bills would be hard pressed to give a full accounting of just what is now law in the State of Alabama. Multiply that by the remaining 49 states, add federal and local legislation to the mix, and I hope you understand my point regarding our dwindling state of independence from government.

Government authority isn't all evil or tyrannical; it's necessary for a civil society. It provides protection from those intent on harming others, it establishes order, and prevents chaos. But government authority has its boundaries, and we as individuals should remain watchful so as to protect the God-given earthly authority we have in our families and churches. Sadly, while we give a lot of lip service to how much we value independence, we're far too often willing to allow the government to "fix" everything in our lives, from cradle to grave.

Nowhere is the loss of independence more apparent than in the federal overreach into our education system, and we are now reaping the consequences of our failure to oppose that unconstitutional authority. While the attribution of the following quote might be debated, its premise is not.

The philosophy of the school room in one generation will be the philosophy of government in the next.

Increasingly, liberal and socialist ideology is invading our classrooms at all levels, and now playing out all across our nation with college students and even

some in high schools embracing the seductive entitlement of "free everything" at the expense of those deemed evil by left. Does this not undermine the conservative family teaching of individual responsibility and consequences of poor decisions? As I've written before, tolerance is only extended to those with left-leaning ideology, and the demands increase that governmental provision is the best and only solution to any problem we face. That's when the authority of the government easily becomes our tyrant.

There is no doubt in my mind that we are in our current state of moral and cultural decline because government has become our god, with active participation from both sides of the political aisle to increase that authority over our lives. Government spending continues to grow regardless of who is in political power – the difference lies in where and how the money is spent to ensure that power is retained.

More disturbing are the forces on the left which appear intent on dismantling our civil society with the encouragement of violent resistance to our election process, warping the minds of our youth with gender confusion, and open hostility and even vicious attacks on those with any opposing point of view. The goal isn't civil debate, it's the shutting down of conservatives and the destruction of livelihoods for those who dare disagree with leftist ideology, such as the fate of a baker or florist whose Christian religious principles require they decline to participate in same-sex celebrations, or conservative media figures who challenge leftist philosophy. We've rewritten the definition of so many segments of our "anything goes" culture and society, it's no wonder we're in a constant state of corruption and confusion, and we risk the future of another generation if we don't work diligently to swing the pendulum in the opposite direction. Can it be turned around? Not by the hands of politicians and certainly not by government, but because I have faith in God and His authority, I believe that all things are possible.

So, by all means, enjoy your Fourth of July festivities – just remember we're not as independent of a nation as we want to believe.

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

What Do You Perceive As Being The Outcome Of Trump's Travel Ban?

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



This is certainly not my area of expertise but I will take a stab at it. First let's take a look at a couple of historical concepts.

In 1882 the Chinese Exclusion Act was passed in Congress, which forbade the immigration of Chinese workers for ten years. Section Six of the Geary Act of 1892 required that Chinese obtain a certificate or face arrest or deportation even if there had been no

other crimes committed. In the United States Supreme Court case of *Fong Yue Ting v. United States* it was maintained by the three Chinese who had not obtained certificates, that they had been denied due process. There were similar cases as well in which the United States Supreme Court typically upheld the Geary Act, the Supreme Court siding with the United States in that the immigration laws and their enforcement were reserved for the legislative and executive branches.

During World War II there was a fear that some Japanese Americans might try to spy, attempt to inflict casualties on American soil or sabotage the American war effort. Truly it was an extreme and a horrible time in American history to imprison one's citizens.

It is true that some Japanese Americans returned to Japan and it is also true that there were Japanese American soldiers that fought as a part of our armies in the European theatre.

In *Korematsu v United States*, 1944 (United States Supreme Court) it was held that the protection from espionage outweighed the personal rights of Korematsu. This case has never been explicitly overturned though there have been later payments to survivors of the Japanese interment camps.

The second thing to consider is the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, which covers the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Guam (a territory), Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington. Keep in mind that our own 5th Circuit contains the states of Alabama, Georgia and Florida and is much smaller in territory and population. The west coast is in a large part known as being very liberal with many of these justices appointed by President Clinton.

The original ban reversal had come from the 4th Circuit in Maryland and focused the issue on the Establishment Clause of the United States Constitution maintaining that the Immigration order favored one religion over another (Islam) and was meant to keep Muslim's out of the country. The 9th Circuit took a different approach maintaining that the President's order went beyond the authority given him on immigration under the Federal law.

The government argues that the Order does not exceed the broad powers given the President. The new ban has removed Iraq from the list, only applies to those that do not have current visas from those six countries, dual citizens and U.S. citizens are not banned, green card holders from the six banned countries will still be allowed, Syrian refugees are not permanently banned, otherwise bans immigrants from the six countries, and minority religion refugees will not be given priority.

Terrorist attacks have jumped over 200% since 2013. Some of those opposed to the ban have correctly pointed out that attackers have come from those already living in the United States. However, one must realize that at some point that terrorist was a new immigrant whether or not they came here to eventually terrorize Americans.

It is a very tough issue and the question has to do with legislative and executive powers regarding immigration without Court interference, whether there is a real religious preference over Muslim immigrants and whether the threat of terrorism to our "way of life" is convincing when considering those that want to come within our borders. It is said that immigrants to European countries are more segregated and less assimilated into their new countries than in the United States. Many of the obvious immigrants I see or know are either those that are professionals (usually in the medical field) or entrepreneurs. There are other immigrants that I see in lower paying jobs but all seem to work very hard. It is difficult to determine which immigrant may want to harm my family, my friends or me. With what has happened in Europe and in the United States I have to ultimately count on a government that will place common sense and national security over the rights of foreign nationals until they have been properly vetted and it is the feeling of those that process such foreign nationals that they have simply come here to contribute and have a better life.

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

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

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The Education Station... By Bobbie Ames

Christians Urged to Pull Children From Public Schools

A few months ago, Dr. James Dobson, one of the nation's most influential Christian leaders, and a former public school teacher, hosted a discussion on his national radio program about the dangers of secular, anti-God education. Dr. Dobson's guest for his nationally syndicated show, "Family Talk", which is heard on hundreds of stations across the nation, was Lt. Col. E. Ray Moore, a retired military chaplain and a pioneer in Home Schooling. There is no doubt that millions of Dr. Dobson's fan club heard this two part interview, "The Current State of Public and Christian Education," which focused on the indoctrination of American children sitting under the described teaching for all of their young lives.

When asked about the "indoctrination" of the children, Col. Moore citing research documented by the **Nehemiah Institute** and other sources, he explained that "the students have been propagandized and given a philosophy that is in many cases against Scripture and what we believe." Moore cited evidence that the large majority of Millennials, about 80%, are actively progressive and left-wing leaning. **He cited evidence, that as Christians, we are losing the next generation!**

Pastors were addressed on the program as well. He challenged Christian pastors and parents to provide Christian Education for the flock; not just **Sunday School**, but **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday** school as well.

In the second part of the interview, Dr. Dobson asked Col. Moore an interesting question. Would removing Christian children from the classroom deprive other children of the Christian influence? Moore was glad that the question came up, because you often hear that remark.

His answer was, "That is the light and salt argument, and it is the number one objection that I get from people who don't support what I am doing." "Jesus" reference to the "light and salt" issue certainly didn't refer to children in the K-12 level in public schools, according to Moore.

Col. Moore heard that argument so often that he has addressed it in a publication, "Salt and Light," to emphasize that "we are putting children in harms way in pagan and godless schools." As a scholar who has thoroughly researched God's mandates on rearing covenant children, he declares that there "is no wiggle room on how we should educate our children."

What Christian could possibly disagree with the Bible mandate to educate our children in the fear and admonition of the Lord?

Christians should be deeply indebted to Dr. Dobson for taking on this explosive issue. He is so right. There is no "wiggle room" on what the Bible has to say about the Education of Christian children. The Nehemiah Institute, led by Dr. Dan Smithwick, has conducted Worldview Testing on many thousands of students since the 1980's across the nation. The many years of research is readily available from the Institute, and shows the results of the testing for public, private, Christian, and Principle Approach (Christian Worldviews) schools. (www.nehemiahinstitute.com)

Through the years, the Principle Approach Schools, sometimes called Worldview Schools in places, consistently score above other schools. There is a simple explanation: It is the Biblical method of Education. Our colonial education was based on the Biblical method of education. It was this worldview that founded our nation. Our Founding Fathers embraced the impact of Providence in our founding. They had learned to reason from Biblical Principles themselves in every single subject, whether Bible, economics, government, literature, science, math, history, or art.

The Nehemiah Institute tests the students across all of the above subjects in their *Peers Test*. The test reveals how Biblical or secular is the student's worldview.

A great source of information on Biblical Principle Approach to Education is available at the Foundation for American Christian Education in Chesapeake, Virginia. The website is FACE.net.

This is the method that has inspired and taught us in our school ministry for 52 years. The Word of God is central in every subject taught. The teaching method forms Christian character in the children. They are taught as very young children how to read, how to reason, how to relate the truth, and how to express it in word and in writing.

This nation was founded on the Biblical Philosophy of History. The very foundation was Creation. The universe, time, history, man, and all created things were made by the Creator, the Omnipotent, Omniscient and triune God. Therefore, everything in History has to be accepted in terms of God and His Word.

Modern education has created tales of "process" and many "ages", and the abandonment of this triune God of the Bible.

That modern man is at war with the God of the Bible is not even a matter of dispute. Because modern man is thoroughly secular and humanistic, Bible doctrine is cast aside so that man can now create his own social order. Turning from the Scriptures, man turned back to pagan thought and embraced natural law. Socialism, State Education, Government run mental health and all social programs, lead to more rejection of Scripture.

As a history teacher of many decades, I see history as His Story. I find exciting, Luke's account in chapter 1:verses 46-58. The Magnificat assures us that the Messiah will destroy all of His enemies. He will exalt the lowly. Calvin saw the Magnificat as a revelation concerning History also. Never doubt God's redeeming power.

Contact information for Frontline Ministries, Inc.: Chaplain E. Ray Moore (Lt. Col.), USAR Ret., President, Frontline Ministries, Inc., and the Exodus Mandate Project, PO Box 12072, Columbia, SC 29211, email: exodusmandate@gmail.com, 1-803-714-1744, www.exodusmandate.org.

You can listen to the interview with Lt. Col. E. Ray Moore on Dr. Dobson's syndicated show, "Family Talk" at <http://www.drjamesdobson.org> and is also available for purchase at <http://drjamesdobson.org/broadcasts/past-broadcasts>
540 Elkton Drive
Suite 201
Colorado Springs, CO 80907
1-877-732-6825

The Magnificat Luke 1:46-55 (New King James Version) The Song of Mary

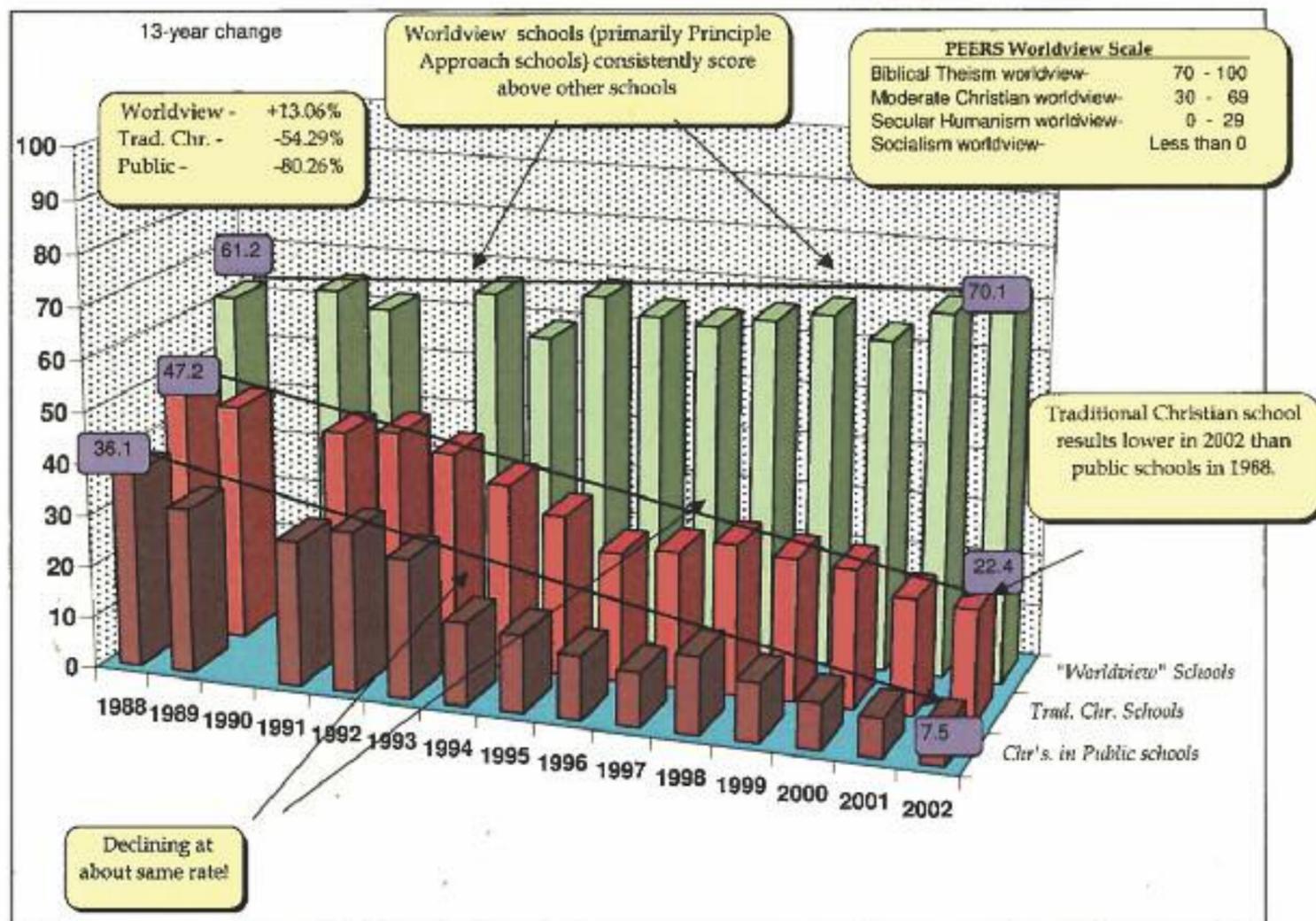
46 And Mary said:
" My soul magnifies the Lord,
47 And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.
48 For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant,
For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.
49 For He who is mighty has done great things for me,
And holy is His name.
50 And His mercy is on those who fear Him
From generation to generation.
51 He has shown strength with His arm;
He has scattered the proud in the imagination
of their hearts
52 He has put down the mighty from their thrones,
And exalted the lowly.
53 He has filled the hungry with good things,
And the rich He has sent away empty
54 He has helped His servant Israel,
In remembrance of His mercy,
55 As He spoke to our fathers,
To Abraham and to his seed forever."



Nehemiah Institute, Inc.
1-800-948-3101

PEERS Trend Chart

(Based on worldview testing of approximately 15,400 students)



THE MARSHALL MOMENT

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

Soul Searching**Religious Freedom and Christian Citizenship**

"Freedom and responsibility are not mutually exclusive, but rather, mutually complimentary." Both are Biblically based ideas and necessary practices as we Christians understand our relationship to God and our fellow man. The prophet Micah verbalized it this way, **"He has showed thee, O man, what is good: and what does the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy and to walk humbly with thy God?"** (Micah 6:8)

We hear voices on the extreme ends of the spectrum of discussion in our culture range from religion being the enemy of a free society to those who would impose serious restrictions on every person whether a believer or not. The point I wish to make is not simply to find a place in the middle without controversy. Instead, I want to lift up the unquestionable truth that religion has been and is an integral part of what makes America the country it is, as well as the truth that faith provides the foundation for the best citizen possible.

First, let's review how we got to where we are. To put it simply, our government sought to provide a free church in a free state. That means that the government cannot dictate the life and mission of the church. Specifically, we believe the individual is competent in himself to relate to God and doesn't need the state to dictate how that relationship should be. Hence the wording of the first amendment, **"Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or the press; or the right of people peaceably to assemble and to petition the Government for redress of grievances."** In recent years it seems the interest of some people and some courts has been to pay more attention to the first phrase and not the second. The two phrases about religion, neither to establish it by the state nor to prohibit its free exercise, are intended to be like the famous picture of scales equally balanced.

Most of us are familiar with the name of Patrick Henry. You may not know that he is considered to be the main author of this precious amendment. He is an integral part of our history on both counts, freedom and religion. He gave voice to the conviction of every freedom-loving person when he said, **"Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I do not know what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death."**

No doubt he was a champion of liberty. Patrick Henry was also one of the earliest and most influential advocates of basic God given rights. For example, he defended persecuted preachers in colonial Virginia. So atrocious was the persecution of those preaching a free Gospel that Patrick Henry came to the courthouse in Fredericksburg, VA and pled the case for them. It was from that event which led to the formation of a statement of religious liberty in the colonies and later in the Constitution of the United States of America.

Furthermore, the very fabric of the concept of freedom comes from our religious belief that God created man alike. It is from that belief that we value human freedom. We believe that every man has a soul and is accountable to God. That also means we believe he ought to have the opportunity to choose whether to relate to God. The fabric of our government gives and protects that right. There would never have been a constitution which guaranteed that freedom without Christian faith. Nowhere else has it ever been articulated as specifically as in our own governing documents.

As liberty is our history and heritage, there is also something else we value as believers. That is Christian citizenship. Not only did Micah voice our responsibility to our fellow man, Jesus said that we **"are the salt of the earth and the light of the world."** We believe the Gospel ought to permeate every area of our lives including our politics and policy. This can be done without stepping on others choices who may not believe because we believe in a democracy. **"We believe in the separation of God and government, but not Christ from culture or faith from life."**

So how it is we can do both? How can we be salt and light in our world? **"How do we recognize we live in a pluralistic society which respects the neutrality of the state and at the same time refuse to be neutral about the truth as we understand it, injustice as we see it and the Gospel as we believe it?"**

There are no simplistic answers which answer every situation. We are not helped by criticism of those with whom we disagree. If putting others down builds us up, how are we different from the world's way of winning? In other

words, how do we properly exercise our faith in this religiously hypersensitive culture and not violate the teachings of Christ about how we treat our fellow man?

To this question let me offer two observations. First, we must avoid the attitude that the end justifies the means. Christians are never released from the importance of our mission and message. **"Our goal is redemption and reconciliation, not just winning at any price."** Our language must be different from unbelievers and our motives and methods must not be deceptive. Someone said, **"Let's practice Christian integrity as much as we practice Christian zeal."**

Second, Christianity must not be identified or tied to any particular political program or cause. We must be absolutely clear. No party has a corner on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Certainly there are political issues which have moral and Biblical implications. To those Christians should speak and seek to influence culture. It is our right and responsibility to vote according to our conscience. However, we must be careful not to make eternal judgements about those who disagree with us.

It was Lincoln who said in 1862, **"The will of God prevails. In great contests, each party claims to be in accordance with the will of God...God cannot be for and against the same thing at the same time."** We must be careful not to try to make God the champion of our causes instead of our becoming the champion of His cause or assuming we are the only ones who could know His will. **"We should not deny passion in debate or moral consideration in political decisions. Neither is it to deny the possibility of knowing and doing the truth."** Yet we must be extremely careful in recognizing our innate prejudices and presumptions which are born more out of pride of self than Christ-like stature.

It's not easy to practice Christian faith in the public arena. But that's what Christ called us to do. Maybe the prophet Micah understood it from his perspective when he so wisely worded it for us. What is appropriate privately and personally is also necessary in our public lives as well. **"What does the Lord require of thee? Do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God."** It matches so well the New Testament which teaches us that integrity, charity and humility are the hallmarks of a Christian's walk with his Lord. **"In the interaction between religious liberty and Christian citizenship, these virtues must be lovingly embraced, deeply believed and doggedly practiced."**

In closing, join with me in remembering these words from the old hymn,

**"God of Grace and God of Glory."
 Set our feet on lofty places;
 Gird our lives that they may be,
 Armored with all Christ-like graces
 In the fight to set men free.
 Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage
 That we fail not man nor Thee!
 That we fail not man nor Thee!"**

Come & join us on



Welcome
Eastern Hills

www.ehbconline.com

SUNDAY MORNING

Bible Study:
9:00 AM
Worship:
10:15 AM

**Reflections**

By Michael J. Brooks

STATUES OF LIBERTY

The Statue of Liberty was a gift from France to celebrate our first 100 years of independence. Lady Liberty is 305 feet tall--the height of a 22 story building. It arrived by ship in 214 crates and was painstakingly constructed in New York harbor.

Many of us remember the rededication of the monument in 1986. Former Chrysler CEO Lee Iacocca headed an effort to raise money for extensive reworking. President Reagan superintended the ceremony of rededication. He lauded the American republic that is represented by the statue as a nation of "peace and freedom and hope."

Lady Liberty's arm clutches a tablet proclaiming a significant date in Roman numerals: July 4, 1776. This is the day the Declaration of Independence was read publicly for the first time in Philadelphia. The 56 signers of the document knew their act brought them into conflict with the British crown, and many paid dearly for their daring.

The recent HBO series, "John Adams," offered a fine re-telling of the heroism of Adams, a forgotten patriot. Adams was a diplomat, not a soldier, and he spent most of the war years in Europe trying to muster support for the colonies. He pleaded for more ships from France and loans from the Dutch and was often rebuffed. Still Adams persevered.

"Thanks to God that he gave me stubbornness when I know I am right," he said.

This week we celebrate our 241st birthday as a free and independent nation. The freedom we've received, however, is fragile, and must be diligently maintained.

As Adams noted, **"Our obligations to our country never cease but with our lives."**

For the Christian, the cross is another statue of liberty. The cross of Calvary yet

stands as the centerpiece of history representing the greatest act of love the world's ever known.

The cross speaks of freedom from sin. The Bible insists **"all have sinned and come short of the glory of God"** (Romans 3:10). But the cross tells us that God made the sinless one to be sin for us, that we might be made right in his presence (1 Corinthians 5:21). Scripture labels Christians "justified." This is a courtroom word that means "not guilty." God, through Christ, will pronounce us "not guilty" at the final judgment.

The cross also speaks of freedom from selfishness. We humans are naturally egocentric, caring for ourselves most of all.

Someone noted that when we're wrapped up in ourselves, we're a very small package!

Christ changes our focus so that we see people around us with new vision. We realize we're responsible to minister to and serve others in his name as our finest witness to the world.

Reflections is a weekly devotional column written by Michael J. Brooks, pastor of the Siluria Baptist Church in Alabaster, Ala. The church's website is siluriabaptist.com.





Steve Long

Woods & Waters with Steve



THERE ARE SOME POSITIVES WITH COYOTES

Folks, we've talked about coyotes before, and how they impact deer herds. The pack-hunting critters are always willing to make a quick meal of a fawn or any other animal it can get a hold of, and it's starting to really show with our state's deer population. Of course, the flip side is that this is all a part of the natural order; coyotes are predators, and deer are prey. That being said, it's important to understand their place in the woods and how they live.



Coyotes are located all across Alabama.

Seeing coyotes is becoming more common across our great state

Coyotes are the kind of critter that hunts whenever convenient, feeding on just about whatever they can find. They're true survivors; be it grass, carrion,

weak or injured animals, even cat and dog food, a coyote won't mind chowing down when it gets the opportunity. They're also highly adaptable; if you leave a food source available for them, in time, you'll attract coyotes. Of course, that includes the city, like Montgomery. We have our share of them too.

Typically, a coyote's lifespan is around three to four years, making it fairly short lived. Averaging 40 to 50 lbs, they're not incredibly threatening to us grown adults, but the odd attack has been recorded. The vast majority of contact with coyotes isn't fatal; they're in this for an easy meal, not an uphill fight, so they're not putting us humans in immediate danger, though not inviting them around you and your home is probably the best. Make sure to keep animals and their food inside or in a protected area, where those critters can't get to them. The deer and livestock populations do face challenges from coyotes, and those of us who can should exercise good judgement in how we manage their populations.

Some of you may be thinking that the only good coyote is a dead one, but that's not the case. Ever since we pushed wolves and mountain lions out of their natural habitats in Alabama, the coyote has moved into that slot in the food chain. They're scavengers, so they'll eat anything, including carrion; nobody wants that around. They also help control various animal populations as they hunt down their prey; obviously, some don't need help with thinning, but they're still an important part of the process, so care should be taken if you decide to thin their numbers through trapping. Management is about having a plan and achieving a proper balance, so be prepared!

Aside from eating carrion, coyotes keep rodent populations down, which is a plus. Keeping carrion gone greatly helps reduce disease spread, keeping the local populations of other critters relatively healthy.

Personally, I'm no huge fan of coyotes, but as I stated above, they are part of the deal, so they won't be going anywhere anytime soon. It really does go to show how important the entire ecosystem is, from top to bottom. Everything has a place, and the coyote's is fairly important, so long as they're not overdoing it.

Naturally, if you have issues with coyotes and want some more information on what you can do, you can visit www.outdooralabama.com and check out their info on local season and bag limits. Classified as a furbearer animal, you can hunt them or trap them, during daylight hours only. There is no bag limit, nor is there a closed season. As always, make sure you have a valid hunting license before you go, and always respect state laws and rules on hunting!

As for me, I've popped a coyote or two in my time, but they're pretty hard to find just sitting up in a tree. The slick little devils are pretty good at avoiding unwanted contact, if they want to. Of course, if they get used to being around humans, it's another story. Being such great survivors and adaptation specialists, they'll move right into a neighborhood, even in a city like Montgomery! I know I've heard them at night from time to time, which doesn't surprise me at all.

I hope all of you are enjoying this lovely month of June, and I look forward to hearing from all of you about your late spring shenanigans out in the woods. And be careful out there; snakes are out there, doing what they do best. So get out there, get some fishing done, some lake fun, and go get 'em!

Kritter Korner

Raccoon dogs or Tanuki

The Raccoon dog, also known as Magnut or Tanuki, is a type of Asian wild dog it is very much a member of the dog family. It is considered to be one of the earliest species that other dog species have evolved from. Neither a raccoon nor a dog, but it does belong to the canid family, which is a lineage that includes



dogs, wolves, and foxes. They are the only Canid that hibernates in the winter. There are 5 subspecies of raccoon dogs that can be found in the eastern Asia and Europe. These animals inhabit dense forests and live close to the water. The number of raccoon dogs in Asia is decreased as a result of excessive hunting (because of their fur).

European raccoon dogs are numerous and even classified as invasive species due to ability to easily conquer new habitats and spread various diseases. Raccoon dog is not on the list of endangered species.

Raccoon dogs can reach 18 to 28 inches in length and 14 to 15 pounds of weight they are covered with thick, long fur. Density and color of the fur depends on the season. Thick, brown or brownish-grey fur is characteristic for the winter. Reddish fur is typically seen during the summer. Black stripe on the back side of the body stretches toward the shoulders where it widens and forms cross-like shape. Belly is yellowish-



brown colored. They have pointed snout, short ears, elongated torso and short legs. They have curved claws and dexterous front paws which facilitate climbing on the trees and holding of the slippery prey. Raccoon dogs, like raccoons, sometimes wash the food.

They are not genetically related with raccoons despite the name and similarities in behavior. They are nocturnal creatures (active during the night), and are omnivores (eat plants and meat). Their diet consists of fish, frogs, birds and their eggs, amphibians, reptiles, small invertebrates, fruit, seeds, nuts and berries. Unlike other species of dogs, raccoon dogs have small canine teeth, flat molars and elongated intestines. These features are typical for animals that eat large quantities of plant food.

The main predators of raccoon dogs are wolves, wild cats, foxes and birds of prey. Raccoon dogs live in pairs or small family groups. They produce yelps, growls and whining sounds for communications. Raccoon dogs are the only species of wild dogs that hibernate during the winter. Reserves of fat collected during the summer are used as a main source of energy during hibernation.

Mating season of raccoon dogs takes place from February to April. Pregnancy in females lasts 61 to 70 days and ends with 6 to 7 puppies (rarely 15). Both parents participate in rearing of young raccoon dogs. Young animals depend on the mother's milk during the first 2 months of their life. At the age of one month, they enrich milk-based diet with meat. Independent life starts a few months later, at the age of 4 to 5 months. Raccoon dogs reach sexual maturity at the age of 8 to 10 months. Raccoon dogs can survive 6 to 7 years in the wild and up to 11 years in the captivity.



Ron VanHerwyn



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KEYS TO VICTORY

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

Football in the South-eastern Conference is not just a game, it is a right of passage from one generation to another. Inter-marriages are not recommended.

This writer has been to many stadiums over the years. The crowds at Ohio State and Notre Dame were almost as fanatical as a game in Bryant-Denny Stadium or in Jordan-Hare Stadium. The SEC is really where the action is. The following is a brief sketch of the players that must excel in order for their teams to make it to the SEC Championship.

EAST: Coach Jim McElwain of Florida has won the Eastern Division Championship his first two seasons. Very impressive. The one time Alabama offensive coordinator is 19-8 at Florida. My

to his side, thereby opening spaces for the other receivers. He is on his way to becoming the top receiver in the history of Florida football. Watch for Antonio Callaway.

GEORGIA: Mark Richt wins 10 games in 2015 and gets fired. **Kirby Smart** wins 8 games in 2016 and gets a raise. Was Coach Smart building for the future or just not as good as Coach Richt? Progress needs to show up in 2017. Smart played a good number of young players including starting, and staying with, freshman quarterback **Jacob Eason**. They could unseat Florida in the East. But, Jacob Eason (6-5, 235 lbs.) will have to play much better. The key to victory for Georgia will be the health of **Nick Chubb** (RB, 5-10, 230 lbs. Sr.) who is already in second place in rushing with 3,424 yards during an injury plagued career. Those injuries will keep **Herchel Walker's** record safe for now (5,259 yards). Watch out for Nick Chubb.

wide open game where passing is as important as running. If Etling can run the offense, LSU contends. If not, expect a good team but not a contender.

AUBURN: Coach Gus Malzahn is not the most popular coach in the history of Auburn football. He finally realized that a change was needed from his offensive philosophy - zone read, zone read, zone read pass, field goal. **Daniel Carlson** is the best long field goal kicker in the country. But, field goals will not beat Clemson, LSU, Georgia and Alabama. Another 8-5 season will not set well with the alumni. A change at the offensive coordinators job was necessary. So, Malzahn brought in former Auburn assistant coach **Chip Lindsey** from Arizona, where he was offensive coordinator. Even with the power running of the SEC rushing leader for 2016, **Kamryn Pettway**, returning along with other good backs, Lindsey must infuse some bells



*Antonio Callaway
Florida*

TENNESSEE: Fifth year Coach Butch Jones is getting heat in Knoxville, even after two 9-4 seasons in 2015 and 2016. Consistency has been Coach Jones's main problem. He starts every year with high expectations and those expectations are never met. He has recruited well and will have another good team in 2017. Will it be good enough? That is the question. One problem for Jones this year is the fact that there is no player on the team that falls in the great category. One may emerge. At this time, to me, the key to victory is in the play of **Jauan Jennings** (WR, 6-3, 205 lbs. Jr.) He caught 40 passes last year for 580 yards. He can do better. Jennings should make it easier for rookie quarterback **Jarrett Guarantano** (6-4, 205 lbs. FR.) to move the football in 2017. Watch for Jauan Jennings.



*Hale Hentges
Alabama*

WEST: This division of the SEC has been the sole property of Coach Nick Saban since 2009. Only Auburn has slowed Saban's rise to the top of the college football world. Their win over Alabama in 2010 behind Cam Newton sent Auburn to the SEC Championship game, which catapulted Coach Gene Chizik's Tigers to the National Championship win over Oregon. The last second upset of Alabama in 2013 behind Nick Marshall sent Auburn to the SEC Championship game where their win earned Auburn another chance at the National Championship. However, Florida State scored with :13 seconds on the clock to send Coach Gus Malzahn home without a trophy. Since Saban's arrival in Tuscaloosa the championships have been dominated by Alabama, Auburn and Florida, mostly Alabama.

ALABAMA: The sting is not gone from the last second touchdown that cost the Tide a second straight National Championship last year. Clemson just had a little more in the tank on their winning drive. This is uncharacteristic of a Saban coached Alabama team. You can be assured some change has been made in the training regiment in Tuscaloosa. Back to back 14-1 seasons can only be disappointing at Alabama. They believe that the National Championship play-off system was started for their benefit. Again, no team in America is as well stocked with players at every position as is the Crimson Tide. My observation is that only one position is vulnerable. That would be the position held by the most under used talent in the Saban era, **O. J. Howard**. Even with a limited number of catches, defenses had to adjust to his side every down. No more. The keys to victory this year belongs to two tight ends. **Hale Hentges** (6-5, 250 lbs. Jr.) looks to be just a tad ahead of **Miller Forristall** (6-5, 240 lbs. So.) If these two players come through, Alabama will be back, in the championship business in 2017.



*Danny Etling
LSU*



*Nick Chubb
Georgia*



*Jauan Jennings
Tennessee*

opinion is that he has been fortunate to have come along at a time when Tennessee and Georgia have had consistency problems. His biggest victory, to me, was last year in Tiger Stadium when his defense held LSU several times with goal line stands to beat a superior football team. Recently the Board of Regents raised his base salary to 4.5 million and other financial perks. Florida is a great place to recruit to. However, something in the back of my mind tells me that in the end, McElwain will not earn that vote of confidence. We will see. Florida is blessed with much more depth than in the last two years. Quarterbacks **Feleipe Franks** (RSF) and **Luke Del Rio** (6-1, 215 lbs, Jr.) must improve the production from that position in order to repeat their dominance in the East. But, in my opinion the key to victory for Florida in 2017 will be the play of **Antonio Callaway** (WR, 5-11, 200 lbs, Jr.) He caught 54 passes for 721 yards last year. He is good enough to make defenses roll up

LSU: The Bayou Bengals are the only SEC team that comes close to Alabama's talent. Even so, they will begin the 2017 season with many questions to answer. After the ejection of long time coach, **Les Miles**, during the season, **Athletic Director Joe Alleva** named defensive coordinator **Ed Orgeron** as interim head coach. The energy and enthusiasm created by Coach Orgeron was reason enough for Alleva to name him the real head coach. This was not a unanimous choice of the Tiger faithful. Nevertheless a new era begins at LSU. Les Miles gone. **Leonard Fournette** gone. **Derrius Guice** gone. He is gone if he gets pass the linebackers. Lets just say LSU will not miss Fournette. Guice (5-11, 215 lbs. Jr.) could be the best back in the South. But...the key to victory is in the hands of veteran quarterback, **Danny Etling** (6-1, 220 lbs, Sr.). The so, so transfer from Purdue was adequate in 2016 with a limited offensive system. Les Miles teams were good and tough, but they were predictable. Stop the tailback and you win. Orgeron brought in new offensive coordinator, **Matt Canada** from the University of Pittsburgh to change the offensive philosophy. Look for a more



*Jarrett Stidham
Auburn*

and whistles in the passing game. Only two passes were attempted to an Auburn tight end in two years. Junior quarterback Sean White, led the SEC in completion percentage (63.9) without the benefit of any receiver than he could really count on. White (6-0, 200 lbs. Jr.) can not take the same punishment dealt to him for two years. He is tough, he is smart, he is accurate. The offense has not really fit his skills.

The key to victory is in the hands of a highly publicized transfer from Baylor. **Jarrett Stidham** (6-2, 215 lbs, So.) can throw the deep ball better than White. He is a better runner than White. He is the real dual threat that Malzahn has had success with the likes of Nick Marshall and Cam Newton. With all due respect for White, Jarrett Stidham is the key to victory in 2017.

The College Football season kicks-off in less than two months!

Southern Cuisine



brisket are two of my favorite barbecued meats. I have beef short ribs on my short list to sous vide, but I like to tinker with different rubs and marinades and I like the smoke taste. I was watching a cooking show and ground coffee was an ingredient used for the rub. Three different coffee beans were ground and mixed into the rub. If your favorite coffee is Sumatran Reserve or Kenya AA,

CHIPOTLE AND COFFEE BBQ SHORT RIBS

INGREDIENTS

Beef short ribs (at least two ribs per person for an entrée)
1/3 cup coffee beans (a single flavor or a blend of different roasts)
Four to five dried chipotle peppers

1-tablespoon brown sugar
1-tablespoon kosher salt
Two teaspoons of cumin seeds or one teaspoon ground cumin (more or less to taste)

METHOD

- Using an old coffee grinder grind everything except the salt and sugar until medium grind. About the same coarseness as kosher salt.
- Add sugar and salt and mix well. Remove the tough membrane from the meat-side of the ribs.
- Rub spices all over the ribs and put ribs in a seal-able plastic bag and refrigerate for 24 hours.
- Cook on a pit or smoker or if needed in oven for 5-8 hours at 200 degrees. Remember, low and slow.

See Southern Cuisine on page 3B



Chef David Spooner
Retired Chef

*Volunteer Fireman,
Lowndesboro V.F.D.*

*Senior Warden,
St. Paul's Episcopal Church,
Lowndesboro*

*Chairman,
Board of Registrars,
Lowndes County*

When I am doing research for this column or doing any web browsing, I have to pay close attention to what my original search topic was and keep notes of side items I find that I wish to go back to later. I find myself sidetracked and then forgot what I was trying to find in the first place. I am really sidetracked when I am on the app, PINTEREST. I keep going to look at related items that you find when you scroll down the page of the item that caught your eye in the first place. I find myself looking for recipes for air fryers and ending up with a book I ordered from AMAZON about Miss Mary Bobo's Boarding House. Do not ask how!

How I ever got to this point, Miss Mary Bobo's Boarding House Cookbook is a gem. Mary and Jack Bobo acquired a house in Lynchburg, Tennessee, and began to take in boarders in 1908. As it says on the front and back flaps of the book, "Jack Bobo died in 1948 and Mary continued to welcome roomers until

a few years before she died at the age of 101". This cookbook, "is a celebration of the traditional southern dishes that made this particular boarding house an American legend" And "the book includes stories about the people and events that made Lynchburg a small town known around the world and Miss Mary Bobo's a hallmark of southern food and hospitality". The book has pictures, stories of the family, staff, and boarders, some that has stayed in the house for over forty years.

The Jack Daniel Distillery now owns Miss Mary's Boarding House and serves a mid-day meal by reservation only. Each table is cared for by a hostess, ladies from Lynchburg. When the dinner bell rings each guest's name is called and they follow the hostess to their table. The hostess then makes sure that the bowls are full of food and the conversations among the guests are always flowing.

What makes my book a gem, is hand written on the inside blank page. At the top left corner is the date, Oct 9, 1999 and the menu for the mid-day meal; ribs, chicken in pastry, mac + cheese, beans, fried okra, mashed potatoes, escallop apples, cornbread muffins, sweet pepper relish, and rich chocolate pie. Next to the menu is the handwritten signature, Velma Rives and in parentheses, hostess. At the bottom of the page are the signatures of the twelve people that ate that day. Three of them had the last name, Bobo.

The first recipe is from this book and was served Oct. 9, 1999.

MISS MARY'S FAMOUS CHICKEN with PASTRY

"Velma Waggoner, the boarding house's singing cook, is the lady who has prepared this dish for many years. It is always a crowd pleaser and one of the recipes most requested by the guest.

INGREDIENTS

One 2 ½ - to 3-pound chicken	¼-cup water
Three cups water	Salt and Pepper to taste
One large onion	Two cups all-purpose flour
One rib celery	One-teaspoon salt
One-teaspoon salt	¾-cup shortening
¼-cup all-purpose flour	¼-cup cold water

METHOD

- In a large pot combine the chicken, 3 cups of water, onion, celery, and 1 teaspoon of salt. Cook over medium heat until tender. When tender, remove the chicken from the broth and debone.
 - Cut into large chunks. Grease a 9 x 12-inch baking dish. Place the chicken in the dish. Remove the onion and celery from the broth. Blend ¼-cup of flour with ¼-cup of water to make a smooth paste and gradually whisk the paste into the simmering broth to make gravy.
 - Cook for 5 to 10 minutes or until thickened. Season with salt and pepper. Pour gravy over the chicken to just cover.
 - In a large bowl combine 2 cups of flour and 1 teaspoon of salt. Cut in shortening with a pastry blender or fork until mixture resembles corn meal. Sprinkle in the cold water and mix until dough holds together and will form a ball. Roll out on a floured board to about ¼ inch thickness.
 - Cut into strips and place over the chicken.
 - Bake at 375 degrees until pastry has browned.
- Yield: Six servings.

My mother was good about getting as much use out of the food we had as possible. Living in Turkey, Pakistan and the Azores, variety of foods was limited to the local culture. She would make dishes out of leftovers that we like sometimes better than the first time she served it. One was rice. Rice could be had almost everywhere we lived but we ate the most when she turned it into pudding. Mary Bobo had such a recipe:

SOUTHERN RICE PUDDING

INGREDIENTS

3 eggs	1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 cup sugar	3 cups rice, cooked and cooled
2 cups milk	Raisins (about 1/2 cup)
1 1/2 teaspoons cornstarch	Nutmeg

METHOD

- In a medium bowl, beat the eggs until light and lemon colored. Add the sugar and mix well. Add the milk, cornstarch and vanilla and mix well. Add the cooked rice and raisins.
- Pour into a buttered 1 1/2 quart baking dish and sprinkle with nutmeg. Place in a pan of hot water about an inch deep.
- Bake at 325 degrees for 60 minutes or the custard has set. Serves eight.

I had my yearly physical last month and the first thing I did is go grocery shopping. I had lost ten pounds since my last physical, my blood pressure was good, and my cholesterol was good so I bought ox tail, beef short ribs, flavored pork rinds, and Jalapeno Flavored Cheetos.

The ox tail because it was one of those dishes my mother cooked that everyone in the family liked but is not very popular at least among my friends and family. The thick brown gravy and fall-off-the-bone tender meat served over egg noodles was a wintertime favorite. Beef short ribs was one of the first sous vide entrees at the Renaissance hotel. It was easy to prepare and as I remember popular with the guests. Living in Texas for many years, beef ribs and beef

Cuisine

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Southern Cuisine from page 2B

you can match the taste in your BBQ. By now, you know that I like to add some heat to the spices I use for any dish. A smooth and mild pepper to use with the ground coffee would be dried chipotle. I also like cumin and I find that it does have a strong taste that many may not like. This recipe is easy to tinker with to suit your taste. Just do not hurry the marinade, let it do its thing. **The dried chipotle can be found at Latino market.**

This is an appropriate recipe for this month, since July is National Barbecue Month. Also July 4 is National Barbecue Day. And according to the website FOODIMENTARY, the most popular foods for the grill are, in order, burgers, steaks, hot dogs and then chicken.

On July 4th, in 1956, Milton Levine came up with the idea for the Ant-farm. Milton later commented that the most amazing thing about the Ant -farm was it put his three children through college.

Another favorite food holiday this month is July 21st, National Junk food day. It seems that July has another theme running through this month. There are holidays celebrating Pina Colodas, Mijitos, Grand Marnier, Daiquiris, Tequila, and Scotch! You will need the food celebrated on the 26th to keep you going through July, Coffee Milkshake Day.



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MONDAY

SEASONED BAKED CHICKEN * SMOTHERED PORK STEAK WITH MUSHROOMS AND GRAVY
SEASONED TURKEY NECKS * SMOTHERED HAMBURGER STEAK W/ ONIONS
CREAMY MACARONI AND CHEESE * BUTTERED RICE * SWEET POTATO SOUTFLE
SEASONED NORTHERN BEANS * SEASONED CABBAGE
STEWED OKRA, TOMATOES, AND CORN
BUTTERY SWEET CORNBREAD/DINNER ROLL

TUESDAY

BEEF LIVER W/ ONIONS AND GRAVY
SMOTHERED PORK STEAK W/ MUSHROOMS
OXTAILS
SEASONED BAKED CHICKEN
YELLOW RICE
SAUTEED SQUASH W/ONIONS
CREAMY MACARONI AND CHEESE
SEASONED BLACK EYE PEAS
SEASONED COLLARDS
FRIED OKRA
SWEET BUTTERY CORNBREAD/DINNER ROLL

THURSDAY

SLICED ROAST BEEF W/GRAVY
SEASONED BAKED CHICKEN
SMOTHERED PORK STEAK W/MUSHROOMS
SEASONED NECKBONES W/GRAVY
HOMEMADE MASHED POTATOES
YELLOW RICE
PURPLE HULL PEAS
SAUTEED SQUASH W/ONIONS
SEASONED COLLARDS
SEASONED GREEN BEANS
BUTTERY SWEET CORNBREAD/DINNER ROLL

WEDNESDAY

SMOTHERED TURKEY WINGS
SEASONED BAKED CHICKEN
SMOTHERED PORK STEAK W/MUSHROOMS
GOLDEN FRIED CHICKEN
HOMEMADE MASHED POTATOES
BUTTERED RICE
CANDIED YAMS
CREAMY MACARONI AND CHEESE
SEASONED LIMA BEANS
SEASONED CABBAGE
BUTTERY SWEET CORNBREAD/DINNER ROLL

FRIDAY

BBQ RIBS
FRIED CATTISH
SEASONED BAKED CHICKEN
OLD FASHION MEATLOAF
BUTTERED RICE
CANDIED YAMS
CREAMY MACARONI AND CHEESE
BAKED BEANS
POTATO SALAD
SEASONED COLLARDS
CORNBREAD/DINNER ROLL

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Tears and Laughter:

By Amanda Walker

Know what you love, and be willing to run to it

It is supposed to be easy and serve as a transition into writing about others in second person, but there are always those who seem to draw a blank. They stare into space like they have been asked to describe a stranger.

This is sad to me. One of the many responsibilities we are charged with as parents – and teachers too to some extent – is to help our children to know who they are as individuals.

This is not the same as teaching them. You can't teach them who they are the same way you can teach concepts. You might be able to teach them who you are, and in that you can influence what they accept or believe, but as for who they are as God naturally made them, it is something they have to discover and allow to develop.

It is why we introduce them to a myriad of books and activities. It is why we take them on trips and encourage them to play sports and take art classes, music classes, and dance.

It is why we let them have hamsters, take them to reptile farms, and start stamp collections we know they will never continue. We do it so they can learn what they like and equally important, what they don't.

Knowing what they like helps them know what to choose, it helps them know what they want, what suits them, how they tick, how they learn, what they are attracted to and why it is they are drawn to it.

It is how they identify their strengths and weaknesses, talents, skills, and boundaries. It is how they grow into their purpose, just through knowing who they are and what they like. And writing five paragraphs about it should not draw such a void.

And it is not just children. There are grown people who take six months to pick out a paint color or what dress to wear to the next low country boil because they don't know what they like. They are too worried about what other people might think or what color their mother would have preferred rather than just walking straight in and saying this it, this is me.

I met a little girl this week who I don't think is going to have any trouble with the personal essay one day. I say I met her. I never caught her name. She fluttered through our day like a butterfly.

I had taken my youngest daughter to the Tickled Pink Petting Zoo. She was waiting to hold a python. She is 13. She is shy and creative, smart, and intuitive. She has a heart for animals, all of them, and most small children.

She did not pull away when a little redheaded girl sporting a hot pink tutu ran up to her after recognizing her favorite characters on her shirt. She leaned in, pointing to each with one hand and calling them by name, while holding McKenzie's long hair out of her way with the other.

She ran back to her mother as quickly as she had appeared, but she left me thinking maybe we should all try and be more like her. Know what you love, and when you see it, run to it.

Amanda Walker is a blogger and contributor with *The Alabama Gazette*, *AL.com*, *The Thomasville Times*, *West Alabama Watchman*, and *Wilcox Progressive Era*. Contact her at Walkerworld77@msn.com or at <https://www.facebook.com/AmandaWalkerColumnist>.

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Gazette Seniors...

Dr. John Bitter, Editor
Senior Section

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

*You may be over
the hill if... you realize that
there's nothing left to learn
the hard way.*

The Demise of Journalism

What has happened to journalism over the past half century?

When your humble scribe first chose to be a news person there were iron clad rules to which persons practicing this craft had to abide.

Today, as one partakes of journalistic outpourings there seems to be virtually no rules scribes must follow; which is sad.

Virtually every standard a news writer had to follow has, by now, been scrapped.

Who is to blame? It's hard to point an accurate finger, unless one points an accusing finger at a lapse of adherence to the once iron rules as laid down in ancient Rome as a means to insure that messages were clear, complete, accurate, and honest.

They've been toyed with by experts in the realm of passing along to others events that have happened. But the ancient rules have endured: **WHO** did **WHAT** to whom. **WHY** did they do it, **WHEN** did it happen, **WHERE** did it occur; and **HOW** did it take place?

These rules were strict, and journalists who failed to abide by them found themselves in deep trouble—if they were allowed to keep their job. That is, until 20th Century journalism made the scene. Now, there seem to be no rules whatsoever as it relates to passing along to the masses information of presumed merit.

Other mandates under which a journalist toiled include: Attribution, which meant that someone must be identified as the source of the events.

A reporter never submitted copy attributed to “unnamed sources.” Attributing news to “persons who wished to remain anonymous,” and other similar evasions, would bring down the wrath of city editors in a second. Anonymity was just not accepted. This rule has been trampled into the dirt and is virtually non-existent today. Today this evasion has now become a rule, and even the how and why are not considered to have any import.

On top of these transgressions, proper grammar, correct punctuation, consistent tense, and a host of other grammatical rules are now the exception, rather than the rule.

Probably the worst abuser of these mandates is television news, which seems to have no idea what any of these rules mean.

In the realm of journalism, we're now in about the same shape as Benjamin Harris was in 1690; when, without the blessings of the Crown, he published *Publick Occurrences Both Forreign and Domestick*. It consisted of three pages of news, but lasted only one day, since it lacked the blessings of the Crown.

Where is the Crown today, when we need it?

One Nation; Divided

By Dr. John Bitter

A little over a century ago the United States of America ceased to be united as 13 southern states seceded from the union, and America became embroiled in a civil war and more than 600,000 Americans unnecessarily forfeited their lives.

As we look at the mindless strutting and pouting that's going on today among our elected officials over the election of Donald Trump as our 45th president, the prospect of another Civil War looms ominously in the wings.

Much as the Southern States pouted over an end to slavery, a group of American politicians today are doing their best to rend our nation asunder because they lost the recent presidential election.

And, one must ask, to what avail?

The Confederates lost the Civil War, and it's highly likely that our most recent group of separatists will be unsuccessful in their mindless efforts to undue the efforts by a minority of the population who are unwilling to accept the will of a majority of American voters.

In the War of Northern Aggression, a small portion of the U.S. population was dissatisfied with a change in focus of the United States. As a result, they withdrew from the Union and started their own political structure; which resulted in what became known as the Civil War, and the decimation of their population of 256,000 citizens, plus a plethora of other unfortunate events. Also casualties of this move were more than 360,000 northerners who lost their lives.

Today, we have rioting in the streets, a move by a fair number of our citizens to boycott the inauguration, and a host of other hostile moves; childish acts of dissatisfaction with the results of the last presidential election.

If anything is called for in this age, it's adult behavior, and a coming together of the various factions to rebuild America—not tear it down.

Rather than making fools of themselves and displaying a national attitude of “my way or the highway,” loyal and patriotic Americans should be working for a return to where we started—as “One nation indivisible. . .”

What has happened to America?

Quo vadis Washington?

By Dr. John Bitter

After watching some of the television coverage of our esteemed Congress one is reminded of the words uttered by Saint Peter as he was fleeing Rome to escape crucifixion. Along the way he crosses paths with the recently crucified Jesus, who has just risen from the grave following his own experience on the cross.

Whereupon he asks Jesus where he is going: Quo vadis.

In answer to Peter's question Jesus replies: “I am going to Rome to be crucified again.”

Fast forward a few centuries and we find many Americans asking of their Congress, rhetorically, where they are going.

On our television screens we see and hear of the fiasco that is taking place in our nation's capitol, and we find ourselves wondering where our elected government entities are headed: Quo vadis?

In answer our lawmakers seem to be replying: “We have no idea, But we're sure making an unfavorable dust.”

In this case it's the American electorate who are being crucified.

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and guide her
Thru the night with a
light from above.
From the mountains,
to the prairies,
To the oceans,
white with foam
God bless America,
My home sweet home.

*Fireworks over
Washington D. C.*





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

By **Kylle' D. McKinney**
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HOW YOU CAN GROW YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS BEYOND RETIREMENT AGE

For more and more Americans, reaching retirement age no longer means the end of an active working life. Many people are choosing to work past the age of 65, according to the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

If you're willing and able, maintaining gainful employment later in life could go a long way toward ensuring a secure future for you and your family. Besides providing you with additional income to pay your bills, extending your employment or working for yourself could boost your lifetime Social Security benefits.

Here's how:

Waiting to claim your Social Security retirement benefits could grow them by up to 32 percent. Through delayed retirement credits, your monthly benefit amount increases by about eight percent for each year you wait between your full retirement age and 70. Full retirement age is between 65 and 67, depending on when you were born. To learn more about delayed retirement credits, please visit www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/retire/delayret.html.

You get credits on your earnings record for each year of additional work income. Once you start receiving retirement benefits, we'll automatically review your earnings record each year to determine if you're entitled to an adjustment. When we calculate your retirement benefit amount, we use your best 35 years of earnings. We'll increase your benefit amount if your new year of earnings is higher than one of the years we used to calculate your initial benefit amount. To see how we calculate your benefits, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10070.pdf.

An increased benefit amount for yourself could mean more support for your family, too, through Social Security spousal benefits, child benefits,



and survivor benefits.

We also encourage you to set up your own my Social Security account so you can verify your lifetime earnings record, check the status of an application for benefits, and manage them after you're receiving them. You can create your personal my Social Security account today at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

Social Security is committed to helping you prepare for a secure today and tomorrow for you, your family, and future family. You can access all of our retirement resources at www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/retire.

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



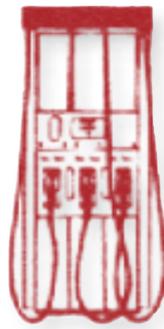
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John Martin

The New Gestapo

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

Right now, in the United States Senate, the Sword of Damocles is hanging right over our heads. Keep an eye on it. Don't let it drop and chop our heads off.

It is Senate Bill 1134, labeled as the "Back the Blue Act of 2017." It was introduced by Texas Senator John Cornyn and co-sponsored by our newly appointed Senator Luther Strange.

This is a frightening piece of legislation that gives police and all other "first responders" near absolute immunity against legal action for almost any wrongdoings they commit while on duty—just like the dreaded Gestapo of Nazi Germany. It will serve to entice rogue police officers to be even more abusive than they are now.

Imagine being pulled over for a real or imagined minor traffic violation, or just because the patrolman assumes you look "suspicious," getting yanked out of your car, tasered, beaten, and cuffed. Now imagine having no legal recourse to charge him with abuse if you have done nothing to warrant such treatment.

In addition, this same bill makes "assaulting" a lawman a federal crime punishable by a mandatory two to five year sentence. "Assaulting" is very loosely defined, including any form of "resisting" by the accused, which could be any form of self defense against excessive and abusive actions by an officer. If in possession of a "weapon" (any kind) and even if never used, the accused could face 20 years.

The bill no doubt arose from the plethora of recent shootings of police officers and occasional panicked suspects violently resisting arrest. Yes, officers have sometimes been abused, but if one checks out the statistics, the abuses commit-

ted by officers outnumber the ones committed against them. The great majority have been against people who were either completely innocent or guilty of very trivial offenses.

With the laws we have now, the police already have the upper hand. Penalties for resisting and disobeying are already severe. But when the police commit crimes against people, they usually get off with much lighter penalties and sometimes none at all. We already have some of our laws structured to imply that the lives of certain people (like policemen) have higher values than the lives of other people. If this bill passes, this disparity will escalate to the extreme, just like with the Gestapo. Citizens will be severely punished for the tiniest infractions, and law enforcers will have carte blanche to violate them any way they please with little or no fear of reprisal. Since this bill treats certain people differently from others and gives them special privileges, it is patently unconstitutional.

I certainly understand that law enforcement officers have tough jobs. Much of the time, the work can be very boring and unrewarding. I also understand, with perhaps one or two exceptions, that the incidents of officers shooting suspects were justified; they were usually faced with armed assailants about to shoot them or were in the process of shooting innocent people.

But in the more routine incidents, abuses by law enforcement have become much more frequent. Now more than ever, our police are becoming less like peace officers and more and more focused on duties that generate revenue—pursuing ordinary citizens for traffic violations and minor and often victimless offenses at the expense of protecting us against serious crimes like robberies, burglaries, and vandalism. With unconstitutional laws already on the books like civil asset forfeiture, many of the cops themselves are becoming robbers. This bill will only exacerbate that trend.

America was founded upon the doctrine of equal justice under law. No person deserves privileges that others do not have. If a person violates another person, the law should apply equally to everybody. The penalty given to a citizen who violates a policeman should be no different from the penalty given to a policeman for violating a citizen. If anything, the police and others in authority should be held to a higher standard, not a lower one. If a policeman finds himself with nothing legitimate to do, his job is to stand by and do exactly that—nothing.

This dangerous bill must be stopped before we become subjugated like galley slaves.

For more information...

<https://ericpetersautos.com/2017/05/28/black-blue-bill/>

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/1134/text?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22Police%22%5D%7D&r=5>

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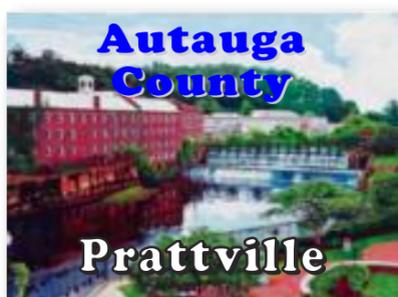
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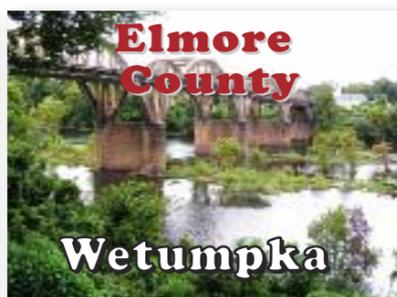
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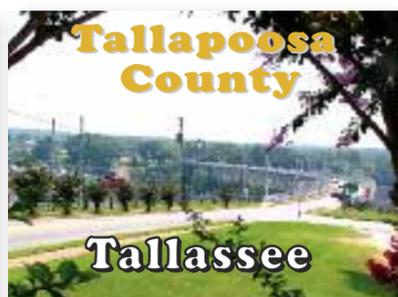
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Award Winning Southern Gospel Talent Will Help Raise Funds For Elmore County Food Pantry

The Nelsons and Michael English, two of Southern Gospel Music's awarding winning talents, will be the guest for the Elmore County Food Pantry Benefit Singing on Saturday, July 29 at 6 p.m. at Wetumpka Baptist Church. The Dennis Family and Spoken For Trio, local Southern Gospel groups, will also be singing.

The Nelson's roots date back to the legendary Lefevre's of Atlanta. After leaving the Lefevre's, the late Rex Nelson formed The Nelson's, which now includes his daughter, Kelly Nelson Clark and her husband, Jason and their daughters, Amber and Autumn.

The group has received numerous awards and accolades including three Grammy nominations, six Gospel Music Association Dove Award and many of their songs have topped the national radio charts. This family group continues to produce music embracing their Southern Gospel roots, while reaching beyond various musical boundaries with an emphasis on introducing songs for the church. They strive to bridge the generational gap of music lovers with beautiful harmonies and great songs.

Touring is a major dedication of The Nelson's consisting of more than 150 concerts annually. Their brand of Christian music has been spread around the world and they are regulars on the infamous Gaither Homecoming Video Series.

The group has recorded more than 35 albums with chart-topping Southern

English rose to fame as a member of The Gaither Vocal Band in 1984 - 91; and Gospel Music Hall of Fame member Bill Gaither has remained his friend and mentor ever since. The young powerhouse vocalist never sought a solo spotlight, but the size of his talent could not be denied. He signed his first solo recording contract in 1991.

His solo debut, MICHAEL ENGLISH, created a sensation when it was released in 1992. It included the landmark performance "In Christ Alone," as well as such unforgettable songs as "Mary Did You Know," "Solid As The Rock," and "Heaven," the last named of which became his debut video. In 1993 his HOPE album spawned the memorable "Message of Mercy", "Love Moves In Mysterious Ways," and "Holding Out Hope To You".

When Michael English launched his solo career in 2000, he feared he had no Christian testimony to share with others. His stunning new Curb Records album, "Heaven To Earth", is ringing proof that the intervening years have brought him strength, wisdom, and a powerful message.

English faced many tribulations. In 1994, he confessed an extra-marital affair that nearly destroyed his life. His beloved and always supportive grandmother died when he began to rebuild his music career. His only brother was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis during the production of "Heaven To Earth". And just as this album's title single was issued as his comeback single, Michael English spent 30 agonizing days in treatment to overcome an addiction to prescribed pain medication.

During his time away from Christian music English lost his recording contract. However, Curb Records was quick to sign him as a



Michael English



The Nelsons

Gospel classics like "We Shall Wear a Robe and Crown," "Come Morning," and "O For a Thousand Tongues."

When the Nelson's are not on the road, they call Kennesaw, Georgia home. Though whether on the road or at home, the creativity never stops... and neither does the family bond. Jason is a triple threat as a singer, songwriter and producer while Kelly is an accomplished actress of both television and film, appearing in movies like "His Love Is Blind", "The Cardinal Rule and Losing Faith". Amber is signed to Daywind records as a solo artist and recently released her first adult solo album, "Just Sing". Her powerhouse soprano vocals earned her the coveted Favorite Female Singer win at the Absolutely Gospel Music Awards. She has a Bachelor's degree in Christian Counseling and is working on her Master's. Autumn joined the group full-time just two years ago and has been wowing audiences ever since with her crystal clear soprano sound and musical talent on both the mandolin and banjolin. When she leaves the stage, Autumn is hard at work studying. She's a freshman in college at Baptist College of Florida.

Together as The Nelson's, Jason, Kelly, Amber and Autumn are a family devoted to God, each other, and ministering the Gospel of Christ through music and the Word.

Michael English is a North Carolina

native raised in a strict religious

environment. He was on stage

by the time he was in

elementary school,

performing in his

family's Singing

Samaritan's group

between 1972 and

1980. He spent the

next two years in

the Southern-

gospel ensemble

The Singing Amer-

icans, and then

joined the Happy

Goodman Family in

1982 - 83. After six

months with the Couriers

Unlimited he returned to The Singing Americans in 1983 - 84.



The Dennis Family



Spoken For

pop artist, by releasing his "Healing" duet with Wynonna and his 1995 album "Healing". The company followed through with English's pop album "Freedom" in 1996. From it, "Your Love Amazes Me" became a top-10 hit on the Adult-

Contemporary charts. English found that although he felt the Christian industry had turned its back on him, Christian Music fans never did. They showered him with love and forgiveness when he toured in support of "Freedom" in 1996 - 97.

He returned to his roots with a 1998 album titled "Gospel". Containing favorites he has sung all his life, the album was originally recorded as a personal project to sell to folks who came to his concerts. Again, the demand for his music was so strong that in early 1999 it became his third Curb release. It also won CCM Magazine's Favorite Contemporary Gospel Album award.

In 2007, English released an autobiography titled The Prodigal Comes Home. This book describes his fall from grace including his view of what led to his initial extramarital affair, his relationships with women outside of marriage after his divorce, his various brushes with the law, and his continued struggles with drug addiction.

Continued on page 2C

Southern Gardening Potpourri for July

by Peggy Givhan



Judge
Peggy Givhan

Well, Happy Fourth of July and here's to all the festivities, family and food. As I have said in past articles, we as Americans should go out of our way to show our patriotism. I am proud to be a United States citizen and try to do my part to express this sentiment in quiet ways, such as planting a red, white and blue flower bed for everyone to see. I

display the flag out in front of my home, and always have family and friends over for an old fashioned barbeque where dessert is a sheet cake iced like an American flag. Of course our display of patriotism comes in many different forms such as attending fireworks extravaganzas or ending the night singing patriotic songs. Whatever interest in displays or no displays, we should all say to ourselves, God Bless America.

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

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

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

1. If you have snail problems, crush up egg shells and place them where snails are a pest. They hate egg shells.
2. Instead of purchasing expensive plastic containers, take egg cartons, poke holes in the bottom for drainage, fill with potting soil, sow the seeds, and the seeds will germinate.
3. Save bottle tops and place in the bottom of clay pots for drainage.
4. For the environmentalist who want to rid an area of weeds, such as side walks, pour boiling hot water directly onto the weed, and death is within minutes.
5. Vinegar will kill weeds if poured onto the roots. Just punch a hole with a stake close to the weed, and then pour the vinegar into the hole.
6. To prevent tools from rusting, clean with coke and steel wool, then plunge the tool into sand.



Vinca



Gomphrena



dragon wing begonias



Ageratum



torenia



Melanpodium

need to be totally cut back in the fall and winter anyway. **For sunny areas of the bed,** vinca, ageratum, dragon wing begonias, melanpodium,

gomphrena, dusty miller and torenia to name a few for sunny areas. There are impatiens, dusty miller, hosta and begonias for the shady areas. Just be sure of the sun or shade requirements, so there are no disappointments.

GOOD GARDENING.

Award Winning Southern Gospel Talent Will Help Raise Funds For Elmore County Food Pantry

Continued from 1C

In 2009, English rejoined the Gaither Vocal Band—making it a quintet—singing lead. English was inducted into the North Carolina Music Hall of Fame in 2011.

In October 2013, it was announced that Michael English would be leaving the Gaither Vocal Band to devote more time to his solo career. His departure was effective immediately. His final appearance with the group was performing "Alpha and Omega" at the 2013 Dove Awards.

The Dennis Family, a trio of ladies based in Millbrook Alabama, have made quite an impact on the Country Gospel/Christian Country Music world with the anointing of God and the spirit that lives within. Their dedication & commitment to the Lord's work has brought them national attention with numerous achievements & Awards.

Paulette Pynes, Alto of the trio, songwriter, and original member of the group, has been blessed with many things, one of which was her song, "Mountain Climber", being in the Top 80 Christian Country Music Chart for almost a year and climbing all the way into the Top 20 at # 2.

Denise Weldon, Lead singer, being the youngest of the trio has certainly not hampered her in her songwriting and singing abilities. Her talents have been amply rewarded. Her song, "Train For Glory" was in the Top 80 Christian Country Music Chart for 10 months and in the Top 20 for 3 of those months.

Millis Brown, Tenor of the trio, songwriter and comedian of the bunch has brought the crowds to tears with laughter with her comical attributes. Don't be mistaken by her joking and clowning around though, she loves the Lord and is 110% serious about His work. Her song, "Thank You Lord" was in the Top 80 Christian Country Chart for several months, peaking in the Top 20 at #13.

There are other members who work extremely hard behind the scenes. Paulette's husband, Wheat, is the bus driver, manager, booking agent, mechanic; you name it, he does it. With God's blessing and guidance and Wheat's willingness to help further God's kingdom, he get's them to each destination. They do approximately 150 to 170 bookings each year. Wheat always lets people know that he cannot do it alone and that God is the only way he gets things done. Rex runs the sound for the group and also plays drums with The Dennis Family Band. The Band is used on special occasions. Millie's daughter, Shae Brown, is the Table Tech and Gofer Girl. Paulette's and Millie's sister, Dona Dennis-Brooks, is the group's secretary. It takes team effort to make things work. It takes everyone to do the job no matter how big or small.

The Award Winning Trio, Spoken For, has been singing Southern Gospel Music in the Southeast for 17 years. They are from Prattville, Alabama. Their goal is to reach the lost for Christ and to encourage those who already walk with God in their everyday life. Robin & Joy Simpson (both vocalists) are the founders of the group and earlier this year, Patricia & Brian Hudman (vocalist & sound engineer), came to minister with Spoken For. Robin will bless you with his rich baritone voice, Joy with her strong & full of emotional alto, and



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Patricia with her smooth soprano. We consider this a ministry that God has called us to do for Him. We want to always be in His perfect will, displaying a testimony that would be pleasing to Him.

Spoken For's accomplishments include; 1st place at New Ground's Homecoming Talent Search, 1st place Frank Arnold's Thanksgiving Singing Talent Search, 1st place Bonifay All Night Sing Talent Search, 1st place at the Crabb Family Homecoming Talent Search, 2nd place at Gold City Homecoming Talent Search, 2nd place at the N.Q.C. Talent Search 2002. They were also featured in the "Singing News Magazine".

Spoken For has been able to share the stage with some of the most prestigious Southern Gospel Groups in the industry like: Gold City, Greater Vision-The Perry's, The Florida Boys, The Dixie Echoes, Triumphant Quartet, J.G. Whitfield & The Workmen Quartet-The Crabb Family, Mike Bowling, Karen Peck & New River, Mark Bishop, this is just naming a few.

Advanced tickets in the amount of \$20 can be purchased at Elmore County Food Pantry, Wetumpka First Baptist Church, Prime South Bank, First Community Bank and River Bank and Trust. Tickets at the door will be \$25. And although not necessary, attendees are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to the concert. There will be a container for these near the entrance.

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Sheriff Derrick Cunningham



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Medication Disposal

On Friday, March 17, 2017, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office unveiled their new drug collection unit they received as part of CVS Health's Medication Disposal for Safer Communities Grant Program. The new unit will be located at the Administrative Office of the Sheriff, at 100 South Lawrence (2nd floor lobby) and will provide residents with a safe and environmentally responsible way to dispose of unwanted, unused or expired medication, including controlled substances.



The new drug disposal unit will help to reduce the amount of unneeded medicine in residents' homes and decrease the potential for prescription drug abuse, which has soared in recent years, especially among teenagers. More than 70 percent of teenagers say it is easy to get prescription drugs from their parents' medicine cabinets, according to a Partnership for Drug-Free Kids study. Proper drug disposal also helps to prevent the contamination of local landfills and water supplies from unused medication.

have downloaded the app, go through the following steps to make sure your phone is set up to receive the push notifications:

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

OR

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

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

Senior Fishing Rodeo

Sheriff Derrick Cunningham and the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office invites all seniors (55 and over) to grab their fishing rods, bait and tackle and join us for our annual Senior Fishing Rodeo.

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

6:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

**Montgomery County Ponds, Highway 231 South
(Troy highway) Across from Meriwether Road**

Firearms Familiarization Course



Sign up NOW for our Firearms Familiarization Course scheduled for **Saturday, August 12th**, and learn how to protect yourself! We know that learning how to protect yourself is very important in today's world. The class is held at our newly dedicated Sheriff D.T. Marshall Firearms Training Center and lasts most of the day and is FREE to Montgomery County citizens! The morning session is classroom instruction on firearm safety and firearm laws. The afternoon session allows citizens to practice shooting on our Firing Range for the remainder of the class (if you would like). All classes are under the instruction of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Range Master.

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Course Questions or to Obtain an Application?
LisaCrenshaw@mc-ala.org **334.832.1339**

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

Sheriff's Office APP

We are getting a lot of positive feedback from our new Sheriff's Office APP! In case you missed last month's article, here it is again...

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office has a new phone app called "Montgomery County AL Sheriff" that can be accessed through your phone's app store. Once you have added this app to your phone, you can easily set your phone up to receive important push notifications. Push notifications are quick, important messages that can notify you of road closure(s), blocked road(s), anything pertinent to your travel, escapee, etc. While our app can help you with many things including checking to see if someone is in the county jail, it is most helpful to receive push notifications. After you



Thank YOU

We would like to thank everyone that came out to our annual Youth Fishing Rodeo on Saturday, June 17th. As always, it was a huge success and gave the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office time to bond with the youth to show law enforcement are our friends.

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

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(334) 361-2500



Sheriff Joe Sedinger

There was a Town Hall Meeting held at the Vida Community Center on June 13, 2017. About 25 residents from the area were in attendance. There were hotdogs, chips and drinks served to all that attended. The residents heard from the Sheriff's Office, Revenue Office, Circuit Clerk's Office, Probate Judge, Circuit Court Judge, and House Representatives from District 42 and 88. The meeting was held to inform the citizens of what all

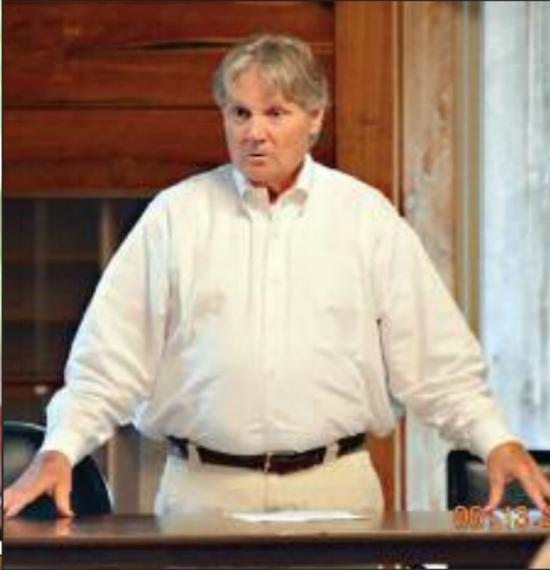
the offices do and services offered. There was a time after each speaker for the public to ask questions or voice concerns.

The next Town Hall Meeting has been scheduled for Monday July 17, 2017 beginning at 7pm at the Jones Community Center.



Sheriff Joe Sedinger

Probate Judge Al Booth



Revenue Office Leona Sedinger

Rep. Paul Beckman,
House District 88



Rep. Jimmy Martin,
House District 42

TOWN HALL MEETING

You are cordially invited to attend a Town Hall Meeting.

Monday; July 17, 2017

Jones Community Center

7pm—9pm

Come out to a Town Hall Meeting to speak with your local elected officials. Please come out and meet with representatives from the following public offices: Sheriff Joe Sedinger Revenue Commissioner Kathy Evans, County Commissioner Van Smith and Larry Stoudemire, Probate Judge Al Booth, District Court Judge Joy Booth and Circuit Clerk Debra Hill. After a short presentation from each office, you will have an opportunity to ask questions or voice your concerns.

Hotdogs, chips and drinks will be provided for all who attend.



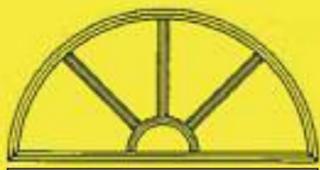
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1990 SUNCREST DRIVE

This single-family home features 3 bedrooms and 2 1/2 baths and approx. 2,941 sq. ft. The property lot size of 1.46 acres and was built in 1986. Double pane windows, fireplace, carpet, hardwood and tile floors. Gas heat



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4TH OF JULY

EVENTS

Tuesday, July 4, 2017

16th Annual 4th of July Parade

Begins at 9am and winds through downtown. Registration is required, but no entry fee.

Grand Marshals will be Prattville Fire Department and local Volunteer Fire Department Firefighters

Lions Club BBQ and Arts & Crafts
at Pratt Park from 10am-2pm
BBQ & Camp Stew sale, music, patriotic program, children's fun area and arts and crafts

CARDBOARD BOAT RACES
Teams will construct their boats on site with cardboard and duct tape. Races begin at 10:30 am. Registration required. \$5 per boat. Pool open 1-3pm.

FIREWORKS at Stanley Jensen Stadium

Gates open to public at 6pm and fireworks start at dark. Enjoy a concert by CREATIVITY, children's fun area and food vendors. Free admission!

For more information, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at (334) 595-0800.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR CHECK US OUT ON...



www.prattvilleal.gov



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johnnie@medac4u.com
www.Medac4u.com



"Every cell in your body functions like a car; it has its own engine. You can put the best gasoline (food) in, and the best oil (vitamins/minerals); but if you throw sand (chemical toxins & heavy metals) into the motor, the first two don't matter. At MEDAC, PC, we focus on helping to get the sand out of your motor. We also help with the food and the oil so that your motor can hum and run in the optimal way it was designed."



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Call our office at 356-6700 for rates and information.

Thanks to all our Autauga County advertisers.

2017 YOUTH ART CAMP

FOR KIDS AGES 7-12!

CAMP REGISTRATION FEE: \$75

(per week, includes all supplies)

at the Prattville Creative Arts Center

JUNE 12-16 & JULY 10-14

Camp is Monday-Friday. Reception will be held on Saturday.
334.595.0854 | www.prattvilleal.gov

Creekwalk CONCERTS

Free Summer Concerts!
2nd and 4th Tuesdays of June and July at 7 PM



June 13 | OTI

June 27 | Barna Breeze



July 11 | John Bull Band

July 25 | Blackbird Pickers

Located on the Creekwalk behind City Hall.
Bring a Blanket or Chair and Enjoy the Music!
334-595-0854 * www.prattvilleal.gov

Prattville's Way Off Broadway Theatre will hold two theatre camps. Junior Theatre Camp for youth in grades K-6 will be held June 5-9, with performances on June 10. Senior Theatre Camp for youth in grades 7-12 will be held June 19-23, with performances on June 24. These camps will explore all parts of the theatre, both on and off stage, including acting, set design and costume design, as well as building self-confidence and working as a team. These camps will be directed by Zyna Captain, past president of Way Off Broadway Theatre, who has experience not only in acting, but within all parts of theatre production.

Home Town Community News

July Birthdays



- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Alan Moore
Butch (Mary) Moseley
Linda Foxworth | 14 Annie Burchard
Miriam Head (87th)
Lansdon O'Mailia |
| 2 Ralph Davis
Lexie Turnipseed
George Pugh
Voncille Talley | 15 Joan Collier
Farley Pugh
Summer Rice
Paige Stringer |
| 4 Audrey Grant
Peggy Hubbard
David Johnson
Lynn McKinley
Cindy Smith | 16 Charlie Lamar
Sherry Tucker |
| 5 Ann Emory Harris
Kathy Ingram
Joyce Todd | 18 Linda Carleton
Ann Marie Dean
Laurie Smilie Sanders (90th)
Sharon K. Walker |
| 6 Pres. George Bush (71st)
Vicki Davis
Skip Mainor
Glenn Stringer
Amber Wooten | 19 Geneva Henderson
Mary Lamar
Emma Ruthe Walker |
| 7 Knox Crowe
Carolyn Grant
Willie B. Jackson
Taylor Mills
Brian Moseley
Greg Mosley
Cindy Young
Betty Vann | 20 Frances Bush (91st)
Tony Mitchell |
| 8 Mickie Ann Boyd
Helen Dibole
Fred Setzer | 22 Freddie Strength (68th)
Vangie Walmsley |
| 9 Joe Douglas
Katherine Kirk
Kathryn Ann Sikes (4th)
Doris Wallace (88th)
Irene Woodham | 23 Alana Jones Breedlove
Helen Broadway
Zachery Dibole
Matthew Grant
Rusty Moseley
Jim Scott |
| 10 Nelda Harrod
Jeffery Horton
Pam Stewart
Al Webb | 24 Barbara Garrett |
| 11 Abby Boyd
Luke Frady
Ann Green Tucker
James Tucker
Trenton Windham | 25 Sara Boyd (89th)
Ashley Corbin
Rod Nowakowski
Becky Windham
Brantley Woodall
Ty Woodall |
| 12 Cary Dean
Bonnie Williams | 26 Jason Adams
Judy Mann
Stacy Dickinson |
| 13 Jeremy Dickinson | 27 Jimmy Norman (59th) |
| | 28 Arnold Fuller
Melanie Higgins |
| | 29 Hilda Glover |
| | 30 Shawn O'Mailia
Emory Tucker
Ronnie Wallace |
| | 31 Brenda Davis
Meloney Gwin
Caroline Vocino
Marie Hudson
Stephanie Randall |

Birth Announcement for Baby Hank



Henry Frank Mainor, IV

(aka Hank)
Born on 6/16/17 at 3:20am
Weighed 7.45lbs and
20.5 inches

Parents:
Trey and Christine Mainor.
Grandparents:
Skip and Connie Mainor, Greg
and Mary Jane Waller and
Merritt and Lori Ashmore.
Great Grandmother:
Barbara Mainor.

Local Artist does A Portrait of President Donald J. Trump

TRUMP DELIGHTED OVER HIS PORTRAIT

"I am pleased to accept this remarkable piece of artwork."

In January 2017 Alabama portrait painter Craig Carlson sent his portrait of the new president, Donald Trump to Washington DC. About one month later Carlson received a phone call from The White House staff acknowledging his gift and remarked that either President or Mrs. Trump had seen it and wanted to hang it in the White House or one of their residences.

Last week Carlson received a personal letter from the President thanking him for his "extraordinary gift".

CARLSON COMMENTS

"I was so excited about Donald Trump winning the election that I, as an artist couldn't wait to paint his portrait! I painted it from photos and sent it to Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who was still my Senator (of Alabama) at the time. He forwarded the portrait to President Trump for me."

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Craig Carlson has painted over 700 commissioned portraits in his 30+ year career. His portraits include many professional and non-professional subjects of all ages. Many of his works can be seen in hospitals, boardrooms and courthouses across the USA.



Happy Anniversary

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 2 Bob & Liz Morris | 16 Laird & Sarah Bone |
| 3 Everett & Alice Cole (45th) | 19 Don & Nancy Rabren |
| Dennis & Karen Weber | 20 Spears & Carrie Rhodes |
| 7 April & Hugh Smith, III (9th) | 21 Justin & Bethany Mims
Shannon & Cindy K. Miles |
| 8 Bill & Charlotte Gaston | 25 Linda & Wayne Roy |
| 9 Carl & Miriam Head (67th) | 26 Blake & Amanda Wise |
| 10 Fred & Jeanette Waldo (57th) | 28 Archie & Charlotte Mote (61st) |
| 12 Dorothy & Glenn Fuller (59th) | 31 Zachery & Jennifer Gibbs |
| 13 Don & Beverly Dawkins | |

If you see a birthday person or anniversary that needs to come off this list, please contact us at 334-356-6700 or email us at alabamagazette@gmail.com

Sympathy to the families of...

- Moseley, Charlotte McInnis (77)died May 26, 2017
Marsh, Abby Caroline (23)died May 29, 2017
Vinson, Stacie Tomlin (93)died June 7, 2017
Roton, Betty Jean Beck (85)died June 9, 2017
Cammack, Dr. Paul Louis (64)died June 11, 2017
Yarbrough, Mr. Johnnie (80)died June 12, 2017
Farrior, Myra (101)died June 13, 2017
Moody, Billy (68)died June 14, 2017
Guthrie, Annie Jo Chambers (90)died June 22, 2017

Woodland United Methodist Church's Annual Back to School Blast Saturday, July 29, 2017 8-11

4428 Wallahatchie Road
Pike Road, Alabama

Bookbags for K5-8th grade
Supplies for 9th-12th grade

Health screenings, games,
free bags/supplies, etc...

For more information, contact Woodland United Methodist Church 272-7230

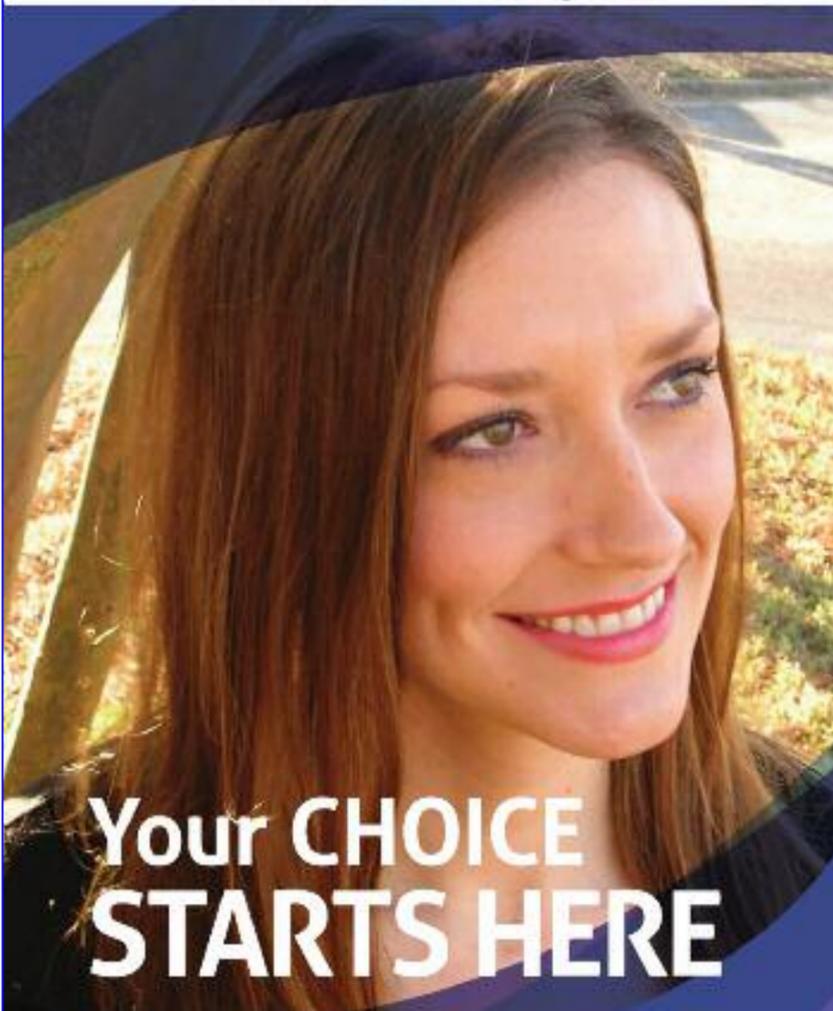
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www.trisstonwrightburrows.com

"Free Indeed!"

Happy 4th of July! Also known as Independence Day or July 4th, it has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941. However, the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the 18th century and the American Revolution. On July 2nd 1776, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence and two days later delegates from the 13 colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence, a historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson. From 1776 to the present day, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence, with festivities ranging from fireworks, parades, and concerts to more casual family gatherings and barbecues.

"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." John 8:36

Can you imagine the glorious joy and peace the soldiers of the American Revolution must have felt. After all, they were far from their homes and loved ones, suffered extreme cold and sicknesses, and fought for our freedom. You know when they finally realized they had been granted freedom shouts of joy, dancing, singing, laughing, talking, praying, and crying must have erupted.



Just like when you give everything to Jesus and choose to follow Him. When you take up your cross daily and die to yourself in order to live for Jesus, He breaks the chains that held you. Then, you will experience the true freedom only found in Jesus.

Sometimes we can come to Jesus for our salvation but still hold on to areas in our lives that we are not willing to let go of. Those areas are not worth holding on to! Whether it be bitterness, jealousy, control, lust, lying, cheating, or whatever, let go of it.

God's heart is a heart of love. He so much wants to see those chains broken from you. Don't be a prisoner to the lie, but be set free by the truth! *"And you will know the truth and the truth will set you free."* John 3:32

Many Blessings!

2017 Meeting Schedule



*Breast Cancer Support
Group Meetings*

Tuesday, July 11th

Evidently, God Had Another Plan For Me

Presented by Donna McCord, Breast Cancer Survivor

Tuesday, August 8th

#Godiswritingmystery

Presented by Katie Griffies, Breast Cancer Survivor

Tuesday, September 12th

**Think Outside the Bra...How Other Cancers
Can Affect Your Breast Cancer**

*Presented by Toni Stough, Oncology Product Specialist
Myriad Genetic Laboratories, Inc.*

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The Financial Corner

By *Buddy Hicks*

Wealth Management Group, LLC
334-440-6379
bhicks@wmgadvisers.net

YOU NEVER KNOW!

It's easy to put things off. There are so many things that we have to deal with on a daily basis that when it comes to some things that we know we need to do, we just put it off until tomorrow. The next day rolls around and we either forget that we were going to do it or we find yet another reason to put it off. That is not always a bad thing, but when it comes to important matters in our lives and the lives of our family members, then it could be devastating. One of those important matters is protecting your family in the event of the loss of you or your spouse. Have you ever thought about how you or your spouse would replace that lost income? If not, it could have a devastating effect on the loved ones left behind. Aside from covering the cost of funeral expenses, if you have been depending on income from both spouses to pay the mortgage, auto loans, college expenses for the children and other living expenses, you or your spouse could be left in a bad position. The house might have to be sold, a second job might have to be acquired, the 401k might have to be liquidated or the college fund might have to go unfunded. Of course there are ways to help protect against these negative pitfalls. You know all you have to do is take a little time to sit down with a licensed agent that can help you determine how much life insurance is needed to help protect against these negative circumstances, but you think, "I have plenty of time to do that later."

Maybe you do. But are you willing to take that risk? The thing about life is that nothing is guaranteed. You never know when your time will come. You never know when something can happen to you or your spouse. You never know when you or your loved ones could be left with not only the loss of a loved one, but the overwhelming feeling of regret for putting off to tomorrow what should be done today. And it is not just death, but anything could happen at anytime that could make you uninsurable. Then, even if you wanted to get the proper coverage, you would not be able to.

So, because you never know what life has in store for you, don't put it off another day. The younger and healthier you are, the lower your premiums can be. Even if you are not sure if you would be approved for the insurance you need, talk to a professional that can help you find out what kind of coverage you could be eligible for. You'll sleep easier knowing that you have protected your family and in the event something happens to you, your loved ones will know that you are still taking care of them.

Buddy Hicks is a Financial Advisor with Wealth Management Group LLC an affiliate firm of Securian Financial Services and has over 18 years of experience in the financial services business. He is Life and Health Insurance licensed and FINRA registered with his Series 7 and Series 66 which allows him to be an Investment Advisor and Registered Representative of and offer securities and investment advisory services through Securian Financial Services Inc, member FINRA / SIPC. He is an Alumnus of Troy University with a Bachelor's Degree in Business/Finance. He takes a process approach with all of his clients to help determine their goals and then works with them to put a strategy in place to help reach those goals. An area of importance of Buddy's is his ability to intuitively listen to his clients so that he can fully understand their current situation and what their future needs are.



Commissioners Corner, PSC

Commissioner Chris "Chip" Beeker, Jr.

A Better Deal

Anytime an individual or a group of people set out to accomplish an agreement that is meant to have a favorable outcome for all participants, you better be good at negotiating or you just might come out with a raw deal or even a bad deal. This is what happened to our Nation in the **Paris Climate Accord**. Fortunately, we now have leadership in place that has seen just what kind of deal the former administration made on our behalf which would be described by all standards, a very bad deal. In fact, it would seem that we were the main financial contributor to this agreement with very little benefit in return. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator, Scott Pruitt, appeared on "Fox & Friends" April 13th and said, "Paris is something we really need to look at closely, because it's something we need to exit, in my opinion." Why? "It's a bad deal for America. China and India had no obligations under the agreement until 2030; we front-loaded all of our costs, at the expense of jobs."

If Trump would not have pulled away from the Paris Climate Accord here is how it would have directly impacted our Nation. Acceptance with the terms of the Paris Accord and the owners energy restrictions it has placed on the United States could cost America as much as 2.7 million lost jobs by 2025, according the National Economic Research Association. According to the same study, by 2040 compliance with the commitments put into place by the previous administration would cut production for the following sectors: paper down by 12 percent, cement down by 23 percent, iron and steel down by 38 percent, coal down by 86 percent, natural gas down by 31 percent, and energy costs up by 20 percent. Not only did this deal subject the citizens of the United States to harsh economic restriction, it fails to live up to the environment ideas we have in place as a nation. Under the agreement, China would have been allowed to build hundreds of additional coal plants, and India would have been allowed to double its coal production by 2020, while we were supposed to get rid of ours. In the agreement, it does not eliminate coal jobs; it just transfers all of the jobs outside of the United States. The agreement is less about the climate and more about other countries gaining financial advantage over our nation.

In Trump's book "The Art of the Deal" he quoted this on fighting back. "When people treat me badly or unfairly or try to take advantage of me, my general attitude, all my life, has been to fight back very hard. The risk is you'll make a bad situation worse, and I certainly don't recommend this approach to everyone. But my experience is that if you're fighting for something you believe in, even if it means alienating some people along the way, things usually work out for the best in the end." President Trump is holding himself accountable to his word he delivered it. The Paris Climate Accord withdrawal landed itself as a landmark in the news but Trump is holding true to his promise and made a better deal.

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