



# The Alabama Gazette

ALABAMA'S  
FREE Press



TAKE ONE!

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Montgomery, Autauga, Elmore, Crenshaw, Tallapoosa, Pike and Surrounding Counties

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1 Chronicles 16:9

*Sing to Him, sing praises to Him;  
Speak of all  
His wonders.*

happy THANKSGIVING

GIVE THANKS TO ALL WHO NOW  
SERVE AND HAVE SERVED!  
NOVEMBER 11, 2015

See the story of  
the history of  
Veterans Day  
on page 10A

**A Season for Giving!**  
**\$1,000**

The Alabama Gazette will again present \$100 cash to ten deserving people in the Tri-County area.

Send in your nomination letter stating why you think your friend or family deserves \$100 cash for Christmas.

Please include address and phone numbers of your nominee.

Email the Gazette at [alabamagazette@gmail.com](mailto:alabamagazette@gmail.com)  
or send your letter to  
**The Alabama Gazette**  
**12 E. Jefferson Street**  
**Montgomery, AL 36104**

All nominations must be received by December 14th.  
Winners will be notified by December 17th.

**Excerpts from 2014 nominees...**

"I am writing about a lady, one of God's angles. She is a very caring person. Nineteen years ago my grandson was born. His mother went to prison and his father died. Mrs. \_\_\_ took him in as her own and raised him and he graduated. God was always there. He was in an accident, she continues to care for him. She really is a mother by God's blessing and my grandson is so lucky. Thank God for Mrs. \_\_\_."

Ft. Deposit, AL.

"I think \_\_\_ should be one of the \$100 winners because he is handicapped and disabled and disabled born like that and is having trouble paying his bills and supporting himself"

Montgomery, AL.

"A Servant's Heart" "I want you to know of my mother, \_\_\_, 70 years old and has a heart to serve people. My mother has served God, family, friends, and community selflessly and with no regard to her own well being. She single-handedly took in a homeless man show as found laying on her porch years ago and continues to help him. She bakes for numerous events in the community... My mother has never sought accolades, but continues to trust in the Lord for her blessings, unselfish loving kindness, compassion, etc. is my mother."

Pike Road, AL.

"I would like to nominates my daughter..She is a very amazing woman. She volunteers for anything at Wetumpka Elementary School. ... She collected over 1,000 can goods for the Elmore County Food Bank. I have a lot of medical issues, she has been my shoulder to lean on, my tears to fall on, and my heart to carry me thru each day. She is also an amazing mother."

Wetumpka, AL.

"\_\_\_ goes out, over and under and beyond the call of duty to help anyone in need. She got sick...did not let her go back to work... off her job of almost 31 years... she was put on disability. She continued to help people... a beautiful person inside and out... She continued to help others. She is a very lovable person and is liked and loved by everyone."

Goshen, AL.

"I would like to nominate a special friend...she is a 32 years old single mother to twelve year old twins. She has a true and pure heart for serving the Lord. She at times struggles to keep food on the table for growing twins after paying all the bills. ....when I am feeling low she is there to lend a ear, a shoulder to weep on and give encouraging words. I have and will be in prayer that she is one of the nominees for this precious gift."

Montgomery, AL.

"I would like to nominate \_\_\_. She is raising two little girls (not hers) after own children are grown. She does a wonderful job for the children (with no assistance), but also aids friends and neighbors who are home bound. She is 64 years old and has serious health issue, but never fails to help others if at all possible. Thanks you for considering this sweet soul."

Ramer, AL.

"We wish to nominate \_\_\_. She deserves this for her unselfish work in giving to others in South Montgomery County. ..she provides services for her neighbors when they ave family crisis...takes home cooked meals, delicious cakes and reading materials to their homes. She is such a sweet, positive personality...this personality is probably her greatest service."

Pine Level, AL.

**Other excerpts from previous letters...**

"young child very sick-spent all money for doctors and hospitals."

"rough family life..."bad lungs" homeless.."

"she lives by herself, has had cancer...can hardly meet her bills, lost her husband about a month ago, had surgery on her eyes...it would be appreciated,,"

"This family could use some help for the holidays. only a parttime job...have a 2 yr. old... could use it for Christmas. ..."we are living off of one income...my husband receives disability... I'm sick, but I still want to work... don't think we will be having a Christmas this year...would appreciate if someone could help us."

Please see November listings for

**277-9100**  
**MONTGOMERY METRO Realty**  
www.montgomerymetro.com

On Page 12B

**Adams Drugs - Chantilly Corners**

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



**ROBY WEEKLY COLUMN:** October 30, 2015

## Turning Point in Congress



**This week marked a significant turning point in Congress as Paul Ryan was elected to be the new Speaker of the House.** Of course, outside of his service in Congress, Paul Ryan is best known as Mitt Romney's running mate in the 2012 presidential election. He has spent this year as Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee and was previously Chairman of the Budget Committee, both important positions with considerable influence on fiscal policy. He has been a leading voice for supply-side, conservative economics for years, and his "Path to Prosperity" budgets, though never passed by the Senate, were the blueprint of Republicans' vision for conservative governing.

When former **Speaker John Boehner** (R-OH) announced he would retire at the end of September, it was unclear who would ultimately emerge to lead the House of Representatives. I'm a conservative, so I wanted a bold leader who could unite Republicans and advance a conservative agenda. Paul Ryan is uniquely qualified for such a task, and when he stepped forward for consideration, I was proud to support him.

I sincerely hope Speaker Ryan will be able to lay out a path to success despite a tough political environment. The Senate is still badly gridlocked, and even when we do get a conservative bill through, President Obama

stands ready with his veto pen. Those realities don't change, but I believe a united majority working together in the House puts us in a much stronger position to advance good bills and stop bad ones.

New leadership is a good thing sometimes. I was encouraged to hear Speaker Ryan say the House would return to "regular order," meaning legislation is put forth from Members and Committees instead of being pushed from the very top. As he said upon taking the oath of office, "Only a fully functioning House can truly represent the people."

However, this change in leadership doesn't mean everyone is going to suddenly start agreeing on every issue, every time. There are 435 Members of Congress from all over the country and our views are bound to vary. What's important is to have a Speaker of the House who will listen to each Member, consider our concerns and priorities, and keep the commitments he makes to us and the American people.

No matter who is Speaker, my job is to look out for the interests of those I represent and to fight on their behalf in Washington. Your priorities remain my priorities, and I'm proud to represent you in Congress.

There's a lot of work to do. As we turn the page and begin a new chapter in Congress, I look forward to working with Speaker Ryan and my other colleagues to move America ahead by advancing responsible, conservative, common sense ideas.

**ROBY WEEKLY COLUMN:** October 23, 2015

## A Revealing Email; An Evasive Explanation

**As you know, on Thursday former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton** appeared before the Select Committee on Benghazi to answer questions about what happened before, during and after the September 11, 2012 attack on a diplomatic facility in Benghazi, Libya. It was a long hearing with hours of back-and-forth testimony and I wanted to share a few quick takeaways from one of my own exchanges with Mrs. Clinton.

In my first question, I asked Clinton about an email between State Department employees regarding Clinton's awareness of the American presence and security situation in Benghazi, Libya months before attack.

In an email dated February 9, 2012, Alyce N. Abdalla said the following to State Department colleague Evyenia Sideras:

*"Also, the Secretary asked last week if we still have a presence in Benghazi – I think she would be upset to hear that yes we do but because we don't have enough security they are on lockdown."*

I asked Clinton how this email squared with her claims to have been closely involved in the Libya strategy.

"How could this be," I asked, "that two of your staffers are emailing about whether or not you even knew that we had a presence in Benghazi in 2012 with all your interest in Libya in 2011?"

Clinton said she "couldn't comment on what has been reported," about the emails and insisted "of course I knew we had a presence in Benghazi."

I then asked Clinton why dedicated State Department employees would fabricate a substantive conversation with the Secretary of State about a country she had made such a priority. In the long explanation that followed, Clinton again insisted she was aware of the situation in Benghazi and implied that Ms. Abdalla was a low-level employee disconnected from her inner circle. Actually, Abdalla was the Libya Desk Officer, making her directly responsible for awareness of the situation in Libya.

When Clinton told me she had "no recollection" of the conversation, I twice asked her to look at the email in the binder in front of her to refresh her memory. Twice, Secretary Clinton refused to look at the binder.

This was only my first of multiple exchanges with Secretary Clinton, but it is emblematic of the evasive nature of some of her answers. As Secretary of State at the time of the attacks on our diplomatic facility in Benghazi, Clinton should have been more straightforward in answering questions, particularly when they relate to her awareness of the political and security situation leading up to the attack.

Mrs. Clinton is an important witness in our investigation about the Benghazi attacks, but certainly not the only one. More witnesses remain and our Committee will press forward in gathering the facts needed to form a conclusive report.



Marcia Chambliss



## CONSEQUENCES OF PARTICIPATION TROPHY AMERICA

*"Life's not fair - you have to learn to deal with it."*

I can still hear my father's wise words from my youth, typically shared because of some school-related disappointment that I'm not sure I now even remember. Perhaps it was the failure to make the tennis team, cheerleader selection or any number of rejections that many children encounter daily because someone is either more talented or better qualified to receive the accolades. Compassion was expressed as well as encouragement to either work harder and smarter to attain that particular goal or suggestions made to continue exploring other talents God had bestowed on me.

What my dad did NOT offer was a participation trophy that fooled me into thinking that I earned something I had not. There's a lot of value in the lessons of failure, but today's culture wants to shelter our children from those lessons – insulate them from life's disappointments – and too many times reward them for simply "showing up."

An online article currently circulating in social media describes the growing numbers of college students who are woefully ill-prepared to face the mental demands of college. Titled "**Coddled Kids Crumble**," it provides an alarming snapshot of these young adults and cites a college professor who notes "emotional fragility has become a serious problem when it comes to grading." Faculty members are also concerned about the "emotional crises" as a result of subpar performance with some acknowledging fear of dealing with a student's meltdown due to the grading system.

As I read the article, I had to wonder if the vast majority of these young adults have bedrooms at home filled with participation trophies they may not have actually earned and if the reality that life isn't always fair is hitting them for the first time in their short lives. According to the article, college professors are seeing a decline in the resiliency of students and far too many lack the basic coping skills to deal with the stress of everyday life away from home. If children don't learn these important lessons that life IS tough – and unfair – in their youth, how can we expect them to handle failure and disappointment as adults?

**Our Participation Trophy America isn't doing our children any favors, and we're also undermining the value of success in the process.**

By creating an environment and culture where everyone gets a trophy to protect fragile egos and leveling the playing field to be "fair," are we really surprised that so many young Americans are now enthralled with presidential

candidates advocating that the government owes them any number of goodies to include free college tuition?

Why do we as parents feel the need to protect our children from recognizing that we will always encounter someone smarter, more athletic, more artistic, or with some superior skill set than we possess? Understanding that reality will actually make our children stronger and tougher, necessary traits to compete in an unfair world.

My dad's childhood was far from fair; the only child of uneducated, dirt-poor Alabama tenant farmers, he learned early that he would have to earn his spot in this world. Like so many Americans of his time and since, military service was his only means to an education. My dad died fairly young

– at the age of 61 – long before watching three of his grandchildren grow up and marry, and before even knowing another one, reminding me yet again that "life's not fair." To my knowledge, he was never given a trophy during his childhood, participation or otherwise, but the life lessons he passed on to his own children exceed any trophy manufactured by human hands. Let our disappointments and failures teach us resiliency – but do not let them control us.

Source: Reilly, Deirdre. "**Coddled Kids Crumble**." <http://www.lifezette.com/momzette/coddled-kids-crumble/>

Marcia Chambliss serves on the leadership team of Smart Girl Politics, [www.smartgirlpolitics.com](http://www.smartgirlpolitics.com), an online community for conservative women. She can be reached at: [Marcia@sgpaction.com](mailto:Marcia@sgpaction.com). Her views do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Smart Girl Politics.

**GIVING YOUR CHILD A TROPHY FOR NOT WINNING PRETTY MUCH GUARANTEES HE WILL BE LIVING IN YOUR BASEMENT PLAYING VIDEO GAMES UNTIL HE'S 40.**



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

# The Education Station...

By Bobbie Ames

## “THE LORD HATH DONE GREAT THINGS FOR US; WHEREOF WE ARE GLAD.” Psalms 126:3

### Individual religious liberty in practice...

The tragic lessons of History will be repeated if History is removed from a nation's memory, as it has been for several generations. America's Christian History was replaced by Social Studies in public schools nearly a century ago. How many adults know what sacrifice and triumph brought about our uniquely American Holiday tradition of Thanksgiving?

Through brief bits of the story here, let's look at this American legacy, our own American heritage, and embrace it for a true Thanksgiving celebration this year. Go back with me to the Pilgrim Fathers of 1620, who embarked on the adventure of colony planting, with no experience, and no skills for the task, only seeking freedom of worship and self-government.

Picture the wild land and the wild sea, the bitter cold winter of 1620, and the illnesses which cost them half of their lives the first year. **The contract with the mercenary shareholders who funded the “adventure”, required them to practice Communism in labor and supply, denying them private property rights and other incentives.**

If communism would ever work, it would have worked for this colony, where people were deeply religious and loved one another, as well as having a work ethic.

Governor William Bradford took over the leadership of the colony upon the death of Governor Carver in the first year. Bradford ruled almost continually for thirty seven years, until his death. His literary gift has left us a detailed and documented history that is a treasure for every lover of History, and every seeker of Truth. **The lesson of the Pilgrims rejecting Communism can be valuable today and help us to come against another similar “Pernicious System,” as they called it. That system is strong in our post modern world today.**

After abiding by the terms of their contract for two years, seeing that communism had brought the colony to the verge of ruin, Governor Bradford “had the courage to cut the knot he could not untie.” He divided the land among the families, and placed every single person in a family unit. Attitudes changed. Now, mothers with children would go willingly in the fields to help their husbands. Wives were pleased to wash the clothing of their family rather than collectively. Working their own field, laboring together as a family brought peace and incentive, and Bradford wrote: “any general want or suffering hath not been among us since to this day.” Every adult shared in the responsibility to pay the just debts, through private ownership and free enterprise, which brought into being a successful and profitable fur trade. Commerce, industry and brotherly love combined for success.

Yes, abolishing communism may have been a violation of the contract, but Governor Bradford saw that the system was pernicious (destructive) and the colony had a life and death struggle for survival. He made a defining decision and Free Enterprise was instituted.

**Why do we remember this little colony, with never more than a few thousand people? God's Providence shown in their story is dramatic. In their own words, they prayed to be “stepping stones for others” to migrate, and indeed they were. They were the forerunners of the great Puritan migration of the 1630s.**

When the Mayflower ship returned to England, not one Pilgrim was aboard. **That little band of believers had introduced a new powerful force on this continent – that of individual religious liberty in practice.** Unable to reform the Church of England, now they could walk with God, raise their families in a church congregation guided by God's Word alone, not by the King and not by the Civil Magistrate.

*“The glories of Christianity are to be traced in the sufferings of confessors and martyrs of the 16th and 17th Centuries; and it was under the influence of Christian principles, imbibed at this very period, that the Mayflower brought over the band of Pilgrims to Plymouth....We should never forget that the prison, the scaffold, and the stake were stages in the march of civil and religious liberty which our forefathers had to travel, in order that we might obtain our present liberty.....”*

*“Before our children remove their religious connections.....before they leave the old paths of God's Word.....before they barter their birthright for a mess of pottage...let us place in their hands the chronicle of the glorious days of the suffering Churches, and let them know that they are the sons of the men 'of whom the world was not worthy' and 'whose sufferings for conscience sake' are here monumentally recorded.”*  
John Overton Choules, August 12, 1843.

*Preface to the 1844 reprint of Neal's “History of the Puritans,” 1731 The Christian History of the Constitution, FACE, 1966*

On that simple First Thanksgiving, one dynamic rises above all others. This small group of survivors labored to bring Glory to God for His Providence. They had survived hunger, disease, native attacks, unreasonable demands of their shareholders, the death of spouses, children, and best friends. Living in a wilderness they were utterly dependent and faithfully relying on

God to sustain them. They rejoiced in freedom of worship and in the civil liberty of Christian self-government. They had been successful in establishing a covenant relationship with their Indian neighbors, who were present at the First Thanksgiving. **Can you not see the Hand of God using those first seeds, which brought forth for us: Individual Liberty of Conscience, Christian self-government, and ultimately a Christian Constitutional Republic. May it be restored today.**



A Day of Thanksgiving has been a continuing tradition in our nation. The Journals of the Continental Congress record a Proclamation by the United States Congress assembled on Saturday, October 18, 1783. These words are a portion of that proclamation:

*“Whereas it has pleased the Supreme Ruler of all human events, to dispose the hearts of the later belligerent powers to put a period to the effusion of human blood, by proclaiming a cessation of all hostilities by sea and land, and these United States are not only happily rescued from the dangers and calamities to which they have been so long exposed, but their freedom, sovereignty and independence ultimately acknowledged.....The interposition of Divine Providence in our favor has been most abundantly and most graciously manifested, and the citizens of these United States have every reason for praise and gratitude to the God of their Salvation. Impressed therefore, with an exalted sense of the blessings by which we are surrounded, and of our entire dependence on that Almighty Being, from whose goodness and bounty they are derived, the United States in Congress assembled, to set apart the second Thursday in December next, as a day of public Thanksgiving, that all the people may then assemble to celebrate with grateful hearts and united voices, the praises of their Supreme and all bountiful Benefactor, for His numberless favors and mercies.”*

The Proclamation further leads in offering prayers for forgiveness, for wisdom to be granted, for prosperity for every good work, for peace for the nations, for blessings in the labors of the people, for commerce and navigation, for education and for the seminaries and all means of education, for true religion to flourish, and that the world be filled with His Glory. October 18th, 1783.

John Hancock, Governor of Massachusetts, called for a Day of Thanksgiving established in a proclamation dated November 8, 1783. In his proclamation, he praises the Lord for the “Unanimity and Resolution to adhere to our just Rights....” He refers to God as “our powerful Ally to assist us in supporting” those Just Rights. He pleads to continue "in the light of the Blessed Gospel, and secure for us, to the fullest Extent, the Rights of Conscience in Faith and Worship." And so much more is in his proclamation. We see pure Biblical Christianity strong here, and in the virtue of the character of these founders.

This Thanksgiving season, as a family and as a blessed nation, let us have a true celebration of praise and thankfulness to The Lord Who has done so great things for us.

Let me urge readers to go to the website (FACE.Net) of the Foundation for American Christian Education, Chesapeake, Va. and learn of their publications on America's Christian History. Also, they publish the **Webster's 1828 Dictionary** of the English Language, **which is the language of liberty.**

*The Source for these Proclamations: The Bible and The Constitution, published by FACE.*

*More information is available through the writer of this column, Mrs. Bobbie Ames, [bobbiehames@gmail.com](mailto:bobbiehames@gmail.com)*

### The Mayflower Compact (1620)

In the name of God, Amen. We, whose names are underwritten, the loyal subjects of our dread Sovereign Lord, King James, by the grace of God, of Great Britaine, France and Ireland king, defender of the faith, etc. having undertaken, for the glory of God, and advancement of the Christian faith, and honour of our king and country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the Northerne parts of Virginia, doe by these presents solemnly and mutually in the presence of God and one of another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civill body politick, for our better ordering and preservation, and furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and by virtue hereof to enacte, constitute, and frame such just and equall laws, ordinances, acts, constitutions and offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meete and convenient for the generall good of the Colonie unto which we promise all due submission and obedience. In witness whereof we have hereunder subscribed our names at Cape-Codd the 11. of November, in the year of the raigne of our sovereigne lord, King James, of England, France and Ireland, the eighteenth, and of Scotland the fiftie-fourth. Anno Dom. 1620.



The signing of the Mayflower Compact

John Carver  
Edward Tilley  
Degory Priest  
William Bradford  
John Tilley  
Thomas Williams  
Edward Winslow

Francis Cooke  
Gilbert Winslow  
William Brewster  
Thomas Rogers  
Edmund Margeson  
Issac Allerton  
Thomas Tinker

Peter Browne  
Myles Standish  
John Rigdale  
Richard Britteridge  
John Alden  
Edward Fuller  
George Soule

Samuel Fuller  
John Turner  
Richard Clarke  
Christopher Martin  
Francis Eaton  
Richard Gardiner  
William Mullins

James Chilton  
John Allerton  
William White  
John Crackston  
Thomas English  
Richard Warren  
John Billington

Edward Dotey  
John Howland  
Moses Fletcher  
Edward Leister  
Stephen Hopkins  
John Goodman



# ROBSERVATIONS...

by Robert Tate

## GUNS, YET AGAIN!

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

Over two years ago I first penned this column and not surprisingly since then there have been an increasingly number of senseless gun attacks reported. Just this year we had the South Carolina church shooting, the television reporter and cameraman in Roanoke, Virginia and just the other day a shooting at the Fort Meyers, Florida Zombie convention. And as usual, out come the knuckleheads insisting on complete gun control and the dismantling of the Second Amendment. I figured now might be a good time to review a short history and background of our gun heritage. By the way, history is full of such calls for the dismantling of individual gun rights by the state. Just read what guys like Hitler, Mussolini and Mao Tse Tung had to say on the topic. <http://www.buckeye-firearms.org/anti-gun-quotes>.

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

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

The purpose of asking these questions is to get the historian to look at any historical event in the context in which it transpired. This is what I plan on doing, very quickly, in regards to gun rights and the reality that the founders did indeed view gun ownership, among other things, as a necessary precursor to keeping renegade governments in check. Yes, I said renegade governments. This is because at the heart of the gun rights issue was the foresight these men had not so much for people to own weapons to protect us from one another, although clearly established, more important was their more "strategic" vision of totalitarian governments crushing the rights of the individual.

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

When faced with ever increasing taxes imposed by Parliament against the colonies, the Boston Tea Party erupted on 16 December 1773. We had had enough. England responded in 1774 with the **Coercive Acts** that ended local self-government in Massachusetts and placed it under control of the British Army. This act also closed Boston's commerce. In September 1774, the First Continental Congress was formed just three months after the first Continental Army was established under George Washington. In April 1775 the Battles of Concord and Lexington took place and a little over a year later, the **Declaration**

**of Independence was introduced on 4 July 1776**. The war ended in 1783 after the signing of the Treaty of Paris giving the 13 Colonies sovereignty from British rule. Our constitution was adopted on 17 September 1787 by Constitutional Convention and the Bill of Rights – the first ten amendments – was ratified on 15 December 1791.

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

The founders had witnessed firsthand in Europe what corrupt governments could do to an unarmed people. The author of the Second Amendment, James Madison, actually went through over half-a-dozen iterations before arriving at what we see today. Madison's first version presented on 8 June 1789 actually stated, "**The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed; a well-armed and well-regulated militia being the best security of a free country but no person religiously scrupulous of bearing shall be compelled to bear arms.**" Ignoring a part dealing with conscientious objectors, Madison clearly wanted the right to bear arms to be separate while integral to the concept of militia. His next version presented on 21 July, switched the order placing the verbiage of a militia first. One version actually had the idea of the people's right to bear arms and militias as two separate amendments deserving separate votes. Finally, on 21 September 1789, after a long four-month process, we got our final version. It is clear the framers intended the right to bear arms not be limited to military operations contingent upon militia actions.

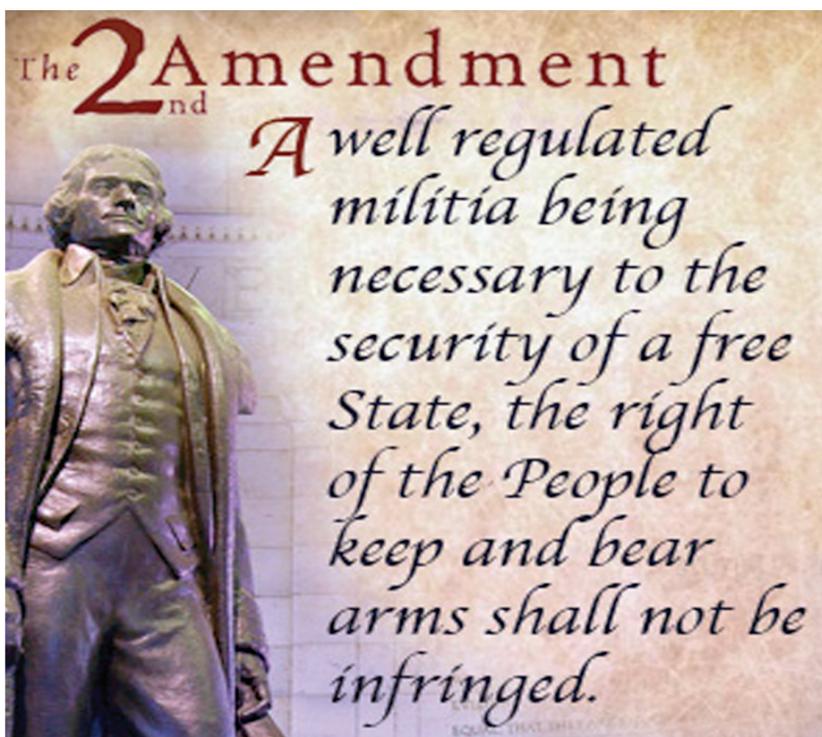
When I read comments by leftists who intentionally misinterpret the constitution for political reasons, I always go back to the men who either wrote the documents or those who lived in such contentious times. I care much more about their ideas than the ravings of the morally bankrupt intelligentsia.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

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

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

In reality most liberals must misrepresent facts in order to prove their fallacious points. It is clear, however, that the founders of this country, men admittedly a lot smarter than I, considered the consequences of "a" government being oppressive and corrupt. Heck, they just fought and won a war because of exactly that. Had the Continental Army not been supplemented in the early days by armed men, their victory cannot be certain. It took armed men, willing to fight a king's tyranny, to turn the tide and win the war.

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



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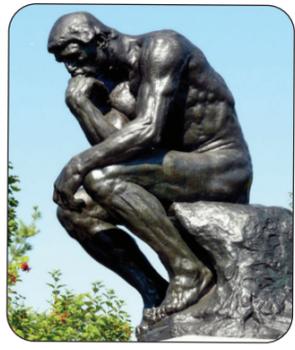
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# THINK



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

## ALL THE SPEAKER'S MEN AND THE COLLAPSE OF AU ATHLETICS

The Alabama Gazette welcomes anyone from the Auburn administration to respond or comment regarding this article.

For those not in total denial, it is difficult to avoid burning eyes from the proverbial smoke surrounding Auburn. Two revealing articles [11/11/14 and 8/27/15] in the *Wall Street Journal*, considered the most prestigious national newspaper in the world by some, reported a local contractor with connections to Auburn's athletics director Jay Jacobs was somehow able to buy large quantities of football tickets to high demand games - including the 2013 Iron Bowl. Many see this exacerbating the troublesome fact AU athletics ran a deficit of nearly \$1 million in 2013 despite the football team's success on the field. The *WSJ* published another article exposing top administrators (again including AD Jay Jacobs) directly interfering in faculty governance of academic curricula. Specifically, an external review, the department faculty, two university committees, and every relevant academic administrator supported the closure of a troubled academic program (Public Administration) which contained a 'cluster' of athletes - most noticeably many elite players on the football team. Top athletic administrators proactively and aggressively intervened, even offering to pay the salary of faculty in this specific major to keep the program open. These two *WSJ* articles have led to several follow-up articles in local papers, most recently the more detailed and alarming article in the *Montgomery Advertiser* [10/5/15] concerning the AU football ticket scandal.

Recent performance of the football team is also indicative of deep rooted trouble in athletics. The football team endured numerous painful losses at the end of last season due to an embarrassingly poor and record-setting lack of performance on defense. The immediate firing one of the "lowest men on the relevant totem pole" - in this case the defensive coordinator -- was an all too predictable 'Auburn-esque' outcome. **Never Fear Loyal Fans of Subsidized Sports:** the immediate expenditure of a large amount of money to bring in a new defensive coordinator would right the ship as the athletic administration shamelessly shilled to hype Auburn up to #6 in the AP rankings to kick-off the season. Effective enough to push Jeremy Johnson's name into pre-season Heisman trophy talk; this sort of shilling looks even more foolhardy in retrospect as the start of the new season gave way to a shocking collapse of offense along with the continued defensive woes which plagued AU last season.

interest over the General welfare of our citizens and taxpayers.

Days after the *Montgomery Advertiser* further exposed the football ticket scandal we observe a federal lawsuit against top university and athletics officials claiming retaliation against the original whistleblower, Matt Davis. President Jay Gogue (or 'Gouge' [sic] in the plaintiff's spelling for those who appreciate the ticket scandal irony), athletics director Jay Jacobs, and associate athletics directors Rich McGlynn and David Benedict are all individually named defendants in the lawsuit. Executive director of Auburn's internal auditing office, Kevin Robinson is also a named defendant. In short, Matt Davis was director of the priority seating program for Tigers Unlimited and claims **thousands** of tickets within the Tigers Unlimited donors' area had been held back from purchase by donors; these tickets were instead being sold **without** the benefit of a donation to Tigers Unlimited. Notwithstanding initial denials of Davis' claims by the University, the *Advertiser* reported, "**a senior member of the athletic department, who agreed to speak only if their name was not used, said Auburn has intentionally prevented thousands of tickets in donor sections from being sold to Tigers Unlimited donors essentially in order to circumvent the university's loyalty pledge.**"

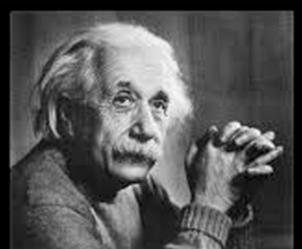
Surely top university and athletics officials wouldn't retaliate against employees who speak out against corruption, incompetence, and dishonesty in their efforts to remove corrupting pollutants from the university system and avoid even greater harm? After all, Auburn is a "family" - we're "all in" -- Right? "Sadly, the productive folks who work at AU know it to be a "family" in the same sense the Corleones were a family in *The Godfather*" - esp. if you're outside the circle of corruption. The 'lesser' family members are expected to facilitate the largess of elite members of the family or they'll certainly be dealt with very harshly. So yet again, AU appears to have engaged in its usual tactics against Davis: intimidation, phony investigations or evaluations and ultimately termination. Little surprise the lawsuit states Rich McGlynn was the athletics official present when Mr. Davis was given his termination letter; the same Rich McGlynn apparently used by AD Jay Jacobs to get results for Mike Hubbard with the NCAA.

Another 'sure-fire' way to discern these are troubled times for athletics administration at AU is to 'follow the money' as economists are known to undertake. Raises typically go into effect at the start of a new budget year on October 1st. One can get a quick measure of raises by comparing September to October salary files published on the AU budget website. This year, the largest dollar raise at AU appears to have been given to Mr. Jacobs in the amount of \$51,900. According to the historical salary files, this amount is greater than the sum of all his raises for the previous three years **COMBINED**. The last time I observed a \$52k published raise was for an allegedly infamous AU administrator in the College of Business - oddly enough the Speaker's neighbor. Similarly, the highest ranking administrator with authority over athletics (President Jay Gogue) also did *very* well for himself this year, landing a massive \$40,100 salary increase. Again, oddly enough, **EVERY** named defendant in the Matt Davis lawsuit did very well this year. Jay Gogue, Jay Jacobs, and Rich McGlynn all show an 8% pay increase, the maximum merit raise one could receive without special justification. David Benedict's salary increased 7% and the executive director of internal auditing, Kevin Robinson, shows a salary increase of over 21%!

If history is any guide, the quickest way to riches at Auburn University is to get yourself in troubles related to athletics - the data shows it pays *very* well. The Board of Trustees only approved a 3% merit raise pool this year. Indeed, the executive associate athletics director Tim Jackson, who is **NOT** a named defendant in the Davis lawsuit, only shows a salary increase of 3%. Meanwhile, many faculty who in fact distinguish themselves in a variety of POSITIVE ways do not even receive 3%. A most glaring example is Professor Brian Bourdeau, recently featured on the front page of AU's website for his cutting-edge marketing research using advanced MRI technology. Moreover, Prof. Bourdeau was the very first faculty member President Gogue singled out for praise during his remarks at the General Faculty Meeting this Fall semester. Salary files show Bourdeau's raise at only \$2,330 or 2%. Director Jacob's raise was over **twenty** times larger in dollar terms and **four** times larger in percentage terms. Rather than working so hard to successfully bring positive attention to Auburn's research mission, just think how much better Prof. Bourdeau could have done for himself if only he had spent his time ruining Auburn Athletics instead. How I long for the days of football coaches who refused to be paid any more than the highest earning Professor on faculty - one may safely type we'll never see such honor, sagacity and self-restraint out of university administrators...

**Postscript:** many thanks to Professors Seals and Stern for data input on this column, the usual caveat applies that any error(s) in conveying and interpreting the data are my own. Please forgive any and all errors which apply - esp. my poor perspective on football performance better left to other *Alabama Gazette* writers much more informed on the matter.

\***George Petrie** (April 10, 1866 – September 6, 1947) was an American scholar and educator who played a crucial role in the development of Auburn University. From 1887 until his retirement in 1942, Petrie held various positions at Auburn, including professor of history and Latin, head of the History Department, and dean of the Graduate School. Petrie also organized and coached Auburn's first football team in 1892.



"The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything." - Albert Einstein

## THE AUBURN CREED

I believe that this is a practical world and that I can count **only on what I earn**.  
Therefore, I believe in work, hard work.

I believe in **education**, which gives me the knowledge to work wisely and trains my mind and my hands to work skillfully.

I believe in **honesty and truthfulness**, without which I cannot win the respect and confidence of my fellow men.

I believe in a sound mind, in a sound body and a spirit that is not afraid, and in **clean sports that develop these qualities**.

I believe in **obedience to law** because it protects the rights of all.

I believe in the human touch, which cultivates sympathy with my fellow men and mutual helpfulness and brings happiness for all.

I believe in my Country, because it is a land of freedom and because it is my own home, and that I can best serve that country by "**doing justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with my God.**"

And because Auburn men and women believe in these things, I believe in Auburn and love it.

"George Petrie (1945)\*

Auburn fans and taxpayers, already shelling out more of their hard-earned money to pay for the monstrosity of a new scoreboard, got to experience the full glory of the brand new screen to "more clearly" observe one of the most embarrassing performances in AU football history against Jacksonville State. Fans were now better equipped to experience in full-HD amplification every painful detail of the team's epic failure to perform. As AD Jacobs prophetically promised, it was the type of gameday experience Auburn fans **DESERVED** - the stunned silence of the crowd communicated just how appreciative they were of all Mr. Jacobs had done for them. The JSU debacle was followed by back-to-back humiliations from SEC rivals LSU and Mississippi State. The LSU game was over by halftime and the mighty AU offense failed to score a single touchdown **at home** against MSU. Less than a month into the season all talk of contending for the SEC title or a shot at the playoffs vanished from the "big picture." How did the top brass in the athletics department respond to this epic collapse of the football team? The day after the loss to Mississippi State, in classic Auburn family tradition, Director Jacobs fired the... **BASEBALL** coach.

Ticket scandals exposed by the media and the performance of the football team aren't the only 'smoke-signals' of crisis in Auburn. The past year has also provided disturbing legal developments related to AU Athletics. House Speaker Mike Hubbard (R - Auburn) has been doing everything possible to impede a speedy trial in Lee County for his 23 count felony indictment. Hubbard got his start in the AU Athletics Department. Many may recall the Buddy Mitchell affidavit explaining how Hubbard unethically acquired broadcast rights to AU sports by abusing the process. The tenth count of Hubbard's felony indictment reveal communications between Hubbard and top AU administrators in the athletics department. Documents filed as evidence in Judge Walker's Circuit Court by the prosecution show e-mail exchanges between Mike Hubbard, Jay Jacobs, and senior associate athletics director Rich McGlynn. Hubbard solicits the help of Jacobs to set up a meeting for one of his "consulting" clients (Edgenuity, Inc.) with a high ranking NCAA official since Hubbard has no such connections at the NCAA. Jacobs emails Hubbard and indicates McGlynn is working on it for him. McGlynn is Auburn's director for compliance and **both** Jacobs and McGlynn are considered State employees. Other e-mails show a pattern of the Speaker abusing his mantle of power to use State employees (including President Gogue) to promote wealth transfers to the Speaker or his specific

# Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers

Steve Flowers is Alabama's leading political columnist.  
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The views of this editorial may not express the views of The Alabama Gazette.



November 4, 2015:

The 2016 Presidential election has not only begun, it is well under way. It is now a lengthy process that spans the entire four-year presidential term. The race essentially begins the day a president is sworn into office. Aspirants begin jockeying for the brass ring of American politics the next day and the marathon begins. It becomes exponentially more intriguing when there is no incumbent in the fray as will be the case in 2016.

We have an Electoral College system that makes for a chess game of political maneuvering to capture the White House. On one hand, this appears complicated because the winner of the popular vote in all 50 states is not necessarily the winner. However, it has become much simpler in the past few decades. As a result of our Electoral College election system, only about 12 states really matter. Therefore, the election process boils down to campaigning in only about a dozen battleground states. The remaining 38 states are irrelevant because they are so predictably inclined to vote for one party regardless of who the candidates are for the presidency.

Alabama is one of those reliably safe states. We will vote for the Republican candidate no matter who the nominees are for either party, so we will be ignored in the general election. Donald Duck could be the Republican nominee and we would vote for Donald Duck, along with about 15 other southern and western conservative states. However, do not feel bad. New York and California will be ignored too because these liberal states are going to vote for the Democratic candidate, regardless.

Prior to the GOP convention, we will see a host of Republican presidential candidates vying for the GOP nomination, but not afterwards. Therefore, like most elections, strategist will look to the numbers. It is simple arithmetic which battleground or swing state a candidate can carry and how. More specifically, the experts say it is now even simpler than that – their primary focus is how to get Hispanic voters in those pivotal swing states to vote for their candidate?

Most pundits and prognosticators are saying that the GOP has a slippery

slope to climb when it comes to presidential politics because of the growing importance of Hispanic votes in America. Most Republicans are from conservative states and the GOP has taken a hardline approach to immigration. Alabama is a prime example. This hardline approach has not boded well with Hispanic voters.

In the past two presidential elections, hardline rhetoric against immigration reform decreased the Republican nominee's share of Hispanic voters from 40 percent for George W. Bush in 2004 to 27 percent for Mitt Romney last time.

Within a few days of Romney's 2012 defeat, GOP leaders agreed there had to be a plan to get more Hispanic voters into the fold. A few months later a Republican national committee panel issued a report concluding, "We must embrace and champion comprehensive immigration reform. If we do not, our party's appeal will continue to shrink to its core constituencies only."

The President of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Tom Donahue, recently said, "If the Republicans don't do something positive towards immigration reform, they shouldn't bother to run a candidate in 2016."

Sen John McCain (R-Arizona) and the 2008 presidential nominee was even more blunt. He said that without action, "it doesn't matter who we nominate."

Even with this call for alarm, the Republicans in Congress have become even more strident and vocal in their approach to immigration. Those of us from the South find it difficult to understand and see the demographic changes in the United States, which has changed our political landscape. However, it is real.

In the 2016 presidential election, the Hispanic vote will likely total 16.5 percent of the American vote. Polling consistently indicates that if Hillary Clinton is the Democratic nominee she garners 75 percent of the Hispanic vote against any GOP candidate.

You add to the mix that you are going to have a hotly contested GOP presidential contest with probably 12 viable well-financed candidates running negative ads against each other. They will more than likely not all kiss and makeup. This makes for a difficult mountain to climb for a Republican to sit in the White House after 2016.



Ronald A.  
Holtsford

## Congratulations to the Alabama Gazette on hitting sixteen years of publication. How has the law changed in these sixteen years? PART II (PART I was published in October 2015)

This series of articles has been reviewing important United States Supreme Court issues since the Alabama Gazette began publication in 2000. My how the times have changed.

The, *Winter v. Natural Resources Defense Council*, 555 U.S. 7 (2008) case seemed to be more about common sense than anything. Knowing that the Navy had scheduled training missions off the coast of California for 2009, the environmentalists sought to stop their use of sonar. The environmentalists claimed that the use of sonar caused damage to marine life such as whales in the Mediterranean area. They cited beached whales, etc who showed internal damage and bleeding at necropsy. It was their belief that the use of sonar had caused the damage.

The Navy had conducted environmental impact studies for forty years and were not in agreement with the statements of the environmentalists. Chief Justice John Roberts wrote the majority opinion of the Court, saying "the most serious possible injury would be harm to an unknown number of marine mammals that they study and observe" He went on to say that "forcing the Navy to deploy an inadequately trained antisubmarine force jeopardizes the safety of the fleet".

The case of *Pleasant Grove City v. Sumnum*, 555 U.S. 460 (2009), did not have the outcome that I would have expected. Pleasant Grove City, Utah accepted from a private donor a statue of the Ten Commandments which was displayed in a city park. The Sumnum church proposed to the city that a like sized statue of their seven Aphorisms be placed in the same city park.

Justice Samuel Alito made compelling statements regarding the majority opinion. He expressed differences between private speech and governmental speech and temporary speech and permanent speech. A monument of the Ten Commandments may be an expression of the values of a particular government. In rejecting the statue for the Sumnum church the city was rejecting the values not consistent with the city. Alito pointed out by New York accepting the Statue of Liberty, it would not have been within the values of the United States to accept a Statue of Autocracy from such nation as the German Empire or Imperial Russia.

*Salzar v Buono*, 559 U.S. 700 was a 2010 case. A wooden cross and signs noting that the cross was placed by the VFW in 1934 is long gone. The original cross was placed following World War I and was in memory of war dead. Following the decay of the cross, other crosses were placed from time to time in the original location atop Sunrise Rock which is in the Mojave Preserve in California.

A local resident placed a metal cross at the location, which he bolted into place. The resident did not place the cross with authorization and there was nothing in place to note that it was following the same historical significance.

There was a request to place a Buddhist shrine near the cross, which was denied. The National Park Service investigated whether the Cross should remain since they believed it might violate the Establishment Clause of the Constitution. Congress passed a bill designating the Cross as a World War I memorial and a latter bill that Federal funds could not be used to remove any national memorials that commemorates the United States participation in World War I.

The Supreme Court heard the case following lower Court decisions. The case was sent back to the lower Court, Justice Anthony Kennedy said, "The goal of avoiding governmental endorsement [of religion] does not require eradication of all religious symbols in the public realm". The cross, filled with concrete was stolen shortly thereafter and the case is still not completely resolved.

The 2012 case, *Golan v. Holder*, 565 U.S. \_\_\_ considered the Uruguay Round Agreements Act which was a treaty to equalize international copyright within the United States. The case concerned previously copyrighted materials that had expired in time under the United States Constitution's Copyright Clause and had been available under public domain. The issue was whether such previously available materials in public domain could be brought back into a position as copyrighted and subject to licensing agreements.

It was determined that the Uruguay Round Agreements Act did not exceed the authority of Congress and the majority opinion was that certain works can be brought back into copyright protection even if they have lapsed into availability under the public domain.



The 2013 case of *Clapper v. Amnesty International*, 568 U.S. \_\_\_ concerned reporters and attorneys who challenged the *Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 Amendments Act of 2008*. The plaintiffs maintained that they had incurred higher costs in communication with individuals overseas. They believed they required secure communications with the individuals because it was believed that the foreigners would be subject to investigation. The majority opinion written by Justice Samuel Alito, said in part, "Respondents cannot manufacture standing merely by inflicting harm on themselves based on their fears of hypothetical future harm that is not certainly impending."

While their fears may have had foundation, the plaintiffs had no standing for something that had not occurred.

The 2014 case of *Alabama Legislative Black Caucus v. Alabama* certainly hits home. Following the 2010 census voting districts were redrawn. The State of Alabama was accused of gerrymandering districts so that minority voters had less chance of electing their favored candidates. The State asserted that the change in districts was to keep racial percentages about the same. The Supreme Court said that Alabama erred in a couple of ways, one of which was that it was not that percentages of races remained the same but that the electability of minority favored candidates remained the same. The case was remanded back to a lower court and the districts to be considered district by district and not by the State as a whole.

Finally for 2015, in *King v Burwell*, the Supreme Court ruled that the Affordable Health Care Act (Obamacare) allows for national tax subsidies to help pay for the health care of the poor and certain middle class citizens. The six Justices of the majority held that "an exchange established by the state" was ambiguous but that they believed they should interpret the such language to make the law work rather than to cause an upheaval with the national health care system.

The majority opinion said, "When analyzing an agency's interpretation of a statute, we often apply the two-step framework announced in *Chevron*, 467 U. S. 837. Under that framework, we ask whether the statute is ambiguous and, if so, whether the agency's interpretation is reasonable. *Id.*, at 842–843. ... "In extraordinary cases, however, there may be reason to hesitate before concluding that Congress has intended such an implicit delegation." *Ibid.* This is one of those cases. The tax credits are among the Act's key reforms, involving billions of dollars in spending each year and affecting the price of health insurance for millions of people. Whether those credits are available on Federal Exchanges is thus a question of deep "economic and political significance" that is central to this statutory scheme; had Congress wished to assign that question to an agency, it surely would have done so expressly. ... It is especially unlikely that Congress would have delegated this decision to the IRS, which has no expertise in crafting health insurance policy of this sort. ... This is not a case for the IRS. It is instead our task to determine the correct reading of Section 36B."

My how the times have changed in the last sixteen years, sometimes for the better and sometimes for the worse. This concludes Part II of United States Supreme Court highlights (one case per year) during the years since publication of the Alabama Gazette began.

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

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# Bench - Bar & Beyond

By Judge Dale Segrest

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## FAITH - ABOUT WHAT IS RIGHT

I am currently teaching a course about faith in my church. I make the rather obvious point that faith is what we really believe. I'm afraid that sometimes we don't really believe what we say we believe. We always act consistently with our faith. Jesus said, "Ye shall know them by their fruit." But if our actions always reflect what we believe, then why don't we always do what we know is the right thing to do?

Plato thought if a person knows what is right, he or she will act consistently with that knowledge. Plato has a following. A Twentieth Century expert in moral formation, Lawrence Kohlberg, built his *cognitive developmental theory* of moral development on that premise. At first blush the Plato/Kohlberg position appears to be consistent with our contention that we always act consistently with our faith. But St. Paul said it well when he said "The good which I would, I do not, but the evil which I would not, that I do." Flip Wilson may have explained it all when he said "The devil made me do it."

Learning the correct principles of moral behavior is very important. If we don't know what is right, there is a strong probability that we won't do what is right. We need to know what is right. However, Plato and Kohlberg were wide of the mark with their theory that if we know what is right we will do what is right. Merely "knowing" is not enough. It is not complete faith. Faith involves the emotions, as well as cognitive learning. Faith is what

we believe with our **whole heart**. The "knowing" has to connect to the emotions. If the moral training that connects the emotions to knowledge of right doesn't happen in early childhood, learning that occurs later in life may not cure the problem. Psychologists Sigmund Freud and Eric Erikson nail it in their *psychosocial theory* of moral development. They recognize the role that emotion plays in moral development. Parents and peer group install the conscience. We don't always act consistently with correct moral principles that we "learn," but we are quite likely to act consistently with those principles if parents and peer group embed them in our emotions.

Even when we knowingly do things that we shouldn't do, an understanding of faith provides the explanation. We always act consistently with what we believe at the moment, even if the belief is simply that we can get away with things that we should not do. In the fleeting but permanent slice of time that we call "now," when all action takes place, what we do always reflects what we believe, even if shame and remorse overtake us immediately afterwards.

A properly installed conscience is more than shame. It is more than fear of detection. Whatever it is within us that watches our thoughts and connects to our feelings governs behavior. It pushes us to achieve the *ideal self or ego-ideal* posited by Sigmund Freud. The *ego ideal* is the good person that we want to be.

A well-developed sense of duty is and

always has been essential for human progress. It usually brings about proper behavior. Moral behavior makes the group more efficient. Moral requirements serve the needs of the group. Human survival and social evolution depend on individual conformity to the requirements of the group. A properly functioning moral system promotes human progress. The belief that we might "get away with it" does not always (or even most often), override moral convictions. Sound moral development usually produces morally correct behavior without the necessity for outside compulsion. Knowingly doing what is wrong represents inadequate moral formation. The "internal observer" (Freud's *superego*?) watches over our thoughts and feelings looks at the knowledge of what is right and wrong, the possible embarrassment of detection, damage to our ideal image of our self that will result from immoral behavior, and makes a judgment about what to do.

If there is a violation of moral expectations, the group will exert moral force to try to make the individual take responsibility for any damage resulting from inappropriate conduct. The group's greatest ally is a properly installed conscience.

[You may check the names mentioned and the terms italicized in this article on the internet for more information.]

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

## NEW EPA REGULATIONS HARM ALABAMA

By Chris "Chip" Beeker, Jr.

Alabama Public Service Commissioner, Place 2

When a politician keeps a campaign promise, it is generally regarded as a pleasant surprise. But, when that promise is to dramatically increase electricity bills, breaking that promise will not disappoint many people.

When he first campaigned for president, Barack Obama said that due to his energy policies, electricity bills would "necessarily skyrocket." In August of this year, Obama made good on his promise as his Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) unveiled its latest overreaching regulation, the so-called "Clean Power Plan." The EPA is continuing the Obama tradition of ignoring legal limits of executive authority in order to satisfy a radical political agenda.

The "Clean Power Plan" is nothing more than a tax on carbon and its goal is not to improve our quality of life, but to destroy the coal industry. This new rule aims to dramatically reduce carbon emissions within an unrealistic time-frame, essentially forcing coal-fired plants to close.

Alabama, a state which generates 40% of its energy from coal, will have to reduce CO2 emissions 32% by 2030. Coal has helped deliver a critical manufacturing and industrial base to our state, leading to an improved quality of life for all Alabamians.

Affordable energy is the cornerstone of a vibrant economy. More than 250,000 manufacturing jobs in Alabama depend on low cost energy. More than 16,000 Alabamians work directly or indirectly for the coal industry. Once power plants cut jobs, the ripple effect will be felt across the economy.

This administration often touts how it champions the cause of the working class, but this new regulation places an undue burden on individuals and families. More than half of all Alabama households earn less than \$50,000 a

year and devote an average of 18% of their after-tax incomes to energy costs. With this new regulation, Alabamians will see energy bills rise by more than \$800 a year by the time the plan is fully implemented in 2030. A typical Alabama family will lose approximately \$3,400 in disposable income during the time contemplated by this regulation. Ten years ago, Alabama Power customers were paying more than \$30 million a year because of EPA's rules and regulations. Now, the annual compliance price tag is more than \$475 million. The estimated annual cost of this new rule is \$8.4 billion. Alabamians cannot afford to foot the bill for unnecessary and unsound policies.

While the EPA promises Alabama and other states flexibility, it actually deprives states by reducing the use of the lowest cost and most reliable sources of electricity. Historically, Alabama's retail electricity suppliers have maintained an affordable and reliable supply of electricity by maintaining a balanced mix of generation sources. These new regulations weaken our generation portfolio and significantly impact the future cost of electricity. Customers will be forced to pay more for a product that is less reliable.

Coal has and continues to be readily available to support affordable and reliable electricity. Rather than recognize the importance of coal, however, the EPA continues to move forward with regulations that will shut more power plants, destroy electric reliability, and dramatically increase costs.

As your PSC commissioner, I am unwilling to sit idly by as the EPA attempts to reshape our energy portfolio at the expense of the people of this great state. I pledge to continue to do all within my power to protect consumers, keep rates low, and push back against crippling federal regulations.

*Chip Beeker serves as Public Service Commissioner, Place 2 and can be contacted at (334) 242-5191 or <http://www.psc.alabama.gov/Beeker/commissionerBeeker>.*

## Federal Bribes \$

By John Martin

Every person with even a whit of common sense knows that bribery is illegal and fundamentally wrong. But people still do it all the time.

Some are rather petty. I know a fellow, whose name I will not mention, who has used bribery as a means of getting out of traffic tickets. Back in the days when he was a practicing doctor, he faced many situations where getting to patients and appointments promptly was crucial in administering aid to save people's lives. As a result, he was often caught exceeding the posted speed limits and pulled

over. To avoid accumulating too many points on his license, he always stashed a \$100 bill next to his license and handed them both together to the trooper whenever he was stopped. He told me it worked every time; the trooper accepted the bill and declined to give him a citation.

A bribe like this, although considered wrong and could get someone in serious trouble if it was refused, would be considered minor since he had not endangered anybody. He had not done anything reckless. He had only exceeded the posted limits that, more often than not, are well below the safe driving limits of most highways.

Other bribes are far more serious. There are many cases where Congressmen, Senators, state legislators, judges, and various other public servants are offered bribes to support special interest pieces of legislation, dismissals of criminals, and other special favors. An example would be a group of hairdressers banding together and offering money or gifts to their representatives to pass strict licensing laws to limit newcomers that could compete with their professions. Another would be a group of used car dealers pushing for a sales tax on old cars sold by individuals.

Still more serious are bribes concocted by our public servants. As a hypothetical example, in a ruse to make a quick buck, Senator "A" buys a large farm at a distress auction at a low price. He knows he could not re-sell it at much of a profit on the open market, especially after commissions and closing

costs are deducted. But he comes up with a plan to build a new highway that is not needed and introduces it. He knows it will be a tough sell. He knows eminent domain will be needed to complete parts of it. His fellow representatives and senators balk. He offers some money to key members. They still balk. He adds some plots of land fronting on the new highway. Eventually, after some effort and some contractor friends chipping in, he gets a bill passed to build another park project—like the one that condemned John Sophocleus' home in Auburn for half its market value a couple of decades ago.

Finally, we have the worst bribes of all—Federal bribes. These got started back in the 1970's under the ruse of "revenue sharing." If a state, county, or municipality put up "matching funds," it could get a new project at half price or even less, since Federal funds would finance a huge portion of it. Since politicians love to spend other people's money many state and local governments, and their contractors, could not resist the temptation of bargain basement park projects. This wicked practice continues to this day.

The result is a massive pandemic of reckless public spending for projects that have little or no value and in some cases do more harm than good, even if they were free. We lose both federal, state, and local dollars in the process. The consequences are enormous—environmental impact, loss of independence, indebtedness, neglect of legitimate functions and services, and tax increases everywhere. They are essentially money pits that not only have huge initial costs, but heavy maintenance costs that continue for decades, until finally, the projects become obsolete and are scrapped—like Chicago's infamous public housing project, Cabrini Green. A particularly nasty example is the notorious Kelo vs. New London eminent domain snafu that spent many millions of dollars to uproot thousands of people from their homes and transform a fine upper class neighborhood into a barren wasteland. Another is the perennial imposition of traffic enforcement blitzkriegs on holiday weekends where the Feds chip in funding to conscript all available policemen and troopers away from their homes and families to prowl the highways and set up "sobriety" roadblocks to harass motorists and cite them for every trivial violation imaginable.

Long ago, the time has passed for oppressive government follies like these to come to an abrupt end. When are our leaders going to have enough backbone to shut them all down?

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



John Martin



Steve Long

# Woods & Waters with Steve



## Fishing for Speckle Trout, White Trout, and the big old Bull Reds!

You know, it's getting later and later in the year, but that doesn't mean the fishing has let up any. In fact, right now is the perfect time to get out there and do some in-shore fishing for Speckle Trout, White Trout, and the big old Bull Reds!

Just this last Thursday, myself, along with Bruce Lieberman and AB Smith, loaded up and made the 3 hour drive down to the Fowl River Bridge for a full day of fishing with Captain Chad Palmer. The Captain is a former blimp pilot who decided that life on the water would be better for him and his family, and he absolutely kills it! He started up **Finatics In-Shore Fishing Charters** and never looked back.

When we hit the water, the temperature was in the upper 50's, with a high of 83. We had a light breeze of 3-5 mph. The Mobile Bay was slick as glass, making spotting the fish pretty easy. Those big Bull Reds were hanging out near the surface, schooling around on the look-out for some lunch. Heading around the bay and the Fowl River, you could see the Porgies, a type of bait fish, jumping out of the water as we made our way up river. I know a lot of folks believe the bay's been fished out, but we could see fish everywhere. With good management of our fisheries, I'm confident that we'll consistently have great fishing in the bay.

In our 6 hours of fishing, we managed to land close to 100 specks, white trout, and a few reds. There were times where you couldn't throw a line in without pulling a fish back in with it. It was an absolute blast! Out of those 100, we could keep about 50 of them for the table, and let me tell you, we fried-em up the next day and then the real fun was on. Captain Chad and his deck hand Eric filleted all of our catch, and it was some mighty fine eatin'.

Not to get too carried away with my favorite part of any fishing trip, cause I love to eat some fish, but the fishing itself is fast and consistent. We used live shrimp and popping corks, as that bait works the best. In fact, when you see the shrimp, who wants to have a say in the matter, trying to jump out of the water, you know you're about to have a fish on!

If you're interested in running with the good Captain, feel free to hit up his website at <http://www.finaticsinshore.com> and drop him a line. For 1-3 people, it is \$500, with \$50 for each additional person up to 6 folks total. The

average trip runs 4-6 hours. All you need to bring is Food, drinks, sunscreen, and a hat! Don't forget that camera!

I know I'll be heading back down before long, so hopefully you guys will give in-shore fishing a look and read, because lemme tell you, it's worth it! Bow hunting and football are on the brain for most folks, but don't forget about those fish! So grab your gear, get your hook wet, and go get'em!



Captain Chad Palmer with a nice Bull Red in Mobile Bay

## "2015-2016 NBA preview: Alabama has a few, big stars of their own"

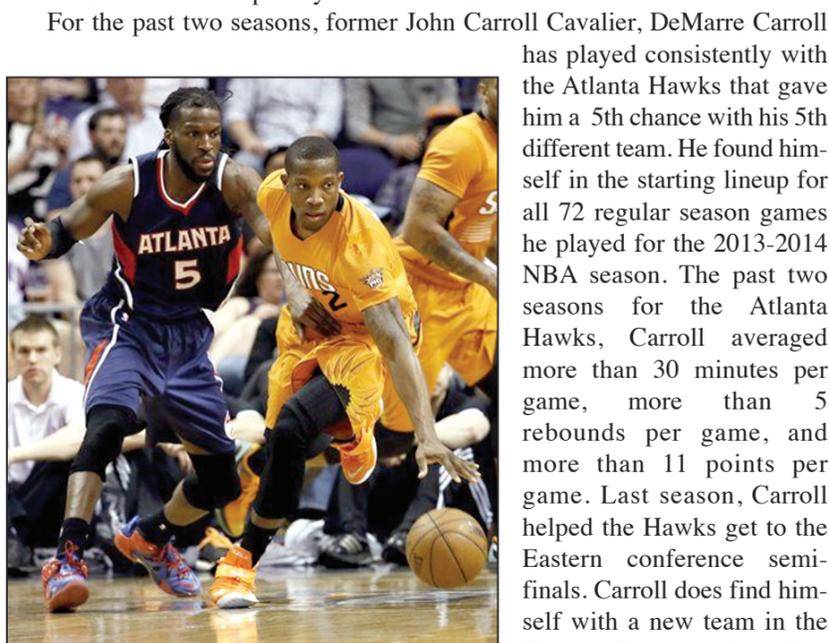
By Michael Hanich

In the State of Alabama, football is the most dominant sport. Most male high school athletes go to play collegiate football. Once in a while, a player will come from no where and achieve a high level of success where he will play for a top basketball collegiate program. Then he will proceed to the NBA where he will be considered one of the best in the world. There are three players from Alabama that have done so and are hoping to make a name for themselves for the upcoming 2015-2016 NBA season. Those players are starting Sacramento Kings Center DeMarcus Cousins, starting Toronto Raptors Power Forward DeMarre Carroll, and starting Phoenix Suns Point Guard Eric Bledsoe.



Sacramento Kings center DeMarcus Cousins

DeMarcus Cousins is a former LeFlore Rattler from Mobile, Alabama who played for the SEC championship Kentucky Wildcats for the 2009-2010 season. It is only fitting one of the best centers in the NBA today came from one of the best college basketball teams in the country. DeMarcus was coached by John Calipari in his first two years as head coach for the Wildcats. DeMarcus Cousins was named All-Star Center for the 2014-2015 NBA season. DeMarcus started all 59 of the games he played for the Sacramento Kings last season while averaging 12.7 rebounds per game and 24.1 points per game playing an average of 31.3 minutes per game. He plays for a team that finished last in the Pacific Division of the Western Conference for the majority of the past couple of seasons. With a new head coach in George Karl he is hoping to make the Kings a relevant and efficient team in the Pacific Division and hopefully the Western Conference.



Atlanta Hawks SF DeMarre Carroll (now with the Toronto Raptors) guards against Phoenix Suns PG Eric Bledsoe

For the past two seasons, former John Carroll Cavalier, DeMarre Carroll has played consistently with the Atlanta Hawks that gave him a 5th chance with his 5th different team. He found himself in the starting lineup for all 72 regular season games he played for the 2013-2014 NBA season. The past two seasons for the Atlanta Hawks, Carroll averaged more than 30 minutes per game, more than 5 rebounds per game, and more than 11 points per game. Last season, Carroll helped the Hawks get to the Eastern conference semi-finals. Carroll does find himself with a new team in the Toronto Raptors where they have star Point Guard Kyle Lowry. Having Lowry at the point guard position balances

out team output from size perspective to scoring, rebounding, and playing on defense. Carroll has proved to be good starting small forward for the Hawks, but now he must learn to do so for another team.

Starting Phoenix Suns point guard, Eric Bledsoe is another star high school player from Alabama who went to the 2009-2010 Kentucky Wildcats the same year with DeMarcus Cousins. Bledsoe is from Birmingham (Parker Thundering Herd), but unlike Carroll, Bledsoe has played with only two teams in his young five year career. The Suns have been a sub par .500 percent winning team with Bledsoe at the starting point guard position the last two seasons. Bledsoe had his career high numbers last season in minutes per game with 34.6 minutes, free throw percentage with .800% for the season, rebounds with 5.2 per game, assists with 1.6 per game, and steals with 1.6 per game. Team captain Bledsoe, plays for a Suns team that has multiple contributing players like Brandon Knight and Tyson Chandler that will help make the Suns contend against a tough Pacific Division of the Western Conference.

Cousins, Carroll, and Bledsoe are still primary young and will have plenty of years left in the NBA. The Toronto Raptors led by point guard, Kyle Lowry and newly acquired small forward, DeMarre Carroll will continue to push for a deeper playoff spot where they lost in the first round last season. Both the Suns and the Kings are in a playoff drought and hope their captains in Bledsoe and Cousins will lead them back in the hunt. Outside the three previous players, there are three other players in the NBA from the state of Alabama,



SF Gerald Wallace with his last team in the NBA with the Boston Celtics

They are Houston Rockets shooting guard K.J. McDaniels (Central Park High School), Memphis Grizzlies power forward, JaMychal Green (St. Judes High School) and free agent small forward, Gerald Wallace (Childsburg High School). These players are not key contributing performers but there is time to go from underachiever to team contributor. Former Alabama Crimson Tide Gerald Wallace is 33 years old but is also a 2010 All-Star, so he has the talent to come back and be a key player for a team this season. The NBA has a lot of talent in

each of their teams but sadly there is no NBA team in the state of Alabama. It should be fitting that sport fans from Alabama cheer for players like DeMarcus Cousins for the Kings, Carroll for the Raptors, or Bledsoe for the Suns as they try to make their name in the immortal list of NBA greats.

**Say a Prayer for our Soldiers!**

**Have a Blessed and Safe Thanksgiving holiday!**

**And ALWAYS give thanks to GOD!**



Sports Editor,  
Ed Jones

# 2013...12-2 2014...8-5 2015...WORSE?

This column should be praising the resurgence of Alabama. However, I don't consider them ever being down. This Alabama team is the most physical in years. It is no surprise to me that they are headed toward the Final Four. On the other hand, the demise

of Auburn is a national Shakespearian Tragedy!

Every pre-season poll had the **Tigers** ranked in the top ten and some in the top four including your's truly. And, why not? After all Coach Gus Malzahn had hired the "best defensive mind in college football" to resurrect what used to be a proud and trusted defense under **Tommy Tuberville, Pat Dye, Ralph "Shug" Jordan, Jack Meagher, Mike Donahue, and John Heisman.** Coach Will Muschamp arrived on the Plains with much fanfare. His dismissal from the head coaching job at **Florida** was not so bad after all. **Auburn** is paying the new defensive coordinator 1.6 million this year. That is more than what 60% of head coaches in Division-I make. In fact, Malzahn and Muschamp combined are making more **per year** than all of the above named Auburn coaches made. That is not necessarily bad. All successful coaches are being paid exorbitant salaries and service contracts to teach young men how to play football on it's highest level. Now, if the money expended results in "fannies" in the seats, sold out season tickets, millions in sales of merchandise, invitations to major bowl games, conference championships and opportunities to play for national championships, it may be well spent!

The hiring of **Gus Malzahn** in 2012 was not unanimous among the Auburn faithful. Some wanted a big name coach with a good track record. Some didn't know what they wanted. Since the fall of Pat Dye, Auburn has been a melting pot for coaches with sketchy track records... **Terry Bowden** from Samford, **Tommy Tuberville** from Ole Miss, **Gene Chizik** from Iowa State. However, opinion on Gus Malzahn in 2012 was mostly positive. I was aware of his great success as a high school coach in Texas. I was aware of his success at Arkansas, Tulsa, and Auburn where he was the offensive coordinator. In his one year as head coach at Arkansas State, he was 9-3 and won the Sun-Belt Conference.

Some people considered Auburn as having hired a high school coach. Malzahn was not a high school coach. He had been coaching at the Division I college level for seven years. He had highly successful tenures as offensive coordinator at three different schools, two of them SEC schools. His one year as a head coach showed that he would probably do well as a head coach in the SEC. Why not Auburn? He handed delivered a national championship to Coach Gene Chizik there in 2010. I personally talked with Gus Malzahn in December of 2012 within a week of his hiring. He was impressive, taller than expected, but confident and knowledgeable. I expected him to be a success at Auburn. Taking the Tigers to the national championship game in 2013 was not expected of course.

Malzahn got some lucky bounces along the way to the national championship game with Florida State. So what, any team has to have luck in order to reach those heights.

Gus Malzahn rode into Auburn in 2009 and found a (horse) named "Cam". The name of course comes from **Cam Newton**, the Heisman winning quarterback that Malzahn coached to the national championship in 2010 as Gene Chizik's offensive coordinator. Two years later a *Sun Belt Conference Championship at Arkansas State* and a very sad ending to Coach Gene Chizik's tenure, catapulted "*Malzahn the Magician*" to the head coaching job at Auburn. I conferred this name on him after his miraculous **2013** season that came within one defensive stand and 13 seconds of winning the national championship. He did this with what I would describe as inferior talent. However, "*Malzahn the Magician*" lost his "*Mo-Jo*" in the fourth quarter of the 2014 **Texas A&M** game when **Auburn** had second down and goal on the one yard line with a perfect chance to win the game. Malzahn calls for the zone read to left of the formation which means quarterback Nick Marshall slides the football into the belly of running back Cameron Payne, then reads the offensive lineman before deciding to leave it with Payne or pull it and carry it himself. Since Coach Malzahn had been pushing Marshall for the *Heisman Trophy*, Marshall sees a chance to endure himself to the voters by pulling the football. Payne had a clear path to the end zone so he is sure



Will Muschamp



Sean White



Jeremy Johnson

Coach Malzahn has led Auburn to multiple **SEC** losses again. The 2015 team was ranked as high as number two in the pre-season polls. All polls had Auburn in the top ten. Why? Because the highly optimistic utterances from the football office at Auburn was that Auburn would be better in 2015 because of a *Heisman Trophy* candidate quarterback named Jeremy Johnson, an All-Everything wide receiver in **Duke Williams** and a defense headed up by the "greatest defensive mind in America", Coach Will Muschamp. The national media drank the Kool-Aid®, the SEC writers drank the Kool-Aid®, and I drank the Kool-Aid®. What have the Auburn coaches been looking at during practice since January 2015?

Quarterback **Sean White** must have practiced by himself in a garage during spring training. Otherwise Gus Malzahn and Offensive Coordinator **Rhett Lashlee** would have seen what America has now seen. What would have been the results if Sean White had been named starting quarterback at the end of spring practice?

Being a head coach is not too far distant from being a coordinator. The main difference is that the decisions are much bigger. The first decision that really bothered me occurred in the 2012 championship game. Auburn went back ahead of the Seminoles with little time left on the clock. Jameis Winston, the Florida State freshman quarterback who went on to win the Heisman Trophy, was an excellent passer. He had excellent receivers, some playing in the NFL today. Auburn had been harassing this freshman since the game started. That is why Auburn was winning the game. Coach Malzahn and his defensive coordinator, **Ellis Johnson**, decided to play pass defense and not put pressure on Winston. Auburn had just handed Jameis the Heisman Trophy. He picked Auburn apart, having all day to stand in the pocket and pick a receiver. With 13 seconds left on the clock, Florida State snaps the ball and Winston found his 6-5 wide receiver on 5-11 Chris Davis. Game Over! That decision is a head coach decision.

When Auburn tip toed out on the field in Atlanta to play **Louisville**, they had on orange fruitboots, orange and navy Argyle socks. I was devastated that Coach Gus Malzahn had stooped so low as to become one of those "gimmick" coaches that hardly ever win big.

Maybe Gus Malzahn and Jay Jacobs have become footwear salesmen for Under Armour®. What else would cause normally logical football men to dress Auburn like "fares in the forest."

Auburn is a proud institution. They have a proud history. Auburn's football team has a strong tradition. That tradition does not include wearing orange fruitboots and Argyle socks. By the way Coach, what did those booties and socks do for you? Athletic Director Jay Jacobs should be reprimanded by the Auburn Board of Trustees for allowing one of his coaches to denigrate the football team with such ridiculous gimmicks. At one time the Auburn football uniform was voted the best looking football uniform in the nation. Maybe Coach Malzahn and Jay Jacobs are too young or too indifferent of this fact. Auburn burned the 2015 season at the first game.

Gus Malzahn is the best offensive coordinator I have seen in some time. He can not handle the offense and the head coaching job at the same time. He must give up the offense if he wants to remain a head coach. He is absolutely too busy on the sidelines to be in position to make the right calls as a head coach. After three years as head coach at Auburn, there are no SEC linebackers, defensive ends, defensive tackles...and oh yes, the quarterback shuffle! Auburn is going backwards...12-2 to 8-5 to worse. **The head coach is responsible for everything no matter the circumstances!**

After seven games, Coach Malzahn had his offense clicking, his defense hanging on and hope for the future. November will determine Auburn's fate in the bowl scramble.

**WAR EAGLE anyway Coach!**

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

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Dr. David Nichols

## ALL LIFE MATTERS

Our country is facing a myriad of crises both at home and abroad. These include but not limited to an effective foreign policy in which President Obama has diminished over a century of the U.S. role as a major force in maintain some semblance of order among rogue nations in the Mideast, Russia and China. As a result, the America we once knew is no longer

considered the number one world power and, consequently, has lost its influence world-wide. The chaos which has been allowed and to some degree encouraged on our southwest border has created overwhelming problems for states and local governments which are left to provide all of the services and opportunities as legal U.S. citizens. Obama Care has been a disaster according professional medical officials and premiums and copays are expected to increase in 2016 perhaps requiring hiring taxes on the middle class workers. Those citizens and illegal aliens who receive Federal Government entitlements due to unemployment and failure of many to seek employment has reached the highest level in our nation's history with no substantial increase in federal dollars to pay for these underfunded benefits.

However, one of our most unsettling crises which this country faces is that of the divisiveness between some of America's black citizens and police officers. The movement which is growing and gaining support from notable officials and institutions has fanned flames of hatred and violence against all police officers in our nation. While statistics indicate that larger municipal police departments are targeted at a higher rate than mid-size and smaller departments, the threat is there for all who strap on their web belt, holster their weapon and put on their uniform before going out to protect and serve their community and the lives of all citizens. This phenomenon of blaming police for excessive use of force is not new and more frequent decades ago a small fraction of circumstances it sometimes is valid. However, the large majority of police officers do not target specific ethnic or racial groups. Increasingly, basic law enforcement academies' curricula and training now includes special emphasis on diversity, the use of deadly force (shot, don't shoot) and the introduction to non-deadly force tools (stun guns, tazers, chemical disabling sprays, etc.) when circumstances permit. Few everyday citizens can comprehend the precarious split second decision officers are sometimes forced to make which involve the life of a suspect and/or the police officer who has to make that decision. In the earlier days of my own police training and experience there was a common saying among officers: "I'd rather be tried by 12 than carried by 6". Unfortunately that has become increasingly true. While street officers, investigators and traffic enforcement officers understand the risks involved in their chosen career, they are never to err on the side of losing their lives due to some political or radical movement's threats and endeavors to ruin an officer's reputation, career and/or freedom from felonious charges in their line of duty.

On Tuesday, October 20 a young, highly decorated, uniformed, black police officer was shot in the head by a black gang member in New York City. This was the fourth police murder within the past 11 months. Two officers, both minorities, were assassinated while sitting in their police cruiser in downtown New York City. This particular incident was determined to be influenced by disorderly marches of the Black Lives Matter movement prior to the murder. Following both of these incidents there was very little outrage by the likes of Al Sharpton and other so-called civil rights leaders. The one distinction among these murders of police officers was that the offenders were black. This sends a clear message to the many young black male violent offenders (statistics below) that it is open season on killing or doing harm to police officers without regard to their ethnicity.

The idea that some lives matter less is the root of all that's wrong with the world.

Paul Farmer

At closer examination a few unique aspects of this issue are worth presenting. Nationwide blacks make up 13% of the population. And while Hispanics (legal and illegal) now account for 20% of the total population, in recent years the FBI's Uniform Crime Report has included this 20% of Hispanics with whites when counting both criminal offenders and those arrested for violent crimes. In the 2014 Crime in Alabama Report which collects crime data from all jurisdictions in Alabama, the total number of arrests parallels that of the FBI Uniform Crime Report. When all crimes against persons and property crimes are totaled, 70% are committed by whites. However, remember this percentage includes all crimes committed by the 20% of Hispanics. Also, when extricating crimes against persons which include homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault the picture looks quite different. For example, in the 2014 Crime in Alabama Report of all adults arrested for murder, 50.9% were black and 46.7% were white. A frightening statistic is black juveniles comprise 52.4% of all juveniles arrested for violent crimes. White juveniles accounted for 59.6% of all juveniles arrested for property crimes.

Using these reliable statistics as a backdrop of examining the phenomenon of Black Lives Matter it is clear that police encounter a disproportionate number of black suspects especially within high crime communities. Usually, police in mid-to-larger departments don't patrol their communities looking for criminals but are dispatched by a 911 operator to respond to a neighborhood where violence of some type has been reported. Police officers approach every specific call for service based on the level of danger and are trained to take the precautions in approaching a particular type of call for service. Whites who live in low income housing and mobile home parks are often considered higher risk than in higher priced home neighborhoods. Yet, police officers should approach all calls with due diligence and caution. And, of course, there are and always have been rogue officers whose personalities and demeanors tend to be overly aggressive by nature. Usually, these are screened out during the screening process by the use of psychological tests designed for that purpose. If not, police leaders should use arrests data to monitor every officer's record of arrests and all reports of excessive force. Often it is the same officer who has most of the complaints.

As mentioned to above, one factor which is exacerbating hate and violence against police are public elected officials to include our nation's highest leader President Barack Obama. Very recently he gave credence to the Black Lives Matter movement by recognizing their legitimacy and endorsing their goals and principles which is to reduce the number of unarmed black individuals shot and/or killed by police officers. Also, this week the Democratic National Committee's Chair recognized Black Lives Matter with an invitation and a part at the Democratic National Convention. This is disconcerting to police officers of all jurisdictions and of all races. Police are usually killed or assaulted not because of their race but because of their uniform, badge and authority. Resisting arrest is one of the most often highlighted news stories as police officer are not in some competitive wrestling match but their duty and responsibility is to subdue with necessary force. They are sworn and trained to win...not lose.

It is incumbent on all local government officials and law enforcement leaders to devote their attention and support in continuous advanced training with regard to the appropriate use of force without putting themselves at undue risks. Training in approaching all violators, whether in a vehicle stop of citizen on the street, with respect. Far too many officers approach non-violent citizens with a stone faced, ill-tempered demeanor. Changing this can go a long way in gaining the respect and reducing conflict with violators, suspects and all citizens. In some instances police officers create an adversarial exchange when an initial more even-tempered approach may well de-escalate tensions. And finally, all communities, schools, civic organizations, officials and neighborhood associations within those communities should frequently recognize and award officers for special good will and service beyond that which is required of them.

David Nichols, Ed. D. is a retired education administrator and police chief. He has also served as a police agency consultant, an expert witness in criminal cases and published widely on law enforcement issues. He is a graduate of the prestigious FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

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



## History of Veterans Day "One nation under GOD" because of the Brave!

World War I – known at the time as “The Great War” - officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of “the war to end all wars.”

In November 1919, **President Wilson** proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: *“To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations...”*

The original concept for the celebration was for a day observed with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11:00 a.m.

The United States Congress officially recognized the end of World War I when it passed a concurrent resolution on June 4, 1926, with these words:

*Whereas the 11th of November 1918, marked the cessation of the most destructive, sanguinary, and far reaching war in human annals and the resumption by the people of the United States of peaceful relations with other nations, which we hope may never again be severed, and*

*Whereas it is fitting that the recurring anniversary of this date should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations; and*

*Whereas the legislatures of twenty-seven of our States have already declared November 11 to be a legal holiday: Therefore be it Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), that the President of the United States is requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the officials to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on November 11 and inviting the people of the United States to observe the day in schools and churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies of friendly relations with all other peoples.*

An Act (52 Stat. 351; 5 U. S. Code, Sec. 87a) approved May 13, 1938, made

the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday—a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as “Armistice Day.” Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I, but in 1954, after World War II had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen in the Nation's history; after American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking



President Eisenhower signing HR7786, changing Armistice Day to Veterans Day. From left: Alvin J. King, Wayne Richards, Arthur J. Connell, John T. Nation, Edward Rees, Richard L. Trombla, Howard W. Watts

out the word “Armistice” and inserting in its place the word “Veterans.” With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

continued on page 11A



# Family Therapy

## My-----BOUNDARIES

### Oswaldo Chavez,

MS, LMFT-S, LPC-S, NCC

Clinical Counselor, Non-profit organization.

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

*Please feel free to email Oswaldo with any concern or questions you may have concerning your family or teen relationships. Att. Oswaldo e-mail: [alabamagazette@gmail.com](mailto:alabamagazette@gmail.com)*

### Setting boundaries

is a way of  
caring for myself.

It doesn't make me  
mean, selfish or uncaring  
because I don't  
do things your way

I care about me too.

Boundaries are essential to healthy relationships and, really, a healthy life. Setting and sustaining boundaries is a skill that takes practice. Having healthy boundaries means "knowing and understanding what your limits are."

#### I. Give yourself permission.

Fear, guilt, negative life experience, and doubt are possible barriers to preventing one from creating healthy boundaries. If one sets and enforces boundaries, you might feel guilty by speaking up or saying "No" to a family member. One might fear the other person's response may lead to conflict, disappointment or a desolation of a relationship. Many people believe that they should say "yes" because they have been taught as children to help others and not be selfish, even though they feel drained or taken advantage of.

#### II. Your past and present affect your boundaries.

How you were raised along with your role in your family can become additional barriers in setting and preserving boundaries. If you held the role of caretaker you learned to focus on others, letting yourself be drained emotionally or physically, and possibly financially in many cases. Ignoring your own hierarchy of needs might have become the norm in your family.

Think about the people with whom you associate with and have a relationship with.

Is there a give-and-take on both sides? If not, maybe you need to re-evaluate this relationship or speak up about the differences in the commitment in the relationship.

Think about work-- it might be unhealthy, too. For instance, if your workday is eight hours a day, but your co-workers stay until 10 or 11 at night, there's an implicit expectation to go above and beyond at work, however you can say "No."

#### III. Name your limits.

You cannot set good boundaries if you are unsure of where you stand. So identify your physical, emotional, mental, financial, and spiritual limits. Consider what you can tolerate and accept from others and from yourself. What makes you feel uncomfortable or stressed. Those feelings help us identify what our limits are.

#### IV. Tune into your feelings.

Two key red flags or cues that we are letting go of our boundaries are: discomfort and resentment. If you have these feelings, I suggest thinking maybe not doing the activity. Let's say you initially said "yes," you can always come back and say "No", it's ok.

Resentment usually comes from being taken advantage of or not appreciated. It's often a sign that we're pushing ourselves either beyond our own limits because we feel guilty (and want to be a good person), or someone else is imposing their expectations, views or values on us.

#### V. Be direct.

The best way to avoid any issue with boundaries is setting those limits from the beginning of the relationship. Whether it's work, play, or relational. If you express in a healthy manner what you expect, the other party is aware of what you can and cannot do. There will be other times in which you don't have to be direct. Those can be in situations that you feel are not important or worthy of a discussion. Learn to pick your battles not everything is a boundary issue unless you personally feel it is or the other person feels it is.

#### VI. Practice self-awareness.

Again, boundaries are all about cultivating your feelings and honoring them. If you notice yourself slipping and not sustaining your boundaries, think "What's changed?" Consider, "What I am doing or [what is] the other person doing?" Or, "What is the situation eliciting that's making me resentful or stressed?" Then, sleep on your options: "What am I going to do about the situation? What do I have control over?" It takes time, support, and relearning to be able to set effective boundaries. Self-awareness and learning to be assertive are the first steps. Setting boundaries isn't selfish. It's self-love – you say "yes" to yourself each time you say "no." It builds self-esteem.

#### VII. Practice boundary setting.

Practice setting your boundaries on a regular basis. They may change from time to time. Be flexible. Certain boundaries may apply in one setting but may not be acceptable in another setting. Keep open to your internal compass. Listen for your inside voice for what is acceptable to you and what you feel is healthy, not what others expect of you or want from you. Boundaries aren't just a sign of a healthy

relationships; they're a sign of self-respect. So give yourself the permission to set boundaries that make you feel better about who you are and work on keeping those boundaries. Practice, practice, practice.

**NO.**  
**IS A COMPLETE SENTENCE.**

ANNE LAMOTT

### Food for Thought

Practicing saying "No" is healthy, not only for oneself but also for others. Take it from me, growing up in a home where I was not taught the most appropriate healthy boundaries was difficult. Boundary setting I learned from life experiences and the desire to bring order to chaos. I used to find myself saying "yes" to everything and feeling emotionally, financially and physically drained after I had exhausted all the resources I had tangible and intangible. I was taught at a very young age to always be helpful and kind. I missed the part that said "Don't kill yourself in the process of bequeathing to others in need". One day, a priest friend of mine, Father John, said to me quite frankly, "Oswaldo, God wants you to be a blessing to others; however He also wants you to be blessed. That does not mean for you to give all your possessions away at the expense of your wellbeing!" It dawned on me he was right. How can I continue to help others without helping myself? I started working on setting limits first with my nuclear family and then with others. As I did this I started to feel a weight lifted off my shoulders. I could say "No" and it was ok. The more I practiced, the easier it got. When I could, and it did not affect me or my family, I would assist others.

Most of us have been trained to say "yes" to everything. Boundaries create a safe separation between what we want to do for others and what is healthy for all involved ( thinking of it like having fence in your yard or a front door to your home keeping healthy things in and unhealthy things out. The door opens both ways, as does a gate). For example, in the past you might have spent your day transporting a friend around even though you had a day planned for self-care. Now I want you to practice saying "No" when you know it will affect you or your family in order to master boundary-setting skills. The best gage I have learned weather I say "yes" or "No" to something is when I start thinking about why I don't want to do it. If that pops in my mind, more often than not, I don't say "yes" because later I will be angry at myself for not being assertive or upset at the person or people I was trying to help. That is not what being a Blessing to others is about. I want to be clear that I am not saying don't help others out, but as the saying goes, do everything you do in moderation.

continued from page 10A

Later that same year, on October 8th, **President Dwight D. Eisenhower** issued the first "Veterans Day Proclamation" which stated:

*"In order to insure proper and widespread observance of this anniversary, all veterans, all veterans' organizations, and the entire citizenry will wish to join hands in the common purpose. Toward this end, I am designating the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs as Chairman of a Veterans Day National Committee, which shall include such other persons as the Chairman may select, and which will coordinate at the national level necessary planning for the observance. I am also requesting the heads of all departments and agencies of the Executive branch of the Government to assist the National Committee in every way possible."*

On that same day, President Eisenhower sent a letter to the Honorable Harvey V. Higley, Administrator of Veterans' Affairs (VA), designating him as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee.

In 1958, the White House advised VA's General Counsel that the 1954 designation of the VA Administrator as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee applied to all subsequent VA Administrators. Since March 1989 when VA was elevated to a cabinet level department, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has served as the committee's chairman.

The Uniform Holiday Bill (Public Law 90-363 (82 Stat. 250)) was signed on June 28, 1968, and was intended to ensure three-day weekends for Federal employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays: Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Columbus Day. It was thought that these extended weekends would encourage travel, recreational and cultural activities and stimulate greater industrial and commercial production. Many states did not agree with this decision and continued to celebrate the



holidays on their original dates.

The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on October 25, 1971. It was quite apparent that the commemoration of this day was a matter of historic and patriotic significance to a great number of our citizens, and so on September 20th, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed Public Law 94-97 (89 Stat. 479), which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978. This action supported the desires of the overwhelming majority of state legislatures, all major veterans service organizations and the American people.

Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

# Pike Road Holiday Festivities



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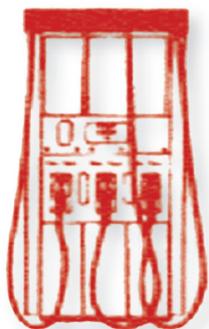
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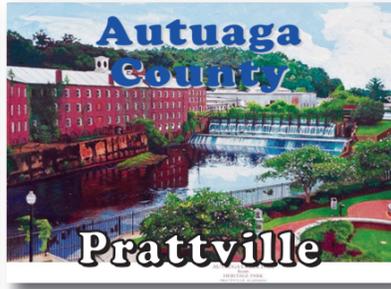
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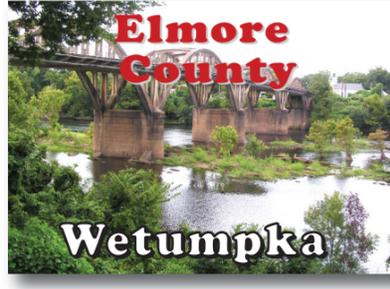
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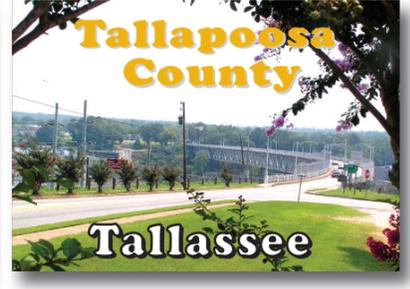
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**Autauga County**  
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**Elmore County**  
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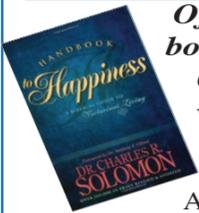
<sup>1</sup>You must continue to pay your Medicare Part B premium. <sup>2</sup>Based on the 2016 Medicare and You Handbook of Alabama. VIVA MEDICARE is an HMO plan with a Medicare contract and a contract with the Alabama Medicaid Agency. Enrollment in VIVA MEDICARE depends on contract renewal. The benefit information provided is a brief summary, not a complete description of benefits. For more information contact the plan. Limitations, copayments, and restrictions may apply. Benefits, formulary, pharmacy network, premium, and/or co-payments/co-insurance may change on January 1 of each year. The Formulary, pharmacy network, and/or provider network may change at any time. You will receive notice when necessary. H0154\_mcdoc1607A CMS Accepted 10/11/2015

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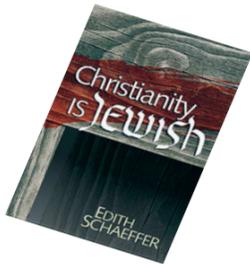
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Chief Deputy Kevin J. Murphy

## MCSO Mobile App



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The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office has launched an app called "MCSO Mobile". You can install the app on your phone directly from your app store. It is compatible with apple or android phones. This new innovation will give you "breaking news" as news happens in and around the community. You can also check to see if someone is in the County Jail, has an active warrant or if someone is a registered sex offender. You get all the latest and greatest news from the Sheriff's Office!

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to do is complete your profile at [www.Smart911.com](http://www.Smart911.com) and that's it!

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You can also watch this link on YouTube to learn more...  
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**Thank you for your continued support of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office!**

## COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Don't forget if you or your neighborhood is hosting Community Meeting i.e., **Neighborhood Watch Meetings**, please call and let our agency know so that we can post your event on our website: [www.MontgomerySheriff.com](http://www.MontgomerySheriff.com). Please call 832.1339 to give Lisa this information to post.

We are also in the process of enrolling people on our 'Community Notification System' with this we are requesting phone, cell or home numbers and addresses. This system will allow us to send text and voice messages to you when there are emergency situations such as "truck turned over blocking roadway", "escapees from jail/prison" or any hazardous or life threatening event that might take place close to your neighborhood or community. Please contact our Support Services Division for more information and to sign up for 'Community Notification System' at 334-832.2515.



## HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR

Thank you to all the vendors, personnel and parents who made this year's Halloween Spooktacular a huge success! As always, it's heartening to see our community come together for a one-stop, safe, trick-or-treat event!

**Keep our children safe!**  
**STOP**  
**for School Buses!**

## 6th Annual River Region Veteran's Day Parade and Concert

Wednesday, November 11th, 2015

Parade starts at 11:00 am at the State Capitol

Following Parade a concert will be held at City Hall

Concert by Capital Sounds Concert Band



## Alabama State University's Annual Turkey Day Classic Parade



Saturday, November 21st  
9 am in downtown Montgomery.

The kickoff of the Annual Turkey Day Classic Homecoming football game against the Miles College Golden Bears 2 p.m. at The ASU Stadium.

ASU has been celebrating its homecoming game with a parade since the 1940s.

The Parade, a community-wide event, is steeped in the University's and Montgomery's tradition. Thousands of families, students and alumni from around the state and country line the streets each year to witness the pageantry, music, sights and sounds of what has become one of the city's most anticipated holiday festivities.

This year's festivities will boast more floats, bands and dance teams than ever before, resulting in a more elaborate and majestic parade.

Huge crowds are expected to converge on Alabama's capital city Thursday morning for the Annual Turkey Day Classic Parade.

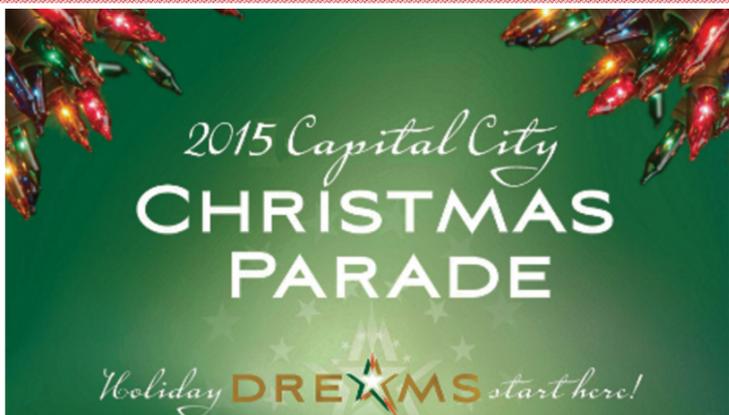
Fans clad in black and gold and red will cheer on Tuskegee and Alabama State universities in the pre-game parade that features one of the oldest football rivalries in America.

Bring the family and experience this great event!

## 2015 CAPITOL CITY PARADE

Friday, December 18, 2015, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Kick off the Season on Friday, December 18th with the Capital City's very merry Capital City Christmas Parade filled with oh-so-jolly floats and festivities. Celebrate this special season and gather with loved ones for a night that is sure to make all your Christmas dreams come true. Parade Route will run from the Capitol Steps to Court Square Fountain. For more information call 334-625-2100.



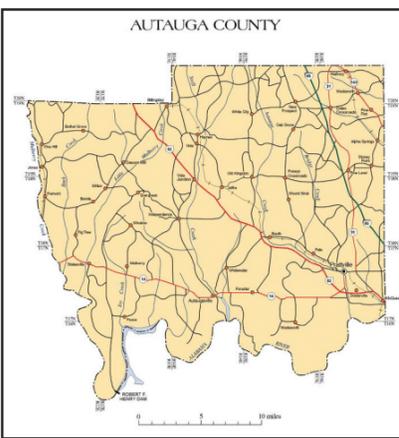
# Autauga County Law

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Sheriff Joe Sedinger



The Autauga County Sheriff's Office participated in the Autauga County Fair held October 13-17, 2015 at Mac Gray Park in Prattville, AL.

Each night employees of the Sheriff's Office, including Sheriff Joe Sedinger, manned our booth to speak with the public on any issues they might have and to pass out literature for all ages. The crowd enjoyed the times when McGruff the Crime Dog would make his appearance each evening of the fair.

The Autauga County Sheriff's Office was presented with the first place ribbon on Saturday for our booth presentation, the age range of literature we were passing out, and for McGruff the Crime Dog. The Sheriff's Office is looking forward to the fair next year.



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Veterans Day Event & Holiday



Wednesday - November 11  
Autauga County Courthouse  
11 a.m. until 12 Noon

Christmas Tree Lighting

Monday  
November 30

Festivities held in the grassy field on Court Street  
6:00 pm -7:30 pm



Friday, December 4th - 7 p.m.  
"Christmas Around The World"

OTHER  
UPCOMING EVENTS:

Gigantic Flea Market  
Saturday - November 14, 2015  
Doster Community Center  
6 a.m. until 12 Noon

City Council Meeting  
Tuesday - November 17, 2015  
Doster Community Center  
6 p.m. until 7 p.m.

For More Information On These and Other Events Please Visit:  
[www.prattvilleal.gov](http://www.prattvilleal.gov)



# Letters To The Editor

Please send us your thoughts and opinions.

## No More Tears

This week President Obama announced an immediate and sweeping change to the standardized test process when he dictated that schools should drastically cut back on the number of bubbles kids would have to fill to determine college eligibility.

While most students, teachers and parents applaud the move, one wonders what was the sudden motivation to change a decades old process that has become a part of our culture.

The IBM 805 ushered in the mass electronic testing method in 1936. Since then the art of the test has grown to the point that students will typically take over 100 bubble tests during their k-12 career.

Many conservatives and liberals alike complained that the **No Children Left Behind Act** with the follow on **Common Core** standards ended up a burden on teachers, causing them to simply teach to the test without meaningful knowledge being obtained.

That position has been borne out by a report from the National Assessment of Academic Progress which determined that there is no evidence that more time spent on testing improved academic performance.

The new guidelines will be issued in January according to the Obama administration. Obama's daughters, Malia, 16, and Sasha 14, and their contemporaries may not have to take the bubble bath after all.

But as Michael Petrilli, president of the Fordham Institute and a staunch advocate of testing lamented, "All would agree that the students take too many standardized tests, but we have to be careful of anything federal, that it doesn't lead to unintended consequences."

## Cold Water, Cold War

*To Russia with Love?* Not so fast. Reminiscent of an old James Bond movie, CIA reports confirmed last week that Russian ships and submarines are monitoring and maneuvering near undersea cables that provide critical information and intelligence for civilian and military entities. Intelligence officials warn that Russia could compromise these lines in a case of conflict or war.

It is not simply tapping into these lines that concern the CIA. Interception of information is the tip of the iceberg as hacking and severing fiber optic cables could violently disrupt not only the American economy but more importantly our national security itself.

In as much as these cables are extremely hard to access, any cutting could be perceived as an overt act of war especially in light of recent events in Syria suggesting Russians armies are poised to take on a larger role around the world.

The Obama administration has been largely ineffective in responding to this growing era of distrust and disdain.

## People who blow up rocks.

Fifteen years ago, shortly before 9-11, the Taliban were dynamiting old reliefs of Buddha carved into the mountains on the Afghanistan border. At that time I wrote, "People who blow up rocks with which they disagree are psychotic and dangerous." Today, there is a faction of radicals who want to destroy the old reliefs of confederate generals carved into Stone Mountain, Georgia. I repeat, "People who blow up rocks with which they disagree are psychotic and dangerous."

Garry Bowers

## Alien could be alien

Last week Representative **Joaquin Castro** (D-TX) introduced a bill in the House that prohibits executive agencies from using, "the derogatory term 'alien'" in all federal documents. The bill has 54 co-sponsors, each and every one of them a Democrat.

What's derogatory about that term? Nothing. It applies equally to all people, regardless of race, sex, creed, or country of origin who enter and remain in our republic in violation of the laws the representatives of the American people in Congress have passed to regulate the influx of new neighbors into our communities.

The Democrats aren't upset

because the term "illegal alien" might be construed to be derogatory. The Democrats want to twist language to legitimize foreigners who are in the U.S. illegally so that they can have an easier time registering them to vote and creating a permanent democratic majority.

As Daniel Horowitz has pointed out Democrats are not altruistic in their pursuit of normalizing illegal aliens, in fact they view it as a political viability measure - read:

- See more at: <https://www.conservativereview.com/commentary/2015/10/democrat-introduces-bill-banning-government-from-using-the-word-alien#sthash.rKA7mqZb.dpuf>

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## Why a Charter School?

In March of 2015 the Alabama Legislature passed a Charter School Bill. The bill authorized a total of 10 new startup charter schools that can be opened in the state each year for the next 5 years.

A charter school differs from a traditional public school in several ways. The first difference is that it is a hybrid public school that allows controls that resemble a private school. Although charters receive public funding based on each child that attends, charters are not bound by many of the regulations required of public schools. Each charter is governed by a separate board elected by the people in the district in which the school serves. The charter school bill determines the makeup of the board, but not the members of the board. The board is free from the local public school board in that it may hire its own teachers, set its own curriculum and teaching methods, set its own behavior standards, and generally set policies that those attending and teaching must meet.

In order to acquire a charter school for the area, various standards must be



Walt Sellers

met. Those standards are very detailed and complex. Requirements such as the following must be met: filling a need in the community, providing adequate facilities, filing the required paperwork. The state education department is charged with the responsibility of promulgating rules and regulations that must be met in order to qualify for a new start-up charter school, and it is not entirely clear at this point what those will be. Nevertheless, the process of acquiring a charter school is about two years.

At the present, the Tri County Area Charter School Association is being formed to investigate the possibility of obtaining a charter school somewhere in the area. Various individuals interested in seeing a charter school located within the Mon-Cre service area are carrying out preliminary investigative work. This association seeks to bring a charter school to the Montgomery, Crenshaw and Lowndes counties for various reasons. Some of those reasons are as follows:

1. Many are not happy with the direction and quality of our public schools.
2. Private schools for most of the residents of our area are too expensive.
3. Families with children are hesitant to move to this area due to inadequate schools.
4. Our social and economic future depends on a quality school.

Much work is yet to be done, but if you are interested in helping email [charternow@mon-cre.net](mailto:charternow@mon-cre.net).



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**Judge Peggy Givhan**

# Southern Gardening Potpourri for November

by Peggy Givhan

November in the South can be summed up as “a good weather” month. The weather is good for going to ball games, hiking, traveling to places far and near and best of all, for gardening. Anything I have ever planted in this month, whether annuals or perennials, have thrived. Not too hot and not too cold,

and in the words of the Three Little Bears, “just right”. I have searched through the gardening centers and have noticed the Johnny Jump Ups (violets), pansies, and different varieties of dianthus that are available now. These are tough plants which crowd out weeds, have a heavenly scent, and make a brilliant short stemmed bouquet. Small vases of both dianthus and of pansies can also be “just right” for a powder room.

Planning for something new in the garden or just freshening up garden ornaments is an easier task at this time of the year. Between September and October many of the spent flowers have been dug out or if perennials, cut back and beds weeded. If we sowed seed, those areas are noted on the garden plan and left bare with no mulch. So for those who may want to plan for something new, bold, or exciting here are a few simple garden concepts:

1. Framing the view: For example, I have a lovely stone angel on a pedestal which had been obscured by an overgrowth of vines. I spotted an opening in a line of Knock-Out roses which marched down a black privacy fence. This opening happened to be on a perfect axis to my back door, so I moved my statuary and pedestal into the niche. With a little trimming of errant rose branches, it was an instant success. This garden concept can be used with anything such as a wall fountain with Autumn Blooming Clematis or Confederate Jasmine arched around. Go through



some garden design magazines, cut out pictures you like and keep these in a folder. Anything and everything is possible.

2. Pots: These can be used with great affect in the flower beds. They may be used to define the four corners of a formal bed or a large amphora turned on its side to give a whimsical look. The one caveat for any garden ornamentation would be do not over do or mix trellises and garden furniture willy nilly. Too little is always better than too much and we certainly do not want a cluttered appearance.

3. Overplanting: This concept is easily completed with bulbs and then a lower growing annual. Tulips and daffodils planted with pansies, dianthus, or even dusty miller are a successful combination. I have also planted Gaura (see below as Plant of the Month) overplanted with begonias.

**PLANT OF THE MONTH**

*Gaura lindheimeri* or Wand Flower:

A plant native to Texas and Louisiana which grows to about 2 1/2 feet to 4 feet, is a perennial which has a very long bloom cycle. The pink flowers bloom directly on the stalk and, much to my liking, drops its dead blooms. These flowers many times start off white and develop into pink and rosy shades as they age. These blooms should be cut to prolong the bloom period. They do require good drainage and the tap root helps in times of drought. Do

not over fertilize, in fact these will thrive with very little fertilizer. If the soil is too rich, they get a leggy appearance and are sparse bloomers. I have purchased Gaura this year in Montgomery.

**GOOD GARDENING AND HAPPY THANKSGIVING.**



The Alabama Cattlemen's Association presented a great event on October 22nd with a wonderful steak sandwich luncheon at the State Farmers Market. They honored the employees of the Alabama Department of Agriculture.



By: Amy Hall Belcher

L-R , Alabama Cattlemen’s Association (ACA) executive director **Dr. Billy Powell**, Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries (ADAI) Pesticide Management and Plant Industry division director **Tony Cofer**, ADAI Food Safety and Ag Compliance division director **Lance Hester**, Commissioner **John McMillan**, ACA President **Jim Akin**, ACA President-elect **Bill Lipscomb** and ADAI Weight and Measures division director **Stacy Boshell**.

## October Beef Month



## Fisher or Fisher cat

Fishers, found only in North America, occur in the northern coniferous and the mixed forests of Canada and the northern United States. Their range extends from the mountainous areas in the southern Yukon and Labrador Provinces southward to central California and Wyoming, the Great Lakes and Appalachian regions, and New England. The fisher lives in thick coniferous or mixed coniferous and hardwood forests. It prefers habitats with lots of tree cover and lots of hollow trees for dens.



The fisher also known as fisher cat is a member of the weasel family (Mustelidae) and has a long body, short legs and a long, bushy tail. The head is broad and flat with a sharp, pronounced muzzle. The ears are broad, rounded, and low. Fur color varies from light brown to dark blackish brown, although the face, neck, and shoulders may have a lighter grizzled gray appearance. Often there are irregular white patches on the chest and underside. Adults range in length from 2.5 to 4 feet. Males weigh 7 to 13 pounds and females weigh about 3 to 5.5 pounds. They have large feet with 5 toes on all 4 and retractable claws which enables fishers to rotate their hind paws almost 180 degrees, allowing them to run down trees head first like a squirrel. Central pads on the hind paws have circular patches of coarse hair which are associated with plantar glands. These glands produce a distinctive odor believed to be used for communication during reproduction. It is estimated that fishers live up to 10 years.

Fishers are opportunistic predators and mainly carnivores that hunt exclusively in forested habitats where prey is abundant and vulnerable to capture. Their diverse diet includes birds, porcupines, snowshoe hare, squirrels, mice, shrews, voles, reptiles, insects, carrion, vegetation, and fruit. When it preys on porcupines, it attacks the porcupine's face repeatedly until the porcupine is weakened from trying to defend itself. Fishers don't always win battles with porcupines and they are sometimes badly injured or killed by the porcupine's quills. The fisher also eats fruits, berries, plants

and carrion. Their name is misleading since fishers do not actually catch fish. The name may have come from early European settlers who noted the fisher's similarity to the European polecat which was variously known as a fitchet or fitchew. They are solitary animals except during the breeding season (late February through April).

The female fisher begins to breed at about one year of age and her reproductive cycle is almost a year-long event. Mating takes place in late March to early April and after gestating for about 50 days, the female gives birth to one to four kits. Then 7–10 days later the breeding cycle begins again. The females den in hollow trees where kits are born blind and helpless. They are partially covered with fine hair and begin to crawl after about 3 weeks. After 7 weeks they open their eyes and start to climb after 8 weeks. Kits are completely dependent on their mother's milk for the first 8–10 weeks after which they begin to switch to a solid diet. After 4 months they become intolerant of their litter mates, at 5 months the mother pushes them out on their own, and after one year, juveniles will have established their own range.

A fisher's home range is usually about ten square miles and may overlap with a number of other fishers' home ranges. It uses scent to mark its territory and moves around it frequently following well-used trails. It travels both on the ground and through the trees. The fisher makes its den in crevices, under bushes, in logs, and in trees. In the winter it sometimes will use a den in the snow. The fisher is a very good swimmer and excellent climber.



**Ron VanHerwyn**





# Southern Cuisine

## IT IS THE COOKING SEASON!

### Chef

#### David Spooner Retired Chef

Volunteer Fireman,  
Lowndesboro V.F.D.

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

Town Councilman,  
Town of Lowndesboro

October and Halloween are over and everyone has had their fill of Candy Corn, Jell-O Shooters, Mummy Hot Dogs, Skull Cheese Balls, "Boo" nana Pops, and Green Slimed Popcorn.

Now is the time for some serious eating and more importantly, some serious cooking. And I do mean some serious cooking. This Thanksgiving you will be focused, organized and have pride in what you prepare for your family and friends. No more burning down the garage trying to deep fry a frozen turkey. No more opening a can of sweet potato chunks packed in heavy syrup, dumping it in a glass

9x13 dish, then covering that with brown sugar and marshmallows and baking it until the basic elemental carbon molecules start to appear. No more canned cranberry sauce: the sauce that has no pieces of cranberries in it and retains the shape of the can for days in the serving dish.

Do not serve green bean casserole if all of the ingredients come from a can. Canned green beans: mushy, flavorless and not really green. Canned cream of mushroom soup: modified food starch, water and dehydrated milk whey does not make cream. The first ingredient is canned French Fried Onions is not onions.

The Ambrosia Salad ingredients, like with the green bean casserole, should not come from cans or from the freezer section of the grocery store. Recipes for Ambrosia from Nathalie Dupree, Emeril Lagasse, **The Southern Cook's Handbook**, **The Book of Regional American Cooking**; Southern and from the 1967 edition of **Joy of Cooking** do not and I repeat, do not call for Cool Whip or even whipped cream to be added to the fruit mix. Secrets from the Southern Living Test Kitchens has a dollop of whipped cream added to the individual serving dish.

I want you to put your right hand on a copy of Joy of Cooking and hold in your left hand your favorite and most cherished cooking utensil and pledge:

*I will with the best of my abilities and intentions, prepare meals that will be made from the freshest ingredients, cooked as to preserve that freshness and served to show that I care. And I will follow sanitary procedures in the preparation and cooking and storage of the ingredients and even the leftovers.*

Now that we have gotten the formalities out of the way, let's talk about cooking this month. November 3rd is **Sandwich Day**. With all the leftovers, Sandwich Day should be after Thanksgiving. There is nothing better to quickly satisfy hunger and try something new than a sandwich. There are many fast food sandwich restaurants and even the ones that specialize in hamburgers usually have a sandwich on their menu. The top favorite sandwiches are cheesesteak, po'boys, any breakfast sandwich, Reuben, grilled cheese, ham and cheese, lobster roll, BLT, and the list goes on and on. A recipe for a sandwich would be put whatever you want to eat between two pieces of bread. A popular sandwich after Thanksgiving is the Gobbler. You only eat a sandwich made from leftover turkey, cranberries, mashed potatoes and gravy and stuffing once a year, but it is the first thing you think about eating after Thanksgiving Day.

So now I'm going to stick my neck out (in remembrance of the turkey) and tackle two traditional Southern foods. I mentioned Ambrosia and its issue with Cool-Whip. The other is sweet potato casserole.

I looked on **PINTEREST** to research recipes for Ambrosia. If the description said best Ambrosia ever and you can whip it together in minutes, I skipped it. Most of the recipes looked like a pile of LEGO blocks and Borden's glue.

### RETRO AMBROSIA

#### Ingredients

½ cup cream cheese, at room temperature (4 ounces)	<i>Makes about 8 cups</i>
½ cup sour cream	1 pound ripe cherries, pitted and halved (about 2 ½ cups)
1 tablespoon plus 2 teaspoons light brown sugar	3 oranges, peeled and sliced (about 1 cup)
1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice	2 grapefruit, peeled and sliced (about ½ cup)
1 ripe pineapple, peeled cored and chopped (about 5 ½ cups)	1 cup toasted pecans
	1 cup toasted coconut

*My notes on ingredients:* If you noticed there are no apples or bananas in this recipe. Banana slices and apple slices turn brown quickly so some leave them out. I would add Granny Smith apple for the extra crunch, cored, chopped and stored in a lemon water mixture until ready for service. When peeling oranges and grapefruits, try to get most of white pith off, and separate segments and cut them in half. As you prep the fruit, store in colander to drain away excise liquid. Use larger pieces of pecans (quarters) toasted on dry sheet pan in 350 oven until slightly darker and you can smell the pecans. Use larger coconut flakes and toast them until slightly browned edges.

#### Directions

- Whisk cream cheese, sour cream, brown sugar and lemon juice to bowl and cool.
- Mix remaining ingredients except coconut in large serving bowl and right before service drizzle sauce over the mixture and garnish with coconut flakes.

My favorite recipe for Ambrosia is from Emeril Lagasse. He uses fresh fruit and toasted pecans and toasted coconut, no Cool-Whip.



The next endeavor is to convince people that casserole recipes do not have to begin with, "open can of cream of something soup". This is a recipe for green bean casserole from Alton Brown. No cream of something soup and the onion topping is baked not fried.

I think Thanksgiving Dinner is the meal that has a higher than normal potential to make you and your family sick. Not from the cream of something soup or the blood sugar spike from the sweet potatoes, but from the food sitting out lukewarm for hours on end as people breathe on it and pick at it to make sandwiches. Nothing will ruin a happy occasion faster than spending it in the bathroom or worse, at the doctors. Now you know why leftovers are mentioned in the pledge.

*There are some simple rules to follow making sure that the leftovers will be safe to eat.*

*WebMD had a 2-2-4 formula to remember.*

*2 hours-Store all leftovers in the refrigerator or freeze no more than 2 hours after cooking. This includes turkey, gravy, anything with milk or eggs and rice.*

*2 inches- Store food in 2 inch deep containers. This will help the food cool quickly and slow the bacteria growth.*

*4 days- Eat the leftovers within four days. If you are not going to eat some thing within 4 days freeze it. If you do re-heat the frozen food later, you must eat it immediately.*

*Other tips include, turn your fridge down a little temporarily while prepping to compensate for the extra door openings and closings.*

*Also, a very important rule to remember is to frequently wash your hands. If you are handling the turkey, cutting boards, counters, serving utensils germs will spread to everything you touch.*

*A warning about stuffing: I you stuff your turkey make sure the stuffing reaches at least 165 degrees. It is fairly hard to do without overcooking the turkey. Stuff the turkey with an onion and some herbs and make the dressing in a separate pan. This can be done in advance, saving time and headaches on Thanksgiving Day.*

*May your stuffing be tasty.*

*May your turkey be plump.*

*May your potatoes and gravy have nary a lump.*

*May your yams be delicious and your pies take the prize, and may your Thanksgiving Dinner stay off your thighs.*

*Now and then it's good to pause in our pursuit of happiness And just be happy.*



### GREEN BEAN CASSEROLE

#### INGREDIENTS

##### For the topping

- 2 medium onions, thinly sliced
- ¼ cup all purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons panko bread crumbs
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- Nonstick cooking spray

##### For beans and sauce

- 2 tablespoons plus one teaspoon kosher salt divided
- 1 pound fresh green beans, rinsed,

- trimmed and halved
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 12 ounces mushrooms, trimmed and cut into ½ inch pieces
- ½ teaspoons freshly ground black pepper
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- ¼ teaspoon freshly ground nutmeg
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 cup chicken broth
- 1 cup half and half

Serves 4 to 6

#### DIRECTIONS

- Preheat oven to 475 degrees F.
- Combine the onions, flour, panko and salt in a large mixing bowl and toss to combine.
- Coat sheet pan with non stick coating spray and evenly spread the onions on the pan. Place the pan on the middle rack of the oven and bake until golden brown. About 30 minutes. Toss the onions 2 to 3 times during cooking.
- Once done, remove from oven and set aside until ready to use. Turn the oven down to 400 degrees F.
- While the onions are cooking, prepare the beans. Bring a gallon of water and 2 tablespoons of salt to a boil. Add the beans and blanch for 5 minutes. Drain in a colander and then plunge beans into a large bowl of ice water to stop the cooking. Drain and set aside.
- Melt butter in a 12 inch cast iron skillet set over a medium high heat. Add mushrooms, 1 teaspoon of salt and pepper and cook stirring occasionally until the mushrooms have given up some of their liquid about 4 to 5 minutes. Add the garlic and nutmeg and cook 1 minute more. Sprinkle the flour over the mixture and stir to combine. Cook one more minute and add broth, reduce heat to medium low and add half and half. Cook until mixture thickens, stirring occasionally about 6 to 8 minutes.
- Remove from heat and stir ¼ of the onion and all of the green beans. Top with remaining onions. Place in oven and bake until bubbly, about 15 minutes. Remove and serve immediately.

# Thanksgiving! When food and family come together!



HEBREWS 13:15

## Happy THANKSGIVING

...let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.



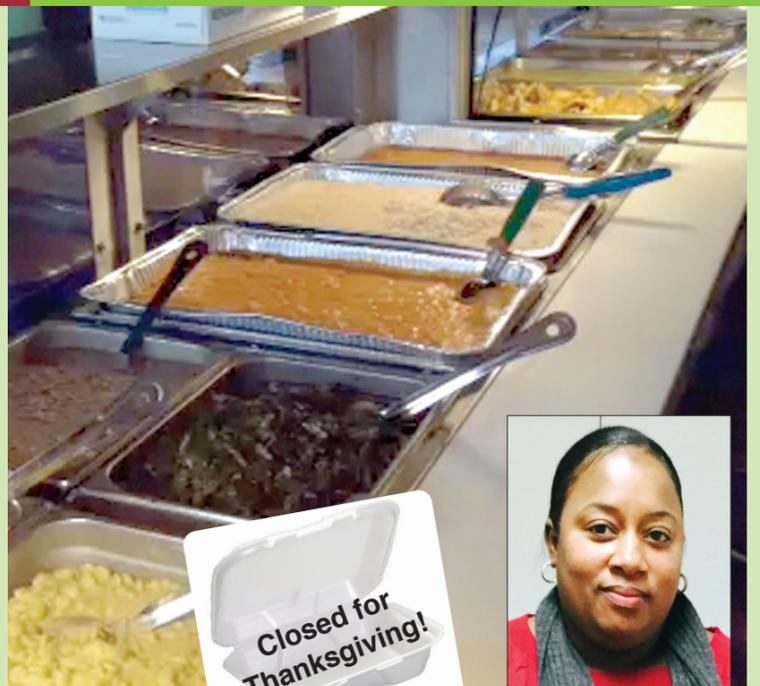
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# Gazette Seniors...

## Why is November, November?

### Why do we call November, November?



**Dr. John Bitter**  
Editor  
Senior Section

While most of the months of the year derive their names from some sort of significant or romantic root, three months of the year have no special meaning other than numerical. September gets its name from the Latin word septem, seven, October for the Latin octo, eight, and novem in Latin means nine. That's how the months of the year lined up numerically in times gone by.

Unlike July, which was named for Julius Caesar, or August, which got its name from Augustus, the word November just means that it was the ninth month of the year, back when names of the months were being handed out.

January, on the other hand, gets its name from Janus, the Roman god of doors, signifying the opening of the year. February gets its name from the Latin word februa, for purify—for whatever reason existed at the time. March gets its name from Mars the Roman god of war, and aprilis is the Latin word for opening, as do the flower buds at this time of year. The name May came from the Roman goddess Maia, the mother of Mercury. June gets its name from Juno, the chief Roman goddess.

The month of November does have some special days that are worthy of note; however. **Just ask any U.S. Marine, and he will quickly tell you that every year since 1775, on the 10th day of November the United States Marine Corps has celebrated its establishment as a force whose purpose is to defend America; and the Marines, to a man, put their heart into this celebration; as well they should—they have a right to. The United States Marine Corps Birthday is celebrated with a traditional ball and cake-cutting ceremony. We also celebrate the 10th of November as Veterans Day.**

The next day of the month also has a military significance since that's the day on which the Commonwealth of Nations, and various European nations, such as France and Belgium, commemorate World War I, and other wars.

World Diabetes Day is celebrated on the 14th, and International Men's Day is celebrated on the 19th. The international focus on this day is on men's and boy's health, on improving gender relations, and celebrating the achievements and contributions of men and boys throughout the world.

Your humble scribe will celebrate National Adoption Day on the 21st—for understandable reasons.

Not to ignore the feminine gender, the 25th is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. As well it should be.

Both the U.S. and Puerto Rico celebrate the fourth Thursday in November as Thanksgiving, although the turkeys aren't too big on the idea.

There are a host of other month-long observances in November, with no less than six ailments on the roster. These include: Pancreatic Cancer, Alzheimer's Disease, Diabetes, Lung Cancer, and Ulcerative Colitis, Stomach Cancer, and Epilepsy, to name a few.

The Great American Smokeout comes on the third Thursday in the month, and the day after Thanksgiving is known in the U.S. as Black Friday.

The month's birthstone is the topaz, its flower is the chrysanthemum, and its two zodiac signs are Scorpio and Sagittarius.

All of which is probably more than the reader would be interested in; but there it is.

So, enjoy whichever day is yours, and don't eat too much on Thanksgiving.

YOU MAY BE  
OVER THE HILL...

...if no one at your poker  
table can remember who  
dealt last.

## MY WAY OR THE HIGHWAY

Not since Adolph Hitler became chancellor of Germany have we been witness to such a display of arrogance and power as was seen this October as President Barack Obama haughtily informed the American people and their elected representatives that it was his way or the highway.

In a display of arrogance mirrored only by Der Fuehrer's dismissal of the German Reichstag as a factor in his takeover of the German nation has the world witnessed such a display of haughtiness and arrogance as was seen at the beginning of October, when Herr Obama, with the U.S. Senate in his pocket and the House of Representatives weakened, sneeringly informed the American people who was boss.

Those of us old timers who recalled swearing allegiance to the flag, and pledging allegiance to "one nation indivisible" in our younger, happier days sat stunned as we witnessed what will likely be the last days of a great nation.

As other great powers have fallen throughout history, it seemed

inevitable that it had come our time.

Greed and sloth had consumed the people and chicanery and deviousness were the major traits of those we had blindly elected to govern us.

As a nation we had peaked. Our best years were those of our nation's climax following World War II. The decline most likely began with the Vietnam era and now our nation is in the phase playwrights call denouement—or the catastrophe.

Mr. Obama is ushering us into the final stages of what was once a great nation. It was a relatively short ride. It was an impressive show, as the history of nations goes; and it had great potential.

But the weaknesses of greed, sloth, and incompetence brought us down.

This will be Barack Obama's legacy: He brought the curtain down on what was supposed to be "The Greatest Nation on Earth."

Those of us in what we like to call our "Golden Years" had hoped for better. But these things never last.

It was a great show; while it lasted.

## Senior Transportation

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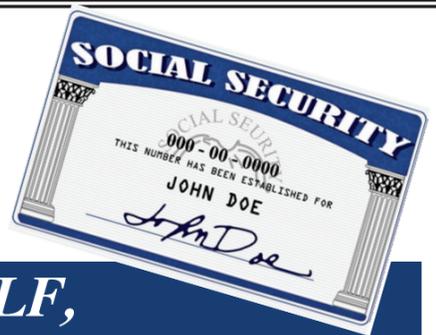
# Make sure you don't forget the Seniors in your life!

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By Kyle' D. McKinney

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



## EMPOWER YOURSELF, ELECT TO RETIRE ONLINE

As if the holidays weren't exciting enough, it's November and that means election month. Current and future election hopefuls are prepping speeches and rallying every resource available for the big win.

Even if you aren't running for office, you can win big, too, by planning for retirement. When you decide to retire, the easiest and most convenient way to do it is right from the comfort of your home. Go to [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) where you can apply for retirement benefits in as little as 15 minutes. Usually, there are no forms to sign or documents to send — after you submit your electronic application, you're done!

In addition to using our website, with its world-class customer service, you can call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778), or visit the Social Security office nearest you. Whichever way you choose to apply, be sure to have your bank account information handy so we can set up your payments to be deposited directly into your account.

When you're ready to start receiving Social Security benefits, the age

you choose to retire makes a difference in your benefit amount. The full retirement age (the age at which 100 percent of retirement benefits are payable) has been gradually rising from ages 65 to 67. You can retire as early as age 62, but if benefits start before you reach your full retirement age, your monthly payment is reduced. Find out what your full retirement age is by typing in your year of birth at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/ageincrease.htm](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/ageincrease.htm).

You'll also want to join the more than 20 million other people who have set up a secure online my Social Security account. You can use my Social Security to get a copy of your Social Security Statement. Use the Statement to check your earnings record and see estimates of the retirement, disability, and survivor benefits you and your family may receive. Visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount).

Kylle' McKinney, SSA Public Affairs Specialist, can be reached by e-mail at [kylle.mckinney@ssa.gov](mailto:kylle.mckinney@ssa.gov).

## THE MARSHALL MOMENT

DR. RICK MARSHALL  
Eastern Hills  
Baptist Church  
Montgomery, Alabama

# Soul Searching

## A HABIT THAT BLESSES

It is a pretty simple conclusion to make. Good habits bless us and bad habits hurt us. For example, brushing your teeth, regular exercise, wearing your seat belt and watching your spending will help you immensely in the long run. Likewise, the opposite is likely to bring heartache and suffering. This month we are thinking of one of the most important habits you can ever develop. It will always bless you and others at the same time. It is the habit of thanksgiving. One writer described it as the most important habit of the heart.

The habit of giving thanks is far older than a national holiday. It is rooted in scripture. While the Jews traveled in the wilderness before entering the Promised Land, Moses encouraged them not to forget their God when they got to the land "flowing with milk and honey." His words in **Deuteronomy 8** reminded them that God's blessings were in relationship to their awareness and gratitude.

From then until now, thanksgiving is important both as a national attitude and as a personal practice. Thanksgiving protects us from an enlarged sense of pride. God knew the Israelites would be tempted to claim they had produced the wealth by their own cleverness and industry. If so, they would forget God. The same principle holds true today. The people most consumed with their own abilities and wealth are often the same people who have the least reverence for God. It is all too easy to take credit. We believe "our own press." The only way out of this trap is consistent thanksgiving.

Giving thanks also teaches us to celebrate what God has done for us in the past. There is an interesting correlation you will discover in the history of Israel. When they lost touch with their past, they lost touch with their God. The evidence of that was idolatry. That's why God directed His people to remember and celebrate specific events in their history. Such memories kept alive, protected then from idolatry and its consequences.

We can see the same principle at work today. People who lose connection to their heritage often fall into their own kind of idolatry. It is easy to feel isolated in the difficulties of life and to presume no one has had it this hard. Without faith as a guide to inform our hearts, we fall into traps of materialism and secularism. The results are predictable – broken homes, fractured relationships, greed, selfishness and loss of personal integrity.

We are a society addicted to pills for everything. Peace doesn't come from a pill and neither will a thankful heart. Faith is more than just believing the history of the Bible and going to church. It is the connection with God who reminds us of how much He has loved us and our place in His world. Life is not about us, but Him. Remembering Him and celebrating what He has done for us in our lives, with our friends and in our church gives us stability in the storms of life. It is worth remembering from our friends in horticulture. "Only deep roots enable a tree to survive bitter cold or scorching drought."

So how should we go about giving thanks to God? The scriptures give us wise counsel not only about motivation, but about what is involved in thanksgiving. First, give thanks to God in praise.



**Psalm 100:4** says, "Enter His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him and bless His name." This Psalm was used both in formal temple worship and private devotion. In fact, I recommend during this Thanksgiving season you memorize all five verses. They will do you good and provide a means of testimony to others if you use them regularly. Further, let me suggest you try to specifically identify and speak at least one thing you are grateful for each morning in prayer to the Lord. It's a great way to begin the day.

I saw a cartoon of a family gathered for a common meal. The father said to the mother, "I don't want to complain about leftovers, but haven't we already said grace over this fool three times?" We can both laugh at and identify with his observation. In reality, giving thanks never gets old. I am

reminded of some magnificent promises in scripture. Any time you think you don't have anything to be thankful for, just remember these. "Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; He is the faithful God, keeping His covenant of love to a thousand generations..." (**Deut. 7:9**) "He is the Rock, His works are perfect, and all His ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is He." (**Deut. 32:4**) "Not one of all the Lord's good promises to the house of Israel failed; everyone was fulfilled." (**Joshua 21:45**) "All the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful." (**Psalms 25:10**) "O Lord God Almighty, who is like you? You are mighty, O Lord, and your faithfulness surrounds you." (**Psalm 89:8**) "The one who calls you is faithful and He will do it." (**I Thessalonians 5:24**) Perhaps the one which comes to my mind so regularly in my daily prayers is from **Lamentations 3:22-23**, "The Lord's lovingkindness indeed never ceases, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness."

Second, give thanks to God through reverence. That means, very simply but specifically, treat God like God. It is amazing to realize the people who do not. God is to them like a grandfather in the sky from whom they want things. He is a perhaps a provider and a protector in their mind, but not a friend, not someone with whom they have a personal relationship. Can you name habits or activities in your life which clearly represent regular reverence to God? Let these be a gauge of the thankfulness in your heart.

Finally, we give thanks to God through obedience. The Israelites were told plainly that they should express their gratitude to God through observing His commands. Paul said in **II Corinthians 10:5**, "Take captive every thought and make it obedient unto Christ." We can sing "What a Friend We Have In Jesus" at church but not give heed to His will or plan for our lives. We take over direction if His will does not match with our wishes or society's expectations. One cannot separate obedience as a cardinal means for giving thanks to God. Christians have ample reasons and ways to practice thanksgiving. You have heard the phrase, "a gift which keeps on giving." Well, thanksgiving is a habit that keeps on blessing. May it become the normative patten of our lives throughout the rest of the year.

## Reflections

By Michael J. Brooks

### On Judging Others

Teachers take care to include every conceivable guideline in the class syllabus. I suppose years ago syllabuses used to cover pulling a girl's pigtails and chewing gum, but these days other issues are ad-

ressed.

At one school we carried on a running dialogue about cell phones. Some teachers thought they should be banned outright from the classroom and others thought this was a losing battle, especially when students could quickly look up a fact or a date if the teacher needed help. And it's impossible to maintain the strictest classroom order and force everyone to pay attention. One coed told me, "We can text under the desk and you'd never notice!"

I took the entire first class one term and went over the syllabus in excruciating detail. I pointed out all assignments, due dates and class decorum. I did so pointedly so every student would know exactly what was expected and could schedule their time accordingly.

One young lady missed the first class. I never knew if she missed carelessly or added the class later. Whatever the case, she ambled in to the second class and asked a lot of questions about the syllabus. She also asked me to repeat myself several times during the hour. I was a bit resentful to waste

class time on something we'd already taken care of, and to be interrupted for what I thought were no good reasons since we had material to cover.

After class she asked to speak to me for a few minutes. "I have a hearing aid," she said. "I couldn't get a front seat tonight but I need to sit close in the future."

Her long hair covered the hearing device and I'd not seen it. I was ashamed that I'd judged her as a careless student rather than a student with disability.

This experience reminded me how quick we are to judge others before appropriating all the facts. It's been said the most frequent exercise for most of us is jumping to conclusions and running to bear tales!

Scripture is very clear about judgment. Whereas members are sometimes called on to make judgments in congregational churches, such as voting on leaders, we're never given license to condemn other people without mercy. Scripture reminds us that God has given mercy to us and we must share mercy with others.

We should remember Paul's sobering word in **Romans 14:10**, "You have no right to criticize your brother or look down on him. Remember, each of us will stand personally before the Judgment Seat of God."

Actor Michael J. Fox once said, "The least amount of judging we can do, the better off we are."

I think he's right.

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

### Psalm 100

King James Version (KJV)

- 1 Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.
- 2 Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.
- 3 Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
- 4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.
- 5 For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.



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~ Proverbs 14:31



Patricia Killough



# Home Town Community News

Please send Patricia your family birthdays, anniversaries and weddings to [alabamagazette@gmail.com](mailto:alabamagazette@gmail.com)

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

## November Birthdays



- |  |  |                                  |  |   |   |  |  |  |  |                                       |   |   |   |                  |   |
|--|--|----------------------------------|--|---|---|--|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|------------------|---|
| 1 Barbie O'Neal<br>Kelei Lewis<br>Jimmie Mims<br>Bobbie Parker | 2 Al Flanary<br>Bill Grubs<br>Mary Ellis Killough (7th)<br>Mike Lane | 3 Larry Chambers<br>Doug Sellers | 4 Jo Guthrie (89th)<br>Patrick Sikes (5th) | 5 Jeremy Brown<br>Mike Davis<br>Margaret Ann Morgan | 6 Bella Boyd<br>Faye Deal<br>Teresa Seevers | 7 Carol Harrison<br>Debbie Green<br>Jane Camille Robinson<br>Helen Struthers<br>Paula Barker | 8 Mildred Kendrick (91st)<br>Trey Mainor<br>Gerry Williams | 9 Kristen Butler<br>Carl McDevitt<br>John Porterfield<br>Jamalyn Smith<br>Patrice Wasden | 10 Frances Dover<br>Gayle Harper<br>Myra Mills<br>Manly Swearingen | 11 Amanda Anderson<br>Robert Sandifer | 12 Clyde Alison<br>Faye Best<br>Jo Hurley<br>John Messick<br>Warren Miller<br>Mary Talley<br>Tom Vocino<br>LeeAnn Williams (34th) | 13 Sarah Bone<br>Jenelle Jones<br>Norman Rahn<br>Janet Roughton<br>Marie Penn | 14 Shawn Adams<br>Kenneth Banks<br>Houston Harris<br>Walker Meadows<br>Xan Morrows<br>Spears Rhodes | 15 Larry Browder | Mary Elizabeth Dean<br>Mae H. Poole<br>Katherine Huro<br>Debbie Johnson<br>Heather Killough<br>16 Thomas Joseph Boyd<br>Alton Haraway<br>17 Dan Fowler<br>Bill Harper<br>Mary Holman<br>Cara Stafford<br>18 Billy Jack Beck<br>Doug Cole<br>19 Laird Bone<br>Mattie Sherman<br>20 Sandy Garner<br>Sharon Harper<br>Rich Takacs<br>21 James Miller<br>22 Annette Banks<br>Randy Bishop<br>Amy Grubbs<br>Ed Grubbs<br>Lee Hartley<br>Tommy Jones<br>Virginia Shearin<br>Locke White<br>Charles Wilkerson<br>Charles Winsett<br>23 Joyce Mims<br>Peggy Cole<br>Brittany Hord<br>24 Helen Cain<br>Howard Duncan<br>Donald McClain<br>Pearl McClain<br>Patricia Potts<br>Jerry Shadrick<br>Debbie Whitehouse<br>25 Colonel Durden<br>Bonnie Morris<br>26 Faye Spivey<br>27 Annabelle O'Neal (5th)<br>Vaughn Lowery<br>Jessica Wallace<br>28 Marilyn Oliver<br>Betty Spivey<br>29 Weston Browder<br>Mavis Kratzer<br>30 Brittany Abott<br>Kaitlin Castleberry<br>Drew Meadows (7th)<br>Jackie Moseley<br>Boyd Partridge<br>Jim Tinney<br>Earle Williams |
|--|--|----------------------------------|--|---|---|--|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|------------------|---|

## Happy Anniversary

- |                                      |                                   |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2 Reese & Tina Campbell              | Todd & Sandy Rogers (12th)        |
| Harmon & Bobbie Nell Williams (60th) | 16 Alan & Debra Moore             |
| 5 Brad & Julie Echols                | Stephen & Joyce Turnipseed        |
| 7 Jud & Jane Huett (56th)            | 17 Clyde & Audrey Alison (36th)   |
| Brian & Jennifer Rushing (6th)       | Chip & Tricia Norris              |
| 9 Don & Tanya Cooley                 | 18 Burks & Charlotte Crane (20th) |
| Tommy & Patti Maihan (30th)          | 21 Doug & Cindy Young             |
| 10 Tanner & Shannon Grant            | Gary & Martha French (41st)       |
| Manly & Kris Swearingen              | 24 Gary & Debbie Partridge        |
| Tom & Jayne Ward                     | 27 Mike & Wanda Horsley           |
| 14 Jim & Frances Ard                 | 28 Andre & Beverly Stephens       |

## Sympathy to the families of...

- Cone, Robert Glenn "Buck", 73 .....died September 26, 2015  
 Stephens, William "Bill" Walton, Jr., 80 .....died September 26, 2015  
 Popham, Christopher "Chris" Ray, SSG U. S. Army, 39.....died September 27, 2015  
 Sellers, Cecil Edward, Jr., 82 .....died September 27, 2015  
 Johnson, Mrs. Gene B., .....died September 30, 2015  
 Smith, Clara Luthenia, 95 .....died September 30, 2015  
 Kinman, James Weldon, 82 .....died October 1, 2015  
 Pettigrew, Jamie Lucille, 100.....died October 4, 2014  
 Moncrief, Agnes Beck .....died October 5, 2015  
 McDowell, Marjorie McKenzie, 81 .....died October 6, 2015  
 Baum, Charles C., 73 .....died October 24, 2015  
 Reynolds, William Terry, 60 .....died October 25, 2015

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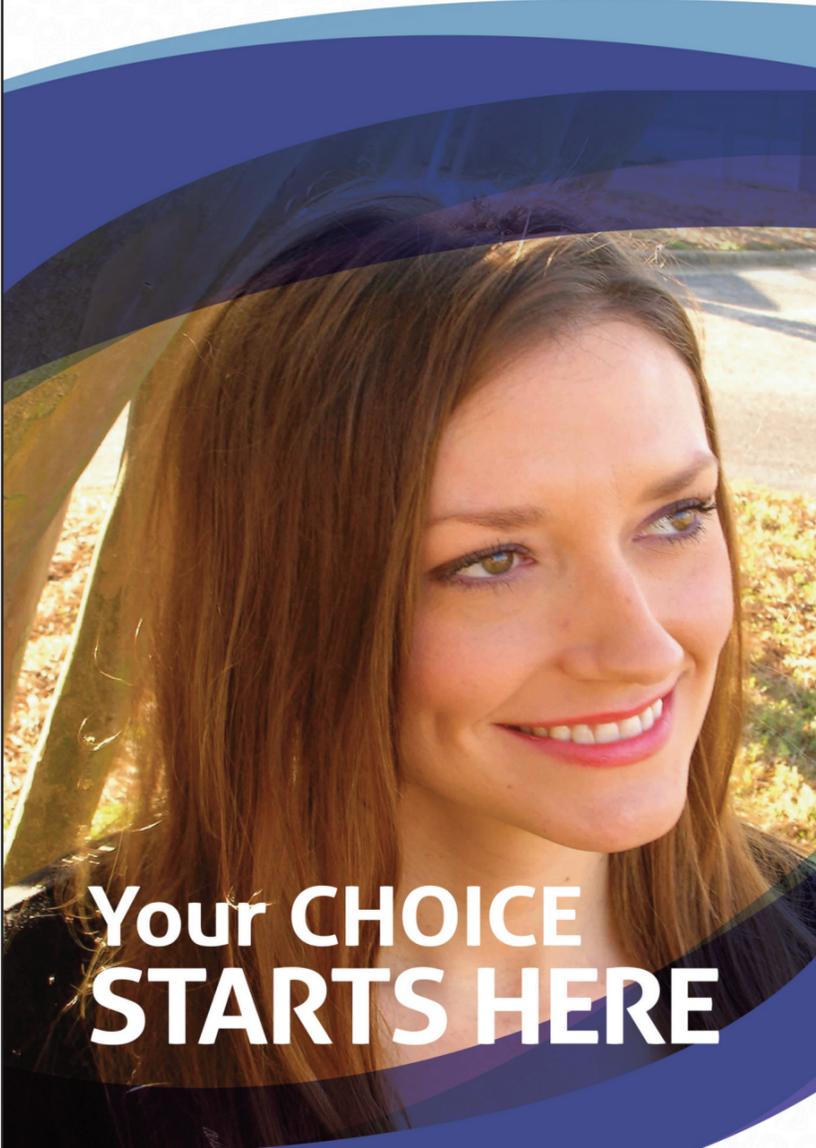
*The Value of a Woman...Be very careful if you make a woman cry – because God counts her tears.*

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## Trisston's Tidbits...

By: Trisston Wright Burrows  
[www.trisstonwrightburrows.com](http://www.trisstonwrightburrows.com)

### "GIVE THANKS"

Thanksgiving is upon us and that means Christmas is closely following. Often we put so much of our focus on Christmas, we miss this important American Holiday.

I like that fact that Thanksgiving is not about buying presents or decorating trees and homes, etc., but it's about getting together with family and friends and doing what we all love—eating! And more importantly, it's about giving thanks.

Thanksgiving was established by President Washington on November 26, 1789. It is a religious holiday started by the Pilgrims. The first Thanksgiving lasted three days, during which the Pilgrims feasted with their Indian guests.

"Praise the LORD! Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever." Psalm 106:1

Indeed! HE is GOOD ALL the TIME!! So, I encourage you to give thanks not only during this special holiday season, but every day. "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to his name." Hebrews 13:15.

Happy Thanksgiving & Many Blessings!

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## Wetumpka Tea Party founder Becky Gerritson challenges Martha Roby for Congress

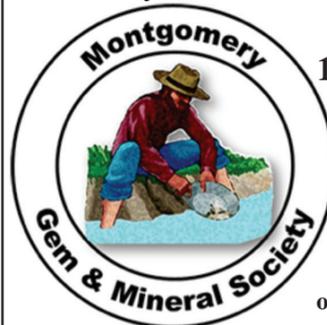


Wetumpka Tea Party founder Becky Gerritson announced she is running for Congress, challenging U.S. Rep. Martha Roby of Montgomery in the Republican primary in the 2nd District.

Wetumpka Tea Party Meeting • November 16th at 6:30PM  
Elmore Community Hospital, 500 Hospital Dr., Wetumpka, AL  
Guest: Alabama State Auditor - Jim Ziegler

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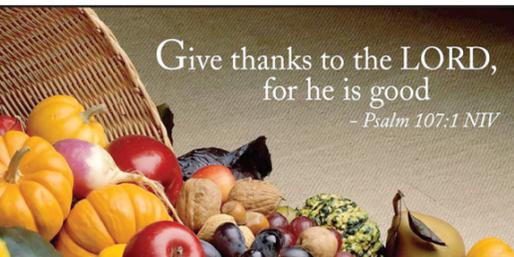
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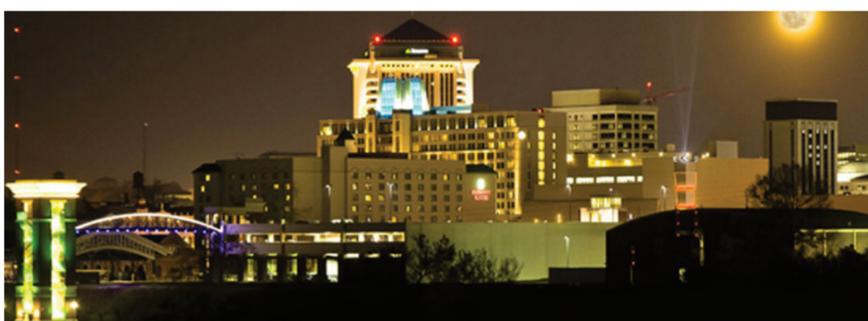


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for he is good  
- Psalm 107:1 NIV



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