

Celebrating our 26th Anniversary

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Alabama Gazette Celebrates 26 Years:

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A Legacy of Journalism and Community Impact

The Alabama Gazette reaches a big moment, marking 26 years of serving our state. For over two and a half decades, the Alabama Gazette has been key to local news. It gives important facts, helps people get involved, and shapes what folks talk about. Staying around for so long shows its strong belief in good reporting and its deep ties to the people here. The Alabama Gazette started with a clear goal. It's founders saw a need for strong local news, a place where people could trust what they read.

This anniversary is not just about time passing. It shows how the Gazette always finds new ways to work, makes good ideas, and prints top-notch news. From its first days to its website today, the Alabama Gazette has always shared the stories that mean the most to people in Alabama.

The Alabama Gazette looks to the future with fresh eyes. It plans to keep serving its readers and finding new ways to tell stories. The world of news keeps changing, but the paper's promise stays the same.

Rob Tate
Contributing Writer
for 15 years with the
Alabama Gazette.
Thank you Rob!

Robservations...

“YOU WERE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE KIRK”

Like many of us, I am still reeling from the assassination (murder) of Charlie Kirk. Also, like many of us, we will remember where we were and what we were doing when we first heard the news. The headline that flashed across the Fox News screen said, “Charlie Kirk shot at Utah Valley University” My first thought was, “Was he just shot ‘at’ or was he hit?” It didn’t take long to find the truth. I think most of us waited to find out his condition because they kept saying that he was in the hospital in critical condition. One report came out and said he was stable. Then I saw the close-up video. I turned to my wife and said, “No way. He’s dead. You do not survive that shot.” Eventually, they announced he had died. Or should I say, President Trump made the official announcement. Do I think that was planned? Yes. The President loved Charlie Kirk and he reported his death with an incredibly heartfelt tribute. This of course is my opinion only.

THE MAN

I have watched Charlie Kirk for years. I always enjoyed his debates and the way he would dismantle people who try to argue and debate with emotion only. First rule of debates: emotion is important, facts are essential. Kirk had both. Since his murder, I have watched probably dozens of his videos and podcasts. When you watch them with an open mind, what you see is perhaps one of the smartest men you will ever encounter. The guy read 100 books per year and from what I can see, he was able to retain information from all of them. His recall was extraordinary. He could articulate just about any subject better than many professors who teach those subjects in schools. I saw him in Oxford one day bringing down a bunch of elitist dimwits. It was a master class. He did it without shouting, cursing or getting mad. But with no mercy, he called them all out. He pointed to one girl and told her that what she argued was a lie. He did the same for two others. They had no come-back because he caught them in their lies and exposed to the truth, they knew it. Then, to one professor he told her that as a professor at Oxford, he expected more from her. Her teary eyes said it all. Emotion without fact rarely wins a debate and against Kirk, that number went to zero.

Although Kirk relentlessly preached about the scam that is undoubtedly college in this country today, more importantly, he was a man of God. This is an aspect I really did not know a lot about. I knew he was a Christian but he was a man who lived his belief and shared the Gospel whenever and to whomever he could. He approached sharing the Gospel in way that many young men and women identified and in turn gave their lives to Christ. Just look at the videos from around the world and the love people had for him. One of Charlie’s mantras was: Read the Bible every day. Do what the Bible says. Tell other people what the Bible says. For this main reason, they killed my brother in Christ. People loved Charlie Kirk – but not everyone.

See the continuation of this article on page 4.

**HAPPY
Columbus
Day**

October 13th, 2025

God Bless the USA

**The Preamble To The
United States Constitution**
We the People of the United States, in Order to form a
more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic
Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote
the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty
to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish
this Constitution for the United States of America.

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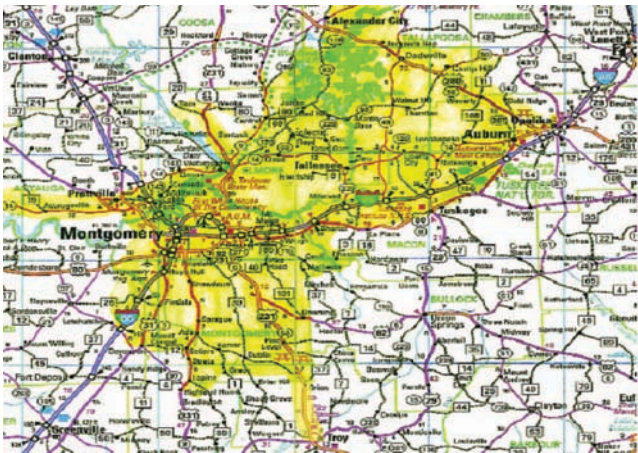
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The Gazette, (*now The Alabama Gazette*) was created in the year 2000 for the people of Central Alabama with the intent of being a thought-provoking, non-partisan publication reaching over 20,000 readers monthly. Written comments, stories, advertisements,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



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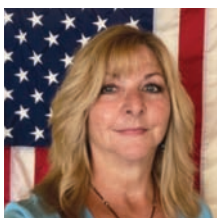
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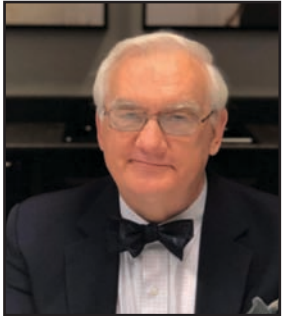
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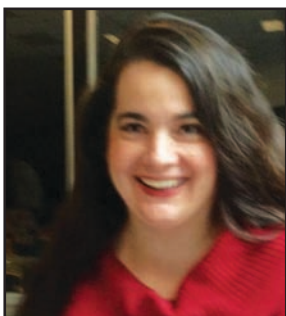
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Robert Tate
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John Taylor
Contributing Writer

Thanks to all of our Alabama Gazette Writers for your continued contributions over the many years to the Gazette! What a great team of faithful writers who bring thought-provoking and relevant content.



Brandon Moseley

Thanks to our new website contributors! They have brought new and exciting growth and information potential to the Gazette.

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INSIDE THE STATEHOUSE

With Steve Flowers

Steve Flowers is Alabama's leading political columnist. His weekly column appears in over 60 Alabama newspapers. Steve served 16 years in the state legislature. He may be reached at: <https://steveflowers.us/>



Five Good Horseraces Set For 2026

The 2026 election year began on May 19 when campaign fundraising could begin. Our elections will be May 19, 2026. Our Republican primary that day, and subsequent runoff four weeks later, will be our election day for all statewide offices. Winning the Republican Primary for state office is tantamount to election in Alabama.

Qualifying for all offices next year will be in January. However, for all practical purposes, the primary races are set and the horses are in the chute. It will be a four-month sprint from mid-January to mid-May. All 105 State House Seats and all 35 State Senate Seats are up for election. However, State Senate and House Seats are becoming analogous to Congressional Seats. Very few incumbents are ever defeated, or even challenged. Over 80% of the legislature is running unopposed. There are only three to four open Senate Seats. The makeup of the State Senate will probably remain 28 Republicans and 7 Democrats.

Since all of our statewide offices are held by Republicans and will remain that way, the endorsements and campaign contributions from all of the major pro-business organizations in the state flow to the Republican candidates. These important groups are the Business Council of Alabama, Manufacturing Alabama, the Alabama Forestry Association, and especially ALFA.

Coach Tommy Tuberville has received all of the above organizations endorsements in his cakewalk tour to the Governor's office.

The brass ring of Alabama politics, the governor's race, will be uneventful given Tuberville's uncontested victory is inevitable. However, there will be a handful of important statewide battles that will be close, and the ALFA endorsement will be critical in those races.

The ALFA endorsement is golden in a statewide Republican Primary. It has been a pivotal gamechanger in almost every statewide race over the last decade. It gave credibility and impetus to the senate campaign of Tommy Tuberville six years ago. Their continuous endorsements of Governor Kay Ivey have been a fortress for her over the years.

This treasured endorsement is not easily given but earned. They also remain loyal to political figures who are loyal to them. They live by the adage that you do not leave old friends to make new friends.

To get the ALFA endorsement, candidates have to go to the county leaders in each

county and earn their vote and support. All 67 county ALFA organizations have the same vote. The hierarchy of leadership in Montgomery does not dictate the endorsement. It comes from the grassroots throughout the state.

The ALFA endorsements will be critical in the five close statewide races. These races are for Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Agriculture Commissioner, and the U.S. Senate.

The Lt. Governor's race will be one of the best on the ballot next year. It will pit two very popular Constitutional officeholders striving to capture another Constitutional office. Secretary of State Wes Allen and Agriculture Commissioner Rick Pate will be the two horses in this contest. It is so close that it is difficult to say who is the favorite. One of the factors that will play out is if one of them can do a better job than the other in fundraising.

The Secretary of State race between current State Auditor Andrew Sorrell and dynamic political newcomer Caroleene Dobson began close but Caroleene Dobson may be moving ahead in this race.

The open Attorney General's race will be an important race to follow since this is one of the most important constitutional offices. Supreme Court Justice Jay Mitchell is favored to win because he will be endorsed and supported by the Alabama Business Community. However, Assistant Attorney General Katherine Robertson could be a player. She is being supported significantly financially by out-of-state dark money special interests. Blount County District Attorney Pamela Casey is working hard and is very well qualified but is lagging behind in fundraising.

The Agriculture Commissioner race will be one of the best. It will be a three-way horserace between State Senator Jack Williams of Mobile, Agribusiness woman Christina Woerner McInnis of Baldwin County, and Marshall County farmer Corey Hill.

The race for the open Senate Seat of Coach Tuberville will be the big race next year. It will pit Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall against Congressman Barry Moore. Big Washington money will decide this race.

It will be a good political year.

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



Perry O. Hooper Jr.

Founder Let the People Speak
Former Alabama State Representative
Alabama State Republican Executive Committee



Erika Kirk: A New Dawn for Turning Point USA

In times of trial, America's character is tested, not in words, but in action. When Charlie Kirk was taken from us, the conservative movement did not collapse, it was called to rise, to renew, to refashion itself in courage and conviction. And in that moment, a leader has emerged, not by accident, but by preparation: Erika Kirk.

Erika Kirk is far more than a custodian of a legacy. She is its expansion, its living evolution. Her life has been a tapestry of service: from winning Miss Arizona USA to founding Everyday Heroes Like You, launching media platforms, engaging faith-based work and nonprofits. She has degrees in Political Science, International Relations, a Juris Master, and she is pursuing deeper theological scholarship. These are not credentials on paper, they are the foundation of someone who understands ideas, structure, culture, and heart.

Charlie built Turning Point USA by speaking truth in hostile places. Erika will build on that by reaching into new frontiers. Not by copying Charlie's voice, but by amplifying the mission in her style, with compassion, with faith, with clarity. Under her leadership, TPUSA will not merely continue, it will transform, with broader outreach, stronger moral vision, and unyielding resolve.

As Vice President J.D. Vance said of Erika in a moment of grief and discernment: *"Erika Kirk asked my wife how to tell her beautiful kids that their father ... is no longer with us ... She's an incredibly brave soul."* That is not just sorrow speaking, it is the courage of someone who will lead from what is real, what is human, what endures.

A Vision for the Future

Imagine Turning Point USA in twenty years. Under Erika's leadership, the movement can become more than just a campus presence, it can become the beating heart of America's cultural renewal.

- On every campus in America, not just with student chapters, but with research centers, leadership academies, and faith-based initiatives producing the next generation of senators, governors, and entrepreneurs.
- In the media landscape, rivaling the cultural dominance of the left with a Turning Point media network, podcasts, documentaries, streaming platforms, that boldly defend faith, family, and freedom.
- In public service, raising up thousands of young conservatives who have been trained not just to win arguments, but to govern, to legislate, to lead in city councils,

Statehouses, and Congress.

- In culture, through the arts, athletics, and entrepreneurship, cultivating a conservative presence where it has long been absent, offering young Americans a positive alternative to despair and division.

- Internationally, Erika can carry America's message of freedom abroad, linking students in London, Warsaw, Seoul, and São Paulo who want to fight the same battles against censorship, socialism, and secularism. Turning Point could become a global hub for young conservatives who believe in liberty, faith, and national pride.

We must also be clear: those who sought to smear, intimidate, and silence Charlie Kirk will find their efforts shattered in Erika's leadership. The Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, which slandered him as "dangerous" for daring to mobilize students, failed to stop him. Big Tech companies, eager to throttle his reach, could not mute his message. Cancel-culture activists on campus, backed by a compliant media, tried to intimidate him into silence.

But now, in Erika, they face something even more formidable: a woman of faith, conviction, and courage who is not defined by their hatred but strengthened in spite of it.

By trying to destroy Charlie, they have unleashed an even greater force. His death has not silenced Turning Point USA, it has multiplied its voice.

Where Charlie once stood alone on the stage, now millions will stand with Erika. Where they tried to diminish a man, they will now contend with a movement led by a woman whose resolve is unbreakable. The very forces that sought to end the mission will watch as it expands across campuses, across states, and across continents.

We stand at a turning point, where rhetoric fails, where partisanship fractures, where the left's cynicism grows louder. Yet here is Erika Kirk, stepping forward to quiet the noise with conviction, to speak truth with love, to unify by purpose, not division. She knows faith, she knows family, she knows the conservative movement must stand for something bigger than any one of us.

Charlie's legacy is secure. But legacy is not a shrine, it is a call. And Erika Kirk answers that call. Under her leadership, Turning Point USA will ascend to heights never previously imagined. She will preserve, yes, but more than that, she will create: a new chapter, written in her voice, her personality, her unbreakable faith.

This is not merely a continuation. This is renewal. And for those of us who believe in America's promise, this is our moment to follow, to build, to prevail.

Perry O. Hooper Jr is a former state Representative, a current member of the Alabama Republican State Executive Committee, the 2016 Trump Victory Chair, and a widely published columnist.

Opinions expressed are the views of the author alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Alabama Gazette staff or publishers.





Rob Tate

Continued from Front Page:

THE HATERS

As with any situation, no matter what you say or what you do, there are going to be people who hate you. Cure cancer, people are going to hate you. Many times, the hate is for no other reason than they may not agree with you. Kirk went out of his way to encourage discourse between dissenting sides. He welcomed people who shouted stuff at him, called him names, ripped his hat off his head, mocked his looks (I know really? He was a normal looking guy to me), and assigned nonsensical and fallacious attributes to him.

These are just a few small examples. One person wrote, “We hate Nazis because they want us dead.” Another wrote he was a “fascist organizer who built his career spreading racism, misogyny, homophobia, transphobia, Islamophobia, xenophobia, and anti-immigration hate, actively harming marginalized communities every single day.” The vitriolic hate has no bounds. I even saw one moronic minister preaching a sermon of hate filled filth at Kirk. One black girl actually stated “f” Kirk, his family and the “b” that birthed him. Where does this hate come from? (Thank you Jimmy Carter – for another day, folks). For what it is worth, Charlie Kirk was none of those things. None.

This is reflective of the leftist playbook 101. Absolutely none of this garbage is true. Kirk stood up for the Gospel. His words were always love the sinner. Yes, he believed many of his opponents’ actions were wrong but he never wished or stated hate for them. One well-known author recently had to remove a post on X where he incorrectly stated (i.e. lied his butt off) that Kirk once said that all gays should be stoned to death. Like Frau Farbissina in Austin Powers, “Lies, all lies.”

WHAT ABOUT BLACK PILOTS THEN?

The day of the murder, I talked to my sister. Let’s just say on the political spectrum, I am farther right than Genghis Khan and she is farther left than that. We do not see eye-to-eye. But we do love the heck out of each other. But, when I mentioned Charlie’s murder, she gave me a derisive grunt. I took that to mean she approved of the assassination. I was none to pleased. After a couple of barbs back and forth, she came at me with, “Well, what about the time he said if he got on an airplane and if he saw a black pilot, he would be worried?” I told her I have never heard that but what was the context? She did not know so I looked it up and responded the next day.

On his podcast he made that statement during a discussion where United Airlines, because of DEI, wanted their pilot group to be 50% black and female. According to the podcast, the current number was 8%. I then watched a video on a college campus where a black student challenged Kirk on this statement. Now, being a black pilot, this topic is kind of personal for me. But this is what I told my sister. When I was in the Air Force, most of my pilot friends started peeling out for the airlines. They would have all these books, go to hiring conferences to submit resumes and the like, and we would often sit around the squadron talking about the airline world. Who is hiring. What is this airline looking for. Ohh, stay away from them. You get the point.

When I finally decided to hit the airline world in the Spring of 1997, I asked my sister to guess to which airline I never sent a resume or application. I said United. For years, founded in truth or not, we had heard of their approach to hiring and affirmative action. I had many pilots tell me that I should apply at United because they like to hire black pilots. And with my background, I would be a shoe in. But that is not me. Even if I wanted to fly for United, I told myself that I never wanted to be walking through the airport and have somebody look at me and wonder if I was there only because of my skin color. I avoided United for that reason. Now, all that being said, United is a fine airline and like every other major airline in the United States, is filled to the brim with qualified pilots. People who cannot make the cut, don’t. But to many, especially those not in the system, perception is their reality and that is a perception I did not want to deal with. So, in this situation, I had no choice but to side with Charlie Kirk. Arbitrary DEI numbers, without adhering to set standards is unacceptable in any profession. Standards are imposed for a reason. These are the kinds of things Kirk debated every, single day. Oh, my sister -- crickets.



IN THE END

In the end, America lost a great young man the other day. Why? Because of ideas. One person said it right. Charlie Kirk was not killed because of what he said. He was killed because young men and women listened. The leftist establishment feared an uncompromisingly brilliant young man who many say would possibly have become the President of the United States at some point in his life. He was exactly that special. To me, he will be missed.



KATIE BRITT

U.S. SENATOR FOR ALABAMA



U. S. Senator Katie Britt Highlights Deadly Consequences of Soft-on-Crime Policies in Democrat-Led Cities

U.S. Senator Katie Britt (R-Ala.) participated in a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing to address the problem of crime in Democrat-run cities across the country. Witnesses in the hearing included Ms. Forlesia Cook, whose 22-year-old grandson was shot and killed in Washington, D.C. in 2017, and Detective Gregg Pemberton of the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department and Chairman of the D.C. Police Union.

Senator Britt detailed Democrat-led policies that have left cities across the country increasingly plagued by crime, saying, “The problem that we’re facing today was created by blue cities ... Whether it’s cashless bail policies, downgrading classifications of whole categories of crimes, undermining rights and protections afforded by law enforcement officers like we saw in D.C. in 2022 ... Or creating systems to ensure pretrial releases of even the most violent offenders.”

Senator Britt’s first line of questioning was directed toward Ms. Cook: “Your grandson should still be with us today. And we need to utilize every tool in our toolbox to make sure that that is the reality for another grandmother somewhere in D.C. or wherever across this country. And you said today that when you told your story that no one heard you ... You said today, for the very first time, you feel heard. Can you talk to me about what it means with President Trump placing

emphasis on keeping our communities safe? What it means to someone like you who has lost someone, your very first-born grandson, so near and dear to your heart?”

Ms. Cook responded, “If we don’t send the killer a message, then they’re going to keep killing.”

The Senator directed her second line of questioning to Detective Pemberton, asking, “You obviously are well aware of D.C.’s 2022 Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Act and the impact it had on the MPD ... From your experience, when you have elected leaders that undermine law enforcement, that don’t seem to be standing shoulder-to-shoulder with law enforcement ... Can you tell me what that does on morale and what it does for recruitment and retention of law enforcement officers?”

Detective Pemberton answered, “I can, [it] is absolutely, unquantifiably the worst piece of public safety legislation that I have ever seen ... And I can tell you exactly what it did. It took us from nearly 4000 police officers to 3200 police officers in five years. We went from 30,000 arrests per year to 15,000 arrests per year. It created liabilities for police officers for administrative, civil and criminal penalties even when they do their job properly ... it made it so it’s impossible to hold criminals accountable even when they’re convicted of violent crimes. It has absolutely destroyed the police department in ways that I certainly don’t have time to get into.”

Senator Britt recently helped introduce the **CLEAN D.C.** Act, which would repeal the D.C. City Council’s Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Act of 2022. Upon introduction, Senator Britt said, “In 2023, one of my staffers was carjacked and held at gunpoint, just one mile from our nation’s Capitol building. D.C.’s crime rate is higher than the national average and even higher than that of many capital cities in third-world countries. To put it simply, anyone who says D.C. doesn’t have a crime problem isn’t facing the facts.”

Sam Somogyi, Press Secretary



Ronald A. Holtsford

What is the use of a 529 plan and its tax implications?

I am not a tax attorney and this is an article for those that are drawn to the Alabama Gazette; not scholarly enough for my peers but based on my research and personal experience. I enjoy the many fine writers that contribute to this paper, but I do not count myself as one of those writers that draw Alabama Gazette readers back month after month. Regardless, I hope that you as a kind reader will gain something from this.

The 529 plan is named after the Internal Revenue Code section in which this plan is derived (26 U.S. Code §529). Each state has a sponsored 529 plan, other type college savings or a prepaid tuition plan; the Alabama 529 plan is administered by Union Bank and Trust. There are almost 126,000 529 accounts open in Alabama, understanding that there may be multiple accounts open for one child by parents plus grandparents or other relatives. My research shows that only about 35% of families use a 529 type vehicle or other non-standard savings plan for their kids higher education. The contribution is Alabama tax deductible. Though the plan contributions have already been taxed and provided that the funds are only used for educational purposes, then presumably the plan's appreciable income and dividends typically taxed for individuals are not taxed by the Federal government.

The 529 plan can be used to pay for tuition, books, other educational fees and housing provided the housing is associated with the institution. One would need to communicate with the institution to make sure the room and board is an eligible 529 expense.

Two months after my son was born I began to contribute to a 529 set up by our financial advisor. At a time when I should have been contributing a larger amount I started with a smaller amount not really considering the growth potential over time. On a whole your earlier contributions have an opportunity to grow by a larger percent rather than those contributions made a decade or more later. Union Bank has several investment strategy tiers based on your child's age and while I am not familiar with the details, I assume that the latter tiers take on more conservative approaches. After all, the investments are directed in the same manner as a prudent individual would invest and there is not only a good historical chance for real growth but understand that the 529 may also be affected by a bear or declining market. Certainly, one thing to avoid if possible is beginning to take withdrawals during a downturn in the economy.

While I have named several higher education costs that a 529 can be used for, there are many other circumstances in which a 529 can be used, some based on changes in the law such as the Secure Act of 2022. In addition to using 529 money for higher education, you can also use up to \$10,000.00 per year for K-12 schools. Such schools may be private, charter or public, but one would need to check with the school or your advisor on the specifics.

You cannot tax deduct in Alabama more than what is capped which is \$10,000.00

per year per set of married parents who file married and jointly on their taxes. Otherwise the tax deductible contributions are capped at \$5,000 per person.

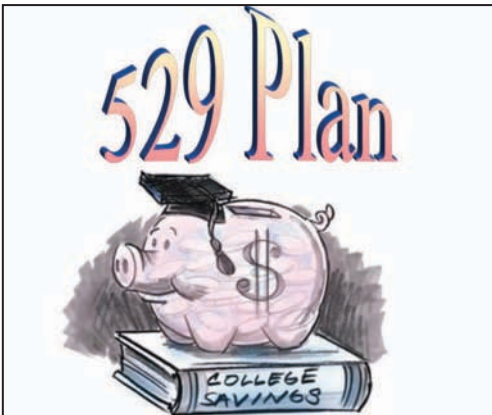
When a child is very small, it is difficult to have any idea about your child's future educational needs. Will it only be a technical school, or will they do so well that scholarship money covers the majority of educational expenses? What if the child died? What if the child does not pursue higher education? The answers are as follows. The 529 can be transferred to a family member for educational use. One can withdraw up to \$10,000 to pay towards an educational loan. If the money is in the account for a minimum of fifteen years and the money is unneeded then the maximum contribution for a Roth IRA of \$7,000 per year currently can be placed in a Roth IRA provided that the beneficiary's name exists both on the 529 and the Roth IRA. This can be done year after year until a maximum of \$35,000.00 has been rolled over. Imagine your smart kid that gets a lot of college paid for by scholarship and if as much as \$35,000 exists it can be rolled over to a Roth IRA at a maximum rate of \$7,000.00 per year. As an example, a 529 is opened and funding begins after birth. After contributing for fifteen years and say the child is a 10th grader with all A's. Should you strongly feel or know to some degree that the child should have significant scholarships available then you may thereafter set up a Roth, contributing \$7,000 per year for the next five years. In that scenario a Roth IRA such as this can grow significantly for retirement after a contribution of \$35,000.00 has been made and the child has only just graduated a four year college.

Looking forward to age 67 with no further contributions and a 6% average return could yield an amount approaching a half of a million dollars.

It's difficult to know the best answer for your child's educational funding while also funding for your golden years. You must use your best judgement and talk to professionals. A simple savings account will never yield the kind of returns a 529 has the potential for and you pay taxes on dividends. A high yield savings account can come closer to the yields of a 529 but again you have to pay taxes on dividends. Alabama has a functioning PACT plan which prepaid tuition but was closed years ago to new participants after significant financial woes. Even a child that does very well in their earlier years may as a teen take a less than enthusiastic approach to high school, ruining your plans of full scholarships. But your goof off kid that barely makes it through high school may get it together in college and become a very successful architect as did a child of one of my good friends.

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

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



Air Bag Follies



John Martin

praying that at least a few engineers in the right places will wise up and take action.

But that is not the only engineering blunder with our cars today. They are also overloaded with gross excesses of explosive air bags—sometimes with as many as 10 or possibly more. Can anybody even consider how dangerous they can be and how much they add to the price of a car? Can you even imagine how much it costs to clean up and repair the resulting messes that erupt after minor fender enders? How much good do they really do? And HOW MUCH HARM?

And why do all of the air bags have to go off when only the driver, or the driver and only one passenger are inside? Has anybody ever thought about installing a switch under each seat that has to be closed under a passenger's weight before its air bag goes off? NOPE!

WHO concocted these brain-dead contraptions? Did he even think about their dangers? Did he understand anything about economics? Did anybody ever teach him the law of diminishing returns? And if you are a government goon who enforces this crap, the DOGE should fire you immediately and dock every last nickel of your paycheck.

Do we really need these abominations? For early everybody, the answer is NO! All cars today are equipped with seat belts. If you buckle up, you don't need an air bag. If you neglect to buckle up, that's the risk you take. Don't expect the government to penalize innocent people to pay you for your foolhardiness.

Air bags can be especially dangerous for children. Most cars carry stern warnings on their windshield visors to strap small children in rear-facing seats to at least partially protect them whenever one or more of these bombs explode.

And also, for die-hard safety fanatics, INSTEAD of air bags, we could install RADAR devices and cameras to detect oncoming vehicles and obstructions to automatically apply braking or evasive action to PREVENT a collision in the first place. Many Tesla vehicles already have this feature.

Air bags in automobiles started slowly about the mid 1970's, but they were not widely accepted. Instead of becoming a safety feature, they actually CAUSED injuries and even deaths. In 1973, a fleet

of experimental GM vehicles equipped with air bags suffered seven fatalities.

Even after technical developments, acceptances during the following two decades, for obvious reasons, were very slow. Who would want a safety device that injures and kills people? Why wasn't the idea scrapped outright?

Unfortunately, it wasn't. Automakers and government meddlers continued experimentation and finally concluded that the most vulnerable spot in a car was the front passenger seat, where its occupant could be thrown into the windshield during a collision—IF he failed to fasten his seat belt. That aroused some makers to install an air bag in that location.



But air bags anywhere else do little to prevent injuries and deaths. The steering wheel usually prevents the driver from hitting the windshield. Back seat passengers would strike the padded backs of the front seats. Inexpensive seat belts are ample here. Air bags are a gross, expensive overkill. They are far beyond the limit of the law of diminishing returns.

In 1998, government goons imposed the **Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act**, which mandated that all passenger cars and light trucks built after September 1 be equipped with driver and front passenger air bags. By 1999, car shoppers found it difficult to save that money with a new mass market car without them. In 2024 US dollars, they cost \$1879 each.

And finally, in later years, government mandates literally went "hog wild" and imposed thousands of dollars worth of excessive air bags about wherever they could place them.

There are some types of accidents where air bags are always utterly useless. In a collision with a semi truck's trailer, a car can easily "override" it and strike the driver and passengers right on their heads, decapitating them.

The pipe dream of making our highways totally fail-safe is just that. It is impossible. Every time we step outside, we take a minuscule risk of getting injured or killed by ways we can't even imagine. Life has

always been that way. It will not change. We have to live with it. But our lives will always be far better when government nannies and do-gooders get out of the way and let free market innovations solve these problems without outside interference.

But as years went by, common sense went straight out the window. Government goons kept concocting and enforcing more and more extreme idiotic abominations only crazy bureaucrats could imagine.

The DOGE has the duty to eliminate waste and minimize reckless spending. But its most important duty is to exercise its TOP PRIORITY. It must do EVERYTHING POSSIBLE to STOP GOVERNMENT ABUSE AND MANDATES.

The United States of America were founded upon INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY. All people have a sacrosanct RIGHT to choose how they live, including what risks to take in everyday life. We have the right to CHOOSE what cars to buy and drive. That includes the right to choose the options we want on them. That also includes the right to REJECT any features or options we don't want—anything we deem to be too expensive or unnessesary, or even dangerous—like air bags. Likewise, all automakers have the right to build cars that the people want, NOT what the government wants. Numerous Americans, especially low and middle income workers, want simple, efficient, dependable, inexpensive, bare bones, practical vehicles WITHOUT gimmicks imposed by government. That includes air bags. ALL automakers should be ALLOWED to build cars and trucks without them. If a buyer wants these bombs in his car, fine. Get them. But if he doesn't want them, he should also have that choice. Nobody, but NOOOBODY should FORCE anybody to buy crap he doesn't want.

If you want to shell out \$18,790 EXTRA for up to 10 of these dangerous explosive devices at \$1879 each on your new car, knock yourself out. BUT if you are thrifty-minded, feel safer without them, and want to save that money for higher priorities, you deserve the option to get one with NO air bags—with NO back talk from a nosey government nanny or a greedy auto dealership.

"But most people don't want cars like that." WRONG! They do. Look at the Toyota HiLux and IMV Zero—the most practical and widely sold vehicles in the entire world. They outsell everything else, EXCEPT here in the "free country" of America, where they are prohibited by government decrees.

SOURCE

1. Airbag, Wikipedia.
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/airbag#:~:text=The%20first%20commercial%20designs%20were,late%201980s%20and%20early%201990s.>

HISTORY BITS AND PIECES

THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY



Justice Will Sellers

“wedding of the waters” when water from Lake Erie was poured into New York Harbor.

The completion of the canal was hardly inevitable. While not the first, it was certainly one of the major regional economic development activities undertaken by any government in America, and while there were some supporters for the project, their numbers were initially small.

Like most large, visionary projects there is always the first “idea man” who sees the potential and possibility and then sets out to make the vision real. In this case, the man was flour merchant, Jesse Hawley, who realized while in debtor’s prison that if the farmlands in the western portions of his state could access an Atlantic port, they would have new markets for their produce.

Transportation was a challenge in the early days of America. Natural rivers provided the most efficient means for trade, but interior sections of the country, where rivers were not abundant, were limited to ground transportation. Roads were scarce and not well maintained, and transporting goods required pack animals that could travel only short distances. Depending on the topography, pack animals could cover a little more than 20-25 miles a day, as opposed to river barges, which could move significant quantities of goods could be shipped faster, farther, and cheaper. Pack animals simply could not carry the same weight with the same efficiencies.

Engineers in Europe had successfully built canals to solve this problem. In America, canals of short distances using small locks had been competently constructed, but the expense of larger canals was too great for private financing, so proponents of the first stages of the Erie Canal attempted to get the State of New York to bankroll the undertaking. Initially, the legislation went nowhere. When the idea was suggested to President Thomas Jefferson, he rejected the proposal as sheer madness.

Even with his creative mind, Jefferson could not envision a man-made public river spanning more than 360 miles that required cutting through rocks, clearing trees, and excavating uneven terrain. To make matters worse, there were no civil engineers in America to design the placement of locks up and down this expanse, yet Hawley refused to give up. With grand visions but little financing, he lobbied for the federal government to support various infrastructure projects, which would include his Erie Canal.

Even though the bill had wide support and passed Congress, President James Madison vetoed the measure on the grounds that it was unconstitutional as he did not believe the Constitution allowed the funding of infrastructure projects. He believed those were best left to the states.

Promoting Infrastructure in Early America

Two hundred years ago, the Erie Canal was finally completed, and to celebrate the achievement the Governor of New York and other local elected officials engaged in a progressive celebration.

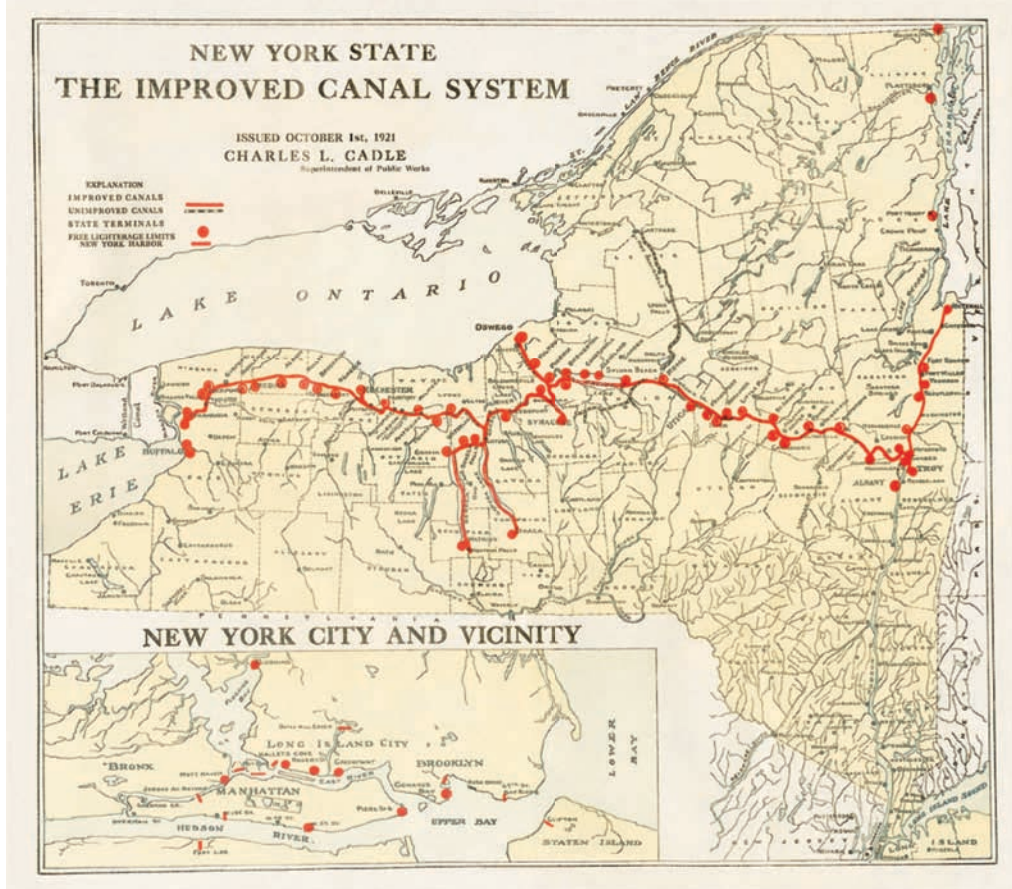
They sailed from Lake Erie to New York Harbor with stops at communities along the way. It was like a 10-day tailgate with parties, speeches and all-day public celebrations, and it culminated in a ceremonial

Hawley then worked to enlist the support of New York Governor DeWitt Clinton, who realized this type of canal would link the western and eastern portion of his state to open up new trade routes. Despite opposition, Clinton became the champion of the project and worked to have the state issue \$7 million — more than \$200 million today — in bonds to finance the canal. The project would be derided as “Clinton’s ditch,” which initially seemed accurate given the struggles, setbacks and pit falls that occurred as the initial 15 miles of canal took more than two years to complete.

But Clinton persisted and did all he could to support the project. The canal would be the second longest in the world, and even today, something of this enormity would be considered an enormous undertaking. The magnitude of the project is even more astounding as there were only animals and human labor to cut through rock, fell trees, and dig navigable ditches. Construction equipment was limited, but with each obstacle, American creativity, if not ingenuity, succeeded. In fact, the construction of the canal created new means and methods of construction techniques.

As the project moved forward and as each section was opened and utilized for trade, those along the route realized the communal benefits of the project. Once they saw the ease of moving goods along the canal, the possibilities became abundantly clear. Thomas Jefferson even came to embrace the project and the visionary wisdom of Gov. Clinton.

The canal was completed in 1825 following eight years of hard work. While the initial intent was to open up trade between Lake Erie and New York, the unintended consequences were even more promising in the growth and prosperity of communities all along the canal. In addition to the ease of transporting goods, new businesses sprang up along the canal route providing even more goods to ship on the canal. Tourism flourished as individuals and families curious about the canal explored the interior of the country staying at hotels and dining at restaurants along the way.

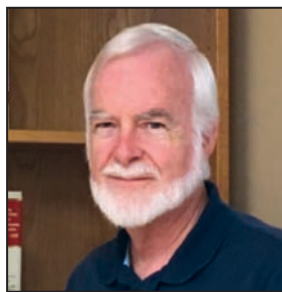


The project exceeded all expectations. In its first year of operation, the canal generated more than \$1 million of revenue, which allowed the bonds to be paid off early. Transportation costs decreased more than 75% and, in some instances, even more. Tariffs generated from goods shipped and received from New York Harbor became one of the most significant revenue streams for the federal government. Perishable goods could now be shipped quickly, so seaboard residents had fresh produce and interior residents had edible seafood.

The canal was among the main reasons New York City prospered. In fact, New York’s port activity caused other seaboard cities to consider similar canals to open up their interior in the same way to enhance their trade. But New York had a head start and never looked back.

What started out as Clinton’s folly became Clinton’s success as economic development from the canal increased trade, prosperity, and tax revenues.

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John Taylor

wanting only White settlers in the West; they consistently affirmed that they did not want Blacks as neighbors or as job competitors. Numerous Republicans, e.g., Greeley, Lincoln, Wade, etc., vocalized it and even wrote about it. The Free Soil Party echoed this agenda.

We also hear excerpts from Alexander Stephens’ Cornerstone Speech and are led to believe Stephens was the spokesman for the South. Stephens, Abraham Lincoln’s one-time friend, said his comments were taken out of context. Regardless, the individual with the most informed view of the Southern cause was Confederate President Jefferson Davis. On multiple occasions, he noted the States are the sovereigns in a voluntary federal republic and the South was fighting for independence, just as their “Revolutionary” ancestors had done. While conversing with Yankee spy, Edward Kirk, Davis is reported by said spy to have stated, “We are not fighting for slavery; we are fighting for independence.” Understanding the detrimental effects of the system, Robert E. Lee said: “The best men of the South have long been anxious to do away with this institution and were quite willing to see it abolished.” He also said, “So far from engaging in a war to perpetuate slavery, I am rejoiced that slavery is abolished. I believe it will be greatly for the interest of the South...”

Hundreds of thousands on the Southern side understood the goal was independence. Confederate General Richard Taylor, son of President Zachary Taylor, said the Confederates “have striven for that which brought our forefathers to Runnymede, the privilege of exercising some influence in their own government.” Taylor also scoffed at Stephens’ controversial “Cornerstone” statement. When questioned by James “Birdseye” McPherson about the reason for secession, Brigadier General E.P. Alexander explained: “It was not for slavery but the sovereignty of the states, which is practically the right to resume self government or to secede.”

Conversely, why was the Union determined to coerce the seceded States back into the Union? In his First Inaugural Address on March 4, 1861, Lincoln stated the “only” reason for invasion would be to regain the forts in order “to collect duties and imposts.” Lincoln “reminded a visiting abolitionist toward the end of January: ‘We didn’t go into the war to put down slavery. To act differently at this moment would, I have no doubt, not only weaken our cause but smack of bad faith. ... The first thing you’d see would be a mutiny in the army.’” Union Officer Donn Piatt echoed Lincoln’s comments: “Lincoln well knew that the North was not fighting

THE RIGHTEOUS CAUSE MYTH

to free slaves, nor was the South fighting to preserve slavery. In that awful conflict slavery went to pieces.” There is no evidence the North invaded the South to end slavery.

Massachusetts abolitionist Lysander Spooner understood the mercenary nature of the individuals so adamant about denying Southern Independence: “The pretense that the “abolition of slavery” was either a motive or justification for the war is a fraud of the same character with that of ‘maintaining the national honor.’ ... And why did these men abolish slavery? Not from any love of liberty in general...but only ‘as a war measure,’ and because they wanted his assistance, and that of his friends, in carrying on the war they had undertaken for maintaining and intensifying that political, commercial, and industrial slavery, to which they have subjected the great body of the people, both black and white.” Spooner also said the denial of consensual government is itself a form of slavery.

In 1864, J.P. Morgan, prominent American financier and banker, witnessed the “saving the union” fallacy first hand: “I supported President Lincoln. I believed his war policy would be the only way to save the country, but I see my mistake. I visited Washington a few weeks ago, and I saw the corruption of the present administration—and so long as Abraham Lincoln and his Cabinet are in power, so long will war continue. And for what? For the preservation of the Constitution and the Union? No, but for the sake of politicians and government contractors.”

It can be argued with considerable evidence that Union soldiers were fighting for the “Unrighteous Cause” of protecting the interests of Northern banks and corporations. This is the reality that later struck Smedley Darlington Butler (War is a Racket) when he realized he was fighting in foreign wars for similar reasons.

Sources:

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Col John Eidsmoe

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, NICENE CREED!

It was the fourth century A.D. Yes, I know the politically-correct crowd says we’re not supposed to use B.C. and A.D. anymore, because they mean “Before Christ” and “Anno Domini” (in the year of our Lord). Those terms, we are told, refer to the birth of Christ and that is offensive to some. Instead, we’re supposed to say B.C.E. (“Before the Common Era”) and C.E. (“Common Era”). But what makes the Common Era common, other than the birth of Christ? Our Founding Fathers finished the Constitution with the words “in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Eighty seven.” I’ll keep saying B.C. and A.D.



“begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.”

I’d like to say this ended the controversy once and for all, but it did not. Arius was exiled, but he had powerful friends who brought him back again and again. Far from basking in victory, Athanasius was excommunicated five times, but he persevered and died in A.D. 273 in the good graces of the Church.

And the Nicene Creed prevailed and brought a measure of unity to the Church, distinguishing orthodoxy from heresy. Around A.D. 1054 the Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church split, officially over another passage of the Nicene Creed (the filioque, which says the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son; Eastern Orthodoxy says He proceeds only from the Father). Even after the Reformation, Catholics and Protestants agreed on the Nicene Creed, and the Orthodox agreed on all except the filioque. Only in the modern era, with the advent of religious liberalism, modernism, progressivism, and emergent theology did the Nicene Creed become passé.

And 1,700 years later, churches still use the Nicene Creed as the test of orthodoxy, and many recite it during worship services. I urge you to recite, even memorize the Creed, saying it with your whole heart and spirit, in the knowledge that you are saying it in unity with hundreds of millions of Christians of many denominations all over the world, past, present, and future.

Don’t have a copy? Here it is:

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us men for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spake by the prophets.

I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Happy Birthday, Nicene Creed!

Colonel Eidsmoe serves as Professor of Constitutional Law for the Oak Brook College of Law & Government Policy (obcl.edu), as Senior Counsel for the Foundation for Moral Law (morallaw.org), and as Pastor of Woodland Presbyterian Church of Notasulga, Alabama (woodlandpca.org). He may be contacted for speaking engagements at eidsmoeja@juno.com.

FEDERAL SHUTDOWN

OCTOBER 2, 2025

The federal government remained shuttered Thursday as partisan gridlock deepened, leaving hundreds of thousands of workers furloughed and critical services disrupted. With Congress failing to pass a funding resolution before the October 1 deadline, the shutdown has now stretched into its second day, triggering warnings of mass layoffs and long-term agency cuts.

Political Standoff Intensifies

President Donald Trump met with Office of Management and Budget Director Russ Vought to discuss which federal programs might face permanent cuts. In a post on Truth Social, Trump wrote: *"I have a meeting today with Russ Vought... to determine which of the many Democrat Agencies... he recommends to be cut, and whether or not those cuts will be temporary or permanent."*

Meanwhile, Senate Democrats and Republicans failed for a third time to advance competing funding proposals. With Yom Kippur observances underway,

the Senate is not expected to vote again until Friday, ensuring the shutdown will last at least one more day.

Federal Workforce Faces Uncertainty

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that up to 750,000 federal employees are currently furloughed. Essential personnel remain on duty but are working without pay. The Trump administration has signaled that mass layoffs could begin within days if the shutdown continues.

Vice President JD Vance and Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt warned that the administration is preparing for permanent reductions-in-force, a departure from the usual practice of temporary furloughs during funding lapses.

Legal and Civic Disruptions

The Justice Department has begun requesting delays in federal court cases, citing staffing shortages. In one case, attorneys opposing the government argued that the shutdown should not be used to postpone litigation involving National Guard deployments in Washington, D.C.

Public services such as national parks, passport processing, and small business loan approvals are facing closures or delays. Infrastructure and climate-related projects in states that voted for Kamala Harris in 2024 have been paused, including \$18 billion in New York and \$8 billion across 16 states.

Alabama Impact

While many federal facilities in Alabama remain operational due to essential status, agencies such as the USDA, VA, and Social Security offices are bracing for service interruptions. Local union leaders have warned that furloughs could affect administrative staff and delay public-facing services.

What's Next?

Senate GOP leaders plan to hold another vote Friday on a House-passed bill to reopen the government. Democrats continue to demand the reversal of Medicaid cuts and the extension of Affordable Care Act subsidies, which remain key sticking points.

As the shutdown continues, the stakes grow higher-not just for federal workers, but for families, businesses, and communities across the country.

COACH TOMMY TUBERVILLE

U.S. SENATOR  FOR ALABAMA

Title IX and the Debate Over Transgender Participation in High School Sports



U.S. Senator Tommy Tuberville (R-Alabama) has recently drawn attention to the issue of transgender participation in high school athletics. Tuberville presented documents showing that 122,000 transgender individuals competed in high school sports last year. This figure has sparked a renewed conversation about fairness and the future of gender-based protections in athletics.

According to Tuberville, the growing number of transgender athletes raises concerns about the integrity of women’s sports. He argues that the participation of transgender individuals—specifically those assigned male at birth—in female sports divisions is not being taken seriously enough by some lawmakers. Democrats, he says, have dismissed the issue, asserting that men competing in women’s sports “isn’t a big deal.”

However, Tuberville strongly disagrees with this characterization, stating, *“122 THOUSAND transgender individuals competed in high school sports last year,” Sen. Tuberville said on X. “Sounds like a pretty big deal to me.”* He emphasizes the need to take action, calling for the permanent restoration of Title IX protections to maintain the separation between men’s and women’s sports.

Title IX, enacted in 1972, was designed to ensure equal opportunities for women

in education and athletics. The ongoing debate centers on how best to uphold these protections while considering the inclusion of transgender students.

Tuberville’s remarks highlight a perspective that prioritizes the preservation of women’s sports and calls for policy changes to address current concerns.

Tuberville is a sponsor of legislation to define gender as the sex that God and biology assigned one at birth—not the one you (with the help of your doctor and big pharmaceutical companies) choose on a whim.

“We must PERMANENTLY restore Title IX protections and KEEP MEN OUT OF WOMEN’S SPORTS,” Tuberville stated.

Democrats in Congress – cowed by big money donors in the community – disagree and are using the filibuster to stymie Senator Tuberville’s common sense legislation.

Alabama has already banned experimental transgender surgeries on children citing that their immaturity prevents them from giving informed consent – the same way that the law protects children from being able to lease an automobile or get a payday loan. Radicals within the Biden administration attempted to challenge the Alabama law in court and withhold Title IX funds from the state of Alabama if the state did not allow boys who claim to be transgender to compete in girl’s sports.

Tuberville is a 2026 candidate for the Republican nomination for Governor of Alabama.

(AI contributed to this report.)

To comment or ask a question email brandonmreporter@gmail.com



John Sophocleus

“The Auburn Screed’ according to Roberts

Happy 26th Anniversary to The Alabama Gazette!

Time to reflect back over a quarter century to herald this brave paper standing strong on the First Amendment; it prints submissions of big government conservatives and modern liberals as well as observations and perspectives of small government conservative/classical liberals like me these past 16 years.

Those who regularly consume news from our local East Central Alabama 'Pravda on the Plains' publications recently witnessed a social media statement from President, Christopher Roberts asserting Auburn University termination of some employees for posts “antithetical to values we hold dear in the Auburn Creed.” Ironically, the Auburn Creed specifically contains the following two statements of value which are at odds with President Roberts’ conduct:

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

“I believe in my Country, because it is a land of freedom...”

Little surprise one of AU President Christopher Roberts intellect and integrity would make this absurdly hypocritical reference to the Auburn Creed when announcing he’s going to violate 42 US Code Section 1983 and the First Amendment rights and freedoms of other citizens. In Fall of 2022 at the Opelika federal courthouse, “Stern v. Roberts, et al” went to trial where a federal jury unanimously found Economics Professor Stern’s First Amendment rights violated with malice by AU administrator Aistrup, then College of Liberal Arts Dean. The “Roberts” in the case name is none other than current AU President Chris Roberts.

Summer of 2023, President Roberts was placed under a federal injunction because he refused to voluntarily correct malicious retaliations carried out against Professor Stern because of his constitutionally protected speech about the distortion of curricular decisions by athletic interests AU using taxpayer dollars. One could thus conclude President Roberts has no respect for the freedom articulated in the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. Likewise, President Roberts does not appear to believe in “protecting the rights of all” when the “all” includes people who expose AU corruption or speak in ways that he doesn’t like.

Consistent with past and recent conduct, President Roberts is currently a defendant (individual capacity) for violation of Professor Joseph Majdalani’s First Amendment rights. Professor Majdalani is among the most distinguished aerospace engineers to ever work at AU. President Roberts has twice run to the eleventh circuit federal court of appeals begging for immunity from the consequences of his conduct towards Professor Majdalani. President Roberts appears to fear accountability for his own disturbing conduct “antithetical to values we hold dear in the Auburn Creed.” Rather, one might argue his values are more aligned with an ethos known as the “Auburn Greed” penned in a prior column. [https://www.alabamagazette.com/story/2018/03/01/opinion/the-auburn-greed/1301.html]

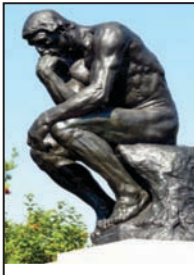
Some forecast Robert’s civil right lawsuit filed by Majdalani will be more successful curbing 'Auburn Greed' as it is much less complex than the Stern case. In fact malicious administrators disciplined in the federal courts are still employed - i.e., not publicly fired for wrongdoings as the recent Roberts Kabuki Theatre show shrieked. Those aware what this still employed harasser (and now a public servant advancing more corruption on Auburn Planning Board) has done to Professors Privett-Duren, Stern and others are not surprised by serial malefactors undisciplined by our governor, BoT, recent presidents, legal counsel, upper administrators, etc. at AU. The civil right lawsuit against Dean Roberts, now as president (further blatantly displaying how corrupt things are at AU) is the longest a waiting a trial date of the cases I’ve addressed illustrating how deep the corruption and outside influence has become to attack sound scholarship and academic freedom/integrity of our most productive, honest scholars and faculty.

Given recent developments, I’d like to resubmit Prof. Privett-Duren’s perspective/thoughts on the verdict exposing this malicious AU Dean in federal court. Honoured this courageous victim provided the following quote which still applies today:

"At long last, some justice has been won in the case of Michael Stern's battle against the corrupt underbelly of a university that I once held in high esteem. For some of us, that justice was not soon enough, nor comprehensive enough, to make a difference. The loss of career, retirement, reputation, and a long-held conviction and faith in AU's mission statement was irreparable. And, as is often the case with unprincipled systems of governance, we still appeal for the return of fair, honorable, and holistic policies that protect and support the instructors and professors whose lives are/were dedicated to teaching. The world is changing and no longer hides the prejudices and systemic ideologies of "good ol' boys" within the skirts of bureaucrats and administrators-- nor should it have ever done so. The emperor, indeed, has no clothes. The longer we affect that illusion, the deeper the fracture grows between what our university could have been and what it has become. As part of my agreement within my settlement against Auburn University, I cannot speak to what I have suffered, nor experienced, at the termination of my fourteen years within those beloved walls. I can say that I loved teaching, and that I was once loved by my students, and that my heart will always be just a little broken by the loss of it all.

And so, I stand with Michael Stern, and am ever grateful that he had the fortitude to fight the battle that I could not. May we one day see Auburn University brought back around to the noble core that built its foundations. And until then, to everyone still struggling to stand under the weight of an administration that no longer considers its bearings: may the odds be ever in your favor." - Dr. Katharyn M. Privett-Duren

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



THINK

Difficult to 'firewall' such over-powering corruption within this university in our once lovely, small college town... now overgrown with so many political parasites and government subsidized, unsustainable expansion destroying our once wonderful quality of life. Marguerite Middlemas [4/7/22 Villager] report on Auburn City Council board appointments explained installing Dean Aistrup to fill Mack Lazenby's unexpired term on the Planning Commission over five other applicants some thought may be of better character and Spirit than one with this (now jury determined malicious) repute. Public servant, Mayor Ron Anders emphasized the impressiveness of the applicants and the importance of the Planning Commission. Anders was quoted with, "We had three outstanding interviews and I appreciate everyone seeking this position," and also said, "Planning is so important to our community and there's so much going on and you really have to dig in and want to be a part of it." Planning in Lee County has been another hub of 'dug in' corruption and cronyism created for the Auburn Mafia, many embracing Felon Hubbard's return from prison. To install Dean Aistrup speaks volumes of what Anders, et al on the Council really want over other applicants as AU corruption permeates into Lee County.

The most indelible comment I witnessed from this malicious Dean awaiting an Econ Department meeting, "May the Wings of Corruption Carry You Far." In retrospect, I can say Aistrup's wings have indeed carried him far... from continued employment after AU paying settlements and verdicts for his malice to being installed among the Auburn City politburo to further spread corruption and malice as a public servant outside his academic sphere of influence. This malicious Dean clearly belongs with our most antithetical to the letter and Spirit of The Auburn Creed.

In closing, I'm the person who directs much effort getting things in court to solidify the corrupt from the righteous, knowing evil usually prevails in our State and my county. The Auburn Mafia Family does well at paying failed coaches, corrupt administrators, faculty who allow our student athletes to be raped and clustered into sham degrees. A new head coach is reportedly installed to a five 5 year contract without a search and I hear no one questioning as expected under such a corrupt, toxic workplace. Time for the Auburn righteous to make a stand and take care of their own... voters are going to keep (re)installing the Bentley, Ivey, Tubberville et al types who care more of prostituting wealth transfers than our education, safety and quality of life. A few months ago the Gazette courageously printed this column on how this cancer continues to metastasize: https://www.alabamagazette.com/story/2024/05/01/opinion/prof-roberts-theresa-cancer-on-the-presidency/3257.html as faculty members who spoke out against Biden/Ivey authoritarianism w.r.t. Covid are a similar travesty upon returning to Trump sycophantism.

Postscript: some readers noted President Trump’s recent fee increase for certain visas created under the Bush abomination [https://www.alabamagazette.com/story/2018/02/01/opinion/toward-a-more-rational-constitutional-immigration-policy/1275.html] suggesting I may have some influence on what gets considered by our politburo.

If I indeed introduced something our over-degreed, poorly educated suffering Biden/Trump derangement hadn’t considered, it is yet another source of despair as what I put forth as a Constitutionally compliant improvement was morphed into another tool for leviathanists.

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 (1943)

Bill of Rights First Amendment

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

<div>1st Amendment</div> <div>Freedom of speech, religion, press</div>	<div>2nd Amendment</div> <div>Right to bear arms</div>	<div>3rd Amendment</div> <div>People don't have to house soldiers</div>	<div>4th Amendment</div> <div>No searches without reason</div>	<div>5th Amendment</div> <div>Rights related to trials</div>
<div>6th Amendment</div> <div>Rights if you are charged with a crime</div>	<div>7th Amendment</div> <div>Rights for a civil case</div>	<div>8th Amendment</div> <div>No unreasonable fines or treatment</div>	<div>9th Amendment</div> <div>People have other rights, too</div>	<div>10th Amendment</div> <div>The states can make laws, too</div>

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Sheriff
Derrick Cunningham



Chief Deputy
Kevin Murphy



Smart 911 - Helping them find you faster!

Smart911 is a free service used by public safety agencies across the country to enhance communication and response for their community. It can be used by 9-1-1 agencies to quickly send first responders to the location of an emergency with more information, by emergency management to better plan for and respond to disasters, and by municipalities to send emergency notifications to their citizens.

By creating a Safety Profile for your family, you are providing potentially life-saving information to public safety officials at the time when they need it most.

The 9-1-1 service of Smart911 allows you to create a Safety Profile for your household which will proactively provide details on your family and home that 9-1-1 may need in order to send help in the event of an emergency.

The emergency management service of Smart911 allows you to answer questions about yourself, your family and your household that will help emergency management officials plan for and respond to disasters by being able to understand the needs of their community.

The emergency notification service of Smart911 allows you to opt-in to receive alerts from your community through a variety of communication channels including voice, text or email.

While every community may offer a different combination of services to their citizens, your Smart911 account will allow you to opt-in and manage all services available to you in one place. Smart911 is free, private and secure and endorsed by citizens, community groups and public safety officials. Smart911's availability is constantly expanding as communities across the country are implementing one or all of the three services offered to enhance their public safety services.

Why Should I Sign Up for Smart 911?

Today over 70% of calls made to 9-1-1 in the U.S. are made from mobile phones, and these mobile phones relay limited information about the caller. Unlike a landline, a mobile phone does not link directly to an address or include a caller's name. 9-1-1 call takers are trained to ask specific questions to determine the location of the emergency, who is in need of assistance and other specific details in order to send the correct response teams, to the correct location, quickly.

These questions can take time, and often during an emergency the caller may not be able to speak, or may be too panicked to effectively communicate. When your Smart911 Safety Profile immediately appears to the call taker, the information you have provided can help the dispatcher obtain the information they need to help you quickly.



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Sheriff
Chris West

POLICE OFFICERS
PRAYER

Lord I ask for courage
Courage to face and
Conquer my own fears...
Courage to take me where
Others will not go...
I ask for strength
Strength of a body to protect
others and strength of spirit to
lead others...
I ask for dedication.

Dedication to my job to do it
well.
Dedication to my community,
to keep it safe...
Give me Lord, concern for
others who trust me and
Compassion for those who
need me...
and please Lord through it all
Be at my side.

AMEN



ICE

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency—ICE—
was created in 2003 when the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
was created after the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

It combined the old Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS)
with borders and customs enforcement into one agency.

No Greater Love
Frazer Free Methodist Church Honors First Responders

On the evening of September 10, 2025, Frazer Free Methodist Church hosted a deeply meaningful worship service titled "Blessing of the First Responders: No Greater Love" to honor and uplift the city's first responders on the eve of the anniversary of the September 11, 2001, attacks. The service brought together members of the Montgomery Police Department, Montgomery Fire and Rescue, EMTs, and other local emergency personnel. Montgomery County Sheriff Derrick Cunningham was in attendance and shared heartfelt remarks on the vital role and daily sacrifices of first responders in protecting and serving the community.

Rev. Dr. Alex Palomaria delivered the evening's message reminding attendees of the profound call to service reflected in Jesus' words: "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

Rev. Dr. Chris Montgomery concluded the service with a powerful blessing of the first responders, offering prayers of protection, strength, and gratitude on behalf of the entire community. The event was a moving reminder of the selfless dedication of those who run toward danger when others run away — and a moment for the community to say thank you.

Frazer Free Methodist Church extends its ongoing support and prayers for all who serve on the front lines.

By: Martha Simmons



First Responders



Worship Service



Montgomery County Sheriff
Derrick Cunningham

Articles submitted and shared from The Montgomery Rotary Club.



The COGnition

The Official Publication of the Montgomery Rotary Club

Glenn Halbrooks,



Growing up in the small town of Camden in Wilcox County, Alabama, and working on her father's farm, Kay Ivey was taught the value of hard work and living within one's means. Her parents instilled the Alabama values of faith, family and community.

After graduating from Auburn University in 1967, Kay worked as a high school teacher and a bank officer. She served as Reading Clerk of the Alabama House of Representatives under Speaker Joseph C. McCorquodale and was Assistant Director of the Alabama Development Office, where she worked to spur job creation and economic development across the state.

In 2002, Kay became the first Republican elected State Treasurer since Reconstruction, and she was re-elected in 2006. As Treasurer, Kay was committed to making the office more open, transparent, and efficient. Kay was elected Lieutenant Governor in 2010, becoming the first Republican woman to hold the office in Alabama's history.

She again made history on November 4, 2014, by becoming the first Republican Lieutenant Governor re-elected to the office. Governor Ivey has been honored to receive numerous awards for her service to the state of Alabama, including the 2015 ALFA Service to Agriculture Award; Newsmax's 50 Most Influential Female Republicans in the country; the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) 2016 Public Service Award; and 2017 Citizen of the Year, by River Region Living Magazine. In September 2019, the Alabama-Florida Council of the Boy Scouts of America distinguished Governor Ivey as a Golden Eagle for her 'scout like service' and being a trailblazer for women. In 2021, Governor Ivey was awarded the prestigious Army Aviation Order of St. Michael Knight Award. The American Village also presented the governor their highest honor, the Cornerstone of Liberty Award. Most recently, Governor Ivey was presented the inaugural Cognia STEM Champion Award and the Alabama Automotive Manufacturers Association Hall of Fame Award.

On April 10, 2017, Governor Ivey was sworn in as the 54th Governor of the state of Alabama in the Old Senate Chamber in the Alabama State Capitol by Acting Chief Justice Lyn Stuart. Following a successful nineteen months in office, the people of Alabama made history again in November 2018 by electing Governor Ivey to a full term. She is the first Lieutenant Governor of Alabama elected to a full term after taking over as governor due to a vacancy in the Governor's Office.

On January 14, 2019, Governor Ivey was officially sworn in for her full term by Associate Justice Will Sellers. Governor Ivey's first term brought conservative leadership with effective results to make this generation more productive and the next generation more prosperous.

Governor Ivey was reelected to a second full term November 2022 in a landslide voting outcome, and she was sworn in January 16, 2023. Noting education, economic development, roads and bridges, broadband expansion, public safety and government reform as the top priorities of her second administration, Governor Ivey vowed to keep Alabama working, ensuring the state's best days are yet to come.

If you want to learn more about Rotary and its programs, activities and members, consider joining us each Monday (except for federal holidays) at the Alabama Activity Center - 201 Dexter Avenue.
Learn more about us at montgomeryrotary.com and www.rotary.org or call us at 334-301-0597



Our Rotary speaker on September 22 was Gov. Kay Ivey, who has been a member of our Club since 1990. She has served as Alabama governor since April 2017 and will be the longest-serving governor in history when she completes her second term in January 2027. (Pictured L to R: President Elect Henry Davis, Program Chair William Bloom, Governor Kay Ivey and President Kimberly Baker.)

Gov. Ivey said she was shocked by the recent assassination of Charlie Kirk. She hates political violence and said it saddens her to see Americans attacked. She said our own Rotary 4-Way Test should be the rule for everyone in society. Gov. Ivey noted that last year, she joined the National Governors Association's Disagree Better initiative. It is designed to show a healthy way for voters and elected leaders to debate political issues. One of the honorary chairs of the initiative is the governor of Utah, the same state where Kirk was killed.

Gov. Ivey said President Trump is keeping his campaign promises to close borders and to fight crime. In Alabama, she said the new Metro Area Crime Suppression unit (MACS) is getting results in Montgomery, while the new Back the Blue law will provide protections for law enforcement. A state ban is now in place for so-called Glock switches, which allow guns to function as machine guns.

As for education, Gov. Ivey says the new Focus Act, which prevents students from using phones and other electronic devices during the school day, is common sense legislation. She started her Back to School tour two weeks ago and is happy to report that reading and math scores are up. Alabama now ranks 34th in reading and 32nd in math, up from being at or near the bottom several years ago.

Economically, the Department of Labor will become the Alabama Department of Workforce on October 1, with former State Sen. Greg Reed as its first secretary. The change reflects the mission to make Alabama's workforce better prepared for the future. Gov. Ivey said the current unemployment rate is 2.9%, which is the lowest in the South and one of the lowest in the country. The relocation of Space Command from Colorado to Huntsville is a big achievement. She said overall economic development since 2017 has been \$55 billion, with 93,000 new jobs.

Gov. Ivey said that as we approach the 250th anniversary of the United States, she is proud of Alabama and our citizens, but she said, "let's not waste a moment," in trying to improve our state and our nation.

Upcoming Programs:

Oct. 6th Chemo Care Bags Service Project for Cancer Wellness Foundation

Oct. 13th No Meeting – Columbus Day

Oct. 20th No Meeting after International Night Event

Governor and Rotarian Kay Ivey spoke to her home Club in Montgomery Alabama. She started her words by emphasizing our 4 Way Test and encouraging all of us to avoid divisiveness and to seek common ground.

Kay is the longest serving Governor in Alabama history. She addressed issues of crime, our improving education (especially in K-12, with a record \$9.9 Billion education budget), and the expanding work force development with unemployment under 4%. The new U.S. Space Command development in huntsville is flying high, while Meta recently announced a 1.5 billion dollar expansion of its Data Center in Montgomery.

The Montgomery Rotary Club celebrates the fact that it has a total of six members who are either Alabama active and retired Constitutionally elected officers (including Governor Ivey) represented in its Club. Others include: Eric Mackey (Superintendent of Education), Rick Pate (Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries), Young Boozer (Treasurer) Will Sellers (Supreme Court Justice), Tom Parker (former Chief Justice of Supreme Court) and John McMillan(former CAI). This achievement reflects not only the great reputation that Rotary has, but it also sets an international record for the highest number of constitutional officers who are also Rotarians in one of the 33,000 clubs around the world.



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Honoring Our Heroes



HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARTHA SIMMONS!

Dr. Martha Simmons celebrated her 87th birthday on September 20th.

We want to honor her for all the wonderful accomplishments she has continued to do for our Veterans throughout the Tri-County area. She began the “Honoring Our Heroes” section of the Alabama Gazette seven years ago. She has worked diligently personally interviewing each Veteran, attending VA events, and supplying pictures for the Gazette. We are so grateful for her hard work, dedication and service to our Veteran community. She is our. “hero”.

Dr. Martha P. Simmons

The Alabama Gazette wants to honor Martha for the many years of service to our veterans. She has spent countless hours interviewing, showing special attention, writing stories of the many great Veterans in our area that has served in so many of our American conflicts and wars.



CELEBRATING A Legacy of Service and Advocacy

Martha Poole Simmons has devoted herself to community service, particularly supporting veterans and senior citizens. All of us at the Alabama Gazette want to thank her for all her hard work and dedication over the past 7 years. She has written biographical articles on 312 veterans during December 2018 through September 2025 for the Gazette. In addition she wrote many other articles about the activities of veterans’ service organizations, the Alabama Department of Veteran Affairs, and the Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR VALUABLE SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY!

Service to veterans

Simmons has a long history of serving military veterans through various initiatives. Her work with the American Red Cross includes organizing celebratory drive-by parades for elderly veterans during the COVID-19 pandemic. She also advocates for veterans through her column "Honoring Our Heroes" in the Alabama Gazette and by speaking at veteran organization meetings. From 2016 to 2022, she volunteered at the Central Alabama Veterans Health Care Outpatient Clinic and runs a "Totes of Hope" program providing hygiene items.

Support for seniors

As a dedicated volunteer at the Crump Senior Center Martha Simmons served as president of the Friends of the Crump Center. She led successful fundraising efforts and secured grants for the center. For over a decade, she has also

Her volunteer and community work includes:

- **American Red Cross:** For many years, Simmons has been a disaster relief volunteer, delivering food and supplies following events like Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy. She also taught disaster preparedness to students and teachers in Montgomery and served as a media spokesperson.
 - **Crump Senior Center:** As president of the Friends of the Crump Center advisory board, she spearheaded fundraising to help the senior center relocate and wrote grant proposals that raised over \$20,000. She has also served as a coordinator for a weekly bridge program.
 - **Veteran advocacy:** Simmons regularly writes articles honoring veterans for the Alabama Gazette, preserving their stories by sending her work to the Alabama Department of Archives and History. She has also volunteered at the Central Alabama Veterans Health Care Outpatient Clinic and organized celebratory drive-by parades for aging veterans during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - **Frazer United Methodist Church:** She is an active member of the church, where she volunteers with the Christmas Angel Tree project and the Older Adult Ministry.
- For her extensive contributions, Simmons has received several prestigious recognitions:
- **Alabama Senior Citizens Hall of Fame:** She was formally inducted into the Class of 2024.
 - **AARP Alabama's Andrus Award:** She received this award for Community Service in 2013.



Martha Simmons with the Volunteers and Staff American Red Cross



Martha Simmons with the Volunteers and Staff at VA Health Services



Martha Simmons receiving the Alabama Senior Citizens Hall of Fame Award in 2024

We Hope you enjoy reading the Gazette as much as our Veterans!

VETERAN NEWS



Col Charles Bonasera



SSG Drew Lufkin



CMSgt Zacchaeus Buckner

God Bless the USA!

Veterans October Birthdays

Robert Allen Morris..... October 2nd
Lawrence Allen..... October 3rd
Robert Nealy Scruggs.... October 3rd
George Benton Smith..... October 5th
David George Simonton.. October 6th
Preston Frazer..... October 8th
Jeremiah Robert Bybee... October 11th
Jeff Holland..... October 12th
Carter Dean Papke..... October 12th
Robert E. Parker..... October 14th
Raymond Russell Martin.. October 15th
Michael Martin Vincente.. October 17th
Zacchaeus Buckner..... October 18th

Nancy Burton..... October 18th
John A. Eidsmoe..... October 18th
Sophie Ryan..... October 18th
Ronald Lewis..... October 19th
Edgar Leslie Smith..... October 19th
Thomas Charles Ford..... October 21st
George White Jr..... October 25th
Gary Dean Mehlhoff..... October 26th
Judson L. Huett..... October 26th
Mark Dierlam..... October 26th
Dale Gamble..... October 27th
James Robert Bossert..... October 30th
Deborah Marie Chambers October 31st

In Memory



Col Eugene F. Crooks
Feb. 16, 1927 to Sept. 5, 2025
Col Euguen F. Crooks served 1.5 years in the U.S. Marine Corps and 30 years in the U.S. Army including service in three wars, WWII, Korean War and Vietnam War.
His article was published in the May 2019 issue of the Alabama Gazette.



Private First Class Roy Franklin Stephens
Sept. 27, 1927 to Sept. 11, 2025
Private First Class Roy Franklin Stephens served four years in the U.S. Army including service in the Korean War.
His article was published in the July 2022 issue of the AL Gazette.



Gerald Thompson
Aug. 02, 1927 to Sept. 10, 2025
Gerald Thompson served 13 months in the US Navy during WWII. He served as a postal inspector and as an anti-aircraft gunner.
His article was published in the December 2023 of the AL Gazette.

I have fought
the good fight,
I have finished
the race,
I have kept
the faith.
May their faith
guide us through
this sorrow."

2 Timothy 4:7



Major Sallie Louise Duncan: Age: 42



Major Sallie Louise Duncan is on active duty with the U.S. Space Force, and she has served 15 years. The United States Space Force is the newest branch of the U.S. military, established in 2019 to protect American interests and ensure freedom of operation in, from and to space. It is responsible for organizing, training, and equipping space forces to provide space capabilities to the joint force and defend U.S. and allied interests in the space domain. Her Space Force Specialty Code (SFSC) is 13S. She has received the following medals, commendations, awards and ribbons: Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air and Space Commendation Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Joint Services Achievement Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Air and Space Outstanding Unit Award with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Combat Readiness Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Air and Space Longevity Service Award with two Oak Leaf Clusters and Air and Space Training Ribbon.

Major Duncan was born to her parents, J.R. and Betty Skelton in Macon, GA, and she was reared there. She graduated from Perry High School in May 2001, and she then attended Brewton parker College for two years. She went on to attend college at Wright State University in Ohio from 2005 to 2010 where she graduated with a bachelors in English and Commissioned into the United States Air Force.

Major Duncan's military service began October 21, 2010, where she was a student at Vandenberg Air Force Base. After completion of training, her first duty station was during September 2011 to September 2013 as Crew Commander for the 10th Space Warning Squadron at Cavalier Space Force Station, North Dakota which monitors satellites and objects in space, and tracks potential missile launches against North America. Next, she served as an OPIR (Overhead Persistent Infrared) Crew Commander for the 11th Space Warning Squadron at Schriever Space Force Base, CO, for three years during 2013 to 2016. During 2016 to 2018, she served at Vandenberg Space Force Base, a space launching

base launching space craft to the Western Ridge that also performs missile testing. While there, she first served as an instructor of undergraduate space training and then as an OUST (Officer Undergraduate Space Training) Development Manager. Her next assignments were for four years at Buckley Space Force Base, CO, during 2019 to 2022 as the OPIR Mission Director and then during 2022 to 2023 as Assistant Director of Operations. Major Duncan has been serving at Maxwell Air Force Base, AL, since July 2023 where she has served as the Division Chief of Future Operations, and now as the Deputy A7/A9 Academic Administrator for ACSC (Air Command and Staff College).

Major Duncan has been married to her husband, Matthew, for 15 years, and they have three children. She is a member of First Baptist Church in Wetumpka, AL, where she sometimes plays the bass guitar, and she is a member of Atagi Chapter of DAR.

Major Duncan's conclusions about what serving in the U.S. Military means to her are: *"Serving in the military has been an experience that has made me appreciate my family and their support. It has also shown me that as big as the world is, there are a lot of things that we have in common with people from other countries that makes defending our freedoms and our allies that much more important. I've learned that people I've served with all come from different walks of life, and getting to wear this uniform with them is an honor and a privilege. This isn't an easy job, but I don't regret signing up and wearing the uniform."*

Her conclusions about how she would like people to remember her are: *"I hope that when people think of me, they remember me as an optimistic person who believes in them and encourages them to never give up on themselves and believes in them. I expect a lot from myself and from our leadership, and I have always done my best to do right by everyone around me. I hope that they remember me as someone who encouraged good morale and was willing to be a sounding board when they needed it."*



First Lieutenant Guy V. Martin, Jr.



Lieutenant Martin (Army ordinance, active duty 1969-71), was born June 2, 1947, in El Paso, Texas, to his parents, Guy V. and Eula V. Martin, while his father was stationed at Fort Bliss as an artillery captain. Lieutenant Martin was reared at Army bases from the Presidio in California to Fort Buchanan in Puerto Rico, and then after his father was honorably discharged in 1953 with a 100% disability because he had been wounded in WWII and again in Korea. Lieutenant Martin moved with his family to their cattle farm north of Trussville, Alabama. He graduated from Hewitt Trussville High School in 1965 as valedictorian and president of his student council.

He chose the Navy first becoming a Navy ROTC midshipman at Vanderbilt University until his dad's health issues caused him to transfer to Army ROTC. He graduated in 1969 with a B.S Degree in Economics, magna cum laude.

After training at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Maryland, and Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, he served as a procurement officer in the 40 millimeter program at the Ammunition Procurement and Supply Agency (APSA) in Wilmington, Illinois, and then in Vietnam (1970-71), first in Da Nang and then at USARV HQ, Long Binh where he served under an outstanding general, Major General James J. Ursano whose influence almost inspired him to make a career out of the Army, but his father's poor health brought him back to Alabama. He was discharged from military service in Oakland, California.

After his military service, Mr. Martin used the GI Bill to earn a Juris Doctor Degree from the University of Alabama School of Law in 1974, graduating first in his class. He worked as a commercial real estate finance attorney in Birmingham, AL, and as an adjunct professor at the University of Alabama School of Law and the Birmingham School of Law. He retired in 2020.

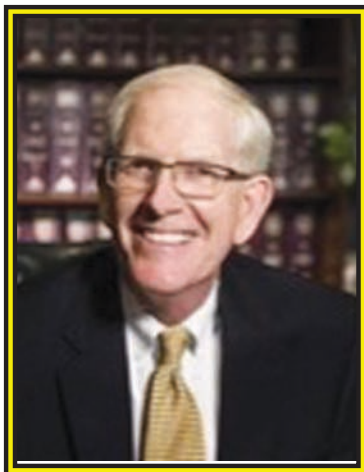
Mr. Martin and his wife, Lynne Torbert Martin, from Hurtsboro, Alabama, have been married 46 years and have three children and three grandchildren. As President of National Junior Achievement, he has given speeches across the country extolling the virtues of free enterprise. He has served as director of the Foundry Ministries and Christian Life Center, a Boy Scout leader (He and his three sons are Eagle Scouts.), lay pastor in Protestant churches and as a youth director. He and his wife are members of Wesley Methodist Church in Montgomery.

Mr. Martin is a prolific writer, having written several op-ed's, including "Lessons from Roy Moore's Law Professor" and "A Tale of Two Sites" (both in al.com),

"Stallings Restored Hope to Parents of Children with Down Syndrome," (Montgomery Advertiser, 3/30/2025) and writings regarding the United Methodist Church. Soon to be published is an article regarding his template to revitalize religion. A Ruby Life Master in bridge, he won a national event with his son in 2022, and he has written pieces on the advantages for children and adults for playing bridge. He enjoys tennis, farming, gardening, travel and watching ducks and Canada Geese land on the lake that he built behind his house on his cattle farm south of Montgomery.

Regarding what his military service has meant to him: *"I have great respect for the educational, ethical and skill levels of Navy, Marine and Army officers that I've worked with as well as those of my Korean counterparts in Vietnam. I have zero respect for politicians who mangled the Bay of Pigs invasion, engaged in Vietnam against the advice of our military (including MacArthur on his deathbed) and once engaged, failed to follow the advice of boots on the ground soldiers that prevented us from winning. Compared to those mistakes, when you arrive in a war zone, being told not to shoot unless you're shot at, is merely a minor footnote proving how unsmart our leaders were. You never get over reading in the Stars and Stripes what politicians like Senator McGovern said that they saw in Vietnam. (He called the Vietnamization program a failure which it wasn't)-much less the sights of Jane Fonda wearing an NVA helmet and sitting on an NVA anti-aircraft weapon."*

"On a positive note, it's hard to imagine a better two years in terms of preparing me for challenges to come. Military service gives you a severe re-set on how smart and tough you think you are-winning the 880 in track is nothing compared to carrying your buddy through a swamp (which I did only in training) being one of many examples; working with a general with a photographic memory and Korean officers who can speak five languages and quote from Sun Tzu others; what soldiers go through to be a Navy pilot, a Seal sniper, an Army Ranger and Airborne qualified (I was none of those, but I saw training films and what those types could do)-brings you down to earth. It provides a perspective on religion you don't get as a civilian: you never feel closer to God than you do in harm's way. An unshakable bond with your comrades is formed and thus a taste of how united we all could be under God regardless of race or religion or political bent. My best chaplain was Jewish who'd qualified expert on his M16 and could preach on Christ with the best. Every youngster I've advised to enter the military (including the Coast Guard) has thanked me over the years."



POW-MIA REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

The State of Alabama's POW-MIA Remembrance Committee hosted the 2025 POW-MIA Remembrance Ceremony on the south lawn of the state Capitol on Saturday September 20, 2025. The Committee is composed of Veteran Service Organizations (VSO), local and state government agencies and Veteran's Auxiliary units. The Annual Ceremony is presented to keep the citizens of Alabama aware of our lost and missing service members and to honor those who were held captive as Prisoners of War. At this time over 1,100 service members from Alabama have not returned from the conflicts in which they served. We will remember until they are found and accounted for, and our families deserve to know the final resting places of their loved ones.

The ceremony featured the delivery of the POW-MIA flag by the American Legion Motorcycle riders. Prior to the POW-MIA flag reaching the Capitol grounds, it had traveled around the northern part of the state, and it was raised and flown on flag poles in Fultondale, Haleyville, Florence, Decatur, Huntsville, Scottsboro, Henagar, Ft. Payne, Jacksonville, Bynum, Talladega, Lineville, Millbrook and Prattville.

Once the POW-MIA flag arrived on the grounds of the state Capitol, the ceremonies began. The VFW Department of Alabama Color Guard opened with presenting the American Flag, and subsequently it posted the American Flag with the Service Branch flags on display. Duke Martin, Chaplain, Department of Alabama American Legion, opened the ceremony with prayer. VSO leaders and other dignitaries were recognized as attendees of the ceremony by the moderator, Chuck Moore of the Marine Corps League.

Brigadier General, Retired Jeffery L. Newton, Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs, welcomed the assembled and read the proclamation from Governor Kay Ivey proclaiming POW-MIA week in Alabama. Active duty military members from the Army, Captain Micaela Tierce, Marine Corps, Corporal Andreus Baker, Navy, Hospital Man 1 Dante Fuller, Air Force

Staff Sergeant Stephanie Mendoza and Coast Guard IT Specialist 2 Stephen Tidwell who are all assigned to the Montgomery MEPS Eastern Sector honored the Missing in Action from their service branch with placards displaying the number of missing waiting to be located and returned to Alabama. As a medley of military service songs was played, the Active-Duty Military members raised their placard, and members of the audience who served in that branch stood to be recognized. The service members then proceeded to the State of Alabama Capitol flag pole and raised the POW-MIA flag on the state pole as authorized by the US Congress and the Alabama Legislature on this occasion. Mrs. Lela Brown sang the Battle Hymn of the Republic and God Bless America. Mrs. Brown has honored the guests at the POW-MIA Remembrance Ceremonies for many years with her voice and patriotism.

State House of Representatives, District 77, retired First Sergeant, United States Army, Kenneth Paschal, was the keynote Speaker. 1st Sergeant Paschal has served as the sponsor of the POW-MIA Remembrance Ceremonies on the Capital Grounds for many years. 1st Sergeant Paschal inspired the attendees to remember the missing, honor the POWs and never forget the work that is needed to do to account for every American military member who is waiting to be found and brought home.

Linda Roloff VFW Auxiliary and her honor guard presented the Missing Man Table ceremony. Linda and her team have received National Recognition for their Missing Man Table presentation including an invitation from the U.S. Naval Academy to perform the ceremony at the Academy.

Wreaths were placed by the American Legion Auxiliary, The VFW Auxiliary, and Gold Star Wives Association. Roses were presented by Pat Jeffries of the Marine Corps League to families of the Missing, Gold Star Families, and POW families. The Ceremonies were concluded with the playing of Taps.



COACH TOMMY TUBERVILLE

U.S. SENATOR  FOR ALABAMA



**Tuberville Honors
Michael Thorin
of Gardendale as
“Veteran of the Month”**

“It’s hard to truly comprehend just all that our veterans face, even after returning home from the battlefield. They often bring home some form of scars—both visible and invisible—that they carry with them for the rest of their lives.

That is true for Michael Thorin of Gardendale. After enlisting in the Army at 17 years old, he spent the next 19 years putting the safety of others above his own both in the Army and the Army National Guard. Michael went on two overseas deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq where he worked as a medic, cavalry scout, and a communications specialist.

He is a true hero, and words fall short in relaying our gratitude for his service. September is Veterans Suicide Awareness Month, and we appreciate Michael reminding us of the need to support the men and women who’ve served in our military all year long. It is my honor to recognize Sergeant Michael Thorin as the September ‘Veteran of the Month.’”



Senator Tuberville recognizes a different Alabama veteran each month for their service and contribution to their community. Constituents can nominate an Alabama veteran and submit their information to Senator Tuberville’s office for consideration by emailing: press_office@tuberville.senate.gov.

Veterans Appreciation Week Montgomery Zoo and Mann Wildlife Museum

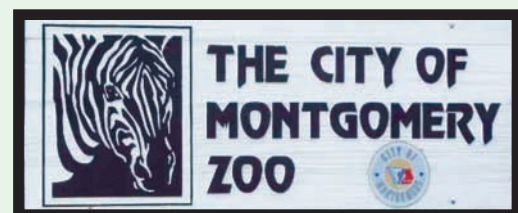
**2301 Coliseum Parkway,
Montgomery, AL 36110**

November 9 – 15

9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

During VETERANS’ APPRECIATION WEEK, all veterans, active duty military personnel and their dependent family members will receive a 50% discount on regular daytime admission to the Montgomery Zoo and Mann Wildlife Learning Museum. Thank you for your service and dedication to the nation and to the world. Participants must provide a valid military identification to receive discount.

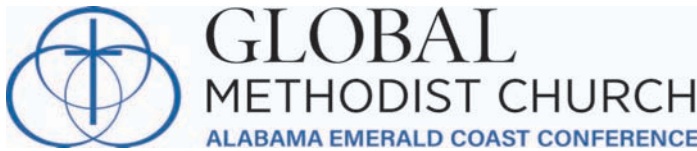
Admission includes: Admission to the Zoo, admission to the Mann Wildlife Learning Museum, entry to Waters of the World and viewing the Reptile Junction. Daily keeper talks are hosted at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. daily.





Dr. Lester Spencer
President Pro Tem
Alabama Emerald Coast Conference
9001 Vaughn Road, Montgomery, Alabama, 36117
Email: Lester@aecgmc.org
Tel: (334) 245-0260 - Web: www.aecgmc.org

Soul Searching...



Freedom Can Be Yours

Only four people ever successfully escaped to freedom from the federal prison on Alcatraz Island. The following story is an excerpt from my book, Free For All, which explores the different ways we can experience God’s amazing grace. It is only by God’s grace that we can be truly free!

Alcatraz Island sits in the middle of San Francisco Bay, surrounded by almost two miles of turbulent and treacherous water. For nearly one hundred years, the island housed a prison, and the place earned the nickname “The Rock” because it was inescapable.

Constructed by the United States Army in the 1950’s , the twenty-two acre island became an army prison in the Civil War. In 1933, Alcatraz was turned over to the Department of Justice to be used as a federal penitentiary, and during the next thirty years it housed some notorious criminals- Al Capone, Whitney Bolger, Bumpy Johnson, and Arthur “Doc” Barker, son of the infamous Ma Barker were among its denizens.

Prisoners sent to Alcatraz did not escape, and those who tried served as a caution to the rest. Doc Barker successfully climbed the prison walls but was shot to death on the beach while trying to construct a makeshift raft. Joseph Bowers was shot while trying to climb the fence and died from his injuries sustained by the fall. Aaron Burkett overpowered a guard while taking out the garbage. He jumped into the water and tried to swim, but his body was found two weeks later floating in the bay. Over the years, fourteen documented escape attempts ended in prisoners being killed or presumed drowned in the San Francisco Bay.

There is usually an exception to every rule, and someone did escape Alcatraz. No swimming and no makeshift life raft however. Four inmates simply walked out in 1903. An inmate who was the brains behind the operation worked in the prison print shop. He created a copy of a piece of letterhead bearing the War Department logo and wrote on it a letter remitting the sentences of himself and three other prisoners. He forged the signatures of Judge Henry Morrow and Major Williams. A second prisoner, who worked as a prison postal clerk, smuggled the letters out

of the prison. An outside accomplice mailed them to the prison commander, Major Paxton. Believing the documents to be authentic, Paxton released the four prisoners. These inmates who escaped by means of a fake pardon were never found.

Did you know you have been granted a pardon - a genuine one! You’ve been set free and your release orders were signed by the One who judges all humankind. That is the whole point of these verses found in Paul’s letter to the Ephesians: **“God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a (free) gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.” (Ephesians 2:8-10 NLT)**

The message of the Christian faith can be summed up in one word: Freedom. Jesus said in **John 8:36**, **“If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”** Through Jesus Christ’s sacrifice and teachings, we can experience spiritual liberation from our sin, guilt, addictions, unhappiness, shame, habits and hangups. The hope we have as Jesus followers is based on the fact that we are justified (made right) by our faith in God’s grace which frees us to be in right relationship with our loving Heavenly Father and our Creator. Jesus has set us free! Our freedom has been bought with a price. And it is free for all by God’s grace!

On another note. I would like to express my deep appreciation for the Alabama Gazette, and congratulate the Gazette on its 26 Anniversary we are celebrating this October. I appreciate the fact that they encourage and promote free speech across our great state, and I am humbled and honored to write for this great, state-wide newspaper each month!

Happy 26th Anniversary Alabama Gazette!!
Keep standing for Freedom as you have done these past 26 years!!

Love God. Live Free. Lead Well.

Become an INFORMED CHRISTIAN

ALWAYS FIND THE TRUTH!

DON'T ALWAYS TRUST WHAT YOU ARE TOLD!
WE INVITE YOU TO GO THE BOOKS-A- MILLION
AND READ THE MANY BOOKS ON YOGA FOR YOURSELF.

ALWAYS FIND THE TRUTH!



Halloween has become an issue among Christians !

by Russell Ki Tara (excerpts)



The question is, should Christians adopt the pagan customs and superstitions of ancient peoples and "Christianize" them?
The Bible is not silent on the subject:

"Learn not the way of the heathen....for the customs of the people are vain."
(Jeremiah 10: 2-3), and,

"When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations" (Deut. 18:9).

Ephesians 5:11 declares, "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather prove them."

THE APPEARANCE OF EVIL.

The Bible says, ***"Abstain from all appearance of evil."*** (1 Thess. 5:22).

Who can deny that virtually all of the symbols of Halloween are evil? Witches, monsters, ogres, vampires, ghosts, ghouls, goblins, devils and demons all portray evil! On the other hand, Christians are called to be "followers of God" (Eph.5:1), and "lights" to a sin darkened world. How can we justify our masquerading as creatures of darkness in the light of the Scriptures? And if our houses and churches are dedicated to God and are to glorify Christ, how do we justify decorating them with demonic and occult symbols?

Virtually all of the common Halloween decorations represent something Demonic or Occult. For instance:

The "Jack-o-lantern" is the ancient symbol of a damned soul.

The "black cat" has long been associated with Witchcraft and numerous superstitions are still connected to it.

Witches and Witchcraft are a dominant theme of the holiday, but are an abomination to God (Exodus 22:18; Deuteronomy 18: 8-14;

Leviticus 18: 24-30).

Even the "trick-or-treat" is a threat! It's nothing less than extortion!
"You either give me a treat or I'll play a trick on you."

A careful examination of these Scriptures reveals God's unreserved condemnation of all who participate in any occult activity.

What's wrong with Halloween? Everything about it is wrong! It does not have even one single redeeming virtue. It is a demon inspired, devil glorifying occult festival! Those who love the Lord Jesus Christ should have nothing to do with it!

"Let us cast out the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light."
(Rom. 13:12)

"Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness." (1 Thess.5:5)

"For what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing..." (2 Cor. 6:14-17).

The Christian should not fear any of the powers of darkness, for we have authority over them (**Mk. 16:15; Lu. 10:19**), and ***"God has not given us the spirit of fear..."*** (2 Tim. 1:7). But at the same time, ***"We are not ignorant of Satan's devices"*** (2 Cor.2:11)

Some may call me "legalistic" for doing so, but I have forsaken this pagan celebration altogether. Perhaps its time you considered doing the same.

"For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light." (Eph. 5:8).

IT IS DISOBEDIENCE TO GOD!

God repeatedly forbids his Children's participation in such demonic activities, as the following passages attest: **Deut. 18:14; Ex. 7:11-12, 22:18; Lev. 19:26, 31; 20: 6, 27; 1 Chron. 10:13-14; 2 Ki. 21:5-6; Isa. 2:6; Jer. 27: 9-10; Zech. 10:2; Mal. 3:5; Acts 8:9, 16:16; 19:19; Gal. 5:16-21; 2 Tim. 3:8; Rev. 21:8, 22:15.**

JUST GO TO THE BIBLE AND READ FOR YOURSELF! YOU DECIDE!



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<https://www.buglesacrossamerica.org>.





JUDGE PEGGY GIVHAN

With the leaves falling and dotting our yards with yellow, light tan, red and orange, this is a good indication that the season has changed from summer to fall. I can tell that we have had plenty of rain this summer because the leaves seem more brilliant than last year when we were in a drought. Since I have large oak trees which produce large leaves, I have placed them on top of my dining room table. These leaves stand out in contrast against a white table cloth. Then add pumpkins and instantly the table is fall, halloween and Thanksgiving all rolled into one. In October we will be celebrating one official holiday, Columbus Day, and one unofficial holiday, halloween. Let us all be mindful that safety comes first when trick or treating.

GARDEN DESIGN TIP

A good design concept in landscapes or in flower gardens, is the Rule of 3. This idea means that one would be planting trees and shrubs in lots of 3 or other odd numbers to create a more natural, balanced appearance. If you look at nature, you do not see trees or shrubs lined up like soldiers in the field. Rather there are more random, scattered plantings. Odd numbers create a more appealing and balanced look giving the garden or landscape a sense of depth and rhythm. In the flower garden, this translates to the larger the plant, the less you need in the clump. For instance, and this also depends on the actual dimensions of the area, digitalis or hollyhocks would normally be planted in groups of three where fillers, such as impatiens, would have 5 to 7 plants. Now if you are planting formal beds, this concept does not apply since the beds would most probably consist of one or two flowers. If you follow this tip, your flower garden or landscape will create a dynamic and cohesive planting.

PHYSICAL BENEFITS OF GARDENING

There is data available to show that gardening is good for your health. The bending, lifting, digging, and just plain moving not only burns calories, but helps tone muscles, supports dexterity, and balance. Also spending time outdoors in sunlight, is a great avenue to obtain Vitamin D which helps the bones, the brain

and the gut. Gardening gets you outside with nature which improves mental health and is a key to one's overall happiness. When one is engaging in gardening, this reduces stress, and instills a sense of purpose. So when you spend time in your garden, you are truly investing in a healthy future.

PLANT OF THE MONTH --COREOPSIS-Asteraceae, Aster family



The large genus of flowers is made up of summer blooming and fall blooming perennials that produce daisy-like flowers. They range in height from under a foot to over 6 feet tall. They are easy to care for, make great cut flowers, and will return year after year. Another asset is that they are drought tolerant. Although they really do not need to be constantly dead headed like geraniums, I just give them a haircut after the flush of blooms die which encourages more blooms. To propagate this flower, one can collect seed and sow in the spring, or take stem cuttings in early summer which root quickly or by division. These plants come in a variety of colors, even variegated. I have purchased them in local nurseries and big box store garden centers.



**Happy Columbus Day
and Good Gardening**

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DEER PLOT SEED

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Sat 8AM-1PM
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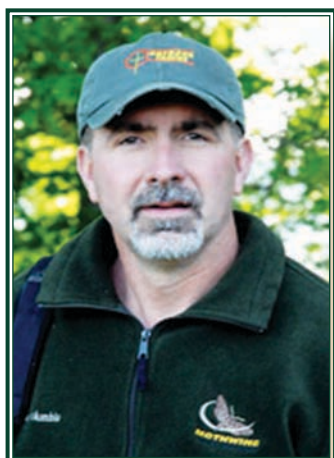
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Gary Miller

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just like us. They had rather get whatever they can with the least amount of cost.

For followers of Christ, this is also a temptation. While I am the first to proclaim the freedom that grace affords, in full disclosure, being a follower of Christ will at times call you to take the more difficult path. And at times it will cost a price others may not have to pay. You may have to give up the hate you so

One of the best places to put up a tree stand or blind is in a funnel. A funnel is a small area where two or more ridges run out or down into a small hollow or trail. If you can imagine the dip between two crests, you will understand what a funnel is. It is basically the easiest route for deer, or any other animal, to travel. And like you and I, most animals look for what takes the least effort and expends the least amount of energy. Not only does this apply to travel routes, but it also applies to food. Just watch any bear or raccoon and you will see how they will opt for a free and easy meal even if it is found in your garage or trash can. And, as you also know as well, it is these easy meals that cause many of these critters, to be caught or killed. While we admire some of the special characteristic of many of the animal kingdom, in some ways they are

want to hold on to, to love the one who is unlovable. You may have to give up the revenge you want to exact, to give the forgiveness God wants you to give. You may have to give up criticism to show the kindness that comes from the Spirit. Sometimes, you will have to give up your opinion to keep your influence. All of these are not done so someone can applaud your goodness, but for the hope that someone will embrace your savior. And we all should ask the question, "What am I willing to give up so that more people would choose Jesus?" This sounds simple. Some will say, "I am willing to die for my faith!" But that is the easy part. The real question is "What am I willing to live with if more would choose Jesus?" Would you live in communism if more people would choose Jesus? Would you live without the freedom to assemble? Or without free speech? Would you give up your right to own a gun? Or to hunt? You see, the decision to live for our faith is sometimes more sacrificial than the decision to die for it. And it may be a better reflection of the priority my faith holds in my life. The faith funnels are easy and predictable. But they are not the path we may always be able to take.

Gary Miller has written Outdoor Truths articles for 21 years. He has also written five books which include compilations of his articles and a father/son devotional. He also speaks at wild-game dinners and men's events for churches and associations. gary@outdoortruths.org



Humane Society of Elmore County News

255 Central Plank Road (Hwy 9) Wetumpka, Alabama 36092
PHONE: (334) 567-3377

Hours:
Mon-Fri: 8am - 5pm
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WE NEED YOUR HELP!

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!! Our greatest current need is **DRY DOG FOOD** – both adult & puppy !!

Other supplies that we would be most grateful for are:

- Canned Pate style Cat Food
- Non-Clumping Cat Litter
- 30 Gal and larger size plastic Garbage Bags
- Old towels, sheets, blankets, bedding as the cold weather is coming.

Donations can be dropped off at our Shelter during our normal hours of operation.

And financial donations are good too in case we need to go purchase needed supplies.

To easily donate online just go to our website to "Ways to Give," or can mail, phone in or bring to us at the Shelter.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!





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MONTGOMERY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Today's Woman
Trisston's Tidbits:

By: *Trisston Wright Burrows*
Ms. Wheelchair America/Alabama 2005
site.trisstonwrightburrows.com

“Setting You Apart”

Did you know that God isn’t setting you aside? No! God is actually setting you apart.

I was recently reading about Joseph from the Old Testament and I got to thinking...I'm sure Joseph felt like that God was setting him aside and forgetting about him.

Afterall, his brothers betrayed him and threw him into a pit. Where was God?

And then he was betrayed and thrown into a prison. Where was God?

Seemed like everybody was turning their back on it. Seemed like God had set him aside. Seemed like God was even forgot about him.

But even though Joseph couldn't see it, God was with him in the pit. And even though Joseph couldn't see God, God was with him in the prison. You see, even though it felt like that God and everyone else was setting him aside and forgetting about him, God was setting him apart.

Genesis 50:20 reminds us, *“He looks at his brothers and betrayed him. He said you meant it for bad, but God meant it for good.”*

Friend, I don't know what you're facing, but you need to take your eyes off the pit. You need to take your eyes off the prison and begin to realize that God is not forgetting you. He's not setting you aside. God is setting you apart for such a time as this. My friend, you hang in there. You don't give up because God is in the midst and God has a plan for you.

Many Blessings!

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11TH ANNUAL
SATURDAY OCT. 18, 2025

BOOB BIKE SHOW

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BIKE REGISTRATION 10 AM ~ JUDGING STARTS AT 11 AM
COSTUME CONTEST STARTS AT 1 PM ~ ALL PRIZES AWARDED AT 2 PM
ADMISSION FREE - \$20 PER CLASS COSTUME CONTEST WITH TROPHIES FREE FOR KIDS & \$5 ENTRY ADULTS
BEST OF SHOW - BEST PAINT - BEST TOURING/BAGGER
BEST CRUISER (NON-BAGGER) - PEOPLE'S CHOICE - LOUDEST PIPES
BEST FEMALE RIDER BIKE - BEST BREAST CANCER AWARENESS DECORATED BIKE

ADULT & KIDS COSTUME CONTEST
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A STORY OF DOMESTIC ABUSE AND OVERCOMING IT'S EFFECT!

Most of the time people think of domestic abuse as man beating a woman with bruises and scars that show on the outside. People don't see or are not even aware of the abuse of a narcissistic spouse that constantly deflates you as a person. The constant criticism, the lowering of confidence and self-worth of a person. No, it does not happen suddenly, it happens slowly over a period of time. You are not even aware of the boundary line being moved further and further away, week by week. They will test you to see how far you are willing to go then they press on a little more over time. **Isolation and control is what they seek.** Yes, it is a slow and painful death of yourself, of your own will, of your spirit. You could never imagine being in this position. You feel the humility and shame. You become numb. You shut down and stop fighting for your own position because if you stand up for yourself the yelling begins. All you want is peace and quiet. To stop the noise, so, you just give in to keep the peace.

They will make you believe that you cannot make it without them. They will tell you lie after lie and convince you that you need them to survive in this world. The real truth is, you can overcome all this with one hard but necessary step. **Get out! Leave! Flee with all your might!** But, one day, when you have reached your limit of tolerance and you finally have had enough, you will leave. It won't be easy, it will be the most difficult thing you ever do. It will take all the strength you have.

The day I left, he pointed a 38 revolver to the back of my head and threatened to kill me one more time. It became a routine thing by now that he threatened my life. He seemed to get a thrill out of scaring me. He seemed to want to kill me at least once a week. And I mean this was not because of something I did, no, he would just come home and come straight to me and threaten me for no reason. I had lived through so much fear and verbal abuse but it had become more and more violent and unprovoked. It seemed my silence was all that was needed to set him off.

Finally, from deep inside myself, I gathered the strength to leave. And I left everything. I knew if I left I would lose everything. My family, children, grandchildren, home, job and possessions. I knew if I called the Sheriff and had him put in jail, he would get out within 24 hours and come straight to me and kill me. He had been arrested before for violence on other people, he got out of jail that same day. So, I knew I could not do that and be safe. And so, I took what I could and just left. Fearing for my life; I stayed with friends for several weeks, trying to put pieces of myself back together. I felt like I was a burden to my friends. I felt so much shame for being in this position. I felt so lost and confused. But, it was not my fault. At the time I was in survival mode. I was just living each day on autopilot. Completely numb. I hated asking for help or asking my friends to hide me. But I knew in order to find safety and peace, I had to leave. I had to remove myself from the horror and violence. I had to protect myself.

I finally moved into my mother's house – a place of refuge. But he was still next door and could see my every move. He would call, text or email me with his continued threats and tell me in detail of the things he would do to me. He would tell me he was watching my every move. His threats became more and more emphatic! He could not control me any longer and that made his rage even hotter.

I found help at the **Family Sunshine Center**. They gave me council for my broken spirit and the tools to help me rebuild my life without him. They referred me to the **One Place Family Justice Center** who were able to help me with my legal problems. Such getting a restraining order and getting him out of my house. Yes, it was MY house on MY land. But he still refused to leave!

I went through thousands of dollars and four attorneys to get to the place where I was able to be divorced and move back into my own house. I went to court six times. I filed for divorce and it took nine months before it was settled and signed. I filed for a restraining order. I filed for contempt of the divorce agreement. I filed for him to get out of my house. I filed for bankruptcy. I had no car, I had nothing but what I was able to move out in a one hour period that the Sheriff allowed that day, I took what I could. He made each step a hard fight.

But I did not give up! Are you asking why? **I had God on my side.** With each step I got stronger and smarter. I gained confidence in myself. Yes, I was angry and hurt, but I did not fight out of anger or pain or to get back at him. I was only fighting for what was right and what was rightfully mine.

You see, all the while this was going on, I lost my job. I had my elderly mother to care for and my brother who was sick. I was responsible for much more than myself. That is one reason I stayed so long and endured so much. After three months of searching, I found a great job. I continued to work hard and take care of my mother and brother. Then my oldest brother had a stroke, and I had to step in and be his caretaker also. Work, hospitals, nursing homes, and lawsuits were my new way of life. I focused on all of that and stayed in church. I kept my faith, read my bible and I prayed a lot! Now, all of this time, I still had fear and shame in my heart. But, when you are a victim of abuse, you learn to push the fear and pain down and focus on the task of the moment. That fear and pain would have to wait.



TWELVE YEARS LATER: with a LOT of therapy and hard work, I have become an independent and successful woman.

My mother and my two brothers have passed away. I have been left alone to make it in this world. But, guess what? **I have become the strong woman I wanted to be.** Because of my faith in God and through all the blessing he has given me. (Even though I do not feel like I deserve them.) **That is why it is called Grace!** I have survived all of this and I am a much more independent person. I have retired from my sixty hour a week job that paid so well and gave me back my independence and ability to pay my way out of the hole I was in. I was able to buy a car and pay bills again. I thank God every day for that job. I worked so hard, and it paid off. **God gave me the strength and ability to do that.**

I am retired now, but not unemployed, and still have two part time jobs that I love. (God has blessed me with these jobs also. I was not looking for a job. They came to me! **By God's grace!**)

I spend time in my yard and on my property, tending to God's beautiful landscape and animals. I spend time with my friends who have been there for me throughout my journey and to whom I am eternally grateful. I spend time in my church, giving back what I can and receiving much more from the Holy Spirit. I am so very thankful for my church and church family. I am so thankful for my faith and for prayers. (Prayers make big difference in the life of those you pray for!) I believe I have guardian angels watching over me. If not, I would be dead one hundred times over. I am here for a reason.

Maybe this story will help someone who is suffering at the hands of someone who abuses them. Maybe they are plain mean and hateful. Maybe they are on drugs and have become a completely different person than the one you knew before. Most of the time these people have their own demons that they are struggling with.

I do not hate him. I pray for him! That is all I can do for him now. I forgave him years and years ago. WHY? You ask, well it is because **our God is a forgiving God.** He forgave me of my sins. He gave his only son who was born in a manger and died a horrific death on the cross for me. He died and took our sins and pain on his shoulders and asked his father, GOD, to forgive us. So, I forgave him because I wanted to be forgiven! You see, you cannot be forgiven if you keep hate and rage in your heart. It has to be washed white as snow with the blood of Jesus. You have to put forth an effort to receive his blessings. You have to read the word and pray in order to understand how to live your best life.

My life was such a mess. I thought it was over. I had given up hope of ever making it or even surviving. But, I did not only survive, **I THRIVED and OVERCAME because GOD lifted me up in his arms and carried me through!**

Isaiah 40:31

But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

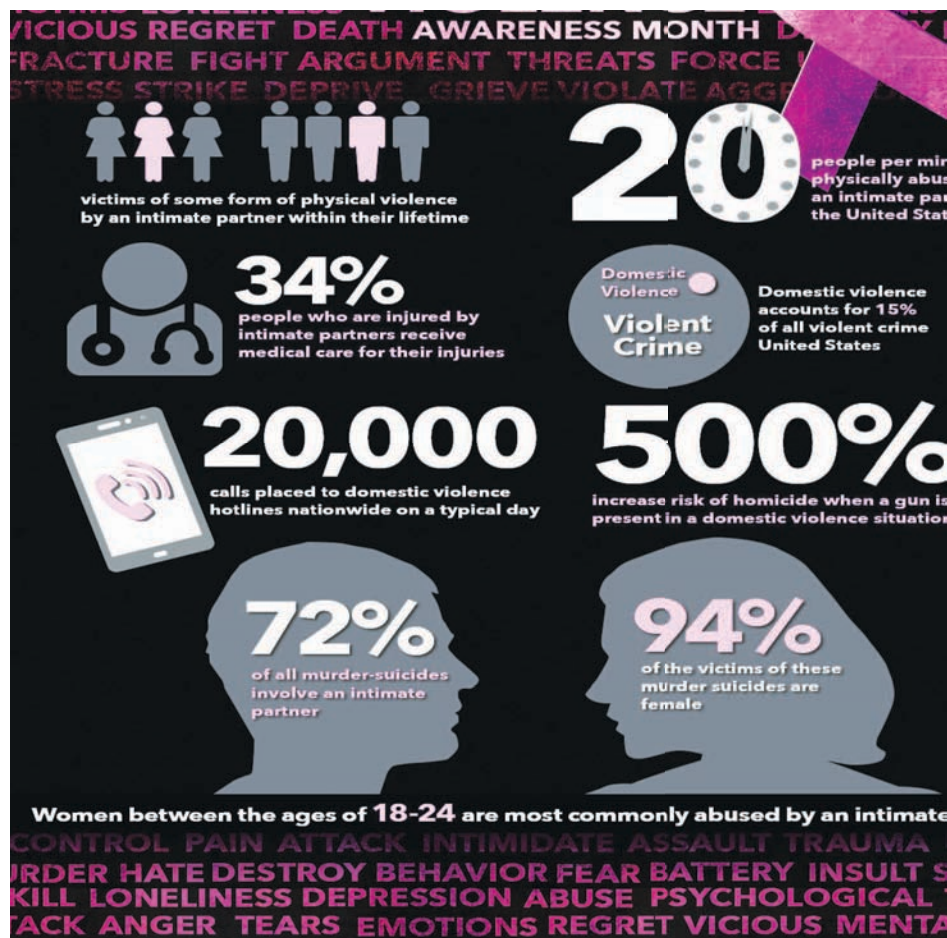
For Help Contact:

The Family Sunshine Center
858 S. Court St. Montgomery, AL 36104

24/7 Crisis Hotline:
334-263-0218 or 800-650-6522

One Place Family Justice Center
530 S. Lawrence St. Montgomery, AL 36104
858 S. Court St. Montgomery, AL 36104

24/7 Crisis Hotline:
334-263-0218 or 800-650-6522





FAMILY SUNSHINE CENTER

hope & healing

334-206-2100

858 S. Court St. Montgomery, AL 36104

FSC provides services for victims of family violence, stalking and dating violence, sexual assault, and sex and labor trafficking. Services are offered at no-cost to the victim/survivor. Service sites are located in Autauga, Butler, Chilton, Crenshaw, Elmore, Lowndes, and Montgomery counties.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NIV) *16Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 17For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 18So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*

Romans 8:28 (NIV) *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose*



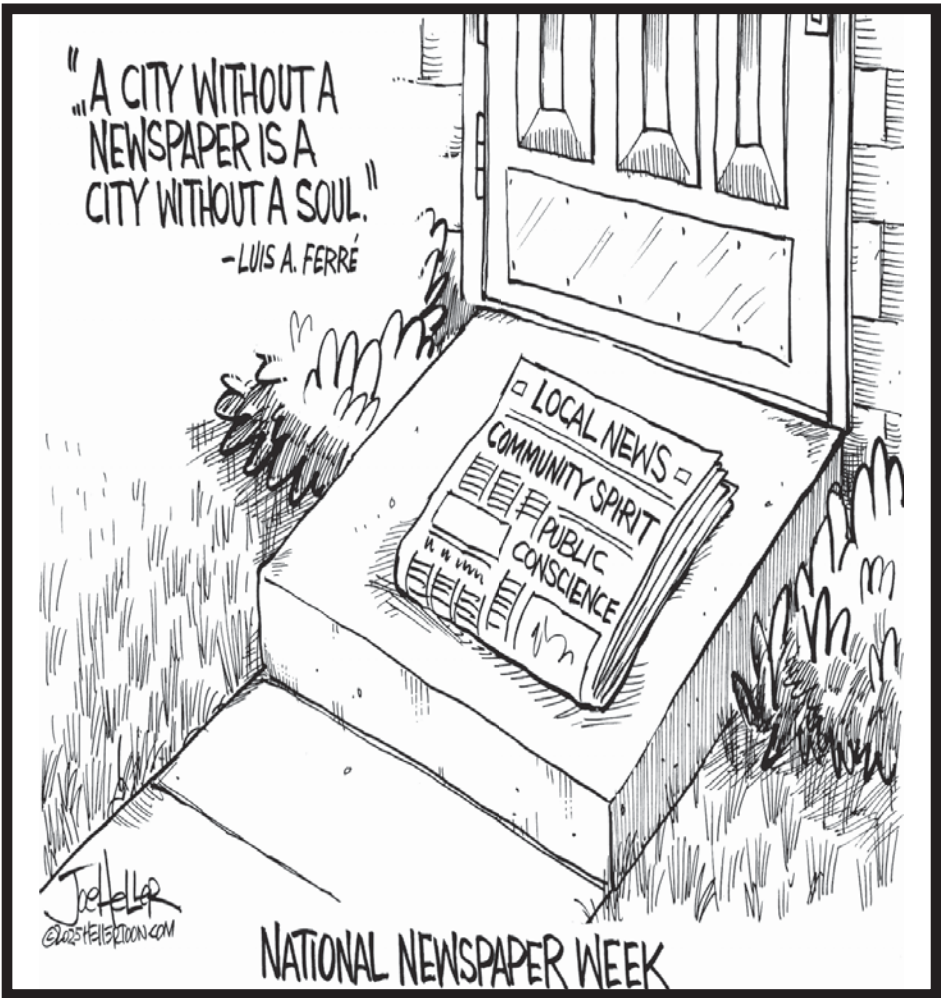
We Need to Remember! When did you last quote this?
*I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America,
and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God,
indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."*

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER WEEK!

Oct. 5-11, 2025

2025 marks the 85TH CELEBRATION of National Newspaper Week. Since 1940, Newspaper Association Managers has sponsored and supported National Newspaper Week, a week-long promotion of the newspaper industry in the United States and Canada.

Embracing Local Journalism for a Better Future Local journalism is the heartbeat of informed communities. It brings stories to light that national outlets often overlook—stories about school board decisions, city council debates, neighborhood events, and local heroes. In a world increasingly shaped by global headlines and social media noise, reconnecting with local news is vital for civic engagement, accountability, and community resilience.



Auburn Equestrian Opens 2025-26 Season October 4 with Championship Aspirations

October 2, 2025 - AUBURN, AL. — The Auburn University Equestrian team will open its 2025–26 season on Saturday, October 4, with a home meet against UC Davis at the Auburn University Equestrian Center. After finishing last season ranked No. 3 nationally, the Tigers enter the new campaign with high expectations and a roster stacked with returning talent and promising newcomers.

A Legacy of Excellence.

Under head coach Jessica Braswell, Auburn has become a perennial powerhouse in collegiate equestrian. The program boasts four national championships (2011, 2016, 2018, 2019) and consistently ranks among the top teams in the National Collegiate Equestrian Association (NCEA).

Braswell, entering her third season as head coach, emphasized the team’s focus on consistency and mental toughness:

“We’ve got the talent. Now it’s about execution, preparation, and riding with confidence every time we enter the ring.”

Key Riders to Watch

- Maddie Buchanan (Horsemanship): A senior leader known for precision and poise, Buchanan posted a 9–3 record last season and earned All-American honors.
- Emma Kurtz (Equitation Over Fences): The junior standout returns after a breakout season, including multiple MOP (Most Outstanding Performer) awards.
- Sydney Smith (Reining): A rising sophomore who impressed in postseason competition and is expected to anchor the reining squad.

The Tigers will rely on a deep bench and strong recruiting class to maintain their competitive edge across all four disciplines: Horsemanship, Reining, Equitation on the Flat, and Equitation Over Fences.

Season Outlook

Auburn’s schedule includes matchups against SEC rivals Georgia and Texas A&M, as well as national contenders like Oklahoma State and SMU. The team will also host the SEC Championship in March 2026, giving Alabama fans a chance to see elite collegiate equestrian competition on home soil.

Community Engagement

The October 4 opener will feature fan-friendly events, including rider meet-and-greets, barn tours, and educational booths for youth and families interested in equestrian sports. Admission is free, and gates open at 9:00 AM. Braswell added: “We want the Auburn community and the state of Alabama to feel connected to this team. These athletes represent the best of college sports—discipline, teamwork, and heart.”

Word Scramble Answers

bolcumsu	Columbus
lpeurbbc	Republic
mriaaec	America
nmndtaee	Amendment
sndrreepos	Responders
roonngghi	Honoring
tveensra	Veterans
mrdeefo	Freedom
mmtocinyun	Community

Crossword Answers

A	B	E	T	S		H	U	G			R	A	T	A
L	A	T	H	I		E	M	U			P	E	D	A
B	R	U	I	N		R	P	M			A	N	E	L
	B	I	E	B	E	R				B	E	Y	O	N
			F	A	X			A	O	N	E			
T	N	T				D	U	C	K		S	E	T	S
R	O	I	L			R	O	V	E		S	U	N	N
U	V	E	A			B	L	A	K	E		P	A	L
M	A	I	M	S			A	V	E	R		S	K	I
P	E	N	P	A	L			I	D	O	L		E	T
						L	E	S	T		D	U	E	
A	N	I	S	T	O	N				J	E	N	N	E
S	A	B	L	E				I	K	E		A	D	L
P	S	E	U	D				P	I	T		C	U	L
S	A	X	E					E	M	S		Y	E	S

Home Town Community News

SNOWDOWN
BAPTIST CHURCH

6564 Norman Bridge Road, Montgomery, Alabama

October 12th

11 a.m. - Homecoming/Fellowship Meal
Celebrating 74 years!

October 12th-15th
Fall Revival

6:30 p.m. - Each Night
Message by Pastor Corey Dennis
of Holtville Riverside Baptist

COMMUNITY
FALL FESTIVAL

October 25th

4-6 p.m.

Snowdown Fire Department
All Are Welcome!
Food - Fun -FREE
for the entire family!
(No costumes needed.)

OCTOBER EVENTS

MONTGOMERY

Harvest Festival at Riverfront Park

Oct. 18th - 3pm - 6pm - 355 Commerce Street, Montgomery AL

3rd Friday “ART, EATS & BEATS”

On the 3rd Friday of each month, the entertainment district area from the Riverfront going up to Dexter and beyond to S. Court Street will be transformed into a walkable entertainment district, free to the public and family friendly. Starting at 4:30pm, Montgomerians can catch a local art exhibition, hear outdoor music or enjoy a special refreshment while strolling the streets in the downtown area.

ALABAMA SAFARI PARK - SPOOKY SAFARI

Oct. 25th-26th 9am-5pm 1664 Venable Road, Hope Hull, AL

PRATTVILLE

Parade Of Pumpkins Oct. 17th–31st Downtown Prattville, Main St
Artist on Main Oct. 21st 6pm- 8pm Downtown Prattville, Main St

MILLBROOK

Boo Festival Oct 25th 10am - 2pm at Village Green Park

WETUMPKA

Coosa Candy Crawl Oct. 27th 5:30pm - 7:30pm
Wetumpka Sports Complex 2350 Coosa River Parkway

LOCAL COMMUNITIES FIGHTING TO INCORPORATE INTO TOWNSHIPS

NOW
is the Time
to Incorporate

Snowdown Community

WHY INCORPORATE?

- Protect farmland and rural character
- Gain local control over zoning, development, and land use
- Preserve community values
- Support agricultural businesses
- Avoid annexation by the city of Montgomery
- Empower residents to make decisions that directly affect Snowdown
- Protect property values

INCORPORATION MEANS:

- Local Control
- Protecting our land and agricultural heritage
- Keeping decisions close to home
- Having a say in zoning, development and services, taxation with representation.
- Preserving our community’s identity.

INCORPORATION FACTS:

- The community must have 300 people to incorporate with residences being contiguous.
- A petition signed by at least 15% of qualified electors within the proposed municipality must be submitted to the county probate judge as the official application.
- No territory can be included unless at least four qualified electors reside on each 40-acre tract and sign the petition in support of incorporation.
- The probate judge must order an election within 90 days of approving the petition.
- After incorporation, property owners can request to be annexed into the town.

Stay Informed: Get updated information and meeting dates, email us at snowdownal@gmail.com and request to be added to our email group.

Talk to Neighbors: Inform neighbors and encourage involvement. Act when and where help is needed.

Funds are needed for the groundwork and to move forward.

Snowdown Community

Website: www.snowdownal.us

Email: snowdownal@gmail.com

Please send your donation to:

Snowdown Community Center

6145 Norman Bridge Road, Montgomery, AL 36105
(334)603-1449

Hope Hull

WHY IS NOW THE TIME TO INCORPORATED?

The City of Montgomery plans to absorb Hope Hull:

- They’ve expanded their city limits already. Even call the “PJ” their ‘planning jurisdiction’.
- They’ve grown their budget by taking our farmland. AND they want more.
- How do you feel about Montgomery’s leadership and management?
- Do they have Hope Hull’s best interest in mind?
Are they good stewards?
- Just drive the bypasses—Southern, Northern, Eastern or West. See the abandoned store fronts, acres and acres of land they could develop sitting vacant. But they want ours.

Did you know Montgomery has more land than Denver, Tampa, & Las Vegas?

- Police, Fire, and Maintenance city services already stretched too thin
- Daily shootings. Innocent people shot in their cars on city streets

DO WE WANT MONTGOMERY RUNNING HOPE HULL?

It’s time to form our own town, elect leaders from among our neighbors, and stand against a city that doesn’t value our way of life. Don’t we want local leadership—people who cherish our small town, our farmland, and our country lifestyle—or do we want more of Montgomery?

IT’S TIME FOR HOPE HULL TO STAND UP.

It will take a lot of work. It will take all of us. But let’s pass the HOPE we know and love to our children and grandchildren.

Here is what it takes to get it done:

- Present a map—boundaries for the initial town
 - Have a surveyor prepare a legal property description of the town’s boundaries
 - Have 300 residents in a contiguous community; with landowners on-board
 - Gather signed petitions and required affidavits
 - Present these to the Probate Judge
 - Hold election (all the above to GET TO a vote—where the majority rules)
- AND, SIGNIFICANTLY: All of Hope Hull is affected, not just those in the initial formation area. If you are outside the initial proposed town area, you can annex in once the town forms. For others within the area the benefit is the Town of Hope Hull will form a barrier between you and the City of Montgomery. Please read all the information provided in this site carefully. Talk with your neighbors. Join us as we stand up for rural living, a slower pace of life, rolling pastures, and the continued safety afforded country living..
- We can vote to control our future—or let the City of Montgomery do it for us.
- What do we need you to do?
1. Read through the pros/cons. Support the HOPE HULL Incorporation initiative.
 2. Spread the word
 - Volunteer to call/visit your neighbors—let’s inform everyone!
 - Pass out flyers
 - Make sure everyone knows about upcoming meetings and votes
 3. Sign the petition/affidavits; encourage everyone to sign the petition and drop them off at Mosley’s Store
 4. It will take us ALL

STOP MONTGOMERY FROM ABSORBING HOPE HULL
OUR FARMS, OUR FREEDOMS, OUR FUTURE
A FUTURE OF HOPE

Donations can be dropped off at Mosley’s store on Hwy 31

CONTACT US

Website: hopehull.us

Facebook: Hope Hull Incorporated

Email: hopehullal@gmail.com

Phone: (334)313-3005 (David)
(334)549-3885 (Karin)

SAVE OUR COMMUNITY
SAVE OUR WAY OF LIFE
SAVE OUR FARMLANDS!