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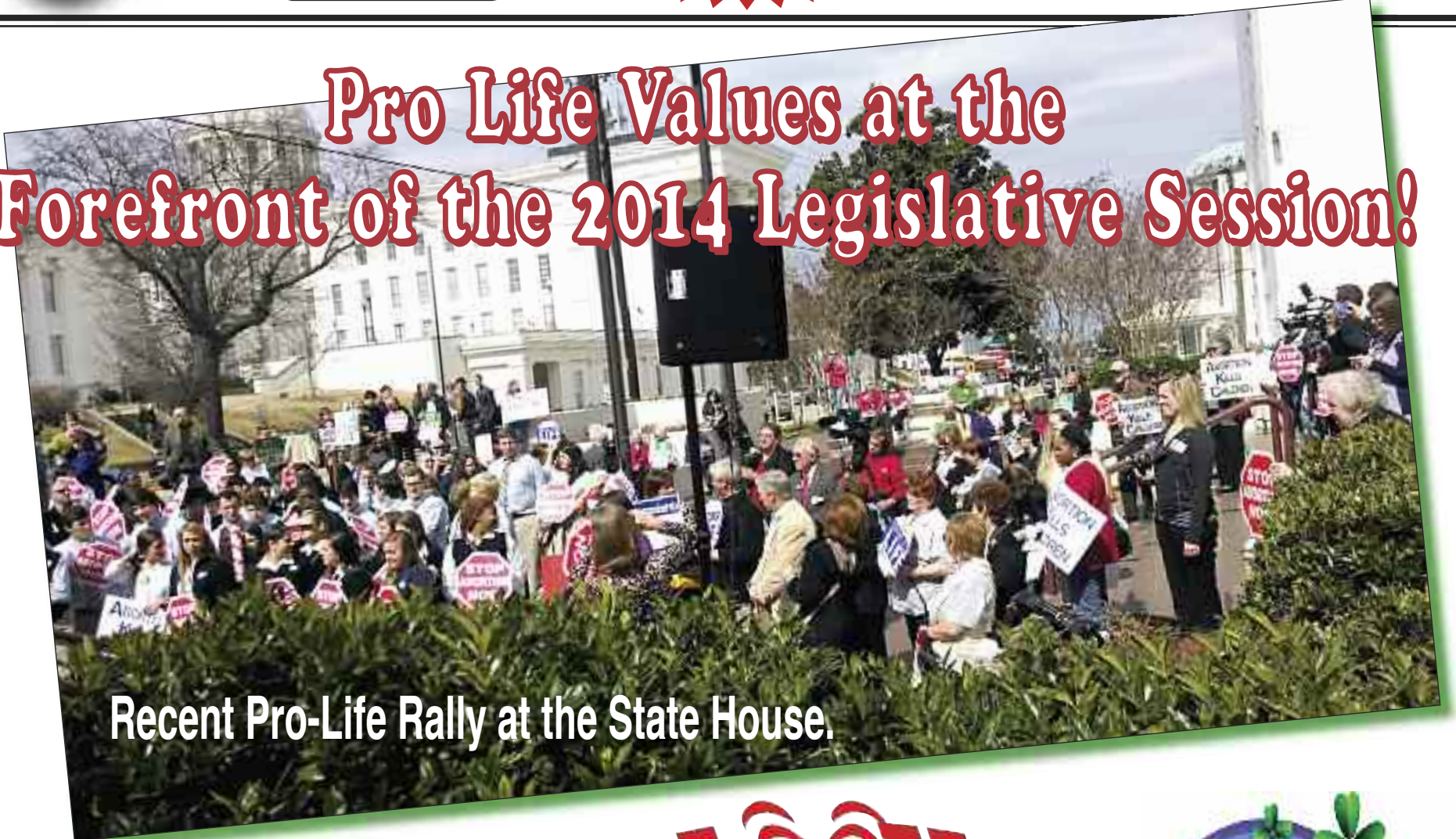


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SEN. BEASON TRIES TO PASS MORE HANDGUN LEGISLATION



**Chief Derrick
Cunningham**

Here he goes again. Senator Scott Beason of Gardendale, is trying to pass legislation that would allow anybody to carry a handgun in a car without a permit. We went through this last year with the new gun bill that was a compromise by law enforcement, the Legislature, and the NRA. I don't think that he knows the impact that this legislation will have on the safety of the public as well as law enforcement. I know that the members of the Legislature receive a copy of the "Gazette" and I plead with you not to pass this legislation!

At present, a person who has been through a background check and has obtained a license to carry a pistol can carry his or her handgun in a vehicle without any legal problems. If a person does not want to obtain a license, he or she must lock the unloaded handgun in a secure container out of reach of anyone in the vehicle. At least this person has to get the gun out of the secure container and has time to cool off before deciding to use it in the case of road rage or when they have been involved in a vehicle crash and a heated argument ensues.

SB354 will amend the law passed last year to authorize a person to carry a pistol in his or her vehicle or on certain property without a concealed pistol permit; and will revise certain procedures related to the licensing process. Who knows what they mean by certain procedures related to the licensing process. It appears to me that they just want a Sheriff to issue a pistol permit to anybody who comes and asks for one. I believe that is just the type of mentality that Senator Beason has shown in the last few years. Just look at the failed immigration bill which had most of the provisions shot down in court. The idea was there but these folks in the Legislature need to at

least pass bills that will pass Judicial review.

This is the same Senator Beason who was an informant for the F.B.I. and was wearing a wire recording targets of the F.B.I. According to "AL.com" Senator Beason, while the recording device was on, referred to Greene County African Americans as "aborigines." Of course Senator Beason later apologized for his remarks. Who would say such a thing knowing that the conversation was being recorded? At this point it doesn't matter because he has decided not to run for reelection. Thank God and Greyhound he is gone!

Let me say that most Legislators are good people who are trying to do what is right for the people of Alabama. There are just a handful like Beason who, in my opinion, appear to have a personal agenda. Just look at another bill that was considered that would expunge arrest records for certain people who were arrested. Well I believe that this bill is being considered because a legislator was arrested and the case was thrown out and he doesn't want a record of his arrest showing up in his criminal history. Just another case of these people using the House and Senate for personal reasons. You would probably be surprised at the bills that are introduced for personal reasons. Some are introduced because lobbyist and special interest groups funnel money to their campaigns.

Some bills are introduced because they are good for Alabama and for no other reason. Senators and Legislators, please vote against this dangerous bill that is supported by Senator Beason. Well, I have vented my frustrations about the Legislature and after I retire, I will be able to get more involved in their affairs.



It is time again for our
**Deputy Dave Family
and Friends Day.**

**Saturday, May 3, 10:00 A.M. until 2:00
P.M. at the Dunbar/Ramer
Elementary School in Ramer.**

There will be food, drinks, games, prizes and display booths for our kids' enjoyment. The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office has put on this fun day for about ten years now and we have had thousands of kids attend. Bring you kids to Ramer on May 3rd and let them enjoy the fun. This is just one of our many community events hosted by the Sheriff's office every year. Chief Cunningham came up with the idea of our fishing rodeos for kids and for seniors and each year both events seems to grow. What better way is there to spend time with your kids or elderly relatives than to take them fishing and to meet our deputies and correctional officers.

There are many other things that your Sheriff's office does for you. To get a better idea of what we offer, go to our website at www.montgomerysheriff.com.

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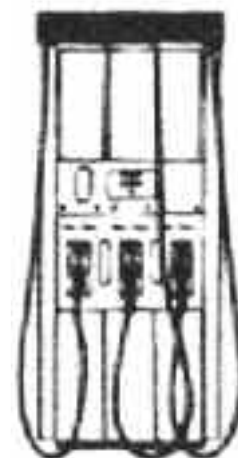
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Robservations...by Robert Tate

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

RULES OF THE ROAD ACCORDING TO YOURS TRULY

You know, I spend a lot of time on the highway driving back and forth between Montgomery and Atlanta - some 500+ trips already. And I'll tell you what, although I can't say I've seen it all, I have seen a lot. It never ceases to amaze me how people can do some pretty rude and stupid things when they get behind the wheel of a car. I've seen people reading books, texting, putting on makeup and one not-so-smart guy actually playing his guitar while driving. Yes, I've seen a lot. And although I will never claim to be the greatest driver on the planet, I am certainly not the worst. In my 36+ years of driving, in violation of **Galatians 5:22**, I unfortunately find myself sometimes being impatient with those who probably shouldn't even possess a driver's license. In this column, I am going to identify 4 annoying driving behaviors that drive me up a wall. If you happen to be one of these people, I apologize in advance and then it is your turn to straighten up and drive right. But since the vast majority of readers of this paper are pretty smart, I will probably be just preaching to the choir.

1. THE "FOG LIGHTER"

There are few driving practices more annoying than driving down the road on a clear and fogless night and coming face to face with somebody with their fog lights on. Please, would somebody tell me, "why?" Why on Earth would you drive around with your fog lights on when there is no fog? Let me give you a hint people, they are called fog lights for a reason. On a clear night, guess what. They do NOTHING; I repeat NOTHING to help your vision. That's right. Nothing. Zip, nill, nadda, nichts, nothing. ZERO!! They do not help your night vision one iota. If you are someone who likes to drive with your FOG lights on, do this little test. On a clear night, preferably while you are parked, turn on your headlights and look how they light up the road. Now sit back and turn on your fog lights. Do you know what you are going to see? More than likely, NOTHING. If you look closely, you may see some indication they are on down near the ground, but for the most part, you will not notice a thing; especially not enough to justify having them on.

Fog lights are incredibly bright and by design sit low on the cars grill so they do not reflect off the fog and back into the driver's eyes. They are not intended to be a long range beam but rather used in fog when visibility is reduced.

So what is the end result of the inconsiderate drivers that keep their fog lights on all the time? **THEY BLIND EVERYBODY ELSE ON THE ROAD.** Now, if this is your intention, so be it. If you don't care enough about your fellow drivers, then you probably could care less about this Robservation. I mentioned this annoying phenomenon to a captain I flew with several years ago. He laughed and told me that his teenage son was a "fog lighter." He told me his son says, "It looks cool." Well, I know people are going to do what they want to, but it still doesn't change the fact that driving with your fog lights on in clear weather does nothing to help you and is rude, obnoxious and potentially dangerous. Coming face to face with a "fog lighter" on a two lane road can be a dangerous proposition. So do all of us a favor folks, if it isn't foggy, turn the darn things off.

2. THE "THUNDERBIRD/ BLUE ANGEL PILOT"

Okay, again I ask, "Why?" Somebody speeds onto the interstate and quickly positions himself or herself in the left lane and promptly adjusts their speed to at or below the speed limit. Since these people rarely if ever use their rear view mirrors, they are oblivious to the 200 cars lined up behind them while they drive "formation" next to the car in the right hand lane. The guy in the right lane has every right to be where he is so why does the Thunderbird Pilot drive in

formation with him? Because he/she is an oblivious person who doesn't need to be on the road. Look, the left lane is for passing. I know there are times when a lot of traffic is on the road and back-ups occur in both lanes but if there is little to no traffic and you aren't passing anybody, you are not supposed to cruise the left lane and force people to pass you on the right. In New Jersey where I grew up, if a police officer saw this spectacular display of formation driving, he would pull you over and rightfully give you a ticket.

One night I was driving home from Atlanta when I got stuck behind some guy in a Ford SUV. He was doing about 65 mph in a 70 mph zone. For at least five minutes I was stuck behind him and the car he was "formed" up with. Eventually, I gave him the not so subtle "get the heck out of the way" flash of my high beams and he finally sped up and moved over. When I passed him, he quickly pulled in behind me, sped up to catch me, put on his high beams and "showed me" what a man he was. Wise up, don't be stubborn and move the heck over.

3. THE "UNGRATEFUL GOON"

Look, I know that at times in our lives it can be difficult to raise your hand and say thanks to another human being (not really), but for crying out loud, if you are sitting behind the wheel of a car, you probably have the strength if not the class to raise that swollen appendage dangling from your shoulder and wave thanks. Here's another hint, if somebody is nice enough to let you out of a parking lot, onto the highway or in front of them on a busy street, it doesn't take much effort to "say," thanks. I don't understand why people won't do it. I guess they are like an out of work school teacher - no class. (Note to readers: I am not saying out of work school teachers are classless but they in fact don't have a class to teach - thus "no class." I feel stupid having to write this but someone chastised me once for thinking that is what I meant - Sheesh!)

4. The "I'M TOO GOOD FOR CRUISE CONTROL BUT CAN'T DRIVE A STEADY SPEED TO SAVE MY LIFE" DRIVER

You know what? If I pass you or you pass me, I never want to see you again. EVER! Unless one of us has stopped for some reason, we should not pass one another again. On the highway, I generally use my cruise control because without it, in no time I'd be driving 120 mph. I know it, I lived in Germany for six years, I've done it. But with my cruise control engaged, it bugs me to no end when I pass a car and a minute or two later it passes me. A little while later I pass it again and on it goes for half an hour or more. Look, if you are such a terrible driver and cannot drive a steady speed, use your cruise control and quit playing the passing game. I know a lot of this is pride with people getting angry that they were passed but please, grow up. I've seen it too many times.

I know that when we pass each other, there is almost always that friendly glance at the other driver. The head nod, the "How 'bout them Vols" smile; you know what I mean. Every now and then, however, you get the "How - dare - you - pass - me - even - though - I'm - doing - 10 mph - below - the - speed - limit - and - you - embarrassed - me - in - front - of - my - girlfriend. - Now - I'm - going - to - have - to - pass - you - to - put - you - in - your - place - and - after - I - do, my - car - will - give - out - and - you'll - pass - me - again - but - at - least - I - showed - you - once" look. Oy!!

All I am asking for folks is a little common sense and respect on the road. If people would just be nice out there, all of our driving experiences would be much better. Drive carefully and don't be rude. It is not that hard, really.





BENGHAZI REPORT RELEASED

Our long-anticipated report on the Benghazi attacks from the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations was released this week. As the former chairman of the subcommittee, I was directly responsible for overseeing the investigation, and I am proud of the deliberate, thorough work that was done.

The September 11, 2012 terrorist attack on a U.S. compound that killed four Americans, including our ambassador, was a tragic day for our country. Our investigation has sought answers about how the Department of Defense was positioned before the attack, how it responded once the attack started, and what changes have been instituted since to minimize the chance of such an attack ever succeeding again.

We heard testimony from a wide range of civilian and uniformed officials, from troops on the ground that night in Libya, commanders in theater, and from the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, our nation's highest ranking military officer.

Based on the evidence gathered thus far, three major points became clear:

First: our military was woefully unprepared to respond to an attack of this nature.

Second: there was a striking lack of effort by top national security officials in Washington to communicate with commanders in the North Africa region about threats and preparedness leading up to the anniversary of September 11.

Third: the responsibility for this lack of preparedness and communication rest at the very top, with President Obama and his national security team at White House.

Washington's lack of preparedness and uninformed notion of the threat level left our commanders in the region in an impossible position. And, because of that, I'm convinced that no heroic effort on the part of our troops could have changed the horrific outcome of the Benghazi attack.

Testimony revealed that, when the White House sent out a press release on September 10, 2012 assuring Americans we were prepared for the anniversary of 9/11, it did so without having consulted the commanders in the North Africa region. This is particularly concerning after developments in Egypt and Libya made North

Africa among the most dangerous regions on the globe.

To quote our report, *"In assessing military posture in anticipation of the September 11 anniversary, White House officials failed to comprehend or ignored the dramatically deteriorating security situation in Libya and the growing threat to U.S. interests in the region. Official public statements seem to have exaggerated the extent and rigor of the security assessment conducted at the time."*

Our findings complement the Senate Intelligence Committee's recent report that criticized State Department officials for not heeding warnings from our intelligence community leading up to September 11.

These lapses are unacceptable. While multiple government agencies and military branches had responsibilities relating to the Benghazi attacks, there is only one Commander-in-Chief. It is his responsibility to ensure cooperation and coordination among military, intelligence and diplomatic officials, particularly in such a dangerous part of the world on a uniquely dangerous day.

Perhaps the exposure alone of this multi-layered breakdown will encourage President Obama and future presidents to make sure the White House is getting the most informed and relevant threat assessments.

Also of note is the fact that no one up the chain of command ever thought what happened in Benghazi was anything but a terrorist attack. From the hours of testimony before our panels and thousands of documents the subcommittee reviewed, it was clear early on to our military personnel that terrorists – not protesters – were carrying out a coordinated attack on the American compound in Benghazi.

There are many other questions that remain about Benghazi beyond the scope of our Armed Services, particularly those relating to the State Department and the White House. Some of those questions fall to other committees in Congress, and I am pleased that my colleagues on those committees are continuing their pursuit of answers.

The Armed Services Committee's goal has been to determine what military shortcomings became obvious that dreadful night in Benghazi and to recommend appropriate changes. That work continues, but I am confident in our findings to date and proud of the work the subcommittee has done. Our work has not been and will not be a political exercise. Republicans and Democrats alike have asked important questions throughout this investigation, and I appreciate all of my colleagues who participated.

To download the full interim report from the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, visit http://armedservices.house.gov/index.cfm/files/serve?File_id=C4E16543-8F99-430C-BEBA-0045A6433426.

For more information on all House-led oversight efforts relating to the Benghazi attack, visit <http://www.gop.gov/benghazi/>.

MORE TROUBLE AT THE IRS

Last year the nation was shocked by reports that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) was improperly targeting groups based on political beliefs. You may remember that a group from our area – the Wetumpka Tea Party – was one of the groups singled out.

No matter our differing politics or ideology, Americans strongly reject the suppression of free speech by the government. This behavior by top IRS officials eroded the public's trust in the Obama Administration and the government as a whole.

Apparently undaunted, the Administration is now pushing new tax rules that would essentially codify the IRS's objectionable behavior. The rules would alter the types and frequency of activities for 501(c)(4) tax-exempt organizations. In other words, they would attempt to limit the free speech of groups that organize in order to petition their government.

The proposed rules are wrongheaded and ill-timed. If the Administration believes we need to change how tax exempt status works, then it should engage Congress in a meaningful discussion, not force through administrative rules in the middle of an election year. And can anyone blame Americans for not trusting the IRS to implement these proposed new rules given the way it didn't bother to follow the current ones?

This week the House will take action to put a stop to this. We will consider H.R. 3865, the Stop Targeting of Political Beliefs by the IRS Act of 2014. The bill would prohibit the Secretary of the Treasury from finalizing these new regulations until the House has completed its investigation into the IRS scandal and the Inspector General releases its final report.

The Stop Targeting of Political Beliefs by the IRS Act is just one on a slate of bills this week aimed at holding the government accountable for abuses and executive overreaches. We are calling the effort "Stop Government Abuse Week."

Americans must be able to voice their political and religious views without fear of reprisal from the government. Many of my constituents – including several small business owners – have told me they are afraid to speak out about the grievances they have with the government for fear of selective targeting by the IRS. What a chilling reminder of the consequences of an aggressive federal government abusing its power.

Let's not forget: in this country, the government works for the people, not the other way around.

As part of "Stop Government Abuse Week," the House is expected to consider the following bills on the floor this week:

H.R. 899 - Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act of 2013,

H.R. 3865 - Stop Targeting of Political Beliefs by the IRS Act of 2014,

H.R. 2122 - Regulatory Accountability Act of 2013,

H.R. 3308 - Taxpayer Transparency Act of 2013, and

H.R. 2531 - Protecting Taxpayers from Intrusive IRS Requests Act.

For more information about these bills and further legislative activity, visit www.MajorityLeader.gov/floor.

I am grateful for the privilege to serve as your voice in Washington. If you would like to voice your opinion on an issue or if you need assistance with a federal agency, please do not hesitate to contact my office. My staff and I work for you.

ROBY COMMENTS ON PROPOSED MILITARY CHANGES

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Representative Martha Roby (R-AL) today reacted to proposed military changes outlined by Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel.

During a briefing at the Pentagon, Sec. Hagel announced that the President's defense budget request would include significant changes, including an overall reduction in the Army fighting force and a realigning of aircraft. Sec. Hagel specifically mentioned Alabama's Fort Rucker, home to the Army Aviation Center of Excellence, saying its fleet of training helicopters would be modernized under the Army's plan.

Rep. Roby said changes to the U.S. Armed Forces are to be expected, but it matters how those changes are implemented.

"With the drawdown of forces from Iraq and Afghanistan, along with our current budget limitations, changes to our military are no doubt necessary," Rep. Roby said. "However, those changes should reflect our national defense priorities and common sense, not politics."

"I have been personally engaged in discussions surrounding the Army's planned changes. As it stands, the plan would have a positive impact on Fort Rucker and the critical training mission at the Army Aviation Center of Excellence."

"It is important to point out that military budget reductions would have been much more severe if Congress had not passed a budget agreement in December that restored significant funding cut by sequestration."

"Much of what Sec. Hagel released today was expected, and I look forward to reviewing President Obama's full budget request when it is released next month."

Rep. Roby voted against the August 2011 Budget Control Act that opened the door to sequester military cuts and has repeatedly spoken out about the potential harm the cuts pose to military readiness and national security.



PRESIDENT OVERSTEPPING CONGRESS WITH EXECUTIVE ORDERS

Co-sponsors "STOP Act"

(WASHINGTON, D.C.)—Reacting to growing concerns about Executive Orders signed by President Obama, Congressman Mike Rogers said he has cosponsored a bill he hopes will curb the ability of the president to make administrative changes to laws.

H. Res. 442, the S.T.O.P. (Stop This Overreaching Presidency) Resolution, would require the House of Representatives to seek legal action against administrative changes to specific laws passed by Congress, including the Affordable Care Act, administrative amnesty for illegal aliens and changes to mandatory work requirements for certain government benefits, if those changes were not approved by Congress first.

"As the president said in his State of the Union speech, it is clear he is ready to bypass Congress to get his policies in place. From administrative delays in Obamacare to advocating for amnesty for illegal immigrants, he has shown he will act alone. With this resolution, Congress is saying it will challenge those administrative changes which ultimately could be settled by the courts."

H. Res. 442 has over 100 cosponsors and would use the House budget to fund the legal challenges.

OBAMACARE'S FUTURE: WILL HURT JOBS

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) — All of us across East Alabama are wondering recently if our economy is showing signs of life or not.

On the heels of December's disappointing jobs report, January's jobs report proved to be equally disappointing.

Only 113,000 jobs were added across the country which continues our concerns over the direction our economy is headed.

House Republicans remain focused on passing bills that could help add jobs to our struggling economy. Disappointingly, Senate Democrats and the president continue to oppose important House-passed jobs legislation.

On top of the jobs reports, you may have seen more disturbing news about Obamacare's impact on jobs.

A recent non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) report found that by 2017, Obamacare would push two million employees out of the workforce and 2.5 million employees out of the workforce over the next decade.

These forecasted unemployment numbers coupled with our current economic climate don't give most folks across East Alabama or our nation a lot of faith in our economy's future.

We already knew the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, was a very flawed law, but now also knowing it could displace more people from good paying jobs just brings more uncertainty.

I still believe Obamacare should be repealed and replaced with common-sense solutions that help expand our nation's health care coverage. Congress is debating alternatives now, and I am monitoring those proposals. Until a better idea emerges, I will continue to fight against Obamacare and the devastating impact it is having on families and jobs.

As always, I want to hear from you on this or any issue.

Contact me on my website at mike-rogers.house.gov and sign up for my eNewsletter. You can also like me on Facebook at Congressman Mike D. Rogers, follow me on Twitter, Pinterest, Tumblr and Instagram at RepMikeRogersAL and subscribe to my YouTube page at MikeRogersAL03

PRESIDENT BYPASSING CONGRESS TO DELAY OBAMACARE?

Recently, you may have seen President Obama bypassing Congress – yet again.

He is at least keeping one promise –he will not hesitate to bypass Congress to implement his policies.

The Administration announced mid-February it would be postponing a key provision of the Affordable Care Act, better known as Obamacare, by delaying the employer health care insurance mandate by another year. This means employers with 50 to 99 workers will be given a second year delay until 2016 to comply with the lengthy list of Obamacare regulations.

On the surface, you might think this doesn't make sense: why is the president delaying another key part of his signature health care law?

I believe the answer is the Administration knows the law will hurt our small and medium sized businesses – which are the heartbeats of our local economies.

To test this idea, I asked constituents on a live Tele-town Hall meeting this week what they thought of the most recent Obamacare delay. Of those who participated in the survey, 78 percent believed it was because Obamacare would hurt jobs, versus 22 percent who thought it would give employers more time to prepare.

I have heard stories of East Alabamians who say they have benefitted from Obamacare.

But those stories are far outweighed by the negative accounts, which for example I heard this week during a meeting with employees and officials at Ajin USA in Chambers County. They brought up their concerns about Obamacare and its impact on their employees. With the continued uncertainty surrounding the law, job creators like this are nervous, and they should be.

I will continue to fight against this flawed law.

Call: L. Grant - 334-356-6700

Interviews begin immediately!

The Alabama Gazette

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**Zack
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Woods & Waters with Zack

WILD TURKEY SEASON STARTS MARCH 15TH

Even under "normal" circumstances, taking an Eastern wild turkey is one of the most challenging, yet rewarding, hunting activities we engage in. However there are always some unique scenarios that require special tactics that make closing the deal an even greater challenge. With turkey season coming in on the 15th of this month, we'll look at some of these tactics and perhaps help you bag that gobbler this season.

Most of the time, when hunters encounter difficult challenges while turkey hunting, those who have a game plan or an idea of what can work given a certain situation are much more likely to score on these wily birds. Let's look at a couple of specific weather situations and how a hunter can make adaptations to cope with the conditions. By having a plan, you can press forward and be more assertive in the hunting, instead of passive. Often, being assertive is a key to getting a gobbler and that's why they're so much fun to hunt. Sometimes you just have to take the game to the gobbler.

Turkey hunting on a windy day is a turkey hunter's nightmare. As turkey hunters, we have numerous disadvantages. We can't hear them gobble as well and we certainly have big problems with their softer calls and the calls of hens, often a key element in any hunt.

In general, it's a day where some hunters will opt to give up early or not go at all. This is where having a strategy can help you get a gobbler on a windy day. I'm not discounting the effort involved: it can be challenging, perhaps one of the most challenging situations because of the hearing issues involved. However, gobblers can be had on windy days. It simply requires a substantial change in hunting philosophy compared to hunting on a calm morning.

Turkeys rely to a great extent on their ability to hear and the wind has a major impact on hearing of both hunter and prey. This hearing impairment dictates the hunter must take his calls to the bird, rather than waiting on the bird to come to him. On windy days, most expert turkey hunters stay on the move. They know from experience that the birds will still be gobbling and although the wind will make them a bit more nervous due to movement of the leaves and tree branches, the spontaneous urges of the mating season can't be denied. If you can locate a gobbler, you can call him in. On windy days, a hunter needs to cover twice as much ground in half the time. Don't stay too long at any one given spot, even at dawn when listening for the birds on the roost. Since our range of hearing and that of the gobbler are both considerably lessened, cover as much territory as possible, using owl hoots at each spot, to locate a gobbler still on the roost. After the birds fly to the ground, it becomes even more difficult to hear a gobbler. Continue prospecting even after the birds have left the roost. With the birds on the ground, abandon owl calls and begin to use a variety of hen turkey calls, especially those that are high-pitched and can cut through the wind. Needless to say, windy days require loud, aggressive calling, regardless of the specific turkey call you use. It's important to understand that being subtle or timid with the calls will likely not elicit a response from the birds, primarily because they can't hear it from any appreciable distance.

The important thing to the gobbler is that he hears what he believes is a hen. If he does, he'll usually quickly gobble a response. When a hunter hears a responding gobble to his call, it's a good bet the bird will come in rather quickly. They are social animals and if it's mating season and he hears what he believes to be a hen, on a day like this he is apt to literally throw caution to the wind. So, as soon as a gobble is heard, select a tree or blind site and set up quickly.

Sometimes we wake up to a rainy day; it's a fact of springtime. Occasionally we get an unexpected mid-morning rainstorm while hunting. I certainly urge you to get out of the woods immediately if there's lightning, but if it's merely rain then continue the hunt.

When it's raining look for the gobblers and hens to go to open fields. I've heard a lot of reasons why turkeys will go to the fields. For example, it's possible that turkeys move to open locations because such areas provide better lines of sight for the birds, both in avoiding predators and in finding other turkeys. It's possible that they simply wish to avoid the water dripping from the leaves of the trees. But the reality is it doesn't matter why, just that they do it. Gobblers seem to be less vocal during a rain than they are during windy days. Unless you can see a gobbler in a field, you will need to have to set up adjacent to an open field or powerline in an area where you know turkeys are located.



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The rain will muffle the sounds, both of the hunter and turkey. On rainy days, a gobbler will often approach your calling position totally silent. Best bets for calls are usually air-operated calls such as a multi-reed diaphragm call or a tube call. Neither of these calls is adversely affected by wet weather and a hunter can get the necessary high pitch and volume to carry the sound through the rain a long distance. There are friction calls with special strikers that will also work. But prepare in advance, have the calling tools you will need for this type of hunting in your turkey hunting vest. If I can see a bird, I'll begin calling loud enough for the bird to hear me, which can be rather loud if it's raining pretty hard and the bird is a good

distance away. Sometimes he may seem to ignore the calls for a while, but he'll probably cut a glance in my direction, confirming that he's heard the call. It could take him a while to approach and he may not approach in a direct manner. Often, a gobbler will walk to the edgeline and approach along the edge of the field, so be ready.

If you read my articles, you know that I always encourage you to take a young person hunting or fishing. There is a special youth hunt on the Saturday and Sunday prior to the opening of the season. The regular season shooting hours, bag limits, and legal arms and ammunitions apply to the special days. Individuals must follow the listed rules to participate in the scheduled youth hunts.

You can go to www.outdooralabama.com for the rules regarding this hunt.

Next month, we'll look at some late season turkey hunting tips as well as spring bass and crappie fishing tips. Until then, **be safe in the outdoors.**

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**Sports Editor,
Ed Jones**

NFL COMBINE: BOOST OR BUST?

It seems that the NFL Combine has been a part of football all my life. That really can not be true because it has only become an important event in professional football for a few decades now. And, it is important, for the players, the coaches, the general managers and the owners. It is not uncommon to see owners in the stands with note pads or stop watches. There are more stop watches at the NFL Combine than there will be at the Summer Olympics.

What is "The Combine"? It is an enormous undertaking by the NFL to select eligible college football players most likely to make NFL rosters every year. "The Combine" has been held at the home stadium of the Indianapolis Colts for several years. This is as close as one can get to being in the middle of America. The west coast teams may have an argument about that. How are players selected? Each NFL team has a scouting system that employs former players, coaches or analysts to scour the country looking for college players that might fit into their particular system. The number of scouts vary with each team. Some have full time scouts. Some have part time scouts. Some have both. They visit campus practices, games and the offices of college coaches. Through this process, each scout will make a want list, a wish list and a need list. They try to find out everything possible about the players that spark their interests. By the end of each season these scouts have a "book" on every player that they have scouted. Of course they are constantly in contact with the General Manager, the Director of Player Personnel and the coaches of the team they are employed by.

From the combined "books" compiled by each of the 32 National Football League teams, a list of players is chosen from Division I, Division II, Division III and in some cases ASIA teams. From this list of chosen college players who are the best prospects to make an NFL roster. This list is refined until there are approximately 300 players that would meet this criteria.

This year there were some 335 players invited. A few could not attend. A few had nagging injuries that precluded them from participation in the drills. Some decided what drills that they would participate in. All of the above are scrutinized heavily by the teams at the Combine. However it is an "invitation" not a "requirement" to participate. For most players it is advantageous to participate because of the sheer numbers of NFL personnel who are watching every move a player makes. One could improve their draft status with a good time in the forty yard dash, a good jump in the standing broad jump, a good leap in the vertical jump, a good number in the bench press, and a good performance in the many agility drills that are devised for each position, and good interviews with the coaches. It's no walk in the park for these players. They are really run through the mill.

There is also a possible negative result to this procedure. If one does not do well in these tests it could hurt their draft status. For example, Michael Sam, the linebacker (defensive end) from Missouri, who just recently announced to the world that he was gay, probably hurt his draft status by turning in unspectacular performances in almost all of the events. He was the Co-Defensive Player of the Year in the SEC, and put up terrific numbers at Missouri. The good news for Sam is that his game tapes are available to all NFL teams. They will show what he did do. His performance at the Combine showed what he could not do. Therefore, it is my belief that Sam will drop from a third round choice to a fourth or fifth round choice.

Even though Jadeveon Clowney, defensive end from South Carolina chose not to participate in most of the drills, his 40 yard dash made the 6' 6", 266 lb. physical freak of nature become the talk of the combine after he ran a 4.53 in the forty yard dash. That is faster than a lot of running backs and wide receivers ran at the Combine. No one really knows why he chose not to display his skills in other activities. He was already one of the top three draft choices on the board so this did not hurt the physical evaluation of Clowney. However, it may have hurt his intangible evaluation, which was already bad. His reputation as a slacker and one who does not bring his best game on every play preceded him to the Combine. His attitude at the Combine only magnified these negatives. It is my belief that he will be the number one draft choice, going to the Houston Texans. There he could be an unparalleled book end with J.J.Watts, the great defensive end already with Houston. Many think that because Johnny Manziel is from Texas, the Texans will make him their choice. There are six really good quarterback choices in the draft this year. There has never been a player with the potential of Jadeveon Clowney. I think that Clowney has been saving himself for a big fat contract in the NFL. I think that he will "play for pay". He is worth the gamble, if it is a gamble. Manziel has already issued an ultimatum to the Houston Texans that if they don't draft him first, they will live to regret it. Manziel ran the slowest time for quarterbacks, a 4.68 in the forty. He can play, but he does talk a lot. We will know what the Texans do on May 8th when the draft starts.

Alabama and Auburn had a number of players in the Combine. Most either helped their cause or did it no harm. Alabama had a record 12 players chosen. C. J. Moseley will probably be the Tide's first player taken, somewhere in the first ten picks. He was very good in the agility drills and had a vertical leap of 35 1/2 inches. His performance enhanced his already solid position. HaHa Clinton-Dix will likely be the next Tide player taken. He performed as well as the

other defensive backs, and was already projected early in the first round. My guess is around the fifteenth pick. Cyrus Kouandjio, Alabama's huge offensive right tackle impressed the Combine with his agility and will probably go in the middle to late first round. He can play left tackle in the NFL. Kevin Norwood, A. J. McCarron's favorite possession receiver had a solid but not spectacular performance. He is one of those type receivers a team will take because of need. Norwood is probably the best possession receiver in the draft. He could go anywhere from the 3rd round to the sixth round. He definitely will make somebody's team this year. Adrian Hubbard, Alabama's huge 6' 6" outside linebacker is a middle rounder. He also had a good Combine. But, he needed a great Combine in order to move up.

A. J. McCarron helped himself quite a bit in the throwing drills. The receivers said that he threw an easy ball to catch. The coaches were amazed at the accuracy of his throws. They already knew that he didn't have a rocket launcher for an arm, but his on target throws with good velocity surprised them. Of course he is not considered to be a great athlete, so his performance in the various drills were not good. He is the prototype pocket passer that most teams are looking for. His poise and composure in a pressure environment may have moved him up from a fourth or fifth rounder to the late third round. When he had such a bad time in the forty he joked with his coaches, "I'm glad they are not looking for me to run the option." The other Tide players will be late rounders and maybe even free agents. Defensive lineman Jeffrey Pagan should have definitely stayed at Alabama for his senior year. He got some bad advice from someone. He can still make a roster, but next year he could have been a high draft choice. My rule of thumb is that if you are not guaranteed a first, second or third round pick, stay at home!

Auburn had three players that opened some eyes at the Combine; Greg Robinson, Trey Mason and Dee Ford. Robinson, Auburn's pile driving 6' 5", 332 lb. tackle scored better than expected in every event and may have moved from a late first round pick to the front of the pile. He was already considered one of the top three tackles in the country. From his left tackle position he helped send Mason on some big runs in 2013. Tre Mason, who broke Bo Jackson's single season rushing record in 2013 gave a solid performance in every drill. At 5' 9", 210 lbs. he has more strength than his appearance would indicate. Of course his hustle and desire was already known. But, when compared to the best backs in the Combine, he may be the best buy at the "meat market". He was extremely unhappy with his 4.5 in the forty. His strength and quickness is his best asset. All that said, Mason will still be an early third round choice because of his size. Dee Ford made his



**Jadeveon Clowney
Defensive End
South Carolina**

money at the Senior Bowl with most of these same eyes checking him out. Unfortunately the medical team would not let him participate in the drills due to an x-ray that showed something they didn't like from a two year old operation on a herniated disc in his back. They are very careful about these things because even though the Combine is voluntary it is "quasio-officially mandatory" in that the 32 teams do not like to see someone not participate. So, more than likely an insurance risk caused Ford to be scratched. He is already considered one of the top three defensive ends in the draft. He could go in the top ten. He says that he is better than Jadeveon Clowney. In fact in an interview on Sirius Radio the day before the Combine he was quoted as saying that "Clowney plays like a blind dog in a meat market". He tried to explain that away in the

next few days, but the "dog" was already on the street. Ford does not lack confidence. He will realistically go early in the first round at about 13th. Chris Davis the 5' 9", 205 lb. defensive back who won the Alabama game for Auburn only to lose the national championship game to Florida State, pulled a hamstring just before the Combine was to begin. He was not able to participate in any drills. It makes good reading, but it is not fair for people to say that Davis lost the Florida State game. On the last play he had to defend the Seminoles best receiver who was 6-6 from the 2 yard line. Davis would have needed a step ladder to reach the ball. He is a solid middle round choice despite missing the Combine. He will have a good NFL career.

Alabama State University had one invite to the Combine. Isaiah Crowell, the running back who transferred from Georgia had an excellent day. He ran a 4.5 40 yard dash and bench pressed 225 lbs. 25 times, which is great for a running back. There has been a lot of discussion as to Crowell's work habits at Georgia and at Alabama State. In my opinion he has just been coasting through college waiting for the NFL. Just like Jadeveon Clowney, Crowell will "play for pay". He could wind up being a late round pick. If so, he will make somebody's roster this year. You've heard of playing possum. He wasn't SEC Freshman of the Year at Georgia because he was lucky. He can play!

Now for all those who did not get to compete in the Combine, or who did not meet their own expectations, there is still one more chance. Colleges with pro prospects hold what is referred to as "Pro Day". That's when the coaches and the scouts come the players' campus and do the Combine drills all over again. This time it will even be easier because the drills and tests will be done on your own field and some of your old teammates will be helping. Quarterbacks will be throwing to their own receivers for instance. These "Try-Outs" are scheduled with the NFL teams and the College coaches working out the dates and times. There are no more chances. So, if a player is on the borderline, he had better "fish or cut bait" at Pro Day. McDonalds is always looking for a talented hamburger flipper!



Ronald A. Holtsford



The NSA has unconstitutionally monitored the telephone and email logs of American

citizens and breached the trust that we should have in our privacy. Have there been other times when the actions of our Government overstepped it's bounds?

The National Security Agency not only intercepted the telephone calls of suspected terrorists but also collected in bulk the logs of telephone calls and emails of ordinary citizens. Monitoring also included the personal cell phone of our ally, Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany. Apparently the monitoring of Merkel has gone on for many years during her ascent to the Chancellorship.

The earliest overreach that I am familiar with is by United States President Abraham Lincoln during the War Between the States. Lincoln suspended the Writ of Habeas Corpus against citizens. The Writ of Habeas Corpus is procedural so that a criminal suspect is given the reasons for his or her arrest. Lincoln felt that suspension of the Writ was within his powers though it is only a power of Congress. Several were arrested on suspicion of favoring the Confederate States. In the case of one citizen in Maryland that was arrested by military authorities, Chief Justice Taney of the United States Supreme Court ruled that Lincoln had overstepped his authority. However, Lincoln disregarded the Chief Justice's ruling and continued to suspend the Writ on his own authority. Lincoln was in fact defiant during a public speech on Independence Day suggesting that the suspension of Habeas Corpus was necessary during the rebellion of the Southern States.

A mere five years later a new United States Supreme Court essentially supported Taney's position saying that only Congress could suspend Habeas Corpus and that no civilian could be tried in military court.

During World War I, in *Schenck v. United States*,

NSA HAS UNCONSTITUTIONALLY BREACHED THE TRUST OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Monitoring the telephone and email logs of American citizens has invaded our privacy.

Justice Holmes of the United States Supreme Court used the phrase, "clear and present danger". Schenck, as a member of the Socialist Party sought to print and mail to American conscripts a leaflet with a message that the Thirteenth Amendment was violated by the conscription act and that conscripts were treated little better than convicts. Schneck had three charges against him including violation of the Espionage Act of 15 June 2017. Schneck argued his rights under freedom of speech. In Holmes opinion, he used the words, "clear and present danger" because America was at war and needed men to fight. Holmes further said that a man that falsely shouted "fire" in a theatre was not protected by his freedom of speech when he would surely cause a panic. The Espionage Act punished not only conspiracies to obstruct but also to actually obstruct. Holmes saw that success was not a necessary element of such a crime.

The final apparent injustice against American citizens was the imprisonment of Japanese Americans during World War II. When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor there were about 112,000 people of Japanese ancestry that lived on the West Coast of the United States. Seventy thousand were United States citizens. About five thousand refused to swear allegiance to the United States and to renounce allegiance to Japan. Several thousand evacuees requested repatriation to Japan. Many lived near military or sensitive installations and there was evidence of disloyalty among some.

In *Korematsu v. United States*, Korematsu Constitutionally challenged the relocation of himself and others of Japanese heritage and the relocation in camps. The relocation of Japanese was affirmed in *Korematsu* and Justice Holmes said, "... because Congress, reposing its confidence in this time of war in our military leaders- as inevitably it must- determined that they should have the power to do just this. We cannot- by availing ourselves of the calm perspective of hindsight- now say that at that time these actions were unjustified."

Several of the Justices dissented though in a minority. Justice Jackson wrote, "A citizen's presence in the locality, however, was made a crime only if his parents were of Japanese birth. Had Korematsu been one of four- the others say being a German alien enemy, an Italian alien enemy and a citizen of American born ancestors, convicted of treason but out on parole- only Korematsu's presence would have violated the order."

Balancing the civil liberties and Constitutional rights of American citizens against real and perceived threats is often tough to do. I will not be happy if I ever learn that my telephone conversations are recorded or listened to. However, I am not terribly upset over a brief screening at the airport if I am kept safe on my flight. I also don't care that captured enemy combatants might be kept at Guantanamo as I know that some of the really bad guys are removed from causing trouble again. I also don't care if water boarding is used on captured enemy combatants if it saves American lives. That is what counts in my book.

We expect to exercise our civil liberties and to say what we want (to a point). We also want to feel safe in our homes and at public places and to feel like when we go to bed at night that there is a great likelihood that we will awake the next morning.

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

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Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers



Steve Flowers is Alabama's leading political columnist. His column appears weekly in 72 Alabama newspapers. Steve served 16 years in the state legislature. He may be reached at www.steveflowers.us

For the past year it has appeared that this year's election was going to be less than exciting. Now that the dust has settled

it looks like that will pretty much be the case. This lackluster year has been created by the fact that incumbents hold all five of the top constitutional offices and all five, especially the governor, are pretty popular.

The field is set and the lineup card is in the hands of the scorekeeper. The primaries are set for June 3 with the runoffs coming six weeks later on July 15. The general election will be November 3. More than likely the governor, attorney general, lieutenant governor, agriculture commissioner and treasurer, all Republicans, will be reelected to a second four-year term.

That means that 2018 will be looming as a watershed year. You should see six or more big name thoroughbreds seeking the governor's post that year when Gov. Bentley cannot seek another term constitutionally. There are some naysayers who are saying, "Not so quick, my friend. I am not so sure that Bentley will be reelected."

Indeed the Democrats, who many have written off for dead in statewide races, have fielded a slate of candidates. If there was any surprise it came in that corner. The fact that the Democrats have a ticket to choose from is the surprise of the year. We

will see if the assumption that winning the GOP primary in Alabama is tantamount to election in the Heart of Dixie.

In the governor's race incumbent Robert Bentley has two token challengers. He will hardly have to break a sweat or spend any money garnering the Republican nomination. In the fall, Bentley will more than likely face Parker Griffith, who will probably be the Democratic standard bearer.

Parker Griffith is a former congressman and state senator from Huntsville. He was elected to both of these posts as a Republican. He is a physician and businessman who is wealthy and has a propensity for spending his own money. That is what makes him a viable candidate. He is also handsome and articulate.

Bentley will prevail in November but Parker Griffith will net as many votes as a Democrat can get for governor. Most experts think that is about 42%. This race will be interesting to follow. It is also interesting that there will be two physicians pitted against each other in the fall. Bentley is a retired dermatologist and Griffith is a retired cancer specialist.

Lt. Gov. Kay Ivey will face a challenge within the GOP primary from Dr. Stan Cooke from Walker County. Cooke is the pastor of the Kimberly Church of God in Jefferson County and is an active Tea Partier.

The Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor is from just up the road on I-65 in Cullman County. James Fields is also a pastor and served a term in the State House of Representatives before

being swept out by the GOP tidal wave in 2010.

Attorney General Luther Strange has no Republican opposition. However, Montgomery State Representative Joe Hubbard, who will be the Democratic standard bearer, will challenge him in the fall. This could be the closest race in November.

Incumbent GOP Treasurer Young Boozer is unopposed in his race for a second four-year term in the primary. He will be challenged by longtime AEA lobbyist Joe Cottle in the general election.

Incumbent Republican Agriculture Commissioner John McMillan has no GOP primary opponent. His Democratic challenger is Doug "New Blue" Smith.

The best statewide races of the year are for the offices of Secretary of State, State Auditor and two of the Public Service Commission seats.

The best regional race of the year will be for the open congressional seat in the Birmingham metro area. The 6th congressional post is being vacated by 20-year veteran congressman Spencer Bachus. There are seven Republican men vying for the open seat. It has been ranked as one of the most Republican seats in the nation.

U. S. Senator Jeff Sessions will waltz to a fourth six-year term in the U.S. Senate. He has no opposition from any Republicans or Democrats.

Even if it is a lackluster year, it will be fun to watch. We will see if there are any upsets.

March 5, 2014

Bench-Bar- & Beyond

By Judge Dale Segrest

ACCOUNTING FOR CRIME



Judge Philip Dale Segrest

Want to know more about the author or to comment on the column: <http://www.segrestlaw.com>

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This article is the second in a series dealing with counterintuitive thoughts about how we deal with crime. I previously pointed out that the solution to the problem of crime will not result from stronger law enforcement, but from stronger moral formation. Correct moral formation occurs as a result of interaction with the family, the peer group, churches, schools and the entire community. Peer groups play a particularly important role. And now there is TV and social media. A comedian may have captured the thought when he said "We've got to come up with a better class of criminals".

Now we turn to the measurement of success in our efforts to deal with crime. What kind of statistics would show success in decreasing the amount of criminal activity? The measurement of the success of criminal law should reflect on the crimes that are not committed rather than the crimes that are committed. Criminal law is accomplishing its goals when there are no murders, rapes, robberies, deaths, and other crimes. But it is difficult to make a list of undesired events that didn't happen! It is much easier to talk about and "measure" the success in solving the crimes that do happen than it is to document the fact that they are not happening. It is much easier for those persons in charge of law enforcement to talk and take pride in the cases that are solved than to boast of cases that do not happen. A reported "decrease in the crime rate" is a comparison of the number of crimes that are actually reported during one time period to those reported in another time period. There is always the problem of crimes that don't get reported, simply because it is not worth the effort.

If I am not mistaken, the Law Enforcement Planning Agency, back in the 1970's, was a program instigated by the federal government. In some instances it actually made funding available based on the number of cases prosecuted. Certainly, law enforcement needs all the funding that it can get. Nevertheless, funding that is based on the number of prosecutions is more likely to lead to a higher rate of incarceration than to a reduced rate of crime. What we need is a program promoting real success- the crimes that do not happen.

The rate of crime and the rate of incarceration are not necessarily drawing on the same statistics. Length of sentence, the likelihood of a crime resulting in incarceration, the criminalization of activities that had not previously been

declared crimes, the political pressure on law enforcement, legislatures, and judges to be tough all add to the rate of incarceration. It is not at all clear that the result of any of these factors is an actual decrease in crime. Those factors that affect the rate of incarceration do not address the primary cause of crime: inadequate moral development of the individuals involved.

I remember an instance in my courtroom in which a representative from the Center for Disease Control presented testimony. Off the record, I asked whether the Center for Disease Control has a computerized statistics database for measuring health of the nation rather than reporting the number of diseases that occur. Although the answer was not entirely clear, it is clear that CDC sees health, not disease, as its goal. Although it is important to measure the number of diseases that are occurring and to keep statistics, but it is also important to have some method of measuring health as opposed to disease. That is the same statistical challenge that exists for bad social behavior. Moral conduct, rather than crime, must be the goal in dealing with the illness of society.

The approach advocated in this column is consistent with the mainline Christian tradition. The mainline Christian tradition is the promotion of good as opposed to destruction of evil. Ancient Mid-Eastern religions believed that the cosmos is involved in an eternal conflict between good and evil—light and darkness. In the Christian tradition, the focus is always on the light. Darkness is simply the absence of light. All of this is a complex abstract way of saying that the destruction of evil does not produce good. In a word, the Christian message is obey the law of love and do whatever you want to do. "Whatever you want to do" will never be crime.

Complex social issues bear on the tremendous increase in the rate of incarceration over the past forty years. We will continue to explore those issues in future articles.



Marcia Chambliss

SGP

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DEFEATING THE POLITICS OF POLARIZATION

In an increasingly polarized America where little consensus is found, it is somewhat interesting to find that there are people on the right and the left who may be sharing a bit of mutual agreement on at least two hotbed issues.

Contrary to most news coverage in Alabama on the issue of Common Core, a.k.a. Alabama College and Career Ready Standards, "right-wing extremist groups" are not the only ones opposed to the Common Core. A simple Internet search for Russell Winn from Huntsville, AL (www.geekpalaver.com), Diane Ravitch (www.dianeravitch.com), and Kris Nielsen (www.atthechalkface.com) will provide an abundance of criticism of the Common Core by those who lean to the political left.

Now, it appears that people from both sides of the aisle are alarmed by new regulations released last November that were proposed by the Obama administration and written by the Internal Revenue Service regarding political activity of nonprofits.

According to a recent article in The New York Times, concern over the broad reach of the regulations is not limited to conservatives, although those organizations have been the most vocal of late given the IRS scrutiny and apparent targeting of numerous TEA party groups, including the Wetumpka TEA party in Alabama. In a supposed effort to end the tax-exempt abuse of some nonprofits, the proposed rules

"would significantly tighten the definition by considering voter registration drives, turnout initiatives, candidate debates, forums and voter guides among candidate-related political activity."

1. In other words, most any activity related to educating the voters regarding issues or candidates would be severely limited because groups would hesitate to participate for fear of IRS repercussions.

Public comments to date have been filed in record numbers, including those from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) which state, "the proposed rule threatens to discourage or sterilize an enormous amount of political discourse in America."

2. What I find most interesting and revealing about these proposed rules are that they do not apply to labor unions which are extremely engaged in political activity, especially in support for Democrat candidates.

The combined backlash and public outcry from both sides of the political aisle will hopefully stop the implementation for the short term, but the bigger question remains: How many more rules and regulations will be imposed at the direction of the Obama administration that are designed to silence political foes and erode the freedoms guaranteed in our Bill of Rights?

Will the increasing power of an overreaching, increasingly centralized "Big Brother" government

begin to bring disparate groups together over issues yet to surface and will we begin to see a bit more common ground as people recognize the threat to our freedom?

Our liberties are being daily eroded by the expansion of government and the loss of liberty, economic or otherwise. Through the politics of polarization, this administration appears intent on tearing us apart as a nation, relentlessly pitting us against each other on issues of race, gender, economic status, and religion. So it's with a glimmer of hope that I see groups from both sides of the political aisle joining forces to fight tyranny, albeit one cautious and small step at a time.

1, 2 Hulse, Carl. "Left and Right Object to I.R.S. Plan to Restrict Nonprofits' Political Activity." The New York Times 12 Feb. 2012: Web

Marcia Chambliss is the Alabama State Coordinator of Smart Girl Politics, a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to the education and training of activists and candidates, and Smart Girl Politics Action, <http://sgpaction.com/>, a 501(c)(4) which focuses on conservative issues. She can be reached at Marcia@sgpaction.com. Her views do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Smart Girl Politics Action.

Community Lifestyles

Montgomery County

Cities, Towns and Communities:
Montgomery, Pike Road, Cecil, Mathews, Pine Level, Grady, Ramer, Lapine, Snowdoun, Pintlala, Hope Hull and Catoma

Autauga County

Surrounding Town and Communities:
Prattville, Autaugaville, Billingsley, Booth, Marbury, Pine Level, Independence, Statesville and Vida

Elmore County

Surrounding Town and Communities:
Wetumpka, Millbrook, Coosada, Elmore, Eclectic, Tallassee, Titus, Santuck, Slapout, Rockford, Deatsville, Kent, Red Hill, Weoka and Robinson Springs

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The Education Station... By Bobbie Ames

THE BATTLE FOR THE MINDS OF CHILDREN: AMERICAN EDUCATION AT THE CROSSROADS

*Train up a child in the way he should go:
and when he is old, he will not depart from it.
Proverbs 22: 6*

It is a battlefield, not of guns and swords, but spiritual warfare, for the minds and hearts of children. It centers on the definition and purposes of Education in America today. Sincere people, passionate about their own views of Traditional Education and of life, are at war defining and empowering Education. Each group, and the several sub-groups, have a mission and are dedicated to fulfilling it.

The Traditionalists, who embrace the Judeo-Christian worldview, inherited through Western Civilization and in America, particularly the Protestant Reformation. This education philosophy sees children as created and owned by God, their Creator. Each child is born with a Providential plan for each life, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for wholeness and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." (Jeremiah 29:11: KJV). The Creator of life has entrusted the child and the responsibility for him with the parents, through a Covenant relationship described in the Scriptures. The parents are responsible for educating the child God's way. The goals of this traditional education will transform lives with a Biblical world view, enrich the life of a family, and be a wholesome influence in the community and beyond; even a testimony to the nations. A well educated productive citizen has an assured outcome.

This group of citizens can be found in Christian and Home Schools, and also in traditional public schools. A majority of these families will have church affiliation, though not all. There will be a universal affirmation of the Moral Law and moral standards for individuals. They expect these moral standards to be affirmed in all of the schools mentioned. This helps define ones on this side of the battle.

Another group, in stark contrast, to the one above are **The Progressives**. These too are very idealistic and sincere and have the "good" of students in mind as they earnestly have brought about stark changes in American Education through their secular, humanistic world view. If one wonders how so many people have aligned themselves with this progressive group, and abandoned the traditional Judeo-Christian world view, it really requires a study of the last century and a half, in American education. European intellectuals, especially from Germany, came to our shores to join and expand the programs of America's universities in the first half of the 19th Century. They have had a tremendous influence until this day. Remember that the vast majority of colleges and universities in America were founded by Orthodox Christian churches and early denominations, to educate preachers.

The withdrawal of teaching orthodox Christianity in American school classrooms was never championed, by community classroom teachers, who for centuries chose their profession out of love and dedication to children and families. They delighted to be used by God to teach in such as way as to "enlighten the understanding, correct the temper, form the habits and manners of youth, and fit them for their future stations." (Webster's 1828 Education) In all the years that I have interviewed teachers, I have never known one who did not love children, and desire to teach, really teach, and mentor students on an individual basis, appreciating the individuality of each student. Teaching is a unique calling, and to me, it has been a sacred one.

However, the influence mentioned of the "outsiders", indeed radicals, can be learned from the transformation in education caused by influential philosophers such as Spinoza, Rousseau, Darwin, Huxley, Marx, and others. But a key person for dramatic change was "our own" John Dewey. Born in Vermont, in 1859, he lived 93 years, dying in New

York in 1952. Space in this article will not allow much commentary on Dewey, but suffice it to say these brief leading ideas. He opposed the idea of a system of fixed values in any human area. This really made a problem for him to account for the nature of Truth. His philosophy has been called numerous



things, but best known as **Instrumentalism**, His theory of human nature and ideals of social change, (etc.) clashed with the Scriptures as you know, and his view of the child and education initiated what we recognize as the Progressive movement in America, though that movement expands far beyond the classroom.

Rejecting Christianity, the State is obviously competing to become "God." Deism has become acceptable. In fact, any god will do, except for the God of Christianity.

This group, intent on removing moral absolutes from curriculum standards, maintain that religion is private, has no place in the today's classroom, and have constructed a new interpretation for the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Their goal for education is an economic goal, to equip the student for career readiness in a highly technical society, where our nation is competing with other nations in the global economy. They have a plan to achieve these goals and they have the money available to carry out the progressive ideals at the heart of the plan. It proposes an assembly line concept of educators, principals, and teachers. Pushed aside has been the individuality of the classroom teachers, and the content of Historic and recognized Truth in solid subject contents. Cast out has been the Moral law and the character training of the child. He is now a machine and will compete with the machines of other countries.

One would think that American parents would not be so easily deceived by bureaucrats who are empowered to enforce the Obama Care, which is literally redefining "Health" the government way, and mandating that all employers support their view and program. Even forcing materials and service that clearly violate the First Amendment, As if that were not enough, the Christian view of sexual morality is assaulted in America's classrooms with Sex

Education classes that provide contraceptives and re-define human sexuality.

Everyone with children in schools today should become informed about the current battle for the minds and the hearts of the children. The propaganda of the Progressives repeats over and over that we have an "18th Century model to reach a 21 St Century workforce." (BCA)

My husband inherited the old Ames Bag Manufacturing Company in Selma, Alabama, at the end of WWII. It was the largest manufacturing plant in the area, and had hundreds of employees who had worked there for many decades. It had awards for the efficiency of the operation and for the race relations, which were always remarkable in those years. This was not true of every business in those days. The demand for cotton and burlap bags dwindled, and the company was forced to close or to make a transition to other products. Space does not permit me to expound on this remarkable story which has been related in corporate boards over the nation as an inspiration. Just let me say this: Our Selma and Blackbelt employees unanimously wanted to learn new methods of manufacturing and they remained true to my husband's business, as they learned new skills of making fiber and plastic containers of every kind imaginable. They made the first miniature Morton Salt and Accent cans for one example. The very first "Wet Ones" were designed in part by Jack Green, our on-sight engineer. I never knew if he had his PE or not. He was a genius. These were fast changing skills for a work force that never finished college. They had the character to love learning new skills, and they shared Prayer and Scripture over the loud speaker. They had an open door any time day or night to the "Boss's office." We all shared moral absolutes and family values. I prayed with many individual mothers who worked there. There was no racial divide in that workforce.

I don't know one elementary teacher who would not welcome the Ten Commandments on the wall of his or her classroom. I don't know one who would not welcome a prayer at the beginning of the day. It would settle the child down, set the tone for the student to begin to learn that day. Please become informed and join the battle for the minds and hearts of the children. May the Lord lead us all.



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Pike Road News

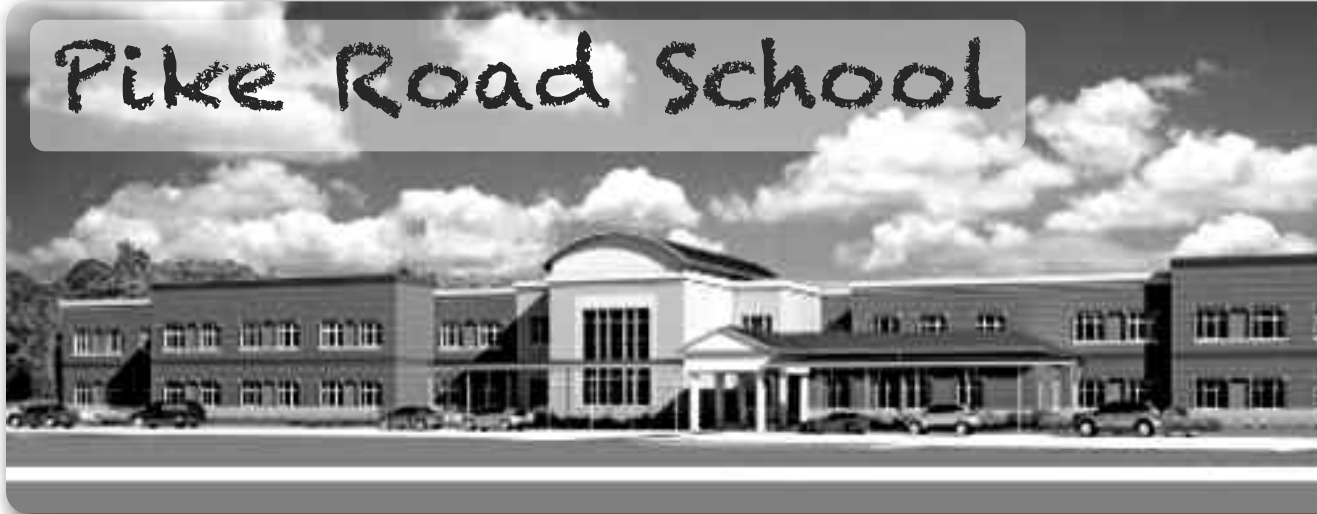


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Pike Road School



Dr. Suzanne Freeman

Pike Road Welcomes its First Superintendent, Dr. Suzanne Freeman

After a thorough application and interview process and by a unanimous vote, the Pike Road School Board selected Dr. Suzanne Freeman to lead the Pike Road School System as its first superintendent.

Freeman was greeted with applause as she was introduced at this morning's Town Council Meeting by school board president, Ray Hawthorne.

"To the board, one of the biggest and most important factors is that she understands the vision and the dream that is Pike Road. She understands that we are neighbors helping neighbors. She understands that we are a town doing the right thing for the right reasons. She understands that we are a community- that we are a team, and she understands that education is a strong cornerstone for this community," said Hawthorne. "We're confident that she

will help guide us in the right direction and set up and continue to build a strong educational foundation for all children of Pike Road." Freeman comes to Pike Road with a number of years experience in education. She has served as superintendent for Trussville City Schools as well as Cullman City Schools. She was named the 2008 State Superintendent of the Year and was one of four finalists in 2009 for National School Superintendent of the Year.

Mayor Gordon Stone added, "I'm so very proud of the way this process was handled and the collaborative way our board worked together with the community during the process. That's how it's supposed to work, and I think they've done a great job."

PIKE ROAD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT PRESENTS AWARDS TO STELLAR VOLUNTEERS

Pike Road Volunteer Fire Department (PRVFD) celebrated their annual appreciation dinner and ceremony on February 22, 2014 to honor firefighters and community partners whose actions over the last year deserve special recognition. The theme for the event was "Blazing with Pride." Among the attendees were firefighters and their guest, Mayor Gordon Stone, Chief Deputy Derrick Cunningham, Councilman Chris Dunn. The ceremony was held at Woodland UMC Fellowship Hall.

Guest speaker was Jimmy Conner. Conner is a section Chief with the Alabama Fire College who oversees training throughout the state. He commended all firefighters for their service and dedication to the fire service. Conner stated he was pleased with the number of firefighters who have completed courses through the Fire College.

"Every day our firefighters work hard and save lives," said Fire Chief Mike Green. "Sometimes situations arise that requires one to go above and beyond the call of duty, and this is a great opportunity to thank each person for an outstanding job. Pike Road Fire is a dynamic and innovative fire department dedicated to providing top-quality service with dedication, respect and accountability.

Awards categories this year include: Firefighter of the Year, Chiefs Award, Outstanding Service Award and Major Miles Award. Firefighter Robbie Olesen was the recipient of the Major Miles Award. He was recognized for his unrelenting commitment to the department. BJ Green was presented the Fire Chief's Award. He received the award for his persistence and support of the department and to those who call upon the department for aid. Outstanding Service Award was presented to Dana Grubbs. She received the award for her dedication to the department and the citizens served by the department. Firefighter of the Year was firefighter Andrew Parker. Parker is a full-time firefighter with the Department. This award was voted on by the members of the department who they believe exemplifies what firefighting is all about - dedication, hard work, and teamwork.



The 2013 top ten fire and EMS responders of 2013 were also recognized. (left to right) Dana Grubbs; Andrew Parker; Robbie Olesen; BJ Green and Fire Chief Mike Green

These members include: Barry Glassford, Josh Peacock, BJ Green, Andrew Parker, Robbie Olesen, David Hughes, Drew Krantz, Blake Cohen, Joel Cohen and John McClelland.

The Town of Pike Road, Montgomery County Sherriff Office and County Commissioner Reed Ingram were presented Community Service Partnership Awards in honor of their excellence in partnership, exemplary commitment and valuable contribution to the PRVFD.

The Pike Road Volunteer Fire Department was organized in 1978, includes 50 volunteers and four paid full-time personnel. The department operates out of six fire stations.

Led by Chief Mike Green, the department serves a 98 square mile area and answered 350 calls in 2013. The department shares mutual aid agreements with neighboring departments and the City of Montgomery.



John Sophocleus



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

GRASS ROOTS ACTIVISTS REEXPOSE THE 'USUAL SUSPECTS' IN ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO REWRITE 1901 CONSTITUTION

A group of private citizens from all corners of our State who remain concerned and continue to fight attempts to rewrite the Alabama Constitution may have found an 'Achilles Heel' in the current Legislature's plan for piecemeal revision. The goal of the document (misused at times) as the foundation of our State laws is to safeguard liberties for all Alabamians; citizens empower the State as the sovereign geopolitical unit in the republican form of government guaranteed in our Constitutions. The 1901 document remains in force (subject to amendments) until another constitutional convention may determine otherwise. Sadly, our nation has not adhered to peaceful delegation of power in this manner. Instead, we are a State coerced into a collusion disinterested in advancing responsible liberty via the definition, enforcement and peaceful, voluntary exchange of property. This is why the current 'piecemeal' revision plan is in play as Big Government Mike Hubbard's recent special election (with only 14% of eligible voter endorsement) to Amend our Constitution was vulgar enough to deter use of special elections in this manner again... that is, until the dumb masses forget about it in a few years.

This long established, well developed big government political machine, increasingly oiled with out of state money, has set out to circumvent (if not destroy) the safeguards in the document. The Alabama Constitution of 1901 has served our State well for almost six score if for no other reason than preventing big government conservatives/liberals from plunging the State further in the red as so many others (most notably California, Michigan, Illinois, New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, et al) have made debt slaves of themselves and their posterity. This is the end result of any State not disciplined enough to live within their means. Readers of past columns are well aware of my affection for 'proration' and how strongly I advocate similar discipline for the increasingly less representative politburo in DC. Small wonder Congress approval ratings continue to plunge toward zero.

Governor Dan Malloy's plan to deal with the Connecticut budget deficit borrows \$10 million to pay for required stem cell research funding and put the "savings" towards closing the deficit. In contrast to this 'Orwellian' speak, our State Constitution allows no deficit - wisely using proration when our State Legislature miscalculates revenues in relation to expenditures. Illinois floated \$800 million in bonds to fund capital projects a week after Moody's assigned "The Land of Lincoln" the lowest credit rating of any state in the nation. If not for the well-crafted firewall in our 1901 Constitution, there's little doubt we'd also be in fiscal destruction similar to these backward satellite states of Moscow on the Potomac.

In spite of Speaker Hubbard's successful \$3 million SPECIAL election (a few weeks before a GENERAL election) to circumvent this borrowing constraint, Dave White at the **Birmingham News** reported former State Sen. John Rice from Auburn sued Gov. Bentley, State Finance Director Marquita Davis and State Comptroller Thomas White from spending money under the General Fund for the 2013 fiscal year, which started October 1st. It would have blocked the unconstitutional \$1.68 billion general fund budget from taking effect, since it violated State laws under the 1901 Constitutional constraint requiring the State budget must be balanced. The lawsuit filed in Montgomery County asserted, "The Alabama constitution prohibits this reckless and irresponsible budget." Mr. White further reported lawyer Mark Montiel (representing Rice) saying, "State law requires a State budget's estimated revenues and spending to match up at the time the budget is passed. Counting on revenues not yet approved by voters, and that

might not be approved by voters, violates the law. The law in Alabama requires that the budget, when passed, be balanced." Mr. White reported Montiel's hope was Gov. Bentley would call legislators into special session to pass a new General Fund budget and quoted Bentley's press secretary (Jennifer Ardis) asserting, "The lawsuit has no merit. Gov. Bentley is working to save taxpayer dollars. This lawsuit will only waste taxpayer dollars." Guess \$3 million wasted in the special election to circumvent our State Constitution is money well spent to Ms. Ardis.

Sadly, Montgomery County Circuit Judge Truman Hobbs did not proceed with this lawsuit (from what I've found) to discourage subterfuge of this sort in the future. Sadder still, Alabama citizens do not have I&R in their arsenal to propose an amendment to repeal this September 18th special election manipulated result to transfer wealth to special interests over the general welfare. I'd like to think most Alabamians angered by this absurd 14% outcome would also support an amendment which requires all future Statewide amendments must receive 50% +1 of eligible voters to pass. Core documents are PURPOSEFULLY made difficult to easily change/bend to the whims of the "wealth transfer du jour." This would help curb 'special' election waste concocted by Bentley/Hubbard BCA political hacks who now control Goat Hill. Requiring enough non pro-government thug voters must participate to effectively amend would continue blocking more destructive spending as Alabama voters did a couple years ago, rejecting a \$1 billion proposal for roads and other infrastructure from the trust fund to be misused by our corrupt Department of Transportation.

The State constitution also prevents politicians from raising our taxes without a vote of the people. Is there anyone (not part of the politburo or their cronies) who'd like to give politicians even more power to raise our taxes without common consent? As one would expect from the sovereign geopolitical unit, our State Constitution gives citizens a stronger bill of rights than the US Constitution; most notable the language with respect to keeping our right to bear arms. Strong concealed carry laws confuse criminals, which promotes the positive externality to those who don't wish to tote a firearm and reduces the workload for State/local law enforcement, ceteris paribus.

As some may recall when asked for my position on the gubernatorial campaign trail, the biggest reason NOT to revise/rewrite our State Constitution, is all the cost of RE-litigating all the revised language - even 'honest' errors. When one controlled for age of the 1901 Constitution, it was not amended any more than other comparable States. Now that Speaker Hubbard has shown the way to more easily circumvent this constraint to promote special interests over the general welfare, one could forecast the pace of deleterious amendments will increase. This is why I called revise/rewrites the 'Full Employment Act for Alabama Attorneys' which will redirect even more lawyer efforts from productive endeavours (e.g., contract negotiations, title searches, wills, etc.) to redistributive ends. No doubt those in our State who revile freedom and competition that promotes our general welfare prefer using the system to transfer wealth to their special interests; well greased by big government conservatives and liberals encroaching upon our liberties. The ongoing attacks upon the 1901 Constitution are indicative of how effective this document has been at thwarting pro-government thugs who loathe spending the resources they've devoted to circumvent it. Furthermore, the Goat Hill politburo hates exposing themselves for others (who are paying attention) to see the despicable game they're playing with our rule of law.

One of the more remarkable events in the effort to stop the pro-government rewrite thugs recently occurred (Feb. 4, 2014) when this determined group of concerned citizens from around the State served/hand delivered a Writ of Quo Warranto to Senator Del Marsh signed and notarized by 12 courageous souls. Twelve righteous men who followed the teachings of our best servant of God finally ended Roman despotism. If successful (where men of good spirit and sound integrity follow the letter and spirit of the rule of law) this effort could provide the undoing of legislative attempts to revise our constitution piecemeal (one article at a time) and send the re-write special interest and their minions back to starting line. This would be a huge setback if they must adhere to process and follow the law.

Senator Marsh in the 2011 Legislative session sponsored Joint Resolution SJR82 which passed both houses with the explicit intent to authorize the Legislature to revise the document (piecemeal) instead operating within the process set in our State Constitution. Obviously, framers of the document purposefully made it difficult to accomplish changes of this sort, to curb changes that would allow out of control government results as we've observed in other States drowning in red ink.

Few (including lawyers) are familiar with Quo Warranto. I first came across the possibility of using it during our efforts in the US Supreme Court to get our Civil Rights to property restored. Once further packed with big government thugs like Kagan, Sotomayor and esp. Chief Justice Roberts, I forecasted it had little probability of success. According to the "American Jurisprudence" encyclopedia of United States law, a Quo Warranto is an order intended to prevent exercise of a power(s) not conferred by law. It is a legal instrument compelling someone of authority (in this case a legislator) to provide a document(s) which authorizes/empowers them to accomplish their stated end/purpose.

Action in Quo Warranto is not (in the strictest sense) a pleading and is heard ahead of any other cases on a court's docket. Following the legal tradition/function of the ancient writ (order) the Quo Warranto action/inquiry is the voice of sovereignty (under our republic, sovereignty is held by the people) calling upon the defendant (Senator Marsh) to answer/provide the authority for their actions. This is a formidable check upon public servants to remain within their authority if used and allowed. Plaintiffs (the sovereign people) are not required to either allege or prove any facts. The burden is placed upon the defendant to disclaim or justify their actions. To justify the action(s), defendants must clearly define/assert their purpose and provide facts which authorize/empower the defendant toward his/her end. The defendant(s) must tender the documents/issues on what authority claimed by defendant(s) will be used to decide the matter.

The Quo Warranto stipulated Senator Marsh must present proof the Legislature has the authority to revise/rewrite the Alabama Constitution. If Senator Marsh fails to produce his authority within fifteen days, he acquiesces/accepts the fact this authority does not exist or is not empowered to him. If this proof of authority is not provided, the individuals who submitted the Quo Warranto will notify the Alabama Attorney General to place the matter before the proper judicial branch of government. If we have an AG who follows the law, their office will proceed in stopping this unlawful endeavour in the Legislature.

The 2011 Alabama Legislature passed a resolution [SJR82] sponsored by Sen. Marsh with both houses concurring. It is NOT law but clearly established the Legislature's intent to revise the *Please see Grass Roots on page 15A*



**Judge
Peggy Givhan**

Well, we should all heed the suggestion as I have read that this sport can relieve anxiety and stress. The art of flying kites harkens back to early civilizations, China being one. If we really think of the aerodynamics of thrust and lift which gets the kite off the ground and soaring in the air, this physic lesson is how man learned to fly airplanes. So if you want to relieve stress and anxiety, go fly a kite or get your hands in the dirt and do a little gardening, since some of the kite flying benefits are the same.

Speaking of dirt, good garden soil along with proper hydration, and light are the keys to successful flower beds.

March is the perfect month to add organic material along with an acid neutral sterile soil, which can be purchased at garden centers. No need to work it into the old soil, just lay a top dressing over the cleared beds about one to two inches thick, and voila, healthier, and hardier flowers. Remember, a healthy plant mimics a healthy person, less disease and better performance.

GROUND COVERS

One topic which does not receive much attention is ground covers. Not only do they serve in holding back erosion such as Kudzu, which I do not suggest you introduce into your yard, but they are prized for their beauty and simplicity of a mass planting. Mass plantings have superb visual effects and creates a special symmetry

SOUTHERN GARDENING

MARCH POTPOURRI - by Peggy Givhan

March is the month I describe as the front door to spring. With the winter blues and the unusually cold season, I am definitely ready for the crisp, cool and clear days just ahead. Have you heard someone tell you, in a somewhat dismissive manner, to go fly a kite?



that is difficult to achieve with other plant material. The effects also include the use of the myriad of leaf sizes and shapes, the coloration varieties, the textures, and the heights. I have witnessed the arresting show of vinca minor,(periwinkle), covering the side of a drainage ditch, in full bloom. To get started, notice what kind of traffic it will receive before planting, the drainage, and analyze the sun exposure. Also read the labels about the height, growth habits and other environmental factors to ensure future success.

Maintenance of the ground covers should include the caveat that we have yet to uncover a "no maintenance" plant. The first year of the planting is probably the most critical. Watering should be deep watering, which allows the roots to develop below the surface and enhancing establishment of the plants. Deep watering also greatly benefits spreading of the plant on the surface. Isn't this the point, to cover the ground? When setting out the plants, stagger the rows, especially on slopes, to prevent erosion of the soil. For weed control, mulch before planting so assist in weed control.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Vinca Minor, or Periwinkle, is easy to grow and spreads easily. With blue to pale violet flowers in the spring, it is non-climbing and is also a rapid grower. Another attribute we attribute to Periwinkle is the ability to thrive under trees and on steep banks. Its wide spreading roots run along the ground, and for this reason, it is easy to pull up and to control.

GOOD GARDENING!

GRASS ROOTS

from page 14A

Alabama Constitution in a manner outside their authority. By definition a resolution is a formal expression of the opinion or will of an official body or public assembly and adopted by vote; since a resolution is not law, contesting it in any legal forum is meaningless. Expressed intent coupled with action determines premeditation. Premeditation is the act of meditating/planning in advance; deliberation upon a contemplated act; plotting or contriving; a design formed to accomplish an end before it is executed.

A commonly heard example/illustration is 'premeditated' murder: intent clearly defined, such as a letter which describes the intent of taking of someone's life followed by the successful killing is premeditated murder. Using "premeditated murder" to illustrate the Legislative Resolution and the legislators premeditated efforts to revise the Alabama Constitution may seem a poor analogy, but contemplate how deleterious a tremendous debt burden can be to life, liberty and property in our State if the legislature wrongfully obtains the unbridled ability to alter or revise the Alabama Constitution.

The 1901 Alabama Constitution on the matter of this attempted revision provides the law/text (our Senators and Representatives have sworn an oath to uphold) which does NOT grant revision authority to the Alabama Legislature - see Article 18, Sections 284 & 286. Four Alabama Supreme Court Cases also reaffirm the Alabama Legislature DOES NOT have the authority to revise the Alabama Constitution. The following is a paragraph from the court's finding in Supreme Court of Alabama (Special Term 2013) Sandra Bell v. Luther Strange:

"In regard to it's powers to change the Constitution the Legislature, as the representative of the people has only those powers specifically granted by the people through the Constitution"

More succinct text may be found in STATE of Alabama and Don Seigelman v. Richard S.MANLEY; Tom BRASSELL v. Richard S. MANLEY where the 1983 Alabama Supreme Court wrote:

"The constitution can be amended in but two ways, either by the people, who originally framed it, or in the mode prescribed by the instrument itself.... We entertain no doubt, that, to change the constitution in any other mode than by a convention, every requisition which is demanded by the instrument itself, must be observed, and the omission of any one is fatal to the amendment."

The Court further opined:

"The purpose of the legislative mode is to bring about amendments which are few and simple and independent; and on the other hand, that of the mode through Conventions is to revise the entire Constitution, with a view to propose either a new one, or, as the greater includes the less, to propose specific and particular amendments to it...if a revision is or may be desired, the mode by a Convention only is appropriate,"...."We entertain no doubt, that, to change the constitution in any other mode than by a convention, every requisition which is demanded by the instrument itself, must be observed, and the omission of any one is fatal to the amendment."

The Alabama Supreme Court has ruled many times our 1901 Constitution does NOT give the legislature any power to rewrite/revise the document; one article at a time or otherwise. Say a prayer the Quo Warranto served by these 12 dedicated patriotic citizens may eventually prevail; it is indeed a blessing to know 12 righteous souls of this sort are still to be found in our State. May their ranks grow into an even more formidable force to block Montgomery big government conservative and liberal special interests from even more of their despotic ends.

PRESS RELEASE

Commissioner McMillan Comments on 2012 Census of Agriculture Preliminary Report

Montgomery, AL –The release of preliminary 2012 Census of Agriculture results today shows strong trends for the future of Alabama Agriculture.

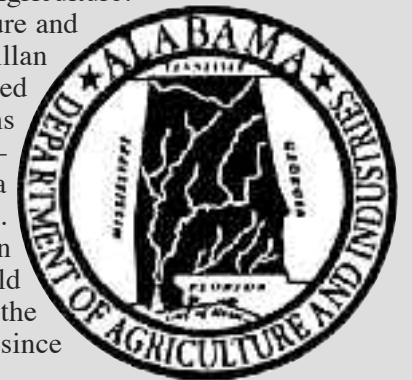
Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries John McMillan stated, "I am very encouraged to see that Alabama farms sold \$5.6 billion in agricultural products in 2012, a 26% increase from 2007. This double digit growth in Alabama farm products sold was accomplished during the nation's worst recession since World War II."

McMillan commends the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service for their outstanding efforts collecting and compiling the data received from farmers across the nation. Commissioner McMillan expressed his sincere gratitude to the Alabama Field office and specifically to Cynthia Price, Alabama's State Statistician for the hours of work required to gather and decipher all the data.

He added that the preliminary numbers are a strong indication that Alabama Agriculture is thriving and has a good future. A full report that will include more detailed numbers and also include county data will be released in May of this year.

More information is available at www.agcensus.usda.gov or for specific questions about Alabama's Census data, please contact Cynthia Price at 334/279-3555 or by email at Cynthia.Price@nass.usda.gov

Amy Belcher
Communications Director
Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries
334/240-7100 office





Soul Searching

DR. RICK MARSHALL - Eastern Hills - Baptist Church

THE MARSHALL MOMENT

SCAPEGOATING

Oscar Wilde said, "I can resist anything, except temptation." Beneath that little bit of humor is fact. We are all tempted and we all sin. Jesus was the only exception. He was tempted as we clearly learned in the Gospels. Therefore, temptation is not sin. Jesus resisted and He will help us if we really want to win over sin.

However, too many of us find that we do wrong or fail at what we know we should have done. Instead of admitting it, we look for someone or something to blame. We evade our personal responsibility for our misdeeds and mistakes. This is called scapegoating. Like Pilate we try to wash our hands of responsibility, and like Pilate, we can't. Hitler blamed Germany's post World War I inflation and unemployment on Jews and killed six million of them.

It is so common we hardly notice. It is usually spontaneous and unconscious. Labor blames management and management blames imports or some unfair competition. Parents pass the buck on their responsibility by blaming society or someone else for their children's misguided actions. Politicians spend much of their time assigning their failures to the other party or candidate. Current examples in Congress and national leadership are numerous. Talking about what someone is against instead of what someone is for has become a way of life it seems among those we send to office.

To blame is easy. The scapegoat tendency is ingrained in human nature. A carpenter misses the nail, hits the thumb and curses the hammer. A golfer missed a putt and finds fault with the club. Even children are good at blaming others. I heard the story of a boy who decided to step on a cat's tail. Hearing the cat scream, the mother called from the kitchen, "Tommy, stop pulling the cat's tail." He replied, "I'm not pulling his tail. I'm standing on it. He's doing the pulling."

The truth is, most of our scapegoating is very unfair. No person, family, job or relationship is perfect. All of us must learn to take responsibility for our actions, failures and sins. It's been said, "He who smiles in a crisis has found someone to blame," rather than seek solutions or accept personal responsibility. Some enterprising business came up with an idea for offering a unique service. The company was called "Rent-A-Scapegoat." They advertised that they

would gladly come to any business and accept blame for whatever happened, admitting to nearly anything.

Do you recall the "Day of Atonement" from the Old Testament? It was and is an annual Jewish New Year Celebration. It is also called Yom Kippur. You will find in Leviticus 16 the story of a scapegoat which was part of the annual observance. The High Priest selected two goats. He confessed his sins to God and sacrificed one goat as a sin offering. He placed his hands on the head of the second goat and confessed the sins of Israel. Then this goat was driven into the wilderness. Most scholars believe this goat was driven into the wilderness over a cliff as a sacrifice. Either way, it was sent away to die as a symbol of the people's sinfulness. Israel could start the year with a clean slate. This ancient ritual is where we get the term "scapegoat."

It is so human to blame others when we do wrong. I remember a young lady I who had gotten in trouble time and time again well into her late teens. Yet she continued to blame her parents for things which happened as a child even though she had received excellent counseling and help from other adults and teachers. She still was making bad choices and never accepting responsibility.

The classic example of blaming others is Adam. He said of Eve, "She tempted me and I ate." When Eve was confronted she blamed the serpent. The real problem was they both disobeyed the divine command and faced a day of reckoning. What people need to realize is that scapegoating doesn't work forever. Habits of passing the buck early in life will ultimately make someone unlikely to make a good employee, mate in marriage or a good friend. However, far worse is how silly and futile shortcuts and excuses will seem when we face God one day.

Yes, we do live in an evil world. It is true some people do have bad parenting. Others inherit serious health problems. A bad economy hurts almost everyone. On and on the list could go. Everyone can find someone to blame for problems in life. Tragically, some even come to the level of blaming God for their problems. Adam fell victim to this as he blamed not only Eve, but God as well. Listen to his words to God, "The woman you gave me, she tempted me and I ate."

Robert Burns, the great poet of Scotland, once wrote, "Thou knowest thou hast formed me with passions wild and strong, And listening to their witching voice has often led me wrong."

If this is our nature and it is so prevalent around us, what are we to do? First, we must reject notions of a predestined nature. God never makes us do wrong. He placed us in a risky world but not without adequate resources to help us. Further, we can learn from our mistakes and wrong choices if we choose. Making excuses doesn't guard us against the next time nearly like facing our faults and doing something about them.

Imagine how the prodigal son must have blamed his father's restrictions and the economic conditions in the far country for his troubles. It was only when "he came to himself" that he had the courage to go home.

Our culture has tended to make "scapegoat" a term of derision or something to make fun of. Blaming others for our wrongs is nothing funny. For Christians, it is a powerful description of what Jesus did for us. He became our "scapegoat."

The Bible says our sins were laid on Him, the innocent Lamb. Either we pay the penalty for our sins, or we accept a sacrifice made in our behalf to cover the debt of our sins. We all deserve eternal punishment. We find ourselves in a moral wilderness. The Biblical term "atonement" means "to cover or reconcile." Sin alienates, it defiles and separates us from God. Christ's atonement provides a bridge to life by the removal of guilt. The Psalmist wrote, "As far as the east is from the west, so far has God removed our transgressions from us." Christian repentance is abandoning scapegoats and experiencing the Father's forgiveness.

Someone penned this well-worded prayer worth our remembering.

*"Father, we are clever at making excuses
but clumsy at prayer.
We are artful dodgers at passing the buck
and finding scapegoats.
Make us equally good at confession
and repentance."*

Visit a Church Near You! It could change your life!

Eternity is Forever!

Reflections: Save Your Pastor

I'd not talked with him in several months, so I was surprised recently when a pastor friend told me about some dissension in his church.

"I've preached the Bible faithfully and walked with our members through sickness and loss," he told me. "But I'm not sure I can survive this problem."

The issue is that growth has slowed and the critics insist the pastor's leadership is the major reason. Some have called this the "losing season, fire the coach" syndrome.

Incidents like this are on the rise according to a 2012 study jointly sponsored by Virginia Tech and Texas Tech Universities. The study found that 28 percent of ministers had been forced out of their positions, normally by a small, but vocal faction in the congregations. And the study found about one-third of annual terminations come from seven percent of the churches--churches that are chronically conflicted.

Christian ministry is a unique calling. Ministers deal with the needs of people--often overwhelming--and usually don't have the satisfaction of accomplishing everything that could be done on a given day. And they're "on call" after hours. An agent told me once that ministers are good insurance risks save for working too hard and eating too much! Unhealthy eating habits are often symptoms of stress.

Dr. Charles Chandler of the Ministering to Ministers Foundation in Richmond, Va., has studied clergy conflict for years and hosts Wellness Retreats for ministers in crisis.

"We find this problem throughout the nation and in every denomination," Chandler said. "Many ministers live on a small salary with little or no savings, so involuntary termination is devastating. It takes a toll on them physically and mentally and on their families, too. Many of their children decide they won't go back to any church."

Retreat attendees tell their "story" in a confidential setting and participate in group therapy led by a trained psychologist. Participants brainstorm with one another and form support groups for the journey ahead. And they explore transferable skills for other work.

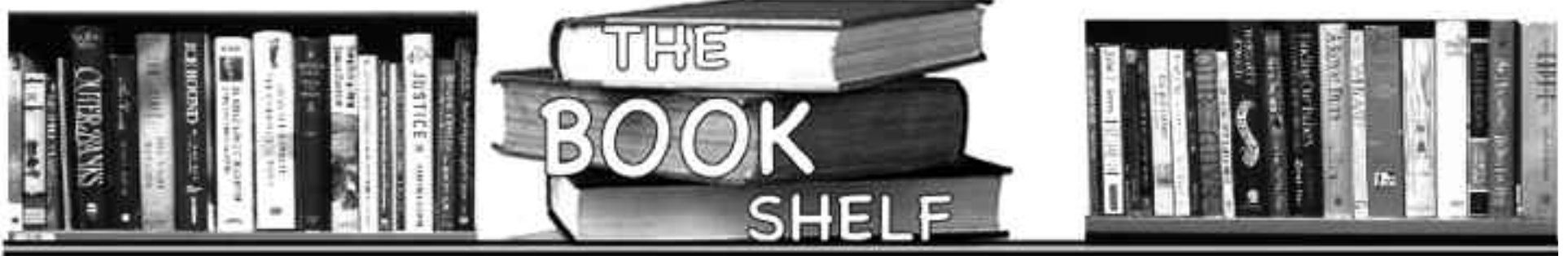
Chandler said that about half of retreat participants return to full-time ministry. The remainder find employment elsewhere while perhaps doing bi-vocational ministry.

"We try to undergird those in our retreats who go back into ministry and hopefully make them wiser," he said. "One question we have participants respond to is 'how did my choices play a role in my termination?'"

Chandler argues that sometimes ministers do need to leave their churches, but they should always be treated fairly.

Individual Christians can be agents of redemption by rejecting destructive criticism in their church and supporting their minister with their prayers, affirmation and love.

Michael J. Brooks
5638 Joe Nail Road, Mount Olive, AL 35117
205.915.9440



DAVID AND GOLIATH

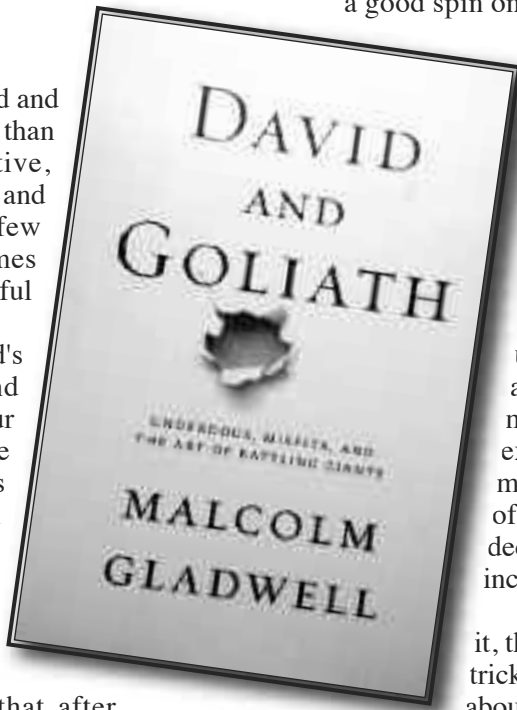
By Malcomb Gladwell
Little, Brown and Company
October 2013

Few authors of this generation have analyzed and tackled the difficult social issues of our time better than Malcomb Gladwell. In his most recent narrative, Gladwell wants the reader to look at our afflictions and hardships through a different prism. He sees, as few others do, that adversities and setbacks often times provide the foundations for the important and beautiful milestones of civilization.

The smooth stone flew from young David's sling and the mighty Goliath was slain. Sound familiar? We all remember the Bible's rendition of our first underdog. In his introduction, Gladwell's picture of the scene in no way contradicts the reader's traditional view, but rather brings to light certain aspects of the situation that God chose not to disclose to his followers.

For example, the stone traveled at a speed roughly equivalent to a bullet from a modern handgun (In a paper recently published at Wheaton College, Department of Physics, it concluded that after extensive testing and analysis, the stone had an impact equivalent to a 9 mm luger, Liu and Kratz, 2012) Along with four or five other insightful observations about the story, Gladwell dispels the assumption that the biggest and strongest competitor in any struggle will be the victor and those beset with a disadvantage may not really be the underdog at all.

The cast of characters and events in the remaining pages inspire and confound the reader. Gladwell's two favorite heroes epitomize his thesis. Emile Freireich was a child of Hungarian immigrants whose father committed suicide during the depression out of despondency, while his mother worked in sweat shops earning two cents an hour making hats. If you have ever had cancer or known someone who has, those treatments were formulated by Dr. "Jay", the father of Clinical Cancer Research who practices today at MD Anderson. The author defines Jay as a "remote miss". One who is close to the "shelling" of life but gains courage and invincibility to carry on to great heights. Wilma



Derksen lost a child. Or more accurately her daughter had been kidnapped and murdered. Wilma's profound response to the evil so impressed Gladwell he devoted an entire chapter to this deeply moving story and its origins.

From successful dyslexics to fatherless US Presidents, Gladwell puts a good spin on terrible situations reflecting on how we perceive a handicap to really be a hand up. A California young girl's basketball team with no particular skill coached by a man with no significant experience dominates its opponents by using legal yet unconventional techniques. But underdogs are known to take positions contrary to established or lawful means.

Following "conventional wisdom" failed to get the desired results in Birmingham during the Civil Rights era. Martin Luther King was outgunned and overmatched. In short, he was the underdog. The author explains that the movement used a Brer Rabbit (a trickster hero, a seemingly innocuous animal that uses his cunning and guile to triumph over others much larger than himself) strategy to win. King directed the executive director of the SCLC, Wyatt Walker, "to find the means to create a crisis" and he did, the now famous photograph of a teenage boy being attacked by a police dog. Gladwell dedicates this entire chapter to the events leading up to the photo including Walker's Plan C - for confrontation.

"King and Walker were trying to set up that picture. But to get it, they had to play a complex and duplicitous game" p 188. They tricked Bull Conner, the press and the parents. When confronted about the use of children in the protests, the response was "We got to use, what we got". And what of the parties that were the subject of the photograph? Bill Hudson, 16, had been a spectator that day. His parents had opposed King's tactics. He kneed Leo the dog in the jaw and probably broke it. Dick Middleton worked in the K-9 Corps, a reserve and modest man. He was not a race ideologue. The author concludes by stating the "photograph is not all what the world thought it was. It was a little bit of Brer Rabbit trickery".

Finally, one would be remiss to not scour the endnotes which are a font of knowledge and of resources. Statistics abound in it and throughout the text. Graphs, photographs and numbers weave their way into the relationships defined by the ensuing struggles. Even though some critics have panned his latest efforts, by in large Gladwell has once again illuminated a part of our psyche that needed recalibrating.

Book Review by Sam Adams

SEND THE ALABAMIANS

By Nimrod T. Frazer

Nimrod Frazer lunges into authorship much like his tenacious parries into the financial world.

Known for his savvy business sense, Mr. Frazer may be most famous for the phoenix like success of the Enstar Group (NASDAQ symbol ESGR) for which he battled from bankruptcy to its current success.

Now he has written about a different campaign much closer to his heart. Rod grew up in a difficult environment. His parents were divorced. Childhood visits with his father Will Frazer in Greenville often led to their greatest common interest, Will's service in the Great War in which he was wounded. This oral history left an indelible impression on father and son.

In his recent book Rod Frazer chronicles the history of the 167th (Alabama) Infantry Regiment. The state had no militia from 1865 until the Alabama National Guard was created by the Legislature in 1911. By 1916, 5,000 plus young men in the 1st, 2nd, 4th Alabama Infantry and 1st Alabama Cavalry from communities around Alabama found themselves federalized as full time soldiers and taking basic training in Vandiver Park in Montgomery. Regular Army Captain and Montgomery native William Preston Screws (Brigadier General Screws is buried in Montgomery's Greenwood Cemetery 1875-1955) took his soldiers to Nogales, Arizona where they engaged in advanced infantry training for five months.

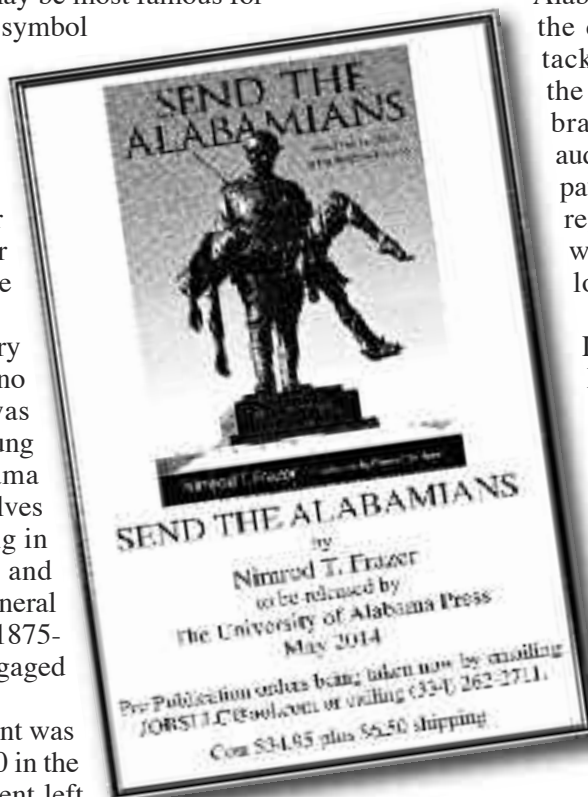
After the US entered World War I, Screws' regiment was sized at 3,770 men and he hand-picked them from the 5,000 in the state service. In August 1917, the 167th Infantry Regiment left Montgomery to become part of the 42d Rainbow Division in Europe. In France they were soon to be joined by thousands more. The unpopular American "surge" saved the Allies and won the war.

The 167th was deployed in six significant battles in four major campaigns during WWI, the goal at first was the defense of Paris then to push the Germans back to Germany. The men were expert at trench warfare and in open field

fighting. The 167th distinguished itself in patrols from the trenches in Baccarat in Lorraine, in stopping the German drive on Paris in the Champagne, at the open field bayonet charge at Croix Rouge Farm, in fighting on the heights of the Ourcq River, in the 13 division attack at St. Mihiel and in the six day fight to crack the Hindenburg line at the Côte de Châtillon in the Argonne Forest.

Recently, Mr. Frazer detailed this conflict, highlighting the men from Alabama and their hardships, the terrain, the battle plans and the casualties. His graphic depiction of patrols, gas attacks, bayonet charges and hand-to-hand fighting with the enemy enthralled the listeners as Rod recounted the bravery of those volunteers. His rendition stirred the audience including descendants of the soldiers and gave all pause to reflect on the ultimate sacrifice at the 612 in the regiment who died and more than 1,000 who were wounded. Seventy three per cent of the Alabamians losing their lives in the war were from this regiment.

Some soldiers of note include: Walter E. Bare, Lacey Edmundson, Julian M. Strassburger, George W. Burt, Newman Smith, J Miles Smith, and Shorty Wren; Congressional Medal of Honor recipients Sidney Manning and Thomas S. Neibaur; the great Mortimer Jordan, a medical doctor who preferred to fight alongside soldiers and who died with them; Distinguished Service Cross recipients Ralph Atkinson, Robert Espy, Thomas S. Fallow, Samson Richards, Clyde Seitz and Grady Parrish. Battalion Commanders included John W. Carroll, Dallas B. Smith, Everette H Jackson and Abner Flowers. All of these men and many others have incredible stories of bravery and valor and sheer survival shared through the powerful words of the author.



This book is a must read for anyone interested in Alabama and its rich military history. It will be available for purchase in May. For pre-publication orders email JOBSLLC@aol.com or contact the **Alabama Gazette**.

Book Review by Sam Adams



Dr. John Bitter
Editor-Senior Section

Gazette Seniors...

ETHICS IS SIMPLICITY

**YOU MAY BE
OVER THE HILL**
... if you realize that 75
years ago the doctors who
looked over people your age
were called coroners..

About forty years ago the Alabama Legislature passed an ethics reform act, established an Ethics Commission, and hired Prattville's Melvin Cooper as the State's first Ethics Commissioner.

Over the years Mr. Cooper did a masterful job of infusing the ethics concept into State government, but politics, government service, and ethics don't always mix well.

Fast forward to the present day, and we find Mr. Cooper, as a member of the Alabama Silver-Haired Legislature, writing a resolution for that body requesting that the Governor and the Legislature revive ethics reform in the State. It took a couple of years, but such an auspicious goal came about, and Ethics Reform has reared its ugly head again in our State.

But the big question four decades ago, and again, two years ago, and has been for centuries is: Just what is ethics; and can it be legislated?

Socrates toyed with the concept some 400 years before Jesus of Nazareth took a crack at the concept that basically deals with human nature and the difference between right and wrong.

Socrates saw ethical behavior having as its goal the greatest good. Man should behave himself in such a manner as serves the greatest good, he philosophized.

Ethics and morals go hand in hand. Ethical behavior is moral behavior. Man should conduct himself in a moral manner; behaving in such a way as to serve the greatest good. Socrates urged his fellow man to: "Know thyself." He went on to say that "the unexamined life is not worth living." Or, as we learned as children: "Think before you act." We learned to ask ourselves if what we were doing; or were about to do, was the right thing to do.

The stoic philosopher Epictetus, who lived a century before Christ walked among men, believed that man should live a life worth living.

And great thinkers throughout man's existence on Earth have approached ethical behavior from a number of directions, but virtually all have come to the same conclusion: Man should live his life in the manner he would expect of others. Do unto others. . . and that sort of thing.

At first glance we might think of ethics as some sort of complex abstraction; when in fact it is simplicity in its finest form.

As Sociologist Raymond Baumhart learned in our lifetime: Ethics has to do with what a person's feelings tell him is right, as opposed to what is wrong. Our religion, regardless of denomination, tells us that ethics involves knowing right from wrong, and choosing the path of correctness over expediency.

Yet, ethics has nothing to do with religion. An Atheist can be as ethical in the way he or she conducts life as a Baptist or an Episcopalian. Ethics consists of adhering to the standards of behavior our society accepts.

Yet, ethics is not following the law, it is not doing whatever society accepts. Ethical behavior involves how we conduct ourselves as human beings; it involves doing what is right, what is moral. In the Fifth Century BC, the Greek Philosopher Hippocrates summed ethics up as well as anyone: Do no wrong. And this beacon has guided the medical profession in its healing objective.

So, we may conclude that ethics involves doing what is right; not what is expedient, or what others tell us to do, or what everyone else is doing.

Being ethical involves doing right; and doing right is being ethical.

Now isn't that simple?

STAND UP FOR THE OLD FOLKS

At the various levels of government there are a host of agencies and departments whose sole, stated, purpose is to look out for the general well being of our ever-growing aging population. And this is as it should be.

When Moses was receiving the Holiness Code in Leviticus, he was admonished to "Stand up in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly . . ."

How considerate it was of the Almighty to focus attention on the responsibility of folks in positions of power to insure that special attention is given to those who devoted the major portion of their lives to building and protecting the environment in which we live.

History shows us examples of the many sacrifices our senior citizens made to help insure a life more comfortable both for those who have preceded them in the life cycle, and for themselves once they reach their "Golden Years."

On the surface this would seem to be a natural course of events; something that we would expect to be taken for granted.

But if this is true; why, then, was it such a chore here in Alabama to enact legislation specifically designed to protect Alabama's elders from a variety of sins that are being perpetrated against them. And one can ask any of those folks who carried the torch in this process over the last few years if it was not, in fact, a daunting effort.

For close to a decade, certain members of the Legislature, and the Alabama Silver-Haired Legislature as well, along with a few other conscientious individuals, have worked diligently to bring into reality the two pieces of recent legislation that did just that. Both the Elder Justice Act, enacted three years ago, and the legislation enacted a year later that spelled out specifics related to this endeavor resulted.

Where we previously could only look with disapproval at instances of abuse or neglect as it relates to seniors; the law now states, in no uncertain terms that this sort of nonsense can result in as much as 20 years in duration vile. Now this should give prospective wrongdoers pause—we would hope.

Granted, the old folks can become somewhat of a nuisance at times, but their nuisance value was another matter at Anzio Beachhead, at Iwo Jima, on Heartbreak Ridge, or most recently in Benghazi; wherever American men and women have stood ready to defend their nation and its citizens.

The Lord was not just Whistling Dixie when he told Moses in Leviticus to "Stand up in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly . . ." We could use a lot more of that sort of thinking today. But now, at least, abusing elders carries the weight of law. We can now only wait and see if this doesn't provide for a little more "respect for the elderly."

THE BIRTHDAY MONTH

The month of March is a particularly significant month for the greeting card people.

Band leader **Glenn Miller** was born on March 1, 1904, and who among the senior population has not tapped a toe to his music.

On the second day of the month in 1793, **Sam Houston** was born in Virginia, and on the 3rd day of the month, railroad car builder **George Pullman**, was born; as was **Alexander Graham Bell** in 1847.

On March 4, American football legendary coach **Knute Rockne** was born in Norway. The doctor took a break on the 5th, but on March 6, Renaissance genius **Michelangelo** was born in Caprese, Italy.

Stephen Hopkins, one of the signers to the Declaration of Independence was born on March 7, 1707, but on the 8th, history took a break.

On the 9th, in 1451, the Italian explorer for whom our continent was named, **Amerigo Vespucci** was born in Florence, Italy.

Claire Booth Luce, politician and playwright, was born in New York City, on March 10, 1903.

Your humble scribe was born on March 11, 1929, and on the same day in 1916, British prime minister, **Harold Wilson**, was born in Huddersfield, England.

Mustafa Ataturk was born in Salonika, Greece, on the 12th, in 1881. He was the founder of the country we know as Turkey.

British scientist **Joseph Priestly** was born on the 13th, in 1733, and on the next day, the 14th, **Albert Einstein**, was born in Ulm, Germany in 1879.

On the 15th, in 1767, **Andrew Jackson**, was born, and on the same date in 44 BC, it was the day that **Julius Caesar** was assassinated in Rome.

James Madison, our fourth president, was born on March 16, 1751. He was the resident of the White House when the British burned it down.

U.S. Supreme Court Justice **Roger B. Taney**, was born on the 17th; 1777. He became famous for the **Dred Scott** decision.

Grover Cleveland, the 22nd and 24th U.S. president, was born on the 18th, and on March 1837, we had **David Livingston**, of "Dr. Livingston, I presume, fame, born; **Wyatt Earp** was born on this date in 1848; and **William Jennings Bryan**, in 1860.

American psychologist **B. F. Skinner**, was born on March 20, 1904, and on the 21st, in 1685, **Johann Sebastian Bach**, joined the ranks of the living.

The **Equal Rights Amendment** was born to the U.S. Constitution on March 22, 1972, and on March 23, 1775, **Patrick Henry**, gave his "Give me liberty or give me death" speech.

Magicians doff their hats on the 24th, for this was the date, in 1874, that the famous magician **Harry Houdini** was born (as **Erik Weisz**).

No one of significance was born on the 25th, but on the 26th, **Tennessee Williams** was born in 1911.

March 27 and 28 produced no one of significance, but on the 29th, in 1790, **John Tyler** was born in Virginia, and served as U.S. President from 1841 to 1845. In 1861, he was elected to the Confederate Congress, but died before he could ever serve in that capacity.

Post impressionist painter **Vincent Van Gogh** was born on March 30, 1853; and the month was rounded out on the 31st with **Franz Joseph Haydn**, known as the "father of the string quartet," coming into this world in 1732, and boxing champion **Jack Johnson** was born on this day in 1878.

And thus roundeth out the month of March, a relatively significant month; birthday wise.

**Advertise your business
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Call 356-6700**

BEWARE THE IDES OF MARCH (AND EVERY DAY)



By Kyle' D. McKinney
Alabama Public Affairs Specialist
Social Security Administration

"Beware the Ides of March," said the soothsayer to Caesar in William Shakespeare's play, Julius Caesar. We at Social Security recommend you beware not only the Ides of March, but every day—and every time—you go on the Internet. Identity theft and cyber-crimes are among the fastest-growing crimes in America.

Today's savvy thieves have added identity to the list of things they can rob. Their targets are people who use the Internet, and by the time you realize you've been robbed, Brutus may already have done his damage and escaped.

"Et tu, Brute?" Caesar said as his good friend Brutus betrayed him. Even webpages and online sources that appear friendly and trustworthy could be plotting against you. This is why you should protect your personally identifiable information, such as your Social Security number, date of birth and mother's maiden name. Never give this information out in an email or fill it in on a website asking for it, unless you are absolutely sure that you know and trust the source. And even then, be cautious. That said, if you conduct business on www.socialsecurity.gov, there's no need to worry. Our online transactions are secure and convenient. You are protected when you are on our website.

If you think you've been the victim of an online Brutus, don't simply tear your toga.

You should contact the Federal Trade Commission at

www.ftc.gov/identitytheft. Or you can call 1-877-IDTHEFT (1-877-438-4338); TTY 1-866-653-4261.

There will continue to be those who believe it won't happen to them. And there will continue to be victims. "The Ides of March have come," Caesar said, doubting the prophecy that he would become a victim on March 15.

"Aye, Caesar," the soothsayer replied, "but not gone."

Sure, you may have used the Internet for years and may consider yourself savvy. But there's always tomorrow for a Brutus to strike. When it comes to providing personal information on the Internet, treat every day as though it's the Ides of March. Unless you're in a secure place that you trust, like www.socialsecurity.gov. After all, on the Ides of March and every day of the year, Security is our middle name—literally.

Learn more about identity theft by reading our online publication, Identity Theft And Your Social Security Number, available at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs.

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

Find Your Story: A Genealogy Course for Beginners

Do you want to learn more about your family's history but feel overwhelmed by where to begin? This spring, join expert genealogist Nancy Dupree as she leads a four-part series specifically tailored to those just beginning to discover their family tree.

The course will be held on Mondays at the Alabama Department of Archives & History beginning March 31st and concluding April 21st.

Cost is \$70 for the public and \$55 for Friends of the Archives.

Deadline to register is March 26th

March 31st

April 7th

April 14th

April 21st

9am - Noon

Alabama Department of Archives and History

624 Washington Avenue

P.O. Box 300100

Montgomery, AL 36130-0100

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R
T**



In a shocking decision, a federal court of appeals just ruled that a public school is allowed to ban the American flag. Even worse, the Ninth Circuit allowed the display of the Mexican flag, but not the American flag. How could this happen? How can a court rule that a foreign flag is acceptable but an American flag is not? The court held that the American flag could be banned because the kids displaying the flag were threatened. But shouldn't the school stop the threats rather than ban the flag?

This is a key First Amendment battle. Displaying the American flag is free speech, and we can't stifle patriotic free speech in the face of anti-American threats.

When the case is appealed, the ACLJ will file a key brief.
Jay Sekulow

ACLJ Chief Counsel **jay.sekulow@email.aclj.org**

*You might want to review the
American Center for Law &
Justice website.*



CENTRAL ALABAMA AGING CONSORTIUM

Central Alabama Aging Consortium is sponsoring a Living Well Alabama Chronic Disease Self-Management Workshop in March. The Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP) consists of a six-week course designed to teach people with illnesses such as heart disease, hypertension, arthritis, COPD, fibromyalgia, diabetes, chronic pain and other chronic illnesses to manage their diseases, feel better, and lead more productive lives, living life to the fullest.

The program is free and open to those with chronic health conditions as well as their families, friends, and caregivers. Classes are taught by two trained leaders for 2 ½ hours once a week. The workshop is interactive and participants learn skills and strategies for managing their symptoms such as pain and fatigue; they learn about healthy eating, relaxation techniques, overcoming depression, managing daily tasks, exercising safely, and attain skills in other areas.

The workshop will be held at the Crump Senior Center, 1750 Congressman Dickinson Drive in Montgomery, beginning Thursday, March 27, 2014 and end on May 1st. The hours are from 12:30 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. Registration is required and enrollment is limited. There may be funding available for respite care.

To register or for more information regarding future classes,

LIVING WELL ALABAMA CHRONIC DISEASE SELF-MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

**contact Myrtle Scott or Jane Mitchel at
Central Alabama Aging Consortium at
(334) 240-4666.**



Pro-Life



*HB 31 by Reps. Becky Nordgren & April Weaver
Healthcare Rights of Conscience Act*

*HB 48 sponsored by Reps. Paul Lee & Ed Henry
Adoption Income Tax Credit Act*

*HB 489 sponsored by Rep. Ed Henry
Woman's Right to Know Act Amendment*

*HB 490 sponsored by Rep. Mary Sue McClurkin
The Fetal Heartbeat Act*

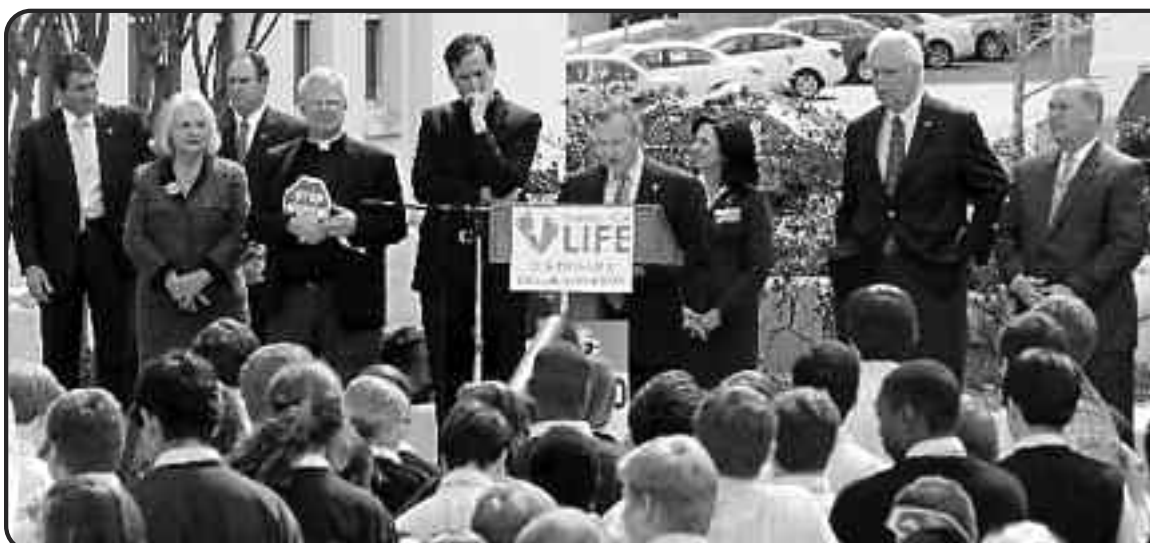
*HB 493 sponsored by Rep. Kurt Wallace
The Perinatal Hospice Information Act*

*HB 494 sponsored by Rep. Mike Jones
Parental Consent Act Amendment*



If people and nations do not grant ultimate respect and protection to both the born and the unborn, all other professed morals and values are meaningless. The Dignity of human life is not just a principle of the Bible - it is the first principle of any civilized society.

*American Patriots's Bible
The Word of God and the Shaping of America.*



Today's Woman

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

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www.trisstonwrightburrows.com

“LIVE A BALANCED LIFE”

Are there areas in your life that are not “kept” because you are taking care of everyone else? If you are always on the go, constantly working and never taking time for yourself, you will end up stressed out and overwhelmed. You won't be able to enjoy life the way that God intended. Living a balanced life brings peace, joy, and health.

“...they have made me a keeper of vineyards, but my own vineyard I have not kept.”

Song of Solomon 1:6

The person speaking in Song of Solomon was good at taking care of everyone else... family, friends, work. He made sure everyone else was happy. However, in doing so, he neglected to take care of himself.

Are you living like this today? Do you spend all of your time on others, but not on yourself? If you haven't already, eventually you will burn out.

You have to decide today to begin investing in yourself. Take time to relax and to rejuvenate. When you are refreshed emotionally, physically, and spiritually, you are able to give to others more effectively. As you bring balance to your life, you will begin to enjoy life to the fullest. Just the way God intended!

Many Blessings!

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Recipe for: Marie's Easy Slow Cooker Pot Roast

4 pounds chuck roast	3 carrots, chopped
salt and pepper to taste	1 onion, chopped
1 packet dry onion soup mix	3 potatoes, peeled and cubed
1 cup water	1 stalk celery, chopped

- Season the roast with salt and pepper to taste. Brown on all sides in a large skillet over high heat, about 4 minutes per side.
- Place the roast in the slow cooker and add the soup mix, water, carrots, onion, potatoes, and celery.
- Cover and cook on Low setting for 8 to 10 hours.

Original recipe makes 6 to 8 servings

Allrecipes.com

Recipe for: Taco Casserole

1 pound lean ground beef	2 ounces shredded Cheddar cheese
8 ounces macaroni	2 ounces shredded Monterey Jack cheese
1/2 cup chopped onion	1 cup crushed tortilla chips
1 (10.75 ounce) can condensed tomato soup	1/2 cup sour cream (optional)
1 (14.5 ounce) can diced tomatoes	1/4 cup chopped green onions

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
- Cook pasta in a large pot of boiling water until al dente. Drain.
- In a large skillet, cook and stir ground beef and chopped onion over medium heat until brown. Mix in tomato soup, diced tomatoes, and taco seasoning mix. Stir in pasta.
- Spoon beef mixture into a 9x13 inch baking dish. Sprinkle crumbled taco chips and grated cheese on top.
- Bake for 30 to 35 minutes, until the cheese is melted. Serve with chopped green onions and sour cream, if desired.

Original recipe makes 10 servings

Allrecipes.com

Patricia Killough



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

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

W. A. GAYLE PLANETARIUM TO PREMIERE NEW DIGITAL PROJECTOR

Officials with the City of Montgomery and Troy University will get their first look at the W.A. Gayle Planetarium's new full-dome digital projection equipment during a special premiere event on Thursday, March 6, at 1 p.m.

The event is not open to the public; however members of the media are invited to cover this debut event for the upgraded and renovated planetarium.



Montgomery Mayor Todd Strange and Troy University Chancellor Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr. are among the officials who will be in attendance Thursday.

The planetarium will reopen to the public on Sunday, March 9, at 2 p.m.

The planetarium closed in late January for the upgrade project that has replaced the 45-year-old analog projector, in use since the Planetarium first opened in 1969, with a new full-dome digital projector capable of creating more dynamic, immersive shows.

Please confirm your organization's intent to cover the premiere by contacting mclower@troy.edu.

The W.A. Gayle Planetarium is located in Oak Park and is operated by Troy University for the City of Montgomery. It is one of the largest planetariums between Atlanta and New Orleans, and more than 100,000 K-12 students have attended educational shows there over the last five years.

HOME TOWN COMMUNITY NEWS

March Birthdays



- 1 Brett O'Neal, Donna Ross, Jean Bennett, 2 Amie Dean, Bill Oates, Norma Renfro, 3 Frank Reynolds, 4 Todd Cole, Dr. Jerry Frady, Russ Russell, 5 Glen Yost, 6 Gayle Bosworth, Emmett Poundstone, Marjorie Wright, 7 Everett Cole, Laura Lane, Tony Law, Michael Carroll, Brad Wallace, 8 Frances Ard, Linda Clayton, 9 Courtney Whigham, 10 Jane Grubbs, Paula Lansdon, Cory Smith, Jeanne Villar, Michael Weldon, 11 Dr. John Bitter, Glenn Harper, Herb Meadows, 12 Angie Ferreira, 13 Linda Richardson, Samantha Jane Rice (3rd), 14 Brian Takacs, 15 George Handey, Sandy Stephans Rogers, Betty Lossman, David Hancock, 16 Lisa Gordan Hester, 17 Lowell Hattaway (82nd), 18 William Watters Box, George McKinley, Robert Singleton, Jacque Takacs, 19 Keisha Glasscock, Frances McGuire, 20 Connie Crowe, 21 Hannah Yost, Murlyne Clements, Dorothy Lasaine, 22 Charlie Bodiford (87th), Kentston Whigham, 23 Ben Garrett, Laura Hudson, Morgan James, Brandy Landreau, Dawn Lane, Lallage Neil, 24 Robert Adams, Zenia Mims, 25 Deborah Cox, Hunter Hannon, Wanda Madison, 26 Ruby Macon, 27 Renee Grant, Cynthia Harper, Wendy Powell, 31 Carlie Corbin

Happy Anniversary

- 1 Ed & Dot Truitt (62nd), 5 Frank & Helen Ralph, 7 Bobby & Myra Mills, Jim & Barbara Garrett, John & Melanie Higgins, 9 Fred & Connie Crowe, Sonja & Steve Campbell (41st), 14 Nicholas & Sally Corley, 15 Jim & Linda Richardson, Ken & Linda Stringer (53rd), 17 Wallace & Frances Bush (68th), 18 George & Lynn McKinley, 19 Johnnie & Shirley Yarbrough, 21 Craig & Mindy Trotter (5th), 23 Paul & Cynthia Harper, 25 Tim & Nicole Sansom, 26 Elvin & Cam Stanton, 27 Al & Conni Barnett, Mike & Cindy Smith, 29 Bill & Vickie Gulsby (Send us YOUR anniversaries!)

Sympathy to the families of...

- Ward, Lelious Eugene (L.E.) (84) died January 31, 2014, Larson, Edna Louise DeShields (90) died February 6, 2014, Wood, Megan C. (31) died February 9, 2014, Carothers, Helen J. (89) died February 10, 2014, Tidwell, Wyndal L. "Donnie" (56) died February 10, 2014, Easterling, Mary O. (90) died February 10, 2014, Oswald, William L. (88) died February 12, 2014, Raley, Billy Glenn, Sr. (84) died February 15, 2014, Bates, Teresa Ellis Carlton (86) died February 16, 2014, Holmes, John Robert died February 16, 2014, Bozeman, Mary Enola Evans (70) died February 19, 2014, Smith, Zane Robert (60) died February 19, 2014, Zdanis, Dr. Al (96) died February 19, 2014, Roberts, Reba Tankersley (90) died February 21, 2014, Paramore, Kermit (76) died February 23, 2014

PIKE ROAD FIREFIGHTER TY BUCKALEW SELECTED MARCH GIVING OUR BEST

Each member of the Pike Road Fire & Rescue be it fire suppression, administration or the fire chief fights fire and protects the lives of the citizens, visitors and those who work in the Town of Pike Road and surrounding communities. The giving our best of the month displays dedication and consistent effort to fulfill the responsibilities assigned to him/her with a positive attitude and skill that demonstrates the best of the Pike Road Fire & Rescue.

Ty Buckalew has been volunteering with the Pike Road Fire & Rescue for eight years. He is about saving and protecting the citizens served by the Pike Road community in times of need and danger. Buckalew is a certified volunteer firefighter and first responder. He has completed a number of training courses taught by the Pike Road Fire & Rescue. Buckalew responds to fire and emergency and non-emergency medical needs.



Ty Buckalew

Aside from his volunteer work with the fire department, Ty is employed full time with Montgomery Water Works. He has been employed with the Water Work for nineteen years and is a Network Administrator.

Buckalew resides in Montgomery County with his wife, Rebecca, and their son, Grayson. When he is not working or volunteering, he enjoys relaxing with friends, boating & hunting.

Ty Buckalew's efforts and services to the citizens of Pike Road and surrounding areas is with dedication. Buckalew acts in a manner to do what is best for the Pike Road Fire & Rescue and is making a difference in the Pike Road community. The Pike Road Fire & Rescue is pleased to announce Ty Buckalew as the March Giving Our Best recipient. For more information on how you can make a difference in the Pike Road community, visit the Pike Road Fire & Rescue website at www.pikeroadfire.com or phone (334) 271-1048.

RELAX! JUST FOR FUN!

UNCLE ZEB

Stupid Local laws
(Borrowed from Countryhumor.com)

In Ottumwa, Iowa, "It is unlawful for any male person, within the corporate limits of the (city), to wink at any female person with whom he is unacquainted."

In Los Angeles, you cannot bathe two babies in the same tub at the same time.

In Zion, Ill., it is illegal for anyone to give lighted cigars to dogs, cats, and other domesticated animals kept as pets.

In Carmel, N.Y., a man can't go outside while wearing a jacket and pants that do not match.

In St. Louis, it's illegal to sit on the curb of any city street and drink beer from a bucket.

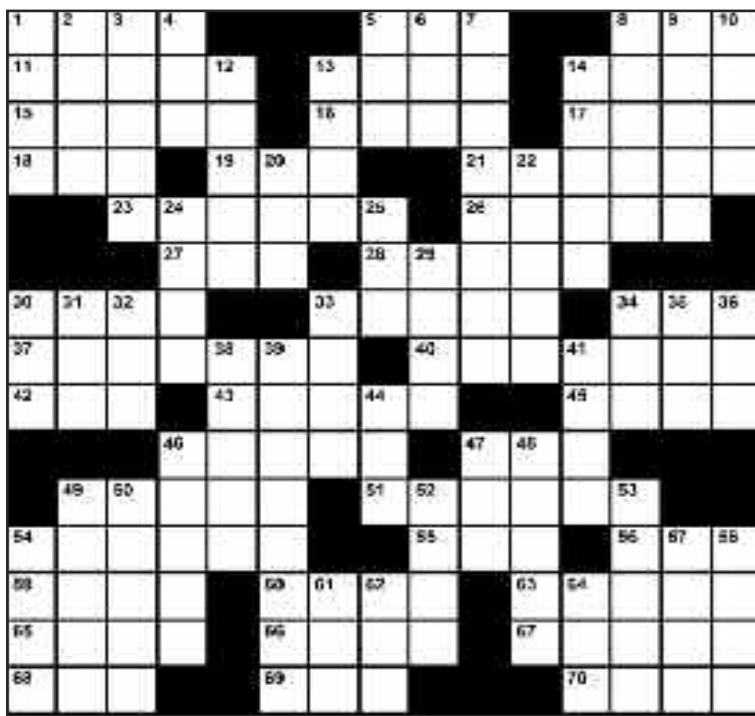
In Hartford, Conn., you aren't allowed to cross a street while walking on your hands.



Uncle Zeb Illustration by: Craig Shook

BOX SCRABBLE WORDS (All words appear in this issue of the Gazette.)

opertr clue page 4A	menbcoi clue page 7A	tlcpsioi clue page 9A
aregnhi clue page 11A	etbalt clue page 12A	neiwplekwi clue page 15A
tgalhoi clue page 17A	cmrha clue page 18A	ylega clue page 22A



- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>18. Listening device
19. Record
21. Trances
23. One buck
26. Delete
27. Silent assent
28. Had
30. Detective's query
33. Cheese choice
34. Grand Coulee e.g.
37. Female star
40. Feel nothing will turn out right
42. Basic metal
43. Description
45. Interjects
46. On edge
47. Kind of team
49. "___ and Punishment" by Dostoyevsky
51. Led
54. Water need
55. Poseidon was its god in ancient Greece
56. Confines
59. "___ Springs Eternal" (Pope poem)
60. Doing nothing</p> | <p>63. Dish
65. Like hand-me-downs
66. Ophthalmologist's study
67. VCR feature
68. Animal's home
69. Inlaid
70. Docile</p> <p>Down</p> <p>1. Besides that
2. Material to be input
3. Watchman
4. Lay an ___
5. Make a sharp explosive noise
6. "___ Of The Beholder"--1999 Judd film
7. Balderdash
8. Barbecue fuel
9. "I give!"
10. Spelling contests
12. "___, I love you, won't you tell me your name" The Doors
13. Lotus position discipline
14. Cover with crumbs
20. Venerable
22. Squeeze the garlic juice</p> | <p>24. Not taken in by
25. Dispute
29. All-inclusive
30. Mega rock group
31. Girl mentioned
32. Exist
33. Sound stages
34. Family member
35. Succor
36. "___ Doubtfire"
38. Things
39. Now you're really old.....
41. Beep
44. Turkey part
46. Fatigued
47. No-win situation
48. Customize
49. Picked
50. Age, to
52. Applies
53. High School acting class
54. Loud noise
57. Romantic couple
58. Simple
61. Turn red, perhaps
62. Umpire's call
64. Under the table</p> |
|--|--|--|

- Across
1. Head start
5. Fountain
8. Pack animal
11. Respond to a joke

13. Cellist, to friends
14. Femur
15. The world is one apparently
16. Doing business
17. Indy is one

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