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**FREE
PRESS**

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THE GAZETTE IS “THE VOICE OF REASON”!

The Alabama Gazette strives to make itself even more relevant to you and the community that we serve. To this end we are adding more news content to both future issues as well as to the website. In coming days we will be posting new content to our website. Read current legislative news posted on our website by Brandon Moseley.

Read our online issues at: www.alabamagazette.com




HE IS NOT HERE,
FOR HE HAS RISEN!
Matthew 28:6


CHRIST IS RISEN!
Have a Blessed Easter
March 31!
Worship with your church family!

**“HE IS NOT
HERE;
HE HAS RISEN!**
*Remember how He
told you, while He
was still with you in
Galilee: ‘The Son of
Man must be
delivered into the
hands of sinful men,
be crucified and on
the third day be
raised again.’”*

Luke 24:6-7



Lottery?
*Level 3
Gambling
is here!*
YOU!
**MAKE THE
CHOICE!**



Brandon Moseley

The Alabama House of Representatives fast tracked a controversial constitutional amendment sponsored by State Representative Chris Blackshear (R-Phenix City). The bill, if passed by the Legislature and ratified by Alabama voters, would create a new bureaucracy – the Alabama Gaming Commission – which would have police powers would have total control of gambling in Alabama.

The bill authorizes the Alabama Gaming Commission to authorize as many as ten casinos across the state of Alabama. Unlicensed facilities that are currently operating illegally across the state of Alabama would be allowed to continue to operate – legally – through the end of 2027. After that those facilities would be forced to close in favor of the regional monopolies created by the licensed casinos.

There would be licensed casinos in Houston, Mobile, Lowndes, Macon, Greene, and Jefferson Counties. These casinos would be allowed to offer slot machines, electronic bingo machines, sports wagering, table games like blackjack and roulette, as well as poker tournaments, dice, and other forms of gambling typically found at Los Vegas style Class III casinos. Electronic bingo games have operated illegally in five of these counties for decades under the protection of local authorities. The attorney general has fought the operators of these illegal facilities in White Hall, Shorter, Eutaw and other places for years.

In addition to these six casinos – the Poarch band of Creek Indians (PCI) currently operate three electronic bingo type Class II casinos in Wetumpka, Montgomery, and Atmore. These are licensed by the federal government and the Bureau of Indian Affairs under the 1980s Indian Gaming Act.

IMPORTANT! CONTINUED ON PAGE 5.

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INSIDE THE STATEHOUSE With Steve Flowers

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

Political Potpourri

I hope you all voted in the primaries yesterday. You have an advantage on me in that I have to go to press with my column before Wednesday, my publication date. Therefore, you know the results. However, I doubt there are any surprises.

We do not have any good state races this year. We have four open seats on our State Supreme Court. However, three of the four are held by popular incumbents, none of which received even token opposition from either Republicans or Democrats. Justices Will Sellers, Jay Mitchell, and Tommy Bryan won reelection to new six-year terms on the State's high tribunal, yesterday. Winning the Republican nomination is tantamount to election in the Heart of Dixie. All nine of our Supreme Court posts are held by Republicans.

Another very popular jurist, Chris McCool of Pickens County lore, is moving up to one of the four open seats on the Supreme Court. Judge McCool is moving up from the Court of Criminal Appeals to the Seat being vacated by Sarah Stewart who is running for Chief Justice.

Speaking of popular State Judges, my friend Bill Thompson has retired from the Court of Civil Appeals effective February 1, 2024. William "Bill" Thompson served 27 years as a Judge on this Appellate Court including the last 17 years as the presiding judge. Bill Thompson is the longest serving judge in the Court of Civil Appeals, and the longest serving presiding judge in the history of the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals. He was first elected in 1996 and was reelected in 2002, 2008, 2014, and 2020. Hopefully, he will have an enjoyable retirement. Judge Thompson grew up in Autauga and Elmore counties. He and his wife, Melinda, live in Homewood where they raised their three children. Governor Kay Ivey made an excellent appointment to this plum vacant appellate court seat by selecting Elmore County Circuit Judge Bill Lewis. He is a fantastic appointee.

My friend Tom Parker will be retiring as Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court at the end of the year. Alabama has an antiquated law that requires judges to retire after age 70. Tom and I went to Boys State together in 1969. He is from Montgomery, me from Troy. We became friends there and have remained so over the years. He and his wife Dottie are high minded and quality people.

Fortunately, the newspapers in the state do not have a mandatory age 70 retirement mandate so I will keep writing this column for a few more years.

One of my favorite political legends in state history is former Attorney General and Lieutenant Governor Bill Baxley. Bill is now in his 80's and remains one of Alabama's premier defense attorneys. Back in December the presiding judges and Bar in Houston/Henry counties honored Bill with a portrait unveiling in the Dothan Courthouse. The portrait was hung in the courtroom that Bill grew up in watching court as a boy in Dothan. His daddy was Presiding Judge Keener Baxley. He and his daddy would walk home together to have lunch with his mama Mrs. Leema. Bill became District Attorney of the Houston/Henry Circuit at the ripe age of 24. He was elected Attorney General of Alabama four years later at 28. Bill moved to Birmingham to practice law after politics. His brother, Wade Baxley, remained one of the most prominent lawyers in Dothan until he succumbed to cancer. The portrait and ceremony meant a lot to ole Bill.

While we are on the subject of old friends and Alabama political legends, my peer and lifetime friend George Wallace, Jr. has penned a marvelous book about his daddy, Governor George Wallace, Sr. The book came out last year. It is entitled simply, George Wallace, from Segregation to Salvation. George tells the story of his growing up the son of one of the most well-known and controversial figures in American's 20th Century. He talks about how his father truly changed and had the courage to ask for forgiveness and how he meant it. Obviously, Black Alabamians believed him, because Black Alabama voters elected George Wallace to his final term as Governor in 1982.

George Wallace, Jr. is truly a very genuine, good guy. He has the same quiet, humble, and unassuming manner as his mother, Governor Lurleen Wallace. He had a successful career in politics himself. George, Jr. served two terms as Treasurer of the State of Alabama, as well as two terms as Alabama Public Service Commissioner. George and his wife, Elizabeth, live in a suburban Shelby County, Highway 280 neighborhood and very much enjoy their peaceful life together.

See you next week.

Steve Flowers is Alabama's leading political columnist. His weekly column appears in over 60 Alabama newspapers. He served 16 years in the state legislature. Steve may be reached at www.steve@steveflowers.us.

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Justice Will Sellers

Four hundred years ago, King James I of England convened his last parliament, the most significant and enduring legacy of which was the "Statute of Monopolies." This act was both a restriction on royal prerogative and the beginning of legal protection for patents and intellectual property.

Prior to this act, the crown arbitrarily granted monopolies to bestow royal favor and also to receive a fee for the privilege. The grant of monopolies had become an end-run around parliament to indirectly raise taxes by increasing the cost of goods through limiting authorized merchants. Initially the grant of a monopoly was less about restraining trade and more of a protectionist measure. The idea was to allow an inventor to apply to the crown so that no one other than the inventor could profit from the novel production or sale of goods.

Given the limited means for invention and rudimentary machinery, copying a process would be fairly easy. Failing to protect creativity would provide no incentive for medieval entrepreneurs to improve products and methods of production. Monopolies then restricted unique items and production techniques to reward creators of the product or process from others who might, without any sweat equity, infringe on the creativity of others. Kings realized that encouraging innovation was critical, so granting an inventor an exclusive right to sell and market their product or technique proved beneficial for expanding the economy.

The granting of a monopoly was also useful in recruiting new trades and industries to re-locate to England. Craftsmen from other countries could be persuaded to come to London, ply their craft and know that their new product or process would be protected from competition. But the granting of monopolies gradually changed from protecting intellectual property and encouraging new industry to a means for the crown to extract payment from merchants who sold goods that were neither novel nor unique.

One constant in the science of government is that there is rarely enough money for the ruler to do everything he wants. Running a royal household was expensive with untold sums necessary to pay retainers and courtesans, and if territorial expansion was on a king's agenda, fielding an army required even larger sums. So, even if there was a divine right of kings, there was nothing that automatically provided financial resources to support all prerogatives of the crown. And, in a country like England, other nobles and even their tenants were not keen to pay unlimited taxes. Likewise, even as powerful as a king might be, he was limited in ways to fund his initiatives.

But the crown had power, and with other funding avenues closed, monetizing this power became the goal of finance ministers and other royal advisors. Inasmuch as parliament might limit the imposition of taxes, unbundling the power of the crown and selling that power or leasing it became a new way to fund government.

Monopolies then became a tool in the royal arsenal to increase royal revenue, seemingly

Unleashing the Power of Free Markets

off balance sheet, without anyone knowing much less having any economic impact. But, what the king and his advisors could not see was that granting a monopoly and effectively restraining trade to the benefit of one company or merchant over another created a hidden tax that was in the increased cost of the product reflecting the cost of the monopoly.

No longer were monopolies used to advance economic development or protect the intellectual property of entrepreneurs; rather, monopolies became a means to restrict trade and limit the sale of goods by increasing the price to absorb the payment for the monopoly to the crown. In short, the granting of monopolies was being abused by the crown, and parliament determined to do something about it. Over time, it became obvious that granting monopolies had an adverse impact on the English economy. Rather than fostering an efficient market that created competition among competing merchants, the competition became rooted in who would bid highest for the exclusive monopoly right to sell the product rather than in the actual goods.

As with most types of governmental intervention even as indirectly as the sale of a monopoly, the costs were never absorbed but were passed on to consumers in the form of higher prices. And, while this impact was not readily apparent, after a few decades it became obvious that monopolies were abused, had a negative impact on the economy and encouraged corruption by giving the crown too much autonomy in indirectly regulating the economy.

Parliament had previously tried to curtail monopolies, but their limitation on the abuse did not pass muster with the House of Lords. No doubt the lords were the recipient of these monopolies and profited from increased revenue from limited sales. Without the king's assent, little change would occur. So when King James I called Parliament into session 400 years ago, he knew that if he wanted certain foreign initiatives to go forward, he would have to give in and agree to a limitation on monopolies. As part of a legislative log roll, the king agreed to assent to the Statute of Monopolies.

This legislation was truly a landmark on several fronts. First, it removed most common goods from monopolistic treatment allowing normal goods to be bought and sold freely. It also removed the arbitrary power of the king to sell monopolies and vested this right in the common law. But more importantly, the law provided for the right to patent a novel process or product to limit competition by allowing the creative inventor to benefit from his energy in developing the new product. But, the patent was not forever, and legal protection from competition was limited to 14 years. Four centuries ago, England jettisoned restraints on free trade and allowed markets, not monopolies, to regulate the sale of products. More critically, protecting intellectual property through law rather than privilege was a major step in allowing novel products and new manufacturing technologies to emerge. This paved the way for England's Industrial Revolution and the growth of empire.

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Robservations...

By: Rob Tate

Common Sense Ain't So Common

Our great republic is on track to be doomed. At a minimum, if we do not pull our collective heads out of the hole, we are doomed. There was a time when people prided themselves on common sense. Today, not so much. It seems the more stupid, ignorant and blind to reality people are, the happier the world seems to be to them. No matter what people want to think or believe, in this world there are still obvious rights and wrongs. Shades of gray exist for sure but I hate (not really) to burst some bubbles but I have no problem looking someone in the face and saying, "Uh, nope. You are wrong." Appeasing ignorance is in itself ignorance. Winston Churchill once said that people try to appease the alligator hoping it will eat them last. True. But here we sit in 2024 watching the raging stupidity across this country and indeed the entire world.

1. THE BORDER: BROKEN RECORD TIME, AGAIN. It is an unsustainable travesty. Anyone with half a brain can see that. Many choose not to. There is a saying that "there is no one so blind as he who will not see." People simply do not want to see what is going on at the southern border. But guess what, the rate of illegal aliens (not migrants) entering from the northern border has increased exponentially as well. Does anybody in power really care? Not many. And here is one place where we can clearly see a difference in party politics. One party is for a closed and secure border while the other is only concerned with the destruction of this country. What else would you call it?

Since Joe Biden has come into office, he has allowed 7.2 million illegal immigrants to enter the US. That number is greater than the population of 35 states. This number clearly does not include those who simply entered unnoticed. There was a time when the rallying cry was that the Mexican migrants only wanted a better life. That is another issue and not a reason for asylum. But what of the people from the other 160 or so countries that are breaking into our country every day? Why in fiscal 2023 year did we have over 24,000 illegals from China? China, people. Two years earlier, we only had 450 total. That is just a single day total in the San Diego sector now.

I watched a news clip and they were asking these people where they were from and there answers were from all over the globe. But they just want a better life, right? Let's ignore the governments responsibility for a better life among its own citizens. Several cities have already cut services to "American citizens" in order to accommodate the flood of illegals. Does anybody think this is acceptable? Some New York and Massachusetts law makers are asking for citizens to allow these illegal immigrants to stay in their homes. Only after the Governor's mansion is filled to the brim with them and to be honest, not even then. Absolutely not! That falls under the category of "not my circus, not my monkey." What arrogant blowhards they are. Again, it is beautiful to see these people squirming after having to eat the poop sandwich they created.

To me, there is no other issue threatening this country that is greater than illegal immigration. Why? Because absolutely every other facet of our society is impacted by it. Here is a cold reality, no border, no country. It is that simple. Crime, disease, shortages in stores, social services, national security threats, you name it. Most if not all are already here. Sadly, few are willing to do anything about it. The only thing President Biden is willing to offer lately is to blame Republicans for his failures and to threaten executive orders just in time for a new election. The level of "undocumented Democrats" is increasing daily. The ultimate issue is that now, in order to right the wrong, extreme measures will have to be employed. Nobody wants that but do you think any of these people are going to go quietly into the night? Yes, we have a real problem.

2. GOVERNMENT cancels another \$1.2 billion in student loan debt. Am I really supposed to pay for your student load? Did your parents pay for mine? Nuff' said.

3. OUR NATIONAL DEBT: Way back in 2013, I wrote about our national debt. Back then, our debt was a modest \$16,744,756,296,931. This was according to usdebtclock.org. When I logged on this morning, 22 February, it had grown to \$34,281,880,454,129 and is growing by the second. Yes, it has more than doubled since 2013. Here are some numbers to ponder.

- 1 trillion seconds equals 31,709 years (1 million seconds equals approximately 11.5 days)
- If our national debt in dollars was miles (34 trillion plus) and with light traveling at 186,000 miles per second, it would take light 5.8 years to cover that distance.

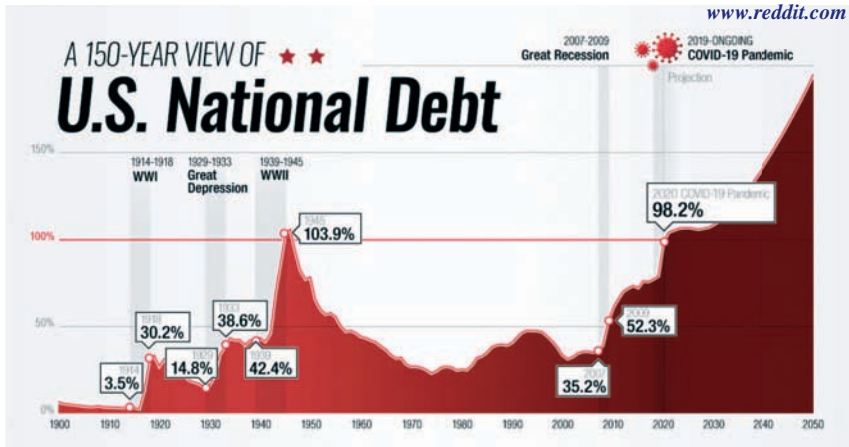
I recommend going to the debt clock and looking at all the numbers. It is pretty humbling. I do not believe the average American has any idea of how big \$34 trillion is. To most, it is just a number. Much like paying an athlete \$55 million a year. I am not saying he/she is not worth it but I do not think the average sports fan has a good handle on how much that is considering the average salary in the US in the fourth quarter of 2023 was \$59,384. That means the average American would have to work 926 years to make as much as this athlete makes in a single year. Again, I am not begrudging this salary but just putting it in perspective.

As Americans, it seems as though we do not care about numbers. 7 million illegals, oh well. Student loans? Why not help them out? Our national debt? Just print some more money. Need more money? Just raise more taxes. Instead of doing the unthinkable and reducing government spending, most lawmakers seem content to let this country drown in debt and mismanagement. Imagine what the government, the IRS debt collectors would do if every single year you earned \$100,000 but spent \$200,000.

I am not a doom and gloom guy. But I am definitely a card-carrying Sun Tzu Art of War kind of guy. I firmly believe that we must know our enemies. Know them well and expect the worst. Plan for it. The real world is not the place for your head to be buried in the sand like the cartoon ostrich. I actively find myself trying not to get mad. It does nothing for you. It is a challenge for me because I am human. James 1:20 tells me that the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God. Let's call this a work in progress.

Regardless. Although I try not to rage and get too angry with what I see, I still recognize what is out there and do not ignore it. I can't ignore. None of us should. But I do pray for our leaders to make righteous decisions concerning this country. Sometimes that is the best we can do. Sometimes that is actually all that we need to do.

PSA – Airshow at Maxwell AFB 6 and 7 April. The Navy Blue Angels will be making their first stop to the river region in decades. See ya'll there.



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Perry O. Hooper Jr.

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



**Transforming Alabama -
Kay Ivey's
Blueprint for the Future**



In Governor Kay Ivey's State of the State Address, we witnessed a masterclass in leadership and vision, particularly in the domain of education. As a long-time observer and participant in the political arena, it's rare to encounter a moment where clarity of purpose and commitment to action align as perfectly as they did in Governor Ivey's address. Her words were not just rhetoric, they were a loud call for a brighter future for Alabama's children and a testament to her unwavering dedication to improving educational outcomes across the state. Governor Ivey's address underscored a fundamental truth: Education is the bedrock of societal progress and economic prosperity. By placing education at the pinnacle of her legislative agenda, Governor Ivey is not merely advocating for reform, she is championing a transformative vision that seeks to elevate Alabama's educational landscape to unprecedented heights.

The Governor's commitment to enhancing school safety through a \$100 million grant program is a bold step towards ensuring that our schools are sanctuaries of learning and growth. In an era where safety concerns loom large in the minds of parents, educators and students, Governor Ivey's initiative reflects a profound understanding of the foundational importance of security in the educational environment.

Equally compelling is the Governor's advocacy for the CHOOSE Act, an education savings account bill that embodies the spirit of innovation and choice in education. By proposing up to \$7,000 per child for enrollment in accredited private or public schools, Governor Ivey is pioneering a pathway to educational freedom that prioritizes the needs and aspirations of families. This program, aimed at becoming universally accessible to Alabama families, represents a seismic shift towards a more inclusive, flexible, and responsive educational system.

Governor Ivey's dedication to addressing the critical issue of mental health care for students and combating human trafficking demonstrates a comprehensive approach to governance that recognizes the interconnectedness of societal challenges and their impact on educational success.

In her address, Governor Kay Ivey not only laid a robust foundation for educational excellence but also underscored the critical importance of healthcare in Alabama's broader narrative of progress and prosperity. The Governor's pioneering proposal for the Alabama School of Healthcare Sciences

in Demopolis is a beacon of innovation in rural healthcare education. By focusing on equipping young Alabamians, especially those from rural backgrounds, with the skills and knowledge necessary to pursue careers in healthcare, Governor Ivey is addressing a critical workforce gap while fostering local communities' resilience. This initiative not only promises to elevate the quality of healthcare in underserved areas but also to stimulate economic growth by creating high-demand, high-wage job opportunities.

The Governor's commitment to a pilot program offering prenatal checkups in nine county health departments in areas of dire need is a testament to her understanding of the foundational role of early healthcare interventions in shaping the future for Alabama's children. By prioritizing maternal and child health, Governor Ivey is laying the groundwork for a healthier, more vibrant Alabama where every citizen has the opportunity to thrive throughout their life.

In her address, Governor Ivey eloquently highlighted the importance of technology and innovation, signaling the establishment of a task force to explore the safe and effective use of artificial intelligence. This forward-thinking approach not only prepares Alabama for the future but also ensures that its educational system remains at the cutting edge of technological advancements.

Governor Ivey's vision for education in Alabama is not just about reform, it's about revolutionizing the way we think about and engage with our educational system. It's a vision that acknowledges the challenges of the present while steadfastly focusing on the opportunities of the future. It's a vision that deserves our collective admiration, support, and action.

Governor Ivey is steering Alabama towards a future where every citizen can live, work, and raise a family in an environment that is nurturing, prosperous and inclusive. Her leadership serves as a beacon of hope and a call to action for all Alabamians, Republican and Democrat alike, to come together in pursuit of a greater Alabama. As we reflect on the Governor's words and initiatives, let us commit ourselves to support these transformative efforts. Together, under Governor Ivey's steadfast leadership, we can and will make Alabama an even greater place for all citizens to prosper.

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Ronald A. Hottsford

If I sign a Do Not Resuscitate (DNR or DNAR) and thereafter go to another facility will they honor my wishes?

I have written several times after questions were posed regarding Advance Health Care Directives (Living Will plus Health Care Proxy appointment). An Advance Health Care Directive does not address a Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) or a Do Not Attempt Resuscitation (DNAR) order. Other health care facilities that receive a patient from one facility to another, whether it is for a period of time or for appointments not offered as a service in their facility must decide whether they can or should honor a DNR/ DNAR at their facility. For instance, say that a patient requires proton therapy at UAB. The trip to UAB from Montgomery would likely be by ambulance which may take 1 1/2 hours. Say during that time, the patient goes into cardiac arrest. If prior to transport the ambulance company was told the patient is a “no code” (no DNR/ DNAR) and therefore must decide whether to attempt resuscitation when that occurs during the trip. Did the ambulance company receive a copy of the DNR/ DNAR order? Are they willing to follow the order and do nothing while the patient dies? Is the ambulance company able to provide appropriate comfort care to the patient? Is the ambulance company liable if they do nothing to try and resuscitate the patient?

Those are a lot of sticky questions that the ambulance company has to be certain about prior to transport should a sudden and unexpected cardiac arrest occur.

The original Alabama Natural Death Act only addressed the Advance Directive which consists of the Living Will component and the naming of a health care proxy. In 2016, the Alabama legislature amended it to include a portable Alabama DNAR document. Portable means it can be transferred between facilities provided that the language is the same as in the Alabama Code section and meets all other statutory requirements. If an Alabama portable DNAR form comes from another state it can be accepted but it is up to the facility to verify that the physician that signs it has a legal medical license in the state in which they practice. A DNAR of any form for use in another state is never acceptable. An Alabama DNAR may have its company logo added, etc. or patient information added with facility identifiers provided as above in that the Alabama statutory language is identical or otherwise approved by the Committee of Public Health. It is advisable that the authentication time should be printed after the physician’s signature and also it is helpful to add something like the physician’s identification number or other identifier so that there is no confusion on who signed it.

The document has five sections. The document must have either **Section 1, 2, 3 OR 4** completed as well as **Section 5** completed. Section 1 allows a competent patient to sign the document if they do not want to be resuscitated or resuscitation attempted. The Alabama Public Health FAQ provides the following language; First, that the: “..patient/resident is not competent or is no longer able to understand, appreciate, and direct his/her medical treatment and has no hope of regaining that ability.” Secondly: “A duly executed Advance Directive for Health Care with instructions that no life sustaining treatment be provided was previously authorized by the patient/resident and is part of his/her medical record.” It is not necessary that this section is signed by a physician. A person such as a licensed administrator, a social worker, PA or CRNP, a nurse or other facility representative who is authorized to review the medical record and attest to the documentation in the medical record could sign that these statements are true and correct.

Section 3 allows one named as a proxy under an appropriate Advance Directive for Health Care or legal Alabama Health Care Power of Attorney to sign. If no one is available above then Section 4 allows for a family member to sign an appropriate Alabama Surrogate form found at <https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/providerstandards/assets/certification-healthcaredecisionsurrogate.pdf>.

Finally, **Section 5** provides that a physician authorize the withholding of resuscitation, the administration of comfort care and the support of family and friends.

The Alabama Portable DNAR form is provided at; <https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/ems/assets/dnar.form.010317.pdf>.

This article is informative only and not meant to be all inclusive. Additionally this article does not serve as legal advice to the reader and does not constitute an attorney- client relationship. The reader should seek counsel from their attorney should any questions exist. "No representation is made that the quality of legal services performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers."

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Col John Eidsmoe

LEGALIZED GAMBLING: HAVE WE FORGOTTEN PHENIX CITY?

“They don’t have to gamble,” Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey says of gambling opponents.

Perhaps not. But we all have to live with the evils gambling produces. And Alabamians should remember the lessons of Phenix City.

Life Magazine described Phenix City as the “wickedest city in the United States, ...everything from gambling to murder to arson to fraud.” Known as “Little Las Vegas,” between 1945 and 1954 this little town of 23,000 featured casinos, lotteries, cockfighting, and other forms of gambling, and was home to over 1,000 prostitutes.

Those who ran the gambling industry took control of city and county government. The mayor, police chief, and prosecutor were controlled by the machine, and the sheriff was a “yes man” for his chief deputy Albert Fuller. Fuller furnished legal protection to the brothels in exchange for one-third of the profits, and he forced many young women into prostitution by arresting them on trumped-up charges and arranging for the brothel operators to bail them out in exchange for “work.”

Citizens who tried to stand up to the gambling industry were silenced by threats, beatings and bombings, and some ended up in the Chattahoochee River. Some of the city’s 37 churches stood against gambling, but others were controlled by them. Pastors who preached against gambling were accused of mixing religion with politics, and many found themselves transferred to other parishes.

Soldiers from Fort Benning across the river supplied much of the clientele, even though commanders made the gambling establishments off-limits. Many a naive young soldier lost his paycheck at Phenix City, along with falling into vice, alcoholism, and drug addiction. Often they were swindled by crooked operators; if they protested, well-armed bouncers beat them up and sent them back to Fort Benning battered, bruised, and penniless. In 1940, General George C. Patton threatened to send tanks into Phenix City to level Dillingham Street, the infested areas around Dillingham Street, and the Fourteenth street bridge.

As Edwin Strickland and Gene Wortsman wrote in Phenix City (Vulcan Press 1955), p. 6:

No practice was too vile. Unconsumed beer was re-bottled and re-sold. Drinks were spiked. Customers were knocked on the head and their wallets lifted. House men would take all the coin a soldier had, at a crooked dice table, then direct the youth next door to a company-owned pawnshop where he could pick up a spot of cash for his boots, his watch, or his underwear. Inevitably the boy returned to the table to lose again. If a client got rowdy, the casino tough would toss him outside, usually into the waiting arms of the police who would book him for being drunk and disorderly.

The Chattahoochee River became a dumping ground for dead bodies, the kind with cement-encased feet. Killings went unsolved. Complaints from honest citizens went unheeded.

You’d have to search a long time to find a home with green grass growing in the front yard. Dirt roads could be located by a turn of the head. The city jail smelled like the garbage dump. The county jail smelled like the city jail.

But even in Phenix City, faithful people prayed for a deliverer. And God answered their prayers. In 1954, Phenix City lawyer Albert Patterson announced his candidacy for Attorney General as a crusade to clean up the gambling syndicate that ran the city. On June 1, he beat the machine and won the Democratic primary. But even though winning the Democratic Primary was at that time tantamount to winning the election, he declared that his chances of becoming Attorney General were less than 100 to 1.

Foundation for Moral Law

One Dexter Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36104.

(334) 262-1245.

And the next day, June 18, Patterson lay dead on the streets of Phenix City – gunned down by an assassin.

The news spread like wildfire across Alabama, and an aroused citizenry demanded action. While local law enforcement dragged its feet, several heroes arose. One was Albert Patterson’s son, John Patterson, who announced his candidacy for Attorney General and vowed that he would smash the machine that had killed his father. Patterson won the nomination and the election, later served as Governor and as an Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals Judge, and remained a respected elder statesman until his passing in 2021 at the age of 99.

A second was Bernard Sykes. Attorney General Silas Garrett was controlled by the gambling syndicate, but on June 23 he left Alabama for an extended hospitalization in a Texas mental institution, so Sykes became acting attorney general. Sykes took an active role in the investigation and prosecution of the case before John Patterson took office in 1955.

The third was Major General Walter J. (Crack) Hanna, commander of the Alabama National Guard. Ordered into Phenix City by the Governor, General Hannah quickly saw that Phenix City officials were conducting a cover-up, so he and his guardsmen disarmed the police and sheriffs, took over law enforcement, and performed valuable service in the investigation.

And the fourth was Judge Walter Burgwyn Jones, son of Governor Thomas Goode Jones and founder of the Thomas Goode Jones School of Law. He had served as President of the Alabama Bar Association and the Alabama Bible Society and taught an open-air Sunday school class that was attended by more than 1,000 men. Assigned to take over the legal proceedings in Russell County, he opened a courtroom packed with mobsters and racketeers as well as citizens hoping for a return to law and order and intoned,

Albert L. Patterson rests in the earth from which he came, but the State of Alabama, all her forces of law, will not rest, day or night, until his murderer is tracked down and pays the extreme penalty for the brutal deed.

Let it be understood here and now, once and for all, that there will be no return to Russell County of that tragic era, the days when the law violator reigned supreme, and trampled the Constitution and laws under his foot. From this day forward the reign of law has come to Russell County to stay, and stay it will under the providence of God and all the power of Alabama’s government.

Judge Jones instructed the grand jury that they were to “drive back into their lairs the beasts of crime,” and he declared that it would be better for “bats and owls to inhabit the city” than for vice lords to drain off the people’s wealth. After five months of testimony, the grand jury returned 741 indictments against 144 defendants. Of these, all but two either pleaded guilty or were found guilty.

Today, Phenix City seems to be a quiet town. Who would want to bring back the horrors of the past?

But a generation has passed, and the lessons of history have started to fade. Now the Alabama Legislature is considering HB151 and HB152, which would put a constitutional amendment on the ballot that would authorize casinos, sports betting, and a state lottery.

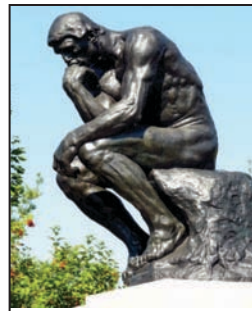
And a primary sponsor of the bills is Rep. Chris Blackshear of Phenix City. Is the gambling spirit really dead?

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John Sophocleus

Trump Ballots: Primary Corruption & General Collusion



THINK

Reporting on Trump’s ballot access in States like Colorado and Maine prompted one loyal reader to recall a long past Gazette column about ineligible

the findings, and elaborates our State Ethics Commission effectively supports 16-3-3 because a school employee cannot ethically be on the same governing board which employs them.

candidates on Alabama ballots:

<https://www.alabamagazette.com/story/2018/06/01/news/state-school-board-races-worthy-inquiry-to-secretary-merrill/1376.html>. No shortage of disagreement on what constitutes ‘insurrection’ in these current State cases w.r.t. ballot access for Mr. Trump. Ineligible candidates Alabama’s Secretary of State (John Merrill in 2018) allowed on our State provided primary ballots [subsidizing Alabama’s duopoly parties] was very explicit many school board candidates could NOT lawfully hold office.

Some reports tout recent Trump ballot access decisions historic. Maine’s Secretary of State [Shenna Bellows] is the first to remove a presidential candidate from their State’s ballot ‘unilaterally’ (12/29/23 Denver AP report) as a top election official (mis)using the 14th Amendment’s Section 3 insurrection clause. Furthermore, Maine is one of those States unconstitutionally splitting electoral votes - i.e., on the margin just one of Maine’s 4 electoral votes may make a difference in close electoral college outcomes. The AP report also noted Maine’s “unusual process in which a secretary of state is required to hold a public hearing on challenges to politicians’ spots on the ballot and then issue a ruling. Multiple groups of Maine voters, including a bipartisan clutch of former state lawmakers, filed such a challenge, triggering Bellows’ decision.”

Most Trump ballot access lawsuits were dismissed by courts asserting no authority over party primaries. This may be true in States which do not subsidize their duopoly parties. Here in Alabama primary elections amount to ‘fund-raisers’ for Democrats and Republicans where candidates pay to be on the ballot; those payments are not remitted to the treasury to offset expenses of primary elections using government resources. This anti-competitive wealth transfer is difficult to defeat, write-ins aren’t allowed on primary ballots where any candidate(s) could sneak by the parties and access general election ballots without paying the ‘protection money’ to our political gangs.

While our Secretary of State had no trouble eliminating a general election to install Felon Hubbard’s preferred replacement, he failed to eliminate clearly ineligible candidates in State School Board races. If the State was not paying for party primaries, they could submit any candidate desired, there would be no oversight role for the Secretary of State. The Secretary’s office would later remove those determined ineligible on the general election ballot our State is obliged to provide. Voters still may write-in someone ineligible by State law who shall be removed after the general election determined ineligible winner(s). Sadly, Secretary Merrill seemed exasperated at times with our corrupt ethics commission who did little to discipline duopoly candidate/party malfeasance.

To recap some 2018 ineligibilities, Alabama code Section 16-3-3 includes “No person who is an employee of the board or who is or has been engaged as a professional educator within five years next preceding the date of the election shall be eligible for membership on the board. For the purposes of this section the term ‘professional educator’ shall include teacher, supervisor or principal of any public or private school; instructor, professor or president of any public or private university, college or junior college or trade school; any state, county or city superintendent of education; or other person engaged in an administrative capacity in the field of education.” Page 13 (lines 11 thru 27) of Rep. Collins 2018 House Bill 70 still included these requirements in §16-3-3 of Alabama Law <http://web.alsde.edu/.../2018Regula/2018RS%20HB0070%20OR.pdf...> Rulings in 1976 and 1983 found 16-3-3 unconstitutional under equal protection grounds, specifically because of limitations on a person to be involved in the political process. The most recent case found to challenge these rulings was decided in 2004. The plaintiff referenced the 1976 and 1983 cases to challenge the GOP not allowing him to run for State school board. The judge dismissed that specific claim with prejudice. Our State’s own law manual [p. 134] for superintendents also references the 1976, 1983 and 2004 cases, acknowledges

“Association rights are also implicated in situations where the school employee is politically active. Section § 16-3-3 Code of Alabama (1975) prohibits a person who is an employee of the (state) board or who is or has been engaged as a professional educator within five years prior to election to be eligible for membership on the board. A federal district court found this prohibition to be an unconstitutional provision in Gold et. al. v. Baggett et. al., Civil Action No. 76-120-N (M.D.Ala. 1976). The same conclusion was reached by a state court in Alabama State Ethics Com’n ex rel Charles Graddick v. Dr. Evelyn Pratt, Civil Action No. CV-83-175-G (Circuit Court, Alabama Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, 1983). However, state ethics commission rulings have made it clear that it is a conflict of interest for a school employee to be on the same governing board that employs him or her. (See, materials on Alabama State Ethics Commission, compiled by Dr. Paulette Rogers, and included in the materials following Module 33.)”

Some candidates deemed worthy of scrutiny as ineligible included:

Jackie Zeigler - 1st District: incumbent, shows information indicating time as school principal in the five year window which applies.

Melanie Hill - 2nd District: information indicating employment with the Dothan city school board less than five years ago, resigned before her term ended.

Adam Jortner - 2nd District: information indicating current employment as a professor.

Tracie West - 2nd District: information indicating current president of Auburn city school board.

Yvette Richardson - 4th District: incumbent, with information indicating current employment as a teacher/superintendent and educational consultant, unopposed in the primary.

Don Wallace - 4th District: information indicating employment as a part time instructor in the 5 year window.

Cynthia McCarty - 6th District: incumbent with information indicating current employment as a professor and professor when originally installed into the position, unopposed in the primary.

Some enumerated above were in fact elected and still in office. Alarming how many candidates, seemingly in violation, were incumbents - two unopposed in the primary. How long these ineligibilities are left undisciplined speaks for itself. Little surprise in a State where Parties are allowed to thumb their nose at the law and ethics violations. Foolish to waste taxpayer effort and time on forms and filings. Clearly they’ll also be allowed on the taxpayer funded general election ballots. Given AG, Ethics Commission, Parties, Secretary of State, et al failure to address this, how does one proceed?

General election collusion in our State, with some of the most restrictive ballot access laws in the nation aids and abets our uncompetitive results. Will Trump be removed if installed again (it appears the next rigged, unconstitutional result will install another Biden/Trump crime family member) as the next general election winner? It may be a mix of votes cast in States where ballot access was allowed and write-ins (where Trump is blocked from ballot access) determine the result. The thought of a presidential candidate winning electoral votes as a write-in is intriguing. If Trump is only the second President elected to non-consecutive terms, it will be as noteworthy as Grover Cleveland in another iteration of the electoral college v. popular vote not aligning.

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Brandon Moseley

Gambling bill would bring CASINOS to Alabama

The Alabama House of Representatives fast tracked a controversial constitutional amendment sponsored by State Representative Chris Blackshear (R-Phenix City). The bill, if passed by the Legislature and ratified by Alabama voters, would create a new bureaucracy – the Alabama Gaming Commission – which would have police powers would have total control of gambling in Alabama.

The bill authorizes the Alabama Gaming Commission to authorize as many as ten casinos across the state of Alabama. Unlicensed facilities that are currently operating illegally across the state of Alabama would be allowed to continue to operate – legally – through the end of 2027. After that those facilities would be forced to close in favor of the regional monopolies created by the licensed casinos.

There would be licensed casinos in Houston, Mobile, Lowndes, Macon, Greene, and Jefferson Counties. These casinos would be allowed to offer slot machines, electronic bingo machines, sports wagering, table games like blackjack and roulette, as well as poker tournaments, dice, and other forms of gambling typically found at Los Vegas style Class III casinos. Electronic bingo games have operated illegally in five of these counties for decades under the protection of local authorities. The attorney general has fought the operators of these illegal facilities in White Hall, Shorter, Eutaw and other places for years.

In addition to these six casinos – the Poarch band of Creek Indians (PCI) currently operate three electronic bingo type Class II casinos in Wetumpka, Montgomery, and Atmore. These are licensed by the federal government and the Bureau of Indian Affairs under the 1980s Indian Gaming Act. If the omnibus gambling legislation passes, it and its accompanying enabling act would authorize the governor to negotiate a compact with PCI. Since the tribe has no incentive to pay taxes on its existing untaxed operations the legislation authorizes them to expand their operations to include table games, a sports book, and all the other games offered in Class III casinos. The tribe would also be allowed to build a fourth casino. The site of this new casino – not on tribal lands - is said to be in rural north Jackson County – perhaps coincidentally in or very

near to Speaker of the House Nathaniel Ledbetter(R-Rainsville) and new Senate Majority Leader Steve Livingston (R-Scottsboro)’s districts. PCI is reportedly not satisfied with Jackson County and would prefer to build a new casino near the convention center in Birmingham. The McGregor family however already operate an illegal class II gambling facility there and reportedly want an exclusive Jefferson County licensed monopoly.

In addition to the sports books the Alabama Gaming Commission would be authorized to allow Alabamians to bet on sports and other contests from their computers, tablets, or smart phones. The bill also creates a new bureaucracy to run an Alabama lottery. While many Alabamians have been in favor of a Georgia-style Hope Scholarship lottery; this bill does not fund four-year scholarships for institutions like Alabama, Auburn, or UAB. There is a scholarship component to this legislation; but it is limited to scholarships to Alabama’s two-year college and technical schools to boost workforce development.

Critics of this legislation, like the Alabama Policy Institute, argue that it grows the size of state government, increases crime, encourages more Alabamians to get addicted to gambling, effectively serves as a tax on those Alabamians who don’t understand math; and creates a new state bureaucracy – one that has its own armed police force that is separate and apart from the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA).

Proponents argue that it gives state government as much as \$1.2 billion a year in new revenues. A figure that critics dispute and argue that what money it does bring in is money that would have gone to Alabama stores, restaurants, and entertainment venues.

If this legislation passes out of the Legislature the public would get the opportunity to vote on this legislation up or down on the November 5 general election ballot.

To connect with the author of this story, or to comment, email brandonmreporter@gmail.com

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John Martin

The Invasion of the DESTITUATES

Right now, America is suffering from the greatest invasion of foreigners in its entire history. Our borders are now so porous, they are utterly ineffective in keeping out many of the world's most dangerous people. Just this past year, some three million migrants—nearly all of them penniless, destitute peasants—have poured across our southern border, overwhelming our barricades and security forces. An estimated 30 million more are still waiting in Mexico for their turns to assault it and take their parts in the genocide of the American people.

Some people have argued about the message on the Statue of Liberty—“*Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!*” But this message applies to people who are fleeing oppressive governments and seeking freedom and individual liberty. When those words were written, the United States had **NO** taxpayer-funded “*public assistance*.” They came for the **OPPORTUNITY** to earn honest livings and expected **NO** free handouts. In addition, newcomers were **ALL** strictly vetted for dangerous diseases, birth defects, and past criminal histories. Those who failed muster were immediately sent back.

Beginning about the 1930's small numbers of people from Mexico and central America began coming across our southern border to earn extra money as field hands. Some were even willing to work for less than the minimum wage. This helped the local farmers meet expenses, and as long as the numbers remained small, there were no hardships. But as their numbers swelled, and their purposes drifted toward permanently importing their huge extended families, the overcrowding became unbearable. And soon many began to partake in various criminal activities like smuggling, theft, flim-flams, drug running, and even human trafficking and murder for hire.

In the 1950's under Eisenhower 's program, Operation Wetback, migrants who had sneaked across our borders were rounded up and shipped back to Mexico's southern end, making it difficult for them to routinely keep coming back again and again. After Kennedy's assassination and the beginning of LBJ's regime, Congress opened the floodgates with minimal vetting. Reagan and the two Bushes slowed the flow somewhat. But under Obama, Biden, and the Democrats in Congress, they have been quickly and recklessly accepted and shipped to various cities toward the north without any apparent worries about who is going to take care of them for billions of tax dollars and deal with the overcrowding and crimes that many of them commit.

We all understand the damage that has been done by the careless introduction of exotic plants and animals—Chinese privet, Cogongrass, tropical soda apples, wild roses, nutria, starlings, cane toads, carp, lionfish, Burmese pythons, and that nasty vine that can literally smother a forest—kudzu. But an invasion of certain types of exotic humanity can wreak far greater destruction. We don't really know how much of the world's excess humanity has flooded into our nation, but the obvious numbers clearly rank at least into the tens of millions, if not over a hundred million. Taking care of that many poor people that we didn't even produce is a task that is utterly impossible to address, much less resolve. Any attempt to do it would only drag our entire population into perpetual grinding poverty, like in many third world nations today.

We should ask ourselves, “Why is America the target of the world's reckless breeders? Why do so many millions go to extraordinary efforts to march thousands of miles on foot from Venezuela and Columbia, through and/or around the difficult Darien Gap, bypassing Panama, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Belize, Honduras, Guatemala, and even Mexico to get into the United States? What does our country have that these others don't?”

We have **GRAVE** liabilities that the others lack—public assistance magnets that are structured by law to serve every last freeloader, no matter how unqualified, with health care, food, and other public assistance—enough to literally bankrupt our country as the rising flood of destitutes consumes our economy. Look at little Belize, the only English-speaking nation in central and south America. It suffers little, if any, from the hordes that pass by. Belize has no strong border enforcement to keep them out. Even though they can walk in at will, they cause little if any trouble. They just keep moving along.

What does Belize have that we don't? It's not what it has. It's what it **lacks**. It does not have any public assistance magnets that attract undesirable, homeless peasants. It has no booty for them, so they just pass through. And one more thing. If anybody wants to become a citizen, he must shell out a \$100,000 fee for that privilege, in addition to a very strict vetting procedure. But in the good old USA, they don't pay a nickel. Our Constitution has been recklessly corrupted with amendments that allow it.

And migrants from Latin America are not the only threat. We now have a much greater one. For several decades, and especially since the dawn of Obama's regime, dangerous Islamic radicals have not just been let in, but “*legally*” **brought** in from various parts of the Middle East and Africa—people who are sympathetic to terror organizations like the Taliban, ISIS, Al-Qaeda and Hamas—people who literally **train** their numerous children to become martyrs for the Islamic State via the mass murders of apostates, Hindus, Christians, Catholics, Jews, Mormons, and any others who have not accepted radical

Islamic indoctrination. We don't really know how many are already here, but estimates range from perhaps a million up to several million. We have already seen signs of their numbers by observing the rallies and demonstrations on our streets. Recently, since last October 7, the numbers of Hamas supporters have been staggering—sometimes almost equaling the numbers of Jewish supporters. And never forget the huge crowds that gathered onto New Jersey's north shore and loudly cheered as the twin towers collapsed on September 11, 2001.

Many of the Muslims in this country are perfectly peaceful, but we are also being invaded by some of the violent ones. One of their most dangerous and radical objectives is **Wahhabism**, the ideology of **Saudi Arabian hardliners**. It is the most violent, most separatist, and most expansionistic form of Islam. Its goal is to take over and impose its rigid conformity onto the entire Muslim world.

After a sizeable number of mostly peaceful Muslims had immigrated to the U. S. during the 1980's and 1990's, the Saudis proceeded to create American Islamic establishments based on Wahhabism—like the **Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)**, the **Islamic Circle of North America**, and the **Islamic Society of North America**, which is directly controlled from **Saudi Arabia**, and outright owns 250 of the 1,200 primary mosques in the United States. Today, an estimated 80 percent of American mosques are controlled or at least influenced by Saudi Arabia and Wahhabism. In spite of being considered an ally by various people in our government, Saudi Arabia has in essence declared **WAR** against the United States. Don't forget that Osama bin Laden was a Saudi and that 15 (over 75%) of the 9/11 hijackers were also Saudis. And don't forget that Barack Obama himself learned (possibly radical) Islamic culture for many years during his youth in Indonesia and later bowed before the Saudi king.

So what can we do, or rather what **MUST** we do to save our nation? We must **STOP** this hemorrhage **BEFORE** we end up **WITHOUT** a nation.

Of course we need to better secure our borders, but that alone would not be adequate. We must eliminate the magnets that attract millions of freeloaders. We must **AMEND** our Constitution to eliminate automatic citizenship by birth on our soil alone. Automatic citizenship should **REQUIRE** both parents to already be citizens, proven by **DNA** testing if needed. In addition, **NO** free public assistance should be provided to aliens. That includes any free assistance, even emergency health care. That includes all of the free hospital care we now recklessly provide to give birth to multitudes of “*anchor babies*.”

The anchor baby allowance itself should also be fully repealed. We cannot allow even one such birth to open the floodgates for the huge masses of its extended family. We cannot multiply that by millions and survive by becoming a nation of peasants. We must also consider overpopulation. We must become very picky over the quality and limit the overall number of people we let in to become permanent residents. Many countries, large and small, charge huge fees from outsiders who want to become citizens. That limits the riffraff instantly. If countries like Belize can do it, why can't we?

Another action we can take is to promote **CONTRACEPTION**. Reckless childbearing is a serious problem in most of Latin America and India, and nearly all of Africa. That is the root cause of their overcrowding, poverty, and environmental degradation. Contraception would be far more beneficial than feeding hungry children, which only encourages more reckless breeding. Contraception may not be effective with the Muslim radicals. Their objective is the genocide of all non-Muslims, and perhaps even including the peaceful Muslims. To save ourselves, we must **REJECT** all radicals. Above all, we must carefully monitor the moral and religious habits of **ALL** immigrants. People with goals of forced conversion, violence, torture, revenge, subjugation, and martyrdom should always be rejected.

Various punishments for illegal migrants have been suggested by many people—from immediately sending them back to heavy fines to lengthy imprisonment. Fines are problematic from people who have nothing. Imprisoning huge masses becomes prohibitively expensive. So there must be a better way. One suggestion is **STERILIZATION** of both men and women, and even children. This sends a much stronger message that mass migration will not be tolerated. And it also at least slows down the reckless breeding.

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Don't let the Poarch Creek Indians STEAL ALABAMA

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HISTORICAL NEWS

You Can Use!



James Dotherow

Although Alabama was not in existence at the time of the American Revolution, almost 1,000 Revolutionary War soldiers are buried in Alabama. Many permanently moved to Alabama while others died in Alabama while passing through our state. Each of these patriot soldiers has a special story to tell, and many of them will never be found in history books.

Bolling Hall was born December 25, 1767, in Dinwiddie County, Virginia, and died February 25, 1836, in Autauga County, Alabama. He is buried at his home, Ellerslie, in present day Elmore County.

Little is known of the Revolutionary War service of Bolling Hall. He was a teenager when he served in the Virginia line. He served along with his brother Dixon Hall, and probably with Littleton Reese, all from Dinwiddie County. His service has been recognized by DAR and SAR.

After the war, he moved to Hancock County, Georgia in 1792, where new lands were being opened for settlement. He held several local offices before being elected to the Georgia House of Representatives, serving two terms, 1800–1802 and 1804–1806. He was elected as a Republican to the 12th, 13th and 14th United States Congresses, serving from March 4, 1811, until March 3, 1817. He retired to private life after leaving Congress. Hall moved to Alabama in 1818. He developed a cotton plantation near Montgomery, Alabama. He was the chairman of the reception committee to welcome Revolutionary war hero General Lafayette on his tour of the United States in 1824–1825. Hall died in 1836 on his plantation, Ellerslie, in Autauga (now Elmore) County, Alabama. The home at Ellerslie still stands, and both the house and the Hall Family Cemetery are included on Alabama's Register of Landmarks and Heritage.

The General John Archer Elmore Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors ism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our country. In conjunction with the upcoming 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, we honor soldiers of the American Revolution buried in the River Region of Central Alabama.

The Sons of the American Revolution is a lineage based organization composed of members who are male descendants of people who served in the American Revolutionary War or who contributed to establishing the independence of the United States.

Gen. John Archer Elmore SAR Chapter

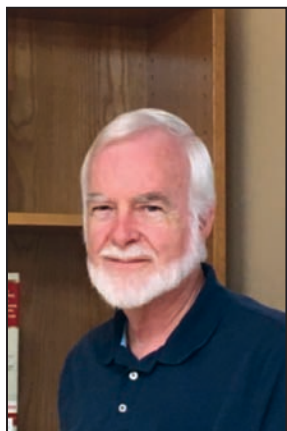
Honors Revolutionary War

Soldier Bolling Hall

The Gen. John Archer Elmore Chapter was formed in 2007 to serve the River Region of Autauga, Elmore and Montgomery Counties, as well as surrounding counties. Our chapter meets the second Tuesday of each month at The Fantail Restaurant in Millbrook from 6 – 8 pm. Any male who is a lineal descendent of an ancestor who supported the war for American Independence is eligible for membership in the Sons of the American Revolution. If you are interested in joining the Sons of the American Revolution, please contact our Registrar Earl Gillian, Jr. at pbpossum99@aol.com .



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John Taylor

in Southern households typically “considered themselves a part of an extended family...sharing both familial affection and the labor which was essential to flourishing.” Of course, modern know nothings would disagree.

After the South failed to gain its independence, the occupation forces initiated many changes. They intentionally drove wedges within Southern society—often for their own ill-gotten gains. Conversely, most places in the North had distinct factions and “ethnic neighborhoods” virtually from day one.

Corporate media references the “Jim Crow South” but conveniently fails to mention the root of this verbiage. The original “Jim Crow,” Thomas Dartmouth Rice, was a White man born in Manhattan, New York, in 1808. Trained as a woodcarver, Rice became an entertainer, specializing in “blackface.” Describing himself as the “Original Jim Crow,” Rice “performed in a short-waisted blue coat, threadbare gold pants and mismatched shoes, singing, ‘Eb’ry time I wheel about I jump Jim Crow.’” Newspaper editors and letter writers picked up the phrase, routinely accusing politicians of “jumping Jim Crow” for giving up a principle too easily or abandoning their party’s cause.” Rice was extremely popular in the North. New York City was, “one of many of places in the North where working-class whites could see blackface minstrelsy, which was quickly becoming a dominant form of theater and a leading source for popular music in the United States.” (Nat Geo.) Rice’s popularity took him all the way to England. Concurrently, “Jim Crow” seeped into the American vernacular.

Rice was very popular in Massachusetts, with a Black population of perhaps one percent. In that State, we can see classic examples of Jim Crow. For example, in the summer of 1838 the Eastern Rail Road began operations. A large number of individuals boarded three trains in Boston and journeyed 13½ miles to Salem. At day’s end, Eastern’s President, George Peabody, lauded the railroad as a leader in social change, equal rights, and unification. “The next day, though, when Peabody’s railroad officially threw open its doors to the paying public, the ‘standard of Equal Rights’ was nowhere in sight. Instead, the Eastern’s white and black passengers found separate cars awaiting them.” The “Jim Crow Car” was born in the railroad industry.

In 1841, Black abolitionist David Ruggles arrived in Massachusetts for strategic sessions. “Ruggles boarded the steamboat Telegraph in New Bedford’s harbor, bound for Nantucket and a meeting of abolitionists there.” Ruggles discovered there were two fares: The \$2.00 ticket allowed passengers to roam the ship whereas the \$1.50 ticket confined passengers to the “cheap seats on the forward deck.” Ruggles paid the higher fare but the captain rejected it. This led to a fight in which Ruggles lost his hat and relevant papers and he never made it to Nantucket for the meeting.

The Northern Origins of

Jim Crow

The late Paul Harvey famously said: “Now, for the rest of the story.” “Jim Crow” is a classic example of an incomplete story. Establishment media incessantly blames the South for everything considered “historically bad.” Some modern TV shows and movies will make a sane person want to heave. In reality, when all racial and ethnic groups were in close proximity, segregation was essentially a non-issue in the Old South. Segregation was actually born in the North. Jack Trotter contends that everyone

Weeks later, also on the New Bedford & Taunton railway’s service to Boston, Ruggles again bought the \$2.00 ticket and entered the Whites-only car. The New Bedford & Taunton was one of three Massachusetts railroads that used the system of separate cars. The conductor summoned reinforcements to eject Ruggles, who again fought to defend himself. His baggage went on to Boston but Ruggles went to New Bedford to file a formal assault claim against the railroad.

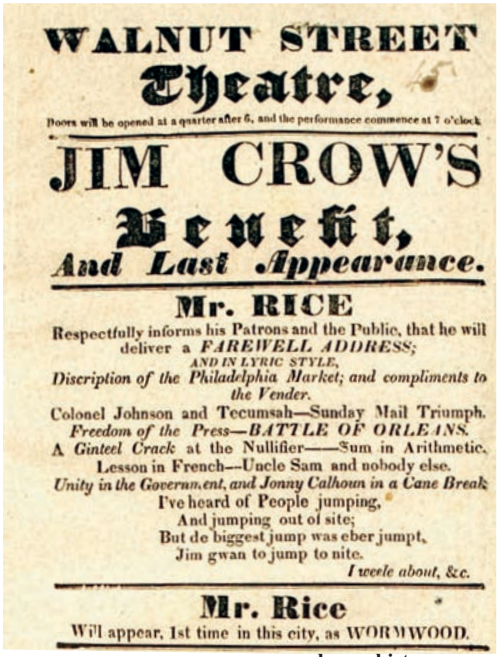
“At a two-day trial before New Bedford police judge Henry H. Crapo, the railroad president testified that the company’s rule benefited everyone because it “separated the drunken, dirty, ragged and colored people from the others.” Crapo contended, “The railroad was entitled,...to make and enforce whatever rules it deemed necessary...The cars are the property of the stockholders, and as such are private property.” Ruggles called the trial “the greatest farce I ever witnessed.”

Another incident involved Frederick Douglas and a White abolitionist named John Collins as they sought to travel together on the Eastern Railroad. Again, a scuffle and ejection ensued, with Douglas proclaiming, “In dragging me out, on this occasion, it must have cost the company twenty-five or thirty dollars, for I tore up seats and all.” At the next stop, his white companions were forced to leave the train.

Examples of Northern racial animus typically fall outside the approved narrative. After The War to Prevent Southern Independence, racial friction worsened in the South. Much of the animosity arose from the backlash created by outsiders interfering where they had no business.

Sources: “*The Jim Crow Car*,” by Steve Luxenburg, from The Washington Post at: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/magazine/wp/2019/02/20/feature/the-forgotten-northern-pre-civil-war-origins-of-jim-crow/> ; “*The Strange Career of Segregation*,” by Jack Trotter, from the Abbeville Blog, at: <https://www.abbevilleinstitute.org/the-strange-career-of-segregation/>; and “*Who was Jim Crow*,” from National Geographic at: <https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/who-was-jim-crow/>. Quotes other than noted as National Geographic and Jack Trotter came from Luxenburg’s article.

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



SOUTHEASTERN LIVESTOCK EXPOSITION



RODEO

MARCH

15-17

GARRETT COLISEUM · MONTGOMERY, AL



BUY TICKETS:
SLE Rodeo.com



FRIDAY: 7PM
SATURDAY: 1PM
SATURDAY: 7PM
SUNDAY: 2PM





Tips to Stay Sober on St. Patrick's Day

That green time of year is upon us, with many people celebrating and becoming just a little bit Irish. While most of the traditional customs associated with St. Patrick's Day have faded away, it remains a celebratory day of lively music, food, and excessive alcohol consumption.

Most restaurants, bars, and pubs are doing something, whether live music, games, or food and drink specials. No one will deny that large quantities of alcohol are consumed. This can pose a challenge for anyone sober, new to sobriety, or recovering from addiction if they choose to celebrate the day.

Fortunately, there are practical tips you can use to avoid relapse, maintain sobriety, and enjoy yourself if you're celebrating St. Patrick's Day.

Outside of the personal reasons people choose sobriety or recover from addiction, there is a significant societal benefit to sobriety and not drinking on St. Patrick's Day. You are removing all chances of impaired driving. Most people do not set out to drive impaired, but it does not take much for alcohol to impair a person's judgment.

Many of the alcohol-involved vehicle collisions occur because the person felt they were ok to drive. According to Drive Safe Alabama, in 2021, there were 208 deaths in 5,839 crashes with suspected alcohol or drug impairment. The top three most prevalent crash types are restraint not used, speeding, and alcohol or drug use. Unfortunately, on days like St. Patrick's, there is a greater risk of more impaired driving.

While abstaining from alcohol and avoiding relapse may seem challenging, there is some good information you can use.

Remind yourself why you are sober, and don't do it alone. You can still have fun and celebrate but do it with other sober people. Everyone has their reasons why they stopped drinking; remind yourself of those reasons and hold yourself accountable.

Know your triggers; it doesn't matter if you are a recovering addict or have removed alcohol from your life. Be cautious around possible triggers that pose a challenge. Most people in this situation choose to skip the bar and find something fun to do or go to a sober celebration.

Keep a non-alcoholic drink or mocktail in your hand. People will not bother you to ask if you want a drink if you already have something to sip on, like a mocktail. This also leads to planning how to say no. You will encounter social pressure if you go to a bar on St. Patrick's Day. It's unavoidable. It's wise to practice ways to refuse alcohol.

Finally, if all else fails, take a walk outside if you feel overwhelmed. The most straightforward solutions are usually the best. Remove yourself from any situation you know will lead to relapse. This is also why it's essential to be with a sober friend or loved one; there is accountability and someone to lean on.

Marie Garceau has been working in the field of substance use and addiction recovery for over a decade. She works at DRS and primarily focuses on reaching out to the community and spreading awareness.

Marie Garceau

**DON'T
DRINK AND
DRIVE**

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BEYOND THE HORIZON

AIR & SPACE SHOW

★★★ MAXWELL AFB ★★★

APRIL 6 and 7 2024 Montgomery, AL

**Almost Time
for
Maxwell's
Beyond
The
Horizon!**

How about something exciting, entertaining, educational, and family-oriented? Expect it all at Maxwell Air Force Base's "Beyond the Horizon" Air and Space Show on 6 and 7 April. The Air and Space Forces Association Chapter 102 (AFA-102) is proud to help support and spread the words about this tremendous River Region Airshow. Why an Airshow? It's an opportunity for the River Region community to get a "peek behind the gates" and see the great work our nation's defenders are doing in protecting our freedoms. The Air University and 42 Air Base Wing personnel have been working for over a year to plan and execute this two-day family-oriented event.

The April timing makes for perfect springtime weather (we hope). And after all these winter rains, a spring family outing is certainly due – and this one is open and free to the public! Headlining the aerial performances will be the Navy's Blue Angels. The excitement doesn't stop there as you can see vintage aircraft from World War II as well as Soviet MIG-15s put on a demonstration of their capabilities. Special acknowledgments will be made to the Tuskegee Airmen with a flyby of "Redtails" – a P-51 similar to those that the original Tuskegee airmen flew in World War II as well as an F35 from the 187FW "Redtails" at Dannelly field. Civilian aircraft and experimentals will also perform – with aerobatics and maneuvers that you'll call "awesome"! Helicopter demonstration and a parachute teams round out the airborne events. On the ground, you'll see (and can even get close to and even inside of) a huge variety of our nation's frontline aircraft as well as heritage airframes.

Another headliner you should plan to see is the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Expo. It hosts a dizzying variety of displays and hands on experiences including rocketry, robotics, educational booths, flight simulators, virtual reality experiences, STEM experiments, and speakers from government, defense, industry, education, and entertainment. Over 21 EM-oriented organizations will be on hand. Spoiler alert, one of them is from the Talladega Speedway!

If you happen by the Maxwell area on Friday, 5 April and see lot of activity, don't fret, you haven't missed a thing. On Friday, the Maxwell Air Show is having a STEM Open House from 8:00 Am to 5:00 PM. Ianners anticipate over 5,000 River Region High School students will attend! The River Region's own AFA-102 Chapter will help support all of these STEM displays and events. AFA-102 Chapter members will help attendees around the various displays and demonstrations. If you are interested in helping the Chapter, join us by calling/texting Scott Key, AFA Chapter 102 President at 334-7176476.

And a day of fun would not be complete without – food! When you get hungry (we all do at airshows), food/drink vendors will be plentiful. As a reminder, a clear bag policy will get you through the base access points. Gates open at 8:00 AM with the daily opening ceremony starting about 10:30 AM. Aerial demonstrations begin about 11:00 AM and the displays will be open until 4:30 PM.

Looking forward to seeing you in April!

By : Dr. Stefan Eisen Jr., Col (ret) USAF

God Bless The USA

Honoring Our Heroes



National Vietnam War Veterans Day: March 29, 2024

National Vietnam War Veterans Day will be observed at a ceremony at the Montgomery, AL, Vietnam Veterans' Memorial near the Harrison Road entrance at Greenwood Cemetery at 10:00 a.m. on March 29, 2024. This ceremony will provide a way to thank and honor our nation's Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice. The Vietnam War Commemoration honors Armed Forces personnel with active duty service between Nov. 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location of service which includes:

- *Nine million Americans serving during that time*
- *6.4 million Americans living today*
- *2.7 million U.S. service members who served in Vietnam*
- *58,000 whose names are memorialized on a black granite wall in our Nation's capital*
- *304,000 who were wounded*
- *1,253 Missing in Action (MIA) heroes who have not yet returned to American soil*
- *2,500 Prisoners of War (POWs)*

For Veterans with a Facebook account, they can download a frame to place a picture and show their pride for serving. The frame shows the Vietnam War Veterans Day pin and the text "Proud Vietnam War Veteran." For anyone who wants to show appreciation for Vietnam War Veterans, an additional frame can be downloaded. The frame shows the Vietnam War Commemoration logo and the text "I support Vietnam War Veterans." The VA will also release two short videos on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. They will host an online commemoration March 29 with a live webcast and messages of thanks on Facebook. Record a short video and upload it by Friday, March 26 and then watch the event online on March 29 at 1:00 p.m. ET. Veterans can also leave a written message.



GONE BUT.....



NEVER FORGOTTEN



Private First Class
William Lee Struthers

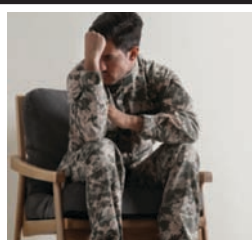


Lt. Col Lee
Forbes Aldridge

Hope you enjoy reading the Gazette as much as these guys.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Norma Lynn Lundy	March 4th	John Michael Jeffries	March 20th
Larry Patrick Cornwell	March 17th	Margaret Leah Compton	March 29th
Tamara McClendon	March 18th	Gerald May	March 29th



**YOU ARE
NEVER
ALONE...**

*Always Remember the
Men and Women who have
served our great nation and
the sacrifices they made.*

Veterans Crisis Line

DIAL 988 then PRESS 1
www.veteranscrisisline.net

In Memory



Lt. Col Melvin G. Cooper
*served during WWII and
the Korean War.
He passed away
February 28, 2024.*



Staff Sergeant Preston Frazier Jr.: Age 67



Staff Sergeant (SSgt) Preston Frazer Jr. served 17 years in the U.S. Air Force. His Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) was fuel specialist in which he sampled the fuel for everything requiring fuel at an Air Force base. He also worked in electrical maintenance of flight simulators and counter measures. He received the following medals, awards, citations and decorations: Air Force Commendation Medal and Good Conduct Medal.

SSgt Frazier was born October 8, 1956 to his parents, Preston Frazier and Aldonia Edwards, at Alton, IL. He was one of 14 children. As a youth, he had the nickname of "Buster". He dropped out of high school when he was in the 10th grade and worked at fast food restaurants. He learned to play the piano at his church which led to a successful career in musical performance. He started playing the piano at the First Metropolitan Methodist Church at Alton, IL. He has the gift of being able to play by ear. His first time to be paid to play the organ and lead the choir full time was at the Pentecostal Church of God at St. Louis, MO, for two years. Next, he played at the Church of the Living God at Kansas City, MO, for three months. He worked for a brief time at fast food restaurants at Champaign, IL., and while there he earned his GED.

SSgt Frazer volunteered to serve in the U.S. Air Force at Chicago, IL, in September 1978. He completed Boot Camp at Lackland Air Force Base (AFB), TX. His first assignment was at Chanute AFB, IL, where he completed eight weeks at a technical school where he learned to be a fuel specialist. He was then assigned to serve at Little Rock AFB, AR, working with maintenance of the base's fuel stations for four years. He then was transferred to Blytheville AFB, AR, that operated under the Tactical Air Command and Strategic Air Command. There he was trained in electronics on flight simulators. SSgt Frazier was deployed to three Pacific area U.S. Bases namely, (1) Kusan Air Base, Korea for one year, (2) Kadena Air Base

at Okinawa, Japan, the largest U.S. military installation in the Asia-Pacific region and the largest wing in the Air Force for four years and (3) Andersen Air Force Base, Guam for two years. At all three bases, he worked in maintenance of the fuel stations at the bases. SSgt Frazier's final military assignment was at Maxwell AFB, AL, working with the base's fuel maintenance 1994-1996. He retired from military service December 31, 1995.

SSgt Frazer and his wife, Gwendolyn, have been married 43 years, and they have three children and four grandchildren. Since his military retirement, he has worked as a musical vocalist for the past 27 years. He plays a keyboard and sings performing at numerous locations at parties, weddings, conventions assisted living facilities, etc. in AL, FL, GA, IL and other states. He also plays at funerals at Carter Funeral Home at Union Spring, AL, and at funerals for veterans at the National Cemeteries at Montevallo, AL, and at Ft. Mitchell at Phenix City, AL. He has been the Minister of Music at Bethel Baptist Church at Tuskegee, AL, for the past nine years. He also has a job cleaning swimming pools. Whenever he has time that he is not engaged in his musical performances, he enjoys flying drones and riding an electric bicycle.



SSgt Frazier's conclusions about his military service are: "It meant pride of being able to serve my country, the pride of job security to support my family and the opportunity to see other places in the world how people live in other places. It gave me an opportunity to be stationed some place else every four years. I was able to play music of different denominations at chapels at each place that I was stationed." He would like people to remember him as a joyful and giving person.



Tech Sergeant Willie James Rogers: Age: 72



Tech Sergeant (TSgt) Willie James Rogers served 20 years in the U.S Air Force. His Air Force Service Code (AFSC) was: (1) Disaster Preparedness for 14 years and five months and (2) Fire Protection Specialist for five years and seven months. He received the following medals, awards, decorations, and ribbons: Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Good Conduct Medal with one silver oak leaf cluster, National Defense Service Medal with one bronze star, Humanitarian Service Medal, Air Force Overseas Ribbon for Long Tour with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Longevity Service Award ribbon with four oak

leaf clusters, NCO Professional Military Education Graduate ribbon, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship ribbon and Air Force Training ribbon.

TSgt Rogers was born to his parents, Johnnie and Ione Rogers in Shreveport, LA, October 29, 1951. During high school, he played on the baseball team and the trombone in the school's band graduating in 1970. He attended Southern University for one year and then volunteered to serve in the U.S. Air Force.

TSgt Rogers enlisted January 31, 1972, and he completed five weeks of Basic Training at Lackland Air Force Base (AFB) TX. His first assignment was at Chanute AFB, IL, for nine weeks of firefighting training. He returned to Lackland AFB, TX, and served as a fire fighter there for two years 1972-1974. He reassigned for three years 1974-1977 to Rhein-Main Air Base, Germany, a Military Airlift Command (MAC) and United States Air Forces in Europe (USAFE) installation. He was reassigned back to Lackland AFB, TX, for four months. He then cross trained into Disaster Preparedness and spent six weeks in technical school at Lowry AFB, CO. He began working in disaster preparedness serving at Reese AFB, TX, 1977-1980. His second overseas tour was at Lajes Field, Azores 1980-1983. He returned to the USA and served at Homestead AFB, FL in 1983-1986. His second tour to Rhein-Main Air Base, Germany was in 1986-1990. His final assignment was at Castle AFB, CA, 1990-

1992 where he retired from military service January 31, 1992.

After his military retirement, TSgt Rogers worked in 1992-1994 as a civilian at Castle AFB, CA, working as an environmental technician with the Base Realignment and Closure Agency (BRAC) determining if there were any hazardous materials left at the base that was closing. After his wife was reassigned to Maxwell AFB, AL, Mr. Rogers then worked as an instructor at Maxwell AFB, AL, at the Air University's Commanders Professional Development School teaching disaster and emergency response from 1997-2015 and then retired from all employment. While working as a civilian in CA and AL, he used the GI Bill and received an Associate Degree in Hazardous Material Technology from Merced Jr. College in 1993, and he received a B.A. Degree in Human Resource Management from Faulkner University in 1998.



TSgt Rogers and his wife, Sherrie, have been married 41 years, and they have four children, 11 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. They met when both were serving in the Air Force Lajes Field the Azores. Mrs. Rogers also served 20 years in the U.S. Air Force and retired at the rank of Technical Sergeant. They are members of the First Missionary Baptist Church at Prattville, AL, where he serves as a Deacon. He is presently serving as the Jr. Vice Commander of the Department of Alabama American Legion, and Mrs. Rogers is currently serving as the 32nd District Executive Commander Representative..

TSgt Rogers' conclusions about his military service are: "It meant that I had an opportunity to learn to excel and prepared me for future civilian employment. It allowed me to travel to foreign countries, see and enjoy different lifestyles which I enjoyed while I was there, but I was always ready to come home." He would like to be remembered as being trustworthy, dependable and a man of integrity.



Master Sergeant Waldo Allison Spencer III: Age 90



Master Sergeant Waldo Allison Spencer III (MSgt) served 20 years in the U.S. Air Force. His Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) was Flight Facilities Equipment Technician for a major portion of his career. His military service included three temporary assignments in Vietnam. He received the following medals, citations, awards, and decorations: Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Bronze Star, Vietnam Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award and Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

MSgt Spencer was born in Billerica, MA, December 12, 1933 to his parents, Waldo and Ruth Spencer. He was reared at Lowell, MA.

He played basketball and baseball during high school and graduated from Lowell Trade High School in 1952.

MSgt Spencer's military career began when he volunteered to serve in the U.S. Air Force July 29, 1952. He completed boot camp at Sampson AFB in upstate New York. Upon completion of boot camp, he attended and completed Radio Operator's school at Keesler AFB in Biloxi, MS. His first duty station was at Alexandria Airport in LA where he was assigned to Aircraft Control & Warning Squadron (ACW). From there, he transferred to Otis AFB, MA. to another AC&W Squadron. MSgt Spencer's initial overseas assignment was to a remote AC&W Squadron on Mishima Island in the Sea of Japan. During this time the Korean War Armistice was signed. Following two years at Mishima, he reenlisted for six years.

He attended more training at Keesler AFB for a change in AFSC. His new career field was as a Ground Control Approach Radar Repairman. He served at bases located in Knoxville and Nashville, TN, before returning again to Keesler AFB for additional training in a new AFSC, Navigational Aids Technician. He returned to Japan for his second overseas tour. His unit of assignment was the 1st Mobile Communications Group which was a tenant unit at Johnson Air Base near Tokyo. A mobile communications group provides flight services and navigational aids on a temporary basis.

The day-to-day mission of a mobile communications group is the maintenance of staff and equipment for deployment. From there, he experienced several TDY assignments to Taiwan in support of nationalist Chinese Air Force units and a TDY to the Philippines and his first TDY to Vietnam in 1960. This TDY was in support of SEATO exercises involving several member nations. After completion of this second two-year tour in Japan, MSgt Spencer returned to the USA to Pope AFB, Fayetteville, North Carolina.

In late 1962, he was sent to Alaska serving a remote tour of 13 months split between Bethel, Alaska, and Northway, Alaska, and serving with one or two fellow airmen in the maintenance of navigational aids equipment. Bethel is in

the remote western part of Alaska and Northway is in the extreme eastern part of Alaska.

Following the assignment in Alaska, he was assigned to the 4th Mobile Communications Group at Hunter AFB, Savannah, GA. In early 1965, he served his second TDY to Vietnam to Ban Ma Thuot in the central highlands, home of the indigenous Montagnards. Upon returning to the CONUS, he attended Senior NCO Academy at Orlando, FL. In 1966 his unit, the 4th Mobile Communications Group, moved to Altus AFB in Oklahoma, and MSgt Spencer married his wife, Betty. Following almost another year of training at Keesler AFB, he was assigned again to the 1st Mobile Communications Group which had been moved to Clark AFB in the Philippines to be closer to Vietnam. Before his two year tour ended, he completed his third TDY assignment in Vietnam. This assignment to Khe Sanh was recognized with a USAF Commendation Medal and recognition by the Vietnamese Government.

Upon return to the CONUS, he was assigned Commander of a LORAN site in Biloxi, MS. This site along with other sites was testing the capabilities of the long range navigational aids maintained at the site. MSgt Spencer served in this capacity until his retirement in August 1972.

After retiring from the military, MSgt Spencer used the G.I. Bill to achieve a B.S. Degree in Political Science from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1973 and also a Masters Degree in Public Administration from the University of Alabama in 1974. Following graduation, he worked as Personnel Director for the AL Dept. Of Human Resources for 23 years retiring in 1998

MSgt Spencer and his wife, Betty, have been married 57 years, and they have two children and two grandchildren. They are members of Aldersgate Methodist Church where both have served in many voluntary capacities over the years. They have enjoyed camping in their RV and going on several chartered bus trips visiting beautiful and historic sites in the USA.

They served with the Meals on Wheels program for more than 20 years. MSgt Spencer also served as a volunteer with the Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) with the Montgomery Police Dept. for 15 years.

He has enjoyed playing golf as well as tennis. He attended several Senior Olympics games participating in 10 mile biking time trials, three mile running and tennis. He is a member of the American Legion.



MSgt Spencer's reflections upon what serving in the U.S. military meant to him are: "My father instilled in me the idea of service to country. He served six years in the Marines in WWI and two years in the Navy at the end of WWII. It impacted whom I became as a citizen and as a human being."

VFW Sponsors Montgomery County AL Spelling Bee

The 2024 Montgomery County Spelling Bee was hosted Monday, February 12th at 10:00 a.m. in the Performing Arts Building on the campus of Saint James School. Montgomery County public, private, and parochial schools and those home-schooled through the 8th grade were eligible to enter the contest.

Montgomery County schools participated. For the 66th consecutive year, the Montgomery County Bee was sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States - Smith-Wynn Post 96 in Montgomery Alabama, which awards a prize of \$300 to the County winner. The second-place prize was \$200, and the third-place prize was \$100.

The Judges were:

(1) Joe Crowley – Retired Professor of English, Auburn Montgomery (2) Bill Chivallette – Post Adjutant, VFW Smith-Wynn Post 96 (3) Jerry Taff – Retired insurance agent and substitute teacher at various schools. The Pronouncer was Vicki Petters, Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School.



Winners were: 1) First Place: Justin Lee of Holy Spirit Elementary School who has won the Montgomery County Bee for the third straight year; (2) Second Place: Lynn Kim of Forest Avenue Elementary School; (3) Third Place: Frida Barrios of Baldwin Arts and Academic Magnet School. The winning words for the final round were "cathode" and "bonsai." The Montgomery County winner will participate in the State Spelling Bee in March with the chance to represent the State of Alabama in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington DC.



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**SOCIAL SECURITY CARDS
ARE SAFER AT HOME**

SLAM THE SCAM: HOW TO SPOT GOVERNMENT IMPOSTERS

Do you know how to spot a government imposter scam? We continue to raise public awareness about Social Security-related and other government imposter scams during the fifth annual “Slam the Scam” Day on March 7, 2024. Knowing how to identify potential scammers will help safeguard your personal information.

There are common elements to many scams. Scammers often take advantage of fears and threaten you with arrest or legal action. Scammers also pretend to be Social Security or other government employees and claim there’s a problem with your Social Security number (SSN) or your benefits. They may even claim your SSN is linked to a crime.

When you suspect you’ve been contacted by a scammer:

- Hang up right away or ignore the message.
- Never provide personal information, money, or gift cards.
- Report the scam immediately to our Office of the Inspector General (OIG) at oig.ssa.gov/scam-awareness/report-the-scam.

If you owe money to Social Security, we’ll mail you a letter with payment options and appeal information. We only accept payments electronically through Pay.gov, Online Bill Pay, or by check or money order.

We will never:

- Threaten you with arrest or legal action because you don’t agree to pay us money immediately.
- Promise a benefit increase in exchange for money.
- Ask you to send us gift cards, prepaid debit cards, wire transfers, internet currency, cryptocurrency, or cash through the U.S. mail.

Scammers continue to evolve and find new ways to steal your money and personal information. Please stay vigilant and help raise awareness about Social Security-related and other government imposter scams. For more information, please visit www.ssa.gov/scam.

Tell your friends and family about government imposter scams. Let them know they don’t have to be embarrassed to report if they shared personal financial information or suffered a financial loss. The important thing is to report the scam right away. Together, we can “Slam the Scam!”

MAKING THE MOST OF AMERICA SAVES WEEK 2024

America Saves Week, which runs from April 8 to 12 this year, is an excellent opportunity for organizations to promote good financial habits and for people to assess their own saving status. This year’s theme is “*Saving for What Matters Most*.”

Planning and saving are key to a successful retirement. The earlier you start saving for retirement, the better off you will be. People with a plan are twice as likely to save successfully. Set a goal, make a plan, and save automatically. During America Saves Week, we encourage you to pledge to start saving – or save more. For suggestions, check out americasavesweek.org.

Also, please visit our website for more useful information on ways to help you plan for your retirement at www.ssa.gov/retirement.

You are never too young to begin saving. Younger workers may think they have time to put off saving for their future, but the sooner they begin, the more their money can grow. Visit and share our website for young workers at www.ssa.gov/people/earlycareer where they will find resources that can help them secure today and tomorrow.

For more information on America Saves Week, visit americasavesweek.org.



Register your team today at
chamber@tallasseechamber.com or call 334-283-5151.

**Tallassee Chamber of Commerce
Annual Golf Tournament**

at **Wynlakes Country Club**
Monday, March 25, 2024

Registration at 10:30
Tee Time at 12:30

Prize for 1st place team score
Prize for 1st place team handicapped score

Hole-in-One Prizes!
Door Prizes, Closest to the Pin,
Longest Drive and Putting Contest!
Lunch and snacks provided Enter
your team today!!!

Come Join us on **March 25, 2024** for a fun day of lunch and golf and a chance to win bragging rights and Cash

Tallassee
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

TALLASSEE
AUTOMOTIVE

Jeep Ford Dodge

SOCIAL SECURITY CELEBRATES WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

March is Women’s History Month — a time to focus not just on the past, but also on the challenges women continue to face in the 21st century. At Social Security, we provide vital benefits and financial protection for women.

Nearly 55% of people receiving Social Security benefits are women. Today, more women work, pay Social Security taxes, and earn credit toward monthly retirement income than at any other time in our nation’s history.

Women have longer average life expectancies and tend to live more years in retirement than men. This means women have a greater chance of exhausting other sources of income while their Social Security benefit continues for life. It’s important for women to plan early and wisely for retirement.

Our online booklet, Social Security: What Every Woman Should Know at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10127.pdf, provides detailed information about how life events can affect a woman’s Social Security retirement benefits. These events may include marriage, death of a spouse, divorce, self-employment, and other life or career changes.

A worker’s earnings history will determine their future benefits, so we encourage all workers to verify that the information in their record is correct. You can create a personal **my Social Security** account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount to review your full earnings history. You can also view your Social Security Statement using your personal account to get estimates of future benefits and other important planning information.

If you find an error in your earnings record, it is important to get it corrected so you receive the benefits you earned. Our publication, How to Correct Your Social Security Earnings Record at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10081.pdf, provides you with details on how to make a correction.

Learn more about how Social Security benefits women at www.ssa.gov/people/women. Please share this information with your loved ones.

HOW WE PROTECT YOU FROM MISLEADING ADVERTISING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Social Security works with the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) to protect you from scams that use Social Security as bait. **Section 1140 of the Social Security Act** allows OIG to impose severe penalties against anyone who engages in misleading Social Security-related advertising or imposter communications.

For example, the OIG may impose a penalty against anyone who:

- Mails misleading solicitations that appear to be from or authorized by Social Security.
- Operates an imposter website or social media account designed to look like it belongs to or is authorized by Social Security.
- Sends emails or text messages or makes telephone calls claiming to be from Social Security.
- Sells Social Security’s free forms, applications, and publications without our written approval.
- Charges a fee for a service that Social Security provides free of charge without providing a clearly visible notice that Social Security provides the service for free.

If you receive a suspicious Social Security-related advertisement or imposter communication, please let us know immediately. We encourage you to report potential scams to the OIG at oig.ssa.gov. You can also send an email to OIG.1140@ssa.gov.

Please try to capture as much information about the communication as you can. Here’s what you can do:

- For suspicious websites or social media accounts, take a screenshot of the webpage. Note the website address or social media link – and how you came across it.
- For emails and text messages, capture the entire message and any message links.
- For U.S. mail, retain the complete communication, including the outside envelope and all inserts.
- For telephone calls, note the caller identification phone number and any company name or callback number that the caller or recorded message provides.

This information will help OIG locate the source of the suspicious communication. You can review Section 1140 at www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title11/1140.htm. You can also check out our publication, What You Need to Know About Misleading Advertising, at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10005.pdf. Please share this information with friends and family and help us spread the word on social media!



**Meals on Wheels
Montgomery Alabama
Metro Area**

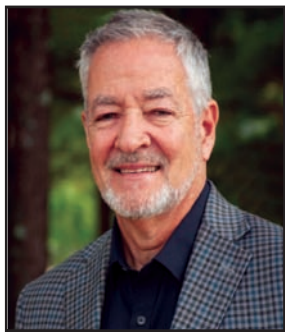
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Sailors have often used this phrase as toast or a nautical blessing for many years. Some say it originated in the Hawaiian Islands as a wish for safe travels on the sea and still others say it came from a poem or literary work. Either way, we know it came from sailors or people very familiar with voyaging upon the oceans. I do know this nautical phrase is often used in the US Navy.

“**Fair Winds**” is a nautical blessing or a prayer for good weather with the winds blowing your sails in the directions you wish to go. It is a wish for soft but steady winds which will take you safely to your desired destination. The American Regional English Dictionary defines “Fair Winds” as “safe journey; good fortune.” Fair Winds can also mean “farewell, God speed.”

My wife and I love to sail and our favorite place to sail is in the US and British Virgin Islands with their amazing and world famous trade winds. We have chartered monohulls and catamarans there over the years, and we sail them ourselves. We are the captain and crew. Although, my wife and I often have discussions about who is the captain and who is the crew. LOL. But, it is exciting and beautiful, fun yet challenging, relaxing and quiet. There is nothing quite like the wind filling up a huge sail and carrying you across the water to some beautiful island destination. The phrase fair winds conjures up images and memories of the strong but steady trade winds of the Virgin Islands powering our yacht in a direction we want to travel to a place we want to be.

“**Following Seas**” refers to a wave direction that is similar to the heading of a ship or vessel that is underway. The word sea refers to the open waters of the ocean. In the strict seamen’s terms, a following sea has a direction of propagation between 15 degrees either side of the vessel and a wave speed that does not exceed the velocity of the vessel. In other words, the waves or sea currents are moving in the same direction as the vessel at just the right speed so that the ship or boat is moving steadily, comfortably and safely forward with the waves and wind. A following sea makes for smooth sailing as opposed to an “overtaking sea” or a “quartering sea” which can make for a very rough and bumpy rides.

The term “Following Seas” makes me think of the fun times we have had sailing with the waves which were moving in our desired direction. It is amazing how smooth and how fast you can run with the waves and currents flowing with you coupled with the wind at your back. You can sail great distances quickly and safely with fair winds and following seas.

But you cannot fully appreciate this nautical blessing of fair winds and following seas unless you have sailed in stormy or dangerous winds with

Soul Searching...

Fair Winds and Following Seas



large white capping waves coming at you from every direction. When that happens, it makes for a very uncomfortable and precarious sailing adventure. On our honeymoon 36 years ago, we chartered a 27 foot Catalina from the Bitterend Yacht Club on Virgin Gorda in the British Virgin Islands. I remember us sailing all around the BVI and having such great fun on those sunny Summer days that week.

But one afternoon a bad squall came upon us very quickly. The sky grew dark and the wind began to blow very hard. The wind upset the sea, and it began to roll and the waves swelled larger and larger until whitecaps appeared. It was all we could do to hold the rudder steady as we rode it out. I remember by sweet and trusting wife going below during the worst of the storm and then she reappeared wearing a big orange life jacket as she held one out for me too. I smiled as the rain hit my face and said “you aren’t thinking of abandoning ship are you?” I tried to play it cool so I didn’t tell her how scared I was and how relieved I was when the squall was over.

So, when I hear the nautical blessing, “Fair Winds and Following Seas”, as an amateur sailor, I have a deep appreciation for what it means. And I am thankful for the blessing. As you journey from this point forward into your next season in the voyage of life, I ask this blessing over you and your family: Fair Winds and Following Seas. May the Lord send the winds to blow gently in your direction and may the waves and currents of life carry you to your desired and best destination!

Fair winds and following seas.

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By : Michael J. Brooks

Reflections.....

I was the new pastor still learning my way around when Jim came to see me. He was chair of the budget and finance team. He wished me well, then shared a concern.

“The committee met lately, and we have an issue with the visitor’s envelopes you’re using,” he said. “We believe we shouldn’t ask visitors for money.”

Churches used to welcome visitors and give them a card requesting contact information and sometimes a ribbon to wear. This was before we learned to call them “guests” and since learned most guests don’t want to be singled out. Anyway, the envelopes I found asked for contact information and at the bottom said, “Please use my offering as an expression of my love for Christ.” I thought it was a non-threatening way to tell guests that should they contribute to our ministries, we’d use their money for God’s work.

My predecessor taught the church two things from the contemporary church movement. This was one. The unchurched, he said, believed churches were after their money, so we should make it clear that we expected only the members to support our ministries. And I agree with this to a point. But I don’t have a problem telling non-members we can accept freewill offerings from them and put the money to good use.

I smiled sweetly after Jim’s visit and went about my business, continuing to use the envelopes. Jim came a second time and expressed dismay, so then I looked for something else to use.

We Don’t Want Your Money

Since that time, I heard a mind-blowing story. I met an inmate in a prison Bible study who told me how he had smuggled drugs across the border until he grew careless (note to law enforcement: check the fender wells). He said he was a devout church member during those days and tithed his drug money!

The inmate didn’t tell me if his church was aware of his occupation; I assume not. But what an ethical decision for a church to make, had they been, whether to use the devil’s money for God’s work.

The other contemporary church principle the former pastor taught was dressing down on Sundays. Advocates further argued another excuse the unchurched had was not having “Sunday” clothes. Hence, church leaders began to urge everyone to dress down, including the pastor.

So now we have “pulpit grunge.”

I must admit being “old school,” still wearing a suit on Sundays, though I don’t really care what others wear as long as they’re modest as Scripture requires.

So, my unchurched friends, we don’t do a hard sell for your money, we don’t have a dress code and we won’t single you out.

We really want you to come! -30-

“**Reflections**” is a weekly faith column written by Michael J. Brooks, pastor of the Siluria Baptist Church, Alabaster, Alabama. The church’s website is siluriabaptist.com.



Judge
Peggy Givhan

SOUTHERN GARDENING

Potpourri for MARCH



They say March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. I have also heard that March is a great time to fly a kite. And we have all heard about "beware the Ides of March". However, March to gardeners could be termed the turnaround month, between winter and spring. The weather in the River Region is usually mild, with cooler nights and warm days which indicates the perfect time to start seeds, plant cool weather flowers and bulbs.

Before we just jump out in our gardens with a random selection of plants picked up from wherever, we need to stop, assess and plan. First of all, we want the right plant for the right place. That means to note which plants did well in a certain location and which failed to thrive. Ask yourself why a plant did not live up to its potential. Was it for lack of proper hours of sunlight? Was it for the plant having not enough or too much water? Was it because of weeds? Was it for improper soil pH? Was soil borne fungus the culprit? If there were no problems in these areas, we can go on to the next step. Planning the flower bed gives the gardener a road map to where he has been and gives direction to where he is going. Take a pencil and paper and divide the area into sections, noting the success or failure of the previous season's plantings. If one had completed a plan for the prior season, this would be very helpful. Or sketch out a rough facsimile of last year's plants and their placements. By showing on paper which plants went where, one can save time and money by not over planting an area that had been sown with seed. For instance, one takes note that the cosmos did well, but these seeds were sown by hand the year before. More than likely, the cosmos will reseed, so leave that area blank on the plan in order to keep from over-planting with other seeds or flowers. The same technique would apply to bulbs which die down in the fall and winter. Then, go from there taking note of the successes and failures.

Many gardens have fewer plants at this time, so take the opportunity to get the beds ready to receive any new additions. Clean up sticks and twigs which have cluttered the beds over the winter months and replenish the soil. If you have

any composted leaves, great, just throw this material onto the soil. Garden soil at nurseries and big box outlets can be added now. Although somewhat expensive, this soil would not contain unwanted weed seeds which would contribute to more work later.

PLANT OF THE MONTH--CLEMATIS (ranunculaceae) within the buttercup family

Clematis encompasses a large genus of woody stemmed vines and herbaceous plants, with many being perennial. To be successful at growing and maintaining Clematis, the old saying is that they love their feet in the shade and their heads in the sun. They do well in a partial shade environment with moist soil in our area. I have had several of these flowering plants for many years. They require very little care, but one must be careful not to cut back dead looking stems as the new growth will sprout from these in the spring. I only fertilize once a season, add good soil in late winter, and then wait for the show. The flowers can range from the size of the palm of your hand to tiny clusters of flowers. The color range is enormous from white, pink, red, magenta, blue and purple, I keep my plants in large pots where I have mini trellises for them to climb. It is easy to fall in love with Clematis, so buy now and plant for the spring and fall.

HAPPY GARDENING.

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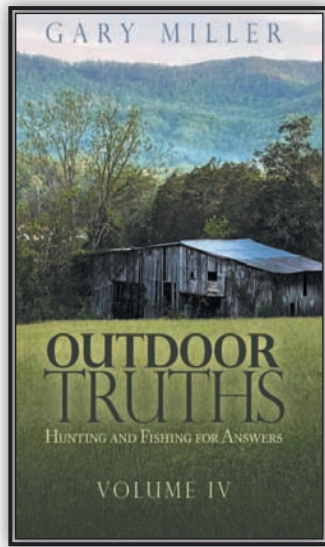


Turkey Season

Gary Miller has written Outdoor Truths articles for 20 years. He has also written five books which include compilations of his articles and a father/son devotional. He also speaks at wild-game dinners and men's events for churches and associations.
gary@outdoortruths.org



Gary Miller



My mind goes to so many outdoor activities this time of year. It's the middle of February so mostly I'm planning for the next couple of months. Not only will turkey season be upon us soon, but some of the best pan fishing is knocking at the door. The walleye run will put fishermen elbow to elbow in the river and the crappie will have boats side by side at the lake.

These two fish are my all-time favorite varieties to eat. And the bonus points my wife gives me when I bring them home are enough to do for the next six months. But fishing and planning for the upcoming turkey season is not the only activities available. Shed hunting is coming into



the best season as well.

These antler sheds not only make for beautiful decorations, but they let us know what bucks made it through the last hunting season. And then there's preparing for the upcoming gardening season, yard work, and just enjoying an occasional

warm and dry day until Spring is back on the calendar. Oh, and I love Springtime! I think most of my friends prefer Fall, but I'm a Spring guy. I think I know why.

You see, to me Fall represents a reprieve before the Winter struggles, but Spring is a sign the difficult days are over, and I made it. I made it through the long nights and the cold days. I made it through claustrophobic rooms and contagious groups. I made it from hours of darkness to hours of light. I made it from the dark emotions of failure, defeat, sickness, rejection, and hopelessness to another chance to make something good grow.

As I write this, I think about some of my friends who need a Springtime in their life right now. They have been in a Winter season for some time, and it has left its marks, both physically and emotionally. They need to know the Winter days are about over and better days are coming. They need a word from God, their prayers are answered. Someone has already prayed for this, this morning. And God just used a simple little article to let them know He heard, and it's true. Your Spring is near.

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Patricia Boyd Killough

Home Town Community News

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Easter Prayer

**Christ is Risen:
The world Below lies desolate
Christ is Risen:
The spirits of evil are fallen
Christ is Risen:
The angels of God are rejoicing
Christ is Risen:
The tombs of the dead are empty
Christ is Risen:
indeed from the dead,
the first of the sleepers.
Glory and power are his forever and ever.**

St. Hippolytus of Rome (170 - 230)

March Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|----|-------------------------|
| 1 | Jean Bennett | 15 | George Handey |
| | Davis Abbott Mason (6th) | | Sandy Stephans Rogers |
| 2 | Amie Dean | 16 | Lisa Gordan Hester |
| 4 | Russ Russell | 18 | William Watters Box |
| 5 | Glen Yost | | George McKinley (77th) |
| 6 | Gayle Bosworth | | Robert Singleton |
| 7 | Laura Lane | | Jacque Takacs |
| | Tony Law | 19 | Keisha Glasscock |
| | Brad Wallace | 20 | Connie Crowe |
| 8 | Frances Ard | 21 | Hannah Yost |
| | Linda Clayton | | Phillip Reeves (73rd) |
| 9 | Courtney Whigham | 22 | Kentston Whigham (11th) |
| 10 | Jane Grubbs | 23 | Brandy Landreau |
| | Paula Lansdon | | Dawn Lane |
| | Cory Smith | | Lallage Neil |
| | Michael Weldon | 24 | Robert Adams |
| 11 | Glenn Harper | 25 | Deborah Cox |
| 13 | Linda Richardson | 26 | Ruby Macon |
| | Samantha Jane Rice (13th) | 27 | Renee Grant |
| 14 | Brian Takacs | 31 | Carlie Corbin |
| | Dana Webster (69th) | | |



March 17 is St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick was a Christian Briton who was born in 389 during the waning days of the Roman occupation of Britain. The pagan Irish had never been conquered by the Romans. By Patrick's time Irish pirates were an increasing menace to the peace of the people of Britain as the last emperors withdrew their troops from the remote province to respond to fifth century threats much closer to Rome. Patricius Magonus Sucatus was the teenage son of a deacon, when in 405 his young life was dramatically impacted by these larger global events. Patrick and some of his friends and neighbors were seized by slave trading Irish pirates. The boy spent six years of his life as a slave tending his master's herds. Alone in the forests and fields of Ireland Patrick's faith and his closeness to God grew. A sea captain reluctantly allowed Patrick to join him on an adventure back to Britain. Along the way, Patrick converted the pagan ship master and his crew to Christianity. They found Christ and Patrick found his true calling. Patrick spent years studying scripture and theology in Gaul/modern France. Pope Celestine I appointed Patrick Bishop after his predecessor was killed by Scots in North Britain. In 432 Bishop Patrick returned to Ireland. The Druid priests were not receptive and actively opposed him. They imprisoned him; but he escaped. Whether by miracles or Patrick's preaching he found a following of converts – even among High King Laeghaneaire's own family. Missionaries from Gaul joined Bishop Patrick. The Church in Ireland continued to grow until by the time of Patrick's death in 461 Ireland had largely converted the whole nation to Christianity. March 17 is his feast day and an important holiday that celebrates both Ireland's conversion and Irish culture.

Brandon Moseley



March Obituaries

- Draffen, William Ray (88).....Feb 3
Favor, Colonel Michael "Mick" USMC (84).....Feb 4
Brenneman, Pamela Sue (72).....Feb 5
Flack, David George (81).....Feb 6
McGregor, Mark C. (49).....Feb 6
Law, Ella "Millie" Amelia (71).....Feb 8
Russell, Stella Simpson Bishop (92).....Feb 8
Tijerina, Nicholoas Reyes (80).....Feb 9
Tobin, Major Maurice Vernon, USAF (84).....Feb 9
Butler, Jr. Steve Byron (64).....Feb 10
Chapman, Sandra Gail Strickland (82).....Feb 10
Miller, Cinda Edwards (78).....Feb 10
McGough, Helen O. Harrell (88).....Feb 11
Sellers, Ethel Dial (90).....Feb 11
Bailey, Emily Henryette Till (97).....Feb 13
Matherly, Karen Ann (64).....Feb 13
Woodham,Faye Joyce (92).....Feb 14
Abott, Peggy Starling (74).....Feb 15
Dunn, Steven Jay (76).....Feb 15
Struthers, Howard Wallace (93).....Feb 15
Richardson, Anne McKinney (90).....Feb 16
Germanos, Kike Coumanis (84).....Feb 17
Howell, Shirley Ann Darby (75).....Feb 17
Hughes, Virginia Suzann (81).....Feb 17
Wingard, Jr. Richard "Tracy" (57).....Feb 17
Johnston, Martha Carol Welch (83).....Feb 18
Sullivan, Jerome "Jerry" Joseph (90).....Feb 18
Gunn, Joel Michael (68).....Feb 19
Persons, Charles Arthur (92).....Feb 19
Brigman, Larry Mitchell (77).....Feb 20
Danziger, III, John Kennedy (51).....Feb 20
Johnson, Marvin Eugene (84).....Feb 20
Stamps, Jean Myrna Harlow (87).....Feb 20
Felder, Gwena "Gwen" Wayne (89).....Feb 21
Guzman, Evangelina (45).....Feb 21
Morgan, Edna Faye (92).....Feb 23
Taunton, James Larry (85).....Feb 24

March Anniversaries



- Frank & Helen Ralph.....March 5th
Bobby & Myra MillsMarch 7th
Jim & Barbara Garrett.....March 7th
Fred & Connie Crowe.....March 9th
Steve & Sonja Campbell (50th).....March 9th
George & Lynn McKinley.....March 18th
Craig & Mindy Trotter (14th).....March 21st
Paul & Cynthia Harper.....March 23rd
Tim & Nichole Sansom.....March 23rd
Elvin & Cam Stanton.....March 26th
Al & Conni Barnett.....March 27th
Mike & Cindy Smith.....March 27th

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By: Amanda Walker

TEARS & LAUGHTER

Don't get cute with me

Granddaughter Lauren recently competed for the title of Future Miss Abbeville Christian at Abbeville Christian Academy where she is enrolled in the Pre-K program. Her mother is a teacher.

She was wearing a lovely dress, sporting her pageant smile, and walking the walk she had practiced walking.

Earlier in the afternoon she'd had her had done by a woman in town. Everybody told her she was pretty.

She stood confident before an auditorium of parents and obligated grandparents and when asked what she intends to be when she grows up, she told the judges without hesitation, "A mermaid."

She won.

They likely knew she had no more of a chance of becoming a mermaid than some of the others who had answered saying they wanted to become actresses, doctors, and lawyers, but...she got cute with them.

I was over at one of my daughter's houses recently. I was holding our latest baby granddaughter, Olivia, in the living room. I could overhear a boardgame of Guess Who that was being played behind me in the dining room by granddaughter Emmelyn and a group of her friends and cousins she had drafted to play too.

I could hear the process of elimination questions being volleyed back and forth – are they wearing glasses? Is he wearing a hat? Does she have on a scarf? Is it a guy or a girl? And with clues collected Emmelyn soon announced that she was ready to guess who.

Only she isn't quite old enough to know how to read yet, and then, she went and got cute. I heard her sweet voice spell it out asking, "Is it J-O-E?"

She won.

There was a picture taken, to hold the moment in time. Grandson William, who is only three, standing silently in front of the bassinet where his baby sister was sleeping. His hands held behind his back as if to say, "I'm not touching." He stands, leaning in slightly, watching over her, both guarding and admiring.

None of us expected him to be so taken with her. He does not have the words yet to express his love, but his expression tells us. No matter who holds her, he wants to come and put his cheek against hers. He is trying to be cute.

His twin brother, Walker, loves his little sister too, but not the way he loves dirt and tractors. The only thing that was keeping his forehead from being planted into the dirt, was the forearm it was resting on.

He had himself eyeball level with the toy John Deer tractor he was pushing. He had no awareness of anyone or anything else going on around him. I think this may be how future farmers get started.

Either that, or this boy is trying to get cute with me. It seems to be becoming a trend.



"Don't Get Cute With Me"

Happy Easter March 31



Fresh Apple Cake Recipe

This recipe comes all the way from my great grandmother. She lived all over the world as a military wife before finally settling in Clovis, New Mexico. She brought back many different recipes, and she loved to be in the kitchen making all types of foods. She is one of my main inspirations when it comes to cooking and baking. This recipe came to her from a dear friend and neighbor in Clovis. This has been a family favorite ever since. I hope everyone enjoys this recipe as much as I do.

-- INGREDIENTS --

- 1 Can of Sliced Apples
- 2 Cups of Sugar
- 2 3/4 Cups of Flour
- 2 Tsp. Vanilla
- 2 Tsp. Baking Soda
- 2 Tsp. Salt
- 2 Tsp. Cinnamon
- 3/4 Cups of Oil -- Crisco
- 2 Eggs
- 3/4 Cups Nuts
- 3/4 Cups of Raisins



PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Mix together all of the dry ingredients add oil and mix add eggs, apples, raisins, and nuts and mix well. Mix with spoon not MIXER Bake in a 13" x 9" Pan at 350 For approximately 45 minutes or until tooth pick comes out clean

By: Riley Willis

Gazette Readers!
Share your favorite recipe with us!
Email your recipe to:
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The Value of a Woman...

Be very careful if you make a woman cry because God counts her tears.

Today's Woman

By:Trisston Wright Burrows
site.trisstonwrightburrows.com

Trisston's Tidbits:

"Finding Balance"

A while back, I was listening to a Podcast and one of the speakers referred to the word "ego" as an acronym. E-G-O....Edging God Out. For me, and maybe for some of you, this is idea or concept is thought provoking, to say the least.

There's a story in Greek mythology about a young man named Narcissus. He was a very handsome young man and he knew it. One day he saw his reflection in a stream and he became enamored with the image of himself. He couldn't pull himself away; he stared into the stream day and night.

As the story goes, he became so trapped in his own ego he eventually turned into the Narcissus flower, rooted at the water's edge.

As believers, we are God's children. The world looks at us to see a reflection of God and to see what God and his children are like. If we are caught up in ourselves, in narcissism, the watching world will see a marred image. It will see a body of Christ which is selfish, cares nothing for anyone else, and doesn't believe its own teachings.

"Pride makes us artificial and humility makes us real." – Thomas Merton
My friends, ego is a fickle thing. On one hand, having a deficient ego can cause someone to wallow in self-doubt and lack confidence. On the

other hand, someone with an inflated sense of self-worth can be seen as an egomaniac and arrogant. It can be particularly challenging for any of us to successfully find balance. Think about it...how can we be in the world, but not of the world?

The apostle Paul serves as an example. His ministry grew and spread rapidly, yet this was his perspective:

"We do not want to boast about work already done in someone else's territory. But, 'Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.' For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends" (2 Corinthians 10:16-18).

Perhaps finding balance is best rooted in seeing ourselves as clothed in God's grace. Colossians 3:12 reminds us, "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." After all, balance is not something you achieve someday; balance is something we should strive for every day.

Many Blessings!

The Value of a Woman...

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Sheriff Chris West

POLICE OFFICERS PRAYER

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

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

AMEN

U. S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

MISSION STATEMENT

Protect the American people, safeguard our borders, and enhance the nation's economic prosperity.

ENDURING MISSION PRIORITIES

Counter Terrorism – Anticipate, detect and disrupt the threat of terrorists, their weapons and actions to protect the people and economy of the United States.

Combat Transnational Crime – Detect, deter and disrupt transnational organized crime that threatens U.S. national and economic security interests at and beyond the border.

Secure the Border – Protect the Homeland through the air, land and maritime environments against illegal entry, illicit activity or other threats to uphold national sovereignty and promote national and economic security.

Facilitate Lawful Trade and Protect Revenue – Enable fair, competitive and compliant trade and enforce U.S. laws to ensure safety, prosperity and economic security for the American people.

Facilitate Lawful Travel – Enhance, enable and transform the travel experience by anticipating, detecting and intercepting threats prior to and at ports of entry.

MYLES MELLOR CROSSWORD

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Myles Mellor is one of the top crossword writers in the world. Published in over 1000 magazines, newspapers and web outlets. Over 20,000 crosswords published worldwide. Visit him at: <http://www.themecrosswords.com/>
Also see his CBS interview at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7emsBZqvohY&t=22s>

Answers on Page 6

Across

- 1. Possessed
- 4. Steal
- 7. Bar order
- 11. "Golden" time
- 12. Teacup handle
- 13. "What ___ is new?"
- 14. Pretense
- 15. Went first
- 17. Period
- 19. Shot spot
- 20. Toothsome
- 22. Unhospitably cold
- 25. Duration
- 28. Aquamarine, for example
- 29. Band
- 30. Consequences
- 32. Stop
- 33. Cross, maybe
- 34. Converse, in slang
- 35. Ignition stone
- 39. Dining prompter
- 43. ___wester
- 44. "Cool!"
- 45. After expenses
- 46. Last O of O-O-O
- 47. Time pieces
- 48. Chipper
- 49. Single

Down

- 1. Multitude
- 2. Playfully roguish
- 3. Facts
- 4. Reiterate
- 5. Propel, in a way
- 6. Took in some air
- 7. Appear
- 8. Antique
- 9. Get to act as a pawn
- 10. Orange color sometimes
- 16. Weep
- 18. Grade
- 21. Fastening, in carpentry
- 22. In a bad way
- 23. Slice the meat
- 24. "Indubitably"
- 25. Car, affectionately
- 26. Whole lot
- 27. Electricity attraction
- 28. It may be mechanical in a bar
- 31. Airline's prime concern
- 33. Welcoming ___
- 34. Spa spigots
- 36. "Out of the frying pan and ___ the fire"
- 37. When shadows are short
- 38. Carbon eater
- 39. Connector
- 40. Green globule
- 41. Be worthwhile
- 42. Not one's cup of ___