



## Must Read! Look Inside!

## Happy 4th of July

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Thanks for all the great contributions you have made to The Alabama Gazette!

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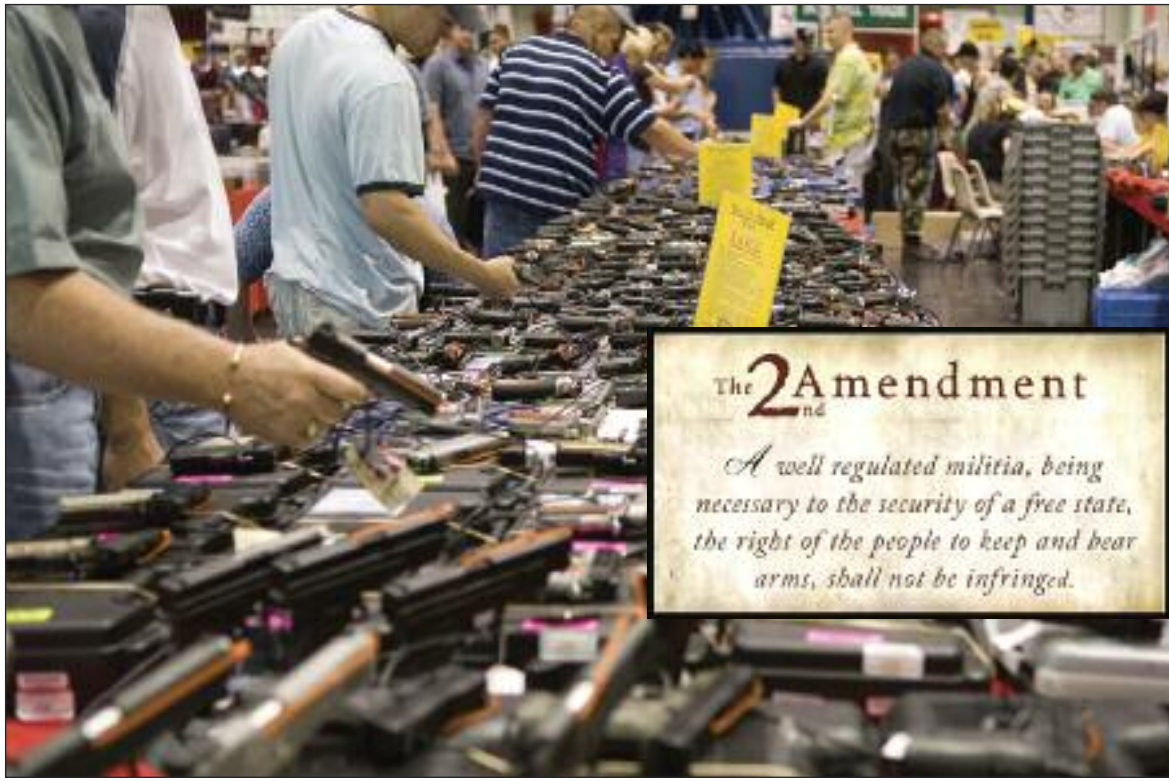


### "Big Boy" Football not for everybody

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## Gun Rights for Americans



### The 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment

A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.



### Robservations THE BLACK HEART OF MEN

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### Why can't guns be removed or something done to prevent this gun violence?

Ronald A. Holtsford

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### WHY IS THE FIRST AMENDMENT THE GREATEST THREAT TO TERRORISM?

Deborah Love, Executive Director Eagle Forum of Alabama

In the wake of the terror attack this weekend in Orlando, our hearts go out to the family and friends who lost their loved ones. Our prayers and thoughts will continue to remain with those injured as well as their family and friends. The facts show that this was an act of terrorism, an act of intolerance and an act of disgusting violence. What should unite all of us all no matter what our perspectives or backgrounds may be is our deep appreciation for freedom, and especially, our love and appreciation for the First Amendment. I believe the First Amendment is the greatest threat to terrorism - not force. The First Amendment protects the right of the Muslim to worship and the right of citizens to criticize the violence that has accompanied Islam. It protects an individual's right to protest the treatment of those in LGBT community or the right of a Conservative to present their perspective on marriage and family. Many are calling for stricter measures on guns, hate crime laws or restrictions on civil liberties as a response to the attack. When emotions run high, there is a natural reaction to act boldly. However, the first hasty suggestions typically are ill-suited to either assuaging the pain at the loss of our fellow Americans, or ensuring that such an incident never happens again.

### Religious Freedom

The First Amendment "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..."

The intention of terrorism is to inflict fear and hate, and push American society away from the diverse and free culture that allows robust dialogue and expression. If we push the government to weaken our freedoms in response to the attack in any regard then we are allowing the terrorist to succeed. Terrorism is never an existential threat by itself, but rather, it relies on an overreaction of the target country to achieve its small minded goals. We have a unique ability as Alabamians and as Americans to disagree with our fellow man but to still love them. Ideas are powerful and so is freedom. Hate will win if we allow fear to rule our policy decisions in response to the terror attack. We must reject the hasty suggestions to the age old problem of evil in our midst, and instead rely on our institutions of free belief, action and expression. It is by and through this, the simple act of acting and thinking and behaving as Americans have when faced with tyranny and hate, that we will destroy the terrorists, their beliefs, their goals and their very ability to function.

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# ROBSERVATIONS...

by Robert Tate

## SCHOOL IS IN SESSION

I am admittedly frustrated as I write this (these) Robservation(s). This first part is something I wrote over 3 years ago in February 2013. It is still relevant and after the Orlando shootings and the new calls for more gun control, I felt compelled to readdress this with an earlier Robservation and follow up with a more current assessment of the gun control debate. As a rule of thumb, I know that you should never write when you are angry. I kinda broke that rule with part 2. I apologize in advance although all references to slack-jawed booger-eating morons, Neanderthals and gutless traitors have been removed. Here goes.

\*\*\*\*\*

Having the opportunity to write for the Alabama Gazette is always fun for me. I like to know that folks are reading my “stuff” whether they agree with it or not. I have always enjoyed pleasant disagreements and the ability to debate issues with people. After I wrote my first column about gun rights two months ago, a reader took issue with what I had written. That is fine and I know nobody will ever agree with everything I, or anybody, has to say. Although I wasn’t going to respond, the more I thought about it, the more I felt compelled to “school” him on reality.

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

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

The purpose of asking these questions is to get the historian to look at any historical event in the context in which it transpired. This is what I plan on doing, very quickly, in regards to gun rights and the reality that the founders did indeed view gun ownership, among other thing, as a necessary precursor to keeping renegade governments in check.

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

When faced with ever increasing taxes imposed by Parliament against the colonies, the Boston Tea Party erupted on 16 December 1773. We had had enough. England responded in 1774 with the Coercive Acts that ended local self-government in Massachusetts and placed it under control of the British Army. This act also closed Boston’s commerce. In September 1774, the First Continental Congress was formed just three months after the first Continental Army was established under George Washington. In April 1775 the Battles of Concord and Lexington took place and a little over a year later, the Declaration of Independence was introduced on 4 July 1776. The war ended in 1783 after the signing of the Treaty of Paris giving the 13 Colonies sovereignty from British rule. Our constitution was adopted on 17 September 1787 by Constitutional Convention and the Bill of Rights – the first ten amendments – was ratified on 15 December 1791.

This is a VERY, VERY brief timeline of the war. The purpose is only to show, according to the nine questions of historical causation, that the American Revolution did not just happen but was the result of many factors, the vast majority of which are not listed here. But as we look at what these men had

## THE BLACK HEART OF MEN (SCHOOL’S IN SESSION Pt.2)

Of course I had to. I had absolutely no choice in the matter. After the killings in Orlando, my government went out of its way once again to show that they are in fact the real JV team on the field of play right now. Literally, and you cannot make this crap up. The 49 bodies of those slain in the nightclub were still on the floor, their cell phones ringing from the calls of loved ones that would never get an answer, and our President was on national television blaming guns and calling for more rounds of gun control. Not that we have too many laws that are unenforced, but these guys want to make even more laws to make people feel good about something they are trying to accomplish. Sickening.

I read a quote the other day, although the author is unknown but the quote is generally attributed to German philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer. It reads, “All truth passes through three stages. First it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as being self-evident.” In the Bible, Acts 2:12-13 echoes a similar sentiment. On the day of Pentecost, the non-believers who were watching the events unfold were amazed at what they saw. The Bible says, “And they all continued in amazement and great perplexity, saying to one another, ‘What does this mean?’ But others were mocking and saying, ‘They are full of sweet wine.’” Yeah, when God moves, people are perplexed, shocked, amazed and then they lash out and mock the message. The truth folks is that most people hate the truth. As Jack Nicholson says in “A Few Good Men,” people “can’t handle the truth.” The truth can be brutal. It can be ugly. It can hurt. But in the words of Winston Churchill, one of the greatest statesmen of the 20th Century, he accurately penned, “The truth is incontrovertible, malice may attack it, ignorance may deride it, but in the end; there it is.” Yup, THERE IT IS! In your face, stuck in your craw, bashing down whatever erroneous thoughts and deluded ideas and values one’s black heart may contain.

This is perhaps the biggest problem this nation faces. To what standard do we hold ourselves accountable? I think we have two unquestioned standards. First, although not for everyone, I get that, but for me the Gold Standard is the Bible. The true, unerring, undefiled and proven Word of God. I know in today’s world, that is a highly unpopular statement and belief but you know what? I – DO – NOT – CARE!! I don’t. I really don’t. It is obvious that those of us who profess the Gospel are despised for it. Jesus told us in Matthew 10:22 that this would be the case. I can live with that. The point of the matter is that we have to have some standard to judge ourselves by and a standard to guide our actions.

recently gone through, we have to get into their mind and ask questions that likely drove their decisions and thought processes. For example, the Third Amendment states, “No soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.” Do you think the British Quartering Act of 1765 had anything to do with this?

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

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

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

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

Having re-read my first column, as expected, the writer of the letter misrepresented what I said. In reality most liberals have to in order to prove their fallacious points or arguments. I never once said “this” or “our” government is corrupt or oppressive. It is clear, however, that the founders of this country, men admittedly a lot smarter than I, considered the consequences of “a” government being oppressive and corrupt. Heck, they just fought and won a war because of exactly that. Perhaps the writer missed the day in school when they taught the freedom cry, “Taxation without representation.” Had the Continental Army not been supplemented in the early days by armed men, their victory cannot be certain. It took armed men, willing to fight a king’s tyranny, to turn the tide and win the war.

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

Without that, as it says in the Proverbs 21:2, “Every man’s way is right in his own eyes.” Without a standard, men’s own ideas and concepts become nothing more than a copy of a copy of a copy of a copy. Watered down and diluted with each successive iteration. You know, people hate truth because they think they know better than God.

So what does this have to do with gun control and the shooting in Orlando? Or maybe even the shootings in San Bernardino and elsewhere? Everything. I cannot believe I have to reiterate this yet again but guns don’t kill people. People kill people. It is the sick, darkened, hate filled morass that clogs men’s hearts that makes us kill as we do. No, it is not guns. Take away guns and people will use whatever is handy. It is an increasingly corrupt society where progressive ideology continues to clog what truth really is. It is a society where 70% of all black kids are born out of wedlock. Kids having kids and not a clue on how to parent. Kids unable to teach their kids truth because it was never taught to them. My hats off to anybody who is able to navigate the minefield filled world they created for themselves and actually teach their kids respect, honor, integrity and the value of education. It is the cretins who find humor in playing sick games like the “knock out game” where they walk up to random people and punch them in the face in an attempt to knock them unconscious. Then they post it on YouTube for everyone to see. No, it is not guns. It is a society that has murdered over 59,000,000 babies since 1973 and yet it is seen as acceptable. It is the idiot kids walking around with their pants hanging down past their butt and exposing themselves to little kids. When told to pull them up, you are called a racist when in fact they have no understanding of what that word really means. You know, if you do not know what the word “racism” is, just shut up. No, it is not guns. It is a government so morally bankrupt and cowardly that they try to outlaw terms like “illegal aliens” because it is a racist term. Uhhh, go back to the previous comment on racism. Renaming them undocumented workers only hides the truth that 1) They are here illegally and 2) They are immigrants. Thus illegal immigrants. A demented government ideology that in time of war, let’s its PoWs go back to the battlefield to fight and kill again. Deal with it. No, the problems we face go way beyond guns, people.

But the sick truth is that our government does not want to address any underlying issues. To them, everything is “smoke and mirrors.” They can’t face the truth because if they do, then their single minded gun control agenda flies out the window; as well it should. We have a callous and ignorant administration that cannot “call a spade a spade.” It is as if the words “radical Islamist” will cause them to melt like the wicked witch in the Wizard of Oz. But by ignoring the truth of what these people are, they are endangering the lives of all Americans.

*Continued on page 5A*

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

# The Education Station...

By *Bobbie Ames*

"They  
Preached  
Liberty"



Years ago, D. James Kennedy sent me a book which he had published through *Coral Ridge Ministries*, by this title. He had made a passionate search of particular sermons preached throughout New England by virtually all the ministers of the period, from the 1700s through the period of the American Revolution and beyond. **They were titled Election Sermons and Artillery Sermons. Of all the sermons preached in those early pulpits, these were the sermons that were printed out and most widely distributed among the American citizens. This one fact should give cause to look carefully at those sermons and discover that Liberty was of utmost importance to those ministers. Liberty was the passion of the citizens, who faced peril from the mother country.**

In early America, Liberty was under fire as it is today. The Puritan clergy have been rightly called "*The Watchmen on the Wall.*" This group of clergy were the most highly educated in the entire community. Most of them had graduated from Harvard and Yale when these institutions were still solidly sound in orthodox Biblical theology. These were remarkable men, not only skilled in Old Testament and Reformation Theology, but in other fields of knowledge, in a broad liberal education. Dr. Kennedy was interested in noting that the American Academy of Arts and Sciences was established primarily by these pastors in 1780.

These pastors' passion about how civil government should be ordered was evident in their sermons. Political subjects and admonitions from the pulpits were deemed most worthy subjects for sermons, and they were delivered in a manner to instruct the voter in insuring Liberty for our young nation.

Yes, of course, there were Tories who strongly objected to the Puritan views, but the ministers had their Biblical response: "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty," and "You shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall make you free."

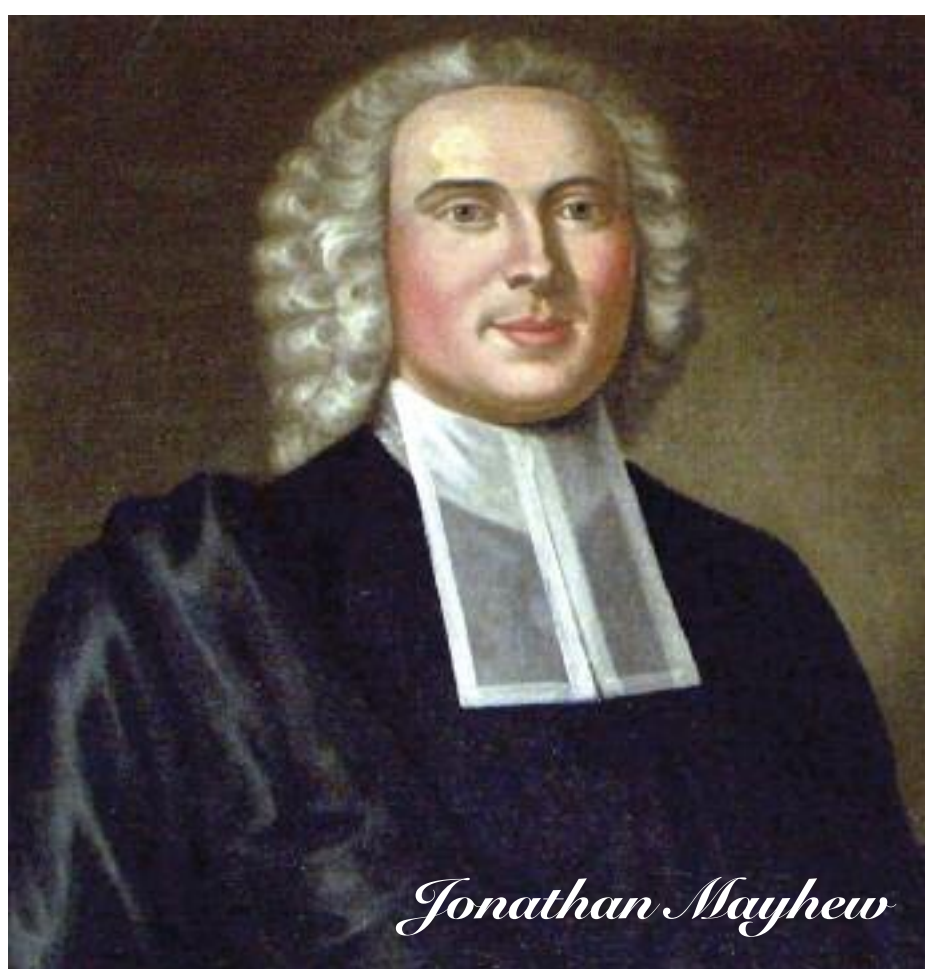
They often referred to Hebrew History, which was held sacred to them. They could relate to the Hebrew children leaving the land of bondage and entering the Promise Land, and of course, to Moses receiving the Law.

By an intense study of the Hebrews, they understood that idolatry had been established in every nation of the world, by the time God raised Moses up as a deliverer of His people. Moral and social evils reigned in those cultures. **There was no constitution, such as we know in America, in any other government in the world.** The Israelites had ceased to worship the One True God.

That One True God used Moses to establish the means of a political religious constitution to insure Liberty, an idea of Providence in the mind of God. He would use the true religion to establish government, and then use the righteous government to protect the true religion. The Jewish lawgiver has given us the means to secure Liberty, which can be achieved in no other way. We can learn from Moses that the worship of the One True God has to be the FIRST Principle of Civil polity. Obviously, Satan's objective is to destroy that idea in our public square.

The Revolutionary pastors did distinguish between natural rights and civil rights. Citizens guarding their "natural" rights, must realize that righteous government, by compact or constitution, guards those rights for every man. God made a compact with Moses, Noah, and Joshua. **We, who elect imperfect men to office, have a duty to limit their power and monitor their performance in office.**

The greatest insight that is to be found in these early sermons is the fact that Liberty is grounded in Scripture. Randall P. Cole, author of the book, *They Preached Liberty*, wrote of the Puritan ministers: "They wished to conserve the best from the past, including Magna Charta, and their own colonial charters. In their opinion, the real radicals were those in the British government who were departing from the laws and traditions of old. The clergy opposed what Samuel Langdon, D. D., President of Harvard College, called the many artifices to stretch the prerogatives of the crown beyond all constitutional bounds."



*Jonathan Mayhew*

Can you understand, that in opposing and resisting tyranny, they were defenders of the ancient liberties? These ministers were defending political and civil liberty, but they were also stressing the religious liberty that is only possible through education built on these ancient Truths. **They were faithful to point out the obligations and the COST of liberty. Our forefathers fought a war to obtain it. My generation fought a war to preserve it. (WWII)**

Before the beginning of the American Revolution, the New England clergy were pleading the cause of the African slaves. In the original draft of the Declaration of Independence, Jefferson denounced the British government for the slave trade, but the colonies of South Carolina and Georgia succeeded in striking this from the Declaration. In reading these sermons, many of them strongly preached against slavery.

## Meet Jonathan Mayhew (1729-1766)

Jonathan Mayhew, this New England minister, was declared to be "*The Father of Civil and Religious Liberty in Massachusetts and America*" by Robert Treat Payne, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Payne was also an Attorney General of the United States at one time. Mayhew, recognized for his convictions, writings, and influence by James Otis, John Adams, and Samuel Adams, all his intimate friends, was also widely read by the patriot statesmen of his day.

Twenty six years before the Declaration was penned, Mayhew proclaimed, "Nothing can well be imagined more directly contrary to common sense than to suppose that millions of people should be subjected to the arbitrary, precarious pleasure of a single man, – who has naturally no superiority over them in point of authority, – so that their estates, and everything that is valuable in life, and even their lives also, shall be absolutely at his disposal, if he happens to be wanton and capricious enough to demand them."

In 1754, Mayhew's Election Sermon included this challenge: **"God forbid that any son of New England should prove such a profane Esau as to sell his birthright! Our ancestors, though not perfect and infallible in all respects, were a religious, brave, and virtuous set of men, whose love of liberty, civil and religious, brought them from their native land into the American deserts. By their generous care it is, under the smiles of a gracious providence, that we now have a goodly heritage."**

In 1750, warning against unlimited submission, Mayhew declared, **"Tyranny brings ignorance and brutality with it. It degrades men from their higher rank into the class of brutes. It dampens their spirits, it suppresses arts; it extinguishes every spark of noble ardor and generosity in the breasts of those enslaved by it; it makes naturally strong and great minds feeble and little, and triumphs over the ruins of virtue and humanity."**

In no other country of World History, has there been a government like ours. In early America, civil and religious liberty were combined in harmony for a season. In Charles Turner's Election Sermon of 1773, he warns the patriots, **"Religious Liberty is so blended with civil, that if one fails, it is not expected that the other will continue."**

In Ebenezer Bridge's Election Sermon of 1767, he declares, **"As to religion and religious privileges, what people in the whole world are so highly favored as our nation? We have the Gospel, the freest use and the fullest enjoyment of it."**

The fundamental principles of the Hebrew and the American Constitutions are prominently republican. **There is great power placed with confidence in the people, assuming they are people of the Judeo-Christian faith. There is a great need for people of faith to read, research, and embrace our Christian History, if Liberty can be preserved in our nation.**

Minister Jonathan Mayhew declared in 1754, **"Rulers derive their power from God, and are ordained to be his ministers for good."** This charge was emphasized in many election sermons over decades by New England ministers to declare admonitions to those elected to office.

**We have an evil force in our nation whose objective is to tear down the law of Moses, which has been the source of our own liberty in America.** This article implores your careful reading, followed by action in the public square to preserve both religious and civil Liberty. Prayer is essential, but becoming informed, is as well. **My prayer is for the ministers to "Proclaim Liberty Throughout the Land" once again.**

*"God never gives men up to be slaves till they lose their national virtue, and abandon themselves to slavery."*

Rev. Richard Salter  
Mansfield, Connecticut, Election Sermons, 1768

*But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.*

James 1:22

*And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children.*

Isaiah 54:13



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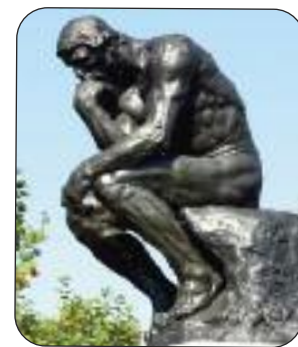
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*The views of this editorial are not the express views of The Alabama Gazette.*

John Sophocleus

# THINK



## Michael Gregory Hubbard: the impenitent thief...



**Romans 2:5-9 [KJV]** *“But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; Who will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil..”*

Former Speaker Hubbard was found guilty on more than half of the felony charges our Lee County grand jury found worthy of pursuing in 2014; charges not levied until **AFTER** the primary election date. Hubbard's massive political power and money bombed the airwaves with negative ads to keep voter turnout down, producing another win with a small fraction of eligible voters participating so Hubbard's big government minions again carry the polls. In my days watching Judge Walker's court, the BCA buffoons (Canary, Hubbard, Riley, et al) appeared in denial of the gravity of their situation. Accomplished thieves and manipulators of this sort tend to be ill equipped to deal with unbiased, righteous reckonings. The jury he faced was indeed a different sample - i.e., more representative of the people than Hubbard's hyper gerrymandered district, low voter turnout skewed result he's so easily manipulated. No straight ticket voting, uncompetitive ballot access laws, BCA big money subsidized ad campaigns, etc. to shield him in this arena.

Our prosecution did an outstanding job of voir dire in limiting Hubbard minions making it to the 'final 15' jurors empanelled. Even the more shamelessly corrupt on Goat Hill like Rep. Peblin Warren, sitting with Susan Hubbard during the jury candidate questioning didn't successfully manipulate the system as they've grown so accustomed to enjoying. Hubbard used and well rewarded this corrupt House Democrat as a member of the Lee County delegation to get things he wanted introduced with less of his fingerprints on the political theft. Warren, along with Gerald Dial in the Senate, top of the list of those who must go if we're serious about continuing to extract destructive weeds impeding the productivity in our State. The amount of resources and talent required to discipline corruption under this terribly uncompetitive political result is a huge tax on our economy and collective Spirit.

The most notable person I met courtwatchin' - after fellow *Alabama Gazette* columnist Steve Flowers of course -- was Alice H. Martin who is Alabama's Chief Deputy Attorney General. Given how intently she watched some of those on the witness stand, it was my impression others are under investigation. Sadly, I suspect the statute of limitations will protect most of the corrupt players we observed testifying. That's the way it usually goes, the high end hookers like Hubbard get convicted as the more deleterious political pimps (e.g., our 'public servants' like Canary and Riley) and johns like 'public servant' Jimmy Rane (associated with felony count 18 conviction) on the AU BoT aren't prosecuted. Hopefully those on the "I Believe in Mike Hubbard" stage, publicly shilling for felon Hubbard are now facing the utmost scrutiny from our AG's office; Congressman Rogers easily tops this list given his 'graftmaster' ties to Hubbard.

It became most clear when Hubbard was on the witness stand his usual 'slick Mike' banter wasn't working. Showing just how great the disconnect with reality was (and apparently still is) taking the stand was his *second* biggest mistake after wasting so much time and money on the usual Mark White type attorney tactics of asserting prosecutorial misconduct, wrongful grand jury empanelment, threatening confidential informants, etc. instead of actually addressing and likely paring down the 23 charges. Perhaps the defense "dream team" genuinely thought the lynch & sighin' Boob show and bizarre Minda Riley 'point of privilege' moment before exiting the witness stand wasn't suffering enough to illustrate Hubbard's detachment - denial 'Ain't Just a River in Egypt' as the saying goes... Rare happenstance to see Jake Walker with a befuddled facade before allowing Minda additional time for 'economic development' campaigning and more love fest diatribes extolling the Hubbard-Riley political crime families instead of addressing issues associated with the felony charges. She 'loved him like a brother' was most notable; like listening to a member of Corleone & Gambino families fawning all over each other with a southern accent.

Hubbard approached the stand with his usual hubris then dove right in bellowing his phony baritone radio voice. At the outset it seemed to connect with most jurors talking about irrelevant things like his Georgia days, Hershel Walker, Bo Jackson, Vince Dooley etc. After several minutes, when oration on how he met wife Susan was over, you could see some jurors losing patience. After about fifty minutes into his ramblings, Hubbard finally spoke on things of substance and jurors returned focus to find little in refute of the charges. If the prosecution had done more to explain the problem of no competitive bidding with Hubbard's failed recusancy from the Party votes on his contracts (even if the best quality at lowest price as asserted) conviction on the first four counts were more likely. The jury also seemed to give a pass when Hubbard got permission (even if not followed) from feckless Ethics Commissioner Jim Sumner, leaving the impression jurors felt Hubbard was simply trying to find the felony line and STILL jumped over it as Mr. Duffy explained, methodically marching through the facts in the prosecution's first salvo of closing arguments.

Given my "*All the Speakers Men*" column [<http://www.alabamagazette.com/story/2015/11/01/news/all-the-speakers-men-and-the-collapse-of-athletics/597.html>] I was most interested in the jury's conviction on felony count **10** which should lead to further investigations and possibly remove more pollutants from Auburn. Most reassuring to see our jury NOT bamboozled by the absurd 'friends' defense in convicting on felony count **18** business transaction with Mr. Rane. Perhaps now is the best time to admit my forecast on a hung jury was wrong. In my defense, the juror I had pegged as a Hubbard minion who'd never be swayed by the evidence was one of the three alternates. Some have been more forgiving of the poor prediction since they only found Hubbard guilty on half of the charges.

In the end, conviction on any one of the 23 felony charges was enough. Now attention turns to sentencing this thoroughly impenitent convicted felon who continues to steam full speed ahead in full hubris he'll be vindicated on appeal. No secret I hold Judge Walker in increasingly high regard after observing him these past decades. I've had to suffer the discussions, e-mails, anonymous letters, etc. calling me stupid and naïve in this regard. Yes, Walker used to be the primary partner in the 'family built' law firm who is part of Hubbard's defense, ad nauseam. So what? - the same was true in 1999 when Walker blasted his former law firm defending those who made us (me and my bride) wrongfully homeless for almost year and his rulings (along with Susan Walker's three outstanding summary judgments in our favour) helped us win unanimously in the 2005 SCotUS.

Those who believe any Jake Walker decision will be easily appealed do NOT know Judge Walker's well earned repute. Could Hubbard continue his criminal proclivities and successfully manipulate the appellate process? - Maybe. It is less likely now that he's finally lost his ill-gotten power as Speaker and BCA "johns" are even more nervous to pay political prostitutes to broker deals of this sort given the shockwaves still reverberating from Alabama's current epicenter of corruption in Auburn. No doubt the AG's office will be

watching for improprieties to manipulate the appellate process.

Walker was appointed to his Lee County Circuit Court judgeship by Gov. Fob James, a traditional Democrat who changed to the Republican Party as part of the foolish group who thought they could allow this known corrupt Party back into our State (without firing a shot) and they could keep the corruption out or even more childish, Republicans had somehow changed from the Party of hegemony and corruption. Fob was in that fleeting vacuum of time/transition where a few good individuals like young Jake Walker were placed in positions to do good. I'm still not sure the James family today understands what they represent and could accomplish if they'd publicly and convincingly denounce the BCA and apologize for letting them 'Bond & Spend' our State into what we're suffering today.

Fob refused to be a typical Party changer like 'money-machine' US Senator Shelby or more recently flipped Alabama Senator Gerald Dial; most straight ticket voting Republicans can't tell the difference much like the despicable Wallace era Democrats. The Hubbard-Riley BCA machine (much like I observed with Gov. Campbell in SC) showed just how quickly and easily the few small govt. folks were crushed once establishment/traditional Republicans were allowed back into their State instead of replacing the corrupt Democrat Party. Rebuke those who speak of fidelity to Parties, they lack integrity and spine in defense of liberty and sovereignty. I care little about Party monikers, but pay attention to principles and actions. Political parties, much like diapers, must be disposed of regularly if citizens want to promote the general welfare. The unresponsive duopoly we suffer is the reason extremism goes unchecked as we ratchet ourselves further into the leviathan govt. result.

In spite of not being a champion of the Republican Party (i.e., one of the few I can actually vote for) Walker remained on the bench ever since Fob's appointment earning sound re-election margins these past decades. I'm weary of fools who tell me Walker's position is a result of privilege over merit and accomplishment - it matters little to me if he came from poverty or wealth as long as one is a righteous jurist. There's a reason you see Walker re-elected without a bunch of money from BCA, trial lawyers, etc. - he won't take it and doesn't need it to win. Lee County is blessed to have him as our most accomplished circuit court jurist. I found it laughable some championed a motion for Walker's recusal as a 'compromised judge' and some still say these ties will lead to a light sentence for Hubbard. If Walker was so tied to Hubbard, why didn't the defense request a bench trial? How many more frivolous motions to dismiss would Walker had to address and deny before folks appreciated this jurist was doing all he could for these 23 felony indictments to actually face the scrutiny of his court?

As I've grown to trust Judge Walker's jurisprudence these past decades, I'll ask readers to consider giving him similar deference in sentencing this convicted felon on July 8th. In 2013, Walker sentenced David Stroud (former Auburn businessman) to 10 years after pleading guilty to investment fraud. Stroud's violations of the Alabama Securities Act were Class B Felonies, punishable by a possible prison term of no less than 2 (no more than 20) years incarceration with a max \$30k fine as are each of Hubbard's felony convictions. In May, 2012 a Lee County Grand Jury, indicted Stroud on seven counts of investment fraud, two counts of securities fraud, two counts of failing to register with the Alabama Securities Commission (ASC) and ten counts of theft by deception. Stroud's activities reportedly defrauded investors of approximately \$2.1 million (similar to the \$2.3 million associated with Hubbard felonies) which Stroud must repay under the terms of his plea. ASC Director Joe Borg said of Walker's sentencing, "Stroud has received a sentence appropriate to his fraudulent scheme. Financial professionals provide a valuable service to hard-working individuals seeking to safeguard their financial futures. When dishonest individuals, such as Mr. Stroud, abuse their position of trust and betray the public's confidence in the investment advisory industry, we want to make absolutely certain to send a loud and clear message that this conduct will not be tolerated." No doubt Jake Walker understands the Hubbard sentence will also be looked upon as sending a message to future criminals.

Kentavious Wilson (15 at the time of his crime) pled guilty to breaking into an AU student's home at Eagles Landing admitted to rape and sodomizing the 19-year-old woman before stealing her car. Judge Walker sentenced Wilson to two consecutive life sentences for first degree rape and sodomy, along with a third life sentence for first-degree burglary to run concurrently with a 25-year burglary sentence and a 15-year theft sentence. Auburn investigators hoped Wilson's lengthy incarceration will help the victim's recovery.

Walker overrode the 9-3 jury recommendation for life imprisonment without parole and sentenced Gregory Lance Henderson to death for running over and killing Deputy James Anderson during a traffic stop in 2009. Alabama judges ultimately determine actual sentencing in capital cases and Walker was pressed by prosecutors and law enforcement to send Henderson to death row. Lee County Sheriff Jay Jones applauded Walker's decision as just punishment saying, "Nothing can bring James back, but I believe there is a degree of closure provided to his loved ones and the law enforcement community in light of the court's decision today." Some noted Henderson's lack of remorse guided Walker's decision to override the jury's 9-3 decision on sentencing.

Walker also evoked his judicial veto in 2011 to sentence Courtney Lockhart to death for murdering AU student Lauren Burk over a unanimous jury recommendation Lockhart spend the rest of his life in prison. Furthermore, Judge Walker is very familiar with Lee County's political landscape. He knows the history. Hubbard's corruption began well before his first election to the House under AU Trustee Bobby Lowder's tutelage, showing Hubbard how to extract from our University. Showing himself such an accomplished loyal political prostitute for Bobby was Hubbard's gateway to even grander theft with the BCA/Riley & Associates machine.

I'll not go on with Judge Walker's ability and willingness to sentence justly or further illustrate he's open to reduced sentencing for genuine remorse. In closing, I again publicly ask those who know and care about Michael Gregory Hubbard to pray he'll find his way to be a penitent thief (as did Rep. Gregory Wren) and ask forgiveness/show genuine remorse by not wasting more of court time and taxpayer money on even more frivolous appeals. I recall the gospel according to Luke addresses this more than the others:

*Continued on page 10A*



Judge Jacob Walker

# Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers

Steve Flowers is Alabama's leading political columnist.  
His weekly column on Alabama politics appears in over 60 Alabama newspapers.  
He may be reached at [www.stevflowers.us](http://www.stevflowers.us)



The older you get the more you realize that old adages you heard as a child are true. There is a political maxim that says, "power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely." It could very aptly be applied to the Mike Hubbard saga.

Mike Hubbard was born and raised in north Georgia. He went to college at the University of Georgia and majored in journalism and landed a job in the Bulldog Sports Information Department. About that time an amazing athlete came from rural Georgia to play football at the University of Georgia. His name was Herschel Walker. Hubbard was assigned the task of spearheading the media promotion to win Walker the Heisman Trophy. Indeed he won the prestigious award as the nation's greatest football player.

A few years later, Auburn University landed an unusually talented athlete in Vincent "Bo" Jackson. Pat Dye had gotten the coveted Jackson after Bear Bryant dismissively told Jackson he would probably make him a defensive back or linebacker. Jackson did not like hearing that and he made Bryant regret it.

Bo Jackson became the best football player in the country. Pat Dye, who is a Georgia grad and an all American guard, reached out to his alma mater to find out who promoted Walker and learned that it was Mike Hubbard. Dye brought Hubbard to Auburn and Hubbard soon had a resume that made him the prime promoter of two Heisman Trophy winners.

Hubbard parlayed this notoriety into building a media empire around Auburn athletics. He controlled television and radio rights to Auburn games and even started his own radio station and printing company. He got elected to the legislature to represent Auburn in 1998.

Hubbard followed the legendary Pete Turnham in the Auburn House seat. Mr. Pete served 40 years in the House from 1958-1998. He had the record for legislative tenure in state history and was known as the Dean of the House.

Mr. Pete and I sat beside each other for 16 years in the House. I watched Pete over the years and every vote he cast and every action was geared toward helping Auburn University. He did it without fanfare. I saw him get untold millions of appropriations for Auburn. I always thought it was a travesty that not

one building at Auburn was named after Pete. In fact, I observed him get the money for a new veterinarian building on campus. Therefore, it would have been most appropriate to name the building after old Pete. However, he would not have had it any other way.

Ironically, after only 12 years in the House, Hubbard became Speaker. He had a building on campus named for himself. He also became known as an inside manipulator when he orchestrated the bidding of the Auburn football games to favor his Auburn Network to retain the exclusive contract while he was the Auburn State Representative.

Hubbard became a stalwart state Republican leader soon after his election to the legislature. He became chairman of the Party and then in 2010 was instrumental in helping to recruit and elect the first Republican majority in the House. Indeed it was and still is and will continue to be a super majority. His minions elected him as their Speaker. He took control of the House of Representatives and ran it with an iron fist. Some would say that he became a dictator and that is not far from the truth.

In my lifetime, I have never seen a Speaker garner the power and total control that Hubbard wielded. It was a though he was the King of the House and the other Republicans were his loyal subjects. Thus, the adage "power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely."

The much anticipated trial that ended on June 10, 2016, culminated in Hubbard's conviction on 12 of 23 counts of felony ethics law violations. It was great drama. It was everything that was anticipated. The outcome was what most folks expected. His sentencing is set for July 8. He will probably get prison time given the overwhelming number of convictions.

There is very little likelihood that an appeal will get much traction. The Judge in the case, Jacob Walker III, did a flawless job and ruled fairly and within the law on all issues. He read the charges to the jury verbatim from the law. The jury was extremely diligent and ruled on every count exactly the way almost any jury in the state would have ruled after hearing all the facts and the law.

June 29, 2016

## THE BLACK HEART OF MEN (SCHOOL'S IN SESSION Pt.2)

Continued from 2A

We had no problem calling Germans "Nazis" or the Italians "fascists." You know why? Because they were. Yet we have an administration that still refuses to properly investigate all Syrian refugees coming into America and a CIA administrator who admits that we simply CAN'T. Yet news reports hidden on the back pages tells us that over 100 per week are entering our country. We don't know who they are. We can't. A hidden news story also tells us Syrian refugees raped a girl in Idaho recently. Not to mention the hundreds of rapes and sexual assaults plaguing all of Western Europe today.

Yes, there is evil descending on Western Civilization and all our leaders seem to talk about is gun control. They are using these events to bolster their anti-gun, anti-Second Amendment agenda. After the Japanese attacked us at Pearl Harbor, we kicked the living %\$#@ out of them. After Germany declared war on us a couple of days later, they suffered the same fate. After 9/11, we are pussyfooting around with unrealistic rules of engagement and are enjoying increased and practically unfettered immigration from those countries whose people claim they want us dead. We have schools where our children are being forced to recite passages from the Koran while being denied the right to pray to our God. We have had several mass shootings by you know who and once again, all the troglodytes in Congress and the Senate can talk about is more gun control. Not hate control or stopping those who want us dead but gun control. Yeah, law abiding Americans are the real threat here. After Orlando, I heard people blaming conservatives, Christians (wha-what) and everybody but the bad guys. Hell, our administration originally wanted to scrub the killer's 911 call to omit any reference to ISIS, Jihad, and or anything else they deemed offensive. They even changed the killers references to "Allah" to "God." Their argument was that they didn't want the victims' families to suffer. Really? Thankfully the FBI stepped up and said either you release the full transcript or we will. Hear, hear!! Moral cowardice, betrayal and treachery reigns supreme in our State Department.

Just like the Bible is the moral starting point for tens of millions in our country, any true discussion on gun control MUST START AND END with the Constitution. This brings us to our second standard; The Constitution of the United States. Every gun control argument outside and contrary to the Constitution is an abortion. Period. Go back and read the short history from Part I of this Robservation. The founders and authors were clear in their words and intent. If one reads those words and accompanying writings and still cannot figure it out, I cannot help you. Sorry. I heard one idiotic argument that said, the founders never envisioned machine guns. Do you think those men were stupid? They knew their history and they knew how weapons had evolved over the centuries and would certainly continue to evolve. They knew that the weapons they had at that time were not the end of the road. Thus they certainly did envision parity. If not, they would have said that we had the right to bear arms only with current 1780's technology. No!! They implied, "You got these, so do we. Fights on." With that moronic logic should we also throw out the First Amendment? Clearly the founders could not have envisioned the Internet, Twitter, Facebook, Snap Chat, television, cable news, AM/FM radio and the ability to transmit information across the planet in seconds so should we

limit our freedoms of speech as well? I will tell you one thing the founders did not foresee and that is the laughable career politician. If we went back in time and told them that people would leave school, go to Washington and spend 30-50 years as a Senator or Congressperson, they would laugh us out of town. Yeah, you can bet there would be a Constitutional amendment on all political term limits.

I heard an idiot Congresswoman on television the other night say that "no civilians should be allowed to possess such weapons." Okay darling, let me ask you this. Why did the Social Security Administration put in a request for "174,000 rounds of .357 Sig 125 grain bonded jacketed hollow-point bullets." Why did the Department of Agriculture request 320,000 similar rounds? Why has the Department of Homeland Security purchased more than 2,700 Mine Resistant Armored Protection (MRAP) vehicles, 7,000 NATO Personal Defense Weapons (assault rifles), and more than 2,000,000,000 (yes billion) bullets. Enough ammunition to fight an Iraq sized war for 24 years. Unfortunately, this list goes on and on. Why do police forces and other government agencies around the country possess such weapons? Guess what, these guys are not military. They too are civilian. Yes, civilian. Get it? Again, what was one of the two main purposes of the 2nd Amendment? I'll help you out. It has to do with protecting ourselves from the government. They wrote it, I didn't. Hey, I have an idea. Let's first ban all security personnel for all of our government employees. Let's start there, or is it that their hides are somehow more precious than ours? That new wall they are erecting around the White House. Let's tear it down because we all know that fences solve absolutely no problems.

As I am writing this, the House Democrats are tucking their tails and licking their collective wounds because they got their butts kicked last night over four new proposed gun bills. Look, yes I am a member of the NRA and am open to sensible gun legislation. Who the hell isn't? But as a direct knee jerk reaction to known Muslim atrocities, since those proposed actions jeopardize due process for law abiding American citizens, NO. Go back and try again. If the real goal is indeed sensible gun control and not some nefarious liberal, anti-gun agenda, those in government could come up with a solution that EVERY American could stand behind. It is not that hard, people. Also, I am not so sure more laws are what we need but rather the enforcement of those laws already on the books. And let's not be stupid here. There is a rather vocal contingent out there who would love nothing more than to repeal the Second Amendment. Yes, those idiots do exist, no matter what mask they try to hide behind.

Again, all I am trying to say is we need to look at the real culprit here. It is hate, evil, sin and a society that is rapidly devaluing human life; NOT GUNS. Hmmm, over 300 murders in Chicago already this year. So is it the gun or the foul, disgusting rot that lives within the killers' heart and mind? My guns have never got up, walked out of the house and killed somebody. Imagine that! The bad guys will always have guns and they will use them. They will get them and yet our government wants to limit our ability to defend ourselves either against a determined enemy now getting firmly ensconced within our borders (as in Western Europe) or to defend ourselves from an arrogant and overreaching government that values the lives of immigrants and those determined to kill us and destroy our way of life over the lives of American citizens.

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# Woods & Waters with Steve



**Steve Long**

## DEER SEASON STARTS IN OCTOBER IN ALABAMA

It may not be so well-known or prevalent down here, but when it comes to measuring up just how big and bad that buck you downed is, the go-to system for trophy hunters everywhere is the Boone and Crockett guideline. It's a pretty darned detailed method for determining just how good that rack is on your buck!

It requires a ¼ inch wide flexible steel tape in order to be up to snuff. After counting points, measuring beams, and a whole lot of other things, you can calculate just how many points you get in the B&C system. If you're itching to dust off that big daddy on the wall and get to measuring, here's a handy little guide and calculator hosted by the Boone and Crockett Club, at [http://www.boone-crockett.org/bgRecords/bc\\_scoring\\_ttypwhitetail.asp?area=bgRecords&type=Typical+Whitetail+Deer](http://www.boone-crockett.org/bgRecords/bc_scoring_ttypwhitetail.asp?area=bgRecords&type=Typical+Whitetail+Deer).

Of course, the whole point of having such a system is because we love to compare trophies. It's one of the biggest reasons anyone of us gets out butts out there in the cold, sitting in a stand or blind, for hours on end, hoping to bring home the Big One. Of course, it's not blind luck that grants us such a harvest; it's the ridiculous amount of time, effort, and knowledge applied year-round that nets us these trophies. Maybe a few honeybuns for the road, too.

As big as some of the bucks I've seen harvested are down here, Alabama still trails a bit in the Big Buck category. States like Wisconsin, Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky are all producing bigger bucks, year after year. The reasons why are a dime a dozen, but can you imagine having bigger trophies roaming around in our backyard? I mean, we've got plenty of great deer, but we could be working even harder on supporting bigger bucks.

Here at QDMA, these are the sorts of thoughts that keep me up at night. The right knowledge and practices, put in the hands of the right people, at the right time, can vastly improve the quality of deer hunting we have. We've got a very strong focus on education and land management, which directly impacts deer herd health. Can't grow those massive antlers if there isn't good habitat to go with it!

As always, I strongly urge everyone to give QDMA a look. Improving every aspect of deer hunting not only as a sport, but also as a heritage, is our goal, and we can't do it without you! Visit us at [www.QDMA.com](http://www.QDMA.com), and take a look around!

Before I wrap this article up, I'd like to bring to your attention to what is



*Boone and Crockett is the way to score that trophy Buck*

probably the strangest thing I've ever heard involving deer, and that's a pretty illustrious list to be on top of. The city of New York currently has up for vote a measure that would, for the cool sum of 2 million dollars, tranquilize bucks, give them vasectomies, then release them, all over the course of 3 years. It's a measure designed to help reduce the deer overpopulation problem they are facing. Of course, they're going to release the bucks back into park land after the vasectomy procedure.

Now, I'm just an old-fashioned redneck, but I'm pretty sure I could think of a few better ideas than this one to address their overpopulation problem. But hey, it's New York City. They've clearly got it under control.

As always, I hope all of y'all are enjoying this hot start to your summer. I'm still on the road, but you can always catch me on the radio on Saturday mornings with Cast & Blast Outdoors. I look forward to hearing from all of you, so put on your sunscreen, get outside, and go get 'em!

## Kritter Korner

### FERAL HOGS IN ALABAMA

By DAVID K. NELSON, Supervising Wildlife Biologist, Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries and DR. M. KEITH CAUSEY, Ireland Professor of Wildlife Science, Auburn University, Retired

This article was published in the Spring of 2001 in "Alabama's TREASURED Forests"



**Ron VanHerwyn**

True wild pigs are not native to Alabama or the New World. Wild swine in North and South America, which may include European wild hogs, feral hogs and hybrids between the two have been introduced. Pigs were domesticated 8,000-9,000 years ago and have spread throughout the world as livestock. In many areas they have escaped or been released from domestication and reverted to a wild, free-ranging or feral state. Published estimates suggested a U.S. population of between 1 and 2 million feral hogs in 1991 and they were the most abundant, free-ranging, introduced ungulate in the U.S. In 1989 wild hogs reportedly occurred in 19 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

In the 1980s feral swine in the South were located primarily in the Coastal Plain from Virginia south to Florida, and west to Texas. As early as the 1950s concentrations of wild swine in some areas of the Southeast were reportedly as high as 75-100 animals per square mile.

#### History

The first introduction of swine into the New World theoretically was by Christopher Columbus in 1493 in the West Indies. Hernando De Soto introduced them to the U.S. mainland in 1539 into Florida and in 1542 into Texas. Domestic hogs may have been brought to South Carolina in 1526 and in 1565 Admiral Pedro Mendez reportedly brought 400 pigs to Florida. Other introductions continued in the Carolinas, Georgia, Alabama and other areas of the Southeast by adventurers and missionaries throughout the 17th and 18th centuries. Settlers, farmers and native Americans promoted the spread of hogs by open range practices that persisted in some states until as recently as the 1960s.

#### Population Distribution

A 1988 survey of feral swine distribution in Alabama suggested significant populations occurred only in those counties of southwest Alabama along the Tombigbee and Alabama rivers. Apparently during the past 10 years there has been a general statewide spread of these animals aided by individuals who trap or catch wild pigs alive and relocated them to new habitat. Once released, feral swine have an alarming reproductive capacity with sexual maturity on good habitat attained at four to six months of age. After a gestation period of less than four months sows give birth to four to 12 piglets and some sows produce two litters per year. Once established, feral pigs are virtually impossible to eradicate.

#### Negative Impacts

Feral hogs are large-bodied, generalist feeders that tend to be rather nomadic and travel in groups. They have few natural enemies other than humans. Feral swine almost always impact New World habitats negatively and most often are undesirable additions to habitats into which they have been introduced. Feral hogs can damage timber, agriculture, pastures and wildlife openings and their rooting habit is especially damaging because of soil disturbance that increases erosion and alters nutrient cycles. Feral pigs are considered the greatest vertebrate modifiers of natural plant communities since our native plants have not adapted to this rooting behavior. Rooting decreases total woody understory and while recovery of plant communities is variable, species composition may be altered permanently. Rooted areas also are prime spots for invasion by exotic plants.

Feral hogs directly compete with native wildlife for hard and soft mast and many other foods important to deer, turkeys, squirrels and other native species. Feral pigs are serious nest predators and also prey upon birds, mammals (including deer, sheep and goats), reptiles and amphibians. They carry many parasites and diseases such as cholera, pseudorabies, brucellosis, tuberculosis and anthrax. Some or all of these diseases can be transmitted to native wildlife, domestic livestock and humans.

#### As a Game Species

Feral swine have been hunted widely in the South and have become an integral part of the social fabric of many rural communities, especially in Florida and Texas and certain areas in the Carolinas, Tennessee, Georgia, Louisiana and Alabama. They make excellent table fare and the trophy value of large males may be economically important in some places. Feral hogs are listed as a game animal by the Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries and apparently there is an increasing number of hunters interested in pursuing them. However, the list of undesirable effects of high populations of feral pigs is endless. Individuals involved in releasing feral hogs into new range give little thought to the destruction they can cause and every effort should be made to prevent their spread into areas where they do not occur. *Article courtesy of the Alabama Wildlife Federation.*

### FACTS ABOUT FERAL HOGS

- ❖ Feral hogs are present in at least 23 states and are found in most counties in Alabama. Their population and range is increasing.
- ❖ Feral hogs first breed at six months of age and average nearly two litters per year. They average 4 to 7 pigs per litter and breed in cooler months with a 115-day gestation period.
- ❖ A population of feral hogs can double every four months. Numbers can increase from one hog per square mile to 100 hogs per square mile in 3 years.
- ❖ Feral hogs are crafty, intelligent animals and can survive natural hardships. They consume primarily vegetative matter. The meat of feral hogs is lean and delicious.
- ❖ In Alabama the feral swine is categorized as a game animal and can be hunted by licensed hunters year round without limits. They cannot be hunted over bait or at night. If on private land, the landowner's consent is needed. It is illegal to relocate trapped feral hogs.
- ❖ The last cases of brucellosis and pseudorabies in domestic swine in Alabama were in 1996. Since that time, there have been over 20 premises where trapped feral hogs have been found to have one or both diseases. Fortunately, the diseases have not spread back to domestic hogs.
- ❖ Domestic swine owners should not allow their hogs to come in contact with feral hogs. Adequate fencing and sound management practices should be utilized.
- ❖ Brucellosis, also known as Bangs disease or undulant fever, can spread from infected hogs to humans, usually through contact with reproductive fluids and internal organs. It is a debilitating disease in humans requiring extensive antibiotic and supportive treatment. Hunters are especially vulnerable when field dressing feral hogs barehanded. The meat should be cooked thoroughly.
- ❖ Trichinosis, caused by a parasite found embedded in the muscle and Sparganosis, caused by a tapeworm found beneath the skin of infected hogs, can affect humans. Caution should be exercised in handling; thorough cooking will destroy the parasite.
- ❖ Agricultural damage caused by feral hogs includes crops, land, fences and farm equipment. The timber industry is adversely affected through destruction of seedlings and young trees. Monetary loss can be extensive.
- ❖ Feral hogs have a negative impact on wildlife habitat. They are known to compete directly with native game species, cause damage to wildlife food plots and are predators of ground-nesting birds.

*Information provided by the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries.*

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

# "BIG BOY" FOOTBALL NOT FOR EVERYBODY

**Sports Editor,  
Ed Jones**

In December, 2014, my column was devoted to the concept of certain college football teams moving their NCAA classification from Division IAA to Division I. The reasons that these schools make this move is based on a false premise that by playing the "Big Boys" it will bring them prestige, thereby attracting more students from more locations in the country. This is not a totally incorrect theory because the names of these former IAA teams will be in the news more. This could possibly attract some students from Idaho, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Texas. There is also the potential for higher revenue through attendance, sale of merchandise, etc. However there is no prestige in having your team listed in the paper on Sunday with a 66-0 loss. No matter what classification a team plays in, it must have a winning program in order to attract positive attention. This is true in high school, college and professional football. There is no prestige attracted to the present Cleveland Browns of the NFL, UAB, or Selma High School. How long has it been since you have read about how well these three teams are doing. UAB suspended their football program two years ago because of the financial burden. Students, alumni, and "fans" went ballistic and ran the president off who made this decision. In addition, alumni, business leaders and Birmingham residents who have more money than they know what to do with, pledged seventeen million dollars to re-start the football program. The new administration at UAB is now saddled with the same problem they had when football was terminated. They only draw around 13,000 to 16,000 fans to home games that are played in Legion Field, the "Old Gray Lady", which was formerly called the "Football Capitol of the South" when Auburn and Alabama played their big games there. High schools in the Birmingham area draw better than UAB. No one can pay for a D-I football program with those numbers. The seventeen million will be gone in five years. The pressure is on Coach Bill Clark to not only win big, but to put fannies in seats in order for UAB to keep his paycheck coming. UAB will be playing D-I football again in 2017. Good Luck!

would allow each team to play nine conference games and two out of conference. This means you could schedule Michigan State as did Jacksonville State, travel to East Lansing, Michigan, get beat 45-7 and come home with a nice check. Or you could buy a win and schedule West Alabama, who I did not include in the proposed conference because their potential fan base is seriously limited. The twelve teams recommended in this scenario would never have to travel more than approximately 300 miles. In some cases only forty or fifty miles. The savings would be tremendous. Rivalries will be established thereby creating more interest in the game. If Tuskegee played in Troy, the whole town of Tuskegee would be there. The chance of winning will be much better and the attendance at a winning Division I-AA program will outdistance the attendance of presently losing Division I programs. Winning is contagious. So is losing!

It just hurts me to see players and coaches be embarrassed and sometimes injured, playing programs that are just one step ahead of them. I don't see Troy, UAB, Southern Mississippi, Georgia State, South Alabama ever reaching the goals that they set out to accomplish. There are just not enough good football players in Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia to support programs other than Auburn, Alabama, Ole Miss, Mississippi, Georgia and Georgia Tech. Any other Division I program in these three states will always suffer no matter who the coach is or what the alumni base wants to accomplish.

Troy has a schedule in 2016 that is doable. However, they must go once again to Moscow, Idaho. They also go to San Marcus, Texas and Clemson, South Carolina. They play Clemson on September 10.  
**I'd rather be coaching Clemson!**

It has been heartbreaking to me to watch some of the teams in the south who have moved up to Division I football over the last decade. Teams like Troy, UAB, South Alabama and Georgia State were motivated by the promise of more money in the coffers due to expanded crowds, fan bases and possible TV money. They were also pushed by overzealous alumni of colleges who were stuck in what they considered the oblivion of Division I-AA or Division II. There may have been other considerations, but this was the impetus that had the alumni licking their chops at the prospect of playing teams like Alabama and Auburn. Georgia for instance beat Troy 66-0 in 2014 in Athens, Georgia. What amount of money could be enjoyed by the university at the expense of an embarrassment like that. It is a given that Troy beat Mississippi State during a down year and also beat Missouri during a down year for the Tigers from Columbia. The Missouri game was the first big conference team to come to Troy. The game was won on a fumble recovery for a touchdown and other mistakes by Missouri. It was at this game that I thought Troy may be able to compete with the "big boys".

Games like the Missouri win, the Mississippi State win, the Oklahoma State win have been few and far between. Troy even persuaded Duke to come to Troy. Duke is not considered a powerhouse in the Atlantic Coast Conference. The score was Duke 34, Troy 17. Well, that was a close game to the Troy faithful, continuing to perpetuate the myth that Troy can eventually play with the Alabamas, the Auburns, the Georgias. **Coach Larry Blakeney** retired from Troy with the most wins by a college coach in the State of Alabama, even eclipsing his own college coach, **Ralph "Shug" Jordan** who won 176 games at Auburn. Larry coached, promoted, worked as hard as he could during his tenure at Troy. It must be pointed out however that many of those wins came in Division II and Division I-AA where Troy won national championships. **Coach Neal Brown** will find the going just as tough as Coach Blakeney did.

Just picking on Troy and UAB is not my intention. It is simply the football programs that I am most familiar with who are in this twilight zone between Division I and Division I-AA. University of Alabama Birmingham (UAB) has been in this quagmire for thirty years or more. They even beat LSU in Baton Rouge when **Nick Saban** was the LSU coach. Everybody got excited. What have they done since. Their record is worse than Troy's. The University of Alabama System has carried the load of UAB football from its inception. Although UAB plays Troy each year, the attendance is not what one would expect of two D-I teams. UAB plays in Conference USA along with Southern Mississippi, a team we will discuss later. Troy plays in the Sun Belt Conference where they have to travel as far as Moscow, Idaho to play a conference team.

There are two other teams in the Sun Belt Conference that are in the "twilight zone" mentioned above. That is Georgia State in Atlanta and South Alabama in Mobile. South Alabama is having moderate success in that they are breaking even on the field, but not in the finance department.

Southern Mississippi has been in Division I for as long as I can remember. I first saw them play when the Golden Eagles beat a good Alabama team in Cramton Bowl in 1953. That has been the highlight of the not so storied history of Southern Mississippi football. With the advent of the great programs at Ole Miss and Mississippi State, Southern Miss has been relegated to "baby brother". They are out funded, out recruited and out coached. They can no longer be relevant in the State of Mississippi. The pool of football players is just not good enough to divide three ways any longer.

Now, we have discussed the difficult situation with five schools that are already in Division I. Would these universities consider going down one classification in order to compete on the field and compete at the financial office? Probably not, but the following is a scenario that could work if phased in over a period of three years. **See graphic on the right.**

Troy, UAB, South Alabama, Georgia State and Southern Mississippi could begin the process of forming a new conference of Division I-AA schools - Deep South Conference (DSC), Southern Affordable Conference (SAC), Southeastern Logical Conference (SLC). The name is irrelevant. The concept is relevant!

Schools that are playing at the Division I-AA level now who should be added to this conference are Alabama State in Montgomery, Alabama A&M in Huntsville, Jacksonville State in Jacksonville and Samford in Birmingham. Three years is an ample time to make the move to this proposed conference. This makes nine teams.

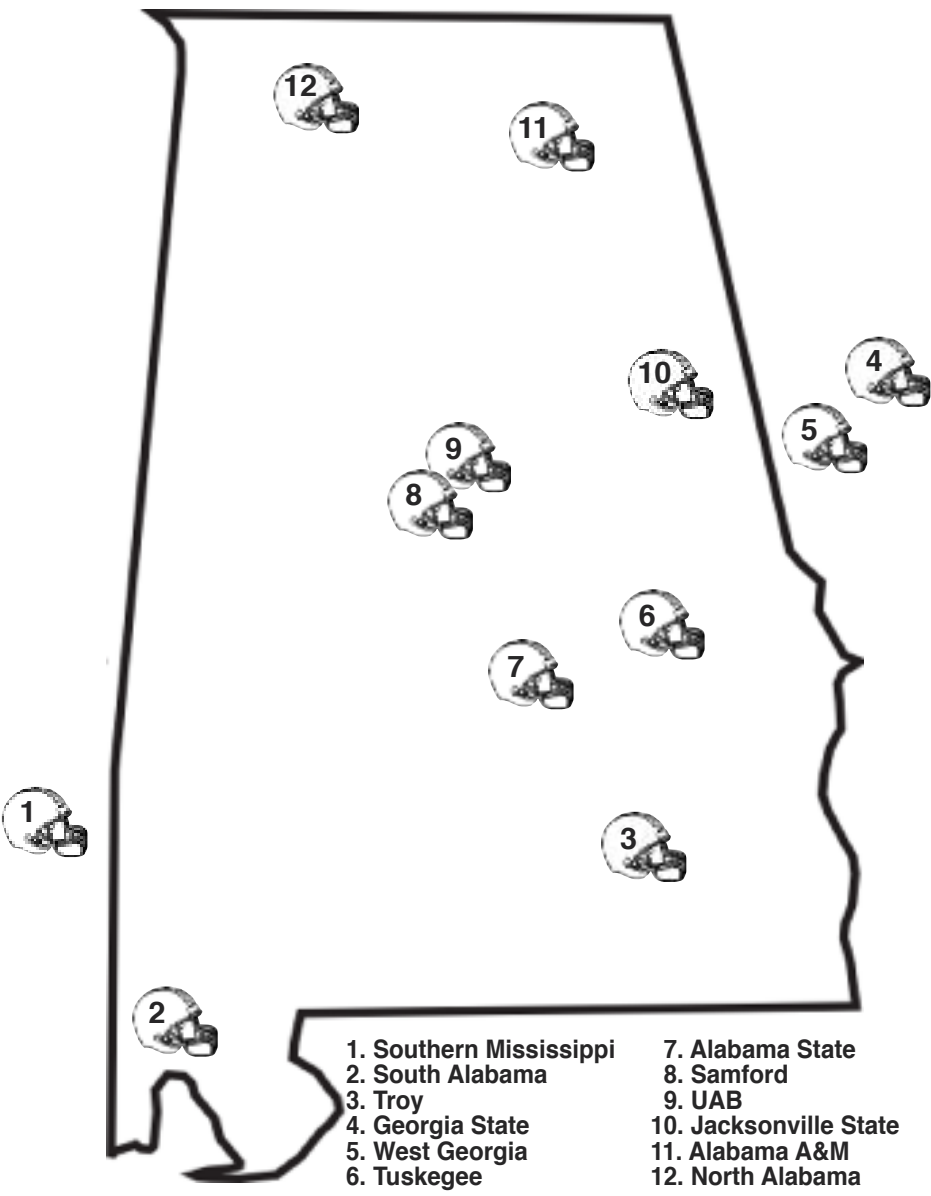
There are three Division II teams that are playing above their classification for the most part that could easily make the transition to Division I-AA in three years. They are North Alabama in Florence, West Georgia in Carrollton, GA and Tuskegee. That would make twelve teams.

Division I teams would have to give up from 85 football scholarships down to 65. This sounds like a tremendous blow. But if you are not winning and making money, this would be a considerable savings in tuition room and board, and medical insurance not to mention the savings in cost of travel. No more Idaho's or New Mexico State's.

In addition to losing 20 scholarships, Division I-AA teams can only schedule eleven games because each team will be eligible for the I-AA National Championship Play-off, if they qualify. Therefore a nine game rotating schedule



## An Affordable Conference Idea



# Bench - Bar & Beyond

By Judge Dale Segrest

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

## Judge Philip Dale Segrest

Want to know more about the author or to comment on the column:

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## A Grateful Conclusion

This will be my final article for the Alabama Gazette. As I compose it, my mind goes back to the hot August day 3 years ago when I first visited with Loretta Grant to propose this series of articles. I had grown up in Macon County, chosen law as a profession and watched tumultuous changes that had been wrought by law. I had deliberately chosen to stay close to a primary site of those changes. I had served as a circuit judge for 18 years. It had been a great learning experience. I felt burdened by the weight of that learning experience, and compelled to try to share some of what I had gleaned from it. The visit with Loretta was wonderful. What I had thought might be a 30-minute interview lasted almost all afternoon. Loretta graciously agreed to allow me to express my thoughts in the Gazette.

So I've had the opportunity now to express my concerns.

**I wrote about family breakdown and the threat that it poses to moral formation.**

**I expressed concerns about the fact that our government placed the handling of the dissolution of a family into the adversarial legal system, where attorneys are "ethically" obligated to zealously represent their clients; i. e. fight it out. Surely there is a better way.**

**I moved on to discuss the breakdown of moral formation and its relationship to crime and incarceration.** I argued that the criminal justice system is working at its very best when crimes are not committed, and success should not be measured by the number of people we lock up in a central penitentiary.

**Then something had to be said about the ineffectiveness of central penitentiaries as the primary way of dealing with people who violate the law.** It just doesn't make sense to put all the bad guys in the same place, in light of what we know about the impact of the peer group on moral formation.

**If we talk about penitentiaries, we have to notice that there are a lot more black inhabitants than white, and we need to understand why. The answer is available.** Four hundred years of slavery and segregation forced the formation of a totally separate culture. The law as it existed during those 400

years did not resolve disputes for the black culture. Law was not beneficial to the black culture. So the black culture developed its own way of dealing with problems. That cultural influence did not disappear just because the evils of slavery in segregation were recognized. The fact that the culture was not closely aligned with the legal system explains much.

Central penitentiaries are not the only places where the continued influence of a separate culture that came into being without meaningful participation in the prevailing legal system is evident.

**Law is a prerequisite to economic development.** Our black belt counties in Alabama are dominated by the remnants of the black culture. The questionable legacy of the role of law (or lack of a role) in those counties (and elsewhere, of course) poses a major challenge for economic development. The systems of property and contract that are provided by law are essential to economic development.

That is not to say, of course, that the legal system provides perfect solution to problems. Plaintiff's lawyers thrive on contingent fees while defense lawyers work by the hour. **The impact of the economic motives of the legal profession causes the transaction cost of solving problems by utilizing that system to be very high.** Such a system cannot address the small problems that plague the daily lives of most people. An effective "legal aid" systems is difficult to imagine, given the impact that economics plays in the system.

**So we resort to alternatives for dispute resolution.** But when we turn dispute resolution over to arbitration, we privatize law. The public doesn't know what's going on. Privatization undermines the normative force that makes law effective. Precedent has been an important part of Anglo-American law. **With arbitration, there is no precedent.** The people just don't know what to think!

*NEVERTHELESS WE ARE PLAGUED WITH UNINVITED OPINION POLLS, AS IF COMPILING COMPOSITE IGNORANCE WILL CREATE WISDOM.*

So I wrote an article describing ignorance as the mother of evil, which I can't summarize and just a line or two. One thing for sure: most people feel the same way that I do about lawyer advertising, to which I devoted an article.

All of this stuff is not just interesting – it's mind-boggling. So I took a little time to talk about philosophy and faith. I will always be appreciative to Loretta and Alabama Gazette for providing the opportunity to express these thoughts.

Judge Segrest,

*The Alabama Gazette says "thanks" for all the great information you have provided to our readers. You have certainly filled a "needed gap" in today's view of our judicial system. Your insight into these problems shed a light not shared by anyone else. You have been pleasure to work with and hope you find time in the future to make an occasional contribution. Thanks for sharing your views and expertise with us!*

Loretta Grant/Sam Adams and Gazette Staff

## TICKET "SCALPING"

By John Martin

It won't be long before we get into football season, and "Roll Tide" and "War Eagle" will be screamed across Alabama and surrounding states to root for our teams. It is a tradition of tailgating, get-togethers, and... ticket "scalping."

It is a known fact that our universities make big bucks with their sports. If anyone wants proof, he should have a look at the Alabama and Auburn

campuses and note the numerous fancy buildings and facilities that have mushroomed everywhere. Parts of the Tuscaloosa campus are almost unrecognizable from what the looked like just a few years ago.

Obviously the universities are making tons of money from the tickets they sell for their sports. But for some strange and unknown reason, politicians and certain other people feel that fans and others buying and later re-selling these tickets for a profit is a sin, a crime, or both. They call it "scalping." But why? They love to see their projects make money, but they can't stand to see private individuals making a few dollars for themselves.

Investing in items and later selling them for profits has always been a fundamental free enterprise activity since before the dawn of written history. Every person has a sovereign, natural right to sell, or re-sell, his own property. It is perfectly honest and legitimate. But according to various state and local regulations, investing in sports tickets and selling them for a profit is unlawful, unless the people involved first purchase special, expensive licenses to do so. If caught, "violators" can face stiff fines and/or other penalties.

Re-selling tickets has been practiced for many years. In the early days, nobody objected or had any problems with it. But eventually a few people began

to complain that a small number of people were buying up large quantities of tickets to key games, holding them until they are all sold out, and selling them shortly before the games for sizable profits. They felt short changed because they did not buy the tickets early at their original prices.

In economics, it's all a matter of supply and demand. The "scalpers" could not get their "high" prices if nobody was willing to pay them. Nobody is being forced to buy the tickets (unlike Obamacare). In addition, the "scalpers" are taking a calculated risk—if their teams do poorly early in the season, the demand for their later games could diminish sharply, and they could end up holding expired tickets they could not sell. It is the same kind of risk stock market investors take when buying options.

There are two factors that allow the "scalpers" to make their profits: **1.** The original ticket prices may be set too low. **2.** People are allowed to buy more tickets than they can reasonably use.

An obvious solution would be to simply raise the original prices of the tickets. This would make "scalping" less profitable. It would also provide extra revenue for the universities, which they would certainly love to get. However, if they did do this, the ethical thing to do would be to offset the extra ticket revenue (which is voluntary) with an equal cut in education taxes (which are mandatory).

Another remedy would be to limit the number of tickets any person could purchase. He would have to show his ID, and be limited to no more than 2 (or perhaps 4) tickets for each game. These purchases would be recorded in a database. If the tickets don't sell out when the game approaches, then the limit could be ended.

Let our political "leaders" haggle over what solutions they want to use to address ticket "scalping." But one thing is clear. Whether it's tickets or any other items, they should never violate any individual's right to sell his own property. That includes mandating any kind of license, permit, or any other impediment that would interfere with that right.

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## WHY CAN'T GUNS BE REMOVED OR SOMETHING DONE TO PREVENT THIS GUN VIOLENCE?



I am as truly horrified as you over the senseless killing of others especially when it involves random attacks on multiple people. However, there are several arguments against tighter gun restrictions, plus being unconstitutional.

First lets put it in perspective; murder by gun this year over 5,200. Yep, that's a lot. This year for alcohol caused deaths it is over 45,000 and drunk driving over 15,500. Is it the alcohol that makes someone pick it up and drink it? There would be over 60,000 people still in the U.S. (some innocent victims

of those using alcohol to excess) if it weren't for alcohol. Maybe we really need to focus on alcohol legislation more? Over 115,000 deaths from medical errors. Do we need more legislation to control medical personnel or maybe avoid hospital stays since there were over 45,000 deaths attributable to being in the hospital this year so far? Deaths from prescription drug overdose topped murder by gun thus far, in at almost 6,900. Over 160,000 tobacco related deaths and about 141,000 obesity related deaths. Do we outlaw tobacco, legislate it more? Not that, our President is a smoker! Do we legislate fast food places more? And the biggest cause of death is purely intentional, over a half million Americans died at the hands of an abortionist.

I belong to the NRA and I enjoy shooting guns and an occasional bird hunt. And I have it to protect my family and me, hoping I never have to use it. The Second Amendment says, *A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.* Some argue that the purpose of the Amendment has to do with arming militias. Historically I have never been aware that to be the only reason in this country. The United States is one of the least restrictive countries when it comes to gun ownership.

In England where you cannot own a gun, you will recall the recent attack and death of a Member of Parliament. While she was stabbed she was also shot by some type of gun that was reported to either have been antique or home made. Great Britain has a lot of problems with knife violence, reported by one Brit to be almost epidemic. When the guns are removed a murderer can always find another weapon. Maybe a knife might not have killed as many in Orlando but what if the terrorist had instead taken a pressure cooker type bomb into the Orlando club? How many deaths would there have been? Maybe many more than

50. Notice that many of these cowards strike where they know people are defenseless and without guns. Look at Russia where guns were removed from the citizens under Stalin and it is reported that as many as 40 million Russians lost their lives when they could not defend themselves or in China where the Communists removed guns and it is reported that as many as 50 million died who could not defend themselves and the Jews in an occupying Nazi Germany who lost their right to bear arms and their 6 million deaths.

Many on the left talk about the ease of buying a gun. Neil Steinberg, a writer for the Chicago Sun Times decided to buy an AR in Illinois to prove his point last month. There is a mandatory 24-hour wait time. He paid for the gun and waited to go back, maybe shoot it at a range a few times and then give it to the local police. The surprise came when he was called and told his application for gun ownership was rejected and his money refunded. It seems he has had a problem with alcohol and hitting his wife. No AR for you!

The deaths caused through the use of a gun are tragic; some are murder, some accidental, and some suicides. Guns don't just jump up and shoot people any more than alcohol forces itself down someone's throat to die a slow death. Yes we need to keep guns from those that are likely to harm themselves or others but we have to figure out how to protect our liberties and pray that God will protect us from ourselves.

*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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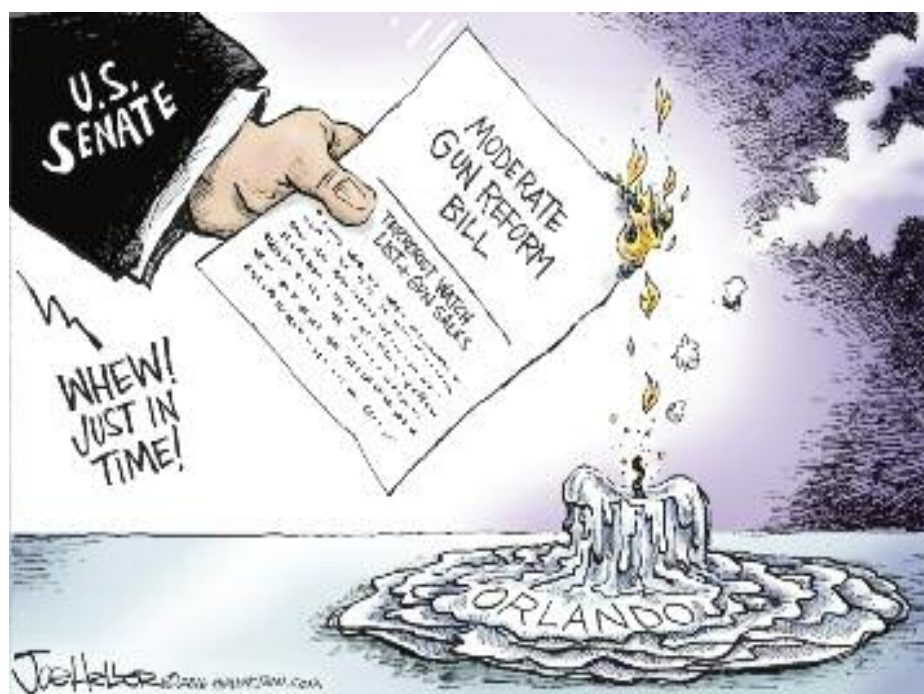
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# SGP

## SMART GIRL POLITICS™

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## The World or Our Souls?

Christian recording artist TobyMac released a song several years ago titled "Lose My Soul."\* As our state deals with yet another political corruption conviction, I can't help but be of the opinion that some of our elected public servants would be wise to consider the words of the song and particularly the chorus.

**"I don't want to gain the whole world and lose my soul."**

In these days and weeks following the conviction of former Alabama Speaker of the House Mike Hubbard, I want to hope and believe that this is a time of considerable reflection within the ranks of those elected to serve, and especially those who hold office in our state legislature. With a looming election for a new House Speaker, now more than ever is a time to choose wisely someone with strong principles and integrity for that important leadership position.

The 2010 election cycle was a watershed for me as it was the first cycle in which I actively participated in state election campaigns rather than merely voting for candidates. My involvement was prompted after watching the dominance of one political party at the state level and confirming that those who advocated for limited conservative government had little to no influence at our state house. Given what I witnessed while sitting in the gallery and walking the halls during a legislative session, I celebrated the "new day in Alabama" that ended the 136 years of Democrat control.

Unfortunately, that celebration was short-lived as grassroots conservatives, many who worked tirelessly during 2010 to elect presumed conservatives, ran into the brick wall of House leadership as we attempted to stop the implementation of yet another big government Leviathan – and profiteering scheme – known as Common Core in our schools.

We quickly discovered that brick wall was the power and influence of lobbying forces with vast sums of money readily available to fund the next political campaign, and those power brokers were determined to thwart our efforts in fighting against Common Core and for other small government issues. Along with numerous other activists who spent countless hours at our state house, I quickly learned that it was "business as usual" regarding the ability of the grassroots to battle those forces of money and influence.

Now, not even a full six years since that historic flipping of our state government from Democrat-to-Republican control with such high promise of governing with integrity, our Speaker of the House has vacated his seat due to a criminal conviction, our governor is under threat of impeachment and federal investigation for his own misbehavior which may or may not be limited to an improper personal relationship, and rumors circulate of further indictments of others relating to the conviction of Mike Hubbard.

We're indeed living in discouraging times concerning those we trust with elected office. Perhaps my disappointment is intensified because of my involvement in 2010, but any violation of the public trust is a serious matter and those who abuse it must be held accountable to the fullest extent of the law.

There is no doubt that politics is a tough arena, often referred to as a blood sport, and certainly not for the faint of heart or spine. But it appears harder than ever these days for too many elected public officials to resist the temptations of the world...spin the truth on a campaign promise a little bit here, compromise on principle just a tad there, enjoy the attention of lobbying efforts a little too much...soon the trap is set, and one day reality hits that those with the money control not only political destinies but also personal lives. I wonder if we as the electorate may contribute to the intoxication of power with the alarming trend towards celebrity worship and idolatry of politicians instead of remembering that they are public servants. Are we enabling those we elect to lose their souls to the lure of power and influence?

While I find myself disgusted and embarrassed by the continuing corruption in our state, I'm also tremendously saddened by the toll it has taken on the families of those accused and convicted. Lives and relationships will never be the same, and although I am encouraged that the rule of law prevails, I cannot imagine the pain for the families involved. I only hope that those of us who identify as Christians, especially those who advocate Christian values when voting, remember them in our prayers.

And for anyone on the other side of the political aisle who is gloating over the Hubbard conviction and the travails of our Republican governor, might I remind you that those who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones. The wall of shame regarding Alabama political misdeeds doesn't discriminate as far as party affiliation.

If we've learned nothing else from recent events, could our lesson be that we must be more engaged and diligent in holding those elected accountable? If not, we're all in danger of losing our souls.

\*TobyMac "Lose My Soul" video can be viewed on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/coHKdhAZ9hU>

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Marcia Chambliss



**Oswaldo Chavez,**  
MS, LMFT-S, LPC-S, NCC  
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# Family Therapy

## NEARLY FIVE CHILDREN DIE EVERY DAY IN AMERICA FROM ABUSE AND NEGLECT

### Child Abuse-

Child abuse can result from physical, emotional, or sexual harm; it can even result from neglect. There are multiple causes and connections which can contribute to child abuse such as alcoholism, substance abuse, anger issues, and poverty just to name a few. But child abuse has no limits--it affects all strata of life. It does not see or care about who you are, where you

# 90%

OF CHILD  
SEXUAL  
ABUSE  
VICTIMS  
**KNOW  
THEIR  
ABUSER**



come from, or where you have been.

Studies show that one in eight boys and one in four girls are sexually abused before the age of 18. Clinically speaking, I think these numbers are much greater as they are under reported.

**What is abuse?** Physical abuse involves harming a child by hitting, burning, beating, and/or breaking bones. Child sexual abuse is the deliberate exposure of a minor child to sexual activity in all its forms. Child neglect occurs when someone does not provide the food, clothing, shelter, or other necessities that are essential for the survival of the child.

As a clinician, I have seen too many children suffer from child abuse. In working with children that have been sexually abused, many people do not realize that most abuse comes from family members or people that are close to the family. One of the things I recommend to anyone who thinks that a child is being abused is to report it immediately to police or DHR (334) 242-1310.

[http://dhr.alabama.gov/services/child\\_protective\\_services/abuse\\_neglect\\_reporting.aspx](http://dhr.alabama.gov/services/child_protective_services/abuse_neglect_reporting.aspx)

### Food for Thought

I remember in the early part of my career working with a family of five. The mother reported that she had been sexually abused by her grandfather, who sexually abused the client's mother, and the grandfather had sexually abused her children and now was sexually abusing her grandchildren. I had asked the client at the time if she or anyone had previously reported the sexual abuse, and she indicated that it has never been reported because the grandfather was a main figure in the family. This sick cycle had continued for more than four generations. I reported the grandfather for all the alleged abuse that occurred in the family. This story unfortunately is common in many families. However, it only takes one person to break the cycle of the "don't talk" rule of dysfunctional families. If you can help one child out do it! Remember Report-Report-Report.

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

### Michael Gregory Hubbard: the impenitent thief...

*Continued from 4A*

**Luke 23:39-43 [KJV]** "And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise."

If Mr. Hubbard does not change his course of appeal and impenitence, I forecast and will applaud Judge Walker giving him 2 years minimum (given no prior felonies) for each conviction to run consecutively (24 years) and \$360,000 in fines for the 12 convictions. Mr. Hubbard has destroyed more lives and saddled more with debt and harm than the usual felon who comes before his court. If Hubbard does admit guilt by or on July 8th, I forecast a sentence more in line with Mr. Stroud's who pled guilty as explained above. Sadly, it appears Hubbard still thinks this is some sort of football game where cheerleading and syrupy announcer banter matters or another election process he can manipulate. It will not work with Judge Walker and more importantly it will not bode well before the awesome judgment seat of Christ, "who will render to every man according to his deeds," as the scriptures promise. Hubbard is the typical modern Nimrod we've enabled, who has shown no fear of our true God and continues to turn to his god (government) he's found so easy to manipulate and sincerely believes will again save him.

**Postscript:** Auburn attorney Don Eddins in the *Villager* mused many candidates in the mix for Hubbard's now open Dist. 79 seat. He mentioned two on our corrupt Lee County Commission (Eckman & Lawrence) who are difficult to take seriously given all the baggage they have and certainly did nothing to censure their Sheriff so publically shilling 'belief in Mike Hubbard' while under active grand jury investigation in his jurisdiction. Other 'Hubbard Believers' seem to be running for cover. Auburn Mayor Bill Ham at one time was the biggest buzz among political junkies as the most 'formidable candidate' but according to Eddins, Ham will not enter the race saying he has no plans to run for the State House or the Senate. Jeff Clary was another name in Don's musings who may be one the BCA would support with past ties to Hubbard. The most interesting name I've heard whispered in the mix is Dr. Gerald Johnson (Political Scientist) possibly running as independent after the duopoly decides their candidates - i.e., he'd be the AEA's pick. The only two I know who've actually announced intention to run in the Sept. 13th primary are local personal injury attorney Hal Walker (so he'll likely get trial attorney support) and local businessman Sandy Toomer who's pegged as no friend of the BCA after running a respectable campaign against/exposing Hubbard in 2014. Hard not to remember candidate Dick Clark, a true Auburn man who ran against Hubbard years ago; imagine where we'd be with someone championing the general welfare of our State over the specific interests Hubbard was bought and paid to promote. Mr. Clark is now a successful attorney (big on 2nd Amendment civil rights) in Nebraska in a run off to win a seat in their legislature. That's what happens when voters allow evil to displace righteousness...

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# Bathroom Chaos: Dobson Scorches Tyrant Obama

## Dr. James Dobson on bathroom edict: ‘Have we gone absolutely mad?’

When I was in the third grade, I raised my hand one day and asked the teacher for permission to “go to the bathroom.” She nodded, and I hurried down the hall to the door designated “Boys.” When I had relieved myself, I headed back in the direction of my homeroom. As bad luck would have it, the doors in the hallway all looked alike, and I opened the wrong one. Two second-grade girls were standing there with their mouths open in disbelief. Then they both screamed and pointed at me. The loudest one said, “You’re in BIG trouble!” The other shouted, “Get out of here!” Sweet kids.

often asked, “Why is the Obama administration trying to mainstream ‘transgenderism’ and force schools to accommodate students who want to use the bathrooms and locker rooms of the opposite sex?” Tony’s answer gets to the heart of the motive: “It’s all part of a radical movement trying to destroy the fact that God created man and woman – and that somehow people can choose what gender they want to be. The ultimate goal is to break down all sexual inhibition and morality – a goal that would result in social chaos.”

This is what influential feminist Dale O’Leary had to say on the issue of



I was mortified beyond belief. I sneaked back into class and looked at the floor, wondering who might have witnessed my unthinkable crime. That was decades ago, but I haven’t forgotten my humiliation. The cardinal rule is that boys and girls never entered each other’s private facilities. Never!

How the world has changed! Who would have believed a day would come during my lifetime when boys could meander into the private sanctuary of girls’ toilets, or that it would someday be a civil right for men to use women’s locker rooms and showers without permission or apology? Imagine sex-absorbed junior high boys ogling the bodies of developing pubescent girls or standing beside them in their showers. Have we gone absolutely mad? What ever happened to modesty, safety, and Christian mores?

Did it upset you when the president of the United States ordered every public school in America to open all its bathroom facilities including those that are in use by a member of the opposite sex? The president’s order made me furious, and then sick to my stomach. How dare this man do something so audacious and unthinkable! His letter from the White House carried an implied threat to withhold federal money from local schools, which rocked the halls of public education. Who is this politician that is spending your hard-earned tax dollars to manipulate school officials, anyway? Who is it that is warping our children? It is Barack Obama, one of the worst presidents in American history, and it is time we stood up and said so!

Obama, acting like a king, is wielding dictatorial powers never envisioned in the law. He is determined to change the way males and females relate to one another, and worse, how children perceive themselves. If you are a married man with any gumption, surely you will defend your wife’s privacy and security in restroom facilities. Would you remain passive after knowing that a strange-looking man, dressed like a woman, has been peering over toilet cubicles to watch your wife in a private moment? What should be done to the pervert who was using mirrors to watch women and girls in their stalls? If you are a dad, I pray you will protect your little girls from men who walk in unannounced, unzip their pants and urinate in front of them. If this had happened 100 years ago, someone might have been shot. Where is today’s manhood? God help us!

(You are probably aware that Target has taken a stand to allow persons who “self-identify” as a man or woman to use the restroom of their choice. In addition to Target Stores, the following retailers have also decided, against the objection of their customers, to create “gender neutral” bathrooms: Starbucks, Ross, Walgreens, Toys “R” Us, and Barnes & Noble. My wife, Shirley, and I will no longer patronize these stores, and I hope millions of others will do likewise.)

Let’s talk more about Barack Obama, who is a tyrant in many ways. How dare he assault centuries of modesty and moral beliefs! By what authority does he tell parents and school officials what to teach children under their care? Christian parents, does this outrageous order violate something deep within your sense of propriety? The president has already maneuvered the courts to undermine a 5,000-year-old definition of marriage, after experiencing his infamous epiphany. Now he is determined to change Western civilization forever. He becomes more reckless and defiant as his second term comes to an end. Never has an American president been so absorbed with the use and abuse of power, and unfortunately, he still has seven months to go. What is next?

I grew up respecting the authority and dignity of the nation’s presidents. Each of them was tasked to defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic, and to protect our rights as citizens. That is what I was taught. My fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Harris, described for us the three branches of government, and how each division has the authority to restrain the other two according to a principle known as “checks and balances.” It made America unique among nations. But, with the complete refusal of the U.S. Congress to restrain the presidency or to curtail a runaway judiciary that is itself drunk with power, “we the people” are victimized by those who steal our freedom. Our Founding Fathers would be shocked to learn how the safeguards on our freedom have been abandoned.

My friend Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council recently said he is

gender and its meaning in her publication, “Gender: The Deconstruction of Women: Analysis of the Gender Perspective in Preparation for the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China.” She wrote, “Although many people think that men and women are the natural expression of a genetic blueprint, gender is a product of human thought and culture, a social construction that creates the ‘true nature’ of all individuals.”

Do you understand what she was saying? Gender is not determined by your chromosomes. It is a product of culture. If a man thinks like a woman, he IS a woman. Furthermore, if we protect children from social and religious conditioning, people will be free to move into and out of existing gender roles at will. Taking that concept to its logical conclusion, the feminists and LGBT activists want to dissolve the traditional roles of mothers and fathers and, in time, eliminate references to wife, husband, son, daughter, sister, brother, manhood, womanhood, boy, girl, masculine and feminine. These activists want us to replace age-old terminology with neutral terms, such as significant other, spouse, parent, child and sibling. You’ll see that happening in the near future. The bottom line is that they want to destroy human sexuality and take with it the foundation of the family. That is their goal, and they have a president in office who is willing to use his executive authority to force this nonsense on us all.

Clearly, there are serious implications here for mothers and fathers. I urge you to protect your boys and girls from those who are espousing these views. Shield them from gender feminism and from those who would confuse their sexuality. They will be under increasing political pressure in years to come.

It is also important for us as adults to understand our own sexual identities. If we don’t know who we are, our kids will be doubly confused about who they are. Any uncertainty, any ambiguity in that assignment must be seen as damaging not only to our sons and daughters but also to the long-term stability of society itself.

I urge you to base your teachings about sexuality on the Scriptures, which tell us, “God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them” (Genesis 1:27). Jesus, who was the first Jewish leader to give dignity and status to women, said, “Haven’t you read . . . that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’” and, “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh” (Matthew 19:4-5). That is the divine plan. It leaves no doubt that the Creator made not one sex but two, each beautifully crafted to “fit with” and meet the needs of the other. Any effort to teach children differently is certain to produce turmoil in the soul of a child.

We must fight to protect our homes and families from politically correct politicians who would create new entitlements that take away our liberties. There is no time to lose. Our children hang in the balance.

<http://www.wnd.com/2016/05/protect-your-kids-from-tyrant-obama/>

See more at: <http://www.teaparty.org/bathroom-chaos-dobson-scorches-tyrant-obama-168135/#sthash.qcLLwfVU.dpuf>

MAY 30, 2016 8:46 PM  
OBAMA NATION  
(James Dobson) –

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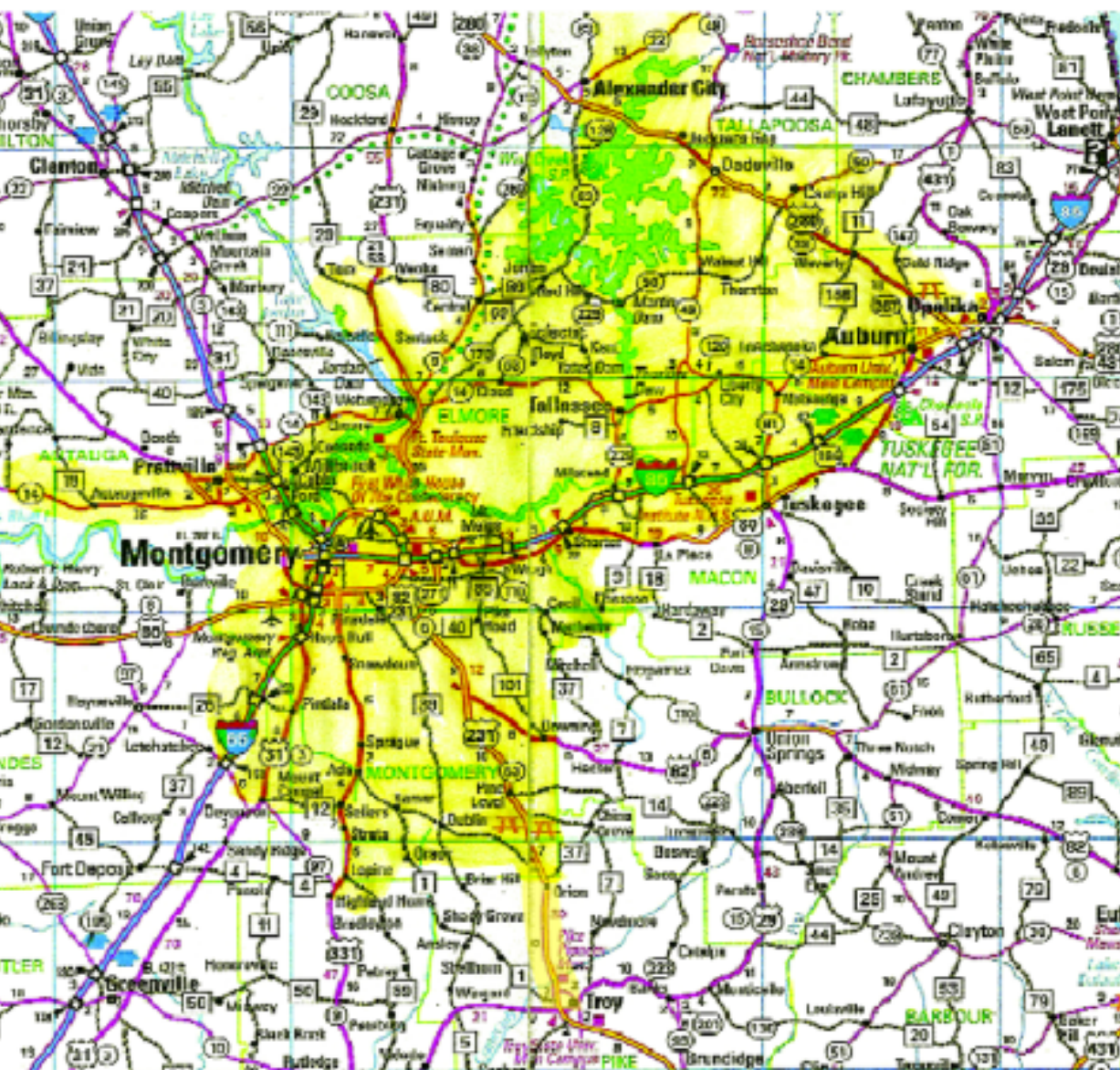


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# Community Lifestyles

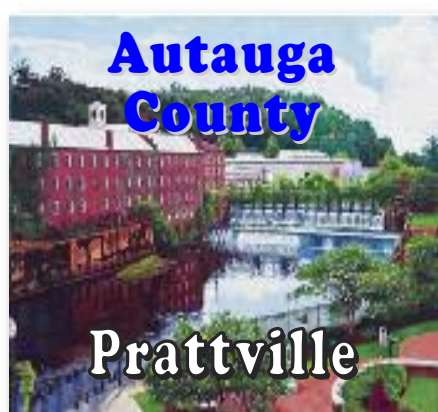
We are proud to announce that The Alabama Gazette is also being delivered in parts of Crenshaw, Butler, Pike and Lee Counties. If you cannot find the Gazette in your area, please check out our website: [www.alabamagazette.com](http://www.alabamagazette.com)



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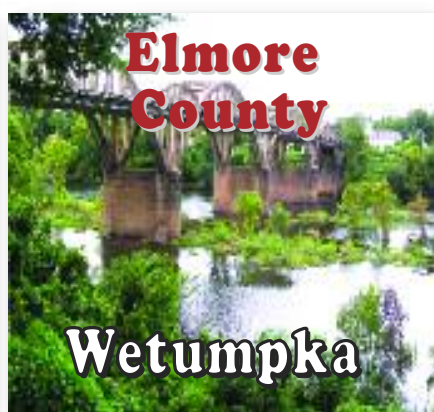
**Cities, Towns and Communities:**  
Pike Road, Cecil, Mathews, Pine Level, Grady, Ramer, Lapine, Snowdown, Pintala, Hope Hull and Catoma



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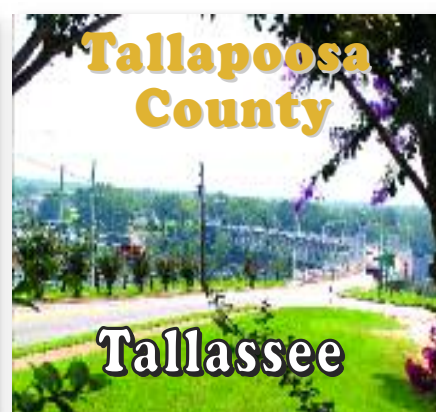
**Surrounding Town and Communities:**  
Autaugaville, Billingsley, Booth, Marbury, Pine Level, Independence, Statesville, Jones and Vida



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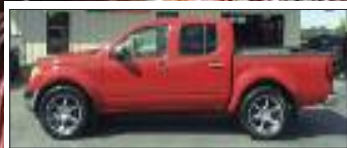
**2009 NISSAN MURANO S**  
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**2005 LEXUS GX470**  
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**2006 TOYOTA 4RUNNER SR5**  
tan interior, power seat, windows, locks, tilt, cruise, alloy wheels, cd player



**2006 NISSAN FRONTIER CREW CAB, ONE OWNER,**  
red, grey interior, power windows, locks



**2007 HUMMER H3**  
black, black interior, sunroof, power windows, locks, tilt, cruise, nerf bars, cd player



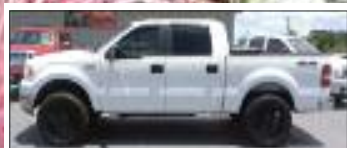
**2009 LANDROVER RANGEROVER HSE,**  
white, charcoal leather, sunroof, heated and powerseats LOW MILEAGE, towing package, navigation



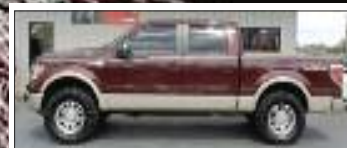
**2004 TOYOTA TACOMA SR5**  
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**2007 GMC YUKON SLT**  
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**2006 FORD F150 4X4**  
white, grey interior, power seat, windows, locks, tilt, cruise, wheels, bedliner, tool box



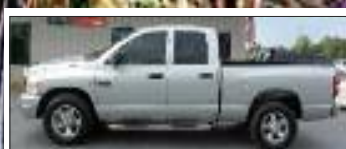
**2010 FORD F150 KING RANCH**  
4X4, white, grey interior, power seat, windows, locks, tilt, cruise, wheels, bedliner



**2011 TOYOTA TUNDRA SR5 DOUBLE CAB,**  
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**Sheriff Joe Sedinger**

## On May 20, 2016 the Fountain City Lodge 22 held the Annual Memorial Service "HONORING OUR FALLEN FELLOW OFFICERS" on the Autauga County Courthouse lawn.

Speakers for the event included, Lodge President Tom Allen, Mayor Bill Gillespie, Police Chief Mark Thompson, Sheriff Joe Sedinger, ADA Jessica Sanders, Prosecutor Brad Ek Dahl, Captain Tom Allen (ACSO), and Lodge Chaplin Donnie Walker. Taps was performed by a member of the Millbrook PD Honor Guard.

At the conclusion of the memorial service, the family of fallen deputy William Troy Seamon was presented with a Thin Blue Line Plaque that was signed by all the employees of the Autauga County Sheriff's Office. This plaque was provided by Skip House of the Facebook page - My Blue Angels.



*Neal & Brenda Vinson*



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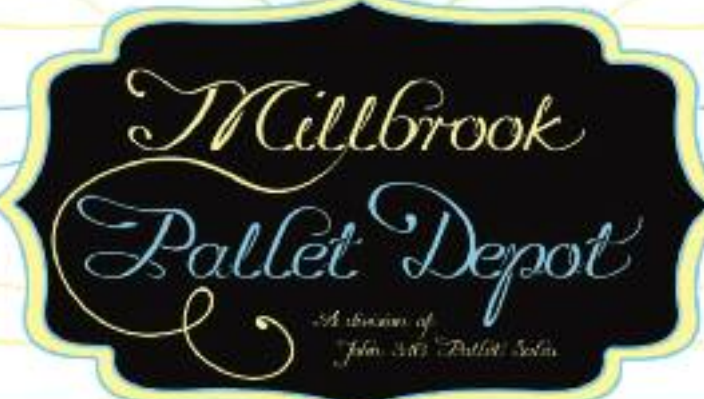
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The Prattville Farmers Market is conveniently located off Doster Road just a few blocks off Main Street. Its close proximity to Pratt Park with the Splash Pad, children's play area, tree-lined walk ways, pond, pool and picnic areas make it a wonderful place for a family outing. Enjoy the park and picnic with fresh produce. Lots of fun events will take place at the Market throughout the season. For more information about the Prattville Farmers Market or to register as a vendor, contact the Special Events office at 334/595-0854 or visit the website at [www.prattvilleal.gov](http://www.prattvilleal.gov).

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There's still time to register to be a Vendor!

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Sheriff Derrick Cunningham

Chief Deputy Kevin J. Murphy

**Summer time is here and boy is it hot!** We encourage you to stay indoors as much as possible and check on those loved ones to make sure that are ok with such high temperatures!

## Fishing Rodeos

We would also like to thank everyone for the enormous response to our annual Kids Fishing Rodeo we had back on Saturday, June 18th. As I always



say, it's up to an adult to set the example early in order to have a positive outcome which is why I focus on programs that cater to our youth. During the month of September, we will our Senior Fishing Rodeo. It will be held on Tuesday, September 13th from 6am-12noon for all seniors 55 years of age and older. This is a time for fun and fellowship with friends so please mark your calendar and continue to monitor our website [www.MontgomerySheriff.com](http://www.MontgomerySheriff.com) for updates.

## Vacation Security Check

Don't forget to schedule your vacation security home checks so you don't have to worry while you are on vacation...leave the worrying to us! All Montgomery County residents are encouraged to following the listed helpful tips as well as utilize our vacation security home check. All you need to do is call 832-2578 during the hours of 8:00 am-5:00 pm, Monday through Friday and answer a few questions or call our non-emergency Dispatch number after hours at 832-1328.



### Helpful tips to remember while you are preparing for vacation:

- Cancel your mail service with your post office
- Stop your newspaper—extra newspapers in your driveway lets people know you are not at home
- Notify trusting neighbors that you are leaving so they can monitor any activity at your residence
- **ALWAYS HAVE A PLAN OF ACTION**

## Citizens Academy

We are preparing for our next Citizens Academy which will be held in September. If you haven't heard about our Citizens Academy, you're missing out. The course consists of one night a week for one hours for a period of six weeks. You will learn about each department and how they operate and protect you, the citizen. Please keep check on our website for more details [www.MontgomerySheriff.com](http://www.MontgomerySheriff.com).

## Show-n-Tell Camp

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office is now accepting applications for our Show-N-Tell summer camp for youths who are interested and serious about camp enrichment. It is not a disciplinary camp but a way of bonding with our

youth to promote positive interaction. Camp will last for 1 week and is totally free for boys and girls between the ages of 9-11. It will be held on August 1-5, 2016. We will be going to Camp Chandler in Wetumpka, Alabama and will be bused from Montgomery to the camp. Applications can be obtained by coming to the Sheriff's Office at 100 South Lawrence Street or the Mac Sim Butler Detention Facility (County Jail) located at 250 South McDonough Street, by fax (334) 832-7113 or by email: [LisaCrenshaw@mc-ala.org](mailto:LisaCrenshaw@mc-ala.org).

If you need additional information concerning the camp, please call 832-1339. The Sheriff's Office will accept the first 100 approved applications.

Requirements:

- MONTGOMERY COUNTY RESIDENT
- MUST BE BETWEEN 9-11 YEARS OLD
- PROVIDE BIRTH CERTIFICATE

**\*\*DEADLINE TO TURN IN YOUR APPLICATION IS FRIDAY, JULY 1ST\*\***

## Firearms Familiarization Course

There are still slots available for our June 11th, Firearms Familiarization Course! Sign up now and learn how to protect yourself! We know that learning how to protect yourself is very important in today's world. Our course is held one Saturday a month and has been scheduled for the following dates:

**Saturday, July 9th • Saturday, August 13th**  
**Saturday, September 24th • Saturday, November 12th**



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### Course Requirements:

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- Obtain a Montgomery County Pistol Permit (prior to the course date)
- Complete an Application for the Course

**Pistol Permit Questions? 334.832.1335 or 334.832.1337**

Course Questions or to Obtain an Application?  
[LisaCrenshaw@mc-ala.org](mailto:LisaCrenshaw@mc-ala.org) or 334.832.1339

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

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 Wetumpka, Alabama 36092

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**Sheriff Bill Franklin**

There are a number of times each week that our Deputies are asked about proper procedures regarding evictions and small claim suits. This article will attempt to clarify and simplify the laws concerning **“the way to recover monies or property in a small claims suit.”**

*Next months we will address evictions.*

If a person has reached the age of 19 a “claim” may be held in the Circuit Clerk’s office of the Elmore County Judicial Building located at 8935 U.S. Highway 231 in Wetumpka. If this person is suing another on behalf of a corporation they must be an officer or full time employee of the corporation.

When you approach the desk you will be asked to fill out a “Statement of Claim” form which spells out in layman terms why you have been wronged. You may seek damages up to, but not to exceed \$6,000.00. It is crucial that you be able to provide the name and address of the Defendant you wish to have served.

A filing fee must be paid to the Circuit Clerk at the time your claim is presented. That amount is dependent on the amount you seek to recover. The fee is \$52.00 for claims up to \$1,500.00, \$126.00 up to \$3,000.00 and \$215 up to \$6,000.00. The Deputy will then attempt to serve the defendant. When served, this Defendant has 14 days to file and answer back to the Clerk of Small Claims Court. If an answer is received the case is generally set for a court date within 30 days. You will be able to articulate to a judge, without an attorney, your statement of claim as to why you are seeking damages or restitution. There is no jury, just a judge, yourself and the defendant.

If the judge orders a judgment on your behalf and the Defendant does not pay, you may seek an Execution or a Garnishment. The execution authorizes the Sheriff’s Department to pick up and sell property the Defendant owns in order to satisfy the judgment. A Garnishment is served upon the Defendant’s place of employment of employee and monies are withheld to satisfy the judgment.

When the case is decided it is possible either you or the Defendant may disagree with the judge’s decision. Within 14 days of the judgment a “Notice of Appeal” may be filed in the Clerk’s office. This appeal will be heard in Circuit Court as opposed to the initial hearing in District Court. The party filing the appeal will be responsible for paying a filing fee and post a bond to cover any unpaid court costs.

As always, if anyone has questions regarding how to seek recovery involving a claim, call our office **334-567-5546 ext. 3001** and I will discuss the matter in greater detail with you.

*Bill Franklin, Sheriff*



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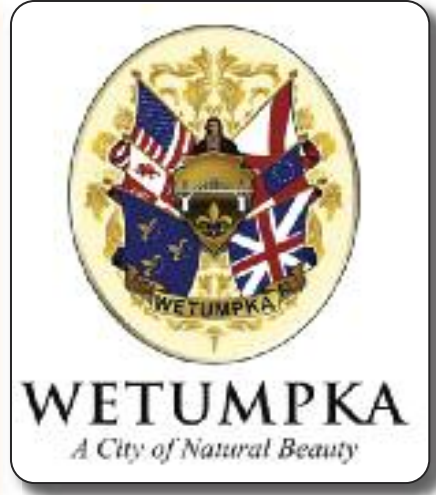
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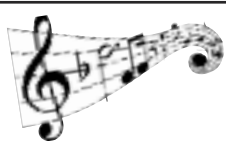


**From the Mayors desk**

*As the temperatures continue to rise, so does the excitement for all of the upcoming events and programs happening here in Wetumpka.*

We have just been selected as a designated Main Street Community which will work with all of our downtown businesses to enhance downtown and business growth. The positive comments on Main Street have been overwhelming. We appreciate the buy-in we have received from not only the downtown businesses but the entire community. Positive steps like Main Street and the downtown re-development shine a great spotlight on this community and drive more developments and households our direction. We are all striving to make Wetumpka a great place to live, work and play. This is just the beginning of the many new projects and developments on the horizon.

A few other exciting events that are coming up are the **4th of July Celebration** and **Wetumpka’s River and Blues Music & Arts Festival**. The 4th of July event has been a standing celebration for many years and we are excited to continue to provide quality entertainment to our citizens. **Festivities will kick off at 6:00 p.m. in Gold Star Park** with Kim Armstrong’s “A popular dance,” where audience members are taught popular dance moves. At **6:30 p.m. the band Wishbone** will perform and of course, there will be free children’s activities throughout the evening. **The night will conclude with a fireworks show at 9:00 p.m.** I encourage everyone to bring their blankets and lawn chairs and come celebrate the 4th with us!



## Wetumpka’s River and Blues Festival



This has become an area favorite and continues to have enormous crowds. We are extremely proud of this event and what it means to Wetumpka and the Tri-county area.

**The 5th Annual Festival will be held on July 16, from 3 p.m. – 10 p.m. on the Riverwalk of downtown Wetumpka.**

The festival consists of two stages of entertainment, free children’s activities, a juried art show and delicious food. Bring your blankets, lawn chairs and coolers and come have a fantastic time. See you there!



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# Southern Cuisine

I am sitting in the kitchen, looking outside and wondering how hot is. It doesn't make any difference. I know it's hot. My phone says its 97 and feels like 101. It is time to water my garden. I have to water much more than I did just two weeks ago. The plants are larger and require more water and it's hotter than it was two weeks ago. I need more water! The tomatoes, basil, and blueberries need a good amount of water. The Carolina Reapers, the Ghost Peppers along with the Habaneros, Jalapeños and the Poblanos get the least amount of water. Just enough water the keep the leaves from drooping. Somewhere I read that the peppers will be hotter if you don't over water them. I don't think you can tell the difference from an overwatered Ghost Pepper and one that was lightly watered. They are going to be mouth numbing no matter what. With the good rains

we had over the winter and spring, my fruit trees look healthy. I should have a good crop of figs and pears. The peaches look good, but my trees don't produce many peaches.

I have about eight gallons of prepped peaches, 5 gallons of prepped figs and about five pounds of assorted peppers left over from last year that I never got around to canning. I bagged and froze them waiting for a good time to can them. I plan to make some new jellies and jams with a hint of heat, hence the Ghost Peppers and Carolina Reapers. Blueberries are new to my garden and I can't wait to try some new jams. I could call one "Ghostly Blueberry."

As you can tell I don't have a big garden. I like to concentrate on a few fruits and vegetables. I like making jellies and jams and I use them to trade for other fruits and vegetables I don't grow. I have already prepped yellow squash and plums from neighbors in exchange for some jams and preserves.

I have a lot of other things going on right now too. I have been shopping and buying up blueberries, zucchini, yellow squash, apples, spinach, and cane sugar. Some of these items because they looked good and were inexpensive, some because they looked good. The cane sugar because I always need sugar for jellies and jams. I don't think it is just a coincidence that my jam and jellies turn out better when I use cane sugar. My jellies set better when I use cane sugar. When it is on sale, I end up with too many plastic bags from the grocery store. The plastic bags can only safely hold one bag of sugar. Trust me, I know because there is a sweet spot in my SUV and one in my back yard. So I don't put 8 pounds of sugar in a plastic bag. But then I come home with more bags than I want to. I also have to make up my mind when I buy groceries, do I want to choke a fish or kill a tree.

I also have been playing with a gadget I got for my stand mixer. It's a spiralizer. This gadget only changes the shape of the vegetable or fruit, not the taste. But your eyes are just as important as your taste buds. Cutting zucchini and yellow squash into round discs or half-moons is not exciting. But when you can spiralize a zucchini into a six foot long string, now that is exciting. My favorite trick is to spiralize a sweet potato. I love curly fried sweet potatoes.

I read an article recently about something dear to a Southerner's heart. Tea and specifically sweet tea. The article was ranting about bottle sweet teas and flavored sweet teas. You would be surprised to learn that some of the bottled teas don't have tea in them. And you will get less sugar if you ate 10 chocolate chips cookies than drink a 16 ounce bottle of some of these concoctions. My favorite was a bottled sweet tea that had over 14 ingredients. Now how can you justify 14 ingredients when the Southerner that invented sweet tea, most likely only used real tea, real lemons, and real sugar. Like I always say, read the label. Besides the controversy over the amount of sugar we consume, we are told to eat organic. Organic foods are expensive and not always tastier and that much more nutritious. The concerns are the pesticides used to keep the crops for human consumption and not for the bugs meals. This is not a iron clad rule, but if the fruit or vegetable is covered by a thick skin that you do not eat, then it is okay to eat non-organic. Examples are avocados, bananas, sweet corn, cabbage, mangoes, melons, and eggplant.

But if you are eating strawberries, apple, peaches, celery, grapes, spinach, tomatoes, sweet bell peppers and cucumbers, it is advised to buy the organic variety. I guess if you peel your apples and cucumbers then they are safer. All of this can be solved by knowing where your produce comes from and the farming practices used. If you buy LOCAL you can get answers to these questions from the growers.

Asking questions about your food should extend to the labels on the packaging. Is Organic Palm Kernel Solids good for you and did your grandmother put them in her cookies? Another favorite of mine is the no added nitrates in the food. But did you notice the ingredient celery juice? Guess what celery has naturally according. Is it really bad for you? New government eating guidelines say we can eat our eggs and drink our coffee, but cut down on sugar. So with that in mind let's try a summer meal with a salad a meat and one side. That's really a meat and two sides in some restaurants. It is summer, so we want something quick and easy and not a lot of stove or oven time.

## CHICKPEA SALAD

### INGREDIENTS

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 15-oz can of garbanzo beans (chickpeas) rinsed and drained   | 2-3 tablespoons minced basil               |
| 1 1/2 cups peeled and diced English cucumber( if using regular cucumber, peel and deseed, then dice) | 2-3 tablespoons minced mint                |
| 1 1/2 cups diced tomatoes  | 2 garlic cloves, mashed                    |
| 1 jalapeno, seeds and pith removed, finely diced   | 1 teaspoon salt                            |
| 1/2 cup finely diced red onion   | 2 tablespoons freshly squeezed lemon juice |
| 1/2 cup cilantro minced  | 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard                   |
|  | 2 teaspoons white wine vinegar             |
|  | 3 tablespoons olive oil                    |
|  | freshly ground black pepper                |

### METHOD

1. Rinse and drain chickpeas. In a medium bowl, combine the chickpeas, cucumber, tomato, jalapeno, red onion, and herbs.
2. In a small bowl, mash together the garlic and salt. Whisk in the lemon juice, mustard, vinegar and olive oil. Season to taste with pepper. Toss the dressing into the chickpeas and vegetables.
3. Let it sit for at least an hour in the refrigerator. Give it one final toss before serving.

**SERVES 4**

There is a fruit that is very popular during the summer but there are times when you have too much. And that is watermelon! Okay, maybe you can never have too much watermelon. But when you have a big sweet watermelon and you want to try something different, then here's your chance.

Since I know that during the summer with all the cook outs and BBQs, that



red meat consumption is at an all time high. So here is a recipe that gives your gut a break. I can't wait, bye.

## BAKED FISH with TOMATO and WATERMELON SALSA

### INGREDIENTS

- |   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1.5 pounds fish filet                             | to finish                        |
| 1 tablespoon olive oil                            | 1 shallot, minced                |
| 1 teaspoon your favorite taco seasoning, to taste | 1 jalapeño, seeded and minced    |
| 1 pound cherry tomatoes                           | 1/2 cup roughly chopped cilantro |
| 2 teaspoon olive oil                              | Salt and pepper to taste         |
| 2 cups of 1/2" cubes of watermelon                |                                  |
| Juice of one lemon, plus more                     |                                  |

### METHOD

1. Pat dry the fish with a paper towel and drizzle the tablespoon of oil on top. Sprinkle it with salt and pepper and the taco seasoning and rub it into the flesh of the fish. Let it sit at room temperature while you make the tomato and watermelon salsa.
2. Halve the cherry tomatoes and put them in a large mixing bowl. Toss with the 2 teaspoons of olive oil and a pinch of salt. Add the watermelon cubes, lemon juice, shallot, jalapeño and cilantro and stir to mix. You can make this in advance but don't add the salt until ready to serve or salsa will become soggy. Keep the topping cool but not cold.
3. Preheat the oven to 475°F and lay the fish on a parchment lined baking sheet. Bake the fish for 7-8 minutes (depending on the filet's thickness), until the top is just cooked. You want the center to be slightly undercooked since it will continue to cook as it rests. Squeeze fresh lemon juice on top. Plate the fish and top the fish with the watermelon and tomato topping and serve.
4. Now if you are real adventurous make the grilled watermelon and add it to the salad and used in the fish and salsa dish. I didn't do this but will the next time. Just thinking outside the box.

## GRILLED WATERMELON with TEQUILA

### INGREDIENTS

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 4 pieces of watermelon(cut into squares) about 3/4 to one inch thick. See notes at bottom. | ( I like chipotle powder but ancho is good, just not the store bought red powder called Chili Powder.) |
| 2 shots of your favorite tequila   | 8 ounces Lime yogurt   |
| 1 tablespoon kosher salt   | Cilantro, 1/4 cut loosely shredded   |
| Zest and juice of 1 lemon  |  |
| 3 teaspoons of chili powder  |  |

### METHOD

1. Mix the yogurt and the cilantro and set aside cooled.
2. Mix the tequila, lemon juice and zest in a bowl and drizzle equal amounts on the watermelon slices. Sprinkle the chili powder and salt on top and gently rubbing it into the watermelon.
3. Now the decision time. If you have a ribbed grill pan, grill the watermelon on the stove at high heat with the chili side down. About 2-3 minutes. Remove from grill and turn grill marks up, and top with Cilantro Lime Yogurt.
4. If you have a good clean grill and you are a master on your domain, by all means do it outside over an open flame or coals. The smoke will add to the flavor.
5. If you were successful with the Grilled Watermelon, do it first and add cubed grilled watermelon to the salad or to the salsa. Also seedless watermelon will cut better and make whole pieces that won't be as likely to break. A whole new experience.

*But when it comes down to brass tacks, the best way to eat watermelon on a hot summer day, is by the slice with the cool sweet juice running down your arms.*



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**Judge Peggy Givhan**

# Southern Gardening Potpourri for July

by Peggy Givhan

I do not know about you, but the **Zika virus** has me nervous. And the first thing I want to do is to fumigate my yard, besides emptying any and all standing water. This means for me that I have to check after my sprinkler system comes on daily for water that may have collected in magnolia leaves and other receptacles. I was reading an article published

Of all the myriad of shrubs that grow in God's green earth, my favorite are the hydrangeas. If one desires landscape size hydrangeas, the Limelight cannot be beat and has a long bloom time. Two recent varieties that I have run into on my garden shopping forays are:

**1. Hydrangea Incrediball Blush** --very hardy and is a show stopper with huge blush colored blossoms for sunny situations. These grow about 5 feet high, and can survive very tough winters. They age to a gray green and are simply stunning.



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**2. Hydrangea Gatsby Pink** --these have massive blooms with a sculptured dark green leaves, turning burnt orange in the fall. The conical shaped blooms have an appearance of the Oak leaf hydrangea. The moisture requirement is moist well drained soil, and they can take full sun or partial shade. These are recommended for our Zone 8.

GOOD GARDENING.

in a gardening magazine, that we should be very careful when spraying insecticides in our urban yards. The United States bee populations have diminished greatly, so we do not want to add to more of their demise. It was suggested that even organic products such as insecticidal soaps can be deadly. Avoid dusts which attach to the bees' hairy bodies which they then carry back to the hives which can be deadly. It is best to spray or fog the landscape only late at night or very early in the morning when the bees are not active. Also another safety idea is to avoid spraying the actual blooms heads that the bees visit. It would be the better practice to find insecticide which is targeted toward certain pest. There are bee friendly products that are on the market today. To learn more about bee safety, the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service would be the experts on this subject.

Late last fall, I planted curly leaf Kale, Collards, and giant red stemmed Swiss Chard in the flower garden at my farm. We ate all of the collards, but now the Kale and Swiss Chard have filled in a swath of about 8 feet by 5 feet in the mid part of the bed. I had no idea these edibles were such great fillers. Now that it is in the 95+ degree range, these plants have not missed a beat. You may want to try my idea of placing edible along side Phlox, Zinnias, Cannas, and other flowers.

Micronutrients have been in the news and also in many national health letters. These are actually seedlings or sprouts of radishes, broccoli, sunflowers, cress, alfalfa, and others. I have spent \$4.00 per pack at Fresh Market or other grocery stores for these very healthy additions to salads or sandwiches. They can be grown very cheaply in pots, plates, tins, in window sills or out of doors. Microgreens are not like sprouts, which are grown in jars without soil. Although you can grow microgreens hydroponically, their flavor is best grown in soil.

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

## WE'RE WORKING TOGETHER TO SECURE TODAY AND TOMORROW



By **Kylle' D. McKinney**

Your first job is a landmark occasion. You're meeting new people, making professional connections, and probably cashing that first paycheck. You might be a little surprised when you see a portion of your earnings go to a tax called "FICA" for the Federal Insurance Contributions Act. This deduction goes to Social Security and is your way of helping us secure your today and tomorrow. It's our job to keep the safety net of Social Security strong through your incremental contributions.

Understanding how important your contribution is takes some of the sting away because your taxes are helping millions of Americans. By law, employers must withhold Social Security taxes from workers' paychecks. While referred to as "Social Security taxes" on an employee's pay statement, sometimes the deduction is labeled as "FICA." This stands for Federal Insurance Contributions Act, a reference to the original Social Security Act. Sometimes, you will see "OASDI," which stands for Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance, the official name for the Social Security Insurance program.

The taxes you pay now mean a lifetime of protection — for retirement in old age or in the event of disability. And when you die, your family (or future family) may be able to receive survivors benefits based on your work.

You probably have family members — grandparents, for example — who already enjoy benefits that your Social Security taxes help provide. Social Security is completely solvent through 2033. At that point, retirement benefits

will be reduced to 75 percent, unless changes are made to the law. In the past, Social Security has evolved to meet the needs of a changing population — and you can count on Social Security in the future.

Because you're a long way from retirement, you may have a tough time seeing the value of benefit payments that could be many decades in the future. But keep in mind the Social Security taxes you're paying can provide valuable disability or survivors benefits, if the unexpected happens. Studies show that of today's 20-year-olds, about one in four will become disabled, and about one in eight will die before reaching retirement.

To learn more about Social Security and exactly what you're earning for yourself by paying Social Security taxes, take a look at our online booklet, How You Earn Credits, at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10072.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10072.html).

We're doing this job together. The small amount you contribute with every paycheck allows us to help millions of retired workers, disabled people, and veterans. You can learn more about how we're with you through life's journey at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).



# Gazette Seniors...

You may be over the hill if... you often wonder how your idiot son could have such beautiful and intelligent children.

## FALLS PLAGUE SENIORS

On June 23, residents at Elmcroft at Halcyon, one of Montgomery's assisted living facilities, learned that one out of three senior citizens falls each year. A troublesome fact that, but one that may be greater than what is on the books. Many seniors who experience falls tend not to bother their family physician, for one reason or another.

This, and other facts relative to falling, were shared with the residents by Delane Richardson, one of the Central Alabama Aging Consortium's team of experts on problems that confront our growing population of older Americans.

Consider that 20 percent of the falls that occur each year involve a serious injury, such as a broken bone or head injuries.

Every year 2.5 million people are treated in the nation's emergency rooms for injuries related to falling. And, what makes this information even more troublesome is that the reported number of falls that occur each year is considerably less than are reported. Older people often are reluctant to report a fall because of its negative indications.

Hip fractures is one of the more common results of falling, along with head injuries and broken bones, reported Ms. Richardson.

She went on to note that living in a facility such as Elmcroft places residents in direct and constant with healthcare professionals who provide immediate attention to falls and their unfortunate result. The importance of this fact are the related facts that there are usually companion injuries involved such as hip

fractures and brain injuries.

As part of her presentation Ms. Richardson emphasized the fact that most of these injuries involve multiple injuries, and a goodly number could have been prevented.

She emphasized the dangers of various household items that we take for granted, such as those related to rugs and furniture—common household items we've learned to take for granted.

The bathroom is another danger zone, she reported, and the danger often is related to or accompanied by another household item.

Ms. Richardson stressed the importance of seeking professional help should a senior be a fall victim, and to be wary of furniture we've come to, over the years, take for granted.

Ms. Richardson's presentation kicked off a monthly series of programs designed by Elmcroft management to educate seniors on a variety of subjects, and to help them to deal with them should they become involved.

Millions of seniors are injured by falls in their homes. Each year an estimated 250,000 old people are hospitalized for hip fractures—most of them the result of falls in the household, which also includes brain injuries and broken bones.

She emphasized the need for caution, since many of the contributing factors are things we've come to, over the years, take for granted. As to some of the tips she talked about they are available for the asking. Drop by Elmcroft, at 1775 Halcyon Blvd. and ask for: "Fall Prevention Tips," it's free and informative.

## The Saga of the Snark

(An evening of fine dining at "the old folks home")

Whenever a person moves to a new living environment there are certain idiosyncracies that present themselves; one of them is a change in ones environment that sometimes comes as quite a surprise. Such as one that presented itself recently to a new resident At Elmcroft of Halcyon assisted living facility in Montgomery.

It was time for the evening meal, and an unsuspecting diner made his way to a table occupied by three pleasant older ladies, who were obviously regulars there.

They graciously consented to the new resident's petition to seat himself at their table, and then the following experience ensued:

As it became time for the dinner meal to be presented, the servers moved from table to table advising the senior diners what the evening's offerings were.

### This scenario took place before the surprised eyes of the new resident:

The server arrived at the table after the salads had been served and consumed and it was time to get serious.

The server recited the evening's offering: "Today we have roast pork, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables as the first choice, or a hamburger patty and French fries, as the alternate."

At this announcement three trembling voices could be heard in unison asking: "What?"

The server repeated the day's offerings.

Whereupon resident one, who was deaf as a post but won't wear a hearing aid, responded in a loud voice: "Broafed snark? What's a broafed snark?"

Ever so patiently the server responded: "No ma'am. That's roast pork."

"Roast pork? What about roast pork?"

"That's the main course, ma'am"

"Roast pork? Why didn't you say so? What comes with it?"

"Mashed potatoes and mixed vegetables, ma'am."

"Mashed potatoes? Why mashed potatoes? Can't I have French fries?"

"Yes ma'am. You can have French fries if you like. Do you also want the mixed vegetables?"

"What's in the mixed vegetables?"

"Corn, peas, and Lima beans, ma'am."

"Lima beans? Don't want no Lima beans."

"But they're part of the dish. They're all mixed together."

"Don't want no Lima beans, but bring them anyway."

The other resident at the table allowed that she'd have the roast beef. To which the server replied: "We don't have roast beef today."

"Well, what do you have?"

"We have roast pork, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables as the first choice, or a hamburger patty and French fries, as the alternate."

"What about the broafed snark?" she demanded.

"We don't have anything called broafed snark. You're thinking about roast pork."

"I don't eat pork. Why can't I have the snark?"

"There isn't anything called snark."

"But you told her that's what you have."

"No, I said roast pork."

"But I don't want roast pork you silly girl. Don't you listen? What else do you have?"

"We have a hamburger patty and French fries."

"Can I have mashed potatoes instead of French fries?"

"Yes you can. Is there anything else?"

"What else do you have?"

"Nothing."

"Then I don't want

anything else."

And a similar scenario took place with the third diner.

A few minutes later the server appeared with the meals, as ordered.

Whereupon the first resident barked: "What's this? I didn't order this."

"But, ma'am, that's what you ordered."

"No I didn't. I wanted the hamburger steak," the resident responded in an irritated voice.

The server returned the unwanted meal to the kitchen and returned with the alternate.

"Why are you bringing me this? I didn't order a hamburger steak. I wanted the snark! But since that's all you have I guess I'll have to eat it. I really wanted the broafed snark."

"That's what I wanted, too," responded the second lady.

"But there isn't anything called broafed snark."

"Well then why do you offer it?"

"Good grief. I guess we'll have to just make do with what we have, but I was looking forward to the snark."

And a similar scenario took place with the third diner.

After the main course was completed the desert cart arrived and the main option was chocolate ice cream.

"How come we have chocolate? Why don't we ever have vanilla?"

"We had vanilla yesterday, ma'am."

"I'd rather have vanilla."

But we don't have vanilla tonight.".....

## SIGNIFICANT BIRTHS IN JULY

This month we celebrate the birth of our nation. It was also the month in which many significant births occurred, starting on the much celebrated birth-date of our nation, the 4th, and including that of novelist and short-story writer Nathaniel Hawthorne, in 1804.

Songwriter Stephen Foster was also born on the 4th, in 1826.

On this date in 1872, "Silent Cal," Calvin Coolidge, was born.

On the 5th, Civil War Admiral David Farragut, was born. He was the American hero who also gave us the phrase: "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!"

Also on this day in 1810, Circus showman P.T. Barnum, was born in Connecticut, and on this day in 1853, the South African millionaire Cecil Rhodes was born.

On the following date in 1885, during the Revolutionary War, John Paul Jones declared that he had "not yet begun to fight."

Baseball pitcher Leroy (Satchel) Paige was born in Mobile, AL on the 7th, and on the 8th Nelson Rockefeller was born.

The stork was busy on the 10th, with Theologian John Calvin, the founder of Presbyterianism, in 1509; Artist James Whistler, in 1834; Pottery designer Josiah Wedgwood, and in 1817, pottery designed Josiah Wedgwood, inn 1730, and Philosopher Henry David Thoreau, also on this date.

Jump ahead to the 14th, and we have Woody Guthrie, in 1912, Gerald R. Ford, in 1913; Rembrandt in 1606; and the first American saint, Frances Xavier

Cabrini, but he was born in Lombardy, Italy.

Christian Science founder Mary Baker Eddy, was born the 16th of July in 1821, and on that same date in 1872, Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen, was born near Oslo.

On July 18, Nelson Mandella, was burn in South Africa.

The following date, in 1834, French impressionist Painter Edgar Degas, was born in Paris.

Jump ahead to the 20th, 1899, and American writer Ernest Hemmingway, was born in Oak Park, Ill.

The man who gave us: "The medium is the message," Marshall McLuhan, was born on the 20th in 1911.

On the 24th, Alexander Dumas was born in 1802 in France. Among other things, he gave us The Count of Monte Cristo and The Three Musketeers. And on the same day, 96 years later, American pilot Amelia Earhart was born.

And, Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw was born on July 26, 1856.

In 1929, Jackie Kennedy was born on July 28, 1929.

Automotive pioneer Henry Ford was born in Michigan on July 30, 1863. In addition to inventing the assembly line to manufacture his cars, he also introduced the \$5 a day wage. Automobile workers now want three times that much for an hour's labor.

And let us not forget that on July 3, 1775, Gen. George Washington took command of the Continental Army, and a year and a day later the Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress, and that's where it all started.

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## THE MARSHALL MOMENT

DR. RICK MARSHALL  
Eastern Hills  
Baptist Church  
Montgomery, Alabama

### THE BIG "IF"

America is at a crossroads again. We are watching the system designed by our forefathers in the Constitution strained like never before. Instead of choosing between good and better in leadership, we find ourselves bitterly divided so that compromise to find the best direction for the country whoever is elected this fall as President seems unlikely, if not impossible. The same kind of unrivaled partisanship filters down through both houses of Congress and the Supreme Court where the choices boil down not to the best justices, but ones who can be predicted for their votes ahead of time. Most of us who have been around for some time watching this system stand amazed at the levels to which the governance of our nation has fallen. This does not mean that there are not any good people seeking to lead our country in the right direction, but there are too many headed toward selfish ends and practices which are in defiance of our country's foundations and values.

To those who look at our nation through the lens of the Bible, we see obvious parallels with what happened to Israel in the Old Testament. I am not confusing the calling of Israel and challenge to America, but rather, observing what happened to them and what is happening to us. It is without question that many of the guiding principles upon which our country was founded and the very reason people came to this country had to do with their Christian faith. The majority of Americans claim to be Christians.

If so, the familiar text from the Old Testament needs to be heard again in our day. "If my people who are called by My name, humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land." (II Chronicles 7:14) Some have called the verse the big "if." It doesn't apply to those who claim no belief, but to us who are people of faith, we need to accept our responsibility of praying and seeking God's will with more than just lip service.

This is not a day to put our heads in the sand and pretend all will be well. We have always known there was a nuclear threat from enemies, we have survived world wars and have lived through various social changes. We have certainly been blessed by the highest standard of living and incredible technological advances beyond our imagination. However, we are losing our bearings, headed for internal conflict and seeing hopelessness prevail like we have never seen before.

The verse cited has much to say to us today. There are three things to consider in what the writer said: the problem, the solution and the result. The Jewish people had a problem of pride, self-sufficiency and sin. They were immensely proud and felt that God would not harm them regardless of their actions. The Bible declares that pride goes before a fall. We have a misplaced pride in America. There is a vast group of leaders who have no sense of obligation to a higher power or recognition that we owe our existence as a nation to God.

Self-sufficiency was a problem also. The Jews submitted themselves to God where there was a difficulty from which they needed extrication. They soon went back to regular worship which contained more empty ritual than real prayer and sacrifice. It is very clear from the Bible that God desires obedience more than ritual worship.

Sin was at the heart of the problem for those people long ago. They compromised their position with God by worshipping other gods and adopting pagan practices. It is not prejudice against individuals when we call attention to God's word. If we compromise the truth we need to be prepared for the consequences. We can't be responsible for what other's do, but we can be people of prayer and start in our own lives to root out anything which God does not approve and bless.

# Soul Searching

The solution lies in the words, "If my people..." Christians need to quit complaining about what others who do not claim to believe as if there is no choice. If we want things to change in America, we as believers must play a strategic part in that change. It is high time that the members of the churches in America wake up and wise up. It is about far more than just voting. We don't need another voting block, but wise, aware and passionate people about why this country came into being and what it will take to make it right again.

Three strategies are mentioned in this verse. They can be summed up in these words: humility, prayer and repentance. Humbling ourselves before God is absolutely necessary. We need a broken spirit sent from God, not just ringing hands if our usual routine of life is interrupted or the retirement fund isn't growing fast enough. What will it take to bring America to her knees? I shudder at the thought. Just as quickly I would say that we should not doubt that it could happen.

Praying and seeking God's face is vital to our hope. I am reminded of the story of a textile worker in a factory with a sign that said, "If your threads get tangled, send for the foreman." A new worker soon saw her threads become tangled. The harder she tried the matter got worse. Finally, she became desperate and called for the foreman. When he came, he asked her why she had not called for him earlier. She replied, "I did my best." He answered with a smile, "Remember, doing your best is sending for me." America, do your best. Seek God's face.

Turning from sin is never easy nor without pain. Let's not kid ourselves, sin is fun at least for a while. Sin is deceitful. Pleasure never lasts forever. If God's people live the same way as those who are not God's people, there is little hope for change in America. Sin must be identified and rejected beginning with God's people.

There is a promised result in this magnificent old verse. God promises to hear from heaven. He promises to forgive and heal their land. I am convinced God can and will bring healing to our land, our state, our community, our churches, our families and to us individually if—remember the big if—if we will be faithful and return to Him.

I urge you to celebrate America's birthday this July not only with fireworks and fun, but with an eye toward the future and the wisdom to seek God's leadership and blessings like never before. We are at a crossroads. The future, not only for us but for those generations who come after us, has never been more in our hands.



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## Reflections

By Michael J. Brooks

### BREAKING UP IS HARD TO DO

I vaguely remember the high school dating scene with multiple cases of "going steady" and break-ups.

Some of these on-again, off-again relationships were hard to keep up with since they were on-again today and off-again tomorrow! Sometimes the break-up would be a note passed in class, or a tense telephone call. Break-ups were always hard to do, as Neil Sedaka used to sing.

I heard on the news lately about a new break-up service for those too timid to do it themselves. For a fee the service will send a text or e-mail such as "U R dumped," and for a larger fee, will send someone to deliver the news personally. The service is advertised for "cowards" who don't want to face the wrath of their beloved themselves!

I've thought lately that we need an ecclesiastical break-up service in the church.

A high school friend who pastors in the area told me of a family who sent him an e-mail announcing they wouldn't be back. My friend said it was especially hurtful since the lady of the house had been on the search committee who brought him to his present preaching station. He thought they were close enough to talk about the family's desire to leave, but apparently not so.

The coming and going of church members isn't new, but it seems to have accelerated. Parents have always been in search of the best programs for the kids and have been willing to change churches. The last barrier we've seen come down is denominational. Research shows seekers want the programming and don't seem to care if the provider is labeled Methodist, Baptist or Presbyterian.

I've always thought it wise to talk with one's pastor if a family is pondering whether to leave their church. If there's an issue involved, the pastor might be unaware and can take steps to remedy the problem whether it be a personal issue or one involving other church members. If there's no issue involved other than the appeal of programs, or to go to the church where family or friends attend or not, as in the case of divorce, I still believe talking with the pastor is wise. Though disappointed, he will give his blessing, and some measure of relationship will continue.

I've known a few unscrupulous pastors who delight in stealing the "sheep" from other churches. This is regrettable since churches are partners, not competitors, and we're all working for the same kingdom cause. As one of my boyhood pastors used to say, "There's too much devil to fight for us to fight each other."

Breaking up with one's church should always be done with thoughtfulness and never with malice.

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



**PILOTS FOR CHRIST**  
We go through life thinking, "That would never happen to us," but truth is **NOTHING** is guaranteed. We don't know what tomorrow holds or even the next minute for that matter. **BUT GOD** does and that is why **Pilots For Christ** is in existence.

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**Pilots For Christ** does not receive any form of government funding and does not get reimbursements from insurance companies. They are fully funded by individuals, churches, civic organizations, and businesses. If you feel that the **Lord** has put it on your heart to make a contribution please visit their website at [www.pilotsforchrist.net](http://www.pilotsforchrist.net), and as always your gift is tax deductible.

*"Whoever is kind to the needy honors God."*  
~ Proverbs 14:31



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Patricia Killough



# Home Town Community News

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

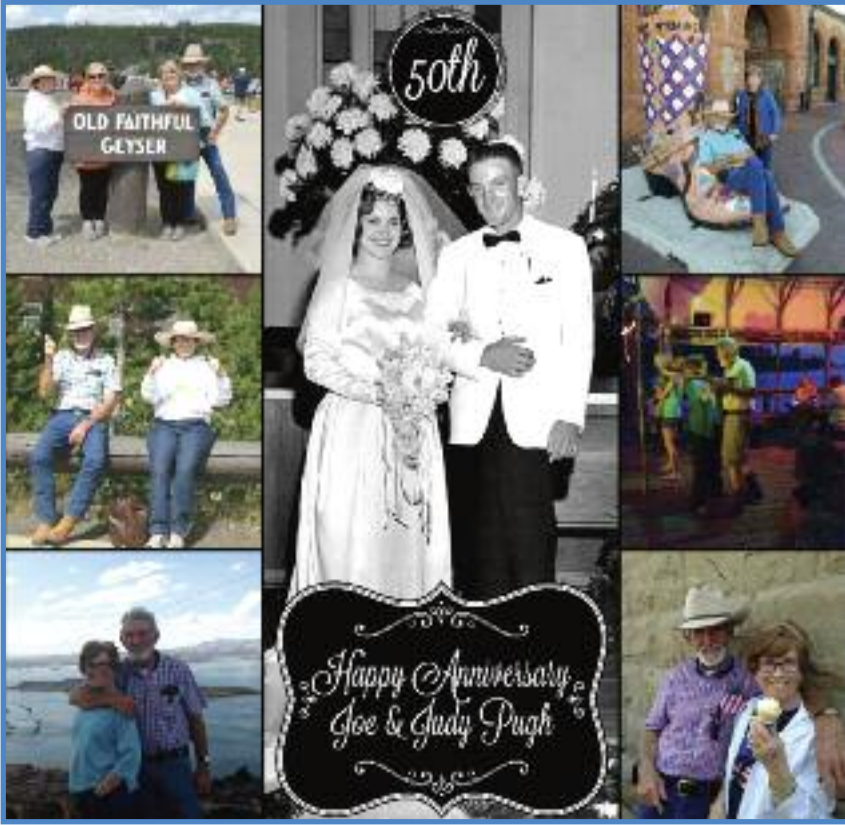
The Alabama Gazette will make every effort to include your submissions as space permits.



## July Birthdays



- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 Alan Moore<br>Butch (Mary) Moseley<br>Linda Foxworth   | 14 Annie Burchard<br>Miriam Head (86th)<br>Lansdon O'Mailia   |
| 2 Ralph Davis<br>Lexie Turnipseed<br>George Pugh<br>Voncille Talley  | 15 Joan Collier<br>Farley Pugh<br>Summer Rice<br>Paige Stringer   |
| 4 Audrey Grant<br>Peggy Hubbard<br>David Johnson<br>Lynn McKinley<br>Cindy Smith   | 16 Charlie Lamar<br>Elden McKemy (100th)<br>Sherry Tucker   |
| 5 Ann Emory Harris<br>Kathy Ingram<br>Joyce Todd   | 18 Linda Carleton<br>Ann Marie Dean<br>Laurie Smilie Sanders (89th)<br>Sharon K. Walker                     |
| 6 Pres. George Bush (70th)<br>Vicki Davis<br>Skip Mainor<br>Glenn Stringer<br>Amber Wooten                                     | 19 Geneva Henderson<br>Mary Lamar<br>Emma Ruthe Walker  |
| 7 Knox Crowe<br>Carolyn Grant<br>Willie B. Jackson<br>Taylor Mills<br>Brian Mosley<br>Greg Mosley<br>Cindy Young<br>Betty Vann | 20 Frances Bush (90th)<br>Tony Mitchell   |
| 8 Mickie Ann Boyd<br>Helen Dibole<br>Fred Setzer   | 22 Freddie Strength (67th)<br>Vangie Walmsley   |
| 9 Joe Douglas<br>Katherine Kirk<br>Kathryn Ann Sikes (3rd)<br>Doris Wallace (87th)<br>Irene Woodham                            | 23 Alana Jones Breedlove<br>Helen Broadway<br>Zachery Dibole<br>Matthew Grant<br>Rusty Moseley<br>Jim Scott |
| 10 Nelda Harrod<br>Jeffery Horton<br>Pam Stewart<br>Al Webb  | 24 Barbara Garrett  |
| 11 Abby Boyd<br>Luke Frady<br>Ann Green Tucker<br>James Tucker<br>Trenton Windham  | 25 Sara Boyd (88th)<br>Ashley Corbin<br>Rod Nowakowski<br>Becky Windham<br>Brantley Woodall<br>Ty Woodall   |
| 12 Cary Dean<br>Felix Norman (71st)<br>Bonnie Williams   | 26 Jason Adams<br>Judy Mann<br>Stacy Dickinson  |
| 13 Jeremy Dickinson  | 27 Jimmy Norman (58th)<br>Arnold Fuller<br>Melanie Higgins  |
|  | 29 Hilda Glover   |
|  | 30 Shawn O'Mailia<br>Emory Tucker<br>Ronnie Wallace   |
|  | 31 Brenda Davis<br>Meloney Gwin<br>Caroline Vocino<br>Marie Hudson<br>Stephanie Randall                     |



### July 9th

**Happy 50th Anniversary to the best parents in the world!  
Joe & Judy Pugh.**

Over your years together, you have set a great example for your children and grandchildren.

You two keep our lives exciting!

Congratulations on your 50 years of marriage!

We Love You!

Samantha and Angelique

*The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad.  
Psalm 126:3 (KJV)*

## Happy Anniversary

- |                                 |                                   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2 Bob & Liz Morris              | 19 Don & Nance Rabren             |
| 3 Everett & Alice Cole (44th)   | 20 Spears & Carrie Rhodes         |
| Dennis & Karen Weber            | 21 Justin & Bethany Mims          |
| 7 April & Hugh Smith, III (8th) | Shannon & Cindy K. Miles          |
| 8 Bill & Charlotte Gaston       | 25 Linda & Wayne Roy              |
| 9 Carl & Miriam Head (66th)     | 26 Blake & Amanda Wise            |
| 10 Fred & Jeanette Waldo (56th) | 28 Archie & Charlotte Mote (60th) |
| 13 Don & Beverly Dawkins        | 31 Zachery & Jennifer Gibbs       |
| 16 Laird & Sarah Bone           |                                   |

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

## 60th Birthday Celebration!



A surprise party was held on Saturday, June 11, 2016 at Earl Russell's barn for **Faye Boyd's** 60th birthday. A great time was had in spite of the hot weather.

*Faye Boyd and Madison Williams (granddaughter)*

## Surprise 80th Birthday Party!



*Bruce Boyd, Tracie Boyd Setzer, Janet Boyd, Buddy Boyd, Lee Boyd*

A surprise 80th birthday for James "Buddy" Boyd was held on June 4, 2016 at College Grove Community Church on Wares Ferry Road in Montgomery. "Buddy" was truly SURPRISED! It was given by his family.



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**7/5/2016:** 2:30 - 6:30 p.m., Walmart, 1902 Cobbs Ford Road, Prattville

**7/11/2016:** 12 - 6 p.m., Montgomery Blood Donation Center, 5015 Woods Crossing, Montgomery

## Sympathy to the families of...

- Dickey, James Cecil "Jimmy" .....died May 25, 2016  
 Defee, J. T. ....died June 13, 2016  
 Parker, Marian Florence Gay (90) .....died June 14, 2016  
 Harris, Kacy Elizabeth (19) .....died June 16, 2016  
 Lancaster, Nellie Ruth.....died June 17, 2016

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

# TODAY'S WOMAN

## PIKE ROAD CITIZEN OF THE YEAR and THE OLE BRICK AWARD

The Pike Road Civic Club announced the **PIKE ROAD CITIZEN OF THE YEAR** and **THE OLE BRICK AWARD** at their May meeting. It was held at the Marks House.



Lexie Turnipseed (right) presented Brenda Joiner with a silver tray for **The Pike Road Citizen of the Year**



Paula Lansdon (center) received the **Ole Brick Award** from Lexie Turnipseed and Charlotte Gaston, Pike Road Civic Club Award committee members

## Trisston's Tidbits...



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

### "Independence Day in Christ"

**Happy Birthday, America!** The Fourth of July is the birthday of this great nation. Think about it! How beautiful is it to remember the price that was paid for our independence before we celebrate it. Just like our Lord was willingly laid down His life for our freedom.

*"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures . . ." I Corinthians 15:1-4*

The only reason we have the freedoms we do in this country is because of the grace of God. The ultimate gift of freedom came on the cross, when Jesus Christ died for our sins.

**Psalms 33:12** tells us, *"Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he has chosen for his own inheritance."*

So this Fourth of July, as you celebrate, light a firecracker for Jesus. As it soars toward the heavens, pause and say, **"Thank you, LORD!"** Have your picnics, eat your ice cream and watermelon, and wave flags... and thank God for His gift of the great freedom we enjoy in America every single day. Give God the glory, honor, and respect He deserves as you commemorate this holiday... and make every day your Independence Day in Christ!

Many Blessings!

## We Are Growing!



### Montgomery Christian School...

is beginning our tenth year of service to children and families in Montgomery by providing an affordable, challenging academic curriculum with a strong commitment to seeing every subject from a Christian world view. Housed at Trinity Presbyterian Church since inception, the school has grown from a kindergarten with ten students in 2007, to currently serving over 70 students from kindergarten through fifth grade. At this time, we are preparing for a move to satisfy the growing wait list of potential students.

Montgomery Christian School offers affordable tuition based on family income for people who could not otherwise consider sending their children to a private, Christian school. Montgomery Christian School's curriculum also includes enrichment programs such as art, dance and music as part of their curriculum. Montgomery Christian School's education also places an emphasis on good citizenship and good moral character to help lay the foundation for our students to become better citizens for our community.

For more information about our school, please feel free to visit our website at [www.montgomerychristianschool.com](http://www.montgomerychristianschool.com) or contact Kathi Atkins at [katkins@montgomerychristianschool.org](mailto:katkins@montgomerychristianschool.org) or by calling 334-386-1749.



To accomplish our mission, we need your help. The ministry of Mary Ellen's Hearth requires renewed and sustained commitments from old friends and new alike. We need your support in order to help the women we care for build new lives for themselves and their children.

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Letter contradicts Board president comment**Hawthorne: PRS Board has never received complaints  
Freeman bullied teachers...**By **BILL RICE, JR.**

At the June 6th meeting of the Pike Road Board of Education, Board president **Ray Hawthorne, Jr.** was asked by this reporter about allegations that some staffers may have been bullied or harassed by Superintendent **Dr. Suzanne Freeman** (and/or Principal Angela Lang).

According to a *Montgomery Advertiser* article the next morning, "Hawthorne and other board members said they haven't received complaints from staff about Freeman, and they have received very few complaints."

The story quotes Mr. Hawthorne directly:

"I know Dr. Freeman both personally and professionally and I find that hard to believe," Hawthorne said. **"I have not received any complaints – the board has not received any complaints – about Dr. Freeman bullying teachers. No. Other than the anonymous sources, there have been no complaints to us."**

**This appears to be a false statement.**

One such former teacher, **Clay Hutsler**, not only made such an allegation, he included many details in a letter he submitted to Hawthorne, Dr. Freeman and members of the Pike Road Board of Education in January. The letter is dated January 14, 2016.

Mr. Hutsler, who has 20 years teaching experience, shared a copy of his letter with this paper. It is addressed to "Dr. Freeman, Mr. Hawthorne and Members of the Pike Road Board of Education." Bullying allegations are contained in the letter's second sentence.

"On December 16, 2015 I was placed on administrative leave. **Before this decision was made, I received no concrete suggestions or support, and was belittled, berated, and bullied at every turn.**"

In other parts of the letter he describes the **"hostile work environment"** in which he was subjected. In another portion of the letter, he writes that **"Dr. Freeman belittle(d) and humiliate(d) me in private and in front of others."**

To Hutsler, as detailed in his letter, the purpose of multiple meetings held with Freeman or Lang was to was to **"try to force me to resign."** At the conclusion of his letter, he states that Dr. Freeman and Principal Lang **"treated me like a piece of trash to be discarded.** The effect all of this has had on me and my family was of no concern to the principals."

The letter (printed in its entirety on our website – [www.alabamagazette.com](http://www.alabamagazette.com))

documents many other areas of concern, providing multiple examples of how Freeman and principals did not support teachers such as Hutsler. Taken as a whole, it describes with specific details many of the allegations contained in our May series of articles. We think it's compelling and hope readers go to our website to read it.

Curiously, there is no mention of Mr. Hutsler's termination in any board meeting minutes archived on the Pike Road Schools' website. The website contains minutes for a meeting on December 7, 2015, January 4, 2016 and February 2, 2016. No "Personnel" matters were on the agenda of any of these meetings. Mr. Hutsler said his recollection is that the board meeting referenced above was held on or around January 19th. The meeting started at 6 a.m. and was held in the conference room of the school, where recent board meetings have been held, he recalled. His wife also attended the meeting.

In fact, this meeting was referenced in our May series of articles on Pike Road Schools, including mention that Mr. Hutsler presented this very same letter to board members (See May edition, Pages 5-6C, "Interview 3 – Dismissed teacher talks about his experiences at PRS"). At the time, Mr. Hutsler requested anonymity. However, he told us we now have his permission to use his name.

I asked Mr. Hutsler if it was possible this was only a "hearing," and not technically a board meeting. However, I had to conclude this was indeed a "called" board meeting. At the meeting, the **board voted unanimously to adopt Dr. Freeman's recommendation to terminate Mr. Hutsler.**

As to why more teachers have not contacted Mr. Hawthorne, we can speculate as to possible reasons. One obvious question: How many employees in any organization are willing to go "over their boss's head" and make a complaint to their boss's superior? Probably not many.

As noted elsewhere, it's also hard to get in touch with Mr. Hawthorne or any board member as their contact info is not published on the school system's website. To email, say, Mr. Hawthorne, a teacher would have to first email the general information email address of the school - an email that almost certainly would be read by the individual(s) the teacher is complaining about! Who is going to "risk" this?

**Bill Rice, Jr. responds to  
Montgomery Advertiser article,  
paper refuses to publish his response...**

Exasperated and frustrated by my efforts to get answers to questions I had submitted to Pike Road Board President **Ray Hawthorne, Jr.**, this reporter attended the June 6th meeting of the Pike Road Board of Education.

After the "regular business" of the board was concluded, I spoke up and began asking a couple of questions. The exchange that resulted was (partially) reported in a *Montgomery Advertiser* article the next morning ("School board meeting ends with harsh words" by **Josh Moon**).

As I thought this story unfairly portrayed me as some rude or kooky reporter who had no good basis for asking questions of public servants at a public meeting, I requested the opportunity to respond in the same paper.

My response (see below) attempted to identify just a few examples where, if more context had been provided, readers might view this "harsh exchange" in a different light. Also, I tried to make the point that "the real story" here might be that of public servants who have continually ignored legitimate questions and document requests.

The *Advertiser* chose not to publish my response. I actually wrote three versions, each one shorter than the other. My final effort, which I noted was as "short as I could get it and still make my salient points," is 372 words. I was told any response had to be in the form of a "letter to the editor" and be restricted to a maximum of 250 words.

I note that I have read The *Advertiser* since childhood and on many times in the past have seen the paper publish responses from story subjects (individuals who felt they were treated unfairly) that were much longer than 250 words. Typically, these have been published as "guest columns." Indeed, I initially requested that my response perhaps be published via this longer format.

Published at right is the letter *The Montgomery Advertiser* (as of our June 30th deadline) has chosen not to publish.

**Dear Editor:**

Josh Moon's June 7th article, ("School board meeting ends with harsh words") was replete with errors (I count at least 10), lacked important context and seemed to go out of its way to portray me as some kooky reporter asking unreasonable questions.

Moon quotes me asking Board President Ray Hawthorne, Jr. why he'd not answered questions I'd previously sent him: "I remember you gave me like 60 extra questions and asked me for a response in three days ..."

On May 2nd – 35 days before this exchange – I emailed Mr. Hawthorne 20 questions (not "60 extra questions"). I had also requested an interview with Mr. Hawthorne on May 2, 12th and 20th.

On May 18th – 16 days after I had emailed him my "lengthy list" of 20 questions - Hawthorne finally responded by email: "... I am in the process of drafting a statement that will address the items you have previously mentioned.

I received this statement 25 days after my initial query. It answered (in the briefest manner) seven of my original 20 questions.

The story notes board attorney Doyle Fuller "threatened to have Rice removed if he continued to interrupt (Superintendent) Freeman while she answered his questions." His exact words, uttered as he pointed a finger in my face: "You do that one more time, I'm going to send you out the door."

I dispute Moon's "continued to interrupt" characterization as Dr. Freeman only answered one of my questions and (per video) I only interrupted her once, probably because I did not believe she was "answering" my question.

Some teachers, probably skeptics of the radical education reforms Dr. Freeman is implementing, have told me they felt "bullied" by Dr. Freeman. I certainly felt bullied at this "public" meeting.

My last (unfair?) question – did some teachers not possess proper certification? - was not answered.

"The exchange ended as board members and Freeman left the room while Rice continued to ask questions," wrote Moon.

Is this intended to portray me as some loony reporter babbling on as adults shake their heads in derision at the poor fellow? Once these "leaders" left (fled?) the room, I ceased asking questions.

Apparently I am the only local journalist who is troubled by the board president and Superintendent not answering important questions.

**Bill Rice, Jr.**

**OTHER SCHOOL SYSTEMS PROVIDE CONTACT INFO FOR BOARD MEMBERS**By **BILL RICE, JR.**

In our May and June articles on Pike Road School we pointed out what we viewed as an oddity, namely the Pike Road Schools website ([www.pikeroad-schools.org](http://www.pikeroad-schools.org)) does NOT include any direct contact information for board of education members.

We have been told by board members themselves and by the person who answers the phone at the school, that any correspondence to board members should be emailed directly to the schools email address ([info@pikeroad-schools.org](mailto:info@pikeroad-schools.org)). Whoever receives this email, presumably forwards it to board members.

We were curious if this was common with other school boards in our area or state. We found it is not.

We visited the websites of 16 school districts (most in our region of the state) to see if these school systems provided either direct phone numbers or direct emails to board members. Thirteen of these school systems did provide such contact information, three did not (although these systems do publish a dedicated phone number or email contact for the "board of education.")

School Systems that provided either a direct phone number or email contact for board members are (asterisk designates both): **Autauga County Schools\***, **Montgomery County\***, **Greenville City\***, **Chilton County**, \* **Cullman County\***, **Cullman City**, **Elmore County**, **Troy City**, **Eufaula City**, **Auburn City**, **Lee County**, **Lowndes County** and **Bullock County**. All but one of the non-asterisk systems provided direct link to board members via email.

Three school systems we surveyed did not provide this information. They are **Trussville City Schools** (where Dr. Suzanne Freeman worked before being fired), **Pike County Schools** and **Macon County**. However, all three systems did publish a dedicated phone number or email just for the "board of education." The Pike Road School System does not have a dedicated email or phone number for the "Board of Education." Again, anyone seeking to reach board members must contact the school directly.

In Trussville, parents must have found a way to reach their school board members around February of 2012. According to an al.com story, the board

voted unanimously to terminate her contract after receiving "scores" of complaints about her. Is it possible the system Dr. Freeman put in place in Pike Road was designed to make it harder for history to repeat?

We still don't know how many complaints Dr. Freeman or board members may have received from parents (we've asked but received no answer). If the answer is "none or very few," perhaps the filtering (?) system utilized by the school system gives us a partial or possible answer.

For a school system that, per its "beliefs," places a high value on "technology" and community participation, involvement and "collaboration," it remains odd to us that the school system cannot or will not provide an easy way for parents and other school system stake-holders to easily and directly contact the school system's ultimate bosses – the members of the board of education.

**See more Pike Road School coverage  
by Bill Rice on  
Alabama Gazette FACEBOOK page.**

**To respond to these articles please email  
Bill Rice at  
[billricealgazette@gmail.com](mailto:billricealgazette@gmail.com)**