



## Something for Legislators to Consider

BY DAVID G. BRONNER

The Tennessee General Assembly became what is believed to be the first state legislature to pass a bill requiring drunk drivers to pay child support if they kill the parent of a minor. Representative Mark Hall, who introduced the bill, said, “Tennesseans care for each other, and we will do everything in our power

to hold people accountable who chose to do harm.”

The law requires those convicted of such crimes involving the death of a parent to pay child support for the victim’s minor children. It would last until each child reaches 18 years of age and has graduated from high school or until the

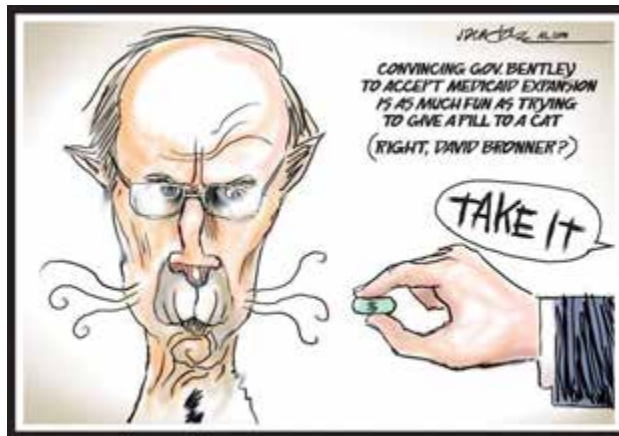
class of which the child is a member when turning 18 has graduated.

Courts will determine a reasonable amount of child support by considering the financial needs and resources of the child or children. Several states, including Alabama, are in the process of considering such legislation.

## What is an Even Better Idea

Expand Medicaid for 320,000+ Alabamians without health insurance. It is now ten years later, and 17 of Alabama’s hospitals have closed! How do I recruit companies that provide jobs to places with no hospitals?

The original law clearly provided that expansion would cost NOTHING for the first three years, and states would not pay more than 10% over a slow phase-in period. Ex-Governor Bentley did nothing to expand Medicaid while governor, but now supports it.



It is estimated over 600 Alabamians die every year due to a lack of health coverage. By not helping our people, it is costing Alabama BILLIONS of dollars and prohibiting the improvement of Alabama’s economy for the future.

The great news is the latest expansion deal on the table is even better financially. It is time Alabama joins the 38 states that have prospered from federal money to help their citizens and the state economy. ●

## PEEHIP Open Enrollment Information

BY J. DAVID WALES, DIRECTOR OF PEEHIP

### UnitedHealthcare® Group Medicare Advantage (PPO) Prescription Drug Plan Effective January 1, 2023

UnitedHealthcare® will replace Humana® in administering the PEEHIP Group Medicare Advantage (PPO) Plan for Medicare-eligible retirees and Medicare-eligible dependents of retir-

ees starting January 1, 2023. This is a plan exclusively designed for PEEHIP members, meaning the current exceptional benefit standard will not decrease due to this change.

As a result of significant savings achieved due to this transition, PEEHIP will pass these savings along to

# 'I Had to Go Back': Over 55, and Not Retired After All

BY BEN CASSELMAN, *THE NEW YORK TIMES*

When Kim Williams and millions of other older Americans lost their jobs early in the coronavirus pandemic, economists wondered how many would ever work again – and how that loss would weigh on the economy for years to come.

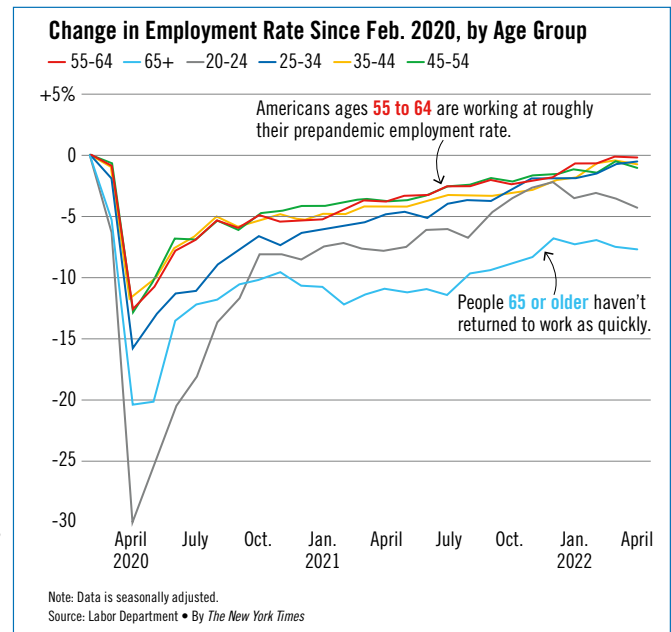
Ms. Williams, now 62, wondered too, especially when she struggled for months to find work. But in January, she started a new job at a AAA office near her home in Waterbury, Conn.

"I'm too young to retire, so I had to go back," she said.

Whether by choice or financial necessity, millions of older Americans have made the same move in recent months. Nearly 64 percent of adults between the ages of 55 and 64 were working in April, essentially the same rate as in February 2020. That's a more complete recovery than among most younger age groups.

The rapid rebound has surprised many economists, who thought that fear of the virus – which is far deadlier for older people – would contribute to a wave of early retirements, especially because many people's savings had been fattened by years of market gains. But there is increasing evidence that the early-retirement narrative was overblown.

"The bottom line is that older workers have gone back to work," says Alicia Munnell, director of the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College. ●



## National Village at Grand National on the Trail

BY MARK FAGAN

National Village (NV) is a 700-hundred-acre residential community with ten miles of walking trails, fishing ponds, a 54-hole world-class golf complex (Grand National), and a Four-Star Marriott Resort and Spa. It is part of RSA's RTJ Golf Trail and is located on the 600-acre Saugahatchee Lake in Opelika near Auburn University. NV opened in 2006 with plans for 1,400 homes, a village center (shops, restaurants, condos), and 300 acres of green space.

NV has seven distinct neighborhoods and multiple floor plans (1,500-3,700 sf) with varying views of woods, lakes, and golf holes. The houses feature vented gas fireplaces, 9-foot ceilings, granite countertops, screened porches, and outdoor kitchens. Residents get complete landscape maintenance and social activities (bunco, poker, etc.). NV residents get full access to the 4,200-sf pool complex, tennis and pickleball courts, and fitness center at the adjoining Marriott. NV residents also get access to the practice range and free green fees for the 18-hole par three golf course (Short Course) at Grand National.

NV residents completed anonymous survey forms on their demographics,

finances, activities enjoyed, and living preferences in March 2020. There were 90% of the residents over age 60 (47% over 70), and 86% married (30% attended Auburn University). There were 84% full-time residents, and 90% of households had no children. There were 44% of the residents with a college degree, and 43% with an advanced degree. Annual household



income showed 57% over \$100,000 with 10% over \$200,000. Their favorite things about NV were friendly neighbors, golfing, swimming, walking trails, the beauty of the neighborhood, location to university, home design, well-educated people, safe environment, ladies club games, and fishing. Activities at Auburn University they enjoyed were sporting events, concerts, plays, alumni activities, continuing

education classes, and the libraries.

Grand National has two regulation 18-hole championship golf courses (Lake Course and Links Course) plus the Short Course designed by Robert Trent Jones, Sr., and Roger Rulewich. There are tree-lined fairways through gently rolling terrain and 32 holes with water in play. The Lake Course features eight lakeside holes and two bordered by a man-made lake. The Lake Course has hosted the PGA Barbasol Championship three times (2015-17).

The Links Course plays three miles around the north end of Saugahatchee Lake, with many of the holes bordering or providing views of the lake. It was refurbished in 2021 to enhance playability and course conditions. The reconstruction included the finest ultra-dwarf grass greens on the market, new shorter tees, enlarged greens, and improved approach areas.

The Short Course has 18 championship par 3 holes, with two-thirds of the holes flanked by or playing over Saugahatchee Lake. This course is being renovated with plans for reopening in

CONTINUED ON PAGE FOUR

# Alabama Success Story

## EAGLES Students with Intellectual Disabilities Join the Auburn Family

Auburn University's College of Education is teaching EAGLES (Education to Accomplish Growth in Life Experiences for Success) students to spread their wings and take flight as dreams of a college education come true for those with intellectual disabilities.

Created in 2018, the EAGLES mission is to prepare students with intellectual disabilities to accomplish their potential as they transition to becoming a contributing member of society by providing them with an inclusive and residential postsecondary education. Students receive an enriching and rewarding Auburn

experience as they prepare for life now and in the future.

EAGLES provides an opportunity for these students to engage in a multi-year campus residential experience whose curriculum focuses on academic enrichment, leadership and advocacy skills, social skills instruction, career development, and health awareness.

"Think about a time when you were in college. Do you remember seeing people who had intellectual disabilities in your classes? Did you ever think that would be a reality? At Auburn, it is," said Dr. Betty Patten, EAGLES program director and assistant clinical professor in the College of Education. "Now, students with intellectual disabilities—a group of people who historically have been marginalized and excluded from college—can engage in a two- or four-year campus experience including many aspects of college life."

The EAGLES program curriculum includes Auburn University credit-bearing courses and program courses focused on improving students' independent living and employment outcomes. Students in the program take a minimum of 12 hours each semester, as well as inclusive program courses, work-based training experiences and placements, personal training, and participate in many other activities that align with the mission and vision of the program.

The program has 160 peer mentors, known as WINGS (Warmhearted Individual Nurturing Great Success). WINGS peer mentors serve as a natural support in numerous areas for the EAGLES students through academic, social, health and wellness, and employment activities. WINGS check in with EAGLES students throughout the day and night, participate in activities and events with EAGLES students on a regular basis, and interact with EAGLES students on a daily basis to support development of social and independent living skills.

Through an extensive application process, the EAGLES program became a CTP (comprehensive transition program), the first postsecondary program for students with intellectual disabilities in Alabama to receive this designation. The program joins a select group of other postsecondary institutions with CTPs in the country.

Upon completing the EAGLES basic program, students earn a Career



Readiness Certificate, and upon completing the EAGLES advanced program, students earn an Independent Living Readiness Certificate. Auburn University endorses both certificates.

Today, the EAGLES program has 24 students. Nine of those students' dreams came true in May as they sat alongside the thousands of other Auburn graduates who participated in commencement ceremonies. Students are enrolled in 38 classes in 16 departments and six colleges. EAGLES students are part of 19 campus organizations. Meaningful employment is one of the primary goals of the EAGLES program, and currently, there are 40 employment partners and 26 job sites.

Philanthropy and strong partnerships are the foundation of the EAGLES program. And according to Patten, graduations and other program milestones would be much more limited, or even impossible, without people who believe in the mission and purpose of EAGLES, who give generously, volunteer, and share the EAGLES story.

"Disability touches all of us," Patten said. "And understanding that reality, the issue becomes how we welcome unique differences in our lives and on our campus. The generosity of the Auburn Family toward our program and our students shows an understanding of the tremendous value our students add to the greater Auburn community."

Patten's goal is an ambitious one—a fully-endowed program covering all program costs for students. The program is expensive due to the extra support EAGLES students need and is cost-prohibitive for many families of students with intellectual disabilities. Donor gifts and advocates will make this goal a reality.

*This is a series of articles about Alabama Success Stories. Please let us know if you have a similar success story you would like to share with the RSA membership. You may contact us at [communication.correspondences@rsa-al.gov](mailto:communication.correspondences@rsa-al.gov).* ●

### PEEHIP OPEN ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Medicare-eligible retirees in the form of premium reductions for the contract's three-year term ending December 31, 2025. After that date, the cost to these members could increase based on the new terms of the next contract. For more information, visit <https://www.rsa-al.gov/peehip/open-enrollment/>.

Look for additional mailings co-branded with the PEEHIP and UnitedHealthcare® logo about the upcoming transition. If you have any questions concerning your UnitedHealthcare® plan benefits, please visit [retiree.uhc.com/peehip](https://retiree.uhc.com/peehip) or call toll-free at 877.298.2341, TTY 711.

### ANNUAL PEEHIP OPEN ENROLLMENT REMINDERS

Open Enrollment began July 1 and ends at midnight on September 10, 2022, for changes submitted online at <https://mso.rsa-al.gov>. Alternatively, paper election forms must be post-marked by August 31, 2022. No action is required during Open Enrollment if you do not wish to change your coverage elections. However, Premium Assistance Applications and Flexible Spending Account elections must be renewed during Open Enrollment. To learn more about PEEHIP's Open Enrollment, please visit <https://www.rsa-al.gov/peehip/open-enrollment/>. ●

A weekly radio show, "What's Working with Cam Marston," sponsored by The University of Alabama, Culverhouse College of Business, interviewed the CEO of the RSA. The podcast can be heard at [WhatsWorkingCam.com](https://WhatsWorkingCam.com) or at the RSA website at <https://vimeo.com/727494830>.

# Start Planning Your Summer and Fall Getaways at RSA's Outstanding Hotels, Spas, and RTJ Golf



Member Hotel  
Discounts Webpage

RETIREMENT SYSTEMS OF ALABAMA  
201 SOUTH UNION STREET  
P.O. BOX 302150  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-2150

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
MONTGOMERY, AL  
PERMIT NO. 402

ENJOY YOUR SUMMER & FALL  
A Special Deal  
FOR RSA MEMBERS

**The Battle House,**

**A Renaissance Hotel \$119**

- August 1-3, 13-21, 24-31
- September 1, 4-10, 16-21, 25-27
- October 2-4, 8-12

**The Battle House RSA Spa Package \$219**

- August 1-3, 15-17, 24, 29-31
- September 5-7, 19-21, 26-27
- October 3-4, 10-12

**Riverview Plaza \$109**

- August 1-3, 13-15, 19, 21-31
- September 1-6, 10-13, 29-30
- October 5-10, 26-27

**Grand Hotel \$127 plus a 15% resort fee**

- August 14-17, 21-23 • September 11-12, 25
- October 2-4, 9, 16-19, 30-31

**Grand Hotel RSA Golf Package \$199 plus a 15% resort fee**

- August 14-17, 21-23 • September 11-12, 25
- October 2-4, 9, 16-19, 30-31

**Grand Hotel RSA Spa Package \$259 plus a 15% resort fee**

- August 14, 16-17, 21, 23 • September 11, 25
- October 3-4, 16, 18-19, 30-31

**Marriott Shoals \$109**

- August 7, 14, 21, 28 • September 11, 18, 25
- October 16, 23, 30

**Marriott Shoals RSA Spa Package \$210**

- August 7, 14, 21, 28 • September 11, 18, 25
- October 16, 23, 30

**Renaissance Ross Bridge \$119**

- August 14, 21, 28 • September 6, 18, 25
- October 9, 30-31

**Renaissance Ross Bridge RSA Spa Package \$223**

- August 14, 21, 28 • September 6, 18, 25
- October 9, 30-31

**Auburn/Opelika Marriott Resort \$109 plus a 10% resort fee**

- August 14, 21, 28 • September 11, 18, 25
- October 2, 16, 23

**Auburn/Opelika Marriott Resort RSA Spa Package \$201 plus a 10% resort fee**

- August 14, 21, 28 • September 11, 18, 25
- October 2, 16, 23

**Prattville Marriott \$89**

- August 14, 21-22, 25, 27, 31 • September 4-5, 18
- October 2, 9, 30-31

**Renaissance Montgomery \$119**

- August 7, 14-15 • September 5-6, 18
- October 20, 23-24

**Renaissance Montgomery RSA Spa Package \$223**

- August N/A • September 6 • October 20

Specific room requests may require additional charge.  
Rates available the 1st of the month and are not applicable to groups.

Corporate/Promotional Code: R2A  
on [www.rsa-al.gov](http://www.rsa-al.gov)  
**Book Online and Save RSA \$4.**



## National Village at Grand National on the Trail

CONTINUED FROM PAGE TWO

mid-September 2022. This refurbishment includes strategic placement of tees and bunkers, friendlier approach areas, softer contours around greens with level walking surfaces, and new superior putting surfaces.

NV was selected in 2018 for the Seal of Approval Program of the American Association of Retirement Communities and received "Best in Class" recognition as a community with amenities providing a high-quality lifestyle for retirees. A total of 278 quality houses have closed (as of July 2022) at NV. The Eagle Bend neighborhood is expanding with new roads and 51 lots for upscale housing under development. For complete information, visit [nationalvillage.com](http://nationalvillage.com). ●

## ERS Board Election Results

The ERS Election Committee met on July 19 and certified the election results. Congratulations to Ricky Harcrow on his election to the new Active County Employee Position and Derrick T. Turner, Sr. on his reelection to the Active State Employee Position #1. They will begin their four-year terms on October 1, 2022. ●



**CEO**

David G. Bronner

**Deputy Director – Administration**  
Jo Moore

**Deputy Director – Investments**  
Marc Green

**Executives**

**Communications**  
Deborah J. Kirk

**Chief Accountant & Financial Officer**  
Diane E. Scott

**Employees' and Judicial Retirement**  
William F. Kelley, Jr.

**Field Services**  
Christopher C. Gallup

**Information Technology Services**  
Michael T. Baker

**General Counsel**  
Jared H. Morris

**Legislative Counsel**  
Neah M. Scott

**Member Services**  
Penny K. Wilson

**PEEHIP**  
J. David Wales

**RSA-1**  
Rhonda H. Peters

**Teachers' Retirement**  
Christopher P. Townes

The Retirement Systems of Alabama  
201 South Union Street  
P.O. Box 302150  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-2150  
Phone: 334.517.7000  
877.517.0020

RSA Website: [www.rsa-al.gov](http://www.rsa-al.gov)