

Governor Ivey, We Need Your Leadership

“THE GAMBLING BILL WOULD GENERATE NEARLY A BILLION DOLLARS IN TAX REVENUE ANNUALLY AND CREATE MORE THAN 12,000 JOBS. THAT SEEMS WORTHWHILE.”

BY JOSH MOON, ALABAMA POLITICAL REPORTER EDITORIAL

The owners of Alabama’s four dog tracks – VictoryLand, GreeneTrack, Mobile Grey [...] hound Park, and the Birmingham Race Course – launched a new statewide advertising campaign to highlight the tax revenue that Alabama is losing every year because its lawmakers simply refuse to pass comprehensive gaming and lottery legislation.

The ads put the lost revenue at around \$700 million – the estimated amount that a 2021 gaming and lottery bill would have generated, according to a number of studies. But the actual lost revenue could be more than that for the state, given it will also miss out on the payroll taxes generated by the new casinos and the revenue from a compact that will be negotiated on the Poarch Band of Creek Indians’ three currently operating casinos. We’re talking potentially around \$1 billion annually to pay for college scholarships, broadband internet expansion, rural health care expansion, and money for K-12 classrooms [...]

Because what’s happening here is unlike anything that’s happened in the past [...] because there is organization among the interested parties, very little organized opposition, and a clear and obvious benefit to the public spelled out in the bill. Also, it’s extremely popular with voters, drawing miniscule negative reaction from any voter group. Because without the bickering between the track owners and the Poarch Creeks, and without a strong pushback from the religious

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It is Time for Common Sense Support Medicaid Expansion!

BY DAVID G. BRONNER

We all love the freedom to do what we want when we want. And yet, a civilized society cannot exist if we were to allow thieves to steal or gunmen to shoot anyone they desired. Today’s interstates provide us with the opportunity to travel at remarkable speeds. If we allowed drivers to choose their own speed limit, each of them would not only have a death wish, but our state and country could not function properly. Common sense must prevail if we are to have a society that behaves respectfully and lawfully.

Healthcare for all citizens is common sense. Our current battle against the pandemic proves that by doing nothing is either getting lucky; winding up in the hospital; or even ending up dead. So what is my point? Telling our state legislators not to expand Medicaid due to costs is based on misinformation!

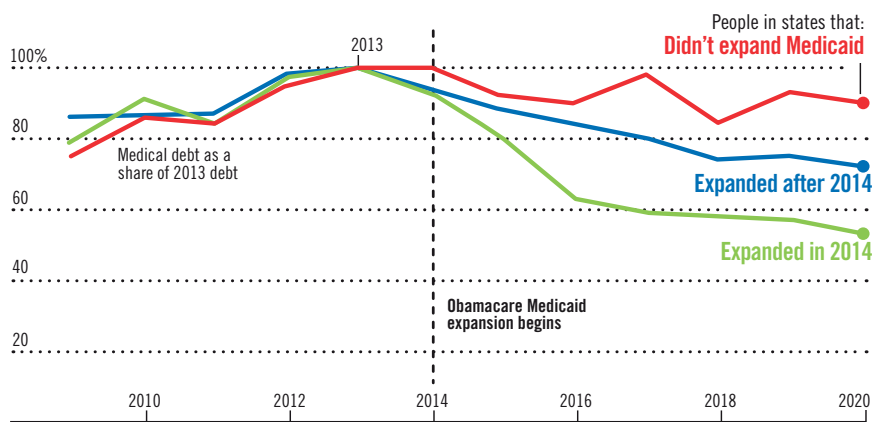
Keep in mind: If our neighbors are sick, we run the risk of joining them. Expansion allows for a better, healthier workforce, and keeps us on the safe side of the fence! Our federal government will pay ninety cents of every dollar for you and your neighbors to have a better life. **Critics have said it costs too much and that is simply not correct!** As shown below, it will keep local hospitals open, cut our medical debt, and protect us all. If you want a better Alabama at a small cost to Alabama taxpayers, tell your representatives and senators to pass Medicaid expansion. ●

So What Is Our Excuse Now?

TWELVE STATES, INCLUDING ALABAMA, HAVE NOT EXPANDED MEDICAID.

How Medicaid Expansion Slashed Medical Debt

The gap between states that expanded Medicaid right away and those that haven’t expanded at all grew quickly after 2014.



Source: JAMA

Governor Ivey, We Need Your Leadership

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right, this is less of a gambling bill and more of an economic development bill.

You're not doing something controversial and bold anymore. Hell, we've got gambling all over this state and all around us. No one cares anymore. Now, all you're doing is creating jobs and tax revenue. And you're doing it without promising a dime of taxpayer money in incentives.

If I told you that a company was relocating its production factories to Alabama and would bring about a billion

dollars in tax revenue annually, along with 12,000-15,000 permanent jobs, and create development hubs, around which other businesses would locate – and that this company would do these things in some of our most economically depressed areas, providing unprecedented revenue increases for cash-strapped school districts – our politicians would be tripping over themselves to offer up incentive packages that stretched into the tens of millions of dollars.

We would build that company's access roads. We would train their employees. We would give them cash. We would give them payroll tax breaks. We don't have to do any of those things with this casino bill. We're going to get what amounts to three Toyota-Mazda plants, minus the \$700 million in incentives we paid for one! [...] ●

History of RSA's Battle House Tower in Mobile

BY DR. MARK FAGAN

In 2001, the RSA proposed to construct an 800-foot-tall office tower in Mobile that would be connected to the existing Battle House Hotel, which would be refurbished to its original state. The city agreed to purchase the vacant Battle House Hotel plus the adjacent 2.23 acres (for the tower) and convey the land and hotel to the RSA. The city of Mobile put \$15 million in incentives toward the tower construction and hotel restoration. These incentives included building a parking garage, sidewalks, and a crosswalk.

In July 2002, all property was acquired for the project, and in November 2003, the concrete foundation slab was poured (7 feet thick). Work began on the core and shell of the tower in early 2004 and lasted until 2006. Exterior concrete columns were poured to support the tower.

Wind resistant and shatterproof glass was used on the exterior to resist hurricane debris. There was a pile-driving problem that delayed the project for five months. Hurricane Ivan in 2004 also delayed the tower construction by forcing the removal of equipment. On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina hit and caused another

six-month delay from the flooding of the elevator shaft components. Most of the damage to the materials and equipment was from saltwater.

The tower was built to withstand 130 mile-per-hour wind, so the foundation was strengthened accordingly. There were 700 to 800 auger cast piles that were dug 117 feet deep. The Mobile River water table

colors for each season and special occasions such as Mardi Gras and Christmas.

The parking deck (370,000 square feet) was built in 2006 on St. Francis Street and was topped by the full-service spa and swimming pool for The Battle House Hotel. The construction of the tower, parking deck/spa, and hotel renovation lasted almost five years, including a year in weather-related delays.

This building has 40 floors with 27 floors of Class A office space, four floors of new hotel rooms for The Battle House Hotel plus its lobby, and nine equipment floors. It has 21,000 square feet of column-free floor space with 9-foot ceilings on each floor. There is a 260-foot spire with base on the very top. The floors are suitable for both single- and multiple-tenant occupancy.

There are fourteen

3,500-pound passenger elevators with high-quality finishes; four for floors 8-16, four for floors 16-24, and six for floors 24-35. There are also two 4,500-pound hydraulic gearless freight elevators. It is fully sprinklered with two internal fire-proof stairways and fire standpipes. ●



had to be pumped out of the construction area. The spire for the RSA Battle House Tower was transported in 12 pieces and took four months to assemble. The total crown was 180 feet, with the 91-foot fiber-glass spire placed on top with a Sikorsky S-61 helicopter in September 2006. The Tower's pinnacle lights up with different

Alabama Success Story

Twin Sisters' Paths Cross and Lead Them to the Bureau of Pardons & Paroles

BY ALLISON S. POWELL

It is the mission of the Alabama Bureau of Pardons & Paroles (ABPP) to promote and enhance public safety through cooperation and collaboration with the Legislature, the Courts, criminal justice agencies, victims, and the community by providing investigation and supervision services in a holistic approach to rehabilitating adult offenders. ABPP's mission is fulfilled by more than 750 employees, including probation and parole officers, specialists, and support staff.

A law enforcement career is not for everyone, but for Officers Cindy Rohrscheib and Jennifer Chaffin, it is a passion that deepens their twin sister bond. Working together at the Cullman field office is their dream because they can motivate and challenge one another in their law enforcement career.

"She pushes me to do my best," said Rohrscheib. Chaffin credits Rohrscheib as her mentor and the reason she joined law enforcement.

With more than 20 years behind the badge, Rohrscheib's career began in 1999 as a dispatcher for the Hanceville Police Department. She then joined the Cullman Police Department in 2000 and proudly served in the aviation unit as a tactical flight officer for ten years. She was the first and only female in Alabama to work as a tactical flight officer.

Rohrscheib joined the Bureau in 2019 and looks forward to the future with ABPP.

Chaffin began her career as a part-time courtroom security officer for the Cullman Police Department in 2006, where Rohrscheib also worked. In 2007, Chaffin began full-time with the Cullman County Sheriff's Department. She served as a jailer detention deputy for one year and then a patrol officer for six years. In May 2021, she joined the ABPP team.

"It is ironic that we started in the same uniform and will end in the same uniform," said Chaffin. They plan to stay rooted at the Bureau until retirement.

Both agree their biggest challenge over the years was first establishing themselves as a female in law enforcement. It was also important for Rohrscheib and Chaffin to earn respect and prove to their fellow officers that they would have their back.

As for their accomplishments, Rohrscheib shared she is proud of getting certified in radKIDS, a self-defense program, and implementing it in her local school system. Chaffin is honored to have encouraged other women to become a patrol officer at her former job. Before Chaffin, no woman wanted to touch patrol work.

Rohrscheib and Chaffin also taught self-defense courses for women. Individuals still approach the sisters today and share they were able to use the skills they learned in situations to protect themselves.

More than 15,000 children and women have gone through self-defense programs



Officer Chaffin and Officer Rohrscheib

with Rohrscheib and Chaffin.

When asked about what advice they would share with new law enforcement officers, the sisters said to be humble and not be complacent. They emphasized the importance of being willing to learn from the people who have served for a long time.

The Bureau thanks Rohrscheib and Chaffin for their combined 35 years of service in law enforcement and looks forward to their work at the agency.

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. ●

RSA Staff Promotions

The RSA is pleased to announce the recent staff promotions of Jo Moore, Marc Green, and Jared Morris.

Jo Moore served as Assistant Legal Counsel for the RSA for almost nine years before becoming the Deputy Director for Administration. Ms. Moore received her bachelor's degree from Clemson University before obtaining her Juris Doctorate from Samford University's Cumberland School of Law. She spent 15 years in private practice, beginning at Kaufman & Rothfeder, P.C., and later as a Partner at Balch & Bingham LLP.

Marc Green now serves as the Deputy Director for Investments. He came to the RSA after receiving his bachelor's degree from Tulane University. He earned his master's degree from Auburn University Montgomery and then completed his professional designation as a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA). Mr. Green has held several positions during his 29 years with the RSA, including Equity Analyst, Assistant Director of Equities, Director of Equities, and Chief Investment Officer.

Jared Morris held the position of Assistant Legal Counsel for seven years

before his promotion to RSA General Counsel. He received his bachelor's degree from Harding University and his Juris Doctorate from Yale Law School. Before becoming an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Alabama for three years, he began his legal career as an Associate Attorney in New York City with Cravath, Swaine, & Moore LLP for two years.

Please join us in congratulating these employees on their well-deserved promotions. ●

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ENJOY YOUR FALL/WINTER A Special Deal FOR RSA MEMBERS

The Battle House,

A Renaissance Hotel \$119

- October 1-2, 7-9, 19-21, 30-31
- November 5-11, 14-15, 21-23, 26-30
- December 1-3, 12-16, 19-29

The Battle House RSA Spa Package \$207

- October 19-20 • November 15, 22-23, 29-30
- December 13, 20-22, 27-29

Riverview Plaza \$109

- October 2, 7-8, 16, 20-22, 27-28
- November 7-16, 19-30
- December 12-13, 18-21, 22-29

Grand Hotel \$127 plus a 15% resort fee

- October 6-7, 14, 31
- November 1-2, 10, 14-15, 23, 28-30
- December 1-9, 12-22

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

- October 6-7, 14, 31
- November 1-2, 10, 14-15, 23, 28-30
- December 1-9, 12-22

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

- October 6-7, 14, 31 • November 2, 10, 14, 23, 28, 30
- December 1-6, 8-9, 12, 14-19, 21-22

Marriott Shoals \$109

- October 24, 31 • November 7, 14, 28
- December 5, 12, 19, 26

Marriott Shoals RSA Spa Package \$210

- October 24, 31 • November 7, 14, 28
- December 5, 12, 19, 26

Renaissance Ross Bridge \$119

- October 12-14, 26-27, 31
- November 1, 9-10, 14-15, 17-18, 21-23, 28-30
- December 1-16, 19-23, 26-30

Renaissance Ross Bridge RSA Spa Package \$223

- October 12, 26, 31 • November 9, 15, 23, 30
- December 7, 14, 21, 28

Auburn/Opelika Marriott Resort \$109

- October 3-5, 11-12, 17, 20, 24, 27, 31
- November 1, 8-10, 14, 21-24, 29-30
- December 1, 5-8, 12, 15-16, 19-30

Auburn/Opelika Marriott Resort RSA Spa Package \$201

- October 20, 27 • November 10, 24
- December 1, 8, 15-16, 22-25, 29-30

Prattville Marriott \$89

- October 3, 10, 17-18, 24-25, 31
- November 1-2, 7-8, 21-23, 28-30
- December 5-6, 12-13, 20-30

Renaissance Montgomery \$119

- October 2-3, 27-28
- November 7-9, 18, 21-22, 27-28
- December 12, 15, 19-20, 26-30

Renaissance Montgomery RSA Spa Package \$223

- October 2, 27-28 • November 9, 18
- December 15, 28-29

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

800.228.9290 Ask for RSA rate. **Promotional Code: R2A** on www.rsa-al.gov
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ERS and TRS Board Members Sworn In



ERS Board of Control Vice Chair Jim Fibbe administers the Oath of Office to Bill Poole, Norris Green, and Derrick Turner.



TRS Board of Control Chair Luke Hallmark administers the Oath of Office to Thomas Jones, Bill Poole, Mary Beth Tate, and Amy Fowler.

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