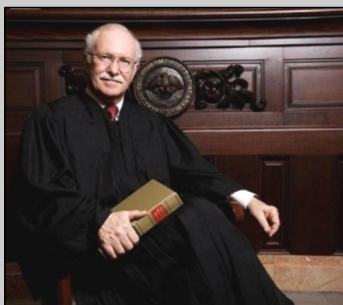




The  
Escambia  
County  
Historical  
Society,  
Founded  
1971

**The May Meeting**  
**Tuesday, May 22, 2018**  
**McMillan Museum**  
**Coastal Alabama Community College**  
**Brewton Campus**  
**3:00 PM**



**Associate Justice  
Tom Parker**

## **The Program: English Common Law and the Blackstone Commentaries.**

*The following bio of Justice Parker is taken from <<https://www.parkerforjustice.com/about-tom-parker/>>.*

Justice Parker was first elected to the Alabama Supreme Court in 2004. He previously was the Deputy Administrative Director of Courts, where he served as General Counsel for the Alabama court system, advising trial court judges, and as the Director of the Alabama Judicial College, providing training for new judges and continuing legal education for all the trial judges in Alabama. He also served as the Legal Adviser to the Chief Justice.

He graduated cum laude from Dartmouth College, in Hanover, New Hampshire, and received his Juris Doctorate from Vanderbilt University

*(Continued on page 2)*

## **Contents**

<b>English Common Law and the Blackstone Commentaries</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>A Visit to the 2018 FHS History Fair</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Photos from the Flomaton High School History Fair</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>My Take on the Flomaton History Fair</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Snapshots of the April Meeting</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Our Business Members</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>One Alabama Business Model Features a Chair and a Cigar Box</b>	<b>18</b>

**Don't forget to Bring Your Favorite Finger Food or Snack for the Refreshment Period after the Meeting. ECHS Will Provide the Drinks and Ice.**

**The ECHS June Meeting**  
**Tuesday, June 26, 2018**  
**McMillan Museum**  
**3:00 p. m.**

**Coletta Bailey will present a program on "Feed Sacks: Their Role in WWI & WWII." Ms. Bailey gave a program to ECHS in 2017 on Feed Sacks as a source of material for making clothes and household items. She will be bringing Feed Sacks from the War Era.**



**Award Winners from the Flomaton High School History Fair. Look for more about these award winners in next month's newsletter.**



**Brett Chancery**  
**Organizer of FHS**  
**History Fair**

**Volume 45 No. 5**

**May 2018**

## The Program

(Continued from page 1)

School of Law, in Nashville, Tennessee. He won a Rotary International Fellowship to study law at the University of Sao Paulo School of Law, in Sao Paulo, Brazil, where he was the first foreign student in Brazil's most prestigious law school.

Justice Parker is a Montgomery native — the son of the late Tommy Parker and Gloria Parker Pennington, and the step-son of the late Harry L. Pennington of Huntsville. He was elected Student Body President at Montgomery's Sidney Lanier High School and

Speaker of the House of both YMCA Youth Legislature and Boys' State.

Justice Parker and his wife, the former Dottie James of Auburn, have been married for 36 years. Dottie served as Supervisor of the Alabama Governor's Mansion during the administration of Alabama Governor Fob James. They are members of Frazer Memorial United Methodist Church in Montgomery, Alabama.

## English Common Law and the Blackstone Commentaries

### Common Law

The following description is from Encyclopedia Britannica <<https://www.britannica.com/topic/common-law>>.

Common law, also called Anglo-American law, is the body of customary law, based upon judicial decisions and embodied in reports of decided cases, that has been administered by the common-law courts of England since the Middle Ages. From it has evolved the type of legal system now found also in the United States and in most of the member states of the Commonwealth (formerly the British Commonwealth of Nations).

### The Blackstone Commentaries

The commentaries is a series of lectures delivered by the English jurist Sir William Blackstone at Oxford in 1753 and published as Commentaries on the Laws of England in four volumes between 1765 and 1769, which systematized and clarified the amorphous body of English Law. (<https://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/Blackstone%27s+Commentaries>).



**Sir William Blackstone as illustrated in Commentaries on the Laws of England.**

### Blackstone's Ratio

**"It is better that ten guilty persons escape than that one innocent suffer."**

*From Wikipedia:*

They (the Commentaries) were in fact the first methodical treatise on the common law suitable for a lay readership since at least the Middle Ages.

Blackstone's chief contribution was to create a succinct, readable, and above all handy epitome of the common law tradition. While useful in England, Blackstone's text answered an urgent need in the developing United States and Canada.

In the United States, the common law tradition was being spread into frontier areas, but it was not feasible for lawyers and judges to carry around the large libraries that contained the common law precedents. The four volumes of Blackstone put the gist of that tradition in portable form

They were required reading for most lawyers in the Colonies, and for many, they were the only reading. Blackstone's conservative vision of English law as a force to protect people, their liberty, and their property, had a deep impact on the ideologies that were cited in support of the American Revolution, and ultimately, the United States Constitution.

## A Visit to the 2018 Flomaton High School History Fair

If you weren't at the second annual History Fair at Flomaton High School on Friday, May 4, you missed an opportunity to witness Escambia County Youth demonstrating their interest in and knowledge of history. Under the direction of teacher Brett Chancery, and with the support of Principal Scott Hammond, this year's fair was superb!

Students presented exhibits of both global and U.S. history and even had a "Wax" Museum of historical characters from honest Abe Lincoln to current political figures such as Barack Obama, Donald Trump, and Hillary Clinton. Other characters represented included Amelia Earhart and Orville Wright, as well as a variety of outlaws such as Jesse James and Al Capone.

Your Escambia County (AL) Historical Society was there with a display (thanks to our Museum Coordinator Don Sales). along with other organizations of the area, including the Flomaton Railroad Museum, the Alger-Sullivan Historical Society, the Jay Historical Society, and our friends the Poarch Creek Indians.

Other groups present were the Northwest Florida Living History folks, and from our neighbors in Baldwin County, Claudia Campbell of the Fort Mims Restoration Association, who presided over a Fort Mims display. From Mobile there were displays from the Gulf Coast Holocaust Center and the USS Alabama. There was also an exhibit from Montgomery's Rosa Parks Museum.

Individual history buffs and supporters also provided exhibits, such as Joe Ross of ECHS who brought an exhibit of unique tools and artifacts. Rounding out the exhibits were those made by the Flomaton High students themselves on individuals or events they chose and researched.

I asked Clay Lisenby of L House Photography, to join me to see the fair, and with camera in hand, we tried to capture on film as much of the day as possible. One thing we couldn't capture in pictures, however, was the patriotic music performed by the eight-piece ensemble from the Flomaton High School Band, under the direction of Candice Roberson. They did a Great Job!

If you missed the fair you also missed the excitement and enthusiasm of the students and guests. I enjoyed seeing Sacagawea, Gracie O'Bannon, a senior at FHS and daughter of my friend Charman Cooper O'Bannon. I had a chance to chat with John Knott, superintendent of County Schools, and good friend Sandra Reid from the County Office. Sandra is

the granddaughter of former superintendent Harry Weaver, who was one of the Historical Society Founders.

I enjoyed hearing from ECHS member Charlie Ware about the display by Devonte Brantley on WWII Hero James Carroll. Devonte learned about our own James Carroll by reading an article in the Atmore Magazine. After enjoying the exhibits in the new high school gym, we went to the old gym where the "Wax" Museum was held. As each group of visitors entered, the students (sixth graders), stood still and as you approached their poster containing the name of their character and a brief bio, they became animated and talked, telling you who they were. One of my favorites was President Theodore Roosevelt. Great job "Teddy!"

Clay captured a lot of these animated "Wax" figures on film: Auburn graduate and astronaut Jim Lovell, blues singer Billy Holliday, movie star John Wayne, explorer Christopher Columbus, actress and humanitarian Audrey Hepburn, sports figure Babe Ruth, world champion boxer Muhammed Ali, basketball legend Michael Jordan, and Native American Jim Thorpe, 1912 Olympic Gold Medalist.

Visiting the "Wax" figures, we heard from Oprah Winfrey, Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks, Annie Oakley, Hitler, Leonardo da Vinci, and Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman to receive a medical degree in the U. S. We were even honored with England's Princess Diana, Presidents U. S. Grant, Woodrow Wilson, John F. Kennedy, Abraham Lincoln, T. E. Roosevelt, Barack Obama, and Donald Trump.

I did miss having the father of our country represented, George Washington, but all in all this year's effort was an enlightening footpath down memory lane. I hope next year you will find time to support these youth interested in history and visit the Fair. They are the future of our historical organizations, and it's worth the time and effort to support them.

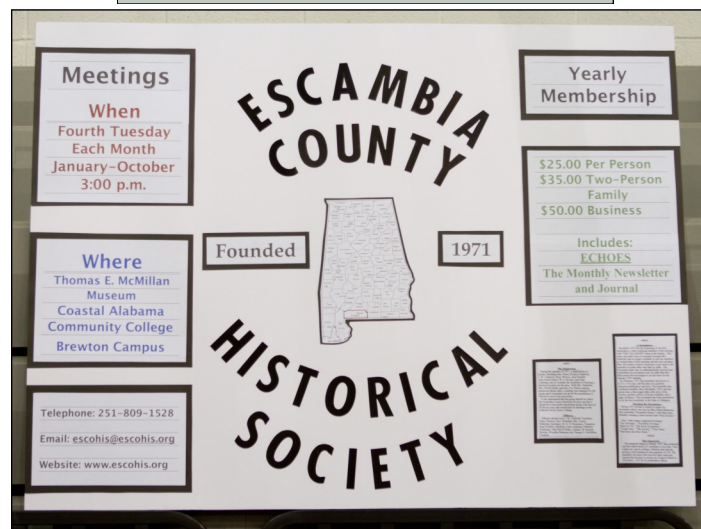
Hope you enjoy the photos.

**Sally Finlay,  
President, Escambia County Historical  
Society**



# Photos from the Flomaton High School History Fair

## ECHS at the History Fair



**Thanks to Joe Brewton, ECHS Has this Great Sign to Welcome Visitors to the Society's Exhibits.**



**Sally Finlay (ECHS President), Charlie Ware (ECHS Alternate Trustee), and Don Sales (McMillan Museum Coordinator) at the ECHS & College Exhibit.**



**Jasmine Philyaw, Coastal Alabama Community College Recruiter, ready to greet visitors to the ECHS Exhibit.**



**Teacher Elizabeth Mitchell with second grade class at the ECHS Exhibit.**



**Students enjoying the Fair and the ECHS Exhibit.**



## Photos from the Flomaton High School History Fair (Continued)

### ECHS at the History Fair



**Mike Edwards at the Fort Mims Exhibit Visiting with Claudia Campbell.**



**Sally Finlay with Exhibitors at the Gulf Coast Holocaust Center.**



**Sally with John Knott, Superintendent, Escambia County (AL) Schools, and Sandra Reid. Sandra is the granddaughter of Harry Weaver, one of the founders of ECHS.**



**Sally with participants in the Fair. Brett Chancery, organizer of the History Fair, is second from the left. The little Marine is Chase Hammon, son of Scott Hammon, principle of Flomaton High School.**



**Don Sales greets Students visiting the ECHS Exhibit.**

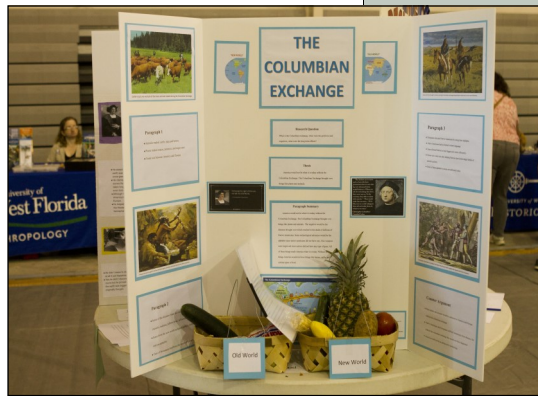


**Students and Teacher enjoying the Fair.**

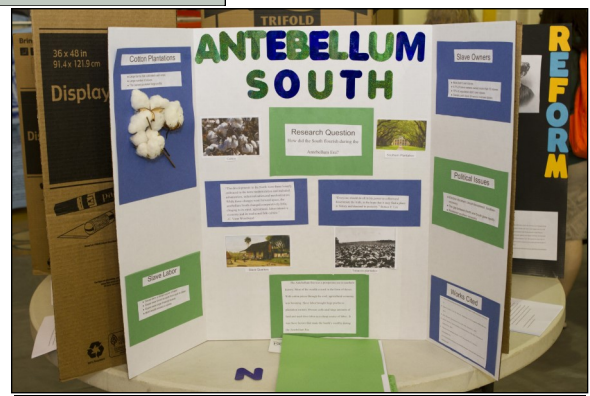


# Photos from the Flomaton High School History Fair (Continued)

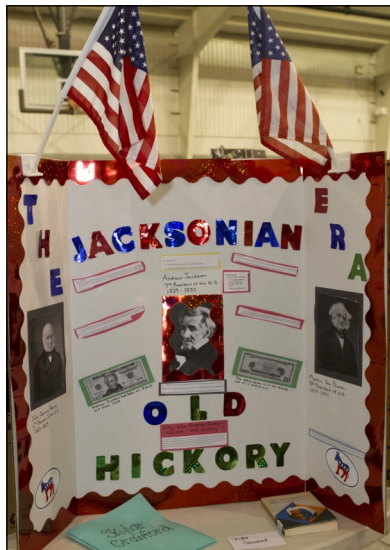
## Student Exhibits



**The Columbian Exchange**  
Exchange of culture, food, technology, populations, and ideas between the European world and the Americas after Columbus's 1492 voyage.



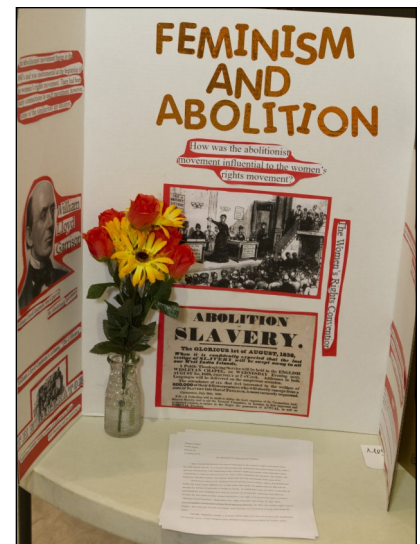
**Antebellum South**



**Jacksonian: The Years of 1824 to 1840 are called the Years of Jacksonian Democracy.**



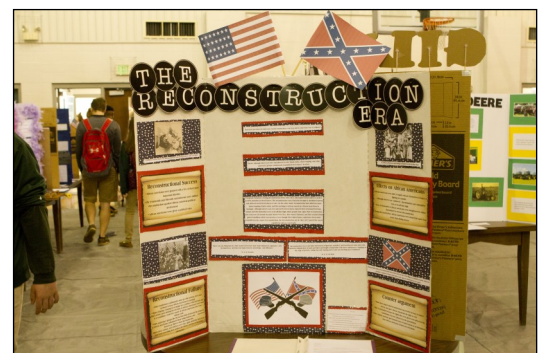
**Save the Strand:**  
Atmore's  
Historic Movie Theatre.



**Feminism and Abolition**  
Feminist Movement began in 1848, Abolition Movement in 1830's.



**Henry Ford (1863-1947)**

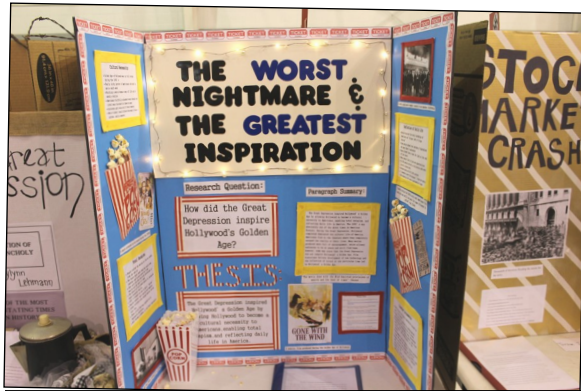


**The Reconstruction Era (1865-1877)**

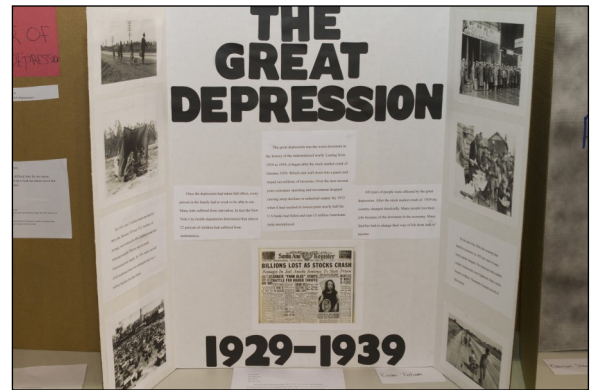


# Photos from the Flomaton High School History Fair (Continued)

## Student Exhibits



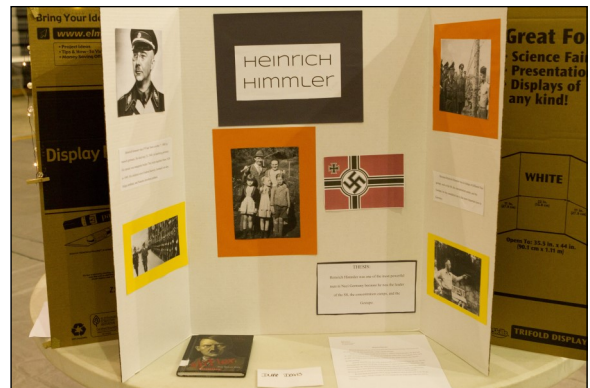
**How Did the Great Depression Inspire Hollywood's Golden Age?**



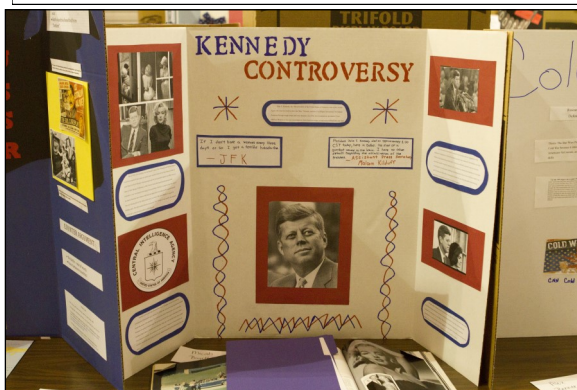
**The Great Depression**



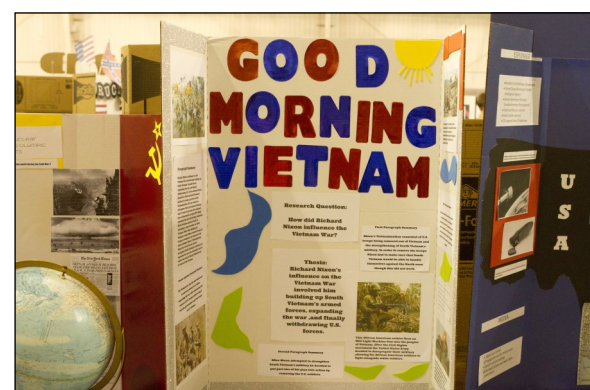
**Gilded Age: Industrialization.**  
The Gilded Age in the U. S. is usually considered as late 19th Century, 1870's-1900.



**Heinrich Himmler (1900-1948)**  
One of the men most responsible for the Holocaust.



**Kennedy Assassination Controversy**



**Good Morning Vietnam**  
A 1987 American comedy-drama war film set in Saigon in 1965.



## Photos from the Flomaton High School History Fair *(Continued)*

### Exhibits from Area Historical and Preservation Organizations as Well as Individuals



**The Gulf Coast Holocaust Center**  
Located in Mobile, the Center promotes education about and remembrance of the Holocaust.



**Jay Historical Society**  
ECHS has enjoyed a field trip to the Jay Historical Museum.



**Poarch Creek Indians**  
ECHS has enjoyed field trips to the PCI Reservation and the Museum.



**Northwest Florida Living History Society**  
The Society is dedicated to educating the public about Florida's territorial and colonial history.



**The Rosa Parks Museum**  
Located on the Troy University Campus in Montgomery, the Museum honors the role of Ms. Parks in the Civil Rights Movement



**Fort Mims**  
Claudia Campbell, shown here, has conducted field trips for ECHS to North Baldwin County & Fort Mims.



## Photos from the Flomaton High School History Fair *(Continued)*

### Exhibits from Area Historical and Preservation Organizations as well as Individuals



**The Alger Sullivan Historical Society Exhibit.**  
**Claudia Campbell of the Fort Mims Restoration Association is shown visiting with Jerry Fisher of Alger Sullivan.**



**Perdido Vineyards, Alabama Winery.**  
**Jim Eddins, President of Perdido Vineyards, on the right, chats with visitors to his exhibit.**  
**ECHS enjoyed a visit to the winery on a field trip to Baldwin County in April, 2015.**



**Coletta Bailey with Feed Sack Exhibit from Elberta Museum.**



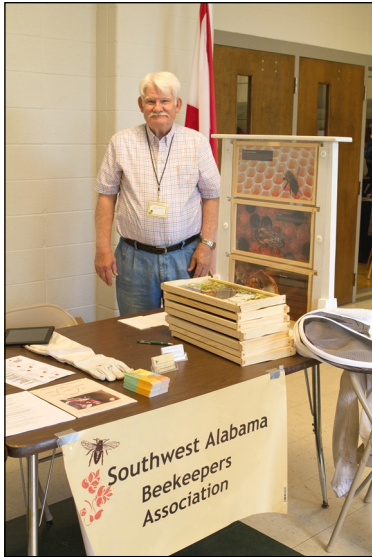
**Sally Finlay at U.S.S. Alabama Exhibit with Chase Hammon and exhibitor.**



**ECHS Member Joe Ross with Exhibit of Tools and other Artifacts**  
**Joe is pictured seated in the background.**

## Photos from the Flomaton High School History Fair (Continued)

### Exhibits from Area Historical and Preservation Organizations



**John Samson of the Southwest Alabama Beekeeper's Association.**

### The Flomaton High School Ensemble



**This Eight Piece Ensemble from the FHS Band played Patriotic Music during the Fair. Shown with Director Candice Roberson.**

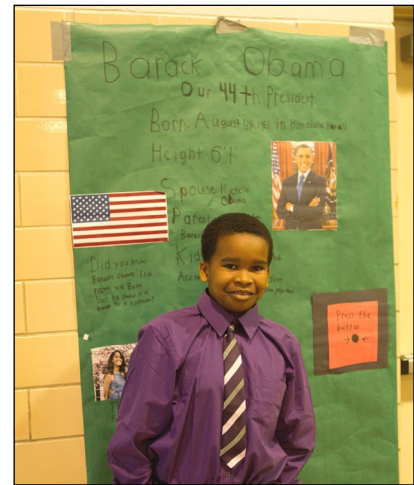
### The Wax Museum Students Portraying Past and Present Historical Figures



**Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt (1858-1919)**  
An American statesman and writer who served as the 26th President of the United States from 1901 to 1909.  
His face is depicted on Mount Rushmore, alongside those of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln.



**Singer Billie Holliday (1915-1959)**  
An American jazz musician and singer-songwriter with a career spanning nearly thirty years. She is considered by many to be the greatest jazz vocalist of all time.



**Barack Obama**  
Born in Honolulu in 1961, he went on to become President of the Harvard Law Review and a U.S. senator representing Illinois. In 2008, he was elected President of the United States, becoming the first African-American commander-in-chief. He served two terms as the 44th president.



## Photos from the Flomaton High School History Fair (Continued)

### The Wax Museum Students Portraying Past and Present Historical Figures



Left to Right, Martin Luther King, Jim Lovelle, Leonardo Da Vince, and Orville Wright

**Martin Luther King (1929-1968)**, an American Baptist minister and activist who became the most visible spokesperson and leader in the civil rights movement from 1954 until his death in 1968.

**Jim Lovell, (Born, 1928)**, NASA astronaut and retired U.S. Naval captain who made several historic space flights from 1965-70, including trips orbiting the moon and commanding the famous Apollo 13 mission which is known for the phrase "Houston, we have a problem," after an explosion on board. The crew and Houston technicians got the spaceship and crew back home safely.

**Da Vinci (1452-1519)**, has been variously called the father of paleontology (study of fossils), ichnology (study of behavior of fossils), and architecture, and is widely considered one of the greatest painters of all time. Sometimes credited with the inventions of the parachute, helicopter and tank, he epitomized the Renaissance humanist ideal.

**Wright, (1871-1948)**, engineer, inventor, and aviation pioneer, with brother Wilbur is generally credited with inventing, building, and flying the world's first successful airplane.



**Jim Thorpe (1887-1953)**

Thorpe was an American athlete and Olympic gold medalist. A member of the Sac and Fox Nation, Native American Tribes, Thorpe became the first Native American to win a gold medal for his home country in the 1912 Olympics.



**Princess Diana (1961-1997)**

Diana, Princess of Wales, a member of the British royal family as the first wife of Charles, Prince of Wales, the heir apparent to the British throne. She is the mother of Prince William, Duke of Cambridge, and Prince Harry.

Also known as the People's Princess, she was celebrated for her sense of style and her charity work.



**Amelia Earhart (1897-1937)**

An American aviation pioneer and author. Earhart was the first female aviator to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. She received the United States Distinguished Flying Cross for this accomplishment.

## Photos from the Flomaton High School History Fair (Continued)

### The Wax Museum Students Portraying Past and Present Historical Figures



**Audrey Hepburn  
(1929-1993)**  
Actress and Humanitarian, known for starring roles in My Fair Lady and other movies.



**Abe Lincoln  
1809-1865)**  
Lawyer and Statesman, served as the 16th President of the United States from March 1861 until his assassination in April 1865. One of the faces on Mount Rushmore. Through his speeches, considered one of America's finest writers.



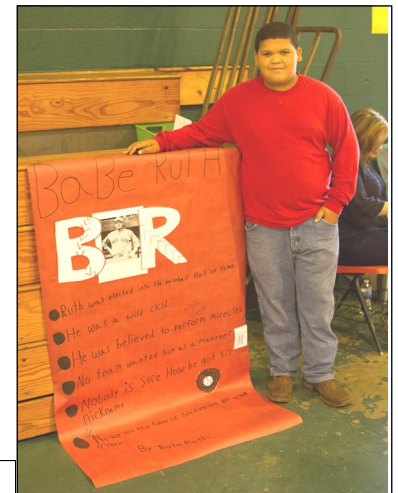
**Elizabeth Blackwell  
(1821-1910)**  
First woman to become a Doctor of Medicine in the United States.



**Sally with Jesse James (1847-1882)**  
An American bank and train robber, James committed crimes supposedly out of revenge for the poor treatment he, his family, and other Southern sympathizers received from Union soldiers during the Civil War.



**Left to Right, Sacajawea, Christopher Columbus, and Pocahontas**  
**Sacajawea (1788-1812)**, a Native American who served as a guide to Lewis and Clark on their exploration of the Louisiana Territory.  
**Pocahontas (birth date unknown, died 1617)**, a Native American famous for her association with the Colonial Jamestown Settlement in Virginia.  
**Columbus (1451-1506)**, Italian explorer, navigator, and colonizer. Completed four voyages across the Atlantic.

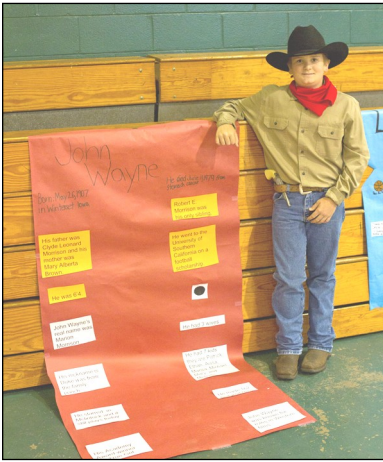


**Babe Ruth  
(1895-1948)**  
The game's first great slugger and the most celebrated athlete of his time. His career in Major League Baseball spanned 22 seasons, from 1914 through 1935.



## Photos from the Flomaton High School History Fair (Continued)

### The Wax Museum Students Portraying Past and Present Historical Figures



**John Wayne  
(1907-1979)**  
**Marion Mitchell Morrison, known professionally as John Wayne and nicknamed Duke, was an American actor and filmmaker. An Academy Award-winner for True Grit, Wayne was among the top box office draws for three decades.**



**Flomaton High School history students with Gracie O'Bannon, representing Sacajawea in the middle.**



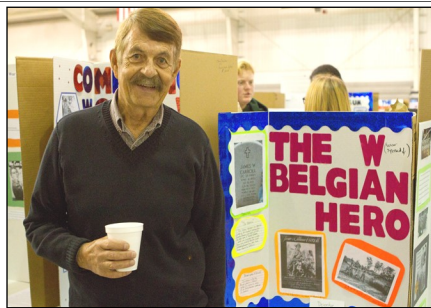
**Ty Murray  
(Born, 1969)**  
**Ty Monroe Murray is an American nine-time World Champion rodeo cowboy. He is an inductee of the Pro-Rodeo Hall of Fame in Colorado Springs, Colorado, in the all-around event.**

## My Take on the 2018 Flomaton History Fair

### By Charles (Charlie) Ware

I did not attend the history fair last year and probably would not have this year if Don (Don Sales, Museum Coordinator), had not asked me if I could help at our historical society setup. I didn't know what to expect when I arrived at the Flomaton High School and boy, was I ever in for a pleasant surprise.

I could not believe the many excellent displays the students had made and the extent of research they had put into their projects. There were displays of all facets of history from the very serious such as "Was Truman Right in Ordering the Dropping of the Atomic Bomb" to the lighthearted "The Role of Flapper Girls in American History." Each time I got a break



**Charlie Ware in front of the Bill Carroll Exhibit.**

I would study as many of the displays as I could but time just did not permit reading all the details as I would have liked. It was like spending a day in a famous museum and leaving with the feeling that you had only brushed the surface of what was available.

My greatest delight was finding that I was indirectly responsible for one of the student's choice of topics. Shortly after I arrived, I spotted a display about Bill Carroll, the World War II hero from Brewton. Since I had done quite a bit of research on Carroll, I wanted to meet the student who had chosen him for his project. There was a nametag on the poster with the name

*(Continued on page 14)*



## My Take on the 2018 Flomaton History Fair

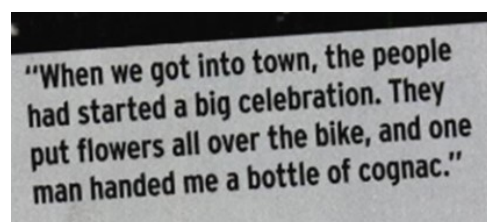


**Bill Carroll, Brewton Native, rode into the Belgium Village of Peruwelz (on a Harley Davidson) in 1944 ahead of his unit of the American Army and became an instant hero, hailed as the liberator of the village from the German occupiers.**

**The McMillan Museum has an exhibit about James (Bill) Carroll.**



**Devante Bradley**



*(Continued from page 13)*

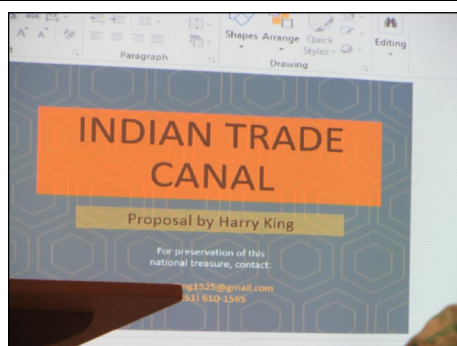
Devante Bradley. I asked one of the nearby students if he knew Devante and he said that he did. I told him that I would like to talk to Devante about Bill Carroll.

A short time later, Devante came over and introduced himself. I told him what a good job he had done and that I was also interested in Carroll. I asked him how he came to know of Carroll and why he decided to use him as the subject of his project. Devante told me that he had read an article about Bill Carroll in the Atmore Magazine and wanted to know more about this hero from Escambia County. He had a look of total disbelief on his face when I

told him that I had written that article. He had me wait while he went to get a friend to come make his picture with me standing by his display. He treated me as if I was a celebrity or something. You just never know how something you say or do or write will affect someone.

Needless to say, I was highly impressed by the 2018 Flomaton History Fair. The faculty, staff, students, and all the organizers did a great job. It's too bad it only lasted one day because there was so much that I didn't get to see. You can bet that I will make every effort to be there next year and I'll be telling all my friends about it too.

## Snapshots from the April 2018 ECHS Meeting



**Title Page from the PowerPoint Program on the Discovery of a Prehistoric Indian Trade Canal near Gulf Shores.**

## Snapshots from the April 2018 ECHS Meeting *(Continued)*



**At Left, Harry King Who  
Discovered the  
Canal.**



**Samples of Coastal Pottery, Part of  
Harry King's Program.**



**Mr. King standing in a portion of the  
Indian canal with a ladder 24 feet  
wide to show that is the width of the  
canal.**



**Dr. Deidra Suwanee Dees examining  
the samples of coastal pottery. Dr.  
Dees is Director/Tribal Archivist of  
the Poarch Creek Indians.**



**Enjoying the April Program.**



## Snapshots from the April 2018 ECHS Meeting *(Continued)*



**Travel by canoe would be much safer than by the Gulf of Mexico with its turbulent passes, harsh weather, and tides.**

**Traders would have access to much of the inland regions of the southeastern U.S. via the feeder river systems.**

**They could have traveled Oyster Bay one mile to Little Lagoon, east through the lagoon, then by portage to Cotton Bayou/Perdido Bay, Pensacola Bay, Santa Rosa Sound, Choctawhatchee Bay, then to Apalachicola and north by the Chattahoochee River to northern Georgia.**

*Photo and Text from Power Point Presentation on Indian Trade Canal by Harry King.*



**Jacque Stone and Darryl Searcy**



**Enjoying refreshments after the program.**



## Our Business Members

*Herrington's*  
**The FLORIST, Inc.**

*"Where Flowers Are Special"*

719 Douglas Ave.  
Brewton, AL 36426  
(251) 867-7085  
(800) 235-0824

RONNY HERRINGTON

**Remember to support  
our Business Members**

**the L house**  
*Printing & Frames*

Custom Event Stationery  
Business Documents • Custom Framing

131 Saint Joseph Avenue  
Brewton, Alabama

251-867-9962  
Lhouseprinting@gmail.com

*Place your future in our hands...*



## “The Bank To Believe In”

A Locally Owned Community Bank  
Striving to Meet Your Financial Needs

### Personal Loans

- Rates based on length of time and type of collateral

### Real Estate Loans

- Fixed rates up to 15 years
- Adjustable rates up to 30 years
- Home Equity Loans
- Construction Loans

### Local Decisions

- Fast approvals
- Local closings
- Minimum fees on all loans



**ESCAMBIA  
COUNTY BANK**

P.O. Box 601 • Flomaton, Alabama 36441  
Telephone (251) 296-5356

# The ECHS *Journal* Section

## One Alabama Newspaper's Business Model Features a Chair and Cigar Box



**The Evergreen Courant Office**  
*Picture by Ed Williams*

### By Meg Dalton

*The following article is taken from the Columbia Journalism Review <[https://www.cjr.org/the\\_feature/evergreen-courant.php](https://www.cjr.org/the_feature/evergreen-courant.php)>.*

For almost a century, a single wooden chair has been sitting on the aptly named Rural Street in Evergreen, Alabama. Nobody knows exactly how long “the chair,” as it’s simply and lovingly called, has been there. Most say since at least World War II, or even the 1920s—as long as the Bozeman family has owned it. It’s old, and has lost a few slats over the years, but the oak skeleton is still strong enough to support a stack of The Evergreen Courant every week. And on top of those newspapers sits a small black cigar box with a worn label reading “50¢.” With no online presence to speak of, the weekly newspaper relies on this honor system to sell copies—though most of its revenue comes from a pool of dedicated subscribers.

Robert Gaston Bozeman III is the third-generation owner and publisher of the Courant. His grandfather, Robert Gaston Bozeman, Sr., moved to Evergreen in the 1920s and became the Courant’s publisher after its original owner died. Bozeman isn’t sure, but he guesses the newspaper, which was established in 1895, officially switched hands in 1925. Bozeman’s grandfather ran the Courant until 1956, at which time his father, Robert Gaston Bozeman, Jr., became the owner. Bozeman, Jr. died in 1991, leaving Bozeman III to carry on the Courant’s legacy.

Back when Bozeman, Sr. was at the helm, Courant readers would wait outside the newspaper’s office for the latest issue, which was done in-

house on a letterpress. “People would wait literally on the sidewalk to get their paper,” Bozeman says, and sometimes they were so impatient they’d step inside and grab papers as they were being printed. Bozeman, Sr. didn’t like the disruption, so he grabbed a chair, stuck it outside, and rested the newly printed papers on it, topped with one of the several cigar boxes that littered the newsroom.

The only difference today is a 40 cent price increase, and 25 miles. Bozeman drives 30 minutes to the city of Monroeville where the Courant is now printed. He puts a stack of papers on the chair when he gets back. A hundred or so people swing by in the first hour-and-a-half, Bozeman says. The cigar box usually collects between \$20 and \$25 on Wednesday, \$10 to \$15 on Thursday, and a few more dollars on Friday. Of course, The Evergreen Courant doesn’t solely rely on its chair-and-cigar-box business model to stay afloat. Like most community newspapers, it’s heavily dependent on a loyal base of subscribers—3,600 at the moment. The Courant serves the whole of Conecuh County, which has a population of 13,228 according to the 2010 US Census. Evergreen is the county’s largest city, with just under 4,000 residents.

The cigar box has been stolen only three times in its history. His grandfather caught the first guy, sometime in the 1960s, after seeing him swipe the box from the newsroom window. Bozeman himself once had to chase someone down the street. But most of the time, people don’t mess with it. “They know

*(Continued on page 19)*



# The ECHS *Journal* Section

## One Alabama Newspaper's Business Model Features a Chair and Cigar Box



**The Famous Chair with Newspapers and Cigar Box**  
*Picture by Ed Williams*

(Continued from page 18)

it's a tradition," Bozeman says. The chair may be the same one from his grandfather's tenure, but they've gone through dozens of cigar boxes over the years due to wear and tear. "That chair ought to wind up in the Smithsonian or Newseum one day, it's such an icon," Ed Williams, retired Auburn University journalism professor and native of Conecuh County, says.

The chair is not Evergreen's only claim to fame. Since 1973, it's been dubbed the Collard Green Capital of Alabama. And just last June, the State Senate officially designated Evergreen the Bigfoot Capital of Alabama. The Courant's ace reporter and managing editor, Lee Peacock, often writes about sightings of the legendary creature in Conecuh County; he even judged a "Bigfoot Calling Contest" in Evergreen this March. And Conecuh Sausage is iconic among Alabama breakfast enthusiasts. Its hickory-smoked links have been a staple of Conecuh County cupboards since 1947, and they've since made their way into restaurants and supermarkets across the southeastern part of the United States.

The chair does more than just sell papers. "Where the newspaper sits, everyone inside can see outside when people stop by," Williams says. "It facilitates an interaction you don't see at most newspapers." It's not unusual for Williams to pop inside the office before or after grabbing his paper. It's a small room, maybe 10 by 30 feet, with a few desks scattered about for the paper's handful of employees—six including Bozeman. "A person's name is only in paper two times, when they're born and when they die," Williams says. "That's true with large dailies, but people's names appear in the community newspaper all the time."

Because of this close and stable relationship, the financial state of community newspapers is often in a better place than its metropolitan counterparts, according to a study from the Tow Center for Digital Innovation. They publish "exclusive content not offered elsewhere," write the study's authors,

Christopher Ali and Damian Radcliffe, and also tap into ultra-local advertising markets. "It's a niche that community newspapers have that no other media source has," says Felicia Mason, executive director of the Alabama Press Association. It doesn't matter if the newspaper covers a town of 500 or 5,000. "If you wanna know [something], there's nowhere else you're gonna get that other than your local newspaper," Mason says. The Courant brings in \$300,000 in annual revenue. Sometimes they're up, sometimes they're down. But it's been pretty consistent the last few years.

Lately, only one thing worries Bozeman about the news industry. "Tariffs are hurting printing as a whole," he says. He's referring to the tariffs imposed on Canadian newsprint by the US government earlier this year. Most publishers, including community newspapers like the Courant, rely on this cheap source of paper for their products. The new tariffs, though not yet permanent, are affecting newspapers of all shapes and sizes. Because the Courant hasn't made the move to digital, the tariffs are especially worrisome.

A walk through the newspaper's office is a bit like stepping into the past. Sure, they've traded hot type for computers, and plates for PDFs. But Bozeman can't quite bring himself to part with the Linotype Model 14 sitting in the back of the building. When his grandfather purchased it in 1925, it was a state-of-the-art machine. Now it's a museum-worthy relic, much like the chair and cigar box out front—and the Courant itself.

**ECHOES**  
THE NEWSLETTER FOR  
THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 276  
Brewton, AL 36427  
Phone: 251-809-1528  
E-mail: [escambiahistoricalociety@gmail.com](mailto:escambiahistoricalociety@gmail.com)

We're on the web!  
[www.escohis.org](http://www.escohis.org)

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**  
**DATED MATERIAL**  
**Address correction**  
**requested**

**Books Available by Contribution**

	Regular	Mailed
Headstones and Heritage	\$20.00	\$25.00
Escambia Historical Society Cookbook	\$10.00	\$15.00
Wildflowers of The Escambia CD	\$10.50	\$15.00
History of Brewton and E. Brewton (sc)	\$35.00	\$40.00
Flomaton Centennial Scrapbook	\$30.00	\$25.00
Addendum to Headstones and Heritage	\$20.00	\$25.00

**Clip the following form and send to ECHS**  
**Treasurer, P.O. Box 276, Brewton, AL 36427**

Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Do you prefer to get your newsletter by**  
**U.S. Mail \_\_\_\_ or email? \_\_\_\_**

**Dues**

(\$25.00/person, \$35.00/two family member at same address; Lifetime, \$250.00/person; \$50.00/year business)

Dues \_\_\_\_\_

Donation \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Your Interests \_\_\_\_\_

You Will Help With \_\_\_\_\_

**Dues are to be paid at the beginning of the year**

**Many members give a membership as a gift!**

**Business members get a large scale**  
**advertisement 11 months of the year.**

*ECHOES, The newsletter for the Escambia County Historical Society, a 501 (c) (3) corporation, is published monthly except November. Comments are welcome. You may email the Society at [escohis@escohis.org](mailto:escohis@escohis.org) or call 251-809-1528.*

**OFFICERS**

President, *Sally Finlay*  
Vice-President, *Carolyn Jennings*  
Secretary, *Jacque Stone*  
Treasurer, *John Angel*  
Echoes Editor, *Ranella Merritt*  
Librarian, *David Allen*  
Publicity, *Clay Lisenby*  
Historian/Curator, *Tom McMillan*

**Trustees**

*Ann Biggs-Williams*  
*Ranella Merritt*  
*Tom McMillan*  
*Sally Finlay*  
*Charles Ware, Alternate*  
*Darryl Searcy, Trustee Emeritus*