

Fighting an old war again

As he worked his way through dozens of bill signings last week, Gov. Sonny Perdue put his signature on SB 27, a measure that designates April as Confederate Heritage/History Month and sets the stage for the upcoming observance of the Civil War sesquicentennial.

I wonder if Perdue even paused to ponder the irony of his signing a piece of legislation that compels an official recognition of the Confederate States of America.

Perdue was elected governor in 2002 with the enthusiastic support of Confederate-flag-waving rural voters who

were angry with Roy Barnes for changing the state flag. As he nears the end of his administration, Perdue again is bowing to the wishes of Georgians who long for the good old days of "the lost cause."

Of course, there are decent business reasons for setting up a Confederate history month. The 150th anniversary of the Civil War is expected to draw tourists who want to look at historic battlefield sites. We might as well prepare for this influx of visitors and the money they could spend.

Two years before that date arrives, however, we seem to be caught up

Other Voices



Tom Crawford

in another refigiting of the War Between the States.

In recent weeks, political leaders in several southern states have been talking openly about the positive aspects of such concepts as "secession" and "sovereignty" and "states' rights" and "nullification."

Republican Gov. Rick Perry of Texas was one of the first to mention secession, which he thought might be a good

way for his state to throw off the burdens of an "intrusive" federal government. Insurance Commissioner John Oxendine, a Republican candidate for governor in Georgia, has expressed sympathy for the secessionist crowd as well.

The Georgia Senate passed a resolution in the waning days of the legislative session, SR 632, that declares the state can ignore federal laws if the state's leaders think Congress doesn't have the authority to enact such measures.

"All acts of Congress which assume to create, define, or punish crimes, other than those

so enumerated in the Constitution are altogether void, and of no force; and that the power to create, define, and punish such other crimes is reserved, and, of right, appertains solely and exclusively to the respective States, each within its own territory," says the quaint language of the resolution, which was copied from a document written by Thomas Jefferson in 1798.

Let's call this what it is: crazy talk. The question of who prevails in a dispute between the federal government and the states was settled about 150 years ago in that struggle called the Civil War. These argu-

ments about the supposed authority of states to do whatever they want to do — such as ignore Civil Rights laws — are the sort of thing we heard from John Birchers, white supremacists, and other extremists in the 1950s and 1960s.

It is a point of view that does have its supporters here. A recent poll of the state's voters showed that among Republicans, one-third of them favored the idea of Georgia leaving the U.S. The overall support for secession among all poll respondents was 18 percent.

One of the major complaints you hear from See CRAWFORD on page 15

The United Feifdoms of America

By Howie Rich
Special to the News

Lost in last week's barrage of Barack Obama "spending reform" coverage was a USA Today story that should send chills down the spine of any state official — or taxpaying citizen, for that matter.

For the first time ever, federal aid — not property, sales or income tax — is the top revenue source for state budgets, the paper reported.

And not surprisingly, you could probably knit your way from Hyannis Port to Honolulu with all the "strings attached" by federal bureaucrats.

Like the automotive

industry, banking business or mortgage market, an unprecedented level of state governmental policy is now controlled out of Washington.

And just as government's costly intrusion into the free market is eroding our capitalist economy, its escalating incursion into the realm of state sovereignty is encroaching upon our individual liberties.

As Indiana State Sen. Jim Buck told USA Today, "This money isn't manna from heaven. It comes with a price."

Indeed it does — and that price is our freedom.

Of course, to hear big

government apologists tell it, this news is exclusively the result of the current economic crisis and the need for government to "lend a hand."

"This has more to say about the severity of the recession than anything else," a spokesman for the left-leaning Center on Budget and Policy Priorities said. "Congress stepped in on a temporary basis to help states."

Nothing could be further from the truth.

While Washington's bailout craze has indeed spawned a sizable increase in federal aid to states, what we have witnessed over the last eighty years is the sys-

tematic stripping away of local control — a steady, methodical (and increasingly expensive) obliteration of the sovereignty of state governments.

This marks a complete reversal of the framework of government our founding fathers envisioned, and amounts to a deliberate shredding of the Constitutional compact that states entered into as a prerequisite for joining the Union.

Back in 1929, for example, federal aid comprised just 2% of state consumption expenditures. It rose to 12% under the administrations of Herbert Hoover and Franklin

Roosevelt, but remained at approximately that level until the 1960s.

Then, according to a 2008 report by the Heritage Foundation, state dependency exploded with the introduction of Medicaid.

Comprising just 6% of state budgets in the early 70s, Medicaid currently accounts for almost a third of all state expenditures — and that number is climbing.

As Congress has expanded eligibility and added services and benefits — all without state

approval — Medicaid has grown at a completely unsustainable clip.

In fact, over the last 35 years, Medicaid has grown by \$1.64 for every dollar in state spending growth.

Similar increases can be seen in federal education, environmental, social security and welfare programs — with states having to pay ever-escalating tabs across the board.

And with deficit spending adding trillions to a growing See RICH on page 15

Gordon named marble shooting champion

10 YEARS AGO

May 12, 1999

SERVICES for the annual National Day of Prayer were held Thursday at noon on the courthouse lawn. The event was sponsored by the Blakely Ministerial Association.

BLAKELY writer Bob Kornegay received seven media achievement awards at the Georgia Outdoor Writers Association award banquet held recently in Rome, Ga.

MATTHEW White celebrated his first birthday, Tuesday, April 20, at his home with family and friends. Matthew is the son of Allen and Theresa White of Blakely.

THE COUNTRY home of Patricia and Warren Cleveland in the Rock Hill community was named spring garden of the year by the Blakely Garden Club.

25 YEARS AGO

May 17, 1984

THREE ECHS track team members will be journeying to the state track meet in Jefferson Thursday. Nora Barnes, Will Wimberly and Vincent Stovall each qualified for the state meet in this week's region competition in Adel.

LAURA LYNN Davis, a freshman from Blakely, received the Josephine Cloudman Scholarship during honors day ceremonies at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College on Wednesday.

MADISON Anderson, 76, of Blakely, and Clara Hunt, 80, of Blakely, were united in marriage May 7 in Miss Hunt's room at Early Memorial Nursing home. The bride and groom plan to reside at Mr. Anderson's home on Howell Ave.

From our Files

News from the past

50 YEARS AGO

May 21, 1959

THE MAY TERM of City Court lasted only one half day, Judge Bonner disposed of numerous cases during this time, all being pleas of guilty and involving, chiefly, liquor and traffic violations.

DISTRICT Governor James W. Bonner and Mrs. Bonner were honored guests at last week's meeting of the Blakely Rotary Club, held Friday night at the Woman's Club. Also guests at this meeting were the Rotaryannes of the entire club membership.

EARLY Countians contributed \$2,214.39 to the American Cancer Society in the Crusade which ended on May 15, Alex Howell, general chairman, has announced.

POSTMASTER J. Emory Houston attended the annual meeting of the Georgia Postmasters Association in Atlanta the past week.

MR. AND Mrs. Sidney A. McCorkle announce the birth of a daughter, Melanie Dawn, April 13, Bartow Memorial Hospital, Bartow, Fla.

MISS Beverly Barksdale and Miss Carleen Bell were guests of Miss Jane Oliver and the Chi Omega sorority at Mercer University, Macon, during the weekend.

MR. AND Mrs. Charles Edward Tarver, of Cordele, announce the engagement of their daughter, Miss Estelle Elizabeth Tarver, to James Felton Sealy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Stanley Sealy, of

Columbia, Ala.

MRS. L.C. Hobbs and Mrs. Graham Murray honored their sister and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Will Griffin of Albany, with a dinner Sunday, May 17, celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.

75 YEARS AGO

May 17, 1934

"COON" Gordon, of Liberty Hill, is the champion marble shooter of Early County schools and will compete in the state tournament Saturday in Atlanta.

HAROLD Middleton left Wednesday for Atlanta, where he will spend two weeks as guest artist of "Pete" Underwood's Biltmore orchestra.

THE NEW brick home of Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Moyer, on Cuthbert Street, is nearing completion and will soon be ready for occupancy.

FRIENDS of Mr. W.T. Reynolds will learn with regret that he is seriously ill at his home on Liberty Street.

100 YEARS AGO

May 20, 1909

THE CITY authorities have received a carload of small galvanized piping and now all those who have been asking for water can get it.

MISS WILLIE Mae Johnson and Mr. William A. Griffin were married last Wednesday morning, the Rev. W.A. Wilde performing the ceremony.

MR. JOHN Deese, formerly with the Early County News and more recently of Waycross, has gone to Oxford, Mississippi.

QUITE A jolly crowd attended a fish fry and picnic at Peru last Friday. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. C.F. Coleman, Mr. and Mrs. C.E. Boyett, Miss Sallie

Hones, Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. W.J. Kenney and Mr. E.G. Brown.

A SPECIAL limit of 10 miles per hour has been placed on all automobiles by city authorities.

125 YEARS AGO

May 15, 1884

SIDNEY GAY brought us a six inch sample stalk of cotton Saturday which has several small squares on it.

JUST NOW corn, cotton, oats and other crops are looking very promising and the delightful shower which fell in this section last night made the prospects still more smiling.

A BABY BOY has arrived at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A.Y. Thompson.

Keep Mom connected this Mother's Day.

Nationwide Calling Plans
\$39.99/monthly with Mobile to Mobile Calling

- Talk to any Verizon Wireless customer anytime, without using your plan minutes
- Unlimited Night & Weekend Minutes
- 450 Anytime Minutes

All rates calling from Nationwide Coverage Area. New 1-yr. 2-yr. Agreement apply. Activation fees, taxes and other charges apply.*

Work wherever.
\$19.99 after mail-in rebate
\$119.99 2-yr. retail price - \$100.00 mail-in rebate debit card
With new 2 year activation per phone.

Get this great deal!
\$129.99 after mail-in rebate
\$179.99 2-yr. retail price - \$50.00 mail-in rebate debit card
With new 2 year activation per phone.

M & E Wireless
11510 Columbia Street
Blakely, GA 39823
(229) 724-7233

M & E Wireless
811-A East Oak Street
McRae, Ga 31055
(229) 868-4318

M & E Wireless
205 Dawson Street
Cuthbert, GA 39840
(229)732-2231

AMERICA'S LARGEST AND MOST RELIABLE WIRELESS NETWORK

*Plan: Unlimited Calling. Fed. Univ. Svc. of 11.3% of interstate & int'l telecom charges (leaves quarterly), 7% Regulatory & ESC Administrative/fees, & others by area. See our rates details: 1-888-684-1888. gov't taxes & other surcharges could add 5% - 30% to your bill. Activation fee: \$35 (\$25 for secondary Family SharePlan lines w/2-yr. Agmt). IMPORTANT CONSUMER INFORMATION: Subject to Customer Agmt. Calling Plan, rebate form & credit approval. Up to \$175 early termination fee, up to \$450/min. after allowance & \$15/min (incl. Mobile Web add). Device capabilities: Add'l charges & conditions apply. Offers & coverage, varying by service, not available everywhere. While supplies last. Shipping charges may apply. Network details & coverage maps at verizonwireless.com. Nights: 9:00pm-5:00am M-F. Max 5 lines on same account. Limited-time offer. In CA, Sales tax based on full retail price of phone. Rebate debit card takes up to 6 wks & expires in 12 months. © 2009 Verizon Wireless.

A MESSAGE FROM CAPTAIN VALUE

GET OVER 100 DIGITAL CHANNELS AND 50 HD CHANNELS FOR

\$9.99/MONTH FOR 6 MONTHS*

1 YEAR of cinemax FOR 1c

Over 15 FREE Premium Movie Channels including HBO for 3 months*

GET DISH NETWORK AND SAVE!

A-1 SATELLITE CENTER, INC.

(229) 524-5380 • 800-366-3809

211 SOUTH WILEY AVENUE
DONALSONVILLE, GA 39845

Offer expires 7/31/09. Requires 24-month commitment and automatic billing. Early cancellation fee, other restrictions apply. Programming package credits applied in first 6 months. Premium package credits applied in first 3 months. HD programming requires HD receiver and HD television (sold separately). New, first-time DISH Network customers only; subject to terms and conditions of DISH Network promotional agreement and Residential Customer Agreement. Local Channels only available to customers residing in specified local Designated Market Area (DMA). All prices, packages and programming subject to change without notice. HBO® and Cinemax® are service marks of Home Box Office, Inc. ©2009 DEDC, Inc.