

Happy New Year!! 2019



“THE PEOPLE’S PAPER”

THE ALABAMA

Gazette



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BY PERRY HOOPER, JR.



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2019
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP




44 ~ 16


Tigers Roll Tide Clemson 44 - Alabama 16

THE MAGIC IS GONE. Tua Tagovailoa is human after all. Coach Dabo Swinney had his Clemson Tigers so prepared for The National Championship Game with Alabama, there was nothing Nick Saban could do that would stem the onslaught of the Clemson defense. Alabama had the football inside the red zone enough times in this game to have won it. But, the inept play selections and the adept Clemson defense turned the Tide away over and over again. Meanwhile, freshman quarterback Trevor Lawrence did his impression of Peyton Manning every time Alabama mounted a comeback. Manning is Lawrence’s idol. I could not tell the difference Monday night; January 7th, a day that will live in infamy with the followers of the Alabama Crimson Tide.


Continued on page 7A

Troy Head Coach, Neal Brown, goes to West Virginia





www.gazettenet.com



“Country road take me home, to the place where I belong, West Virginia, Mountain Mamma, take me home.” John Denver’s biggest and most enduring hit song must have been a favorite of Coach Neal Brown of Troy. Even if it did not, the 38 year old Brown can get used to it for over 19 million dollars. That is what West Virginia offered him over a six year contract. Did he take it? You betcha!

Neal Brown is a smart man and now a very rich one. He was making 810 thousand dollars a year at Troy. It is not every day that a man is offered a 2.4 million dollar raise. He will probably learn to enjoy the mountain air in Morgantown, West Virginia. John Denver did.

What made Neal Brown so attractive to West Virginia? Well, he took over a program at Troy that had begun to stumble while trying to play “Big Boy” football. He struggled his first year, but won 10 games or more his last three years with the Trojans, finishing with a winning percentage of 68.6%. In addition he won three straight bowl games. Before his tenure at Troy, Brown had been successful as an assistant at several stops. He was also a wide receiver a Kentucky when the Wildcats were throwing the ball all over the field. His background perfectly fit the way college football is played today. He is considered a good offensive coach with a vast knowledge of the passing game.

Congratulations from The Alabama Gazette to Neal Brown for a job well done. West Virginia got their “Mountin Momma.”

CONGRATULATIONS!





Alabama State University’s Marching Band performs in the Rose Bowl Parade New Year’s Day.

Mighty Marching Hornets

Alabama State University becomes the first HBCU to lead the Rose Bowl Parade. The Mighty Marching Hornets led by Dr. James B. Oliver, led the 130th Annual Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade on January 1, 2019.
Congratulations on making history!

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Happy New Year!!

*We had a huge response to our "Season for Giving".
Below are excerpts from the letters chosen.*

A Season for Giving! \$1,000



I have legal custody of my grandson because my daughter passed on July 17th, 2012.

By the Grace of GOD,
thats how we are making it.

Montgomery

MERRY CHRIGIMAG

They are a strong-willed family and demanded to keep striving. They never give up no matter what life throws at them. I really believe it makes them stronger.

Camp Hill



Merry Christmas

He never depended on the State of Alabama to provide him any financial support over most of his life.

Montgomery



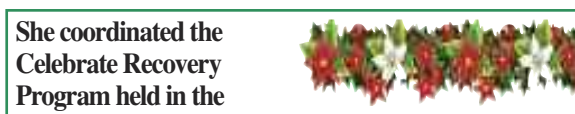
I believe Heather deserves this GIFT cause in my eyes she has overcome so many obstacles that many of us could not. Being abused is rough and with no family to help you or just to listen really puts a strain on you.

Alexander City



I will pay our power bill current. and purchase us some food and fruit for the holiday season. I am 73 years old.

Selma



She coordinated the Celebrate Recovery Program held in the church, and was the glue to make it all come together. She cooks the dinner for the participants every Monday night and sometimes has used her own food stamps to help cover the cost. She is always very supportive to the participants and very non-judgmental.

Luverne

MERRY CHRIGIMAG

My grandmother is 79 years old and always helping someone else. She loves to give sometime I see her give her last and wonder how she going to have for herself.

Prattville



MERRY CHRIGIMAG

He is a good man during a time when it's hard to find them. He's kind, he's gentle, he's giving and he's got a very special spirit about him.

Montgomery



Please consider these 3 children. They are all special needs children and are living with their grandparents.

Eclectic

Merry Christmas

This family has served the church for almost sixteen years. Each week they are a real blessing to so many people.

Troy



MERRY CHRIGIMAG

He could use the \$100 to help keep Jesus Radio on the air.

Selma



Merry Christmas

I'm currently unemployed due to health circumstances. My family has very low funds.

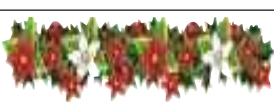
Opelika



Service before self...integrity first and excellence in all we do! Please consider her for

this prestigious honor as she has served tirelessly behind the scenes and unselfishly touched countless lives along her journey...she is AWESOME and one of the "BEST" servant leaders I've ever seen... her actions have spoken louder than words!

Montgomery



MERRY CHRIGIMAG

I am a single parent who is disabled for a couple of years now trying to take on the responsibility as a parent and raising my kids. Now but the Grace of God keeps me holding on to focusing on their future.

Billingsley



She will help give of her time and resources so that others can have something that is in need. She has a giving heart for others and wants to be a service to her community.

Troy



Seems like everyday something else has gone bad or wrong. I have prayed and still praying to GOD that he will help her and her finances.

Titus

MERRY CHRIGIMAG

She dropped her life in Colorado, quit her job and moved to Alabama to help me take care of mom.

Montgomery



He lost his home also after his wife passed. He is a cancer survivor ans struggles everyday with arthritis. He needs help financially and this \$100 would be such a blessing

Eclectic



They have had trouble adjusting, and their financial situation is tight. They are trying hard to limit any unnecessary expenses.

Wetumpka



She is kind and giving and works graciously for others out of the selflessness of who she is. She speaks life into others and she has the gift of encouragement.

Montgomery



MERRY CHRIGIMAG

She don't have anything at this time it will really help a lot if you all choose her. She lost her job and had two car accidents.

Auburn



MERRY CHRIGIMAG

Ken has a compassion for giving of himself to others in need. He goes beyond to help those in need.

Alexander City



MERRY CHRIGIMAG

Very friendly to people and puts GOD first in her life. She cares about her family and friends. She gives, she cares.

Millbrook



Merry Christmas

She lost her home, car and her independence. She stays depressed and she is disabled and can not work

Montgomery



Merry Christmas

I can look back in the past when she helped feed me by us selling fish bait for money.

Autaugaville



Melodee works many hours to support her family. She takes care of 3 adults over 21 years old but these adults are special needs.

Montgomery



They are a true example of dropping everything, following Christ and not looking back.

Reeltown



He's been handicapped/disabled for a number of years. He deserves this assistance.

Montgomery

MERRY CHRIGIMAG

Amy has fallen on hard times. She is now taking care of her husband's children and hers as well.

Montgomery



My family would like this gift because my husband is sick and my mother-in-law is sick too. We are struggling just to pay rent.

Montgomery

Merry Christmas

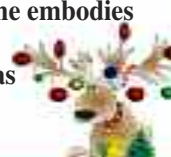
He always manages to do for his grown children. He is an awesome father and man.

Selma



What she really taught me and showed me was how unselfish a person can be and what unconditional love looks like. She embodies the true Christmas spirit (and still does) and what it was all about, unselfish love.

Montgomery



Merry Christmas

She has overcome so many obstacles that many of us could not.

Alexander City





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 served 16 years in the state legislature.*
www.steveflowers.us



We Lost Some Great Leaders in 2018

As is my custom at the close of the year, I like to memorialize great Alabamians who have appeared and lived legendary lives upon the stage of political history in the Heart of Dixie.

This year we have had some real legends. I have expanded the geographical limits to outside of Alabama to include two of the greatest men in American history. America's greatest preacher and one of the nation's great presidents passed away. Most of these fellows lived a long time.

One of my favorite men I ever had the privilege to know, **Mr. John "Bubba" Trotman**, died in February at age 93 in Montgomery. Mr. Bubba was born and raised in Troy, but he spent his entire life in Montgomery. He was the best known cattle farmer in Alabama. He served a stint as President of the National Cattleman's Association. Bubba played football at Auburn and loved the Loveliest Village on the Plains. Bubba Trotman epitomized the term, a true southern gentleman. My mama grew up with Bubba in Troy. They graduated high school together. One day I told mama that Bubba was one of the finest gentlemen I had ever met. She said he was just that way growing up in Troy. A lot of people in Montgomery loved Bubba, but a lot of people in Troy did too.

Billy Graham died in February at the age of 99 at his beloved mountain home in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. He was probably the greatest preacher in American history. He was America's preacher.

Speaking of great preachers, Dr. John Ed Mathison, the legendary Methodist minister in Montgomery did not pass away this year, however, he has made his mark as one of the greatest preachers in Alabama history. John Ed Mathison gave a masterful Eulogy for his friend, **Milton McGregor**, who passed away in March at age 79. Milton McGregor had a lot of friends throughout the state. He was born and raised in Hartford, and spent his early adult life in the Wiregrass.

Alabama lost one of its greatest entrepreneurs and charitable benefactors when Milton passed away. He created thousands of jobs and generated hundreds of millions of dollars in taxes for Macon County and the State of Alabama. There are untold stories of people who he personally helped who were down on their luck. He used his personal jet to transport people he did not even know to hospitals all over the country for medical care, more than he used it for himself.

He and his wife, Pat, donated millions to charitable organizations as well as their church, Frazer United Methodist in Montgomery.

Milton McGregor was the ultimate family man. He was devoted to his wife, Pat. They were married 50 years. He loved his wife Pat and their two daughters, Cindy and Kim, better than life itself. He was an intensely loyal friend to those he called his friends.

Birmingham Congressman, **John Buchanan, Jr.** passed away in March at age 89. He was one of Alabama's and Jefferson County's first Republican Congressman, having been elected in the 1964 Goldwater Republican landslide in the state. His father was the longtime pastor of the legendary, prominent, Southside Baptist Church. His congregation included most of the City's wealthiest and most powerful businessmen. It was where Liberty National Life founder, Frank Samford, went to church along with his friends and associates. Samford University was built with Liberty National money.

C.C. "Bo" Torbert passed away in June at age 88 in his beloved Lee County. He served eight years in the Alabama House and served two four-year terms in the Alabama Senate. He was elected Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court in 1976 and was Chief Justice for 12 years. He was a great Alabama leader and a gentleman.

Our 41st President, **George H. W. Bush** passed away at the age of 94 in Houston, Texas on December 1, 2018. Bush served as President from 1989 to 1993.

Bush was a true statesman and gentleman. He served his country in the U.S. Navy during World War II and later as a Congressman, U.S. Ambassador, our CIA Director, and Vice President prior to being elected President of the United States.

Even though the above resume of distinguished service puts him in a league very few Americans in U.S. history can lay claim to, he personally was probably prouder of having been a star first baseman on his Yale Baseball team.

We lost some icons in 2018.

Happy New Year.



If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14

Remembering George H. W. Bush

It has been gratifying to see President George H.W. Bush finally receive the recognition he deserves. He was one of the finest men to serve as president and among America's most consequential chief executives. His life was filled with accomplishments that few can claim. Here are some highlights.

As one of the youngest Navy aviators at age 18, President Bush flew over 50 combat sorties in the South Pacific. He was the captain of the Yale baseball team and led the Bulldogs to the College World Series in 1947 and 1948 while finish college in just 2 ½ years. He built an oil company from scratch and was a millionaire by age 40. He was GOP National Chairman rebuilding a party wracked by Watergate and the resignation of President Nixon. He was the first sitting Vice President to be elected president in 152 years. But one of his greatest accomplishment was his ability to building deep enduring friendships many right here in Montgomery.

President Bush gave credit to Bassmaster founder Ray Scott for nurturing his inherit love of fishing. Although he could fish anywhere in the world, he made regular trips to Ray Scotts' Pintlala fishing ponds citing it was one of his favorite places to catch a big bass.

Crossing party lines President Bush was a golfing buddy with Wallace confidant Charlies Snider.

Former Mayor Emory Folmar became a friend when he was Alabama Republican State Chairman and he worked with President Bush to change a Democrat controlled South into a Republican stronghold.

President Bush was taken to his final resting place in a rail car built exclusively for him by Progress Rail of Albertville.

My family and the Bush family have been friends for over 3 decades. My father first became friends with the president when he served as Republican National Committeeman for Alabama and President Bush was GOP National Chairman Over the years they talked issues, they cut up some, but for the most part, they talked about what they needed to do to make the country even better than it is. My mother loved Barbara Bush and my mother and father spent



several weekends in D.C. visiting with the president and the first lady. One of my proudest moments of my life was when, as a young legislator, President Bush personally presented me with an award for my work in passing the volunteerism act in the Alabama legislature that was inline with his 1000 Points of Light Initiative.

He was the most decent of men, instantly and instinctively offering strangers kindness and respect. A great role model of what a father and grand farther should be, He harbored no resentments, no grievances as witnessed by his friendship with Bill Clinton. President George H W Bush will be sorely missed.
By Perry Hooper, Jr.



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ROBSERVATIONS...

by Robert Tate

The views of submitted editorials may not be the express views of The Alabama Gazette.

REALLY?

Back on 6 December, a Marine F-18 Hornet collided with a Marine KC-130 aerial refueling tanker about 200 miles off the coast of Japan. Of course, my prayers go out to the all the families impacted. Almost immediately, the Marines identified one of the two F-18 crewmembers. One survived and the other’s body was recovered the next day. It took close to a week before they identified the 5 crewmembers on the KC-130 but as no surprise, each of those men died that night.

What we know for sure is that during a routine nighttime air refueling training event, the two aircraft collided and both went down. Six of 7 Marines died. At the moment, that is all we know. Speculation, conjecture, guessing, armchair quarterbacking, you name it, at this point is meaningless.

Immediately after the incident, my brother sent me a link to one of the articles about the collision. One thing my brother has imparted to me over the last year or so is that anytime I read an internet article, skim first for relevant facts then go to the comments at the end and see what people have to say.



F-18 attempting drogue air refueling.

This article got me pretty much riled. Not just because some people have absolutely no idea what the heck they are talking about yet feel the need to pontificate, but in today’s world, in our society, hate is so pervasive that I recoil at the mindset of so many of our citizens.

As for the technical aspects of air refueling. Yeah, two airplanes are very close to one another. That is the point. Some aircraft use booms and others use drogues. A drogue is essentially a hose that generally extends from the tanker’s wingtips with a basket on the end where the receiver aircraft has a probe that the pilot has to fly into the basket. Once contact is made, fuel passes to the receiver. With a boom,

the receiver actually flies up underneath the tanker and a boom operator flies the boom into a receptacle on or near the top of the receiver. As a NATO and Royal Saudi Air Force AWACS pilot, we exclusively used the boom method while most Navy and Marine Corps aircraft use the drogue method.



My view before “plugging into” the tanker with boom air refueling. “Stabilized, pre-contact, ready.”

In my years as an AWACS pilot, I have air refueled hundreds of times in daylight, nighttime, full moon, no moon, smooth air, turbulence, clear skies, clouds, straight and level and in turns. My biggest fuel onload was just short of 100,000 pounds, about 45-minutes to accomplish, and in all I have taken on close to 1,000,000 pounds of gas over the years. Is it hard to do? If I put you in an AWACS today and said do it, you would die a fiery death. But guess what, every pilot who does this is a professional and like any skill, we are trained to accomplish this task. With my close to 14,000 hours of flight time, could I land on an aircraft carrier today? I would die in a fiery crash. Again, it is a learned skill and like air refueling, some pilots never really get the hang of it although I am sure landing on a bouncing boat is one quadrillion times scarier and more difficult to do. But for me, there was nothing more fun than air refueling. I loved doing it, teaching it, absolutely everything about it.

Let’s fast forward to 6 December 2018. F-18 and KC-130 collide. Out come the people with no clue, by the dozens. I read the article and thanks to my brother, I start reading the comments. Here is the meat of this Robservation. I found it funny when people were talking technical aspects of air refueling but had absolutely no idea what they were talking about. Great comic relief but here is where this story turns sour.

The F-18 crewmember who died is identified as Captain Jahmar Resilard



Captain Resilard

from Miramar, Florida. He was assigned to the All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 in Yamaguchi, Japan. I am careful not to say “pilot” yet because I have not read whether he was the front or back seater. Clearly, Captain Resilard is a black guy. Most of the comments people made assume he was the

front seat pilot. Most were respectful but here are the most egregious of the comments. BTW – all spelling and grammatical errors have been left in place. If it looks stupid, think of the person who wrote it.

- “*It looks like Capt. Resilard wasn’t among “A few good men”, the Marines were looking for?*”
- “*Affirmative action claims another victim.*”
- “*Normal people must suffer because of affirmative action.*”
- “*Minority hire.*”
- “*He can spit shine soldier boots better than anyone, but fly a jet????? Not likely.*”
- “*Obviously he wasn’t qualified to fly!*”
- “*Watermelon withdrawal can be severe inn those kind, even causing DT’s. He may have hallucinated and thought he saw a watermelon flyby and pulled his ejection seat lever.*”
- “*Those types are goods at basketball but anything else, not much.*”
- “*The first mistake was to let a black guy at the controls..*”

To be honest, I am pretty angry right about now; and that takes a lot. A whole lot. Not only do we see these clearly racist and vitriolic comments, but on the AOL page, people have the ability to add a thumbs up or thumbs down for comments posted. Each of these had several thumbs up meaning these people were as stupid as those who made the original post. When I responded, AOL took my post down but left these up. You can still see them as far as I know.

It is difficult to imagine that people in this country still think this way. Whether hiding in obscurity in their mother’s basement or picking their noses and dining on their findings, I wonder from where do these people come? In a previous Robservation, I detailed my fight with racism in order to become a pilot and how difficult it was at times. But reading these comments; “Watermelon withdrawal,” “only good at basketball,” “Minority hire,” “victim of affirmative action,” “not qualified to fly,” I am left thinking that these cretins ought to be ashamed and I do feel the need to pray for them. What a sad and miserable life one must have in order to carry around so much hate and ignorance daily. As I read these comments, am I to assume that in my 20 years at Delta, when I walk down the concourse or a passenger sticks his/her head in the cockpit door, some people see me and think the same idiot things like those posted above? I say “think” because they would not dare say such a thing to my face. It would be a bad day indeed for them.

But here is my challenge. Luckily, I believe that the folks reading this column likely do not think this way. Most of you have been reading my column now for almost ten years and I have only had one person express such ludicrous thoughts to me. But if you know anyone or if anyone picks this paper up and feels the need to agree with those comments, put on your man-pants, write a letter to the paper and use your real name. Not Ben Hur, Joe Baggodonuts, or any such nonsense. Use your real name. If you feel strongly enough, man up. For those who blindly think anytime they see a black person in a position of authority and feel the need to claim “affirmative action,” why not walk up to that person and challenge him or her to some debate and see what happens. Am I better than all the white pilots at Delta Airlines or in my Air Force squadrons through the years? Don’t be daft, of course not. Not even close. Are all the white pilots I have flown with better than me? I laugh out loud and again say, don’t be daft.



Santa refueling late X-Mas Eve.

Let me assure you of one thing, if anyone thinks affirmative action got Captain Resilard into the Marine Corps, it sure as heck did not keep him there. It did not get him through pilot training, fighter lead-in or carrier qualifications. In our business, bad things happen to good people and those unable to make the cut are unceremoniously shipped out. No mercy. The F-18 and KC-130 collision is kind of a function of flying two airplanes in close proximity to one another. It happens but thanks to our training, not often.

If these people think affirmative action or Captain Resilard’s race had something to do with this incident, what do those same people think about 1982 when Thunderbird lead drove the four-ship diamond into the ground killing all four pilots? What about the 27 Blue Angels killed since the team’s inception? Since roughly only 2% of all military pilots are black, by the logic posited earlier, there are one hell of a lot of unqualified white pilots out there since earlier statistics don’t reflect what these idiot people are trying to sell. What about the Italian demo team that had the mid-air at the Ramstein AFB airshow back in 1988 killing three pilots and some 80 people on the ground? Just watch an episode of air disasters for crying out loud on Smithsonian Channel. Were all of these pilots clearly not qualified to fly? Just good for shining boots? Most of the pilots in these incidents happen to be white. But guess what, the vast majority of pilots happen to be white. Therefore, this is no indication of anything. Bottom line people, RACE AND/ OR AFFIRMATIVE ACTION HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THESE INCIDENTS. NOTHING. NOTHING. NOTHING!!!!!! Can I say this any clearer? NOTHING!! Grow the heck up. Get me outta here, Percy!





The views of submitted editorials may not be the express views of The Alabama Gazette.

John Sophocleus

THINK

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“Malice in Hubbardland”



“Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?” "That depends a good deal on where you want to get to." *Alice and The Cheshire Cat, Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll.

During this Thanksgiving/Christmas I donned the best mask I could muster to hide thoughts on this 20th Anniversary of being made homeless by our federal government in symphony with some of our most corrupt State politburo members. The M-14 episode twenty years ago provided more evidence of the calculated malice of bureaucrats’ timing just before Thanksgiving and then going outside the law/perjury in Judge Nix’s District court just before Christmas. To those who noticed forgive me, to those who could tell and let it be - what a blessing. Raised to stand up against evil and live my life as righteously as possible... little did I know a simple man and his bride trying to live well would be so reviled. Bentley’s installed AG Steve Marshall’s spineless firing (soon after reinstallation via our rigged election process) of successful prosecutor Matt Hart was dubbed one of the darkest days in recent Alabama memory by *APR*’s [*Alabama Political Reporter*] Bill Britt didn’t help, but was apropos.

As I type this opening paragraph, AG Marshall’s **FIVE** ethics violations (well into felony territory) on illegal campaign contributions - reportedly approaching three-quarters of a million dollars -- goes before our malfeasant State Ethics Commission with short notice and again purposefully timed in true politburo fashion to take advantage of the holiday dynamic. Sect. of State John Merrill has become the lone voice trying to discipline the most corrupt, serial offenders of our election laws in this regard. I’m not shy conveying to Sect. Merrill when I think he’s done well and when he’s done poorly/suggested improvements. I could be his whole tenor section on how he’s improved State licensing; biting critic on wrongfully installed Rep. Lovvorn without a general election and poor execution of our ballot access laws. I was vocal on how worrisome I found his BCA contributions when endorsing a candidate on his first election as Secretary of State but he’s **not** been a ‘*Dial time*’ flip-flopper like ‘*Cash-register*’ Shelby or a Felon Hubbard type Riley/Siegleman political prostitute. Many cite Merrill as the hardest working retail politician in the State - I concur... I also find him among the attenuating group on Goat Hill who know and care about their soul. “If these shadows go unaltered,” as Dickens penned, it is difficult to imagine any better candidate in the mix for next gubernatorial race.

If Merrill is looking for support from my similarly minded (**non**-duopoly) voters who make a difference on the margin in close races, consider employing Matt Hart in your office to continue to be a watchdog over the most corrupt who get on our ballots with impunity. Marshall’s **five** illegal contributions exceed the four limit reasonably set, making serial offenses a felony. I have little doubt AG Marshall will make the case to ‘bundle’ them into one offense as our corrupt Ethics Commission has wrongfully done for others in the past. The big difference here, most watching how hard the BCA pressed to get someone to protect our most corrupt public servants (esp. Felon Hubbard’s unindicted coconspirators) can easily say it was unlikely Marshall would’ve won the Republican nomination to be reinstalled without these contributions and influence. Those who think ‘only four’ violations is too few for the felony threshold seem to be the ones who defend with glee ‘three time loser’ laws completely oblivious to their hypocrisy. I only allow three **un**excused absences in my college classes; should we change ‘three strikes you’re out’ in modern baseball?

I can think of no one in our State better equipped to help the Sect. of State’s office discipline this than prosecutor Hart. Our State wastes tens of millions of dollars on party primary elections instead of Parties providing them on their own purse. The Sect. of State is the most prominent final arbiter of who (what text, etc.) is printed on election ballots, most notably refusing non-duopoly candidates’ and voters’ civil rights to be placed on special election ballots not prorated for shorter duration to meet requirements. The Sect. added one day the last time his result was found unconstitutional instead of a more defensible/rational prorated requirement. The Sect. allows ineligible candidates on primary ballots (paid for by the State **NOT** the party) then claims it is the Ethics Commission’s task to discipline them - well the commissioners are not doing their job which doesn’t remove the Sect. of State’s duty. Show as much concern as when exercising authority to not allow other candidates on the ballot and eliminating elections to reinstall a Felon Hubbard type ‘*public servant*’ to the State House - *i.e.*, refuse to print the serial violators on the ballot when they’ve met the felony threshold. We entrust you with this duty just as we trust State offices with licensing.

Much ink has been spilled citing the anti-corruption laws Hubbard passed (he now asserts are unconstitutional) were used to discipline him. Heaven forbid the rules put in place by lawmakers apply to legislator(s) who authored them. In fact some of his felonies were serious ethics violations long before Hubbard took the Speaker’s gavel. I pray some of the convictions may morph into federal charges for him and other public servants/coconspirators if Felon Hubbard is let off on appeal and statutes of limitation/tolling may allow. Perhaps reporters emphasize this non-issue irony because they’re more uncomfortable crafting words which convey how vulgar the Hubbard machine hubris has continued to be these past years. As many readers know after 13 years of combat to the US Supreme Court against our most corrupt connected to Lee County, I (with my eldest Godson) regularly witness Commission meetings. When some of the most corrupt among our ‘*public servants*’ show - we know it will be worth the price of admission -- when I heard someone whisper felon Hubbard’s minion Superintendent Delano was seated behind us... it would just be a matter of time before witnessing the next machination of political theft unfold. So the final meeting of the year (again politburo members know the dynamic, forecasting poor attendance, less reporters - in fact the *O/A News* was a no-show) approved a special election to renew current taxes which must be revisited every 30 years. So taxpayers will spend \$80,000 to have a special election on Feb. 19th instead of putting it on the last general election a month ago. Not that this school superintendent has shown much concern for taxpayers money these past years - something big had to be in the mix for her to come sit with the great unwashed productive citizens who pay this ‘*public servant*’ to work Lee County.

Removing Hubbard as Speaker of the House has made little difference as this felon’s minions shameless continuation of their crony ‘*bidness as usual*’ practices. One of the most notable is Auburn City Schools ongoing contract with felon Hubbard for exclusive broadcast authority of Auburn School sports. This school system (flush with overpaid educators) turned down proposals from larger stations offering payment for exclusive broadcast authority. According to Bill Britt (*APR*) a comparison of the plans show Tiger Communications’ signal of 25,000 watts and the biggest coverage area in the county had offered \$11,500/yr. for five years - *i.e.*, a total of \$57,500. The next largest station (iHeart Media with a signal of 6,000 watts) bid \$1000/yr. for a total of \$5,000. Hubbard’s Auburn Network with only 4,200 watts was awarded the contract and paid **NOTHING**.

No surprise to those who know the ‘*bidness as usual*’ paradigm - perhaps it was foolish to think the dozen felony convictions would slow the pace of these parasites. In August 2013 *APR* discovered the same day the House bill allowing a tax referendum for Auburn Schools was certified, Hubbard’s Auburn Network contracted the exclusive authority to broadcast Auburn High School sports. This dynamic helped fuel rumors and speculation Hubbard agreed to muscle this tax referendum to pass the House in exchange for Auburn School Superintendent Karen Delano’s promise to grant Hubbard the broadcast contract for the city’s high school sports programs.

Repeated *APR* attempts to contact Delano’s office at the time proffered promises Delano would respond but never did according to Mr. Britt. HB266 received House Certification on May 20, 2013, becoming Act No. 2013-321 allowing the City of Auburn to hold a referendum to raise ad valorem tax on property owners in the city. For over six decades WAUD radio (Tiger Communications) was the home of the Auburn High School team broadcasts. In 2013, Auburn City School Superintendent Delano failed to inform owner Tom Hayley of Hubbard’s deal. Hubbard’s **\$0** versus Hayley’s **\$57,000** raises questions worthy of further investigation about our impenitent felon and shows malice is alive and well in Hubbardland. Sound, accomplished businesspeople like Mr. Hayley who truly care about AHS are put out so parasites like Hubbard can continue to feed on productive citizens, students and taxpayers.

Those sickened by the Riley & Assoc/BCA as usual machine called for Auburn City Schools Superintendent Karen DeLano’s immediate resignation. Most vocal was Mike Hooks of Auburn who sounded the alarm these parasites are still alive and actively feeding upon us. DeLano certainly fits in with Riley, Hubbard, Lowder, et al types who see government education as little more than a money mill to keep their pork churning.

This is the same superintendent who told the community in 2013 if we didn’t support the proposed massive property tax increase, we were not "for the children of Auburn" - straight from the Riley Amendment 1 tax explosion playbook. Mr. Hooks’ Op-ed also reminded readers DeLano claimed the tax hike was necessary to fund the new \$96 mil. high school project, to avoid cutting sports, music, arts and even buses. The tax hike failed (54% to 46%) yet the new high school opened on schedule and the AHS band plays on. DeLano also magically found over \$600,000 to install AstroTurf at Duck Samford Stadium where natural grass had sufficed for nearly half a century. Hooks further noted her hiring the highest paid football coach in Alabama, then found \$6.8 mil. dollars for two lots of dirt to build another high school, even while the new \$96 mil. dollar high school was under construction. DeLano is yet another ‘public servant’ who’s earned grand jury investigation along with many other Hubbard minions now relieved BCA’s Steve Marshall fired Matt Hart.

Many look to Ms. Katie Britt (former Chief of Staff to Sen. Shelby) replacing President/CEO Canary as a sign of major changes at BCA. We’ll see - forgive my skepticism coming from ‘Cash-register’ Shelby’s ethos who doesn’t understand the ‘leaky/deleterious bucket’ between DC and Alabama. Nice to see we get more money back than what’s extracted from our State, but redirecting to what his command and control cronies desire and paid to accomplish is more harmful in a poor State suffering federal hegemony. BCA has been lobbying for legislation to make only the signer of the Principal statement accountable under the ethics law, if Ms. Britt ends this lobbying and strengthens anti-corruption efforts in our State, it will curb this skeptic. Felon Hubbard and his minions have made it clear after all the bloviating about prosecutorial misconduct failed the dangerous precedent set in Judge Walker’s Lee County Circuit Court. Indeed dangerous to incompetent businesspeople like Hubbard who cannot survive in a competitive environment without cronyism and favoritism. Again, ‘*bidness as usual*.’

As an aside, a recent post of felon Hubbard with crony Gig-City Mayor touting a few hundred dollar donation didn’t escape some wondering why Mike isn’t serving his well deserved time in an over-populated prison where he belongs. The failed attempt (esp. those familiar with Fuller’s Folly in Opelika) had some reminiscing of the State’s supplemental brief in support of ordering Hubbard to pay \$1.1 mil. in restitution for his criminal acts. The brief correctly and prophetically argued the court not allow felon Hubbard to keep his ill-gotten gains obtained as a result of breaching the public’s trust claiming, “Hubbard and his businesses will continue reaping the returns from his sale of his office as Speaker, even after he serves his prison sentence.”

Further evidence ‘*bidness as usual*’ continues in Hubbard’s hyper-gerrymandered District 79 came in the form of Joe Lovvorn’s local donors and PAC’s (totalling \$61,050) making it clear this ‘good ole joe’ was the anointed one to be felon Hubbard’s replacement. The primary PAC’s were all apparently run by Fine, Geddie & Associates (SAVEPAC, BIPAC, NEWPAC) and the usual contractors/developers wanting subsidies and bonds released to avoid paying for the increased cost on our infrastructure to promote more of the cancerous, unsustainable growth harming our county. Most revealing Lovvorn was being groomed as felon Hubbard’s heir came from campaign contributions by Lowder (who first mentored Hubbard on how to milk the system) and Robert Dumas (another ‘public servant’ on the AU BoT) to lowly realtors the government pays well to appraise properties they want to take at a third of the legal compensation so property owners must waste their time and money in the courts. Swatek, Azbell, Ross & Howe names in the mix (for the more ‘plugged-in’ folks - esp. those following the Hubbard felonies) make it all the more clear ‘fireman joe’ Lovvorn is a Hubbardland minion to keep the graft churning. Just as Bentley installing AG Marshall as the ‘incumbent’ provided a great advantage, the opponent in the Lovvorn race was impressive the few times I interacted with her - she didn’t stand a chance in Hubbard’s hyper-gerrymandered district where straight ticket voting makes the lower races even less competitive.

Other ‘*bidness as usual*’ observations in Lee County comes in the form of Constitution Party candidate Kenneth Busby’s efforts to get on the general election ballot for District 1. After Busby submitted a more than sufficient number of signatures for verification, Probate Judge English blocked him from the ballot - heaven forbid we allow this soldier and voters to more easily exercise their civil rights to vote for someone other than the only one printed on the ballot. Mr. Busby’s opponent, Ms. Eckman was one of the most vocal commissioners pressing for **special** election abuse to get a sales tax increase to pass after failing on two **general** election ballots more reflective of citizens’ preference; some readers may recall my “Political Theft By Deception” (<http://www.alabamagazette.com/story/2014/10/01/news/political-theft-by-deception/316.html>) column on the matter.

Just as the Republicans \$1.2 billion Amendment One (2003) proposal of significant increases for individual income tax payers, the sales tax, property tax, cigarette tax, corporate income tax, etc. **FAILED** 2 to 1 (defeating ‘Spender of House’ Mike Hubbard’s full court press) on a GENERAL election ballot... the FIRST time this Lee County sales tax increase was voted upon it also met sound **defeat** of over 2 to 1. The *O/A News* reported 68.5% against with 13,000 votes cast on the November 2008 GENERAL election ballot, almost TEN times the turn-out of citizens who voted to finally pass it. 2008’s reasonable sample of voters was not enough for politburo members on the Lee County Commission bent on extracting even more from productive citizens they are sworn to represent; the 1 cent (14%) sales tax increase was AGAIN put on the November 2010 general election ballot to fail 56% to 44% with over 9,000 votes recorded. In short, 2010 provided another respectable sample of Lee County voters to convey citizens’ preference instead of the 4.5% ‘theft by deception’ turnout of registered voters in the special election to manipulate it passing.

Using the special election/low-turnout sham from the Armistead to Waggoner et al Hubbardland playbook, the Lee County politburo made sure they could impose their will over these past two wise decisions determined by a sound sample of Lee County citizens. Spending tens of thousands of dollars to put on the sham ‘vote show’ gives politburo members (like Superintendent Delano) cover to hide behind a 4.5% turn-out result claiming to ‘let the citizens decide.’ Another easy victory for soviet-style conservatives as Speaker Hubbard showed his big govt. minions how to game the system with low turn-out special election sham results used to amend our State constitution in the 2012 theft of our education trust fund by deception. As entertaining to watch all the politburo members stand and clap during state of union addresses in DC; it was equally entertaining to watch and read all the sycophants slobbering over one another in delight at plundering our trust fund with only 14% of registered voters saying yes to amend our State constitution. The more they effusively thanked the voters for an ‘overwhelming show of support’ the more pathetic the band of thieves appeared delighting in their successful theft by low turn-out deception. Some readers may recall we wasted \$3 million on that special election sham result because it couldn’t wait 49 days to be on a general election ballot where it was likely to fail. It is time for our honest legislators on Goat Hill to follow-up on Sen. Glover’s recently passed amendment to again show courage and statesmanship in crafting sound text to stop political theft via this sort of deception to pass/reinstall tax increases.

The waste of resources to put the veneer on the last sham vote was profound; countless folks asked why I had my “***I Voted***” sticker on my shirt that special election day, completely unaware (by design) of any vote that day. My favorite illustration comes from young Marine Brian Smith, then an active member of the Auburn Student Veterans Association (Graduate Adviser) completing his graduate degree. Curious why his polling place was open, his initial assumption was just another poorly planned and executed, waste of taxpayer funds. Nonetheless, he walked in to determine why the polling place was even open for voting since he lived in the middle of Auburn city limits - *i.e.*, far from any unincorporated area of Lee County. Since he, nor any of his neighbors were eligible to vote on this issue, Brian wanted the answer to why it was open given the dearth of information about any voting that day. He found six paid election workers waiting for the polls to close after being told he was ineligible to vote by virtue of residing within city limits. Brian then asked the obvious: why open a location serving residents well inside the city boundary? He found the reply dumbfounding; all six election staffers had been there all day (paid by the taxpayers) waiting for SEVEN possible voters. At 4.5% turn-out, one wonders if the one-third of a person showed...

Most revealing questions Brian asked illuminating this ‘Theft by Deception’

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Congratulations, Coach Matt Johnson Outlook Coach of the Year!

Coach Matt Johnson of Reeltown High School was awarded the Outlook Coach of the Year for 2018. Coach Matt Johnson is in his third year as head coach at Reeltown High School.

Before coming home to coach at his alma mater, Coach Johnson coached at Andalusia High School and Upson Lee High School in Ga. Coach Johnson resides in Reeltown, Al with his wife Hannah and five sons.

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Eminent Domain

By John Martin

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

Eminent Domain is defined as the power of government to condemn private property for public use—provided that “just compensation” is provided to the owners as payment for suitable and fair replacements.

In our nation’s history, seizures were often done for needed public projects. Compensation normally covered more than a property’s market value; it also had to include all other expenses suffered by the owners. An owner’s losses must be fully compensated and restored before a settlement can be considered “just.”

How do we define needed public use? There are two parameters that must be considered:

First, a project must be actually needed. The whims of large corporations colluding with politicians do not qualify as needed. There must be a genuine need by all people, and it must pass public scrutiny to qualify as needed.

Second, it must be specifically for public use. A highway would qualify. A shopping center would not.

To be honest, there are very few projects that would require condemnation. In the vast majority of cases, the land can, and should, be purchased on the open market. The only meaningful exceptions are projects that require continuous, unbroken chains of land along expedient routes to be functional—roads, railroads, pipe lines, power lines, and waterways.

Land, unfortunately, is a natural monopoly. Every piece of land is unique. In the real world, it is probably the only item that could qualify as such. In cases where specific pieces of land are required, and one or two landowners refuse to sell, the project would be impossible. Condemnation

can be a solution when that happens.

But for anything other than the examples above, condemnation is not justified. Land for public buildings, parks, and other projects can be purchased on the open market, just like private citizens buy and sell property.

Over the years, “public use” has been stretched far beyond its legitimate limits, and eminent domain abuse has exploded. Many state and local governments have expanded it to include subdivisions, office buildings, factories, tax base enhancement, and various private developments.

Slum or blight abatement has often become an excuse for condemning coveted land. Blight is in the eye of the beholder, and even if it could be legally defined, private property is still just that. Here in America, civilized people don’t just seize it.

Many illegitimate seizures have taken place. Probably the most infamous case was the 2005 Kelo vs New London decision where the city condemned a 90 acre upper-class neighborhood of priceless older homes so a developer could build a large shopping mall. It was hated by almost everybody, but the courts at that time, including the U. S. Supreme Court, approved the action. And to make matters worse, after the homes were destroyed, the developer could not obtain funding and abandoned the land.

Several years ago, here in Alabama, the town of Alabaster condemned about a dozen homes to make way for a Walmart.

In Auburn, the home of John Sophocleus, an Auburn University professor, 2002 candidate for governor, and columnist here at the Alabama Gazette, had his home and land seized so a highway could be diverted to enhance the value of an official’s property. Only a tiny “uneconomic remnant” remains. John’s “just compensation” was about half of his property’s value.

Today, some eminent domain reforms have taken place. Twenty two states have disallowed “blight” as a justification for condemning property, and 35 have rejected condemnation for economic development.

But more property protection is still needed. Victims should receive full replacement value plus all related expenses, including moving and temporary housing. Seizing property for private projects and any public projects that don’t meet the qualifications for public need should be a criminal offense. Any remaining projects must get public approval (at least 60% and preferably 70% or more) before condemnation can ever begin.

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“Malice in Hubbardland

committed in Lee County were, “Why was a special vote held for the unincorporated area of the county to vote on a tax hike. Why couldn’t this be placed on November ballots less than two months away from this special vote?” Ominously familiar to Hubbard’s successful special election vote stealing \$437 million from our trust fund September 18, 2012. The rational forecast: this ‘offensive’ play will be run again and again by big govt. thugs throughout the State as observed by Hubbardland minions at this last Commission meeting. Upon hearing the sham results of this sudden change to PASSING via special election theft by deception, this wise young Marine understood the enemy’s playbook. He sent the following text, “Five percent turnout and the tax increase easily passed! My assumption of stupidity has now faded into suspicion of a clever maneuver by our elected officials to guarantee the result which they desperately wanted with no consideration for the waste of taxpayer funds or their voice.”

Indeed a lot easier to get the politburo result desired when not informing the electorate of a vote and make sure your Hubbardland thugs pack the polls to carry the day with less than one in twenty registered voters participating. The massive Clarion Inn polling place in Auburn was also open the entire day to facilitate this political theft by deception tallying a whopping total of 18 votes. Sara Falligant at the *O-A News* also reported Probate Judge English as follows, “I think the commission chose because of (previous elections) to hold it as a special election,” English said. “We could’ve done it in November, but we’ve done it twice, and you saw what happened.” I guess when you have no worries about re-election in such an uncompetitive process ‘public servants’ can be in your face about how they’re gaming the system. The sad thing is the malicious spirit of Hubbard and his big govt. thugs has permeated this once wonderful county and these ‘public servants’ genuinely believe if they can successfully game the system, theft by deception of this sort is OK.

I found Commissioner Eckman (who oddly left early on this special election blitzkrieg meeting) the most adamant/despicable of the politburo refusing to accept the prior two votes against taking more from unincorporated areas, shamelessly shrilling about letting the citizens decide and saying it got lost and voters were confused when

soundly defeating it the last two times. It doesn’t really matter if she’s too poorly educated to understand how foolish she sounds or doesn’t understand arithmetic or genuinely believes this sham special election result was ‘letting the citizens decide’ in her mind, the deleterious result is the same. Easy to get her big govt. extremist minions out to insure victory to transfer power and wealth in their favor instead of another reasonable sample of voters who may again stop this sort of abuse/manipulation of outcomes. How many of the 95% of registered voters who did NOT show even KNOW about the special election vote? All is fair to advance their god of bigger govt. and promote their cronies, but this abusive manipulation of the electorate must end or we’ll become as backward as most of the other heavily taxed counties in the US.

The one cent (14%) sales tax increase is earmarked; split between the Lee County Sheriff’s Office and the Lee County Recreation Board. Of course, anyone who understands fungibility/substitution effects knows the commission will simply direct less funding to the Sheriffs office (something they’re specifically designed to address) in future budgets to engage in more mismanagement and cronyism to raise the hue and cry for more tax increases. Those who’ve read or heard me speak on the issue in the past know I support increase funding for sheriffs to define, enforce and allow the peaceful/voluntary exchange of property in our county - a legitimate function of county government -- but still vote **NO** under these election circumstances. **PUT IT ON A GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT.** This increase for Parks & Recreation (something which does not serve the general welfare and is best funded by specific user fees) has been a disaster under our corrupt county commission’s stewardship and yet another vehicle to redistribute from lower income, rural black areas in the county to the more affluent.

When asked by my Godson what can one do about all this manipulation my reply was, “the same as I have been.” Just as the unconstitutional 1% Auburn income tax has stolen from me and my bride this last quarter century (and we can not vote for any of those taxing us) I have increasingly LESS to give to my church and help others. The supposed increase to law enforcement has not made the roads safe enough again to recommence unnecessary trips to regular donation of my platelets to cancer patients again. The 14% sales tax increase (reported as 7 to 8 cents) prompted us to spend more at thrift stores to help the poor and buy more out of

State/county so it will not further reduce my donations to charities. I can only hope those like Mr. Foxworth touting to the *O-A News* about his, “daughter benefitted from Smiths Station’s recreational facilities, and now plays softball for Smiths Station High School. She hopes to one day play college softball. That rec built her to be a part of Smiths Station’s softball team,” has donated to food banks and poor I think more important than subsidizing his daughter’s softball.

It wouldn’t be a true ‘Malice in Hubbardland’ play without some “the children, the children!” rhetoric, so Smiths Station Mayor Lafaye Dellinger ‘voiced strong words’ in support of the Parks and Rec. tax increase to make it complete. The *O-A News* quoted her with, “I hope to God it doesn’t fail, because it says to me that people in this community don’t care about the children,” Dellinger said. “...I value the kids and what they mean to us. They are our future.” Same old tired rhetoric from those who’ve made government their god. Sadly, more of these children may be too saddled with debt, taxes and a contracted economy to know the joy of being less dependent on others and successful enough to give voluntarily (without the hegemony of taxes) to their church, the sick, the hungry as I was taught and have done.

In closing, what can be more revealing of Delano et al Hubbardland thugs they have no confidence in the inferior, over-subsidized result they proffer than going through the effort to put these votes on a special election, waste tens of thousands of tax dollars and productive (non-special interested) voters time and effort instead of putting it on the recent general election to get a more representative result. Wish they truly cared about the future debt/tax burden of our children or at least cared about student/teacher current safety on things like school construction adhere to Lee County Access Management rules. At least my Godson wouldn’t seem like a lone voice trying to get commissioners to stop putting us in harm’s way and return money for road improvements to crony developers. When a county is this flush with tax revenue it is easier to redirect school dollars to put up Rail Crossings and burden access to a few rural black churches congregations after the harm of their malfeasance is done. Imagine how competent and safe public goods and services may be if as much attention went to a task well done instead of so much manipulation of funds and voting results.

Thank you Ed for 16 years of great writing for the Alabama Gazette!



Tigers Roll Tide Clemson 44- Alabama 16



2019
NATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIP

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

Ed Jones Football Writer

Continued from page 1A

Never in my memory has an Alabama team been dominated like they were in this game. One must go back to the last game of the Coach “Ears” Whitworth to find a similar foray of errors. That year, Auburn beat Alabama 40-0, which catapulted the Tigers to the 1957 Championship.



Trevor Lawrence shreds the Alabama defense.

Most Alabama fans are too young to remember the details of that game in 1957. But, they will forever remember the beat down Alabama suffered on January 7, 2019. This comedy of errors will also be imbedded in my football mind as the worst loss an Alabama team has ever suffered. There was so much at stake in this one. First, the national championship was on the line. A win would have given Nick Saban an unprecedented seventh national title. This would have cemented the concept that Saban is the “greatest coach of all time.” He is still tied with Paul W. “Bear” Bryant at six national championships. Also, the winner would be the first 15-0 team since Penn in 1897. Most people will hang on to the idea that Saban is the greatest coach of all time. It is a title that is difficult to convey on a coach because of the difference in the way football is



Clemson’s offensive line and defensive line dominated Alabama.

played today. The rules are much different. The players are much different. The rewards are much different.

Prior to the four team play-off, the NCAA finally agreed to a two team national championship game in which a “committee” would start ranking the teams at mid-season and at the end allow the two top teams to play for the official NCAA National Championship. This worked well until too many SEC teams played in the game, winning eight of the first ten games. Then the NCAA, under pressure from the member schools, formulated the present four-team play-off, which satisfied everybody but the fifth and sixth team. There is now talk underway to expand the teams to eight. This will only result in unhappiness and dissatisfaction from the ninth and tenth team. It is my opinion that the eight-team play-off will not occur. Without going into minutia on the subject, let me say that is also my opinion that the eight-team play-off would lessen the importance of the regular college football season. College football is at a cross-roads anyway. Attendance is down. The television ratings are down. It is somewhat like the theory that ice cream is fantastic, but too much ice cream can make one sick, or simply tired of eating ice cream. This is where we are in the college game. The NFL is suffering the same fate but for different reasons.

Getting back to the greatest coach of all time, it is interesting to look at some of the “greatest coaches of all time.” Of course, Nick Saban is constantly compared to Coach “Bear” Bryant. The difference in Coach Saban’s record and Coach Bryant’s record is that Saban has won six national titles in 23 years at Toledo, Michigan State, LSU and Alabama (five at Alabama and one at LSU). He has amazingly won five in a period of ten years. This is unprecedented. Coach Bryant won his six national championships all at Alabama over a period of 38 years of coaching at Maryland, Kentucky, Texas A & M and Alabama (25 years). He took over four football programs that were “dead in the water.” Was it harder to win championships in Bryant’s era, or is it harder to win championships in Saban’s era? The majority of people think that it is harder to win today with the play-off system than it was when the Associated Press just voted on the national rankings. Then the team holding the number one spot at the end of the season or after the bowl games was declared national champion. It is my belief that depending on sports writers to make the right choice for the national championship is similar to playing poker. If you have a good hand, you may win if someone else does not have a better hand. In other words, would

you rather play for the championship or hope that you have the best hand?

During Coach Bryant’s time, he won six championships using the voting system. But, in the years that he did not win, his teams finish 2nd, 3rd or 4th many times. He had to depend on the whims of the media to give him a championship. It is also my belief that during those years where he did not finish first, he would have won many more championships if there had been a four-team play-off. That is why it is hard for me to “crown” Nick Saban as the greatest. He could probably continue on his present pace and win nine or ten national championships during this play-off concept. He is only 67 years old. Coach Bryant died when he was 69. This humiliating defeat by Clemson may reduce Coach Saban to becoming mortal again. He can win most of the time but not all the time. If we live long enough we will know the answer.

There have been many coaches during the era of voting for the championship that could have won more titles in the play-off system. Most of them did not coach as long as Saban even (23 years).

Coach Frank Leahy at Notre Dame won four national championships in ten years of coaching (’43, ’46, ’47, and ’49). Had he coached longer would he have more than six championships? Probably!

Coach John McKay of Southern California (USC) won four national titles over a coaching career of 15 years (’62, ’67, ’70, and ’74). He was also a dear friend of Bryant. What if he had coached a few more years, and had the opportunity to get into a four-team play-off. It is my contention that he would have more than six championships.

Coach Bud Wilkinson of Oklahoma coached for 17 years and won three national titles (’50, ’55 and ’56). He won 31 straight games (’48-’50). Had he continued coaching, there is no doubt in my mind that he would have won more championships. Until Coach Bryant came along, I thought that Wilkinson was the best coach ever. He had several undefeated streaks during his tenure at Oklahoma.

Lastly, Coach Knute Rockne coached for only 13 years, all at Notre Dame. During that time Rockne won 105 games, lost 12 and tied 5. On the way to that record, “The Rock” won three national titles (’24, ’29 and ’30). For many years all coaches were measured by the standard set by Rockne. Unfortunately a plane crash after his 13th season took the life of the “immortal” Rockne. There is little doubt that if had he lived he would have won many more championships at Notre Dame.

Now, back to the Alabama-Clemson game... I mean the Clemson-Alabama game. The two teams were really mirror images of each other. Alabama had Tua Tagovailoa and Clemson had Trevor Lawrence. These are the two best quarterbacks in the country, even though Trevor Lawrence is a true freshman, and Tua is a true sophomore. It will be amazing to watch these two in the coming years. The defensive lines were even. Alabama had a slight edge because tackle Dexter Lawrence of Clemson was ruled ineligible for the play-off games. Lawrence is a high first round draft choice and was missed, but not much. The Alabama defensive line looked as though they were “gassed,” even during the second quarter. Alabama’s line looked big, fat and slow. Clemson’s line looked big, fat and quick. That was really the difference in the ball game.

Alabama’s offensive line, which was at least comparable, missed blocking assignments, made critical errors and had difficulty moving Clemson’s defensive line. Alabama started the season with a very inexperienced secondary, but by the end of the season they were playing great. Not so in this game. Clemson hit pass after pass, making it look like practice against the scout team. No Saban secondary has ever played this bad. The linebackers for Alabama had problems getting to the ball, thereby leaving too much running room for the Clemson backs. Clemson’s linebackers were not great until Alabama got into scoring position. Then they showed up. Not so for Alabama’s linebackers. The absence of outside linebacker, Christian Miller, was evident all night long. His injury did not heal in time for him to play. The running backs for Alabama were relentless. They did not go down easily and they always fought for the extra yardage. Kudos to the Tide’s running backs! Clemson’s backs matched the output of Alabama’s. It was a great exhibition by the running backs from both teams. Alabama’s touted offensive line was confused all night by the gap switches and stunts. Tua did not have the time to throw that he has had in the past. When you pressure any quarterback, there will be errant throws. Not the best night for Tua. He threw two interceptions in the first half and fumbled in the second. However, he is still as good today as he was on January 7, 2019. Lawrence played out of his mind after a shaky first quarter. The Alabama pass rush just did not faze him, which really gave Clemson the edge. Clemson just made more plays than Alabama when they had to.

There will be speculation that Coach Saban has passed his prime. Don’t believe it. He will not ever forget this game. It will actually make him better. Whether or not he can sustain the pace he has been on is something to think about. But, that will not be relevant until next year. Alabama will be knocking on the door again. The bad news is Clemson and Coach Dabo Swinney will be on the other side of the door.



Dabo Swinney gives thanks from above.



Tua was never comfortable after throwing his second interception.



Congratulations to Ed and Betty Jones on their 50th wedding anniversary on December 20, 2018. Friends have told Ed that Betty deserves a crown for living with him, so he bought her one.





Steve Long

Woods & Waters

with Steve



Improved Shot Placement for Enhanced Hunting Success

November 7, 2018 | By Kip Adams

This simple shot placement technique will help you make more effective shots this season.

It happens to every hunter at some point in his or her hunting career. They hit a deer with a marginal or poor shot, and then must endure a long and difficult recovery, or worse yet, they’re unable to find the deer. Losing a deer is a terrible event and has caused countless sleepless nights for hunters. What percentage of wounded deer aren’t recovered, and more importantly, what can we do to minimize the chance that will happen to us this season?

Wounding Rates

Few studies have quantified the wounding rates for archery hunters, and even fewer have done so for firearms hunters. Wounding rates for archers have ranged from 16 percent for modern archery equipment to 50 percent for traditional bows (recurves and longbows). However, it’s important to note in the traditional archery study, the deer were radio-collared and only three of the 22 (14 percent) that were hit died and were not recovered. Thus, it was actually a 14 percent wounding loss to the deer herd.

Firearm wounding rates are assumed to be much lower, but data is limited. A United Kingdom study published in 2014 showed 97 percent of 2,179 deer that were shot with firearms were recovered. This is an exceptional recovery rate. A South Carolina study published in 1999 had a nearly 100 percent recovery rate with the use of a trained dog. This study quantified the distance deer ran and the difficulty recovering them based on where they were shot. Of the 493 deer harvested, deer shot in a vital area involving the heart and/or lungs ran significantly shorter distances than those shot further back. Importantly, there were no significant differences in the efficiency of firearms when grouped by caliber.

Taking it to the Field

How can you use this information to enhance your 2018 firearms season? A little deer anatomy and shot placement lesson can go a long way. There are obviously several places you can shoot a deer to kill it, but if you’re interested in a quick,



humane kill with a minimal or nonexistent tracking job, and a loss of minimal amount of meat, then read on for a super easy method for ideal shot placement.

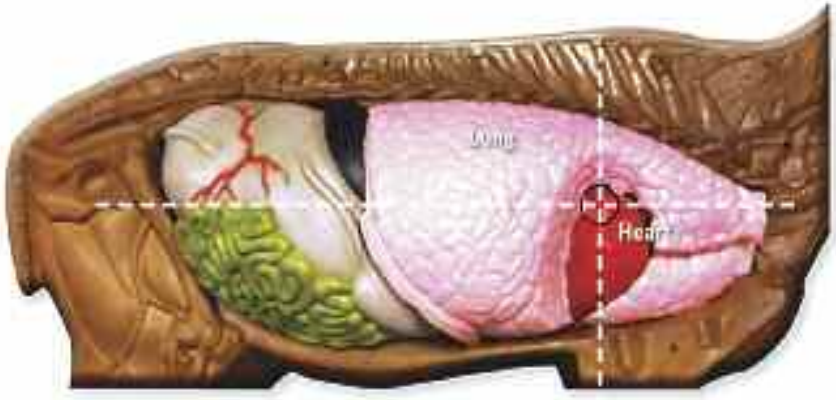
Deer Vitals

Where is a deer’s heart exactly located? Is it directly in line with a deer’s leg or behind it? Does the heart lay flat

in a deer’s body or is it more upright? How about the lungs? Could you draw a deer’s heart and lungs to scale in their exact placement? If not, how can you expect to make a great shot?

The diagram shown above shows exactly where a deer’s vitals are located (note that part of the lungs are cut away to show placement of the heart). That’s the first step to proper shot placement. Notice how the majority of the heart is directly above the leg – not behind it. Notice how the lungs extend from the belly to the backbone,

which is about halfway to two-thirds up the body in the neck region to three-quarters up the body farther back. Notice the backbone does not run along the top of the body as many hunters believe. Finally, notice how there is no room between the lungs and spine. So, the often-discussed area by archers where they did not recover a deer



because they hit it “above the lungs and below the backbone” simply does not exist. It’s likely these shots actually hit above the backbone and through flesh where there are no vitals.

Shot Placement

Ok, now that you know where things are located, let’s talk shot placement. I’m a big fan of short blood trails and DRT. That’s the acronym used by the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit instructors at QDMA’s National Youth Hunt. DRT means “drop right there” in reference to what the deer does when you place your bullet correctly. No long blood trails. No worries about rain washing blood away. No loss of animals to coyotes or bears. No worries of deer running into a sanctuary or on to the neighbors. Simply put the crosshairs on the right spot and squeeze the trigger. DRT.

Where is this magical spot? The beauty of its location is it is arguably the easiest spot to quickly locate while afield. Simply draw a vertical line straight up the deer’s front leg. Then draw a horizontal line across the body splitting it in half. Where those lines cross is your aimpoint. As seen above, this spot is at the top of the heart and through both lungs. Hit it and collect your deer. This shot ruins a minimal amount of venison and affords the greatest shooting error. You can literally hit several inches forward, behind, above or below this mark and still have a lethal shot.

Not Just for Firearms Hunters

This is a great lesson for archers too. Far too many bowhunters aim back behind the front leg on a broadside deer because they think that’s where the heart is, and because they’re afraid of hitting the large shoulder bones. The humerus or long bone in the upper leg runs forward (not up) from the leg, and the scapula or shoulder blade also angles forward (not down). This leaves a perfect window straight up the leg to shoot an arrow or bolt through to achieve a double lung and heart shot.

It Starts at Home

This shot placement is not where I was taught to shoot deer when I began hunting nearly 40 years ago. However, I can honestly say it is exactly where I aim today, it’s where I teach my kids to aim, and it’s where I encourage everyone at my deer camp to aim. Minimal tracking, minimal loss of meat, and greatest opportunity for shooting error are tough to beat. Can you shoot deer in other places to kill them? Sure, but the results of this placement are simply too good to intentionally aim anywhere else. Here’s to a great deer season and numerous DRTs!

Kritter Korner

Red Pandas

The Red Panda is endemic to the Himalayas in Bhutan, southern China, India, Laos, Nepal and Burma. The Red Panda is the state animal in the Indian state of Sikkim..



Red Pandas look quite different to the Giant Pandas, they more resemble the appearance of a raccoon or weasel type animal.

The Red Panda is also known as the ‘Lesser Panda (Wah), Cat Bear’, or ‘Firefox’. Being called a ‘Wah’ is because of its distinctive cry. Red Pandas are most closely related to the raccoon and are now in a family of their own. Most can be found in the temperate forests of the Himalayas and some high mountain areas of China and Myanmar Burma. Red pandas have soft, dense fur that protects them from cool temperatures. The fur on the upper side of the animal is reddish-brown in color while its

underside and legs are black. The soles of the Red Pandas feet are covered with white fur. The Red Pandas compact face and the borders around the ears are primarily white. The red panda has reddish brown mask-like markings over the eyes and dense, furry tail alternately marked with reddish and light brown rings. Their tail really does resemble that of a raccoons. The Red Panda has semi-retractile claws and like the Giant panda, has a false thumb which is really an extension of the wrist bone. Red pandas live in remote mountainous areas of the Himalayas in dense forest and bamboo thickets. The forests have a dense under story of bamboo and small trees. Red panda habitat temperatures usually fall between 10 – 25 degrees centigrade. Red pandas also inhabit elevation ranges from 6,000 – 12,000 feet. Just like the giant panda, the red panda is a bamboo eater and its diet is mainly bamboo. During summers, the red panda may feed on fruits, mushrooms, leaves, grasses, roots, fruits, lichens and acorns. Although considered herbivorous, the red panda will occasionally take birds eggs and it is speculated that they may eat mice and birds on occasions. Because the nutrient level of bamboo is so low, the Red panda has a slow metabolism and spends a good part of its day foraging. The Red panda is nocturnal and is mostly active in the early morning and late afternoon spending most of the day resting in trees conserving their energy as their bamboo diet has a low energy content. Red pandas are normally solitary creatures; however, they form pairs in the breeding season. Red pandas appear to be territorial. Red pandas use glandular sacs in their

anal regions which produce a scent which they use to mark territorial boundaries by rubbing their sacs on various objects in the wild. Additionally, they may also mark territory by using regular defecation sites. Red pandas have a mild, non-aggressive disposition. When Red Panda cubs are born in the spring .male red pandas do not share the raising of the cubs, it is completely left to the mother red panda to raise and care for the cubs herself. Red pandas can live up to 14 years in captivity. It is not sure, however, how long they actually live in the wild. Red Pandas are listed as endangered. The major threats to the red pandas are loss of habitat due to deforestation and forest fragmentation. Red Pandas are often killed for their coats to make fur hats and clothes. Because of the growing human population in China, Red Panda habitats are being cleared to build houses.



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Honoring Our Heroes

Col. Joe Panza serves as the Executive Director of the Air University Foundation at Maxwell Air Force Base. His distinguished military career encompassed 34 years of service in the U. S. Navy and the U. S. Air Force. At age 17, he joined the Navy as a Communications Technician with the Naval Security Group with overseas tours in Hawaii, Okinawa and Japan. After being discharged with the rank of Second Class Petty Officer (E-5), he worked for IBM for one year before graduating from San Jose State University as an Air Force ROTC Distinguished Graduate with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. Completing his pilot's training at Vance AFB, OK, in 1966, his first assignment was flying the C-131 Samaritan an, Aeromedical Evacuation aircraft, at McGuire AFB, New Jersey.



After one year, Col. Panza received orders for Vietnam and was assigned to a Combat and Search and Rescue Helicopter Unit, the 40th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron. After transitioning from fixed-wing aircraft to helicopters, he was sent to Eglin AFB, FL, for combat crew training for proficiency in combat tactics, air-to-air refueling. He served for one year with

the 40thARRS based at Udom Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand. Their call sign was JOLLY GREEN. Col. Panza participated in a number of combat rescues during his tour of duty in Southeast Asia. Over the course of the war in Southeast Asia, the Jolly Greens rescued thousands of aircrew personnel preventing their deaths or captures.

One of Col. Panza's dangerous assignments was the rescue mission to pull everybody off of a 5,600 mountain where a top secret radar site, Lima Site 85, a covert mission of the U. S. military and CIA to conduct surveillance and support operations against North Vietnam, was under attack. Eleven men were lost during the attack, the largest single ground combat loss of United States Air Force personnel during the Vietnam War. One of the radar technicians, CMSgt. Richard L. Etchberger was killed during the rescue operations and was subsequently awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism by President Obama at a ceremony at the White House which Col. Panza attended. Following his attendance at the White House ceremony, Col. Panza initiated the CMSgt Richard L. Etchberger Team Award which was established at the Air Force Senior Non-Commissioned Officer (SNCOCA) at Maxwell-Gunter AFB. Col. Panza has presented the Etchberger Award to the winning team at each class graduation since 2011.

Another significant mission was a highly contested rescue effort of a Forward Air Controller who had been shot down over Saravane, Laos. His helicopter endured 75 small arms hits from ground fire causing sustained damage to the main servos, hydraulic and fuel systems and rescue hoist, and

one crew member was wounded. Col. Panza was hit between the shoulder blades; however he was saved by the titanium seat that stopped the bullet.

After completing his combat service, Col. Panza flew the C-141 Starlifter at Norton AFB in San Bernardino, California where he accumulated over 2,200 flight hours with the majority of time spent in flying across the Pacific in support of the war in Vietnam. Col. Panza was a member of the C-141 crew that picked up the moon rocks at Johnston Atoll and delivered them to the Houston Space Center in Texas after the splashdown of Apollo 11 in July, 1969. Col. Panza also flew two missions in 1973 in support of "Operation Homecoming" following the release of our POWs from Hanoi where many had been held captive for more than eight years.



Col. Panza attended the Air War College at Maxwell AFB graduating in the Class of 1984. He was then assigned to the United States Air Forces Europe (USAFE) as Assistant Chief of Staff and subsequently as Executive Officer to the Commander USAFE at Ramstein AFB, Germany. He completed his five-year overseas tour in Europe as Commander, 7274th Air Base Group, RAF Chicksands, England, and returned to Maxwell AFB where he retired in 1992. His distinguished career included over 4,200 hours flying the T-37, T-38, C-131, H-19, HH-3, C-141, T-39, and T-29. His awards and decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross, (w/2 OLCs), the Air Medal (w4 OLCs), the Defense Meritorious Service Medal and the AF Meritorious Service Medal (w/1 OLC) among others.

Since retirement, Col. Panza has been honored by the Pararescue Association by inducting him as an Honorary Pararescueman, and he was inducted as an Honorary Chief Master Sergeant by the Maxwell-Gunter Chief's group. He continues to be active in the Air Force Association, and for three consecutive years, was awarded the AFA Medal of Merit and was named the AFA Montgomery Chapter 102 Executive Council Member of the Year. In addition, Col. Panza has been awarded the AFA Exceptional Service Award and the National AFA Presidential Citation. He holds membership in the Military Officers Association of American (MOAA), the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), the Order of the Daedalians, the Jolly Green Association, the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce's "Wright Flyers." He is the past Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Capital City Club, Montgomery, AL, and has recently been chosen as a National Honorary President of the "Silver Wings."

He has two children and three grandchildren. His dog, Frankie, lives with him at Montgomery, AL.



Major Maxine Mullins, USAF (Ret.) served as a nurse in the United States Air Force for over 20 years (1970-1991). Because of a persistence recruiter for the United States Air Force who had initially been interviewing her brother, she later became interested in joining the Air Force. After working for a short period in Bronx, New York, she returned to her hometown of Opp, Alabama, and immediately joined the Air Force as a Second Lieutenant. Maxine's initial assignment was Robbins Air Force Base, Georgia. Her next assignment sent her across the Pacific Ocean to Clark Air Base, Philippines (1972-1973). During



this period, she cared for assigned personnel and family members. She also cared for wounded military personnel from Viet Nam and served as one of the nurses

who cared for the POWs upon their return during Operation Homecoming. She separated from the Air force in August, 1973, and went to work at D.C. General Hospital in Washington, D.C. and then returned to service in the Air Force in January, 1974. She was assigned to Lackland AFB, Texas, followed by an assignment as a nurse recruiter in Northern New Jersey. Upon completion of her recruiting assignment, she returned to Clark AB, Philippines, as a flight nurse caring for patients requiring medical evacuation to and from hospitals in Southeast Asia and Northern California. Maxine's later assignments were Keesler AFB, MS. and March AFB, CA, as an Emergency Service Supervisor and an Outpatient Department Clinical Coordinator. Major Maxine retired from the Air Force in 1991 and returned to Alabama. She continued to work as a nurse in the civilian community. Her nursing positions included home health nursing, nurse education coordinator and nurse educator. Maxine taught nursing at Tuskegee University, voluntarily taught CPR classes and assisted with Advanced Cardiac Life Support classes at Jackson Hospital at Montgomery, AL.

Maxine was born in Opp, Alabama, June 10, 1947, where she attended Covington County Training Schools. She graduated from Woodson High School, Andalusia, Alabama, in 1965. She earned a B.S. Degree in Nursing, Dillard University, New Orleans, LA., MSN, Nursing Education, Troy State University, Montgomery, AL., and a Post-Masters in Primary Care, Adult Health Nursing, University of Alabama at Birmingham, AL. Even as a little girl, she wanted to become a nurse with the aim of caring for and helping people. She worked for a brief time at Opp Mizell Memorial Hospital, and then went to New York City where she worked at Montefiore Medical Center, the University Hospital for the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx prior being commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Air Force.

In reflecting upon her military career, Maxine thinks that the military nurtured what she already was. An example of her service to others was a time that she successfully encouraged a veteran who had become a homeless drug addict to seek rehabilitation and turn his life around. As a cancer nurse, Maxine was a life-line to families who had relatives affected by cancer. She thanks God for giving her the patience and fortitude to care for others.



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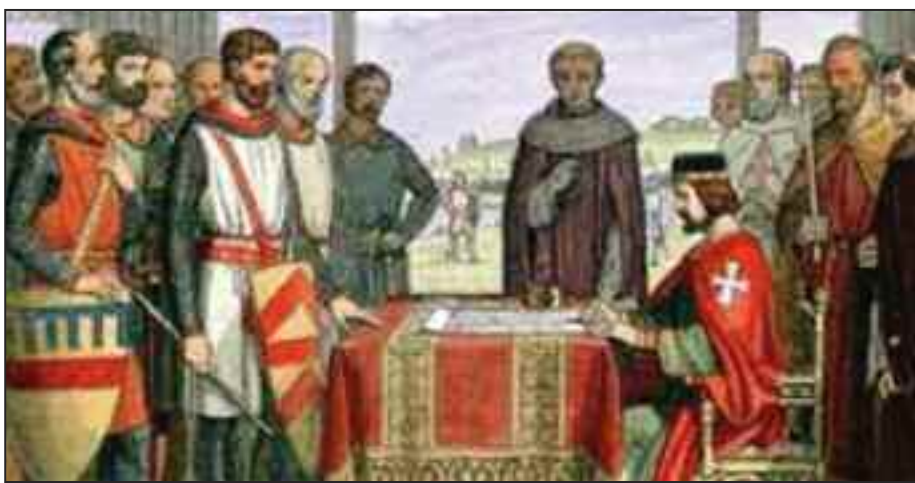
The Education Station... *By Bobbie Ames*

Bobbie Ames writes from The Hoffman Education Center for the Family, where the ministry promotes Christian Education that is foundational to the Historic Biblical Principle Approach. Consulting services are available through the Hoffman Research Library. She can be reached at P. O. Box 241405, Montgomery, AL 36124, or at bobbiehames@gmail.com.

I am honored to be able to present this article by Dr. Paul Jehle on the Magna Charta.

In my opinion, the Plymouth Rock Foundation is the number one foundation in America for its faithfulness and outreach to our True Christian History. I married John Ames, who is a descendant of John Howland, a passenger on the Mayflower when it landed in 1620. The Pilgrim heritage has been treasured by our family for many generations.

The Magna Charta



On June 15, 1215, one of the most important events in the history of the development of civil liberty for all of western civilization, took place on the fields of Runnymede just outside London, England. Here, under the lawful act of interposition, King John signed the Magna Charta (Great Charter) for the protection of liberty under the rule of law. The Magna Charta became the standard document of liberty in England as well as the foundation of liberty in the western world.

The Christian roots of America's liberty and government were brought from England to these shores. In order to trace our roots, then we must understand England's history. The Christian history of England, especially in relation to law, liberty and government, is rooted in the Bible. One of the most dramatic portrayals of this fact is the drawing up, and eventual signing of the Magna Charta.

According to legend, it was the Galatian believers, to whom the New Testament book of Galatians was written, that took the gospel to the British Isles in the first century. The revival among the Celts is well known, and that pagan populace of what would later be known as Ireland, Scotland and England, were largely converted before the end of the 2nd century. When St. Augustine and St. Patrick were sent a century or so later, they found the Bible and particularly the Ten Commandments at the heart of its culture. Patrick put what he found into a book known simply as the Liber.



King Alfred, the only king to be known as England's "Great", translated the Liber ex Lege Moisi (liberty from the Law of Moses) and added the Beatitudes from the New Testament. His Code of Law became unique, rooted in God's Law, and "common" to both King and people, thus becoming the Common Law of England brought to America.

The bottom-up, decentralized structure of government, patterned after Exodus 18 with rulers over ten (neighborhoods), fifty (villages), hundred (counties) and thousands (burroughs or castles) was brought from England and replicated



almost verbatim out of the Bible in the wilderness of colonial America. So it is important to look a bit deeper into the content and context of this momentous event, which became the cornerstone of English constitutional law and the ancestor of all the colonial State constitutions in America and eventually our United States Constitution.

When the Norman Invasion took place in 1066, and the last Saxon King Harold fought to the death at the battle of Hastings, France forced its top-down, centralized philosophy of government upon the defeated English by force. It appeared as though the world of King Alfred that featured the liberty of the individual, family and church, drawn from the Bible, was gone for good. However, when centuries of freedom loving ideas are forced underground, they only temporarily disappear under the façade of forced submission. But just as one tiny seed can split a rock, so the seeds of liberty, sown from the words of Scripture, would sprout again under the Providential Hand of God. For the next

150 years, the Christian culture of England flowed underground. On the surface, it was French, but beneath it were the seeds of liberty waiting for the moment when it would burst into the sunlight!



The individual who brought these truths into view has been lost to history. His name is Stephen Langton, and we find him in the archives of Paris, studying Biblical Old Testament Law and the ancient origins of Britain's constitution. His fame as a teacher of theology caused Pope Innocent III to appoint Stephen as the Archbishop of Canterbury. While in Paris, Stephen Langton is also credited for first dividing the Books of the Bible into chapters for easier study. He also pioneered a restoration of Canon Law that respected individual liberty.

Langton's appointment by the Pope to be Archbishop was strongly opposed by King John, the monarch of England. For years John resisted having Stephen even step within his dominion. However, John had other things to worry about, particularly his Barons. These "lower magistrates" had the lawful authority of interposing between the King's tyrannical acts and the people who were most injured by them. Pressured from within and without, King John relented and Langton arrived in July of 1213. Immediately, Langton began to mediate lawfully between the Barons and the King, teaching the Baron's what he had found in his research of the law, namely, that they must take an oath to the law and not

just the King. He also let King John know that the Barons would "die in defense of their liberties." Thus, the Magna Charta was born from the pen of Stephen Langton!

The signing of the Magna Charta was an epoch in the restoration of the rule of law. It was only the beginning, however, for over the next few centuries a constant struggle would ensue regarding how to deal with Kings who refused to follow the written law. It eventually led to the other two English documents considered as part of the English Constitution – the Petition of Right (1628) and Bill of Rights (1689). The Magna Charta was referred to continually by our Founders in the United States as the cornerstone of liberty under law and the fact that all rights are given by God, not government.

The Memorial on the fields of Runnymede today reminds every tourist of the strategic development of liberty under law. It is a legacy we must remember and teach future generations. Lawful resistance to tyranny is a God-given



instrument of justice, illustrated in the Bible, and practiced in history. The courage of a Stephen Langton needs repeating today as well – willing to research key ideas and providentially bring them light "for such a time as this." May God give us such leaders again; for the struggle between the rule of law and the arbitrary rule of man is the contest of our day as well!

In recognition of the 400th Anniversary of the Pilgrim journey and their passion for Christian Liberty, the Plymouth Rock Foundation is preparing to celebrate in Plymouth, Massachusetts, June 28th- July 2nd, 2020. We plan to organize a group to attend this conference.

Let us know of your interest.

*Information is already available on the web: at ORG2020@plymouthrock.org
The Foundation may be reached at 48 Summer Street, Plymouth, MA. 02360.*

Thank you Mrs. Bobbie Ames for your many years of contributing to the Alabama Gazette.

We always enjoy your articles and your in-depth knowledge of history, and especially our Christian heritage that you share with us each and every month.

The Staff of the Alabama Gazette



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The Four Things That Matter Most

Dr. Karl Stegall is a great friend and mentor to me and to many other United Methodist Pastors in Alabama and West Florida! Karl served

as the Senior Pastor at First United Methodist Church in Montgomery for 25 years before his retirement. He now focuses most of his time, energy and effort on the Stegall Seminary Scholarship Endowment Foundation which has raised millions of dollars for seminary student scholarships.

Many of us United Methodist Pastors benefitted from the scholarship monies that his foundation provided over all these years. These scholarships empowered hundreds of us to attend seminary and gain the training we needed for ministry. I am so thankful for his faithfulness to this cause to which he has been dedicated for many years! One of his great legacies is and will always be raising up and training new leaders to advance the Cause of Christ!

Karl and I served together on the Episcopal Committee for our Annual Conference several years ago, and, at one of our meetings some time back he shared a devotion that I have never forgotten. His devotional thoughts derived from a book he had just read entitled, The Four Things that Matter Most. The book was written by Ira Byock, MD, who worked with hospice patients for 30 years. These patients and their families were facing life and death issues daily.

Karl shared with us that the primary focus of the book is about four key things that people often share with each other when facing death.

You can probably guess what these four things are.

Please forgive me.
I forgive you.
I love you.
Thank you.

I was moved to reflection and action from Karl's devotional thoughts regarding these four things. As we venture into this new year and consider our priorities and resolutions for 2019, I believe these four statements can be a wonderful reminder about what's most important in our relationships.

The good news is this: you don't have to wait till someone is on a deathbed to communicate these beautiful and freeing statements to one another.

In 2019, why don't you and I make a commitment to start communicating to those we love (and those we need to love) these four things that matter most?

We can start right now and look for opportunities to tell the people we need to tell ... Please forgive me, I forgive you, I love you, Thank you!!

I am going to try and put these "Four Things That Matter Most" into action in this New Year!

Will you join me?



Seasonal Reasoning

To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under Heaven.
Ecclesiastes 3:1

Job 9:7-10 *"If He commands it, the sun won't rise and the stars won't shine. He alone has spread out the heavens and marches on the waves of the sea. He made all the stars – the bear and Orion, the Pleiades and constellations of the southern sky. He does great things too marvelous to understand. He performs countless miracles."*

By Hannah Wilkinson Johnson, Founder
LIFT Ministries

I've so often wondered how I fit in this world. How I feel like Job more often than not. I love a pity party. Don't we all? Who am I to be more deserving of a life of less pain and less misery and less strife and less sorrow than that of the life Christ led? Or that one of His most faithful followers led for that matter. How many times has God tried to guide us in an area that we may think we have totally given over to Him? How many times has God allowed us to bask in His glory once we finally surrendered the very thing we had thought we had given over long ago? How many times have we cried out to God and felt He left us with an unanswered prayer? How many times have we felt His presence as we see the glory that unfolded from a prayer we didn't even think to ask? (**John 8:47**) How many times must He knock us to our knees when the only way we have to look is up for us to get it? Don't we enjoy the stars in the sky? Can we not even begin to envision God's greater plan while we gaze upon them? Is our telescope focused in on the guiding light or the ones that shine and then suddenly become dim? Are we so blind that we don't see His brilliance?

Tonight I gazed into a dark sky and for the first time in my 30 plus years I noticed the stars twinkling. Every single one of them. (I mean I obviously knew they twinkled but nothing like I witnessed tonight.) In the innocence of my child I was reminded of the brilliance of the stars through song. Twinkle, twinkle little star how I wonder..... How many times have I sang this song? How many times have I missed the beauty of the night and the wondrous love of Christ? Is it the undeniable fact in this single revelation of my life that like in **John 9:25**, *"though I once was blind, now I see."* Have I been blind to my surroundings, all the blessings in my life, so much so that I even missed the stars twinkling in the sky? Have I let the struggles and the duties of the day distract me away from where I needed my eyes to focus? Is this the clear picture I've longed for? Has



God chosen in this moment to reveal to me the picture of His grace? In His infinite wisdom He has created such a splendor of His love just for me!

Psalms 8:3-5 *"When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers- the moon and the stars you set in place- what are mere mortals that you should think about them, human beings that you should care for them? Yet you made them only a little bit lower than God and crowded them with glory and honor."*

Do you have a Revelation in the moment of understanding God's vast love for you? Grace? Mercy? We are undeserving, yet so willing to accept these freely given gifts. These intangible gifts that we are unable to imagine not having in our life. Our little pocket protectors; those freebies we've hoarded in our pockets for safe keeping, to cling to later when the going gets tough. If God knows every star by name and has placed them in the sky (**Isaiah 40:26-29**) why mustn't we understand the importance of ourselves in this dark world and what it means to be a light for Him. What if the light we give off, His light as we are His vessels, could lead a lost soul to His redeeming love. Did not a star lead the Wiseman to Jesus? Then why couldn't it do the same thing now. How can you look into the sky and question His existence? How can you not be drawn to His redemption? Our opportunities to know Christ and experience all of His goodness are endless in this life. Like the twinkling stars blink quickly in the night sky, don't blink so often that you miss all the unforeseen miracles along the way. Know God's plan for you and enjoy every single moment leading you to the indescribable brilliance beyond the stars.

Allow Him to reveal Himself more fully to you through His word.

Psalms 143:10 *"Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground."*

To get involved locally in community women's ministry please contact LIFT Ministries founder, Hannah Johnson at (334) 328-1513 or check out fb@liftministries.

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Sheriff Derrick Cunningham



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Chief Deputy Kevin J. Murphy

Deputy of the Year



Deputy Charles McGlown

On June 12th, 2018, Deputy Charles McGlown was dispatched to an ATV accident on private property on Seven Oaks Drive in the Pike Road Community. While enroute to the call, County E-911 advised that a Polaris Ranger ATV had overturned on the property and a juvenile was entrapped underneath the vehicle. Upon arrival, Dep McGlown became aware of the seriousness of the accident and using only his strength, was able to upright the ATV and free the juvenile and render medical support while Pike Road paramedics and Haynes Ambulance responded to provide life saving care for the juvenile. According to the specifications for the Polaris Ranger, the approximate dry weight of the ATV is 1636 pounds. Deputy McGlown's quick thinking and actions during this

stressful event helped save the life of 10 year old Hayden Shinkle on that day. The actions of Deputy McGlown have brought great credit to himself and the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office and is hereby awarded Deputy of the Year for 2018-.

Sheriff Cunningham would like to personally thank those that gave to the less fortunate during the holiday season! Your generosity means a lot! Thanks again!

Sheriff's Office APP

Sheriff Cunningham would like to remind you that just because the holidays are over, please don't let your guard down. Criminals are lurking everywhere and you do not want to be their next target. Do not leave any boxes from Christmas out by the curb advertising to criminals that you have a new item in your home. You need to always remain vigilant and aware of your surroundings and the best way to do this is to download the

Sheriff's Office new phone APP called "Montgomery County AL Sheriff". The app can be accessed through your phone's app store. Once you have added this app to your phone, you can easily set your phone up to receive important push notifications. Push notifications are quick, important messages that can notify you of road closure(s), blocked road(s), anything pertinent to your travel, escapee, etc. While our app can help you with many things including checking to see if someone is in the county jail, it is most helpful to receive push notifications. After you have downloaded the app, go through the follow steps to make sure your phone is set up to receive the push notifications:

- Go to your phone's setting icon
- Scroll down and click "Applications"
- Scroll down to "MCSO" or "Montgomery county sheriff"

OR

- Click "Application Manager", if it doesn't take you directly to the location
- Click "Notifications"
- Turn on "Allow Notifications" and "Previews in pop-ups"

You should be all set to receive the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office push notifications!

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MILLENNIAL MUSINGS



Ethan A. Wilkinson

I stopped listening to R. Kelly's music a few years ago after being introduced to his monstrosity when the abuse at his Atlanta-maximum-security-McMansion first made headlines; I simply didn't know and hadn't bothered to learn about the shade around him until then, despite its ubiquity in the popular consciousness (highlighted by the famous Chappelle Show sketch). What the new 6-part docuseries "Surviving R. Kelly"—produced by Lifetime and over a year in the making before premiering its first two hours on January 3rd—does instantly is convey the depravity of Kelly's ho-hum, day-to-day abuses which have destroyed the lives of a seemingly never-ending stream of young women of color. Now, in the face of his reign

of terror, it simply feels wrong to continue giving any sort of support to him that could lend itself to distracting from his reprehensible abuses.

What the series also did, however, was give me cause to remind myself (not on Spotify so he would not earn even a cent) how incredibly talented of a singer and performer he was (and by all accounts still is). He was nothing less than a superstar, and he deserved to be in prison the entirety of his tenure as purveyor of R&B smashes. His talents are wasted.

RHYTHM AND BLUES AND SHAME

To be sure, his wasted gift is nowhere near as shameful as either the horrors he has inflicted on so many real, living-and-breathing human beings or our all-too-familiar willingness to simply ignore the suffering of women of color. Shani Jackson, in her excellent recent piece in Rolling Stone, succinctly captured our shared moral failing with her musing that "[o]ne can't help but wonder if Kelly would be in jail now if his alleged victims had been white and therefore viewed as valuable." It remains to be seen which will ultimately prove more disgraceful, but I would suggest that we can recognize our mutual failure to treat women of color with fundamental dignity without minimizing the suffering of his victims. In either case, we wear a collective albatross heavy with the weight of our treatment of so many of our fellow human beings.

Still, though, piled on top of all that abuse and all our collective shame in ignoring the suffering of others, and only further putrefying our present moment, it is also a shameful disgrace that such a powerful gift was tainted and fundamentally squandered by his very existential vileness, and we are all worse off for it. The capacity to inspire passion and joy in one another—to do good despite the ease of doing bad (or ignoring the difference altogether)—is one of humanity's most affirming and redeeming qualities, and the fact that he wasted his ability to do so is a profound loss that detracts from our shared decency.

R. Kelly deserves to be in prison, and the fact that he's not is a shame.

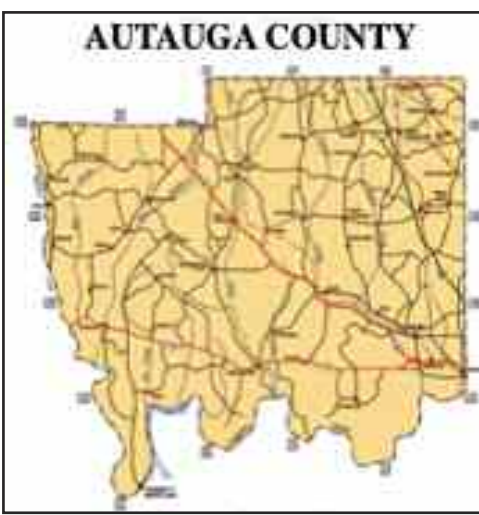
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Sheriff Joe Sedinger

Happy New Year from the Autauga County Sheriff's Office

It gives me great pleasure to announce that the Autauga County Sheriff's Office will be hosting another Citizens Academy!

The classes will be held two nights a week starting on Thursday, February 21, 2019 beginning at 6:00 pm at the Autauga County Sheriff's Office in the Squad Room. The remaining classes will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays for the next four consecutive weeks, also beginning at 6:00pm with snacks provided.

The Academy is planned to inform the citizens on the operation of the Sheriff's Office and what Law Enforcement encounters on a day to day basics. There will also be information on the Court System.

The Autauga County citizens will get to learn about the history of the Sheriff and his administrative duties, along with information about the different divisions of the office including Patrol, Investigation, Dispatch, Narcotics, Crime Prevention, Jail Operations and much more. The Academy will provide some hands on classes as well. We will have a firearm simulator, Taser demonstration, and a jail tour. There are four dates set aside for participates in the Academy to do a Ride Along with a Deputy on Patrol, please look ahead and plan which weekend works best for you.

CITIZENS



ACADEMY

My staff and I are excited about the Academy and they have worked hard to make this happen. If you are a citizen of Autauga County, 21 years of age or older, and this is something you would like to do, please visit our website www.autaugasheriff.org and under the Message from the Sheriff section download and fill out the application. If you need an application mailed to you, please contact the Sheriff's Office at 361-2503 to request one. Applications must be received by the Sheriff's Office by February 1, 2019. I am sorry, but due to limited space in our Squad Room, we can only take twenty (20) Autauga County Citizens in the Academy. We hope to host another Academy later in 2019 also.

Thank You for your Support!
Sheriff Joe Sedinger

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The Chambliss Commentary

Marcia Chambliss

Marcia Chambliss has been involved in grassroots conservative politics since 2009 and has contributed opinion articles pertaining to politics and cultural issues to The Alabama Gazette since 2010.

“Consider your ways...”

The views of submitted editorials may not be the express views of The Alabama Gazette.

Another New Year lies ahead, and while each day is always new with possibilities for individual growth and change, there’s something about our culture that hones in on New Year resolutions with the hope of a clean slate for the coming year.

An early December Bible study message regarding the book of Haggai was especially timely for me as I reflected on 2018 and the year to come, and the key Scripture remained with me throughout the Christmas season. As our political system and culture continues to divide rather than unite, perhaps it’s something of significance for us all to consider for the New Year.

While listening to the lesson that day, I couldn’t help but think of state of our nation. The message from the prophet Haggai to the remnant of Israel after Babylonian captivity was in reference to the rebuilding of the temple, but there is a lesson for us still today.

“Then the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet, saying, ‘Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses while this house lies desolate?’ Now therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts... ‘Consider your ways!’”

A cursory glance of daily headlines certainly brings this admonition from the LORD to the forefront. Whether it be the never-ending political battles in our nation’s capital, the disregard for human life by senseless street killings, or the cultural acceptance of the death of millions of unborn babies with the label of “choice,” we are in dire need of far more than simply New Year resolutions, and I’m of the opinion that a determination to consider our ways is long overdue.

Years ago, I remember Dr. James Dobson warning his radio listeners about the agenda being pushed by the left to legalize same-sex unions because the strategy would not stop there, but would instead be a slippery slope to redefining our culture. As a result of his warnings, he was mocked and demonized by secularists as being a homophobe and a bigot. Fast forward to the present and not a day

goes by when I don’t read something related to the promotion of transgenderism as well as the efforts to insert it into our education system and our youth. So how was Dr. Dobson wrong in sounding his alarm? And have we simply settled so comfortably into our own lives, our own “paneled houses,” that we fail to recognize how our behavior doesn’t honor our God?

But it’s not only our social ways that need to be considered as our fiscal ways continue to spiral out of control. Regardless of the political party in control neither is serious about getting our fiscal house in order, and billions continue to be spent without regard for the reckoning that will come. When we have government so incredibly bloated that a state government contemplates taxing text messages, why don’t we consider our spending ways instead of trying to create additional sources of revenue that stifles our individual economic freedom? Yet with all that spending and debt, we have failed to secure our borders from those with intent to bring harm to our nation by either acts of terror or by overloading our social services and leading to further increases of taxation.

The remnant of Israel had become disheartened and disillusioned, so their focus on rebuilding the temple was no longer of importance. I fear that we too have become so numb and complacent with the decline of our society that we are willing to accept the status quo instead of standing firm on God’s truth, or, we have completely surrendered to political correctness and fear the wrath of human opinion more than pleasing the One we call our LORD. Sadly, as I’ve written before, even our churches are more prone to satisfying the current culture with messages of grace without the counterbalance of truth, and that’s not the full Gospel of Christ. Grace is absolutely important and I do not write these words harshly condemning others for sin; instead, I readily acknowledge my own sins, am humbled to have been saved by His grace through faith, and attempt to daily consider my ways while being transformed with His truth.

“Consider your ways!” Rather than a list of typical resolutions, I’m thinking that mindset will be all I need to carry me into the New Year and beyond.

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WHO TO CONTACT: SOCIAL SECURITY OR MEDICARE?

Sometimes it's confusing to know who to contact and for what. Social Security and Medicare offer related services, so people aren't always certain who does what. This "cheat sheet" can help.

Contact Social Security to:

- See if you're eligible for Medicare;
- Create a my Social Security account to do things like request a replacement Medicare card and report a change of address, name, or phone number;
- Sign up for Medicare Part A (Hospital Insurance) and Medicare Part B (Medical Insurance);
- Apply for Extra Help with Medicare prescription drug coverage (Part D) costs;
- Report a death; and
- Appeal an Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount (IRMAA) decision (for people who pay a higher Part B and/or Part D premium if their income is over a certain amount).

Find information on how to do all of this and more at www.socialsecurity.gov and www.socialsecurity.gov/benefits/medicare.

Contact Medicare to:

- See what services Medicare covers;
- Get detailed information about Medicare health and prescription drug plans in your area, including costs and services;

- Choose and enroll in a Medicare health or prescription drug plan that meets your needs;
- Find a Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap) policy in your area;
- Find doctors, health care providers, and suppliers who participate in Medicare;
- Get information and forms for filing a Medicare appeal or for letting someone speak with Medicare on your behalf;
- Compare the quality of care provided by plans, nursing homes, hospitals, home health agencies, and dialysis facilities; and
- View Medicare publications.



Visit www.medicare.gov for these services.

If you need to find out your claim status, find out deductibles, or get answers to premium payment questions, you can call **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227; TTY: 1-877-486-2048)**.

Determining who to contact is the first step in getting the answers you need. Please share these lists with family and friends who need to know more about Social Security and Medicare.



Gazette Seniors...

Dr. John Bitter, Editor
Senior Section

Funding Insecurities

We've all heard the term, "fixed income." While in all reality most everyone lives on some type of fixed income, there is the possibility of a pay raise while they are in the work force. One overwhelming fear the elderly community faces after retirement is the lack of increasing salaries as the cost of living is steadily on the incline. The National Council on Aging is a great resource as we look to the future of our aging community. Like wise many cities, like Montgomery Alabama, boasts wonderful aging agencies, The Montgomery Area Council on Aging (MACOA). These agencies are great tools in finding out what governmental assistance is available to the senior population. There are assistances offered with veteran's assistance, transportation, respite care, food, healthcare,

prescription drug, utility, SSI, HUD housing and even home weatherization assistance.

To locate the appropriate center in your area or for more information on assistance, visit the National Council on Aging's website at NCOA.org/centerforbenefits/becs.

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Southern Cuisine

Occasionally, there are programs on the television that are well worth viewing. The series CHEF TABLE on NETFLIX is one of them. I randomly watch some of the shows on RECIPE TV. They feature restaurants and foods from around the world. I was surfing through the channels and found the series by John Edge called TRUE SOUTH. According to Garden & Gun website, “the show is about the intertwining of food and culture in the South.” It is on the SEC Network. “Food and football”, that is the story of the South. Two Alabama restaurants featured in one episode are BRIGHT STAR in Bessemer and Johnny’s in Homewood. This is a must see series to further learn about the people and food that accurately describes the South.



This past month was a time for partying and eating. Instead of a full meal for a supper club, we decided to have an appetizer potluck. Everyone coming would tell what type of appetizer they would bring, so there would not be five cheese balls and four platters of sliced cheese and crackers. I made an appetizer that proved to be a hit at our party and is a popular topic on PINTEREST. You can find many variations to suit different tastes. The next one I make will be the baked cream, cheddar, and mozzarella cheese with bacon and jalapeno variation.

STUFFED BAGUETTE

INGREDIENTS

- 14-inch baguette
- 8 oz. cream cheese, at room temperature
- 4 oz. goat cheese
- 1 large clove of garlic, minced
- ½ cup finely chopped red bell pepper (1 medium sized pepper)
- ½ cup finely chopped sun dried tomatoes packed in olive oil (pat up some of the oil with a paper towel)
- 1/1/4 cup finely chopped Kalamata olives
- 2 oz. finely chopped spicy salami

About two tablespoons minced parsley
About 1 tsp minced fresh thyme

METHOD:

Some recipes call for stuffing the entire baguette. I found the cutting the baguette in half makes for easier stuffing. If you decide to feed a large crowd, buy longer baguettes and cut them down to a more manageable size. I would buy a 24-inch baguette, cut the ends off, and then cut it into four pieces. This also made it easier to hollow out the baguette. Using a long thin bladed knife, working from both ends, hollow out the soft bread and leave about a ½ inch crust all the way around. Using an electric mixer, beat the cream cheese until smooth and lump free. Beat in the goat cheese and garlic. Using a large spoon, mix in the rest of the ingredients, saving the sun dried tomatoes and red bell pepper for last, so not to crush the pepper and spread the oil from the tomatoes too much, and turn the mixture red. Working from one end, fill the baguette with the mixture. Pack it tight. I used a wooden cocktail muddler that was about ¾ of an inch across. If you pack from both ends, you may leave a void in the middle. Wrap the baguettes tightly with plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least two hours and up to two days. Right before serving, remove wrap and using a sharp knife slice the baguette into ½-inch thick slices. I used a sharp bread knife and sawed through the crust instead of pushing hard on the crust. HINT: If you want to make more than 24 slices, make to recipe twice, it is hard to mix well if you just double everything.

Makes one 12-inch long baguette; about 24 slices



Freshly ground pepper
Salt to taste (be careful, there is plenty of salt in some of the ingredients)

difference and you will feel better about yourself for doing the extra prep. There are only nine ingredients for the dressing and five for the salad.

SPINACH SALAD

INGREDIENTS

- For the dressing:*
- Three garlic cloves
 - Four slices bacon
 - ½-cup mayonnaise
 - ½-cup sour cream
 - ½-cup buttermilk
 - ½-tablespoon dry ranch salad dressing
 - ½-tablespoon lemon juice
 - ½-tablespoon cider vinegar
 - ½-teaspoon ground pepper
- For the salad:*
- 4 cups baby spinach leaves
 - ¼ cup shredded red cabbage
 - 2 oranges peeled and sliced



½ cup sliced fresh mushrooms
Red onion rings for garnish

METHOD:

1. Preheat oven to 350F. Pierce each garlic clove with the tip of s sharp knife. Place the garlic cloves in a small baking dish. Bake at 350F for 15 to 20 minutes until lightly browned.
2. Cool. Using a fork, remove the garlic pulp from the skin and mash pulp. Discard skins and set garlic aside.
3. In a medium skillet, cook the bacon until crisp. Drain the bacon, reserving a tablespoon of drippings. Crumble bacon and set aside.
4. In a medium bowl, whisk together the mayonnaise, sour cream, and buttermilk until smooth.
5. Whisk in the garlic, salad dressing mix, reserved bacon drippings, lemon juice, vinegar, and black pepper. Whisk well. Cover and refrigerate until serving time.

To assemble salad:

Line serving platter with spinach and red cabbage. Arrange orange slices and mushroom slices on spinach mixture. Garnish with red onion rings and crumbled bacon. Serve with dressing in a decanter on the side. **Note:** Roasted garlic is available in a jar, but it does not have the depth of flavor as roasting the garlic yourself. If you use garlic frequently, purchase a whole head of garlic and roast it. You can squeeze the garlic right out of the skins and use it for other dishes.

I found an article on the internet that caught my eye with the title; 13 Foods Never To Put In A Slow Cooker. I would not be surprised if people did try to cook these in a slow cooker, but common knowledge of time and temperature rules should stop them. Green veggies, fresh herbs, pasta, beans, and rice will become mush if cooked for an extended amount of time. So would seafood, couscous, and bacon. As for alcohol, it will not cook out and your food will taste like cheap booze, your dairy will curdle and you cannot cook eggs overnight and expect hardboiled eggs. That leaves, frozen food, and skinless boneless chicken breasts. Frozen food will lower the temperature of the cooker and throw off the cooking time. The meat could be in the temperature danger zone for too long and cause problems. The meat and the chicken cooked slow, for a long period will become stringy, and dried out. Remember the name of the appliance is Slow Cooker. Some foods do not hold up to long low temperature cooking.



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Patricia Killough

Please send Patricia your family birthdays, anniversaries and weddings to alabamagazette@gmail.com

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



Have a Blessed & Happy New Year!!!
From the Killough Family

Baby Shower honoring baby Joseph Warner



A baby shower honoring Mrs. Haley King and baby Joseph Warner was held on Sunday, December 9, 2018 in the home of Tammy Campbell. The shower was hosted by Susan Holmes, Jackie Moseley, Tammy Campbell and Sonya Carver.

Joseph Warner arrived on December 27, 2018. He is the son of Branon and Haley Boyd King and brother to Hudson King. He weighed 6 lb.14 oz and was 20.5 inches long. Joseph Warner is the grandson of Bobby and Mickey Ann Boyd of Sprague and Tony and Dore King. He is the great grandson of Margaret and the late Warner Boyd of Sprague and Susan and Mickey Holmes.

Happy 90th Birthday & Retirement



George Jones celebrated his 90th birthday on December 10, 2018. George has been a long time vendor at the Montgomery Curb Market on Madison Avenue in Montgomery. He is pictured here with his good friend Mary Waites. He retired before Christmas and they will be greatly missed at the market.

Home Town Community News

January Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Steve Campbell | Ester Covington |
| Butch Metcalf | 16 Ann Takacs |
| 2 Velita McFarland (91st) | 17 Randy Childs |
| 3 Ben Davis | Toni Grimes |
| 4 Morgan Boone | Charlene McClanahan |
| 5 Jan Johnson | Bill Northington |
| Barbara Harrington | 18 Carly Madison Ellis |
| Linda Perdue (64th) | Joshua C. Kyser (7th) |
| Obie Russell (104th) | Joy Fleming |
| 6 Judy Norman | Leslie Garvin |
| Jackson Rice | Laura Hester |
| Elizabeth Robison | Johnny Hassett |
| 7 Nicole Windham | 19 Kaybee Hobbs |
| Will Woodall | Gina Hunt |
| Tim Pierce | Connie Bush |
| Danny Bush | Sammy Turner |
| 8 Joshua Nix (20th) | 20 Caleb Campbell |
| Betty Chesnutt (93rd) | Dr. Charles Cloutier |
| Sam Cassels | Taylor Campbell |
| Burks Crane | Alyssa Spivey |
| Marilyn Evans | Randy Kelly |
| Mary Ellen Millis | 21 Tonya Cooley |
| Scott Mills | Cory Griffin |
| Trey Norris | Jane Russell |
| Gwen Pearson (90th) | Julio Vazquez |
| Sarah Morgan Smith (15th) | Elizabeth Phibbs |
| Blake Webb | 22 Kayla Cook |
| Brett Tolerson | Jonathan Aplin |
| 9 Bobby Mills | Tim Wilsford |
| Brittany Mitchell | 23 Pam Higgins |
| Megan St. Clair Stewart | Jason Selvage |
| Edna Hargrove | Ridge Newell |
| 11 Jim Aro | Bernice Bryant |
| Liz Klauss | 24 Donna Gail Andersen |
| Sue Woodall (79th) | Tina Campbell |
| 12 Corey Campbell | Anne Pinkston |
| Carson Lane Abbott | 25 Katie Scarlett Boyd (9th) |
| Liz Braswell | Susan Crawford |
| Brenda Moseley | Mary Beth Wadsden |
| Clarice Caldwell | Ellen Robbins |
| James Barton | 26 Mary Price |
| 13 Theresa Henderson | Mack Terrell |
| Shirley Kirksey Jones | 27 Sophie Boyd |
| T. J. Mills | 28 Baleigh Windham |
| Bob Maddox | Darrell Self |
| Joe Thomas (91st) | 29 Kim Kelley |
| 14 Tiffany Andrews | 30 Wanda Horsley |
| John Black | Betty Jones |
| John T. Killough (70th) | Doris Miller |
| Doug Young | Betty Ann Russell |
| 15 Jennifer Williams | 31 Will Garrett |
| Hayden Kelly | Hannah Johnson |
| John McClelland | |

Happy Anniversary

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| January 1 John & Greatha Findley (71st) | January 18 Raymond & Ann Tucker |
| January 6 Jim & Beth Maxwell | January 20 John & Donna Russell |
| January 8 Fred & Nancy Setzer | January 21 Don & Gwen Guthrie (62nd) |
| January 11 Reneau & Virginia Gates | January 22 Bob & Betty Crowe |
| Ralph & Jessie Southern (71st) | January 23 Jeff & Nancy Beale |
| January 12 Frank & Colleen Rutland | George & Sherry McCulley |
| January 14 Mike & Debbie Green (33rd) | |

Gazette's Sympathy to the families of...

Betts, Cynthia Jo Dyer (68)died November 24, 2018
Rosier, Mary Lillian Shirley (95).....died November 30, 2018
Cooper, Oliver "Glenn"died December 7, 2018
Love, Rev. James Neal (88)died December 8, 2018
Neeley, Elizabeth "Beth" (59).....died December 9, 2018
Taunton, Bobbie Bonner (82)died December 9, 2018
Johnson, Edith Marie O'Dell (95).....died December 12, 2018
Gregory, Robert Clinedied December 12, 2018
Byrd, James "Jim" A. (80)died December 14, 2018
McKinley, Lawrence Jackson "Jack" (93).....died December 16, 2018
Howell, Leslie (92)died December 20, 2018
Dunn, Betty Jean (74).....died December 21, 2018
Parham, Linda Reaves (74)died December 26, 2018
Smith, Janet "Janna" Lee (47).....died December 26, 2018
Athey, Mildred Reddoch (101).....died December 27, 2018
Durham, Sr., John Davis (98).....died December 28, 2018
Owens, Elsie Tatum (92).....died December 29, 2018

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In Memory Of

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James Willis Daniel - December 3, 2018
Kenneth Otis Mezick - December 3, 2018
Dennis Lee "Denny" Van Wagner - December 4, 2018
Terry Lynn Gantt - December 5, 2018
Timothy Payne "Tim" Butts - December 6, 2018
Beverly Jean McDermott - December 8, 2018
Edna Lewis Sanford - December 9, 2018
Paula Ann "Patsy" Manasco - December 10, 2018
Isabel Esther Jacobs - December 10, 2018
Sandra Lee Swanner - December 13, 2018
Dewitt Gilley - December 13, 2018
Bernadette Wynne Nickson - December 16, 2018
Raymond Michael Scanlon - December 16, 2018
Michael Wayne Darnell - December 17, 2018
Ola Mae Pouncy - December 18, 2018
Richard Clark Douthit - December 18, 2018
Robert Lee Cotter - December 19, 2018
Tommy Ray Clark - December 22, 2018
George Kenner Jones - December 23, 2018
Pamela Gayle Cotter - December 24, 2018
Ricky Kyle Strouse - December 24, 2018
Kenneth Ray James - December 28, 2018
Annie Laura Hodnett - December 30, 2018
Warren Hal Adams - December 31, 2018

TODAY'S WOMAN

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



Years and Laughter:

We’ve got to get sober about suicide

By Amanda Walker

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a report last month announcing that for the third consecutive year the life expectancy of Americans is dropping.

Another statistic that emerged from the report was the fact that more Americans died last year than any other year since such findings started being counted – over a hundred years ago. That alone is disturbing, but if you consider why this is happening it becomes even more concerning.

The reason so many of us are dying and the reason life expectancy in America is dropping is because of drug overdoses and suicides. It isn’t elderly people who have lived full, productive lives that are passing away. It is young and middle-aged men and women in the 25 to 54 age range who are giving in and giving up.

There are three main forms of opioids that are causing overdoses – prescription medication, heroin, and fentanyl. The suicide rate is up 33 percent since 2016.

We have a church on every corner in most towns. Even in rural areas there is a church every few miles. You might not roll by a gas station or find a bucket of chicken, but you can find a church. Yet people have no hope.

And the CDC didn’t follow their report up with a pep talk. They didn’t say if we can make it through December they expect next year to be better. In fact they said the opposite. They expect the trend to continue.

I want to appeal to all of the missionary groups that go down to villages in South America and give out Bibles and buy their little trinkets and wares...that’s awesome. That is really commendable. But I humbly ask you to turn a portion of your attention more towards home. There may not be any unnamed tribes roaming around mostly naked in any of our National Forests, but it seems America may be in need of a little Jesus.

Every life that is snuffed out because of an overdose or is intentionally taken affects another realm of sons, and daughters, and loved ones. There are very few families at this point that have not been touched by drugs or suicide...or both.

Directly beneath the tier of those struggling with opioid addiction and suffering from extreme despair, is another tier of people who are one disappointment or set back from advancing. Consider the people who are relying on something to get them through already – it may not be an opioid, but a substance or drug of some sort, or alcohol – and a number of others who are trying through any means necessary to manage depression. So many people are looking for a way to escape the pressure of life for a little while.

In researching for this column, I kept looking for a solution. I could see the facts, all of the findings, and the reasons why the statistics are as they are. People are struggling to keep up financially and socially. People feel like they are on hamster wheels – they are running with all they’ve got trying to keep up, or catch up, and never progressing, just spinning.

The CDC offered no solution. There is no quick fix. No vaccine. They simply stated that overdose awareness is necessary, and that suicide has to be treated as a public health issue.

I’m worried about us...check on the people you love.

Amanda Walker is a contributor with AL.com, Selma Times Journal, Thomasville Times, West Alabama Watchman, Alabama Gazette, and the Wilcox Progressive Era. Contact her at Walkerworld77@msn.com or at <https://www.facebook.com/AmandaWalker.Columnist>.



Judge Peggy Givhan

Southern Gardening

Potpourri for January

by Peggy Givhan

Hip. Hip. Hurrah...a brand new year is before us and I suspect we can look back and find plenty of New Years' resolutions in the offing. With the Christmas trees disposed of and decorations nestled in boxes and sacks, there is much time to reflect, not only on our lives, but on garden improvements. It is always good to assess our lives as to what can be improved upon, and the same reflection can be utilized for the garden scene. I, for one, had gotten lazy about cleaning trowels, spades, and other garden tools before putting them up for the winter. We wash them in soapy water or a light Clorox solution (ratio of 1 part bleach to 3 parts water) so that fungus spores, and other pests, such as spider mite eggs and aphids, will not be hold over to re infect the garden soil this next year. It is always good to start with a clean slate.

For those who start seedlings indoors or in green houses during the dormant season, we can avoid disasters such as damping-off of stems, and stem rot.

Damping-off and Stem Rot

Seedlings that blacken at the bases, unable to support the seedling, will fall over-dead a sure thing. It appears strange as the foliage and stems are green before the plant collapses. These lesions at the soil surface are inconspicuous at first, then girdle the plant. Damping-off is caused by fungi which dwells in the soil and can infect the seed before it germinates or can be caused by poor maintenance of the seed beds. One solution is to have the seed sown in well drained fresh potting soil, and to thin the seedling to prevent overcrowding. One of the best sowing mixes includes vermiculite, perlite, and peat with some sphagnum moss. Another tip is to always water the seed trays or pots by setting them in water. Do not over water and give the seedlings plenty of air which will carry away the excess moisture. When thinning, use a scissors to cut them off at the ground instead of pulling them out which could damage roots. Also, avoid too much nitrogen since it causes lank, weak growth. Stem rot, is caused by a soil born fungus and also attacks the plant at the base. One sees this fatal condition usually in grown plants such as Impatiens, where the leaves turn yellow, then the plant will wilt and die. The bacteria causing this problem is Pseudomonas solanacearum and mainly soil born. It is best to remove any sickly plants, avoid overwatering, and overcrowding. If you want to salvage this mess and root the plants, slice off the healthy tops, and plant in rooting soil or water. Then discard the diseased plant and remove it from the garden area. Please remember to not compost diseased plants.

Birds in your garden can help gobble up many pests, so it is smart to feed them



*Trisston Wright Burrows
Ms.Wheelchair Americal
Alabama 2005*

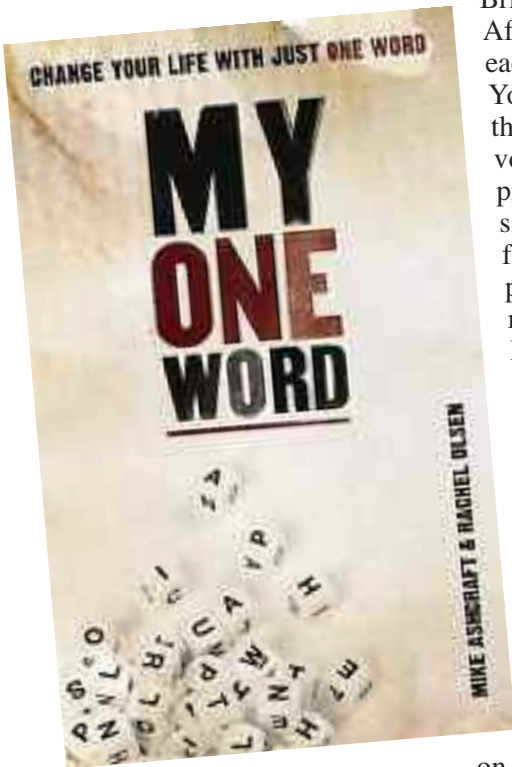
Trisston’s Tidbits...

“Just One Word”

*By: Trisston Wright Burrows
www.trisstonwrightburrows.com*

WOW! Can you believe another twelve months have come and gone? Happy New Year! In December 2017, my husband, Brian, and I had the awesome opportunity to attend a leadership conference at our church. Dr. John Maxwell was the speaker. During the course of his talk, Dr. Maxwell made mention of his end of year and beginning of year routine.... instead of making New Year’s resolutions, he picks just one word.

“Oh that my ways would be established on order to keep you word.”
Psalm 119:5



Brian and I thought it was a great idea! After all, if you’re like most people, each January goes something like this: You choose a problematic behavior that has plagued you for years and vow to reverse it. In fact, you can probably think of two or three undesirable habits...make that four or five. Then, begins the litany of imperfections to be perfected commonly known as “New Year’s Resolutions.” All of which are typically off your radar by February. “My One Word” is an experiment designed to move you beyond this cycle. The challenge is simple: lose the long list of changes you want to make this year and instead pick ONE WORD. This process provides clarity by taking all your big plans for life change and narrowing them down into a single focus. Just one word that centers on your character and creates a vision for your future.

The book **“My One Word”** by Mike Ashcraft and Rachel Olsen helps you find lasting change by spending an entire year focusing on just one word that represents what you most hope God will do in you. If you are interested, I encourage you to check out the website, www.myoneword.org.

As I mentioned in an article several months ago, Brian and I lead a Small Group this past Summer using this very book and concept. We, also, just wrapped up the Fall Small Group Semester of “My One Word”. What a blessing it is to have opportunities to share and grow with other believers!

So, I invite you to join us and pick one word for the next twelve months. After all, wouldn’t it be great to do something about one thing this year instead of nothing about everything?!?!

Many Blessings!

when food is scarce. Just a little information below gives one the common bird types we see in our area, and their favorite insects or pests:

1. Bluejays---cut worms
2. Black birds--cut worms
3. Chickadees--aphids, Colorado potato beetles, flea beetles, and leafminers
4. Purple finches--aphids Colorado potato beetles, cucumber beetles, flea beetles, leafhoppers, and leafminers
5. Robins--Cabbage loopers, Colorado potato beetles, cutworms, leafminers, and slugs
6. Sparrows--Cabbage loopers, cucumber beetles, cutworms and leafhoppers
7. Starlings--Cabbage loopers, imported cabbageworm, and Japanese beetles
8. Warblers--Aphids, cucumber beetles, and flea beetles
9. Wrens--Cutworms, and leafhoppers.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR AND
GOOD GARDENING.**



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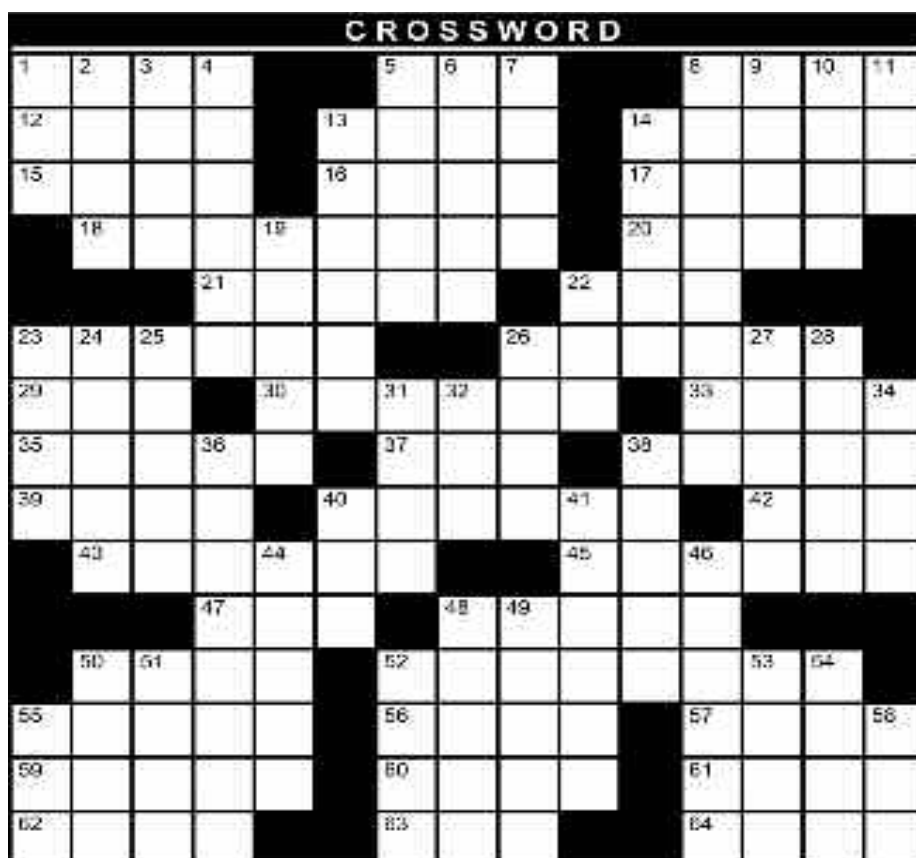
THEME: WINTER FUN

ACROSS

1. Most populous continent
5. Mayan language
8. *Bumpy winter transport
12. Spiritual leader
13. Ledger entry
14. In a cold manner
15. Deodorant's target
16. African chieftain
17. Asiatic wild dog
18. *Used in fun winter fights
20. Overnight lodgings
21. *Whoville's ____ beast
22. Tropical constrictor
23. E.B. White's Little
26. What siren does
29. Not a thing
30. Bear the expenses of
33. Between larva and adult
35. In a fitting way
37. Neighbor of Ger.
38. Up and about
39. Unadulterated
40. Excessive protection
42. Middle-earth creature
43. No balance due
45. *Winter Gathering spot
47. Resident uncle?
48. Diarist Anne
50. *Christmas pudding raisin
52. *Done with #8 Across
55. "Fahrenheit 9/11" filmmaker
56. *The stump of a ____ he held tight in his teeth..."
57. Pout
59. Machu Picchu mountains
60. Snaky swimmers
61. Wild swine

DOWN

1. Gone by
2. Wash froth
3. Fe
4. Light display
5. Cass Elliot and Michelle Phillips
6. Like a crooked kilt?
7. Lime-rich soil
8. *Hot chocolate add-on
9. One with biggest share
10. Olden-day elbow-related measurement, pl.
11. Do after tie
13. Formal discussion
14. "Bite the bullet," e.g.
19. Verbose
22. Beyoncé, a.k.a. Queen ____
23. Finger move
24. *Angler's accessory
25. U in UV
26. Uber alternative
27. Your own teacher
28. Sudden stream
31. Box office failure
32. *Hot Buttered ____
34. St. Louis monument
36. Time for relaxation, pl.
38. Change, as in U.S. Constitution
40. "____'s the word"
41. Grey's fifty
44. Female sirs
46. Hands on hips
48. Marketing give-away
49. Email option
50. *Hockey turf
51. Ore deposit



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52. Expel
53. E-reader brand
54. ____ gum on a list of ingredients

55. Zedong of China
58. Major time period

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BOX SCRABBLE WORDS

dsegenl

3A

poaclieps

1B

lktpocu

6B

niamre

4A

ntevraieo

1B

uporitopr

9B

tuanhb

8A

dremceai

5B

aictpol

10B

Win
\$25

All Box Scrambled words appear in this issue of the
Gazette. Unscramble the words above.

Email your answers to us! Your name will be in a
drawing January to receive the \$25.

Please include your contact information.

Winner will be announced in the next issue.

Box Scrabble Words December Winner!

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Cindy Skipworth

Crossword Answers

