



January 20, 2017 Donald Trump becomes America's 45th President



THE TIDE ROLLED IN 2016! STILL THE BEST IN THE NATION!

Look inside for these thought provoking articles!

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Do I need to think about any legal issues for the New Year?



Without specifics about yourself I'll make this answer generic in a personal and in a business sense.

I'm presume you looked at your financial estate planning (401k, mutual funds, stocks and bonds, life insurance, etc) and as you do you also think about your legal estate planning. After all you are a year older; you may have gotten married, had a new child, had a child reach the age of majority (19 years), gotten

Ronald A. Holtsford

divorced or suffered the death of a spouse or even a child. You may have a child graduate, enter the workforce and be off your payroll. Your **financial estate planning** goes hand in hand with your legal estate planning and you should discuss that with your lawyer, not that he or she will try to advise you on whether your investment advisor is steering you correctly but rather the impact of your financial worth on your legal estate. For 2017 you can still give up to \$14,000.00 to a person as a gift (child, grandchild, etc.) and not have to file a Gift Tax return or up to \$28,000 to a person if both you and your spouse gift to the same person once per year. This is unchanged from the last few years. There is a lifetime jump of generation skipping tax limits to \$5.49 million from \$5.45 million in 2016. There may be a tax advantage for the wealthy in that and if this seems to be something that might be helpful to your financial planning you should seek the advice of an accountant or other tax/ financial professional (may include a tax attorney).

For 2017, there is a \$5,490,000.00 total estate tax exemption per individual (if you die within 2017). Prior years for the most part have smaller exempt amounts. Spouses can now combine their unused estate credit amounts up to a total of \$10.98 million. Estate tax is portable in that the remaining exempt estates can be combined but are not portable as far as Generation Skipping Tax is concerned. Remember that life insurance is considered for estate tax purposes if you have control over the policy (i.e. ability to change the beneficiaries, cancel the policy, etc). Some individuals have large insurance policies so its not in-conceivable for high middle class people to have an estate over \$5.49 million dollars or even \$10.98 million as a couple. If you die with an estate of greater than \$5.49 million then that amount over \$5.45 million is taxed at 40%.

With that said you need to pull out your **Last Will and Testament** and review it. If you have had any life changes (marriage, divorce, death, large inheritance, new child, etc.) a new Will may be in order. If you don't have a Last Will and Testament you need to have a lawyer prepare one as soon as possible. Why do you need one, because if you don't then the State of Alabama has one for you. Some of the spousal examples under the rules of intestacy (dying without a Will); **(1) first \$100,000 to spouse and then 1/2 of the remaining estate to the living parent(s) when there are no children, (2) if children then the spouse gets \$50,000 and 1/2 of the rest, (3) if one or more of the children are not yours then the surviving spouse only gets half of everything, period.** This is probably not the estate plan you have in mind. There are internet sites and software programs that can also assist with a Last Will and Testament but there is no guarantee that it will pass muster regarding state rules on probate nor a guarantee that it will do what you want upon your death. The best chance of meeting estate goals is through a lawyer and if you are of moderate means, you may be surprised that it is less expensive than you think. In the long run a Will may save money since an intestate estate when probated requires the bonding of the Personal Representative and an inventory of the decedent's estate.

Aside from the Last Will and Testament you may want to have a **Power of Attorney** prepared. Most prepared these days are durable which require wording that the power of attorney is effective even in your disability or incapacity. Powers of Attorney became a statutory form as of 1 January 2012. Most attorneys have concerns about the filling in the blank and initialing choices format and most now insert tried and true language used in their practices for their many years. A Power of Attorney is now by default a Durable power; however I insert the needed language anyway to make sure that there are no questions about it's durability. A Power of Attorney (POA) can be very powerful and placed in the wrong hands can be damaging such as a daughter that is named **AGENT** and decides to sell your lake house and push you towards moving to an assisted living facility. On the other hand, naming a trusted AGENT and retaining the POA for future needs can be extremely beneficial. The POA can be used so that someone can write your bills for you during incapacity, file your taxes and with health/ Health Insurance Portability and Privacy Act (HIPAA) provisions monitor your care with the doctors and hospital as well as handle medical insurance billing. The POA may also be used to name whom you would want as a conservator or guardian should one need to be named for you through a Court proceeding.

The final personal document would be an **Advance Directive for Health Care**, which is composed of a Living Will and Health Care Proxy nomination. It will allow you to make certain decisions about end of life issues should you later become unable to speak for yourself and two doctors have determined that you will likely die in the near future. This is the document that Terri Schiavo DID NOT have and for that reason the court found the testimony of the "husband" who was then living with another woman to be credible as to Terri's final wishes. Hmmmmm. **Naming a Health Care Proxy** is the same as naming a health care power-of-attorney such as under a POA. The proxy is given limited rights under which situations that they can make decisions. And by the way, the ex-spouse automatically loses that job as proxy upon divorce. That's dodging a bullet!

If retirement is nearing and you will also receive Social Security consider that the **2017 Medicare Part B will be about \$109.00 per month for 70% of seniors.** However, the other 30% Medicare Part B beneficiaries not subject to the "hold harmless" provision include beneficiaries who do not receive Social Security benefits, those who enroll in Part B for the first time in 2017, those who are directly billed for their Part B premium, those who are dually eligible for Medicaid and have their premium paid by state Medicaid agencies, and those who pay an income-related premium. That group will pay \$134.00 per month if their income is less than \$85,000 or a joint return less than \$170,000. From \$170,000- \$214,000 the monthly amount is \$187.50 per month per person and it goes up with greater incomes.

The Part B premium goes up with various income levels. There is a \$183.00 (2016 was \$166) Part B deductible for the year. If you need nursing home (skilled nursing) care under Part A, days 1-20 are fully covered provided you continue to meet Medicare's requirements for those days; the co-payment for days 21-100 (if you qualify) will be \$164.50 per day (\$161.00 per day in 2016). After day 100 you are 100% on your own unless you have some other means of long term care payment. If you have not already checked on long term health care insurance you should do so now. It not only will cover nursing home care but can also cover assisted living or in home care. If you consider this insurance also look carefully at the options since they may be equally as important as the policy itself. This includes inflation increases which are very important or even the option of continued coverage for a certain amount of time when one with "forgetfulness" forgets to pay the premium.

If you do not have health care you need to check into what is available under the **Affordable Health Care Act** (Obamacare), not only to have health care in place in case you do not have but also if you recently lost your coverage. Failure to have health care can result in fines and penalties, increasing year after year. Older Americans may be eligible both for Medicare and Medicaid and impoverished Americans may be Medicaid eligible when they cannot afford premiums under Obamacare and some Americans eligible for insurance from the market place with subsidized premiums.

If you are currently in business or considering a business what about entity? A sole proprietorship offers pass through taxation but no limited liability. Your personal and business assets are at risk in a law suit. A **Limited Liability Company (LLC) or a Registered Limited Liability Partnership (RLLP or LLP)** offers the same pass through tax advantages as well as limited liability. A "C" corporation offers the same limited liability but there is taxation on the corporation and taxation on the shareholders. If you are in one of these entities and about \$80,000.00 plus salary talk to your accountant about the possibility of an "S" corporation election.

It has pass through taxation and limited liability but also may have some self-employment tax advantages since some of the income can be paid to a shareholder- employee as a profit distribution. The Internal Revenue Service, however looks for Shareholder- Employees that pay themselves substandard salaries for their position in order that they can take more from the company as a distribution and save more on Self Employment taxes. The IRS will consider a reasonable income based on IRS summarized factors considered by a Court case from the Eighth Circuit which advised shareholders to give them careful consideration in establishing their compensation. The factors are:

- (1) **Employee qualifications;**
- (2) **The nature, extent, and scope of the employee's work;**
- (3) **The size and complexity of the business;**
- (4) **Prevailing general economic conditions;**
- (5) **The employee's compensation as a percentage of gross and net income;**
- (6) **The employee-shareholder's compensation compared with distributions to shareholders;**
- (7) **The employee-shareholder's compensation compared with that to non-shareholder employees or paid in prior years;**
- (8) **Prevailing rates of compensation for comparable positions in comparable concerns; and**
- (9) **Comparison of compensation paid to a particular shareholder-employee in previous years where the corporation has a limited number of officers.**

An "S" Corporation election only exists through the IRS and has specific requirements. So you can be an existing LLC, C Corporation, etc. but elect via the IRS as an "S" Corporation. Ask your accountant about whether it is right for your business.

I hope that this has helped with your question. If you need a lawyer you can contact the Alabama State Bar Lawyer Referral service or ask a trusted friend about a lawyer that they might recommend.

This article is informative only and not meant to be all inclusive. Additionally this article does not serve as legal advice to the reader and does not constitute an attorney- client relationship. The reader should seek counsel from their attorney should any questions exist.

"No representation is made that the quality of legal services performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers."

Mailing address:
Ronald A. Holtsford, Esq.
Ronald A. Holtsford, LLC
7956 Vaughn Road, Box #124
Montgomery, AL 36116
(334) 220-3700
raholtsford@aol.com

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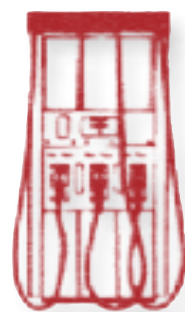
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ROBSERVATIONS . . . by Robert Tate

WELCOME TO THE MAD DOG!!

Today every other man (and still more so during war-time) is an amateur strategist and tactician; the House of Commons is full of such folk. No politician would be considered sane if he told a chemist or an astronomer what to do, but he considers it his right to tell the soldier, sailor, and airman what to do, and even how to do it; and if his words are not based on a true understanding of war they are based on a false understanding, for there can be no middle course.

J.F.C. Fuller

Did you hear that sound a couple of weeks ago? It was the deafening rush of air as millions of liberal heads exploded after President elect Trump selected Marine Corps **General James "Mad Dog" Mattis** to be his Secretary of Defense. It appears we are finally going to get a Secretary of Defense whose main objective is the destruction of enemies to our democracy instead of social engineering ideas like transgender sexual reassignment surgeries being paid for by the DoD.

But of course, no matter how well qualified he may be for the job, there is a line of people standing behind the woodshed ready to oppose him. Congressman Rubeen Gallego from Arizona, a former Marine is one of several. There is a current law that states that a military man must be out of service for 7 years before he can hold such a position. Although Senator John McCain has stated that he will draft a proposal to give an exception for Mattis, Gallego stands to oppose it. As a former Marine, he respects Mattis' service but believes the rule should remain in place. Senatorial hack and social engineering loser Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) also stands to block the nomination. As a leading member of the Arms Services Committee you would expect her to be smarter; but she claims that the military needs to "be run by a civilian." Well, here is a two-pronged look at her stupidity. First, and rightfully so, the military IS run by a civilian. That civilian is called the President of the United States. Duh. Secondly, if she is referring to Mattis, guess what? He is indeed a civilian. He is not in the military anymore but has been out less than the seven year minimum.

I find it funny how people like her, sheltered from reality, continually show us who and what they really are. In effect, she is purporting that no military person should serve in the highest levels of government and that we should be content and happy with the dismal failures of men like Ash Carter. One of the reasons Mattis was fired by President Obama was that many of the civilians surrounding him were uncomfortable with his directness and his constant questioning of their idiotic actions. Heaven forbid there is a person in the room who asks questions about strategies, objectives, centers of gravity, mission statements, measures of effectiveness and second, third and fourth order

consequences to current actions. Just those things military personnel at Mattis' level are infinitely familiar with in terms of planning and execution.

And the fact that many civilians hate his directness is funny. Imagine having someone in a leadership position who is not restrained or constrained by political correctness. **Below are some of my favorite "Mad Dog" Mattis quotes:**

- "The most important six inches on the battlefield is between your ears."
- "PowerPoint makes us stupid."
- "If in order to kill the enemy you have to kill an innocent, don't take the shot. Don't create more enemies than you take out by some immoral act."
- "You cannot allow any of your people to avoid the brutal facts. If they start living in a dream world, it's going to be bad."
- "I don't lose any sleep at night over the potential for failure. I cannot even spell the word."
- "There are hunters and there are victims. By your discipline, you will decide if you are a hunter or a victim."
- "I come in peace. I didn't bring artillery. But I'm pleading with you, with tears in my eyes: If you ---- with me, I'll kill you all."
- "Be polite, be professional, but have a plan to kill everybody you meet."
- "The first time you blow someone away is not an insignificant event."
- "No war is over until the enemy says it's over. We may think it over, we may declare it over, but in fact, the enemy gets a vote."
- "Demonstrate to the world there is 'No Better Friend, No Worse Enemy' than a U.S. Marine."
- "It is mostly a matter of will. Whose will is going to break first? Ours or the enemy's?"

Yeah, pretty direct. Reminds me a lot of George S. Patton who was a supreme warrior but clearly no politician. That would be my biggest concern of Mattis who is incredibly well read, intelligent and a man whose entire life has been dedicated to serving this country. And thus far, everything I have read about him is indicative of a man who will do well in the job of SECDEF.

Just one more thing about the type of man Mattis is. After his retirement from the Marines the 41 year vet hopped into his car and drove a zig-zag course cross country visiting many families of the Marines who died while under his command. He personally hand wrote letters to every family of his fallen Marines. Here is a man who leads by example and is an example almost all of our politicians can look toward instead of trying to do nothing but enrich their own bank accounts.

As for me, I am willing to give the man a chance. It tells me something when countries like Iran oppose him because they see their bullying ways coming to an end. Days of rules of engagement that get our people killed and threatening acts against our forces are allowed to continue unchallenged will soon go away. That I like. Mattis, like Patton, knows the value of negotiations through strength. Let's see what happens.

God have mercy on my enemies, because I won't.

General George S. Patton



Marcia Chambliss



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Teachable Moments

One of my major concerns with politics has been our increasing obsession with political personalities rather than the legitimate debate of issues, and this last election has done little to dispel that uneasiness. In our soundbite media culture, personalities are far more interesting and entertaining than policy, and they more easily influence voters. Details in legislation are boring and too deep into the minutiae or legalese for the average American to even want to understand, and the abundance of policy issues and information overwhelms even the most dedicated activists amongst us.

Fortunately, there is an excellent online resource available from **Prager University**, an online conservative think tank, that drills down many of the complex issues that we face as a nation into logical but brief, issue-based videos that can be easily shared via social media. While PragerU is not a university per se and degrees aren't offered, the information available pertaining to current issues is a valuable tool in our constant battle to inform and dispel lies regarding conservative principles. These animated videos are designed to help viewers rediscover the founding ideologies of our nation, and attempt to reverse the trend in education to demonize American traditions and values.

If you haven't seen these videos appear in your social media feeds, I highly recommend that you visit the PragerU website, www.prageru.com, to view the topics they cover. The 5-minute (or less) videos are relevant to economics, foreign affairs, our nation's history, environmental concerns, and religious liberty.

Online traffic to the site has experienced phenomenal growth over the last four years, and I imagine they had no idea that one of their videos produced in May 2015 would have garnered as much interest as it did after the presidential election. Have you struggled to explain to family and friends on the left why the Electoral College is still relevant today? Watch PragerU's Electoral College video and you'll

be armed with the facts you need to dismiss the left's emotional rhetoric we've witnessed since Election Day.

If we hope to engage in convincing conversations with those who do not share our conservative ideology, we must do so with cogent facts instead of emotional ranting which only creates more division. The creep of liberalism has filled our classrooms for decades, particularly at the college level, and we simply cannot expect that those ideas will be easy to eradicate. Competing talking points from FOX News and MSNBC do little to encourage serious dialogue, and as soon as you mention either source, battle lines are drawn and that's why I'm of the belief that these short videos offer a far greater opportunity of sharing conservative values.

A friend recently posted on Facebook that whenever she suggests that we are in the midst of numerous **"teachable moments,"** she is met with scoffing from her fellow conservative friends who maintain that liberals can't be taught because they don't want to learn. She calls out that attitude as rude and essentially lazy "evangelism" because those of us on the right won't survive by simply breeding and teaching our own children. We must constantly seek to convert those who have been fed the liberal doctrine by listening and consistently refuting their arguments, not by name-calling even as we are met with similar insults from the left. Do you think my friend is naive? I might agree except for the fact that she was once a hard-core liberal who now embraces conservative principles from someone willing to take the time to teach instead of writing her off as a hopeless cause.

As we enter this New Year filled with our reflections on the past and our goals for 2017, let's resolve to be more open to the increase of our knowledge instead of resorting to a litany of partisan talking points. The consistent use of that knowledge in discussing issues and countering with facts rather than ranting about personalities is surely more productive in our quest for a more limited government and increased liberty for all.

Marcia Chambliss serves on the leadership team of Smart Girl Politics, www.smartgirlpolitics.com, an online community for conservative women. She can be reached at: montgomerysmartgirls@gmail.com. Her views do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Smart Girl Politics.

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Owner/Publisher
Managing Editor
Loretta Grant

Marie Hudson ~ Layout, Office

Hazel Harsey ~ Accounting

www.alabamagazette.com
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Contributing Writers:

Bobbie Ames
Dr. John Bitter
Michael Brooks
Trisston Burrows
Marcia Chambliss
Sheriff Derrick Cunningham
Steve Flowers
Judge Peggy Givhan
Ronald Holtsford
Ed Jones
Patricia Killough
Steve Long
Dr. Rick Marshall
John Martin
Kyllé McKinney
Sheriff Joe Sedinger
John Sophocleus
David Spooner
Robert Tate
Ron VanHerwyn

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John Sophocleus

THINK



Secretary Merrill's Grasping for Straws - one day per violation



Jim Little's *Opelika-Auburn News* [11/21/16] article entitled, **Judge declares signature requirement unconstitutional for short special elections** asserted, "Future Alabama special elections will have to take into account a recent federal court ruling to allow third-party or independent candidates time to collect signatures to get on the ballot." Judge Myron Thompson (no champion of citizens' and voters' civil rights) September 30 federal court ruling determined Alabama's signature requirement for third-party and independent candidates unconstitutional. Ignoring this finding against our State's unreasonable (anti-competitive) ballot access laws, our Secretary of State continued the office's tradition of violating these civil rights when installing felon Hubbard's anointed replacement, namely candidate "Fireman Joe" Lovvorn to his District 79 seat by eliminating an election.

Mr. Little cited Gage Fenwick, who tried to run as a Libertarian candidate for House District 79 calling upon Secretary Merrill to rescind the certification of Lovvorn to House District 79 without an election in light of the court ruling. Fenwick submitted more than 300 signatures to the Secretary of State's office Sept. 13 (the day set for Party primaries) but little surprise the office found Fenwick short of the necessary 300 minimum signatures - as our corrupt public servants in Lee County found candidate Busby short of signatures, after a long delay, to protect one of their own from competition. No Democratic candidate qualified for the race. "Merrill could have still held the election and allowed a write-in campaign; however, he decided he would rather continue the corruption in Montgomery preventing another option for the voters," Fenwick said in a press release. "Only 12 percent of registered voters participated in the Republican primary."

Merrill made it clear his installment of Lovvorn without an election will remain the House District 79 representative for the remainder of this quadrennial. I'm glad Mr. Little included his most hubristic quote, "(Fenwick) didn't meet the threshold to get on the ballot," Merrill said. "... He can keep grasping for straws, but there's not going to be an opportunity for him to serve unless he chooses to be a candidate in 2018 and run for the seat when it's open again." So another BCA minion is installed on Goat Hill with only 4.2% of eligible voters under this corrupt outcome.

The December 2013 special election to replace US Representative Jo Bonner (1st Dist.) triggered the litigation where James Hall ran as an independent candidate but failed to obtain the 5,938 (3%) signatures in the 56 days available to collect signatures after announcement of this special election. "It was going to boil down to a Republican party (candidate), and I just didn't feel like any of those candidates represented the people that I represent." Hall told the *O-A News*. "It was a big decision for me, but that's why I ran as an independent. I felt like we needed an independent voice."

No surprise the case took almost three years to make its way through court given the poor stewardship of the East Middle District federal courts I've observed. Mr. Little further reported, "The Secretary of State's office was ordered to pay Hall's court cost, but Myron left enforcement of the ruling up to Merrill's office. Merrill sent a letter to Governor Robert Bentley's office with an updated calendar for a special election that allows for 57 days from when a special election is called to the day when a petition submitted. The 57-day calendar will allow the state to meet Myron's ruling and keep the 3 percent requirement in place, Merrill said in the letter. There were 88 days from the day the special election was announced to the day of the primary in the House District 79 race."

Behold the duopoly in action - another stall to keep competitors out violating our civil rights and leave enforcement to a Secretary who's shown he'll continue to the tradition. So with Secretaries we've had this century and the one day increment increase for every litigant who can survive Thompson stalls it will take about 31 more special election violation decisions for Mr. Fenwick's civil rights to be allowed by our governments. Mr. Merrill said he wished I'd called before his elimination decision to let him know my thoughts you may recall expressed in my prior column. So, here's my answer on how to respond to Judge Thompson's ruling. Instead of using discretion to eliminate elections we are obliged to provide, set the deadline for any party wanting to hold elections using government resources to determine their candidate, stating what the party must pay if they wish to use our public resources for their private party primaries to offset the expense to taxpayers. Set the later deadline for ALL candidates, regardless of party status to be placed on the non-primary/actual election with what they must pay (the **marginal** expense of another candidate being printed/counted on ballots) in excess of the **fixed** cost taxpayers must pay. This would eliminate the waste of candidates and voters signing petitions which bureaucrats must then waste their resources and time verifying - no doubt some will despise being disempowered to protect the duopoly...

This balloting process removes the violation Judge Thompson found but gave no guidance for enforcement to move us forward out of the morass Alabama ballot access laws have 'progressed' into these past decades. Secretary Merrill's one day increment has made it clear he'll never do anything of this sort to restore candidates' and voters' civil rights; he's much more interested in installing BCA candidates to keep the felony largess churning in our State and protecting the duopoly over competition.

Some suggested savvy types who pay attention to the numbers know what's going on in Alabama and understand how challenging bifurcation of the duped Trumpsters/BCA machine thugs has become for the Republican Party. Specifically they said it would be difficult to get the BCA machine voters to polls a second time if the election were held and Lovvorn wouldn't get many votes from small government conservative voters who cast for Toomer, et al in the primary. The bigger fear is the increasing NON-duopoly voters in Lee County - in the presidential election it was more than double the Statewide result. If that 5% had shown in support of a Fenwick or Toomer, it could be a problem for a BCA candidate like Lovvorn who could only get 4.2% of eligible voters in the govt. subsidized Party primary. Seems Mr. Merrill is the one grasping for straws to increase the date requirement by one day to keep denying candidates' and voters' civil rights. Sad a man of his intellect and awareness of righteousness has shown he's not worthy to serve us - he could've been one of our best in Montgomery.

To illustrate this is not **only** a Lee County phenomenon here's the data showing October voter Registration Totals prior to US presidential elections so far this century:

	Democrats	Republicans	Indp./misc.
2000	43.8%	32.8%	21.6%
2004	42.2%	32.8%	23.2%
2008	43.6%	30.7%	24.0%
2012	41.9%	30.1%	25.8%
2014	44.2%	29.8%	26.7%
2016	40.6%	29.4%	27.7%

In short, the duopoly is losing ground to independents. This is not surprising given how the duopoly has shepherded us into more extreme results as elections

convey increasing less information under the bi-polar, anti-competitive structure. It appears productive citizens are starting to wake up and are tired of the political parasites (doesn't matter if the leech is blue or red) sucking them to death. A few tried to avoid Alabama being as backward as other states, but let the Republicans back into our State (instead of replacing the modern Democratic Party) to prove the GOP is still the same old Party of class warfare, corporate welfare, fiat money, high taxes and hegemony. The question is will Alabama go back to modern Democrats? - I hope not. Perhaps the biggest glimmer of hope is former State Sen. John Rice who has been more successful at actually getting small govt. conservatives elected than any other person/organization in Alabama. Rice said he has no intention of dealing with the big govt. Democrat Party either, but would welcome them, "run small govt. candidates again to get us from being last in so many measures."

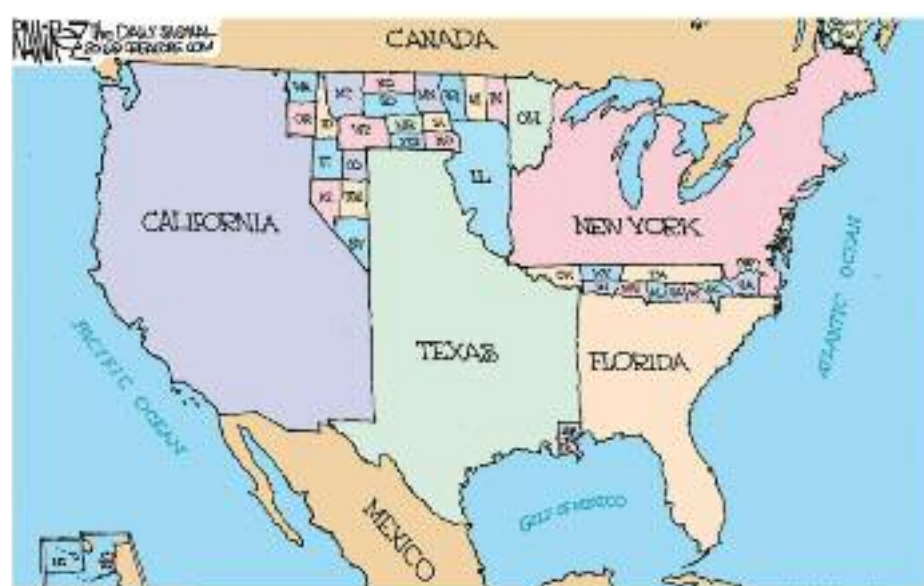
To those fed up with the big govt. super majority Republicans, I suggest watching Rice candidates and follow/support whatever Parties/Organizations he devotes his efforts toward. In Alabama it will likely be the Constitution or Libertarian Party which fills the vacuum - sadly, the T.E.A. Party wasn't interested when I pushed for their running candidates many years ago when they still foolishly believed they could reform the corrupt Republican Party from their long standing tradition. Nationally, the *Ballot Access News* [12/1/16] reported the latest 2018 Statewide Ballot Access as follows:

- Constitution Party:** 13 States (one in court)
- Green Party:** 21 States (one in court)
- Libertarian Party:** 39 States (one in court)
- Working Families Party:** 5 States

One irony of the presidential recounts is possibly including undercounted/ignored non-duopoly votes for more to meet State thresholds to get on ballots. Less effort, money and time devoted to simply being allowed one's civil right to be on a ballot means greater ability to actually address issues and convey information in 2018 general elections. Wouldn't that be refreshing after witnessing the Crooked Hillary v. Fraudster Trump campaign?

When one reads Pliny asking Caesar how Roman bureaucrats should deal with the small cult of stubborn Christians causing problems, it is easy to see in retrospect their 'grasping for straws' to stop the inevitable. It is not surprising to see our modern politburo similarly grasping for straws to do the same sort of quashing of freedom and Spirit of liberty today - what folly... Let's make the same mistakes again!

Postscript: First, I was pleasantly surprised how many understood and appreciated last month's *Bush v. Trump: a tale of two victories* column. Trump is only the **second** time a constitutionally correct Electoral College doesn't mirror the popular vote result - i.e., it shows a big rift in our now forced coalition of states. The last was Harrison's win over Cleveland. Harrison was a typical big govt. Republican who championed corporate welfare, high taxes and record spending with one of the first budgets to approach one billion dollars. He served under Sherman during War Between the States and not shy about Republican hegemony to accomplish desired wealth transfers. Cleveland was about as different as one could possibly get as a traditional Democrat understanding low taxes promoted jobs, refused to sign the Wilson-Gorman Tariff because it re-introduced our first federal income tax imposed by Republicans, return captured Confederate flags to States, stood firm about Union Army pension abuse, etc. Some argue this is when the traditional Democrats begin to disappear as they get weary of losing to 'progressives' so they simply 'out republican' the Republicans to our modern result. All those hegemonic Republican states from Maryland to Maine slowly turned into big. govt. Democrat states; perhaps this second huge rift will mean the end of at least **one** of these two corrupt duopoly parties.



Second, as promised here are the numbers from our Secretary of State on the Nov. 2016 ballot reprint. Mr. Merrill announced the exact cost as **\$459,690.80**, which I'm guessing are only the direct dollar expenditures not redirected labour, etc. costs. Merrill says the employee who made a transcription error in a proposed amendment no longer works in the office. So there you have it, half a million dollars... much less than the \$3 million some asserted when I guessed about a third of a million. Now if we could get folks as concerned about what taxpayers waste on Party primaries the State is **NOT** obliged to provide and more concerned about violating candidates' and voters' civil rights when eliminating elections the State **IS** obliged to provide.





UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE MARTHA ROBY

ALABAMA'S SECOND DISTRICT

Martha Roby represents Alabama's 2nd Congressional District. She lives in Montgomery, Alabama with her husband, Riley and their two children.



WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Representative Martha Roby (R-Ala.) was sworn in for her fourth term in the U.S. House of Representatives Tuesday, vowing to “support and defend the Constitution of the United States... bear true faith and allegiance to the same... and faithfully discharge the duties of the office.”

As the 115th Congress begins, Roby said she would continue to prioritize issues of particular importance to Alabama's Second District, including [properly funding](#) the military, improving veterans health services, and ensuring equitable agriculture policies. With a unified Republican government soon to be in place, Roby said she is also eager to deliver results on [conservative priorities](#) like cutting wasteful spending, [replacing Obamacare](#) with patient-centered health policies, and reining in the regulatory state.

“I am honored to represent Alabama's Second Congressional District and be a voice on behalf of my constituents in Washington,” Rep. Roby said.

“With every vote I cast and every action I take in Congress, I have one simple principle: Alabama always comes first. Whether it is supporting Maxwell Air Force Base and Fort Rucker, maintaining our progress in improving veterans healthcare, or advancing smart agriculture policy, I will continue to prioritize issues affecting my state and district.

“There is so much work to be done to put this country back on the right track. I'm eager to work with a unified Republican government to deliver results that make a positive difference for the American people. We have a unique opportunity to use conservative ideals to put our country on a more responsible, sustainable path. I'm excited to be a part of this historic moment and ready to get to work.”

Rep. Roby is a member of the House Appropriations Committee. Appropriations subcommittee assignments have not yet been made.



Rep. Roby with her family and Speaker of the House Paul Ryan.



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.

www.stevflowers.us



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

Alabama is going to fair well under President Trump. There is an old adage that says, “*Those that bake the pie get to eat it.*” We truly baked the pie for Trump. We overwhelmingly supported him in the GOP primary and helped him secure the nomination. We then gave him one of the largest mandates in the nation in the November General Election.

Trump is indeed returning the favor. He has named our own Jeff Sessions Attorney General. His confirmation hearings begin this week. In addition, speculation is that Alabama's Bill Pryor is on a very short list to be named to the U.S. Supreme Court by Trump to fill the vacancy on the Court of the late Antonin Scalia.

Pryor is a former Alabama Attorney General, who currently sits on the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta. Pryor is only 54. He served as Alabama Attorney General from 1997-2004. He was the youngest state attorney general in the country at that time. He was appointed to the federal bench in 2005 by President George W. Bush. During his 11 years on the federal bench he has rendered a sterling conservative record.

Pryor and Sessions have amazingly similar backgrounds. Both call Mobile their native home. Both were Attorney General of Alabama. Both have impeccable arch conservative philosophies and pedigrees. They are kindred spirits and good friends. That is probably why Pryor is on Trump's short list for the High Court.

Most of the frontrunners to win the open Sessions Senate seat have avoided Bentley's appointment. So how is the race shaking out to fill the Sessions' seat? The frontrunner out of the gate is Attorney General Luther Strange. Big Luther has run three successful statewide races and is sitting on over 50% statewide name recognition. Furthermore, he is dedicated to running and has been for 20 years. He spent the first 20 years of his professional career lobbying in Washington for Sonat. He came home 20 years ago to run for a secondary statewide office and lay the groundwork to get back to Washington as a U.S. Senator. He has been bidding his time for his buddies Sessions and Shelby to retire or move on. When Sessions' appointment became imminent, Big Luther hit the ground running and has been raising money for 2018 for two months.

The other statewide elected officials will probably not join the 2018 Senate fray. Secretary of State John Merrill has a good future. He is 53 and will

probably run for reelection or maybe Lieutenant Governor.

PSC President Twinkle Cavanaugh will probably run for Lieutenant Governor or maybe Governor. It is uncertain what State Treasurer Young Boozer will do. However, his tentativeness has probably left him out of the Senate race.

Agriculture Commissioner John McMillan is running for Governor. State Auditor Jim Ziegler will run for Governor, Attorney General or reelection. Roy Moore is the favorite to win the 2018 Governor's Race.

Congressman Robert Aderholt would be the best qualified to run and succeed Sessions. He and Sessions went to Washington together 20 years ago. However, his 20 years of seniority in the House has placed him in a powerful congressional leadership position. He is poised to be Chairman of the U.S. House Appropriations Committee. His move to being a freshman Senator would be a lateral move. Alabama and his district would be best served by his staying in the House.

Mobile and Baldwin County folks believe that they deserve the Senate seat since Sessions is a Mobilian. There are three potential candidates from the Port City/Gulf Coast Region. Former Congressman Jo Bonner is not going to run. Current Congressman Bradley Byrne would have the best chance to win among all the potential Mobile candidates. He was almost elected Governor. However, Byrne is probably not going to leave his safe congressional seat. He likes it and is good at it. State Senator Trip Pittman from Baldwin County is in the race and is running hard. If he continues to be the only major horse from that area in the race and it becomes a crowded field he may be in a runoff.

Speaking of regionalism, look at a horse from Huntsville to enter the race. If there is one primary candidate from the Tennessee Valley they will be a player. Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle may pivot and move from the Governor's race to the Senate. Folks in that area have always been more interested in national politics than state politics because of the Redstone Arsenal.

State Senate President Pro Tem Del Marsh of Anniston seems very interested in this open U.S. Senate seat. He has sought the Bentley appointment. However, being a powerful State Senator does not translate into statewide name identification.

January 11, 2017



John Martin

Healing America's Wounds

At last, the reign of the Great Traitor is coming to an end. And his hoped for successor, the Hildabeast, is also passing into the pages of history, squelching his dream of becoming a corrupt Supreme Court Justice. Right now, they are both whining about voter fraud and accusing the Russians of rigging the election.

Nevertheless, much damage has been done during these past eight years, especially during 2009 and 2010, when this despot had a filibuster-proof majority in both houses.

The task of rebuilding America will not be an easy one. Horrendous acts of treason must be corrected to the best of our abilities. Donald Trump, although not perfect by a long shot, does have some plans to place America's train wreck back onto the track of recovery.

OBAMACARE: Job number one is the repeal of the catastrophic imposition of the “Affordable Care Act,” better known as Obamacare. It begins with the repeal of the mandates, taxes and penalties and continues on to stopping the hemorrhage of our money into medical black holes. Trump hopes to replace the entire boondoggle with a free-market plan that is fair for every American.

WARMONGERING: The next priority is ending the un-Godly carnage and destruction taking place in the Middle East with our needless meddling into other nations' civil wars. Our troops, equipment, and materiel must all be shipped out and brought back home ASAP. By now, everybody must understand that our presence over there has done far more harm than good, and that attempting to police the world is both futile and foolish. Fortunately, unlike Hillary, the Donald is on good terms with Vladimir Putin and is not about to get us entangled into more war.

IMMIGRATION: Reckless immigration must be stopped. In earlier times, people came to this country to seek opportunity and freedom, and become like us. Today, many come to draw benefits and impose extremist cultures onto us, thanks to Obama's upside down immigration policies. He has opened the doors wide, provided sanctuary cities, and offered speedy citizenship to multitudes of

destructive people claiming to be refugees from war-torn barbaric caliphates and millions of destitute reckless child bearers who come to drain our public assistance programs while erecting extreme hurdles in front of fine Christian applicants like Nick Adams (Citizenship took him 4.5 years and cost him almost \$50,000. <http://nickadamsinamerica.com>). All other civilized nations on our planet place strict limits on what kind and how many immigrants they can accept. We must reverse our current policies and do likewise. Instead of building a useless and expensive wall, the “anchor baby” problem must be stopped with a Constitutional amendment, and attractive incentives must be shut down. Large numbers of riffraff can literally destroy our nation with nothing more than their votes.

REGULATIONS: Overbearing regulations and mandates must be stopped and repealed. Agencies like the EPA, OSHA, DEA, TSA, ATF, HHS, Homeland Security, and many others must be drastically rolled back to minimum common sense levels so American ingenuity and free enterprise can once again build our economy up to the level it was in the 1950's—a prosperous, peaceful, crime-free decade that people can only dream about today.

DEBT: Reckless spending and indebtedness must be turned around. Funding for many programs and agencies must be cut back severely. Socialistic programs must be minimized, or better yet, eliminated. Public assistance consumes a huge and unnecessary portion of our budget, but instead of helping people become independent and productive, it only lulls them into dependency and enslavement on the government plantation. Private charities and churches are far more efficient and effective in sorting out the truly needy and providing the help they need.

The bottom line for America's recovery is minimizing the burden of government—getting it out of the way and out of our pockets—less taxing, less spending, fewer and smaller programs, less meddling (both here and abroad), minimal regulation, and minimal government-run health care, education, insurance, housing, food, and anything else that can be provided far better and at a lower cost with good old laissez-faire free-market economics.

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



Steve Long

Woods & Waters with Steve



BIRDS AND BUCKS

I hope everyone had a great start to the New Year! I know I've gotten my year off to a solid start with some quail hunting down at GSO this past Monday. This time the posse of hunters was from Florida, making their way up to our neck of the woods to enjoy a little bird hunting. All the fellas had a great time, and, of course, the dogs did too. They love a good day's work on the field. The birds were flying great and the hunters were shooting straight! We managed to pick up 129 quail, so definitely a great day's work.

As some of you may have noticed, it's gotten a bit chillier since I last wrote, and man, it's finally starting to pay off. I'm hearing reports from everywhere that the deer are finally starting to move, and to top it off, hunters are bringing in the big boys; mature bucks are starting to move. There's already plenty of sign, like scrapes and rubs, letting us know where those old boys are roamin and runnin for a bit. I'm also hearing talk that some folks are seeing bucks starting to chase does, so you know what that means. Get to the stands and hunker down; the Rut's starting in some places.

Of course, when you're out there, patiently working towards that new addition to the trophy wall, make sure you're playing it safe. Always wear your hunter's orange out there; no exceptions! All it takes is one mistake or one accident to end a life, no matter the intentions. So, I don't wanna be reading about any of those kinds of things in the paper or listening to them on the news; stay safe! Don't forget your hunter's license, and make sure you're recording everything on to your harvest record. While you're at it, make sure to fill out your harvest on Game Check as well, by phone at 1-800-888-7690, by app on your smartphone, or visit the Outdoor Alabama website and search for Game Check! Remember, every little bit helps!

Speaking of the wildlife biology side of things, let's talk a little about our deer population, and some interesting figures that have been released. QDMA has released their annual Whitetail Report, available online at www.QDMA.com, and I discovered something rather interesting as I pored over it. For the first time since we've stabilized the deer population in the mid-1900's, we hunters are harvesting more mature bucks than young bucks, young meaning 1 and 1/2 years or younger in age. From the information QDMA's gathered, the percentage of young bucks has dropped to under 33% of harvests, while older bucks, at 3 and 1/2 years of age and older, are at 34% of harvests! That may seem a bit trivial at first, but think about it. We're really starting to see the long-term benefits of proper deer herd management, in that the population has not only become more stable, but the



A few of the pheasant roosters from a recent shoot at Great Southern Outdoors

number of deer surviving to adulthood has increased as well.

Now, overall harvesting of bucks has decreased a bit in number from last year, as seems to be the recent trend, but not to worry. We have had some crazy weather the past couple of years, so no reason to panic yet. I still think we're in pretty darn good shape for what we have in terms of deer population, as a whole, and we're heading in the right direction. The longer lifespan of mature bucks means that you'll have lots more activity like scrapes and rubs, and your grunts and rattling will definitely get more active responses than they used to, if this trend for mature bucks continues. We've just gotta keep up the hard work with proper land and deer herd management.

Here's to hoping all of you folks enjoy the rest of your time out there this month, and maybe bag a big buck in the process! I'm still traveling, wheelin' and dealin' with QDMA, but that won't keep me out of the woods too long! As always, I look forward to hearing from all of you about the hunts and fun you've all had this year, so get out there, be safe, and go get 'em!

Kritter Korner

Cougars

The reclusive cougars — also called pumas, catamounts, mountain lions or panthers and, perhaps most fittingly, "ghost cats," is the second largest cat in North

America. Unlike other big cats, however, the cougar cannot roar. Instead, the large feline purrs like a house cat. Cougars also have similar body types to house cats, only on a larger scale. They have slender bodies and round heads with pointed ears. They vary between, 5-9 ft from head to tail. While males can weigh up to 150 lb, females weigh less, topping out at nearly 100 lb. The coat of the cougar is a grayish tan to reddish color with lighter parts on

the underside. The tail has a black spot on the end.

Inhabiting various ecosystems from mountains to deserts to sea-level, the cougar's established range includes western North America, a small region in Florida, and most of South America. They make their home anywhere that there is shelter and prey. Generally they prey on deer but also feed on smaller animals if necessary, including domestic animals and livestock. Cougars have even been known to eat insects. Skilled and cunning hunters, cougars stay hidden from their prey until they can pounce with claws outstretched.

Cougars can also climb with ease and leap over 20 ft. After killing a large animal, a cougar hides the carcass for the most part, and eats in the coming days. most part, the cougar has no natural enemies and sits atop the food chain. However, they occasionally compete with other predators such as bears and wolves for food. During most of their lives, cougars are solitary



creatures. They interact only to mate, which can happen at any time of year.

Females can breed as early as 2-3 years old and give birth to 2-3 kittens at a time. They raise the young while the males return to their solitary lifestyles. At around two years old, cougar offspring will leave their mother to start their own life. Some travel far to establish their own territory, as cougars need a lot of room to roam. A healthy cougar in the wild can live to around 10 years of age. In captivity, cougars can live as long as 20 years.

Cougars have long been killed by both sport hunters and farmers protecting their livestock. Other threats to cougar populations include habitat loss and fragmentation and automobile accidents. As a result, the cougar population has significantly decreased. There are still, however, several thousand cougars in the wild. Although they once ranged widely throughout North and South America, the cougars were largely wiped out from the eastern portion of the United States and Canada by European settlers in the 1700s. There is a small population in Florida, a subspecies known as the Florida panther.

The Florida panther is considered to be critically endangered; Furthermore, in recent years, sightings of cougars in the northeast United States and eastern Canada have been on the rise. Although many are the result of former captive cougars that escaped or were released, there is a possibility of recolonization of cougars in the East and South.



Ron VanHerwyn

Ron's Kritter Kids (wildlife education)

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**HAPPY
NEW YEAR**

BAMA - CLEMSON II

Kiffin Out - Sarkisian In

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



**Football Writer,
Ed Jones**

Coach Paul Bryant had many “sayings” as he called them. One of them was “*the harder you work, the luckier you get.*” So, using this little bit of wisdom from The Coach, it is my belief that

Alabama and Clemson playing in a rematch of the national championship game last year is not even remotely a result of luck. Coach Nick Saban learned the basics to coaching football from Coach Don James at Kent State. Saban played for James and later coached for James at Kent State. Don James, who was an assistant to Coach Bryant at Kentucky and Texas A&M, learned how to work from the “Master.” He later turned that knowledge into a national championship at the University of Washington. Saban was probably a type “A” self starter anyway. But, it didn’t hurt to be exposed to the work ethic of the great Don James. James kept the Washington Huskies in perennial contention for the Rose Bowl.

Coach Dabo Swinney of Clemson was a walk-on wide receiver for Coach Gene Stallings. Of course Stallings learned his work ethic from Coach Bryant as a player at Texas A&M and later as an assistant coach for Bryant at Alabama. Stallings also had the advantage of working for Coach Tom Landry at the Dallas Cowboys. Landry had the same reputation in professional football as Bryant had in college football. To be a walk-on non scholarship player anywhere in the country shows a desire to achieve. Making the team, playing on Saturdays and lettering also shows a desire to excel. Most walk-ons can’t take the punishment and the difficulty of playing football in college. Most just drift off into oblivion without many people even knowing it. Not Dabo Swinney. He is a fighter. His Clemson teams have not always been good but they were fighters. His 2015 and his 2016 teams are documented as being known as fighters. The problem for Alabama has been that the Clemson players are not only fighters, but excellent players as well. That is a bad combination to deal with,

especially in the national championship game. Only two teams out of 128 make it this far. The teams in this game didn’t get here because they were not good. They didn’t get here because they didn’t know how to fight their guts out to win.

It is interesting in how both coaches have been influenced in some way by the teachings of Paul “Bear” Bryant. His shadow continues to lengthen!

The good news for Alabama is that they know how to fight their guts out also. And, they are really good, maybe a little better than Clemson. The smartest coaches will not win this game. The team that has the best plan, offensively and defensively, and the team that fights the hardest will win this game. Last year I thought Alabama was two touchdowns better than Clemson. What I did not know was how hard the players on that Clemson team would fight. They don’t think they lost the game. They are adamantly convinced that they simply ran out of time. I do know this, Coach Nick Saban was extremely relieved to see 00.0 on the scoreboard along with 45 points for Alabama and 40 points for Clemson.

The 2016 national championship game will probably be very similar. Alabama is better in many areas except for quarterback and running back. Last year senior quarterback Jacob Coker never got the credit that he is due for his play in that game and in every game during the 2015 season. Of course Derrick Henry, the Heisman winning running back from last year, made every defense change their normal plan. That situation does not exist this year. A true freshman replaces Coker. Coker had been knocked around at Florida State and Alabama before he was named the starter. His mettle was established “and” he delivered. Quarterback Jalen Hurts is a true freshman who gave up his high school senior prom in order to enroll early at Alabama. He is bright. He is tough. He is big (6-2, 215). He is an excellent runner. He is an average passer. He is 18. Bo Scarborough has emerged at the end of the season as Alabama’s best running back. He is tough. He is fast. He is big (6-2, 230). He is good. He is not Derrick Henry.

Alabama’s defense must play better this year in order to give Jalen Hurts and Bo Scarborough opportunities to make first downs, keep the ball away from Clemson and its All-American quarterback, Deshaun Watson. Watson was and is by far the best football player in the country. Unfortunately the Heisman Committee has become unfazed by their own ignorance. In fact the Heisman Trophy has become a joke. I refer you to Peyton Manning, Andrew Luck and Deshaun Watson and a few other preposterous decisions in between. Clemson’s

Wayne Gallman is as good or better than Alabama’s Bo Scarborough. To me this means Clemson is better than Alabama at the quarterback position and at the running back position. Clemson’s offensive line is excellent, not great. Clemson’s defense will be the toughest, the fastest and the hungriest that

Alabama will have faced this year. As good as Alabama’s receivers are, Clemson can match them. It’s ArDarius Stewart, Calvin Ridley, O. J. Howard, Gehrig Dieter compared to Mike Williams, Jordan Leggett, Artavis Scott and Hunter Renfrow.

Clemson is good enough to beat Alabama without any distractions. Had Nick Saban given Lane Kiffin a two year contract every one would be happy. Kiffin did a good job of coaching three quarterbacks. Blake Sims (2014) was not a quarterback. He was a small halfback trying to play quarterback. Kiffin got as much out of Sims at the position than was even possible. All Sims had to show for it was all of the Alabama passing records. He struggled in four games two of which were losses, including the national championship fiasco with Ohio State. It was always my opinion that Jake Coker as a junior would have been the better choice. He was definitely a quarterback with a lot of upside. He proved that in 2015.

Too many people gave Kiffin credit for Alabama’s championship last year. I must point out that Paul Bryant won six, Nick Saban has won four, Wallace Wade won some, as did Coach Frank Thomas. All of these national championships were won without Lane Kiffin except for last year. He has always been an impetuous, unreliable, sneaky, untrustworthy jerk. Through the influence of his father Monte Kiffin, who is a well respected, well mannered, outstanding defensive coach in the National Football League, Lane has had three head coaching jobs. I’m sure that Monte loves Lane, but has been bitterly disappointed with the shenanigans of his wayward son. Lane Kiffin has now been fired by the Oakland Raiders, quit on Tennessee, fired by Southern Cal and for all practical purposes fired at Alabama.

Florida Atlantic is his next victim. Even Florida Atlantic deserves better...good riddance Alabama!

Kiffin’s departure after the semi-final round of the playoffs does create a vacuum. Steve Sarkisian had already been named offensive coordinator for the season of 2017. Steve is another fired Southern Cal coach. But, he is not a jerk. He has had personal problems to deal with in regards to his drinking habits. His admission to being an alcoholic is the first step in his recovery. He has been to rehabilitation and has been successful in handling this problem for over a year. There are some signs that he will continue to grow and mature through this experience. I can name you several outstanding coaches that had this same problem. Coach Saban has the utmost confidence in his football acumen. This is obviously true as Saban could have kept Kiffin for one more week. However, the distractions that Lane Kiffin brought to this football team were inexcusable, unprecedented and severely damaging to Alabama’s chances of playing well enough to win the championship game on Monday, January 9.

Steve Sarkisian has been on Saban’s staff as an analyst for over a year. His understanding of the offense is without question. The only problem will be the fact that “Sark” will not have been on the field much during this period. The young quarterback, Jalen Hurts, had become accustomed to being advised and directed by Lane Kiffin for almost one year. It is my belief that Coach Nick Saban made the decision to go with “Sark” because he believed that this change was more beneficial for the Alabama football team. To not make this change would have resulted in a sure win for Clemson. Any distractions to the focus of your football team must be dealt with swiftly and permanently.

Steve Sarkisian was an excellent quarterback at Southern Cal, an assistant at Southern Cal, a head coach at the University of Washington and the head coach at Southern Cal. He is 44 years old. He is smart. He has been exposed to many years of good coaching. He will do his very best to help Jalen Hurts. This was the only route Coach Nick Saban had.

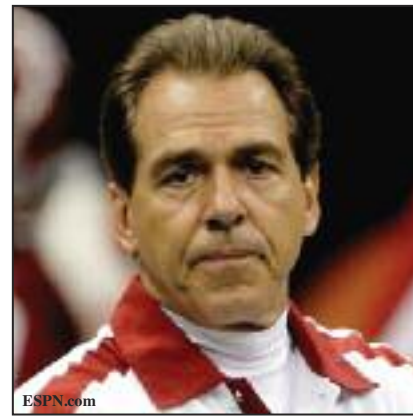
The championship game boils down to simple strategies. It’s Dabo vs, Saban. It’s a fighting Clemson Tiger football team intent on dethroning Alabama. They have lived for this moment for 365 days. They have the coaching. They have the talent. They have the motivation, they have the opportunity.

Alabama has the experience. They have the coaching. They have the motivation. They have the talent. They have the opportunity.

Don’t get near the field in Tampa, Florida on Monday night, January 9. You could get hurt!



Lane Kiffin



Nick Saban



Steve Sarkisian



Jalen Hurts



Dabo Swinney



Deshaun Watson

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Gazette Seniors...

Dr. John Bitter, Editor
Senior Section

You may be over
the hill if... you believe
that: A straw vote only
shows which way the hot
air blows.

THE OBAMA LEGACY

Forty-three years ago Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. published a book entitled "The Imperial Presidency," in which he outlined how our presidents have managed to exceed the powers granted to that office by our Constitution. And they've done it with impunity, especially over the last 43 years.

Since George Washington assumed the office in 1789, our nation has been led by a variety of presidents, some exceptional, and some we would just as soon forget, and the latest incumbent is considered by many to be one of the latter.

Nonetheless, many, if not most, of our presidents have enjoyed cloaking themselves in somewhat of an imperial manner, and always at the taxpayers' expense; unlike our first president, who said that assuming this new office was "not unlike [that] of a culprit who is going to the place of his execution."

Latter day incumbents to the White House seemed to have felt quite differently, and over the years the office has well become that of an "Imperial Presidency"--at the taxpayers' expense.

Richard Nixon clothed the office in a shroud of secrecy, which became his undoing. Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter were there—which is about the best we can say of their tenures. An unease was felt across the land when the "cowboy movie actor" took up residence in the White House, but the nation soon heaved a

sigh of relief from 1981 to 1989.

Then we had the Bush's—father and son-- with Bill Clinton in between. When he assumed the mantel President Bill Clinton besmirched the office of the presidency—with virtual impunity—and recently his wife made an unsuccessful run for the office, bringing with her a sordid collection of baggage that she and her lackeys attempted to sweep under the carpet. More may be said of that page in our history; but don't hold your breath.

And now we're awaiting the ascendancy to the throne of Donald Trump, a development that has been met with unprecedented negativity that brings shame to our democracy.

Ironically, but not without reason, Richard Nixon could well fit into both categories: best and worst president. He started out on a positive note, but his vault mentality was his undoing.

What is troubling about the recent run for the presidency is the venom and hatred that accompanied this election. It brought shame to the office, as well as to the political parties. Despite all the hoopla that naive fans introduced into the picture, the current presidential incumbent has done nothing over his two terms to bring credit to the office of the presidency.

And now we can only hold our breath and wait and see. But we should try to do it with some degree of decorum. Arthur Schlesinger would have had a field day with this one.

WILL WE EVER LEARN?

One would think that with more than five centuries of trying, mankind would by now have learned how to create an educational product of some degree of uniformity; one that was capable of producing a product of some semblance of excellence. But one would be wrong.

The Babylonians thought they were on to something back in 3100 BC when they launched the first educational endeavor. Learned men in a community were called upon to share their knowledge and wisdom with the youth of the village. Bureaucrats had not yet entered the picture, so the process was somewhat simpler; and more effective.

They dealt primarily with rote learning, although there were some notable exceptions; Aristotle and Plato as examples. The early classroom employed memorization and a liberal application of the rod as its means of educating the youngsters, as revealed in a clay tablet uncovered in Egypt, on which a student had written: "Thou didst beat me and knowledge entered my head." In today's society, the rigorous use of the rod is frowned upon, resulting often in a rather shoddy end result.

By the first century AD the Jews had perfected the educational product somewhat. Housed usually in Synagogues local young lads learned the laws of society and religion, and learned to read and to write. And in other societies they learned from local wise men who shared with them the knowledge and wisdom they had acquired through their studies and travel.

In all, these early societies took great stock in the educational process, but by the 21st Century, especially in the United States, it all started to unravel.

Initially, education was not a universal endeavor; rather it was the domain of the ruling elite. They had the means to either hire or require that scholars be hired, or required, to tutor emperors and their families, and the education endeavor grew from there.

At about the same time, heads of households became aware that once their crops had been harvested and until planting time began in the springtime, their sons had time on their hands; and idle hands often did the devils work. So, heads of households quickly decided that something had to be put into place that would keep their sons busy during this idle time between harvest and planting; and teaching their sons to read and cipher was a suitable endeavor.

And thus, public education was born.

But, in the centuries that followed, community leaders lost sight of their goals and bureaucrats entered the picture; and something quite different began to take over education.

And now, the process is in the hands of bureaucrats and unions, and educators place a greater interest on vacations and holidays, salaries, sick days, attractive bulletin boards, and a host of other elements and tasks that distract from the process of teaching and learning; and today we're close to being back where we started in centuries past.

It seems downright incongruous that those professing to be educators would permit their calling to fall into such a state of disrepair.

NITPICKING

Ever since Donald Trump was elected to replace Barack Obama the nitpickers have been having a field day.

Turn your television to any newscast, and you'll see and hear the nitpickers at full voice. There seems to be nothing that our President-elect does that isn't picked to death by this group of malcontents.

Since 1950, this term has come more and more into vogue, especially among newscasters, who have lovingly adopted it in their references to a new President of the United States; especially to the current victim: Donald A. Trump. There is virtually nothing this man can do that is not vigorously criticized by one faction or another. In fact, it seems as if those on the left begin and end each day with breathless degrees of nitpicking over anything and everything Mr. Trump does.

The dictionary tells us that nitpicking originated as a term to describe removing the eggs of lice from the host's hair. That host being originally an animal, but it soon became associated with human beings also.

Today the adjective is used to refer to looking for small or unimportant or insignificant items as a means of fault finding.

Among those folks on the left, newscasters, politicians, and associated other ne'er do wells, this has become a pastime du jour that one is required practice with a vigor. Surely Mr. Trump has done something worthy of praise, other than sparing the American public with having had to endure Hillary as their chief of state.

If not, could they please find a new adjective?



Alabama Public Affairs Specialist,
Social Security Administration
4344 Carmichael Road, Suite 100,
Montgomery, Alabama 36116

kylle.mckinney@ssa.gov.
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By *Kylle' D. McKinney*

Get Replacement Social Security Tax Forms Online with Ease

It's that time of year again. Preparing for tax season can seem overwhelming. Some forms and paperwork might be difficult to track down. If you misplaced your Benefits Statement or haven't received it by the end of January, we've made it easy for you to go online to request a replacement with my Social Security.



An **SSA-1099**, also called a **Benefit Statement**, is a tax form Social Security mails each year in January to the more than 60 million people who receive Social Security benefits. It shows the total amount of benefits received from Social Security in the previous year so people know how much Social Security income to report to the IRS on their tax return.

For noncitizens who live outside of the United States and received or repaid Social Security benefits last year, we'll send form **SSA-1042S** instead. **The forms SSA-1099 and SSA-1042S are not available for people who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI).**

If you currently live in the United States and need a replacement form **SSA-1099**, we have a way for you to get a replacement quickly and easily. Go online and request a replacement form with a my Social Security account at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount. **Online replacement forms are available beginning February 1, 2017.**

Every working person in the U.S. should create a my Social Security account. The secure and personalized features of my Social Security are invaluable in securing a comfortable retirement — for today and tomorrow.

Kylle' McKinney, SSA Public Affairs Specialist, can be reached by e-mail at kylle.mckinney@ssa.gov.

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Pastor, Eastern Hills
Baptist Church
Montgomery, Alabama

Soul Searching

Turning the Page



A few months ago prior to the national election, I wrote an article about decisions our country must make in light of the well know verse from **II Chronicles**, *"If my people who 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, will forgive their sin and heal their land."* The election is over and now we are about to inaugurate a new President. America turns a new page and begins writing a new chapter in its history. Perhaps it would do us all good to review some of our nation's values and to appreciate again the blessings of being a citizen of this great land.

What is our heritage? Is it our vast resources or immense wealth compared to the rest of the world? Is it our cultural diversity or the economic and business genius which powers our economy? No, I would suggest to you it boils down to one simple word, faith. Above all else, we must not forget our nation was founded upon a faith in God. Our forefathers were not fools. They believed in God and in divine help. **They believed the Bible was the word of God** and its truth to be the foundation of an orderly society. Christopher Columbus believed himself to be a servant of God as he set out on a new discovery carrying the cross on that ship to a new and unknown world. His first act was to plant a cross on the new soil and dedicate it to the glory of God. The Pilgrims came to this new land not primarily for economic gain, but to find religious liberty and freedom. Did you know the first act of the Continental Congress after the establishment of our nation on September 11, 1777 was to appropriate \$300,000.00 to purchase Bibles for the citizens of this land?

Our Declaration of Independence says, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." This document, "The Declaration of Independence," is not just a simple secular statement of rebellion from a king but rather a spectacular spiritual statement of dependence on God! William Penn is often quoted for his remark, "If we aren't governed by God we will be ruled by tyrants."

Let us not accept the oft spoken comments about the history of our early leaders that they were mostly secularists who wanted to establish democracy and a capitalistic society. While human like the rest of us, most were committed churchmen and men of faith.

Our founding fathers never conceived a nation separated from God. George Washington was known as a man of prayer who maintained a specific prayer journal. Thomas Jefferson was a faithful worshipper at a small church in Virginia. **Ulysses Grant wrote, "Hold fast to the Bible as the anchor of your liberties. Write its precepts on your heart and practice them in your lives."** **Our 30th President, Calvin Coolidge, wrote, "The strength of our country is the strength of her religious convictions and the foundation of our society is faith."** We are seeing movements today seeking to separate God from government and our society. Yet America is built on the foundation of faith in Almighty God. "When America gets too intelligent for God, she will be unintelligent. When she gets too big for God, she shrinks. When she divorces herself from God, she crumbles in the dust."

Christianity is not just a religion like Islam, Hinduism or Buddhism. Christianity is a world view. It is bigger than churches and the greatest of pulpits. It is the view of the world based on what is accepted as revealed Truth. The basis of our nation, of our constitution, of our laws today, our whole system of life is based on the assumptions of that world view. The word "freedom" as we use it our Constitution does not exist or did not exist in our world until Christianity made an inroad.

Christianity is certainly an individual path to salvation, yet it is also the means whereby God opens doors of grace and freedom of thought to the world. Christianity is a way of seeing and comprehending reality. The worldview of Christianity is different than any other philosophy or religion.

"The founders of our nation saw the laws of God, not as oppressive moral constraints, but as a guide through the desert." The understanding and application of what God has said is what we call wisdom. Someone said, **"to be wise is to know reality and then accommodate yourself to it."** Perhaps many of us have lived long enough to know that wherever on earth anyone lives and tries to go against the truths about life revealed in Christianity is like spitting in the wind.

I am concerned that we have forgotten and are not teaching our children what it means to be an American. It does not mean forced religion. We took care of that in the second amendment to the Constitution, but that America was founded with a purpose and a destiny. If you really look at it our whole 240 year history has been working out that understanding or worldview. I fear that if we do not identify the worldview upon which America was founded, that forms our values this ignorance will doom our best efforts.

As I have spent my time in academics and in the church for almost fifty years, I thought the issue would simply be that the world would eventually get down to a conflict between three great worldviews, the west with Christianity, the Middle East with Islam and the East with Confucianism. However, as much as we see a problem with radical Islam and its ability to cause suffering and terror, I am convinced it is not that which will cause a downfall in our country or our role in the world. It is within our own borders. It is between those who will remember and appreciate our Judeo-Christian framework and those who favor post-modernism and multiculturalism.

The biggest issue in America is not our politics or laws at the moment but what the next generation thinks about how we got here. The most fundamental question boils down to this: Is ultimate reality God or the cosmos? Is there a supernatural being or is nature all that exists? Has God spoken or is reality something we have to invent? Is there purpose for our lives or are we cosmic accidents from the slime?

We are in danger of becoming a post-Christian culture. That does not mean we will quit being predominantly religious or for the most part claiming to be Christians. But America which no longer relies on the Truths upon which we have been founded will no longer be the America which will be the beacon of hope for the world. We will become just another nation. We will no longer be what Ronald Reagan called, that "Shining City on the hill."

America has never gone to war because of the desire to conquer others for our good. The men and women of our armed forces have always had faith that what they were doing was right, faith that they fought for all humanity, faith that a just God would grant them mercy on this beachhead, or on the next. America has maintained that there is a profound moral difference between the use of force for liberation and the use of force for conquest. We have never doubted our cause was just and right. **Because we have the most honorable form of government ever devised by man, it is worth dying for if called upon to make the ultimate sacrifice.** No mocking press nor doubting professor in some ivory tower can take away the honor of proudly wearing the uniform of service to America. As we turn the page to a new year and a new national administration, I ask you to join me in similar words to the great address of Abraham Lincoln,

"It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us – that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here gave the last full measure of devotion – that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom; and that this government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

May God bless our new President and all who serve at any level in our government and may God bless the United States of America!



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Reflections

By Michael J. Brooks

THE WHAT IF'S OF LIFE

We'll soon hear about the new president's "first 100 days." Writer Thurston Clarke published a history in 2013 not of the president's first 100 days, but of his last 100 days. The president is John

Kennedy and the book documents what JFK was doing day-by-day before the tragedy of Dallas.

Clarke pulled together narratives from many sources and many cities. The reader feels a sense of dread as the days tick by and November 22 approaches.

An intriguing aspect of this book is the initiatives Kennedy began that he wasn't able to complete.

He ordered the removal of 1000 American advisors from Vietnam by December, making clear he saw the war as unwinnable and planning to remove all U.S. troops before the war escalated. He also made secret overtures to Fidel Castro in Cuba, promising better relations if Castro would cease exporting soldiers to other Latin American nations. JFK intended to seek an opening to China as well, many years before President Nixon's historic trip. Kennedy pushed a tax cut bill that he believed would promote greater prosperity in the nation. He also took new interest in the plight of Soviet Jews and promised to do what he could to help them gain greater freedom.

And on a more personal note, the death of their newborn son, Patrick, brought the Kennedys to a new closeness in their marriage.

We can only imagine the "what if's" had not the assassination taken place in November.

I'm convinced many of us are tormented with "what if's" in our lives. "What if I'd gone to the doctor sooner?" or "What if I'd not driven that route that day?" or "What if I'd been morally stronger?"

Alas, the "what if's" plague us, but there's nothing we can do to alter the course of the past. No one of us, no matter how strong, is strong enough to pull back the hands of a clock.

This is why St. Paul's word in **Philippians 3** has always been one of my favorite texts in the season of New Year. *"Forgetting those things which are before, I press toward the mark of the high calling of Christ,"* he wrote (Phil. 3: 13-14).

We do learn from the past, to be sure, but Paul's word is to forget the failings

that discourage us and to infuse our lives with a new and greater purpose.

The message of the Christian gospel is that there need not be any "has-beens" in God's kingdom. He is a God of mercy who specializes in restoring his wayward people from their failures and dashed hopes. And he promises to be our partner in building a meaningful life of service to God and others.

Reflections is a weekly devotional column written by Michael J. Brooks, pastor of the Siluria Baptist Church in Alabaster, Ala., and adjunct instructor of speech at Jefferson State Community College, Hoover. Permission is granted to use this material with attribution.

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The Education Station... *By Bobbie Ames*

The Road Ahead for America

"If the foundations be destroyed, what shall the righteous do?"

Psalms 11:3



Divine Providence is God Himself, directing History, through individuals, nations, and even in using Nature for Gospel purpose. America is a unique nation, in that we were founded through reliance on Providential History and we rejoiced in the Liberty that resulted; both religious and civil liberty.

Today, all of this is in danger, and American citizens are perplexed, confused, and mostly ineffective in the public square. There is an explanation for it all, and it centers in family life today, and in American education. Impacted also is the church of today, which is too often silent. **Dr. Al Mohler** had addressed this in his wonderful book, **"We Cannot Be Silent."** We recommend it highly.

Last month our Gazette article focused on the FACE conference in Virginia, in which our school ministry was honored. This is the Christian education program of the Foundation for American Christian Education. Theirs is the strongest Christian Education program in America that is consistent with Biblical Providential History. Early generations of Americans were so confident and knowledgeable about God's merciful Providence that the spiritual life and the cultural life merged without conflict and confusion. Schooling was based on God's Word as infallible. **FACE.net** is the website to find more information and their educational materials that are available. No source in America has more of America's true Christian History and Education curricula for every age. We urge readers to check out the site: **FACE.net**.

Their teaching consultant is **Dr. Max Lyons**, who is graciously available to answer questions. Also available is the Noah Webster 1828 Dictionary, which is based on the English language of Liberty. I consider this extremely valuable for understanding Liberty and Christian History.

In today's culture, Christians are commanded to keep their spiritual life in the closet, and not invade the current culture of secularism. How have we come so far from the individual liberty that no other nation on earth has enjoyed?

Our Founding Fathers were taught Biblical law, and through that, they established a Constitutional government with limited powers. They assured the individual with rights of private property, freedom of conscience, and a free market, free enterprise system.



James Madison

Families were responsible for the education of their children, and many of them were schooled at home. Local communities formed local schools, which reflected the Christian world view that the vast majority of families embraced.

James Madison declared that *"Religion is the basis and foundation of government.....before any man can be considered as a member of civil society, he must be considered as a subject of the Governor of the Universe."*

John Adams declared, *"Our Constitution was made for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate for the government of any other."*

What about public education today? The totally secular school has expelled God and His Word from the classroom and the textbooks. With moral absolutes omitted from the teaching, how can we attain moral character? It is no wonder that modern secular education is a threat to the American Christian Church and the Christian home.

This writer graduated from high school in 1948, and into our classrooms we were already being introduced to a conflict between Science and Religion. "Strange" theories, at least they were 'strange' to southern children at that time, were the writings of Hegel and Dewey, and others. John Dewey's "Experimentalism" rejected Supernaturalism, as did Rousseau. He followed Darwin in Evolutionary Science.

The influence of John Dewey is tremendous, with his embracing humanism, rationalism, and naturalism. With his current following in public education, it is no surprise that moral absolutes are missing from today's classrooms. The all-out WAR on true education continues. I read recently that we left the Bible's "Gospel of John" and turned to the "Gospel of John.....Dewey" in Education. What a tragedy it has been to rob American children of their rightful heritage of individual religious and civil liberty.

More than 90% of American children know nothing of their rightful heritage as heirs of a Christian Constitutional Republic. Little do they know of the Pilgrims landing at Plimouth in search of religious and civil liberty. They have never read the historical account written by William Bradford, governor of Plimouth Colony from 1620-1649. These devout Christians were known as the "stepping stones" of Liberty. With their passion for true liberty, came Christian self-government, the value of Conscience, as well as the formation of a political union for government.

Scholars Misses Verna Hall and Rosalie Slater spent many decades writing from primary sources, the true Christian History of America. Their curriculum forms the basis for hundreds of Christian schools, known as Principle Approach Schools. Our school is one of the many indebted to those ladies and to their continuing Foundation. Our Emerald Mountain Christian School campus is blessed in its 51st year of school history. Our beginning was in 1965, in Marion, Alabama. It has been liberating throughout the years to use the FACE curriculum, and to have faculty and staff who have been serious students themselves throughout the process. We love and appreciate them all greatly.

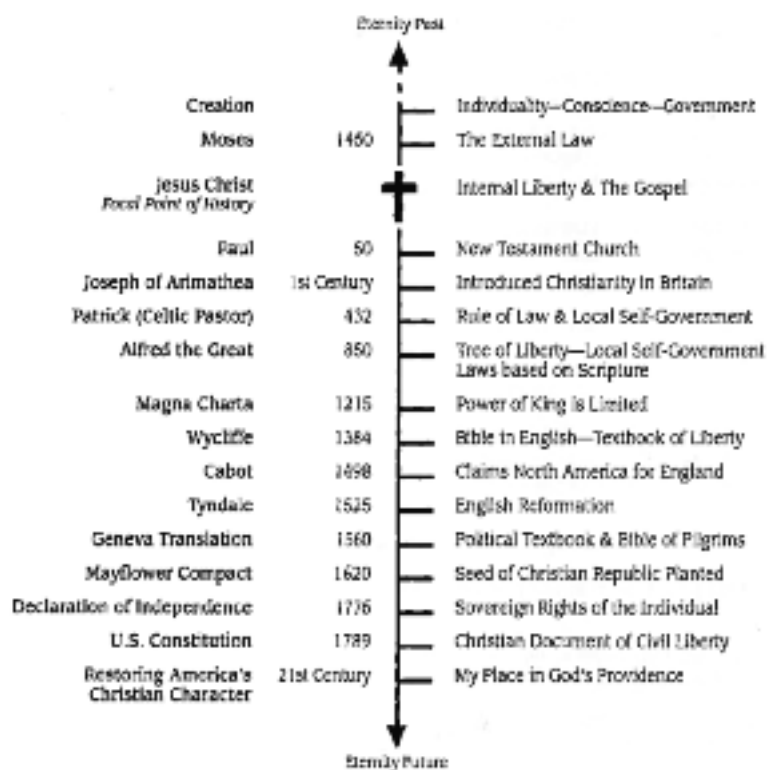


Misses Verna Hall and Rosalie Slater

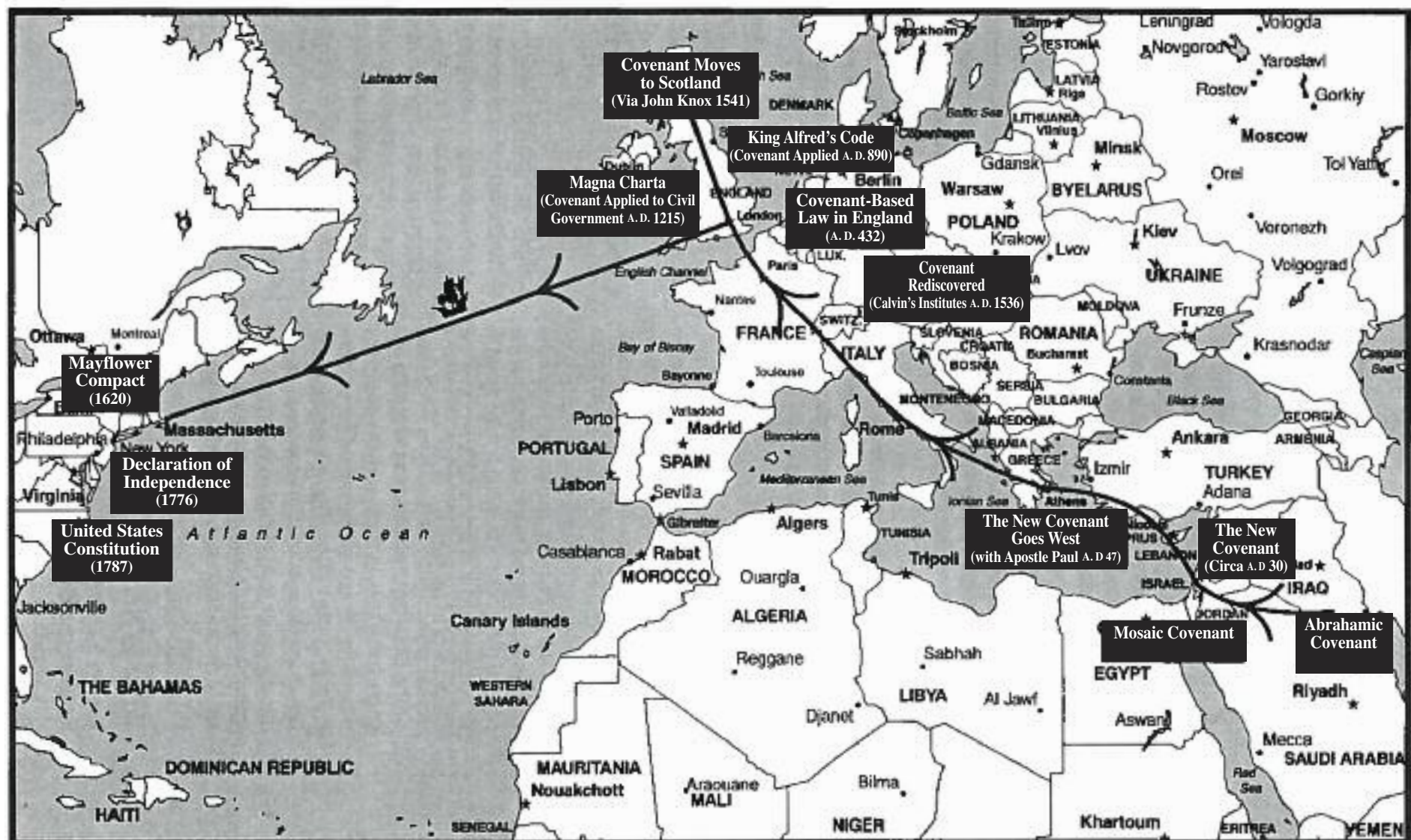
Parents face a dilemma today about educating their children. Christians are commanded in **Proverbs 22:6** to *"Train up a child in the way that he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it."*

And **Romans 12:2** has this solemn warning, *"Be not conformed to this world....,"* but rather, as admonished in **Lev. 25:10**, *"...proclaim Liberty throughout the land...."*

Timeline: Liberty in the English Heritage



HOW THE HAND OF GOD MOVED CHRISTIAN CIVILIZATION WESTWARD



Community Lifestyles

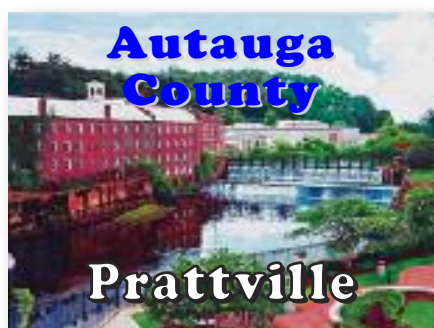
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Sheriff Derrick Cunningham

Chief Deputy Kevin J. Murphy

MCSO Firing Range Building Dedication

On December 1, 2016, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Training Facility and Firing Range was officially dedicated to retired Sheriff D.T. Marshall, who passed away earlier this year. The Firing Range was renamed the Sheriff D.T. Marshall Firearms Training Center, in his honor. Many friends and family spoke on behalf of Sheriff Marshall including Montgomery County Commissioner, Ronda M. Walker, House of Representative, Dimitri Polizos and Bobby Timmons, Executive Director of the Alabama Sheriffs Association. They reflected on the importance to Sheriff Marshall that training

and state of the art equipment be made easily available not only to the deputies and staff of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, but to law enforcement throughout the State of Alabama. Sheriff Marshall would be proud to know that the work he started at the training facility would continue, with the addition of a new firing range and additional training facilities and dormitories on the other end of the property.

A Resolution was presented to Ms. Annie Pease, Sheriff Marshall's sister, by Rep. Dimitri Polizos, commemorating Sheriff David Thompson "D.T." Marshall, which will be displayed in the newly dedicated facility. Sheriff Marshall was aware of the building dedication prior to his passing and appreciated that his name will be honored at the training facility.

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## Firearms Familiarization Course

Sign up NOW for our 1st 2017 Firearms Familiarization Course scheduled for Saturday, January 14th, and learn how to protect yourself! We know that learning how to protect yourself is very important in today's world.

The class is held at our newly dedicated Sheriff D.T. Marshall Firearms Training Center and lasts most of the day and is FREE to Montgomery County



citizens! The morning session is classroom instruction on firearm safety and firearm laws. The afternoon session allows citizens to practice shooting on our Firing Range for the remainder of the class (if you would like). All classes are under the instruction of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Range Master.



### Course Requirements:

- Montgomery County Citizen
- Obtain a Montgomery County Pistol Permit (prior to the course date)
- Complete an Application for the Course

**Pistol Permit Questions?**  
334.832.1335 or 334.832.1337

**Course Questions or to Obtain an Application?**  
LisaCrenshaw@mc-ala.org  
334.832.1339

**Your safety is our primary concern; therefore, we ask that you do not bring children to this class.**

## Sheriff's Office APP

We are getting a lot of positive feedback from our new Sheriff's Office APP! In case you missed last month's article, here it is again...

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office has a new phone app called "Montgomery County AL Sheriff" that 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!

## Mental Illness

Mental Illness is becoming an epic program nationwide and the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office along with NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) have partnered to provide an informational brochure with helpful information and phone numbers to assist those in need.

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| <p><b>Mental Health &amp; Counseling</b><br/>EMERGENCY DIAL 911</p> <p>NAMI - ALABAMA : 334-336-4757<br/>AL Dept. of Mental Health : 334-242-3454<br/>Veterans Crisis Line : 800-273-8255<br/>Council on Subst. Abuse : 334-262-1629</p> <p><b>Montgomery County</b><br/>Mental Health Services : 334-279-7890<br/>Intellectual Disability : 334-288-1151<br/>Substance Use Disorders : 334-269-2150</p> <p><b>Autauga County</b><br/>Mental Health Services : 334-365-2207<br/>Intellectual Disability : 334-285-2508<br/>Substance Use Disorders : 334-365-2207</p> <p><b>Elmore County</b><br/>Mental Health Services : 334-567-8408<br/>Intellectual Disability : 334-285-2508<br/>Substance Use Disorders : 334-759-7405</p> <p><b>Lowndes County</b><br/>Mental Health Services : 334-548-2578<br/>Intellectual Disability : 334-548-2578<br/>Substance Use Disorders : 334-548-2578</p> | <p><b>CRISIS COMMUNICATIONS</b></p> <p>When trying to communicate with persons who have severe mental illnesses and are in crisis, certain tactics and attitudes seem to work best:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speak calmly and quietly</li> <li>• Keep reasonable safe distance</li> <li>• Remember your personal safety</li> <li>• Get beyond strong language hurled at you</li> <li>• Respond to rage with quiet reassurance</li> <li>• Slow down the pace</li> <li>• Be willing to repeat yourself</li> <li>• Ask "Are you taking medication?"</li> <li>• Listen carefully and don't interrupt</li> <li>• Be respectful</li> <li>• Do not challenge his or her delusions</li> <li>• Make no sudden moves</li> <li>• Do not try to hurry a resolution</li> <li>• Be patient and take your time</li> </ul> | <p><b>Recognizing and Caring for Mental Illness</b></p> <p>This pamphlet is provided by the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office.</p> <p>Supported by:</p> |
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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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| <p><b>Resources</b></p> <p>Baptist South ER 334-286-2841<br/>Crestbridge 334-286-1214<br/>Jackson Hospital ER 334-233-8022<br/>Jackson Assn. Center 334-239-9105<br/>Baptist East ER 334-244-8448<br/>Catholic Social Services 334-288-8890<br/>Family Guidance Center 334-270-6100<br/>Family Sunshine Center<br/>Abused Victims 334-206-2100<br/>24 Hour Crisis Line 334-253-0218<br/>Lighthouse Counseling 334-286-5882<br/>Airman/Family Ready Ctr 334-553-2353</p> <p><b>Probate Courts</b></p> <p>Montgomery County 334-832-7773<br/>Autauga County 334-361-3728<br/>Elmore County 334-567-1140<br/>Lowndes County 334-548-2365</p> | <p><b>Principles of Support</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We will see the individual first, not the illness.</li> <li>2. We recognize that mental illnesses are medical illnesses that may have environment triggers.</li> <li>3. We understand that mental illnesses are traumatic events.</li> <li>4. We aim for better coping skills.</li> <li>5. We find strength in sharing experiences.</li> <li>6. We reject stigma and do not tolerate discrimination.</li> <li>7. We won't judge anyone's pain as less than our own.</li> <li>8. We forgive ourselves and reject guilt.</li> <li>9. We embrace humor as healthy.</li> <li>10. We accept we cannot solve all problems.</li> <li>11. We expect a better future is a realistic way.</li> <li>12. We will never give up hope.</li> </ol> | <p><b>NAMI Alabama provides support, education, and advocacy:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family &amp; Peer Support Groups</li> <li>• Family-to-Family Classes</li> <li>• In Our Own Voice Presentations</li> <li>• Peer to Peer Classes</li> <li>• Basic Classes (for primary caregivers of children ages 13-18)</li> <li>• Finding the Silver</li> <li>• Parents &amp; Teachers as Allies</li> <li>• Outreach Programs (for Hispanics, African Americans, &amp; Veterans)</li> <li>• Crisis Intervention Team Training (Partnership with AUM)</li> <li>• Resource Access</li> <li>• Advocacy</li> <li>• Annual NAMI Walk</li> </ul> <p><b>How You Can Help:</b><br/>Become a member. Take a class. Attend a presentation. Volunteer. Make a donation. Join us in advocacy!<br/><a href="http://www.namialabama.org">www.namialabama.org</a></p> |
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## Building Renovations

We are in the process of renovating the 1st floor of our Annex I building at 100 South Lawrence. If you need to access this area, please check with our building security personnel at the public entrance door at 100 South Lawrence. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.



## THANK YOU... Generosity

Thank you to everyone that gave to the homeless and to those less fortunate this holiday season! It's through the generous support of citizens that no one is without during the holidays. Thank you again for showing that you care!

## Employee Recognition

Each month, we recognize one of our own at the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office! This month, we recognize payroll clerk, Mek Abebe. Mek has been employed with us since September 2013 after retiring from the Montgomery Police Department with 22 years of service. She handles Payroll and Human Resources for the Sheriff's Office and Detention Facility. She is married to Girmachew Abebe and they have two children, one granddaughter and another granddaughter on the way. Mek enjoys walking, watching Alabama football, and spending time with her granddaughter.



Girmachew and Mek Abebe

Great Job, Mek! Thank you!

Thank you for your continued support of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office!  
**SEE YOU IN 2017!**

# Upcoming Tallassee Events...



**McCraney-Cottle**  
ARTS COUNCIL

**2017 Season  
Performing Arts Preview**

January 14, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.  
Missoula Children's Theatre  
Treasure Island



The McCraney-Cottle Arts Council is a 501c(3) organization. Contributions are fully tax deductible.

*Tallassee Music Boosters Presents*

*20th Annual*  
**Fabulous Follies**

*Admission \$5.00  
(6 and under FREE)*

*Friday & Saturday  
February 17th & 18th  
Tallassee High School Auditorium  
Beginning At 7:00 p.m.*

## Tallassee Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony

**Thursday, January 26, 2016**

**6:00 p.m. Social Hour ~ 7:00 p.m. Dinner & Program**

**Location to be announced**

**Guest Speaker: Mayor Johnny Hammock**

Call (334) 283-5151 or Online: [www.Tallasseechamber.com](http://www.Tallasseechamber.com)

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Sheriff Joe Sedinger



This year the Autauga County Sheriff's Office worked with Mrs. Alice Smith from Community Action of Central Alabama to provide meals for Christmas for 12 families in need. Monetary donations were given by the Sheriff's Office employees to purchase the items provided for the meal. This project was headed up by Warrant Clerk Ngozi Agee with the full support of Sheriff Joe Sedinger. The meal provided consisted of a turkey, stuffing,

cranberry sauce, collard greens, yams, water, fruit, rolls, pound cake, and chocolate covered cherries. The remaining funds left from purchasing all items for the meals, was donated to the Community Action of Central Alabama to help other families. All recipients were very appreciative of their meals. The Sheriff hopes that this becomes an annual event for the Autauga County Sheriff's Office.



Prattville's Way Off Broadway Theatre Presents



To  
**Kill A Mockingbird**

From the novel by Harper Lee

Adapted by Christopher Sergel

Directed by Sam Wallace

**FEBRUARY 9-26**

Opens Thursday, Feb. 9, 7:30 PM

Special Performance Feb. 14, 7:30 PM

Fridays and Saturdays 7:30 PM | Sundays 2:00 PM

Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door

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Presented by special arrangement with the **WOBT** Dramatic Publishing Company of Woodstock, Illinois.

Prattville Way Off Broadway Theatre Presents  
**To Kill A Mockingbird**

Prattville's Way Off Broadway Theatre announces its production of Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*, adapted by Christopher Sergel, which will be produced by special arrangement with The Dramatic Publishing Company of Woodstock, Illinois. The play will be directed by Sam Wallace, who last directed *The Curious Savage* at WOBT.

This play, based on the Pulitzer Prize winning novel by Alabama author **Harper Lee**, is a coming of age story loosely based on Lee's family and friends and deals with social and racial issues of the Deep South. The critically acclaimed novel was made into a movie which received several Oscars, was adapted for the stage and presented in the U.S. and U.K. and has been included in the educational curriculum in schools throughout the United States for many years.

*To Kill a Mockingbird* will open on Thursday, February 9, 2017, at 7:30 p.m. and there will be a reception to meet the cast and crew following the play.

For further information, please contact the Cultural Arts and Special Events Office at (334) 595 - 0854 or visit the website at [wobt.prattvilleal.gov](http://wobt.prattvilleal.gov).

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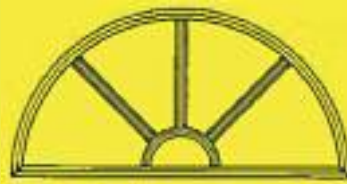
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*"Every cell in your body functions like a car, it has it's own engine, You can put the best gasoline (food) in, and the best oil (vitamins/minerals); but if you throw sand (chemical toxins & heavy metals) into the motor, the first two doesn't matter. At MEDAC, PC, we focus on helping to get the sand out of your motor. We also help with the food and the oil so that you motor can hum and run in the optimal way it was designed.*

Here is our adjusted schedule for the upcoming Lee/King Day holiday:

City offices will be closed on January 16th.  
Sanitation will not collect Residential Yard Trash or Household Garbage on this day.

Monday and Tuesday's routes will be collected on Tuesday, January 17th.

If you have any questions or issues regarding Sanitation service, please direct those to Public Works Director Dale Gandy at (334) 595-0481.

The information line for Public Works, which will give you current scheduling information, is (334) 595-0888.

# Southern Cuisine

Even when I thought winter would never come, I did wish that it would come gently into the night. As I write this, I was wondering what happened to the gentle part. I wake up one morning and it is warm, 70, and the usual muggy. Then a breeze started up and the temperature started down. The temperature dropped 35 degrees and I still had shorts and tee shirts as my wardrobe.

I was happy, in a way, for the change. It is supposed to be winter. I was looking forward to trying some new, heartwarming dishes. In addition, I was waiting to do some canning. With the boiling pots of water to sterilize the lids and jars and the stewing fruits and blanching vegetables heating on the stove, my kitchen gets quite warm. The house warms up enough that I do not need the gas heaters or the central heat pump to fight back the cold weather.

I am also looking forward to the cooler weather so I can practice doing more sous vide cooking. I obtained a PolyScience circulating pump that will handle a large pot or container of water. I was introduced to sous vide while working at the Renaissance Hotel in Montgomery and I have found restaurants in the area that do sous vide cooking and that got me going again. If you do not know about sous vide, I will keep you posted about my adventures at trying to use it as an alternative cooking method.

I have introduced several friends of mine to a grocery store in Montgomery that I think is a treasure trove for the adventurous foodie. It is the **Capital Market** on South Blvd. I go there for inspiration to try something new and for the memories of food I ate while living and traveling overseas. To let you know how adventurous I am, I try to eat a taco con lingua every time I go to the store. The store has varieties of produce unmatched by any store that I know of around here. They have everything from fresh apricots to zucchini, which does not sound too exciting. However, the other produce they have includes taro root, daikon radish, Japanese eggplant, lemongrass, bitter melon, enoki mushrooms, nopales, plantains and different types and colors of bananas. Their weekly ad has a special section for Asian Groceries, Indian Groceries, and Hispanic, African, and Jamaican Groceries. Where else can you find chapatti flour and Mexican hominy and SPAM in the same store? Plan to spend an afternoon there and have lunch at their hot food counter.

As you know, it's January and that means Black-eyed Peas. In most cultures, foods that are prepared and eaten on New Year's Day will bring good luck. According to the **Oxford Encyclopedia of Food and Drink** in America, 'African Americans in the 18th and 19th centuries made one of the most enduring contributions to the modern holiday (New Year Day). Starting in the Carolina's but extending throughout the South, hoppin' John and greens became traditional New Year's Day fare, black-eyed peas bringing luck....and greens (like money) bringing prosperity.'

If you are trying to eat your way to more good luck past New Year's Day, make a thick stew with your leftover black-eyed peas, add other vegetables, and serve it in a puff pastry cup. Save some of the "pot liquor" from the peas to use in the stew. I got the idea for the puff pastry cups from another recipe. They are cute and practical if you are serving the stew as a side dish and want to start with a clean plate without a juicy stew spreading out on the plate when serving. Also, try serving it on a split corn bread muffing for the Southern twist.

## BLACK-EYED PEA STEW IN PUFF PASTRY CUPS

### INGREDIENTS

|                                   |                                 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 12 ounces cooked Black-eyed Peas  | 1 cup white potato diced small  |
| 12 Puff Pastry Cups- buy pre-made | 1 cup zucchini diced small      |
| 2 Bacon slices, diced             | 1 cup yellow squash diced small |
| 1 small yellow onion small diced  | 4 ounces butter                 |
| 2 teaspoon minced garlic          | 1/2 teaspoon cumin              |
| 1 cup carrots peeled and diced    | 1/4 cup cooking sherry          |
| 1 28 ounce can diced tomatoes     | Chicken Stock as needed         |
|                                   | Salt and Pepper to taste        |

### METHOD

1. Prepare the puff pastry per instructions on package
2. Add bacon to large pot over high heat and cook until crispy and most of the fat is rendered out.
3. Remove bacon and save to add later to pot.
4. Add onion to bacon fat and cook until slightly caramelized. Add garlic and stir for about 30 seconds until aromatic. Add carrots and cook until tender and slightly caramelized.
5. Add tomatoes and bring to a boil. Add sherry and then more chicken stock if too thick.
6. Add potatoes and more stock as needed to cook the potatoes.
7. When potatoes are tender, add bacon and remaining ingredients except butter.
8. Heat thoroughly and adjust seasoning. Add more stock as needed. You want a thick hardy stew.
9. Add butter and stir until melted.
10. Place pastry cup on serving plate and fill with stew.

On a cold winter night a bowl of thick creamy hot soup, will sooth the soul. A recipe from the Lowndesboro **Legacies Cook Book** published by the Lowndesboro Landmarks Foundation, Inc. fits the bill and if need be when another warm spell hits Alabama, this soup is also good cold. I slightly altered the original recipe from Jane Dickson by doubling the amount of hash brown potatoes to make a thicker creamier soup.

I do not receive any compensation for any reviews of establishments or products mentioned in this article. I will be writing about more restaurants, grocery stores, and local products found in central Alabama since I believe that we should eat, drink, and buy locally as much as possible. In addition, I hope that the recipes and tips I offer will help your meals be a shared event.

"Cooking gave us not just the meal but also the occasion: the practice of eating together at an appointed time and place. This was something new under the sun, for the forager of raw food would have likely fed himself on the go and alone, like all the animals. (Or, come to think of it, like the industrial eaters we're more recently become, grazing at gas stations and eating by ourselves whenever and wherever.) But sitting down to common meals, making eye contact, sharing food, and exercising self-restraint all served to civilize us." **Michael Pollan.**

"The only time to eat diet food is while you're waiting for the steak to cook"  
**Julia Child**

"Meat isn't murder, it's delicious." **John Lydon**



## LOADED POTATO SOUP

### INGREDIENTS

|                                        |                                                                              |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2 packages Ore-Ida hash brown potatoes | 16 ounces sour cream                                                         |
| 2 large cartons chicken broth          | 1-pound block Mexican Velveeta cheese, cut into cubes                        |
| 1 stick salted butter                  | Optional shredded cheddar cheese, bacon bits, and green onions for toppings. |
| 1 8 ounce carton whipping cream        |                                                                              |
| 1 medium onion, chopped fine           |                                                                              |

### METHOD

1. In a large pot, add chicken broth, potatoes, and onion. Bring to a boil and then simmer for twenty minutes.
2. Add butter, cheese, and cream.
3. Cook at low, stirring occasionally until cheese has melted. The soup will be chunky. Blend with a hand blender until lump free for a creamier soup.
4. Spoon the soup into bowls and top with cheese, bacon bits, and green onions.

You can freeze the soup in wide mouth Mason jars to serve later. Place jar in refrigerator to defrost soup and serve cold. To serve hot, take defrosted jar and with band and lid removed heat in a microwave oven.

## ACRE Restaurant Review

Since I told you about one of my new favorite grocers, I might as well tell you about a new restaurant experience I had. I was in Auburn for a conference and five of us wanted to go out to eat the night before the conference and the other four wanted me to recommend and make reservations at a restaurant. I have been eyeing a restaurant for some time. The restaurant serves, "stylish modern food with roots deep in Southern soil". It is **ACRE** in Auburn three blocks from Toomer's Corner.

ACRE has a variety of charcuterie and cheese boards. We did not have a chance to try either, which gives me an excuse to go back. We did try two of their "For Starters". I had the Beef Steak Tartare and two others divided the Fried Green Tomatoes. Both were fresh and very tasteful. I prefer carpaccio, but the Tartare was a nice change of pace. The grilled ciabatta ran out before the Tartare but when asked, our wait staff brought a larger serving of bread than came with the dish in the first place. In addition, it was hot and soft. I saved some to eat with my ribs. The two who order the green tomatoes wrongly thought that the dish is hot when served, but with fresh Gulf crab and pimento cheese on top, it tasted fine cold. The entrees we ate were the Bone-In Beef Short Rib, the Mustard Glazed Salmon, and two split the Roasted Gulf Snapper. The pot roast gravy on the short rib was rich and flavorful. The hard balance to maintain between the different vegetables being cook evenly was almost right on, being that the onions were slightly under cooked.

A chance you take with short ribs is they are fatter than you want. There was a good measure of tender meat on the large rib I was served. There was nothing but praise for the Salmon and for the Snapper, both cooked just right, flaky, and moist.

We ate on a Thursday evening at eight p.m. finished about 10 p.m. We had drinks, looked over the menu forever, and we were surprised by the crowd for a Thursday night and Auburn not being in session, and we admired the building, asked the wait staff many questions, but never took out our phones to take pictures of the food to post on social media. Thank goodness. It was an enjoyable evening, friendly staff, and good food.

**JANUARY 1, 2017**

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# Southern Gardening Potpourri for January

by Peggy Givhan

First of all let me wish all of my readers a **Happy Happy New Year.** This country has been through a lot, but I have always been of the mind, that if lemons come your way, do not despair, make lemonade. In spite of the prophets of gloom and doom, 2013 will soar with hope, new ideas, new inventions and a new commitment to making our

**Judge  
Peggy Givhan**

world a better place to live. And that include beautiful gardens.

January is the month of hope of things to come. A group wanted to visit my garden in the dead of winter several years ago. Of course, there were pansies, dianthus, the beautiful gray-green of lambs ears, and the silvery fluff of dusty miller. There were also huge blank areas where I have planted bulbs and seed. I told them to close their eyes and visualize the yellow and white daffodils, the bright pink tulips, the tall red and white poppies. I called these areas my underground garden.

Since we have had a hard freeze, it is still time to spray trees, shrubs, grass, fences, vines, and everything outside with a combination of Volk Oil and Lime Sulfur. But on the other hand if you love to deal with mosquitos, white flies, powdery mildew, mold, fleas, roaches, and a myriad of other pests which hatch from eggs, do not spray. Remember it is too late to spray when dormancy is broken.

Now is the time to take stock of where your garden has been and where you want it to go this year. A great gardening pal of both Ed's and mine, Bill Gordy, would postulate, "if a flower or shrub did not say thank you, out it goes". There is nothing like having a polite flower garden. But the point is, if you had trouble with a certain plant, and if that flower/plant was tended properly and it still did not perform, then let's just erase it off our garden plan and substitute.

I have found a great tarp for pots which house fairly cold hardy perennials such as plumbago, elephant ears, geraniums, and other plants which will take some freezing temperatures. It is a large outside grill cover which has curved sides and insulates the plants. Also, the large tarps can be put into action for this purpose also. Remember to weight the ends with brick or stones, so the wind does not blow the protection off.

## PLANT OF THE MONTH

**Nandina or Heavenly bamboo**--Berberidaceae which is an evergreen or some, semi-deciduous shrub. This plant should have a prominent spot on the TV series, "The Survivors". If you want a shrub which requires no care, no water, no pruning, no fertilizer, then this is for you. Even with temperatures going down to 5 degrees, it will probably lose leaves, and still live. It belongs to the barberry family, and has caned branching stems with delicate narrow leaves. Not a rampant grower, and gets to about 6 feet or better in height. Foliage has pinkish copper which turn lime green in the spring and then has purple and bronze tints in the fall. Great for flower arrangements especially if you want to add bright orange berries to the mix. When pruning this shrub, trim in a slight wedge like manner to that the legs can get sunlight to encourage foliage. This procedure will eliminate that lanky leggy look that folks find objectionable in Nandina.



I will close with my favorite quote that I found somewhere by somebody, "a garden is a beautiful thing, and a thing of beauty honors all of life".

**GOOD GARDENING!**

## It was a Season for Giving! \$1,000

The Alabama Gazette again presented \$100 cash to ten deserving people in the Tri-County area.

Below are experts from the 10 chosen to receive Christmas Money

These letters represent individuals from the River Region and beyond.

"My parents just celebrated 55 years of marriage on November 25th. They are the sweetest example of love, marriage and family there is. Their home is warm and inviting to all family members and their selfless giving is without end. Please present this precious couple the gift so they can go out for a lovely Christmas dinner!"

"I am a widow, age 75. My friend surprised me last summer with picking, snapping and canning 12 pints of home grown snap beans!! She is a very rare, faithful and true friend and deserves to win."

"She is very deserving as she cared for her mother who lived to be in her 90's. She also raided her sister's son and daughter for many years when her sister was ill. She has now been diagnosed with Lukemia and lost the use of her car which she used to go to treatments. Thank you for sharing at Christmas time."

"This nomination is to share my wife's life story with you. I've witnessed this Proverbs 31 woman in action for the past 33 years of our marriage. I served my country overseas and abroad. She never complained just encouraged; she never quit; just prayed, counseled, instruct and gave of herself. She consistently demonstrates faithfulness unto the Lord by reflecting his unconditional love. In my worst of times she's been there unwavering and consistent."

This poem sums up how I feel about my bride of 33 years.

If a task once begun  
Never leave it until it's done  
Be the labor great of small  
Do it well or not at all

"She took me into her home along with my Grandma and made us part of her family. She helps me study for tests and buys me clothes all the time. If my Grandma can't get gas to take me to school, she let's us use her car. I love her so much."

"I lived in her house most of the time, the Superwoman under my roof. She did not wear a red cape, or black boots. Instead, she wore a red handkerchief tied around her head, and a brown leather belt around her waist. It held her skirt up and held the power of motivation; I never forgot it was there. My Aunt, I always suspected was Superthings fast. As for strength, she could carry a dishpan on her head filled with okra and tomatoes and a bucket under her arm at the same time. My Aunt is a Christian lady and she lives everyday by the golden rule."

"It would be nice to wake up just once at Christmas and see a tree up and presents under the tree. But it will not be this year. My mom doesn't have a car because she can't afford one so she walks every place she goes. She would ride the bus if she could afford it. I am so thankful for my mom, she is the best."

"She is a single mom; she has a daughter that is 5 years old and a son who is one year old. She is truly amazing; she goes out of her way to make sure her children have what they need."

"He's been down with his health and welfare, could use the \$100.00 financial assistance if anyway possible. I hope you would think about him in his time of need."

"This very special person who happens to be a tow truck driver did not have to stop in the rain & fog to help complete strangers, but his kindness and compassion led him to do so. He actually had a cast on his arm where a driver had clipped him with the side mirror of their car while he was helping someone else. I think he is very deserving of receiving the \$100 cash for Christmas, as I know he did not and is not expecting anything in return."

# Home Town Community News



Patricia Killough

Please send Patricia your family birthdays, anniversaries and weddings to [alabamagazette@gmail.com](mailto:alabamagazette@gmail.com)

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

## January Birthdays



- |                           |                              |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Steve Campbell          | 17 Randy Childs              |
| Butch Metcalf             | Toni Grimes                  |
| 3 Ben Davis               | Charlene McClanahan          |
| 4 Morgan Boone            | Bill Northington             |
| 5 Jan Johnson             | 18 Carly Madison Ellis       |
| Barbara Harrington        | Joshua C. Kyser (5th)        |
| 6 Judy Norman             | Joy Fleming                  |
| Jackson Rice              | Leslie Garvin                |
| Elizabeth Robison         | Laura Hester                 |
| 7 Nicole Windham          | Johnny Hassett               |
| Will Woodall              | 19 Kaybee Hobbs              |
| Tim Pierce                | Gina Hunt                    |
| Danny Bush                | Connie Bush                  |
| 8 Joshua Nix (18th)       | Sammy Turner                 |
| Betty Chesnutt (91st)     | 20 Caleb Campbell            |
| Sam Cassels               | Dr. Charles Cloutier         |
| Burks Crane               | Taylor Campbell              |
| Marilyn Evans             | Alyssa Spivey                |
| Mary Ellen Millis         | Randy Kelly                  |
| Scott Mills               | 21 Mildred Athey (100th)     |
| Trey Norris               | Tonya Cooley                 |
| Sarah Morgan Smith (13th) | Cory Griffin                 |
| Blake Webb                | Jane Russell                 |
| Brett Tolerson            | Julio Vazquez                |
| 9 Bobby Mills             | Elizabeth Phibbs             |
| Brittany Mitchell         | 22 Kayla Cook                |
| Megan St. Clair Stewart   | Jonathan Aplin               |
| Edna Hargrove             | Tim Wilsford                 |
| 11 Jim Aro                | 23 Pam Higgins               |
| Liz Klauss                | Jason Selvage                |
| Betty Woodall             | Ridge Newell                 |
| Sue Woodall (77th)        | Bernice Bryant               |
| 12 Corey Campbell         | 24 Donna Gail Andersen       |
| Carson Lane Abbott        | Tina Campbell                |
| Liz Braswell              | Anne Pinkston                |
| Brenda Moseley            | 25 Katie Scarlett Boyd (7th) |
| Clarice Caldwell          | Mary Beth Wadsden            |
| James Barton              | Ellen Robbins                |
| 13 Theresa Henderson      | 26 Mary Price                |
| Shirley Kirksey Jones     | Mack Terrell                 |
| T. J. Mills               | 27 Sophie Boyd               |
| Bob Maddox                | 28 Baleigh Windham           |
| 14 Tiffany Andrews        | Darrell Self                 |
| John Black                | 29 Kim Kelley                |
| John T. Killough          | Faye Law                     |
| Doug Young                | 30 Wanda Horsley             |
| 15 Jennifer Williams      | Betty Jones                  |
| Hayden Kelly              | Doris Miller                 |
| John McClelland           | Betty Ann Russell            |
| Ester Covington           | 31 Will Garrett              |
| 16 Ann Takacs             |                              |

### Birth Announcement

**Wayne Henry Morris IV** was born December 7th, 2016 at 12:39 pm to Wendy and Wayne Henry Morris III. He weighed 7 lbs 9 ozs and was 20 inches long. Proud grandparents are Jan and Wayne Morris, II of Pike Road.



**Congratulations to Jo Guthrie on her 90th birthday November 4, 2016.**



**Birthday wishes to Martha Griffin of Troy. She will celebrate her 101st on January 19, 2017.**

### Happy Anniversary

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

### Sympathy to the families of...

- Dodd, Nell Drake White (96).....died November 23, 2016  
 Jones, Nell (68).....died November 29, 2016  
 Mims, Susan (68).....died November 30, 2016  
 Brooks, Hugh G. (82).....died December 2, 2016  
 Glenn, John "Astronaut" (95).....died December 8, 2016  
 Blake, Dorothy Louise Smith (77).....died December 9, 2016  
 Bodiford, Charlie Gilbert (89).....died December 9, 2016  
 Lynch, Barry Durham (56).....died December 13, 2016  
 Ball, Donald Maurice (75).....died December 15, 2016  
 Godwin, Thomas Ross (91).....died December 16, 2016  
 Corbitt, Danny (67).....died December 17, 2016  
 Aronov, Jacqueline Bern (85).....died December 18, 2016  
 Webster, Ann Gilmer "Meme" (92).....died December 18, 2016  
 Christenberry, David Eugene (61).....died December 19, 2016  
 Cumuze, Christina Tsangaris (92).....died December 21, 2016  
 Wood, Charles "Buddy" Loftin (81).....died December 21, 2016  
 Woodham, James A. "Jim" (74).....died December 21, 2016  
 Athey, Dr. John Reddoch (69).....died December 22, 2016  
 Ciniglio, Alice D. (89).....died December 22, 2016  
 Head, Sr., Carl Edmond (87).....died December 22, 2016  
 Rawlins, Milton Edward (73).....died December 23, 2016  
 Smith, Jr., Lyle Hamilton (90).....died December 25, 2016  
 Oates, Helen Marie (68).....died December 29, 2016

**Randall Headley played happy birthday for George Jones on his 88th birthday on December 10, 2016 at the Montgomery Curb Market**



**Don Meadows (aka "The Candyman") celebrated his 80th Birthday December 21, 2016 at Woodland UMC.**

**He received over 50 cards for his special day!**



# TODAY'S WOMAN

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

## Trisston's Tidbits...

By: Trisston Wright Burrows  
[www.trisstonwrightburrows.com](http://www.trisstonwrightburrows.com)

### "A New Year Has Begun"

Well...we made it, folks! We have completed another journey around the sun. Now, a new year has begun. Happy 2017!

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things have passed away, behold, new things have come!" 2 Corinthians 5:17*

It's the start of a New Year so we all begin thinking towards those resolutions. A resolution usually means that we want to resolve to improve or better ourselves...physically, emotionally, spiritually. That's always good, especially in the spiritual areas of our lives. I'm always for anything to improve our lives and relationships with our Lord. When it boils down to it, bettering ourselves as Christians involves bettering our relationships with God.

*"Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice." Psalm 55:17*

We need to draw closer to God before we can improve our Christian lives. Sure, we can make a New Year's resolution to do that but I think just resolving, day by day, gets the job done in a better way.

So, this year let's resolve to live better for God, day by day, hour by hour, moment by moment and that will add up to our best for Him not only for this new year but for our entire lives as well.

Happy New Year & Many Blessings!



Trisston Wright Burrows  
 Ms. Wheelchair America/  
 Alabama 2005

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SCAN FOR APPT.

## Mae Gibson Retires

Mrs. Mae Gibson, 81 years old, retired on 12/31/16, from the State of Alabama Department of Labor, Hearings and Appeals Division, after 24 years of permanent service and three years of temporary employment. Mrs. Gibson was honored with a tea at work on Wednesday afternoon, December 7, 2016. The decorations had a Christmas theme and music was provided by Preston Frazer on the piano. Among the many guests in attendance was Wetumpka Mayor Jerry Willis, a longtime friend of the honoree.



Over the years Mae has spent some of her spare time working for Mr. Bill Cowart as an extra in numerous movies, including The Grass Harp, the Rosa Parks movie (and also she is in pictures at the Rosa Parks Museum,) and The Trouble With the Curve with Clint Eastwood.

After retiring Mae plans to travel to the mountains and also a trip to Colorado is planned to see a grandson and a California work friend, Barbara, from the 1950's.

## NOVICE 90 YEAR OLD FISHERMAN VERA BROWN SNAGS THE BIG ONE!



It only took an "Oscar Myer hotdog" and 30 seconds. She exclaimed..."It's hung up"! Other fishermen watching shouted, "just reel it in!" "Just keep on reeling!" Her prize was a large mouth bass - 4 lbs, 7 ozs. A trophy bass at Ray Scott's retreat. Ms. Vera "the fishing lady" fished four more days. She outfished the men. Got up early and before 7:00 each morning she was fishing again. She caught a 10 lb. catfish and worked 30 minutes to reel in talapia. She filled up the cooler. Her exclamation was, "just one more"!

Ms. Vera has just moved to Alabama from Florida to be with her son.

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# Art That Nourishes The Soul



True art does more than make us smile. It inspires and uplifts; it speaks directly to our hearts. Just like the artists of ancient China, Shen Yun's performers believe that to create real art, they must not only master their craft, but also cultivate goodness. Beauty stems from the heart—that's why these artists emphasize meditation and moral character development. Only by nurturing inner beauty can an artist truly bring out the ideals that have nurtured Chinese culture for millennia, like loyalty, honesty, and compassion. These virtues flow through every dance movement and resonate with musical note. You can feel this energy long after you leave the theater.

## See Why Every Seat Is Taken

It's a performance that leaves millions in awe.

Shen Yun started with a small group of artists sharing a single dream, to bring back true Chinese culture. But within a few short years Shen Yun has become an international phenomenon. Only a decade since its inception, Shen Yun has four companies that simultaneously tour around the world, performing for royalty, entertainment celebrities, government leaders, and many other VIPs in sold-out shows at the most celebrated theaters. No wonder people call Shen Yun a global sensation.

Now is your chance to be a part of it. Don't miss this opportunity to see what the world is talking about!



**Cate Blanchett**  
*Academy Award-winning Actress*

"It was an extraordinary experience... The level of skill, but also the power of the archetypes and the narratives was startling. And of course it was exquisitely beautiful."

"Absolutely beautiful... It has become this one big poetic event. It was so inspiring, I think I may have found some new ideas for the next Avatar."



**Robert Stromberg**  
*Academy Award-winning production designer*



**Richard Connema**  
*Broadway critic*

"I have reviewed over 3,000 to 4,000 shows since 1942. I give this production 5 stars. That's the top... I've seen enough Broadway shows that still cannot compare to what I saw tonight. The best word to use is 'mind blowing.'"

"Really out of this world! There is no word to describe it... If I had to describe it, the words might be 'divine,' 'reborn' and 'hope'... It's beauty from beginning to end. You have to see it to believe it."



**Christine Walevska**  
*master cellist*



**Jim Cril**  
*producer*

"This is the finest thing, the finest event I've ever been to in my life... I was in tears, because the human spirit, the dignity, the power, the love, coming out of those people was astounding... This is the profound, quintessential end of entertainment, there is nothing beyond this, nothing."

"I come away feeling like a better human being for having experienced this magnificent event. It speaks not only to my intellect, but it speaks to my heart... It was a complete edifying experience of the human spirit."



**Omega Medina**  
*former Senior Manager of Classical Music for the Grammy Awards*



Music



Medicine

### The Healing Power of Music

**DID YOU KNOW THAT** in traditional Chinese culture, medicine and music are closely linked? In fact, the Chinese word for "medicine" comes from the word for "music." The five notes of the Chinese musical scale are connected to the Chinese theory of the Five Elements, and to traditional Chinese medicine.

For example, the first note gong is connected to the earth element. It also corresponds to the digestive system. Music that uses this note makes a person feel peaceful. People believed that to heal the body, you need elegant music that encourages virtue.

When you hear the music of Shen Yun, you might be struck by its incredible energy and warmth. And now you understand part of the ancient wisdom behind it.



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