





THE ALABAMA

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*alabamagazette@gmail.com*

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**2017**

**NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP**

**January 8th**

**Saban Catches**

**“The BEAR”**





## *Freshman Quarterback Tua Tagovailoa Delivers for BAMA!*

Nick Saban may have done the best coaching job of his career at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta on the night of January 8, 2018. Trailing for the entire game, Saban made a tough decision at halftime down 13-0. He pulled Jalen Hurts and started Tua Tagovailoa in the second half. Hurts has been the quarterback for 25 wins and only two losses in two years. However, those losses were devastating. One was in the national championship game last year against Clemson. The other was to in-state nemeses Auburn in the last regular season game.


It was painfully obvious that in order for Alabama to overcome a terrible first half, they would have to throw the football more. Enter, Tua Tagovailoa. He has always been a better passer than the multi-talented Jalen Hurts. Why Saban has not played Tua more is a mystery to me. It is always best to play only your best quarterback. But, if your best is a runner and the second best is a runner and a passer, playing two quarterbacks can be very effective. Maybe, Nick Saban is so smart that he was waiting until the national championship game to go to his “second best”. Don’t count on that. Alabama was in a desperate situation, so desperate measures would be required. Still, it took a lot of intestinal fortitude to make the decision to replace a proven winner with an unproven freshman who had not attempted a pass against a Division I team since October.

As a coach, you are never sure that your decisions will be rewarded. You just have to go with your gut feeling. That gut feeling in Saban’s mind ultimately won the game for Alabama and enshrined Nick Saban into the legend category for good. His six national championships in a span of fifteen years will never be duplicated. This feat is unprecedented in the history of college football. He finally caught “The Bear”.

Georgia actually won the battle and lost the war as freshman quarterback Jake Fromm completed 16 of 32 passes for 232 yards, making key plays on third downs most of the game. The Dawgs ran the ball 45 times for 133 yards, thereby, keeping the ball away from Alabama. The game was Georgia’s for 3 1/2 quarters. Alabama only had the ball for 26.2 minutes. That was just enough time for Tua to bring the Tide back over and over again. Finally, Alabama tied the game at 20-20 with a pass to Calvin Ridley, a top 10 projection in the spring NFL draft.

Continued on page 4B

Also see Sugar Bowl Recap on page 1B.



**Is it good to think about any legal issues for the New Year?**

**Ronald A. Holtsford**  
Excerpts from Ron’s Commentary on page 2A

I 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.

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.

**Steve Flowers**



*however, the simple answer to why a Democrat won is that Roy Moore was the Republican nominee. Are we a state that can go either way in an open U. S. Senate seat.*

*As we have just seen, it is possible.*

*As we enter the 2018 campaign season, many of you have asked me to look back and analyze the 2017 Special Election Senate race and explain in depth what happened and why. The most asked question is how could a Democrat win a U.S. Senate seat in Alabama and does this mean that we are now possibly a two party state? I will give you numerous answers,*



**January 3, 2017 Swearing-in of Senator Doug Jones**  
Continued on page 4A.

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**Ronald A. Holtsford**

### Is it good 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 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 divorced or suffered the death of a spouse or even a child. You may have a child graduate, enter the work-force 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.

The next few statements may be subject to change with the current tax law legislation being considered as I write this. For 2018 the gift tax exclusion is set to move from \$14,000.00 to \$15,000.00 a person as a gift (child, grandchild, etc.) not requiring the filing of a Gift Tax return or up to \$30,000 to a person if both you and your spouse gift to the same person once per year. This is the first significant increase in the last few years. There is a lifetime jump of generation skipping tax limits to \$5.6 million from \$5.45 million in 2017. 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 was a \$5.49 million total estate tax exemption per individual (if you die within 2017).; 2018 will provide a \$5.6 million tax exemption. However, the Republican Congress is suggesting \$11.2 million per person so instead of a total of \$11.2 million it would be a portable \$22.4 million .Prior years for the most part have smaller exempt amounts. The portable portion mentioned above may be available to a surviving spouse who may be able to combine their unused estate credit amounts up to a total of \$22.4 million if this legislation is signed into law. While the estate tax exemption is portable in that the remaining exempt estates can be combined, it is 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 inconceivable for high middle class people to have an estate over \$5.6 million dollars or even \$11.2 million as a couple. If you die with an estate of greater than \$5.6 million then that amount over \$5.6 million may continue to be 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. I run into too many old or non-attorney prepared defective Wills when it really counts and there is an attempt to probate the 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. Hmm-

mmm. 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 2018 Medicare Part B will be anywhere from \$109.00 to \$134.00 per month dependent on whether the senior is subject to the “hold harmless” provision. Those with higher incomes will pay higher Part B premiums. There is a \$183.00 (same as 2017) 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 \$167.50 per day (\$164.50 per day in 2017). 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.

Current tax law consideration is to remove the mandate under the Affordable Care act (Obamacare). The time to make health care changes under the ACA has passed (open enrollment) unless you have a qualifying event or become eligible under Medicaid/ CHIP. 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. Current tax considerations suggest that pass through entities not involved as professional service businesses (accountants, attorneys, etc) such as sole proprietorships, LLC’s, LLP’s and S corporations may take an additional 20% off their income. Because pass through entities are taxed at the owner’s tax rate this will give an additional 20% decrease in taxable income. In addition to the advantages of pass through taxation and limited liability there may also be 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 sub-standard 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



Office (334)356-6700

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[www.alabamagazette.com](http://www.alabamagazette.com)  
[alabamagazette@gmail.com](mailto:alabamagazette@gmail.com)

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# ROBSERVATIONS...

by Robert Tate

## Winston Churchill: The Historic “Great Man” and the “Darkest Hour”

Earlier this year I did a review of the movie “Dunkirk” and clearly stated that I am in no way a movie critic. But I went to see “Darkest Hour”

opening day and felt compelled to write something about one of my historical heroes, Sir Winston Churchill. Before I start I want to first say, “SHAME” to every movie theater here in Montgomery that, even up to the time of me writing this, has not shown this movie on even one of their screens. Not one! Shame, shame, shame. My wife and I made a short road trip up to Birmingham just to see it. It was worth the trip but I still cannot believe no local theaters felt this movie worthy of viewing.



### Sir Winston Churchill

For starters, I cannot recommend this movie, Darkest Hour, enough. Sadly I have read a couple of reviews online written by some Millennial snowflakes, who panned the movie. Once I take into account their extreme ignorance and lack of historical knowledge, I can get past their stupidity. A perfect example is the incredibly ridiculous diatribe written by Ethan Vestby. If you can garner the courage and with a vomit bag in hand, you can read his review at: <https://thefilmstage.com/reviews/tiffreview-darkest-hour-is-a-self-parody-of-the-british-prestige-picture/>.

Most reviews, however, have been positive. I sit securely inside that camp. But rather than review the movie, per se, I want to talk a little about the man, Sir Winston Churchill and what this movie clearly brought out. In my book on the German ace Hans-Joachim Marseille, I wrote a chapter discussing the concept of the historical “Great Man” and whether the concept itself is even possible.

In Sidney Hook’s, The Hero in History, the author examines two different historical personalities. One is described as the “Eventful Man” and the other as the “Event Making Man.” The eventful man, can be described as the person who is simply in the right place at the right time. He is merely part of much larger events dominating his era and is born to forces far beyond his control. This person’s conduct is influenced, determined and controlled by decisive outside pressures that he is merely reacting to, and although he may indeed be coping with outside stressors better than his counterpart and peers, he is in no way able to control them. In effect, the eventful man is merely a prisoner of his environment and will only become successful if he can navigate the myriad of situations presented to him. Former British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain was the classic eventful man; and quite the failure as well. He was unable to shape his surroundings and was pushed around by the events of his time. He was unable to shape anything significant other than his glaring incompetence and moral weakness.

The event making man or our historical “Great Man,” on the other hand, is the character to which we ascribe almost supernatural powers. This is where I believe Churchill belongs. Not a mere pawn of his surroundings, the historic Great Man finds the

courage and intestinal fortitude to control his own destiny and to successfully manipulate his surroundings to his advantage. Because of this ability to shape and control the events around him, the Great Man becomes a significant part of those larger events by driving them in one direction or the other. The Great Man, through his outstanding character, intelligence, will and/or abilities has the capacity to accomplish specific goals or purposes.

The Great Man Theory states, “major developments of human history are accounted for by the great men who sometimes seem to exert an almost superhuman control over the fate of their generation.” It is important to realize that “Great Men” need not be “nice” men or those who fight on our side. History is full of corrupt, criminal, malevolent men and women, Adolf Hitler for example, who by the nature of their accomplishments can only be judged as evil yet still maintain the status of historically great personalities.

Whomever this person may be, good or evil, the historical great man exists at some level beyond his own measure. These men (or women), by their very nature, are often so gifted, talented or charismatic that the rules restricting the operation and movements of others seem not to hinder them at all. They appear to be in many ways, the master of their circumstances, and with that, their fate as well. They also tend to reshape and adjust their surroundings in order to fit their own ideas and concepts of the way they feel their environment should be.

I personally believe a superior person, or rather a person of superior ability, can be decisive within situations where others’ abilities fail. The Great Man’s personality, stamina, education, physical prowess, values, integrity, character, charisma, oratory skills and/or judgment all play a part in setting himself apart from his contemporaries and rivals. All these attributes have an impact on the way he manipulates his environment. This is in essence what makes the great man “Great.”

In his book Preface to History, Carl Gustavson discusses four “maxims” concerning the historical great man.

1. Long term trends are far less likely to be controlled or determined by an individual hero. There appears to be a limit to just how much an individual can do by himself in an attempt to change and shape the outcome of any historical event.
2. Most cases of great influence throughout history are indeed usually the right man at the right time.
3. “The occasional genius by extremely dexterous and willful actions, may achieve ‘historical mutation.’” In other words, the rare person can actually achieve world-changing greatness through his or her physical actions.
4. Perhaps most important maxim is that every historical situation is unique and must therefore be judged on its own merit. No universal formula exists and it is impossible to determine exactly who is going to emerge as a significant historical figure.

So again, where does this leave us with Winston Churchill? I believe the movie the Darkest Hour clearly paints him in the corner of the historical “Great Man.” He was in no way merely a spectator to the events portrayed in the movie. This film takes a very short snapshot of England in May 1940. Neville Chamberlain has just been booted out as Prime Minister and the search for his replacement begins. Although Churchill eventually gets the nod, it was not an easy transition and many people fought against him. Meanwhile, the German army and Luftwaffe have just rolled through most of Western Europe and France is about to fall. At Dunkirk, 330,000 men are stranded on the beach and are at risk of being captured or even completely wiped out. It is indeed a dark time for England that the movie

captures spectacularly.

At that time in their history, I believe only a man of Churchill’s strength, charisma and never surrender attitude alone kept England from going under. Where many pacifist and cowardly members of Parliament wanted a peace treaty with the Germans and many were equally resigned to having the men at Dunkirk captured, Churchill alone said, “No, not on my watch.” It was his idea and his idea alone to call up the civilian boats to go to Dunkirk and help with the evacuation. It was his will and his vision that saved the British army in 1940. Although Churchill was indeed the right man at the right time, he was also the dominate personality that led England to victory in WWII.

In the movie, there are several important scenes that will make you understand what Churchill was confronted with. His addresses to Parliament, his two meetings with the King and his phone call to President Roosevelt. ‘Nuf said. One thing I found interesting were certain similarities between Churchill and President Trump. No I am not comparing the two, but both men faced and continue to face fierce criticism not necessarily because of actions done but simply because of the words they use. A lot of political opposition came simply because both men basically said or say mean things that people need but don’t want to hear. This comes out, albeit I believe unintentionally, in the movie several times.

If the Montgomery theaters ever get off their butts and get this movie here, I highly recommend seeing it. It is one of the best movies I have seen in years and I really like the way the focus of the movie is just a short snapshot in time. If you read any really negative reviews, just consider the source. As for me, I give this movie 3.5 out of 4 diving Stukas.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear T8er,

I am sure you have seen the article in the Washington Examiner listing my 81 major accomplishments in my first year. <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/year-one-list-81-major-trump-achievements-11-obama-legacy-items-repealed/article/2644159> What do you think? POTUS

Dear POTUS,

Sir, I am impressed. Anyone with an objective eye should be as well. But the press will not let up on you and will continue to focus, not on your achievements but rather on your Twitter postings. After watching “Darkest Hour” I became infinitely aware of the word, “legacy.” Winston Churchill’s legacy is immense. Catch phrases like, “We will never surrender,” “Never has so much owed by so many to so few,” “This is not the end. This not even the beginning of the end but rather this is the end of the beginning,” and “An iron curtain has descended over Europe” will forever immortalize the man in addition to his numerous and sizeable accomplishments. Sir, never get angry when someone tries to hang you with the rope you have just given them. Think of your legacy. Seven years from now when you climb aboard Marine One for the last time and lift off the White House lawn, what do you want to be remembered by? Your impressive accomplishments or the fact that you slammed some idiot snowflake, an irreverent NFL player, a clueless basketball player’s father or your feud with Rosie O’ Choose the former. Don’t give the leftist press any unwarranted ammunition. The Trump name will remain in American history forever while these peons you fight with on Twitter will all be forgotten by next Tuesday. Be our modern-day Churchill.







# Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers

*Steve Flowers is Alabama's leading political columnist.  
His weekly column on Alabama politics appears in over 60 Alabama newspapers.  
He served 16 years in the state legislature.*

*[www.steveflowers.us](http://www.steveflowers.us)*



January 10, 2017

A few months back the Jefferson County Republican Party honored our Senior U.S. Senator, Richard Shelby. It was held at The Club in Birmingham. The view from atop Red Mountain from this elegant club is spectacular, especially at night from the ballroom. The glass enclosure allows you to see the grandeur of the Birmingham skyline. As you glimpse at the scene you can see many of the buildings that are the heart of the University of Alabama/Birmingham.

As the tribute to Shelby began, I looked out over the night sky and caught a glimpse of the \$70 million Shelby Biomedical Research building. I thought how appropriate that they were honoring a living legend in Alabama political history. Senator Shelby has been an integral part of the growth and expansion of UAB. The UAB Medical Complex and Research Center is now Jefferson County's premier economic engine and employer.

In fact, UAB and the Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville are Alabama's crown jewels now and for the future. It could be said that UAB and the Redstone Arsenal have flourished because of Richard Shelby and his prowess at bringing home the bacon to Alabama over the past 30 years.

In my book, "Six Decades of Colorful Alabama Political Stories," which was published several years ago, I have a chapter devoted to and entitled "Alabama's Three Greatest Senators." Two of those Senators served as a tandem in Washington during the 1940's, 50's and 60's. Lister Hill and John Sparkman were powerful and revered statesmen.

Hill, a Montgomerian, served in the U.S. Senate for 30 years from 1938 to 1968. He was a congressman from the second district for 12 years prior to going to the U.S. Senate during the FDR New Deal.

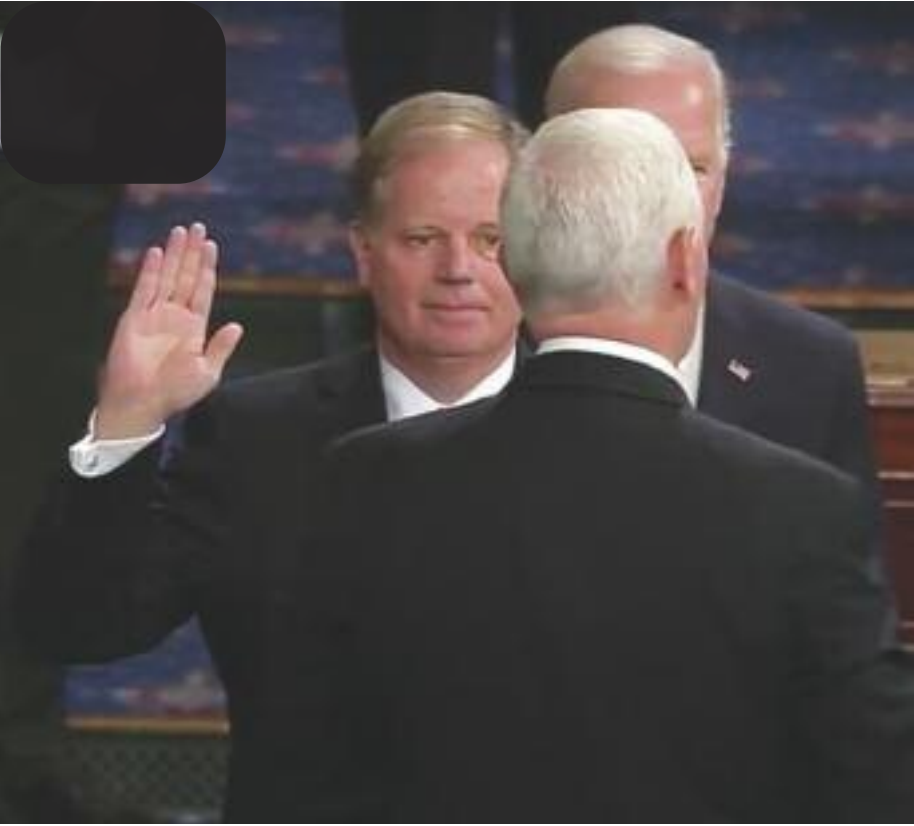
Prior to becoming a U.S. Senator, John Sparkman was a congressman for eight years from his native Tennessee Valley. When he retired in 1970, he had been in the Senate for 32 years – the record for an Alabama U.S. Senator.

Sparkman is the father of the Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville. In fact they ought to name Huntsville Sparkmanville. Lister Hill whose legacy was in health care was the Father of UAB.

## Entering the 2018 Election Season

January 3, 2017

*As we enter the 2018 campaign season, many of you have asked me to look back and analyze the 2017 Special Election Senate race and explain in depth what happened and why. The most asked question is how could a Democrat win a U.S. Senate seat in Alabama and does this mean that we are now possibly a two party state? I will give you numerous answers, however, the simple answer to why a Democrat won is that Roy Moore was the Republican nominee. Are we a state that can go either way in an open U.S. Senate seat? As we have just seen, it is possible but not probable.*



### January 3, 2017 Swearing-in of Senator Doug Jones

The Democrat, Doug Jones, won in the perfect storm. We will probably never have this same scenario again. There are two maxims in politics that over my years of following politics never fail and become truer and truer. The more things change, the more they stay the same. One is money is the mother's milk of politics. The second is that more people vote against someone or something than vote for someone or something.

To the first adage, money is the mother's milk of politics, nine times out of ten when one candidate out spends the other the one who spends the most usually wins. When one outspends the other 3-to-1, they always win. In this race, the

Senator Shelby has sustained these two giant legacies. He has used his power and influence to fuel the continued growth of these two pivotal cogs in Alabama's economic engine. They are both reliant on Federal dollars which Shelby has supplied.

Hill and Sparkman were both University of Alabama graduates. Law school and undergraduate. They both were Student Government Presidents. Shelby was also a product of the University of Alabama. He was a Tuscaloosa lawyer prior to going to Congress in 1978. He had served eight years in the State Senate prior to his departure for Washington. He served eight years in Congress prior to being elected to the U.S. Senate in 1986.

He was reelected to his sixth six-year term last year. This time next year, he will surpass John Sparkman's 32 years in the Senate and will have the record for longevity in the U.S. Senate from Alabama. I would contend that Richard Shelby has eclipsed Hill and Sparkman in Alabama political history when it comes to power and influence in Washington.

Many times it is difficult to ascertain or recognize greatness when it is current. However, history will record that Richard Shelby would arguably be considered Alabama's greatest U. S. Senator.

John Sparkman chaired banking and had a legacy with housing Americans. Lister Hill authored the Hill-Burton Act which built hospitals all over America.

Richard Shelby has been Chairman of the Senate Banking Committee. He has been Chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee. He is currently Chairman of the Senate Rules Committee.

Folks, what that means is that nothing becomes law in the United States or no budget or U.S. appropriation is approved without the consent of our Senior U.S. Senator.

Richard Shelby has reached a pinnacle of power never before seen in Alabama political history.

It really does not matter who is our Junior Senator. As long as we have Richard Shelby we do not need a second U.S. Senator.

National Democratic Party saw an opening and they seized on it.

The people in blue America are mad as hell that Donald Trump upset Hillary Clinton. Our senate race was the only race in town or should we say the country. Not only do Democrats despise Trump, but when they heard that Alabama had a Republican candidate that is a pro-God, pro-gun, gun toting, antiabortion, horse riding, religious zealot that said that he was not only against gay marriage but said that gays were legally committing bestiality, the nation saw Roy Moore as a little extreme in today's America. In addition, a good many people around the country believe he is a pedophile.

The liberal and gay money flowed into here by the barrel. It came from New York and San Francisco and all liberal pockets in America. The bottom line is the Democrat, Doug Jones, outspent the Republican, Roy Moore, 6-to-1; 18 million to 3 million and that does not count the soft money spent by the National Democratic Party that was spent on getting out the vote.

The book was written on Moore from the get go. The first poll and the last poll revealed that 30 percent of Alabamians would vote for Roy Moore come hell or high water. However, he is so polarizing that a whopping 70 percent said that they would not vote for him under any circumstance.

The reason that he won the Republican nomination was that his 30 percent became accentuated due to turnout. His voters are more ardent, fervent and frankly older. Moore's 30 percent did indeed vote on December 12. The problem for Moore was that the 70 percent that detest him voted more than was expected.

The biggest part of that 70 percent was African American voters who voted in epic, unparalleled proportions. It was statewide. It was not only in the urban counties of Jefferson, Montgomery, and Mobile and the Black Belt. This tidal wave occurred in all 67 counties. African American voters came together in a crescendo and sent Roy Moore to a watery grave. Doug Jones owes his election to the Black voters and he knows it.

A significant number of urbane, upscale, more educated business establishment Republicans voted against Moore, pragmatically. The image that Moore portrayed to the nation was bad for business and economic development. The best example of this was the results in Madison County. Huntsville is Alabama's crown jewel and economic engine. They generally vote Republican. Moore lost Madison County by 20,000 votes.

Senator Richard Shelby contributed to Moore's defeat. His refusing to vote for Moore and his open acknowledgement that he cast a write-in vote for an unknown Republican gave credence and impetus for other Republicans to follow suit. There were about 22,000 write-in votes. Moore lost by 21,000.

How does this play into 2018. It gives Walt Maddox and Sue Bell Cobb hope and credence that under the right and perfect circumstances a Democrat can win. However, it probably does not change the fact that a Republican gubernatorial or senatorial candidate will be favored to win 60/40. Luther Strange or Mo Brooks would have won the Senate race 60/40.

### - U.S. SENATOR OATH OF OFFICE

*I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter: So help me God.*

*image: U.S. Constitution*

*The Constitution sets three qualifications for service in the U.S. Senate: age (at least thirty years of age); U.S. citizenship (at least nine years); and residency in the state a senator represents at time of election. The details of these qualifications were hammered out by the Constitution's framers during the Constitutional Convention in 1787.*





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

John Sophocleus

THINK

*GazetteSophocleus@gmail.com.*

## Binary Choice: source of our bipolar political dysfunction



Much ink has been spilled since Doug Jones' (49.9%) close victory over Roy Moore (48.4%) in the US Senate special election. It is my hope Democrats devastated by Trump's win and Republicans recent despair on Moore's defeat evokes empathy of how many eligible voters (esp. those who refuse to waste their vote on duopoly candidates) feel after most elections. Even with 2% of voters who participated not voting D or R, 60% of eligible voters stayed home for another low turnout result. Reince Priebus shamelessly revels in the "binary choice" duopoly parties enjoy when voters refuse to vote for someone different. Without more competition and participation, modern elections communicate little information as those who keep wasting their votes on the only two allowed on the ballot are increasingly less reflective of citizens in general over specific interests.

After efforts (mostly mass media) successfully installed Trump in our corrupt primary process to clear the field for Hillary, they wrote epitaphs for the Republican Party. When they over played their hand (given the binary choice) and Hillary lost, they penned Democratic Party epitaphs for the dumb masses to delight or writhe reading; most unaware of the anti-competitive ballot access laws, hyper-gerrymandering, 17th Amendment inducing large money into Senate races, 435 limit destroying representation in the House, etc. facilitating the results. Foolish to write epitaphs for either of these parties under the circumstances. If you're the recipient of transfers you care which duopolist is in power, if you're hosting these parasites, it doesn't matter if you're being drained by the blue or red swamp monster. Productive hosts who continue to vote for the duopoly in these low turnout results and those who don't participate who care about the general welfare are the problem. Now that Alabama is as backward as most other states and we have prohibition of cross-over voting in taxpayer funded primaries, I forecast the next step by our 'political protectionists' on Goat Hill will be prohibition of write-in votes to make results even more despotic over candidates' and voters' civil rights.

As most readers know, I've long advocated establishing a block of 'general welfare' voters to beat the margin of victory to get noticed as the determinant of winner. The Socialist Party accomplished much of their deleterious agenda without actually getting their candidates elected, they (think Lincoln-Lenin Brigade types) simply established themselves as the biggest block to determine the outcome to win. A small government/liberty championing block could undo the mess we've 'progressed' into if not blocked. The 20,634 (1.5%) margin of victory was exceeded by the 22,814 (1.7%) write-ins counted (even more profound if you count those who showed to vote for a non-duopoly candidate but deemed unworthy to include by the government) which means the winner may have won by a larger margin or the loser could've won with these votes cast in their favour. Many voiced disdain for Sen. Shelby claiming he wrote-in a distinguished Republican, suspiciously timed to coincide with Marine Col. Lee Busby announcing his write in campaign. Little surprise 'Cash Register' Shelby (to those who read the Felon Hubbard e-mails) would do this as the last Democrat Senator elected to remove small govt. Senator Denton. Shelby would quickly change parties to be the typical big govt. Republicrat championing corporate welfare/crony capitalism desired by District of Corruption elites.

Pursuant to Act 2016-450 regarding identification and recordation of write-in votes, Secretary of State Merrill correctly determined individual write-in votes cast in the US Senate special election be identified and documented for the December 12th results. This Sect. of State has a history of eliminating elections to thwart write-ins on general elections the State is obliged to provide guaranteeing our representative republic and thumbed his nose at federal court rulings Alabama ballot access laws unconstitutional deny candidates' and voters' civil rights to general election ballots for special elections of this sort. Dec. 12th was a rare instance to actually have write-ins allowed (unlike when Rep. Lovvorn was installed to Dist. 79 without an election) and to have them reported. The top five at press time were: Luther Strange, Lee Busby, Mo Brooks, Ron Bishop, Jeff Sessions. For those wondering Nick Saban placed sixth far ahead of Malzahn; Charles Barkley beat them both in Lee county.

The Strange/Busby top two result is little surprise. This is communicating the big govt. corporate welfare cadre of Republicrat voters angered that prohibition of cross-over voting in the primary run-off blocked Democrats from bailing out recently installed Strange. I doubt many will admit it, but those crowing how wonderful it is to prohibit taxpayers from participating in run-offs they purchase, who forecast it would ensure Republican victories, are unhappy with this first result. Some insiders claim they wanted Busby to be in the mix because if a write-in campaign did take off (like Murkowski's write-in victory over the Tea Party in Alaska) and win, there would be no 'sore-loser law'

ramifications. Murkowski was indeed an unusual write-in candidate result as Alaska's incumbent senior senator from a political dynasty with \$1+ million in her campaign war chest. Before Murkowski, the last successful Senate write-in candidate was Strom Thurmond (South Carolina) in 1954.

If competition were allowed on ballots, the limousine liberals and corporate welfare queens would likely coalesce to be more easily defeated when greater turnout is induced when a modern BCA Luther Strange type wins a party primary. Similarly the big govt. social welfare right candidate like Roy Moore would be more easily defeated after winning a primary, just like a big govt. social welfare extremist left candidate Doug Jones type would be segmented into a smaller group and lose on a competitive general election ballot with greater turnout. One could also pair the Brooks/Bishop write-in results as an attempt to communicate those who want a small govt. candidate representing them. I did spend a little time deciding who I would write-in until Brooks threw his support for Moore showing he's just another politician who thinks they can reform the Republican Party from their traditional big govt. corporate welfare hegemonic roots. I wish more Brooks/Pittman primary voters I spoke with decided to participate to increase the write-in result.

I got a tickle out of Jeff Sessions' fifth place. I certainly did not want this incompetent on economics with such disregard for our civil rights back in the US Senate; maybe it was further Republican voter backlash to Trump who backed loser Strange and then Moore. Some (including Trump?) wish he'd never made Sessions AG. I thank Trump Sessions is no longer my Senator, but I doubt Mr. Jones will be any improvement as one of the 614 write-ins (mine for Prof. Mark Thornton) in the US Senate race where Sessions ran unopposed for a fourth term. Madison county had the highest (3%) write-in result; two counties (Choctaw and Lowndes) had no write-ins reported. As a 'college town' county Tuscaloosa had about par turnout (+0.4) where Jones won with 57.2% and 1.9% write-ins. Lee county (still suffering the Felon Hubbard low turn-out result with contiguous counties) went similarly for Jones at 57.4% but with poor turnout 7.5 points under par. Tigertown's slightly higher write-in result at 2.0% may be explained by two hometown candidates, Coggin's 10 votes and Watson who received as many Ron Bishop's 67 votes in the county.

If there were an "Electoral College" by county, Mr. Jones would not fare well winning only 25 (about a third) of our 67 counties. The most illustrative 'battleground' county was Monroe with just about par (+0.4) turnout where Moore won with 49.9% and write-ins clearly beat the margin of victory. The map is easy to understand, most of the counties Moore won displayed well under par turnout; Winston county went 82.7% Moore with 4.6 points under par turnout, neighboring Marion county went 79.3% Moore at 7.6 points below par. Jackson was the most under par turnout (11 points) county Moore won at 67.8% second only to Russell county with the worst turnout at 11.9 points below par (part of the Felon Hubbard effect) which went 64.8% Jones. Those familiar with what Lee-Russell govt. consortium does to rural poor, often back residents and churches mobilized efforts by several groups to get out the vote and communicate dissatisfaction with status quo. The upset result was no surprise to those familiar with the Lee County Voters League effort to increase registration and participation. We'll see if it translates to any change in politicians' behavior redistributing to crony contractors, developers, etc. from rural citizens. Increased turnout for a non-traditional Republican who would reverse the unsustainable, cancerous growth observed these past years in the corrupt Lee county bubble could've made the difference. East central Alabama border counties are communicating something with such strong under par results: Cleburne (-10.9), Randolph (-10.7), Chambers (-8.0), Lee (-7.5), Russell (-11.9).

Regression analysis gives some interesting results unlikely to be reported by main stream media. Using Sect. of State data on race by county suggests white voters were 8 times more likely to write-in than black voters; including SoS data on voters registered as black increased the R Square result by more than double on participation. Little surprise the highest (13.5%) above par turnout was Greene county (73% black according to the SoS website) which Jones won with 87.6% in contrast to the Winston county result reported above with the lowest (0.3%) black voter registration. The most difficult result to reconcile for those who wish to emphasize gender, race, etc. is the deviation between 2016 turnout for Hillary and a 20% higher turnout for Jones a year later among black voters. Further evidence Hillary lost because of HILLARY in spite of (or perhaps because of) gaming our corrupt, rigged duopoly system. Even if I did think Russians or some other outside entity 'stole' the 2016 election, I wouldn't care - does it really matter if someone steals such polluted, corrupt unrepresentative result?

Now we hear rhetoric of a 'Doug Jones Democrat' - what does that mean? Will Schumer, et al big govt. Democrats let him strategically vote against them when it doesn't matter? I've observed that show enough (FDIC failure Lowder on AU BoT votes, Del and Felon Hubbard advancing Riley, Inc. political theft votes, etc.) to realize that will provide little change and voters will catch on... sadly it takes so much longer to discipline under this corrupt, uncommunicative voting process. Early in the campaign Doug Jones ran an ad which at first gave hope - acknowledging someone like Gov. Oates defending our State's independence with such resolve in his service to the Confederacy was honorable; sadly Mr. Jones then concluded we're now better off under federal hegemony and the distortions proffered by a central govt. addressing so many things it was never designed to (nor possibly can address well) in Article 1, Section 8. I pray it means Mr. Jones will make the effort to return the Party to being traditional, Jeffersonian Democrats. Have the courage of slave owner to set a course to end slavery, don't go with compromises to not count population to skew power to one special interest over another, etc. Instead of simply advocating yet another increase in the minimum wage, install a federal program to help employers restore job losses in rural AL, MS, GA, where an effective federal min. wage disproportionately harms teens, minorities discriminated against, single moms, etc.

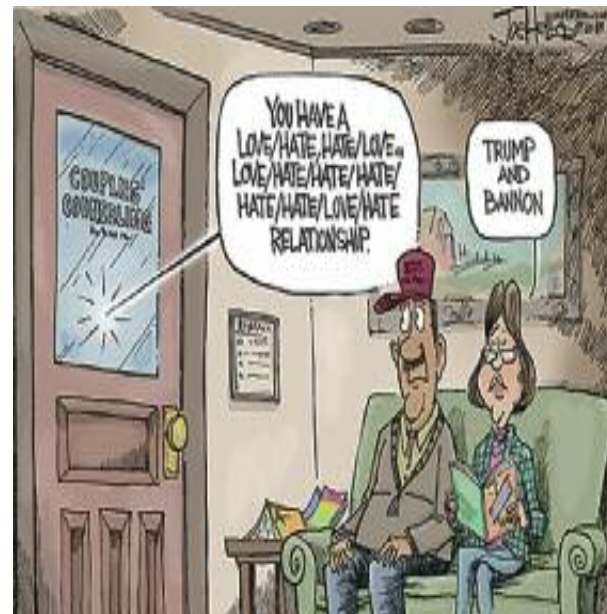
Doubtful Mr. Jones has any political advisor to tell him this, but I genuinely think him intelligent enough to understand it; follow the marginal black voters who turned out to proffer your victory. They're smarter and wiser than you are, hoping you'll not be more of the same Hillary/Trump Republicrat transfer game they've been burdened with these past several score. The usual base who turn out for the Hillary types with their desired transfers are as much of the problem as the base who turn out for Moore types wanting to use govt. to subsidize and impose their desired social results on others. Big govt. moderates who broker deals between extremists are the most deleterious of all, yet Jones advocates becoming one of them. Don't do it as the one blessed with a victory over a demagogue who undoubtedly would've continued to advance the harm they impose on the general welfare of our State and nation; it would be travesty to those marginal voters who carried the day for you to continue advancing demagoguery of another sort that provides no relief for general welfare on those 'kitchen table' issues you espouse. A victory of this sort only comes along a few times each century.

I invite the Senator elect to attend our corrupt Lee County Commission meetings and observe the transfers in action. Witness low income citizens, often black/rural churches and their pastors complaining about what is taken from them to aid and abet transfers to developers, railroads, etc. See how not following the law and selectively adhering to access management policies makes it difficult for the average productive rural citizen to go to work and pay their taxes, attend their church, etc. I'm still angered remembering a commissioner who said, "Don't you know that was cool in the 70s" as he was advocating the same 'cool' result in my county today.

I invite the Senator elect to come to our Lee County Voters League meetings and address the many who supported your campaign, interact with the true 'salt of the earth' types who preserve the best in our society; who understand what's going on and want you to protect them from having even more taken from them. Be an effective watchdog over matching federal monies sent to Alabama used as an excuse to further neglect our productive citizens actually advancing our general welfare.

I'd be indebted to the Senator elect if he would actually do something about those (again mostly poor, black) who've had their property wrongfully taken by our corrupt Alabama State Lands Division and provide reparations for the many others who've suffered political theft using resources and designations by our federal government.

Continued on page 3B







# The Education Station... *By Bobbie Ames*

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

## Indifference Has Undermined The Constitution

*In teaching History in our Christian School, it was my joy to be able to teach the Constitution in some depth to seniors. One of the problems that was easily observed was the apparent indifference concerning the Constitution and the Rule of Law in the public square.*

*I discussed this with my learned friend in Washington, D.C., Louis Wilson Ingram, who was not only a brilliant attorney, but also had worked in the highest branches of the federal government his entire career. This was in the years of 2005 and 2006, and our conversation continued until his death a few years ago.*

*Ingram’s assessment of the problem, a decade ago, is quoted below.*



~~~~~  
"Our American Constitution is not entirely dead. The part that protects our individual Rights, such as ex post facto laws, habeas corpus, gun ownership, due process, and religious practices, is alive and well. The part that restricts government power, however, is as dead as a doornail.

It is not too much to say that the Constitution has become a basket case, because it is honored

more often in the breach, than the observance, by those who are indifferent to its original intent. But to understand how that can be, one must understand the Constitution itself. That is not an intimidating necessity requiring that one become an expert Constitutionalist, but rather that one develop a working knowledge of the document.

A “working knowledge” depends on understanding the primary motive which drove the Framers to adopt its particular architecture. The architecture is a series of "checks and balances" intended to maintain the limitation of powers achieved through "enumeration of powers.” That limitation is the most important aspect of the Constitution.

That limitation of powers was the Framers response to their principal motivating concern. And what was that concern?

### FEAR... Fear of Government Power

Fear! If you do not fear government power right now, then you cannot appreciate the importance of the gift that the Framers left for you.

Politics is a zero sum game that pits individual Freedom against government Power; the more of one, the less of the other.

**It is impossible for government to guarantee individual Freedom, because each individual Freedom is directly the result of government willingly foregoing the exercise of some power. Government does not willingly forego any power.**

It is easier to visualize this from the opposite perspective. Government does not rule over birds and bees, but over people. And to rule over people, government must be able to control the decisions which comprise their lives. Clearly, as government attempts to dominate more and more decisions, people become less and less free.

Very few people fail to understand the zero sum game. That, however, does not give them an automatic comprehension of other political dynamics.

For example, why do elected representatives in a democratic republic come to "need" absolute power over their constituents? After all, they were, until their election, just one of those very people.

So it may have seemed. So it may have been. But something happens on the way to the Forum in the lives of almost every public servant. If not on the way, most certainly on their arrival or shortly thereafter.

When one steps onto the floor of the House or the Senate, it is difficult not to feel a swelling in the chest. It affects even Staff. It affected ME. But more so the elected ones. Suddenly the elected is different from the electors. He is now "The Honorable Elected" and thus differentiated from the hoypoloy.

The House membership is an astonishingly small percentage of the voting population, but when they are together in Washington, operating in their highly protected world, and sharing the power to utterly dominate the lives of the larger group who elected them, the headiness is too much to resist.

There is also the fact, that they are surrounded by fawning staff and lobbyists in an atmosphere of almost royal trappings. The Capitol building is truly awe inspiring, and this awe quickly rubs off on the practitioners of federal power.

It is understandable that some representatives soon come to feel that they are our masters rather than our servants. Why? Look at their privileges.

There is a dominating concern. All the power that they have is useless, if they don't use it. And so, adopting legislation becomes a necessity of their very existence.

But all legislation, in one way or another, diminishes our freedom. Every government decision is one less that can be made by “We the People” or just by people. There is no such thing as benign legislation."

*Proverbs 29: 2*

***"When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn."***

*Next month, I would like to write about the Architecture of the Constitution and how to Preserve it. Today, it is not just INDIFFERENCE to the Constitution that is our problem in America, but it is our lack of understanding and concept of the **Rule of Law**.*

*Please look forward to next month’s article in which I will go into more depth.*

*Bobbie Ames*

## 10th Amendment - U. S. Constitution

**“The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.”**

The Tenth Amendment (Amendment X) to the United States Constitution, which is part of the Bill of Rights, was ratified on December 15, 1791. It expresses the principle of federalism and states' rights, which strictly supports the entire plan of the original Constitution for the United States of America, by stating that the federal government possesses only those powers delegated to it by the United States Constitution. All remaining powers are reserved for the states or the people.

### Original Design of the Great Seal of the United States (1782)

Citation: Charles Thomson's design for the Great Seal of the United States, 1782; Reports of Committees of Congress; Records of the Continental and Confederation Congresses and the Constitutional Convention, 1774-1789.

Just a few hours after the Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, the first committee to design a seal for the United States was appointed, and its design began. After undergoing numerous changes, on June 20, 1782, the seal was officially adopted by the Continental Congress.



The amendment was proposed by Congress in 1789 during its first term following the Constitutional Convention and ratification of the Constitution. It was considered by many members as a prerequisite of such ratification particularly to satisfy demands by the Anti-Federalism movement that opposed the creation of a stronger U. S. federal government.

In drafting this amendment, its framers had two purposes in mind: first, as a necessary rule of construction; and second, as a reaffirmation of the nature of the federal system of freedom.

The design on the obverse (or front) of the seal is the coat of arms of the United States. The shield, though sometimes drawn incorrectly, has two main differences from the American flag. First, it has no stars on the blue chief (though other arms based on it do: the chief of the arms of the United States Senate may show 13 or 50, and the shield of the 9/11 Commission has, sometimes, 50 mullets on the chief). Second, unlike the American flag, the outermost stripes are white, not red; so as not to violate the heraldic rule of tincture.

The supporter of the shield is a bald eagle with its wings outstretched (or "displayed", in heraldic terms). From the eagle's perspective, it holds a bundle of 13 arrows in its left talon (referring to the 13 original states), and an olive branch in its right talon, together symbolizing that the United States has "a strong desire for peace, but will always be ready for war." (see Olive Branch Petition). Although not specified by law, the olive branch is usually depicted with 13 leaves and 13 olives, again representing the 13 original states. The eagle has its head turned towards the olive branch, on its right side, said to symbolize a preference for peace. In its beak, the eagle clutches a scroll with the motto E pluribus unum ("Out of Many, One"). Over its head there appears a "glory" with 13 mullets (stars) on a blue field. In the current (and several previous) dies of the great seal, the 13 stars above the eagle are arranged in rows of 1-4-3-4-1, forming a six-pointed star.

The 1782 resolution of Congress, adopting the arms still in force, legally blazoned the shield as "Paleways of 13 pieces, argent and gules; a chief, azure." As the designers recognized, this is a technically incorrect blazon under traditional English heraldic rules, since in English practice a vertically striped shield would be described as "paly", not "paleways", and it would not have had an odd number of stripes. A more technically proper blazon would have been argent, six pallets gules... (six red stripes on a white field), but the phrase used was chosen to preserve the reference to the 13 original states.  
*<https://en.wikipedia.org>*





Ed Jones  
Staff Sports Editor



## Gave BAMA Another Chance



Defense has always been the tool that brought Alabama to the pinnacle of the college football world. **Coach Paul Bryant** used this tool to win six national championships. **Coach Gene Stallings** used it to win one. **Coach Nick Saban** uses this tool probably better than anybody ever has. He played for his sixth national championship on Monday, January 8th.

Never has defense been so demonstrative as Alabama’s was in the demolition of Clemson in the semi-final game on New Years night. The Tide’s Defense dominated and smothered a very good Clemson offense 24-6. Clemson’s offense scored only one field goal, that in the first half when Alabama led by only 10-3. The first play of the first offensive series for Alabama in the second half resulted in a fumble recovered by Clemson near the red zone. No touchdown! Only a short “gift-wrapped” field goal to tighten the score at 10-6. The fumble was a result of a contested exchange between **Jalen Hurts** and running back **Damien Harris**. The play was an inside zone read to the left. Hurts read the play and thought he should keep the ball. Harris read the play thinking Hurts would relax his hold on the ball and let him keep it. It looks extremely elementary to see two great players in an unnecessary tug of war at the line of scrimmage. The play can result in a big gain since one defender is not blocked, thereby giving the offense one more blocker on the play. It is my least favorite play in football. It cost Auburn a game in 2014 against Texas A&M which started a downward spiral for **Coach Gus Malzahn** from which he has never fully recovered. This fumble by Hurts and Harris could conceivably have cost Alabama the game and a chance to play in the national championship against Georgia. The play can be just as effective if the hand off or the keep is predetermined. It is always better to not have a big play than to fumble the ball to your opponent. Clemson got to the four-yard line where THE DEFENSE stopped them on third down forcing a field goal. This tightened the game at 10-6.

Where Clemson had only crossed the fifty-yard line once in the first half, the fumble and subsequent field goal gave Clemson a new life and a reason to fight harder. Never give your opponent a reason to fight on when you are in control.

However, later in the half, **Anfernee Jennings**, an outside linebacker, tipped a ball thrown by Clemson quarterback **Kelly Bryant**. The ball was caught by 300 lb. plus nose guard **Da’Ron Payne**, who quickly dispatched one tackler and as he rumbled toward the goal line. He was finally “horse collared” by a desperate Clemson player and finally dragged down in the Alabama red zone. After moving the ball to the one-yard line, Alabama lined up in their power formation with Payne at the power blocking back (right halfback). When the ball was snapped the sure handed Payne power-back slipped into the flat unnoticed and caught a touchdown pass from **Jalen Hurst**. He was so close to the sideline, that he had to tip toe over the goal line. Alabama 17-Clemson 6.

The momentum quickly went back to the Tide. Clemson never threatened again. In the fourth quarter Kelly made a bad throw and linebacker **Mack Wilson** caught it in stride and ran it in at the pylon. **Game over 24-6.**

Clemson not only lost the game, they were embarrassed. They came into the game touting the best defense in the nation and an offense that could not be stopped. **Coach Dabo Swinney** of Clemson could only hang his head in disbelief as the final minutes ticked off the clock. I have never seen him when he was not very demonstrative on the sidelines urging his Tigers to come back and win the game. This time, however, acceptance began to be the rule on the Clemson sidelines from players and coaches. Alabama hit Clemson with everything they had on the opening play of the game. They kept hitting Clemson with the same controlled brutality right up to the end. It certainly was a fantastic demonstration of football fury that will be hard to duplicate.

The Clemson offense had been averaging 35.4 points per game coming into the Alabama game and 448 yards per game. They ended up with no touchdowns, only two field goals and 188 total yards. Those who were upset that Ohio State was snubbed in favor of Alabama, had to eat crow on Tuesday morning, January 2nd. Last year Clemson cleaned their clock in the semi-final game. Ohio State was even better in 2016. I’m not a Big Ten fan. Nothing pleases me more than to see Ohio State lose or be left out of the playoffs. Sorry about that. I’m a little off subject. Roll Tide!

*The title game was so big, the President of the United States was in attendance.*

### J. K. Scott

As usual, punter J. K. Scott worked his magic with the football. His punts continually kept Clemson on the wrong end of the field. Those who do not understand field position, can’t understand the most important part of a football game. The overall object of the defense is to stop the opponent from scoring. Your team wants to keep the ball on the opponents side of the 50 yard line, preferably making them start inside their own 20 yard line. Statistics show that most teams can not drive a football 80 yards without making a big mistake or having a turnover. The best way to make your opponent start inside the 20 is to have a punter who can drop the ball inside the 20 making the opponent take a fair catch, or making the ball bounce short of the end zone and backwards, or kick the football out of bounds inside the 20.

*I’ve never seen anybody with these skills that is better than senior punter J. K. Scott. He was the same as a freshman as he was as a senior. Alabama will greatly miss J. K. Scott.*



Anfernee Jennings



Da’Ron Payne



Minkah Fitzpatrick



Mack Wilson



J. K. Scott





# Woods & Waters

## Steve Long with Steve



*Pass It On, Share the Hunt*

Here lately I've been on a real kick about what it means to pass on the hunting heritage, and I'm still really adamant about bringing in the next generation of hunters. It's not only rewarding for everyone directly involved, but it improves the sport as a whole. Mike O'Malley, President of the Black Belt Branch of QDMA, right here in Montgomery, just had such an experience, and

“Some of my greatest, most meaningful memories are those spent with my father in the field. I was blessed to have a father who made time to devote with me and my friends teaching us how to enjoy God’s glory and splendor while hunting and fishing. The hours he created in his schedule to teach us how to enjoy the outdoors as stewards of our resources will never be forgotten.

With three grown boys of my own, I have tried to pass those blessings forward to them. Furthermore, I have learned how to find opportunities to share his treasures of safe outdoor adventures with others, like I did this past week. One of my dearest friends from Texas, Joey Isbell, blessed our family when he brought his three children and lovely bride, Julie, on their annual Christmas break visit to Alabama. His son, Jody and his daughter Jamie, both wanted to spend a couple of days in the Alabama countryside in pursuit of an Alabama whitetail buck. His other daughter, Jenna, spent her trip with my wife, affectionately known as Aunt Jeannie, shopping and getting their nails done. I’m not sure I will ever understand the desire to paint your nails when there is always something to do outside, but Aunt Jeannie and Jenna always do!

I had the pleasure of taking Jamie out for an afternoon hunt. As we drove to the property, we discussed her life. Jamie has recently been accepted as an incoming freshman at the University of Alabama. I know she is excited to embrace this next adventure in her life as I could see her excitement as she talked about graduation this spring and enrollment next fall.

In the stand, we had hours to discuss hunting. Three years ago, I sat with Jamie as she harvested her first Alabama whitetail, a doe, from about 80 yards. The next year, we were blessed with a hog, but she hadn’t been able to find a buck to harvest until this year.

As the afternoon progressed, she asked questions about our management program. As the Black Belt Branch president of the Quality Deer Management Association, I have long engaged in a management program to improve the habitat for our wildlife and improve the genetic makeup of our deer population. Obviously, we can have a much larger impact on the habitat than we can on the gene pool, but when properly implemented with adherence, a good management program will produce positive results in as little as four or five years.

As we discussed our management program, I could see her slowly understanding the importance of managing the deer herd. She asked all the ‘why’ and ‘how’ questions you would expect to hear from a young outdoorsman. She began to look at the young deer in the field and attempted to age each one as we enjoyed watching the young bucks play around and chase a few does.



*Amy and Tyler Hill  
with her first Alabama deer, a nice Bama Buck!*

When it came time to harvest her fist buck, she contemplated which one she would take. Much to my surprise, she looked at me and said, “Uncle Mike, I think it would be best for me to take the big three pointer.” I was proud to know she understood the importance of our management program, but I told her one deer wouldn’t matter and she could harvest any buck in the field including a nice young buck with a much larger rack. Her response was simple, “If everyone said one buck wouldn’t matter, what would we have?” In the course of three days, Jamie went from a hunter to a conservationist. She understood in three days what took me years to figure out. We are stewards of the land, and when all of us take the time to do our part, we ensure the quality of our natural resources for future generations.

I wouldn’t be surprised if Jamie harvests a really nice buck next year. Who knows, it might be one of the bucks she let walk this past weekend. My dad would be proud.”

QDMA is more than just digging dirt and watching deer. It's about the people in and around the world of deer hunting. It doesn't matter where you're from or what you look like, but what you're willing to put into this passion, and I get to see that every day. Here's to the next generation of deer hunters, and all the memories we'll make getting there, so go get'em!

## Kritter Korner

### Rainbow Bridge Heaven For The Critters

My children have four paws. My grandchildren have fur. My four legged fur kids are smarter than your honor student.” Whether boasted on a bumper sticker or proclaimed aloud, these phrases capture the importance people place on their relationships with their pets. Indeed, the relationship between human and animal is special.

The loss of a pet is devastating, and many pet owners find the grief associated with the loss of a pet is just as or even more challenging than the loss of human loved ones. Our fur kids know our deepest secrets, our fears. What makes us happy what makes us sad? If we have had a bad day they always greet us brightening our day and making us forget the bad. They don’t hold grudges, and even when we are upset they find a way to make you feel happy. Most animal owners will say they are family “I do agree”. Animals love us unconditionally. Being there to love and support us is a pet’s primary job. They think our extra 15 pounds is super snuggly, our bad breath lunch smells delicious, and our old tattered sweat-shirt is the softest thing ever. Whether our bank accounts overflow or overdrawn is of no concern to them. However, we are wonderful in the eyes of our pets. Unfortunately, human relationships often do not provide this level of loving acceptance.

Pets know our secrets. Our pets have seen the most vulnerable sides of us. They have bore witness to our best moments - and our worst. They have seen our tears and know our true feelings, perhaps better than anyone else, partly because of their keen perceptiveness and partly because we do not feel the need to hide it from them.

Pets are dependent upon us and are, in a sense, like perpetual “furry children.” Our pets derive their food, shelter, affection and entertainment directly from us just like children. The deep love and intimacy of that bond does not change as our pets get older. Our pets do not move off to college, get married, and start families of their own. We are their entire world. And, for some of us, they are ours.

So we as Christians believe that when we pass we go to heaven... so where do our animals go? Do we believe that there is a place called the Rainbow Bridge (Heaven for animals) where the creatures go when they pass? As long as we believe there’s hope for us and the world.

Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge.

When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for all of our



special friends so they can run and play together. There is plenty of food, water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable.

All the animals that had been ill and old are restored to health and vigor. Those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them in our dreams of days and times gone by. The animals are happy and content, except for one small thing; they each miss someone very special to them, who had to be left behind.

They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly stops and looks into the distance. His bright eyes are intent. His eager body quivers. Suddenly he begins to run from the group, flying over the green grass, his legs carrying him faster and faster.

You have been spotted, and when you and your special friend finally meet, you cling together in joyous reunion, never to be parted again. The happy kisses rain upon your face; your hands again caress the beloved head, and you look once more into the trusting eyes of your pet, so long gone from your life but never absent from your heart.

Then you cross Rainbow Bridge together....

*Author unknown...*

### A Letter from the Rainbow Bridge

*Hi, Mom & Dad*

*Now that I’ve been across The Rainbow Bridge for a couple weeks, they said I should write a letter home. Sorry, mom & dad, but I’m so busy ‘across the bridge’ that I haven’t thought of home much. They said it’s okay and that you would understand. I hope you do. (I think you will.)*

*Remember that night when I wasn’t feeling very well and we were all crying? I don’t remember much, but I do remember seeing and hearing all of you and feeling your touches and hugs...I remember hearing “we love you” and that one last command of “Go through”. I didn’t know what you meant, so*

*I turned around and walked through the fog that was in front of me. I saw the biggest bridge I’ve ever seen! And so many friends on the other side of it! They were all playing with toys and balls! You were right to tell me to go there!*



**Ron VanHerwyn**

*My feet kept moving forward, but my heart kept pulling me back. Your touches became lighter and lighter and I wanted to come back and nudge your hands for more love, but I was overcome by this feeling of curiosity for the happy place over the bridge! My feet started moving on their own, like a gentle breeze was moving them forward for me! I can’t explain it, but I had no doubt that it was the right thing to do!*

*So, I walked across that big, huge bridge by myself! I looked for you, because you’re always by my side, walking with me, but this was different. I didn’t have a collar around my neck or a leash connecting me to you ~ I was ‘free’! Even though you weren’t there with me, I never felt alone! I actually felt like I had a huge cape of love wrapped around my body and the more I walked, the easier it was to breathe! So, I kept walking! And I would feel more warmth in the big hug, so I kept on walking! I eventually made it over the big bridge – I did it by myself, dad! When I got here, all of my new friends greeted me and helped me walk off the bridge ~ it was so cool! They gave me a pair of wings and said that I was now a Guardian Angel!*

*What I’ve learned over these past few weeks has been amazing and nothing like I’ve seen before! We’re all the same up here ~ we all have wings and we all have Forever People to watch over ~ that’s YOU, dad! You’re my Forever Person and I’m your Forever four legged fur kid “ALWAYS & FOREVER”. ! We had such a great life together and I do miss you a LOT, but please know that I am so happy in my new home across The Bridge!*

*I’ll send you another Earth Angel so you won’t be alone. Give them your whole heart, like you gave it to me. I’ll check in every so often to make sure they treasure your love ~ I always did! When you miss me, think of a rainbow and know I’m on the other side of it, waiting to walk with you again. I’ll always be in your heart. I love you, dad! Time for me to go play*

*Author unknown*

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## Commissioners Corner, PSC

Commissioner Chris “Chip” Beeker, Jr.  
Hopes for the New Year

*“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen,” Hebrews 11:1* (English Standard Version). It was difficult to accept the loss of a Republican seat in the United States Senate special election; it is never good to lose any seat to a democrat. After the results of that election came in, I found myself in a whirlwind of emotions, but then I remembered that God’s plan is greater than mine, even when I don’t understand it. I trust and believe that His plan is so great that I can’t comprehend it. I have hope for this nation and know that all things work together for our good. Such a loss may feel depressing and make it seem as if the battle is turning against us. I take great peace from II Corinthians 4:16-18, *“So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all*

*comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.”*

The dawning of a new year always gives me a sense of hope and causes me to realize the abundant blessings I have: my health, my family, my freedom, the opportunity to wake up as a citizen of the United States of America, and many more. A lot of people like to make resolutions at the beginning of a new year but fail to stick with them. This year I encourage you to make a resolution and stick with it: resolve to continue fighting and making positive changes in your community, state and nation. We should all make a resolution to fight harder for the things in which we believe. I encourage all those who believe in truth and integrity to let your voices be heard and not let them be squashed because of the outcome of an election. I found myself inspired by this quote from John Wayne, “Life is getting back up one more time than you get knocked down.” I could not find any truer words than those. That is a quote with which we could all face every hardship, heartache, trial, and tribulation.

We can take comfort from the knowledge that we stand together with similar interests, dreams, and hopes for the new year. My prayer is that our nation continues to advance in accordance with the will of God, that our President surrounds himself with people who have good intentions, and that he is provided with wisdom for making the right choices on behalf of our nation. May our health and families be blessed as we strive to make a difference in the present moment. *Now is the time to act on our hopes for the new year!*

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Buddy Hicks

## The Financial Corner RETIREMENT REVIEW TIME

Alright! It is a new year. What are you going to do to make sure you are prepared for retirement? Depending on your age, it may be a long time off or it could be knocking on

your door. But at some point, most of us will be faced with the realization that it is time to retire. And then, you have to decide what kind of retirement you want. What kind of retirement do you imagine? Do you imagine yourself waking up to a blank canvas? Or do you imagine yourself still working in your retirement years? Do you think that you have enough set aside for retirement or will you be needing to work to bring in income? Now don’t get me wrong, I know some people will prefer to work in retirement, but it will be in a more low keyed environment that keeps them busy with something to do. To each his own. But even that individual is choosing his retirement activities.

No matter how you want to spend your retirement, now is a great time to sit down with your advisor and review your retirement strategies. A lot has happened in the past year that could have a significant impact on how you save and what you invest in to better enhance your retirement position. The new tax laws may or may not have any kind of impact on you and how you save, but until you talk with a tax professional, you can’t really be sure. Say you are

patient of a doctor being treated for high blood pressure and he calls you and tells you that, because of some recent medication changes, it would be a good idea for you to come in and get evaluated to see if these changes could positively impact your treatment, you would go in and see what he is talking about, right? Well this is no different. There could have been some changes that have occurred that could positively impact your retirement goals and it is important to find out what you can from a tax professional to make sure you are covered. A lot of people feel like they can get the information they need from researching online and can make changes and adjustments based on their internet research. But, you know, I can get on and research the internet for the medical symptoms I’m having but it does not mean that I can go into a doctor and tell them how they should to treat me. The same holds true with financial advisors. There is a lot of information online about financial investing, but it may not be enough information to help you make a wise decision Just take some time to sit down with your advisor, not just about your retirement strategies, but about your whole financial picture and trust that in the end, you’ll get more quality help than just researching online

Financial Advisors are here to help you reach your financial goals. We can help you achieve that by not just looking at how we can enhance your retirement strategies, but your overall financial picture, hoping

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to be able to enhance your life and the lives of those you love.

*If you don’t have a Financial Advisor, please feel free to call me and I’ll be happy to set up a time to talk with you.*

*Buddy Hicks is a Financial Advisor with Wealth Management Group LLC an affiliate firm of Securian Financial Services and has over 18 years of experience in the financial services business. He is Life and Health Insurance licensed and FINRA registered with his Series 7 and Series 66 which allows him to be an Investment Advisor-Representative and Registered Representative of and offer securities and investment advisory services through Securian Financial Services Inc, member FINRA / SIPC. He is an Alumnus of Troy University with a Bachelor’s Degree in Business/Finance. He takes a process approach with all of his clients to help determine their goals and then works with them to put a strategy in place to help reach those goals. An area of importance of Buddy’s is his ability to intuitively listen to his clients so that he can fully understand their current situation and what their future needs might be.*

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Continued from page 5  
THINK  
John Sophocleus

I do not type of the intelligence and wisdom of the forgotten ‘general welfare’ black voter lightly. When black voters realized the “Party of Lincoln” simply used slavery rhetoric to cloak their corporate welfare ends, they slowly abandoned the Republican Party suffering the legacy of hatred by the ignorant who believed the rhetoric. The ‘progressive’ movement proffered little difference in results for black voters looking to promote the general welfare although the rhetoric had to change for the times as racism was promoted over competition proving blacks outclassing unproductive whites unaccustomed to the reality individuals of colour could in fact outperform many whites if allowed. As it became clear modern Democrat rhetoric was no different than traditional Republican rhetoric (general welfare black voters still seem reluctant to be duped by the Party of Lincoln again) who used class warfare with a vengeance, they worked toward being a recognized block of voters to discipline the duopoly. Black Panthers were perhaps most feared by establishment Republicrats, certainly a thorn in the side of big govt. Democrat turned Republican Ronald Reagan in California. Some argue the Klan Party was abolished because they were splitting the vote as progressives feared they’d be diluted and beaten by ‘general welfare’ voters. As the Panther Party was becoming a similar threat, ballot access laws had to be put in place by the duopoly lest they lose control over election results.

In closing, the rare glimmer of hope I get out of Senator elect Jones is he seems to understand the problem with corporate welfare and crony capitalism. If one of the two parties is the first go, I pray it is the Republican Party who set us on the path of hegemony and using the tax code to pick winners and losers which always fails, inducing the hue and cry for social welfare (esp. FDR type) programs. To set a forward path the corporate welfare must end first. I saw little understanding of this from the Obama administration which simply continued the

Bush bailouts, TARP, etc. programs prolonging the downturn/duration of recovery. *Will Doug Jones Democrats be a move forward out of the mess we’ve ‘progressed’ into, or more of the same old command and control policies/programs decaying the general welfare?*

**Postscript:** from Macon county with the highest Doug Jones win (88.1%) but still 2.7 points under par turnout as one of the contiguous Felon Hubbard counties. Witnessing Rep. Pebblin Warren helping Hubbard with jury selection in Judge Walker’s court may still turn off some from going to the polls, if only to participate by writing in. Jones’ top two (Greene and Macon) counties only had 0.2% and 0.3% write-in results. Macon is one to observe these next few years to see if those who turned out for Jones but did not make the effort for a tired old corrupt Hillary type Democrat a year ago will continue to make a difference on the margin.

A specific citizen, Frank Dillman, accepted the big and all-powerful actions of the commission for years. After observing the level of secrecy in Macon county government, use of public funds, and receiving tips from employees into activities at the county shop, Frank took a stand and has been a noted fixture at county commission meetings and writer for the Tuskegee News. This current iteration of laws ignored/suspended at the expense of taxpaying citizens begins July 2015. Dillman submitted (when the county had no stated policy) an Open Records Request for street addresses where Chairman Louis Maxwell purchased fuel using his county issued gas card. Multiple letters mailed and read during commission meetings resulted in Maxwell responding, “I am not worried,” seemingly insulated from law. I remember similar hubris from Lee county commissioners before the mileage scandal removed all but Commissioner Harris.

Little surprise retaliatory actions escalated against Dillman exercising rights commissioners swore to uphold upon taking office. Suspending Alabama’s Open Records Act commissioners developed a plan proposing their county attorney review all Open

Record Requests where citizens reimburse them rounded up to a quarter hour, expressly forbidden by law. Prior to the Executive Session to “discuss county’s open record policy,” Dillman was reluctantly granted a copy of the 2018 proposed budget as New Business. After the session, he was compelled to surrender his copy and denied request to reimburse the county \$1/page for the document and told it would NOT be on the county’s newly created website. Policy was indeed discussed during an Executive meeting, identified in commission minutes as “Legal Matters.” Dillman was the only citizen in attendance when the commission recessed to Executive Session.

Macon county finally developed an Open Records Policy and Open Meeting Policy these past months. It appears Dillman’s efforts are pushing this commission toward more transparency. This makes me hopeful Macon county may have a chance at improving after witnessing the corruption and incompetence of Lee county commissioners who sold their souls to the “I believe in Felon Hubbard” influence, which shows no sign of attenuation. Mr. Dillman’s efforts have been so effective at shining light on corruption and obfuscation that all camera equipment for streaming meetings, must be placed at the back of the annex; a wireless microphone (commissioners refuse to use their PA system) regardless of size is forbidden from the dais. A press member put a small wireless receiver/microphone beneath the dais; it was ordered to be removed. First Amendment civil rights? Not in Macon count commission meetings.

Dillman is retaining an attorney for litigation using his well earned Navy retirement to obtain public documents. The cost of justice is rising. Will Macon county ‘general welfare’ voters now discipline these corrupt members operating in darkness, or simply be more of the same after these voters showed they WILL go out and vote when a corrupt modern Hillary type Democrat is NOT one of the binary choices?

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**PUBLIC PAY  
RAISES**

**By John Martin**

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There is no doubt that nearly everybody is frustrated with the increasing dishonesty and declining value of most of our public servants—from Senators and Congressmen down to city councilmen and county commissioners. Over the years, they have acted less like servants and more like rulers. We also know that they are seriously overpaid for their mostly part time jobs.

For many years, members of both parties of our Congress and Senate routinely and conveniently voted for pay and expense raises with little worry from the wrath of the working people, who could only earn theirs by performing superior work. They usually grabbed these benefits in election years shortly after their re-elections when most of the voters would tend to forget them by the time of the next election. But over time, more people were not forgetting and were beginning to oust the ones who continued this political theft.

that were open to public scrutiny, they voted one time to effectively conceal their future raises from the public and the news media. Today, they are almost never even mentioned.

Of course, state and local officials also routinely vote themselves raises and other benefits, and few people today ever notice them also.

Why do we keep letting our public servants draw salaries and benefits far beyond what is reasonable for equal work in the private sector? Isn't there a way we could regulate what we pay them? Yes, there is, and it is very simple. We can do it in a democratic fashion with a referendum.

Whenever a public body feels it needs an increase in a salary, expense allowance, or whatever, it must submit its request (for X% or \$X) and have it put onto the next regular general election ballot. If the



Somewhere around thirty years ago, the backlash from the people was becoming serious enough to cause them worry. They drew up legislation to make the raises automatic. Instead of recurring actions

*Continued from page 1 - National Championship*

Time left was 3:49. Alabama stopped Georgia on their possession and Tua started driving the football, running and throwing to get in position for a field goal to win the game. He masterfully guided the offense to the 19 yard line as time was running out. Saban called a time out with 3 seconds on the clock and trotted Andy Pappanastos out on the field for a sure 36 yard field goal. Not so sure! Pappanastos pulled the ball badly left for a heartbreaking end to his college football career. Overtime favored Georgia because the ball starts on Alabama's 25 yard line. Two first downs with Sony Michel and Nick Chubb, the best running back tandem in the country, will give Georgia either a first down inside the 3 yard line or a touchdown. All these two backs would have to do is gain 3 yards per carry and Georgia wins. There were more heroics to come, but without the unbelievable defensive stand by Jeremy Pruitt's defense, it would have been difficult for Alabama to match the touchdown. The Georgia field goal made the score 23-20 giving Alabama a shot at winning. That is exactly what Tua did. When he lost 15 yards on a sack, Coach Saban became unglued. You never take a sack like that. Throw the ball away and live to fight another day. A field goal from this range would be a fifty-six yard try. Alabama loses. Not so! Unfazed, Tua dropped back, looked off the safety on the left and threw a 41 yard strike to freshman wide receiver DeVonta Smith. Game over in one overtime. **Alabama 26-23!**

Kirby Smart is probably still kicking himself for the decision in the fourth quarter to slow the game down, run time off the clock, and deny Alabama time to score enough to win. This one decision probably cost Georgia the national championship. One more score of any kind and Georgia wins. It was a game for the ages. Alabama aged well. Saban and The Bear are at the pinnacle of college football history.

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people feel that the increase is worthy, they can vote for it. If not, they can vote against it.

However, if we only have simple yes/no options, politicians would be tempted to repeatedly demand raises ad nauseam—similar to some property tax referendums that keep repeating until the local people finally surrender to an approval.

There is a solution to this also. The ballot would have not two choices, but three. The third would be a vote to reduce their salaries or whatever by the same percentages or amounts the politicians are requesting for their increases.

The votes would work in this manner: If a majority (over 50%) of the votes are cast for the increase, it would be granted. If less than 50% support it, then nothing changes. But if 50% or more of the voters vote for the reduction, then the reduction would be implemented instead of the increase. Our public servants would get the same treatment that we would expect if we kept annoying our superiors over and over for raises and benefits. If officials keep hounding people for more money, the people could strike back with reductions instead of increases.

**Remember, these people are our servants, not our masters or rulers. It is about time we stood up and treated them like servants. It is about time we paid them no more than what they are worth.**

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# Tech Talk Oy Vey – “May You Get What You Wished For”



Darnell Hughley

### You survived Christmas!

All your gifts and presents have all been unwrapped and now our lawns are all filled with tree corpses that await the sanitation department to come by and grab up a handful of tinsel and cracked ornaments we refused to wrestle away from the fake fir branches. A new year has begun and we’ve even made more resolutions that we will keep for all of one month, then somehow allow them to wane as the second month approaches.

Now, there’s the piddling issue of figuring out all the new techy gadgets we received as presents from “ever-so-thoughtful” children

and grand children – all in the name of wanting to make sure that “MeeMaw” and “PawPaw” were up to date with the Technological Times.

Everything in you wants to fight learning new technologies and having to join in the tech craze – but then, all of a sudden you recall you asked your “Millennial offspring” to get you this stuff. So, now you find yourself wedged into a world similar to that of WW Jacob’s famous short horror story, “The Monkey’s Paw”. In this story, a family whose son has been killed in a work accident uses one of the three wishes granted them by the Monkey’s Paw, for him to come home, and deeply regrets it when he does, because they have failed to specify what condition, alive or dead... It is from this story we get the phrase: “Be careful what you wish for, you just may get it!” It’s enough to make you sigh in dismay and exasperation, and utter the phrase – “Oy Vey”! (Okay, so perhaps you don’t speak in Yiddish, but you get the point).

Regain your composure, breathe deeply, gather your thoughts, quit cursing and dive in. You’ll be very wise to open all your tech gifts while your social-media-connected-tech family is there to assist. You slowly fire up all your new gadgets, to include getting the new laptop “locked and loaded”. Now to figure out that smart watch strapped onto your wrist, or the daunting task of connecting your now “smarter-than-you” television to your home network. “To think, I didn’t even know I HAD a home network. Must be that router thing!” you finally conclude.

The good news is that just about every new gadget comes with a simple quick-start guide that’s easy to follow. Most of the time, these guides tell you to plug

in and charge your new gadget, then connect it to Wi-Fi, and link it to an existing email account. When you connect your email account, be sure to create a smart password and/or use a password manager. Overall, getting started is now usually pretty simple stuff, and you just need to follow directions like you would a recipe for cooking.

Next, it’s time, when needed, to go to school – “YouTube University”. People have learned to fly planes and perform brain surgery here. (That’s a bit of an exaggeration – I HOPE – but you get the gist). Whenever this doesn’t work, however, never feel inhibited from calling a local tech shop for help. They are used to answering many of the common questions you’ll have and therefore, there will be no need to feel less than adequate. Remember, the reason technology feels like it’s accelerating is because it actually is!

Think for a hot second about all of the personal information you store on your devices: Emails, family photos, business, property, health, and maybe even banking information. That means you’ll want to protect your digital life with strong security settings from the get go.

Set up a PIN code, fingerprint, facial recognition, pattern, or password on your start screen. If you see a prompt for two-factor authentication, do that, too. Be sure to enable Find my iPhone or Lookout on Android devices.

For computers, be sure to set up your screen lock password. On Windows machines, find this option in Settings under Accounts and Sign-in. In macOS, open System Preferences and look under Security & Privacy.

Once you’ve protected your computer from snooping strangers, add antivirus protection. On Windows, the built-in Windows Defender is enough for most people

*One last note: the FTC says tech support scams are running rampant right now. Be sure that wherever you’re reaching out to for help, that it’s legit by checking with the BBB, or staying with the company’s own site. Don’t click on attachments or links sent via text, email, or DM, and when in doubt, ask your tech savvy friend (or me) about it first.*

*Darnell Hughley is the Owner, Certified Technician and Consultant for HY-Tech Solutions, LLC - having more than 23 years of total experience in the PC Repair and IT Consulting field. Email him at: [dhughley@hytech.solutions](mailto:dhughley@hytech.solutions). Follow him on **Twitter** @HyTech\_Solution. See ad on page 4B.*



Marcia Chambliss

## The Chambliss Commentary



### “Live Life by Design NOT by Default”

Because I love to read, I’m always searching for new books of interest, especially from authors I’ve enjoyed in the past. So after learning of a new book

written by local author and friend Jeff Barganier, I knew it would be added to my reading list. I’m still weary of the political landscape of the past year, so instead of my normal commentary on politics, I want to share with you my thoughts and impressions of this book, **How Prayer Helped Me Escape the Corporate Rat Race...and Live Life by Design Not by Default.**

While Jeff’s first book, The Slash Brokers, was a compelling albeit alarming work of fiction based on fact, his current book is a memoir of the power of prayer in his life and that of his family, as well as the faith required for his mid-life decision to walk away from a successful corporate career. Although I was acquainted with Jeff through our common interest and work in politics, I knew little about his personal life other than the fact that he was a former attorney and financial advisor before becoming involved with the day-to-day-operations of his wife Cindy’s interior design company.

Jeff is a natural and vivid storyteller, and the book is filled with details of his life growing up in Greenville, AL where he met Cindy, and their early life as husband and wife. The stories of those early years reveal an intense work ethic that they each possess, evidenced by Jeff working various jobs while attending law school at night, and Cindy diligently establishing a name for herself in the interior design industry. Memories shared of those years relate the financial struggles of starting a small business, becoming parents, business mistakes made and lessons learned – often costly ones – while also revealing a strong marriage that is modeled after the Biblical picture of Christ and His Church.

Interwoven throughout the book are Jeff’s deep moral convictions, and readers get a glimpse of a man of integrity who is deeply troubled with what America views as success, particularly at the corporate level, and how culture drives far too many of us to ignore the cost of that success as it relates to our families. He shares how in his career as a financial advisor, money was his motivating force, but a hostility for the corporate rat race was increasingly festering inside. And while he attempted to productively channel that resentment into tackling various projects around their home – quite entertaining chapters of the book, I might add – his misplaced motivation made for a miserable existence in the corporate world.

Jeff’s journey through what his wife calls the “lost years” is an honest and humble reflection of what I believe so many of us search for in life, even those of us professing to be Christians who are still putting more faith in our world, and our political leaders, than in our God. Through prayer and faith, what Jeff ultimately found was a way to “work to live” rather than “live to work.” But make no mistake – there is nothing in his story that diminishes hard work; to the contrary, he believes hard work is good and necessary for each of us, and is by design what we are expected and required to do in order to live in a functioning and civil society. Working to live doesn’t give one permission to neglect responsibilities or to simply float naively through life assuming everything will be just fine, nor does Jeff view our God as a fairy godmother to grant our every wish.

With the full support of his wife, Jeff took a leap of faith to leave what the world views as security, and he is now living by design to utilize his talents and abilities unencumbered by the control we give others when we default into our culture’s materialistic definition of success that can often lead to excessive pride and problems of emptiness within our families. It is a journey that will inspire you to do a bit of soul-searching of your own motivations and encourage reflection on what really matters in this world.

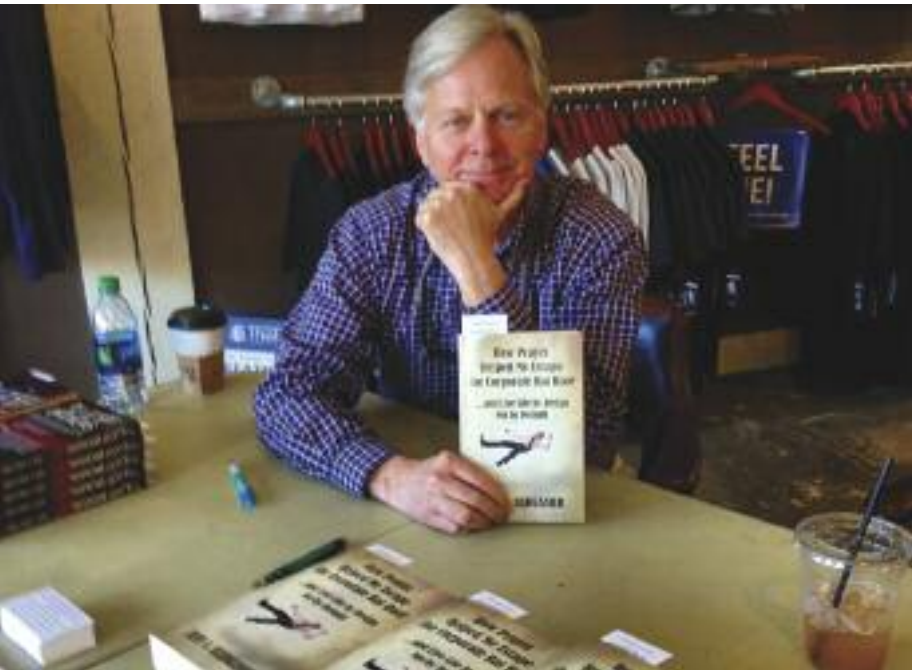
It was hardly surprising that Romans 12:2 continually came to mind as I read: **“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”**

That is living life by His perfect design, and Jeff Barganier’s faith is leading him to seek it. As we enter into this New Year, seeking that design would serve us all well.

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

**Jeff Barganier will be signing copies of his latest book as follows:**  
**January 17, Montgomery Antique Gallery 11:30 to 2:30**  
**January 18, Greenville, AL Public Library 5-6:00 pm**  
**February 24, New South Books 2-4:00 pm**  
**April 19 “Friends Talk” Pike Road Library**

**For more information, contact Jeff at 334-356-3652**  
**or [jeffbarganier@knology.net](mailto:jeffbarganier@knology.net)**







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*I can remember not too long ago I started one of my articles with a statement that it was August and I was hot. It is no longer August and I am no longer hot. I am sitting in my kitchen in front of a wall-mounted gas space heater with all three burners going and I am cold. It is only 42 degrees outside but it has been rainy and gray for days and the forecast is for clearing which will bring the temperatures down to the twenty's at night. The preceding weather information has changed four or five times since I started writing this article for this edition for the Alabama Gazette. The information changes every time I sit down to add something to the article. Sitting in the cold and in the kitchen is helping me decide what I will write about this time and what dish I will prepare next.*

This is the time when I want to prepare a rich hardy rib sticking thick hot stew or soup. This is what my wife and I prepared last winter and put in mason jars and froze. Then when we needed a quick meal, all we had to do was let the soup or stew defrost in the refrigerator and then quickly heat it on the stove. But right now I just want to heat the kitchen and preparing a meal will help do that.

I am the only one in my family for at least the last three generations that was not born in Texas. Which means that chili was the rich hardy rib sticking thick hot stew that was prepared for a cold winter's meal. Even when it wasn't cold outside.

In Texas there was no argument if beans were allowed in chili, they are not. My only say in this argument was I didn't mind the beans as long as they were not kidney beans. There is one other item that distinguishes the different between a stew and a soup when it comes to chili. Chili to me is a stew and stews require stew meat, not ground beef. I have never seen Irish Stew made with ground meat.

I am a fan of bold spicy flavors. I grow Ghost Peppers and Carolina Reapers in my garden! I am growing then at my office right now since it is winter. They will always get sun and it is heated, unlike many rooms in my house. But I digress. This is a recipe that has bold flavors and to develop these flavors, takes some prep work and cooking times. And it has a fairly long lists of ingredients.

Starting with the ground peppers, ancho and chipotle, which can be found in most grocery stores in the spice section. Do not buy a jar or can of a red powder labeled chili powder. To add more smoky taste and spice, buy a can of chipotles in adobo, and take one chipotle out and chop it fine and add to the stew. This depends on your tastes.

Concerning the meat, do not buy a package that is labeled Stew Meat. Prepackaged meat like this will be too lean and no amount of cooking with make it tender. Only trim off the excess fat such as the large flaps that might be on the roast. The other meat, the bacon will be easier to cut if you put it in the freezer for about 20 minutes. The last concern is the beer. I recommend an English style pale ale. There are many to chose from, just pick your favorite. If you want to go bold try a stout.

## TEXAS STYLE CHILI

### Ingredients

**1/4 cup ground ancho chili pepper**  
**1 tablespoon ground chipotle chili pepper**  
**2 tablespoons ground cumin**  
**2 teaspoons dried oregano**  
**1 teaspoon ground coriander**  
**1/2 teaspoon cinnamon**  
**1/4 cup cornmeal**  
**1 (4 pound) beef chuck roast trimmed of excess fat and cut into 1-1/2 inch cubes**  
**8 ounces (about 8 slices) bacon, cut into 1/4-inch pieces**  
**2 teaspoons salt**  
**2 small yellow onions, cut into 1-inch chunks**  
**5 garlic cloves, chopped**  
**3 jalapeño chiles, cored, seeded and finely diced**  
**4 cups ( 32 oz) beef broth**  
**2 cups water, plus more for the chili paste and deglazing the pan**



**1 bottle of ale (IPA)**  
**1 cup canned crushed tomatoes**  
**1 tablespoon molasses**  
**2 teaspoons unsweetened cocoa powder**  
**A slurry of flour and water for thickening if needed**

### Optional Garnishes

**Chopped cilantro**  
**Grated Cheddar or Monterey Jack cheese**  
**Lime wedges**

Mix the two chili powders, the cumin, oregano, coriander, cinnamon and cornmeal in a small bow and stir in 1/2 cup water to form a thick paste; set aside.

Season the beef with the salt; set aside.

In a large pot or Dutch oven, fry the bacon over medium heat, stirring frequently so it doesn't stick, until the fat renders and the bacon crisps, about 10 minutes. Using a slotted spoon, remove the bacon to a paper towel-lined plate.

Pour all but a few teaspoons of fat from the pot into a small bowl; set aside.

Increase the heat to medium-high. Sear the meat in three batches (it should be in a single layer), until well browned on one side, about 4 minutes per batch, adding more of the reserved bacon fat as necessary. (Hint: Once the meat is in the pan, don't stir or touch it -- leaving it alone will allow it to develop a nice brown crust on one side.) Place the seared meat in a bowl. Add about 1/4 cup of water to the pot and scrape the bottom with a wooden spoon to release all of the flavorful brown bits. Pour the dark liquid over the seared meat.

Reduce the heat to medium and add 3 tablespoons of the reserved bacon fat to the pot. Add the onions and cook, stirring frequently, until softened, about 5 minutes. Add the garlic and jalapeños and cook 2 minutes more. Add the reserved chili paste and sauté until fragrant, a few minutes.

Add the beef broth and stir with a whisk until the spice mixture is completely dissolved. Scrape the bottom of the pot with the whisk to release any spices.

Stir in the water, beer, crushed tomatoes, molasses and cocoa powder. Add the reserved bacon and seared beef (along with the juices from the beef on the bottom of the bowl) back to the pot and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to low, and cover, leaving the lid just barely ajar. Simmer, stirring occasionally so the bottom doesn't burn, until the meat is so tender that it melts in your mouth and the juices are thickened, 2-1/2 - 3 hours. Taste and adjust seasoning if necessary.

**Serves four to six. Prep time and cook time up to 4 hours.**

## FISH TACOS

### Ingredients

*For the slaw:*

**4 cups thin sliced cabbage mixture, a colorful Cole slaw mix or broccoli slaw mix will do**  
**1 cup chopped plum tomatoes or halved cherry tomatoes**  
**1/3 cup thin sliced green onions**  
**1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro**

*For the fish:*

**3 tablespoons butter melted**  
**Juice of two limes**  
**1 teaspoon chili powder**  
**1/2 teaspoon garlic powder**  
**1/2 teaspoon sea salt**  
**1 pound fish fillets**

**Corn tortillas, eight warmed but not dried out**  
**Several lime wedges to squeeze over the assembled taco**

**Cook the fish in a oven proof dish, with the butter, lime juice,**



**chili powder, garlic powder and salt mixed together and poured over the fish. Fifteen minutes should be enough. When fish is at desired doneness, flake the fish into small pieces and mix with remaining sauce.**

**While fish is in oven, toss the slaw ingredients together.**

**Assemble:**

**Squeeze of lime on top. There should be leftover slaw to place on plate.**

**As much as I like fish tacos, that is not the most common way we eat fish. We put a Greek spin on it. And it takes very little prep work to prepare.**

**Four servings-two tacos each.**

## Greek Baked Fish

### Ingredients

**2 pounds fish fillets**  
**3-4 medium tomatoes, 1/4 inch slice**  
**1 medium onion, cut to give half rings or whole rings cut thin**  
**1 cup pitted and halved Kalamata olives**  
**1/2 cup fresh parsley. rough chop**  
**2 tablespoons capers**  
**2 tablespoons minced garlic**  
**1 red bell pepper, cut into rings 1/4 inch thick**  
**1 yellow bell pepper, cut into rings 1/4 inch thick**

### Directions

In a glass 6x9 dish layer the vegetables and fish so the fish is not flat on the bottom of the dish, but is covered by the lemon slices. Pour the salad dressing over all ingredients and bake at 375F about 35 minutes or until fish flakes. Serve the vegetables first with a fish fillet on top. The bread will help sop up all the delicious juices. Now, I'm going to fix me some taco soup and cornbread to try to warm up. **Serves 4-5**



**1 cup crumbled Feta cheese**  
**1 medium lemon sliced thin**  
**2/3 cup Italian or Greek Salad dressing**  
**Thick sliced rustic bread**

**Four servings-two tacos each.**



JANUARY, 2018

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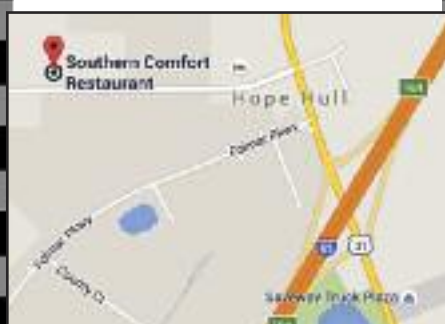
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## Autauga County Master Gardeners Association

### Lunch & Learn 2018

1st THURSDAY of EVERY Month  
12:00-1:00 P.M.

Trinity United Methodist Church, 610 Fairview Ave., Prattville 36066



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**FREE PROGRAM**

**DRINKS PROVIDED**

|                    |                                                                             |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>4 January</b>   | Gardening 101<br>Aracunda Borden, Advanced Master Gardener                  |
| <b>1 February</b>  | Roses<br>Gloria Purcell, Master Rosarian                                    |
| <b>1 March</b>     | Butterflies, Bees, & Other Pollinators<br>Dr. David Heid, Entomologist, AU  |
| <b>5 April</b>     | Blueberries<br>Dr. Chip East, Horticulturist, ACES                          |
| <b>10 May</b>      | Figs<br>Dr. Arlie Powell, Petals from the Past                              |
| <b>7 June</b>      | Herbs<br>The Gazeboes, Medicinal Plant Garden, AU                           |
| <b>12 July</b>     | Cooking with Herbs & Spices<br>Janice Hall, Food Safety & Quality, ACES     |
| <b>2 August</b>    | Plant Propagation<br>Don Armstrong, Master Gardener                         |
| <b>6 September</b> | Drought Tolerant Plants for the South<br>Dr. Sue Webb, Petals from the Past |
| <b>4 October</b>   | Shade Loving Plants<br>Jane McCarthy, Master Gardener                       |
| <b>1 November</b>  | Growing Citrus Trees in Containers<br>Tom McCaskey, Master Gardener         |
| <b>6 December</b>  | Insects - Good Guys or Bad Guys<br>Dr. David Graham, Entomologist, AU       |



For more information, please contact the Autauga County Extension Office (334) 361-7273

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

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

*Thanks to all our readers who cared enough to recommend  
someone that needed a special gift for the season. We could not have  
done this without your letters. The 10 recipients were very deserving  
and Gazette staff enjoyed meeting each of them.*

*Below are excerpts recommending the 10 recipients:*

1. "They have a 9 month old baby who is fighting cancer. Has had five surgeries and many trips to Children's Hospital in Birmingham."
2. "My mother lost her home and everything during Hurricane Irma. She is in a wheelchair and starting over in Montgomery and needs help."
3. "She is a widow and her son has suffered a stroke and heart attack and after several months in the hospital and rehab, she is now caring for him in her home."
4. "My grandmother lives alone and was a victim of a violent crime in her own home. She still helps others in need."
5. "My mother is a two time cancer survivor was left with making a decision to raise her 4-mo. old granddaughter who was born premature, whose mother suffers from PTSD."
6. "I am going through financial difficulties..... this would bless me and help me provide my two sons (8 and 11) with Christmas."
7. "We don't have money for Christmas, my husband and mother-in-law is sick and we are struggling to pay rent and keep the lights on."
8. "She is always giving to others- clothes, food, and being a role model for children. She is trying to save enough money to buy Bibles for each child she is helping."
9. "This family could surely use some help for Christmas. Children will not have a Christmas without help."
10. "He is a Navy vet in his 70's. Recently had a stroke and is in a wheelchair. Wife recently in the hospital. (Send by his pastor.)"

## Southern Gardening Potpourri for January by Peggy Givhan

**Judge  
Peggy Givhan**

Several years ago about this time, I viewed my beds after all the perennials were cut to the ground, and the bulbs had not bloomed, and naturally I saw huge empty spaces in the garden. Then in my mind's eye I imagined what beauty would be forthcoming, and realized that my garden was underground now and out of sight. One of the great joys of gardening is the anticipation of what is to come. With a good plan for the whole year, one knows in advance the parade of colors, textures, and flow of flowers. And of course, we do have a back up plan in case a pest in the way of animal, plant or microbe causes a set back.

January is a good month to check all of your insecticides, dog away and cat away products, and the exact type of fertilizers which will be needed in the beds. This month one should be buying Winter dormant oil, same as Volk Oil, and water soluble lime sulfur. Combine in a hose-end sprayer and apply after a hard freeze. We need to spray everything in the yard; fencing, pots, grass, shrubs, trees including the top of the leaves and underneath. If you do this for a couple of years, white flies will be practically non existent and mold and mildew will just fade away.

It is not too late to plant narcissus and daffodils. Tulips require at least 6 weeks refrigeration prior to planting and it may be getting a little too late to begin the process now. However, later on you can buy tulips full grown in pots, which can be transplanted into your outdoor pots or garden areas. Amaryllis and other lilies such as spider lilies, canna, crocus, and iris can be planted now.

One very important task for this month is to protect your investment in your plants. For instance, I have a large container garden with pots of different sizes from pots 30" in diameter to 8" in diameter. Elephant ears have been cut to the surface level; angel wing begonias and geraniums have also been cut back. Earlier this fall I planted in these pots stands of snap dragons, fox glove, pansies, dusty miller and lambs' ears which are cool weather annuals, biennials, and perennials. So how to protect these plants from the freezing weather. I purchased large tarps and plastics table cloths and I double wrap the pots, securing the flaps with bricks, so the below freezing temps will not have their killing affects. It is so easy to provide your plants this protection. When the temperatures rise above freezing (during both the day and the night time), just peel back the layers of tarp and table cloths. This works like a charm.

If there are begonias that are cut back in the flower beds, a deep layer of pine straw has worked for me. Some may not come back in the spring, but most will. This is also true of geraniums. However, just to be on the safe side, I will bring indoors a couple of pots of geraniums, angel wing begonias, and plumbago. Hibiscus and other tropical will not live through the winter, even under the tarps, and must be brought inside. Once the plant is indoors, get a plastic saucer and water a small amount once a week. As long as pansies, dianthus, dusty miller, lambs' ears are planted in the garden, they will be fine, even when it is below freezing.

### PLANT OF THE MONTH--BAPTISIA (fabaceae)

Baptisia is a wonderful perennial and a member of the pea family, also called false indigo or wild indigo. It is a drought resistant, especially the yellow(Baptisia sphae-



rocarpa) which does yeoman's work in the beds. It does well in our zone 8 and has lupine like flower spikes with attractive gray green foliage. The white Baptisia are just spectacular with white erect spikes of flowers and grows in height from 2' to 5'. Easy to maintain, and easy to grow, this plant should make its way into your garden space. It is recommended that you purchase the plants to start in your

garden rather than sowing seed.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR AND GOOD GARDENING.**







## AUTAUGA COUNTY



# Autauga County Alabama SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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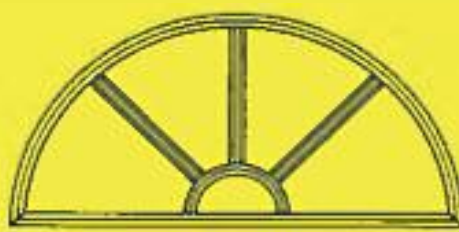


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We, the professional men and women of the Autauga County Sheriff's Office, are committed to defend the Constitution of the United States and the State of Alabama. As law enforcement officers, we declare our fundamental duties to serve the community; to safeguard lives and property; and to protect the innocent, weak, and the peaceful from evil while we respect the constitutional rights of all to liberty, quality, and justice. We will fairly and diligently enforce all laws bringing to justice those who violate them. With adequate staffing, continued public relations and partnerships with surrounding law enforcement agencies, we will improve the quality of life for all citizens of Autauga County, by reducing crime and the fear of crime.



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# Soul Searching

## Do You Need A New, Healthy Strategy to Handle Stress?

Solomon was one of the wisest people who ever lived according to the Bible! And he wrote most of the book of Proverbs which is considered part of the wisdom literature of the scriptures. In the book of Proverbs, Solomon tweets out many great nuggets of truth and wisdom which are still so practical today for our everyday lives. In the book of Proverbs, we can find three keys to reducing stress in our lives.

Stress is a major factor in our lives! Did you know that 1 in 5 Americans consider themselves to be extremely stressed out? Did you know that only 37% of Americans say they handle stress in a healthy way? That means 67% don't handle stress in a healthy way. Also, did you know that the total cost for stress related illnesses is over \$100 billion in the US? All that to say that stress is a major life issue for all Americans.

So, how do we handle all that stress in a healthy way? Might you need a new strategy? What does Solomon recommend?

### First, we need to line up our priorities!

"An intelligent person aims at wise actions, but a fool starts off in many directions."  
Solomon, Proverbs 17:24 (GN)

The key here is to put first things first. You simply don't have time to do everything so you must prioritize. Make a list of your priorities and ask what is most important. Learn to say no. Sometimes you have to say no to some really good things in order to say yes to the best things.

We must learn the difference between the urgent and the important things. If something is urgent and important we should do it now. For example, if your boss wants to meet with you, you have a deadline, your hair is on fire, there is an earthquake or the dog has to go out. You get the point. Do it now! Other things are important but not urgent. For example, planning your calendar, discovering your

passions, making a difference. Decide when to do it. Some things are urgent but not important. Interruptions, emails, returning phone calls or unplanned visits from someone ...to name a few. Deal with it or delegate it.

And then there are the things in life that are neither urgent nor important. These would be things like trivia, distractions, time wasters, gossip, or mindlessly surfing the internet. You can probably just dump or delete these.

### Second, lighten up your attitude!

"Anxiety in a mans heart weighs it down." - Solomon, Proverbs 12:25  
"Being cheerful keeps you healthy."  
Solomon, Proverbs 17:22

Remember, stress is not an event, it is an attitude. That's why two different people can be in the same situation and one stresses out and the other one is cool as a cucumber. Why? Stress is not an event. It is directly related to our attitude and how we handle it. How we respond to stress makes all the difference.

Humor is the great stress reliever. It acts like a shock absorber in life. It doesn't change the situation we are in, but it can change our perception.

Medical research tells us that when we laugh or smile, our body releases more T cells which improve our immune system. When we smile or laugh, our brain also triggers the release of a huge dose of endorphins which are the natural pain killers of the body that help relax us.

Somehow, way before modern medicine, Solomon knew this three thousand years ago as he states in Proverbs 14:30 which says, "A relaxed attitude lengthens a persons life." A cheerful heart is good medicine is another quote from this wise sage. So, what do we need to do to lighten our attitude. Hang around people that make you laugh and smile. Relax. Be more flexible....because things in life rarely go as planned.

### Third, look up to God!

"Reverence for God gives a person deep strength." Solomon, Proverbs 14:26  
Trust in the Lord completely ... in everything you do, put God first, and He will direct you and crown your efforts with success..  
Solomon, Proverbs 3:5-6

Reverence is simply taking God seriously. It is putting God first. These texts represent a great promise.

Stress in your life should be a warning light indicating that you are taking yourself too seriously and not taking God and His promises seriously enough! So, we need to make time for God in our lives each day. You may say, "I'm too busy to make time each day for meditation or reflection." If you are that busy, then you are way too busy my friend.

Here are my suggestions if you want to handle stress in a wise way. You can take 15 to 20 minutes at the start of each day to:

- 1) Pray through these three keys to handling stress given to us by Solomon. Your prayers could be something like - "God, help me to line up my priorities today in a way that honors you. Help me to lighten up my attitude today and laugh and smile more. Help me to look up to you Lord today. Help me to take you seriously and put you first.
- 2) Read these wise words of Solomon and take time to really reflect and mediate on them.
- 3) Put Solomons wise advice into action and practice these keys to reducing and handling stress in your life!

Why not begin this New Year with a new strategy for handling your stress? Would you benefit from applying some fresh and healthy ways to deal with the stress in your life? I'm praying that all of us will handle our stress in more fruitful and God honoring ways in 2018 .... starting now!

*Blessings and Peace in the New Year!*



# Supermoon

January 31

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Prpq/jrwr moon.nasa.gov

For more on the many skywatching events to be  
seen and throughout the year, visit [science.nasa.gov](http://science.nasa.gov)

### A succession of three supermoons will be visible in the night sky.

This special astronomical event began last Sunday and will end with a super Blue Blood Moon on January 31, according to *Charisma News*.

Supermoons occur when the moon is closer to the earth in its rotation, making it appear bigger than usual. The moon will appear up to 14 percent bigger and 30 percent brighter. The moon appears blue due to Earth's dark shadow.

These unique astronomical occurrences have some religious leaders speculating that they could be prophetic signs.

Rabbi Rabbi Yosef Berger, the rabbi of King David's Tomb on Mount Zion, believes the supermoons, ending with the Blue Blood Moon has special significance in light of current world events having to do with Israel.

Recently, President Trump announced that the

U.S. would recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and that the U.S. would move its Israeli Embassy there.

"The Talmud states that Israel is judged by our actions, by our commitment to Hashem (God), and not by astrological signs," Rabbi Berger told Breaking Israel News. "In fact, the Talmud states that a lunar eclipse is a bad sign for those who hate Israel."

"People who cannot accept that God is behind nature are the haters of Israel, since our presence in the world bears witness to the fact there is a creator," he continued. "God used nature to bring the plagues on to Egypt. But even when the plagues transcended anything that was ever witnessed before, Pharaoh refused to accept God as being behind them. We are seeing this today, with hurricanes and earthquakes occurring in unprecedented manners."

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

## 4 QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF AS YOU PLAN FOR RETIREMENT

Deciding when to start receiving your retirement benefits from Social Security is a decision that only you can make, and you should make that decision with as much information as possible. There are a lot of important questions to answer.

Should you claim benefits earlier and get a smaller monthly payment for more years? Or should you wait and get a bigger monthly amount over a shorter period?

There are no right or wrong answers, but we encourage you to consider these four important questions as you plan for your financially secure retirement.

### How much money will I need to live comfortably in retirement?

Anticipate what your expenses will be in retirement, including things like mortgage payments or rent, utilities, healthcare insurance and related costs, food, personal care, car payments and maintenance, entertainment, hobbies, travel, and credit card or other debt. Also, consider whether you'll need to provide for your spouse, children, or grandchildren.

### What will my monthly Social Security retirement benefit be?

The average monthly Social Security benefit for a retired worker in 2018 is \$1,404 (up from \$1,377 in 2017). The average monthly Social Security benefit for a disabled worker in 2018 is \$1,197 (up from \$1,173 in 2017). As a reminder, eligibility for retirement benefits still requires 40 credits (usually about 10 years of work). The Social Security Act details how the annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) is calculated. You can read more about the COLA at: [www.socialsecurity.gov/cola](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/cola).

The best way to get an estimate of your retirement benefit is with a my Social Security account. Get yours today at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount).

### Will I have other income to supplement my Social Security benefits?

Secure your financial future with a retirement portfolio that includes savings, investments, and possibly a pension plan. If you're willing and able, you may choose to increase your income by working past retirement age. Social Security replaces a percentage of a worker's pre-retirement income based on your lifetime earnings. The amount of your average wages that Social Security retirement benefits replaces varies depending on your earnings and when you choose to start benefits. If you start benefits at age 67, this percentage ranges from as much as 75 percent for very low earners, to about 40 percent for medium earners, to about



27 percent for high earners. If you start benefits after age 67, these percentages would be higher. If you start benefits earlier, these percentages would be lower.

Most financial advisors say you will need about 70 percent of pre-retirement income to live comfortably in retirement, including your Social Security benefits, investments, and other savings.

including your Social Security benefits, investments, and other savings.

### How long do I expect my retirement to last?

Anticipate the length of your retirement, keeping in mind that many American workers will live much longer than the "average" retiree. Consider your health, family longevity, and lifestyle. Your Social Security retirement benefits will provide continuous income for as long as you live, protecting you even if your other sources of income run out. Discover your life expectancy with our online calculator at [www.socialsecurity.gov/OACT/population/longevity](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/OACT/population/longevity).

No one can predict the future perfectly, but careful planning and preparation will help you to make a well-informed decision about when to start receiving your Social Security benefits.

If you've contributed enough to the Social Security system through FICA payroll taxes, you can receive your full retirement benefit at age 66 or 67 depending on when you were born. You may also claim it sooner, starting at age 62, at a permanently reduced rate. Or you may wait until after your full retirement age, increasing your benefit amount by up to 8 percent per full year to age 70.

Social Security is with you through life's journey, and we're here to help you prepare for a financially secure future for you and your family. We invite you to use our online retirement planners at [www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/retire/](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/retire/).

To learn more about all of our programs, please join us at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

Kylle' McKinney, SSA Public Affairs Specialist,  
 can be reached by e-mail at [kylle.mckinney@ssa.gov](mailto:kylle.mckinney@ssa.gov).

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**Patricia Killough**



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

## Congratulations

*Haley Boyd and Branon King  
on their recent marriage  
Saturday, December 16, 2017  
held at  
Taylor Road Baptist Church,  
Montgomery, Alabama.  
Reception was held at  
The Ally Warehouse  
following the ceremony.*



## Happy Anniversary

|            |                               |            |                           |
|------------|-------------------------------|------------|---------------------------|
| January 1  | John & Greatha Findley (72nd) | January 18 | Raymond & Ann Tucker      |
| January 6  | Jim & Beth Maxwell            | January 20 | John & Donna Russell      |
| January 8  | Fred & Nancy Setzer           | January 21 | Don & Gwen Guthrie (63rd) |
| January 11 | Reneau & Virginia Gates       | January 22 | Bob & Betty Crowe         |
| January 12 | Ralph & Jessie Southern(72nd) | January 23 | Jeff & Nancy Beale        |
| January 12 | Frank & Colleen Rutland       |            | George & Sherry McCulley  |
| January 14 | Mike & Debbie Green (34th)    |            |                           |

# Home Town Community News

## January Birthdays



- |                           |                              |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Steve Campbell          | 16 Ann Takacs                |
| Butch Metcalf             | 17 Randy Childs              |
| 2 Velita McFarland (90th) | Toni Grimes                  |
| 3 Ben Davis               | Charlene McClanahan          |
| 4 Morgan Boone            | Bill Northington             |
| 5 Jan Johnson             | 18 Carly Madison Ellis       |
| Barbara Harrington        | Joshua C. Kyser (6th)        |
| 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 (19th)       | Sammy Turner                 |
| Betty Chesnutt (92nd)     | 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 (101st)     |
| Trey Norris               | Tonya Cooley                 |
| Sarah Morgan Smith (14th) | 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 (78th)        | Bernice Bryant               |
| 12 Corey Campbell         | 24 Donna Gail Andersen       |
| Carson Lane Abbott        | Tina Campbell                |
| Liz Braswell              | Anne Pinkston                |
| Brenda Moseley            | 25 Katie Scarlett Boyd (8th) |
| Clarice Caldwell          | Susan Crawford               |
| James Barton              | Mary Beth Wadsden            |
| 13 Theresa Henderson      | Ellen Robbins                |
| Shirley Kirksey Jones     | 26 Mary Price                |
| T. J. Mills               | Mack Terrell                 |
| Bob Maddox                | 27 Sophie Boyd               |
| Joe Thomas (90th)         | 28 Baleigh Windham           |
| 14 Tiffany Andrews        | Darrell Self                 |
| John Black                | 29 Kim Kelley                |
| John T. Killough (69th)   | 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              |

## Sympathy to the families of...

|                                        |                        |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Wiley, Melba J. (95)                   | Died December 2, 2017  |
| Paulk, Dustin Lane (Dusty) (23)        | Died December 3, 2017  |
| Eiland, Martha Kirkland (95)           | Died December 7, 2017  |
| Barrow, Dolores Renfroe (58)           | Died December 9, 2017  |
| Gibson, Mae Belle (82)                 | Died December 10, 2017 |
| Guest Jr., Dr. James Lee (86)          | Died December 10, 2017 |
| Kelly, June Guy                        | Died December 10, 2017 |
| Postma Jr., Ralieg Theodore (81)       | Died December 12, 2017 |
| Harrod, Alice Jan (62)                 | Died December 16, 2017 |
| Barfield, Mary Louise (100)            | Died December 16, 2017 |
| Hoffman, Francis L. (68)               | Died December 16, 2017 |
| Moseley, Charles Edward (78)           | Died December 17, 2017 |
| Grant, Eeron Williams (98)             | Died December 20, 2017 |
| Boykin Sr., Raymond Crum (96)          | Died December 21, 2017 |
| Azar, Thomas Joseph (Tommy) (84)       | Died December 23, 2017 |
| Jakeman, Kenneth R. (73)               | Died December 23, 2017 |
| Lisenby, Irma Wright (68)              | Died December 24, 2017 |
| Cone, Claude Milton (88)               | Died December 25, 2017 |
| Eady, M;yrtle B. (Pat) (86)            | Died December 27, 2017 |
| Huett, Rebecca (Jane) Hall (76)        | Died December 29, 2017 |
| DeVaughn, Doris Hollon (79)            | Died December 30, 2017 |
| Branch III, Edward Gachet (Buddy) (81) | Died January 2, 2018   |

**Benjamin Anthony Hagler, 47 of Montgomery passed away at home on December 25, 2017.**



Ben was born on February 17, 1970 in Montgomery, to Joe and Katherine Timmerman Hagler. He is survived by his wife, Lindsey Smith Hagler, his parents, and his brother, William "Bill" Hagler, all of Montgomery.



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**START  
MONTH**



# TODAY'S WOMAN

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



## Years and Laughter:

Well, here we are...  
**WELCOME**  
everybody, to 2018.

By Amanda Walker

I hope everyone had a safe and pleasant holiday season. I certainly did. I'm not even sure exactly what day of the week it is at this point. It feels like there were three Sundays in last week. Three Sundays, and a wedding.

We have had five Christmas dinners over the past eight days, with one more coming up this weekend. I'm excited about it because I get to spend time with my in-laws, and many of my readers know the fine history there. I'm sure a lot of you have similar stories you could share. Time has been kind though. My mother-in-law and I haven't had a falling-out in several years. She is older now...and I am too. But trust me, once upon a time, we were good at it.

This year, as a little added Christmas magic, and with only 48 hours before Santa was set to arrive, my middle daughter eloped. Merry Christmas!

She had been planning a March wedding, but said it had become stressful and she just wanted to be married. Plus, she said she found a good price on a package deal at a chapel on the side of a mountain in Mentone.

And yes, I have asked her if what she meant by that was that she is going to have a baby. I asked her several times actually. I even had her sisters and a couple of my best friends ask her too, but her answer remains the same.

While I was somewhat shocked by her decision, I have no issue with it and honestly understand her logic to some degree. Eloping has always been my preferred wedding method.

I'll spare everyone the riveting details about our Bay County Courthouse wedding in Panama City, Florida. As elaborate as it was, the whole thing took about 15 minutes and we were able to make it to Hooter's to kick-off the honeymoon just after the midday rush. It was great. And as far as I know it is still on record and in fairly good standing 22 years later.

I think I could have even still fit into the dress before the five Christmases last week.

Marriage, like a New Year's resolution, takes choosing right consistently until the tendency to do so becomes habit.

No matter the goal we set the stumbling blocks are the same – greed, lust, having to be right, gluttony, pride, vanity, fear – and they are all temporary.

We all arrive at the altar flawed. We are wonderfully made, yet we are imperfect. We know what is important in order to achieve what we want, but we still tend seek what is shallow and meaningless.

Success in anything requires scope. It means choosing to anchor ourselves to permanent convictions.

Our weaknesses allow us to grow our greatest strengths, and our humble choices ascend us to our best selves, greatest joys, and highest loves.

Melissa of course did make an exceptionally beautiful bride. As a couple they complement one another. I wish them peace, happiness, prosperity and joy – as well as the wisdom and patience to learn the differences of each.



## Trisston's Tidbits...

By: Trisston Wright Burrows

[www.trisstonwrightburrows.com](http://www.trisstonwrightburrows.com)

Happy New Year!

Trisston Wright Burrows  
Ms. Wheelchair America/Alabama 2005

Before us stretches a new year, a new beginning. The old is past, put away forever. God invites us always to forget about all the distrust and fears, all the anxieties and worries of the past, all the resentments we have been holding against others, all the grudges, all the criticisms--to put them away and begin again.

***"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus."*** Philippians 4:6-7

I have never been big on making New Year's resolutions; however, if I were to make one it would be to have a deeper commitment, a deeper love, and a deeper worship for the Lord. In the beginning of this past year, He spoke to me in that still small voice in prayer and said, "I am more than enough. I am more than enough in every area of your life. And, you are enough." He also said to tell others the same thing.

What powerful statements! In a world that is constantly telling us that we need to do more and be more, it is amazing to know that we don't need to be anything more than ourselves. And, Jesus is more than enough. He will see us through all of life's ups and downs...just ask Him.

So, as we begin a new year, I encourage you to remember that in Christ you are enough and He is more than enough in every area of your life. ***"Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it through anything in the One who makes me who I am."*** Philippians 4:13

Happy New Year & Many Blessings!



## Tuskegee University Dr. Constance Smith Hendricks as new Dean of Nursing and Allied Health.

Hendricks is no stranger to Tuskegee, where in the mid-80s she served as an assistant professor and nursing administrator of the university's then John A. Andrew Community Hospital, and as a professor in 2010.

"I am humbled to have the opportunity to advance Dr. Lillian Holland Harvey's dream," Hendricks said, referencing the efforts by the school's inaugural dean to establish at Tuskegee what was then the state's first baccalaureate degree program in nursing in 1948.

"My goal is to grow the School of Nursing and Allied Health's enrollment, programs and, of course external funding," she continued. "Doing so will require the input and assistance of our faithful alumni, and I look forward to re-connecting with them to ensure our programs' continued excellence."

Most recently, Hendricks served as the founding chair (Dean) of the Division of Health Sciences at Concordia College in Selma, Alabama, where she grew up. The majority of her 40-plus-year higher education and teaching career was spent at Auburn University, where her 17-year tenure included teaching in her community health specialty and coordinating graduate and outreach programs in the School of Nursing. Achieving the rank of professor, she also was named one of two inaugural university-wide recipients of the Charles W. Barkley Endowed Professorship in 2010 before retiring in 2015.

Hendricks holds a bachelor's degree in nursing and master's degree in community health — both from the University of Alabama at Birmingham — and a Ph.D. in clinical nursing research from Boston College, where she was the first African-American to complete its nursing program. She is a licensed registered nurse in Alabama and in 2009 was inducted as a fellow of the prestigious American Academy of Nursing.



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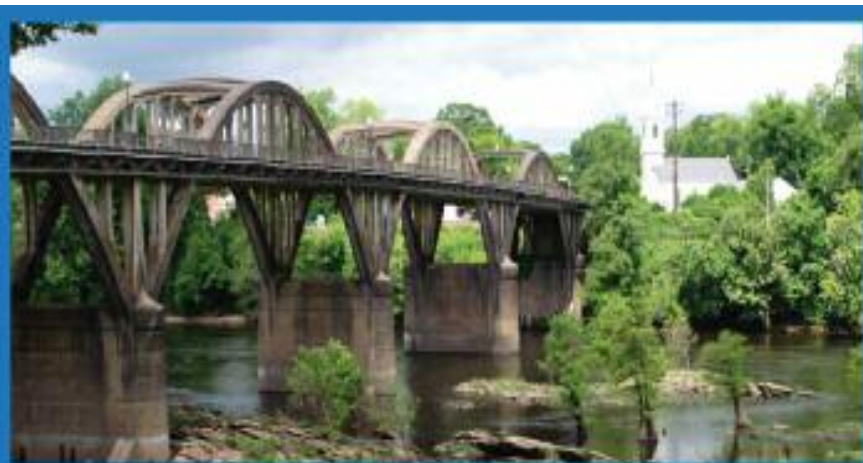
Where Superior Service is Standard.  
[www.gassettfuneralhome.net](http://www.gassettfuneralhome.net)



## Greater Tuna February 1-17

**Twenty-Two Characters  
Forty-Two Costume Changes**

*Greater Tuna* is a hilarious comedy about Texas' third smallest town, where the Lion's Club is too liberal and Patsy Cline never dies. The eclectic band of citizens that make up this town are portrayed by only two performers, making this satire on life in rural America even more delightful as they depict all the inhabitants of Tuna- men, women, children and animals!



## Keep growing.

We call Wetumpka home too. We are proud to be part of this community and to have the privilege of helping businesses continue to flourish here. Thank you, Wetumpka, for allowing us to be your trusted resource for business advisory and tax services.

Personal and Business Accounting | Personal and Business Tax Services

That's just the way we do business.

**JACKSON THORNTON**  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS | CONSULTANTS  
[jacksonthornton.com/wetumpka](http://jacksonthornton.com/wetumpka) 334.567.3400

## ELMORE COUNTY PREGNANCY CENTER



**Ultrasounds  
Now  
Available!**  
a trusted and safe place to turn to for help ~  
**FREE pregnancy test**  
104 Company St., Wetumpka, AL 36092

So as we approach the end of 2017, I ask you to give. I'm always amazed at how God supplies what we need. I'm always surprised at who He uses to help these families. It's like you guys just come out of nowhere. It's absolutely breathtaking to watch. Thank you! Please know that every dollar is appreciated. We are extremely grateful for your part in helping Elmore County families THRIVE. See [how you can start a fundraiser on Facebook](http://www.hopewetumpka.org).

**334-567-1955 / [www.hopewetumpka.org](http://www.hopewetumpka.org)**

**(find us on facebook)**



This is the  
Season  
to give  
and  
Save the Life  
of a  
Child.  
Donate  
NOW!



**Humane Society of Elmore County**  
Website: [www.elmorehumane.org](http://www.elmorehumane.org)

### Pet of the Week – Barkley

Barkley is a ten-month old, Great Pyrenees/ Shepherd mix, and a solid 85-90 lbs. and still growing. He is a super boy but will need a very

good fence to keep him home safe as he is very interested in finding ways out of the fence. Exercise, activity and being a member of a family is what Barkley needs. It will be best for any potential doggy buddy to be a larger female dog, no males please.

Our adoption fees are \$100 for dogs & \$50 for cats under one-year-old; cats over one-year-old can be adopted by approved adopters for a fee of their choosing. This adoption fee completely covers the mandatory spay or neuter, basic immunizations, de-worming, microchip, heartworm check for dogs, rabies vaccination if old enough, free health exam with your participating veterinarian.

To meet all the great pets at our shelter come to 255 Central Plank Road, Wetumpka, AL, 36092, go to our website at [www.elmorehumane.org](http://www.elmorehumane.org) for more information, email us at [hseco@bellsouth.net](mailto:hseco@bellsouth.net) or give us a call at 334-567-3377.

We are open for adoptions Mon-Fri 10-5 & Sat 9-3.