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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



The Race is on for the U. S. Senate

We are less than three months away from the election for our number two U.S. Senate Seat. The winner of the Republican Primary on March 3, 2020 will be our next U.S. Senator. Winning the GOP Primary for any statewide office in a presidential year is tantamount to election in the Heart of Dixie.

Jeff Sessions is the prohibitive favorite to win back his seat he held for 20 years. He probably regretted from day one leaving a safe U.S. Senate Seat with 20 years of seniority and four-years left on his term, to take a temporary Attorney General appointment for at best a four- year tenure. It amazed me when he did it. Sessions and Trump were at odds from the beginning over Sessions' recusal from the Russian collusion probe by the Democrats. Trumps' disenchantment with Sessions was quite obvious and outspoken.

Sessions was right, legally. However, Trump is very popular in Alabama among Republican voters. Therefore, Trump won the public relations battle over Sessions in Alabama. Trump's tweets were harsh, bitter and vitriolic. When Sessions was in this seat three years ago at this time he was considered the most popular political figure in the state. He was damaged by the two years of constant bombardment and ridicule from the President. However, Sessions has a reservoir of support from having been a very popular Senator for two decades that will allow him to win back his seat.

Sessions will lead the field in the March 3 Primary. However, it is doubtful that he can win without a runoff. His late entry into the race allowed several elite high profile candidates to begin a race for the senate seat. Most have been running vigorously for over a year. One of the early frontrunners, Secretary of State John Merrill, who probably has the best grassroots organization in the State, has opted out due to Sessions' entry. At age 54 Merrill can wait. It is now or never for Roy Moore, Tommy Tuberville, and Bradley Byrne. Like Sessions they are not spring chickens.

Current polling has Sessions at 30%. Former Auburn football coach, Tommy Tuberville, at 21%. First District Congressman, Bradley Bryne at 14% and former Chief Justice, Roy Moore at 12%.

However, a better barometer of the challengers is the amount of money they have raised and have on hand. Sessions has \$2.5 million left over from his war

chest when he was in this Senate Seat. The candidate who is in the catbird's seat to move up in the polls is Congressman Bradley Byrne who is sitting on \$2.5 million. Coach Tuberville is showing \$1.4 million. However, \$1 million is his money he has loaned to his campaign. Judge Moore has \$33,000.

Money is the "mother's milk" of politics. Money talks and everything else walks. It buys name identification and image building. Jeff Sessions can raise another \$1 million or more in Washington. Bryne can add another \$300,000 from Washington. Tuberville may have tapped out all of the Auburn football fan donations that he has already done well with. Moore will not raise much money. He really does not need to. He is going to get 12-15% come hell or high water. They are with him no matter if he decides to get out and campaign or stay home and ride his horse Sassy.

My guess or you can call it a prognostication with three months out. Jeff Sessions spends \$3 million and uses a message that he is still pro Donald Trump and was the first sitting Senator to endorse him and is prepared to diffuse any negative attacks reminding GOP Trump voters of the vitriolic tweets about him sent by the President. He leads the primary with about 39%.

Judge Roy Moore gets his 13%. I'm afraid the Judge may be running his last race and finishes a respectable fourth. About 3% go to the also ran candidates. That leaves 45% of the vote for Tommy Tuberville and Bradley Byrne to fight over and hope to get into a runoff with Sessions.

The next month will be down time with very little mention of politics due to the holidays. The campaigns will kick into high gear by mid-January with the final week being the key to victory. Again, who has the money to spend in the final 10 days is critical.

The bottom line is whichever Republican – Jeff Sessions, Tommy Tuberville, or Bradley Byrne – wins the GOP nomination, any one of them beat the Democrat Doug Jones. It does not matter how much left-wing money Jones raises from California, it is all for naught. Alabama is a conservative Republican state. Jones really should run for the Senate from California.

December 4, 2019



Ronald A. Holtsford

WILL YOU COMMENT ON THE LEGALITY AND THE CURRENT IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS?

I am beginning to follow the impeachment issues a bit more closely as the House public hearings have begun. Possibly this ordeal will be over before you read this. I will do my best to comment on the process.

I think like myself most of the country foresees the outcome. The Democratic majority House of Representatives will vote to impeach the President, most because they dislike President Trump so much and not over the issues considered and the Republican majority Senate will vote not to remove him from office. Truly since my life began during the Presidency of Dwight Eisenhower, I have never seen such incivility and viciousness in our government.

Section. 4 of Article II reads: The President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors.

Let's break this down. So the President, etc. can be removed from office on impeachment and conviction. Article I of the Constitution, Section 2 reads, "The House of Representatives shall choose their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment. So just as the American public is following, the House has begun its investigation. So the first possibility that can be an impeachable offense is treason. Treason is defined as one who betrays their own country, a traitor. I would say in no way is President Trump a traitor. Bribery is defined in Black's Law Dictionary as "the offering, giving, receiving, or soliciting of any item of value to influence the actions of an official or other person in charge of a public or legal duty". Well I think this one might be seen either way, it probably depends more on who voted for President Trump and who didn't. Trump is a businessman and negotiator and its always been the way one attempts to have other countries to be friendly with us by promising something if the other country will provide some form of allegiance to us rather than the Russians, Chinese or other country less friendly to us. I think the argument of the Democrats is that he is making a personal gain in affecting Joe Biden's son and thus Joe as a Presidential candidate. But we also have an American citizen that may be taking advantage of his father's position to enrich himself. The Ukranians of course fear losing defense tools to ultimately help stave off Russian aggression instead of it potentially being done by Americans and escalating issues.

So what about high Crimes and Misdemeanors? History shows us that high Crimes and Misdemeanors don't have to be crimes at all. In 1970, before President Gerald Ford was President and was the House Minority leader being involved in the impeachment of Supreme Court Justice William Douglas, Ford said, "An impeachable offense is whatever a majority of the House of Representatives considers it to be at a given moment in history." Makes it a bit scary and it seems it is coming back to haunt a Republican party President. The high Crimes and Misdemeanors language was used in the impeachment of President Andrew Johnson in that the charge was violation of the tenure of office act which the act would later be repealed. Johnson was impeached and fell only one vote short of being removed. Less than a decade earlier President Buchanan had been charged with corruption and the impeachment proceedings failed. President Clinton was impeached on perjury and obstruction of justice but of course was not removed by the Democratic majority Senate.

The House Judiciary Committee prepared in 1974 the Constitutional Grounds for Presidential Impeachment, which was the best publication on high Crimes

and Misdemeanors until 2015 when Impeachment and Removal was published by the Congressional Research Service. My understanding is that House and Senate members have been scouring this book and any allied publications in order to follow correct protocol. With this being a relative rarity there are probably few legislators that may have experienced Bill Clinton's proceedings.

At this point we have the testimony of two White House officials that were for some reason listening in on the conversation. I don't know if it's for future clarity or just as witnesses which we see can turn against you. We will see where this goes from here.

The word "impeachment" has been thrown around ever since President Trump was elected. There have been Presidents elected that I didn't care for at all, the more recent caused my health insurance premiums to jump by leaps and bounds and has had a very hard impact on available disposable income. But there are things you do not do to one that you do not like, you either hope they are voted out or know that eight years is the maximum that you have to endure. If the Democratic leaders are way off base in proving that President Trump did wrong, then this may amount to a coupe such as seen in third world countries. Purely a way to undo an election by the people.

The one saving thought is that God allows or appoints those to lead and removes them at his pleasure; we see so many examples in the Bible. I think in years past we were blessed by some of our elected leaders but it seems over time and even more so now we often get leaders at various levels that are exactly what we deserve.

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.

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Merry Christmas



Jesus is The Reason for The Season





ROBSEVATIONS...

by Robert Tate

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

Bits and Pieces #9



After a trying weekend of watching Alabama Quarterback Tua Tagovailoa getting his hip dislocated, I am following up with yet another edition of “Bits and Pieces.” Here we go.

1. MIDWAY: In the past, I have at times rendered several movie reviews but I definitely do not want to make it a habit. But the wife and I went to see “Midway” the other day and I felt compelled to write something about it. Overall, I do recommend seeing it. It was enjoyable and yes, the CGI effects were pretty good. Not giving anything away, I liked the fact that each of the major characters were actually based on real people and most of the events portrayed actually happened.

The downside? The movie is about the Battle of Midway which took place in June 1942; just six months after Pearl Harbor. The significance of this battle cannot be underestimated. With that being said, in my not-so-humble World War II OCD-ness, I felt like too much time was spent on leading up to the battle including Pearl Harbor and the Doolittle Raid. Given there is only a finite amount of time for a movie, say 2 ½ hours or so, you have to be judicious in what is shown on the screen. Without giving anything away, some very significant aspects of the battle were left out as a result of the long build up. In this aspect alone, I feel the 1976 version was superior. Most unfortunate.

As for the acting, I will let you decide. I often find military dialogue as being goofy in movies. We really don’t talk like that when flying. I did find it interesting that a friend of mine made light of the fact that Woody Harrelson played Admiral Chester Nimitz. He thought they could have found a more age appropriate actor. As for me, I liked Harrelson’s performance, as I do in all of his movies, and immediately looked up some numbers. Believe it or not, Harrelson is actually one year older than Nimitz was at the time of the battle. Regardless, decent movie. Go and see it.

2. JOKER: Another good movie in my opinion. Definitely not a “super hero” movie in any way but rather a masterful look at mental illness and how we tend to look at it in our country although Gotham City is clearly a fictional place. Not what I was quite expecting but more than happy with the results when I left the theater.

3. JOE MORRISSEY: Where do I start? Back on 7 November, Democrat Joe Morrissey won the 16th district election to become a member of the Virginia Senate. His victory gives the Democrats a leg up in Virginia politics. The issue here is the guy himself. At a time when impeachment hearings abound surrounding President Trump for alleged malfeasance, an effort that has started from virtually the day of after his inauguration, here we have a politician who has violated the law on multiple occasions and yet was still allowed to run for office, win and will serve in that capacity. Before I go to much further, I recommend each of you do some research on your own to distill as much information as you can. There are many more sites than those listed below.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joe_Morrissey
<https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/joe-morrissey-receptionist/>
<https://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/ny-joe-morrissey-virginia-senate-20190612-ohpkbe5ufrc63i2eedmnhax7ea-story.html>

But in a nutshell, here it is: Law license suspended twice (1993, 1999) and was disbarred in 200. In 2003, Morrissey had his license to practice law revoked by the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board. In 2002, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the fourth Circuit wrote, “Frequent episodes of unethical, contumacious, or otherwise inappropriate conduct mar Joseph D. Morrissey's career as prosecutor and private defense attorney. . . Evidence . . . demonstrates Morrissey's 15-year history of contempt citations, reprimands, fines, suspensions, and even incarcerations arising from unprofessional conduct mostly involving an uncontrollable temper, inappropriate responses to stress, and dishonesty.” Ouch!!

Perhaps most disturbing is the relationship he had with his current wife which started when she was just 17 and he was 56. Although both denied sex occurred before she turned 18, text messages imply otherwise. All of this and other misconduct led to his second law license revocation in 2018. It is way too much to write here but please look it up yourself.

The point here is how incredible double standards clearly exist. I saw a meme the other day that basically said we all know that many politicians (I will say on both sides of the isle) are crooked and dishonest, the real problem is that their supporters just don’t care. Sad. With all the legal trouble this guy has been through, how in the heck could he even be allowed to run for any kind of office? Am I advocating he go to jail, not even close. But I do believe those who hold public office should be held to a higher standard since they are the ones who eventually try to impose their values on us.

4. RED FLAG LAWS: (Oy, yet again or better yet, not again!). If you guys can, watch the 17 November episode of “60 Minutes.” The first segment they did was about Red Flag Laws with their focus being on Colorado and their implementation. I was hoping to see a well-balanced, well-articulated effort on their part but realized I was just kidding myself. “Silly Rabbit.” As if that would ever happen. Sheesh, what was I thinking? Although they did interview two sheriffs who said they would not follow the laws and declared their counties “Red Flag Sanctuaries,” half of Colorado’s counties are following their lead, the entire segment was clearly geared for one thing, to show how fair and just these laws are.

They focused on two stories where one young man committed suicide and another killed a sheriff’s deputy and shot several others. Of course, the gun was the culprit and not the two people who clearly displayed mental issues that should have been addressed long before their actions. A once hard-hitting, fact searching 60 Minutes has clearly been reduced to producing bubble gum stories. The two questions the reporter clearly avoided were:

1. Is there a chance for rabid abuse of these laws for law abiding citizens?
2. Have there been any incidents in the U.S. where abuses have been recorded?

Of course, the answer to these questions is, “YES.” That is the point and 60 Minutes was not about to address those realities. In the segment, they mentioned that the police can keep a person’s weapons no longer than a year. That is of course a judge places another year limit which can be extended forever. In other words, once your weapons are in the hands of the Gestapo, good luck getting them back. And like I mentioned in a Robservation two months back, all they need to order an extreme risk order is hearsay. No proof, no due process, just Nazis knocking on your door and you are done.

Writing for the Gazette these past nine years, I really enjoy getting feedback; both good and bad; positive or negative. Both can be very humbling. I like when I get something that makes me rethink a position or sheds light in a way I did not see before. I will be the first to admit that I am not always right and am open to new ideas. After my Red Flag Law column, I got an interesting letter from someone. In this person’s letter, he/she said, “I believe most Americans are pro 2nd Amendment. Tate sees the world in a twisted and complicated way. The 2nd Amendment simply gives Americans the right to protect themselves by the use of weapons. . .”

I really don’t mind people saying I see the world in a twisted way. The world is indeed a twisted place but I believe I see the world as a realist not as some Fantasy Island Castaway. Where this letter shut my brain down was the ridiculous notion that the 2nd Amendment “simply gives Americans the right to protect themselves. . .” When I read that, I immediately thought of the Ostrich with its head in the ground and butt in the air. Then it occurred to me that sadly, there are a lot of people out there, in their own clearly twisted world view, actually believe this is all the 2nd Amendment guarantees and is its sole purpose.

In the past, I have written extensively on the 2nd Amendment in trying to educate people. I believe it is imperative for Americans to understand it in full. Why it is important and exactly why the framers felt it necessary to include. Remember, nothing in history just happens and these men had good and valid reasons (plural) to ensure it was written and included as it is. Back in February 2013 and then again in June 2016 I wrote a Robservation titled, “School is in Session” on the history behind the 2nd Amendment and the struggles James Madison had in crafting it. Unfortunately, there is no space right now to go into this. But this I will boldly say. If all someone thinks the 2nd Amendment says or implies, is that we have the right to protect ourselves, I say go to a local college or university, take a night class and educate the heck out of yourself because you have absolutely no idea, zero, of what you are espousing. Simple. This writer was correct in one aspect. The 2nd Amendment is simple for those who want to see and can appreciate the beauty and forethought in how it was crafted. It is not complicated but current law makers are deliberately making it so. Until I am proven otherwise, I will continue to see the world as it is and will continue to see the evil these Red Flag laws constitute to the promises guaranteed in our Constitution.

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Mary & Joseph: UNplanned Parenthood 33BC



Most *Gazette* readers require no reminder of the ‘unplanned’ (in this world) birth we venerate each Christmas. Some may recall a similarly titled 2015 Christmas column years ago. After accusation of over-emphasis upon the ‘*tax-terror kings*’ part of the story - i.e., the cruel tax Caesar Augustus levied coercing Mary and Joseph’s travail to Bethlehem -- I’ll focus on the righteous example of this brave union in God’s love who brought Jesus into this world some two thousand years ago.

I nonetheless advocate reading opening chapters of Prof. Charles Adams work, “*For Good & Evil: the impact of taxes on the course of civilization,*” for context on the House of David (tax revolt against Philistines) and Maccabean tax revolt which proffers donning Stars of David and Menorahs during this blessed season. Nothing new under the sun on what Rome had evolved into as the most recent episode of hegemony over Israelites this devout young Hebrew family suffered. The temple’s fate and taking the path of Barabbas over Jesus with the grim conclusion at Masada is fodder more apropos for a future Easter/Pascha column.

Matthew 1:18-20 explains Joseph’s love for Mary and belief in God was so strong he followed the angel’s instructions to continue the betrothed course and not quietly divorce Mary as she was indeed bringing the Son of God into this world. Fewer readers may recall US District Court Judge Myron Thompson’s 2015 Planned Parenthood ruling further assaulting civil rights of citizens who do not wish to subsidize those committing infanticide of their children. *Reason* Staff Editor Elizabeth Nolan Brown [10/28/15] wrote, “Alabama must restore the contract with Planned Parenthood as a Medicaid provider, at least for now, because Alabama offered no reason whatsoever for the sudden defunding, the state was likely in violation of federal Medicaid law, which requires letting patients see any provider that accepts Medicaid unless the state establishes that they’re not qualified. Providers, of course, are not generally obligated to take Medicaid patients, and many don’t because of low reimbursement rates. But under federal law, Medicaid patients have ‘freedom of choice’ among qualified Medicaid providers.”

With Myron Thompson **AGAIN** in the news this Christmas season for reinserting the federal government into the abortion debate, some still ask why the Hyde amendment (prohibiting use of federal funds for abortion except cases where the mother's life is in danger or pregnancy results from incest/incest) doesn’t apply to his injunction ruling. Hyde addressed a symptom; the source of the problem is unconstitutional federal programs/policies like Medicare/Medicaid imposed by extremists decades ago. In a world of ‘fungibility’ Hyde doesn’t matter. Alabama Medicaid Agency records show \$4,351 (Thompson’s 2015 order stated \$5,600) paid for services to patients at Planned Parenthood's Alabama clinics over the last two years in Mike Cason’s Al.com report; payments were mostly for contraceptive services and did **not** include abortions.

Some (re)assert Thompson’s recent injunction reinforces Jane Doe's right to seek family planning services at the qualified provider of choice - which is absurd. Nothing has been done to deny Jane’s right - she (or any private donor who wishes to subsidize Jane) may purchase whatever service and/or provider however they see fit. Thompson’s poor training/understanding of the letter and Spirit of the Constitution fails to protect the civil rights of citizens in general **NOT** to subsidize Jane. States as the sovereign unit (who may also authorize local governments to act) may fund/subsidize abortions, fetal tissue, etc. but Alabama does not. Private expenditure of time and effort may also occur, some follow their conscience to take those wanting to kill their child’s life to locales which will do so; others follow their conscience to discourage killing and promote adoption, financial help in raising children of mothers often young, inexperienced and of meager means for the task. This ‘freedom of choice’ to devote one’s time, money and effort to the manner of assistance they prefer has been usurped for the modern ‘choice’ movement more interested in imposing their preferred result and have others pay for it.

Roe v. Wade is one of DC’s more tangible assaults on State sovereignty; I’m a pragmatist on the issue. If the people of a State want to allow murder in Massachusetts and not in Mississippi, it is **NOT** a federal offense. The definition and enforcement of murder isn’t authorised to the federal government. I’m not foolish enough to think banning murder will end all the killing (even less so the immediate and tangible murder of a defenseless child inside or just outside a womb) we’ve observed, but I want the freedom to possibly live in a State which doesn’t subsidize the murder of one’s own child. If you kill your own child, do it on your own purse. It is not a lot to ask federal judges to ban taking my treasure to subsidize what I find reprehensible. This is an integral part of securing blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity.

My biggest grievance is to stop forcing that blood on my hands; even sadder observations are churches who’ve allowed governments to be their moral compass instead of God’s word. Romans understood and feared the fidelity of meek and poor to Christians who helped them more than their government asserting kindness and benevolence when the actions and results of Rome clearly shown the contrary. God gave individuals free will to live a righteous or sinful life. How can a righteous God find any joy/satisfaction for Himself and creatures made in His image when **coerced** to meet any god’s desired end?

As I grow old, the most remarkable thing I find in the Christmas season is God’s willingness to send His Son into a world which shown (since Adam & Eve) a strong proclivity to sin/NOT follow God’s will. There was no guarantee Mary and Joseph (especially under such cruel circumstances) would do right; how many young couples today would do a fraction as well? Please do not fill my box with justifications like abortion wasn’t known/available then... that’s what made them righteous. Abortion/infanticide was also an option in 33 BC, Mary and Joseph have **EARNED** our veneration each year we celebrate the Nativity.

In keeping with the Christmas story, there’s little surprise potentates installed by the central authority are willing to use fear and killing of many innocent children to reassert/hold onto power. Matthew 2:1-16 explains Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judeaea in the days of King Herod where wise men came from the east to Jerusalem asking, “Where is He that is born King of the Jews?”

Following His star, they came to behold and worship Him. Herod was troubled by this and gathered his chief priests and scribes demanding where Christ would be born and they answered Bethlehem. Herod ‘privily’ summoned the wise men and inquired on the star’s appearance. Departing for Bethlehem Herod implored the wise men, “Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found Him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.” They saw the young child with Mary and fell down to worship Him giving gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. After God’s caveat in a dream to not return to Herod, the wise men traveled back another way. Similarly, the Lord’s angel appeared to Joseph in a dream saying, “Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word; for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.” When Joseph woke, among the most obedient recorded in the Bible, he took the young Child and His mother by night, and departed into Egypt and remained there until Herod’s death. The wise men averting Herod triggered great rage. King Herod slew all the children of Bethlehem and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under according to the time he diligently inquired of the wise men.

Our modern Roman potentates are just as adept in using fear and killing of innocent children as Herod in the attempt to (re)affirm their power and tyranny. Little surprise this federal judge continues to show such poor intellect and integrity. May God forgive jurists of this sort as they are victims of poor education in the Spirit and the law as were hypocrites exposed in the Gospels writing about those charged with keeping the temple pure and administrators of the law. Irrational to expect the wisdom of Solomon out of jurists like Moore & Thompson. One may foolishly expect a jurist who so strongly evokes the Decalogue to see the he must reconcile thou shall not murder with thou shall not steal. How does a wise man cut that baby in two?

I’d like to believe those who advocate not stealing/taking the property right to one’s body would not approve murdering squatters or ones refusing rightful eviction from their property. I pray most would also find ‘*hired guns*’ abhorrent who do it for those too weak or squeamish to commit the murder themselves. We have courts, law enforcement, etc. to accomplish this end and at one time the church and other private entities played a huge role in reducing abortions and burden of getting these unplanned/unwanted lives from others’ body/property humanely. Myron Thompson has already shown great disregard for individuals’ civil right to property, removing homeowners from property they held legal title to so others could live in their home - i.e., don’t expect any rational relief there. If this Judge were to make the case that the mother **and** child have rights to life and property in our State, perhaps our so called great legal minds may accomplish something more righteous. How much has our State wasted these past years in legal challenges? Can we at least respect the mother’s **and** child’s rights enough to provide resources to something (more in keeping with Solomon’s wisdom) which benefit **both**?

We (me and my bride) had others on our property for almost a year without any compensation because of cruel (or incompetent - does it matter?) bureaucrats and judges. Because Myron Thompson had no regard for our civil right we never received the allowance for having to accommodate these unwanted lives on our property, so it is unlikely this federal judge will care about young (likely of poor means) mothers and unborn children to advance a more tangible public good (reduced murders, offsetting the burden of addressing unwanted births for mother and child) but willing to assert stealing/takings for economic development, increased tax base and other redistributive endeavours politburo members can extract from, more to their self-interests.

At risk of sounding ‘*old fashioned*’ we imposed our first conscription acts understanding if we were to force a person into harm’s way, some compensation applied for the duration. Most States have some provision (however meager for most) for wrongful incarceration upon discovering one has served prison time foregoing other things they may have accomplished in life. Is conscripting a mother (who doesn’t want to volunteer) for months of foregone opportunity and what may be a hazardous/injurious duty all that different? If they wish to ‘run to Canada’ I know there’s little one can do to stop a ‘draft-dodger’ if history is any guide.

I’ve made it no secret in the past I find two Josephs among the most ‘unsung heroes’ of the Bible. Joseph’s (of Nazareth) courage in bringing Jesus into this world and Joseph’s (of Arimathea) courage to go to Pilate for Jesus’ body/ preparation for burial exiting this world and His revealed resurrection three days later. I admire the Josephs of today who take responsibility for their station, I’ve known good men (and even given testimony in court for some of my former students) who fought to be a part of their child’s lives. I’ve also consoled men who were devastated that their child was killed as they were helpless to stop it. We can make the world a more grim or more joyful place - God’s word is the key to paradise in the long-run. I don’t see His word in the debate much these past several score to limit the killing, plundering, stealing, suffering and wrongful taking. Sad to see more taking the easy path and those so effectively increasing their power/wealth (as they lose their souls) benefiting from those taking the easy path.

This column is intended to be at least one sobering moment in your Christmas celebration to think about how important it is to stand against despotism in our federal, local and State governments. It is my sincere prayer all who know the power of Jesus Christ’s teachings will take Him into their hearts this blessed season and overcome the distraction of consumerism and destruction at the hands of the ruling elite who have made government their god. I know the Holy Spirit in Jesus Christ, Son of the true God is indeed greater than the spirit of evil in the sons of Nimrod, Caesar(s) et al because it is His name which remains above all nations.

REJOICE in a small (unplanned to man) Child of God, relegated to be born in a cave at the behest of a despot pressing the world into deeper darkness, beginning in the City of David among the lowest of mankind by worldly standards would do more to shine God’s Light into a wicked world than Roman despotism could possibly contain. Resistance to tyranny is obedience to God. You can be God’s servant **OR** a servant to Rome; it is impossible to serve both. It really is that simple. The choice is yours to make/reaffirm every Christmas.



Alabama Governor
Kay Ivey

DECEMBER 14
2019
MONTGOMERY, AL



ALABAMA 200 BIRTHDAY
CELEBRATION



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.

This is a reprint from December 2017

The Crisis We Face Today: And the Only Solution

WE HAVE HEARD THE 13TH CENTURY CALLED
THE AGE OF FAITH,
THE 18TH CENTURY CALLED
THE AGE OF REASON,
AND THE 20TH CENTURY CALLED
THE ATOMIC AGE.

Our current age has rightly been called
THE AGE OF IRRATIONALISM.

Today, it is common of many labeled "intellectuals" to despair of true knowledge. Government schools and colleges have given up moral absolutes as true knowledge.

For centuries, people of faith, whether Old Testament believers or New Testament scholars, believed that knowledge was contained in Holy Writ, and can be known to man. In fact, it was written for man's redemption.

Rationalism was something that was taken for granted generations ago. When discarded, what is lost? The word is taken in its ordinary sense for its cognitive faculty, that which perceives, compares, judges, and infers. Rationalism, in all of its forms, proceeds on the ground of Theism, that is the belief in a personal God. (Hodge, on Rationalism)

Dr. Sinclair Ferguson has written passionately about the spiritual power of the printed word, and especially, since the birth of the printing press. Even earlier, Paul from prison, asked Timothy to bring "his scrolls, the books, especially the parchments." **2 Timothy 4:13**

The lack of reading today is alarming. Reading Christian literature, in addition to our Bible reading, adds to the health of the Christian Church. Dr. Ferguson writes that Martin Luther was responsible for, amazingly, one-third of all the books published in the German language in the first half of the 16th Century. No wonder we need to celebrate the Reformation again and again. (Ferguson, Read Any Good Books?)

Libraries are declining in possession of books, selecting technology instead. To this writer, this is a travesty. Suppose that every church had a goal to have a library filled with books. "Books which help bring us to the stature of the fullness of Christ." **Eph. 4:13**

Would it not be a goal for Christian parents to have their children sit under the teaching of Augustine, Calvin, Spurgeon, Bunyan, or Baxter? Paul longs for us to be connected with the Saints and prays so in **Eph. 3:18 & 19**.

Many in today's world have repudiated the belief that true knowledge is even available to man. They despair of knowledge, unable to embrace God's Word in total acceptance. If we cannot affirm the Virgin Birth, how can we affirm the inerrancy of Scripture? Let's face it, irrationalism has permeated our culture. Of all of its paths, the attack on Truth, on Revelation, on Logic, is the most damaging.

As Christian believers, we pray for Revival. Is it possible to have a truly Christian revival, if irrationalism has even invaded some of our churches through compromises? Our first duty is to affirm doctrine, theory, and then to apply that to our everyday practice. If American Christians do not affirm true Knowledge, how can the Church extend the power of the Gospel?

Decades ago, a missionary of world wide travel, came into the life of our family

and ministry, visiting us when he was in the States numerous times. He brought a new understanding of Paul's writing in Romans to us all. He took us through the eleven chapters expanding on doctrine and theory, and then the last chapters on living that out in daily practice. Paul clearly explained it to help us avoid confusion and irrationalism. This is a promise, "Sin shall not have dominion over you, because you are not under the law, but under Grace." **Romans 6:14**

However, note this: Sin is not dead to us or as an operating power in the world. We are aware of sin's working in the world, and can feel pressure in our own lives and circumstances.

With the Christmas season approaching, we have the assurance of God's Word. We have the personal revelation of who He is as the "I Am", the personal God. All the names and titles given to him, all the attributes ascribed to Him, all the works attributed to Him, are revelations of who He truly is. He is the Elohim, the Mighty One, the Holy One, the Omnipresent Spirit. He is the Creator, the Preserver, the Governor of all things. He is the Father. He is the hearer of prayer, the giver of all good. He feeds the young ravens. He clothes the flowers of the field. He is Love.

He so loved the world that He gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth on Him might not perish, but have everlasting life. He is merciful, long suffering, abundant in goodness and truth. He is a very present help in every time of need; a refuge, a high tower, an exceeding great reward. He is our ruler and father, with whom we can commune. His favour is our life - his loving kindness is better than life. This divine revelation of God in his own nature and in his relation to us is not a delusion. It makes God known to us as He truly is. We therefore know God, but no creature can understand the Almighty unto perfection. (Hodge, Vol I p. 344-45)

As we view the Son, we view the Father. God has revealed Himself in the person of His Son. He and the Father are One. The Revelation that He made of Himself was the manifestation of God. The words of Christ, are the words of God. The works of Christ are the works of God. The love, mercy, tenderness, the forgiving grace; as well as the holiness, the severity, and power manifested by Christ, were all manifestations of who God truly is. We see, therefore, with our own eyes, who God is.

Philosophy must veil her face in the presence of Jesus Christ as God, manifest in the flesh. She may not presume in that presence to say that God is not, and is not known to be, what Christ Himself most clearly was. The doctrine that God is the object of certain and true knowledge, lies at the foundation of all religion and therefore, must never be given up. (Hodge, Vol I p. 345)

This writer is so grateful to the Alabama Gazette for letting us write on the deep meaning of Christmas, and the tragic cultural decay in our beloved Republic. May every Christian embrace the Gospel more intimately, and reach out more passionately to others. May the Scriptures and the Carols have more meaning than ever before in our hearts. May we, in our family life, renew our faith commitment to each other, to our local congregation, and to the embracing of the Word more diligently and more thankfully.

Romans 8:1 ***"There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."***

Romans; 8:28 ***"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, and are called according to His purpose."***

Note Reference
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Read Any Good Books? Sinclair Ferguson, Banner of Truth Trust, Edinburgh



Woods & Waters

Steve Long with Steve



Food Plots Are Overrated *By Brian Grossman*

Food Plots are Typically Small
Most deer hunters don’t have the time or resources to plant more than a few acres of food plots every year. And while even a small plot can serve as a place to ambush a deer, it won’t improve the overall health of your deer herd. Even if 10 percent of your overall acreage is planted to food plots, if that’s all you’re focused on, then 90 percent of your property is likely not reaching its full potential.

Food Plots are Expensive to Plant and Maintain
Another down side to food plots is that on a per-acre basis, they are fairly expensive to plant and maintain. With up-front costs like lime, fertilizer and seed, as well as maintenance costs on things like herbicides, the investment in even a small plot can be high. There is also the need for necessary equipment to plant and maintain the plots and fuel to run that equipment.
Disking in openings and edges are often all is needed to stimulate the growth of early successional habitat.

Food Plots are Seasonal
Most food plot species are only available for a limited period of time during the course of a year. Spring-planted plots typically provide forage during the late spring, summer and early fall, while fall-planted forages provide food in late fall, through the winter, and into spring. To have food available year-round in a plot, you have to double plant or plant multiple plots. Then, once those food plots have run their course, it’s time to start all over. Perennial plots like clover can extend the overall life of your plot, but they will still require regular maintenance — mowing, herbicide treatment and fertilizer — to provide maximum benefit.
It was due to these limitations that in my former job as a public lands manager, we often steered away from planting a lot of food plots, much to the dismay of many of the WMA users. Public land deer hunters want to see food plots. In many of their minds, if food plots weren’t being planted, then we weren’t doing anything for the wildlife. Actually, nothing could have been further from the truth. But instead of focusing on a handful of food plots that would have provided little benefit to the deer herd and likely would have concentrated hunters, we focused on improving habitat on a larger scale through some of the techniques we will discuss below.

Timber Stand Improvement
Just because you have plenty of acorn-producing oaks on your property doesn’t necessarily mean your woods are providing good deer habitat. If you can look around and see over 30 to 40 yards in every direction, your woods are likely in need of timber stand improvement. Fortunately, this is one habitat management technique that could possibly put money in your pocket rather than having to spend it, but that will depend on how many wooded acres you have to work with, and what type of timber you currently have. This step is best done with the guidance of a licensed forester, particularly one who understands the needs of the wildlife for which you are managing. Your state wildlife agency or forestry department may have someone who can help you with this process at no charge or at a reduced fee. The extent to which you improve your timber for wildlife will depend on your expectations of future timber revenue. Someone who wants maximum financial returns will likely have to take a different, more conservative approach than someone who is completely focused on providing great deer habitat.
In the simplest terms, timber stand improvement involves removing trees that are less desirable to deer, and, in some cases, removing inferior individual trees of species preferred by deer in order to open up the forest canopy and provide more sunlight, moisture, and nutrients to the remaining trees. In opening up the canopy, you will also stimulate understory growth, which provides valuable food and cover for deer.
Thinning timber allows sunlight to reach the forest floor promoting understory growth, creating additional food and cover for wildlife.

Prescribed Fire
Once you have improved your woodlands with timber stand improvement, they would likely benefit from prescribed fire. There are few habitat management practices that can impact as many acres as quickly and as cheaply as prescribed fire. By burning a tract of woods, you remove the leaf litter, which puts nutrients back into the soil and allows sunlight to reach the forest floor, stimulating understory

growth. If done correctly, prescribed fire can also knock back hardwood saplings like sweet gum and maple, so more beneficial species for wildlife can take hold.
Fire can also be a great tool for old field management, which we’ll discuss in the next section. Just like prescribed fire in a wooded setting, prescribed fire can remove the thatch layer, return nutrients into the soil, and set back woody encroachment. The end result, depending on the timing of the fire, is the promotion of valuable native grasses and forbs.
Obviously prescribed fire comes with its own set of challenges and dangers. You need to make sure it is conducted by someone with training and a thorough understanding of prescribed fire and fire behavior. You may be able to get assistance through your local wildlife agency or state forestry department.
food plots - prescribed-burn
Prescribed fire is one of the most affordable and efficient ways to impact wildlife habitat. Fire removes leaf litter, returns nutrients to the soil and sets back woody encroachment.

Old Field Management/Early Successional Habitat
Early successional habitat is one of the most beneficial, yet overlooked, types of deer habitat a landowner can provide. Not only does early successional habitat provide high quality, year-round forage, it also provides great cover, which can promote more daylight deer movement. Not every field needs to be plowed and planted to a food plot. A simple herbicide application and/or light disking may be all that’s needed to turn a fallow field into great deer habitat.
If you have a large opening and still want to plant food plots, consider breaking up the field into blocks, planting some and promoting early successional habitat in others.

Non-Native Species Control
One of the biggest suppressers of good native deer habitat are invasive, non-native species. In fields, this may be fescue or bermudagrass. In wooded areas and early successional habitat, it may be honeysuckle, autumn olive, Chinese privet, kudzu or a whole host of other non-native species. You may need to work with a biologist from your state wildlife agency to help you identify the offenders on your property, or at the very least, do some online research to see which invasive, non-native plants you are most likely to encounter in your area.
Once you have some of these pests identified, prioritize which one(s) you will tackle first according to the threat they pose and the treatment required. Don’t get overwhelmed if you have have a lot of these pests to deal with. Non-native plant control is a marathon, not a sprint. It may take multiple treatments over many years to get them completely under control.
Plant Trees

If your woods lack a good variety of hard and soft mast species, then a tree planting may be in order. Before you start ordering trees, take a good inventory of what is currently on your property and focus your efforts on filling in the gaps. If your timber is mostly white oaks, then it may be a good idea to plant some red oak species, or vice-versa if you already have plenty of red oaks and not a lot of white oaks. If you already have a good mix of oaks, but no soft mast species, consider planting trees like persimmons, wild plum, or crabapple to name a few. Sick with native species when possible, and don’t be afraid to contact a local forester or wildlife biologist to see which trees do best in your area.
Summary
Food plots are fun to plant, and they can certainly improve your odds of killing deer. We spend a lot of time each year planning and preparing food plots. They are beneficial to your deer herd, as well as your opportunities for hunting success. But they are just one piece of the overall habitat puzzle. Don’t get so focused on that one piece at the expense of the others. Instead, work to maximize every acre of your property to provide great deer forage and cover. Plant your food plots. Our friends at Antler King have everything you need to plant and maintain some incredible food plots this season. But don’t miss out on the opportunities to enhance the deer habitat on the property you hunt by the methods mentioned above. In the end, you’ll be much more likely to hold deer on your property, improve the health of the deer that call your property home, and those deer will be more likely to move during daylight hours. And all that adds up to better odds of putting your tag on a great buck.

Kritter Korner

African Lion

The African lions are large, muscular, barrel-chested cats. They have a rounded head, round ears, short fur, and a long tail with a tuft of hair at the end. Male lions grow a luxurious collar of long hair, called a “mane,” around their necks. Lions are competent predators that work together to bring down prey. They have several distinctive behaviors and adaptations that help them survive in the harsh African savannah.
African lions’ famous mane begins to grow when the male lion reaches one year of age. The color and size of the mane can vary greatly depending on the genetics, and environment, of the lion, a darker, fuller mane indicates a healthier animal with prominent testosterone production. A group of lions is known as a “pride.” Lion prides consist of a few male lions, approximately a dozen lionesses, and their cubs. All the female lions in a pride are related. The females will stay with the pride their entire lives, while the males search for a pride of their own when they reach sexual maturity.
Lions hunt in groups, and these groups are almost exclusively composed of lionesses, rather than male lions. Male lions can hunt, but do not typically participate in group hunts. Because the lionesses work together, they can capture prey that is much larger and faster than a single lioness could catch on her own. Lions prefer grassland and savannah habitats near water sources, such as rivers. They also prefer hunting in open areas, rather than densely packed forest. Lions are absent from all rainforest habitats in their range.
African lions have several subspecies separated by large, lion-less expanses. Lions are considered a hypercarnivore, which means that the vast majority (70%) of their diet comes from meat. They seem to prefer prey that weighs between 400 – 1,200 lbs. but will occasionally eat outside of that range. Some of their most common prey includes wildebeest, zebra, gemsbok, giraffe, buffalo, Thomson’s gazelle, and warthog. Each lion is thought to eat between 10 and 20 lbs. of food per day. While female lions bring home dinner, male lions survey their territory and chase away rival males. Groups of male lions at the head of a pride have more success maintaining dominance than a single male does. Adult male lions are larger and heavier than females, making them the obvious choice in primary pride protection.
Male lions will mark their territory by scent marking and roaring. Roaming bachelor males will attempt to de-throne the current male(s) of the pride. These battles can be vicious, and for good reason. The male lion is not only defending his harem offemales, but also his genetic progeny. When a new male

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takes over a pride, he kills all the young cubs in the pride. It is believed this occurs because the lionesses will not go into heat until her cubs mature or die.
Humans and lions interact in several different ways, most of them negative for either the lion or the human. Lion hunting has been a recorded human hobby since 1380 B.C. Inscriptions from ancient Egyptian Pharaohs detail the hunting of lions and the number of kills. In some African cultures the killing of a lion is even seen as a rite of passage. Lion hunting occurs now in the form of trophy hunts, as well as the illegal killing of “pest” lions. Livestock being easy prey, especially when other prey is scarce and become the target of lion hunts. When lions or other predators kill human live stock, the interaction usually results in the hunting and killing of all predators in the area. Lions spend lots of their time resting.
They sleep, drowse, take catnaps, and lounge in the sun for a total of twenty hours out of the day! Lions are active during the day, but they tend to hunt more frequently at night. As the sun begins to set, the lions socialize, groom one another, and take care of their bathroom business. They will then spend most of the night alternating between lounging and hunting. Most hunts occur in the hours before sunrise.
The female lions will mate with whoever the most dominant male in her group is. She will also mate with any other males in the pride, but the most dominant will reproduce at a higher rate. Like most felines, male lions have a barbed penis that scrapes the female after mating. This frequently results in aggressive behavior from the female. It is believed that the barbed penis can stimulate ovulation when the female is in heat. After 110 days, the female lion gives birth to 1 – 4 cubs. She will leave the immediate vicinity of the pride, and hide the cubs in tall grasses, caves, or bushes to keep them safe. Most females will not rejoin the pride until the cubs are between 6 and 8 weeks of age. The cubs are weaned at 6 – 7 months old, and the male cubs leave the pride between 2 and 3 years of age. Lions are extremely common in folklore, tales, and cultural symbolism. Lions can be commonly seen in biblical references, ancient totems and paintings, god/goddess portrayals, and other art forms. In present times, lions continue to maintain their popularity in books, movies, and television shows.



Ed Jones
Football Writer

Spot-on Pre-Season Predictions!

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

Thanks, Ed, for your continued contributions and for 16 years of great writing for the Alabama Gazette! We look forward to next season!

In the April 2019 edition of the Alabama Gazette, the following article appeared... Ed Jones pre-season predictions...and, boy, were they on target! Take a minute to review what Jones said in April...

ALABAMA

There is no controversy this year in Tuscaloosa as to who the quarterback will be. Tua Tagovailoa will be at Alabama at least one more year. The runner up for the Heisman trophy is well entrenched as the Alabama quarterback for 2019. The real problem at quarterback is who will be Tua’s backup. Mac Jones, a 6’- 2”, 205 lb. sophomore was number three last year. Gone is the multi-talented Jalen Hurts. He will be vying for the Heisman as the quarterback of the Oklahoma Sooners, who have produced two Heisman winners in the last two years. Last year Alabama had a perfect situation. With Hurts backing up Tagovailoa, there was never a worry about the position. Not so this year.

Alabama’s biggest problem is with the back up quarterback. Think about last year. When Tua went down, Hurts came up and the Tide did not miss a beat. Jones would have to be the man if Alabama had to play a game this spring. He will hold on to his spot through the spring game. However, Jones does not have the talent level of Jalen Hurts. *Tua will get hurt. Alabama must have the answer* to the backup job by the second week of fall practice. It may be Jones or it may be one of the talented freshmen coming in.

The only other real problem that Coach Nick Saban has is how to build his offensive line. Junior All-American left tackle Jonah Williams opted for the NFL. To compensate, Saban moved junior Alex Leatherwood from right guard to left tackle, a position that he has played before. This allows senior Matt Womack, who started 14 games at tackle in 2017, to move from tackle back to right guard. Right tackle is in the capable hands of Jedrick Wills, a 6’ - 5”, 310 lb. junior, who started last year at right tackle. So, the problem is finding a left guard and a center. Ross Pierschbacher, an excellent guard on Alabama’s 2017 team was moved to center last spring. He never did play up to the standard set by other Alabama centers in the past. Pierschbacher graduated and will be on an NFL roster this fall as a guard. He started 57 games at tackle, guard and center, so his leadership will be sorely missed.

Redshirt junior, Chris Owens has never started a game, but was the backup center in 2018. He is being counted on to move into the starting job this fall. His improvement over the last three years has been excellent. Another possibility at center is redshirt freshmen Emil Ekiyor. He is currently spending the spring at left guard and center. One of these linemen will be the center. The good news is that true freshmen Evan Neal is talented enough to move into the left guard spot giving Alabama two centers with potential. *Neal can move his 360 pounds around*



Photo by Denon McMillan, 247Sports

Mac Jones

very well. It is a good bet that he will not be redshirted. His presence is needed now. With these problems solved, Alabama will be good enough to challenge the best in 2019.

AUBURN

Auburn is in a similar situation that they were in for 2015. Georgia transfer quarterback Nick Marshall had led Auburn to 21 wins the previous two years. The best replacement for Marshall was expected to be Jeremy Johnson, Mr. Football in Alabama in his senior year at Carver High School. In fact Coach Gus Malzahn told the media during his sophomore year that Johnson was a Heisman Trophy candidate. Johnson’s talents did not fit the offensive system that Malzahn wanted to run. At that juncture of Malzahn’s career, his offense was predicated on the threat of the quarterback being able to run the football when executing the zone read offense. Johnson was a 6’ - 6” gun slinger who slung his passes with authority, and with the velocity of a pro-style quarterback. However, Auburn was not blessed with pro-style receivers. In addition, Johnson had the propensity to sling balls to his players and their players with the same aplomb. He also was not a good runner. So, the zone read offense lost one-half of its effectiveness with Johnson. Therefore, the running backs were devoured at times by the opposition. The result of this experiment was a constant change of quarterbacks during a dismal two years for the Tigers.

The similarity to that situation this year is that Auburn has a freshman quarterback, Bo Nix, who was also Mr. Football in Alabama. He played high school football at Pinson Valley High School. His coach was his dad, Patrick Nix, who was Auburn’s starting quarterback in 1994 and 1995. Unlike Jeremy Johnson, Nix has developed a coach’s mentality through his years of living football with his “poppa”. That will serve him well in his playing career. Nix is a 6’ - 2”, 210 lb. multi-talented athlete who will stretch a defense with his ability to run and pass effectively.

Nix has not been mentioned as a Heisman Trophy candidate yet. Coach Malzahn probably learned a valuable lesson at Auburn’s expense with his handling of Jeremy Johnson. Nix has not been handed the baton from Jarred Stidham. The freshman will have to climb over three other quarterback candidates. “Ole Folks” Cord Sandberg is pushing for playing time. Sandberg is a very interesting prospect. When he graduated from Manatee High School in Bradenton, Florida, he chose a professional baseball career over football. After six years of minor league



Greg McWilliams 247Sports

Cord Sandberg



Adam Sparks 247Sports

Joey Gatewood

ball with the Philadelphia Phillies organization, he decided to give up that dream and chase another dream, Auburn quarterback. The 6’ 3”, 215 lb. Sandberg is twenty-five years old now. That is a little old for college, but is just the right age for a young quarterback in the NFL. So, he may be reaching his prime potential athletically this year. He will certainly have the maturity factor over all the other quarterback candidates. *We will get a good look at Sandberg in the spring game. Don’t count him out.*

If the coaches could choose a quarterback by the way he runs on the field, they would certainly pick Joey Gatewood. Joey is a 6’ - 5”, 240 lb. redshirt freshman from Bartram Trail High School in St. Augustine, Florida. *Optimistic Auburn folks think he may be another Cam Newton. Don’t count on that. He does resemble Newton, same weight, same height, handsome face. That’s probably where the comparison should end. He is no Cam Newton. However, he has every tool in the tool box in order to be Auburn’s quarterback this year. He can run. He can throw. He is smart. He is tough enough. The question is, can he use his God given abilities on the field against the likes of LSU, Georgia and Alabama. We will not know his real chances until after spring practice. He would be a good specimen to throw*

out there in September against Oregon. It could happen. He has sprinter speed. Is he quick enough to run Malzahn’s zone read offense? Probably!

The heir apparent to Jarred Stidham, who will be on an NFL roster in 2019, is a 6’ - 1”, 195 lb. junior, Malik Willis. He has been Stidham’s backup for two years. He is equally gifted in running and throwing, which should endear his talents to the read option offense. However, in two years as the backup quarterback, Willis has not shown exceptional ability to run Auburn’s offense. He is coachable, quick and experienced. If Auburn played in April, he would have to start. Willis now has the job. Whether he can survive the four quarterback playoff this spring is questionable. His best trick is running with the football. *I know that I’m not as smart as Coach Malzahn, but I would move Willis to running back after spring training. This move would beef up a weak position. It would also give Willis a chance to do what he does best, run the football. There are three talented quarterbacks on the roster other than Willis. Malik Willis is not the future of Auburn football. It would behoove Coach Malzahn to quit wasting Willis’ time at quarterback.*

No matter what happens this spring, quarterback is not the biggest problem facing Malzahn. There is no linebacker letterman coming back. All three positions must be built from scratch. It can be done. Although Deshaun Davis, Auburn’s middle linebacker played as hard and as well as he could in 2018, but he was just an ordinary linebacker in the SEC. He will make an NFL roster through grit alone. Auburn will have to count on redshirt freshmen and true freshmen to fill this void.

The Auburn secondary must be shored up as a result of graduation and early defections to the NFL draft. There is talent there. Immediate help from a freshman would stabilize this vital part of any defense. Coach Kevin Steel is good. But he is not a magician. Young players have to come through.



Bo Nix

The running back situation is also perilous. “BooBee” Whitlow carried all the load last year because there was no one else to call on. Whitlow is a tough inside runner, but he is just an average SEC back. Freshmen will shore up the position, but Whitlow needs help.

It will be very interesting to see how the “four quarterback derby” ends. Somebody has got to come out of spring as the best quarterback to start against Oregon. *It will not be Malik Willis!*

As mentioned in April, Tua Tagovailoa went down late in the season. Mac Jones had to bear the load for the Alabama offense. He played in the Iron Bowl as well as he could, getting no help from the sidelines. Jones was just not ready for “Prime Time”. Alabama threw the football way too much. Najee Harris, one of the best backs in the country, ran the ball way too little. Result; 48-45. Gus Malzahn is now 3-4 against Saban. Nobody can match that. WAR EAGLE!!



Daylight Wasting

By John Martin

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

This past November 3, we all ran our clocks back one hour to switch from daylight saving time back to standard time. From then until next spring, we lose an extra hour of daylight every afternoon. As I'm writing this, more than a month before the winter solstice, darkness is already covering our state by 5:00 pm. For people who work from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm, there is no daylight for any outdoor afternoon activities.

Of course, daylight saving time does not actually provide more daylight. A day is the same length no matter what. But it does provide more afternoon daylight for people whose workdays are ruled by the clock.

More independent people, like farmers, can set their time schedules for their own convenience. For them, time zones and whether they are on standard or daylight time does not matter.

Daylight saving time was conceived as a way to gain more daylight where it is needed most by those who do not have that option. But it was given only during late spring, summer, and early fall. During the short days of winter, our government assumed that daylight in the mornings was more essential, and they adjusted the time accordingly.

We are now hearing arguments to do away with daylight time. It would eliminate the twice a year clock changes that some people consider an unnecessary inconvenience. But we will lose our extra afternoon daylight.

Another proposed suggestion was to put the state on daylight time all year. This is a rational proposal, since we will keep our daylight and also eliminate the clock changes.

But so far, states are not on daylight time all year. Somehow, our Congress will not go for it.

But there is another solution: Take a look at a time zone map and where Alabama is located. It is in the Central time zone, but right on the border with the Eastern time zone. It would be a simple matter to extend the Eastern zone westward to include Alabama. That would have the same effect as central daylight time.



We can also see that the Central time zone is much wider than the Eastern zone. The easternmost portion of it (Alabama) actually belongs in the Eastern zone.

Until recently, Indiana was also in the Central time zone. But a few years ago, the people over there checked out the time zones and the daylight periods within and noticed that they also belonged in the Eastern zone. They finally persuaded Congress to correct this discrepancy.

If we look toward Indiana, we can see that it is directly north of Alabama, and that its western border lines up perfectly with Alabama's western border. Obviously Alabama also belongs in the Eastern zone. Our crazy short winter afternoons prove it.

We would have another beneficial effect: It would put all of Florida into a single time zone. Right now, the western portion of the panhandle is in the Central zone.

If the people in Congress have any common sense, they will move Alabama and western Florida into the Eastern time zone.

With that done, we won't have to worry about daylight saving time.

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Coup d'etat or Unleashing Secretariat



John W. Giles

America is at a crossroads, either we follow Nancy, Adam, Jerry and Chuck in their unceasing attempt to remove President Trump or we as a country participate in a historic 2020 landslide election and unleash Secretariat. Often when I write, there is an issue at the core of the discussion and I try my best to bring facts to the debate to substantiate my position. In all fairness, this is purely an opinion piece, where in my view the outcome for the future of this country is clearly dependent on which highway we choose to travel.

A Coup d'etat or simply a coup, means the overthrow of an existing government. Typically, this refers to an illegal, unconstitutional seizure of power by a dictator, the military, or a political faction.

There have been 457 coup attempts from 1950 to 2010 around the world, only 49.7% were successful. When we think of a coup in the Western Hemisphere, we think of Venezuela or Haiti, but surely not America. In this case, we have a political faction in America, who has not accepted the will of the people in the constitutional Electoral College results of the November 8, 2016 election. They did not like or accept the election of Donald J. Trump as our 45th President of the United States of America. After multiple deceitful attempts, now they have emerged with a full court press, Coup d'etat, entitled Impeachment. This political faction has a name, the Democrat Socialist Party.

Elijah Cummings, a Democrat Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Baltimore Maryland, just passed away. It is my hope that his family give him a respectful Christian burial, God rest his soul. Unfortunately, we have seen in the past, funerals of high profile Civil Rights activists, like Congressman Cummings have a well-deserved Christian burial, turn into an Anti-Trump Rally. This is purely speculative on my part, but I imagine there will be those who blame his death on Trump. They will say Trump holding Cummings partially responsible for the demise of Baltimore Maryland affected him physically and ultimately took his life. I am writing this article on the morning of the sad announcement of his death, so let's see if this is a correct assessment. I trust the family does not allow his death to become a political tool for the Democrat Party.

It is my prediction, the America I know, will not follow Nancy Pelosi, Adam Schiff, Jerry Nadler, the AOC Squad, Chuck Schumer and all of the 2020 Democrat Presidential hopefuls down this path of a Coup d'etat after 3 years of the Russian Prank. How do you wake up every day and your only policy is to hate Trump. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. stated, *"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. Hate multiplies hate, violence multiplies violence, and toughness multiplies toughness in a descending spiral of destruction."* He was right then and he is right today. Hate will destroy someone from the inside out, it will flame out. How can you sustain the energy and hype to cheer on Socialist ideas, when there are no supporting facts or identified current tax dollars to fund these bizarre concepts? In a nutshell, the fuel of hate, fact-less notions, America's conversion to Socialism will flame out their fossil fueled jet engines and this outlandish liberal conception will nosedive in the 2020 elections.

I am an economic, moral, social and constitutional conservative and my personal issues mirror reflect the Republican National Committee Platform to the bone marrow. I have been active for 39 years, beginning with going door to door for Reagan in 1980. Since Republicans have been winning elections locally and nationally, we have inherited office holders under our platform flag, who do not share the RNC issues to the core and quite frankly, in so many cases, very weak. I will go one step further, I think we have very few who would pledge their life, fortune and sacred honor for this country. Unfortunately, many stay focused on being reelected. It is my view; this is why we lost the U.S. House in 2018, because they did not govern accordantly as campaigned.

If you have never seen the movie Secretariat, I would highly recommend watching the movie. It is the story, an underdog American thoroughbred race horse was owned by an economically waning family farm. Secretariat, in 1973, became the first Triple Crown winner in 25 years. In the final Triple Crown race at Belmont Stakes, Secretariat won by an amazing unprecedented 31 lengths. It is still today regarded as one of the greatest races of all times. Watching that horse unleashed, with what seemed to be supernatural strength and stamina, reduces one to tears as you witness this breath taking historic performance. Every time I watch this movie, it moves me with deep uncontrollable emotions as the determination of this rare animal was unleashed.

Many join me in our deep hallowed and sacred feelings about the United States of America. Without question, we are the greatest nation on earth, an economic powerhouse and we have never seen the full economic impact of our potential as a nation. We did see all of the country come together for our victory in WWII, but we have not seen our potential unleashed economically. We have only scratched the surface of our potential in the last 3 banner years economically, even with the daily tsunamis of resistance. Unfortunately, take any one issue; go to the blackboard and collective commit to paper a plan that reflects the best for America, turn around, look down the hall and you can be assured to be met with resistance. There will some faction or possible coalitions formed, some highly financed K-Street lobbyist, and the like working those at the blackboard, creating a slalom course weaving around their selfish notions. At the end of the hall, the once plan that was best for America has been diluted to legislation with a good name and absolutely no substance.

If we are blessed in 2020 with a landslide opportunity of Republicans winning the U.S. House and Senate, along with the Whitehouse, our team must saddle up with titanium underwear, and like Secretariat, get on the track solely focused on one thing, winning big for America. Regardless of who is standing in the hall, when you turn around from the black board, I encourage my fellow Republicans to heed the noble words of my former boss, Governor Fob James, "do what is right and the hell with the consequences." For far too long, the squeaky wheel and well financed lobbyist have redrawn the roadmap for America.

Some have said President Trump does not give a damn for all of the right reasons, which is one of the many reasons he is filling up stadiums across America. It is time that 100% of all elected Republicans in the U.S. House and Senate to follow facts, not give a flip about offending a lobbyist or worrying about the next election and truly put America first, not your friends in the hall.

What will it be, Coup d'etat or unleashing Secretariat? God Bless America.



By Daniel Sutter

When the Impossible Happens

Daniel Sutter is the Charles G. Koch Professor of Economics with the Manuel H. Johnson Center for Political Economy at Troy University and host of Econversations on TrojanVision. The opinions expressed in this column are the author's and do not necessarily reflect the views of Troy University.

The Berlin Wall, the most visible manifestation of Communist oppression, came down thirty years ago. This totally unexpected event was a triumph of hope and the human spirit. How can social scientists explain a seemingly impossible event?

The Wall isolated West Berlin, part of democratic West Germany, almost 100 miles inside communist East Germany. The Wall and the Iron Curtain appeared to permanently divide Europe. The Wall was built in August 1961 to halt an East German exodus, including 30,000 persons in July 1961. The Wall symbolized the human tragedy of European communism: an existence so bleak that nations had to be turned into virtual prisons.

The Wall did not seem to be going anywhere. The East German regime was well-entrenched and supported by its ruthlessly efficient secret police, the Stasi. And military intervention by the Soviet Union, as in Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1968, loomed should a Warsaw Pact nation abandon communism.

Change though was brewing. Mikhail Gorbachev had initiated glasnost and perestroika in the Soviet Union, and in Poland the Solidarity labor movement was sharing power. Eastern Europe's planned economy was in shambles. High oil prices had propped up this woefully inefficient system, which workers described aptly as "We pretend to work, and they pretend to pay us." Tumbling oil prices in the 1980s brought ruin to European communism.

Events unfolded quickly. In June 1989, Mr. Gorbachev announced that the Soviet Union would no longer intervene to prevent regime change in eastern Europe. Peaceful Monday evening protests began in Leipzig, which the East German regime chose not to violently crush. The soldiers and leaders, I think, realized they were no longer building or defending a worker's paradise; maintaining a bankrupt regime was just not worth bloodshed. Protests spread to East Berlin and other cities and East Germans began migrating west through Hungary. After the Wall fell, Germany peacefully reunited in 1990.

How can we explain such rapid and unexpected change? Public choice economists study government decision-making, most frequently within democracy. Following the lead of Gordon Tullock, some public choice economists, myself included, have also studied authoritarian politics. Duke University economist Timur Kuran's research on preference falsification provides an excellent explanation.

How does this work? The stability of any regime, democratic but particularly authoritarian, depends on public attitudes and statements by citizens, soldiers, bureaucrats, and other government officials. People also have personal beliefs about the regime or leader.

Publicly expressed beliefs can differ from personal beliefs, the possible falsification. Authoritarian leaders typically punish dissent, providing one reason for people to lie. The incentive is greatest when almost everyone publicly supports the government.

A successful dictator needs widespread expressions of support, which can be



Owen Franken/Corbis/Getty Images

sustained, or coerced, even when most everyone despises the regime. The public support can keep people from learning that almost everyone dislikes the regime. An unpopular dictator can maintain control and yet still be highly vulnerable. A few sparks can suddenly and unexpectedly bring the Berlin Wall crashing down.

Is preference falsification relevant for America today? I think so, in two ways. Many supporters of President Trump face social pressures and sanctions. Game show host Chuck Woolery, for instance, recently said he thought that supporting Mr. Trump ruined his career. Whether true or not, Mr. Woolery's sentiments reflect the views of many Trump supporters, who may well choose to remain quiet.

Republican politicians have also faced a significant backlash from Republican voters for criticizing Mr. Trump. South Carolina's Mark Sanford, for one, lost a 2018 primary challenge. Other Republicans have surely stayed silent even when disagreeing with the President's actions and tweets.

Widespread preference falsification allows rapid and unexpected change. Many observers think that the Republican-controlled Senate would never remove President Trump if he were impeached; preference falsification suggests not so fast. And public opinion polls will almost certainly underestimate Mr. Trump's support among voters, as in 2016. We may just need to expect the unexpected.

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

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Soul Searching

Why I Really Need Christmas This Year!

I really need Christmas this year!

Let’s face it! There is a lot of division and mistrust in our culture, in our communities and in our country right now.

On the political front, we are so divided! More divided than I have ever witnessed in my lifetime. We negatively label each other as Democrats, Republicans, Socialists or Libertarians. We are stereotyped as liberals or conservatives or moderates. It seems we have a hard time having civil conversations about things that matter deeply to us. This isn’t just happening in Washington DC. It’s happening right here at home with our own friends, co-workers, fellow church members and within our families too. The whole country seems fractioned about a great many things not to mention our current political state of affairs as well as the future direction of our great nation.

On social media, we are quick to post our views and formulate our opinions based on the very limited information we may have on any given subject. We like or dislike, we friend and unfriend, we tweet or post. We spend on average two hours and 23 minutes per day on social media. Some of it is great for staying in touch with our “friends”, but I wonder how much of it is all about sharing with the world how “great” our life is or comparing ourselves with others and how “blessed” they are.

In many cities and communities, gun violence and criminal activity is a daily concern. We talk about the different sides of town and socioeconomic and racial division. Young girls are being kidnapped and sold into sexual slavery right here in our own state. Atlanta International Airport is one of the biggest hubs (#2 in the world) for sex trafficking. Did you know that I-20 is considered a sex trafficking superhighway running right through our state?

Children and young women are being targeted regularly by sexual predators and abductions are being highlighted and reported more and more in social media and on the news.

Even my own denomination is in the midst of a culture war over human sexuality, and it threatens to divide our great United Methodist Church. Please pray for the UMC as we prepare for our international General Conference in May of 2020, as the future direction of the denomination will be the main topic of debate. It’s sad to me, because I have many friends and colleagues on different sides of these issues throughout the UMC. I know where I stand on these issues, but I am also very aware of the fact that in the long run that some of us may be serving in different, new expressions of Methodism.

Yes, the troubled state of the world, our unsettled country and divisions within my denomination make me sad. My United Methodist Pastor friend, Shane Bishop, recently wrote a blog that sparked my interest as he was voicing the frustrations of many of us and the need for Christmas this year. He writes:

“I am so ready for the holidays this year... I am especially excited about Christmas. I need Christmas this year. Peace on earth. Goodwill to Men. Christmas Eve services. Angels. Shepherds. Mary. Joseph. Baby Jesus. Hark the Herald! Joy to the World! That kind of stuff. That is exactly what I need.

As we enter the “most wonderful time of the year” don’t forget to say a prayer for healing and peace....and for God to raise up healers and peacemakers. And don’t be so glued to this earth that you neglect to look up. Look up and see the Christmas star blazing in the night sky and angels announcing to our troubled world that Christ is born...born in you and in me!

Peace dear friends and don’t give in to hopelessness, fear and despair. God has this. God has you. You are of value, you matter, and you are loved. And most of all, remember that there is hope in Christ. Always has been. Always will be. Hope is the one thing Christmas refuses to allow us to forget....”

Yes. I really need Christmas this year! How about you?

So, what are we going to do about it? Here are some ideas: Let’s take advantage of all the Christmas services, events, plays, parties and concerts. Avail ourselves of the Christmas Eve services, the manger scenes, the children’s Christmas programs, the Christmas lights and the great Christmas season music. Read the Christmas stories in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.

I really need Christmas this year!
In fact, the whole world really needs Christmas this year!
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By Dr. Martha Poole Simmons

Honoring Our Heros

Robert Shafton Kohn ~ 97

Robert Shafton Kohn served in combat in the U. S. Army’s Infantry for 52 days in the WWII Battle of the Bulge and the Battle of the Rhineland under General George Patton in the 3rd Army, 90th Infantry Division, 359th Battalion, Company M (Heavy Weapons). Company M used 81 mm mortars and 30-caliber machine guns. Soldiers carried a 30-caliber carbine and a 45-caliber pistol. He also served stateside in the Army National Guard for 13 months during the time of the Korean War.

Kohn received the following awards for his WWII service: American Theater of Operations (ATO), European Theater of Operations (ETO) with Two Battle Stars for the Battle of the Ardennes (Battle of the Bulge) and the Battle



of the Rhineland, Good Conduct Medals, Meritorious Unit Award, Combat Infantryman’s Badge and World War II Victory Medal.

Kohn was born in Pine Level, AL, July 28, 1922, to his parents James S. Kohn and Thelma Kohn, completing the ninth grade there. Kohn completed the 11th grade at Dunbar High School in Ramer, AL. He then attended Auburn University (AL Polytechnic Institute) for six months learning how to weld with a plan to work as a welder in the shipyards in Mobile, AL, and perhaps to become a math teacher. Instead, he worked at a cattle ranch on Mt. Zion Road in southern Montgomery County, AL. He was drafted into the U. S. Army in June, 1944, and he completed 17 weeks of Infantry Basic Training at Camp Blanding, FL. He sailed from New York City to Southampton, England. Kohn recalls receiving a bag of toilet articles from the American Red Cross as he

boarded the ship in NYC and receiving ARC coffee and donuts all over where he served in Europe.

He was transported via train to a location two miles within the German occupied area. During the Battle of the Bulge and the Battle of the Rhineland, Kohn served as a foot soldier during the extremely cold winter weather December 16, 1944, through January 25, 1945. Kohn recalls never having a change of clothes along with nothing to eat except K-rations. He remembers trying to survive in the cold and to drive the enemy away. He suffered frozen feet from forward marching. Finally, his condition worsened so much that he could not walk any more, and he was picked up by a medic. His left leg was purple from the knee down to his foot resulting in having to cut off his boots to treat him. He rode to a roofless medical treatment center in a combat vehicle along with some injured German prisoners. On the next day, he was sent to France via train for a week and then transported via a C47 plane to the 142nd Army General Hospital at Ascot, England, for three months and 22 days of treatments. After he could walk, he would build fires for the Red Cross at Ascot, England, and he worked as an Army telephone operator on a five-position switch-board. He was sent to Fresno, CA, and then to Eglin Field, in FL, where he answered phones assisting people. Kohn was discharged at Camp Shelby, MS, June 13, 1946.

Kohn’s conclusions about his WWII military service are, “They let me know that I was a man, and also it taught me a lot of discipline. I came to a great realization that God really does answer prayer. I learned how to obey orders. It made me a lot sterner than I would have been otherwise. I felt like it was my duty, and I wanted to make the best of it that I could. I feel like I did.” He resumed his military service and joined the AL Army National Guard on January 1, 1951, going to Ft. Jackson, S.C., working in food services that served 106 mess halls until February 20, 1952, when he was released from service at the rank of corporal.

Kohn married Syble Jeanette Jones in 1947, and they had seven children, eight grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. On AL Highway 31 North, he operated Kohn’s Western Wear and Kohn’s Auto Sales and hauled merchandise from a GA warehouse for sale at his store for 35 years. He also worked as an auctioneer selling merchandise and can still provide an auctioneer’s dialogue. In between his livelihood, he went trail and pleasure riding with several of his friends. His musical talent includes playing a mandolin, guitar, harmonica, etc., and his band, Dixie Blue Grass, played for 12 years at volunteer fire departments and schools. The “Wabash Cannonball” was one of the band’s favorites selections. Although he sold the merchandise store in 2013, he continues each week going to used car auctions for his grandson who still operates Kohn’s Auto Sales. He doesn’t ever plan to completely retire. He enjoys eating dinner at the Front Porch Grill in Millbrook, AL, often during the week.

Captain Marvin G. Smith ~ 96

Captain Marvin G. Smith is a 96 year-old veteran who served in the United States Navy for 38 years including during WWII, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. Smith received the Bronze Star Medal with Combat “V”, Joint Service Commendation Medal, and Medal of Honor, First Class, Republic of Vietnam.



Smith was born April 13, 1923 to his Smith’s parents, Marvin G. Smith, Sr. and Bobbie Smith, in Indianapolis, IN. He was reared in Kentucky and graduated from Livingston County High School at the age of 16. After living for a while with his aunt in Indianapolis, he pleaded with his father to sign papers for his joining the Navy. At 17 years of age in January, 1941, he volunteered and entered the Navy as a “Minority Cruise” recruit for men ages 17-21, and he completed Naval boot camp in Great Lakes, IL. He then attended a technical school in Dearborn, MI, followed by service at Cape May, NJ, Travis City, MI, Eagle Mt., TX and Clinton, OK, working on guidance systems for pilotless aircraft.

After WWII ended, Smith was assigned to the Naval Air Station at Pensacola, FL, where he served as the Crew Chief for Admiral Frank Wagner, the head of Naval aviation training. During the Cold War, he served on Naval cruisers and the battleship, the USS Missouri, in the Mediterranean Sea and the Caribbean Sea. His next tour of duty was at the Naval Air Station at Anacostia, D.C. which also involved his completion of two years of an engineering degree from George Washington University. Smith was accepted into officers training and was commissioned with the rank of Ensign in 1955. After completing three

years of sea duty, he received his B.S. Degree in Naval Engineering from the Navy Post Graduate School in Monterey, CA.

Smith had a distinguished career as a Navy officer both on ship and shore. He served as the Communications Officer and the Operations Officer on the Allen M. Sumner (DD692), Executive Officer on the Vital (MSO-474), Executive Officer on the Valor (MSO-472), Operations Officer Hoel (DDG-13), Commanding Officer on the Endurance (MSO-435), Executive Officer on the USS Dahlgren (DLG-12) and Commanding Officer on the USS O’Callahan (DE-1051). He served two tours in Vietnam, graduated from the War College at Maxwell AFB, served with the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, served as the commander of one of three teams each having 40 men with the Fleet Introduction Team Spruance Class destroyers in Pascagoula, MS, and served as NROTC commander at the University of MS, for two years, retiring from military service in 1979. After retirement from military service, he worked as plant manager for the Polyquip Co. at St. Joseph, TN. His last employment of 20 years was as Director of International Business Development for von Gal Manufacturing Co. which made automatic material handling systems equipment at Montgomery, AL, retiring in 2000.

He was married to Joan Merriam Smith for three years; however she did not survive the crash of an airplane that had a folded wing that she was piloting. Joan was a highly skilled aviatrix who completed the same route attempted by Amelia Earhart. She was the first person to fly solo around the world at the equator, and the first woman to fly a twin-engine plane around the world. In 1964, Joan was posthumously awarded the Harmon Trophy, one of three international trophies awarded to the world’s outstanding aviator, aviatrix and aeronaut. Her biography describing her piloting skills and records are recorded in the recently published book, Fate on a Folding Wing by Tiffany Brown. Smith has been married to Martha Ann Slade for over 52 years, and they had one son, one daughter and three grandchildren.

Since retirement from all employment in 1979, Smith has served as a volunteer with First United Methodist Church of Prattville, AL, and also with Habitat for Humanity building homes for the needy and ramps for handicapped people. During leisure time, Smith enjoys playing golf and piloting planes. In fact, he has set a world altitude record in a Cessna 210 to an altitude of 38,500 feet. This record was set to honor his late wife, global aviatrix, Joan Merriam Smith.

Reflecting upon his Naval service, Smith says, “To me it meant that it satisfied my desire to serve my country. The longer that I stayed in the Navy the more important it became to me. There was all kind of opportunity to those who wanted to advance and to get more education.” Smith received a Master’s Degree in Business Administration from George Washington University and a Master of Science Degree from Troy State University as well as being a Graduate of the General Line and Naval Science School in Monterey, CA.



Morgan C. Barnes ~ 83



Morgan C. Barnes was born August 13, 1936, at Itawamba County, MS, to his parents, Fred Morgan Barnes and Birdie Eva Lena Gentry. His early childhood was spent at Red Bay, MS, and in 1939, his family moved to Birmingham, AL. He attended Shades Valley High School for three years, completed work with a correspondence school and attended Southeaster Bible College where he studied English. He was drafted into the U. S. Army at age 18.5. He completed basic training at Ft. Jackson, S.C., followed by 16 weeks of armor basic training at Ft. Knox, KY, with the 3rd Army Division. After serving in the Army for two years, Barnes served in the Navy Reserve for two-and one-half to three months until he suffered a knee injury. He reenlisted in the Army and served 1971-1992 totaling 24 years. He served in the Army National Guard with the 151st Engineers Battalion and then worked five days a week as a National Guard Technician retiring at the rank of private first-class in 1992. Barnes served with the National Guard on seven 30-day tours to South Korea and one 30 day tour during the time of the Vietnam War.

Barnes and his wife, Linda Britt, had two children and two grandchildren. Barnes in reflecting on his life said, “*There have been some good times and some bad times. What goes around comes around. You can always depend on God.*”

Allison Vernon Barnett ~ 92

Allison Vernon Barnett served as a U. S. Navy medic for two and one-half years during WWII becoming a skilled surgical technician and nurse for the wounded Navy personnel. Barnett was born in Fitzpatrick, AL, to his parents, Andrew Hill Barnett and Ella Albritton Barnett. When he was four years old, the family left Fitzpatrick and went to Florence, AL, where he graduated from high school. After a military recruiter came to his school, Barnett volunteered in August, 1944, to serve in the U. S. Navy because the recruiter had told him that



if he registered for the draft, he would be allowed to choose which branch of the military that he preferred. Taking a train to the Great Lakes Naval Station, he completed Basic Training where he was trained as a medic and a pharmacist mate and was awarded a leadership position. Barnett had always wanted to be

a physician. The medics were greatly revered by the Marines because they were the only ones that could keep them alive until they reached a hospital. Barnett received further medical training at the Bob Wilson Navy Hospital in San Diego, CA. Barnett was assigned to serve at a hospital at the Norman Naval Air Station in Norman, OK, where he remained for the rest of his time in the Navy. Although there were several occasions when Barnett was called to go overseas, the doctors at the hospital would block those orders because he had become a valuable member of the medical staff. Barnett was discharged from the Navy.

Barnett's civilian life after serving in the Navy began with his using the G.I. Bill to complete a degree in Secondary Education majoring in chemistry and biology at Florence State Teachers College; however, he did not pursue a teaching career. Instead, he first worked for a seat cover business in Memphis, TN, for two years followed by working for a cotton selling business in Houston, TX, and then to Osaka, Japan, for two and one-half years also selling cotton. Barnett created his own cotton-selling business, Barnett Sales Co. in Lubbock, TX, where he worked for 40 years. Returning to his family's farm in Fitzpatrick, AL, he built a house, purchased 250 head of cattle and established a cattle raising business which is now operated by his son.

Barnett and his wife, Millie, have been married over 52 years, and they have two sons and two grandchildren. They are members of the University Church of Christ in Montgomery, AL, and they have enjoyed just sitting on the front porch of their house in Fitzpatrick. He also has enjoyed fishing, playing bridge and cultivation of vegetable gardens. When he lived in Lubbock, TX, he served on the Boards of Directors of the Lubbock Christian University and the Lubbock Children's Home which are associated with Churches of Christ in Lubbock.

Barnett reflects upon his Naval service during WWII saying, "It meant a lot to me to serve my country. I did what was expected, and I think that I did a pretty good job. It was very much appreciated."

Col. Walter E. Hines III ~ 83

Col. Walter E. Hines served in the United States Air Force for over 30 years. His military decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit and the Distinguished Flying Cross. His military service encompassed up to two years in Vietnam as a navigator transporting personnel and supplies and rescuing downed pilots. In addition, Hines' supervisory positions ranged from operational/academic planner and classroom instructor to politico-military strategist and policy developer in Latin America and senior faculty leader in a graduate-level college.



Col. Hines was born November 11, 1936, in Knoxville, TN, to his parents, Walter E. Hines Jr., and Lalla Virginia Massey. After graduation from Fulton High School in Knoxville, he entered the Air Force R.O.T.C. at the University of TN where he graduated with a B.S. Degree in Journalism/Advertising. Because he always wanted to fly, he selected the Air Force over the other branches of the U. S. military.

Hines' first Air Force assignment was completion of training in air defense at the radar school at Tyndall A.F.B. near Panama City, FL. Following this training, Hines was stationed for three years in Spain as a radar controller. He was then sent to James Connally A.F.B. at Waco, TX, where he completed training as a navigator. Afterwards, he flew the C-133 Cargomaster at Dover A.F.B. at Dover, DE, for two years.

His almost two years of Vietnam War service included one year in 1965 in Saigon at the Tan Son Nhut Air Base as navigator in various planes including the C54 (DC4), C118 (DC6), C47 (DC3) and C123, transporting military personnel to Thailand, the Philippines, and various R. & R. sites such as Hong Kong. In 1966, Hines was transferred to Eglin A.F.B., FL, where he trained in the HU16, a Grumman amphibious flying boat used to rescue downed pilots. After Eglin, he was sent to Naha Air Base, Okinawa, from where he went back to Danang Air Base, Vietnam, on repeated TDYs for the next 2½ years as a navigator flying rescue missions in the Gulf of Tonkin. He personally was involved in the hazardous duty of rescuing pilot including two Marine Corps pilots in Haiphong Harbor and another Navy pilot rescued in the South China Sea.

In 1968, he attended George Washington University and received an M.B.A. Degree in Personnel Management. Hines was then sent to Scott A.F.B., IL, to serve as a war plans officer with the Military Airlift Command for three years. During this time, he authored the airlift support plan for the repatriation of American POWs from North Vietnam in 1973. This was followed by the completion of professional education at the Armed Forces Staff College at Norfolk, Va. He received his ED.D. in Educational Administration from Auburn University in 1978. He then served as a teacher at the Academic Instructor School, supervised a computer-assisted instruction project and completed studies at the Air War College at Maxwell A.F.B. Montgomery, AL. In 1978, he was assigned to Randolph A.F.B., TX, where he served as Director of Educational Plans. In 1981, he moved to the Republic of Panama as the J5 Director of Plans and Strategies for Latin America. Hines was involved in regional security and humanitarian assistance and provided advice to the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Next, he served as the Executive Officer to the four-star commander of the Readiness Command at MacDill A.F.B., FL. His final assignment was a return to Maxwell, A.F.B. in 1985 where he served on the faculty of the Air War College as Director of Curriculum and Associate Dean of Faculty, retiring in 1988.

Col. Hines reflects on his military service stating, "I had plans to get out of the Air Force after three years and then to pursue a journalism career. Since elementary school, I had always wanted to fly. Because my vision was not good enough to be a pilot, I found that I could fly by becoming a navigator. I loved the camaraderie and the people who had the same objectives of service that I did. I particularly liked the Rescue Service because we felt like we were making an important humanitarian contribution. Later I found that I could be involved in national decisions. I would do it again."

After military service, Hines served on the academic vice-president's staff at AL State University in Montgomery, AL, for 13 years where he planned and led the implementation of a campus-wide, computerized network to track progress in the university's quality assurance program and directed a university task force in the preparation of a comprehensive self-study leading to the reaffirmation of accreditation by SACS in 2000. He started a private consulting company, Research and Assessment Associates.

Col. Hines and his wife, Mary Eleanor Loose, have been married 61 years as of Oct. 2019; they had one son and three daughters, who have given them four grandchildren and one great-grandson. Since beginning musical training playing the clarinet in the 6th grade, Hines developed his musical talent playing the clarinet and saxophone throughout the years. He has played for many years in the Southeastern AL Community Band in Troy and in the Capitol Sounds Concert Band in Montgomery. He also plays from time to time with the Montgomery Symphony Orchestra and at Montgomery's Frazer United Methodist Church and First United Methodist Church. He toured with the Russ Morgan Orchestra for 14 years and founded the Montgomery Recreators Dance Band leading the Band for 27 years. In addition, Hines also sings tenor with a Praise Group of Christchurch Anglican, Montgomery, AL. Hines has served as a consultant to the Explorer Scout Program with the Tukabatchee Area Council. Col. Hines had a distinguished career in the United States Air Force: he continued his leadership in academia as well as providing services to companies needing analysis of data. His instrumental and vocal musical talent have provided years of enjoyment to others.

Lt. Col. William C. Stewart ~ 82

Lt. Col. William C. Stewart served 25 years in the U. S. Air Force. Having been born July 5, 1937, in Esanaba, Michigan, to his parents, George Stewart and Martha Borgild, his family moved to Mobile, AL, where his father worked in the shipyards and where Stewart was reared. Stewart's father and brother passed away before his graduation from McGill High School in Mobile, AL. He worked at the Mobile shipyards during high school and during several summers while attending college although he received some scholarship assistance.



Stewart participated in the Air Force R.O.T. C. and graduated in 1960 with a B. A. Degree from Sewanne, the University of the South, with a major in Southern history and a minor in Russian history.

Stewart was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. but because of his being color blind, he could not become an Air Force pilot. Stewart's first assignment was at the supply office at Shaw A.F.B. at Sumpter, S. Carolina. His second assignment was at the Ualalkert Radar Station working in surveillance of Russian planes flying near North Pole, Alaska, during the time of the Cold War. He served three years in the education of future Air Force officers in the R.O. T. C. program at U.C.L.A., and while he was there, the personnel at the R.O.T.C. facility narrowly escaped death when

anti-Vietnam War protesters bombed the area. Stewart's next assignment at Maxwell A.F. B. was involved with the creation of Jr. R.O.T.C. programs at high schools. An opportunity arose for Stewart to be sent to Teheran, Iran, but he turned down this Accompanying Tour because his wife and son had asthma; however, this was fortunate for Stewart because the man who replaced him was killed riding a bus there.

His career in educating NCO personnel began when he was sent to Okinawa to serve three years as the commandant to set up professional NCO military education for the Pacific Theater at Japan, Hickam Field, Hawaii, and other bases. He created and organized the Noncommissioned Officer Academy (NCOA) to provide comprehensive education to prepare enlisted Airmen to be adaptable, ethical, and willing to execute assigned leadership responsibilities to overcome current and future leadership and management challenges in order to effectively operate in complex and ambiguous environments. Through Stewart's leadership, approval for accreditation for all of these schools for the Air Force Noncommissioned Officers Academy was granted from the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges (SACS). Sergeants from each branch of the U. S. military also participated in the Academy. At that time, Stewart became involved with the Strategic Air Command at Guam. He returned to Maxwell A.F. B. where he was in charge of the testing at the Air Force Air War College retiring in 1985.

Stewart and his wife, Susannah Childress, whom he met while attending Sewanee have been married 58 years, and they had three children including one son and two daughters and four grandchildren.

Since his military retirement, Stewart taught AL history and economics at Trinity Presbyterian School for 10 years. Next, he worked as a tour guide for groups touring Alabama for 23 years retiring in 2018. Continuing his physical training from his military years, he swims 750 nonstop yards several times weekly. His strong patriotism shines as he presents inspirational programs on the American flag at meetings of organizations.

Stewart concludes about his military service saying, "I like what I did. I did a lot of good stuff like putting in school systems. It was not easy. Serving my country meant a lot to me especially as I grew older because I was helping others." His family enjoyed going to live in different places. He encouraged Airmen to continue their military service through the Reserves or the Guard after they were discharged from active service.



Chef David Spooner *Retired Chef*

*Volunteer Fireman,
Lowndesboro V.F.D.*

*St. Paul's Episcopal
Church, Lowndesboro*

*Board of Registrars,
Lowndes County*

Southern Cuisine

Guests and Food

We are at the time of year I call, Guests and Food. You have guests and family in and out of the house for a little over two months and both months are food months. A large meal on Thanksgiving Day and Christmas parties at home or work means busy times in the kitchen. Now is a good time to look in your refrigerator, pantry, and your freezer for leftovers and extra items you didn't use for the Thanksgiving feast. Most of the leftovers can be re-heated and served again. Remember food safety rules. I only re-heat the food up to two times and use it up within four days. The rules have changed to be more lenient but I would rather be safe than sorry.

Instead of serving the same food the same way, re-design the food. I had a recipe turning leftover dressing into a waffle. You can make dinner Fried Chicken and Savory Waffles with Cane Syrup and wow the guests...



...Last month I had a recipe for dressing that was made with frozen leftover breads saved over the year. This year we had to bake fresh biscuits, because they were so good the first time, we did not have any leftovers. This year, I am sure that you were thinking ahead and have plenty of leftover biscuits. If not, recall the recipe I had for Lily White Flour biscuits and bake a batch. It will be worth your while. And since you made so much of my simple yet crowd pleasing cranberry sauce from last month, you are a step ahead to making a dessert from re-purposed leftovers. The cranberries from the sauce are easily spread over the bread pudding made from fresh fluffy biscuits.

WHITE CHOCOLATE CRANBERRY BISCUIT BREAD PUDDING

Yield: about 8 servings, Prep: 15 min., cook time: 50 min.

INGREDIENTS

No-Stick Cooking Spray
White Lily® Light And Fluffy
Biscuits. (8 or 9)
Left over cranberry dressing
that still has mostly whole
cranberries (about 1 1/2
cups)
1 (12 oz.) package white
baking chips
1 cup milk
1 cup heavy cream
3 eggs
2 egg yolks
1/4 cup sugar



METHOD:

1. Preheat oven to 325°F.
2. Coat 9 1/2- inch deep dish pie plate with no-stick cooking spray.
3. Slice biscuits in half horizontally. Arrange, split side up, in a circular pattern in prepared pie plate. Arrange cranberries randomly over biscuits.
4. Microwave baking chips in uncovered microwave-safe bowl on MEDIUM HIGH for 1 minute and 15 seconds. Stir. If necessary, microwave at 15 second intervals, stirring just until melted.
5. Combine milk and cream in medium saucepan. Bring to a boil over medium heat.
6. Whisk eggs, egg yolks and sugar in large bowl. Gradually whisk in hot milk mixture and melted baking chips until blended.
7. Ladle egg mixture gently over biscuits until almost full, pressing down slightly to submerge. Let stand 20 minutes. Add remaining egg mixture as biscuits absorb liquid.
8. Bake uncovered 45 to 50 minutes or until firm and knife inserted 2 inches from edge comes out clean. Add extra cranberries when serving.

Recipe adapted from a White Lily Flour recipe. sauce is to add some dried cranberries that have been soaked in apple juice.

be said about all cooking.

Menus for some meals have changed greatly with Christmas Dinner being a good example. The menu is, Oysters on the half-shell, Game Soup, Boiled White fish with Maitre d'Hotel sauce, Roast Goose with Apple sauce, Boiled potatoes, Mashed Turnips, Creamed Parsnips, Stewed Onions, Boiled Rice, Lobster Salad, Canvass Back Duck, Christmas Plum Pudding with Sauce, Vanilla Ice-cream, Mince Pie, Orange Jelly Delicate Cake, Salted Almonds Fruits and Coffee. Where ever that meal is served, I will be there.

What has also gotten my attention are ingredients that were in past recipes but are disappearing from today's recipes. We are using stuff like high fructose corn syrup when we should be using cane syrup. It is not just about health issues or highly processed foods. It is about losing touch of where your food comes from. There is push back concerning how many of the items we use and sometimes depend on and made overseas. I'm not advocating to stop eating foreign food but see if there is local alternative for a food that is like the old commercials on TV for Pace Picante Sauce said "Made in New York City"?

There is a campaign going on highlighting locally sourced foods, SWEET GROWN ALABAMA. And to do my part, I am going to highlight at least one item in my recipes that are made or grown in ALABAMA. If not possible, I will find a product from the South.

This next recipe uses one such item. TODD Farms Old Farm Syrup comes from Headland, Alabama, where

CANE SUGAR CAKE

INGREDIENTS

1 ¾ cups all purpose flour
2 tsp baking powder
½ tsp baking soda
½ cup butter
1/3 cup sugar
1 egg
¼ cup Todd Farms Old Farm
cane syrup
¾ cup milk
powdered sugar



METHOD:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Cover a 9x9x2 inch with shortening and flour.
3. In a medium sized bowl, mix together the flour, baking powder and baking soda.
4. In a large mixing bowl, using a hand electric mixer, beat the butter on medium speed for 30 seconds. Add the sugar and continue to beat until fluffy. Continue beating while adding the egg and cane syrup.
5. Alternate adding dry ingredients and milk to beaten mixture, When just combined pour mixture in the prepared pan. Bake for about 25 minutes or until a test toothpick inserted in the cake comes out dry.
6. Cool in pan on wire rack. Dust cake with powdered sugar before serving.

If you noticed, there is not a lot of sugar or syrup in this cake. This cake is perfect for the foundation for a dessert that has more sweetness. Use your favorite flavoring in the icing or glaze for the topping or use this cake recipe for your favorite poke cake.

I have been researching in some of my old cookbooks that have been able to collect from the late 1700's to the mid and late 1800's. Some of the oldest are The WILLIAMSBURG ART of COOKERY, Accomplished Gentlewoman's COMPANION: Being a collection of upwards of Five Hundred of the most Ancient & Approved Recipes in Virginia Cookery. They did not believe in short book titles back then. By the 1900's titles became shorter and two of my favorites are the WHITEHOUSE COOKBOOK, first published in 1887. I have the 1919 edition, and ALL ABOUT BAKING published in 1933, I have the 1935 edition. I noticed how few ingredients and simple instructions are in many of the recipes. And the use of ingredients that are not very common in recipes today. My favorite instructions include measuring butter as a "piece of butter as large as an egg." I have not seen baking instructions for bread to include "The first thing required for making bread is the utmost cleanliness; the next is the soundness and sweetness of all ingredients used for it; and, in addition to these, there must be attention and care through the whole process." This can

Although it is cold and the first day of winter is December 21st, there are plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables available. I was thinking of a list of foods you should be eating this winter. The first ones that come to my mind are root vegetables, such as carrots, beets, turnips and parsnips. . Very versatile, very healthy and easily found. Next, should be the first green leaf vegetable that comes to mind to anyone living in the South, collard greens. Collards are grown year round but they are tastier and more nutritious in the cold months. Then there is Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, celery and broccoli that can be found year round but tastes best when harvested during the winter, their natural growing season. Both fruits and vegetables are grown in many parts of the world year round, and like some vegetables; clementines, grapefruit, kiwi, Mandarin oranges, and papayas are best during the colder months. When you mix up the winter fruits in your menus, you and your guests will enjoy the fruits of your labor. LOL

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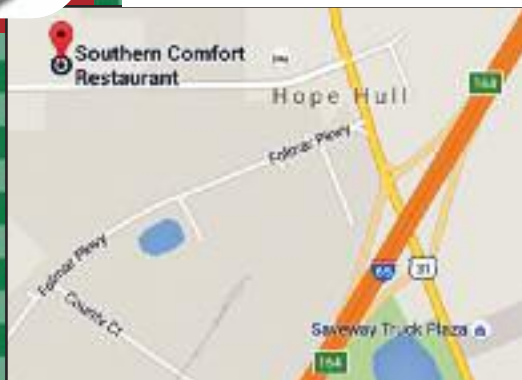
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Merry Christmas and
Happy New Years to ALL!!

Follow us on



Southern Gardening Potpourri for December

by Peggy Givhan

Jingle bells are ringing, mistletoe is hanging, and Christmas time is in the air. In fact, I even wondered what happened to Thanksgiving? It is amazing to me how quickly 2019 has whizzed by, is this a time warp? The River Region area has a lot going on to make the holidays bright including the Shakespeare Theatre, the Zoo, and soon, the Christmas Tree lighting at the Capitol. I call it a magical time of the year with Nutcrackers, Santa Claus, gifts for young and old, manger scenes, and best of all the celebration of the Christ child's birthday.

second from the tip. Place the cutting in a well-lit area, but staying away from direct sunlight. You will enhance blooming of the plant if exposed to more light, except direct sunlight which will burn the leaves. Temperatures should be 60 to 70 degrees, and to help with the humidity, place the pot in a tray filled with pebbles. After blooming force dormancy by cutting back on watering, placing it in a darkened area for 12 hours per day, and keeping the plant away from drafts. And this is all you need to know to get started.

MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY HOLIDAYS
AND GOOD GARDENING.

Judge
Peggy Givhan

Some of the gifts I will be sharing with family and friends were ingredients that were growing in my garden. Canning with the vegetables, herbs and fruit that I have grown last year has the finality of morphing into the ultimate and personal present. My tomatoes and bell peppers became tomato relish : the pears from the orchard became pear chutney, the gala apples were canned for future pies, the blueberries and figs became preserves, mint was used for mint jelly, Some ideas for other thoughtful gifts include gathering and drying bay leaves for small wreaths or cutting rosemary stems and tying red ribbons around them to add to the top of a jar of canned items, or gift sacks.

PLANT OF THE MONTH--CHRISTMAS CACTUS



www.humeseeds.com

I am intrigued by the beauty of the Christmas Cactus as it is such an unusual plant. Actually it is from a small genus of cacti which originated from the coastal mountains of southern Brazil. There plants grow on trees or rocks in areas with high humidity. They also like the shade unlike their desert cousins. Scientifically named Schlumbergera Christmas Cactus make great holiday potted plants for the home. They are easy to propagate, have a long bloom time, plus extremely easy to care for. Other common names are Thanksgiving cactus, Easter cactus, and Holiday cactus. To propagate, break off a segment at the joint and place a quarter of the segment in slightly moist sandy soil. This segment has to be



Selecting a Fresh Cut Christmas Tree

Choosing and cutting your own Christmas tree is a wonderful outing to begin your Christmas season. Bring your family and friends to experience the fun and excitement of a working farm where you can find your perfect tree, and enjoy hay rides, wreaths, gift shops, farm animals, school tours, fresh air, and many other offerings.

The Southern Christmas Tree Association provides a list of choose-and-cut Christmas tree farms in Alabama at www.southernchristmastrees.org/AL-Farms.html.

Each farm offers a unique experience. Please follow the website links on the list to find an Alabama choose-and-cut Christmas tree farm near you. Don't forget to check social media for any of these farms.



Sheriff Derrick Cunningham



Montgomery County Alabama Sheriff's Office

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Chief Deputy
Kevin J. Murphy



Christmas Angel Tree

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office will once again be sponsoring our

Christmas Angel Tree.

Our Christmas Angel Tree will benefit the homeless at Faith Rescue Mission as well as special children at Montgomery Children's Specialty Center. Each ornament will have various items that are needed that we often take for granted.

Please contact our Administrative Division at 832.1339, if you're interested in sponsoring an ornament.



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Montgomery County 2019 Burglaries

Dist	Premises	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
1	Residence	001	000	002	000	000	000	000	000	001	001			005
	Business	000	002	000	003	004	001	003	001	001	001			016
	Church	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000			000
2	Residence	001	001	003	002	001	004	003	001	002	000			018
	Business	002	003	000	001	000	004	005	001	000	000			016
	Church	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	002	000	000			002
3	Residence	002	000	000	002	002	001	001	002	000	000			010
	Business	000	000	002	000	000	000	000	000	000	000			002
	Church	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000			000
4	Residence	000	002	001	000	003	004	001	007	002	001			021
	Business	000	001	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000			001
	Church	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000			000
5	Residence	000	000	000	000	001	000	001	001	001	002			006
	Business	000	000	000	001	000	000	000	000	000	000			001
	Church	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000			000
6	Residence	001	000	001	001	004	003	000	001	002	001			014
	Business	001	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000			001
	Church	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000			000
2019 Totals to Date														
	Residence	005	003	007	005	011	012	006	012	008	005			074
	Business	003	006	002	005	004	005	008	002	001	001			037
	Church	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	002	000	000			002
	All Premises	008	009	009	010	015	017	014	016	009	006			113
	%	07	08	08	09	13	15	13	14	08	05			

Montgomery County 2019 Monitored Crimes

2019 Monitored Crimes Breakdown by Month—All Districts												Through 10-31-19			
By Type Crime												%	By Premises		
Mo.	Util Trlr	ATV	Cppr Etc	A/C Cond	B&E Veh	Rob	Lawn Equip	Veh Thft	Veh Revy	Other felony*	Total		Res	Bus	Chur
Jan.	002	001	000	000	014	004	000	006	000	004	031	13	011	020	000
Feb.	002	000	000	000	004	001	000	004	001	009	021	09	016	005	000
Mar.	001	000	000	000	005	001	000	001	001	005	014	06	010	004	000
April	005	000	000	000	004	000	000	002	003	007	021	08	006	015	000
May	003	001	000	002	002	000	000	002	000	009	019	08	014	004	001
June	002	000	000	001	008	000	002	001	008	013	035	15	025	009	001
July	002	002	000	000	006	001	000	005	002	007	025	10	015	010	000
Aug.	003	001	000	000	005	001	002	003	005	004	024	10	016	008	000
Sept.	002	001	001	000	000	001	001	009	003	009	027	11	018	009	000
Oct.	002	003	000	000	005	000	001	007	002	004	024	10	015	007	002
Nov.															
Dec.															
Total	024	009	001	003	053	009	006	040	025	071	241		146	091	004

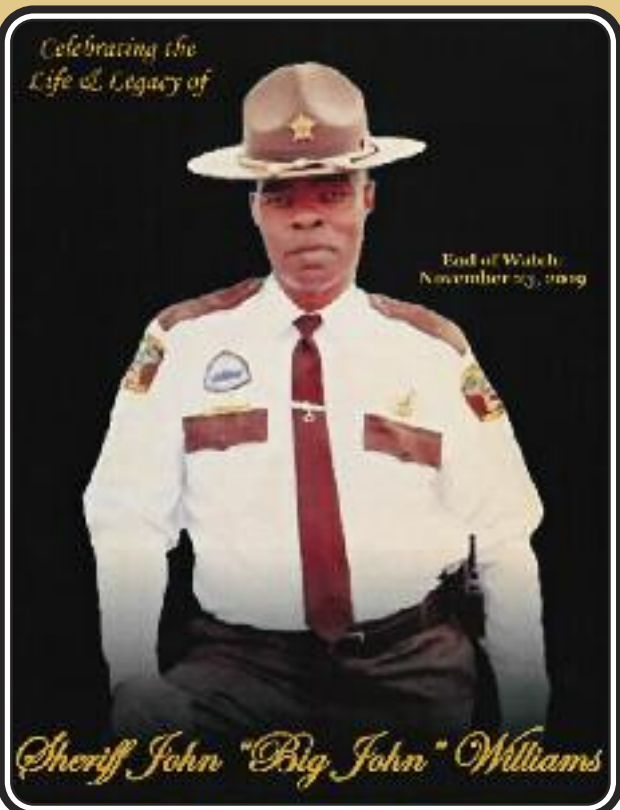
*Embezzlement, family theft, medicine, firearms, R.S.P., electronics, auto parts, theft of lost property.

Montgomery County Domestic Violence

2019 Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Domestic Violence Calls for Service										Through 10-31-19	
Month	Dist 1	Dist 2	Dist 3	Dist 4	Dist 5	Dist 6	Subtotal	Unfounded	Total DV Calls	%	
Jan	008	008	006	001	002	005	030	000	030	11	
Feb	002	007	005	002	001	004	021	000	021	08	
Mar	003	012	007	002	000	004	028	001	029	10	
April	008	012	005	007	002	003	037	001	038	13	
May	007	014	004	002	000	004	031	003	034	12	
June	001	007	004	002	003	005	022	005	027	09	
July	005	007	004	001	004	006	027	000	027	09	
Aug	005	006	008	003	003	003	028	000	028	10	
Sept	004	007	002	005	004	004	026	001	027	09	
Oct	003	009	005	003	001	003	024	000	024	09	
Nov											
Dec											
Totals	046	089	050	028	020	041	274	011	285		
%	16	31	18	10	07	14		04			

THOUSANDS ATTENDED MEMORIAL SERVICE OF Sheriff John "Big John" Williams AT GARRETT COLISEUM

End of Watch November 23, 2019



Sheriff "Big John" Williams tragically lost his life in the line of duty on Saturday, November 23, 2019, after answering a noise complaint at the QV convenience store in Hayneville in Lowndes County.

As the news of Big John's death reverberated quickly throughout the county and the state, law enforcement officers from near and far responded to the Blue Alert that was im-

mediately issued. They reacted in a way that was a direct reflection of how they knew Big John would, both before and after the suspect was taken into custody that same evening.

On December 2, 2019, countless people from all walks of life came together at Garrett Coliseum in Montgomery, Ala. to celebrate this giant of a man and embrace his family and staff as they are still trying to come to terms with the loss of a man who was a friend to anyone he encountered.

Big John's life celebration brought many pastors and politicians, and law enforcement officers to the Capital City to pay homage to their coworker, mentor and friend. Though a sad time, people could not remember Big John without a smile or a laugh, among the tears.

One of his closest friends and colleagues, Sheriff Derrick Cunningham of Montgomery County, shared brief stories of the two of them traveling together; rejoicing in the humorous moments while becoming choked up when recalling how he and his friend attending the funerals of other law enforcement officers. Sheriff Cunningham's grief was palpable as was his love for his dear friend.

Pastor J.D. Ruffin, Jr. of Mars Hills Missionary Baptist Church did an outstanding job of portraying the person Big John was with his family and coworkers through his eulogy. He also called for those in attendance to stand and give thanks to all of our law enforcement officers.

Another speaker likened Sheriff "Big John" to Andy Griffith and the small town of Hayneville to Mayberry. He had that kind of personality and care for those in his community.

Senator Doug Jones presented Big John's wife with the American flag, which had most recently flown over the State capital. Several others, including the Alabama Boys, paid respect with beautiful, heartfelt songs.

The celebration of Big John was streamed live by several stations on television and the Internet. The live coverage of his service was a tribute to the man Sheriff "Big John" Williams was and allowed thousands more to join those at the Coliseum in remembering the life of Big John.

Lowndes County Sheriff John "Big John" Williams

Wow I really know what it feels like to say it's to hard to say goodbye to yesterday. We leave home daily in law enforcement trying to make a difference in our community and county. I lost a friend and the man that would give you the shirt off his back on Saturday, November 23. We traveled all over the USA together and we talked everyday. I look at the good times we had in my photos fighting back the tears of a broken heart.

I leave you with this *"Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God."* He will truly be missed.

Montgomery County Sheriff,
Derrick Cunningham.

John 15:12-13

*12 "My command is this:
Love each other as I have loved you."
13 "Greater love has no one than this:
to lay down one's life for one's friends."*



Sheriff John "Big John" Williams and Sheriff Derrick Cunningham

AUTAUGA COUNTY



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Sheriff Joe Sedinger

**Autauga County Sheriff's Office
November 23, 2019**

**Our prayers go out to the Lowndes County Sheriff's Office.
Please pray for the family and work family of Sheriff John "Big John" Williams
who ended his watch in the line of duty.**

Autauga County Sheriff, Joe Sedinger



Patricia Killough
Community Editor



Happy Birthday!!

Scarlett Jones celebrated her 2nd birthday on November 2, 2019. Her birthday was November 6th.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Sarah Kate

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

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



Happy 100th Birthday Congratulations

Bannie Burt
who turned
100 years young on
November 13, 2019

Happy Anniversary

Dec. 1	Troy & Kim Worrell	Dec. 16	Robert & Georgia Armstrong
Dec. 4	Rich & Jacque Takacs		Bill & Barbara Berg
Dec. 7	Del & Prasertsi Atkinson		Branon & Haley King (2nd)
Dec. 8	Buddy & Rhonda Black	Dec. 18	William (Windy) & Linda Wingard (49th)
Dec. 9	Danny & Kristie Richardson		
Dec. 10	Heath & Dana Crowe	Dec. 20	Wayne & Sarah Watkins
Dec. 12	Tom & Caroline Vocino	Dec. 29	Rev. Gary & Jerrie Burton (51st)
Dec. 14	Ronnie & Michelle Blount	Dec. 30	George & Jeannie Handey
	Scott & Debbie Mills		

Gazette's Sympathy to the families of...

Edwards, Jerrene "Jerry" Morgan (94)died October 27, 2019
Richardson, Dorothy Loretta (87)died October 29, 2019
McDowell, Julia Baker (95)died October 31, 2019
Tanner, Adele Thomas "Nanny" (96)died October 31, 2019
Williamson, Frances (92)died November 1, 2019
Clark, Doris Ann Casey (84)died November 3, 2019
McKenna, Claudine Elizabeth "Bettie" (85)died November 4, 2019
Gantt, Sarah J. (88)died November 6, 2019
McCullough, James Lee (90)died November 6, 2019
Swears, Marilyn Sue (83)died November 6, 2019
Bridges, Jr., Norris Milton (72)died November 8, 2019
Irvin, Argus Bennett "Ben" (78)died November 8, 2019
Moore, Anthony "Tony" Raydied November 8, 2019
Webster, Lila Hicksdied November 10, 2019
Fowler, Jessie Mae Reynolds (100)died November 11, 2019
Brooks, Jr., John Taylor (72)died November 12, 2019
Estes, Abe Collier (76)died November 12, 2019
Alford, Jr., Ed (72)died November 15, 2019
Cliffion, Hattie Clare "Aunt Hattie" (92)died November 15, 2019
Graham, Jr., Ralph Maxwell "Max" (77)died November 17, 2019
Dandridge, Patricia Louie Broxton (83)died November 20, 2019
Griffin, Gayle Kennedy (74)died November 20, 2019
Drayton, Eugene "Bubba"died November 21, 2019
Folger, Henry "Hank" Stevenson (82)died November 21, 2019
Phelps, Caroline Jean (89)died November 21, 2019
Tomlinson, Winston Keith (58)died November 22, 2019
Till, Margaret Hudson (91)died November 23, 2019
Williams, Sheriff John "Big John" (62)died November 23, 2019
Griffith, Eileene Dempsey (80)died November 25, 2019
Christenberry, Boyd Eugene (91)died November 28, 2019
Richardson, Emily Hinson (75)died November 28, 2019
Sullivan, Pat (69)died December 1, 2019

December Birthdays



1	Chris Hudson	Deborah Kirk
	Emma Louise Wingard	Martha French
2	Faye Ann Mount	19 Brad Echols
	Mike Northcutt	Ruth Cordle
	Skeeter Rhodes	20 Maggie Mills
3	Jimmy Perdue (69th)	Susan Yost
	Alison Lee Riley	21 Paula Marie Harsey
	Cam Stanton	Katherine (Kaki) Hines
4	Gail Cotney	Don Meadows (83rd)
5	Don Byrd	Frances Williams (100th)
	Christopher Meredith	22 Austin Champion
6	Dean Tyner (85th)	Paul Harper
7	Jeannie Leigh Boyles	Robert Harrington
	Tobias Grant	Dennis Woodall
	Wayne Henry Morris, IV (3rd)	23 Kodee Harrison
	Belle Sansom	Carla Johnson
	Carol Woodall	24 Joyce Turnipseed
8	Meredith Sellars	Kaitlin Rowe
9	Isabella Henderson	25 JESUS CHRIST
10	Jane Burgis	Arnie Burgis
	George Jones (91st)	Nancy Setzer
11	Lauren Lane	27 Sandy Brown
	Chad Roberson	Austin Yost
	Justin Sessions	28 Andy Meadows
12	Mollie Higgins	William Webb
	Andruw Woods (17th)	29 Amy Boyd
13	Anita Tylicki	Mallory McGough
	Landon Meadows	Mary Pat Sikes
14	Fred Crowe	30 Tiffany Hammock
	Mark McCoy (51st)	Scott Takacs
	Ken Stringer	Sarah Watkins
15	Michelle Brezinski	31 Bethany Black Neubauer
17	Betty Armistead	Addison Wise
	Travers Grant	Tex Woodall (52nd)
	Dorothy Kiser	

Belated 65th Anniversary Wishes to George and Elaine Landry. November 14, 2019

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In Memory Of

Marvin Dale Nelson – November 3, 2019
Wallace McGee Taunton – November 3, 2019
Howard William Foster – November 5, 2019
Cynthia Ann Burton – November 6, 2019
Sarah Gantt – November 6, 2019
Gage Andrew McComack – November 6, 2019
Bessie Marie Mongelluzzi – November 7, 2019
Robert Joseph Monk – November 11, 2019
Jack LeRoy LeMar – November 14, 2019
Janice Earline Gantt – November 17, 2019
Benjamin Harrison Holman – November 18, 2019
Ruth Ryals – November 20, 2019
Lonie McKee – November 21, 2019
Steffan Brock Simpson – November 23, 2019
Infant Harlie Syncere Jones – November 24, 2019
Paul David Sumner – November 24, 2019
John LeRoy Johnson – November 24, 2019
Michael Ray Lucas – November 30, 2019

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:

How to become as corrupt as Wilcox County

By Amanda Walker

I heard it from a friend who heard it from a friend that neighboring Clarke County is trying to become as corrupt as Wilcox County.

Good luck.

That is a high bar to set, but it is obtainable. If you will put losers at the helm of leadership, you too can sit back and watch your county's statistics begin to sink.

And it doesn't have to be just Clarke. Any county that wants to fail should follow our lead.

One of the first things you will want to do is find people in your community who have failed in their personal life as well as their professional life to run for office. If they haven't been fired numerous times, filed bankruptcy, or been arrested – they are not potential candidates.

You want leaders who were maybe pushed out of the last place they lived for not paying the local businesses and contractors they owed there.

You are looking for people who have trouble doing ninth grade math.

Ideally, you are searching for people approaching retirement age and still rent. People who have on their own accomplished nothing, but are capable of entering a room with an air of arrogance.

Borderline stupid is really what you are looking for in a candidate if you want to be like Wilcox County.

I knew Wilcox County was still in a fix when I was approached last week about running for county commissioner in my district. I told the guy I appreciated the thought, but I am just not qualified to run here. Not to mention I spend too much time at Wind Creek to run.

Currently the commission openly admits that the county's books are so out of balance they can't be audited. Which is golden for commissioners, and county officials, and clerks in the courthouse...because it takes away any chance for accountability.

There has never been a Republican elected to office in Wilcox County. Our leadership is proudly entirely Democratic. And I'm not saying that has anything to do with Wilcox also never not having the highest unemployment rate in the state, but we are often first at everything last. We are protective of our position as the poorest county in the state. You can't achieve that kind of status without generational poor leadership.

We are widely known for our voting irregularities. The Secretary of State is well aware of Wilcox County's questionable election practices. We have mastered illegal absentee ballot collecting. Ballot boxes that arrive at the courthouse with broken seals are not questioned. There have been election nights when it took literally hours for ballot boxes to make the 30 to 45 minute trek across the river to Camden from Sunny South and Lower Peach Tree.

To be like Wilcox County you will need practically every school in your county to be failing. This will ensure future candidates won't be any better at math than those already in office.

Put more emphasis on looks than substance.

We are a beautiful county. We are close-knit and care about one another. Our race relations are better than people know.

We've got deer and turkey and fish and freshly painted water towers. We have too much crime and plenty of corruption. I fully understand Clarke County being jealous.



Trisston Wright Burrows
Ms. Wheelchair America/
Alabama 2005

Trisston's Tidbits...

“Joy to the World”

By: Trisston Wright Burrows
www.trisstonwrightburrows.com

I enjoy the Christmas season. I like the cheerful decorations, spending time with family and friends, and eating Christmas goodies. My favorite part of Christmas, by far, though, is singing carols...and, especially, “Joy to the World!”

“I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.”

Luke 2:10-11

“Joy to the world! The Lord is come,”

God's people announce at Christmastime. Based on **Psalm 98**, Isaac Watts's eighteenth-century carol celebrates the coming of Jesus, the Christ. The joy of the Savior's coming resounds throughout all of creation, even the fields and rocks and hills and plains “repeat the sounding joy.” This is good news for all of God's world!

What's so good about this news announced each Christmas? Why sing this carol with such exuberance? Watts answers that question in the third stanza, where he declares that Jesus has come to deal with the curse of human sin and rebellion. Through his death and resurrection, Jesus brings the blessing as “*far as the curse is found.*”

In Watts's hymn, this phrase repeats several times....and for good reason. Released from bondage to sin and the power of death over us, we are now freed to live with joy, to love God and our neighbor, and to cultivate the earth God has given us. So, let's sing with joy that good news:

“Joy to the world! The Lord is come”!

*Merry Christmas
& Many Blessings!*



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2019 Meeting Schedule



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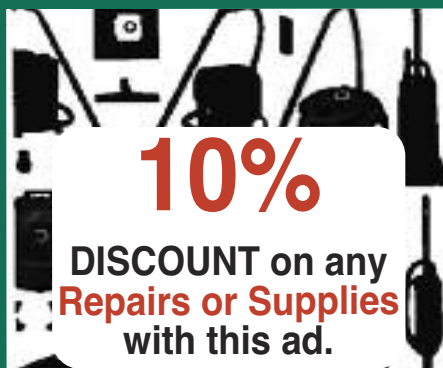
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 Montgomery, Alabama 36116



SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS INCREASE IN 2020

Each year, we announce the annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). By law, federal benefits increase when the cost of living rises, as measured by the Department of Labor's Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W). Usually, there is an increase in the benefit amount people will receive each month, starting the following January.

Nearly 69 million Americans will see a 1.6 percent increase in their Social Security benefits and SSI payments in 2020.

Other changes that will happen in January 2020 reflect the increase in the national average wage index. For example, the maximum amount of earnings subject to Social Security payroll tax will increase to \$137,700 from \$132,900. The earnings limit for workers who are younger than "full" retirement age (age 66 for people born in 1943 through 1954) will increase to \$18,240. (We deduct \$1 from benefits for each \$2 earned over \$18,240.)

The earnings limit for people turning 66 in 2020 will increase to \$48,600. (We deduct \$1 from benefits for each \$3 earned over \$48,600 until the month the worker turns age 66.)

In December 2019, we will post Social Security COLA notices online for retirement, survivors, and disability beneficiaries who have a my Social Security account. You will be able to view and save future COLA notices via the Message Center inside my Social Security.

You can log in to or sign up for a my Social Security account today at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount to get more information about your new benefit amount. You can choose to receive an electronic notification by email, text, or both ways under "Message Center Preferences." Our notification will let you know that a new message is waiting for you. We will not send any personal information in the notification. The Message Center also allows you to go paperless by opting out of receiving agency notices by mail that you can get online, including annual cost-of-living adjustments and the income-related monthly adjustment amount increases. The Message Center is a secure portal where you can conveniently receive sensitive communications that we don't send through email or text.



More information about the 2020 COLA is available at www.socialsecurity.gov/cola.

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