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## DECISION 2016



### November 8th



Have a Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving



For Religious Liberty Today:

The Impact Of Our Pilgrim Heritage Should Be Restored ~ page 2A



### Sample Ballot

page 10A

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

## FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY TODAY: THE IMPACT OF OUR PILGRIM HERITAGE SHOULD BE RESTORED



Town Brook in 1636. Can you imagine the delight of the onlooking Indians as they watched this tool?

Forced by the merchants in the beginning to accept the arrangement of communal distribution, the Pilgrims patiently persevered and obtained rights to own their own land and to work to benefit their own families. **If Communism would have ever benefited a people, it would have worked for these Pilgrims who loved each other, and loved God above all else. It didn't work for them and cannot work for good, for any people.**

When the **Mayflower** ship returned to England, not one Pilgrim went back. That little band of believers had introduced a new powerful force on the continent: that of individual religious liberty in practice.



### The England of the Pilgrim Fathers

By the later 16th Century, England was going through a process of changing society from the old traditional one to a modern one. The influence of the Renaissance had awakened the English people to ask new questions about, not only their culture, but about their government as well.

Blessed and enlightened by John Wycliffe and other Reformers, *"The Englishman had access to the Scripture in his own language, and he was embracing the ideas of the Protestant Reformation. The speed of the Printing press enabled dramatic ideas to be spread so widely and enthusiastically, that we might call it a spiritual revolution. This was accompanied by an economic revolution as well. The expansion of industry and commercialism was developing what we know as Capitalism. It is evident that all of this would change the entire social structure of the land as well."*

The Nobility and the Aristocrats saw their way of life threatened by these changes. The "country gentlemen" had considered their contribution as the "back bone" of society. Everything was changing.

Poverty had been a problem throughout their history, but now, it became more visible as farming decreased and industry increased. Many of the "visibly" poor congregated in cities. There were different attitudes about these people. Some viewed them as "God's misfortunates." Some viewed it as a "holy state."

The Puritan ethic about work was spread widely. The idea spread that we glorify the Lord by our work, and that it is a "calling" to be pursued. Puritans taught about a Paternal Order. Servants must obey their master, but the master must care for the servants. They taught that it is every man's responsibility to care for the unfortunate ones.

The legacy of these ideas and movements dramatically affected the Pilgrims as they came West, bringing the Reformation as their core values and intent.

The impact of the Pilgrim Fathers on our early History is not often shared today. Public Education had abandoned this glorious Christian History since I was in elementary school in 1936 onward. Of course, many children and adults recognize a photo of the black suited Pilgrim man, somber and often shown with a native Indian in the Massachusetts territory, but know little of their story in History.

### THE TRUTH ABOUT THAT FIRST THANKSGIVING

There was no bountiful harvest. Everything was done in communal agriculture in the beginning. It was not until they switched to private enterprise, with every man accountable to each other, that there was a plentiful harvest. The first of this bounty was the Thanksgiving of 1623.

The Scrooby congregation passengers on the Mayflower were distinctly Pilgrims. Many were young adults, who had made a covenant with each other and with the Lord to commit to worship in earnest, just as the Scriptures called for. They developed a compact for their church self-government.

It thrills me to recall that these Pilgrims took that church covenant and rewrote it as the Mayflower Compact, in order to establish civil self-govern-



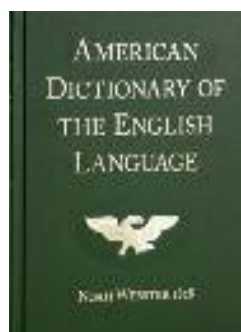
*The signing of the Mayflower Compact*

ment. It is not an exaggeration to say that the Mayflower Compact is the forerunner to the U.S. Constitution. Because these Christian men and women had committed themselves to Christian self-government, directed by the Word of God, they accomplished three achievements that few people and few nations have every seen or practiced:

1. They, as individuals, accepted the responsibility for governing themselves, and displaying a work ethic, likely excelled by none on the planet.
2. They interpreted their Biblical laws of nature to apply to Society as a whole, leading to the Constitutional Law and the Rule of Law for all people, thus protecting their religious liberty.
3. They built an economic system which centered on personal responsibility. For example, the profit system was honest and provided opportunities for progress. A beautiful example of their personal sense of responsibility shines through twenty long years of their repaying their debt to the London merchants who financed their voyage. There was a great drive to develop tools for this economic system. The first water powered grist mill was placed at the head of Plymouth

All of these blessings of true Liberty demand individual Christian character. There is no better example of this character than the Pilgrims of Plymouth Plantation.

We are indebted to the *Foundation for American Christian Education* for their publications on America's Christian History and for the continued publication of the **Webster's 1828 Dictionary**, which has the language of Liberty.



*Noah Webster*

Noah Webster deserved credit as the Father of America's Christian Scholarship and Education. The 1828 Dictionary is a treasure and can be viewed and purchased at our school campus.

*We recommend that you go to the website of FACE.net and take advantage of their publications and conferences. They offer teacher training for Home*

*and Christian schools, and have curriculum available for all grades. Their headquarters are in Chesapeake, VA.*

As we prepare to celebrate an American Thanksgiving this month, let's work diligently and pray sincerely, for God to bring back in our nation Individual Liberty of Conscience, Christian self-government, and a dedication to the U. S. Constitution and the Rule of Law. Let us pray for our America, a nation that stands uniquely as a Christian Constitutional Republic!

*"The glories of Christianity are to be traced in the sufferings of confessors and martyrs of the 16th and 17th Centuries; and it was under the influence of Christian principles, imbibed at this very period, that the Mayflower brought over the band of Pilgrims to Plymouth....We should never forget that the prison, the scaffold, and the stake were stages in the march of civil and religious liberty which our forefathers had to travel, in order that we might obtain our present liberty....."*

*"Before our children remove their religious connections.... before they leave the old paths of God's Word....before they barter their birthright for a mess of pottage...let us place in their hands the chronicle of the glorious days of the suffering Churches, and let them know that they are the sons of the men 'of whom the world was not worthy' and 'whose sufferings for conscience sake' are here monumentally recorded."*

*John Overton Choules, August 12, 1843.*

*Preface to the 1844 reprint of Neal's "History of the Puritans," 1731 The Christian History of the Constitution, FACE, 1966*

Our article this month is dedicated to Judge Roy Moore, elected overwhelmingly by the people of Alabama, as their Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court. He is a man of Godly character who understands our Christian heritage of Liberty, enjoyed in America as no other nation has ever experienced. He has stood firm to protect this liberty, both Religious and Civil. Today is the day for Alabamians to restore Faith and to preserve Liberty, for this generation and for those to follow.

Thank you Chief Justice Moore.  
We are praying for you that your position will be restored, as it lawfully should be.  
Concerned citizens of the State of Alabama.



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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 may be reached at [www.steveflowers.us](http://www.steveflowers.us)



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

We will vote to select the 44th President Tuesday. The next President will be a New Yorker. Whomever is selected will enter the Oval office with the most unfavorable poll ratings of any President in recent memory. This election will epitomize the old adage that **George Wallace** once told and that is, "more folks vote against someone than for someone."

There is no question that our country is drifting to the left in ideology. We in Alabama are conservative, pro-life, pro-gun, Christians with a desire for a strong military and sound fiscal government. All of these philosophical tenets align with the Republican Party. The Democratic Party is on the opposite side. We have two very diverse parties in America.

Another maxim that George Wallace espoused as he traversed the country running for President as a third party candidate was that there is not a dime worth of difference in the national Democratic and Republican parties. He would have a hard time saying that with a straight face today. Folks, there is a vast difference.

This presidential selection is a crucial pivotal crossroads election in our nation's future. The primary reason is because the next President's power to appoint at least one justice to the Supreme Court and probably at least two or three more.

This Supreme Court appointment power is immense because with divided Executive and Legislative branches of government the influence and decisions of the Supreme Court become omnipotent.

An appointment to the Supreme Court is a lifetime appointment and most of them stay their entire life. Therefore, any of the next President's appointments will remain on the high tribunal for decades, well past the next President's four or eight year reign.

The death earlier this year of **Justice Antonin Scalia** removed one of the most reliably Republican jurists on the Court. The Republican majority U.S. Senate has thwarted **Barack Obama's** appointment of another liberal to the Supreme Court. However, there will have to be an appointment and consent by the Senate next year. Regardless of whether the GOP retains control of the Senate.

The current Court without Scalia is considered broadly to be made up of four liberals and four conservatives. However, one of those considered a conservative is really a moderate drifting to the left. **Justice Anthony Kennedy** has been a swing vote when the Court had nine.

**Justices John Roberts, Samuel Alito, and Clarence Thomas** are considered conservative. There are four hardcore liberals, **Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan.**

Kagan and Sotomayor were appointed by Obama. They are both young by Supreme Court standards. Sotomayor is 62 and Kagan is only 56. These two liberals will be on the Court for probably two more decades.

The other two liberals will more than likely vacate the bench one way or the other during the next President's tenure. Stephen Breyer is 78 and Ruth Bader Ginsburg is 83. She appears to be teetering and she has suggested that she would like for **Hillary Clinton** to be able to appoint her successor.

The three conservatives may be on the Court for the foreseeable future. Chief Justice John Roberts is only 61, Samuel Alito is 66, and Clarence Thomas is 67. Roberts was appointed by George W. Bush, as was Alito. Thomas was appointed by **George Bush, Sr.** The Court's moderate, Anthony Kennedy, is a Californian appointed by **Ronald Reagan.** Kennedy is 80 years old.

It appears that Kennedy at 80, Ginsburg at 83, and possibly Breyer at 78, could vacate the Court during the next presidency. Therefore, your vote next Tuesday is not only a vote for President but also a vote that will affect the Supreme Court.

Many times we overlook the Amendments on the ballot. However, it is important to vote yes on Amendment 14. It has no opposition and is located near the end of the ballot. If it is not passed over 700 vital local bills impacting every county throughout the state would be affected. I urge you to vote for Amendment 14 on November 8th.

November 2, 2016



Ronald A.  
Holtsford

## Out of over three hundred million people we have come to a choice between Donald and Hillary; WHY VOTE?



Some of you that read this article will still be waiting to vote and see where our future will go or wonder where it will go and there are others that will read this after the election.

After the Constitutional convention ended, a Mrs. Powell was able to query Ben Franklin on what form of government had been hammered out, Ben Franklin responded to the question, "Well, Doctor, what have we got, a republic or a monarchy?" Without hesitation, Franklin responded, "A republic, if you can keep it."

Old Ben had a good understanding of government and one of the many men that understood the bad points of a European type government. Other quotes attributed to Ben are, "Freedom is not a gift bestowed upon us by other men, but a right that belongs to us by the laws of God and nature." He also said, "Only a virtuous people are capable of freedom. As nations become more corrupt and vicious, they have more need of masters."

Ben, while believing in God had doubts about the divinity of Jesus. Nevertheless he understood from where freedom was given.

I had the opportunity in October to view the live broadcast of **Reviveus 2016** which was led by **Kirk Cameron**. While Reviveus 2016 was an opportunity for thousands of people to worship God all across the country at the same time it was also about patriotism and voting. No candidate for President was endorsed though to me I could see which party is favored. The organization, **My Faith Votes** was touted during the presentation in an effort to get Christians out to vote. It was noted that the average margin between winner and loser of the Presidential election the last three times was 5 million votes and that 25 million Christian voters did not vote in the last election. The comment was "You do the math". You must consider that even though only some white men were originally allowed to vote, the 15th Amendment gave black men the right to vote, the 19th Amendment gave women the right to vote and the 1965 Civil Rights laws tore down the barriers to vote that had been endured by black men and women since they had gained the right so many years before. The right to vote is a freedom not enjoyed by everyone around the world and we as a free people should exercise that right. Even though in some states felons never lose the right to vote, some states allow felons a resumed right to vote following their release from prison, some states following a complete release even from parole and some states like Alabama provide no resumed right to vote by felons unless the Governor or a Court allows it.

Reviveus 2016 correctly pointed out that this next President should have the opportunity to appoint anywhere from 2-4 Supreme Court justices which can have a huge change in this country just as the Court in *Roe v Wade* did.

I am in agreement when it was pointed out that the parties have two central themes, one party is more people-centric and one is more government-centric. I think Franklin's remarks are true to the times when so many ugly things rear their heads resulting in a party that has become more government-centric. Franklin said, "Only a virtuous people are capable of freedom. As nations become more corrupt and vicious, they have more need of masters." We have a country where it is legal to kill some babies in the womb, a country where gang members find love and acceptance among other thugs rather than their families, a country where entitlement is often a key to a vote from some that choose not to give back but to take from Uncle Sam and some "masters" have arisen believing they know what is best for us and want to force laws or Executive actions that take away our freedoms.

The United States is not in the Bible, it has been blessed because so many have called upon God's name. Many now have no regard for God and our society reflects that. It concerns me what kind of country will be available to my children and grandchildren.

I ask that you consider prayerfully who to vote for and to go vote. Consider who wants to direct a government that best serves you by leaving your freedoms alone, then consider which party wants to direct a government that serves you because they want your vote and believe they know better than you what you need in life..

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

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

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# ROBSERVATIONS... by Robert Tate

by Robert Tate

## Door Dings and Other Such Nonsense...

All I can say is that by the time this Robservation hits the streets, the election, for better or worse, will be over and done with. It has been a long, drawn out embarrassment for the entire United States. Whether the winner is a clear political outsider who has said some questionable things in the past and had an up and down business career or whether the winner is a pathological liar who hates the Constitution, who will do and say anything for political gain, has broken the law, violated standards of conduct for the use, storage and dissemination of classified material, lied to the American people countless times, has taken money from governments that hate women's rights and hates and kills homosexuals while making a complete mockery of the US justice system, I don't think many people will be totally enthused about either winner.

As for me, I am going to talk about a couple of things a bit more important. Not really but here goes:

### 1. Door Dings: Okay, I hate them.

I mean, I really hate them. What the heck people? Look, I am not a fanatic who washes his car three times per week and waxes the finish every time I hit a bug but I do try to take care of my stuff. That is why when someone looks at a car I have had for 10+ years they comment on how good it still looks. Is it a little bit of work? Yes, but if I am going to throw down \$XXXXXXX for a car, why not take care of it? That is why when I return to my car whether at the market or in the employee parking lot and I see that wretched door ding making my car look like a golf ball, I get pissed. Look, if you don't want to take care of your stuff, fine. But the fact that you don't care about other people's property shows us the type of person you are. It doesn't take a lot not to bang your door into somebody else's vehicle. It is not that hard folks. I feel bad writing this because if I had to guess, the vast majority of folks who read this paper are not the culprits here. All I ask is for people to show a little respect for other's property. If you can't, please move to Mars. Thank you.

### 2. Self-Check Out and Chicken Wing Bars:

This floors me. I mean, really, really floors me. The Winn-Dixie near my house on the corner of Vaughn and the Bypass used to have four self-checkout counters. Most of us like them because we can walk up and process our purchase fast and easy. In and out is what I like. Usually you can avoid long lines since these days it seems most places only have two to three registers open anyway. Well, one day several months ago I walked in and bam, no self-checkout. They were all taken away. What??? So I asked one of the managers what the deal was and he said that too many people were stealing stuff. Really, people?? Stealing so much stuff from the market that they had to close down the self-checkout?

#### I really do not know what to think here.

One, it puzzles me and two it really irks me. There was so much stealing going on that this feature was ruined for the rest of us. Unbelievable. Actually, not really but you get the point. Then I was walking toward the back of the store and noticed the chicken wing bar they had was gone. They had a warmer with about six different types of buffalo wings. You walked up, put them in a

container and paid for them up front. Not at the self-checkout because the hooligans had already assured that was closed down. But alas, it was gone. So I asked one of the workers what the deal was and they told that again, there was so much theft that they had to shut it down. One worker told me they would find chicken bones on the floor, behind rolls of toilet paper, in fact all over the market. And again, another benefit was shut down because of criminal behavior.

Unfortunately, I know these are the signs of the times but come on people. This boorish behavior has to stop but I know that many people unfortunately simply do not care. Look at what happened to the Montgomery Mall. Once the nicest mall in Montgomery, before it closed for good, it became a place to avoid because of the criminal element present there. I guess the first clue is when the police put a branch office in the mall, you know it is about time to leave.

It just bothers me to no end that so many people today simply do not care about either their behavior or the behavior of others. It does amaze me, however. I myself, could never just walk into the market, stroll up to the buffalo wings, stuff my face and go about my business filling my cart full of stuff, putting just one or two items through the self-checkout and walking out the door with stolen goods. Maybe I am the Neanderthal here but I simply don't see it. That was definitely not the way I was raised.

### 3. Hit and Run - - Really?

I was driving home from the Atlanta airport a couple of weeks ago and I saw some guy switch lanes and smack another car in the far left lane. The guy that was hit slowed down and pulled off to the large left shoulder but the other car sped up and bolted out of there. Seeing what was happening, the other guy also sped up and the last I saw was both cars, likely 100 mph or faster, chasing each other down I-85 South. Again, really?

I guess what I am getting at is our society is clearly on the brink of social breakdown. People clearly break the law and common rules of decency and many people simply don't care. Politicians break the law and there is no accountability. People target and shoot cops and yet it is somehow justified in the minds of idiots. People walk up to strangers and punch them in the face hoping to knock them out and video the entire thing. In the background, you hear other hooligans laughing as someone face plants into the concrete. Sexually explicit things are growing on television every day and people who find that behavior sickening are seen as the crazy ones. Have any of you seen the Heineken beer commercial where Neil Patrick Harris is standing next to a guy barbequing and asks if it is "okay to flip another man's meat?" C'mon, on what planet is that acceptable because only a moron cannot see what is implied there.

Unfortunately, it seems as though in almost every aspect of our lives we are expected to accept this behavior as normal and to correct or not accept it is seen as being intolerant. Heck, one presidential candidate, I will not mention her name, said that the Christian church needed to change its doctrine to be more in line with current values. Uhhhh, no! But I am sorry to inform some folks but there is right and wrong in this world whether they want to admit it or not. We need to do a better job condemning what is wrong while raising up that which is right. It really is not that hard to do the right thing.



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## Time to Limit Terms and Power



Marcia Chambliss

Though I'm reminded daily of my many blessings, November is the month specifically set aside for giving thanks, and I highly doubt I'm alone in being thankful that the bitter and divisive 2016 presidential campaign will finally end. While political pundits will analyze the results ad nauseam, conservative activists will continue working diligently during the lame duck session of Congress to minimize detrimental legislation and spending decisions which typically occur during such sessions. Unfortunately, those efforts are too often in vain because we face a system so completely broken in which ordinary citizens have little to no real influence over those who profess to represent us.

For most of my adult voting life, I have optimistically believed that citizens held the power through our election process to term limit those members of Congress who failed to adequately represent the folks back home, and I have been cautious in regards to term limit legislation. Perhaps the ballot box was more effective at some point in the distant past, but only in rare situations does it now occur at the federal level. Recent polling by two firms, Gallup and eraquest Research\*, indicate that 75 percent of Americans want to see congressional term limits, and I am now of the belief that it is past time for citizens to demand those limits.

Previous attempts at congressional term limits were successful in passing for 23 congressional delegations at the state legislative level, but those efforts were struck down in 1995 by a Supreme Court 5-4 ruling in *U.S. Term Limits vs Thornton*. That ruling determined that congressional term limits must be enacted by constitutional amendment, a process that has proven unlikely to ever come to fruition by sitting members of Congress.

But thanks to the vision of our founders, our U.S. Constitution provides the mechanism for such an amendment to be initiated at the state level, and enables citizens to circumvent a Congress that has become so far removed from those it represents that it threatens the liberty obtained with the founding of our nation.

**Our constitutional tool is provided in the form of an Article V Convention of the States convened with one purpose only - congressional term limits.**

I've read and heard all the arguments against an Article V Convention as there are many conservative factions which vehemently oppose one for the fear of a "runaway convention" with designs to dismantle our current Constitution. But an Article V convention for term limits would not be a Constitutional Convention, referred to as a "Con-Con" which could lead to a significant re-writing of our Constitution, nor would it have the power to amend our Constitution for any purpose other than term limits.

**If we are to ever have significant influence as ordinary citizens with our congressional delegations, we must term limit each and every one we elect to serve.** We term limit presidents, state governors, and numerous other offices at the state level, so why are members of Congress exempt from the same limits on their power?

Incumbents at the federal level are almost impossible to defeat, and challengers to those offices are faced with the reality of trying to compete against enormous war chests that incumbents accumulate via Washington DC fundraising efforts. The full extent of the entrenchment of incumbents did not hit me until I read the above cited report which states:

***A quarter of Congress has been in office for more than 16 years. Nearly half of Congress has been in office for more than eight. By 2016, nine members will have been in office for more than 40 years.\****

This is **not** public service as our founders intended – this is a lucrative career, and the end result is a political ruling class that pays far more attention to the special interests which fund their campaigns than to the citizens they are supposed to represent.

Power of citizens has been transferred over time into the hands of the tenured few when it should belong to the states by virtue of the 10th Amendment. Term limits would greatly reduce this federal power by allowing less senior members of Congress to participate in leadership roles and thereby leveling the playing field of the current top-seniority power structure. Additionally, campaign contributions by the current DC power brokers would naturally decrease without the incentive to keep favored incumbents in for decades. Further, those reduced contributions would shift the odds of a challenger's ability to succeed in a congressional race and force candidates to focus on issues instead of fundraising for high-dollar campaigns.

Congressional term limits will only happen from a grassroots endeavor through our state legislatures, and an effort is currently underway to bring forth a resolution for a Term Limits Convention in the next Alabama legislative session. If you agree that it's time for our U.S. Constitution to work for the citizens as our founders intended, this is your opportunity for your voice to be heard.

\*Cited from "The Term Limits Convention Handbook for Lawmakers", distributed by U.S. Term Limits, a Washington, D.C. and Florida-based nonprofit specializing in term limit legislation.

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

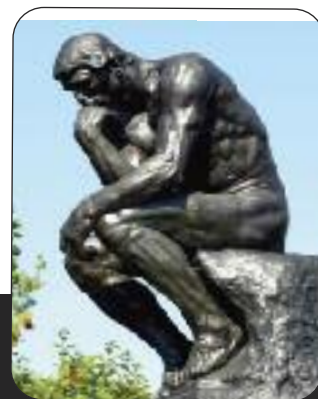
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*The views of this editorial are not the express views of The Alabama Gazette.*

**John Sophocleus**

# System IS Rigged in Alabama

# THINK



Special election Candidate “**Fireman Joe**” Lovvorn was installed into our Alabama House of Representatives without an election via **Secretary of State John Merrill**’s discretion last month. After hearing the news we (me and my eldest Godson Peter) went to the good Secretary’s office who kindly met without an appointment. Lovvorn avoided a Party primary runoff, exceeding the 50% threshold by 13 votes via another low turnout House District 79 poll result. A dismal 12% of voters participated in this taxpayer funded special election Party primary; three quarters of the 16% voter participation which re-installed Rep. Hubbard in 2014. Little surprise the big money candidate anointed by felon Hubbard, et al types wanting ‘bidness as usual’...

[\[http://www.alabamagazette.com/.../bidness-as-usual-i.../855.html\]](http://www.alabamagazette.com/.../bidness-as-usual-i.../855.html)

to keep the graft churning in the former speaker’s hyper-gerrymandered district won as forecasted. Not enough non-machine driven voters bothered to show for the September 13th Party primary our State continues to subsidize (redistributing more dollars to duopoly party machine coffers) to put **Mr. Toomer** in a runoff with Lovvorn laden with money from BCA type minions.

So the wrongfully installed ‘bought and paid for politician’ replaces the old corrupt felon politician who impeded the general welfare of good folks in our State and county. If witnessing the same PACs (and other political prostitutes who purchased the services ‘Madam of the House’ **Hubbard** provided) supporting Lovvorn wasn’t enough; seeing ‘public servants’ like **Bobby Lowder** or appraisers used by government to wrongfully take properties and developers who get bonds released (to avoid paying costs they impose on our infrastructure) to proliferate our unsustainable growth, etc. were all the more revealing. Few were surprised by a primary result (with all the money, negativity and fear mongering tactics used against the non AEA/BCA supported threat Mr. Toomer provided) re-affirming felon Hubbard type results with only 6% of registered voters required to get the bought and paid for “Hubbard’s Love” outcome so easily. As for mental acumen and general understanding of the political economic realities required to be an effective State representative, the more honest evaluations I trust found Lovvorn the most inferior candidate - some say exactly what the BCA, et al types want.

I WAS surprised by the exchange with Secretary Merrill in his office - perhaps because I’ve come to hold him in such high regard on how he’s improved the SoS office, ensuring the ability of active military abroad to participate in our elections and esp. how well he handled the driver’s license issuance potential impact on voter registration. In short, John Merrill impressed me as someone who genuinely held candidates’ and voters’ civil rights sacred; worthy of utmost respect. When I told him my thoughts on the wrongful elimination of the District 79 election our State IS obliged to provide (given the republican form of government guaranteed in our US Constitution) with only having a Party primary (taxpayers have no business subsidizing) Mr. Merrill said he wished I’d call him. Indeed flattering, but I really don’t think John wants me calling before every decision I think he’s going to make. For those who appreciate irony, he was in Russia at the time observing their elections - hopefully not learning more on eliminating elections from the Russians. Furthermore, Mr. Merrill is more prolific and intelligent than I - thus I’ll remain a lowly paid instructor of economics and prefer to leave matters of this to our Secretary paid to do this task.

In earnest, I think I caught Mr. Merrill off guard. Someone of his political pedigree knows a great deal of what’s transpired in our State, he simply had not put it into perspective what he’d done upon abusing his authority to eliminate an election under the circumstances. Later that (9/23) afternoon, John sent me text message with the record asserting Secretaries had eliminated elections 12 times since 2000. Not sure how to take that... reminded me of Director Jimmy Butts (now out of prison I suppose) telling me about 80% of landowners don’t fight when ALDoT takes their property. OK, so if folks don’t have the ability to fight - it is OK to abuse them? When a bureaucrat takes something which requires \$1000 to replace/reproduce as the law says but only offers a third, is OK because victims know it isn’t worth the court cost, effort and time to litigate \$667? I considered replying with something snippy about just because your predecessors were willing & able to engage in 12 eliminations doesn’t mean you have to follow in their wrongful footsteps. There are many other things prior Secretaries have done (esp. when it comes to citizens’ and voters’ civil rights) I pray Sect. Merrill will NEVER do again...

Still in great deference to how kind it was for Secretary Merrill to meet with us on a Friday morning - unannounced, without appointment -- it seemed to sincerely bother him someone was explaining his action as blocking candidates’ and voters’ rights to express themselves in a general election. I think Mr. Merrill could appreciate decent, rational individuals may consider this the end result of his elimination. Some folks, as we’re known to say in the Heart of Dixie - would rather ‘eat dirt and die’ than vote in a Party primary. No doubt John knows this history. Eliminating the election removed the ability of voters to express themselves at a ballot box - no matter what it is a voter wishes to express via this vehicle we’re supposed to provide citizens. Express they’d like have write-in campaign given our horrifically anti-competitive ballot access laws, express they don’t want to participate in such a corrupt process even though taxpayers are obliged to provide the opportunity (unlike the subsidized Party primaries they loathe) or perhaps express they’d like to write in their Party candidate who was outspent by AEA/BCA type thugs who don’t mind buying their desired results, etc.

We’ve become just as big a laughing stock voting for whatever Elephant excrement is on the ballot today as decades ago we reveled in Donkey excrement which ‘fertilized’ Alabama corruption just as effectively. From big government Democrat **Senator Shelby** decades ago to **Senator Dial**’s recent party change to aid & abet the **Riley** Republican corruption machine -- nothing has changed for the productive citizen hosting these parasites. I made it clear to Sect. Merrill he holds an important position at an extraordinary time - the window is closing in the vacuum between changing from big govt. (modern) Democrats to letting the (traditional) big govt. Republicans back into power in our State. Alabama will NOT let other parties be competitive in our State; made painfully clear when blocking black parties after removing most of the despicable progressive era barriers blocking voters’ ability to express themselves at ballot boxes. It is difficult to move forward out the mess we ‘progressed’ into (started under Republican Party hegemony) unless good men like John Merrill make better decisions to improve us out of the modern Democrat/traditional

Republican result. I applaud the effective yeoman’s work Sect. Merrill has accomplished toward increasing voter registration in Alabama these past years; the applause rings hollow if he eliminates elections and provides further impediments to ballot access and competition in political outcomes.

I pressed the Secretary, perhaps a little too hard, on reversing his wrongful (the recent federal court decision affirms) elimination of this election and mentioned candidates (specifically Messrs. Fenwick and Toomer, along with another rumoured to be considering a campaign) who’s right to this election was usurped. His reply was he didn’t know anyone was thinking about doing so... First, it doesn’t matter if anyone was or not - if we’re going to waste taxpayer money on Party primaries we’re not obliged to provide, our State STILL must provide the general election we ARE obliged (under the Constitution) to have for citizen voters and any potential candidate(s). Installation with 4.2% of eligible voters determining the candidate without a general election is a joke - eliminate the special election facade. Let AEA/BCA type money simply pay-off a governor directly appointing Lovvorn type results. Second, the SoS office has contact numbers for the campaigns... couldn’t his office contact candidates to see if they are interested in the general election the State is suppose to provide? I contacted Fenwick and Toomer to discover they were both considering it before Mr. Merrill’s wrongful (as much as anyone cares about federal court rulings from a judge with such reckless disregard for our civil rights in past rulings) elimination.

Mr. Merrill has a quick and sound mind. He understood exactly what I was arguing about and knew he couldn’t easily reverse himself. I didn’t know that Friday morning Judge Myron Thompson (again no champion of candidates’ and voter’s civil rights) would affirm Alabama’s ballot access laws impeding candidates like Mr. Fenwick are unreasonable/ unconstitutional. Most have argued it this ‘epiphany’ has more to do with a biased jurist like Thompson thinking his ruling will harm Republicans more than Democrats given his past opining on access to ballots, debates, etc. Much like the Amendment vote on the Nov. 8th ballot wanting us to clean up the mess created from years of not following the law, I suspect Sect. Merrill will not correct his wrongful elimination installing Lovvorn as the Dist. 79 Rep. The just thing to do is rescind his installation of Lovvorn and have the Nov. 29th election as scheduled or better still, because of the mess he’s created use the February date as if there’d been a Lovvorn/Toomer run-off to allow time for campaigning. Sad so few are appalled by this result - at least I’ll be on the record with respect to any legislation which passes by only one Lovvorn ‘yea’ vote in the House can be contested in the federal court now that Mr. Merrill has thumbed his nose at Judge Thompson’s decision. NO, I don’t think, nor do I wish JIC or some other non-elected body to discipline John on this. I prefer y’all pray he’ll do right on this and future decisions he’s clearly got the knowledge and wisdom to address better than past Secretaries - it does take a great deal of courage to face and correct mistakes. Like misprinting ballots - OK it has not been a banner month for John, but I’m unwilling to write him off... I must say I’ve despised some of the clearly inflated number (even if done by graftmasters) bantered about on how much it would be to reprint them - says a lot about those who’ll kick someone (who’s not deserved it) when they’re down. I asked John to tell me the amount on re-printing expenses to hopefully print it in before the Alabama Gazette goes to press - maybe next month.

In closing, I again ask readers (some I thought well of) to stop bombing my e-mail with how crazy I am to not vote for the Republicrat you want to win because it transfers wealth in the manner you desire. First, this is ALABAMA - does anyone seriously think her 9 electoral votes are NOT going to Trump. “If these shadows go unaltered,” as Dickens penned, it is difficult to forecast Mr. Trump earning more than 220 or so electoral votes. I still do not see how different this election cycle has been - I find the same media bias covering and shepherding the biggest champion of govt. on the Republican side (as it did with Dole, McCain, Romney) to ‘clear the field’ for the biggest champion of govt. on the Democratic Party side. Good to hear more folks than usual talking about the two former Republican Governors (Johnson-Weld ticket) who managed to overcome the duopoly impediments to get on all 50 State ballots - still don’t see how that will make for a different result when folks keep wasting their votes on duopoly choices. It is a little different to hear so many saying they’ll write-in Castle, De LaFuente, LaRiva, McMullen, Soltysik or Stein in States which wouldn’t allow them on the ballot. When enough voters do this to EXCEED the margin of victory - then one of the duopoly losers may care as these voters can be the key to future victories. If so, we may see participation of eligible voters exceed the usual 48% or so this cycle. If not, 2016 will look much like past presidential election results; an outcome which won’t matter to productive citizens who host our political parasites, but will matter to the specific parasite if it the blue tic or red tic is getting the blood from the host.

**Postscript:** Lee County Candidate Busby continues to serve the people of Lee County moving forward with his campaign as a write-in to protest the ‘English’ put on ballot access. As usual with no competition in ANY of the Commission races, some are going to write-in Busby in all Districts up this cycle instead of the no vote results our politburo desires. I hope his video on how the write-in process works will make more comfortable in exercising this important civil right. Busby still goes door to door handing out pocket Constitutions - hope the irony of not allowing a Constitution Party candidate on a ballot this veteran fought so well to secure doesn’t escape those aware of the ‘English’ being put on outcomes of this sort Lee County.



**Don't forget to VOTE  
November 8!**



Steve Long

# Woods & Waters with Steve



## ITS NOT ALL ABOUT THE RACK

Summer's been shown the door, and the weather's certainly gotten a little bit cooler. Sure, we could use some rain, but you better believe we'll get some more of that sooner rather than later. Bow season kicks off Saturday in Alabama for buck hunting, with Zone B getting to harvest does starting the 25th of October. Of course, scouting is in full swing, and part of that is studying trail camera photos. One topic that's always up for debate is how to properly age a buck, and just like anything else, it takes practice, experience, and a pragmatic approach to really get good at it. That's where Lindsay Thomas Jr. comes in, as he gives us a few handy pointers on what to look for and what to avoid when trying to age a buck.

For starters, make sure you have a good picture. Keep it at an even eye-level, with a good profile shot of the buck. While you can't ask the buck nicely to pick a pretty pose for that camera, if you can get a good broadside photo of that buck, it'll help tremendously with determining its age. Another important thing to remember is when the photo was taken; deer body shape changes drastically depending on the time of year, so you want to be checking out photos of pre-rut or peak rut bucks, as that's when they're the easiest to age.

Of course, as mentioned above, getting a good shot isn't really something you can control, so be sure to keep track of multiple photos. Staring at just one photo may not give you the proper information, as bucks aren't the type to normally sit still for long, resulting in some potentially misleading shots. Even something as simple as a buck taking a deep breath can change its body shape dramatically, throwing off your guess for age.

Another common problem is that most folks tend to concentrate on the antlers for aging, which isn't very accurate. There's a lot of crossover on rack size for bucks, as there are plenty of young bucks with great antlers, while there are older bucks with smaller, thinner antlers out there. With quality deer management as a focus, you'd want to harvest the older buck with a smaller rack, to help pull him out of the potential gene pool while letting that younger buck grow a little older, potentially improving the quality of bucks you get in years to come.

Of course, another thing to keep in mind is that buck body size can vary greatly depending on the environment that your deer live in. Lower quality soil and poor conditions can lead to lower muscle mass in a buck as it grows older, so you really have to get to know your area and your deer population, which takes follow-through. When you successfully harvest a buck, and have made your guesses at its age, pull the jawbone or extract an incisor from that deer. You can estimate the jawbone age, or even send the tooth off to a lab for study, and with

the resulting information, see how far off you were in your guess. Through trial and error, you can really narrow down the finer details of your deer population, making for much more accurate guesswork with age. Yes, it's guesswork folks; there's no exact science, but we can become pretty proficient at it with practice and good follow-through.

Of course, I can't help but mention that joining QDMA provides you with some more resources for learning how to age bucks, as well as some practice rounds! In the QDMA's free weekly e-newsletter, they include a photo of a buck with a poll for you to estimate the buck's age. In the next newsletter, QDMA's experts provide feedback as to the age of that deer, as well as the defining features that lead to their estimate. Little things like this can help you drastically improve your aging technique, which can only help you make better informed decisions out in the field for managing your deer population. Simply hop onto QDMA's website, at [www.qdma.com](http://www.qdma.com), join up to start receiving the magazine, and sign up for the e-newsletter.

It may not always seem practical or useful to go through photos like a crime scene investigator, but when your focus is improving on your deer hunting for future years down the road, every little bit helps. Aging deer is a good way to decide which buck you really want to harvest and which ones you should let walk, which does dramatically impact the quality of your herd. **So get those trail cameras rolling, break out the photo book, and go get 'em!**



Even though it's deer season the fishing is extremely strong this time of year

## Kritter Korner

### Ring-Tailed Lemur

The Ring-tailed lemur (*Lemur Catta*) is a large prosimian (representing forms that were ancestral to monkeys, apes and humans), belonging to the family Lemuridae'. The name 'lemur' comes from the Roman festival 'Lemuria', during

which ghosts were exorcised. It is descriptive of some lemurs' nocturnal habits, noiseless movements, reflective eyes, and ghost like cries and appearance. Today lemurs are known as 'ghosts of the forest.' Like all other lemurs, it is found only on the island of Madagascar and the Comoros Islands off of the East Coast of Africa.

Lemurs are endangered species or threatened species. Many species went



Ring-Tailed Lemurs

extinct in the last centuries, mainly due to habitat destruction (deforestation) and hunting. Rainforest Lemurs are mostly grey with white under parts. Lemurs have a slender frame, a narrow face that is white with black patches around the eyes and a black fox-like muzzle.

The lemur can easily be recognized by its long, bushy tail that is ringed with twenty six black and white rings. Lemur's tails always begin with a white stripe and end with a black one. Their tails are longer than their bodies at up to 22 inches in length. The Lemur has hind limbs longer than their forelimbs and the palms and soles are padded with soft, leathery skin. Their fingers are slender and semi-dexterous (semi-skillful) with flat, human-like nails. Lemurs have one claw, known as a 'toilet claw' (a comb-like claw), and a second toe of each hind limb specialized for grooming purposes.

A Lemur in the wild can live between 16-18 year and 18-20 years in captivity. These primates also groom orally by licking and tooth-scraping with narrow, horizontal lower incisors and canines, called a 'tooth comb'. Lemur's eyes are a bright yellow or orange color, which stay the same color from the time they are born. Adults may reach a body length of 18 inches and a weight 12 pounds. Lemurs use their sense of smell to communicate with each other. Lemurs have scent glands on their behinds and on their feet that leave odors on surfaces they encounter. When other lemurs pass by, they smell those odors and can tell that another lemur has been there. Lemurs have big, bushy tails that they wave in the air as another form of communication. These big tails also help lemurs balance when they leap from tree to tree.

The Lemur primarily eats fruits and leaves, particularly those of the 'tamarind tree. When available, tamarind can make up as much as 50% of the Lemur diet yearly. The Lemur is also known to eat flowers, herbs, bark and sap. Additionally, it has been observed eating decayed wood, earth, insects and small vertebrates. Lemurs have several different habitats on Madagascar ranging from rainforests to dry areas of the island. They inhabit deciduous forests with grass floors or forests along riverbanks (gallery forests). Some also inhabit wet, closed brush where few trees grow. The Lemur is thought to require primary forest (forests which have remained undisturbed by human activity) in order to survive. Such forests are now being cleared at an alarming rate. The Lemur is diurnal (an animal that is active during the daytime and rests during the night) and inhabits both the ground (terrestrial) and the trees (arboreal) and forms troops of up to 25

individuals. Social hierarchies are determined by sex. Females have a distinct hierarchy and socially dominate males in all circumstances, including feeding priority. Males tend to be confined to a lower or outer limit of group activity and will alternate between troops approximately every 3 years.

Lemur troops claim sizable territories which may overlap with those of other troops.

Up to 3.5 miles of this territory may be covered in a single days foraging. Lemurs are very vocal animals. Around fifteen distinct vocalizations are used to maintain group togetherness during foraging and alert group members to the presence of a predator or threat. Male and female lemurs scent mark with their genital regions, they also possess scent glands on their wrists and on the surface of their shoulders. These glands secrete a greasy substance which is used to mark territories and maintain group dominance hierarchies. Males also possess a thorny spur on each wrist that is scraped against tree trunks to create grooves lubricated with their scent. In display s of aggression, males will engage in a social display behavior called 'stink fighting' which involves covering their tails with scent from their glands and then waving the scented tail at male rivals. Males will also occasionally wave their scented tails at females as a form of courtship. This usually results in the female cuffing or biting the male. Despite being primarily quadrupled (four-footed), the Lemur can rear up and balance on its hind legs, usually for aggressive displays. In the mornings, Lemurs usually bask to warm themselves. They face the sun, sitting in what is frequently described as a 'sun-worshipping' posture or 'Lotus position'. However, they sit with their legs extended outward, not cross-legged and will often support themselves on nearby branches. Basking is often a group activity.

The Lemur breeding season runs from April to June. This results in a birth of either one or two offspring. The young lemurs begin to eat solid food after two months and are fully weaned after five months. When lemurs are born, they are carried in their mother's mouths until they are old enough to hang on to her fur by themselves. Males reach sexual maturity at two and a half years of age and females at nineteen and a half months. Most lemurs live for about eighteen years.

Lemurs have both natural and introduced predators. Native predators include the Fossa, Madagascar Harrier-hawk, Madagascar Buzzard and the domestic dogs and humans. Lemurs play an important role in the ecology of Madagascar and the Comoros Islands, because they disperse seeds from the fruit they eat. These seeds can then grow into new plants, which is important because the forests of Madagascar are being destroyed at a very high rate. People in Madagascar cut down the forests there to use the wood, and to grow agricultural crops in its place. In fact, eighty percent of the lemur's original habitat in Madagascar has been destroyed. We have two Ring Tailed Lemurs named Curly and Moe. If you would like to meet them give us a call or send us an email.



Ron VanHerwyn

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Sports Editor,  
Ed Jones

# TWO PEOPLE CAN'T DRIVE A PICKUP TRUCK !!



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

Auburn Head Coach **Gus Malzahn** has been coaching for over twenty-five years. He has been a head coach in college for four and one-half seasons, one at Arkansas State and three and one-half at Auburn. This year, after losses to Clemson and Texas A&M in the friendly confines of Jordan-Hare Stadium, Coach Malzahn announced to the world that he would be giving up his play calling duties to **Offensive Coordinator Rhett Lashlee**. Lashlee has been with Malzahn for all of his college career and during some of Malzahn's high school years. He was an outstanding quarterback in high school where he played for Coach Malzahn. Lashlee is a bright young man who probably has a future as a college head coach someday.

Evidently for all of Malzahn's coaching career, he has always called his own offensive plays. We must assume that this is true because he mysteriously came up with a plan that he seemed to believe was unique. He said that he would no longer be calling the plays because he could not efficiently take care of his duties as head coach and continue to call the plays. What a revelation! Most coaches learn that from watching football on TV.

always know the complete game plan or changes in the offense. At times he would recommend something during the game, and of course at halftime. High schools today seem to have four or five coaches even at the smaller schools. I would have loved to have had on offensive coordinator and a defensive coordinator. At Catholic High School in the early sixties, I was the athletic director, football coach, basketball coach, wrestling coach, track coach and head bus driver. We had to drive from the downtown campus all the way to St. Bedes on the Atlanta Highway to practice football. Of all my duties, I suspect that the best job I did was driving that old Blue Bird school bus.

Now, back to the head coach at Auburn. Gus Malzahn's epiphany is one of the strangest announcements that I have heard from a college football coach. Of course it is best to have an offensive coordinator call the plays. For the three years of Malzahn's reign, he and Rett Lashlee conferred on their head "gizmos" as to what play to call. That is where the title of this column gets its name. For fifty years I have been saying, "Two people can't drive a pickup truck." I don't know where that came from but it is illustrative of the theory that one person



SB Nation

**"DON'T ASK ME, HE CALLED IT. ASK HIM!"**

*Rhett Lashlee talking to QB Jeremy Johnson as Coach Damien Craig listens during a football game in 2015*

In my first job as a high school coach, I had to call the plays because there was no one on the staff but me and a part time assistant named **Jack Bell**. Bell had been a teammate of mine since junior high school. We both played on the first Robert E. Lee football team in 1955. After service in the Marine Corps, Bell was offered a scholarship to Baylor University to play offensive end. After two years at Baylor, he transferred to Huntingdon and offered to help me with my first team at Catholic High School in the summer of 1962. His experience playing at Baylor was invaluable to me as a first year head coach. His head coach was an old Auburn guard named **John Bridgers**. Coach Bridgers was the offensive coordinator for **Weeb Eubank** when he was head coach of the Baltimore Colts during the **Johnny Unitas** hey days. So, we incorporated a pro style offense system to complement my split "T" background. We had people split all over the field, people in motion away from the ball and people in motion from wide receiver toward the ball. In 1962 that was not being done in high school in Alabama. We won a few games with this spread motion system and I must say it looked good on film.

But, at no time did I consider conferring with Coach Bell on calling the plays. Sometimes he had to miss practice because of school. Therefore, he would not

has to be in charge of any endeavor. Two coaches can not call the offensive plays successfully at any level of football, be it high school, college or the NFL.

**Steve Spurrier** won several championships at Florida and one national championship calling his own plays. It didn't work very well at the Washington Redskins or at South Carolina. Steve gave up calling plays before he gave up football in the middle of the 2015 season. **Paul Johnson** at Georgia Tech calls his own plays, as does **Mike Leach** at Washington State, two schools that you would like to have on your schedule. There is just too much that a head coach has to do to keep the ship afloat. He really does not have time to call offensive or defensive plays. Successful coaches run the game. Successful business people run the business. Educators have one person running the school. That's just the way it is. "Two people can't drive a pickup truck"!

Since Rhett Lashlee and Gus Malzahn ceased to be jointly responsible for play calling, Auburn has beaten a very good LSU team, although barely. They have destroyed a not so good Mississippi State team. They destroyed a good Arkansas team 56-3. They are 5-2 as of this writing and ranked in the top twenty again. They have a workable schedule left starting with Ole Miss at Oxford, Vanderbilt at Auburn, Georgia in Athens and Alabama in Tuscaloosa. Auburn will not win the SEC this year. In all probability Alabama will be favored and will be a tough out. However, Auburn matches up well against Ole Miss, Vandy, Georgia and Alabama. It is possible for Auburn to wind up the season with two conference losses which would be good enough for third place in the SEC West, unless Malzahn violates my rule again; "Two People Can't Drive A Pickup Truck"! War Eagle to you coach. You are now on the right track. You be Batman and let Lashlee be Robin! They never lose, but then again, they don't even have a pickup truck.



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# Gazette Seniors...

Dr. John Bitter, Editor  
Senior Section

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

You may be over  
the hill if...  
you realize your age has  
come at a bad time.

## What deficit?

We should take exception to the use of the term: Attention Deficit Disorder, especially so, those of us who have been blessed with it.

The noun attention is acceptable since a major portion of this psychological difference does tend to focus on the concentration of mental powers. The phrase: Short attention span, was much more accurate and had less of a negative connotation about it. But the education community does like to invent new titles for things.

Now the word deficit presents a lot of problems. This noun has a very negative connotation to it. It suggests that something is lacking in the person to whom it is directed.

And disorder suggests confusion or upset. People with ADD aren't confused. Well, maybe they're confused as to why they're labeled the way they are, and they may well be upset over being singled out as some sort of freak in need of special attention. But let's take a look at some who have been so afflicted. Do we see them as deficient? One would think not.

The antics of Sir Winston Churchill, whose behavior as a young student reflected much of what afflicts students with attention deficit disorder: hyperactivity. Young Winston, for all his deviations from what was considered the classroom norm, loved to study the English language, and all its rules. Noted Sir Winston: whose behavior as a young student reflect much of that of modern day students with attention deficit disorder, hyperactive. Sir. Winston once observed: the rule about not ending a sentence with a preposition, is "an imposition up with which I shall not put.

As a few educators, who took the time to study the matter soon learned When the right side of the brain is dominant a person tends to be more creative, and more spontaneous. When the left side of a person's brain dominates, that person is likely to be more plodding, less spontaneous, or perhaps not spontaneous at all. Lawyers, bookkeepers, accountants, teachers, are usually left brained, and right handed.

ADD people, like Sir Winston, are right brain dominant. They're more spontaneous, more creative, and less tolerant of people and eschew occasions that are mundane to the point of being boring.

People with ADD are usually discovered in elementary school when they tend

to act up in class. They're bored. As a rule, when the topic of instruction is presented for the first time, they grasp the idea at first telling. "O.K. Got it. Let's get on with the lesson," are the thoughts going through their minds at the time. But in the standard classroom, instruction must be reduced to the lowest common denominator, the teacher must contend with "Old Ned in the First Reader," and slog on repeatedly until he comprehends the matter at hand. In the meanwhile the ADD person has nothing to occupy or challenge his intellect, so he, or she, finds diversions—such as cutting up.

Unfortunately, the penal, lock step mentality that prevails in the education community is generally unprepared to cope with the ADD person, so he or she is labeled as disruptive, willful or just plain bad, and is punished for his or her classroom transgressions; usually with a stern letter to the parents.

If the goal of education is imparting knowledge and skills on young minds, why punish those who are eager and willing to learn beyond the scope of the normal classroom? Why must they be ostracized and criticized for possessing the skills and talents one should hope for in a young person: an eagerness and willingness to enhance his or her knowledge?

A half century and more ago, before ADD was discovered, young people with this talent earned the enmity of their tutors when their minds wandered beyond the subject at hand. Either a generous application of the rod or a stern letter home received a temporary return of the youngster to the path of righteousness, but usually not for long.

Some years ago the pharmaceutical industry gave us a narcotic that would turn otherwise overactive youth into docile zombies less inclined to disrupt the hum drum of the classroom. And ADD and ADHD became the afflictions du jour and eager marketers soon convinced the older population that they probably had Adult ADD. Puhleeze! There's no adult, adolescent, or juvenile ADD. In fact, it's all just a product of an overactive imagination on the part of psychologists and educators to label an otherwise normal trait that they're incapable of addressing.

So, let's not punish students with ADHD; let's encourage them. Some of us are red headed, some of us blonde. It's unnatural to think that we should all have the same color hair. Why, then, should we all be right handed? But our society is built on this erroneous assumption. That's deficient thinking.

If your child is left-handed and is in trouble with his or her teacher, you might want to consider this deficit.

## 82 YEARS AGO

In the cornucopia of trivia, here's another item: What happened 82 years ago in January, and might happen again; this time in the U.S.A.?

As the New Year got underway in Germany – back then – the Parliament Building was torched, supposedly by a Communist.

A day later, Adolph Hitler set forth a decree that stripped the German people of all their constitutional rights and liberties; since he felt that his government could do a better job of looking out for the citizens than they, themselves.

Is this refrain starting to sound unpleasantly familiar?

Hitler's party quickly put into law the Enabling Act, which placed total and absolute power in the hands of Der Fuehrer, and gave his party total control of the German government.

Their next step in July of that year was to make it against the law for the people to establish any political parties of their own, under penalty of at least three years in prison.

And the rest, they say, is history.

And, history, it has often been said, repeats itself.

Merry Christmas—or is that now against the law to extend this wish?

It's beginning to look as if it is.

Its beginning to look a lot like Christmas...

Great is our Lord,

Sing unto the LORD with thanksgiving; sing praise  
upon the harp unto our God:

Praise thy God, O Zion.

## ELIZABETH H. WRIGHT APARTMENTS

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Spacious 1 Bedroom • 1 Bath apartments  
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By Kyle' D. McKinney

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



## USING OUR SECURE SERVICES

One of the most common threats we face is identity theft. Just imagine someone stealing your information and pretending to be you. You'd have no control as this person acts in your name, spending money — and possibly, ruining your credit.

That's one trick you can do without, which is why we've added an extra layer of security for our customers when they interact with us online.

Your my Social Security at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount) is a safe and secure place to do business with us.

On July 30, 2016, Social Security implemented a new layer of security, asking account holders to sign into their account using a one-time code sent via text message. This second layer of security requires more than a username and a password is known as "multifactor authentication." Although we have always provided the "extra security" option to account holders, we implemented this new process to comply with the President's Executive Order on Improving the Security of Consumer Financial Transactions.

As before July 30, current account holders will be able to access their secure account using only their username and password. We highly recommend the extra security text message option, but it will not be required. If you are uncomfortable with texting, we will be creating an option where you will receive a code via email.

We strive to balance security and customer service options, and we want to ensure that our online services are both easy to use and secure. The my Social Security service has always featured a robust verification and authentication process, and it remains safe and secure.

There's no requirement that you access your personal my Social Security account as a result of the steps we are taking. However, when you do access your account, we encourage you to sign up for the extra security text message option. You can access your account by visiting [www.socialsecurity.gov/my-account](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/my-account).

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





## THE MARSHALL MOMENT

DR. RICK MARSHALL  
Pastor, Eastern Hills  
Baptist Church  
Montgomery, Alabama

## Soul Searching

## CHRISTIANS AND GOVERNMENT

An elderly gentleman was sitting on a park bench, basking in the sun, when another elderly fellow sat down. They looked at each other for a moment but did not speak. Both men sat there, staring straight ahead. After a while, one of them heaved a big, heartfelt sigh. The other jumped up immediately and said, "If you're going to talk politics, I'm leaving."

I'm not going to talk politics...so don't quit reading! But what I am going to do is remind you that Christian's had better be informed and involved in the political process for it effects all of us and our nation.

The Proverbs writer penned these words, "**When the godly are in authority, the people rejoice. But when the wicked are in power, they groan.**" **Prov. 29:2.**

The truth is in a large diffused government at many levels from local to national, it is not an easy choice or decision. But we can look at the long term trends of where our country is headed and make the best decisions based on the choices we have.

If we do not know something about the candidates it is our fault. We should not be like the folks in a story I heard some years ago. In 1938 the name Boston Curtis appeared on the ballot for Republican Committeeman from Milton, Washington. Actually, Boston Curtis was a donkey. The town's mayor sponsored the animal to demonstrate that people know very little about the candidates. He proved his point. The mule won!

Today with all the media attention and information available, the issue is not knowledge but prayerful influence and participation in the process. Certainly it is not my place to tell anyone how to vote. I can sympathize with many of you when we feel that the choices we have to make in some levels of the election are not for very good candidates.

However, let us remember we are a republic with a constitution which says we are governed by the consent of the people. That last phrase, "*by the consent of the people,*" should awaken us. If we do not like the government we have or will have, it says something about the people of our nation. It is the opinion of many that God has allowed us to reap the harvest of poor thinking and declining values in order to call us back to Him.

It is sad that so many Christians have stepped back from taking stands in our country. Some have given up hope for change. Others see politics as a "dirty word." It is a dirty and difficult world for sure, but if all those who believe in that which is good and honest, what do we have left?

Many Christians are intimidated from running by organizations which have a distinctly bias against people of faith and who value patriotism. I was impressed some time ago in reading something the Prime Minister of Australia wrote. A part of it says, "*Most Australians believe in God. This is not some Christian, right wing, political push, but a fact, because Christian men and women, on Christian principles, founded this nation, and this is clearly documented..It is certainly appropriate to display it on the walls of our schools. If God offends you, then I suggest you consider another part of the world as your new home, because God is part of our culture.*"

Perhaps we should be sure about the values upon which our country was founded. Amazingly most came from the Bible.

Human government is ordained of God. Even under the wicked Roman government rule of the day of the Bible, Paul says "**If you resist the authority you resist the ordinance of God!**" But it was also given responsibilities. Among these are to restrain evil. You have heard the statement, "**You can't legislate morality.**" This is absolutely true! But there's not a law on this earth that can make you moral! "*We've got this mixed up – for too long we've been trying to make government make us good! Only God can do that! Think of it this way – there's not a law on this earth to make you love me, but there is a law to keep you from killing me!*"

I would like to add a word here about those who serve our country but are so often overlooked and far underappreciated. An article about our law enforcement officers was in a newspaper not long ago. Let me paraphrase some of it.

Police officers are many things, sons, brothers, fathers and some are mothers, sisters and aunts. They are our protector in times of need and comforters in times of sorrow. Sometimes they must be as sharp as diplomats, psychologists, lawyers. Too often, their acts of heroism go unnoticed and the truth is buried

under all the criticism. They are ordinary citizens who are called upon to do extra-ordinary things for us. Officers must face half crazed gunmen in the streets, schools or shops, rescue lost children, challenge mobs and risks his life more than we realize. Thank God for all the young men and women who said they would be a policeman and they kept their promises.

"*From the President of the United States to the police officer on the street all are to be ministers of God, men and women of righteousness and protectors of freedom!*"

Here are three simple but very important steps for every Christian to take in relation to his government.

Pray for your government. Here the words of Paul to young Timothy, "**I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone; for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior.**" **(I Tim. 2:1-3)**

Preach to your government. That does not mean each of us must have a pulpit. However, we can write letters, offer opinions and interact with our leaders. We need to be civil but not silent!

"*As long as our leaders are aborting the pre-born we should preach to them. As long as we have leaders trying to normalize sexual perversion we should preach to them. As long as we have Americans who cannot pray wherever they want – we need to keep preaching! We must continue to preach from the highest hill top – whatever is morally wrong is not politically right!*"

"*The state is not the master of the church and the church is not the master of the state. The church is the conscience of the state and salt and light in society!*"

Participate in your government. We have a government that our Founding Fathers envisioned all people involved – that's why the Constitution says, "**Of the people, by the people and for the people.**" If we don't vote we are not participating. It is inconceivable that God would have ordained government and then have His people stay out of it!

Matthias Burnett, Pastor of First Baptist Church in Norwalk, preached on May 12, 1803..."*Consider well the important trust...which God...has put into your hands...To God you are accountable for your rights and your rulers...Let not your children have reason to curse you for giving up those rights and institutions which your fathers delivered to you...*"

Samuel Adams on April 16, 1781 declared, "*Let each citizen remember...that he is executing one of the most solemn trusts in human society for which he is accountable to God and his country.*"

Remember, as Christians, we participate not according to visionless policies, useless parties, godless people or purposeless politics, but we participate according to God's principles! On the eve of this critical election, I urge all Christians to vote and choose the best people up and down the ballot who you believe will do their best to bring our country back to God.



**Welcome**  
*Eastern Hills*

**Come & join us on**  
**SUNDAY MORNING**  
**Bible Study:**  
**9:00 AM**  
**Worship:**  
**10:15 AM**  
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## Beware of the Hildabeast

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



John Martin

In the 2008 Presidential election, the people of America granted immense power to one of the most dangerous men in the world. In 2012, they re-elected him. Now after almost eight years of treasonous treachery, the Great Traitor and his minions have saddled us with a catastrophic, outrageously expensive, unsustainable health care burden, needless war-mongering and meddling in the Middle East killing thousands of people and making new enemies, releasing dangerous terrorists from GITMO while letting others freely invade our interior, ballooning our national debt to over 19 trillion dollars, and committing numerous other heinous crimes that are destroying our economy.

Thank God our Constitution prohibits a third term. The American people will now have a chance to save themselves—or elect a successor who will continue the above catastrophic policies and possibly destroy the United States.

Sadly, the most qualified Presidential candidates have been eliminated in the primary. The only choices now left who are on the ballot in all 50 states are **Donald Trump, Gary Johnson, and...Hillary Clinton**—alias the Hildabeast (a name **Neal Boortz** gave her several years ago).

I am not going to attempt to tell the readers who to vote for. I hear various responses from different people. The pure libertarians say that they will either not vote at all or write in someone who meets their specifications (i.e. **Ron Paul, Lew Rockwell, Neal Boortz**, etc.). Other libertarians will vote for Gary Johnson. Hard-line conservative/libertarians might write in Rand Paul or Ted Cruz. Most conservatives and moderates will likely vote for Trump. And finally, we have the segment of the population—who out of ignorance or the desire to keep riding the welfare wagon—the ones who will vote for America's most tyrannical woman.

Due to the great danger that stands before us, I will strongly advise everyone who not to vote for. Do not under any circumstances vote for the Hildabeast.

From the Whitewater fiasco to the cruel Nazi-like Waco massacre to the e-mail scandal to Benghazi, Hillary Clinton's rap sheet is miles long. Of course much of it is covered up and may never see the light of day for many years. But

there is more than enough left to prove that she belongs in the "Big House" and not in the White House.

Hillary is clearly a devout socialist, if not an outright communist. Her theft of furniture from the White House is petty when compared to her dogmatic support for ever increasing government oversight and management of our personal affairs, invasions of privacy, and any other forms of oppression that she can concoct—the exact opposite of what America needs and wants. In 1994, more than a decade before Obamacare, she drew up her own plan to corrupt America's free market health care. But at that time, the American people were wise enough to turn it down.

Hillary's most dangerous facet is her role as a radical warmonger. In 2003, she gave her full support for **G. W. Bush's** disastrous invasion of Iraq, which resulted in almost total destabilization of the country, widespread looting and destruction, and the deaths of tens of thousands.

Hillary's 2011 regime change in Libya was a similar disaster. No, **Gaddafi** was not a nice guy, and he probably deserved his fate. However, by aiding the radical Islamic militants who overthrew him and who later became dedicated American enemies, she destroyed the last vestige of stability remaining there, resulting in pandemonium and the deaths of thousands. Hillary gleefully replied, "We came; we saw; he died."

Then on Sept. 11, 2012, the eleventh anniversary of the twin towers, these same militants overran the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi. Soon afterward, Western nations abandoned their embassies in Tripoli. Hillary had transformed Libya into a desolate "no man's land."

Hillary has still not learned any lessons. She has now vowed to invade Syria and take out Assad. If she gets elected and the opportunity to do this, the anti-Assad forces—i.e. ISIS and Al Qaeda's Nusra Front would take over and force millions of Syrians to flee their beheading swords. Many thousands will likely be killed. And—guess what. Hillary will then be "obligated" to send in thousands of U.S. troops to fight and die for... what Country Joe sang over 50 years ago, "What are we fighting for?"

And if that's not enough, she also aspires to start rattling swords with **Vladimir Putin**.

For God and country, please save us from the Hildabeast.

**The November PRIMARY is probably one of the most important events in recent history for our country!**

**Please VOTE on NOVEMBER 8TH!**

# SAMPLE BALLOT

# SAMPLE BALLOT

GENERAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELECTION

**THESE OFFICES RUN BY DISTRICT**

<b>FOR MEMBER, STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT NO. 3</b> (Vote for One) JERRY YAME ASKE RICHIE STEPHANIE BELL RICHIE	<b>FOR MEMBER, STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT NO. 5</b> (Vote for One) ELLA B. BELL RICHIE
<b>FOR MEMBER, MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT NO. 1</b> (Vote for One) DAVID HARPER RICHIE	<b>FOR MEMBER, MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT NO. 2</b> (Vote for One) R. TONY PERAIN RICHIE
<b>FOR MEMBER, MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT NO. 3</b> (Vote for One) RONDIA M. WALKER RICHIE	<b>FOR MEMBER, MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT NO. 4</b> (Vote for One) EGAN D. GARNETT RICHIE
<b>FOR MEMBER, MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT NO. 5</b> (Vote for One) LARRY L. BRYANT RICHIE	<b>FOR MEMBER, MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT NO. 6</b> (Vote for One) KELIA BENTLEY-SHEFF RICHIE

**INSTRUCTIONS TO THE VOTER**  
TO VOTE FOR ANY OFFICE, THE VOTER MUST MARK AN "X" IN THE CIRCLE TO THE LEFT OF THE NAME OF THE CANDIDATE. IF YOU SPOL YOUR BALLOT, DO NOT FEAR, BUT ASK FOR A NEW BALLOT.

**STRAIGHT PARTY VOTING**  
ALABAMA DEMOCRATIC PARTY  
ALABAMA REPUBLICAN PARTY

**FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES**  
BILLYE SOKALAN OLIVIERI  
TODD M. CHASELBAVE  
Democrat

**FOR MEMBER, STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT NO. 1**  
(Vote for One)  
TOM HARRIS  
Democrat

**FOR CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE, 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, PLACE NO. 1**  
(Vote for One)  
TIMOTHY H. HENNING, JR.  
Democrat

**FOR CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE, 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, PLACE NO. 2**  
(Vote for One)  
ANTHONY J. KELLY  
Democrat

**FOR CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE, 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, PLACE NO. 3**  
(Vote for One)  
JAMES H. ANDERSON  
Democrat

**FOR CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE, 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, PLACE NO. 4**  
(Vote for One)  
CRAIG W. WILKINS  
Democrat

**FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY, 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**  
(Vote for One)  
DAROLD EARLEY  
Democrat

**FOR MEMBER, COMMISSIONER, MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
(Vote for One)  
M. MICHAEL P. WATSON  
Democrat

**FOR ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT, PLACE NO. 2**  
(Vote for One)  
WILLIAM W. WILSON  
Democrat

**FOR ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT, PLACE NO. 3**  
(Vote for One)  
TONY PARKER  
Democrat

**FOR MEMBER, MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT NO. 1**  
(Vote for One)  
DAVID HARPER  
RICHIE
 **FOR MEMBER, MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT NO. 2** (Vote for One) R. TONY PERAIN RICHIE | **FOR MEMBER, MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT NO. 3** (Vote for One) RONDIA M. WALKER RICHIE | **FOR MEMBER, MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT NO. 4** (Vote for One) EGAN D. GARNETT RICHIE | **FOR MEMBER, MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT NO. 5** (Vote for One) LARRY L. BRYANT RICHIE | **FOR MEMBER, MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT NO. 6** (Vote for One) KELIA BENTLEY-SHEFF RICHIE |

**PROPOSED STATUTE AMENDMENT NUMBER ONE (1)**  
Proposed an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama to provide for the creation of a new judicial district, the 16th Judicial District, to be composed of the counties of Baldwin, Calhoun, Chilton, Coffee, Crenshaw, Dale, Etowah, Franklin, Fulton, Geneva, Limestone, Mobile, Wilcox and parts of Baldwin, Calhoun, Crenshaw, Dale, Etowah, Franklin, Fulton, Geneva, Limestone, Mobile and Wilcox counties. The amendment shall be subject to the approval of the Alabama Legislature. Proposed by Act No. 2016-101.

**PROPOSED STATUTE AMENDMENT NUMBER TWO (2)**  
Proposed an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama to provide for the creation of a new judicial district, the 17th Judicial District, to be composed of the counties of Baldwin, Calhoun, Chilton, Coffee, Crenshaw, Dale, Etowah, Franklin, Fulton, Geneva, Limestone, Mobile, Wilcox and parts of Baldwin, Calhoun, Crenshaw, Dale, Etowah, Franklin, Fulton, Geneva, Limestone, Mobile and Wilcox counties. The amendment shall be subject to the approval of the Alabama Legislature. Proposed by Act No. 2016-102.

**PROPOSED STATUTE AMENDMENT NUMBER THREE (3)**  
Proposed an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama to provide for the creation of a new judicial district, the 18th Judicial District, to be composed of the counties of Baldwin, Calhoun, Chilton, Coffee, Crenshaw, Dale, Etowah, Franklin, Fulton, Geneva, Limestone, Mobile, Wilcox and parts of Baldwin, Calhoun, Crenshaw, Dale, Etowah, Franklin, Fulton, Geneva, Limestone, Mobile and Wilcox counties. The amendment shall be subject to the approval of the Alabama Legislature. Proposed by Act No. 2016-103.

**PROPOSED STATUTE AMENDMENT NUMBER FOUR (4)**  
Proposed an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama to provide for the creation of a new judicial district, the 19th Judicial District, to be composed of the counties of Baldwin, Calhoun, Chilton, Coffee, Crenshaw, Dale, Etowah, Franklin, Fulton, Geneva, Limestone, Mobile, Wilcox and parts of Baldwin, Calhoun, Crenshaw, Dale, Etowah, Franklin, Fulton, Geneva, Limestone, Mobile and Wilcox counties. The amendment shall be subject to the approval of the Alabama Legislature. Proposed by Act No. 2016-104.

**PROPOSED STATUTE AMENDMENT NUMBER FIVE (5)**  
Proposed an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama to provide for the creation of a new judicial district, the 20th Judicial District, to be composed of the counties of Baldwin, Calhoun, Chilton, Coffee, Crenshaw, Dale, Etowah, Franklin, Fulton, Geneva, Limestone, Mobile, Wilcox and parts of Baldwin, Calhoun, Crenshaw, Dale, Etowah, Franklin, Fulton, Geneva, Limestone, Mobile and Wilcox counties. The amendment shall be subject to the approval of the Alabama Legislature. Proposed by Act No. 2016-105.

**PROPOSED STATUTE AMENDMENT NUMBER SIX (6)**  
Proposed an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama to provide for the creation of a new judicial district, the 21st Judicial District, to be composed of the counties of Baldwin, Calhoun, Chilton, Coffee, Crenshaw, Dale, Etowah, Franklin, Fulton, Geneva, Limestone, Mobile, Wilcox and parts of Baldwin, Calhoun, Crenshaw, Dale, Etowah, Franklin, Fulton, Geneva, Limestone, Mobile and Wilcox counties. The amendment shall be subject to the approval of the Alabama Legislature. Proposed by Act No. 2016-106.

**PROPOSED STATUTE AMENDMENT NUMBER SEVEN (7)**  
Proposed an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama to provide for the creation of a new judicial district, the 22nd Judicial District, to be composed of the counties of Baldwin, Calhoun, Chilton, Coffee, Crenshaw, Dale, Etowah, Franklin, Fulton, Geneva, Limestone, Mobile, Wilcox and parts of Baldwin, Calhoun, Crenshaw, Dale, Etowah, Franklin, Fulton, Geneva, Limestone, Mobile and Wilcox counties. The amendment shall be subject to the approval of the Alabama Legislature. Proposed by Act No. 2016-107.

**PROPOSED STATUTE AMENDMENT NUMBER EIGHT (8)**  
Proposed an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama to provide for the creation of a new judicial district, the 23rd Judicial District, to be composed of the counties of Baldwin, Calhoun, Chilton, Coffee, Crenshaw, Dale, Etowah, Franklin, Fulton, Geneva, Limestone, Mobile, Wilcox and parts of Baldwin, Calhoun, Crenshaw, Dale, Etowah, Franklin, Fulton, Geneva, Limestone, Mobile and Wilcox counties. The amendment shall be subject to the approval of the Alabama Legislature. Proposed by Act No. 2016-108.

**PROPOSED STATUTE AMENDMENT NUMBER NINE (9)**  
Proposed an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama to provide for the creation of a new judicial district, the 24th Judicial District, to be composed of the counties of Baldwin, Calhoun, Chilton, Coffee, Crenshaw, Dale, Etowah, Franklin, Fulton, Geneva, Limestone, Mobile, Wilcox and parts of Baldwin, Calhoun, Crenshaw, Dale, Etowah, Franklin, Fulton, Geneva, Limestone, Mobile and Wilcox counties. The amendment shall be subject to the approval of the Alabama Legislature. Proposed by Act No. 2016-109.

**PROPOSED STATUTE AMENDMENT NUMBER TEN (10)**  
Proposed an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama to provide for the creation of a new judicial district, the 25th Judicial District, to be composed of the counties of Baldwin, Calhoun, Chilton, Coffee, Crenshaw, Dale, Etowah, Franklin, Fulton, Geneva, Limestone, Mobile, Wilcox and parts of Baldwin, Calhoun, Crenshaw, Dale, Etowah, Franklin, Fulton, Geneva, Limestone, Mobile and Wilcox counties. The amendment shall be subject to the approval of the Alabama Legislature. Proposed by Act No. 2016-110.

**PROPOSED STATUTE AMENDMENT NUMBER ELEVEN (11)**  
Proposed an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama to provide for the creation of a new judicial district, the 26th Judicial District, to be composed of the counties of Baldwin, Calhoun, Chilton, Coffee, Crenshaw, Dale, Etowah, Franklin, Fulton, Geneva, Limestone, Mobile, Wilcox and parts of Baldwin, Calhoun, Crenshaw, Dale, Etowah, Franklin, Fulton, Geneva, Limestone, Mobile and Wilcox counties. The amendment shall be subject to the approval of the Alabama Legislature. Proposed by Act No. 2016-111.

**PROPOSED STATUTE AMENDMENT NUMBER TWELVE (12)**  
Proposed an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama to provide for the creation of a new judicial district, the 27th Judicial District, to be composed of the counties of Baldwin, Calhoun, Chilton, Coffee, Crenshaw, Dale, Etowah, Franklin, Fulton, Geneva, Limestone, Mobile, Wilcox and parts of Baldwin, Calhoun, Crenshaw, Dale, Etowah, Franklin, Fulton, Geneva, Limestone, Mobile and Wilcox counties. The amendment shall be subject to the approval of the Alabama Legislature. Proposed by Act No. 2016-112.

**PROPOSED STATUTE AMENDMENT NUMBER THIRTEEN (13)**  
Proposed an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama to provide for the creation of a new judicial district, the 28th Judicial District, to be composed of the counties of Baldwin, Calhoun, Chilton, Coffee, Crenshaw, Dale, Etowah, Franklin, Fulton, Geneva, Limestone, Mobile, Wilcox and parts of Baldwin, Calhoun, Crenshaw, Dale, Etowah, Franklin, Fulton, Geneva, Limestone, Mobile and Wilcox counties. The amendment shall be subject to the approval of the Alabama Legislature. Proposed by Act No. 2016-113.

**PROPOSED STATUTE AMENDMENT NUMBER FOURTEEN (14)**  
Proposed an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama to provide for the creation of a new judicial district, the 29th Judicial District, to be composed of the counties of Baldwin, Calhoun, Chilton, Coffee, Crenshaw, Dale, Etowah, Franklin, Fulton, Geneva, Limestone, Mobile, Wilcox and parts of Baldwin, Calhoun, Crenshaw, Dale, Etowah, Franklin, Fulton, Geneva, Limestone, Mobile and Wilcox counties. The amendment shall be subject to the approval of the Alabama Legislature. Proposed by Act No. 2016-114.

**PROPOSED STATUTE AMENDMENT NUMBER FIFTEEN (15)**  
Proposed an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama to provide for the creation of a new judicial district, the 30th Judicial District, to be composed of the counties of Baldwin, Calhoun, Chilton, Coffee, Crenshaw, Dale, Etowah, Franklin, Fulton, Geneva, Limestone, Mobile, Wilcox and parts of Baldwin, Calhoun, Crenshaw, Dale, Etowah, Franklin, Fulton, Geneva, Limestone, Mobile and Wilcox counties. The amendment shall be subject to the approval of the Alabama Legislature. Proposed by Act No. 2016-115.

**FOR MEMBER, MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT NO. 1**  
(Vote for One)  
DAVID HARPER  
RICHIE
 **FOR MEMBER, MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT NO. 2** (Vote for One) R. TONY PERAIN RICHIE | **FOR MEMBER, MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT NO. 3** (Vote for One) RONDIA M. WALKER RICHIE | **FOR MEMBER, MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT NO. 4** (Vote for One) EGAN D. GARNETT RICHIE | **FOR MEMBER, MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT NO. 5** (Vote for One) LARRY L. BRYANT RICHIE | **FOR MEMBER, MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT NO. 6** (Vote for One) KELIA BENTLEY-SHEFF RICHIE |

This is a common ballot, however, some offices will appear only in certain precincts which will apply to your districts.

(As appeared in The Montgomery Advertiser)

I am a lifelong resident of Montgomery, Alabama, born October 13, 1944.

Current occupation - Founder and Co-Owner of The Alabama Gazette Publishing LLC. A 17 year old independent newspaper.

Political experience /years holding elected office - I have not held a public elected office. My newspaper experience certainly exposes me to the good, bad and ugly of politics. I believe we should never be mesmerized by the media. It should make us research and diligently seek truth.

Educational background - I am a product of the Montgomery County School System graduating from Sidney Lanier High School in 1963. I have done course work in nursing at Trenholm Technical School. But, my background is business. I have been educated in business ownership and development and have held a Brokers Real Estate License for over 30 years. (15 hours of Continuing Education every two years which offers real estate law, fair housing, ethics, and many issues that effect the public.)

What do you see as the biggest concern for your district? - District 4 contains 14 schools with approximately 10,000 students. (1/3 of the MPS student population.) These students are the future of our nation...our actual existence as a free people. Under achieving schools produce under achieving students. Just like when students can not learn when they are hungry, they also can not learn when they are afraid. My concerns include the safety and learning environment, as well as curriculums that help each student succeed. They deserve our best! They don't deserve politics!

What are your solutions to that issue? - I believe we need new eyes to see, not only critical situations in MPS, but to also see solutions. I believe we need to listen to principals, teachers, students and parents. They are who we serve. No one has ever lost an argument or been criticized because they listened too much. I will bring new ideas and a willingness to work together as well as making every dollar count. We will provide our schools with the best possible advantages for learning. I pledge to visit ALL schools in District 4 on a regular basis. If elected I understand that this is not a "position" - but a job!

Why would you say you are more qualified for the job than your opponent? - I am willing to work with everyone to make our schools better regardless of one's political affiliation. With my experience in business, I know how to make every dollar count and adhere to a budget. I know how to be innovative and creative. I will look for new ideas to make our System the best it can be. We need to prepare our children to be graduation-ready. They deserve our commitment! I will strive to make the System work for every child. CHANGE IS NECESSARY to bring positive results to MPS.

Simply "mark" your ballot for Loretta Grant. I need YOUR support!



PLEASE "MARK YOUR BALLOT" FOR

# LORETTA GRANT

District 4  
Montgomery County Board of Education

FOR MEMBER MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT NO. 4

MARY L. BRIERS  
Democrat

LORETTA G. GRANT  
Republican

My Heartbeat is for children!  
Change is Needed!

I don't pretend to have all the answers! But will PLEDGE to work with ALL board members to improve our Montgomery County Public School System for YOUR children's future.

Thank you for your  
on November 8th

VOTE

ONLY YOU THE PEOPLE CAN MAKE THE CHANGE!  
YOU DETERMINE YOUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE.

Pd. Political Adv. by Campaign to Elect Loretta Grant, P. O. Box 581, Montgomery, AL 36101

END OF BALLOT

CONTINUE VOTING ON BACK

# Community Lifestyles

We are proud to announce that The Alabama Gazette is also being delivered in parts of Crenshaw, Butler, Pike, Lee and Talladega Counties. If you cannot find the Gazette in your area, please check out our website: [www.alabamagazette.com](http://www.alabamagazette.com)



**Cities, Towns and Communities:**  
Pike Road, Cecil, Mathews, Pine Level, Grady, Ramer, Lapine, Snowdown, Pintlala, Hope Hull and Catoma

**Surrounding Town and Communities:**  
Autaugaville, Billingsley, Booth, Marbury, Pine Level, Independence, Statesville, Jones and Vida

**Surrounding Town and Communities:**  
Millbrook, Coosada, Elmore, Eclectic, Tallassee, Titus, Santuck, Slapout, Rockford, Deatsville, Kent, Red Hill, Weoka and Robinson Springs

**Surrounding Town and Communities:**  
Tallassee, Rockford, Deatsville, Kent and Red Hill

**Montgomery River Region**  
**Veterans Day Parade**  
Friday November 11, 2016  
11:00 A.M.  
Dexter Avenue

The 2016 Montgomery River Region Veterans Day Parade will begin at 11:00a.m. and proceed down Dexter Avenue. Following the parade, the Capital Sounds Band will perform a Veterans Day Concert inside the City Hall Auditorium beginning at 12 noon – Rain or Shine.

**Honoring All Who Served**

**2016 Capital City Christmas Parade  
Downtown Montgomery**

*Kick off the Season on December 16th with the Capital City Christmas Parade filled with oh-so-jolly floats and festivities. Celebrate this special season and gather with loved ones for a night that is sure to make all your Christmas dreams come true.*

*Parade Route will run from the Capitol Steps to Court Square Fountain.*

**Millbrook, Alabama**  
“An Old Fashioned Christmas”  
The Christmas Tree lighting will be December 1, 2016 on the Village Green and the Christmas Parade will be Saturday, December 3, 2016

**Tallassee, Alabama**  
Holiday Events  
*Tallassee Christmas Tree lighting*  
Friday, December 2, 2016 • 5:30 p.m.  
*Tallassee Christmas Parade*  
Saturday, December 3, 2016 • 10:00 a.m.

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# Montgomery County Law

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(334) 832-4980

Sheriff Derrick Cunningham



Chief Deputy Kevin J. Murphy

## Sheriff's Office APP

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



have downloaded the app, go through the follow steps to make sure your phone is set up to receive the push notifications:

- Go to your phone's setting icon
- Scroll down and click "Applications"
- Scroll down to "MCSO" or "Montgomery County Sheriff" OR
- Click "Application Manager", if it doesn't take you directly to the location
- Click "Notifications"
- Turn 'on' "Allow Notifications" and "Previews in pop-ups"

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



## Christmas Toy Drive

It's almost time for our annual Christmas Toy Drive at Walmart Chantilly. Each year we collect new, unwrapped toys for kids of all ages to



deliver to those in need so that no one goes without a gift this Christmas. Please check our website at [www.MontgomerySheriff.com](http://www.MontgomerySheriff.com) or contact Lisa Crenshaw at 334.832.1339 for more information.



## Angel Christmas Tree for Homeless Families

The Sheriff's Office will soon have a Christmas tree with angel ornaments for anyone to come by or call to pick an ornament for homeless children and adults. These ornaments will list wanted, needy items. We encourage anyone wanting to donate new, unwrapped items for women, men and children to do so. You can call Lisa at 832.1339 or Christie at 832.7106



to receive a printed ornament via email or fax or you can come by our Administrative Office located at 100 South Lawrence Street to pick out an ornament. Sheriff Cunningham and staff will deliver any donated items to homeless families in our area close to Christmas day. Last year, we had an overwhelming outpour of gratitude from the community; this year we are looking for even more generosity!



## Request for Christmas Assistance

If you are a Montgomery County family in need of assistance this Christmas, please contact Corporal Isaac Forbes at [IsaacForbes@mc-ala.org](mailto:IsaacForbes@mc-ala.org) or call Lisa

at 334.832.1339 or Christie at 832.7106 after November 1st to request to be on our assistance list.



## THANK YOU...

### Halloween Spooktacular



Thank you to everyone that made this year's Halloween Spooktacular a wonderful, family-friendly event! If you weren't able to attend, please plan to attend next Halloween!



## Employee Recognition

Each month, we recognize one of our own at the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office! This month, we recognize April Griffin in our Legal Services Division. April has been employed since 2009 and she is an asset to the agency. She has worked in Dispatch for 3 1/2 years, Warrants Division for 1 year and currently works diligently in our Legal Services Division where she processes legal documents including pistol permits. She is married to Officer Fred Griffin of Eclectic Police Department and they have one son, Leo.

**Great Job, April!**  
Thank you!



## Mental Illness

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

**Please see brochure on page 3B.**



Thank you for your continued support of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office!

## Pump Repairs

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Continued from the Montgomery County Law page

Montgomery County Sheriff's Office along with NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness)

**Mental Health & Counseling**

**EMERGENCY DIAL 911**

NAMI – ALABAMA : 334-396-4797  
 AL Dept. of Mental Health : 334-242-3454  
 Veterans Crisis Line : 800-273-8255  
 Council on Subst. Abuse : 334-262-1629

**Montgomery County**

Mental Health Services : 334-279-7830  
 Intellectual Disability : 334-288-1151  
 Substance Use Disorders : 334-269-2150

**Autauga County**

Mental Health Services : 334-365-2207  
 Intellectual Disability : 334-285-2608  
 Substance Use Disorders : 334-365-2207

**Elmore County**

Mental Health Services : 334-567-8408  
 Intellectual Disability : 334-285-2608  
 Substance Use Disorders : 334-799-7465

**Lowndes County**

Mental Health Services : 334-548-2578  
 Intellectual Disability : 334-548-2578  
 Substance Use Disorders : 334-548-2578

**CRISIS COMMUNICATIONS**

When trying to communicate with persons who have severe mental illnesses and are in crisis, certain tactics and attitudes seem to work best:

- Speak calmly and quietly
- Keep reasonable safe distance
- Remember your personal safety
- Get beyond strong language hurled at you
- Respond to rage with quiet reassurance
- Slow down the pace
- Be willing to repeat yourself
- Ask "Are you taking medication?"
- Listen carefully and don't interrupt
- Be respectful
- Do not challenge his or her delusions
- Make no sudden moves
- Do not try to hurry a resolution
- Be patient and take your time

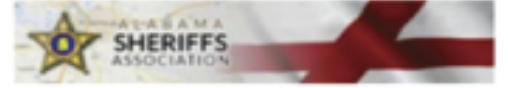
**Recognizing and Caring for Mental Illness**



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

This pamphlet is provided by the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office

Supported by:



**Resources**

Baptist South ER	334-286-2841
Crossbridge	334-286-3114
Jackson Hospital ER	334- 293-8022
Jackson Assess. Center	334-239-9106
Baptist East ER	334-244-8448
Catholic Social Services	334-288-8890
Family Guidance Center	334-270-4100
Family Sunshine Center	
Abused Victims	334-206-2100
24 Hour Crisis Line	334-263-0218
Lighthouse Counseling	334-286-5980
Airman/Family Ready Cntr	334-953-2353

**Probate Courts**

Montgomery County	334-832-7779
Autauga County	334-361-3728
Elmore County	334-567-1140
Lowndes County	334-548-2365

**Principles of Support**

1. We will see the individual first, not the illness.
2. We recognize that mental illnesses are medical illnesses that may have environment triggers.
3. We understand that mental illnesses are traumatic events.
4. We aim for better coping skills.
5. We find strength in sharing experiences.
6. We reject stigma and do not tolerate discrimination.
7. We won't judge anyone's pain as less than our own.
8. We forgive ourselves and reject guilt.
9. We Embrace humor as healthy.
10. We accept we cannot solve all problems.
11. We expect a better future in a realistic way.
12. We will never give up hope.

**NAMI Alabama provides support, education, and advocacy:**

- Family & Peer Support Groups
- Family-to-Family Classes
- In Our Own Voice Presentations
- Peer to Peer Classes
- Basic Classes (for primary caregivers of Children ages 13-18)
- Ending the Silence
- Parents & Teachers as Allies
- Outreach Programs (for Hispanics, African Americans, & Veterans)
- Crisis Intervention Team Training (Partnership with AUM)
- Resource Access
- Advocacy
- Annual NAMI Walk

**How You Can Help:**

Become a member. Take a class. Attend a presentation. Volunteer. Make a donation. Join us in advocacy!  
[www.namialabama.org](http://www.namialabama.org)

**Reflections**

By Michael J. Brooks

**ON PRAISING GOD**

A former Nashville studio musician spoke to a group of church leaders in our city recently. He told us a little about his time in "Music City" and how decisions are made about what music to produce and sell. He said other than Bill Gaither's Homecoming music, the industry is producing only the so-called "praise and worship" music now. This music focuses on the majesty of God and is normally addressed to God the father or another member of the holy trinity.

I say "so-called" praise and worship since the church has been praising God for 2000 years. Praise and worship is nothing new. What we have now is the praise of God in a modern package. Praise is important. Praise to God is a significant part of worship. The Bible is clear that "we enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise" (Psalm 100:4).

But it's true that we don't enter the gate and stay there! As we mature and grow we appropriate more of God's plan for our lives and seek to obey him in our world.

A pastor mentor told me years ago that a service of Christian worship should begin with a hymn of praise to God the father, and then move to other themes such as salvation, devotion, commitment and service. I've always held up this model as the best in my worship planning.

Jesus told a story about two brothers whose father

asked them to work in the field. One brother agreed, but didn't go. The second brother said "no," but then relented and went to work. Jesus asked which of the two obeyed their father. We know it was the initially-reluctant worker who went to the field who was obedient (Matthew 21: 28-31). This son is the model for Christian conduct in a world of need. We enter God's presence through praise, but then he commands us to get to work! There's much to be done in God's kingdom.

Robert Schuller before his death explained one reason he built a glass cathedral for worship. He said he wanted worshippers to look outside and see the world and realize they had a mission. "The church has hidden behind stained glass for too long," he insisted.

Other churches underscore the same thought with signs posted in their parking lot: "You're entering the mission field." Church members see these signs when they drive away from the worship place and understand everyone has a personal summons to serve.

Praise and worship isn't a substitute for service. But praise goes hand-in-glove with service. In fact, we may praise God best while we serve others in our world, exalting the name of the one who sent us.

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

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*We at The Alabama Gazette  
 wish you a Blessed and  
 Happy Thanksgiving!*

AUTAUGA COUNTY



# Autauga County Law

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:  
[www.ataugasheriff.org](http://www.ataugasheriff.org)

162 W 4th St, Prattville, AL  
(334) 361-2500



Sheriff Joe Sedinger

## National Night Out

The Autauga County Sheriff's office participated in **National Night Out** that was held on Tuesday October 4, 2016. It was a great night to meet and interact with the public.



## The Autauga County Fair was a great success!

The Sheriff Office also had a booth set up at the Autauga County Fair that was held October 11 – October 15, 2016.

We enjoyed everyone that stopped by to talk, or get a photo made with McGruff the Crime Dog or Eddie Eagle.



## Medac, PC

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[www.Medac4u.com](http://www.Medac4u.com)



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

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## Veterans Day 2016 Friday, November 11, 2016

### November 6-12 Declared Military Appreciation Week in Prattville

In recognition of their selfless acts of heroism, dedication, and sacrifice to the safety, health and well being of our nation, Mayor Bill Gillespie, Jr. has declared November 6th-12th to be Military Appreciation Week in Prattville.

On Thursday, November 10th, elected and military officials within the River Region will hold a joint proclamation-signing event honoring our military during this special week. That event will be held in the Boyd Auditorium at Officer Training School at Maxwell Air Force Base at 9:30 a.m.

The Prattville Area Chamber of Commerce and its Military Affairs Committee are supporting a variety of events and area merchants are offering specials and discounts. A list of events and specific merchant discounts are available on their website, [www.prattvillechamber.com](http://www.prattvillechamber.com).

"Military members and their families have been great Partners of Prattville," said Mayor Bill Gillespie, Jr. "These military service men and women are much more than protectors of our freedoms. They contribute significantly to our quality of life and the economic health of our community. It is a privilege to work with other officials in honoring our local active duty military members, retirees, reserve forces, National Guard forces, and their families, not only during this week, but every day of the year."

The City of Prattville will hang a banner in front of City Hall in honor of this event and we encourage all residents of Prattville to join us in thanking our military for their service and contribution to our lives and community.

### City of Prattville Will Honor Veterans on November 11th

The City of Prattville will join the American Legion Post 122, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1349, in sponsoring a wreath-laying ceremony at the Autauga County Courthouse at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, November 11, 2016 to officially mark Veterans Day.

The eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month has a significant meaning," stated Mayor Bill Gillespie, Jr. "It means little to some, very much to others. The 3 elevens are a mental marker to help us remember November 11, 1918, the end of the war to end all wars. This is a time honored ceremony that other officials will follow just as I have in an effort to remind us of the Armistice of 1918 and the sacrifices paid by our veterans, past and present, to keep this nation free. It is our duty to REMEMBER them."

Mayor Gillespie extends an invitation to the public to attend this important event.

#### Adjusted Sanitation Schedule

City offices will be closed on Friday, November 11th. No garbage or trash will be collected on this day and the City Recycling Center will be closed. Thursday and Friday routes will be collected on Thursday, November 10th.

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



### Agriculture: Stewards of a Healthy Planet

Make your plans to attend the  
Prattville Area Chamber of Commerce  
34th Annual Autauga County

### Farm City Banquet

Steak Dinner by Karen Tucker Catering

**Thursday, November 17, 2016**

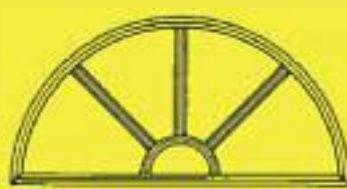
Doster Center  
424 Doster Road  
Prattville, Alabama

Social Hour at 6:00 p.m.  
Dinner at 6:30 p.m.  
Casual Attire

**Tickets in Advance- \$20**  
**Tickets at the Door- \$25**

Reserve your ticket online at  
[www.prattvillechamber.com](http://www.prattvillechamber.com)

Questions? Contact the  
Prattville Area Chamber of Commerce  
at 334-365-7392 or  
[mcolvert@prattvillechamber.com](mailto:mcolvert@prattvillechamber.com)



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#### 151 SYCAMORE

Five acres in Prattville city limits in cul-de-sac, only 5 mins. from I-65 & 20 mins. to downtown Montgomery & Maxwell AFB. You enter into a wide foyer then into formal living room & a large dining room. The cozy den has a wood-burning fireplace w/brick hearth all the way across one wall. The kitchen has been updated w/granite countertops & stainless steel drop-in stove, a granite island that overlooks the private backyard. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths & the master bath is wrap-around with double vanities. On the opposite end of the house there is an apartment. It has its own kitchen & bath, bedroom and sitting area. There is too much to mention and a lot more to see!



#### 139 SCOTT LANE

Beautiful home with all the extras. Large rooms, ceramic tile, cherry stained cabinetry, crown molding, high ceilings with ceiling fans. Plenty of closets & storage. Enjoy the Florida room & deck overlooking the backyard which is a delight when spring & summer rolls around with all the beautiful flowers and shrubs. New price! Bring your clients!



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allegiance  
to the flag  
of the  
United States of  
America and to  
the  
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for which it  
stands,  
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under God  
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# Southern Cuisine

## Chef

### David Spooner Retired Chef

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

*Senior Warden,  
St. Paul's Episcopal  
Church, Lowndesboro*

*Chairman,  
Board of Registrars,  
Lowndes County*

I believe that Thanksgiving is one of the last bastions of family traditions in this country. A celebration when the different generations of a family gather for a meal that has been part of the landscape of America since the Pilgrims. A time to give thanks for the bounty that has been bestowed on use and a time to strengthen the ties that bind a family together. The stories, adventures, mishaps, and good fortune that are shared and retold every year. And this bond in some families is so strong that it would be unthinkable that one would suggest that something new be introduced into the gathering, except for grandchildren.

The hardest part of this tradition to change is what's for Thanksgiving dinner. When you go to the grocery store, when you watch TV, read magazines and read food blogs on the internet, you are bombarded with ideas and ways to prepare and serve the perfect Thanksgiving dinner. The problem is that they mostly push the same thing; the same food, the same preparation and the same presentation. Roasted turkey, giblet gravy, baked sweet potatoes with melted marshmallows, green bean casserole with fried onions, a congealed salad or ambrosia or both, some form of cranberry sauce and sometimes there isn't a cranberry in it. Mashed potatoes and cornbread dressing for the giblet gravy and rolls.

Before everyone starts thinking I'm blasphemous for bad mouthing the traditional Thanksgiving dinner let me say that I enjoy Thanksgiving dinner. I have eaten beautiful, moist tender turkey, giblet gravy that was silky smooth and chocked full of flavorful bits of, well, giblets along with pies and cakes that would win a Blue Ribbon at any county fair. Meals where I didn't want to stop eating even though I had been eating for over an hour and loosened my belt two notches. And then while watching the Thanksgiving football games, I was ready for more. And the next day I invented ways of putting all that goodness between two slices of bread and eat some more. When I get through with a chicken or turkey carcass, it resembles the dinosaur bones on display at a museum. And I appreciate the hard work it takes to assemble a meal like this, when your kitchen isn't designed for the easy preparation of a turkey, dressing, starches, vegetables, desserts, appetizers, drinks and whatever else you typically serve at Thanksgiving. And to do it in one oven, with everyone coming into the kitchen to help and your kitchen is barely large enough for you. You are asked the same question about the meal from everyone walking through and you answer the same question everytime. If you do have some help, it is still like herding cats. The helpers don't know where everything is and don't know if you already put salt in the beans and don't know Aunt Sally's heirloom serving platter from the platter someone left at your house at a Super Bowl party. Even though it says Go Saints on it.

Our family always celebrated Thanksgiving but the same food was not always served. The customary fare for the holiday was not always the tradition in my family as I was growing up. Living in Portugal, Germany, Turkey and Pakistan and spending many vacations in the British Isles and other parts of Europe, had a large influence on the meals that we ate at home. I have always said that you should buy and eat locally, but they don't raise turkeys in Pakistan and don't eat sweet potatoes in Turkey. But Pakistan had good lamb and Turkey had Baklava. So I was introduced to a variety of foods as I was growing up and our family would still enjoy some of the dishes from other countries even when we were "back in the States" And we would incorporate some of those dishes into our Thanksgiving meal.

The most notable variation from the traditional Thanksgiving dinner was the meat. Roasted Pork, Ham and even Lamb were in the rotation of meats served but we held on to the desire for mash potatoes and gravy with the meals. The cranberry sauce was replaced with either mint jelly for the lamb or baked pineapple rings on the ham. A good German mustard is a perfect match with the pork. We still had the vegetables and fruit with the meal, just different fruits and vegetables. Blood oranges from Crete were a welcomed change.

I am not going to tell you to completely change your Thanksgiving dinner with a menu you have not tried before. You have all next year to try alternative menu items on your family to see if they will be hits. But in the November 2016 issue of SOUTHERN LIVING, there are different recipes for sides and even turkey and different ideas for sweet potatoes that you should try. Their section on pies is to die for. Even if you only try one new recipe, it will be worth it.

I'm going to add my two cents to the recipe mix and pick some simple but not cosmic changing recipes that can be first steps in updating a traditional Thanksgiving meal.

First will be a Cranberry Sauce. No canned gelatinous goo taken from a store shelf. This time it will be fresh cranberries. The yield for this recipe is about one cup, so you may need to at least double the recipe, depending on how much cranberry sauce you served in the past.

## CRANBERRY SAUCE

### INGREDIENTS

- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <b>1 cup fresh cranberries, about a quarter of a pound</b> | <b>1/4 cup water</b>              |
| <b>1 tablespoon lemon zest</b>                             | <b>Pinch of salt</b>              |
| <b>2 tablespoons honey</b>                                 | <b>1 1-inch stick of cinnamon</b> |

### METHOD

- Over medium heat, add cranberries, water, and honey and lemon zest to a sauce pan.
- Bring to a boil uncovered for about 5 minutes. The cranberries will start to pop open, mush with a spoon any cranberry that has not popped.
- Add pinch of salt and stir until thickened, remove from heat and remove cinnamon stick.
- Save until service if made same day, or keep in refrigerator and take out and let come to room temperature before service. It's bright and tasty and fresh.

Yield: one cup

*Note:* depending on freshness of cranberries, water amount may be adjusted depending on how thick of a sauce you want. Same goes with the honey and sweetness.

*A variation on this recipe is to omit the cinnamon stick and stir in one teaspoon of Dijon mustard.*

The sweet potato casserole can be updated by only adding one additional ingredient: apples. Of course it does not use canned sweet potatoes in heavy syrup and please no marshmallows on top. This recipe can easily be doubled and is easy to make. Put everything in a bowl, mix and pour into baking dish. If you were doing this for a hotel banquet, you would fan alternating slices of potato and apple in rows in the baking dish.



## LINCOLN SWEET POTATOES WITH APPLES

### INGREDIENTS

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>3 large sweet potatoes, peeled, thinly sliced</b>                          | <b>1/4 cup dark brown sugar, packed</b>         |
| <b>3 medium apples, cored and thinly sliced (honey crisp or granny smith)</b> | <b>1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice</b>             |
| <b>1 medium orange, juice and zest only</b>                                   | <b>1/4 cup pecans pieces or chopped walnuts</b> |
|   | <b>Honey as desired</b>                         |

### METHOD

- Preheat oven to 375°F.
- In a large bowl, toss the sweet potatoes, apple slices, orange zest and juice, brown sugar, and pumpkin pie spice together.
- Spoon the mix into a 7x12 inch baking dish.
- Cover baking dish with foil and bake for 40 to 45 minutes.
- Remove foil and sprinkle with pecans and drizzle with honey.
- Bake about 10 minutes more or until the pecans begin to brown. Serve immediately.

If you want to throw caution to the wind, try a small drizzle of molasses over the potatoes and apples.

If you want to throw caution to the wind, drizzle a couple of small streams of molasses over the potatoes and apples.

## COCKTAIL TRASH

### INGREDIENTS

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>1/2 cup butter</b>                       | <b>1 tablespoon seasoned salt</b>  |
| <b>1/2 cup bacon drippings (yes, bacon)</b> | <b>Dash or two or three of hot sauce</b>                                   |
| <b>2 teaspoons garlic powder</b>            | <b>Cheerios, Wheat Chex, Rice Chex, Bugles, nuts, pretzel sticks, etc.</b> |
| <b>1 tablespoon chili powder</b>            | <b>Amounts varied for taste.</b>   |

### METHOD

- Heat butter, drippings and spices in small sauce pan.
- When butter is melted, slowly pour over other ingredients in a large bowl and stir to mix.
- Change to taste of the snack by using the drippings from hickory or apple wood smoked bacon, or even peppered and jalapeno flavored bacon.
- Spread out on a sheet pan and bake at 200 degrees for about an hour.
- Use a spatula to turn the mix a couple of times to even the toasting of the mix.
- Remove from oven when toasty and let cool on sheet pan before putting in an airtight container to maintain freshness.

While the family is waiting for everyone to show up and waiting for the meal to be ready, some munchies are in order. As you stand around with nothing to do and you know nothing about hunting or football, having your mouth full excuses you from carrying on any conversations. So you can stand by the bowl of COCKTAIL TRASH and eat your heart out. This recipe came from my mother, and is written on a browned index card and written in pencil. Maybe written in the early 70's. Very basic recipe and I don't think you can mess this up.

Three menu items that will be part of the conversations at next year's Thanksgiving dinner. Hopefully a good conversation. Remember every family has at least one weird relative. If you don't know who that is, it's probably you.



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**BEEF DAY AT THE FARMER'S MARKET HONORS MONTGOMERY PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL**

Commissioner of Agriculture John McMillan and the Alabama Cattlemen's Association honored Montgomery Department of Public Safety personnel at Beef Day at the Farmer's Market in Montgomery on Thursday, Oct. 27 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.



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*If you have a business... don't miss advertising in the next issue!*

# Home Town Community News



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

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

Patricia Killough

## November Birthdays



- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 Barbie O'Neal<br>Kelei Lewis<br>Jimmie Mims<br>Bobbie Parker   | 15 Larry Browder<br>Mary Elizabeth Dean<br>Mae H. Poole<br>Katherine Huro<br>Debbie Johnson<br>Heather Killough  |
| 2 Al Flanary<br>Bill Grubs<br>Mary Ellis Killough (8th)<br>Mike Lane   | 16 Thomas Joseph Boyd<br>Alton Haraway   |
| 3 Larry Chambers<br>Doug Sellers   | 17 Dan Fowler<br>Bill Harper<br>Mary Holman<br>Cara Stafford   |
| 4 Jo Guthrie (90th)<br>Patrick Sikes (6th)   | 18 Billy Jack Beck<br>Doug Cole  |
| 5 Jeremy Brown<br>Mike Davis<br>Margaret Ann Morgan  | 19 Laird Bone<br>Mattie Sherman  |
| 6 Bella Boyd<br>Faye Deal<br>Teresa Seevers  | 20 Sandy Garner<br>Sharon Harper<br>Rich Takacs  |
| 7 Carol Harrison<br>Debbie Green<br>Jane Camille Robinson<br>Helen Struthers<br>Paula Barker                                     | 21 James Miller<br>22 Annette Banks<br>Randy Bishop<br>Amy Grubbs<br>Lee Hartley<br>Tommy Jones<br>Virginia Shearin<br>Locke White<br>Charles Wilkerson<br>Charles Winsett                                     |
| 8 Mildred Kendrick (92nd)<br>Trey Mainor<br>Gerry Williams   | 23 Joyce Mims<br>Peggy Cole<br>Brittany Hord   |
| 9 Kristen Butler<br>Carl McDevitt<br>John Porterfield<br>Jamalyn Smith<br>Patrice Wasden   | 24 Helen Cain<br>Howard Duncan<br>Donald McClain<br>Pearl McClain<br>Patricia Potts<br>Jerry Shadrick<br>Debbie Whitehouse   |
| 10 Frances Dover<br>Gayle Harper<br>Myra Mills<br>Harlan Ratliff<br>Manly Swearingen   | 25 Colonel Durden<br>Bonnie Morris   |
| 11 Amanda Anderson<br>Robert Sandifer  | 26 Faye Spivey<br>27 Annabelle O'Neal (6th)<br>Vaughn Lowery<br>Jessika Wallace  |
| 12 Clyde Alison<br>Faye Best<br>Jo Hurley<br>John Messick<br>Warren Miller<br>Mary Talley<br>Tom Vocino<br>LeeAnn Willams (35th) | 28 Marilyn Oliver<br>Betty Spivey<br>29 Weston Browder<br>Mavis Kratzer<br>30 Brittany Abbott<br>Kaitlin Castleberry<br>Drew Meadows (7th)<br>Jackie Moseley<br>Boyd Partridge<br>Jim Tinney<br>Earle Williams |
| 13 Sarah Bone<br>Jenelle Jones<br>Norman Rahn<br>Marie Penn  |  |
| 14 Shawn Adams<br>Kenneth Banks<br>Houston Harris<br>Walker Meadows<br>Xan Morrows<br>Spears Rhodes                              |  |

## Bridal Shower Honors Mollie Higgins



L-R: Patti Moseley, Paige Stringer, Mollie Higgins (bride-elect), and Patrice Wasden

Mollie Higgins was honored with a beautiful bridal shower on Sunday October 9, 2016 at the home of her aunt Paige Stringer, in Pike Road, AL. The event was given by aunts Paige, Patrice and Patti. Food was elegantly prepared and enjoyed by all the many guests. Mollie is the bride-elect of Taylor Watson. A December wedding is planned.

## Future Scientists



L-R: Cousins Daniel Selvage, Mason Williams and Madison Williams

They attended "Family Science Night" at Alabama Christian Academy on Tuesday, October 25th. They had an opportunity to tour different science projects in each classroom to explore new ideas. They even dressed as "doctors of science" to add authenticity to the experience.

## Woodland Disaster Relief



L-R: Bill Guffin, Jesse Guffin, John Killough, Joanna Driver, Susan Terrell and Mack Terrell

Woodland United Methodist Church sent a team to Baton Rouge, LA to help victims of the recent flooding. They left on October 9th and returned on October 13th. They were able to complete task assigned to them in two different houses. The First United Methodist Church of Baton Rouge was the host church for one of the many church organizations helping with all the cleanup.

## Happy Anniversary

- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 2 Harmon & Bobbie Nell Williams (61st) | Todd & Sandy Rogers (13th)        |
| 5 Brad & Julie Echols                  | 16 Alan & Debra Moore             |
| 7 Jud & Jane Huett (57th)              | Stephen & Joyce Turnipseed        |
| Brian & Jennifer Rushing (7th)         | 17 Clyde & Audrey Alison (37th)   |
| 9 Don & Tanya Cooley                   | Chip & Tricia Norris              |
| Tommy & Patti Maihan (31st)            | 18 Burks & Charlotte Crane (21st) |
| 10 Tanner & Shannon Grant              | 21 Doug & Cindy Young             |
| Manly & Kris Swearingen                | Gary & Martha French (42nd)       |
| Tom & Jayne Ward                       | 24 Gary & Debbie Partridge        |
| 14 Jim & Frances Ard                   | 27 Mike & Wanda Horsley           |
| 12 Sonny & Linda Turner (50th)         | 28 Andre & Beverly Stephens       |

### Belated Anniversary...

Janice and Chuck Cole - Celebrated their 25th Anniversary October 27, 2016

## Sympathy to the families of...

- Kirk, Rufus Charles (76) .....died September 27, 2016  
 Snider, Sue Ann (83) .....died September 29, 2016  
 Johnson, Dr. Alex Martin (72) .....died October 1, 2016  
 Motisi, Peter J. (93) .....died October 1, 2016  
 Roughton, Janet Beasley (62) .....died October 2, 2016  
 Baxley, Lucy (Former Lt. Governor) (78).....died October 14, 2016  
 Dorsey Sr., Nelon Cecil (90) .....died October 14, 2016  
 Ashmore Sr., Minuard H. (81).....died October 16, 2016  
 Lackey, Drue Hiriam "Chief" (Former MPD Chief) (90).....died October 16, 2016  
 Merritt, Elaine (52).....died October 22, 2016  
 Hartley, Terrell S. (103) .....died October 27, 2016

Send us your birthdays and anniversaries. We will be happy to include them in the Alabama Gazette.

If you see a birthday person or anniversary that needs to come off these list, please contact us at 334-356-6700 or email us at [alabamagazette@gmail.com](mailto:alabamagazette@gmail.com)

# TODAY'S WOMAN

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

## Trisston's Tidbits...

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

### "Putting the "Thanks" in Thanksgiving"

With Thanksgiving right around the corner, I thought I'd share a real thanks-giving story that I recently heard with you...

An old pastor and his wife invited a new young couple in the church over for Thanksgiving dinner. As the couple entered the home, they smelled the wonderful turkey and all the trimmings in the kitchen. As the four made their way to the dining room table, there was a great feast before them!

But as the young wife scanned the table, she noticed something out of place. Among the turkey, dressing, casseroles, and pies were three Chinese takeout cartons and a plate of egg rolls!

"I know what you're thinking," the old pastor said. "Why is there Chinese takeout on the table?"

"You see," he continued, "23 years ago on Thanksgiving Day, my dear wife burned the turkey and started a fire in our kitchen! In fact, our entire kitchen nearly caught fire and the whole Thanksgiving meal was charred black!"

"So after the fire department left," he chuckled, "we ordered Chinese takeout and that was our Thanksgiving meal! And every year since, we've had Chinese takeout as a part of our meal to remind us to be thankful for what we have!"

**Psalms 118:1 reminds us, "Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!"**

This year, I hope Thanksgiving isn't just a holiday for you. It should be a way of life for every Christian. We serve a wonderful God who sent his Son to die for you. So as you continue to reflect on what you are thankful for this year, remember God's blessings in your life!

**Happy Thanksgiving and Many Blessings!**



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Judge Peggy Givhan

## Southern Gardening Potpourri for November

by Peggy Givhan

We are now more than a month into Fall and one of the busiest times of the year. Fall reminds me of family and friends with loads of fellowship thrown in. Thanksgiving is right around the corner. It is a time that family gathers at my farm in Dallas County for a wonderful reunion with between 17 and 20 souls, and all ages represented from one year old to

those retired. It is a cherished time for outdoor treasure hunts, croquet tournaments, and just sitting around a fire pit under twinkling stars, catching up on what has been and what is yet to come. It is true that the vibrant colored leaves of the sumac, oaks, popcorn trees, crepe myrtle and cedar appear more vivid. Hurrah for fall.

In the garden, I am cutting back spent perennials, pulling out the last of the annuals, and of course, weeding. The day time temperatures are warm enough whereby we can still use Round-up. I use this chemical very judiciously and apply it mostly to grass that has slipped in under some annuals. When using any type chemical or spray, please cover your face with a mask. These can be bought in lots of 3 to 5 in a pack, and are not expensive. Even though I wear glasses, your eyes need extra protection. So I put on clear goggles over the glasses so that my eyes are protected in case a breeze comes along sending the spray in my direction. Be sure to wash your hands or other exposed skin which may have had contact with the chemical. Also I learned this reminder the hard way; spray in front of your body so that you do not step into the chemical. Otherwise, you will see dead grass in the shape of foot prints a week later.

I was reading in a gardening book published in the 1920's regarding easy propagation deciduous shrubs. I had had good luck over the years of rooting hydrangeas by taking a lower branch, mounding dirt over the stem, and then setting a brick on top of the stem. By spring, I had many rooted babies. The trick is to choose some newer growth which comes off of mature stems. Anyway, this type of multiplying works with forsythia, crabapple, flowering quince, figs, spirea, and other shrubs which lose their leaves in fall and winter.

### PLANT OF THE MONTH --BEAUTY BERRY - *Callicarpa americana*

In the fall of the year, this old southern shrub puts on a show of a lifetime with clusters of golf ball size fuchsia-magenta berries. Sometimes they are referred to as French mulberry or Spanish mulberry. Being native to the South, they are abundant in woodlands and open fields where forests have been cut. These berry clusters form at the joints of their lime green leaves which make for a stunning

sight. The time to prune the shrub is mid winter and pruning produces a much thicker shrub. Medium sized, or about 6 feet tall, it appears stately with long arching branches. Beauty Berry will thrive in any soil, and even does well in boggy areas. Butterflies and bees are attracted to this shrub for nectar and pollen.



BEAUTY BERRY-  
*Callicarpa americana*

Although Beauty Berry are not readily available in most nursery outlets, one can go on line. Also, if you own this shrub, cuttings are easy to root. In reading about this plant, I found out that the Native Americans ate the berries, and used them in a recipe called "pemmican", which is a combination of berries, dried meat, nuts and melted fat. Perhaps this is a mystery addition to the Thanksgiving feast.

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING AND GOOD GARDENING.**



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