

Alabama sheriff impeached for corruption, Neglect of Duty

By Mike Cason



Sumter County Sheriff Tyrone Clark Sr.

The Alabama Supreme Court today impeached Sumter County Sheriff Tyrone Clark Sr., removing him from office for willful neglect of duty and corruption in office.

The eight justices unanimously found Clark guilty on the two charges after a trial that started Monday.

Gov. Robert Bentley will appoint his replacement.

Clark allowed an inmate with an extensive record of offenses to leave the jail without supervision, bring contraband into the jail and have sex with female visitors who were

not searched or monitored, according to a report by Attorney General Luther Strange's office, which prosecuted Clark.

Chad Morgan, an attorney for Clark, said they were disappointed in the verdict and were exploring their options.

"Our client believes it was a manifestation of dirty politics," Morgan said.

Under the charge of willful neglect of duty, the justices found that Clark:

Made inmate Rodney Coats a trusty and allowed him to move freely about the jail and administrative building and sometimes leave the jail without law

enforcement oversight even though he was charged with trafficking cocaine and methamphetamine and other charges and had a total bond of \$675,000.

Allowed Coats to bring controlled substances, cell phones and cigarettes into the jail and protected Coats from searches.

Allowed Coats to have access to firearms.

Allowed inmate Ronald James, who was serving a 10-year split sentence for burglary, to leave the jail for extended periods of time, endangering the safety of his victim and other residents.

Failed to arrest or apprehend inmate James Markell Bell after Bell escaped from jail.

Gave Coats access to an unsecured room in the administration building where he had sex with female visitors who were not searched, and the entrance to the room was not monitored.

Provided an environment in the administration building that allowed Coats to engage in human



Attorney General Luther Strange stands with prosecutors and investigators involved in the impeachment of Sumter County Sheriff Tyrone Clark Sr. on Wednesday outside the state judicial building.

trafficking.

Under the charge of corruption in office, justices found that Clark:

Used his office to benefit himself by having inmates Coats and Glenn Brown perform work at his home, among other things.

Operated an undocumented work release program through which he

released inmates to work and received a portion of their wages.

Attempted to use his office to coerce a female employee to have sex with him.

Clark has denied any wrongdoing and has not been charged criminally.

Sumter County District Attorney Greg Griggers,

who brought the case to the attorney general's office, was asked about possible criminal charges.

"That's going to be something that's going to be ongoing," Griggers said. "In fairness to Tyrone Clark I don't think it would be appropriate for me to comment at this time."

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Race track owner Milton McGregor declines to weigh in on lottery

By Mike Cason

The longtime owner of greyhound race tracks in Jefferson and Macon counties declined to publicly weigh in on Gov. Robert Bentley's plans to propose a state lottery.

Milton McGregor, who owns the Birmingham Race Course and VictoryLand, declined a request to be interviewed about the lottery.

"Mr. McGregor is

focused on working toward the reopening of VictoryLand and getting people of Macon County and beyond back on the job," spokesman Mike Perrin said. "He will have no comment at this time on any other issue."

McGregor has talked about plans to reopen VictoryLand for more than a year.

Authorities led by

Attorney General Luther Strange's office seized 1,615 electronic gambling machines and \$263,000 from VictoryLand in 2013.

A Montgomery County judge ruled against the state's forfeiture lawsuit last year, but the state Supreme Court overturned that ruling in April.

Even after the Supreme Court ruling, McGregor said he planned to open by



James Anderson, center, attorney for Macon County Sheriff Andre Brunson, answers a question during a press conference at VictoryLand casino in April. From left are Andy Hornsby, VictoryLand owner Milton McGregor, Macon County Probate Judge Al Menefee and Brunson.

early summer and hire 1,000 people.

VictoryLand has remained open for wagering on simulcast horse racing and greyhound racing.

The Poarch Band of Creek Indians operates electronic gambling machine casinos in

Atmore, Wetumpka and Montgomery.

Robert McGhee, chief government affairs officer for the tribe, issued a state today.

"We support the governor's efforts to find a solution to the budget crisis, and we are committed to doing our part to help,"

McGhee said.

"We believe a lottery that is highly regulated can play a role in easing the shortfall, but there are a myriad of considerations and details that must be addressed before any such plan can be structured and implemented."

God Bless America & Hillary Clinton

First Female Nominated To become President of the United States of America

By Hamm



Last week at its National Convention the Democratic Party unanimously selected Hillary Clinton to become the first female to be honored, to run as president of the United States. It was a moving moment in my life to have witness such a moment of joyfulness and respect giving to a

woman who deserved it for her many years of working to improve human progress in the United States and the world. I'm elated!

My thoughts tracked back the many years of living a life devoid of strong female leadership in our nation, and have always felt that a female life born to provide

growth of our human existence through child bearing, why not include leadership.

The thought of the nine months of pregnancy as being one of the most trying times in a female's life...while patiently carrying and suffering the birth of a human being is an (Continued on page 3A)

Virginia business fires 2 employees for denying service to police officer

By Jonece Starr Dunigan

An Alexandria, Virginia business fired two employees who denied service to a uniformed police officer earlier this week, the Washington Post reported.

Noodles and Company has apologized to the Alexandria police officer who said she heard a cook tell a cashier that she will not prepare food for an officer on Monday.

Both the employees laughed as the officer walked out the door, according to Alexandria police spokeswoman Crystal Nosal.

Company officials said the former employees' actions do not reflect the business as a whole.

Noodles & Company Discrimination of any kind is never tolerated at Noodles & Company. After completing a thor-

ough investigation into the allegations brought to us by a police officer who visited our Alexandria, VA location, we have concluded the two team members in question acted inappropriately and we immediately terminated their employment.

The views and actions of these individuals are in no way reflective of the Company or team at our Alexandria location.