

# Opinions

Southern Standard

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## Standard online reader survey



With President Trump getting to appoint another Supreme Court justice, there's talk major change could be in store.

**Q: Would you like Roe v. Wade to be overturned to make abortion illegal?**

<b>YES</b>	46 percent
<b>NO</b>	54 percent

ART BY 2018 ANDREWS McMEEL SYNDICATE



## EDITORIAL

## Speak up and vote

For local candidates running for county government positions, what's been an exhaustive election season is approaching its final chapter.

By all accounts, the candidates seem ready for the campaigning to end and for decisions to be reached in deciding who fills crucial Warren County offices.

Voting is so easy and so convenient, there's no reason, short of a major medical event, for a registered voter not to cast their ballot.

If we want to have local leaders who are representative of our community and our views, we need to have residents show up to vote.

This election, perhaps more than any other in recent memory, shows the importance of going to the polls to have your voice heard. The six-man race for sheriff is a perfect example.

Warren County is blessed to have six quality candidates running for sheriff, all rich in law enforcement experience ranging from 13 years to 40 years. The *Standard* is confident in saying that whomever is elected sheriff will do a fine job in serving and protecting Warren County.

But if this lengthy campaign season has shown us anything, it's that these candidates are

unique in their own ways and each will operate a little differently than the others.

If you want to see a candidate elected who best represents your values, it's your civic duty as an American to vote for that person. Cast your ballot and help determine the direction our county takes.

The race for county executive is much the same. There are solid choices on the ballot, but very different choices in terms of philosophy and background. If you want the candidate who best represents your views to be in office, it's going to take votes.

Don't sit on the sideline. Be part of the process.

Talking about who you want to see elected at the coffee shop is fine for passing time, but it doesn't achieve results. One of the great ways each and every one of us can impact our community is by voting.

Take a few minutes to utilize the early voting option taking place now until July 28. Hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday thru Friday and 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday.

Or, if you prefer, wait and let your voice be heard on Election Day, Aug. 2.

Voting is our chance to speak up as a constituency. The *Standard* encourages everyone to exercise that right.

## Future leaders must do better

Stick with me for a moment while I make what may at first seem an odd coupling of recent events.

I have been captivated by the amazing story of the cave divers who, against all the odds, saved the young Thai boys. But just as I was luxuriating in this too-rare example of the goodness of man, I switched to the news of our president's behavior preceding his trip to Europe and Russia.

And I wondered, "What has happened to us?"

Think of the uninterrupted darkness of those deep caves in northern Thailand and of battling the black currents, razor-sharp rocks and mind-maps of those netherworlds, armed mainly with your courage, your hope and, above all, your discipline.

Then think about the situation here. Top officials go in and out of this administration like sloppy subway riders punching their tickets. The White House is in shambles, with at least one of the remaining top people, Gen. John Kelly, apparently also on his way out. Meanwhile, the president readies himself for a journey that is so important it may well decide America's position in the world, armed only with tweets insulting NATO (yet again) and love notes to Vladimir Putin.

What behavior could possibly be less like the composed integrity of those cave divers? Instead of the classically honorable and noble acts of those men, we see our own leaders acting out a reality show without any real accomplishments, a drunken bachelor party where the jokes get coarser and coarser but, curiously enough, there isn't any alcohol.

Look first at the NATO visit.

President Trump shows clearly by his words that he hates NATO — hates those useless, free-loading "schmucks" (oh, sorry, that's what he calls us!).

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said recently, "It is not written in stone that the transatlantic bond will survive forever." The Pentagon is making a cost analysis of the 35,000 American troops based in Germany, evoking concern the president intends to withdraw them, leaving Central Europe and the Baltics open to Russian mischief and/or aggression.

President Trump then moves on to Britain for dinner with Prime Minister Theresa May and tea with Queen Elizabeth, golfing in Scotland and finally to the yearned-for romantic rendezvous with Vladimir Putin.

Now, what could that one-on-one be about? But any facts that come out of the meeting are, in the long run, less important than the mood — that President Trump will undoubtedly side up to Putin, obviously filled with the liking and admiration for him that Trump has felt from day one of his presidential campaign, the roots of which remain a mystery.

Many Americans are like the cave divers in Thailand — courageous, giving and self-sacrificing. But if our leadership takes us away from those qualities — this vulgarian of a leader has moved very quickly in doing so — and enough foolish Americans follow him, what next?

*Georgie Anne Geyer has been a foreign correspondent. She can be reached at gigi\_geyer@juno.com.*

### COLUMNIST

GEORGIE ANNE GEYER



## High court pick raised in 'swamp'

By selecting Judge Brett Kavanaugh to replace Justice Anthony Kennedy on the Supreme Court, President Donald Trump produced an unusually revelatory moment. The country has seen him as impulsive and instinctive, but rarely as deliberative.

It has witnessed the sort of change that can be reversed — a new Democratic administration can, for example, restore some of the economic regulations the Trump team has eliminated — but now is witnessing change of a more permanent nature. Judge Kavanaugh is 53 years old. If he serves until the age when Justice Kennedy retired, he will have been on the bench in 2046.

With one announcement, Trump has laid bare the contours of the new political era that his election both reflected and produced:

— Trump's determination to remake the Republican Party.

Judge Kavanaugh's sterling academic record and long service on the court commonly regarded as the farm team to the Supreme Court automatically made him a strong candidate. Still, Trump hesitated.

Why the reluctance? It wasn't Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's concerns about winning a Kavanaugh confirmation. Instead, those close to Trump repeatedly argued the president had to "overcome" Judge Kavanaugh's ties to George W. Bush, the last Republican to occupy the White House. In a conventional presidency, such experience would be a shimmery credential.

Judge Kavanaugh's role in the contested 2000 election that took Bush to power, his marriage to the 43rd president's top administrative assistant, his

appointment to the court of appeals by Bush, his defense of the school-voucher plan of Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida — all of these elements placed the judge firmly in the Bush orbit, and thus outside the president's vision of the new GOP he is sculpting.

— Trump's preference for confrontation politics over conciliation politics.

In choosing Judge Kavanaugh, Trump made it clear he is not concerned about setting off a bitter fight on Capitol Hill, despite his failure to win the repeal of Obamacare or an overhaul of immigration policies. Of all the candidates for the Supreme Court whom he considered, Judge Kavanaugh ranked high of potential nominees who would infuriate the Democrats.

That did not deter Trump, who was more interested in sealing his ties with his base, which has longed for a true conservative on the bench,

— The "swamp" still hasn't been drained.

Trump's determination to "drain the swamp" was at the heart of his campaign and the governing theme of his first two years in office.

And yet, with the selection of Judge Kavanaugh, he reached deep into the Washington swamp (and, not incidentally, the Yale alumni directory). Despite claims the judge is from, but not of, the capital, he is clearly a denizen of Washington, where he was reared, where he worked most of his career and where he gained his judicial experience.

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### NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

DAVID M. SHRIBMAN



### JUST A THOUGHT

LISA HOBBS



## Trying to find right dog food

I love my dog. I'm going to say that just before I explain how she's the scourge of my existence here lately.

She's getting older, as we all are, and I've decided to switch her food to something a little healthier. Actually, a friend got me thinking about it. He said he switched his dog's food to something all natural and he stopped itching as much. He added that my dog's food might be causing her allergies and specifically, she bites her paws.

I've always given my dogs Pedigree. She's currently eating the Adult Compete Nutrition Roasted Chicken, Rice and Vegetables formula. Don't know if I should endorse a specific dog food. Hopefully, I won't get the same backlash as I would endorsing a specific political candidate. I've always had good results with that brand. It's not the cheapest available but it's not the most expensive. Plus, I've never had it upset her stomach.

Still, if something could help her allergies, I've got to try it. Right? I decided to make the switch. So, there I am looking through the most expensive dog food I've ever considered buying. Good grief! Is some of it gold plated? She's a 75-pound dog. A \$20 bag of 6 pounds won't last long.

After looking at the ingredients and examining prices, I decided to go with Rachael Ray Nutrish super premium food for dogs, the real chicken and veggies recipe. I felt that was similar and hopefully easier for the gradual changeover.

Sadly, Rachael thinks highly of her dog food. It's about \$30 for a 28-pound bag. Pedigree was about \$28 for a 50-pound bag. Those numbers might vary a little but they are close enough.

If you're doing the math, and trust me I did, I'm going to be paying just as much for half the dog food. Or, if you prefer, twice as much for the same amount of food. Either way. At that moment, I knew I would have to start portioning out her food more accurately. She can't be fat and happy on those prices. She'll have to be fit and happy, if you get my meaning.

Here's where it gets a bit confusing. The bag of the bag says dogs that are 50-100 pounds should be getting 3.5 cups to 6 cups a day. She's about 75 pounds but she should be closer to 60, according to the vet. I selected four cups a day — two in the morning and two in the evening using a measuring cup I also purchased. I'll be watching to see how that affects her weight.

I'm in the middle of this changeover. She's on one-third Rachael Ray and two-thirds Pedigree. The next step will be half and half. Then, if she suffers no ill effects, 100 percent Rachael Ray.

I can report that she loves the taste of this new blend, and there have been no negative side effects to her digestive system. That's a good sign.

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