

Clintonians encouraged to join Friends of Library

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Friends of the Clinton-Quisenberry Library represents a dedicated service group supporting the library. The history of the Friends group reflects a forty-plus-year rich heritage of support from men and women who believed strongly in the importance of the library - the people's university

As they welcome 2019, members will continue to coordinate the book sales at the first of each month to raise funds for items not included in the library budget. Books for the sale come from donations from private libraries and from books "weeded" by staff from the library shelves in order to update the library inventory.

From the book sales to the December Christmas Tree Gala, the activities sponsored by Friends in cooperation with the library staff include programs for all ages. The popular Christmas Tree event which began in 2014 has attracted out of town visitors coming to the library to view over fifty beautiful and uniquely decorated trees representing businesses, clubs, schools, churches and organizations.

The past year saw the dedication of the Jean Matthews Memorial Garden, as the contributions of a longtime Friends activist were recognized.

Seasonal events celebrate Christmas, Valentine's, Easter, Halloween and Thanksgiving, as well as the Summer Reading Program for boys and girls. Holidays are enhanced for young library visitors through special story hours with refreshments, Easter egg hunts, photos with the Easter Bunny and visits and photos with Santa in the appropriate seasons. Adult programs focus on presentations by authors, historians, musicians and presentations from every discipline and walk of life. Town meetings and forums for candidates have been sponsored by Friends.

Friends of the Library welcomes members throughout the year. Starting the new year by joining Friends gives citizens the opportunity to support the library through serving in any number of capacities, as an officer, on the board of directors, on a committee, or as a book sale worker. Joining Friends shows support for an important part of the community, the library and its dedicated staff.

Carrying a gun doesn't give you super powers

By Guest Columnist Kim Condon

I would like to give you some food for thought when it comes to being a responsible gun owner.

First of all, having a gun is the easy part. If you are legally eligible to own a firearm and desire to conceal it for self-protection, that's great! What concerns me is when those who choose to do so are not properly educated.

As a gun owner, you are an ambassador for the entire gun community. How you choose to handle your firearm reflects on ALL of us. So, please understand when it is appropriate to use it, be aware of how it can change lives, make certain you know your limitations when it comes to marksmanship and realize that every bullet has your name and financial freedom attached to it!

There's such a huge debate going on with our society that, just for a moment, I want



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to take the focus off of the object and discuss the reason for having the gun. One simple explanation...self-protection. It's a woman's ultimate equalizer. Yes, it's our Constitutional right, backed by the 2nd Amendment, and I am a strong supporter of having the right to bear arms, just as I am also a strong supporter of firearm education.

No matter what avenue you choose to protect yourself or your family - martial arts, edge weapon, firearms, etc. - wouldn't you want to be as proficient as possible, so that you are prepared for the unexpected? Remember, owning a piano does not make you a musician. Owning a firearm doesn't give you super powers, either. You have to invest in training. Practice what you learn. Make it a lifestyle, not just a bucket list. Understand the laws of your state. Be your own self-protector...Superman is for comic books.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Kim Condon is co-owner of Boondocks Firearms Training Academy and is a National Rifle Association Firearms Instructor and Chapter Leader for The Well Armed Woman Shooting Chapter (Clinton/Raymond MS-Chapter).

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Alum produces documentary

especially in Clinton, Mississippi."

"There's such a lesson, I think, to us all...It was a real message of unity and people working hard."

Making the documentary was a refreshing change of pace.

"I've told probably thousands of stories in short form," she says. "How long have I been in TV — twenty-three, twenty-four years?"

"For all these years in my career, you're always looking for the sound bite. To be able to sit and let someone tell a story...that, to me, was just so nice."

The greatest gift the documentary gave her was more time with her dad, Charles Davis Pace, who died in 2017, she says.

"It gave me such a great reason to keep going back so often. I got so much time with him, with this project." Her mother, Kathy Walker Pace, was a longtime teacher in Clinton's public schools.

Clinton roots helped build a foundation for her career.

"I had amazing neighbors that, after my father bought his first camcorder, would let me direct them in ran-

dom shows I would create," she says. Fast-forward fifteen years, and she was working alongside the pros they'd played in pretend newscasts. Also, "I had amazing teachers, who never told me I couldn't do something."

Old Attaché action that camcorder captured would come in handy later, too.

Her dad even had a small role in the documentary, sort of. "It was really cool to be able to use some of his old footage in the film, after taping every performance, rehearsal, trip with his thirty-pound camcorder on his neck! I put all that to good use."

Attaché show choir also took her to Los Angeles for the first time, when her sister's group flew there to perform. "Feels full circle now, for sure!"

Attaché's nationwide reputation and incredible winning streak continues to amaze Overholt, and she's proud to help the choir "get their shining star" out there even more.

Overholt's next documentary project is a short, also in Mississippi.

"I like positive, uplifting, inspirational stories about where I'm from, and there's no shortage."

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