

What a

difference time makes

As I sit here and ponder the things going on around me, I have so many feelings crowding in on each other. The news is so dire that I have decided to listen but only monitor the weather. We hear about someone being killed in our capital city every day, sometimes two at a time. The war which we

have fought in Afghanistan for over twenty years seems to have been all in vain. Our people are trapped in this other world and can't seem to escape. The virus is raging and "tagging" everybody that comes into its path. People are dying that should have so many more good years left and it seems we

are powerless over all these things. If I were a person to become depressed, I would probably be in therapy twice a week by now.

We were talking about the state of things in general the other day and remembering back to a much quieter sane time. As a child growing up over on Rock Hill, I knew nothing about the Taliban, never even heard the word. I knew nothing about racism. I lived right in the middle of a mixed neighborhood and my playmates were

Black. Never knew anybody on drugs or alcohol. I'm sure there were thefts but they never affected me. And, if someone had told me about a man really born a woman or vice versa and had been changed to the sex that they believed they were, my mother would have had one of her fainting spells.

As I got older and was introduced to things of the world, I guess I was still somewhat sheltered. My friend and I played dolls until I was thirteen or fourteen and rode our bikes on up into our older years. Our dress was oh so different then too. If we wore shorts they hit the knee. Dresses were always below the knee. Swimsuits were one piece and not daring at all. I remember one time when I was about thirteen going out the back door of our house to get a suntan and I had on a halter top, not daring at all, and my Daddy said, "You are not going outside like that." I was completely covered but not enough for him. Now days the dress is totally different.

I believe that's why I love the life out here on our farm. I have black cows to look at

all dressed the same. There is no violence and the only sounds I hear is the big John Deere's mowers cutting down the grasses and weeds in the pastures, cow birds as they huddle around the cows, geese as they squawk at their young, and every once in a while, tree frogs as they come up through the cracks of our back porch. Nothing is out of place or uncomfortable,

almost serene. I don't want to go backwards in time, but wouldn't it be wonderful to turn the state of the world back several years? With the heat being so unbearable I just don't want to heat my kitchen so we eat lots of salads. Here's my chicken salad we love. 2 cups chopped cooked chicken, ½ cup mayonnaise, 1 chopped stalk of celery, 1 green onion diced, (I use chives), salt and pepper to taste. ½ cup of cut red grapes. Combine all ingredients and spread on a cracker or bread. Peggy Sims is a life-long resident of Attala County and columnist.



Peggy's Take

Successful alligator hunt



On Friday, August 27, Dr. Lily Fran Guastella, who was lucky enough to draw a tag for alligator hunting, once again got another alligator in a ski boat on the Ross Barnett Reservoir. The gator is 10 feet, 6 inches. Dr. Rosario Guastella stated that "Alligator hunting is the most exciting/intense thing I've ever experienced." In 2019 Dr. Lily Fran Guastella got another gator that measured 11 feet, 6 inches. Pictured are Dr. Rosario Guastella, Dr. Lily Fran Guastella and Ross Guastella, Rosario's father.

Hurricane Ida was so powerful it reversed the flow of the Mississippi River

Ryan W. Miller, USA TODAY

Ida weakens to tropical storm after delivering 'catastrophic' damage

Ida's winds snapped trees and tore roofs off buildings as its floodwaters blocked roads and submerged cars. The Category 4 storm was expected to dump up to 2 feet of rain in some areas and bring up to 7 feet of storm surge. More than 1 million people in Louisiana were without power.

A U.S. Geological Survey gauge at Belle Chasse, south of New Orleans, detected the Mississippi's flow moving backward around midday Sunday because of the volume of water Ida whipped up. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers spokesman Ricky Boyette confirmed engineers detected a "negative flow" on the Mississippi River as a result of storm surge.

In the days leading up to Ida's arrival, the river, which flows into the Gulf of Mexico, had a discharge rate hovering around 300,000 cubic feet per second. At the peak of the reversal, it was flow-



The Mississippi River is seen ahead of Hurricane Ida on August 29, 2021 in New Orleans. © Brandon Bell, Getty Images

ing nearly 40,000 cubic feet per second upriver. The reversal occurred for just over a couple of hours.

Although rare, the river changing course is not unprecedented. It happened during Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and Hurricane Isaac in 2012.

"I remember, offhand, that there was some flow reversal of the Mississippi River during Hurricane Katrina, but it is extremely uncommon," USGS hydrologist Scott Perrien told CNN.

Perrien told the news outlet the river gauge does not

measure the entire river, and it was possible deeper sections did not reverse flow.

According to the gauge, the river, which is normally between 8 to 10 feet, rose to over 16 feet.

"The river is feeling the effects of the storm over a large area" Perrien told CNN.

Downgraded to a tropical storm, Ida was about 50 miles north-northeast of Baton Rouge on Monday morning. The storm still had 60-mph winds and was forecast to bring heavy rains and flooding to Louisiana and Mississippi.

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