

# Editorial



## ONE purpose, ONE message!

### We need to combine our collective voices into a louder and more effective performance of the Song of Seminole County

"Your community – Seminole County – is making some noise and on the verge of great things." These are words I have heard from three separate out-of-town visitors over the past two weeks.

The word is spreading about our efforts to build a better way, and the three individuals who spoke those words were all in agreement that what we have done so far as a community and the potential we have within this community has positioned us for progress. With Downtown Donalsonville now designated as a RURAL Zone and the creation of a new and expansive industrial park just east of town, the word is out that we are headed for an even better and brighter day.

Numerous groups and individuals in this community have similar dreams and goals to make our community the best it can be – and their efforts should be applauded. If we all want the same thing – an even better place to live, work and raise a family – why can't we pool our interests and our talents and make them bolder? Just think how effective our louder voice would be

if we were all on the same page and singing the same song.

We need to develop a consensus opinion of what we want. We need to make sure everyone is in agreement of what we would like to recruit into our community and establish a directed promotional and marketing campaign to identify projects and prospects and to become proactive in recruiting them and selling them on the benefits we have to offer.

We need to combine the positive efforts of each group in our community into a concentrated super effort to identify our goals and then, together, go forward and achieve them.

Combining the efforts of the Chamber of Commerce, the Donalsonville-Seminole County Industrial Development Authority, the Downtown Donalsonville Development Authority, the BetterWay Initiative, city and county governments and every single group, organization and citizen – into an ongoing, progressive plan to work together and make a better way for Seminole County, HAS TO HAPPEN!

How do we go about making this happen? Well, we certainly do not have to go to the expense of hiring an out-of-town expert to come in and tell us how to do it. We already have countless experts living right here among us that have the knowledge of doing it right in a grand way. We just need someone to step up and find a way to bring all of these creative, innovative and dedicated-to-the-betterment-of-Seminole County minds together – in ONE room.

Let's set a date or dates for a planning retreat and gather all interested parties in one place for one purpose. We need to come together, define a consensus message, develop a plan of action and then work the plan and do it. If you have the desire to make our great community even better, then you are an interested party.

Yes, it will take some time and definitely some effort, but what better way to spend that time and effort than by developing, together, a brighter future for all of us who call Seminole County home.

What are we waiting for? Come on, Seminole County. Let's work together, get on the same page, sing the same song and make some beautiful music together!

*Comments and impressions are welcomed and requested at david@donalsonvillenews.com*

## A Profile in Courage

These words are from the last paragraph of my column last week. "I am tired of waiting for the election to be over, so I will just hope that today is the final finish line, no matter what the results. Only when there are no more races left to run can we begin to rebuild what we have lost."

The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, resulting in more comments than all but a few of the 500+ columns I have written. Who could have foreseen what was to happen just two days later?

My wife and I were watching the events at the Capitol as they began to unfold. At first, we were confused, then alarmed, and finally horrified at the attack on our nation's Capitol and the destruction and desecration of this center of American democracy.

The challenges of our nation and the different political beliefs that are tearing our country apart are more complicated than can be addressed in a column of a weekly paper. Yet, as a writer you cannot ignore one of the biggest stories of our lifetime.

There are some true heroes during this awful time in our history – individual police officers who valiantly tried to protect our leadership, and members of both parties of Congress who spoke out forcefully about the insurrection and attack on democracy.

However, I wish to focus on one American hero that I believe displayed incredible courage in the face of intense pressure. He happens to be from the state of Georgia, where I spent 45 years of my adult life.

I have known all of the Secretaries of State of the State of



### Ponderings

Dan Ponder

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Georgia since I became involved in politics in the 1990s. I have known Lewis Massey, Cathy Cox, and Brian Kemp well enough to call them friends. I have never met Brad Raffensperger, but I hope one day to shake his hand.

Raffensperger is a Republican, a Trump Republican, in fact. He campaigned for Trump and contributed to his campaign. He is probably to the right of my own moderate political beliefs, but he and I share a common belief. The rule of law applies, even if you do not like the results.

I received the John F. Kennedy Profiles in Courage Award 18 years ago for a speech on Hate Crimes. While I am proud of the award, I have occasionally written to politicians to tell them that they deserved the award more than I did. None of those elected officials ever received the recognition.

Brad Raffensperger deserves the Profiles in Courage more than I do. He stood up to immense political pressure to change the

results of an election that was verified three different times. He withstood pressure from elected officials from his own state, two Senators he had supported that were running for re-election, and most importantly, from the President of the United States.

He never wavered, not because of his own political beliefs, but because, as he said, the numbers do not lie. The Georgia election was fair, honest, and decisive. His candidate did not win, but he withstood more push back than any person should ever have to endure. In the end, he did not yield. He stood for the rule of law.

This week, for the first time since I received my own award, I will nominate a person for the Kennedy Profiles in Courage Award. If he should be so recognized, I will attend his award ceremony. If he is not, then I shall endeavor to simply shake his hand and tell him what I believe. He is a Profile in Courage.

We must find a way to have a discourse that is not Trump versus Biden, Republican versus Democrat, Left versus Right, Black versus White, and on and on.

There are many ways to divide us. We must find ways to unite us. We can start by recognizing men of courage who stood up and did the right thing in the face of intense pressure, regardless of whether they are on our side or not. In the end, there is only one side. The American side.

Brad Raffensperger is such a man. He is, indeed, a Profile in Courage.

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## Opening up Pandora's can of worms

When it comes to streaming radio services, I prefer Pandora over Amazon Music. You see, Pandora offers deep cuts while Amazon plays mostly predictable hits. Even though I'm an Amazon Prime member and benefit from no commercials, I opt for the advertisement-laden Pandora radio. What can I say? I like Pandora's algorithm (or is it Al Gore Rhythm) better.

I didn't mean to open up a can of worms about streaming radio services. Or is it opening up Pandora's box? Let's get to the bottom of this, shall we?

According to Merriam-Webster's Dictionary, Pandora's box is "a source of many troubles" or "something that will lead to many problems." According to the Ancient Greek tale, some evil wedding guest gave a character called Pandora a box as a wedding gift, but Pandora was not to open it. Curiosity got the better of poor Pandora, and she opened the box, the result of which unleashed sickness, death and all sorts of evil into the world. This is why we can't have nice things.

Although the origin of the phrase "open up a can of worms" is uncertain, imagine you're going fishing in the 1950's. You'll need some bait, so you



### The Grammar Guy

Curtis Honeycutt

head over to the neighborhood bait and tackle shop, where you purchase a can of worms. This can of worms is nothing to worry about — that is — until you open it. Once you open the can of worms, all the wiggly, slimy, tangled-up mess of worms try to get out of the can. It's like trying to put already-squeezed toothpaste back into a tube.

Both "taking the lid off Pandora's box" and "opening up a can of worms" are precarious situations, but there is a difference between the two. When you open up a can of worms, you attempt to solve one difficult problem which leads to even more difficult problems. When you take the lid off, or open, Pandora's box, you unleash an evil that can't be undone. There is no "CTRL + Z" for Pandora's box.

"The legislature's proposed budget cuts really opened up a can of worms." This example is a complicated situation, but can (in theory) be resolved.

"When I asked my uncle about his opinions on the current Congress, I didn't realize that I had opened up Pandora's box." In this example, once your uncle starts sharing his views on the government, he will never stop.

I think the lesson here is never to buy fishing bait from a lady named Pandora. If you do, make sure you're the one that gets away.

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*Curtis Honeycutt is a syndicated humor columnist. He is the author of Good Grammar is the Life of the Party: Tips for a Wildly Successful Life. Find more at [curtishoneycutt.com](http://curtishoneycutt.com).*

HELP US DISCOVER  
100 WAYS TO  
CELEBRATE OUR  
Centennial!

The Centennial celebration has been rescheduled for the Fall of 2021. The dates of planning and organizational meetings for the scheduled events will be announced in the near future. Watch this space for details!

Join the planning committee for  
Seminole County's 2021  
Centennial celebration.  
Call the chamber at  
229-524-2588  
and volunteer.

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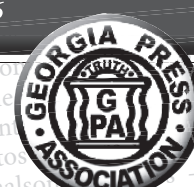
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