



# 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.



**Impressions**  
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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 in its second of five years as designated as a RURAL Zone and the creation of an 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 the 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

## May the best rival win

Auburn fans found themselves in an unusual place during the College Football National Championship game on Monday night. How do you pull for your greatest rival in such a contest? What do you do if both teams are your greatest rivals?

I moved to Georgia just a month after I graduated from Auburn University. For the next 45 years I said that the greatest thing about living in Georgia was that I did not have to listen to the Iron Bowl being replayed 365 days each year.

Today, I am thankful that I have moved back to Alabama so that I do not have to endure the endless banter from my many Georgia friends about being National Champs, though they have clearly earned the title. 41 years after the Dawgs' last Natty, they have the right to celebrate all year long.

My family ties to Auburn go back to my great-grandfather, Ernest Ford, who graduated in Pharmacy in 1905. His diploma is proudly displayed in our den. My parents met near the famed Toomer's Oaks on Samford Lawn. Yet, Mary Lou and I also have strong connections to both UGA and Bama.

My great-great uncles were the first Georgia graduates in my family. Several generations later, my brother followed his heart, signed a football scholarship to play for the Dawgs and never looked back. My sister followed my brother to UGA and then married a Georgia graduate. Their son later came to Auburn. My side of the family has divided loyalties, though the rivalry has generally been friendly.

At the same time, I married a girl with a solid Alabama pedigree. Mary Lou did not attend Bama, but her mother and her brother did. I had a cousin that played for Alabama when Bear Bryant first arrived as coach in Tuscaloosa. Our



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nephew is currently a top-ranked golfer on Alabama's golf team. I pull for him, but do not wear crimson and white, and certainly do not say "Roll Tide", even if my nephew were to get a hole-in-one.

The tension between the Auburn and Alabama sides of the family is a bit more strained. Perhaps that has something to do with the fact that Mary Lou transferred to Auburn her Senior year. We graduated together and 40 plus years later moved back to the Loveliest Village on the Plains. Born and raised a Bama fan, Mary Lou became one of the most rabid Auburn fans I have ever known. I am not sure her parents ever forgave me for that.

We typically do not watch the games with our Alabama family and both sides try not to rub it in, one way or the other. But that underlying Auburn versus Alabama thing lurks under the surface, dating back to my childhood. Old habits die hard.

My parents knew Vince and Barbara Dooley from their days at Auburn, and my brother's playing days at Georgia. Auburn's football field is named for Pat Dye, a Georgia graduate, while Georgia's

football field is named for Vince Dooley, an Auburn grad. Joel Eaves remains the winningest basketball coach in Auburn's history. The Auburn Memorial Coliseum was renamed in his honor. Later, he became the longtime Athletic Director for the University of Georgia, even hiring a young Vince Dooley as head football coach.

A lot of family and institutional connections exist between UGA and Auburn, though the strain of big-time football, recruiting wars, and social media make it less a friendly rivalry than it once was.

There are not as many historical ties between the Auburn and Alabama teams, other than half the players have grown up with each other. The first two questions any newcomer to Alabama is asked are "What church do you go to?" and "Are you for Auburn or Alabama?" You might be able to get away with saying you do not go to church, but you must pick one of those two football teams if you live in Alabama, no matter where you went to college.

Tuesday night did give Auburn fans some consolation. Nothing like beating Alabama in basketball in Tuscaloosa, unless it is an Iron Bowl win, of course. Auburn plays Georgia next week.

But in the meantime, congratulations to both Alabama and Georgia. You do not get to the National Championship game by accident. Alabama took it to Georgia in the SEC Championship game and then Georgia came back when it counted the most.

I will leave you with these two thoughts. First, on this day and for this season the best rival won and deserves to be called champion. Second, wait until next year.

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## Compound nouns' sounds confound

When is a door not a door? When it's ajar.

As an owner of a 19th century home, all of my doors are ajar. I'm plumb out of doors that shut properly.

Just as those wonky door puns make you groan, words can build on each other to form the architecture of an altogether different word.

Have you ever been accused of being a "motormouth"? I have. I am neither a "motor," nor am I a "mouth." Yet, I was called a motormouth. The compound word "motormouth" creates a new word with a different meaning.

This type of compound word is called a "possessive" (or bahuvrihi) compound. Possessive compounds follow this formula: (PERSON) having a (B) that is (A), where (A) modifies (B). Curtis has a mouth that is a motor. Motor + mouth. Yet, no one is saying that I'm either a motor or a mouth. They simply say, "He is a motormouth."

I've also been called a "redhead." Curtis has a head that is red. But, no one says "Curtis has a head that is red." They say, "Curtis is a redhead."

I'm a "southpaw." To say I have a "paw" that is "south" is a bit of a stretch.



**The Grammar Guy**  
**Curtis Honeycutt**

The term "southpaw" either comes from baseball or boxing, and the sports columnists love to debate the etymology of southpaw. Let's just all agree it is synonymous with "left-handed."

The more I think about it, the more I think of our English possessive compounds as brilliant shorthand. You see, we're all about the brevity of language to get a point across. If you don't believe

me, look at how much shorthand and emoji language appear in your text messages. Possessive compounds are a way to convey a bigger description in a compact package.

If you have trouble remembering what a possessive compound is, think about them as fighting words. Picture yourself in front of the school bully who is angling for a fight. He wants nothing more than to goad you to hit first. What's his next move? He goes into his tried-and-true formula to provoke flying fists: a cleverly woven string of insults.

He challenges you with, "You yel-lowbelly, airhead, halfwit, redneck, busybody, greedyguts, fancypants, mut-tonheaded lowlife!" Those are fighting words, and you, as a result, are possessed to clear your name of these sultry insults.

I'm no egghead, but I do like to nerd out on possessive compounds. And, while I don't take a highbrow approach to this topic, I'm no blockhead, either.

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 Fire up the Dream!

Join the BetterWay Initiative's campaign to transform the historic fire station in downtown Donalsonville into a community cultural center, art gallery, museum and event venue. Tax deductible donations to the project are now being accepted.

To join the campaign, or for additional information, contact David Maxwell at [david@donalsonvillenews.com](mailto:david@donalsonvillenews.com)