

Huntsville Retirees GAZZETTE & GENTLE RELIEF

The Retirement Association MAY 2021

Join us this Tuesday May 11 for lunch with good friends 11:30 at Red Lobster. Join the gang, green to attending lately. Some called they shall return. I think everyone is shot.

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News of local interest

The *SLS* giant rocket is now at the cape, it stands taller than the Statue of Liberty. Work continues at Michaud and Huntsville to complete an SLS fleet – Number One now scheduled to launch this December its payload module to circle the moon un-womaned, and return. SLS is a very major Huntsville industry.

The *Webb* super space telescope developed by TRW, is in progress for a November launch currently at Space Park will transfer to French Guiana for its equatorial Ariane rocket launch. This to reach and observe from one million miles straight out from earth in solar not earth orbit as a Trojan object. The Webb is many times the power of Hubble and being more isolated far more useful. It will record images about in the eagle eye vision spectrum much further into the universe.

*China* began to launch their own space station pieces using large rocket] modules, the first one was unsuccessful into an incorrect low polar orbit, tracked falling into the Indian Ocean Saturday night not sure if any big chunks.

You probably know, *Alabama* was widely expected to lose an elector (and congressperson) having obviously too little growth with this census, but we surprised everyone by making the grade. Alabama officially *did not lose an elector* (but California did its first loss ever). The primary reason for AL was surprising rising growth in Huntsville’s Madison and Limestone Counties, and also along the east coast of Mobile Bay. The governor and HSV mayor rejoiced. Only “rustbelt” lake states and California lost an elector. And WV.

Speaking of Madison County - had business at the *new service facility* at Oakwood and North Mem. Parkway it is very nice, comfortable, very easy close parking, convenient on main floor, you get a number from a computer showing your topic, I was called right away. A big improvement. The City Hall will be rebuilt with a similar system near the downtown square. Masks are suggested there but not required.

Renewing your license tag or driver’s license? Don’t have to stand in line at Park Place mall try Oakwood, or there’s a *quick service on Baily Cove Road* near the new library underway. I might add, if you haven’t been in Huntsville in a while, it’s all different expect to be lost. There are likely other Madison County service locations I did not check fully.

Finally. *Park Place will be torn down* a plan is to replace it in that location with more modern big box stores. This will be the fourth mall there in my residence. When arriving stayed at the then Sands Hotel next to McDonalds, then I think a sign between two golden arches that said something like “over two hundred made?” Or something. I can remember we then crossed Mem Parkway during a traffic lull my little boy safely in hand, to shop at Wards across the street at the north end of the Parkway shopping strip. It wasn’t that far a dirt space between the highway and sidewalk. Traffic not that fast on Parkway with so many stop lights. The strip was soon half destroyed by a tornado (along with Bob Tabb Cadillac, IHop roof). Happened to have a view from home fewer trees then, and saw the power station behind that mall light up a pretty blue green glow into the sky. Soon then a terrible

metallic repeated sound wow. Survived. At that time Drake avenue was a double street with a concrete creek down the middle.

Then that mall was repaired, later torn down and totally replaced, then later still totally replaced with another different but similar structure adding the parking structure in front. Park Place is now partially (1/3?) vacant many old favorites stores are gone.

Travel. I just returned - My first trip to the Outer Banks (NC) in the Atlantic Ocean - look out rising seas at work! 1 inch per 8 years already threatening there. The north part is a wonderful visit with Lost Colony/Virginia Dare museum on Roanoke Island, and Kitty Hawk excellent visit in Kill Devil Hills. About an hour south a narrow sand strip to tiny Cape Hatteras then ferry to another island, the whole of it has a new protective berm about 10' high on the east coast well needed you can see the tide comes up to its bottom. Those ocean views are blocked to older homes and hotels from seeing the water east unless you take stairs over the berm to that beach. This is all far from the out of land sight both sides, and is reached by bridges or ferry (not recommended). Worth a trip the north part but precarious. Lots of excellent rest areas and facilities. Further north is more luxurious but little shopping. Plenty of fresh fish. Mid and lower region (rental) homes appear frail are on stilts. Several very nice hotels. The strange boggy drive east from Raleigh to the coast is bleak. Shortest drive from Huntsville is via Asheville NC a wonderful place. Hotel prices were down. Some with no breakfast (for now), some sacks, some normal. Call ahead and check this for current auto travel.

North Carolina sells hard liquor at state stores who display many brands of unaged clear whiskey with names like "Bob's Hooch, Burning Mash, Moon's Shine" etc. Which may partly explain the east of Raleigh area. Currently I know of two whiskey stills in Huntsville (aged) and twelve micro breweries. And as our boat sinks slowly in the west, and the sun drifts away from the shore, we say good bye the small natives of Outer Banks out in the Atlantic and their lapping shores. I looked and did not find the 1570 Lost first British Colony of Roanoke Island but a trash container behind McDonalds seemed suspicious.

\*\*\* See you Tuesday!

