

## Opinion Our View

### Free internet a good thing

The Outlook is thrilled to hear Horseshoe Bend Regional Library received free internet service from Alabama Supercomputer Authority thanks to state legislation. This public library joins five others who have received the same good news in the last week and the agency plans to provide the same service for libraries in all 67 counties of Alabama from state funding.

At the announcement this week, Alabama Supercomputer Authority employees, along with Rep. Ed Oliver, Tallapoosa County Commissioner T.C. Coley and library director Susie Anderson all echoed the same sentiment detailing the importance of public libraries.

These days, so many people have access to information at their fingertips via smartphones and home internet but in rural areas such as Tallapoosa County that is not always the case. Libraries have been a valuable resource for years but now more than ever as job applications, unemployment benefits and even school work — to name a few — move online, it limits access to those who do not have reliable internet.

Free internet at public libraries is a wonderful accomplishment for our area and The Outlook is proud to see this amenity added to the community. Oliver spoke about broadband grants coming available in the fall and additional expansion of technology aiding libraries, schools and even healthcare around Tallapoosa and Coosa counties. We hope to see more of this happening to lessen that digital divide and equalize access to all people, despite their personal circumstances.

## Know Your Officials

Communication with elected officials is the key to good government. To let your most local representatives know how you feel about state or local matters, contact any of the following.

**T.C. Coley**  
 District 1  
 256-212-9316  
 2316 North Central Ave  
 Kellyton, AL



**Steve Robinson**  
 District 2  
 256-654-0047  
 300 Heritage Drive  
 Alexander City, AL



**John McKelvey**  
 District 3  
 256-794-4405  
 1285 Freeman Road  
 Dadeville, AL



**Emma Jean Thweatt**  
 District 4  
 256-825-4207  
 585 Brookwood Circle  
 Dadeville, AL



**George Carleton Jr.**  
 District 5  
 630 Turner Road  
 Dadeville, AL



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## Study up before the mayor's race runoffs

Just when we thought municipal election season was over, we've got three mayor's race runoffs in Tallapoosa County.

Looks like we'll have to hold on a little while longer, y'all. The good thing is, for the most part, our local races haven't been dirty. It hasn't been your typical run-of-the-mill evil election season where everybody is out to get the other.

Or I could've been living under a rock — or just stuck at my desk for far too long the last few weeks during all the campaigning, which is highly likely.

That being said, let's not get dirty now. It's no time for that. However, it is time to get educated. If you went to your polling place and just filled in one of the bubbles because you've "heard" that may be the right candidate or "that's who everyone you know is voting for" or "that's the person who on paper seems most qualified" or even "that's the person who will enact change," you need to have more information and have a new mindset next time

**SANTANA WOOD**  
 Managing Editor



you vote. What does change mean? And what qualifications truly qualify someone to run a city? And just because your friends and family voted for so and so doesn't mean you should. Luckily, The Outlook is working on a pretty extensive runoff coverage plan, so you won't have to look too far to dig deep about the candidates.

We are talking about hosting a mayor's forum/debate, going to do in-depth interviews and much more. By the time Oct. 6 gets here, you are going to know for a fact who you're voting for, what they stand for, and what they're going to do for our city. You won't be filling in a bubble just to fill it in, and you certainly won't be sitting at home deciding voting isn't all that important.

You'll know these candidates up, down, left,

right and inside out and you'll empower yourself and your neighbors by getting out to the polls to enact change and vote for the person you think can help our city move forward.

It's disappointing to see low voter turnout when municipal elections come around only every four years. The mayor and city council have everything to do with what happens in our city, its future and everything in between.

If you didn't go vote Tuesday, please make plans to do so in October and educate yourself on the candidates until then.

We've got plenty of time and I personally can't wait to see how this all plays out.

We deserve a mayor who fits the bill. You all deserve to know exactly who you're voting for, and that's what our duty to you will be until Oct. 6. Stay tuned.

Santana Wood is managing editor of Tallapoosa Publishers' newspapers. She can be reached at santana.wood@alexcityoutlook.com

## Today's Quote

Forty is the old age of youth; fifty is the youth of old age.  
 — Victor Hugo

## Today's Scripture

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."  
 — Romans 8:28

## alexcityoutlook.com Daily Poll

Wednesday's question: Are you happy with the results of Tuesday's municipal elections?



Weekend question: Have you tested positive for COVID-19 over the last few months?

To participate in this daily poll, log on each day to www.alexcityoutlook.com and vote. Find out the vote totals in the next edition of The Outlook and see if your vote swayed the results.

## Our Mission

The Outlook strives to report the news honestly, fairly and with integrity, to take a leadership role and act as a positive influence in our community, to promote business, to provide for the welfare of our employees, to strive for excellence in everything we do and above all, to treat others as we would want to be treated ourselves.

## What's your Opinion?

We'd like to share your thoughts and opinions with the community for free. You may submit one letter to the editor per month (400 words or less) and/or a guest column (600 words or less). Include name, address and phone number. No hate speech, libel, slander or cursing. We reserve the right to refuse any submissions.

Mail: Your View  
 The Outlook  
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 Alexander City, AL 35011  
 E-mail: editor@alexcityoutlook.com

## Submissions

**Obituaries:** 25 cents per word and \$15 for a picture. Obituaries are only accepted via the funeral home in charge of arrangements. The Outlook does not accept obituaries from individuals.

**Weddings, Engagements, Anniversaries or Birth Announcements:** These significant family events or milestones are 25 cents per word and \$15 for a picture. Email announcements@alexcityoutlook.com. Include name and telephone number along with the announcement in the body of the email (no attachments) and photographs must be sent as a .jpeg. Announcements will appear within 10 days or on a specified date in The Outlook.

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DEAR STU AND DONNA,  
 AFTER BROADCASTING 8 NIGHTS  
 OF CONVENTION COVERAGE  
 I'VE DECIDED THAT I CAN NO LONGER  
 BE A PARTY TO THIS DEBACLE...



## Letter to the Editor

### Everyone needs to check voter registration

Dear Editor,

We all need to check our registration status or get registered to vote in November.

Since our mail service may be disrupted, we all — and I say all — need to make sure we are still registered to vote. People are being knocked off the register and Alexander City is one of those places. Why? Because some people put Alex City instead of Alexander City; so please check your status. One website, www.vote.org, is a location you can go to and it is really easy. I found the secretary of state's website www.sos.alabama.gov. to be a bit harder.

On vote.org, these are the categories listed:

1. Are you registered?
2. Get your absentee ballot
3. Register to vote
4. Polling place locator
5. Early voting calendar

- (which Alabama does not have)
6. Absentee ballot rules
7. Voting and COVID-19
8. Voter registration deadlines

9. Election reminders
- A. Are you registered?
1. You fill out the form and it will tell you whether or not you are registered
2. The form includes: name, address, email, and phone number

B. Get your absentee ballot — asks for the same information but has different states at the bottom of the page. Check out the rules page. If you are scared of COVID-19 as many of us are, then you are out of luck, but if you have a health issue and cannot make it to the polling location then you can apply for this.

C. Register to vote — post-marked 15 days before election date mailed and online. Do this earlier if possible which would

make it October 19th. Since we have someone messing up our mail service, please get this in the mail by October 1st to make sure you can vote.

D. Polling place locator — you will have to fill in the form and it will tell you where to go. Some areas will need to check this because they are closing some polling locations

E. Early voting calendar — unfortunately, Alabama doesn't have early voting which would help during this pandemic to keep any lines from forming.

Please get your absentee ballots in early because I doubt they will be counted if they come in on the day after the elections even if the postmark says it was earlier than two weeks beforehand.

We need to get everyone to vote this year.

Judy Palfrey  
 Dadeville