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Superintendent of Education

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Exclusively in this week's

**Herald**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEETINGS & PREP SPORTS**

**'THE MEN WHO STARE AT GOATS' AND 'TOOTSIE'**

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It's time to ...  
**SPRING FORWARD!**  
Sunday, March 8 at 2 a.m.

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**CHEROKEE COUNTY, ALA.**

**MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2020**

**FREE TAKE ONE**

GUEST EDITORIAL

# Ford: Why you should vote 'NO' on Amendment 1

Whether you vote in the Democratic or Republican Primary on Tuesday, all voters will get the chance to vote on Amendment 1. This is an extremely important amendment, and I encourage every voter to vote "NO".

Alabama currently elects our representatives to the state Board of Education. Each member of the board

represents their district, just like each congressman represents their district in the U.S. House of Representatives.

What Amendment 1 does is disbands the state Board of Education and eliminates the position of state



Craig Ford

superintendent of Education. In its place, the amendment would create a "commission" on elementary and secondary education. This "commission" would be appointed by the governor and approved by the state Senate.

And if Amendment 1 passes, we will no longer have a state superintendent

of Education. Instead, we will have something more like a secretary of Education in the governor's cabinet. And this position would also be appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Alabama Senate.

In an effort to try and sway more voters to support Amendment 1, the amendment also includes language saying that this

new "commission" would have to replace the Common Core standards.

Never mind the fact that our elected state Board of Education already voted and has taken steps to repeal the Common Core standards.

Supporters of Amendment 1 are trying to

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ALABAMA

## Bills to prohibit gender treatment for minors OK'd

MONTGOMERY (AP) | Two Alabama legislative committees approved a bill Wednesday that would ban gender therapies for minors such as prescription hormones or gender reassignment surgery.

Rep. Wes Allen of Troy and Sen. Shay Shelnett of Trussville are the sponsors of the Vulnerable Child Compassion and Protection Act.

Allen said last week that children who struggle with their gender identity should receive mental health counseling and not medications or surgeries that cause physical changes.

The Alabama House Health Committee approved Allen's bill Wednesday morning, news outlets reported. Later, the Senate Health Committee approved Shelnett's bill in a 10-1 vote. Both bills will move on to the full House and full Senate for consideration, respectively.

Under the legislation, doctors would be charged with a felony for prescribing puberty-blockers or hormones to anyone under age 19. Surgeries on minors would also be prohibited. The bill also states teachers, principals and school counselors would be charged with a misdemeanor if they don't tell parents their child identifies as transgender.

"We understand there are children struggling with gender dysphoria," Allen said. "We should help those children with therapeutic treatment, not allowing their bodies to be mutilated."

DOWN SOUTH

# Remembering a great man

Mr. Alton Cadenhead was a man of faith. He was also a great husband, father, and community leader. To me, he was a mentor and a friend as well.

I first got to know him around 2005. That was when my dad began attending the Marine Corps League meetings here in Rome, Ga. Dad especially liked the February luncheons commemorating the Iwo Jima landing. He and Mr. Cadenhead were both veterans of that campaign. There was good fellowship as the men reminisced and joked with each other. The ranks have thinned since those days. I remember how Mr. Alton



Tom Bing

made a presentation at one luncheon, talking about the preparations for combat and how the most carefully worked out plans come apart in the chaos of battle.

Without question, these men made great sacrifices. My dad was Thomas or "T.B." Bing. In an earlier column, I talked about dad and Mr. Cadenhead being interviewed by Georgia Public

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## Lady Panthers win it all



Spring Garden players hoist the Class 1A state championship trophy following their 53-45 victory over third-ranked St. Luke's on Thursday. It was the top-ranked Lady Panthers' seventh state championship and their third in the past five years. It also capped a 35-2 season. You can read more on the Lady Panthers' latest title in the March 4 edition of our sister paper, the Cherokee County Herald. PHOTO BY SHANNON FAGAN

**VOTE BRIAN JENNINGS**

**TUE. MARCH 3**

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