

News

News Briefs

Kelly Wallace, A&E Editor

Hillary Clinton & Kay Hagan Rally

Hillary Clinton former Secretary of State came to Charlotte on Oct. 25 to headline a rally with Kay Hagan. According to WRAL, Kay Hagan is in a tight re-election campaign against GOP Senate nominee Thom Tillis. Clinton was in Charlotte to help inspire volunteers and voters to get Hagan first over the finish line according to The Washington Post. Hagan is ahead of her Republican opponent state House Speaker Thom Tillis, with the gender gap making a difference overall. Clinton spoke about women's issues and equality and opportunity, the message was for all of North Carolina. Early voting began on Oct. 23 and Election Day is Nov. 4.

Washington State School Shooting

Jaylen Fryberg, a freshman student at Marysville-Pilehuck High School in Washington, is the gunman who opened fire in his high school cafeteria on Oct. 24. According to CNN Fryberg killed one girl and wounded four others, two girls and two boys which are in intensive care in hospitals in Seattle and Everett. The boys Andrew Fryberg and Nate Hatch are cousins of Jaylen Fryberg. CBS News reported that Megan Silberberger a high school teacher tried to stop the gunman. Fryberg fatally shot himself. It is still unclear why Fryberg targeted his cousins.

U.S. Marines leave Afghanistan's Camp Leatherneck

On Oct. 24 in Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, a ceremony was held for U.S. Marines and British combat troops that officially marked the end of their operation in Afghanistan according to CBS News. The transfer of the Camp Leatherneck and Bastion to Afghan Control is a sign of progress according to Brigadier Gen. Daniel D. Yoo Commander of Regional Command South West; Yoo stated that "It's not about the coalition, it's really about the Afghans and what they've achieved over the last 13 years. What they have done here is truly significant." Every single combat Marine and British troop will soon board planes to head home, the exact date has been withheld for security reasons states CBS News.

Controversy Over Clooney's Wife Changing Last Name

Christina Barnhart, Staff Writer



via Getty Images

Bernhard, Bernhardt, Berhardy, Bernardt, Bernhardt, Bernehard and Bernehardt. Each a variation on the surname Barnhart, but why is that important? Well it depends on who you ask; for some people their last name is just a family indicator, but for others it is the gateway to a long and mysterious history. Barnhart has its origins in Germany, Portugal and Scotland, where this family sowed roots into the very earth and brought forth generations of military prowess, industrial growth and economic superiority. When considering the history of my last name; I

would think twice before changing it. I wonder if Amal considered the history of her name before she made the switch.

Amal Clooney, formerly known as Amal Alamuddin, has recently tied the knot with the previously terminal bachelor, George Clooney. Amal is a human rights lawyer and the first thing she did when she returned to work was to officially change her last name on her website.

Many Americans have last names that don't seem to fit in with their ethnic identity. But instead of wondering at the reasoning, we as a country drag and drop last names with each marriage or union. Some even taking to hyphenation but to what purpose does it serve to change your very identity when you become married?

For some the answer is simple, to join with each other, but for others it may be to start a new life with a new identity. Whatever the reasons may be the same questions still remain: What does changing your last name change in you? What does keeping your last name mean to you? Our names are the titles we are given at birth and when they are changed the reason behind that title can be lost, but hopefully never forgotten. Just take a moment and wonder at the history of your name, and reflect on the history of yourself.

Same-Sex Marriage Legalized

Linda Sankat, Staff Writer

On Oct. 10 in Asheville, N.C., U.S. District Court Judge Max O. Cogburn, Jr. legalized same-sex marriage in the state of North Carolina. In 2013, a lawsuit was filed by the clergy of the United Church of Christ against the state's 2012 constitutional amendment. Amendment One was voted into effect on May 8, 2012 and banned gay marriage. However, Cogburn's ruling has deemed the 2012 amendment to be in violation of the U.S. Constitution. As a result, same-sex couples are now free to marry in North Carolina.

According to an article written by the Associated Press, on that very Friday, Drew Reisinger of the Buncombe County Register of Deeds in Asheville kept his office open past closing time in order to begin issuing marriage licenses to a few same-sex couples who had been long awaiting the opportunity to marry their partners.

On the following Monday, North Carolina began to issue its first marriage licenses to same-sex couples. According to an article written by Mark Price for the Charlotte Observer, Terrence Hall and Christopher DeCaria, both of Charlotte, were one of the many same-sex couples that were granted a marriage license at the Mecklenburg County Register of Deeds office on Monday.

DeCaria told the Charlotte Observer, "I didn't think this day would come in North Carolina for a long time...Having the state recognize us as a couple is like being recognized by everyone. It feels like we're being validated and accepted. It feels like we're finally being treated like normal people."

According to the Human Rights Campaign's website, "there are 1,138 benefits, rights, and protections provided on the basis of marital status in Federal law." Included in these rights are hospital visitation rights, surviving spouse and surviving parent Social Security benefits, employee benefits for federal workers and their spouses, continued health coverage (COBRA), and a number of tax benefits, to name a few.



via Getty Images