

**RUNOFF:** Direct mail flyers from Smith attacking Cogle, spark outrage**(From Pg. 1A)**

But none of those races has drawn the intensity that has erupted in District 9, where incumbent Mike Smith is being challenged by attorney David Cogle. Their runoff election is set for Nov. 18.

That battle went to an even higher-level last week when residents of the district began receiving the latest of sev-

eral direct mail flyers from Smith, which compared the two candidates. Critics of statements from Smith said he insinuated Cogle, a 20-year military veteran, may have been connected to terrorism.

The flyer was not much different than most campaign mailers until Smith mentioned the following in his flyer about Cogle's back-

ground:

--Immigration lawyer working for immigrants trying to get into the U.S.

--Lived several years in the Middle East: Iraq, Jordan, etc.

--Speaks fluent Arabic.

The information in the flyer is completely factual, but Smith made a point to not mention that Cogle is a 20-year U.S. service veteran who achieved the rank of Commander with the U.S. Naval Reserve. His time in the Middle East was several lengthy deployments, and the military selected him to learn Arabic—an extremely difficult language to learn—so he could be utilized at a higher level than many other servicemen.

Cogle, and dozens of others on social media, as well as publicly in Slidell, erupted with outrage at what they said was a clear attempt by Smith to make Cogle look like a possible terrorist.

Smith's own Facebook page had seven lengthy posts from those who were shocked about the flyer, while Cogle had dozens of others on social media also express their reactions negatively to what Smith had said.

"This my friends is as low as any politician can go," said Wilson Bastidas. "Mike Smith you should be ashamed for questioning a decorated service member who enlisted and achieved the officer rank he currently holds—Commander! What are you implying here?"

Many others came right out and said Smith was insinuating that Cogle was a terrorist, when he was actually a 20-year military veteran.

"I know David to be a Navy Commander who was deployed to the Middle East in service to our Nation. He is a good man and a Christian, not an Islamic terrorist," said recently

electd Parish Councilman Patrick Burke. "This is a slap in the face to ALL VETERANS who have served and been deployed to the Middle East."

"Mike Smith and Gene Bellisario (former Parish Councilman who has supported Smith during the campaign) have reached the low of the low. How is that even relevant in your opponent's background? Why would you insult his service to our country??? Insulting a man's service is a new low and disgusting! It's an insult to ALL MEN AND WOMEN who have served. I hope you are proud of your new low gentlemen!" said City Councilman Trey Brownfield.

"Mike Smith insinuates that David has Middle-Eastern ties, and gives the impression that he could be a terrorist," said Beverly Roser. "If this skunk, Mike Smith, is willing to openly do this, what do you think he'll do to us?"

Cogle was equally shocked by the flyer.

"This implies something nefarious about my service time," Cogle said. "I have had many other veterans call me and say they were insulted. For him to do this, well, it's shocking to see him go so low."

Smith was questioned about the reason for the statement in the flyer and had few words.

"Nothing in the flyer is not accurate," he said.

When asked why he left out the facts about Cogle serving for 20 years he said, "I didn't want to say anything about the military since I didn't want it to seem derogatory."

When asked why he needed to publish that information, which has seemingly nothing to do with being a Parish Councilman, Smith declined to say anything more.

"That's all I'm going to say about it," Smith

added.

Cogle was also upset by the statement about him helping immigrants enter the country, saying it implied he was helping others come here illegally, when he has only taken cases as a lawyer to help immigrants come here legally.

Cogle, who has never run for public office before, only entered the race after becoming one of the first leaders to stand up against the sexually explicit books in the public libraries.

Cogle was among the founders of the St. Tammany Library Accountability Project (STLAP), which has been fighting against the Library Board for over a year to get the challenged books into a restricted area needing parental consent to access.

Instead, the Library Board, and Director Kelly LaRocca, have steadfastly insisted that all the sexually explicit materials, other than graphic novels (less than 10 books), should be accessible in the library to minors of any age.

Cogle co-wrote a bill for the Louisiana Legislature earlier this spring that attempted to give the Parish Council more muscle to bring the situation under control, since it is the Parish Council that appoints all but one member of the Library Board.

However, the Parish Council has refused to do anything to step into the fray, with their leadership stating they don't have the authority to order Library Board members what to do. LaRocca was hired by the board, so council members said they do not see any way to control what has become a far left effort here in St. Tammany, and across

the country, to sexualize children by allowing them to read pornography, and access highly sexually explicit materials.

Smith came under fire from Cogle for his inactions on the council, along with other Parish Council members, although Smith has defended himself by saying he believes the books should at least be out of the children's or juvenile sections. However, even if the books were put in the adult section, there is no barrier from children walking into those aisles and finding the books. Meanwhile, the majority of books are still accessible in children's and juvenile areas.

Smith stated in his flyer that he only wants to move the books "out of the juvenile section," but has not made a public statement about supporting a restricted section. He added in his flyer that "until state law is changed, the Parish Council has no legal authority to ban books or remove library board members."

Despite that claim from Smith and others, the St. Tammany Library Accountability Project has never advocated to ban books. They have sought a restricted section in the library, just as with R-rated movies, that would require parental approval for minors to access them.

The entire issue of Smith's flyer erupted throughout the area last week, even leading to Cogle being invited to a well-known radio talk show to discuss the matter.

"The entire thing he put in the flyer is disgusting," said Cogle. "It's not only an attack on me, but an attack on anyone who ever served in the Middle East."

## Purvis Financial Inc.

1324 Seventh Street  
Across from Capital One  
**645-0555**



**Tim Purvis**  
President

### LOANS FOR

- AUTO •VACATIONS
- PERSONAL AND MORE



## Suicide Help Lines



### Feeling Depressed or Suicidal?

St. Tammany Parish is focusing more attention on helping those who face mental health issues such as anxiety, depression or suicidal thoughts.

There is help for you by **CALLING** or **TEXTING** any of the following resources:

**National Suicide Hotline:**  
800-273-8255

**St. Tammany Help Line**  
Dial 211 or 988

**National Text Line**  
(You talk with someone via text only)  
Text "Home" to 741-741

# The Slidell Independent

# Classifieds

CALL NOW TO

PLACE AN AD

Ask for Jenny

Call 985-607-8852 to advertise

Sell your stuff, advertise jobs or a place to rent. You can do it ALL here!

## FOR SALE

Golden tee electric golf machine  
\$100  
Call Mike at 985-774-9001

## REAL ESTATE

For Sale, Rent or Lease

2 bedrooms, 2 bath condo in Chamale Woods  
\$128,000  
Call 985-515-3001

2bd/2ba mobile home in Picayune MS. \$1,020/mo includes \$170 base utilities.  
2bd/1ba mobile home in Picayune MS.  
\$895/mo includes, \$170 base utilities.  
TEXT 985-768-6325

Mobile Homes for Rent and Sale  
2 bed/1 bath, central air, fridge, stove & dishwasher.  
Established park in Pearl River, Best schools  
985-863-7251 or 504-577-9219.

## SPECIAL SERVICES

**HANDYMAN SERVICE,**  
Electrical & Plumbing repair & Fixtures, Termite & Rot Repair, Roof leaks, Home maintenance, 43 yrs. exp. senior discount.  
Call Lloyd at 985-335-2256.

## HELP WANTED

Shady Pond Tree Farm, L.L.C. needs part-time help through the Christmas season. Must like working outdoors. Basic mechanical skills needed. Interested individuals must attend Workers Meeting Sun., Nov. 19, at 1:00 P.M. at Shady Pond. For additional info call 985-863-5569.

Needed: Housekeeper  
Companions: 6 - 2 / 2-10 / 10-6  
4 on / 2 off  
Apply Mon. - Fri. 8:30 - 4:30  
Call for either Erin or Heather  
985-641-2827 or come in  
between 9:30am and 4pm

## LEGAL

### Alcohol Permit

Arcade on Carey LLC d/b/a Arcade on Carey is applying to the Office of Alcohol & Tobacco Control of the State of Louisiana for a permit to sell beverages of high and low alcohol content at retail in the Parish of St. Tammany at the following address:

2249 Carey Street Slidell, LA 70458

Arcade on Carey LLC

Arcade on Carey

Members: Gilbert Valencia, Michael Hartness, Cesar Jimenez, Patrick Heim

THE  
**Slidell INDEPENDENT**  
CALL 985-607-8852 EMAIL SLIINDENEWS@GMAIL.COM

HOME NEWS BUSINESS SPORTS LIFESTYLE OPINIONS OBITUARIES CONTACT US

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT**  
**www.slidell-independent.com**

