

Commentary

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President and Editor,
1902-1941

C.H. LEAVY
President and Editor,
1941-1983

C.H. LEAVY III
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1983-1999

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Managing
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EDITORIAL

Pooling resources for homeless a smart move by coalition

The proliferation of people who are not living in permanent housing situations or who are outright homeless in the Golden Isles is no secret.

It is also no secret there are a number of organizations and individuals locally who dedicate their work and their free time to lending our homeless population a hand.

The problem is that sometimes one group may not know what the other groups are doing or how they can help.

This was shown recently when a homeless dementia patient wandered away from the hotel he had been put up in temporarily by a Gateway Behavioral Health program. His caseworker filed a missing person report with local police who realized they had picked the man up. Realizing he needed help, the officer took the man to the hospital, not knowing he had a hotel room nearby.

To hopefully prevent a similar situation in the future and to provide a resource to keep everyone on the same page, area groups that seek to aid folks who find themselves without a home are taking action.

A coalition of more than a dozen groups is working to start a Client Track database accessible by all of them that includes information on what kind of services homeless people or families are receiving. The idea is to cut down on unnecessary duplication of services and to ensure the services that may be needed can be provided.

A recent survey put the number of people locally living in some form of homelessness — whether that means in a hotel or under a bridge — at more than 400 in Glynn County. This coalition's work will clearly be a helpful tool for all involved.

Even the smallest of gestures can make big differences in the lives of people who just need a little help. This database and the coalition's efforts will no doubt go a long way in ensuring those gestures are properly placed.

With the homeless population showing no signs of shrinking, this effort will become much more important.

We hope the coalition is successful and that the new database will help a few people find housing and a way out of a bad situation.

OTHER VIEWS / JIM POWELL

CAREER DAY 2018 ...



TOM STIGLICH



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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COLUMN / ERICK ERICKSON



The practical side of a reasonable compromise

During President Trump's State of the Union address, he laid out four pillars he felt were necessary to a compromise on immigration.

"The first pillar of our framework generously offers a path to citizenship for 1.8 million illegal immigrants who were brought here by their parents at a young age.

... The second pillar fully secures the border. ... The third pillar ends the visa lottery — a program that randomly hands out green cards without any regard for skill, merit, or the safety of our people. ... The fourth and final pillar protects the nuclear family by ending chain migration," said the president in the House of Representatives. The president's plan for DACA citizenship would be a 12-year plan requiring education, work or military service without conviction of crimes during that time.

Many of the president's most ardent supporters vocally support the second, third, and fourth pillars of his plan, but they equally oppose his first. Some of his supporters have taken to calling the President "Amnesty Don." There are actually real and serious public policy concerns for deporting all illegal immigrants, including DACA recipients that have nothing to do with race. Democrats want to treat any such policy proposal as racist and they do so to their detriment and the detriment of any serious discussion on the issue.

There are also a lot of people who refuse to budge on the issue of mass deportation because of their concerns about law and order. That is fair, but this is a political discussion and political compromises will be had. The majority of the country supports giving DACA recipients a pathway to citizenship. As such, some in the White House who adamantly oppose giving DACA recipients citizenship have decided to embrace a pathway for the 1.8 million proposed by President Trump. It is purely for practical reasons those opposed should at least try to understand.

First, who are the DACA recipi-



Evan Vucci/AP

President Donald Trump listens during a meeting with North Korean defectors Friday. Columnist Erick Erickson says getting the DACA deal done is important so Democrats will have a harder time passing blanket amnesty later.

ents? They are the children of illegal aliens who were brought here by their parents. Many of them have been here from such a young age that they have little memory of their native countries. According to Pew Research Center from September of last year, 79.4 percent of DACA recipients come from Mexico. El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Peru round out the top five. South Korea is at six. The Philippines and India are in the top fifteen. The Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim metropolitan area has the largest number of DACA recipients, followed by the New York City-Newark-Jersey City area. Metropolitan areas around Dallas, Houston, and Chicago round out the top five. Half of DACA recipients live in California and Texas. They are mostly women, mostly single, and mostly between the ages of 16 and 25.

So why would the Trump administration officials who oppose giving these people citizenship suddenly support it? Put simply, it will deprive Democrats of their most compelling narrative for citizenship. According to repeated surveys by multiple pollsters, at least 65 percent of President Trump's own supporters support a pathway to citizenship for DACA recipients. While you may not support it, disabuse yourself of the idea that

you are in the majority even if you think you are right.

The problem for Democrats is that outside of the DACA recipients, public support for citizenship goes downhill. While many Americans would be willing to give legal residency to the parents of DACA recipients, there is no clear majority willing to give them citizenship. Republicans are calculating that if they give DACA recipients citizenship, they will have deprived Democrats of their most photogenic playing card in the immigration debate. As long as DACA recipients are hostages to debate, Democrats have the upper hand pushing for mass citizenship.

Democrats know this, too. That is why Democrats are pushing for a total citizenship package beyond DACA recipients. They know if Donald Trump is successful, he will have deprived them of their most compelling argument for mass citizenship. The GOP will not control all of Washington forever. If Republicans take the DACA card off the table while they can, they will make it harder for Democrats to pass a blanket amnesty later.

Erick Erickson is editor-in-chief of redState.com, a right-of-center blog on Capitol Hill.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We will foot infrastructure bill increased by developers

Again, The News did a good job reporting on Wednesday's town hall meeting held by Commissioner Peter Murphy, with Commissioner Bill Brunson also in attendance. I attended with low expectations, and was therefore not disappointed. There were, in my opinion, only three good points:

1. The hall was packed.
2. Murphy reported that 80 percent of the new survey's St. Simons Island responses were opposed to current development on the island.
3. Murphy will hold these meetings quarterly.

Now to the Bad points:

1. None of the citizens complaints were responded to with a specific action for any problem resolution. Concern, yes. Resolution, no. Whether it's German Village, party houses, Lord Avenue dumpsters, or sailboats, etc. — the answers all include words like "hope" or "could." There was no mention of the current ultra high-density developments (10 units/acre) that the Palmetto Group is building. There was no mention of the coming rape of communities on South and North Harrington roads.

Do the two members of our County Commission clowns who were present have any personal opinion on these subjects? Do these two members have any personal opinion on the huge future infrastructure needs (\$300,000,000) facing SSI? St. Simons Island taxpayers beware, the \$300,000,000 bill is headed your way.

Don Daleen
St. Simons Island

Time to impose impact fees on new developments

At a meeting Tuesday, the joint Islands and Mainland comprehensive planning groups discussed increasing SPLOST by 1 percent. After the recent rate increases, and with water and

sewer bills already composed of multiple fees, seeking to obtain more money through another SPLOST should raise some red flags and questions. I have a few.

Why are additional funds needed? It would seem that either the water and sewer commission has not been keeping up with on-going maintenance and repairs of our current system and now must play catch-up, or that, with the current system at capacity, an expansion is needed to service new developments. If the latter, then why should everyone else provide a subsidy for the developers?

It appears that an audit of their spending, including a history of water rates and fees versus investment in our water system, is needed and perhaps it is time to consider levying an impact fee on new developments.

Audrey Gibbons
Brunswick

Sail club is a proper use of public land

Glynn County offers public facilities for many sports. We have public tennis courts, swimming pools, gyms, baseball, football facilities and even a bocce court. The county provides public boat ramps, a great facility at Blythe Island and the St. Simons Boating and Fishing Club. I think it is very appropriate that the county allow the St. Simons Surf Sailors to use a small portion of public land to provide a storage area for beach sailboats, windsurfers and kayaks. The storage area is open to anyone who pays dues to cover the costs of the park. It is a total user-fee supported facility. There is no taxpayer money used. How is this a misuse of public land and not a logical use to provide for a sport enjoyed by many Glynn County residents? I don't play tennis, but I certainly think public tennis courts are a great use of county land. I don't have a child in youth sports, but I surely think providing the many sports facilities on public land is appropriate. How is it that use of a small

public area to provide a facility for beach sailing not also appropriate? To eliminate this facility for the sake of a few more parking spaces would be the real misuse of public land.

Peggy Riley
St. Simons Island

Political climate has sunk to a new low

President Trump's SOTU was formidable and his message was sincere and inclusive. It was sad to witness members of Congress turn their heads disrespectfully when our president spoke about love of country, helping veterans and military, protecting our borders and the huge part God plays in our daily lives. One side of the aisle was enthusiastic while the other looked pathetic like their dog just died. It appeared respect, dignity and grace had totally disappeared from this august body and gave a clear indication that our political system in 2018 was sinking to a new low. Senior managers within both the justice department and the FBI have seriously damaged the good names of their agencies by attempting to disrupt a presidential election and using sophomoric arguments blaming Russia. The sad reality is that mindless Americans regularly vote for upstart parvenu like Luis Gutierrez who ran out at the end of this speech while members were chanting "USA, USA." Not having a clue to what a politician stands for but liking the sound of his name or their look hopefully will not become the norm down the road and imperil effective governing. Joseph Kennedy III, D-Mass, advocated for the poor and underprivileged in his rebuttal, but all too often millionaires like the Kennedys, the Gates and Hollywood celebrities use it as a cover for the fortunes they made off the backs of the workers. As an independent, it would be nice to see people voting with their brains and not emotions.

Kevin Finnerty
Brunswick