

Commentary

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President and Editor,
1902-1941

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

C.H. LEAVY III
President and Editor,
1983-1999

THE BRUNSWICK
NEWS

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President
and Editor

MICHAEL HALL
Managing
Editor

EDITORIAL

Citizen Observers a great way to support Brunswick

Cops are cops, right? Well, sort of. In the case of some in Brunswick, they are COPs, or members of the Citizen Observer Program, a group of dedicated and selfless individuals who volunteer their time to assist the Brunswick Police Department, the real cops.

COP members learn to use police radios, they learn about traffic and crowd control and they actually go on neighborhood patrols. They do not make arrests or traffic stops or take on any of the actual law enforcement activities that police officers undertake daily. Think of this group as an extra set of eyes and ears. That is a nice addition to the police force for a small city that has well-documented difficulty keeping officers thanks in large part to lower pay than neighboring departments.

The Brunswick Police Department should have more than 70 officers when fully staffed. At times in the past few years, numbers have sunk into the 50s or lower. Clearly, they need all the help they can get.

Which is why citizen observers are such an important part of our local community.

Kevin Jones, then a lieutenant and now the chief of the department, created the program in 1998 as a way to get a little extra help out on the streets. Twenty years later, the program is still going, and Jones and his officers are looking for more members to add to the volunteer ranks. COP is presently running a recruiting drive for new members from now through March 9 in hopes of signing more folks up for the six-week training course that will run from April 3 to May 8.

Just ask current member Tom Tubbs, who joined in 2010, what he thinks about the program.

"You definitely feel like you're part of the law enforcement group," Tubbs told The News this week.

Or ask Zita Jimenez, the current secretary of the group.

"It's good to be able to give the police a hand. Everybody that works in COP just feels proud," she said.

If you have the time and want to support your local police department, or if you have always thought you might like to be involved with law enforcement, here is an easy way to do it.

Give the Brunswick Citizen Observer Program a try.

COLUMN / STAR PARKER



Frederick Douglass and gun control

He would surely be an NRA advocate today, and would be fighting to preserve our right to protect ourselves.

President Trump has signed into law bipartisan legislation establishing the Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Commission to celebrate Douglass' life and work. I have been honored to be appointed, along with Dr. Alveda King, niece of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and others, to this commission.

Born into slavery 200 years ago, Douglass taught himself to read and write, escaped to freedom and became an anti-slavery and human rights activist, newspaper publisher and advisor to presidents.

I consider Douglass' life and struggles as I watch this latest round of public debate about the right of American citizens to bear arms. I watch with amazement the ease with which so many are ready to compromise the core freedoms that define us as Americans, for which so many have struggled and died.

In May of 1865, one month after the end of the Civil War, Douglass spoke to the American Anti-Slavery Society, convened at New York City's Church of the Puritans.

The topic of discussion was whether the society should continue its work in light of the formal abolition of slavery. By the end of that year, the 13th Amendment, prohibiting slavery in the United States, would be ratified.

Douglass' address was entitled "In What New Skin Will the Old Snake Come Forth?"

He spoke prophetically, questioning the value of the anti-slavery amendment if black Americans still would not be

protected by rights guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution.

"...while the Legislatures of the South can take from him (the black man) the right to keep and bear arms, as they can ... the work of the Abolitionists is not finished."

Fast-forward 145 years to another black man, Otis McDonald, suing the city of Chicago because of its ordinance prohibiting him from owning a handgun to protect himself and his property from the vandalism and break-ins that were regularly taking place in his neighborhood.

McDonald's lawsuit made it to the Supreme Court, which ruled, in 2010, that states and localities cannot infringe on the Second Amendment protection for individuals to keep and bear arms.

This decision stemmed from the 14th Amendment, the second of the post-Civil War amendments to the Constitution. Whereas the 13th Amendment abolished slavery, the 14th Amendment guaranteed protection of constitutional rights in the states:

"No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of the law."

This amendment addressed the concerns of Frederick Douglass that although slavery may have been abolished, states still had great latitude to deny citizens constitutional rights. The Supreme Court decision

of *McDonald v. Chicago* argued that the 14th Amendment "due process" clause protects citizens' Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms in the states.

Associate Justice Clarence Thomas, while supporting the majority decision, wrote a separate concurring opinion arguing that the 14th Amendment protection stems from the "privileges or immunities" clause.

"Privileges or immunities," argued Thomas, are our most fundamental rights as citizens. And this is what the right of American citizens to keep and bear arms is about.

Thomas, in his opinion, documents the bloody history of murder and lynching against blacks and white civil rights activists.

"Without federal enforcement of the inalienable right to keep and bear arms, these militias and mobs were tragically successful against the very people the 14th Amendment had just made citizens."

Freedom is not free, nor is it easy. The alternative to freedom is tyranny. Those who think it's a good idea to compromise our freedom rather than deal with its great challenges err tragically.

Frederick Douglass would surely be an NRA advocate today, and would be fighting to preserve our right to protect ourselves.

Star Parker is an author and president of CURE, Center for Urban Renewal and Education. Contact her at www.urbancure.org.

OTHER VIEWS / GARY VARVEL



School security in the Future

JIM POWELL

"Why's the General Assembly pushing so hard to finally give us some tax cuts?"



"Gee, I have no idea."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send letters on topics of general interest to readers in Southeast Georgia by:

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You must include your name, address and phone number.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Republicans are in power, legislating is their job

In reply to Bob Tatum's letter of Feb. 27, he, like many right wingers, seems to imagine that the dreaded liberals are horned beasts, slaving at the mouth to take away his guns. There are many liberal Democrats who own guns, they are not espousing a total ban on all guns, simply guns designed to kill as many people as possible in as short an amount of time. This includes military style weapons and bump stocks.

Regarding the laws that are supposed to protect the innocent, Mr. Tatum's strange idea that it is the job of liberals to enforce these laws. He is obviously unaware that in February of 2017, Congress passed and Donald Trump signed a law revoking Obama's regulatory initiative that made it harder for people with mental illness to buy a gun.

With the Republicans holding the House, the Senate and the White House, isn't it their job to enforce these laws? It is time they did so. The Democrats are not the ones holding the power.

**Penelope Allingham
Brunswick**

America is a nation in decline

On reflection of the events occurring in parochial America and locally, I am reminded of the words of St. Paul: "I see through a glass darkly." A friend of mine rightly points out there is an existential threat from without, Russia, and from within, the Republican Party. An autocratic demagogue has wrested control from the leaders of the GOP. The House speaker is a "tower of jello." His voice has been silenced by a Twitter account. The autocrat calls for faithfulness and his minions attack. And they swell up in pride. Modeled by their leader, who is without empathy, their arguments are void and vacant. "Without charity I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal." They wear caps "Make America Great Again."

They are interviewed by Fox News bobble heads who countenance their "alternate reality." Even now, after the slaughter in the Florida school, there is a war of words with students and defenders of weapons of mass murder.

"America is a society destroying itself from within, an empire in decline, it can never be great again. A culture that loves guns more than children has no future other than corruption, decline and death." — Anglican Parish of Gosford

**Jim Norris
St. Simons Island**

No other way to put it, abortion kills babies

"Good reasons" for legalizing the murder of unborn children? Remember Dred Scott, Plessy v. Ferguson, et cetera?

NARAL's co-founder stated that they "purposely fabricated the number of illegal abortions prior to *Roe v. Wade*." Fictional polls were created to convince Americans of the need for legal abortion. Americans were sold lies that thousands of women died annually from back-alley abortions.

Evidence links abortion with worsening physical, emotional, economic and social well-being of women. Women with a history of abortion are more likely to experience breast cancer, substance abuse, sleep disorders, sexual dysfunction, suicidal impulses, psychiatric hospitalization, et cetera.

Margaret Sanger, a known racist/eugenics supporter, founded Planned Parenthood. It performs 300,000 abortions a year, 900 per day and 40 per hour. Abortion clinic counselors routinely withhold information about risks and alternatives. Deceptive business practices, negligence and even sexual abuse of patients are well documented throughout the industry. Abortion is legal but practiced with the ethics of the "back alley."

Thousands of federally funded health clinics (20 to one over

Planned Parenthood) provide education, birth control, and other health services to assist low-income, medically under-served populations but do not kill unborn babies.

The logical solution is abstinence, adoptions, faith, etc. Your solution? Abortion — dismembering a tiny baby's body. This is the truth of abortion. Democratic politicians want to keep it legal until the last day of pregnancy — disgusting. Those who support abortion never mention the child's body. Trying to soften the blow. Quit being verbal engineers ... abortion kills a child.

**Craig Thomas
Brunswick**

Don't waste tax money on beach renourishment

Gov. Nathan Deal has proposed that \$10 million of state monies be made available for beach renourishment on Tybee Island or St. Simons Island. There's a program in the military called "fraud, waste, and abuse."

Its aim, essentially, is to identify areas where federal money could have been better used or never should have been used. This principle should apply to state monies as well. Certainly a prime example of this waste/abuse is the recent push by some Glynn County commissioners to send for as much of this state money as they can get to be used on the beach between the King and Prince and the Pier Village without thought of what will happen to it. Sand on the Georgia coast moves south. Without a groin to retain it, the shipping channel will quickly become the recipient of this action, which will then lend itself to another costly action — dredging. The most crucial of the differences between St. Simons Island and Tybee Island is that the shipping channel is on the north end of Tybee. Please stop the waste and abuse of taxpayer's monies.

**Lt. Col. Lorie Ann Wright (Ret.)
U.S. Air Force
St. Simons Island**