

perspective

CONGRESS shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

(First Amendment to The U.S. Constitution)



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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

In County: 3 months \$15; 6 months \$28; 1 year \$50.

NC & SC: 3 months \$25; 6 months \$41; 1 year \$75.

Outside The Carolinas: 3 months \$31; 6 months \$47; 1 year \$83.

Law Enforcement: 1 year \$28.

Students: 9 months \$36; Schools: 9 months \$41.

LETTERS POLICY

1. Each letter submitted must be an original — no photocopies.

E-mails are also accepted if a name and phone number is included: editor@gaffneyledger.com

2. Letters should include the writer's name, address and day and evening telephone numbers.

3. Letters should be submitted exclusively to this newspaper.

4. Letters are subject to editing for length and clarity.

5. Letters submitted in all-italic or all-capital letters will not be accepted.

We will not print letters:

- That are unsigned;
- That contain questionable or undocumented facts;
- That contain inappropriate attacks on a person or persons;
- Regarding disputes between the writer and other parties;
- Endorsing a business.

Our mailing address is: P.O. Box 670, Gaffney, S.C. 29342.

IF YOU MISS YOUR PAPER

Here at The Gaffney Ledger, since 1894, our newspaper delivery goal has always been the complete satisfaction of our readers.

Despite our taking exhaustive measures to prevent it, a newspaper delivery will occasionally be missed. Papers are sometimes picked up by the wrong person or by a dog, or they are missed due to some other unavoidable occurrence.

With this in mind, we have developed the following standard policy for late delivery of your Gaffney Ledger.

— We guarantee same-day delivery of your Gaffney Ledger if the problem is reported to us by 5 p.m.

— You can call at any time after 5 p.m. to report a missing paper via our answering machine and your paper will be delivered the next day by noon.

— We will deliver your Gaffney Ledger on the following business day by 11 a.m. if the missing paper is reported by 9 a.m. on that day.

After that, you have the choice of:

- Having the paper delivered with the next day's paper, or
- Crediting your account for the cost of the missing paper.

If you have any questions about this policy or if you have any problems with the delivery of your newspaper, please let us know. We are here to serve our readers.

CORRECTIONS

The Gaffney Ledger makes every effort to ensure all information in this publication is accurate and thorough.

However, in the event an error is made, it is this newspaper's policy to correct the error as soon as possible.

If you find a mistake, please notify the editor by calling 864 489-1131. Please be ready to tell us the page number and story in which the error appears.

ATTENTION POSTMASTER

The Gaffney Ledger, established Feb. 16, 1894 (USPS 212-760) is published three times weekly by The Gaffney Ledger, Inc., 1604 Baker Blvd., Gaffney, S.C. Periodicals postage paid at Gaffney, S.C.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Gaffney Ledger, P.O. Box 670, Gaffney, S.C. 29342.

LEDGER READERS ON THE ROAD



The Limestone Presbyterian Church Limelighter fellowship group took copies of The Gaffney Ledger with them on a trip to Compass Cove in Myrtle Beach. On your next trip out of town, take a copy of The Ledger along and send a picture of yourself or your group reading the newspaper to: cody@gaffneyledger.com.

THEIR VIEWS

Fair sharing of water resources is crucial

North Carolina Gov. Mike Easley recently reiterated his appeal for that state's residents to "be really tight with the water" in light of an ongoing drought. Unfortunately, the water problems in the Tar Heel State have a direct bearing on South Carolina's worsening water woes as well.

That's because major sources of drinking water, like the Catawba River, flow through both states. If North Carolina taps out too much, there's not enough left for South Carolina.

So far, the message apparently hasn't trickled down to North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper, who recently contended that his state's water needs aren't

severe enough to pose an imminent threat to South Carolina's. But even a long-term threat should be a neighborly concern.

Problems would certainly arise under a plan to pump 72 million gallons of water a day out of the Catawba, primarily to alleviate water shortages in Concord and Kannapolis. North Carolina's diversion would diminish the Palmetto State's water supply — and, in the view of South Carolina Attorney General Henry McMaster, would be a clear violation of U.S. law.

With that potential long-term crisis looming, South Carolina and her neighboring states are in this together. Prudent water conservation and management policies are in order.

So is fair sharing of this precious resource.

The (Charleston) Post and Courier

GUEST COLUMNIST

Life lessons prove difficult to share

My son, wonderful as he is, has every single one of my flaws. In addition to his inheritance of my awkward physique, he has all of my mental quirks and disagreeable tendencies. Like me, he doesn't see the glass as half full or half empty, he wants something else to drink in a completely different glass.

He talks too much, can't admit when he doesn't know something and lacks patience of any sort. He, of course, has many of my strengths as well given that he's intelligent, clever and has a knack for language that makes you forget he's not quite four years old.

This combination of traits does not bode well for his immediate future, since in a couple of years he will enter the public school system, an institution that rewards following directions, shutting up and not challenging authority. Public schools tend to value kids who do as they're told more than precocious, smart children who question everything and always think they know better than the adults.

As a child, I was an awful student and a general pain in the ass who was often disagreeable when it would have been easier to just go with the flow. I had little interest in doing things that weren't easy and I lacked the gene that makes someone want to please authority



DANIEL B. KLINE

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figures. Most of school did come easy to me, but learning something to my own satisfaction and proving I knew it to the teacher's satisfaction often put me at odds with teachers, administrators and my parents.

The idea of doing my homework simply because I was supposed to never really kicked in and if I didn't learn something by quickly absorbing it, I assumed it was not

worth knowing. This, of course, largely proved true, as the areas I had trouble quickly grasping, like advanced math and science have not had any bearing on my life.

That does not mean, however that I was correct to not put any effort into learning those things. While the actual information being taught may not have appealed to me then, or now, there's a value in learning how to do things you don't like, aren't good at or simply see no value in.

Being a responsible employee, adult and parent generally involves doing things you don't want to do and parenting especially seems to require learning how to do a lot of things I'm not particularly good at. Any parent who has suffered through a DVD for the ten thousandth time and every employee who has been stuck with a thankless or pointless task, knows that simply ignoring the work in front of you is an indulgence of youth we all have to learn to give up.

I want my son to challenge authority and truly believe in the idea that somebody is not smarter than you simply because they're older or in charge. I'd also like him to learn, much sooner than I did, though, that being smarter or knowing better doesn't mean you get to always ignore the person in charge.

(Daniel B. Kline's work appears in over 100 papers weekly. His new book a collection of columns, *Easy Answers to Every Problem*, can be ordered at amazon.com or barnesandnoble.com. Daniel B. Kline can be reached at dan@notastep.com.)



INSIDE REPORT

HUCKABEE'S OPRAH

WASHINGTON — Republican insiders, puzzled by the sudden rise of Mike Huckabee as a serious presidential candidate, are overlooking the role played for him by actor Chuck Norris.

Called "Huckabee's Oprah" in Hollywood, Norris is helping the former governor of Arkansas in much the same way that Oprah Winfrey boosts Sen. Barack Obama's bid for the Democratic presidential nomination. Huckabee began his ascent from the depths of the second tier of candidates after his endorsement in late October by Norris, called the "marshal of martial arts."

Norris's endorsement is featured in a Huckabee TV ad, which his money-short campaign has run mainly in Iowa and on the Internet. Norris may be no big deal in New York and Washington, but he is a folk hero with ordinary Iowans and has helped push Huckabee ahead of Mitt Romney in polls forecasting the Jan. 3 Iowa caucuses. The Norris endorsement may be a bigger factor in Iowa than evangelical support for Huckabee, an ordained Baptist minister.

PRO-LIFE W?

George W. Bush, who has been repeatedly described by his staff as the "most pro-life president in history," again will miss the annual anti-abortion March for Life in Washington Jan. 22 and instead make a live phone call to participants.

This time, President Bush will be in the Middle East the day of the march. He has called the pro-life demonstrators from Manhattan, Kan., from Camp David and from Roswell, N.M., in recent years. That the president usually ends up out of Washington is annoying to thousands of pro-life

activists who take buses to the nation's capital.

"President Bush is the most pro-life president in history," was one of the talking points sent out by Bush headquarters during the 2004 campaign. Tim Goeglein, the White House liaison with religious groups, has said: "George W. Bush is the most pro-life president in American history."



ROBERT NOVAK

BOXER'S REVENGE

Democratic Sen. Barbara Boxer of California, a personal friend and political ally of the Clintons, is behind a nearly year-long blocking of California Superior Court Judge Jim Rogan for a federal judgeship because he was one of the 13 House impeachment managers of President Bill Clinton.

President Bush in January nominated Rogan as a district judge in Los Angeles. Ordinarily, district court nominees do not experience the confirmation difficulties of an appellate judge. Boxer has prevented Senate action on Rogan, informing this column he is not in the "mainstream."

A former Democrat, Rogan served two terms in Congress representing a heavily Democratic Southern California district but was defeated for re-election in 2000. He was named as a Superior Court judge in 2006 by California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

RAHM'S REPUBLICANS

Rep. Rahm Emanuel, chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, won private praise Wednesday from several conservative Republican senators when he launched an attack on Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell.

Emanuel attacked McConnell's plan to keep federal spending at President Bush's recommended level but find room for individual earmarks by cutting everything across the board. Emanuel said McConnell is "fighting for earmarks over funding for cancer cures, the veterans' health care crisis and 50,000 new American teachers." He charged that McConnell's "own reelection campaign would come first."

That is precisely what anti-earmark Republicans have been saying in private but do not want to say publicly for the sake of party unity.

THOMPSON'S CONSERVATIVE

The endorsement of Fred Thompson's presidential candidacy by Morton Blackwell, longtime Republican National Committeeman from Virginia and a prominent conservative activist, was announced Tuesday a silent month after it was made.

Blackwell's support had been sought by Thompson. After due consideration, Blackwell decided Thompson was the best conservative who could be nominated. He so informed the Thompson campaign of his decision but then heard nothing until Tuesday's announcement.

The intervening month was a time when Thompson could have benefited from good news. Several Republicans trying to help Thompson have found their overtures rebuffed.