

Opinion

Gulf Breeze NEWS



Gulf Breeze News
YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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I still believe in good people

While making my rounds on Pensacola Beach this past weekend, I found myself stopping into a local establishment to say my good-byes. It was at this time that I had figured out a new way to get a phone number, except not necessarily from an admirer. The employee handed me a note and an explanation of how my car had been brushed by another vehicle. Panic didn't set in until I realized it was too dark in the parking lot to ascertain any substantial damage, and it was up to the a.m. hours to "shed some light" on the problem.

To offset any unneeded worry (it's just a car, right?), I was immediately put at ease by realizing how honest the young lady was who left her information. Is it actually possible to encounter honesty these days? My answer that evening was a resounding "yes."

We've all been victim of ghost damage inflicted on our parked and unmanned vehicles; we've had something of value stolen or lost. Normally our minds are made up: we will retrieve that item unscathed and damage will not be spoken for.

Having personal property stolen, broken or broken into has got to be the most violating feeling we can experi-



From the Editor's Desk

B.J. Davis

ence. One evening in college, I was studying for a final when a friend invited me over for an impromptu get-together. My first reaction was no way, I have too much to study for. That thought should have the deciding factor, but as one would have it, I made my way gleefully to the party.

Once arriving at the party, I apparently forgot all proper vehicle-exit procedures, namely locking the car or even rolling up the windows. A few hours later, I returned to my car and was struck with that overpowering sense of violation as the contents of my glove box were strewn across my seat and floorboard as well as wires dangling innocently from a vacant spot which was once a very decent CD player.

Next came hopelessness as recovery efforts proved dim. A call to the police seemed more protocol than fruitful as the officer informed me cases like this are rarely solved, much less items returned. I had lost a total of \$1,100 in electronics, CDs, sunglasses

and a brand new camera received a month before for my birthday.

It wasn't then that I began losing faith in the honesty of the human race as a whole; I'm a sucker for thinking that people, in general, are good. That belief has burned me on more than once occasion, but at least I can sleep at night. At least I can hope.

I applaud people like the young lady who left her information for me after the incident. I know that she could sleep that night knowing if there were any real damage, she could only hope I was as rational as she was in that particular situation. Truth is, she did me a favor my scrapping some of the dirt off my bumper, and no harm was done.

This column is dedicated to the honest folks out there who keep fools like me convinced that there are, in fact, good people still left. I told her she could buy me a beer next time she saw me. She said she'd buy me a few. I still have the number.

Charlie Crist let my daughter die

As most Americans know, on March 31, 2005, my daughter, Terri Schindler Schiavo died of starvation and thirst after having her feeding tube removed by court order. The sad chain of events that concluded with Terri's death ignited a media firestorm nationally and internationally. What few saw or heard was the callous inaction of aspiring governor Charlie Crist.

Attorney General Charlie Crist let my daughter die. He had it within his authority to save her life, but he turned a blind eye to her suffering. Even worse, he worked to ensure her death.

Terri lived in a neurologically compromised state for reasons that are still unknown, and my family wanted nothing more than permission to care for Terri for the span of her natural life. We were denied.

My daughter tenaciously fought for her life for more than 13 days after being deprived of the most basic, natural and constant need that we all share—the need for nourishment—food and water. Terri was not on a respirator, nor terminally ill. She was not dying, nor succumbing to a dreadful disease. She was disabled. She was dependent on others, but still very much a life, a woman, and a person.

Over the course of several years, our family, our lawyers, and our friends pleaded for help

VIEWPOINT

By Robert Schindler Sr.
Father of Terri Schiavo

from local, county, and state police and regulatory agencies with constitutional and statutory authority to investigate the many sworn statements of extreme abuse and neglect suffered by our daughter.

Hoping to save my daughter's life, our family sought the help of Attorney General Charlie Crist. Not only did Charlie Crist refuse our family lawful access to the assets of his office, but he violated his oath of office by actively cooperated with those in positions of political and judicial authority whom denied us legal access to the police and regulatory systems meant to protect the weak. Multiple sworn agents from responsible police and regulatory agencies who found probable cause to investigate allegations of abuse in Terri's judicial and physical care, were ordered to shut down those probes. This heavy-handedness made us powerless.

Information of direct interest to Attorney General Charlie Crist's office was directly delivered to his personal hands, and he refused to properly execute the duties of his office. And it was with deliberate decision that he failed to attend a scheduled Tallahassee meeting with

our family. On another occasion, we approached each other by chance. Upon recognizing me, Charlie Crist abruptly stopped and walked away.

That callous action encapsulates Charlie Crist. He walked away from a man whose daughter's fate he controlled. At that moment, he turned his back on Terri. And he turned his back on the most fundamental duties of his office.

It is quite clear that Charlie Crist, to this day, has demonstrated no public affection for the cause of life, or Christianity, or any set of core values. He has been posturing to become governor for decades. With each voting audience he has crafted a message based on the expediency of the moment.

To add insult to injury, at a recent banquet, our alleged pro-life candidate for the Governor of Florida said the following about Judge George Greer and other judges involved in the death of my daughter, "You are heroes to all of us, and your defense of the judiciary and what is right is beyond admirable."

Through his actions, Charlie Crist has demonstrated that he has no regard for our most vulnerable citizens, the high duties of public office, or life itself. Charlie Crist's celebration of the merciless judges who condemned Terri to death speaks to his true character.

On the Spot:



WHERE WE PUT PEOPLE "ON THE SPOT" TO ANSWER A QUESTION "ON THE SPOT."

By Franklin Hayes

What problems have you had with your home insurance company and what measures could improve the situation?



"I had it after the storm, but I don't have them anymore. I had Citizens and they went up three times more than what I was paying. I don't know what would help. They like it when you pay, but don't like it too much when they have to pay."

-Virginia Dean
Gulf Breeze

"I have been very fortunate and I personally haven't had any problems. I realize that some people are having serious problems, but I don't know what to tell you."

-Vickie Lanzetta
Gulf Breeze



"I didn't have a claim, we've been very fortunate. I've heard my neighbors complaining all the problems they had. The state did form Citizens and I don't think they're better than what we had before. I don't have any suggestions off the top of my head."

-Bessie Ban Tassel
Gulf Breeze



"I haven't had any problems. However, my next door neighbors and my husband's business got cancelled. No, I don't really have any suggestions."

-Suzanne Roth
Gulf Breeze



Trade agreement phony

The John Birch Society at www.jbs.org has issued a Legislative Alert warning citizens to demand that congress stop the U.S.-Oman so-called Free Trade Agreement (regional government) Treaty, between us and the country of Oman in the Mid-East, that recently passed the Senate and is now in congress. This is another phony "Free Trade Agreement" that analysts are saying will not only threaten our jobs, national security, independence, access to health supplements, and border security, but can facilitate the re-entry of a Dubai Ports World-type operation putting our port security under Arab con-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

rol, and giving Communist China major tariff advantages among other charades. We should see: www.thenewamerican.com for more information and contact our congressmen to stop it immediately as it is coming to a vote this month. - Wake up America, we shouldn't fall for this subterfuge.

Ed Nemechek
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