

## Statesboro Herald

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## Letters to the editor

## A new champion for states' health and environment

Editor:

As Earth Day nears, it's worth noting the critical role the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has played in securing cleaner air and cleaner water for states, since the first Earth Day in 1970. From limits on toxic mercury pollution from power plants, to getting lead out of gasoline, our health and our environment are in better shape today thanks to EPA.

Now President Obama has nominated Gina McCarthy to lead EPA as it continues its critical work. Ms. McCarthy has a stellar record of winning real

results for our environment and public health — under both Republican and Democratic administrations — and she's won praise from environmentalists and industry leaders alike. But polluters and their allies may still try and block her nomination.

This Earth Day, I urge the U.S. Senate to support Ms. McCarthy's nomination, so she can get to work continuing EPA's strong record of tackling our most urgent environmental and public health challenges.

Sincerely,  
Mia Burns  
Stone Mountain, Ga.



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## How secure is the border?

There's a confrontation coming between the Obama administration and Republicans in Congress over the most basic question of immigration reform: How secure is the U.S. border with Mexico?

Not only does the administration not know — and perhaps doesn't want to know — but there are signs the border is less secure than some of the most skeptical Republicans thought.

Last year the Border Patrol began experimenting with a new drone-based surveillance system that had been developed for finding Taliban fighters in Afghanistan. Starting in the fall, officials used the radar-based system over a fairly small portion of the Arizona border. The results were striking.

"According to internal reports, Border Patrol agents used the airborne radar to help find and detain 1,874 people in the Sonora Desert between October 1 (2012) and January 17 (2013)," reported the Los Angeles Times recently. "But the radar system spotted an additional 1,962 people in the same area who evaded arrest and disappeared into the United States."

That means officers caught fewer than half of those who made the crossing in that part of Arizona. If those results are representative of other sectors of the border, then everything the administration has said about border security is wrong.

"These revelations are in stark contrast to the administration's declaration that the border is more secure than ever due to greater resources having been deployed to the region, and that lower rates of apprehensions signify fewer individuals are crossing," Rep. Michael McCaul, chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, wrote in a recent letter to Homeland Security Secretary Janet



Byron York

Napolitano.

"Since the creation of DHS, Congress has provided significant funding increases in the number of Border Patrol agents, the building of nearly 700 miles of fencing and the deployment of advanced technologies to increase the nation's ability to monitor the border," the Texas Republican added. "However, we do not know if additional resources have produced better results."

For years, Napolitano and other officials at the Department of Homeland Security have pointed to the declining number of border apprehensions as proof that the total number of illegal crossings is also declining. Now, it could mean the administration just isn't catching most of the crossers.

"The results speak for themselves," says one GOP Hill aide involved in border security issues. "We can't really use apprehensions as an accurate measure when we're not even seeing half the people."

In light of the radar numbers, McCaul has asked Napolitano to provide data to back up her assertion that the border is more secure than ever. The answer could have a huge effect on the comprehensive immigration reform bills Congress will consider in coming weeks and months.

For example, there are reports that the Senate's bipartisan Gang of Eight negotiators have added a border security provision to their proposal to give immediate legalization to the estimated 11 million illegal immigrants in the U.S. Before that

legalization occurs, Homeland Security would have to submit a plan that would, within a decade, result in the apprehension of 90 percent of those who cross the border illegally. The department would also have to have 100 percent of the border under surveillance.

That's not all. The Gang of Eight plan is then expected to call for greater border security measures — and results — before those newly legalized immigrants are placed on a path that eventually will lead to citizenship.

Both provisions will be met with a lot of skepticism, at least on the Right. Will Republicans really agree to legalize 11 million currently illegal immigrants on the strength of Janet Napolitano's promise to secure the border sometime in the next 10 years — especially after Napolitano claimed, on the basis of dubious evidence, that the border is already secure?

Some immigration reformers see the radar story as hopeful news, showing that there are new ways to use technology to secure the border. But of course it is the administration's job to enforce border security, and DHS has spent years resisting even assessing the situation.

McCaul and others have introduced legislation that would require Homeland Security to come up with a comprehensive strategy to secure the border — and then carry it out. The problem is that such demands have been made many times in the past, and the border is still not secure. Given the Obama administration's record, is there any reason to believe that things will be any different this time, no matter what promises are made?

Byron York is chief political correspondent for *The Washington Examiner*.

## Praise for coverage of Deen Day Smith Awards

Editor:

Last week I went to Hubert/Stilson, Ga., to visit my sister, Ginger Miller, who gets the Herald at her home. And while there, I had the pleasure of reading part of your paper. What a pleasure to read some good news for a change! The Deen Day Smith Awards information was such a beautifully written and wholly

inspiring section and I was so glad to hear about all the giving people in your area, people dedicated to making our world a better place in which to live.

Thank you so much for sharing about these unsung heroes and giving them their place in the sun.

Melissa Aull  
Smyrna, South Carolina

## Condemn the theft but understand the sentiment

Editor:

In response to Donald Jones' letter, we must remember that while the flags around the Confederate monument represent heritage to some, they also represent terror and lynchings to others. But a group whose "camp historian" and newsletter editor believes the Civil War was not a "civil war" despite the definitive three volume history of the Civil War by a Mississippian having those words in large print right on the front cover can't be expected to be sensitive to that. While the Union prison camps Jones mentions were no picnic, they beat Andersonville in the "Great State" of Georgia for "hospitality".

When someone is in your backyard with a weapon, there

is a third choice. Greet them with a cup of tea and negotiate their departure from your property. If the South had taken this third choice to heart, as Mississippi Shelby Foote explains, the war they had no chance of winning probably never would have happened. How can the Rifles spend so much money and time reenacting, ad nauseum, a long ago bloodbath where most died of disease off the battlefield? Condemn the theft of flowers and flags, but understand there is a much greater theft that still needs investigation also. Perhaps the Rifles could put their muskets down for a year and devote all time and treasure to the Hearts & Hands clinic? No uniforms required.

Greg Brock  
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## Prayer of the Day

"Father, the future is uncertain, and the past is over. Show me that today is the only time I have to forgive and to receive forgiveness, to live a righteous life, and to give myself in service to others. May I be a willing servant for the cause of thy kingdom. Amen."

— The Rev. Dr. Charles E. Cravey, retired. Please submit your Prayer of the Day to him at [drrev@msn.com](mailto:drrev@msn.com).

## Margaret Thatcher and Marco Rubio

HOLLYWOOD — God bless America, and how's everybody?

Senator Roger Wicker was mailed poison ricin powder addressed to him at his office in Washington Tuesday. Other senators received ricin-laced letters. Terrorists use the U.S. mail whenever they want to kill someone but are not that concerned about how quickly.

Forbes says ten percent of U.S. doctors will practice concierge medicine when ObamaCare kicks in. That's a fee per visit. No one wants to say socialized medicine dulls your skills, but British doctors pronounced Margaret Thatcher's condition today as satisfactory.

Lady Margaret Thatcher was eulogized at at St. Paul's Cathedral on Wednesday. The Baroness was the classic Englishwoman and a Tory Methodist to the bone. She died suddenly only weeks after a guy from Argentina was elected pope, if you suspect foul play.

The FBI sent a bomb squad to the Senate Office Building Wednesday as additional U.S. senators received threats. It's epidemic. The White House said President Obama received a suspicious letter which was written entirely in Arabic, so they decided it was nothing to worry about.

CNN's Wolf Blitzer jumped the gun Wednesday reporting that the Boston bomber had been arrested. Ten minutes later the network had to announce that the report wasn't true. CNN is now walking back its story that



Argus Hamilton

Boston is a small island off the coast of Kansas.

The U.S. Senate heard a bill that lets illegal aliens stay in the U.S. if they pay back taxes and pass a criminal check and have a good job. It could be a deal-breaker. Democrats are never going to vote for an immigration bill that only allows Republicans into the country.

Senator Marco Rubio offered a bill Tuesday that would give provisional illegal aliens free satellite phones that are equipped with GPS. It's nuts. How do you call it freedom if your government, your wife and your girlfriend know exactly where you are at all times?

Warner Brothers released a trailer on Tuesday for the Man of Steel starring Henry Cavill as Superman. It's been updated. The old Superman got weaker around kryptonite and today's Superman gets insufferably self-righteous in the presence of hybrid vehicles.

Gwyneth Paltrow was voted most hated celebrity in a Star poll Monday. She's always promoting her healthy lifestyle. Hitler was a vegetarian and didn't drink, but he knew not to brag about it in infomercials or

the world would've stopped him at Czechoslovakia.

Anthony Weiner was pleased to see himself running second in the New York mayor's race in Tuesday's poll. He hasn't declared yet and he's surging. Ever since Mayor Giuliani ran all the hookers out of Times Square New Yorkers have been craving adult entertainment.

Lindsay Lohan's lawyer said she will enter a drug and alcohol rehab in two weeks as the court ordered on Wednesday. These rehabs work miracles in people. They take cocaine addicts and alcoholics and in twenty-eight days turn them into sex maniacs and overeaters.

North Korea's Kim Jung Un threatened to attack South Korea without warning for its insulting protest marches against North Korea in Seoul. It's so juvenile. If Kim Jung Un keeps misbehaving he'll be sent to bed without his and two hundred other people's supper.

National Public Radio got hacked by the Syrian Electronic Army Tuesday while NPR was on the air. You had to be there. An English-speaking Syrian broke onto NPR telling everyone how to live their lives and condemning Israel, and nobody noticed the difference.

Argus Hamilton is the host comedian at *The Comedy Store in Hollywood* and speaks to groups and organizations around the country. E-mail him at [Argus@ArgusHamilton.com](mailto:Argus@ArgusHamilton.com).