

Online POLL

Will you be reluctant to swim in the North Toe River? Visit www.mitchellnews.com to answer and our Facebook page to leave a response

OPINION

NEWS-JOURNAL EDITORIAL

LAST WEEK'S POLL RESULTS

What is your favorite local event?
Other: 32% Rhododendron: 23% Fall TRAC Tour/Spring TRAC Tour/NC Mineral and Gem Fest: 9%

Camp Spring Creek is changing children's lives

One-in-5 American children has trouble reading. But they are not stupid or lazy. There are proven, practical techniques that, along with hard work and the right help, can enable anyone to overcome them. One way to begin that process is nestled right here in the mountains of Mitchell County.

One of only three residential summer camps for children with dyslexia in the country, Camp Spring Creek offers a life-changing experience full of intensive learning and fun.

The camp offers daily one-on-one tutoring sessions with a tutor trained in Orton-Gillingham in-



A camper reads a book at Camp Spring Creek in Bakersville.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

struction; fun, confidence-building activities in the outdoors, ranging from hiking to rafting; hands-on

arts experiences with professional artists; an international staff of counselors; good food; an emphasis

on interpersonal skills; an environment of respect and support for each camper; and a spectacular location.

Campers leave Camp Spring Creek at the end of the summer with improved reading, writing and spelling skills, increased self-confidence and independence, and a better sense of their natural talents.

Mitchell County is known for many things – its beauty, its friendly people, its natural resources and even its music. But for thousands of children since 2003 that have attended Camp Spring Creek, Mitchell County is also known as the place that changed their lives for the better and forever.

To err is human, but it still hurts

My name is Brandon Roberts, and I have a problem. Well, some people, myself included, see it as a problem at least. The problem is I can't stop reading.

When I put the "finishing" touches on a page of the News-Journal I read it. Often it's the fourth, fifth or sixth time I have read the copy on that page and then I read the page again and again.

Why this becomes the problem is, as an editor, I can always find a reason or need to re-word something, add something or omit something, and, admittedly, I too often do.

Sometimes tweaking a sentence or paragraph helps, sometimes it has no effect and sometimes, it hurts. When letters are left off words or periods are omitted because of a last-second change, it drives me crazy, and it's entirely my fault in every way possible. What makes things worse is my incessant need to read and re-read is a good and bad thing simultaneously. Even after the paper is finished, I think about every single word on every single page until it arrives in our office. Then, when I look at it, it starts all over.

There has been more than several occasions where I have finished the paper, went home, ate dinner, watched Jeopardy!, played with my dogs, mowed grass, etc., and when my night is about to come to an end, I'll think of something that "needs" changed. I will then drive back to the office, pull up the page on my computer and begin tweaking. Then,



Brandon ROBERTS

since I'm already here, I'll do it to the other pages. Before I know it, I've re-read the entire paper, multiple times.

As I said, that type of behavior is both a good and bad thing. We rarely print errors of fact, and that's not only a good thing but also the most important. My follow-up phone calls, emails and text messages are almost as prevalent as my tweaking – any coach or commissioner can attest to that. But, the bad thing is, Alex Glover becomes Alex Glove and Tar Heel becomes Tar Hell – you see my point?

Just as any editor I have my pet peeves. I despise redundancy, and I feel it is impossible to pre-register for an event or pre-heat an oven, and there are many more, and these are the things that keep me up at night, sometimes literally.

Mistakes are going to happen, and I know that, but that doesn't make them any easier to accept. I know how to do my job quite well, but what I don't know is how to stop doing my job.

Thank you for reading the News-Journal.

Brandon Roberts is publisher and editor of the News-Journal. He can be reached by email at editor@mitchellnews.com or by calling 828-765-7169.

LETTERS

Thank you from ATRC

To the editor:
I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the members of the Mount Mitchell Road Kill Band, the donors to the silent auction and the volunteers who helped make the Horsin' Around fundraiser such a success.

Great music and a stunning array of desserts, provided by generous volunteers, helped to make this a fun evening for all. Thank you to everyone who helped, donated and attended.

Miika Rolett
Appalachian Therapeutic Riding Center

Mediums distort news to fit agendas

To the editor:
After a sabbatical of some time, I feel the urge to compose another diatribe, much to the chagrin of some as well as the amusement of others.

It came to my attention early on your publication, like the Asheville Citizen-Times, is obviously bent to the left. In a county so bright red I fail to see how this could be a good business decision. I also realize I know nothing about the mainstream media except they have lost their ability to report the news. They now distort the news to fit their socialist agendas.

It escapes me how sane people can align themselves with the likes of the Clintons, Hussein, Pelosi, Moore, Soros, Schumer, Waters, Cortez and their current poster boy, Strzok.

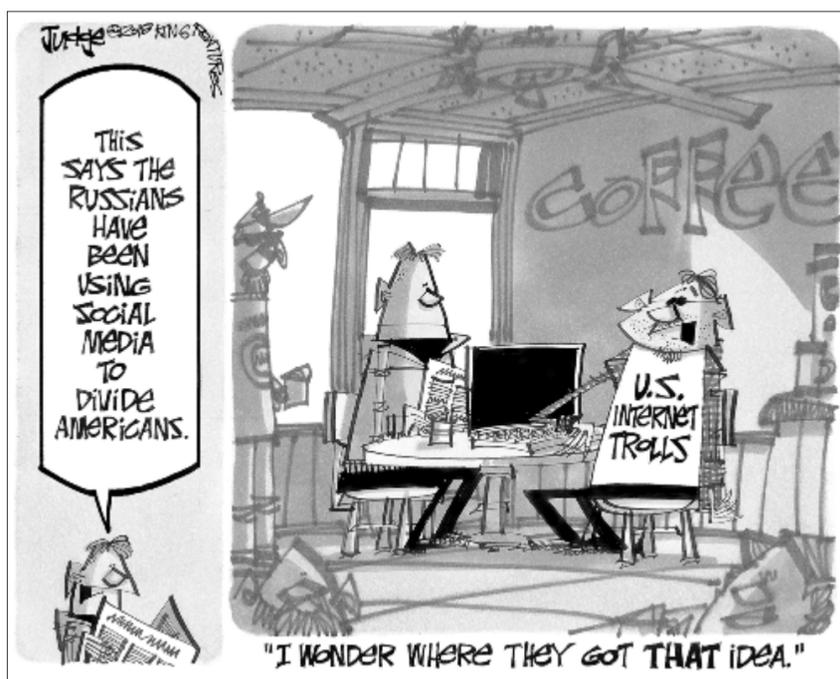
I suppose that "sane" is the key word here.

It also escapes me how people can watch CNN, CNBC, CBS, NBC, ABC – so-called news. I suppose that has a great deal to do with sanity also.

I suppose this is a classic case of the useful idiots leading the clueless down the primrose path.

We have had social programs enacted primarily by the left to the tune of \$22 trillion with the primary objective of enslaving the poor and keeping them poor and dependent on the leftist oligarchs. Their current disaster de jour is I.C.E. and how to do away with all law enforcement as well as borders.

All this is a sad commentary on the present state of our Republic, and I place the blame where it undeniably lies, which is the current edition of the so-called Democratic Party, which I submit to all who read this, most former true



Democrat presidents would be ashamed to be associated with.

Many thanks to all who read this, in fact it gets published, and I welcome opposing viewpoints, but as usual I will probably ignore them.

Charles Boone
Spruce Pine

Shelter in dire need of support

To the editor:
I have been a resident of Mitchell County since the mid-1970s. At that time, there was no animal shelter or any animal control in the county. This resulted in hundreds of feral dogs roaming the streets looking for food, litters of kittens thrown into dumpsters, and hungry dogs attacking farm animals as well as dogs and cats in their own yards.

We are fortunate these conditions are improved now thanks to the Mitchell County Animal Rescue. Many Mitchell County residents have been regularly supporting the shelter, and we greatly appreciate their support and concern.

This time of year presents a particular challenge to our care of the animals. We currently have 78 cats and kittens and more than 60 dogs living in the shelter. The shelter is designed to hold perhaps half of its current population. We have litters of cats and dogs in foster care waiting until we have room in the shelter for them. Before any animal is put up for adoption they must be spayed or neutered, given rabies and other shots, and microchipped so the animal can easily be identified and returned to its owner if lost. All of these costs must be absorbed by the shelter, which is causing a severe financial shortfall.

We are asking for the public's help to get us through this crisis. Please help us by making either

a one-time generous gift or by signing up for our Giving Circle and donating an amount you set each month. We are also in need of paper goods, cleaning agents, laundry detergents and cat litter. Your donation may be sent to P.O. Box 308, Spruce Pine or through www.mitchell-countyanimalrescue.org.

We thank you in advance.
Gloria Schulman
MCAR Board Chair

Mission shouldn't shape foundation

To the editor:
The Mission Health board and CEO Ron Paulus don't get it: The system's billions in assets do not belong to them to do with as they please.

A few days ago, Mission announced the incorporation of a nonprofit foundation to receive the proceeds from the proposed sale of Mission's six hospitals to HCA Healthcare, the nation's largest for-profit chain. By law, proceeds from the sale must go to another nonprofit dedicated to improving regional health – but that doesn't mean Mission gets to shape that nonprofit or decide who runs it.

Nevertheless, Mission's board not only named the foundation, but it also picked one of its former members, the woman Paulus credits with bringing him to North Carolina eight years ago, to head the new board. The message couldn't be clearer: Mission and Paulus believe it's their right to control the money generated by the sale.

That assumption is as arrogant as it is wrong. Why? Because a foundation created to serve the community should be formed by people drawn from throughout the community – not a self-selecting few who give lip service to inclusiveness while rushing to perpetuate their power.

That's why at least nine states spell out community-focused mechanisms for creating such foundations. That's why many of those laws prohibit or severely limit any involvement by the nonprofit hospital's leaders in the foundation that's formed.

Fortunately, Paulus and Mission don't get the last word. That belongs to state Attorney General Josh Stein. His role is to protect the taxpayers of North Carolina, who have, by allowing Mission to avoid paying taxes all these years, invested many millions in the system.

Sustaining Essential and Rural Community Healthcare, or SEARCH, calls on Stein to put the brakes on Mission's assumption of a right that does not and should not belong to it. Anything less would short-change the public whose trust he holds.

Victoria Loe Hicks
Bakersville

Our country is under cyberattack

Our country has been and is currently being attacked. Apparently there is little understanding of "cyber" warfare amongst Americans.

Perhaps thinking in terms of other adjectives for warfare will help perspective. Tank warfare, gas warfare, nuclear warfare, guerilla warfare, trench warfare, cyber warfare – it's all warfare designed to conquer, just variations in weaponry and style.

A plausible Trumpian response to the attack on Pearl Harbor: "It could have been the Japanese, or some other country; there are many of them out there. Lots of countries have airplanes. It's important that we have a good relationship with Japan."

We are under siege.
Bill Wygand
Spruce Pine

MITCHELL NEWS-JOURNAL

261 Locust St. • P.O. Box 339 • Spruce Pine, NC 28777
828-765-7169 • Fax: 828-765-1616 • USPS 639-240

Our Mission

The Mitchell News-Journal is published with pride for the people of Mitchell and adjoining counties by Community Newspapers Inc., Athens, Georgia.

We believe strong newspapers build strong communities – "Newspapers get things done!" Our primary goal is to publish distinguished and profitable community-oriented newspapers.

This mission will be accomplished through the teamwork of professionals dedicated to truth, integrity, loyalty, quality and hard work.

Tom Wood, Chairman **Dink NeSmith, President**
Rachel Hoskins, Regional Publisher
rhoskins@thefranklinpress.com

Periodical postage paid in Spruce Pine
Regular yearly subscription rates: \$27 in Mitchell, Avery & Yancey Co.; \$37 for seasonal residents of Mitchell County; \$47 for out of county
Postmaster: Send address changes to: Mitchell News-Journal, P.O. Box 339, Spruce Pine, NC 28777. In the event of typographical errors in advertisements, the Mitchell News-Journal is responsible only for the space occupied by the actual error.

