

The High Point Enterprise is committed to this community ... and always will serve it by being an intensely local newspaper of excellent quality every day.

The Enterprise welcomes letters. The editor reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity and decorum. Writers are limited to 300 words and to no more than one letter every week. Please include name, home address and daytime phone number.

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YOUR VIEW

An affront to our country

President Trump wanted a different July 4th celebration than our founding fathers intended. Not just fireworks to celebrate independence. Not just people gathering for that and to enjoy a festive atmosphere of laughter and good food.

He wanted tanks on the Washington Mall and a flyover by military jets. Hey, why don't we just drive the tanks down Constitution Avenue, followed by 100,000 marching armed troops for the president's review? Just like they do in Russia, China and North Korea.

The president, in a disgraceful example of political grandstanding, spoke in front of the Lincoln Memorial so this great national event of celebrating

our country's independence can be associated with him. That is an affront to the Lincoln Memorial and this country's greatest president. And to our country.

GARY PARKER
High Point

Go Rockers!

I relocated here three years ago with my wife and daughter. I have been welcomed. I have learned.

I have seen generosity and Southern hospitality like I never expected. I am able to work with an amazing group of people who truly care about our community. It has been a great move.

With that said, it took me some time to feel like I was not simply visiting.

Recently I have felt more a part of High Point. Why? One of the biggest reasons is the High Point Rockers. Not the team necessarily, but the place.

At BB&T Point stadium, I can take off my tie and meet the families of all the great folks I have become acquainted with through work. I have watched my colleague's children enjoy the play area. I have visited with the husbands and wives of people I spend countless hours with during the work week. I have watched folks simply relax and enjoy themselves.

I grew up going to the Orlando Twins minor league games with my brothers and dad. I took my ball glove, hoping for a foul ball. I have

so many great memories from those balmy Central Florida nights.

Now, my daughter is thrilled to "go to the game," but unlike me, she barely watches the game ... too busy visiting with her friends from school and meeting new ones!

While I sip on a beer and eat peanuts, I have some of the best conversations with folks I know I would have never met had it not been for the Rockers. I have been part of a broader, more diverse group than my day to day brings me. It makes me happy.

There are many wonderful places in High Point, but the experiences and the simple joy I have been able to soak up at the stadium

has been special. Relaxing ... uncomplicated ... meaningful.

Thank you to those with the political will, the city staff who did the heavy lifting, the leaders, like Dr. Qubein and his "faithful courage," the businesses who support the team and the philanthropists who generously and modestly give. Many families like mine are enjoying what your commitment and hard work created.

Many more will be coming to our city, High Point, my home. Go Rockers!

Patrick Chapin
High Point

The writer is president of Business High Point-Chamber of Commerce.

YOUR VIEW

The fundamental destruction of America

"Fundamental transformation of America." Since Barack Obama introduced that goal of his presidency at his acceptance

GUEST COLUMN

speech I have wondered what exactly did those words mean to him and his supporters. Lately, many of the current campaigners for the Democratic nomination have either uttered the same words or a variation. And how were they going to do that momentous task? By a complete reformation of the American experiment of letting free men and women determine how they would be governed. First, they chose to get control of the American health care system by passing the partisan Affordable Care Act, a long ago dream of Hillary Clinton. They quickly learned that was a mistake as making policy is much easier than implementing policy. So difficult, it cost them control of White House, the Senate and the House. Eight years of almost total control of the American government wasted because of egos and fanaticism. But they had a plan. They crowned Hillary as Obama's successor. All the polls said she was a sure thing so she would just carry on the dream of a fundamental change to the American system.

Unfortunately, a funny thing happened on the way to the White House. She neglected to win by turning out to be an abysmally bad campaigner and damaged by then FBI Director James Comey who made two bizarre TV appearances to "clarify" why Hillary had a private server to send emails. Despite winning the popular vote, she got buried in the Electoral College and Donald J. Trump became president.

So now what? First, let's marshal all our resources, including the media, to delegitimize Trump. Call for his impeachment immediately, attack him personally, attack his family personally, scream racism, push class warfare, find mud and get down and roll in it. Which they did, but once

again, egos got in the way as to who was the main voice of the resistance? Various committee chairs opened investigations into the election to verify the rumor about Russian collusion and, of course, their eternal quest for Trump's tax returns.

But now the FBI reappears and along with the DOJ they get the brilliant idea to name a special counsel, Robert Mueller.

Mr. Mueller immediately hired 13 lawyers who are Democrats and ferocious investigators. After more than two years and more than \$30 million dollars, they found no collusion.

They did bag some people for financial crimes and 11 Russian businessmen (who will never set foot in an American court.)

What's left to cause "the fundamental transformation of America so wished for by Obama"?

Easy. As they say in football, "we'll flood the zone with all kinds of candidates." After all, if Donald Trump can become president, anybody can. So they have assembled a cast of all shapes, sizes and beliefs who want the Democratic party's nomination.

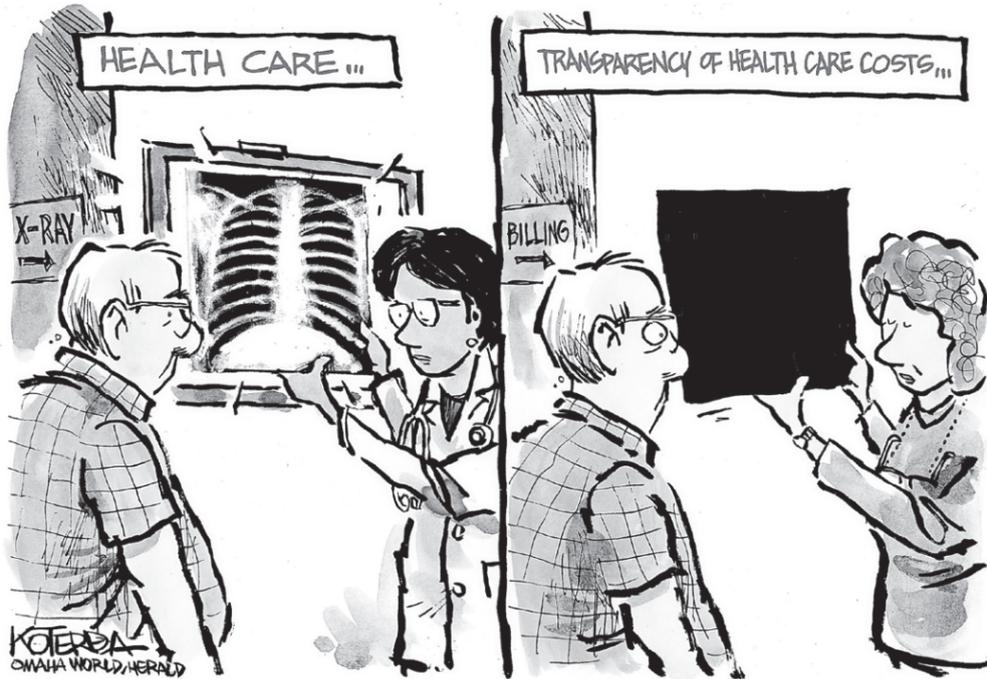
And they all support Obama's goal of transforming America. Only now, they do what they always do. They start out promising each other as to who can give away the most of the tax payers' money for their own personal vision of their transformed America.

Do they have any new ideas which keeps citizens free while pursuing life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness?

No. All of their ideas require a massive disruption of our lives through increased regulations and confiscatory taxes. That's what Obama and his current followers mean by the phrase, "the fundamental transformation of America" which will be, if they get in control for eight years as he was, "the fundamental destruction of America."

America, choose carefully and wisely.

Stephen F. Bagnell lives in High Point.



Curing much of what ails

The Robesonian on Medicaid expansion and the North Carolina budget:

For years Republicans, who have carried the biggest bat in Raleigh, have refused to even talk about Medicaid expansion. But that has changed in recent days, and momentum is clearly in favor of some kind of compromise that would provide health insurance for hundreds of thousands of North Carolina residents caught in the gap — earning too much to qualify for Medicaid and too little to afford private insurance.

This newspaper, as we have indicated, favors expansion. The benefits to Robeson County are too much to ignore, even if taken from a nonpartisan study that fixes the number of people who would benefit at significantly fewer than claimed by Gov. Roy Cooper and fellow Democrats.

Cooper and Democrats say Medicaid expansion would deliver health insurance to as many as 600,000 state residents, while the study, by George Washington University, fixes that number at about 370,000 people. The study also determines Medicaid expansion would boost the state's economy by \$11.7 billion a year

while creating 37,000 new jobs.

In Robeson County, those numbers are 13,747 more insured, 616 jobs, and \$97.8 million. Those numbers, even though more modest than what Democrats promise, are eye opening. Almost 14,000 more people with health insurance, more than 600 more people working and paying taxes, and an economic boost that rivals tobacco in its heyday.

Medicaid expansion might also cure much of what ails Southeastern Health, which struggles with low reimbursement rates. That is why SeHealth, which is critical to this county and region in so many ways, is currently looking for a partner to ensure its financial viability.

The devil, however, is in the details, and that is what separates Cooper and Republicans — but we don't think permanently.

Cooper, emboldened by the 2018 elections that took from the GOP a veto-proof majority in the House, has made Medicaid expansion a condition of signing the

Republican budget, essentially holding hostage as much as \$166 million that could help transform Robeson County in the coming decades.

Republicans, in what is clearly a major concession, have told Cooper if he signed the budget, that a special legislative session can be held during which Medicaid can get a worthy hearing. But, in what could be seen as a fall-back position, Republicans in a House committee discussed a Medicaid "hybrid" that would allow expansion with conditions, such as beneficiaries work and pick up the 10 percent cost of expansion that the federal government requires of the state. ...

We are greedy, and want both — the Republican budget either as it is or a very precise facsimile, as well as Medicaid expansion, in whatever form is palatable to Republicans and Democrats.

We believe that both would benefit all of North Carolina, but this county in many more and larger ways.