

OPINION

# We'll always have Paris

Remember that line in Casablanca when Humphrey Bogart was telling Ingrid Bergman goodbye at the end? Humphrey had conned her into boarding the plane to Lisbon with her husband when she thought he was going with her.

Jim Heffner  
Guest Column

That was the critical point when Bogart said: "We'll always have Paris."

How right you were Humphrey. I'm afraid the country will always have Paris. Unfortunately, our Paris isn't the capitol of France; ours is a poor little spoiled rich girl who is famous for...well, let me see, what is Paris Hilton famous for?

Is it the porn video she spread all over the Internet? Could it be the fabulous best-selling book she penned? What was the name of that book anyway? Maybe she's famous for her smash hit music DVD.

"I've heard all the songs on the DVD," Paris said, "and I like them."

Imagine that? I guess Paris is famous for just being rich.

We'll always have Paris, because the TV networks will never let her go away. One of these nights set your alarm for 2:30 a.m. and turn on the TV. Chances are, before you can click more than

five channels, you'll see the smiling face of Paris Hilton, as she tries to stand in a leaning-back position to show off a chest that simply doesn't exist.

Paris is the daughter of the people who own the Hilton hotel chain, and her parents have always made sure their little darling wanted for nothing. Money is just a means of acquiring toys to the young girl. When her prize dog wandered out of the yard and was returned by a neighbor, Paris gave her \$5,000.

At least she doesn't carry that ugly little pooch around anymore. For awhile I thought she and the dog were Siamese twins.

When the prosecutor asked Paris why she was driving while her license was revoked and she was on probation, she told him she didn't know, but he could check with her publicist. "I don't know about driver's licenses and that kind of thing," she said.

"My publicist handles all of that."

Unfortunately for her, the publicist wasn't around when she got stopped driving under the influence, so naturally, she fired him.

I've always said a good publicist is never around when you really need him.

With all the money in the world, Paris' father negotiated an interview fee with NBC for a cool million dollars for her first interview out of the slammer.

Neither Barbara Walters, nor any of the other networks liked that very much, so they started badmouthing NBC, who immediately backed out of the deal. They didn't want to jeopardize their position as a news organization. What a laugh!

None of that fazed Larry King. He signed her up, and now poor little rich girl will be back on TV live after three weeks eating bologna sandwiches and using a stainless steel commode, instead of the gold one she is used to.

So Paris is back on the tube. I wonder how many of us missed her.

I know I did, but I also know that incarcerated, or running around trying to show off her 20-20-20 figure, we'll always have Paris.

# Republicans can still be proud



Wayne King  
Guest Column

Despite recent setbacks at the national level, Republicans still have plenty of reasons to be proud of their party.

Last week, for example, as the House of Representatives started working on the twelve annual spending bills that fund the federal government, our own Congressman Patrick McHenry led a group of fiscal conservatives on the House floor to stop Democrat efforts to create multi-billion dollar slush funds in each of those twelve bills.

Washington Democrats wanted to insert their earmarks for pork projects behind closed doors where conservatives couldn't object to them during debate; but Congressman McHenry was there to stop that scheme dead in its tracks on the House floor.

That was a big win for the Republican Party, but an even bigger win for us, the taxpayers. We should also be proud of how our representatives are handling the immigration debate as it unfolds in Washington.

Both Congressman McHenry and Senator Dole have taken a hard stand against the amnesty bill currently being considered in the Senate; and that's exactly what they should be doing.

The Senate plan doesn't do nearly enough to secure our borders and it rewards lawbreakers with blanket amnesty.

1986 was the last time the gov-

ernment enacted a "comprehensive" immigration plan, and the results of that horrible decision speak for themselves.

Back then, some three million illegal aliens were given amnesty amid promises that our borders would be secured to prevent the continued flow of illegals into the country. Those promises were not kept. Today, there are at least four illegal aliens in the United States for every one illegal given amnesty in 1986.

Last year President Bush signed into law the Secure Fence Act, which was introduced by Congressman Duncan Hunter (R-CA), who is currently running for the Republican nomination for President. The Secure Fence Act initiated the construction of 854 miles of double-layered fencing along the Mexican Border. This piece of legislation represents the right way to begin immigration reform - with strong border security.

The San Diego border fence has already proven its effectiveness. Illegal alien apprehensions along the fenced region dropped from over 202,000 in 1992 to about 9,000 in 2004. Since the construction of the fence near San Diego, crime rates in the area have dropped by 56.3%.

The fence has also forced drug smugglers, who use to easily cross the border near San Diego, to attempt to enter the United States through major ports of entry instead. This increases the likelihood of discovery and seizure of illegal narcotics entering our country.

No matter what its supporters say, the current Senate plan includes amnesty and it backtracks on past promises to secure

our borders. Amnesty without border security and law enforcement clearly doesn't work. Furthermore, this plan is unfair to those who have come into the country legally, undermines our country's respect for the rule of law, and encourages even more lawbreaking in the future.

It is a shame that the current Senate bill is being considered in the first place. Border enforcement must come first. To do otherwise is to repeat the mistakes of the past. But we at least have courageous leaders like Congressmen McHenry and Hunter who have learned from the mistakes of their predecessors and are now leading the charge for real change at the borders.

The immigration debate will also play prominently in the race to decide who will lead the Republican Party to victory in the 2008 elections.

Many of the Republican Presidential candidates are on the right side of this issue with our local representatives. Others, however, are wrong on immigration and several other issues that are important to conservatives.

The key to the Republican Party's future success is that we stay true to our roots - fighting for lower taxes, less government and more freedom, stronger military, and traditional family values. Those messages resonate strongly with the vast majority of Americans; and as long as we stick closely to them, 2008 will be a great year for the Republican Party.

(Wayne King is chairman of the Cleveland County Republican Party).

# Grover swears in police chief

EMILY WEAVER  
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The Grover Town Council meeting Monday night resulted in an officially sworn-in police chief and a step closer to cleaning up the water on Park Lane.

Tommy Carroll was officially sworn into office as Grover's new police chief. Another part-time officer is scheduled to be hired after July 1, doubling the size and efforts of the department. A reception was held after the meeting to welcome Carroll and new Town Clerk Tricia Willis.

In other action, the council, after a public hearing with no opposition, adopted the 2007/08 budget which has not changed since the last budget meeting. The council also adopted its proposed meeting schedule for the upcoming fiscal year, moving December's meeting time to 6 p.m., instead of 7.

The council unanimously approved a motion to accept a water line connection on Locust Street and Park Lane, providing that the work is done as it needs to be to the town's specifications, including proper engineer drawings, map layout and right of

way. Councilman Calvin Huffman recused himself from the vote, considering the matter is of personal concern to him. To further prove the necessity of the project he brought in a sample of his water, which was clouded with mud. "I shave with it. It tainted my beard," he said with a laugh.

"I think we eliminated most of the problem when we replaced the line on Locust, for the time being anyway. We extended that line just a little bit past where it had been to an area where it won't back up into the houses so quick," said Mayor Robbie Sides. "This one is a problem. Over the last three years that I've been in office, we've tried to replace at least two to three lines a year with (inside help) instead of getting outside contractors. I think Park needs to be on the list to replace."

Before he spends money for engineer drawings, Huffman wanted to be sure that his efforts would not be in vain and that the council would vote to take the line and project over, providing everything is in order. The line would extend from Locust to

Park, about 3,000 feet.

In other water matters, Sides discussed the problem on Watterson. "We are still having a problem with the pump over on Watterson. It's been a nightmare since day one. Ultimately, I think they sized us the wrong pump to start with," he said. Council decided to see how much it would cost to rebuild the pump before deciding whether to repair or replace it.

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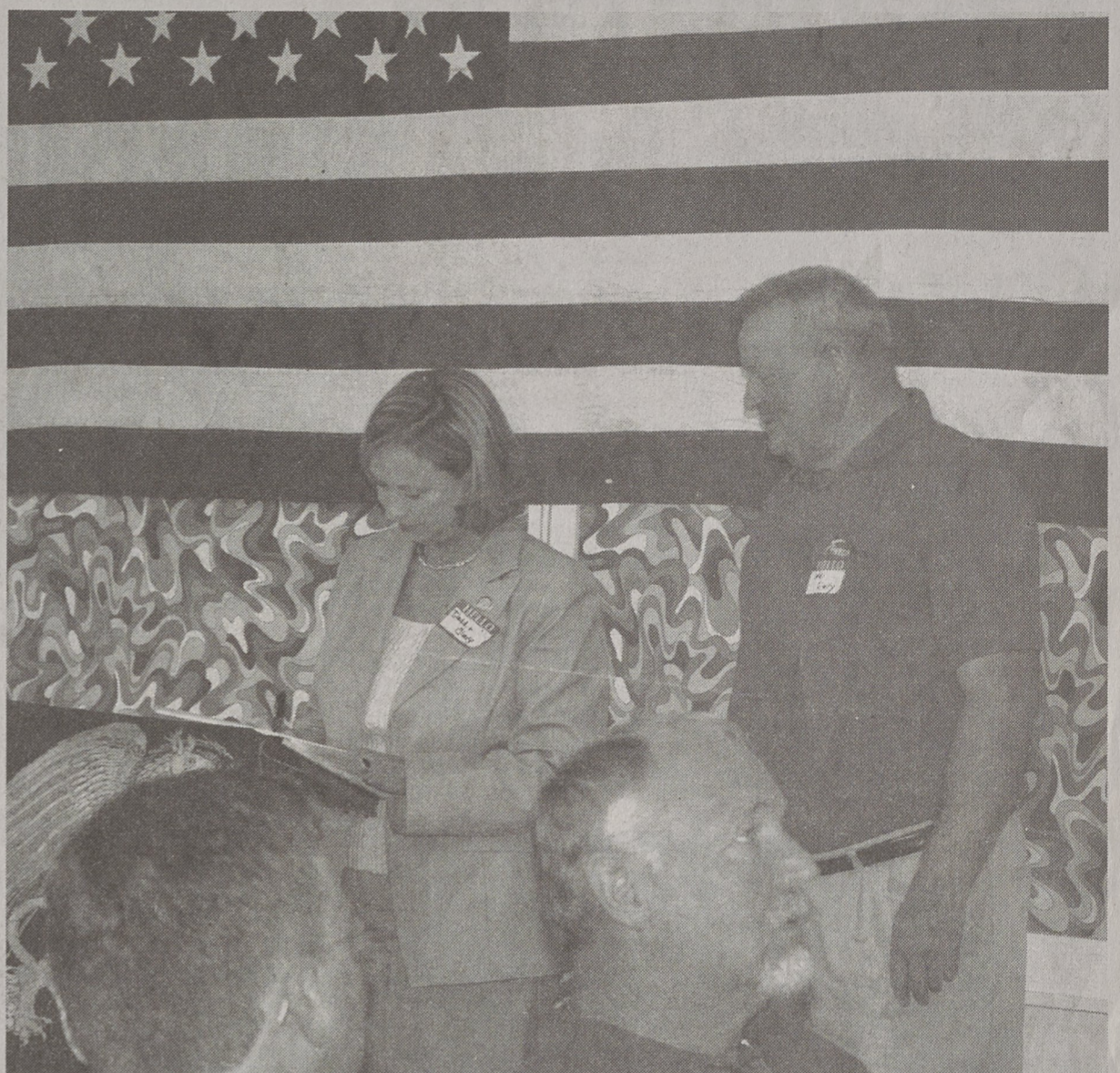
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LOCAL



Debbie Clary speaks at breakfast Saturday, when she officially announced her intention to run for State Senate.

# Clary officially announces bid for Dalton's Senate seat

By MICHAEL E. POWELL  
Special To The Herald

MOORESBORO - At a Saturday breakfast in her honor, Cherryville resident and North Carolina State Representative Debbie Clary (R) told a group of about 100 supporters of her intentions to seek the District 46 Senate seat currently held by Democrat Walter Dalton. Dalton has stated he will not run again for the District 46 seat and plans to seek nomination for the office of Lieutenant Governor.

Clary said after 14 years in the House of Representatives in Raleigh, she was no longer a novice and is there to "take care of business." "I was told when I first arrived in Raleigh that I wasn't being sent to Girl Scout Camp," she said amid light laughter. She went on to recount what she has done for her constituents in the 110th District, which covers Cleveland and Gaston counties.

The breakfast, held at the Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy, was hosted by the Rutherford County Republican Party.

Clary spoke about a topic on the minds of many--taxes. She referred to the Tax Moderation Act, stating it was all about raising taxes on those who can stand it least, the working class of the state.

Describing tax raises as like "pouring chocolate" over the increases, she added such an increase would punish the people for working hard and making money. Clary acknowledged that the tax code does need changes. She said she would do her part, if elected to the Senate to see those come about.

Hal Jolly, of FreedomWorks, a Statesville, NC, citizens group, asked Rep. Clary if she would sign a "No Tax Increase" pledge, which she did near the end of her speech.

In her announcement to run for the Senate seat, Clary told



KELLY HASTINGS

supporters she wanted to be their Senator. "I believe I can make a difference," she stated.

Clary thanked the group for their valued support and encouragement as she prepares to tackle the job of seeking the Senate seat. She said she wants to be responsive to the citizens of Rutherford and Polk Counties. "We work for the people that are out there," said Clary, referring to her current and future constituents.

Citing figures of \$400,000 to \$500,000 being spent in past

Senate races, Clary said she has raised around \$300,000 and plans to have some fund raisers later in the year. "My opponents may outspend me, but they will not out work me," she said. "This county has a history of giving," she added.

Clary told the group she plans to file for the Senate seat by February 2008.

Also present at the breakfast were Kelly Hastings, a realtor who has Cherryville ties, and Gaston County Commissioner Pearl Burris Floyd, both of whom are considering running for the District 110 seat. Jack Brown, another Gaston County Commissioner was also in attendance. Hastings said by phone later he was "seriously considering the race," but wanted to "be legal" before he got into it.

Brett Keeter, field representative for Congressman Patrick McHenry, was present to wish Rep. Clary well, and Rep. Wil Neumann from Belmont was there to give Clary his support.

Wes Westmoreland, who ran against Senator Dalton previously, presented Rep. Clary with a book by the late President Ronald Reagan, "Common Sense By An Uncommon Man." Clary thanked Westmoreland, saying, "This means so much to me. I am a Reagan Republican."

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