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## OUR VIEW: AIR SHOW

# Despite rain, the Air Spectacular provided the thrills

Organizing the Minnesota Air Spectacular is no small feat and last weekend's event at the Mankato Regional Airport was no exception.

From traffic flow and parking to food vendors and performers, organizers made sure everything ran smoothly. The one thing they couldn't control — the rain — put

a damper on the end of the Saturday show when the USAF Thunderbirds were forced to cancel their show.

While tickets are sold for a specific day and the policy is to provide no rain refunds for ticket holders, organizers made the right move by announcing after the Saturday show ended that people who had attended would be allowed to come back Sunday.

With perfect weather on hand Sunday, crowds were larger than the Saturday event and the Thunderbirds wowed the audience with their precision demonstration.

Still, the total attendance for the weekend, roughly estimated at 20,000, is down from the 35,000 in 2012 and 33,000 in 2015. Those figures will no doubt strain the budget. In 2015 the Air Spectacular had a small loss of about \$20,000 on a budget of \$720,000.

A key part of the smooth operations of a large event is the strong volunteer base that helps out at air shows. Most volunteers at the airshow represented non-profits such as Blue Earth Nicollet County Humane Society, AmeriCorps, Camp Sweet Life, Habitat for Humanity and the Mankato Family YMCA. Those volunteers do everything from helping people park to manning food stands and taking tickets.

While the air show was originally held every three years, there was a four-year gap before last weekend's show. That gap of four to five years is likely to be the norm going forward as a three-year interval was believed to be too short and part of the reason for an attendance drop in 2015.

While the Thunderbirds, or in some years the Navy's Blue Angels, are always the stars of the show, there were plenty of other spectacles, including a flyover by a stealth bomber, to entertain those who attended.

The Lucas Oil and Jack Links planes thrilled, the parachute teams stunned with their precision. One of the most awe inspiring shows was from "Shockwave," a jet-propelled semi that travels 300 mph down the runway. While the speed was impressive, it was the walls of fire and ear-piercing noise emanating from the semi that drew cheers and awe.

While Saturday's weather was disappointing and the overall crowd size lower than hoped for, the Air Spectacular delivered all the flash and expertise visitors hoped for.

## OTHER VIEW

# End for water park is welcome

The Kansas City Star

The Schlitterbahn era in the Kansas City region appears to be nearing an end.

It's welcome and overdue news. The company's operation of its water park in western Wyandotte County was disastrous — a case study in how not to serve the public's interest and protect customers' safety.

The park opened in 2009. Five years later, prompted in part by an insatiable thirst for publicity, Schlitterbahn built Verruckt, the tallest water slide in the world.

Ten-year-old Caleb Schwab died on the ride in 2016. The unspeakable tragedy provoked a flurry of lawsuits, investigations, prosecutions and accusations. It

also compelled the Kansas Legislature to stiffen some requirements for amusement parks (although regulatory oversight of the industry remains substandard and unacceptable).

Incredibly, Schlitterbahn remained open here, even after the accident. The Verruckt slide never resumed operation, although the rusting tower loomed over the area for more than two years, a reminder of the company's negligence and hubris.

The park did not open this year. On Thursday, Cedar Fair Entertainment Company, which is based in Ohio, said it had agreed to purchase two Schlitterbahn parks in Texas, and has an option to buy the closed Schlitterbahn park.

FOUNDED IN 1887

# The Free Press

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# Teacher's tweets will unfairly hurt conservatives

By Cynthia M. Allen  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

**FORT WORTH, TEXAS** — There are a lot of disappointing elements in the story of Georgia Clark, the Fort Worth Carter-Riverside High teacher whose recent social media tirade about unauthorized immigrants prompted FWISD's board of trustees to recommend that she be terminated.

Clark, an English teacher, was apparently quite concerned by the number of students at the high school where she teaches (whom she believed) to be in the country illegally. She was so alarmed that she personally took her pleas that these students be "removed" to President Donald Trump, via her Twitter account, and even supplied her phone number so someone on his staff could call her to discuss the problem.

The real problem was that Clark did not understand how to properly use Twitter. What she thought were direct messages, for Trump's eyes only, were public posts. Disappointing.

Clark is entitled to express her views, that's not the issue here. We may graciously grant that Clark's Twitter rant was an honest mistake, but her personnel file illustrates a pattern of intolerant behavior towards students; she was moved to another campus after a previous incident. It's a disappointment, really, that the district failed to act more decisively until now.

And while Clark is not a civics teacher, she is an educator. She should know that children are guaranteed access to public education

regardless of their citizenship status. There was a U.S. Supreme Court case about it involving Texas, after all.

Perhaps the most disappointing thing about the Georgia Clark saga is how leftists will use it as fodder in the culture war against conservatives. It's happened countless times before — Rep. Todd Akin's absurd comments that a woman's body can prevent pregnancy in cases of "legitimate rape" come to mind. Comments from the fringes are conflated as being mainstream conservative ideology, even when legitimate policy questions — and lots of mainstream opposition — underlie the pertinent issue.

Far more importantly, is how this framing — "See! They're all ignorant bigots!" — gets replicated against conservatives even when the subjects are completely reasonable people making completely reasonable, widely believed arguments. It happens during important constitutional debates, such as whether a person with sincere religious objections can be forced to bake a cake for a gay wedding; and in more ordinary instances, such as when an elderly white woman's silent rosary outside an abortion clinic is broadcast by a hateful activist on social media as illustrative of white supremacy. The intent is to drive anyone who dissents from "progressive" thinking out of the public square.

This is the world that conservatives are living in. And it's the context in which the great right-of-center intellectuals of the day are debating how conservatives should respond to this deluge of ruthless illiberalism from the left.

Those following the Sohrab Amari/

David French debate know that it already has generated thousands of column lines in publications and social media platforms, and it deserves a greater airing than I can give before this column closes. An abridged summary of the argument is whether small-l liberalism — the philosophy from which stems our democratic government — is still relevant in a nation that no longer has shared moral values.

Those on the French side of the debate believe that rights — such as free speech and free exercise — should be secured through traditional, liberal channels and focus on individual liberty and autonomy.

Amari's supporters take a harder stand. Having watched their side incur defeat after defeat, and seeing their fellow conservatives ridiculed and punished by so-called conservatives, they perceive the goal of the ongoing "culture war" as "defeating the enemy and enjoying the spoils in the form of a public square re-ordered to the common good and ultimately the Highest Good."

It's a fascinating and necessary debate. One deserving of its own column.

One thing is for sure: Conservatism, however it moves forward, is not helped by people like Georgia Clark. The conservative mainstream has enough to handle, in dealing with the left and managing its own internal struggles. But it will have to continue to fend off the fringes as well.

Cynthia M. Allen is a columnist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Readers may send her email at cmallen@star-telegram.com.

# No delay: Impeach him now!

By Bill Press  
Tribune Content Agency

Why all the talk? Why all the debate? Why all the angst? The case is clear. He deserves to be impeached. So don't wait any longer. Rev up the engines. Start the hearings. Impeach him — now!

No, I'm not talking about President Donald Trump (not yet!). I'm talking about Attorney General William Barr. If anybody merits impeachment, he does.

And, yes, in case you're wondering, Cabinet members can be impeached, as laid out in Article II, Section 4, of the Constitution: "The President, Vice President and all other civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other High crimes and Misdemeanors." Members of the Cabinet count among "all other civil officers."

True, it hasn't happened often. In fact, only once before. In 1876, Secretary of War William Belknap resigned right before the vote, but the House went on to impeach him anyway on five counts of profiteering from his office (sound familiar?).

A majority of senators voted to convict him, but not the required two-thirds.

But Belknap's an altar boy, compared to Bill Barr. Belknap made a deal to get a cut of revenue from army trading posts.

Barr has lied to Congress, lied to the American people, and undermined the very system of justice he's sworn to uphold. House Intelligence Chairman Adam Schiff, in fact, calls him "the second most dangerous man in America." There's no doubt as to who is the most dangerous.

It's not hard to make the case for

impeaching Bill Barr. He's made the case for himself; first, by deliberately misrepresenting the conclusions of the special counsel's investigation.

In a four-page memo released on March 24, the day he received Mueller's report, Barr said Mueller found no evidence that anyone on the Trump campaign coordinated with Russian officials in their efforts to influence the 2016 presidential election. For a while, Barr's summary was all that we had to go on. Now, we know it's an outright lie. Mueller revealed multiple contacts between Trumpers and Russian operatives, just not enough to prove a criminal conspiracy.

In that same memo, Barr implied that Mueller left it up to him to decide whether to charge Trump with obstruction of justice and said he'd concluded there was not sufficient evidence to do so.

In fact, as we learned later from the special counsel himself, Mueller found plenty of evidence that Trump tried, on at least 10 times, to obstruct justice, but Department of Justice policy prevented his charging the president with a crime: a legal quandary, Mueller noted, that only Congress could resolve.

In a news conference three weeks later, upon public release of the Mueller report, Barr went even further in minimizing its impact.

Channeling Donald Trump himself, Barr declared the report found "No Collusion, No Obstruction." It was, for the president, Barr asserted, a clean bill of health. Except it wasn't.

Not only that, Barr joined Trump in attacking the FBI for doing its job. The facts are: the FBI was informed of contacts between Russian officials and certain members of the Trump operation, including Carter Page,

whom they'd been monitoring as a possible Russian agent since 2013. Based on that information, the FBI opened an investigation, operating under legal authority granted by the FISA court, into whether members of the Trump campaign were actually colluding with a foreign government, which is illegal.

And, for doing its job, as required by law, Attorney General Barr, in testimony before Congress — again, echoing Donald Trump — accused the FBI of "spying" on the Trump campaign.

That's still not the end of the story. Now Barr's launched his own investigation into how the FBI investigation got started, trying to prove, as Trump has long claimed, that the Department of Justice and the FBI actually engaged in a conspiracy against candidate Donald Trump. When the truth is just the opposite: It was James Comey and the FBI who did more than anyone else to destroy Hillary Clinton's chances.

The only person happy about all of this is Donald Trump, who finally got the suck-up, blindly loyal, roll-over-and-scratch-my-belly puppy dog he wanted as attorney general, while we got stuck with someone who doesn't even deserve the title.

Because Bill Barr's not working for the American people, he's working for Donald Trump. Period. His job, as he sees it, and as he's demonstrated, is not to defend the rule of law, but to defend Donald Trump. And for that reason alone, he should be impeached.

Bill Press is host of The BillPress-Pod, and author of the new book, "Trump Must Go: The Top 100 Reasons to Dump Trump (And One to Keep Him)." His email address is: billbillpress.com. Readers may also follow him on Twitter@bppod.