

ill and he left medicine to be with her.

That clinic closed its doors shortly after Whiting left. In the ensuing months, scores of residents began sharing frustrations with him over what they saw was the obvious lack of timely medical care. The only option in town for those in need was the Boston Mountain Rural Health Center.

Whiting, today nearing 80, wondered at the time what he might do to help in Huntsville, a city of about 2,000 in Madison County. The clinic he'd left now sat vacant on a hillside above Huntsville, directly behind the local funeral home.

He credits divine direction for the

ent area medical centers depending on what's needed." The day he sees himself feeling differently, he said he'll leave for the golf course or a fishing hole.

There's no doubt Huntsville and Madison County are far healthier because of Doctors Whiting and Kendrick, their capable colleagues and staff alongside so many self-reliant, generous townsfolk who've created an effective way to care for their own.

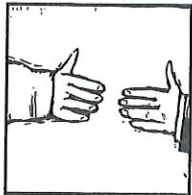
Mike Masterson's column appears regularly in the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette. Email him at [mmasterson@arkansasonline.com](mailto:mmasterson@arkansasonline.com).

## LETTERS

### Thank you to our city

This is a love letter to the city of North Little Rock. I am the widow of Fire Chief Jim Murphy, whom we lost on March 18.

We moved here from Florida so that he could take this dream job. He



loved his department and wanted the North Little Rock Fire Department to be the standard of excellence in the state. He worked very hard during

his brief 2 1/2 years to make it so. He was proud to lead this wonderful group of men and women dedicated to the citizens of North Little Rock.

Jim enjoyed working with everyone from the mayor and City Hall, to the aldermen of the city, the Police Department, our beloved Fire Department, as well as the Streets and Parks Departments. He also appreciated the support of the directors of Finance, HR, IT and others.

The city opened its arms to us and made us part of the family. I have never seen a city as warm and welcoming as North Little Rock, including the smiling and cheerful Kroger clerks. And so I thank you. I feel blessed to have come here so my husband could serve, and thankful that we made it our home.

**KIT MURPHY**  
North Little Rock

### All don't share views

It is time to speak out loud and clear. All Arkansas Republicans do not share the same views.

I believe that respect for each person—woman, man and child—is essential to live in harmony. Faith should govern each individual—the Ten Com-

mandments, the Koran or whatever is your source of strength. Man-made rules do not apply to everyone. Abortion is no one's business except the woman and her doctor. Men should practice safe sex, not force another to perform, and be supportive of whatever one helped create.

It makes me ill to read of abuse of all kinds. Shame on you. Animals behave better in some cases.

The current state legislative session served their supporters. What about the voter—did you speak for me? The food sales tax is still around—simple vote to eliminate it. Integrity is foremost to serve others. Please practice it more often.

**ANITA C. GATZKE**  
Little Rock

### A pre-existing status

We are all born into this world with a pre-existing condition. There is no cure. Death always results from life.

**FRED FISHER**  
Conway

### Arkansas' waterways

Several years ago, after a flood, I contacted Congressman Rick Crawford's office about a governing body for Arkansas waterways. I contacted the Corps of Engineers, Arkansas Game and Fish, FEMA, etc., but it seems no one wants to disturb the natural habitat of the trout or other wildlife.

Sooooo, as we watch campers, cabins, refrigerators, grills, ice machines, etc., float down the river, know that in other states they drag the river bottoms, increasing their depths to keep the water within its banks, harvesting the gravel, removing the debris. Do Arkansans not deserve the same thing?

**AMANDA E. CLAYTON**  
Brookland

action might hurt ... rural hospitals, not the people dropped, though closing the hospital closest to them surely wouldn't do them any good.

It is expected that some of these people won't have the wherewithal or gumption to buy health insurance, or even an awareness that they need to do it. Some of them will get seriously ill and be taken urgently to the hospital. They will incur bills they can't pay because they have no insurance. That will amount to uncompensated care that will put some of these rural hospitals on the track to bankruptcy that they were on until Medicaid expansion saved them.

Perhaps you wonder, then, why the

to pay and u ante up for his ga Then, with the pe he would have le expected to get c find a suitable b He would then b with the help of that the House t Thursday would to \$2,000 annuall

The math doe conian to someo a year or more. Th if young and not b condition, might f a month, since th Congress also w

## LETTERS

### Longs for days of yore

I am responding to the Paul Greenberg column titled "What's an education for?" Mr. Greenberg utilizes disdain, hyperbole, cynicism, and much too many words before finally getting to his point, which is something along the line that he disapproves of what is being taught at North Little Rock High School.

I think Mr. Greenberg longs for the days of yore when high school students received a liberal arts education and were offered culture while in their teen years. Maybe this happened with the elites of the 1800s, with private tutors available to the rich. However, as recently as 1953-1954, only 60 percent of students graduated from high school. Maybe all that perfection they learned from the massive amounts of culture being taught persuaded them that completion of high school was not necessary.

Does Mr. Greenberg advocate that science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) be eliminated from the curriculum? Will a greater appreciation for Shakespeare and Chaucer enable high achievement for our students in this century? As with

all things, a bala to dismiss out of this or any other the reality of ecor high school is un

Please excuse ; meant to say soI column. I found l luted and difficu above expresses what he had to sa

### Wouldn't i

John F. Kenne ogize the Demo JFK believed in f few governmen restrictions. Hi believed in indi vidual responsi bility and that gov ernment should not do for peopl what they can de for themselves He was for a stro and was for tax cu nomic growth, an crat leaders in C

## Write

The Democrat-Gazette welcomes your opinions. Unfortunately, not all letters received can be published or acknowledged. Clarity, brevity and originality are particularly valued in letters to the editor. All statements of fact are checked for accuracy; letters will be edited and may be republished in all media. Letters and guest columns become the property of the Democrat-Gazette and cannot be returned. No letters from non-residents, copyrighted material, poetry, or letters containing letters or pseudonyms can be treated.

RECEIVED BY DATE Diane Winfrey, North Little Rock