

Adversity

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loss of a parent can cause tremendous hardships for a family, even if the family has significant financial resources. Dealing with their grief and a lack of resources, Doug and Mike struggled.

As Mike grew, the absence of his mother sometimes was just too much to bear. On occasion, the family and psychological stress of this loss prevented Mike from being able to focus during class. Rather than attend class, some days, the best Mike could do was attend school. On these days, he would find a quiet classroom with a supportive teacher who would allow him to grieve until he was capable of returning to his lessons.

While family stress often drew Mike's attention away from his studies, he always had caring individuals around him, encouraging him to prosper. Joseph McLaughlin, the recreation director at Pleasant Point Recreation Center, was one such individual. Joe always saw the fight in Mike. He helped Mike develop his capacity to persevere through wrestling and mixed martial arts training. In addition to martial arts techniques, Joe taught Mike spiritual lessons, lessons about character and kindness and Passamaquoddy culture.

While Joe mentored Mike through athletics at the rec, Shead High School special education

teacher Christina (Chrissy) Greenlaw nurtured Mike at school. Chrissy supported Mike by helping him manage the details of high school, providing the mixture of love, resources and discipline best exemplified by motherhood.

Throughout his high school years, Chrissy checked on Mike. Did Mike eat this morning? Did he finish his homework? Did he have a clean uniform for his soccer game? Did he have money so he could buy dinner on the way home from his away game? If the answer to any of these questions was no, Chrissy would help Mike change that negative into an affirmative.

While Mike's father, Doug; his coach, Joe; and his teacher, Chrissy, were watching out for Mike in our community, Mike was also receiving support from his godfather, Robert (Bob) Koronas, from afar. Bob lives in New York, and, while more than 450 miles away, Bob made sure Mike received his and his family's love and encouragement. I never saw Mike more excited than the day Bob made the drive to watch him play in a playoff soccer game in Bangor during his senior year.

With the encouragement of Doug, Joe, Chrissy and Bob in addition to his own determination to follow his dream of becoming a neurosurgeon, Mike persevered through the family stress of the loss of his mother to find academic success. He recently finished his sophomore year at the University of Maine at Machias, and I know he will be an

outstanding doctor someday.

Joey's story

Joey can tell you about family stress and learning problems. He opened his salutatory address at Shead High School's class day in 2015 by introducing himself and saying, "I'd like to share some personal things about myself. ... I'd like you all to know that my life, unfortunately, hasn't by any means been easy, so there is a lot that I am going to tell you tonight."

Joey did tell us a lot that night. He described how he was diagnosed with ADHD and Asperger's syndrome at the age of 2. He shared with us how his "family's health cracked away at the inside because of grief." He recounted the loss of his brother, Levi, because of premature birth; the passing of several other relatives within a year; a father struggling with a "longtime addiction to alcohol"; and being separated from his parents and siblings by the Department of Health and Human Services.

He chronicled his family's eviction from a house in Brewer "a few days before Thanksgiving" in November of 2011. Clearly, Joey was not exaggerating when he said his life "hasn't, by any means, been easy."

However, there he was, standing before a crowd in an overflowing gymnasium, delivering a powerful speech as the salutatorian of Shead High School's Class of 2015. Joey was not only the salutatorian of his class but also a three-year starter and a senior captain

on Shead High School's baseball team. He was the captain of the cross-country team and a Downeast Athletic Conference Cross Country All-Star. He received highest honors in 2015 and an award for exceptional acting in the 2015 Eastern Regional of the Maine Drama Festival.

How was a young man who faced such adversity able to persevere to acquire such accolades? In his words, Joey said, "I want success more than anything, so I will always keep going no matter how tough it gets. Always keep friends close, too. I couldn't have done all of this without my friends or family."

Even with his disabilities and the tumultuous family life he experienced, Joey always believed in his dream and found others who supported his quest to make them real. He overcame the challenge he faced in attaining academic success from his disability through visiting "a great place in Bangor called 'Catch a Falling Star' for a year or two, so [he] could learn coping skills and things to help [him] with both in my early life" and through the support of his caseworker, Molly Benner, who became a lifelong friend.

He overcame the challenges he faced in his immediate family with the assistance of his aunt, Molly Newell, who provided him with a safe and loving environment during his high school years and who was granted permanency guardianship on July 3, 2013.

The combination of Joey's will to succeed and the support of ex-

tended family and social services have lead Joey through the storm and to the successful completion of his freshman year at the University of Maine at Presque Isle.

Joey will continue to follow his dreams and pursue a career in law at the University of Maine at Orono this fall. He will be a tenacious and outstanding lawyer.

RBIs

You can do a lot right in baseball and still not score. You can hit a single, a double and even a triple, and unless one of your teammates gets a hit, the likelihood is that you will continue standing on that base and not advance. Educational success in Maine is a lot like that. Students can do a lot right and still not succeed. Sometimes, despite their and our best efforts, our young people find themselves stranded, needing one of us to pick them up and help them achieve their dreams.

We can learn a lot from Mike's and Joey's stories. We can see that, when students, parents, families, teachers, mentors and social services work together, our students can and do succeed, regardless of the challenges they face. We, working together as a community, can help our disadvantaged students realize academic success.

When we do, we all win.

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Parks

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These discoveries led to pot hunting, looting and shipping of artifacts to institutions in the east and abroad. Scholars began to call for controls. J. Walter Fewkes, a prominent archaeologist, warned in 1896 that unless this plundering of ancient sites were curbed, "many of the most interesting monuments of the prehistoric peoples of our Southwest will be little more than mounds of debris at the bases of the cliffs."

Congress passed the Act for the Preservation of American Antiquities on June 8, 1906. Its key provision states the following:

[T]he President of the United States is hereby authorized, in his discretion, to declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States to be national monuments, and may reserve as a part thereof parcels of land, the limits of which in all cases shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with proper care and management of the objects to be protected.

How fortuitous it was for the National Park System that Theodore Roosevelt, who strongly believed in using his authority to conserve precious natural resources, was president in 1906. Over the next three years Roosevelt designated 18 national monuments, some of which Congress later elevated into national parks or national historical parks. They include Arizona's Petrified Forest National Park, a landscape of fossilized trees and a "painted desert"; Chaco Culture National Historic Park, a stunning and complex Anasazi site in New Mexico; and Pinnacles National Park, a swath of rock spires and woodlands in California's Central Coast Range.

Every U.S. president in the past century except for Ronald Reagan, Richard Nixon and George H.W. Bush has used his authority under the Antiquities Act to create new national monuments. Both Congress and the president can take this step, but in practice most monuments have been designated by presidents. (In contrast, only Congress can designate national parks.)

Both national monuments and national parks can be large in size. The original Grand Canyon National Monument, proclaimed by Theodore Roosevelt in 1909, covered more than 800,000 acres. Although the law explicitly says that monuments should be as small as possible consistent with conservation, courts have upheld the creation of large monuments if the proclamations justify protecting large areas.



TNS FILE

Visitors look over the Grand Canyon from Powell Plateau in October 2011.

Power struggles

Use of the Antiquities Act has fueled tensions between the federal government and states over land control — and not just in the Southwest region, which the law originally was intended to protect. Communities have opposed creating new monuments for fear of losing revenues from livestock grazing, energy development or other activities, though such uses have been allowed to continue at many national monuments.

In the 1930s Wyoming residents objected when John D. Rockefeller offered to donate land he owned near Jackson Hole to enlarge the original Grand Teton National Park. When Rockefeller threatened to sell the property instead, President Franklin Roosevelt combined the land with 179,000 acres from Grand Teton National Forest to create a national monument in 1943, which later was added to the national park. Wyoming Republican Senator Edward Robertson called the step a "foul, sneaking Pearl Harbor blow." In 1950 Congress amended the Antiquities Act to require congressional approval for any future monuments designated in Wyoming.

The next controversy flared in 1978 when President Jimmy Carter, acting on advice from Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus, designated 17 national monuments in Alaska totaling more than 50 million acres. Carter took this step after one of Alaska's senators, Mike Gravel, delayed action and threatened to filibuster pending legislation to create national parks, national forests and wildlife refuges on these lands.

Alaskans protested, but in 1980 Congress passed compromise legislation that converted the lands to parks and refuges. Once again, Congress amended the Antiquities Act to require congressional approval for any future national



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National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis (second from left) listens to local residents' opinions on a proposed national monument in the North Woods of Maine during a breakfast gathering in Millinocket last month.

monuments larger than 5,000 acres in Alaska.

In 1996 President Bill Clinton designated the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah, a spectacular swath of red rock canyons and mesas in the Colorado Plateau. Clinton administration officials sought to protect the areas from proposed coal mining nearby. The U.S. Interior Department tried to soften local opposition by offering Utah access to coal resources elsewhere through land exchanges. But Clinton proclaimed the monument without much advance consultation with local communities, leaving some Utahans feeling blindsided and resentful years later.

Proceeding with caution

The Antiquities Act is still a valuable tool. President Barack Obama has used it to protect several million acres in Nevada, Texas and California. But future designations will succeed only if federal agencies consult widely in advance with local communities and politicians to con-

firm that support exists.

Invoking the Antiquities Act inevitably raises broader conflicts over preservation versus use of land and state versus federal land management. These issues are deeply rooted in Western states and have flared up in recent years — most recently in the standoff at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.

Sometimes these debates produce compromises. In Idaho, pressure from conservationists to create a national monument in the Boulder White Clouds Mountains spurred passage of a bill last year that created several wilderness areas there. No new roads will be built in these zones, but existing grazing and most recreation activities will continue.

A similar controversy is generating heated debate in Utah, where conservationists and tribes are lobbying for the federal government to designate a scenic area called Bears Ears as a national monument. The region is sacred to Native Americans and contains thousands of archaeological sites, many of which have

been looted and vandalized.

In Maine, businesswoman Roxanne Quimby has tried for more than a decade to donate land she owns to the federal government to create a new national park and recreation area. Opponents say this step would harm the timber industry and force federal authority on a region that prizes local control. Now the family is proposing to have the land designated as a national monument. Environmental advocates openly call this action a first step toward creating a new national park.

Another use of the Antiquities Act bears watching: using it to conserve and spotlight sites that mark important moments in American history, such as the new Cesar Chavez National Monument in California. Perhaps using the act to celebrate our history and learn from our failures can increase support for it as an enabling instrument of American conservation.

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Cianchette

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the powerful and the weak, all colors, creeds, sexes and races are supposed to be equal before it. And those appointed to the judiciary are supposed to apply the law evenly. Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg knew this. When asked about the differences between male and female jurists, their responses echoed each other: "A wise old woman and a wise old man reach the same conclusion."

Unfortunately, members of the judicial branch do not always hew to that maxim. Justice Sonia Sotomayor, before her appointment to the Supreme Court, often said she "would hope that a wise Latina woman with the richness of her experiences would, more often than not, reach a better conclusion" than a white man. When it comes to meting out justice, there is no "better conclusion" — there is only the correct one. Blurring that line makes Trump's accusations, while wrong, more credible. Yet he is merely the most recent in a long line of politicians accusing courts of bias.

President Barack Obama's public chastisement of the Supreme Court at one of his State of the Union addresses, surrounded by applauding and hollering senators and congressmen, effectively called into question the court's impartiality. Republicans have preemptively questioned the prejudices of Obama's judicial nominee, before they even knew his name. And Joe Biden, Ted Kennedy and others began this politicization years ago, when they denied a Supreme Court seat to a candidate for reasons not of qualification but of philosophy.

If judges are unable to reach the correct decisions as the law provides, there are mechanisms in place to address them. We are watching it play out in the Stanford rape case — Judge Aaron Persky is facing a recall. And we are watching it in the "deflategate" case — Tom Brady is using the process available to seek further review.

So this election, it is especially important for candidates — on all sides — to reinforce the legitimacy of the judiciary; judges cannot do it themselves. We are close to a tipping point where decisions on law will no longer be respected if a person does not subjectively agree with the outcome. When that happens, this experiment in government by the people through separated powers will fail.

And that, ladies and gentlemen, is when it will be time to kill all the lawyers.

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