

THE DAILY CITIZEN

Serving Northwest Georgia since 1847

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Unsigned editorials represent the view of The Daily Citizen. Members of the newspaper's editorial board are William Bronson, Wes Chance, Jamie Jones, Victor Miller, Charles Oliver and Chris Whitfield. Columns and letters to the editor are the opinions of the authors.

Bob Chandler

The first step in fundraising is simple: you have to ask.

According to members of the United Way of Northwest Georgia, Bob Chandler has done just that, in support of his community.

Beginning in 2014, Chandler has served as chairman of the United Way's Alexis de

Tocqueville Society, and, according to Andrea Mansfield, United Way's director of donor engagement and strategy, "raised the philanthropic bar."

"Chandler has worked hard to call on his friends and peers and invite them to join the Alexis de Tocqueville Society," Mansfield said.

The Tocqueville Society historically boasts about 70 members who collectively invest more than \$800,000 in the United Way each year. Just to become a member of the group, one must invest \$10,000 or more annually.

The Tocqueville Society was created to deepen individual understanding of, commitment to and support for United Way's work in education, basic needs and health in the community, according to United Way officials.

Mansfield said Chandler has challenged people to become philanthropic leaders and volunteer champions, with great success.

"(I just say) thank you to Bob Chandler for chairing United Way's Alexis de Tocqueville Society and raising the philanthropic bar," she said.

An active community volunteer, Chandler has also served as chairman of the Hamilton Medical Center board, vice chairman of the Hamilton Health Care System board and member of the United Way board.

For devoting his time and energy to bettering his community through leadership roles and dedicated volunteerism, The Daily Citizen names Bob Chandler Citizen of the Week.

Restate of the union

President Obama sure is consistent. His State of the Union address sounded like his other speeches: What I've done is great! America is in a much better position. We've created a manufacturing sector that's adding jobs. More oil is produced at home. I cut deficits in half!

Give me a break. The deficit is lower now not because of any prudence on Obama's part but merely because the \$800 billion stimulus spending blowout didn't continue. All the president does is *increase* spending: free community college, free Obamaphones, free birth control, etc. Yes, our annual deficit is lower, but it's still \$488 billion! Our \$18 trillion national debt increases by \$3 million every minute!

Yes, more oil is produced at home, but that's *in spite* of the administration. Oil production is *down* on public land.

Yes, the manufacturing sector added jobs, but that's mostly because of cheaper natural gas created by fracking, which Obama's cronies opposed. Also, America is *finally* recovering from recession. Obama's policies probably slowed that recovery.

Does the president delude himself when he takes credit for oil production, lower deficits, etc.? Or does he mislead on purpose? I don't know.

More recently he bragged, "I created the lowest unemployment rate in years." *He* created it? He must know

it's "low" only compared to the 10 percent reached during the recession — and because millions have simply given up looking for work. This recovery is the slowest in 70 years.

If Obama gave the State of the Union address I'd like to hear, he'd say this:

I heard you, voters, in November when you took control of the Senate away from my party. I get it. I overreached. I was arrogant. I imposed Obamacare on a nation that was deeply divided about it. I ruled through executive orders instead of legislation. I threw money at "green" nonsense. I'll give up the payments to the "green energy" industry if the Republicans stop coddling defense contractors.

I've been in government for years now. I know how badly it works. The last thing I should try to do is make it bigger. In fact, with Republicans now in control of Congress, it's time I worked with them to shrink government. If we shrink it, we might even dig our way out of the debt hole we're in. Heck, if we just slow the growth of government to 2 percent a year, we'd be in better shape.

But I didn't even try to accomplish that. I pretended taxing the rich would solve our financial problems. But there aren't enough rich people to tax. I got drunk on the idea of promising voters "free" stuff such as low down-payment mortgages and guaranteed paid family

leave. I told them that all good things come from government. That's non-sense.

We should put an end to all bailouts. Businesses that screw up should accept the consequences, just like ordinary people who spend recklessly. Main Street should never again be forced to rescue Wall Street.

Instead of expanding government control of health care, we should phase it out. That includes Medicare. I know Medicare is popular, but it is unsustainable. Let current retirees receive their benefits as promised, but younger people should pay for their own health care.

People criticize the economic distortion created by welfare, but Medicare and Social Security are almost as bad. Both redistribute money away from the young and struggling toward those of us who have had decades to invest and save up.

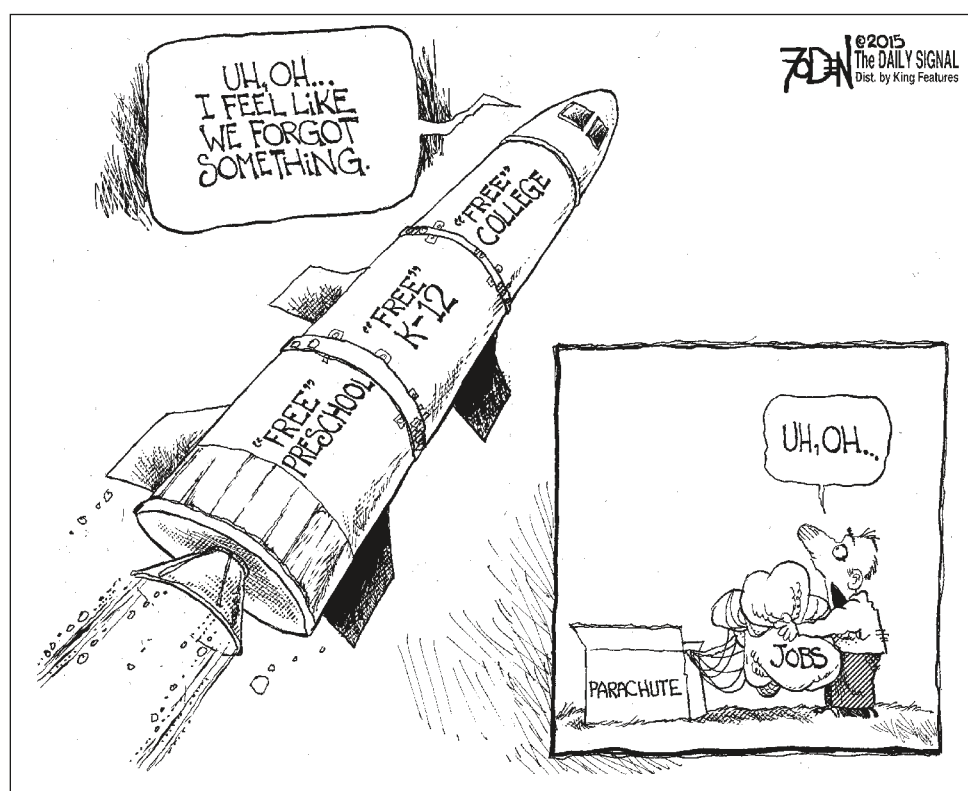
To make these challenges a little easier to deal with, let's make America richer by abolishing most regulations. They strangle opportunity.

The more I think about it, the more Congress and I could transform America for the better just by getting out of America's way. The state of our union will be truly strong if the state — by which I mean government — is strictly limited.

John Stossel is host of "Stossel" on Fox News and author of "No They Can't! Why Government Fails, but Individuals Succeed."



To nominate an individual or group, contact Jamie Jones at (706) 272-7723 or jamiejones@daltoncitizen.com. Fax nominations to (706) 275-6641 or write to The Daily Citizen, Attn: Citizen of the Week, P.O. Box 1167, Dalton, GA 30722.



WORDS OF WISDOM

Bible verse: "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you."

James 1:5

Thought for today: "To improve is to change, so to be perfect is to have changed often."

Winston Churchill (1874-1965)

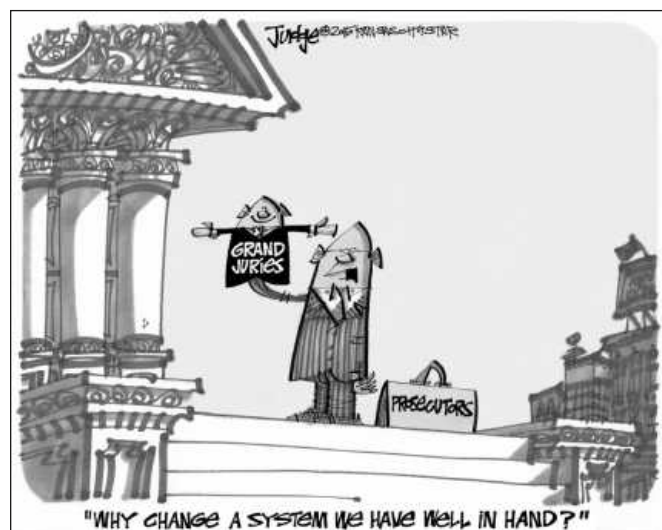
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Scouts studying communications

I would like to share some of my experiences from my Boy Scouts Troop 89. I am in Boy Scouts Troop 89 in Tunnel Hill. I am currently working on my communications merit badge and one of our requirements is to write to an editor.

Our troop is working as a group to get everyone to complete the communications merit badge. We are researching all kinds and forms of jobs in communications. We have seen the power of just plain pen and paper and also new, faster forms of writing like text document programs and social media. Finally, our local Dalton newspaper is also a great source of information.

Christopher Shults
Tunnel Hill



Letters policy

The Daily Citizen welcomes opinions from readers on topics of public interest. Because of space considerations, letters should be no more than 400 words in length. Letters must be signed and should contain the writer's address. A telephone number, which will not be published, should be included for verification purposes. Letters selected for publication may be edited and all letters become the property of The Daily Citizen.

Send your letters to The Daily Citizen, P.O. Box 1167, Dalton, GA 30722.

Fax: (706) 275-6641.

Email: charlesoliver@daltoncitizen.com

TODAY'S FORUM

To submit a comment

Phone:

(706) 272-7748

Email:

editorial@daltoncitizen.com

Online:

www.daltonnow.com

Editor's note:

Please keep your comments brief. If you include a name, please spell it.

"GOP had two whole months and have nothing to show for it. No bills. Not even a proposal. Nada. Nothing. Zilch. Now begin the endless whining about the big bad Obama and his speech. Let's get real, folks, the clowns we elected are going to spend all their time trying to pander to primary voters for the next election. Just what we voted for. Hooray!"

"Truly enjoyed the tea party response, all four of them, to the State of the Union speech. Best one was from Rand Paul — a senator, son of a 12-term member of Congress, doctor and with a half name from Ayn Rand (the tea party deity) — talking about elites without any sense of irony. It was so sweet and so tea party!"

"It amazes me how many folks who cheered the second Gulf War now whine about ISIS

without seeing any connection between cause and effect."

"Ones who refused to be drafted because they truly believed doing so was in the best interest of the nation, in my book, make for as good a patriot as ones who went to serve without any thought. Folks like Bill Clinton, Cheney, W. Bush, Romney and others who dodged any action by rather creative means — you can call them whatever you wish."

"There's one thing that I learned from the Fact Check article in the paper about Obama's speech is that Obama is a big liar. Everything he said didn't turn out to be true."

Editor's note: His quip during his State of the Union address about winning the presidential election twice was true.

"I have preached this for years that people should set up their exemptions on income taxes so that they do not get a refund. Allowing the federal government to hold your money all year is not very smart, plus they would not have a way to collect the no insurance fine. The only way they can get it is by deducting it from your refund. Think about it."

"I love reading the opinions of all the bootlickers in the Forum who are perfectly willing to force others to go fight and potentially die for the military industrial complex in never-ending, unwinnable wars. Of course, I imagine most of these people are not of draft age."

"Baseball is a major sport in Whitfield County at many levels. School, travel ball and recreation. Let's add college to the list. When will baseball be added to the Dalton State College athletic program?"

"Traveling on I-75 northbound between the Rocky Face and Tunnel Hill exits in the outside lane was a young girl with cellphone in her left hand, a lollipop in the right hand and no hands on the steering wheel, going at least 75 mph. Wake up, people, before it's too late."

"Thank you, Carmike Cinemas, for releasing the movie 'Selma' here in Dalton. People of all races in this community pulled together for the release of this movie and your organization listened. Thank you again."

"I think Georgia needs a new athletic director if he's pleased with Mark Richt."

"I recently got carded when I was purchasing alcohol at a local store. That was fine. I produced my ID and everything was fine. What is not acceptable is when my 84-year-old mother that was with me got carded as well. What is this world coming to?"