WEDNESDAY **JANUARY 24, 2018**



Southern & Standard

Standard online reader survey



Q: Who do you blame for the government shutdown?

 Democrats 46% Republicans 6% • The president 24% All of Congress 24%

GUEST COLUMNIST

Public notices should remain in newspapers

Each year a few elected officials will sponsor a law or an ordinance to change the way the voters who elected them are notified about actions government wishes to take. 2018 will be no exception.

Generally, our officials say, the proposed changes are to make government notices, and the legally

required notices for property foreclosures, bankruptcies or unclaimed property, less expensive to publish. "Anybody can see

them on our gov-ernment website," they proclaim, "and we will save taxpayers money."

But that's not the whole story, is it?

Bureaucrats, like just about all of us, really don't want to be bothered. They want to do their job as they think it ought to be done, and they would rather not have to answer your questions before they go ahead and do what they want.

Open government is hard work, requiring public servants to actively publicize what they intend to do, and to suffer through the debate, both educated and ill-informed, that might ensue.

The framers of our government recognized the challenge. In 1789, the first Congress required all bills, orders, resolutions and

votes be published in at least three papers. Tennessee's constitution, approved seven years later, required the Legislature to publish any amendments proposed by the General Assembly.

And newspapers have been dedicated to their role in holding our government accountable ever since. It is

> a role our readers, if not our elected officials, still appreciate.

In November, Mason-Dixon Polling and Strategy asked Tennesseans: "Do you believe

state and local government should or

should not be required to publish public notices by your local newspaper on a regular basis?" – 79 percent responded governments should be required.

Tenneessee Press Association member newspapers print and distribute more than 4 million papers each week to readers in Tennessee. That's not total readership, which would be about double the number. Also, TPA member websites receive more than 75 million page views per month.

January 21-27 is Public Notice Week, a time to remind readers of our important partnership with them in holding our government accountable.

Frank Daniels lives in Clarksville. He can be reached at fdanielsiii@mac.com.



McMinnville, Tennessee

What to make of Trump's success?

COLUMNIST

BYRON

York

The start of President Trump's second year in office has given Republicans and conservatives an opportunity to review a solid list of achievements: corporate and individual tax cuts; economic growth; wage growth; a conservative Supreme Court justice; a record number of circuit court confirmations; deregulation; and more. Each is a development worth celebrating, either by the standards of conservatism, or the general welfare, or both.

But for NeverTrump conservatives, the list presents a challenge. Many support the actions, like cutting taxes and reducing reg-ulation, on Trump's list. Yet some have also staked their credibility and prestige on declaring Trump's election an unmitigated, historic

disaster that will lead to an autocratic, dystopian future. So how to deal with the current

good news? The most extreme NeverTrumpers, like *The Washington Post's* Jennifer Rubin, simply rail against everything the president does. But more sophisticated NeverTrumpers are looking for nuanced ways to recognize the president's accomplishments while

they have been right about him all along. One strategy is to concede some of Trump's successes while insisting that the sum total of NeverTrump objections outweighs those gains.

maintaining he is a menace -- and

At the Weekly Standard, for example, the editors recently cited some of Trump's accomplishments and asked: "Isn't it time for Trump's conservative critics to acknowledge his election was worth it?" Their answer: No.

While citing a few of Trump's accomplishments, the publication argued the president's endorsement of Roy Moore in Alabama, his firing of FBI Director James Comey, his bombastic tweets about North Korea, loose-lipped meeting with Russian diplomats, response to

Charlottesville, and "shithole" nations remark, along with other things, more than offset goods like wage growth, job creation and a victory against terrorism.

At The New York Times, conservative columnist Bret Stephens, author of the recent piece, ''Why I'm Štill a NeverTrumper,' argues reflexive NeverTrumpism

actually harms the effort to resist the president. Stephens recently took on Trump critics who denounce the president even when news is good -as when Apple announced that it will bring back most of the \$274 billion it has parked overseas, pay a \$38 billion tax bill, and create another 20,000 jobs in the U.S. Slamming Trump over a development like that, Stephens wrote, does "damage ... to the anti-Trump cause."

Trump will surely run into a major reversal someday; that's what happens to presidents. When it does NeverTrumpers can say they called it long ago. But as long as Trump is piling up conservative achievements, life will remain complicated for the nation's NeverTrumpers.

Byron York is chief political correspondent for The Washington Examiner.

DUANE SHERRILL

FAMILY MAN

I enjoy parking close to the office

I think one of the best things about being the CEO of a large Fortune 500 company, aside from the millions of dollars, penthouse apartments, private jet, personal chef and golden umbrella would be the reserved parking space.

I say this after recently being honored as January's employee of the month here at the Southern Standard. While winning the coveted prize does not entail a cash bonus, honorary banquet, or celebratory dance, it does provide one thing.

Aside from bragging rights and the certificate which I am proudly displaying on my desk, it provides the employee of the month a parking space right out front with my name and title of being the honoree right there for everyone to see. Sometimes, if it's warm enough outside, I just lean against my car in the parking place and wave to people coming into the paper.

"Hi there. That's me," I point over my shoulder. "Duane Sherrill employee of the month for January.'

This, as you would expect, gets some odd looks and I've been encouraged to cease and desist from being all creepy out front of the *Standard* office. But hey, I really

like my parking space.

Now don't get me wrong. I'm in good shape and I'm able to walk vast distances without getting winded. And, the employee parking lot is located just a few steps from the front door, just down a small set of stairs in the gravel area. So, it's not like I'm having to run a marathon from my regular parking place to my office.

The timing of the honor could not have been better given the weather we just had. Ice, snow and freezing wind turned the employee parking lot into an invitation to get stuck on the ice or to bust one's butt walking up the steps from the parking lot. Instead, I glided into the golden spot and walked a clear path to the front door. Ah, the privileges that go with being employee of the month.

I won the award once before, about two and a half years ago and celebrated by getting a new car to park in the space. Don't worry, I resisted the urge to trade in again this time as I'm still making payments from the last purchase.

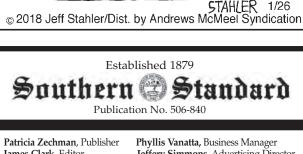
But now there is quickly coming an issue. My reign as employee of the month is almost over. And, with that, someone else will inherit MY coveted parking spot. Sure, I can keep my employee of the month certificate, maybe even have it framed and placed on the wall like one such winner here did. But, that would be a bit braggadocios so instead I'll pack it away with my tons of other awards.

February is my birth month yet it won't be as happy as January given I'll have to bid goodbye to my spot. Unless, seeing February is a short month anyway and anyone who got the award would be shorted, they decide to extend my reign for another month.

Hint, hint. It's the right thing to do for everyone.

Standard reporter Duane Sherrill can be reached at 473-2191.





James Clark, Editor Phone: 473-2191 2018 PRESS 105 College St., McMinnville, TN 37110

UT-TPA

2016

Copyright Standard Publishing Company, All Rights Reserved

Jeffery Simmons, Advertising Director

FAX: 473-6823 Email: standard@blomand.net Website: www.southernstandard.com

to waking up each morning? Yes, bad

Addicted to the word addicted

JIM

MULLEN

Some big investors at Apple think the company should do something to protect defenseless, wealthier-than-average children from their iPhones.

These charges are getting a lot of attention because they're not made by publicity-seeking provocateurs they're made by people who actually own billions of dollars in Apple stock. They say children are addicted to their iPhones, and even though Apple already has a host of parental controls built into every single iPhone, the company should do even more.

Why? Because we all know cellphones are bad for children because ... well, I can't actually think of anything bad a phone has done to children. Except for the "fact" they are addicted to them. **VILLAGE IDIOT**

Is that like being addicted to TV, or is it more like being addicted to sex? If you do too much of something, are you addicted? Does that make you a junkie? Are stockbrokers

addicted to money, or are they just jerks? Are marathoners addicted to running? Are sales reps addicted to selling?

Or is being "addicted" to a smartphone more like watching football all weekend, to the exclusion of everything else? I know parents who have moved to different school districts so their kids can play on better teams. Are they addicted to their children?

Or are we addicted to the word 'addicted"? Do you really believe there is such a thing as being addicted to sex, or is that just a made-up syndrome? Is that the same as being addicted to heroin or nicotine, or is more like saying you're addicted to the hot tub? Or soap operas?

And honestly, aren't we all addicted things may happen to us today

because we're alive. Let's blame it all on our "waking-up addiction."

What, exactly, is the consequence of being addicted to a cellphone? Is the phone molesting children? Is the phone making them smoke dope? Is the phone exposing them to things they shouldn't be seeing - like say, the kind of stuff that's on prime-time network and cable TV every single night of the week and twice on Sunday?

Or is the harm that they use the phone too much? It's funny, parents never complained about how much time their kids spent on the phone in the '60s. Or the '70s. Or the '80s. Or the '90s. Oh, yeah -- they complained all the time. How did those kids turn out? Pretty much the same as every

other generation: some jerks, some OK, some wildly successful.

Let's see: You can read a book on the iPhone, you can play solitaire, you can call your

friends, you can do your homework. It's a calculator, a clock, a calendar, a notebook, an alarm, a tracker, an answering machine - OMG, why would we want our children to have one of these horrible things?! Because they are incredible, that's why.

If rich investors want to do something for children, they should make sure that no phone can text while it's in motion. Make sure the phone can only dial the kid's parents or 911 while it's in a school building. Make the phone stop parents from buying carbonated sugar-water for their children. It's poisoning them.

Whoops! Sorry, that was off topic. As we all know, all the problems in the world are caused by cellphones. Everything else is just hunky-dory.

Contact Jim Mullen at mullen.jim@