**FRIDAY JUNE 29, 2018** 

## Southern Standard

McMinnville, Tennessee

# Standard online reader survey



Q: Do you think people convicted of child rape should be eligible for the death penalty?

#### **YES or NO**

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#### **GUEST EDITORIAL**

# Trade war damage beginning to surface

Donald Trump's trade war has been an abstraction for most Americans so far, but the retaliation has now begun in earnest and the casualties are starting to mount. The President's beloved stock market took another header Monday on news of more restrictions on investment into the U.S.. and the Dow Jones Industrial Average is now down for 2018. But the biggest losers Monday were the American workers who make Harley-Davidson motorcycles whose jobs will soon be headed overseas thanks to the Trump tariffs.

Last year Mr. Trump commended Harley-Davidson for "building things in America," calling the company "a true American icon, one of the greats." And he proclaimed last week at a rally in Duluth, Minnesota, "We're bringing back our jobs from other countries." Awkward timing, Mr. President. On Monday the motorcycle company announced it will shift more production out of the United States.

Harley-Davidson considers the EU a "critical market," and last year it sold nearly 40,000 bikes to European consumers. But in retaliation for Mr. Trump's steel and aluminum tariffs, the European Union raised its tax on American-exported Harleys to 31% from 6%, effective last Friday. That amounts to a \$2,200 tax on each motorcycle exported from the U.S. to the EU.

The protectionist pain isn't limited to Harley. Mid-

#### The Wall Street Journal

Continent Nail of Poplar Bluff, Missouri, makes about half of the nails produced in America. But Mexican steel wire is the company's main input, and it's now subject to a 25% tariff. Mid-Continent tried passing that added cost to consumers, but purchases plummeted and buyers cancelled existing orders, opting for cheaper Chinese nails. The company has already cut 60 employees from its workforce of 500, and it will likely soon lay

off 200 more.

The list of job casualties will continue to grow. A June report by the economic consulting firm Trade Partnerships Worldwide estimates a net loss of 400,445 jobs over the next three years because of the steel and aluminum tariffs, quotas and retaliation.

That's 16 jobs lost for each steel or aluminum job gained.

The damage is likely to have political consequences, as the retaliatory tariffs target industries in swing states. Wisconsin produces more than 90% of America's ginseng, and 95% of that comes from Marathon County.

Mr. Trump is also going to have some explaining to do to Wisconsin cranberry farmers, Florida orangejuice producers, and Iowa soy and corn growers.

Good luck to Republicans running on the Trump tariffs in November.



## **Price of rejecting reality**

**COLUMNISTS** 

STEVE & COKIE

ROBERTS

One of President Trump's most persistent and pernicious lies is that immigrants cause an increase in crime. That's not true. So his whole approach to immigration is rooted in a falsehood, and that makes rational decision-making virtually impossible.

Immigration is only one example of a much larger problem. The president's predilection for embracing "alternative facts" and denying the truth corrupts his judgment on a wide variety of issues, from free trade and economic growth to climate change and relations with Russia.

Rep. Mark Sanford, who was

defeated in a
Republican primary
after he crossed
Trump, warned in the
Washington Post, "We
have become so
desensitized to the
president's tortured
relationship with the

truth that we don't challenge the inaccurate things he and others say. There should be consequences to making things up. But inexplicably, as a society, we have somehow fallen into collective amnesia that it doesn't matter when the highest officeholder in the land doesn't tell the truth."

One study by the Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank, examined Texas crime statistics for 2015 and concluded: "There were 56 percent fewer criminal convictions of illegal immigrants than of native-born Americans." For legal immigrants, the crime rate "was about 85 percent below the native-born rate."

A study in the journal *Criminology* published last March asked: "Do places with higher percentages of undocumented immigrants have higher rates of crime?" The answer, reports the *Post*, "is a resounding no."

Linking immigration to crime is only one falsehood Trump uses to justify his hardline policies. Another is that immigrants are bad for the economy, driving down wages and taking jobs away from native-born Americans.

That's not true either. The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine reviewed 20 years of data and concluded, "Immigration has an overall positive impact on long-run economic growth in the U.S."

Demographic trends make this finding more valid and vital than ever. The surge of retiring baby boomers — about 10,000 turn 65 every day — comes as U.S. birth rates are plummet-

ing to historic lows. These two developments place the country's economic safety net in grave danger. The best answer to that threat: more young, hardworking,

tax-paying immigrants — not fewer.
And yet this president, with his
"tortured relationship with the truth,"
ignores these facts and follows policies
that make the problem worse instead
of better. He wants to build a wall
across the southern border to keep out
these potential taxpayers, while
deporting the undocumented workers
who are already here.

Trump is convinced that his ferocious anti-immigrant policies are popular with his political base. But looking toward the fall elections, his hardline positions could backfire politically against the GOP. Gallup reports that a "record-high" number of Americans, 75 percent, "view immigration as good thing," while only 19 percent agree with Trump that it's a "bad thing."

Only the voters can make sure Trump and his allies pay a high price for rejecting reality.

Steve and Cokie Roberts can be contacted by email at stevecokie@gmail.com.

# JAMES CLARK

# Luck finally comes my way

When it comes to being unlucky, I have accumulated a lifetime of rich, personal experiences.

If I hear something terrible only impacts 1 out of 100 people, I usually end up being the 1. If there are enough sandwiches to feed 12, I'll be the 13th person to arrive.

There's a fairly new Domino's commercial that says the company offers insurance on its pizzas in case something terrible happens on the way home. When I see that commercial, I always think that policy was written just for me.

So it was with great surprise last Saturday when I received a call from distinguished judge and Kids of the Community volunteer Bill Locke to tell me I had shed four decades of frustration and had emerged a winner. I had entered my name in a drawing during the annual Paddlefest fundraiser and was selected as the proud new owner of an Orion cooler made right next door at the Jackson Kayak facility in White County.

This is not only a prize. An Orion cooler is a status symbol. Owning an Orion product says to the world, "I don't mind spending \$500 for a cooler even though I could buy a perfectly good one for \$35."

This Orion cooler has instantly become the greatest thing I own. I now make it a point, when having casual conversation, to try to mention the fact I am now a member of the prestigious Orion Club.

The Orion cooler has been sitting in one corner of my living room since I claimed my prize on Saturday. Not only is it a functional cooler, it also doubles as the most expensive piece of furniture I own.

This weekend I hope to grab my new cooler and put it to its first test. I was thinking if I toss the cooler in the back of my 1991 GMC pickup, the cooler will be worth

more than the truck itself.

At the risk of sounding like a walking Orion ad, this is a cooler which seems to have everything, including a bottle opener and a handy latch for holding my cellphone. We all know in today's world you can't truly enjoy the great outdoors without constantly checking your phone.

The problem with owning something nice like this Orion cooler is now I'm constantly worrying about something happening to it and I haven't even taken it on its first adventure. I won't leave it outside with my other "regular guy" cooler because I fear someone will wander up and steal it.

The information packet that accompanied my Orion proudly boasts that it is very sturdy and will be difficult to damage. Somehow, considering my history, I'll find a way to leave my cooler unattended and it will be run over by a cement mixer.

Las Vegas Law says to never bet on a loser under the assumption his luck is about to change. That means the chance of me having a long-standing relationship with this Orion cooler is probably slim, but I'm going to give it a try.

Standard editor James Clark can be reached at 473-2191.

## **What Chris Pratt was saying**

**ON RELIGION** 

**TERRY** 

**M**ATTINGLY

Everyone knows what the angelic nanny Mary Poppins meant when she sang, "A spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down."

Hollywood superstar Chris Pratt put a different spin on that during the recent MTV Movie and TV Awards. After receiving the Generation Award, he told fans to "listen up" because he was speaking "as your elder." Then he recited what CNN called his "Nine Rules for Living."

It was a strange set of command-

ments -- part potty humor, part youth-pastor sermon. But Rule No. 4 said this: "When giving a dog medicine, put the medicine in a little piece of hamburger and they won't even know they're eating medicine."

That's what Pratt was doing. The megastar of "Guardians of the Galaxy" and the "Jurassic Park" reboots followed the MTV rules and used some mildly off-color humor. That humor was Pratt's "hamburger." What caused a tsunami of internet clicks was his "medicine," speaking as an out-of-the-closet Hollywood Christian.

Rule No. 2 proclaimed: "You have a soul. Be careful with it."

Rule No. 6 was rather personal: "God is real. God loves you. God wants the best for you. Believe that. I

do."
Rule No. 8 was just as blunt:
"Learn to pray. It's easy, and it's so

good for your soul."

In recent years, Pratt has become increasingly open about his faith, even during times of personal turmoil. At last year's Teen Choice

Awards -- his first public event after announcing his separation from his wife, actress Anna Faris -- he said: "I would not be here with the ease and grace that I have in my heart without my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ."

At the MTV award show, Pratt concluded with rule No. 9, and some complex faith-based language.

"Nobody is perfect, People will tell

"Nobody is perfect. People will tell you that you are perfect just the way that you are. You are not! You are imperfect. You always will be, but there is a powerful force that

designed you that way," he said. "If you are willing to accept that, you will have grace. And grace is a gift. ... That grace was paid for with somebody else's blood. Do not forget

that. Don't take that for granted."

Producers switched from one camera to another after Pratt's reference to "a powerful force that designed you that way." The MTV press office confirmed this program was prerecorded and never aired live. The spokesperson did not respond to a follow-up question about whether Pratt's remarks were edited.

Whatever happened, Pratt's pronouncement was "funny, it was strange and it was moving," said David French, senior writer at *National Review*.

The bottom line is millions of people "really like Chris Pratt," said French. "Christians always love it when a celebrity publicly embraces Christ, and he did it in a particularly striking way."

Terry Mattingly is the editor of GetReligion.org. He lives in Oak Ridge.



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