

Editorial Opinion

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Can Trump-haters be thankful for him?



Cal Thomas
Columnist

Any other Republican president but Donald Trump might expect to get at least some credit for the mostly positive direction in which the country is headed. Unfortunately, the Trump-haters prefer to focus on his, shall I say, unusual personality, rather than results. So let's put personality aside and consider what has happened in his first 10 months in office.

The liberal Los Angeles Times reported on a focus group conducted by Democratic pollster Peter Hart. Of those polled, Trump supporters and those who voted for Hillary Clinton expressed disappointment about the president's behavior, but gave him positive marks on the economy. If "it's the economy, stupid," as Bill Clinton strategist James Carville once said, and the economy is roaring, what's the problem?

As the president has repeatedly said, the stock market continues to soar to new heights, which must delight retirees in Florida who see their IRA and 401(k)

dividends rising most months. Unemployment figures are the lowest they've been in 17 years. Even unemployment among Blacks is down, as are the numbers of people on food assistance.

ISIS has been ousted from its last stronghold in Syria. True, President Obama deserves the credit for beginning the process with heavy bombing of ISIS targets, but it is President Trump who lifted many of the rules of engagement that kept the U.S. military fighting a losing battle.

North Korea is back on the list of state sponsors of terrorism, where it belongs.

The president has pushed tax reform, which hasn't been successfully addressed since 1986, to a point where it is on the verge of Senate approval, assuming a few recalcitrant Republicans can be persuaded to put taxpayers first, instead of the grievances they hold against the president (I'm speaking of John McCain, Bob Corker and Jeff Flake).

Goldman Sachs strategists are predicting not only a continued American economic recovery, but a concurrent worldwide lifting of many boats. One reason is the cash that has been sitting on the sidelines during the last recession

Krauthammer column

Charles Krauthammer is on medical leave.

is now making a beeline for stocks and mutual funds, causing the Standard and Poor's Index to rise by a spectacular 20 percent so far this year. That's more than triple its average annual increase over the last 20 years. Despite higher stock prices, Goldman Sachs analysts are recommending their clients buy now. Tech stocks are performing particularly well as companies re-invest profits to expand their firms.

When the left gives grudging credit to a president it hates, you know he must be doing something right. Here's what Atlantic magazine said in its August 2 issue: "With the Trump administration's chaos sucking up all the attention, it's been able to move forward on a range of its priorities, which tend to be more focused on regulatory matters anyway. It is remaking the justice system, rewriting environmental rules, overhauling public-lands administration, and green lighting major infrastructure projects. It

is appointing figures who will guarantee the triumph of its ideological vision for decades to come."

That may be faint praise, but it's praise.

President Trump is appointing conservative judges to federal courts and has released a list of names to choose from should another vacancy occur on the Supreme Court. All appear to be conservative constitutionalists.

Yes, his form could be better, but the substance is very good. Imagine what he could do if congressional Republicans got behind him — as Democrats do with a president of their party — and started backing him on legislation they promised to enact during their campaigns.

So even if you are not particularly enamored by the president's style (and many continue to be), give him some credit, especially if you are traveling this Thanksgiving, which is a sure sign that the economy and consumer optimism heading into the busy shopping season are on the increase.

For that, all of us — even Democrats — should be thankful.

Readers may email Cal Thomas at tcaeditors@tribpub.com.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Sunday, Nov. 26, the 330th day of 2017. There are 35 days left in the year.

On this date:

1789: Americans observed a day of thanksgiving set aside by President George Washington to mark the adoption of the Constitution of the United States.

1864: English mathematician and writer Charles Dodgson presented a handwritten and illustrated manuscript, "Alice's Adventures Under Ground," to his 12-year-old friend Alice Pleasance Liddell; the book was later turned into "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland."



THEN & NOW

What was the site marked by the arrow? If you think you know, go to www.naplesnews.com, click the "business" tab and then the quick link "breaking ground" to enter your answer.

Last week's answer: Collier Seminole State Park, Naples.

Last week's winner: John Jaffee

App users, go here to fill out form: <http://goo.gl/forms/vdQCCaj9rQgGyKH3>

FILE PHOTO

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Impressionist **Rich Little** is 79. Singer **Tina Turner** is 78. Singer **Jean Terrell** is 73. Bassist **John McVie** of Fleetwood Mac is 72. Actress **Marianne Muellerleile** is 69. Actor **Scott Jacoby** is 61. Actress **Jamie Rose** is 58. Country singer **Linda Davis** is 55.

TODAY'S QUOTE

"You must come to terms with the reality that nothing outside ourselves, be it people or things, is actually responsible for our happiness." — Mary Edwards Walker

BIBLE QUOTE

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. — Jeremiah 29:11

Shelter shows its Heart of Community



Your Turn
Linda Oberhaus
Guest Columnist

Earlier this month, the Shelter for Abused Women & Children was honored to receive the Heart of the Community Award from the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce. This award means so much because the Heart of the Community is a beautiful image as well as a title of great responsibility.

As the Heart of the Community, the life-sustaining resources flowing into our organization are pumped out into the community, empowering survivors and sustaining our mission to prevent, protect and prevail over domestic violence and human trafficking.

According to WebMD, the heart is made of a special type of muscle that doesn't become fatigued. Likewise, the Shelter's strength is sustained through its dedicated staff, more than 400 amazing volunteers, and the exceptional leadership of experienced community members, including the Collier County sheriff, Naples and Marco Island police chiefs, 20th circuit state attorney, Naples mayor and Collier County Public Schools superintendent.

But as the body grows, so must the heart to maintain the flow of life-sustaining resources to all extremities. As Collier County has grown the past 30 years, so has the need for and variety of shelter ser-

Guest commentaries

A guest commentary can be 600 words or less on a topical subject. Authors must have considerable experience, public involvement or expertise in the subject matter. A guest commentary may be returned to the author with a recommendation to resubmit it as a Letter to the Editor within the guidelines for letters. It is recommended that authors receive preclearance before submission; call 239-435-3457.

vices, especially in the far reaches of our community.

One year ago, the Shelter announced plans to build a new emergency shelter in Immokalee to serve eastern Collier County. The need was clear. Victims of domestic violence are more likely to seek refuge if the shelter is located closer to their support systems of work, schools and families.

Simultaneously, the community was experiencing a growing need to assist victims of human trafficking. In 2013, the Collier County Sheriff's Office assigned a full-time detective to this crime and in one year, reports jumped from 7 to 27.

To balance needs, resources and best practices, the Shelter asked Naples architect David Corban to design an innovative facility with three separate wings; one to provide emergency shelter and services for survivors of domestic violence, another devoted to the specialized long-term therapeutic care for human trafficking victims and a third for the Immokalee outreach team.

Once again, the community stepped forward. Thanks to a heart-felt lead gift of \$3 million from Shelly Stayer, the Shelter's RISE (Respond, Inspire, Support, Empower) Campaign is truly on the rise. We are more than halfway to our goal and the land has been funded, with plans to break ground in summer 2018. We invite you to join us to ensure that we meet our goal. For information about the Shelly Stayer Shelter for Victims of Human Trafficking & Domestic Violence and how you can help, go to naplesshelter.org/Immokalee.

As we enter the season of giving and thanks, our hearts and facility are full here at the Shelter. As I write this, 25 adults, 28 children and four pets are safe and empowered with the basic necessities, services and counseling needed to restore hope and healing to their lives.

But the sad truth is, no one in our community is safe from domestic violence. Last year, there were more than 1,600 reports of domestic violence in Collier County. The chance of a mass murder, like those in Sutherland Springs, Texas, and Rancho Tehama, California, was right here in Collier County — 1,600 times over.

Those communities are devastated — their hearts have been torn from them. We grieve with these families and we take seriously the lesson that they never meant to teach: that domestic violence isn't a private issue, it's not a family issue — it is a community issue.

As the heart beats 24-7, so does the Shelter's crisis line. If you or someone you know is in need of help, call 239-775-1101.