

## TALK TO US:

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## The Monroe News

Dedicated today as was the Michigan Sentinel in 1825 to fairness and independence in presentation of the news.

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*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.*

— The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

### OUR VIEW

#### ► TO THE POINT

Kudos are due the planners and organizers while gratitude goes to the thousands who showed up to support the events.

## Bedford anniversary is thrilling to see

If you were among the Bedford High School alumni who attended the 50th Anniversary Celebration events last weekend, you likely will be talking about the all-school reunion for years to come.

From retired teachers who recognized students from decades ago at Friday's tailgate party to the haunting melodies of "You'll Never Walk Alone" as the alumni choir began its concert selections Saturday, the weekend was filled with "many hugs, many smiles, so many tears of joy," as Supt. Mark Kleinhans said.

The 50th anniversary marks the opening of the existing Bedford High School building at Jackman and Dean Rds. The district consolidated in 1946, and the first building to be called Bedford High School was on Douglas Rd. The construction of the new high school was considered the crowning jewel of a community that had come together after many years of rivalry among the smaller districts and repeated efforts to finance a modern high school building.

Not only could machine shop, art and music classes begin at upper grades, but there finally was enough room for all the students to take classes on a normal schedule.

A population boom in Bedford Township in the years before the Jackman Rd. campus opened meant that high school students in the mid-1960s were taking core academic classes on "split schedule" — two grades in the morning, two in the afternoon.

In addition to strange hours for the students, the arrangement resulted in long days for the teachers and staff.

More than 20 alumni and committee people were listed in the souvenir program as helping to get the idea started or carrying it through and

quite an event it turned out to be.

Alumni started arriving to the tailgate party a half hour before it was scheduled to start Friday, the football game against Ann Arbor Skyline was a sell-out, varsity jackets were proudly worn showing graduation years of decades ago, and former majorettes and at least one former cheerleader were among those who designed special shirts to show off their high school involvement.

Although the events officially were to celebrate all graduates of 1966 through 2015 who attended "new" high school, a call-out at half-time invited anyone who graduated from the old school also to be recognized.

Then on Saturday, there was an open house at the high school that included rarely seen memorabilia.

The finale was a nearly two-hour program that related through short speeches, a dramatic reading and musical performances the activities and achievements of the students, staff and faculty during the past 50 years.

It was an afternoon in which pride was evident in the smiles, applause and several standing ovations, including an enthusiastic round of acclamation even as the alumni musicians were in the last measures of their finale piece, the "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

The weekend of activities were months in the making and involved many hours of planning and coordination. But beyond the kudos to everyone who was involved with the inspiration and organization of this special event, it was refreshing to see the numbers of alumni who were happy to participate, attend and celebrate the occasion whether they lived near or far. That shows the pride that the Bedford Public Schools community has for its district.

#### ► LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### American automakers could lead way in pickup truck improvements

Thanks to Charles Slat for his research and information about the Transatlantic trade partnerships, the "chicken tax" and truck tariffs. I learned much about "truck production" and competition in the truck automotive segment from this article.

I had wondered why we did not have much competition from outside the Big Three as far as pickups were concerned; most of the time competition improves the breed. I also admire Ford for not taking "bailout" money and taking on aluminum construction, but I, for one, do not see this as being as big of a deal as it is made out to be. Most airplanes are made from aluminum and have safety/durability far

#### Letters are welcome

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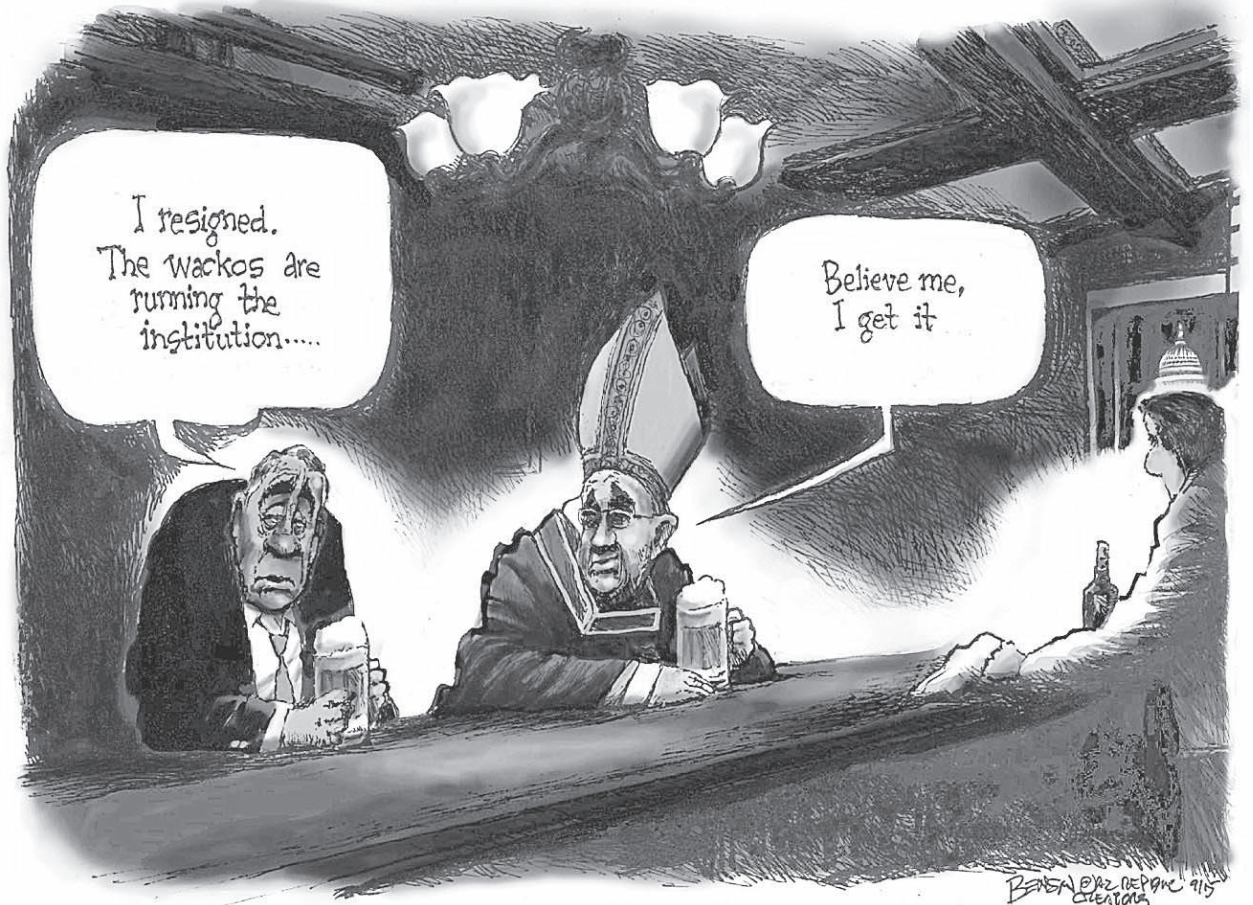
exceeding automotive. Sure, volume has something to do with that and the fact that the airways are certainly usually smoother than some Michigan highways. Airplane airframes far

outlast land vehicles but, of course, they do not get salt baths, either.

All this leads me to wonder what would happen if Ford (and others in the business) put the time/talent into things like building a 500 horsepower pickup (example: Raptor) into further improving fuel consumption and durability? Would that improve their competitive position in that segment and make them less sensitive to foreign competition? If they built the world leader in fuel consumption would that enable them to market in volume to other countries and employ here?

**Craig Morris**  
New Boston

#### ► OTHER VIEWPOINTS



## Occasionally, GOP should disrupt status quo

Nobody really likes government shutdowns, including me. But sometimes you have to make a point. Send a message. Show voters what you really believe. Take a stand.

With John Boehner set to resign at the end of October, many believe the outgoing speaker can team up with House Democrats to avoid a government shutdown Thursday. Daniel Clifton, partner at Wall Street research firm Strategas and ace Washington watcher, reports, "The risk of a government shutdown (this) week has been eliminated." And he expects Congress to pass a short-term continuing resolution that will fund government appropriations through Dec. 11.

That would be a clean bill that does not defund Planned Parenthood. More Democrats than Republicans would support it. And Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell stands ready to pass a similar clean resolution.

But will this non-disruptive approach really work? Nancy Pelosi wants to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank. House Republicans do not. So far the House has not come up with a plan to finance the Highway Trust Fund.

And then there's the issue of defunding Planned Parenthood — because of the vile and depraved videos of the removal of fetal body parts — that weighs heavily on the national conscience. Is the defunding threat really dead?

A shutdown this week is still possible. Most of the Beltway media will blame Republicans. Democrats will blame Republicans. And GOP pundits will blame Republicans. Political death, they will say.

Really?

Former National Review reporter Andrew Stiles wrote a most interest-

ing government-shutdown piece almost two years ago when Sen. Ted Cruz and other Republicans filibustered to stop full funding of Obamacare. Stiles pointed out that the Cruz shutdown was the 18th shutdown since 1976. And he argued that Democrat Tip O'Neill presided over two-thirds of them.

In the late 1970s, shutdowns occurred when the Democrats controlled both houses of Congress and the White House. The disagreement was over abortion policy. That caused three shutdowns.

Stiles noted that during the Reagan-O'Neill era, most of the shutdowns were budget focused. Reagan wanted less spending; the Democrats wanted more. They also bickered over funding for missile programs.

The Reagan-O'Neill-era shutdowns were short, and in most of them Reagan prevailed. Meanwhile, the Reagan recovery flourished, the Republicans held the Senate (until 1986) and the Gipper was re-elected in a landslide in 1984.

Going back to the Obamacare-related shutdown of 2013, a bit more than a year later the Republicans swept the Senate and gained an even larger majority in the House.

I am not arguing for a constant series of budget shutdowns. And I will always oppose any expiration of the U.S. Treasury debt ceiling. That would be a harmful global economic event. No good. But it is worth remembering that there are no catastrophic political or economic consequences attached to these shutdowns.

Surely, shutdowns are a cumbersome way to make a point, but the GOP base is clamoring for a more aggressive Republican Congress. The grassroots are angry and frustrated that the Republican House and Senate have not passed a series of large-scale bills.

There's been no repeal and rewrite of Obamacare. There's been no cor-

porate tax reform, at a minimum, or overall personal tax reform. There's been no energy bill — neither to build the XL pipeline nor to end limits on oil and gas exports and drilling on federal lands.

Immigration reform is a hot topic on the presidential debate scene, but there's been nothing on this from Congress. And the huge issue is the Iran nuclear deal, which in addition to being unverifiable would give Iran \$150 billion to kill more American soldiers and advance its domination of the Middle East. But the congressional GOP response has been weak and confusing.

And the fact that legislative hurdles — such as the filibuster, 60-vote rule in the Senate — prevents these reforms is unsatisfying to the GOP base.

Of course, the arrogant and ideologically stubborn President Obama would veto all these reforms if they ever got to his desk. But if I read the grassroots properly, they know this and believe these vetoes would set the stage for a big Republican victory in 2016.

Of course, a key point here is that you can't govern from Congress alone. You need the White House. Expectations from last November's sweep were always too high.

But perhaps Republican leadership in both houses might think of this: There are too many deals and not enough principles, beliefs and clear messaging.

The GOP ultimately will nominate a presidential candidate who, we hope, will get the right message out. But in the meantime, as House Republicans choose a new top team and Majority Leader McConnell continues his term in the Senate, the congressional GOP leadership should think harder about principled messaging and less about accommodation.

If that requires a short-run shutdown, so be it.

