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THANK TO RANDY CATE

THE HIGHWAY
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APPROPRISE

Letters to the Editor

Thank you from Culpeper ABATE of VA

The Culpeper Chapter ABATE of VA would like to thank everyone who helped with our July 16 motorcycle poker run.

It was a beautiful day to ride and we were able to raise \$550 for the Humane Society of Culpeper. The Humane Society has a no-kill policy and relies solely on donations; the organization is not funded by state or federal agencies.

Thanks goes to the crew at The Stable for letting us start out from their restaurant and providing breakfast for the riders.

The Old Salem Cafe in Marshall was a nice stop on our run, we were grateful for the air conditioning and refreshing beverages. Thanks also to Andricks Gift Shop in Front Royal. Larry Andrick was kind to provide us all with bottled water and a free bandanna or head wrap of our choice.

Thank you too, to Russell Waldron and Donna Hersch for hosting the ride and cook out at their home.

On Sept. 10, we will be hosting the Fifth Annual Jim Orange Memorial Run to benefit the Culpeper Food Closet. Watch for more details to come.

SHARON KEATON
Amissville



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STAREXPONENT.COM

Options for Congress and the president

Government really more cash than the largest company. Think with that we could see in the "spend less" political sport of spending is the reason budget for 2011 was with \$3.82 trillion doling even though the only bring in \$2.17 011. government this year ding \$10.46 billion could run through its cash reserve in just it actually had to pay bases with its own us to the govern- lit card"/debt limit hich has been filling ble media outlet for weeks. The federal spends way more



J. Michael Sharman

than it earns, it has already emptied out its bank accounts, and it has now hit the top of its \$14.29 trillion debt ceiling. Yet here is the report from the Wall Street Journal on how our elected leaders are planning to deal with their excessive spending and borrowing: "President Barack Obama and congressional leaders were on the cusp of a broad deal Sunday night to raise the government's debt ceiling while cutting spending by about \$2.4 trillion, potentially averting

a default of the U.S. government on its obligations. ... The deal would raise the debt ceiling by \$2.4 trillion in three stages and provide initially for roughly \$900 billion in spending cuts over 10 years. A special committee of lawmakers would be charged with finding another \$1.5 trillion in deficit reduction, which could come through a tax overhaul and changes to safety-net programs." There is no viable way for the government to refinance all of this \$14.29-and-soon-to-be-\$16.69 trillion debt. Basically, the Treasury has a \$16.69 trillion adjustable rate mortgage, and here's the kicker to that: the Congressional Budget Office warns that for each 1 percent increase in interest rates, \$1.3 trillion would be added to the government's interest costs over the 10-year period.

The "insurance" that this would not have happened was supposed to be the checks and balances within the government itself. Since that was not effective, the back-up insurance has to be brought into play — the ballot box. Any elected official who seriously thinks that the way to solve a \$14.29 trillion debt problem is by adding on \$2.4 trillion in new debt and then having a mix of \$2.4 trillion in spending cuts and tax increases needs to soon be a dis-elected official. We, the People need to get out our brooms and do some Good Housekeeping by using our ballot boxes to tell anyone who voted for that nonsense that it is high time for them to check out tip No. 7 and polish up their résumé. Sharman's column runs every Tuesday. He lives in Madison.