



## One on One

### A perspective on the sequester

Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-Bakersfield) said Republicans are not about to budge.

“What we’re talking about is an \$85 billion cut out of the \$3.6 trillion budget—two cents out of every dollar. American households have been able to do this,” he said.

By the time you read this, the ‘Sequester’ will have happened or not. I suspect it will. The President has suggested it will literally change the world as we know it with teachers, police, firemen, weathermen (say it ain’t so!) and the national defense sidelined.

Here is a bit of perspective on this:

The Sequester after all was the President’s idea. President Obama did not want another fiscal battle while he was campaigning. So he proposed the idea of ‘automatic cuts’ if no other agreement was reached on spending. Notice that the Democrat-controlled Senate has not passed a budget bill in four years. Hence the nation lurches from one spending limit to another.

Now the time has come. The President bluffed the Republicans on the Fiscal Cliff, and believes he could pull this off again. All but four Republicans voted against Chuck Hagel’s (I will not be a policy maker) nomination for secretary of defense. House Speaker John Boehner wrote an explanation in the Wall Street Journal of how the President made the sequester policy and therefore owns it.

The Sequester amounts to some \$85 billion in actual budget cuts. Sequester means to set apart or separate. More on how this can be done later, but what are we talking about here? This would be the kind of decision you and I make when we decide to stay home for a spaghetti supper (that would be pasta in the new normal) rather than dining out.

Handily, my \$12.99 Big Red National Debt Calculator with a sixteen-digit display is at hand. But I have to admit, even for a CPA who teaches college accounting, the numbers are daunting. Just how many zeroes are there in the \$3.6 trillion national expenditure; it is not a number I regularly encounter. \$3.6 trillion is 36 followed by, yes, eleven zeroes. \$85 billion is a mere 2.3 percent of the total. Most of us have to deal with numbers like 2.3 percent. Federal spending is a sacrament to the Dick Durbins and Barack Obamas—even losing one penny means the cradle-to-grave tide of the nanny state has been set back.

For more perspective, there are about 313,914,040 individuals in the United States. This means that spending per person is \$11,468.11 per person; did your check arrive this week?

The U.S. budget now consumes about 40 percent of our gross domestic product. Italy, long acknowledged as a European basket case of fiscal irresponsibility, spends 49 percent of its GDP on federal projects. Fiscally speaking the President is on his way to Rome and Athens.

The acknowledged federal debt is \$16 trillion. This excludes future unfunded obligations like healthcare and social security (see distance to Mars for numbers in this range...). That works out to \$50,969.37 of the \$16 trillion allocated across 313 million individuals.

So how is the sequester allocated? The Federal Budget consists of 1,200 projects, programs, and activities. This stems from adopting a planning programmed budget action (PPBA) dating back to the LBJ days. And in fact the Republicans are giving the President a bill so that he can further pick and choose what gets cut. Hmm, I wonder what separate Secret Service protection cost for Michelle in Aspen last week and the President in Florida playing with Tiger Woods?

Frankly I think the idea of refusing to re-fuel a nuclear aircraft carrier, now docked in Norfolk, VA, sends the wrong message to the world. Recall that in October, 2010 the General Services Administration stiffed all of us for a \$823,000 Las Vegas conference. GSA employees earned \$44 million in ‘bonuses’ in 2011 (did you earn a bonus in 2011?).

Elsewhere, 10 percent of the 75,000 Department of Interior employees protect the interior of Washington, D.C. The Department of Agriculture celebrates 150 years of ‘service’ with \$23 billion in discretionary spending. Do you suppose ConAgra or General Mills really need this much help? We have an Education Department that educates no one and an Energy Department which has once again delivered \$3.89 gasoline. The Keystone Pipeline projects sits moribund.

President Obama’s popularity has reached a new high—will this be his zenith as the sequester fizzles out?

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### Andrews County News Established Oct. 5, 1934

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  - Rudy Diaz.....Sports Editor
  - Sam Kaufman.....News Editor
  - Jennifer Shew.....Lifestyles/Classified Editor
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### Letter to the Editor

## Many had role in concert’s success

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all those who made the Newsboys concert a resounding success. There were approximately 3,500 attendants, making it the largest community event that Andrews has ever held. To everyone who attended the concert, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

We would like to recognize all the volunteers from What Yeshua Can Do for their assistance. Without your dedication and your tireless efforts, none of this would have been possible. To the individuals and companies who donated money or resources: we are amazed, inspired and grateful for your generosity. We would also like to thank the law enforcement community—which includes the Andrews Police Department, Andrews County Sheriff’s office and the Andrews Volunteer Fire Department—for their service. These individuals went above and beyond to keep concert attendees safe arriving, and leaving the concert.

One of our main priorities is to make sure anyone who comes to one of our concerts has a great experience. We have heard the concert and the concertgoers and understand that there are issues that need to be addressed. All efforts are being made to ensure that new processes are implemented in order for our guests to enter in a timely manner and enjoy all aspects of the shows in their entirety.

We would also like to highlight how important the youth are to What Yeshua Can Do and the role they play in making these concerts happen. What Yeshua Can Do has grown from only a handful of volunteers from two churches to over sixty volunteers from fifteen different churches—all due to a passion within Andrews to reach and guide the youth of our community. And while we do have a special focus on the youth, we want to emphasize that one of goals as an organization is to reach out to the community in a way that doesn’t omit any certain age group.

It’s very important for seniors, parents and young professionals in the community to have a relation with Jesus Christ, so in turn they can help minister to the children of West Texas. Our future depends on the young people of today.

Therefore, it is extremely important for us as believers to instill with them the word of God, as this can have an impact on them as they get older. Proverbs 22:6—Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

We give God all the Glory.

*Greg Griffin  
What Yeshua Can Do*



RURAL CRIME GROWS AS POPULATION CENTERS GROW CLOSER...

## THE IDLE AMERICAN

Dr. Don Newberry

### On the bubble ...

Though documentation may be several years away, athletes coming of age in the 50s, 60s and 70s perhaps had a decided edge in development of coordination.

A criticism commonly heard during the first half of the 20th century subsided. I refer to the hurtful comments often made of gangly youngsters “unable to walk and chew gum at the same time.”

Thanks to Topps Bubble Gum and its insertion of baseball trading cards into gum packages from 1950-1981, some of the clumsiest of athletes quickly turned coordination corners. They could chew gum, blow bubbles, walk and trade baseball cards—simultaneously and with great precision....

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Topps had it going, piquing youngsters’ athletic interest at early ages. The gum also provided jaw exercises and encouraged competition—bubble blowers bragged on the biggest, quickest, oddest, longest-lasting, etc. There was extra credit for face coverage when big ‘uns popped.

Sadly, electronic games, the digital age and assorted “apps” have youngsters locked-in now. These days, even kids’ jaws aren’t getting any exercise—mostly just their thumbs.

TV plays a huge role, too, and today’s youth have many choices. Sports remain gargantuan in popularity—usually long before youngsters’ ability to walk and chew gum at the same time is an issue....

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Kedren Penney is a good example. His sports interest was minimal at age five, but a year later, he’s into all seasonal sports.

He picks teams to cheer for on TV, and expects everyone else in the room to do likewise, preferably the one opposing his. If his team does poorly, his allegiance switches on a dime.

He knows players’ numbers, team names and stats, etc. A while back, he noticed the name Louie Gohmert on the TV screen. Noting the “R” after the congressman’s name, he asked, “Dad, does that mean he’s a rookie?” ...

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A victim of food allergies in his early years, he was a good sport about eating food brought from home while others dined on restaurant fare.

When he was four, he pretended to “read” the label on restaurant crackers to see if they were safe for consumption. Mumbling “milk, egg and soy” from memory, he made a “no-crackers-for-me” comment.

Impressed with free books available at the library, he recently asked his mom, “Will we ever use our card up?” ...

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Some of kids’ best lines occur in transit. Between games of “I spy” something yellow, red, blue and other colors—with antennas ever alert for “slug bugs”—they often read signs, some of which mystify them.

Kedren once saw a sign proclaiming “First Church of God.” “I’ll bet that’s not really God’s first church,” he said....

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Another youngster, Amelia Abbett—five at the time—was among dozens of relatives at the funeral visitation of a 95-year-old loved one. Included were children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of the deceased.

With a deepening understanding of the loss, Amelia asked a distant cousin, “When will you die?” Answer: “When I get real old.” Amelia: “How old are you now?” Answer: “69.”

“Well, it shouldn’t be long now,” Amelia blurted....

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Much is expected of ministers’ children, who somehow manage to survive “fishbowl existence” and the repetition of church goings-on.

One nameless minister’s son, maybe 10, blushed regularly at weddings, knowing an older congregant would find him at the reception to poke him in the ribs. Then she’d add, “You’re next!” He’d redden as others guffawed nearby.

One day he saw her at a funeral. When the service ended, he hurried to her side, gave her a good rib-poke and blurted two words for all to hear.

“You’re next,” he joked....

*Dr. Newberry is a speaker in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex.*

## Yesteryears—Compiled by Linda Drake

### 60 Years Ago 1953

Coach Forrest Scott’s Junior High Colts track team won the district title in Odessa Saturday to end a successful season. Team members were Jerry Kannard, Gerald Pilgrim, James Durbin, Billy Carruth, Lyndon Hudgens, Donald Dehart, Glenn Jones and Larry Roberts.

Production Company, Odessa District, effective May 1, 1983 with more than 31 years of service with the company.

### 20 Years Ago 1993

The Andrews High school boys golf team’s quest for a return trip to the state finals in Austin starts Saturday, with the first of four district meets.

### 40 Years Ago 1973

Sherry Mills and Lindell Robinson and Cynthia Barnes are the three Andrews High School girls nominated to wear the crown of Mustang Relays Queen. The queen will be crowned at the annual relays on Saturday.

Last Year, coach George Boynton’s troops settled for second in state after leading through the first 18 holes. Team members include Brian Rea, Cory Dulin, Jeremy Caddell, Michael Hernandez, Joe Kirk Newbrough, Marcus Mainord, Shawn Bentley, Derrick Pursley, Brandon Parnell, Brad Cottrell, Ronnie Lopez and Manuel Hernandez.

### 30 Years Ago 1983

Stewart E. Young will retire from Amoco