

CitizenTimesViewpoint

The Report Card issues grades A through E, and incompletes where necessary, to a variety of news items in this space. Got an idea that makes the grade? Send it to DRussell@CITIZEN-TIMES.com.

A to the Women Helping Others Foundation for its \$26,000 grant to Meals on Wheels of Asheville and Buncombe County. Meals on Wheels will use the resources to buy 76 coolers and hot-cold packs, as well as additional needed items. Meals on Wheels delivers meals to 550 homebound seniors five days a week; 73 more are on a waiting list. The Women Helping Others Foundation is a nonprofit charitable organization that founded in 1993. Learn more at www.mowabc.org and www.whofoundation.org.

C to Presidents Day. We've said it before and we'll say it again: This thin soup of a holiday is supposed to honor all presidents but doesn't manage to honor any very well, and its original targets for honor, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, who both were born in February, are increasingly ignored. Lincoln's 200th birthday was last week, and he received deserved memorials this year but will likely be shelved in our consciousness again next year. We'd like to see Washington and Lincoln each receive their own day of recognition — not necessarily federal holidays, but something where they stand alone and are honored for their contributions. Right now, we have a holiday that has turned into a minor sales event and little more.

A to the seniors on the Erwin High School basketball team for making As. All six senior Warriors — Blake Aiken, Jonathan Goforth, Adam King, Lucas LaFavers, Andrew Nallenweg and Robbie Nallenweg — have maintained grade-point averages that rank in the top 50 of their graduating class. They're pretty good on the basketball court, too — 17-4 overall, 10-1 in the Mountain Athletic Conference, which they recently clinched.

F to Stewart Parnell, president of the Peanut Corp. of America, and Sammy Lightsey, manager of the company's Blakely, Ga., plant, for showing up mute before the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Nine people died and more than 600 others in 43 states became ill after eating peanut products that originated at the plant. Both men refused to answer questions, despite tearful testimony from family members of the sick and deceased speaking before them. Ironically, Parnell was appointed to the USDA's Peanut Standards Board in July 2005 and reappointed in October 2008 to serve through June 2011.

F to the Obama administration for failing the first test of its commitment to take off the blanket of secrecy on anti-terrorism policies and avoid accountability for serial abuses of the law. New Attorney General Eric Holder went before a three-judge panel of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco last Monday, in a case involving torture allegations by five victims of the Bush administration's extraordinary rendition program. The five were captured and sent to domestic facilities or to countries where torture is accepted. Holder used the same "expansive state-secrets argu-

