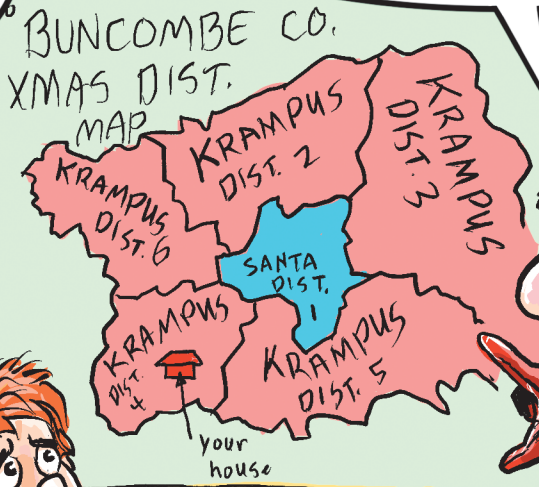




BUT WE DON'T WANT TO BE HIT WITH BIRCH STICKS, PUT INTO A SACK, AND TAKEN AWAY! WE WANTED PRESENTS!

SORRY, BUT SINCE THE KRAMPUS GETS TO MAKE THE DISTRICTS, YOU HAVE BEEN PUT INTO HIS DISTRICT, AND NOT MINE. IT'S ACTUALLY A FLAWED SYSTEM, NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...



CARTOON BY BRENT BROWN

to the Blue Ridge Mountains and Smoky Mountains areas. And on Nov. 8, N.C. Gov. Roy Cooper issued a state of emergency for the Western North Carolina area. These fires in the regional area have now since been contained after some bad and serious drought conditions we have had in the Upstate South Carolina and Western North Carolina area that made matters worse for these wildfires.

Before we had that needed rain, the wildfires in Western North Carolina were very hard for the N.C. Forest Service to control. And burn bans from the N.C. Forest Service were even issued.

The majority of the damage brought on by this long drought to the area with these wildfires in Western North Carolina was in Henderson County and Cherokee County. Thank God, Western North Carolina received much-needed rain showers. These much-needed rain showers came truly at the right time.

It is very much good news that the awful wildfires in Tennessee that happened in a short amount of time got contained really fast. And I am glad the wildfires that happened in Western North Carolina that were out of control because of the drought conditions got contained because of the needed rain showers we had that made most of the wildfire damage

disappear for the good of the residents of Western North Carolina.

— Steven Hawkins
Greenville, S.C.

Edwards outs himself with census bill

It's good that Chuck Edwards has outed himself with his attention-seeking "No Representation Without Legal Immigration Act" proposal. Republicans claim to be "originalists" about the Constitution, but Edwards wants to rewrite it to suit his perversity. In the Constitution, the census is supposed to be an accurate count of the number of people living in the USA and each state "according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed..."

Reactionary Edwards has decided who should count and who shouldn't. On the one hand, he hearkens back to the three-fifths compromise that his slaveholder political ancestors invented to not count enslaved Black Americans as full human beings, while not losing the advantage of counting them to wield political power for the slave states. On the other hand, he appears to be unfamiliar with the 13th, 14th and

15th amendments, which freed those slaves and attempted to ensure their right to vote. Perhaps Edwards is still enthralled with his Confederate and Jim Crow political guides.

Not counting people who can't vote? Might as well not count anyone under 18 years old. That would go over well, wouldn't it? Not counting noncitizens? Those people, whether documented or undocumented, pay many billions in taxes, rebuild communities decimated by natural disasters (while anti-immigrant politicians turn a blind eye) and — lest we forget — probably had major roles in planting, harvesting, cooking, serving and cleaning up from many of Edwards' last 100 meals. As well as working so many of the essential low-paid, difficult and dangerous jobs that very few citizens want any longer.

Of course, the people Edwards doesn't want to count are overwhelmingly people of color. With his stunt, Edwards reveals himself to be an out-and-out racist and a true believer (much above "love thy neighbor as thyself") in the "great replacement theory," which is a favorite of Edwards' mob boss, DJ Trump.

— Paul Weichselbaum
Hendersonville

Editor's note: Xpress reached out to Edwards' office for a response to the letter writer's points but did not receive a reply.

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Campaign ends Saturday, Dec. 31st at midnight

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