The Palm Beach Post

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President Trump's DOGE war on the government won't end well | Opinion

The whole nation is reeling from DOGE, an abuse of power that has left federal employees jobless and many more angry and exasperated.

Douglas C. Lyons Palm Beach Post
March 13, 2025, 6:02 a.m. ET

Every four years, my dad used to joke that the nation would send us its "worst" in the form of elected politicians lording over the federal government in general and my hometown of Washington, D.C., in particular. Back then, the nation's capital was a predominantly Black city controlled by Congress and the White House. It was forced to endure the whims of southern, conservative politicians, eager to please their constituents by imposing their whims on D.C. residents.

What started there has now spread to the country. In my dad's day, D.C. residents only had to suffer through southern Democrats [or "Dixiecrats"] who set laws and determined the city's budget. Today, the whole nation is reeling from a far maddening abuse of power that has left federal employees jobless and the people who depend upon them angry and exasperated.

National Weather Service, VA, NPS — pick an agency. It's not safe.

No federal agency is safe from the leaders of the federal government. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency, the National Weather Service, the Veterans Benefits Administration, the National Parks Service — pick an agency. Air traffic controllers, budget analysts, chemists, demographers, economists, inspectors general, interpreters, meteorologists, mechanics, park rangers, prosecutors, secretaries, taxonomists and warehouse specialists — these gigs aren't "Deep-State"

fantasy. They represent a legitimate workforce whose efforts to help the country are being wiped out.

Last week's reports of the hollowing out at National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is particularly galling to me. My father honed his craft as an artist by working as an illustrator at NOAA. He got the job after taking an arts correspondence course to get a better government position than the one he had at the U.S. Postal Service. Back then, a government job was a way to make a living and support a family, not a fringe conspiracy theory.

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Elon Musk has no official role, but that doesn't stop DOGE carnage

Still is, but you wouldn't know it given the turmoil caused by tech billionaire Elon Musk, supposedly with no official government role, and President Donald Trump who seemed supportive of the carnage until the public outcry and blowback from Trump's White House Cabinet — specifically Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy and Veterans Affairs Secretary Doug Collins — gave the president pause. Now word out of Washington is to use a scalpel instead of a sledge hammer.

Opinion: I don't care if they rename Southern Boulevard for Trump. But let locals decide.

Nevertheless, an estimated 650 NOAA employees reportedly have been shown the door, and thanks to where we live, those firings should be a concern for every Floridian, no matter his or her political leanings.

We're less than three months from another hurricane season, and we're entering it with at least two less Hurricane Hunter flight directors and an engineer at NOAA's Aircraft Operations Center in Lakeland. The agency's Environmental Modeling Center was also "gutted" with the loss of seasoned meteorologists and scientists

whose work to advance forecast models has improved weather predictions, particularly the course and strength of major hurricanes.

Trump administration cuts NOAA as Florida hurricane season approaches

Florida already has a property insurance crisis, fueled by climate change and population growth. The last thing we need is the intentional wrecking by our federal government of the most modern means to forecast bad weather. NOAA officials declined to comment, even though it was a big ask for an initiative that came from outside the agency.

Let's be clear. If the goal is really less abuse and fraud, and more efficiency, the current approach won't cut it. What people want is a competent federal government that actually works. That's certainly not happening at the moment.

Opinion: Trump delivers a pièce de résistance in defense of the English language. Bravo!

Trump did himself a favor by trying to rein in Musk and [sort of] backing his Cabinet appointees, the ones responsible for running their government agencies. In the case of NOAA, The Washington Post reported that representatives from the agriculture, fishing and insurance industries have privately and publicly appealed to Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick to protect NOAA, signifying that the agency's importance to the business community.

How long this DOGE-Cabinet detente will last is another matter entirely. It had better take hold. Otherwise, the nation may be sending Washington, D.C. a new group of politicians after the 2026 elections to lord over the nation's capital.

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