



# The Space Coast Tusk



## A Newsletter for Conservative Republicans

FLYING HIGH...AND DIGGING AND BORING TO KEEP BREVARD COUNTY RED AND GET CONSERVATIVES ELECTED

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### TRUMP HAS TWO SUCCESSFUL TRIPS TO EUROPE THIS MONTH

#### FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK:

#### MY TWO CENTS

By Stuart Gorin

So PMSNBC Mika's beau – former Congressman “Morning Joe” – says he's leaving the Republican Party. What took the RINO so long to announce it? Hey Joe, don't let the door hit you on the way out!

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A report from [www.liveaction.org](http://www.liveaction.org) says “actress” Lena Dunham has released a pro-Planned Parenthood video making the absurd claim that “abortion is the most basic of ALL human rights.” Gee, it's too bad Dunham's mother wasn't aware of that.

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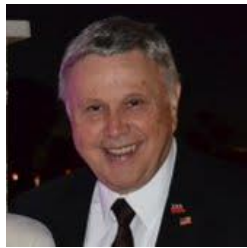
Less than two weeks after a Tiki Bar and Kitchen opened in Corvallis, Oregon, the owner abruptly shut it down and apologized to local residents of Polynesian descent for “cultural appropriation.” A month earlier, in Portland, Oregon, a Burritos Restaurant opened by two Caucasian women closed, not only because of Hispanic “cultural appropriation,” but they also received death threats. This all begs the question – why would anyone want to live in Oregon, let alone open a business in that “cultural” state?

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After the “New York Times” attempted to summarize the University of Missouri's challenges faced following protests and changes during the past two years, the new president – Mun Choi – issued a statement noting such accomplishments as reports of safe campus ranking and being a “Best Buy” campus; the school's economic contributions through research education and outreach; and commitment to advance health, cultural and social interests globally. He also listed, among other things, the world-wide recognition of the School of Journalism; the students' service oriented programs; the school's Research Reactor programs; and faculty commitment to the principles of free expression. So, can my alma mater return to the glory days of the past?

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More Two Cents next month.



Following a successful visit to Poland and then Germany for the G-20 meeting and a separate session with Russian President Vladimir Putin, **President Donald Trump** returned to Europe one week later to attend Bastille Day ceremonies with French President Emmanuel Macron.

In Warsaw on July 6, Trump stressed his commitment to Western values and applauded Poland's commitment to secure its borders.



“The West became great not because of paperwork and regulations, but because people were allowed to chase their dreams and pursue their destinies,” Trump said to applauding Polish citizens gathered at Warsaw's Krasinski Square.

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“Americans, Poles and nations of Europe value individual freedom and sovereignty,” he said. “We must work together to confront forces, whether they come from inside or out, from the South or the East, that threaten over time to undermine these values and to erase the bonds of culture, faith and tradition that make us who we are.”

He also spoke of Russia’s “reckless foreign policy and dangerous aggression,” urging the nation “to cease its destabilizing activities in Ukraine and elsewhere, and its support for hostile regimes – including Syria and Iran – and to instead join the community of responsible nations.”

Several political analysts called the speech one of the most significant foreign policy addresses delivered by a U.S. president since days of **Ronald Reagan**.

Also during his brief visit, Trump met with Polish President Andrzej Duda, and the two held a joint news conference. Trump said they both reassured the “enduring bonds of friendship” between their two nations, and Poland had been “right there with us” in the fight against Islamic extremist groups in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Duda said they had discussed, among many other security issues, the upcoming “Zapad 17” military exercises that Russia will be carrying out in neighboring Belarus, and that he was assured by Trump that the United States took Poland’s security seriously as a member of NATO.

On July 7, prior to the start of the G-20 meeting in Hamburg, Trump held his first meeting with Putin, telling the Russian leader the United States was concerned about Moscow’s meddling in the 2016 presidential election, fulfilling demands by U.S. lawmakers of both parties that the president not shy away from the issue.



**Secretary of State Rex Tillerson** said after the meeting that Putin denied being involved, but that notwithstanding the denial, the two leaders agreed that the issue has become a hindrance to better relations. During the more-than-two-hour meeting, Tillerson added, the discussion about election meddling was “robust and lengthy.”

Tillerson added that the two also reached a ceasefire deal for southwestern Syria, and though they have had conflicting views on Syria in the past, Russia has an interest in seeing the Mideast nation become stable.

Trump also met in Germany with Chancellor Angela Merkel, the summit host, and in a separate meeting, with British Prime Minister Theresa May, stressing his support for Brexit and pledging to advance a U.S.-U.K. free trade deal. He also had dinner with two Asian allies – Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and South Korean President Moon Jae-in.

During the G-20 meeting itself, Trump expressed a strong defense of Western civilization, NATO, and the transatlantic alliance, and a commitment to bilateral partnerships that advance U.S. interests and strengthen the free world. He also stood firm in rejecting the Paris climate accord, making clear his opposition to an agreement – signed by former President Barack Obama but not voted on by Congress – that would undermine U.S. sovereignty and be costly to the economy.



At one point during the G-20 meeting, Trump briefly left the room and his seat at the main table was taken by his daughter, Ivanka. At that time, the president of the World Bank started talking about African development, and referenced an initiative that Ivanka has spearheaded concerning funding women entrepreneurs.

It is common practice for others to take the place of world leaders who temporarily step away, but for anti-Trumpers on social media back home, you would think it was a major diplomatic crisis. One leftist commentator even proclaimed that Ivanka was not properly dressed to sit at the main table.

Trump returned to Washington on July 8, but five days later it was back across the pond again – this time to France.

Joined by the French president, on July 14, Trump attended a colorful parade along Paris’ famed Champs-Elysees that marked both the founding of French democracy and the centennial of the U.S. entry into World War I. The parade included U.S. soldiers marching with their French counterparts, while dozens of military planes and helicopters flew above as military bands played traditional marches.

Trump tweeted that it was “a great honor to represent the United States at the magnificent Bastille Day parade, and congratulations to President Emmanuel Macron.”





After the parade, Macron addressed the French nation, and said he hopes Trump's visit continues the long friendship between their nations, despite policy differences separating the two leaders. "The United States is our friend – nothing will ever separate us," he said. "The presence at my side of Donald Trump and his wife is a sign of that friendship that goes the length of time."

Trump then boarded Air Force One to return to Washington following a brief, but second successful, trip to Europe in a ten-day span.

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### POLITICAL JOTTINGS AND DOTTINGS

Following are just a few of the nominations that President Trump has submitted to the U.S. Senate for confirmation:

Former Republican Party Finance Chair and former chairman of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey **Lewis Eisenberg** of Vero Beach, Florida, to be U.S. Ambassador to Italy and the Republic of San Marino....

Former Special Assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture and former FBI investigator **Stephen King** to be U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic...

New York Jets owner and chairman and CEO of the asset management firm The Johnson Company **Robert Wood Johnson IV** to be U.S. Ambassador to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland....

Career Senior Foreign Service Minister-Counselor **John Desrocher** of New York to be U.S. Ambassador to the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria...

Attorney and former president and CEO of the Los Angeles Dodgers **Jamie McCourt** to be U.S. Ambassador to Belgium...

Oregon business owner **George Glass** to be U.S. Ambassador to Portugal...

Former Texas Senator **Kay Bailey Hutchison** to be U.S. Ambassador to NATO....

Non-profit Project 2049 Institute Senior Fellow **Kelley Eckels Currie** to be U.S. Ambassador to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations....

Majority Staff Director of the U.S. Senate Veterans Affairs Committee and retired U.S. Marine Corps Colonel **Thomas Bowman** to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs....

Former New Jersey Congressman **Scott Garrett** to be President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States....

Texas businessman and former Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Management Reform **John Gibson II** to be Deputy Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense....

National Defense Transportation Association President and CEO and retired Navy Rear Admiral **Mark Buzby** to be Administrator of the Department of Transportation Maritime Administration...

Acting Chief of Staff in the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and former Foreign Service Officer **Carl Risch** to be Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs....

Investment fund manager and former Republican Treasury official **Randal Quarles** to be Federal Reserve Bank Regulator....

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### “SATURDAY NIGHT LIVELY” WAS A HUGE SUCCESS

By **BREC Chairman Rick Lacey**



Anyone who missed the Brevard Republican Executive Committee's "Saturday Night Lively" fundraiser at the Hilton Melbourne Rialto on June 24 missed a very funny evening. The theme of the entertainment was the top 10 dumbest things said by Democrats.

The light hearted comic skits started with **Brevard Tax Collector Lisa Cullen** playing Press Secretary Sean Spicer, and continued with many hilarious skits – including **Republican Liberty Caucus of Florida Chairman Bob White's** performance as the phony, crying Chuck Schumer; BREC member **Deanna Reiter** as Nancy "we have to pass the bill to find out what's in it" Pelosi; **BREC Precinct Committeeman Ron Thomas** as Barack Obama collecting big bucks from Wall Street; and **National Republican Liberty Caucus Chairman Matt Nye** as James Comey.

Other highlights were **BREC Treasurer Linda Davis** as Hilary Clinton, **Ronald Reagan Clubs Chairman Dale Young** as Bernie "free stuff for everyone" Sanders; and Brevard Federated Republican Women member **Marcia Macy** as Elizabeth Warren.

In addition to poking fun at our Democrat friends, **BREC Precinct Committeeman John Murphy** did a terrific job as President Trump (hair and all), as did **Public Defender Blaise Trettis** as Ronald Reagan and **BREC Precinct Committeewoman Rocket Weiler** as Ann Coulter.

In the closing skit, I played Newt Gingrich, who reminded Hilary Clinton that although she lost the election, she was the winner of the Dumb Donkey award.

While we won't be expecting any Oscar nominations from Hollywood, the BREC members who volunteered to play the parts of various political personalities did an outstanding job. The evening then proceeded with the rest of the program.

After a moving invocation from Congressional Aide **Patti Febro**, and the presentation of the colors from the Viera High School Color Guard, I spoke about the challenges we face in next year's election.

Businessman and U.S. Army veteran **Paul Paulsen**, a candidate for Florida Commissioner of Agriculture, spoke about the issues facing our state regarding attacks on the Second Amendment, and the threat to our state's orange production.

**State Representative Randy Fine** introduced our guest speaker – **Blaise Ingoglia**, Chairman of the Republican Party of Florida. Outlining the various proposals that are designed to build on our 2016 election success, Ingoglia informed us that Project Majority Red has a goal of registering enough Republican voters in Florida to erase the current 300,000-vote Democrat advantage.

He also spoke about "The Drive for Five" – to ensure that next year we elect Republicans in all five state-wide offices: Governor, U.S. Senator, Attorney General, Chief Financial Officer, and Commissioner of Agriculture.

To paraphrase **President Donald Trump**, overall the fundraiser was a HUGE success – matching previous total revenue in ticket sales, program book ads and sponsorships. Another positive factor was the record number of guests who attended their first BREC fundraiser.

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## THIS AND THAT

**U.S. SUPREME COURT.** The High Court's 2016-17 session ended last month with more conservative results than liberal ones among its decisions. The court unanimously granted the Trump administration's request to reinstate part of the travel ban meant to temporarily block people from six predominantly Muslim countries from entering the United States, but also agreed next session to hear the government's appeal of a lower court ruling that had prevented the ban from going into place. In the Trinity Lutheran Church case, it held 7-2 that religious institutions cannot be excluded from public benefit programs for which they are otherwise qualified. The case involved a church-run preschool in Missouri, which was prevented from participating in the state's playground resurfacing program solely on the basis of its religious

affiliation. In a unanimous decision, the Court ruled that a federal law banning the trademark of offensive names is unconstitutional. The case involved an Asian-American band that had been banned from copyrighting their group name "The Slants," over a "disparagement clause," and the free-speech victory also appears to be a victory for the Washington Redskins to keep their trade-marked name. In other action, the Supreme Court announced it will hear an appeal in its next session from a Colorado baker who lost a discrimination case for refusing to bake a cake for a same-sex wedding. Lower courts ruled Masterpiece Cakeshop owner Jack Phillips violated Colorado's public accommodations law that bans refusing services to customers based on race, sex, marital status or sexual orientation. But another case that a majority of the Court declined to hear involved the scope of an individual's right to carry a gun outside of the home for self-defense. The traditional starting date for the court's fall session is the First Monday in October.

**BREVARD COUNTY LEGISLATORS.** Organized by the Melbourne Regional Chamber of East Central Florida, a "State of the State" forum on May 29 featured the six Brevard County state legislators – all Republicans – discussing the recently concluded legislative session, and generally expressing they were pleased with the outcome, even though it was "a struggle" at times. **District 17 State Senator Debbie Mayfield** said she thought "we brought a lot back to Brevard County," and expressed optimism that, in the long term, the county will have half-cent sales tax revenue as matching funds to secure state funding for Indian River Lagoon projects. Regarding **Governor Rick Scott's** call for funding for economic development programs, **District 14 State Senator Dorothy Hukill** said the House's original plan not to fund them was "too harsh," and compared the process that eventually evolved as "trying to throw the baby out with the bath water, and then bring it back in at the end." Discussing education issues, **District 50 State Representative Rene Plascencia** noted his efforts to mandate recess during the school day and to allow children with autism to get therapy during the school day without it being considered an unexcused absence. Discussing a change in how the State Legislature makes each project a separate bill in the budget, **District 51 State Representative Tom Goodson** said, "It was good when it showed the merit of what you were asking for, but it was bad when it allowed somebody to say: 'No, you don't need it.' They died by just the rules of the House and Senate." **District 52 State Representative Thad Altman** said an issue that could have hurt Brevard was that the Space Coast no longer was represented by two legislative leaders — former **Senate President Andy Gardiner** and former **House Speaker Steve Crisafulli** – who are no longer in the Legislature due to term limits. In his comments on the education reform bill that the governor signed into law, **District 53 State Representative Randy Fine** called it "an all-you-can-eat-buffet of great education reform changes that I think are transformative."

**NEW MILLENNIUM CONSERVATIVE CLUB.** **Brevard County Clerk of Courts Scott Ellis**, addressing the



New Millennium Conservative Club on July 17, came up with a new phrase to explain why political candidates who campaign promising to support conservative values, vote to assist those in power once they are in office. These politicians, he said, suffer from a condition called “ODD – Oppositional Defiance Disorder.” Ellis said too many

of them justify their action by saying they were “wrong” about certain issues before they learned the “truth,” adding that with many elected officials, power goes to their heads. Ellis covered a wide range of topics with the club members, including troubled golf courses that Brevard County owns but cannot sell because of purchase agreements made by former commissioners years ago; funding for necessary roads construction that succeeding commissions have not been able to accomplish; CRAs (Community Redevelopment Agencies), of which there are numerous in the county, and he opposes; the EDC (Economic Development Commission), in which he would like to see fiscal oversight; and the pending court case against former Clerk of Courts Mitch Needelman, who along with two others, is facing multiple felony charges.

**BLUE WARE POLITICAL CORRUPTION CASE. 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Judge Marlene Alva** has ruled that the trial of former Brevard County Clerk of Courts Mitch Needelman is scheduled to begin on October 16 in Sanford, Florida – more than four years after his arrest. Defense motions delayed the start several times. “Florida Today” reported that two other defendants in the case – BlueWare, Inc. CEO Rose Harr and former BlueWare executive Matt Dupree will have separate trials. The three are charged with engineering a scheme under which the BlueWare technology company would make campaign contributions to Needelman’s unsuccessful 2012 re-election campaign in exchange for BlueWare receiving an \$8.2 million no-bid contract to digitize court records. Dupree also is a former business partner of Needelman. He managed the campaign in which Needelman lost the Republican primary to current **Clerk of Courts Scott Ellis**. Despite the payment, the tech company never completed the assignment. Needelman – who also is a former member of the Florida House of Representatives – is charged with bribery, bid tampering, official misconduct, unlawful campaign contributions and conspiracy to commit bribery. Harr and Dupree are charged with conspiracy and acting as principals to bribery and bid-tampering. Prosecutors said having three separate trials gives them more flexibility to present evidence, and they want to tell the whole story.

**FLORIDA CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER.** Former **State Representative Jimmy Patronis** was sworn-in as Florida CFO on June 30, as **Governor Rick Scott’s** replacement for **Jeff Atwater**, who resigned to become Chief Financial Officer at Florida Atlantic University. Patronis, from Panama City, had served on the state’s



Public Service Commission and Constitution Revision Commission. The governor said, “As a small business owner, Jimmy has been a successful job creator and has helped grow Panama City’s economy. I know that he will bring his wealth of private sector experience with him to Tallahassee.” Expressing “honor” by the appointment, Patronis said, “As Florida’s next CFO, I want it to be the place where government does its job fairly and predictably, so workers can find great jobs at great businesses.”

**FLORIDA BILL SIGNINGS.** Among the bills signed by **Florida Governor Rick Scott** following the State Legislative session were measures giving the state authority to regulate “personal delivery devices and unmanned aircraft systems;” returning some state oversight to nursing education programs; and reducing the annual license fee for a craft distillery, thus allowing more start-up distilleries to compete in the state.

**SPACE.** Visiting Florida’s Kennedy Space Center (KSC) on July 6, **Vice President Mike Pence** said, “America will lead in space once again,” adding, “Our nation will return to the moon and we will put American boots on the face of Mars.” Pence spoke to about 1,000 NASA and contractor employees, including top executives from major aerospace companies. He praised KSC for



fostering the public-private partnerships that have been in place since the 2011 retirement of the space shuttle program. Pence said he will be chairing the National Space Council that the Trump administration has re-established after it lay dormant since 1993. Following his remarks, the vice president toured the launch pads and other facilities at the center.

**BREVARD COUNTY COMMISSION DISTRICT 4.** The chairman of the Brevard County Commission, **Republican District 4 Commissioner Curt Smith**, on July 17 filed to run for re-election in 2018 to a second four-year term, saying conservative and thoughtful decision-making is needed as the commission continues to fix infrastructure and bring health back to the Indian River Lagoon. Smith also currently serves as Chairman of the Indian River Lagoon Council. On July 5, former **District 3 Commissioner Trudie Infantini**, also a Republican, announced her own candidacy for the District 4 seat.

**VOTER FRAUD.** So this is why the Trump administration is asking state election officials to provide a newly established commission with registration information. In Colorado, several county clerks have said they’ve seen hundreds of people withdraw their voter registrations after the state announced it would comply. In Denver alone, a spokesperson said 180 people had so far withdrawn their registrations, and in Arapahoe County, there were at least 160 withdrawals. Studying voter fraud, political scientist Jesse Richman of Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia reported that nationwide, Hillary Clinton garnered more than 800,000 votes from noncitizens. Also in Virginia, a James Madison



University student who pleaded guilty to fraudulently registering 18 dead persons to vote, was sentenced to at least 100 days in prison. Andrew Spieles was caught when a vigilant employee at the registrar's office recognized one of the names he submitted – the deceased father of a county judge – and called police. A spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's Office said that discovery led the registrar's office to review additional registrations, and unearthed "multiple instances of similarly falsified forms." Spieles reportedly explained that he obtained the names, ages, and addresses of individuals from "walk sheets" given to him by the Virginia Democrat Party, and he would fabricate birth dates and Social Security numbers for the falsified voters before registering them. And in Iowa, a 57-year-old woman pleaded guilty to attempting to vote twice. Sentencing awaits. Now, what about all of those blue states that refuse to require voter ID at the polls?

**ABORTION.** Hyde Amendment regulations notwithstanding, here's an example of Beaver State atrocity: The Oregon legislature has approved a bill to require insurance companies in the state to provide abortions at no cost to all patients – including illegal ones. Oregon's female governor, who has to sign the legislation, is a former abortion lobbyist. So taxpayers will foot the bills and Planned Parenthood will reap the benefits. And in Wichita, Kansas, Operation Rescue reported that last month a 20-year-old woman who was drug addicted visited a Planned Parenthood facility, received an abortion, and later that day killed herself with a gunshot to the head.

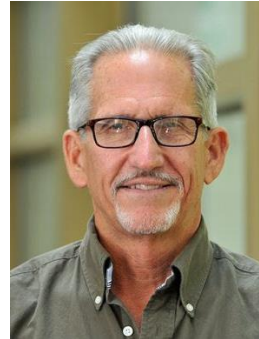


**BREVARD FEDERATED REPUBLICAN WOMEN.**

**Florida District 17 State Senator Debbie Mayfield** told the Brevard Federated Republican Women on July 10 that behind the scene at the 2017 State Legislative session, there was "a lot of horse trading and maneuvering" as members sought to get their bills passed. One bill close to her heart that did not pass,

she said, was to keep companies from changing or charging more for patients' prescription drugs during the year. That bill, she said, will be filed again next session. Mayfield said the medical marijuana bill that passed will require some control monitoring. She said she was pleased that citizens will be able to vote on the next election ballot on whether to pass an additional homestead tax exemption on their property taxes. She also announced that the only Brevard Delegation Meeting prior to the State Legislative session next January, will take place on September 20 from 1 pm to 5:30 pm in the County Commission Chambers in Viera. The purpose of the meeting, Mayfield said, "is for local government entities, businesses, organizations, and citizens to have the opportunity to share with the delegation issues that are of the most importance to them." Earlier, Mayfield's staff released an announcement of the opening of district and satellite offices in Brevard and Indian River counties, which will provide constituents assistance and information on legislative

concerns, requests and inquiries Mondays through Fridays from 8 am to 5 pm. The Brevard County Office is located at 900 E. Strawbridge Avenue, Suite 528 in Melbourne, phone 321-409-2025. The Indian River County Office is located at 1801 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Administration Building B in Vero Beach, phone 772-226-1979. In other club news, there was a "heads up" announcement that the Atlantic Federated Republican Women will meet October 27 in Daytona Beach, Florida.



**HERITAGE ISLE REPUBLICAN CLUB.**

Continuing to carry his libertarian message of limited government, free markets, and support for the Constitution, Republican gubernatorial candidate **Bob White** told the Heritage Isle Republican Club (HIRC) on July 6 that a key issue on which he is focusing is campaign finance reform.

He said "dark money politics" and special interest contributions to candidates are drowning out the voices of the people. White, who is chairman of the Republican Liberty Caucus of Florida, said he is not going to be a "big money" candidate and wants to "drain the swamp" in Tallahassee. In other HIRC news, club president **Pam LaSalle** said she is withdrawing as a candidate in 2018 for the Brevard County Commission District 4 seat for family reasons, and member **Ron Ziegler** announced he has been named the new parliamentarian of the Brevard Republican Executive Committee.

**RONALD REAGAN CLUBS.**

Retired **Brevard County Court Judge A.B. Majeed**, who served 24 years on the Florida bench, on May 26 reminisced with members of the Ronald Reagan Clubs about our 40<sup>th</sup> president's tenure, stressing his support for laissez faire capitalism and the rights of the people. We live in a country, he said, "where law is king, instead of the king is law." He noted Reagan grew up in humble roots and went on to become one of our greatest presidents. Regarding President Donald Trump, Majeed wished for a successful term of office for him, and noted that the president believes economic progress is related to the rule of law. Majeed said there is no greater calling than serving the people, and it is a great reflection on our democracy "that people actually freely and voluntarily come before a judge to solve their problems." He said he considers it part of his civic duty to talk with citizens about the judicial system, our rights and responsibilities, and his respect for the U.S. Constitution. "If you don't respect the voice of the people, Democracy fails," Majeed added.



**HE "DESERVED," SHE "DESERVED."** After making headlines last month for outrageously saying that Otto Warmbier – who died after being confined and tortured for more than a year in a North Korean prison – "got exactly what

he deserved,” University of Delaware adjunct professor Katherine Dettwyler learned that she, too “got exactly what she deserved” – being fired from her anthropology teaching position. Dettwyler’s unsettling Facebook comments said that Warmbier – who attempted to take a propaganda sign during a planned brief visit to North Korea – “acted like a spoiled, naive, arrogant, U.S. college student who had never had to face the consequences of his actions.” And she referred to him as being “typical of the mindset of a lot of the young, white, rich, clueless males who come into my classes.” But Dettwyler’s school quickly responded, “Those comments in no way reflect the values or position of the University of Delaware.” Warmbier was in a coma from which he never regained consciousness when he returned to the United States, and his death did draw sympathy messages from around the country.

**DIVERSITY ADMINISTRATORS.** The Virginia-based Leadership Institute’s Campus Reform project reports that dozens of America’s top universities are spending an average of \$175,088 per year for administrators tasked with leading their diversity efforts. That outrage is more than three times the average American household’s annual income, and just about enough to cover the sticker price of out-of-state tuition for six students. But the schools defend the high expenses, saying they are “commensurate to the job responsibilities.” What do they do for that salary – arrange tea party mixers for students of different races, religions and gender identity? How about spending the money instead on assistance for low-income students? Or isn’t that “diverse” enough?



The summer 2017 issue of “Libertas” – the YAF publication – features the Freedom Conference held in February in Dallas, where more than 400 participants from 134 schools in 31 states and the District of Columbia heard inspirational remarks from a number of conservative speakers. Among them, businessman **Herman Cain** encouraged the students to be bold activists and vocal supporters of their shared values, and noted that “Freedom is not free. You have to constantly fight to protect it.” Filmmaker and author **Dinesh D’Souza** said it is not that many young people reject conservatism, “it’s that they don’t know what it is,” and he added, “In today’s campus environment, you can’t be honest if you don’t have courage.” Fox News commentator **Todd Starnes** told the attendees they are “freedom’s last line of defense,” and “Let the flame of freedom shine bright for all to see.” Radio host **Dana Loesch** speaking of the importance of protecting the Second Amendment, said “No one should have to sit here and plead and beg for their right to self-defense.” YAF Program Officer **Amy Lutz** wrote the article on the Freedom Conference. For more information on the foundation, visit the website: [www.yaf.org](http://www.yaf.org).



Former **Kansas Congressman Tim Huelskamp** is the new president of The Heartland Institute, succeeding **Joseph Bast**, who co-founded

the Illinois-based, national free market think-tank in 1984. Bast, who plans to remain at Heartland as CEO until next year, said Huelskamp “combines the characteristics of a scholar, elected official, and small businessman that make him the ideal person to lead one of the nation’s top think-tanks. His dedication to free-market ideas and ‘heartland values’ means Heartland will be in good hands long into the future.” Originally focused only on policy debates in Illinois and Chicago, Heartland soon launched branch offices throughout the Midwest and in the early 1990s became a national organization serving the country’s 7,300 state-elected officials. Its mission is to discover, develop, and promote free-market solutions to social and economic problems. Today it sends books, policy briefs, and four public policy newspapers to every national- and state-elected official and thousands of civic and business leaders. In the 2000s, Heartland became internationally known for promoting the work of scientists, economists, and other experts who are skeptical that human activity is causing a climate crisis. It has hosted 12 international conferences on climate change and published or edited a dozen books on the topic, including a four-volume series of literature reviews titled *Climate Change Reconsidered*, produced with the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change. The website is [www.heartland.org](http://www.heartland.org).

**KA-BOOM.** Several news outlets reported last month about an ISIS party that backfired on them. Suicide bombers apparently are given a “blood party,” where colleagues wish them “good luck” in their upcoming mission to commit another bloodbath. In one case in Diyala, Iraq, however, the suicide vest of one would-be bomber went off prematurely, killing him as well as 11 of his fellow terrorists. And this party reportedly came one day after another bomber accidentally detonated a vest during a meeting near Mosul Iraq, also killing several ISIS leaders.

**MEDIA DON’T MATTER.** Reporting on [www.libertynewsnow.com](http://www.libertynewsnow.com), freelance writer **Morgan**



**Mayhew** writes that Jeffrey Goldberg, Editor-in-Chief of *The Atlantic*, while talking at the Aspen Ideas conference, told Katie Couric that he is worried about the way President Trump is effectively inciting the American public against liberal journalists, to the point of physical violence. “He made it clear that according to him, President Trump would be solely responsible for any violence that may occur against journalists,” Mayhew said, adding that Goldberg’s “brazen attempts to blame the president for the



pathetic state of journalism, and the fake news that plagues even the largest and most established news organizations, ring especially hollow.” He said it is the extreme climate of political hostility and hatred created by the establishment media and Hollywood that resulted in the attack on congressional Republicans, and shooting of **Representative Steve Scalise** by a Bernie Sanders campaign volunteer. “The hypocrisy from the left, and the lengths they go to accuse their enemies of doing EXACTLY what they are doing, is astounding – but, sadly, par for the course in the politically charged climate of 2017,” Mayhew concluded.

**APOCRYPHAL MEDIA STORY.** This has been around for a while, but is still relevant today. It seems a Harley biker was riding by the zoo in Washington when he saw a little girl leaning into the lion’s cage. Suddenly, the lion grabbed her by the collar of her jacket and tried to pull her inside, under the eyes of her screaming parents. The biker jumped off his Harley, ran to the cage, and hit the lion square on the nose with a powerful punch. The lion then jumped back, letting go of the girl, and the biker brought her to her terrified, but relieved, parents. Meanwhile, a reporter who watched the whole event told the biker it was the most gallant and bravest thing he had ever seen, and he wanted to report the story on the front page of the morning newspaper (since it was in Washington, assume it was the “Washington Post”). The reporter then asked the biker what he did for a living and was his political affiliation was. The biker responded: “I’m a U.S. Marine, a Republican, and a proud supporter of President Trump.” The next morning he opened the newspaper to see if it indeed carried a report on his actions, and read this front-page headline: “U.S. MARINE ASSAULTS AFRICAN IMMIGRANT & STEALS HIS LUNCH.” Yes, it’s apocryphal, but it pretty much sums up the media’s approach to the news these days.

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## EXPERTS’ EXCERPTS



Blogger and radio show host **Erick Erickson**, writing on the Russians and the Democrats on his website [www.theresurgent.com](http://www.theresurgent.com):

“Because of leftwing outrage and media obsession, the nation has focused on whether the Trump campaign colluded with Russians to influence the American election. In the hype and hysteria, we have been distracted from an obvious issue. If, as the Obama Administration claimed, the Russians merely wanted to undermine American trust in the democratic process, would not they work both sides against each other? It is looking more and more like that may be the case. To understand the tangled details around **Donald Trump, Jr.**’s meeting with Russian lawyer Natalia Veselnitskaya, we first have to examine the Magnitsky Act. That act was named for Sergei Magnitsky, a Russian lawyer who exposed massive tax fraud in Russia at the government level....The legislation allowed, in part, the

Department of Justice to seize American assets of Russian oligarchs exposed by Magnitsky. The Russian company Prevezon Holdings had its assets seized. It set about hiring lawyers, political strategists, and others to get its money back. Prevezon made three very interesting hires. Prevezon hired Natalia Veselnitskaya, the lawyer who subsequently met with Donald Trump, Jr. Prevezon also hired Rinat Akhmetshin, described by **Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA)** as a former Soviet counter-intelligence officer who specialized in disinformation and propaganda campaigns. Akhmetshin also retained Veselnitskaya as lawyer for a third party group that claims to be a Human Rights group. Prevezon and Akhmetshin also worked with a Democrat opposition research group called Fusion GPS.... Natalia Veselnitskaya’s visa for entry into the United States had expired by 2016. She could not enter the country and a United States Attorney denied her ‘temporary parole’ to enter the country. Nonetheless, the Obama Administration overruled the United States Attorney and allowed Ms. Veselnitskaya into the United States on an expired visa to meet with Donald Trump, Jr....Senator Grassley, in a press release outlining his potential questions to former FBI Director James Comey, notes that the FBI planned ‘to hire former British spy Christopher Steele to investigate Donald Trump during the presidential campaign, even though the FBI was aware that he was being paid by Democrat political operatives to conduct opposition research on Trump.’ Steele, you see, helped Fusion GPS compile the dossier on Donald Trump. It could just be a coincidence that the Obama Administration let Natalia Veselnitskaya enter the United States to meet with Donald Trump, Jr. It could also be a coincidence that her client, Prevezon, hired Fusion GPS to help Russia at the same time Fusion GPS was compiling a dossier on Donald Trump claiming Trump was working with the Russians. And it could be a coincidence that the FBI considered hiring the man who helped Fusion GPS compile that dossier. It could all be a coincidence, or it could start to paint a new picture. The Russians could have been masterfully playing both sides so that whoever won, Russia came out on top. Mrs. Clinton, after all, claims she reset the relationship with Russia.”

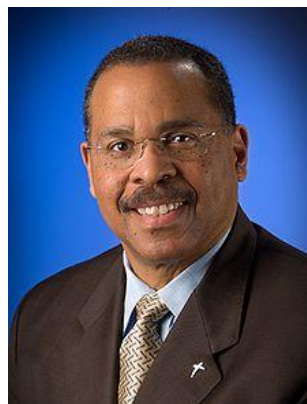


American Enterprise Institute senior fellow and former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations **John Bolton**, writing on ISIS in “The Wall Street Journal”:

“The slow-moving campaign against the Islamic State is finally nearing its conclusion – yet major, long-range strategic issues remain unresolved. The real issue isn’t tactical. It is instead the lack of American strategic thinking about the Middle East after Islamic State. Its defeat will leave a regional political vacuum that must be filled somehow. Instead of reflexively repeating President Obama’s errors, the Trump administration should undertake an ‘agonizing reappraisal,’ in the style of John Foster Dulles, to avoid squandering the victory on the ground. First, the U.S. ought to



abandon or substantially reduce its military support for Iraq's current government. Despite retaining a tripartite veneer of Kurds, Sunni Arabs and Shiite Arabs, the capital is dominated by Shiites loyal to Iran. Today Iraq resembles Eastern Europe in the late 1940s, as the Soviet anaconda tightened its hold. Extending Baghdad's political and military control into areas retaken from ISIS simply advances Tehran's power. This cannot be in America's interest.... Second, the U.S. should press Egypt, Jordan and the Gulf monarchies for more troops and material assistance in fighting ISIS. America has carried too much of the burden for too long in trying to forge Syria's opposition into an effective force. Yet even today the opposition could charitably be called 'diverse'.... Third, the Trump administration must take a clear-eyed view of Russia's intervention. The Syrian mixing bowl is where confrontation between American and Russian forces looms. Why is Russia active in this conflict? Because it is aiding its allies: Syria's President Bashar Assad and Iran's ayatollahs. Undeniably, Russia is on the wrong side.... Washington is kidding itself to think Sunnis will meekly accept rule by Iraq's Shiite-dominated government or Syria's Alawite regime. Simply restoring today's governments in Baghdad and Damascus to their post-World War I boundaries would guarantee renewed support for terrorism and future conflict.... At the same time, the U.S. must begin rolling back Russia's renewed presence and influence in the Middle East. Russia has a new air base at Latakia, Syria, is involved in combat operations, and issues diktats about where American warplanes in the region may fly.... Russia's interference, particularly its axis with Mr. Assad and Tehran's mullahs, critically threatens the interests of the U.S., Israel and our Arab friends.... As incidents in Syria and Iraq increasingly put American forces at risk, Washington should not get lost in deconfliction negotiations or modest changes in rules of engagement. Instead, the Trump administration should recraft the U.S.-led coalition to ensure that America's interests, rather than Russia's or Iran's, predominate once ISIS is defeated."



**American Civil Rights Union Senior Fellow J. Kenneth Blackwell**, writing on liberals on the "Huffington Post":

**"President Donald Trump's** critics fixate on his tweets and then wonder why he spends so much time responding to their attacks. But why do they devote so much attention to his tweets in the first place? Maybe they realize that many Americans are happy to

finally have a president who fights back. The Left complains about how badly Republicans treated President Bill Clinton. But he disgraced himself in the Oval Office. And as America's top elected official, he committed the crime of perjury. Democrats also whine that conservatives said terrible things about President Barack Obama. But just look at his record. He nationalized health care – a sixth of the economy – and in the process, undermined the greatest medical care

system in the world. He sent America into retreat overseas, with disastrous consequences. He used the IRS to harass his critics. He held no one accountable for the murder of Americans in Benghazi. He increased the national debt by \$9 trillion. What good was there to say about him? Finally, the Left is indignant about the horrible treatment – the usual litany of 'isms' – shown Hillary Clinton. Yet her scandals run the gamut from Whitewater and sketchy cattle trades to Benghazi and hidden emails. The shameless type of self-dealing evident with the Clinton Foundation first surfaced with the firing of the White House travel staff when her husband became president. Yet, who but conservatives were willing to point out her misconduct? President Trump hasn't behaved like any of them. His only offense is being unusually candid for a politician. Obviously, people are free to criticize the president. And, no doubt, if you're a progressive or liberal, you don't like what he's doing.... New York City Public Theater's Shakespeare in the Park production of Julius Caesar features the title character being knifed with great enthusiasm midway through the play. This 'Roman' sports a suit, unruly blonde hair, and red tie, and has a spouse with a Slovenian accent. Wonder who that's supposed to be?... President Trump, freely elected by the American people and acting within the U.S. Constitution, being portrayed as Caesar? And deserving to be assassinated? Really?... Americans always have engaged in vigorous debate. They should continue doing so. But vigorous doesn't mean vicious and malevolent. It's time for decent liberals to hold their less principled colleagues to account."

## THOUGHTS TO PONDER

"When we stood outside of the U.S. Capitol in 2010, the night that Obamacare passed, we knew that it was going to take a monumental effort to repeal this new entitlement. What we weren't expecting was that when Republicans finally controlled the House, the Senate, and the White House that we would have to fight traitorous Republicans attempting to block Obamacare repeal. Sadly, that's exactly what is happening right now!"

--**Tea Party Patriots President Jenny Beth Martin**

"Let me remind you of a few things that have happened in recent years. Barack Obama was caught on an open mic telling then-outgoing Russian President Dmitry Medvedev that he would have 'more flexibility' after his reelection. Medvedev's response: 'I understand. I will transmit this information to Vladimir.' That would be incoming Russian President Vladimir Putin. Where was the left's concern about treason then? Since we're talking about foreign involvement in other countries' elections, it's worth remembering that Obama tried to topple a key American ally – the Netanyahu government in Israel. While we're talking about foreign influence in America, Ted Kennedy invited the Soviets to help him defeat **Ronald Reagan** in 1984. Obama facilitated Russian and Chinese lobbying in support of the Iranian nuclear deal. The Ukrainian government attempted to help the Clinton campaign dig up dirt on **Donald Trump**. The Clinton campaign circulated Russian disinformation against Trump. There continues to be evidence that British intelligence

agencies may have helped the Obama Administration spy on the Trump campaign. Amazingly, none of these issues rose to the level of ‘scandals, crimes or treason’ as far as the Left and its media allies were concerned. The Left’s outrage over one meeting with a Russian lawyer who talked about international adoptions doesn’t pass the straight face test.”

--**Campaign For Working Families President Gary Bauer**  
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“Today’s students are so steeped in grievance politics, that learning to express grudges starts to seem the central point of college. The victim’s mantle becomes as vital as the scholar’s mortarboard. It’s not difficult to imagine further proliferation of splinter ceremonies.... Here’s a unifying thought: How about we go back to having one commencement ceremony but each student who feels victimized in some way gets to wear a scarlet letter V for each class of victim to which he, she, or they belongs? The more V’s you have, the greater your sense of honor. You could wear a gown as festooned with V’s as a four-star general’s chest is bedecked with colorful ribbons.”

--“National Review” Critic-at-Large **Kyle Smith**  
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“America’s once-pre-eminent colleges and universities are fatally compromised. Universities charge far too much, resist reform, expect exemption from accountability, and assume their students must take on huge amounts of debt. Yet campuses cannot guarantee that their graduates are competently educated or that they will find jobs.”

--Historian and author **Victor Davis Hanson**  
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“I come from a perspective where I worked with 18- and 19-year-olds who were putting on 40-pound rucksacks, walking around the deserts of Iraq and the mountains of Afghanistan, and fighting ISIS and al-Qaeda. And then I come back and I hear 18- and 19-year-olds in Missouri complaining that life is just too tough on campus. We need to bring back some core values of hard work, responsibility, and respect.”

--Missouri Governor and former Navy Seal **Eric Greitens**  
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“You just don’t encounter happy, laughing liberals. Even their comedians are consumed by hatred. The Democrat Party’s become the largest hate group in this country. Even their comedians are angry and enraged, and that suffices as comedy. I think it’s one of the reasons why left-wing comics have become primary sources of news for other left-wing liberals.”

--Radio talk show host **Rush Limbaugh**  
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“In the history of the country, I don’t think there has ever been a full-time assassination squad like today’s news media. The relentless negativity, in fact, has been measured – by Harvard, no less. In the first 100 days, not only was Trump the subject of 41 percent of all news stories (three times more than previous presidents), but outside of Fox, Trump was treated badly by every outlet, all the time.”

--Another Limbaugh thought  
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“The 2016 election was the media’s Humpty Dumpty moment. It fell off the wall, shattered into a million pieces, and can’t be put back together again. In case there is any doubt, 2017 is confirming that the standards are still dead. The orgy of Trump-bashing continues unabated.”

--“New York Post” chief political columnist **Michael Goodwin**  
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“New York City Mayor Bill De Blasio raced off to Hamburg, Germany, to team up with the anarchists protesting the G-20 summit and President Trump in particular.... He did so in the shadow of the assassination of a 12-year New York City police officer (and) instead of attending the graduation of 500 police recruits...Bozo De Blasio shirked his responsibilities.”

--Fox News host **Judge Jeanine Pirro**  
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“If President Trump cured cancer tomorrow, the American press corps would assail him for putting a bunch of scientists on the unemployment line. He cannot win when a press corps has decided it would rather lie to smear him than tell a truth that might make him look good. The whole of it undermines American democracy and the very freedoms the press depends on to push their lies.”

--Conservative blogger **Erick Erickson**  
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“The Democrats have a playbook. We know it. It’s resist, obstruct. We see them do it at every level. Now, it’s throw doubt on the administration. Open as many investigations as possible, cloud the administration as much as possible because they are trying to run out the clock to 2018. That is their playbook. We know it.”

--**RNC Chairwoman Ronna Romney McDaniel**  
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“**Attorney General Jeff Sessions**’ pledge to enforce federal laws dealing with criminal; acquisition, possession and use of firearms, and his equal commitment to vigorously pursue prosecutions for drug-trafficking offenses, is meeting with truly insane resistance – especially in the media....Especially to the gun ban crowd – swift, sure and just enforcement of existing federal laws would totally negate their demands for new pointless gun control that only ensnares law-abiding citizens. Existing federal criminal law covers every conceivable aspect of criminal acquisition, possession and use of firearms.”

--NRA Executive Vice President **Wayne LaPierre**  
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“The only path to vigorous economic growth is to liberate the country from the dead hand of government and get out of the way of the natural wealth-creating aptitudes of the American people. We are sleepwalking into the most predictable crisis in our nation’s history. As the baby boomers retire and the entitlement state becomes more and more oppressive, the natural instinct of the government is going to be to increase the weight of government by increasing the tax take, producing a death spiral.”

--Columnist and author **George Will**

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“Just when did Congress get totally involved in health care insurance for our country? It has become overwhelming. No plan will cover our entire country, as several million will fall

through the cracks no matter how the bill is written... We are losing our ability to help those in need with the lower payments paid through government plans. Let our states work with insurance providers and open up the market. It might just work.”

--Viera, Florida resident **Sally Gorham**

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## UPCOMING BREVARD COUNTY EVENTS

August 3 – Heritage Isle Republican Club meeting, Viera, 10 am.

August 3 – Brevard County Young Republicans meeting, Beef O’Brady’s Restaurant, Melbourne, 6 pm.

August 7 – Republican Liberty Caucus of Central East Florida meeting, Memaw’s Restaurant, Melbourne, 7 pm.

August 9 – Brevard Republican Executive Committee meeting, Suntree Country Club, 7 pm.

August 14 – Brevard Federated Republican Women meeting, Duran Golf Club, Viera, 11 am.

August 14 – The Space Coast Patriots meeting, Merritt Island Library, 6 pm.

August 15 – North Brevard Republican Club meeting, Blue Heron Restaurant, Great Outdoors, outside Titusville, 7 pm.

August 21 – New Millennium Conservative Club meeting, Suntree-Viera Library, 6:30 pm.

August 22 – ACT! For America Space Coast Chapter meeting, Government Complex Building C, Viera, 6:30 pm.

August 23 – Space Coast Republican Club meeting, Red Lobster, Merritt Island, 11 am.

August 28 – Ronald Reagan Clubs meeting, Frankie’s Wings & Things, Melbourne, 7 pm

The Republican Women’s Network of South Brevard will not meet in August.

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## ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

There are more than 1,400 people on our ever-increasing distribution list, and the newsletter goes to readers not only all over the country, but also across our borders and beyond. Editor **Stuart Gorin** and Designer **Frank Montelione** hope to see the numbers continue to grow as we pass on information. We continue to cover activities of the Brevard Republican Executive Committee, Republican clubs in the county, and conservative organizations, so both elected officials and the typical “man-in-the-street” are kept abreast of what is happening at the local, state and national levels. Since Republicans as well as Conservatives will never agree 100 percent on all issues – for example, differences between Conservative members and establishment Republicans – we will not necessarily support any writer’s positions, but will present them so you, the reader, can make up your own mind – fair and balanced. There is a link to this issue at [www.thetusk.org](http://www.thetusk.org), and several recent back issues are available in the archives on the same website. To sign up for your free subscription (or to unsubscribe, if you are so inclined), or to send your comments, suggestions or information to share, email: [spacecoasttusk@gmail.com](mailto:spacecoasttusk@gmail.com).

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## COMICAL CLOSERS

Two Liberal quickies: First, the question is “How do you confuse a Liberal?” and the answer is “You don’t, because they are born that way.” Second, a Liberal walks on the beach, sees a lamp lying in the sand, picks it up, and rubs it. A genie appears to grant one wish, and the Liberal says he wanted to be smarter. “Done,” says the genie; there is a puff of smoke; and presto, the Liberal becomes a Conservative.

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## SEVERAL PAGES OF PERTINENT POLITICAL CARTOONS AND PHOTOS FOLLOW





**THERE'S NOT MUCH ACTION IN CONGRESS, BECAUSE RINOS ARE ASLEEP AT THE SWITCH!**

