



# 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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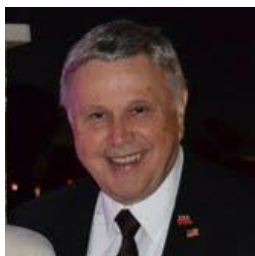
### FLORIDA LEGISLATURE OPENS WITH DESANTIS STATE OF STATE ADDRESS

#### FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK:

#### MY TWO CENTS

By Stuart Gorin

Shades of President Reagan with the Soviets at Reykjavik! When President Trump did not get the fair deal for the U.S. from Kim Jong-Un in Hanoi, he walked away. And how did the biased liberal media react? Before the U.S.-North Korea Summit began, the lame-streamers said Trump was so eager for a deal, that he would sell America out. But then they began clobbering the president for failing to make a deal. So, what will they say later, when it all will work out?



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Democrat House Leader Nancy Pelosi said a Dem president can declare emergencies just as well as President Trump can, "so the precedent that the president is setting here is something that should be met with great unease and dismay by the Republicans." But what Pelosi isn't saying is that even if Trump would not have declared a national emergency, a future president still can do so anyway.

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Questions to ponder:

Do avid abortion activists despise their own mothers for declining to abort them?

If the president started deporting Democrats, would Mexico respond by building the wall itself?

Does the U.S. Postal Service use carrier turtles between Washington, D.C. and Florida? (This one requires an explanation: I subscribe to "The Washington Times National Weekly," and delivery is "very weakly." There was no explanation for me as to why the issue dated December 17, 2018 – mailed December 14, 2018 as "time sensitive publication" – was not delivered until January 25, 2019.)

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More Two Cents next month.

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis opened the State Legislature's 60-day session on March 5 with his first State of the State Address, calling on legislators to follow his lead on plans to improve education, health care and economic development.



"I'm optimistic that this legislative session provides us with a unique opportunity to advance needed reforms in a variety of different areas that will strengthen our state and benefit the people now and in the future," DeSantis said. "Let's fight the good fight, let's finish the race and let's keep the faith so that when Floridians look back on the fruits of this session, they will see it as one of our finest hours."

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He also ran through a list of his accomplishments during his first two months in office, including securing hundreds of millions of dollars in federal aid to help the Panhandle recover from Hurricane Michael, the posthumous pardons of the Groveland four, and a proposal to spend an additional billion dollars to address red tide and algae blooms.

**Florida State Senate President Bill Galvano** and **House Speaker Jose Oliva** also addressed their respective chambers on opening day.



Galvano, noting that the State Senate has only one requirement by the State Constitution, and that is to pass a meaningful and responsible budget, said that “History is not going to judge the success of this session by the number of bills we pass. To the contrary, it will judge the success by the quality of our actions.”

He asked the members to “collaborate, that we truly vet and debate the issues and policies and ideas that come before us. And when an idea is not right, or a bill is not ready, let us have the courage to step back, regroup, and rethink.”

Oliva’s remarks highlighted health care choices, and school choice. The health care system, he said, is “an eminent financial and human threat,” and its reform requires “a comprehensive approach.” Regarding higher education reform, Oliva said, “We will adjust how universities receive their funding to incentivize a focused and sustainable system,” and about the K-12 system, he said, “we will continue to lead the nation in empowerment and choice.”



The budget is what ties this all together, Oliva added, “a budget that increases teacher pay, gives much needed assistance to our Panhandle brothers and sisters still recovering from a devastating hurricane, funds the governor’s environmental initiative to preserve our natural, life-sustaining treasures, and we will do it all while lowering per capita spending.”

Following are extensive excerpts of Governor DeSantis’ State of the State Address:

(Begin excerpts)

Mindful of the economic opportunities that lie before us, understanding the environmental challenges that require our attention, and conscious of our obligations to education and public safety, I consider myself blessed to stand before you, at this particular moment in our history, as Florida’s 46th governor.

I’m grateful for your willingness to serve, I’m proud of the accomplishments of our state and its citizens, and I’m optimistic that this legislative session provides us with a unique opportunity to advance needed reforms in a variety of different areas that will strengthen our state and benefit the people now and in the future.

Having spent three terms in a different legislature – a prison known as the US House of Representatives – it is quite a privilege to be able to work with a legislative body that has demonstrated the ability to get things done and to lead....

In less than 60 days, my administration has taken bold action to address issues that Floridians care about: reorienting our environmental policy around the goal of cleaning up our water; announcing far-reaching education reforms designed to make Florida #1 in skills-based education by 2030; securing hundreds of millions of dollars for storm-ravaged parts of Northwest Florida; bringing accountability to entities ranging from the Broward Sheriff’s Office to the South Florida Water Management District; and appointing three spectacular justices to our Supreme Court.

And this is just the beginning....

How can we accomplish this task? I answer simply: be bold – be bold in championing economic opportunity, be bold in protecting Florida’s environment, be bold in improving education, be bold in defending the safety of our communities, be bold because while perfection is not attainable, if we aim high, we can achieve excellence.

Florida Legislature 2019: Here are the key issues facing lawmakers:

### **Environment**

Florida is blessed with some of the nation’s finest natural resources. We are the fishing and boating capital of the United States. Our beaches bring millions of tourists to our state each and every year. The state’s unique natural environment is central to our economy, our quality of life, and our identity as Floridians.

I’m proud to have taken swift and bold action to protect our natural resources and improve Florida’s water quality. We are repositioning our water policy to meet the needs of our citizens, by, among other things: expediting key projects like the EAA reservoir and raising the Tamiami Trail; establishing a blue-green algae task force to develop policies to fight algae blooms, fight red tide and improve water quality; and appointing a Chief Science Officer to better harness scientific data and research in service of Florida’s most pressing environmental needs.

I’ve requested \$2.5 billion over the next four years for water resources projects and Everglades restoration. This represents a \$1 billion increase compared to the previous four years and will allow us to bring major projects to completion. Given the

persistent water problems we have seen over the past several years, now is the time to be bold....

### **Economy/Jobs**

It is often said that states serve as laboratories of democracies and we are in the midst of a great experiment among the states regarding taxation and government spending.

The result has been a migration of wealth from states that tax heavily, spend profligately, and regulate excessively to states, like Florida, that tax lightly, spend conservatively, and regulate reasonably.

In the face of these trends, some of the states that have hemorrhaged businesses and taxpayers have decided to double down by raising existing taxes and imposing new taxes. As George Harrison once observed: If you get too cold, they tax the heat; If you take a walk, they tax your feet.

We are a mobile, highly-connected society and as taxes become more onerous and as the business climate deteriorates in these states, people vote with their feet. Taxpayers and businesses leave.

The tax base erodes, and the fiscal situations of these states gets more ominous, yielding massive budget shortfalls. It is a vicious cycle.

We won't repeat those mistakes in Florida.

We will always remain a low-tax state.

And we will never have an income tax!

I have proposed more than \$330 million in tax relief for Florida families, including a property tax cut.

We must keep our economic momentum going!

To those doing business in states that have a bad business and political climate, my message is this: come to Florida. We will maintain a healthy economic environment, we welcome your success and we won't chase jobs away through economic ignorance and demagoguery....

### **Education**

Maintaining low taxes and a healthy economic climate are important, but the most important factor regarding Florida's economic potential is human capital.

If we support our university system, our state colleges and primary and secondary education, as well as the reforms needed to improve educational opportunities across the board, then we will be setting the stage for future economic success that will be the envy of the nation.

As we sow so shall we reap. I'm proud that Florida's university system is ranked #1 in the nation -- ahead of Texas, California and New York. This wasn't always so; the climb atop the rankings has been remarkable.

I'm not sure how many people outside Florida realize this, so I'm doing my part to spread the word. I was in New York last week meeting with business leaders and stressed this fact and pledged that we will do even more to build a world-class talent pool.

We are poised for growth in finance, technology, health care, aerospace and more -- let's support the continued ascent of our universities so that these industries can grow by employing our own graduates in good, high-paying jobs in our low-tax, business-friendly environment.

Attending a traditional four-year brick-and-ivy institution is one way to get the advanced knowledge and skills necessary for achieving economic success, but we must recognize that it is not the only way -- and for many it is not the best way.

Skills-based education offers a focused, and often more cost-effective means, by which students can acquire the tools they need to be successful.

Working with your former speaker and our Commissioner of Education Richard Corcoran, I have proposed a plan to take Florida from middle of the pack to number 1 in workforce education by 2030....

Florida has made strides in primary and secondary education since I graduated from public school in Dunedin in 1997, but we have a lot more to do. For years, I've heard from parents and teachers about the problems with a system of standards, testing and curriculum modeled after common core. Parents have been especially frustrated by not being able to help their kids with basic math problems.

So, I have instructed Commissioner Corcoran to spend the rest of this year engaged in consultation with parents, teachers, school administrators, and employers so that we can replace common core with high-quality curriculum, streamlined testing and a new emphasis on American civics. We want a system that demands excellence and that also engenders public confidence.

We also need to do more to recruit, retain and reward great teachers. To this end, I have proposed replacing Best and Brightest bonus program with a revised \$423 million program that will reward more than 40,000 teachers with bonuses approaching \$10k....

### **Health Care**

We need to enact policies to make health insurance, prescription drugs and medical care more affordable for Floridians.

As you are aware, health care is being hotly debated at the national level, so let me say:

Any proposal that seeks to eliminate the private health insurance policies of millions of Floridians is unacceptable.

Government has no right to take away the policies that Floridians earn through their jobs or purchase on the individual market.

I want Floridians to be able to purchase prescription drugs from Canada at lower prices. There is an avenue under existing federal law to accomplish this; the President is supportive of this effort and has asked me to plow ahead, which will require navigating an institutionally hostile bureaucracy.

This could save money for individuals, reduce costs for businesses and relieve pressure on our state budget.

I'm also open to any ideas that the Legislature has to tackle this problem. One thing is clear: Floridians need relief from the rising costs of prescription drugs....

### **Public Safety**

Last year at this time, the state was still reeling from the massacre at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School. Out of that tragedy grew the MSD Commission, which earlier this year outlined a series of recommendations to improve security at Florida schools. I support the recommendations and ask that you enact them into law.

These reforms are a testament to the tenacity, courage and character of the families of the Parkland victims. The hard work of those like Ryan Petty and Hunter Pollack, who is with us here today, has already helped save lives and has made our state stronger. They should be commended for their efforts.

I have gotten to know a number of the families and one thing that has stuck with me is something I've heard a number of them say: that this was the most preventable school shooting in history.

When I took office, many of the Parkland families felt that there had not been any accountability – at the school district or at the sheriff's office – for the string of failures that culminated in the massacre. So, I acted by successfully petitioning for a statewide grand jury investigation into school security failures in Broward County and other jurisdictions.

I also suspended Scott Israel as the Sheriff of Broward and replaced him with Gregory Tony. That suspension will come before the Senate soon and the failures of the former sheriff are well-documented. Why any senator would want to thumb his nose at the Parkland families and to eject Sheriff Tony, who is doing a great job and has made history as the first African-American sheriff in Broward history, is beyond me....

### **Illegal Immigration**

Florida will not be a sanctuary state -- we won't allow someone here illegally to commit criminal misconduct and simply be returned to our communities. And we won't tolerate sanctuary cities that actively frustrate law enforcement by shielding criminal aliens from accountability at the expense of public safety....

### **Foreign Affairs**

International events usually have a particular resonance in Florida.

Earlier this year, I had a meeting in the Oval office alongside Senators Rubio and Scott as well as Congressman Diaz-Balart about the dire situation in Venezuela. To the President's credit, he heeded our advice and recognized Juan Guaidó as the interim president and made clear that the dictator Nicolás Maduro has got to go.

The tragedy in Venezuela is a result of a failed socialist experiment – a system that is hostile to human liberty and contrary to human nature. The tyranny that has resulted is the natural outgrowth of trying to impose this failed ideology on the people of Venezuela.

To the Venezuelan exile community here in Florida, we stand with you and with the people of Venezuela who are seeking freedom and a better future for Venezuela. The eyes of the free world have descended upon Venezuela, and it is imperative that freedom prevail.

We also know that the despair in Venezuela wouldn't be possible without the nefarious influence of the Cuban government. I applaud the President for allowing the application of Title III of the Libertad Act and support additional efforts to hold the Castro regime accountable.

I would like to see the Castro regime go the way of Maduro and to see a free and democratic Cuba take its place.

I offer my thanks to the Legislature for defending the U.S.-Israel relationship by enacting anti-BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) legislation.

I reject attempts to target Israel for disfavored treatment and will enforce the anti-BDS provisions vigorously. This whole enterprise of targeting Israel for economic harm is such a fraud and merely a cover for anti-Semitism....

I think we here in this chamber are the right leaders at the right time. After all, many are called to serve in elected office, but only a few are actually entrusted with authority by the voters. Fewer still are presented with the opportunities we see before us today.

Let's fight the good fight, let's finish the race, let's keep the faith, so that when Floridians look back on the fruits of this session, they will see it as one of our finest hours.

(End excerpts)

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### **CPAC 2019 ACTIVISTS, SPEAKERS PREPARE FOR 2020 ELECTION**

Thousands of conservative activists – many of them young – and dozens of conservative speakers descended on National Harbor, Maryland February 27-March 2 for the annual Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC). It was a

preview of Republican strategy in preparation for the 2020 election.



In an event-highlight, two-hour address that featured numerous standing ovations, **President Donald Trump** covered numerous topics.

Calling the CPAC attendees “patriots who are reclaiming

our nation’s priceless heritage, reversing decades of blunders and betrayals by the failed ruling class,” he came on stage hugging the American flag while the song “God Bless the U.S.A.” played.

Joking about Russia, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and “fake news”, Trump referenced a July 2016 news conference in which he said, “Russia, if you are listening, I hope you are able to find the 30,000 emails that are missing. I think you probably will be rewarded mightily by the press.”



Noting that since there is “no collusion” with Russia, House Democrats are now morphing into investigating “every deal he’s ever done,” the President said, adding, “I saw little shift Schiff yesterday. He went into a meeting and said, ‘We’re going to look into his finances.’ I said, ‘Where did that come from? He always talked about Russia.’”

Trump defended his emergency declaration to build the southern border wall, reiterating that the nation faces a national security crisis. Expressing concern about murderers, drug traffickers and cartels pouring into the country, he said people talk about precedent – that if we used national emergency powers for this, the Democrats will use it for something we do not want. “They are going to do that anyway, folks,” he said. “The best way to stop that is to make sure I win the election.”

Earlier in the week, the President sparked outrage when he said North Korean leader Kim Jong Un told him that he was “unaware” of the circumstances leading to the arrest, imprisonment, release and eventual death of American student Otto Warmbier. Addressing that controversy, Trump said “of course” he blames North Korea for Warmbier’s death.

He criticized Democrats for “an embrace of Socialism” – citing the party’s “Medicare for All” policy and “Green NewDeal.” Trump said that Socialism “is not about the environment, it’s not about justice, it’s not about virtue. Socialism is about only one thing: it’s called power for the ruling class. All of us are here today because we know that the future does not belong to those who believe in Socialism.”

After bringing on stage Republican activist Hayden Williams, who was punched in the face while assisting a conservative student group on the University of California at Berkeley

campus, the President said, “We reject oppressive speech codes, censorship, political correctness and every other attempt by the hard Left to stop people from challenging ridiculous and dangerous ideas.” He announced that he will sign an executive order mandating that colleges and universities guarantee free speech on campus in order to attain federal research grants.

Trump mocked Hawaii Democrat Senator Mazie Hirono as “crazy” for her comments during the confirmation hearing last year for Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh, in which she said men should “shut up and step up” in light of sexual misconduct allegations. The President also mocked former Attorney General Jeff Sessions, imitating his Southern accent to berate him for recusing himself from the Justice Department’s probe into alleged Russian collusion.

**Vice President Mike Pence** also

addressed CPAC, noting that the Trump Administration is modernizing our nuclear arsenal, updating missile defense and will launch the sixth branch of our armed forces, the U.S. Space Force. “Under this commander-



in-chief, we’ll make sure that America is as dominant in space as we are on land and air and sea,” Pence said. “So, we’re rebuilding our military, we’re restoring the arsenal of democracy, and we’re once again giving our soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guard the resources they need to accomplish their mission and come home safe.”

Speaking of the Judicial Branch, Pence said Trump “has appointed more men and women to our federal courts in the last two years than any administration in American history,” adding that they are conservatives “who will uphold all the God-given liberties enshrined in our Constitution, like the freedom of speech, the freedom of religion, and the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms.”

Former White House adviser **Sebastian Gorka** was one of many speakers with the message that the Democrat Party is now the party of socialism. He added that Democrat socialism is just a politically correct term for communism. Mentioning Democrat Congresswoman Alexandria Occasion-Cortez’ Green New Deal – which was attacked by a number of CPAC speakers – Gorka said the proposal was “a watermelon – green on the outside and deep, deep red communist on the inside.”

**House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy** of California said the 2020 election “is not going to be about Republican or Democrat. It’s going to be about socialism and the free market.”

Praising Trump’s CPAC remarks, Fox News host **Laura Ingraham** said, “We’ve gone from pessimism to optimism. He has ended the war on business, he has ended the war on energy, he has ended the war on success. In economic terms, you are now rewarded for the extra hour worked, for the extra investment, for the extra risk taken.”

**Ronna McDaniel**, the chair of the Republican National Committee, referred to Venezuela in her CPAC address, calling the embattled South American country an example of “the path that Democrats are taking us down.” She added that, “We can’t think that the American people understand what socialism is. We have to go out and educate people.”

Another speaker on the program, **Texas Republican Senator Ted Cruz**, focused his remarks on assailing Democrats for their views on late-term abortions, border security and the environment, saying they “are getting more and more and more extreme on every issue.”

Political commentator **Michelle Malkin** blamed both parties in Congress for not acting on issues of importance to the American people year after year, and Fox News host **Judge Jeanine Pirro** agreed with her, saying, “They do practice deceit at your expense and the expense of the United States. And because of all of them, we live with the consequence of sanctuary cities.”

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### TRUMP ISSUES FIRST VETO, STYMIES ATTEMPT TO BLOCK WALL FUNDING

Stating that Americans would be put at risk if Congress’ “dangerous and reckless” resolution of disapproval passed – thus stopping his national emergency declaration to fund building a wall on the southern border to stem the flow of illegal immigration – **President Trump** signed his first presidential veto on March 13.



Trump was flanked at the White House ceremony by **Vice President Mike Pence**, Cabinet officials, “angel moms” whose family members were killed by illegal aliens, and law enforcement officers including **Brevard County Sheriff Wayne Ivey**.

“The President invited approximately 10 Sheriffs from across the country to stand in unison with him and our Federal Law Enforcement partners as we join together in our concern and efforts to address illegal immigration,” Ivey said to reporters following the event. “The efforts include partnering together to combat illegal immigration as well as working to define a clear path of citizenship for those who wish to come to our country legally.”

**Attorney General William Barr**, also in attendance, said the president’s emergency declaration order – which opponents claim is a violation of the Constitution – “is clearly authorized

under the law and consistent with past precedent. Barr said what is occurring at the border “is exactly the type of situation the president is allowed to address” under the National Emergencies Act of 1976, which formalized the president’s emergency powers.

Thanking the president for following through on what he promised, **Mary Ann Mendoza**, founder of Angel Families, a group of survivors whose loved ones were killed by illegal immigrants and who attended the signing ceremony, said that “Angel families come forward to tell their stories not because we’ve created a manufactured crisis, but because we want to tell the American people and share with you our heartache so that you know what is happening on our doorsteps, what’s happening to your neighbors, what’s happening to your fellow Americans. And there is a way to prevent this, and it’s not by continually lying to you and telling you there isn’t a problem. There is a problem and it is a national emergency.”

The resolution of disapproval passed in both the House of Representatives (245-182) and the Senate (59-41), with support from some Republicans in both branches. With the signing of Trump’s veto, later this month the measure will return to the Democrat-controlled House, where an unlikely two-thirds majority in both houses would be needed to override the president.

However, despite the veto, the battle over the emergency declaration will continue in court, where a number of states and advocacy groups have sued to stop it. Critics have said it violates the Constitution because Congress has the power to control spending.

Trump has maintained for months that billions of dollars are needed on the southern border to prevent an influx of drugs, criminals and trafficked migrants.

Vetoing Congressional legislation is not uncommon among U.S. presidents. In recent years, including both regular and “pocket” (no action actually taken) vetoes, Barack Obama had 12, with 1 overturned; **George W. Bush** had 12, with 4 overturned; Bill Clinton had 37, with 2 overturned; **George H.W. Bush** had 44, with 1 overturned; and **Ronald Reagan** had 78, with 9 overturned.

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### AUDACITY AND INHUMANITY

Here are this month’s “winners”:

--The 44 U.S. Senate Democrats who voted to block the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, thus ensuring that abortionists have the “right” to terminate the lives of such babies due to the alleged “far-right wing assault on a woman’s constitutionally-protected right to an abortion.” Sixty votes were needed for passage, and the frustrated bill sponsor, Nebraska Republican Senator Ben Sasse, pointed out to no avail that “The bill’s terms are simple: A child born alive during a botched abortion would be given the same level of care that would be provided to any other baby born at that same gestational stage.”

--When is a tooth a tine? When the unidentified aide to Minnesota Democrat Senator Amy Klobuchar dropped the plastic fork accompanying the salad he brought her for a flight that had no utensils aboard, and the poor senator had to use a comb from her purse to eat the salad. As punishment for the carelessness, along with a scolding, the aide was then forced to clean Klobuchar's comb for her.

--Nebraska State Senator Ernie Chambers, who called the American flag "a rag" on the floor of the legislature and compared it to the Nazi swastika. Perhaps he should get a one-way ticket to someplace else – Nicaragua?, Cuba?, North Korea?, Iran?

--Democrat New York Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez – the infamous AOC – for declaring during a House hearing that in an oil pipeline leak two years ago, "Keystone XL, in particular, had one leak that leaked 210,000 gallons across South Dakota". There is just one problem: the Keystone XL pipeline has not yet even been built.

--Saikat Chakrabarti, chief of staff to Ocasio-Cortez, for funneling more than \$1 million from two political action committees that she founded into two of his own private companies – an alleged illegal "slush fund." This is counter to AOC's pledges to increase transparency and reduce the influence of "dark money" in politics, and the Federal Elections Commission has been asked to investigate the scheme.

--U.S. District Judge in South Florida, Beth Bloom – a Barack Obama appointee – for throwing out a lawsuit filed by more than a dozen survivors of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, Florida on February 14, 2018, that claimed 17 lives. The plaintiffs said Broward County officials should have protected them, but Bloom based her ruling on "the fundamental principle that a government and its agents are under no general duty to provide public services, such as police protection, to any particular individual citizen."

--Texas election officials who are being sued by the Pacific Legal Foundation (PLF) for threatening a voter with arrest for wearing a pro-Trump "Make America Great Again" hat at the polls and telling another one she was not allowed to wear a shirt stating "Houston Fire Fighters" while she voted. The plaintiffs are seeking judgment of only \$1 plus attorney fees. This is "old hat" for PLF, which one year ago won a U.S. Supreme Court case in which the justices invalidated a Minnesota law that failed to provide objective workable standards for "what speech may come in the polling place and what must stay out."

--Charmane Thurmand, a former graduate diversity officer at the University of Connecticut, for awarding her unqualified husband a \$50,000 fellowship for which he didn't even apply, allegedly directing that he not be required to do any substantive work but be paid for simply doing his schoolwork. The State of Connecticut Office of Ethics fined her \$20,000 for the offense, and that is why she is now a former graduate diversity officer.

--Administrators at California's Clovis North High School, for telling a student – a member of a group called "Valley Patriots" – that she cannot wear a "Make American Great Again" hat to school, on the grounds that it "might" make the other kids feel "unsafe." A "legal analyst" named Oliver Wanger then said in an interview that a student wearing a MAGA hat would be "closer to shouting 'fire' in a crowded theater." Well, after all, it IS in the Peoples Republic of California!

--Lebanon High School principal Scott Butler, for suspending student Gabby Helsing, who posted Bible messages on sticky notes throughout the school in response to other students displaying LGBT flags and posters. She explained she was suspended for "abuse of others, disrespect, rudeness," because her Bible verses "targeted the school's Gay-Strait Alliance organization." The Bible verses came down; the gay pride flags and posters remained up.

--Lily Eskelsen Garcia – president of the National Education Association, the nation's largest teachers' union – for joining a man who identifies as a woman in teaching transgender ideology to kindergarteners in Arlington, Virginia.

--The "interim administration" of the University of South Dakota Law School, for pressuring the Student Bar Association to change the name of its annual Hawaiian Day party – complete with the use of leis – because wearing them could be considered "culturally insensitive." But after Hawaii State Representative Bob McDermott told the school newspaper that the lei is "not offensive, but honorable," and "a symbol of our Aloha spirit in Hawaii, inclusive and welcoming," the school's president, Sheila Gestring, said an investigation was opened to determine if the interim administration broke the Board of Regents policy on free speech and intellectual diversity.

--Officials of the California State Veterans Home in Yountville, for seeking to evict Artis Breau, an 84-year-old widow of a war veteran who has lived in the facility for nine years, for the "crime" of volunteering with the chaplaincy program and leading voluntary Bible studies. One resident said a discussion with Breau about heaven and hell caused him to lose sleep, so the officials claimed it was "elder abuse, emotional abuse, and otherwise illegal." The Pacific Justice Institute, taking up Breau's defense, said the home's treatment of her is shameful.

--Three (unfortunately) unnamed female appeals court judges in Ancona, Italy, for overturning the rape convictions of two Peruvian men, because in their opinion the then 20-year-old Peruvian victim was "too unattractive to have been sexually assaulted." Following citizen outrage, the Italian Justice Ministry said it was investigating the appeals court decision.

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## THIS AND THAT

**JUDICIAL CONFIRMATIONS.** Recent U.S. Senate confirmations to U.S. Courts of Appeal include: **Neomi Rao**, administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory

Affairs, to the D.C. Circuit Court succeeding Supreme Court Justice **Brett Kavanaugh**; **Ohio Solicitor General Eric Murphy** and acting **Assistant Attorney General for the Justice Department's Civil Division Chad Readler**, both to the 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit; attorney **Paul Matey** to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Circuit; attorney **Allison Jones Rushing** to the 4<sup>th</sup> Circuit; and attorney **Eric Miller** to the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit.

**COMINGS AND GOINGS.** **President Trump** has nominated **Jeffrey Rosen**, the Deputy Secretary of Transportation, to replace the retiring Rod Rosenstein, who oversaw the Special Counsel investigation into Russian election interference allegations, as Deputy Attorney General....**White House Communications Director Bill Shine** has resigned his position to serve as senior adviser on the president's 2020 re-election campaign....The U.S. Senate has confirmed the nomination of **Andrew Wheeler**, who was acting in the position, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, replacing Scott Pruitt, who resigned the post last July. Wheeler worked in the EPA Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics in the 1990's.... Trump has selected **Kelly Craft**, the current U.S. Ambassador to Canada, to serve as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, saying that "under her leadership, our country will be represented at the highest level." If confirmed by the Senate, Craft will replace former Ambassador **Nikki Haley**, who resigned last year.



**JOHN BOLTON.** Speaking on several television talk shows, National Security Adviser John Bolton said the recent summit President Trump had with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un was a "success" despite ending without an agreement, because the president protected and defended U.S. national interests. Bolton said it is

better to leave with no deal than a bad one, and Trump remains optimistic that Pyongyang will commit to abandoning its nuclear weapons. Crediting sanctions with bringing North Korea to the table to begin with, Bolton said those penalties will remain in place, and "It is the sanctions they want relief from and relief they can get if they denuclearize."



In a unanimous ruling on February 20, the U.S. Supreme Court moved to limit state and local governments' power to impose fines and seize property.

Siding with the Institute for Justice (IJ), representing Indiana plaintiff Tyson Timbs, the High Court said the Eighth Amendment's excessive fines clause applies to every level of government, and such fines should not be a source of revenue instead of serving penal purposes. IJ had argued that by allowing state and local governments to seize and keep cash,



cars, homes, and other property – often without ever convicting owners of any wrongdoing – forfeiture laws give law enforcement a powerful incentive to police for profit. **IJ President Scott Bullock** said the decision "will provide every single American, including those who fall victim to forfeiture abuse, with robust constitutional protection against excessive fines imposed by state and local governments. Moreover, today's opinion gives IJ ammunition to take on other abusive fines and fees schemes throughout the nation. We also plan on making Timbs the first in a series of cases the Court takes on to fundamentally reassess the constitutionality of civil forfeiture laws." The website is [www.ij.org](http://www.ij.org).

**VOTER FRAUD.** A Heritage Foundation report says that just in the past couple of years, there were nearly 1,200 "proven" cases of voter fraud in the United States, resulting in 1,019 criminal convictions, 48 civil penalties, 81 people sent to diversion programs, and 14 judicial findings. "Preventing, deterring, and prosecuting election fraud is essential to protecting the integrity of the process," the Heritage report said, and it included a list of ways to cheat in the U.S. elections. These include ballot-petition fraud, involving forging signatures; paying voters to cast ballots a certain way; duplicate voting in more than one jurisdiction; phony name or fake address registrations; turning in someone else's absentee ballot; and illegal "assistance" at the polls for the elderly, disabled, illiterate, and people for whom English is a second language. Additionally, according to a 2012 Pew Research study, nearly two million voters nationwide remained on the rolls after their passing.

**ADAM PUTNAM.** Former Commissioner of Agriculture Adam Putnam is moving from Florida to Tennessee to become the new CEO of Ducks Unlimited, the non-profit organization to conserve, restore and manage wetlands and associated habitats for North America's waterfowl and other wildlife. The group has a world-wide membership of about 700,000, and Putnam first joined as a teen-ager. He said he has had a life-long appreciation of the conservation work the organization accomplishes and looks forward "to building on our record of success."



**EVERY DAY IS VETERANS DAY.** At a special musical tribute to veterans on March 2 in Melbourne, **Rob Medina**, Community and Military Relations Aide to **Florida 8th District Congressman Bill Posey**, and **Dave Matthews** of the "Never Forgotten Vietnam War Memorial", paid special tribute to the men and women who served during that conflict, handing out Vietnam War Veteran lapel pins to those participants in the audience. The "Every Day is Veterans Day" concert featured patriotic music by the Space Coast Symphony Orchestra, the Indialantic Chamber Singers, and the Space Coast Highlanders bag pipers and drummers. One Senior Place and VITAS Healthcare co-sponsored the annual free concert.



**SCHOOL BOARD TERM LIMITS.** Committees in both the Florida State Senate and House are considering bills to limit public school board members to eight years in office. The measures have to pass both houses of the Legislature by a three-fifths vote and signed by the governor in order to be placed on the 2020 ballot. Then, it would have to get two-thirds of the general election vote to win final approval. That would bring the 358 school board members currently elected in the state's 67 counties under the same term limits as the governor and Cabinet and other state-elected officials. A term limits for school board members was part of the proposal bundled by the Constitution Revision Commission that the Florida State Supreme Court removed from the ballot as being unconstitutional as written.



**SPACE COAST PATRIOTS.** The Public Affairs and Engagement Editor at "Florida Today," **Isadora Rangel**, told the Space Coast Patriots meeting on March 11 that she will be working with a Republican and a Democrat to create a "Civility for Brevard" project in order for people on opposite sides of

the political spectrum to understand that those with different views are not evil. She said social media "brings out the worst in people," and she wants to be able to change that. Many conservative readers of the newspaper believe that it is slanted toward a liberal viewpoint, and Rangel denied that, saying its opinion pages are for both sides of the aisle. She said, "Florida Today" focuses more on local news than national and strives to "hold the powerful accountable" and "give voice to the voiceless." Agreeing that the print edition of the newspaper is decreasing in size and circulation, she said the focus now is on growing online subscriptions.



**TRUMP CLUB OF BREVARD.**

Two Brevard County officials – **Sheriff Wayne Ivey** and **18<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Public Defender Blaise Trettis** – addressed members of the Trump Club of Brevard on March 7. Noting the efforts by Democrats and other leftist groups to instill gun control in Florida, Ivey stated, "I will never turn my back on the



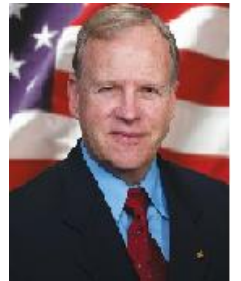
Constitution, and the Second Amendment that was put there to protect the rest of it." There are people who want to take away our rights, he said, "and we have to step up. We cannot allow the fabric of that document to be unraveled." In the wake of last year's school shooting in Broward County, the Sheriff said, schools in Brevard County are safe, but he can never be satisfied with the amount of security that is available. A single resource officer in one large school is not enough, Ivey added. He said he wanted to see security teams outside of not only schools, but churches and temples as well, and he

is working on a bill in the State Legislature on such security. Regarding the issue of the use of medical marijuana, Ivey said he wants to ensure that its implementation does not affect public safety, and he lamented the opioid crisis that impacts the community and family members. Trettis told the club members that in light of the passage of Amendment 4 on the 2018 Florida ballot allowing many convicted felons to register to vote, "the voter registration form needs to be changed – to ask if the registrant is a convicted felon." If the answer is yes, he said, the form should list a full description of murder and sexual crimes, and the registrant should be asked if the conviction involved any of these crimes in Florida or out-of-state. A "yes" answer would preclude the person from voting, Trettis said, but if the answer is "no," then the form should ask if the registrant has completed all terms of his or her sentence, including any victim restitution. Then, the Secretary of State would confirm the information through the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Since the process would be labor intensive and time consuming, Trettis said, there should be a deadline – perhaps six months prior to an election – before a convicted felon can be successfully registered to vote. With President Trump in office, he said, the Republican Party should see this voter registration form proposal as an opportunity. Despite widespread belief that felons would vote the Democrat ticket, he pointed out, "Convicted felons know how illegal aliens take their jobs in construction, restaurant work, and the hospitality industry. They are 100 percent behind that message."



**HERITAGE ISLE REPUBLICAN CLUB.**

**Curt Smith**, the Brevard District 4 County Commissioner, thanked the members of the Heritage Isle Republican Club on March 7 for their strong support in his 2018 re-election bid. His victory, he said was a team effort involving 500 volunteers who helped him by knocking on voters' doors and waving signs. There were "negative lies about me" in campaign mailers, he said, but "we did pretty well" in winning by six or seven percent. Smith said the all-Republican five-member Commission has a number of projects this year, including passing the county budget, support for the Indian River Lagoon, and road repairs (there are 1,100 miles of them in Brevard, not counting state and federal roads). While there still is not full agreement among Republicans on every issue, he said, "Let's focus on 80 percent agreement and get something done." Smith said the County Commission is creating a business-friendly environment in Brevard by reducing times to obtain permits. Regarding the Space Coast Stadium, which sat empty following the departure of major and minor league baseball teams, he said its use was turned over to the U.S. Specialty Sports Association, which received tax incentives. Criticism of the move was unwarranted, he said, because the county more than makes up for it with revenue collected from visitors attending USSSA events who



stay in local hotels and pack local restaurants. Two years ago, when the county needed more funding, Smith pointed out that another commissioner wanted a permanent increase in property taxes, but he successfully pushed instead for a half-cent increase on sales tax instead, and with a 10-year sunset clause. Funding is now needed to upgrade the critical Emergency Operations Center in the county, which is vital for responding to brush fires, hurricanes, and the like, Smith added.



**REPUBLICAN LIBERTY CAUCUS CENTRAL EAST FLORIDA.** Noting that “we live in very divided political times,” author and speaker **Loren Spivack**, who is known as the “Free Market Warrior”, told the Republican

Liberty Caucus Central East Florida on March 4 that while he is confident about 2020 for Republicans, it will be a “rough and tumble, blood in the street” election. Spivack spoke about such principles as free speech, capitalism and fair play that we support, and the Left is completely against. Socialism, he said, “promises everything and delivers nothing,” and under it, people are not allowed to even choose their own professions. What socialists are all about, Spivack added with a smile, is “running for the Democrat presidential nomination.” Using the name Dr. Truth, Spivack has written three illustrated books – “The Cat & The Mitt” and “The New Democrat” – parodies of the Obama Administration – and “The Gorax” – an anti-environmental parody of former Vice President Al Gore.



**RONALD REAGAN CLUBS.** Noting that “the right to life exists from birth to death,” **Roger Gannam**, Assistant Vice president of Legal Affairs for the nonprofit litigation, education, and policy organization Liberty Counsel, told members of the Ronald Reagan Clubs on February 25 that liberal legislators in New York passed, and the state’s Governor Andrew Cuomo signed, the



so-called Reproductive Health Law in order to “be in front” if the U.S. Supreme Court eventually does overturn *Roe v. Wade*. In that event, legalization of abortion would revert to the individual states to decide, and now New York is on the record of removing protection for babies and removing the criminal code for infanticide, Gannam said. Vermont, too, has passed pro-abortion legislation, he added, and stated that “abortion on demand for any reason has always been the goal of pro-choice liberals.” In Florida, Gannam pointed out, an abortion in the third trimester can only take place if the life of the mother is at stake, but a bill that will be placed before the State Legislature this upcoming term will deny an abortion once a fetal heartbeat is detected. This proposal “has traction,” he said, and if it passes but lower courts in the state rule against it, it would then go to the Florida Supreme Court,

where **Governor Ron DeSantis** has just added three new justices who are constitutionalists. Gannam also spoke about a case in which Liberty Counsel – which promotes litigation related to evangelical Christian values – represented 13 pro-life activists who were sued by the New York attorney general for interacting with women outside of abortion clinics and with pro-abortion escorts. A judge ruled in favor of the pro-lifers, but the case is being appealed. In the battle against abortion, “truth will win,” Gannam said, “but we have to communicate it. We have to win the culture before we win the war” .... **Ronald Reagan Clubs President Dale Young** shared with the club members copies of a letter to DeSantis in which he praised actions taken in the realm of law and order but expressed concern about the growing laxity among elected officials to comply with existing law. “All Floridians have been the victims of actions by the very agency in charge of determining the law – The Florida Supreme Court,” Young wrote. “They have declared that multi-issued constitutional amendments are permitted in direct contradiction to their ruling in 1958. I’ve found no evidence of this ever having been approved by Florida voters as required by our Constitution.” He expressed his displeasure with the voter approval on the 2018 ballot of amendments containing unrelated issues that left voters unable to register a true opinion, and forced them into “an unpalatable or all-or-nothing choice.” Ten of the amendments could have been addressed by the State Legislature, Young said, and he said the decisions “must be reversed.”

**HISPANIC PASTORS.** A group of Hispanic pastors who met at the White House with President Trump brought with them a letter signed by 150 Hispanic evangelical leaders from around the nation in support of his immigration proposals. “There’s a misconception in the public, thinking that our community is for illegal immigration,” said Guillermo Maldonado, pastor of King Jesus Ministry in Miami. “There’s a misconception also that we want open borders. And dealing with people every single day, I see that our community supports what you’re doing. We don’t want open borders.” He added that the media gives “a major misconception” of the Hispanic community’s support for Trump.

**GLOBAL WARMING THREAT.** According to the U.S. Commerce Department, the Arctic Ocean is warming up, icebergs are growing scarcer and in some places the seals are finding the water too hot. Reports from fishermen, seal hunters and explorers all point to a radical change in climate conditions and hitherto unheard of temperatures in the Arctic zone. Soundings to a depth of 3,100 meters showed the Gulf Stream still very warm, and great masses of ice have been replaced by moraines of earth and stones, while at many points well known glaciers have entirely disappeared. Very few seals and no white fish are found in the eastern Arctic, while vast shoals of herring and smelts which have never before ventured so far north, are being encountered in the old seal fishing grounds. Within a few years, the Commerce Department said, it is predicted that due to the ice melt, the sea will rise and make most coast cities uninhabitable. But it is important to note – former Vice President Al Gore’s dire

prediction notwithstanding – that this report, dated November 2, 1922, appeared in the “Washington Post” nearly 97 years ago.

## EXPERTS’ EXCERPTS

Contributing Editor **Deroy Murdock**, writing on tireless **Florida Governor Ron DeSantis** for National Review Online:



“He has led a burst of pro-market, limited-government reforms that are making Florida even greater. The last time most Americans heard of Ron DeSantis, the former GOP congressman had edged past Democrat Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum in their rough-and-tumble wrestling match for Florida’s governorship. After contested

recounts in Broward and Palm Beach Counties, DeSantis, 40, prevailed over Gillum, 39, by a margin more svelte than Palm Beach – 49.6 percent to 49.2 percent. Among 8.1 million ballots cast, just 32,463 votes divided victor from vanquished. Since his January 8 inauguration, DeSantis has done far more than rearrange the gubernatorial furniture. Indeed, he has led a burst of pro-market, limited-government reforms that are making Florida even greater. Most significantly, DeSantis replaced three Florida Supreme Court justices who were required to retire at age 75. His appointees – **Barbara Lagoa**, **Robert J. Luck**, and **Carlos Muñiz** – have shifted the court’s composition from four liberals and three conservatives to one liberal and six conservatives. This jump to the right should keep the Sunshine State’s top tribunal safe for constitutionalism. DeSantis: pioneered Florida Deregation – a one-day summit in which agency heads targeted red tape, especially in occupational licensing.... summoned the chiefs of 23 professional-licensing boards to Orlando to ‘discuss, debate, identify and recommend substantive regulations that can be targeted for immediate elimination’.... signed an executive order instructing the commissioner of education to ‘eliminate Common Core (Florida Standards) and ensure we return to the basics of reading, writing, and arithmetic’ and ‘equip high school graduates with sufficient knowledge of America’s civics, particularly the principles reflected in the United States Constitution....accepted the resignation of Broward County Elections Director Brenda Snipes and Susan Bucher, her Palm Beach County counterpart, for their spectacular incompetence, if not corruption....sacked Broward County Sheriff Scott Israel for totally bungling the deadly Parkland mass shooting in February 2018....replaced the entire South Florida Water Management District with appointees not beholden to the heavily subsidized sugar industry – a notorious polluter whose fertilizer, pesticides, and other agrochemicals befoul Florida’s waterways....his tax proposal is modest, but it steers levies the right way: down....asked **President Donald J. Trump** to give Florida’s cities and counties extra time to seek full federal reimbursement for hurricane debris removal and emergency relief....posthumously pardoned the Groveland Four, the

black men who allegedly raped a 17-year-old white girl in 1949 and endured mob violence, an unfair trial, cold-blooded police shootings, and what DeSantis called an overall ‘miscarriage of justice’....’Governor DeSantis is off to a decisive start. And that decisiveness is around substantive issues that matter,’ says **Peter Schweizer**, president of the private-sector Government Accountability Institute in Tallahassee. Schweizer told me: ‘He also is proving to be unpredictable, in the best sense of that word. It’s very early, but this lays the foundation for a presidential campaign in 2024.’”

**Kentucky Governor Matt Bevin**, writing on maintaining unity in toxic times, in “The Washington Times”:



“Hypocrisy is defined as the practice of claiming to have moral standards or beliefs to which one’s own behavior does not conform. Nowhere has that been more vividly on display in recent days than in the faux outrage expressed by the sanctimonious thought police of the liberal left and their water carriers in the mainstream media.... What has become abundantly clear is that there are none more intolerant than those who demand tolerance from others. There are none so bigoted and prejudiced as those who claim to stand for equality while proudly, and loudly, hating millions of their fellow Americans. Sadly, many media outlets, in a tabloid-like effort to remain relevant, sensationalize news, even while a story is still developing and, as a result, have lost any semblance of objectivity or attempt at veracity. While journalism at its best keeps government officials accountable to the public and contributes to an informed society, journalism at its worst has completely destroyed reputations and incited violence. The advent of social media, a factor in all our lives that has now become ubiquitous, has made this unfortunate trend all the more powerful and all the more dangerous. In a world where we have a wealth of information at our fingertips, we have increasingly little thoughtfulness, discernment or wisdom. Lazy journalists and other, usually self-proclaimed, thought leaders, repeatedly weigh in on every breaking story with uncorroborated claims, innuendo and omission of material facts. Far too many Americans eagerly follow along, seemingly anxious to be angry about some perceived slight. Even some who claim to hold conservative principles are quick to pile on.... Pointing out the hypocrisy of the left has become an exercise in futility. It is akin to discussing the wetness of water. Hypocrisy and double standards are a foundational principle and core value of the left. The political liberalism that conservatives used to disagree with, but could sometimes find common ground with for the greater good, no longer seems to exist. In its place is an ever growing hard-left radicalism that seeks only to tear down, never to build up. This is a mindset that seems content to foment constant controversy and discord between Americans and rejects any thought of this being a free country where individuals are free to disagree in a civil manner and live together peacefully.... Whatever is

true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, these are the thoughts that should occupy our minds. We must not let those who would divide us cause us to forget this fundamental fact: We are Americans, and our unity – not incited division – is worth fighting for. United we stand. Divided we fall.”

**Family Research Council President Tony Perkins**, writing on the Democrats and Anti-Semitism in his “Washington Update” at [www.frc.org](http://www.frc.org):



“They’ve been one of the Democrats’ most reliable constituencies, but there are probably a lot of Jewish Americans who went to bed last night with some deep misgivings about the party they call home. For years, the only way this community has survived the Left’s growing anti-Semitism was to ignore it. But after the betrayal of this past week, it’s clear to everyone: that’s no longer

an option. Americans have seen some incredible things out of this new House majority – but Thursday’s (March 7) resolution beat all. A party that’s tried to make tolerance its calling card couldn’t bring itself to deal with the blatant prejudice in its own ranks. As a result, what was supposed to be a resolution against anti-Semitism became just another example of the Democrats’ incredible hypocrisy. The party’s extremists made sure of that, watering down the language to be just another one-size-fits-all anti-hatred statement.... The offending party – Muslim Representative Ilham Omar (D-Minnesota), emerged from the controversy – not chastened, but emboldened. Far-Left PACs are already using her prejudice as an actual fundraiser, insisting Omar’s Jewish hostilities makes her a ‘progressive rock star.’ That ought to tell you everything you need to know about the House majority. After years of sitting on their political high horses on issues like racism and bigotry, the party of Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-California) proved it doesn’t traffic in anything but. The reaction from Jewish Democrats (and there are 34 in this Congress) has been scathing. Even the media, who’s spent decades running interference for the Left, is drawing the line at this. Outlets like the CNN, Washington Post, and Politico can’t believe the party is legitimizing hate.... The Democrats aren’t just dividing their party, they’re dividing their allies. In a scandal where everyone from Meghan McCain to Chelsea Clinton is aligned, this is no ordinary bump in the political road. This could be a major detour, rerouting the party to an unknown destination. ‘The rift emerging around Ms. Omar is easily the most serious since Democrats swept to House control in November,’ the New York Times warns. And the woman in question is only making matters worse...she actually accused her critics – which include a good number of the 34 Jewish members of Congress – of ‘faux outrage’.... The speaker can play off the deep rift of her party all she wants, but this is no ordinary family squabble. This strikes at the core of the Democrats’ very viability.... House leaders are scared of the Green Deal-infanticide-open borders-Socialists trying to take full control of the party. They’ll sweep anything under the rug to avoid a challenge from the radical wing of the

caucus.... If Pelosi wants to win the battle for the soul of the Democrat party, she first has to prove it has a soul left.”

Heritage Foundation senior legal fellow **Hans von Spakovsky**, writing on birthright citizenship at [www.patriotpost.us](http://www.patriotpost.us):



“Proponents of birthright citizenship often paint it as an issue involving only poverty-stricken, well-meaning immigrants who come to the U.S. for a better life and just happen to have a baby after they get here. Under birthright citizenship, any child born in the U.S. is automatically an American citizen at birth – even if the child’s parent or parents are here illegally. A recent federal indictment of 19 individuals on immigration fraud charges shows that a whole industry has grown up to bring pregnant women from other countries to the U.S. so their children can be born as American citizens. The 19 indicted people were charged with operating or participating in ‘birth tourism’ agencies.... The Justice Department’s investigation was long and complicated, involving 35 search warrants and international undercover operations. According to the department, the birth tourism operators engaged in immigration fraud, money laundering, tax evasion, marriage fraud and identity theft. They also allegedly ‘defrauded property owners when leasing the apartments and houses’ used as ‘maternity’ or ‘birthing’ houses for the Chinese nationals to reside in while they waited to have their babies. Here’s how the fraud worked: Chinese women were coached to apply for tourist or visitors’ visas and lie to the U.S. Consulates in China by claiming they were only coming for two weeks. They were then told to wear ‘loose clothing to conceal their pregnancies’ and ‘trick U.S. Customs at ports of entry,’ according to the Justice Department.... And who were those Chinese clients? According to the indictments, they included Chinese government officials as well as others associated with Chinese Central Television, China Telecom, the Bank of China, the Public Security Bureau of the Beijing Municipal Government, and a government radio station. So officials of the Chinese government were directly involved in fraudulently procuring birthright citizenship for their children in part to obtain ‘priority for jobs in the U.S. government,’ raising serious potential national security concerns.... Unfortunately, many of those indicted are fugitives who will likely never be punished. They fled the U.S. and went back to China to avoid prosecution. There is obviously no chance whatsoever that the Chinese government, many of whose officials apparently participated in this immigration fraud, will ever extradite these criminals to the U.S. These indictments show why we need to join the rest of the world and end birthright citizenship. We are one of only a handful of countries that recognize it, and it acts as a magnet to draw illegal immigrants into the U.S. As I have explained before, birthright citizenship is a misinterpretation of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, which does not provide for birthright citizenship to immigrants who are here illegally or temporarily on tourist, visitor or student visas....It is about time the Justice Department acted to address this serious

problem that makes a mockery of our immigration system and potentially threatens our national security.”



Musician **Charlie Daniels**, writing on Socialism at [www.cnsnews.com](http://www.cnsnews.com):

“I remember World War II so well, the defeat of the Nazis and the belligerence of the Russians after they had invaded Eastern Europe and refused to move their occupation forces out. Russia then annexed East Berlin and eventually built the Berlin Wall, the line of demarcation between the Soviet powers and the Western Allies. And they were quick to move a Russian-style communist government into the occupied east. What was to follow was decades of suppression, threats and tension with Allied troops on one side and Russian troops on the other, both with contingency plans for military moves to counteract whatever action the other side took.... Webster defines Communism as ‘[a] system in which goods are owned in common and are available to all as needed.’ That’s the part that makes socialism/communism so attractive to the masses. They swallow the big lie, that everything will go into a common pot and will be doled out, as Karl Marx put it, ‘From each according to his ability, to each according to his need’....Even if socialism was carried out to the letter, living under it would be a suffocating, colorless, and totally unsatisfying existence because our Creator did not make us all the same. He gave us different personalities, different aspirations, even different fingerprints, and it goes against human nature to be looked upon as just so many numbers incapable of making our own choices. Socialism also discourages the kind of work ethic it takes to survive; Russia could never even raise enough wheat to feed their people and were dependent on buying it from other countries....Socialism and Judeo-Christian beliefs cannot exist in the same sphere because socialist governments try to replace God, looking at themselves as the be all, end all, and interference from morality and righteousness cannot be tolerated....There is a gross misconception that socialism and communism make things more ‘fair’ and distributes wealth evenly among the masses. The People’s Republic of China still has over 380 billionaires and 3,480,000 millionaires in the ‘workers paradise.’ It’s hard to believe that America fell asleep at the wheel and allowed left-wing politics to influence the educational systems and entice the younger generation into thinking that socialism is an acceptable form of government. It is not; it has never been, and nor will it ever be. It’s just a way for a handful of power-drunk politicians to exercise power over the masses by controlling every facet of their lives. God forbid that it ever happens in my beloved United States of America.”

**Dr. Nicole Saphier**, writing on teenagers and marijuana on [www.foxnews.com](http://www.foxnews.com):



“There’s been an alarming rise in teenage marijuana use across the U.S. and it’s now at its highest level in 30 years. One reason may be that 10 states and the District of Columbia now allow recreational use of pot by adults, while 33 states have legalized medical marijuana. Lawmakers in other states are considering legalization of the drug. There’s a common misconception that marijuana is safer than alcohol and other drugs. As a medical doctor I know that marijuana is far from harmless and can have serious damaging effects on the health of users. A growing body of research confirms this.... Yet a growing number of Democrat presidential hopefuls are calling for nationwide legalization of marijuana, realizing this is a politically popular cause, particularly among young voters. These candidates appear more interested in how their endorsement of legalized pot will affect their election hopes than in how legalization will affect public health.... But as research and discussions continue, it is becoming clear that both short-term and long-term marijuana use can cause serious problems with physical and mental health. Fortunately, recreational marijuana use by children and teenagers is not legal anywhere in the United States and elected officials aren’t calling for that – and for good reason.... Many teenagers believe marijuana is harmless because they consider it natural – it comes from a plant rather than a lab. But heroin, psychedelic mushrooms and other harmful drugs also come from plants. Some plants are even poisonous. In addition, today’s marijuana plants are grown differently than in prior decades and can contain two to three times more tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the addictive ingredient that causes the sought-after psychoactive and mood-related effects – the marijuana high. It doesn’t help that marijuana can be consumed in different ways. It can be smoked, mixed into foods and even brewed as tea. This may be enticing to the younger population. But as research and discussions continue, it is becoming clear that both short-term and long-term marijuana use can cause serious problems with physical and mental health.... There is also substantive evidence for associations between marijuana use and increased risk of motor vehicle accidents. Someone under the influence of marijuana – like someone under the influence of alcohol – is an unsafe driver and a danger on the road.... With expanding legalization I remain hesitant to support the use of recreational marijuana because I am aware of the associated negative consequences of its use....My concerns go beyond that of medical expertise. But as it seems to be increasingly difficult to navigate young adulthood, I don’t want anything further to add to the difficulties my three children will undoubtedly encounter through their lives. And before our nation takes a major step to legalize marijuana, all the health concerns I’ve raised here should be carefully considered by our elected officials.”

## THOUGHTS TO PONDER

“The pioneer of modern political polling and consulting, **Pat Caddell**, died on February 16 of a stroke at the age of 68. A great man is dead. Pat was without peer. He was easily the best political consultant with whom I have ever had the honor to work... When we look back on his ideas, his commitment to discerning and voicing the will and thoughts of the people, his record becomes one of patriotism. He was like an articulate trial lawyer practicing at the bar of democracy, caring what the average voter thought, not only to win elections but to help our system function. His survey research and his inspired interpretation of its findings gave voice to the inarticulate pain so many ordinary people felt. Robert Frost wrote that poetry is about grief and politics about grievance. Caddell helped span between the two like a bridge over troubled water.”

--Political analyst **Dick Morris**

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“The greatest service that Donald Trump has rendered these United States is to have exposed the many ailments of which he is a symptom but not a cause. We had political division and cultural alienation before him. We had overbearing government and an imperial executive branch before him. We had media that were arrogant, parochial, and impenitent before him, too. Alas, they have grown yet worse since he arrived.”

--“National Review” online editor **Charles C.W. Cooke**

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“I think the real national emergency is this coup...this attempt – and it is ongoing – it is an effort to overthrow the 2016 duly elected president.... This is a bigger emergency than the wall – it’s tough – a bigger emergency than the invasion of illegal aliens at the southern border. But this is a national emergency. This is huge.”

--Radio host **Rush Limbaugh**

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“We believe that the pattern of wantonly violating immigration laws by – both illegal alien criminals and, worse, government officials and politicians – is deeply corrosive to the rule of law. We also believe that sanctuary policies erode our nation’s sovereignty by encouraging aliens to enter our nation and remain here illegally.”

--Judicial Watch President **Tom Fitton**

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“Since there are certain members of Congress who say that those attempting to illegally enter the country are just good people who want a better life, I would like to suggest that members of Congress who vote against border wall funding requested by border agents, be required to take custody of those the border agents consider a danger to the safety of American citizens.”

--Brevard County resident **Ilene Davis**

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“There are even crazier things in this ‘Green New Deal’...it’s

not a serious policy idea; it’s a unicorn. It’s like an idea conceived in a dorm room or the dark back room of a liberal think-tank by people who have never had a real job in their lives. The far-left Democrats fail to grasp something basic – Republicans and Independents care about the environment. We want clean air, we want clean water, and we feel obligated to be good stewards of this planet God has given us. But we do not worship the planet, we simply live on it.”

--**Florida Senator Rick Scott**

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“The Democrat Party has gone so hard left that even liberals, in some cases, find it unrecognizable. Free universal basic income. I forgot to mention the Green New Deal. Free health care; free college; family leave; reparations; 70-90 percent marginal tax rate; a value added tax on products and services; a wealth tax on that which you’ve already earned and created every year, they’ll take from it. We need to engage in this debate. We need to take them on, or we’re going to lose this country.”

--Radio and TV host **Mark Levin**

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“Today’s Democrat Party is rooted in the ascendant far-left, of centralized control, redistributionism and social justice. It’s a party at war with the U.S. Constitution (specifically the First and Second Amendments), free-market capitalism, the rule of law, enforced borders, American sovereignty, and individual liberty. It is, in many ways, a revolutionary party, which is why there is the open embrace of socialism by new and old Democrats alike, from Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez to Senator Bernie Sanders and many in between. The progressive base is where the energy and activism reside, hence the headlong rush by the potential Democrat candidates to the far left on as many issues as possible.”

--“Washington Times” columnist **Monica Crowley**

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“No Republican president is going to get consistently even-handed coverage from a press corps more interested in protecting an opposing agenda and maintaining approval from their peers. But if you’re Donald Trump, you’re a target of a different kind. Mr. Trump’s populist approach represents an existential threat to everyone, press included, with a vested interest in the corrupt status quo.... The press is often aghast at Mr. Trump’s righteous indignation directed their way. But perhaps what worries them most is that by exposing them, he will render them largely irrelevant.”

--Another Crowley Thought

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“In many schools today, the founding documents of this great nation are ignored. Teachers fail to instruct students as to how the system works. They prefer to dwell on alleged negative failures instead. We know this because our Town Criers meet young people in the streets and we are shocked by their lack of exposure. Many don’t even know what the Bill of Rights is about. It is not their fault. Their instructors have been educated in a system that has a hidden agenda. To further the agenda, teachers exploit issues like, racism, global warming, voting

rights, women's rights, LGBT rights and they will even promote constitutional rights so long as they can advance their agenda."

--Saint Augustine Tea Party Chairman **Lance Thate**

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"As this year marks the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 lunar landing, it is a great time to reflect on Florida's aerospace legacy and look toward modernizing and re-purposing that legacy to handle a new commercial space future.... Florida's growing commercial space industry provides jobs for nearly 100,000 Floridians in over 470 aerospace and aviation companies that do business in the state. These companies export more than \$7.6 billion in goods annually, providing a major economic impact to Florida. USSSPACECOM headquarters would significantly reinforce the positive impact the space industry has on Florida's economy."

--**Florida District 17 State Senator Debbie Mayfield**

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"Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, for all her callowness and arguable shallowness, is able to become so prominent. She makes news. She's kind of compelling, she's kind of adorable in the sort of the way that a five-year-old child can be adorable."

--Fox News political analyst **Brit Hume**

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"The search for truth is certainly relevant on campuses of higher education, where students are supposed to grow personally and intellectually – not only through textbook and classroom learning, but by exchanging ideas, debating tough topics and being challenged to defend their views. This growth cannot happen when speech is restricted – that's not only a disservice to students, but a threat to our republic."

--Leadership Institute field staffer **Hayden Williams**

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"A political-science journal that published an oft-cited study claiming conservatives were more likely to show traits associated with 'psychoticism' now says it got it wrong. Very wrong. 'The American Journal of Political Science' published a correction this year saying that the 2012 paper has 'an error' – and that liberal political beliefs, not conservative ones, are actually linked to psychoticism. 'The interpretation of the coding of the political attitude items in the descriptive and preliminary analyses portion of the manuscript was exactly reversed,' the journal said in the startling correction."

--"New York Post" writer **Danika Fears**

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"The Left may be irrational, but they are consistently irrational."

--Former Arkansas Governor and TV host **Mike Huckabee**

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"Both philosophically and politically, we need to develop a defense of liberty, equality under the law, and

constitutionalism. Libertarians are well positioned to do that. We stand where we always have: for individual rights, free markets, limited government, and peace. Maybe there's room for a new political grouping, what we might call the libertarian center: people who are fiscally conservative and socially tolerant, who appreciate the benefits of capitalism as well as the benefits of openness and diversity."

--CATO Institute Executive Vice President **David Boaz**

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"American culture is globally dominant, and our freedom and prosperity are still hailed as models for others. We should make it easier for people to come here legally. For that to happen, it would be helpful if media coverage focused less on real but rare problems and more on the broad benefits of immigration to our economy and society."

--CATO Institute senior immigration policy analyst **Alex Nowrasteh**

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"A more complicated and nuanced picture has emerged about the events leading up to the physical collapse of what far-Right American politicians termed the 'Berlin Wall'. While some have suggested that Premier Gorbachev was an enthusiastic cheerleader for the removal of the barrier, it has become clear that in many cases, the 'Wall' simply came down on its own accord and due to decay, the victim, in many ways, of the brutal military and economic Cold War waged by successive anti-peace Republican administrations."

--"National Review" contributing editor and "tongue-in-cheek humorist" **Rob Long**

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"It's said that the gun won the West and perhaps that's true. Guns were used for fighting, killing, hunting, protection, law enforcement, and crime. Times have not changed – firearms are still used for the same purposes."

--Sign at the firearms display in the Northeastern Nevada Museum in Elko, Nevada

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## UPCOMING BREVARD COUNTY EVENTS

April 1 – Republican Liberty Caucus of Central East Florida meeting, Blue Heron Restaurant, Great Outdoors, outside Titusville, 7 pm.

April 3 – Trump Club of Brevard meeting, Tequila Azul Restaurant, Viera, 6 pm.

April 4 – Heritage Isle Republican Club meeting, One Senior Place, Viera, 9 am.

April 5 – Federated Republican Women in Action meeting, Copper Chimney Restaurant, Palm Bay, 11:15 am.

April 8 – Brevard Federated Republican Women meeting, Duran Golf Club, Viera, 11 am.

April 8 – The Space Coast Patriots meeting, Merritt Island Library, 6 pm.

April 10 – Brevard Republican Executive Committee meeting, Government Complex Building C, Viera, 7 pm.

April 11 – ACT! For America Space Coast Chapter meeting, Government Complex Building C, Viera, 6:30 pm.

April 15 – New Millennium Conservative Club meeting, Suntree-Viera Library, 6:30 pm.

April 16 – North Brevard Republican Club meeting, Blue Heron Restaurant, Great Outdoors, outside Titusville, 7 pm.

April 18 – Republican Women’s Network of South Brevard meeting, Eau Gallie Yacht Club, 11 am.

April 22 – The Ronald Reagan Clubs meeting, Tuscany Grill Restaurant, Suntree. 7 pm.

April 23 – Space Coast Young Republicans community event “Stand For Life, “ with speakers and tables for community organizations dealing with pregnancy, adoptions and children’s services, The Knights’ Hall, 3435 S. Fiske Blvd, Rockledge, 6:30 pm.

April 24 – Space Coast Republican Club meeting, Red Lobster, Merritt Island, 11 am.

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## ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

Through email, website and Facebook, we are now reaching nearly 2,000 people on our ever-increasing distribution list. The newsletter goes to readers not only all over the country, but 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).

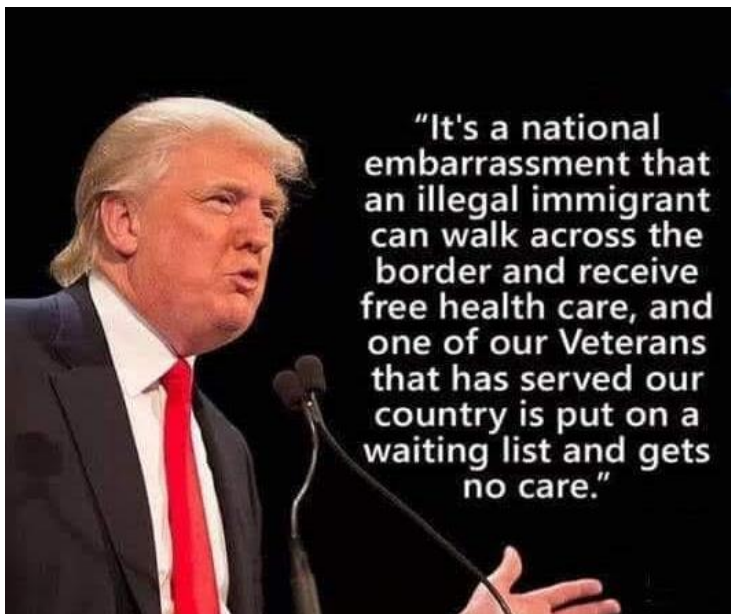
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## COMICAL CLOSER

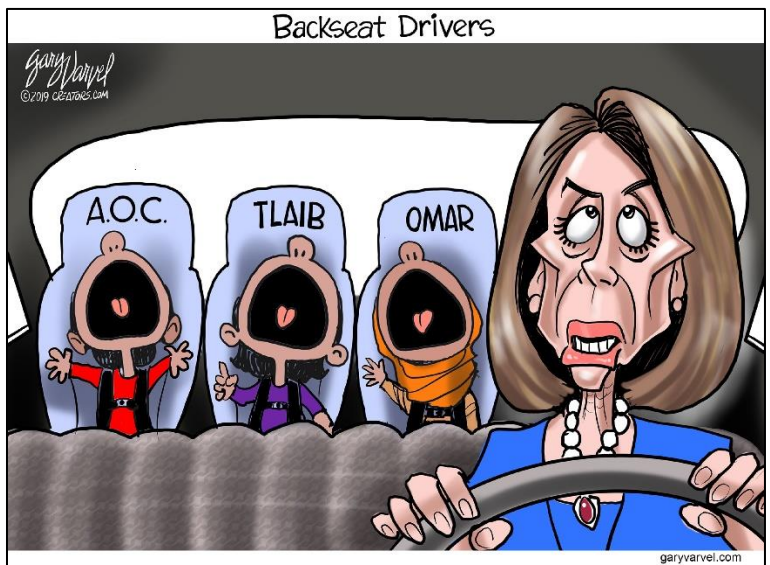
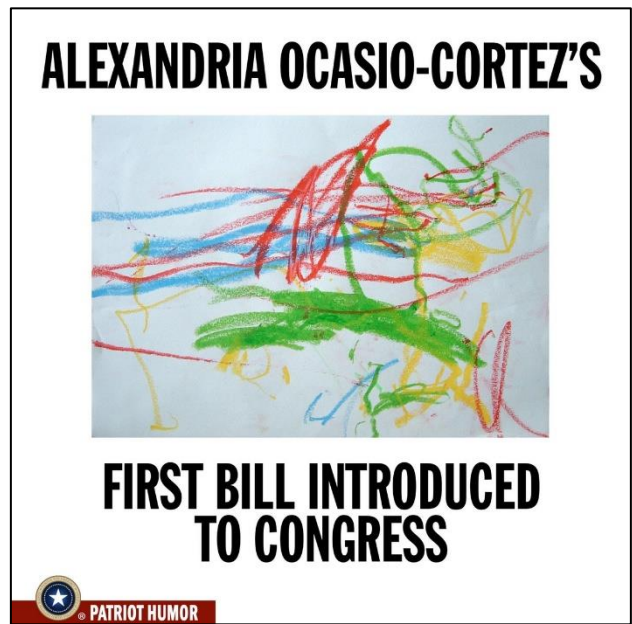
Fox News humorist **Greg Gutfeld** says the new wonder drug Demotrex “blocks signals in your brain that are responsible for reason, logic, math and history so that you adopt a completely world view.” This will make liberal Democrats who take it “overpromise things that cannot possibly be delivered, and if you take it, people will like you, and think you are cool, but it carries this warning: “Delusional side effects include letting everyone down, and political affiliation may impact performance.” Ask your favorite Democrat’s doctor to prescribe him or her the new “wonder drug” today. Who needs Valium, when there is now Demotrex?

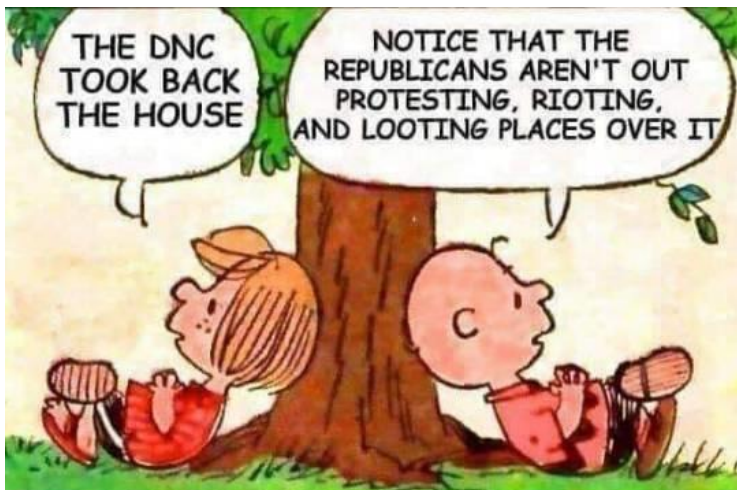
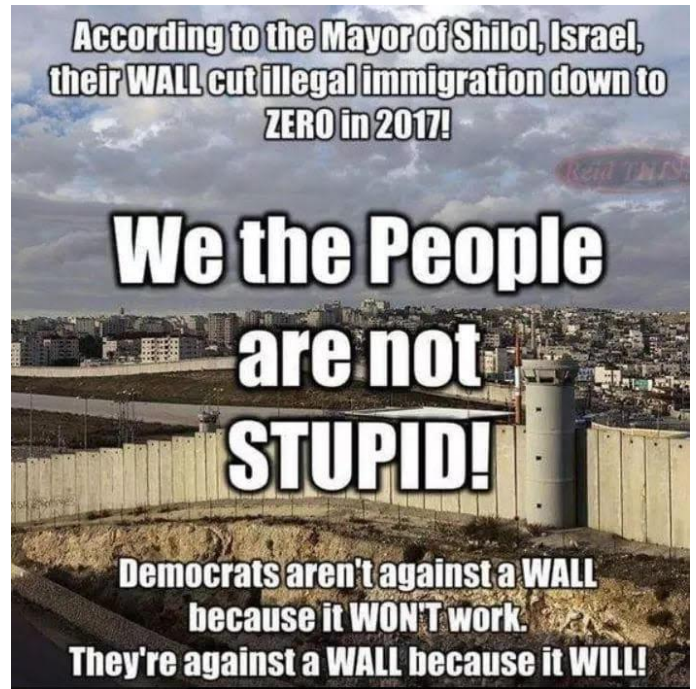
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## SEVERAL PAGES OF PERTINENT POLITICAL CARTOONS AND PHOTOS FOLLOW

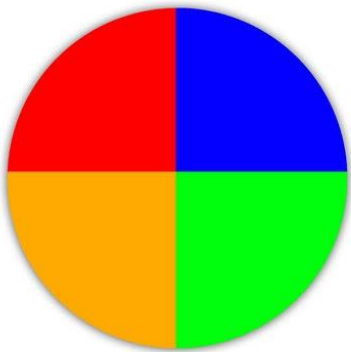








# HOW REPUBLICANS DENY PEOPLE THEIR RIGHT TO VOTE



- REQUIRE CITIZENSHIP
- REQUIRE IDENTIFICATION
- MUST NOT VOTE MORE THAN ONCE
- MUST BE ALIVE

 THE PATRIOT POST

**SOCIALISM: PEOPLE WAIT FOR BREAD**



**CAPITALISM: BREAD WAITS FOR PEOPLE**



 THE PATRIOT POST

**IF BANNING EVEN ONE REPORTER IS A VIOLATION OF THE 1ST AMENDMENT...**

**...ISN'T BANNING EVEN ONE GUN A VIOLATION OF THE 2ND?**

 THE PATRIOT POST

Liberals say they're for women's rights

But only conservatives believe I had a right to be born