



THE SPACE COAST TUSK



A Newsletter for Conservative Republicans

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

Editor and Publisher: [Stuart Gorin](#)

Designer and Assistant Publisher: [Frank Montelione](#)

Number 196

April 2026

GUNMAN HALTS ANNUAL WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENTS DINNER

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK:

MY TWO CENTS

By **Stuart Gorin**



--Ironically, it seems Congress tries to keep its problems on an equal footing – even when it comes to resignations. The news this month was filled with reports of California Democrat Representative Eric Swalwell’s sexual misconduct. After five different women accused him, he first gave up his plans to run for governor and then announced his resignation from office. Meanwhile, on the same day, Texas Republican Representative Tony Gonzales – who admitted to an affair with a female staff member who later took her own life – also announced his resignation. One Democrat and one Republican – both on April 14.

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--Who wants to work for Amazon? If you can believe the P.M. website, at an Amazon warehouse in Troutdale, Oregon, on April 6, as packages continued to roll along conveyor belts, an unidentified 46-year-old worker – a man who had the physically demanding job of a “tote runner” – collapsed to the floor and died, and workers were told “just turn around and not look. Let’s get back to work.” Supervisors did not allow anyone to assist the victim, and when paramedics finally arrived they were unable to save him.

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--History, fortunately, was not repeated. Kirk Moore, the principal of Paul’s Valley High School in Oklahoma, is being hailed as a hero after tackling a gunman intent on carrying out a mass shooting on April 7. Despite being shot in the leg, Moore pinned the gunman – 20-year-old former student Victor Hawkins – onto a bench until he could be arrested.

Hawkins, armed with two semiautomatic handguns, told authorities he intended to carry out an attack reminiscent of the

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Nearly 3,000 invited guests were preparing to enjoy the annual black-tie White House Correspondents Dinner at Washington’s Hilton Hotel on April 25 – with millions more watching on national television – when a lone gunman armed with a shotgun, a pistol, and knives fired four shots outside of the ballroom event.

It forced cancellation of the program, as guests ducked under tables and security personnel quickly moved President and Mrs. Trump and other high ranking government officials to safety.



One Secret Service agent responding to the incident was shot but fortunately was saved by his bullet proof vest. Other security personnel outside the hotel ballroom quickly captured the gunman, who was identified as 31-year-old Cole Allen of Torrence, California, and who faces a plethora of charges.

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1999 Columbine High School massacre, which left 13 students and a teacher dead. Investigators said he also harbored a personal grievance against Moore. Hawkins reportedly took the weapons from his father without permission and said his plan was to kill students, staff, Moore, and ultimately himself.
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--Chicago's Barack Obama Presidential Center – featuring a museum, library, offices and recreational spaces over more than 19 acres – finally opens on June 19. It will be the most expensive presidential library in history – with the \$850 million cost exceeding its original \$300 million estimation. Admission cost will be \$30 – also the most expensive for any U.S. presidential facility.

Illinois residents who helped fund the project will be eligible for a discount by presenting proof of residency—an ID requirement Democrats often oppose in the context of voting.
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--Prominent constitutional attorney Alan Dershowitz, who registered with the Democrat Party in 1959, has now officially registered as a Republican -- formulated by what he described as Democrats' embrace of anti-Israel extremism and abandonment of civil liberties principles. He built a distinguished career as a Harvard Law professor while maintaining unwavering party loyalty for over six decades but formalized his break by publishing a "Wall Street Journal" op-ed announcing his Republican registration.
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--Conservative journalists are leading the way in reporting numerous examples of massive fraud taking place in America. There was even a report on the government providing hospice funding for a California taco stand. Hospice funding? A taco stand? How is that possible? Well, could it be because the tacos are the very last bits of food that its customers ever eat??
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More Two Cents next month.

As much as President Trump wanted the program to continue, authorities cancelled the gala. Trump, however, later held a news conference back at the White House, and declared that it would be rescheduled within 30 days. "Everyone owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to the courage of law enforcement," he said.

(NOTE: The newsletter draft was already completed before this quick update was added. As an aside, when the editor worked in Washington for the U.S. Information Agency, he and his wife attended that gala, which involves media personalities, business leaders, celebrities, lawmakers, and Cabinet officials to celebrate the Fourth Estate and the reporters who cover the White House.)



**BREVARD CONSERVATIVE PATRIOTS
TO FOCUS ON MID-TERM ELECTIONS
By Chairman Dave Fosdick**

Last month we announced the formation of the

Brevard Conservative Patriots, a coalition of knowledgeable local conservatives committed to informing and educating residents about the candidates and issues shaping Brevard County's future. That article was an important part of our launch.



Now our efforts are focused on getting organized, so it is possible to get started providing information for the 2026 mid-term elections. The Coalition intends to provide, at a minimum, information about candidates running for key positions – including School Board, County Commission, municipal and judicial offices. Information about voting processes and important deadlines will also be provided.

The Coalition is being formed to take action. Accordingly, the following set of five (5) actions teams will be established:

1. Research – Collect objective information on candidates and referendums. Perform analysis of elected official performance and legislative Issues.
2. Logistics – Support the coalition in the scheduling of venues for meetings and coordinate public/private event organization.
3. Communications- Make information about local political issues available to the public through various social media channels, newsletters, and other postings. Provide information to voters and to coalition members.
4. Recruiting – Attract new individuals to our organization who want to become civically involved.
5. Membership – coordinates member engagement.

What the coalition would like to accomplish is quite broad and somewhat daunting. Things are being built from the ground up and there is a lot involved. Understanding we need to start to produce some results in support of the mid-term elections, the initial focus of our group will be the Research, Communications and Logistics action teams, and on School Board and County Commission races.

The coalition held a meeting on April 8 where a lot of good information about this organizational outline and focus was presented. The audience was attentive and the response to requests for volunteers on each of the three action teams was awesome. I personally was inspired that there was a total of 26 members who volunteered to participate on one or more teams. All were enthusiastic to be involved.

This was the first step in getting organized and taking action. With all the political “distress” in the news lately, it is important to help local voters select conservative candidates that will faithfully represent them in office.

Please stay in touch by following us:

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On X – BreConPatriots



LOCAL GRIEVANCE POLICY By Richard Nink Election Integrity Committee Chairman

Score one for the Brevard GOP Watchdogs.
Watchdogs 1, Marie/John 0.

We've exposed how State Committeewoman Marie Rogerson has misled the Brevard Republican Executive Committee members and "Chairman" John Dittmore by clearly showing the plethora of significant "changes," when Marie publicly and emphatically stated there was just one small change. Allegedly Marie has taken down her own posted links that she posted for the original and updated grievance policy. The BREC website policy link was disabled but now links to yet another updated version of the policy. None of these updates have been approved by the BREC membership.

The latest policy update posted currently only has Section II LOCAL REVIEW REQUIRED BEFORE RPOF stricken and removed per RPOF request. All the other plethora of changes that the Brevard GOP Watchdogs identified have been quietly removed. The Brevard GOP Watchdog called it out and Marie Rogerson and John Dittmore had no choice but to listen and react.

The issue is far from over. Unfortunately for Marie and John, she had to put back into action Section XXI AMENDMENTS the word "process" so that it now reads "This policy may be amended via the Bylaws Committee process in accordance with all rules." Well, the Bylaws Committee process requires a majority vote of the entire Executive Committee at a regularly scheduled meeting of the BREC. Adherence to the process is key here.

Since the RPOF rejected the policy and stated it needed an update, any changes must now be approved or rejected by the BREC Membership. Rogerson and Dittmore are not being transparent and are not letting the BREC members vote on these policy update changes. At the next BREC meeting, with required quorum attendance, make a motion and demand that the Grievance Policy Changes be rejected, and the policy as a whole be rejected. Also, don't let Dittmore silence the Brevard GOP Watchdogs when they raise issues for BREC membership discussion. The Chair is required to recognize all members, even the ones that he doesn't like. Make your voices heard.

It is our opinion that this onerous local grievance policy was created at the same time as the 11/24/25 Coup in order to label and readily remove individuals they deem problematic to their agenda. This grievance policy was not created to make BREC a better organization.

TRUMP NATIONAL ADDRESS ON IRAN.

"I can say tonight we are on track to complete all of America's

military objectives shortly, very shortly," he said. "We are going to hit them extremely hard over the next two to three weeks; we're going to bring them back to the stone ages where they belong. In the meantime, discussions are ongoing."



The president said regime change was never the goal of the war; despite calling for a popular uprising on the day the U.S. launched its bombing campaign. He also reiterated his claim that regime change has effectively taken place due to the killing of several senior government figures, adding, "the new group is less radical and much more reasonable." Yet, he said, "If during this period of time no deal is made, we have our eyes on key targets. If there's no deal, we are going to hit each and every one of their electric-generating plants very hard and probably simultaneously."

Trump did not give a hard deadline for the U.S. to complete its operation in Iran. Before the speech, the White House said he would tell Americans the war would be done within two to three weeks. The U.S. is now more than a month into the conflict.

He also predicted that the economy would bounce back quickly once the war concludes, adding the Strait of Hormuz, shut down by Iran since the start of the war, would "open naturally" once the U.S. ended its military campaign.

And he again advised European countries to either buy American oil or reopen the Strait of Hormuz on their own if they wanted to return the key shipping lane to normal operations.

On April 6 – surrounded by **CIA Director John Ratcliffe**, **Secretary of War Pete Hegseth**, and **Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman General Dan "Raizin" Caine** – Trump held a nationally televised news conference on April 6 to discuss details of the harrowing rescue of a U.S. service member from Iran after a fighter jet was downed inside that country three days earlier.

When the plane went down, the two men aboard bailed out. The pilot was quickly picked up and flown to safety, but it took time to locate the weapons system officer who had been aboard.

The four men in the news conference shared details about the high-risk rescue operation, which involved hundreds of U.S. personnel, including special forces, intelligence officers and others.

Trump said that when the plane crash landed, the unnamed

weapons systems officer was injured but escaped into steep terrain inside Iran with his “face bleeding rather profusely. The officer followed his training and climbed into the treacherous mountain terrain and started climbing toward a higher altitude, something they were trained to do in order to evade capture.”

The President added that the officer treated his own wounds and contacted American forces to transmit his location, after which the Pentagon mobilized a rescue that involved 155 aircraft, including four bombers, 64 fighter jets, 48 refueling tankers, 13 rescue aircraft and more.

Ratcliffe said the CIA deployed “human assets and exquisite technologies” to find the airman, including executing a “deception campaign to confuse the Iranians who were desperately hunting” for the service member.

Comparing the search to “hunting for a single grain of sand in the middle of a desert,” Ratcliffe said, “On Saturday morning, we achieved our primary objective by finding and providing confirmation that one of America’s best and bravest was alive and concealed in a mountain crevice, still invisible to the enemy, but not to the CIA.”

“God is good,” was the first thing the airman said after turning on his transponder, according to Hegseth, who added, “The Iranians are still asking themselves right now, how did the Americans do this?”

Caine said A-10 Warthogs, HC-130 rescue aircraft, HH-60 Jolly Green II helicopters and Air Force special warfare airmen – made up of combat rescue officers and para-rescue operators – flew into Iran’s airspace, with the support of fighter jets. He added that the crew sustained “minor injuries, but they are going to be fine.”

ARTEMIS II ASTRONAUTS TO THE MOON AND BACK

There probably were not too many Americans not glued to their television sets on April 10 when the four Astronauts on



Artemis II successfully splashed down in the Pacific Ocean on April 10 following their 10-day flight around the moon – the farthest any crew has ever flown in space – 252,756 miles.

As was explained on the extended news cast, they entered Earth’s atmosphere traveling an estimated 25,000 miles per hour, checked out by medical personnel in their capsule, boarded helicopters for ship travel to the California coast, and then flew to Houston to the Johnson Space Center.

The crew – Commander **Reid Wiseman**, pilot **Victor Glover**, mission specialist **Christina Koch** and Canadian Space Agency astronaut **Jeremy Hansen** took to the stage in Houston on April 11 to be greeted by a crowd of space agency and government officials and fellow astronauts and shared their emotional reflections on the mission and the experience of seeing Earth from space.

NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman welcomed them home to a thunderous applause. He thanked the president and partners in Congress for giving NASA the mandate and means to make Artemis II, as well as the upcoming Artemis missions, possible, and also acknowledged the international partners and American taxpayers.

“There is no doubt there is a price to pay when it comes to exploring the cosmos,” Isaacman said. “But there is also a return. A return in the jobs it creates the technologies that improve life here on Earth, and the inspiration it sparks, and all those who choose to follow. To people all around the world who look up and dream about what is possible, the long wait is over.”

He added, “After a brief 53 year intermission, the show goes on, and NASA is back in the business of sending astronauts to the moon and bringing them home safely.”

“I have absolutely no idea what to say,” Wiseman said to a chuckling crowd. “24 hours ago, the earth was that big out the window, we were doing Mach 39, and now here we back in Ellington at home.”

Referring to his cabin mates, he said, “We are bonded forever. And no one down here is ever going to know what the four of us just went through. It was the most special thing that will ever happen in my life. Wiseman added, “No one knows what the families went through. This was not easy. Being 200,000 plus miles away from home. Before you launch, it feels like it’s the greatest dream on Earth. And when you’re out there, you just want to get back to your family and your friends.”

Glover said he has “not processed what we just did, and I’m afraid to start even trying.” He stated he wanted to thank God, saying words failed to describe the experience they had and the gratitude he felt.

A U.S. Navy Captain and test pilot who has flown 24 combat missions and was the first Black man to embark on an International Space Station mission six years ago, Glover said the moon trip “is about human history. It’s the story of humanity, not Black history, not women’s history, but it becomes human history.”

Koch reflected on purely human moments – how 10 days ago she was awakened on launch day by the mission manager for a journey which ended during medical checkout on the recovery ship surrounded by people in awe. As she was headed to bed, Koch said a nurse asked her for a hug.

Reflecting on just what makes a crew, she said it is “a group who is in it all the time no matter what, that is stroking

together every minute with the same purpose. That is willing to sacrifice silently for each other, that gives grace, that holds accountable.” Smiling at her crewmates, Koch added, “A crew has the same cares and the same needs. A crew is inescapable, beautifully, dutifully, linked.”

“What struck me wasn’t necessarily just Earth. It was all the blackness around it,” said Koch. “Earth was just this lifeboat hanging undisturbingly in the universe.”

Canadian Space Agency astronaut Hansen expressed gratitude for his family, for NASA, and all who made this possible. He was the first Canadian to fly beyond Earth orbit, and he mentioned a term the crew uses – joytrain. “There was a lot of joy,” Hansen said, but “There are many times we’re not on the joytrain, but we are committed to getting back on the joytrain as soon as we can. That is a useful life skill for any team trying to get something done.”

During the flight, the four astronauts broke a human spaceflight distance record, performed science and lunar observations, and wowed the world with stunning images and heartfelt moments. They were the first to fly on the SLS (Space Launch System) rocket and Orion spacecraft – a mission which returned astronauts beyond low Earth orbit for the first time since the Apollo 17 mission in 1972.

NASA’s future plans include next year’s Artemis III mission to test integrated operations in low-Earth orbit between an Orion spacecraft and moon landers built by Blue Origin and/or SpaceX. Then, Artemis IV – a landing near the moon’s south pole – is planned for early 2028, and Artemis V, a second lunar landing, is slated for late 2028.

(Note: The Co-Publisher had the distinct honor to be a member of the Recovery Crew for four Apollo missions including Apollo 11, safely recovering the first men to land on the moon.)

LET ME BE FRANK

By Space Coast Tusk Designer
Frank Montelione



The DHS Shutdown The Forgotten Shutdown:



With all the noise about Iran, the America First Bill, and the Socialist takeover agenda, the Democrat shutdown of DHS has somehow slipped below the fold – especially in the lame-stream media. As the stalemate drags on, the partial shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) isn’t just a headline – it’s a readiness problem.

Some call this impasse “dysfunction.” I see it as a fight over first principles: protecting the country and keeping homeland defense missions prioritized, staffed, and ready. Republicans under President Trump have already given Senate Democrats major concessions on ICE policy—Markwayne Mullin was

confirmed as DHS Secretary on March 24, 2026 (replacing Kristi Noem), ICE agents are now wearing body cams, and roving enforcement has been curtailed.

For years, homeland security has too often been forced into last-minute, all-or-nothing funding fights that blur priorities and dilute accountability. The current debate over DHS funding is a departure from that status quo. It raises a fundamental question about readiness: whether the Department’s most time-sensitive missions—border integrity, threat screening, intelligence fusion, and rapid response – are being resourced and managed with the urgency the threat environment demands.

And if it weren’t for President Trump’s executive order, thousands of civilian employees across components like TSA, FEMA, and the Coast Guard wouldn’t be getting paid. So, what are Democrats demanding to reopen the government? Judicial warrants before immigration agents can enter homes, a ban on masks, and mandated visible identification.

As a former police officer, I can’t imagine being told to pause while a fleeing felon ducks into a house and evidence disappears. And the idea that agents in marked tactical gear - “ICE,” “POLICE,” “HSI,” - somehow lack identification is hard to take seriously. The real issue is safety: DHS has reported an 8,000% increase in death threats against ICE officers and their families as of January 2026.

Next came the Senate’s so-called fix, pushed by John Thune: a reconciliation-style package that would fund parts of DHS and get TSA back to work, but deliberately withheld new funding from ICE and parts of CBP in response to Democrat demands after federal-agent actions in Minnesota.

What got glossed over is who wasn’t being fully funded – office support, National Crime Information Center (NCIC) functions, the Office of the Secretary, and key enforcement-related accounts that keep operations running.

Here’s what the Washington maneuvering really amounted to: the Senate moved a bipartisan, voice-vote package to restart much of DHS and get TSA and other components back on the job, but it carved out immigration enforcement by withholding new funding for ICE and most of Customs and Border Patrol. That wasn’t an accident—it was leverage.

Meanwhile, ICE and CBP weren’t starting from zero; both had significant resources from prior legislation (with ICE funding publicly reported as extending for years). House Republicans rejected the Senate offer and pushed a 60-day stopgap that funded the whole department together, arguing border enforcement can’t be treated as optional. The Senate bill capitulated to Democrats and was dead on arrival in the House.

From a national security perspective, the primary role of the federal government is the protection of its citizens and its borders. When budgets and authorities become disconnected from that core purpose, readiness erodes and mission creep grows. By holding the line on DHS funding and priorities, negotiators are attempting to force a refocusing of the

department's mission: securing the border, enforcing the law, and sustaining the capabilities that prevent, detect, and disrupt threats.

What does a shutdown mean for counterterrorism and homeland security? Most frontline personnel keep working because threats don't take a timeout – but shutdown chaos still damages readiness. When pay is uncertain, morale drops and experienced people leave. When offices are partially staffed, analysis and coordination slow. Support functions go dark, training gets postponed, hiring and onboarding stall, procurement drags, and contractor-supported systems that fuse and share intelligence get disrupted.

Here's what bothers me: when you hear "terrorists are pouring across the border," the official numbers usually aren't a clean count of confirmed terrorists who successfully entered. They're mostly watchlist encounters – CBP gets a match to terrorism-related records and logs it. Still, the scale is real: CBP has publicly reported roughly 1,700+ terrorism-record encounters since FY2021 (often cited as 1,746 through parts of FY2024), and 410 terrorism-record encounters at ports of entry in FY2024 alone.

What happened next – stopped, detained, removed, or released – shouldn't be a mystery. A House Judiciary interim staff report (August 5, 2024) separately claimed DHS released at least 99 watch listed noncitizens; DHS did not publicly confirm those specifics in later fact-check coverage. (Sources: CBP terrorism-record encounter reporting;

House Judiciary Committee interim staff report, Aug. 5, 2024; PolitiFact, Feb. 25, 2025.)

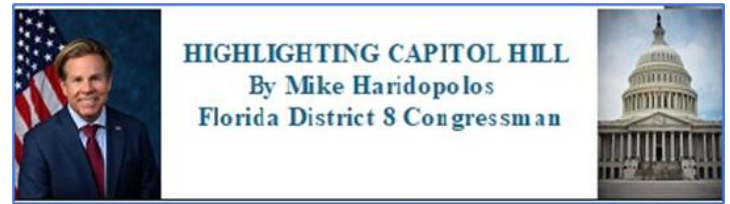
And with war with Iran—a major source of global terrorism funding – the question is what that means here at home. How many sleeper cells get activated? How many lone actors get bolder? NTAS and other threat assessments have warned us that we remain in a heightened environment, often driven by lone offenders and small groups.

Incidents and Threats Post-February 28, 2026: This is exactly the kind of moment when we should be tightening up security at home, not letting DHS stumble along half-funded and half-functional. You've got a synagogue attack in Michigan investigators are treating as retaliatory, a mass shooting in Austin where authorities are still looking at potential terrorist motives, and CISA relaunching "Shields Up" over expected Iranian-linked cyber activity. And it's not theoretical: federal prosecutors charged Emir Balat and Ibrahim Kayumi over an ISIS-inspired plot outside Gracie Mansion on March 7, 2026 – dashcam recordings reportedly captured talk of killing "up to 60 people," "starting terror," and "petrifying" civilians.

Accountability isn't just about budgets – it's operational. DHS should be funded and managed around measurable security outcomes, with resources flowing first to the capabilities that stop threats and protect communities.

So, here's my question for Washington: who benefits when DHS is distracted, understaffed, and stuck in shutdown chaos?

Not law-abiding Americans. Not the agents doing the work. And definitely not the communities that will pay the price if something slips through the cracks. It's time to end the games, set clear priorities, and put homeland security back where it belongs – front and center.



I truly enjoyed being back home on the Space Coast and spending time with friends and neighbors at the Heritage Isle Republican Club in Viera. It is always great to reconnect, hear directly from folks, and have real conversations about where we are as a country, and more importantly, where we are headed.

For too long, Americans watched dysfunction in Washington and were told to accept it. That is changing, and it started with electing leaders who are willing to say what needs to be said and do what needs to be done.

On border security, President Trump made it clear: a country without a border is not a country. Restoring order is not optional; it is a core responsibility of the federal government. Chaos is not normal, and we should never treat it that way.

When it comes to the economy, inflation is coming down, but families are still feeling the squeeze from years of higher costs. That is why Republicans passed the Working Families Tax Cut Act – focused on delivering real relief for working Americans, including no tax on tips, no tax on overtime, and a \$6,000 deduction for seniors on Social Security. The goal is simple: let people keep more of what they earn and make work pay again.

I also spoke about accountability in Washington. Right now, we are seeing real momentum – over 250 executive orders signed by President Trump and nearly 100 bills passed by the House to move our agenda forward. That is action, not rhetoric.

Of course, here on Florida's Space Coast, we are not just talking about the future – we are building it. The success of the Artemis II mission is proof that America is back leading in space. That leadership means jobs, investment, and opportunity right here in our community. We are not playing for second place; we are going back to the Moon and then on to Mars.

Most importantly, I appreciated the chance to listen. Conversations like this matter. Hearing your concerns, your ideas, and your priorities is what keeps me focused on delivering results for you. I left Heritage Isle encouraged. People are engaged, informed, and ready to be part of the solution. Change does not start in Washington; it starts in communities like ours. And here on the Space Coast, we are



MAYFIELD MINUTE

**By Florida District 19 State Senator
Debbie Mayfield**

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis called for the convening of the State Legislature in Special Session from Tuesday, April 28, through Friday, May 1, specifically to consider legislation related to the drawing of congressional districts, creating strong consumer protections for artificial intelligence, and expanding medical freedom in the state.

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Florida Attorney General James Uthmeier announced a new statewide partnership designed to help law enforcement agencies solve longstanding cold cases using advanced forensic DNA testing and genetic genealogy.

The initiative connects the Office of Statewide Prosecution with Othram, a leading forensic technology company specializing in human identification. The goal is to proactively identify unsolved cases across Florida that may be solvable using existing biological evidence that could not be analyzed with older technology.

“For too long, many victims and their families have been left without answers,” Uthmeier said. “Our partnership with Othram will add an invaluable tool to our proactive approach for solving cold cases. We hope this effort brings answers and some measure of closure to those who have waited years.”

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Florida Commerce and Select Florida announced that the state set a new record for export sales in 2025, with businesses exporting \$78.9 billion in goods – an 8.9% increase over 2024 and a 37.8% jump since 2018. The agencies highlighted Florida’s strongest export performance in history, driven largely by manufacturing. Manufactured products accounted for 92% of all Florida exports, totaling \$72.2 billion, up 9.5% from the previous year.

The increased export growth is credited to Florida’s expanding economy, strategic investments in workforce development, and improvements in transportation and logistics infrastructure. Florida has been ranked the #1 economy in the nation for three consecutive years and has the fastest growing manufacturing sector in the country.

The state’s bilateral trade through seaports and airports also reached a record \$205 billion in 2025. Top export markets included Brazil, Mexico, Canada, Germany, and Colombia, with leading export categories such as aircraft parts, telephones, pharmaceuticals, turbines, and cars.

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The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles released a warning to drivers regarding an ongoing fraudulent scheme involving counterfeit court notices that

falsely claim to originate from Florida county courts and related judicial offices.

These documents closely resemble official government correspondence and state that recipients have outstanding traffic or toll violations and demand immediate payment. The fraudulent notices may include:

- References to Florida Statutes and fabricated case numbers
- Threats of license suspension, registration holds, or default judgment
- QR codes directing recipients to unauthorized payment portals
- Unsolicited “hearing dates” or instructions to remit funds immediately

These communications are not issued by any Florida court, clerk’s office, or state agency. Residents are reminded that official government entities do not request payment through QR codes, third party links, or unverified online platforms. FLHSMV will never contact you via text message demanding payment or threatening suspension or arrest.

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The Florida Air National Guard ranked first in the nation for both recruiting and retention in 2025. Last year, it surpassed its personnel targets by more than 100 percent, exceeding the goals set by the National Guard Bureau and the State of Florida. This year, FLANG has already exceeded its recruiting goals ahead of schedule.

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Colorado State University released an early forecast of the 2026 Atlantic Hurricane Season, which begins June 1 and ends November 30. The outlook predicts slightly below normal activity, due to a developing El Niño which is expected to increase wind shear across the Atlantic.

CSU has produced data driven seasonal hurricane forecasts for 43 years and is an academically respected authority on hurricane outlook.

The forecast predicts a total of 13 named storms, of which CSU anticipates six to become hurricanes and two to become major hurricanes. These numbers are slightly below the long-term seasonal average of fourteen, seven, and three, respectively. Florida remains the most vulnerable state, with a 74% chance of a named storm and 21% chance of a major hurricane passing within 50 miles of the coastline.



AN UPDATE FROM MY OFFICE

**By Florida District 8 State Senator
Tom Wright**

Not every day do you get the opportunity to witness history in real time, but here on the Space Coast, that opportunity comes more often than most places in the world.

Recently, I had the distinct honor of joining several fellow legislators to watch the launch of Artemis II. As the countdown reached zero and that rocket lifted off, it was more than just another successful launch, it was a defining moment in the next chapter of American space exploration.

Artemis II represents the first crewed mission in NASA's return to deep space, a critical step toward sending Americans back to the Moon and eventually beyond. Standing there, watching that mission unfold, it was impossible not to feel a sense of pride, not just in the achievement itself, but in the role our region continues to play in making it possible.

The Space Coast has always been a place where innovation meets opportunity. What makes moments like Artemis II so special is not just the launch, but everything behind it. The engineers, technicians, support crews, and countless professionals who workday in and day out to make these missions successful are the true foundation of our continued leadership in space.

It is also a reminder that the work happening here extends far beyond the launch pad. The space industry continues to drive economic growth, attract investment, and create high-quality jobs across Brevard and Volusia Counties. It inspires young people to pursue careers in science and engineering, and it positions Florida as a global leader in aerospace innovation.

As Chair of the Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security, I remain committed to supporting policies that strengthen this industry and ensure the Space Coast remains the premier gateway to space for years to come.

While we celebrate milestones like Artemis II here at home, our work in Tallahassee continues. The 2026 Legislative Session has officially concluded, but the job is not finished. The Legislature will be returning for a Special Session to finalize the state budget, one of our most important responsibilities. The budget is where we translate priorities into action, ensuring that our communities receive the support and resources they need.

In addition to the budget, we expect to address several other important issues during upcoming Special Sessions. These are significant decisions that will have a direct impact on the future of our state, and I

remain focused on ensuring we approach them with responsibility and a clear understanding of the needs of our communities.

Moments like Artemis II serve as a powerful reminder of what can be accomplished when we get it right, when planning, leadership, and execution all come together with a clear purpose. That same mindset is what I carry with me as we return to Tallahassee. The decisions we make there should reflect the same level of precision, accountability, and forward thinking that we see right here on the Space Coast.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you. Representing this region, where history is made and the future is built, is truly

one of the greatest honors of my life. I look forward to continuing our work together and to sharing more updates in the weeks ahead. If you have any questions, concerns, or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 386-304-7630 or by email at wright.tom@flsenate.gov. Until next time – stay safe, stay engaged, and stay informed.



**RENDEZVOUS WITH
REPUBLICAN WOMEN
By Xiaoqi Wang
BFRW President**

The BFRW April 1 Luncheon Meeting included a panel discussion on “Understanding Our Judicial System” – highlighting why both the State Attorney and Public Defender play essential roles in ensuring fairness and upholding the rule of law.

Our panelists included **State Attorney William Scheiner** (18th Judicial Circuit) and **Public Defender Blaise Trettis**, with **Chip George, Appellate Court Attorney**, serving as moderator. One of the key takeaways from the discussion was the growing challenge of attracting talented young professionals to serve in these critical offices.

Dana Blickley, our Brevard County Property Appraiser, did a wonderful job as MC, as always.

Florida House Representative Brian Hodgers (District 32) provided a brief update on his legislative efforts in Tallahassee and encouraged members to reach out to his office with any questions or concerns.

Understanding the roles of public offices is essential to a well-functioning government. When we understand these responsibilities, we are better equipped to evaluate policies, make informed voting decisions, and hold our elected officials accountable. Thanks to the informed and engaged voters of Brevard County, we have elected capable leaders who serve our community well – let's keep it that way.

We also enjoyed a touch of early Easter spirit, with festive bonnets in the crowd – and chocolate bunnies as a sweet thank-you!

BFRW Legislative Chair Susan Hodgers and I attended the Florida Federation of Republican Women (FFRW) Leadership Conference in Tampa April 10–12. As always, we heard from many outstanding elected officials, including **Agriculture Commissioner Wilton Simpson; Florida CFO Blaise Ingoglia; the Florida Attorney General, U.S. Senator Ashley Moody; Florida House Representative Danny Alvarez; and Congressman Randy Fine**. We also heard from **gubernatorial candidates Jay Collins, Byron Donalds, Paul Renner, and Bobby Williams**.

The breakout sessions covered a wide range of topics, including Bylaws, Programs & Awards, Treasurer training, Membership, Parliamentary Procedure, President training, Fundraising, and more. A key theme throughout the

conference was learning from one another and strengthening our effectiveness as an organization.

We truly value being part of the Federation. Not only do we gain knowledge and skills, but we also build the confidence to lead effectively while staying focused on our mission. Let's bring more strong women into our organization, let them experience the sense of community and shared purpose. The bigger our team, the greater impact we can make.

The FFRW is the backbone of Florida's Republican volunteer force. Our strength lies in our network of talented leaders who give your time and talents so generously. Events like this remind us how strong and united we are when we come together.

Our May Luncheon will feature a panel discussion with our **County Commissioner Rob Feltner**. Understanding how county government works is essential because it impacts many aspects of our daily lives, including public safety, roads, zoning, and local services. When residents understand how decisions are made and who is responsible, they can better engage with their community and advocate for their needs.

May is BFRW's "Back the Blue" month. As part of our tradition, we honor two female police officers and present a donation to the Brevard Sheriff's Office.

The Brevard Federated Republican Women proudly offers four \$1,000 scholarships to support female high school and college students who demonstrate leadership, integrity, and a commitment to conservative values.

Applications for the 2026 scholarships are now closed. Scholarship recipients will be announced in early May, and the award ceremony will be held at our June 3 Luncheon.

Only 1 in 5 Brevard voters vote in the primary elections. That means that 20% of us decide who will be on the November ballot (and in many races the winner in November). The elected officials we choose in these low-turnout primaries will be making important decisions about our schools, roads, taxes, public safety and the overall quality of life in Brevard County.

If you feel like the government isn't listening or isn't doing a good job; if you want real change or if you think our current leaders are doing a great job and should stay, you need to get involved and participate in the primaries. If you don't, the 20% that do vote will decide for you.

It's easy to speak to those who already agree with us, but real change only happens when more people show up to vote—especially in primary elections. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to vote in the Primary Election.

Because Florida has a closed primary system, it's important to encourage those who share our values but are not affiliated with a party to register as Republicans – so they can fully participate and have their voices heard in the primary elections. If we want a government that reflects our values, we

must be part of the solution.



FEDERATED REPUBLICAN WOMEN IN ACTION

By President Erika Orriss

As our regularly scheduled meeting fell on April 3, it was canceled in observance of Good Friday, the Easter weekend, and related Passover events. However, the Florida Federated Republican Women did hold their Spring Conference the following weekend, April 10-12.

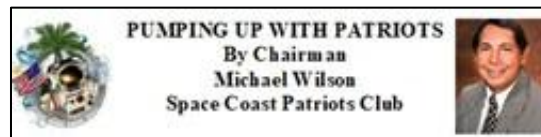
I served as the State Programs Chairwoman during the conference, providing guidance on developing informative and engaging programs for clubs throughout Florida, and was honored to meet several gubernatorial candidates. They participated in interviews and included Lieutenant Governor **Jay Collins**, **Congressman Byron Donalds**, **Paul Renner**, and **Bobby Williams**.

Additional speakers at the conference were **Florida CFO Blaise Ingoglia**, **Senator Ashley Moody**, and **House Representative Danny Alvarez**. It concluded with an informative and inspirational address delivered by **Congressman Randy Fine**.

Several informative amendments concerning the Federation were brought forward and voted on. Attendees also participated in a series of breakout learning sessions covering Bylaws, Programs, Treasury, and additional areas essential to effective club operations.

At our next club meeting, on May 1, we will hear from **Palm Bay Deputy Mayor Mike Jaffe** and **Indian Harbour Beach City Councilman and County Commission District 4 candidate Adam Dyer**.

As always, for additional information, please contact info@frwabrevard.org. Meetings are held at Memaw's BBQ in Palm Bay, with Meet and Greet beginning at 11:15 a.m. and Call to Order at 11:45 a.m.



Environmental and Ecological Activist **Michael Myjak**, who addressed the Space Coast Patriots April 13 meeting, has been a contractor to the U.S Department of Homeland Security working in modeling and simulation; has worked for UCF as a Senior Research Scientist, and owns his own business on the Indian River Lagoon.

Myjak's chief concern and advocacy is for the thriving Space Industry, local neighborhoods and the environment to be in harmony, especially Merritt Island. One of his biggest pushes is for a Space Port Authority, a group of leaders from Space

X, Blue Origin, NASA, Space Florida, state and local government agencies and other important stakeholders who can work together on short-term projects and with far looking infrastructure foresight.

During his presentation, Myjak pointed out that the federal government has relaxed rules on the safety of the environment and that there is no single body to regulate the space industry. As an example, NASA and the U.S. Space Force follow federal laws rather than local and state regulations. Additionally, there is no Comp Plan for the Space Industry. A Comp Plan is a long-term, policy driven roadmap for future growth and development to shape its physical, social and economic environment. The Industry as a whole, would be well off to jointly determine how to manage storm water, raw water resources, ground testing, air quality and wash water dumped into the lagoon according to Myjak.

It is predicted over the next 10 years that the Space Industry will need to hire approximately 10,000 workers and Brevard will need to be ready for this growth in a variety of ways. His presentation was eye-opening for many of the Patriots when he pointed out some factoids like, the Falcon 9 launches use 704,000 gallons of potable water per launch and that a Starship launch will use 1.14 million gallons per launch.

The meeting wrapped when Mindy Gibson, a candidate for State House Representative for District 31, addressed the Patriots for a few minutes, and Gene Trent, District 2 incumbent and candidate for the BPS School Board, stressed the importance of voter turnout for the upcoming elections.



The April 16 meeting of the Brevard County Republican Assembly served as a farewell to District 1 **County Commissioner Katie Delaney**, who announced her resignation during the April 13 County Commission meeting. Delaney cited her husband’s job transfer as the reason for stepping down.

Her address to the Assembly marked her first in-depth remarks on the decision since making the announcement. A founding member of the Brevard Republican Assembly, Delaney credited the group as a key force behind her successful campaign for the District 1 seat. Holding back tears, she expressed heartfelt gratitude to those who supported her journey.

“I can’t even thank you guys enough,” Delaney said. “Without every single person in this room, I would not have made it to where I am. I have supporters all over the place, but you believed in me when I had no idea how to speak in front of people, and I was shaking at the microphone.”

“I had people telling me I would never win, and you all were still there,” she continued. “I don’t have enough words to say thank you. This is a time in my life I will never forget.”

Delaney emphasized that her decision to resign was not made lightly, describing the moment she learned of her husband’s job opportunity.

“I was away on a cruise when my husband messaged me. My first thought was, ‘Oh my God, who’s dying?’” she said. “He told me about the opportunity, and it was shocking. He had been looking locally for something more stable, and then this came up. It was really difficult to turn down.”

She said she spent time reflecting and praying about the decision. “I was asking, ‘God, what do you want from me?’” Delaney said. “The more I prayed, the clearer it became.”

Reflecting on her campaign, Delaney framed her victory as a testament to grassroots support. “I was meant to show people that they have a voice – and that it matters,” she said. “I had no money. I had \$12,000. I never should have won, but it was just the one to break the door open. As long as we keep that energy alive, I know we can do it again – not just in the County Commission, but in the City of Titusville.”

Her final day in office will be May 2. A special election to fill the remaining two years of her term is scheduled for August, though it is not yet known whether the governor will appoint an interim replacement.

Before concluding, Delaney endorsed local journalist Stel Bailey as her successor. “I fully, 100 percent endorse **Stel Bailey** for County Commission, District 1,” she said. Bailey joins **Rick Heffelfinger, Nathan Slusher, and Micah Lloyd** in the race for the seat.

For more information on the Brevard Republican Assembly, visit links.brevardrepublicanassembly.org or follow the organization on social media.



REMEMBER WHEN **By Heritage Isle Republican Club** **President Mike Hoagland**

Remember when President Trump signed an executive order banning “birth right” citizenship. Of course, our constitution never authorized this but leftist politicians have enforced their understanding of a rule that was intended to address slaves who resided in our country to anyone giving birth to a child in America. What are the consequences?

Recently, the ACLU has been running ads on television endorsing “birth right” citizenship using the sound track of “Born in the USA”. Maybe you have noticed. Our country has allowed women who come to our country, give birth and then automatically gave U.S. citizenship to their children. There is no telling how many illegals crossed into our country under the Biden administration, gave birth to children that now have

U.S. citizenship. As you know, this has been going on for decades.

Now, let's look at China, which does not think of results in terms of quarter to quarter, monthly or annually. They plan in terms of generations. Did you know that for years the Chinese have sent pregnant women to U.S. territories, states or any jurisdiction that would provide U.S. citizenship after the birth of their child? They have been doing this at the rate of approximately 100,000 a year for many years. The child is then returned to China and brought up as good Chinese Communist Party citizens. How long will it take before these Chinese use their U.S. citizenship to affect our elections – which is the goal? Will it be 20, 30 or 40 years? Just think of the consequences of 30 million voters and how that would alter America. If you think this is a fairy tale, do your own research.

Our Supreme Court is reviewing Birth Right citizenship at this moment. The Marxists in our country will certainly not object to this. They support and contribute to any action that undermines the cultural heritage of America. Just look at Hanoi Jane (Fonda) leading the recent “No Kings” rally. In my opinion, America is at a tipping point. Either President Trump fulfills his agenda or our country will be in for difficult times. The Marxists have a track record of success when it comes to undermining the leadership in countries they decide to destroy. They are the masters of propaganda.

Just visit the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. Germany was a master of misinformation and propaganda. Our resident liberal Marxists are very sophisticated as well. It only requires a small vocal minority to create political changes. Soros and Singh (China) fund numerous NGOs who then pay activists to do their will. It's all very well organized. There are approximately 500 activist NGOs spread across our country.

Most citizens have no idea what is going on in the world or our country. Apathy is rampant. While most Americans support and believe in our culture, they need to get informed on issues. When someone tells you “This is how I feel,” there is no reason to continue wasting your breath. When someone can offer facts and useful information to an argument, they are worth your time. We can all then learn. Vote for America First conservatives and save this country. Remember Reagan said we are only one generation away from losing our country.

THIS AND THAT

FLORIDA STATE LEGISLATORS. Republican leaders reached a budget breakthrough on April 23, setting up a return to Tallahassee May 12-29 to finalize a new state budget. **House Speaker Daniel Perez and Senate President Ben Albritton** cleared a key hurdle that had stalled since the regular legislative session ended in March.

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SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER. A Grand Jury in Montgomery, Alabama, on April 21 charged the Southern

Poverty Law Center with 11 counts of wire fraud, false statements to a federally insured bank, and conspiracy to commit concealment money laundering. Between 2014 and 2023, the SPLC reportedly secretly funneled more than \$3 million in donated funds to individuals who were associated with violent extremist groups, including the Ku Klux Klan and the American Nazi Party. **Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche** said the SPLC is “manufacturing racism to justify its existence. It was manufacturing the extremism it purports to oppose by paying sources to stoke racial hatred.” **FBI Director Kash Patel** said they “lied to their donors, vowing to dismantle violent extremist groups, and actually turned around and paid the leaders of these very extremist groups.

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CABINET RESIGNATION. **Labor Secretary Lori Chavez-DeRemer** resigned April 20 amid a series of allegations of a toxic workplace, becoming the third member of President Trump's Cabinet to leave in two months. Her departure came after the agency's watchdog launched an investigation into allegations that she, top aides and family members sent personal messages and requests to young staff members to run a variety of personal errands. White House Communications Director Steven Cheung said Ms. Chavez-DeRemer is leaving “to take a position in the private sector.” and **Deputy Labor Secretary Keith Sonderling** will serve as acting secretary.

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AIRPORT RENAMING. After the Florida Legislature passed HB 919 – renaming Palm Beach International Airport – **Governor Ron DeSantis** signed it on April 1 to go into effect on July 1, when it becomes **Donald J. Trump International Airport**. The Trump name will appear on tickets, baggage claims, websites, and gate screens millions of times a year. The airport bill passed the Republican-controlled Legislature along party lines: 81-30 in the House and 25-11 in the Senate.

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TURN ABOUT IS FAIR PLAY. Every time Republicans complain about decisions made by activist judges, the Democrats defend them, saying they are only defending the law. Now the shoe seems to be on the other foot, because a Virginia judge has ruled that the state's redistricting referendum that voters approved by a close margin was invalid, nullifying the heavily favored Democrat results. And Virginia's Democrat Attorney General Jay Jones said he would immediately file an appeal, because “Virginia voters have spoken, and an activist judge should not have veto power over the people's vote.”

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APRIL PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS. Republican attorney Clayton Fuller on April 7 defeated Democrat Shawn Harris to win the special election runoff in Georgia's 14th Congressional District – replacing former GOP Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene. The race followed a March 10 election where no candidate reached the 50% threshold needed to secure an outright victory. The two-

leading vote-getters then advanced to a runoff. Greene vacated the seat after announcing last November that she would step down on January 5, 2026 – the day before the start of the 119th Congress.... And another special election was held in New Jersey’s 11th Congressional District on April 16 for the seat vacated by now Democrat Governor Mikie Sherrill, which was won by Democrat progressive activist Analilia Mejia over Republican former Mayor Joe Hathaway.

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FLORIDA SUPREME COURT. Effective July 1, the Florida Supreme Court unanimously selected John Couriel as its next Chief Justice, succeeding Carlos Muniz, who will remain on the bench as an Associate Justice. Couriel originally joined the High Court in 2020, after being appointed by Governor Ron DeSantis.

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JUDICIAL ACTIVISM. The “Potus Toast” website reported on April 13 that Chief Justice John Roberts offered a carefully worded scolding of President Trump – not actually mentioning his name but warning that personal attacks on judges are “dangerous” and insisted that kind of rhetoric “has got to stop.” It also said the judiciary has spent years expanding its reach into areas that many Americans believe should be handled by elected officials, and when judges start making decisions that impact national policy, trade, immigration, and executive authority, they are not operating in some untouchable bubble. They are stepping into the arena, and when that happens, criticism is inevitable. Trump called out Judge Boasberg as “nasty” and “crooked” after a controversial ruling involving the Federal Reserve investigation. He also blasted members of the Supreme Court, including so-called conservative justices, after they sided with liberals to strike down tariffs under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act. But judges are not kings, the website said, they are public servants with immense power and lifetime appointments. That combination demands accountability, not insulation. If Roberts wants to defend the integrity of the courts, he might consider focusing less on policing rhetoric and more on ensuring that judicial decisions stay grounded in the Constitution, not personal interpretation or political drift. Criticism, even when it is sharp, is part of the system. Trying to sanitize it will not make the judiciary stronger; it will just make it look out of touch.”

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U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL. President Trump announced on April 2 that **Pam Bondi** is “a great American patriot and a loyal friend” who has “faithfully served” as Attorney General, but then he ousted her from the position and replaced her temporarily with **Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche**, a former federal prosecutor. But highlighting what he characterized as key achievements during Bondi’s tenure, including a drop in murders to their lowest level since 1900 and her “tremendous job” overseeing what he called a “massive crackdown on crime,” he then said she “will be transitioning to a much needed and important new job in the private sector.” People familiar with the matter have said

Trump is considering **Environmental Protection Agency head Lee Zeldin** as a permanent AG pick.

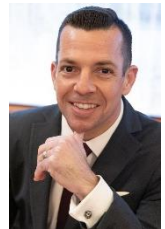
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PRESIDENT TRUMP. While Congress was involved with battling over funding for the Department of Homeland Security, which President Trump said made the U.S. less safe, he spoke in Miami at the Future Investment Initiative, a Saudi business conference, where he compared Democrats to the “lunatics” in Iran. Calling the Democrats “deranged,” he said “They’ve tried to completely eliminate funding for the number one duty of government, which is keeping America safe. And they want no ICE, they want to border patrol, they want no protection of any kind to be given; reopening our borders and stopping all immigration enforcement in our country.”

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Adam Guillette, the president of Accuracy in Media, told the Leadership Institute’s Wake Up Wednesday breakfast meeting on April 1 that his organization’s public education investigations led to enactment of universal school choice legislation in several states. AIM’s investigative skills, he added, also led to uncovering and ending DEI practices in schools. Using what Guillette called “cultural activism” targeted radicals in higher education as well, and he said that investigation continues of antisemitism practices on college campuses and K-12 education across the country. AIM uses “moral outrage,” he said, “to achieve political success.” In addition to his AIM position, he also serves as a Distinguished Faculty member for L.I., traveling around North America to help identify and train free-market activists.



AUDACITY AND IDIOCY

Here are this month’s “winners”:



--After the U.S. Congress passed President Trump’s “One Big Beautiful Bill” into law, relieving citizens of paying taxes on earned tips and overtime pay, four Blue State governors for audaciously refusing to accept the federal reprieve and ordering all of those earnings to be added to what is covered in state income tax. Adversely affected are citizens in Gavin Newsom’s California, Kathy Hochul’s New York, J.B. Pritzker’s Illinois and Jared Polis’ Colorado.

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--Unfunny Saturday Night Live anchor Michael Che, who voiced a reference to the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln during a Ford’s Theater production, for then noting that “President Trump attended the opening night of ‘Chicago’ at the Kennedy Center, and I think that’s cool that the president is going to the theater. I mean, what’s the worst that could happen?”

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--The Chicago Bullies NBA basketball team officials – excuse me, the Chicago Bulls – for dropping star shooting guard Jaden Ivey from the team for his “horrific” postings on social media. How “horrific”? Ivey actually affirmed his faith in Jesus Christ and his opposition to the NBA’s mandatory Gay Pride celebrations. The officials claimed that sharing his Biblical convictions was “conduct detrimental to the team.”
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--Indiana Judge Christian Klineman, a Democrat, for stunningly ruling that state law limiting the deaths of the unborn “violates religious freedoms by burdening the ability to obtain an abortion in accordance with their sincerely held beliefs.” Plaintiffs Hoosier Jews for Choice and the American Civil Liberties Union demanded the decision, and Klineman said, “There is significant public interest in ensuring the religious freedom of all citizens, and the state's position that religious freedom is somehow less important than other exceptions in the abortion law, puts the court in an untenable position and finds a permanent injunction the only proper relief.” It didn’t take long for Attorney General Todd Rokita to appeal the ruling, stating that “As we have with every challenge against our pro-life law, we’ll continue fighting to protect the lives of the unborn.”
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--The United Nations – an organization AKA “The Un-tied Nations” or “The Useless Nations” – for shamefully nominating the Islamic Republic of Iran – a country with strict sharia law that is noted for viciously repressing women – to the U.N. Committee for Program and Coordination, which meets to shape policy on women’s rights.

YOU CAN’T MAKE THIS UP



--Public campaign financing is a government program to broaden participation in the electoral system by providing funds to enable unconnected newbies to run for political office.

In New York State, that would allow the Public Campaign Finance Board to provide Republican gubernatorial candidate Bruce Blakeman \$7 million in campaign funds. But New York’s leftist Democrat controlled board is preparing to deny Blakeman the funds...because he did not include his running mate Todd Hood’s name on a form that doesn’t even exist yet. It just proves the board’s “real master” is New York’s Democrat perma-party.
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--The latest person to announce his candidacy for Governor of Vermont – Dean Roy, who has formed his own “centrist” political party – is a 14-year-old Stowe High School freshman and is set to be the youngest candidate to appear on a gubernatorial ballot in American history. Under Vermont’s Constitution, a gubernatorial candidate must have been a resident of the state for four years before the day of the election, but there is no minimum age requirement.

Roy said he will lower property taxes by taxing short-term rentals and large corporations, saving working families up to

14%, and his platform supports education reform, cutting 100+ school districts down to 5 to save \$100 million.
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--After the owner of Memory Gardens Cemetery in Contra Costa County, California sold a portion of his land to a Muslim family that planned to open a “Garden of Peace” Islamic memorial garden, the first thing the family did was drape a banner directly over the installation honoring the victims of 9/11, quoting the Quran with “Every soul will taste death.” To say the community was outraged beyond belief would be an under-statement. Justifiably, the banner was swiftly taken down.
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--Antoine Watson was found guilty in California of assault in the death of Vicha Tatanapakdee, an 84-year-old Asian man, but there was outrage when Superior Court Judge Linda Colfax sentenced him to eight years in prison and then suspended the entire sentence to release him on probation. Colfax is a Democrat who reportedly lives in San Francisco with her wife and children.
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--U.S. Marine Corps Corporal Andrew Paul Amarillas, an ammunition technician specialist at Camp Pendleton, California, had authorized access to restricted military weapons, explosives, and stockpiles of ammunition for nearly four years. He stole Javelin missiles and other weapons and sold them in Arizona. Now, he has been arrested and faces 25 years in federal prison, because investigators poured over inventory records and found that he had personally signed out the weapons – using his own name and own signature.

EXPERTS’ EXCERPTS



Former U.S. Ambassador Stanley Escudero, writing on complications with the Straits of Hormuz:

“At this point, I doubt that anyone knows precisely how the war with Iran will turn out. Both sides benefit from the current ceasefire, but that arrangement is by nature temporary and provides no basis for a final solution. Most of my readership knows that, based on my experience with Iran, I believe that no lasting negotiated settlement is possible with the current theocratic regime, regardless of who seems to lead it. Their religious convictions and political ambitions will compel them to lie, cheat, slaughter their own to retain power, and use aid from China and Russia to rebuild their missile and nuclear weapons programs as quickly as they can. A permanent acceptable outcome requires the total elimination of the theocracy, necessarily including whatever amount of additional destruction and killing is required, and its replacement by a moderate regime eager to function as a contributing member of the family of civilized nations. That may or may not happen. But timing is such that the conflict is nearing a tipping point. Among Iran’s demands for an end to the war is control of the Hormuz Straits and agreement that they will charge a fee for the passage of vessels through that strait. President

Trump once suggested that he might agree to such a thing if the U.S. shares the fee. He has since thought that through. The current conflict aside, the Straits are a natural waterway, meaning that they are a natural passage, bordered by two or more independent states. Settled international law guarantees free passage through such waterways as a basis of global seaborne trade. Should there be an agreement to change that law for the Straits of Hormuz, we could expect that the Houthis and Somalis which border the coasts of the Bab al-Mandab at the foot of the Red Sea would soon demand the same. This could easily be followed by Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore which border the strategic Straits of Malacca, or conceivably the Chinese regarding the South China Sea where they are already making moves, or even Spain and Morocco which abut the Straits of Gibraltar. Speculative, but not impossible in today's world. Happily, our President did not go that route. At present there is a ceasefire in place with further talks dependent on when Iran feels able to send a delegation to Pakistan to meet with ours. Both sides claim that the Straits are blockaded. We refuse to -permit passage for ships going to or from Iranian ports and they deny passage to any ship which they have not previously approved. Each side is attacking ships which violate their blockade. This leaves both sides with leverage, each gambling that they can outlast the other. But no oil or gas is being exported through the Straits and increased American and Venezuelan exports cannot meet the shortfall in global demand. Oil is priced globally. Everything depends on timing. President Trump is gambling that prevention of Iranian oil and gas exports, denying them 80% of their national income, will cause their oil wells and storage facilities to be shut in, making them inoperable, and leading to near-term economic collapse which will either bring down the regime or force them to accept our terms. Iran feels that the ceasefire is their victory and that they have the initiative as regards when negotiations will resume and how long they can drag them out. They see Trump driven by domestic pressure promoted by their lapdogs in the Democrat Party and sycophant media, as well as the resistance of a substantial percentage of the U.S. population to sacrifice now in return for the future benefit of a friendly non-nuclear Iran. Tehran also understands that several Republicans in both Houses of Congress fear for their seats in the coming elections and that they too favor a quick end to the conflict. The Iranians have concluded that they can ignore economic catastrophe and the suffering of their people long enough for Trump to have to give in to pressure from the coming midterms. They may be right. In my opinion Trump's unlimited ceasefire concedes the initiative to the theocracy, which has no incentive to meet our demands if they can avoid them as many of them understandably expect that any successor government would kill them. But if, as I anticipate, the Iranians delay returning to the table, President Trump still has the military card to play. I conclude that his best remaining choice is a colossal U.S./Israeli bombing assault on Iran, specifically targeting the IRGC and civilian leadership and continuing without let up until the regime falls and a successor, armed and advised by our professionals, assumes power and accepts our strategic objectives in prosecuting this war. This must happen very soon if Trump's economic benefits are to be felt in time to

avoid loss of one or both Houses by large numbers in November.



White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt, writing in the AMAC Magazine on the President's historic tax relief for working Americans and seniors:

“Throughout the country, millions of Americans are discovering something unusual this year. For the first time in a long time, tax season has been less painful – because President Donald Trump kept his word. President Trump's Working Families Tax Cuts, passed last year as part of the One Big Beautiful Bill, are delivering the largest middle- and working-class tax relief in American history. This isn't the usual empty rhetoric we hear from career politicians, It's measurable savings in the form of bigger refunds, bigger paychecks, and more money staying where it belongs – in the pockets of working Americans. During the 2024 campaign, President Trump promised to cut taxes on tips, overtime, and Social Security income. He promised targeted relief for seniors. He promised to protect families from the largest tax hike in history. Today, those promises are law thanks to his leadership. The new bonus deduction for seniors allows Americans age 65 and older to deduct an additional \$6,000 when filing taxes. For married households, where both spouses qualify, that's \$12,000 in extra deductions. Combined with existing deductions, this historic reform means that approximately 51 million older Americans – 88 percent of all seniors – will pay no federal income tax on their Social Security benefits. Importantly, the tax relief on Social Security is retroactive, meaning many seniors will receive money back for tax year 2025....Tipped workers can deduct up to \$25,000 in qualified tips. Approximately six million workers report tipped wages. For them, no federal income tax means more cash in hand....More than 60 percent of Americans work in occupations eligible for overtime, and roughly 20 million workers regularly receive overtime hours. Again, no federal tax withheld on overtime means more money back in the pockets of some of the hardest-working Americans....The Working Families Tax Cuts also protect what matters: Medicare is untouched. Medicaid is strengthened for pregnant women, children, seniors, people with disabilities, and low-income families. Meanwhile, waste, fraud, and abuse are eliminated....Perhaps most important of all is what the bill prevented – namely a \$4 trillion tax hike that would have occurred if the 2017 Trump tax cuts were allowed to expire at the end of last year. Every single major provision in the bill was a campaign promise the American people elected President Trump to deliver. After years of abstract policy debates that helped no one while working families fell further and further behind, President Trump, working hand-in-glove with congressional Republicans, finally delivered the real relief Americans had been demanding. The result is greater financial security for seniors and more opportunity for workers.... As the President so often says, ‘Promises Made, Promises Kept.’ And the results are showing up in mailboxes, bank accounts, and retirement statements nationwide.”

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“New York Post” political columnist Michael Goodwin, writing on condemning violence in Iran:

“Haters of Israel and President Trump, in the media and elsewhere, have a new rationale for their condemnation of America’s involvement in the Iran war. According to the latest blame-the-Jews bile, Trump was persuaded to attack the Islamist regime only by a deceptive “hard sell” from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Otherwise, we are supposed to believe that peace would be breaking out in the Middle East instead of yet another war. A chief peddler of this fable is, predictably, “The New York Times,” a font of misinformation and biased reporting about everything Trump, starting with the Russia, Russia, Russia hoax in his first term. The paper was also a leading proponent of the false claim that Israel committed genocide in Gaza and was intentionally starving children. It saw no evil either in Hamas or a murderous Ayatollah seeking nuclear weapons and is now combining its obsessions to push distorted allegations against Trump and Israel over Iran. The ‘evidence’ comes from two Times reporters who claim they got an exclusive view of a crucial February meeting of American and Israeli leaders.... Then came the conclusion that Trump was very interested in accomplishing two parts of Netanyahu’s presentation, described as ‘killing the Ayatollah and Iran’s top leaders and dismantling the Iranian military....Trump fully repudiated his predecessor by withdrawing from the nuclear agreement with Iran that Obama crafted. It involved a lifting of American sanctions and a shipment of pallets of cash to the mullahs, much of which was used to fund Hamas, Hezbollah, and other terror proxies in the region. Of course, the Times loved Obama’s deal, and denounced Trump for withdrawing from it. So its coverage of Trump’s policies now must be seen through that lens. Similarly, its hatred of Netanyahu does back years, and the paper supported the unsuccessful meddling by Obama and Joe Biden in Israeli elections that aimed to defeat Netanyahu. Its Iran coverage also conveniently overlooks how Trump’s 2024 opponent, then-Vice President Kamala Harris, whom the Gray Lady supported, even described herself as a hawk on Iran.... Leftist news organizations, including many newspapers, magazines, the major broadcast networks, and most cable outlets, fall in lockstep with its position.”



Florida District 32 State Representative Brian Hodgers, writing in “Florida Today” on what he learned during his first term in the State Legislature:

“When I first took the oath of office, I understood the responsibility of serving in the Florida Legislature – but I don’t think anyone fully grasps what the job entails until they are in it. This past term has been one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of my life, and it has given me a deeper appreciation for both the process of government and the people we serve. One of the first lessons I learned is that the legislative process is far more deliberate – and at times slower – than many people expect.

From the outside, it can seem like passing a bill should be straightforward. In reality, legislation must move through committees, undergo revisions, withstand scrutiny, and build consensus among members with diverse perspectives. That process can be frustrating, but it is essential. Good policy requires careful thought and refinement. I also learned that relationships matter just as much as ideas. No bill moves forward on its own merit alone. It takes collaboration with colleagues in both chambers, with staff, and with people across the state who are affected by the policy. Building trust and maintaining open communication often makes the difference between a bill that stalls and one that succeeds. Two of the most meaningful accomplishments from my first term reflect different sides of effective policymaking – solving technical challenges while also creating opportunities for the future.... Working on bills reinforced an important lesson: effective governance happens in both the technical details and the long-term investments we make in people. Some policies improve systems behind the scenes, while others help shape future opportunities. Both matter. Another lesson from my first term is that listening is critical. Some of the best insights I gained came not from within the Capitol, but from conversations back home – with constituents, business owners, and families. Those conversations help ensure that legislation reflects real-world needs. Serving in the Legislature also comes with real personal sacrifice. Time in Tallahassee means time away from my family and from my business and team who depend on me. That is not something I take lightly. But it has reinforced for me that public service is a commitment – and one that is worth it when you see the impact this work can have on people’s lives. I’ve also come to appreciate the importance of balancing competing priorities. Every decision has trade-offs, and every bill affects different groups in different ways. The responsibility of a legislator is to weigh those impacts carefully and make decisions that serve the broader good. Perhaps the most humbling realization is that public service is ultimately about accountability. The people we represent expect us to show up, do the work, and make decisions that improve their lives – and that responsibility doesn’t end when session adjourns. Looking back on my first term, I’m proud of what we accomplished, but I’m even more aware of how much there is still to do. The experience has reinforced my commitment to approaching this role with seriousness, humility, and a focus on results. Serving in the Legislature has given me a front-row seat to how policy is shaped and how progress is made. It is not always fast or easy — but when it works, it makes a real difference. That’s what makes the work worth doing.”

THOUGHTS TO PONDER

“Democrats are the party of defund the police, defund homeland security and defund the border. They are the party of abortion on demand. They are the party of child mutilation and taxpayer-funded sex change operations for illegal aliens and prison inmates. They are the party of men in women’s sports and boys in girls’ bathrooms. They are a party at war with normalcy and every value that defines America.”

--**Family Research Council President Gary Bauer**, on what the Democrat Party stands for
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“President Donald Trump could have grounds to expunge his 2019 impeachment in the House after bombshell new evidence revealed the intelligence community failed to disclose that his main accuser had the potential for bias, made a false statement and only had hearsay to back up his allegations. It would be an interesting, novel approach for Trump to go to Chief Justice John Roberts, who presided over the case, or Congress and ask for the impeachment to be reversed because the defense team was denied the right to confront his accusers with exculpatory evidence. It's never been done. I don't see any reason why it couldn't be done. Impeachment is a quasi-judicial procedure, whether you have to go back to Congress and ask them to expunge it or go to the courts.”

--**Harvard Law Professor Emeritus Alan Dershowitz**, on the impeachment that failed to convict the president
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“Crosley Green is an inmate at Tomoka Correctional Institution, a few miles west of Daytona International Speedway.... He deserves freedom, and he deserves it now. What I will say, as a former prosecutor, is that because the evidence was so glaringly weak and contradictory, it makes a mockery of the ‘guilty beyond a reasonable doubt’ standard. Intransigent bureaucratic blundering by the Florida Commission on Offender Review concerning Mr. Green’s parole eligibility adds salt to the wound. I have never met Mr. Green, but I don’t doubt for a minute his innocence. He has suffered enough through such compounded travails. The injustice should weigh heavily on the conscience of all clear-minded citizens. All that is being asked is that he be set free. No pointing of fingers is necessary. If the State were to release him but offer no funding for his elder years, his family would likely have success at raising funds through a GoFundMe page. But first he needs to be set free.”

--**Vice Chairman of the Canaveral Port Authority Fritz Van Volkenburgh**, writing in “Florida Today” about the man sentenced years ago to life imprisonment for a murder crime he did not commit

UPCOMING BREVARD COUNTY EVENTS

- May 1: Federated Republican Women in Action Memaw’s BBQ, Palm Bay, 11 am.
- May 6: Brevard Federated Republican Women meeting, Space Coast Convention Center, Cocoa, 11:30 am.
- May 7: Heritage Isle Republican Club meeting, Clubhouse, 10 am.
- May 11: Space Coast Patriots meeting, Merritt Island

library, 6 pm.

- May 19: North Brevard Republican Club meeting, the North Brevard Shrine Hall, Titusville, 6:30 pm.
- May 21: Republican Women’s Club of Brevard meeting, Suntree Country Club, 11 am.
- May 21: Space Coast Young Republicans meeting, Whiskey Business, Melbourne, 6:30 pm.
- May 21: Florida Republican Assembly Brevard meeting, 705 Harrison Avenue, Titusville, 6:30 pm.
- May 23: Space Coast Republican Club meeting, Red Lobster, Merritt Island, 11:30 am.
- May 25: Ronald Reagan Club meeting, Oceanside Community Church, Satellite Beach, 6 pm.
- May 26: Republican Liberty Caucus of Brevard meeting, Italian American Club Melbourne, 7pm.

Brevard Republican Executive Committee – to be determined

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 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.

COMICAL CLOSERS



April Fool’s Day at the beginning of this month was canceled this year – because no one was able to come up with a prank to match the crazy things that are going on in the world right now.

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