



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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LATEST REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE FEATURED JUST FOUR CANDIDATES

By Space Coast Tusk Editor Stuart Gorin

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK:

MY TWO CENTS

By Stuart Gorin

Not even a broken foot from an unexpected fall several days before boarding, kept me from enjoying a pre-Christmas Caribbean cruise this month, although I did use a walker to get around the cruise ship and one of the ports of call.

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When it comes to pot, President Biden apparently thinks about it a lot – so much so, that for this Christmas, he has issued a nationwide blanket pardon for any American “arrested, prosecuted, or convicted on federal charges for marijuana use.” His explanation was, “I am pardoning additional individuals who may continue to experience the unnecessary collateral consequences of a conviction for simple possession of marijuana, attempted simple possession of marijuana, or use of marijuana.”

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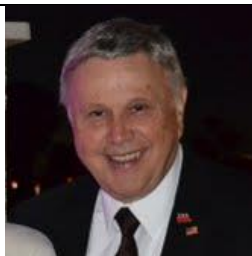
The “Voice of America,” our nation’s government-funded news agency – for which the Editor worked early in his career – has reversed an earlier ruling, and now allows journalists to call Hamas “terrorists.” After previously saying such terminology was “against fairness standards,” VOA said it had gone back and reviewed its guidebook, and realized that it did not, in fact, forbid using the term. Struggling on several fronts over how to cover the Israel-Hamas war, VOA had suffered severe criticism for its previous directive. In the new memo, VOA officials pointed out that those who engage in acts of terror “are, by definition, ‘terrorists,’ so the term is safe to use in this context.”

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A writer for PJ Media has come up with an amusing nickname for the nation’s First Lady – “Jillery.”

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More Two Cents next month.



The number of candidates participating in the December 6 Republican Presidential Debate held in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, dwindled down to four, and they used the two-hour session to battle one another – attacking their opponents over U.S. foreign policy and on personalities.

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, former U.N. Ambassador and South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley, former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie and biotech tycoon Vivek Ramaswamy participated.



DeSantis noted his strong 2022 re-election victory margin, and immediately attacked Haley as someone who “caves” under pressure, is “soft” on transgender issues, has become wealthy since leaving public service, and has “gone out of her

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way” to cozy up to China to encourage investments. He also brought up some new policy proposals, such as his belief that student loans should be underwritten by colleges themselves. And asked whether former **President Donald Trump** is “mentally fit to serve” again, DeSantis said that Republicans need to elect a fresher face who can serve two terms. He also criticized Trump for not “cleaning up ‘the swamp’” and not having Mexico pay for a wall on the southern border.

Haley pushed back on comments about her wealth and said there was a need to “end all normal trade relations with China in response to the fentanyl epidemic.” She also said it was “not worth my time” to respond to an attack from Ramaswamy, who held up a piece of paper on which he had written that “Nikki = corrupt.” She added that he was “not a serious candidate.” At the end of the debate, Haley told her rivals: “I love all of the attention, fellas, thank you for that.” According to recent polls. She heads into the Iowa caucuses neck-and-neck with DeSantis for second place.

Ramaswamy also said the 2020 election “was indeed stolen, by big tech,” while maintaining a hint of vagueness as to exactly what he meant. He accused his three debate opponents of “licking Trump’s boots for years for money and endorsements” and said “the real enemy is not Donald Trump. It’s not even Joe Biden. It’s the Deep State that Trump at least attempted to take on.” And he said that Christie ought to leave the debate stages and “get a nice meal and get out of this race.”

In retaliation, Christie contended that Ramaswamy was “the most obnoxious blowhard in America.” And speaking of Trump, who currently leads in public opinion polls but has elected not to participate in the debates, Christie said he was not “fit” to serve again and suggested that he did not have “the guts” to show up. And contending that DeSantis was guilty of “evasiveness” on the question of whether he would send U.S. troops to try to rescue hostages held by Hamas.

All four candidates said they would uphold the United States’ commitment to defend Taiwan if China acts on its threat to invade the island nation.

The debate moderators were Megyn Kelly of Sirius XM, Elizabeth Vargas of NewsNation, and Eliana Johnson of the Washington Free Beacon.



One night before the debate, Trump participated in a one-on-one session on Fox News with host Sean Hannity and said that if re-elected, on his first day in office, he wanted to “close the border, and drill, drill, drill” for oil. “And probably on day two,” he added, “we will get rid of this ridiculous electric car mandate.”

On energy, he also claimed that U.S. Climate envoy John Kerry is laughed at by people “all over the world” as he ushes to get rid of coal plants.

Going into the upcoming 2024 Iowa Caucuses, Trump said he

had two big victories there when he ran in 2016 and 2020, and he expects this time to win by even more. He added that he plans to spend the weeks leading up to the caucus “blitzing” the state.



Asked about President Biden’s “cognitive state” and concerns about his age and health as he runs for re-election, Trump suggested that the current president, who is backed up by the media, “doesn’t know he’s alive,” and “I don’t think he can physically make it through another term.”

Likening himself to the infamous gangster Al Capone, and talking about the slew of criminal indictments he currently faces, Trump – who has pled not guilty in all of them – said Capone was “one of the greatest of all time, if you like criminals. He was a mob boss who got indicted once. I got indicted four times. I wonder what my father and mother would say looking down.”

FLORIDA, CALIFORNIA GOVERNORS’ “NO HOLDS BARRED” RED-BLUE DEBATE

It was not an officially sanctioned political debate, but there were plenty of fireworks on the Fox News Channel on November 30 when moderator Sean Hannity hosted a 90-minute contest between **Florida Republican Governor Ron DeSantis** and his California Democrat counterpart Gavin Newsom.



Billed as a 90-minute “Great Red State Vs. Blue State” debate held outside Atlanta in Alpharetta, Georgia – with no audience in attendance – the two men stood in front of their respective red and blue backgrounds and clashed over issues including COVID-19, education, crime, LGBTQ rights, wokeness, immigration, and abortion. They constantly interrupted conversations, talking over one another, and each called the other “a bully.”

DeSantis accused his counterpart of not lifting a finger to reign in George Gascon, Los Angeles’ Soros-supported progressive prosecutor. And he held up a blotted map of San Francisco that he said showed how many incidents of human feces that been reported in the city. But, DeSantis added, “They cleaned it up when a communist dictator came to town to visit.”

He also showed graphic images from woke children's books, saying it is in some of the schools in California, and calling it pornography, and said that Newsom's policies like COVID-19 restrictions have driven people out of California, making him "the first governor to ever lose population." Seeking to tie Newsom to the Biden-Harris administration, DeSantis called that agenda "on steroids."

A highpoint for DeSantis was to recall a conversation he said he had with a man who had recently fled to Florida from California, noting that his new state was safer, and had lower taxes and a better governor. That man, DeSantis said with a smile, was "Newsom's father-in-law."

Newsom called DeSantis' signing of a six-week abortion ban "too extreme," and said he did not like the way his opponent demeans the LGBTQ community. Referring to the Republican presidential primary race, he noted that the Floridian was lagging behind former President Trump by 40 points. He criticized DeSantis for retaliating against Disney for opposing his parental rights bill, saying "Ask the folks at Disney about freedom and free enterprise."

Newsom also called his opponent "a lockdown governor" and accused him of supporting amnesty for illegals, as well as giving Joe Biden an "A" grade for doing just fine as president. Defending "Bidenomics," he claimed that Biden has created 14 million jobs – ten times more than the last three Republican presidents combined. And he claimed that there were actually more Floridians moving to California than vice versa, which even the media debunked in the past. On the subject of violent crime, he skirted responsibility for his state's abysmal record by instead drawing attention to the 2018 Parkland High School mass shooting in Florida, which actually occurred one year before DeSantis took office.

What both governors -- who have had a long-running rivalry since early 2020 – have in common is that they're positioning themselves as the next generation of leadership for their respective parties.

DeSantis has much higher stakes as a Republican presidential candidate, and he positioned himself as the leader of a state nationally considered as a beacon to conservative policies, with low taxes, less gun restrictions and a focus on parental rights in education.

Newsom, although he has been widely considered to be a key 2028 Democrat presidential figure, staunchly defended California on the debate stage, and tied the conversation to the 2024 presidential race. He had the opportunity to boost his national image by showing he was unafraid of fighting for a Democratic platform, going into a debate moderated by a conservative talk show host on a right-wing network.

Hannity repeatedly said he wanted a "free-flowing – and at times raucous – debate, and that is what he got. After the 90-minute time frame, he asked the pair whether they wanted to continue for another half-hour, and both agreed. But he soon announced that was not happening.

A DeSantis source who was backstage, as well as other sources on the ground not affiliated with either campaign, said Newsom's wife, Jennifer Siebel Newsom, had walked onto the stage during the last commercial break, and ended the debate on behalf of her husband. But subsequently, Newsom advisers refuted that claim, contending that personnel affiliated with both governors reached a consensus on the decision.



POLITICAL JOTTINGS AND DOTTINGS

--The All-Democrat Colorado Supreme Court alleged by a 4-3 margin on December 16 that former President Donald Trump "engaged in insurrection" on January 6, 2021 by inciting a crowd to storm the U.S. Capitol building, and ruled that he was disqualified to appear on the state's primary election ballot. The ruling – enforced by Justices Monica Marquez, William Hood, Richard Gabriel and Melissa Hart – was roundly criticized by political observers, constitutional academics, Republicans (including Trump's opponents), and even some Democrats. A ruling on the matter by the U.S. Supreme Court is expected shortly.

Meanwhile, on December 27, the Michigan Supreme Court -- in an unsigned order with no vote count being released -- announced it had rejected an attempt to remove Trump from its state's 2024 ballot.

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--According to "The Washington Times," a survey conducted by the Heartland Institute and Rasmussen Reports has discovered that 21 percent of U.S. voters who used mail-in ballots – about 43 percent of the total votes cast in the United States in the 2020 presidential election – have admitted to committing voter fraud. They told the pollsters they filled out a ballot, in part or in full, for a friend or family member. Others said they voted in a state where they no longer lived permanently. These actions are illegal in all states, and if caught, those ballots would have been invalidated. "For the past three years, Americans have repeatedly been told that the 2020 election was the most secure in history. But if this poll's findings are reflective of reality, the exact opposite is true," said Justin Haskins, director of the Socialism Research Center at the Heartland Institute. "This conclusion isn't based on conspiracy theories or suspect evidence, but rather from the responses made directly by the voters themselves."

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--Republican events next month are the Iowa caucuses on January 15, and the New Hampshire Presidential Primary on January 23.

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--The razor-thin Republican majority in the U.S. House of Representatives got even thinner on December 1, when more than two-thirds of the entire body voted to expel New York Republican Congressman George Santos, who is facing federal indictment on 23 counts of wire fraud, identity theft, other

campaign finance charges, and who fabricated his biography while on the campaign trail. Santos only served 11 months in office, and 105 Republicans joined nearly all of the House Democrats in a 311-114 expulsion vote. He becomes the sixth House member in history ever to be ousted – three during the Civil War for being disloyal to the Union, and two others for being convicted of crimes. While Santos is facing 23 criminal counts on allegations that he misled donors, fraudulently received unemployment benefits and charging his donors' credit cards without authorization, has pleaded not guilty to all charges and is set to go to trial in September 2024. More than a dozen candidates are already campaigning in New York to succeed him. There will be a special election called in Santos' toss-up district, probably early in 2024.

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--After announcing his presidential bid as "a business leader and proven governor's voice to the fight for the best of America," **Republican North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum** said on December 4 he was suspending his campaign after failing to gain traction in the crowded field.

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--In an interview with CBS, the "alleged Republican" Utah Senator, former Massachusetts Governor and unsuccessful Presidential candidate Willard "Mittens" Romney said that next year he will be happy to vote for a Democrat for President if he does not like the Republican nominee. Remember the role he played in the Trump impeachments. And to think we once campaigned for Mittens. Meanwhile, an unnamed writer at www.prudentpolitics.com said this remark threw the entire Republican Party into "chaos." According to the website, a spokesperson for the Trump campaign dismissed Romney's opinion as irrelevant, saying, "Voters aren't going to take advice from a loser and quitter like Mittens." Romney's own record is not exactly stellar. The website noted that he was a failed presidential candidate in 2012, and his time as governor was marked by high taxes and wasteful spending. He also is a flip-flopper who has changed his position on numerous issues, including abortion, same-sex marriage, and gun control. The website added that this sort of attitude is harmful to Republican candidates, and right now the Republican Party needs to be focused on defeating Joe Biden and saving America, but Romney does not seem to agree.

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--The Democrat Party of Florida has cancelled its presidential preference primary election scheduled for March 19, 2024, and approved only President Joe Biden as its candidate for re-election in November.

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--Following calls that surged for University of Pennsylvania President Liz Magill to resign over her congressional testimony concerning rising antisemitism on college campuses in wake of the Hamas attack on Israel, she voluntarily stepped down, but will remain on the school's faculty.

LET ME BE FRANK

By Space Coast Tusk Designer
Frank Montelione



Some of you may remember the science fiction series, "The Outer Limits."

Recently I have been watching the series on a streaming service and came across an episode entitled "O.B.I.T., Outer Band Individuated Teletracer" a mysterious electronic device that tunes in on the different wavelengths of the human body. No one knew who invented it nor how many have been replicated and distributed around the world.

The premise was that aliens had planted these devices so that they could manipulate the behavior of human beings. The climax has the alien exposed and he says: "The machines are everywhere. Oh, you'll find them all. And you'll make a great show of smashing a few of them, but for everyone you destroy, hundreds of others will be built. And they'll demoralize you, break your spirits, create such rips and such tensions in your society that no one will be able to repair them.... And when we come here to live.... you friendless, demoralized flotsam will fall without even a single shot being fired."

This episode is so prophetic that it is here. Alien technology being used by a foreign government, manipulating our society and leaders, Senate investigations, stonewalling, this episode had it all. O.B.I.T. is today better known as SOCIAL MEDIA.

As I'm watching, it was obvious that we could substitute the O.B.I.T. machine for China and Russian controlled TikTok, YouTube, Instagram, Snapchat, and Pinterest. I doubt that the writer of this episode in 1963 knew that it was a future that is now here.

Our universities, when surveyed, found that a large percentage of their staff identified as liberal and have a bent towards Socialism. "...you will fall without firing a shot." No need to, we have our youth being programmed by our adversaries and the complicit universities espousing the views of these rogue nations. That is how they are taking over "without firing a shot."

According to the "New York Post," since President Biden's inauguration, Penn has received more than \$50 million in foreign funding, including more than \$14 million in anonymous gifts from China and Hong Kong. That's on top of the more than \$60 million Penn received since the Biden Center launched in 2017. ABC news reports that American universities and colleges have received billions of dollars from foreign countries and adversaries. Three of the top five countries that have pumped money into higher education in the U.S. are China, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia.

What really drove this home to me was an article in the

“Jerusalem Post” picked up by some news media, reporting that “Young Americans: Jews are ‘oppressors’, and calls for genocide not being hate speech.” More than half of young Americans said the long-term answer for the conflict is for “Israel to be ended and given to Hamas” By Jerusalem Post Staff, December 17, 2023.

Two-thirds (about 67 percent) of young Americans between the ages of 18-24 believe that Jews as a class are oppressors and should be treated as oppressors, according to a new poll conducted by Harris Insights and Analytics and Harvard University’s Center for American Political Studies (CAPS).

Lately we have had Congress calling university presidents to testify as to the violent antisemitism being allowed on their campuses. They had been well coached by attorneys. Each of them mimicked the statement of Harvard president, Claudine Gay, “it depends on the context” of genocide, “From the River To The Sea” or as David Litman said “was unable or unwilling to state the obvious: Calls for the genocide of Jews should not be welcome on college campuses. Fortunately for Gay, the Harvard Corporation fellows turned out to be equally incapable of leadership and her job was saved.”

The presidents of MIT, U Penn, Harvard, and many other universities have echoed the same sentiments. Some have retracted or amended their statements. Too little, too late. Some have been fired, some resigned but Harvard, even in the face of obvious plagiarism by Gay, decided to retain her as president.

Some Ivy League Universities have lost hundreds of thousands in donations. Harvard’s inaction on Claudine Gay has cost them billions of dollars in donations.

In 2016 the Clinton Campaign distributed the “Steele Dossier” which proved to be a fabrication trying to show that Trump was a Russian puppet. Many believed that is factual and many in the mainstream media swore by it. Young voters receiving their news from social media believed it. Some have still not admitted they were duped. A Democrat-controlled Congress used it to pass an impeachment charge.



US News and World Report in an article posted stated the issue saying “... social media algorithms feed us more of the same type of content that we previously viewed and liked, further reinforcing our positions. Yet if we only listen to and believe what we want to hear and dismiss what we don’t, we inevitably nurture a one-sided perspective and, slowly but surely, we’ll start to lose sight of the bigger picture.”

Social media “influencers” spread false information and is being taken at face value with no fact checking by many who have become addicted to social media. “With fake news and rumors easily shared across various social media platforms, people are often misguided, leading to confusion, distrust, and

chaos. The spread of misinformation can also harm democratic processes and public trust in institutions.” (Soniya Roy Internet Marketing Consultant at DigiTech). Pew Research reports that young adults ages 18-29 are most likely to regularly get news from TikTok.

More of TikTok.... U.S. adult users are getting news there as well. 43% of TikTok users say they regularly get news on the site.



The latest reiteration of O.B.I.T. is BeReal. It is a French photo-sharing social media platform developed by Alexis Barreyat and Kevin Perreau and released in 2020. The app targets college students. Once a day the app notifies you that it’s time to post your Be Real for the day. There are no filters and no explanations as to what the user is posting. Friends on the app are notified of the posting.

U.S. PIRG Education Fund found that 8 in 10 Americans get their news on digital devices – beating out TV, radio or print. 53% of Americans get at least some of their news from social media. Twitter, Facebook, and TikTok have all become pseudo-news platforms.

As the Outer Limits episode said, the machines are everywhere. Congress has been debating for years about how to control social media and has no answers. Pandora’s Box has been opened. The genie is out of the bottle, and, at this point, there is no putting it back in.

THE BREC CORNER

By Chairman Rick Lacey



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed time with family, time in prayer and time enjoying life in the greatest country in history. 2024 will be a major test of our ability as Americans to keep the U. S. the greatest country. It will be up to us to live up to the principles set forth by our forefathers.

Brevard Republicans will be called on once again to be leaders in electing qualified, common sense conservative government for our County, our State and our Nation. I know that I can count on you to join me in this cause, and I can’t wait to get started. Our next meeting will be January 11. I hope to see everyone healthy and ready for action. As we say goodbye to 2023, I want to thank everyone who donated to our Toys for Kids project. As always, Brevard Republicans were generous. In fact, even after supplying toys to area charitable groups, we gave extra toy



donations. So, I have decided that BREC will host a Christmas in July event this summer to identify and distribute these extra toys to disadvantaged families on July 25, 2024. Details will be forthcoming.

Our 2023 Christmas-Hanukkah Dinner event was a huge success. Special thanks to Thomas and Salvi George and their team for organizing this special evening. Everyone enjoyed great food, music, and fun as we celebrated all of our successes in 2023. Congrats to all of the winners of the door prizes and the 50-50 drawing.

Finally, I want to thank Vice Chair Cindy Roberts for conducting a great meeting in December while I enjoyed a special evening at Mar-a-Lago, along with a private meeting with President Donald Trump!



Looking forward to great victories in 2024!



MAYFIELD MINUTE
By Florida District 19
State Senator Debbie Mayfield

Florida played a critical role in World War II as the federal government relied on our State's residents and resources. Historians have stated over 250,000 Floridians volunteered or were drafted into the military for World War II. New military bases were

established or expanded as non-Floridians migrated to the state by the tens of thousands. Many soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen, and nurses who trained or served in Florida later returned to the state as visitors or as new residents driving the state's economic rebound. This in-migration was reflected in a 46.1 percent increase in Florida's population from the 1940s to the 1950s.

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Florida Governor Ron DeSantis will deliver his 6th "State of the State" address to members of the state Senate and the House of Representatives on Tuesday, January 9 at 11:00 a.m.

View the address at www.thefloridachannel.org.

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DeSantis has released his 2024-25 \$114.4 billion "Focus on Florida's Future" budget recommendations. The highlights include: \$1.1 billion in tax breaks, with six sales-tax holidays to save residents on fall and spring Back-to-School supplies, two disaster preparedness holidays, a 3-month Freedom Summer sales tax exemption, and a 7-day Tool Time sales tax holiday; \$745 million for Everglades restoration efforts and \$157 million to brace against rising sea levels and to protect

coral reefs; \$14.5 billion for transportation projects with \$630 million for the second year of the \$7 billion "Moving Florida Forward" program affecting 20 projects across the state; \$109 million to replenish the My Safe Florida Home program to help residents make home improvements to reduce insurance premiums; \$87 million to upgrade correctional facilities and \$100 million to harden the state's cybersecurity framework; \$57 million for the Florida State Guard and \$157 million for the second year of upgrades at Camp Blanding; \$27.8 billion for public schools and voucher programs and a \$200 million increase for teacher pay; and \$6 million for the Alzheimer's Disease Initiative and \$15 million for increased community care and home care for the elderly.

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In preparation for the opening of the 2024 Florida State Legislature, Senate Committees have been working on proposed bills, including Bill 196, to remove burdensome restrictions on regional economic development organizations and increase access to rural development funding; Bill 226, to urge the U.S. Congress to expand the Florida National Guard's Force Allocation; and Bill 66, to create "Victoria's Law" to raise awareness of the dangers of opioid addiction and the availability of medical treatments to reverse the effects of opioid overdose.

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The state of Florida recently announced it is holding unclaimed property totaling over \$2.9 billion. Unclaimed property is defined as a financial asset that is unknown or lost, or has been left inactive, unclaimed, or abandoned by its owner. Examples include Dormant bank accounts; Unclaimed insurance proceeds, stocks, and dividends; Uncashed checks, deposits, credit balances, and refunds; and Contents from abandoned safe deposit boxes in financial institutions.

Unclaimed property assets are held by business or government entities for a set period of time, usually five years. If the holder is unable to locate, re-establish contact with the owner and return the asset, it is reported and remitted to the Florida Department of Financial Services, Division of Unclaimed Property.

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The business rent tax (BRT) imposed on Florida businesses renting or leasing commercial property was reduced from 5.5 to 4.5 percent on December 1. The one percent reduction represents \$216 million in savings for business owners. Florida ranks as one of the most business-friendly climates in the nation, yet the burden of the BRT has left many small and mid-sized businesses at a competitive disadvantage.

The Florida Chamber of Commerce has been at the forefront in advocacy against the BRT over the last six years. In 2021, Senate Bill 50 passed and was signed into law by Governor DeSantis. SB 50 will reduce the BRT to two percent after the unemployment trust fund is replenished to pre-pandemic levels.

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Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody has reminded parents to protect children online by monitoring their activities on mobile phones and implementing parental control measures. She said 95 percent of teenagers have a smartphone, as do 43 percent of children ages 8-12. Online predators and traffickers, Moody added, use mobile apps and social media to target children. She is offering online safety tips for parents to protect children from digital drug dealers, sexual predators and human traffickers.

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The 2023 Atlantic Hurricane Season ended on November 30 and while the season produced 20 named storms, only one significantly impacted Florida. Hurricane Idalia, a strong Category 3 storm made landfall on the Big Bend Gulf coast near Keaton Beach in Taylor County on August 30. The storm caused flooding, downed power lines, and over \$447 million in agricultural losses.

Much of the state was fortunate this hurricane season but it is always prudent to be well prepared before, during, and after a catastrophe.

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The 2023 sea turtle nesting season (March 1st thru October 31) in Indian River County has set a new record with 12,771 nests, easily surpassing the 2022 count of 9,242 nests.

The annual nesting season is comprised of three distinct sea turtle species, leatherbacks, loggerheads, and green sea turtles. Experts report each turtle can lay up to six nests per season with each nest holding 80-120 eggs.

In 2023, loggerhead sea turtles, the most common in the area, created 8,639 nests, a 15 percent increase from last year; green sea turtles, known for consuming seagrass, have increased by 55 percent from their previous record in 2017, laying 4,105 nests; and leatherback sea turtles, the largest species, have laid 27 nests, a decrease from the 101 nests in 2022.

Conservation efforts are critical to support the sea turtles' long migrations which can span thousands of miles before returning to their birth beaches for nesting. Experts confirm that it can take 20-30 years for a turtle to mature enough for egg-laying.

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Lightcast, a global leader in labor data analytics, released its 2023 Talent Attraction Scorecard, ranking Florida as the Number 1 state attracting and developing workforce talent. Ranking criteria includes job growth, education attainment, regional competitiveness, and migration data.

“It is no surprise that Lightcast has named Florida the number one state for talent attraction for two consecutive years,” said Governor DeSantis. “Florida’s record investments in workforce education, including expanding apprenticeships and on the job training programs in high demand professions, have elevated business and industry through strong workforce development.”

THE VIEW FROM MY OFFICE

By Florida District 8 State Senator
Tom Wright



I have been extremely busy the past month with finishing Interim Committee Weeks, attending meetings and events across the district and celebrating the holiday times.

In December, the Florida Legislature successfully completed our final two Interim Committee Weeks before the start of the 2024 Legislative Session on January 9. A great accomplishment of these two weeks in Tallahassee was being able to begin moving my initial pieces of legislation for the upcoming Session through their first committees of reference. I am looking forward to returning in January to continue moving my bills along the legislative process and to continue working hard to bring back much needed state funding for a variety of great local projects.

A very somber, but special moment in Tallahassee this month, was the funeral of Major John L. Haynes. Major Haynes was a 30 year decorated Veteran of the United States Marine Corps, who followed his military service with nearly 50 years of continuous service and volunteer work supporting his fellow Veterans. Major Haynes helped champion some of my most impactful legislation, like the Alternative Treatment for Veterans bill that I successfully passed in 2019. This man was a dedicated Veteran who fought hard for the needs of other former service members and someone who I could not be more honored to call a friend.

On December 19, I had the wonderful opportunity to attend a panel discussion on Hope Florida with House Speaker Paul Renner, Florida Department of Veterans Executive Director General James Hartsell, Department of Elder Affairs Secretary Michelle Branham and others. Hope Florida was spearheaded by First Lady Casey DeSantis and implemented by the Florida Department of Children and Families.

The main focus of the program is to help those families most in need through Hope Navigators that can bring together private sector, faith-based community organizations, nonprofits and government entities to break down traditional community silos, in an effort to maximize resources and uncover opportunities.

The main purpose of this roundtable discussion was to explain how this incredible program is being expanded to assist vulnerable individuals within our Veteran community. Too often, many Veterans may not be receiving the help they need just because they do not know about the correct resource. Hope Navigators can solve these issues by putting Veterans directly in contact with the organizations that can provide them the assistance that may be desperately needed. Should any Veteran you know be in the need of assistance they can contact a Hope Navigator by phone at 850-300-4673 or by going to [hopeflorida.com](https://www.hopeflorida.com)

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas you'd like to share, please don't hesitate to reach out at 386-304-7630 or by email at wright.tom@flsenate.gov. My office is always here to fight for you and listen to the concerns you have. Your input is invaluable as we work together to build a stronger and more vibrant Space Coast.

RENDEZVOUS WITH REPUBLICAN WOMEN



**Brevard
Federated
Republican
WOMEN**

**By BFRW Corresponding
Secretary Xiaoqi Wang**

The Brevard Federated Republican Women's December 6 lunch meeting featured

Brevard County Public Defender Blaise Trettis as guest speaker, whose topic was "The Political Persecution of President Donald J. Trump."

Trettis explained the Court cases pending against Trump, saying the fraud civil case brought by New York's Attorney General Letitia James is a political prosecution; she ran for and won office on the promise to get Trump. "The job of a prosecutor is not to get anybody," he said, "the job is to do justice."



James' case is based on the argument that Trump overstated the value of his properties in order to get favorable loan rates and the judge has agreed. Trettis believes that's an issue between the banks and the President and that no bank has complained and the loans all paid back. The trial is now in its penalty phase, and James is reportedly seeking \$250 million in penalties and a ban on Trump doing business in New York. If the judge's ruling is upheld, Trump and his company will be forced to pay a fine and sell properties in New York, including Trump Tower, a suburban estate, golf courses and a Wall Street office building. Trettis believes that James has weaponized our legal system for ideological and partisan purposes and, in doing so, threatens to destroy our legal system.

The NY falsifying records case, he said, is a "ridiculous" criminal action against Trump in Manhattan. He has been indicted by Democratic Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg for allegedly falsifying business records after a grand jury probe into alleged hush money paid to porn star Stormy Daniels. Trettis believes these charges are political. The crime charged is a misdemeanor, and even if true, Trump cannot be convicted because the two-year statute of limitations expired long ago. Trettis said that the charges are shocking, blatant punishment for Trump daring to seek reelection.

The Georgia RICO case, Trettis said, brought by Fulton County Georgia District Attorney Fani Willis, alleges that Trump violated Georgia's RICO Act, which is based on a

federal law designed to take down the Mob, for questioning the legitimacy of the outcome of the 2020 election in Georgia. Trettis said that Willis also brought the same charges against 18 of Trump supporters and lawyers, and that she is criminalizing the practice of law in support of Republicans.

Trettis also said that House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jim Jordan has initiated an inquiry into the alleged collusion between Fani Willis and the partisan January 6 Select Committee to determine whether the politically motivated prosecutions are relying on records obtained from the January 6 Select Committee. He said that collusion between Willis and the Select Committee would be a violation of Trump's due process rights and Willis' obligation as a Prosecutor to disclose all materials relied upon in prosecuting him. He also said that Jordan may expose collusion between Prosecutor Willis, federal officials and the Select Committee.

The classified documents case is based on the FBI's raid on Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate. The Justice Department alleges that President Trump violated the law by taking classified official Presidential records from the White House. Trettis said that there is a double standard and, since classified documents from Vice President Biden's office were found at his office and home, the charges against Trump must be politically motivated. Trettis added that Trump has had some modest success in this case; U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon has pushed back several deadlines for filing and responding to pretrial motions, giving Trump's lawyers more time to prepare his defense.

The election interference case, the federal election interference case, alleges that Trump conspired to obstruct the certification of the 2020 election. The case set for trial in Washington accuses Trump of disrupting the peaceful transfer of power by urging his supporters to seize control of the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021. Trump has argued that he is immune from prosecution because the speech the charges are based on was made in carrying out his Presidential duties.

Trettis also said that U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan, presiding over this case, is a far-left Obama appointee known for handing down sentences to January 6 defendants that are longer than requested by the Justice Department. In October 2022, Chutkan, referring to January 6, said "and the people who mobbed that Capitol were there in fealty, in loyalty, to one man...it's a blind loyalty to one person who, by the way, remains free to this day." Chutkan has denied Trump's request that she remove herself from the case for bias.

The "Keep Trump off the ballot" cases arguing that Section 3 of the U.S. Constitution's 14th Amendment disqualifies him from running for President in 2024 are pending around the country. Trettis said that Trump is winning these cases, but that does not stop Democrats from politicalizing and weaponizing the justice system to get Trump by forcing him to spend time and money defending himself; it's political persecution and election Interference at the highest level in history.

“This is not a one-off thing, it is the way Democrats systemically abuse our system to seize and hold power,” Trettis concluded, “and it is important that American people know what is going on. We have seen Attorney General Merrick Garland’s two-tiered justice system and Biden and his team’s politically motivated, coordinated investigations and prosecution of President Trump. Democracy cannot survive under a politicalized partisan, two-tier justice system.”

The next meeting of the Brevard Republican Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, January 3, 2024.



REMEMBER WHEN
By Michael Hoagland
Heritage Isle Republican Club President

Remember when we thought America offered the most individual freedom with the fairest judicial system in the world? We

thought our constitution was enforced by the judges that are part of our judicial system. We thought our FBI was the best law enforcement agency in the world. We thought our DOJ provided great protection for citizens of America.

Well, we have learned that unelected bureaucrats, a liberal democrat administration, social media and mainstream media have all taken up the banner of the Marxist agenda working to change the culture of America. Look what happens to anyone who obstructs their plan. Persecution and prosecution are the result for individuals or organizations that get in their way.

It doesn’t matter who you are. You can be an average citizen that happens to disagree with them or a presidential candidate who threatens their plan to dismantle the dissenting voices in this country.

I, personally, think that Americans have become angry and are more committed than ever to support Donald Trump in the 2024 election cycle. Look at Judge Arthur Engoron overseeing the New York civil suit brought by Attorney Letitia James. If this is not a kangaroo court, I don’t know what is. The judge would not allow a jury trial. He should be disbarred. For that matter, review all the FBI and DOJ actions that have violated many of Trump’s constitutional rights. They know he will make a course correction to the direction of this country which will set the Marists’ agenda back for decades if not forever. Jack Smith, the corrupt federal prosecutor of Trump is going crazy. Every time he makes additional claims against Trump his voter poll numbers increase. Smith’s election interference strategy is not working to Biden’s benefit.

Look at all the actions taken against those who just attended the January 6, 2021 rally protesting the 2020 election results. Many were imprisoned without any representation or court date. Simply being there was enough to charge an individual. Catholics are watched by the FBI as they might be domestic terrorists. Individuals protesting outside of abortion clinics are

arrested. School Board meetings are watched by the FBI as parents are considered potential domestic terrorists. Moms for Liberty by some is called a terrorist organization.

Many were imprisoned without any representation or court date. Simply being there was enough to charge an individual. Catholics are watched by the FBI as they might be domestic terrorists. Individuals protesting outside of abortion clinics are arrested. School Board meetings are watched by the FBI as parents are considered potential domestic terrorists. Moms for Liberty by some is called a terrorist organization.

Note that the FBI, DOJ and liberal judges only persecute/prosecute conservative individuals or organizations. All of you know this and see that we have an unfair judicial system. We see the constitution violated continually, but who enforces our constitutional rights? We have become a banana republic under Biden’s administration. The democrats have contributed to the direction of this country which is going down the toilet.

We need a change and as you know, I am a Trump supporter. I look at his accomplishments during his presidency. He kept his word on every issue, and we prospered. He will Make America Great Again. He may rub some people the wrong way with his demeanor, but our country’s survival should transcend any personal feelings. God bless all of us.
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And remember when gas was on average \$1.87 a gallon? That was just 3 years ago. What has changed? Let’s discuss some of the ways. The Biden administration took up the mantra that global warming was going to destroy civilization as we know it. Biden shut down fossil fuel initiatives every chance he got including pipelines. Mankind was the cause of global warming. Well, science did not support this argument and now they use climate change as the threat to mankind. By the way, the climate changes virtually every day. The United Nations has taken up the banner of global warming.

Remember Greta Thunberg at the age of 16 spoke about global warming ending the world within 12 years. She is an authority that will change the world? Of course, the world expects the United States to pay the price for the world. John Kerry is the Climate Czar for Biden. Kerry has done as much damage to this country as anyone in the Biden administration. He is an Iranian sycophant as well.

A policy as simple as shutting down drilling and banning fossil fuels has caused catastrophic damage to working men and women. Families are suffering economically. This single action has contributed to the largest increase in inflation. The inflation from year one of Joe Biden’s administration to date is estimated to be 30%. Those who do the grocery shopping know that most of the items you purchase regularly have increases much greater than 30%. Think back to what you spent at the store 3 years ago. Gas is now upwards of \$3.85 to \$6.00 depending on your location. Mortgage rates are just under 8% as opposed to under 3% three years ago. We now import foreign oil from adversaries. I can’t cover all the

damage this administration has caused to the citizens of America in a short communication.

THIS AND THAT

REMEMBERING HENRY KISSINGER. The most powerful U.S. diplomat of the Cold War era, who helped Washington open up China, forge arms control deals with the Soviet Union, end the Vietnam War, and authored several books – **Henry Kissinger** -- died at his Connecticut home on November 29, six months after his 100th birthday.



Born in Germany, he immigrated with his family to the United States when the Nazis took over the country. He is survived by his wife, Nancy, and children Elizabeth and David. Kissinger became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1943, served in the Army in Europe in World War Two, and attended Harvard University on a scholarship, where he earned a doctorate in 1954 and stayed on the faculty for the next 17 years. He also served as U.S. Secretary of State to **Presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford**. Conducting negotiations to settle the Vietnam War, he shared in receiving the Nobel Peace Prize. He also conducted negotiations between Egypt and Israel amid the 1973 war. In addition to his Nobel award, Kissinger received the country's highest civilian award – the Presidential Medal of Freedom. He also was appointed by **President Ronald Reagan** to chair the National Bipartisan Commission on Central America, and later served under Reagan and **President George H.W. Bush** on the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board... (Personal note: Your Editor had his own "association" with Kissinger, in 1973 and 1974, while serving as Assistant Information Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan. That first year, we received word that Secretary of State Kissinger and his entourage would be stopping overnight in Islamabad on a classified mission – which turned out to be his secret first visit to China. It was "all hands-on deck" for the visit, where the Secretary would meet with high-ranking U.S. and Pakistani leaders. For my editorial team and me, it was an all-nighter, collecting early editions of Pakistani newspapers, translating articles from Urdu to English, and preparing a scrap book of Kissinger's visit to present upon his morning departure. One year later, the Secretary returned on exactly the same date, and while by this time his China visit was no longer secret, the activities remained the same. Both times, it meant that all of the foreign service officers and their staff again pulled an all-nighter. Unfortunately, for the officers' wives, it meant that the following night – both years – the husbands were exhausted. And as fate would have it, on both times, the next evening was the night of the annual Marine Corps Ball – the ONLY formal event of the year in Pakistan – and something that the wives had looked forward to. But of course, the job came first. And I am pleased to have in my book collection a copy of Kissinger's first tome, "White House Years," that he signed to me personally.)

REMEMBERING SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR. The first woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court, Arizona's Sandra Day O'Connor, died in Phoenix on December 1 of complications related to advanced dementia, Alzheimer's disease, and a respiratory illness. She was 93. President Ronald Reagan appointed her to the court in 1981, and she served until her retirement in 2006. Chief Justice John Roberts said this "Daughter of the American Southwest blazed an historic trail. She met the challenge with undaunted determination, indisputable ability, and engaging candor. We at the Supreme Court mourn the loss of a beloved colleague, a fiercely independent defender of the rule of law, and an eloquent advocate for civics education. We celebrate her enduring legacy as a true public servant and patriot." O'Connor was a moderately conservative jurist, who voted predominantly with the conservative majority of the bench, however, she was also independent in her decisions and dissenting arguments. Throughout her career, she provided key votes in several consequential cases, such as "Planned Parenthood v. Casey" in 1992, which upheld abortion at the time; and "Bush v Gore" in 2000, which reversed a Florida Supreme Court Ruling and giving George W. Bush presidential election victory over former Vice President Al Gore. Stepping away from public life in 2018, O'Connor wrote that "While the final chapter of my life with dementia may be trying, nothing has diminished my gratitude and deep appreciation for the countless blessings in my life. How fortunate I feel to be an American and to have been presented with the remarkable opportunities available to the citizens of our country. As a young cowgirl from the Arizona desert, I never could have imagined that one day I would become the first woman justice on the U.S. Supreme Court." She is survived by her three adult sons – Scott, Brian, and Jay – and was preceded in death by her late husband John, who also died from complications of Alzheimer's disease in 2009.



RESEARCH GRANT TRANSPARENCY. Noting that more disclosure is needed of foreign involvement from countries of concern in taxpayer-funded research grants, **Florida Congressman Bill Posey** has introduced legislation in the House of Representatives for the GRANT ACT (Grant Recipient Accountability for Necessary Transparency Act). "It's common for foreign researchers from countries like



China to join a taxpayer funded research project after the grant was applied for and awarded, allowing foreign researchers to influence or take taxpayer funded research back to their home countries without the proper oversight," Posey said. "This bill

allows for more accountability of taxpayer dollars and the research it's used to fund." A recent EPA Inspector General memorandum identified "a concern regarding the lack of a requirement for EPA research grant recipients to report foreign support after receiving a grant award." The memo discusses a collaborative effort involving federal law enforcement and other government agencies to see if unreported foreign gifts could be linked to federally funded awards. They found six universities received awards in the amount of \$1.3 billion from foreign sources (including China, Qatar, and Russia) over the past seven years and did not report them as required. The proposed GRANT Act requires the disclosure of foreign support from countries of concern no later than 30 days after the date it was received. Covered individuals (professors, researchers, investigators, etc.) must also disclose support as well. The agency also must cooperate with the Inspector General investigating any suspected failure to comply with the requirements. The bill defines countries of foreign concern includes the People's Republic of China including Hong Kong, Russian Federation, Iran, North Korea, Cuba, and Venezuela.



The winner of the "Worst Quote of the Year" Award for 2023 goes to the host of MSNBC's "Morning Joe" program – Joe Scarborough – for his absurd and dire

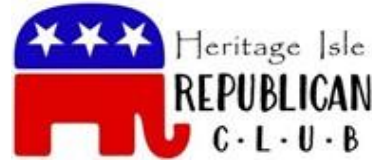
prediction that if Donald Trump wins re-election, he will "imprison" and "execute" his political opponents, and for claiming that the federal judiciary was "the only thing that stood between Trump and the destruction of American democracy" when he was in office. **MRC President Brent Bozell** said Scarborough "spews out this kind of insanity every morning. But this particular attack on President Trump and his supporters was so absurd it managed to stand out from the everyday nonsense you typically hear." Ironically, before he became a leftist TV host, Scarborough actually was a Republican congressman from Florida.

BRET MICHAELS.

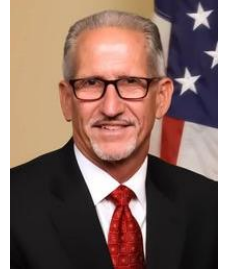
When a stranger found a stray husky dog on the streets in Omaha, Nebraska, he named it "Bret Michaels," after the rock star musician of the same name, and took it to the animal shelter, where it soon turned out to be a hero. The shelter also had several kittens, one of which was critically ill and in need of an immediate blood transfusion. When the shelter's veterinarian determined there was not enough time to figure out what blood type was needed, it was decided to use the blood from a different species and hope for the best. They chose to use the husky, Bret Michaels, and it worked out really well. This process is usually just a stop-gap measure, but in this case, a feline donor was not even necessary. The Nebraska Humane Society then made headlines



by posting about the special husky dog named Bret Michaels saving the life of a kitten. One person who read the internet report said he wanted to adopt the dog, and did so, but at first the shelter didn't believe it. Now, the happy ending to this story is that Bret Michaels, the husky, is living with Bret Michaels, the rock star.



Addressing the Heritage Isle Republican Club on December 7, **Bob White**, chairman of the Republican Liberty



Caucus of Florida, told the members that the two greatest aspects that we gained from Western Civilization have been the creation of the city- state and Judea-Christian culture. But the Left, he said, is attempting to undermine these gains through its Woke and ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) movements. And what is "truly frightening," he said, are the massive numbers of illegals entering the country from all over the world. The two things he wants, White said, are freedom and salvation for his children and grandchildren. White, who has been the Florida RLC chairman for seven years, said the caucus is not a club – it is a political organization dedicated to promoting the ideals of individual liberty, limited government and free market economics within the Republican Party in the United States. Specifically, he said, the RLC supports reduced government intrusion, lower taxes, elimination of federal agencies, less regulation, a strong national defense with fewer military bases abroad, and no foreign aid. It was founded 33 years ago and has numerous county chapters in many states. While other Republican organizations exist in Florida, White said, as a caucus, RLC is independent from all of them. But what it does do, is foster its members to be party leaders committed to working within their local Republican Party organizations to invigorate and revitalize the GOP at every level. Candidates for local and state political office who seek RLC's endorsement have to fill out a lengthy questionnaire and also sign a pledge to adhere to the principles of the Liberty Compact. It reads: "I pledge to the citizens of this State and to the American people, that I will work to: restore liberty, not restrict it; shrink government, not expand it; reduce taxes, not raise them; abolish programs, not create them; promote the freedom and independence of citizens, not the interference of government in their lives; and observe the limited, enumerated powers of our Constitution, not ignore them." The plan to restore the Republic, White said, runs through the state capitals. RLC Florida, he added, gets involved every year in Tallahassee with the Florida State Legislature, which every session has had 2-3,000 bills introduced. Only a few hundred get approved each session, and RLC maintains a tracker on its website, listing the bills' status and whether they are marked for approval or opposition. Early in each session White and several dozen other RLC members travel to Tallahassee for two days of meetings with the legislators and discussion of proposed bills. White noted that the upcoming 60-day session begins January 9, and the Liberty Lobby Day meetings will be January 16-17. After

each yearly session, he said, RLC carries a scorecard on how each legislative member votes on the issues before them. For more information visit the website: www.rlcfl.orgA second speaker on the HIRC program, aerospace engineer and defense contractor **Brian Jones**, said he has joined the race for the Florida 8th District Congressional seat as a political newcomer because he served in the U.S.



military and wants to solve issues for America at the national level. Jones is now one of three Republican challengers to **Representative Bill Posey** in the party's August 20, 2024 primary election. He said he has always felt a connection to politics and public service, and approaches problems by analyzing underlying issues and focusing on solutions. Born and raised in Stafford, Virginia, Jones said he received his systems engineering degrees from George Mason University and has been solving problems for every military branch and various government agencies for nearly 15 years. Jones also has written a book, "Engineering A Better America," which breaks down the country's politicized problems in the 21st century by applying an engineering problem solving approach. Jones and his wife, Ashley, live in West Melbourne. His campaign issues, Jones said, are conservative values, limited government, secure borders, peace through strength, term limits, a balanced budget, accountability, energy independence, reduced taxes, and protecting children. His website is www.brianjonesforcongress.com.

AUDACITY AND IDIOCY

This month's "winners" include:



--Employees of the Farley's East coffee shop in Oakland, California, for refusing to let a Jewish woman use the restroom – telling her it was "private property" – even while confirming that she was a paying customer. Reminiscent of the racist "no blacks allowed" era of the last century?
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--Social studies teacher Ann Christianson at Jane Addams Middle School in Seattle, Washington, for sending a package to the parental rights group Moms For Liberty containing numerous cards allegedly made by students in class claiming that the organization was "bullying" LGBTQ youth. Multiple cards repeated the same messages, such as "say gay," "stop being a rat," and "stop excluding LGBTQ youth." The teacher, who was reported to be "on leave of absence," also has been the coordinator of the school's Gay-Straight Alliance.
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--U.S. District Judge Donald Molloy, a Clinton appointee to the bench, for halting legislation signed by Montana Republican Governor Greg Gianforte to ban the use of the Chinese-owned video app Tik Tok throughout the state.
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--The officials who run the Island Shores Senior Center, an assisted living home in New York, for evicting 94-year-old Army veteran Frank Tammaro from his home because an organization called Homes for the Homeless worked out a deal with the city to move illegal aliens into the building. Tammaro said while his family is struggling to get insurance to pay for a home health aide for him, it is frustrating to watch illegals being given taxpayer funded housing, food, clothing and healthcare.
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--First grade school teacher Danielle Allen in Mesquite, Texas, for using the pseudonym "Claire Kyle" on X (formerly Twitter) to post a series of anti-White statements and a disturbing joke about violence. Following outrage within the community, the Mesquite Independent School District announced she no longer teaches at Thompson Elementary School.
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--Wisconsin Democrat Governor Tony Evers, for vetoing a bill passed by the Republican-controlled State Legislature that would have protected children from irreversible transgender surgeries and procedures such as double mastectomies, puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones.

YOU CAN'T MAKE THIS UP



--President Joe Biden visited the CS Wind facility near Pueblo, Colorado, last month to promote his green ideology, and two separate news reports indicated that his verbal gaffes prove his inability to serve. Writing at WND.com, Bob Unruh quoted the president abruptly blurting out, "Look, my Marine has a code to blow up the world. This is not nuclear weapons, is it?" And writing in The Western Journal, Samantha Chang pointed out that in his same remarks, Biden referred to former President Donald Trump as "Congressman Trump."
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--When Thomas Hand – whose wife was killed by Hamas during the October 7 terrorist attack in Israel, and whose nine-year-old daughter, Emily, was being held hostage – went on CBS Mornings to bring awareness to the situation, the program's host, Gayle King, was anything but sympathetic. King's disgusting comment was: "Now, this seems to be all about politics. What do you say about that? You know, you have innocent children, Palestinians who are dying, innocent Israeli children who are dying and no one seems to say enough, stop that." A shocked Hand responded, "I'm not interested in politics at all. My only concern is getting Emily back." Fortunately, more than one week later, Emily was one of the hostages that Hamas exchanged for released prisoners, and Hand and his daughter were joyfully reunited.
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--After Washington State Democrat Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal, the chair of the Progressive Caucus in the House, was asked in a TV interview about alleged silence over brutal and deadly Hamas rapes of Israeli women, she did condemn the

sexual violence, but added that Israel has killed 15,000 Palestinians – two-thirds of whom were women and children – action that “has not been complying with international humanitarian law.” Both Democrats and Republicans then criticized Jayapal for her “balanced criticism,” comparing Israel’s war retaliation to the Hamas acts.

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--Police did not release her name, but they arrested a 62-year-old woman in Genoa Township, Michigan, for actually attempting to shoplift more than \$700 worth of merchandise from a Walmart -- while more than 75 officers were inside the store at the time for a “Shop With A Cop” charity event.

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--Jeff Gray, an activist who travels among cities promoting the message “God Bless the Homeless Vets,” was arrested in Port Wentworth, Georgia, when city officials order the police to do so, claiming that his comments on public sidewalks in front of City Hall were on “private property.” But with the help of the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression (FIRE), Gray’s lawsuit against the city for censoring his First Amendment rights, resulted in an apology to him, and settlements of \$1,791 to the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, to Gray, and to FIRE. The city also will maintain the public space in front of City Hall as an open public forum and train its officers on citizens’ First Amendment rights.

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--When the White House released its national strategy to counter antisemitism, it included a list of organizations to help implement the strategy. Surprisingly, the list included the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), which has a long history of antisemitism that the White House first tried to ignore, even though it received plenty of warnings. But then came Hamas’ October 7 attacks, for which CAIR blamed Israel, so the White House finally “removed” their commitment to the initiative.

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--Even though a national ranking of 248 U.S. colleges recently placed Harvard University at the very bottom of the list – zero – of those allowing “free speech” on campuses, the school’s president – Claudine Gay – presented a different picture to the Congressional committee investigating campus antisemitism in the wake of Hamas’ attack against Israel. Gay implied that “free speech” was valid grounds for the students to use in anti-Israel protests.

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--After pleading “no contest” to a charge of assault on a child causing death, Veronica Aguilar of Los Angeles has now been sentenced to 25 years to life in prison. In 2016, the body of her 11-year-old son, Yonatan, was found inside their home – weighing just 34 pounds and showing signs of neglect and abuse. He had been kept in the closet for three years before dying and suffered from malnourishment and food deprivation. During a 2019 hearing, the mother claimed her son was “pure

evil,” and she had removed him from school, telling everyone she had “sent him to Mexico to a special school.”

EXPERTS’ EXCERPTS

National Rifle Association Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre, writing on the White House weaponizing against the NRA and gun owners, in the “America’s 1st Freedom” magazine:



“No human right is more essential to a free and just society than the fundamental right of law-abiding citizens to protect themselves and their loved ones in the face of a violent, criminal attack. This may come as a surprise to the mainstream media and the Biden administration, but the NRA didn’t invent the right to self-defense or the individual Right to Keep and Bear Arms. These are fundamental, natural rights which our Founders enumerated in the Constitution. We only make it our business to fight for them. Both of these freedoms date back centuries in early English law. Our Founding Fathers enshrined them in our Declaration of Independence and the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. They knew that ‘liberty and the pursuit of happiness’ is not possible without ‘life’ – and that life, unfortunately, is many times not possible without the legal right to use a firearm in self-defense. The U.S. Supreme Court has upheld and reaffirmed this fundamental legal precept numerous times, thanks in large part to the never-ending vigilance of NRA members. However, while we make it our business to defend our constitutional freedom to own firearms and protect ourselves, President Joe Biden, who swore an oath to uphold and defend those same freedoms, has made it the business of his White House to destroy them. Just two months ago, Biden announced the establishment of the so-called Office of Gun Violence Prevention. This new office – the first of its kind in the White House – is nothing more than a hornet’s nest of anti-gun activists whose sole mission is to push Biden’s gun-ban agenda. The titular head of this new office is none other than Kamala Harris, who needs no introduction among NRA members. The director is Stefanie Feldman, a longtime Biden aide and anti-gun zealot who for years has made it her personal mission to rally the anti-gun left to ‘defeat NRA’ and ‘defeat gun manufacturers’.... The same Biden who claims he wants to make America safer is the one who rolls out the red carpet for violent criminals, drug cartels, child-traffickers and terrorists to flood across our border. The same Biden who claims he wants to protect our communities is the one who champions pro-criminal policies like no-cash bail and revolving-door ‘justice’ schemes that have decimated our cities and towns and cost an untold number of innocent Americans their lives. And now that same Biden, who has done nothing but unleash a historic violent crime wave from coast to coast, is putting the power and energy of the White House behind an effort to restrict every law-abiding American’s right to defend themselves and their loved ones.... Less than one year from today, Americans will cast their votes. At stake is whether Joe Biden gets to continue to destroy our nation with his pro-crime,

anti-gun agenda – or if we get to restore sanity to our criminal justice system and save our constitutional Right to Keep and Bear Arms.”

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News Editor Bob Unruh, writing at WND on confirmation of widespread election fraud:



“According to a report from Rasmussen Reports, ‘more than 20% of voters who used mail-in ballots in 2020 admit they participated in at least one form of election fraud.’ President Trump long has charged that the election was rigged and stolen from him. Evidence that appeared after the fact suggests he’s right, because of the undue influence of Mark Zuckerberg’s \$400-plus million given to officials who often used that extraordinary funding to recruit Joe Biden voters. Further, the FBI decided to interfere in the election, with its warning to media companies to suppress accurate reporting on the scandals in the Biden family that were revealed in a laptop Hunter Biden abandoned at a repair shop. A subsequent polling suggested that interference alone could have cost President Trump the election. Now, according to Rasmussen, a polling, in conjunction with the Heartland Institute, confirmed ‘21% of likely U.S. voters who voted by absentee or mail-in ballot in the 2020 election say they filled out a ballot, in part or in full, on behalf of a friend or family member, such as a spouse or child, while 78% say they didn’t.’ The report continued, ‘Thirty percent of those surveyed said they voted by absentee or mail-in ballot in the 2020 election. Nineteen percent of those who cast mail-in votes say a friend or family member filled out their ballot, in part or in full, on their behalf. Furthermore, 17 percent of mail-in voters say that in the 2020 election, they cast a ballot in a state where they were no longer a permanent resident. All of these practices are illegal, Heartland Institute officials noted’.... **Heartland** officials noted that forging a signature, under the law, actually invalidates that vote. ‘Among other findings of the Rasmussen/Heartland Institute survey: Forty-six percent of those surveyed voted for Joe Biden in 2020, while 45 percent voted for Donald Trump. More Biden voters (36%) than Trump voters (23%) say they voted by absentee or mail-in ballot in the 2020 election. Thirty-eight percent of Democrats voted by mail in 2020, as did 24 percent of Republicans and 27 percent of voters not affiliated with either major party,’ Rasmussen revealed. The report said among all voters, those who voted by mail and voted in person, ‘11 percent say a friend, family member, co-worker, or other acquaintance has admitted to them that they filled out a ballot on behalf of another person in 2020.’ Divided by categories, the highest percentages of those reporting voting by absentee or mail-in ballots were Hispanics and other minorities, while the highest numbers divided by age were from voters under the age of 40.... Paul Bedard at The Washington Examiner noted, in 2020, as the COVID crisis grew, ‘several states loosened election laws to allow mail-in voting, vote bundling, absentee

voting, and other changes to let those concerned about getting the virus stay away from the polls. The changes were sold as positive moves to make voting easier but have since raised red flags. Former President Donald Trump and other Republicans have claimed that Democrats took advantage of the laws to make Joe Biden president fraudulently.”

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Senior Analyst Laurence Sanford, writing on Venezuela and China, in the American Security Council Foundation publication “Peace Through Strength”:



“Venezuela, a dystopian socialist nightmare, is beating the drums of war over a territorial border dispute with neighboring Guyana. The drumbeats are similar to Russia’s Vladimir Putin’s drumbeats against Ukraine prior to the invasion, and China’s Xi Jinping’s drumbeat on regaining territories in Taiwan, Japan, India, and Russia, and controlling the South China Sea. On December 3, 2023, a referendum in Venezuela was voted on for the annexation of Guyana’s Esequiba region. The drumbeat for annexation coincides with the discovery of millions of barrels of oil off the Guyanan coast. The Esequiba region was formerly under the control of the Spanish, Dutch, and British empires. Under the Spanish empire, it was part of Venezuela. In 1899, international arbitrators established the present-day boundaries between Venezuela, the then-colony British Guinea, and now present-day Guyana. Venezuela now disputes the agreement and is using the referendum as an excuse to distract the population from its misery and to gain control over billions of oil barrels developed by the American Exxon Mobil oil company. Venezuela is ruled by socialist, anti-American autocrat Nicolas Maduro. He succeeded Marxist anti-American autocrat Hugo Chavez, who ruled from 1999 until his death from cancer in 2013. The combined years of their socialist rule have impoverished once prosperous Venezuela, even though it has the largest oil reserves in the world. An estimated 7.3 million Venezuelans have fled the country since 2014 due to rampant crime, inflation, political repression, and shortages of food, medicine, electricity, and employment opportunities. Two thousand flee every day, with an estimated 500,000 now living in the United States. China, along with Russia and Iran, prop up the Marxist Maduro regime. China alone has lent Venezuela over \$60 billion, backed by oil sales. Venezuela is China’s fourth largest source of petroleum products.... The Chinese Communist Party’s technologies of national digital ID cards, fingerprint authentication, and facial recognition cameras to track and suppress its citizens are now used in Venezuela. Every Venezuelan citizen is issued a Homeland Card with a unique QR code that contains identity, biographical information, and social credit information. The cards are used for social control and election influence and are critical for the regime’s survival. In September 2023, Maduro visited China and signed bilateral cooperation agreements. This was followed by China upgrading relations to an “all-weather strategic partnership.” The meeting is eerily similar to Putin’s visit to China just before the Ukraine invasion, where Putin and Xi signed a “limitless”

partnership agreement. Guyana is a small country with a population of less than one million. Forty percent are of Indian heritage, and thirty percent are of African heritage. The remaining thirty percent is divided among people of indigenous and European heritage. It is the only English-speaking nation in South America. The Esequiba region, which Venezuela claims, is the size of Florida and is two-thirds of Guyana's land mass. It is sparsely populated, primarily with indigenous people. Exxon and its partners, Hess and CNOOC (China National Offshore Oil Corporation), have discovered over 11 billion barrels of oil and gas offshore in Guyana. It is the largest new oil field in the world. The infusion of wealth into this small country is causing social friction and cries of environmental degradation."

THOUGHTS TO PONDER

"We learned that a young Saudi woman named Safiye has taken her own life rather than submit to a marriage arranged by her father, Saudi Arabia's Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Waleed Elkhareiji. We've also learned that Elkhareiji was the Saudi Ambassador to Turkey in 2018, when Jamal Khashoggi, a Washington Post columnist, was murdered in a Turkish consulate."

--**O'keefe Media Group Insider Editor James O'Keefe**, on a reminder of the repression and control exerted on women in the Middle East
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"Hillsdale is often called a conservative college, and in an important sense it is, although it is not a label we regard as fundamental. The word 'conservative' is referential, meaningless without a reference to what one wishes to conserve. No one thinks that everything should be conserved.... Liberal education itself has become politically controversial in our time, drawing Hillsdale into politics broadly speaking. And Hillsdale has always been broadly partisan on behalf of freedom. Indeed, we are required by the College's charter document, written in 1844, to offer 'sound learning' of the kind needed to preserve the blessings of 'civil and religious liberty and intelligent piety in the land.' In the early decades of Hillsdale's history, that meant opposing slavery. In recent decades, it has meant opposing the centralization of comprehensive power that corrodes our Constitution and undermines our American way of life."

-- **Hillsdale College President Larry Arnn**, on the school's mission and the politics of freedom
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"The Houthis are just one of the many Islamic terror groups in the world listed in the CIA World Fact Book. The Islamic terror groups all claim to be following the words of the Quran and Hadiths (collections of Muhammad's sayings) in spreading Islam through the sword. Many current leaders in Muslim countries want nothing to do with terror groups such as the Muslim Brotherhood, Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), or Hamas as they threaten their rule. Gazan refugees embedded with Hamas are not welcome in any fellow Muslim Arab country. In 1971, the PLO was forced to leave Jordan for

Lebanon. Islamic terror groups not only hate Jews, they hate infidel Christians and Hindus." --**American Security Council Foundation Senior Analyst Laurence Sanford**, explaining actions by the Houthis

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"Millions of illegal aliens are invading the United States, endangering national security, changing American culture, disrupting the social fabric, and costing citizens billions of dollars a year.... The massive inflow of illegal immigrants and massive federal welfare spending programs are leading to chaos, bankruptcy, and societal breakdown. Congress and American society are polarized by Marxist theories of grievances. The United States is facing existential threats from China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, and Islamic jihadist groups. Yet only 3 percent of the gross national product (GNP) is spent on defense. The industrial base to modernize our aged military equipment is inadequate. Military recruiting falls far below service needs due to Marxist Woke and DEI ideologies which permeate military leadership."

--another Sanford thought, this one on without a border, there is no nation
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"In less than a decade of reckless government expansion, the fundamentals of successful investing, planning and living have undergone a dramatic and potentially dangerous transformation.... The number of complex legal, regulatory, medical and retiree-unfriendly tax traps has mushroomed to the point that ignorance is downright dangerous. And with President Biden's newest multi-trillion dollar 'social safety net' tax hike, it's about to get worse. The upshot is cash-hungry bureaucrats are now looking for full control over everything from cash in the bank to private retirement assets held anywhere they can get their hands on it. And they want to suppress alternative asset protection and wealth building information that can make people more self-reliant."

--Conservative newsletter editor **Bob Livingston**, on Biden's tax hike

UPCOMING BREVARD COUNTY EVENTS

--January 3: Brevard Federated Republican Women meeting, Space Coast Convention Center Cocoa, 11:30 am

--January 4: Heritage Isle Republican Club meeting, Heritage Isle Clubhouse, 10 am.

--January 5: Federated Republican Women in Action meeting, McMaw's BBQ, Palm Bay, 12 pm.

--January 8: Space Coast Patriots meeting, Merritt Island Library, 6 pm.

--January 9: Moms for Liberty meeting, Pizza Gallery, Viera, 6 pm.

--January 11: Brevard Republican Executive Committee

meeting, Space Coast Association of Realtors Building, Melbourne, 7 pm.

--January 16: North Brevard Republican Club meeting, American Police Hall of Fame, Titusville, 6 pm.

--January 18: Republican Women's Network of South Brevard meeting, Suntime Country Club, 11 am.

--January 22: Ronald Reagan Club meeting, Oceanside Community Church, Satellite Beach, 6 pm.

--January 25: Space Coast Young Republicans meeting, Pub Americana, Downtown Melbourne, 6:30 pm.

--January 27: Space Coast Republican Club meeting, Red Lobster, Merritt Island, 11:30 am.

The Republican Liberty Caucus of Brevard will not meet in January.

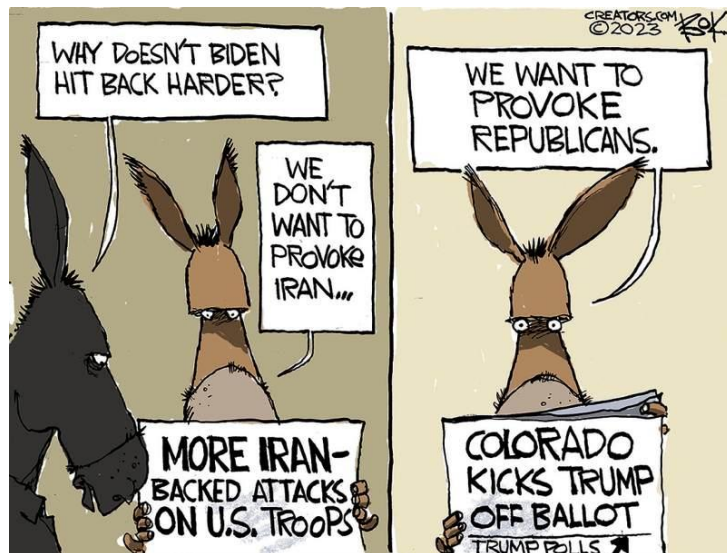
ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER. Through email, website and Facebook, we are now reaching nearly 2,000 people on our ever-increasing distribution list. The newsletter goes to readers not only all over the country, but beyond. **Editor Stuart Gorin** and **Designer Frank Montelione** hope to see the numbers continue 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 CLOSER

The question is: “Why can’t Congress ever be vegan?”

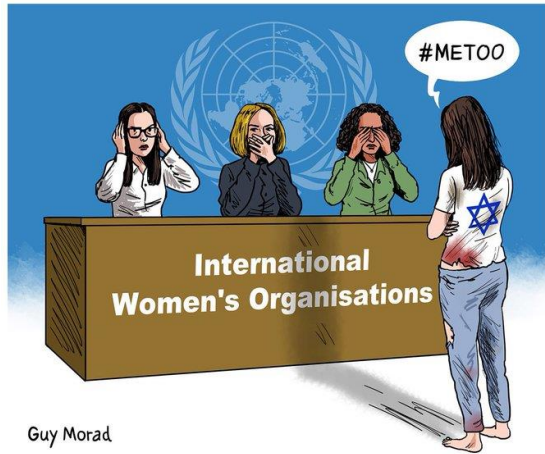
The answer is “Because all of the turkeys are playing chicken in a beef over pork, and that is pretty fishy.”

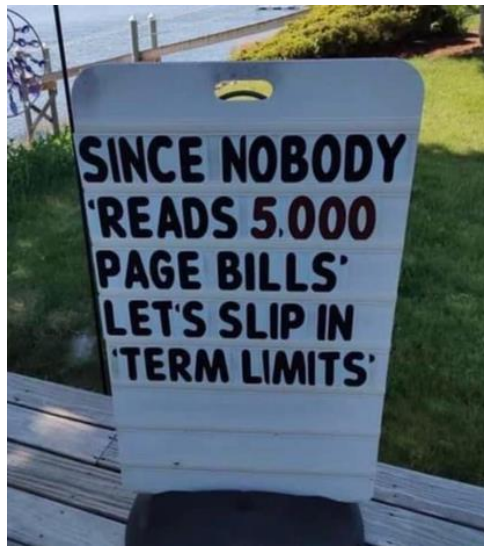
SEVERAL PAGES OF POLITICAL CARTOONS AND PHOTOS FOLLOW











If you ever feel useless, remember, it took four presidents, 20 years, and trillions of dollars, to replace the Taliban with the Taliban.



REPUBLICAN DYNASTY CONTINUES



Stuart and Frank hope you had a very Merry Christmas and will have a Healthy, Prosperous, and Happy New Year.

