



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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NEWMAN FAVORS BREVARD AS BILL OF RIGHTS SANCTUARY COUNTY

**FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK:
MY TWO CENTS
By Stuart Gorin**



NOTE: By Republican Party of Florida rules, the Brevard Republican Executive Committee must have an election for its officer positions the same years as U.S. presidential elections are determined. BREC's meeting to do so was scheduled for December 30 – too late to include in the December newsletter. There will be a full report on the BREC elections in the January 2025 Space Coast Tusk.

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There is no denying that Donald Trump did NOT seek the Presidency of the United States for the money. In 2016 he became the only president in U.S. history to not accept the salary that goes with the position. He said then that his only reason for running was to Make America Great Again. That has not changed. Trump said that when he resumes office again on January 20, 2025, once again, he will not accept payment.

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I suppose it galled the editors of Time Magazine no end to have to name returning U.S. President Donald Trump as the 2024 Person of the Year, but realistically, who else could it have been? Kamala Harris for being the first female presidential candidate? Taylor Swift for a record-setting music tour? Golfer Scottie Scheffler for winning the Fedex Cup? Joey Chestnut for eating a record 83 hot dogs in 10 minutes? I'll stick with Trump.

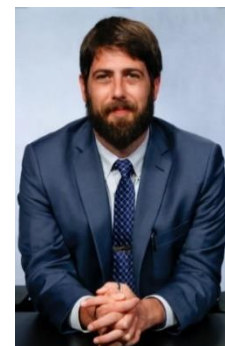
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According to "The Gateway Pundit," the Biden-Harris Department of Justice has indicted 1,417 January 6, 2021, protesters on federal charges, and more than 1,100 of them are still jailed in Washington, D.C. without even having a trial. But

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Award-winning journalist **Alex Newman**, addressing an audience of more than 500 Brevard County citizens meeting in Cocoa, Florida, on November 25, urged them to support an initiative being presented to the County Commissioners to adopt an ordinance establishing Brevard as a "Bill of Rights Sanctuary County."

Five different organizations joined forces to sponsor the meeting: The Ronald Reagan Club, the Republican Liberty Caucus of Florida, Truth Fest, Citizens Defending Freedom, and the Space Coast Patriots.



However, later at the December 3 meeting of the Brevard County Commissioners, discussion of creating such a measure was postponed when Commissioner Rob Feltner said the proposal had to be reworked, and new commissioners on the panel needed more time to acclimate before voting on such a measure.

Newman, who is president of Liberty Sentinel Media, spoke on the Bill of Rights matter for an hour, explaining that while President Donald Trump will be in office for four more years,

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once Donald Trump resumes the presidency, he has promised to issue pardons to most, if not all, of them.

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As a one-time news writer on the staff of the Voice of America during my long and varied journalism career, I was pleased to see that Donald Trump has nominated experienced broadcaster **Kari Lake** of Arizona to be the next VOA Director. The position requires someone who knows what to do. Way back when at the Voice – which broadcasts news about America in 50



languages around the world to more than 350 million people – I was told to write “tightly,” so the announcers could cover many topics in a time slot. I had that experience, but I also had an editor who slashed out the last sentence of very item I wrote, even when I argued unsuccessfully that it neatly wrapped up the point. After the first week on the job, I hit on an idea. For months, in every article I handed that editor, I added a superfluous sentence at the end. Without fail, he cut every one of those extra sentences. He never caught on – and my articles went on the air the way I wanted them.

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More Two Cents next month.

and Florida **Governor Ron DeSantis** for two more, it is very likely that the Socialists will continue with wokeness and tyranny, and they are still brainwashing our children

But “we have a window of opportunity,” he said, “We can’t control Congress, but we can and MUST act. We will go from the present and work our way back to early America, Anglo-Saxon, & finally Bible times.

Giving the group a civics lesson, Newman pointed out that powers in the United States are separated vertically between states and the federal government, and horizontally among the executive, congressional and judicial branches.

He noted that the 10th Amendment to the Constitution states that: “Powers delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.”

Referring to the World Health Organization’s attempted one world control over health policy with its new “Pandemic Agreement,” he said 26 Republican governors have announced they would refuse to comply with it.

Newman also said that the Louisiana Senate unanimously passed a bill banning the United Nations, the World Health Organization and World Economic Forum from having any jurisdiction or power within the state. Similar measures, he said, were passed by the Alabama legislature, Florida, Texas, and other states.

Fake news, he said, wants to associate nullifications with slavery and confederacy, but ironically, just the opposite occurred: nullification of federal laws was one of the key reasons that the South seceded from the union during the Civil War.

Southerners criticized Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Iowa, for “enacting laws which either nullify the Acts of Congress or render useless any attempt to execute them.”

In 1842, Newman said, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Prigg v. Pennsylvania* that the feds had no power to force state governments to help capture fugitive slaves. And a number of more recent decisions, including *Printz v. United States* dealing with gun control, have upheld that important legal principle, sometimes referred to as the “anti-commandeering doctrine.”

The Founding Fathers, Newman said, believed nullification was the rightful remedy. James Madison, widely regarded as the “Father of the Constitution”, explained that state governments possess a “means of opposition” to federal overreach: “refusal to cooperate with the officers of the Union.” And Thomas Jefferson, the father of the Declaration of Independence, also was part of that.

Newman pointed out that Alexander Hamilton wrote in *The Federalist*, No. 78: “There is no position which depends on clearer principles, than that every act of a delegated authority contrary to the tenor of the commission under which it is exercised, is void. No legislative act, therefore, contrary to the Constitution, can be valid.”

Referring to the Magdeburg Confession in 1550, Newman said that pastors and city leaders there were ordered by the Holy Roman Empire to submit to authority, and citing the biblical doctrines articulated by Martin Luther, they said they could not and would resist, even by force if needed.

The Confession explained why the leaders of the city refused to obey the imperial law. The Magdeburg Confession called for resistance to political tyranny, and argued that the subordinate powers in a state, faced with the situation where the “supreme power” is working to destroy the truth and God-given liberty and responsibility, may go even further than non-cooperation with the supreme power and actively resist.

Newman noted that Michael Flynn, former National Security Advisor under President Donald Trump, praised it as “a masterful blueprint showing Americans how to successfully resist tyranny.”

During the summer of 2021, Newman said, elected commissioners in two Nevada counties declared that the Bill of Rights will be upheld in their jurisdictions, even if it means standing against unconstitutional acts by state and federal authorities. According to a resolution approved in Elko County on June 2, abuse of the constitutionally protected

rights of citizens in Elko and Lander counties will be “dealt with as criminal activity.” Officials in Lander County approved a similar effort. Under the leadership of constitutionally minded sheriffs and elected commissioners, the two rural counties in Nevada decided to become “constitutional counties,” where the rights of citizens will be protected from all attacks.

“The people of these United States are, and have a right to be, free and independent, and these rights are derived from the ‘Law of Nature and nature’s God,’” the resolution states, echoing the language of America’s Founders in the Declaration of Independence. “As such, they must be free from infringements on the right to keep and bear arms, unreasonable searches and seizures, capricious detainments, and every other natural right whether enumerated or not, pursuant to the 9th Amendment.”

The document, approved unanimously by the Elko County Board of Commissioners, also reaffirms the U.S. Constitution’s 10th Amendment protecting states from the federal usurpation of unauthorized powers. Next, the resolution notes that no federal agency can create policies that supersede the Constitution and that the executive branch of government isn’t authorized to make law under America’s system of government. The document then goes on to list a variety of “abuses” that “will not be tolerated.” Leaders of Lander County, which approved a similar move, have also been receiving positive response from citizens.

Later in 2021, Newman said, New York counties started joining the bandwagon: Lawmakers in a conservative western New York county voted unanimously to become a “constitutional sanctuary” where the rights enshrined in the U.S. Constitution’s Bill of Rights will be protected. Under the legislation, Cattaraugus County declared itself to be a “Constitutional County, unwavering in its commitment to protect the constitutional rights of its citizens.”

He pointed out that “If state or federal government continue to overstep their bounds and intrude into the lives of our citizens with unconstitutional mandates, our legislature will step up and challenge that,” said Cattaraugus County Legislator Ginger Schroder, an attorney in private practice who drafted and pushed the resolution in response to pressure from the community.

Pointing to the Florida Constitution and the U.S. Supreme Court decision on federalism, Newman said the Florida document “vests counties with the power of self-government, which must be liberally construed in favor of home rule.” He added that the High Court agrees.

Referring to early Anglo-Saxon history, he said that when King Charles sought to rule as a tyrant and even dissolve Parliament in 1642, Christians fought back, and four years of civil war laid the groundwork for more civil liberty and representative government in England. King Charles, he added, was put on trial for treason, found guilty, and beheaded.

Newman also made several Magna Carta and Biblical references to the due process of law and concluded his remarks saying: “With a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.”



POLITICAL JOTTINGS AND DOTTINGS

MUSICAL CHAIRS. President Trump’s decision to nominate several Florida officials to positions in Washington has led to several expected political position vacancies in the state, and a number of candidates who won races in the November election to run instead for different positions.

--Florida Chief Financial Officer **Jimmy Patronis** has resigned his position to join the crowded field of candidates seeking **Matt Gaetz’s** vacant Florida District 1 congressional seat. There also will be nine other Republicans on the January 28 party primary ballot. Then, that winner will face a Democrat, a candidate without party affiliation, and four write-in candidates in a general special election.

--Florida **District 19 State Senator Debbie Mayfield**, who won the election to be District 32 State Representative, announced that she will be running in a special election instead to retake her Senate seat. While Florida law does limit a person to two consecutive terms (which Mayfield had), there is a loophole that the law does not specify how long a person must stay out of office before being able to run again for the same position.

--Florida House member **Randy Fine**, who won Mayfield’s State Senate seat in the November election, said he will be resigning it to instead seek the special election in April to succeed **District 6 Congressman Michael Waltz**, who was nominated by Trump to be the next National Security Adviser. Entrepreneur **Ehsan Joarder** also has entered the race to replace Waltz.

--Among the candidates seeking to fill the District 32 Florida House seat now that Mayfield has resigned it, are **Republican Liberty Caucus of Florida Chairman Bob White**, Brevard School Board Member **Matt Susin**, and insurance company owner **Brian Hodgers**. On December 17, Melbourne dermatologist **Dr. Terrence Cronin, Jr.** became the fourth Republican candidate for the seat.

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--The Florida State Senate has confirmed **Governor Ron DeSantis’** appointment of former Brevard School Board member **Tina Descovich** to the Florida Commission on Ethics, and she was unanimously elected the group’s vice chair. She also is a co-founder of Moms For Liberty, a national non-profit group that educates and empowers parents of school children to defend their rights.

MORE TRUMP NOMINATIONS

- Secretary of the Navy: **John Phelan**
- Director of the National Institutes of Health: **Jay Bhattacharya**
- U.S. Trade Representative: **Jamieson Greer**
- Deputy secretary of Health and Human Services: **Jim O'Neill**
- Director of White House National Economic Council: **Kevin Hassett**
- Assistant to the President and Special Envoy for Ukraine and Russia: **General Keith Kellogg**
- U.S. ambassador to France: **Charles Kushner**
- FBI Director: **Kash Patel**
- Administrator of the Small Business Administration: **Kelly Loeffler**
- Social Security Administration Commissioner: **Frank Bisignano**
- Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman: **Paul Atkins**
- U.S. Ambassador to the United Kingdom: **Warren Stephens**
- U.S. Ambassador to Canada: **Pete Hoekstra**
- Senior Advisor on Iran and Middle Eastern Affairs: **Massad Boulos**
- Senior Counselor for Trade and Manufacturing: **Peter Navarro**
- Assistant Secretary of State and Chief of Protocol: **Monica Crowley**
- National Aeronautics and Space Administrator: **Jared Isaacman**
- U.S. Ambassador to China: **David Perdue**
- Director of the Domestic Policy Council: **Vince Haley**
- Customs and Border Protection Commissioner: **Rodney Scott**
- Acting Director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement: **Caleb Vitello**
- Counselor to the President: **Alina Habba**
- Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights: **Harmeet Dhillon**
- Chief of Staff at the Office of Management and Budget: **Ed Martin**
- White House AI and Crypto Czar: **David Sacks**
- U.S. Ambassador to Greece: **Kimberly Guilfoyle**

- U.S. Ambassador to Turkey: **Tom Barrack**
- U.S. Ambassador to Mexico: **Ronald Johnson**
- Voice of America Director: **Kari Lake**
- U.S. Ambassador to Colombia: **Dan Newlin**
- Federal Trade Commission Chairman **Andrew Ferguson**
- Intelligence Advisory Board Chairman: **Devin Nunes**
- Homeland Security Deputy Secretary: **Troy Edgar**
- U.S. Ambassador to Belgium: **Bill White**
- Presidential Envoy for Special Missions: **Richard Grenell**
- U.S. Ambassador to the Bahamas: **Herschel Walker**
- U.S. Ambassador to Japan: **George Glass**
- U.S. Ambassador to the Dominican Republic: **Leah Campos**
- U.S. Ambassador to Luxembourg: **Stacey Feinberg**
- U.S. Ambassador to Austria: **Arthur Fisher**
- U.S. Ambassador to Uruguay: **Lou Rinaldi**
- U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican: **Brian Burch**
- Chief of Staff at U.S. Department of Justice: **Chad Mizelle**
- Special Envoy to the United Kingdom: **Mark Burnett**
- U.S. Ambassador to Italy: **Tilman Fertitta**
- Federal Railroad Administration head: **David Fink**
- Head of Department of Justice Office of Legal Policy: **Aaron Reitz**



LET ME BE FRANK By Space Coast Tusk Designer Frank Montelione Memories!

Every December, we are inundated with shows looking back at the year. Politically, with the end of a disastrous Biden/Harris Administration, we might want to look back at some of the low lights of the past four years.

Who can forget one of the first Executive Orders, closing down the Keystone Pipeline and banning oil and gas permitting on federal lands and waters, causing fuel prices to soar? Inflation begins with that as the prices of goods shipped by diesel-powered trucks passing the cost to the consumer.

Of course, there is the catastrophic decision to remove the Houthis from the Foreign Terrorist Organization. After all, they needed humanitarian aid, according to the incompetent

Antony Blinken, who the late John McCain warned was “not only unqualified but also dangerous to America.”

While continuously vowing his support of Israel, Biden signaled that this was not the case, by snubbing Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and warning that the United States may hold up defensive tools the Israeli’s need to fight Hamas and Hezbollah. You know the old saying “with friends like that who needs enemies”.



It has recently been revealed what most already knew – Biden’s cognitive decline and the cover-up began on day one of his presidency. He was protected by White House aides who covered up his decline. They had

to schedule exposure to the public, even by rearranging his schedule after inane gaffs at the podium. Even his secretary said she hardly sees him. His Cabinet meetings were so rare that when one was convened it made headlines. In fact, at his last meeting, Jill Biden ran it while the President sat quietly making very few remarks.

Then there was Afghanistan. While many senior military officers claimed afterwards that they tried to advise the President not to precipitately withdraw, it now is revealed he could not be reached. Since he gave the original order to withdraw, the Military had no choice but to follow orders. Even on the day of the homicide bomber killing 13 service members, he was nowhere to be found. Remember how he honored their bodies being returned to the United States by checking his watch often?

We had open borders, rescinding the Remain In Mexico order, appeasing Iran, the spy balloon, and now the drones flying over sensitive areas in our nation, electric vehicle mandates, and a “minor Incursion” gaffe about Russia invading Ukraine. What a grand time in D.C. As for those drones, the State Department tells us “we don’t know what they are, but they pose no danger.” Huh??? How do they know they “pose no danger” if they don’t know what they are?

So, who was actually running the government. Apparently, staff were issuing orders and making decisions that should have been relegated to the President. Who believes Biden put together the names or pardons for 1,500 including vile criminals? It looks to me like a concerted effort from the staff listing all their pet projects. Some include a judge who was involved in a “kids for cash” scheme, corrupt local official in Illinois who carried out the largest municipal fraud scheme in U.S. history, a Chinese national convicted on truly horrifying child pornography charges and granted clemency to a former health care executive in Indiana who led a massive fraud scheme that ripped off nursing homes that take care of the elderly. This is just a sampling of those receiving pardons or clemency.

For a list of his failures, if you can stomach it, see: [“The Top 105 Foreign Policy Failures of the Biden-Harris Presidency: A Timeline.”](#)

Never in our imagination did we believe that the Biden-Harris presidency would decimate U.S. power and influence as quickly and as drastically as he has. From the disastrous and chaotic Afghanistan withdrawal and appeasement of Iran, to shutting down American energy while green-lighting Russian pipelines, the Biden-Harris Administration has empowered and enriched our enemies in every theater. It was difficult work, but we managed to narrow the list of Biden and Harris’ foreign policy failures to the worst 105.

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The Weaponization of Federal Agencies, including the IRS, The Justice Department and rigged Congressional Hearings are also a part of the Biden legacy.

Recently some of the lawsuits have hit roadblocks. Fani Willis’ team in Atlanta has been removed from continuing her “RICO” case. Remember her tirade aimed at the Judge and the Defense team, yelling “I’m not on trial here – Donald Trump is on trial”? I guess she wasn’t aware that hearing did, indeed, put her on trial.

Merrick Garland and Jack Smith’s raid and prosecution at Mar-A-Lago has been dropped. Smith’s entire January 6 election interference case was dismissed by Federal Courts. And now, regarding the January 6 Committee on House Administration’s Subcommittee on Oversight for the Justice Department, remember how the Republican Party’s suggested members were given to Chair Representative Benny Thompson and then Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who rejected all and appointed Liz Chaney as the Vice Chair. A report about the “failures and politicization” was released just days ago. “The 128-page interim report forwards many of the claims circulated by the GOP since the committee was organized, complaining the Jan. 6 select committee was improperly constituted and unfairly pinned blame on President-elect Trump.” (The Hill 12/17/2024)

It was found that Vice Chair Chaney may be culpable for Witness Tampering by contacting star witness Cassidy Hutchinson, a former White House aide, and recommended a criminal investigation into these charges.

The House Republicans’ report specifically took issue with Cheney’s alleged “direct intervention” with Hutchinson, who was considered the star witness of the investigation, including allegedly encouraging Hutchinson to hire ‘Select Committee-friendly attorneys to represent her.’”

Most of the interviews conducted by the Select Committee were held in large conference rooms or zoomed to allow for space for all the participants. However, Hutchinson’s fourth interview was different. “It consisted of only four people: Representative Cheney, one attorney from the Select Committee, Hutchinson, and Hutchinson’s new counsel. Additionally, instead of the Select Committee conducting the interview in a conference room or virtually, Representative

Cheney used her private hideaway inside of the United States Capitol Building.” (Fox News, 12/17/2024).

Time to make new memories. The four-year nightmare of the Biden/Harris Administration is almost in the books.



THE USE OF ALTERNATIVE MEDIA IN POLITICS

**By Kevin Jeffrey
Brevard County
Republican Assembly President**

The year 2024 may be the one that the use of alternative media began its ascent into playing a major role in political campaigns. For years, many have decried the influence of money in politics. And, while that doesn't seem to be dissipating (over 15 billion spent on the presidential election), the ascent of alternative media may provide an option against big money politics.

A sample size of the impact of alternative media was demonstrated several years ago. Do you remember Ed Durr? He was the New Jersey truck driver who won an improbable victory over State Senate President, Stephen Sweeney. If you recall, Durr won that election by reportedly spending only \$153 on his campaign running unopposed in the Republican primary. He spent a whopping 2,300 in the general election. His opponent, Sweeney, spent approximately \$305,000. Durr's campaign video was taken using a cell phone. Yet, it was highly effective.

Three years later, there is more evidence offered that alternative media can be used to level the playing field in political campaigns. On the national level, both President-elect Trump and Kamala Harris raised over one billion dollars for the presidential election. Harris is reported to have raised close to two billion. Much of that money was spent on mainstream media advertising. However, a slight change was seen. Both candidates made significant appearances in alternative media. Open Secrets, a nonprofit that tracks campaign finance and lobbying figures, Harris appeared on four podcasts while President Trump appeared on six, with "The Joe Rogan Experience" with Joe Rogan reaching a massive audience.

The use of alternative media may play more of a role in lieu of the falling numbers of the mainstream media. According to a recent Pew Research Center survey (October 2024), "Republicans are now nearly as likely to trust the information that comes from social media sites as they are to trust information from national news organizations." The report noted that the share of Republicans who trust information from social media sites has increased notably since 2021, when "just 19% trusted this type of information."

Locally, County Commissioner and Brevard County Republican Assembly officer Katie Delaney utilized alternative media as part of her strategy to win the office in

District 1. Delaney parlayed her conservative activism with her co-hosting role on Brevard News, a local news podcast, as a means for countering the influence of big money in politics. In addition, she utilized Facebook, YouTube and other social media sites to effectively communicate her message to the residents of District 1. District 1 includes North Brevard, including Cocoa, Port St. John, Titusville, Mims and Scottsmeer.

Delaney also utilized traditional campaign tools such as door knocking (approximately 10,000 doors), mailers and traditional media (newspaper) to sail to victory in the District 1 contest. This strategy allowed her to win in spite of being out-raised 20-to-1.

The Brevard County Republican Assembly is dedicated to Community, Legislative and Candidate development. The use of alternative media will aid in executing this agenda. The government focus, according to the Constitution, is supposed to be "of, by and for the people."

Proper utilization of social media has the potential to return the government to the hands of the people and away from the special interests who seek their own will.



MAYFIELD MINUTE By Florida District 32 State Representative Debbie Mayfield

The Department of Financial Services' Division of Unclaimed Property launched the 2024 Holiday Money Hunt. This initiative is designed to remind Floridians to search the Florida Treasure Hunt website to learn if they, or their business, have unclaimed property in the state's possession.

Currently, Florida's unclaimed property account is valued at more than \$3 billion. More than a half billion dollars of unclaimed property is in the Central Florida region alone.
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Florida Governor Ron DeSantis recently awarded \$106,500 to the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast. This award was part of the \$2.1 million Defense Reinvestment Grant Program to support military infrastructure. The funds will be used to develop a Wastewater Treatment Plant Phase 3 plan for Cape Canaveral Space Force Station to include targeted funding resources for infrastructure improvement.
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The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission issued a press release encouraging the public to report any potential fish kills or fish disease that they observe.

For the past 30 years the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, a division of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation

Commission, has been studying fish disease and fish kills across Florida. Reports made by the public have enabled FWC to: track incidents, study the causes of fish kills, and collaborate with outside partners to coordinate effective responses.

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Agriculture Commissioner Wilton Simpson announced the purchase of a historic 1,070-acre cattle operation in Highlands County. The ranch, which is located within the Florida Wildlife Corridor, was acquired through the Rural and Family Lands Program for \$4.3 Million.

The Rural and Family Lands Program purchases the development rights to agricultural properties through voluntary rural lands protection easements, which prevent the future development of the land and allow agriculture operations to continue to contribute to Florida's economy.

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Laura Moody was appointed by Governor Ron DeSantis to serve as Judge on the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit Court which serves Brevard and Seminole Counties, filling the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Nancy Maloney.

For the past five years, Judge Moody has served as the Chief Legal Counsel for the Brevard County Sheriff's Office. Prior to that role, she served as an Assistant State Attorney for the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit. She earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Central Florida and her juris doctor from Florida A&M University.

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Florida Lieutenant Governor Jeanette Nunez, Chair of Space Florida's Board of Directors, announced the fourth annual Florida Space Art Contest, which is open to students in grades K-5. Students are invited to create a 2D artwork based on the theme, "Liftoff! Florida's Spaceship of the Future."

Florida's Department of Education Commissioner Manny Diaz emphasized the importance of teaching students about the history of space exploration, saying, "The space industry has played a large role in the success of our state."

Twelve finalists will each win two tickets to the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex. Two lucky grand prize winners will have their artwork launched into space on an upcoming mission. All entries must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 23, 2025.

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Florida Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services Wilton Simpson announced the launch of the new Water and Wastewater Treatment Facility Energy Efficiency Program, with \$5 million in grant funding. The program is available to publicly owned water and wastewater treatment facilities in Florida's rural counties. Grants ranging from \$250,000 to \$750,000 will support projects that implement innovative energy-saving technologies, such as

energy-efficient motors pumps, nutrient recovery, boilers, blowers and more.

"By investing in rural counties, we are ensuring that our water and wastewater treatment facilities are not only more energy efficient but also more cost effective," Simpson said. "These upgrades will reduce operating expenses, which helps local governments better serve their communities and keep utility costs manageable for Florida families."



AN UPDATE FROM MY OFFICE By Florida District 8 State Senator Tom Wright

As we close out 2024 and reflect on the year, December has been an exciting and productive month. The Florida Senate held its first interim committee week starting on

December 9, marking the beginning of preparation for the 2025 Legislative Session.

This committee week was primarily focused on training and orienting senators for the months ahead. It was a valuable opportunity to review protocols, set priorities, and begin shaping strategies for addressing the issues that matter most to our constituents. With a new Senate President and House Speaker at the helm, this session holds the promise of fresh ideas and renewed focus on advancing Florida's resilience, education, and economic strength.

One of my key legislative priorities this year is addressing the heartbreaking impact of repeat DUI offenders. All too often, we hear of families losing loved ones due to the reckless actions of repeat offenders. Strengthening penalties for these individuals is essential to protecting lives and preventing future tragedies. I am committed to ensuring that Florida's laws reflect the seriousness of these preventable crimes and provide justice for the families affected.

Another initiative I am championing is Senate Bill 88, which aims to establish a clear, legal framework for the use of Utility Terrain Vehicles (UTVs) on designated county roads. This bill balances safety with efficiency, allowing UTVs to serve as a practical option for short trips, particularly in rural and agricultural areas. Importantly, it respects local control by requiring approval from county and municipal authorities to ensure these regulations meet the unique needs of individual communities.

In addition to these legislative priorities, December also brought the opportunity to connect with local leaders and constituents. A highlight of the month was attending the Volusia County League of Cities Annual Holiday Dinner. It is always a privilege to spend time with dedicated community leaders who are working tirelessly to serve their cities. As we gear up for the upcoming legislative session, these conversations provide invaluable insights and strengthen the

collaborative spirit needed to address the challenges and opportunities ahead.

The holiday season is a time for reflection, gratitude, and hope for the future. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve the residents of Florida's 8th District and for the trust you have placed in me. Together, we have achieved meaningful progress this year, and I look forward to continuing this work in 2025. Whether it is addressing statewide issues like disaster recovery and workforce development or advocating for initiatives that directly impact our district, I remain committed to delivering results that improve the lives of Floridians.

As we celebrate this holiday season, I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a prosperous New Year. May this time be filled with joy, peace, and the company of loved ones. Let us look forward to 2025 with optimism and a shared commitment to making our state an even better place to live, work, and raise a family.

Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to all we will accomplish together in the coming year. If you ever need assistance, please don't hesitate to contact my office at 386-304-7630 or email me at wright.tom@flsenate.gov.



**Brevard
Federated
Republican
WOMEN**

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

The Brevard Federated
Republican Women

December 4 meeting was a combination election-Christmas celebration time. Our members donated a lot of toys to Toys For Tots, and a U.S. Marine from their Toys For Tots organization – **Sgt. Max Neusenbaum** -- spoke to us about the program.

Continuing BFRW's commitment to supporting our veterans, we also made a sizable donation to the Cocoa Veterans Village.

The following members were elected to our 2025-2027 Board:

- Xiaoqi Wang**, President
- Connie Cavazos**, 1st Vice President
- Patricia Moore-Carroll**, 2nd Vice President
- Claudette Bish**, 3rd Vice President
- Jackie McLaughlin**, Treasurer
- Dixie Riepl**, Recording Secretary

I expressed my pride in being elected and thanked outgoing President **Jill Gentis** and others for their past service. I said that when we work together, we really can make a difference and encouraged us all to support BFRW and rise to the challenge during these crucial years in American history.

The new Board will outline its goals and aspirations during the coming years and will present their recommendations for members' feedback soon. While I do not know what their recommendations will be, I am certain of one thing - our journey together will be enjoyable.

BFRW has had a proud, 74-year-long history, and if everyone works hard, we will make it a leader in our Community, our State, and our Nation -- a better place for our children now and in generations to come.

2024 is ending on a good note, and 2025 promises to be a year of prosperity under **President Donald Trump**. Well done, Ladies!

Since the first Wednesday in January is New Year's Day, our first meeting of the year will be Wednesday, January 8. Our speaker will be **Florida FFRW President Barbara Price** – who also is the Republican Party State Committeewoman in Lake County. She also will swear in our new officer slate.



NORTH TO THE PARTY By Robin Ricker, President of NBRC

This month the North Brevard Republican Club celebrated a Trump 2025 WIN for America along with our Christmas Party. We had a fabulous turnout, filling up the room at Dixie

Crossroads with holiday cheer! Frank Pavone was our speaker, and he expounded on the tremendous job Trump is already doing when he isn't even in office yet.

Pavone spoke about the March for Life coming up in Washington D.C. in March 2025, welcoming anyone who can attend. For more information, visit: <https://www.priestsforlife.org/marchforlife>.

Outgoing President **Pat Deen** spoke about all the amazing accomplishments we've made this year, with the office, the flag waves, rallies, and all the work that had such a positive impact on our community this year. With Trump beginning his administration with such a strong start, we have to remember there are always those who want to divide us. We just can't allow that to happen, nationally or locally.

Our new Officers and Board members were sworn in by **BREC Chairman Rick Lacey**, who spoke about all we have worked so hard on. NBRC wishes to thank Chairman Lacey for all the hard work he has done past, present and future in supporting us any way that he could. He's always there to lend what aid we need.

And so, now we begin a new year, looking forward to an even brighter America. God Bless America!



REMEMBER WHEN

By Heritage Isle Republican Club
President Mike Hoagland

Remember when I said that our greatest worry would be what the Biden White House did between November 5 and January 20? How much more damage could they do? Plenty. This Marxist government is racing to get as many illegals into this country as time will permit. Biden goes to Angola and gives them \$1 billion to construct a railroad in order for China to load material from their mines and transport their product to Chinese ships at a port on the west coast of Africa. What did we get? Nothing. \$1 billion could have gone to hurricane relief.

Biden has signed an order protecting government workers allowing them to work remotely for the next 5 years. He is spending billions as quickly as he can on any green initiative. Biden continues to send weapons and funding to Ukraine. He continues to undermine Israel.

The Marxist bureaucrats are implementing any action that will disrupt the incoming Trump administration. This Marxist government states that they are trying to Trump proof the government from his agenda. The Marxist legacy media continues to offer 96% negative coverage on Trump's cabinet nominees.

We all know that Trump is surrounding himself with loyalists who will implement his agenda which consists of bringing about world peace and providing the American Dream for American citizens. All of Trump's team should be approved for their position. They are all qualified and all will remove the rot that exists in Washington, D.C. He doesn't need anything personally. He has had it all his whole life.

That is part of the political establishment's problem with Trump. They have no leverage on him. There is going to be a fight between now and the approval of Trump's team. Please consider emailing any and every senator. It makes a difference.

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And remember in 2016 when Donald Trump said he was going to drain the swamp in Washington, D.C.? We saw how that ended. The "deep State" responded along with their Marxist legacy media partners in disrupting the Trump presidency. Spying, wiretapping, smearing, lying, slow walking the agenda and the beginning of lawfare starting with Letisha James in New York were some of the activities conducted by corrupt actors.

The Democrats were assisting in these efforts with two impeachment attempts and attacking Trump every day as a fascist, sexist criminal. There were internal White House plants who made every effort to undermine Trump's agenda. The likes of General Kelly, Colonel Vindman and others should be charged with treason. Calling them rats is being unkind towards rats. A number of establishment Republicans (RINOs) fit this description. I won't mention names because

they might assist Trump this time because of the election mandate.

Now once-again, Trump is the president elect. January 20 can't come soon enough. The attacks on his cabinet nominees are vicious and relentless. He won't be fooled again. When he said he would drain the swamp and return government to "we the people", he meant it. He intends to reform every corrupt department and agency. We all know that corruption is rampant in our federal bureaucracy and needs some drastic actions. Trump has nominated 100% loyal individuals who will follow his agenda to the letter. That is why he was elected by Americans! Clean up this rats' nest. The "deep state" is going nuts and they will do or say anything to damage these nominees. Democrats and RINOs are doing their share of attacking Trump's nominees. Remember that every Democrat senator voted for every Biden cabinet nominee in 2020. We should expect the same from our Republican senators with Trump's nominees.

If Trump has his cabinet in place, the Marxist movement may never be able to recover at the end of his term in office. If Vance is elected as president in 2028, their time in America is over. If anyone questioned Donald Trump's influence on global issues, take note how foreign leaders and institutions are reacting to his reelection. All know that he will do what he says he will do.

THIS AND THAT



MARIE ROGERSON VIDEO PRESENTATION. The newly elected Republican State Committeewoman for Florida's Brevard County, **Marie Rogerson**, prepared a video presentation for members of the Brevard Republican Executive Committee (BREC) to understand the roles they will have as the county's

precinct committeemen and committeewomen. Prospective new members have to sign two loyalty oaths – one for BREC and one for the Republican Party of Florida – and then be voted in by a quorum of the membership. BREC's objectives, Rogerson said, are to win elections, increase registration, educate the electorate, loyalty, and defend principles. It is not the purpose to issue advocacy and accountability. "We exist to win," she stressed. The Committee's officers are the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and five District Chairs. Subcommittees include Campaigns, Communications, Education, Election Integrity, Events, Finance, Fund Raising, IT, Membership, Outreach, and Rules. The two main roles of the Precinct Committeemen and women, Rogerson said, are to win elections and grow the party. The community responsibilities are to raise and expend funds, attend county committee meetings, adopt bylaws, approve and serve on subcommittees, and adopt resolutions. Rogerson concluded that the "lay of the land" for an individual precinct includes geographic data, demographic data, political data, and voter data. It is organized with a precinct chair, neighborhood captains, block walkers and voters.



THE WORST QUOTE

OF THE YEAR. Every year, the Media Research Center announces its winner of the “Brian

Stelter Award for Quote of the Year.” And for 2024, for the second time in a row, the “honor” goes to MSNBC’s “Morning Joe” co-host Joe Scarborough. It was actually back in March that the former one-time Republican Congressman attempted to “clear up” reports of President Biden’s declining intellectual abilities. Scarborough then said: “Start your tape right now, because I’m about to tell you the truth. And f-you if you can’t handle the truth. This version of Biden intellectually, analytically, is the best Biden ever. Not a close second. And I’ve known him for years. The Brzezinski have known him for 50 years. If it weren’t the truth, I wouldn’t say it.”

FLORIDA POLITICS. The editors of Florida Politics’ “Last Call” sent out the publication’s final report for the year, noting that “We wish you a Merry Christmas...or whatever holiday you choose to celebrate. May your eggnog be strong, your family arguments be brief, and your political discourse be (slightly) less polarizing this season.”



ARMY-NAVY GAME. The annual football game was fun to watch – as Navy unexpectedly dominated favored Army 31-13 on December 14. Traditionally, the President of the United States attends the event – and crosses the

field at halftime in order to sit equally with both sides of the match. But while President Joe Biden was a no-show, former and soon-to-be-again **President Donald Trump** did attend – and brought with him an interesting collection of guests – **Vice President-elect J.D. Vance; Defense Secretary-nominee Pete Hegseth; Intelligence Director-nominee Tulsi Gabbard; House Speaker Mike Johnson; Florida Governor Ron DeSantis; Tesla CEO Elon Musk; and Daniel Penny**, the former Marine acquitted in a subway killing.

HERITAGE ISLE REPUBLICAN CLUB.

Addressing the Heritage Isle Republican Club on December 5, **Ruth Kaufhold**, executive director for Brevard County, Florida, of Citizens Defending Freedom, said her grassroots organization was created three years ago to empower and equip Americans to defend their liberty at the local level. Our mission, she said, “is to educate, equip and empower citizens to stand for and preserve freedom for themselves and future generations.” Noting that our nation “is at a crossroads,” Kaufhold said the government and politicians won’t save us. It is we, the people, who will, with Citizens Defending Freedom’s help.” CDF focuses on education, elections, faith and freedom, she said, in the fight



to save America. Kaufhold explained that her organization is non-political, so while candidates for office can participate in forums at the group’s meetings, there cannot be any specific endorsements. Soon, she added, they will start having town halls with already elected officials, so they can discuss what they are doing. Kaufhold also noted that CDF supports organized groups of pastors and ministry leaders to bring a biblical world view back into society and governance. Called a “Moral Compass Coalition,” this group of biblical leaders focus on defending the God-given moral standards and constitutional rights of citizens to include faith, freedom and liberty. These moral standards are the foundation of America and all successful societies, without which, all societies fail. For more information, visit the website

www.citizensdefendingfreedom.com.



Addressing the Wednesday Wake –Up Breakfast Meeting of the Leadership Institute in Arlington, Virginia, on December 4, **Sebastian Grundberger**, the head of Regional Program Party Support and Democracy in Latin America and the Uruguay Office, said

democracy has declined in Latin America over the past two decades. He attributed this to “The Pink Galaxy,” an outgrowth of “the Pink Tide,” comprised of left-wing actors, institutions and associations undermining the principles of liberal democracy. Grundberger said that among the associations within the Galaxy are “The Sao Paulo Forum,” an organization of political parties with the most governments in Latin America; “The Puebla Group” of left-wing activists; “CLACSO,” the Latin American Council of Social Sciences, a disseminator of highly biased academic communications and publications; and “The Progressive International,” which connects Latin American leftist organizations with their peers outside the region. The groups that undercut democracy in Latin



America, Grundberger said, do not distinguish between the democratic and the totalitarian left. These are groups that have been nurtured by the regimes in Cuba, Venezuela, and Nicaragua, validating them. He added that they are anti-capitalism.... Also in December, LI founder and president **Morton Blackwell** reported that the most intensive and comprehensive program

offered by the organization – the Campaign Leadership College – teaches 50 top leaders the most up-to-date techniques, tactics, and strategies to run state-of-the-art campaigns for conservative candidates and causes. He said LI also hosted a Candidate Development School for 25 current and aspiring candidates for public office, and it trained conservative activists in the art of campaign fundraising. These highly intensive programs, Blackwell said, are designed for serious, hardworking leaders and activists.

AUDACITY AND IDIOCY

This month's "winners" are:

--Finally retired Utah Senator Willard "Mittens" Romney, for using his "farewell address" to take a final swipe at President Trump and his supporters without actually saying the name. He directed moral indignation not at the Democrats who pushed division, identity politics and CRT in classrooms – but instead at the Republican base he's spent years alienating. His biggest Senate accomplishment – according to PatriotClash.com – was making headlines as the only Republican to vote to impeach Trump – twice. He also took a bold stand against investigating Democrat President Joe Biden's mishandling of classified documents, calling it "politically charged." In its own "farewell message" to Romney, PatriotClash.com said, "Don't let the door hit you on the way out."

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--Township Council President Nishith Patel in Edison, New Jersey, for having police remove two citizens from their meeting for the "crime" of disrupting the session by exhibiting two "props." The Council considers ANY "props" as "banned objects." So, what were these items considered offensive to the council members? Absurdly, they were a small U.S. flag and a copy of the U.S. Constitution.

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--The Virginia Association of Realtors, for ruling that one of its members – 70-year-old pastor and realtor Wison Fauber – was guilty of "an ethics violation" for posting Bible verses about homosexuality, after a gay realtor accused him of "hate speech" that actually occurred nine years ago. The pastor now faces a \$15,000 fine and could lose his license to sell real estate. The Founding Freedoms Law Center is representing Fauber, who says that the National Association of Realtors is a "woke" organization.

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--"Woke" math teacher at Rancho Buena Vista High School in California – identified as a Mr. Reyes -- for forcing students to come out as gay or lesbian during a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion assignment. He told the freshmen students: "Stand in a circle. Each of you is now gay or lesbian, and you are about to begin your coming out process. You cannot talk for the rest of this activity." The assignment instructions subsequently went viral after parent James Leon published a photo of them taken by his daughter to Instagram. His daughter and six other students reportedly walked out of class after their teacher unveiled the assignment. Defending the absurd assignment, the Vista Unified School District said, "All parents and students were informed of this course's content before it started and were allowed to opt out of lessons

YOU CAN'T MAKE THIS UP

--"How the Grinch Stole Christmas" is a work of fiction. How the moronic



administrators of Wisconsin Children's Hospital did is real life. After Brecken Markee, a young hospital patient, passed away from a congenital heart defect, his family created a charity named Brecken's Blessings, which for two years delivered thousands of toys, books and gift baskets for Christmas to the hospital's young patients. Then came this Christmas, when the administrators rejected all of the gifts because the charity's name "Blessings" was perceived as "religious," and against their policies. Brecken's upset family donated the gifts instead to a woman's shelter for its occupants' children. Needless to say, the story went viral and the children's hospital received heavy criticism. So much so, that the administrators admitted they made a mistake, and told the family, "We hope to be able to work with Brecken's Blessings in the future and are truly sorry for the hurt this has caused."

--For more than a year, President Joe Biden and the White House vowed numerous times not to use executive authority to save Biden's son, Hunter, from prison. Following his conviction on three federal gun charges plus a guilty plea on nine federal tax evasion charges, Hunter Biden was scheduled to be sentenced this month and potentially faced years in prison plus a large fine. But on December 1, the president broke his promise and issued Hunter a full pardon. Joe Biden called the convictions "a miscarriage of justice" and accused Republicans of injecting "raw politics" into the judicial process.

--A former judge who was sentenced to 17.5 years in prison for sending juvenile defendants to private, for-profit detention centers in exchange for \$2.1 million in kickbacks, Michael Conahan, was only one of 1,499 prisoners who had their sentences commuted this month by President Joe Biden as he prepared to leave office. Biden – who earlier pardoned his son, Hunter, who had been convicted of tax and gun crimes – also issued 49 pardons to other convicts.

-- But that was not the end of Biden's "Pardon and Commute" spree. Later in the month, he even commuted the sentences of 37 individuals on federal death row throughout the United States – including cop killers and murderers – and they will be reclassified from execution to life without the possibility of parole. He said he is "more convinced than ever that we must stop the use of the death penalty at the federal level."

--In a move that violated her sworn oath of office, outgoing Pennsylvania Congresswoman Susan Wild – the top Democrat on the House Ethics Committee – has admitted to leaking to the press confidential details of the panel's investigation into former Florida Republican Congressman Matt Gaetz. The leaks played an integral part in disrupting Gaetz's path to becoming the Trump Administration's Attorney General. Now that Gaetz has resigned from Congress as well, his next move is launching a new nightly television show on One America News Network beginning in January.

--In a murder case in Escambia County, Florida, Sheila Agee was on trial for sending her son text messages to kill the

mother of his child. The victim – Brooklyn Sims – was one of Agee’s co-workers. During the proceedings, Judge Coleman Robinson declared a mistrial, because one member of the jury – 80-year-old Sallie Sue Smith – worked on crossword puzzles – both during witness testimony and jury deliberation. Smith had claimed that crossword puzzles “helped her concentrate,” and she did not know the activity would not be allowed. But after her actions led to shouting among all of the jurors, Judge Robinson said the trial was “hindered beyond repair,” and he had never seen anything like it during his years on the bench. The case will be retried in February with a new jury.

--Does AOC stand for Alexandria Ocasio Cortez – or Always Only Clueless? After new Delaware Representative Tim McBride decided to wear dresses in Congress and use the name “Sarah,” House Speaker Mike Johnson adamantly stated that McBride cannot use the women’s restrooms at the Capitol. But that led AOC to absurdly claim that Republicans supporting the restroom ban were “endangering women. They’re endangering girls of all kinds, and everybody should reject it. It’s gross.” Anyone searching for logic or reason in this statement will quickly realize it is an exercise in futility. But that is just AOC in action.

--The 2024 Fashion Awards in London announced the winner of the Model of the Year award. He is Alex Consani, a 21-year-old who has appeared on runways for Chanel, Stella McCartney and Victoria’s Secret – and is the first transgender to win the title.

--San Francisco resident Darcie Bell disliked the police, and wanted them defunded – but did a turnabout, changed her tune, and filed a police report when a brazen thief made off with a U-Haul packed full of everything she owned. When the cops failed to find her thing right away, however, Bell went on Facebook and threw a public temper tantrum against them. Reverting to form, Bell demanded even more police defunding.

--When it comes to Democracy and Freedom, our neighbor to the North – Canada – ranks right up there with such bastions as...Communist China...North Korea...Russia...Cuba...and others of their ilk. The “Toronto Sun” reported this month that back in 2020, Mayor Harold McQuaker of Emo Township opposed a Town Council request for him to declare June “Pride Month” in Emo. And now, the newspaper said, the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario fined McQuaker \$5,000 for refusing to bow at the “Pride” alter and ordered him to attend a Human Rights “re-education course.” He said he would refuse to comply with either, telling the Sun, “I utterly refuse to pay the \$5,000 because that’s extortion.” But Borderline Pride, the winner of the judgment against the mayor, bragged about the court ordering a garnishment of the mayor’s wages, and the money was literally taken out of his bank account. McQuaker did not do anything wrong in the sense of taking action against a certain group of people; he simply refused to endorse “pride” dogma as a government official. Oh, Canada, how you have changed.

EXPERTS’ EXCERPTS



Former U.S. Ambassador Stanley Escudero, writing “Economic Reform – A Complex Affair – A Complex Affair,” for the Volusia County Republican Party Newsletter:

“Thank God that **Donald Trump, Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy** are to make a serious

and sustained effort to reduce the size and reach of our bloated government and to make reforms that will enable our economy to operate more efficiently and less expensively. For years I, and a number of others, have maintained that such reforms are needed to prevent eventual economic and financial collapse. Much of what they are planning to do can be achieved, at least until the next Democrat Administration, through executive order. But many of the more impactful reforms they have in mind will require Congressional legislation, which is far less certain. And, while desperately necessary, reforms of this kind are both difficult and dangerous because national economies are extremely complicated and interconnected things. Any significant cuts or other reforms must be very carefully constructed lest they produce unintended and damaging impacts. The task before our new Administration will require a well-planned series of surgical operations rather than an axe and a chain saw. For example, President Trump plans to use tariffs as a foreign affairs weapon. Used selectively, tariffs can be very persuasive. Overused, they can create more harm than benefits.... Over time, this tactic works very well. The tariff raises the cost of the imported product to a level greater than the cost to make it in America and, at the same time, it provides increased employment, local economic stimulation and additional income to the government from taxes. But there is a lag. There will be a period during which the foreign-made product is still imported into the United States but at the higher price imposed by the addition of the tariff. Used in this fashion, the tariff is eventually beneficial but there is a short-term price to be paid.... We would be well-advised to tariff only economies which are substantially dependent upon America for many of their most-needed imports. Too broad a use of the tariff weapon could lead several nations to impose tariffs against the United States at the same time.... Tariffs will work, but President Trump must choose his targets carefully. We cannot depend entirely upon government, not even Donald Trump’s government, to put our country back on track to growth and prosperity. Ours is a capitalist economy and, in such an economy, success depends primarily on business. Fortunately, Trump, Musk and Ramaswamy understand this very well. Trump’s goal of unleashing our vast oil and gas industries while stressing nuclear power over expensive “renewable” energy will immediately reduce costs to business and to ordinary citizens and this will enable accumulation of more capital for investment and the growth that stems from it. And it will encourage the development of the enormous amounts of new electrical

energy to be consumed by the production of cryptocurrencies and the cascade of advances in artificial intelligence. This is the stuff that growth is made of. The establishment of an informal Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) under the direction of Musk and Ramaswamy will further free up business productivity by recommending the elimination of mountains of stifling government regulations which add unnecessary time and cost to so many elements of our economy....Most people not employed by or otherwise dependent upon government agree that our government has become much too large, controlling and intrusive, and that it must be made to shrink. For decades politicians, economists and others have called for reductions in government and the incredible debt it has run up but not until now has anyone tried seriously to do anything about it...President Trump wants to cut taxes on tips, overtime, social security and by extending the major tax reductions approved in his first term. Everyone wants to pay less in taxes and these and other tax reductions may prove possible if Musk and Ramaswamy are successful in severely reducing the cost of government. They also want to begin paying down the national debt, which presupposes more tax revenue, not less. Thus, a great deal of additional tax revenue must be generated by increased business growth and reduction in the size and cost of government...Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy are successful beyond the dreams of mortal avarice. Musk is unquestionably the greatest living genius on the planet. I am none of these. I can only see some of the problems and the vagaries of solutions involved in what they are setting out to do. But I have faith in Donald Trump, and in Musk and Ramaswamy, who are boldly about to go where no leader has gone before. I hope and pray that they succeed.

“New York Post” columnist Betsy McCaughey, “Everyone’s blaming health insurance-company greed for soaring costs, rising claims, denials, and daunting roadblocks to care. That’s naïve. Follow the money to find the real culprits: lying politicians. In 2013, before Affordable Care Act regulations kicked in, insurers denied roughly 1.5% of claims, according to the American Medical Association. But under ACA rules, denials increased tenfold. Now, nearly 15% of claims are denied, reports Premier, an insurance consultant firm. Some insurers deny a third or more of claims, according to Kaiser Family Foundation research. Insurers are also increasingly demanding pre-authorizations for a wide range of treatments and medications, tying your doctor’s hands and in some cases dangerously delaying care. Your doctor has to call the insurer before beginning treatment or ordering a prescription – and seldom is the person on the other end of the phone a specialist in the disease or treatment in question.... According to House Committee on Energy and Commerce testimony, 80% of preapprovals that Cigna denied for Medicare Advantage customers were overturned on appeal – a sign that legitimate care is being withheld. Cigna uses an



algorithm called PXDX to deny prior authorizations in bulk. Denials and prior authorization requirements escalated after the ACA went into effect. But don’t blame the profit motive: The law regulates and limits profits on health policies. Underwriting profits are measured by the ‘medical loss ratio,’ the portion of premium revenue spent on health care. The ACA requires individual and small group plans to spend 80% on care, and large plans to spend 85%. An insurer that fails to do so, and profits too much, has to send a rebate to its policy holders. Giants like United Healthcare have grown into money-making behemoths not by selling health plans, but by buying physicians’ practices, hospitals and pharmacy chains, IBIS industry research found. The actual reason for your health insurance’s increasing unreliability is this: The politicians who backed Obamacare knowingly made a promise that was impossible to keep without insurers resorting to predatory practices. Obamacare advocates promised everyone would be charged the same, regardless of their ‘pre-existing conditions.’ But the math doesn’t work: Every year, just 5% of the population accounts for more than 50% of our health-care spending....The federal government could have stepped in with extra financial assistance to cover people with pre-existing conditions. Instead, insurers were hit with a mountain of new claims and told to make it work. They did – by adopting draconian cost-cutting methods. The winners? Democratic politicians. The losers? Everyone else, who now has to worry that their next treatment will be delayed or their next claim denied. The biggest losers, sadly, are the seriously ill – who suffer disproportionately from managed care’s tight controls, according to the National Bureau of Economic Research....President Biden’s Department of Health and Human Services has boasted that the ACA’s coverage expansion -- mostly in managed care – reduced ‘morbidity and mortality’ That’s a blatant lie. Americans are sicker and living shorter lives today than before the ACA went into effect. One alternative: Allow low-cost catastrophic insurance, which kicks in only for the largest medical bills. Healthy people who get coverage at work could pay for routine care on an out-of-pocket basis. They would benefit from fewer interactions with an insurer and more take-home pay in lieu of a whopping \$25,000 plan – the average cost this year for family coverage.”



American Security Council Foundation Senior Analyst

Laurence F. Sanford, writing on the International Criminal Court in his “Peace Through Strength” publication:

“The International Criminal Court (ICC) should be renamed the International Court Of Criminals and Clowns (ICCC). The ICC issued an

arrest warrant for President Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel for the ‘war crime of starvation as a method of warfare: and the crimes against humanity of murder, persecution, and other inhumane acts’ in Gaza. Warrants were also issued against Hamas leaders but are meaningless as the Hamas leaders are purported dead. Hamas and its leaders are the ones who

committed crimes against humanity with its October 7, 2023, invasion of Israel. The ICC is equating Hamas' atrocities with Israeli defense response. Though independent from the U.N., the ICC is endorsed by the General Assembly. The difference between the U.N.'s International Court of Justice and the ICC is that the ICJ cases involve countries, while the ICC is a criminal court that brings cases against individuals. The ICC lead prosecutor is Karim Khan, a British barrister of Pakistani descent. He has been accused of sexual harassment by a well-regarded ICC female lawyer. Khan is a member of the Muslim Ahmadi sect, a group founded in 1889 in British India, which views itself as leading the propagation and renaissance of Islam. The ICC charges are baseless, as Israel is responding in self-defense to the Hamas invasion of October 7, 2023, where over 1,400 Israelis and some visiting Americans were slaughtered, tortured, raped, or taken hostage. The war would end immediately if Hamas surrendered and released the hostages. The ICC, founded in 2002, is headquartered in The Hague, Netherlands, and its 124 member nations fund it. The current ICC membership does not include the United States, Russia, Israel, China, Turkey, Pakistan, and 60 other countries. The U.S. did not join the ICC because it was concerned that the military would be accused of war crimes, which would be contrary to existing U.S. laws. It should be noted that the ICC charter states that it does not act if a country has an existing legal system. Israel has an existing legal system. The ICC is not only targeting the Jewish state, but it is also investigating the U.S. for alleged war crimes in Afghanistan and Iraq. The ICC assault on Judaism is a proxy assault on America. Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has stated he will honor the ICC warrant and arrest Netanyahu if he steps foot in Canada. This is the same Trudeau who danced the night away at a Taylor Swift event while anti-Israel riots led by Islamists rioted the night away in Montreal....The British government and the European Union foreign policy chief, Josep Borrel, have also supported the ICC's arrest warrants. Borrel stated the narrative must 'avoid any kind of clashes based on religion, civilization, or ethnicity' South Africa has asked the ICJ to prosecute Israel for genocide. The Marxist-led government, and a founder of BRICS, has yet to ask ICJ to file charges against the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) for genocide against the Muslim Uighurs or Russian atrocities in the Ukraine invasion. American leaders have voiced their opposition to the ICC warrants against Israel...The criminal and clown show ICC is one of many international organizations, including the United Nations, corrupted and influenced by anti-Western, anti-American ideologies of Marxism and Islamism. Western Civilization is under assault. The U.S. should make it very clear that any country that complies with the ICC warrant will face serious consequences from the U.S."



World Net Daily author Bob Unruh, writing on Kay Jewelers firing an employee on religious grounds:

"A lawsuit has been filed against Kay Jewelers after a Christian employee was fired for talking about her faith with a co-worker. Commentator Todd Starnes explained the situation had the markings of a 'setup,' saying 'The conversation happened in a back work area at a Kay Jewelers in Fairlawn, Ohio. The coworker continuously pressed (Mika) Cohen for her personal opinions about Pride Month. Finally, she explained that she is a Christian and shared her sincerely held beliefs on God's definition of marriage and sexuality,' he explained. 'A few weeks later Kay Jewelers launched a HR investigation into the conversation alleging her remarks were inappropriate.' Shortly later, she was fired....To make matters even worse, Starnes said, "It appears as though Kay Jewelers is anti-Christian. Diamonds may be a girl's best friend, but Kay Jewelers is certainly no friend to Christians," It is the American Center for Law and Justice that took on the case. It said it is defending 'an employee's right to express her religious beliefs,' this time in Ohio. Cohen was dismissed by Kay from her position as assistant manager for sharing her Christian beliefs with a co-worker after repeatedly being asked to do so, the legal team said.... Ms. Cohen politely attempted to avoid speaking on the subject completely by saying everyone is entitled to their own opinions. Nonetheless, the co-worker gave her opinion on God's creation of humanity and kept prodding Ms. Cohen to share her religious beliefs. After being pressured repeatedly to share her beliefs, Ms. Cohen finally shared her beliefs on the Bible's teachings. The ACLJ confirmed there was 'no quarrel or hostility,' and the conversation ended shortly. Then Cohen was informed by Kay that an investigator was looking into her 'inappropriate discussions of religion at work.: Then came her firing. 'No further explanation was given and no termination letter was provided – Ms. Cohen was simply told to pack up her things and leave,' the ACLJ said. 'This uncalled-for and unjust termination left Ms. Cohen and her family without insurance to cover medical necessities and much of the income upon which they relied.' Kay's parent company does, in fact, promote the leftist beliefs about 'diversity, equity, and inclusivity 'on its website. 'Clearly, this commitment only applies to non-Christian beliefs that do not align with the Bible's teachings. Kay Jewelers' conduct in this case demonstrates no valid basis to fire Ms. Cohen, and its lack of transparency or accountability for violating Ms. Cohen's rights constitutes a blatant disregard for religious freedom and a demonstrative act of religious intolerance,' the charges by ACLJ include."

Author Todd Starnes, writing on his website about a senior citizen being told not to say "Merry Christmas":

"The management of a senior adult apartment complex in Washington State should expect a lump of coal in its stocking after they rebuked a woman for writing 'Merry Christmas' in the complex's newsletter. The woman never imagined offending anyone when she concluded a newsletter



with 'Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa!' It seemed to me that she was covering all of her holiday bases.... But Cirrus Management, the company that runs Riverside Landing Apartments, thought her message was anything but friendly. The American Center for Law and Justice says the elderly woman was told her message was too religious to hand out. 'Our client, Marie, prints a helpful newsletter at her senior apartment complex. Marie never imagined she was offending anyone,' the ACLJ said in a statement. 'You read that right: A resident of a housing community in the United States is being prohibited from expressing Merry Christmas.' And that happens to be a violation of the U.S. Constitution as well as the Fair Housing Act. The government cannot impose restrictions on a resident's religious liberty. 'Marie's freedom of speech and freedom of religion are being violated by management in other ways,' ACLJ alleges. 'They are telling her that advertising her Bible study and informing residents about visiting pastors are unacceptable while simultaneously allowing secular and irreligious events to advertise freely.' The apartment complex ordered Marie to no longer distribute newsletters if the words 'Christian' or 'Christmas' were mentioned. 'Essentially, management told her that the newsletter couldn't reflect reality and must be stripped of its very identity,' the ACLJ said. 'She's been told that even a spirit of inclusivity by incorporating Hanukkah and Kwanzaa isn't enough: There must be no mention of religion at all.' The ACLJ sent a demand letter calling on Riverside Landing to reverse these discriminatory policies immediately. 'Our client – and every resident – has the right to exercise their faith and to speak freely, whether that means hosting a Bible study, publishing a newsletter, or simply saying, 'Merry Christmas.' If they don't agree to comply with the law, we will be forced to take further legal action to defend Marie's rights this Christmas,' ACLJ said."

THOUGHTS TO PONDER

"The resignation of Christopher Wray is a great day for America as it will end the weaponization of what has become known as the United States Department of Injustice. I just don't know what happened to him. We will now restore the Rule of Law for all Americans. Under the leadership of Christopher Wray, the FBI illegally raided my home, without cause, worked diligently on illegally impeaching and indicting me, and has done everything else to interfere with the success and future of America. They have used their vast powers to threaten and destroy many innocent Americans, some of which will never be able to recover from what has been done to them....As everyone knows, I have great respect for the rank-and-file of the FBI, and they have great respect for me. They want to see these changes every bit as much as I do but, more importantly, the American People are demanding a strong, but fair, System of Justice. We want our FBI back, and that will now happen. I look forward to Kash Patel's confirmation, so that the process of Making the FBI Great Again can begin."

--**President Donald Trump**, reacting to Christopher Wray announcing he is resigning as FBI Director, and will leave his post as the end of President Biden's term in office
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"After The Daily Wire published an exclusive revealing that the Biden administration was racing to sell off parts of the border wall before President-elect Donald Trump takes office, Texas GOP Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick fiercely declared his state was prepared to bid on every piece being sold and then give it directly to Trump. He made clear during his campaign that he intends to finish construction of the border wall, making use of the materials that have remained untouched at the border since President Joe Biden took office in 2021. If the material brought to the border during his first term is sold off, it will significantly delay any progress on one of Trump's flagship campaign promises at the border... "We mean business in Texas, and Tom Homan means business and President Trump means business," Patrick told Fox News' Laura Ingraham. "And I don't know if you heard the latest today, Laura, but Joe Biden is now hauling off the border wall that's been lying down for years and he wants to auction it off starting at \$5 apiece."

--The Daily Wire writer **Hank Berrien**, on Biden's plan to sabotage Trump

"**How appropriate that** the Biden presidency is ending with an act of self-dealing that he and his allies insisted, with great righteousness, would never happen. Joe Biden was always a scam, and his pardon of his son Hunter Biden is just the latest evidence. No one should have believed Biden's flagrant lie that he wouldn't pardon Hunter for his tax and gun crimes and other potential wrongdoing. The president has a long record of dishonesty, about his own biography (which blew up his first presidential campaign in 1988) and especially about the family influence-peddling business."

--"**National Review**" Editor-in-Chief **Rich Lowry**, on Biden's pardon of his son, Hunter
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"It couldn't happen to a nicer guy or network. It was announced that ABC would pay Donald Trump \$15 million as part of a settlement in a defamation suit the president-elect brought against the network. The money will be used to fund Trump's presidential library. ABC must also drop a cool million to cover Trump's attorneys' fees. Trump sued ABC after, on March 10, This Week host George Stephanopoulos claimed repeatedly that Trump was 'found liable for rape' during a combative interview with Representative Nancy Mace. He wasn't – instead, a questionable charge of sexual abuse.... The settlement was not mentioned during Stephanopoulos' Sunday show or on any ABC News program through Monday's Good Morning America. CBS News flagship programs also omitted the settlement over the same period.

--**Media Research Center Senior Writer Kurt Etheridge**, on Trump's legal win over ABC
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“The liberal media is once again spreading fear and misinformation about President Trump’s latest move. Trump announced his nomination of Kash Patel as the new FBI director, a decision that has caused quite a stir among the left-leaning news outlets. But what they fail to mention is how qualified and capable Patel is for the job. In an interview with CNN, former FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe expressed his disapproval of Patel’s nomination, claiming that it is a ‘terrible development’ for the agency and the nation. But McCabe’s words are simply a reflection of the liberal bias and fearmongering that has become all too common in the media. McCabe went on to suggest that Patel’s nomination is a plan to ‘disrupt, dismantle, and distract’ the FBI, accusing Trump of using the agency for his own political agenda. But let’s look at the facts: Patel has spent his career exposing corruption and defending justice, making him a perfect fit for the role of FBI director.”

--“**The Patriot Chronicles**” writer **Daphne Moon**, on McCabe spreading lies about Patel

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“Joe Biden is going out as a ‘Hollow Man’ in his final days in the Oval Office. ‘This is the way the world ends,’ T.S. Eliot famously wrote. ‘Not with a bang but a whimper.’ He might have been talking about Joe Biden’s presidency. As he prepares to slink out the door, Biden’s final days in the Oval Office offer a perfect metaphor for everything that was wrong with his tenure. He pardoned his convicted-criminal son after vowing not to and his mass commutations included one for a judge convicted of taking kickbacks to send juveniles to for-profit detention facilities. The judge was in Scranton, Pennsylvania, meaning Biden even betrayed distraught parents in his hometown. How’s that for a legacy? His most recent dereliction fits another pattern. Just as he paid no attention to raging inflation, the open border and the decline of America’s global standing, Biden has gone missing as swarms of drones spark fears among millions of Americans on the East Coast. Biden has said nothing, Vice President Kamala Harris has disappeared since losing the election and the White House offers only bland assurances that there’s nothing to worry about.”

--“New York Post writer **Michael Goodwin** on Biden’s legacy

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“Food workers are organizing massive protests that will target members of the incoming Trump Administration. Industry veterans, bartenders and servers are pledging to refuse service and cause mayhem inside dining rooms across the capital city...‘Washingtonian’ magazine interviewed a number of unnamed waiters, bartenders and others who plan to make dining out a miserable experience for anyone connected to the Trump Administration. The Democrats are all about tolerance and acceptance, not so much decorum or basic table manners. If you don’t pledge allegiance to their far-left agenda or ideology, it’s no soup for you! The great irony here is that President Trump was the only candidate defending the service industry. He promised to make good on his promise not to tax

their tips.... The D.C. restaurant industry should throw a parade for President Trump thanking him for putting more money back into their pockets. Instead, they are going to literally spit in his face – and possibly his hamburger. My recommendation for Republicans is to pack a sandwich for lunch or drop by Chick-fil-A. It’s their pleasure to serve everyone, regardless of political affiliation.”

--Podcaster **Todd Starnes**, on D.C. food workers protesting the Trump administration

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“Constitutional – or in today’s parlance, ‘permitless’ – carry has taken the country by storm in recent years, with 29 states no longer requiring lawful gun owners to ask the government’s permission (and have to pay a fee, of course) in order to exercise their Second Amendment-protected right to bear arms in public for self-defense. While this is good news, it is at the same time shameful that it takes legislation and governors’ signatures for law-abiding citizens to be able to do what the Founders meant when placing that guarantee front and center in the Bill of Rights.”

--**National Rifle Association President Bob Barr**, on constitutional carry

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“America was built by optimists, people with the courage and drive to risk all coming here and utilizing the freedom they found to build the greatest society yet seen on this planet. Any honest reading of our history must make one optimistic that, as we always have, we can get our act together to innovate our way past danger when it appears. To band together in the face of common enemies, foreign or domestic. I hope you are all optimists. Regardless how grim one’s prospects, it is the only operating principle that ever makes sense/”

--**Mitchell Daniels**, the Fund For American Studies Trustee Emeritus, addressing TFAS academic internship students

UPCOMING BREVARD COUNTY EVENTS

--January 2: Heritage Isle Republican Club meeting, Heritage Isle Clubhouse, 10 am.

--January 3: Federated Republican Women in Action meeting, Memaw’s BBQ, Palm Bay, 11 am.

--January 8: Brevard Federated Republican Women meeting, Space Coast Convention Center, Cocoa, 1:30 am.

--January 11: Republican Liberty Caucus meeting and Restore The Republic session, Space Coast Convention Center, Cocoa, 6 pm.

--January 13: Space Coast Patriots meeting, Merritt Island library, 6 pm.

- January 13: Moms For Liberty Brevard Chapter meeting, Pizza Gallery, Viera, 7 pm.
- January 16: Republican Women’s Club of Brevard meeting, Suntree Country Club, 11 am.
- January 16: Space Coast Young Republicans Meeting Hotel Melby, Melbourne, 6:30 pm.
- January 21: North Brevard Republican Club meeting, American Police Hall of Fame, Titusville. 6 pm.
- January 21: Florida Republican Assembly Brevard meeting, 705 Harrison Avenue, Titusville, 6:30 pm.
- January 25: Space Coast Republican Club meeting, Red Lobster, Merritt Island, 11:30 am.
- January 27: Ronald Reagan Club meeting, Oceanside Community Church, Satellite Beach, 6 pm.

The Brevard Republican Executive Committee meeting – 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

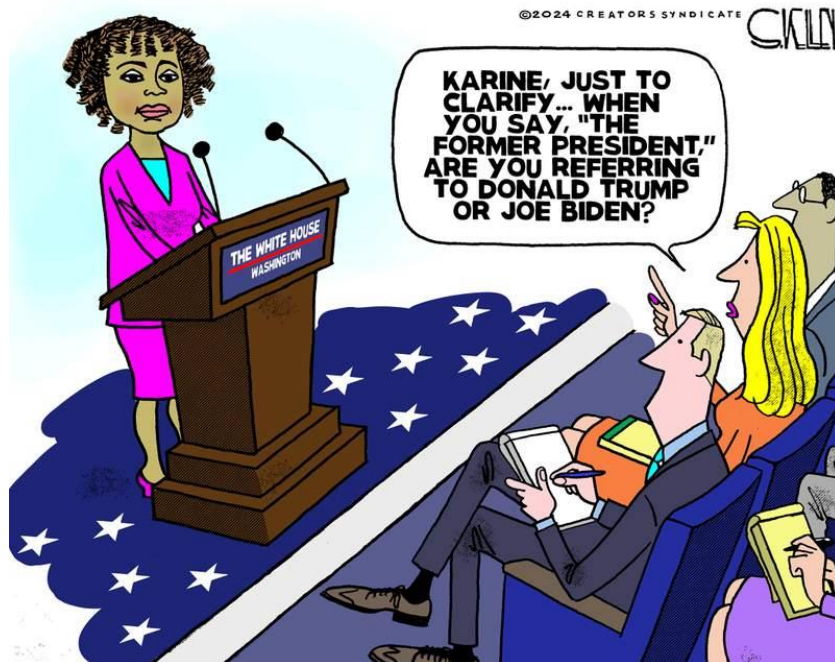
The difference between baseball and politics is that in baseball, if you are caught stealing, you are out.
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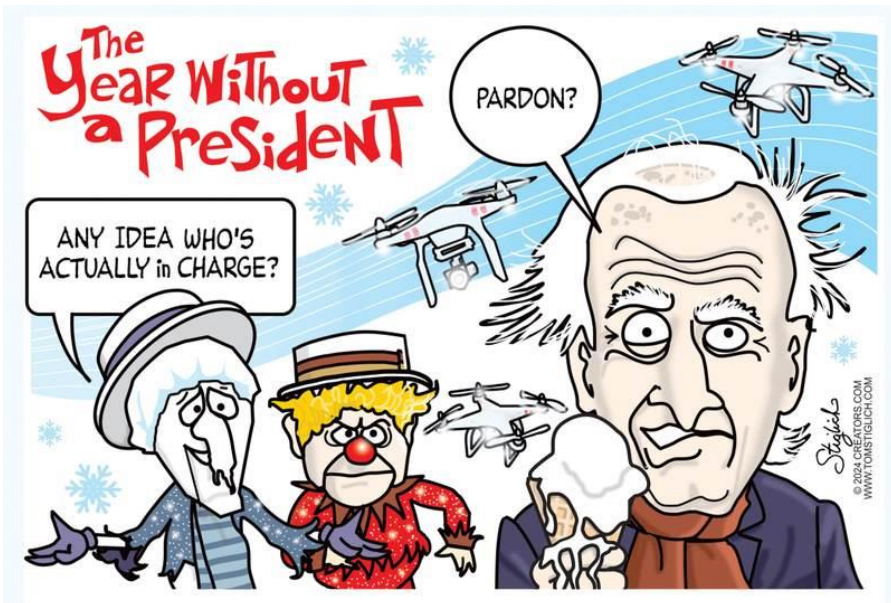
Now that Christmas is over, we can reveal the sad news that Santa’s wife has left him. She wanted to be an Independent Clause.

SEVERAL PAGES OF POLITICAL CARTOONS AND PHOTOS FOLLOW



MALLARD FILLMORE / Bruce Tinsley







Stuart And Frank Hope Our Readers Had A Very Merry Christmas And Look Forward To A Healthy And Happy New Year!