



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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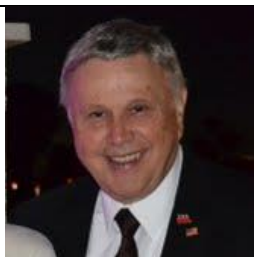
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DESANTIS OPENS FLORIDA LEGISLATURE WITH STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS

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



--Many years ago, the Editor's favorite poet, Ogden Nash, wrote "Reflections on Ice Breaking" in just seven words. It goes: "Candy is dandy; but liquor is quicker." It inspired my own seven-word poem, called "Reflections on Attempted Nation Breaking." It goes: "Revoke the Woke's yoke; what a joke!"

---March 3, which happened to be the Editor's "half-birthday," also happened to be the 178th full-birthday of our state of Florida – becoming the 27th U.S. state in 1845. Celebrating on behalf of the state (alas, not for the Editor), Florida Senator Rick Scott said, "Thank you to all of the hard working families, job creators and individuals across our state that make Florida the best place to live, work and raise a family. As your U.S. Senator, I will never stop fighting to make the Sunshine State the best place to live your dreams."

--Leave it to First Lady Jill Biden and Secretary of State Anthony Blinken to make a mockery of International Women's Day, by presenting an International Women of Courage Award at a White House ceremony to a biological male – Argentina's Alba Rueda, who was introduced as a "transgender woman who was kicked out of classrooms, barred for sitting for exams, refused job opportunities, subjected to violence, and rejected by her family. But in the face of these challenges, she worked to end violence and discrimination against the LGBTQ plus community."

--After Fox News White House correspondent Peter Doocy asked White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre directly

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To a massive number of standing ovations, **Florida Governor Ron DeSantis** opened the current session of the Florida State Legislature in Tallahassee on March 7 with a 28-minute State of the State Address that stressed the Sunshine State ranks number one in the nation economically, in tourism, in law enforcement, in education freedom, and in protecting citizens against the "biomedical security state."



"Florida is number one and working together we will ensure that Florida remains the number one state in these United States," he said. "Florida has more people employed today than before the pandemic. Our unemployment rate is one of the lowest on record and it is significantly lower than the national average. And of course, as many of you know in this room, the last two years we've seen the largest budget surpluses in the history of the state."

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if President Joe Biden had any involvement in "family business schemes," her evasive non-answer was: "So look, I've said this before and I'll say it again. House Republicans promise that fighting inflation during the midterms was going to be their number one priority, that is what they said was important to them and that's what they said they wanted to do. But instead, what they're doing, is wanting to start an investigation on the president and his family. They don't want to focus on the American people and their family, they want to focus on political division. They want to focus on something that the American people do not want to see, as we saw from the midterm elections."

--A few days later, Jean-Pierre brought a burst of laughter to the press briefing with this slip of the tongue: "So today, as you just saw an hour or so ago, President Obama announced that – pardon me, President Biden – Whoa! Ahem, that is news. I know, we're going back, not forwards. We've gotta go forwards."

--**NOTICE:** Due to travel plans, there will NOT be an April issue of the newsletter next month. A combined April-May Space Coast Tusk will be out at the end of May.

--More Two Cents in two months.

Noting that Florida "stepped up in times of crisis," DeSantis reminded his legislative and television audiences that in September, "Hurricane Ian smashed into southwest Florida and barreled across our state. It left catastrophic damage in its wake, including the destruction of the Pine Island Bridge and the Sanibel Causeway. Local island residents were told it would take six months or more to restore the bridges, and so they appealed to the state for help. We took up the challenge and three days later we opened a rebuilt Pine Island bridge. And two weeks after that, we were able to reopen the Sanibel Causeway after it had been severed in three locations."

Introducing a number of special guests in the audience, DeSantis said business owner **Stephen Soloway** helped Pine Island residents with supplies brought in by boat; school teacher **Julie Wappes** continued to teach students in the wake of the hurricane; Barbara Morgan received a temporary trailer from the state while her damaged home was rehabbed; former Maryland police officer **Mercedes Phillips** joined the Cape Coral Police Department through the state's bonus program; **Tiqkia Barrow** and **Melissa Matz** retained their teaching positions with a salary increase; concerned parent **Alicia Farrant**, who was able to obtain a position on the Orange County School Board; medical professionals nurse **Raeanne Champion** and radiologist **Dr. Tim Boyett**; truck driver **Kurt Corwin**; **Chloe Cole**, who underwent a double mastectomy as a teenager and now advocates against allowing these procedures; **Kim Kelly**, who lost her son to fentanyl poisoning; and **Stacy Kaszuba**, who was assaulted by an illegal alien.

The Governor also said he was happy to be joined by his wife, **First Lady Casey DeSantis**, who following her successful battle against breast cancer, and is now cancer-free, has

spearheaded efforts "to help our youth avoid drugs, promote emotional resiliency in schools, and provide a pathway to prosperity for the less fortunate."

He said she also has helped launch the Cancer Connect Collaborative, which will rethink Florida's battle against cancer by breaking down longstanding silos between researchers, cancer facilities and medical providers to provide and improve research and treatment.

DeSantis praised last year's State Legislature, saying they "worked together to reduce the pain of inflation by enacting over \$1 billion in tax relief in this current year's budget, and by slashing tolls by 50 percent for Florida commuters for this calendar year. That will save some families more than \$1,000."

Regarding illegal immigration, DeSantis said, "We believe that borders matter and we have fought in the state of Florida – from banning sanctuary cities to suing the Biden Administration over its catch and release policies to transporting illegal aliens to sanctuary jurisdictions. We have put Floridians first and we will continue to do that."

He also said that "Florida has provided the strongest protections for medical freedom during the coronavirus pandemic of any state in the country. We have prohibited COVID shot mandates in schools, we have banned vaccine passports and we have protected Floridians from losing their jobs due to their personal decision about whether to take or not take the COVID jab."

November's election results, he said, "represent a vindication of our joint efforts over these past four years. The results also vest in us the responsibility to lead and provide us the opportunity to shoot for the stars. Boldness be our friend in this endeavor. We have a lot we need to accomplish."

Florida's \$2 billion tax cut package, he said, "is the largest tax cut package in Florida history. It will help many who need relief from inflation, especially our Florida families. By permanently eliminating sales tax on all baby supplies, diapers, wipes, closed cribs, strollers, we will be able to say that in Florida, having a child will be tax free. We are proud to be pro-family and we are proud to be pro-life in the state of Florida."



But while the economy has consistently outperformed the nation as a whole, DeSantis said, the legal system should be centered on achieving justice, not lining the pockets of lawyers.

He said new **House Speaker Paul Renner** "is stepping up to deliver much needed legal reform and I thank him for

helping Florida reach its full economic potential.

“Our state is growing. Americans are voting with their feet and we need to ensure that we’re getting ahead of the population expansion by accelerating infrastructure projects. Our Moving Florida Forward infrastructure initiative will expedite 20 major interstate and roadway projects over the next four years. This will allow these projects to be completed a decade ahead of schedule and just think of how much time that will save Floridians from having to sit in the awful traffic that they sometimes have to do,” he added.

He said he also wanted to thank new **Senate President Kathleen Passidomo** for tackling issues head on, “and I look forward to working with her to deliver big results.”



Other projects for the state, DeSantis said, include continuing our stewardship of Florida’s natural resources by supporting additional water quality and Everglades restoration efforts; making permanent the protection against unwanted medical interventions; continuing the momentum with K through 12 education; increasing penalties for fentanyl dealers by treating them as the murderers that they are; increasing penalties for human smuggling; and ensuring that our bail system is conducive to public safety.

Saying the Chinese Communist Party represents “the greatest economic, strategic and security threat that our country faces,” DeSantis said that “We in Florida long recognized this and have taken action such as banning the CCPs Confucius Institutes at our state colleges and universities.”

The Governor concluded his remarks with “Together we have made Florida the nation’s most desired destination and we have produced historic results. But now’s not the time to rest on our laurels. We have the opportunity and indeed the responsibility to swing for the fences so that we can ensure Florida remains number one... We will stand strong. We will hold the line. We won’t back down. And I can promise you this, you ain’t seen nothing yet.”

Passidomo, in her opening session remarks, declared that the “eyes of the nation are on Florida this year,” praised Governor DeSantis, and predicted long hours and working weekends for the next 60 days as the Senate tackles such high-profile issues as permitless carry, expansion of school choice and limiting lawsuits against businesses.

Renner outlines an expansive agenda in the House, while indicating he also supports the priorities of DeSantis and Passidomo, such as eliminating diversity, equity and inclusion protocols and programs from universities, and spurring more affordable housing projects. He also called for the elimination of the public-private partnership agency Enterprise Florida, for over-promised and under-delivered projects.



CPAC RETURNS TO D.C. AREA

After meeting in Orlando, Florida, for two years during the Coronavirus pandemic, the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) returned to National Harbor, Maryland, outside of Washington, D.C., March 1-4 for its 2023 session attended by several thousand conservative activists from throughout the United States, and once again closed with remarks from former **President Donald Trump**.

This time, however, **Florida Governor Ron DeSantis**, who opened last year’s conference, did not attend, and neither did several other politicians who are expected to challenge Trump’s re-election bid in 2024.

At the unofficial straw poll at the conclusion of CPAC 2023, attendees once again showed that Trump is their presidential choice. He was selected first in 62 percent of the votes cast, while DeSantis came in second at 20 percent. In third place, with 5 percent, was Michigan businessman **Perry Johnson**, who ran a Super Bowl ad for his long-short campaign for the Republican nomination. Former **South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley** gained just three percent of the votes cast to come in fourth, and all other names on the ballot were at one percent or less.



Trump’s speech, which also was televised, lasted nearly two hours, and he exclaimed that “In 2016, I declared, ‘I am your voice.’ Today I add: I am your warrior, I am your justice, and for those who have been wronged and betrayed, I am your retribution!”

Casting himself as “the only Republican candidate who can build on his White House legacy,” he told a cheering crowd that he was engaged in his “final battle...to finish what we started.”

He said his agenda for a second term as president included restrictions on gender-affirming care and transgender athletes, and he promised to “obliterate” the Deep State. “We will expel the war mongers... We will drive out the globalists, we will cast out the communists. We will throw off the political

class that hates our country. They actually hate our country,” he said.

Trump also denounced the lawlessness of the Southern border and reiterated his calls for election integrity. “We will beat the Democrats. We will rout the fake news media; we will expose and appropriately deal with the RINOs. We will evict Joe Biden from the White House, and we will liberate America from these villains and scoundrels once and for all,” he said.

He pledged to “fire the unelected bureaucrats and shadow forces who have upon retaking the White House and cutting funding for Ukraine and defending America’s borders instead and vowed to issue full pardons and an apology to January 6 detainees.” weaponized our justice system”

Republicans, Trump added, must “change our thinking” on early and mail-in voting after Republican losses in 2020 and 2022 – a dramatic reversal from past thoughts about only voting on Election Day.

“I am the only candidate who can make this promise: I will prevent World War Three,” Trump said. “And I promise you this: If you put me back in the White House, America will be a free nation once again.”

Here are some brief remarks from some of the other speakers at the CPAC event:

Ohio Congressman Jim Jordan, commenting on the divide in America between those who are normal and those who are crazy, said “Crazy is thinking that boys can compete against girls in sports. Crazy is thinking you should defund the police, crazy is thinking you should let non-citizens vote, which DC just passed. Crazy is letting what you know to be a Chinese spy balloon fly clear across the country for a week and then shooting it down.”

Louisiana Senator John Kennedy said that while he does not hate anyone, “the Biden administration sucks” when it comes to handling the border, the Afghanistan withdrawal and COVID-19. “If you put President Biden in charge of the Sahara Desert, he would run out of sand,” Kennedy added. “If the aliens landed in Washington, D.C., tomorrow and said, ‘Take me to your leader,’ it would be embarrassing.”

Texas Senator Ted Cruz also criticized the President, for his response to the Ohio train derailment; Dr. Anthony Fauci for his role during the COVID-19 pandemic, saying he should be jailed over his lies and mandates; and U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland, calling him “the most partisan and politicized attorney general our nation has ever seen.”

Former **Alaska Governor Sarah Palin**, supporting former President Donald Trump’s 2024 bid, stressed that “He’s got to get back in there and pick up where he left off,” adding that his policies “were right for America.”

Former Arizona Republican gubernatorial candidate **Kari Lake**, addressing CPAC’s Ronald Reagan Dinner, praised former President Donald Trump as a “bull in a China shop” and

rejected the legitimacy of her November defeat for the governorship. She contended there is a battle between “the globalists vs. we the people” and characterized Trump as “the great champion on behalf of the people.”

Georgia Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene announced that she would be re-introducing a bill to protect children from being chemically castrated and mutilated, which the left calls gender-affirming care.

Ashli Babbitt’s mother received a standing ovation from attendees when it was announced from the stage that she was in attendance. Her daughter was the 35-year-old unarmed Air Force veteran who was shot and killed inside the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, by a police officer who would later be cleared of any wrongdoing.

Florida Congressman Matt Gaetz said he is calling for Democrats to be removed from the depositions of the House Weaponization Subcommittee.

Former Deputy Presidential Assistant **Sebastian Gorka** said, “The biggest threat we face are our fellow Americans who do not believe in America, we are living in a time that no civilization ever survives.”

Former **South Carolina Senator Nikki Haley**, an announced U.S. presidential candidate for 2024, declared that “wokeness is a virus more dangerous than any pandemic.”

Former Trump aide **Steve Bannon**, stressing support for his former boss, said the arrival of other Republican presidential candidates is “fine,” but “we don’t have time for on the job training” after “a man who gave us four years of peace and prosperity. Trump is not simply the leader of a political party, but the leader of the most powerful political movement in American history.”

Former **Secretary of State Mike Pompeo** implored his audience to “never give an inch” – which coincidentally happens to be the title of his new book, but when it comes to Trump himself, he never mentioned his name.

Media Research Center founder and President Brent Bozell declared that the “dishonest and corrupt news media” are no longer liberal, they are full-blown Marxists. “When we started in 1987, we went after this thing called liberal media bias. It doesn’t exist anymore,” Bozell explained. “They could care less about the news. They don’t report the news. They’re weaponized.”



LET ME BE FRANK
By Space Coast Tusk Designer
Frank Montelione

[Those Were The Days](#) from a show that would never be aired today, “All In The Family”.

As I listen to this tune during a rainy spring in Georgia and, on days like that,

I get a little nostalgic. Thoughts running through my head about what it was like to be growing up in the 50's and 60's. I thought about how it used to be. Here are some of the things that I remember and miss from those great days.



Take the simple water hose. It wasn't just used for the garden. It was the water fountain. It was hooked to a sprinkler for running through on hot days. The fire hydrant was the beach for city kids. It's how you washed the car, how you washed the dog, it had a myriad of uses. A simple hose that lay in the back yard and had so many good times attached to it.



Soft drinks came in glass bottles and were a source of income. In most states there was a deposit for the bottle that you could return for \$.05. There were days when you and your friends would go looking through the trash for bottles to return and maybe use the cash for baseball playing cards that came with bubble gum. I'll trade you a Mickey Mantle for a Yogi Berra. We were allowed to play cops and robbers and Cowboys and Indians. We were allowed to have toy guns with caps. There was stick ball and "stoop ball". Pimple balls and Spalding. There was Jax and hopscotch, shooting marbles.

Before you went to the movies it had to be approved by Mom, the ultimate chief that you didn't cross. For a quarter you got cartoons and a double feature. As you got older there was the drive-in theaters and hiding your friends in the trunk so they could get in without paying.

There were phrases that you don't hear too much today. "Thank You", "Please", "Yes, Sir or Yes, Ma'am". You respected your teachers and if you should have a bad day in school or had detention you would be more afraid of what would happen when you got home than you were afraid of going to the principal's office. There was no opting out of saying the Pledge of Allegiance and everyone placed their hands over their hearts and STOOD FOR THE NATIONAL ANTHYM.

Everyone knew the local cop. He was your neighbor, he was your guardian, he was your protector.

When you met your girlfriend, you gave her your high school ring to wear around her neck and asked her to "go steady".

In the summer you went out to meet your friends with a ratty old glove, a baseball bat and a ball that had seen better days. You had to let your parents know where you were going and with whom. When the streetlights came on it was time to go home. Families ate together, all at the same time around the dinner table. Your neighbors were an extension of your parents. There were cookouts with them and occasional "block parties". How about party lines and phones with dials attached to the wall?

Saddle shoes, rubber boots when it rained, penny loafers, poodle skirts, duck and cover drills, bomb shelters, Sunday drives, volunteer fire departments. We watched Lassie, the Lone Ranger, Sky King, Sea Hunt, Howdy Doody, the Ed Sullivan Show, Lawrence Welk, Sing Along With Mitch, Dick Clark's American Band Stand. There was "able to leap tall buildings in a single bound, stronger than a locomotive, faster than a speeding bullet. Look – up in the sky. Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, It's SUPERMAN!" There was Woody Woodpecker, Mighty Mouse, Looney Toons, Heckle and Jeckle, Tom and Jerry, Bugs Bunny. We read comic books, not graphic novels.



Today, we hear phrases such as "white privilege", "climate change" (we called it weather), "critical race theory", choose your pronouns. Activists have changed "equality" to "equity" and "affirmative action" to "diversity", "transgender", "social media". Pinball is replaced by Mortal Combat Video Game. Face to face conversation is now replaced by cell phone usage. Letter writing is replaced by text messages. Sitting around the dinner table having a peaceful conversation is replaced by everyone, including at times Mom and Dad, glued to their cell phones.

Give me the good old days, the Norman Rockwell days. Oh, if we could go back in time when teen suicide and depression was not the norm. Give me the Brooklyn Dodgers. As was said at the beginning of the Lone Ranger show, "Nowhere in the pages of history can one find a greater champion of justice. Return with us now to those thrilling days of yesteryear. From out of the past come the thundering hoofs of the great horse Silver! The Lone Ranger rides again!"

If only it were so.



THE BREC CORNER By Chairman Rick Lacey

As the saying goes -- March comes in like a lion. Our March Brevard Republican Executive Committee meeting was filled with great projects, great proposals and great news.

Richard Nink, our new Chair of the Election Integrity Committee, announced that Florida has left the flawed ERIC (Electronic Registration Information Center) program along with other states. Also the committee members are working with **Brevard Supervisor of Elections Tim Bobonic**, on a number of initiatives to improve the transparency and accountability of elections.

Alan Ross will head a new project to create a Brevard Republican platform to provide a strong foundation for recruiting and supporting Conservative Republican candidates for future elections.

Mike Rogers of Rockledge introduced a proposal for a resolution to support **Florida Governor Ron DeSantis** in solving the major health risks involved with the abuse of vaccines and the misinformation that is spread about them.

State Committeeman Mike Thomas reported on the results of last month's Republican Party Of Florida re-organization meeting.

State Committeewoman Kim Adkinson presented the list of exciting community projects that the Events Committee will be working on.

BREC members were reminded about our effort to contact those Republicans who missed their chance to vote last November, with ideas to help them get ready to vote in 2024. Also, the Liaison project will be launched next month, with 2 BREC members assigned to each major elected Republican official in Brevard.

More great news! Brevard Republican registered voters now number over 198,500 – closing in on the goal of 200,000 Republicans in Brevard County.

Vice Chair Cindy Roberts and I presented the Committeewoman of the month award to **Xiaoqi Wang**, and the Committeeman award to **Mauricio Tamargo**.



At the conclusion of the meeting, 10 new members were sworn-in, and reception was announced of 20 new applications for membership.



**Brevard
Federated
Republican
WOMEN**

RENDEZVOUS WITH REPUBLICAN WOMEN By BFRW President Jill Gentis

The speaker at our March meeting was **Bob White**,

chairman of the Republican Liberty Caucus of Florida and the Republican Liberty Caucus of Central East Florida headquartered here in Brevard County. He defined the RLC as a grassroots membership organization working within the Republican Party to invigorate and revitalize the Republican principles of individual rights, limited government, and free markets.



White reminded us that there are two seasons in Florida: the Political or Campaign Season and the Legislative Season,

which began in earnest on March 7 and continues for the next 60 days.

He then talked about the Political Season. During the endless Campaign Season, the RLC chapters are very active, seeking to identify and endorse the most constitutional and liberty minded candidates. The RLC takes the vetting process so seriously that it will only support candidates who are committed to liberty caucus values above their commitment to the Republican Party leadership.

The RLC website (rlcfl.org) contains a Legislative Action Center which identifies and tracks legislation important to the organization. A RLC sub-committee is notified whenever a bill of interest will be heard in committee. The sub-committee then enacts a Legislative Action Order by email, which provides about 3,000 RLC members with a synopsis and the RLC position on each bill. These members then send an email to each politician involved urging them to support or oppose the bill.

White said that **Florida Governor Ron DeSantis**, unlike most state leaders, is very active in following legislation. For example, when the Florida House proposal to reapportion Congressional Districts only gave the GOP a two-or-three seat advantage, DeSantis vetoed the proposal, made his own plan which gave the party an eight seat majority, and pushed it through the Legislature.

Ten significant Bills that the RLC is currently tracking, White said, are:

- 1.) "Conceal and Carry" gun bill. Although touted as a "Constitution Carry" Bill, it is not. The RLC opposes this bill because it does not go far enough and does not address open carry and other issues.
- 2.) "Sale of Firearms and Ammunition" bill. It prevents the Democrats from requiring credit card companies to assign a new category which identifies firearm or ammunition purchases specifically rather than general merchandise.
- 3.) "Campaign Finance Reform". There is a constitutional limit to donations made to a political candidate of \$1,000. However, each candidate can have political committees which can accept unlimited contributions. What's more troubling is that these political committees can make contributions to each other thus shielding all the lobbyists and interest groups that can have influence over the candidate, since only the last political committee in this long chain must be identified. These committees engage in legalized cash laundering. This bill would ban the practice of political committees from making contributions to each other but doesn't address political party committees. Party leadership uses funds collected in these accounts to control party membership by rewarding or punishing them if they don't follow the party line. For example, The Senate President political committee holds tremendous influence of members to vote for bills supported by the president.

- 4.) "District School Board Term Limits" Last year a House Bill limited District School Board members to a term of eight years, but a last-minute Senate amendment changed the term to 12 years. This bill returns the term limit to eight years.
- 5.) "County Commissioner Term Limits" This bill amends the Constitution to provide for all counties to set term limits on County Commissioners. Currently only Charter Counties can do so. Brevard is a Charter County.
- 6.) "Recall County Officers and Commissioners" is a similar bill which provides the ability to recall County Officers and Commissioners to all counties and not just the Charter Counties.
- 7.) "School Choice" Bill expands voucher program to allow students currently attending public schools to apply for scholarships to change to private schooling when funds become available.
- 8.) "Tax Rebate for Film Production and Digital Media Companies" Bill is designed to attract these industries to Florida. The RLC opposes any bill where the government gives preferential treatment or funding to private industry.
- 9.) "Government and Corporate Activists" bill outlaws government investment into WOKE Environmental and Social Government (ESG) organizations.
- 10.) "Criminal Justice Reform" bill requires that criminal records sealed at the state level must be also sealed by the county.

At the next BFRW luncheon on April 5, **Faustina Guzman-Trump**, FFRW District Representative, will speak about the Florida Federation of Republican Women activities at the upcoming "Legislative Days" in Tallahassee on April 14-16, and the activities planned by the National Federation of Republican Women for the upcoming year.

Mark your calendars for the BFRW May 3 luncheon, where we will once again "Back the Blue" by honoring two female Brevard Sheriff Deputies for their service. A Sheriff's Department representative will also discuss the problem of "Human Trafficking in Brevard County".



THE MAYFIELD MINUTE

**By Florida State Senator
Debbie Mayfield**

Florida's January 2023 unemployment rate was 2.6 percent and remained lower than the national average for the 27th consecutive month. The state's private second employment grew by 5.3 percent

over the year in January 2023, 1.7 percent faster than the national rate of 3.6 percent over the same time period.

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Florida Governor Ron DeSantis led 18 state governors in forming an alliance to push back against President Biden's environmental, social, corporate governance (ESG) agenda that is destabilizing the American economy and the global financial system. In a joint statement, these states committed to lead state-level efforts to protect individuals from the ESG movement that threatens the vitality of the American economy and Americans' economic freedom, such as removing all state pension funds and state-controlled investments from firms that follow the ESG model of "politics before fiduciary duty."

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Through April, Brightline will be testing trains in Brevard County at high speeds, up to 110-miles-per-hour, along a 13-mile section of track, involving multiple railroad crossings between 7 am and 4 pm daily.

Flaggers will be present at railroad crossings, and residents should be alert and follow the law around crossings. Drivers, pedestrians and cyclists should be aware that rail traffic will run on both tracks in both directions, and they should never go around crossing gates or stop on the tracks.

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In their annual Readers' Choice Awards, "USA Today" readers voted the Brevard Zoo as the third best zoo in North America. A zoo spokesperson, thanking the voters, said, "Our inclusion in the top three is a first since being nominated for these awards four years ago, and is a testament to the incredible support our Zoo has been shown by our community since the start. We appreciate the vote of confidence in our work in animal wellness, conservation and education." The first two best zoos were in Omaha and Cincinnati.

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The Florida Senate is committed to keeping the state free and open for business. We will continue to make historic investments in affordable housing and the environment, secure our border and preserve the Second Amendment, while ensuring parental rights in education and access to school choice which best meets the needs of individual students.

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SpaceX's Falcon 9 launched 40 OneWeb satellites into low-Earth orbit from the Space Coast. This was the 17th mission for the London-based company and brings their total fleet of satellites in low-Earth orbit to 582. "The well-traveled first stage boosted the rocket out of the lower atmosphere and then fell away to fly itself back to a picture-perfect landing at the Space Force station," SpaceX confirmed, "while the second stage continued the climb into orbit. The landing marked SpaceA's 177th successful booster recovery and its 32nd at Cape Canaveral.

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A new interactive show featuring Snoopy and other Peanuts characters opened March 24 at the Kennedy Space Center

Visitor Complex. The 20-minute show in the Universe Theatre features new puppetry, lights, laser projections, and sound effects. It portrays the Peanuts characters being called upon to assist the launch director on the Artemis human spaceflight missions for more than 50 years.”

Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex CEO Therrin Protze said, “This new show will delight guests of all ages as it features the lovable Peanuts characters who have contributed to the excitement for NASA missions.”

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Florida First Lady Casey DeSantis has become a champion for fighting cancer in the state, helping to secure \$100 million in recurring funding for cancer research and care. Declared cancer free by doctors in February 2022 herself, she travels the state visiting with patients to draw attention to the importance of early screening and to provide support and hope to families affected by cancer. In honor of her work, the Florida Legislature renamed the Florida Consortium of National Institute Centers program the “Casey DeSantis Cancer Research Program.”

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Florida Governor Ron DeSantis has signed House Bill 9-B, Reedy Creek Improvement District, Orange, and Osceola Counties, to end self-governing status and special privileges provided to Walt Disney World through the Reedy Creek Improvement District and establish a new state-controlled district accountable to the people of Florida.

“Allowing a corporation to control its own government is bad policy,” DeSantis said, “especially when the corporation makes decisions that impact an entire region. This legislation makes Disney live under the same laws as everybody else and ensures that Disney pays its debts and fair share of taxes.”

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The new Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Monument sponsored by Sebastian Squad 189 of the Sons of the American Legion, was unveiled at Sebastian’s Riverview Park before hundreds of guests. Creating the monument was the idea of the squad’s past commander, Peter Puzzo of Vero Beach.

According to George Von Kantor, Public Information Officer for Squad 189, there are still more than 82,000 Americans who are unaccounted for from wars and conflicts, and “the Squadron takes this opportunity to remind everyone to spare no cost or effort in the repatriation of those brave sons and daughters of America who have been too long away from home and their loved ones.”

REMEMBER WHEN
By Heritage Isle Republican Club
President Mike Hoagland

How many of us remember the 1950s? Do we remember how peaceful that decade was? We had President Eisenhower in office. Not much controversy. World War



Two had ended as well as the Korean War. We were all products of what was called the greatest generation. Our parents and relatives came through the great depression, fought wars and began raising their families (us). We were influenced by our parents having gone through all these events.

Peace, prosperity and opportunities were part of that decade. Women began coming into the work force. Society was changing. People were happy. Children were getting a good education. A college degree was of value. Our standard of living was increasing for most citizens.

What went wrong? An unbiased sociologist someday may be able answer this question. We are somewhat responsible. We wanted our children to have it better than many of us and we indulged them. Viet Nam came along which began a whole series of negative events and society began to change. Sometimes it was very ugly. Kent State national guard shootings. Riots, civil commotion were becoming all too frequent in cities. World Economic Forum was started which created a whole lot more disruption of the norm globally. Teachers’ unions began their wholesale indoctrination process which has manifested itself into what we are fighting today.

Many of you could add to this story with your own viewpoints, but we must acknowledge that our country is in trouble. CRT, ESG, DEI, Digital currency and all the other WOKE ideologies are threatening our country’s very existence. This is not hyperbole. Some may sit back and say that you have run the race as best you could and let someone else handle the situation. Some of us can’t do that. Some of us care for this country too much to go out without even having made an effort. Apathy will be our demise. Dare to be controversial. It takes courage to speak the truth when you know you will be ridiculed. Words matter.

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The Republican presidential 2024 election will be very interesting if Florida Governor Ron DeSantis throws his hat into the ring. His support comes from the Bush family and Paul Ryan which means the Republican establishment consisting of many RINOs and globalists. All the big donors are the usual anti-Trump people.

While I think our Governor has been a great leader for the State of Florida, if he announces a run for the presidency, his Florida agenda will not only go undone, but he won’t be around to defend all the anticipated legal challenges to his legislation from the progressives/Marxists. Who has the ability to step into the Governor’s mansion if DeSantis leaves office? Ron DeSantis did not retire from the military. Fine. He left the U.S. House of Representatives after five years. Fine. Now is indicating he will leave the governorship in the middle of his second term. How about finish the job as governor of Florida? My question is “Is the draw of power so overwhelming that one would sacrifice Florida to attempt a run for the White House?” Why not a 2028 run? Also, what is the agenda of the establishment/elite republicans and donors that are pushing for DeSantis to run? We would never know.

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We are beginning to see the posturing by candidates campaigning for the office of president of the United States. There will be tough choices to be made. Most Americans have common values regardless of party affiliation. Hopefully, they will vote those values. Less government control of our lives, less government spending, border security, school choice, parents rights, reduced crime, strong military, individual freedom, reduced taxes, energy independence, bi-lateral trade agreements, equal justice under the law for our citizens, reduce foreign aid expenditures, revise school curriculums to reflect our values, preserve our historical monuments and culture. These are some of the topics all Americans should be able to agree on.

Interestingly, the most persecuted/prosecuted person in the history of this country, maybe the world, had adopted every one of those items listed above. You know him as the 45th president of the United States, Donald J Trump. Those values listed above are the very reason for the attacks he has faced each and every day since the summer of 2015. The Marxists, liberal Washington, DC elites, media, lobbyists, RINOs, globalists, bureaucrats, many foreign governments, including some supposed allies, do not support Donald Trump. He took away their power and control. He gave it to the citizens of America. The media is controlling the narrative concerning Trump and we will hear either nothing, a position FOX has now adopted, or we will hear any and every negative story possible.

Truth does not enter in the equation. There will always be some person who for money will say anything to disparage this man. Anyone who assists him is marked for personal destruction. His attorneys are sanctioned by liberal judges and fined in many cases. Most people cannot afford the economic consequences. All of you know that equal justice does not currently exist in this country with the corrupt DOJ and FBI leadership.

THIS AND THAT

VETERANS AND MILITARY APPRECIATION DINNER. Around 200 attendees of the Brevard Federated Republican Women’s bi-annual Veterans and Military Appreciation Dinner, held March 18 in Cocoa, bid many thousands of dollars on live and silent auction items in support of veterans and military programs in the county. Conducting the auction were **Brevard County Property Appraiser Dana Blickley and Sheriff Wayne Ivey.** Among the programs to be benefitted are Veterans Rent and Recovery, Equine Therapy, Volunteers of America Transitional Housing, National Veterans Homeless Support, Wreaths Across America, Honor America Liberty Bell Museum, the Substance Use Disorder Program, and Honor Flight. **BFRW President Jill Gentis** said to the veterans who were in attendance, “We thank you for your bravery and the example you have set for the country in these difficult times.” **Port Canaveral Commission Chairman Wayne Justice,** a retired U.S. Coast Guard Rear Admiral, served as Master of Ceremonies for the evening. **Melbourne**

City Councilman Tim Thomas, a retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel, and five Viera High School ROTC cadets, portrayed the traditional “Missing Man” Table – a moving ceremony of empty seats representing missing personnel from past wars from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. Political figures who greeted the crowd with brief remarks were **State Senator Debbie Mayfield and State Representatives Randy Fine and Chase Tramont.** Serving as keynote speaker for the evening, author and documentary producer **Frances Presley Rice,** a retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel, spoke of the lessons of liberty that are determined by our Constitution, and reminded the audience of former **President Ronald Reagan’s** “Rendezvous With Destiny.” She is co-author of the book “Black History 1619-2019: An Illustrated and Documented African History”, that documents the profound impact African Americans had on U.S. history and culture.



FLORIDA SENATOR RICK SCOTT. Noting that the federal government spends hundreds of millions of dollars on wasteful and bizarre programs while everyday Americans are struggling to pay their bills, **Florida Senator Rick Scott** says the Democrats want people to think that spending cuts will plummet America into a depression and cause a

disaster of biblical proportions. Scott then listed several examples of what they do not want anyone to know just what they’re spending all of the hard-earned tax money on. Several examples, he said, are: \$549,331 to turn cats into zombies; \$478,188 for a research program that injects hormones into male monkeys to make them female; and \$465,339 for a “self-contained miniature economy” for pigeons where they can gamble on slot machines. “It’s time to cut the fat,” Scott said, “and get serious about our finances.”

O’KEEFE FORMS NEW

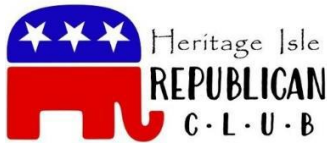
VENTURE. The acronym OMG not only stands for “Oh, My God,” it now includes the “O’Keefe Media Group,” Rising from the ashes of his Project Veritas – where the Board of Directors forced out the founder and CEO – **James O’Keefe** is now back with a new crowd-sourced



venture to continue his reporting, research and exposure of corrupt leftists. “Oh. My God” is typically what is uttered by those who O’Keefe has exposed just before their secrets go viral. O’Keefe notes that he spent 14 years creating the most effective non-profit newsroom ever, “and in paving the way to establish citizen journalism, I have been defamed, arrested, raided, and ultimately removed from the organization I spent so much time developing the credibility of.” He added, “They have awakened the sleeping giant. I’m back. Remaining by my side are a small, tight-knit group of the most elite

journalists in the world. Exposing corruption requires standing up to power because power hates sunlight, and we are sunlight.” The platform at www.okeefemediagroup.com will launch on July 4.

TRUTH FEST. Focusing on uncensored truth and hope for America, Truth Fest meets monthly at Destiny Church, 700 S. Courtenay Parkway, Merritt Island, where notable speakers address issues of health, security and freedoms as they relate to current events and biblical prophecy. Among the group’s partner organizations are Freedom Keepers, America’s Frontline Doctors, and Moms For Liberty.



Lacey, said that while the November 2022 Mid-term Election results generally were a disappointment for Republicans, that was NOT the case in Florida. It was “great” here, he said, reminding them that **Florida Governor Ron DeSantis** won his re-election bid by 76,000 votes in Brevard County alone, and more than 1.5 million state-wide. We also flipped the “non-partisan” Brevard School Board from liberal to conservative, Lacey said, and state-wide, it was a clean sweep – retaining and adding Republican seats in Tallahassee and Washington. But now, he warned, “we have a target on our backs here, so we should not get too overconfident, because 2024 will be a challenge.” Lacey also pointed out that while Republicans greatly outnumber Democrats in Brevard County, there also are many registered Independents here, and we need to reach them to switch to our side so they can be eligible to vote in primary elections. One problem, he pointed out, is when residents order automobile tags for the first time, or renewal tags, the Department of Motor Vehicles automatically registers them with the Supervisor of Elections office, and when Republicans specifically do not mention their party choice (often without realizing they are supposed to), DMV automatically registers them as No Party Affiliation. Lacey also said he is working to finalize who will be the speaker at the upcoming fundraising Lincoln-Reagan Dinner, and when it will take place. He said he hopes members can ask local businesses to advertise in the dinner program. He said BREC committees have been formed to focus on election integrity, liaison with elected officials, and encourage non-voting registered Republicans to participate in the 2024 election. Lacey closed his remarks by mentioning a project he hopes to convince other Republican committees in the state to support – a campaign to encourage businesses to stop buying and selling products made in China. It is all right to buy a shirt made in India, or Mexico, or elsewhere, he said, as long as it is not from China, which is not our friend... The speaker for the April 6 HIRC meeting will be **Matt Susin**, chair of the Brevard School Board.

Speaking to members of the Heritage Isle Republican Club on March 2, the chairman of the Brevard Republican Executive Committee, **Rick**



POLITICAL JOTTINGS AND DOTTINGS



--After former President **Donald Trump** declared his decision to run again for the Oval Office in 2024, the list of Republican hopefuls expanded with announcements by former **South Carolina Governor and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley**, millionaire businessman and entrepreneur **Vivek Ramaswamy**, and **Michigan businessman Perry Johnson**. Other hopefuls are expected to join the crowd at later dates.

--**Florida Surgeon General Dr. Joseph Ladapo** selected **Brevard County Commissioner for District 5 Kristine Zonka** to be the new administrator of the Florida Department of Health in Brevard, and the other County Commissioners – with her recusal – unanimously approved the appointment. Zonka, who succeeds retiring administrator **Maria Stahl**, is a nurse practitioner in family practice with Health First Medical Group, and also serves at the medical group as one of two medical directors for advanced practice providers like nurse practitioners and physician assistants. Zonka left her County Commission seat early and will begin her new job – where she will have a staff of about 400 employees – next month. Under state statute and the Brevard County Charter, **Florida Governor Ron DeSantis** could appoint someone to fill the County Commission vacancy since there are less than 28 months remaining in her term.



--Chicago’s leftist Mayor **Lori Lightfoot** is the Windy City’s first one to lose a re-election bid since 1983 – no thanks to her plummeting popularity due to rising crime and COVID. On February 28, she came in third among eight candidates competing, gaining just 16.6 percent of the vote. The top two vote getters – former Chicago Public Schools CEO **Paul Vallas**, with 35 percent; and Cook County Commissioner **Brandon Johnson**, with 20.3 percent, will compete in a run-off election on April 4.

--The Republican Liberty Caucus, which each year publishes a scorecard on where members of Congress stand on being defenders of liberty, reported that in 2022, five Republican members of the House of Representatives scored perfect 100’s

– **Andy Biggs** of Arizona, **Dan Bishop** of North Carolina, **Thomas Massie** of Kentucky, **Chip Roy** of Texas and **Marjorie Taylor Greene** of Georgia – and just one Republican U.S. Senator – **Rand Paul** of Kentucky. The lowest scoring Republican House voter was **Adam Kinsinger** of Illinois, with 20, and there was a three-way tie in the Senate at 25, among **Roy Blunt** of Missouri, **Susan Collins** of Maine, and **Lisa Murkowski** of Alaska.

--Following a censure by the Medina County Republican Party, RINO Texas Congressman Tony Gonzalez received a second censure from the Republican Party of Texas over his votes in support of same-sex marriage and gun control policies, and against border security measures.



AUDACITY AND IDIOCY

This month's "winners" are:

--President Joe Biden, for his latest gaffe involving Jimmy Carter, who with waning health was in hospice care but still hanging on. At a private Democrat fund-raising dinner in California, Biden referred to the former president, and said, "He asked me to do his eulogy – excuse me, I shouldn't have said that."

--Zishan Alvi, the co-owner of Laboratory Elite in Chicago, for being charged by a federal grand jury with 10 counts of wire fraud and one count of theft of government funds through a fraudulent COVID-19 testing scheme. The indictment alleges that the tests were either not performed, or done in a way that results were unreliable, and the company received more than \$83 million in federal funding, with some of the money allegedly transferred to Alvi's personal account for buying vehicles, stocks and cryptocurrency.

--"Proud progressive" Milwaukee County Judge Janet Protasiewicz, a candidate for a seat on the Wisconsin State Supreme Court, for issuing a get-out-of-jail-free card to a man who was charged with sexual assault of a 15-year-old girl, the daughter of his then-girlfriend, who was not at home at the time. According to court documents, Patrick McCaskill took a plea deal, and even though jail time was on the table, the soft-on-crime judge only gave him probation. And that was not the only "just probation" sentence handed down by this judge.

--New York Attorney General Letitia James, for hosting a "Drag Story Hour" for families with children that she sponsored for the drag group "Drag Story Hour NYC." Her flyer indicated she wanted children to attend the event, which was co-sponsored by The Pride Center of Staten Island, Queens Public Library, Brooklyn Public Library, and Destination Tomorrow, a grassroots, LGBTQ organization in the Bronx.

--Newly elected Miami City Commissioner Democrat Sabina Covo, who was attending her first meeting, after being asked by the Commission Chairwoman to open it by leading the group in the Pledge of Allegiance, declined, saying she did not know the pledge. So, she was excused. Yes, she is an immigrant from Colombia – but she has lived in Miami for at least 22 years.

--The Boca Raton, Florida, City Council, for spending close to \$300,000 of taxpayer funds to hold an unnecessary special election. The only item on the ballot was a measure to extend their terms of office, which the citizens rejected by a 3-2 margin.

YOU CAN'T MAKE THIS UP



--People support and oppose political candidates for numerous reasons, but here's one that ranks among the cream of the crop: "Vanity Fair" writer Bess Levin wrote that Florida Governor Ron DeSantis should be disqualified from ever being President, because FOUR YEARS AGO on a private plane trip, he allegedly ate a chocolate pudding using three of his fingers instead of a spoon. Horrifying!

--The Florida Department of Education issued a press release announcing that Governor Ron DeSantis would be hosting "a roundtable discussion exposing the diversity, equity and inclusion scam in higher education" in the state. Tampa-based Axios reporter Ben Montgomery then noted it by writing "this is propaganda, not a press release." That did not sit too well with Axios management, and Montgomery is now looking for a new job.

--The self-declared "health geniuses" at CNN believe their published report that Daylight Savings Time – which began again this March 12 – disproportionately affects the sleep and health of minority communities. Since people of color "have a higher number of health problems than do Caucasians," CNN argues, "this means observing DST is more dangerous for them, and therefore it is racist."

--The Hershey Chocolate Company faced a social media backlash for issuing in Canada a commercial honoring International Women's Day, but featuring a biological male dressed as a woman. On the short video promoting a limited-edition candy bar with his image on it was a "Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and/or Questioning, Intersex, Asexual" named Fae Johnstone. That's the Her-She Company in action.

--After Hershey's woke announcement, the Daily Wire co-CEO Jeremy Boreing said he would be rolling out his own line of chocolate bars, with two kinds: HeHim and SheHer. Guess which one contains nuts. In just the first day of sales, Boreing said more than 100,000 bars of the non-woke candy were sold.

--In Carbon County, Montana, Elections Clerk Crystal Roascio was seen on a video obtained through the Freedom of Information Act shredding 21 piles of documents that looked like ballots. She said they were absentee ballots that had been counted, and then – according to Montana and federal law – they were shredded for privacy reasons, because they had the voters' names on them. The question is, though – is that what actually happened?

--The girls' basketball team from Mid Vermont Christian School was set to play the Long Tail Mountain Lions in the Green Mountain State's championship tournament, when officials at the Christian school decided on concerns for player safety and fairness instead, and to forfeit the match and withdraw from the tournament because a transgender player

was on the opposing team. “Allowing biological males to participate in women’s sports sets a bad precedent for the future of women’s sports in general,” a Christian school senior administrator said. But in Vermont, state law permits transgenders to play in sports leagues, and prohibits discrimination based upon gender identity.

--Father and parent rights activist Shawn McBreaity is suing the Hermon, Maine School District after Superintendent Micah Grant called the police on him while he was reviewing school documents under a Freedom of Information Act request. The documents in question were superintendent-training materials and communications related to the district’s Gay Sexuality Alliance Club organized by an LGBT+ group. He was watched for less than an hour while reading the documents and was refused a copy to take or be allowed to photograph it. McBreaity did agree with police to leave the premises, but said Grant never gave him a time limit to view the documents.

--The Woke Disney Company’s latest move to appease it’s new “best friends” is to remove the beloved song “Zip-a-Dee-Doo-Dah” from its daily parade at Disneyland. The song – prominently featured in the 1946 classic film “Song of the South” – has brought countless joy to millions of Americans. The film is set in the post-Civil War South and explores the friendship between a white boy and an elderly black man, so woke critics called the song “racist.” The songwriters were known for writing songs that included nonsensical words, including “Supercalifragilisticexpialdocious” from “Mary Poppins” and “Bibbidi-Bobbidi-Boo” from “Cinderella.” Making up words was their trademark. It was gibberish -- much like the arguments from the cancel culture mob.

--When a clerk at a Fullerton, California, gas station heard cries coming from a restroom, an abandoned newborn baby was found in a trash can and transported to a hospital in critical but stable condition. After investigating the incident, Fullerton police arrested the suspected mother – 25-year-old local resident Venissa Maldonado and charged her with attempted murder and felony child abuse.

--Three Vermont cities – Burlington, Montpelier and Winooski – are allowing non-citizens living in the state to vote in local elections. And even though the Republican National Committee filed a lawsuit, arguing that it was against the state’s constitution, the Vermont Supreme Court ruled that there was no constitutional violation. It seems there is nothing green about the Green Mountain State.

--Despite warnings from the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation to not allow young children to be exposed to sexually inappropriate content, the James L. Knight Center in Miami hosted “A Drag Queen Christmas” performance at which children were present. The Hyatt Regency Miami owns the liquor license at the facility, and now the DeSantis administration has announced the hotel’s license is being revoked.

--After the “Sacramento Bee” newspaper falsely carried an article claiming that Turning Point USA founder Charlie Kirk

had “called for the murder of trans people,” Antifa protesters smashed windows and doors at the University of California Davis campus and disrupted a program in which Kirk had been speaking. The protesters were arrested, and school officials said their policy does not allow the cancellation of a speaker invited by a registered campus organization, but the speaker’s remarks will be closely monitored to ensure that no “danger to the campus” lines are crossed.

EPERTS’ EXCERPTS



American Security Council Foundation senior analyst **Laurence Sanford**, writing on Putin’s Wagner for [Conservativehq.org](https://www.conservativehq.org/):

“Vladimir Putin’s Wagner Group has been designated a ‘transnational criminal organization’ by the U.S. Government. It is more than just criminal. It is a sadistic

mercenary terror group operating in Syria, Ukraine, Africa, and South America. The Wagner Group, also known as PMC (Private Military Company) Wagner, acts as a private army for Putin. Yevgeny Prigozhin founded the Wagner Group in 2014 to support Russian forces in Ukraine. A close confidant of Putin, Prigozhin is a former convict and is called ‘Putin’s chef’ because he owns restaurants and catering companies that service the Kremlin. Another co-founder of Wagner was Dmitriy Valeryevich Utkin, who had served as a Lieutenant Colonel in the GRU, the military intelligence arm of the Russian army. Upon retirement from the GRU, Utkin became head of security for Prigozhin’s companies. Utkin named the mercenary group Wagner after his GRU call name and passion for German composer Richard Wagner, who was Hitler’s favorite composer. Utkin has not made a public appearance since 2016.... By being “private”, the Wagner atrocities are not labeled acts of the Russian state and are, therefore, in the ‘gray zone’ of activities that lie between state kinetic force and normal diplomatic action. In Syria, Wagner has supported Russia in its efforts to prop up the Assad regime and protect the Russian naval base in Tartus. In February 2018, a 500-plus force of Wagner Group mercenaries and Syrian forces attempted to take out a small U.S. Marine and Special Forces outpost in the Kurdish area of Syria established to fight ISIS.... In Ukraine, the Wagner Group was deployed as locals in support of the annexation of Crimea and the Donbas region. With the Russian army’s invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the Wagner Group became part of the fighting force.... The Wagner Group is active in Africa and has stationed approximately 5,000 men across the continent, filling the void left by departing European and American forces. Wagner is expanding alliances with the Central African Republic, Chad, Sudan, Mali, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Libya, and Mozambique. By forming alliances and protecting the various African country government leaders from Islamic jihadists, Wagner is gaining access and control of mines worth billions of dollars in strategic minerals.... The alliances also further Russian political objectives of undermining Western democracies – many African countries abstained or voted

against U.N. resolutions condemning the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Since 2015, Russia has signed 19 military collaboration agreements with African countries to supply arms. In South America, the Wagner Group has been active in Venezuela, supporting Russian interests. One activity is designing and implementing Nicolas Maduro's security circle along with Cuban agents. Maduro is a communist autocrat who succeeded Hugo Chavez as ruler of Venezuela. Chavez and Maduro together have taken the country down the socialist road to tyranny, poverty, and scarcity despite having the largest known oil reserves in the world.... Russia has deployed military equipment, troops, and mercenaries (Wagner Group) to train Venezuelans in equipment, espionage, and surveillance. In the resource-rich Orinoco Basin, Russians protect and control companies extracting the minerals. Recent elections in Latin America have resulted in leftists/communists winning power. Increased penetration by Russia and China is following" What can the United States do to counter Wagner and Russia? Continue to support Ukraine - how and with what is the subject for another day. Build and develop alliances with countries and organizations opposed to totalitarian China and Russia. Rebuild America's military, economy, and infrastructure."

Conservative political commentator **Josh Hammer**, writing on destroying the Mexican drug cartels, in "The Patriot Post":

"The U.S.-Mexico border, at this point, is one of the most chaotic, over-trafficked and outright dangerous borders in the world. The tragic killing of two U.S. citizens in the border town of Matamoros, Mexico, should, in a just world, refocus American attention on the glaring problem of transnational drug cartels' de facto control of large swaths of our perilously porous southern border. That the two Americans killed may have been mistaken by warring cartel clans for Haitian drug smugglers, as "The Dallas Morning News" reported, hardly ameliorates the awful situation or lessens our imperative to recalibrate attention away from faraway proxy wars of dubious national interest, and toward the very monsters in our own backyard who run the Western hemisphere's worst human trafficking rings and flood the U.S. interior with the most lethal drugs known to man. Vicious cartels, such as Sinaloa and Jalisco, engage in gang shootouts in outlaw fashion, with nary a Mexican law enforcement agent in sight – and even those in sight are more likely than not to be bribed, and in the cartels' pockets. Human trafficking rings, often working hand in hand with the cartels and opportunistic 'coyotes' who promise to smuggle vulnerable migrants into the U.S., parade hordes of Central American and Caribbean migrants through the Mexican interior and right up to the border. The humanitarian conditions on these migrant 'caravans' are typically abysmal; drugs are rampant, children are exploited and far too many women are raped. Drugs flow across the border like never before; the U.S. drug overdose crisis, which is primarily a fentanyl crisis, is nearly exclusively a phenomenon of the cartels. Drug overdose deaths in America last year reached an



unconscionable 106,000-plus, or over 290 daily. That is the functional equivalent of a mid-size commercial airliner falling out of the sky each day; and here, as is the case with fentanyl, those proverbial airliners falling out of the sky would be predominantly packed with those under the age of 35. This tragedy is America's single greatest humanitarian failing, at the present time.... One straightforward and potentially highly effective policy the Biden administration should announce would be to designate the leading drug cartels as State Department-recognized Foreign Terrorist Organizations. Doing this would allow the U.S. government to use various means to financially suffocate the cartels and deprive them of their funding sources. It would also aid law enforcement. Democrats' typical response is that such a formal designation would complicate diplomatic relations with Mexico, but that barely passes the laugh test: Mexico has just as much – if not more – of an interest in cracking down on the cartels as the U.S., but it cannot publicly say so, let alone act upon that interest, due to the cartels' successful bribery and corruption of the all-too-venal Mexican government.... From 1910 to 1919, the Mexican Border War unfolded in a series of military engagements along the border. After Pancho Villa's infamous attack on Columbus, New Mexico, in 1916, decorated U.S. Army General John J. Pershing launched the 'Punitive Expedition' (or the 'Pancho Villa Expedition') into northern Mexico. It was only partially successful, but the U.S. Army did manage to kill Villa's two top lieutenants. It is now time for another 'Punitive Expedition' into northern Mexico. With cartel violence, drug peddling and the sheer invasion of illegal aliens at the border the worst they have ever been, the U.S. has little choice but to affirmatively act."

Author **Bob Unruh**, writing on Republican president candidate promising to fire half of federal employees at WND.com:

"It's not likely at this point that announced 2024 GOP presidential candidate **Vivek Ramaswamy** is anything but a longshot for the nomination. So maybe tens of thousands of federal workers won't have to worry about losing their jobs. Unless, of course, other candidates pick up on the ideas of the entrepreneur, in that the Constitution doesn't allow civil service protections, or public sector unions. He says he'd fire "at least half" the federal workforce. A report at 'Just the News' explained he cited the Constitution's Article Two to support his position. 'It says the president of the United States runs the federal government, runs specifically the executive branch of the federal government. That means, I think, a lot of those civil service protections are unconstitutional,' he explained. 'If somebody works for you, and you can't fire them, then they don't actually work for you,' reasons Ramaswamy, author of 'Woke, Inc.: Inside America's Corporate Social Justice Scam.' He said, 'I actually would just proceed with firing a good portion of the federal workforce. I think it's going to be at least half of the federal workforce. And will that end up in litigation? It will. But I think this Supreme Court...shares that view. I think we use that to set judicial precedent to make sure that



never again is there a president whose gobbled up by the administrative state that supposedly works for him, but actually has the relationship the other way around.' That provision in the U.S. Constitution lets a U.S. president oversee the federal workforce. Ramaswamy said other efforts to eliminate agencies haven't succeeded, but there's a reason. 'They defer to Congress. The problem is Congress has an institutional bias...the way you run the executive branch is not the purview of Congress. It is the purview of the executive, the person who leads the executive branch of government.' He said his plans would include eliminating the Department of Education and moving other bureaucracies out of Washington.... Also, something 'new' needs to replace the FBI, he said. And those unions for government workers? 'If you're a public servant and you're unionizing, who exactly are you unionizing against? The very public you intend to serve. I don't think there needs to be any special protections for public employee unions, and I don't think we should hedge about it," Ramaswamy said."

THOUGHTS TO PONDER

"President Joe Biden spent St. Patrick's Day doing what he does best -- embarrassing the country on the world stage. Biden, who is himself Irish by blood, insulted the country of his ancestors as a land full of drunks and common criminals in front of the country's head of state, Leo Varadkar, during a special ceremony at the White House.... He said that despite being Irish, he has never consumed alcohol and no members of his family have been behind bars. 'When I went over to Ireland, it was a great experience. I had been to Ireland many times, but not to find my actual family members. And there were so many, and they actually weren't in jail,' Biden said. He then said he located relatives of his in the country who own a pub, and commented, 'I'm the only Irishman you ever met, though, that's never had a drink, so I'm OK. I'm really not Irish.'"

--"The Western Journal" writer **Johnathan Jones**, on Biden's latest gaffe

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"The one and only chance of survival of the United States of America is with Donald J. Trump. Why? Because Washington Disaster Central is a minefield that is no place for beginners. It would be impossible not to know this if one was alive since 2016. The list of Iagos is long and growing. But yet, intelligent persons of high education will say 'yes, but Trump is just too aggressive...he needs to be nicer to Democrats' Trump is exactly what is needed NOW in exposing the lunacy of this Biden cartel, and what is needed in 2024 to cauterize the corruption of the Capitol. Those who express otherwise are speaking from emotion, not logic...Trump can only serve one term...that's enough...then have DeSantis primed for the job. Pompeo would be a great VP, if alerted he would not be the 2028 choice. This is the only scenario that can work, and even then it will take us to make it work."

--**Ronald Reagan Club founder Dale Young**, on Trump or nobody

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"State Policy Network has launched the Center for Practical

Federalism. We are so grateful to our early investors for making this possible at a time when Americans are tired of the waste, fraud, and abuse of power in Washington, DC, and are looking to solve problems more effectively, with more accountability, on the state and local level...Its goal is to reinvigorate America's federalist system of government, which is part of a crucial checks-and-balances system designed to prevent too much power from concentrating in one place....The Center will pursue three main strategies in our early phase and will evolve as opportunities arise: 1) Inspire and equip state and local lawmakers to champion federalism, in close partnership with state-based Network groups. This includes empowering lawmakers to use their authority to conduct the necessary oversight of the executive branch. 2) Make federalism compelling and practical to audiences in major media outlets and in public debate. The mainstream media is all about Washington, DC. We will elevate stories from the states that make the case for federalism and expose federal agency corruption and its impact on everyday people. 3) Fight federal overreach through the courts in partnership with state-based litigation centers that examine the legality of federal agency overreach. This includes monitoring federal regulations and bills that extend their power over the states and sounding the alarm to our Network when we must fight back."

--**SPN CEO Tracie Sharp**, on its new federalism project

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"A mind is a terrible thing to waste. And our public schools are wasting millions of minds week after week while they spend billions of dollars on Lord knows what. It's time for bold, new approaches. There are thousands of private and religious schools that have proven they know how to teach children, and instead of achieving 0 percent reading and math proficiency, they reach nearly 100 percent. Education reform is simple: Put our children, our nation's greatest assets, in these schools."

--"The Washington Examiner columnist **Stephen Moore**, on school choice everywhere

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"The administrative state has metastasized into a destructive deep state that threatens to bring about the collapse of America's constitutional system within our lifetimes. Emblematic of the threat is the fact that 'the intelligence community' has proven itself incapable of not interfering in American elections. The FBI in particular has directly meddled in the last two presidential elections to a degree that should call into question its continued existence."

--"The Federalist" senior editor **John Davidson**, on an existential threat'

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"What happened the other day in Springfield, Ohio, is just jaw-dropping. A group of black children at Kenwood Elementary School ordered white children to get down on their knees and say, 'Black Lives Matter.' Those students who refused to obey were dragged onto the playground and beaten. One white child was punched in the head. And it was all captured on video.... We need to teach the nation that racism is wrong no matter skin color. Not only should the children be arrested -- they should

all face federal hate crime charges. This is what critical race theory looks like in practice. It is ugly, it is violent, and it is dangerous. And let's get real – had white kids been dragging black kids through the playground, the NAACP would've been marching on the school board office demanding jail time.... I doubt any of us are surprised that the racist attack on the white school children in Ohio did not make the national news. That's what happens when all lives don't matter."

--Syndicated columnist and podcaster **Todd Starnes**, on racism in the schools
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"It's a textbook case of an overseas scam – except the victim was an American city. Officials in Newark, New Jersey, were initially thrilled to partner with the Hindu nation of the United States of Kailasa. The only problem? The country doesn't exist. After hosting 'delegates' from the made-up country at a formal ceremony, City Hall has admitted that the whole thing was a scam led by notorious Indian fugitive Swami Nithyananda. Newark officials said the agreement only lasted for six days and was rendered 'baseless and void,' adding that no money was exchanged in the ceremony."

--"New York Post" writer **Ronny Reyes**, on the Sister Cities scam pulled on Newark, New Jersey
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"Conservative reaction poured in after Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell said it was a 'mistake' for Fox News to allow Tucker Carlson to use the newly released January 6, 2021 U.S. Capitol tapes to depict the events that day in a way contrary to the view of Capitol law enforcement....McConnell's statement circulated widely on social media and was used by left-leaning media who have slavishly echoed the Democrats' 'insurrection' narrative for more than two years to level their own attacks on

Fox News and Carlson. Conservatives pushed back against the Kentucky senator and hailed Carlson for exposing the Democrats' J6 'insurrection' claim....**New York Republican Congresswoman Elise Stefanik** called the J6 Committee 'nothing more than a scam' used to smear Donald Trump and his supporters."

--Social conservative activist **Peter LaBarbera**, on the January 6, 2021, events at the U.S. Capitol
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"Parents bear the primary responsibility for the upbringing and education of children. Any attempt by the state to subvert or trample on this responsibility undermines the family's essential work and its place in the social fabric....Politics that make the family and its well-being a top priority will have a positive impact not only on education but on many of the cultural ills with which we are dealing today, from rampant fatherlessness to record-high teenage depression to alarming overdose rates. Republicans should think of the Parents Bill of Rights as just the first step of many in making this happen."

"Washington Examiner" columnist **McGhee White**, on a robust pro-family agenda
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"You can always tell which is the liberal playbook on the shelf. It's the one without a spine."

--Fox News contributor **Jimmy Failla** on book identification
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"I've noticed that everyone who is for abortion has already been born."

--Former **President Ronald Reagan's** classic pro-life comment on hypocrites

UPCOMING BREVARD COUNTY EVENTS

--April 4 and May 2: Moms For Liberty meeting, Frogbones Double Tapp Grill, Melbourne, 6:30 pm.

--April 5 and May 3: Brevard Federated Republican Women meeting, Space Coast Convention Center, Cocoa, 11 am.

--April 6 and May 4: Heritage Isle Republican Club meeting, Heritage Isle Clubhouse, Viera, 10 am.

--April 7 and May 5: Federated Republican Women in Action meeting, McMaw's BBQ, Palm Bay, 11:15 am.

--April 10 and May 8: Space Coast Patriots meeting, Merritt Island Library, 6 pm.

--April 18 and May 16: North Brevard Republican Club meeting, American Police Hall of Fame, Titusville, 7 pm.

--April 20 and May 18: Republican Women's Network of South Brevard meeting, Beachside Hilton, Hwy AIA, 11:30 am.

--April 20: Space Coast Young Republicans meeting, Pub Americana, Melbourne, 6:30 pm.

--April 22 and May 27: Space Coast Republican Club meeting, Red Lobster, Merritt Island, 11:30 am.

--April 24 and May 22: Ronald Reagan Club meeting, Frogbones Double Tapp Grill, Melbourne, 6 pm.

--May 10: Brevard Republican Executive Committee meeting, Space Coast Association of Realtors Building, Melbourne, 7 pm. There will be no meeting in April.

The Republican Liberty Caucus of Central East Florida: TBD.

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.

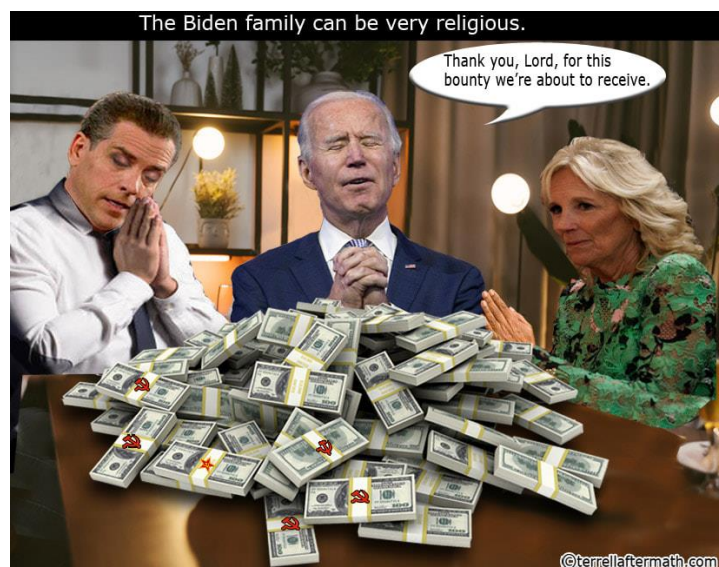
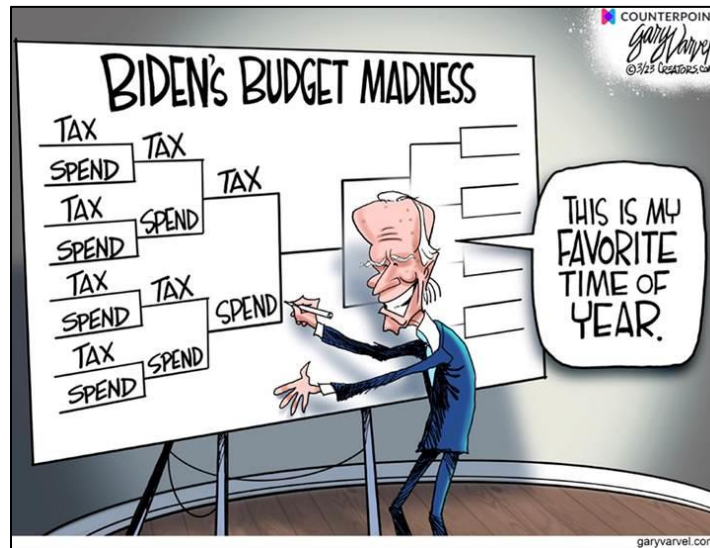
COMICAL CLOSERS

Leave it to the satirical “Babylon Bee” to come up with this gem: When Fox News host Tucker Carlson began showing television viewers the unedited film shot at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, Democrat leaders issued a “dire warning” about “the risk of arriving at an unapproved conclusion.” Unapproved by whom? Why, by the Democrat leaders themselves, who said, “We're in grave danger of some people not agreeing with us, or worse -- not giving us politicians more and more unchecked power. This is an existential threat to democracy.”

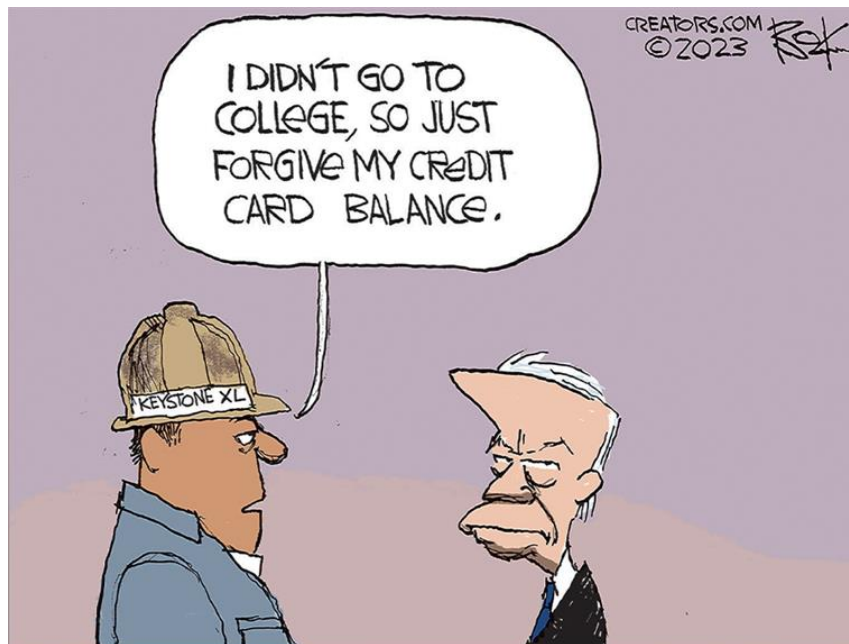
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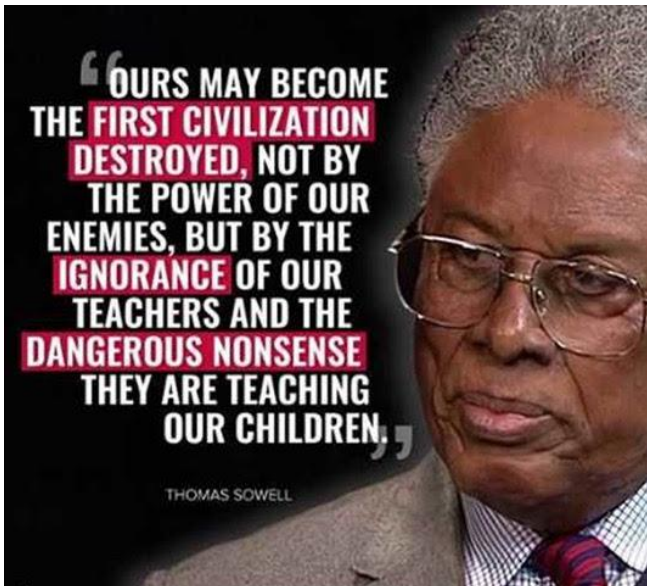
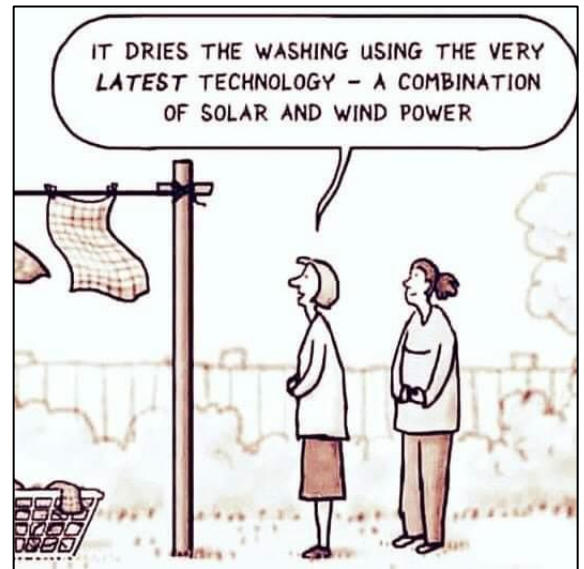
For commentary by **Louisiana Republican Senator John Kennedy**, [CLICK HERE](#).

SEVERAL PAGES OF PERTINENT POLITICAL CARTOONS AND PHOTOS FOLLOW.











CALVIN'S WORDS OF WISDOM

MISS WORMWOOD, I PROTEST THIS "C" GRADE! THAT'S SAYING I ONLY DID AN "AVERAGE" JOB!



I GOT 75% OF THE ANSWERS CORRECT, AND IN TODAY'S SOCIETY, DOING SOMETHING 75% RIGHT IS OUTSTANDING! IF GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY WERE 75% COMPETENT, WE'D BE ECSTATIC!



I WON'T STAND FOR THIS ARTIFICIAL STANDARD OF PERFORMANCE! I DEMAND AN "A" FOR THIS KIND OF WORK!



I THINK IT'S REALLY GROSS HOW SHE DRINKS MAALOX STRAIGHT FROM THE BOTTLE.



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