



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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LONGEST U.S. GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN IN HISTORY ENDS AFTER 43 DAYS

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK:

MY TWO CENTS

By Stuart Gorin

There is heavy sadness in our home. On November 2, our beloved mini-poodle Fleur de Lis crossed the Rainbow Bridge, two weeks after enjoying ice cream on her 16th birthday. She had been going back and forth to the veterinarian's office in recent weeks due to a heart ailment, and we were told she really did not have much time left.

My wife Barbara reminded me that originally I said I did not want a dog in the house, and was not happy right before Christmas in 2009, when she came home with a two-month-old puppy. But, surprise, surprise, it did not take long for a happy Fleurie to bond with me and prove that she was a vital part of our family.



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Blaming the Democrats for insisting that the government pay the massive cost for illegal aliens' health care and then shutting down the government for 43 days – the longest shutdown in U.S. history – after federal funds ran out, President Trump, late on November 12, signed a bill to halt it until January 30, 2026, when funding has to be determined again.

Before he signed it into law, the President said the Democrats “did it purely for political reasons. When we come up to midterms and other things, don't forget what they've done to our country.”



Noting that the shutdown has inflicted massive harm, he added, “We went through this short-term disaster with the Democrats because they thought it would be good politically, but “they caused 20,000 flights to be cancelled or delayed....

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For years, Fleurie and I would get up at 7am all seven days every week and go on long walks in the nearby park and on other Heritage Isle neighborhood streets, greeting many friends and other dogs. Numerous shorter walks followed later every day. And she always gobbled up the treats given to her for “doing her business.”

She loved to ride with us in the car too, especially when we visited family members or stopped at the ice cream shop or took her to Picture Perfect Pets for her monthly grooming. But not so much for visits to the vet’s office – even though Viera Vet took excellent care of her over the years.

After those Picture Perfect grooming sessions, Fleurie always returned looking beautiful, and sporting bright pink nail polish on her toenails, which countless people constantly admired on her walks.

When we went on a cruise or flew north for an event, Fleurie would stay with our daughter and her dog. Then, when we all came home, she would run to us as fast as she could. I don’t know who was happier to be back – she or we.

Until recently, Fleurie was the picture of health, but then went downhill rapidly, declining to walk with me at all. With heavy hearts, we realized the end was near. When we spread the word about her passing to our family, friends and neighbors, we were very appreciative for their kind words about how much they liked her.

Nobody really wants to ever think about the end of life, but we were grateful for the compassionate service provided by Pet Passages, the company which handled her cremation, and returned to us her ashes in a beautiful brass urn engraved with her name, a lock of her hair, a clay paw impression with her birthstone, an engraved “Beloved Companion” pendant, an engraved frame for her photo, ink paw and nose print impressions, a certificate of cremation, and a "Blooming Heart of Remembrance" to plant. They all are in a treasured spot in our home.

It was the late gameshow host Bob Barker who once wrote that “Pets are not just animals; they are gifts to us that bring love and joy to our lives.”

I miss her patiently waiting for a taste off my dinner plate. I miss her joining me in front of the TV in the evenings. I miss her jumping up on the bed when I am lying down. R.I.P. Fleurie, Rest in Peace.

Yes, Fleurie is gone, but she is not forgotten. When I went outside and held this column up to Heaven, I wanted to believe that she was able to see it and bark her approval.

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(NOTE: Next month’s column will return to political coverage.)

they deprived more than 1M government workers from their paychecks and cut off food stamp benefits of millions and millions of Americans in need."

Trump continued, “It’s an honor now to sign this incredible bill and get our country working again.”

The shutdown began on October 1, the start of the government fiscal year, when the Democrat Senate refused to sign the budget. There are 53 Republicans in the Senate, but the budget bill requires 60 votes to pass. The slim Republican majority in the House did pass it, but there only a simple majority was needed.

What followed were 15 full Senate “no” votes, until November 9, when eight Democrats struck a deal with the White House and Majority Leader John Thune, and agreed to support the measure. It finally passed in the upper chamber 60-40.

The eight Senators were John Fetterman of Pennsylvania, Dick Durbin of Illinois, Tim Kaine of Virginia, Angus King of Maine, Jeanne Shaheen and Maggie Hassan of New Hampshire, and Jacky Rosen and Catherine Cortez Masto of Nevada.

Only one Republican Senator opposed the measure – Rand Paul of Kentucky – but that was because he felt one of the items in it would not help some people in his state.

The bill called for inclusion of three appropriations to fund some parts of government through the fall of 2026, while the rest will be funded only through January 30. They also got the administration to agree to reinstate federal workers who were laid off during the shutdown through reductions in force.

Three days later, on November 12, the proposed bill moved to the House of Representatives, where the Democrats first began a filibuster to delay matters, but it ultimately passed 222-209, with the additional support of six of the other party citing the importance of getting federal funding flowing again.

This group included Representatives Jared Golden of Maine, Henry Cuellar of Texas, Tom Suozzi of New York, Adam Gray of California, Danny Davis of Illinois, and Marie Gluesenkamp Perez of Washington State.

Two Republicans opposed the final bill: Thomas Massie of Kentucky and Greg Steube of Florida.

The federal government began to re-open on November 13 as furloughed employees returned to work and soon will be receiving back pay for the weeks they missed being on the job. Normal operations at the government agencies were beginning once again.

Among issues still to be resolved are health care tax credits under former President Barack Obama’s “Affordable Health Care” program, which was set for expiration at the end of the year. The Democrats want it to be extended, which the Republicans oppose.

URGENT. Just as we went to press on November 24, the Brevard Republican Executive Committee held a special meeting where the ONLY vote taken was to require former members to go through proper channels in order to be reinstated. It passed overwhelmingly. BUT, following the meeting, the woman who unfortunately serves as the group's state committeewoman – RINO Marie Rogerson – sent everyone a lengthy email falsely claiming that a new slate of officers had been elected (it had NOT) – and even had the gall to suggest that members could “click the button below” to resign from the committee if they so chose. We will have more information on this frustrating situation in next month's newsletter.



SOUNDS FROM THE TRUMP-ET

--During a week-long, historic Asia tour of Malaysia, Japan, and South Korea, the end of October, President Trump brokered a peace accord between Thailand and Cambodia; slashed trade

barriers with Malaysia, Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam; and locked in critical mineral deals with Thailand and Malaysia. He also sat down for more than 1 ½ hours “for a great meeting” with Chinese leader Xi Jinping in Busan, South Korea.

On the final day of his trip, the President received a replica of an ancient Korean gold crown – an artifact of the Silla dynasty that represents the divine connection between the authority of the heavens and sovereignty on earth – as well as the Grand Order of Mugunghwa, a gold medal representing the nation's highest state honor – from South Korean President Lee Jae Myung. Trump also gave a keynote address at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum at Gyeongju.

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--The President held a surprisingly friendly meeting in the White House on November 21 with Democrat Socialist New York Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani, where the two reportedly agreed to cooperate on issues of affordability and fighting crime. “We agree on a lot more than I would have thought,” Trump said. “I want him to do a great job and we'll help him do a great job.”

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--On November 18, the President greeted Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on his first visit to Washington in 7 years with a welcoming ceremony on the South Lawn that included a flyover of six U.S. fighter jets.

The two leaders agreed that Saudi Arabia would increase its planned investments in the U.S. to \$1 trillion, up from an earlier agreement of \$600 billion, as part of the kingdom's efforts to diversify its economy away from oil; that the U.S. will sell them F-35 fighter jets; and that the Saudis are considering joining the Abraham Accords established in 2020 to normalize relations between Israel and some Arab states, but the Prince emphasized he wanted a two-state solution between Israel and Palestine.

The President said he sees Saudi Arabia as “the linchpin of the plan to establish better ties between Israel and the Arab world.” These accords, he said, became more attractive after the U.S. bomb strike that crippled Iran's nuclear ambitions.

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--On November 10, the President hosted Syrian President Ahmad al-Sharaa at the White House for the first visit by a Syrian head of state since the Middle Eastern country gained independence from France in 1946 and came after the U.S. lifted sanctions imposed on Syria during the decades the country was ruled by the Assad family.

Al-Sharaa, who led the rebel forces that toppled Syrian President Bashar Assad last December and was named the country's interim leader in January, wants a permanent repeal of sanctions that punished Syria for widespread allegations of human rights abuses by Assad's government and security forces. While Trump has temporarily waived the sanctions, their permanent repeal would require Congress to act.

“We want to see Syria become a country that's very successful, and we think this leader can do it,” he told reporters.

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--Also on November 10, the President hosted an Oval Office swearing-in of Sergio Gor to be the new U.S. Ambassador to India. The former director of the White House Presidential Personnel Office took the oath of office from Vice President J.D. Vance as numerous administration officials observed the ceremony.

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--Ending a political persecution campaign on November 9, President Trump issued sweeping pardons to patriots wrongfully persecuted by the Biden administration for daring to question the integrity of the 2020 election, including Rudy Giuliani, Mark Meadows, Sidney Powell, and Republican alternate electors charged in multiple battleground states. The comprehensive proclamation provides “full, complete, and unconditional” pardons, and calls their prosecutions “a grave national injustice” against the American people.



LET ME BE FRANK

**By Space Coast Tusk Designer
Frank Montelione**

With the government going back to work we look back at what cause the shutdown and the results.

One thing stuck out to me. Is the Democrat Party a “CULT”? The left often stated that the MAGA movement was a cult, but it was never described how they came to this conclusion.

FBI profilers identify 5 points that would define “cult”.

- **Authoritarian leadership:** A single, often charismatic leader with absolute authority and no accountability.

Berney Sanders, AOC, Mamdani come to mind to fulfill this point.

- **Mind control and manipulation:** Threats from the above to any elected Democrat that they will be primaried if they don't adhere to their orders.
- **Isolation and fear:** Example – Pennsylvania Senator John Fetterman. He is being isolated from the progressive side of the Democrat Party because of his moderate stand.
- **Exploitation:** Along with threats of primary challenges the party often threatens to cut off the spigot of campaign finances.
- **Suppression of dissent:** Absolute zero tolerance for criticism or questions, and a lack of transparency. I think this is self-evident.

You decide.



Why the shutdown?

The Democrats' goals for reopening the government during the 2025 shutdown were somewhat elusive, as their

demands seemed to evolve daily. Initially, their primary focus was on limiting the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), which was central to the budget dispute due to its significant cuts to programs like Medicaid and SNAP. The Democrats aimed to reverse some provisions of the bill, particularly the Medicaid cuts, which became a major point of contention. This disagreement over the bill's health care and social safety net provisions was a key factor that fueled the shutdown, highlighting the deep divisions between the parties.

We were constantly told by Speaker Johnson that the Democrats wanted to insure health care for illegal aliens, and these accusations were repeatedly denied by the Democrats. However, part of their demands included restrictions on immigrant access to care. The Big Beautiful Bill severely restricted the eligibility of lawfully present immigrants, such as refugees and asylum seekers, for Medicaid, CHIP, and ACA premium tax credits.

Part of the reason of the shutdown also included what they called the illegal withholding of congressionally appropriated funds by the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Remember funds approved by the Biden administration for "Middle Eastern version of Sesame Street" for LGBTQI+ Programs, including grants for "Being LGBTI in the Caribbean" and for programs in the Western Balkans and Uganda and other such programs?

That was phase 1 of the progressives in the Democrat party demands and when feedback from those demands was not supported by anyone, including the Democrat base, they pivoted to **Phase 2 – the ACA subsidies**.

Twelve years ago, Democrats introduced the Affordable Care Act (ACA), also known as Obamacare. Since then, health care and insurance costs have soared. Speaker Nancy Pelosi's

infamous statement, "We have to pass the bill so that you can find out what is in it," and the assurances that "if you like your doctor you can keep them" and "if you like your insurance you can keep it" have proven misleading. The ACA premiums, without subsidies, are unaffordable for millions of Americans, leading industries to drop company-provided insurance in favor of ACA enrollment.

"The ACA has increased the cost of health care and health insurance due to federal mandates and spending, including Medicaid expansion and subsidized individual plans. It claims that Obamacare increases Americans' reliance on the federal government by moving workers to exchange plans with higher deductibles, lower actuarial value, and narrower networks. The text also states that, on a per person basis, Obamacare is more expensive for taxpayers than anticipated, with employer-sponsored insurance providing better coverage and value. Additionally, it highlights that the expansion of Obamacare is largely due to improper Medicaid enrollments, with a significant portion of improper payments resulting from eligibility errors. Finally, it suggests that Obamacare is a step closer to socialized health care, with Democrats gradually eroding the free-market health care system." ([Education and Workforce](#))

The Biden administration expanded the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to allow those with higher incomes to enroll by temporarily eliminating the "subsidy cliff". This was done through Democrat legislation that capped health insurance premiums as a percentage of income, which meant that individuals and families earning over 400% of the federal poverty level could receive premium tax credits for the first time. The elimination of the income cap, along with increased subsidies for all income levels, contributed to record-high enrollment in ACA marketplace plans.

Insurance companies benefited from inflated ACA subsidies, sometimes at the expense of patients who were denied coverage or enrolled improperly. Enhanced COVID-era subsidies created opportunities for fraud, exploited by insurers and brokers to maximize payouts. Commission-driven fraud schemes involved enrolling ineligible individuals or fabricating identities to trigger payments. Weak oversight by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has been a challenge in monitoring improper enrollments and subsidy misuse. The impact on Americans includes higher costs due to fraudulent claims and inflated subsidies, reduced trust in ACA marketplaces, and legal consequences for perpetrators, although systemic loopholes remain. The ACA was designed to expand healthcare access, but insurance companies, brokers, and marketers have exploited loopholes for profit. Oversight agencies continue to crack down, yet fraud remains a significant challenge.

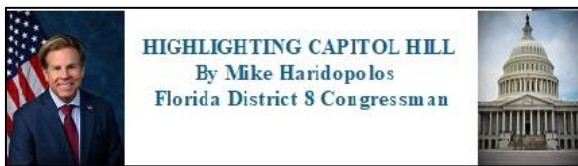
None of these strategies was working to the benefit of the Democrats. What the average family couldn't understand was why the Democrats who had voted on the exact proposal in the past but under this administration swung in the opposite direction. During the Biden administration, Democrats supported 13 clean CRs without significant opposition to keep the government funded.

Why the change? Democrats used the shutdown deadline to push their priorities instead of accepting a Republican-drafted "neutral" CR. House Democrats, including Hakeem Jeffries and Pramila Jayapal, saw opposition as leverage. Gavin Newsom urged Democrats to stand firm, emphasizing the importance of leverage. Democrats in Congress focused on healthcare as their main issue, aiming to gain an advantage in the 2026 midterm elections. Senator Chuck Schumer highlighted the ongoing fight and the increasing impact of their message. The longer people suffer, especially those furloughed or working without pay, the better leverage Democrats believe they will have in the elections. It's not about temporary subsidies from the Biden administration; it's about protecting the Affordable Care Act and **gaining leverage**.

In short: Democrats supported clean CRs when they preserved their agenda but opposed them in 2025 because they entrenched Republican cuts and ignored Democratic priorities. Matt Grossman, director of Michigan State University's Institute for Public Policy and Social Research said it so succinctly, "This shutdown was different, because the Democrats were trying to win policy concessions and were strategizing about using the shutdown to do so beforehand."

In the end the Democrats gained nothing and only caused extreme hardship on the honorable employees of the Federal Government. They put the entire United States in jeopardy by blocking a Republican-sponsored bill to pay active-duty members of the military and other essential federal employees who have been required to work during the government shutdown.

This Continuing Resolution which will expire on January 30, 2026.



With the Democrats facing an internal effort to replace the Schumer faction with a more progressive slate of Senators and even the progressive House members pushing to oust Hakeem Jeffries, the next leadership team for the Democrats might feel more emboldened on February 1, 2026 to again shut the government down in order to further their liberal agenda.

If that is the case, brace for another round of a possible shutdown that may set another shutdown record.

A Shutdown That Never Should Have Happened

With the government finally re-opened, it is worth looking in the rearview mirror at what this shutdown really was and how absurd it was for Democrats to put the country through it.

For six weeks, Democrats refused to pass a straightforward funding bill that would have kept the government open without strings attached. They demanded everything under the sun and got almost nothing in return. If this standoff was supposed to be about policy, it ended with Democrats empty-

handed. If it was about politics, it revealed just how far they're willing to go to serve their own base at the expense of everyone else.

Their list of demands read more like a ransom note than a policy proposal. They wanted to undo Medicaid reforms that cut waste and fraud, protected taxpayer dollars from abuse and ensured that benefits go only to those who qualify. They wanted to permanently extend pandemic-era Obamacare subsidies – hundreds of billions of dollars that masked the true cost of a broken health care system and funneled money straight to insurance companies. They even wanted to start sending taxpayer money to USAID and liberal media outlets again. The grand total of this ransom note was well over \$1.5 trillion.

Throughout this process, Republicans offered a clean, responsible path to fund the government. No politics or strings attached, just an opportunity to keep things moving. Democrats rejected it again and again, gambling that they could force a crisis and blame it on the other side. When public pressure mounted and even Senate Democrats began to waiver, they folded. The government reopened, and Democrats walked away basically empty handed.

The damage, however, was already done. Military families saw their paychecks delayed. Federal workers were sent home, leaving Americans without the services they had already paid for. Airports backed up as flights were delayed and schedules collapsed. The Treasury Department estimated the shutdown cost taxpayers \$15 billion dollars every week.

All of that chaos, all of that cost, for nothing. Democrats called it a fight for policy priorities. In truth, it was a reckless attempt to rewrite existing law through a temporary spending bill – a move that broke the rules of responsible governance and revealed a party driven more by its loudest activists than by common sense.

The shutdown was not just a mistake. It was a warning about the future of the Democrats. When leaders value control more than compromise, when they treat government as a stage for political theater instead of a service to the people, it is the American public who pays the price.

I am thankful this needless shutdown is behind us. The next step is making sure it never happens again. Congress owes the country steadiness, not stunts; accountability, not excuses. That should be our mission moving forward.



MAYFIELD MINUTE

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

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and First Lady Casey DeSantis announced \$30 million in grants to four specialty children's hospitals in Florida: Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg, Nemour's Children's Hospital in Orlando, Nicklaus Children's Hospital in Miami, and Wolfson Children's Hospital in Jacksonville. The purpose of the grant is to

develop and improve access to clinical trials, advance treatment protocols, and to discover cures for childhood cancer.

“Since I became governor,” DeSantis said, “Florida has invested more than \$1 billion in cancer research and treatment – a 114% increase. We created the Cancer Connect Collaborative Research Incubator program within the Florida Department of Health this year to enhance cancer research throughout Florida. By investing in statewide infrastructure for pediatric cancer initiatives, we aim to eliminate the need for Florida families to travel out of state for potentially life-saving experimental therapies and specialized care.”

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Eau Gallie High School, in partnership with the Melbourne Regional Chamber, held a ribbon cutting for the grand opening of their new Diesel Technology Career and Technical Education (CTE) Program. The diesel program expands Eau Gallie High School’s technical education offerings and supports workforce development along the Space Coast.

Students enrolled in the program receive hands-on training in diagnosing and repairing diesel engines and systems using *Consulab* technology and an Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certified curriculum. Additionally, students gain expertise in critical areas such as brakes, driving trains, and electrical systems which are necessary skills for careers in the transportation, construction, agriculture, and marine industries.

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The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has agreed to provide \$13.6 million in federal funding to the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (FLHSMV) to support its partnership with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement under the 287(g) Task Force Model. Specifically, FLHSMV will receive \$7,500 per federally trained Task Force Officer to purchase essential equipment and \$100,000 per operational agreement to acquire vehicles that support immigration enforcement operations.

The program equips Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) troopers with the authority to identify, process, and detain individuals who violate federal immigration laws. Over the last nine months, nearly 5,000 illegal aliens have been apprehended by FHP, including 900 with a criminal history.

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Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Wilton Simpson, announcing the filing of the 2026 Florida Farm Bill in both the Florida House of Representatives and the Florida Senate, said it is “about protecting freedom, family, and Florida’s farmers,”

Senate Bill 290 prohibits local governments from restricting or banning gasoline- or diesel-powered farm and lawn care equipment; criminalizes the possession, sale, distribution, or use of signal jamming devices, which can disrupt emergency communications; enacts penalties for cheating on commercial

driver's license English proficiency exams to prevent unqualified drivers from traveling on Florida roads; implements the “No-Knock Homestead Act” which prohibits door-to-door commercial solicitation at homes displaying “No Solicitation” signs and establishing criminal penalties for violators; creates a “suspended vendor” list with criminal penalties for contractors who fail to pay subcontractors or suppliers; and establishes a loan repayment program for veterinarians who treat livestock and commit to working in Florida, strengthening the agricultural workforce.

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Attorney General James Uthmeier announced that the State has taken actions against two popular online platforms – Roku and Roblox – for failing to protect children online.

The Office of Parental Rights has filed a civil enforcement action against Roku, the U.S. market leader in streaming video distribution, for violations of the Florida Digital Bill of Rights (FDBOR), alleging that collected, sold, and enabled reidentification of children’s sensitive personal data, including viewing habits and voice recordings, without authorization or meaningful notice to Florida parents.

He said criminal subpoenas have been instigated to investigate whether the actions of Roblox, a popular online gaming platform, are aiding predators in accessing and harming children. The subpoenas are based on allegations that the gaming platform does not adequately verify users’ ages, fails to moderate explicit content, and has fostered an environment which sexual predators have used to communicate with, and groom, minors.

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Uthmeier also announced the results of "Operation Home for the Holidays," a statewide rescue operation led by the U.S. Marshal Service with the support of Florida law enforcement agencies. The operation resulted in the safe rescue of 122 children, making it one of the largest child-recovery operations in American history. The rescued children ranged in ages from 23 months to 17 years. Many had experienced various levels of abuse, neglect, exploitation, or exposure to other criminal activity.

"Operation Home for the Holidays" utilized real-time intelligence and field operations to locate the missing children. Victim advocates and child welfare specialists from the Florida Department of Children and Families coordinated with law enforcement to provide immediate resources and care for the rescued children.

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The Brevard Schools Foundation announced Christopher Hattaway, School Resource Officer at Rockledge High School, as the 2025-26 Brevard Public Schools Employee of the Year. He is well-known for building strong relationships, creating a safe and welcoming environment, and serving as a trusted advocate for students. His work reflects his belief that every student deserves to be seen, supported, and secure.

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November is Manatee Awareness Month, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is reminding Floridians and visitors to be extra cautious as manatees begin their seasonal movements toward warmer waters.

“Manatees are highly dependent on safe and reliable warm-water sites to survive the winter,” said **Michelle Pasawicz**, FWC Manatee Management Program Coordinator. “As water temperatures drop below 68 degrees Fahrenheit, Florida’s manatees seek refuge at springs, power plant discharge areas, and other warm water sites where they’ll spend the winter until temperatures rise again in spring.”



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

November has been a month of action, both on the ground and beyond the stratosphere.

With the 2025 Florida Legislative Session fast approaching, we’ve already completed four productive interim committee weeks, including the most recent one the week of November 17.

As Chair of the Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security, I had the great honor of leading a meeting that shined a bright spotlight on the future of space in Florida and especially right here on the Space Coast. Outside of committee meetings, I have spent much of these weeks meeting with constituents, advocacy groups, professional organizations, and state leaders as they prepare their priorities for the upcoming Session. These conversations help ensure that the legislation we file and the projects we support reflect the real needs of the communities we represent.

Our committee heard from some of the most transformative forces in the aerospace world: Blue Origin, Amazon’s Project Kuiper, Star Catcher Industries, Space Florida, and NASA. Each presentation was inspiring and a testament to the extraordinary progress happening in our own backyard. Whether it’s commercial launches, satellite constellations, cargo resupply, or deep space exploration, these partners are pushing the limits of what’s possible and they’re doing it right here in Florida.

Florida has officially shattered the all-time record for rocket launches in a single year and we still have launches to go. With SpaceX, ULA, Blue Origin, and others firing on all cylinders, Cape Canaveral is more active than ever. We’re not just making history; we’re making the future.

That momentum was on full display earlier this month at the Inaugural SpaceU Awards Dinner hosted by the University of Central Florida. I was proud to attend the event, at the invitation of UCF President Dr. Alexander Cartwright. The room was filled with industry leaders, researchers, engineers, and visionaries, all working to keep Florida on the cutting edge of space innovation. I had the privilege of sitting with

Robert Long, the CEO of Space Florida, and I must say I was thoroughly impressed. His experience, insight, and forward-looking leadership give me great confidence that Florida will remain the world’s premier spaceport for decades to come.

But while we reach for the stars, we must never forget those who made it possible for us to live in freedom and pursue bold dreams. Veterans Day on November 11 was a sobering and powerful reminder of the sacrifices that built this great nation. I was humbled to attend multiple events across our District to honor the brave men and women who wore the uniform. From Volusia County to Brevard County and beyond, our

communities came together to salute the service of our veterans, not just in word, but in deeds.

I was especially proud to present over 40 medals from the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs to veterans across the district that day. Each one of them has a story. Each one of them gave something of themselves to preserve our way of life. These medals are just one small way of saying what can never fully be said: Thank you.

As we head into Thanksgiving, I am grateful for so much, for our veterans, for our thriving Space Coast economy, for the students and leaders shaping Florida’s future, and for the opportunity to serve you in the Florida Senate. The months ahead will be busy with budget negotiations and bill presentations, but rest assured, I am fighting every day to deliver results for our region and our state.

If you have any questions, concerns, or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 386-304-7630 or by email at wright.tom@flsenate.gov. Until next time – stay safe, stay engaged, and stay informed.



RENDEZVOUS WITH
REPUBLICAN WOMEN
By BFRW President
Xiaoqi Wang

The 75th Florida Federated Republican Women Convention, held in Daytona Beach Shores October 24-26, was the best one I have ever attended. As the BFRW president, I always pay close attention to anything that can help us improve our club. Over the years, thousands of Republican organizations have been founded, flourished, declined and been reborn – the cycle goes on. Yet, after 83 years, the Federation of Republican Women remains the largest Republican grassroots organization in the country.

As **FFRW President Barbara Price** said, the secret to a club’s success lies in the Award Program Guide – it truly serves as a golden blueprint for building strong, thriving clubs. From club operations, membership development, and leadership development to community relations and campaign activities – if a club scores well in every category, it is surely a healthy and growing organization.

Some Republican clubs have chosen not to stay federated because they see the paperwork and award process as burdensome. The problem is their future depends solely on the wisdom and hard work of their president and a few others, and no one can volunteer forever. A strong organizational structure, not just individual effort, is what ensures lasting success.

Many people think Republican Women's Clubs are simply "groups of older women doing lunch." While we do need younger women, I don't worry too much about this perception.

First, through our programs we are informed voters. That is extremely important!

Second, our mission has always been to empower women and elect conservative leaders – and that mission applies to all ages.

Finally, a great club example is the Federated Republican Women of The Villages. While they may not have younger members, or the ability to knock on doors, they've made incredible contributions by focusing on what they do best – making phone calls to help Republicans get elected. During the last election cycle, FRWTV made over 150,000 calls!

As President Ronald Reagan once said, it is the Federated Republican Women who get candidates elected. That might be a bit of an exaggeration, but for clubs like FRWTV and some others, it is absolutely true – they are empowering the Republican movement every single day.

Let's learn from others – make phone calls, invite your friends to join us, and help more people become informed voters. We are so much more than just a group of old ladies doing lunch once a month – we are a driving force that wins elections!

November is the month of Veterans Day, and we dedicated our November 5 luncheon meeting to honoring our veterans. **Dorothy Walsh** delivered a heartfelt and inspiring speech, and **Jackie McLaughlin** created a touching video featuring photos of veterans from our members' families.

Our panel discussion at the meeting covered topics ranging from work-life balance and faith to government regulations. We all agreed that good policies are essential to helping businesses grow and keeping our economy strong and prosperous.



The panelists were (left to right): moderator **Jackie McLaughlin**; **Margaret Goudelock**, The Pharmacy; **Kathy**

Meehan, Meehans' Office and Art Products; **Pamela Avery**, Affordable Door; and **Christina Swearingen**, Fly Birdie Boutique.

The December 3 luncheon will be the BFRW Christmas Party, featuring Christmas Ornament exchanges, and members will donate to Toys for Tots. All candidates for office and elected officials will have one minute to introduce themselves from the podium. Afterward, they will rotate between tables, speaking and connecting with guests.

To support veterans during the Holiday Season, BFRW will pack about 120 Christmas gift bags this holiday season for our female veterans and veterans in Cocoa and Melbourne Transitional Housing. We also help with their Christmas parties and sponsor dessert to make their celebrations a little sweeter.

To attend our informative and empowering monthly luncheon, please make reservations on our website: www.brevardfederatedrepublicanwomen.org or call 321-727-1212.



FEDERATED REPUBLICAN WOMEN IN ACTION

By President Erika Orriss

We had a fantastic meeting November 7 with two

distinct council members, **Helen Voltz** of West Melbourne and **Mike Hammer** of Palm Bay, as speakers.



Voltz is currently serving a two-year term on the West Melbourne City Council following distinguished roles where she served 3 years on the Palm Bay City Council and 8 years as a Brevard County Commissioner. She shared stories about her early life and let us get to know her more on a personal level.

She met the love of her life, Norman Voltz, after he returned from Vietnam. They married and moved to Florida in 1968. Helen and Norman shared 52 years of love and were blessed with 3 sons. Unfortunately, they lost 2 of their sons. One was born with cystic fibrosis and passed away at age 19, and another was killed by a drunk driver at age 27.

Now, on the West Melbourne council, she continues to work hard. West Melbourne is a thriving city which has managed to keep the taxes down for its residents. Voltz shared information about plans for her city and growth management.

Hammer, who spoke next, was born in Brevard County and comes from one of the founding families of this area. He is a husband and father who loves his community. He gave a short history of Palm Bay as his family has been in the area for many years. His family even ran cattle on the land that is now Palm Bay.



Hammer worked for Palm Bay and saw things he didn't like, so decided to run for council to try to make a difference. He is working hard to find solutions for the problems in Palm Bay and cited the overdevelopment and lack of business in the area. He welcomed questions on recent actions going on in the city.

FRWA falls under the umbrella of the National Federation of Republican Women (NFRW) which is one of the nation's largest grassroots political organizations. As president, I attended the convention this past September and for the first time ever our club achieved the GOLD status award for participation, a true testament to our dedication and impact! Our board is laser-focused on expansion, and we invite your ideas and energy to help us soar. Your expertise could shape the future.

At the convention, new bylaws were voted upon and a new slate of officers was voted in. All this information is available to members at NFRW.org, or if you are interested, I will provide a presentation as the new slate of officers is sworn in.

We're also thrilled to announce our Christmas party on December 16 at 11:30 AM at Yellow Dog Café in Malabar. Please RSVP to info@FRWABREVARD.org asap, as seating is limited. It should be very exciting as we are celebrating with many women in leadership positions in Brevard, including our **State Representative Monique Miller, County Commissioners Katie Delaney and Kim Adkinson, Brevard Clerk of Courts Rachel Sadoff, and City Councilwoman Andrea Young.** We also ask that you bring non-perishable food items to the party to give to Second Harvest.



As proud members of the National Federation of Republican Women (NFRW) – one of the nation's largest grassroots political organizations – we're thrilled to welcome newly elected **President Martha Jenkins** to the helm. This year, our club earned the prestigious NFRW Gold Award, which I accepted from our current president, **Julie Harris** – a testament to our dedication and impact! Our board is laser-focused on expansion, and we invite your ideas and energy to help us soar. Your expertise could shape the future.

Please remember that all of our meetings will now be held at 11:15 am starting in January – mark your calendars! In lieu of the Christmas Party, there will be no meeting on December 5.



PUPMPING UP WITH PATRIOTS

BY CHAIRMAN MICHAEL WILSON
SPACE COAST PATRIOTS CLUB



Port Canaveral Commissioner Fritz VanVolkenburgh updated the Space Coast Patriots on November 10 regarding port business and the importance of port elections.



He said Port Canaveral has been the world's busiest cruise port and is currently number two behind Miami. Last year, it generated \$218 million of revenue, of which 83% was by cruise operations and 11% from cargo. It is also the home to commercial fishermen and a docking basin for U.S. Navy submarines.

VanVolkenburgh gave the Patriots this update and provided many more nuggets about its operations and why electing Port Commissioners is so very important if we want a check on fiscal responsibility. One of the first things he said was that we need to know the Port is its own independent taxing district, meaning they can tax us, at will, however, this hasn't happened since the 1980's. That said, we (taxpayers) are on the tax hook for running the Port because the State of Florida does fund the Port at times through various means.

To help the Port during COVID, the federal government kicked in \$72 million, and the state has given it millions of dollars in grants over the last few years. VanVolkenburgh added that if the Port needs money, they could come to us to the tune of 3 mills (if you own a home assessed at \$300,000, your tax bill will be \$900.00).

Continuing on the fiscal channel, he asked if you knew that the Port Director CEO has a compensation package that exceeds \$900,000/yr.? He said the Port is experiencing fiscal creep and mentioned as an example operating expenses are up 17% and salaries will be up 26% for the 2026 fiscal year. The Port is also carrying \$300 million dollars in debt.

While the Port is bringing in plenty of greenbacks, they are not responsible for supporting infrastructure beyond their boundaries. In more pedestrian terms, traffic on SR528 or congestion in and around Cape Canaveral is not their problem and they do not contribute in any way to alleviate the issues that Port growth creates.



Cape Canaveral City Councilwoman Kay Jackson asked VanVolkenburgh "what is the direct benefit of all the cruise ship passengers to residents and how many more ships do we need?" He explained that the cruise industry generates a good many jobs in construction, service industries and in companies that support the Port's mission. He also said the hotels that have been built add to the tax base, however, Ms. Jackson shot back and said that it is not nearly as much as you might think.

Jackson indicated each hotel generates around \$250,000 in taxes annually, which is split between the county, municipality and school taxes. With 11 hotels, she said, the taxes generated are roughly \$2.7 million (estimated) which is divided among the county, the city and the schools.

Wrapping things up, Van Valkenburgh took on all questions from the Patriots by saying existing leases will not be revoked, and it is unknown when the aquarium will be open. He also emphasized why on the basis of his comments about fiscal concerns, it is so very important to take electing Port Commissioners seriously so that they don't become a rubber stamp vote for the Port CEO.



The Space Coast Republicans Club meeting on October 25 featured **Canaveral Port Authority District Three Port Commissioner Fritz VanVolkenburgh**, who offered an inside look at how one of the world's busiest cruise ports is evolving – and why he believes greater public oversight is becoming increasingly important.

VanVolkenburgh began by outlining the scale of Port Canaveral's operations. With nearly nine million passengers annually, the port has become a global powerhouse in the cruise industry. He noted that 84% of the port's revenue now comes from cruise-related activity, a figure that underscores both its financial strength and its vulnerability to disruptions in the cruise market.

The port is also investing heavily in infrastructure to support this growth, including new parking garages, additional cruise terminals, and expanded cargo facilities intended to diversify operations and reduce dependence on cruise traffic.

Much of the commissioner's presentation emphasized spending. He highlighted that the port's operating expenses have risen by 20%, and employee salaries have increased 26% in recent years. One figure that drew particular concern from him was the compensation package for the port's chief executive officer, totaling over \$900,000.

VanVolkenburgh argued that such increases demand greater scrutiny, especially given that the port does not levy taxes and therefore receives little routine oversight from the public.

He also described challenges related to commercial leases and the treatment of existing small businesses in the marina area. VanVolkenburgh suggested that some long-standing marina tenants feel pushed out or disadvantaged by redevelopment plans and rising lease rates. The broader concern, he explained, is ensuring that the port's growth benefits large cruise operators and the local boating and fishing community that has historically relied on the port's infrastructure.

Looking toward the future, VanVolkenburgh pointed to upcoming infrastructure demands beyond the port's boundaries. Chief among them is the need to widen State Road 528, which will be necessary to handle increasing traffic from cruise passengers and cargo operations. He emphasized

that long-term planning is crucial, as the port's growth could outpace the surrounding transportation network if major upgrades are not funded and implemented soon.

Finally, VanVolkenburgh stressed the importance of informed civic engagement. With three Port Commission seats up for election in 2026, he encouraged residents to carefully evaluate candidates and pay attention to port governance. Because Port Canaveral does not collect property taxes, many citizens are unaware of port operations – creating what he views as a gap between the port's economic importance and the level of public scrutiny applied to its decisions.

Overall, VanVolkenburgh's presentation painted a picture of a thriving but increasingly complex port, one that faces significant decisions about spending, infrastructure, and community impact in the years ahead.



NORTH TO THE PARTY **By President Robin Ricker** **North Brevard Republican Club**

Our November gathering was the "Annual Meeting of the Club," in which we elect our Officers and Board members for the new year. We are pleased to announce it was a unanimous vote for all positions.

For 2026, our President will be **John Scully**, Vice President **Al Voss**, Treasurer **Sue Ricco**, Secretary **Barbara Fine**, and Board members **Kathleen Baker**, **Frank Buckoski**, **Larry Bierman**, **Chal Martina**, **Cindy Roberts**, **Robin Ricker**, and **Linda Austin**.

As always, we are looking forward to a busy new year helping to elect the right Republicans into offices for Florida.

Sue Ricco announced our gun raffle for an AR 15. Tickets are \$20 each with the drawing date of April 21, 2026. You must be 21 to participate and need not be present to win. Anyone wishing to purchase a ticket please email, northbrevardrepublicans@gmail.com.

We also invited those wishing to attend to our annual Christmas Party. It will be at Dixie Crossroads in Titusville on December 16, beginning at 6:30 pm. **Frank Pavone**, National Director and Pro-Life Leader for Priest for Life, will be our speaker. Be sure to RSVP Robin Ricker, icebluwolf@aol.com or Barbara Fine, fineb2015lc@gmail.com. This is necessary to insure adequate seating for everyone.

We also announced we will not be meeting at the American Police Hall of Fame anymore, as they are closing down. Their donations have dropped to the point of being unsustainable and are having to close their doors. This is a very sad occasion; they have been very good to us and our community. We would like to sincerely thank them their years of service. We will be announcing our future meeting place in the near future. You can also stay updated by using our website www.northbrevardrepublicans.com.



The Brevard County Republican Assembly met on November 20 with **Jody Tagaris**, the founder of the Florida Republican Assembly. Tagaris established it to hold the Republican Party to its conservative roots, and to give a voice to America-First patriots at the grassroots level.

For more than 25 years, she has exemplified what it means to lead with conviction – fighting for faith, family, and freedom in both local communities and national politics.

A resident of Stuart, Florida, she said that she founded the organization to ensure that conservatives have a voice in state elections. Tagaris encouraged the Assembly that "one person can make a difference. I found out that with a lot of hard work; you can make a difference."

Discussing past crusades in which she made a difference, Tagaris noted that her involvement aided in the removal of corrupt officials in Boca Raton from office and rallied many residents to push back on the corruption."

FRA state executive **Vice-President Lou Marin** also spoke at the meeting, on the need to keep God involved in the political arena. Marin emphasized that the three pillars of the FRA make it unique from other organizations: the focus on Community, Legislative and Candidate Development, which are essential to electing candidates who have the heart to serve the people.

Marin stated that the FRA desires to work with the GOP. "The GOP aligns with our principles and values, but we have lobbyists that have captured our party." He wants the Assembly to continue its focus upon growth across Florida and the nation.

Brevard District 1 Commissioner Katie Delaney spoke as well, expressing alarm at the changes by the Commission to the rules of how candidates are appointed to the Parrish Hospital Board. She raised questions as to outside influences involved in the selection of the hospital board.

The Brevard County Republican Assembly will not have a December meeting, but the next event is the Assembly Christmas party, which will be held at 705 Harrison Avenue in Titusville, on December 13 at 6 pm.

The next regularly scheduled Assembly meeting is January 15. The guest speaker will be "We The People of Brevard" head, **Alan Ross**.



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

Can any of us ever remember when Democrats have demonstrated a higher degree of hypocrisy than what we see today? Let's review all the talking points of democrat political candidates. These points apply to our own Brevard County Democrat hypocrites.

Affordability is one of their talking points. President Trump has been in office for just over 9 months, but they blame him for the economic catastrophe that the Biden administration left us. Costs are up because of incompetent Democrat leadership and Trump has reversed the trend but it takes time. Education is an issue with them, but they don't offer solutions – only criticisms.

President Jimmy Carter contributed to our educational decline with the creation of the Department of Education. Ever since, our students have declined in academic performance to the point that the U.S. ranks last compared to all major industrialized countries. Healthcare access is another of their campaign issues.

Does anyone remember when the Obamacare was implemented? Obama said we would not lose our doctors or our medical plans. He said our premiums would decrease. What a sham this turned out to be. The Democrats hope Americans forget this. Obamacare, also, contributes to our federal deficit because illegals get care. The Democrats want justice reform. Are they brain dead? We just witnessed how corrupt the Biden DOJ was. We had to put up with corrupt FBI leadership and Jack Smith, the Trump persecutor/prosecutor. We see the activist radical judges, who are primarily Democrat appointees, interfere with virtually every action taken by our president. Conservatives, Republicans, parents, and Christians were persecuted by the Biden Justice Department. Does anyone remember?

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On November 11, we celebrated Veterans Day. I attended the event in Heritage Isle, where a number of resident veterans gathered to celebrate the service of those of us who sacrificed years of their lives in defense of our country. The few speakers there were important and were a fair representation of those in attendance.

As a veteran myself, I took great pride in being associated with those who came before me. I thought that those of us who were in attendance today stood on the shoulders of those who we refer to as the "Greatest Generation." Our parents, aunts, uncles and all our relatives of the WWII era who served are how we came to be who we are. They saved the world. Over 100 million lives were lost in that war. We never want to go through that again. Those of us who have followed in the footsteps of those brave WWII veterans know that our country has never been part of winning another war. In spite of that, we did our duty at the direction of our political leaders and for that we can feel pride in having done so.

Today, our generation served its purpose, and our children have been serving since we have left the military. We must not abdicate our responsibility as citizens simply because we served our time. We have witnessed anti-American forces

attempting to undermine our constitutional republic. We have all witnessed the efforts that the liberal Marxists went to, in an effort to turn our country into a bastion of socialism. Apathy on our part will just contribute to their success.

Fortunately for us, the worst enemy of the woke radical liberals, Donald Trump, was elected president. He is undermining every one of their attempts to gain power and implement their agenda. Too many of our citizens are ignorant of the facts when disagreements occur between Trump's agenda and that of the radicals. This is what led to the election of a communist as mayor of New York City. We cannot allow that to happen all over the country. Pay attention to what is going on in England, Ireland, Scotland and other European countries. We see traces of this behavior, primarily, in Democrat jurisdictions.

THIS AND THAT



ROCKLEDGE OLD MUNICIPAL BUILDING RE-NAMED IN HONOR OF BILL POSEY. At a ceremony at Rockledge, Florida's Old Municipal Building on November 14, the building was re-named in honor of former U.S. Congressman and

Rockledge City Councilman Bill Posey. Commenting to crowds at the ceremony, Posey said the re-naming was "humbling and greatly appreciated." He also said the historic building has a lot of meaning to both him and his wife, Katie. "When her grandfather was a constable, he worked on this building," Posey said. "When Katie was a little girl, her Brownie meetings were held in this building, and of course it's where I served in the City Council, the beginning of a journey that absolutely nobody in the world could have anticipated." Posey was first elected to the Rockledge City Council in 1976 and then to the Florida House of Representatives in 1992. He then served in the Florida Senate in 2001 and was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2008, where he served until his retirement last year. He was succeeded in Congress by **Mike Haridopolos**, who said at the ceremony that Posey "is a leader by example, a leader by action, and I know they are huge shoes to fill."

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY ORIGINS. While President Abraham Lincoln is credited in 1863 with officially establishing Thanksgiving on the last Thursday in November as a national holiday in America, writer Bob Livingston points out in his "Livingston Letter" that credit for the observance actually dates back to when founding father Benjamin Franklin wrote in his "Completed Autobiography" about how "a farmer of great sense" told his fellow Pilgrims that instead of a day of fasting and prayer, "they should proclaim a thanksgiving." Franklin then wrote that "their seas and rivers were full of fish, the air sweet, the climate healthy, and above all, they were in the full enjoyment of liberty, civil and religious," and he concluded that "His advice was taken, and from that day to this, they have in every year observed circumstances of public felicity sufficient to furnish

employment for a *Thanksgiving Day*, which is therefore constantly ordered and religiously observed."

U.S. SUPREME COURT. In a legal victory for President Trump, the High Court ruled 6-3 on November 6 that the State Department can prohibit transgender Americans from listing their gender identity on passports. The Justice Department brought the emergency appeal after lower courts blocked the passport policy for being rooted in "irrational prejudice." But the Supreme Court majority wrote that "Displaying passport holders' sex at birth no more offends equal protection principles than displaying their country of birth – in both cases, the Government is merely attesting to a historical fact without subjecting anyone to differential treatment."

OFF-YEAR ELECTION RESULTS. Gubernatorial elections in the Deep Blue states of Virginia and New Jersey, along with the mayoral contest in Deep Blue New York City – all won by Democrats on November 4 – were disappointing, but not surprising. This included former CIA officer and Congresswoman Abigail Spanberger in Virginia, Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill in New Jersey, and openly socialist Zohran Mamdani in New York City. Also, Democrat voters in Virginia even elected former Democrat State Delegate Jay Jones as the new Attorney General, despite his disgusting public calling for the murder of Republicans and even their children. And in California, voters passed Democrat Governor Gavin Newsom's Proposition 50 on their ballot, allowing his party to enact new, friendlier congressional lines in the state's redistricting battle – switching party affiliation in as many as five congressional seats. If there was any ray of sunshine for our party, it was in local elections in Brevard County, Florida, where **Julie McKnight** won a seat on the Indian River Town Council; and **Terry Cronin** and **Sherri Quarrie** won two open seats on the Melbourne Beach Commission. These races were non-partisan, but the victors were all registered Republicans.



REMEMBERING DICK CHENEY. Former Vice President, Defense Secretary, White House Chief of Staff, and Republican Congressman from Wyoming Dick Cheney died November 3 of pneumonia and cardiac and vascular disease. He was 84 and was considered one of the most powerful Vice Presidents in American history, having played a

leading role in the U.S. response to the September 11 attacks and the War on Terrorism. Despite being a life-long Republican, Cheney was a vocal critic of President Trump and even announced in 2024 that he would vote for Democrat candidate Kamala Harris in the presidential election. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Lynne; their two daughters, Mary and former Wyoming Congresswoman Liz; and seven grandchildren. The "Republican" Cheney family invited numerous people from both political parties to attend his November 20 funeral but pointedly excluded President Trump and Vice President Vance – the ticket that Dick Cheney chose not to support in the 2024 election.



REMEMBERING WAYNE JUSTICE. Canaveral Port Authority Chairman and retired U.S. Coast Guard Rear Admiral Wayne Justice passed away on November 8 at the age of 70. He served on the port authority for 11 years, including three times as chairman. A member of the Coast Guard for 37 years, Justice was a graduate of both

the Coast Guard Academy and the Naval War College. He spent 12 years of his career on cutters where he specialized in drug, migrant, and search and rescue patrols. Over the course of his career, Justice's cutters seized 40-drug smuggling vessels, over 140 tons of marijuana and cocaine, and arrested more than 135 smugglers. They also rescued over 4,500 Haitian, Chinese, Ecuadorian and Cuban migrants. He also spent three years as a military aide to Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton when his responsibilities included the potential execution of the nuclear codes. Justice, whose accolades included the Defense Superior Service Medal, four Legion of Merit awards, three Meritorious Service Medals and four Coast Guard Commendation Medals, retired as a 2-star rear admiral in June 2010. Extending condolences to his wife, Barbara, and his entire family, the Canaveral Port Authority said Justice was a champion whose "spirit, enthusiasm, leadership and passion for the maritime industry will be deeply missed." During his Port Canaveral tenure, Justice's initiatives strengthened its position now as the world's second largest cruise port.

WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY, JR. PRIZE DINNER. Marking the 70 year history of "National Review" and the centennial year of the magazine's founder, The 2025 William F. Buckley, Jr., Prize Dinner was held in Palm Beach, Florida, on November 5, and among other honorees, awarded Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and First Lady Casey DeSantis the Prize for Leadership in Political Thought. It was noted at the dinner that throughout the DeSantises' years of public service, they have championed freedom and the principles of America's founding. Their leadership reflects a rare blend of philosophical depth and practical governance – one that has not only strengthened the lives of Floridians, but set a national



standard for effective, principled leadership. Their pursuit of common-sense reform shows how enduring conservative ideals can be translated into policies that serve every American.



Addressing the Leadership Institute's "Wednesday Wake Up Breakfast Session" on November 5, **Rob Bluey**, the founding editor of "The Daily Signal" and executive editor and producer of "The Daily Signal Podcast," said that

since President Trump has assumed office, there has been a "counter revolution" taking



place in American media. Where the left and the woke have been running the media in our country, he said there are now remarkable changes. He mentioned the government defunding of Public Broadcasting System and National Public Radio, as well as troubles with the U.S. Agency for Global Media (formerly the U.S. Information Agency) undermining U.S. policy. Bluey added that leftist control of media organizations undermines the values that we hold dear. He added, however, that some changes – such as what has been occurring at CBS and "The Washington Post" bringing in more conservative viewpoints – means the left is losing power and "can't stand it anymore." This collapse of the legacy media stranglehold on journalism, he said, is leaving the gatekeepers in retreat, and allowing new outlets to come on the scene.... Also, this month, **Morton Blackwell**, the founder and president of the Leadership Institute, said LI brought 72 conservative student leaders from across the nation to a Student Activism Conference. He said these leaders are "the future of the conservative movement and our country. They've built strong conservative groups, recruited and trained peers and classmates, and advanced conservative principles on the left's home turf."

AUDACITY AND IDIOCY

Here are this month's "winners":



--Payne County, Oklahoma Special District Judge Susan Worthington, for controversially granting Jesse Mack Butler of Stillwater, "youthful offender" status with no prison time in the case of rape, sexual assault, and strangulation of two 16-year-old girls. He could have faced as many as 80 years behind bars. One of the victims' mother said a medical professional told her that her daughter was 30 seconds from death during one strangulation incident. Critics of the decision said Butler's father is a prominent sports coach, and that the judge has ties to Oklahoma State University.

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--The editors of "Glamour UK" magazine, for the cover featuring their concept of nine "Women of the Year," all of them actually transgender men.

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--Woke officials at Gold's Gym in Los Angeles, for revoking the membership of Tish Hyman because she had the audacity to complain about a male who was undressing in the women's locker room. Under California's law, however, individuals are allowed to use restrooms and locker rooms that align with their "self-declared gender identity."

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--Florida 20th District Democrat Congresswoman Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick, for being indicted by a federal grand jury on charges of allegedly stealing \$5 million in FEMA disaster relief funds and funneling the money into her political campaigns, exposing another case of taxpayer dollars being weaponized for personal gain.



YOU CAN'T MAKE THIS UP

--Six Democrat members of Congress – Senators Elissa Slotkin of Michigan and Mark Kelly of Arizona; and Representatives Chris Deluzio and Chrissy Houlahan of Pennsylvania, Maggie Goodlander of New Hampshire and Jason Crow of Colorado – released a video addressing America's military personnel with a call for mass insubordination. Declaring that threats to the Constitution are coming from "right here at home," the legislators said the troops "must refuse illegal orders," and it was "their duty to defy the President." Trump, in turn, said the legislators were "traitors to our Country who should be arrested and put on trial for seditious behavior." According to the "Patriot Journal" website, "these paragons of bravery are now melting like snowflakes in a heatwave." It said the tough talkers are "wailing about threats" following public backlash to their comments.

--When prison parolee Kenneth Thompson tried to use a counterfeit \$100 bill at an Oklahoma City 7-11 store, and clerk Stephanie Dilyard said she would call the police, he grabbed her by the throat and began violently choking her, saying he was going to slice her head off with his knife, so she pulled out a pistol and shot him in the stomach. He then fled the store and went to a hospital, where police – who were then notified of the incident – arrested him on charges of assault and battery, threatening acts of violence, attempting to pass a fake bill, and a felony warrant for violating parole. He was scheduled to be transferred to the Oklahoma County Detention Center once released from the hospital. Police noted that Dilyard, who suffered minor injuries, is protected under the state's self-defense law. So what was the response from 7-11 to their employee saving them from a fake \$100 bill? The woke officials there fired her from her job for using her gun – saying it was "a violation of policy." Dilyard – who worked the 11 pm-7 am shift alone for more than two years, said she hopes her ordeal will be "a wake-up call to prevent other clerks, especially women, from being harmed."

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--After police arrested a woman for driving while intoxicated and slumped over the steering wheel while moving into oncoming traffic on a major highway near Des Moines, Iowa – and with bloodshot, watery eyes and slurred speech – authorities had to go out of the jurisdiction to find a judge to hear her case. That's because the defendant, Adria Kester, IS the chief judge for Iowa's Second Judicial District.

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--It is uncertain whether Alachua County, Florida School Board Vice Chair Tina Certain will be able to retain her position – after posting on her Facebook account that Charlie Kirk, the murdered founder of Turning Point USA, was "just an uneducated white boy." There were swift backlash calls for her resignation, and Florida Education Commissioner Anastasios Kamoutsas summoned her to appear before the State Board of Education to answer for her vile comments.

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--In Port St. Lucie, Florida, 15-year-old Amy Chance, wielding a metal shovel, began slamming it on the hood of a police car while an officer was still inside the vehicle. Bodycam footage showed her causing more than \$1,200 damage to the car, and flipping-off the officer. Chance was quickly arrested, handcuffed, and now faces a felony-mischief charge.

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--When Moises Bernal Puentes, the adult education manager at Wilbur Wright College in Chicago, participated in the city's "No Kings" protest last month, he was recorded on camera saying, "You gotta grab a gun. We gotta turn around the guns on this fascist system. These ICE agents gotta get shot and wiped out." A school official, saying, "Our college system does not tolerate violence nor incitement under any circumstances," then announced that he has been fired from his job. Later, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced his case was referred to the Justice Department for potential prosecution.

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--When Pataskala, Ohio resident Susan Conley, who has hosted farmers markets in the city for years, planned a Christmas-themed event this time including a live Nativity scene, city officials rejected it, saying there would be no religion on city property. But since the First Amendment does not create a religious exclusion zone on public property, First Liberty Institute then explained to the officials that denying permits for religious displays because of their content violates both the U.S. Constitution and Ohio's state constitution, so they reversed course, and the live Nativity scene will be allowed after all.

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--The latest salvo in the Democrats' war on women came in Massachusetts from Governor Maura Healey, who appointed a man – actually a trans woman named Giselle Byrd – to the state's Commission on the Status of Women, which advises on policies to improve opportunities for them.

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--In Grand Rapids, Michigan, a 67-year-old man has been sentenced to two years in prison for threatening on social media to kill Vice President JD Vance, as well as President Donald Trump; Donald Trump, Jr; and Elon Musk. This is in the "You Can't Make This Up" column because of the man's name – It is James Donald (J.D.) Vance, Jr. – no apparent relation to Vice President JD (James David) Vance.

EXPERTS' EXCERPTS



Retired attorney **Michael Dorstewitz**, writing in "Newsmax" on Making America, America Again:

"America is losing its unique American identity, and it's happening with not just the blessing of judges and politicians, but also

their active participation. The United States was founded on three fundamental principles: Individual liberty, a free market economy, and personal responsibility. But all three are being turned on their heads. The election of Zohran Mamdani, an anti-Semite communist Muslim, as mayor of what was the center of capitalism, should have shocked everyone. Mamdani is a 34-year-old Ugandan native who didn't become a U.S. citizen until 2018 and has never run so much as a Kool-Aid stand. As a result, New Yorkers can look forward to a loss of private property rights, crippling taxation, and a rise in crime due to a diminished police presence. In addition, at least 10 other un-American Marxist Mamdani clones won local races across the United States this month – an off-year election. We can expect many more at the 2026 midterms. Mamdani's campaign came to the attention of Turning Point USA founder Charlie Kirk, who gave a warning a few months before his assassination. 'It's not Islamophobia to notice that a man who wants to globalize the intifada is about to run America's largest and once greatest city,' he said. 'It's not Islamophobia to notice that Muslims want to import values into the West that seek to destabilize our civilization'....All too often government figures bend over backwards to accommodate immigrants who commit crimes or engage in dangerous behavior. Manhattan DA Alvin Bragg released an Algerian migrant taxi driver who was charged with sexually assaulting late-night female passengers on two separate occasions.... Remember the Indian immigrant, Harjinder Singh, who made an illegal U-turn on a Florida divided highway, resulting in the deaths of three people? It turned out that he was given a commercial driver's license (CDL), despite the fact that he couldn't speak, understand, or read English. He was later charged with and pled not guilty to three counts of vehicular homicide and three counts of manslaughter. In response, Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy restricted the ability of non-U.S. citizens to obtain CDLs, and last week Duffy announced that California had illegally issued 17,000 CDLs.... However, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals blocked the Department of Transportation from enforcing its restrictions on foreign CDL holders. It ruled that the government failed to follow proper procedure and didn't provide sufficient justification for how the rule would promote safety.... We're supposed to believe in free markets, not socialism. Also, this is supposed to be America, not Uganda, Algeria, India, or the Tower of Babel. More than a century ago President Theodore Roosevelt warned America about immigrants who refuse to assimilate to our way of life, saying 'There can be no divided allegiance here. Any man who says he is an American, but something else also, isn't an American at all. We have room for but one flag, the American flag. . . We have room for but one language here, and that is the English language. . . and we have room for but one sole loyalty and that is a loyalty to the American people.' That quote, along with our founding principles of individual liberty, free market economy, and personal responsibility, should be prominently displayed in the offices of every judge, district attorney, and politician in America. And it wouldn't hurt for New York City voters to review it also. If we're going to survive as a nation, America has to become America again."

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--Opinion writer **Sally Pipes**, in "Newsmax," on Medicaid coverage for illegal immigrants:

"A new federal audit reveals that some states have spent a total of more than \$1 billion providing Medicaid benefits to illegal immigrants. According to Dr. Mehmet Oz, administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), 'If you live in Texas or Florida, and you're paying U.S. federal taxes – most people do – your money is being diverted to places like California who have robust benefits for illegal immigrants.' The Trump administration has vowed to claw back these misspent public funds. It's against federal law to provide Medicaid benefits to people living in the country illegally. States have flouted the spirit and letter of that law for years. It's about time the federal government put a stop to such behavior. Medicaid was established alongside Medicare in 1965 by legislation signed by President Lyndon Johnson as part of his 'Great Society' program....How are states getting away with directing those dollars to illegal immigrants? Mostly by exploiting a number of loopholes – chief among them something called 'emergency' Medicaid. This component of the program was created to fund life-saving hospital care for uninsured people who are ineligible for the program because of their immigration status.... In recent years, states have managed to increase their emergency spending dramatically in order to provide more and more care to illegal immigrants through Medicaid. The problem is far more widespread – and costly to taxpayers – than the new federal audit might suggest. One recent analysis by the Foundation for Government Accountability found that, in 2024 alone, states spent north of \$6 billion in federal 'emergency' Medicaid funds providing care to illegal immigrants. That's up from an already sizable \$2 billion in 2020.... Emergency Medicaid is but one workaround states have employed. Undocumented residents who meet certain specific requirements – for instance, if they have been paroled for at least a year – can also receive something called 'qualified alien' status. This, too, gives states leeway to provide these immigrants with Medicaid benefits.... Some states – most notably, California – have decided to provide Medicaid benefits directly to illegal immigrants. They claim they're spending 'state' money on this largesse – and so are not violating federal law. But they can only afford to spend those nominally state dollars because of the generous federal match they receive. And they can boost that match further by taxing healthcare providers, remitting the proceeds back in the form of higher reimbursements, and claiming federal funds to match that manufactured spending. These kinds of funding games give states the fiscal breathing room to extend Medicaid benefits to illegal immigrants....In so doing, it has made it harder for genuinely destitute people to get care. What's needed, more than ever, are reforms that return Medicaid to its original mission of looking after those who genuinely need – and are legally entitled to – federal assistance. By using dubious legal workarounds to bring a growing number of illegal immigrants onto Medicaid's rolls,

leaders in states like California, Illinois, Colorado, and Oregon are moving the program in the wrong direction. And they're flouting federal law in the process."

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American Security Council Foundation Senior Analyst Laurence F. Sanford, writing on the Palestinian State in his "Sanford on Security" publication:



"Western Civilization's decay and decline are demonstrated by the recent recognition of the non-existent state of Palestine by the UK, France, Australia, Canada and Portugal. The recognition is morally corrupt and exposes political cowardice and the collapse of intellectual integrity. It rewards Hamas for slaughtering, mutilating, and raping 1,200 Israelis and seizing over 200 hostages on October 23, 2023. Hostage-taking is an international war crime against humanity, yet no international organization is pursuing legal action. What are the borders of this Palestinian state? Is it Judea and Samaria that were the heartland of ancient Israel? Jordan seized Judea and Samaria during Israel's 1948 fight for independence and named the territory 'West Bank' to dissociate it from Jewish history. In the 1967 War, Israel seized the territory and has since administered it. Even the name 'West Bank' is a misnomer, as the 'bank of a river' refers to the sides of a river and not hundreds of square miles that are west of the river. What about Gaza? Will it be included in this non-existent state of Palestine? Gaza is not contiguous with Judea and Samaria. Who are the rulers of this fictitious State of Palestine? Is it politician Mahmoud Abbas, the 90-year-old leader of Fatah, who hasn't held an election for 20 years? Or is it the genocidal Hamas, which ruled Gaza for 20 years without an election? What will be the status of Jerusalem? Both Israel and the Palestinians consider Jerusalem their capital. Jews consider Jerusalem to be the heart of their 3,000-year-old history, and it is not to be divided. Islam considers Jerusalem its third most holy city because, according to the Quran, Muhammad was transported from Mecca to the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem aboard a winged creature named Buraq, accompanied by the angel Gabriel. In Jerusalem, Muhammad led prophets Abraham, Moses, and Jesus in prayer, thereby symbolizing the continuity of the Abrahamic faiths culminating in Islam and affirming Jerusalem as the third-holiest city in Islam.... The two state solution of a Palestinian state alongside Israel will not happen as long as Islamic terror organizations Fatah and Hamas control governing bodies. Fatah pays bounties to Palestinian martyrs and claims Judea and Samaria (West Bank) as its territory. Hamas is a Muslim Brotherhood offshoot with the goal to rule from 'the river to the sea.' Not a single Hamas leader has talked of recognizing Israel's right to exist. The Trump peace plan is a temporary ceasefire to be used for regrouping, rearming, and preparing for the next massacre.... Action to be taken is: 1) restrict immigration; 2) deport and strip U.S. citizenship of foreign-born persons who commit crimes; 3) terminate funding for UNRWA and affiliated organizations; 4) identify and prosecute groups

advocating violence; and 5) demand that the IRS examine 501(c) (3) organizations that advocate and support violence.

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Columnist **Peggy Noonan**, writing in the "Wall Street Journal" on Keeping Our Republic:



"Donald Trump's supporters are feeling satisfaction after two astonishing achievements: He is the first president this century to establish order on the southern border, and he has secured some new possibility for a Mideast settlement. These are breakthroughs even if they don't last. But the people in this White House, with every triumph, become wilder and wilder. Their triumphalism is accelerating my now-chronic unease over the sense that the strict lines of our delicately balanced republic are being washed away. Ben Franklin, famously asked by a woman on the street in Philadelphia what sort of government the Constitutional Convention had wrought, is reported to have said, "A republic, if you can keep it." The reply was wry and factual but also a warning: Republics are hard to maintain. Are we maintaining ours? Democrats worry about our democracy. Is that the area of greatest recent erosion? I doubt it.... It isn't our democracy that I worry about, it is our *republic*. That's where we're seeing erosion, that's the thing we could lose. A republic is a form of government in which power begins on the ground, with the people, and shoots (and is mediated) upward. Power doesn't come from the top down. The people choose representatives who are protective of local interests while keeping their eye on the nation's. The government of which they're part is bound by laws, by a Constitution that is not only a document of enumerated laws but a mean, lean machine for preserving liberty. The Constitution the founders devised was born of deep study of history, philosophy and human nature. Their understanding of the last was deeply conservative. "If men were angels, no government would be necessary," James Madison said. They aren't, so one is. The American republic would consist of three branches, with each knowing and protecting its specific powers and duties.... All three would work together in a system of divided powers; no part would completely dominate. They'd be in constant tension with one another.... The republic they devised produced not efficiency but equilibrium. It established not only a system but a spirit. It has seen us through for 237 years. Are we maintaining our republic? Is our equilibrium holding? The last nine months a lot of lines seem to have been crossed – in the use of the military, in redirecting the Justice Department to target the president's enemies, real and perceived. The 250th anniversary of July 4, 1776, comes up next year, and many of us are rereading the old documents.... Trump supporters feel joy at real and recent triumphs, but deep down are rightly anxious about the world. Artificial intelligence, nukes, everything out of control, a cultural establishment that hates you. We may have to make some readjustments or revisions in our constitutional traditions; we're in endgame time."

THOUGHTS TO PONDER

“Two of the three major broadcast networks, ABC and NBC, downplayed the Islamic genocide of Christians in Nigeria. Their morning shows described the slaughter of believers as ‘violence impacting Nigerians broadly regardless of religion.’ They refused even to say the word *Christian*. They only covered the story after President Trump vowed to act if Nigeria failed to stop the killings. Even then, the networks focused on his tone, not the terror, ignoring Nigeria’s own president, who welcomed American help to end the bloodshed. While Christians are being murdered for their faith, the networks are silent. Yet these same outlets gave endless coverage to Charlottesville, George Floyd, and the ‘kids in cages’ narrative – stories that advanced their politics. When the truth does not fit, they hide it. That is why MRC exists. We expose what the media conceal and tell the truth when others will not.”

--**Media Research Center President David Bozell**, on media bias regarding Christians
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“New Jersey, Virginia, and New York City Democrats swept all three. There’s two key lessons for Republicans, so listen carefully. Number one, our side needs to focus on affordability. Make the American dream affordable. Bring down costs – electric costs, grocery costs, healthcare costs and housing costs. And lay out how we’re gonna do it. And number two, cut out the identity politics. It doesn’t suit Republicans; it’s not for us. That’s the woke left’s game, not ours. We don’t care the color of your skin or your religion; we care about the content of your character. That’s who we are.”
--**Ohio gubernatorial candidate Vivek Ramaswamy**, on the November 4 election results
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"Chief Judge Boasberg has compromised the impartiality of the judiciary and created a constitutional crisis. He is shamelessly weaponizing his power against his political opponents, including Republican members of Congress who are faithfully serving the American people within their jurisdiction. Judge Boasberg was an accomplice in the egregious Arctic Frost scandal, where he equipped the Biden DOJ to spy on Republican senators. His lack of integrity makes him clearly unfit for the gavel. I am proud to once again introduce articles of impeachment against Judge Boasberg to hold him accountable for his high crimes and misdemeanors."
--**Texas Republican Congressman Brandon Gill**, calling for U.S. District Judge James Boasberg’s impeachment
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“A devastating tragedy on a California freeway has exposed the deadly consequences of open border policies and the left’s reckless disregard for public safety, culminating in the senseless deaths of three Americans. An illegal alien, Jashanpreet Singh, stands accused of causing a horrific collision while driving a semi-truck, killing three innocent people and injuring four others. This catastrophic event is not an isolated incident but a direct result of the systemic failure to enforce immigration laws, a failure that began under the

Biden administration and is perpetuated by sanctuary states like California. Singh, who allegedly crossed the border illegally in 2022, represents a clear and present danger that President Donald Trump has tirelessly worked to eliminate. While the original charges could have put this illegal immigrant behind bars for 17 years, the sentence was shockingly reduced to a mere 10 years, a slap on the wrist for a crime that claimed multiple lives. This leniency is a hallmark of a justice system that has been corrupted by progressive policies which often prioritize the interests of criminals over the safety of American victims.

--“The Patriot Chronicles” writer **Daphne Moon**, on California lowering charges on illegal alien involved in fatal truck crash

UPCOMING BREVARD COUNTY EVENTS

- December 3: Brevard Federated Republican Women meeting, Space Coast Convention Center, Cocoa, 11:30 am.
- December 4: Heritage Isle Republican Club meeting, Heritage Isle Clubhouse, 10 am.
- December 8: Space Coast Patriots meeting, Merritt Island library, 6 pm.
- December 13: Brevard County Republican Assembly Christmas Party, 705 Harrison Avenue, Titusville, 6 pm.
- December 16: Federated Republican Women in Action Christmas Party, Yellow Dog Café, Malabar, 11:30 am.
- December 16: North Brevard Republican Club Christmas Party, Dixie Crossroads, Titusville, 6:30 pm.
- December 18: Republican Women’s Club of Brevard meeting, Suntree Country Club, 11 am.

The Space Coast Republican Club, the Ronald Reagan Club, and the Republican Liberty Caucus of Brevard will not meet in December.

The Brevard Republican Executive Committee and the Space Coast Young Republicans – to be determined.

ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER. Through email, website and over 800 followers on Facebook, we are now reaching nearly 3,000 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.



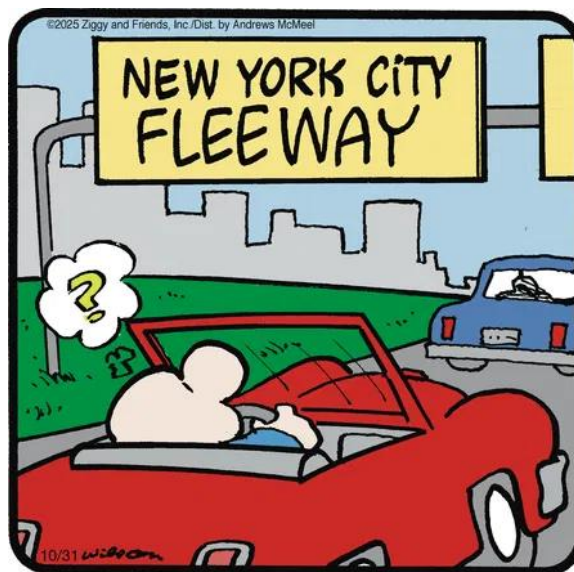
COMICAL CLOSERS

Here is an amusing quote: "If the Democrats want to blame the Republican Party for the government shutdown, they shouldn't be mad that it finally ended."

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And here is some advice if you get lost in the woods: "Immediately start talking politics out loud – and somebody will show up to start arguing with you."

SEVERAL PAGES OF PERTINENT POLITICAL CARTOONS AND PHOTOS FOLLOW



FOLLOWING MAMDANI'S ELECTION







"The big money comes after you leave politics and become a lobbyist."



"Welcome to Hell. You won't be lonely. There are lots of politicians down here."



"I'm all for downsizing the government as long as they don't downsize our paychecks."



