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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MOLINARO).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 22, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MARCUS J. MOLINARO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT TRIPLE-NEGATIVE BREAST CANCER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address an issue that impacts nearly 200,000 women each year. Triple-negative breast cancer, or TNBC, makes up 15 percent of invasive breast cancer cases in the United States. Unfortunately, this deadly disease often fails to show up on scans or even in biopsies.

This form of breast cancer can spread quickly. Sadly, because of the nature of the cancer cells involved, there are fewer treatment options available compared to the other forms of cancer that many patients face.

Studies have shown a geographic link to contracting TNBC, and 3 out of every 1,000 women in Pennsylvania will contract this form of breast cancer each year. That is why it is so critical that we raise awareness for this disease and encourage women to be screened, as catching this disease early can significantly improve patient outcomes.

Even if you are feeling well, talk with your doctor about being screened for cancer. These procedures are often noninvasive and can make the difference in your family and in your life.

Together, we can raise awareness and fight against deadly diseases like triple-negative breast cancer that claim far too many American lives.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as we Celebrate National Agriculture Day, we recognize the farmers, growers, and producers that work to feed our families and provide our children with nutrient-rich foods that they so desperately need.

Dairy farmers in central Pennsylvania work hard to provide dairy products like milk, cheese, and yogurt that are essential to childhood and adolescent development. Bones, muscle, brain, and vital organs all rely on products like whole milk for healthy development—the whole milk that cannot be replicated by inadequate limitations that are found in plants and nuts.

Our students deserve better than these fraudulent products, and we cannot allow almonds or soy to be passed off as dairy to American families.

It is time to ensure that whole milk is once again available in every school cafeteria. It is time to pass legislation like the DAIRY PRIDE Act and the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act that

will support families, support the growth of students, and support our dairy farmers.

PEOPLE OVER POLITICS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. LIEU) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, last term, when Democrats were in control, we put people over politics and passed a bipartisan infrastructure law to rebuild your roads, bridges, and highways; to take lead out of water pipes; and to put broadband internet everywhere, from rural areas to cities, suburbs, and everywhere in between.

This year, when Republicans took control of the House, what did they do? They spent the enormous resources of their committee staff and the time and attention of their Members to hold not one but two hearings complaining about Twitter. They also took turns reading the United States Constitution on the House floor.

How does that help you, the American people? It doesn't. But it is worse than that.

Republicans are actually trying now to pass extreme bills that are going to actively harm American families. This week, we are going to vote on a bill that is going to make it easier for books to be banned at schools. It is also going to violate the privacy rights of students. If your child, unfortunately, has an eating disorder or is cyberbullied or is harassed or bullied, that information is going to have to be posted on a public website that the school has. Every other student and every parent is going to know that this is happening at the school. That is an outrageous violation of privacy.

Let me tell you about the amendments that Republicans rejected when Democrats tried to make this extreme bill better. Here are some amendments the Republicans rejected.

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Republicans voted no on an amendment to remove lead pipes from schools.

Republicans voted no on an amendment to ensure kids had access to healthy meals.

Republicans voted no on an amendment to help keep firearms out of schools.

Republicans voted no on an amendment to prevent schools from monitoring students' menstrual cycles.

Republicans also voted no on an amendment to prevent the censorship of the teaching of the Holocaust.

This extreme bill is going to do horrible things to students' privacy, and it is going to increase books that are banned at schools.

In addition to doing stupid stuff and trying to pass extreme bills, Republicans have now gone on a rampage about what the Manhattan district attorney is doing without even knowing what the purported charges are or what the grand jury evidence is.

What if the evidence is overwhelming? What if it is rock solid that an American by the name of Donald Trump committed crimes? How do Republicans know? They don't.

Do you know what else they cannot explain? When Trump's former attorney, Michael Cohen, was arrested, indicted, convicted, and went to prison for participating in an illegal hush money payment scheme to Stormy Daniels, not a single Republican leader complaining now said a thing about what happened to Michael Cohen.

They cannot explain why they are holding Donald Trump to a different standard. Michael Cohen served prison time for participating in an illegal hush money payment scheme to Stormy Daniels.

In America, we should apply the same standard to all Americans. No one is above the law—not the former President's enablers, not the former President's attorneys, and not the former President himself.

Let's let law enforcement do their work. Let's let the judicial process do its work. Let's wait to see if there are going to be any charges, what those charges may be, and what the evidence is.

A jury or judge will get to hear this evidence, and the American people will see it. The prosecution will have to show beyond a reasonable doubt what their evidence is.

Let me conclude with this: Every American, including Donald Trump, is entitled to the presumption of innocence in a court of law, and that presumption will also be applied.

Let's apply the law equally, the way our Founders wanted it to be done.

SUPPORTING THE BERING RIVER COALFIELD ACQUISITION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the commitment of the United States Forest Service to see through the protection of the Bering River coalfield in Alaska.

According to the Forest Service, the Copper River watershed, in which the Bering River lies, is one of the largest and most biologically intact places on Earth.

Mineral rights to the Bering River coalfield are currently owned by a Korean company, which means almost 12,000 acres of coalfields in the Copper River watershed remain vulnerable to mining.

Coal from the Bering River has no value in the U.S. coal market. We have plenty in the lower 48. An extraction would only serve to benefit the Asian markets at the cost of decimating one of the few untouched places left in America. The current owner of the mineral rights expressed that they are willing to sell the rights, and the bid for appraisal opened last week.

It is my hope that we are approaching the finish line of the conservation of the Bering River, an effort that has been ongoing for 100 years. Forty-six conservation organizations have voiced their support for the protection of this invaluable natural resource.

If a purchase of the Bering River coalfield is successful, all future generations of American sportsmen and -women and outdoor recreationists can experience the magnificent wild country the way it emerged from our creator.

I will take a brief moment to thank the late Representative Don Young from Alaska for his help and support of this issue to get it to this point.

I also thank the Exxon Valdez trust for extending a boundary so that money could be leveraged to help set aside for future generations this important national asset.

IGNITING CULTURE WARS AT THE EXPENSE OF TRANS LIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROBERT GARCIA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in both sadness and anger.

I know how painful life can be as an openly gay person. Like so many in our community, I have also experienced harassment because of who I am, but these challenges pale in comparison to the onslaught of attacks against the trans community in this country today.

House Republicans attack trans people as threats to kids, religious liberty, and our local schools, but that just isn't true. The true threats are the discriminatory proposals against trans Americans that are being made in chambers and statehouses across the country.

Sports bans, bathroom bills, and healthcare restrictions demonize and

dehumanize trans people. With higher rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide, these bills literally mean the difference between life and death for so many in this community, but many in this Chamber don't seem to care.

It is part of a plan to ignite culture wars at the expense of trans lives. As an immigrant embraced by this country, I believe that being a true patriot means advocating for all of our people across the country. That is why I will do everything in my power to ensure and safeguard the rights of all Americans, and that includes our transgender community.

The trans community has been at the front lines of the struggle for justice and equality. Please know that we will be there right beside you, fighting against these cruel and un-American attacks.

Trans rights are human rights. We will continue to fight until we win.

RECOGNIZING CAL STATE LONG BEACH'S 50TH ANNUAL POWWOW

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cal State Long Beach's 50th annual powwow. Specifically, I recognize the First Nations and first stewards of the land where this event is held every single year.

The Cal State Long Beach powwow is the longest running and largest social celebration west of the Mississippi River honoring Native and indigenous peoples.

I had the pleasure of attending this event just recently and was incredibly impressed by the skill and love shared with this community event. This year's celebration was especially important. It was the first time it was held since the pandemic.

Established by American Indian students in 1969, the powwow includes Native dancers from across the State, the Pacific Northwest, and even parts of Canada.

Events like this are important to highlight our Native American culture and presence within our country. It also serves to educate and develop the next generation of Native American leaders while bringing Tribes together to highlight art and unity.

In commemoration of the 50 years of the powwow, we congratulate and thank Cal State Long Beach.

HONORING INFLUENTIAL ARTIST DAVE VAN PATTEN

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support art in all its mediums. From paint to dance to music to story writing, our lives are enriched with the appreciation of the arts.

Today, I rise to recognize someone who has been an amazing and influential artist in the city of Long Beach, and that is Dave Van Patten.

Just last month, Dave topped his tremendous career by winning a Grammy for his work as artistic director of the box set album of Grateful Dead concerts titled: "In and Out of the Garden."