

# THE WICKER REPORT

By: United States Senator Roger Wicker



## Wicker Points to the Lasting Impact of Tax Reform, Defense Bills

With Landmark Laws, Congress Delivers Results

A particularly historic moment happened late last year, when Congress passed the first major overhaul of our tax code in more than 30 years. At the center of the “Tax Cuts and Jobs Act” is the basic idea that by making our economy more competitive around the globe, we can allow Americans to keep more of what they earn. Since the law’s enactment, an overwhelming majority

of American workers have seen higher take-home pay. What’s more, the benefits of tax reform are multiplying. Energy costs have been reduced, manufacturing has increased, and businesses are giving back even more to their communities. The tax reform package also put a long-awaited end to Obamacare’s unpopular individual mandate, which forced Americans to buy costly health insurance with fewer options.

### Policy Wins for Our Troops

Equally significant is this Congress’s determination to reverse past defense cuts, which have hurt military strength. As our troops’ resources have waned – reducing training and leaving maintenance needs unmet – potential adversaries like China and Russia have increased their efforts to gain a military advantage in critical parts of the world.

Congress is now aggressively addressing these gaps with policies that prioritize the rebuilding of our military and a reigniting of the defense industrial base around the country. Those policies include a two-year budget agreement that significantly increased budget caps on defense funding. Lawmakers followed up on the two-year agreement by passing timely defense authorization and appropriations bills to fund the military and set policy for the Pentagon.

Our efforts have led to substantial gains in readiness – more training time, more exercises, and reduced maintenance backlogs – and modernization through new equipment. Congress has given the Pentagon the resources and stability it needs to begin executing the priority missions identified in the new National Security Strategy set forth by Defense Secretary James Mattis.

I am especially pleased that my bipartisan “SHIPS Act,” enacted in last year’s defense authorization bill, has played an instrumental role in accelerating the buildup of our naval fleet. We are actively working toward the 355-ship fleet that our military commanders need.

### A Commitment to Results

These two major policy highlights will benefit our economy and national security for many years to come. This Congress has also achieved many other policy victories that will help improve the lives of Americans. Congress has enacted laws to fight our country’s opioid crisis, improve our veterans’ health-care options, and remove the regulations that stifle growth. Lawmakers have taken action to support our communities suffering from hurricane devastation, and we are adding tough sanctions on bad actors like Iran, Russia, and North Korea.

The list goes on, and I am confident it will continue to grow as the 115th Congress

## The Legend of Max Munson

Every since my first grandson was born my grandchildren have asked me to tell them the story of “Max Munson”. So, once again we bring back Max.

There is a place where the Natchez Trace crosses over the old Munson Road on the east side of town where there once stood a picnic area called Munson’s Crossing. This land was owned by a poor family living in the woods running parallel to the Trace. Across the



## Living With Children

By John Rosemond  
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In an opinion piece recently featured on FoxNews.com., Jonathan Pokluda explicates his Ten Habits of Extraordinary Parents. Pokluda, a teaching pastor at a mega-church in Texas, and his wife are in the midst of what he terms “the parenting experiment” with three young children.

In the introduction to his Ten Habits, Pokluda says that according to his observations, extraordinary young people come from extraordinary parents. I don’t know where he’s making his observations, but tales abound of extraordinary people whose children have gone off the proverbial deep end and

finishes its term this year. There is no time to waste, and the momentum is strong for results.

never made it back. Likewise, tales abound of fine, upstanding people who were raised by parents who fell far short of extraordinary. The very false notion that extraordinary people are raised by extraordinary people does nothing but set a good number of people up for paralyzing guilt.

Pokluda asserts that “if there was a parenting scoreboard, spending time with our kids is how we’d earn points.” That’s the postmodern parenting standard, for sure. Being a millennial, raised after the psychological parenting revolution of the late 1960s/1970s, Pokluda doesn’t know that the mental health of children in the 1950s, before “parenting” was even a word and when parents did not feel a

(Continued on page 9.)

stood in spite of its shabbiness. The screen door hung by one nail, the porch had planks that had rotted and now filled with holes, the windows were broken, and some covered with cardboard, and there were ruts so deep a car could be lost. But we always visited these two animated, thought provoking ladies right before Halloween for their delicious popcorn balls and especially to hear about Max Munson just once more.



Peggy’s Take

Miss Bessie told the story like this in her scratchy voice - A long time ago all this land was owned by the Munson family, a poor dirt farmer with several children. The young’uns’ wandered the thick woods up and down the Natchez Trace, especially at

night ‘coon hunting. There is a place a few miles on up the Trace called “Witches Dance”. It has always been the place witches congregate on Halloween night to cast their spells and “cook” up something. Well, it just so happens on this one night the five sorceresses were dancing, and chanting and Max was in the woods hunting. He heard the commotion and smelled the smoke from the cauldron as he slipped from oak tree to oak tree to get a better look. As soon as he was close enough to see, one of the witches, Esmarelda turned and looked straight at Max. All the black shapes began walking toward poor Max. He was so afraid, he couldn’t move. As Esmarelda grabbed his arm and began to drag him toward the fire, she began to chant, “Bezzel, Bazzal, dead man rise. Forever you shall se me in your eyes. From this night you will walk this land seeking your break but forever you will search with no escape.” Then she cackled and they all disappeared, including Max, only to return each Halloween night.

So, if you are traveling the Natchez Trace, near “Witches Dance” on or even close to all hallows night, be sure not to stop here or you too may walk these woods forever.

**Bessie’s Popcorn Balls** -  
¼ cup of butter  
bag of large marshmallows  
½ teaspoon vanilla  
12 cups popped popcorn  
Melt butter and add marshmallows and vanilla and cook until melted and well blended. Add marshmallow mixture to popcorn and mix well. Shape into 3-inch balls and place on waxed paper.

\* Peggy Sims is a life-long resident of Attala County and columnist.

### 2018 HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
August 31	M.S. Palmer	Away	7 p.m.
Sept. 7	Northside High	Home	7 p.m.
Sept. 14	Niceville High	Niceville, FL	7 p.m.
Sept. 21	Neshoba H.S.	Away	7 p.m.
Sept. 28	Canton	Away	7 p.m.
Oct. 5	Germantown	Home	7 p.m.
Oct. 12	Cleveland Central (HOMECOMING)	Home	7 p.m.
Oct. 18( Thurs)	Callaway	Away	7 p.m.
Oct. 26	Ridgeland	Away	7 p.m.
Nov. 2	Vicksburg (Senior Night)	Home	7 p.m.

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M-Sat. 12 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
CLOSED ON SUNDAYS

# Time Change

## Clocks will be turned back one hour on this Sunday, November 4, 2018 at 2:00 a.m.

### Bell Dental Clinic

**Charles Howard, DMD**  
**Jordan Crocker, DMD**  
**Deepthi Mundra, DDS**

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