

# Bring back Newt for the job

After losing last year's presidential election, the national Republican Party seems to have lost its way.

Yelling "no" at every idea proposed by President Barack Obama doesn't seem to be working for the GOP congressional leadership. A blast of "nos" is inevitably followed by a rise in Obama's popularity. The Republican lawmakers never seem to have any workable proposal for a follow-up to "just say no."

Oh, I forgot, the GOP produced a budget alternative, but they omitted any numbers. Budgets without numbers are difficult to navigate.

Republicans also can't seem to find a new

leader to carry their nonmessage. Surely, someone out there is willing and able to pick up the banner of Lincoln, Goldwater and Reagan and charge ahead. Texas Gov. Rick Perry has suggested that secession may be the "new way" for the GOP. New way to what? The federal pen? Promoting secession is a felony, even if the governor claims to represent the Alamo.

Let's get serious. Let's recruit somebody with a proven record who can pick up the pieces of the Republican Party and put them together again. Let's bring back former House Speaker Newt Gingrich.

This nation — this state, too, for that mat-

## Shipp's Georgia



Bill Shipp

ter — thrives when we have two strong, competitive parties at work.

When I started in this business four wars ago, I wrote at least one column each month devoted to the need for a two-party system in Georgia. I saw a strong Republican Party as the perfect policeman for the corrupt bully Democrats. The incumbent Democrats repeatedly accused me of being a Republican mole. My late father warned me to stay away from Republicans.

"They're not going to be around much longer," he would say.

Finally, when Georgia Republicans gained full power in 2002, long after Newt had departed the scene, they simply replaced the Democrats. Georgia remained a one-party state; all that changed was the label. Greed simply moved from one side of the aisle to the other. There wasn't a dime's worth of difference between the parties. I started a campaign to recruit conservative moderates to take charge.

The first moderate Republican I discovered way back in the 1970s was Newt Gingrich, R-Carrollton, a pointy-headed professor with

the fire to become a lead dog in Congress. He repeatedly assailed the Democrats as crooked and uncaring. He ran twice for the House without success, and then lightning struck. Newt was off to Washington.

A funny thing happened when he got there. Newt became a first-rate congressman. He understood the needs of his constituents. When he represented a south Atlanta district that included Hartsfield Airport, Gingrich delivered the goods. Whatever the airport needed — upgraded electronics or more landing lights — Newt delivered. Nothing was too good for Newt's air-

port when the gift came courtesy of the taxpayers.

When he moved up to speaker and to a new district north of Atlanta, Gingrich became a key player in helping Lockheed Martin win and maintain big defense contracts. Defense contracts meant steady jobs. "Bring Home the Bacon" Gingrich was a lawmaker who seldom received public recognition for his astonishing pork-barrel talents. He was much better known as the firebrand ideologue who gave us "The Contract with America" — a covenant asserting, among other things, that term limits were needed to clean out the

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# A punishing leap in power bills

The drastic spike in power costs for citizens and industry imposed under a new House bill should doom the measure.

SO MANY things are wrong about the politics and policy surrounding the "American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009" that it's hard to know where to begin.

Perhaps most egregious is the grand display in overreaching by the Environmental Protection Agency last week, in which it classified carbon dioxide as an air pollutant that endangers the health and wellbeing of Americans.

Carbon dioxide? Yes, good old CO2. That ubiquitous, colorless,

odorless gas, about 97 percent of which the oceans or other natural sources sigh into the atmosphere.

While the EPA pronouncement dealt mainly with automobile exhaust, the agency's decision lays the groundwork for a repressive regulatory regime that would supplant the authority of Congress. It represents an ultimatum from the Obama administration: Legislate carbon dioxide controls, or we will regulate them into existence.

Republicans, fiscally conservative Democrats and all lawmakers from energy-producing states should stand up against this blatant strong-arm

tactic. Congress should pass independent legislation to cut off any appropriations to the EPA that would go toward enforcement of carbon dioxide regulations.

Furthermore, any lawmaker who cares about the health and well-being of our household and national economies will send the Clean Energy and Security Act back to the drawing board for considerable reworking.

The CO2 cap-and-trade system the bill would impose on power plants (most of which burn coal or natural gas to produce electricity) would result in a punishing leap in power bills. Estimates range

anywhere from \$700 to more than \$3,000 a year for every American family.

Not only would home heating bills boil over, but the cap-and-trade scheme's impact on fuel refineries would jack up the cost of gasoline from 60 percent to 144 percent. (Ready for a return to \$4 gas, anyone?)

Supporters of the bill say Washington would return that money to citizens. Really? They have, quite simply, fallen down the rabbit hole in some Lewis Carroll fantasy.

This backdoor tax increase would take in somewhere between \$646 billion and \$1.9 trillion, according to news reports and senior

Obama administration officials. Lobbyists for powerful interests are scrabbling like nursing piglets to get a bit of that juicy new federal largesse.

Having already committed nearly \$12.8 trillion in taxpayer dollars to federal bailouts of the financial and auto industries, to further

strip another \$2 trillion a year out of taxpayers' pockets is obscene.

And in today's struggling market, it is exactly the wrong time to be pulling that much capital out of the economy.

Other travesties in the bill include glaring absences: No incentives for nuclear power, for

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## Allison Simpson chosen May Day Queen

### 10 YEARS AGO

April 28, 1999

FIRST Franklin Financial customer service representative Renee Simpson was named Early County's Secretary of the Year during last week's annual luncheon.

MISS ALLISON Simpson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Simpson, has been chosen as this year's Arlington May Day Queen.

THE LOVELY home of Myrtle Williams, 434 North Main Street, was chosen yard of the month by the Blakely Garden Club.

CHAS AND Tonja Bridges proudly announce the birth of their daughter, Sutton Nicole, born March 30, at Flowers Hospital in Dothan, Ala.

### 25 YEARS AGO

May 3, 1984

SOUTHWEST Georgia Academy football standout Steve Williams signed a football scholarship with Georgia Southwestern College in Americus this past week.

REGINALD Brown, a three year starter for the Bobcats, has signed to play basketball with George C. Wallace Community College in Dothan.

MR. AND Mrs. Chris Roney of Edison announce the birth of a daughter, Jennifer Lynne Roney, born April 11, 1984, weighing 7 pounds 12 ounces.

AIRMAN Stewart R. Howard, son of Beth Howard of Blakely, and Phil Howard of Waynesboro, Ga., has been assigned to Lowry Air Force Base, Colo., after completing basic training.

### From our Files

News from the past

### 50 YEARS AGO

May 7, 1959

AN EDUCATIONAL program has been arranged by the educational committee for the Blakely Womans Club, for Friday, May 8, at the clubhouse. Mrs. H.M. Richardson is chairman of the educational committee, Mrs. D.H. McDowell, Mrs. M.H. Rupe, Mrs. C.A. Grubbs and Mrs. J.H. Moye are members.

THROUGH the cooperation of Mr. H.C. Fort and Mayor James Murdock Jr., and members of the City Council, a free parking lot has been provided at the site of the former Barksdale residence on College Street.

THE CLIMAX of traditional May Day and Parents' Day festivities at LaGrange College came with the crowning of the lovely May Queen, Mary Ansley of Blakely.

DAN AND Hulan Blackshear, students at Damascus High School, have earned second and third place respectively in the FFA winter grazing awards for Southwest Georgia. Their teacher of agriculture is N.C. Alexander.

MRS. JOE Taylor, who has been quite ill at her home of her daughter, Mrs. R.J. Free in Albany, is some improved, her friends will be delighted to learn.

MR. DUDLEY H. McDowell has been quite ill at his home on North Main Street for several days, but is now some improved, his friends will be interested to learn.

LEWIS B. Fryer Jr., Jim Hall and C.C. "Tuck" Swann have been named to Governor's Vandiver's staff with rank of Lieutenant Colonel, it was announced this week.

### 75 YEARS AGO

May 3, 1934

JUDGE Claude Pittman, of Cartersville, has announced as a candidate for governor in opposition to Governor Eugene Talmadge.

COMMANDER Walter C. Jordan of the local post attended the Second District American Legion Convention in Moultrie last Thursday.

WARNING was issued in The News that those who planned to vote in the 1934 election must pay all past due poll taxes prior to May 5.

MESSRS. Charlie Waller and Eric Gay returned Monday night from a trip to Florida.

### 100 YEARS AGO

May 5, 1909

MR. H.G. Smith has bought a tractor engine for use on his farm.

A SEVERE wind-storm swept over portions of Baker and Dougherty counties last Friday.

THE SCHOOL-BOY nines of Blakely and Columbia engaged in a baseball game in Blakely last Saturday. Blakely won, 8 to 2.

THE DEATH of Mrs. A.J. Owen is recorded in this issue.

THE STATEMENT of the Bank of Blakely appears in this issue. Deposits are listed at \$77,774.40. The statement was signed by John G. Butler, cashier.

### 125 YEARS AGO

May 1, 1884

COTTON chopping and corn plowing are the order of the day in Early County.

COL. H.H. Jones, of the Macon Telegraph and Messenger, was a prominent visitor to our town last week.

THE TRIAL of Frank James at Huntsville, Ala., for participating in the Mussle Shoals robbery in 1881, resulted in a verdict of not guilty.

JUDGE W.W. Fleming, the proprietor of The News, is in Atlanta this week attending the Georgia Baptist Convention.

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