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MICHELLE MANN, DOTHAN EAGLE

Preparing to load up cartons of homemade soup to be distributed as part of Enterprise Councilwoman Sonya Rich's 6th Annual Soup Drive Monday are, from left, Roy Dawkins, Scharona Grimsley-Dawkins, Vernon Kearse, Charlene Kearse, Rhylen Dawkins, Rich and Anthony Britt.

## Enterprise councilwoman hosts 6th Annual Soup Drive

MICHELLE MANN  
mmann@dothaneagle.com

ENTERPRISE — “A day on, not a day off” is how Enterprise District 1 Councilwoman Sonya Wheeler Rich sees the annual federal holiday to honor the late civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

For the sixth consecutive year, she and a team of volunteers distributed gallons of homemade soup to members of the community through a project that began as a way to give back to others. On Monday, 135 containers of homemade soup were delivered to not only District 1 constituents but to others throughout the City of Progress.

Rich said the soup drive began as a vision she and her husband, JL, had during the COVID-19 pandemic to re-connect those isolated by the pandemic.

“Our goal was to put smiles on people’s faces the best we knew how during the heart of the pandemic,” she said. “That year, my husband and I delivered 75 containers of soup. Fast forward and we have amazing and very appreciated

volunteers that assist us with blessing numerous individuals in the district I serve and beyond.

### ‘What better way to honor his memory’

“Dr. King’s vision centered around love and serving others in the community,” Rich said. “What better way to honor his memory?”

The scope of the project has grown exponentially as others have pitched in to make gallons of soup, to package it or to distribute it.

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Enterprise City Councilwoman Sonya Rich, left, and Coffee County Family Services Fatherhood Initiative Director Rod Caldwell unload cartons of homemade soup for delivery Monday as part of Rich’s 6th Annual Soup Drive held in honor of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

COURTESY PHOTO



## House GOP begins push to hold the Clintons in contempt of Congress

BY STEPHEN GROVES AND MATT BROWN  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Republicans started a push Wednesday to hold former President Bill Clinton and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in contempt of Congress over the Jeffrey Epstein investigation, opening the prospect of the House using one of its most powerful punishments against a former president for the first time.

The contempt proceedings are an initial step toward a criminal prosecution by the

Department of Justice that, if successful, could send the Clintons to prison in a dispute over compelling them to testify before the House Oversight Committee.

Rep. James Comer, the chairman, said at the start of the committee’s hearing that Clintons had responded not with “cooperation but defiance.”

“Subpoenas are not mere suggestions, they carry the force of law and require compliance,” said Comer, R-Ky.

The Clintons argue that the subpoenas are invalid. Bill Clinton, President Donald

Trump and many others connected to Epstein have not been accused of wrongdoing. Yet lawmakers are wrestling over who receives the most scrutiny.

Nonetheless, there were signs of a potential thaw as the Clintons, both Democrats, appeared to be searching for an off-ramp to testify. In addition, passage of contempt charges through the full House was far from guaranteed, requiring a majority vote — something Republicans increasingly struggle to achieve.

The repercussions of contempt charges

loomed large, given the possibility of a substantial fine and even incarceration.

While the charges have historically been used only as a last resort, lawmakers in recent years have been more willing to reach for the option. Comer initiated the contempt proceedings after the Clintons refused for months to fulfill a committee subpoena for their testimony in its Epstein investigation.

The clash was the latest turn in the

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Organ donations, kidney transplants down in 2025, **PAGE A2**



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Best Bets, a community calendar of events, **PAGE A3**