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Mayo Free Press

Lafayette football schedule

and volleyball schedule

SPORTS | 10A

INSIDE:

Vol. 123, No. 38 USPS 334-600 THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 2012, Lafayette County, Florida 2 SECTIONS 22 PAGES 50¢

"These misuses of the databases fall into three broad categories: some that are clearly political, some that can only be described as curiosity, and those related to Mr. Jarvis' family."

- Memorandum from special prosecutor Brad King's office which handled the case

Jarvis violated database rules, says special prosecutor

Jeff Siegmeister, Republican candidate for Third Circuit state attorney, was among names searched in confidential database

See all the documents on our website, nflaonline. com.
Staff

Jarvis

Documents from the special prosecutor assigned to look into allegations that Third Circuit State Attorney Robert L. "Skip" Jarvis Jr. misused his office states that Jarvis used several confidential databases for personal, or political reasons.

The documents, dated Aug. 21, contain a letter to Gov. Rick Scott and an eight page memorandum of the findings by Fifth Judicial Circuit State Attorney, Brad King, who was to present those to a Leon County grand jury last week.

Jarvis avoided the grand jury by agreeing to a deal by King on Monday, Aug. 20, to immediately withdraw his bid for reelection as state attor-

SEE JARVIS, PAGE 8A

Jarvis responds

See his response in full on our website, nflaonline.com
Staff

Third Circuit State Attorney Robert L. "Skip" Jarvis Jr. responded to the claims found in the memorandum released early last week by Fifth Circuit State Attorney Robert King, the special prosecutor who handled the case.

Jarvis wrote in a press release Aug. 23 that he learned of the memorandum that was to be presented to a Leon County grand jury last week from the press.

"At first I was angered that I had to learn of it from the press and not

SEE JARVIS RESPONDS, PAGE 8A

"We have a short window to work in but I'm honored to be nominated by the (Democratic) party to fill the slot for office of state attorney."
Bill Brannon

Democrats pick Brannon

Executive director of Third Circuit State Attorney's office chosen to run on Democratic ticket against Siegmeister

Staff

Lake City attorney Bill Brannon has been chosen and accepted to run on the Democratic ticket for Third Judicial Circuit State Attorney.

Brannon will replace current State Attorney Robert L. "Skip" Jarvis Jr. on the November ballot following Jarvis' withdrawal from the race. He will be on the November ballot along with Republican challenger Jeff Siegmeister.

"We have a short window to work in but I'm honored to be nominated by the (Democratic) party to fill the slot for office of state attorney," Brannon told the *Free Press*.

Brannon is a Lake City based attorney who resides there but has worked in Jarvis' Live Oak office for two years as the executive director, which deals with the financial, accounting and per-

SEE DEMOCRATS, PAGE 8A

Pearson: Excited about upcoming football season

(L-R) LHS head football coach Joey Pearson and seniors Zack Hutchins, Dylan Green, Rodney Brown and Leo Rosalio. Photo: Joyce Marie Taylor

By Joyce Marie Taylor
joycemarie.taylor@gaflnews.com

Lafayette High School Coach Joey Pearson is in his 14th year as head coach of the LHS Hornets football team and he is excited about this year's lineup, even bringing four of his senior team members to a Rotary meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 22, as he offered a preview of the upcoming season.

"It's hard to believe it's been that long that I've been head coach," said Pearson.

The four seniors, Zack Hutchins, Dylan Green, Rodney Brown and Leo Rosalio, sat quietly while Pearson explained the 2012 lineup of games, the Hornets' opponents and his predictions as

SEE PEARSON, PAGE 13A

The 'buzz' on mosquitoes

By Joyce Marie Taylor
joycemarie.taylor@gaflnews.com

Emergency Management Director Alton Scott offered some stinging information on the subject of mosquitoes to local residents, which has been a prickly, yet oftentimes humorous issue around Lafayette County since Tropical Storm Debby passed through.

"I think all of you who live out in the swamp areas probably realize that the mosquitoes are just a byproduct of all that extra water," said Scott.

With more rain falling of late Scott said there will be even more mosqui-

SEE THE 'BUZZ', PAGE 8A

Pioneer Day Granny & Pappy named

Jackie and Bill Hart, a former principal at Lafayette High School, will be crowned 2012 Pioneer Day Granny and Pappy on Monday, Oct. 8 in the lobby of the Lafayette County Courthouse, according to Vi Johnson of the Lafayette County Chamber of Commerce. Pioneer Day Festival is Saturday, Oct. 13.

More information and photos of the 2012 Granny and Pappy will be forthcoming in future issues of the *Mayo Free Press*.

- Joyce Marie Taylor

Local volunteers in big way

Nancy Singletary volunteered her time to sort clothing and merchandise.
Courtesy Photo

By Joyce Marie Taylor
joycemarie.taylor@gaflnews.com

Nancy Singletary of Mayo recently went to Dallas on an inspirational volunteer mission.

"I got back from Dallas, Texas, Glenn Beck Restoring Love event—so inspiring," Singletary said.

Singletary spent a week in Dallas and was one of 37,000 volunteers who were bused throughout Dallas doing volunteer work.

"I was in a group of about 30 Conservative-Christians sorting clothing and used merchandise donations in the Arlington Texas Mission warehouse," she said. "I

SEE LOCAL, PAGE 8A

A best friend for your barn

They're here! They're here! North Florida Animal Rescue announces the availability of barn cats from the Caboodle Cat Ranch confiscation.

Cats have been the answer to rodent contamination problems for hundreds of years. A good mouser can eliminate rodent pilfering, fouling and disease, making a barn and its contents safer for your animals and family.

"These cats are part of the Caboodle confiscation," says Jerry Garrett, NFAR Director of Operations. "They are all up to date on their shots, have been spayed/neutered and micro-chipped. They're ready to go to work."

According to Pam Taylor, Director of Rescue and Adoptions, "These are not pets. They're not going to curl up in your lap and purr, but they have been through a lot and deserve a good home where they will be treated kindly and valued for what they have to offer."

A special adoption fee of $10 is available for these special cats. The adoption fee will be waived on the second cat if they are adopted in pairs. The fees will be donated to the ASPCA to help offset some of the cost of the cats' confiscation and treatment.

North Florida Animal Rescue is anticipating the arrival of more Caboodle cats in the near future. These will be pet temperament, looking for a lap to love.

For more information, call 386-963-1295 or go to the website at northfloridaanimalrescue.org.

We are located at 16800 CR 138 Wellborn, Florida

Lake DeSoto Farmers Market

The Lake DeSoto Farmers Market is open every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Wilson Park located along Lake DeSoto between the Columbia County Courthouse and Shands Lakeshore Hospital in downtown Lake City. The market is a regional favorite among shoppers looking for healthy local foods and creative locally made gift items. The market is sponsored by the Suwannee Valley Community Foundation and Speedy Signs.

The Lake DeSoto Farmers Market is a project of the Lake City Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA). The CRA plans to utilize one of its most important assets in the district, Lake DeSoto. It is the long term goal of the CRA to create a Waterfront Entertainment District surrounding Lake DeSoto, with Wilson Park highlighted as the premiere park in downtown for weekly community events. For more information about the Lake DeSoto Farmer Market call 386-719-5766 or visit market.lcfla.com.

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Solving the mystery of picking a president

by Rev. James L. Snyder

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I were casually sitting on the back porch enjoying our evening coffee together. Suddenly, the conversation turned to things political. This does not happen very often so at the moment I was a little surprised by this turn of current events.

My wife does not spend much time keeping up with political news or events. Therefore, I was a little surprised when she made some comments in this area. It began when my wife said, "Why is it every politician running for president insists that Washington is broken and they are just the ones to fix it?"

Well, she had me there. Most politicians worth their pork barrel payment have the audacity to believe they are political prophets able to see what is wrong with everything in this country, particularly those things in Washington, DC. Not only can they see what is wrong but also they know the exact way to fix it. However, no two solutions are alike.

They look at the Washington, DC area and view it as a fixer upper. Then they go around the country hammering away with the promise that they can fix it and fix it for good. All these politicians have "fixed" our government for sure, but not in the way they think. It is more along the line of when you take "Lucky" to the veterinarian to have him fixed. The results are the same in both situations.

Then my wife made this observation. "If these politicians are so all fired up about fixing problems, I would like to show them our plumbing problem."

Of course, what my good wife does not realize is politicians can only fix hypothetical problems not real ones. And the more hypothetical the more eloquent they are in their speeches about it. Whenever you hear a politician waxing eloquent in his speech you always know you are listening to an airbag.

It was my turn to astonish my wife.

"I have solved the mystery of picking the president of the United States," I said rather arrogantly. I was waiting for her response. And I did not have to wait long.

"You what?"

Then I laid out for her my scheme for picking the president.

"It's very simple. People pick a president about the same way they pick their nose."

I knew from her astonished look I would have to explain what I meant. But it is true, nevertheless, picking a president is like picking your nose.

The first thing is that nobody gets to select the nose they will have for the rest of their life unless of course they submit to plastic surgery. I have seen some noses that if it were mine, it would not be mine for long. We may owe plastic surgeons quite a lot for saving the on looking public the excruciating pain of looking at ugly noses.

It is the same way nobody gets to choose the list of potential presidents they will have to decide on in the upcoming election. We all have to learn to live with the one or the other that has been given. Sad to say, in both areas, most of us have truly blown it.

In this area of picking, some do it openly and unashamedly. They do not care who sees them or hears them for that matter. They firmly believe as Americans they have the constitutional right to do this plainly and blatantly.

Of course, there are always those who deny they even have a nose let alone stooping to picking it in public. Some things, according to them, are better done in private, behind closed doors. Whoever invented "closed doors" has probably done society more benefit than any other invention. I must admit with some people it is quite hard to ignore the fact that they have a nose. It is the most prominent feature of his or her face but everybody has the right to live in the wonderful land of denial.

Then I come to the more technical aspects of this matter of picking. Some prefer the left over the right while others prefer the right over the left. Then of course there are those who do both at the same time confusing everybody watching them.

It is very confusing talking with these people because one time they are on one side and the next time they are on the other side. I know both sides are equally significant but I hate being confused.

These, I think, would be called "equal opportunity pickers." They do not prefer one side to the other but both sides, in their opinion, is good. It is hard to argue with logic like that. It is the same kind of logic that your wife uses when she asked you, "Does this dress make me look fat?"

No matter if you are picking the president of the United States or your nose, you always end up with the same thing.

There is only one selecting process that is devoid of any frustration at all. Jesus mentioned it, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you." (John 15:16 KJV).

God's choice has eternal ramifications.

Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, PO Box 831313, Ocala, FL 34483. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 1-866-552-2543 or e-mail jamessnyder2@att.net. His web site is www.jamessnyderministries.com

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

729426

AIRLINE BAPTIST CHURCH (SBC).....294-2676
Pastor.....Chip Parker
Sunday
Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship.....10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:30 p.m.
Wednesday
Fellowship Supper.....6:00 p.m.
AWANA & Bible Study.....6:30 p.m.
Located Four Miles East of Mayo on Highway 27
"O Come Let us Worship The Lord" Ps. 95:6
717864-F

ALTON CHURCH OF GOD.....294-3133
Pastor.....Rev. Tim Hamm
Youth Pastor.....Chad Morrin
Music Director.....Holly Braswell
Children's Pastor.....Ryan & Tiffany Perry
Sunday School.....9:30-10:30 a.m.
Worship Service/K.I.D.S. Church.....10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.
Family Night Youth Club Church.....7:00 p.m. Wednesday
State Road 27
717863-F

HATCHBEND APOSTOLIC CHURCH..935-2806
Pastor.....Rev. Steve Boyd
Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Service.....7:30 p.m.
Located 4 miles South on Hwy. 349, then left on CR 138, follow signs.
717862-F

FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD.....294-1811
Sunday: Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.; Worship Service.....10:45 a.m.; Kid's Church.....11:00 a.m.; Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: Youth Impact.....7:00 p.m.; Adult Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.
Pastor: Rev. Kenny Sullivan
Youth Pastor: Daryl Fletcher
Located at 294 SE Mill Street, Mayo "Renewing Hope and Building Lives"
717866-F

ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Contact Number in Mayo (386) 208-4024
Eva Bolton.....Sr. Warden
Celebration of Holy Eucharist at 7:00 PM each Wednesday to be followed by light refreshments and Christian Education.
Located One Block North of the Courthouse in Mayo.
10757294 2bg

Methodist Church 732125-F
Phone: 386-294-1661
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Located SE corner of Hwy. 27 & FL 51 Mayo
Pastor: Geary Rowell
Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.
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MAYO BAPTIST CHURCH.....(386)294-1020
916 N. Fletcher Ave.
Mike Harris, Interim Pastor
Music Director.....Dale Croft
Sunday Schedule
Bible Study.....9:45 A.M.
Worship Service.....11:00 A.M.
Sunday Night Service.....6:00 P.M.
Wednesday Night Schedule
Prayer Service & Youth & Children Meeting.....7:00 P.M.
mayobaptistchurch@windstream.net
732129

MIDWAY BAPTIST CHURCH.....935-4993
Pastor: Danny Rogers
Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.
Worship Service.....11:00 a.m.
Discipleship Training.....5:00 p.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.
Prayer Meeting - Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.
Team Kids.....7:00 p.m.
\Located on County Road 354
"For If Ye Forgive Men Their Tresspasses Your Heavenly Father Will Also Forgive You" Matt. 6:14
732132-F

Brewer Lake Baptist Church
Off Hwy. 53 in Day, FL 386-294-1578
"We're Going, Growing and Glowing for God"
Sunday
Sunday School.....10 a.m.
Morning Worship.....11 a.m.
Training Union.....6 p.m.
Evening Bible Study.....7 p.m.
Wednesday
Children, Youth & Adult.....7 p.m.
Matt Swain, Pastor / Matt Robinson, Youth Pastor
"Come To Day...Come Today!"
732135-F

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor.....Rev. Charlie Walker
Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m.
Discipleship Training.....6:00 p.m.
Evening Worship.....7:00 p.m.
Wed. Awana.....6:30 p.m.
Prayer Meeting.....7:00 p.m.
Located Two Miles North of Mayo Off Highway 51
"Come And Hear, All Ye That Fear God" Ps. 66:16
732145-F

PLEASANT GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH (SBC).294-1306
Pastor.....Todd Babione
Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.
Worship Service.....11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Discipleship Training.....7:00 p.m.
Evening Training.....6:00 p.m.
Seven miles West of Mayo, left on CR 534 then right on CR 351
-- Jesus Saves --
732144-F

NEW HARMONY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
160th St.
(Go south on 51 to 160th, turn right)
Pastor: Stan Posey
Phone (386) 776-1806
SUNDAY
Sunday Worship.....9:30 am
Bible Study.....10:30 am
WEDNESDAY
Women's Bible Study.....10:00 am
717886-F

New Beginnings Church
a place for you
Pastor.....Wayne Hudson
Phone Number.....386-294-1244
newbeginningschurch@alltel.net
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New Beginnings exists to provide an environment where People can discover and develop a passion for God that is Real, relevant, and relational.
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Service Schedule:
Sun. Morning Worship.....10:00 a.m.
At New Beginnings there's always "a place for you."
www.newbeginningschurchmayo.com
717890-F

To Place Your Church In Our Church Directory, Call Virginia at 386-362-1734

Give Thanks unto the Lord

Heart Matters

Angie Land

If you were asked what brings you the most joy in life, I bet your answer would involve someone rather than something. However, if you were asked what brings you the most frustration in life, chances are good your answer to that would be someone as well! Relationships tend to display the best and worst in all of us. Enjoying the best is easy, but what do you do about that relationship that often results in frustration, anger and/or confusion? First, realize that these feelings are indicators of an unhealthy element in your relationship and function like an internal alarm system. This alarm serves to let us know that things are not as they should be…someone important to us is affecting our life in a very negative way.

In his book, Handling Difficult People, author Dr. John Townsend describes relationships as "the delivery system for so many of the good things we need in life-love, safety, grace, warmth, encouragement, truth, forgiveness, and more. These elements make life meaningful, purposeful, and enjoyable. But life with a difficult person is none of those things." Relationships with difficult people can bring feelings of isolation instead of connection, and can actually work to destroy the affection that you once held. We can also begin to believe that nothing we try will fix the problem; this leaves us frustrated and we often resort to becoming someone we don't want to be when we are with our difficult person. So what should we do?

Take a look at 1 Corinthians 13:4-6, and read the Biblical definition of love from a different perspective:

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps not record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."

Love's nature is to stay with the relationship as it develops, grows, and matures. The fact that love is patient and kind does not mean that you minimize or deny hurtful behavior…nor are we to become passive: doing nothing to solve the problem and simply praying and hoping that God will fix our difficult person…we are co-laborers with God, and He often shows us things to do in addition to prayer (we just often don't have the courage to follow through.) Love is not proud, rude or self-seeking, meaning that we aren't trying to change someone so that they become what we want, but that we long to see growth so they become who God created them to be. The "always" of love indicates that love must be protected to last…and often the best way to accomplish this is to confront the harmful behavior of your difficult person and put consequences in place, not to punish, but to motivate change. If you continue to enable your difficult person, you are not helping them. On the contrary, you are actually encouraging them to continue down this destructive path.

Evaluate that difficult relationship in you life, and put real proactive love into practice. Ask God for wisdom and instruction, and a dose of courage to follow through. What you put into practice today could bring great results in your relationship tomorrow. God wants your relationships to bring good things into your life…because your heart matters!

Blessings,

Angie

Heart Matters is a weekly column written by Angie Land, Director of the Family Life Ministries of the Lafayette Baptist Association, where she teaches Bible studies, leads marriage and family conferences and offers Biblical counseling to individuals, couples and families. Contact Angie with questions or comments at angieland3@windstream.net

Freedom is Here

By John Whittington

Everyone has them. They can be as simple as tiny spots that seem to show up against the background of a clear blue sky, or as maddening as the large threads that are impossible to look directly at and just as impossible to ignore! They're called floaters, and chances are you've seen yours. These are the spot-like, thread-like, or web-like debris that float in the gel between the lens and the retina of your eyeball.

While most people can get through life with no, or minimal annoyance from these little doodads, some have complained of severe symptoms caused by the constant perception of floaters in their field of vision. Distraction and difficulty concentrating during such tasks as reading, watching television, walking outdoors, and driving have been reported.

I recently discovered that I have a floater resembling the shape of a question mark. I've been looking at it all these years. No wonder I'm so confused!

As Christians, we used to be in darkness. Now, God has brought us into the kingdom of light. We can sing, "I once was blind, but now I see." But how well do we see? When we look at Jesus do we see him alone, in all his majesty, or are we being distracted by all those other little things in our field of vision?

We're not troubled by blindness anymore. We can see Jesus, but we may lack clarity. We may be like the blind man Jesus touched, who said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around" (Mark 8:23-25). In such cases we may need another touch!

Do you see Jesus, plus all those little bothersomes of life? Do you feel like your eyes are being confused by the marginal debris and it keeps pulling you away from the focal point? Are those little tasks, attitudes, sins and schedules distracting you from reaching your full potential? Ask God to touch your eyes, so you can see him more clearly.

Make note of what "floaters" are in your line of sight, and keep your eyes on Jesus, "the Author and Finisher of our faith!"

Pastor John Whittington
Lighthouse Christian Center
www.lccmayo.com

No School Labor Day

There will be no school for students at Lafayette District Schools on Monday, September 3, 2012 in observance of Labor Day.

THE MAYO FREE PRESS

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Editorial Policy: The Mayo Free Press encourages readers to write letters to the editor expressing their opinion. All letters should be brief and to the point and those selected for publication (we reserved the right to accept or reject all letters) may be edited for space reasons. Letters must be signed and include the writer's address and phone number to be considered for publication. All letters become the property of The Mayo Free Press.

Wedding Reminder

Clarence and Debra Adams of Jennings, Fla., are pleased to announce the engagement and upcoming marriage of their daughter, Cierra Blake Adams, to Clint Houston Keen, son of Clinton and Kathy Keen of Mayo, Fla.

The wedding and reception are set to take place on Saturday, Sept. 8, 2012 at 5 p.m. at the Quail Branch Lodge in Lake Park, Ga. No local invitations will be sent. All friends and family are welcome to attend.

Pioneer Day Festival

Friday, Oct. 12 and Saturday, Oct. 13.

Sponsored by Lafayette County Chamber of Commerce.

Pioneer Day Parade - Saturday 10 a.m. on Main Street in downtown Mayo.

Vendors, live entertainment, crafts and activities at Veteran's Memorial Park on Fri. from 7-10 p.m. and Sat. from 10:45 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Saltwater Cowboys sponsored by Old Florida Company Coffee House and Suwannee River Rendezvous Resort and Campground will be on the main stage Friday night.

Deadline to sign up for live entertainment is September 15, 2012.

For more information please contact the Lafayette County Chamber of Commerce at 386-294-2705 or Leta Hawkins at 386-294-2301.

Reminder: LHS Homecoming Parade on Main Street, Friday, Oct. 12 at 1:30 p.m.

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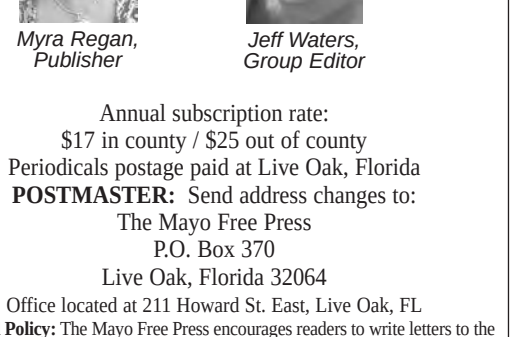

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School Lunch Menu

Sept 3rd-7th, 2012

Breakfast will now be provided at LHS each morning beginning at 7:45 a.m.

		Monday 9-3-12	Tuesday 9-4-12	Wednesday 9-5-12	Thursday 9-6-12	Friday 9-7-12
Breakfast Elem. School	LABOR DAY	Cereal, Crackers, Cinnamon Roll, Juice, Milk	Cereal, Crackers, Sausage Biscuit, Juice, Milk	Cereal, Crackers, Muffins, Juice, Milk	Cereal, Crackers, Yogurt, Pop Tarts, Juice & Milk	
Lunch Elem. School	LABOR DAY	Chicken Nuggets, Macaroni & Cheese, Peas & Carrots, Diced Pears, Milk	Hamburgers, Fries, Lettuce & Pickles, Fruit Salad, Milk	Baked Chicken, Rice, Green Beans, Carrots, Rolls, Dice Peaches, Milk	Pizza Smart, Carrot Sticks, Corn, Broccoli & Cauliflower, Pineapple Tidbits, Oatmeal Raisin Cookies, Milk	
Breakfast High School	LABOR DAY	Cereal, Crackers, Assorted Muffins, Yogurt, Juice & Milk	Cereal, Crackers, Breakfast Pizza, Juice, Milk	Cereal, Crackers, Sausage, Egg, Biscuit, Juice, Milk	Cereal, Waffles, Sausage Patty, Wheat Roll, Jelly, Juice & Milk	
Lunch High School	LABOR DAY	Hamburger (Turkey & Cheese Salad), French Fries, Lettuce, Tomato, Pickle, Carrot & Celery, Orange Halves, Peach Cobbler, Milk & Juice	Pepperoni Pizza (Chef Salad), Baked Potato, Broccoli w/ Cheesesauce, Apple Slices, Cowboy Cookies, Milk	Chicken & Noodles (Domino's), Turnips, Corn, Cornbread, Sweet Potato Pudding, Fruit Cup, Milk & Juice	Taco's (Chicken Fajitas), Lettuce, Tomato, Cheese, Salsa, Corn, Pineapple Chunks, Fresh Fruit, Milk	

Sponsored By:
Mayo Thriftway
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Lunch and Breakfast is served at Lafayette Elementary and High School each day. Varieties of Milk choices are available at both schools each day. Alternate High School menus are in Parentheses.
Menus are subject to change due to availability of goods.
758776

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Day Mailbox

By: Mary M. Santerfeit

Beware of your credit/debit card.

Last week my daughter and I were in a nearby town. We were needing gas, so we pulled into a gas station. My daughter jumped out and put gas in the gas tank. She then took my card in to the gas station attendant. The credit/debit card machine immediately declined the card.

The attendant said it was most likely the machine. She tried a second time and again it was declined.

My daughter returned to the car and told me what had happened. I told her there was no way it could be declined.

We paid the attendant and drove away, but the incident puzzled me. It was too late to call my bank and it was also Friday.

Early the next week I placed a call to my bank. A very nice lady answered and she brought up my card number and immediately recognized the problem.

She asked me if I had been abroad recently. Of course, I told her I had not.

She said, "I didn't think so."

She further told me someone had tried to place charges on my card abroad. Thank goodness that sent up a red flag to the bank. They blocked my card. I hadn't used the card since February, so I am still puzzled how this happened.

The only thing I can think of is someone at the hotel where we stayed in February wrote the number down. To keep the bank or me from tracking them down they waited until they were abroad to use it.

I just don't know how some minds work. Anyway, praise Jesus the bank caught it and declined the charges.

Identity theft is rampant. Even with all my careful use of my card, it almost happened. So, be very careful.

Happy Birthday

September 1 - Iris Thomas

September 2 - Carla Brock

September 3 - Bryan Prine, Gene Wilson

September 5 - Weyman Funderburk, Lavere Buchanan, Jamie Anderson

September 6 - W.E. Folsom

September 8 - Clent Flowers, Mikayla Buchanan

September 9 - Virginia (Sullivan) Glass

September 10 - Dara Haley Fowler

September 11 - Cari Willis

September 12 - Gincy Thomas, Avis Rae Cothron, Jonathan Buchanan, K.C. Jeffries, Don Fowler, Frances Hilton

September 13 - Kelly Richardson, Carolyn Paulk

September 14 - Zachary Creel Smith, Alton Buchanan, ori Bearden, Mary Santerfeit

September 15 - Lula Drew (Morgan) Bittle

September 17 - Blair Nichole Bates

September 18 - BreeAnn Smith, Kaylah Lents, Will Alfonso

September 19 - Hugh Madison Smith

September 20 - Gena Dekle, Danielle Morray

September 21 - Hannah Dekle, Mac Hinkle

September 22 - Myra Shiver

September 23 - Elizabeth Christie, Phyllis Smith, Michele Bell

September 24 - Darin Gerstmyer, Mary Funderburk, Derek Shiver

September 25 - Caleb Dixion Smith, Jaimi Hingson

September 26 - Alan Driver, Allyson Sturdivant

September 27 - Gabriela Martinez

September 28 - Julie Crum, Tom Demarais

September 29 - Delton Buchanan, Rich Mortlock

Happy Anniversary

September 16 - W.L. and June Buchanan

September 20 - Mike and Shelley Bearden

September 30 - Ronnie and Phyllis Smith

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It Happened Back Then

August 30, 1908 - Actor Fred MacMurray was born.

August 30, 1919 - Singer Kitty Wells was born.

August 30, 1963 - Communications link between the White House and the Kremlin "Hot Line" was installed.

Delicious Recipes

Sloppy Joes
by Tammy E. Graves

2 lbs. ground chuck or turkey
3 Tbsp. mild salsa
1 Tbsp. dried onion
2 Tbsp. onion powder
1/4 c. sugar
1-1/2 c. ketchup

Brown meat with onions, drain. Add meat back into the pan, add salsa, ketchup, onion powder and sugar. Stir and then let simmer on low until all ingredients are saturated. If you like it a little saucier, then add water to your desire.

Sour Cream Chicken Enchiladas
by Edith Kewanimptewa

1 - 10 oz. can condensed cream of chicken soup, undiluted
1 - 8 oz. carton sour cream
2 c. chopped cooked chicken
1 - 14 1/2 oz. can diced tomatoes with green chilies
1/8 to 1/4 tsp. ground red pepper (optional)
8 - 8 in. flour tortillas, warmed
8 oz. shredded cheddar cheese, divided (2 c.)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Coat 13x9 inch baking dish with cooking spray and set aside. Combine soup and sour cream in medium bowl; stir to mix well. Spread 1/2 c. soup mixture evenly in bottom of dish. Combine chicken, tomatoes and ground red pepper in medium bowl; stir to mix well. Spoon about 1/3 c. of chicken mixture down center of each tortilla, enclosing filling. Place seam side down in prepared dish. Spoon remaining soup mixture over enchiladas; sprinkle with remaining 1 c. cheese. Bake uncovered until sauce bubbles and enchiladas are heated through, 25-30 minutes. Makes 4 servings.

Easy Pulled Pork Sandwiches
by Diane Rye

1 - 1 lb. pork tenderloin, trimmed and cut into 4 pieces
1 - 14.5 oz. can diced tomatoes, undrained
1/2 c. finely chopped onion
1/4 c. finely chopped celery
1/4 c. barbecue sauce
1 tsp. garlic powder
1 tsp. ground cumin

6 light wheat hamburger buns, toasted

Combine first 7 ingredients in a medium saucepan over medium-high heat; bring to a boil. Cover, reduce heat and simmer 55 minutes. Remove from heat. Remove pork from sauce; shred pork. Return pork to sauce. Place about 1/3 c. pork mixture on bottom half of each bun; top with top halves of buns.

Memory Lane

1965 teachers at LHS

William F. Hart

Dorothy B. Hart

Sarah Severance

Jon Underwood

Ruth Winburn

VOTERS
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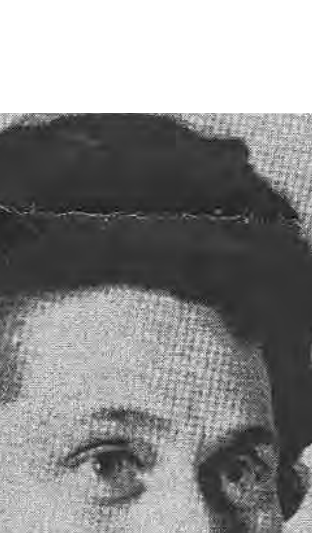
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS,
LAFAYETTE COUNTY
CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATE



Voters of Lafayette County, I'm asking you for your vote on November 6, 2012. It is only fair to you that I share my values and beliefs with you. I believe in one God and His son, Jesus Christ. I believe in the family unit. I believe marriage is between one man and one woman as God intended. Im against abortion in any form. I believe that BARACK HUSSEIN OBAMA wants this country to have a SOCIALIST form of government and follow Europe down the road to financial destruction. I believe in the Second Amendment and the right of all legal American citizens to own and possess a firearm. I believe that OBAMA CARE must be repealed. This legislation was crammed down the throats of the American people by the then Speaker of the House Representative, NANCY PELOSI and other unscrupulous politicians. It is just as important to elect conservative candidates in local elections as in state and federal elections. I believe if all free loving Americans stand together we can take back our country one community at a time. I ask you for your help and support on November 6, 2012.

Sincerely,
Clay Rigdon

Political advertisement paid for and approved by Clay Rigdon, Republican, for Supervisor of Elections.

761187

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757783

OBITUARIES

Wesley Thomas

Wesley Thomas of St. Petersburg, Florida, and Mayo, Florida Home going service was held 3 p.m. Saturday Aug. 25, 2012 at Alms of Bethel Outreach Center in Mayo, Florida. Burial will follow in the Garden of Rest Cemetery in Mayo, Florida. The family will receive other relatives and sorrowing friends Friday, Aug. 24, 2012 6:00 P.M. at Trinity Presbyterian Church in St. Petersburg, Florida. Professional Mortuary service entrusted to Eric A. Brown & Son Funeral Home.

DEATH NOTICE

Shelton H. "Tommy" Polk , Jr.
Aug.25, 2012

Shelton H. "Tommy" Polk , Jr. , 64 , Mayo, Fl passed away on Sat., Aug. 25, 2012.

Daniels Funeral Homes & Crematory, Inc. Live Oak & Branford, Fl.

News from your local health department
Rabies prevention

By Michael Mitchell
Suwannee and Lafayette county Health Department Environmental Health Director

Reports of rabid animals come in throughout Florida year round. We have had two confirmed rabid raccoons earlier this year in Suwannee County. Even though we do not have a current rabies alert locally we still need to be aware of the disease.

Rabies is a virus that affects the brain and can cause behavioral changes. Therefore, if an animal is acting differently such as being overly aggressive or is out during non-normal hours, stay away. The only way the virus is transmitted is by being bitten or scratched by a rabid animal.

It is also important to handle deceased animals with care to prevent potential contact with the rabies virus. If you find a wild animal dead on your property it is best to bury it and wash your hands immediately when done. Because the rabies virus can remain active in a dead animal for up to ten days, be sure to bury the body in a place where no domestic animals can dig it up.

To reduce the risk of you or your pet contracting the rabies virus, follow these recommendations:

Have your veterinarian vaccinate pets and at-risk livestock, and make sure you follow your veterinarian's instructions for revaccination.

Do not allow your pets to run free. Keep pets and livestock secured on your property.

Never feed wild or stray animals. Avoid attracting animals by eliminating outdoor food sources like leftovers in the trash.

If your animal is attacked by a wild, stray, or unvaccinated animal, DO wash your pet with soap and water to remove saliva from the attacking animal. DO NOT examine your pet for injuries without wearing gloves. DO NOT let your animal come into contact with other animals or people until the situation can be handled by animal control or county health department staff.

The Florida Department of Health has information about rabies at the following web address: http://www.myfloridaeh.com/medicine/rabies/rabies-index.html. CDC has a website for kids, which is http://www.cdc.gov/rabiesandkids/. If you have any questions, call the Environmental Health Section of the Suwannee County Health Department (386-362-2708 x256).

SRWMD recognizes SFWMD, other districts for Tropical Storm Debby assistance

SRWMD Executive Director Ann Shortelle, left, presents a resolution to SFWMD Executive Director Melissa Meeker on August 23 to thank SFWMD for their assistance during Tropical Storm Debby.

On Aug. 14, the Suwannee River Water Management District (District) Governing Board approved a resolution to recognize the South Florida, St. Johns, and Southwest water management districts for assisting the District's citizens with flooding issues resulting from Tropical Storm Debby. District Executive Director Ann Shortelle presented a resolution to South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Executive Director Melissa Meeker on Aug. 23.

Tropical Storm Debby dropped more than 20 inches of rain across North Florida during the last week of June, resulting in significant widespread flooding within the District.

Since the District does not have the pumping equipment or discharge piping needed to assist counties within its borders, the SFWMD and other districts quickly dispatched personnel and pumping equipment to assist in addressing flooding, and they continued such assistance over multiple weeks.

SFWMD dedicated 2,288.5 staff hours to the flood relief effort in Columbia County, and pumped 620 million gallons of flood water away from critically flooded areas.

"Within 48 hours after the storm had ended, the SFWMD was on site with pumps and personnel, working beside the District for several weeks to alleviate flooding and provide assistance to the public," said District Executive Director Ann Shortelle. "The District would like to sincerely thank all the water management districts for their quick response to our needs. Our District and our citizens are sincerely grateful for their service."

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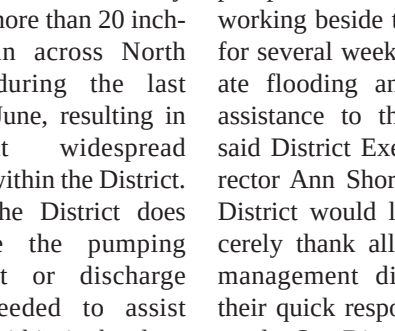
757917

I would like to thank the citizens of Lafayette County for entrusting me to remain our Lafayette County Judge. It is an honor and privilege to serve in this capacity.



Thank you again,
Darren Jackson

Paid for political advertisement by Darren Jackson, Lafayette County Judge. 761592

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761533

Jarvis violated database rules, says special prosecutor

Continued From Page 1A

ney, leave office at the end of his current term, which ends on Jan. 7, 2013, and have his certification to search secure databases revoked by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

Jarvis has not been charged with anything.

"I agreed not to present the matter to the grand jury nor take any other action in the matter," King wrote to the governor. "I also agreed to recommend that no other action be taken against Mr. Jarvis."

The case came about following a complaint by former political opponent and employee of Jarvis', Michael San Filippo, who said Jarvis misused his office by searching his wife's name on secure databases.

"Upon finding numerous searches that did not appear to be appropriate, including searches of both Mr. and Mrs. San Filippo, FDLE conducted an investigation including an interview with Mr. Jarvis. Mr. Jarvis then requested the governor to appoint an outside prosecutor to review the results of the FDLE investigation," the memorandum from King states.

The memorandum states that Jarvis had access to a number of computerized databases that are not available to the average citizen and used those databases for either personal or political purposes.

"These misuses of the databases fall into three broad categories: some that are clearly political, some that can only be described as curiosity, and those related to Mr. Jarvis' family. There is a fourth group for which no legitimate purpose can be found," the memorandum states.

Those databases include the Driver and Vehicle Information Database (DAVID) which provides, upon a basic search, an individual's driver's license number, address, date of birth and current driver's license photograph; the Florida Crime Information Center (FCIC) and the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) which provides records of an individual's arrest and convictions within the state of Florida and the entire country.

"Clearly, Mr. Jarvis was on notice about the limitations upon his use of the information available from the DAVID, FCIC and NCIC databases," the memorandum states. "We have found evidence that Mr. Jarvis has regularly, and repeatedly, used these databases, particularly DAVID, for purposes that were either purely personal in nature, or not for a proper criminal justice function."

The political searches

As was titled in the memorandum, the political searches started on June 3, 2011 when Jarvis ran Michael and his wife Sabrina San Filippo's name through the DAVID database.

"Mr. Jarvis has offered no legitimate purpose for having run these two individuals, we can find none and conclude it was solely related to Mr. San Filippo's candidacy for state attorney," the memorandum states.

Michael San Filippo announced in early 2011 he would challenge Jarvis for the Democratic nomination, which he ultimately backed out of.

The memorandum states that on March 14 of this year, Jarvis again ran Sabrina San Filippo's name through DAVID a second time. Her name was then run through FCIC and NCIC. It was stated that Jarvis told FDLE he did so because he saw Sabrina San Filippo at the Wellborn Blueberry Festival on June 4, 2011 in possession of a firearm and that he had reason to believe she was disqualified from carrying a firearm.

The memorandum states that Sabrina San Filippo is a member of the Suwannee County Sheriff's Posse and is not allowed to carry a firearm. According to the memorandum, the sheriff and two sheriff's office deputies stated she was not carrying a firearm.

Also, on March 14, Jarvis reportedly ran the name of Jeff Siegmeister and his wife through the DAVID database. Siegmeister is currently running for the office of Third Circuit State Attorney as the Republican contender.

"Mr. Jarvis only stated to FDLE he did so to determine their residence, but could offer no explanation why he needed to know their residence," the memorandum stated. "We can find no satisfactory explanation for his action in running these searches and it appears to have been solely related to Mr. Siegmeister's candidacy for state attorney."

Other searches

The memorandum states that Jarvis ran searches on other individuals who had contact with Jarvis as state attorney, and searched the DAVID database not in context of a criminal prosecution.

Of those searched, one was the legislative aide to a state representative within the Third Circuit.

Jarvis also reportedly ran searches on several of his own family members.

Conclusion

According to the memorandum from King's office, they have found no evidence that would suggest Jarvis used the information he obtained from the database searches "that harmed the person searched, or that benefited himself."

"However, it is clear that Mr. Jarvis made repeated searches of various persons in clear violation of the user agreements he had signed."

Jarvis responds

Continued From Page 1A

from the persons responsible for it," Jarvis said. "After obtaining a copy from the press and reading it I was outraged."

Jarvis said that at the advice of close friends he gathered his thoughts and was able to calmly respond.

Jarvis called the findings in the memorandum "incorrect."

"Days before the impending grand jury we had obtained a list of inquiries which were the subject of the investigation," said Jarvis of the names that he reportedly ran through secure databases.

"I was able to go through and identify the vast majority of them, most being criminal investigations or job applicant background investigations," Jarvis said.

He said there are some he doesn't remember because of the time lapse between the inquiries.

Jarvis also said that it was common for him to look up information right when someone would come in to his office or call on the telephone.

He said he prepared a list of reasonings for each inquiry but learned only Wednesday night that that list had not been provided to investigators.

Now, Jarvis just wants to work out his remaining time as state attorney. As part of a deal, Jarvis avoided the grand jury by agreeing to withdraw from his bid for reelection, to work out the remainder of his term and to have his rights to search secure databases revoked by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

"The controversy is over," Jarvis said in a press release Thursday. "I have agreed to withdraw my bid for reelection and the case has been closed. There is no benefit to having friends arguing with friends about whether there is a right or a wrong to this outcome. It is done."

The 'buzz' on mosquitoes

Continued From Page 1A

toes on the way.

"Just bear with us," he said.

Aerial spraying for mosquitoes costs about $1.52 per acre, Scott said.

"The initial submission (to FEMA) was 195,000 acres that we were going to spray," said Scott. "That did not include south of Cook's Hammock. It would have been almost $200,000 just to aerial spray. That didn't happen."

Scott said the first step in requesting aid for aerial spraying is to obtain a mosquito count.

"We've done two of them," he said. "Both of them came in under count. They normally expect a minimum of 1,000 mosquitoes per device, per night. The heaviest one we had was 791 and that was down in Cook's Hammock on the first go-around."

For the second measurement, it was a count of 450, so neither one really qualified for FEMA assistance with aerial spraying.

"Mosquito spraying is not emergency management," Scott clarified. "That's Department of Health."

Scott said he has received at least 1,000 phone calls from residents asking about mosquito spraying since Tropical Storm Debby dumped so much rain in the county.

"That's not controlled by us," he said. "We submit the paperwork to make it happen, but the actual control of it is a state department and that's the mosquito control department at the Department of Health."

Superintendent of Schools Tom Lashley joked with Tom Peek from FEMA, asking, "So, if you've got 500 really big mosquitoes, does that count the same as 1,000 small mosquitoes?"

"I think that's what happened to us," Scott quipped. "The big mosquitoes ate the little ones and lowered the count."

Resident John Hewett joined in the fun saying, "Y'all can blame me for that because all of them mosquito vacs we sold that are running on propane, that's what got the numbers down. I hate that. That wiped 'em out."

Getting serious again, Scott said, "We did get 341 miles of truck spraying. Now, that truck spraying is $101 per mile. It cost the taxpayers $30,000 to do one spray that's only good to kill the active mosquitos. It has no effect on the larvae. None."

Scott said the county had some larvicide left over from 2009, but most of it has been used already.

"If you have $30,000 and there's 8,900 residents, you could have bought everybody two cans of bug spray for the same money and let them have it," said Lashley. "That would have lasted longer than that (aerial) spraying would."

"The only problem is, Tom, you would have had to deliver it door to door and put it on them," Hewett added, laughing.

Scott said there are 80 different types of mosquitoes and very few of them like moving water.

"You've got saltwater mosquitoes and freshwater mosquitoes," said Scott.

"All of them were out at my house," said resident Carlton Black, which erupted laughter in the room.

Scott said there are also some mosquitoes that thrive in places where there is no water and don't need water to lay their eggs.

"Normally speaking, the female mosquito is the only one that bites you," Scott continued. "Most of them require that initial bloodsucking so they can start producing the eggs that will produce the larvae, but not all of them. There are some mosquitoes that can go without a blood fill."

The majority of mosquitoes in the state of Florida are concentrated south of Citrus County, Scott said. North of Citrus there are only about 20 or so species.

"Of those, most all of them affect humans and other animals," said Scott. "For us to get the Department of Health to authorize mosquito spraying, it's got to either affect workers, or its long duration exposure to citizens."

With the continuous rain Lafayette County has been getting, Scott said hopefully, they will qualify for more mosquito spraying.

The county commissioners have helped out, he said, by utilizing Mayo Correctional Institution's training and certification program to allow the county to send individuals to the program to get certified for mosquito spraying. That training was Tuesday, Aug. 14.

"Then we'll have our own county people certified to do spraying," said Scott.

Scott is hoping to get mitigation assistance for purchasing more machines for spraying, which cost somewhere in the range of $7,000-$14,000. The spray itself costs about $45 per gallon. For every two miles it takes one gallon of insecticide, he said.

"I think it's far, far more economical for us to have our own equipment than it would be to bring in one aerial spray," Scott said. "With one aerial spray for $200,000, we can do a lot of county spraying, more efficiently, too, because we can go right to where they're at."

Democrats pick Brannon

Continued From Page 1A

sonnel side of the office.

Brannon said he is ready to take over the reigns of the office.

"We deserve a state attorney with the real world experience needed to protect the people of north Florida," said Brannon. "I'm honored to accept this nomination, and I look forward to working with our community to ensure that justice is administered fairly and with the highest standards of accountability."

The Third Circuit covers Columbia, Dixie, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee and Taylor counties.

Florida Democratic Party Chairman Rod Smith was pleased with the selection.

"I've known Bill Brannon a long time and there is no better advocate for the people of north Florida. Along with his deep roots to the community, Bill would bring the respect of his peers and unparalleled legal experience to the job," said Smith.

Brannon has worked in both private practice and as a public defender for the Third Circuit. He was chosen by the Third Circuit judges to serve as general magistrate for the circuit. Brannon has decades of experience, having worked in both private practice and as a public defender for the Third Judicial Circuit.

Brannon is a graduate of Columbia High School, the University of Florida and Florida State University School of Law. He currently resides in Lake City with his wife Bobbi.

Local volunteers in big way

Continued From Page 1A

went to a ton of events, including the FreePac Conference, and U.S. Constitution training."

There was a sold-out crowd of over 100,000 in attendance at Cowboys Stadium for the event on Saturday, she said.

"They were mostly U.S. patriots with 20 countries represented," she said. "They were all searching for ways to save our countries, American and European, from tyranny."

Singletary said this effort is about a long-term fight to keep liberty in this nation with Conservative principles.

Sports

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LHS volleyball ready to defend title

The 2012 LHS Hornet volleyball team seniors before the game with Ft. White (l-r) Bre Massey, Danielle Ezell, Bailey Edwards, Kaleigh Law, Ellen Lashley and Lindsay O'Steen.

By Jack Howdeshell

One of the first rules for success is to ensure you have well defined goals and to build on those goals as you move forward. The Lafayette High School Hornet volleyball team, a program that until last season was still looking to win its first playoff game ever, has one main goal for the 2012 campaign, win state. No long explanation, no elaborate set scenarios that must fall in place to accomplish this goal, simply go out each time they have a game scheduled and win. Head Coach Sonya Land is humble when speaking of the program's great success from last season that culminated with the school's first state title in 30 years and first ever for the Lady Hornets. She admits she along with the team learned a lot about themselves and what was possible when everything falls into place. In addition to winning the Class 1A title again, she and the team would like to clean-up one small detail from last season and that would be to do it by going undefeated this season. The Hornets started the 2011 season losing to the Trenton Tigers who proved to be, looking back on the season, the Hornets toughest competition. The Hornets rebounded to defeat the Tiger later in the regular season and again in the regional championship game, but each time the two teams had to go the distance to decide the outcome. It is yet to be seen, but it appears the two programs may have gone in a different directions. The Tigers had team with many seniors last year and the Hornets only needed to replace two who left due to graduation. The core of junior players who lead the Hornets to the title last year return to give the squad a balance of six seniors and 6 underclassman. The only player this season who wasn't on the court when they claimed the title last season is freshman Lacy Swafford. She may be the youngest member of this team, but she is no stranger to intense competition and championships herself. She was a

SEE VOLLEYBALL, PAGE 10A

Hornets down Hawthorne 56-12

Sophomore quarterback Brycen Lee (11) behind senior center Dylan Green (55) made quick work of the Hawthorne Hornets in the Kickoff Classic Friday, Aug. 24 in Hawthorne, Fla.

By Jack Howdeshell

Traveling to Hawthorne High for preseason or regular season football action has always meant the Lafayette Hornets would be facing a talented and athletic team who share the team name Hornets.

Head Coach Joey Pearson had hoped that he would be able to get his starters some solid work headed into the season and play the rest of the roster to give everyone some real game experience. It was soon evident that Coach Pearson and his staff would be able to empty the bench on this night. The home team Hornets down in numbers this year were unable to stop a ground attack that had the visiting Hornets up 21-0 before the first quarter closed. Only a miscue by Mayo resulted in a Hawthorn score that kept the home team from being shutout in the first half that closed 35-6.

Following the halftime break, Lafayette continued the scoring and before the night was over the visitors had posted a 56-12 victory.

This Friday the Hornets start the regular season where it ended last year in Trenton against the Tigers. The Hornets have focused much of their off season training and conditioning on the game last November that left them disappointed in their effort on the night. A stronger and more focused group will do everything to prove last season's final game was not truly representative of the program that has longstanding success. Following the match-up against the Tigers, the Hornets will return to open their home season on Friday, Sept. 7 against the Bell Bulldogs.

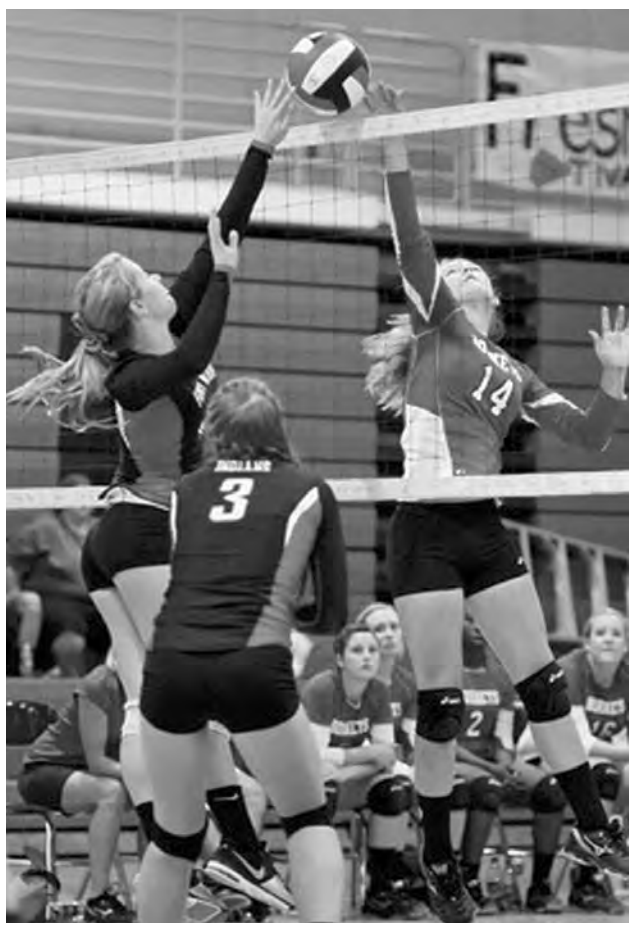
LHS volleyball

Continued From Page 9A

member of the Hornets state championship softball team as well as logging hundreds of innings in championship caliber travel ball teams.

Knowing that a squad with six talented seniors is something a coach dreams of, Coach Land wants to take advantage of this rare opportunity. She and all of the team took advantage of every option presented to include a couple members playing travel volleyball for the first time and numerous team and individual camps to improve on their skills. Improving on their skill sets isn't hampered by lack of conditioning since this group stays very active with nearly all playing at least one additional sport since last season. This group combined has been part of every other Hornet sports program to include soccer, basketball, track and field and of course the true passion more most of them, softball. Often this type of familiarity can lead to personnel issues, but from their play on the court, one can not detect any conflicts. Leadership come from several directions depending on the situation. Lindsay O'Steen and Kaleigh Law are two of the seniors who are both cheerleaders when needed and provide support as well to the others. If there was a position for a floor coach in volleyball, that would a role Lydia Land would easily assume. She leads in almost an instructional manner from her position as the Libero. From this very physical position she can often see areas to be addressed better than anyone else on the court or the sideline. One thing this group does know how to do is win and success is expected, so whenever there is a let down, each member of this group can and will step up to get back on track.

This season the Hornets will face an even tougher schedule on their journey to return to Kissimmee for the title game. With the scheduling of a preseason tournament and playing Newberry, Madison, Ft. White, and Suwannee in addition to district and non-district Class 1A opponents the Hornets should be well tested by the time the post season starts. The Hornets seem to be picking up where they left off last November. Last Thursday the Hornets stepped onto the court in Ft. White and quickly dispatched Class 1A Union County in a manner that indicated there would be no drop-off this season. In the second game the Hornets took a three set win over host and Class 4A Ft. White. In addition to seniors O'Steen and Law, Ellen Lashley, Bre Massey, Danielle Ezell and Bailey Edwards are joined by juniors Land, Savannah Hamlin, Darby Guyton, Sidney Barry, and Sydney Shows. The final piece of this team as mentioned is the addition of freshman Swafford. The group of underclassman assembled by Coach Land could arguably be the starting six for most of the Hornets opponents this season. One thing this group has done is made themself a target for each team they play this season. Most teams will feel their season is a success if they can upset the defending state champs this season. For Coach Land who has an opportunity to win her 100th game as head coach this season with a playoff run, knows her biggest challenge early is to get playing time for a group of very athletic, competitive and talented players. With over 20 games on the schedule, plus junior varsity and middle schools games, take an opportunity to come out and support and cheer on the Hornets as they defend their title and strive for a second one.



The newest member of the varsity volleyball team this season is freshman Lacy Swafford (14) pictured here battling at the net against the Ft. White Indians in the preseason tournament played Thursday, Aug. 23, 2012 at Ft. White High School.

- Photos: Jack Howdeshell

With six seniors on the team this year, the Hornets are preseason favorites to return to the title game in November. Senior Ellen Lashley (5) and her teammates won both preseason tournament games in Ft. White on Aug. 23, 2012.

- Photos: Jack Howdeshell

Hornets down Hawthorne

Appearing ready to challenge his own area leading 1552 yards rushing he collected a year ago, senior J.R. Bass scored twice in the Kickoff Classic.

A new addition to the Hornet line-up, Kenny Johnson (10) transferred from Branford and will face his old school later in the season. - Photos: Jack Howdeshell

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Mayo Legals

NOTICE OF SECOND PUBLIC HEARING AND STATEMENT OF PROPOSED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION PROJECT

The Town of Mayo is applying to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity for a grant under the neighborhood revitalization category in the amount of $650,000 under the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program. For each activity that is proposed, at least 70% of the funds must be for activities that benefit low- and moderate income persons.

The cost and percentage of low- and moderate-income persons benefiting from each project activity is, as follows. The cost for the sewage treatment plant activity is $524,000 with 51.0% low- and moderate-income persons benefiting from this activity. The cost for the engineering activity is $74,000. The cost for the administration activity is $52,000. The total Community Development Block Grant cost for this project is $650,000 with at least 51.0% low- and moderate-income persons benefiting from this project.

The plan to minimize displacement of persons as a result of planned Community Development Block Grant funded activities is to develop a Community Development Block Grant project which will not cause displacement of persons. The proposed Fiscal Year 2012 Community Development Block Grant project will not permanently displace any persons.

If for any reason persons are permanently displaced as a result of Community Development Block Grant funded activities, assistance will be provided to displaced persons as required under 24 Code of Federal Regulations 42, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations that implement the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970.

A Statement of the proposed Fiscal Year 2012 Community Development Block Grant project application is as follows:

The Community Development Block Grant project is a neighborhood revitalization program. The Town will undertake sanitary sewer improvements. The sanitary sewer improvements will include lift station improvements. The total cost of the project is estimated at $650,000 and at least 51.0% of the project beneficiaries will be low- to moderate-income persons.

A public hearing to provide citizens an opportunity to comment on the application will be held in the Town Council Meeting Room, Town Hall located at 276 West Main Street (U.S. Highway 27), Mayo, Florida on September 10, 2012 at 7:00 p.m or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard. The application will be submitted to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity on or before October 1, 2012.

To obtain additional information concerning the public hearing contact Linda Cone, Town Clerk, Town Hall, located at 276 West Main Street (U.S. Highway 27), Mayo, Florida, telephone number 386.294.1551. A summary of the application is available for review at the Town Hall located at located at 276 West Main Street (U.S. Highway 27), Mayo, Florida, telephone number 386. 294.1551.

The public hearing is being conducted in a handicapped accessible location. Any handicapped person requiring an interpreter for the hearing impaired or the visually impaired should contact Linda Cone, at least five calendar days prior to the public hearing and an interpreter will be provided. Any nonEnglish speaking person wishing to attend the public hearing should contact Linda Cone, at least five calendar days prior to the public hearing and a language interpreter will be provided. Any handicapped person requiring special accommodation at this meeting should contact Linda Cone at least five calendar days prior to the public hearing. To access a Telecommunication Device for Deaf (TDD) please call 800.955.8771.

A training session on Fair Housing and unlawful or discriminatory housing practices will be held immediately preceding the public hearing to be held on September 10, 2012 at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the Town Hall, located at 276 West Main Street (U.S. Highway 27), Mayo, Florida, telephone number 386.294.1551.

The following disclosures have been made pursuant to Section 102 of the HUD Reform Act of 1989. The disclosures are available at Town Hall located at 276 West Main Street (U.S. Highway 27), Mayo, Florida, telephone number 386.294.1551. These disclosures will be available on and after September 10, 2012 and shall continue to be available for a minimum period of six years.

1. Other government (federal, state, and local) assistance to the project in the form of a gift, grant, loan, guarantee, insurance payment, rebate, subsidy, credit tax benefit, or any other form of direct or indirect benefit by source and amount;

2. The identities and pecuniary interests of all developers, contractors, or consultants involved in the application for assistance or in the planning or development of the project or activity;

3. The identities and pecuniary interests of any other persons with a pecuniary interest in the project that can reasonably be expected to exceed $50,000 or 10% of the grant request (whichever is lower);

4. For those developers, contractors, consultants, property owners, or others listed in two (2) or three (3) above which are corporations, or other entities, the identification and pecuniary interests by corporation or entity of each officer, director, principal stockholder, or other official of the entity;

5. The expected sources of all funds to be provided to the project by each of the providers of those funds and the amount provided; and

6. The expected uses of all funds by activity and amount.

A FAIR HOUSING/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/HANDICAP ACCESS JURISDICTION
08/30

PUBLIC MEETING TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Please take notice that the Three Rivers Library Board will hold a Board Meeting on Thursday, September 13, at 7:00 p.m., at the Taylor County Public Library, in Perry, Florida.

All interested persons are invited to attend and be heard. Please be advised, that if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at such hearing, that person will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he/she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

"Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact (850) 838 3506 (Voice & TDD) or via Florida Relay Service at (800) 955-8771."
08/30

Mayo Legals

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF FLORIDA THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR LAFAYETTE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NUMBER: 12-51-CA

DRUMMOND COMMUNITY BANK, a Florida Banking Corporation,

Plaintiff,

vs.

SIDNEY L. ADAMS and ANGELA ADAMS, husband and wife,

Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS GIVEN that pursuant to Summary Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated the 9th day of August, 2012 in Case Number 12-51-CA of the Circuit Court of the Third Judicial Circuit in and for Lafayette County, Florida, in which DRUMMOND COMMUNITY BANK, a Florida Banking Corporation, is the Plaintiff and SIDNEY L. ADAMS and ANGELA ADAMS, husband and wife, are the Defendants, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the North door of the Lafayette County Courthouse, 120 West Main Street, Mayo, Lafayette County, Florida at 11:00 A.M. on the 18th day of October, 2012, the following described property set forth in the Order or Final Judgment of Foreclosure:

The North 1/2 of the East 1/2 of the East 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 2, Township 6 South, Range 13 East, Lafayette County, Florida.

Together with a 1984 CRAN Mobile Home, ID Nos. GDLCFL21836467A and GDLCFL21836467B.

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.

DATED this 13th day of August, 2012.

(Court Seal) Ricky Lyons
Clerk of the Court

By: /s/ Hannah Owens
Deputy Clerk

08/23, 30

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR LAFAYETTE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO.: 12-33-CA

ROBERT F. WOODARD and ANGELA A. WOODARD,
Plaintiff,

vs.

LEISURE HUNTING INVESTMENTS, INC.
a Florida Corporation,
Defendant.

CLERK'S NOTICE OF SALE UNDER F.S. CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS GIVEN that, in accordance with the Default Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated August 21, 2012, in the above-styled cause, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, at the North door of the Lafayette County Courthouse, Mayo, Florida at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 13, 2012, the following described property:

Commence at the SE corner of the SW 1/4, Section 14, Township 4 South, Range 10 East; thence No 00 degrees 57'58" E 23.51 feet to the North right-of way line of U.S. Highway No. 27 and the Point of Beginning; thence N 89 degrees 55'47" E 84.56 feet; thence N 00 degrees 24'13" W 186.30 feet; thence N 89 degrees 57'08" W 80.11 feet; thence N 00 degrees 57'58" E 93.40 feet; thence S 89 degrees 14'25" W 438.06 feet; thence S 02 degrees 01'57" W 274.76 feet; thence North 89 degrees 55'47" E 443.05 feet to close on the Point of Beginning, all being in Lafayette County, Florida.

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.

Dated: August 23, 2012.

(Court Seal) RICKY LYONS
Clerk of Court

By: /s/ Hannah Owens
Deputy Clerk

08/30, 09/06

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS TO BE VOTED ON NOVEMBER 6, 2012 NOTICE OF ELECTION

I, Kenneth W. Detzner, Secretary of State of the State of Florida, do hereby give notice that an election will be held in each county in Florida, on November 6, 2012, for the ratification or rejection of proposed revisions to the constitution of the State of Florida.

NO. 1
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
ARTICLE I, SECTION 28
(Legislative)

Ballot Title: HEALTH CARE SERVICES.—

Ballot Summary: Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to prohibit laws or rules from compelling any person or employer to purchase, obtain, or otherwise provide for health care coverage; permit a person or an employer to purchase lawful health care services directly from a health care provider; permit a health care provider to accept direct payment from a person or an employer for lawful health care services; exempt persons, employers, and health care providers from penalties and taxes for paying directly or accepting direct payment for lawful health care services; and prohibit laws or rules from abolishing the private market for health care coverage of any lawful health care service. Specifies that the amendment does not affect which health care services a health care provider is required to perform or provide; affect which health care services are permitted by law; prohibit care provided pursuant to general law relating to workers' compensation; affect laws or rules in effect as of March 1, 2010; affect the terms or conditions of any health care system to the extent that those terms and conditions do not have the effect of punishing a person or an employer for paying directly for lawful health care services or a health care provider for accepting direct payment from a person or an employer for lawful health care services; or affect any general law passed by two-thirds vote of the membership of each house of the Legislature, passed after the effective date of the amendment, provided such law states with specificity the public necessity justifying the exceptions from the provisions of the amendment. The amendment expressly provides that it may not be construed to prohibit negotiated provisions in insurance contracts, network agreements, or other provider agreements contractually limiting copayments, coinsurance, deductibles, or other patient charges.

Full Text:

ARTICLE I
DECLARATION OF RIGHTS
SECTION 28. Health care services.—
(a) To preserve the freedom of all residents of the state to provide for their own health care:
(1) A law or rule may not compel, directly or indirectly, any person or employer to purchase, obtain, or otherwise provide for health care coverage.
(2) A person or an employer may pay directly for lawful health care services and may not be required to pay penalties or taxes for paying directly for lawful health care services. A health care provider may accept direct payment for lawful health care services and may not be required to pay penalties or taxes for accepting direct payment from a person or an employer for lawful health care services.
(b) The private market for health care coverage of any lawful health care service may not be abolished by law or rule.
(c) This section does not:
(1) Affect which health care services a health care provider is required to perform or provide.
(2) Affect which health care services are permitted by law.
(3) Prohibit care provided pursuant to general law relating to workers' compensation.
(4) Affect laws or rules in effect as of March 1, 2010.
(5) Affect the terms or conditions of any health care system to the extent that those terms and conditions do not have the effect of punishing a person or an employer for paying directly for lawful health care services or a health care provider for accepting direct payment from a person or an employer for lawful health care services, except that this section may not be construed to prohibit any negotiated provision in any insurance contract, network agreement, or other provider agreement contractually limiting copayments, coinsurance, deductibles, or other patient charges.
(6) Affect any general law passed by a two-thirds vote of the membership of each house of the legislature after the effective date of this section, if the law states with specificity the public necessity that justifies an exception from this section.
(d) As used in this section, the term:
(1) "Compel" includes the imposition of penalties or taxes.
(2) "Direct payment" or "pay directly" means payment for lawful health care services without a public or private third party, not including an employer, paying for any portion of the service.
(3) "Health care system" means any public or private entity whose function or purpose is the management of, processing of, enrollment of individuals for, or payment, in full or in part, for health care services, health care data, or health care information for its participants.
(4) "Lawful health care services" means any health-related service or treatment, to the extent that the service or treatment is permitted or not prohibited by law or regulation at the time the service or treatment is rendered, which may be provided by persons or businesses otherwise permitted to offer such services.
(5) "Penalties or taxes" means any civil or criminal penalty or fine, tax, salary or wage withholding or surcharge, or named fee with a similar effect established by law or rule by an agency established, created, or controlled by the government which is used to punish or discourage the exercise of rights protected under this section. For purposes of this section only, the term "rule by an agency" may not be construed to mean any negotiated provision in any insurance contract, network agreement, or other provider agreement contractually limiting copayments, coinsurance, deductibles, or other patient charges.

NO. 2
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
ARTICLE VII, SECTION 6
ARTICLE XII, SECTION 32
(Legislative)

Ballot Title: VETERANS DISABLED DUE TO COMBAT INJURY; HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX DISCOUNT.—

Ballot Summary: Proposing an amendment to Section 6 of Article VII and the creation of Section 32 of Article XII of the State Constitution to expand the availability of the property discount on the homesteads of veterans who became disabled as the result of a combat injury to include those who were not Florida residents when they entered the military and schedule the amendment to take effect January 1, 2013.

Full Text:

ARTICLE VII
FINANCE AND TAXATION
SECTION 6. Homestead exemptions.—
(a) Every person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner, or another legally or naturally dependent upon the owner, shall be exempt from taxation thereon, except assessments for special benefits, up to the assessed valuation of twenty-five thousand dollars and, for all levies other than school district levies, on the assessed valuation greater than fifty thousand dollars and up to seventy-five thousand dollars, upon establishment of right thereto in the manner prescribed by law. The real estate may be held by legal or equitable title, by the entireties, jointly, in common, as a condominium, or indirectly by stock ownership or membership representing the owner's or member's proprietary interest in a corporation owning a fee or a leasehold initially in excess of ninety-eight years. The exemption shall not apply with respect to any assessment roll until such roll is first determined to be in compliance with the provisions of section 4 by a state agency designated by general law. This exemption is repealed on the effective date of any amendment to this Article which provides for the assessment of homestead property at less than just value.
(b) Not more than one exemption shall be allowed any individual or family unit or with respect to any residential unit. No exemption shall exceed the value of the real estate assessable to the owner or, in case of ownership through stock or membership in a corporation, the value of the proportion which the interest in the corporation bears to the assessed value of the property.
(c) By general law and subject to conditions specified therein, the Legislature may provide to renters, who are permanent residents, ad valorem tax relief on all ad valorem tax levies. Such ad valorem tax relief shall be in the form and amount established by general law.
(d) The legislature may, by general law, allow counties or municipalities, for the purpose of their respective tax levies and subject to the provisions of general law, to grant an additional homestead tax exemption not exceeding fifty thousand dollars to any person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner and who has attained age sixty-five and whose household income, as defined by general law, does not exceed twenty thousand dollars. The general law must allow counties and municipalities to grant this additional exemption, within the limits prescribed in this subsection, by ordinance adopted in the manner prescribed by general law, and must provide for the periodic adjustment of the income limitation prescribed in this subsection for changes in the cost of living.
(e) Each veteran who is age 65 or older who is partially or totally permanently disabled shall receive a discount from the amount of the ad valorem tax otherwise owed on homestead property the veteran owns and resides in if the disability was combat related, ~~the veteran was a resident of this state at the time of entering the military service of the United States,~~ and the veteran was honorably discharged upon separation from military service. The discount shall be in a percentage equal to the percentage of the veteran's permanent, service-connected disability as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. To qualify for the discount granted by this subsection, an applicant must submit to the county property appraiser, by March 1, ~~proof of residency at the time of entering military service,~~ an official letter from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs stating the percentage of the veteran's service-connected disability and such evidence that reasonably identifies the disability as combat related, and a copy of the veteran's honorable discharge. If the property appraiser denies the request for a discount, the appraiser must notify the applicant in writing of the reasons for the denial, and the veteran may reapply. The Legislature may, by general law, waive the annual application requirement in subsequent years. This subsection ~~shall take effect December 7, 2006,~~ is self-executing, and does not require implementing legislation.

ARTICLE XII
SCHEDULE
SECTION 32. Veterans disabled due to combat injury; homestead property tax discount.—The amendment to subsection (e) of Section 6 of Article VII relating to the homestead property tax discount for veterans who became disabled as the result of a combat injury shall take effect January 1, 2013.

NO. 3
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
ARTICLE VII, SECTIONS 1 and 19
ARTICLE XII, SECTION 32
(Legislative)

Ballot Title: STATE GOVERNMENT REVENUE LIMITATION.—

Ballot Summary: This proposed amendment to the State Constitution replaces the existing state revenue limitation based on Florida personal income growth with a new state revenue limitation based on inflation and population changes. Under the amendment, state revenues, as defined in the amendment, collected in excess of the revenue limitation must be deposited into the budget stabilization fund until the fund reaches its maximum balance, and thereafter shall be used for the support and maintenance of public schools by reducing the minimum financial effort required from school districts for participation in a state-funded education finance program, or, if the minimum financial effort is no longer required, returned to the taxpayers. The Legislature may increase the state revenue limitation through a bill approved by a super majority vote of each house of the Legislature. The Legislature may also submit a proposed increase in the state revenue limitation to the voters. The Legislature must implement this proposed amendment by general law. The amendment will take effect upon approval by the electors and will first apply to the 2014-2015 state fiscal year.

Full Text:

ARTICLE VII
FINANCE AND TAXATION
SECTION 1. Taxation; appropriations; state expenses~~; state revenue limitation.—~~
(a) No tax shall be levied except in pursuance of law. No state ad valorem taxes shall be levied upon real estate or tangible personal property. All other forms of taxation shall be preempted to the state except as provided by general law.
(b) Motor vehicles, boats, airplanes, trailers, trailer coaches and mobile homes, as defined by law, shall be subject to a license tax for their operation in the amounts and for the purposes prescribed by law, but shall not be subject to ad valorem taxes.
(c) No money shall be drawn from the treasury except in pursuance of appropriation made by law.
(d) Provision shall be made by law for raising sufficient revenue to defray the expenses of the state for each fiscal period.
~~(e) Except as provided herein, state revenues collected for any fiscal year shall be limited to state revenues allowed under this subsection for the prior fiscal year plus an adjustment for growth. As used in this subsection, "growth" means an amount equal to the average annual rate of growth in Florida personal income over the most recent twenty quarters times the state revenues allowed under this subsection for the prior fiscal year. For the 1995-1996 fiscal year, the state revenues allowed under this subsection for the prior fiscal year shall equal the state revenues collected for the 1994-1995 fiscal year. Florida personal income shall be determined by the legislature, from information available from the United States Department of Commerce or its successor on the first day of February prior to the beginning of the fiscal year. State revenues collected for any fiscal year in excess of this limitation shall be transferred to the budget stabilization fund until the fund reaches the maximum balance specified in Section 19(g) of Article III, and thereafter shall be refunded to taxpayers as provided by general law. State revenues allowed under this subsection for any fiscal year may be increased by a two-thirds vote of the membership of each house of the legislature in a separate bill that contains no other subject and that sets forth the dollar amount by which the state revenues allowed will be increased. The vote may not be taken less than seventy-two hours after the third reading of the bill. For purposes of this subsection, "state revenues" means taxes, fees, licenses, and charges for services imposed by the legislature on individuals, businesses, or agencies outside state government. However, "state revenues" does not include: revenues that are necessary to meet the requirements set forth in documents authorizing the issuance of bonds by the state; revenues that are used to provide matching funds for the federal Medicaid program with the exception of the revenues used to support the Public Medical Assistance Trust Fund or its successor program and with the exception of state matching funds used to fund elective expansions made after July 1, 1994; proceeds from the state lottery returned as prizes; receipts of the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund; balances carried forward from prior fiscal years; taxes, licenses, fees, and charges for services imposed by local, regional, or school district governing bodies; or revenue from taxes, licenses, fees, and charges for services required to be imposed by any amendment or revision to this constitution after July 1, 1994. An adjustment to the revenue limitation shall be made by general law to reflect the fiscal impact of transfers of responsibility for the funding of governmental functions between the state and other levels of government. The legislature shall, by general law, prescribe procedures necessary to administer this subsection.~~
SECTION 19. State revenue limitation.—
(a) STATE REVENUE LIMITATION.—Except as provided in this section, state revenues collected in any fiscal year are limited as follows:
(1) For the 2014-2015 fiscal year, state revenues are limited to an amount equal to the state revenues collected during the 2013-2014 fiscal year multiplied by the sum of the adjustment for growth plus four one-hundredths.
(2) For the 2015-2016 fiscal year, state revenues are limited to an amount equal to the state revenue limitation for fiscal year 2014-2015 multiplied by the sum of the adjustment for growth plus three one-hundredths.
(3) For the 2016-2017 fiscal year, state revenues are limited to an amount equal to the state revenue limitation for fiscal year 2015-2016 multiplied by the sum of the adjustment for growth plus two one-hundredths.
(4) For the 2017-2018 fiscal year, state revenues are limited to an amount equal to the state revenue limitation for fiscal year 2016-2017 multiplied by the sum of the adjustment for growth plus one one-hundredth.
(5) For the 2018-2019 fiscal year and thereafter, state revenues are limited to an amount equal to the state revenue limitation for the previous fiscal year multiplied by the adjustment for growth.
(6) The adjustment for growth for a fiscal year shall be determined by March 1 preceding the fiscal year using the latest information available. Once the adjustment for growth is determined for a fiscal year, it may not be changed based on revisions to the information used to make the determination.
(b) REVENUES IN EXCESS OF THE LIMITATION.—State revenues collected in any fiscal year in excess of the revenue limitation shall be transferred to the budget stabilization fund until the fund reaches the maximum balance specified in Section 19(g) of Article III, and thereafter shall be used for the support and maintenance of public schools by reducing the minimum financial effort required from school districts for participation in a state-funded education finance program, or, if the minimum financial effort is no longer required, returned to taxpayers as provided by general law.
(c) AUTHORITY OF THE LEGISLATURE TO INCREASE THE REVENUE LIMITATION.—
(1) The state revenue limitation for any fiscal year may be increased by a two-thirds vote of the membership of each house of the legislature. Unless otherwise provided by the bill increasing the revenue limitation, the increased revenue limitation enacted under this paragraph shall be used to determine the revenue limitation for future fiscal years.
(2) The state revenue limitation for any one fiscal year may be increased by a three-fifths vote of the membership of each house of the legislature. Increases to the revenue limitation enacted under this paragraph must be disregarded when determining the revenue limitation in subsequent fiscal years.
(3) A bill increasing the revenue limitation may not contain any other subject and must set forth the dollar amount by which the state revenue limitation will be increased. The vote may not be taken less than seventy-two hours after the third reading in either house of the bill in the form that will be presented to the governor.
(d) AUTHORITY OF THE ELECTORS TO INCREASE THE REVENUE LIMITATION.—The legislature may propose an increase in the state revenue limitation pursuant to a concurrent resolution enacted by a three-fifths vote of the membership of each house. The proposed increase shall be submitted to the electors at the next general election held more than ninety days after the resolution is filed with the custodian of state records. However, the legislature may submit the proposed increase at an earlier special election held more than ninety days after it is filed with the custodian of state records pursuant to a law enacted by the affirmative vote of three-fourths of the membership of each house of the legislature. The resolution must set forth the dollar amount by which the state revenue limitation will be increased. Unless otherwise provided in the resolution, the increased revenue limitation shall be used to determine the revenue limitation for future fiscal years. The proposed increase shall take effect if it is approved by a vote of at least 60 percent of the electors voting on the matter.
(e) REVENUE LIMIT ADJUSTMENT BY THE LEGISLATURE.—The legislature shall provide by general law for adjustments to the state revenue limitation to reflect:
(1) The fiscal impact of transfers of responsibility for the funding of governmental functions between the state and other levels of government occurring after May 6, 2011; or
(2) The fiscal impact of a new federal mandate.
(f) GENERAL LAW IMPLEMENTATION.—The legislature shall, by general law, prescribe procedures necessary to administer this section.
(g) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:
(1) "Adjustment for growth" means an amount equal to the average for the previous five years of the product of the inflation factor and the population factor.
(2) "Inflation factor" means an amount equal to one plus the percent change in the calendar year annual average of the Consumer Price Index. The term "Consumer Price Index" means the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, U.S. city average (not seasonally adjusted, current base for all items), as published by the United States Department of Labor. In the event the index ceases to exist, the legislature shall determine the successor index by general law.
(3) "Population factor" means an amount equal to one plus the percent change in population of the state as of April 1 compared to April 1 of the prior year. For purposes of calculating the annual rate of change in population, the state's official population estimates shall be used.
(4) "State revenues" means taxes, fees, licenses, fines, and charges for services imposed by the legislature on individuals, businesses, or agencies outside state government. However, the term "state revenues" does not include: revenues that are necessary to meet the requirements set forth in documents authorizing the issuance of bonds by the state for bonds issued before July 1, 2012; revenues that are used to provide matching funds for the federal Medicaid program with the exception of the revenues used to support the Public Medical Assistance Trust Fund or its successor program and with the exception of state matching funds used to fund optional expansions made after July 1, 1994; proceeds from the state lottery returned as prizes; receipts of the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund and Citizens Property Insurance Corporation; receipts of public universities and colleges; balances carried forward from prior fiscal years; taxes, fees, licenses, fines, and charges for services imposed by local, regional, or school district governing bodies; or revenue from taxes, fees, licenses, fines, and charges for services authorized by any amendment or revision to this constitution after May 6, 2011.

ARTICLE XII
SCHEDULE
SECTION 32. State revenue limitation.—The amendment to Section 1 and the creation of Section 19 of Article VII, revising the state revenue limitation, and this section take effect upon approval by the electors and apply beginning in the 2014-2015 state fiscal year.

NO. 4
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
ARTICLE VII, SECTIONS 4, 6
ARTICLE XII, SECTIONS 27, 32, 33
(Legislative)

Ballot Title: PROPERTY TAX LIMITATIONS; PROPERTY VALUE DECLINE; REDUCTION FOR NONHOMESTEAD ASSESSMENT INCREASES; DELAY OF SCHEDULED REPEAL.—

Ballot Summary:
(1) This would amend Florida Constitution Article VII, Section 4 (Taxation; assessments) and Section 6 (Homestead exemptions). It also would amend Article XII, Section 27, and add Sections 32 and 33, relating to the Schedule for the amendments.
(2) In certain circumstances, the law requires the assessed value of homestead and specified nonhomestead property to increase when the just value of the property decreases. Therefore, this amendment provides that the Legislature may, by general law, provide that the assessment of homestead and specified nonhomestead property may not increase if the just value of that property is less than the just value of the property on the preceding January 1, subject to any adjustment in the assessed value due to changes, additions, reductions, or improvements to such property which are assessed as provided for by general law. This amendment takes effect upon approval by the voters. If approved at a special election held on the date of the 2012 presidential preference primary, it shall operate retroactively to January 1, 2012, or, if approved at the 2012 general election, shall take effect January 1, 2013.
(3) This amendment reduces from 10 percent to 5 percent the limitation on annual changes in assessments of nonhomestead real property. This amendment takes effect upon approval of the voters. If approved at a special election held on the date of the 2012 presidential preference primary, it shall operate retroactively to January 1, 2012, or, if approved at the 2012 general election, takes effect January 1, 2013.
(4) This amendment also authorizes general law to provide, subject to conditions specified in such law, an additional homestead exemption to every person who establishes the right to receive the homestead exemption provided in the Florida Constitution within 1 year after purchasing the homestead property and who has not owned property in the previous 3 calendar years to which the Florida homestead exemption applied. The additional homestead exemption shall apply to all levies except school district levies. The additional exemption is an amount equal to 50 percent of the homestead property's just value on January 1 of the year the homestead is established. The additional homestead exemption may not exceed an amount equal to the median just value of all homestead property within the county where the property at issue is located for the calendar year immediately preceding January 1 of the year the homestead is established. The additional exemption shall apply for the shorter of 5 years or the year of sale of the property. The amount of the additional exemption shall be reduced in each subsequent year by an amount equal to 20 percent of the amount of the additional exemption received in the year the homestead was established or by an amount equal to the difference between the just value of the property and the assessed value of the property determined under Article VII, Section 4(d), whichever is greater. Not more than one such exemption shall be allowed per homestead property at one time. The additional exemption applies to property purchased on or after January 1, 2011, if approved by the voters at a special election held on the date of the 2012 presidential preference primary, or to property purchased on or after January 1, 2012, if approved by the voters at the 2012 general election. The additional exemption is not available in the sixth and subsequent years after it is first received. The amendment shall take effect upon approval by the voters. If approved at a special election held on the date of the 2012 presidential preference primary, it shall operate retroactively to January 1, 2012, or, if approved at the 2012 general election, takes effect January 1, 2013.
(5) This amendment also delays until 2023, the repeal, currently scheduled to take effect in 2019, of constitutional amendments adopted in 2008 which limit annual assessment increases for specified nonhomestead real property. This amendment delays until 2022 the submission of an amendment proposing the abrogation of such repeal to the voters.

Full Text:

ARTICLE VII
FINANCE AND TAXATION
SECTION 4. Taxation; assessments.—By general law regulations shall be prescribed which shall secure a just valuation of all property for ad valorem taxation, provided:
(a) Agricultural land, land producing high water recharge to Florida's aquifers, or land used exclusively for noncommercial recreational purposes may be classified by general law and assessed solely on the basis of character or use.
(b) As provided by general law and subject to conditions, limitations, and reasonable definitions specified therein, land used for conservation purposes shall be classified by general law and assessed solely on the basis of character or use.
(c) Pursuant to general law tangible personal property held for sale as stock in trade and livestock may be valued for taxation at a specified percentage of its value, may be classified for tax purposes, or may be exempted from taxation.
(d) All persons entitled to a homestead exemption under Section 6 ~~of this Article~~ shall have their homestead assessed ~~at just value as of January 1 of the year following the effective date of this amendment. This assessment shall change only~~ as provided in this subsection.
(1) Assessments subject to this subsection shall change ~~be changed~~ annually on January 1 ~~1st~~ of each year~~,; but those changes in assessments~~
a. A change in an assessment may ~~shall~~ not exceed the lower of the following:
1.a. Three percent (~~3%~~) of the assessment for the prior year.
2.b. The percent change in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers, U.S. City Average, all items 1967=100, or a successor index ~~reports~~ for the preceding calendar year as initially reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
b. The legislature may provide by general law that, except for changes, additions, reductions, or improvements to homestead property assessed as provided in paragraph (5), an assessment may not increase if the just value of the property is less than the just value of the property on the preceding January 1.
(2) An ~~No~~ assessment may not ~~shall~~ exceed just value.
(3) After a ~~any~~ change of ownership, as provided by general law, homestead property shall be assessed at just value as of January 1 of the following year, unless the provisions of paragraph (8) apply. Thereafter, the homestead shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.
(4) New homestead property shall be assessed at just value as of January 1 ~~1st~~ of the year following the establishment of the homestead, unless the provisions of paragraph (8) apply. That assessment shall ~~only~~ change only as provided in this subsection.
(5) Changes, additions, reductions, or improvements to homestead property shall be assessed as provided for by general law~~,; provided,~~ However, after the adjustment for any change, addition, reduction, or improvement, the property shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.
(6) In the event of a termination of homestead status, the property shall be assessed as provided by general law.
(7) The provisions of this subsection ~~amendment~~ are severable. If a provision ~~any of the provisions~~ of this subsection is ~~amendment shall be~~ held unconstitutional by a ~~any~~ court of competent jurisdiction, the decision of the ~~such~~ court does ~~shall~~ not affect or impair any remaining provisions of this subsection ~~amendment~~.
(8)a. A person who ~~establishes a new homestead as of January 1, 2009, or January 1 of any subsequent year and who~~ has received a homestead exemption pursuant to Section 6 ~~of this Article~~ as of January 1 of either of the 2 ~~two~~ years immediately preceding the establishment of a ~~the~~ new homestead is entitled to have the new homestead assessed at less than just value. ~~If this revision is approved in January of 2008, a person who establishes a new homestead as of January 1, 2008, is entitled to have the new homestead assessed at less than just value only if that person received a homestead exemption on January 1, 2007.~~ The assessed value of the newly established homestead shall be determined as follows:
1. If the just value of the new homestead is greater than or equal to the just value of the prior homestead as of January 1 of the year in which the prior homestead was abandoned, the assessed value of the new homestead shall be the just value of the new homestead minus an amount equal to the lesser of $500,000 or the difference between the just value and the assessed value of the prior homestead as of January 1 of the year in which the prior homestead was abandoned. Thereafter, the homestead shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.
2. If the just value of the new homestead is less than the just value of the prior homestead as of January 1 of the year in which the prior homestead was abandoned, the assessed value of the new homestead shall be equal to the just value of the new homestead divided by the just value of the prior homestead and multiplied by the assessed value of the prior homestead. However, if the difference between the just value of the new homestead and the assessed value of the new homestead calculated pursuant to this sub-subparagraph is greater than $500,000, the assessed value of the new homestead shall be increased so that the difference between the just value and the assessed value equals $500,000. Thereafter, the homestead shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.
b. By general law and subject to conditions specified therein, the legislature shall provide for application of this paragraph to property owned by more than one person.
(e) The legislature may, by general law, for assessment purposes and subject to the provisions of this subsection, allow counties and municipalities to authorize by ordinance that historic property may be assessed solely on the basis of character or use. Such character or use assess-

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ment shall apply only to the jurisdiction adopting the ordinance. The requirements for eligible properties must be specified by general law.

(f) A county may, in the manner prescribed by general law, provide for a reduction in the assessed value of homestead property to the extent of any increase in the assessed value of that property which results from the construction or reconstruction of the property for the purpose of providing living quarters for one or more natural or adoptive grandparents or parents of the owner of the property or of the owner's spouse if at least one of the grandparents or parents for whom the living quarters are provided is 62 years of age or older. Such a reduction may not exceed the lesser of the following:

(1) The increase in assessed value resulting from construction or reconstruction of the property.

(2) Twenty percent of the total assessed value of the property as improved.

(g) For all levies other than school district levies, assessments of residential real property, as defined by general law, which contains nine units or fewer and which is not subject to the assessment limitations set forth in subsections (a) through (d) shall change only as provided in this subsection.

(1) Assessments subject to this subsection shall be changed annually on the date of assessment provided by law. However,~~;~~ ~~but~~ those changes in assessments may ~~shall~~ not exceed 5 ~~ten~~ percent (~~10%~~) of the assessment for the prior year. The legislature may provide by general law that, except for changes, additions, reductions, or improvements to property assessed as provided in paragraph (4), an assessment may not increase if the just value of the property is less than the just value of the property on the preceding date of assessment provided by law.

(2) An ~~No~~ assessment may not ~~shall~~ exceed just value.

(3) After a change of ownership or control, as defined by general law, including any change of ownership of a legal entity that owns the property, such property shall be assessed at just value as of the next assessment date. Thereafter, such property shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.

(4) Changes, additions, reductions, or improvements to such property shall be assessed as provided for by general law~~,~~;~~;~~ However, after the adjustment for any change, addition, reduction, or improvement, the property shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.

(h) For all levies other than school district levies, assessments of real property that is not subject to the assessment limitations set forth in subsections (a) through (d) and (g) shall change only as provided in this subsection.

(1) Assessments subject to this subsection shall be changed annually on the date of assessment provided by law. However,~~;~~ ~~but~~ those changes in assessments may ~~shall~~ not exceed 5 ~~ten~~ percent (~~10%~~) of the assessment for the prior year. The legislature may provide by general law that, except for changes, additions, reductions, or improvements to property assessed as provided in paragraph (5), an assessment may not increase if the just value of the property is less than the just value of the property on the preceding date of assessment provided by law.

(2) An ~~No~~ assessment may not ~~shall~~ exceed just value.

(3) The legislature must provide that such property shall be assessed at just value as of the next assessment date after a qualifying improvement, as defined by general law, is made to such property. Thereafter, such property shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.

(4) The legislature may provide that such property shall be assessed at just value as of the next assessment date after a change of ownership or control, as defined by general law, including any change of ownership of the legal entity that owns the property. Thereafter, such property shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.

(5) Changes, additions, reductions, or improvements to such property shall be assessed as provided for by general law~~,~~;~~;~~ However, after the adjustment for any change, addition, reduction, or improvement, the property shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.

(i) The legislature, by general law and subject to conditions specified therein, may prohibit the consideration of the following in the determination of the assessed value of real property used for residential purposes:

(1) Any change or improvement made for the purpose of improving the property's resistance to wind damage.

(2) The installation of a renewable energy source device.

(j)(1) The assessment of the following working waterfront properties shall be based upon the current use of the property:

a. Land used predominantly for commercial fishing purposes.

b. Land that is accessible to the public and used for vessel launches into waters that are navigable.

c. Marinas and drystacks that are open to the public.

d. Water-dependent marine manufacturing facilities, commercial fishing facilities, and marine vessel construction and repair facilities and their support activities.

(2) The assessment benefit provided by this subsection is subject to conditions and limitations and reasonable definitions as specified by the legislature by general law.

SECTION 6. Homestead exemptions.—

(a) Every person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner, or another legally or naturally dependent upon the owner, shall be exempt from taxation thereon, except assessments for special benefits, up to the assessed valuation of $25,000 ~~twenty-five thousand dollars~~ and, for all levies other than school district levies, on the assessed valuation greater than $50,000 ~~fifty thousand dollars~~ and up to $75,000 ~~seventy-five thousand dollars~~, upon establishment of right thereto in the manner prescribed by law. The real estate may be held by legal or equitable title, by the entireties, jointly, in common, as a condominium, or indirectly by stock ownership or membership representing the owner's or member's proprietary interest in a corporation owning a fee or a leasehold initially in excess of 98 ~~ninety-eight~~ years. The exemption shall not apply with respect to any assessment roll until such roll is first determined to be in compliance with the provisions of Section 4 by a state agency designated by general law. This exemption is repealed on the effective date of any amendment to this Article which provides for the assessment of homestead property at less than just value.

(b) Not more than one exemption shall be allowed any individual or family unit or with respect to any residential unit. No exemption shall exceed the value of the real estate assessable to the owner or, in case of ownership through stock or membership in a corporation, the value of the proportion which the interest in the corporation bears to the assessed value of the property.

(c) By general law and subject to conditions specified therein, the legislature may provide to renters, who are permanent residents, ad valorem tax relief on all ad valorem tax levies. Such ad valorem tax relief shall be in the form and amount established by general law.

(d) The legislature may, by general law, allow counties or municipalities, for the purpose of their respective tax levies and subject to the provisions of general law, to grant an additional homestead tax exemption not exceeding $50,000 ~~fifty thousand dollars~~ to any person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner and who has attained age 65 ~~sixty-five~~ and whose household income, as defined by general law, does not exceed $20,000 ~~twenty thousand dollars~~. The general law must allow counties and municipalities to grant this additional exemption, within the limits prescribed in this subsection, by ordinance adopted in the manner prescribed by general law, and must provide for the periodic adjustment of the income limitation prescribed in this subsection for changes in the cost of living.

(e) Each veteran who is age 65 or older who is partially or totally permanently disabled shall receive a discount from the amount of the ad valorem tax otherwise owed on homestead property the veteran owns and resides in if the disability was combat related, the veteran was a resident of this state at the time of entering the military service of the United States, and the veteran was honorably discharged upon separation from military service. The discount shall be in a percentage equal to the percentage of the veteran's permanent, service-connected disability as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. To qualify for the discount granted by this subsection, an applicant must submit to the county property appraiser, by March 1, proof of residency at the time of entering military service, an official letter from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs stating the percentage of the veteran's service-connected disability and such evidence that reasonably identifies the disability as combat related, and a copy of the veteran's honorable discharge. If the property appraiser denies the request for a discount, the appraiser must notify the applicant in writing of the reasons for the denial, and the veteran may reapply. The legislature may, by general law, waive the annual application requirement in subsequent years. This subsection shall take effect December 7, 2006, is self-executing, and does not require implementing legislation.

(f) As provided by general law and subject to conditions specified therein, every person who establishes the right to receive the homestead exemption provided in subsection (a) within 1 year after purchasing the homestead property and who has not owned property in the previous 3 calendar years to which the homestead exemption provided in subsection (a) applied is entitled to an additional homestead exemption for all levies except school district levies. The additional exemption is an amount equal to 50 percent of the homestead property's just value on January 1 of the year the homestead is established. The additional exemption may not exceed the median just value of all homestead property within the county where the property at issue is located for the calendar year immediately preceding January 1 of the year the homestead is established. The additional exemption shall apply for a period of 5 years or until the year the property is sold, whichever occurs first. The amount of the additional exemption shall be reduced in each subsequent year by an amount equal to 20 percent of the amount of the additional exemption received in the year the homestead was established or by an amount equal to the difference between the just value of the property and the assessed value of the property determined under Section 4(d), whichever is greater. Not more than one exemption provided under this subsection shall be allowed per homestead property at one time. The additional exemption applies to property purchased on or after January 1, 2011, if this amendment is approved at a special election held on the date of the 2012 presidential preference primary, or to property purchased on or after January 1, 2012, if this amendment is approved at the 2012 general election, but the additional exemption is not available in the sixth and subsequent years after it is first received.

ARTICLE XII
SCHEDULE

SECTION 27. Property tax exemptions and limitations on property tax assessments.—The amendments to Sections 3, 4, and 6 of Article VII, providing a $25,000 exemption for tangible personal property, providing an additional $25,000 homestead exemption, authorizing transfer of the accrued benefit from the limitations on the assessment of homestead property, and this section, if submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at a special election authorized by law to be held on January 29, 2008, shall take effect upon approval by the electors and shall operate retroactively to January 1, 2008, or, if submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at the next general election, shall take effect January 1 of the year following such general election. The amendments to Section 4 of Article VII creating subsections (f) and (g) of that section, creating a limitation on annual assessment increases for specified real property, shall take effect upon approval of the electors and shall first limit assessments beginning January 1, 2009, if approved at a special election held on January 29, 2008, or shall first limit assessments beginning January 1, 2010, if approved at the general election held in November of 2008. Subsections (g) ~~(f)~~ and (h) ~~(g)~~ of Section 4 of Article VII, initially added as subsections (f) and (g), are repealed effective January 1, 2023 ~~2019~~; however, the legislature shall by joint resolution propose an amendment abrogating the repeal of subsections (g) ~~(f)~~ and (h) ~~(g)~~, which shall be submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at the general election of 2022 ~~2018~~ and, if approved, shall take effect January 1, 2023 ~~2019~~.

SECTION 32. Property assessments.—This section and the amendment of Section 4 of Article VII addressing homestead and specified nonhomestead property having a declining just value and reducing the limit on the maximum annual increase in the assessed value of nonhomestead property, if submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at a special election authorized by law to be held on the date of the 2012 presidential preference primary, shall take effect upon approval by the electors and shall operate retroactively to January 1, 2012, or, if submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at the 2012 general election, shall take effect January 1, 2013.

SECTION 33. Additional homestead exemption for owners of homestead property who recently have not owned homestead property.—This section and the amendment to Section 6 of Article VII providing for an additional homestead exemption for owners of homestead property who have not owned homestead property during the 3 calendar years immediately preceding purchase of the current homestead property, if submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at a special election authorized by law to be held on the date of the 2012 presidential preference primary, shall take effect upon approval by the electors and operate retroactively to January 1, 2012, and the additional homestead exemption shall be available for properties purchased on or after January 1, 2011, or if submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at the 2012 general election, shall take effect January 1, 2012.

NO. 5
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
ARTICLE V, SECTIONS 2, 11, AND 12
(Legislative)

Ballot Title: STATE COURTS.—

Ballot Summary: Proposing a revision of Article V of the State Constitution relating to the judiciary.

The State Constitution authorizes the Supreme Court to adopt rules for the practice and procedure in all courts. The constitution further provides that a rule of court may be repealed by a general law enacted by a two-thirds vote of the membership of each house of the Legislature. This proposed constitutional revision eliminates the requirement that a general law repealing a court rule pass by a two-thirds vote of each house, thereby providing that the Legislature may repeal a rule of court by a general law approved by a majority vote of each house of the Legislature that expresses the policy behind the repeal. The court could readopt the rule in conformity with the public policy expressed by the Legislature, but if the Legislature determines that a rule has been readopted and repeals the readopted rule, this proposed revision prohibits the court from further readopting the repealed rule without the Legislature's prior approval. Under current law, rules of the judicial nominating commissions and the Judicial Qualifications Commission may be repealed by general law enacted by a majority vote of the membership of each house of the Legislature. Under this proposed revision, a vote to repeal those rules is changed to repeal by general law enacted by a majority vote of the legislators present.

Under current law, the Governor appoints a justice of the Supreme Court from a list of nominees provided by a judicial nominating commission, and appointments by the Governor are not subject to confirmation. This revision requires Senate confirmation of a justice of the Supreme Court before the appointee can take office. If the Senate votes not to confirm the appointment, the judicial nominating commission must reconvene and may not renominate any person whose prior appointment to fill the same vacancy was not confirmed by the Senate. For the purpose of confirmation, the Senate may meet at any time. If the Senate fails to vote on the appointment of a justice within 90 days, the justice will be deemed confirmed and will take office.

The Judicial Qualifications Commission is an independent commission created by the State Constitution to investigate and prosecute before the Florida Supreme Court alleged misconduct by a justice or judge. Currently under the constitution, commission proceedings are confidential until formal charges are filed by the investigative panel of the commission. Once formal charges are filed, the formal charges and all further proceedings of the commission are public. Currently, the constitution authorizes the House of Representatives to impeach a justice or judge. Further, the Speaker of the House of Representatives may request, and the Judicial Qualifications Commission must make available, all information in the commission's possession for use in deciding whether to impeach a justice or judge. This proposed revision requires the commission to make all of its files available to the Speaker of the House of Representatives but provides that such files would remain confidential during any investigation by the House of Representatives and until such information is used in the pursuit of an impeachment of a justice or judge. This revision also removes the power of the Governor to request files of the Judicial Qualifications Commission to conform to a prior constitutional change.

This revision also makes technical and clarifying additions and deletions relating to the selection of chief judges of a circuit and relating to the Judicial Qualifications Commission, and makes other nonsubstantive conforming and technical changes in the judicial article of the constitution.

Full Text:

ARTICLE V
JUDICIARY

SECTION 2. Administration; practice and procedure.—

(a) The supreme court shall adopt rules for the practice and procedure in all courts including the time for seeking appellate review, the administrative supervision of all courts, the transfer to the court having jurisdiction of any proceeding when the jurisdiction of another court has been improvidently invoked, and a requirement that no cause shall be dismissed because an improper remedy has been sought. The supreme court shall adopt rules to allow it ~~the court~~ and the district courts of appeal to submit questions relating to military law to the federal Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces for an advisory opinion. Rules of court may be repealed by general law that expresses the policy behind the repeal ~~enacted by two-thirds vote of the membership of each house of the legislature~~. The court may readopt the repealed rule only in conformity with the public policy expressed by the legislature. If the legislature determines that a rule has been readopted and repeals the readopted rule, the rule may not be readopted thereafter without prior approval of the legislature.

(b) The chief justice of the supreme court shall be chosen by a majority of the members of the court; shall be the chief administrative officer of the judicial system; and shall have the power to assign justices or judges, including consenting retired justices or judges, to temporary duty in any court for which the judge is qualified and to delegate to a chief judge of a judicial circuit the power to assign judges for duty in that circuit.

(c) A chief judge for each district court of appeal shall be chosen by a majority of the judges thereof or, if there is no majority, by the chief justice. The chief judge shall be responsible for the administrative supervision of the court.

(d) A chief judge in each circuit shall be chosen from among the circuit judges as provided by supreme court rule. The chief judge of a circuit shall be responsible for the administrative supervision of the circuit courts and county courts in the ~~his~~ circuit.

SECTION 11. Vacancies.—

(a) Whenever a vacancy occurs in a judicial office to which election for retention applies, the governor shall fill the vacancy by appointing for a term ending on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January of the year following the next general election occurring at least one year after the date of appointment, one of not fewer than three persons nor more than six persons nominated by the appropriate judicial nominating commission.

(b) The governor shall fill each vacancy on a circuit court or on a county court, wherein the judges are elected by a majority vote of the electors, by appointing for a term ending on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January of the year following the next primary and general election occurring at least one year after the date of appointment, one of not fewer than three persons nor more than six persons nominated by the appropriate judicial nominating commission. An election shall be held to fill that judicial office for the term of the office beginning at the end of the appointed term.

(c) The nominations shall be made within thirty days from the occurrence of a vacancy unless the period is extended by the governor for a time not to exceed thirty days. The governor shall make the appointment within sixty days after the nominations have been certified to the governor.

(d) Each appointment of a justice of the supreme court is subject to confirmation by the senate. The senate may sit for the purpose of confirmation regardless of whether the house of representatives is in session or not. If the senate fails to vote on the appointment of a justice within 90 days, the justice shall be deemed confirmed. If the senate votes to not confirm the appointment, the supreme court judicial nominating commission shall reconvene as though a new vacancy had occurred but may not renominate any person whose prior appointment to fill the same vacancy was not confirmed by the senate. The appointment of a justice is effective upon confirmation by the senate.

(e)~~(d)~~ There shall be a separate judicial nominating commission as provided by general law for the supreme court, one for each district court of appeal, and one for each judicial circuit for all trial courts within the circuit. Uniform rules of procedure shall be established by the judicial nominating commissions at each level of the court system. Such rules, or any part thereof, may be repealed by general law ~~enacted by a majority vote of the membership of each house of the legislature~~, or by the supreme court, five justices concurring. Except for deliberations of the judicial nominating commissions, the proceedings of the commissions and their records shall be open to the public.

SECTION 12. Discipline; removal and retirement.—

(a) JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION.—A judicial qualifications commission is created.

(1) There shall be a judicial qualifications commission vested with jurisdiction to investigate and recommend to the Supreme Court of Florida the removal from office of any justice or judge whose conduct, during term of office or otherwise~~,~~ ~~occurring on or after November 1, 1966, (without regard to the effective date of this section)~~ demonstrates a present unfitness to hold office, and to investigate and recommend the discipline of a justice or judge whose conduct, during term of office or otherwise ~~occurring on or after November 1, 1966 (without regard to the effective date of this section)~~, warrants such discipline. For purposes of this section, discipline is defined as any or all of the following: reprimand, fine, suspension with or without pay, or lawyer discipline. The commission shall have jurisdiction over justices and judges regarding allegations that misconduct occurred before or during service as a justice or judge if a complaint is made no later than one year following service as a justice or judge. The commission shall have jurisdiction regarding allegations of incapacity during service as a justice or judge. The commission shall be composed of:

a. Two judges of district courts of appeal selected by the judges of those courts, two circuit judges selected by the judges of the circuit courts and two judges of county courts selected by the judges of those courts;

b. Four electors who reside in the state, who are members of the bar of Florida, and who shall be chosen by the governing body of the bar of Florida; and

c. Five electors who reside in the state, who have never held judicial office or been members of the bar of Florida, and who shall be appointed by the governor.

(2) The members of the judicial qualifications commission shall serve staggered terms, not to exceed six years, as prescribed by general law. No member of the commission except a judge shall be eligible for state judicial office while acting as a member of the commission and for a period of two years thereafter. No member of the commission shall hold office in a political party or participate in any campaign for judicial office or hold public office; provided that a judge may campaign for judicial office and hold that office. The commission shall elect one of its members as its chairperson.

(3) Members of the judicial qualifications commission not subject to impeachment shall be subject to removal from the commission pursuant to the provisions of Article IV, Section 7, Florida Constitution.

(4) The commission shall adopt rules regulating its proceedings, the filing of vacancies by the appointing authorities, the disqualification of members, the rotation of members between the panels, and the temporary replacement of disqualified or incapacitated members. The commission's rules, or any part thereof, may be repealed by general law ~~enacted by a majority vote of the membership of each house of the legislature,~~ or by the supreme court, five justices concurring. The commission shall have power to issue subpoenas. Until formal charges against a justice or judge are filed by the investigative panel with the clerk of the supreme court of Florida all proceedings by or before the commission shall be confidential; provided, however, upon a finding of probable cause and the filing by the investigative panel with said clerk of such formal charges against a justice or judge such charges and all further proceedings before the commission shall be public.

(5) The commission shall have access to all information from all executive, legislative and judicial agencies, including grand juries, subject to the rules of the commission. At any time, on request of the speaker of the house of representatives ~~or the governor~~, the commission shall make available to the house of representatives all information in the possession of the commission, which information shall remain confidential during any investigation and until such information is used in the pursuit ~~for use in consideration~~ of impeachment ~~or suspension, respectively~~.

(b) PANELS.—The commission shall be divided into an investigative panel and a hearing panel as established by rule of the commission. The investigative panel is vested with the jurisdiction to receive or initiate complaints, conduct investigations, dismiss complaints, and upon a vote of a simple majority of the panel submit formal charges to the hearing panel. The hearing panel is vested with the authority to receive and hear formal charges from the investigative panel and upon a two-thirds vote of the panel recommend to the supreme court the removal of a justice or judge or the involuntary retirement of a justice or judge for any permanent disability that seriously interferes with the performance of judicial duties. Upon a simple majority vote of the membership of the hearing panel, the panel may recommend to the supreme court that the justice or judge be subject to appropriate discipline.

(c) SUPREME COURT.—The supreme court shall receive recommendations from the judicial qualifications commission's hearing panel.

(1) The supreme court may accept, reject, or modify in whole or in part the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the commission and it may order that the justice or judge be subjected to appropriate discipline, or be removed from office with termination of compensation for willful or persistent failure to perform judicial duties or for other conduct unbecoming a member of the judiciary demonstrating a present unfitness to hold office, or be involuntarily retired for any permanent disability that seriously interferes with the performance of judicial duties. Malafides, scienter or moral turpitude on the part of a justice or judge shall not be required for removal from office of a justice or judge whose conduct demonstrates a present unfitness to hold office. After the filing of a formal proceeding and upon request of the investigative panel, the supreme court may suspend the justice or judge from office, with or without compensation, pending final determination of the inquiry.

(2) The supreme court may award costs to the prevailing party.

(d) REMOVAL POWER.—The power of removal conferred by this section shall be both alternative and cumulative to the power of impeachment.

(e) PROCEEDINGS INVOLVING SUPREME COURT JUSTICE.— Notwithstanding any of the foregoing provisions of this section, if the person who is the subject of proceedings by the judicial qualifications commission is a justice of the supreme court of Florida all justices of such court automatically shall be disqualified to sit as justices of such court with respect to all proceedings therein concerning such person and the supreme court for such purposes shall be composed of a panel consisting of the seven chief judges of the judicial circuits of the state of Florida most senior in tenure of judicial office as circuit judge. For purposes of determining seniority of such circuit judges in the event there be judges of equal tenure in judicial office as circuit judge the judge or judges from the lower numbered circuit or circuits shall be deemed senior. In the event any such chief circuit judge is under investigation by the judicial qualifications commission or is otherwise disqualified or unable to serve on the panel, the next most senior chief circuit judge or judges shall serve in place of such disqualified or disabled chief circuit judge.

(f) SCHEDULE TO SECTION 12.—

(1) Except to the extent inconsistent with the provisions of this section, all provisions of law and rules of court in force on the effective date of this article shall continue in effect until superseded in the manner authorized by the constitution.

(2) After this section becomes effective and until adopted by rule of the commission consistent with it:

a. The commission shall be divided, as determined by the chairperson, into one investigative panel and one hearing panel to meet the responsibilities set forth in this section.

b. The investigative panel shall be composed of:

1. Four judges,

2. Two members of the bar of Florida, and

3. Three non-lawyers.

c. The hearing panel shall be composed of:

1. Two judges,

2. Two members of the bar of Florida, and

3. Two non-lawyers.

d. Membership on the panels may rotate in a manner determined by the rules of the commission provided that no member shall vote as a member of the investigative and hearing panel on the same proceeding.

e. The commission shall hire separate staff for each panel.

f. The members of the commission shall serve for staggered terms of six years.

~~g. The terms of office of the present members of the judicial qualifications commission shall expire upon the effective date of the amendments to this section approved by the legislature during the regular session of the legislature in 1996 and new members shall be appointed to serve the following staggered terms:~~

~~1. Group I.—The terms of five members, composed of two electors as set forth in s. 12(a)(1)c. of Article V, one member of the bar of Florida as set forth in s. 12(a)(1)b. of Article V, one judge from the district courts of appeal and one circuit judge as set forth in s. 12(a)(1)a. of Article V, shall expire on December 31, 1998.~~

~~2. Group II.—The terms of five members, composed of one elector as set forth in s. 12(a)(1)c. of Article V, two members of the bar of Florida as set forth in s. 12(a)(1)b. of Article V, one circuit judge and one county judge as set forth in s. 12(a)(1)a. of Article V shall expire on December 31, 2000.~~

~~3. Group III.—The terms of five members, composed of two electors as set forth in s. 12(a)(1)c. of Article V, one member of the bar of Florida as set forth in s. 12(a)(1)b., one judge from the district courts of appeal and one county judge as set forth in s. 12(a)(1)a. of Article V, shall expire on December 31, 2002.~~

g.~~h.~~ An appointment to fill a vacancy of the commission shall be for the remainder of the term.

h.~~i.~~ Selection of members by district courts of appeal judges, circuit judges, and county court judges, shall be by no less than a majority of the members voting at the respective courts' conferences. Selection of members by the board of governors of the bar of Florida shall be by no less than a majority of the board.

i.~~j.~~ The commission shall be entitled to recover the costs of investigation and prosecution, in addition to any penalty levied by the supreme court.

j.~~k.~~ The compensation of members and referees shall be the travel expenses or transportation and per diem allowance as provided by general law.

NO. 6
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
ARTICLE I, SECTION 28
(Legislative)

Ballot Title: PROHIBITION ON PUBLIC FUNDING OF ABORTIONS; CONSTRUCTION OF ABORTION RIGHTS.—

Ballot Summary: This proposed amendment provides that public funds may not be expended for any abortion or for health-benefits coverage that includes coverage of abortion. This prohibition does not apply to an expenditure required by federal law, a case in which a woman suffers from a physical disorder, physical injury, or physical illness that would place her in danger of death unless an abortion is performed, or a case of rape or incest.
This proposed amendment provides that the State Constitution may not be interpreted to create broader rights to an abortion than those contained in the United States Constitution. With respect to abortion, this proposed amendment overrules court decisions which conclude that the right of privacy under Article I, Section 23 of the State Constitution is broader in scope than that of the United States Constitution.

Full Text:

ARTICLE I
DECLARATION OF RIGHTS

SECTION 28. Prohibition on public funding of abortions; construction of abortion rights.—

(a) Public funds may not be expended for any abortion or for health-benefits coverage that includes coverage of abortion. This subsection does not apply to:

(1) An expenditure required by federal law;

(2) A case in which a woman suffers from a physical disorder, physical injury, or physical illness, including a life-endangering, physical condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself, which would, as certified by a physician, place the woman in danger of death unless an abortion is performed; or

(3) A pregnancy that results from rape or incest.

(b) This constitution may not be interpreted to create broader rights to an abortion than those contained in the United States Constitution.

NO. 8
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
ARTICLE I, SECTION 3
(Legislative)

Ballot Title: RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.—

Ballot Summary: Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution providing that no individual or entity may be denied, on the basis of religious identity or belief, governmental benefits, funding or other support, except as required by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, and deleting the prohibition against using revenues from the public treasury directly or indirectly in aid of any church, sect, or religious denomination or in aid of any sectarian institution.

Full Text:

ARTICLE I
DECLARATION OF RIGHTS

SECTION 3. Religious freedom.—There shall be no law respecting the establishment of religion or prohibiting or penalizing the free exercise thereof. Religious freedom shall not justify practices inconsistent with public morals, peace, or safety. Except to the extent required by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, neither the government nor any agent of the government may deny to any individual or entity the benefits of any program, funding, or other support on the basis of religious identity or belief. ~~No revenue of the state or any political subdivision or agency thereof shall ever be taken from the public treasury directly or indirectly in aid of any church, sect, or religious denomination or in aid of any sectarian institution.~~

NO. 9
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
ARTICLE VII, SECTION 6
ARTICLE XII, SECTION 32
(Legislative)

Ballot Title: HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR SURVIVING SPOUSE OF MILITARY VETERAN OR FIRST RESPONDER.—

Ballot Summary: Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to authorize the Legislature to provide by general law ad valorem homestead property tax relief to the surviving spouse of a military veteran who died from service-connected causes while on active duty or to the surviving spouse of a first responder who died in the line of duty. The amendment authorizes the Legislature to totally exempt or partially exempt such surviving spouse's homestead property from ad valorem taxation. The amendment defines a first responder as a law enforcement officer, a correctional officer, a firefighter, an emergency medical technician, or a paramedic. This amendment shall take effect January 1, 2013.

Full Text:

ARTICLE VII
FINANCE AND TAXATION

SECTION 6. Homestead exemptions.—

(a) Every person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner, or another legally or naturally dependent upon the owner, shall be exempt from taxation thereon, except assessments for special benefits, up to the assessed valuation of twenty-five thousand dollars and, for all levies other than school district levies, on the assessed valuation greater than fifty thousand dollars and up to seventy-five thousand dollars, upon establishment of right thereto in the manner prescribed by law. The real estate may be held by legal or equitable title, by the entireties, jointly, in common, as a condominium, or indirectly by stock ownership or membership representing the owner's or member's proprietary interest in a corporation owning a fee or a leasehold initially in excess of ninety-eight years. The exemption shall not apply with respect to any assessment roll until such roll is first determined to be in compliance with the provisions of section 4 by a state agency designated by general law. This exemption is repealed on the effective date of any amendment to this Article which provides for the assessment of homestead property at less than just value.

(b) Not more than one exemption shall be allowed any individual or family unit or with respect to any residential unit. No exemption shall exceed the value of the real estate assessable to the owner or, in case of ownership through stock or membership in a corporation, the value of the proportion which the interest in the corporation bears to the assessed value of the property.

(c) By general law and subject to conditions specified therein, the Legislature may provide to renters, who are permanent residents, ad valorem tax relief on all ad valorem tax levies. Such ad valorem tax relief shall be in the form and amount established by general law.

(d) The legislature may, by general law, allow counties or municipalities, for the purpose of their respective tax levies and subject to the provisions of general law, to grant an additional homestead tax exemption not exceeding fifty thousand dollars to any person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner and who has attained age sixty-five and whose household income, as defined by general law, does not exceed twenty thousand dollars. The general law must allow counties and municipalities to grant this additional exemption, within the limits prescribed in this subsection, by ordinance adopted in the manner prescribed by general law, and must provide for the periodic adjustment of the income limitation prescribed in this subsection for changes in the cost of living.

(e) Each veteran who is age 65 or older who is partially or totally permanently disabled shall receive a discount from the amount of the ad valorem tax otherwise owed on homestead property the veteran owns and resides in if the disability was combat related, the veteran was a resident of this state at the time of entering the military service of the United States, and the veteran was honorably discharged upon separation from military service. The discount shall be in a percentage equal to the percentage of the veteran's permanent, service-connected disability as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. To qualify for the discount granted by this subsection, an applicant must submit to the county property appraiser, by March 1, proof of residency at the time of entering military service, an official letter from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs stating the percentage of the veteran's service-connected disability and such evidence that reasonably identifies the disability as combat related, and a copy of the veteran's honorable discharge. If the property appraiser denies the request for a discount, the appraiser must notify the applicant in writing of the reasons for the denial, and the veteran may reapply. The Legislature may, by general law, waive the annual application requirement in subsequent years. This subsection shall take effect December 7, 2006, is self-executing, and does not require implementing legislation.

(f) By general law and subject to conditions and limitations specified therein, the Legislature may provide ad valorem tax relief equal to the total amount or a portion of the ad valorem tax otherwise owed on homestead property to the:

(1) Surviving spouse of a veteran who died from service- connected causes while on active duty as a member of the United States Armed Forces.

(2) Surviving spouse of a first responder who died in the line of duty.

(3) As used in this subsection and as further defined by general law, the term:

a. "First responder" means a law enforcement officer, a correctional officer, a firefighter, an emergency medical technician, or a paramedic.

b. "In the line of duty" means arising out of and in the actual performance of duty required by employment as a first responder.

ARTICLE XII
SCHEDULE

SECTION 32. Ad valorem tax relief for surviving spouses of veterans who died from service-connected causes and first responders who died in the line of duty.—This section and the amendment to Section 6 of Article VII permitting the legislature to provide ad valorem tax relief to surviving spouses of veterans who died from service-connected causes and first responders who died in the line of duty shall take effect January 1, 2013.

NO. 10
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
ARTICLE VII, SECTION 3
ARTICLE XII, SECTION 32
(Legislative)

Ballot Title: TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION.—

Ballot Summary: Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to:
(1)Provide an exemption from ad valorem taxes levied by counties, municipalities, school districts, and other local governments on tangible personal property if the assessed value of an owner's tangible personal property is greater than $25,000 but less than $50,000. This new exemption, if approved by the voters, will take effect on January 1, 2013, and apply to the
2013 tax roll and subsequent tax rolls.
(2) Authorize a county or municipality for the purpose of its respective levy, and as provided by general law, to provide tangible personal property tax exemptions by ordinance. This is in addition to other statewide tangible personal property tax exemptions provided by the Constitution and this amendment.

Full Text:

ARTICLE VII
FINANCE AND TAXATION

SECTION 3. Taxes; exemptions.—

(a) All property owned by a municipality and used exclusively by it for municipal or public purposes shall be exempt from taxation. A municipality, owning property outside the municipality, may be required by general law to make payment to the taxing unit in which the property is located. Such portions of property as are used predominantly for educational, literary, scientific, religious or charitable purposes may be exempted by general law from taxation.

(b) There shall be exempt from taxation, cumulatively, to every head of a family residing in this state, household goods and personal effects to the value fixed by general law, not less than one thousand dollars, and to every widow or widower or person who is blind or totally and permanently disabled, property to the value fixed by general law not less than five hundred dollars.

(c) Any county or municipality may, for the purpose of its respective tax levy and subject to the provisions of this subsection and general law, grant community and economic development ad valorem tax exemptions to new businesses and expansions of existing businesses, as defined by general law. Such an exemption may be granted only by ordinance of the county or municipality, and only after the electors of the county or municipality voting on such question in a referendum authorize the county or municipality to adopt such ordinances. An exemption so granted shall apply to improvements to real property made by or for the use of a new business and improvements to real property related to the expansion of an existing business and shall also apply to

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tangible personal property of such new business and tangible personal property related to the expansion of an existing business. The amount or limits of the amount of such exemption shall be specified by general law. The period of time for which such exemption may be granted to a new business or expansion of an existing business shall be determined by general law. The authority to grant such exemption shall expire ten years from the date of approval by the electors of the county or municipality, and may be renewable by referendum as provided by general law.

(d) Any county or municipality may, for the purpose of its respective tax levy and subject to the provisions of this subsection and general law, grant historic preservation ad valorem tax exemptions to owners of historic properties. This exemption may be granted only by ordinance of the county or municipality. The amount or limits of the amount of this exemption and the requirements for eligible properties must be specified by general law. The period of time for which this exemption may be granted to a property owner shall be determined by general law.

(e)(1) By general law and subject to conditions specified therein, twenty-five thousand dollars of the assessed value of tangible personal property is ~~subject to tangible personal property tax shall be~~ exempt from ad valorem taxation. Tangible personal property is also exempt from ad valorem taxation if the assessed value of such property is greater than twenty-five thousand dollars but less than fifty thousand dollars.

(2) A county or municipality may, for the purposes of its respective tax levy, provide additional tangible personal property tax exemptions by ordinance, subject to this subsection and as provided in general law.

(f) There shall be granted an ad valorem tax exemption for real property dedicated in perpetuity for conservation purposes, including real property encumbered by perpetual conservation easements or by other perpetual conservation protections, as defined by general law.

(g) By general law and subject to the conditions specified therein, each person who receives a homestead exemption as provided in section 6 of this article; who was a member of the United States military or military reserves, the United States Coast Guard or its reserves, or the Florida National Guard; and who was deployed during the preceding calendar year on active duty outside the continental United States, Alaska, or Hawaii in support of military operations designated by the legislature shall receive an additional exemption equal to a percentage of the taxable value of his or her homestead property. The applicable percentage shall be calculated as the number of days during the preceding calendar year the person was deployed on active duty outside the continental United States, Alaska, or Hawaii in support of military operations designated by the legislature divided by the number of days in that year.

ARTICLE XII
SCHEDULE

SECTION 32. Tangible personal property; ad valorem tax exemption.—The amendment to Section 3 of Article VII providing that property is exempt from tangible personal property tax if the assessed value of such property is greater than twenty-five thousand dollars but less than fifty thousand dollars shall take effect January 1, 2013, and applies to assessments for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2013.

NO. 11
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
ARTICLE VII, SECTION 6
(Legislative)

Ballot Title: ADDITIONAL HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION; LOW-INCOME SENIORS WHO MAINTAIN LONG-TERM RESIDENCY ON PROPERTY; EQUAL TO ASSESSED VALUE.—

Ballot Summary: Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to authorize the Legislature, by general law and subject to conditions set forth in the general law, to allow counties and municipalities to grant an additional homestead tax exemption equal to the assessed value of homestead property if the property has a just value less than $250,000 to an owner who has maintained permanent residency on the property for not less than 25 years, who has attained age 65, and who has a low household income as defined by general law.

Full Text:

ARTICLE VII
FINANCE AND TAXATION

SECTION 6. Homestead exemptions.—

(a) Every person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner, or another legally or naturally dependent upon the owner, shall be exempt from taxation thereon, except assessments for special benefits, up to the assessed valuation of twenty-five thousand dollars and, for all levies other than school district levies, on the assessed valuation greater than fifty thousand dollars and up to seventy-five thousand dollars, upon establishment of right thereto in the manner prescribed by law. The real estate may be held by legal or equitable title, by the entireties, jointly, in common, as a condominium, or indirectly by stock ownership or membership representing the owner's or member's proprietary interest in a corporation owning a fee or a leasehold initially in excess of ninety-eight years. The exemption shall not apply with respect to any assessment roll until such roll is first determined to be in compliance with the provisions of section 4 by a state agency designated by general law. This exemption is repealed on the effective date of any amendment to this Article which provides for the assessment of homestead property at less than just value.

(b) Not more than one exemption shall be allowed any individual or family unit or with respect to any residential unit. No exemption shall exceed the value of the real estate assessable to the owner or, in case of ownership through stock or membership in a corporation, the value of the proportion which the interest in the corporation bears to the assessed value of the property.

(c) By general law and subject to conditions specified therein, the Legislature may provide to renters, who are permanent residents, ad valorem tax relief on all ad valorem tax levies. Such ad valorem tax relief shall be in the form and amount established by general law.

(d) The legislature may, by general law, allow counties or municipalities, for the purpose of their respective tax levies and subject to the provisions of general law, to grant either or both of the following ~~an~~ additional homestead tax exemptions:

(1) An exemption not exceeding fifty thousand dollars to any person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner and who has attained age sixty-five and whose household income, as defined by general law, does not exceed twenty thousand dollars; or-

(2) An exemption equal to the assessed value of the property to any person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate with a just value less than two hundred and fifty thousand dollars and who has maintained thereon the permanent residence of the owner for not less than twenty-five years and who has attained age sixty-five and whose household income does not exceed the income limitation prescribed in paragraph (1).

The general law must allow counties and municipalities to grant these ~~this~~ additional exemptions ~~exemption~~, within the limits prescribed in this subsection, by ordinance adopted in the manner prescribed by general law, and must provide for the periodic adjustment of the income limitation prescribed in this subsection for changes in the cost of living.

(e) Each veteran who is age 65 or older who is partially or totally permanently disabled shall receive a discount from the amount of the ad valorem tax otherwise owed on homestead property the veteran owns and resides in if the disability was combat related, the veteran was a resident of this state at the time of entering the military service of the United States, and the veteran was honorably discharged upon separation from military service. The discount shall be in a percentage equal to the percentage of the veteran's permanent, service-connected disability as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. To qualify for the discount granted by this subsection, an applicant must submit to the county property appraiser, by March 1, proof of residency at the time of entering military service, an official letter from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs stating the percentage of the veteran's service-connected disability and such evidence that reasonably identifies the disability as combat related, and a copy of the veteran's honorable discharge. If the property appraiser denies the request for a discount, the appraiser must notify the applicant in writing of the reasons for the denial, and the veteran may reapply. The Legislature may, by general law, waive the annual application requirement in subsequent years. This subsection shall take effect December 7, 2006, is self-executing, and does not require implementing legislation.

NO. 12
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
ARTICLE IX, SECTION 7
(Legislative)

Ballot Title: APPOINTMENT OF STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT TO BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM.—

Ballot Summary: Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to replace the president of the Florida Student Association with the chair of the council of state university student body presidents as the student member of the Board of Governors of the State University System and to require that the Board of Governors organize such council of state university student body presidents.

Full Text:

ARTICLE IX
EDUCATION

SECTION 7. State University System.—

(a) PURPOSES. In order to achieve excellence through teaching students, advancing research and providing public service for the benefit of Florida's citizens, their communities and economies, the people hereby establish a system of governance for the state university system of Florida.

(b) STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM. There shall be a single state university system comprised of all public universities. A board of trustees shall administer each public university and a board of governors shall govern the state university system.

(c) LOCAL BOARDS OF TRUSTEES. Each local constituent university shall be administered by a board of trustees consisting of thirteen members dedicated to the purposes of the state university system. The board of governors shall establish the powers and duties of the boards of trustees. Each board of trustees shall consist of six citizen members appointed by the governor and five citizen members appointed by the board of governors. The appointed members shall be confirmed by the senate and serve staggered terms of five years as provided by law. The chair of the faculty senate, or the equivalent, and the president of the student body of the university shall also be members.

(d) STATEWIDE BOARD OF GOVERNORS. The board of governors shall be a body corporate consisting of seventeen members. The board shall operate, regulate, control, and be fully responsible for the management of the whole university system. These responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to, defining the distinctive mission of each constituent university and its articulation with free public schools and community colleges, ensuring the well-planned coordination and operation of the system, and avoiding wasteful duplication of facilities or programs. The board's management shall be subject to the powers of the legislature to appropriate for the expenditure of funds, and the board shall account for such expenditures as provided by law. The governor shall appoint to the board fourteen citizens dedicated to the purposes of the state university system. The appointed members shall be confirmed by the senate and serve staggered terms of seven years as provided by law. The commissioner of education, the chair of the advisory council of faculty senates, or the equivalent, and the chair of the council of student body presidents, which council shall be organized by the board of governors and consist of all the student body presidents of the state university system ~~president of the Florida student association, or the equivalent~~, shall also be members of the board.

08/30

AGENDA
LAFAYETTE COUNTY
SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL SESSION,
AUGUST 30, 2012

TO: Lafayette County School Board
FROM: Thomas Lashley, Superintendent of Schools
SUBJECT: Special Session, August 30, 2012, in the School Board Administration Building immediately following workshop

I. CALL TO ORDER
II. CONSENT ITEMS
A. Personnel: (1) Recommendations-Substitute Teachers
III. ACTION ITEMS
A. Appoint school board member to serve on value adjustment board
B. Appoint business owner to serve on value adjustment board
C. Approve freezing employee step increment for 2012-2013 school year
IV. ADJOURN

ANY PERSON WHO DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THE BOARD WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT SUCH MEETING WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, AND THAT, FOR SUCH PURPOSE, HE OR SHE MAY NEED TO INSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED.

08/30

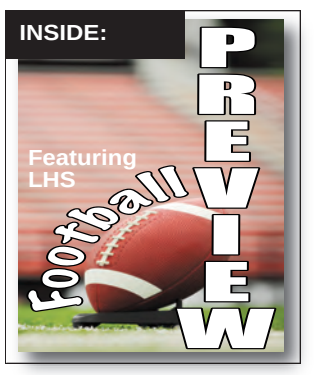
AGENDA LAFAYETTE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP, AUGUST 30, 2012

TO: Lafayette County School Board
FROM: Thomas Lashley, Superintendent of Schools
SUBJECT: School Board Workshop, August 30, 2012, in the School Board Administration Building beginning at 6:00 p.m.

School Board Workshop to discuss 2012-2013 Budget

Any person who decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at such meeting will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to insure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

08/30



Pearson: Excited about upcoming football season

Continued From Page 1A

to the outcome of those games and the season.

Three of the young men, Green, Brown and Rosalio were sporting colorful mohawk hairstyles that caught the attention of everyone in the room.

When asked for the reason behind the fancy new do's, Lafayette County Sheriff Brian Lamb, who was sitting next to them, said, "It gets them pumped up and makes them excited and work harder."

The boys all agreed and added that they enjoy the breeze they feel through their helmets that the hairstyle affords them. They said a lot of people think it looks cool.

Pearson said last season ended on a bad note.

"We didn't play well over at Trenton at all," he said. "We had some issues, but we also didn't play good and they played real good."

Last season's disappointment, however, was motivation to do even better this year, he said.

"We've had one of our best off season's since I've been coaching," said Pearson.

All of the players, he said, went to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) camp a few weeks ago.

"It kind of solidified our whole summer," Pearson said. "It's a very expensive proposition to carry everybody over to FCA Camp."

The camp costs $165 per player and Pearson said local churches stepped up to the plate and sponsored 27 of them.

"It was a tremendous thing for us. We feel like going into this season, we're fired up and ready to go. We've put a lot of time and effort in and I think we're better in every area. I think we're bigger, stronger, and faster, Pearson said."

Pearson said they have a lot of weapons on offense and a solid defense with most of the same players as last year. The Hornets have three district games this year with Hamilton, Jefferson and Branford. If they win two out of three of them, then they advance to the playoffs.

"We made the playoffs seven years in a row," Pearson said. "We've got a hard schedule this year, but it is what it is. We're excited and we're ready to get going."

Florida Department of Education

Enclosed you will see charts that go out annually regarding percentages of students scoring at levels 1 and 2 on the FCAT, as well as percentages of students retained in grades three through ten. Some additional information should be taken into acct. with this data. First, we are now using FCAT version 2.0 which is somewhat different and more difficult than previous versions. Second, there are new cut scores between levels, which changes where a student would be based on levels versus in the past. Third, the FCAT Writing test had major issues this year, prompting the state to change what was an acceptable score (above level 2) for that test, which is included as one of the parameters for this year's acct. Fourth, with FCAT version 2.0, there are now EOCs (end of course exams), which are in place of parts of the FCAT which are no longer given.

Essentially, the culmination of these changes is that grade 3 scores and percentages of students in level 1 and 2 increased markedly for this year (which is problematic), and scores at levels 1 and 2 for the high school end of the spectrum got better, with less students in levels 1 and 2, and more of the students at levels 3 or higher. It is important to note that this trend has played itself out all over the state, and to also note that curricular changes are being made at the elementary levels to deal with this trend. Also, we will be moving to the new nationwide Common Core standards by 2014, so this whole scoring arena will change with a new test, and new scoring mechanisms coming in.

Students Scoring as Level 1 and Level 2 on the Reading Portion of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT)

Grade	Total Number Tested	Number Scoring at Level 1	Percent Scoring at Level 1	Number Scoring at Level 2	Percent Scoring at Level 1	Number Scoring at Levels 1 and 2	Percent Scoring at Levels 1 and 2
3	95	18	18.95%	40	42.11%	58	61.05%
4	94	14	14.89%	30	31.91%	44	46.81%
5	92	5	5.43%	31	33.7%	36	39.13%
6	92	17	18.48%	24	26.09%	41	44.57%
7	70	8	11.43%	24	34.29%	32	45.71%
8	86	11	12.79%	25	29.07%	36	41.86%
9	84	19	22.72%	27	32.14%	46	54.76%
10	74	16	21.62%	20	27.03%	36	48.65%

Students Retained (not promoted) in Grades 3 through 10

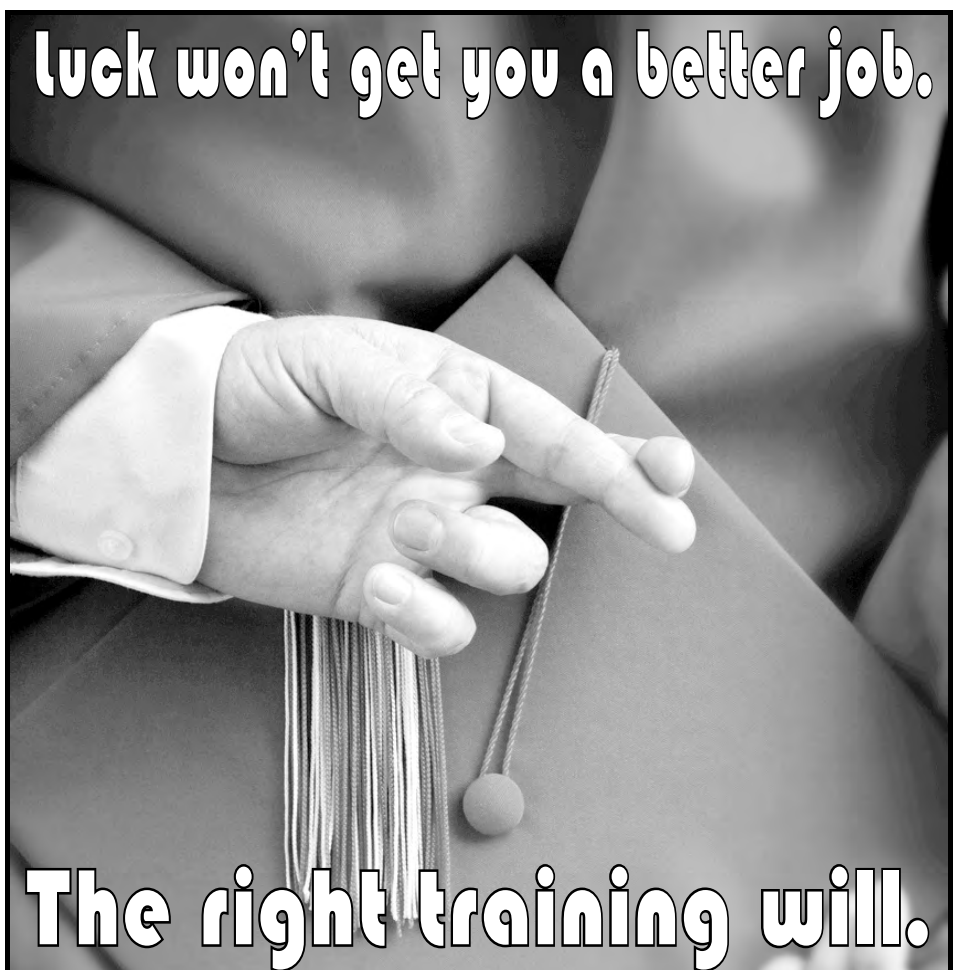
Grade	Number Retained	End of Year Membership	Percent Retained
3	6	95	6.32%
4	6	94	6.38%
5	2	92	2.17%
6	0	92	0%
7	0	70	0%
8	0	86	0%
9	0	84	0%
10	0	74	0%

Number of Students Promoted for Good Cause, by Category of Exemption

ELL/LEP Students with less than 2 Years in ESOL	Students with Disabilities (SWD) not tested on FCAT per IEP	Students Passin Alternative Assessment	Students Demonstrating Proficiency through Portfolio	SWD Retained Once with 2+ Years of Remediation	Studens Retained Twice with 2 or More Years of Remediation	Total Promoted with Cause
0	2	2	0	7	0	11

760959

Student Progression Plan File



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