Florida’s economic crisis worsening

As the effects of the sub-prime meltdown sharpen and spread, analysts predict a very rough year for home and business owners in the state. A Florida real-estate guru and economist expects massive increases in foreclosures and further declines in the housing market.

The price of precious metals is surging, however, pointing to reckless monetary policy as the main culprit.

Increasing foreclosures and further declines in the housing market will ripple through the entire economy.

Home equity has largely been converted to debt, with little savings available for consumer spending,” McCabe explained. The resulting combination of lowered consumer spending and out-of-control inflation is driving jobs out of the state as businesses go under, making the housing crisis even worse. Florida is actually shrinking.

“Household Van Lines, Atlas, United and others have announced for the first time in their history that Florida has more households leaving the state than entering,” McCabe said, as if to prove how bad the prob-

Continued on page 7

Obscure government documents suggest that local, state and federal coffers have massive investments of public money in the private sector that the public doesn’t know about.

Plan to cap state & local gov’t moves forward

Two subcommittees approved the historic effort to reign-in taxes and spending in Florida, but supporters of the amendment warn that special interests are trying to weaken the proposal.

Continued on page 4

Exposing Hidden Treasure

Obscure government documents suggest that local, state and federal coffers have massive investments of public money in the private sector that the public doesn’t know about.

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THE LIBERTY SENTINEL

The Sentinel strives to provide information about current events from a freedom-oriented perspective to donors and readers in the North-Central Florida region.

We have a dedicated staff of volunteers and we operate on a budget provided by the generous contributions of our readers and business sponsors. With a combination of free-lance writers around the world, local reporters, and generous authors and publications who donate their material, The Liberty Sentinel contains a wide variety of information and opinions to encourage lively debate and discussion.

The Sentinel adheres to the highest principles of journalistic integrity and will always run corrections if something is reported inaccurately. We try to offer an assorted array of views so readers can hear about issues from several perspectives and form their own conclusions.

The goal of education and the principles enshrined in our Constitution guide our organization to do the job the press is supposed to do: guard liberty, expose corruption, and keep the public informed. From the local level to Tallahassee and from D.C. to the international arena, the Liberty Sentinel covers issues of importance to all citizens while steadfastly upholding the values of life, liberty and property.

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From the Editor:
Dear readers,
Thanks to you, The Liberty Sentinel is printing thousands more copies every issue and sending papers to subscribers across North-Central Florida, the state and the nation. Your letters are inspiring, so thanks again.

The media giants that decide what news most people will hear don’t always have your best interest at heart, and they aren’t usually reporting with your rights in mind either. The USA today wondered last month on its cover what the meaning of the simple phrase: “the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed” was.

If they can’t figure that out, you have to ask yourself what other complicated news related to your safety, health, freedom and well-being they might miss out on next. If they can’t even understand a simple phrase in the Constitution, can you really expect them to hold politicians accountable for violating a more complicated clause therein?

If it makes you wonder too, you’re reading the right newspaper. Spread the word, pass it on, get a subscription and get involved. Freedom isn’t free, don’t you know...

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The Editor

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Foreign & Domestic
Marion considering ‘waste-to-energy’ system

Supporters claim the technology could convert county’s waste to electricity with little impact on environment. Detractors note that similar projects have been led by private industry, but the proposal in Marion would cost taxpayers at least $100 million.

Ocala - The Marion County Commission moved forward with a plan on March 3 that would sideline the proposed expansion of the Baseline Landfill. The county will explore a proposal put forward by Commissioner Andy Kesselring to instead build a waste-to-energy system using state of the art “plasma arc” technology.

The goal of this system would be to permanently solve Marion County’s long-term waste disposal needs with a cutting-edge system that can turn our waste into usable energy, all while having a negligible impact on our environment. In addition, the county’s waste disposal consultant “22Li” claims the plant will be a source of $5 million to $12 million in revenue, from energy production and “tipping fees.”

But this high-tech solution doesn’t come without a hefty price tag—estimates range from 100 to 180 million dollars, depending on the size. The Marion Commission will pay for that cost by quadrupling the annual residential solid waste assessment from 76 dollars per household today to 301 dollars by 2011, with an initial jump of 50 dollars followed by 25 dollar per-year increases until the fee reaches the target goal. Each increase would have to be approved separately.

Similar projects are already underway in Tallahassee and St. Lucie County, but neither is yet operational. Geoplasma, LLC is the company behind the plant in St. Lucie County, and the company expects to recoup its $425 million investment, funded by bonds, within 20 years. Revenue comes from the sale of electricity and slag, the residual material waste. “The company has assumed full responsibility for interest on the bonds, St. Lucie County won’t pay a dime,” according to USA Today.

There are also several similar plants operational in Canada, Japan, and Europe.

The proposal is not without potential pitfalls either. A similar plan was terminated in Hawaii after careful review.

“After thorough evaluations, including intensive meetings with the proposers to review technical components of their plans, we concluded that utilizing plasma arc/torch would significantly increase the cost of waste disposal for Oahu and would not provide any environmental advantages to justify such cost,” said Frank Doyle, Director of The City Department of Environmental Services of Oahu.

In addition, the Oahu report concluded that “landfilling of residues, or slag, would still be necessary. Proposals included intentions to reuse the residues, but there was insufficient evidence of feasibility. The largest operational facility in Japan is landfilling the residue from the plant, and thus far there is no evidence that the residue material has been accepted for use or application by any business or operation.”

The Oahu report further stated, “The current state of the technology poses potential high risks of interrupted service operations due to technical complications.” It also pointed out that despite the glowing claims made by the industry, “There are no plasma arc facilities of reasonable capacity, such as the 100,000 tons-per-year facility proposed for Honolulu, operating commercially anywhere in the world.”

Some environmental scientists have warned that the residual substances may contain toxic heavy metals, and there are other potential environmental problems. The plasma arc technology uses both coke and coal to maintain heat, which contributes to the higher operating cost and depletion of non-renewable fuel resources.

The Liberty Sentinel hopes that as this discussion progresses, Marion County commissioners will weigh the risks, benefits, and costs of this proposal with the need for a long-term solution to Marion’s waste disposal needs and a prudent use of the citizens’ hard-earned tax dollars. If the claims about usable byproducts and energy are factual, a private industry solution seems an attractive path to follow.

Local Events

March 15, Sat.
Donna S. Temple — 7:00pm, Archer Historic Downtown, Vintage Campers & motor coaches, free concerts, bake sale, BBQ, arts & crafts, community-wide yard sales. (352) 495-2603 www.archerchamber.com/tincantourist.html

March 17, Mon.
Taxpayers Action Group of Marion County — 6:00pm, All Marion taxpayers invited, but space is limited. Call Roy at 352-840-0009 to reserve a seat. Ocala Public Library. www.TAGMarionCounty.org

March 18–19, Tues & Wed.
We the People March on Tallahassee — In conjunction with the Constitution Society. Trip to Tallahassee in order to let government servants know they expect them to follow the Constitution. For more information please contact Dean Taffel at (561) 687-8002

March 22, Sat.
ASME Car Show — 9am–1pm, University of Florida, Commuter Lot. Supports the American Cancer Society, by the UF American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

March 24, Mon.
John Birch Society — 7:00pm, Gainesville Bailey’s Scuba & Watersports (3405-B NW 97th Blvd) www.LloydBaileysScuba.com (352) 332-0738

March 25–26, Tues & Wed.
RLC at the Capitol: Annual Grassroots Lobbying — Meet with dozens of legislators, including the leadership of both houses and the governor’s office, as part of the Republican Liberty Caucus of Florida. For more info or to RSVP, call John Hallman at (561) 392-4432. www.RLCFLL.org

March 28, Fri.
Libertarian Party of Alachua County — 7:00pm, Gainesville, Kazbor’s Grille (4860 NW 39th Ave.) www.LPAalachua.org (352) 327-3443

March 29, Sat.
6th Annual Gainesville Jazz Festival — 8:00pm, Andreas Oberg in Concert. Mr. Han’s Restaurant & Night Club (6944 NW 10th Pl # 1)

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Florida Taxpayer Protection Amendment gaining steam

Continued from front page

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Florida’s economy in particular is in dire straights as taxes soar to all-time highs.

While many candidates have presented their dire straights as taxes soar to all-time highs, supporters of the measure have presented their own version of the amendment, the state ranked 43rd nationally in economic growth per capita. Since then, they’ve ranked 7th. Colorado also ranked 33rd nationally in job growth, but since TABOR, they’ve ranked 6th.

Today, taxes in Florida are at an all time high. In the last few years state and local taxes have captured at least 10% of the state’s income.

Some citizens are being taxed out of their homes and others are being taxed out of the state entirely,” noted Quiggle. “Had this proposal already been in place, the average Alachua County resident would’ve saved over $500 in taxes last year.”

Supporters in Florida want to hold their government officials accountable for the current economic situation. The TPA would do just that, they say. Requiring voter approval for tax increases would severely undermine politicians’ ability to waste money. Investing surplus government revenue in emergency funds would also help deal with downturns in the “business cycle.” If the funds already have enough, the money would be returned to taxpayers.

“No special interests are pressuring these commissioners to weaken our proposal,” according to Americans For Prosperity. “Currently, it looks like it is going to be very close.”

If The TPA is approved by Florida’s Budget Reform Commission, Tallahassee better hold on in November. Angry Floridians burdened by skyrocketing property taxes say they have had enough. One Florida economist compared the impending showdown to rich parents not handing any more money to their spoiled, overspending, unappreciative kids. They will moan, cry, kick, and scream - but eventually they will learn to value and conserve other people’s money.

Before adopting its own version of the amendment, Colorado ranked 43rd nationally in economic growth per capita. Since then, they’ve ranked 7th. Colorado also ranked 33rd nationally in job growth, but has since ranked 6th.

While most economists believe the current crisis is due to the sub-prime mortgage debacle and the Fed’s monetary policy, there is more to the story. The mortgage crisis has exposed the irresponsible fiscal behavior of our local, state and national governments.

Government’s fiscal and economic activities can be compared to a person’s finances. Everybody has to budget their income; when people want something but don’t have the money for it, they either borrow or save. If an individual perpetually spends more than he or she makes, it will eventually lead to bankruptcy. All levels of government work in a similar fashion, the only difference being that they can always take more of your money. When governments overspend or need to repay a debt caused by past overspending, they simply give themselves more income. This translates to higher taxes for you and me. People have to follow different rules though - since most can’t get a raise whenever they want, they have to manage their income properly.

So, how can government become more fiscally responsible? The answer for many Floridians is this amendment. The plan is Florida’s version of a Tax and Expenditure Limitation like Ronald Reagan’s proposition 1 and Colorado’s Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR). While proposition 1 was defeated at the polls in 1973, TABOR has been in place in Colorado since 1992 producing very favorable results. Before adopting its own version of the amendment, the state ranked 43rd nationally in economic growth per capita. Since then, they’ve ranked 7th.

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“It would also prohibit any tax or fee hikes unless they met voter approval.

The amendment would help revitalize the economy. “Our real estate market and our economy cannot continue to thrive unless we enact necessary and substantial tax reform,” Quiggle said. “The Taxpayer Protection Amendment is the only proposal that has proven to limit the excessive growth of government and ensure fiscal responsibility on both the state and local level.”

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The Real Obama: A warning to liberals and conservatives

Ward Hegock
Sentinel Staff Writer

It is strange the way the winds of politics sweep some off their feet, and others to great heights. Barack Obama is a powerful speaker, and certainly the media darling of this campaign.

He has the support of Hollywood insiders like David Geffen and George Clooney, and has won political support from such seemingly diverse corners of the ideological spectrum as the Edward Kennedy and Matthew Dowd, Bush’s chief campaign strategist in 2004.

Obama is selling himself as the “change” candidate, but what do we really know about him? Actor Ben Affleck said that he supported Obama, but wasn’t quite sure where he stood on the issues. Shouldn’t we all know what kind of “change” a presidential candidate stands for before we let him lead the nation?

Obama is an attractive candidate and America is crying out for something different. Senator Obama certainly looks different. “Obama” certainly sounds different. He’s not a “Clinton” or a “Bush,” which is certainly a relief for some. But is he really different? If he is so different, why then do the powers of the status quo seem so pleased with a man that we really know so little about?

In this short column I’ve tried to peel back the veil on the Senator’s rise to power. Frankly, I’m not very impressed.

Obama is being sold as an anti-war candidate. Calling for an immediate end to the War in Iraq may be popular, but peace activists may be sorely disappointed with the plan. President Obama has for the American military.

He’s not calling for an end to military adventurism; he is just calling for an end to this particular war at this particular time. In his own words he called for “a phased withdrawal of American forces with the goal of removing all combat brigades from Iraq by March 31st, 2008”. While he has since pushed back his target date for withdrawal until 16 months after he enters office, he has not changed his plan and says he intends to “leave behind residual force.”

He goes further to say “This administration’s first Secretary of Defense proudly acknowledged that he had inherited the greatest fighting force in the nation’s history. Six years later, he handed over a force that has been stretched to the breaking point, understaffed, and struggling to repair its equipment. Two-thirds of the Army is now rated “not ready” for combat. 88% of the National Guard is not ready to deploy overseas, and many units cannot respond to a domestic emergency. Our men and women in uniform are performing heroically around the world in some of the most difficult conditions imaginable. But the war in Afghanistan and the ill-advised invasion of Iraq have clearly demonstrated the consequences of underestimating the number of troops required to fight two wars and defend our homeland. That’s why I strongly support the expansion of our ground forces by adding 65,000 soldiers to the Army and 27,000 Marines.”

Senator Obama is still leaving open the option of future use of preemptive force, saying “No President should ever hesitate to use force – unilaterally if necessary – to protect ourselves and our vital interests when we are attacked or imminently threatened. But when we use force in situations other than self-defense, we should make every effort to garner the clear support and participation of others.”

Talk like that might send peace activists scurrying across the country. For all Americans, Senator Obama has no plan to stem the falling dollar, no plan to fully fund Social Security, no plan to achieve energy independence, and no plan to stop the destruction of the middle class at the hands of transnational globalist entities like the UN, NAFTA, The WTO, and the coming North American Union.

It’s great that Senator Obama looks different from the other candidates, but it is more important that he be different; glossy oratory wrapped around more of the same just won’t cut it.
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Gold soars as critics blast Fed for Florida’s housing crisis, rampant inflation

Continued from front page

Economy & State

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Another alarming economic indicator was released by the University of Florida recently: consumer confidence is at its lowest point in 16 years. “Consumer confidence in Florida reflects the same conditions we had during the recession of 1990-91,” said Chris McCabe, director of UF’s Survey Research Center at the Bureau of Economic and Business Research. “The country is not far behind.”

Builders, developers and their suppliers will continue to go out of business as “walk-out cancellations” of condo buyers rise to over 50 percent, McCabe forecasted. He said 2008 would be remembered as the year of the “great condo meltdown,” particularly in South Florida.

More positive analysts like Lawrence Yun believe that the market will hit rock bottom and start improving sometime this year. The senior economist with the National Association of Realtors expects an eventual up-tick in prices and sales as developers cut back inventory by up to 70 percent and the declining dollar brings in new foreign buyers.

McCabe disagreed, saying it was only the “bottom of the third inning in this correction cycle. Look out below.”

He also explained that the market fiasco will keep the legal establishment busy.

“Expect indictments of lenders, appraisers, brokers and speculators for mortgage and real estate fraud,” McCabe said after warning that fallout from the housing market would lead to a massive increase in lawsuits as well.

The Problem:

Despite the tremendous damages inflicted on Florida’s economy, there will be money made as the dust settles. According to many economists, is the unconstitutional Federal Reserve.

Even the Founding Fathers warned against such an institution. “I believe that banking institutions are more dangerous to our liberties than standing armies,” said Thomas Jefferson. “If the American people ever allow private banks to control the issue of their currency, first by inflation, then by deflation, the banks and corporations that will grow up around them will deprive the people of all property until their children wake-up homeless on the continent their fathers conquered.”

The current economic mess started when central-planners at the Federal Reserve Bank cut interest rates and flooded the economy with artificially cheap credit. As always, bubbles form in various markets while inflation runs wild and the new money tries to find a place to settle. There could be no more perfect example of a bubble than Florida’s over-heated housing market of several years ago. The current economic crisis is a perfect example of what happens when a bubble pops. For an example of the effects of inflation, consider the surge in gasoline prices in recent years. The increased money supply leads to higher prices and reduced purchasing power in the global market as more dollars chase the same amount of goods and services.

This particular crisis traces its origins to former Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan’s reign. His policies pumped enormous sums of money into the economy that were created out of thin air. This resulted in an artificial over-abundance of easy credit that misled the housing market and led to overproduction. When the market began to correct itself, Florida ended up with a lot of houses it didn’t need.

The establishment is once again trying to pin the blame on free-markets and the housing crisis, yet another common symptom of a bubble than Florida’s over-heated housing market. “The economy with artificially cheap credit. As always, bubbles form in various markets while inflation runs wild and the new money tries to find a place to settle.”

The solution:

With the economy floundering, pressure is mounting as critics of the Federal Reserve point out that the “boom-and-bust” business cycle is actually created by its manipulations of the money supply. CNBC’s economics guru Jim “Mad Money” Kramer recently blasted the institution and called for an official investigation into its role in the current economic crisis.

The value of houses continues to slide despite rampant inflation as the bubble created by the Fed’s market manipulations deflates. Experts forecast another bad year for Florida’s real estate market with some estimates predicting declines in prices of 10 to 15 percent.

The price of gold has more than doubled and continues to rise as reckless monetary policy destroys the value of the dollar.

Rep. Ron Paul (R-TX) has also been a fierce critic, saying the Fed’s “inflation tax” was hurting the poor and destroying the middle class. He also accused the Fed of being more secretive than even the C.I.A. during an appearance on Kramer’s CNBC show.

Paul has introduced a resolution in Congress that would abolish the Federal Reserve and restore sound, constitutional money. A wide coalition of supporters has started inundating representatives with instructions to shut down the private bank, but the special interests that control it will not give up without a fight.

Paul’s bill is in line with the beliefs of Thomas Jefferson, who said; “The issuing power [of money] should be taken from the banks and restored to the people, to whom it properly belongs.”

Millions of Americans understand the cause of the nation’s inflationary woes and have petitioned to have the Fed shut down. But if Congress won’t listen, gold and other precious metals still offer the ability to serve as both an alternative medium of voluntary exchange and as a safe haven from this period of rampant inflation.

The Liberty Sentinel gladly accepts gold or silver as payment for advertisements and subscriptions. Trading of precious metals among those protesting the Federal Reserve System is becoming more common around Florida and the nation. As a bill in Congress stands poised to abolish the Fed, activists are urging citizens to lobby their representatives to support Ron Paul’s proposal. Until then, they say, try to avoid using paper Federal Reserve Notes. Though it may seem like a distant goal, activists say that as the economy continues to worsen, real money will prevail.

The current economic crisis is a perfect example of what happens when a bubble pops. For an example of the effects of inflation, consider the surge in gasoline prices in recent years. The increased money supply leads to higher prices and reduced purchasing power in the global market as more dollars chase the same amount of goods and services.

This particular crisis traces its origins to former Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan’s reign. His policies pumped enormous sums of money into the economy that were created out of thin air. This resulted in an artificial over-abundance of easy credit that misled the housing market and led to overproduction. When the market began to correct itself, Florida ended up with a lot of houses it didn’t need.

The establishment is once again trying to pin the blame on free-markets and the housing crisis, yet another common symptom of a bubble than Florida’s over-heated housing market. “The economy with artificially cheap credit. As always, bubbles form in various markets while inflation runs wild and the new money tries to find a place to settle.”

The solution:

With the economy floundering, pressure is mounting as critics of the Federal Reserve point out that the “boom-and-bust” business cycle is actually created by its manipulations of the money supply. CNBC’s economics guru Jim “Mad Money” Kramer recently blasted the institution and called for an official investigation into its role in the current economic crisis.
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Standing for Family and Freedom

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“...and of Right to be Free and Independent States ...”
— Declaration of Independence, 1776

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The John Birch Society endorses the U.S. Constitution as the foundation of our national government, and works toward educating and activating Americans to abide by the original intent of the Founding Fathers. We seek to awaken a sleeping and apathetic people concerning the designs of those who are working to destroy our constitutional Republic.

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— Fred D. Marshall

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— Former Congressman Helen Chenoweth-Hage of Idaho

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“PRESERVING INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS & NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE

“...Our God-given Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed.”
— Declaration of Independence, 1776

The John Birch Society endorses the timeless principles of the Declaration of Independence. The Society also labors to warn against and expose the forces that seek to abolish U.S. independence, build a world government, or otherwise undermine our personal liberties and national independence.

The Declaration of Independence established the independence of both the original 13 American colonies and these united States of America that they together formed a decade later.

The Declaration proclaimed that our personal rights come from God, not from government.

The John Birch Society endorses the U.S. Constitution as the foundation of our national government, and works toward educating and activating Americans to abide by the original intent of the Founding Fathers. We seek to awaken a sleeping and apathetic people concerning the designs of those who are working to destroy our constitutional Republic.
Florida Celebrates Home-Schooling, California Court Bans It

Republican Governor Charlie Crist issues ‘Home Education Week’ proclamation for the Sunshine State one day after a controversial ruling by ‘activist’ judges in California sparks outrage.

Christopher Arrias & Alex Newman
Sentinel Staff Writers

As Florida prepares to officially celebrate home-schooling this March, home-schoolers in California are preparing for a legal battle with the state government. A judge there ruled last month that only officially accredited teachers may educate children, citing a decades-old ruling that said children must be taught in “loyalty to the state.”

“Parents do not have a constitutional right to home-school their children,” Justice H. Walter Croeskey asserted in the Feb. 28 opinion, blatantly ignoring the 9th amendment to the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence which states that people’s natural rights are derived from their Creator, not a piece of paper.

The unanimous ruling by California’s 2nd District Court of Appeal stated that everyone between the ages of six and eighteen must be instructed by somebody “who holds a valid state teaching credential for the grade being taught.”

The decision has made activists in Florida very nervous despite Governor Charlie Crist declaring ‘Home Education Week’ from March 30 to April 6. Florida’s regulations are still being finalized, more complicated and numerous as school officials continue to terminate “non-approved” home-schooling programs. They also say judicial activism is out of control.

Gov. Crist did help assuage some Floridians fears when he stated that “home education has become an official educational option in the State of Florida” and that “parents have ultimate authority and responsibility for the care and education of their children.” He also noted that Floridians benefit from reduced educational costs.

“Most children who are home-educated exhibit self-confidence, good citizenship, excepting academic test scores, higher than average college attendance and success,” Crist said in his proclamation, citing two decades worth of studies. The words in the recent ruling are uncanonical.

“A nationwide survey conducted by The Barna Group shows that 80 percent of Christian families still send their children to government schools. Only nine percent of those children were found to believe in moral absolutes. About 83 percent of them had adopted a “Marxist-Socialist worldview,” the organization reported.

A homeschooled counterpart. This lies in direct contrast to claims that only exposure to campus life leads to proper socialization.

Despite all this, a nationwide survey conducted by The Barna Group shows that 80 percent of Christian families still send their children to government schools. Only nine percent of those children were found to believe in moral absolutes. About 83 percent of them had adopted a “Marxist-Socialist worldview,” the group reported. This court case is also not the first time California has dealt with the home-schooling issue. In 2002 the state Superintendent of Public Instruction claimed home education was illegal and that she would “enforce the law.” Right now there are no provisions in California law that address home-schooling, but activists fear proposals like Schwarzenegger’s could include new regulations and restrictions. The state is also in the process of striking current laws that prohibit government teachers from “indoctrinating students” and “promoting communism” at school.

One activist noted that the series of attacks reminded him of a quote by Vladimir Lenin: “Give me just one generation and I’ll transform the whole world.”

Home-schooling is still a popular option in Florida as the dismal results of government education continue becoming more apparent. According to the state’s department of education, over 50,000 families educate their children at home - almost 3,000 just in Alachua and Marion counties alone. On top of that, critics of the figures claim they are under-reported by as much as half. A newspaper article called “Home Schooling a Growing Trend” from Daytona Beach’s ‘Florida News-Journal’ reports that about 40 percent of Florida home-schoolers register as private schools under different Florida statutes, meaning that the state’s figures are probably well below the true amount.

Even one of Florida’s icons - Tim Tebow - was home-schooled until reaching college. Last year he led the Florida Gators to a national championship as he became the first under-classman to win the Heisman Trophy. After the California court’s ruling, activists in Florida are warning parents to stay on guard against similar attacks here. The national movement is also pushing for a Constitutional Amendment to the Senate considers a U.N. treaty that critics say would further strip away the rights of parents.

The words in the recent ruling are uncannily similar to notions expressed by officials in Germany; a country where homeschooling has been outlawed since 1938 under a law adopted when the state decided that only it could educate the minds of German youth. Everyone knows how that turned out.

For the sake of Florida’s home-schoolers, activists are encouraging everyone to get involved. It may be home-schoolers today - but
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Continued from front page

logic behind a mixed economy is that these two forces must be balanced so that neither gains dominance over the other. A mixed economy is a mixture of free markets and controls with no principles, rules, or theories to define either. Since the introduction of controls necessitates and leads to further controls, it is an unstable, explosive mixture which, ultimately, has to repeal the controls or collapse the controls, wrote free-market philosopher Ayn Rand when she warned of the dangers of a mixed economy.

A growing number of activists supported by a gargantuan body of evidence now fear that Rand’s most dire predictions are coming to pass. The evidence contained in the CAFRs suggests that the public and private sectors are far more intertwined than most of us could possibly imagine.

So where do all of our tax dollars go? We’ve all heard stories of $500-dollar hammers and multi-million dollar “bridges to nowhere” – extravagant wastes to be sure, but our government also collects a lot of money. When our tax money goes unspent, it is often invested into our private financial markets.

Determining exactly how much money our government collects takes more than a little guessing. The “official” proclamation is that all levels of government take in 26% of GDP (gross domestic product), but that figure doesn’t include moneys set aside for pensions, Social Security and Medicare. Nor does it include fees, fines, and other types of income like interest and dividends on monies that have been invested in the public name. One thing is certain – when we combine the dollars collected and held at all levels of government, the figures are truly astronomical. For example, the 2005-06 CAFR for Florida’s Turnpike reveals total assets of $802,767,800. Even small counties like Alachua County showed evidence of almost half a billion dollars in assets. When we consider the dollars invested in these financial reports, the total numbers are less ascertainable governmental accounting principles than that of GDP (gross domestic product), but that figure doesn’t include moneys set aside for pensions, Social Security and Medicare. Nor does it include fees, fines, and other types of income like interest and dividends on monies that have been invested in the public name. One thing is certain – when we combine the dollars collected and held at all levels of government, the figures are truly astronomical. For example, the 2005-06 CAFR for Florida’s Turnpike reveals total assets of 5.7 billion dollars – no, that’s not a typo. The 2005-06 CAFR for the St. Johns Water Management District which provides the water for both Gainesville and Ocala states “assets exceeded total liabilities by $802,767,800”. Even small counties in Florida had CAFRs for the same year listing billions of dollars in assets.

Advocates of smaller government consider that there is a CAFR for every institution, including small counties and other institutional structures, including public and private sectors. There are also separate CAFRs for quasi-governmental entities like the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, school boards, and special taxing districts. That is a lot of CAFRs. Yet “Google,” named for a number followed by 100 zeros, turned up a scant 12 news stories for all of those Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports.

To be fair, CAFRs aren’t very exciting reading material. They are as dry and clinical as one would expect accounting spreadsheets to be. But the virtual absence of even a passing mention of these important financial documents in the news media is at least strange, especially given the amount of money they involve, and even more so considering that copies of these CAFRs are routinely sent out to all the major media outlets.

Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports are public knowledge, especially so here in Florida where the “Sunshine Laws” demand openness in government. But some inquisitive Florida residents claim that examining our CAFRs in great detail led to some unwelcome repercussions. A concerned Floridian spoke with The Liberty Sentinel about his investigation into the Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports of Florida and a few of its municipalities.

The events he alleges took place were truly shocking. Simple, lawful requests for information were responded to with intimidation and profanity. He and his colleagues were followed. Cars parked outside their homes, monitoring their every move. Threatening phone calls were received at all times of the day and night. It was only when his children were threatened that he decided to drop his pursuit.

Before he backed off, he managed to find some interesting data. Most notably, he found discrepancies between the declared assets of the year 2002 and 2000, which due to no accounting principles (generally accepted governmental accounting principles or GAGAP), were reduced by as much as 50%.

“Where did the other 50% of the people’s assets go?” he asked. “When you speak to the public regarding these funds, they call them ‘rainy day’ funds – when they talk amongst themselves they refer to it as their money,” he said. Pressured by their persistence, one state accountant is alleged to have explained that the hidden money was used for secret governmental operations. They also claim that they were never able to find that man again.

At least think that this is all the realm of cloak and dagger, the first week of March 2008 saw the opening of the Graham Center for Public Policy on the campus of the University of Florida. The press release on the event essentially confirms and admits virtually every “theory” presented here.

“As the role of governments continues to increase (socialism) as the line between public and private sectors blur (corporatism), and as globalization continues at a rapid pace (the destruction of our laws and sovereignty), it becomes important for students to acquire an appreciation for the issues governments address, the moral dilemmas they face, and the solutions they seek.”

These flagrant attacks on American laws and traditions are all taken as a given, while the most basic and obvious question remains unasked, are these fundamental changes a good idea for our nation and should they be allowed to continue unhindered?

Walter J. Burien, nicknamed “CAFR Man,” led the charge to expose this shadow economy, so carefully hidden in plain sight back in the late ’90s. “I’ve had thousands of phone calls from people all over the country,” he said. “I’ll get a call from New York, Walter, I just got the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for our city. They’re making $100 million more a year than they’re showing on their budget report.” I’ll say, ‘Don’t worry about it.’ I’ll get a call from Anchorage Alaska, Walter, I just got our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for our city. They’re making $100 million more a year than they’re showing on their budget report.” I’ll say, ‘Don’t worry about it.’ I said, ‘Stop focusing on in a leaf, branch or tree in the forest. Start focusing in on the forest; understand the principle of operation of the forest. There are ten thousand of these operations going on all over the country.”

Florida blogger “Todd and in Charge” summarizes, “It is a mistake to look at government and big business as binary, or distinct, at least as these concepts apply to America today. There is a ruling class of elites that run certain very large global businesses. They utilize their positions of power to ensure their business goals are met and stability is maintained. This is most evident in countries like China or Russia. In America, it is only slightly more obscured. These elites move effortlessly in and among business, government, and other institutional structures, including think tanks and more global institutional concerns like Carlyle Group.”

The shocking extent of public ownership in private equity can be seen as troubling for any number of reasons, but the public ownership of the media is particularly disturbing. The First Amendment protects the freedom of the press, but how can the press be free if controlling interest in the media is held by the government, and that control is buried beneath the cloaked and interlocking web of financial entanglements contained in the CAFRs? If corporatism/fascism leaves ownership in private hands, yet subjects that ownership to heavy regulation by the state, and communism is defined by outright state ownership of businesses, then what should the current system be known as – a system wherein the state both (largely) owns and regulates the activities of private businesses, and the truly private sector is an ever dwindling and endangered minority? It seems we need a new word.

The United States of America fought World War II to stop the spread of fascism. We shouldered the cold war for another 50 years to keep the tyranny of communism at bay. Now when it seems the failed doctrines of statism and tyranny should be left to the dustbins of history, our leaders are moving forward at breakneck speed to embrace those very same systems we sacrificed so much to guard against. What is it that really won the battles of the last century?”

What can we conclude from all of this? How much of our private markets does our government own? No one knows for sure, but some have put that figure (conservatively) near 50%. How much money is that? Somewhere in the neighborhood of 40 to 60 trillion dollars, a figure which doesn’t include the vast land and natural resources also held by the government. There is both good news and bad news in this information. The good news is that our government, far from being broke and facing the threat of the & the solutions they seek.”

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The Battle for the Family: No-Fault Divorce at Fault

SHELBY SHARPE
Guest Columnist

The greatest war ever waged in this country is currently under way against the American family, and it’s increasing in intensity. So far, more families have been destroyed as a result of this war than all of the military conflicts in which this nation has been engaged. All indications are that the casualty rate will increase over the balance of this century. This is a strange war because the number one “battleground” giving rise to the greatest number of casualties is largely uncontested territory.

No-fault divorce is the number one destroyer of families. No-fault divorce statutes are present in all fifty states and none are currently being seriously tested within the court system. Tragically, the Church in America is virtually silent concerning this issue. None of the major denominations have targeted this matter with a view to pressuring legislators to remedy it. Last year in the state of Texas, several Legislative committees investigated the impact of gambling on the family. Yet, there was not one legislative committee in the United States which did an investigation of the impact of no-fault divorce on the family. Such an investigation would reveal, among many other things, the cost to the taxpayers in the proliferation of courts and their support personnel to handle these divorces and related matters such as child support and custody issues. A return to the fault-based divorce laws would eliminate perhaps four-fifths of these courts and their personnel.

Economically, divorce is a disaster for the family. One of the spouses, if not both, usually end up facing extremely difficult financial problems. The cost of dealing with the physical and emotional problems arising out of divorce are astronomical. Adults and children involved in a divorce have a greater than 90 percent probability that they will experience medical problems requiring medication or treatment attributable to the stresses of the divorce.

Job performance and educational development are also significantly affected. Recently, a teacher of remedial reading for elementary school students asked her students how many of them had experienced a divorce of their parents. Every hand went up in a class of twenty-six. None of these students has a learning disability necessitating remedial reading help.

Chief Justice Brown, writing for the Supreme Court of Texas, in Griswry vs. Reib, declared that: “The contract of marriage is the most important of all transactions. It is the very basis of the whole fabric of civilized society.” These words were written in 1913 and are as true today as they were then. We have seen the consequences of not honoring the wisdom of these words.

In 1948, the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Texas wrote in Sheffield vs. Sheffield one of the most prophetic messages on the importance of protecting marriage: Chief Justice Hemphill noted that the happiness of married life “depends upon its indissolubility” and that government is charged with responsibility that no marriage is dissolved for “light or trivial causes.” This is precisely what has happened in the United States. Judge Hemphill made the concluding observation that when husbands and wives know they cannot end their relationship for frivolous reasons, “they become good husbands and wives; for necessity is a terrible master in teaching the duties it imposes.”

The absurdity of a “no-fault” approach to settling marital disputes is clearly demonstrated by the results if such reasoning were to be translated to other contractual (covenental) relationships. What if the civil government, ordained by God to enforce voluntary contracts, simply ceased to do so? What if all questions concerning business contracts were to be resolved on the basis of “no-fault transactions,” in which no party could be held responsible for its actions?

It is precisely this question of responsibility which is at issue here. God holds all people accountable for their behavior before Him (II Corinthians 5:10); the civil government, as the administrator of God’s justice in the public arena, must also view its citizenry as responsible for their actions. If a divorce is to be granted, it must be because the behavior of one (or both) of the spouses is in such clear violation of God’s standard as to warrant the dissolution of the marriage; not because “they want out,” “found somebody else,” or have “irreconcilable differences.”

Will God’s people speak out and take action or will we allow this injustice to continue unchecked? The Bible states clearly in II Chronicles 7:14 that the destiny of our nation and of the families that compose it rests upon the shoulders of believers, not the unbelievers. If we are to see the healing of our families, we must give attention to such life-threatening disorders as this. Like it or not, we will be accountable before God in this matter.

Shelby Sharpe is an attorney practicing in Fort Worth, Texas. He serves as general counsel for the Southern Baptists of Texas.

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Go to these sites often, and keep tabs on what they’re up to.

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Congressman Richard G. Renzi, from Arizona’s first congressional district, and his associates James W. Sandlin, 56, of Sherman, Texas and Andrew Beardall, 36, of Rockville, Md., Renzi’s business associate were indicted by federal authorities in late February, according to a Justice Department report obtained by the National Association of Chiefs of Police.

The indictment charges Renzi, a Republican, and Sandlin in 27 counts with honest services wire fraud, extortion and money laundering, and conspiracies to engage in these acts, based on Renzi’s active involvement in the sale of Sandlin’s property in Cochise County, Ariz. to a participant in a federal land exchange proposal.

The indictment charges that in 2005, at a time when Sandlin bought out Renzi’s interest for $200,000 and Kingman, Ariz. and that in 2003, Sandlin engaged in these acts, based on shady land deals engaged in Cochise County, Ariz. to a participant in a federal land exchange proposal.

The indictment also alleges that in 2005, at a time when Sandlin sold Renzi $700,000 in principal on the note, Renzi insisted that two separate entities do business in Arizona purchase Sandlin’s property in exchange for his support on land exchange legislation. The indictment also alleges that Renzi failed to disclose to either entity Sandlin’s $700,000 debt to him; that after the second entity purchased Sandlin’s property, Renzi failed to disclose to that group the $733,000 he received from Sandlin at the commencement and close of escrow in the spring and fall of 2005; and that Renzi failed to disclose to Congress his earnings from Sandlin in his 2005 financial disclosure statement.

Also, the indictment traces the manner in which Renzi and Sandlin used the alleged proceeds of the above unlawful activities for their own personal and business use. The remaining counts of the indictment charge Renzi and Beardall with violations of federal insurance laws, by embezzling over $400,000 in insurance premiums from the trust account of the Patriot Insurance Agency, Inc., a business owned by the Renzi family in Santa Cruz County, Ariz., to fund his first Congressional campaign in 2001 and 2002, and by subsequently making false statements to influence state regulatory investigations.

“Public corruption creates a cynicism for government and unfairly stains legions of honest public servants,” said Alice S. Fisher, Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Criminal Division. “These charges represent allegations that Congressman Renzi defrauded the public of his unbiased, honest services as an elected official.”

Among the allegations contained in the indictment, Congressman Renzi misused his public office by forcing a land sale that would financially benefit himself and a business associate, and in so doing, he betrayed the trust of the citizens of Arizona,” stated U.S. Attorney Diane J. Humeuwata. “All individuals, regardless of office or title, will be held accountable before the law. Stated FBI Special Agent in Charge John E. Lewis.

“Regardless of one’s status or position, when a public official elects to betray the public’s trust for personal gain, the very core of how and why our system of government operates is immediately and negatively impacted. Restoring the faith and trust in how our government is supposed to operate, at all levels, is of paramount concern today as is evidenced by the present indictment,” stated FBI Special Agent in Charge John E. Lewis.

Convictions for honest services wire fraud and extortion each carry a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison, a $250,000 fine or both, and a wire fraud conspiracy carries a maximum penalty of 5 years in prison, a $250,000 fine or both.

Convictions for a money laundering conspiracy and concealment money laundering each carry a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison, a fine of $500,000 or twice the value of the money at stake, or both.

A conviction for the use by Renzi and Sandlin of the alleged proceeds, known as transactional money laundering, carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison, a fine of $500,000 or twice the value of the money at stake, or both. Convictions for false statements to an insurance regulator and misappropriation of insurance premiums each carry a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison, a $250,000 fine or both, and a conspiracy to commit these insurance offenses carries a maximum penalty of 5 years in prison, a $250,000 fine or both.

Jim Kouri is the fifth vice-president of the National Association of Chiefs of Police and he’s a staff writer for the New Media Alliance.
There’s good news today

Michelle Bryant
Sentinel Contributing Writer

I’m going to give away my age here when I mention a song you might have heard recorded by Anne Murray called “A little good news.” The lyrics went something like this:

“I rolled out this morning
Kids had the mornin’ news show on
Bryant Gumbel was talkin’ ‘bout the fighting in Lebanon
Some senator was squawkin’ ‘bout the bad economy
It’s gonna get worse you see, we need a change in policy
There’s a local paper rolled up in a rubber band
One more sad story’s one more than I can stand
Just once I’d like to see the headline say
“Not much to print today, can’t find nothin’ bad to say”, because
Nobody robbed a liquor store on the lower part of town
Nobody OD’ed, nobody burned a single buildin’ down
Nobody fired a shot in anger, nobody had to die in vain
We sure could use a little good news today
I’ll come home this evenin’
I’ll bet that the news will be the same
Somebody takes a hostage, somebody steals a plane
How I wanna hear the anchor man talk about a county fair
And how we cleaned up the air, how everybody learned to care…

It peaked at #74 on the Pop chart in 1983 while hitting #1 on the Country chart. I think it did so well because it had a message that everyone could relate to. Yet, it was a song that filled our hearts with both hope and doubt at the same time. Hope that maybe- just maybe it could happen; but doubt that it ever would. Mostly because of the reality of the world we lived in. Even in the 1980’s when it was recorded, before cyberspace and cell phones, at the dawn of microwaves and microchips, we were still filled with doubt yet yearning for hope. In the twenty-first century we are no different. We still hold out for hope. We still seek - through means we deem viable - Good News.

I want to let you to know that there is good news today! It goes beyond the glass half full or half empty theory, beyond tarot cards, rabbit’s feet or four leaf clover. The Bible is full of Good News, but one specific passage I frequently find comfort in simply states: Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things (Philippians 4:8).

Clearly we are to think about the good things in our life. Fill your minds with loveliness. Think about what is true: family, love, loyalty. About what is right: friendships, honesty, freedom. About what is pure: a newborn baby, a fresh picked peach from your garden, a walk in the park, crisp mountain air. About what is admirable: your husband, a soldier that’s just returned home, a single mother, a father working two jobs. Whatever is excellent or worthy of praise. I like to sum it up to say whatever is beautiful - think on these things. Your list may be different than mine, but I promise that if you look, you’ll find the beauty in your life. Focus on those things. There is so much ugly in the world. Focus on the beautiful.

Throughout the day, especially when I’m down and out, I find myself listing the lovely, looking for the true, pure, goodness in my little world. I often steer my mind toward these things. And believe it or not, where there once was doubt, I find solace and peace. It comforts me to know there is hope - especially on those days when I really could use a little good news.

c. michelle bryant is the author of the devotional book God, are You listening? www.godareyoulistening.com

Local students battle University for transparency in public investments

The REC campaign always appealed to me because of its potential to bring together people from all sides of the political spectrum with its almost universal message. Florida’s campaign was first hatched by a handful of students who wanted to identify university investments in companies that they felt were acting unethically or illegally.

The most obvious place to begin the search was with UF’s 1.2 billion dollar endowment. We soon found out that UF has absolutely no transparency or accountability when it comes to its endowment, despite being a public university. This would seem to be in contradiction of Florida’s Sunshine laws, but UF found some creative ways around this.

You see, it’s not a public university that’s doing the investing; it’s a private corporation created by the university that’s investing the money. Actually, if you wanted to be technical, it’s a private corporation (University of Florida Investment Corporation) created by a private corporation (University Foundation) created by a public university that is investing what will always be public money.

Our initial position was that UF needs to fully open up its books to public scrutiny, but in hindsight this was a somewhat naive stance to take. UF fears transparency for two reasons, one that’s rather reasonable and another that’s quite objectionable.

The reasonable reason is that UF’s endowment has shown such amazing results (22% growth last year) that full transparency might invite copy-cat investors, thereby watering down our success. The objectionable reason is that investment transparency invites advocacy groups seeking to ensure UF’s money is not invested in such a way. Of course, at a public university, discourse about the role of the university in society (including the principles guiding its investments) is a healthy practice, but we still had to appease their first fear.

Our solution turned out to be the exact same model used by several prestigious private universities with endowments several times our size: we called for the creation of an independent committee of student, faculty, and alumni representatives to advise UF’s Board of Trustees on the responsible investment of UF’s endowment.

This elected committee would have full transparency, but would be bound not to disclose any trade secrets. Their meetings would be open to the public, and their recommendations to the Board (and Board’s responses) would be in the public domain. Additionally, the public would have full retroactive transparency, in that the entirety of the previous year’s holdings would be made available to anyone curious enough to ask for them.

We collected signatures and eventually got a referendum question on the last student government election ballot. In the election, 81% of voters indicated their support for the creation of our proposed advisory committee. And why shouldn’t they? With UF positioning itself as a leader in the area of green technology and with a mission of “operating to promote the public good,” there is a lot of room for us to examine how our investments live up to these values.

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The Bobby D Show
M > F 10am-12pm @ 89.5 FM
The Liberty Sentinel meets the Free Magnolia,

It was a pleasure meeting y’all at the Olustee Park. Hope y’all enjoyed the Free Magnolia as much as I enjoyed the Liberty Sentinel. Sorry you had to find out the hard way that our Constitution has been compromised. It is great to see the youth of America is waking up. There could be hope for us yet.

The article on voter fraud was excellent. Josef Stalin said, and I quote, “Those who cast the votes decide nothing, those who count the votes decide everything”. So as long as the votes are counted out of the sight of citizens, the elite can continue to put whatever they so desire in office, and the U.S. empire will continue on its path to becoming a third world nation.

For your readers who do not understand why when they vote the Democrats out and put in Republicans, and vise versa, nothing changes, “Our Political Systems” by Dr. A.H. Krieg is a must read. For people who think that the U.S. can survive as an empire, “Civil War Two” by Thomas W. Chittum is an eye opener.

Once again, it was a pleasure meeting y’all. I wish we could have had a little more time to talk, but things just hit the fan too fast.

Michael Creel
North Florida
League of the South

Election fraud,

I loved the article in your last issue about what really backs the U.S. Dollar.

Please check out www.VoteBankAccount.com for the future of honest elections, which is the only way we will get an honest candidate elected. Built-in independent recount, unhackable by design. The only reason election officials didn’t build an election system like this is because they want to be able to steal the election.

We are beta testing the entire audit process now, in order to be ready for November, as well as recount other “official” state/prefect results before then. I’d love to get the New Hampshire Data in here...or Precinct 14 in Texas...funny how Ron Paul’s congressional results appear in John McCain’s column in the Presidential race. Points to an unusually high level of schizophrenia in the Precinct 14 population...

Please tell your readers to put their vote in a safe place, so we can catch and prosecute the corrupt election officials for vote theft.

Marjorie Miller
Austin, Texas

Solution?

Nice paper. The only catch is the lack of solution (so far). You, me, we all still use the worthless paper currency as if it had value, while complaining about it. We all do the bidding of the “masters.” If you can help figure a way to get a universal value (life sustaining and supporting ecological reality backed totally free trade) currency into world wide distribution, that others could trade the war based currency for, where the top of the pyramid supported the bottom instead of their greedy dynastic selves at the “top,” we could universally work 6 hours per year and have our needs met. Other towns have script like this, and it works well locally. We need an international script backed by TRUTH. We still live in Plato’s Republic where artists and poets are banned. We still live in Plato’s cave and listen to his “noble lies.” We may have one life to live, and it would be nice to live it FREE.

Fred Ressler,
Hawthorne, Florida

Willie Nelson and the truth,

You guys talk about Willie Nelson and his ideas as if he wasn’t right but let me tell you that I’ve been researching this for years and he’s 100% right. Now I’m not saying I know what really happened that day either but I am saying that it is super obvious now that the government is lying and covering stuff up. Why the heck didn’t they fire people if this was incompetence? Why the heck won’t they answer simple questions? Think about it for a little while because when you do you realize that since then we have had three wars and a patriot act, everything suddenly starts to make sense. Willie is right and while I don’t appreciate the article sounding like it looks down on him though I do want to send kudos for at least talking about the issue. That is how you can tell what newspapers and radio stations are owned by the establishment because they act like we don’t exist. You admitted in your article that even the scientific polls show that people are waking up, and even though people are mad about the war it doesn’t have anything to do with what they think about that.

Anyways lots of blessings and go do some research on the internet. That patriotsques?11.com is a great Web site and if this letter gets printed please leave it in so people can figure out themselves what they think.

Jeannie Lovett
Orlando, Florida

Please send letters to the editor to editor@libertysentinel.org or by mail to Liberty Sentinel Media, Inc. P.O. Box 14973, Gainesville, Fla.
Keeping our Economy strong and creating new jobs is important for everyone that lives in Marion County. Whether you are retired or a young family entering the workforce, it is important to keep our economy growing. Ray Strickland’s goal is to create an environment that will attract and retain high paying, quality jobs to Marion County, Florida.

**Ray Strickland will vote to...**

- Provide funding to organizations that will bring quality, high paying jobs to Marion County.
- Provide tax incentives to encourage existing businesses to stay in Marion County.
- Reduce impact fees for businesses that create jobs in Marion County.
- Provide funding to assist entrepreneurs to develop their ideas to create quality jobs in Marion.

Once Ray entered the race his opponent changed his vote and took Ray’s positions by voting to fund the EDC and a permanent plan for economic development in Marion County.

The election is a year away, and we are sure that the politicians will change many votes to get re-elected. Ray wants to make Marion Better, but he understands that not all good ideas come from politicians.

**Making Marion Better** is Ray’s goal and he would like to hear your ideas. Go to [www.runray2008.com](http://www.runray2008.com) and share your ideas for **Making Marion Better**.

Ray Strickland, (R) for County Commissioner

“We must compete in a global economy. The American worker is the most productive in the world if given the opportunity.”