Advocates of Constitution Have New Plan

Floridan voters seeking change are focusing on state and local races while taking a closer look at third party candidates.

Edward Maxwell
Sentinel Staff Writer

The “R[love]ution” is far from over in Florida according to political analysts. Advocates of smaller government may not have much to cheer about in the coming presidential election, but activists have not lost hope. Though both of the major candidates for the presidency have taken stances that might alienate them from believers in the freedoms inscribed in the U.S. Constitution, voters across the state are checking out third parties, many for the first time. Additionally, they are now focusing their attention on state and local elections not dominated by the main-stream national press.

The battle shaping up for the Republican nomination in Florida’s eighth congressional district will be one to keep an eye on. Congressman Rick Keller was elected in 2000, and ran on a strict promise to serve only 3 terms. Although his third term is about to end, he is running again, on yet another promise - “I will not spend my entire career in Congress, but I will seek reelection in 2008. There is unfinished business. I will use my seniority to make the war on terror a central part of his campaign. “We must first defend America from Islamic extremists and place a renewed focus on Iran. Iran’s dictator, Mr. Ahmadinejad, recently stated that ‘a world with no America or Israel is both possible and feasible’. Iran’s dictator must be held accountable for any future terrorist actions he supports directly or indirectly.”

Candidate Greg Lewis agrees with Todd Long, at least so far as Congressman Keller’s job plans are concerned. Lewis sees the threats to liberty here at home to be at least as pressing as the ones we face over seas. “Our government is unresponsive to the needs of the American people...”

A Minor Storm Could Bankrupt Florida

As hurricane season heats up, Florida’s tax-payers could find themselves in quite a bind absent some solution.

Eli Lehrer
Sentinel Contributing Writer

Have failed to address our Nation’s challenges, putting us and our children at risk.” Todd Long promises to make the war on terror a central part of his campaign. “We must first defend America from Islamic extremists and place a renewed focus on Iran. Iran’s dictator, Mr. Ahmadinejad, recently stated that ‘a world with no America or Israel is both possible and feasible’. Iran’s dictator must be held accountable for any future terrorist actions he supports directly or indirectly.”

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Something Big is Happening

The following statement was given before the U.S. House of Representatives on July 9, 2008, by Texas Rep. Ron Paul, M.D.

Madam Speaker, I have, for the past 35 years, expressed my grave concern for the future of America. The course we have taken over the past century has threatened our liberties, security and prosperity. In spite of these long-held concerns, I have days - growing more frequent all the time - when I’m convinced the time is now upon us that some Big Events are about to occur. These fast-approaching events will not go unnoticed. They will affect all of us. They will not be limited to just some areas of our country. The world economy and political system will share in the chaos about to be unleashed.

Though the world has long suffered from the senselessness of wars that should have been avoided, my greatest fear is that the course on which we find ourselves will bring even greater conflict and economic suffering to the innocent people of the world—unless we quickly change our ways.

America, with her traditions of free markets and property rights, led the way toward great wealth and progress throughout the world as well as at home. Since we have lost our confidence in the principles of liberty, self reliance, hard work and frugality, and instead took on empire building, financed through inflation and debt, all this has...
The Liberty Sentinel is a non-partisan monthly newspaper dedicated to reporting the truth about current events from a patriotic perspective. We rely on donors and readers in the North-Central Florida region.

While we don't accept government ads, we have a dedicated staff of volunteers. We operate on a budget provided by advertising and the generous contributions of our readers. With a combination of free-lance writers around the world, local reporters, and other authors and publications that offer 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 are guided by the principles enshrined in our Constitution to do the job the press is supposed to do: guard liberty, expose corruption, and keep the public informed. That's why it's protected by the very first amendment.

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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Dear readers,

Last issue we covered some very serious issues involving judicial loyalty oaths to the laws of Florida and these United States. This month I'm happy to report that progress is being made in moving the Sunshine State into compliance.

After taking a brief vacation, the Sentinel is back to bring you the best real news and commentary around – and we're here to stay. Our coverage area will be expanding over the coming months because, while the demand for truth continues rising at alarming levels, the supply seems to be lagging sorely behind.

Money problems appear to be plaguing the whole nation and even the world, but with your help, we will continue striving to create the most value with the least amount of resources. Your generous contributions can help the Sentinel reach new readers and markets faster. It is your support that motivates us to continue the battle for freedom, faith and family, and in these seemingly troubled times, we depend on it more than ever. Please share copies of this paper with family and friends. Spread the good news and save trees while doing it – visit us online.

Thank you once again for your loyalty and rest assured, our educational mission will continue to protect the rights of individuals, families and businesses. Please don’t hesitate to contact us - we are at your service.

The editor

UPDATE: The Liberty Sentinel staff recently took a vacation that deserves an explanation. Many of the volunteers who normally help put together the publication are college students. During the summer semester, many students go home or travel, so we unfortunately were not able to complete the paper without their help. We sincerely apologize for this disruption in service, but rest assured that your subscription will not include the two months during which the staff was on vacation.
Florida has highest mortgage-fraud rate in nation

Dishonest mortgage brokers have stolen more than $85 million from consumers and lenders according to an investigation by the Miami Herald. Over 10,000 individuals with criminal backgrounds, including bank robbers and racketeers, were able to sell home loans. More than 4,000 of those passed criminal background checks despite committing crimes such as fraud and dishonest dealings that state law requires the Office of Financial Regulation to screen for.

Gov. Charlie Crist ordered an investigation and has called for tougher licensing standards in response.

University of Florida ranked #1 party school

According to the Princeton Review which polled 120,000 students, UF is now the top party school in the nation after taking that title from West Virginia University. "The fact that we have three national championships in two years is probably a major contributing factor," said UF spokesman Steve Orlando. Despite all the partying, the school’s academic record is impressive; incoming students have on average a 1300 SAT score and 4.1 weighted grade-point average.

Lawsuit alleges violation of Sunshine Law

A proposal to buy 300 square miles of everglades by the State of Florida is being called into question by attorney Dexter Lehtinen who filed a suit against the South Florida Water Management District alleging that the deal was illegally brokered in closed-door meetings. The $1.75 billion deal with U.S. Sugar Corp. may have evaded Florida’s Sunshine Law which requires that advance notice of government meetings and their agendas be made available. “I’m just trying to stop a process in which there are no answers and there’s no way to get answers,” said Lehtinen, who supports everglades restoration efforts. A spokesman for Gov. Crist noted that his office supports the deal and believes that the law was followed. If the deal does go through, U.S. Sugar will go out of business and 1,700 jobs will be lost.

Florida’s economic output in decline

The Sunshine State suffered its first quarterly economic decline in 16 years according to a report by the Wachovia Economics Group. The bank’s senior economist Mark Vitner pointed out that the decline in home values, sales and construction have had a negative effect on the state’s economy. Florida lost more jobs in June than any state. While many economists are quick to blame the housing market as if it were independent of monetary policy, bubbles created by the Federal Reserve Bank are responsible for the housing crisis in the first place according to advocates of sound money.

Lee County School Board spent $72,000 on “training” trip to Sin City

Ft. Meyers sent 38 educators on a training trip to Las Vegas at tax-payer expense, according to Americans for Prosperity. The training lasted 15 hours but attendees spent five days at Caeser’s Palace. Among those who attended were the principle’s secretary and a book keeper. AFP noted that it would have been cheaper to bring the trainer to Florida, which also would have allowed all of the teachers to receive instruction as opposed to just those who traveled to Vegas. “If we really believe this training is so effective, why not spend the money to bring a trainer here and teach more of the educators. You’d save money and teach more people,” said Adam Guillette, the State director of AFP.

Alachua County joins nationwide “Stop on Red” week

The Alachua County Department of Public Safety is encouraging everyone to honor August 3-9, 2008 as “National Stop on Red Week” by slowing down and stopping at red lights. The National Campaign to Stop Red Light Running is seeking to decrease deaths and injuries due to traffic accidents caused by red light running. “Traffic crashes are the single most significant cause of preventable death and injury in North America,” according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. The Institute also states that, “in 2006 in the U.S., as many as 171,000 crashes, 144,000 injuries and 887 fatalities were attributed to red light running.” Many of these injuries and deaths are pedestrians and other vehicle drivers and passengers.
Nancy Grant Released From Prison

A grandmother of four that could have spent the rest of her life in prison for what lawyers call “unlicensed practice of law” was finally released last month after being arrested on February 19. “I just need to be with my family for awhile,” she said after leaving DeSoto County jail.

Nancy Jo Grant, a 55-year-old dental assistant, was convicted of 19 violations of a Florida statute that she maintains were made obsolete by a constitutional revision. A few years ago “unlicensed practice of law” was a misdemeanor, not a felony, the prosecutor told the Sentinel for a story in October. Assistant State Attorney Don Hartley continued, explaining that “It doesn’t usually go this far because people normally stop when they are approached by the Bar.”

An activist in Oregon fighting similar battles against “corrupt” use of the law responded enthusiastically after receiving a phone call from Grant. “I was almost unable to talk, the tears were filling my eyes, and I could hardly speak from happiness to hear her voice,” said Sherree Lowe. “She wanted me to express her thanks for all the prayers and thoughts from all of you. She did tell me they withheld most of the mail I sent.”

Grant was ordered never to file another document into the court system. “What I did was file a racketeering and extortion complaint in federal court with my son and I listed as Plaintiffs. Although the state of Florida lawfully can not punish a federal litigant, I was still arrested,” Grant said. “My [driver’s] license is now suspended till the $33,600 is paid in full and I am still ordered to make monthly payments of $236 a month anyway.”

Not one of the 19 people who supposedly filed a complaint testified against her. “All of them said I only helped move their cases forward because they had been languishing in jail for months, even years, because their right to speedy trial had been waived by their attorneys without their knowledge or permission. The federal racketeering/extortion lawsuit in federal court was laying open their operations which we, my son and I, had first hand knowledge of, being victims of illegal arrests,” Grant said.

According to Florida Judicial Accountability News, Grant’s February arrest was actually arrest for violation of probation because she filed an appeal to overturn her convictions of unlicensed practice of law. The mediation hearing was scheduled for February 21 in Ft. Myers, Court of Appeals on a federal racketeering/extortion lawsuit and civil rights violations complaint, thus the arrest was timed for her incarceration, so that she would get a DENIED/DISMISSED for failure to appear at her own hearing with the appeals court.

“I couldn’t attend because I was arrested. The case was dismissed shortly afterwards, ‘without prejudice’ meaning I can file to reopen it,” Grant said. Grant was taken back to court on May 8, 2008, where she was sentenced by Judge Diana Moorland to 180 days with credit for time served, but the 15 year probation and the $33,600 fine would still stand.

Florida Virtual School Costs Taxpayers Less and Its Students Perform Better

TALLAHASSEE — Florida TaxWatch Research released a new report on the efficacy and efficiency of the Florida Virtual School. “A Comprehensive Assessment of Florida Virtual School” was undertaken by the Center for Educational Performance and Accountability (CEPA), a Florida TaxWatch Center of Excellence, in order to explore to what degree Florida Virtual School (FLVS) offers an efficient, taxpayer accountable alternative and supplemental system of education.

The study examined student demographics and achievement and cost-effectiveness, finding that during the 2004-05 and 2005-06 school years FLVS students consistently outperformed their counterparts in Florida’s traditional middle and high schools on such measures as grades, Advanced Placement scores and FCAT scores. All FLVS teachers are certified, and their pay is tied to student performance, making FLVS the only performance-based education system in the state. The study also found that FLVS is a bargain for Florida taxpayers. Largely because it has no expenses related to transportation or construction and maintenance of physical facilities, FLVS is able to offer computer-delivered instruction at a lower per-student cost than traditional schools.

While there is always room for improvement in any organization, through this study, FLVS has proven itself to be a viable and innovative educational endeavor that works,” said Dominic M. Calabro, President and CEO of Florida TaxWatch. “It has also shown that it has the capacity to meet the increasing challenge and demand for many more students, which can also help offset some of the incredible costs of Florida’s multibillion-dollar constitutional class size amendment.”

The study also found that a significant portion of Florida Virtual School students withdrew from their classes, and outlines a number of factors that may contribute to this high withdrawal rate.

The study was funded by a leading grant from the BellSouth Foundation with additional funding and data support from UCompass. Florida TaxWatch CEPA Executive Director Betty Coxe served as the report’s principal author with assistance from Senior Research Analyst Necadi Aydin, Ph.D. and several others.
National headlines at a glance

Supreme Court agrees with Constitution

In a landmark victory for gun rights advocates, the Supreme Court has ruled that a Washington DC regulation banning the private possession of handguns is in violation of the second amendment. Heller vs District of Columbia marks a rare instance of the Supreme Court examining the very meaning of the second amendment, specifically the debate as to gun ownership being either an individual or “collective” right. Justice Antonin Scalia wrote the majority opinion, and was joined by Justices Alito, Thomas, Roberts, and Kennedy in affirming the individual right of gun ownership. The mayor of D.C. is now busy at all levels to defend myself and my household in my own home, said Dick Heller, the lead plaintiff in the case.

Government bail-out ahead for "public-private" mortgage companies?

According to congressional researchers, the Treasury’s plan to rescue Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac could cost American taxpayers $25 billion. Analysts say that “turmoil” at the two companies was pushing up interests rates for home buyers. Opponents of the bail out note that this arrangement is forcing taxpayers to bear the risks while giving the profits to private investors, but supporters of the proposal claim that the institutions are “too important” to fail. “The plan has faced criticism on Capitol Hill for exposing taxpayers to potentially huge losses,” reported the Financial Times.

Gay Activist sues Bible publishers

According to Bradley Fowler, Bible verses that condemn homosexuality violate his constitutional rights and have caused him emotional pain and mental instability. The gay activist filed a suit in US District Court against Zondervan Publishing House Corp. seeking $60 million, and another suit for $10 million against Tennessee-based Thomas Nelson Publishing. The judge turned down his request for a court appointed attorney, saying “The Court has some very genuine concerns about the nature and efficacy of these claims.” The 39-year-old Michigan man claims that the Bible’s condemnation of homosexuality has led to a poor relationship with his family and periods of “demoralization, chaos, and bewilderment.”

Former Congressman plans to take the White House as Libertarian candidate

The Libertarian Party has nominated former Republican Congressman Bob Barr as its candidate for president for the 2008 election. “I’m sure we will emerge here with the strongest ticket in the history of the Libertarian Party,” Barr stated in his victory speech shortly after being selected as the Party’s nominee. “I want everybody to remember that we only have 163 days to win this election. We cannot waste one single day.” More than 650 Libertarian delegates met in Denver from May 22 till the 26 for the 2008 Libertarian National Convention. After six rounds of voting Sunday afternoon, Barr was selected as the Party’s presidential nominee. The Libertarian Party is America’s third largest political party, founded in 1971 as an alternative to the two main political parties.

Congressional hearings investigate Bush Administration

The House Judiciary Committee has opened a hearing titled “Executive Power and Its Constitutional Limitations” as it investigates what Chairman John Conyers calls “credible and substantial” evidence of wrongdoing in the Bush administration. “We do not intend to go away until we achieve the accountability that Congress is entitled to and the American people deserve,” Conyers stated. The committee’s ranking Republican, Lamar Smith, said “This hearing will not cause us to impeach the president. It will only serve to impeach our credibility.” In order to hold a genuine impeachment hearing, the Judiciary Committee must obtain authorization from a House vote, but speaker Nancy Pelosi still maintains that impeachment is “off the table.” According to reports, the hearing room was “packed” with impeachment advocates, many of whom applauded the stinging criticism and accusations made against Bush. Other activists reportedly remained outside shouting “Change.”

Missouri’s Attorney General Attempts to Silence Pro-Life Citizens

The Democratic-controlled Missouri Attorney General’s office is appealing a decision authorizing specialty license plates bearing the message “Choose Life.” Though the specialty plate program promotes a score of other designs from private interest groups, including agricultural, environmental, and religious societies, two pro-choice state senators vetoed the message and caused denial of Choose Life’s application. Despite a ruling that the rejection of Choose Life’s application constituted discrimination on the basis of viewpoint, state officials refused to abandon their attempt to stifle conservative speech. Undeterred by the failure of its request to halt the production of “Choose Life” plates pending the current appeal, the Attorney General’s office insists on selectively censoring this “Choose Life” message. Eagle Forum Education and Legal Defense Fund, founded by grassroots political activist Phyllis Schlafly, stands against suppression of pro-life free speech. Pointing to the successful installation of over 400,000 Choose Life license plates in 17 states across the nation, as well as ample judicial precedent for the freedom and individual nature of speech through license plate slogans, Eagle Forum urges the Eighth Circuit to affirm the lower court’s decision.
Interview with candidate Lorraine Sherman

In the May issue of The Liberty Sentinel we ran a story on Lorraine Sherman who is running for judge in Alachua county. The story that was published had several errors in it and we apologize. The following is the piece as it was intended to run:

ERIK MACLEAN
Sentinel Staff Writer

In the May issue of the Liberty Sentinel we ran a story on Lorraine Sherman who is running for judge in Alachua county. The story that was published had several errors in it and we apologize. The following is the article as it was intended to run:

LIBERTY SENTINEL: How long have you been practicing law?
SHERRMAN: I have been practicing law for over 12 years. Currently I practice family and criminal law and I have also been a family law mediator in the past.

LIBERTY SENTINEL: What inspired you to run for office?
SHERRMAN: Fifteen years ago I was working on a teaching degree in Texas but was forced to move to Florida and couldn’t finish my degree. I didn’t know what to do

“Themostimportantthingforajudge
to do is follow the law. It is against
the Constitution and separation
of powers to legislate from the bench.”

and went to Santa Fe Community College where I decided I wanted to pursue law. I wanted to become a judge from the beginning.

LIBERTY SENTINEL: What do you want to accomplish as judge?
SHERRMAN: The most important thing for a judge to do is follow the law. It is against the Constitution and separation of powers to legislate from the bench. It is also important to be respectful to the courtroom. I have been in over 30 court rooms for the United States and have seen good and bad judges. Court is a scary place for people to be and the judge needs to keep order in the court room and be respectful.

LIBERTY SENTINEL: What do you think of the judges in Alachua?
SHERRMAN: I have spent time in third and eighth circuits in Alachua and they had excellent judges. We are blessed to have such good judges.

It is also important to be respectful to the courtroom. I have been in over 30 court rooms in Florida and have seen good and bad judges. Court is a scary place for people to be and the judge needs to keep order in the court room and be respectful. One of the most important things for a judge to do is follow the law. It is against the Constitution and separation of powers to legislate from the bench.

SHERRMAN: Tell me about your community service.
SHERRMAN: From 1987 to 1992, I lead a free food program in Dallas. I would deliver meals to shut-ins, the elderly, and the handicapped. This was run by myself and my husband and was completely self sufficient. We had over ten volunteers and delivered to over 175 people.

In Alachua from 2000-2003 I helped in team court which is a program for juveniles and first offenders. I sat as judge. The jury members, prosecutors and defense were volunteers and children. This helped

reach young offenders and gave kids an opportunity in community service.

LIBERTY SENTINEL: What makes you qualified to be judge?
SHERRMAN: I am experienced in the courtroom and as a mother. I feel like I have lived two lives. I have handled over 1000 cases. I have done many custody cases, alimony cases, and some jury trials. Most of it was family law though I have also done some immigration law. I am experienced in the court room and as a parent. As a mother of four I was a full time homemaker as well as a full time student. My experiences as a parent would help in the court room. Like a parent, a judge needs to be nice but also needs to know how to keep order in the court room.

Find out more about Lorraine Sherman online at http://www.shermanforjudge.com/
Money, policy and the future of America

Continued from front page

changed. This is indeed frightening and an historic event.

The problem we face is not new in history. Authoritarianism has been around a long time. For centuries, inflation and debt have been used by tyrants to hold power, promote aggression, and provide “bread and circuses” for the people. The notion that a country can afford “guns and butter” with no significant penalty existed even before the 1960s when it became a popular slogan. It was then, though, we were told the Vietnam War and the massive expansion of the welfare state were not problems. The seventies proved that assumption wrong.

Today things are different from even ancient times or the 1970s. There is something to the argument that we are now a global economy. The world has more people and is more integrated due to modern technology, communications, and travel. If modern technology had been used to promote the ideas of liberty, free markets, sound money and trade, it would have ushered in a new golden age—a globalism we could accept.

Instead, the wealth and freedom we now enjoy are shrinking and rest upon a fragile philosophic infrastructure. It is not unlike the levies and bridges in our own country that our system of war and welfare has caused us to ignore.

I’m fearful that my concerns have been legitimate and may even be worse than I first thought. They are now at our doorstep. Time is short for making a course correction. We are now at our door.

The financial crisis, still in its early stages, is apparent to everyone: gasoline prices over $4 a gallon; skyrocketing education costs; the collapse of the housing bubble; the bursting of the NASDAQ bubble; stock markets plunging; unemployment rising; massive underemployment; excessive government debt; and unmanageable personal debt. Little doubt exists as to whether we’ll get stagflation.

The question that will soon be asked is: When will the stagflation become an inflationary depression?

There are various reasons that the world economy has been globalized and the problems we face are worldwide. We cannot understand what we’re facing without understanding flat money and the long-developing dollar bubble. There were several stages.

From the inception of the Federal Reserve System in 1913 to 1933, the Central Bank established itself as the official dollar manager. By 1933, Americans could no longer own gold, thus removing restraint on the Federal Reserve to inflate for war and welfare.

By 1945, further restraints were removed by creating the Bretton-Woods Monetary System making the dollar the reserve currency of the world. This system lasted up until 1971. During the period between 1945 and 1971, some restraints on the Fed remained in place. Foreigners, but not Americans, could convert dollars to gold at $35 an ounce. Due to the excess dollars being created, that system came to an end in 1971.

It’s the post Bretton-Woods system that was responsible for globalizing inflation and markets and for generating a gigantic worldwide dollar bubble. That bubble is now bursting, and we’re seeing what it’s like to suffer the consequences of the many previous economic errors.

Ironically in these past 35 years, we have benefited from this very flawed system. Because the world accepted dollars as if they were gold, we only had to counterfeit more money, spend them overseas (indirectly encouraging our jobs to go overseas as well) and enjoy unearned prosperity. Those who took our dollars and gave us goods and services were only too anxious to loan those dollars back to us. This allowed us to export our inflation and delay the consequences we now are starting to see.

But it was never destined to last, and now we have to pay the piper. Our huge foreign debt must be paid or liquidated. Our entitlements are coming due just as the world has become more reluctant to support dollars. The consequence of that decision is price inflation in this country—and that’s what we are witnessing today: already price indexes are even higher than at home as a consequence of foreign central banks’ willingness to monetize our debt.

Printing dollars over long periods of time may not immediately push prices up -yet it time it always does. Now we’re seeing catch-up after past inflating of the monetary supply. As bad as it is today with $4 a gallon gasoline, this is just the beginning. It’s a gross distortion to hound away at “drill, drill, drill” as a solution to the dollar crisis and high gasoline prices. Its okay to let the market increase supplies and drill, but that issue is a gross distraction from the sins of deficits and Federal Reserve monetary shenanigans.

This bubble is different and bigger for another reason. The central banks of the world secretly collude to centrally plan the world economy. I’m convinced that agreements among central banks to “monetize” U.S. debt these past 15 years have existed, although secretly and out of the reach of any oversight of anyone—especially the U.S. Congress that doesn’t care, or just flat doesn’t understand. As this “gift” to us comes to an end, our problems worsen. The central banks and the various governments are very powerful, but eventually money has limited longevity. We are about to see the consequences of previous policies and the experiments of the past dozen years.

Restoring a free society doesn’t eliminate the need to get our house in order and to pay for the extravagant spending...

The markets overwhelm when the people who get stuck holding the bag (of bad dollars) catch on and spend the dollars into the economy with emotional zeal, thus igniting inflationary fever.

This time—since there are so many dollars and so many countries involved—the Fed has been able to “paper” over every approaching crisis for the past 15 years, especially with Alan Greenspan as Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, which has allowed the bubble to become history’s greatest.

The mistakes made with excessive credit at artificially low rates are huge, and the market is demanding a correction. This involves excessive debt, misdirected investments, over-investments, and all the other problems caused by the government when spending the money they should have never had. Foreign militarism, welfare handouts and $80 trillion entitlement promises are all coming to an end. We don’t have the money or the wealth-creating capacity to catch up and care for all the needs that now exist because we rejected the market economy, sound money, self reliance and the principles of liberty.

Since the correction of all this misallocation of resources is necessary and must come, one can look for some good that may come as this “Big Event” unfolds.

There are two choices that people can make. The one choice that is unavailable to us is to lamp along with the status quo and prop up the system with more debt, inflation and lies. That won’t happen.

One of the two choices, and the one chosen so often by government in the past is that of rejecting the principles of liberty and resorting to even bigger and more authoritarian government. Some argue that giving dictatorial powers to the President, just as we have allowed him to run the American empire, is what we should do. That’s the great danger, and in this post-9/11 atmosphere, too many Americans are seeking safety over freedom. We have already lost too many of our personal liberties already. Real fear of economic collapse could prompt central planners to act to such a degree that the New Deal of the 30’s might look like Jefferson’s Declaration of Independence.

The more the government is allowed to do in taking over and running the economy, the deeper the depression gets and the longer it lasts. That was the story of the 30s and the early 40s, and the same mistakes are likely to be made again if we do not wake up.

But the good news is that it need not be so bad if we do the right thing. I saw “Something Big” happening in the past 18 months on the campaign trail. I was encouraged that we are capable of waking up and doing the right thing. I have literally met thousands of high school and college kids who are quite willing to accept the challenge and responsibility of a free society and reject the cradle-to-grave welfare that is promised them by so many do-good politicians.

If we ever get the message of liberty, more will join in this effort. The failure of our foreign policy, welfare system, and monetary policies and virtually all government solutions are so readily apparent, it doesn’t take that much convincing. But the positive message of how freedom works and why it’s possible is what is urgently needed.

One of the best parts of accepting self reliance in a free society is that true personal satisfaction with one’s own life can be achieved. This doesn’t happen when the government assumes the role of guardian, parent or provider, because it eliminates a great deal of personal pride and the real problem is the government can’t provide the safety and economic security that it claims. The so called good that government claims it can deliver is always achieved at the expense of someone else’s freedom. It’s a failed system and the young people know it.

Restoring a free society doesn’t eliminate the need to get our house in order and to pay for the extravagant spending. But the pain would not be long-lasting if we did the right things, and best of all the empire would have to end for financial reasons. Our wars would stop, the attack on civil liberties would cease, and prosperity would return. The choices are clear: the one wouldn’t be the better, but the positive event that now unfolding gives us a great opportunity to reverse the tide and resume the truly great American Revolution started in 1776. Opportunity knocks in spite of the urgency and the dangers we face.

Let’s make “Something Big Is Happening” be the discovery that freedom works and is popular and the big economic and political event we’re witnessing is a blessing in disguise.
I pledge allegiance to the flag...

...of the NORTH AMERICAN UNION?

Can you imagine combining the Canadian and Mexican flags with Old Glory and pledging allegiance to a North American Union (NAU)? In reality, the NAU process is already underway to erase our borders and form a new nation by merging the U.S., Mexico, and Canada.

“Eventually our long-range objective is to establish with the United States, but also with Canada, our other regional partner, an ensemble of connections and institutions similar to those created by the European Union.”

– Former Mexican President Vicente Fox, May 16, 2002

“We are determined to forge the next generation of our continent’s success.... The Security and Prosperity Partnership that we are launching today is the road map to getting there.”

– Former Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin, March 23, 2005

“As to what kind of [North American] union might there be, I see one based upon free trade, that would then entail commitment to markets and democracy, transparency, rule of law.”

– President George Bush
March 23, 2005

To learn more about the NAU, visit www.JBS.org/nau or call 1-800-JBS-USA1

Call your Representative today and tell them to support H.R. 22 to repeal NAFTA and H.R. 40 to block the NAU!

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To which flag will you pledge allegiance?

The John Birch Society
Standing for Family and Freedom

Proudly sponsored by your local JBS chapter.

See the Liberty Sentinel’s Upcoming Events section for details on our next meeting.
Continued from front page

people. It is serving special interests and not the public. It has forsaken the Constitution and is trampling our civil liberties. Our national sovereignty is under attack. Our borders are porous. The Federal Reserve is devaluing and destroying our currency. The executive branch has become too powerful. It cannot balance the budget. The debt is out of control. We are going broke policing the world."

In Marion County, the showdown between Democrat Sheriff Ed Dean and his challenger, Republican Paul Truesdell is already heating up. When Truesdall noticed that Ed Dean's domain name registration on whois.electeddeansheriff.com was expiring, he placed a legal order to purchase the site. When the site registration was terminated for nonpayment, ownership was transferred to Truesdell’s wife. Befuddled, Sheriff Dean said, “I’ve never met the man. I don’t know why a political candidate would want to purchase the other candidate’s Web site.” Welcome to the world of cyber-politics.

But there is more to Paul Truesdell than just being tech savvy. His campaign platform is simple; Truesdell promises to; lower the budget, have more deputies on the street, get politics out of the sheriff’s office, lower the crime rate and reform the way crime statistics are recorded. He wants to; put his priorities as; “putting new website http://www.electeddeansheriff.com - lists his priorities as; "putting new website http://www.electeddeansheriff.com - lists his priorities as; "new website and reform the way crime statistics are recorded."

Ed Dean’s platform is less specific. His “new” website http://www.electeddeansheriff.com - lists his priorities as; “putting new website http://www.electeddeansheriff.com - lists his priorities as; "new website and reform the way crime statistics are recorded."

SOUTH FLORIDA has a number of freedom candidates that have been shaking up the political scene in the state. One tireless activist that was considering making his third run for Congress - this time as an independent, is fearful about America’s future. Frank Gonzalez ran as a libertarian in 2004 and earned 27% of the vote against incumbent Lincoln Diaz-Balart. He ran as a “Jeffersonian Democrat” in ’06 and received 41% of the vote in the overwhelmingly conservative district. In ’08 he was supporting the candidacy of Dean Santoro, a “Ron Paul Republican” making a bid in the same race. But, dismayed by people’s “apathy and ignorance,” he has since made a decision to exit politics and run for the Florida Senate. "The cost of doing business in Florida is driving big companies out of the state while small businesses are going out of business,” he said. One of his top priorities is lowering taxes for Floridians.

Jose Francisco Marquez, running in District 119, is one of many liberty-loving candidates for the Florida House of Representatives. His motivation to run: “States’ Rights and Free Markets.” Though Ron Paul has ended his bid for the presidency of the UNITED STATES, he has given up on restoring the rule of Constitutional law. “If they expected us to retire quietly from the scene, the political elite are in for a surprise,” he announced on the new “Campaign for Liberty” website. Candidates and voters from across the nation are taking notice. In North-West Florida, Pastor Chuck Baldwin has jumped into the presidential race under the Constitution party’s banner. He has earned widespread support amongst former Ron Paul supporters, especially in the Sunshine State. But his candidacy is representative of a much bigger shift in voters’ attitudes.

“All politics is local,” remarked Thomas O’Neill, a longtime Speaker of the House in the U.S. Congress. It seems activists are finally taking heed.
NEW YORK – Soon after the US invaded
Afghanistan and overthrew the Taliban
government in 2001, I predicted that
Taliban resistance would resume in four
years. My fellow pundits, who were cock-a-hoop
over the US military victory over a bunch
of lightly-armed medieval tribesmen,
became drunk on old-fashioned imperial
triumphalism, and denounced me as
‘crazy,’ or worse. But most of them had
never been to Afghanistan and knew
nothing about the Pashtun tribal people.
I had covered the struggle against the Soviet
occupation of Afghanistan during the
1980’s and was well aware of the leisurely
pace of warfare favored by Pashtun warriors.

‘Do not stay in Afghanistan,’ I warned in
a 2001 article in the ‘Los Angeles Times.’

The longer foreign forces remained in
Afghanistan, the more the tribes would
fight against their continued presence.
Taliban resumed fighting in 2005.

As resistance to the US-led occupation of
Afghanistan intensifies, the increasingly
frustrated Bush administration is venting
its anger against Pakistan and its military
intelligence agency, Inter-Service
Intelligence, better known as ISI.

The White House just leaked claims ISI
is in cahoots with pro-Taliban groups in
Pakistan’s tribal agency along the Afghan
border and warns them of impending US
attacks. The ‘New York Times,’ which
allowed the Bush administration to use it
as a mouthpiece for Iraq War propaganda,
dutifully featured the leaks about ISI on
front page. Other administration officials
have been claiming that ISI may even be
hiding Osama bin Laden and other senior
Al-Qaeda leaders.

The Bush administration claims that CIA
had electronic intercepts proving ISI was
behind the recent bombing of India’s
embassy in Kabul. India and Afghanistan
Pakistan’s secret role in fighting Soviet
occupation of Afghanistan. ISI’s ‘boys’
provided communications, logistics,
training, heavy weapons, and direction
in the Afghan War. I kept ISI’s role in
Afghanistan a secret until the war ended
in 1989.

ISI was primarily responsible for the
victory over the Soviets, which hastened
the collapse of the USSR. At war’s end,
Gen. Akhtar and Pakistan’s leader, Zia
ul Haq, both died in a sabotaged C-130
transport aircraft. Unfortunately, most
Pakistanis blame the United States for
this assassination, though the real malefactors
have never been identified and the
investigation long ago shelved.

The longer foreign forces remained in
Afghanistan, the more the tribes would
fight against their continued presence.

The ISI Director General knew was
powerful intelligence service, RAW, has
mounted bombing and shooting attacks
inside Pakistan.

The reason it is often difficult to tell
whether Pakistan is friend or foe is
because Washington has been forcing
Pakistan’s government, military,
and intelligence services into supporting
the US-led war in Afghanistan and rounding
up and torturing opponents of Pakistan’s
military dictatorship. Pakistan was forced
to bend to Washington’s will through a
combination of over $11 billion in
payments and threats of war if Pakistan
did not comply. The ongoing prosecution
of the US-led war in Afghanistan depends
entirely on Pakistan’s provision of bases
and troops.

While Pakistan’s government, military,
and intelligence services were forced to
follow Washington’s strategic plans, 90%
of Pakistan’s people bitterly opposed these
policies. President-dictator Musharraf was
captured between the anger of Washington
and his own angry people who branded
him an American stooge.

Small wonder Pakistan’s leadership is so
anxious to see Washington fail Musharraf
regime to attack its own people.

ISI is trying to restrain pro-Taliban Pashtun
tribemen dealing with growing US
attacks into Pakistan that threaten a wider
war. India, Pakistan’s bitter foe, has an army
of agents in Afghanistan and is
arming, backing and financing the
Karza puppet regime in Kabul in
hopes of turning Afghanistan into
a protectorate. Pakistan’s historic
strategic interests in Afghanistan
have been undermined by the US
occupation. Now, the US and India are
trying to eliminate Pakistani influence
in Afghanistan.

ISI, many of whose officers are Pashtun,
has every right to warn Pakistani citizens
of impending US air attacks that kill large
numbers of civilians. But ISI also has
anothervitalmission. Preventing Pakistan’s
Pashtun, 15-20% of the population of 165
million, from rekindling the old ‘Greater
Pashtunistan’ movement calling for union
of the Pashtun tribes of Pakistan and
Afghanistan into a new Pashtun nation.

The Pashtun have never recognized
the Durand Line(today’s Pakistan-Afghan
border) drawn by British imperialists to
under the world’s largest tribal people.
Greater Pashtunistan would tear apart
Pakistan and invite Indian military
intervention.

Washington’s bull-in-a-china shop
behavior pays no heed to these realities.
Instead, Washington demonizes
faithful old allies ISI and Pakistan
while supporting Afghanistan’s Communists
and drug dealers, and allowing India to
stir the Afghan pot - all for the sake of new
energy pipelines.

As Henry Kissinger cynically noted, being
America’s ally is more dangerous than
being its enemy.
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A Relief from the Pressure Cooker of Life

Daily pressures. We all have them. Possibly you just started a new job. Perhaps you’re a graduate trying to plan your future based on what you want to be “for the rest of your life” or maybe you’re a teenage unwed mother, or her parents for that matter, trying to rearrange their lives to make room for one that wasn’t planned. Any of these scenarios can make anyone’s emotions rise to a boiling pressure cooker. It’s appears that in our pursuit to make things simpler with the many conveniences of cell phones, microwaves, automatic teller machines and online shopping and banking that we have only added to the pressure cooker of life.

As I tend to live for the moments that I can enjoy the simplicity. I’ve tried little by little to go back to some of the uncomplicated basics, farm fresh eggs - laid daily. I’m growing my own tomatoes, no high fructose corn syrup in my weekly created home menu, reusable, cloth “green bags” taken to the stores, a stainless steel canteen for my daily water bottle instead of plastic, timed sprinklers and outside lights. Anything we can do to make our lives simpler gives us more time to let off steam - to enjoy the life we have, because as you probably know, life goes by too quick.

In my time away from the house I try to grasp those simple moments as well with a very interesting hobby of mine. People watching. That’s right; while I’m sitting at the stoplight I often wonder about the people in the cars around me observe the young adults at the mall. I watch the families at the park interact and I ask myself “I wonder how their pressure cooker is? What’s going on in their lives? Did they cry this morning? What about? Are they happy?” Usually about that point in my daydream oasis, the car behind me honks or if I’m in a store, someone runs into me heading for the sale rack at the mall or I nearly get grazed by a frisbee at the park and suddenly I’m brought back to reality.

But seriously, people are amazing - so different, yet so alike. We come from many walks of life, many cultures, beliefs and upbringings yet we all have dreams, opinions and moments that we live for when we can turn the pressure cooker off.

So what would you say if I told you that Jesus dealt with stress and pressures too? That’s right. Actually, imagine growing up knowing you were the Savior of the world and getting ready for that role? Now there’s some stress I can’t even fathom and I was the oldest of eight children. Matthew 27 tells a count of the stress that Jesus went through from the betrayal and death of his friend to his own death (for us) on the cross. Talk about a pressure cooker! Yet even as stressed as Jesus was he turned to his Father in Heaven. Worried beyond belief and hoping for another solution to “save the world” Jesus prayed in such anguish until he nearly sweat blood (Luke 22:44). I can’t say that I’ve ever been under that kind of pressure before. You? But, God created us all for a reason and a purpose. Jesus’ was to walk on the earth as God in the flesh, live as a man and die a selfless death to show a great love. This was his Father’s will and as most children he wanted to do whatever his father expected of him.

Today, while you’re stressing over your new boss, career, unexpected addition to the family or whatever it may be, pleases be encouraged. Speak up! Your Father in heaven is a great listener. It is great that we have friends and family we can turn to when life gets to us but I once heard it said, “when life gets tough do you run to the phone or to the throne?”

We all have tension and anxiety in our day and in our life that gets us to our boiling point in this pressure cooker world. But next time the load gets too much and you want to honk at the person still sitting at that “green light” remember Jesus knows about that weight and believe it or not even though now he sits on the throne He knows what you’re going through. Oh, and he’s also a good listener.

Michelle Bryant is a writer for The Liberty Sentinel and the author of the devotional book “God, are You listening?”

www.godareyoulistening.com
Betrayed by the Village Idiot

The Mogambo Guru
The Daily Reckoning

Last week, the low-IQ socialist scumbags in the House of Representatives in Washington, D.C. among other legislative horrors raised the debt limit of the U.S.A. by another $800 billion, taking the limit to a staggering $10.6 trillion, so that they could continue to act like the mental defective lowlife collectivist scumbags that they truly, truly are, which is destroying our money and our country, which is why I hate them, and which explains why I intend to vote against every incumbent as often as I can, and urge everyone else to do so, too, (except for the people in Texas who elect Ron Paul), unless I can successfully get the American people stirred up into an unruly mob so that I can take over the country and give myself a nice, big salary, a generous retirement package, and the awesome, unlimited powers of an emperor!

In the meantime, Thomas Sowell had an interesting perspective on these Congressional commie losers, too, in that he says that the housing crisis is a direct result of these selfsame Congressional morons passing laws requiring banks to loan to poor people so that they could buy houses that they could not afford, and in areas where nobody in their right mind would loan a dime because people who live there default on loans a lot, which is exactly what happened.

Now we know why nobody wanted to loan money to these "red-lined" areas! Ergo, too many loans, as required by Congress under penalty of law, were made to too many people that couldn’t pay them back, and didn’t, which the lenders knew beforehand, but were forced to do it! Hahaha! Thanks, Mr. Sowell! I never put that two and two together before!

Now that I think about it, it’s the same thing that happened to health care; the cost has run to back-breaking levels because the government demanded that healthcare providers provide first-class services to anybody who asked for them, whether they could (or would) pay for them or not, and the providers just added it to the bill of those who paid for their healthcare! Hahaha!

Congress voted to raise the debt limit by another $800 billion.

I am ashamed to have laughed at such incompetence and government bungling that is destroying America and, putting a serious look on my face, I say that the lesson to be learned here is that we have been betrayed by Congress, again and again, as it screws up everything it touches, which is what government routinely does, which is why it is obvious that the Constitution never meant for them to be doing this.

In fact, the nation was supposed to be basking in liberty and free enterprise, with minimal government interference, and the Founding Fathers obviously thought that there would be no need for the Congress to ever even meet! This is why they thought it was important to include Article 1, Section 4 in the Constitution, which requires that “The Congress shall assemble at least once in every year.” Hahahaha! Meet at least one day a year! Hahahaha!

Instead we have, courtesy of Gary North of garynorth.com bringing it up, The Federal Register, which “is published every weekday, and it usually is 200 pages long. Each page has three columns of fine print. These are new regulations imposed by the Federal government on the American economy.” Published every weekday!

And while we are here, Mr. North has an article titled "The Senate’s 700-Page Housing Bailout Bill: No Discussion, No Opposition", with the subhead that wins this week’s coveted Mogambo Brevity Is Wit Award (MBIWA); “It’s going to pass. It will not work.”

And the loathsome, ruinous, nation-destroying activities of Congress could not be possible without an unlimited supply of fiat currency, instead of the strictures of Article 1, Section 10 which requires that only gold and silver shall be money, a requirement discarded by the despicable, corrupt Supreme Court, a folly for which we are now paying with inflation in prices, and will continue paying for the next decade.

Now you know why we are so screwed, and who is directly responsible, which means that the voters who elected these losers are also directly responsible, and as such are going to get exactly what they deserve.

And in the words of H.L. Mencken, “get it good and hard.”

There are, I am aware, pornographic films that successfully exploit this “get it good and hard” theme in a very entertaining way, but trust me, there is no similarity. If only there were!
38 Reasons why America is in Peril

It's not necessary to go into great detail regarding the tremendous problems facing America. The issues confronting our world today seem overwhelming. The following is a list of issues—all of them are significant and any one of them could lead to catastrophic results.

1. COLLECTIVISM in all its forms including communism, fascism, socialism, statism and liberalism is spreading both inside and outside America. In 1963 the Communist goals for America were published in the Congressional Record. All but one has been largely fulfilled. Russia is still essentially a Communist country as are Cuba, Venezuela, China, Mongolia, North Korea and Vietnam. Venezuela and Cuba are actively spreading Communism throughout South & Central America.

2. SOVEREIGNTY is being eroded and Globalism is on the march. The North American Union plans to bring Mexico, America and Canada into a similar confederation as the European Union. www.freedom.org/naugreen2/player.html

3. TERRORISM is a threat to our stability. There are over 1 billion Muslims throughout the world and it is estimated that 100 million are fundamentalists that view Jihad as a legitimate method of spreading the faith.

4. WAR America is engaged in war not only in Iraq & Afghanistan, but possibly with Iran.

5. PANDEMICS are breaking out throughout the world ranging from Avian Flu to various plagues in Asia and Africa. Some are naturally occurring while others are purposely being made more virulent and stockpiled by governments.

6. PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS are being eroded. Americans no longer own their property, but rent it from the state. If you think you own your property, stop paying the rent (tax) and you will see who controls the property. Laws regarding eminent domain no longer prevent government from seizing property.

7. ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION It is estimated that there are at least 12-20 million illegal immigrants living in America with more entering every day. They are a drain on welfare, education, social security and the health care systems. Someone said, “A nation without borders is not a nation.”

8. GANGS such as the Mexican Mafia and MS13 are an increasing threat and are spreading throughout America. They are increasingly violent and are responsible for much of the distribution of illegal drugs and other crimes.

9. DRUGS Use of methamphetamine, crack cocaine and heroin is increasing and helping to support terrorism and gangs throughout the world.

10. WELFARE roles are growing.

11. LOSS OF MANUFACTURING CAPABILITY Large multinational corporations are shipping American factories to third world and communist countries such as China, India, and Sir Lanka. China is an avid enemy of our nation and is buying up American factories. This loss of steel plants and other manufacturing facilities cannot be turned around overnight. According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis there has been a 60% loss of manufacturing since 1953. The infrastructure needed as well as the skills and technological expertise of tool & die makers, engineers, etc. is being lost and is not easily replaced.

12. JUDICIARY There is little justice. Dangerous criminals are being released from our prisons due to overcrowding and untold numbers of people are being targeted for prosecution for what has been termed “administrative crimes.” There are so many laws on the books that practically everyone is guilty of committing a felony.

13. LOSS OF PERSONAL FREEDOMS The Patriot Act and other legislation in addition to various Executive Orders are continually infringing on our freedoms.

14. VOTE FRAUD Sworn testimony from those who design computerized voting machines testify that these machines are capable of being programmed so that the outcome of any election can be predetermined by those in charge. Read “Vote Scam”

15. SOCIAL SECURITY is in jeopardy. As baby boomers reach retirement age enormous strains will be placed on this system.

16. MEDICARE, PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFITS and HOSPITAL costs are growing and will become economically unsustainable.

17. ENERGY Fossil fuels are becoming scarce. As nations such as China and India become more industrial and their personal wealth increases their demand for fossil fuel grows daily.

18. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES Our Constitution which has produced the freest and wealthiest nation in the world has been a 60% loss of manufacturing since 1953. The infrastructure needed as well as the skills and technological expertise of tool & die makers, engineers, etc. is being lost and is not easily replaced.

19. ECONOMIC DEFICITS The total deficit both funded and unfunded has been estimated to be 37 TRILLION dollars.

20. INFLATION: Today’s dollar is worth 4 cents as compared with the dollar in the early 1900’s. The Federal Reserve stopped publishing M3 figures which allow economists to determine the actual rate of inflation. www.joelscoins.com/exhiger2.htm

21. FEDERAL RESERVE since 1913 has created economic cycles that have resulted in numerous recessions as well as the depression and other monetary debacles. This is destroying the middle class.

22. TAXES local, county & state are all increasing. The Federal Income Tax is an unconstitutional tax. (See Aaron Russo’s film, “From Freedom To Fascism” which can be viewed free on the internet)

23. DERIVATIVE MARKETS have the potential for worldwide economic disaster.

24. PERSONAL DEBT is increasing and is at an all time high.

25. REAL ESTATE market is very vulnerable. Many people view their R.E. holdings as a significant part of their net worth. A.R.M. mortgages leave people vulnerable to rate increases and foreclosure.

26. MEDIA BIAS The media overwhelmingly exhibits a liberal/socialist worldview. A ray of hope lies in the internet and talk radio which have become alternative methods of obtaining news, but Congress is now considering the control of both talk radio and the internet.

27. ENTERTAINMENT MEDIA is morally destructive to adults & children. If you doubt this I challenge you to watch MTV, VH1, South Park or Sex in the City.

28. PORNOGRAPHY is increasingly available to children via the internet.

29. HOMOSEXUALITY is increasingly entering the mainstream. Homosexual marriages and homosexual indoctrination of children in government schools is rapidly increasing.

30. PEDOPHILIA Is on the increase. Estimates say up to 10% of children in public schools are exposed to improper sexual advances by either teachers or other employees of the school system.

31. SINGLE PARENTS More and more women are having illegitimate children. In some cities 67% of births are illegitimate.

32. DISYFUNCTIONAL FAMILIES have lost the ability to raise children who will be productive citizens.

33. ILLITERACY is rampant. Estimates say nearly 40% of high school graduates can barely read their diploma, and approximately the same number have to take remedial (high school courses) before they can begin to take college level courses.

34. SEXUAL PROMISCUCITY is increasing at an alarming rate.

35. SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES are rapidly increasing. There are now numerous STD’s, some of which are incurable.

36. ABORTION 35 million children have been aborted since passage of Roe v. Wade.

37. EDUCATION Public (government) schools are devastating our youth academically, spiritually and morally. http://www.lewrockwell.com/shaffer/shaffer47.html

38. NUMEROUS GROUPS AND PATHOLOGICAL LEFTISTS ARE CONSTANTLY CHANGING our form of government and culture such as: United Nations, ACLU, Move On, Planned Parenthood, N.A.E., public (government) schools, CAIR, Supreme Court, GLYSEN, NAMBLA, Executive, Legislative & Judicial branches of
Fallen Freedom Fighting Hero

Few people know that Bob Buker, CEO U.S. Sugar, has fought for years to limit taxes and restore property rights for all Floridians. He poured millions into a Florida petition drive that resulted in two tax limitation measures being added to the Constitution and a landmark property rights law passed by the Florida Legislature.

Bob Buker also backed two other proposed amendments to Florida's Constitution: Voter Approval of New Taxes and Private Property Rights. He made it financially possible for a grassroots petition drive to collect 600,000 signatures on both petitions. He and over 70% of Florida voters agreed that government's unchecked power to tax and spend was sapping our financial freedom and very often for "services" the people did not want and could not afford. Bob also believed, as did the vast majority of Floridians and our founding fathers, that the freedom to own and enjoy private property should not be "taken", even just a little, without just compensation.

Unfortunately for Bob and freedom loving Floridians, an unelected unaccountable Florida Supreme Court prohibited Floridians from voting not once but twice to stop new taxes without voter approval and require compensation when government "takes" private property for a public purpose.

Note: It is more than a little ironic that property taxes are going to be used to buy the country’s largest sugar farm and build a vast new wetlands that will contribute to the production methane, a greenhouse gas twenty times more potent than carbon dioxide.

David Biddulph
Chairman, Florida’s Tax Cap Committee, Retired
New Smyrna Beach, Florida
386-423-4744

Marriage Amendment

There is much discussion on the "Marriage Bill" going around these days, and a lot of confusion on why one person is for or against same-sex marriage.

I find if you try to use a religious reason for not wanting to allow same-sex marriage, you are summarily shot down, with "don’t try to force your religious belief down my throat." One will get the same faulty reasoning from those who approve of abortion. To them it is just a matter of "our" religious beliefs. Back to same sex marriage and the reason we should all be against it.

Those who are of the same sex of the person they love, sometimes go to extraordinary means to bring a child into this relationship. For instance they will try using one partner to have a heterosexual relationship outside their “MARRIAGE” in order to conceive a child. And then claim all rights to that child. This is where I draw the line. If a person wants to have a life long committed relationship with a member of the same sex, while I don’t condone it personally, I am not in a position to judge them. Nor do I wish too. I love all people because of who we are as humankind. They will find out at the end of their lives if they were right or wrong. I leave that for another to judge.

They can investigate for themselves the mountains of books and studies on a two (different sex) parents and same-sex parents. It has been proven, beyond a shadow of a doubt, by all kinds of scientific study, that a child raised by one female mom and one male father, are by far, exponentially more well adjusted to their society and peers.

This is not my opinion, but the opinion of thousands who are versed in these matters. Why would we want to start out giving the child a handicap of not having masculine as well as feminine influences? These are necessary for nature. If you are an aware person, or even a sensible observer, you will notice every animal has the male and the female needed for the next generation to survive.

We will all have a say so, right or wrong, very soon, when this matter appears on the ballot.

Please examine the facts and vote YES on 2. Go to YESMARRIAGE.org.

AND THOUGHTFULLY STUDY THE FACTS FOR YOURSELF.

Jackie Sikes
Callahan

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Just imagine the possibilities...
I pledge to reduce my County Commissioner salary. Currently County Commissioners are paid $74,500 in salary and receive a total of $87,612.29 in economic benefits based on the population of Marion County. This encourages population growth. I will not accept more than the average Marion County citizen’s income of $31,000. This will encourage me to focus on increasing everyone’s income.

I pledge not to accept the State of Florida Pension Plan. Elected officials should be servants of the people, not employees. If you want a pension plan paid by the taxpayers, go apply for a job as a Marion County employee and work 20 or 30 years.

I pledge not to accept Employee Benefits. Elected officials should be servants of the people, not employees. If you want employee benefits (health insurance, etc.) paid for by the taxpayers, go apply for a job as a Marion County employee.

Ray Strickland
• Florida Native • Eagle Scout
• U.S. Army Veteran • Business Owner
• Community Leader
“Conservative”
A Real Republican

Charlie Stone
• 80% increase in property tax revenues over the past 4 years
• That is $160 million annually more than 4 years ago
• Spent $30 million of solid waste reserves, which was set aside to close Baseline Landfill and solve future garbage problems
• Spent $6 million on a facility and closed it a few years later
• Spending $550,000 (item in next years budget) of your hard earned tax dollars for one private company to hire 15 employees

• 29% increase in Marion County employees in the last 4 years
• Does not include the 260 EMSA ambulance employees that will transfer to the Marion County government on October 1, 2008
• Does not include the Sheriff’s Office, Supervisor of Elections, Property Appraiser, Tax Collector or Clerk of Court
• Marion County Vehicle Fleet Manager arrested for theft of fuel
• Building & Permitting Department mismanaged.

• Priority #1 - Passed legalized gambling in first 28 days as Chairman
• Ocala Poker Room would be third largest of 50 casinos in Las Vegas
• Vote scheduled and approved the week before Christmas
• No public meetings, No citizen input, No law enforcement consultation on increase of crime or break-up of our families
• Done nothing to identify and return illegal immigrants.

Please visit
www.runray2008.com