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THE MAHOUT

The Keeper and Driver of the Elephant

September 2017

Strong Women for a Strong America



RICHARD CORCORAN

Richard Corcoran is the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives. Corcoran was born in 1965 to two World War II Veterans. His father was an American soldier who grew up during the Great Depression. His mother, born a British citizen, served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) in London during the Blitz. Corcoran grew up in Pasco County, Florida where he graduated from Hudson High School & St. Leo University. While finishing his studies, Corcoran had the honor of serving six years in the United States Naval Reserves.

One of five children himself, Corcoran is a family man with six children: Kate, Luke, Jack, Caroline, William Major, and Evangeline. He met his wife Anne at Regent University Law School, where he received his Juris Doctor in 1996. They have been married over 20 years and have practiced law together.

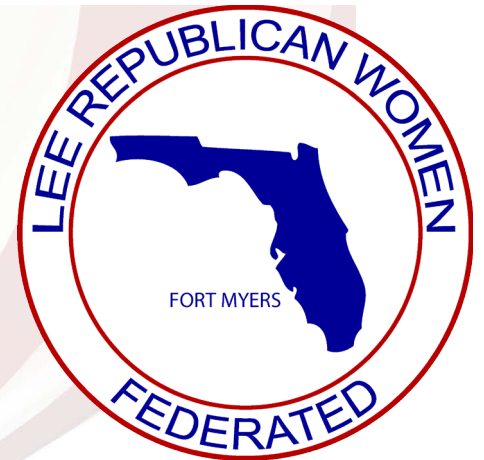
Speaker Corcoran put a proposed amendment to the state constitution on the 2018 ballot that would raise the current homestead exemption from \$50,000 to \$75,000 and save the average homeowner more than \$200 per year in property taxes. Corcoran teamed up with Governor Rick Scott to push for an amendment to the state constitution that, if approved by the voters, would force the legislature to have at least a 2/3 vote to pass any tax increases. First elected in 2010, Speaker Corcoran has supported more than \$7 billion in tax cuts that have become law.

Speaker Corcoran is a leader on education reform and school choice. Believing that the best teachers should be rewarded for achievements, not longevity, Corcoran passed legislation that provided \$233 million for teacher bonuses statewide. He passed legislation putting stricter limits on school district spending to ensure more money makes it into the classroom. A constitutional conservative, Corcoran also supported legislation that ensured public schools students and personnel in Florida can freely express their faith.

As Chairman of the Florida House Health & Human Services Committee, Corcoran led the fight against Obamacare and stopped its expansion in Florida. The first bill Corcoran passed into law as a legislator forced healthcare clinics and surgical centers to be transparent by publishing the cost of their most common procedures. Corcoran has called for free-market reforms to make the healthcare system more transparent, accountable, affordable, and accessible.

As House Speaker Corcoran passed a rule that banned House Members from lobbying for at least 6 years after leaving office. Corcoran's other new House Rules include a ban on House members riding on lobbyists private planes, a ban on House members doing business deals with lobbyists, and a ban on House members texting with lobbyists while in committee meetings or on the House floor. Corcoran has called for legislation to apply the House ethics reforms to all state elected officials in Florida.

As a committed taxpayer watchdog, Speaker Corcoran created a rule that prevented pork-barrel spending projects from being hidden in the state budget. An outspoken critic of how government spends money, Speaker Corcoran worked with Governor Scott to put new disclosure rules on state agencies after uncovering millions of dollars of questionable spending and government waste.



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"The America Republic will endure until the day Congress discovers that it can bribe the public with the public's money."
 — Alexis de Tocqueville

LRWF MONTHLY MEETING

Join us on Monday, September 18th at Pincher's Restaurant, The Marina at Edison Ford, 2360 W. 1st St., Fort Myers. Richard Corcoran will be speaking.

There are three menu choices:

1. Pan Seared Salmon with a bourbon glaze with roasted red potatoes, sauteed spinach, house salad and rolls and Chocolate Mousse for dessert.
2. Panko Crusted Pork Tenderloin with roasted red potatoes, sauteed spinach, house salad and rolls and Chocolate Mousse for dessert.
3. Plain Caesar Salad with toppings on the side and Chocolate Mousse for dessert.

- \$25 Inclusive
 - 5:15 PM Social Time /Dinner and Program following
 - Reservation deadline: noon, Thursday, 8/14
- For reservations call Wren Morefield at 270-210-1284 or email at wrenspet@hotmail.com.

To make a reservation online go to <http://www.leerepublicanwomen.com/store>

Remember, a reservation made is a reservation paid!
Everyone MUST check in at the Reservation Desk.

Gary Peppers
 Retired
 Lieutenant
 General
 speaks on
 drones
 next month.



NEWSLETTER OF LEE REPUBLICAN WOMEN FEDERATED

Associated with the Florida Federation of Republican Women and the National Federation of Republican Women.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Doris Cortese
LRWF President

The past few days have been a tragic one for the people of Texas. Our hearts and prayers go out to them as they deal with the mammoth job of clearing and rebuilding. We are so proud of the agencies involved from local, to state to federal. Americans *can* work together in times of crises. Donations can be made to Samaritan's Purse or the Salvation Army earmarked for the flood victims in Texas.

To quote Senator Ted Cruz "I told President Trump I have a list of needs. His reply was, whatever you need the answer is yes." I am so proud of our president and the way he has stepped up in the face of the storm.

Closer to home, residents in Lee County also have suffered storm damage. If you know anyone who needs help, please let me know.

There is a movement in this county to get petitions signed to make countywide elections nonpartisan. Please **DO NOT SIGN THESE PETITIONS**. They are designed to help the Democrats get elected to office since they cannot do it in partisan elections where they are shown to be Democrats. This is critical if we want to retain control of our county.

Sincerely,
Doris Cortese, President, LRWF
Vice President, LCREC

Congressman Francis Rooney Fights Pythons (Article taken from Congressman Rooney's Website)

This past month, Congressman Francis Rooney announced that he would take part in the South Florida Water Management District's (SFWMD) 'Python Elimination Program.' This hunt took place on August 10, 2017 in Big Cypress Swamp.

Congressman Rooney said, "I am looking forward to hunting these devastating and invasive snakes. The python is a predator impacting the delicate balance of the ecosystem across the Everglades and the State of Florida. Innovative ideas such as the Python Elimination Program incentivize members of the public to assist in removing this invasive species and remind us that we all have a vested interest in restoring the Everglades."

"The python hunt also attracts national attention to all the issues affecting the Everglades, including necessary funding and completion of CERP projects which are so critical to restoration efforts," the Congressman said. "I am employing every means available to work toward solutions that will solve our water quality issues in the quickest and most efficient means possible."

The purpose of the Python Elimination Program is to eliminate the invasive Burmese Python which damages the Everglades ecosystem and its native wildlife.

- The SFWMD is taking aggressive action to protect the Everglades and eliminate invasive pythons. The SFWMD Governing Board has renewed the Python Elimination Program after the pilot phase eliminated 158 pythons over a timespan of just over two months. The program has now expanded to include Broward and Collier counties, as previously hunting was only allowed in Miami-Dade County. Bounties attached to each snake eliminated incentivize hunters to spend time tracking, finding and killing these destructive snakes.
- Invasive Burmese pythons not only pose a threat to humans, but also rob the Everglades of native species, including panthers, birds of prey, alligators and bobcats of a primary food source.
- The Florida Congressional delegation has now signed a letter, led by Congressman Rooney, sent to President Trump. This letter called on the President to support Everglades Restoration projects in his fiscal year 2018 Budget.
- Congressman Rooney has met with President Trump to discuss funding for Everglades restoration efforts and is a member of both the Everglades and Estuary Caucus. He has testified four times on water quality issues.



Francis Rooney
US House of Representatives



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We have added a new student member, Laura L. Winstel, 6608 Highland Pines Circle, Fort Myers 33966, phone 602-708-8663 email address jimashleyandlaura@gmail.com

Thank you, Laura for being a big help with the Republican Museum (and Grandmother, Kerri Tonkin)!

Members, please ask for a membership application at any meeting and/or print one off the website. Invite your Republican friends to join us. For more information contact me at the number and/or email below.

Peg Love
peglove810@gmail.com
941-740-0228

CHECK OUT THE NEW WEBSITE FOR THE REPUBLICAN MUSEUM OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA AT
www.RepublicanMuseumofSWFL.com



The Republican
Museum of
Southwest Florida

Home

About Us

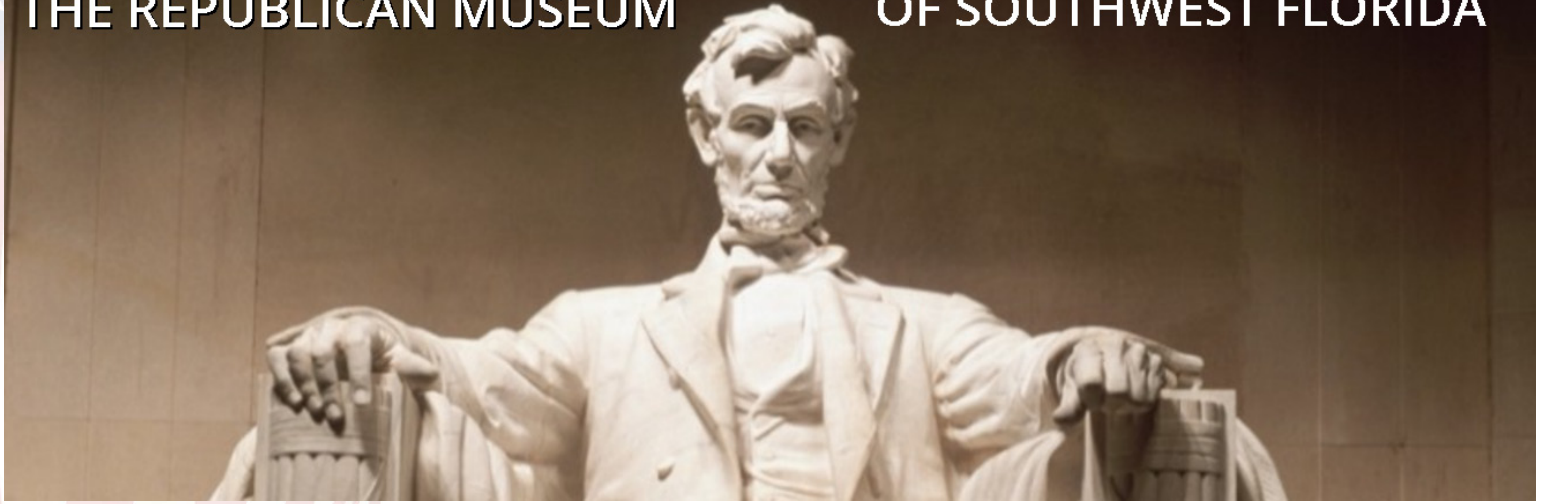
History of
the GOP

Contact



THE REPUBLICAN MUSEUM

OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA



SUPPORT THE REPUBLICAN MUSEUM OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA BUY A HURRICANE LAMP

LRWF is selling hurricane lamps with candles for \$5. The lamps have been provided to us by the REC to fund the Republican Museum of Southwest Florida that is being set up at the Republican Headquarters to teach conservative values. If you get a chance stop by the Headquarters and check out the museum and while you are there, purchase a lamp or many lamps!

The lamps are brand new and boxed. They are ideal for entertaining or for the upcoming hurricane season. There are 60 available. Great for a wedding! Add a romantic glow to your patio area or throughout your home.

Available at headquarters. Checks only made out to LCREC. Or purchase them online by [CLICKING HERE!](#)





I was privileged, this past week, to be a part of the grand opening of the Republican Museum of South West Florida! It was fun to portray Mary Todd Lincoln. But what was the most impressive to me in the opening of this museum was what it has the potential to do. It has the potential to turn generations around by feeding them the TRUTH!

One of our local county commissioners, who was in attendance at this grand opening, was talking about the destruction of all of the historic statues in our country. He said, "The Democrats are destroying their own heroes and we, the Republicans, are fighting to preserve THEIR heroes! Now if that doesn't exceed rational thinking, I don't know what does. The truth is, the Republicans don't want to destroy "history." And a second truth is that most Democrats don't know history.

The start of the Republican party came with Abraham Lincoln, the one who freed the slaves. The one who fought for their civil rights! It was Abraham Lincoln, the first Republican, who signed the Emancipation Proclamation that resulted in the Juneteenth celebrations that occur in black communities today! (Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States. It was on June 19th, 1865 that Union soldiers, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free.) How many blacks today realize that it was the Republicans that fought the Democrats to free them? The men represented by the statues that they want to tear down were against the blacks, but do they know that the men behind these statues were....Democrats???

Did you know that Republicans passed the Civil Rights Acts of 1866 and 1875, granting blacks protection from the Black Codes and prohibiting racial discrimination in public accommodations, and was the Party of most blacks prior to the 1960's, including Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Booker T. Washington, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.?

Did you know that the founding fathers of the NAACP were Republicans?

Did you know that Democrats fought to keep blacks in slavery and was the Party of the Ku Klux Klan?

Did you know that from 1870 to 1930 the Democrats used fraud, whippings, lynching, murder, intimidation, and mutilation to get the black vote, and passed the Black Codes and Jim Crow laws which legalized racial discrimination and denied blacks their rights as citizens?

So you say that's history and not relevant for today...okay...let's bring it a little closer to today! Did you know that the Democrats are against school vouchers, against school prayers, and takes the black vote for granted without ever acknowledging their racist past or apologizing for trying to expand slavery, lynching blacks and passing the Black Codes and Jim Crow laws that caused great harm to blacks?

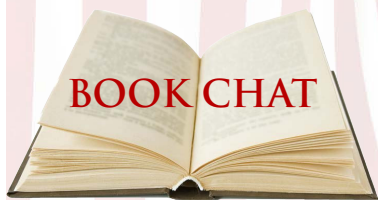
I thank God for Pat Baldwin who had the vision of starting this museum, and I also thank God for the countless hours people spent bringing the vision of this museum to reality and to the very successful opening day ceremonies! We need to educate our children and tell them about their history. This is one of only two Republican museums in the country.

I want to challenge everyone, who reads this article, to bring children and adults to the museum to learn! If we continue to destroy statues that remind us of our history, we will lose the lessons to be learned from that history and will certainly repeat our history.

Donald Trump gets so much undeserved bad press. He loves blacks and all minorities. His words concerning these minorities have been taken totally out of context. Do you know why? Because he is draining the swamp and revealing the creatures in the swamp for what they really are. We as Republicans, have creatures in the swamp too! We have people who, in their greed, will not care if the President's agenda is fulfilled.

And what is Trump's agenda? He wants to create jobs which will help blacks. He wants to lower taxes which will help blacks. He wants school choice which will help blacks. He is against abortion, which has been used to diminish the black community. He is against North Korea blowing up American territories and other countries...like Japan...our friend. He is against Isis killing us and doesn't just make empty words against Isis, he follows through on his threats/promises.

Alright! Get on board with Trump, Senators! Get on board Congressmen! Let's remember our history and do what is right for the people and not what is right for your pockets taking payoffs for voting certain ways which hurt the common man.



We will resume our Book Chat on October 4, at Mel's Diner from 1:00-3:00. Our selection for October will be Sheriff David Clarke's book, Cop Under Fire. This book is not a dry recitation of what has gone wrong in America with regard to race. With racial tension and animosity toward law enforcement officials, America is in need of healing and Sheriff Clarke knows where to begin. Helping us rise above our divisions, he encourages us to stop blaming others. We need to face our problems head-on and take ownership of our family, community, nation and turn to God. He feels we can rise above our current troubles to be a truly great people in pursuit of liberty and justice for all.

For November 1, we will also be meeting at Mel's Diner from 1:00-3:00. We will be reading George Orwell's book, Nineteen Eighty-Four. This book was published in 1949. It was chosen by Time magazine as one of the 100 best English-novel language novels from 1923 to 2005. As a literary political fiction and dystopian science-fiction, this is a classic novel in content, plot and style. Many of its terms and concepts, such as Big Brother, doublethink, thoughtcrime and Newspeak have entered into common use since its publication. The popularised adjective, Orwellian, which describes official deception, secret surveillance and manipulation of recorded history by a totalitarian or authoritarian state.

Have a great summer. Read two good books, and we will meet again at Mel's Diner in October.

Please call or email me to let me know if you will attend before October's meeting so we are able to plan accordingly.

Cheryl Harris
239-225-7390
timcherylharris@aol.com

CARING FOR AMERICA 2017 PROJECT

Our new Caring for America project in 2017 is Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida.



**Junior
Achievement®**
of Southwest Florida

REPUBLICANS NEED TO UNITE NOW

LET CONGRESS KNOW THAT THEY NEED TO UNITE BEHIND OUR PRESIDENT!!!!

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716 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: 202-224-5274
or email at

<https://www.billnelson.senate.gov/contact-bill>

MARCO RUBIO

284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: 202-224-3041
or email at

<https://marcorubio.com/contact/>

FRANCIS ROONEY

120 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-2536
or email at

<https://francisrooney.house.gov/contact/>

DON'T FORGET!!! DON'T LET OUR HEROS DOWN!!

HOLIDAY 4 HEROES - LAST MONTHLY MEETING TO CONTRIBUTE

Through our September 18th meeting, LRWF's Caring for America will be collecting items for Holiday 4 Heroes.

The items collected will be distributed to members in our Armed Forces that are residents of Lee County.

We ask each member to bring something with them to our monthly meeting to be sent to our "heroes" overseas.

Below is a list of the items that are needed:

Snacks

Tuna (in the fresh pouch)
Crackers
Nuts, Trail Mix & Protein Bars
Cookies (Store bought/homemade)
Slim Jims, Jerky & Dried Fruit
Peanut Butter and Hot Sauce
Candy, Mints & Gum
Pop Tarts and Breakfast Bars
Full Size Chocolate Bars drinks

Drinks

Single Serve is Best
Instant Coffee & Tea
Powdered Drinks
Energy Drink Drops

Toiletries & Comfort

Shampoo
Sunscreen & Lip Balm
Body Wash, Hand & Body Lotion
Eye Drops, Advil & Nasal Spray
Hand and Foot Warmers
Mouthwash & Dental Floss
Foot & Body Powder, Cough Drops

Miscellaneous

Boot Laces, Magazines & Nerf Toys
Playing Cards, Dice & Puzzle Books
Greeting Cards, Journal Books
Frisbees, Hack Sac, Travel Games
New Wash Cloths and Personal Wipes
Gallon Zip Lock Bags



If you are filling your own box, please leave it open for inspection.

Always enclose a note of appreciation or greeting.

12 to 16 oz items are preferred.

Thank you for your support of Holiday for Heroes!

We couldn't do this without YOU!



Barbara Pierce Bush
1926 to Present
Wife of George H.W. Bush

AMERICANISM

American First Ladies

By Pat Baldwin

Having completed her first semester at Smith College, Barbara Pierce Bush dropped out and married her sweetheart in January of 1945. She was 19 and George H.W. Bush was 21.

The couple fell in love when she was sweet sixteen. He was a student at the posh Phillips Andover Academy and she a boarding student at Ashley Hall in South Carolina. Both attended her school's Christmas dance when the magic of the season brought the duo to a romance that has lasted 75 years including 72 years of marriage.

Following a honeymoon in NYC highlighted with a trip to see the holiday spectacular at Radio City Music Hall, the couple eventually moved to Texas where the former Navy torpedo bomber pilot built a business in the oil industry. Simultaneously, the couple started a family.

First child was George W. born in 1946, followed by Robin, Jeb, Neil, Marvin, and Dorothy. Barbara, 28, was pregnant with Jeb when Robin succumbed to leukemia at age three. The death of their oldest daughter is said to have contributed to Barbara's hair prematurely turning white.

Barbara was born the third child of four on June 8, 1925. Her father was the President of Mc Call Publishing. Her mother was Pauline Robinson Pierce who was killed in an auto accident in 1949 when Barbara was 24. Her father later wed Willa Marten, a reporter.

Her line goes back to the Mayflower. She is related to Abigail Adams, and President Franklin Pierce. (And like the writer of this article, she shares a link to Lady Godiva. Hello Cousin Barbara!!) She and Abigail are the only First Ladies whose sons became Presidents.

Growing up she grew to love and appreciate reading. She continued this passion throughout her life culminating in her initiating a nation wide literacy program while Second Lady during the Reagan administration.

Her other passions were leukemia research and the promotion of better understanding of dyslexia which her son Neil struggled with as a child.

The couple moved 26 times during their marriage. The best of times for Barbara was when her husband served as American Ambassador to China. The appointment enabled the couple to spend many hours biking and exploring and gave them more time together than they had shared in years.

The worst time was when her husband was appointed head of the CIA. In China, they had shared everything. Now, because of the nature of his position, he was not free to discuss his highly secretive work. Barbara felt isolated. The depression was intensified by the knowledge that most successful Washington women had opted for careers while she had dedicated her life to helping her husband reach his goals. She did not seek counseling. Fortunately, she credits her husband's concern and understanding for getting her out of this funk.

As a teenager, Barbara worked for Lord & Taylor and, during the war years, did her part on an assembly line. She became acutely aware of segregation while driving alone with her family and two black women employees from Texas to Maine. She was shocked when the women were denied accommodations in the various hotels she had booked.

The wife of the 41st POTUS is seen as the nation's grandmother known for her warmth and wit and a lady who doesn't tolerate fools easily. Her white hair and pearls are her signature. On a political foray, a group of Republicans opted to honor her by wearing pearls at her meet and greet. Much to her delight, even the men donned a strand or two.

Her children include the following:

President George W. Bush, two daughters and a great-grandchild.

Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush his two sons and daughter.

Texas business man Neil Bush, three children including Lauren Bush the fashion model and designer.

Insurance businessman Marvin Bush and two adopted children.

Marvin endorsed Gary Johnson in the last election.

Dorothy "Doro" Koch, author and philanthropist, and four children by two marriages.

Barbara and her husband are great-grandparents to three.

In 2000, Robin was interred at President George H.W. Bush Library located at Texas A&M University Campus where the Bushes will be buried.

Information for this article was obtained, in part, from the First Ladies Biographies.

Legislative

UPDATE

By Lori Fayhee

EDUCATION HOUSE BILL

The Florida Legislature's committee meeting schedule begins September 12th. The 2018 regular session will begin January 9th and end March 9th. Currently, 106 Senate bills and 44 House bills have been filed. Some of the highlights include:

Firearms: SB 120 would make businesses, organizations, and other private entities that ban firearms legally responsible for a conceal carry permit holder's safety. SB 134, deals with firearms at courthouses, and would allow a "concealed weapons or concealed firearms licensee to temporarily surrender a weapon or firearm if the licensee approaches courthouse security or management personnel upon arrival and follows their instructions." SB 196 would prohibit the management personnel upon arrival and follows their instructions." SB 196 would prohibit the purchase, sale, or possession of an assault weapon or large capacity magazine, within the state of Florida, except by a member or employee of the Department of Law Enforcement, a law enforcement agency, the Department of Corrections, or the military, air, or naval forces of Florida or of the United States for use in the discharge of his or her official duties. Under SB 196, a Florida citizen in possession of an assault weapon would be guilty of a third-degree felony, punishable by one year in prison.

Local Government: SB 192, relates to Public Meetings and specifies conditions under which members of any board or commission of any state agency or authority or of any agency or authority of any county, municipal corporation, or political subdivision may participate in fact-finding exercises or excursions, etc. HB 7, designed to promote the fiscal transparency of local governments when using public funds by requiring additional public noticing of proposed local government actions that would increase taxes, enact new taxes, extend expiring taxes, or issue tax-supported debt and requiring voting records of local governing bodies related to such actions to be easily and readily accessible by the public. SJR 194, is a joint resolution proposing an amendment to Section 4 of Article IX of the State Constitution to limit the terms of office for a member of a district school board so that a person may not serve as a member of a district school board for more than two four-year terms. Approval of this amendment would be submitted to appear on the ballot of the next general election or at an earlier special election specifically authorized by law for that purpose.

Environment: SB 156, would create the "Florida Black Bear Protection Act"; prohibiting the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission from allowing the recreational hunting of Florida black bears mothering cubs that weigh less than 100 pounds under a black bear hunting permit; prohibiting prescribed burns in certain designated habitats during specified times, etc. SB 168, relates to Nonnative Animals and would require the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to establish a pilot program for the eradication of priority invasive species; specifying procedures for the capture and disposal of animals that belong to priority invasive species; requiring animals that belong to certain nonnative species to be implanted with a passive integrated transponder tag before sale, resale, or being offered for sale by a pet dealer. SB 174, would revise the criteria in determining and assigning annual funding priorities for beach management and erosion control projects; require that certain projects be considered separate and apart from other specified projects; revise requirements for the comprehensive long-term management plan; and require certain funds from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund to be used for projects that preserve and repair state beaches.

Human Interest: SB 140 prohibits the issuance of a marriage license to any person under the age of 18 years. SB 164 would require facilities performing mammography to include certain information in a summary of the mammography report to be provided to each patient. SB 166 would revise the formula for the adjusted state minimum wage beginning September 30, 2018, and each year through 2022. The adjusted state minimum wage rate would be calculated by increasing the state minimum wage by the rate of inflation for the 12 months preceding September 1 of that year plus \$1 in 2018 and an additional \$1.50 in each subsequent year. Beginning September 30, 2023, and each year after, the state minimum wage would be calculated by the rate of inflation for the 12 months preceding that year.

Education: SB 88 would revise the requirements for the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards to include financial literacy and would reduce the required electives credits for a standard high school diploma to seven and one-half, rather than eight, credits. SB 180 would authorize, but not require, high schools to offer students opportunities to take specified computer coding courses to satisfy the graduation requirement of two credits of sequential foreign language instruction. SB 96 would revise the required health education in public schools to include information regarding the dangers and signs of human trafficking. SB 188, would require district school boards to provide transportation to certain students; reduce the required qualifying distance from 2 miles to 1.5 miles; revise the speed and road conditions that meet the requirements for a hazardous walking condition; and require a district school superintendent to request a review of a hazardous walking condition upon receipt of a written request from a parent of a student. SB 216 takes aim at one of the signature sections of HB 7069, the Schools of Hope program. This bill seeks to restrict loan financing for the "Hope" charter schools to those that not only serve areas of low-performing schools, but that also enroll at least 75 percent of their students from those schools. This change would prevent a school from opening in a neighborhood and then serving children primarily from other locations. The bill would also bar the schools from hiring teachers who lack state certification, as currently allowed.

Controversy surrounding HB 7069 continues. Florida School Districts, including, Bay, Broward, Duval, Hamilton, Lee, Martin, Miami-Dade, Orange, St. Lucie, Palm Beach, Polk, and Volusia, have joined a potential lawsuit against the constitutionality of HB 7069. Much of the controversy centers on the law's language that potentially is in violation of state constitutional requirements, including the requirement that bills focus on a single subject. HB 7069 encompasses more than 60 measures, such as creating a separate "schools of hope" charter school system, taking control from local school boards. The law also requires districts give a portion of their capital funding tax revenue to privately owned charter schools.

Lee County school board members voted 7-0 to authorize the district to initially spend up to \$25,000 to go toward the lawsuit. In a letter, Lee County School District officials said the lawsuit filed against the state for HB 7069 is about preserving Constitutional authority. "A local government entity, such as a school board, that knows the legislature has passed a bill which usurps the authority bestowed upon that board by the people of the state of Florida has a responsibility to use the legal means in place to challenge the legislative act that is inconsistent with the will of the people," the letter reads. Due to HB 7069 regulations, "We stand to lose \$45 million dollars over the next five years in capital dollars alone," said Adkins. "We can't afford to do this. As you know, we are growing so fast we need to build nine schools in the next five years, not to mention all the maintenance on all the buildings we already have."

Sarasota County School District became the first Florida District to officially speak out against the lawsuit and voted to end "all consideration" and

Continued on next page

Legislative Update continued

“further allocation of resources” towards the support of any potential litigation challenging HB 7069. Sarasota County currently already shared money with charter schools and School Board members said they also feared joining in the lawsuit would result in a strained relationship with state lawmakers. Sarasota Board member, Bridget Ziegler, is a founding member of the Florida Coalition of School Board Members, which supported HB 7069.

According to the Naples Herald, “Southwest Florida representatives may be split on this issue, as Representative Heather Fitzenhagen told the audience at a question and answer session that she saw Lee County’s challenge of the bill as one of the healthy checks and balances inside Florida’s government.” The Herald also reported that State Representatives Byron Donalds and Bob Rommel spoke jointly in front of a room of Republican supporters to expound on their support for the education bill, and quoted Representative Donalds in the following quotes: “School districts don’t like it because we did some things that tied their hands a little bit, in a good way.” “What happened with 7069 was that because all of those individual bills had passed, but they hadn’t passed out of the Senate yet because the senate wanted to hold back pieces of it as bargaining chips for the budget,” said Donalds. “In the House, we created a train essentially. We took all the bills, put them into one bill, HB 7069, and we passed that on the House floor and sent that to the Senate so the Senate couldn’t say ‘Oh well we have these 16 bills we can use to negotiate on the budget.’”

Chicago law firm, Husch Blackwell, has been selected to represent the school districts planning to file a legal challenge against HB 7069, with attorney John Borkowski taking the lead. Franklin Harrison, attorney for Bay District Schools, was quoted as saying that Borkowski is well known in Florida and is a “school lawyer’s school lawyer.” The growing coalition of Florida School Boards appears to be in position to officially file the suit this fall.

WE NEED “STUFF” FOR THE FASHION SHOW...Contact Kerri Tonkin at 907-321-0419



LRWF

Presents the...

**Glamour-us
On
Parade
Fashion Show**

SAVE THE DATE:

November 15, 2017 at the beautiful Forest Golf County Club.
LRWF largest fund raiser,
Glamour-us On Parade Fashion Show
is just around the corner.

The committee continues to meet and this should be a fun event. Items we are lacking and could use for donations are gently used designer hand bags and jewelry. We can also use any gift certificates for pedicures or manicures. New items needed for a donations would be scarves, fine soaps, or anything fun you would like to find in a bag that you bid on.

Call Kerri Tonkin at 907-321-0419 for information
or donation drop off.

Thank you in advance for your support.

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Florida State Senate



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Florida House of Representatives



Mike Scott
Lee County Sheriff



Larry Kiker
Lee County Commissioner
District 3



Sharon Harrington

THE PAST MONTH IN PICTURES



Donna and Tommy Doyle, Supervisor of Elections!



Our guest speaker, Cecil Pendergrass, speaks to us about our county!



Joanie McMahon is having a GREAT time!



Tory Renza receives the LRWF Scholarship presented by Gina Stoll.



*Katherine Stoll...our beautiful student member!
We are so proud to have her!*



Kerri Tonkin, our 1st Vice President fills in for our President Doris Cortese while she is on vacation!



Kevin Karnes, President of the Young Republicans, Jenna Persons, and Senator Kathleen Passidomo are having happy conversations!



Cheryl Harris, Book Chat Chairwoman and Marilyn Kostik, Corresponding Secretary show some love!

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