



Letters & Opinions

Amendment 1 - "Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press ... or the right of the people to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

The content in the letters and opinions is not necessarily the opinion of The Voice of South Marion

Letters

Attorney General Issues Tips To Protect Taxpayers

Attorney General Ashley Moody is urging Floridians to take action to prevent identity theft this tax season in recognition of Tax Identity Theft Awareness Week. To raise awareness about tax identity scams, Attorney General Moody is offering tips to help taxpayers protect sensitive information.

As Floridians prepare to file taxes, it is important to take steps to make sure sensitive financial information is protected. There are some simple steps every taxpayer can take to guard against identity theft, and in recognition of Tax Identity Theft Awareness Week, my office is offering several tips to help better protect all taxpayers.

Tax identity thieves will sometimes take extreme measures to access personal information, such as searching through trash cans and dumpsters to find bills and documents; calling, emailing or texting individuals to gain personal information; or posing as a legitimate tax preparer.

To guard against these tactics, taxpayers should:

- Use a secure internet connection when filing electronically. Do not use unsecure, publicly available Wi-Fi hotspots;
- Review a tax preparer's qualifications before hiring. Any individual with a Preparer Tax Identification Number may prepare and file tax returns for clients; however, there are different levels of credentials, skills and expertise. Click here to find a qualified tax preparer at specific a credential level;
- Check for complaints against the preparer or company with the Better Business Bureau at BBB.org;
- Confirm that any preparer claiming to be an attorney is in good standing with the Florida Bar at FloridaBar.org;
- Ensure to connect with a tax preparer af-

ter you file, even after tax season concluded. Should the IRS reject a return or need additional information, reaching a preparer is needed; and

•Dispose of old tax records properly. Never place tax returns or supporting documents in the trash; burn or shred old records before disposal.

Wrongful Death Act - Kits Crusade Awareness

As a parent with Florida guardianship over a special needs developmentally disabled adult son, I was unable to pursue a Wrongful Death Act Claim (due to medical negligence). Even though I had an option to file a medical negligence claim, most attorneys will not take the case because it is economically unfeasible which leaves a wrongful death act claim pertinent to file. Since he died in a hospital, from our perception of medical negligence, along with his age, his marital status, and of not having children, especially under a specified age; current Florida law denies me that right; which appears to be unconstitutional.

Kits Crusade is providing awareness to you about the importance of amending this law that will be entering the legislation floors this upcoming session. Research this link:

<https://www.fasigbrooks.com/blog/2013/april/the-medical-malpractice-wrongful-death-act-can-tl> to see if you fall into the category of people who will be denied the legal representation in a court of law if a loved family member of yours falls prey to this injustice.

Will you join hands with us in this cause by contacting your legislators or by sending us your stories and concerns to Kits Crusade PO Box 1792 Avon Park, FL 33826 and we will take your issues forth to those legislators that are sponsoring the bill in Tallahassee.

MILLIE CORBIN (Mother of Kit Corbin)
JULIA HOMES (Sister of Kit Corbin)
(863-253-0938)

Troop 113 Spaghetti Dinner

Weirsdale Boy Scout Troop 113 will be hosting their 36th Annual Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, February 3rd. (Yes we know it is Super Bowl Sunday). You can come to the Boy Scout Hut for drive through take out OR be served by the Boy Scouts at Douglas Hall at Weirsdale Presbyterian Church.

Proceeds supports Eagle Scouts with college tuition and Boy Scout summer events and jamborees. Price is still \$5.00 donation.

SECO Offers \$36,000 In Scholarships

SECO Energy's Board of Trustees has once again approved \$36,000 in 2019 scholarships to support local students looking to fulfill their quest for a higher education. SECO has provided over \$500,000 in scholarships to area students during the program's 20-year tenure.

The Cooperative will award up to 12 local high school students a \$3,000 scholarship toward their education at an accredited college, university or vocational/technical school located in Florida. To be considered, applicants must live in a home served by SECO and must graduate in the 2019 school year (May/June). Awardees must be enrolled full time by the end of 2019 to receive the scholarship disbursement.

Scholarship awards are based on scholastic achievements, community service and financial need as well as an interest in pursuing a career in the energy field.

Scholarship applications are available now at SECO's Member Service Centers or at SECOEnergy.com > Your Co-op > Scholarships. Students can also pick up an application at their local high school guidance counselors' offices.

Mail completed applications to: SECO Energy Attn: Corporate Communications, P.O. Box 301, Sumterville, FL 33585-0301. SECO must receive the completed application by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 29. Winners will be notified by phone or letter on or before April 26. The awards banquet is scheduled for May 20, 2019.

'America's Everglades,' Clyde Butcher Exhibition

On view Feb. 1-May 26, at the Appleton Museum "America's Everglades" features work by renowned wilderness photographer and conservationist Clyde Butcher. The large-format black and white photographs span three decades, capturing the rugged and remote beauty of the Everglades. From the deepest cypress strands of the sawgrass prairies, coastal waters and languid estuaries, to still lifes of rare species, Butcher reveals its ecosystems in magnificent detail.

With his work exhibited worldwide, Butcher's commitment to recording precious landscapes and peaceful sanctuaries across the globe provides common ground between all viewers. His work, likened to that of Ansel Adams, has earned him recognition as the foremost landscape photographic artist in America today. Honored by the state of Florida with the highest award given to a private citizen, The Florida Hall of Fame Award, he is also privileged to have received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the North American Nature Photography Association, the

Distinguished Artist Award from the Florida House Embassy (Washington, D.C.) and the Ansel Adams Conservation Award from the Sierra Club for showing excellence in photography and contributing to public awareness of the environment.

Letters To The Editor

Letters, or comments, are welcome on any subject. All letters are subject to be edited for length and contents. In most cases, in criticisms of private citizens, names will be omitted. If the criticism is directed at political or government figures, the names will be printed, if the criticism is directed at their decisions affecting government.

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