

Fighting, Finances Pave Campaign Trails

Lia Martin
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Primaries are out of the way.

Let the real race begin, some say.

Losers are yesterday's news, and the winners in both the Republican and Democratic parties are ready to bend public opinion one more time. For politics is a game of winners.

The general election on Nov. 7 is 60 days from now, not a lot of time for political candidates to go down the campaign trail and close the deal.

As Governor Jeb Bush prepares to make an exit, GOP candidate Attorney General Charlie Crist will duel with Democrat Jim Davis for the next Florida governor. Not only did Crist tour St. Petersburg with Bush on Thursday beginning a three day tour of Florida with the governor — showing himself as the golden-haired boy — he set records making money for his campaign, raising \$14 million himself and then proceeded to get 64 percent of the votes taking 61 counties out of 64.

Davis says he plans to tackle education, insurance, and the environment if he becomes governor for the state of Florida. Tuesday night as the votes came in and Davis could see he may win, he exclaimed to his supporters, "With all the talk of sugar in the news, let me say how sweet it is. Tonight the winds of change swept through Florida. The voices of

Florida's families were heard over special interests. It's time to change direction," as his supporters chanted, "Go Jim, Go."

The most controversial race will be the one in which Congresswoman Katherine Harris is competing against Bill Nelson, a Democratic favorite in Florida for the U.S. Senate seat. Replacing Harris will be Republican Vern Buchanan or Christine Jennings, Democrat, who are competing against each other to sit in the U.S. House seat for District 13.

Harris, when interviewed on Wednesday after the primary election on Tuesday, thinks that people came out and voted for her because she has fought for her constituency in every political office she has held.

That it is about the issues, and not about her personality, or the way she dresses.

"It's not about me," Harris said. "It quit being about me a long time ago."

Commissioner Kathy Castor (D-Hillsborough County) will face Republican Eddie Adams for the U.S. House seat for District 11. The victor takes Jim Davis' seat, who won the right to face Crist in battle for Florida state Governor's seat.

The next Florida Attorney General will be Republican State Sen. Skip Campbell or Democrat Bill McCollum.

Senate president and Republican Tom Lee will face Democrat Alex Sink for the

Florida Chief Financial Officer seat.

Incumbent State Rep. Michael Grant will keep his District 71 seat because there is no Democratic opponent, and Democrat Arthenia Joyner becomes a state senator in District 18 by winning the Democratic primary.

Republican Doug Holder will compete against Democrat David Shapiro for the State House seat in District 70.

School Board member Laura Benson (R-Sarasota) will compete against New College professor Keith Fitzgerald (D-Sarasota) for the State House seat in District 69.

Five of the seven circuit judgeships were for the 20th Judicial Circuit, with the other two seats determined during the general election on Nov. 7. They are Incumbent Meg Steinbeck for Group 9, State Rep. Bruce Kyle for Group 14, Attorney Joe Simpson for Group 26, Attorney Keith Kyle for Group 31, and Beth VanArsdale Krier for Group 28. Two other judgeship seats will be elected in the general election: attorneys Lynne Dailey or Miguel Fernandez, and attorneys Liz Adams or Franklin Mann, Jr.

Judgeship candidates for the 12th Judicial Circuit are Donna Padar Berlin for Group 16 and Judge Lee Haworth for Group 13.

The Manatee County Commission District 6 seat will be a race between

Republican Carol Whitmore, who is also Holmes Beach mayor, and Democratic candidate Sarah Meaker.

Whitmore won in the primaries in spite of the smear campaign leveled against her by her opponent Meaker, who implied that Whitmore was a "liberal extremist."

Incumbents Walter Miller and Barbara Harvey were re-elected to District 1 and 5 respectively in the Manatee County School Board race. Jane Pfeilsticker, a Manatee Community College professor, won the District 2 seat making her the first new board member since 1998. Both Joe Miller and Bob Gause will face each other again in the Nov. 7 general election for the District 4 seat.

Joe Barbetta won the Sarasota Board of County Commissioners, District 2 seat in the open primary.

Sarasota County School Board members Carol Todd for District 1 and Kathy Kleinlein for District 5 were re-elected. Caroline Zucker won the District 2 school board seat, while Shirley Brown won in District 4.

David Garofalo and Jim Blucher will face off for Seat 4 in the city of North Port Commission open primary on Nov. 7. Incumbent Commissioner Vanessa Carusone will have to battle Levko Klos for Seat 5.

Town to Name Members to League

Lia Martin
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Because the Florida League of Cities restructured its legislative policies, the Longboat Key Town commissioners will appoint board members for the four policy committees.

Town Manager Bruce St. Denis corresponded with John Charles Thomas, the director of the League, on behalf of the Town commissioners while they were on summer break.

The newly structured committees, according to Thomas, are the Municipal Service Delivery Council dealing with affordable housing, economic development, emergency management and eminent domain issues; Fiscal Stewardship

Council dealing with tax and budget reform, infrastructure funding, home rule revenues, and general finance and tax issues; Urban Planning Council dealing with coastal management, environmental, zoning, planning and permitting issues; and, the Home Rule Administration Council dealing with building codes, code enforcement, liability, transportation, Sunshine Law, and public safety issues.

Previously, there were seven committees.

Town Commissioner George Spoll had been appointed to the Criminal Justice, Ethics and Personnel committee, and the Environmental Quality committee appointee was Commissioner Randy Clair.

Mayor Joan Webster was appointed to

the Intergovernmental Relations committee, and Vice-Mayor Lee Rothenberg was appointed to the Municipal Finance and Taxation committee.

The Urban Administration committee was manned by Commissioner Peter O'Connor, the Retirement, Personnel and Collective Bargaining committee appointee was Commissioner Bob Siekmann, and Commissioner Jeremy Whatmough was appointed to the Advocacy committee.

The League is requesting that each municipality have representation on one or more of the League's legislative councils.

"The League will expand the scope of its current committees by creating

legislative councils that will address and consider a wider range of issue areas that affect Florida's municipalities, and to focus discussion on issues that will be debated in Florida Legislature."

At the regular meeting on Monday, commissioners will have to re-appoint commissioners to sit only on the four councils, instead of the seven committees. The Town Commission appointments will be sent to Thomas on Sept. 12.

A requirement of the League is that appointees attend council meetings.

The first meeting of the Florida League of Cities is Sept. 15 at the Orlando World Center Marriot. There are three other council meetings scheduled during the fiscal year.

Stingray, from Page 1A

Stingrays are very prolific in the Gulf of Mexico, and most Floridians are familiar with the 'stingray shuffle' that consists of waving your foot side-to-side before you step onto the ocean floor. This is performed to cause a potentially buried stingray to move; avoiding the sting by a poisonous barb at the end of a stingray's tail.

Stingrays are not aggressive animals, according to Mote Marine. They sting when they feel threatened, and do not attack. Unfortunately, accidents occur, as was the case last Monday when Steve Irwin, the Crocodile Hunter was killed by a sting to the heart from a stingray.

Irwin, age 44, was filming a new TV program as he swam with a stingray on the Great Barrier Reef when it lashed out with its tail, plunging a poisonous barb into his chest. Irwin, who was being filmed at the time of the accident, pulled the barb from his chest. Although those with him brought him back to the boat, he died within minutes. The investigation and cause of death are not yet official, but it is believed that the barb wound to his heart was the actual cause of death; not necessarily the poison. The Discovery Channel, which produced and aired Irwin's programs, reported it will



Steve Irwin died Monday by a stingray.

not show the footage. Attacks on humans are very rare, and only one other person is known to have died in Australia from a stingray attack, at St Kilda, Melbourne in 1945.

About Stingrays

Benthic (bottom) stingrays live in shallow water (six to 20 feet offshore) and bury themselves in the sand. They have barbs, which contain a toxin at the end of their tails. The barb is made of dentin, a hard, bony substance much like teeth,

Keep the Lights Off for Turtles

As Southwest Florida moves from sea turtle nesting season into sea turtle hatching season, researchers want to remind coastal residents, businesses and visitors to keep the lights off on area beaches to ensure that just-hatched turtles make their way to the Gulf of Mexico and not into nearby parking lots.

"Hatchlings emerge at night and their instincts tell them to aim for the brightest horizon," said Dr. Tony Tucker, manager of Mote's Sea Turtle Conservation and Research Program in the Center for Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Research. "On a dark beach, that orients them toward the sea. But where artificial lights are visible from the beaches, hatchlings become dis-

oriented and head inland. In that case, hatchlings waste precious energy and risk getting sun baked, ant-bitten or becoming a bird snack. The ideal scenario is to have them headed directly to the water so their swimming frenzy can take over and get them past hungry fish, sharks or gulls."

Researchers estimate that about a third of the nests laid on the 36 miles of beaches monitored by Mote (Longboat Key, Lido Beach, Siesta Key, Casey Key and Venice) have hatched, with an estimated 18,333 hatchlings making their way to the water. Another estimated 500 hatchlings have lost their way during 58 disorientation events. (Note: A "disorientation event" could include one turtle or many turtles.)

and is covered in skin.

The toxin the stinger secretes tightens the small veins around the wound. The toxin causes pain and paralyzes small fish that the stingrays feed on, and is strong enough to stop the heart of a small dog or be potentially fatal to people with heart or respiratory problems.

The toxin is protein-based and therefore can be inactivated by exposure to

high temperatures. Therefore one of the treatments after being stung by a stingray is immersion of the wound in hot water, or application of a hot compress. Heat will reduce the initial pain of a stingray injury, and individuals stung should also seek medical assistance so that the wound can be examined and cleaned to avoid secondary infections or other complications.