

The Florida Democrat

Keeping Florida Democrats up to date on news in the state

POLITICO's Morning Score: Foreclosure hits Rubio, Rivera

Have to wonder if Marco Rubio's legal bills are getting out of hand as he tries to avoid getting indicted? Or maybe Rubio simply can't afford to pay his bills without his RPOF AmEx card subsidizing his lavish lifestyle?

DEADBEATS? Florida Senate candidate Marco Rubio and state Rep. David Rivera, who's running for the House, drew a foreclosure suit this week after missing five months of mortgage payments on a jointly owned Tallahassee property, the Palm Beach Post reports. From the paper: "They received an adjustable rate mortgage that allowed them to make interest-only payments until April 1, 2010.

Burgos said Rubio and Rivera began withholding payments in February because of a dispute about how the payments would be calculated after the interest-only period ended. ... Court documents show Rubio and Rivera owe the bank \$138,394 with interest and late charges." Rubio's camp said the issue had been addressed, but there's no indication yet that the foreclosure has been withdrawn. <http://bit.ly/cW3J8a>

MORE: POLITICO's David Catanese reports that Rubio cut a check to deal with the foreclosure issue -- only after media inquiries about the property. "A Rubio campaign spokesman said the issue had been resolved after the two co-owners wrote a check for \$9,524 Thursday, one day after POLITICO originally inquired about the suit." <http://politi.co/9Ect0j>

<http://www.politico.com/morningscore/0610/morningscore107.html>

SP Times: Former TV anchor challenging John Thrasher



Photo Courtesy of:

<http://www.news4jax.com/image/23797368/detail.html>

We hear veteran Jacksonville area TV anchor Deborah Gianoulis has filed to challenge Sen. John Thrasher in the general election. It's a heavily Republican district, but Gianoulis is well known in the district and was a prominent opponent of SB 6, the controversial merit pay bill pushed by Thrasher.

The Senator/GOP chairman from certainly has his hands full, and we've already heard some grass roots activists start grumbling again about their party chairman being stretched too thin. Think about it. Thrasher now has to raise

money for his own campaign, probably deal with a primary challenge as well as a general election contest. Meanwhile, he has to raise money for the state GOP, referee a bitter primary between Rick Scott and Bill McCollum, try to rebuild the beleaguered state GOP, contend with assorted state and federal criminal investigations swirling around leading Republicans, and possibly deal with another special session. <http://blogs.tampabay.com/buzz/2010/06/former-tv-anchor-challenging-john-thrasher.html>

ICYMI: Orlando Sentinel: McCollum v. Scott on immigration hypocrisy

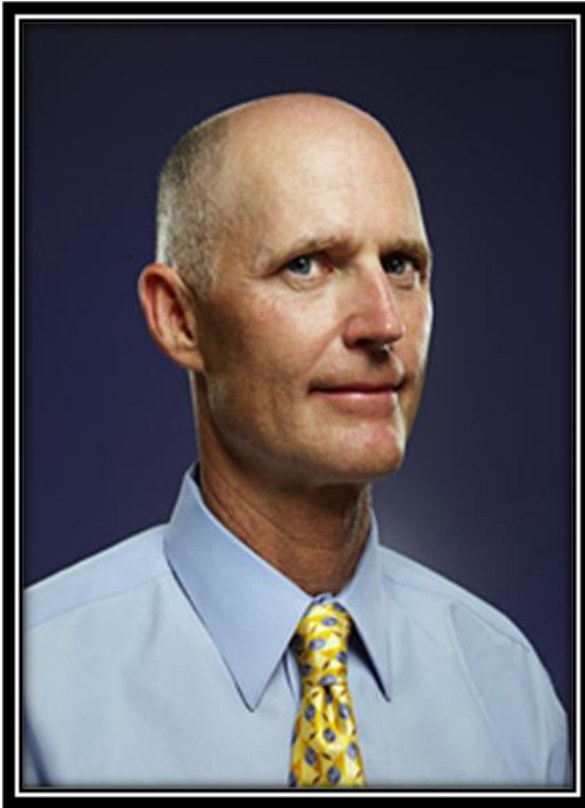


Photo Courtesy of:
<http://personalmoneystore.com/moneyblog/wp-content/uploads/2009/08/rick-scott.jpg>

Immigration has become a singular focus in the media strategies of the two Republican candidates for governor.

Naples millionaire Rick Scott came out hard and fast last April in support of a controversial Arizona law directing law enforcement to ask for immigration papers when they stop an individual or make an arrest. Attorney General Bill McCollum reacted by calling it "out there," changing his tune once the law was amended to make it more or less parrot existing law by applying its provisions only to people who are arrested.

In a state with a Hispanic population that ranges from second- and third-generation Cuban emigrants in Miami to Central Florida Puerto Ricans who hail from New Jersey, devising a consistent message that reaches Hispanic voters is always tricky. But in recent days, each candidate has accused the other of hypocrisy over their tough-on-illegal immigration stances.

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The Washington Monthly: Why Would the GOP Take BP Side?

By any reasonable standard, things went pretty well at the White House meeting with BP executives. President Obama came into the meeting, and told BP how it was going to be -- and BP caved rather quickly. The result was a \$20 billion pot of money that will bring much-needed help to a devastated region. As one report noted, "The figure is not a cap on the potential damages, and the company received no liability waiver as part of the agreement." BP also scrapped this year's dividends payments, and agreed to set aside an additional \$100 million to support unemployed oil industry employees. It seems praise for the president isn't especially common right now, but for Obama, this was no small feat -- he got what he wanted, and gave up nothing. So, good news for the country, right? If only Republicans saw it that way. The Republican Study Committee, a group of conservative members of the House, released a statement today calling the \$20 billion BP escrow account a "Chicago-style political shakedown."

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ICYMI: Orlando Sentinel: McCollum v. Scott on immigration hypocrisy

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After we blogged Scott's investment in a company that helps "unbanked" Hispanic migrant workers in the U.S. transfer their money back home, the McCollum camp put out a statement saying "Rick Scott says he wants to crack down on illegal immigration, but now we find out he has been profiting from illegal immigrants. ... Rick Scott is a fraud whose public image repair team won't be able to buy the support of Florida voters."



Photo Courtesy of:
<http://blog.reidreport.com/2010/03/bill-mccollum-is-wasting-your-time/>

"Not only does career politician Bill McCollum oppose implementing the Arizona immigration law in Florida, lobbyist Bill McCollum's clients enabled illegal immigration through their support of mortgages to illegal immigrants," said Scott campaign spokeswoman Jennifer Baker. But it is a potentially treacherous path for a wealthy investor and career politician alike.

Democrat Alex Sink, meanwhile, maintains the Arizona law still goes too far. "It's not appropriate for Florida," she told reporters Wednesday. "I don't want to be having to carry my passport around when I go to the grocery store."

http://blogs.orlandosentinel.com/news_politics/2010/06/mccollum-v-scott-on-immigration-hypocrisy.html?utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+news%2Fpolitics%2Fpoliticalpulse+%28Central+Florida+Political+Pulse%29&utm_content=Twitter

The Washington Monthly: Why Would the GOP Take BP Side?

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"BP's reported willingness to go along with the White House's new fund suggests that the Obama Administration is hard at work exerting its brand of Chicago-style shakedown politics, wrote chairman Tom Price (R-GA). "These actions are emblematic of a politicization of our economy that has been borne out of this Administration's drive for greater power and control."

Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour (R) continues to whine about the money set aside for the Gulf Coast, inexplicably telling the AP, "If they take a huge amount of money and put it in an escrow account so they can't use it to drill oil wells and produce revenue, are they going to be able to pay us?"

http://www.washingtonmonthly.com/archives/individual/2010_06/024298.php

Times/Herald: Would-be governor Bud Chiles has string of Panhandle law suits and real estate flops

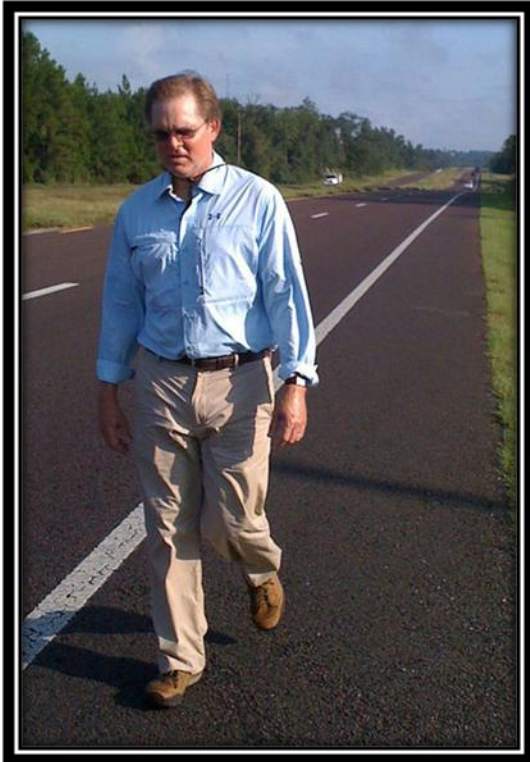


Photo Courtesy of:
<http://www.northescambia.com/?p=11032>

<http://www.tampabay.com/news/politics/would-be-governor-bud-chiles-has-string-of-panhandle-law-suits-and-real/1102888>

Independent gubernatorial candidate Lawton "Bud" Chiles III is a defendant in seven lawsuits stemming from a construction business currently in bankruptcy and a foreclosed condo development.

Most of the suits are either foreclosure cases or claims that Chiles and his partners did not pay leases for construction equipment. In total, suits involving Chiles and his development businesses ask for more than \$10 million in damages, though he could be obligated for far less.

The lawsuits could be used politically to raise questions about Chiles' ability to manage a major organization as he runs for governor as an "outsider" who wants to clean up the political structure in Tallahassee.

"Anybody with any sense knew the economy was slowing down and we were headed into really tough times," said Gene Langston, a Carrabelle real estate agent. "I will give him credit for one thing. He had enough sense to know when to get out.

"Now, whether that makes you qualified to be governor or not, I really don't know."

UPCOMING EVENTS

Central Brevard Democrats Breakfast

July 3, 2010

Location: Bob Evans Restaurant, 100 Sheriff Dr., N Wckham Road

Time: 9:00AM

Contact Info: 321-327-7947.

Annual Jefferson Jackson Dinner in Hernando County

June 26, 2010

Location: VFW Post 10209, 19756 Edward R. Noll Dr. Spring Hill

Time: 6:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M.

Contact Info: Clarence Wingrove, cwingrove1@tampabay.rr.com

Paid for by The Florida Democratic Party (214 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee, FL 32301, 850-222-3411) and not authorized by any federal candidate or candidate's committee.



Save the Date to our
Annual Jefferson-Jackson Dinner

Saturday, July 17, 2010

*The Westin Diplomat
3555 South Ocean Dr.
Hollywood, FL 33019*

Hotel Information

Superior Room Rate \$169.00 + taxes*

To receive the special room rate please reference the "Florida Democratic Party".

Room Reservation Line 1-888-627-9057

**There are a limited amount of rooms at this rate, please book
your rooms as soon as possible.**

Questions?

Please contact Christina Boltin or Nicholas Pellito at 850.222.3411.

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