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Lake City Reporter

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EUGENE JEFFERSON:

Wife active in campaign

Despite indictment, Betty Jefferson has helped voters request absentee ballots.

By ROBERT BRIDGES
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A city councilman's wife, though under indictment for

alleged voter fraud involving absentee ballots during the 2010 election, has been helping residents request absentee ballots



E. Jefferson
Horne's office

for the upcoming primary, Supervisor of Elections Liz Horne said Wednesday. Betty Jefferson has been calling on behalf of city

voters in recent weeks, Horne said, and the calls are perfectly legal. "She calls and gets us on the line for them," Horne said. The elections worker asks the voter his or her name, address and date of birth. If the answers match data

on voter rolls, Florida statute requires an absentee ballot be mailed to that address. Horne did not accuse Jefferson of wrongdoing. "That's the law," she said. Jefferson and another

CAMPAIGN continued on 7A

Suddenly, Lake City a magnet for new business

Eateries, more now looking to locate here.

By TONY BRITT
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Signs of a growing economy are sprouting up all over Lake City, especially along the U.S. Highway 90 corridor, where several new businesses are hoping to locate, including a charging station for Tesla electric vehicles.

According to information from City Hall, restaurants that have expressed interest in locating in Lake City are: Panera Bread Company, Panda Express Restaurant, Dairy Queen Grill & Chill, Denny's Dinner Restaurant and Dunkin' Donuts. In addition to the restaurants, other businesses have inquired about moving to Lake City.

The business growth includes expansion

BUSINESS continued on 3A

Back to school

Tax holiday this weekend

By SARAH LOFTUS | sloftus@lakecityreporter.com

Ashton Hoy, like many Columbia County residents, plans to take advantage of the back-to-school tax-free weekend starting Friday. But unlike others who may just head out to see what they find, Hoy knows exactly what she wants and was out at OfficeMax on Wednesday scouting what's available.

The 18-year-old leaves for college in a few weeks and is looking for accessories for her laptop — a USB device, a new case and a surge protector. Hoy said she and her mom will also look for school supplies, clothes and the few things she still needs for her dorm room at Florida Southern College.

She and her mom have shopped on tax-free weekend since she was a little girl. She even remembers hearing her mom talk about the holiday when it was a week long and not just a weekend.

They usually even go to Georgia for its tax-free weekend, which starts Aug. 8, Hoy said.

"I always take advantage of tax-free weekend," she said.

And she isn't the only one.

According to a news release from Florida TaxWatch, a non-profit, nonpartisan taxpayer research institute, Floridians will save almost \$40 million in taxes as they shop from 12:01 a.m. Friday to midnight Sunday.

School supply items that are less than \$15 apiece will be tax-free. Clothing, footwear and certain accessories that are under \$100 per item will be tax-free. Purses and backpacks are included in that. The first \$750 of computers and certain computer-related accessories will be tax-exempt.

Dominic M. Calabro, president and CEO of Florida TaxWatch, said the money Floridians will save is part of the state's almost \$500 million in tax cuts.

"They (tax holidays) are a great way to lower the tax burden and provide broad-based relief for hard-working Floridians," he said in a prepared statement. "Since

HOLIDAY continued on 7A

Jason Matthew Walker/Lake City Reporter

Amanda Todd shops with her children, Truitt, 10, and Murphy, 5, at OfficeMax on Wednesday. Amanda said that she plans on going back-to-school shopping on Friday. "We need to go and buy clothes, shoes and backpacks," she said. "I'm sure I'll hit the mall."

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OMB No. 1545-0115

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Miscellaneous Income

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For Internal Revenue Service Center

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Separate Forms on This Page

'Pot trucks' may be on the move after new year

Licensed nurseries could begin driving their product to patients, under new law.

By DARA KAM
The News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — Florida pot dispensers could truck their product to patients, under a

revised rule proposed by health regulators in advance of a workshop Friday about the state's move to a limited type of medical marijuana.

The latest plan also would loos-

en restrictions on who could own the dispensing organizations. Nurseries with only one-quarter ownership of pot distribution businesses would be eligible for licenses, according to the draft rule released late Tuesday by the state Department of Health's Office of Compassionate Use.

Despite numerous complaints

expressed by nursery owners, lobbyists and others at a rule-making workshop earlier this month, health officials aren't backing away from a lottery-based system to choose the recipients of five licenses, a competition drawing operators and investors from around the world.

The state has until Jan. 1 to come

up with the regulations regarding a strain of marijuana, authorized by the Republican-dominated Legislature and approved by Gov. Rick Scott earlier this year, that purportedly does not get users high but can alleviate life-threatening seizures in children with

POT TRUCKS continued on 7A