

Rain

Cloudy with showers through Tuesday. Highs in 80s, lows in 70s. SW winds 10-15 m.p.h. Data, 2-A.

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Most officials ahead of disclosure deadline

Pasco

By JAN GLIDEWELL
Pasco Times Staff Writer

DADE CITY — With the filing deadline approaching Tuesday, 246 elected and appointed officials in Pasco County had filed financial disclosure statements required by state law. Several officials, including all but one member of the Pasco County School Board, had not filed the necessary statements as of late Friday afternoon.

Some of the late filings may be due to a misconception that has led many persons to believe that officeholders who were candidates in elections in the past year do not

have to file, but spokesmen for the office of Circuit Clerk Miller Newton said that all officeholders must file whether they were candidates or not.

Of the School Board members, only Dr. Robert Hartzel had filed his disclosure statement. Board members Bonnie Zimmer, Jay B. Starkey, and Agnes Deal along with board Chairman Harley Gilmore and Supt. Thomas Weightman had not.

Pasco County Commissioners Curtis Law, William Hamilton and Robert Rees had filed, but Commission Chairman Michael Olson and Commissioner Matthew Prabhaskar Jr. had not.

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Hernando

By JEANNE SMITH
Citrus-Hernando Times Staff Writer

BROOKSVILLE — Hernando County's new tax appraiser, Les Samples Jr., is the only major county official who had not filed a financial disclosure form by noon Friday.

Samples, appointed by Gov. Reuben Askew to replace Thelma Wimberley, who resigned because of poor health, officially has 30 days from the date of his appointment to file. But court officials said he already has picked up a disclosure form and apparently intends to meet the disclosure deadline Tuesday.

Samples could not be reached for comment.

See HERNANDO, Page 3

Citrus

By MICHAEL MOORE
Citrus-Hernando Times Staff Writer

INVERNESS — Nearly all government officials in Citrus County had filed required financial disclosure statements as of Friday, in compliance with a state law that puts a Tuesday deadline on the minimal disclosure documents.

Nearly all of the statements, which pertain to the 1974 tax year, were filed before the May 15 deadline was extended to this Tuesday.

The Citrus County commissioners authorized the mailing of notice letters to more than 100 persons required to file the

statements, though not leg

take the action. It is incumbent on you to see that the statements

Statements not among filed as of Friday afternoon School Board member J

County Property Appraiser Memorial Hospital Board Campbell and Crystal Rive chael Mountjoy.

Hodgkins said Friday t gotten to file the statement do so.

Toile said he intended t deadline. He said he had see if any change was made sure requirements before rather than possibly having See C

Disclosure from Page 1

County Administrator Richard Kelton, who was supposed to have filed within 30 days of his June 1 appointment date, had not filed as of Friday afternoon.

County Atty. Peter Dunbar, who also is chairman of the Pasco County Charter Commission, and is required to file in both capacities, had not filed as of late Friday.

THERE IS A lengthy list of members of various boards who have resigned recently, many of them in protest against the 1974 disclosure act. Newton said they are still required by law to file, but pointed out, "the only penalty for failure to file is removal from office, and it doesn't make much difference if a person has already resigned."

Included on that list are Dan Martin, an attorney who served on the criminal justice advisory board; Ralph Shannon, who served on the same board; West Pasco Hospital Board members John Grey and J. Alfred Sulek; Bob Baggett, a member of the Southeast Pasco Urban Planning Commission; James T. Richardson, member of the Pasco County Advisory Committee to the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council;

Royden Presley, member of the consumer affairs and appeals board; C. Ed Smith, member of the County Housing Authority; attorney Stephen Booth who served on a New Port Richey Advisory Board; Henry Douglas, who served on the consumer affairs board; Robert L. Finotti, who served on the electrical contractors appeals board; Leroy J. Kneth, member of the Southeast Pasco Urban Planning Commission and William C. Maddox, member of the Northeast Pasco Urban Planning Commission.

ALL NEW PORT Richey city officials coming under the act had filed except for attorney Richard Milbauer who is a New Port Richey city councilman.

All Dade city officials had filed except for Councilman O. K. Mickens and Police Chief Norris Nixon.

All Zephyrhills city officials had filed except for City Council President Sam Surratt.

In Port Richey, City Council members Robert Downey and Marilyn Hill and Mayor Harry Siam had not yet filed.

All of the county's constitutional officers, Tax Collector Maxine Coulter, Sheriff Basil Gaines, Newton Property Appraiser Ted Williams and Supervisor of Elections

Mary Morgan had filed according to records available late Friday.

The law applies to all public officials, elected and appointed, unless they are appointed to strictly advisory boards that have no binding decision-making power.

PASSAGE OF THE law and its subsequent amendments led to an immediate uproar throughout the state among officials who charged it was a violation of privacy and would leave officials open to nuisance lawsuits and extortion and expose them and their families to the possibility of being kidnaped.

Interpretation of the portion of the law defining "strictly advisory" boards has led to confusion, as has the law's frequently misunderstood provision that officials have only to disclose sources of income and not dollar amounts.

The law requires officeholders and appointees to list all income sources that comprise at least 10 per cent of their gross incomes, excluding dividends, interest, guardianships, alimony, child support, retirement or disability compensation and compensation derived from government service.

Campaign contributions are excluded,

but have to be listed separately during the campaign.

INCOME SOURCES of businesses that constitute at least 15 per cent of the person's income must be reported if he owns a material interest (at least 10 per cent of the assets or stock) but only sources that produced at least 15 per cent of the gross income of the business.

Persons who receive at least 10 per cent of the net distributed income of chartered banks, savings and loan associations, small loan companies, liquor establishments, betting establishments, utilities, cemetery or insurance companies, mortgage and title insurance companies, credit unions or anything controlled by the Public Service Commission or given a municipal franchise must file.

Individuals filing also must report any outstanding or past debts that were acquired at a preferential interest rate and any debt that exceeded the individual's net worth.

Persons required to file have the option of filing copies of their federal income tax forms, along with a financial statement of the type required by banks when applying for a loan.

Filing deadline is noon Tuesday.

Pg 35:37 (pgs 1 and 3 of the Pasco times section)

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=kEFSAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=onkDAAAAIIBAJ&pg=6734,4723433&dq=miller-newton+election&hl=en>