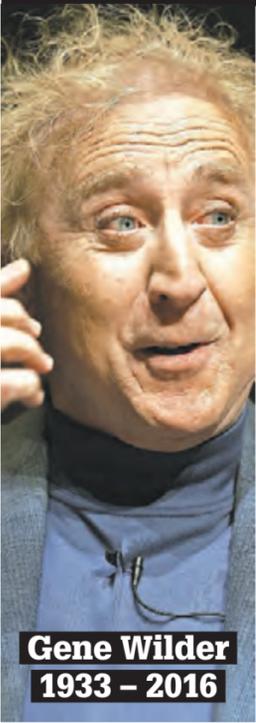


The Florida Times-Union

Tuesday
AUGUST 30, 2016
\$2



Gene Wilder
1933 - 2016

FILM'S FUNNY, FRIZZY STAR

Known for 'Willy Wonka,' 'Young Frankenstein' roles

Metro, B-5



FORECASTERS WARN HEAVY RAIN COULD HIT AREA

Metro, B-1



CALLING ALL FUTURE DRONE OPERATORS

Money, B-8



TODAY IS ELECTION DAY

DECISION TIME

FIVE KEY THINGS TO WATCH

PENSION REFERENDUM

WILL VOTERS SUPPORT A SALES TAX?



Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry's plan to solve the city's pension crisis is a half-cent sale tax set to start in 2031. The proposal was slightly ahead in a poll released last week.

AT THE POLLS

Polling places are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Voters should bring identification showing their signature and photo.

JACKSONVILLE.COM UPDATES

Go to our website to track all the big races through the night with updates on returns and coverage from the major races.

INCUMBENTS FACING FIGHT

STATE ATTORNEY



Will Angela Corey's reign as the controversial state attorney of the state's 4th Judicial Circuit end after eight years? Polls show she is far behind challenger Melissa Nelson.

5TH DISTRICT CONGRESS



U.S. Rep. Corrine Brown fights for her political life under a federal indictment. Can she pull off a win while facing a court trial in her newly designated district that stretches from Jacksonville to Tallahassee.

PUBLIC DEFENDER



Embattled incumbent Matt Shirk is way behind former judge Charles G. Cofer in polls.

RUTHERFORD'S BID FOR WASHINGTON

4TH DISTRICT CONGRESS

Former Sheriff John Rutherford looks to go to Washington as the 4th District congressman, but he faces six challengers with State Rep. Lake Ray and Hans Tanzler III, the son of a former Jacksonville mayor, as his closest rivals.

Voters making big choices but turnout may not reach 30%

By Steve Patterson
steve.patterson@jacksonville.com

Historic choices involving two seats in Congress, plus landmark votes over the future of the Jacksonville area's top prosecutor and public defender, headline a slate of primary elections Tuesday expected to keep politics junkies entertained.

That's in addition to the choice about a Jacksonville sales tax that could last until 2060 and a slew of races across Northeast Florida for elected posts ranging from sheriffs to school board members, plus party nominations for U.S. Senate.

But turnout may not reach 30 percent, which would be disheartening to voting advocates despite being the highest rate in

more than a decade.

"I'm discouraged about the turnout because there's so much on the ballot," said Duval County Supervisor of Elections Mike Hogan, who projected a turnout of 28 to 30 percent, depending partly on how much rain arrives Tuesday.

At one point, Hogan said, he'd thought more than 35 percent of voters might cast ballots, but scaled that back as he watched patterns of early and mail-in voting that stood around 14 percent by the time early voting ended Sunday. Levels were higher in Clay and Nassau counties, lower in St. Johns County.

The last time a Duval party primary drew more than 30 percent of voters was 2000, the year citizens approved the Better Jackson-

ELECTION continues on A-3

Police, mentally ill clash too often

Justice Department reveals need for improved training for officers

By Eric Tucker
Associated Press

WASHINGTON | Justice Department lawyers investigating police agencies for claims of racial discrimination and excessive force are increasingly turning up a different problem: officers' interactions with the mentally ill.

The latest example came in Baltimore, where a critical report on that department's policies found that officers end up in unnecessarily violent confrontations with mentally disabled people who in many

instances haven't even committed crimes. The report cited instances of officers using a stun gun to subdue an agitated man who refused to leave a vacant building and of spraying tear gas to force a troubled person — said by his father to be unarmed and off his medications — out of an apartment.

Though past federal investigations have addressed the problem, the Baltimore report went a step further: It was the first time the Justice Department has explicitly found that a police department's

policies violated the Americans with Disabilities Act. The finding is intended to chart a path to what federal officials hope will be far-reaching improvements, including better training for dispatchers and officers, diversion of more people to treatment rather than jail and stronger relationships with mental health specialists.

"Through the course of our work in the last several years on this bucket of issues, we've seen how important it is to get at the mental health issues as early in the system as possible," Vanita Gupta, head of the department's Civil Rights Division, said in an

POLICE continues on A-3

"They have been out on the streets, they can't afford medication, and so the police wind up being the only one they come in contact with."

Chuck Wexler, executive director of the Police Executive Research Forum

Lawyer facing suit over legal pot claims

He said marijuana use could be legal, according to former clients

By Andrew Pantazi
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A local lawyer who told people they could legally grow marijuana despite a federal law saying the opposite now faces a lawsuit accusing him of profiting off crimes.

Ian Christensen's law firm told couples like the Yandells that if they medically needed marijuana, he could get them a doctor's certificate that would protect them from arrest, according to Scott and Mar-

sha Yandell's lawsuit.

After Christensen told the Yandells they could legally use marijuana, they faced criminal prosecution in St. Johns County in 2015 for manufacturing, possessing with intent to sell and trafficking cannabis. They eventually settled the case, agreeing to three years' probation, a \$15,000 fine, and 100 hours of community service. Marsha Yandell also lost her nursing license. They now live in Oregon, where the state allows marijuana.

Christensen also faces Florida Bar complaints from former clients, in-

LAWYER continues on A-3

Weather
Showers increase
Forecast on A-2

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