

The Florida Times-Union

Wednesday
SEPTEMBER 21, 2016
\$2



5 WAYS JAGS CAN TURN IT AROUND

Sports, C-1

'BRANGELINA' COMING TO AN END

Buzz, A-5

FIREFIIGHTERS MOVE TIGER, SAVE HORSE

Metro, B-1



Board chair: Why Vitti should go

His minority achievement plan is too slow, Smith Juarez says

By Denise Smith Amos
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Duval School Board Chairwoman Ashley Smith Juarez issued an "open letter" to Superintendent Nikolai Vitti on Tuesday that lays out the reasons she asked him to resign last week.

She has also called a spe-



Smith Juarez



Vitti

cial meeting of the School Board on the district's future this Friday.

Vitti, in a news inter-

view, made it clear that he wants to continue working with the School Board on the issues she brought up, though he does not know and wouldn't predict if he will get that chance Friday.

"I just hope it doesn't end," Vitti said. "There's a lot of work still to do, and we've gone too far to stop now. We're at a signifi-

cant place where stopping doesn't make sense."

Smith Juarez's letter says her reasons for seeking Vitti's resignation lie in strategic plan targets Vitti recently proposed for the school district at recent board meetings and in the growing achievement gaps between minority and non-minority students.

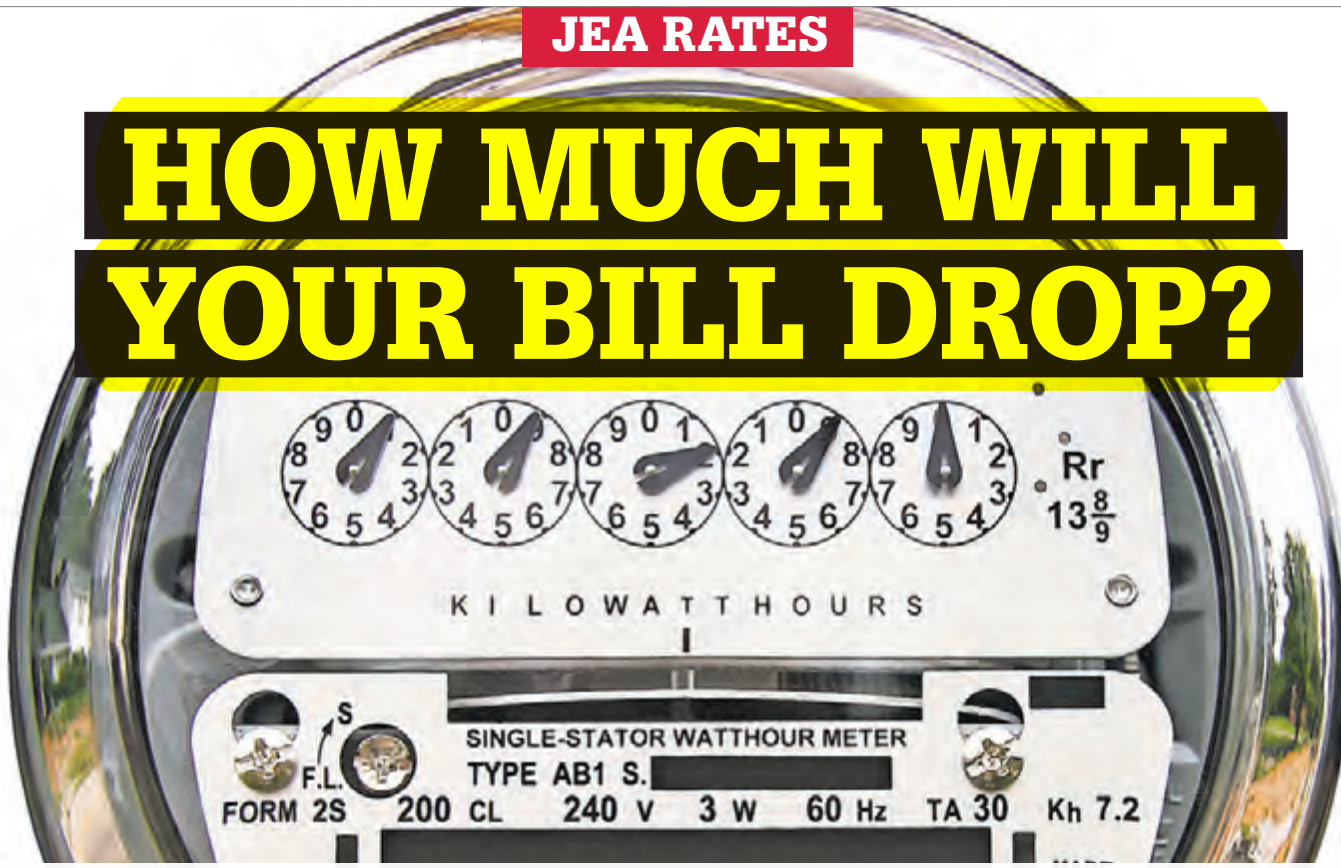
Smith Juarez likened the continued acceptance of an achievement gap between minorities and their white peers to racism.

"All students deserve a high quality and equitable education; these results do not meet that standard," she wrote. "To accept these

VITTI continues on A-4

JEA RATES

HOW MUCH WILL YOUR BILL DROP?



Proposed JEA electric rate changes

The JEA Board of Directors set a hearing for its Oct. 18 meeting and will consider changes to its rates that will be among a set of proposals that staff expects to save customers \$100 million over eight years. The following are the proposed changes for a typical customer.

JEA customer base	Recommended electric rate restructuring			CURRENT CHARGES (TYPICAL)				NEW CHARGES (TYPICAL)			
	Base charges (Includes taxes)	Fuel charges	Bill amount	Base charges (Includes taxes)	Fuel charges	Bill amount	Percent change				
396,000 residential	\$87	\$37	\$124	\$91	\$33	\$123	-0.2%				
47,000 general services	\$219	\$92	\$310	\$227	\$81	\$309	-0.6%				
4,000 general service demand	\$5,267	\$2,499	\$7,766	\$5,228	\$2,210	\$7,438	-4.2%				
150 general service large demand	\$44,920	\$29,400	\$74,320	\$44,709	\$26,000	\$70,709	-4.9%				

Note: Customer base does not include 45 interruptible clients Source: JEA

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Proposal saves typical customer \$1 per month, businesses much more

By Sebastian Kitchen
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The JEA board set the stage Tuesday for a vote next month to change electric rates, with staff expecting the changes to save customers \$100 million over the next eight years and avoid rate increases for the next five years.

"It would lower bills for all custom-

ers today," Chief Financial Officer Melissa Dykes told board members at their Tuesday meeting.

Every JEA electric customer would see a rate reduction in the coming months, but commercial customers would see larger drops in rates, according to an outline of the proposal.

A typical residential customer would see savings of just .2 percent, about \$1 a month for the typical cus-

tomers. Some commercial customers could see reductions of more than 4 percent.

The board set a rate hearing for its Oct. 18 meeting, when it would vote on the proposed changes. If approved, the rate changes would be effective Dec. 1.

Dykes told the board the proposal

JEA continues on A-4

Community spending bill in the rough

Bid to clear up rules for how council members spend money raises issues

By Christopher Hong
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A Jacksonville City Council panel delayed clearing a plan to set aside \$70,000 for council members to host community events after several council members raised questions about how the money could be spent that weren't answered to their satisfaction.

For years, council members who wanted to host events at city parks would request access to the property as well as other city resources, like staff, bleachers and stages, said City Councilman Reginald Brown, who introduced the plan.

This year, the mayor's office told him

BROWN continues on A-4

Suspect's journal included talk of bombs, martyrdom

By Eric Tucker, Larry Neumeister & Jennifer Peltz
Associated Press

NEW YORK | Ahmad Khan Rahami vowed to martyr himself rather than be caught after setting off explosives in New York and New Jersey, and he'd hoped in a handwritten journal championing jihad that "the sounds of bombs will be heard in the streets," authorities said Tuesday as they filed federal charges against him.

Criminal complaints in Manhattan and New Jersey federal courts provided chilling

RAHAMI continues on A-4

Weather
Stormier Southwest
Forecast on A-2

87 Today's high

70 Thursday morning's low

DAILY DEAL! Players by the Sea: \$20 tickets for "Into the Woods" Details, A-2

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