News

Business owners are voting for Bush

By Pasha Carroll
Sun Reporter

Six out of seven local business owners agree that President George W. Bush should be in the White House for another four years.

At Image Computers, LLC, co-owners Martin Lewis and John Lucia are both voting for Bush.

"I am more confident and secure with Bush being in there," Lewis said. "Kerry is too wishy-washy, I question him leading the country in perilous times."

Lucia agreed. "I am voting Bush too, there is no way (John) Kerry should be running this country," he said.

Lewis, who is a Republican, said the economy and health care are issues that have not been addressed clearly by either Kerry or Bush.

At Dana Dixon's family owned business, Dixon Appliance and Air Conditioning, he is registered to vote but said he is not going to.

"I think Bush is going to win, no problem," Dixon said.

He said that he would take to the polls only if Bush was falling behind. He added that he has never voted in a presidential election.

"It is hard to beat an incumbent president," he said. "And Bush has a good track record."

Dixon said that Bush responded well to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

James Boswell at Room Makers Flooring Center agreed.

"Under the circumstances, he has done better than anyone else," he said.

Boswell said that he has "seen the light," and is a converted Democrat to Republican.

"I am definately voting for Bush, I voted for him last time," he said.

As a small business owner, Boswell said that Bush's tax break helped and he thinks the economy will get better.

Piper Gaffrey-Eley , co-owner of Cabinets by John Eley agreed that tax cuts that Bush has made is good for local business.

"The tax cuts on second homes lets business grow here like it does," she said.

Gaffrey-Eley said that most Walton County business owners are either in construction or tourism and building homes helps business.

Gaffrey – Eley is registerd as no affiliation but is voting Republican in 2004.

"I feel safer with Bush," she said.

Chan Cox, owner of Wine World said joking-lythat he wished he could vote for Teddy Roosevelt, but he is not running.

Instead Cox is voting for Bush even though he says that Bush is not the best Republican he has ever voted for as president.

"I am more confident in the Republican view of economics than Democratic," he said.

Cox said Republicans are more sensitive to small business than Democrats.

"I am disappointed the Democrats could not come up with a better candidate," he said.

Kerry does have one Walton County business owner vote, Justin Gaffrey who owns Gaffrey Art Gallery.

He said that owning an art gallery is a different concept than a traditional small business. As a former restaurant owner and Republican he says his views have changed.

"My views of life, religion and politics have changed, I went to a simpler way of life," he said.

He is not sure how much Kerry will do for small business and said that he has not followed small business issues closely in the 2004 presidential election.

"I am not voting for Bush, he is a big bully," Gaffrey said.

Helping children after a disaster

A disaster can make a child afraid, more afraid than you. A child can mix up real fear and make-believe fear. This is okay. You can help.

How can a parent help?

- Don't leave the child alone in a new place.
- Stay together to show you won't go away.
- Tell the child about the disaster.
- Tell the child you were afraid.

Talk with the child.

- Help the child talk.
- Listen to the child.
- Say it's okay to be afraid.
- Hold and hug the child.
- Explain. Talk. Listen. Over and over.

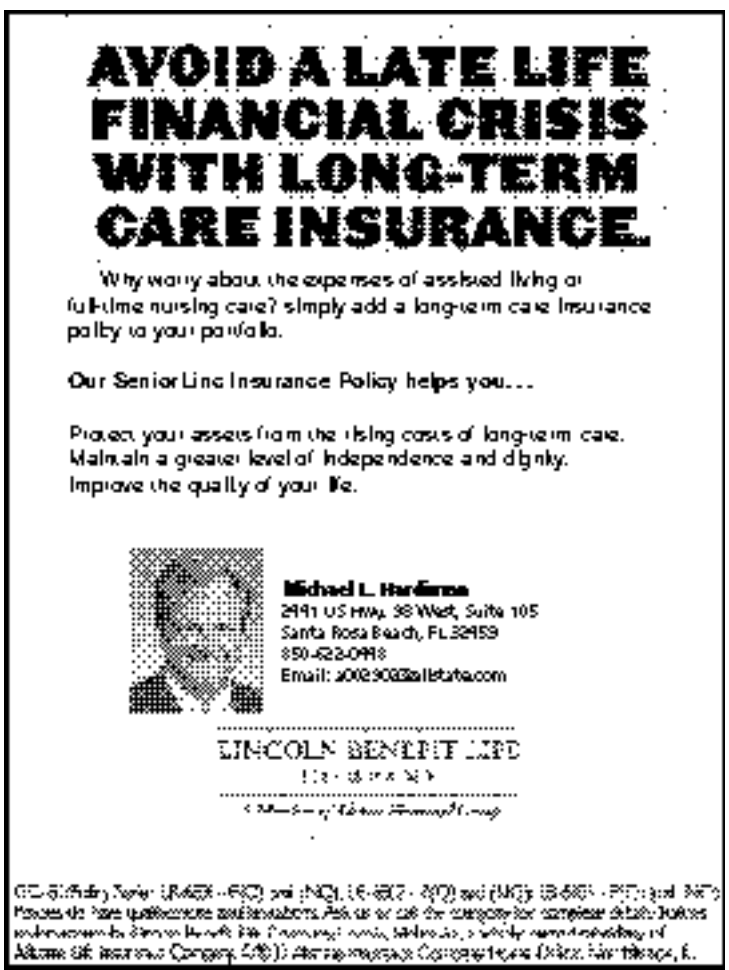
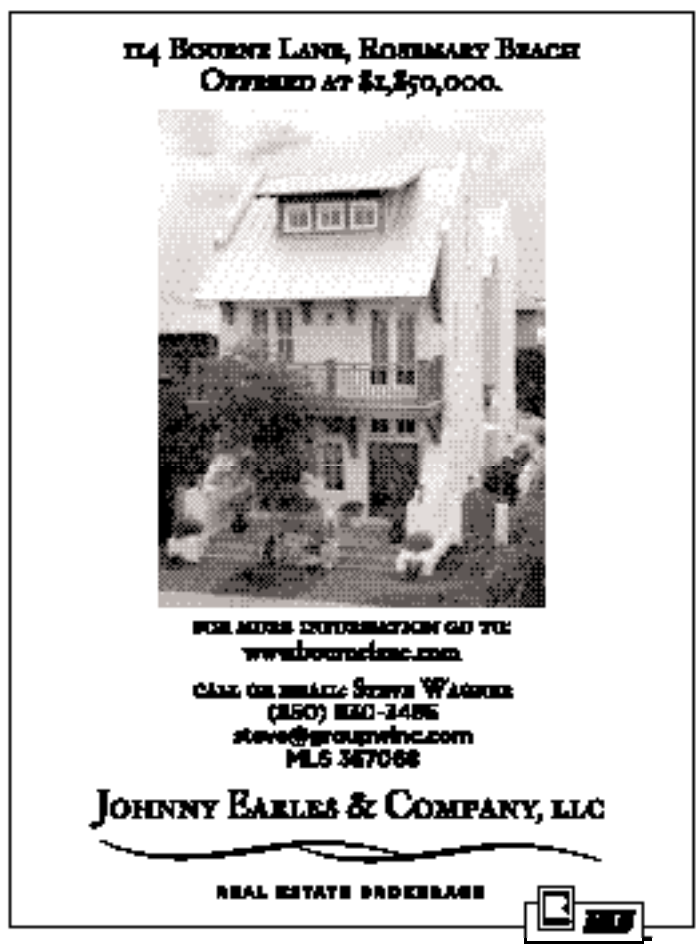
Keep working to make things better.

- Let the child help clean up.
- Don't stop doing things.
- Put order in your day as best you can.
- Tell the child about your plans each day.
- Stay close together.

Bedtime may be bad.

- A child may not want to sleep away from you.
- A child may be afraid of the dark.
- A child may have bad dreams.
- A child may wet the bed.

You can help.

- Tell the child about why it gets dark.
- Tell the child about dreams.
- Praise the child for good things.
- Don't yell at the child.

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