

FUGITIVES CAPTURED **1184**  
CHILDREN FOUND **119**

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# VICTIMS' JUSTICE COALITION'S ADVOCATE

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## Super Bowl XXXIX The world looks at Jacksonville



Photo courtesy of selectashot.com

By Mayor John Peyton

Seventy-six thousand ticket holders, more than 30,000 other revelers and 3,500 foreign and domestic media representatives will converge in Jacksonville this February for Super Bowl XXXIX. The eyes of the world will be watching as 800 million people tune in to the big game.

It will be an exciting time for our city. Everyone – from the Host Committee and city government to small business owners sprucing up their storefronts and Super Bowl volunteers – has been working tirelessly to ensure that we'll be ready. And security and public safety have been a major part of our preparations. From day one, we have striven to ensure that, above all else, our residents and visitors are safe.

Super Bowl, page 7

## "People have the government they deserve" – A. Lincoln Elected officials must be held accountable



**President and Founder**

by Ted Hires

In February the Justice Coalition will be ten years old.

I've seen a lot of things happen in those ten years, a

lot of improvements in the criminal justice system, but we're not where we need to be. On a scale of one to ten, we may have come from a two to a five or six.

After ten years, I am convinced that the biggest fault in this lack of improvement lies with the citizens. We have taken an attitude of "I don't want to be involved." But we can't afford *not* to be involved, because the government, the criminal justice system, will not work without accountability.

Accountability can only work when law-abiding citizens become involved, and I'm not talking about just going to the polls. We have to monitor elected officials, note their voting records, and see what they are doing. If they're not doing their job and what the citizens elected them to do, then we do whatever is necessary to replace them, get someone who will

In our society we think we can elect someone and our job is over, and that is absolutely not true. Our form of government is not designed to operate that way. Without accountability, it is human nature not to do the right thing.

And what is so unfortunate about the criminal justice system is that when it doesn't work as it's supposed to for law-abiding innocent victims, there is nowhere else to turn. We have no other recourse when charges are dropped or plea bargained down to a lesser crime. There is no appeal for that. So we have to work to make sure the system does mete out justice.

The Florida Supreme Court is a good example. They have operated untouched, without any accountability, with lifetime appointments and only retention votes. Nobody has ever been voted out, so they can make any decision to fit any agenda, whether it's legal or not, whether it's the constitution or not, whether it's the wishes of the citizens or not. They rule constantly against the wishes of the citizens. Abraham Lincoln said, "People have the government they deserve." That is absolutely true. When we have a government that is not responsive to the people, that does not give justice

**How many people have been to a city council meeting, called their city council representative, sent them an email – or even know who their city council representative is.**

People have the government, page 4

## Crime Prevention for People with Physical Disabilities

*Disabled people face many physical challenges. This makes them vulnerable to would-be assailants who assume the disabled are incapable of protecting themselves.*

### Safety First

Be aware. Stay alert. Remain calm and confident.

### Look out for yourself

- Be cautious and aware of your surroundings, whether on the street, in an office building or at the shopping mall. Stay alert when driving, or waiting for a bus or subway.
- Send the message that you are calm, confident, and know where you are going.
- Be realistic about your limitations.
- Avoid places or situations that put you at risk.
- Know the neighborhoods where you live and work.
- Check out the locations of police and fire stations,

public telephones, hospitals, restaurants or stores that are open and accessible.

- Avoid establishing predictable activity patterns. Vary your daily routines. By never altering your schedule, you increase your vulnerability to crime.

### At home

- Install approved locks on all your doors. Sturdy deadbolt locks are best. Make sure you can easily use the locks you install.
- Install peepholes on front and back doors at your eye level. This is especially important if you use a wheelchair.
- Get to know your neighbors. Watchful neighbors



who look out for you, as well as themselves, are a frontline defense against crime.

- If you have difficulty speaking, have a friend record a message (giving your name, address and type of disability) to use in emergencies. Keep the tape recorder next to your phone.
- Ask your police department to conduct a free home security survey to help identify your individual needs.

Crime Prevention, page 7