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Headline	Date	Outlet	Reporter
<a href="#"><u>FLA. FARMERS FACE COSTLIEST SEASON AS FERTILIZER PRICES SOAR</u></a>	08/07/2008	Palm Beach Post	Salisbury, Susan
<a href="#"><u>A FOND FAREWELL, FROM A TO Z</u></a>	08/07/2008	Palm Beach Post	
 <a href="#"><u>Playing With the Family Jewels</u></a>	08/08/2008	Key West Citizen	
<a href="#"><u>UF Report on Sugar Buyout</u></a>	08/08/2008	Glades County Democrat	Bolan, Nena
<a href="#"><u>Speak Out</u></a>	08/08/2008	Clewiston News	
<a href="#"><u>Negotiations Continue Over Everglades Land Acquisition</u></a>	08/08/2008	Caloosa Belle	
<a href="#"><u>Letters to the Editor - "LUCK of the DRAW?"</u></a>	08/08/2008	Caloosa Belle	
<a href="#"><u>DEAL TO SAVE THE EVERGLADES, WAYNE GARCIA EXPLAINS AFTER</u></a>	08/07/2008	Studio 10 - WTSP	
 <a href="#"><u>Dems vie for House Seat 101</u></a>	08/07/2008	Naples Daily News	BRENDA HAWKINS
<a href="#"><u>ACRES BEING PURCHASED FOR EVERGLADES RESTORATION. I TALKED</u></a>	08/07/2008	News 12 at 11 PM - WPEC-TV	

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**FLA. FARMERS FACE COSTLIEST SEASON AS FERTILIZER PRICES SOAR**

08/07/2008  
Palm Beach Post  
Salisbury, Susan

[Return to Top](#)

Just about every day, Dennis Wedgworth fields telephone calls from worried South Florida farmers, asking what fertilizer will cost them this fall.

They can't be happy about his answer.

"I tell them: 'Whatever you spent last year on fertilizer, you can probably double that,'" said Wedgworth, 55, president of Wedgworth's Inc., a fertilizer-blending company founded in 1934 and based in Belle Glade. "The per-ton cost for fertilizer a year ago was \$400. By next spring, it could be \$1,000 a ton.

"It's going to create a lot of stress."

Couple that with prices for diesel fuel that are about \$1.60 a gallon higher than they were at this time in 2007, and that means Florida farmers are facing the most expensive growing season in state history.

Consumers will be affected, too, with higher prices at the groceries.

"People will have to pay more for their food," said Dan Davidson, an agronomist with DTN, a business-information provider in Omaha, Neb.

Food prices already are forecast to increase by 4.5 percent to 5.5 percent this year as retailers continue to pass on higher commodity and energy prices, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service. That follows a 4 percent increase in 2007, the biggest annual jump in food prices since 1990.

The higher diesel and fertilizer prices have their origin in the same phenomenon: A sharp rise in global demand, as rapidly industrializing countries such as China and India move to a First World style of life.

"Whether you are talking about steel or concrete or fertilizer, the affluence of the population in China and India has increased, for food particularly," Wedgworth said. "Those countries have such big growth in their middle-income folks. They are demanding a better diet, with more protein."

All fertilizer ingredients are more expensive, from the big three - potassium (in potash), nitrogen and phosphorus (in phosphate rock) - to the minor elements, including manganese and copper.

In the past year, fertilizer costs have soared 77 percent, said Estelle Grasset, spokeswoman for The Fertilizer Institute in Washington.

"The main source behind the demand has been international demand - the need to produce more food to feed more people," Grasset said.

Wedgworth's, the only blender in Palm Beach or Glades counties, has an industrial plant in Moore Haven and sells about 200,000 tons of custom-blended dry fertilizer each year to growers of vegetables, sugar cane and citrus south of Interstate 4. It's part of Florida's 2 million-ton-a-year fertilizer industry, which serves farms, plant nurseries and golf courses, among other things.

Inside the plant, a visitor can see a 10,000-ton pile of salmon-colored salt crystals. It's potash, or potassium carbonate, a major fertilizer ingredient that has been transported by rail from Canada to be blended with other minerals from the U.S. and offshore.

Without it, the nation couldn't produce enough food to feed itself.

That potash heap would have been valued at \$2 million a year ago. It's now worth four times as much.

"Potash is our biggest ingredient. We were buying it in the mid-\$200s per ton a year ago. It's up to the mid-\$800s now," Wedgworth said. "Our producers tell us it will go over \$1,000 a ton."

Making supplies even tighter is China's imposition in April of a 135 percent tariff on fertilizer ingredients it had been exporting, which stopped the flow from that country. That affected operations such as Wedgworth's. A year ago, it was buying manganese sulfate from China for \$600 a ton.

Today, it's paying \$2,000 a ton to get it from South Africa, Wedgworth said.

With no relief from fertilizer costs in sight, farmers are trying to do what they can to survive, such as being more careful with fertilizer applications.

"You cannot survive with a cheap market anymore," Fort Pierce pepper grower David Neill said. "We are looking at every input we do, every step we take now."

Technology might be able to help farmers in the future.

Ronald Rice, a Palm Beach County cooperative extension agent in Belle Glade, said the higher fertilizer costs have brought a renewed interest in slow-release forms of nitrogen that could be applied to sugar cane fields once or perhaps twice a year, instead of four to six times, which is the norm today.

The University of Florida's Everglades Research and Education Center is conducting field trials with the slow-release fertilizer.

Meanwhile, fertilizer makers and blenders stand to do very well in the next few years, said Steve Pinney, a senior vice president for phosphate operations at The Mosaic Co., a fertilizer giant based in Plymouth, Minn.

"There's unprecedented surge in demand. Crop nutrients of all kinds have doubled in usage around the world since 2006," Pinney said. "Increasing commodity prices have told farmers around the world it is time to grow more."

Mosaic, one of three companies with phosphate-mining operations in Florida, produces 9 million tons of phosphate fertilizer annually, solely from Florida.

"The need for food in the world isn't diminishing. There is only so much land that is out there," he said. "Increasing the yield of the crops grown on that land requires nutrients for crops to grow."

- susan\_salisbury@pbpost.com

### The three vital elements of fertilizer

**Nitrogen:** A primary building block for all organisms, it helps keep plants green. Nitrogen fertilizer is made by capturing nitrogen from the air using a complex chemical reaction.

**Phosphorus:** Found in every living cell, phosphorus helps plants accomplish photosynthesis, seed germination and efficient use of water. Phosphorus comes from ancient sea life. Phosphate rock is mined and combined with sulfur in the manufacture of fertilizer.

**Potassium:** Essential to the workings of every living cell, potassium helps plants use water and also helps regulate the rate of photosynthesis, grow strong stalks and provides protection against extreme temperatures. Potash, a form of potassium carbonate, is mined from naturally occurring ore deposits.

Source: The Fertilizer Institute

#### Fertilizer facts

- Florida's second-largest export: more than \$2 billion in 2007.
- Account for at least one-third of crop yields around the world.
- Top fertilizer-consuming states: Illinois, Iowa, Ohio, Texas, Indiana.
- Top five fertilizer nutrient-consuming countries: China, India, United States, Brazil, Pakistan.
- Top five fertilizer nutrient-importing countries: United States, China, Brazil, India, France.

Sources: The Fertilizer Institute; Enterprise Florida

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## **A FOND FAREWELL, FROM A TO Z**

08/07/2008

Palm Beach Post

[Return to  
Top](#)

A: All of you!

And all the recipes and foods we've shared

Remember the ever-multiplying friendship bread? Dishwasher-poached salmon? Palm Beach brownies? A thousand mango recipes -- and almost as many for matzo balls? (The brownie recipe is on Page 6FN)

Remember Hank Mistratta, the Renaissance man from my "Men Who Cook" series? Or Max Mayfield, coming off Florida's busiest hurricane season to share his wife's potato puff casserole recipe? (If you missed it, it's on Page 6FN)

Others may recall the poignant stories kids submitted about their mom's cooking for Mother's Day-- even 60-year-old kids -- or the hilarious holiday stories of ducks exploding out of ovens or new in-laws treated to roast Cornish hens still frozen in the middle.

B: The bakers

The unsung heroes of the culinary world

Without them, no crusty breads, buttery croissants, unctuous chocolate pastries or simple cookies.

Baking is the science side of the kitchen, and it gets you in more trouble than any other aspect of cooking. Thanks to my saviors here, who over the years have brought gingerbread houses, decorated cookies, cakes, pies, breads and other treats to our studios and shared their tips.

A very special nod to:

Betsy Cohen of Palm Beach Gardens

Cakeability in Tequesta

Lorene's Loving Oven in Lake Park

Chrissy's Sweet Treats in Delray Beach

House of Sweets, Delray Beach

Christy's NY Cheesecake in Wellington

The Palm Beach Bakery and Cafe in Lantana

C: Chefs

I've met hundreds,

from locals to legends

From the big names (Keller, Boulud, Bocuse) to the icons, new and old (Julia, Emeril, Bourdain, Prudhomme, Fearing, Deen).

The best? They're the men and women who work day in and day out without the glory of TV, cookbooks or a "signature line of cookware." A lot of them support those boldface names, or the executive chefs who usually get the limelight.

Big props go to those members of the American Culinary

Federation. They promote chef-ing as a "profession" and work in institutions, clubs, hotels and schools, teaching new generations of cooks to get it right every day.

The help I've gotten from local chefs goes above and beyond. Many of their personal numbers are on my speed dial, and they've answered my calls in the wee hours -- so I could answer yours. (Thank you, Nick Morfogon of 32 East, John Carlino, soon of Cooks, Inc., and Cliff Pleau of Darden Restaurants.) They manned phone lines at Thanksgiving a few years, and once at Passover to help you out.

I owe much to many, but a special debt to a few: Ken Wade, owner of Paddy Mac's Irish Pub, and a big supporter of the professional chefs, was the first to teach me many lessons about food and professional kitchen operations. David Pantone, dean of culinary at Florida Culinary Institute, has been an unending resource for me and my readers. He even tapped his mom to help us taste-test pasta sauces! Chef Roderick Smith has set up numerous food shots for us -- once digging a pit for a whole clambake in Palm Beach. Chef Hubert DesMarais, now at Turnberry Isle in Miami, was a huge resource for letting me in his kitchen at any time, and preparing countless dishes for us at the Four Seasons.

The others know who they are: Heartfelt thanks from me and the readers.

D: Desk

That is, The Post's Features Copy Desk

These are my co-workers, the talented folks who edit my copy and handle the weekly production of the Food & Dining section. Copy editors make the reporters - and the paper - look great. The Features Copy Desk is responsible for all the daily Accent sections as well as Florida Home, Travel, TGIF, Arts & Entertainment pages and the TV book. They even proof the comics. So desk, take a bow!

E: Earthquake

In 1989, I found myself in the middle of one

I was in California's Sonoma Valley, reporting on wines, when the World Series earthquake hit.

I shelved my food editor hat and reported on the collapse of the interstate in Oakland. It was the most memorable of my many food trips.

F: Farms and ranches

And the people who run them

Increasingly, we're losing these essential links on the food chain. The farmers I've met are fighting odds to make it. Support them: Buy as close to home as possible, and you'll be getting fresher foods, and doing the earth a favor, too, with less transportation.

Green thumbs up to all the backyard gardeners, as well as to Nancy Roe of Green Cay Farms, and Sal and Holly Varri of Varrigreen Farm, as well as the Adams Ranch -- one of the few

producers of natural meats in our area.

G: Green markets

A fresh fixture for fall and winter

Thanks to former West Palm Beach Mayor Nancy Graham, who brought a green market to our area years ago, the markets are now a delightful part of our fall-winter season in several cities. It's a chance to get fresh, local foods back in the hands of the cooks and diners. Peter Robinson and T.A. Wyner are both huge organizers in this world, and unite these small producers to showcase for you. Kudos!

H: Home economists

A number you need to know: (561) 233-1700

Audrey Norman and her staff at the Institute of Foods and Agricultural Sciences of Palm Beach County in West Palm Beach have been a great resource for me, along with Gene Joyner (now retired) - our tropical fruits guru. You can still call them any time with cooking or growing questions: (561) 233-1700. They'll also talk you through cleaning your fridge after a hurricane. It's a terrific number to know.

I: Iguana, fried

Tastes like chicken!

People ask me what's the weirdest food I've ever eaten. That's it: fried iguana on a stick. Smells faintly like cooked dog but tastes like chicken. (No, I didn't catch "lizard tongue" from it - but my skin sheds every now and again.)

J: Judgings

Let me count the fests

Let's see ... the Sugar Festival in Clewiston, the Lighthouse Chowder Cook-Off, Garlic Fest in Delray Beach, the Firefighter Chili Cook-off, numerous Chocolate Fests, the Florida State Fair Wine Festival, the National Chicken Cook-Off, Florida Culinary Institute's BBQ Throwdown, Belle Glade's Black Gold Festival, the South Florida Fair's Cooking Contest, The Post's own Holiday Cookie Contest. Lots of bad with the good, but food judgings were always a good time and produced winning recipes. (For one of my favorites, see Page 6FN.)

K: Kitchen Counselor

Our long-time kitchen help columnist is Gholam Rahman.

Gholam retired several years ago, but still freelances his column that keeps cooks out of trouble every week and always provides encouragement for those willing to try new things.

Other local columnists who are with us weekly include Dan Oliver, our Beer Guy and online star in the Watering Holes videos; Peg San Felippo, the wine columnist; and Victoria Malmer, writing our new shopper's blurb, Tried and New. A shout-out to all of these fine folks. heart of any home.

L: Long-suffering friends

Everyone I've dragged along to weird restaurants - and weirder dinners

Anyone who thinks I get special treatment when I dine out needs to talk to my companions - they know the true score. A nod to my constant lunch partners, Scott Simmons and Lou Ann Frala. Tips to the two Jo's: Jo Key, the server at Park Avenue BBQ in Lake Worth, and Jo Larkey, the co-owner of City Diner in West Palm Beach.

M: Markets

For the really good,

unusual stuff

The big grocers are a one-shop deal, but for specialty stuff, go to a specialty market. All the produce stands, the Italian delis, the Middle Eastern food stores and Asian markets are the true mom and pops. Support them - you'll be surprised what you find, and at a great price, too.

N: Nutritionists and dietitians

They're the experts to call

These smart people have taught us about special diets and the best foods for health and good living. I get a ton of calls about diets, especially when someone is put on certain food restrictions. Many of you are consulting the Web, but I urge you to consult professionals - the Palm Beach Dietetic Association maintains a hot line: (561) 833-7079. Call a registered dietitian and get the proper advice. And start eating better - everyone!

O: Okeechobee

This lake area represents

Old Florida to me

As a fifth-generation Floridian, I've written about the Lake Okeechobee area extensively. I'm always trying to get people to go there to see another side of Florida. Exploring is as close as driving to Indiantown to have lunch at the Seminole Inn, then taking the highway to Port Mayaca for the best view of the lake. It's a whole different world out there - a world of dairy farmers and ranchers and growers. And it's just sinful if you live here and have never seen it.

P: Phone calls

Why Thursday is my favorite day of the week

I never knew what I'd get when I'd pick up the phone during my call-in time on Thursdays. It has produced the best stories at the paper.

The classic: "Powdered wine."

Caller: Where can I find powdered wine?

Me: Hmm ... I've never heard of such a thing. Where did you hear

of it?

Caller: It's in one of your recipes today ...

Me: Really! Please read that to me!

Caller: OK ... one chicken breast, two tablespoons butter, and yes -- here it is -- one-half cup of dry white wine.

Me: (Big pause, speechless ...) Could you please hold? (Off line: Hahahahahahaha!) Now then, let me explain ...

Here, too, I mustn't forget Mary Weiss, founder of the local Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Mary's an avid baker who called many times, cackling over my phone message: "If you can't reach me, in case of a culinary emergency, call the home economists ..." I solved several "culinary emergencies" for Mary - and others - over the years.

Another nod to Marvin Littky, lifelong friend thanks to a phone request for osso buco - an Italian favorite.

Q: The Queen

Alas, I have one regret ...

I've never been asked to sup with the queen. At least, not the proper one. In England.

R: Restaurateurs

I'm a huge supporter of the non-chain restaurants

That's because those who open their own places put their very souls into them. Their passion for the industry can't be measured. You know the best - they've been here for decades and know the formula for success: Keeping a tight focus on every aspect of a restaurant, and doing the work themselves.

Bouquets to those who've done it right for decades who are still going strong with their notable restaurants. The common theme among them? These restaurateurs can be found in their establishments almost every day they're open:

Café L'Europe's Lidia and Norbert Goldner

Marcello Fiorentino at La Sirena

Jean-Pierre Leverrier at Bistro Chez Jean-Pierre

Joe Testa's family at Testa's

The Curtis Lewis family at the Okeechobee Steakhouse

The Giragos family at John G's

Mike and Margie Perrin at 11 Maple Street

The Mahoney family at Manero's

Grateful hats off to your years of dedication.

S: Servers

Don't complain about them until you've done the job

Everyone loves to complain about restaurant servers, but I would ask you to take one Friday night shift at your local eatery before you do. It's not a job I'd want, frankly, and I'm quite certain I'd be out the door instantly, as I don't suffer fools gladly, tip or not. Servers are people, first. You're likely to be treated the way you treat them. They have demanding jobs and are answering to several masters at once - the kitchen, the guests and the management.

Give them respect, please, and if you're not happy - talk to a manager. Don't leave unhappy, or stiff the waiter. Here's news: Times are tough all around, but standard tips today are from 15 percent to 20 percent.

T: Travel

Eat as you go

I've done my share of traveling around the state and the country, eating every step of the way. Favorite "food cities": New Orleans, Seattle, San Francisco, Chicago, Portland, Ore., Vancouver and Boston.

U: Utensils

My cast-iron skillet and wood

to build a fire

That's all I'd need on a deserted island. But I'd miss my cookie boards, rolling pins and a mess of other tools.

V: Vegetarians

Hats off to greens and grains

We're learning more daily that vegetables and grains are the stuff of life. I appreciate the many vegetarians who've been at this as a lifelong pursuit in a carnivore world, and the many who've helped and advised me on this, but particularly, Judy Cooper, formerly of the Palm Beach County Health Department and our vegetarian columnist for several years. (One of my favorite vegetarian recipes from Judy, Page 6FN.)

W: Wine

enthusiasts

Wine has come of age

There was always a dedicated group of oenophiles, but today, the audience is broad, and wine information is much more accessible. Salutations to the sommeliers and wine experts out there who've given us hundreds of great wine tips. Special thanks to Gordon Sullivan and Eric Heimer of Southern Wines and Spirits, and Virginia Philip of The Breakers.

X: Marks the spot

How to target a new romance?

As every food editor knows, the way to a man or woman's heart (or to butter up new in-laws) is through the stomach. (For one of

the easiest recipes to try on a first date, go to Page 6FN.)

Y: Young chefs

Parent and grandparent alert:

Teach your kids to cook!

The satisfaction they get from accomplishing something in the kitchen is a huge self-esteem boost. It's a big learning tool, too: They'll be smarter forever if you do it.

Z: Zoo

That's what I call my office

My delightfully cluttered office at The Palm Beach Post is the place where I've spent more time than at my home for the past 21 years. I have a whole "family" here at The Post who would drop in and raid my candy jar and marvel that I can find my desk.

I'm going to miss them all, along with you, my weekly readers.

Thanks for sharing this great, wonderful ride --- it's been a blast!

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## Playing With the Family Jewels

08/08/2008

Key West Citizen

[Return to  
Top](#)

by Mark Howell

Acity commission meeting, hurricanes, foreclosures - who could wish for anything more?

We start with the city commission. At the stroke of 6 p.m. on Tuesday evening, Mayor Morgan McPherson arrived just in time for the beginning of the meeting at Old City Hall (as did Commissioner Clayton Lopez, just in time to give the invocation).

McPherson's presence was important because tonight's highlight would be the second hearing of his ordinance on Higgs Beach, calling for a referendum to permit the city to acquire it from the county.

What the issue truly concerns is the beach park, which is directly under the supervision of the county. The upland part of the property (the playground and dog park and Indigenous Park) is Federal Park Service land.

At one time a field surrounding a radar tower, what is now known as Higgs Beach was given to Monroe County a couple of decades ago, in a deal with the Navy that allowed the county to use the property for its 'highest and best use' - or else it would revert to the Department of the Interior.

For interest's sake, White Street Pier is in fact a state road built for \$1 million in the 1950s as a fishing pier to lure tourists. (When the seaweed piled up and smelled, the folks at 1300 Atlantic raised a stink of their own and passages were created for water to pass under the pier.)

Former assistant city manager John Jones spoke eloquently about the park as a whole. 'It's a wonderful piece of property,' he said. 'Worth several million dollars.' But the cost of maintaining it would amount to two-tenths of a mil. 'I don't see the funds to run the beach,' he said. And the city cannot assume it would have control over the whole property, as Jones knew only too well. When he tried to put in showers for the homeless at Indigenous Park, the feds said no way.

Citizen Tom Malone predicted the park might cost the city \$100,000 a year if the current TDC funding stays in place. For capital improvements to the park, including inevitable access requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act, 'two million,' he said. Commissioner Mark Rossi asked, 'Why buy the farm when the milk is free?' The laugh this unleashed was a lingering one, especially from Lopez.

Commissioner Dan Kolhage was more direct. 'I've been against it from day one, for financial reasons.' It was tough for him, he said, to think about taking on more expenses with the park when the city has just told 35 of its people to go home and not come back.

Commissioner Barry Gibson told the dog park supporters present in the hall not to worry. Wisteria Island was a citizen-driven referendum, he said. 'This is city driven,' meaning, presumably, it wouldn't happen.

Commissioner Teri Johnston likened the Higgs Beach referendum to the sinking of the Vandenberg ('Sorry, Bill,' she said. in an aside to Commissioner Verge). A great idea at the wrong time. She was against it.

Commissioner Lopez agreed about the timing. He also felt the county might not live up to its commitment to complete a number of promised projects at the park. Nevertheless, he said, 'I think we need to go forward with the referendum.' Said Mayor McPherson: 'In my opinion, Higgs Beach has the potential of being the crown jewel of our community.' He could see 'buildings for youth activities, swimming, fishing, boating, tossing a Frisbee.' The 'heartbeat of Key West,' he said, is tourism. More families than ever are visiting us and eco-tourism is the fastest-growing segment of tourism. 'That's the number-one reason' he wants the park.

It was then that Com-missioner Verge said it. 'Everybody keeps referring to the crown jewels, trying hard not to say family jewels.' There was much laughter at this. ('Write that down, Shawn,' said Lopez to City Attorney Smith.) Verge went on to cunningly swerve the metaphor: 'We need to look this gift horse in the mouth,' he said, adding sagely, 'The county has a reason to get rid of it.' The referendum idea was defeated by six votes to one.

That one vote was McPherson's. Has the message gotten through yet?

The principal subtext we discovered in covering the Higgs Beach issue was a public anxiety that the price of running the park would, for sure, lead to privatization of one sort or another. Not a ticket that anyone seems to want to buy.

If the commission was really concerned about its family jewels, it might perhaps have shown more deference to public opinion on the Banana Bay development at Hilton Haven.

A development agreement made in 2006 originally laid the groundwork for 56 units to replace the former resort hotel at the entrance to the Hilton Haven peninsula, including 26 workforce-housing units and 10 transient units. This would spell the greatest change to the neighborhood since the former Flagler railroad bed sprouted houses more than half a century ago.

The McCoy family has lived there since the 1940s. Mimi McCoy Grantham pointed out to commissioners that there are already 63 homes on Hilton Haven 'and that's too much.' Since these are Commissioner Rossi's own neighbors, he recently responded to their complaints by mediating a two-and-a-half hour meeting that raised a number of prickly issues, including noise, parking and nudity on the beach.

On Tuesday, Mimi and her husband Ed Grantham reminded commissioners that her late mother, Commissioner Merili Hilton McCoy, had no objection to Banana Bay because a hotel on that scale she always felt was appropriate. But this new development would be something else. 'This is forced in our face,' said Mimi. 'We lose any way [the development] goes. We lose the breeze. The workforce housing overlooks the house and all the balconies are on my side.' Said Peter McCoy: 'We people on Hilton Haven have learned to get along - it's a very small peninsula. Mom sold to Banana Bay because it was family owned, not a big corporation.' Whatever happens with the development, he said, 'I'll be living at the house on Hilton Haven for the rest of my life.' Occupants of the condos on Hilton Haven known as Flagler's Landing have cited vandals trashing the grounds, and the clothing optional beach has become a real issue for residents with visiting grandkids. 'My fellow commissioners,' announced Rossi, having heard enough. 'It is extremely clear these fine folks are vehemently opposed to the development. Please listen. They have very serious issues over there.' Mayor McPherson, after disclosing that he'd spoken with a number of individuals involved, took another tack. 'I can't think of one affordable-housing project,' he said, 'that's met with neighborhood approval.' His own neighbors had 'shot the bird at me and my wife' because of the McPhersons' support of an affordable-housing proposal for New Town. 'What is before us is approvable,' he insisted, despite an ongoing debate among the planners about the extent of what was still only a 'preliminary consideration' of a development deal. 'I've never met two city planners who agreed,' concluded the mayor.

The commissioners voted six to one to extend the development agreement at Banana Bay, subject to a number of conditions such as a 10-foot privacy wall (if a code variance will permit such a height) plus details on separate entranceways and lines of sight.

The one vote against was Rossi's.

Earlier in the meeting, during a discussion of certain items on the consent agenda, the commission elected to table a resolution

supporting 'the efforts of Governor Charlie Crist and the South Florida Water Management District to acquire land south of Okeechobee for the protection and restoration of America's Everglades and Florida's coastal estuaries.' This was after Lopez convinced fellow commissioners that it was not yet clear what would happen to Big Sugar employees made redundant by the acquisition. 'They are shareholders and they were not told about the deal,' said Lopez. A lawsuit has resulted because those shares were made part of the sale.

Hurricanes Hardly Happen - Not! Hurricanes obviously do happen, maybe not in Hereford and Hampshire ('The Rain in Spain' from 'My Fair Lady') but certainly here in the Keys.

Our cover story on the hurricanes of Key West two weeks ago has become a work in progress. Matt Strahan, meteorologist in charge at the Weather Station, corrects some of the details this week. Next week, Matt will discuss the lessons to be learned from Key West's hurricanes.

He writes: 'The 1919 hurricane created storm surges reaching 14 feet in the seas off Stock Island and on Cow Key. It was a Category 4 that stayed offshore of Key West. The anemometer blew down in 70 mph winds. The meteorologists estimated the winds in Key West peaked at 110 mph (Cat 2). My examination of old newspaper photos shows damage consistent with that wind estimation. The death toll in Key West was three people. The other deaths were people on ships that sank nearby. 'The Navy recorded that the 1919 hurricane carried debris up to 14 feet in the trees on Cow Key. While they don't say what the debris was, it was probably a water line of sand and seaweed, not piles of debris. The water line was put there by the combination of rising water and wave action. 'In later years, the Navy had a blimp base nearby, but they don't indicate it was destroyed in 1919. I'm not positive it was there in 1919. 'The 1910 hurricane produced 10 feet of surge, while the 1948 hurricane was similar to Wilma's 5.5 feet. 'Wilma brought no surge to Tavernier. The highest surge in the Lower Keys was 6 feet on Cudjoe, Big Pine and Summerland. Just for the record, it was officially only 5.5 feet in Key West. It seemed higher than that but the United States Geological Survey says 5.5 feet by measuring water marks. The surge was 8 to 9 feet in the upper part of the lower Keys and Marathon. 'While both of the 1948 hurricanes were Cat 3s, they missed Key West. The highest wind speed in Key West was 75 mph in the Sept. 21 storm. Boca Chica recorded 122 mph on the left side of the eyewall as the storm headed north. '[Solares Hill] found an interesting report that Hurricane Inez in October 1966 brought windspeeds of 165 mph to Big Pine and a storm surge to much of the Lower Keys. The monthly weather review does report estimated winds of 150 mph, gusting to 165 mph on Big Pine. This report is so out of whack with nearby reports that I have to discount it. The highest measured report was 98 mph on Plantation Key. Key West measured only 84 mph. Given that the eye of Inez moved across the entire Florida Keys, the Big Pine report is so out to lunch I have to ignore it. The actual write-up of the storm in the Weather Review says we had 100-125 mph gusts across the Keys. 'Hurricane Irene in 2005 was not much of a storm for the Keys. The highest wind was a 102 mph gust on Big Pine. The next highest wind in the Keys was a 47 mph gust in Key West. It makes me wonder why Big Pine once again reported much higher winds than elsewhere. Since that time, we have

installed a new automated wind gauge on Big Pine that should give more accurate readings. As for the rainfall from Irene, the 12 inches was in Miami; Key West only got 7 inches. Miami got flooded and they weren't expecting it; many people went to work that day and couldn't get home because of flooded roads.

'Hurricane Rita went from a tropical storm to a Cat 5 in 33 hours. 'Finally, where did you get the 360 death number? I've never added up all the deaths in Key West, but I bet it's less than 36, if you don't count the 300 or so people aboard ships that sank offshore. 'The death count from a major hurricane would change today, as we now live in the low lying areas.' One other detail has been submitted by a British reader who recently visited Havana: When Hurricane Wilma hit Cuba on Oct. 25, 2005, 'much of central Havana was submerged,' reports our correspondent. 'Two thousand five hundred homes were damaged. One hundred and thirty thousand people were evacuated. There was absolutely no looting, as compared with New Orleans but a few weeks earlier.'  
Foreclosure Exposure

Realtor Doug Mayberry has set us straight about the number of homes for sale in Key West. 'This information is available to the public and is provided by the Key West MLS,' he told us this week. 'I found 977 this morning from Key West to Shark Key.' According to foreclosure.com, reports Mayberry, 'there are 57 properties that have been foreclosed on and are listed for sale in the 33040 zip. That's about 5 percent of what's on the market right now. Foreclosure.com also shows about 100 more in pre-foreclosure.' The MLS shows about 250 properties from Key West to Shark Key listed as 'short sales.' These properties won't show up as pre-foreclosures on foreclosure.com if the owner has not triggered any action by the bank. 'We have been told,' added Mayberry, 'that you have to miss at least two mortgage payments to trigger the beginning of the foreclosure process at a bank.' According to the Center for Responsible Lending, Floridian homeowners lost 195,000 homes to foreclosure last year. That's the second highest number in the nation, after California's 357,000 homes lost to foreclosure last year and above the Texas figure of 150,000 homes lost.

Estimates for 2008-2009 suggest that 2,258,457 more homes will be lost to foreclosure in the United States.

mhowell@keysnews.com

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## UF Report on Sugar Buyout

08/08/2008

Glades County Democrat

Bolan, Nena

[Return to  
Top](#)

08-07-08

UF report on sugar buyout

Researched by Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences

by Nena Bolan

Glades County Democrat GLADES/HENDRY -- The announcement on June 24, that U.S. Sugar Corporation (USSC) would sell their land and holdings to the state, was cheered by many who love the unique and sensitive Everglades. Initially, it was reported that 1,700 jobs could be lost. That figure may seem low for millions of Floridians who live in metro-politan areas. However, residents of Glades, Hendry and western Palm Beach Counties knew in their hearts that the loss could be much greater.

A recent economic study, dated July 23, was done by the Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences (IFAS), which is a research center with the University of Florida. The potential outcome of the study emphasizes the worst probable outcome for south central Florida, and specifically for Glades and Hendry Counties.

According to the report, IFAS uses the complete loss of USSC holdings in its statistics since it is unknown at this time what will be dissolved and what holdings will be re-cycled such as citrus processing and the railroad network. Many ancillary businesses supply and serve the largest sugar producing company in the nation.

See Report — Page 20

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## Speak Out

08/08/2008

Clewiston News

[Return to  
Top](#)

Speak Out -- 08/07/08

Speak Out has moved online, where it is quicker and easier to share your ideas and converse with others...What follows is a sampling of some of the discussions currently taking place. Thanks for participating!

### IS THERE AN ALTERNATE PLAN?

The truth be known USSC is out of natural resources to grow the crops it has been able to grow for 50 years.

In 1990 while preparing the Hendry County Comp Plan, statistics were provided showing the population of Hendry County being less in 2010 than it was in 1990. We were all puzzled by that at the time because we didn't know what factors were being used to determine the numbers. We all thought that would never happen. I guess the statisticians knew about the soil. I'm sure that was one of the factors and now the projections seem to be happening. My other concern is what is going to happen if there is 120 thousand less acres under production in 6 years? Why would anyone want to purchase the sugar mill? What if no one buys the mill as it has been suggested? After six more years of use and abuse will the mill be worth buying? What incentive will USSC have to invest in the mill or the employees for an additional 6 years? What if USSC just decided to leave tomorrow? What would the state do

then as the new owners of a sugar mill?

Maybe what needs to happen is that another buyer for the mill be put in place now and not in six years. That is if there is someone stupid enough to believe that without 180,000 acres under production that the mill could turn a profit.

After all the tax payers have been subsidizing the sugar industry for years.

If this doesn't go as suggested by the SFWMD then what? Is there an alternative plan?

#### THERE IS A PLAN

SFWMD always has a plan. All you people so worried about the mill closing, what about the idea that it might be the best thing for this town? I hate the mill personally. It brings diseases and many other pol-lutants to the land. Heck, we cant even get a mattress factory in here because the anarchy that we have in our political system here.

I tell ya if it was not for the incredible job I have now (its not with USSC) I would be out of here in a second just cause of the mill.

Did you all know we are one of the highest in the nation for Lupus? You fi gure it out. Stop worrying about the mill. I am sure things will work out for the best.

#### ALL WILL WORK OUT

Instead of the reservoir being built at its present location, it is proposed to be built at the south end of South Bay pumped by canals and new pump stations that will be built then STAs (Storm Treatment Areas) to filter and then released down in the preserve south of that.

As far as the juice plant goes it will be sold back to private hands and be carried on by said individual.

Jobs yes will still be affected even more so with Okeelanta if they do take it over because of the new automation U.S. Sugar has put may cause less jobs for them. Now in all this everyone keep in mind U.S. Sugar from what I understand is going to guarantee \$350 a share to all investors plus for current employees a two-year severance pay from what I have been told.

Clewiston will not change that much as everyone thinks. Just be patient and all will work out

#### TO THE HONORABLE GOVERNOR CRIST:

I heard the news about the US Sugar Deal and I am very concerned and confused by what I have read about this U.S. Sugar Deal and also very concerned about my community where I live. As you know Hen-dry County currently has the highest unemployment rate in the state. Now after this magnificent announcement everyone who lives in Hen-dry County has taken a major loss on their property values. In addi-tion, the county government will be more defi cient than they already are. I don't think that you realize exactly what the sugar company means to Hendry County and the surrounding rural counties. Many small businesses in South Florida are dependent on the business that is created by every job at USSC.

It sounds like the stock holders will not only pay off all their bills but will within the next 6 years recoup all of their investments plus interest at the expense of Florida tax payers.

I would hope you spent more than five minutes in making this decision and I hope this isn't just a plan to subsidize USSC stock holders for six years at the expense of the taxpayers of Hendry County and the State of Florida.

## NO GHOST TOWN

No, it will not be a ghost town. It is the best thing that could ever happen for your area unless someone pulls a fast one.

Break the bonds of single industry rule and do not fall farther into a "Drug Dive Economy" the likes of which South Bay is when you look west at the light over there. Electing officials you can trust is a foremost requirement.

You are being relieved from bondage what you do know is a reflection of who YOU are.

You are welcome, God Bless America!

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## Negotiations Continue Over Everglades Land Acquisition

08/08/2008

Caloosa Belle

[Return to Top](#)

07/07/08

Negotiations continue over Everglades land acquisition

On June 30, 2008, the South Florida Water Management District entered into a non-binding "Statement of Principles" with the United States Sugar Corporation regarding acquisition of the company's assets for the purpose of Everglades restoration. In accordance with the Statement of Principles, the State of Florida and the District are now negotiating a contract for this acquisition, one of the most significant opportunities to protect the River of Grass since the designation 60 years ago of Everglades National Park.

State Guidelines for Negotiating Acquisition of Public Land • Florida law (Florida Statutes 373.139) allows the state's water management districts to treat certain documents as confidential and exempt from disclosure for the protection and/or benefit of the taxpayers.

- This law exempts from disclosure all appraisals, offers and counteroffers related to land acquisition negotiations, a procedure the South Florida Water Management District has followed for many decades when purchasing land for public purpose.
  - Negotiations for the acquisition of property for public purpose are conducted with confidentiality to ensure the people of Florida receive the best investment for their tax dollars.
  - In line with this standard procedure, negotiations to develop a contract with U.S. Sugar Corporation and third parties are now being conducted by District staff.
  - If negotiations are successful, a proposed land acquisition contract is taken to the District's nine-member Governing Board for public review, input and approval before any contract becomes final.
  - Records such as appraisals, offers and counteroffers are no longer exempt once a contract is ready for presentation to the Governing Board.
  - Upon contract presentation to the Governing Board, details and records (other than trade secret information as defined in Florida Statute 812.081) associated with an acquisition, including any appraisals, become available for public scrutiny.
- Ensuring Public Involvement in the Everglades Acquisition • The significance of this potential Everglades land purchase led the District to take additional public steps above and beyond its

standard practice for land acquisitions.

- On June 24, Governor Charlie Crist announced a historic opportunity for consideration by the District. At a public ceremonial signing, Governing Board Vice Chair Shannon Estenoz accepted a document, called a "Statement of Principles," that would be brought to the District's Governing Board.
- The District made public the non-binding Statement of Principles, which described the process and benefits of the potential acquisition.
- The Statement of Principles outlined the intent and necessary framework for negotiating a purchase. It was not legally binding.
- The District posted the Statement of Principles—along with a fact sheet, questions and answers, video of the Governor's announcement and other supporting materials on the proposed purchase—to the [www.sfwmd.gov](http://www.sfwmd.gov) web site.
- At a special public meeting on June 30, the District's Governing Board ratified the Statement of Principles and authorized staff to begin formal negotiations and carry out "due diligence," which includes appraisals and environmental assessments.
- Before ratifying the Statement of Principles, the Governing Board sought public input and comment on the action during its formal public proceedings.
- No work on due diligence was initiated prior to Governing Board authorization on June 30.
- If negotiations are successful, District staff will present the Governing Board with a proposed contract detailing the terms and conditions.
- The Governing Board will seek public input on the contract, but from that point on, information such as appraisals and environmental assessments, as completed, will be available for public scrutiny.
- Additionally, the District will hold public meetings to discuss and review the due diligence results before closing.
- If the purchase is finalized, the public and stakeholders will participate in a public process to develop restoration project plans for the land.
- At every stage of this significant Everglades restoration opportunity, the District remains committed to following state law to appropriately balance confidentiality guidelines with openness and public involvement.

Timeline • June 24, 2008: Governor Crist announces Everglades land acquisition opportunity.

- June 30, 2008: SFWMD Governing Board authorizes staff to begin negotiations.
- July 9-10, 2008: Governing Board receives update on fiscal resources and proposed fiscal year 2009 budget. Confidential negotiations are ongoing.
- August 13-14, 2008: Governing Board receives updates on acquisition and related issues. Confidential negotiations are ongoing.
- September 2008: If negotiations are successful, staff presents to the Governing Board a proposed contract for their approval. Closing is subject to satisfactory results from "due diligence," which includes appraisals, surveys and environmental assessments.

In accordance with state law, documents other than trade secrets become available to the public. Public discussion on the contract begins.

- October 2008: Governing Board receives updates, including status of financing issues. Public discussion continues.
- November-December 2008: Governing Board is updated on due

diligence matters. Contract is finalized and public discussion on the contract concludes.

- South Florida Water Management District Governing Board meetings are held the second Wednesday and Thursday of each month and are publicly noticed 7 days prior to the meeting.

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## Letters to the Editor - "LUCK of the DRAW?"

08/08/2008  
Caloosa Belle

[Return to  
Top](#)

Letters to the Editor - 8/07/08

"LUCK of the DRAW?"

Having left the area on June 25 and after 1800 miles of road travel and not returning until July 23, I have had to do a lot of reading and listening to try and catchup with the Sugar deal. People, closer to the events have left me with the feeling that there must have been some "show & tell" between the principles in Tallahassee and Clewis-ton leading to the block buster, or should I say "sweet" deal?

By nature I'm an optimist and work hard at staying positive in our ever changing politically, liti-gated, controlled, environment of today.

So, it is with a measure of re-serve that I wait for the real "elephant" in the room to be exposed, before finalizing any opinion. In the meantime, maybe this story will in some way possibly serve to provide a standard of comparison, in real time.

It seems that many years ago a farmer had the misfortune of owing a large sum of money to the local grain elevator owner who was ready to bankrupt the farmer for the past due sums.

When the farmer pleaded for more time the elevator operator said he would forgive the debt if the farmer's son would marry his ugly aged, single daughter.

Knowing that the son would never voluntarily marry his daughter, the elevator owner pro-posed a deal. He said he would forego the farmer's debt if his son would marry the daughter, and they could let chance decide the matter.

He would put a black pebble and a white pebble into an empty bag.

Then the son would have to pick one pebble from the bag. If he picked the black pebble, the son would have to marry the daughter and the father's debt would be forgiven.

If he picked the white pebble the son need not marry the daughter and the debt would still be forgiven, but if he refused to pick a pebble, the father would be thrown in jail.

They were standing on a pebble-strewn path in the farmer's yard. So as they are talking the elevator owner swiftly swept up two pebbles from the path into the bag, but the sharp-eyed son saw that he had picked up only black pebbles and put them into the bag.

The owner then asked the son to pick a pebble from the bag.

Now, here is where I have to stop and update the story for a moment to insert Sugar as the elevator operator and Sugar em-

ployees as the farmer's son.

So, with that in mind, if you were the son and Sugar had given you this choice, what would you do?

With no intent of Monday morning quarterbacking what did or did not happen in real time, in the Sugar deal, and continuing to try and sort out, fact from fiction, I can only tell you, knowing that the owner had cheated, what the son saw as his options and what he actually did under the circum-stances.

The son, after careful analysis saw three available options: The son could refuse to take a pebble and send his father to jail.

He could expose the owner as to having put just 2 black pebbles in the bag, and declare a mis-deal.

Or, the son could pick a black pebble and sacrifice himself in order to save his father from the debt and imprisonment.

After all this consideration the son went ahead and put his hand into the bag and in the process of withdrawing a stone managed to carelessly let the pebble drop onto the pebble-strewn path, where it immediately became lost among the other pebbles.

Completely embarrassed the son apologized and offered that if they looked into the bag the re-maining pebble would tell them which one he had chosen.

Now faced with the fact that if the bag had actually contained a white and a black pebble, there is no way the owner can dispute that the dropped pebble had to be white.

Without any corroborative data to apply, after the fact, as to how the Sugar Deal actually came down, I am left with only the knowledge that, like the black pebble and the white pebble, "raw" sugar is dark colored and "pure" sugar is white.

"Luck" of the "Draw??" You tell me!

Respectfully, T. W. Bill Neville

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## **DEAL TO SAVE THE EVERGLADES, WAYNE GARCIA EXPLAINS AFTER**

08/07/2008

Studio 10 - WTSP

[Return to  
Top](#)

AND FISHY ABOUT THE DEAL TO SAVE THE EVERGLADES, WAYNE GARCIA EXPLAINS AFTER THIS, WELCOME BACK TO STUDIO 10, WHAT DO SUGAR AND THE EVERGLADES HAVE TO DO WITH EACH OTHER? WE'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT, CREATIVE LOAFING POLITICAL EDITOR WAYNE GARCIA IS HERE TO EXPLAIN, WE'RE HEADED TO BREAK, BUT DON'T GO ANYWHERE, UNLESS IT'S TO GET A PEN AND PAPER BECAUSE THE WEEKEND WARM-UP IS NEXT!

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## **Dems vie for House Seat 101**

08/07/2008

Naples Daily News

BRENDA HAWKINS

[Return to  
Top](#)

Local Jimenez to face Miamis Lopez in primary

## STORY TOOLS

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For some voters, the Aug. 26 primary ballot will include Democratic run-offs for state House seats 101 and 112.

The race for Seat 101 includes Maria Jimenez and Samuel Lopez. The winner will go on to face incumbent Matt Hudson (R-Golden Gate) in the general election, Nov. 4.

House Dist. 101 includes northern Golden Gate Estates, most of Golden Gate city and parts of East Naples between I-75 and Davis Boulevard.

Despite repeated phone calls, the Citizen was unable to reach either Democratic primary candidate for Dist. 112.

Jimenez, 39, is a Golden Gate resident and director of charter schools for Redlands Christian Migrant Association. She holds a masters degree in public administration from Hodges University and undergraduate degrees from both Florida International University and the University of the Americas at Mexico City.

Pembroke Pines resident Samuel D. Lopez, 42, is a personal injury trial attorney with his own law firm. He graduated from Florida State University and earned a law degree from Nova Southeastern University.

Q What are the major issues affecting your Collier County constituents and how will you address those concerns?

Jimenez: Education and economic development are the two major issues affecting Collier County, because they both help guarantee a future of safe and affordable communities.

The way Florida funds its schools and programs is not efficient. We are one of the last in the U.S. as to how we fund schools. As a parent and as an educator, this is not acceptable. I want an education system that is outstanding; what we have now is very good, but if we could give schools the money, as in other states, we could be above and beyond.

It is a huge, complex problem. The first step is to analyze what's effective and assess those methods to be sure they are fair, then look at what needs to be done and make sure the money meets the need to safeguard the future.

I would look at programs that might not require more funding, but need reshuffling or reorganizing of the way they're managed. Many of them can be more effective without necessarily spending more money.

For example, we have 700,000 uninsured children. Florida Kid Care has several categories. If we could streamline how people qualify, more families could continue receiving health care.

District 101 has tremendous potential for economic development. We have the homes, schools, qualified people and a trained workforce, ready to work. Its a natural fit. We need to diversify the job base and bring more industry and small business opportunities here.

Lopez: Foreclosures, property taxes, insurance rates, affordable health care and the loss of valuable educators are all negatively affecting Collier residents.

At the state level, banks should have more enforcement of laws against predatory lending to prevent foreclosures in the future.

I would develop a solid base for lowering the property tax valuation formula.

Any company that sells any kind of insurance in Florida should be required to also sell property insurance policies to create a competitive market for homeowners and reduce premiums.

The first step to providing affordable health care will be to increase the age of children covered by Kid Care to 12. Companies that sell auto or life insurance policies should also be required to offer health insurance to make a larger pool of providers. That would lead to more competitive rates and more comprehensive health care programs.

The largest part of the budget is public education, but I am concerned that all children in Florida should be educated up to their potential. My goal is to change Florida from the lowest paid to the highest paid teachers in the country in order to attract the best and the brightest. Then the attitudes of teachers will change.

I also will take a better look at tax exemptions for big businesses and try to tie up the loopholes. And I will work to eliminate wasteful government spending.

For example, we are losing millions due to legislative miscalculations setting up the second conflict public defenders program. Instead of releasing people to a bail bondsman at no cost to the taxpayer, now the courts must hire pretrial release officers. Were saddled with labor costs, pension plans, health care and office rentals that contribute to our fiscal shortfall, because those costs were not included in the planning.

Q What is your position on the states plan to spend \$1.6 billion to buy US Sugar?

Jimenez: There are many pros and cons to this deal. When we grow sugar, it is very rough on the land. The soil was very rich -- thats why US Sugar did well. Im pleased it will be restored to the Everglades, but I think the shift in that community is going to be very harmful. Clewiston will be a whole different place. There are so many people who work for US Sugar, but others depend on their business, too. The barbers, the groceries everyone will be affected.

As a citizen and an educator, it is difficult to hear well be losing about \$200 per student this year, but the state has \$1.6 billion to spend. It is painful.

Lopez: It is a fantastic idea to protect our natural resources and

the Florida environment, but my concern is whether or not the cost is timely, given our current economic constraints.

Q What is your position regarding leasing Alligator Alley to private interests?

Jimenez: I am completely against it. I don't like the fact it could be managed by foreign companies. The roads are what connect our communities. Alligator Alley is ours -- why should we give it up?

Lopez: Leasing the highway is a terrible idea. Potentially, that money may not be spent in Florida, but earmarked for other countries. With a 75-year lease, it is hard to figure the price versus its value over time. We are selling our future short for a Band-aid on the legislative budget. It steals one's concept of our infrastructure being free and public.

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## ACRES BEING PURCHASED FOR EVERGLADES RESTORATION. I TALKED

08/07/2008

News 12 at 11 PM - WPEC-TV

[Return to  
Top](#)

AND, FOR SOME LUCKY ENVIRONMENT STUDENTS, THIS WAS A SUMMER OF REVELATION. (VO) TODAY, AT THE RITZ-CARLTON, I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF M-C'ING THE GRADUATION LUNCHEON, FOR 6 INTERNS FROM THE ARTHUR R -RSHALL FOUNDATION'S SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM. RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THEIR ECOLOGY STUDIES, CAME WORD, OF THE US SUGAR DEAL, 187-THOUSAND ACRES BEING PURCHASED FOR EVERGLADES RESTORATION. I TALKED WITH DANIELLE ALMEIDA, OF BOCA RATON, WHO NOW RETURNS TO FAU. (SOT) I WAS HAPPY IT WAS SUCH AN ENERGIZING TIME NOW WE CAN TALK ABOUT ALL THESE NEW ISSUES A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE AS TO WHAT THINGS COULD LOOK LIKE. (VO) IN RECENT YEARS, THE MARSHALL FOUNDATION HAS AWARDED MORE THAN 300 - THOUSAND DOLLARS IN SCHOLARSHIPS AND INTERNSHIPS. 2SHOT SUZANNE THE FACE OF SOUTH FLORIDA IS CHANGING, VO FROM LANGUAGE BARRIERS TO SAFETY ISSUES. WE'LL SHOW YOU HOW ONE LOCAL CITY IS DEALING WITH A CHANGE IN POPULATION. CURT VO IN TONIGHT'S MEAL DEALS, ERIC ROBY SHOWS US HOW TO TURN A LUNCH FAVORITE, INTO A DINNER DELIGHT. SUZANNE WX CAM LIVE PLUS, ANOTHER HOT AND STEAMY DAY. SO IS THERE ANY RELIEF IN SIGHT? CBS 12 METEOROLOGIST JOHN MATTHEWS HAS THE ANSWER IN YOUR FORECAST AHEAD. CURT THE LATEST US CENSUS FIGURES RELEASED TODAY COUNTY'S HISPANIC POPULATION IS RAPIDLY GROWING, UP 12-PERCENT FROM 2000. CBS 12'S STEPHANIE GAILHARD SHOWS US HOW THE POPULATION BOOM IS CHANGING THE WAY AT LEAST ONE LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY DOES ITS JOB. (TAKE PKG) OUTCUE: STNDTRT: 1:07 (SOT) 37:15 WE KNOW SOME ARE HERE ILLEGALLY, SOME ARE AFRAID OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, AND SOME DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT WE ARE HERE TO HELP THEM WITH 37:20 CLEARING UP THE CONFUSION IS WHAT THE NEWLY CREATED

HISPANIC CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY IS ALL ABOUT. DELRAY BEACH POLICE OFFICER ANDY ARENA HEADS UP THE PROGRAM. HE PREDICTED IT WOULD BE ESSENTIAL, A FEW YEARS AGO, WHEN HE SAW THE HISPANIC POPULATION START TO RISE IN THE CITY. TODAY HE SAYS HIS VOLUNTEERS ON PATROL, ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE DEPARTMENT. (SOT)39:24 ALL OUR HISPANIC HERITAGE BUT AT LEAST ONE ON PATROL HAS TO BE ABLE TO SPEAK SPANISH 39:30 BY BREAKING DOWN LANGUAGE BARRIERS, THEY CAN EDUCATE OTHERS, AND HOPEFULLY PREVENT THEM FROM BECOMING A VICTIM. (SOT)41:01 WE WANT TO SHOW THEM WHAT WE DO SO THEY BETTER UNDERSTAND AND WE CAN BETTER HELP THEM OUT 41:06 THE SUCCESS OF HIS HAITIAN CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY, NOW IN ITS 13TH YEAR, HAS TAUGHT HIM, PEOPLE ARE MORE APT TO OPEN UP TO SOMEONE WITH A SIMILAR BACKGROUND.

