

District #4 – Southwest CPAC Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

Chair: Bruce J. Tyson, Sr.

Vice Chair: Len Burroughs

MEETING SUMMARY

Location: Florida State College at Jacksonville, Kent Campus
3939 Roosevelt Blvd., Room E-112F

Date: March 12, 2012

Attendance:

Organizations/Representatives

Members

Bruce Tyson – Chair

Len Burroughs – Vice Chair

Council District 10 – Kathy Budd

Cedar Hills Estates – Johnny Carter

West Jax Civic – Richard Dill

Charter Member – Don Ingram

Westside Area Residents – Charles Kelley

Gleaners Dispatch – Jim Kelly

Crystal Springs – Marilyn Lehman

Hyde Grove Terrace – Shirley Lowry

Florida Community College at Jacksonville – Paul McNamara

Westside Business Leaders – Jane Miller

Hyde Grove Terrace – Peggy Myers

West Jax Civic – David Nechvatal

Timuquana Manor North – Alice Turknett

Springtree Village – Dewey Walker

Timuquana Manor North – Polly Walker

Excused John Kelly, Andy Hetzel, Thomas Martin, Charles Mann, Bruce Burgstiner, Opal Burgstiner, Olwen Busch, James Nolting, Steve Shaffer, Rosanne Vernon, Sandi Newman and Russell Carlson

Elected Officials None Present

Staff Mary Beth Ridderman, Doreen Joyner-Howard, Mike Eason and Maria Buchwalter

Guests

Alberta Hipps, Hipps Group

Andy Nemeth, Bent Creek Homeowners Association

Robert Tozier, University of North Florida

1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum

Chair Tyson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Mary Beth Ridderman verified a quorum.

Chair Tyson called the members' attention to the new agenda and meeting format. He welcomed a new member – Council District 10 and Representatives Kathy Budd and Yvonne Cook.

2. Approval of the Previous Meeting Summary

Chair Tyson asked for a motion to approve the February summary Marilyn Lehman made the motion to approve the minutes with a second from Richard Dill. All members voted unanimously to approve the February summary

3. Staff Reports

- JSO (Jacksonville Sheriff's Office)

Lt. Eason announced

- Sheriff Rutherford will have a neighborhood walk on Tuesday, March at 5:00p.m. The walk will begin at the Venetia Elementary School located on Timuquana Road.
- There have been a series of break-ins at businesses located on Normandy Boulevard, business windows are broken and items are stolen.
- Walgreens, located in the 7500 block of 103rd Street was robbed by a man claiming that he was strapped with explosives. He demanded the cashier give him all her money. The robber was caught on camera and JSO will televise this photo to ask citizens' help to capture him.
- Kathy Budd expressed her concern about vehicles speeding on Hyde Grove Avenue from Old Middleburg Road to Lane Avenue.
- Peggy Myers expressed a concern that JSO has not been patrolling the Hyde Grove

Avenue area.

- o Charles Kelly expressed a concern that a daycare on Ellis Road has been broken into every Thursday for the past three weeks. The hours are between 2 – 3 a.m. JSO Lt. Eason said JSO will follow up.
 - o Residents gave a round of applause for JSO’s work in the community
- Mayor’s Liaison – A liaison has not been appointed
 - Duval County Public Schools - Not present
 - FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation)
Doreen Joyner-Howard reported:
 - o Last month a member expressed concern about the dip in the road on Normandy Boulevard near the Equestrian Center. She said the road has a pavement failure and FDOT hopes to repair it during the Normandy repaving project.
 - o Last month a resident inquired about the proposed Branan Field Chaffee toll road. Tolls will begin when the entire toll road has been completed.
 - o Last month a concern was expressed about public notice regarding the toll road. She researched the question and found that since 1980 there have been 19 16 public meetings in Clay and Duval counties. It will be a limited-access road. FDOT is currently purchasing right-of-way. In Clay County the road will have service roads similar to Arlington Expressway. Sidewalks, bike lanes and trails will connect to the service roads. This portion of the road will be State Road 23. The toll will begin at I-10 in Duval County and will continue on to Clay County as well and will be a toll-less scan system. Construction will begin soon.
 - Neighborhoods
 - o Housing and Community Development Division – Mary Beth Ridderman reported that Elaine Spencer was appointed Acting Chief of Community Development Division. Changes are planned for Ms. Ridderman’s position. Her time with CPACs and Neighborhoods will be cut in half and the time will be spent monitoring grant compliance. One of her duties will be job-shared with another department – she will no longer transcribe the meeting summaries. Ms. Ridderman will continue to arrange and attend the CPAC meetings. She stated the importance of each speaker clearly stating his/her name for the record to make it easier for the person who will transcribe the summaries.
 - o Municipal Code Compliance Division – Maria Buchwalter
Reported a systematic inspection will be conducted in Sweetwater on Tuesday, March 13
 - Planning and Development – Andy Hetzel’s absence was excused.
 - Recreation & Parks – John Kelly’s absence was excused. Mr. Kelly provided a written report.
 - Other:
 - o **Jacksonville Aviation Authority**
Alberta Hips reported another hanger project is in the works for KCI Aviation to work on private planes.
 - o **Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ)** – Paul McNamara
Reported:
 - The Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) facility is scheduled for completion in September or October, 2012.
 - FSCJ enrollment is steady.
 - Next week is Spring Break.
- 4. Presentations** – A presentation was scheduled from the Jacksonville Economic Development Commission (JEDC). The scheduled speaker was not present.
- 5. Chair’s Report** – Bruce Tyson reported:
- He has scheduled a meeting to discuss the future of the Cecil Memorial.
 - He has received requests from persons interested in a beautification project at I-295 and Normandy Boulevard. It is State owned property. He referred the requests to FDOT. If anyone has funds to landscape and maintain a FDOT property, they may obtain a permit from FDOT. The cost of beautification and maintenance of public right away is expensive. The beautification and maintenance of town centers has become a big issue in the city.

- Please contact him at this new e-mail address: bjtsr@netzero.net.

6. Elected Officials Reports – No officials present

7. Subcommittee/Liaison Reports

- LUZ (Land Use and Zoning)/Governmental Affairs – Need a volunteer
- Beautification/Parks/Environment – Johnny Carter reported that a general cleanup is scheduled for March 17. They have not decided which parks to clean. Park information will be e-mailed by this Thursday.
- Membership – No report
- Transportation - Mr. Martin's absence was excused.
- Ad-Hoc
 - Sheriff's Advisory Council (ShAdCo) has flyers for Tuesday's walk with Sheriff Rutherford.
 - On Wednesday, ShAdCo Co-Chairs and Chairs meet with Sheriff Rutherford.
 - Sector J meets March 22 in the Ortega United Methodist Chapel at 7 p.m.
 - Detective David Belesi tracks sexual offenders.
 - JSO has a link to track sexual offenders within 1-5 miles from your home.
 - Sector K met last Monday.
 - Sector L will meet Tuesday.
 - The following is a list of ShAdCo meeting dates:
 - ShAdCo Sector J meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Ortega United Methodist Church. Visitors and new members are welcome.
 - ShAdCo Sector K meets the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Lane Wiley Center. Visitors and new members are welcome.
 - ShAdCo Sector L meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Maxville Community Center. Visitors and new members are welcome.
- **TRUE (Taxation, Revenue, and Utilization of Expenditures)** Commission Liaison– Mr. Martin's absence was excused.
- **Safety** – No report
- **Economic Development** – Jim Kelly provided a written report.

8. Unfinished Business – none

9. New Business –

- Jim Kelly announced the need to discuss membership. A discussion followed. Chair Tyson said he had invited 3 guests from Hawks Landing, but they did not attend. He asked members to invite guests because the subcommittees need help. Chair Tyson asked members to become involved. He suggested subcommittees meet at 6:30 p.m. prior to the CPAC meeting, at the same location.
- Jim Kelly inquired about an updated list of Homeowner Associations. Mary Beth Ridderman reported the on-line Directory of Neighborhoods is the most up-to-date. It is a voluntary list and often residents do not provide new contact information. A discussion continued regarding other ways of updating the information.

10. Public Comments/Announcements (3-minute time limit)

- Jim Kelly announced the gumbo cook-off, hosted by the Parrot Heads at the Landing on Saturday, March 10, netted a large donation for Gleaner's Dispatch, a non-profit organization that provides free food to the hungry. Last year the gumbo netted \$4000 for Gleaner's Dispatch.
- Bruce Tyson reported the Sand Dollar Restaurant was damaged by fire on Saturday, March 10. The restaurant will be closed for approximately six months.
- Charles Kelley announced his daughter went to Riverside Arts Market (RAM), located on Riverside Avenue under the Fuller Warren Bridge. Everything is fabulous! RAM offers entertainment, food and vendors.
- Alice Turknett announced the National Association of Retired Railroad People had a luncheon and JTA had slides to show the development of the Skyway, transportation and updated plans for the development of Prime Osborne Convention Center with a depot similar to the old depot.
- Bruce Tyson mentioned there are plans to move the Greyhound Bus Station to the Prime Osborne.
- Kathy Budd reported that R&R Auto Parts, located on Old Middleburg Road, is a huge mess with a lot of code violations such as over 100 cats, unauthorized burning and noise pollution. A lot of

residents as well as City Council, Code and Planning are involved. Residents who live near R&R presented the Planning Department with a list of 24 conditions regarding the proposed PUD. There are currently over 49 code violations. Nothing can be done about the violations until City Council decides what to do about the application for zoning and land use change.

- Jane Miller, Westside Business Leaders, reported that they will sponsor Bowling for Dollars that will be held on May 5 at the Batt Family Fun Center on Cassatt Avenue. This will be a fundraiser for college scholarships.
- Charles Kelley reported he recently spent a lot of time on the Equestrian Trails. He circled the Equestrian Center – it is fabulous. He recommended residents drive out and see it.
- Alberta Hipps reported that Jim Robinson is the new Director of Public Works.
- Chair Tyson announced Angela Spears' new appointment as Special Assistant to the Mayor for Community Engagement. David DeCamp was appointed Communications Director.
- Alberta Hipps recognized Mr. DeCamp for his work when he was at the Times Union.
- Don Ingram reported that Council Member Jim Love is working to improve railroad crossings and sidewalks in Lakeshore.
- Don Ingram reported seeing an increased number of pelicans in Lakeshore and the Cedar River.

11. Motion to Adjourn

- Dewey Walker made a motion for adjournment and Marilyn Lehman seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: April 9, 2012 ~ 7:00 p.m.

Florida State College at Jacksonville, Kent Campus
3939 Roosevelt Blvd, Room E-112F

**Southwest CPAC Meeting
Monday, March 12, 2012, 7 p.m.
Florida State College at Jacksonville**

Department of Parks and Recreation Report

Spring Break Camp, March 19-23, All day camp for children 6-12. No cost. For more information contact Eleanor Robinson at 255-7920. There are still opening at Julian Barrs Recreation Center located at Crystal Springs Park.

Murray Hill Art Center, JaxParks programming partner Art League Jacksonville, Inc. is beginning classes on March 12. For more information call Craig Erskine at 904-861-5117 or email him at craig@artsjax.org

Cecil Aquatic Center – Time to get in shape. Aquatic Center is currently open seven days a week. Call 573-3157 for more information.

Upcoming events:

- March 17-18, 2012 Area 1 & 4 Swimming Championships
- March 24-25, 2012 MS Mud Run

Note: Aquatic Center closed on these dates.

Summer Camp Information (Important Dates):

- Camp Vouchers, May 8
- On-line Camp Registration – May 15

For more information go to www.jaxparks.com or call Eleanor Robinson at 255-7920.

Project Status Report Planning District 5 – Updated report of current park projects. (Attached)

More Information or Questions: Please call John Kelly at 255-7918.

Orlando Sentinel Thursday March 1, 2012

By William E. Gibson Washington Bureau
WASHINGTON — —

Why are gas prices so high? Why are they higher in South Florida than other places and what is Uncle Sam doing about it?

Angry and confused consumers are asking these questions while watching prices rise daily at the pump even while the United States boosts its oil production and becomes less dependent on foreign supplies.

Here are some answers, based on observations from producers and energy experts:

Q: Why are gasoline prices so high?

A: (Gibson) Regular gas in Florida on average was \$3.75 a gallon this week, \$3.66 just a week ago and \$3.38 a year ago. At some stations, prices have topped \$4. Business Journal - Mar. 5, 2012 The average cost of a gallon of regular gas is \$3.72 in **Jacksonville**, up from \$3.69 ; \$3.79 in Florida, up from \$3.74; and \$3.76 nationally, up from \$3.68.

- Reasons include fear that Iran will shut off oil supplies and speculation by commodity traders who are betting on future prices. But the main reason is the rising price of crude oil because of increasing demand for energy in this country and in places like China, where 18 million new cars will hit the road this year. The U.S. economic recovery, though sluggish, already has raised demand for fuel, pushing up prices.
- Every economist knows that the biggest and most immediate change that the United States can make to have a positive impact on prices at the pump is to regulate oil futures trading to prevent it from artificially driving up the price of gasoline. The problem? – There's no boondoggle here. [A project funded by the federal government out of political favoritism that is of no real value to the community or the nation.]

A: Dennis Maley, the Bradenton Times

- Popular to blame EPA and tree huggers but...
- As domestic oil drilling hit an all-time high, so did prices.
- Demonstrating that multiple profiteers can stack the deck in their favor and bleed us dry.
- We the people [must] stop screaming nonsensical chants like Drill, Baby, Drill, and start demanding an answer that will actually work until then; we'll be stuck with ham-fisted solutions that amount to more tax-payer funded pork to special interests.
- Let's start by debunking the myths. First, oil is sold on a world market,
- The relatively small amounts of oil (in terms of global supply) that we have yet to tap domestically are going to have minimal impact at the pump. That oil will go to China, India and other countries that have rising demand just as often as it is sold here and because we have limited refining capacity in the U.S., much of it will have to be exported as crude anyway, even if it is to return. [And we will pay more for the returned refined oil.]

- **Drilling vs. other measures:** you'd save more oil by improving the fuel efficiency of U.S. cars by just 1 MPG than will influence gas prices here by drilling over several years.

Q: Why are prices higher in Florida than in most other states?

- **A:** Florida has seen higher prices than most states, though this week they are only slightly higher than the national average. The average price was \$3.87 in **Palm Beach County** and \$3.84 in **Fort Lauderdale** and Miami, according to AAA.
- Relatively high state and local taxes, an important source of road-building revenue, are the main reason.
- But Florida also pays a price because it has no oil refineries and receives its oil by barges that come to the **Port of Tampa** and **Port Everglades**, adding transportation costs.
- The car-happy state also has great demand for gas, partly because of the millions of tourists who drive into Florida or rent cars. High demand means high prices.
- "I'm sure prices in Florida were a little higher because of one big event [the **Daytona 500** car race,]" said John Felmy, chief economist of the **American Petroleum Institute**. "We frequently see that in resort communities, where prices go up before weekends and then go down."
- **Maley Adds:** Two weeks ago, gas prices rose sharply.
- Some media pointed out our functioning domestic rig count was at a record high.
- Consumption by U.S. drivers was down to 1996 levels;
- So the argument that it's a matter of the U.S. having vast sums of untapped oil that we're not allowing oil companies to access in order to meet rising demand didn't make any sense.

Q: Why is the price higher at some gas stations than others just down the road?

A:

- Most gas stations are independently owned and can adjust prices based on location, labor costs, their competition and whatever consumers are willing to pay. The results can vary wildly.
- "I set a price high enough to pay my bills," said Ron Pearson, owner of Ron's Camino Real Mobil station in **Boca Raton**, which was pumping regular gas on Wednesday at \$3.99.9 a gallon.

Q: Why do prices rise daily, even when the cost of crude oil remains about the same?

A: Experts point to the lag time between rising crude-oil prices on the world market, the process of refining it into gasoline and deliveries to stations across the country. When gas at the pump goes over \$4 per gallon, people tend to exercise whatever discretion they control in terms of usage, which usually brings prices back down.

Maley:

- But at \$5 per gallon, models have shown that the U.S. economy begins to lock up, simply because pricing structures no longer work. It takes a while for price changes to ripple through the pipeline.
- Like any other business, oil companies grab the lowest hanging fruit first and over the last century have depleted the easiest and cheapest to access oil reserves. As new sources are discovered, they rely increasingly on expensive

and less productive technologies that also make modern oil markets vastly different.

Q: *How do speculators affect the price?*

A: Commodities trading was supposed to help stabilize prices, but critics say it forces them sharply higher or lower, as investors speculate on the future price. Most recently, speculators are buying oil commodities, betting that they can sell them at a profit when prices go up. Critics say this nudges prices higher. But some industry analysts discount the long-term impact.

Q: *Why are prices so much cheaper in a place like Wyoming?*

A: Move to the Rocky Mountain region if you want cheap gas. The sparsely populated area can meet its own energy needs because of close access to refineries and Canadian oil.

Q: *What are President **Barack Obama** and Congress doing about high gas prices?*

A: The federal government has limited impact on gas prices and few options. Some lawmakers are pressuring Obama to tap the nation's strategic petroleum reserve to try to ease consumer prices.

Obama promoted his energy policy recently in South Florida, calling for increased domestic production and development of solar, wind and other power sources to make the nation less reliant on fossil fuels.

A: Bradenton(Maley): the most powerful and influential forces in our economy, all of whom are making money hand over first, and none of whom are eager to see their fortunes reversed.

First, there's Wall Street. Hedge funds, investment banks and other financial institutions have been manufacturing wealth by creating inflated prices through new trading technologies for a long time.

Prices have far more to do with what happens on their casino floors than supply or demand, or any other typical market force for that matter.

We have the power to limit this impact in oil markets, which is responsible for about a third of the price per gallon, but we've lacked the political will to do so.

Why? Simple, most of the people who could be bought and paid for.

Wall Street was President Obama's biggest benefactor in 2008 and they've benefited most since his election.

If oil companies and big pharmaceuticals own the GOP, then Wall Street holds the deed on the Dems...

I wrote a detailed column last year on how speculation impacts price and I'd suggest reading it, as it explains what could be done to curb that dynamic. Not surprisingly, none of it has. Washington sees the problem, but doesn't have the stones to try and pull the feedbag off the guys who sign the big checks.

A: Maley: The president is not anti-energy;

Oil leases are granted very liberally

Keystone XL was nearing approval when public outcry caused delay; and the Nebraska governor asked for more study.

President Obama is not keeping you from oil by environmental policy

Q: *What do **Republicans** want to do about this?*

- **A:** Many Republicans, including several U.S. House members from Florida, are pushing hard to open the eastern Gulf of Mexico near Florida's west coast and much of the Atlantic and Pacific coasts — as well as lands in the Arctic — to oil drilling to increase domestic supplies.
- Energy experts say that would not reduce prices in the short term, but drilling boosters say it would eventually bring down prices and make the nation less dependent on foreign imports.
- **A:** but...<http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/energy/story/2011-12-31/united-states-export/52298812/1>
- Measured in dollars, the nation is on pace this year to ship more gasoline, diesel, and jet fuel than any other single export, according to U.S. Census data going back to 1990. It will also be the first year in more than 60 that America has been a net exporter of these fuels.
- **A: Maley:** there is a dogmatic, almost religious call to drill more oil out of our own ground. Even a rudimentary understanding of the global oil markets will allow someone to understand how little impact increased domestic output will have on prices at the pump.
- When I go to a liberal political event, the answer is always alternative energies – a noble and necessary approach, but still not one that is going to impact the cost of energy in the immediate future and one that too often comes with special interest payoffs.

Q: *Would it help if we were less dependent on foreign oil?*

A: The U.S. already is becoming less dependent, reducing imported oil from 60 percent of its supplies in 2005 to 49 percent in 2010, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. But that did not bring prices down. Most producers are multinational corporations who drill in various parts of the world, and prices are largely determined by the world market regardless of where it is produced.

A: The Bradenton Times: Maley

- The United States produces less than 9 percent of global oil supplies and consumes nearly a quarter. Opening every possible drilling site would not change the problem for us.
 - Then, if prices come down, drilling in more difficult areas would come down anyway.
 - It is better for oil companies self-interest to sell half as much at \$4 a gallon than twice as much at \$2. because:
 - Cheap gas is good for domestic economic growth, bad for everything else.
 - When gas was \$1-2 per gallon? People consumed a lot more. Car companies focused on manufacturing and promoting their most profitable vehicles – SUV's – and no one thought much about it.
 - Gas prices low, gas consumption is up; we use more of a less and less [easily] available product.
 - Americans must understand the problem:
 - Oil companies make more profit when gas prices are high and consumption is lower.
 - Oil companies like higher corporate profits
 - Cheap gasoline is not part of the profit equation for oil companies;
 - Pump prices are no longer impacted by domestic drilling policy; there-in is the crux of the problem.

- o Demand for gasoline has fallen like a rock in U.S. and world-wide
- o Unemployment and less economic activity hurt the economic recovery.
- o Higher oil prices are not explained by high consumption.
- o Oil companies would just profit more by trading off that drilling for easier to access crude in ecologically-sensitive areas, were we to open up more land for exploration.

Dennis Maley is a local author and the editor of The Bradenton Times. He can be reached at dennis.maley@thebradentontimes.com. His editorial column appears Thursday and Sunday.
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Washington correspondent for the Orlando Sentinel and the Sun Sentinel, reporting to an editor in Orlando. A member of the consolidated Tribune Washington Bureau.

My Biography WILLIAM E. GIBSON, a Washington correspondent for 27 years, has covered seven presidential elections and 14 sessions of Congress. Originally from the Kansas City area, he lived and worked in New Mexico, New York and Fort Lauderdale before moving to Washington. Along the way, he studied journalism at the University of Kansas and Columbia University.

Other contributors to this story: CNN.com Atlanta; Business Trends Magazine; The Week Magazine

What local citizens said:

ksell@actionnewsjax.com TV47 Action News

Gas has finally topped four dollars for a gallon of unleaded in the region. And that has drivers pretty fired up.

"They're outrageous," Cort Sant said of the prices.

"I'm used to getting butchered at the pump but never this bad," added Shane Ranage.

Gisele Bathish said, "It keeps going up I'm really surprised with the difference in prices between last month and this month."

Driver after driver pulled into the Shell station on U.S. 17 in Yulee, and they had the same reaction to the sticker shock. Gas here is now selling at \$4.07 a gallon.

"Why is that? It's pretty ridiculous," said Ranage.

Dr. Borg is a Professor of Political Economy at the University of North Florida. She says it really has to do with crude oil costs.

"We've got the speculators speculating the price of oil to go up because of potential problem in Iran and also for the demand for oil to go up because of summer increases in travel," she said.

But for Sant, who relies on a lot of gas for his drive to work, he fears what could happen if the trend continues.

"It's getting scary," he said. "I won't even be able to afford to live in today's economy. People aren't going to be able to afford to go to work because they can't afford the gas prices to get there."

Dr. Borg says another issue is the shortage of refineries right now. The bottom line is that she doesn't see any indications prices will drop anytime in the near future. Her advice - be efficient.

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Blame the president

Poof! There goes your payroll tax reduction. I just paid over \$70 to fill my tank with unleaded regular gasoline.

This is the highest I have ever paid, and the experts say it is going higher even if there is not a crisis in the Middle East.

I blame President Barack Obama. His failed Middle East policy, reliance on the pipe dream of alternative energy, preventing oil drilling, rejection of the Keystone pipeline and allowing the EPA to run roughshod have accelerated the rise in energy prices.

Tony Piermatteo,

Ponte Vedra Beach

Read more at Jacksonville.com: <http://jacksonville.com/opinion/letters-readers/2012-02-24/story/letters-readers-reply-river-study#ixzz1oNuA3W3y>

Re: Blaming the president - Ralph M. 2/24/2012 Jacksonville.com

There just seems to be no limit to the incredible ignorance of today's totally pathetic right-wingers. To them "anti-intellectual" is not just an adjective - it's a religion.

Failed Middle East policy? Just who are we comparing Obama to? Most experts will agree that he has done a remarkable job - despite having no support from Congress.

And especially after Bush/Cheney/GOP left office with virtually everything totally screwed up.

Preventing oil drilling? Yes there was a temporary moratorium following the BP spill.

However it is now predicted that in 2012, there will be substantially more permitted wells drilling in the gulf than before the spill.

Rejection of the Keystone pipeline? Obama just wanted to be sure that information provided by the oil companies was verifiable by someone who could actually be trusted.

Why is prudence so objectionable in such a major undertaking?

Allowing the EPA to run roughshod? I've got news for you idiots. The EPA is the only thing standing between you and the companies who want to dump their waste products into the nearest creek available.

Read more at Jacksonville.com: <http://jacksonville.com/opinion/letters-readers/2012-02-24/story/letters-readers-reply-river-study#ixzz1oNulj38m>

National Study concludes no correlation between high gas prices and Presidency
. *The Week*, March 6, 2012 writer Paul Broadus

Yale economist Ray Fair shows that dating back to 1948, there is little correlation between election results and your pain in the gas.

Fair's study shows that the critical factor isn't gas prices themselves, but the sense Americans have (or don't have) that the economy is getting better. Today, Americans believe things are getting better. The unemployment rate has fallen for five straight months. The rate of economic growth is picking up. Consumer confidence is on the rebound. This bodes well for the president — for now.