

Our panel of 100 influential leaders discusses the most important issues affecting you.

To read responses from more South Florida 100 participants, go to SunSentinel.com/100

The top stories last week



Debbie Wasserman Schultz, member, U.S. House of Representatives

We are a war-weary nation, but as President Obama has explained to the American people and to the world, the depraved Islamic State poses an existential

threat to our national security, our allies and our interests. This week, with an international coalition that included five Arab nations, we began a critical campaign of air strikes to slow Islamic State's advancements in Syria. Combined with arming and training vetted fighters, increasing counter-terrorism efforts and providing humanitarian assistance to protect innocent lives - all while keeping American boots off the ground - the strategic plan to degrade, dismantle and defeat Islamic State is underway.



Eric Poms, CEO, Orange **Bowl Committee**

Capital One secured the title sponsorship for the Orange Bowl. The Capital One Orange Bowl will take place on Jan. 31 at 8 p.m. at Sun Life Stadium. As a long-time supporter of

collegiate athletics, Capital One is the ideal partner for us. Capital One's commitment to intercollegiate athletics and college football is unparalleled. When you combine that passion with our historic and iconic bowl game, you have a partnership that will greatly benefit the South Florida community.



Andrew Duffell, president, Research Park at Florida Atlantic University

It is difficult enough to convince voters to exercise their civic duty without the negative ads we see every day on TV now without dragging the gubernatorial

campaign further into personal attacks. It would be very refreshing if both candidates, Rick Scott and Charlie Crist, discussed what they would do if elected, not what the other guy did in the past. The media has to play its role too, and stop asking about the record of the other candidate. Perhaps then voters would be convinced to go out and vote for something, and not against someone else.



Kathleen Cannon, president, United Way of Broward County

Let's not give up on the Miami Dolphins. I know, I know, it was an exciting first game beating the Patriots but then so deeply disappointing to lose to Buffalo

and Kansas City. My son is 16-years-old and a die-hard Dolphin fan, yet he has never witnessed anything close to a championship team. Still, he watches and hopes and watches and hopes. So for my son's sake, let's get it together and fix the season. And let's be like my son and not give up as fans. Go Fins!



Mary Riedel, president, Women in Distress

of Broward County Domestic violence, sexu-

al assault and child abuse cases among high-profile sports figures continue in the headlines - and that is good news for the many

groups working to bring greater awareness and community solutions. From Florida State University to the Minnesota Vikings and several other NFL teams from Charlotte to San Francisco, these issues now have our attention. The real questions is what actions will be take to bring about significant and lasting social change on these issues eating away at our society.



Ray Ferrero Jr., chancellor, Nova Southeastern University

Congratulations to John Thrasher who has been named as Florida State University's next president. In my dealings with him over many years, mostly on

opposite sides of contentious issues, but occasionally on the same side, I found him to be a person of integrity and ability. He does not come from a traditional academic background, nor did I. However, he has the assets that will serve him well as the university's president. Higher education in Florida, both public and private non-for profit institutions, like Nova Southeastern University, face significant challenges. We all should welcome our new colleague.



Dan Lindblade, president, Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber of Commerce's board approved support of Broward County School Board's \$800 million

bond issue and the extension of the Children's Services Council taxing authority, both on the November ballot, and a resolution in support of marriage equality in Florida. Great leaders

keep their eye on the horizon.



Harry Dressler, mayor,

University Virginia student Hannah Graham was abducted last week. An alleged perpetrator is under arrest. These stories are horrific. This leads this writer to sug-

gest that while we teach our children not to speak with strangers and other strategies, we need to offer college-level education, especially to undergrads that are newlyaway from home. A mandatory orientation course on "Do's and Don'ts" for college freshman may be a life-saving exercise. Kids away from home are often naive to the dangers that could befall them. Social education should be a good start if it is not already being offered.



Howard Simon, executive director, ACLU of Florida

There are many lessons from the police shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri. Certainly one was the impact of an excessive show of

military force by police to intimidate the public. Hauling out military vehicles and weapons like those used in Iraq and putting police officers in military gear only outraged and inflamed the public. The job of law enforcement in these situations is to de-escalate, but what happened only esca-lated tensions. Florida police agencies would be better off returning the military weapons the federal government mistak-enly spread around the country, rather than ever use them as in Ferguson.



Scott Israel, sheriff, **Broward County**

A disturbing new social media trend is crossing the country. Young people are finding themselves in trouble with law enforcement agencies as they are using new apps like "Yik

Yak" and others to "anonymously" post about illegal activities they are participating in. This has already led to numerous arrests. We warn parents to be aware of what their kids are doing and posting on the Internet. We also warn young people of three important points: If you commit crimes, you will be caught. If you wouldn't sign your name to it, don't write it. And always remember, anonymous is never truly anonymous.



Tim Ryan, member, **Broward County** Commission

County commissioners voted unanimously to move forward with plans to partner with the Humane Society of Broward County to build a high-

volume, low-cost spay/neuter clinic. While details must be finalized, the society would pay to build and operate the clinic on county land leased to the organization at nominal cost. The goal is to reduce the number of dogs and cats that sadly are euthanized in our community by significantly increasing the number of animals that are spayed or neutered. Other local governments have had success with publicprivate partnerships like this one. Hopefully, we can do the same here in Broward.



Patty Asseff, president, Broward League of Cities

The Broward Office of the Inspector General recently issued two important reports. In July, it announced that elected officials in all Broward County municipalities are

in compliance with their obligation to file lobbyist contact logs for public inspection. This month, it was reported that all municipalities are in compliance with training requirements under the Ethics Code. The Broward League of Cities is proud that each of our 31 cities and their elected officials are performing at the highest level of ethical government service. Transparency in our municipal governments will continue to be a priority.



Joy Cooper, mayor, Hallandale Beach Hallandale Beach re-

cently passed a resolution supporting that all genetically-modified foods be labeled. While scientific breakthroughs are vitally important to develop a

sustainable food source that can withstand drought and address famine, all consumers have a right to know what is in their food. I was proud to sponsor this resolution and encourage other cities and our state to support the bill requiring labeling. Transparency for all consumer goods is the right thing to do. Happy New Year to all our Jewish friends and neighbors.

Looking ahead to this week



Clarence McKee, president, McKee

Communications

Only 5 percent of the state's L6 million black voters voted in the August primary. Disgraceful. Have black Floridians forgotten their state's history of segregation and violence? Between 1882 and 1930, Florida had the highest per capita percentage of black lynchings in the nation; in 1951 the Florida NAACP civil rights pioneer and voting

rights advocate Harry T. Moore, and his wife, were killed when the KKK bombed their house; in 1956, two black women were arrested in Tallahassee for sitting in the front seats of a bus. And the list goes on. Let's hope they remember by Nov. 4.



Mitchell Berger, founder and co-chairman,

Berger Singerman

Climate change continues to emerge on the collective consciousness of all south Floridians. From editorials in this newspaper to Gail Collins in the New York Times to full coverage on CNN, after 40 years we are collectively moving from debate on its existence to action on what we must accomplish.



Kristin Jacobs, member, Broward County Commission

Can you imagine a modern city with so many bicycle commuters they create a rush hour? This week, more than 1,500 big thinkers and "doers" converged in Minneapolis for the Rail-Volution conference to experience modern mobility. From beautiful urban bicycle trails to clean light rail to whisper-quiet electric buses, the theme "when we

all do well, we all do well" was exemplified. If Broward ever hopes to break free of 1960s version of life in the suburbs, we must commit to funding transit. The county commission should support the administrator's request to adjust fares to do just that.



Jennifer O'Flannery Anderson,

VP/community relations, Nova Southeastern It is hard to believe that International Boat Show is less than a month away. This event brings thousands of people to our area to experience the Venice of America. I hope we continue to talk about how important the marine industries are to our community and what we can do to help make the boat show the most successful one yet.



Linda Carter, president, Community Foundation of Broward

Climate change is back in the headlines thanks

to the United Nations Climate Summit. At the summit, nations continue to argue over global warming culpability and the duty to address it. Meanwhile, greenhouse gas emissions hit record levels in 2013. Coastal communities like ours can act now while politicians argue. Each of us can think globally while acting locally. By example the Foundation's

Gardening for Good Fund supports the production of low emission fresh produce through urban gardens. Why not take a walk to your local green market? It's good for you and the planet.



Jack Seiler, mayor, Fort Lauderdale On the heels of the United Nations Climate

Summit, comes the 6th Annual Southeast Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit, which will take place October 1-2 at the Miami Beach Convention Center. The theme is "Regions Connect? Global Effect." The summit will feature leading climate change experts, including White House officials and members of President Obama's Task

Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience. The latest scientific data will be presented along with innovative practices to address challenges, maximize opportunities and collaboratively advance policies and actions that support mitigation and adaptation to enhance our collective resilience and sustainability. For details, please visit fortlauderdale.gov.



Dr. Michael Dennis, chairman, Florida Atlantic University Schmidt College of Medicine

Increased life span expectancies and an influx of retirees to South Florida are placing increased pressure on the Medicare and Medicare Advantage systems. Whether the \$716 billion was taken from Medicare to finance the Affordable Care Act or that amount was "found" through savings in other segments of health care costs, the results are

the same. The actuaries have accumulated the data which is being withheld for political reasons. You can expect higher premiums, higher co-pays, higher deductibles, and fewer options. In "looking ahead" it will be wise to follow the information closely as it is released and seek professional advice if necessary to protect your medical interests.



Gary Resnick, mayor, Wilton Manors

Foreclosed houses still plague our country and Florida with 1 in 649 homes in foreclosure. Bank of America's settlement with the Justice Department over foreclosure abuses creates an opportunity. There is a proposal in Congress to allocate the \$5 Billion fine paid to the U.S. Treasury to fund the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, which allowed Wilton Manors to rehab over \$1.5 million in

foreclosed properties. This would assist neighborhoods everywhere. "An empty house is like a stray dog or a body from which life has departed," said Samuel Butler.



Antonio Fins, executive director, Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation

The New York State Assembly and Gov. Andrew Cuomo did right by sharks in passing and signing legislation requiring the use of circle hooks when shark fishing. Circle hooks are critical in necessary catch-and-release fishing, especially to avoid killing sharks. Now comes the question: Will other states follow?



Thomas Shea, president, Right Management Get ready for uncertainty, with the Federal Reserve intending to end its massive bond buying program next month. Even as Chair Janet Yellen announced that plan, some of her Fed colleagues dissented with her comments about when to begin raising interest rates. They worry that waiting too long may cause rates to climb faster, bruising the economic recovery. As policy changes emerge,

businesses and investors need to stay alert to the impacts on credit, investments and hiring.

Sun Sentinel