



The Jupiter Courier

A Scripps Howard Newspaper
Amy Brunjes - Managing Editor
Roger Buckwalter - Community Voice Editor
Jerome J. Rugar - General Manager

"Give light and the people will find their own way"

River funding veto bad news

There was good news and bad news from Tallahassee last week. Gov. Jeb Bush approved \$200,000 in state funding for Jupiter's Riverwalk project but, inexplicably, vetoed \$1 million toward preserving the Loxahatchee River.

Bush is right to veto what he considers to be "turkeys" — appropriations that fund local projects with no statewide benefit, which have received little or no legislative examination, and whose main purpose is to make lawmakers look good to their constituents.

Still we do not understand Bush's reasoning in the local cases. Frankly, if only one of these two appropriations had to survive, we think the river preservation was more deserving. After all, this is the state's only federally designated Wild and Scenic River, and the money would have gone toward efforts such as aiding its flow — which is critical to combating siltation and saltwater intrusion.

We very much support the Riverwalk and are pleased to see it get state help. This will enhance Jupiter's waterfront and become a regional attraction.

But the Loxahatchee River is truly a treasure for all of Florida and should be a high priority for preservation funding. Local legislators such as Sen. Ken Pruitt and Rep. Jeff Atwater did their part. It's too bad the governor undermined what they accomplished.