

# Bears ... cont'd

room and will likely be more visible to people.

While black bears generally are not aggressive, they have injured people in Florida. Never intentionally approach any bear. When walking dogs, keep them close to you – preferably on a non-retractable leash – and be aware of your surroundings. Dogs can trigger defensive behaviors from bears, especially females with cubs.

To keep bears away from your home and

neighborhood, follow these simple tips:

- Secure household garbage in a sturdy shed, garage or a wildlife-resistant container.
- Put household garbage out on morning of pickup rather than the night before.
- Secure commercial garbage in bear-resistant dumpsters.
- Protect gardens, beehives, compost and livestock with electric fencing.
- Encourage your homeowner's association or local government to institute bylaws or ordinances to require trash be kept secure from bears.
- Feed pets indoors or bring in leftover food and dishes after feeding outdoors.
- Clean grills and store them in a secure place.
- Remove wildlife feeders or make them bear-resistant.
- Pick ripe fruit from trees and bushes and remove fallen fruit from the ground.

It is illegal in Florida to intentionally feed bears or leave out food or garbage that will attract bears and cause human-bear conflicts.

As bears increase their movements this time of year, they also increase the number of roads they cross. For the safety of yourself and bears, remember to slow down when driving, particularly on rural highways at dawn or dusk. Watch for road signs identifying bear crossing areas. Each year in Florida, an average of 240



**SUPPORTING BOGGY CREEK**  
Locals Isabella, Analise, Jordyn and grandmother, Luann McBride helped Sorrento Publix shoppers fill this huge box with items needed for Camp Boggy Creek summer camp for seriously ill children, Saturday. Photo courtesy Polly J. Haines.

Florida bears are killed after being hit by vehicles.

Having conflicts with bears? Call one of the FWC's five regional offices. Go to MyFWC.com/Contact, and click on "Contact Regional Offices" to find the phone number for your region.

**Kitchen Chat**  
Share A Recipe!  
669-2430 or  
Fax 669-4644

Any time we find a way to make a good recipe easy, we do it. We were in a hurry Wednesday night to make dessert for Bible study, when we realized we were almost out of eggs. We didn't have the three eggs we needed to make a cake, so we had to punt. No problem however, we just dropped the one egg, some oil and other ingredients in with the box of yellow cake mix and stirred up a delicious blue berry cobbler. With all the nice local blueberries available right now, you can't miss.

There wasn't one crumb left when it was time to go, so it must have been good. If you have an easy recipe to share with the other cooks that are in a hurry and looking to cut corners, while keeping it homemade, give us a call at 669-3496 or email your recipes to hollynewby1@aol.com.

**Blueberry Cobbler Short Cut**

- 1 box yellow cake mix
- 2 cups fresh blueberries
- 1/3 cup canola oil
- 1 cup water
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 tsp. cinnamon powder
- 1 stick butter
- 1/2 cup maple syrup
- juice from one cutie orange

In a 9 x13 glass baking dish, melt the stick of butter. Combine the cake mix, water, oil, egg, vanilla and cinnamon. Pour batter into melted butter. Top with fresh blueberries, maple syrup mixed together with juice from one small hallo or cutie orange. Bake at 350 degrees until gold brown and bubbly about 40 minutes. Let cool and scoop into individual portions for serving. Serves 8 to 12.

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## 2017 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report St. Johns River Utility, Inc.

We're very pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Water Quality Report. We want to keep you informed about the excellent water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is and always has been, to provide to you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Our water source is the Floridan Aquifer we treat using filtration and add chloramines/chlorine for disinfection and feed a polyphosphate for corrosion control.

In 2017 the Department of Environmental Protection performed a Source Water Assessment on our system. The assessment was conducted to provide information about any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of our wells. There are no potential sources of contamination near our wells. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website at [www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp)

- This report shows our water quality results and what they mean.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Randy Meyers at (352) 759-2260. We encourage our valued customers to be informed about their water utility.

St. Johns River Utility routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws, rules, and regulations. Except where indicated otherwise, this report is based on the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2017. Data obtained before January 1, 2017 and presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations.

The state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

In the table below, you may find unfamiliar terms and abbreviations. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

**Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG:** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

**Maximum residual disinfectant level or MRDL:** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**Maximum residual disinfectant level goal or MRDLG:** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

"ND" means not detected and indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) – one part by weight of analyte to 1 million parts by weight of the water sample.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (µg/l) – one part by weight of analyte to 1 billion parts by weight of the water sample.

continued next page

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