

# Hurchalla to seek a 5th term as Martin County commissioner

By **JOE CRANKSHAW**  
Herald Staff Writer

STUART — Martin County Commissioner Maggy Hurchalla, the lone Democrat on the five-member board, announced Tuesday that she will seek a fifth term.

"It's that time again," said Hurchalla, 49. No one has announced an intention to oppose the popular conservationist, who turned back a strong challenge by Republican Mike Luce four years ago.

"I've got a record I'm proud of; I'm willing to run on it," Hurchalla said in her announcement. "I'm a conservationist, committed to preserving the wonder and diversity God gave us. I believe conservation goes beyond wild things and wild places. It means keeping Martin County a good place to live for our-

selves and our children."

Although it is dominated by Republicans, Hurchalla said Martin County is small enough for the people to know the personalities and records of the candidates, and for the people to vote for the person who best represents them, without regard to party.

Hurchalla was the 1984 Florida Audubon Society's Conservationist of the Year. She is considered a strong voice for strict growth management even though she and Commissioner Mary Dawson, a Republican, often find themselves on the losing end of 3-2 votes on environmental issues.

"Requiring growth to protect the environment, solve the problems it creates and pay its own way can

work," Hurchalla said. "When you have a place worth saving and people who care, all you need are politicians with the courage to represent you."

Hurchalla said that if re-elected, she would not compromise on a good comprehensive land-use plan, honesty in government and economy in government.

She is married to Jim Hurchalla, an engineer; the Hurchallas have four grown children. The family came to Martin County in 1968.

Hurchalla is a graduate of Swarthmore College with a major in psychology and a minor in biology and philosophy. She was once a teacher for emotionally disturbed children. She is the sister of Dade State Attorney Janet Reno.

## If we don't stand up, then who will protect nature?

The Martin County turnout for **Stand up for the Indian River Lagoon** last Friday was truly disappointing. No more than 50 people showed up on the Stuart Causeway to show support for the nomination of the Indian River as an **Estuary of National Significance**.

Of course, the **Marine Resources Council**, based in Melbourne, and the **Florida Oceanographic Society** (the local sponsor) were late in getting the word out. And, FOS wasn't even represented at the event. But what bothers me even more was that so few of our local residents bothered to come out.

Most of us moved here because of the beautiful weather, the beautiful waters and the fishing. But it appears that everyone expects somebody else to make the effort to preserve it.

Folks, wake up. Before you know it, Our Good Nature won't be here. Unless you literally stand up and be counted, you can't count on your representatives to save it.

It seems that Martin County's newest commissioners have taken sides. **Walt Thom** has joined **Tom Higgins** and **Frank Wacha Sr.** as a member of the "development club." He now consistently votes with Wacha and Higgins against **Maggy Hurchalla** and **Mary Dawson** on developments with questionable environmental aspects. This is the man that ran as an environmentalist? I hate to keep hammering at old Walt, but he seems to have changed his spots rather quickly since he ran for office.

Let's face it, nobody studies the issues the way Maggy does (although Mary seems to be trying) and yet the vote seems to come along gender lines.

And, doesn't the word **conservative** have the word **conserve** in it?

### Roger Hill

## Partiers in both parties just wild about Maggy

By **EMILY J. SMITH**  
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

**JENSEN BEACH** — The Democrats threw a party Saturday. And the Republicans crashed it.

It was a predictable showing, say veteran politics-watchers. Because without the county's 30,332 Republicans, Maggy Hurchalla, 47, the County Commission's lone Democrat and most vocal preservationist, couldn't have hung onto office for 14 years.

The Democrats staged a party for Hurchalla Saturday — to honor her loyalty to the party. And for every two Democrats who showed, there was a George Bush supporter lurking in the background.

Leaders of the county's 16,664 registered Democrats say that's because of Hurchalla's widespread popularity, a support that breaks party lines.

"You've got to love Maggy," said Frank

Brogan, the Republican candidate who faces Lloyd Brumfield, also a Republican, in the Tuesday runoff for school superintendent. "She's an institution."

## Hurchalla Only Protecting What We Have

To the Editor:

In answer to Gayle Hunter and others who blame Maggy Hurchalla for all our problems of over development or of trying to stop some of the bad development. Maggy has nothing to gain except to protect what we have here. There are right and wrong ways to develop. It's important to think about our water supply and over crowded roads and schools and all public services. Unfortunately, some developers come to make a quick buck and get out

leaving taxpayers and the county to deal with it.

We came here in 1960; my husband worked here as well as myself and he finally had a business of his own but we also were aware of citizens' responsibilities to our community. We don't have to have a strip shopping center on every corner, a lot of which are empty rows and rows of condos and houses to keep the economy going.

I also lived through some of my school days in Fort Pierce and watched while greedy peo-

ple made it an ugly place to live and they are still at it. Is their economy as good as Martin County, which is certainly a much more beautiful place to live?

Maggy has worked long and hard to make this a well run

county with roads and facilities it needs but she only has one vote. Blame the pro-developer commissioners who have something to gain.

Thank you,  
Nina Rogers