from the front page

ENGVALL

-

filmed here called 'Pimp My Golf Cart.'"

Throughout his 75-minute act, Engvall told jokes about cellphones, marriage, having pets and getting injured in stupid ways.

He said that there are two words in "menopause"— "men" and "pause."

"What I've learned is that if you're a man, you better pause before you speak," Engvall said. "Otherwise, you may awaken Satan."

One of his most well-received anecdotes was when he told the audience about the time he went on a drive with his wife.

He said he was driving, and she looked over at him. He thought it was sweet, and asked "What are you looking at?"

"We need to buy some nose-hair scissors," his wife replied. Engvall presented his

interesting way of looking at things.

Coaching his son's tee-

ball team, he said, was like bringing one ball to a dog park.

He described his wife's snoring as fit for the soundtrack of "The Walking Dead."

From jokes about getting kidney stones to being the unintentional owner of four indoor cats, Engvall shined through the whole show.

He transitioned smoothly from joke to joke and kept the audience laughing the entire time.

"It was hysterical," said JoJo Cronin, of the Village of Mallory Square. "It was all stuff that we could relate to."

Engvall ended the show by doing some "Here's Your Sign" jokes and speaking a bit about the importance of laughter.

He said that when you need it most, something will always make you smile.

"Y'all are awesome," Engvall said. "I knew you would be. I love people who know how to laugh."

Kristen Fiore is a senior writer with The Villages Daily Sun. She can be reached at 352-753-1119, ext. 5270, or kristen.fiore@ thevillagesmedia.com.



Complete report, A4

Getting To Know The Candidates

The Villages Republican Club hosted candidates for Commissioner of Agriculture Thursday at Savannah Center.

By MICHAEL FORTUNADaily Sun Staff Writer

Florida's commissioner of agri-

culture wears a lot of hats, and that cabinet position may not be as well-known.

Thanks to The Villages Republican Club, its members learned a little bit more about what the job entails, as well as the three candidates vying for the seat currently held by Adam Putnam.

During a forum Thursday night at Savannah Center, residents listened to Denise Grimsley, Matt Caldwell, and Baxter Troutman give their takes on how they would operate the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Each candidate spoke for about 10 minutes, with a few residents asking questions afterward — including what they would have done after Hurricane Irma, any deficiencies in the office they would change, and what to do about burying power lines to hide the "ugly."

Grimsley, who grew up in a family of cattle ranchers and citrus growers in Wauchula, experienced some of the red tape when she was running her family's small business. That led to her election to the

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She hopes to combat citrus greening, protect the state's water, fighting illegal telemarketing and scammers, and make sure Floridians can easily obtain concealed carry permits.

"You are a consumer,' Grimsley said. "You should be treated with respect."

Caldwell also came from a family steeped in agriculture in the Fort Myers area. After losing a Senate race, he ran for a House seat two years later and won.

"When I got to Tallahassee, I knew what (my constituents) wanted me to do," Caldwell said.

Caldwell hopes to create a water policy that doesn't mismanage the precious resource. He also wants to protect and grow agricultural jobs in the state and increase Florida's production of quality foods.

Troutman worked on his family's citrus and cattle farm in Frostproof. After college, he started a business that would find jobs for residents.

"I enjoy helping people," Troutman said. "Finding a job is akin to the American dream."

Troutman wants to focus on water quality and quantity, citrus greening, protecting farmlands, dealing with NAFTA, and jobs.

Having moved to Florida in January, Sterne Maher made his first appearance in the Republican Club a special one with the special forum.

"It was very good," said Maher, of the Village of Duval.

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Michael Fortuna | Daily Sun

Denise Grimsley, from left, Matt Caldwell and Baxter Troutman, candidates for Florida commissioner of agriculture, take part in a forum presented by The Villages Republican Club on Thursday at Savannah Center.

"I didn't know a lot of background on the candidates (before this). I thought they had some good questions from the audience."

The Republican Club had conducted a few forums during the election cycle two years ago. With the midterm elections

coming up, the club has brought them back.

"Our mission is to educate on who's running, what they stand for," said acting club president Jerry Prince, of the Village of Fernandina. "We let them hear from the candidates."

In the coming months, the

club hopes to bring in candidates from the federal to the county level.

Next month, the club will host the candidates for attorney general at Rohan Recreation Center, followed by gubernatorial candidates in July at Savannah Center.



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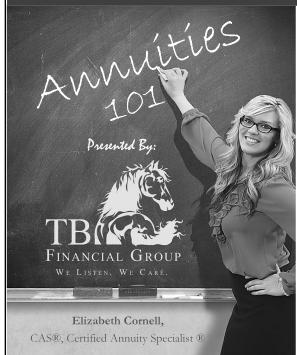
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