



# The Gainesville Iguana

*A progressive newsletter*

**May/June 2021**

**Vol. 35, Issue 5/6**

# No drilling!

**Burnett Oil takes steps toward oil drilling in Everglades**

*by Vickie Machado*

The weather was warm though not sweltering in the Everglades on the afternoon of Saturday, April 10. The region was dry, about a month away from the daily afternoon thunderstorms that are a mainstay of South Florida summers. White billowing clouds hovered over 50 to 60 demonstrators gathered along the grassy shoulder of Alligator Alley, near the Collier County rest-stop in the upper-reaches of the Big Cypress Swamp.

The crowd and the signs they carried were hard to miss on the interstate stretch connecting Fort Lauderdale to Naples. Carefully painted capitalized black lettering on the yellow, blue, and lime green fabric of banners proclaimed: "SPEAK UP FOR NATURE'S RIGHTS," "RESPECTE LOS EVERGLADES," and, announcing the central sentiment of the protest, "DEFEND THE SACRED." A range of other signs of various shapes, sizes, and colors read: "Speak up for Nature," "Say NO to Burnett Oil," "Oil and Water Don't Mix." South Floridians from both coasts and be-

tween converged in the middle of Big Cypress for Signs Across the Alley, a rally to protect the glades from oil drilling.

Rev. Houston Cypress, a member of the Miccosukee Otter Clan and co-founder of Love the Everglades Movement, led the protest along with Panther Clan grandmother Betty Osceola.

Similar to January's Defend the Sacred Prayer Walk, which opposed the federal government's efforts to transfer Section

404 of the Clean Water Act to the state, the conveners took time to educate the public on the impact of oil drilling starting with a hike that ventured deep into the muck.

Lasting nearly all day, the hike's purpose was to introduce participants to the environment of the planned oil-drilling site and connect them to the land in an effort to recognize the sacredness of creation. For local tribes and longtime residents alike,

*See EVERGLADES, p.20*

## The power of local community and divesting

*By Sarah Goff  
Executive Director and Co-Founder of  
The Repurpose Project*

The most wonderful and amazing thing happened during The Repurpose Project Building Expansion Fundraiser: the bank loan that we were relying on fell through.

Sure, those first few days were not wonderful. I sat in the office after that bank phone call, completely overwhelmed with emotion and unable to hold back tears as my mind visited each and every disappointed face.

*See REPURPOSE, p.12*

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## Florida's shame:

# Ten terrible decisions by a broken Legislature

by Sun Sentinel Editorial Board

*This editorial was originally published by the South Florida Sun Sentinel on April 30. See more at [sun-sentinel.com](http://sun-sentinel.com).*

The 2021 session of the Legislature ended Friday—and not a moment too soon.

The policy wreckage lawmakers leave behind is astounding in its scope. It hurts working families, punishes kids and is downright mean. This session exposes the tragic consequences of arrogant one-party Republican dominance in a Capitol closed off to the public it represents.

Where to begin? Let's start at the beginning with House Bill 1, the No. 1 priority of Gov. Ron DeSantis. More than any legislator, the governor bears the most responsibility for this shameful body of legislative work. His fingerprints are everywhere.

**'Anti-riot':** A trifecta of stupidity: a racially motivated attack on citizens' First Amendment rights, a national embarrassment and a disaster waiting to happen. Under the pretense of public safety, this law provides legal immunity to crazies who drive SUVs into crowds of protesters. Signed into law by DeSantis before a conspicuously all-white crowd, this monstrosity is a device to advance his presidential hopes. Floridians will suffer just so DeSantis can spout right-wing "law and order" talking points on Fox News.

**Big Tech:** Rubber-stamping another DeSantis priority, Republicans imposed new regulations on social media platforms with fines of up to \$250,000 a day for de-platforming or censoring politicians (SB 7072). We condemn censorship, but Republican politicians are the last ones who qualify as protectors of speech (see HB 1, above). This is a distraction from the real problems Floridians face, a sop to Donald Trump and his followers, could protect hate speech and is probably unconstitutional. Lawmakers added a carve-out for any social media channel whose owner also has a theme park, which shows their real priority is deep-pocketed donors like Disney, not Fox News viewers.

**Elections:** Republicans won big in Florida in 2020, but they're jittery about how many Democrats voted by mail. So they insisted on a partisan crackdown on mail ballots and the use of drop boxes that Democrats favored in 2020. The GOP shunned voter advocates and local election supervisors and silenced opponents at hearings in Tallahassee. These unnecessary restrictions will be attacked in court and should be. The state association of election supervisors said Friday the bill (SB 90) will make it harder for people to vote.

**Guns:** Even an NRA neutered by its own misdeeds can't make lawmakers show any gun sanity. They legalized guns in churches that share property with schools (HB 259) and expanded a decades-old preemption of local gun regulations (SB 1884) by adding unwritten gun policies, such as verbal instructions to local police officers.

**Preemptions:** You name it, power-hungry politicians in Tallahassee want to control it at the expense of cities and counties, from guns (SB 1844) to energy policy (HB 919) to seaports (SB 1194) to home-based businesses (HB 403). The latter guts local oversight and makes it easier for the guy next door to open an auto body repair shop or massage parlor. It's total overkill, a glaring contradiction to the small-government idea that government closest to the people governs best. If you want to fight City Hall, head for Tallahassee.

**Transgender kids:** For sheer cruelty, this one beats them all. Republicans revived a bill thought dead and used their raw power to ram through a ban on transgender female athletes competing in girls' and women's high-school and college sports (SB 1028), sticking it in a charter school bill. This heartless ostracizing of a marginalized community took place despite protests from Democrats, such as Sen. Victor Torres, D-Orlando, who made a deeply moving speech about his trans granddaughter. "We don't need this!" Torres shouted. "But obviously some don't care." No, they don't.

**Unemployment:** Despite billions of dollars from the Biden administration, stingy lawmakers refused to raise Florida's jobless benefits. They will remain \$275 a week for a maximum of 12 weeks, among the lowest of any state (HB 1463). And the long-overdue collection of sales taxes on sales by out-of-state online retailers (SB 50) won't help working people. The \$1 billion a year will replenish the fund that pays jobless benefits, making it a Republican giveaway to businesses who normally support the fund through unemployment premium taxes.

**Vaccines:** Pandering to the anti-vaxxer crowd, lawmakers banned so-called vaccine passports, making a misguided DeSantis executive order permanent (SB 2006) and trampling on counties where the COVID-19 virus has been harder to control — especially South Florida. The result means that businesses, schools and governments cannot force people to prove they've been vaccinated.

**Vaping:** Republicans tried to fool the public into thinking they were doing something by raising the age to smoke and vape from 18 to 21 (SB 1080). But that's already in federal law. What the bill really does is wipe out stronger local regulations to curtail marketing and sale of tobacco and vaping products (more preemption). To no one's surprise, makers of e-cigarettes are reliable donors to political campaigns. (more kowtowing to moneyed interests).

**Vouchers:** The privatization of public education continues. Lawmakers expanded school vouchers so more parents can send their children to private schools at public expense. A bill (HB 7045) consolidates two popular scholarship programs for special needs students with a third program for low- and middle-income families and expands eligibility to incomes of nearly \$100,000 for a family of four. At the same time, lawmakers cut a \$600 book stipend for some Bright Futures scholarship recipients.

This year marks the 25th year of Republican control of both houses of the Legislature. The GOP secured a majority in the Senate in 1994 and the House in 1996. This is no way to mark that milestone. The Florida Legislature is broken, and the only fix is at the ballot box, starting next year.

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*To see a breakdown of the legislative session from the North Central Florida Central Labor Council (AFL-CIO), particularly the bills that affect working families (it's not all bad!), check out <https://tinyurl.com/3hu4z3rt>. 🐘*

*From the publisher*

# Looking forward

We seem to be emerging into a brighter future. The masking and distancing practices we at first felt awkward about became accepted, and now with the vaccines becoming widely available, we can start loosening up a bit, and get a sense of normalcy returning.

Careful living vaccinated people can finally see each other's faces and even share some well appreciated hugs. Those practices worked, as made obvious by the incredibly low flu rates during the same period. Looking forward we need to hope that our reopening won't be compromised by the self-centered among us who won't accept the science or the ethic of cooperation and enable the virus to continue to mutate and spread.

The virus will be a change agent in many ways as we move forward, even as its direct impact lessens. Many of us have adopted new interests and practices. How we do our jobs for many will stay changed. Perhaps, as was already the practice in much of Asia, we will still put a mask on when out in public when we know we are sick but still need to be out to the store, work, or wherever. We can see improvement is needed in global empathy with the vaccine roll out; more and more the recognition of one shared planet needs to be internalized.

Looking forward, we have greater issues coming down the tracks to challenge us and affect our lives. One of the greatest will be the long-range problem of climate change and how we deal with its impact. Our efforts may slow it somewhat, but it is happening, whether denied or not. It will require changes to how we live, and we can hope efforts will take place to help those who will be profoundly affected by where they live. It is a world problem, which will cause destabilization and migrations, and it cries out for the sharing of technologies.

But the other big problem we face is here right now: how to deal with and resist the rise of authoritarian governments enabled by populations easily swayed by false information disseminated by social media platforms with no regard for truth.

We can thank the virus for exposing in country after country authoritarian governments who lied about steps needed to be taken to thwart the virus and who are now suffering the consequences. Those leaders still have their powerful cyber-pulpits, but as the bodies pile up, resistance will grow. And we can expect to see repression in response as well.

And what about here in the U.S.?

The authoritarian madness of Trump is not over as we see many state legislatures passing laws to restrict voting, speaking of which: when the hell did having long lines become at all acceptable? Long lines themselves are voter suppression! But looking forward, what will we see if the Trumpians take over the Republican party? Will enough nominal R's defect and the party split to a third party? What would a dominant Trumpian Congress do next?

This trans athlete fear-mongering thing, horrid as it is, is just a start, as noted in the journal *Jewish Currents* on April 27. "Liberals have tended to see these bills as promoting a straightforward form of irrational discrimination toward trans youth that flouts the expert opinion of major medical organizations. Some more astute critics, meanwhile, have contended that the bills are in a sense not really about trans people at all, but are instead a cruel, though also somewhat arbitrary, effort to raise funds and appeal to the evangelical base of the Republican party in the run-up to the 2022 midterm elections." (See the full article link in the Editors' Picks on pg. 9.)

Looking forward, there must be major organizing to encourage a strong civic consciousness, unify amidst our differences, and increase voter turnout. We must understand we are up against an organized effort to turn back the clock on progress we have made in civil and human rights, and in understanding our history and systemic injustice. We can't wait until our personal issue gets taken away, be it gay marriage, legal weed, public education, or whatever. We can already see where they are going and they need to be derailed. That brighter future we want will have some stormy weather ahead, and we can't shirk from the task. 🐸



*Joe Courter*

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# VP Harris on George Floyd: 'This work is long overdue'

*Following is the April 20 transcript of Vice President Kamala Harris's speech on the Minnesota guilty verdict for Derek Chauvin, followed by relevant comments by Joe Courter, Iguana publisher*

**VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS:** Good evening. First I want to thank the jury for their service and I want to thank Mr. Floyd's family for your steadfastness.

Today, we feel a sigh of relief. Still, it cannot take away the pain. A measure of justice isn't the same as equal justice. This verdict brings us a step closer, and the fact is we still have work to do.

We still must reform the system. Last summer, together with Senator Cory Booker and Representative Karen Bass, I introduced the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act. This bill would hold law enforcement accountable and help build trust between law enforcement and our communities.

This bill is part of George Floyd's legacy. The president and I will continue to urge the Senate to pass this legislation, not as a panacea for every problem but as a start. This work is long overdue.

America has a long history of systemic racism. Black Americans and Black men in particular have been treated throughout the course of our history as less than human.

Black men are fathers and brothers and sons and uncles and grandfathers and friends and neighbors. Their lives must be valued in our education system, in our health care system, in our housing system, in our economic system, in our criminal justice system, in our nation. Full stop.

Because of smartphones, so many Americans have now seen the racial injustice that Black Americans have known for generations. The racial injustice that we have fought for generations. That my parents protested in

the 1960s. That millions of us, Americans of every race, protested last summer.

Here's the truth about racial injustice: It is not just a Black America problem or a people-of-color problem. It is a problem for every American. It is keeping us from fulfilling the promise of liberty and justice for all. And it is holding our nation back from realizing our full potential. We are all a part of George Floyd's legacy. And our job now is to honor it and to honor him. Thank you.

...

Yeah, okay, refreshing to hear such a statement from a vice president. But this is the same person now tasked with dealing with the Central American migration crisis. These migrations are indeed caused by people fleeing corruption and violence, but when I read her words, I wonder if she will feel that same commitment to those humans seeking a better life, and more importantly, WHY they are.

*"We still must reform the system."*

Please do look at the pattern of economic extraction from that triangle region, the so-called Washington Consensus where U.S. corporations are advantaged, military are supported in repressive action undercutting democracy, and subsistence farmers driven off their land.

*"America has a long history of systemic racism."*

Indeed, yes. But the history of U.S. malignant interference in Central America is long as well.

Guatemala's elected government was overthrown in 1953 to swing the doors open for United Fruit and unleashing a war on the indigenous which is still going on.

El Salvador saw a long string of U.S.

supported "death squad governments" thru the '70s and '80s, smashing student movements and labor organizing.

Honduras has long been under the thumb of U.S.-supported leaders, even to the 2014 U.S.-backed coup under the Obama administration and strongly blessed by Sec. of State Hillary Clinton.

The systemic interference also hit Nicaragua going back to the 1920s and the installation of the Somoza dynasty, which was finally overthrown by the Sandinista revolution in 1979. The Sandinistas then faced actual U.S.-imposed civil war all during the '80s, but their efforts at civilian infrastructure, while economically sanctioned and far from perfect, have at least not seen people needing to flee a broken society as their close neighbors to the North are.

*"Because of smartphones, so many Americans have now seen the racial injustice that Black Americans have known for generations."*

True. But because of a lack of historical coverage by a shallow U.S. media, the now generational repression and exploitation of the so-called triangle countries, and the true cause of the corruption and violence leading these brave and audacious migrants to journey North, remains hidden and unreported.

Will the vice president consult scholars and historians to present a better understanding to us all, or will the systemic exploitation and interference continue? Accountability to systemic racism needs to be addressed, but so does accountability for the foreign policy practices the U.S. has perpetrated in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. As Harris said above, "This work is long overdue." 🐾

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## Florida Legislature carves \$550 million for goal to boost starting salaries for Florida teachers to \$47,500

by Danielle J. Brown, Florida Phoenix

Florida House and Senate are finally on the same page on raising starting salaries for public school teachers.

The 2021-22 state budget includes \$550 million for the goal of boosting starting salaries to \$47,500, an initiative launched in 2019 by Gov. Ron DeSantis. That \$550 million is \$50 million more than the current budget year.

In January, DeSantis proposed his recommendations for the 2021-22 state budget, one of which was to increase funds for teacher salaries, particularly for starting teachers.

DeSantis proposed that the Legislature carve out \$550 million dollars for the initiative — \$50 million more than the current state budget year in order to get more starting and veteran teachers earning at least \$47,500.

House and Senate lawmakers crafting the state budget were apart for awhile, but they came together to provide the extra \$50 million the governor wanted.

The move to increase teacher salaries has been one of DeSantis' priorities for some time now. In 2019, when he was a first-term Republican governor, he outlined a \$603 million plan to set the minimum salary for all teachers at \$47,500 a year, be-

ginning in the 2020-21 fiscal year, though those plans did not pan out.

Instead, the 2020-21 budget provided \$500 million dollars to boost teacher pay raises. After negotiating with teacher unions, Florida school districts were able to pay their teachers higher salaries. Depending on each district, some teachers got a raise of more than \$9,000.

However, not many counties were able to give their teachers the \$47,500 from the first round of the initiative. Even with the \$550 million that will go out to districts in the 2021-22 budget, it's not clear when all districts will be able to pay their teachers at \$47,500 a year, if ever. 🐘

## Seclusion, restraints, handcuffs: Lawmakers say schools must severely limit use of those techniques on kids

by Danielle J. Brown, Florida Phoenix

Traumatic use of physical restraints and seclusion may no longer be a technique used on students, particularly those with disabilities, come next school year.

That's because both the Florida House and Senate voted unanimously in favor of HB 149, which aims to prohibit the practice of secluding a student in an isolated room and severely limit the use of physical restraints such as handcuffs and zip ties to only certain situations.

The bill is sponsored by Rep. Bobby DuBose, a Democrat who represents part of Broward County. According to DuBose, the legislation predates his time in the Legislature, but he's pushed the bill for years, each time failing to get approval from the Legislature.

But for the 2021 legislative session, HB 149 finally has a chance to become law. The measure passed its final stop in the Florida Legislature on Monday, with a 40 to 0 vote in the state Senate.

The legislation is now ready for Gov. Ron DeSantis, who will decide whether to approve the bill or not.

"I am pleased to see this monumental piece of legislation finally pass through the Legislature," DuBose said in a press release. "This will be the first step in ensuring that schools are a safe environment, where our

students can learn and feel protected."

The bill addresses the practice of seclusion and the use of physical restraints on students. The bill analysis notes these techniques "may have an emotional impact on students and should not be used to punish a student or as a deterrent," particularly regarding students with disabilities.

In addition, school districts will provide training to better handle a disruptive student before restraints are needed.

"Students deserve to be safe at school, and parents deserve peace of mind," said Sen. Lauren Book, a Democrat who represents part of Broward County, in a press release. She sponsored the Senate version of HB 149.

"While the majority of our special education school professionals provide caring and safe learning environments for students with disabilities, we have unfortunately seen serious abuses committed as well," Book continued. "When Governor DeSantis signs this bill into law, students with disabilities will no longer be placed into dangerous situations including seclusion and restraint while in Florida classrooms."

The bill says that every Florida school district shall prohibit the practice of seclusion, which the legislation defines as "the involuntary confinement of a student in a room or area alone and preventing the student from leaving the room or area."

As for the use of physical restraints, the bill limits when items such as handcuffs, straightjackets, and zip ties can be used on a student.

If the bill is approved, restraints can only be used on a student if they pose imminent danger to themselves or others and all other methods of intervention have been exhausted. The restraint has to be removed when the danger posed by the student has dissipated.

In the years between academic year 2010-11 through 2019-20, a total of 86,969 restraint incidents were reported in Florida schools, according to a legislative analysis. Also in that same timeframe, 21,489 instances of a student being secluded were reported.

"Parents can finally breathe a sigh of relief for knowing their child will not experience the unnecessary trauma of being restrained, secluded, or put in another harmful situation by school personnel," DuBose said. 🐘



# Labor Coalition, others protest Collier Companies' illegal discrimination against tenants with vouchers

by Dmitry Podobreev, ACLC coordinator

The Alachua County Labor Coalition (ACLC) held a protest on Monday, May 3, in front of the Collier Companies offices to respond to Collier's illegal discrimination against tenants using Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) and Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV).

Around 30 people came to register their complaints with Collier, which owns over 11,000 housing units across the state of Florida including 21 apartment complexes in Alachua County.

In April, Collier started to refuse to renew leases for tenants who use vouchers at Bivens Cove apartments, including

disabled residents, veterans, some who had lived there for over a decade.

These vouchers are supplied by the local Housing Authority and offer consistent and reliable payment to Nathan Collier. The ACLC first learned about this from Sharon Burney, the mother of a disabled resident who was being forced from her home of five years.

Sharon said, "After a year of uncertain times, my daughter went through the hardest medical crisis of her life, fought back twice after being on life support. Management knew that. For this complex to discriminate against disabled people, veterans and the poor is reprehensible especially during a pandemic. As a mother,

it is my job to fight as hard for her life as she fought twice to stay alive."

The ACLC worked with Sharon to file an Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) complaint with the city.

The ACLC also found that the Bivens Cove website said that they would not accept HUD or Section 8 vouchers. Another Collier Companies property, Boardwalk apartments, stated on their website that housing voucher holders are welcome to apply, but the office would not sign any additional documents outside of the lease, which are necessary to make use of the vouchers.

In May 2020, Gainesville passed Ordinance #190814 prohibiting discrimination in housing on the basis of lawful source of income, specifically including any form of housing subsidy or voucher. This ordinance came after years of work by the ACLC and was part of the larger Renters Rights ordinance.

The code also covers discrimination in housing on the basis of other protected classes: gender identity or expression, familial status, veteran or service member status, citizenship status, and being a victim of domestic or dating violence or stalking.

If you feel that you have been discriminated against because of any of these classes of protection, you can file an EEOC complaint with the city or county.

Collier Co. decided to go out of their way anyway to kick these vulnerable people out on the street regardless of their legal protections.

Immediately, a letter campaign was orga-



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*A crowd opposing the evictions gathered outside Nathan Collier's office in downtown Gainesville on May 3. Photo by Jenny Brown.*

nized by the ACLC, and because of Sharon's persistence and with help from ACLC, both Three Rivers Legal Services and Florida Legal Services began working on behalf of residents that contacted them from Bivens Cove.

We outreached to the six veterans who were also told by Bivens Cove that their vouchers were no longer welcome and encouraged them to become part of the class action cease and desist lawsuit being prepared by Florida Legal Services.

Nathan Collier buckled and offered lease renewals for the seven affected residents. However, Collier knew the anti-discrimination in housing ordinance regulations for over a year, and had complained many times about them as an infringement of his right to do business.

The protest went on as planned to send a message to the larger rental barons that they cannot get away with exploitation of people with the least options. We are watching. The protest was also a chance to inform the community of their rights.

Protesters included members of the Dream Defenders, Women's

Liberation, United Faculty of Florida, Gainesville Veterans For Peace, Gainesville Socialist Alternative, and Graduate Assistants United. Gainesville Commissioner Gail Johnson, Kali Blount with the Black Hats Collective and a member of the Gainesville Housing Authority, Evelyn Foxx, president of the Alachua County NAACP, and Paul Ortiz with Veterans For Peace were among the speakers.

And, of course the most impactful speaker was Sharon Burney, who spoke of the unrelenting stress of the situation, and the relief that all seven residents felt to not have to try to find new housing where vouchers are accepted.

The ACLC will continue to demand that Collier Companies be held accountable for their discrimination against the low income and the disabled. We are now demanding that all Collier properties in Alachua County post on their websites and in physical spaces that they happily accept all HUD vouchers from residents. We will advocate that all landlords be required to post a letter detailing all of the housing protections on every unit they lease out.

To find out more about ways to get involved in the Safe and Affordable Housing Committee of the ACLC please email us at [info@laborcoalition.org](mailto:info@laborcoalition.org) and view photos and coverage of the protest at [facebook.com/laborcoalition](https://facebook.com/laborcoalition). 🐾

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## Veterans display tombstones to remember fallen soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan

by Gainesville Veterans for Peace

Veterans for Peace will be hosting a virtual Memorial Mile this year to remember those who have died in the wars in Afghanistan since 2001 and in Iraq since 2003. The virtual commemoration can be viewed at <http://www.vfpgainesville.org/> starting on Saturday, May 29, through Memorial Day, May 31, at dusk.

This is the 14th year that VFP has held a commemoration, as there are a continuing number of deaths in Afghanistan and Iraq.

In 2019, the last year before the pandemic, VFP displayed 6,965 tombstones along NW 8th Avenue during Memorial Day Weekend. As of April 2021, there have been 7,028 American deaths in Afghanistan and Iraq.

In 2007 we put up 470 tombstones for American soldiers killed in Afghanistan. In 2021 there have been 2,442 American deaths in Afghanistan, and 1,972 American soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan since we started this project.

In 2007 we put up 3,906 tombstones for American soldiers killed in Iraq. In 2021 there have been 4,586 American deaths in Iraq, and 680 American soldiers have been killed in Iraq since we started this project.

In total, 2,652 American soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan and Iraq since VFP started this project in 2007. We can see nothing that these deaths have bought for our country.

Veterans for Peace feels that these losses cannot be adequately understood with

facts and figures alone. The visual impact of the tombstones conveys the reality of these numbers. The virtual commemoration will include videos made over the years of the line of tombstones, including photos of those tombstones with written messages on them from loved ones who visited their friend or family member's tombstone. It will also include testimonials from VFP members and others impacted by Memorial Mile and its message of remembrance. Original music will be provided by Bob McPeck.

Each tombstone includes the soldier's name, date of death, age, branch of service, rank, and hometown.

Veterans for Peace places American flags on tombstones of local service members and on those visited by the public. Each year, people come to the Memorial Mile to place flowers and other expressions of love at the tombstones. VFP cleans and cares for the tombstones year round and tries to preserve messages that loved ones have written on the tombstones.

In addition, we display posters depicting the Cost of War. VFP intentionally works to end war and grieves for those civilians also caught up in the ravages of war. We also want to bring to the public's attention that the cost of war also includes dollars spent on war that could be better spent for education, housing, healthcare and more in the U.S. and abroad.

See more at <http://www.vfpgainesville.org/> and <https://www.facebook.com/events/472493060473225>. 🐞

## Streams and lakes have rights, a US county decided. Now they're suing the state of Florida

by Isabella Kaminski, *The Guardian*

A network of streams, lakes and marshes in Florida is suing a developer and the state to try to stop a housing development from destroying them.

The novel lawsuit was filed late April in Orange county on behalf of the waterways under a "rights of nature" law passed in November. It is the largest US municipality to adopt such a law to date.

The listed plaintiffs are Wilde Cypress Branch, Boggy Branch, Crosby Island Marsh, Lake Hart and Lake Mary Jane.

Laws protecting the rights of nature are growing throughout the world, from Ecuador to Uganda, and have been upheld in courts in India, Colombia and Bangladesh. But this is the first time anyone has tried to enforce them in the US.

The Orange county law secures the rights of its waterways to exist, to flow, to be protected against pollution and to maintain a healthy ecosystem. It also recognizes the authority of citizens to file enforcement actions on their behalf.

The suit, filed in the ninth judicial circuit court of Florida, claims a proposed 1,900-acre housing development by Beachline South Residential LLC would destroy more than 63 acres of wetlands and 33 acres of streams by filling and polluting them, as well as 18 acres of wetlands where storm-water detention ponds are being built.

In addition to seeking to protect the waterways' intrinsic rights, the suit claims the development would disrupt the area's hydrology and violate the human right to clean water because of pollution runoff from new roads and buildings.

Chuck O'Neal, president of campaign group Speak Up Wekiva who will be representing the wetlands in court, told the Guardian he looks forward to giving them a voice. "Our waterways and the wildlife they support have been systematically destroyed by poorly planned suburban sprawl. They have suffered in silence and without representation, until now."

The housing development, known as the "Meridian Parks Remainder Project,"

See **RIGHTS**, p.13



# Editors' picks: News that didn't fit

- 🦎 **Biden administration pushes 80 percent clean electricity standard by 2030**  
 by Climate Nexus / *Nation of Change* / April 28 / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1219>  
*The White House is pushing congressional Democrats to enact a Clean Electricity Standard that would require the U.S. grid to get 80% of its power from emissions-free sources by 2030, Reuters reports.*
- 🦎 **Clean Commute for Kids Act invests \$25 billion for electric school buses**  
 By Ashley Curtin / *Nation of Change* / April 22 / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1222>  
*The Clean Commute for Kids Act was introduced in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives in a push to protect children's health and lower fossil fuel emissions. Under the bill, country-wide school buses would transition to all-electric fleets by 2030.*
- 🦎 **Florida Legislature unanimously passes Gail's Law Rape Kit Tracking Bill**  
 by Representative Emily Slosberg and Senator Linda Stewart / Florida Senate District 13 Press Release / April 26 / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1221>  
*The Florida Senate unanimously passed HB 673, Gail's Law, on April 26. Gail's Law requires the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to create and maintain a statewide system for tracking sexual assault evidence kits using unique barcodes, accessible to sexual assault survivors, giving them the option of receiving updates.*
- 🦎 **League of Women Voters, Black Voters Matter sue all 67 Florida counties over new election restrictions**  
 by 10 Tampa Bay / WTSP / May 7 / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1223>  
*The League of Women Voters of Florida, Black Voters Matter and the Florida Alliance For Retired Americans filed a lawsuit challenging Senate Bill 90 just minutes after Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis signed the controversial new voting restrictions into law. "SEE YOU IN COURT!" Black Voters Matter tweeted.*
- 🦎 **New Polls: It turns out Americans like a normal, boring president: It's been 15 years since Americans were this optimistic about the future**  
 By Jackie Flynn Mogensen / *Mother Jones* / May 2 / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1220>  
*Americans largely approve of Joe Biden's performance as president so far, two new polls indicate.*
- 🦎 **The Anti-Trans Lobby's Real Agenda**  
 by Jules Gill-Peterson / *Jewish Currents* / April 27 / <https://jewishcurrents.org/the-anti-trans-lobbys-real-agenda/>  
*Over 100 anti-transgender bills have been introduced in more than 25 state legislatures, the vast majority of them banning trans kids, especially girls, from participating in organized sports in school, as well as prohibiting or even criminalizing the delivery of gender-affirming healthcare.*
- 🦎 **The War on Critical Race Theory**  
 by David Theo Goldberg / *Boston Review* / May 7 / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1214>  
*Turning a blind eye to the realities of racial injustice, the highly orchestrated right-wing attacks cast a body of scholarship about race in the law as a great threat to American Society*
- 🦎 **U.S. Sen. Warnock works to remedy decades of USDA discrimination against Black farmers**  
 by Ariana Figueroa / *Florida Phoenix* / May 3 / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1211>  
*The arrival of U.S. Sen. Raphael Warnock in Congress earlier this year coincided with an overdue recognition of the historic discrimination inflicted on Black farmers by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The farmers' plight has emerged as a major priority for Warnock.* 🦎



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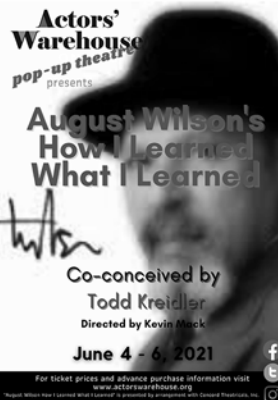
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Actors' Warehouse entertains, inspires and fosters critical thinking through the performing arts; while bringing diversity programming, social justice and public health to the forefront.

# It's just cheaper to bulldoze the trees

by Homer Jack Moore

Like many rural communities, Micanopy is rimmed by rural blight. Bombed-out vacant buildings are especially prevalent at the I-75 exit.

The only building there that was ever successfully repurposed was an old Stuckey's store, now the Cafe Risque, an escape place for lonely men who come to be titillated by naked girls.

Yet right across town on the other side, the minions in service to the multibillion-dollar Dollar General Corporation are warming up the heavy equipment to rip up trees at the corner of an Alachua County Scenic Road, and make way for a convenience store. You would have thought that one of those already distressed properties would have been cheaper and more suitable. But, no.

Dollar General typically leases a property, sucks the life out of it, and then absconds. In the meantime the DG Corp is a notoriously poor tenant and poor neighbor; DG makes no effort to maintain the property or even to pick up the trash and litter scattered about on its premises.

The prognosis in the short term becomes that of yet another trashed-out convenience store on the highway, and in the long term that of an additional bombed-out useless building adding to the cavalcade of rural blight.

The property for this prospective Micanopy Dollar General lies in transitional

forest just outside the town limits at the intersection of U.S. Highway 441 and Tuscowilla Road. It is adjacent to the Micanopy Native American Heritage Park and across the road from the Tuscowilla Nature Preserve. 441 is the Old Florida Heritage Highway.

For reference, Micanopy is the oldest still-inhabited inland community in Florida and as such is on the list of the National Register of Historic Places.

The property where the Dollar General is to be built also has historical significance. It's the site of the original Seminole village of Cuscowilla, home to Ahaya the Cowkeeper, chief and father of the Seminole nation. Cowkeeper's son was Payne.

In 1821, a man named Edward Wanton opened a nearby trading post and named it Micanopy to curry favor with the then principal Seminole chief by that same name. But in 1830, Andrew Jackson pushed the Indian Removal Act through Congress to institute a policy of ethnic cleansing against Cherokees, Seminoles, and other tribes.

The Second Seminole War commenced a few years later when Osceola refused to be thrown out of his own home or turn over Black Seminoles who were living among the Natives (Jackson had already perpetrated a First Seminole War in 1814 to capture runaway slaves, keep them in subjugation, and reduce any possibility of a slave uprising in Georgia).

In 1836 a running battle took place between US forces and Osceola and his Seminoles and Black Seminoles along the length of today's Tuscowilla Road.

Suffice it to say that many residents of Micanopy are outraged by the prospect of a Dollar General store on Tuscowilla Road, consider it a desecration of history, and consider it a ruination of the environment to boot.

Arguably the road would be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. But once it loses integrity to a hodgepodge of development, that opportunity is gone forever.

The Gulf Archeology Research Institute of Crystal River is seeking a National Park Service grant to investigate the area and determine the exact location where the Battle of Micanopy took place. The developer, Concept Companies of Gainesville, has already spent time and

money on the project and is anxious to start cutting trees before any of that can occur.

But the bigger riddle still remains: Why destroy a forest when such an abundance of readily available property could be repurposed to the project, thereby recycling existing rural blight to a no less, and arguably better, purpose?

The reason: It's all about the money.

It's those stupid junk buildings. Land owners have a notion that since it costs something to put a building up, the building must therefore be worth something. So land owners naturally think they should get more for their property with a junk building on it. And they hold out.

The reality, however, is that a preexisting building footprint only rarely meets the needs of a new design concept — Cafe Risque excepted. And so that "more" that the property owner holds out for never arrives.

It's just cheaper for a developer to buy some forest, bulldoze it, and put up a new structure meeting the design concept. And that becomes especially true if the junk property happens to have buried fuel tanks or other environmental cleanup issues.

Then, in the fullness of time (about a decade), the development ages out and becomes part of an ever-increasing burden of blight.

Let's get real. Junk property is not worth more. It's worth less.

An enlightened ad valorem tax policy would make that true. The carrying cost for junk ought to be such as to make it the better option to unload. The carrying cost for forest ought to be such as to make it the better option to keep. It's a matter that the elected Alachua Board of County Commissioners are ultimately responsible for.

That's the primary place where your objections to rural blight should be directed. There is also an organized community effort in Micanopy opposing destruction of forest for the sake of a Dollar General. A newsletter is available on request to [homeremooremd@aol.com](mailto:homeremooremd@aol.com) (use tagline "Watchdog on Micanopy") or to PO Box 9, Micanopy, FL 32667.

These days it's cheaper to bulldoze the forest. The irony is that in the larger perspective that difference turns out to be such small beer. ☘

## Labor Notes

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**Eco-Activist Greta Thunberg  
takes on a new issue ...**

## **The moral threat of vaccine inequality**

*by Jason Beaubien*

*This story was originally published by  
Goats and Soda: Stories of Life in a  
Changing World, on April 19. See more  
at <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1224>*

Greta Thunberg, the 18-year-old Swedish environmental activist, is now lobbying world leaders to make sure that COVID vaccines are distributed equitably around the globe.

Speaking at a Monday press conference for the World Health Organization, Thunberg called it “unethical” that young people at low-risk from COVID in rich nations are being vaccinated before health care workers in low-income countries.

“The only morally right thing to do is to prioritize the people who are the most vulnerable, no matter whether they live in a high-income country or a low-income country,” she said. “The international community, governments and vaccine developers must step up their game and address the tragedy that is vaccine inequity.”

Thunberg tied the issue of COVID vaccine equity to her hallmark issue of climate change.

“As we are cutting down forests and destroying habitats, we are creating the ideal conditions for diseases to spill over from one animal to another and then to us,” she said. “We can no longer separate the health crisis from the ecological crisis. We cannot separate the ecological crisis from the climate crisis. It’s all interlinked in many ways.”

Thunberg said there is no simple answer to either the pandemic or the climate crisis.

“What these crises come down to is that we only think for ourselves. We don’t think about others,” she said. “They come down to the way we treat others, the way we treat other human beings, the way we treat other animals and nature itself. So we need to change our mindsets.”

She said the world faces a “moral test” over whether COVID vaccines will be shared equitably during this pandemic. And she added that getting this right isn’t just about COVID.

“In the future we will most likely experience more frequent and more devastating pandemics,” she said. “Unless we drastically changed our ways and the way we treat nature.” 🐢

## **Actual, live (not virtual) Gainesville events**

*These are outdoor events. Mingle distantly with fellow humans. Please, masks required!*

**Mondays and Thursdays:** Farmer’s markets with live music, 4-7pm  
Mondays at Cypress & Grove (1001 NW 4th St.)  
Thursdays at Heartwood Soundstage (619 S. Main St.)

**Saturday, May 22:** Celebrating Maura’s life, 2pm, Florida School of Massage

**Sunday, May 23:** Vintage market, noon-5pm, Cypress & Grove Brewing  
(1001 NW 4th St., across from Afternoon and Working Food)

**Saturday, June 5:** Bazar a La Carte, Outdoor market, 4-10pm, Seagle Building

**Sunday, June 6:** Bazar a La Carte, Sunday version of above, 12-5pm

**Sunday, June 6:** Chuck Ragan, High Dive, masks mandatory

**Saturday, June 12:** Artisans Guild Event, Eco-Art, 11am, at their new location,  
224 NW 2nd Ave

**Saturday, June 12:** Pop-Up Market, noon-5pm, AUK Market (2031 NW 6th St. —  
behind Curia on the Drag) hosts outdoor pop-up markets on 2nd Saturdays;  
support local artists and makers!

**Saturday, June 12:** Tommy Emmanuel, Heartwood Soundstage, 7:30 pm 🐢

## **From Robert Reich’s blog**

### **Permit me an impertinent question (or three)...**

Suppose a small group of extremely wealthy people sought to systematically destroy the U.S. government by

- (1) finding and bankrolling new candidates pledged to shrinking and dismembering it;
- (2) intimidating or bribing many current senators and representatives to block all proposed legislation, prevent the appointment of presidential nominees, eliminate funds to implement and enforce laws, and threaten to default on the nation’s debt;
- (3) taking over state governments in order to redistrict, gerrymander, require voter IDs, purge voter rolls, and otherwise

suppress the votes of the majority in federal elections;

(4) running a vast PR campaign designed to convince the American public of certain big lies, such as climate change is a hoax, and (5) buying up the media so the public cannot know the truth.

Would you call this treason?

If not, what would you call it?

And what would you do about it?”

*Printed on July 11, 2013. Reich, a UC Berkeley professor, was Secretary of Labor in the Clinton administration. See more at [robertreich.org](http://robertreich.org) 🐢*



**From REPURPOSE, p.1**

We were 36 days into our 60-day fundraiser and had raised an astounding \$115,000 of our \$200,000 goal. Our community was supporting us in a major way, plus they were shopping in our store. We experienced record sales, and we were gaining confidence that we would be able to bridge a fundraising gap with this extra revenue.

We were gonna do it! Our dream of taking the next step towards building a revolutionary reuse system to combat climate change and help our community access lower cost materials was within our reach.

And then it came crashing down. I thought about the little girl selling her artwork online to raise money for us. I thought of the local businesses, hard hit

by Covid, who had dug deep to sponsor us. I thought about one of my local heroes who said she had never donated as much money to anything but felt moved to keep increasing her donation.

Local non-profits generously shared our fundraiser on social media and in their newsletters even though they were doing their own fundraisers for their missions.

Local bands recorded songs for our fundraiser, and dozens of artists donated art for our online auctions. Over 500 people had donated. The power of our community was absolute and powerful, and it felt like a big warm hug.

That weekend after the bank call was rough. I was mad at the bank. I was mad at myself for being surprised by the disappointment. Of course the banking

system is letting us down. I just kept telling myself that things happen for a reason and a better building would come along. But I couldn't shake the feeling that the building was perfect for our needs. It couldn't end like this.

As I gained back some composure, I began reaching out to individuals who were helping us fundraise. We started remembering offers to loan us money. We had brushed them quickly to the side at the time because the bank would not allow a second loan in addition to theirs.

And then we thought about it.

Could we possibly cobble together enough private loans to bypass the bank completely?

The answer was yes. We did it.

We found seven lenders, and they are wonderful. Unlike the bank, whose questioning was along the lines of "prove to us that you won't fail," these lenders were instead saying, "how can we structure this to make sure you succeed?"

We have not closed on the building yet, and we are still fundraising. We aren't celebrating yet because, as we've just learned, something unexpected could happen, but our building purchase is looking likely.

There is a lot to gain from this experience, and that's why I'm writing this. It's tempting to pin all our hopes on a big foundation grant or some miracle donor like Oprah or Elon Musk ... but in the end it's turning out that our heroes are just normal caring individuals who are donating, sharing, and divesting from corporate interests, and instead investing in us. Divesting isn't just a nice sounding idea; it is possible and could change the world for the better.

Our local businesses and non-profits are the true gems in this town. They make us unique and interesting.

I hope this out-pouring of support we were so fortunate to receive isn't a one-time occurrence and can benefit other groups in town.

I hope we learn from this as a community and recognize the power and potential of rallying around each other to build up our local groups. Let's realize our strength and divest from corporate America and invest locally. Let's rally behind each other for big capital campaigns, stop renting this town from developers and instead own it. 🐢

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**[www.repurposeproject.org](http://www.repurposeproject.org)**



*From RIGHTS, p. 8*

needs a development permit from the city of Orlando and a dredge-and-fill permit from the Florida department of environmental protection to proceed. The suit seeks to block these from being issued.

O'Neal said he hopes the court "reaches beyond current conventional thinking" in considering the case. "This is how the evolution of rights has occurred in western law since the signing of the Magna Carta through the abolition of slavery, through women's suffrage and through court decisions such as *Brown vs the Board of Education* and most recently the acceptance of marriage equality."

Thomas Linzey, senior legal counsel at the Center for Democratic and Environmental Rights who helped secure Orange county's rights of nature law last year, said: "Given the rampant development that's occurred in Florida over the past 30 years, and the power struggle between the state government and local government over these issues, there are multiple grounds for a court to hold that the development cannot proceed as proposed."

The center calculates that more than 9m acres of wetlands have been destroyed in Florida since it became a state in 1845. They say this has had profound impacts on water quality and species, as well as flood control.

The Florida department of environmental protection said it would not comment on pending litigation. Beachline South Residential could not be reached directly for comment. But in its November application for a dredge-and-fill permit it said it would offset the damage caused by buying federal mitigation credits.

Since the success of Orange county's charter amendment, which was approved overwhelmingly by voters, the Florida Rights of Nature Network has received requests for assistance from citizens in municipalities around the state.

The case echoes global developments, such as a lawsuit filed on behalf of the Vilcabamba River in Ecuador, which pioneered the establishment of nature rights in that country's constitution. The court ruled in favor of the river in 2011 and ordered damage caused to it by a road-widening project to be remediated.

In 2017, an Indian court declared that the Ganges and Yamuna rivers as well as Himalayan glaciers, lakes and forests should be given legal personhood in an attempt to protect them from environmental damage. 🐢

## Cinema Verde Channel is live

After the first virtual Cinema Verde festival in February, the Cinema Verde folks have selected some of their favorite films from the film festival's 12-year history, and will continue to present more, so you can learn more about the environment every day.

A \$5 daily admission pass to access all films is offered, but you can save big by becoming a monthly member for \$10/month, or an annual subscriber for \$60/year. If you have any questions, please visit [cinemaverde.org](http://cinemaverde.org) or contact [info@cinemaverde.org](mailto:info@cinemaverde.org). 🐢

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## Maura Brady Memorial Garden

### Action Needed

Maura Brady was a pioneer of the community garden movement in Gainesville.

This petition is to rename the McRorie Community Garden to the Maura Brady Community Garden

### 1000 signatures

If you live within the city limits of Gainesville please message me to sign

[wethepeopletheater@gmail.com](mailto:wethepeopletheater@gmail.com)

### Thank You

*Maura, a mom, sister, massage therapist, teacher and a Gainesville Resident for over 30 years passed away on February 16th.*

# Is it time to end profiteering on public health and nationalize Big Pharma?

by Douglas Stephenson, *Informed Comment*

Over forty years of profiteering by Big Pharma and oligarch control of our economy has left the public totally exposed and ill-prepared to face the public health crisis of COVID-19. Because Big Pharma rarely invests in prevention, it has very little motivation to invest in preparedness for a public health crisis. Drugs for prevention do not contribute to share-holder value and profit. Instead, cures are designed once a public health crisis strikes. The sicker we are the more profit they earn.

Big business, Big Insurance and Big Pharma industries dominate our government with public health taking a back seat to the need for large private profit. Many government leaders from both political parties share the same 'profits over public health' ideology, even though the Covid-19 pandemic clearly shows how our economic system has failed to serve our citizens by allowing these groups to privatize, sabotage, fragment and cripple our health, public health and other social services. No greater

disconnect exists between the public good and private interests than in the U.S. system of for-profit Big Pharma. Just like large health insurance corporations,

Big Pharma has the inherent tendency to invent new needs, disregard all boundaries and turn everything into an object for sale and big profit. To make governments less willing and able to respond to public health /environmental crises such as Covid-19, these companies fund right-wing think tanks to attack public health policy. By presenting government as a threat to freedom, the distinguished writer for The Guardian(U.K.),George Monbiot, described how right wing groups and big business create a narrative by reframing responsible government as the "nanny state", the "health police" and "elf 'n' safety zealots". They dismiss scientific findings and predictions as "unfounded fears", "risk aversion" and "scaremongering". Public protections are recast as "red tape", "interference" and "state control".

Gerald Posner, author of "Pharma: Greed, Lies, and the Poisoning of America", said, "Pharmaceutical companies view Covid-19 as a once-in-a-lifetime business opportunity".

The world needs pharmaceutical products, of course. For the new coronavirus outbreak, in particular, we need treatments and vaccines and, in the U.S., tests. Dozens of companies are now vying to make them. "They're all in that race," said Posner, who described the potential payoffs for winning the race as huge. The global crisis "will potentially be a blockbuster for the industry in terms of sales and profits," he said, adding that "the worse the pandemic gets, the higher their eventual profit." The ability to make money off of pharmaceuticals is already uniquely large in the U.S., which lacks the basic price controls other countries have, giving drug companies more freedom over setting prices for their products than anywhere else in the world. During the current crisis, pharmaceutical makers may have even more leeway than usual because of language industry lobbyists inserted into an \$8.3 billion coronavirus spending package, passed last week, to maximize their profits from the pandemic."

The antidote is nationalization of the pharmaceutical industry, large increases in production of non-patent medications and ending monopolization by the Big Pharma industry. Drug companies should be converted to non-profit public service corporations that serve the public interest rather than being used by the 1 percent and oligarchs for unlimited profit. Additionally, we need comprehensive reform in the way we produce new drugs including a public program for producing needed drugs and clinical trials that would produce new non-patent medications that stay in the public domain.

Drugs would function as real social service items, not huge profit producing goods for a tiny group of oligarchs. With this new, fundamental reorientation of drug manufacture, drugs become more affordable for patients and society, promote innovation, strengthen efforts to assure safety and effectiveness, and upgrade the evidence available to prescribers and the public. Because drugs developed and manufactured through new public pathways remain in the public domain, they could be economically produced generically throughout the world, benefiting many nations.🐾

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— Howard Zinn —

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# Thank you supporters: WGOT is moving ahead

by Chris Lake and Debi Martinez, WGOT Board Members

Thanks to everyone who donated during the Amazing Give.

Without donations, we wouldn't be here, since we depend solely on listener donations and business underwriting.

All contributions are directly invested in WGOT. There are no board members with a cushy six-figure job. In fact, there are no board members with a cushy one-digit job. WGOT raised \$455 in one day through the Amazing Give and we appreciate everyone who made it possible.

Speaking of fundraising, our *On the Rail* show host and WGOT financial planner turned 50! That may not sound like fundraising, but she used her big five-o as an opportunity to raise funds for WGOT instead of buying a new saddle for her beloved Henry.

(Yes, Henry is a horse in case you were wondering.) In all, Debi helped raised an additional \$550. Along with the Amazing Give, that made a cool \$1,000, which barely comes close to meeting our monthly operating expenses. That may help give you an idea of how expensive running a community radio station can be.

Please keep an eye out for future WGOT fundraisers. In the meantime, you can always become a monthly supporter of WGOT at Patreon for as little as \$1 a month. Or you can donate more monthly if your budget allows.

You will notice some small changes to the schedule. We constantly look for new locally produced programs. If you host a podcast, you might consider submitting a show proposal to gain exposure for it. One of our goals is to add diversity to our line-up by introducing new shows hosted by women and anyone underrepresented on the air in the radio world.

As a community radio station, we are always willing to help out any other nonprofits by making on-air announcements. Any nonprofit that would like a mention on air, please submit copy to [financial@wgot.org](mailto:financial@wgot.org).

Also, as a community radio station we always are looking for new volunteers. WGOT has an array of opportunities available and we hope to resume in-person training and meetups in the near future based on the most up-to-date CDC guidelines. In the meantime, look for some Zoom-based trainings soon.

Again, we can't thank our listeners, supporters, and volunteers enough. And as a reminder, you can always listen online in areas where the FM signal is poor or nonexistent. You can listen anywhere that has internet connectivity at [wgot.org](http://wgot.org).

Keep listening — and thank you. 🐾



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# The Kent State Massacre at 51

by Gary Gordon

For many people my age (68) the Kent State Massacre on May 4, 1970 was a pivotal moment in American history. An eye-opener. A lesson on how far the government would go to quell opposition to the Vietnam War. For those of us (like me) who would be going to college that fall, it packed the additional wallop of being a warning to campus protesters.

But as time marched on and further knowledge of history is gained, one learns Kent State, while important, was not a singular moment. Anyone familiar with the history of the labor movement, the Civil Rights movement, the Black Panthers, the American Indian Movement (AIM) and more, knows or learns the truth of Frederick Douglass's dictum: Power concedes nothing without demand. And demand has consequences.

As we continue to learn more about the history and ongoing nature of state violence against the Black population (Rosewood, Tulsa, etc.) and the seeming impunity allowed killer cops, as the police forces are increasingly militarized (SWAT killing the so-called SLA was only the beginning), as several states pass laws actually legalizing hit and run drivers attacking protesters with their cars, it is fair to question whether Martin Luther King was right about the arc of history.

U.S. foreign (war) policy wasn't part of the recent presidential election as we continue to station troops overseas and drop bombs from drones, often with "collateral damage" — a situation that would've made most anti-war protesters and others incredulous in 1968 and 1970 and 1972 — What? An election without talking about U.S. war(s)?

Attention has rightfully shifted in great part to racism, cops who kill, armed-to-the-teeth "militias," anti-Maskers; to the vast inequities of wealth and resources in our upside-down, pro-corporate, pro-billionaire economy, and to piecemeal discussions of climate change. But that shift in attention, while necessary, should not completely disregard our wars on foreign soil.

Our Permanent War Economy, as Marvin Harris called it, is more entrenched than ever. Talk of peace conversion—converting the economy to peace time activities and away from war, barely exists, and when it does exist, it is based on "Green jobs" or connected with Climate Change—it rarely exists as a value in and of itself. The Forever War, as author Joe Haldeman calls it, continues.

The horror of Kent State, in part, has to do with White Privilege. No one—no one—thought the National Guard would shoot white college kids in a midwestern town on a university campus. And that is also the horror of White Privilege, which derives from White Supremacy. No one thought it could or would happen, then when it did, it was made unique, special, exceptional. The killing of Black Students at Jackson State didn't receive nearly as much coverage, and when the American Indian Movement took over Wounded Knee the media reported it as if it was a Cowboys and Indians stunt. Meanwhile the term "reverse discrimination" is born, another in the numerous offspring of White Supremacy and here we are in 2021 arguing again that voting rights need to be protected for all and it shouldn't be illegal to give someone standing in a long line to vote a drink of water.

I thought watching the police dogs attack the marchers in Alabama was a major moment and I still do; I thought nothing would top the insanity and violence of the police riot at the

Democratic Convention in Chicago in '68. Then there was the Kent State Massacre. I think I have always been fooled into thinking "this is the worst" and "we have turned a corner." Because I'm an idealist I'll probably be fooled again. But it has been and will be increasingly harder to do. As Dylan said, "It's easy to see without lookin' too far, not much is really sacred."

I won't call myself "Woke." I dislike the term, but to apply it, I've been increasingly "woke" since McGovern lost in '72. I knew Carter was flawed and Clinton was no damn good and Obama wasn't the FDR we needed, and I know as Biden does some necessary repairs and improvements, the drones still drop the bombs and our anti-Communist bullshit is still at play in Central and South America.

And it's clear, more than ever, the Civil War continues. As the song goes: "Which Side Are You On?" 🐾



**Free Fridays Concert Series is back with in-person shows starting in June 2021!**

## June

- June 4 Richy and Chelsea (contemporary covers)
- June 11 Real Deelz (classic rock & Americana)
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## July

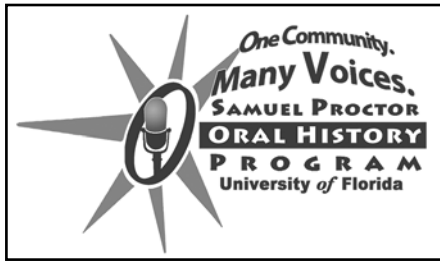
- July 2 Jimmy Young & Passion (R&B)
- July 9 Phillip "JazzDad" Thomas & The Forever Miles Band (covers with a smooth jazz twist)
- July 16 King Eddie & Pili Pili (reggae)
- July 23 Blackbird Morning (original rock)
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*Each Friday a new band brings original and cover tunes to the Bo Diddley Plaza concert stage 8-10pm, May through October*

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<http://gnculturalseries.org/2018/12/14/free-fridays-concert-series/>

# History and the people who make it: Bright Winn



*This is the twelfth in a continuing series of transcript excerpts from the collection of the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program at the University of Florida. It originally ran in the January/February 2013 issue of the Gainesville Iguana.*

*Bright Winn was interviewed by Paul Ortiz [O] in 2000. Transcript edited by Pierce Butler.*

I was born at Santa Maria, California [in 1944] and raised in San Francisco, in an all white community. There was not rampant racism within the community; there was a negative attitude towards Black people or people of color.

However, when I brought the word “nigger” home, from school, my father stopped the conversation and, never with anger, explained how hurtful and how wrong the word was. He admonished me that I should not use that word. It probably took three or four times for him to give me the same lecture, to get the point home.

When social debates, political debates, went on amongst his peers, he always had a liberal and giving attitude about Black people. He grew up in Missouri in a segregated society, he went to a segregated school. Maybe because he was a good person, he got the idea. I know he had it young, because I went to his hometown as a seventeen-year-old and met an old Black woman who told me, “Fred Winn was the nicest white man I’ve ever known in my life.”

He just plain didn’t have hate in him and didn’t accept segregation and negative attitude towards Black people and I was raised under that.

It came to light after my parents divorced, that I had a younger sister and she was biracial. And so, at eighteen I had to stop and think about Black people realizing now that I had a younger sister who was half Black. That would have been about ’61, ’62; things were going on in Civil Rights and I was paying attention and learning from that.

It was a burden to have a younger sister

who was born out of wedlock and was biracial. But, it caused me to think, and I came to the idea that yes, you had to be right with Black people.

**O: What was the next step in getting you to Mississippi?**

In 1962, SNCC sent a speaker to my campus, a Black Mississippian. I think his name was Block. I don’t remember his first name and he told us about the happenings in Mississippi.

**O: Which campus was this?**

College of Marin, in Marin County. It’s a junior college. And this was the first, first hand account I have of segregation.

The following year, SNCC sent Charles McLaurin who perchance would be my project director. He again told us about segregation in Mississippi, and what SNCC was doing.

Third year, another fellow came, a white fellow, and told us about the Freedom Summer and I was sold. I made the commitment to come. My father supported it and my mother threatened to sue the college. (Laughter) We were having civil rights demonstrations in San Francisco on fair hiring, the Sheraton Palace demonstrations, where people of color were only at the bottom echelon. Over a three year period, I became educated. There was a moral issue. Something wrong was being done in my country, and I was a moral young man and I took up the cry.

**O: You went directly from California to Mississippi?**

From California, on a Greyhound bus to Oxford, Ohio, where we had a one week training. From there, by group bus to Mississippi.

I was afraid, but I didn’t have second thoughts. I came right in, I did not hesitate. My roommate at Oxford chose to not come. The fact that the three disappeared scared the bejeezus out of all of us, but I stuck with the program.

**O: How in your opinion did the program prepare you for working as a civil rights worker?**

(Big Sigh). Possibly not too well.

It taught us how to take a beating, to act non-violently, to dive onto the ground, to cover your head and your ears and to throw your body over the other person

who is being beaten. They had lawyers, they had John Dohr talk to us about the Justice Department. It didn’t prepare us. There was no way they could prepare us to enter a society so foreign to what we were used to.

I was not in culture shock with being in the Black community; but it was a different community. It did not prepare me for the hate that white people gave me on the street; the glares, the words, the finger, the absolute hate that you felt walking down the street. There’s no way you can be prepared for that. It also didn’t prepare us for group dynamics. We were kids; fresh out of home, fresh out of college, put into a tense situation, assigned leaders who had no real leadership training, and told to do it.

How do you react, how do you act? Who’s the secretary, who’s the natural leader, how do you take orders? And when you are totally tense. Now, my goodness, big industry spends millions of dollars to teach their people how to interact in the office, without the threat of death. (Laughs) And with air conditioning.

We were in rooms, twelve of us, without air conditioning; with the threat of death, with no formal program about how to do a day’s work. No one in the entire SNCC COFO organization had the foresight to do this. That was as difficult, being with one another under this strenuous circumstances as it was dealing with everything else.

My first activities, I was a handyman, while other people were doing voter registration and teaching classes. I had already been in plumbing, I wasn’t a journeyman, but I came down with tools. So the first thing I did in Ruleville was building bookshelves and hanging new doors and putting together makeshift desks.

I just fell right into being the school handyman, and before I knew it I was going out and fixing stoves, changing thermocouples and running new water pipe for people within the community. I stayed in Ruleville for two weeks, until they opened up Shaw, and I went over to Shaw and I was putting screen doors and hinged windows, which I felt quite comfortable doing. Then the teacher who would open Ruleville came to Indianola and she called and said ...

**O: When you say, “Open up”, what does that ...?**

That means they had an empty building and they were going to make a school. A Freedom School, yeah, and she called me and I ended up in Indianola, again, doing handyman work. The slot for communications director was open, so they made me communications director. So my job was tools and communication.

The Freedom Schools was short lived. They really were just the summer program. Whether any number of children became better readers or learned better math, I really don't know.

The fact that they were there, thinking about freedom, they were in an atmosphere that said, you can make a difference and you can organize and you can go from here – that made the difference.

You see, well now, Zoe was thirteen, and she went to Georgia and Georgia said, "This is a great writing." Georgia stopped me on the street and said, "Read this." I read and I said, "Zoe this is a wonderful story." Zoe is now in the Poet Hall of Fame in England, because somebody said to her, "That's great." What measurable impact, well that's a big measure right there.

But in the entire community – what benefit in academics was there with that three month period of time? It was a rallying point for those young people, to become aware that Black was beautiful, that they too were important, that they could get involved and make a change. That's what I think the importance was.

#### **O: How long were you in Mississippi?**

From June, '64 on into June of '65. I registered people for the Freedom Democratic Party; brought them their ballots, took their ballots, counted them, did the whole thing.

It was, well, first of all, damn it was hot! (Both laugh) Anything you did, it was hot! And all the homes that you're going to, at best they had a fan. Now, in after fact, it was exciting to have been there. But at the time; it was hot, it was hard work, I was scared all the time. Walk out in the road, look left, look right- are there any white guys? Is the policeman there? What's going to happen next?

Call people to a rally at the Freedom School, we had the weekly mass meeting; I was there, I heard a damn plane flying over, it was dropping incendiaries on us. I was scared and tired and hot and I knew it was right, but it wasn't a point of excitement at the time. Excitement isn't the right word. (Laughs)

The movement gave me a greater understanding of justice, of the need for equality. Gave me a greater respect for the individual and the realization that just a few can make a little bit of a difference and a few more can make a greater difference. Being in Mississippi wiggled me out, and turned my mind around.

I returned to San Francisco suffering from post traumatic stress syndrome. Except we didn't know it at that time. I was totally angry and frustrated with the United States government, totally broken that my government didn't act in the way that it should have.

I quite easily fell into the hippie '60's, because I was a disenchanted, alienated person. It took a number of years of wandering and ...trying to refound myself.

#### **O: Somebody was telling me that when John Dohr came to speak, people had a very mixed reaction.**

John Dohr represented the Justice Department, and if you look at the score card of the Justice Department and of the FBI, they did not live up over the last fifty years, or the previous fifty

years to that. They didn't investigate the lynchings, they didn't investigate or prosecute disenfranchisement of the voters.

John Dohr was wonderful, well intended, hard working. He was one of those individuals that helped turn the Justice Department and point it in the right direction. He was just like the one or two individuals on each block that helped turn that block to the Freedom Democratic Party, and to register. John Dohr did his part in the Justice Department. In fact, if I did study the history, I would probably find that there were many John Dohr's.

But the whole Justice Department, was controlled by Senator Eastland and his committee. I'm going to get angry. (laughs) That racist dog. Selfish individual. That non-Christian, horrible individual; held the Justice Department and the FBI and the whole thing, as did all of the other segregationist senators and congressmen that were self-perpetuating because they had the disenfranchisement.

So John Dohr and wonderful people in the Justice Department could not flex their muscle because of the same system they were trying to overthrow.

We came down, we worked, they worked, we sacrificed, they sacrificed. And after thirty-five years, we made a difference.

*An audio podcast of this interview is available, along with many others, at [www.history.ufl.edu/oral/feature-podcasts.htm](http://www.history.ufl.edu/oral/feature-podcasts.htm).*

*The Samuel Proctor Oral History Program believes that listening carefully to first-person narratives can change the way we understand history, from scholarly questions to public policy. SPOHP needs the public's help to sustain and build upon its research, teaching, and service missions: even small donations can make a big difference in SPOHP's ability to gather, preserve, and promote history for future generations.*

*Donate online at [www.history.ufl.edu/oral/support.html](http://www.history.ufl.edu/oral/support.html) or make checks to the University of Florida, specified for SPOHP, and mail to PO Box 115215, Gainesville, FL 32611. ☞*



The Gainesville Free Grocery Store is a mutual aid project hosted by the Civic Media Center. We aim to provide healthy and accessible food to our community and to support food justice in the greater Gainesville area.

*For more info:*

Facebook: [freegrocerystore](https://www.facebook.com/freegrocerystore)

Web: <https://www.facebook.com/GNVFGS>

Email: [fgsgnv@gmail.com](mailto:fgsgnv@gmail.com)

Leave message: at 352-388-1586



## An ID card for everyone

*Many community residents, including citizens, do not have the necessary requirements to receive a state issued ID card or driver's license. Yet they may have to prove their identity to various agencies for numerous reasons on a regular basis.*

*The Human Rights Coalition of Alachua County Identification Card provides residents with an alternative to a state issued ID. It's a reliable form of identification that can be used by law enforcement, city departments, health centers, schools, businesses, and cultural arts organizations to better identify, serve, and protect us.*

*On May Day, downtown volunteers helped a steady stream of people get their cards.*

*This program serves to make our community more inclusive, and having a picture ID is just one aspect of this. The ID costs \$10 and requires a vetting process. For more information go to: <https://hrcalachua.com/community-id-program/>.*

*Photo by Joe Courter. 🐾*

### From EVERGLADES, p. 1

the land is to be respected. It is something to revere, cherish, and honor as one part of the circle of life and the ecosystem that sustains livelihoods. When it is threatened, people turn out.

While oil drilling in the glades has come and gone since the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the looming climate crisis, sea level rise, rapid development, and public sentiment are turning oil and gas into obsolete energy sources. Oil drilling in the Glades has rarely been profitable, transforming projects like Burnett Oil's from a dried up pipe-dream into a frightening nightmare.

Floridians are increasingly turning their attention to Teslas and solar panels, which begs the question: why bother with dated energy that continues to perpetuate an already volatile situation? Why disrupt the lands that Cypress, Osceola, and so many others hold integral to their identity and history? While the nonsensical nature of this business venture and cultural disrespect it imparts infuriates locals, the state continues to affirm such endeavors.

The trouble arose in 2017 and 2018 when Florida's Department of Environmental Protection granted Texas-based Burnett Oil permission to conduct seismic testing in the search for oil (<https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1929>). The scars from the test and the thirty-ton machines running them are still etched into the land.

Cutting the land like a knife, environmentalists said, wreaked havoc on the ecosys-

tem. Technically, the land itself is protected in Big Cypress National Preserve; however, the mineral rights are not. The resources beneath the surface are owned by a range of private owners, among which is the politically connected Collier family, the area's largest deed holder. Based on the actions of Burnett Oil, every ounce seems for sale.

Recently, the federal government granted the state authority to regulate and manage development, water resources, infrastructure and mining projects, giving Florida control of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (<https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1212>). Burnett Oil was the first to take advantage of this transition. Currently, being challenged in court, the transfer of power is a big blow for Floridians, given the state's poor track record in recent decades in the protection of natural areas.

According to the Alison Kelly with the Natural Resource Defense Council, Burnett Oil wants to lock in additional fossil-fuel infrastructure in the Everglades for 30 plus years.

Drilling in the glades could pose several threats to animals, natural habitats, surface water, and the aquifer, which supports all life, including that of south Floridians. Such projects also jeopardize the ancestral lands that Cypress, Osceola, and other native peoples hold so close to their heart—land that is already feeling the weight of climate change.

"It's not appropriate," said Kelly, "to be locking in new fossil fuels for decades to come while we're already combating damage."

Along the way, companies like Burnett Oil put a strain on other existing resources. Kelly explained that Burnett Oil recently applied for a permit to extract one million gallons per day for the operation of each well.

Does the phrase "one million gallons" sound familiar? It should. In late February, after citizens in north central Florida, including many from Gainesville, voiced their opposition in demonstrations and petitions to protect the springs, the Suwannee River Water Management District Governing Board granted permission to Nestlé to bottle nearly one million gallons of water a day from Ginnie Springs (<https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1213>).

The organized efforts to say No to Nestlé and the collective opposition to Burnett Oil are just two of the latest actions by Floridians to combat extractive industries looking to exploit the public commons.

These cases show more than the state's water management districts' disregard of precious natural endowments that belong to all Floridians. It shows that the state has ignored the views of local communities that oppose such projects and furthermore that government officials continue to view water purely as a resource to be used for corporate gain and profit.

It's hard to find a silver lining in these situations, where water is being stripped from its natural cycle for the profit of a select few. Still, there are those highly dedicated few who refuse to give up hope and continue to fight for the sacred. 🐾



# Spotlight on ... Rural Women's Health Project



The Rural Women's Health Project (RWHP) holds a unique position as the only health justice organization in North Florida.

Our mission is to use evidence-based strategies to build sustainable and replicable community programs and policies to strengthen communities' capacity to overcome health and social justice barriers.

Our primary focus is on Latinx immigrants and also women living with HIV.

Founded in 1991, the RWHP involves communities in the development and implementation of all aspects of our work. We seek to build the capacity of emerging leaders, create advocacy opportunities, build coalitions and improve linkage to health protective services. For more information, drop us a note at [info@rwhp.org](mailto:info@rwhp.org) or visit [rwhp.org](http://rwhp.org). 🐞

## Iguana Directory

Call 352-378-5655 or email [gainesvilleiguana@cox.net](mailto:gainesvilleiguana@cox.net) with updates and additions

*Readers: If there is inaccurate information here, please let us know. If you are connected to an organization listed here, please check and update your listing so others can be accurately informed. Readers should confirm times of meetings with individual organizations as they may be cancelled due to the pandemic. Unless otherwise noted, all phone number are in the 352 area code.*

**Alachua Conservation Trust, Inc.** has been protecting North Central Florida's natural, scenic, historic and recreational resources for over 25 years. 373-1078 / [www.AlachuaConservationTrust.org](http://www.AlachuaConservationTrust.org)

**Alachua County Greens** is part of a worldwide movement built out of interrelated pillars that support its politics: the peace, civil rights, environmental and labor movements. Meetings are the 1st Sunday of the month @4pm, contact for location: 871-1995 / [alachuagreens@gmail.com](mailto:alachuagreens@gmail.com) / <https://gainesvillegreens.webs.com>

**Alachua County Labor Coalition** organizes to support local labor and advance the Medicare for All and a living wage campaigns. Meets monthly on the 4th Tuesday at 6pm on Zoom. 375-2832 / [info@laborcoalition.org](mailto:info@laborcoalition.org) / <http://laborcoalition.org/>

**Alachua County Organization for Rural Needs Clinic** is a not-for-profit in Brookier providing low-cost, high-quality dental care for people with and without health insurance to Alachua, Bradford and Union County residents. The Clinic fulfills its mission with the help of volunteers. 485-2772 / <http://acornclinic.org>

**American Civil Liberties Union** has no Alachua County chapter. For info on forming a new chapter, or for ACLU info, contact the Northeast Chapter at [firstcoastclu@gmail.com](mailto:firstcoastclu@gmail.com) / <http://northeastflorida.aclufl.org>.

**American Promise Association** is a cross-partisan, citizen-powered endeavor to amend the US Constitution to ensure We The People - not big money, corporations, unions, or wealthy special interests - govern the United States of America. <https://americanpromise.net>

**Avian Research and Conservation Institute** is a non-profit research group working to stimulate conservation action to save threatened bird species in the southeast. 514-5606 / [www.arcinst.org](http://www.arcinst.org)

**Black Graduate Student Organization** helps UF Black graduate and professional students foster meaningful and lasting relationships that aid in academic achievement and success. [bgsoutuf@gmail.com](mailto:bgsoutuf@gmail.com) / facebook: UF BGSO

**Central Florida Democratic Socialists of America** is a chapter of DSA focusing on local social and political activism issues to better our community. Meetings are the 4th Monday of the month on Zoom. [centralfdsa@gmail.com](mailto:centralfdsa@gmail.com) / Facebook: North Central Florida DSA

**Citizens Climate Lobby** builds awareness and lobbies for sensible climate policies. 214-1778 / [btancig@gmail.com](mailto:btancig@gmail.com) / [https://citizensclimatelobby.org/chapters/FL\\_Gainesville/](https://citizensclimatelobby.org/chapters/FL_Gainesville/)

**Civic Media Center** is an alternative reading room and library of the non-corporate press, and a resource and space for organizing. 433 S Main St., Gainesville / 373-0010 / [coordinators@civicmediacenter.org](mailto:coordinators@civicmediacenter.org) / [www.civicmediacenter.org](http://www.civicmediacenter.org)

**Coalition of Hispanics Integrating Spanish Speakers through Advocacy and Service** is a UF student-run group focusing on immigrant rights and immigrant advocacy. [chispasuf@gmail.com](mailto:chispasuf@gmail.com) / [www.chispasuf.org](http://www.chispasuf.org) / Facebook: chispasUF

**Code Pink: Women for Peace** Women-led grassroots peace and social justice movement utilizing creative protest, non-violent direct action and community involvement. Join our Facebook group at: [Codepinkgainesville /](https://www.facebook.com/Codepinkgainesville/) [CodePink4Peace.org](https://www.facebook.com/CodePink4Peace.org)

**The Community Weatherization Coalition**, an Alachua County coalition whose mission is to improve home weatherization and energy efficiency for low-income households through education, volunteer work, and community-

building, welcomes volunteers. 450-4965 / [cwc@communityweatherization.org](mailto:cwc@communityweatherization.org)

**Conservation Trust for Florida, Inc.** is a Gainesville non-profit land trust working to protect Florida's rural landscapes, wildlife corridors and natural areas. 376-4770 / [info@conserveflorida.org](mailto:info@conserveflorida.org) / [www.conserveflorida.org](http://www.conserveflorida.org)

**Democratic Party of Alachua County** meets monthly on the second Wednesday at 6pm on Zoom. 352-373-1730 / [www.alachuadems.org](http://www.alachuadems.org)

**Divest Gainesville** advocates divesting City financial assets from fossil fuel industries and educating on racial justice and climate change. [youngersn@outlook.com](mailto:youngersn@outlook.com) / [www.facebook.com/DivestGainesville](https://www.facebook.com/DivestGainesville)

**Divest UF** is a student-run organization and a loose collective of Gators seeking to divest the university from fossil fuels, the prison industry, and arms and surveillance companies. [www.divestuf.org](http://www.divestuf.org), Facebook: @Divest UF

**Goddsville Dream Defenders** is a socialist, feminist abolitionist organization in Gainesville, organizing to dismantle institutions and be a safe space for people of color. Facebook: Goddsville Dream Defenders

**Edible Plant Project** is a volunteer-run, non-profit Gainesville collective aiming to create positive alternatives to the unsustainable food system in this county. [www.facebook.com/groups/edibleplantproject](https://www.facebook.com/groups/edibleplantproject)

**Families Against Mandatory Minimums** works to reform Florida's sentencing laws and restore fairness to Florida's criminal justice system. PO Box 142933, Gainesville, FL 32614 / [gnewburn@famm.org](mailto:gnewburn@famm.org) / 682-2542 / FAMM.org

**Final Friends**, run by volunteers, helps families learn how to accomplish legal home funeral care as an alternative to a commercial funeral home. 374-4478 / [final.friends.org@gmail.com](mailto:final.friends.org@gmail.com) / [www.finalfriends.org](http://www.finalfriends.org)

**The Fine Print** is a quarterly magazine based in Gainesville providing political, social and arts coverage through advocacy journalism. <http://thefineprintmag.org>

**Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice** provides space for meetings, retreats, workshops, camps, and educational activities that promote

*Continued on next page*

*Continued from preceding page*  
peace, human rights and social justice awareness, conflict resolution, self-empowerment programs and environmental discovery and awareness.  
352-603-3680 / florida4peace.org.

**Florida School of Traditional Midwifery** is a clearinghouse for information, activities and educational programs regarding midwifery.  
338-0766 / info@midwiferyschool.org  
www.midwiferyschool.org

**Florida Defenders of the Environment** works to protect freshwater resources, conserve public lands and provide quality environmental education.  
475-1119 / floridadefenders@gmail.com /  
https://fladefenders.org

**Florida Prisoner Solidarity** is a carceral abolitionist collective with members inside and outside of prisons. Efforts are focused around the needs of all incarcerated individuals, their care networks and the people in community with them.  
P.O. Box 358439, Gainesville, FL 32635 /  
850-895-1505 / flprisonersolidarity@gmail.com /  
www.flprisonersolidarity.org/  
facebook.com/FLAbolition

**Gainesville Area AIDS Project** is a program of Pride Community Center of North Central Florida that provides toiletries, household cleaners, hot meals, frozen food at no cost to people living with HIV/AIDS. 377-8915 / info@gaaponline.org  
https://gainesvillepride.org/gaap/  
www.facebook.com/GAAPONLINE/

**Gainesville Citizens for Alternatives to Death Penalty** works to abolish the death penalty. Join vigils when Florida has an execution. 378-1690 / mark1343@juno.com / www.fadp.org.

**Gainesville for All** The Gainesville Sun's GNV4ALL initiative is an effort to identify and address problems related to inequities and racial injustice in our community. See Facebook for online activities. GNV4ALL@gmail.com / www.facebook.com/GNV4ALL

**Gainesville Interfaith Alliance for Immigrant Justice** organizes faith communities to work together for immigrant justice. Meetings are the second Monday of the month on Zoom. Richard@371-6772 / Gainesvilleiaij@gmail.com / www.gainesvilleiaij.blogspot.com

**Gainesville National Organization of Women** focuses on six issues: reproductive rights; ending sex discrimination / constitutional equality; promoting diversity and ending racism; economic justice; stopping violence against women; lesbian rights including marriage equality. For NOW meeting info, contact Lisa@450-1912 / info@gainesvilleNOW.org / www.gainesvillenow.org.

**Gainesville Peer Respite** is a non-profit, non-clinical mental health community providing sanctuary and support to those experiencing emotional distress. A peer support warmline is available along with wellness activities and support groups over Zoom. Warm-Line: 559-4559 / business line: 278-0529 /  
www.gainesvillerespite.org

**Gainesville Quakers** work peacefully for social justice and share a way of life, rather than a

written set of beliefs. Values include simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality and stewardship. Request info on virtual worship on Zoom using the "contact us" link on website or call 372-1070 / www.GainesvilleQuakers.org

**Gainesville Roller Rebels**, a women's Flat Track roller derby team, needs skaters and volunteer assistance. join@gainesvillrollerrebels.com /  
https://gainesvillrollerrebels.com

**Graduate Assistants United Union** represents UF grad assistants by fighting for improved working conditions, community involvement and academic freedom. 575-0366 /  
organizing@ufgau.org / www.ufgau.org

**Grow Radio**, a non-profit podcast station provides opportunities for community members to create and manage engaging, educational, locally-generated programming to promote musical/visual arts and humanities for enrichment of Gainesville community. 219-0145 /  
BRYSON66@gmail.com / http://growradio.org.

**The Humanist Families of Gainesville** aims to raise ethical, secular children in a religious, moral environment. Meetings include children, based on members' interests. Facebook: Humanist Families of Gainesville (leave a message).

**Humanist Society of Gainesville** are people who believe that the problems of the world can only be solved by responsible human actions based on rational analysis and decision-making free of dogma or the guidance of imaginary supreme beings. They meet to discuss and promote secular, humanist, atheist and agnostic social influences.  
gainesvillehumanists@gmail.com /  
www.gainesvillehumanists.org /  
www.facebook.com/humanistsocietyofgainesville

**Ichetucknee Alliance** focuses on ensuring the restoration, preservation and protection of the ecosystems along the 5.5-mile length of the Ichetucknee River, including its associated springs. Meetings are on the 4th Tuesday every other month via Zoom. 386-454-0415 /  
ichetuckneealliance@gmail.com  
http://ichetuckneealliance.org/

**Indivisible Gainesville** seeks to build an inclusive community fostering diversity and encouraging citizen action, and to educate and inform the people of Florida's 3rd Congressional District in order to increase voter turnout and participation in the civic process.  
projectmanagement@indivisiblegnv.org  
https://indivisiblegnv.org

**Industrial Workers of the World (IWW)** Gainesville General Membership Branch Union represents all workers, regardless of industry, trade, job, or employment status.  
gainesvilleiww@gmail.com / https://iww.org

**League of Women Voters of Alachua County** Nonpartisan grassroots political group of women and men who have fought since 1920 to improve our system of government and impact public policies such as fairness in districting, voting and elections, through citizen education and advocacy. info@lwv-alachua.org /  
http://www.lwvalachua.org

**Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program** needs volunteers to join advocates who protect elders' rights in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, family care homes. Training and certification provided.  
888-831-0404 / LTCOPInformer@elderaffairs.org  
http://ombudsman.myflorida.com

**Madres Sin Fronteras** (Mothers Without Borders) is a local grassroots immigrant-led organization working to protect the rights of immigrants' families in our community and to ensure all are treated with dignity and respect.  
msfgainesville@gmail.com  
www.facebook.com/MSFGainesville/

**MindFreedom North Florida** is a human rights group for psychiatric survivors and mental health consumers, working to educate the public about harmful psychiatric practices and about humane alternatives to those harmful practices. 328-2511 / Facebook: MindFreedom Florida

**Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America** is a grassroots organization working to end gunviolence by electing gun sense candidates, advocating for policies that save lives, and educating parents on responsible gun storage. For events in Alachua County, go to  
https://momsdemandaction.org/events/

**Move to Amend, Gainesville** is an organization dedicated to amending the US Constitution to establish that money is not speech, and that only human beings have constitutional rights. Contact Alachua County Green Party for information.  
www.facebook.com / MoveToAmendGainesvilleFL/

**National Alliance on Mental Illness / Gainesville** offers support, education and advocacy for families and loved ones of persons with mental illness and/or brain disorders.  
320-0457 (information) / 335-7770 (helpline) /  
www.namigainesville.org

**National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare** works to promote and preserve threatened programs for senior citizens and to keep seniors independent and productive. Our.Circle.Of.Care@gmail.com /  
http://www.ncpsm.org

**National Lawyers Guild** consists of lawyers, law students, legal workers and jailhouse lawyers who use the law to advance social justice, support progressive social movements.  
gainesvillennlg@gmail.com / www.nlg.org

**National Women's Liberation** is a feminist group for women who want to fight back against male supremacy and win more freedoms for women. Inequalities between women and men are political problems requiring a collective solution. 575-0495 / nwl@womensliberation.org /  
http://womensliberation.org

**North Central Florida Association for Women In Science** is an advocacy organization championing the interest of women in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) across all disciplines and employment sectors.  
ncfawis@gmail.com /  
https://sites.google.com/site/ncfawis

**Occupy Gainesville** is about engaging local

people in grassroots, participatory democracy, diversity and dialogue; we stand in solidarity with the Occupy Wall Street Movement and the rest of the people peacefully occupying public space across this county and the world.  
[www.facebook.com/occupygainesville](http://www.facebook.com/occupygainesville)

**Our Revolution North-Central Florida**, inspired by Bernie Sanders, bringing progressive voices into the Democratic party.  
[contact@ourrevncfl.com](mailto:contact@ourrevncfl.com)  
[www.facebook.com/OurRevNCFL/](http://www.facebook.com/OurRevNCFL/)

**Our Santa Fe River** is a non-profit composed of concerned citizens working to protect the waters and lands supporting the aquifer, springs and rivers within the watershed of the Santa Fe River.  
386-243-0322 / <https://oursantaferiver.org>

**PFLAG Gainesville** is a local chapter of Parents and Families of Lesbians and Gays, the nation's foremost family-based organization committed to the civil rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. Monthly meetings are the 3rd Tuesday at the Fellowship Hall of the United Church of Gainesville (1624 NW 5th Ave.) at 7 pm. Confidential helpline: 340-3770 / [info@pflaggainesville.org](mailto:info@pflaggainesville.org) / <http://pflaggainesville.org>

**Planned Parenthood Clinic at Gainesville Health Center** is a full-service health center for reproductive and sexual health care needs. Offering pregnancy testing and options counseling. 914 NW 13th St., Gnv / 377-0881  
<https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1150>

**Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery** promotes natural burial practices that conserve land and reunite people with the environment. 352-317-7307 / [info@prairiecreekconservationcemetery.org](mailto:info@prairiecreekconservationcemetery.org) / [prairiecreekconservationcemetery.org](http://prairiecreekconservationcemetery.org)

**Pride Awareness Month** is a planning committee for spring's UF Pride events, to celebrate the history and identities of the LGBTQ+ community through events centering on marginalized sexualities and genders.  
[ufpridemonth@gmail.com](mailto:ufpridemonth@gmail.com) / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1152> (Gator Connect)

**Pride Community Center of North Central Florida** has resources for the LGBTQ+ community, open M-F, 3-7, Sat. noon-4.  
3131 NW 13th St., Suite 62, Gnv / 377-8915, [www.GainesvillePride.org](http://www.GainesvillePride.org)

**ty** values every citizen's right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and believes that the best government comes through an open and respectful exchange of ideas. For info on volunteer activities call Fran Rossano @ 475-3012 / <https://www.putnamdems.org/index.php/>

**Repurpose Project**, a nonprofit junk shop /community center, diverts useful resources from the landfill, redirects these items to the public for art and education, inspires creativity, and helps us all rethink what we throw away. Let's all help protect the planet and buy used. Check website or call for hours. 1920 NE 23rd Ave, Gnv / 363-8902 / [info@RepurposeProject.org](mailto:info@RepurposeProject.org) / [www.repurposeproject.org](http://www.repurposeproject.org)

**River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding** provides solution-based innovative ways to resolve conflicts, and provides services including mediation, communication skill building and

restorative justice. 234-6595 / [info@centerforpeacebuilding.org](mailto:info@centerforpeacebuilding.org) • [www.centerforpeacebuilding.org](http://www.centerforpeacebuilding.org)

**Rural Women's Health Project** is a local health education organization that develops materials promoting health justice for migrant and rural women. Robin or Fran @ 372-1095 / [info@rwhp.org](mailto:info@rwhp.org) / [www.rwhp.org](http://www.rwhp.org)

**Samuel Proctor Oral History Program** focuses on story-telling, social justice research, social movement studies, oral history workshops.  
<http://oral.history.ufl.edu>

**Suwannee-St. Johns Group Sierra Club** is a local group within the nation's largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization, representing 14 North Central Florida counties.  
528-3751 / [www.ssjsierra.org](http://www.ssjsierra.org)

**Sister City Program of Gainesville** links Gainesville with sister cities in Russia, Israel and Palestine, Iraq, and Haiti. 376-8600 / [steve@gnvsistercities.org](mailto:steve@gnvsistercities.org) / <http://www.gnvsistercities.org>

**Stand By Our Plan** informs the public on critical differences between the Comprehensive Plan and Plum Creek's proposal, which we do not support. Alachua County's Comprehensive Plan is the best blueprint for future growth in the county's unincorporated areas; it protects valuable wetlands. [standbyourplan@gmail.com](mailto:standbyourplan@gmail.com) / <http://standbyourplan.org>

**Student Animal Alliance** UF-based group that promotes animal rights through education, volunteering and social events.  
<https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1149>  
facebook: student animal alliance/  
instagram @studentanimalallianceUF

**Student/Farmworker Alliance** is a network of youth organizing with farmworkers to eliminate sweatshop conditions and modern-day slavery in the fields. [billy@sfalliance.org](mailto:billy@sfalliance.org) / <http://www.sfalliance.org/>  
[brett@sfalliance.org](mailto:brett@sfalliance.org) / <http://www.sfalliance.org/>  
Facebook: Gainesville Student/Farmworker Alliance

**Sunday Assembly Gainesville** is a secular congregation celebrating life. There is a talk, music, sing-alongs, discussion and fellowship. Meetings and events are on Zoom. / [sundayassembly32601@gmail.com](mailto:sundayassembly32601@gmail.com)  
<http://SAGainesville.weebly.com/>

**The Climate Reality Project Gainesville Area Chapter** is the local chapter of Climate Reality Project, an international nonprofit group dedicated to accelerating urgent action globally on the climate crisis. Join the chapter for email news, action alerts, meeting alerts at <https://www.climateactproject.org/apply/chapters>.  
[climateactprojectgnv@gmail.com](mailto:climateactprojectgnv@gmail.com),  
<https://www.facebook.com/ClimateRealityProjectGainesvilleFlorida>  
<https://climateactprojectgnv.wordpress.com/blog/>

**UF College Democrats** is the official voice of the Democratic party on UF campus.  
407-580-4543 / [president@ufdemocrats.org](mailto:president@ufdemocrats.org) / [www.ufcollegedemocrats.org](http://www.ufcollegedemocrats.org) / [Facebook.com/UFcollegedems](https://www.facebook.com/UFcollegedems)

**UF Pride Student Union** is an LGBT+ group open to queer folk of all sorts, including students, non-students, faculty and staff, that educates and provides a safe space for those of marginalized sexualities and gender identities.  
[ufpridesu@gmail.com](mailto:ufpridesu@gmail.com) / [www.facebook.com/ufpsu/](http://www.facebook.com/ufpsu/)

**United Faculty of Florida, UF chapter** is run by and for faculty and represents over 1600 faculty and professionals at UF. UFF's origins lie in efforts by faculty to protect academic freedom, defend civil liberties, and end racial discrimination at UF. 519-4130 / [officemanager@uff-uf.org](mailto:officemanager@uff-uf.org) / [www.UFF-UF.org](http://www.UFF-UF.org)

**United Nations Assn., Gainesville Chapter** works to heighten citizen awareness/knowledge of global problems and the UN's efforts to deal with them.  
[www.una-usagainesvillefl.org/](http://www.una-usagainesvillefl.org/)  
[facebook.com/UNAUSAGainesvilleFICchapter/](https://facebook.com/UNAUSAGainesvilleFICchapter/)

**United Way Information and Referral** is a human-staffed computer database for resources and organizations in Alachua County.  
332-4636 or simply 211 / [uw211help@gmail.com](mailto:uw211help@gmail.com)  
<http://www.unitedwayncfl.org/21>

**Veterans for Peace Gainesville Chapter** is an anti-war organization that raises awareness of the detriments of militarism and war, as well as seeking peaceful and effective alternatives.  
375-2563 / <http://vfp Gainesville.org/>  
[www.facebook.com/VFPchapter14/](https://www.facebook.com/VFPchapter14/)

**Wayfaring Painter** is a local nonprofit working to engage communities with visual art instruction that promotes openness, problem-solving and visual literacy through a variety of high quality, accessible classes, at-home kits and workshops.  
[www.facebook.com/wayfaringpainter](https://www.facebook.com/wayfaringpainter)

**WELLS Healing and Research Collective** explores and promotes the liberation and wellness of Brown, Trans, and Queer folk. WELLS stands for: wellness, equity, love, liberation and sexuality.  
[www.facebook.com/wellshrcollective/about](https://www.facebook.com/wellshrcollective/about)

**WGOT-LP 100.1 FM** is a community low-power radio station operating as part of the CMC.  
[info@wgot.org](mailto:info@wgot.org) / [www.wgot.org](http://www.wgot.org)

**Women's International League for Peace and Freedom** has been promoting peace since 1915. Donate or join the at-large Jane Addams Branch. Local info: [juned@stevellittler.com](mailto:juned@stevellittler.com) / <http://wilpfus.org>

**Women's March Gainesville** is an extension of the national group, and organizes the yearly Women's March to show our strength, power and courage. [wmw@hearourvoicegnv.org](mailto:wmw@hearourvoicegnv.org) / <https://m.facebook.com/wmflgnv/> / [www.facebook.com/groups/wmflgnv/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/wmflgnv/) / [Instagram.com/womensmarchgnv/](https://www.instagram.com/womensmarchgnv/) / [Twitter.com/WMFL\\_Gnv/](https://www.twitter.com/WMFL_Gnv/)

**World Socialist Party of the United States** welcomes anyone wanting to know more about Marxian socialism and our efforts to transform the dog-eat-dog – Devil take the hindmost world created by capitalism into a democratically arranged world society of equality at [boston@wspus.org](mailto:boston@wspus.org). / <http://wspus.org>. 🐉

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# Danny Caine



TICKETS



May 21st, 2021, at 6pm, over Zoom.  
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<https://tinyurl.com/59y458vz>

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*[facebook.com/gainesvilleiguana](https://facebook.com/gainesvilleiguana)*

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