

The Gainesville Iguana

*A progressive newsletter
and events calendar*

September 2022

Vol. 36, Issue 9

Got woke?

Who will rescue our tender youth from deviant professors and their noisome notions?

by Diane Roberts

Gov. Ron DeSantis has been campaigning for brave warriors like anti-Drag Queen crusader Kari Lake, the next governor of the great state of Arizona, and Ohio's J.D. Vance, who grew up so poor his family couldn't afford to give him a REAL name but later made millions the old-fashioned way: getting Peter Thiel to be his sugar daddy.

The governor has also Pennsylvania gubernatorial candidate and mega-MAGA Camo Jesus-guy Doug Mastriano, a proud veteran of Jan. 6, a man who stepped up with the patriots hollering "Hang Mike Pence!" and valiantly recruited an "alternative" slate of electors for President Trump in 2020.

Just because Biden got 80,000 more votes doesn't mean he won the state.

Now that he's back, the governor needs to set up an Office of Educational Crimes to investigate and prosecute any egghead caught violating

See GOT WOKE?, p. 14



The election, primaries over – now the real work begins: GOTV

by Joe Courter

Primaries are over. A look back on them before looking ahead to November ...

Thank you to all who took democracy seriously and engaged in campaigning for office. Stepping up to run is a big move, and within campaigning there is stress,

and also a lot of side-taking and at times negative criticism lobbed around.

Within our community there were and still are divisions about the controversial single family/exclusionary zoning proposal among people who otherwise get along well and are generally on the same page (see page 7). It is unfortunate the outgoing commissioners decided to try and ram this through, but now is the time when the big election picture needs to come into focus, even as that divisive proposal lingers.

Overall the results were good from our point of view; many of our favored candidates came through with wins, or at least

into a run off. Gary Gordon, July Thomas and Prescott Cowells ran hard but came up short; we offer thanks for their efforts.

This election in November is huge, from statewide down to local. Get involved to get out the vote (GOTV) in whatever ways you can, keep your hopes up and counter the doomers as you run into them with your best rationale for not giving up. Any Dem we have on the ballot is better than the Repub they face. This is especially true for Congressional Rep. District 3 with Danielle Hawk trying to unseat the rather revolting Kat Cammack, a "stop the steal" Trumper.

See ELECTIONS, p. 11

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Micanopy fends off Dollar General

by Homer Jack Moore

It's Micanopy 3, Dollar General 0.

With some help from the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners, the scenic and historic little town of Micanopy just sent the Dollar General store packing for the third straight time.

Dollar General and its developers have repeatedly tried to stand up a mini-box convenience store in Micanopy only to run afoul of a buzz saw of community opposition.

It's not as if Dollar General wouldn't be welcomed at an appropriate site such as the I-75 Micanopy exit. Instead, Dollar General stores metastasize to otherwise pristine countryside and contribute to environmental degradation and rurban (rural-urban) sprawl and blight.

Witness the cheap trashed-out DG across the street from the Orange Lake overlook in McIntosh, the DG that took out a legacy building in La Crosse, and the brand new Dollar General just across the street from the old Flemington store right in the middle of Marion County's Farmland Preservation Area. This, their third strike at Micanopy, would have put a DG right at the scenic gateway to the town on Tuscawilla Road, adjacent to the Native American Heritage Preserve, across the street from the Tuscawilla Nature Preserve, and atop the site of the Battle of Micanopy, 1836, Second Seminole War.

The Micanopy property in question was purchased in 2017 for \$150,000 by James Rhodes, et ux. Mr. Rhodes is a successful commercial HVAC contractor in Gainesville, and evidently he envisioned a use for the property as a hub for his expanding air conditioner business empire in Florida. Then along came Concept Companies of Gainesville, a DG developer, with a proposal and a price: To amputate a tiny tip from Rhode's property and plop down a DG at the intersection of US Highway 441 and Micanopy's forested scenic entryway.

The amount under consideration isn't publicly known, but it was most likely a princely sum. When Rhodes was subsequently approached about the possibility of an alternative buy-out from the community, he supposed that a half million might do it.

How Concept Companies managed to cram all this and its DG development plan through the Alachua County Growth

Management Department is a sorry saga of insider influence, Development Review Committee packing, and corrupt consultancy practices, all chronicled in prior issues of *The Gainesville Iguana*.

But the public fought back. At the first Development Review Committee hearing on the matter, Concept Companies got a warning from one Micanopy resident: The roads in Alachua County are built and paid for by the citizens, and they are not the automatic driveway up to some crummy development. Concept Companies paid no heed.

It turns out, however, that Micanopy residents were seeking designation of the gateway Tuscawilla Road as an official Alachua County Scenic Road. Such designation imposes increased setbacks for preservation of trees and puts restrictions on heavy trucks. And under the leadership of then BoCC Chair Ken Cornell, the Alachua Board of County Commissioners wisely enacted the official County designation for a scenic Tuscawilla Road.

By then, however, the development plan for the Dollar General was already in place and it was not affected by the Scenic Road designation or setbacks. Except for the trucks! Tuscawilla Road belonged to, and still belongs to, the people of Alachua County, not Concept Companies. And for purposes of preservation and public enjoyment the people of Alachua County get to say within reason what drives on it, and what doesn't.

Dollar General, it turns out, uses 40-ton semi-tractor trailer megatrucks to deliver to its stores. Nothing over 25 tons is allowed on an Alachua County Scenic Road. There was nothing that actually precluded the Dollar General from using smaller delivery trucks. Dollar General just didn't like it.

As for Rhodes and his air conditioner empire, his development plan was not in place. So all the setbacks and restrictions pertinent to the County Scenic Road did in fact apply to him.

Plausibly Rhodes would have had recourse under Florida's Bert Harris law, but lawsuits and land use attorneys don't come cheap. Not only that, Rhodes, apparently thinking he might test the waters on the Scenic Road thing while nobody was looking, decided to go bush hogging on his property one Sunday morning. And he started cutting down trees in the setback. It

is reported that he was carrying an AR-15 type long gun in his truck. Was he expecting trouble?

Fortunately the episode ended peaceably when Alachua Code Enforcement showed up.

Concept Companies, finding itself with an approved development plan, but now unable to perform to the trucking requirements demanded by its prospective tenant, did start suing. Never mind the likelihood of losing a dodgy case, and with it taking a dead weight loss on hundreds of thousands already spent greasing palms to get the development plan in place. A sue 'til you puke strategy presents the defendant, in this case Alachua County, with some prospect of protracted and expensive legal defenses, too.

Matt Cason, President of Concept Companies, had publicly said he would fight to the bitter end, and no doubt he meant it. But his lawyer bills were adding up. And Rhodes, for his part, was discovering himself in possession of a piece of property he couldn't use to his own wishes and might not even be able to unload on Concept Companies. All parties eventually decided it might be a good time to talk.

Under the leadership of County Commissioner and now Chair Marihelen Wheeler, a deal was reached in mediation. The County would buy out Rhodes and Concept Companies to the tune of \$800,000, a hefty sum, but better than spending it on lawyers. Rhodes got \$425,000. Concept Companies apparently got the rest and was told to bug off. And Dollar General, once again, was banished from Micanopy.

The County subsequently reached out to the Town of Micanopy with a request to participate by a contribution of unspent and to-be-allocated funds in the amount of \$170,000 from the Wild Spaces Public Places program. The property would then be deeded over to the Town. As of this writing, that part of the transaction is still pending, but the Micanopy Town Commission has signaled its intention to go forward. In the end, Micanopy will be able to purchase the parcel minimally above the 2017 price and at no extra burden to its residents.

Strike Three, Dollar General, you're out! 🐢

From the publisher ...

Trump the Catalyst

The span of my life on earth has seen all the varied ingredients of the political mess we are in develop into what we are facing today.

The early 1950s saw the rise of television, and the instant celebrity of one Joe McCarthy raving about Communists. Television also brought to people's home the Civil Rights Movement, with biting dogs, fire hoses, and anti-integration white people harassing brave Black youth.

Segregationists like Lester Maddox and George Wallace got fame (and when I was in college in Michigan in 1972, Wallace won the Democratic Presidential primary!). As some of the Democratic Party moved left in support of civil rights (Kennedys, Johnson, Humphrey, etc.), Nixon set up and won with the Southern Strategy, which went after the votes of anti-integration white people, a conservative populist base, which, when later merged with the politicization of evangelical Christians in the late '70s, formed a powerful bloc that elected Ronald Reagan.

The 1980s under Reagan saw the repeal of the Fairness Doctrine, opening the way for truth-be-damned talk radio with Rush Limbaugh and others. Silos of right wing populism developed, aggressively attacking liberals, and then with the election of Bill Clinton in 1992, an all-out assault on the Democratic Party.

That led to the rise of Newt Gingrich, and the politics of blocking everything possible, including government shutdowns, and the personal attacks on Bill and Hillary Clinton with bogus conspiracies and gotcha games.

And then of course, Fox News was created in 1996 as well.

Well-funded conservative "think tanks" developed using corporate funding and mega millionaire support grew, influencing elections with chosen candidates, the writing of legislation, and guiding nominations to the courts. Right wing hardball politics saw George W. Bush declared winner in 2000, and tie-a-yellow-ribbon patriotism followed the tragedy of 9/11/01. The unprecedented "swift boating" of John Kerry helped give Bush his second term, marked by disastrous wars successfully supported by lies.

With Obama, the racist underbelly of the right emerged with all kinds of attacks regarding his religion, his place of birth, and his intentions regarding healthcare proposals (death panels, etc.). In a politically slick move, the Republicans used the 2010 off-year election to win in many states, and thus accelerating gerrymandering, creating a big majority of House seats guaranteeing overwhelming Republican turnout, and allowing extremists to win. Social media came into prominence and was exploited heavily, creating phony grassroots organizing like the Tea Party.

In 2015, the ingredients were all there, and down the escalator came Trump the Catalyst to ignite the fire which will likely still be burning when he is gone from the scene, leaving us with the reactionary Supreme Court and the severely divided society.

Can this descent into authoritarianism be turned around? November 2022 is our first chance. Grab the Senate, keep hold of the House, win some governorships. All three are on our Florida ballots, campaigns we can support. Will we?

An image came to my mind of this country's democracy as a Jenga game. With all the challenges and blockades to our being a well-functioning democracy — the lies believed and promoted, gerrymandering, voter suppression, inflammatory language, corporate money, etc. etc. — it's like blocks are being pulled out, one after another until we reach a point of teetering. Tearing down is easier than building up. We are at a critical point of just trying to save what we have. Do what you can.

PS: I must acknowledge the help reading both David Corn in the Sept./Oct. *Mother Jones* magazine and Dana Milbank's great new book, *The Destructionists*, gave in refreshing my memory of all that my news junkie mind had been taking in over the last 50 years. You can find the former online and the latter as an e-book (or actual book!). 🐢



Joe Courter

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The Gainesville Iguana is Alachua County's independent progressive newsletter.

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Comments, suggestions, contributions (written or financial) are welcome. To list your event or group, contact us at: 352-378-5655

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Birth control access at UF and SFCC:

Join campaign for morning-after pill vending machines on campus

*by National Women's Liberation
Gainesville, Florida chapter*

In 2017, National Women's Liberation's Gainesville chapter campus committee launched a campaign to get the morning-after pill in vending machines on the University of Florida and Santa Fe College campuses. We were inspired by other universities already offering morning-after pill (MAP) vending machines, a number that continues to increase on campuses across the country.

The need was clear then, as it is now. Despite MAP's over-the-counter (OTC) status, restrictions remain. It's costly (\$40-50), often in bulky anti-theft containers in pharmacies, or it's even still behind the counter — though this should not be allowed as it is FDA-approved as an OTC medication. You can purchase MAP at the UF infirmary for \$10 — but only if they're open. Their limited hours are M-F from 8am to 4:30pm in the summer and M-F from 8am to 5pm and Sundays noon to 4pm during the fall and spring semesters.

The morning-after pill, often called emergency contraception or EC, as well as by its trade name Plan B™ and Plan B One-Step™, is a medication that consists of pro-

gestin hormones like what can be found in your average birth control pack and is considered as safe as Advil. It prevents pregnancy if taken within 3 days of sex, but it's most effective if taken within 24 hours.

MAP is birth control which prevents pregnancy. It is not the same thing as the abortion pill — which we are also organizing for. If you are already pregnant and you take MAP, it simply does not work. Unrestricted access to MAP is essential to preventing unwanted pregnancies and making sure we have one more convenient option for birth control available at our fingertips.

Now that Roe v. Wade has been overturned by the Supreme Court, we need to fight for every tool we can to regain some of the bodily autonomy that has been stripped from us. This includes fighting for increased access to birth control.

Members of National Women's Liberation and its predecessor groups fought in a 10-year-long legal battle to win nationwide over-the-counter access to MAP. In the Tummino lawsuit, we successfully sued the Food and Drug Administration under President Bush and sued the Obama administration's Justice

Department to get the levonorgestrel formulation of MAP (Plan B™) switched from prescription-only to its present-day over-the-counter status with no age restrictions. We organized countless direct actions and achieved wins through grassroots feminist movement.

The result was enormous relief in the United States, because by winning the fight against the FDA for over-the-counter status, MAP is easier to get now when we really need it, post Roe.

In 2013, the U.S. caught up with dozens of countries around the world that were ahead of us by not requiring a doctor's prescription to get the MAP because it is safe. In the U.S., where we don't have national health care, the MAP remains more expensive than in most other countries, but at least you no longer need a doctor's appointment to get a prescription, and you can't be carded for this birth control anymore — no more having to show an I.D. to prove your age to buy it. Anyone can buy it in a pharmacy — any gender, and any age.

NWL continued the lawsuit against the FDA to ensure that there would be no age restrictions on the MAP OTC status. Re-

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fusing to compromise on age extended our fight and lawsuit against the FDA by several years. There were several stages in the lawsuit, from 2005 to 2013, where the FDA would have settled but imposed age limits on who could buy the MAP without a prescription. We said no, because everyone would be forced to show an I.D. to prove their age to buy it. We said: old enough to get pregnant, old enough to decide.

Alia DeLong, NWL Gainesville steering committee member, was the chair of the NWL campus committee during the initial MAP campus vending machine campaign. From 2017 to 2020, NWL organized direct actions and met with countless local stakeholders to push hard to make the MAP vending machine a reality.

"NWL is committed to reclaiming any and all bodily autonomy now that Roe is overturned. We want to believe that the UF administration will support this, but so far their response has been less than lukewarm on the whole. We plan to continue the fight and build a feminist movement to make real wins here," said DeLong.

Now, nearly five years after NWL's original *Alligator* letter to the editor raising the demand for a morning-after pill vending machine at UF, UF student government in July passed a unanimous resolution to increase access to emergency contraception at UF in vending machines. The morning after pill vending machine is back in the hands of UF student government, the UF Infirmary pharmacy, and UF Business Services.

Key authors of the UF student government resolution include UF Graduate Senator Joe Andreoli, Minority Party Leader and UF Student Senate women's caucus co-leader Faith Corbett, and UF District D Senator Ryan Athay. The resolution is a first step, but the vending machine project is not yet funded and there is not yet an implementation plan.

We need a movement of feminists to fight for what we really want, and to bring our ideas and initiatives, such as a MAP vending machine, to fruition. It's just one small step, but we deserve that relief: easy access to low-cost birth control. Birth control at our fingertips.

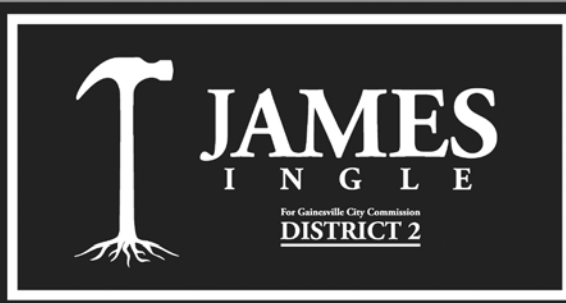
Please come to the next Gainesville community NWL campus chapter monthly meeting, Thursday, Sept. 15 at 6:30 to 8pm: at Curia on the Drag, 2029 NW 6th Street. Or write to nwl@womensliberation.org to help build a campus committee to finish this fight for vending machines on campus. www.womensliberation.org.

What National Women's Liberation is organizing for

- An end to racist and sexual assaults, and all forms of bigotry
- Reproductive freedom, full access, no coercion
- Abortion and birth control free through a system of national health care for all
- A \$15 minimum wage for all workers, no exceptions, and the right to form a union without interference
- Protection and expansion of Social Security
- Childcare, free like the public schools, and paid family leave
- R-E-S-P-E-C-T

Platform drawn from NWL's 2018 campaign: www.womenstrike.org

"It's time we had a pair of work boots on the City Commission" - James Ingle

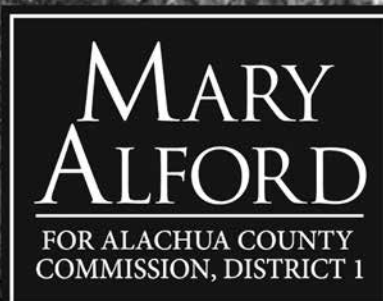


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Alachua County, Gainesville Neighborhood Voices concerned

Gainesville proposes to eliminate single-family zoning

by Gainesville Neighborhood Voices

On Friday, August 26, Alachua County sent an official comment letter to the City of Gainesville and to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity expressing concerns about the City's proposed comprehensive plan change that would eliminate all single-family zoning citywide. The proposed change will nearly double the allowable density in all existing single-family areas from eight dwelling units per acre to 15.

The primary concern expressed by the County is the City's failure to provide data and analysis of the potential impacts of their proposed actions. The City's submittal has many deficiencies including no quantification of new households that could result from the profound change, nor impacts to the public infrastructure that would be required to support them. No Gainesville-specific data or analysis supports the City's stated goal—to provide affordable housing for the City's residents.

The County's letter states, "We recommend that the City delay consideration of adoption of this Comprehensive Plan amendment until the full extent of its potential impacts have been identified and evaluated through appropriate data and analysis."

The City's failure to identify potential impacts of this land use change is reminiscent of its past failure to anticipate the financial consequences of the biomass plant in a constantly changing energy marketplace. That failure has left citizens paying exorbitant utility rates.

Similarly, Gainesville Neighborhood Voices, Inc. (GNVoices) has submitted over 40 pages of comments to Alachua County and several State of Florida agencies regarding the City's proposed comprehensive plan. GNVoices cited concerns about stormwater

and wastewater infrastructure, flooding, transportation and historical resources. By law, the public and reviewing agencies have 30 days to submit comments after a comprehensive plan amendment is transmitted to the State. Letters from GNVoices to the reviewing agencies can be found at tinyurl.com/Iguana1420.

The immediate purpose of GNVoices is to prevent adoption of this untested land use policy change that would result in extensive negative impacts to Gainesville's neighborhoods without generating affordable housing—the expressed goal of the amendment.

The most immediate and dramatic threats are to primarily Black neighborhoods by greatly increasing the rate of gentrification and displacing longtime residents. Local residents are already witnessing the rapid gentrification of Porters Quarters, which was upzoned without any neighborhood safeguards in place.

GNVoices includes residents from many Gainesville neighborhoods, affordable housing advocates, technical experts, and community leaders.

More detail about the legal process the City of Gainesville is using—and that its residents must follow to challenge their City—can be found by reviewing "The State of Florida process for adoption of a comprehensive plan or plan amendment," found here: <https://www.gainesvilleneighborhoodsunited.org/resources>. For more information, contact Casey Fitzgerald, President, Gainesville Neighborhood Voices, Inc. at 386-937.0528. 🐊



PRESENTS

Return to Forever



Featuring the photography of John Moran

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'What UF Housing is doing amounts to cultural genocide'

Save Maguire Village and University Village South

by the Save Maguire/UVS Coalition

In case you did not hear, historic Maguire Village and University Village South are still on the chopping block next year, and we desperately need your help to change that.

This peaceful community of 348 on-campus apartment homes for graduate students and their families at the University of

Florida have been facing the looming threat of demolition since 2020 when cruel UF Housing administrators pushed for their complete annihilation in the UF Campus Master Plan update.

To get approval, they lied to committees, to local government officials, and to the Board of Trustees, and continue to break their promises. There currently is no plan for replacement, no plan to reinvest in future graduate housing, no plan to increase stipends to offset higher housing costs incurred, and no plan to honor this historic place that tens of thousands of people have called home for generations.

Despite numerous requests, UF failed to readdress this issue at all in 2022. We painted a huge SW 34th St. wall mural and got news coverage, but still no response. UF still has never addressed the issue on its own, and never publicly considered the merits of maintaining these 44 livable, affordable, two-story brick buildings and the 27 acres of lush trees they make up.

UF's current plan calls for turning that area into a parking lot and practice recreation field, not because they are needed, but because our housing is so undervalued to them they'd simply rather tear it down.

What UF Housing is doing amounts to cultural genocide (as they are literally destroying our community and way of life and endangering our lives, such as by using our buildings for COVID quarantining without telling us), and they need to be held accountable.


This Fall semester, we are looking to expand our push to get UF to change its plan by mounting external pressure and making this a national issue. To do so, we need the support of student clubs, local non-profits, business leaders, professors, and anyone who'd like to say "NO" to this awful plan.

We also need volunteers who are artists, journalists, social media experts, fundraising experts, or community organizers to help our campaign to bring more attention to our plight. If you think you can help, please contact SaveUFGradHousing@gmail.com to join our efforts, and visit SaveUFGradHousing.com to learn more and to sign our petition. ✊

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The Gainesville Free Grocery Store is a mutual aid project hosted by the Civic Media Center.

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For more info:

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Two timely plays in Gainesville this month

At the Hippodrome, Sept. 2-18, *Fahrenheit 451*: Ray Bradbury's classic on book burning and thought control.

At UF's Black Box Theatre, Sept. 15-25, *Rhinoceros*: Eugene Ionesco's classic on the rise of authoritarianism.

Do not miss them! 🐝



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Sept 16	Wax Wings//Folk Is People <small>Original Folk Rock</small>
Sept 23	The Late Night Losers//Driptonics <small>Alt Rock</small>
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Local ballot measures: One good – one bad

by Robert “Hutch” Hutchinson
former Alachua County Commissioner

At the bottom of the Nov. 8 ballot are two local referenda that require some understanding before deciding how to vote. It is important to know why they were proposed and what they will do. The first goes by the catchy title: “Wild Spaces/Public Places, road repair, fire stations, and affordable housing one percent sales surtax.”

If passed, our sales tax (currently at 7%) would go to 7.5% for ten years starting in 2023. It would do this by simultaneously repealing an existing half-penny sales tax and replacing it with a full penny. The current tax provides funding for Wild Spaces/Public Places (WSPP) projects for county and city governments. These funds are used to purchase conservation lands that protect water, provide recreation (“Wild Spaces”), and build and improve parks, trails, and recreation centers (“Public Spaces”). Voters have twice approved WSPP ballot measures.

The grand bargain in this referendum is two-fold:

1. To use a half-cent to extend the Wild Spaces/Public Places program for ten years and,
2. Use the second half-cent for road projects, affordable housing, and public building projects such as building or renovating fire stations. The county’s focus will be on roads and housing. Each city can decide its own priorities.

It is a difficult time to ask people to tax themselves, and conventional wisdom assumes that sales taxes are regressive. But in Florida, sales tax is not collected on expenditures that, in other states, do disproportionately impact lower-income people. In Florida, the following items are sales tax exempt:

- Groceries
- Medicine and medical supplies
- Residential rent
- Utility bills
- Auto fuel
- Diapers and hygiene products
- Seeds and fertilizer
- Personal and professional services.

In addition, merchandise such as clothing, emergency supplies,

and some outdoor recreational gear has sales tax holidays during various weeks each year.

As a regional center for employment and shopping, approximately one-third of sales tax proceeds in Alachua County come from visitors or residents of adjacent counties that benefit from our infrastructure.

When passed, a Citizen’s Oversight Committee will meet regularly to assure the funds are spent according to law and that an annual independent review is conducted. Previous iterations of this infrastructure surtax have demonstrated that our local governments choose projects that we, the people, need and value.

These transformational projects will be equitably distributed throughout the county, and the funding level is needed and appropriate.

I hope you will join me in voting “Yes.”

A second referendum on the ballot is called: “Alachua County Commission Single Member Districts.” If passed, it will change how Alachua County Commissioners are elected. It was placed on the ballot, over the unanimous objections of the Alachua County and City of Gainesville commissions, through a local bill run in Tallahassee by Rep. Chuck Clemons. The local bill was supported by the three Republicans in our local delegation and opposed by the one Democrat.

Currently, most county commissioners in Florida (including Alachua County) are elected “At-Large” meaning everybody, regardless of where they live in the county, can vote in all five commission elections. Our county commissioners are required to reside in five separate districts of equal population, but everybody gets to vote for or against all of them. The proposed change would make it so only the people who live in the same district as the commission candidates can vote in that race.

Proponents claim this will simplify campaigning and increase accountability. Some rural and conservative officials are advocating for this because they feel the Alachua County Commission is too progressive. With this change, there might be more conservatives elected to the commission.

While the rhetoric sounds good to some, the reality of single-member districts tells a different story. Those in the political minority inevitably introduce them, and in Alachua County, it is Republicans who are pushing it. Unfortunately, at the national and state level, the GOP has become corrupted by corporate and religious interests, the dark money of oligarchs, and, frankly, big liars. In Florida, they relentlessly undermine local governments that attempt to pursue progressive and science-based agendas.

In other counties with single-member districts, ward politics and protracted fights over gerrymandering result, and formerly collegial bodies become less effective. In more conservative communities, single-member districts have allowed minorities to achieve some representation. However, in Alachua County, one or two African Americans have served on the five-member Board of County Commissioners at all times during the last fifty years under the existing At-Large system.

Single-member districts are being foisted on Alachua County unasked for and are unwelcome; citizens should vote “No” on this divisive ballot measure to send a resounding message: “Hands Off Alachua County!” 🐘



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From ELECTIONS, p. 1

In Florida Rep. Dist. 22, Peters beating Clements would be really sweet. Both those races need help in the outside Alachua County areas of their districts; plug in with them if you are so moved.

County Commission races are major in impact, and even if you dislike what is at the top of the ballot, get the vote out down the ballot: 100% for Alford, Cornell and Wheeler.

Nonpartisan city races include run off for two district seats (we like Ingle over Book and Willets over Cain) and the mayor (Ward over Bielarski).


There will be additional items at the bottom of the ballot that we will go into detail about in the October *Iguana*: three state constitutional amendments, and two for the County, which are of import and our local voice is needed. NO to county commission single member districts, and YES to a 1% sales tax for Wild Spaces/Public Places, road repair, fire stations and affordable housing. The article by Hutchinson on page 10 gives details on the last two local ballot measures.

Going out in July, I slacked on giving endorsements for Attorney General and Sec. of Agriculture, and a number of people ... almost a dozen ... called me about that. It is humbling to have you seek out our opinion, won't slack again. And speaking of that, we are changing our printing schedule a bit. It was nuts to do coverage of an election August 23 with a paper printed July 5. Here forward we will do an April/May edition, then a June/July edition, and August will stand alone, and have a chance to be more timely and comprehensive about the August primary elections.

And lastly, an apology to Gary Gordon for a screw-up in the print July/August edition, which saw a word left out in the

paragraph about his race which misstated his position on single family zoning. In attempting to say he was against the "Exclusionary Zoning proposal" the word "proposal" was dropped. I should have read the copy that someone sent back to me closer. We corrected it in the online edition, and posted corrections where we could. My fault for not catching it.

In order to vote in Alachua County, your voter registration needs to be done by Tuesday, Oct. 11. This includes new voters, updating addresses, or switching your registration to here from wherever else you are registered. They are really helpful down there at the Supervisor of Elections, just north of downtown on N. Main St. (Phone 352-374-5252). 🐊



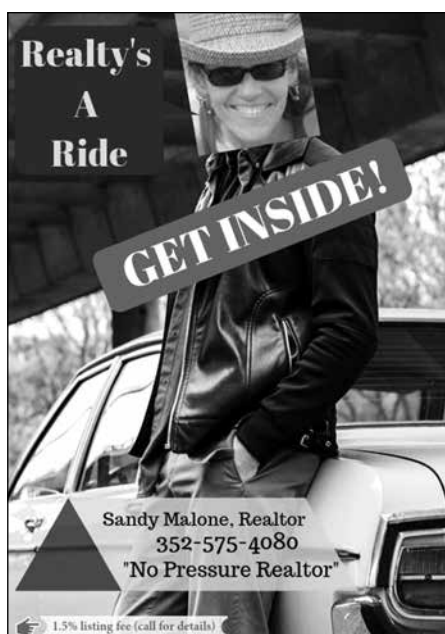
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... KenCornell.com ...

Paid for and approved by Ken Cornell, Democrat for Alachua County Commission District 2

Ken Cornell

FOR ALACHUA COUNTY COMMISSION DISTRICT 4

Sheila Payne awarded Friends of the Susan B. Anthony Award

On August 27, Gainesville labor and fair housing activist Sheila Payne accepted the 2022 Friends of the Susan B. Anthony Award, awarded to a local woman who exemplifies the spirit of Susan B. Anthony. Below is the text of her acceptance speech.

Thank you for honoring me with the Susan B. Anthony Award and I so appreciate all of us honoring the anniversary of Women's Equality Day and the long struggle for the passage of the 19th Amendment. Especially in Florida, we are constantly reminded that our rights, especially women and civil rights must be continually fought for, including the right to our own body.

Of course, there are many women in this room who could be accepting this award and all I know is that the activism we do is not done alone, but in my case much of it in Gainesville is with my comrades in the Alachua County Labor Coalition. If ACLC members could stand up. I am blessed to be partners with Paul Ortiz. We have organized together for worker and human rights for over 25 years. We met organizing together in a farm worker campaign that took 8 years to win. Those farmworkers are still under union contract.

The Labor Coalition has been fighting for the Renters' Rights Housing ordinance for three years and the anti-discrimination component of the ordinance passed by the city and county has made a huge improvement in being able to stop landlords from discriminating against tenants who use housing vouchers, are veterans, or because of their familial status. We used it to advocate for the dozens of people who contacted us because their landlords would not accept the Emergency Rental Assistance program money during COVID. This ordinance comes before the county again Sept. 13.



June Littler presents Sheila Payne (right) with the 2022 Friends of the Susan B. Anthony Award on Women's Equality Day, Aug. 27. She was honored for her community work on behalf of labor and fair housing. Photo courtesy of Paul Ortiz.

We are fighting for kids not to have to live in homes full of mold, exposed electrical units and the roof is caving in. And the rent still goes up \$200 a month every year. We organized to stop an investment company who bought 84 units of rental property from doing a mass eviction of tenants who wanted to stay together as a community.

The Wage Theft ordinance which our own state senator testified against and introduced a bill in the Florida legislature to stop has won over \$100,000 in stolen wages for workers, and it is projected that as much as twice that amount has been won for workers, because once the employer is contacted by the county, they pay up. None of this is easy for the people trying to get help with these programs. I am astonished at what people must do to seek redress when they have been wronged by powerful landlords or businesses in this community.

Why do we all do this work that is never finished? When you are a person that becomes angry about all this injustice you see and hear about from those who can't fight alone, you can either get depressed or you do something. **Action is the only cure for despair.** Being an activist is a form of self-preservation of the heart. It has kept me from becoming a cynic. I invite you to join the Labor Coalition or another organization that is fighting for justice even if you are not enraged or do not feel immobilized by what you see and read. **There is much to do!**

I am so glad we are talking about Title IX, which we know was degraded under the Trump administration, but we also need to keep an eye on Title X, which was created to provide affordable birth control and reproductive health care to people with low incomes. Much of the funding and rules were also corrupted under the Trump administration, with concurrent reduction of clients seen by 52%.

Thank you for this honor and thank you to all of you who fight for justice.

Lastly, rest in power brother James Thompson. 🐾



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Crisis Center training is a seven-week training program (run three times a year) consisting of one Saturday followed by seven weeks of Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6:30-9:30p.m. - AND two four-hour sessions which can be flexibly scheduled to accommodate your schedule. The training requires a strong commitment – both of time and energy.

Gainesville area events

- 9/8, 8pm: **Poetry Jam**, Civic Media Center (433 S. Main St; civicmediacenter.org)
- 9/8-9/18: **Gainesville Latino Film Festival** - see pg 24
- 9/9, 7-9pm: **Free Fridays shows** every Fri - Bo Diddley Downtown Plaza (111 E. University Ave) - see pg 9, gainesvillefl.gov/Events-directory/Free-Fridays-Concert-Series
- 9/9, 9pm: **Music Show**, CMC (433 S. Main St; civicmediacenter.org)
- 9/10, 9:30-10:30am: **Plan C Self-Managed Abortion (SMA) 101 Workshop** - contact nwl@womensliberation.org for info
- 9/10, 7pm: **Gator home football game** - either go or stay well clear
- 9/11, 4pm: **"ArtSpeaks" poetry/spoken word event** at Thomas Center (306 NE 6th Ave)
- 9/12, 7-9pm: **Pride Community Center Drop-In** every Monday (3131 NW 13th St)
- 9/12, 7pm: **Let It Fall: Los Angeles 1982-1992** documentary screening at Civic Media Center (433 S. Main St); donation requested
- 9/12, 11:30am: **Florida Free Speech Forum**, Aloft Hotel (3743 Hull Rd) - Stacy Scott, Public Defender for FL 8th Circuit; register for meal, etc at floridafreespeechforum.org
- 9/14, **"Return to Forever: Gainesville's Great Southern Music Hall"** opens at Matheson Museum (513 E University Ave; mathesonmuseum.org); see pg 7
- 9/15, Time TBA: UF Black Box Theater opens **Rhinoceros**, runs through 25th - see pg 9
- 9/15, 5-7pm: **Free HIV Testing**, 3rd Thursdays, Pride Community Center (3131 NW 13th St)
- 9/16, 6-8:30pm: **Paint Party Fundraiser** for Bailey Learning and Arts Collective at Flaco's Cuban Bakery (200 W. University Ave), \$25 includes food & 1 drink
- 9/16, 7pm: **Improv Show** at Civic Media Center (433 S. Main St)
- 9/17, 1-2:20pm: **Rainbow Resilience Queer & Trans Mental Health Discussion Group**, 3rd Saturdays, Pride Community Center (3131 NW 13th St)
- 9/17, 6pm: **Pride Student Meet Up** - Pride Center (3131 NW 13th St) launches Middle/High School LGBTQ+ Group
- 9/17, 6pm: **Poetry Book Release** with Mike Ostrov, Civic Media Center (433 S. Main St)
- 9/17, 7:30pm: **Gator home football game** - see 9/10
- 9/18, 7:45 AM: **"Run for Your Life 5K"** at Depot Park (874 SE 4th St) - free breakfast, local orgs, raffles
- 9/18, 11am: **Sunday Assembly at Pride Center** (3131 NW 13th St): Dr. Lynn Leverty on "The Importance of Public Education: The Position of the League of Women Voters"
- 9/18, 11am-6pm: **International Festival/Longest Table** at MLK Ctr (1028 NE 14th St) - see pg 18
- 9/18, 2pm: **Final performance of Fahrenheit 451** at Hippodrome Theater (25 SE 2nd Pl; thehipp.org) - see pg 6 and pg 13
- 9/19, 7pm: **Lesbian Avengers** documentary screening at Civic Media Center (433 S. Main St); donation requested
- 9/20, 7pm: **PFLAG Gainesville** meets 3rd Tuesdays, Pride Community Center (3131 NW 13th St)
- 9/21, 1-3pm: **Alachua County Affordable Housing Advisory Committee** requests input for Incentives & Recommendation Report, presents Housing Summit Report - County Admin Bldg (12 SE 1st St), Grace Knight Conference Room.
- 9/21, 7pm: **FlaNative Plant Society** meets, 3rd Thursdays, Unitarian Fellowship (4225 NW 34th St) - see pg 6
- 9/22, 11am-3pm: **Alachua County Agritourism Conference**, UF/IFAS Extension Office (22712 W. Newberry Rd, Newberry), free (RSVP to info@visitgainesville.com)
- 9/24, 11am-3pm: **Young Leaders 4 Wild Florida Fall Fest** - Games, live animals, community groups, garage sale, more, Prairie Creek Lodge (7204 SE County Rd 234)
- 9/25, 11am-1pm: **"Reproductive Justice is Climate Justice" Fair** - Curia on the Drag (2029 NW 6th St) - Planned Parenthood, Nat'l Women's Liberation, & other groups present speakers, tie-dye & terrarium workshops, more
- 9/25, 4pm: **4th Sunday Old Time, Bluegrass and Traditional Acoustic Jam** at Civic Media Center (433 S. Main St)
- 9/30, 7pm: **Artwalk** in various venues downtown - see pg 15, artwalkgainesville.com
- 10/1, noon: **Gator home football game** - see 9/10
- 10/2, 5:30pm: **"Abortion Without Apology" benefit** at The Backyard (232.5 SE 1st St), with local bands, \$10-20 - see pg 6

REMINDER:

COVID-19 still kills at least 300 people in the US every day ([worldometers.info/coronavirus/country/us](https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/country/us)) - maintain precautions; stay safe! 🐼

Want to stay current on local live music, events?

Go to visitgainesville.com and click on "What's Good"! It's a weekly listing that comes out online every Thursday, you can even have it emailed to you. Without a *Gainesville Sun* Saturday paper or Friday Scene magazine, this is the best way to know what's happening in Alachua County.

Support Live Music, Theater, and Festivals! Get out into Nature! Leave the freakin' house and have fun! 🐼

From GOT WOKE?, p. 1

the “Stop Woke Act.” Floridians would feel so much safer if we had armed education officers to root out harmful campus experiences. We can’t rely solely on football and fraternity parties to protect innocent 19-year-olds from thinking.

So give it up, wokester profs: Ron DeSantis will no longer tolerate your anti-American spin on our history, your critical race theorizing, your LGBTQ weirdo agenda, and your communist indoctrination of our kids in Florida’s great state universities.

You’re busted.

Up against the wall!

We already have a model—our crack Elections Police unit—and anybody wondering if we really need sworn officers to enforce intellectual hygiene, well, people said the 2020 elections in Florida were the safest, fairest, and best-managed in the nation.

But we now know that at least 20—TWENTY!—very bad people probably committed voter fraud.

OK, some libs are going, “Yeah, 20 out of more than 11 million voters.” But according to Gov. DeSantis, there’s bound to be a lot more, like, probably up to 30 or 40!

So it is with college. You think there are merely a handful of professors making students read porny novels like “Moby Dick,” teaching them that the Fathers of Our Country also fathered children on their slaves, and that the War of Northern Aggression was not fought over states’ rights?

Wake up, people! There are entire university departments pushing evolution and climate change as fact!

The governor is doing his best to protect our youth from dangerous ideas that might cause them to think dangerous thoughts about America’s glorious past. The wise white men of history would be

the first to tell you some of their best friends had dusky complexions: there was Sacagawea, that lady who gave Lewis and Clark a tour of the West so good the U.S. soon decided to take all that land from the Indians—it’s not like they were developing it or anything.

And Martin Luther King Jr., who told us in his great speeches that it was OK to ignore race in favor of whatever was in your character, especially if it was kind of white.

Aided and abetted by anti-American outfits such as the ACLU, a gaggle of academic malcontents are suing on the grounds that the Stop Woke Act will prevent them from teaching minor topics in history such as the Atlantic slave trade, Native American genocide and those so-called “marchers” in Selma, Ala., who refused to comply with law enforcement.

And some socialist-inflected judge recently struck down the “diversity training” part of the law, but never fear: a real judge, one appointed by our president-in-exile Donald J. Trump, will soon put a stop to this lib overreach.

The University of Florida brass has the right idea. President Kent Fuchs put out a cute video warning his faculty that they’d better not offend the governor or Legislature or their trustees or anybody’s mama and daddy by even mentioning that evil Marxist “critical race theory” or the university could lose \$106 million.

Students don’t need instruction on “race and gender.” They already know what race they are and if they don’t know what gender they are, their parents should send them to a good Christian re-education camp to get that thing straightened out.

Florida’s already taken an important step, letting students film their profs if one of them endorses some divisive concept or says something that hurts young people’s feelings, and turn that deviant in!

But we need a leader who can spearhead the effort to cleanse our colleges of noisome notions. The obvious choice to run the Educational Crimes Unit is Pete Antonacci, new head of the Elections Crimes bureau. He’s so good at repression he can do both!

Kicking butt

Antonacci’s already kicking butt, taking names, and cuffing ex-cons who should have known that just because some county official sent them a voter card or some government office worker helped them register or they thought that since they’d paid their debt to society it was OK for them to participate in democracy like they were actual citizens, these losers were actually committing fraud and should go back to prison where they belong.

He has all the chops. Sure, he worked for some Democrats back in the day, but he’s more than atoned for it by joining the Federalist Society and helping Gov. Rick Scott fire a supposedly “above politics” FDLE chief who failed to get with the Republican program.

More importantly for an education crimes czar, he has a proven track record of taking no crap from know-it-all academics. As executive director of the South Florida Water Management District, he kicked the National Academies of Science out of his Everglades restoration plans, what with their scare stories about rising sea levels and their stupid scientific data and their stupid scientific recommendations. He told them, “Tend to your knitting.”

These “experts” think that just because they’ve studied hydrology or environmental chemistry or whatever for 20 years they know more about it than regular folks.

That’s elitism.



It would be awesome to see crack education cops kick down the door to some feminist theory class where our precious children are being force-fed “intersectionality.” Or charge some English professor with causing distress to affluent young white men by assigning them to read novels by Toni Morrison or William Faulkner which insinuate a link between, say, the Fugitive Slave Act, segregation laws, Plessy v. Ferguson, and what these wokesters like to call “systemic racism.”

It'll be great to see the radicals at FSU, USF, UCF, UF and the rest of the state's leftist learning factories get their comeuppance. Some of them still publicly proclaim their intention to teach books Moms for (White People's) Liberty (from Knowledge) wants banned, garbage like “The Grapes of Wrath” (socialist), “Slaughterhouse Five” (“inflammatory religious commentary”), and “Antiracist Baby” (does not give equal time to racist babies).

Obviously, we have to get rid of the corrupt system of tenure. It allows these so-called “scholars” to have so-called “academic freedom.” Gov. DeSantis has begun the process of taking tenure down, which will help the education cops punish thought crimes in our ivy-covered halls.

Rebellious attitude

They could start with this history professor at UF, Paul Ortiz. He says he's going to keep teaching about slavery and Native American genocide and “women's reproductive free-

dom” (it's a fact that even mentioning such things encourages our girls to become sluts) no matter what the governor wants.

Ortiz claims that otherwise Florida will end up “a society where following Ralph Waldo Emerson's famous dictum to ‘go upright and vital and speak the rude truth in all ways’ is punished by the state.”

You see the problem here: Outright defi-

ance. Insubordination. Disrespect. Such a rebellious attitude needs to be wiped out lest we lose our freedoms.

And who is this “Ralph Waldo Emerson”? Somebody needs to check if he's legally registered to vote in Florida.

This article was originally published by the Florida Phoenix on August 29. See more at floridaphoenix.com. 🐢

Books Unbanned:

Brooklyn Public Library

An Oklahoma high school teacher was placed on leave after sharing this QR code from the Brooklyn, New York Public Library. The library publicized that they wanted students anywhere to be able to access banned books from their collection.

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What's up with the phosphate mining plans?

by Carol Mosley

The company proposing to mine for phosphate in Bradford and Union counties, HPSII, dropped its nearly \$300 million Harris Act lawsuit against Union County. The case was dismissed without prejudice, so they could refile if they feel they have a valid case worth fighting.

But what about Bradford County? As of yet, we are unable to get information about HPS's intentions for Bradford County. The county commission is afraid to act for fear of legal ramifications no matter what they decide. So they do nothing.

In November 2019, HPS submitted a new Master Mining Plan (MMP) with a statement in their cover letter that they are ready to proceed to the Hearing.

In January 2020, the hydrogeologist (Schreuder) hired by Bradford's consultants (OEC/SWCA) submitted his review of ALL documents to OEC/SWCA. His review contained numerous concerns and expressed some dire possible negative effects. I obtained the report by a Records Request, or else we would not get it until the consultants submit their final report, which they have not.

Now it is September 2022, and nothing has happened since Schreuder's less than favorable review of the MMP. Why has the consultant not produced the final re-

port for Bradford County based on the final reviews from subcontractors? Who told OEC/SWCA to hold off on the report? Was it our county attorney or our county commission? Was it HPS? Who is actually making the decisions here?

Why is this process failing to abide by the laws regarding Development Orders, F.S.125.022? There are time frames with limits that are supposed to be followed, and a six year process with two years of silence is not the intention of the law.

It is time for the county commission to request that HPS withdraw their 2016 application. If HPS is not prepared to do that, then hold a Hearing on the November 2019 MMP. We are nearing three years of inaction on that final submission. Either HPS has proof of concept and is ready to go the Hearing, or they should withdraw their application and free the county commission of quasi-judicial mode.

It is time for Alachua County, who vowed to protect the Santa Fe River from potential harm, to ask the hard questions of Bradford County. Maybe they can get us all some real answers. And, they should join with local groups from all three counties who want Bradford County to ask HPS to withdraw their application from Bradford County. If HPS will not, then they should proceed to the Hearing and be ready for a fight. 🐉

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And the good news is ...

Congress's first Gen Z member could be an anti-gun violence activist from Florida

Progressive Maxwell Frost, 25, won Florida Democratic primary, likely to win November general election

Maxwell Frost, a 25-year-old progressive activist, won the Democratic primary for Florida's 10th Congressional District on Aug. 23, virtually ensuring he will become the first Gen Z member of Congress.

Frost, who previously worked as a top organizer with the American Civil Liberties Union and March for Our Lives, focused his campaign on ending gun violence, battling climate change and supporting "Medicare for All."

Frost defeated two controversial former

House members, Alan Grayson and Corrine Brown, and state Sen. Randolph Bracy in the primary for the Orlando-centric district, which is heavily Democratic. The seat was previously held by Rep. Val Demings, who is now challenging Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.).

Frost was able to enlist the support of progressives, including Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), and the political arms of both the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and Congressional Progressive Caucus. He also

had the backing of Protect Our Future, a super PAC funded by cryptocurrency billionaire Sam Bankman-Fried that focuses on pandemic prevention.

Frost is likely to be the youngest member of Congress in 2023. Frost told NBC News Tuesday night that he plans to continue his work on gun violence in Congress.

This is a condensed version of an article by Kevin Robillard published in the Huffington Post on Aug. 24. See the full article at tinyurl.com/Iguana1421

Crist picks Miami teachers union head as his running mate for governor

Decision greeted with high praise from Democrats, Karla Hernández-Mats is a "natural galvanizer"

Democrat Charlie Crist picks Karla Hernández-Mats, the head of Miami-Dade County's largest teachers union, as his running mate as he seeks to unseat Gov. Ron DeSantis.

Crist trounced Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried 59-34 in the Florida primary and is now preparing for an

uphill battle against DeSantis, who is a heavy favorite.

The Hernández-Mats pick, first reported by CBS Miami, was greeted with high praise from Democrats. The Crist campaign declined to comment for this story.

"Love it!" said state Sen. Shev Jones (D-

Miami) in a text. "I think it's a thoughtful and bright move. Karla has ALWAYS had her ear to the ground for people, and she's a natural galvanizer. Great pick!"

This is a condensed version of an article by Matt Dixon published in Politico on Aug 26. See the full article at tinyurl.com/Iguana1422

Florida judge blocks parts of DeSantis-backed 'Stop WOKE Act'

'Florida has seemed like a First Amendment upside down,' a parallel distorted dimension of our world

A federal judge has suspended partial enforcement of Florida's "Stop WOKE Act," a bill that Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis endorsed that restricts how companies and schools discuss race.

DeSantis signed the bill into law in April. It would limit race-based teachings in schools, and the way that private companies carry out mandatory diversity, equity, and inclusion trainings. Companies that

have 15 employees or more could face civil lawsuits if someone accuses them of violating the law.

In his opinion, Chief US District Judge Mark Walker blocked the employer portion of the law, saying it violated free speech. He compared the law to Netflix's blockbuster science-fiction hit, "Stranger Things."

"In the popular television series Stranger

Things, the 'upside down' describes a parallel dimension containing a distorted version of our world," Walker, a nominee of then-President Barack Obama, wrote in his opinion. "Recently, Florida has seemed like a First Amendment upside down."

This is a condensed version of an article by Kimberly Leonard published in BusinessInsider on Aug 18. See the full article at tinyurl.com/Iguana1423

'I will never apologize' says Joe Biden, announcing plan to forgive student loan debt

President rips critics of student loan forgiveness who gave tax cuts to the rich, slowing the economy

President Joe Biden announced his plan to forgive \$10,000 in student loan debt for people making under \$125,000, \$20,000 for Pell Grant recipients, and extend the current pause on repayments through the end of the year.

Anticipating the GOP's impending attacks, he explained that his plan to cancel debt is designed to help Americans across many parts of their lives.

"A lot of folks are putting off starting families because of the cost" of student loans," the President said.

He also announced he is fixing the public service loan forgiveness program to allow Americans who become first responders, teachers, and other public servants to have their loans forgiven.

When these loans are forgiven, "everyone benefits," he said.

He fended off GOP attacks by confronting them with the Trump tax cuts, which he noted primarily benefitted just the wealthy and were not paid for.

"I will never apologize for helping work-

ing Americans and the middle class — especially not to the same folks who voted for a \$2 trillion tax cut that mainly benefited the wealthiest Americans and the biggest corporations, that slowed the economy and didn't do a hell of a lot for economic growth, and wasn't paid for and racked up this enormous deficit," Biden said.

This is a condensed version of an article by David Badash and the New Civil Rights Movement published in AlterNet on Aug. 24. See the full article at tinyurl.com/Iguana1425

Three North Florida environmental journalists blaze trail for Florida nonprofit journalism

In 2017, three Florida women alarmed by the lack of in-depth environmental reporting in Florida and the sobering collapse of regional newspapers and local journalism across the nation came together to launch an independent reporting nonprofit, The Marjorie (themarjorie.org).

Dr. Hannah O. Brown, Becca Burton and Anna Hamilton named the new platform after three “sheroes”: Marjorie Harris Carr, who led the fight to stop the Cross Florida Barge Canal; Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, the Cross Creek author who wrote about people in rural Florida; and

Marjory Stoneman Douglas, the former Miami Herald journalist who became an environmental activist at age 79 and helped save the Everglades.

Five years later, The Marjorie has become a nonprofit model that offers a glimpse of what the future of journalism could look like as philanthropy begins to fill the deep gaps left by corporate newspapers’ divestment from local news. Funded by a combination of NGO grants and reader support, the team has published revelatory Florida stories and won a string of prestigious journalism awards. They have been rec-

ognized by the Society of Environmental Journalists, the Society of Professional Journalists and others for projects such as:

- *Dispatches from a Sinking State*, an unprecedented collection of first-person essays highlighting climate stories from across Florida. *

- *The Fruits of Their Labor*, a four-part series published in collaboration with Southernly about the University of Florida’s historic reliance on incarcerated labor.

- *A Sugarcane Boiling Point*, a three-part series about south Florida’s sugar industry and the widespread practice of cane burning, and its impact on surrounding communities.

The team reached key milestones this year including hiring their first employee — and landing grants from the Knight Foundation to establish sustainable publishing strategies and the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting to report on climate harm to irreplaceable Florida cultural sites. Writer Stephenie Livingston recently published an in-depth report on the race to save Turtle Mound at Cape Canaveral National Seashore, the tallest Indigenous shell mound in the mainland United States and a symbol of Native heritage at risk of erosion across Florida and other coastlines.

Women owned, independent and Florida-centric, The Marjorie is “dedicated to covering Florida’s deeper story through an environmental and social justice lens,” with a mission to cover environmental issues in a way that considers human values and important historical and cultural contexts. The team also works to turn around the harmful “Florida Man” and “Weird Florida” memes that often shame mental illness and poverty.

As many local newspapers continue their heartbreaking decline, The Marjorie and its three founders are proving as inspirational as their namesakes. Check out themarjorie.org to read in-depth Florida stories; learn more about Brown, Burton and Hamilton; subscribe to the newsletter; and support a foundation for in-depth environmental reporting in Florida.

*In “*Dispatches*,” look for an article on Gainesville activist NKwanda Jah published on April 30, 2021. ✨

In honor of UN International Day of Peace and the 10th anniversary of Welcoming Week, we invite you to:



Greater Gainesville International Festival & Longest Table

Celebrating our diverse community and international connections

Sunday, September 18, 2022 | 11:00am - 6:00pm
AT MLK CENTER - 1028 NE 14TH STREET, GAINESVILLE, FL

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- Information from Local Organizations
- Performances, Presentations, and Food Trucks
- Keynote Address by Gainesville Mayor Lauren Poe
- Community I.D. Drive (12-3pm)
- “Longest Table” Free Community Dinner (4-6pm)

Get tickets for the Longest Table here



For more information: WelcomingWeek2022.rwhp.org

Editors' picks: News that didn't fit

Bernie Sanders: Student loan forgiveness is a win for working people

by ABC News | "This Week" Transcript | Aug. 28 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1435

George Stephanopoulos interviews Sen. Bernie Sanders on his show "This Week with George Stephanopoulos, about the controversies of Biden's student loan forgiveness program.

How to make Congress accountable to the people

by Ralph Nader | *Common Dreams* | Aug. 27 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1433

Two simple bills would go a long way toward making members of Congress identify with their voters, to be more "we the people" instead of "we the Congress." *Bill No. 1*: Congress members will have no employment benefits that are not accorded to all American workers, including pensions, health insurance and deductible expenses; members will be paid no more than ten times the federal minimum wage. *Bill No. 2*: Anytime the U.S. is engaged in armed warfare, declared or undeclared by Congress, all age-qualified able-bodied children and grandchildren of senators and representatives shall be immediately conscripted into the armed forces for military or civilian rendition of services.

Inside the war between Trump and his generals

by Susan B. Glasser and Peter Baker | *The New Yorker* | August 8 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1426

How Mark Milley and others in the Pentagon handled the national-security threat posed by their own Commander-in-Chief.

People in Republican counties have higher death rates than those in Democratic counties

by Lydia Denworth | *Scientific American* | July 18 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1443

A growing mortality gap between Republican and Democratic areas may largely stem from policy choices.

The origin of student debt: Reagan adviser warned free college would create a dangerous 'educated proletariat'

by Jon Schwarz | *The Intercept* | Aug. 25 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1434

In 1970, Roger Freeman, who also worked for Nixon, revealed the right's motivation for coming decades of attacks on higher education.

The far-right crusade against human sexuality

by Kenn Orphan | *CounterPunch* | Aug. 25 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1428

Whether it is banning the word "gay," or banning books that contain topics related to human sexuality, or the Supreme Court decision to overturn a woman's federal right to an abortion, the war on human sexuality and those who are sexually divergent is ramping up on multiple fronts.

The most important election in the Americas is in Brazil

by Vijay Prashad | *Globetrotter* | Aug. 31 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1445

Prashad looks at the current Brazilian presidential campaign between the "boorish and vulgar" far-right incumbent and the "refined and presidential" former president "Lula." The campaign illustrates the stark differences of these two camps: one offering real solutions to the problems facing Brazil and the other willing to do and say anything to maintain power.

'There are good reasons to defund the FBI. They have nothing to do with Trump'

by Amy Goodman | *Democracy Now* | Aug. 16 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1430

Professor Alex Vitale: The FBI has "always been a tool of repression of left-wing movements"; Vitale calls for efforts to "reduce the power and scope of the FBI in ways that limit their ability to demonize and criminalize those on the left." 🐸



SCAN ME

*Want your article, ad,
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**Deadline is
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In memoriam:

Connie Canney: A life well lived

June 11, 1929 – August 20, 2022

We members of the Peace, Social Justice and International Rights Activists of Alachua County celebrate the life of our Comrade Connie Canney who joined the pantheon of Peace and Social Justice Warriors on August 20, 2022.

Constance (“Connie”) Canney passed away peacefully at home in Lyman, Maine surrounded by her loving family. Connie recently celebrated her 93rd birthday with family and friends.

Constance June March was born on June 11, 1929, in Rochester, New Hampshire, to working-class parents Clifton March and Ida Junkins. The second of four children, Connie lived in East Rochester, NH, until she graduated Spaulding High School in 1947. Encouraged by her art teacher at Spaulding, Connie applied for a working scholarship to Kansas City Art Institute & School of Design in Kansas City, MO. She was accepted and she moved to Kansas City in 1947 to attend KCAI, graduating in 1951.

Connie returned to New Hampshire, and in 1952 she married the love of her life, Robert Benjamin Canney of West Lebanon, Maine. Two sons, Michael and Brett, and a daughter Taryn were born between 1952 and 1955. Connie and Bob lived in New Hampshire and Connecticut from 1952 to 1959, raising three young children and working at various jobs. They moved to Florida, where Bob enrolled at the University of Florida at Gainesville, and the family lived in student housing while Bob pursued his master’s degree. Connie worked in the office of UF Student Publications from 1960 to 1964, which at the time produced the Florida Alligator newspaper. They became involved in the civil rights movement, and in 1963 Bob was among UF students who were arrested for a “sit in” protest at a segregated lunch counter in Ocala.

In 1964, Connie and Bob moved to Cocoa, Florida, where Bob taught English literature at Brevard Junior College and Connie taught classes in watercolor, oil painting and drawing for the Central Brevard Art Association in Cocoa and the Titusville Art League in Titusville.

After Bob helped organize the first teachers’ union and supported a statewide teachers strike in 1968, he was terminated by BJC for union and anti-war activities.

Connie and others went to jail for protesting the death of academic freedom at BJC. Connie and Bob then moved their family back to Gainesville where Bob worked on his doctorate in education and taught classes at UF. Connie and Bob continued to support civil rights and antiracist movements, and they were outspoken critics of the U.S. war against Vietnam.

In 1970, Bob helped organize the first statewide antiwar protest, in St. Petersburg. In a pre-planned operation, police attacked the peaceful protest, and using a profanity charge as a pretext (Bob said in his speech, “Let’s bring the goddam war home and deal with the problems that confront us here.”). That charge was later dropped, but he was convicted of felony resisting arrest, sentenced to 2 years in prison and fired from his teaching job at UF. The case was appealed, but the Canneys were exiled to Maine, where their family worked to rebuild their lives.

In 1975, when they returned to Florida for a hearing before the same judge and prosecutor, Bob was taken into custody and sent to prison. Connie organized a “Free Bob Canney” campaign with her sons and supporters, while her daughter kept the shop, Someplace Else, open to pay the bills. The state released Bob after a few months and they were able to return home to Maine.

Connie and Bob continued to operate their shop and Connie sketched and painted with local artist groups. They remained active in social justice causes and traveled to Nicaragua and Cuba in the 1980s, before Bob passed suddenly in 1988. After Bob’s death, Connie made sojourns to Mexico, Guatemala, Cuba, Honduras and Venezuela, always expressing her solidarity with people in resistance to empire.

While living in Florida for a number of years, where she shared a Movement House with her son Michael and her longtime friend and social justice activist, Carol Thomas, Connie continued her social justice activism in Alachua County, throughout Florida and internationally. She returned to Maine to live with her daughter Taryn in 2014, where she continued her activism. Connie was volunteering at the Layman Way Recovery Center before the COVID pandemic. As



an incredibly talented artist, Connie enjoyed sharing her talent, exchanging ideas and having conversations about art, life, and recovery. Connie thrived on these interactions, and she donated a portion of her art library to the Center, believing in the power of art to inspire and heal.

Connie was fiercely dedicated to peace, human rights and social justice causes, and she always had an optimistic outlook no matter the situation or the challenge. She loved life, she loved people, and she treasured her lifelong friendships. Connie was always authentic, and her life and her spirit will continue to be an example of courage, compassion, commitment and integrity. She was one-of-a-kind, and will be sorely missed by all who knew her.

Condolences and memories may be shared in the following locations:

- Tribute Wall: <https://directcremation-ofmaine.com/tribute/details/17635/Constance-Canney/condolences.html#content-start>

- Connie Canney Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/connie.canney>

- Connie Canney Memorial contact email: ConnieCanneyMemorial@proton.me (Send copies of photos, memories, tributes — for future publication)

A memorial celebration and exhibit of Connie’s art will be held in September, location and date TBA. For info, call 207-206-9237. In lieu of flowers, her family suggests donations to Caring Unlimited (York County’s Domestic Violence Resource Center), Veterans for Peace Maine Chapter, or your local food pantry.

Connie Canney, PRESENTE! 🐾

Spotlight on ...



The Climate Reality Project®

Gainesville Area Chapter of **The Climate Reality Project** works to address the climate crisis for future generations. The chapter mobilizes people to become powerful activists and push for aggressive climate action. The hope is to not only transform society but to change the world. climateralityprojectgnv@gmail.com | [@climateralityprojectgnv](https://www.facebook.com/climateralityprojectgnv) | climateralityprojectgnv.wordpress.com.

Make an impact!

- Join a training
- Join a chapter
- Get updates

Iguana Directory

Call 352-378-5655 or email 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.

Alachua Conservation Trust, Inc. has been protecting North Central Florida's natural, scenic, historic and recreational resources for over 25 years. 352-373-1078 | 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., for location contact 352-871-1995 | alachuagreens@gmail.com | 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. 352-375-2832 | info@laborcoalition.org | 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. 352-485-2772 | 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 firstcoastaclu@gmail.com | northeastflorida.aclufl.org

Alachua NAACP – With 2+ million activists across the country, we work to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all people and to eliminate racial hatred and discrimination. Everyone invited to join. [Facebook.com/alachuaNAACP](https://www.facebook.com/alachuaNAACP) | NAACPacb.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. 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. 352-514-5606 | 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. bgsoatuf@gmail.com | [facebook: UF BGSO](https://www.facebook.com/UFBGSO)

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. centralfldsa@gmail.com | [facebook.com/NCFloridaDSA](https://www.facebook.com/NCFloridaDSA)

Citizens Climate Lobby builds awareness and lobbies for sensible climate policies. 352-214-1778 | btancig@gmail.com | [citizensclimatelobby.org/chapters/FL_Gainesville](https://www.citizensclimatelobby.org/chapters/FL_Gainesville) | [facebook.com/CitizensClimateLobbyGainesvilleFL](https://www.facebook.com/CitizensClimateLobbyGainesvilleFL)

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 | 352-373-0010 | coordinators@civicmediacenter.org | 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 | chispasuf.com | [facebook.com/chispasuf](https://www.facebook.com/chispasuf)

Code Pink: Women for Peace is a women-led grassroots peace and social justice movement utilizing creative protest, non-violent direct action and community involvement. [Facebook.com/CodePINKgainesville](https://www.facebook.com/CodePINKgainesville) | CodePink4Peace.org

The Community Weatherization Coalition's mission is to help their neighbors save energy and water and reduce utility bills by engaging volunteers, building community, and learning together. info@communityweatherization.org | 352-450-4965 | 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. 352-376-4770 | info@conserveflorida.org | conserveflorida.org

Democratic Party of Alachua County meets monthly on the second Wednesday at 6pm: on Zoom. 352-373-1730 | alachuadems.org

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

Goddsville Dream Defenders is a socialist, feminist, abolitionist organization in Gainesville, organizing to dismantle institutions and be a safe space for people of color. goddsville@gmail.com | [facebook.com/UFDreamDefenders](https://www.facebook.com/UFDreamDefenders)

Edible Plant Project is a volunteer-run, non-profit Gainesville collective aiming to create positive alternatives to the unsustainable food system in this county. [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, 32614 | gnewburn@famm.org | 352-682-2542 | 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. 352-374-4478 | FinalFriends.org@gmail.com | FinalFriends.org

The Fine Print is a quarterly magazine based in Gainesville providing political, social and arts coverage through advocacy journalism. TheFinePrintUF.org

Continued on next page

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Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice provides space for meetings, workshops, and educational activities that promote peace, human rights, social justice awareness, conflict resolution, self-empowerment and environmental awareness. 352-603-3680 | florida4peace.org.

Florida School of Traditional Midwifery is a clearinghouse for information, activities, educational programs regarding midwifery. 352-338-0766 | info@MidWiferySchool.org | midwiferyschool.org

Florida Defenders of the Environment works to protect freshwater resources, conserve public lands, provide quality environmental education. 352-475-1119 | FloridaDefenders@gmail.com | FlaDefenders.org

Florida Prisoner Solidarity is a carceral abolitionist collective with members inside and outside of prisons. Efforts focus on incarcerated individuals' needs and their care networks. P.O. Box 358439, Gainesville, FL 32635 | 850-895-1505 | FLPrisonerSolidarity@gmail.com | [facebook.com/FLAbolition](https://www.facebook.com/FLAbolition) | FLPrisonerSolidarity.org

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. 352-377-8915 | info@GAAPonline.org | [Facebook.com/GAAPonline](https://www.facebook.com/GAAPonline) | gainesvillepride.org

Gainesville Area Chapter of Climate Reality Project works to address the climate crisis for future generations. The chapter mobilizes people to become powerful activists and push for aggressive climate action. The hope is to not only transform society but to change the world. climaterealityprojectgnv@gmail.com | [@climaterealityprojectgnv](https://www.facebook.com/climaterealityprojectgnv) | climaterealityprojectgnv.wordpress.com

Gainesville Citizens for Alternatives to Death Penalty works to abolish the death penalty. Join vigils when Florida has an execution. 352-378-1690 | 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](mailto:gnv4all@gmail.com) | [facebook.com/GNV4ALL](https://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 | gainesvilleiaij.blogspot.com

Gainesville National Organization for Women focuses on reproductive rights, ending sex discrimination, constitutional equality, promoting diversity, ending racism, economic justice, stopping violence against women, lesbian rights including marriage equality. Contact Lisa@352-450-1912 for meeting info | info@gainesvilleNOW.org | [facebook.com/gainesvilleNOW](https://www.facebook.com/gainesvilleNOW)

Gainesville Quakers have a 350-year tradition of working peacefully for social justice. Silent, unprogrammed worship Sundays at 11, followed by potluck. Visitors welcome. 702 NW 38th St., Gainesville | 352-372-1070 | GainesvilleQuakers.org | [facebook.com/GainesvilleQuakers](https://www.facebook.com/GainesvilleQuakers)

Gainesville Stamp Club, established in the 1960's, is open to anyone interested in philately. Auction held every meeting. Advanced level program occasionally included. Under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. First and third Tuesdays starting at 7:30pm; no meetings in December nor holidays. Contact us for meeting locations and info. 352-371-1991 | Stamps4Laffs@yahoo.com

Gainesville Roller Rebels, a women's Flat Track roller derby team, needs skaters and volunteer assistance. join@gainesvillerollerrebels.com | gainesvillerollerrebels.com

Graduate Assistants United union represents UF grad assistants by fighting for improved working conditions, community involvement and academic freedom. 352-575-0366 | organizing@ufgau.org | 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 music, visual arts, humanities for enrichment of the Gainesville community. 352-219-0145 | Bryson66@gmail.com | growradio.org

Humanist Families of Gainesville aims to raise ethical, secular children in a religious, moral environment. Meetings include children and are based on members' interests. [facebook: Humanist Families of Gainesville](https://www.facebook.com/HumanistFamiliesofGainesville)

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

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

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

Institute for Tropical Ecology and Conservation is an academic nonprofit that provides undergraduate field courses in tropical marine and terrestrial ecology, hosts biology-based study abroad programs, provides a venue for researchers, conducts conservation and community service programs. 352-367-9128 | itec1@itec-edu.org | itec-edu.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@lww-alachua.org | LWValachua.org

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 | [facebook.com/MSFGainesville](https://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. 352-328-2511 | [facebook: MindFreedom Florida](https://www.facebook.com/MindFreedomFlorida)

Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America is a grassroots organization working to end gun violence by electing gun sense candidates, advocating for policies that save lives, educating parents on responsible gun storage. Alachua County events listed at 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. [Facebook.com/MoveToAmendGainesvilleFL](https://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. 352-320-0457 (information) | 352-335-7770 (helpline) | namigainesville.org

National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare works to preserve these threatened programs for senior citizens and families. Local volunteers needed. Our circle.of.care@gmail.com | 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. gainesvilleng@gmail.com | 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. 352-575-0495 | nwl@womensliberation.org | 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 | leanin.org/circles/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. [Facebook.com/occupygainesville](https://www.facebook.com/occupygainesville)

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 | [oursantaferiver.org](https://www.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. 352-340-3770 | info@pflaggainesville.org | [pflaggainesville.org](https://www.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. | 352-377-0881 | [plannedparenthood.org](https://www.plannedparenthood.org) (enter Gainesville FL in "find a health center" box)

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

Pride Community Center of North Central Florida has resources for the LGBT+ community, open Sat. 2-4pm: and by appt. 3131 NW 13th St., Suite 62, Gnv | 352-377-8915 | pcncf@gainesvillepride.org | [GainesvillePride.org](https://www.GainesvillePride.org)

Repurpose Project, a nonprofit junk shop/community center, diverting useful resources from landfill and redirecting items to the public for art and education, inspiring creativity, and rethinking what we throw away. Help protect the planet and buy used. Check website for hours. 1920 NE 23rd Ave, Gnv | 352-363-8902 | info@RepurposeProject.org | [repurposeproject.org](https://www.repurposeproject.org)

River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding provides solution-based innovative ways to resolve conflicts, and offers related services such as mediation, communication skill building and restorative justice. 352-234-6595 | info@centerforpeacebuilding.org | [centerforpeacebuilding.org](https://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 @ 352-372-1095 | info@rwhp.org | www.rwhp.org

Samuel Proctor Oral History Program focuses on story-telling, social justice research, social movement studies, oral history workshops. [oral.history.ufl.edu](https://www.oral.history.ufl.edu)

Sister City Program of Gainesville links Gainesville with sister cities in Russia, Israel and Palestine, Iraq, Haiti. 352-376-8600 | Steve@gnvsistercities.org | <http://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 | [StandByOurPlan.org](https://www.StandByOurPlan.org)

Student Animal Alliance is a UF-based group whose purpose is to educate and bring fellow animal lovers together to better the lives of the animal around us. StudentAnimalAllianceUFL@gmail.com | [facebook.com/SAAatUF](https://www.facebook.com/SAAatUF) | [instagram@studentanimalallianceUF](https://www.instagram.com/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 or brett@sfalliance.org | [facebook.com/sfalliance](https://www.facebook.com/sfalliance)

Sunday Assembly Gainesville is a secular congregation celebrating life. There is talk, music, sing-along, discussion and fellowship. Meetings and events are on Zoom. SundayAssembly32601@gmail.com | [SAGainesville.weebly.com](https://www.SAGainesville.weebly.com)

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. ssjsierra@gmail.com | [sierraclub.org/florida/suwannee-stjohns](https://www.sierraclub.org/florida/suwannee-stjohns) | 561-707-4565

The Climate Reality Project Gainesville Area Chapter is the local chapter of an international nonprofit group dedicated to accelerating urgent action globally on the climate crisis. Join the chapter (see website) for news, action alerts, meeting alerts. ClimateRealityProjectgnv@gmail.com | [facebook.com/GlobalClimateEducation](https://www.facebook.com/GlobalClimateEducation) | [ClimateRealityProjectGNV.wordpress.com](https://www.ClimateRealityProjectGNV.wordpress.com) | [ClimateRealityProject.org](https://www.ClimateRealityProject.org)

UF Black Student Union strives to create, cultivate, and challenge all minority Gators to be better citizens of the Gator Nation. [Facebook.com/groups/BlackStudentUnionUF](https://www.facebook.com/groups/BlackStudentUnionUF)

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

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 | [facebook.com/ufpsu](https://www.facebook.com/ufpsu) | plaza.ufl.edu/jsoto19/PSU

UF Young Democratic Socialists of America is a student-run socialist organization dedicated to organizing students to fight for the needs of workers and students while building the capacity to fight radical and structural changes. Weekly meetings. ufydsa21@gmail.com | [facebook.com/ufydsa](https://www.facebook.com/ufydsa)

United Faculty of Florida, UF chapter is run by and for faculty, and represents over 1600 faculty and professionals at UF. Its origins lie in efforts by faculty to protect academic freedom, defend civil liberties, end racial discrimination at UF. 352-519-4130 | officemanager@uff-uf.org | www.UFF-UF.org

United Nations Association - Gainesville Chapter works to heighten citizen awareness/knowledge of global problems and the UN's efforts to deal with them. [facebook.com/UNAUSAGainesvilleFICChapter](https://www.facebook.com/UNAUSAGainesvilleFICChapter) | [UNA-USAGainesvillefl.org](https://www.UNA-USAGainesvillefl.org)

United Way Information and Referral is a human-staffed computer database for resources and organizations in Alachua County. 352-332-4636 or simply 211 | UW211help@gmail.com | [unitedwayncfl.org](https://www.unitedwayncfl.org)

University of Florida HealthStreet is a community engagement program that employs community outreach practices to reduce disparities in healthcare and research. Free services include medical and social service referrals, health screenings, Narcan Nasal Spray Kits, clothing and toiletry items, health education, events, support groups, and more. 352-294-4880 or [healthstreet.program.ufl.edu/](https://www.healthstreet.program.ufl.edu/)

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. 352-375-2563 | [Facebook.com/VFPchapter14](https://www.facebook.com/VFPchapter14) | [vfpgainesville.org](https://www.vfpgainesville.org)

WGOT-LP 100.1 FM is a community low-power radio station operating as part of the Civic Media Center. info@wgot.org | www.wgot.org

Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) at UF aims to foster the success of women, non-binary folks, other underrepresented genders in science and engineering. People of all genders are welcome. uf.wise@gmail.com | [Facebook.com/UFWiSE](https://www.facebook.com/UFWiSE) | [wise.group.ufl.edu/about-wise](https://www.wise.group.ufl.edu/about-wise)

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 | [wilpfus.org](https://www.wilpfus.org)

Women's March Florida - Gainesville/Ocala Chapter is a grassroots progressive mobilization network inspired and created by the women who brought about the Women's March on Washington. [facebook.com/wmflgnv](https://www.facebook.com/wmflgnv)

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 that's been created by capitalism, into a democratically arranged world society of equality. [wspus.org](https://www.wspus.org). ☮

by Joe Courter

The Civic Media Center is becoming a place of many activities again; community support carried us through COVID-19 and we seem to be coming out the other side, still encouraging masking, but it is great having people inside again. Thank you to everyone who has supported the CMC.

Various organizations are using us for meetings on Sundays, Tuesdays and

Wednesdays. On Mondays Sept. 12 and 19, we will be hosting documentary film screenings at 7pm: (*Let It Fall: Los Angeles 1982–1992* on the 12th and *Lesbian Avengers* on the 19th).

Poetry Jam holds down its usual (perpetual?) time slot of 8pm: Thursday nights.

Fridays and Saturdays host a variety of events: there's a music show at 9pm: on Saturday, Sept. 9; an Improv Show at 7pm: on Friday, Sept. 16; and on Saturday, Sept. 17, at 6 pm;

a Poetry Book Release with Mike Ostrov. Every 4th Sunday from 4 to 7pm: the CMC Courtyard (or inside if it rains) hosts the 4th Sunday Old Time, Bluegrass and Traditional Acoustic Jam. There were 20 musicians there last time, and at one point five fiddles all sawing away at once!

SAVE THE DATE!

On Saturday, Oct. 15, the CMC will celebrate its 29th Anniversary (!!!) at the wonderful Matheson Museum. It will be an evening event, details and speaker to be announced, and for sure it will be in the next issue of the *Iguana*.

You can find postings of our events and new events scheduled on the CMC Facebook page or on our modest little website, www.civicmediacenter.org. 🐢



Gainesville Latino Film Fest Sept. 8-18

The Gainesville Latino Film Festival, which is hosted by the Latina Women's League, returns to in-person attendance from Sept. 8 through Sept. 18 at various Gainesville venues.

Film screenings, speakers, and music and dance performances will be held over a two-week period at The Hippodrome Theatre, The Historic Thomas Center, University of Florida Smathers Library East, Tower Road Branch Library, and Bo Diddley Plaza.

All festival events are FREE and open to the public. Films will have English subtitles. For a full schedule of events, go to www.gainesvillelatinofilmfestival.com.

The theme of this year's Gainesville Latino Film Festival — "Reinventing Community" — refers to the past two years of pandemic-related social restrictions that prompted communities to discover new ways to connect with family, friends and coworkers.

This year's festival presents six films from several Latin American countries, including Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela.

The Festival is also hosting:

- a dance performance by Miami's IFÉ-ILÉ Dance Company, an Afro-Cuban dance troupe, at The Hippodrome Theatre on Sept. 10;
- a Latin music concert Noche de Baile! by Gainesville's own Gilberto de Paz & TROPIX at Bo Diddley Plaza on Sept. 17;
- a Spanish Immersion Story Time for children at the Tower Road Branch Library on Sept. 10.

The Latina Women's League was established in 2005 as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to contributing to Latino/Hispanic culture and art in Gainesville. 🐢

Letters from an American



One of the smartest daily reads out there.
Great analysis and observations from a historian.
No BS, no hype. Read it.

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Comments, suggestions, contributions (written or financial) are welcome.

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