



progressive news · events · directory

The Gainesville Iguana

May/June 2023
vol. 37, issue 5/6

Well, that sucks

Florida legislature wages war against working class ... Alachua County's Keith Perry, Chuck Clemons, lead the charge

Compiled by Alachua County Labor Coalition

SB 256: Anti-Union

THE union-busting bill!

Clemons and Perry voted yes on a bill that forces 60 percent of eligible members to pay dues or the public-sector unions face decertification. It also makes it illegal for public sector unions to deduct dues from employee paychecks — making it more difficult for union members to pay their dues. Hundreds of people spoke out against this bill during the hearing and only two spoke for it — and they were out-of-state lobbyists. (Fire and police unions were exempted from this bill.)

How many workers will lose union representation because of this bill? Members are free to join and leave unions as they please ... this bill was not necessary except to make it more difficult for unions to exist.

CS/HB 1417: Anti-Renters' Rights

ACLCL and many other organizations worked hard to pass local renters' rights ordinances — Clemons and Perry voted to undo it all!

See LEGISLATURE, p. 22



WOKE

Say no to GRU takeover

by Hutch Hutchinson

The epic battle raging between Cruella DeSantis and Mickey Mouse's corporate parent has gained the attention of pundits and legal scholars all over the globe.

In our community, however, the story is how Gainesville is under assault by Goofy's clumsy desire to run off with our locally-owned utility company. "Goofy," in this case, is Rep. Chuck Clemons and Sen. Keith Perry, who for a decade have been doing the bidding of the Legislature's corporate overlords in attempting to wrest

Gainesville Regional Utilities from the City Commission.

House Bill 1645 has passed out of the Legislature and awaits the Governor's signature. If it becomes law, the Governor will appoint five volunteers to make all of the decisions about how our electricity, water, wastewater, natural gas, and other services will be managed. This unelected Utility Authority only has oversight or can be removed by the Governor, will not be bound by financial disclosure and ethics regulations as elected officials

See GRU, p. 23

REGULAR FEATURES

<i>From the publisher</i>	3
<i>And the good news is</i>	7
<i>Editors' picks</i>	9
<i>In memoriam</i>	25
<i>Events Calendar</i>	26-27
<i>Directory</i>	28-31



Third House Books
Gainesville's Independent
Bookstore

400 NW 10th Avenue

HOURS: Tues-Sat, noon-7pm

closed Sun & Mon

thirdhousebooks.indielite.org

**Best music
station in town**



**It's all about the music,
& all for the community**
<https://wmbt901.com/listen-live/>



**Retired UF professors:
HB 999 will diminish college's
reputation, quality of education**

*by Retired Faculty
of the University of Florida*

*This op-ed was originally published in
the Florida Times-Union on April 30. See
more at Jacksonville.com.*

The board of the Retired Faculty of the University of Florida is deeply disturbed by proposed Florida HB 999. We take great pride in our contribution to the university, having helped elevate it to its current high ranking and national prominence. If passed, HB 999 will seriously threaten both faculty recruitment and retention, thus seriously diminishing the university's reputation, as well as the quality of education provided.

The detrimental elements are:

Dictating what faculty can and cannot teach

The proposed bill mandates a "curriculum that promotes citizenship in a constitutional republic," the vagueness of which could promote questionable requirements for instructional content in numerous areas.

It explicitly dictates that the university must "remove from its programs any major or minor that is based on or otherwise utilizes pedagogical methodology associated with Critical Theory, including, but not limited to, Critical Race Theory, Critical Race Studies, Critical Ethnic Studies, Radical Feminist Theory, Radical Gender Theory, Queer Theory, Critical Social Justice or Intersectionality, as defined in Board of Governors regulation, or any major or minor that includes a curriculum that promotes the concepts listed in s. 1000.05(4)(a)."

Censorship of the curriculum in such a manner is not only a violation of academic freedom, but also undermines freedom of thought and speech, a constitutional right.

Vesting decisions on faculty hires to politically appointed Board of Trustees

The bill states: "Each state university board of trustees is responsible for hiring full-time faculty for the university. The president of the university may provide hiring recommendations to the board ... The president and the board are not required to consider recommendations or opinions of faculty of the university."

This has the potential to politicize hiring and undermine or eliminate faculty input, thus leaving hiring decisions to an academically unqualified board while threatening the principles and practices through which institutional excellence is achieved and maintained. The professional credential of prospective hires is best evaluated by those who have the most experience and knowledge in their fields through peer review.

Giving the board dominant authority over faculty tenure

Equally concerning is the bill's statement on faculty tenure: "Each state university board of trustees may, at the request of its chair, review any faculty member's tenure status." This unprecedented stipulation would undermine the basic concept and practice of tenure and instill a climate of uncertainty throughout the university, potentially deterring high-quality faculty from accepting a position and encouraging current faculty to accept offers from universities in other states.

Through its assault on academic freedom, hiring and tenure, the passage of HB 999 will negatively impact the quality of the faculty and of education, as well as the University of Florida's national and international standing. It will certainly undermine the ability of the university to maintain its current ranking.

The decline in the university's ranking and reputation resulting from adoption of this bill is likely to be far more rapid and precipitous than was its long ascent.

Saeed R. Khan, president (Medicine); Barbara McDade Gordon, president-elect (Liberal Arts & Sciences); Carmen Diana Deere, past president (Latin American Studies/Institute of Food & Agricultural Sciences); George Hochmuth, secretary (Institute of Food & Agricultural Sciences); and Richard H. Davis, treasurer (Liberal Arts & Sciences).

Alison Gerencser (Law); Pushpa Kalra (Medicine); Lucinda Lavelli (Arts); Leon Couch (Engineering); Richard Phillips (Library); Jim Kurtz (Engineering); Robin Poynor (Arts); and John Foltz (Institute of Food & Agricultural Sciences). ✉

From the publisher ...

Truth and consequences

Truth. We are living through a slow motion coup by the conservative and corporate powers of this nation.

It began during the Reagan era with economic changes that allowed the wealthy to prosper with changes in tax regulations (for example allowing bankruptcies to be tax write-offs), the smashing of the labor movement (PATCO), and the recruiting of the Christian Right into politics.

Right wing think tanks and radio and TV programming sprouted up and got media space, and in a parallel track, efforts at pushing for conservative judges grew in influence (the Federalist Society). Add to that Newt Gingrich, Rush Limbaugh and others taking oppositional politics to a coarsened and crude level, and collegial politics was thrown out the window. Make "the other" the enemy.

All this took place while liberals and the Democratic party coasted on the numerical strength of their loyal base and compromised away on things that they should have fought for such as defending welfare, fighting for universal healthcare (Clinton), codifying abortion rights, and fighting for Supreme Court nominee Merrick Garland (Obama).

The Right, taking advantage of the expected fall off in voting in the 2010 midterms following Obama's 2008 win, took over many state races and gained the power to redraw districts as happens every decade using the new census information.

With sophisticated data analysis, state legislators locked in all kinds of conservative seats, splitting up Democratic areas' voting power. This has given rise to states that are close to 50/50 Dems and Repubs having super majority Republican legislatures which just flat do what they want. Florida is a prime example, because winning again in 2020, the Right further locked in their power. The story "Well, that sucks," starting on the front page, covers the horrors they passed this term.

We are living the consequences of protracted efforts to undo the FDR New Deal, and to use voter suppression and fear mongering to do so. FDR's New Deal was a huge success, full of great and bold ideas put into programs that helped bring people's living standards up. It promoted the general welfare, what our constitution says our government should be doing: healthcare, education, fair wages, and taxation.

The Right, bolstered of course by a huge money advantage and the horrendous *Citizens United* Supreme Court decision, also were ORGANIZED! They want to win and they play that way. They have been playing a long game. We on the left are way too willing to compromise, and to give up and not go for what we really need and want.

But at this point the truth is, we need to be organizing our way out of this, and there are many options.

Elections matter, and there are states fighting back ... Washington, Colorado, Michigan, New Jersey. Getting abortion rights on the 2024 Florida ballot is a huge deal; be part of that effort with signature gathering (see page 23).

Become better informed and help others to be. Communicate with elected leaders. Join and support unions, respect strikes and boycotts. Influence your areas' politics, join committees and advisory groups. Join social justice and environmental groups and BE VISIBLE in your actions.

Ease up on the doom scrolling and corporate news sinkholes, get outdoors and stay healthy, because this will be a long haul.

We can't stop climate change, but we will need a more general-welfare-minded culture to deal with the changes that are coming. Now is when we need to start building that future.

Young folks see what's coming; it's their future and we need to have their backs. 🐢



Joe Courter

Subscribe!

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

Individuals: \$15
(or more if you can)
Low/No income: What you can
Groups: \$20

Gainesville Iguana
P.O. Box 14712
Gainesville, FL 32604

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

352-378-5655

GainesvilleIguana@cox.net
www.gainesvilleiguana.org
facebook.com/gainesvilleiguana
Instagram: gnv_iguana

The *Iguana* has been published monthly or bimonthly by volunteers for over 30 years. Circulation for this issue is 4,500.

Publisher:

Joe Courter

Editors Emeritus:

Jenny Brown

Mark Piotrowski

Editorial Board:

Pierce Butler

Joe Courter

Beth Grobman

Jessica Newman

Production work, contributors:

Alachua County Labor Coalition

Joye Barnes

Jenny Brown

Tina Certain

Kai Christmas

Amy Coenen

Carmen Diana Deere

Nancy Deren

Nigel Hamm

Hutch Hutchinson

Merrilee Jipson

Vickie Machado

Anna Prizzia

Sage

Fred Sowder

Sloan Tran

UF Retired Faculty

Distribution:

Lisa Blythe

Joe Courter

Bill Gilbert

Alex Leader

Anita Sundaram

Contact us if you can help with distribution in outlying areas.

Authors and photographers have sole credit, responsibility for, and rights to their work.

Cover drawing of iguana by Daryl Harrison.

Printed on recycled paper.

The case for local meat processing: **Let's opt out of industrial ag**

by Nancy Deren

There has been a lot of debate over the past few months about the proposed meat processing facility for Alachua County, with major concerns about perpetuating the horrors of the factory farming system that now comprises about 95 percent of U.S. meat production.

Communities across the country are having this same conversation, recognizing the need to have a stronger, more secure local food system that gives farmers a way to sell outside the corporate monopolies, earn more than poverty wages, and create economic development opportunities that support them being good stewards of land, animals, and biodiversity. We want a way to opt out.

Covid was a giant wake up call that made that crystal clear. Think back to March 2020, when Covid first hit hard. Who fed us? It was our local farmers and ranchers who pivoted fast to provide food for drive through markets and prepared food deliveries, for all income levels, when grocery stores shut down.

In order to reclaim food sovereignty and security, and have an alternative to the industrial food system, we must address the real challenge of the lack of infrastructure to process, distribute and sell that food. That infrastructure was dismantled over the past 50 years, as small farms, towns and local businesses got swallowed up by mergers and consolidations under the mantra of "Get Big, or Get Out!" It's past time to put our local economies and relationships back together.

It is actually not a story about animal vs. vegetable agriculture or the very personal and moral dietary choices around what to eat, but a much larger one about the dominant system of industrial factory farms and corporate control vs. regenerative agriculture and local control. It's not the Cow, it's the How!

Henry Kissinger said: Control oil and you control nations; control food and you control the people."

Over the past few decades, industrial corporate agribusiness monopolies have seized on our entire food system an iron grip, decimating local and regional food

systems, and rural communities in pursuit of get Big, get Fast, get Cheap. They are a major contributor to climate destabilization, loss of biodiversity, pollution and rise in chronic diseases like diabetes.

Only four companies, two of them international, control over 85 percent of the beef industry and most of the pork and poultry industries.

Just 4 corporations control 90% of the global grain trade. The same corporations have been buying up seed, chemicals, processing, packing, distribution and retail businesses, becoming giant monopolies of monocultures.

A locally designed and controlled small scale meat processing facility is a key part of the infrastructure we need in order to break the stranglehold of those industrial scale agribusinesses.

In addition to meat processing, we need investment in food hubs to expand aggregation, distribution and processing opportunities for our local veggie and fruit farmers, and entrepreneurship to craft new value added products.

However, USDA certified processing facilities to accommodate smaller meat operations have been identified as one of the biggest, most critical bottlenecks of all of these needs, so money and programs at all levels of government — local, state and national, are flooding in to address that problem.

In addition to multiple sustainable agriculture organizations, a coalition of more than 50 animal welfare, public health, labor, environmental, and faith-based organizations have endorsed these local scale efforts around the country, and in Congress. Senator Corey Booker, a staunch vegan, is a leader on this issue.

Processing facilities are more than just a building. They include the physical space, skilled butchers, and inspectors to ensure the quality and cleanliness of the facility and the product before it reaches the market.

The proposed facility would be focused on giving our small, family-owned ranches a way to process their meat locally, so they can access retail markets for beef, lamb, goat, and pork. It would be designed to humanely handle diverse animals, a few

at a time, to meet the demands of our multi cultural community. The operator would be hired under guidelines and policies that we design, congruent with our community standards and expectations.

In conjunction with Santa Fe College and UF, the skilled craft of custom butchering would provide new jobs, and open opportunities for restaurants and other retail, boosting not only our food security, sovereignty, and resilience, but our economic vitality in an ever harsher world.

If you do not eat meat, and wonder why you would ever support such a facility, a big reason is to keep vital grazing lands as working farms, and open spaces for wildlife, clean water and habitat protections.

We all know too well about potential for land use conversion if the family cannot make a living and sells their farm — the next crop grown is usually houses and concrete.

Most of our farms in Alachua County have rural ag zoning, so can be converted to low-density residential housing, which is happening now at shockingly rapid rates. To use just one example, if an area the size of the Hickory Sink Property that has been in the news lately (4000 acres) were to develop, that would result in more than 800 houses.

The argument that our ranchers should just stop ranching is not only short-sighted in terms of sensitivity to cultural considerations, and to the multigenerational families — including the Black ranching families here who care deeply about their lands — but also makes no sense in terms of the argument for climate.

The IPCC report on Climate Change and Land speaks to the importance and necessity of sustainable land management and local control for climate and food security solutions. A majority of agricultural lands globally, are grasslands and unsuitable for growing crops.

Having personally seen the seemingly magical power of regenerative, holistic grazing practices to heal degraded land in a variety of places, bringing back birds, bees and butterflies, native plants and diversity, and so much more, I now have optimism and energy knowing that change can be real and could happen here.

Beyond being carbon sinks, our ranchlands provide mitigation and adaptation as water recharge areas. They decrease heat island effects and provide habitat for many species of wildlife and native plants. They are the essential backbone of the Florida Wildlife Corridor, as vividly shown in the beautiful new film, *Path of the Panther*.

Without those working lands, there is no connectivity to make the corridor work. This really drives home how we need to keep those working lands economically viable so they don't turn into houses and concrete.

Agricultural easements are important — but there needs to also be demand for what is being raised or grown, and fair pricing, in order to make a livelihood.

The Nature Conservancy, Audubon, Xer-

ces, Sierra Club and other respected environmental organizations are working with ranchers who are the frontline of land management and stewardship to collaborate on ways to solve complex challenges together.

A key component of that is ensuring that ranchers and farmers can make a living, and this requires investment not just in land protection and farming practices, but also in the infrastructure to process this food locally and get a fair price.

The Audubon Conservation Ranching Program, for example, is doing just that, with habitat payments, technical assistance, and marketing support for premium pricing with the Audubon label.

We eaters can create the demand for food that supports rebuilding our local and regional smaller scale food system

infrastructure — so we can more easily opt out of Big Ag.

I want to know where my food comes from, what it ate, and how it was treated. I want to see our local farmers and ranchers be able to not just struggle to stay afloat, but thrive and provide nutrient dense, safe, high quality meats, vegetables, fruits that I can buy in stores, as well as at the farmers market where I do most of my weekly grocery shopping. That means they have to be able to do well economically in order to afford to be the best stewards of not only their animals and crops, but of our soil, water, pollinators, birds and remaining open lands.

Please join me in voicing your support to the commission, for this important step in rebuilding a vibrant and resilient local food system. 🐾

A Republican Death Star is targeting your liberty

by Jim Hightower

This excerpt ran on Jim Hightower's Radio Lowdown on May 4. See more and sign up for the updates at jimhightower.substack.com.

While the Powers That Be constantly warn us about foreign threats to our democracy from Russian trolls, TikTok, etc. — there is scant coverage of an actual assault on our people's democratic liberties by forces on our own soil.

It's coming from extremist, right-wing Republican lawmakers who have autocratic control over more than a score of America's state governments. Their obscure anti-democracy weapon is called "preemption" — the dangerous power of state officials to nullify laws passed by local people.

It's supposed to be used rarely, carefully, and only in emergency situations, but today's radical Big Government Republicans have weaponized it, routinely overturning local actions that the GOP's corporate funders don't like. Local decisions to protect worker safety, outlaw loan sharking, shut down puppy mills, prevent workplace discrimination, stop pollution, control political corruption... and so many more popular democratic reforms are being abolished by Republican autocrats in service to plutocrats. Some 500 more of those usurpations are moving through state legislatures across the country now — with practically no public notice.

Embarrassingly, GOP leaders in my state of Texas have been leading this charge against the people's democratic will, and they're now enacting a nuclearized escalation of their attack. Their new weapon has been dubbed "Death Star" — a state law that will preemptively ban cities and counties from passing corporate regulations stronger than state regulation (which is infamously feeble). The ban — gleefully pushed by a horde of lobbyist for brand-name corporate elites — includes letting corporations overturn existing local protections for workers, consumers, small business, the environment, and others. "We hate cities and counties," grumped the sponsor of the Death Star law.

This is a wholesale usurpation of your and my liberty to govern

ourselves. In exchange for political funding, GOP officials are literally outsourcing the people's democratic authority to private profiteers. Learn more at www.supportdemocracy.org. 🐾



MONDAY thru FRIDAY: 8 AM and 1 PM
WGOT.org / WGOT 100.1 FM
Gainesville's Community Radio



352 Printshop
UNION (BETWEEN) LABEL 1205
Custom T-Shirts
(352) 215-2243
352printshop@gmail.com

ARBOR CONSCIOUS TREE SERVICE



**PRUNING REMOVAL CABLING
CLIMBING HAULING**

We are experienced and fully equipped to tackle any tree job, big or small.

Call today for a **FREE** quote!

352 222 4202

If you don't hold us accountable, we'll do some real bad things in Washington, D.C.

- (former) Sen. John Ensign



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.

heathercoxrichardson.substack.com/

Healthy Adults Needed for Study

The University of Florida Neurocognitive Laboratory is studying the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in adults who have *not* been hospitalized as a result of COVID-19

Eligible adults would:

- Be between the ages of 65 and 75
 - Be in good physical health
- Have at least 10 years of education
 - Currently drink alcohol
- Have not been previously hospitalized with COVID-19

The research study examines the effects of COVID-19 related stress on health and mental well-being in older adults who have not been hospitalized as a result of the virus. Participants complete 3 annual visits to the laboratory and periodic phone interviews. Volunteers may be compensated up to \$425.

For more information call (352) 294-4920



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY

This study is conducted by: Sara Jo Nixon,
Ph.D. University of Florida, Department of
Psychiatry

UF UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA

And the good news is ...

A pandemic experiment in universal free school meals gains traction in the states

States across the country are enacting school meal laws to bolster child food security, academic equity

Every public school kid in the U.S. was eligible for free school meals during the pandemic, regardless of family income, thanks to the federal government.

While that's now ended, a growing number of states are enacting universal school

meal laws to bolster child food security and academic equity. With little prospect of action soon in Congress, the moves by states show an appetite for free school meals for all developing.

Nine states have passed a universal school

meal policy in the past year. Another 23 have seen legislation introduced during the past three years.

This is a condensed version of an article by Adam Goldstein published in the Florida Phoenix on April 22. See the full article at tinyurl.com/Iguana/1605

Advocates organize to enshrine abortion protections in Florida's constitution

75 percent of Floridians oppose six-week abortion ban approved by Republican lawmakers

Abortion rights advocates are set to push a ballot measure that would enshrine abortion protections into Florida's constitution, with the launch of a public campaign to get the issue on the 2024 ballot.

The language would enshrine the right to choose an abortion and reflect survey data showing that 75 percent of Floridians oppose the six-week abortion ban approved by Republican lawmakers last month.

This is a condensed version of an article by Mel Leonor Barclay published in The 19th on May 5. See the full article at tinyurl.com/Iguana1606

Bernie Sanders reintroduces proposal to slash Medicare drug prices in half

"There is no rational reason other than greed, for Medicare to pay twice as much" for drugs, he said

On May 4, Sen. Bernie Sanders introduced a bill aimed at cutting the price of prescription drugs under Medicare in half in one of a series of actions that the senator is taking on drug prices.

The bill, introduced alongside Sen. Amy

Klobuchar (D-Minnesota), would require that Medicare access the same prescription prices as the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), which has been allowed to negotiate drug prices for nearly 30 years.

If passed, the bill would save Medicare

an estimated \$835 billion over the next 10 years. It would take effect at the beginning of next year.

This is a condensed version of an article by Sharon Zhang published in Truthout on May 5. See the full article at shorturl.at/ackqL

Florida's DOE declares 'David' a work of 'artistic value' after principal fired over lesson showing the nude ***Is the Florida Department of Education getting woke?***

The Florida Department of Education wants everyone to know: it's okay to teach Florida students about Michelangelo's renowned full-frontal nude statue David (1501-04).

"The statue of David has artistic and historical value. Florida encourages instruction on the classics and classical art, and

would not prohibit its use in instruction," Alex Lanfranconi, communications director for the Florida Department of Education, said in a statement first shared by *Florida's Voice*.

Despite the international fame of the Renaissance masterpiece, David recently made headlines when a Florida principal

was fired after parents complained about its inclusion in a lesson for a sixth grade class. One parent claimed the well-known work was "pornographic."

This is a condensed version of an article by Sarah Cascone published in Artnet News on May 5. See the full article at tinyurl.com/Iguana1609

Lawmakers promise: African American history will be taught in Florida's public schools

The entire Florida House approved bipartisan bill requiring school districts to provide evidence of compliance

Recalling the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., the murder of Medgar Evers, and the killing of young Black teen Emmett Till, state House lawmakers made it clear Thursday that African American history instruction must endure in Florida's public schools.

The entire House chamber approved a bipartisan, unanimous bill to require that

"each school district must annually certify and provide evidence" to the state Department of Education that students will get that instruction.

Across Florida, school districts for decades have been required to provide African American history instruction in all public schools. But that's not always been the case. Several lawmakers in both the

House and Senate have been concerned about a lack of consequences when African American history has not been provided to children.

This is a condensed version of an article by Diane Rado published in the Florida Phoenix on April 30. See the full article at tinyurl.com/Iguana1608

New research upends notion that significant wage hikes are job killers

Research reveals that large minimum wage increases can have positive effects on earnings, employment

A working paper by researchers at UC Berkeley shows that large minimum wage increases can have positive effects on both earnings and employment, countering the notion pushed by corporate lobbying groups that significant wage hikes are job killers.

Examining nearly 50 large countries in California and New York whose wage floors reached \$15 or higher by the first quarter of last year, the analysis found that sizable minimum wage hikes produced "substantial pay growth, no dis-

employment effects, and reduced wage inequality."

This is a condensed version of an article by Jake Johnson published in Truthout on May 4. See the full article at tinyurl.com/Iguana1610

Tips for low and slow river conditions on the Santa Fe

by Merrilee Jipson, Rum 138

It may rain and we may get a flood, but this is what it is like now. Plan your kayak, canoe or paddleboard tour down river accordingly, as the river is so low and slow. Starting up the river, you

may need to add extra time to paddle downstream to your take out point. Most times on the Santa Fe River you can leisurely float downstream and make good timing, but not when it's low and slow. You must paddle and be observant of approaching outcroppings of rocks and exposed submerged aquatic vegetation.

One in four corporations doesn't pay any taxes.

- Sen. Bernie Sanders

HELP! Protect and Save our Rivers and Springs



oursantaferiver.org freetheocklawaha.com

Learn Your Part. Do Your Part

PADDLE the SANTA FE RIVER RENTALS - SALES - SHUTTLES CANOE PADDLEBOARD KAYAK

To Reserve:
386-454-4247 RUM138.COM



Open 9 am to 5 pm - Closed Tuesdays
2070 SW CR 138 FORT WHITE FL 32038

Portaging and general getting in and out of your vessel may be necessary with the levels being so low. To "portage" means you get out of your vessel and carry it with you over land to get through a shallow waterway. Look for and direct your vessel into the streaming river through the shallows in order not to get out. Go with the flow!

There are several shallow conditions between SR 441 Bridge and Rum Island Park on a river that flows East to the West. Wear good covered water shoes in order to get through the shallows safely. These locations can be filled with deep sand sediment with extra pointy and sharp edges of karstic limestone formations. Be careful where you place your footing, making sure you have a solid flat foot once out of your vessel. Be aware of your impact on the eco-systems beneath your next step. The habitat is important and critical to the health of the Santa Fe River.

Starting at any of the public access areas on this river, be sure to begin your trip in the right direction. Recently, the flow has been known to look and feel like it is going the opposite way of downstream at the US 27 Bridge boat ramp, just North of High Springs. At this location, be sure to find the bridge and go under it at the beginning of your trip in order to be going in the correct direction.

The rapids after Ginie Springs are a Class 1 today. Wimpy, fun and slightly challenging with some outcroppings and pile ups of floating debris in the shallows. Go right or left of the center here. The center will have rocks and vegetation which will be visible. Going to the South side (left) it's a deeper channel and faster current. Taking the North side (right) is more rocky and shallow.

Being out on top of water and in natural settings need planning to keep you and your party safer. Plan the best experience possible knowing your waterway before you go. Rum 138 outfitters knows the Santa Fe River. Start your trip with us by renting, owning or shutting paddling equipment with us. Book with us online at rum138.com.



VINE

ORGANIC BAKERY & CAFE

SOURDOUGH BREADS • PASTRIES • ORGANIC COFFEE
SOUP & SANDWICH • FINE WINE • NATURAL SODAS
BEER • WI-FI • VEGAN & GLUTEN FREE PRODUCTS

627 N MAIN STREET
FACEBOOK.COM/VINEGAINESVILLE
352.872.5866 • CASH ONLY - ATM ON SITE

NEW HOURS:
TUES-FRI 8-6
SATURDAY 8-4
SUN & MON
CLOSED

Editors' picks: News that didn't fit

- **DeSantis World will not tolerate deviation from the party line**
by Diane Roberts | *Florida Phoenix* | May 8 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1602
“Knowledge is so dangerous it must be regulated and monitored.” New College students — like all students in Florida — are now hostages to the governor’s monomaniacal crusade against free intellectual inquiry. New College faculty — along with every other teacher in Florida — now know that their government will retaliate against them for bucking the party line. “Knowledge is so dangerous it must be regulated and monitored.” Also see “‘The point is intimidation’: Florida teachers besieged by draconian laws” in the May 13 *The Guardian* at tinyurl.com/Iguana1614
- **End the *Citizens United* ruling with a ‘Democracy for All Amendment’**
by F. Douglas Stephenson | *Informed Comment* | March 1 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1597
The Supreme Court’s ‘Citizen’s United’ decision opened the floodgates for big money in politics, allowing giant corporations and a handful of the wealthiest families to spend obscene amounts of money in our elections. Yep, our government is up for sale and being auctioned off to the highest campaign contributors.
- **Florida legislators OK bill likely to lead to higher water and sewer rates**
by Craig Pittman | *Florida Phoenix* | May 4 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1600
Will our public water and wastewater systems be corporatized? The state legislature has just flung open the doors for that. In other states, similar bills have led to big corporate takeovers and much higher rates.
- **Florida Senate vote on higher ed bill reveals what undergrads might face in GE courses**
by Diane Rado | *Florida Phoenix* | April 28 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1598
SB 266 says “General education core courses may not distort significant historical events or include a curriculum that teaches identity politics, violates s. 1000.05, or is based on theories that systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege are inherent in the institutions of the United States and were created to maintain social, political, and economic inequities.”
- **‘Freedom’ is little more than a hollow DeSantis campaign slogan**
by Brandon J. Wolf | *Los Angeles Blade* | May 8 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1604
Transgender Floridians will pay the steepest price for their Governor’s craven pandering to the most extreme faction of his base. In DeSantis’ desperation to outflank Trump to the far right and bolster his 2024 resumé, DeSantis led an unprecedented legislative assault on freedom, in the most virulently anti-LGBTQ session in Florida’s history.
- **In the post-Roe era, letting pregnant patients get sicker – by design**
Stephania Taladrid | *The New Yorker* | May 6 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1603
The strict new Texas laws prohibiting abortions are “deliberately confusing,” which poses profound ethical tests for doctors and inferior care (or even death) for patients.
- **North Carolina singer-songwriter Rhiannon Giddens wins Pulitzer Prize for music**
by Martha Quillin and Jessica Banov | *The News & Observer* | May 11 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1601
Rhiannon Giddens, along with Michael Abels, won the Pulitzer Prize for Music on May 8 for co-writing *Omar*, an opera about the journey of an enslaved man in the South. Rhiannon thanked the Pulitzer Prizes committee for “giving the remarkable story of Omar ibn Said more light.” The opera was first staged in Charleston, S.C., less than a mile from where Omar was first sold into slavery after being captured during fighting in what is modern-day Senegal, around 1807.
- **Revived push for Equal Rights Amendment blocked by U.S. Senate Republicans**
by Ashley Murray | *Florida Phoenix* | April 27 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1599
The U.S. Senate failed to advance a symbolic measure to enshrine in the Constitution equal protection on the basis of sex, a century after the idea began circulating among lawmakers. “Women are a majority of the U.S. population but continue to be under-represented in elected office, in the courts, in the business world and in so many other areas,” said Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, a sponsor of the bill, and one of only two Republican senators to vote for it.
- **Surprise! Florida leads the nation in lead pipes carrying water supply**
by Craig Pittman | *Florida Phoenix* | April 13 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1595
Florida has more lead pipes delivering water to households than any other state, per the Environmental Protection Agency. *Lead is a toxic metal that can be harmful to human health, even at low exposure levels. Lead pipes can poison the water, leading (ba-dum-bum!) to higher blood pressure, decreased kidney function, and brain damage. ... All over the nation, people read this news item, slapped their foreheads, and said, “Brain damage?! THAT explains why Florida’s so dang weird.”* 🐸



SCAN ME

Scan this code for a full list of Editors' Picks with easy links to the articles.

The War and Peace Report

Amy Goodman interviews whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg

On Saturday, June 10 at 4 pm, the Civic Media Center will hold a free matinee showing of a 2009 documentary on Daniel Ellsberg, the man who in 1971 leaked the Pentagon Papers (a top-secret Pentagon study of U.S. government decision-making in relation to the Vietnam War) to *The New York Times*. This act changed both his life and the course of the Vietnam War. The title of the documentary is *The Most Dangerous Man in America*.

Below are two excerpts from the June 1 *Democracy Now!* program where Amy Goodman interviewed Ellsberg.

• • •

Amy Goodman: This is Democracy Now!, The War and Peace Report. I'm Amy Goodman.

Today we spend the hour with Pentagon Papers whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg. He recently announced he's been diagnosed with inoperable pancreatic cancer. In a letter to friends, Dan Ellsberg wrote, "I feel lucky and grateful that I've had a wonderful life far beyond the proverbial three-score years and ten. I feel the very same way about having a few months more to enjoy life with my wife and family, and in which to continue to pursue the urgent goal of working with others to avert nuclear war in Ukraine or Taiwan (or anywhere else)."

Dan Ellsberg turned 92 on April 7th. He may be the world's most famous whistleblower.

In 1971, *The New York Times* began publishing excerpts of the Pentagon Papers — 7,000 pages of top-secret documents outlining the secret history of the Vietnam War. The *Times* exposé was based on documents secretly photocopied by Dan Ellsberg and Anthony Russo while they worked as Pentagon consultants at the RAND Corporation.

Ellsberg had been inspired to leak the documents by antiwar protesters. In fact, shortly before the *Times* first reported on the Pentagon Papers, Dan Ellsberg took part in an antiwar protest in Washington, D.C., 52 years ago today, on May Day, 1971, as part of an affinity group with Noam Chomsky and Howard Zinn.

The Pentagon Papers leak would end up helping take down President Nixon, help end the War in Vietnam and lead to a major victory for press freedom. The Nixon administration would go on to take extraordinary measures to silence and punish Ellsberg, including breaking into his psychiatrist's office. But the government's misconduct led to charges against him being dismissed.

Over the past 50 years, Daniel Ellsberg has remained a leading critic of U.S. militarism and U.S. nuclear weapons policy, as well as a prominent advocate for other whistleblowers.

I spoke to him Thursday, May 1st, 2023 from his home in Berkeley, California.

• • •

Amy Goodman: Dan, it's wonderful to have you with us. I'm so appreciative that you're letting us into your home to have this conversation today.

Daniel Ellsberg: Well, it's so good for me to be back here, Amy. There is literally no one in American media, American life, that I more appreciate having the chance to talk about the state of the

world with. And I love having me back on.

Amy Goodman: Well, I thank you so much for taking this time. And I wanted to start off with this letter that you sent to friends about learning in February that you had inoperable pancreatic cancer. Can you talk about this? Can you talk about how you're feeling?

Daniel Ellsberg: There's an expression that goes way back to Marcus Aurelius, in fact, that you should live each day as though it were your last day on life — on Earth. That's pretty hard to do. You'd spend the day canceling appointments, not making any others. But spending this month as though it were my last month on Earth is very realistic for me, and it works very well for me. I can recommend it to others.

Amy Goodman: So, talk about what you've been doing since you've gotten this diagnosis, and also your decision not to have chemotherapy.

Daniel Ellsberg: Well, sometime you'd go by exploring possible unusual forms of chemotherapy, immunotherapy and others, if I were a candidate for them. And a sort of a month went by there by well — very well-intended people who were encouraging me to seek a way out here, but those didn't seem to apply, after all. And I just have to accept what most people with pancreatic cancer have to, that there is no promising way out.

I did choose to use these days in a way of saying what I think is important to the world, and my last chance to do it may be my last chance on this call, on this program — and maybe not — and to be with my family and friends. I've seen all my grandchildren now and my children, and spend a lot of time saying goodbye and getting in touch with their problems and being a family person, which is not my forte, actually. I love my family, but I've spent a lot of time being obsessed in other things over the years, and I regret that. But I have spent wonderful time.

Just yesterday was my wife's birthday. And we recall that it was on April 17th, 1965 — not everyone can remember their first date like that, but that was the first SDS march against the war. And I was working in the Pentagon on the war, pursuing the war.

She was going to interview people in a nationwide interview program she had, and she induced me to carry her Uher heavy phonograph around with her — tape recorder, to interview people. And I marched up to the White House hoping — carrying that recorder and hoping that I would not be in any pictures of *The Washington Post*, where my colleagues at the Pentagon would say, "What? He's protesting the war?" on my one day off from the war during this. But the next day, I induced her to go to the cherry blossoms, and that was our first date. And we've been together ever since. So that was 57 years ago ...

Amy Goodman: So, I want to talk about what you decided to do and how seminal, how key, the antiwar movement was to your thinking, not only meeting Patricia, but also seeing those war resisters, what were called draft dodgers, the draft resisters, who said they'd rather be in prison than on the frontlines in the War in Vietnam.

Daniel Ellsberg: Well, many, many people — when the Pentagon Papers came out, a lot of people in the antiwar movement said, "What's new about this? This what we've been

saying all along,” which was true, which was we had taken up a French neocolonial role, an imperial role, essentially, against the self-government of Vietnam and sovereignty of Vietnam, and were doomed to suffer the same fate as the French, essentially, to keep killing people and losing people until we finally decided to go home and leave them ruling their own home.

Well, that was known inside. The insiders who were pursuing the war and dropping the bombs, millions of tons of bombs — it came to me even later than this — knew the same thing and were doing it likewise. The question was what to do about it.

All the people I was working with in the government by that time felt — everyone I could think of felt — the war was hopeless, essentially. It was hopelessly stalemated, and there was no coming out. The word “hope” — “stalemate” was taboo on the year I came back from Vietnam with hepatitis, in 1967, after two years there.

Lyndon Johnson had said, “No official is to use the word or hint at the word ‘stalemate.’” And yet, that’s where it was. So, the war continued. People did their jobs. And it went on as though that judgment had not been made.

And eventually, what I really noticed was that there were people who felt much as I did, and who were doing an awful lot more about it than I was doing. Namely, these were young people who — you didn’t have to be an expert. You didn’t have to have a Ph.D. in international relations as somebody to see the truth about the War in Vietnam.

As somebody said, you don’t have to be an ichthyologist to know when a fish stinks. And these young people refused to go to be drafted to — when they could have gone to Canada or Sweden or gotten a deferment or joined the Air Force National Guard, like George W. Bush, somehow gotten out of the fighting.

But, no, they chose to give it as strong a resistance as they could, nonviolently, in the footsteps of Rosa Parks in the South and Martin Luther King and others, and to say, “No, this is wrong. You have to do this over our bodies. We will not participate in this, because it’s wrong.” And I realized, when I met young men like this, like Bob Eaton and Randy Kehler, who were on their way to prison, simply to make the strongest message they could, which I believed, as well, that the war was wrong. I realized I could think of doing what they did, too, instead of just talking to insiders, who felt as I did but agreed there was just nothing you could do about it, as long as the president wanted to carry on the war and his subordinates wanted to keep their jobs under the president, that they could, in fact, dissociate themselves from it and denounce the war openly.

Very recently, we’ve seen very many comments that what the Pentagon Papers showed was that the war was not winnable. Actually, that had — and that’s why I gave the Pentagon Papers, and that was the effect of them.

Actually, none of the people who went to prison to protest the war did so because they thought the war was not winnable. They did it because they thought the war was wrong. And that’s something, I think, that people have not succeeded — have not been willing to recognize all these years, not just that the war — not just that the U.S. had taken on some noble measure that it wasn’t quite energetic enough to pursue or had other — or was easily distracted from, or something like that, but that our country was, like so many other countries, capable of doing wrong and killing people without good reason, and, in effect, an imperial kind of operation like that of the Japanese, or the

French after the Japanese, or the Chinese before either of them. And those are the footsteps we were walking in.

Well, I think, to this day, the very idea that the U.S. is in some ways comparable to those empires, that it is an empire, is a taboo, and a very unfortunate one, because it makes it impossible to understand what’s going on. Why are we doing this? What’s happening? Why in the world are we in this position, time after time, of fighting against the self-determination or the nationalism of other countries, and taking on those murderous tasks as opposed to dealing with problems at home?

I think of our country as a covert empire, where “covert” is a term of art in the Pentagon and the CIA, in particular. And I worked with CIA people in Vietnam. My immediate boss there was a retired CIA general, General Edward Lansdale. And the word “covert” means plausibly deniable. It means not just secret, I’m doing something that I don’t tell you about, but that I plant evidence to suggest that I’m doing something different, and I’m not doing it, somebody else is doing it, and the person above me is somebody else — layer after layer to prevent the president from holding any accountability for what’s happening.

I think we not only feel we need and do be able to plausibly deny that we are an empire, that we run other people’s governments, other people’s police forces, that we decide who goes to jail and who gets shot in that country. And second, we deny the means we do to keep it a covert empire — assassinations, paramilitary, military buildups, and even overt wars, in some cases, as in Vietnam or Iraq.

The full interview can be seen and heard at www.democracynow.org. Search for the Ellsberg May 1, 2023 program. ☛

Daniel Ellsberg:
**‘The Most Dangerous
Man in America’**

**CMC Matinee showing
Saturday, June 10 @ 4 pm**

Come enjoy the cool AC and absorb this 2009 documentary about the man who leaked the Pentagon Papers, an act that changed both his life and the course of the Vietnam War.

History can be inspirational. Come be inspired by this decent man.

Donations requested, refreshments available.

For more about Daniel Ellsberg: on May 1 Amy Goodman’s *Democracy Now!* aired an interview with him, where he discusses his life, backstories on the Pentagon Papers, the current Ukraine War and its dangers for wider war, and most profoundly, his impending death from inoperable pancreatic cancer.

See www.democracynow.org. ☛

School Board member concerned about leadership

by Tina Certain, Alachua County School Board Member, District 1

As a concerned school board member, I am writing to express my deep concern and frustration.

I ran for Alachua County School Board because I have a passion for ensuring that all district students receive a quality education and graduate from high school well prepared for college or career. Although many students excel in our public school system, way too many are being left far behind, and the disparities between these groups are some of the worst in the state.

I observed virtually no progress year after year in how our district was effectively confronting many long-standing issues, and the very serious, disruptive impact of the pandemic on our students' well-being and academic progress has made things much worse. I am acutely aware that it's very difficult to turn this large barge of school district as systems are firmly entrenched to maintain the status quo, but in my opinion, this is not a time for "business as usual."

I do acknowledge that our district has experienced way too much turnover in superintendents, but there are many reasons for that.

Drs. Owen Roberts and Carlee Simon, both "outsiders," had considerable vision and attempted to make many innovative changes to a type of system that is generally threatened by rapid change. Both experienced backlash and removal.

The default in both situations was to put in place individuals who were long-time district employees and more "comfortable" choices, and that was reassuring to many. However, the old expression that "if you keep doing things the way you always have, you will always get what you've always gotten," is particularly relevant.

I have shared my concerns about the leadership of our superintendent in my written evaluation of him and in our board meetings. The evaluations from the other board members have supported my concerns.

It is important that we prioritize the success of our students by holding district leadership accountable, especially the head of the organization.

The Tuesday May 2 board meeting held a tenor that excused the superintendent

from leadership concerns but placed his administrators as the responsible party. A repeated statement was "staff are collecting paychecks and serving as placeholders." I knew this was going to impact staff morale. How could it not?

We cannot afford to lose talented staff members. Three days after the board meeting addressing the superintendent's evaluation and contract, I was notified of our first administrative resignation. I am saddened by the departure of Alex Rella, our long-time Chief of Finance.

Mr. Rella was integral in leading his finance team in navigating the complexity of school funding in Florida and overseeing the spending of massive federal dollars associated with the ESSER grant. His departure is a huge loss for our district and will undoubtedly have a significant impact on our ability to manage our finances effectively.

This week, another extremely valuable administrator, the Director of Grants, Acquisitions, and Special Project Development, resigned. Losing two key staff members in education finance and the delayed hiring of an internal auditor could have long-term devastating impact.

My fellow board members and I are aware that other key staff members are also considering leaving the district, and this is deeply concerning. It is important that we take action to address these issues and create a positive and supportive environment for our staff.

We need to prioritize the success of our students by ensuring that we have strong and experienced staff members in place to support them. It is also extremely important for the superintendent to understand his role and his responsibility to staff to protect their work and support their efforts. The tone of Tuesday's meeting indicated the superintendent is not willing to take the responsibility for staff morale, a disappointment to say the least.

As a board member of the SBAC who has been elected to lead change and improve student outcomes for students in our district, I am passionate about attracting and supporting strong and experienced staff members. I fear that if the district retains an "interim" superintendent for another full year, we will not only lose more key staff members, but will also continue to encounter difficulties in recruiting highly qualified individuals for key positions.

Mr. Shane Andrew, the interim superintendent, stated publicly that he felt that the goals for an "in the meantime" interim superintendent are different than for a permanent one.

We have not had a district attorney since January, and the internal auditor position was not filled for many months either.

Although many observers emphasized the need for calm and a stable situation for the district, this board was not elected to maintain the status quo.

Mary and Ron Nutter, longtime educational advocates, stated the following: "This is the time for the Board to exercise its leadership responsibility and spend the time, effort and imagination to generate an educational achievement path for the schools in Alachua County. We would suggest that at least the following be addressed: how do we raise the achievement levels for ALL students, what are measurable steps to solve the overcrowding issues, what is an action plan for redistricting and teacher shortage?"

Will retaining an interim superintendent for another full year accomplish these worthy goals? What vision, innovation and progress to those goals have there been since Mr. Andrew became interim superintendent in March 2022, over 14 months ago? In fact, the crucial process of strategic planning was actually halted once Dr. Simon was removed, when Mr. Andrew took over last spring. The school board can develop policy, but is only responsible for the hiring of two positions, the Superintendent and Board Attorney. Thus, the board is dependent on the superintendent and the administrative team to effectively carry out the board's collective vision and policies.

Lastly, we have serious work to do and a serious education deficit that needs to be addressed. We should not feel comfortable, we should feel a sense of urgency to address the issues at hand. Therefore, I believe that a search for permanent superintendent should be begun now, as I do not believe that the board and superintendent are well aligned in terms of vision and a sense of urgency.

I am committed to listening to your concerns and working with you to make sure that our school district is a place where all students can thrive. We must hold our superintendent accountable for his actions and inactions and we must ensure

that we are doing everything we can to support our staff members and improve outcomes for our students. You can share

your feedback and concerns during regular school board meetings, which are held the first and third Tuesday of each month

at 6pm at the District office, 620 E University Ave. You can also email the Board at boardmembers@gm.sbac.edu. ✈



Bo Diddley Plaza
111 E University Ave

- June 02**
D.R. Band & Soul Fire
R&B/Neo-Soul/Funk
- June 09**
Whiskey & Company
The Ones To Blame
Atl-Country/Americana
- June 16**
Ramblin' Mutts
Classic rock/Blues
- June 23**
Mindwalk
Contemporary Jazz
- June 30**
The Impostors
The Beatles cover band

- July 07**
MusicGNV Showcase
Kenzie's Place
Jernie
Purple Kloud
mixed Genre
- July 14**
The Savants of Soul
Soul
- July 21**
Crooked Counsel
60s & 70s Rock
- July 28**
Wax Wings
Folk Rock

- Aug 04**
Pet Detectives
90s Alt-Rock Covers
- Aug 11**
Dionysus
Jazz/House/Hip hop
- Aug 18**
De Lions of Jah
Reggae
- Aug 25**
Fest 21 Showcase

Free & Open to the Public
bodiddleypiazza.com



BO DIDDLEY PLAZA
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA



Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

This program is sponsored in part by the City of Gainesville's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department and the State of Florida Division of Arts and Culture.

Workers to Starbucks: Time to negotiate

by Jenny Brown

This article was originally published by LaborNotes on May 4. See more at labornotes.org.

At Starbucks regional headquarters in Manhattan on May 1, staff were setting up an office pizza party when they heard a chant coming from the hallway of their fifteenth floor glass-enclosed office.

“Who are we? We are partners! Who are we? We are workers!” chanted a dozen Starbucks workers as they filled the reception area, many wearing shirts saying “Partners? Prove It. WE are Starbucks.”

Headquarters staff fled into back offices as the café workers traded off reading sections of a written statement with their demands — the chief one being that the company negotiate with the union and stop retaliating against workers for organizing.

Two managers, one of them identified by workers as Partner Relations Manager Rhesa Welch, poked their heads out in time to hear most of the statement. Once she was spotted, the workers made impromptu additions.

“Why are you spending so much money on union-busting? What’s the point of it?! Just come and negotiate!” said Laura Rosario, a member of Starbucks Workers United who works in Montclair, New Jersey.

Other workers put in:

“Twenty hours minimum for benefits? Really?”

“Dangling transgender health benefits over our heads, you sick freaks, why would you do that?”

“You all wouldn’t be here if we weren’t in the stores!”

“We’ve got workers and customers harassing us, sexually, in the stores. We file complaint after complaint and nothing is done.”

“You need to negotiate with us, for real. You can’t run from this forever.”

“You’re killing the younger generation of people! I’ve been working for this company for two years, going to school full time... I’ve wanted to kill myself three times already,” said Elizabeth Kurchak, who works at the Caesar’s Bay shopping center store in Brooklyn.

They tried to hand the statement to Welch, who refused it. It was signed by 54 area Starbucks workers and 22 city, state, and federal elected officials including New York City Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, who attended the protest.

Starbucks Workers United organized simultaneous actions at Starbucks offices in Chicago and Atlanta, while five more stores filed for union elections.

Killing stores

Later, on the sidewalk, Kurchak said that her Brooklyn store is chronically understaffed, despite workers wanting more hours. A vocal union supporter, she said she was cut to 19-and-a-half hours, just below the 20-hour cutoff to receive benefits.

Broken equipment adds to the chaos, she said. A dishwasher has been broken for months, and they’re down to one blender. When they call to report problems, managers don’t pick up the phone. Half the store had no electricity that morning, she said.

Why the short-staffing and lack of maintenance? “A year ago I would have said it was to save money,” said Kurchak. “Now,

BOOKS & MUSIC WORM HOLE
USED NEW & NEW USED | BUY-SELL-TRADE



TUE-SAT
NOON-7p
1801 NE 23RD AVE
INSTA @ 23WORMHOLE

4th Ave
FOOD PARK

Good Food · Good Drink · Good Times

Gainesville Quaker Meeting

You are welcome here, where together we seek to live lives committed to peace and justice.



www.gainesvillequakers.org
352-372-1070
702 NW 38th St.
Worship each Sunday @ 11 am.

Better Homes and Gardens
REAL ESTATE

THE CHALMERS TEAM, REALTORS®

Kim Chalmers
352.339.5210
kcgainesville@gmail.com

THOMAS GROUP

5346 SW 91st Terrace
Gainesville, FL 32608
thomasgrouprealty.com

Jean Chalmers, GRI
352.339.5210
chalmersrealestate@gmail.com

I'd say union-busting. The goal is to close the store." She pointed out that company policy is to renovate every three years, but while non-union stores get updates, hers has languished.

That seems to be a corporation-wide strategy. The union says 25 stores have been closed to hamper organizing efforts. In an unusual move, on March 1 a New York judge ordered Starbucks to reopen one Buffalo mall kiosk that was closed to retaliate against unionizing and deter workers in other stores from organizing. The judge cited "egregious and widespread misconduct demonstrating a general disregard for the employees' fundamental rights."

Lies revealed

Another recent court case revealed emails showing that managers lied to workers about a store closure in Ithaca, New York. Managers told workers at the College Avenue store that it would close permanently in June 2022, just two months after they voted 19-1 to unionize.

After the vote, workers walked out to protest being required to work in hazardous conditions when a grease trap with chronic issues overflowed and coated the floor with slippery sludge and filled the store with a putrid odor.

But emails between Starbucks higher-

ups showed that the closure was not permanent and they planned to "go dark and reinvest/reopen in 1-2 years." Managers noted that the store was a lucrative location that the company wanted to hang onto, while they fretted over negative publicity due to the union walkout over the grease trap flood.

Rather than maintain the store and negotiate with the workers, managers seemed to think the union was the problem.

Understaffing continues to be rampant. Workers in Aurora, Ohio, sent a letter to the new CEO, Laxman Narasimhan, writing that management assumes that "we simply do not try hard enough and that if we really pulled ourselves up by our non-slip bootstraps we would be able to get the work of five employees done by two."

Not bargaining

Last September, the union made a range of non-economic proposals, but Starbucks has yet to respond. In a normal bargaining process, the company would have tentatively agreed to one or more of these, or made a counter-proposal. But it hasn't done either.

Instead, the company accused the union of 73 charges of failure to bargain, all of which were eventually dismissed by the

National Labor Relations Board. The Board has repeatedly found that Starbucks has failed to bargain in good faith.

On April 19, SBWU unveiled its economic proposals, including \$20 an hour to start, 5 percent annual raises, annual cost of living adjustments, healthcare for full and part-timers, and expanded sick and personal leave.

The union is also proposing guaranteed and consistent scheduling, in-store health and safety committees, and that Starbucks not be able to cut wages or benefits, or change working conditions, without the consent of the workers.

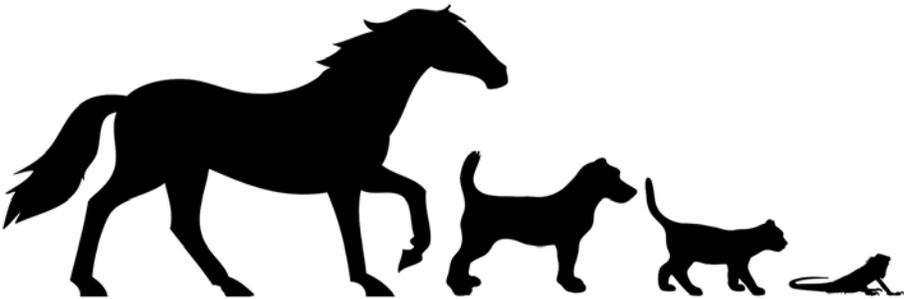
Many of these proposals would help with the persistent turnover and erratic scheduling that exacerbate the understaffing crisis.

Niah Baker, another Montclair, New Jersey, worker at the protest, said he was "super annoyed" at Starbucks' refusal to bargain. During the protest, manager Rhesa Welch claimed she had been at New Jersey bargaining sessions, but Baker said he had not seen her there.

Starbucks has refused to continue bargaining at meetings because they are "hybrid," that is, some workers attend on Zoom. "Rhesa wasn't there. Unless she was on Zoom," Baker quipped. ☘

UF | Veterinary Hospitals

UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



vethospitals.ufl.edu

Small and Large Animal Hospitals in Gainesville and Ocala

ARTWALK *gainesville*

GET ENGAGED....or just have
an affair with art on the
LAST FRIDAY OF THE
MONTH in downtown
Gainesville's Art District.

www.artwalkgainesville.com
GALLERY TOUR BEGINS AT 7 PM



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

We aim to provide healthy and accessible food to our community and to support food justice in the greater Gainesville area.

For more info: Facebook: freegrocerystore
Web: www.facebook.com/GNVFGS
Email: fgsgnv@gmail.com
Leave message at: 352-388-1586



Enstoolment & Celebration of the 85th Birthday of Vivian Washington Filer



Ceremony, Banquet, Music, Entertainment

Saturday, June 3, 2023 5:00-8:00 PM

Best Western Gateway Grand Hotel
4200 NW 97th Blvd. Gainesville, Florida

Tickets: \$75

Purchase tickets online at:
CottonClubMuseum.com/events



Enstoolment is an African and African Diaspora Tradition of bestowing the title of **Queen Mother** upon esteemed women as a recognition of past, present, and future service to the community. Vivian Washington Filer will be given a **royal stool** and designation with the honorary title of:

Queen Mother Mangye Naa Amiami Osuwaa Okropong I
"Mother Who Loves and Protects All of Her Children"



For more than two decades Vivian has worked tirelessly to renovate, promote, and sustain the mission of the Cotton Club Museum & Cultural Center (CCMCC) as a:

- Center for Historic Preservation
- Stage for Visual & Performing Arts
- Instrument of Education
- Living Culture Institution
- One-of-a-Kind Physical Presence



Sponsorships are invited. All Proceeds benefit the Cotton Club Museum & Cultural Center.

For more information, contact the Enstoolment Committee

Dr. Barbara McDade Gordon, Chair Email: bmcdade07@gmail.com
Co-Chairs: Dr. Ayoka Jasey Sowala and Dr. James Essegbey

CCMCC is a 501(c)3 Nonprofit Organization

*"All war is a
symptom of man's
failure as a
thinking animal."*

- John Steinbeck

**Realty's
A
Ride**

GET INSIDE!

Sandy Malone, Realtor
352-575-4080
"No Pressure Realtor"

1.5% listing fee (call for details)

WGOT: its future is you

Visit open house June 11 to learn of opportunities

by Fred Sowder, WGOT station volunteer

This month, both the World Health Organization and the Federal Government have declared an end to the Covid pandemic. It's a historical event that's been challenging for many, including your community radio station. Now more than ever, we need the help of our community. That means you.

On Sunday, June 11, please consider joining us at the Civic Media Center (433 S. Main St.) for our open house and live broadcast from 10am to 1pm. You can get a look at WGOT's air studio and find out how you can formulate and host your own program.

The epidemic led to many of our locally-produced shows to fall by the wayside. Your imagination and artful ideas can help us rebound from this tough time.

If radio talent isn't exactly your forté, that's fine. There are a multitude of ways you can help WGOT re-expand its presence in the community.

Web design, graphic design, audio production, data entry, and other skills can be of great use in helping WGOT be a bright spot in our community. We'd also like for you to have a say in WGOT's

future. By being a member of our board, you can help sculpt WGOT's future by attending a meeting every month or two. In fairness, though, most of our day-to-day operations are conducted online via project tracking software, so you can be engaged with your community radio station from anywhere.

Last but not least, your financial assistance has allowed us to continue serving the Gainesville community for over 15 years. We can only continue with your help. Donations are always appreciated when sent to the Civic Media Center, but we have other online ways you can make a donation.

We're trying to reach 100 total sustaining members through our Patreon page. By being one of the "Hundred for 100.1," you can get access to exclusive content you can only find online and more. Just search for WGOT on patreon.com.

You can also search for us on GoFundMe if a one-time online donation is more convenient. We also hope to soon have news regarding our 15th anniversary benefit concert.

Please stay tuned and get involved!

Thank you. 🎧



377-5828

DRIVE THRU & CALL-INS

407 NW 13th St.
9am-10pm
Breakfast til 11, 11:30 weekends

5011 NW 34th St.
8am-10pm
Breakfast til 11, 11:30 weekends

Labor Notes

The voice of activists who are
"Putting the movement back in
the Labor Movement"



www.labornotes.org

for in-depth and up-to-date
reporting from around the
labor movement

Subscribe \$30/year

INDIE & OLDER ROCK, AMERICANA, ELECTRONIC, PUNK, SKA, TALK AND MORE!

INFORMATIVO PACIFICA
MON-FRI: 6 AM

THOM HARTMANN
MON - FRI: 7 AM

DEMOCRACY NOW!
AMY GOODMAN
MON - FRI: 8 AM and 1 PM



WGOT 100.1 FM

Streaming now at
WGOT.org

GREAT SHOWS BY:

FRED SOWDER
BILL PERRY
H.R. GERTNER
DOUG CLIFFORD
DEBI
D.J. CRAMELA
MARKUS ALEXANDER
STAN
KEN STEARNS
CHUCK D. (from Public Enemy)
RALPH NADER
DAVID BARSAMIAN
and others!

WE ARE GAINESVILLE'S COMMUNITY RADIO STATION

PROGRESSIVE TALK 5-10 AM AND 1-3 PM WEEKDAYS

1001 NW 4th st, Gainesville FL



Monday - Saturday
2pm - 10pm
Sunday 2pm - 8pm



Theatre of Memory Museum
1705 NW 6th Street, Gainesville, FL 32609
352-318-2633
Email: memorycurator@gmail.com
www.TheatreofMemory.org
Hours: 10:30-4:30
Wednesday-Sunday
And by appointment
Meeting Rooms are available!



435 S. Main St.
Mon-Fri 9-8 Weekends 10-6

Website:
bingodeli.square.site
IG: [bingodeli](https://www.instagram.com/bingodeli)
FB: [BingoDeliGNV](https://www.facebook.com/BingoDeliGNV)
619 S Main Street
(352) 451-4470

BINGO DELI & PUB




Daily/weekly farm to table specials (check IG/FB for updates) - Great sandwiches - Delish beer & wine (full bar coming soon) - Homemade items for sale, like Bingo's chili sauce, pickled veggies, & sauerkraut - Options for kiddos - @ historic South Main Station with Heartwood Soundstage across from Depot Park - Plenty of parking on the property & outdoor seating - Pet friendly - Vegetarian & vegan options

Support the Civic Media Center: Gainesville's community-based alternative to corporate media

by Sloan Tran, CMC coordinator
and Sage, CMC volunteer

The CMC was founded as a community-based alternative to corporate media. During this time of book bans, this resource has become more vital than ever. In response to the bans, a large donation from Haymarket Books has helped us expand our library. We also host educational events about issues that are not accurately represented in mainstream media, such as the recent abortion bans and anti-trans bills. We hope to host more events focused around disability justice, anti-immigration laws, and other relevant topics. If you have any ideas for future events, please email coordinators@civicmediacenter.org.

We also firmly believe that in order to sustain a sense of community, we must remember to experience joy and connection through cultural events such as shows, dance parties, trans-focused events, a long running poetry jam, skillshare workshops, film screenings, and many more types of events. We all spend so much time in grief, anger, and stress that it's important to deliberately create space for fun. In these spaces we are able to remember we are not alone as we work together to further deepen our community.

The CMC strives to be a place of stability amidst the chaos of the world. Now that we've entered the fourth year of the pandemic and a period of organized state abandonment with the end of the federal Public Health Emergency, the CMC continues to be dedicated to addressing Covid related concerns. Masks are still required and freely provided during library

hours and at all official CMC meetings, most of which are hybrid or virtual. The CMC remains a place where disabled, older adults, and working class people can spend time and work with their community while reducing the risk of a potentially disabling infection. Taking these precautions to protect our volunteers also ensures the longevity of the CMC in the hopes that we can stay open for another 30 years.

There are plenty of ways to get involved. Our library is open to the public every Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday from 2 to 6pm. There are general volunteer meetings every Wednesday at

5:30pm, Collections Committee meetings on the 2nd and 4th Fridays at 5:30pm, and Events Committee meetings on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 7:30pm.

Independent organizations such as Books to Prisoners, Florida Prisoner Solidarity, Free Grocery Store, IWW, and Red Reading Circle all use the CMC as a meeting space as well. These organizations and one-off events such as music shows may have different Covid protocols.

See the calendar at civicmediacenter.org or follow us on Instagram @civicmediacenter_ for upcoming events and accessibility info. We'll be excited to see you there! 🐾

A word about donations

by Joe Courter

Hello readers. Glad you are here in this slightly expanded 32-page *Iguana*. This is more of an ask than the usual passive box on the page inviting your support. The *Iguana* sustains itself on its advertisers and its friendly readers, some of whom get it mailed to them, or get the emailed link, or just randomly pick it up and kick in. No one gets paid on the staff (me included) and this system has worked well; we (Beth, Jessica, Pierce, those who write articles and those that help distribute the paper) have a process of turning out the paper that works and that we feel good about doing.

Ways to donate nowadays have changed, with both periodic bank transfers account to account, and through Paypal. Some folks help the *Iguana* out this way, and it is pretty damn convenient. If so moved, please do this. However ...

This is a request for you to help out the 501(c)3 Civic Media Center, an organization I have been part of for 30 years (they are separate entities that share me). *Iguana* subscribers already get the opportunity to help the CMC with their renewals; the *Iguana* donates 50 percent of renewals over \$20 to the CMC, and people have been generous enough to both keep the *Iguana* afloat and share funds with the CMC.

The CMC is coming out of Covid with organizations holding regular meetings, a weekly food distribution service, and a monthly free store. The doors are open again for the book and zine libraries to browse and in the case of books, check out. Reading groups meet regularly, there are music shows again, and of course the Poetry Jam is still going ... persisting right on through Covid. (See adjoining article by CMC coordinator Sloan for more details.)

If a bunch of you *Iguana* readers were to start making a small donation once a month through your direct deposit from your bank or use the Paypal button on the CMC website (www.civicmediacenter.org) to set up recurring donations, it would be great. A one-time donation can be done via paypal.me/cmc4ever. It would all add up to help with the CMC's sizeable rent, utilities, and coordinator pay obligations. Having a solid regular base would take the pressure and worry of monthly fundraising, and maybe let them do some equipment upgrades. Generosity during Covid got the CMC through when those stimulus checks went out, as well as great work by then coordinator JoJo Sacks creating some productive online fund raising when most of us were stuck at home, not going out spending money. Now we are all back, busy in our lives.

Please be one of the people who will do this out of the thousands of readers this paper has. Be a friend and supporter of the CMC. (Checks are still accepted of course, send them in to the CMC at 433 S. Main St., GNV FL 32601.) 🐾

The Civic Media Center Open House & Social

LEARN ABOUT GAINESVILLE'S INDEPENDENT
LIBRARY & ACTIVIST HUB!

Wednesday, May 24th 5:30- 8:30PM

Potluck
Crafting
Music
Games

Community

433 S. Main St

www.civicmediacenter.org

Gary Gordon teaching two SFC classes this summer

As part of Santa Fe College's community education classes, Gary Gordon — author, musician, and former Gainesville City Commissioner — will be teaching **Intro to Screenwriting** and **American Revolution: 1763–1815**.

Registration instructions and additional information is at: sfcollege.edu/communityed/ or call 352-395-5193.

The summer brochure with a complete class listing is at: issuu.com/santafecollege/docs/enrichsummer_2023/.

Intro to Screenwriting

ENG0053.1D6

Number of Weeks: 5, Days: Mondays

Starts: June 5, 6:30 - 8:45pm

Location: SF - NW CAMPUS S-328
3000 NW 83rd St, Gainesville

Course Fee: \$69

Notes: *Bring a laptop or tablet, a paragraph to a page about your favorite movie: what it is and why, and any screenplay writing you've done or have started. No class on June 19, will be made up on July 10.*

This class is an introduction to the basics of writing a screenplay. You'll learn to think about your protagonist and antagonist, plot your story in a screenplay format, and avoid some of the classic mistakes made by beginning screenplay writers. You may even achieve writing the first ten or fifteen pages (or the first act). Participation will be encouraged, as discussions are part of this class.

American Revolution: 1763–1815

HIS0039.1F2

Number of Weeks: 5, Days: Tuesdays
Starts: June 6, 6:30 - 8:30pm

Location: SF - NW CAMPUS S-328
3000 NW 83rd St, Gainesville

Course Fee: \$64

Notes: *Bring note-taking materials if you wish. No class on July 4, will be made up on July 11.*

This course will not focus on battles; instead this is an introductory course where information usually left aside when discussing the American Revolution will be presented.

The post-war period will include the disagreements over the reasons for the war, the Federalist and anti-Federalist papers — a strong or weak central government; the Whiskey Rebellion, Shay's Rebellion, the Alien and Sedition Acts, the lead-up to the War of 1812 and its immediate aftermath, after which the United States began to be recognized as a nation among nations. 🐾

DylanFest: May 21 at Heartwood Soundstage

The 2nd Annual DylanFest, a celebration of Bob Dylan and his songs, will take place a few days shy of his 82nd birthday on Sunday, May 21, from 1 to 7pm, at Heartwood Soundstage.

Produced by Gary Gordon and Heartwood Soundstage, the emphasis will be on Dylan's songs. Donations benefit the Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute.

The mission of the Florida Springs Institute is to improve the understanding of springs ecology and to foster the development of science-based education and management actions needed to restore and protect springs throughout Florida.

DylanFest II features several Gainesville area musicians including Ric Kaestner, Mick Marino, Hollyanne Page, Michael Tamayo,

Gary Gordon And, George Gomez, Quincy Flint, Barry Sides, Big Owl & Tony, Nicole André Wagner, Shawn Manley, Cathy DeWitt, Eli Tragash, Tapewerm, Mark and Barbara Armbrecht, The Ramblin' Mutts, and more. The Emcee is Chris Qualmann.

The concert is free and takes place outdoors. Donations are requested. For info see: tinyurl.com/Iguana1611 🐾



DylanFest II

Heartwood Soundstage

Sun. May 21st * 1:00–7:00 p.m.

Mark and Barbara Armbrecht	Big Owl and Tony
Ric Kaestner	Quincy Flint
Michael Tamayo	Shawn Manley
Cathy DeWitt	Hollyanne Page
Barry Sides	Eli Tragash
Mick Marino	Tapewerm
Nicole Andre Wagner	Gary Gordon
George Gomez	Ramblin' Mutts

Donations up to \$10, proceeds to Florida Springs Institute

Facebook: [Florida Springs Institute](https://www.facebook.com/floridaspringsinstitute) Instagram: [@floridaspringsinstitute](https://www.instagram.com/floridaspringsinstitute)

Gainesville celebrates Juneteenth!

Join the City of Gainesville Juneteenth's Celebration with the A. Quinn Jones Museum's Juneteenth Film Festival, Saturday, June 10 from 5:30 to 9:30pm. The film Festival will be held at A. Quinn Jones Museum and Cultural Center at 1013 NW 7th Ave. in Gainesville.

The Juneteenth Film Festival showcases a wide range of entertainment made by locals, and features the people, places, music, dance and experiences of Gainesville residents.

Bar-b-que food truck, lemonade stand and an assortment of cakes will be available for purchase. Chairs provided, or you can bring your own.

See more Juneteenth activities in the *events* list on pages 26-27.

Film Schedule:

5:30-6:45pm. - **"Soul of America: The Charles Bradley Story"**: The incredible rise of the 62-year-old aspiring soul singer and Gainesville native Charles Bradley, whose debut

album rocketed him from a hard life in the Brooklyn housing projects to *Rolling Stone Magazine's* top 50 albums of 2011.

7-8pm. - **"One More Time"**: A local high school marching band revisits their former high school and travels down the road of high-stepping and show-stopping performances throughout Gainesville. Based on a true-life story of the Richard E. Parker Alumni Band from Eastside High School. Produced and directed by MyQueal Lewis, a graduate of Eastside High School and Florida A&M University. Lewis works to make social change, and is a filmmaker, photographer, and all around artist, as well as the founder of Queality a company responsible for using visual arts to brighten up the community.

8:15-9:15pm - **"Sarah's Place: The Sarah McKnight Story"**: In the mid-1960s, Sarah's Restaurant, a diner in the historically black, Fifth Avenue neighborhood in Gainesville, offered lunch by day and live R&B at night. Musicians return for a special reunion to share memories of Sarah McKnight, great music and special bonds of friendship. ✪

Juneteenth Film Festival

Sat., June 10, 5:30 p.m.

A. Quinn Jones Museum & Cultural Center

presented by:

City of Gainesville



East End Eatery

LUNCH:
M-F / 10-2
inside & carry out
patio seating
(weather permitting)

DINNER: M-W-F / 5-6 - carry out only

1202 NE 8th Avenue • 378-9870

GAINESVILLE COMMUNITY ACUPUNCTURE

AFFORDABLE ACCESSIBLE HEALTHCARE

Jennifer Downey, AP, Dipl OM
ACUPUNCTURE PHYSICIAN
AP 1673

4131 NW 13th Street, Suite 101
Gainesville, FL 32609
GainesvilleCommunityAcupuncture.com

Phone: (352) 371-0012
Cell: (352) 745-2977
acujenn@yahoo.com

From LEGISLATURE, p. 1

Local renters' rights ordinances protect renters from slumlords by ensuring minimal living and safety conditions are met and requiring adequate notice before raising rent.

Clemons and Perry voted on behalf of landlords for a bill that makes it ILLEGAL for a local renters' rights ordinance to exist!

Clemons and Perry support landlords, not working class renters.

HB 1645: GRU Takeover

Clemons and Perry authored bills to remove local control of GRU and place it under control of the state.

GRU is a city-owned utility, meaning that profits from GRU are reinvested into our community, instead of sent to out-of-state investors. If GRU is run by a Desantis-appointed authority with zero accountability to locals, they can make decisions to sell GRU to private investors or to open new high-polluting plants. An out-of-town ownership of GRU won't care about decisions that affect the people who live here, and the people who live here will have ZERO votes on what happens. This is a move against democracy!

Without profits returning to the city, the city will have to raise revenue elsewhere. Expect cuts to services and raised property taxes if this deal goes through! Gainesville already cut \$13 million from the budget in anticipation of this bill passing.

Less than 2 years ago, Gainesville voted AGAINST this on a ballot initiative. Ask

those who passed this bill why they don't care about democracy in Gainesville!

SB 266: Anti-Academic Freedom

From the UFF-UF Newsletter:

The bill:

Prohibits neutral arbitration on personnel matters relating to faculty termination, disciplinary action, promotion, tenure, evaluation etc.

Prohibits General Education courses on exploratory concepts.

Prohibits state or federal funding on programs that violate the 2022 Stop Woke Act, or advocate for DEI or promote social or political activism.

The bill also weakens tenure by requiring Post Tenure Review and removing faculty from decisions related to hiring and promotions.

SB 300: Abortion Ban

Women and their doctors — not the government in Tallahassee — should be in charge of women's health care decisions.

One half the population in Florida is now DENIED adequate, necessary, and life-saving health care. Abortion is often a medically necessary procedure and women are suffering because they cannot get medical care, thanks to DeSantis, Clemons and Perry.

In addition to families facing health crises, working class people who do not want to be pregnant or who have another child are now forced to travel out of state. The wealthy — who

can afford to travel — will still have access to abortions, just not the poor! Make it make sense!

HB 543: Permitless Carry

What to do about the gun violence epidemic? According to the legislature, the answer to a problem is ... to create more of the problem!

Open carry of firearms is illegal in Florida, and will remain so. Previously, if you wanted to carry a gun concealed, you had to obtain a permit, which required a safety course. Now, under this law, any individual who would have otherwise qualified for a concealed carry permit would be allowed to conceal carry without having to first obtain a permit.

Do you want to live in a world where anyone who wants to can stick a gun in their pants and walk around?

DeSantis, Clemons, and Perry think this solves the answer of gun violence, but we know that last year in this country there were less than 2,000 instances of legitimate self-defense from a gun, while over 60,000 acts of accidents, deaths of innocent people, and intentional, malicious violence. More guns on the streets is not the answer to gun violence.

Innocent families are paying the price while legislators are actively working to make the problem worse.

Budget Proviso: Another Blanket Statewide Preemption Against Communities Regulating Fertilizer Use

From the Florida Springs Council:

“The language is tied to a \$6.2 million appropriation to IFAS to study the impact of preempting local fertilizer regulations for the next year ... it was never heard by any committee and there was never an opportunity for public comment.

The measure ‘Prohibits a local government from adopting or amending a fertilizer management ordinance pursuant to s. 403.9337, F.S., which provides for a prohibited application period not in existence on June 30, 2023.’

This means no new local fertilizer ordinances with blackout periods for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.”

This is a clear giveaway to the fertilizer industry. The Legislature's standard response to avoiding a “patchwork” of different regulations throughout the state too often seems to be ... no regulation at all! 🐸



From GRU, p. 1

are, and can set their own rules about whether public input is even allowed at their meetings. As a preview, the Legislature provided short notice for their one public hearing about this law, required citizens to travel 150 miles to speak, permitted each person thirty seconds to voice their concerns, and then ignored every proposed amendment.

If this new Utility Authority takes over, their members and the Utility Manager they hire, by State law, must consider the “pecuniary impact of decisions on the utility system” (their words, not mine). They are forbidden “consideration of the social, political, or ideological impacts” of GRU’s services, policies, or programs.

This new state law’s suspension of the First Amendment’s right to free speech is breathtaking in its over-reach and cynicism. For DeSantis and his mini-Me’s, this is not a bug, it is a feature.

Protect your rights: Sign petition to get abortion issue on ballot

*by Kai Christmas,
Regional Organizer, Planned Parenthood*

On Monday, May 8, Floridians Protecting Freedom launched a citizen-led ballot initiative campaign to give Florida voters the chance to ensure that their personal medical decisions are theirs and theirs alone to make.

The decision of whether or not to have an abortion belongs to Floridians, their families, and those they trust — this campaign is an opportunity to further enshrine those protections in our state constitution.

“We are putting abortion on the ballot, and we are giving the voice back to the people of Florida that for so long has been silenced,” said Sarah Parker, President of Women’s Voices of Southwest Florida.

“We’re asking Floridians to join us because it is time for the people of Florida, from all classes, from all political affiliations, and from all faiths, to stand in solidarity — and fight back. It’s time to reclaim our voices and bring real freedom to the state of Florida.”

Year after year Florida lawmakers have implemented increasingly drastic restrictions on abortion access — even though Floridians don’t support them. Passage of this constitutional amendment will establish an explicit right to abortion and ensure that Floridians’ reproductive freedom is codified into law and no longer subject to the whims of extremist politicians and judges.

The petition is on the website floridiansprotectingfreedom.com. Any registered Florida voter can sign a petition.

The Civic Media Center is acting as a hub for petition collection, and people can drop off completed petitions there, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 2 to 6pm. If you want to volunteer to collect petitions, contact the Planned Parenthood Regional Organizer, Kai, at kai.christmas@ppsenfl.org.

Utility companies are hard to love, and GRU in recent years has faced challenges. They eliminated an onerous contract that had increased electric rates. The cost of natural gas prices fluctuated due to world events, and GRU, (like all utilities) has to pass these through to customers. Staffing shortages have led to delays in meter reading.

None of these real or alleged shortcomings, however, are addressed by the proposed takeover. In fact, total customer bills could increase if the new, unaccountable, Authority chooses to stop funding customer conservation programs, solar net metering, etc., all in the guise of “improving the bottom line.” And the bottom line is all that the new Authority may consider.

Any customer that needs financial assistance for energy conservation, or wants solar power on their roof, or who waits for power to be restored after a storm, or any employee who works with a union contract, or retiree who relies on pension investments should take notice. Because what may be best for that Authority’s «bottom line» may end up hurting yours.

A diverse coalition of organizations and individuals were politely lobbying the Legislature to amend the bill. But having been completely ignored, they are now lawyering up and will be filing challenges in State and Federal courts to overturn or de-fang the law. There’s a lot to do in a short timeframe; fortunately, Gainesville has many attorneys and citizen experts volunteering to do some of the research and writing. Even so, the cost of trying and appealing these cases is prodigious, so creative fundraising ideas are being sought. GRUpalooza anyone?

For the latest developments to this rapidly changing issue, or to get personally involved: www.NoGRUtakeover.com

Robert “Hutch” Hutchinson was a GRU employee for nine years and an Alachua County commissioner for twelve years. ☛

220 NW 8th Ave.

352.375.3752



Modern & Vintage Apparel

Buy. Sell. Trade.

Open every day 12-6



flashbacksrecycledfashions.com

‘Never again’ means standing up for our immigrant neighbors

by *Hallie Berkson-Gold*
Communications Director of Never Again Action
Sun Sentinel Commentary

Imagine for a moment that you’re driving your child and their friend to a soccer game. Suddenly, lights flash behind you. You pull over, and immediately, ICE agents with guns surround your car, screaming for you to keep your hands up. They’ve been tracking your kid’s friend and their whole family. This kid didn’t even know that they were undocumented, because they’ve been here as long as they can remember.

Your child watches as you’re slammed to the hood of a police cruiser, handcuffed and charged with a felony. Your child watches their friend get taken away by ICE. You and your child will never see that friend or their parents (your own friends) again.

If Gov. Ron DeSantis and the Republican supermajority in the Florida Legislature get their way, this nightmare scenario will soon become reality in Florida. And if it

does, Florida’s extreme anti-immigrant legislation could become law throughout the entire country if Republicans retake the presidency in 2024.

After all, DeSantis — whose 2024 presidential run is all but announced — has already soft-launched the central premise of his vision: The rest of the U.S. should be like Florida.

Central to DeSantis’ platform of exclusion and discrimination are Senate Bill 1718 and House Bill 1617, under which people would be charged with third-degree felonies for sheltering, hiring and transporting undocumented people.

That means any of the over 722,000 Floridians of mixed-status families in the state could face jail time just for the crime of sharing space with a parent, sibling, cousin or friend. Hospital staff would be required to report patients’ immigration status to the state or risk their livelihoods. The implications of these bills’ passage are almost too painful to imagine.

In practice, this would prevent people from seeking necessary medical care, for fear that they or someone they love could be deported. If you’re an Uber driver (or a soccer mom) who gives an undocumented person a ride somewhere? Handcuffs could be in your future. If you’re a landlord, who rents to a tenant who is undocumented? Jail. If you’re a U.S. citizen and an adult child of undocumented parents? Felony charges. Disenfranchisement. Reduced employment opportunities. Your voice at the polls, silenced.

As Jews, we have seen this all before. We’ve seen the scapegoating of a marginalized population already facing increased poverty and violence. We’ve seen the criminalization of people trying to help. And we’ve seen — we know — where this road goes.

When people think about the Holocaust, they tend to associate it with the horrific end results. But often, less time is spent thinking about the political climate and

policies that helped it get there — the process of gradual normalization of discrimination, exclusion and expulsion — before the extermination.

Authoritarianism festers in environments of uncertainty, where children and adults learn to fear asking questions, where the ambiguity of laws and cultural norms cast deep shadows over every decision. And it leads to average citizens changing their own behavior ahead of any actual risk, in order to avoid facing violence at the hands of the state.

Understandably, many people have a difficult time taking risks. They want to know what is legal and what isn’t, to make informed choices, and generally do what they can to avoid punishment or negative consequences. So if a punitive law is on the horizon, and it feels unclear in any way how, or if, it could affect you, chances are you would err on the side of caution. Of course you would, to protect yourself and your family.

Let’s not mince words: If you’re unsure whether or not you can legally give your child’s friend a ride without ending up behind bars, then clearly, we’ve passed a critical point as a society.

We are not so far down the road that we can’t turn back. And no one has to fight this fight alone. In Florida, and around the country, the majority viewpoint is not that of ideologues like DeSantis. Most Floridians, and most Americans, are not in favor of breaking up families and criminalizing carpooling.

If we mobilize and organize against these human rights abuses, we can avoid the worst outcomes and turn toward an immigration policy built on empathy instead of cruelty, rationality instead of hate. The future is unwritten.

Where this road ends is entirely within our hands.

This op-ed originally appeared in the South Florida Sun Sentinel on April 23. See more at sun-sentinel.com.

Hey, Readers!

The Gainesville Iguana has a PayPal account, and we’re accepting donations through our website at:

GainesvilleIguana.org

Go to our home page and click on the “Donate with PayPal” link to support us via your PayPal account or credit card.

We thank you very much!

**The CMC
is a reading room,
a library of the
non-corporate press,
and community space.**

Come get involved in something for the greater good.

civicmediacenter.org

**Want your article, ad, event or PSA
in the next issue of the Iguana?**

Deadline is Wednesday, June 28

***Submit events, content, and questions to:
gainesvilleiguana@cox.net***

In memoriam:

Rest in power Dr. George Buchanan, 1954-2023



Dr. George Buchanan - A doctor known for fully supporting women's choices concerning their reproductive lives.

by Amy Coenen

Dr. George Buchanan was finishing his OB/GYN residency in the mid 1980s when he answered an ad for medical director of the Gainesville Women's Health Center (GWHC). Founded in 1972 by 4 women activists shortly after the *Roe v Wade* decision, the clinic provided well-woman care, including abortions, to North Central Florida and beyond. In the words of Joan McTigue, who worked at the clinic in the 80s, "we quickly embraced him as quickly as he embraced us...not only did he understand the politics of women's health care, he lived it."

I first met Dr. Buchanan in the '90s when I was hired as a lab tech at GWHC. I was 23 years old, with no experience in health care, but I was a feminist organizer who was passionate about abortion rights. I wanted to be a part of this feminist, activist clinic that provided abortions up to the then-legal limit of 24 weeks.

George was the reason we were able to provide that care. A doctor willing to perform abortions is rare, one who is willing to provide them throughout the second trimester is one in a million.

Today, with draconian abortion bans passing across the nation, his willingness to perform abortions up to the legal limit, literally risking his life to do so, seems even more precious. The skillset needed

to perform a surgical abortion later in pregnancy with minimal risk is rare and rapidly disappearing, I fear. And his skill was second to none.

In addition to performing abortions at GWHC, he had a private practice providing the full gamut of OB/GYN care, including high-risk pregnancies and deliveries. Even in private practice, he shared GWHC's philosophy of "Health Care for People, Not for Profit". He was one of the few — if not the only — private obstetrician in town who accepted Medicaid and provided care regardless of ability to pay.

When GWHC founders went on to start a birth center, George was the medical director there, too — providing back up to the midwives who delivered women's babies at home or at the center. He fully supported women's choices around their reproductive lives.

Once, during clinic, a co-worker asked him: "George, how is it that you can fight to save an extremely premature baby at 24 weeks, then come in the next day and perform an abortion at 24 weeks?" He replied, "The woman is my patient and I do what she wants."

Many of us at the clinic would have gladly taken a bullet for him. And that was a real possibility in the '90s in North Central Florida, as abortion clinic doctors

were murdered and clinics burned to the ground throughout the state.

George openly acknowledged that he might get shot and killed as a result of his decision to provide abortions — and he kept doing it anyway. The risk became so great that at one point, employees routinely picked him up at a pre-determined location and drove him to the clinic while he hid in the back seat under blankets.

Lynne Salzberg, a midwife who worked with George, recalls how he would meet midwives when they needed to transfer a patient to the hospital: "He could show up in a tuxedo. Or in work boots and a tool belt. But he always showed up." That was my experience with George, too.

I lost touch with George after the clinic closed in the late '90s. He continued in his practice, and I have no doubt he continued doing abortions, too. He also married and had two children. While he had a successful career as a surgeon and as an OB, and was a beloved husband, father, and friend, many of us in the feminist community will remember and honor him for his work providing compassionate, safe, and skilled abortion care.

Rest in power, George Buchanan. Thank you for your bravery and your service.

Amy Coenen is a feminist organizer and a nurse practitioner in Gainesville. ✨

THE REPURPOSE PROJECT

A non-profit junk shop focused on salvaging valuable resources left behind by traditional reuse markets

The Repurpose Project has opened a second location featuring used furniture, appliances, cabinets, and more

Reuse Planet

- 1540 NE Waldo Road, Gainesville
- Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10am-6pm, Sunday noon-5pm, Monday closed
- reuseplanet.org • 352-647-5112

Repurpose Project

- 1920 NE 23rd Avenue, Gainesville
- Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10am-6pm, Sunday noon-5pm, Monday closed
- repurposeproject.org • 352-363-8902

Gainesville area events

WEEK OF MAY 14-20

- Fri 5/19 6:30-10 pm, Transiversary Show, Civic Media Center Courtyard (433 S. Main St) - sliding scale donations requested at all CMC events
- Fri 5/19 7 pm, Opening Reception for "We Are Here: Stories from Multilingual Speakers in North Central Florida," Matheson Museum (513 E. University Ave), free with registration (see mathesonmuseum.org/events/)
- Sat 5/20 9 am, Cotton Club Museum and Cultural Center (837 SRE 7th Ave) celebrates the day enslaved people in Florida heard the Emancipation Proclamation with neighborhood parade, flag ceremony, and family events; free
- Sat 5/20 10 am-2 pm, The Biggest Heart Giveaway - food & clothing giveaways, health vendors - Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E. University Ave)
- Sat 5/20 11 am-2 pm, old Gainesville friend Nancy Luca and band, outdoors at One Love Café (4989 W 40th Pl)
- Sat 5/20 2-5 pm, Gvl Free Store, Civic Media Ctr (433 S. Main St), see pg 16
- Sat 5/20 6-9 pm, Unspoken Treasure Society 2023 Gala black-tie fundraiser (1001 NE 16th Ave) for LGBTQ+ community with food, entertainment, and speaker Nikole Parker, Equality Fla Director of Transgender Equality, \$50-2,500 via [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)
- Sat 5/20 7:30-9:30 pm, DeLaRuSa Quartet, Theatre of Memory (1705 NW 6th St), \$21.50, see theatreofmemory.org

WEEK OF MAY 21-27

- Sun 5/21 11 am, Sunday Assembly hosts master gardener Julie Naim on the web of life in north Florida, Pride Center (3131 NW 13th St), free
- Mon 5/22 6:30 pm, Advocacy Through Art panel & exhibit on art and the queer community, Matheson Museum (513 E. University Ave; also on Zoom), free with adv registration at mathesonmuseum.org/events
- Tue 5/23 6 pm, Alachua County Labor Coalition, Emmanuel Monnonite Church (1236 NW 18th Ave)
- Tue 5/23 7 pm, poet Tyler Gillespie in conversation with UF Prof Kenneth Kidd, Civic Media Ctr (433 S Main St), free
- Wed 5/24 5:30-8:30 pm, Civic Media Center Open House & Social; see pg 19
- Thur 5/25 8:30 pm-12:30 am, Hippvanna Salsa Dance Party with DJ Elio Piedra, the Hipp (25 SE 2nd Pl), \$10
- Fri 5/26 6-10 pm, Yassability drag show (part of Gvl Artwalk), Civic Media Ctr (422 S. Main St)
- Fri 5/26 7-0 pm, last Fridays, Gvl Artwalk, multiple venues - see artwalkgainesville.com and pg 16

WEEK OF MAY 28-JUNE 3

- Sun 5/28 4-7 pm, 4th Sunday Jam, Bluegrass, Old-Time, & Traditional Jam, CMC Courtyard (433 S. Main St), BYOB, donation requested
- Mon 5/29 10 am, Memorial Day Ceremony at Historic Evergreen Cemetery (401 SE 21st Ave), with music, speakers, more; free
- Thur 6/1 6 pm, SSJ Sierra Club Summertime Celebration Picnic, Depot Park (874 SE 4th St) with Fla Sierra Club Ex. Dir. Emily Ruff; potluck (no throwaway plastics, please); rsvp via www.sierraclub.org/florida
- Thur 6/1 6:30 pm, National Women's Liberation meets at Curia on the Drag (2029 NW 6th St); womensliberation.org
- Fri 6/2 3-5 pm, Alachua County Climate Action Plan report and public discussion; and 5-8 pm, Climate Fair with games, family entertainment, and info booths, Cuscowilla Nature and Retreat Center (210 SE 134th St, Micanopy), free
- Fri 6/2 7-9 pm, Free Friday Concerts kick off at Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E. University Ave) - schedule at bodiddleyplaza.com/upcoming-events; see pg 13
- Fri 6/2 8-10 pm, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder* opens at Hipp (25 SE 2nd Pl), runs through 7/9; \$55 (pay-what-you-can previews 5/31 & 6/1, 7 pm), see thehipp.org
- Sat 6/3 11 am-3 pm, PinkFest 2023 - 3rd annual cancer awareness event at Celebration Pointe (3528 SW 45th St) with educational tools and products, a 1K walk/run, and live radio broadcast; free
- Sat 6/3 12-4 pm, "We Wear Orange: Together We Can End Gun Violence," panel, film & luncheon honoring those killed and wounded by guns, Porters Community Ctr (512 SW 6th Ave), free
- Sat 6/3 1-3 pm, Ice Cream in the Park, ice cream social (w/ vegan options) hosted by ACT, Rockwood Park (2221 NW 2nd St), free
- Sat 6/3 2-4 pm, Sequential Arts Workshop In-Person Draw Jam, 1st Sats, Gvl Fine Arts Assn Gallery (1314 S. Main St), free
- Sat 6/3 2:30-4:30 pm, Civic Media Center Springboard event with Zoharah Simmons and author Dan Berger, CMC, see pg 32
- Sat 6/3 5-8 pm, Enstoolment Celebration in honor of Vivian Filer & other Queen Mothers, Gateway Grand Hotel (4200 NW 97th Blvd), \$75; see cottonclubmuseum.com & pg 16

WEEK OF JUNE 4-10

- Sun 6/4 6-9 pm, Dr. Anthony Dixon on "History of Seminole Nation: Unchained and Unconquered" at Oak View Park (810 NW 8th Ave), with music, art, & poetry; free
- Tue 6/6 5 pm, Culinary Arts Certification Program 16-week pro cooking course opens at Working Food Kitchen (219 NW 10th Ave), \$7,500 (scholarships available); workingfood.org
- Sat 6/10 9 am-6/11 4 pm, Food Is Medicine Conference, Swallowtail Farm (7301 SE 92nd Terr), \$250 - see swallowtailcsa.com/
- Sat 6/10 4-6 pm, documentary *The Most Dangerous Man in America: Daniel Ellsberg & the Pentagon Papers* (2009), CMC (433 S. Main St); donation requested; see pg 25
- Sat 6/10 4-6 pm, Free 2nd Saturday Street Circus, the Streatery (10 SW 1st Ave), free
- Sat 6/10 5:30-9:30 pm, Juneteenth Film Festival of locally-made films at A. Quinn Jones Museum & Cultural Ctr (1013 NW 7th Ave), free, see pg 21

WEEK OF JUNE 11-17

- Sun 6/11 10 am-1 pm, WGOT Open House and live broadcast, Civic Media Center (433 S. Main St.), free
- Thu 6/15 noon, *Juneteenth: Rejoice, Reflect, Remember* features Santa Fe College Black faculty & staff with history, crafts, youth activities, live entertainment, and more, SFC Blount Center (530 W University Ave); gospel extravaganza starts 6 pm; free
- Thu 6/15 8-10:30 pm, Poetry Jam, CMC (433 S. Main St), free (30 people max, masks required)
- Sat 6/17 7-11 am, Journey to Juneteenth Freedom Walk 5K begins & ends at Depot Park (874 SE 4th St), tours through Porters Quarters, Springhill, Sugarhill, and Lincoln Estates neighborhoods followed by live music & entertainment; free
- Sat 6/17 2-5 pm, Gvl Free Store, Civic Media Ctr (433 S. Main St), see pg 16
- Sat 6/17 4-9 pm, Journey to Juneteenth Freedom Fest 2023, music & arts festival with kids' zone, bounce house, music, vendors, more; Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E. University Ave), free
- Sat 6/17 6:30 pm, doors open for Chris Staples music show (w/ Ricky Kendall), Gvl Fine Arts Assn (1314 S. Main St), \$21.40 - adv tickets recommended, seating limited: tickettailor.com

WEEK OF JUNE 18-24

- Mon 6/19 10 am-2 pm, "Reaching Back to Move Forward," Juneteenth event honoring the late Dr. Patricia Hilliard-Nunn with music and history, County Admin Bldg (12 SE 1st St) and Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E. University Ave), free
- Fri 6/23 8-11 pm, Roadhouse show with Clover's Curfew, CMC (433 S. Main St)

WEEK OF JUNE 25-JULY 1

- Sun 6/25 4-7 pm, 4th Sunday Jam, Bluegrass, Old-Time, & Traditional Jam, CMC Courtyard (433 S. Main St), BYOB, donation requested
- Wed 6/28 Gvl Fine Arts Ass'n Summer Showcase 2023 opens, runs through 6/22 - see gainesvillefinearts.org
- Wed 6/28 8-11 pm, Respite show with Mexican Coke, die and PeZ, CMC (433 S. Main St)
- Fri 6/30 7-10 pm, last Fridays, Gvl Artwalk, multiple venues - see artwalkgainesville.com
- Fri 6/30 8 pm, *Lungs* opens at Actors' Warehouse (2512 NE 1st Blvd), runs through 7/16, \$25 (seniors \$20, students \$15)

WEEK OF JULY 2-8

- Mon 7/3 6-10 pm (fireworks begin ~ 9:40 pm), WUFT's Fanfares & Fireworks 2023, UF Bandshell, Flavet Field (Woodlawn Dr, UF campus), free
- Sat 7/8 6 pm, Gvl Roller Rebels All-Stars vs Sugar Sands Roller Derby, MLK Ctr (1028 NE 14th St), tickets from brownpapertickets.com (\$14.21) or Loosey's Downtown (\$12) or door (\$15) 🐾

RECURRING EVENTS

Monday Farmers Market,
4-7pm: Cypress & Grove

Thursday Farmers Market,
4-7pm: Heartwood Soundstage

Thursday evening Poetry Jam,
8pm at Civic Media Center

- 🐾 Please support GNV live music venues, they all have calendars: Heartwood Soundstage, Satchels, Loosey's, Boca Backyard, the Wooly, Wormhole, One Love Café, Cypress & Grove, etc.
- 🐾 See visitgainesville.com/events for a weekly event list, updated Thursdays; also try 352arts.org; and don't forget civicmediacenter.org
- 🐾 Support live music, theater, and festivals! Get out into nature! Leave the freakin' house and have fun!

Spotlight on ... *Current Problems*

Current Problems's mission is to restore and protect the wetlands and waterways of Florida for the wellbeing of wildlife and community through watershed cleanups and water quality outreach and education programs. They've been cleaning Florida's waterways and natural lands since 1993. (Happy 30th Anniversary, Current Problems!)

As the only freshwater debris removal nonprofit in the Southeast, Current Problems has the unique opportunity to help in local areas where water resources are highly impacted by discarded waste. They hope that by focusing on projects that most impact the health of habitat and water quality, and by encouraging individuals to consider their impact on habitats downstream from their communities, their work will eliminate the need for itself. 🐾



Iguana Directory

Call 352-378-5655 or email gainesvilleiguana@cox.net with updates and additions

Readers: If there is inaccurate information here, 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 Audubon Society's mission is to foster appreciation and knowledge of birds and other native wildlife, to protect and restore wildlife populations and their habitats, and to promote sustainable use of natural resources. We offer free birding field trips open to all, college internship experiences, birding for kids, conservation activism, volunteer opportunities. AlachuaAudubon.org | facebook.com/AlachuaAudubon/

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.com | LaborCoalition.org

Alachua County Organization for Rural Needs Clinic is a not-for-profit in Brooker 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://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: UFBGSO](https://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. centralflds@gmail.com | 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 | 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 | civicmediacenter.org | coordinators@civicmediacenter.org |

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 | ClimateRealityProjectGNV.wordpress.com | ClimateRealityProject.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

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 | CodePink4Peace.org

Community Spring is a local organization dedicated to helping people get a step up on re-entering society after incarceration with financial and housing assistance as a means of overcoming structural poverty. 352-363-1259 or info@csgnv.org

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

Current Problems cleans up waterways across north Florida, removing over 1,000,000 pounds of trash (& recycling/reusing 63% of it) since 1993, and finding ways to reduce pollution sources; volunteers welcome. 352-222-6727 | currentproblems.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

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

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

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

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

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 | 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 | 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. climateralityprojectgnv@

gmail.com | @climateralityprojectgnv | climateralityprojectgnv.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 | 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

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

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

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

Graduate Assistants United union represents UF grad assistants by fighting for improved working conditions, community involvement and academic

Continued on next page

Continued from preceding page

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

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. facebook.com/humanistsocietyofgainesville | gainesvillehumanists@gmail.com | 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 fight 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

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

Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America is a grassroots organization working to end gunviolence by electing gun sense candidates, advocating for policies that save lives, 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

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

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 Sante Fe River. 386-243-0322 | oursantaferiver.org

Paynes Prairie Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society promotes the preservation, conservation and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida. paynesprairie.fnpschapters.org | facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064434411932

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

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 (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

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 | pccncf@gainesvillepride.org | 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

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

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

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

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 | instagram@studentanimalallianceUF

Student/Farmworker Alliance is a network of youth organizing with farmworkers to eliminate sweatshop conditions and modern-day slavery in the fields. billy@sfalliance.org or brett@sfalliance.org | facebook.com/sfalliance

Sunday Assembly Gainesville is a secular congregation celebrating life with talk, music, sing-along, discussion, fellowship. Meets the 3rd Sunday of the month. SundayAssembly32601@gmail.com | 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. ssjierra@gmail.com | sierraclub.org/florida/suwannee-stjohns | 561-707-4565

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

UF College Democrats is the official voice of the Democratic party on UF campus. 407-580-4543 | president@ufdemocrats.org | facebook: UF College Democrats | 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 | 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

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/UNAUSAGainesvilleFIChapter | UNA-USAGainesvillefl.org

United Way Information & 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

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/toiletry items, health education, events,

support groups. 352-294-4880 or healthstreet.program.ufl.edu/

UF Un-PAC is a non-partisan organization working to reform our democracy and get big money/lobbying out of politics. Our Youth Power Campaign works to make UF work better for students to participate in and understand our democratic system, including demands such as voter registration at Freshman Preview, classes cancelled on election days, and more transparency on how our tuition money is spent on lobbying and political influence. For information, go to: un-pac.org, @un_pac_uflorida, or email un.pac.uf@gmail.

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 | vfp Gainesville.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 | 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

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

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. 🐾



Egregious patterns of medical neglect found at Florida ICE Detention Center

ACLU investigation found staff at Baker County Detention Center deny medical care to individuals facing life-threatening conditions

by ACLU, Florida

A new investigation at the Baker County Detention Center in Macclenny, Florida, found a dangerous pattern of extreme systemic medical neglect against immigrants, including undertreatment, incorrect treatment, and failure to attend to serious medical conditions leading to hospitalizations and life-threatening conditions. While ongoing complaints related to medical neglect are not new at Baker, this investigation takes a deeper look at specific cases and includes reviews from medical experts.

In a letter to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the ACLU of Florida outlined the patterns of medical neglect and cited medical records, stories from impacted individuals and reviews from third-party medical experts. The Baker County Detention Center is operated by the Baker County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) and the Baker County Corrections Management Corporation (BCCMC) through a contract with ICE.

Among the examples of medical neglect in the letter are incidents of hospitalization due to failure to provide treatment, improper discontinuation of medical devices, undertreated and undiagnosed medical conditions, voyeurism and sexual abuse, failure to provide patients with their medical records, untreated dental abscesses, and untreated compressed back fractures.

"I live with HIV and hypertension, but they were never properly addressed or treated during my time at Baker. I used a wheelchair, but officials took it from me without explanation. They also tried to deport me even though I was not well enough to travel," said Danielle Gaul, a formerly detained woman at Baker. "I also fell when I was in ICE custody and was unable to walk. They are supposed to pay for my therapy but they don't want to pay for me to get therapy. Instead, they want to send me back to Haiti in a wheelchair."

The Baker County Detention Center has been at the center of multiple scandals for many years, and is increasingly under scrutiny by the federal government, media, and advocates. Just last Fall, local officials were sued for denying immigrants their right to meet with attorneys in person and the facility was the subject of a Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) complaint that exposed a pattern of illegal voyeurism at the facility. The allegations in the complaint were substantiated after an investigation by the Department of Homeland Security Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties in January 2023.

"We know that, for years, Baker has continued to operate while severely neglecting the health of countless individuals in its custody. People are still suffering from the long-lasting mental and physical health effects due to the medical carelessness they endured at Baker," said Maite Garcia, staff attorney for the ACLU of Florida. "BCSO and BCCMC have proven to be completely incapable of caring for the immigrants detained at Baker. Instead of focusing on the well-being of the individuals in their care, they continue to deny appropriate medical care, create obstacles for access to counsel, and retaliate against those brave enough to speak about the rampant abuses at Baker. We've said it before and we'll say it again: It's time for ICE to permanently end its relationship with the Baker County Sheriff's Office."

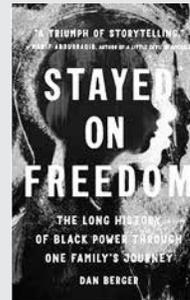
For the past several years, dozens of complaints have been filed against Baker, including for issues related to excessive use of force, extreme medical neglect, racist harassment, retaliation, voyeurism, impediments to accessing legal counsel, and lack of adequate hygiene and food. According to the Florida Detention Database, there have been over 190 complaints filed against Baker.

The ACLU of Florida's letter to ICE reporting the dangerous patterns of medical neglect at Baker can be found at tinyurl.com/Iguana1615.

CMC Springboard event

The Civic Media Center is hosting a book discussion featuring Dr. Zoharah Simmons and, via Zoom, author Dan Berger on Saturday, June 3 from 2:30-4:30 pm.

Berger's recent book, *Stayed on Freedom: The Long History of Black Power Through One Family's Journey*, chronicles the lives of two activist/organizers, Dr. Simmons and Michael Simmons, their meeting, organizing, and post-marriage independent lives still doing organizing work.



Dr. Simmons is a well-regarded Gainesville resident, active in both local and national organizations, and is now a retired UF assistant professor of religion.

Author Dan Berger was a CMC volunteer in his UF student days, and has gone on to write multiple books dealing with social justice issues.

They shared an event at UF in February; more background is given in a related article in the Jan/Feb issue of the *Iguana* at tinyurl.com/Iguana1613. A sliding scale donation will be requested at the event.

The Gainesville Iguana

Gainesville's progressive newsletter

Subscribe!

Individuals: \$15 a year
(or more if you can)

Low/No income: what you can

Groups: \$20 a year



Gainesville Iguana

P.O. Box 14712, Gainesville, FL 32604

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

www.gainesvilleiguana.org
facebook.com/gainesvilleiguana
Instagram: [gnv_iguana](https://www.instagram.com/gnv_iguana)

Articles from current and past issues since 1996, and PDFs since 2012, are available at www.gainesvilleiguana.org