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The Gainesville Iguana

July/August 2023
vol. 37, issue 7/8

State takeover of GRU: Now what?

by Robert "Hutch" Hutchinson
Gainesville Residents United, Inc.

Now that the State has officially taken over Gainesville Regional Utilities from the City Commission, there are a lot of things to do.

Some folks are recruiting prospective Utility Authority board members for the volunteer position of running the combined utility systems for the City. This includes setting rates and service levels, hiring and firing employees, running the power and water plants, establishing the half-billion dollar annual budget, and managing over a billion dollars in debt.

The governor's office will be advertising how to apply, and the governor will likely appoint all five members by October.

There's some published criteria, but being a friend of Republican Sen. Keith Perry and Republican Rep. Chuck Clemons, and a donor to Gov. Ron DeSantis are probably the main ones.

The city manager will be finalizing her budget, which will include a large property tax increase to offset an even larger reduction in utility revenue being transferred to general government operations.

With public safety departments getting a
See GRU, p. 18



West Palm Beach was the site of one of many large protests against the newly enacted anti-immigration bills across the state. Photo courtesy of WPTV.

They delivered . . . **HORRORS**

compiled by Joe Courter

Florida is pushing the envelope on how far the Right can go ramming their agenda against immigrants, education, and gender politics. The following controversial issues were gathered from multiple sources. Many of these atrocious laws went into effect July 1.

From local organizers of a rally in Gainesville on July 1:

Issue: Immigration (Bill: SB1718)
What it does:

1. Forces hospitals that accept Medicaid and emergency departments to collect

data on the immigration status of patients, including when visiting the emergency room, and to regularly report on the cost of care provided to patients without a regulated immigration status to AHCA and the legislature. (Note: If asked about citizenship status, anyone can decline to answer. That is what ANY OF US should do!)

2. Makes transporting people who are without a regulated immigration status into the state of Florida a felony punishable by up to 15 years in prison. This includes a felony charge for coming back into the state of Florida even when one

See HORRORS, p. 20

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8:15 Hiroshima: From father to daughter CMC film screening August 6 with director in attendance

by Joe Courter

8:15 Hiroshima/From Father to Daughter is a new film airing on PBS in August. Locally it will air on WUFT TV at 5pm on Saturday, Aug. 5. On Sunday, Aug. 6, the Civic Media Center will host a special screening of the film with its director, J. R. Heffelfinger, who recently moved to Gainesville. Doors open at 5pm, and the film will start at about 5:30 with a discussion and reception afterward. The Civic Media Center is at 433 S. Main St., with parking across the street or along East 5th Avenue.

The 50-minute film was produced by Nini Le Huynh (House of Cards) and Akiko Mikamo, the daughter of a hibakusha (nuclear bomb survivor), to illustrate her father's remarkable true story, message for peace, and vision for a world without nuclear weapons. It was recently screened in Hiroshima as part of the G7 Summit of Nations.

Narrated in English with Japanese subtitles, this hybrid doc-narrative film weaves never-before-seen video and audio recordings of hibakusha Shinji Mikamo, evocative re-enactments (in Japanese with English subtitles), and archival images—"bringing the past into the present" (*Modern Times* review).

"My mission as an artist is to unveil hidden truths about the human condition, give voice to the voiceless and to make the invisible, visible," said director Heffelfinger.

"My father told me, 'I don't want anybody else to ever have to go through the agony of another nuclear war,' and asked me to spread his message to younger generations throughout the world," said Dr. Akiko Mikamo, executive producer of the film and author of *8:15—A True Story of Survival and Forgiveness from Hiroshima*. For more, see 815hiroshima.com. 🐸

The Civic Media Center is a reading room, a library of the non-corporate press, and community space.

Get involved in something
for the greater good.

civicmediacenter.org

433 S. Main St., Gainesville

civicmediacenter.org



The Gainesville 8

The Gainesville Eight were made up of eight anti-war activists, seven of whom were members of Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW). Their plans for a peaceful, anti-war demonstration at the 1972 RNC were disrupted by law enforcement agents—from the Federal Bureau of Investigation on down to the Dade County Public Safety Department—who infiltrated the group and attempted to sway VVAW toward a more violent approach.

On Aug. 31, 1973, the Gainesville Eight were acquitted of charges of conspiracy to violently disrupt the RNC. Their acquittal came at the end of a 14-month long, highly publicized legal battle, and many of the truths it exposed still ring true.

They celebrate their 50-year reunion in August. To read more about them, check out tinyurl.com/Iguana1636 and/or contact Scott Camil at scottcamil@gmail.com. 🐸

14 characteristics of fascism

Historian Lawrence Britt studied the fascist regimes of Hitler (Germany), Mussolini (Italy), Franco (Spain), Suharto (Indonesia), and Pinochet (Chile) and found they had 14 elements in common. He calls these the identifying characteristics of fascism:

1. Powerful and continuing expressions of nationalism
2. Disdain for the importance of human rights
3. Identification of enemies/scapegoats as a unifying cause
4. The supremacy of the military/avid militarism
5. Rampant sexism
6. A controlled mass media
7. Obsession with national security
8. Religion and ruling elite tied together
9. Power of corporations protected
10. Power of labor suppressed or eliminated
11. Disdain and suppression of intellectuals and the arts
12. Obsession with crime and punishment
13. Rampant cronyism and corruption
14. Fraudulent elections

This post is a summary of "Fascism, Anyone?" by Lawrence W. Britt published in 2003 by Free Inquiry magazine. The entire article is available from Vox Populi at tinyurl.com/Iguana1627. 🐸

From the publisher ...

Survival skills

When you are planning for a trip, you think about all that you need to know and do. How will you get there? Where you going to be staying? What will you need for food? Maybe consult the long-range weather forecast? That preparation ahead of time can make things go so much smoother.

Well, our trip has begun, the train has left the station. Not many of us had time to pack, and some people had been oblivious about their being on a train that might be departing that quickly. Turns out there was no preprinted schedule to consult. There've been rumors and speculation, but suddenly ... All aboard!

Folks, the train we are on is heading down the track labeled Fascism. How authoritarian regimes rise has definite patterns. Corporations that value profits over people merge into the government, thus locking in their power. Fear mongering is used to create an internal enemy who must be repressed. Religion is used to underscore the fear mongering. Free elections are hampered in a number of ways. The judiciary becomes servile. A nationalist narrative creeps into education and the arts.

It is happening elsewhere than just here in Florida, but we are riding in the front of the train, and we are getting a good look.

So what did we bring? What did we already have that can prepare us for the days ahead?

That will be up to us to determine based on our own skills, desires, and commitment. But there are the things that may be inhibiting us, keeping us passive in the face of this assault on our sensibilities.

Societally, we have lost the strength of organized labor to raise all boats to advocate for better pay and working conditions. We have people advancing in governmental power, people willing to do the bidding of their corporate masters and/or work in the interest of their own tendency toward greed. Not a new phenomenon, but supercharged by Citizens United mega-dollars. The 24-hour news cycle and all the streaming distractions command our attention. And of course, the courts are getting majorly stacked against the interests of the people.

As people trying to fight back, our big problem is how we have normalized things that should outrage us. People are dying for lack of a health care system; not being able to afford care makes people sicker. We have a gargantuan military budget and we've normalized war and meddling in other countries' affairs. Projecting force all over the world with actual weapons and economic weapons. Massive CEO pay while the minimum wage lags, and many people having no income at all. This is, indeed, an exceptional nation. No other developed nation conducts itself this way.

Within ourselves, we should at least become more aware of the things we may have skimmed over or missed, living in either unconscious or intentional ignorance. You don't need to become a movement martyr, but being aware of the difficult lives others face may spur some solidarity and conscience raising.

Apathy and hopelessness is no way to live. We need purpose in our lives; it is how we evolved, how we built societies. Right now we are seeing rights being taken from people, and unionized labor is under attack. The forces of fascism are really bold, especially here in Florida. The takeover of New College of Florida in Sarasota, LGBTQ repression, women losing bodily autonomy. We need to shake off denial and see that "Yes They Can." And they are.

We are in this together; stay healthy, stay loving, and need I say, be awake and ready to resist. This train is in motion, and we can't pretend it is not. 🚂



Joe Courter

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

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Gainesville Iguana

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

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Private equity influence is at the heart of Cop City

by Katherine Demby

This article was originally published by Prism on June 20. See more at prismreports.org.

In the dawn hours of June 6, the Atlanta City Council voted 11-4 to approve funding for the Atlanta Public Safety Training Center, an 85-acre police and fire training facility that plans to include a shooting range, a gym, and an urban environment simulation featuring an apartment building, a house, a nightclub, and a gas station. The city council vote is just the latest in a string of actions on the road to building the center that those opposed to the project are calling “Cop City.”

The center, which general contractors Brasfield & Gorrie have been hired to build on land stolen from the Muscogee Creek people and owned by the City of Atlanta, has growing community opposition. Stop Cop City organizers and protesters have pointed to environmental concerns, such as the destruction of Weelaunee Forest, which the City Planning Committee has called one of the “lungs of Atlanta.” Activists have also pointed to how a massive police militarization center will be used to further terrorize, suppress, and harm the most surveilled city in the U.S. and the predominantly Black community surrounding the planned site.

Many are also concerned about the center’s cost. In 2021, the city leased the land to the Atlanta Police Foundation (APF) for \$10 a year. Since then, the city has approved a total of \$67 million to supplement the one-third contribution the APF promised, bringing the current project total to \$90 million. The city will fund the construction of the center, estimated to be \$31 million and lease the land back from the APF at a cost of \$1.2 million a year to use the facilities for police, fire, and EMS personnel.

The APF is one of the country’s highest-revenue police foundations and supports projects that supplement the Atlanta Police Department’s nearly \$250 million budget. However, watchdog organizations like the Private Equity Stakeholder Project (PESP) are investigating ties between private equity and the APF, arguing that private equity influence is actually at the heart of this planned forest conversion.

“Atlanta is unique in the sense that it’s thought of as ground zero for the private equity industry as a whole,” said K. Agbebiyi, PESP’s senior housing campaign coordinator. “It’s the place to watch.”

Agbebiyi, along with Azani Creeks and Amanda Mendoza, PESP’s labor and climate campaign research coordinators

respectively, recently co-authored a 35-page report that details private equity ties to Cop City through the APF and a separate land swap deal with Blackhall Studios, a local film studio that threatens another 40-acre parcel of city-owned forest.

The report maps out corporate donations to the APF and corporate representatives on the foundation’s board of directors, including fast food chain owner Inspire Brands’ CEO Paul Brown and board member Marshall Freeman, who once served as APF’s COO.

According to the co-authors, the private equity-owned companies that provide DeKalb County Jail, Fulton County Jail, and Atlanta City Detention Center with commissary, communications, and medical services also profit from the detention of protesters, while other corporations profit from increased police surveillance. As written in the report, since 2016, the city of Atlanta has paid the APF \$3.6 million to acquire SWAT equipment, license plate readers, and thousands of surveillance cameras for its biggest program, Operation Shield.

“More money for police departments and foundations ultimately leads to more money for private equity firms and other corporate actors,” the co-authors say in the report arguing that increased police training leads to increased targeting and surveillance of communities of color, which leads to more incarceration, more police violence, and less community trust.

They also note that the state of Georgia itself, which has recently come under fire for its authoritarian crackdown on protesters, has encouraged donations to police foundations through the Law Enforcement Strategic Support Act (LESS Crime Act), which gives individuals and corporations tax write-offs for donating to police foundations—up to \$5,000 per person for individuals or up to 75 percent state income tax for corporations.

Creeks and Agbebiyi argue that corporate ties to the planned development of Cop City might explain continued progress on the project despite public dissent.

“One of the arguments that the city has made in regards to the police training facility is that they want Atlanta to be a competitor with other major cities,” Agbebiyi said. “[The APF also wants to help with police recruitment and police retention,] so it’s a project to make Atlanta more enticing to private equity.”

The report also notes that one of the APF’s recent projects—building and selling subsidized homes to police officers—has spurred gentrification and displacement on Atlanta’s west side, enriching private equity companies that are heavily invested in housing. The APF has built almost 30 homes since the project began, notably in the same year that the Mercedes-Benz NFL Stadium moved to the historically-Black Vine City area.

For Agbebiyi and Creeks, the report not only brings attention to these ties but also helps inform those who are concerned with private equity’s influence on government and the implications that it has for a government’s responsiveness to constituent needs.

“In general,” the report states, “private equity firms are known for their focus on short-term profits, often at the expense of long-term sustainability ... The focus on quick profits and lack of commitment to sustainability has contributed to the destruction of natural habitats, displacement of communities, and the release of greenhouse gasses.”



For many activists, especially those at the June 5 city council comment session, the city's support of corporate-backed organizations like the APF are evidence of how unresponsive to the concerns of everyday voters the city's elected officials have become.

"In a city where there is the worst income inequality in the country, we have a housing crisis. We're facing the climate crisis. There are just so many things that these funds would be better used for," said Hannah Riley, one of the hundreds of protesters who showed up at city hall for the vote.

Rev. James Woodall, a community leader and public policy associate at the Southern Center for Human Rights, said he supports public safety and better police training, but that the planned center does not support the needs of the people.

"When I think about private equity firms and about the money that is involved here, the concern is that this is not about public safety at all," he said.

Woodall worries that the center will also become a revenue generator for the APF, which will gain rental income from it.

"The bigger picture is this is literally a cash cow for private foundations and corporations and communities that do not reflect or live in our community," he said.

In addition to the \$1.2 million a year in lease payments the APF will receive from the city, the Dickens administration stated in a June 2 press release that "any extra rental income generated from public use of the facility will exclusively be used to cover the center's operational and maintenance expenses, as well as the principal and interest of APF's \$20 million loan."

"To see politicians, elected officials, and so-called leaders—whether they're leaders, clergy, business leaders—either remain silent or

publicly endorse this catastrophe is appalling," Woodall said.

But he and other activists are not giving up the fight, even after the pivotal funding vote.

"No longer can we afford to allow corporations to dictate public policy [and] define and decide what works well for us in terms of what happens in our community," Woodall said.

Activists announced a public referendum campaign on June 7 that would bring the question of whether to cancel the APF's lease directly to Atlanta voters. Once the petition language is approved by the city clerk, activists will have 60 days to collect 70,000 to 75,000 signatures from registered Atlanta voters. If they succeed, the referendum will be on the November ballot.

"It's amazing, but it's also kind of sad," Agbebiyi said. "People have been working on this for years, and now it's getting a lot of traction."

Agbebiyi and Creeks hope this traction will make private equity and its influence more visible.

"Private equity is fully part of and fully profiting from the prison industrial complex," Creeks said.

She says making people aware that private equity firms—which are funded in large part by public pension funds—might be using their retirement dollars in ways they don't support, is yet another way to bring people into the fight. ✨

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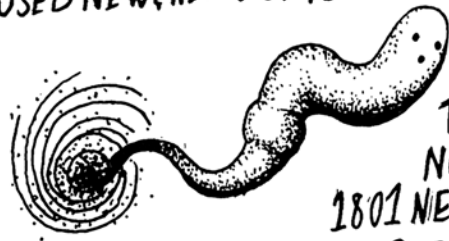
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THE BACKYARD AT BOCA FIESTA AND PALOMINO

We are stronger together: County coalition counteracts growing legislative intolerance

by *Ethan Maia de Needell, Rural Women's Health Project*

In an effort to rally Alachua County and to show up to the moment we all find ourselves in, local advocacy groups, nonprofits, faith institutions, and social service providers have come together to form the We Are Stronger Together campaign.

As of July 1, Florida has ushered in a batch of legislation targeting our most vulnerable and marginalized communities. Our trans community is under attack by bills like SB254, which aims to impede trans adults from receiving their medical services and completely ban treatments (which have been validated by nationally recognized mental health authorities such as Columbia University, American Psychology Association, National Institute of Health) for trans minors.

The future generations of our state are under threat with bills attacking our education system. For example, in an effort to control the future by controlling our past, the infamous "Stop WOKE Act" is still under effect for students in K-12, drastically distorting what children can learn about our nation's black history. Women's bodily autonomy has been stripped further

through the imposition of a six-week abortion ban, also placing obstacles even in cases of rape and incest. More alarming still is that these are only a few examples of what is coming.

As a coordinator for the immigrant advocacy initiative, the Gainesville Immigrant Neighbor Inclusion Initiative (GINI), I have seen impacts of the anti-immigrant bill SB1718 take place in the immigrant community, even ahead of July 1.

The provision requiring hospitals and emergency departments to ask patients about their immigration status before they can receive care has already had a chilling effect, causing immigrants to decline seeking out medical services for fear of being taken by immigration authorities or having their data reported.

GINI is proud to join Alachua County Black History Task Force, Center for Independent Living, Human Rights Coalition of Alachua County, Pride Community Center, Planned Parenthood, and Trinity Metropolitan Community Church (just to name a few) in the We Are Stronger Together campaign as one of its sponsors.

These laws are designed to divide and dehumanize our neighbors and communities, and we must come together in the spirit of solidarity and mutual respect, regardless of one's own background. There are many steps to take, and one is for our local organizations and agencies to join We Are Stronger Together. Each participating organization and agency within the coalition will sign a pledge which outlines their commitment to:

- treat everyone with respect, dignity, and equity, welcoming individuals of all races, ethnicities, nationalities, statuses, languages, sexualities, genders, identities, abilities, and religions.
- not tolerate hate, bigotry, and discrimination in our organization
- work toward creating a community where all individuals can feel safe to be their true, authentic selves

In order to be a truly welcoming community to all, the commitment must be an ongoing dedication to follow these principles, not a one-time act. Participating organizations will display the We Are Stronger Together sticker to show their dedication to the public and these principals.

It is up to all of us to show the rest of the state what being a truly welcoming and respectful community means. It is our hope that, as we enter into this new draconian and regressive state of affairs, our county takes this moment as an opportunity to build the safe, welcoming, and unified community we know we can be.

If you are interested in the pledge, how to get involved, or learning more about the 30+ organizations which are sponsoring the campaign, please visit strongertogetheralachua.org/.

And the good news is ...

Amanda Gorman fundraises to protest against Florida book ban

The writer's inaugural poem, The Hill We Climb, has been removed from a school in Miami-Dade County

Writer and poet Amanda Gorman, the nation's first National Youth Poet Laureate, hit back against the removal of her inaugural poem, *The Hill We Climb*, from an elementary school in Miami-Dade County.

A schools committee moved Gorman's text to the middle-school section of the

library after a parent filed a formal objection to the work, allegedly citing indirect "hate messages"; the complaint also misidentified Oprah Winfrey as the author.

"Most of the forbidden works are by authors who have struggled for generations to get on bookshelves. The majority of these

censored works are by queer and non-white voices," said Gorman. Her publisher, Penguin Random House, will be joining in a lawsuit to challenge book restrictions.

This is a condensed version of an article by Clara Strunck published in Harper's Bazaar on May 24. See full article at tinyurl.com/Iguana/1618.

Florida teachers' unions sue over Gov. DeSantis for takeover of dues-paying process

The governor is using this legislation to retaliate against his critics, FEA leader says

Teachers' unions have filed a federal lawsuit targeting a new Florida law that bars public employee unions from collecting dues via payroll deductions, calling it "a naked effort to curtail the constitutional rights of those public unions that have crossed Gov. DeSantis."

The unions filed their complaint May 9 —

the day Gov. Ron DeSantis signed the bill into law — in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida. The 36-page document argues that the law splits public-sector units into two, unequal classes: "favored unions" that support the governor's policies, including police, firefighters, and corrections officers; and

"disfavored unions," such as the teachers, that have resisted DeSantis's effort to limit classroom discussions of LGBTQ+ people and American history.

This is a condensed version of an article by Michael Moline published in The Florida Phoenix on May 24. See full article at tinyurl.com/Iguana/1619.

In praise of Montana's climate kids

These young people are not only fighting for the future—but also their health and well being in the here and now

A trial held recently in Montana was one of the first times the climate story has played out in an American courtroom.

The plaintiffs were 16 Montana youth, who charged that by continuing to issue permits for oil and gas production, the state was violating its constitution, which was amended decades ago to include this phrase: "The state and each person shall

maintain and improve a clean and healthful environment in Montana for present and future generations." Much of the testimony came from the kids.

Grace talked about playing soccer in high school, including how "a lot of practices were smoked out." Eva shared her experience filling sandbags for seven hours during severe flooding of the Yellowstone

River near her home. Mica spoke of his love for outdoor activities, especially running. He was recently diagnosed with asthma and is especially vulnerable to wildfire smoke.

This is a condensed version of an article by Bill McKibben published in Common Dreams on June 24. See full article at tinyurl.com/Iguana/1620.

Student activists are turning their attention to the labor movement

Young Democratic Socialists are training hundreds of young people to organize their workplaces

Student workers across the county are engaged in an unprecedented wave of labor organization.

Spurred on by the support of organizations like the Young Democratic Socialists of America, student workers have launched union drives on nearly thirty campuses. These workers are fighting for increased

pay, improvements to scheduling and hours, sick pay, and better health care.

This organizing isn't restricted to the campus. In the past eighteen months, young workers at Starbucks, Chipotle, and Amazon—many of them students—have organized and won unions despite the union-busting efforts of their employers.

The ongoing Writers Guild of America strike has drawn support from young people on social media, who have turned out to picket lines and organized actions on their campuses to support the union.

This is a condensed version of an article by Jake Colosa published in Jacobin on June 24. See full article at tinyurl.com/Iguana/1621.

U.S. judge blocks Florida's ban on gender-affirming care for minors

'Gender identity is real,' judge writes, 'denial of this treatment will cause needless suffering'

A federal judge in Tallahassee has blocked a state ban on administration of gender-affirming therapies, including puberty blockers, hormone therapies, or surgery, for any patient under the age of 18.

The order also addresses legislation signed by Gov. Ron DeSantis that codifies Florida State Board of Medicine and Osteopathic Medicine rules blocking

those therapies and adds civil and criminal penalties for health practitioners providing sex-reassignment prescriptions or procedures.

"Gender identity is real," U.S. District Judge Robert Hinkle wrote in his order. "The record makes this clear." He credited testimony by doctors who have treated transgender patients with puberty

blockers and cross-sex hormones "that denial of this treatment will cause needless suffering for a substantial number of patients and will increase anxiety, depression, and the risk of suicide."

This is a condensed version of an article by Mitch Perry published in The Florida Phoenix on June 8. See full article at tinyurl.com/Iguana/1622.



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Soul

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Folk Rock / Folk Punk

Aug 04
Pet Detectives
90s Alt-Rock Covers

Aug 11
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Jazz/House/Hip hop

Aug 18
De Lions of Jah
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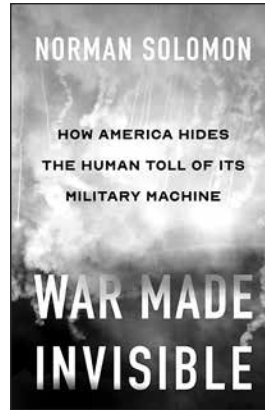
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This program is sponsored in part by the City of Gainesville's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department and the State of Florida Division of Arts and Culture.

War made invisible:



How America hides the human toll of its military machine

book by Norman Solomon
published by The New Press

by Joe Courter

Note: A bulk order of War Made Invisible has been purchased for a fundraiser for the Civic Media Center. The new hardcover book, listed at \$28, can be purchased from either Third House Books or from

me at the Thursday Heartwood or Monday Cypress & Grove farmers markets. A donation of \$15 to \$20 is requested. Text me at 352-378-5655 if you want one and I will bring it. This is what City Lights Bookstore said in their review of the book:

From the acclaimed veteran political analyst, a searing new exposé of how the American military, with the help of the media, conceals its perpetual war.

“No one is better at exposing the dynamics of media and politics that keep starting and continuing wars. *War Made Invisible* will provide the fresh and profound clarity that our country desperately needs.” - Daniel Ellsberg

More than twenty years ago, 9/11 and the war in Afghanistan set into motion a hugely consequential shift in America’s foreign policy: a perpetual state of war that is almost entirely invisible to the American public. *War Made Invisible*, by the journalist and political analyst Norman Solomon, exposes how this happened, and what its consequences are, from military and civilian casualties to drained resources at home.

From Iraq through Afghanistan and Syria and on to little-known deployments in a range of countries around the globe, the United States has been at perpetual war for at least the past two decades. Yet many of these forays remain off the radar of average Americans. Compliant journalists add to the smokescreen by providing narrow coverage of military engagements and by repeating the military’s talking points. Meanwhile, the increased use of high technology, air power, and remote drones has put distance between soldiers and the civilians who die. Back at home, Solomon argues, the cloak of invisibility masks massive Pentagon budgets that receive bipartisan approval even as policy makers struggle to fund the domestic agenda.

Necessary, timely, and unflinching, *War Made Invisible* is an eloquent moral call for counting the true costs of war.

Norman Solomon is co-founder of RootsAction.org and executive director of the Institute for Public Accuracy. His books include *War Made Easy*, *Made Love*, *Got War*, and *War Made Invisible* (The New Press). He lives in the San Francisco area. 🐿

At what point do we start seeing ultra-rich people not as a symbol of success, but as one of societal failure?

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Editors' picks: News that didn't fit

New Immigration law sparks fear and worker exodus from Florida

by Ana Goñi-Lissan and John Kennedy | *USA Today* | June 21 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1630

Florida's new immigration law, which went into effect on July 1, is prompting many migrant workers to leave the state. The departures are sparking fear that a labor shortage will leave crops unpicked, tourist hotels short of staff, and construction sites idle. Even some of the governor's supporters are starting to question the hateful new law, albeit because they're concerned it's bad for business and not because they're concerned for the lives it will upend.

North Central Florida LGBTQ+ Town Hall (video)

Pride Community Center | Facebook.com | June 1 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1631

This is a video of the very informative town hall held at the University Club on June 1 to address the horrible anti-LGBTQ laws passed in Florida this year and how the community can remain resilient. It breaks down what the laws actually say, and don't say. Great panel and Q&A, valuable for anyone to hear, whether here in Gainesville/Florida or elsewhere.

Samuel Alito's wife leased land to an oil and gas firm while the justice fought the EPA

by Daniel Boguslaw | *The Intercept* | June 26 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1632

The wife of Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito leased land to a fossil fuel company for oil and gas exploration (and stood to profit from any oil and gas produced on that land) around the same time the firm stood to benefit from a major environmental case before the Supreme Court. Justice Alito did not recuse himself from the case, even though his family stood to profit from its outcome. Alito ended up writing the 5-4 majority opinion in *Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency*, which gutted protections for U.S. wetlands under the Clean Water Act.

States are shrinking number of Medicaid recipients, but everyone would benefit from its expansion

by F. Douglas Stephenson | *JuanCole.com* | tinyurl.com/Iguana1633

When the COVID-19/pandemic-era "continuous coverage" federal requirement ended recently, states could resume eligibility checks that can purge people from Medicaid rolls. Many states are currently doing this, including Florida, with coverage being lost for hundreds of thousands of individuals/families. These cuts are mostly occurring for procedural reasons, not because enrollees actually lack eligibility. In too many states, political decisions by state legislators to deny health insurance to thousands of their citizens has resulted in an almost non-existent social and health safety net. We need to expand Medicaid now.

Tanzer: Big, boxy, bleak buildings

by Kim Tanzer | *Alachua Chronicle* | June 22 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1625

There is one aspect of Gainesville's recent urban development about which almost everyone agrees: The city has been overrun with big, boxy, bleak buildings. Gainesvillians who travel recognize this as part of a broad national pattern, but Gainesville seems to have been hit especially hard by this phenomenon. What happened?

The end of affirmative action

by Jelani Cobb | *New Yorker* | July 10 & 17 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1634

Any proper obituary for affirmative action (1961–2023) in higher education would be obliged to note that it had been in decline for years before it met its ultimate demise in late June after the Supreme Court's ruling. The policy had weathered successive legal challenges dating back to the nineteen-seventies. As with other untimely passings, the scale of what has been lost is difficult to assess in the moment. But not entirely impossible. 🐸



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Honor Daniel Ellsberg by abrogating the Espionage Act

by Melvin Goodman

Daniel Ellsberg was an American political activist, economist, and United States military analyst. He passed away June 16. This article was originally published by CounterPunch on June 21. See more at counterpunch.org.

Daniel Ellsberg's courage and contributions should be honored by abrogating the Espionage Act of 1917, which was designed to stifle his example of dissent and whistleblowing. Ellsberg's resolve and tenacity were unusual. He exposed the mendacity of the Johnson and Nixon administrations, giving the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* the Pentagon Papers, which they published. The Times' Abe Rosenthal and the Post's Ben Bradlee did the right thing, but Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee William Fulbright and other senators panicked and returned the papers to Ellsberg, refusing to make them public.

When he completed his work in exposing the immorality of the Vietnam War, Ellsberg focused on warning the American people about the dangers of nuclear weaponry and the militarization of national security policy. His memoir, *The Doomsday Machine: Confessions of a Nuclear*

Planner, was far more consequential than the Pentagon Papers. It warned about the dangers of nuclear proliferation and mutual assured destruction as well as the most dangerous arms buildup in the history of civilization.

Ellsberg, the greatest whistleblower in U.S. history, was labeled America's "most dangerous man" by President Richard Nixon and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, which tells you a great deal about the two war criminals responsible for needless deaths in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Chile.

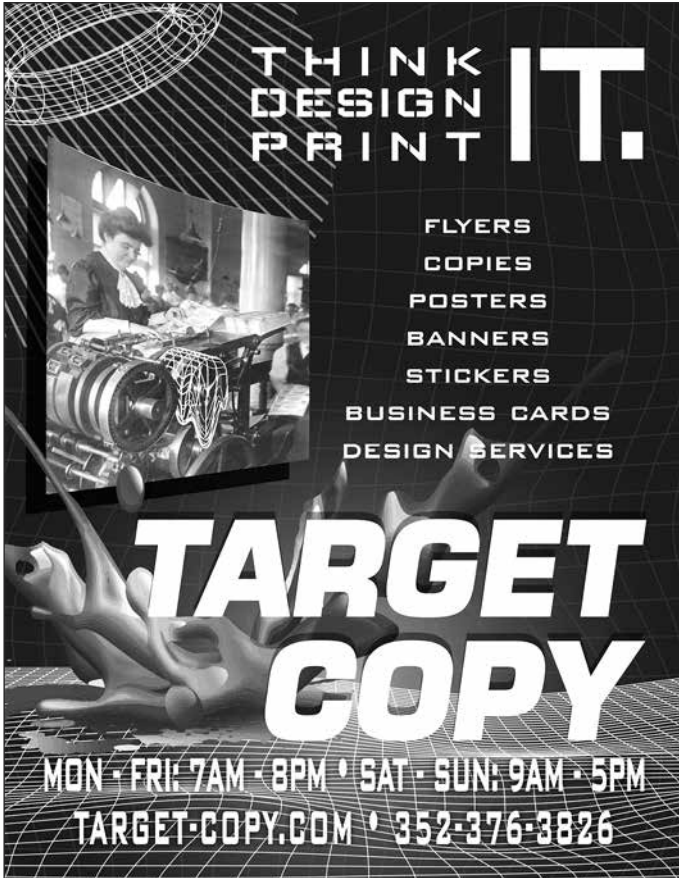
Ironically, Ellsberg had established himself as a national security expert in the 1950s, when he lectured to Professor Kissinger's seminar at Harvard. At the time, Ellsberg was a Cold War hawk and introduced the notion of irrational posturing in global affairs, which Nixon and Kissinger applied in policies toward Vietnam and Cambodia. Ellsberg abandoned these ideas; Nixon and Kissinger held on to them much to our peril.

Under the Espionage Act of 1917, Ellsberg could have faced a potential 115-year prison sentence. Fortunately, the Nixon administration's illegal harassment of Ellsberg led a federal judge to dismiss

all charges against him because of "gross prosecutorial misconduct" so severe as to "offend the sense of justice."

The Obama administration invoked the Espionage Act more than any other administration in history. Whistleblowers Chelsea Manning and Reality Winner were tried under the Act and received long prison sentences. Julian Assange is facing charges under the Espionage Act, and former Times' reporter James Risen was charged for doing his job. Former president Donald Trump is guilty of numerous acts of obstruction of justice and theft and retention of government property, but he shouldn't be tried under the Espionage Act.

Jonathan Turley, a lawyer who defended Trump in his first impeachment trial, reminds us that the Espionage Act was passed to "crackdown on political dissidents," particularly those who were opposed to World War I. According to Turley, the Espionage Act is the "government's favorite weapon" to use against its critics and is the "last refuge" of any administration that "lacks other means to punish targeted persons." The fact that



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Trump emphasized that he didn't "want anybody looking through my boxes," suggests that espionage itself was not one of his motives. The charges of conspiracy to obstruct justice and to withhold and conceal documents in a federal investigation should suffice to find Trump guilty.

The predicate for the passing of the Espionage Act during WWI were the Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798, which were designed to curtail the excesses of an unrestrained press that opposed war against France. The Acts allowed the president to deport aliens, and to permit their arrest and imprisonment during wartime in an effort to suppress dissent. The Acts were clearly a violation of First Amendment principles regarding free press, speech, and assembly, with French and Irish immigrants the key targets. President John Adams' biographer, David McCullough, considered the legislation the "most reprehensible acts of his presidency."

Two months after the United States entered WWI, Congress passed the Espionage Act of 1917 to criminalize the mishandling of government records relating to national defense and any "attempts to incite insubordination or obstruct the recruitment of troops." Similar to the Alien and Sedition Acts, the primary purpose of the Espionage Act was to stifle criticism of the Wilson administration's decision to enter the war. The constitutionality of the law and the

meaning of its language have remained controversial to this day, and could be a factor in any trial of Donald Trump. Ironically, a critic of WWI, Eugene Debs, was imprisoned, but received nearly a million votes while in prison in his effort to become president in 1920.

The Sedition Act of 1918 was repealed in 1920, and between 1921 and 1923, Presidents Warren Harding and Calvin Coolidge released all those convicted under the Sedition and Espionage Acts. More recently, President Barack Obama commuted the long prison sentence of Chelsea Manning, and his attorney general, Eric Holder, referred to whistleblower Edward Snowden as a "public servant."

CIA officer Aldrich Ames and FBI agent Robert Hanssen were convicted under the Espionage Act for spying for the Kremlin, rare examples of the legitimate use of the legislation.

There have been 11 prosecutions of government officials under the Espionage Act, and 7 of them occurred during the Obama administration. The prosecutions of NSA whistleblower Thomas Drake, CIA officer John Kiriakou, and Fox News reporter James Rosen were heavy-handed. These cases demonstrated that the Espionage Act is, in fact, an extremely blunt instrument to use against dissidents and whistleblowers. The Act, moreover, led to the Internal Security Act of 1950

that was passed over President Harry Truman's veto in order to make mere retention of security documents a crime regardless of intent.

Trump's lawyers presumably will mount a legal defense to the Espionage Act in addition to other judicial challenges. The fact that the Espionage Act does not allow the defense to raise the issue of overclassification of documents or to explain their defendants' reasons for their actions will be issues.

Congress should move quickly to abrogate the Espionage Act as a way to honor the memory of Dan Ellsberg. ✨



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Real environmentalists don't build meat processing facilities

by Renée Hoffinger

No matter how you slice and dice it, animal agriculture is a major contributor to global climate change. So I was surprised to see an article in our progressive, climate-aware *Iguana* supporting Alachua County's proposed meat processing facility.

The proposed slaughterhouse is purported to provide economic relief to local ranchers who currently truck their livestock to large corporate processing plants. The price tag (omitted from the article) of \$5.2M includes \$2.5M of federal American Rescue Plan funds, \$1.75M state funds (recently vetoed by the governor), with the remainder coming from the county.

While I applaud efforts for "more humane, environmentally sound, and economically viable food production," in the face of current science and the state of our planet, this current proposal is none of that—but rather misguided and socially irresponsible. Such a huge sum of money could be spent in more climate-friendly ways to benefit a larger segment of our county's population...*

So I ask: Why, at this precarious juncture in the history of the only planet we've got would Alachua County—the same one that espouses sustainability and recently held a Climate Fair—want to enable animal agriculture? What is the most prudent use of \$5.25 million by an innovative county commission determined to help local farmers and create a secure local food system in a socially responsible, planet-friendly manner?

One of the arguments in favor of the slaughterhouse is that if a family is unable to make a living from ranching they will sell their land to developers who will subsequently pave it over and

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build a zillion new homes. Sounds like scare tactics—don't we have a comp plan? Doing the math: \$5.2m divided among the ~100 ranching families comes to ~\$52K/ranch.


Those funds could be used to support local ranchers in transitioning away from raising animals to more climate-friendly, lucrative livelihoods, allow native biomass to recover, and promote community health.

Indeed, programs, such as Transformation and the Rancher Advocacy Program already exist to provide expertise, funding, and marketing connections to facilitate such transitions. This may include growing crops such as hemp, oats, or bamboo; mushroom farming; solar; etc. Concurrently the County could promote public health through nutrition education, including hands-on, 'planetarian' cooking classes, food demos, and grocery tours. Want a more secure local food system? Let's water some of our well-known local food deserts.

**Editors' note: This article is the condensed version of a rebuttal to an article published in the May/June Iguana (tinyurl.com/Iguana1628). You can read the entire rebuttal at tinyurl.com/Iguana1629. It is a long examination of the environmental impact of animal agriculture and the health, economic, and ethical issues of meat consumption. It also includes credible resources to learn more about the issues.*

Yes, we know the meat industry is bad, and that this processing facility is a virtually symbolic act with a big price tag, creating few jobs, and with perhaps no long-term government funding commitment. Having talked to a number of other folks about this proposal, it really does not make economic sense to us. There will be meetings to address this proposal for a slaughterhouse in Newberry on July 10 and in Gainesville at the County Commission meeting on July 11. 🐘

"The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it." — Robert Swan



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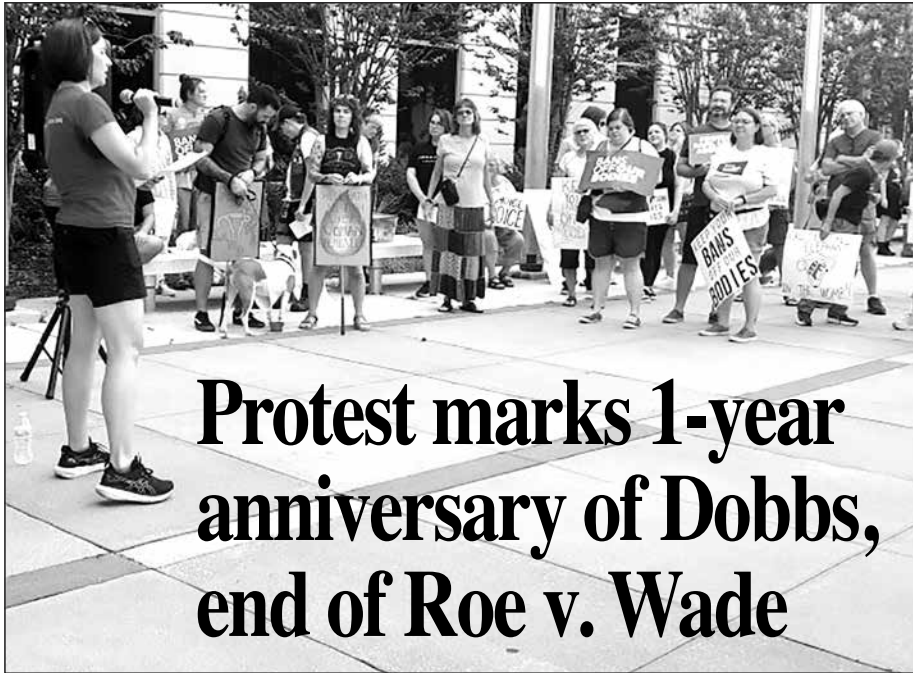
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Protest marks 1-year anniversary of Dobbs, end of Roe v. Wade

Laura Blecha speaks at a protest marking the one-year anniversary of the Dobbs' decision on June 24 outside the Alachua County Courthouse. Laura is a Gainesville resident and a member of the Gainesville chapter of National Women's Liberation. Photo by Emily.

On June 24, National Women's Liberation, Gainesville Radical Reproductive Rights Network, and Planned Parenthood organized a demonstration outside the Alachua County Courthouse to protest the Supreme Court's Dobbs decision, effectively ending abortion rights provided by Roe v. Wade. Below is the text of a speech given by Laura Blecha.

My name is Laura and I'm a member of the Gainesville chapter of National Women's Liberation. We're a grassroots, gender-affirming, radical feminist organization fighting back against male supremacy, white supremacy, and capitalism.

One year ago today, after the Dobbs decision that overturned Roe v. Wade, I was right here outside this same courthouse. I showed up with so many others to express our collective anger and outrage at this attack on our bodily autonomy, this repudiation of the will of the people and a half-century of precedent.

Bodily autonomy is a fundamental right. History and the lived experience of millions of people tells us that people will continue to have abortions no matter what the laws say.

It is not okay that people might have to risk their lives for their bodily autonomy, whether it is because they face unsafe conditions or criminal penalties. If someone is able to get pregnant, they must have the right to decide if they want to be.

So here I am again one year later, standing

in the same place with all of you, and wow, has it been a year. Florida has now passed a near-total, 6-week abortion ban that has absolutely no medical rationale. Most people don't know they're pregnant by six weeks.

And this cruel abortion ban is just one of the many horrific laws rammed through the legislature this year. We've seen unprecedented attacks in Florida from DeSantis and his Republican legislative supermajority against reproductive rights, LGBTQ rights, education, unions, immigrants, and more.

I want to speak directly to all the people who feel like things are hopeless right now in Florida: this is not the time to cower or admit defeat—now is the time for us to demand more rights! We were here last year, we're here this year, and we are not going **anywhere** until we get justice!

Together we are powerful. You can choose to work with us in National Women's Liberation, or the GRRR Network, or Planned Parenthood, or in another group. And you don't have to have a lot of spare time to do this work—after all, who of us does? What's important is for each of you to find a grassroots organization you can work with, become a dues-paying member, find your niche, and join the fight! None of us can afford to sit this one out.

Right now we have the chance to get abortion on the ballot in 2024. If we get

900,000 signatures statewide, the people will decide on a constitutional amendment guaranteeing the right to abortion.

We need to show this administration, and the whole world that's watching, that **we** control our own bodies—not the legislature, not DeSantis, not the courts.

We need to show them that they are not stronger than the will of the people, and that Floridians do **not** support their agenda. Polls show that if we get this referendum on the ballot, we will **win**!

Look around you and find one of the people carrying a clipboard—they can tell you how to get plugged into this ballot initiative and start getting signatures. In fact, if you can stick around after the rally today—even for 15 or 20 minutes!—we're going to walk around downtown and get some signatures here tonight.

If you can't stick around today, then please sign up as a volunteer, get on the mailing list, and join us as soon as you can.

I also want to talk about where this fight needs to go in the long run. Overturning these cruel abortion bans is not enough, and in fact, the protections we had under Roe were never enough, either.

What we need is reproductive **justice**. Reproductive justice includes the right not to have children, the right to have children, and the right to parent children in safe and healthy environments.

- We demand reproductive freedom without restrictions or coercion. This includes easy access to the abortion pill, which accounts for fully half of the abortions in the US — we need to eliminate the restrictions imposed on the abortion pill by the FDA. Reproductive freedom also includes free abortion and birth control on demand
- We demand control over our own bodies and free, on-demand access to life-saving reproductive care!
- We demand universal healthcare
- We demand childcare, free like the public schools
- We demand paid family leave, and
- We demand affordable housing for all!

Being a parent is always hard work, but in this country, it is so much harder than it needs to be. We recognize that childrearing is not just an individual responsibility, but something that benefits us all.

That is one reason we demand universal programs to support us when we choose this work. These are not out of reach demands;

most people in the industrialized world already have them; the U.S. needs to catch up with the rest of the world and stop rolling back the progress that we have made!

We pledge to fight for reproductive justice and to aid and abet abortion. How can you aid and abet abortions? This could include:

- Giving your friend or a stranger a ride to a clinic
- Giving them money to fund an abortion
- Saying words of encouragement in person, on the phone, or in writing
- Supporting and joining an organization doing any of the above
- Donating to an abortion fund
- Giving someone the abortion pill that was prescribed for you
- Sharing websites that provide the abortion pill by mail
- More actions too numerous to list

But first, we need to aid and abet abortion by getting it on the ballot in 2024! Help get abortion on the ballot by signing and collecting petitions.

So again, please look around you and find one of the people carrying a clipboard. Ask them how to get plugged into this ballot initiative and start getting signatures, and stick around after the rally if you want to get started right away! 🐾

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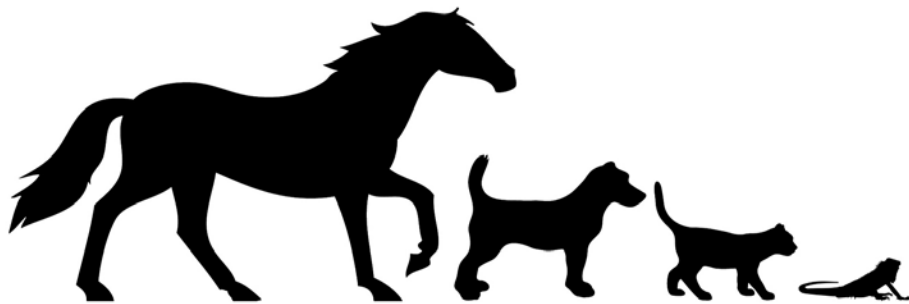


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Standing UP for women's rights

Friends of Susan B. Anthony celebrate Women's Equality Day

Friends of Susan B. Anthony is happy to announce that Women's Equality Day (Aug. 26) will be celebrated with their annual luncheon at the Best Western Gateway Grand in Gainesville on Saturday, Aug. 26 at 11:30am.

The community is invited to this event, which began as an informal birthday party for Susan B. Anthony over forty years ago, and is now held in conjunction with the anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote.

Each year a local woman is recognized who exemplifies the spirit of Susan B. Anthony. This year, Faye Williams will be honored for her activism on behalf of social justice. She is a founder of the Alachua County Black History Task force and a prominent member of other community organizations.

The featured speaker will be Jennifer Adams, who served as a Board Director for the League of Women Voters of Florida and also chaired the State Advocacy and Social Justice Committees. She is presently Executive Director of Florida Community Partnership and continues to advocate for empowering women and girls.

For further information, and instructions on how to register for the luncheon, please check the website fosba.com after mid-July or contact Barbara Oberlander at 352-378-6447. ✨

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From GRU, p. 1

pass on major cuts, the brunt of the city’s service reductions are being meted out to social services, recreation, and cultural affairs programs. The total number of city employees to be terminated or positions not filled is unknown right now, but will be large.

The city attorney will be trying to figure out how to provide legal advice to a new utility authority who is not bound by state ethics laws. They have permission from the state to write their own rules, but why bother, because they are the only ones who can enforce them, unless the governor feels like slapping their wrist. With the help of outside counsel, the city attorney will be managing the city’s likely lawsuit in state court to overturn the law that he is otherwise duty-bound to follow. He’ll also be defending the city from . . .

Gainesville Residents United, Inc., a group of locals, is suing the state officials in Federal court, but the city gets dragged into it as well. Because the utility authority is a “unit” of the city, the only way to litigate with the unit is to litigate with the city. Gainesville Residents United is raising twelve different counts in its legal complaint, ranging from four free speech violations

of the First Amendment, to some due process claims for our legislative delegation’s unconscionable process in passing the bill, to arguments about constitutional and statutory laws that are being violated.

One thing that nobody is litigating is whether this is a “taking.” We’re not suing because it is so obviously an exercise of eminent domain by the state that we would likely win. But a win would result in a price being negotiated for the sale of our community’s assets to an investor owned utility, which would be the biggest loss of all.

Gainesville Regional Utilities is our baby. And it may not be the best looking baby, or the most well behaved, but we cannot allow it to be exploited and abused. We will have no recourse if the governor’s appointees decide to ignore climate change, or sell off assets, or reduce reliability or customer service, or accommodate the whims of land speculators, or butcher trees on the rights-of-way, or mess with the city pension system, or . . .

The time to fight is now. Find out more at GRUnited.org and NoGRUTakeover.com. ☘

Christmas in June for Florida Power & Light

by Alachua County Labor Coalition

On June 28, Governor DeSantis signed the GRU Tallahassee takeover bill. This comes on the heels of his vetoing an ethical meat processing plant in Newberry. We are deeply disappointed — but unsurprised — that DeSantis has decided to continue Rep. Chuck Clemons’ and Sen. Keith Perry’s War on Gainesville.

It’s clear this bill is the first step in stealing our public utility and is eerily similar to Jacksonville’s public utility saga, when a small cartel of corporate fat cats attempted to steal their utility through shady astroturf groups and purchased politicians.

Just as Sen. Perry requested an audit of the City of Gainesville and Gainesville Regional Utilities, in late 2018 Sen. Debbie Mayfield requested an audit of the Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA) citing a letter received from a front group paid

by Florida Power & Light (FP&L). Once the new Mayor installed a FP&L lapdog as CEO, he spun a tale that JEA was going bankrupt, and then pushed to sell JEA. The only reason this failed was because the CEO and CFO tried to push through an extraordinary bonus plan for themselves. (Both are currently being prosecuted for felonies related to the attempted sale of JEA).

The tale JEA’s CEO spun is the same that Clemons and Perry are spinning now. Before they fabricated a GRU crisis, it had a higher bond rating than every single investor-owned utility in the state and many municipal utilities, including JEA. Aside from signaling financial strength, the rating also helps lower interest rates on future bonds.

The rating agencies have been clear: this “independent” board will lead to a debt downgrade. Recently, the City had to pay an extra \$3 million when their bond swap failed to close (cue higher property taxes). The reason the bank gave for this? The GRU Takeover bill.

At the Joint Legislative Auditing Committee hearing, Rep. Mike Caruso explicitly threatened to have DeSantis remove the entire Commission if major budget cuts were not immediately made and taxes immediately raised.

Perry, Clemons, and Caruso do not care about the workers facing layoffs because of their fabricated crisis and abuses of office. They do not care about the elderly struggling to pay their property taxes and homeowner’s insurance. Perry, Clemons, Caruso, and DeSantis decided they would rather make the citizens suffer and punish Gainesville.

We cannot help but note that NextEra Energy and its wholly owned subsidiary Florida Power & Light have invested significant amounts of (mostly dark) money to get them elected and keep them elected. FP&L has been traced back to a number of schemes that have led to criminal prosecutions in south Florida.

From the JEA saga, we know that this board will attempt to sell GRU. They can count on us to fight any attempt to sell GRU tooth and nail. We will also continue to educate citizens on the impending Clemons/Perry/Caruso tax hike. ☘



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/GNVFSG
Email: fgsgnv@gmail.com
Leave message at: 352-388-1586

Mayor proclaims June 2023 as LGBTQ+ Pride Month

Gainesville Commissioner Casey Willits presents Proclamation



Gainesville celebrated the Pride Street Party on June 23 at the Pride Community Center of North Central Florida. Here, Gainesville City Commissioner Casey Willits (middle) publicly presents the city's official Pride Month Proclamation, alongside Carolina Cotton, Pride Street Party MC (left), and Tamara Perry Lunardo, PCCNCF president (right). Photo by Chelsea Carnes.

Pride Month Proclamation

WHEREAS, the City of Gainesville is committed to maintaining a city free of discrimination, harassment, and inappropriate behavior on the basis of race, color, gender, age, religion, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, or gender identity; and

WHEREAS, all people, regardless of race, color, gender, age, religion, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, or gender identity, have the right to be treated with dignity on the basis of their intrinsic value as human beings; and

WHEREAS, in New York City, the brave patrons of the Stonewall Inn defended these rights in the face of violent opposition in the early morning hours of June 28, 1969, which sparked the modern LGBTQ+ liberation movement in the United States; and

WHEREAS, these rights have been threatened by recent legislative actions in the State of Florida, leaving LGBTQ+ residents vulnerable to discrimination, harassment, and inappropriate behavior.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Harvey L. Ward, Jr., by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim June 2023 as LGBTQ+ Pride Month in the City of Gainesville and invite all our neighbors to join me in celebrating the valuable cultural, civic, and economic contributions made by our LGBTQ+ community members, and to reflect upon the struggle for equality among the LGBTQ+ community, while reaffirming our commitment against discrimination and injustice. 🏳️‍🌈

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

GainesvilleIguana.org

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We thank you very much!

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QUEER+ SUPPORT GROUP

for survivors of partner abuse

*July dates are the 1st and 3rd Thursday at the Peaceful Paths
Outreach Office: 2100 NW 53rd Ave Gainesville, FL 32653

📅 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month *

🕒 6:30-7:30pm

📍 Pride Community Center- starting August
3850 NW 83rd Street, Suite 201

✉️ nicoler@peacefulpaths.org

*Location is wheelchair accessible



From HORRORS, p. 1

lives here permanently. It also includes prosecution for coming into the state for tourism or business meetings with friends, co-workers, or family without a regulated immigration status.

3. Requires employers with over 25 employees to use E-verify to determine employment eligibility, making it a felony to use false identification to obtain eligibility and allowing for license revocation or considerable fines if an employer violates the E-verify requirements four times in a 24-month period, limiting access to jobs for people who have unregulated immigration statuses.

From clickorlando.com:

Issue: Florida public education (Bill: HB1537)

What it does: This new education law brings several changes to Florida's public schools, including requiring AAPI (Asian American and Pacific Islander) history lessons in classrooms.

The law also establishes a "9/11 Heroes' Day" for public schools to recognize, dedicating at least 45 minutes of instruction on the significance of 9/11 in civics education classes.

Additionally, the act provides for a year-round pilot program that school districts can volunteer to take part in. Instead of one long summer break, the program would allow for shorter—but more frequent—breaks to help mitigate learning loss.

Aside from AAPI education, the law provides that the second week in November will be recognized as "Holocaust Education Week" to teach students how to prevent anti-Semitism. It also requires that African-American history in the U.S. be taught to students, including relevant political and social examples.

Issue: Sex-based facilities (Bill: HB1521)

What it does: This law requires that people in public buildings use bathrooms that align with their assigned sex. This means that males would have to use bathrooms designated either for men or unisex. "Public buildings" refer to airports, public and private schools, prisons, state and local government buildings, and jails.

DeSantis, who championed the legislation, explained that the new law is geared toward protecting women. Meanwhile, critics attacked the law as discriminating against transgender people.

Issue: Pronouns in schools (Bill: HB1069)

What it does: Under this law, school

employees will be required to address students by pronouns that match the student's assigned sex. In addition, staff will not be allowed to ask students about their preferred pronouns.

The law extends the grade range initially set up in the Parental Rights in Education law that went into effect last year. While that range initially included students in grades K-3, the range was widened to include students in prekindergarten and grades 4-8.

Classes in those grade ranges will not be allowed to discuss controversial topics like gender identity or sexual orientation. Students in grades 9-12 can learn about those topics so long as they are "developmentally appropriate."

The law comes as DeSantis and other Republicans push back against the belief that a [person's gender can be] independent of his or her sex.

Issue: Diversity/equity/inclusion (DEI) college programs (Bill: SB266)

What it does: Senate Bill 266 bans Florida colleges from using state or federal funding for DEI—diversity, equity and inclusion—programs.

While proponents argue that such programs help groups who have historically been targets of discrimination, opponents retort that those programs are being used to discriminate against other groups.

A similar law in 2022—dubbed "Stop WOKE"—set similar rules banning curriculum in Florida that teaches that people are "privileged," "oppressed" or "inherently racist, sexist or oppressive" due to discriminatory factors like race or national origin.

Issue: Conscientious objections for health care workers (Bill: SB1580)

What it does: This bill establishes a right for health care providers to opt out of providing services because of a "conscience-based objection" based on religious, moral or ethical beliefs.

•••

Some, even many, of these new laws will land in the courts. Some of that is thankfully going on, and Gainesville's own Southern Legal Council is among the law firms involved in fighting back. The following was reported in the Miami Herald.

Gender-affirming care

A federal judge last week struck down rules championed by Gov. Ron DeSantis that aimed to restrict Medicaid coverage for gender-affirming care. Two days later, another federal court blocked Florida's new drag show law that prohibited children

from attending "adult live performances." In the ruling against Florida's new drag show law, U.S. District Gregory Presnell in Orlando said that the law was overly vague and likely unconstitutional, reaffirming criticisms launched from opponents at many of Florida's newly passed laws and potentially foreshadowing more legal battles ahead.

Here's a look at Florida laws that have been struck down and what happens next.

Florida's 'Stop WOKE Act'

Florida's "Stop the Wrongs to Our Kids and Employees Act," also known as the "Stop WOKE Act," was a law passed in 2022 that sought to restrict how race was talked about in Florida schools, colleges/universities and corporations.

U.S. District Judge Mark Walker blocked the higher-education provision of the law in November 2022, and a three-judge panel with the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals denied a request for a stay of Walker's injunction by DeSantis in March.

Walker issued a similar ruling last August making the law unenforceable among corporations and employers, saying that it violates the First and 14th Amendments and the Equal Protection Clause. The law remains in effect in K-12 schools.

What's next: Battle lines are being drawn by university professors and students who are urging the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to back Walker's preliminary injunction, which they say violates speech rights and academic freedom. State attorneys argue that the injunction should be overturned as the law is aimed at preventing "invidious discrimination" by university employees.

As of now, the 11th Circuit has not indicated whether it will hear oral arguments in the case, according to the *News Service of Florida*.

Florida's drag show law

Florida's new drag show law, SB 1438, is a law that seeks to bar children from attending "adult live performances," which is redundant as Florida law already prohibits exposing minors to shows considered explicit or harmful. The language in SB 1438 expands the law to include vague language that can be used to attack drag shows and performances.

In short, the new law prohibits governmental entities from issuing permits for performances that would violate Florida Statute 827.11 and holds businesses accountable if they admit a minor to an adult live performance through fines, li-

cense suspension or even revocation.

The new law was signed by DeSantis and took effect May 17, but was immediately challenged by an Orlando restaurant, Hamburger Mary's, which has hosted such performances for 15 years, including those it described as "family friendly."

In his ruling, Presnell found that the measure conflicted with a state law that guarantees the rights of parents to make decisions in the best interests of their children. He also stated that the law likely violated constitutional free speech and was too vague to enforce.

What's next: A DeSantis spokesman told the *Tallahassee Democrat* last week that the state plans to file an appeal.

"Of course it's constitutional to prevent the sexualization of children by limiting access to adult live performances," said Jeremy Redfern, DeSantis' press secretary. "We believe the judge's opinion is dead wrong and look forward to prevailing on appeal."

Transgender Medicaid ban

U.S. District Judge Robert Hinkle struck down a Florida law and rule that banned Medicaid payments for gender-affirming care last week.

In August last year, the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration added

new language to the state's Medicaid program that essentially prohibited health care providers from billing the program for gender-affirming medical treatments.

In his ruling, Hinkle noted that the ban violated the federal Medicaid statute, the Equal Protection Clause and the Affordable Care Act's prohibition of sex discrimination.

What's next: The state appealed the ruling in late June.

Ban on gender-affirming care for minors

In another ruling by U.S. District Judge Robert Hinkle, a preliminary injunction was granted in early June that will allow the parents who challenged the state to access medical care for their transgender children.

Hinkle made headlines with his ruling as he reiterated that "gender identity is real." This injunction only applies to the transgender children whose parents challenged the state law, but could be used as precedent in the debate surrounding the new law's constitutionality.

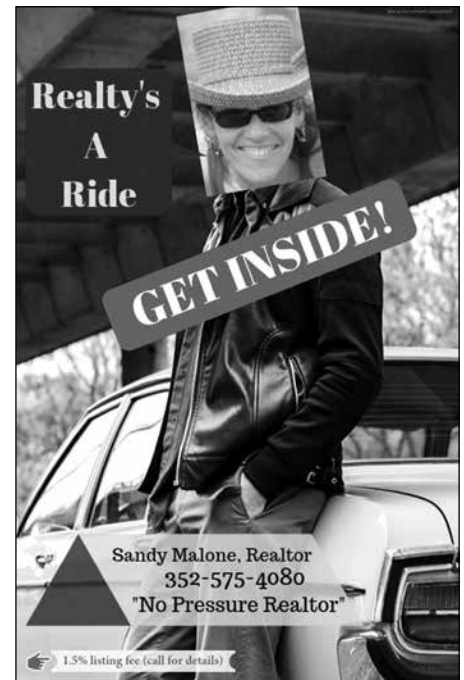
Florida passed SB 254 in May, which restricted gender-affirming care for transgender adults and outright banned it for children unless they qualified for an exception.

What's next: The state appealed the ruling in late June alongside its appeal of the Medicaid ruling.

•••

These are examples of what was done to us this legislative term. We are in a state taken over by reactionary Republicans.

It is up to all of us to wake up, fight back, and support the people whom these laws are attacking, and the campaigns that are leading efforts to get us out of this mess. ✨



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 80
 - Be in good physical health
- Have at least 10 years of education
 - Currently drink alcohol
- Have not been previously hospitalized with COVID-19



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY

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.

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

For more information call (352) 294-4920



History and the people who make it: Sophia Threat (part 1)



This 2017 interview of Ms. Sophia Threat [T] of Groveland, Florida, by Deidre Houchen [H], offers a small peek into the ways race and labor played a role in everyday life in rural Florida in the mid 20th century, and how strong and resilient families had to be to survive. Threat recalls her childhood hearing about the Groveland Four: two of the falsely accused men were her uncles. Transcript edited by Donovan Carter.

H: Where were you born, Ms. Sophia?

T: I was born and raised in Groveland.

H: And who did you live with?

T: My mom, Louise Threat and E.T. Threat, my dad.

H: Do you have brothers and sisters?

T: I have three brothers and two sisters and they have passed— I'm the only girl left. Um-hm.

H: Tell me how you are related to one of the members of the Groveland Four and which member.

T: I am the niece of Shepherd and Irvin.

H: So you're the niece of Samuel Shepherd and Walter Irvin because one's brother married the other's —

T: Sister.

H: Sister. So Delilah Irvin — your grandmother — was the mother of Walter Irvin. Where did you go to school?

T: Groveland High School.

H: What elementary school?

T: Groveland Middle School and Groveland Elementary. [laughter]

H: When you went to those three schools were they integrated?

T: Yes ma'am.

H: What stories, if any, did you hear growing up about Walter and Samuel's life and what had happened to them in the Groveland case?

T: All I knew was they didn't do it, and it was a big trial and he was sentenced — he was found guilty — and he served like

eighteen years.

H: And by he you're talking about Walter.

T: Walter, um-hm, my uncle.

H: Do you remember or did you hear anything about your churches, the response of Black churches to this going on?

T: No.

H: No they had no response; you didn't hear anyone ever talk about it?

T: I didn't hear anybody talk about it, ever. Even my mom, she never talked about it. I know it was hurting her inside, but she never talked about it. She didn't want to talk about it. It just was too painful for her.

H: Do you know of any response that places like Black churches had when it happened in 1949, you know, as a response?

T: No I hadn't heard of any response on that. People just scared to talk about it, you know, you bring that up and their eyes get big and "I don't want to talk about it." It's like a plague or something.

H: What did your father and mother do for work?

T: My dad, well, his earlier years he worked for Dick Watson and he drove trucks. He also worked in fields, in the orange fields.

H: Who's Dick Watson?

T: It was a big company, mechanic-type company, that at the time was in Claremont.

H: Was that the first job you know of him having even before you were born?

T: Um-hm.

H: For the majority of his adult career while he was raising kids, he was working for this person Dick Watson and also working in the groves.

T: Yeah, and then after that he started driving trucks. My mom she worked at the hospital. She was a maid, in house-keeping.

H: And which hospital was that?

T: South Lake.

H: I'm interested in the experience of working with the groves. What stories do you remember of how that was, of working in the groves?

T: Are you talking about the fruit groves?

H: Do you remember the names, particularly of any of the citrus groves?

T: Oh my goodness no.

H: Not one!

T: No, but there was so many we went to so many. No I don't remember the names.

H: When you say "we went to so many" who's the "we"?

T: My family, I mean the whole family went. It was like a family thing.

H: Mom, dad —

T: Mom, dad, all the kids, yes — went to work in the groves.

H: What'd you wear?

T: Old clothes. No school clothes. You get out of school clothes, change into your work clothes, which is old clothes that you could throw away: long pants, long sleeves, old tennis shoes that got holes in 'em — that's what you wore 'cause you were out in the dirt all the time.

H: How old were you?

T: Oh wow, I'd say seven, eight, I can remember.

H: Who else worked in the groves at that time? So we're talking about late 1960s.

T: Wow, um probably the 70s by the time we got there. Oh wow, there were quite a few families out there.

H: Quite a few families. Was it all African American workers?

T: Mostly.

H: Mostly, and those who were not, what were they? What race and where did they come from?

T: Mexicans.

H: So African American and Mexican workers. Do you remember the people working on the grove at that time being folks who lived in the Groveland area?

T: Um-hm.

H: Or was anybody migrant, coming in from someplace else?

T: There were some migrants that were coming in because of the work ... African American migrants.

H: What about Mexican migrants?

T: There were a few, but not very many.

H: How long would you stay out there and work?

T: Oh my god, seemed like forever. [laughter]

H: Too long?

T: Yes, but I mean, back then it was — I figured, say we get out of school at 3. So at 4 we're at the field, and we stay there until we get it all up. And if it's dark, we're getting them all up. I remember some days — some evenings, it's pitch black out there and we gotta use the goat lights to see, vehicle lights to see where the fruit is so you can get 'em up off the ground. We wouldn't leave until we get 'em all up. That was the way of life back then, that's the way the parents made the money to feed us, clothe us, pay bills.

H: As an adult, do you have any sense of how African Americans were treated working in the groves?

T: Yes. As an adult, I have my own opinion. [laughter] My opinion is they were robbed. They didn't make any money. And, as kids you really don't know 'cause they're the adults and my parents never really talked about any of that stuff around us. As I became an adult, I'm like "oh my god, you guys worked for free." 'Cause you know sometimes they didn't take social security out, you know, and they were workin' hard back then. So all those years were like for nothing, they were robbed because there was no social security taken out so those years are like wasted years. And now, they're livin' on maybe a thousand dollars a month, maybe, for social security. And all those years ...

H: So how were they paid, if the farm manager wasn't paying social security?

T: They paid cash ... OK, well my dad was in the military, too so.

H: Do you know what year he came out of the military?

T: No I do not but my dad is 93 — he was in World War II. Thank god I still have him.

H: Yes! What year was he born?

T: 1923. May 8.

H: May 8, 1923. And what year was your mother born?

T: March 30, 1930.

H: So your dad would have been around 20 something in the [19]40s when the groves were definitely booming in Groveland and folks, many African Americans were working. He would've been in his thirties, right around turning thirty, when Sheriff McCall picked up all the Groveland men. Well, except for Earnest Thomas, who wouldn't have been able to be picked up. But part of the story, at least the story that's documented in the Devil in the Grove book and some of the FBI papers, is that Sheriff McCall was not too happy that these two men returning from military service wouldn't work in the grove.

T: Right.

H: And that you're family, Walter Irvin was really targeted because he was still wearin' his military uniform and refused to go work in the grove. Have you heard that view of what happened before?

T: Yeah, I've heard that.

H: What are your thoughts?

T: I think that they thought Walter and Samuel was too good to have that uniform on. Well, I wouldn't say too good. Should not have that uniform on because of their skin color, even though they did fight in the war. They were in the military. And they should be in the groves, doin' fieldwork, like the rest of the

Black people. And that's not what they wanted to do.

H: Why were so many. I'm trying to understand how and why so many Black folks in Groveland ended up workin' in the grove.

T: Because that's all they had.

H: Growing up you did not hear really much at all about the —

T: I knew because my mom told me.

H: What did she tell you?

T: That her brother was sentenced to life, well actually on death row and then they committed [commuted] it to life. But, for supposedly rapin' a White lady.

H: Do you remember about how old you were when she told you?

T: Oh, wow. Maybe eight.

Ms. Threat later shares about her twenty-six year tenure as a corrections officer in the Lake County Sheriff's office. Offering the following reflection:

H: What are those twenty six years of working at the jail and we said it's the Lake County Sheriff's office?

T: Um-hm.

H: What did that show you about white and Black life in Groveland in that area?

T: You can get along. There's no difference. We all go through the same thing, we all have problems.

Part two of this interview will appear in the September Iguana. Read the rest of this interview at the UF Digital Collections at tinyurl.com/Iguana1616.

To learn how the Groveland Four were honored and posthumously exonerated in 2021, go to tinyurl.com/Iguana1617.

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

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In memoriam:

Elsie Marie Allen: Rest in power

by Carson Stanton

Elsie Marie Allen took her final breath on May 19. She was born on July 17, 1946, in Richmond, Indiana. She is survived by her spouse of 57 years, David Allen, of Alachua, Florida; her daughter Wallace Mohlenbrok of Winston Salem, North Carolina; her son Damon Allen (Melanie Barr); her daughter Carson Stanton (Ken); and her son Flynn Allen, all of Gainesville; her grandchildren Gabriel Mohlenbrok of Greensboro, North Carolina; Margaret and Dorothy Mohlenbrok of Winston Salem; and Arrow and Nebraska Stanton of Gainesville.

She was the oldest of five children born to Bill and Betty Lou Showalter Harness. Her father was a factory worker who belonged to a union, and her mother was a homemaker.

Elsie graduated from Centerville Senior High School in Centerville, Indiana, in 1964. After high school, she met her husband, David. They had two children in Indiana, where David worked for the carpenters union, and as a couple, they worked together building houses.

Elsie and David moved to Florida in 1976, and David transferred his membership to the Carpenters Local in Gainesville. They built their own home on five acres in Alachua County and raised two more children while Elsie pursued an AA in English at Santa Fe College.

Elsie became involved with the Central Labor Council as a political volunteer. She also worked with the Gainesville carpenters in political action and joined the local, who made her a delegate to the Central Labor Council, where she eventually became President of the North Central Florida Labor Council in Gainesville.

She worked tirelessly for the labor council and helped win many political victories as a labor activist. Her efforts were recognized by the leadership of the carpenters, and when the United Brotherhood reorganized and merged some locals in the North Florida area, Elsie was appointed Business Agent of the newly formed Local 75.

She became an effective organizer for the carpenters local. She signed on new members, converted non-union carpenters, and restarted the apprenticeship. She revived the carpenter's newsletter, staying up late into the evening editing articles, publishing them, and getting them mailed out. She brought back the retirees' meetings and got them involved in important political discussions on issues that affected them. She was known to show up on non-union job sites and go head to head with contractors to win agreements for her carpenters, who became like family to her.

Her success as a business agent led the state organization to promote Elsie to the



Photo of Elsie Marie Allen courtesy of Carson Stanton.

job of political director for the Florida Carpenters Council. She continued in that position until she retired in 2006. The Carpenters remained her biggest passion until the end of her life. She was devoted to protecting working people's rights and trying to prevent the destruction of the last 100 years of labor progress in Florida. In June, 2022, she was inducted into the Labor Hall of Fame and received the A. Philip Randolph Award for lifetime solidarity.

In her free time, she enjoyed spending time hiking, camping, and studying the botany of the western United States. She was particularly interested in poetry and wrote and read works of her own. One of her favorite quotes was from Mother Jones: "Pray for the dead and fight like hell for the living."

Donations in Elsie's name may be made to the AFL-CIO at tinyurl.com/Iguana1626.



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

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Tribute to life, legacy of Dr. Patricia Hilliard-Nunn

On Juneteenth (June 19) at 10am, the County honored the life and legacy of the late Dr. Patricia Hilliard-Nunn by unveiling the Sankofa Statue on the West Lawn of the County Administration Building at 12 S.E. 1st St. in Gainesville.

In her remarks at the dedication, Nkwanda Jah said:

"Today we paid tribute to my friend Dr. Patricia Hilliard-Nunn/Tricia/Trish/Zoe/Nefertari with a monument. The monument is a Sankofa bird, Sankofa taken from the Akan people of Ghana – a proverb meaning to reach back and fetch your past to inform your future. She did this from the streets of Liberia to Egypt to Ghana to South Africa to the streets of Gainesville and Alachua County. So proud to be here with her family and friends."

A profile of Patricia Hilliard Nunn can be found in *Atrium* magazine at atriummag.org/steel-and-smiles/.



Pictured at the unveiling of the Sankofa statue honoring Dr. Hilliard-Nunn at the County Administration Building are, from left to right, husband Kenneth Nunn, daughters Foluke and Dayo, Nkwanda Jah, and Xavier Monroe. Photo courtesy of Nkwanda Jah.

"It makes no sense to me that the United States of America has more jails and prisons than colleges and universities." - Bernie Sanders

Rubber Stamp Improv Co.



Offering improv comedy classes, shows, jams, workshops, and more in the Gainesville area!

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GNV CONCERT SERIES

Saturday August 12th

PRIZILLA
SPIRIT TRAMP
MORGHAN COPELAND

Saturday September 9th

THE LOWLY WORM
TRUSTFALL
HANNAH HARBER

7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Bo Diddley Plaza
111 E University Ave






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

HELP! Protect and Save our Rivers and Springs




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Learn Your Part. Do Your Part

Gainesville area events

WEEK OF JULY 2-8

- Fri 7/7 8-11:30pm, **Articles, Spanish Needles, Rot in Coffins** show at Civic Media Center (433 S. Main St) - see civicmediacenter.org
Sat 7/8 4-5pm, **"How Great Theatre Saved a Dying Downtown,"** Richard Gartee book talk at Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Ave), free; mathesonmuseum.org
Sat 7/8 4-7pm, **Summer Market at Repurpose Project** (1920 NE 23rd Ave), with vendors, games, popcorn, drinks; 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); see pg 32

WEEK OF JULY 9-15

- Tue 7/11 6:30-8pm, **Florida Prisoner Solidarity** meets at Civic Media Center
Thu 7/13 6-7pm, **"Museum Nights: Dog Days of Summer"** talk & art display, Harn Museum (3259 Hull Rd), free
Fri 7/14 5pm: deadline to apply for **Alachua County Citizen Climate Advisory Committee** (tinyurl.com/Iguana1636 or 352-264-6811)
Fri 7/14 5-7pm, **"Better Together"** fundraiser at Cotton Club Museum & Cultural Center (837 SE 7th Ave), \$25 - see pg 13
Fri 7/14 6-9pm, **Gvl Fine Arts Ass'n Studio Tour Kickoff Party** at GFAA Gallery (1314 S Main St); see pg 17
Fri 7/14 7-11pm, **Rush & Animal19** show at Civic Media Center
Sat 7/15 9pm-1:30am, **"Beyond the Rink" Dance Party** to benefit Bread and Roses Women's Health Center patients at Boca Fiesta & Palomino (232 SE 1st St); sliding scale - see pg 5
Sat 7/15 2-5pm, **Gainesville Free Store** at Civic Media Center - free clothes and goods
Sat 7/15 6:30-8:30pm, **Jazz on the Patio** with Phil "Jazzdad" Thomas & Friends, AQ Jones Museum (1013 NW 7th Ave), free

WEEK OF JULY 16-22

- Sun 7/16 2pm, final performance of **"A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder,"** Hippodrome (25 SE 2nd Pl); thehipp.org
Sun 7/16 7-10pm, **Tina and Her Pony** show at Civic Media Center; see pg 16
Wed 7/19 6pm, **"Stop Landfill Expansion in East Gainesville" meeting**, Heartwood (619 S. Main St); sierraclub.org/florida/suwannee-stjohns
Thu 7/20 7pm, **Il Gato/Collin Whitlock concert** at Gvl Fine Arts Ass'n (1314 S Main St); see pg 17
Fri 7/21 8pm-12am, **Respite Events Show** at Civic Media Center
Fri 7/21 7:30-9:30pm (also 7/22), **"Black Like He"** play/music/dance at Phillips Ctr (3201 Hull Rd), free
Sat 7/22 10am, **"Tom Petty: Among the Wildflowers"** exhibit opens at Cade Museum (811 S Main St); \$15 (adults); see pg 27
Sat 7/22 9am-3pm, **Zookeeper Day Celebration at SF College Teaching Zoo** (3000 NW 83rd St); \$8, \$5 students/seniors/vets/etc.
Sat 7/22 7pm, **Quincy Allen Flint & New Folk Revival** at Heartwood Soundstage (619 S. Main St), \$12-15; heartwoodsoundstage.com

WEEK OF JULY 23-29

- Mon 7/24 7pm, **"Scene Queens" Drag/Burlesque+ Show** at Hipp basement (25 SE 2nd Pl), adults [18+] only, \$12; thehipp.org
Tues 7/25 6pm, **Alachua County Labor Coalition meeting**, Emmanuel Mennonite Church (1236 NW 18th Ave); laborcoalition.org
Thu 7/27 10:30am (also 7/28, 3pm), **"The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane"** at the Hipp (25 SE 2nd Pl), \$5
Thu 7/27 12:30pm (also 7/28, 10:30am), **"Haint Blues"** at the Hipp ((25 SE 2nd Pl), \$5
Thu 7/27 3pm (also 7/28, 12:30pm), **"The Jungle Book"** at the Hipp ((25 SE 2nd Pl), \$5
Fri 7/28 6pm, **How to Say Everything Book Release** by Tom Hart at Sequential Artists Workshop, GFAA Gallery (1314 S Main St)
Fri 7/28 7pm, **Artwalk** - see pg 15
Sat 7/29 6pm, **Gainesville Roller Rebels All-Stars vs Tallahassee Roller Derby**, MLK Jr Multipurpose Ctr (1028 NE 14th St); \$15 at door, \$14.21 at brownpapertickets.com, \$12 at Loosey's Downtown; see pg 32

WEEK OF JULY 30-AUGUST 5

- Sun 7/30 5-7pm, **Punks in the Park concert with Cooper, Leg Biters, Sarah & Jason Hedges** at Thomas Ctr (306 NE 6th Ave), free (see 8/27)
Sun 7/30 5pm, **Deadline for 10th Annual Adult Art Show** at downtown library (401 E University Ave) - see aclib.us/summer-art-show
Mon 7/31 12-7pm, UF Turlington Plaza (also 5-7pm, Turlington Language Learning Ctr; through 8/2), **"Memorial for a Disease - COVID: Dialogues, Drama & Documentaries"**; free
Thurs 8/3 ?pm, **"Lungs"** opening night at Actors' Warehouse (2512 NE 1st Blvd), runs through 8/13; see actorswarehouse.org
Sat 8/5 8pm, **Respite show** at Civic Media Center

WEEK OF AUGUST 6-12

- Sun 8/6 5pm, 8:15 **Hiroshima - From Father to Daughter** screens at CMC, free; see pg 2
Sun 8/6 6-8:30pm, **Voices Rising Community Chorus new singer registration** at Oak Hall School (1700 SW 75th St), open to adults & youth age 8 and up: "The only requirement is the ability to 'carry a tune' and match pitch" - more info, vrccgainesville.org, 352-284-1107.
Fri 8/11 6-8pm, **"Rango"** at Fla Springs Institute Family Movie Night at Fla Welcome Ctr (18645 Main St, High Springs); suggested donation \$5-10; floridaspringsinstitute.org
Sat 8/12 2-10pm, **Cypress & Grove 6th Anniversary Party** (1001 NW 4th St), with food trucks, new beers, music; free; cypressandgrove.com
Sat 8/12 7-9pm, **Live & Local Concert series: Prizilla, Spirit Tramp, Morghan Copeland** at Bo Diddley Plaza, (111 E Univ Ave); pg 25

WEEK OF AUGUST 13-19

- Sat 8/18 2-5pm, **Gainesville Free Store** at Civic Media Center - free clothes and goods
Sat 8/18 7pm, **"Tech Battle of the Bands"** at The Wooly (20 N. Main St), benefits GRACE Marketplace; \$30 (\$15 students)

WEEK OF AUGUST 20-26

- Sun 8/20 11am, **Sunday Assembly** meets to hear Val Leitner on aquaculture at new Pride Ctr location (Springhill Professional Ctr, 3850 NW 83rd Blvd, Ste 201)

Fri 8/25 7pm, **Artwalk** - see pg 15

Fri 8/25 7:30pm, **The Hive show** at Civic Media Center

Sat 8/26 11:30am, **Friends of Susan B. Anthony Women's Equality Day** luncheon at Best Western Gateway Grand (4200 W 97th Blvd); see pg 16

WEEK OF AUGUST 27-SEPTEMBER 2

Sun 8/27 5-7pm, **Punks in the Park** concert with Atomic Tourist, Grayrock, Joytraders, Tapeworm at Thomas Ctr (306 NE 6th Ave), free

Sun 8/27 7-9pm, **Blues on the Patio** with Root Redemption Duo at AQ Jones Museum (1013 NW 7th Ave), free 🐾

Recurring events:

Monday Farmers Market 4-7pm: Cypress & Grove

Thursday Farmers Market

4-7pm: Heartwood Soundstage

Thursday evening Poetry Jam 8pm at CMC

Free Fridays Concert Series, 7-9pm at Bo Diddley Plaza downtown (111 E Univ Ave); see pg 8

- 🐾 Please support GNV live music venues, they all have calendars: Boca Backyard, Cypress & Grove, First Magnitude, Heartwood Soundstage, Loosey's, One Love Café, Satchels, the Wooly, Wormhole, 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!

Tom Petty exhibit opens in Gainesville: Includes Rock & Roll Hall of Fame artifacts

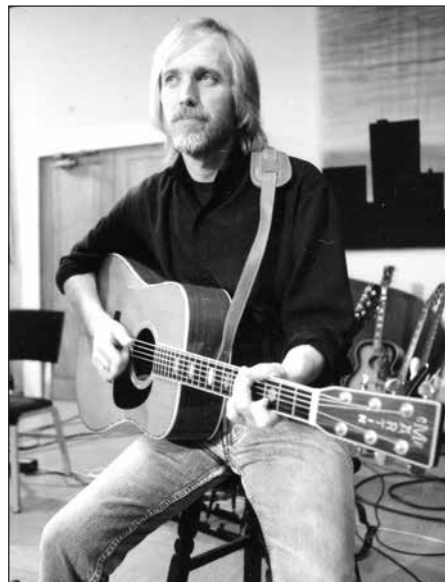
by Jody Farmer, Cade Museum

The Cade Museum for Creativity and Invention is happy to announce the opening of a new exhibit, Tom Petty: Among the Wildflowers, featuring artifacts previously on display at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio.

Tom Petty: Among the Wildflowers explores the joys, pains, and creative awakenings that Gainesville native Tom Petty experienced while pouring his soul into his magnum opus, Wildflowers, released in November 1994. Through this exhibit, guests can hear first-hand accounts from Tom and the Wildflowers team about the album's spirited creation.

The exhibit space is divided into three segments of artifacts that correspond to a unique aspect of the Wildflowers creative process: songwriting, recording, and reception and delivery. Through generous contributions from the Tom Petty Estate and individual bandmembers involved in the Wildflowers recording process, including Mike Campbell, Stephen Ferrone, and Howie Epstein, visitors can discover the many artifacts that tell the album's story, such as the original guitar and outfit featured in Tom Petty's 1995 Rolling Stone Magazine cover, original lyric sheets, and instruments used in the album recording.

The exhibition draws heavy inspiration from the 2021 documentary Tom Petty: Somewhere You Feel Free—The Making of Wildflowers directed by Mary Wharton and produced by Adria Petty, eldest



daughter of Tom Petty and partner in Petty Legacy, along with her sister, Annakim Violette, and stepmother, Dana York Petty.

"The Petty Legacy is committed to investing in the new artists, creators, and inventors that will come out of Gainesville," Adria Petty said. "The Cade Museum is a beacon for this. Our dad was such an unassuming and wonderful man like the late Dr. Cade; I know he would be humbled by this honor. The legacy of the Cade Museum uplifts and facilitates this spirit of invention and discovery. We could not be more thrilled that this important exhibition will travel from the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame to our dad's hometown in Central Florida. We hope it

inspires people to dig deep, dream and express themselves. We are forever grateful to Phoebe Miles for making this exhibition possible."

Tom Petty: Among the Wildflowers will be open from July 22 until January 1, during museum hours: Thursday to Sunday from 10am-4pm. Purchase tickets at cademuseum.org/visit/plan-your-visit/.

About the Cade Museum for Creativity and Invention

The mission of the Cade Museum for Creativity and Invention in Gainesville, Florida, is to transform communities by inspiring and equipping future inventors, entrepreneurs, and visionaries.

Named after Mary Cade and her husband, Dr. James Robert Cade, the lead inventor of Gatorade, the project has been spearheaded by their daughter, Phoebe Cade Miles, and her husband, Richard Miles, since 2006.

They encourage the development of innovation ecosystems through the Cade Prize for Innovation, the Cade's proprietary Innovation Education learning framework, and the 21,000-square-foot hands-on learning museum that promotes the development of an inventive mindset, which the Cade calls Inventivity™.

The Cade believes every person should have access to the right to invent and innovate inherent in America's DNA and works diligently in outreach efforts to bring this understanding to all, with an emphasis on the underserved. To learn more, visit cademuseum.org. 🐾

Spotlight on ... *Gainesville Residents United*



Gainesville Residents United is a non-profit organization of local community activists whose mission is to educate, motivate, negotiate, and litigate important issues that affect Gainesville's community.

They are challenging the Florida legislature's hostile attempt to take over the City of Gainesville's combined utility services (Gainesville Regional Utilities) and pushing back with litigation. In other words, GRU vs. GRU. Their initial task is to manage and fundraise for the legal defense of Gainesville Regional Utilities from a takeover by the State.

You can find them at grunited.org and on Facebook.

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: UF BGSO](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. centralfidsa@gmail.com | facebook.com/NCForidaDSA

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

Godsville Dream Defenders is a socialist, feminist, abolitionist organization in Gainesville, organizing to dismantle institutions and be a safe space for people of color. godsville@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 Residents United educates, advocates, negotiates, and litigates issues of community concern – currently the State takeover of Gainesville Regional Utilities. www.GRUnited.org

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

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Graduate Assistants United union represents UF grad assistants by fighting for improved working conditions, community involvement and academic freedom. 352-575-0366 | organizing@ufgau.org | ufgau.org

Grow Radio, a non-profit podcast station, provides opportunities for community members to create and manage engaging, educational, locally-generated programming to promote music, visual arts, humanities for enrichment of the Gainesville community. 352-219-0145 | Bryson66@gmail.com | growradio.org

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

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

MindFreedom North Florida is a human rights group for psychiatric survivors and mental health consumers, working to educate the public about harmful psychiatric practices and about humane alternatives to those harmful practices. 352-328-2511 | [facebook: MindFreedom Florida](https://www.facebook.com/MindFreedomFlorida)

Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America is a grassroots organization working to end 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](https://www.facebook.com/MoveToAmendGainesvilleFL)

National Alliance on Mental Illness | Gainesville offers support, education and advocacy for families and loved ones of persons with mental illness and/or brain disorders. 352-320-0457 (information) | 352-335-7770 (helpline) | namigainesville.org

National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare works to preserve these threatened programs for senior citizens and families. Local volunteers needed. Our.circle.of.care@gmail.com | ncpsm.org

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

National Women's Liberation is a feminist group for women who want to fight back against male supremacy and win more freedoms for women. Inequalities between women and men are political

problems requiring a collective solution. 352-575-0495 | nwl@womensliberation.org | womensliberation.org

North Central Florida Association for Women In Science is an advocacy organization championing the interest of women in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) across all disciplines and employment sectors. ncfawis@gmail.com | leanin.org/circles/ncfawis

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

Our Santa Fe River is a non-profit composed of concerned citizens working to protect the waters and lands supporting the aquifer, springs and rivers within the watershed of the 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](https://www.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](https://www.facebook.com/SAAatUF) | [instagram.com/studentanimalallianceUF](https://www.instagram.com/studentanimalallianceUF)

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

Sunday Assembly Gainesville is a secular congregation celebrating life 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. sssierra@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](https://www.facebook.com/groups/BlackStudentUnionUF)

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

UF Pride Student Union is an LGBT+ group open to queer folk of all sorts, including students, non-students, faculty and staff, that educates and provides a safe space for those of marginalized sexualities and gender identities. UFPridesu@gmail.com | [facebook.com/ufpsu](https://www.facebook.com/ufpsu) | plaza.ufl.edu/jsoto19/PSU

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

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

United Nations Association - Gainesville Chapter works to heighten citizen awareness/knowledge of global problems and the UN's efforts to deal with them. [facebook.com/UNAUSAGainesvilleFICChapter](https://www.facebook.com/UNAUSAGainesvilleFICChapter) | UNA-USA Gainesville.fl.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](https://www.instagram.com/un_pac_uflorida), or email un.pac.uf@gmail.com.

Veterans for Peace Gainesville Chapter is an anti-war organization that raises awareness of the detriments of militarism and war, as well as seeking peaceful and effective alternatives. 352-375-2563 | [Facebook.com/VFPchapter14](https://www.facebook.com/VFPchapter14) | 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](https://www.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](https://www.facebook.com/wmflgnv)

World Socialist Party of the United States welcomes anyone wanting to know more about Marxian socialism and our efforts to transform the dog-eat-dog - Devil take the hindmost world that's been created by capitalism, into a democratically arranged world society of equality. wspus.org 🌟

Florida unions under attack

by Jenn Powell
Alachua County Labor Coalition
Co-Chair and CWA Local 3170 Organizer

The 2023 Florida legislative session dealt many blows to Florida residents and undid years of work by the Alachua County Labor Coalition, but SB 256's attack on public sector unions is and will continue to be a devastating blow to the union movement. All public sector unions in Florida are affected except police, fire, and corrections unions, which are exempt. (Their support staff is NOT exempt.)

In 2018, similar legislation targeted only teachers, and they had to reach 50 percent membership or risk decertification. This time they have come after ALL public sector unions and raised the threshold to 60 percent while also outlawing payroll dues deduction. SB 256 went into effect on July 1.

Hundreds of union members attended committee meetings in Tallahassee and spoke against the legislation, while only three lobbyists, two from out of state, spoke in favor. But here we are.

Over 100 union members have signed the new card and set up self-pay dues at CWA 3170. There are hundreds more at the

Alachua County Education Association (ACEA). But as we approach critical deadlines, members worry, will their union survive?

Many people take for granted the benefits that unions have fought for that could soon be on the chopping block. ACEA has been a union since 1974; CWA 3170 since 1975.

Most employees don't know what life is like without that union contract. CWA contract benefits, such as rest time, overtime, and even the ability to have representation if you face discipline, will be left to the discretion of the employer.

If you work for the City of Gainesville/GRU/Alachua County Library District or Gainesville Housing Authority and are covered by the CWA contract, you can sign up to join the union at bit.ly/cwa3170.

If you are already a dues paying member, you must re-sign at that link.

CWA must recertify in October, so please do not delay. It only takes two minutes to sign. Your union contract depends on it.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact Jenn Powell at 352-215-2243. ✨

The Gainesville Iguana



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

To list your event or group, contact us at:

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

Deadline is Wednesday, Aug. 30

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

Gainesville Roller Rebels: back and better than ever!

Come watch the All-Stars take on the Sugar Sands Roller Derby on Saturday, July 8, and the Tallahassee Roller Derby on Saturday, July 29, at 6:30pm at the MLK Jr. Multipurpose Center at 1028 NE 14th St. in Gainesville.

Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. Kids 12 and under get in free. Pick up tickets from Loosey's Downtown at 120 SW 1st Ave., or purchase them online at Brown Paper Tickets. Doors open at 6pm and the action starts at 6:30pm. Food and drink will be available for purchase. There will be a raffle with proceeds going to a local charity.

Interested in volunteering? Volunteers get free admission on the day of the bout, free pizza at the after party, and a free entry into the raffle. They receive a volunteer punch card for GRR swag after volunteering at multiple bouts. Contact Volunteer@GainesvilleRollerRebels.com for more information.

Follow Gainesville Roller Rebels on Facebook or Instagram for more information about upcoming events. ✨

**GAINESVILLE ROLLER REBELS
2023 HOME SEASON**

**APRIL 8
MAY 13
JULY 8
JULY 29
SEPTEMBER 2
OCTOBER 7**

**ROLLER DERBY!
6:30 PM
@ MLK CENTER**