progressive news · events · directory The Gainesville Guana April/May 2024 - vol. 38, issue 4/5 'a soapbox for Alachua County activists'

Responding to Amendment 4 and the 6-week abortion ban

by the Gainesville Radical Reproductive Rights Network

On Monday, April 1, the Supreme Court of Florida issued two decisions impacting abortion access for Floridians. First, the Court upheld the 15-week ban on abortion, which will trigger a 6-week ban for Floridians starting May 1. Second, the Court decided that Amendment 4 (Right to Abortion Initiative) will be on the November general election ballot, despite a Florida Attorney General challenge. While the ballot decision is a win for Floridians fighting for reproductive rights, thousands of Floridians being denied health care access by the impending 6-week ban is tragic.

Starting in May, elective abortions can only be performed through six weeks of gestation. Victims of rape, incest, and human trafficking will have 15 weeks after their LMP (last menstrual period) to obtain an abortion; domestic violence victims are not afforded an exception. Most pregnant individuals do not realize they are pregnant until after 6 weeks and a 24hour waiting period will still be required in most cases.

Lauren Brenzel, Campaign Director for the amendment's sponsor, Floridians Protecting Freedom (FPF), articulated in a campaign press release, "The government should not interfere in personal medical decisions that should be between Florid-

See ABORTION, p. 24



Faculty, students and speakers from around the country joined together for a rally on the Reitz Union lawn, citing disruption to peoples lives and the quality of research from xenophobic decrees from Tallahassee. Photo by Jenna Ayoub.

Rallying against the 'Countries of Concern' bill

by Eva A. García Ferrés, Co-President of Graduate Assistants United

On Tuesday, March 26, members of the University of Florida along with community supporters and representatives from national organizations such as the ACLU, joined to protest the passing and implementation of SB 846. The bill is more commonly known as the "Countries of Concern" bill, as it codifies entities (i.e., universities, organizations, applicants) from Cuba, Syria, Russia, China, Iran, Venezuela, and North Korea as potentially dangerous for national safety.

Although it has been previously reported that SB 846 prohibits the acceptance of graduate assistants and faculty members from these so-called "countries of concern" (e.g., Heidt, February 2024, Nature), this is not fully true. The official writing of SB 846 does *not* prohibit the admission of applicants — but it does create a very important and hostile roadblock for prospective graduate assistants, postdocs, and faculty members. The bill requires an extra screening conducted by a Research Integrity Office. The screening is supposed to verify all attendance, employment, publications, and contributions listed in the application prior to any interview or offer of a position to the applicant.

The first problem that arises with this is a logistic one – at least with respect to See BILL, p. 25



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The Iguana mission:

We believe in advocacy journalism and strive to deliver grassroots progressive news written by those on the ground. We aim to engage readers, get them thinking critically, and ultimately join the activists who fill our pages in the fight for a more just, equitable world. We're also a community calendar, promoting cultural events, because we believe having fun and enriching the heart and soul are as important as engaging the mind when it comes to community building and solidarity.

April 17, 5-6:30pm Virtual teach-in on academic freedom, DEI, and the future of higher education in Florida

by United Faculty of Florida, UF Chapter

In conjunction with the American Association of University Professors and faculty at campuses across the nation, the United Faculty of Florida-UF will participate in the National Day of Action for Higher Education for the Public Good on April 17 by holding a virtual teach-in on Academic Freedom, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, and the Future of Higher Education in Florida on Wednesday, April 17, 5-6:30 pm. This teach-in will be conducted via Zoom.

UFF-UF's teach-in will feature a series of speakers as well as the opportunity for dialog and coalition building. Teachin topics include: Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in building excellence in higher education; the recent removal of the UF Presidential Task Force Report on African American and Native American History from UF's website; Florida Senate Bill SB 846, which discriminates against international students from seven countries and restricts international collaboration; the role of unions in defending the rights of students, faculty, and staff to learn free from state indoctrination; staff unionization efforts at UF; student activism and organizing at UF.

The American Association of University Professors' National Day of Action for Higher Education on April 17 provides a nationwide platform for local struggles including job security and fair pay, the freedom to teach and learn, equity and racial justice, and democratic governance of public education for all.

Register here for UFF-UF April 17 Teach in on Academic Freedom: tinyurl.com/Iguana1966

Contact: Paul Ortiz, ortizprof@gmail.com, 831-334-0131.

For information on the American Association of University Professor's National Day of Action for Higher Education, see aaup.org or contact the AAUP at aaup@aaup.org. 🖛

Want your article, ad, event or PSA in the next Iguana? Deadline is Wednesday, May 29 Submit events, content, questions to: gainesvilleiguana@cox.net

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From the publisher ...

Regarding the bridge collapse

This story resonates with me on a number of levels. Back in May 1980, I was on the last Greyhound bus to make it all the way across the Sunshine Skyway bridge. The next bus in

the morning made it halfway, and then into the drink, killing 35 people. Watching the news the next morning was kind of eerie. A bit personal.

But this event, and the videos. Wow. You see the cargo ship Dali under power, then its lights go out. Then they get it started, smoke belching from the engines. Cars and trucks are still going by. Its lights come back up, but it is too late to prevent what's coming, they've lost control of the massive ship. Amazingly, you can also see traffic has disappeared. Then, the impact splash and down it comes. A tragic fluke, but overall, the infrastructure worked well, especially getting traffic stopped after the quick Mayday call.



Joe Courter

So then the media coverage and commentary begins. It's interesting,

but not unexpected, that the maintenance crew consisted of migrants, willing to do the hard work, because many of them are good, hard-working people who have gone through real pain and trauma to get here. That they did not get notified in time, or at all, is tragic, and it shows a need to do better, even thinking ahead to a freak thing like this. It is right that their lives and sacrifice were acknowledged. It is profound to me that the one survivor refused a trip to hospital, due to his undocumented status.

Then the right-wing chattering class got going, spinning false narratives, and at times, wild racist speculation, designed to be channel and keyboard clickbait. This from the March 30 Media Matters:

"In the days after the bridge collapse, many in right-wing media quickly embraced absurd conspiracy theories to explain what happened, blaming a 'probable' cyberattack, the beginning of World War III, terrorism, the 'New World Order,' and the 'wide-open border.' Other conservative commentators morphed the tragedy into another casualty of corporate diversity, equity, and inclusion training, or 'DEI' — the latest byword, following 'woke' and 'critical race theory,' for right-wing anger at people of color.

"They should've hired a more diverse workforce,' mocked one right-wing pundit, while others called the disaster 'DEITANIC,' or claimed it was an inevitable consequence of immigration: 'Invite the Third World, become the Third World.'

"DEI equals die, that's what people need to understand,' announced Trump ally Laura Loomer, while Newsmax guest Victor Davis Hanson claimed, 'We're not hiring necessarily the best people.' DEI came up in the comments of several Republican politicians discussing the disaster, as well."

We are in an age of fake news, false theories, craven leaders with no qualms about lying, and worse, a media all too quick to repeat and amplify, or even create, stories for their own benefit.

In the bigger picture, horrible ideas get promoted across the board and ill thoughts are posed, which can have real-world consequences if implemented. Even if not, they gain credence among true believers. Look no further than Tallahassee this session: anti-LBGTQ policies, xenophobic attacks on academics, attacks on education, attacks on free speech. There are media sources and influencers pushing these agendas. It is overwhelming even to thoughtful people, exposed to the narrow agendas being pushed.

How to bridge across the divides between us is daunting. The good parts that are working get shouted down by the noisy "things are bad" blaring of those with an anti-progressive, antidemocracy agenda. Good people need to realize we are approaching an emergency moment. We need to feel our own recognition that this is a "Mayday" situation, and attention is required. The authoritarian ship is looming, and the bridge of Democratic ideals may be weaker than it looks. Either way, it's gonna be on us.

PS: There was no mention of voting or elections here this time, enough of that to come in the June/July and August editions (and page 17 of this issue). Thank you for the positive feedback on these Publisher Notes. Reader and advertiser financial support, and the work and commitment of the Iguana team listed to the right, keep this little paper going. Again, thanks.

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

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

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- 352-378-5655
- GainesvilleIguana@cox.net
- www.gainesvilleiguana.org
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Publisher:

Joe Courter

Editors Emeriti: Jenny Brown Mark Piotrowski

Editorial Board:

Pierce Butler Joe Courter Beth Grobman Jessica Newman

Production work, contributors:

Joye Barnes Jenny Brown Scott Camil Kevin James Vickie Machado Paul Ortiz

Distribution:

Joe Courter Susan Kaar Alex Leader Leon Plympton Jon Reiskind Anita Sundaram

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Why are we letting financial hucksters dictate our local news?

by Jim Hightower

Too many American newspapers have shut down or shriveled to irrelevance, but, luckily, we still have such bastions of local journalism as the Chicago Chronicle and New York News Daily.

But wait... those aren't real newspapers, aren't local, and aren't even American. They are Russian fake-news outlets, created in recent weeks by Putin's propagandists to interfere in our presidential election. They are web publications with names and designs that mimic real US news sites, but have no reporters or local newsrooms. Rather, they exist solely to fabricate "news reports" that appear legitimate, getting picked up and re-reported as fact in under-staffed, chain-owned newspapers, then promoted on rightwing social media sites.

This is what happens to people and democracy when local journalism is stripped away or hollowed out-no one is on regular watch, allowing charlatans, profiteers, and propagandists to dupe unsuspecting residents. Not only have hundreds of papers been eliminated, but *half* of the remaining dailies are now owned by Wall Street predators like SoftBank, the Japanese hedge fund that controls the huge USA Today/Gannett chain. Their interest is not in your town or quality journalism, but in slashing news coverage to jack up their profits. Such absentee owners have eliminated nearly 60 percent of America's reporters and other newsroom staff in just 20 years.

Let's be clear: Real journalism is labor-driven. No reporters on the ground, no local news. Hello-"news" is the lifeblood of democracy, so why hold it hostage to a handful of corporate profitseekers? Are we such unimaginative clods that we can't figure out how to finance honest, non-plutocratic news for our democracy?

For ideas on how to revive local news in your town, contact rebuildlocalnews.org - and give news democracy a boost.

This article was originally published on March 21 on Jim Hightower's Lowdown. See more at jimhightower.substack.com. It also pairs well with Hannah Murphy's article "'Pink slime' local news outlets erupt all over US as election nears" at tinyurl. com/Iguana1983 and Heather Cox Richardson's March 29 newsletter, which you can find at tinyurl.com/Iguana1967. See the study she references at tinyurl.com/Iguana1968. 🛲

Peace Poetry Reading Saturday, May 18

Young authors will read their winning poems from the 2024 Peace Poetry Contest sponsored by Veterans for Peace, Chapter 14, Public is invited

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville 4225 NW 34th St. 2-3:30pm



National Faith and Climate Forum, Tuesday, April 16

by Helen Warren and Ellen Siegel

Attention, faith communities: Join an interfaith climate program on April 16 for the National Faith and Climate Forum. Regardless of your faith, come together for an afternoon of climate education, spirituality, and action. Leave empowered and connected to a community making a difference.

The free program begins at 11:30am, including a light lunch, and ends at 5:15pm. Some segments will be live in person, and some will be broadcast on Zoom.

We are delighted to welcome both county and city staff, GRU, and several Alachua clergy as local speakers.

Email esiegel@CLEOinstitute.org for more details, location and how to register. $\overleftarrow{}$

Gainesville's 24th Annual Gram Parsons Tribute

renformere Med Stewart & The Dim Lights Dan Stepp & Hard Luck Society Font Porch Backsteppers Mite Reastner, Mark Miale, and Mick Marino The Shambles Quartermoon Band Patchwork Girls Mike Beasley band Mike Beasley band Mike Beasley band Mike Beasley band Mike Richmond Mick Richmond Keith J. Peters Curt McKenzie Sinday May 5th 2:00-7:00 PM Leartwood Soundstage outdoors REE SHOW donations will be accepted for... Bread Of the Mighty Food Bank Mark Sound





April/May 2024, Iguana, page 5

Saying goodbye to Third House Books

by Heather Halak, Owner, Third House Books

"I was a library kid," is my short answer when I'm asked how I got into running a bookstore. In elementary school I checked out books so voraciously at Miami-Dade's West Miami branch that I won their summer reading contest annually.

But the longer answer is, "By accident." Third House Books wouldn't exist if it weren't for my tumultuous noteven-a-year in New York City, return to Gainesville, and ninth circle of hell relationship. But mostly, it wouldn't exist if it weren't for Kiren Valjee, the founder, someone who'd become like family.

What Kiren built, only months before I loafed around to avoid being home during my breakup, immediately inspired me. I read several novels a week in undergrad earning my bachelor's in English, but newly-minted into the workforce, it had been tough with an ever-looming New Music Tuesday (now Friday) at a major record label. It was years since I read

Read banned books. Drink tea. Reject censorship. or visited Wild Iris Books, a place I considered "goals," run by the tenacious Erica Rodriguez Merrell, who would, years later, become a mentor and friend.

Some nights, when I walk from Second Avenue to the Top, I fondly remember the teal colored walls at 113 N Main St., a space now empty. Those walls housed moments both difficult and joyous: there I became a business partner, an owner, a community member. Almost everyone in my life here, I know because of THB. It's why I could never take full credit for this little bookstore - since its inception, it's been larger than myself. It's been you, the community of Gainesville, the larger book community across Florida and the rest of the country. "A town isn't a town without a bookstore," (Neil Gaiman) but after almost a decade. I can confirm a bookstore also cannot exist without its town (how lucky I am that mine is Gainesville!).

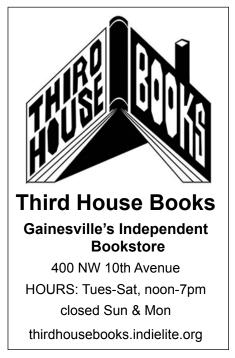
Now after doing this 6.5 years solo, it's time for a new chapter (bu-dum-tss). However romanticized bookstore life is, it's also difficult, emotional, grueling work: profit margins are small with inflation and wider issues in publishing; retail makes one subject to absolutely anything or anyone at any given time; business hours require consistency and missing life events to make sales. I gave my twenties to community and feel confident now passing the torch to brave local folks operating diverse third spaces in what's now a near-totalitarian, theocratic, and restrictive Florida. After a constant battle between financial and physical wellbeing versus keeping a community space alive, it's just no longer sustainable to run a brick and mortar and I'm ready to turn a new page (bu-dum-tss, again). But that doesn't mean I'll be gone entirely! It would take more than that to get rid of me. I'll be doing pop-ups and events in fall and have some final events before closing.

Swing by on Independent Bookstore Day, April 27, 12-7pm for a Celebration of Life for Third House Books at 400 NW 10th Ave. We're planning a funeral (putting the 'fun' in funeral), so feel free to bring a eulogy to share. Help me send my tweenage bookstore off with love and joy; this is a no mourning zone! May 4 will be our last day open.

If you'd like to alleviate some of the debt incurred in running the space, we're posting a GoFundMe soon (Please don't feel obligated to donate — your love and support will always be enough). Also, please stay in touch on social media! I'll miss my regulars and I'd love it if you dropped a line sometimes.

I can't thank Gainesville enough for what it's given me, but I hope I did it some justice here at Third House. I love you, GNV. Con mucho cariño, H. **





And the good news is ...

Biden administration finalizes long-term truck pollution standards

The Environmental Protection Agency finalized federal standards to strengthen the nation's emissions standards for heavyduty vehicles. The federal truck standards will cover model years 2027-2032 and reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that trucks and buses emit, cleaning up pollution from large vehicles on the roads.

In addition to contributing to the climate crisis, these vehicles are a major threat to public health for millions of Americans, and especially dangerous for marginal-

Abortion-related measures are already on

the ballot in Maryland and New York – a

state seen as central to both parties' efforts

to win control of the House - while

similar efforts are underway in states like

ized communities that often live next to major freight corridors due to the history of red-lining.

From an article by the Sierra Club on March 29. See full story at tinyurl.com/ Iguana1960

Democrats seek boost from abortion ballot measures in key battlegrounds

Democrats see efforts to get abortion on the ballot across the country as a way to boost turnout and energize their base amid signs of low voter enthusiasm for this year's presidential race.

Florida Legislature approves \$20 million to compensate reform school victims

The Florida Legislature is poised to send a bill to Gov. DeSantis that would award \$20 million to the abuse victims of the Arthur G. Dozier School for Boys and Okeechobee Reform School in North Florida. The Florida Senate unanimously approved the proposal and the House passed the legislation last week. State Sen. Darryl Rouson, of Tampa Bay, said on the Senate floor that the \$20 million would be a "a

gram. Senate President Kathleen Pas-

sidomo spearheaded the package of "Live

Healthy" bills aimed at retaining and at-

tracting healthcare workers to the state,

From an article by Julia Mueller in the Hill on March 30. See full story at tinyurl.com/Iguana1958

Arizona, Florida and Montana.

solemn obligation to honor the souls of the dead and the still missing."

From an article by Mitch Perry in the Florida Phoenix on March 4. See full story at tinyurl.com/Iguana1959

hospitals and providing some services to

From an article by Jackie Llanos in the

Florida Phoenix on March 14. See full

story at tinyurl.com/Iguana1964

Floridians with disabilities.

Florida set to spend \$1.5 billion in variety of health care programs

Over the next decade, Florida plans to spend \$1.5 billion on the healthcare initiative lawmakers prioritized during this year's legislative session, and which is now in the hands of Gov. Ron DeSantis, who would have to approve the pro-

In 'major victory for voting rights,' Texas court overturns Crystal Mason's conviction

Crystal Mason, the Texas woman sentenced in 2018 to five years in prison for casting an illegal ballot in the 2016 election, was cleared Thursday by a state appeals court, which found no evidence that increasing innovation in the industry, establishing behavioral health teaching

ballot that was never counted in the 2016 she knew she was ineligible to vote.

> From an article by Brett Wilkins in Common Dreams on March 29. See full story at tinyurl.com/Iguana1961

On heels of cannabis, abortion-rights initiatives, group wants to expand Medicaid in 2026

Florida Decides Healthcare is seeking voters' approval to expand Medicaid, the federally and state-funded insurance for low-income people. If the initiative is successful, the state would have to provide healthcare coverage to adults under 65 whose incomes are at or below 138 percent of the federal poverty level.

From an article by Jackie Llanos in the Florida Phoenix on March 25. See full story at tinyurl.com/Iguana1957

The unsung Black women at the front of the voting rights movement

Since the beginning of the 2020 redistricting cycle, the ACLU of Florida has worked across North Florida to help small counties update their maps through redistricting, the process of redrawing congressional, state legislative or local

districts to account for population growth or loss. Many of North Florida's smallest counties and cities of which have not been updated since the 1980s. The Florida ACLU thanks and highlights four of the amazing Black women who have led this

Biden "has the chance to cement a lasting legacy: He can be the president who put an end to the plastic pollution crisis, or he can be the one who let it spiral out of control," Greenpeace oceans director John Hocevar said in a statement. "We're

project and get minimal credit not just for their efforts in redistricting, but for being leaders in their communities.

From an article by Joe Dye in ACLU Florida on Feb. 26. See full story at tinyurl.com/Iguana1962

a greener and healthier path."

calling on him to stand up to plastic polluters like Exxon and Dow and put us on

From an article by Jessica Corbett in

story at tinyurl.com/Iguana1963 🛲

Common Dreams on March 28. See full

APRIL/MAY 2024, IGUANA, PAGE 7

To push for bold treaty, Greenpeace unveils Biden's plastic legacy monument

Inspired by Atlas, who in Greek mythology carried the heavens on his shoulders, Greenpeace installed a 15-foot monument outside the U.S. Capitol to pressure the Biden administration to support an ambitious global plastics treaty. President Joe

www.GainesvilleIguana.org

presidential election. The 2nd Court of Appeals in Fort Worth acquitted Mason, a grandmother who was on supervised release for felony tax fraud when she filled out a provisional

Recommended blogs / web sites





TheFloridaChannel.org: A state-level version of C-SPAN A pubic affairs programming service produced and operated by WFSU-TV features programming covering the three branches of state government, and is Florida's primary source for live, unedited coverage of the Governor and Cabinet, the Legislature, and the Supreme Court.



WUFT at the University of Florida has created a portal to news that comes to your email box five days a week. It has items from multiple sources to click on for local, regional, and national coverage. It is useful and free. Go to WUFT.org/ thepoint and enter your email.

Florida Phoenix 🔌

FloridaPhoenix.com is a free, nonprofit news site that covers Florida government and politics with a mix of in-depth stories, briefs, and social media updates on the latest events, editorial cartoons, and progressive commentary. Many stories focus on emerging innovative ideas or report on the people who are trying to help solve problems and shift policy for a more compassionate world.

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heathercoxrichardson.substack.com

Beau of the Fifth Column

Beau is a YouTube journalist based in NW Florida. He posts short pieces every day covering foreign policy, education, security, politics, and human rights. He can be



ironic, dead serious, a bit whimsical, and/or analytical. He also produces longer form videos.

Check him out at: youtube.com/BeauoftheFifthColumn

PROGRESS FL#RIDA

Progress Florida promotes progressive values through digital organizing, media outreach and collaborating with Florida's leading progressive organizations. Sign up for their "Daily Clips," to receive a news clip digest to your in box edited from dozens of news sources across Florida and the nation.

Robert H. Zieger Prize offers \$1,000 award

The Southern Labor Studies Association awards the Robert H. Zieger Prize at the biennial Southern Labor Studies Conference for the best unpublished essay in southern labor studies written by a graduate student or early career scholar, journalist, or activist. The Zieger Prize includes a \$1,000 award.

The Robert H. Zieger Prize was established in 2013 with the cooperation of the Zieger family and members of SLSA. The prize is named in honor of the late Robert H. Zieger - a teacher, scholar, and tireless union activist. Zieger was a prolific, award-winning writer whose books include For Jobs and Freedom: Race and Labor in America since 1865 and The CIO, 1935-1955, and three field-defining edited volumes on southern labor history.

Zieger served as an officer in the North Central Florida Central Labor Council and an organizer for the United Faculty of Florida. He maintained a strong commitment to social justice his entire life.

The winner of the Zieger Prize will be announced at the 2024 Southern Labor Studies Association conference which will be held at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, September 20-21. SLSA encourages applicants to the Zieger Prize to also submit proposals for the "New Directions" Workshop Series via the conference call for papers.

To be considered for the Robert H. Zieger Prize, applicants must submit their essays electronically by May 15 to the prize committee chairperson at:

Paul Ortiz

Chair, Robert H. Zieger Prize Committee Department of History University of Florida Questions? Email ortizprof@gmail.com

Graduate students and scholars, activists, and journalists who are no more than five years beyond the author's highest degree are eligible to apply. Essays must be in English, in print or electronic format, and should be primarily concerned with southern labor and working-class history broadly conceived. Applicants are not required to be members of SLSA at the time of the submission.

For more information, visit tinyurl.com/ Iguana1980. 🛪

Editors' picks: News that didn't fit

'Better than Jesus': How far will the cult of Trump go?

MAGA has been persuaded that Trump is the savior who will face down the demons

by Chauncey DeVega | Salon | March 2 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1979

It has been very difficult for the American people, the news media, and the country's responsible political elites to stop Donald Trump and the larger neofascist movement precisely because he and they are launching so many attacks simultaneously on the country's democracy, institutions, political culture and collective sense of reason - and reality itself.

Biden and Sen. Sanders deliver remarks on lowering health care costs (35 minute video w/ transcript)

They describe successes, but there's still much to do

MSNBC | April 3 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1981

At a White House event, Sen. Bernie Sanders and Pres. Joe Biden discuss their successes in lowering health care costs for Americans, their plans to keep doing so, and the evils of Big Pharma. Biden: "I promise you, with a democratic congress, Kamala and I will make Roe v Wade the law of the land again."

Experts blast GOP's plan to end recreational sex

'You're gonna love what the Manhattan DA has coming'

by Maya Boddie | AlterNet | Feb. 22 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1977

Legal experts have been warning that, aside from banning abortion, the GOP has even more plans to govern women's bodies under a second Donald Trump administration. In a 2023 Politico report, journalist Michael Hirsh said that through Project 2025, they aim to defund the Department of Justice, dismantle the FBI, break up the Department of Homeland Security and eliminate the Departments of Education and Commerce. And that's not all.

NAACP calls on Black student-athletes to boycott Florida public colleges over anti-DEI policy

'If these institutions are unable to completely invest in those athletes, it's time they take their talents elsewhere,' the leader of the civil rights organization said

by Daniel Arkin | NBC News | March 11 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1955

The head of the NAACP called on Black student-athletes to reconsider their decisions to attend Florida public colleges and universities, challenging a new state policy that bars those institutions from using government funds on diversity, equity and inclusion programs. NAACP leader Derrick Johnson sent a letter to current and future student-athletes asking them to "choose wisely," 10 days after UF eliminated all diversity, equity and inclusion positions in accordance with the new rule.

Palestinians Will Remain on Palestinian Land

Jared Kushner (Trump's son-in-law and senior advisor during his presidency) joins the chorus calling for Israel to expand its occupation to waterfront through forced displacement, but, if history is any judge, Palestinians will remain

by Vijay Prashad | Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research | ScheerPost | March 28 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1965

Jared Kushner is advising Israel to illegally shift even more Palestinians to al-Naqab, many of whom were originally pushed to Gaza from cities in parts of Palestine that are now within Israel. Prashad states that this is not only illegal, but that Israel's violence has failed and Israel will continue to fail to intimidate and cleanse the region for the establishment of Greater Israel; it simply cannot eliminate the Palestinians.

The Gen Z Dems Renaissance is changing the game in Florida. It's been a long time coming.

'Gen Z Florida Democrats launch PAC to flip seats in 2024, 'build a renewed bench' for future cycles.

by JacksonofFL | Daily Kos | March 30 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1956

Jackson McMillan recognized a huge problem in the Democratic Party: the best and the brightest Gen Zers were leaving Democratic youth caucuses for campaigns or initiatives, leaving the caucus weaker, over and over. Enter: Florida Future Leaders, the joint PAC for Florida college and high school Democrats. Each year FFL hires and trains organizers on campuses, prioritizing downballot races and educating about the importance of local politics. When those youth leaders move on, a new crew has been trained and will be ready to take over.

The unimaginable horror of a Trump restoration

The dangers of a second MAGA term go far beyond the White House

by David Faris | Slate | March 26 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1976

A Trump restoration is in the works (called Project 25) and it should feel like an existential threat to everyone who cares about liberal democracy and the incomplete, but tangible social, racial, and economic progress that has been made since the New Deal era. It doesn't help that President Joe Biden's manifest flaws are dangerously obscuring the scale of the threat of a second Trump term. $\overleftarrow{}$



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



Portion of Americans who say that U.S. military intervention abroad usually improves a situation: 1/4 - Harper's Index, March 2024

THE LYNX BOOKSTORE GRAND OPENING

April 28th, 10am-7pm 601 South Main Street



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www.gofundme.com/f/save-the-ox

CounterSpin interview with Phyllis Bennis on Gaza ceasefire resolution 'This is about what has to happen to stop this genocide'

Phyliss Bennis has been a rock solid voice on foreign policy for decades. Below is an excerpt from an interview with her on April 2. See the full interview here: https://fair.org/home/this-is-about-whathas-to-happen-to-stop-this-genocide/.

Janine Jackson: Let me just ask you, finally, I do see also just a lot of regular folks reading things like US Deputy Ambassador Robert Wood calling for a "lengthy pause to this conflict" and saying, "Well, we're not calling for a pause to the conflict. We're calling for a resolution. We're calling for a way forward." And then you see with concerns about a wider war, we have folks like John Kirby, White House National Security Council, on the Today Show saying, "Well, we don't want a wider war in the region, but we got to do what we have to do."

This is terrifying, but I also feel like folks are seeing through it. And so maybe let's end on that note, that folks are figuring out that this politics-speak, they're seeing it for what it is—and, more importantly, for what it isn't.

Phyllis Bennis: That's exactly right, Janine, and I think the good news, if there is any in this extraordinarily devastating time of real genocide in real time in front of our eyes on an hourly basis, the good news is exactly as you say: More and more people in this country and globally are seeing through those false claims.

It's a false claim that the UN resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire is not binding. It is binding. It's a false claim that the South African charges at the In-



& all for the community https://wmbt901.com/listen-live/ ternational Court of Justice were meritless. They had all the merit in the world.

All of these claims are designed to distract us. It's all a distraction. The change in language is a distraction.

What we need is a real ceasefire. That doesn't mean two weeks to release all the hostages, and then we go back to war. That's not the point here. The point is to stop the fighting, stop the slaughter, stop the denial of food and water and medicine, which is deliberately causing massive starvation on a level that all of the experts in international humanitarian crises admit is the worst they have ever seen — not in terms of ultimate numbers, because the population in Gaza is not very big, but in terms of the percentage of people. Never have we seen 100% of a population facing extreme hunger, with 55% facing immediate famine. This has never happened before, as long as the international humanitarian organizations have been tracking famines. It's shocking.

And the fact that it is going on while we watch, with weapons we provide, that we pay for with our tax money, is finally reaching everybody in this country. More and more people are saying no, not in our name, not with our tax money, not anymore.



www.GainesvilleIguana.org

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Emmitt Smith slams Florida's decision to shutter Diversity, Equity, Inclusion office

by Joseph Salvador

This article was originally published on March 1 by Sports Illustrated. See more at si.com.

Former Florida and Dallas Cowboys legend Emmitt Smith blasted his alma mater in a statement Sunday in response to the university's controversial firing of its entire Diversity, Equity and Inclusion department Friday.

"I am utterly disgusted by UF's decision and the precedent that it sets," Smith wrote on social media. "Without the DEI department, the job falls to the Office of the Provost, who already has their hands full, to raise money for the university and continue to advance the academic studies and athletic programs. We cannot continue to believe and trust that a team of leaders all made up of the same background will make the right decision when it comes to equality and diversity. History has already proven that is not the case.

"Instead of showing courage and leadership, we continue to fail based on systemic issues and with this decision, UF has conformed to the political pressures of today's time," he continued.

Florida made its decision to eliminate all

of the DEI positions to "comply with the Florida Board of Governor's regulation 9.016 on prohibited expenditures." The board defines DEI as "any program, campus activity, or policy that classifies individuals on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, gender identity, or sexual orientation and promotes differential or preferential treatment of individuals on the basis of such classification," per the Gainesville Sun.

Additionally, the regulation states that a state university "may not expend any state or federal funds to promote, support, or maintain any programs or campus activities" that violate section 1000.05 of Florida Statutes, advocate for what it defines as diversity, equity, and inclusion, or promote or engage in what it defines as political or social activism.

Smith, the NFL's all-time rushing leader, finished his statement with a message to the minority athletes currently attending Florida.

"To the MANY, minority athletes at UF, please be aware and vocal about the decision by the University who is now closing the doors on other minorities without any oversight," Smith wrote. "And to those who think it's not your problem and stay on the side lines and say nothing, you are complicit in supporting systemic issues."

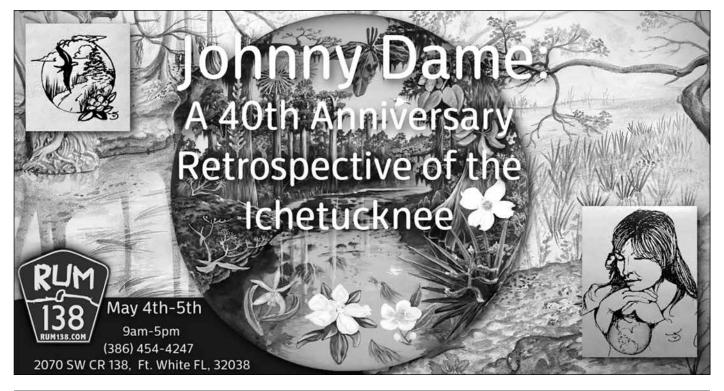
See related article in Editors' Picks on page 9 "NAACP calls on Black studentathletes to boycott Florida public colleges over anti-DEI policy"

THE PEOPLE WHO THREW ROCKS AT RUBY BRIDGES FOR TRYING TO GO TO SCHOOL ARE NOW UPSET THAT THEIR GRANDCHILDREN MIGHT LEARN ABOUT THEM THROWING ROCKS AT RUBY BRIDGES FOR TRYING TO GO TO SCHOOL.

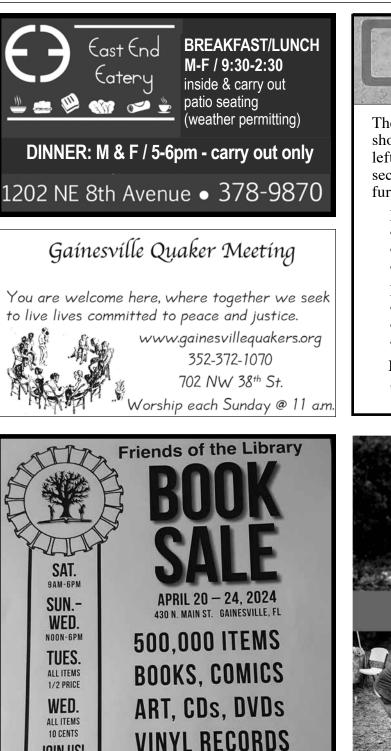
- CHIQIS EVANS

"Embrace diversity: don't hate on her because she is green."

~ Star Trek, TV show



"Diversity is being invited to the party; inclusion is being asked to dance." ~ Vernā Myers, Amerian Activist



COLLECTOR'S CORNER

Masks encouraged

& MORE!

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The Repurpose Project is a non-profit junk shop focused on salvaging valuable resources left behind by traditional reuse markets. A second location (Reuse Planet) features used furniture, appliances, cabinets, and more.

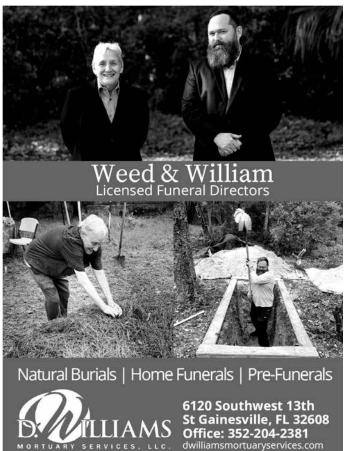
Repurpose Project - Gainesville

- 1920 NE 23rd Ave.
- repurposeproject.org
- 352-363-8902

Reuse Planet - Gainesville

- 1540 NE Waldo Rd.
- reuseplanet.org
- 352-647-5112

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The cinematic truth: Cinema Verde Film Festival 2024

Cinema Verde, a non-profit dedicated to environmental education, will host its 15th annual film festival at Cypress and Grove Brewing Company in Gainesville, featuring films directed by an array of artists who value the natural environment.

On April 20-22, the festival promises an enriching cinematic experience and counters misleading information surrounding climate change. In light of various educational bodies' recent decisions to feature climate-related content that is derived from industry and may not be valid scientifically, Cinema Verde remains dedicated to delivering accurate information rooted in science.

With concern regarding misinformation infiltrating the general public and classrooms, Cinema Verde Director Trish Riley states that "Cinema Verde emphasizes sound science by presenting environmental truths through powerful and thought-provoking films."



Embrace Cinema Verde in this dual initiative — promoting environmental value through education and celebrating the truth through cinema. Visit Cinema Verde's website at cinemaverde. org to learn more about the initiative, explore festival details, and secure your tickets for an unforgettable weekend of environmental enlightenment.

Festival Highlights:

Dates: April 20, 21 and 22

Location: Cypress and Grove Brewing Company, 1001 NW 4th St, Gainesville, FL 32601

Ticket Options: A range of ticket options is available, ensuring accessibility for all members of the community: \$15 for a two-hour film block - \$60 for a three-day pass. Purchase tickets here: https://www.cinemaverde.org/events/cinema-verde-2024-environmental-film-festival

For further inquiries, contact Trish Riley: trish@cinemaverde.org.



"Denouement" follows Father Time as he confronts his partnership with Mother Nature and reconciles with his self-manifested damnation

Denouement is a locally produced feature film that was written and directed by two UF alumni, Katelyn Wahl and Sebastian Georgiev.

On a fundraised \$4,000 budget, the film was shot in Alachua and Ocala, as well as performed by student actors and professional LA actors.

The film's premiere will take place on April 22 at the Hippodrome Theater in downtown Gainesville from 5 to 7pm.

The first half of the event will be the showing of the movie and the second half will be a Q&A session with the cast and crew.

Admission is free.

The film contains mild language and mild violence.

For more information, visit tinyurl.com/iguana1974



Festival blends the arts into environmental stewardship, science and African American culture by Carol Mosley

For more than 40 years the Cultural Arts Coalition has been a voice for presenting African American history and culture through arts, environmental stewardship and science programs.

CAC is based out of, and manages, the Wilhelmina Johnson Community Center. The WJRC is rented by local groups for events, meetings and classes. This community resource is in a precarious position, with the City of Gainesville facing severe budget cuts that will result in loss of funding for many non-profit programs.

The CAC hosts the summer Environmental Ambassadors program. The Ambassadors visit environmentally sensitive areas, examine the effects of the consumer waste stream, and learn alternatives that empower them to share sustainability options in their communities. This year, some of the past summer's Ambassadors received internships with local businesses.

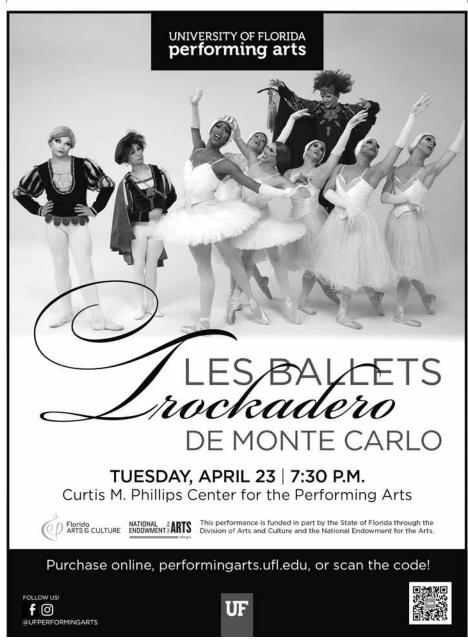
The Science Bus is a mobile hands-on STEM demonstration center that is part of the after school science clubs, supported by grants from City of Gainesville and Alachua County, as well as community support.

The annual 5th Avenue Arts Festival brings together non-profit groups and local artisans to share in African centered music and dance. The Festival features kids' activities with a bounce house and balloon animals, plus a stage with abundant local musical, dance, and spokenword talent, including the Jazz Bandits, Sheba the Mississippi Queen, and Little Jake Mitchell. Food vendors keep the crowds fed and hydrated.

This year will be the 44th year of the fes-

tival, which is themed "Continued Community Growth."

Be a part of what makes Gainesville's community strong and vibrant. Sell your handmade art; feed the crowd; promote the work of your nonprofit organization or come to enjoy the fun on May 5 and 6 at the 44th Annual 5th Avenue Arts Festival at the Santa Fe College Charles L. Blount Center, 401 NW 6th Street. See www. culturalartscoalition.org/annual-5th-avearts-festival/ for more information.



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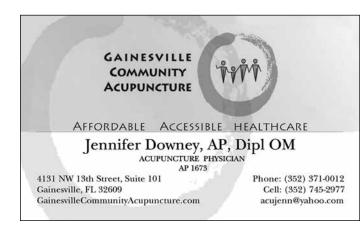
The Civic Media Center is a reading room, a library of the non-corporate press, and community space.

Get involved in something for the greater good. Stop by.

civicmediacenter.org

433 S. Main St., Gainesville

civicmediacenter.org





Pity the nation

Pity the nation whose people are sheep,

and whose shepherds mislead them.

Pity the nation whose leaders are liars, whose sages are silenced,

and whose bigots haunt the airwaves.

Pity the nation that raises not its voice,

except to praise conquerors and acclaim the bully as hero

and aims to rule the world with force and by torture. Pity the nation that knows no other language but its own

and no other culture but its own.

Pity the nation whose breath is money

and sleeps the sleep of the too well fed.

Pity the nation - oh, pity the people who allow their rights to erode

and their freedoms to be washed away.

My country, tears of thee, sweet land of liberty.

~ Lawrence Ferlinghetti



SE 2nd Place - Gainesville Florida

TheHipp.org



by Joe Courter

There will be primaries in August, and then the final election in November. Many things will play out between now and then. Please, just know you need to vote.

Message to students: Change your voter registration to Gainesville, you are representing future students coming to town. Better city and county Commissioners is a good legacy to leave. Also, if you have moved, update your registration with the Supervisor of Elections office.

If you are going to be out of town over the summer, an absentee ballot may be an

"We do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate."

~ Thomas Jefferson



The Gainesville Free Grocery Store

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

For more info:

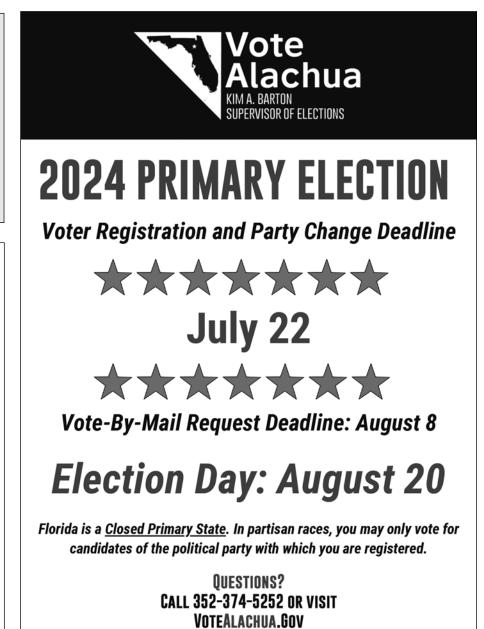
Facebook: freegrocerystore Web: www.facebook.com/GNVFGS Email: fgsgnv@gmail.com Leave message at: 352-388-1586 idea, as the primary is August 20, which is just when UF resumes classes. You will see who is running in plenty of time to vote. Easy to do, call 352-374-5252 or go by the Supervisor of Elections office on N. Main St.

The Iguana will have an elections issue out in August, and you can always consult that online no matter where you are.

There is talk about Third Party candidates trying to hop in the Presidential race. Barring a gigantic groundswell, the entrenched duopoly that is the US system will prevail. Voting is about the math, not about feeling virtuous or expressing personal displeasure. Voting is also about all the down ballot races that your one vote actually has much more impact with. If you must skip the Democrat presidential, fine, I do not agree, but please vote the rest of the ballot.

And, most importantly, the news broke that a woman's right to control her body is on the ballot. That bodily control has also just had chains put on it with the past 6-week abortion ban going into effect in May.

This is huge. We are under attack, organizing to get out the vote is up to us all who care. Yes you vote because very real lives depend on it. $c^{\frac{1}{24}}$



BLACK COWBOYS & COWGIRLS IN FLORIDA-* THEN AND NOW ×

★ Friday, 6 - 9 p.m. ★

History of Black Cowboys &

Cowgirls in Florida

John H. Nix, President

North Central Florida Black

Farmers Association

Cowboys

Two-Day Extravaganza: * Friday, April 12, 2024 ★ Saturday, April 13, 2024



Cotton Club Museum & Cultural Center 837 SE 7th Ave. Gainesville, FL 32601

For more information please contact

Dr. Barbara McDade Gordon:

bmcdade07@gmail.com





★ Saturday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. ★ Horses on the grounds: Meet the horses, take a photo on horseback. How to care for horses: saddling, feeding, and grooming. Lasso & roping demonstrations. Square and line dance Panorama: A Walk-thru Exhibit demonstrations- Join in & kick up Movie & Popcorn: History of Black your heels! Informal modeling: Cowboy & Western Wear. Local Vendors: BBQ & Other Food

> Free Events. Tell us you're coming! Register online at: Cottonclubmuseum.com/events

Florida's rich history of Black cowboys, cowgirls

by Carol Mosley

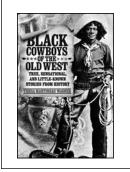
I'm still angry at my formal education when I learn the untold stories of American history. At 72 years old, I'm only now learning about the prevalence and importance of Black cowboys and cowgirls in the history of the American west and of my own state of Florida.

Though not known for being a major cattle state, Florida had, and still has, its own Black cowboys who tend to everything on the ranch from herding cows to training horses. In 2022, Florida produced 3 percent of the nation's beef cows.

The history of Black cowboys in Florida is intertwined with the Spanish and Seminoles from before the nation was even formed. Managing cattle and taming horses was a common task, though more challenging in Florida's pinelands than on the open frontier.

After the Civil War, many formerly enslaved people headed to westward expan-





Recommended reading:

"Black Cowboys of the Old West: True, Sensational, and Little-Known Stories from History"

by Tricia Martineau Wagner



Current exhibition: **Return to Forever:** Gainesville's **Great Southern Music Hall**

Between 1974 and 1978, the top concert venue in Gainesville was the Great Southern Music Hall, which played host to Jimmy Buffett, Ray Charles, Muddy Waters, Bob Seger, Steve Martin, Ike and Tina Turner, John Prine, the Count Basie Orchestra, Weather Report, Randy Newman, Rush, Cheech & Chong and dozens more. This exhibit showcases John Moran's impactful performance photos. Exhibit is open through Saturday, May 4.

mathesonmuseum.org

sion of the U.S. to escape southern racism and seek opportunity. The frontier diversity of ranchers and cowhands included Blacks, Indians, Mexican *vaqueros*, and women.

The term "cowboy" was a derogatory rendition of "cowhand" that, over time, came to be the macho image that the term conjures today.

Fortunately, this untold story of American and Florida history is gaining much deserved attention from historians and archivists, who are bringing incredible photos and music to public exhibits. The Florida Agricultural Museum created a mobile exhibit of panels called "Black Cowboys of Florida: Past and Present." The Cotton Club Museum and Cultural Center is bringing this story to Gainesville on April 12 and 13.

John "Ronnie" Nix, President of Black Farmers Association of North Central Florida, will lead the discussion of historical photo panels and movie on Friday night. John is a fourth generation cattleman and horseman, who manages his own 100 acre Nix farm.

Nix gained his cowboy skills as a young man working with his grandfather and uncles preparing the "woods cattle" for market sale. According to Nix, "Many of the cattle were wild and required great cowboy skills to be pinned and worked." The Nix farm doubles as an educational resource for youngsters and as an agrotourism site.

Join us at the Cotton Club Museum on Friday, April 12, from 6-9pm for the movie and discussion with popcorn and again on Saturday from 11am to 5pm, which will be a day of family fun and educational ranching-related demonstrations. The event is free to the public at 837 SE 7th Ave. See www.cottonclubmuseum. com for more information.



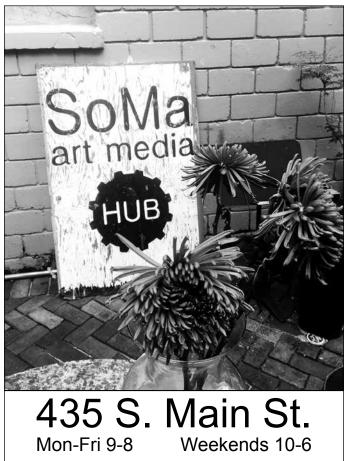
Website: bingodeli.square.site IG: bingodeli FB: BingoDeliGNV MWF 5-9 pm, Th 4-9 pm, Sat 12-9 pm, Sun 12-8 pm 619 S Main Street, (352) 451-4470 BINGO DELI & PUB



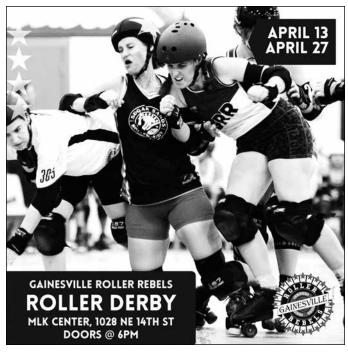
Daily/weekly farm to table specials (check IG/FB for updates) - Great sandwiches - Delish beer & wine - Full bar - Happy hour daily - Homemade items for sale, like

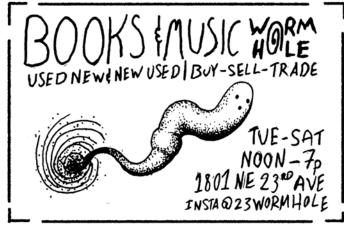
Bingo's chili sauce, pickled veggies, & sauerkraut -Options for kiddos - @ historic South Main Station with Heartwood Soundstage across from Depot Park - Plenty of parking on the property & covered outdoor seating -

Pet friendly - Vegetarian & vegan options



Roller Rebels home bouts April 13, 27







Looking for a unique weekend activity you can bring the whole family to? The Gainesville Roller Rebels are playing two home games this month on April 13 and April 27.

On Saturday, April 13, the Swamp City Sirens and the Millhopper Devils home teams, both made up of GRR skaters, will face off for GRR's first game of the season! And on Saturday, April 27, GRR will take on longtime rivals Tallahassee Roller Derby! You won't want to miss these hard-hitting games.

Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. Kids 12 and under get in FREE! Purchase tickets online at tinyurl.com/grrApril13 (April 13) or tinyurl.com/grrApril27 (April 27), or in person at Loosey's Downtown (120 SW 1st Ave).

Doors open at 6pm and the action starts at 6:30pm. Food and drinks will be available for purchase.

Win big in the Roller Rebels raffle! Raffle proceeds will go to local charities. On April 13, GRR will be supporting the Human Rights Coalition of Alachua County, and on April 27 they'll be supporting St. Francis House, as well as hosting a collection drive for CampOUT: LGBTQ+ Youth Summer Camp. CampOUT will be collecting sharpies, electrolytes, water bottles, and twin bed sets (items may be new or used).

After the game, join our afterparty at Loosey's Downtown.

Roller derby wouldn't exist without volunteers and officials. The Gainesville Roller Rebels love their volunteers, and have a lot of different ways to show it.

Volunteers get free admission on the day of the bout, free food at the after party, and a free raffle entry. Volunteers also receive GRR swag after volunteering at multiple home bouts. If you're interested in volunteering, fill out the form at https://tinyurl. com/VolunteerForGRR2024.



GET ENGAGED....or just have an affair with art on the

LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH in downtown Gainesville's Art District.

www.artwalkgainesville.com GALLERY TOUR BEGINS AT 7 PM

S.O.S. (Save Our Station), Keep the magic alive!

by Fred Sowder, WGOT Volunteer

It was the summer of 1989. I had just started classes at the University of Miami in Coral Gables. The truth of the matter was that I was really there to be a part of its college radio station, WVUM. It was a magical time for music. Nirvana had yet to hit it big and local Miami bands like Nuclear Valdez and The Mavericks showed great promise. The radio station there had wall-to-wall live hosts 24 hours a day. To the point, in fact, that I wasn't able to get a show on my own until November of that year.

The rest is history. From seeing bands like Nine Inch Nails, Smashing Pumpkins, and Green Day in small Miami Beach clubs to keeping the station on the air in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew, I eventually managed the station and was there for four years that I will always cherish. I later moved to Gainesville to go to graduate school. I was sorely disappointed to find out there wasn't a college radio station here. About 20 years ago, opportunity arose to help rectify that problem and WGOT was born at 94.7FM.

After a few years of planning, an eventual frequency change, and over 16 years on the air, WGOT at 100.1FM is at a crossroads and could really use your help. Originally, I had one newborn child when WGOT first went on the air. I now have two young adults in high school. This largely means I can no longer put in the time I once did to keep WGOT a vibrant and crucial part of independent media in Gainesville. It makes me sad since there are so many talented musicians and others that truly deserve exposure on our airwaves. Many of our longtime volunteers are in similar situations.

Besides our constant appeals for donations from loyal listeners and local businesses, we are especially in need of volunteers. Although we have a studio in the Civic Media Center, most of the station's day to day operations happen remotely and you can make a big impact by helping us. Likewise, if you've always wanted to start your own podcast, we have the facilities to make that a reality. You can easily turn it into a radio show with only minor tweaking.

To that end, we'd like to invite you to our open house on Saturday, April 20th from 10am to noon at the Civic Media Center. We're looking for creatives of all kinds as well as those who want to have a voice in what kind of programming WGOT offers. Like all media, WGOT needs to grow and evolve. The only other option is extinction, which would be a really unfortunate denouement for WGOT. Here's to many more years of independent community radio in Gainesville. Its future is now up to you. Thank you.



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

INFORMATIVO PACIFICA MON-FRI: 6 AM

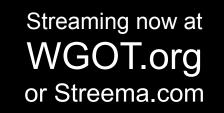
> THOM HARTMANN MON - FRI: 7 AM

DEMOCRACY NOW! AMY GOODMAN

MON - FRI: 8 AM and 1 PM







GREAT SHOWS BY: FRED SOWDER BILL PERRY H.R. GERTNER DOUG CLIFFORD DEBI D.J. CRAMELA MARKUS ALEXANDER HAYLEY BOBBY STAN CHUCK D. (from Public Enemy) RALPH NADER DAVID BARSAMIAN and others!

WE ARE GAINESVILLE'S COMMUNITY RADIO STATION

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

Why I'm resigning from the State Department

by Annelle Sheline

Annelle Sheline, PhD, served for a year as a foreign affairs officer at the Office of Near Eastern Affairs in the Department of State's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor.

Since Hamas' attack on October 7, Israel has used American bombs in its war in Gaza, which has killed more than 32,000 people — 13,000 of them children with countless others buried under the rubble, according to the Gaza Ministry of Health. Israel is credibly accused of starving the 2 million people who remain, according to the UN special rapporteur on the right to food; a group of charity leaders warns that without adequate aid, hundreds of thousands more will soon likely join the dead.

Yet Israel is still planning to invade Rafah, where the majority of people in Gaza have fled; UN officials have described the carnage that is expected to ensue as "beyond imagination." In the West Bank, armed settlers and Israeli soldiers have killed Palestinians, including US citizens. These actions, which experts on genocide have testified meet the crime of genocide, are conducted with the diplomatic and military support of the US government.

For the past year, I worked for the office devoted to promoting human rights in the Middle East. I believe strongly in the mission and in the important work of that office. However, as a representative of a government that is directly enabling what the International Court of Justice has said could plausibly be a genocide in Gaza, such work has become almost impossible. Unable to serve an administration that enables such atrocities, I have decided to resign from my position at the Department of State.

Whatever credibility the United States had as an advocate for human rights has almost entirely vanished since the war began. Members of civil society have refused to respond to my efforts to contact them. Our office seeks to support journalists in the Middle East; yet when asked by NGOs if the US can help when Palestinian journalists are detained or killed in Gaza, I was disappointed that my government didn't do more to protect them. Ninety Palestinian journalists in Gaza have been killed in the last five months, according



Annelle Sheline

to the Committee to Protect Journalists. That is the most recorded in any single conflict since the CPJ started collecting data in 1992.

By resigning publicly, I am saddened by the knowledge that I likely foreclose a future at the State Department. I had not initially planned a public resignation. Because my time at State had been so short - I was hired on a two-year contract -I did not think I mattered enough to announce my resignation publicly. However, when I started to tell colleagues of my decision to resign, the response I heard repeatedly was, "Please speak for us."

Across the federal government, employees like me have tried for months to influence policy, both internally and, when that failed, publicly. My colleagues and I watched in horror as this administration delivered thousands of precisionguided munitions, bombs, small arms and other lethal aid to Israel and authorized thousands more, even bypassing Congress to do so. We are appalled by the administration's flagrant disregard for American laws that prohibit the US from providing assistance to foreign militaries that engage in gross human rights violations or that restrict the delivery of humanitarian aid.

The Biden administration's own policy states, "The legitimacy of and public support for arms transfers among the populations of both the United States and recipient nations depends on the protection of civilians from harm, and the United States distinguishes itself from other potential sources of arms transfers by elevating the importance of protecting civilians." Yet this noble statement of policy has been directly in contradiction with the actions of the president who promulgated it.

President Joe Biden himself indirectly admits that Israel is not protecting Palestinian civilians from harm. Under pressure from some congressional Democrats, the administration issued a new policy to ensure that foreign military transfers don't violate relevant domestic and international laws.

Yet just recently, the State Department ascertained that Israel is in compliance with international law in the conduct of the war and in providing humanitarian assistance. To say this when Israel is preventing the adequate entrance of humanitarian aid and the US is being forced to air drop food to starving Gazans, this finding makes a mockery of the administration's claims to care about the law or about the fate of innocent Palestinians.

Some have argued that the US lacks influence over Israel. Yet Retired Israeli Maj. Gen. Yitzhak Brick noted in November that Israel's missiles, bombs and airplanes all come from the US. "The minute they turn off the tap, you can't keep fighting," he said. "Everyone understands that we can't fight this war without the United States. Period."

Even now, Israel is considering invading Lebanon, which brings a heightened risk of regional conflict that would be catastrophic. The US has sought to prevent this outcome but shows no appetite for withholding offensive weapons from Israel in order to compel greater restraint there or in Gaza. Biden's support for Israel's far-right government thus risks sparking a wider conflagration in the region, which could well put US troops in harm's way.

So many of my colleagues feel betrayed. I write for myself but speak for many others, including Feds United for Peace, a group mobilizing for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza that represents federal workers in their personal capacities across the country, and across 30 federal agencies and departments. After four years of then-President Donald Trump's efforts to cripple the department, State employees embraced Biden's pledge to rebuild American diplomacy. For some, US support for Ukraine against Russia's illegal occupation and bombardment seemed to reestablish America's moral leadership. Yet the administration continues to enable Israel's illegal occupation and destruction of Gaza.

I am haunted by the final social media post of Aaron Bushnell, the 25-year-old US Air Force serviceman who self-immolated in front of the Israeli Embassy in Washington on February 25: "Many of us like to ask ourselves, 'What would I do if I was alive during slavery? Or the Jim Crow South? Or apartheid? What would I do if my country was committing genocide?' The answer is, you're doing it. Right now."

I can no longer continue what I was doing. I hope that my resignation can contribute to the many efforts to push the administration to withdraw support for Israel's war, for the sake of the 2 million Palestinians whose lives are at risk and for the sake of America's moral standing in the world.

This opinion piece was originally published by CNN on March 28. See more at edition.cnn.com.

Home Rule for Gainesville Regional Utilities

by Janice Garry and Nancy Daren with support from Bobby Mermer, Nancy Deren, Roberta Gastmyer and Jason Fultz

Since House Bill 1645 (Energy Resources) was introduced during the 2023 legislative session, the League of Women Voters (LWV) of Alachua County has stood in vocal opposition.

Without local notification or meaningful input, the bill went straight to the state legislature. It passed the legislature and was signed by Governor Ron DeSantis and became law 2023-348, creating a new section, Article VII, in the city charter.

Article VII created the governor-appointed GRU Authority as the governing body of our city-owned utility and changed GRU's general manager from a city charter officer to an employee of the authority. In short, law 2023-348 bypassed local voters and democratic processes. It took away locally determined governance of Gainesville Regional Utilities. The law blatantly violated democratic processes and it trounced on home rule.

Since the Authority took over in the fall, chaos has reigned at GRU, creating tremendous stress on staff and negatively affecting general governance of the city. The authority insisted on severing all ties between the entities, even though GRU remains a department of the city. At a recent joint meeting between the authority and the city commission, it was estimated that it would take not months, but years to untangle all the shared contracts and agreements. In many cases, it is not financially beneficial to GRU or its customers (sometimes quite the opposite) to sever these ties.

Further chaos was demonstrated recently when a judge verified that the Authority members did not meet the basic residency requirement of law 2023-348. All four authority members resigned. The governor has restarted the process of seeking applications and selecting a new board even while the unqualified Authority members remain at the dais. This makes no sense.

Gainesville community leaders are pushing back. On March 21, a coalition of organizations and individuals, led by the LWV of Alachua County and including the Alachua County Labor Coalition, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Sierra Club, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and Gainesville Residents United attended a city commission meeting. Speakers asked the commission to put a referendum on the upcoming election ballot to give Gainesville residents the choice of who will govern our municipal utility. The commission listened, agreed, and voted unanimously (Commissioner Desmon Duncan-Walker was absent) to give voters a choice. The city attorney was instructed to draft an ordinance that would amend the city charter and repeal Article VII that created the authority

The draft ordinance will have two city commission readings, followed by a vote, with a minimum of six out of seven commissioner votes required each time. If it passes, work will begin on preparing language for a ballot referendum for the 2024 election. The referendum would allow Gainesville city residents to vote on whether they want the governance of GRU to stay with the governor-appointed authority or return local control of our public utility. Gainesville residents have an opportunity to have democracy and home rule restored to our community, and reclaim our sovereignty over the essential needs of water, energy and city business. This is no small matter.

As said by George P. Schultz, "Democracy is not a spectator sport." This is where you come in . No doubt, there are those who will oppose the repeal of Article VII and the ballot referendum. Our coalition needs a strong public voice in its favor. We need you to contact the city commission. First, thank them for listening to community leaders who insist on restoring democracy and home rule to Gainesville. Second, let them know that you support being able to vote on the choice between GRU governance with a governor-appointed board or with local decision making and control in a referendum on the ballot. A single email address, citycomm@gainesvillefl.gov will reach the mayor and all city commissioners.

The basic needs of energy and water quality for our city should not be left to the chaotic state takeover. The League of Women Voters of Alachua County urges you to take five minutes to send a message to the city commission. Help us defend democracy and empower voters.



In memoriam: Remembering Paco

by Joe Courter

I have great admiration for those who dedicate themselves to their art, and make it part of our lives. This is especially true for musicians, whose sounds and words can affect me to my core. I did not know Paco, but whom I heard, whether solo or in his band, was a class A artist.







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

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

From ABORTION, p. 1

ians and their doctors. And doctors and nurses should not have to risk criminal prosecution to treat the patient in front of them." If you agree, it is imperative to get involved locally and get the word out to vote yes on Amendment 4 in the November general election!

There are two key upcoming events in the Orlando and Gainesville areas. In response to the 6-week ban, and to launch the Yes on 4 campaign, FPF is organizing a rally and march in Orlando, on Saturday, April, 13, from 12 PM until 2 PM. The rally will be held at the Walt Disney Amphitheater and the march will circle Lake Eola. Speakers will include health care providers and Floridians discussing their abortion experiences and the devastating impacts of abortion bans. The campaign is strictly non-partisan; health care access concerns EVERYONE. No partisan signs or shirts will be permitted. FPF will have signs for attendees. Youth Action Fund and other orgs are providing local assistance with traveling to Orlando. Physical presence is critical to sending a message to Florida's government: Floridians do not accept these bans and will enshrine abortion access in the Florida Constitution. Please spread the word and come to Orlando on the 13th!

The following weekend, FPF is facilitating

I had a conversation with him about six months ago at Heartwood, the only one I ever had with him. He told a story of performing, which I want to share.

He was playing in a restaurant/club somewhere, rolling through his set. The owner came up and got his ear and said, "Hey man, time to hit the suck button." Paco asked what that meant.

Owner said, "We got all these people here listening, they've finished their food, and they're not spending money. We need them to move on and get other people in." Paco said he told him, "I don't have a suck button."

Whether rocking with his band, or playing solo to a couple listeners at the Farmers Market, he did not suck, was not half ass, he was giving his all. In our music rich community, he was a gem and will be missed. $c^{\frac{1}{3}}$

Super Saturdays statewide. The trainings will focus on next steps for the campaign and how to discuss Amendment 4. Super Saturday events will be held on Saturday, April 20, 10 AM - 12 PM in several cities. Gainesville's event will be hosted by the University of Florida chapter of Planned Parenthood Generation Action and others. For those who cannot attend in-person, there will be a Zoom option.

Please vote yes on Amendment 4 in the November election, as doing so is the only way for Floridians to protect abortion access in the state!

Learn more about Amendment 4 from Floridians Protecting Freedom and register for the Rally To End The 6-week Abortion Ban at: tinyurl.com/Iguana1969 and tinyurl.com/Iguana1970.

Coordinate travel support with Youth Action Fund at: tinyurl.com/1971.

Register for your local or online Super Saturday event at: tinyurl.com/ Iguana1972.

To stay up-to-date or get involved, follow the GRRR! Network at https:// www.instagram.com/thegrrrnetwork and National Women's Liberation-Gainesville Chapter at https://www.instagram.com/ nwlgainesville. c

From BILL, p. 1

graduate assistants. Many graduate applications are due early to late December, and many interviews are offered and conducted around early spring. There are over 4,000 graduate assistants at University of Florida, approximately half of graduate assistants are international students, and of the international student population a substantial portion come from China and Iran. This means that for every application cycle, the Research Integrity Office would need to thoroughly vet and make risk assessments for all applicants within a very limited timeline. Does the Research Integrity Office have the capacity and ability to do so?

This leads me to a second point of concern — the lack of transparency regarding the Research Integrity Office and the guidelines they are to use to make such assessments.

Graduate Assistants United has contacted Human Resources directly to ask about the guidelines offered to colleges and departments regarding hiring, but we have been stonewalled and ignored for months. How is "risk" calculated? Neither the bill itself nor the Board of Governors' guidelines provide a definition of risk or a way to measure risk. It thus must fall upon the University and the Research Integrity Office to create the standard and apply it.

But there is something more draconian and insidious about SB 846, and that is the implications of "failing" this screening. Those who fail (i.e., those who are deemed a risk, whatever that may be) will be reported to the FBI and any other law enforcement agency as determined by the Board of Governors.

Moreover, looking at the Board of Governors" guidelines, we also see that it has reserved the right to make decisions about applicants and collaborations with entities from the seven countries based on their "value." How is value determined? What makes the Board of Governors or the Research Integrity Office better suited for determining the value of international applicants and collaborations than the experts in the field?

During the protest we heard from professors and graduate student leaders who have, in the short time since the passing of the bill, already seen its consequences.

We know that applicants are being denied admission offers, that faculty cannot hire their top applicants, and that researchers cannot collaborate with prominent scholars in the field purely because of nationality.

During the protest, we heard about the

drastic drop of Iranian graduate students after the passing of SB 846 — how in previous years, each new cohort was comprised of 50 new students on average, and how 0 applicants currently residing in Iran made the cut this time. Call me skeptic, but something in me assumes preemptive and blanket rejection of applicants based on nationality.

Another point of concern is the fact that these issues are not even implied in any small corner of UF's website. Should the University not make it clear that for applicants of these countries there are more costs associated with merely applying for a job than there are benefits? And relatedly, by what right does UF pocket the money from these applications?

Given my position as a graduate assistant and the co-president of GAU I have primarily focused on the implications of this bill on discriminatory hiring practices against graduate assistant applicants. However, the bill impacts all of us.

If departments and faculty cannot hire their top applicants, then our research and teaching will suffer. If the University will not accept visiting professors and scholars from "countries of concern," then the University will miss on key expertise, new perspectives, and important scholarly connections.

Learning and innovation are the pillars of academia. They are pursued in collaboration and cannot flourish in echo chambers and monoculture settings.

SB 846, the Board of Governors' guide-

lines and the University's compliance with this malicious and xenophobic bill conforms to a pattern that we are all now used to in Florida — the destruction of academic freedom.

Decisions on who to hire, what to teach, and what to research have always been made by experts in the field. Here in Florida, that is no longer the case.

We have seen the destruction of tenure, where tenured professors must get their tenure packages reviewed every 5 years, and the Board of Trustees can unilaterally and at any point call on anyone to review their package and fire them at will.

We have seen the removal of Sociology as a core course and attempts at dismantling entire departments.

We have seen the passing of bills like HB 7 that attempt to limit instructors' teaching of systemic racism, sexism, ableism, heteronormativity and more.

We have seen attacks on educator labor unions that fight for educators' rights (which do include academic freedom and protections against discrimination and indiscriminate firings).

SB 846 is part of a concerted effort to remodel academia into something that blindly abides by the far-right ideologists in power. This is not a problem at the University of Florida alone, nor is it a problem of Florida exclusively. We are a testing ground, and what happens here will happen elsewhere.



Gainesville area events

WEEK OF APR 7-13

- Fri 4/12 **"Black Cowboys & Cowgirls in Florida"**, 6-9pm + 4/13, 11am-5pm, Cotton Club Museum (837 SE 7th Ave), free; pg 18 & CottonClubMuseum.com/events
- Fri 4/12 Gainesville Retro Society (Chicago tribute band), 7-9pm, Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E Univ Ave), Free Friday concert series; see pg 10
- Fri 4/12 **Author Talk**, 6pm, 3rd House Books (400 NW 10th Ave), author Annabelle Tometich on writing, free
- Sat 4/13 **Great American Cleanup**, 9am-noon, Westside Park (1001 NW 34th St), hosted by Keep Alachua County Beautiful, free; kacb.org/events
- Sat 4/13 Santa Fe Spring Arts Festival, 10am-5pm + 4/14 10am-4pm, Santa Fe College (3000 NW 83rd St), free; sfcollege.edu/spring-arts
- Sat 4/13 Big Culture & Arts Festival, 1pm-2am, BD Plaza (111 E Univ Ave), \$35-100; diondia.com/big
- Sat 4/13 **Gvl Roller Rebels**, 6pm, MLK Ctr (1028 NE 14th St), \$12-15; see pg 20
- Sat 4/13 **Plague Spitter**, 8pm, Civic Media Ctr (433 S Main St), all ages show w/ Tampa hardcore group & 3 others, \$15; civicmediacenter.org

WEEK OF APR 14-20

- Sun 4/14 **"White" final performance**, 2pm, Hippodrome (25 SE 2nd Pl), satirical play, \$20-50; thehipp.org
- Sun 4/14 **"Dems & Denim"**, 4pm, Citizens Field Park (1100 NE 14th St), Democratic Party barbecue, \$75
- Mon 4/15 Jeffrey Lewis & The Voltage, 7pm, How Bazar (60 SW 2nd St), all ages, \$13 adv/\$18 door; thehowbazar.com
- Tues 4/16 Nat'l Faith & Climate Forum, 11:30am-5:15; see pg 5
- Tues 4/16 **Book Talk: Tampa Bay Estuary**, 5:30-6:30pm, The Lynx (601 S Main St), free; tinyurl.com/iguana9001
- Wed 4/17 **"Learning to Disagree"**, 5-6:30pm, UF Smathers Library East (room 100), talk by Prof. John Inazu, free; https://bobgrahamcenter.ufl.edu/calendar/
- Wed 4/17 Academic Freedom & DEI Teach-In, 5-6:30pm, online, free: see pg 2
- Wed 4/17 **"Melted Away: Climate Change & Caregiving in Peru"**, 7pm, Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Ave), memoir of glaciers & family, free (live & on Zoom); https://mathesonmuseum.org/events/
- Thur 4/18 **Expungement**, 2-4pm, Tower Rd Library (3020 SW 75th St), removing criminal records, free; aclib.us/re-entry
- Fri 4/19 **Fla Museum Plant Sale**, 10am-5pm + 4/20 same, 4/21 1-5pm, Fla Mus of Natural History (3215 Hull Rd), 100+ difficult-to-find & pollinator-friendly plants, free; floridamuseum.ufl.edu/event/plant-sale
- Fri 4/19 **WOMBASH 24**, 4:20pm-11pm + 4/20, same times, 1st Magnitude Brewing (1220 SE Veitch St), live bands, \$50; see pg 5 & fmbrewing.com/events
- Fri 4/19 **Random Kats**, 7-9pm, Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E Univ Ave), Free Friday concert series; see pg 10
- Fri 4/19 Angry Manatee's Earth Day Soiree, 7-11pm, The Wooly (20 N Main St), springs photography & art, music, book signing, plants, & cocktails, \$15 adv/\$20 door (benefits Fla Springs Council); tinyurl.com/ iguana9002

- Sat 4/20 **Sustainability Festival**, 8:30-noon, Alachua County Farmer's Market (5920 NW 13th St), food, music, kids' activities, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9003
- Sat 4/20 **FOL Book Sale opens**, 9am-6pm + 4/21–24, noon–6pm, 430 N Main St, bring boxes (masks encouraged); see pg 13 & folacld.org
- Sat 4/20 **Pancakes on the Prairie**, 9-11:30am, Tuscawilla Prairie Cabin (211 SE Tuscawilla Rd), annual Alachua Conservation Trust event, free; alachuaconservationtrust. org/upcoming-events
- Sat 4/20 **Cuscowilla Earth Day Celebration**, 9am-noon, Cuscowilla Nature Ctr (210 SE 134th Ave, Micanopy), family activities of birding, food, archery, history, arts, music, & more, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9004
- Sat 4/20 Abortion Rights Action Teach-In, 10am-noon, Civic Media Ctr (433 S Main St), by Yes on 4, free; rsvp @ tinyurl.com/iguana9005; see pg 1 & 24
- Sat 4/20 WGOT Open House, 10am-noon. CMC, free; see pg 21
- Sat 4/20 **Water State Festival**, 12-6pm, Depot Park (874 SE 4th St), art, food, splash pad, mermaids, free "Shaped by Water" Cade Museum art exhibit, more, free; tinyurl. com/iguana9006.
- Sat 4/20 Cinema Verde Film Festival, 4pm, also 4/21-22, Cypress & Grove (1001 NW 4th St), \$15–60; see pg 14 & cinemaverde.org
- Sun 4/20 Shana Smith, 7:30-9:30pm, Theatre of Memory (1705 NW 6th St), singer-songwriter w/ Raihan Alam on percussion & didgeridoo, \$21.50; tinyurl.com/ iguana9007

WEEK OF APR 21-27

- Sun 4/21 Walk for Water, 10am (Boulware Springs City Park (3300 SE 15th St), Aveda Florida world water education event (3.7 miles), free; tinyurl.com/iguana9008
- Sun 4/21 **"Invisible Consequences: Exploring the stigma and the trauma of Incarceration"**, 11am, Sunday Assembly (Pride Ctr, 3850 NW 83rd St, Ste 201), talk by Emily Westerholm, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9009
- Mon 4/22 **Re-Entry Partnership Conference**, 10am-1pm + 4/23 same, Library Partnership Branch (912 NE 16th Ave), getting back into the free world, free w/ pre-registration; aclib.us/re-entry
- Mon 4/22 **"Denouement" film premiere**, 5-7pm, The Hipp (25 SE 2nd Pl), made in Alachua & Ocala, free; see pg 14
- Tues 4/23 ACLC party, 6pm, Space Bar (402 NW 10th Ave), celebrating countless contributions of Gaby Gross & Sheila Payne, potluck
- Tues 4/23 Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, 7:30pm, Phillips Ctr (3201 Hull Rd), \$25-45 (UF students \$12); see pg 15 & tinyurl.com/iguana9010
- Wed 4/24 **"Money & Other Funny Business"**, 7:30–9pm, Theatre of Memory (1705 NW 6th St), witty history of currency, free with rsvp; tinyurl.com/iguana9011
- Fri 4/26 **Bennie & The Band**, 7–9pm, Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E Univ Ave), Free Friday concert series; see pg 10
- Fri 4/26 Artwalk, 7–10pm, various venues around town; see pg 20 & artwalkgainesville.com
- Sat 4/27 **Tree Planting**, 10am–12:30pm, 97115 SW 8th Ave, Earth Day event to add 30 trees along Tower Rd bike path (wear work clothes & footwear, bring water & sunscreen), free

- Sat 4/27 **TEDX Gainesville High School**, 11am-6pm, Gvl High School (1900 NW 13th St), performances & workshops hosted by Mayor Harvey Ward, \$15–20; tedxgainesvillehighschool.com
- Sat 4/27 **Earth Day Dog Adoption**, 11am-3pm, Curia on the Drag (2029 NW 6th St), dogs from Puppy Hill Farm animal rescue, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9012
- Sat 4/27 **Tree Fest**, 12-11pm, Swamp Head Brewery (3650 SW 42nd Ave), live bands, crafts, beer, free; treefestfl.com
- Sat 4/27 **Independent Bookstore Day**, 12-7pm, Third House Books (400 NW 10th Ave), free; see pg 6
- Sat 4/27 Santa Fe Springs Celebration, 12-6pm, Poe Springs (29722 NW 182nd Ave, High Springs), live music/food trucks/mermaids, more, free
- Sat 4/27 **Gvl Roller Rebels**, 6pm, MLK Ctr (1028 NE 14th St), \$12-15; see pg 20

WEEK OF APR 28-MAY 4

- Sun 4/28 Lynx Bookstore Grand Opening, 10am-7pm, 601 S Main St, free; see pg 10 & thelynxbooks.com
- Sun 4/28 Sacred Jazz Concert, 4-7pm, Cade Museum (811 S Main St), Duke Ellington music & more, free (concert & museum admission); tinyurl.com/iguana9013
- Sun 4/28 **Doubleduce** (blues duo), 7-9pm, A. Quinn Jones Museum (1013 NW 7th Ave), free; tinyurl.com/ iguana9014
- Sun 4/28 Rising Appalachia, Colonial Oaks in St Augustine
- Fri 5/3 Artists Conference, 9am-3:30pm, Cuscowilla Nature Ctr (210 SE 134th Ave, Micanopy), 9 presentations on artistrelevant topics, free with advance registration (tinyurl. com/iguana9016) by 4/26; tinyurl.com/iguana9018
- Fri 5/3 **Renovator Reuse Grand Opening**, 10am, 2386 NE 18th Terr, low-cost materials for pros and DIYers; see pg 11 & repurposeproject.org
- Fri 5/3 **5th Ave Arts Fest Reception**, 6pm, Rosa B Williams Ctr (524 NW 1st St), free; culturalartscoalition.org
- Fri 5/3 Nancy Luca, 7pm (also at Chiapini's 5/5), Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E Univ Ave), free; see pg 10
- Sat 5/4 **"Johnny Dame: Ichetucknee Retrospective"**, 9am-5pm + 5/5, 9-5, Rum 138 (2070 SW CR 13, Ft White), free; see pg 12
- Sat 5/4 Master Gardener Volunteer Plant Sale, 9am-1pm, Alachua County Ag & Eq Ctr (23100 W Newberry Rd, Newberry), all kinds of plants, free
- Sat 5/4 **5th Ave Arts Festival**, 11am–6pm + Sun 11am-6pm, SFC Downtown (401 NW 6th St), arts, music, food, more, free; see pg 15 & culturalartscoalition.org/annual-5th-ave-arts-festival
- Sat 5/4 Floridiana Show, 11am-4pm, Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Ave), Florida kitsch & antiques, \$5 (14 & under free); mathesonmuseum.org/events

WEEK OF MAY 5-11

- Sun 5/5 **Gvl Record Fair**, noon-5pm, Cypress & Grove (1001 NW 4th St), free; cypressandgrove.com/calendar
- Sun 5/5 GramFest 2024, 2-7pm, Heartwood SoundStage (619 S Main St), Gvl's 24th annual Gram Parsons tribute, free (donations for food bank & Heartwood accepted); see pg 5 & heartwoodsoundstage.com
- Fri 5/10 **Crooked Counsel**, 7-9pm, Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E Univ Ave), Free Friday concert series; see pg 10

Sat 5/11 **Donate Goods, Dispose of Beds Drive-Thru**, 8amnoon, Alachua County Health Dept (224 SE 24th St), accepting donations of clothing, food, housewares, school/office supplies and collecting household hazardous waste (paint, chemicals, old electronics); alachuacountyrecycles.com

WEEK OF MAY 12-18

- Mon 5/13 **Job & Resource Fair**, 10am-1pm, Downtown Library (401 E Univ Ave), free; aclib.us/re-entry
- Fri 5/17 **Michael Clator, Ricky Kendell**, 7-9pm, Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E Univ Ave), Free Friday concert series; see pg 10
- Sat 5/18 **Peace Poetry Reading**, 2-3:30 pm, Unitarian Fellowship (4225 NW 34th St), free; vfpgainesville.org; see pg 4
- Sat 5/18 Ice Cream in the Park, 1-3pm, Rockwood Park (2221 NW 2nd St), Alachua Conservation Trust annual treat, free; alachuaconservationtrust.org/upcoming-events
- Sat 5/18 **Free Store**, 2-5pm, Civic Media Ctr (433 S Main St), free stuff for all (masks required); civicmediacenter.org

WEEK OF MAY 19-25

- Sun 5/19 **Rube Goldberg Exhibit**, 10am-4pm, Cade Museum (811 S Main St), art & interactive wacky engineering, \$15 (\$10 for ages 5-17); https://cademuseum.org/events/
- Sun 5/19 Transversary Celebration, 12:30pm-late, CMC (433 S Main St)
- Sun 5/19 Celebration of Blues Women, 2 pm, Heartwood SoundStage
- Fri 5/24 **Orbiter, Chimes. Shehehe**, 7-9pm, Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E Univ Ave), Free Friday concert series; see pg 10

WEEK OF MAY 26-JUNE 1 (+1)

- Fri 5/31 **The Impostors**, 7-9pm, Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E Univ Ave), Free Friday concert series; see pg 10
- Fri 5/31 Artwalk, 7-10pm, various venues around town; see pg 20 & artwalkgainesville.com
- Fri 5/31 **"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee"**, 8 pm thru 7/21 at various times, Hippodrome (25 SE 2nd Pl), phonetic musical comedy, \$55; https://thehipp.org/ the-25th-annual-putnam-county-spelling-bee/
- Sun 6/2 Celebration of Life of Paco, 1-6pm, Heartwood SoundStage (619 S Main St); see pg 24

Recurring events:

Monday Farmers Market, 4-8pm: Cypress & Grove

Wednesday Farmers Market, 4-7pm, Bo Diddley Plaza

Thursday Farmers Market, 4-7pm: Heartwood Soundstage

Thursday evening Poetry Jam, 8pm at Civic Media Center

Free Fridays Concert Series, 7-9pm at Bo Diddley Plaza downtown (111 E Univ Ave); pg 10

Civic Media Center volunteer meetings, 1st & 3rd Wednesday, at CMC (433 S Main St) & via Zoom

Please support GNV live music venues, they all have calendars: Heartwood Soundstage, Satchel's, Loosey's, Boca Backyard, the Wooly, Wormhole, One Love Café, Cypress & Grove, etc.

See visitgainesville.com/events for an event list, updated Thursdays; also try 352arts.org; and don't forget civicmediacenter.org!

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 internships, birding for kids, conservation activism, volunteer opportunities. AlachuaAudubon.org l 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

From HOPE, p. 32

products through the Generation Action Period Pack project has helped her feel she can "actually make a difference" in the lives of her peers.

Lovey Frazier, 19, is a first-year African American Studies major, and another dedicated committee member who joined the efforts to deliver, promote, and inform on the Brown Bag Project. She said she plans to become an obstetrician-gynecologist because of her family's history of reproductive health concerns. She says some of these issues came about because the women in her family "didn't really know about the proper resources," and she has gotten involved with the Brown Bag Project and reproductive health organizing in this pursuit of knowledge to empower and protect others.

"I don't want women to suffer the fate as the women in my family," Frazier said.

When asked about the highlights of her experience serving in the Brown Bag Project, Frazier said she could not describe in just one word, but would encompass it in the "comforting facial expressions they have once they know like – there is no judgement to be given when we give the resources to them."

As Paulina and I graduate this semester, this project has served as a love letter to the student body and the broader Gainesville community. The Brown Bag Project is our promise that we will provide care 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 | 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 |

no matter what, and students will stand by one another when we need it most. We're excited to see the passionate committee members and the rest of the dedicated team at Generation Action continue this important work, and we hope that the future will bring about opportunities for the Brown Bag Project, the Period Pack Project, and the other projects of Generation Action to collaborate with community partners and eventually expand its reach to provide across different communities in need.

This initiative not only provides tangible support to students in need, but also sends a powerful message about the importance of prioritizing reproductive health care access for all individuals, and looking to the community when we're in need. While this project may be student-led, it serves as a shining example of the necessary mutual aid that communities must provide in times of emergencies. Together, we can continue to advocate for comprehensive reproductive health care and ensure that all individuals have the resources they need to make informed decisions about their bodies and futures.

For more details on the Brown Bag Project, Generation Action's other projects, including our Period Pack Project (a free menstrual product service led by our campus campaign chair, Sabrina Briceno), and additional reproductive health care resources and information, please visit our Instagram @ppgenactionuf. 🛪 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 | NAACPacb.org

American Promise Association is a crosspartisan, 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

Spotlight on ...



Graduate Assistants United is the labor union representing graduate assistants at University of Florida since 1972. We are graduate assistants fighting for the labor rights and protections of graduate assistants across UF.

Together, we use our collective power to improve the lives of graduate assistants. We have negotiated tuition waivers, fee relief, guaranteed minimum stipends across departments, affordable healthcare, academic freedom and labor protections.

As a labor union, Graduate Assistants United also represents graduate assistant union members when the university violates these rights and fights for an adequate resolution. You can learn more about your union at www. ufgau.org, or by following us on our social media accounts. IG: @ufgau Twitter/X: @uf_gau. 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

Central Florida Democratic Socialists of America is a chapter of DSA focusing on local social and political activism issues to better our community. Meetings are the 4th Monday of the month on Zoom. centralfldsa@gmail.com | facebook.com/ NCFloridaDSA

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 womenled grassroots peace /social justice movement utilizing creative protest, non-violent direct action and community involvement. Facebook.com/CodePINKgainesville | CodePink4Peace.org

Community Spring is a local organization to help people get a step up on re-entering society after incarceration with financial & 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 surveilance companies. Divestuf.org | facebook.com/ Divest UF

Edible Plant Project is a volunteer-run, nonprofit 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

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

Floridians Protecting Freedom is a campaign of allied organizatons and concerned citizens working together to protect Floridians' access to abortion as reproductive health care and to defend the right to bodily autonomy. Contact Laura at 617-767-6664 or go to floridiansprotectingfreedom.com.

Gainesville Area AIDS Project, a program of Pride Community Center of North Central Florida, provides toiletries, household cleaners, hot meals, frozen food at no cost to people living with HIVIAIDS. 352-377-8915 | info@GAAPonline.org | Facebook.com/ GAAPonline | gainesvillepride.org

Gainesville Area Chapter of Climate Reality Project addresses the climate crisis for future generations. The chapter mobilizes people to become powerful activists and push for aggressive climate action. The hope is to transform society and to change the world. climaterealityprojectgnv@gmail. com | @climaterealityprojectgnv | climaterealityprojectgnv.wordpress.com

Gainesville Books to Prisoners is a volunteer-run, donation-based organization that sends hundreds of books monthly to incarcerated people in Florida. We pack books at the CMC on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays

of the month, 6-7:30pm. We also need brown paper grocery bags and packing tape. Instagram: @gnvbooks2prisoners. Donate funds at paypal.com/gnvb2p.

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

Continued on next page

Continued from preceding page 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 I 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 all interested in philately. Auction held every meeting. Advanced level program occasionally. Under 18 must be accompanied by adult. First and third Tuesdays starting at 7:30pm; no meetings in December/holidays. For meeting locations and info. call 352-371-1991 | Stamps4Laffs@ yahoo.com

Generation Action UF, a student organization dedicated to promoting reproductive justice and health care on campus provides UF students with free contraceptives, Plan B, and other key reproductive health care materials. through The Brown Bag Project <3. UF students can discreetly request and receive condoms, internal condoms, dental dams, pregnancy tests, and Plan B. Instagram @ppgenactionuf.

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 the community to create/manage engaging, educational, locallygenerated programming promoting music, visual arts, humanities for enrichment of the community. 352-219-0145 | Bryson66@ gmail.com | growradio.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

Jewish Voice For Peace in Gainesville was inspired by the JVP actions nationwide calling for ceasefire in Gaza. JVP envisions a world where all people live in freedom, justice, equality and dignity. jewishvoiceforpeace.org/resource/our-vision | Instagram: @jvp_gnv | jvpgnvpod@gmail. com

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@lwvalachua.org | LWValachua.org

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

MindFreedom North Florida is a human rights group for psychiatric survivors and mental health consumers, working to educate the public about harmful psychiatric practices and about humane alternatives to those harmful practices. 352-328-2511 | facebook: MindFreedom Florida

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

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

National Alliance on Mental Illness I Gainesville offers support, education and advocacy for families and loved ones of persons with mental illness andlor 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. Marion.Co.Fl.1590@gmail.com | ncpssm.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

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 restorationor the native plants and native plant communities of Florida. paynesprairie.fnpschapters.org | https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1952

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. I 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 landfills and redirecting items to the public for art and education, 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 Peace-building 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 | gnvsistercities. org

Stand By Our Plan informs the public on critical differences between the Comprehensive Plan & 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 animals around us. StudentAnimalAllianceUFL@gmail.com | facebook.com/SAAatUF | instagram@ studentanimalallianceUF

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

Sunday Assembly Gainesville is a secular congregation celebrating life with talk, music, sing-along, discussion, fellowship. Meets the 3rd Sunday of the month. SundayAssembly32601@gmail.com | SAGainesville.weebly.com

Suwannee-St. Johns Group Sierra Club is a local group within the nation's largest and

most influential grassroots environmental organization, representing 14 North Central Florida counties. ssjsierra@gmail.com | sierraclub.org/florida/suwannee-stjohns | 561-707-4565

The Majorie is Florida's independent reporting outlet dedicated to the critical intersection of social justice and the environment. themajorie.org

The Party for Socialism and Liberation -Gainesville pre-branch exists to carry out the struggle for Socialism inside the U.S. | Linktr.ee/psl_gainesville | psl_gainesville@proton.me | pslweb.org/join

UF Black Student Union strives to create, cultivate, and challenge all minority Gators to be better citizens of the Gator Nation. Facebook.com/groups/BlackStudentUnionUF

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

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

UF Students for Justice in Palestine: In stark recognition of the failure of modern society to produce a just and reasonable solution to the Palestine-Israel conflict, Students for Justice in Palestine promote public awareness and activism in our community. We promote international law, human rights, and justice for all affected by this conflict. We welcome a diverse membership from all faiths and nationalities who believe in the attainability of peace. sjpuflorida@gmail.com

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

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

United Nations Association - Gainesville Chapter works to heighten citizen awareness/knowledge of global problems and the UN's efforts to deal with them. facebook. com/UNAUSAGainesvilleFlChapter | UNA-USAgainesvillefl.org United Way Information & Referral is a human-staffed computer database for resources and organizations in Alachua County. 352-332-4636 or simply 211 | UW211help@gmail.com | unitedwayncfl. org

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

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

Veterans for Peace Gainesville Chapter is an anti-war organization that raises awareness of the detriments of militarism and war, as well as seeking peaceful and effective alternatives. 352-375-2563 | Facebook.com/ VFPchapter14 | vfpgainesville.org

WGOT-LP 100.1 FM is a community lowpower 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 underrepresended genders in science and engineering. People of all genders are welcome. uf.wise@gmail.com | Facebook. com/UFWiSE | wise.group.ufl.edu/aboutwise

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@ stevelittler.com | wilpfus.org

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

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

In the face of state attacks on abortion ... Generation Action UF initiative offers reproductive health resources via the The Brown Bag Project <3

by Ashley Sanguino

There is little doubt that abortion has become a key issue in this year's election.

Florida has become a prime battleground for legislatures to target reproductive rights and attack abortion.

On Monday, April 1, the State Supreme Court announced two key decisions regarding abortion rights. In one case, the 15-week ban was deemed constitutional, allowing for the 6-week ban to go into effect on May 1, which will bar access and threaten the health and safety of Floridians across the state.

On the other hand, there is a glimmer of hope with the Court's decision to approve the Amendment 4 Initiative. This means that in November, Floridians will be able to vote to enshrine abortion protections into our state constitution.

As the pursuit of abortion protections and rights continues throughout these coming months, access to preventive materials like contraceptives is especially critical to ensure people can make informed decisions about their health and bodies.

For these reasons, as Outreach Director of Generation Action UF, a student organization dedicated to promoting reproductive justice and health care on campus, I'm proud to be sharing the launch of our newest initiative to provide UF students with free contraceptives, Plan B, and other key reproductive health care materials. Through "The Brown Bag Project <3", UF students can discreetly request and receive condoms, internal condoms, dental dams, pregnancy tests, and Plan B.

Paulina Trujillo, the Generation Action Political and Legislative Director, and I launched this project because as students, we were looking to do more for the student body and find ways to support one another through the community when greater systems of power have not met these needs.

To some, perhaps accessing condoms, pregnancy tests, and other reproductive health materials has not been an issue. But to others, having to pay \$50 for Plan B, not having easy access to transportation, having fear or stigma, or simply lacking the information on where to access affordable resources can serve as serious barriers to access. To these individuals, this project can make the world of a difference.

Trujillo, 22, a Political Science and Women's Studies major, put it best — "it's not necessarily the grand scale numbers that matter; it's the individuals that matter."

"For each individual we give the services to, it can transform their life."

We launched this project just two weeks ago, and since then we have fulfilled over 50 orders, with 17.5% of our total orders labeled as urgent (same-day delivery). The high volume use of the Brown Bag Project emphasizes how increased access to contraceptives and other reproductive health care materials is a need on campus. These are over 50 students better prepared and equipped to manage their health care, take ownership of their bodily autonomy, and live happy, safe, and healthy lives.

The success of this initiative thus far has been largely due to the unwavering commitment and driving support of our committee members, advocating for reproductive health care access and envisioning a brighter future for all students.

Lauren Ronson, 19, is a Political Science major who first got involved with Generation Action after the fall of Roe V. Wade. Ronson said that the Dobbs v. Jackson decision reminded her that "reproductive health is never a guarantee," and that motivated her to take action in the organization.

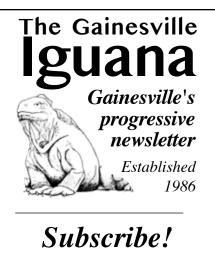
Ronson emphasized that as a lesbian, at times she has felt more distanced from traditional narratives surrounding reproductive rights, given the presumption that pregnancy is not a concern. Yet her advocacy underscores the necessary transcendence from identity and commitment to universal reproductive health care access.

"Beyond any boundary, category, gender, sexuality, race, whatever — reproductive health affects all of us, and we should all take our part in making sure that society — even if on campus — has access to it, especially free access," Ronson said.

Ronson's words capture a profound sense of inclusivity and solidarity, emphasizing the collective responsibility to ensure equitable access to reproductive health care for all individuals, regardless of any factors that might seem to set them apart.

By carrying out deliveries, sharing this resource in different spaces on campus, and sharing promotional materials for the cause, our committee members have seen firsthand how free reproductive healthcare materials can help people and transform lives.

Ana Perez, 18, is a first-year History and Political Science major. She said that while concepts regarding reproductive justice and social change tend to feel abstract when limited to discussions and lectures, her involvement with delivering reproductive materials through the Brown Bag Project and providing free menstrual *See HOPE, p. 28*



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

Low/No income: what you can Groups: \$20 a year

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

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

(352) 378-5655 GainesvilleIguana@cox.net www.gainesvilleiguana.org facebook.com/gainesvilleiguana Instagram: gnv_iguana

Current and past issues since 1996 and PDFs since 2012 are available at: gainesvilleiguana.org