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See ELECTIONS, p. 28

Saving land: Two approaches

Needed: Pushback from Floridians fed up with rape, pillage of state parks

by Robert "Hutch" Hutchinson

A nearly secret proposal to build golf courses, hotels, and recreational facilities in nine state parks was exposed by a whistleblower within Florida's Department of Environmental

Protection (DEP). The subsequent uproar and protests caused quick backpedaling by state officials, who then began pointing the fingers at anybody else. One long-time DEP employee told me there was no way that agency officials would have proposed these projects if the orders had not come from the highest levels of government. Fortunately, the fired state employee became a hero, and his GoFundMe campaign, which has raised over \$200,000, provides a strong signal to other bureaucrats that doing the right thing shouldn't damage them financially.

When the first Wild Spaces/Public Places referendum was being considered in Alachua County, it was during the Not-So-Great Recession in 2008. The Tea Party was in its ascendancy, and within that movement were vocal proponents for selling public parks and conservation lands. Florida's Governor and numerous elected and appointed officials, some local, began working on this agenda.

This was dampening the enthusiasm for future land conservation efforts, and so our state-wide think tank on these issues, the Conservation Clinic associated with UF's Law School, and staff from Alachua County and Alachua Conservation Trust, studied a range of options to permanently protect government owned lands from disposition or conversion to other uses. It turns out there is no way to absolutely ban the sale or conversion of public lands by their governing boards.

So we invented a tool that did the next best thing, and called it the "Registry of Protected Public Places." Voters in Gainesville and Alachua County amended our charters to create it, and here's how it works: Publicly owned lands are placed on this Registry after a super-majority vote of the Alachua County or Gainesville City commissions. Once on the Registry, the land cannot be sold, swapped, or converted to a non-conservation use without a prior vote of the electorate in a general election. There is no *de minimus* amount of land that is not subject to this provision, so before properties are listed, their future uses are carefully considered.

See *SAVING LAND*, p. 25

Want your article, ad, event or PSA in the next Iguana?
Deadline is Wednesday, Oct. 2
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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.

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We thank you very much!

From the publisher ...

Difference makers

Sometimes one act can have huge impact that could not have been foreseen. The decision of Joe Biden to step away from the Presidency was contemplated for weeks, but that possibility was tempered with uncertainty as to what would happen next. That sure resolved quickly as Kamala Harris not only secured broad support in the party but was rather stunningly embraced as the obvious choice by people, and then her picking Tim Walz for VP was equally embraced. What a difference!

The recent State Parks controversy presented another case of a single event being a catalyst for change. James Gaddis was working as a cartographer for the State Department of Environmental Protection, and he became aware of a plan to add lodges, golf and pickleball to our State Parks in a rather rushed way, and he leaked the information out, costing him his job but, what difference it made. Citizens around the state mobilized with calls, letters, and sign-holding demonstrations and forced an embarrassing turn around on State officials.

A common thread between these two events is the citizen response, the tapping of a dormant activism and enthusiasm that led to an outpouring visible for all to see. And best yet, seeing that type of positivity is contagious, and especially with the Parks issue, a clear victory to people, many of whom who were feeling pretty beat down and hopeless. That empowering feeling that we can fight back, and succeed. Regarding the former, things are trending pretty good for Harris and Walz, and if things keep going, we may have a victory in November in the election. And if the victory is decisive enough, we may be able to squelch the expected challenge to the election results by the MAGA forces.

I've always felt it was important to work for positive social change in some way, but in my seven decades lifetime experience, there was the ever present knowledge that this nation, especially in the foreign policy arena, has a bloody record in supporting corporate interests and/or in the ideology of "fighting communism." There was Viet Nam of course, but the US has overthrown elected governments in multiple countries. Guatemalans and El Salvadorans in the 60's-80's lived and died under brutal US supported leaders. Hundreds of thousands died in Iraq after the 1991 Gulf War because of harsh sanctions. After 9/11/2001 the invasions and wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and later elsewhere in the region, monumental human suffering was unleashed. Those were and are our tax dollars at work. And all through that period, those same dollars were helping support the state of Israel, created in 1948 by displacing folks who were already living there, an ill thought move not well received by those who were displaced. It's what this nation does.

In his 1967 Beyond Viet Nam speech, Martin Luther King, Jr said: 'The greatest purveyor of violence in the world: My own Government, I can not be Silent.'

They were brave words, true words, but in reality, in practicality, we do stay largely silent, because here in the belly of the beast, it is our reality. It is always in the background as we struggle for worker rights, human rights, environmental justice, and just live our lives.

That said, this democracy has never revealed how very fragile it is until the past eight years. We have grave threat to our democracy with an authoritarian presidential candidate for the Republicans, with his party lock step behind him. The Democrats are a far better alternative, not perfect, but it's what we got.

Yes, the continued US aid to Israel during the genocide in Palestine has been awful to watch. However, this country is a well entrenched duopoly, with only two political parties invited to the game. Any third party vote helps Trump, and the blueprint of Project 2025 is there waiting in the wings to decimate so much of what our social justice struggles have achieved over the past decades. Is risking that worth a feel good protest vote?

Positive change in this country will only come with increased civic responsibility, rebuilding a labor movement, and getting better people to run and get elected. The difference makers for all that to happen, is us. 🐢



Joe Courter

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

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Gainesville Iguana

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

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Voting yes on 4 in November, continuing the fight for reproductive rights

by The GRRR! Network

On Nov. 5, Floridians will have the chance to vote Yes on Amendment 4, the Amendment to Limit Government Interference with Abortion.

On April 1, Florida's Supreme Court officially placed it on the November ballot and Floridians Protecting Freedom launched its Yes on 4 campaign, to ensure that voters enshrine abortion rights into the Florida Constitution. However, on the same day, the Court allowed Florida's 6-week abortion ban to go into effect on May 1.

This ban is an extreme measure of control over health care that should be accessible to all pregnant people, without apology! Even under this ban, abortion pills can be legally purchased online and stored for about two years before being used in a self-managed abortion. Plan C (plancpills.org), is among reputable websites that provide information and resources for those interested in medication abortion on their own terms.

Importantly, abortion pills are only effective until about the end of the first trimester, just a few weeks beyond what is currently legal in Florida. Securing 60 percent of Florida voters' votes is the way to ban the abortion ban.

With so much currently at stake, we need all hands on deck to fight for abortion access.

Want to get involved in the Gainesville area? Last year, activists, mostly from local organizations including the GRRR! Network, National Women's Liberation - Gainesville Chapter, League of Women Voters of Alachua County and its University of Florida campus group, and the Santa Fe College and UF chapters of Planned Parenthood Generation Action, formed a coalition that currently, among other things, organizes voter contact. This includes phone and text banking and canvassing at local events, as well as door knocking, to inform voters of the amendment, volunteer opportunities, and ways to vote #Yeson4 in November.

Statewide, activists supporting Yes on 4 have been hosting monthly Super Saturdays to focus on local voter outreach, together with a virtual, statewide phone banking option. Volunteers receive on-site training before diving into action alongside other organizers for the duration of the event.

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This month, there will be both a Super Saturday and Super Sunday. Volunteers in Gainesville are encouraged to sign up and attend both days: Sept. 21 at The How Bazar and Sept. 22 at Studio TM Ceramics. Attending is a way to connect with local organizers, receive training on talking with voters, including friends and family, and more.

In addition to Super Saturdays, there will be local canvassing opportunities every Saturday until the election in November. You can sign up to participate by using the Mobilize link provided below.

Another way to spread the word on Amendment 4 is through *free* swag. The campaign and activists are opening hubs throughout Florida to distribute Yes on 4 literature and swag including stickers, bumper stickers, church fans, palm cards, and post card kits.

Commit-to-vote cards can also be completed and mailed to the campaign from the hub. Our Gainesville hub, Studio TM Ceramics, is open every day except Monday with hours through 9pm throughout the week. Whether it is to gather supplies to distribute around town or to grab some swag for yourself, please stop on by to check out what is available and get connected.

Both the campaign and the local coalition offer a number of ways to get involved every day of the week, both from home and out with other volunteers. The election

is less than 8 weeks away, so getting involved now is as good a time as any.

Regardless of the election outcomes in November, the struggle for reproductive rights will not end with the Yes on 4 campaign. We have to continue the fight for free and accessible abortion for all, on demand and without restriction.

To find out more, follow or DM the GRRR! Network at <https://www.instagram.com/theGRRRnetwork>

and National Women's Liberation-Gainesville Chapter at <https://www.instagram.com/nwlgainesville>


Learn more about Amendment 4 from Floridians Protecting Freedom here: www.floridiansprotectingfreedom.com

View upcoming events and register for your local or online Super Saturday event here: www.mobilize.us/yes4florida/



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Health Project
www.rwhp.org

Bee-luther-hatchee at the Acrosstown Repertory Theatre

What: *Bee-luther-hatchee* by Thomas Gibbons

Where: The Acrosstown Repertory Theatre, 3501 SW 2nd Ave, Suite O (in Creekside Mall), Gainesville

When: Sept. 13-29, Fridays and Saturdays 8pm, Sundays 2pm

Web: <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana2057>

Facebook event: <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana2058>

Shelita Burns, an African American editor, publishes *Bee-luther-hatchee*, the autobiography of a reclusive 72-year-old black woman named Libby Price. Shelita has never met Libby, and when the book wins a prestigious award she decides to deliver it to her in person. To her profound shock, the actual author of the book is a white man named Sean Leonard. Furious and resentful, Shelita accuses Sean of perpetrating a hoax, while he defends the book as a truthful work of imagination.

Thomas Gibbons's *Bee-luther-hatchee*, directed by Cristina Palacio, arrives Friday, Sept. 13, and runs through Sunday, Sept. 29; showtimes are Fridays, and Saturdays at 8pm, and Sundays at 2pm, at the Acrosstown Repertory Theatre at 3501 SW 2nd Ave, Suite O, Gainesville in Creekside Mall. A \$10 Preview will be held on Thursday, Sept. 12, at 8pm.

Tickets are \$25 for the general public with a \$5 discount for seniors (55+), students, teachers, first responders, veterans and military.

Produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc. (www.playscripts.com). Funded in part by Visit Gainesville, Alachua County. 🐸

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Social Security, Medicare/Medicaid on the ballot in November

by Tia Maria

American poet and author Maya Angelou once said, "When someone shows you who they are, believe them the first time."

Let us apply these wise words of warning to Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump. Trump ran for president in 2016 with the same rhetoric as today regarding Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. He promised no cuts, but then spent four years trying to dismantle these

great American programs through tax cuts to benefit his billionaire buddies.

Trump recently tweeted: "SENIORS SHOULD NOT PAY TAX ON SOCIAL SECURITY," but don't be fooled. That's not his true plan.

According to Social Security Works, Trump wants to eliminate 4 percent of Social Security's dedicated funding with no plan to replace the funding. This will diminish the trust fund and cause a 20

percent across-the-board benefit cut to be more likely. Social Security provides wage-related benefits designed to maintain one's standard of living when wages are lost due to old age, disability or death. And every budget Trump released as president called for cuts to Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.

Contrast this, however, to Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris who co-sponsored a bill to increase Social Security benefits in a way that extends the program's dedicated funding by making millionaires and billionaires pay their fair share. Kamala Harris also cast the tie-breaking vote to stop Big Pharma from ripping off Medicare with high drug prices, saving Medicare billions. And Harris advocates for the expansion of Medicare to include dental, hearing and vision coverage.

For over a decade, Democrats have proposed addressing the taxation of benefits as part of the effort to expand Social Security, while restoring the program to long-range actuarial balance, by requiring the very wealthy to pay their fair share. Social Security's funding should be improved. But eliminating a portion of Social Security's dedicated funding without providing any alternative funding sources would hasten the across-the-board cuts that automatically occur if Social Security's trust fund is exhausted.

A major senior citizen advocacy group, The National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare (NCPSSM), has endorsed the Democratic Party's platform plans for Social Security that call for applying additional revenue requirements on wealthy individuals with incomes over \$400,000. This call for real action arrives just in time. A May 2024 article by The National Alliance to End Homelessness reports that Americans age 50 and older are the fastest-growing group experiencing homelessness, and their numbers are projected to triple by 2030!

Add to this terrible mix, the proposal by the Heritage Foundation's "Project 2025" to, among other things, increase the retirement eligibility age to 70. How would you like to be forced to shingle roofs, hang drywall, wait tables, etc. until you're 70? What a ridiculous and evil idea!

With life-expectancy for all Americans on the decline, we cannot and should not allow a Donald Trump, or anyone else, to harm our earned benefits through privatization,

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Sept. 12
Movie: *This Stolen Country of Mine* (Ecuador-Alemania, 2022)
Time: 6-8 p.m.
Place: The Harn Museum of Art
Guest Speaker: Dr. Carmen Martinez Novo, Center for Latin American Studies; editor-in-chief, Latin American Review
Guest Artist: Carlos Andres Vera, Ecuadorian Filmmaker

Sept. 13 *Teens and Young Adults Night*
Movie: *Home is Somewhere Else* (Mexico-USA, 2023)
Time: 6-8 p.m.
Place: Blount Hall Auditorium at Santa Fe College (Downtown)
Guest Speaker: Daniela Stransky, Ph.D. candidate

Sept. 14 *Kids and Family Afternoon*
Movie: *Vivo* (USA, 2021)
Time: 3-5 p.m.
Place: Blount Hall Auditorium at Santa Fe College (Downtown)

Sept. 14
Latino Art Exhibition
Time: 6-7 p.m.
Place: Blount Hall Gallery at Santa Fe College (Downtown)

Sept. 14
Latin Concert: *Dance Night With Tropix and Gilberto de Paz*
Time: 6-10 p.m.
Place: Bo Diddley Plaza

Sept. 15 *Children's Film Festival*
Movie: *Encanto* (USA, 2021)
Time: 3-5 p.m.
Place: Headquarters Library

Sept. 19
Movie: *Propagandía* (Ecuador, 2018)
Time: 6-8 p.m.
Place: Matheson History Museum
Guest Speaker: Dr. Carlos de la Torre
Guest Artist: Carlos Andres Vera, Ecuadorian Filmmaker

Sept. 20 *Teens and Young Adults Night*
Movie: *The Candidate* (Argentina-Uruguay, 2021)
Time: 6-8 p.m.
Place: Blount Hall Auditorium at Santa Fe College (Downtown)
Guest Speaker: Maria Victoria Muñoz, Assistant Editor of LARR, Ph.D. candidate

Sept. 20
Latin Night With Elio Piedra
Time: 7-9 p.m.
Place: Bo Diddley Plaza

Sept. 21 *Kids and Family Afternoon*
Movie: *Coco* (Mexico-USA, 2017)
Time: 3-5 p.m.
Place: Blount Hall Auditorium at Santa Fe College (Downtown)

Sept. 21
"Memories of My Panama": Folkloric Group, Performing Panamanian Dances
Time: 6-7 p.m.
Place: Blount Hall Auditorium at Santa Fe College (Downtown)

Sept. 22
Movie: *No* (Chile, 2012)
Time: 5-7 p.m.
Place: UF Smathers Library
Guest Speaker: Dr. Cristian Pérez Muñoz

Sept. 26 *Teens and Young Adults Night*
Movie: *The Shadow of the Sun* (Venezuela, 2022)
Time: 6-8 p.m.
Place: Center for Independent Living
Guest Artist: Miguel Ferrer, Venezuelan Director

Sept. 27
"Taste of the World": International Food Festival
Time: 6-8 p.m.
Place: Matheson History Museum

Sept. 29
Movie: *Memorias of My Father* (Colombia, 2022)
Time: 5-7 p.m.
Place: UF Smathers Library
Guest Speaker: Dr. Juliana Restrepo Sanin

outright cuts to administration of benefits, or raising the eligibility age. You worked for it. You paid into it. You deserve to receive your earned benefits in full, and as soon as possible.

So, pay attention to what's going on. Do your homework on the issues. And re-

member to use the power of your VOTE this election year. Vote for candidates who propose strengthening and expanding Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid and not harming these great American programs. For example, U.S. Senatorial candidate Debbie Mucarsel-Powell has

been endorsed by the NCPSSM, as has Kamala Harris. They have my vote and they should have your vote, as well.

Tia Maria, a pen name, volunteers for the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare. 🐢

Matheson History Museum 2024 Fall Program Series

The Matheson History Museum has announced its 2024 Fall Program Series. The full slate of programs includes live music, elections and voting history, author talks, and more.

Along with their regular local and Florida history programs and Second Saturdays at Sweetwater series, they will be hosting programs to coincide with the "Voices and Votes: Alachua County" exhibition.

Check out their website for more information: <https://mathesonmuseum.org/>.

Sarah's Birthday Bash with Patchwork (Second Saturdays at Sweetwater)

Saturday, Sept. 14, 2:30-4pm
FREE (no registration required)

Bloody Streets and Crooked Lines: 100 Years of Voter Suppression in Florida with James Abraham
Wednesday, Sept. 18, 7pm
FREE with registration

Women Politicking Politely: Breaking Boundaries in the Workplace and the Home with Kimberly Voss, Ph.D.
Saturday, Sept. 21, 4pm
FREE with registration

100 Things to Do in Gainesville Before You Die with Lauren Gonzalez
Wednesday, Sept. 25, 7pm
FREE with registration

Voting in Alachua County and the 2024 Presidential General Election with Alachua County Supervisor of Elections with Kim Barton
Thursday, Sept. 26, 6pm
FREE with registration

Why is the University of Florida in Gainesville? with Carl Van Ness
Wednesday, Oct. 2, 7pm
FREE with registration

The Traveling Canary in Alachua County with Terrence Ho
Wednesday, Oct. 9, 7pm
FREE with registration

Florida! Florida! Florida!: Presidential Elections in the Sunshine State with Boyd Murphree, Ph.D.

Wednesday, Oct. 16, 7pm
FREE with registration

Democracy in Florida: A Work in Progress with Steve Noll, Ph.D.
Wednesday, Oct. 23, 7pm
FREE with registration

Florida: A History in Pictures with Jeff Davies and Mike McGinness
Wednesday, Nov. 13, 7pm

FREE with registration

Dashing Through History: Step Back in Time for the Holidays
Sunday, December 8 2pm-4pm
Paid Ticket

The museum is located at 5113 East University Ave. in Gainesville. Its hours are Wednesday through Saturday from 11am-4pm.

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Make a plan to vote!

by Janice Garry
President, League of Women Voters of Alachua County

Have you made a voting plan? Voting can be one of those things that you know is coming up, but seems remote, and then, suddenly, the day arrives. That's why the League of Women Voters of Alachua County (LWVAC) encourages each person to think ahead and make a plan on where you will be and how you will vote.

All the important dates and information can be found on the Supervisor of Elections website, but here are a few to pay attention to. Oct. 7 is the deadline for registering to vote. Oct. 21 – Nov. 3 is the period for early voting. Oct. 24 is the deadline to complete a Vote by Mail application. Nov. 5 is election day. If you're going to be out of town or unable to get to the polls, make a plan to vote by mail or vote early.

There is some homework to do before voting. The ballot is long, with numerous candidate races and there are some really important local issues with referendums for your vote. There are also six state constitutional amendments. It will take some dedication to learning about the issues before you have your ballot in hand. The LWVAC has put together information on all your ballot choices on a single website called VOTE411. After putting in your address, your specific ballot choices will be displayed along with information about each candidate and each issue. It's a one stop shop.

On Sept. 22 at 12:30pm a candidate forum will be co-hosted by the LWVAC and the Bob Graham Center for Public Service. Candidates will answer questions composed by the League.

Information will be provided about local referendums and state amendments. Refreshments and an opportunity to speak with candidates will be available after the forum. Go to the league website for details.

While the League is non-partisan, never endorsing a candidate or a party, we are political and, after careful study, take positions on policy issues. This election season we are making recommendations on local and state issues. You can find information about our positions on VOTE411, on our local website, and on the state website. I'm going to list them here:

Local Referendums

Vote YES on the public utilities referendum.

A Yes vote will return local decisions to local leaders, not governor appointees.

Vote YES on county commission at-large elections.

A Yes vote will return every voter's chance to choose every county seat.

Vote YES on one mill tax for schools

Since 2008 voters have approved this tax to support teachers and programs in Alachua County.

State Amendment Recommendations

Vote NO on Amendment 1.

A no vote will prevent legalizing partisan politics in school boards.

Vote YES on Amendment 4.

A yes vote will allow women and doctors to make health care decisions, not politicians.

Vote NO on Amendment 6

A no vote would keep public financing in place, allowing non-rich candidates to run.

I have been voting for over 50 years and still get a thrill every time. Having a voice in choosing our leaders and policies is a privilege not to be dismissed. It is not a perfect democracy, but voting is a way to move us to a better democracy. Please make a plan. Please vote. 🗳️

Make an informed choice!

VOTE

GENERAL ELECTION CANDIDATE FORUM

2024

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SUNDAY, SEPT 22

SANTA FE LYCEUM CONCERT HALL

12:30 PM

FREE refreshments will be served.

Candidates from contested races on the November ballot will present their platforms and answer questions about relevant local issues.

The event will also be streamed live via YouTube.

Can't attend in person? Watch the **LIVESTREAM**

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Alachua County Commission approves East Gainesville affordable housing

Residents say development will boost quality of life

The Alachua County Commission Board approved plans for an affordable housing development in East Gainesville and the town of Tioga, which residents say will boost quality of life there. The goal of the East Gainesville Legacy Community Engagement Project is to build low main-

tenance, affordable housing at the market rate on the 13-acre property owned by the county. The project is also meant to decrease poverty and promote routes usable for pedestrians and bicyclists. The county wants to create “diverse architectural styles that minimize perceived mass tran-

sition and complement adjacent neighborhoods,” said Candie Nixon, assistant director of community support services.

From an article by Sofia Meyers in the Independent Florida Alligator on Aug. 28. See the full story at: tinyurl.com/Iguana2040

Book publishers file lawsuit, say book ban law is unconstitutional

Ban is ‘overbroad and has caused a chilling effect’

A cohort of book publishers and award-winning authors filed a legal challenge to the 2023 Florida law that enables challenges to books in school libraries. The lawsuit, filed in Orlando’s U.S. District Court, alleges that the process of removing books from school libraries spelled

out in HB 1069 is overbroad and has caused a chilling effect. The law has enabled parents to seek removal of materials from schools if school boards deem them to be pornographic or contain sexual content, in line with Gov. Ron DeSantis’ “parental rights” agenda. The publishers and

authors are asking the court to deem the state’s interpretation of “pornographic” and content that “describes sexual conduct” unconstitutional.

From an article by Jay Waagmeester in the Florida Phoenix on Aug. 29. See the full story at: tinyurl.com/Iguana2043

Citizens protest proposed development at Honeymoon Island State Park

Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection plan ‘reeks of corruption’

In Dunedin, people demonstrated in 95-degree heat at the entrance of Honeymoon Island State Park against a plan by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to construct lodges, golf courses, pickleball courts, and disc golf courses in nine state parks. While many

of the speakers extolled the pristine barrier island’s 385 acres of beaches, hiking trails, and wildlife, St. Petersburg Democratic Rep. Lindsey Cross asked why the proposal was happening at all: “The motivation behind these changes and the rushed secretive process is not only bad

government, but it reeks of corruption.” Since then, the foundation behind a proposal to build golf courses at one of those parks has withdrawn its application.

From an article by Mitch Perry in the Florida Phoenix on Aug. 27. See the full story at: <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana2044>

Equal Ground and partners address legislative voter suppression

Voting is the key to power and prosperity

Visitors gathered in the Santa Fe College Blount Center on Aug. 1 to hear several Black-led organizations inform citizens about voting. Equal Ground Education Fund, a Black-led voting rights organization aiming to increase civic engagement through voter education and prepared-

ness, sponsored the event. Rep. Yvonne Hayes Hinson, D-Gainesville, emphasized the importance of voting in the upcoming elections. “It doesn’t matter how much money they have, how much prosperity they have, how much help they have ... It all depends on their vote. Vot-

ers need to understand the power that lies in their vote to enhance their own prosperity.”

From an article by Sara-James Ranta in the Independent Florida Alligator on Aug. 5. See the full story at: <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana2045>

Part of Florida’s Stop WOKE Act has been permanently overturned

Judge granted a permanent injunction against the workplace training part of the law

A federal judge permanently blocked restrictions that Gov. Ron DeSantis and Republican lawmakers placed on addressing race-related issues in workplace training — part of a controversial 2022 law that DeSantis dubbed the “Stop WOKE Act.”

Chief U.S. District Judge Mark Walker issued a two-page order granting a permanent injunction against the workplace-training part of the law. Walker and the appeals court said the restrictions violated First Amendment rights.

From an article by The News Service of Florida and WFSU Public Media on July 29. See the full story at: <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana2047>

Unions sue FSU, UF, FL Board of Governors over rights to arbitrate employment disputes

At issue is a provision in a law signed by DeSantis in 2023

A union representing public university professors and its chapters at Florida State University and the University of Florida filed a federal lawsuit against the state law banning arbitration of their employment disputes. The 31-page complaint from the United Faculty of Florida, which ropes in the state’s largest universi-

ties and the body that oversees all public higher education in the state, alleges that UF fired a tenured professor while on medical leave in January. When the UF union chapter tried to intervene, a university official said the decision wasn’t up for arbitration and was final, according to the suit. At issue is a provision in SB 266,

a law Gov. Ron DeSantis signed in 2023, that eliminates arbitration through unions in disputes about tenure, terminations, and promotions.

From an article by Jackie Llanos in the Florida Phoenix on Aug. 7. See the full story at: <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana2046>

✂

Vote “Yes” on the Local Public Utilities Referendum

by the Community Weatherization Committee

The Community Weatherization Coalition (CWC) urges its supporters and clients to vote “yes” on the “Local Public Utilities” referendum this November to put our

utility in the hands of locally-elected officials who know and represent our community’s needs and interests.

The CWC was founded in 2008 as a collaboration of nonprofit, government, faith-based, business, and university part-

ners working together to address the high energy burdens faced by residents in Alachua County. We help our neighbors lower their utility bills by saving energy and water through engaging volunteers, building community, and learning together.

Our volunteer-led home energy “tune-ups” help neighbors who spend a disproportionate percentage of their household income on their utility bills. During our tune-ups, the CWC thoroughly inspects homes and installs cost-saving retrofits, such as energy efficient lighting and high efficiency shower heads.

Research has demonstrated that our efforts save residents an average of \$200-\$300 a year on utility costs per home, and shows persistent savings of over 10 percent per year after 3-5 years.

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sisted nearly 2,000 households with our home energy tune-up programs, including nearly 200 DIYers, and trained over 500 volunteer “energy coaches.” Annually, our in-home services help save 3.0 GWh of energy, 11.1 million gallons of water, and \$455,940 in utility expenses.

GRU staff were instrumental in our organization’s founding, and we have worked closely with GRU’s LEEP (Low-income Energy Efficiency Program) program for nearly 20 years. GRU has regularly supported our organization financially to pay for the tune-ups that we provide to its customers. GRU staff have also helped train our volunteers, provided supplies for our tune-ups, and offered expertise to help make our tune-ups as effective as possible. We have always been, and will remain, strong supporters of our utility and its amazing staff.


But now the GRU Authority, established by the Florida legislature without local input, has instituted new leadership and a dangerous new governing philosophy, one that disparages investments in renewable energy and undermines efforts to make our homes more efficient consumers of energy and water.

Support for the CWC’s programs has been terminated by the Authority, which is forging a new path that puts it not only at odds with the goals of sustainability and this community, but also contrary to the direction of other successful utilities throughout Florida.

We hope that others will join us in rejecting this imposition of governance by outside political appointees and help chart a new path forward for our locally-owned utility, its customers, and our community. 🐢

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DeSantis shirks blame, but he's the problem in Florida government — He's only gotten angrier, and he's taking it out on us

by Diane Roberts

This article was originally published by the Florida Phoenix on Sept. 2. See more at floridaphoenix.com.

Everything Ron DeSantis touches dies.

Or becomes diseased or deformed.

The governor's not much different from the Palm Beach Pumpkin, his patron-turned-rival-turned-lord-and-master, whose regime Never Trumper Rick Wil-

son correctly noted was a hellscape of "blazing, white-hot embrace of actual, honest-to-God stupidity," a condition "as contagious as smallpox and as fatal as Ebola."

DeSantis was always a rage-hampered homunculus, but now that he's been humiliated on the national stage and his presidential aspirations squashed like a palmetto bug, he's only gotten angrier.

And he's taking it out on Florida.

He imposed the vicious six-week abortion ban: Clearly, he doesn't care how many women's lives are ruined or health impaired by his forced-birth fetish.

He vetoed funding for museums, music programs, and arts organizations — part of his War on Culture — denying Floridians enriching experiences, encounters with beauty, and, in many cases, jobs.

He's destroyed New College of Florida, once a home for the smart, arty kids who didn't want the usual football, frats, and four-for-one shooters experience of going to university.

This formerly well-regarded institution is now in thrall to an over-paid, unqualified president and a gang of anti-education goons masquerading as "trustees."

It's been hard to avoid seeing pictures of New College library books thrown out on the sidewalk, but did you know DeSantis' pudding-sticky fingerprints are also all over the mess at the University of Florida?

Until last month, UF was run by Ben Sasse, another over-paid, under-qualified president, a former U.S. senator from Nebraska who hadn't the least clue about this state.

Sasse would never have been hired had he not been DeSantis' pick. Right before Sasse was secretly anointed by UF's toxic trustees, the governor described him as "a good candidate" and a "deep thinker on education policy."

DeSantis said, "good candidate," but meant "servile lackey."

Mori makes his move

For his part, Sasse confused deep thinking with deep pockets: The guy spent like a drunken sailor, more than three times as much as his predecessor.

He hired multiple "vice presidents" and press flacks at lavish salaries, mostly his D.C. cronies, and threw millions at the management consultants McKinsey, his former employer.

Millions for what, exactly?

Another secret.

Thanks to top reporting from the Independent Florida Alligator, we know Sasse was forced out by Mori Hosseini, chair-



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man of the UF trustees, a thuggish developer and big DeSantis donor who sees the university as his personal fiefdom.

Yes, Sasse's wife has serious health problems. But this is about power. Hosseini didn't like Sasse going around him to forge relationships with Tallahassee power brokers, even if Sasse was once DeSantis' fair-haired boy.

If it's Sasse versus Hosseini, Hosseini wins. No way the governor is going to mess with the guy who flies him and the missus around on private jets and installed a \$28,000 "golf simulator" in the mansion.

Now DeSantis is demanding an investigation into UF's fiscal funny business while claiming he was not "involved necessarily" in hiring Sasse.

He wants us to believe this higher-ed train wreck isn't his fault.

That big cyber attack on the state health department, the one that sent people's social security numbers and patient information out onto the dark web?

Not his fault, either.

Florida's insurance crisis?

Not his problem.

If a big storm blows your town off the map, stop whining. The space might become a nice golf course.

The governor likes golf.

Golf courses, 'lodges'

Nevertheless, he wants to make sure you know he definitely, positively had nothing whatsoever to do with the "Great Outdoors Initiative," a boneheaded attempt to trash nine of our most beloved state parks.

The plan was to build large hotels, pickleball courts, and golf courses on state-owned critical habitat and conservation lands from Biscayne Bay to Grayton Beach.

The scale of this proposed desecration was breathtaking: 350-room "lodges" at Topsail Hill Preserve, a deliriously beau-

tiful and rare coastal ecosystem in Santa Rosa, and on Anastasia Island, home of the endangered (and extremely cute) Anastasia Island Beach Mouse, as well as three golf courses in Jonathan Dickinson State Park in Hobe Sound.

Golf courses are environmental poison, requiring huge amounts of water, fertilizer (which helps generate all that smelly blue-green algae choking our lakes and rivers), and pesticides.

There are 1,250 golf courses in Florida, more than any other state.

See DESANTIS, p. 16

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From DESANTIS, p. 16

Who was stupid enough to think this is a good idea?

That would be Ron DeSantis and the lickspittles at his DEP — Department of Environmental Prostitution.

When Floridians heard about this atrocity, the ca-ca hit the fan. People demonstrated at Oleta River State Park, Dickinson, Honeymoon Island, Anastasia Island, and others, telling the state to back the hell off and keep their venal paws off the parks.

Tuck tail

A number of DeSantis' fellow Republicans, including state Cabinet members and U.S. senators rarely notable for their interest in the environment, saw which way the wind was blowing, and, loath to kiss their political careers goodbye, climbed on some very high horses to demand DEP dump this crap plan.

Even the notoriously clueless Rick Scott expressed shock and dismay, which is a bit rich, given that while he was governor Scott thought the state should build roads and other infrastruc-

ture on lovely Honeymoon Island State Park so RVs could swarm the place.

Suffice it to say Floridians were unimpressed and, terrified of all those citizens lobbing verbal grenades, he retreated.

DeSantis has likewise retreated.

During a news conference with the deranged sheriff of Polk County (a guy who claims "millions" of immigrants are invading Florida to kill your children), DeSantis declared the "Great Outdoors Initiative" was no more, not happening, at least not right now.

Probably.

Anyway, you can't point the finger at him. He had nothing to do with it — even though he met with one of the developers a mere five months ago.

The dubious outfit behind the proposed Jonathan Dickinson golf courses calls itself "Folds of Honor" and somehow links golf, God, and the flag.

Obviously not pleased with the bad publicity, they've now withdrawn from the project, leaving DeSantis blaming absolutely everyone except himself.

"I didn't approve it," he said, and he never even saw DEP's plan, which he called "half-baked," and hilariously insisted some sinister person had leaked it to "a very left-wing group to try to create a narrative that somehow, you know, the state park is going to become a big parking lot or something like that" to grab media attention.

Nihilists, despoilers

That very left-wing group would be his own Department of Environmental Prostitution, which put it up on its website.

DeSantis flacks Jeremy Redfern and Bryan Griffin (two embarrassing and indefensible drains on the public purse) amplified and defended it.

When Floridians from all parts of the state and every political persuasion rose up and objected to their moronic "Great Outdoors," DEP huffed, "There is A LOT of confusion out there about the 2024-25 Great Outdoors Initiative & our efforts to increase public access, recreation & lodging throughout @FLStateParks. We love #TheRealFlorida as much as you do ..."

Actually, no: We are not confused. DEP does not love our parks. Nor does Ron DeSantis. They can cite Teddy Roosevelt till they're blue in the face, but that does not mean they're conservationists.

They're despoilers.

It's no secret who's behind all this: Ron DeSantis. He is, as Republican state Sen. Joe Gruters says, "responsible for everything his agencies do, and he's a very hands-on governor."

"Great Outdoors" would never have made it out of the room if he hadn't said at least a provisional yes.

Now he wants to take credit for sending the plan, as he says, "back to the drawing board."

Don't, for God's sake, give it to him.

"Great Outdoors" is dead for now. But in Florida, bad ideas never really go away. They just go dormant until the nihilists who run this state think nobody is watching. ☹️

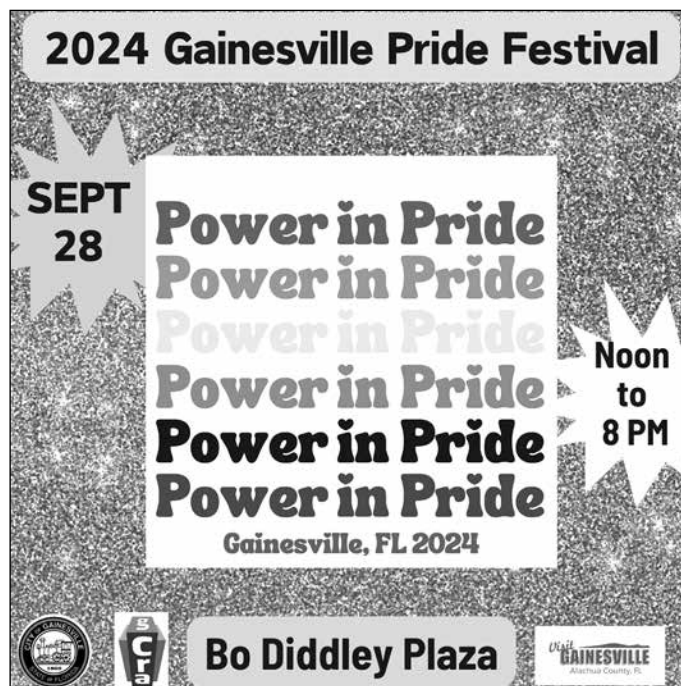


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Editors' picks: News that didn't fit

A rebellion in Florida

(podcast) by Jason Garcia ~ substack.com ~ Aug. 23 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2048

The most important result to come out of the primary elections in Florida was the rejection of culture-warring School Board candidates in races around the state. But the most interesting result came in Manatee County, where, in one fell swoop, residents completely overhauled a local county commission that many believed was in the pocket of a few influential real-estate developers. Liv Coleman, a political science professor at the University of Tampa and resident of Manatee County, joins the show to talk about how it all went down.

From the frontlines of the MAGA war on higher education: The Ms. Q&A with New College of Florida professor Amy Reid

by Carrie N. Baker ~ *Ms. Magazine* ~ Aug. 15 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2053

In January of 2023, New College of Florida in Sarasota was the state's only public liberal honors arts college, with a motto of "educating free thinkers, risk takers and trailblazers." But a right-wing takeover has led to a mass exodus of professors and students, and violations of academic freedom and potentially state laws. The takeover of New College of Florida began on Jan. 6, 2023, when Governor Ron DeSantis appointed six new board members to vacant positions on the 13-member governing board of trustees of New College. The new members were right-wing activists in culture wars over education. Most had no connections to the college or even to the state of Florida. One was Christopher Rufo, best known as the architect of the anti-"critical race theory" movement. In an interview, professor Amy Reid, director of gender studies at New College of Florida said, "New College is a flashpoint for what's going on. We're a cautionary tale."

The mainstream press is failing America — and people are understandably upset

by Rebecca Solnit ~ *The Guardian* ~ Sept. 6 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2054

The media is still pursuing the appearance of fairness by treating true and false, normal and outrageous, as equally valid. Trump's jibberish gets translated into English and his past crimes and present-day lies and threats get glossed over. The mainstream US media has failed, repeatedly, determinedly, spectacularly to do their job, which is to maintain their independence, inform the electorate, and speak truth to power. While the left has long had reasons to dismiss centrist media, and the right has loathed it most when it did do its job well, the moderates who are furious at it now seem to be something new. Former editors, media experts and independent journalists are speaking out.

Union firefighters greet JD Vance with boos after 'most pro-worker' claim

by Brett Wilkins ~ *Common Dreams* ~ Aug. 29 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2055

A day after warmly welcoming Democratic vice presidential candidate Tim Walz, attendees of a firefighters' union convention in Boston booed the Minnesota governor's GOP opponent, U.S. Sen. JD Vance—who claimed that he and his running mate, former President Donald Trump, are the "most pro-worker Republican ticket in history." Vance, who represents Ohio, endured multiple rounds of boos, starting from the moment he thanked members of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) union just after taking the stage. "Donald Trump and JD Vance are scabs and the audience knows it," said one observer.

UF senior staffers racked up hundreds of thousands of dollars in travel costs after Sasse allowed them to work remotely

by Vivienne Serret ~ *WUFT* ~ Aug. 30 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2052

New figures add to mounting questions about unusually high expenditures of public money by the University of Florida's president's office under Ben Sasse, including over \$100,000 for airfare or train tickets and \$50,000 for hotels for six senior UF hires. Some expense reports didn't even indicate a destination, citing costs for "trip" with no other details about locations. The expenses were many times the amount professors and administrative staff at the university are limited to spending. It wasn't clear who at UF approved each expense item. This story has been getting all kinds of national coverage, even *Esquire* magazine had something to say (tinyurl.com/Iguana2050).

University of Florida student journalists lead on breaking big stories about former President Ben Sasse

by Gabrielle Russon ~ *Poynter* ~ Aug. 28 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2056

A University of Florida senior, Garrett Shanley, broke a scoop that went viral and was recognized by some of the biggest newspapers across the state. UF's student-run newspaper reported that spending under Sasse's office tripled to \$17.3 million in his first year as president. The former Republican U.S. Senator from Nebraska gave contracts to his GOP allies who worked remotely from Washington D.C., the Independent Florida Alligator reported. Shanley's work was based on "old-school bootstrap reporting, using publicly available data and record requests to get contracts." The story was a fully student-led effort — no UF faculty or outside professional journalists helped in the process. 🦎



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Editors' picks
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Who/what is GAU?

by UF Graduate Assistants United

Suppose you're a new graduate assistant who has attended an orientation or has been involved in activism on campus. In that case, you've likely heard of Graduate Assistants United (GAU), the labor union that represents all (over 4,200) Graduate Assistants at UF. UF GAU is a family, a haven, and a safeguard against

entities that often don't have our best interests at heart.

What have we been up to?

Despite legislative attacks, we've been productive both at and away from the bargaining table. The series of bargaining sessions that began in January of 2023 has resulted in the largest raise to the minimum stipend UF-GAU has seen in its

50-year history, more than doubling our historic win the year prior. Since we still haven't quite caught up to inflation and remain below a livable wage, our team is continuing to work on getting another raise from the university. With the recent unveiling of exorbitant spending on salaries under the Sasse administration, it's clear that UF has enough money to pay us what we deserve.

We additionally have just won a series of huge improvements to our healthcare, with us now getting the best GatorCare plan available to any UF employee for the cheapest premium and the best version of GatorGradCare since we first won it in 2014. Main improvements include out-of-area coverage and cheaper coverage for dependents, as well as vision and dental add-on options. A university committee, which will include 2 GAs, will be set up to rebid better dental coverage for GAs that better fits our needs with the idea of implementing by 2026.

In terms of community-building, this summer we had a drag event! It occurred right after the conclusion of Pride Month, really pushing home our belief that everyone should be celebrated year-round. We had a large amount of attendees and were able to equitably pay all laborers involved in the event: from door staff, to drag queens, to DJs. We look forward to continuing events that incorporate our community while uplifting opportunities for education, celebration, and intersectionality.

What can we look forward to this year?

We've already begun planning events for this semester, and will continue to add more as time goes on. As of now, here are some things we have cooking up:

- Oct. 4 — Payday party
- Oct. 17 — GBM (Halloween themed)
- Nov. 1 — Payday party
- Nov. 6-8 — Healthcare open enrollment pop-up in the Reitz
- Nov. 15 (week-of, maybe not on the 15th) — Happy Hour / Teach-In
- November — Native Heritage Event
- Nov. 29 — Thanksgiving straggler event
- Dec. 13 — last payday

How can I join?

First of all, you must be a GA to join GAU. The only other requirement to be

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- 89% OF US OPPOSE GERRYMANDERING
- 70% OF US WANT A CEASEFIRE IN GAZA NOW
- 72% OF US WANT MONEY OUT OF POLITICS
- 70% OF MILLENNIALS SAY THEY'D LIKELY VOTE FOR A SOCIALIST
- 79% OF US ARE WOMEN+YOUNG ADULTS+PEOPLE OF COLOR

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a member is to pay dues, which are only 1 percent of your stipend, taken out bi-weekly coinciding with our paychecks. The benefits of being a union member are representation during grievances, free legal counseling, access to free food and drink at payday parties, local and national discounts, and maintaining the union far outweigh the 1 percent cost. Of course,

you are also continuing our rich history of collective bargaining with the University of Florida.

Joining is easy! You can simply visit this website: <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana2059> and complete the form. Otherwise, you can visit our website at www.ufgau.com and navigate to “take action” and “become

a member” to access the form. There are also a variety of resources available.

If you’re already a member and want to get more involved, please feel free to reach out to organizing@ufgau.org to get connected with our leadership and find out more about opportunities—there is a place for you. 🐢

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In memoriam: Phil Donahue (1935-2024)

by Joe Courter

In late August 1990 there was a media frenzy in Gainesville around the infamous student murders. Satellite trucks were all over town covering every press conference, and throwing mics in peoples' faces. Into that came Phil Donahue on Sept. 7, who asked for and was allowed to do his one-hour live 9am show from the downtown plaza (now Bo Diddley Plaza). Donahue passed away on Aug. 18 of this year. Below is an article from the Tampa Bay Times from Sept. 8, 1990, as well as a Democracy Now! interview with Donahue from Nov. 14, 2014.

From the Tampa Bay Times:

Phil Donahue was a not a popular visitor when he came to town Friday. The mayor, police chief and University of Florida president refused to appear on Donahue's television show, a segment about the slayings of five college students. A letter to the editor in the Gainesville Sun urged residents to boycott the show.

As the show was being broadcast from a downtown courtyard Friday morning, someone cut five camera cables that were attached to the Donahue production truck. Viewers around the nation saw a blank screen for a few seconds until the director switched to the one camera that was still connected.

That vandalism appears to reflect the city's growing frustration with the army of reporters, photographers and television technicians that has swarmed into town to cover the killings. Residents, students and some city officials have complained about rude reporters, sensationalized news coverage and negative stories that may have tarnished the town's image.

"I don't think this town is as scared as the news media would make it out to be," said Tim Morris, a 30-year-old pizza delivery man. "It's been overblown."

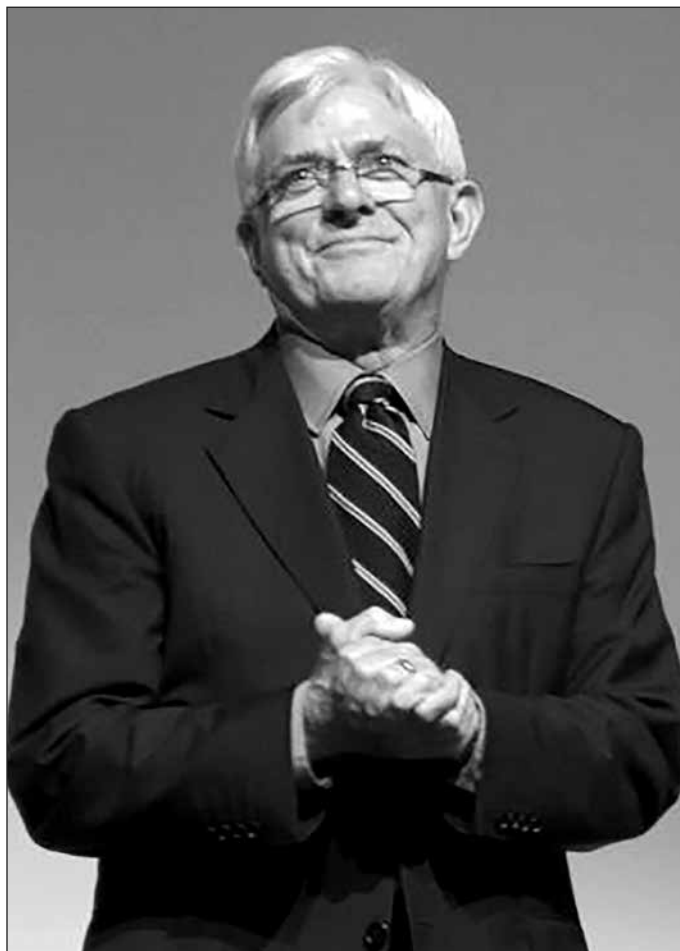
I was right there, the Plaza was full, and Jenny Brown and I were up in the right front on a raised area, near the production bus. First [thing] we knew, this guy bolts out of the bus, runs around the back, and then asks a nearby cop for help. The cop moves out to the street, looks both way, and shrugs his shoulders ... nothing to see. The guy run out to Donahue's assistant, she tells Donahue and they adapt to one camera, and the tech guy starts running out new cables. I know Phil never forgot it, and I don't see it being done against him specifically, but, well ... there he was.

In my imagination I see one person on a bike, with a machete or hatchet, rolling up, taking a couple strokes and pedaling away. To me they were acting as the conscience of Gainesville, and only they and perhaps a friend or two know who they were. But if you are out there reading this, we thank you.

From Democracy Now!:

Phil Donahue (December 21, 1935 – August 18, 2024) was one of the best-known talk show hosts in U.S. television history. The Phil Donahue Show was on the air for almost 30 years, until 1996. In 2002, Donahue returned to the airwaves, but was fired by MSNBC on the eve of the 2003 U.S.-led war in Iraq because he was allowing antiwar voices on the air. We talked to Donahue about his firing and the silencing of antiwar voices by the corporate media — that continues to this day.

Amy Goodman: Phil, you, after your legendary career, what, 29



years on The Phil Donahue Show, you came back and were a— continued to broadcast on MSNBC, prime-time slot, right before the invasion of Iraq. You were the most popular show on MSNBC at the time. And then right before the war, you were unceremoniously dumped. And a secret, later, memo came out of NBC that they didn't want to have an antiwar voice in their flagship show as the other networks were waving the American flag.

Phil Donahue: Yes, that was a memo published by The New York Times, and it was written up by a Republican pollster, who took a survey, where they put 25 people in a room and showed them one of my aggressive programs, and most of the people didn't like me, was the result. I was called in to Neal Shapiro's office and informed.

Amy Goodman: He was at NBC at the time.

Phil Donahue: He was then, yeah; he's now head of PBS here in New York. So, it was definitely a political termination. And it's interesting, because during that time, they were terrified. This is — you should know that this is October through— say, August through January — August of '02 through January and February. The invasion was April of 2003.

Amy Goodman: March.

Phil Donahue: And I was gone by then. But this is not long after the towers. And so, you know, corporate media —

Amy Goodman: You were replaced by Michael Savage.

Phil Donahue: I was replaced by Michael Savage. So, they couldn't wait to outfox Fox. And I had to have two conservatives for every liberal. And they wanted me to do entertainers. You know, don't do political. It's a very interesting study in the thinking at that time. Liberals were terrifying to them. They were afraid of liberals. Liberals weren't patriotic. Liberals were blaming the victim. Dissent was totally, totally unwelcome and unpatriotic.

Amy Goodman: And yet, you persisted, knowing the climate.

Phil Donahue: Well, I guess so, I mean, you know, at my own peril. But, you know, no sad songs for me. I'm a lucky guy. You know, I got a little money. But we have to wonder whose voice wasn't heard, you know? That didn't have the kind of ability to do this kind of thing and at least survive a little while.

Amy Goodman: Well —

Phil Donahue: And interesting — interesting, really. At that time, half the political voice in this nation was silenced, really. And I believe most people at that time opposed this war. Most people did. What are we — why — how come over there? And yet, every metropolitan — every major metropolitan newspaper in this country supported the invasion of Iraq. Think about that for a minute. Every major metropolitan — this is what you can do with the politics of fear, that Bush took this whole nation and the whole media establishment by the ear and led it right into the sword. Amazing, in the land of free speech, free press.

Amy Goodman: Do you see the same thing happening again right now?

Phil Donahue: Well, obviously, you can see that it has slowed us up. But it looks like that's all it's done. And while we have been, you know, hesitant and not "bring them on" with the war lust that we had then, mission creep is underway. What happens when somebody is taken prisoner? I mean, we have become a warrior nation, and we have no respect for diplomacy. And we've just stood mute while the Constitution has been just shredded. This is a nation of law, unless we're scared.

Editors' note: The corporate media is a money-making enterprise, and Trump receives, to this day, more exposure and favorable coverage because it is good for their bottom line. Let us hope, and work for, the retirement of this man-child bully in November. ✨

Recommended blogs / web sites



democracynow.org

or listen at:

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heathercoxrichardson.substack.com



TheFloridaChannel.org:

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Beau of the Fifth Column

Beau has stepped away from personally doing his commentaries, and his wife has taken them over. Her softer presentation still conveys great information and analysis on the turbulent times we are in as a country. The available online archive is a valuable resource of Beau's prior programs regarding politics, foreign policy and human rights.



Check them out at:

youtube.com/BeauoftheFifthColumn

The Point

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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.

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From HARRIS, p. 1

have acted as a funnel to get folks to do canvassing with the Dems, postcard writing with Indivisible, and ballot curing with the Statewide Dems.

In addition, we gather women and men to do a WAVE action every Saturday morning from 10 to 11am until the election. We have made a lot of signs so that people can just show up and they'll have a sign to wave.

We go to a different location every week. Our "brand" is to keep the atmosphere very positive — the Trumpers who go by and give us the finger get a thumbs up and a smile in return. We also sponsored a party at Cypress and Grove brewery to watch Kamala's speech at the Democratic Convention. Over 100 folks came to that. On Sept. 10, we are sponsoring a party at Heartwood Soundstage to watch the debate. Kamala Harris and Tim Walz have set the tone to attract people to come toward them. We're consciously following that lead. That's fairly easy to do given the negativity coming from the other side.

This method of countering negative energy with positive energy comes out of the 20th century nonviolence movements, particularly from India with Mahatma Gandhi and then from the US South with Dr. Martin Luther King. Both of those movements met true deadly actions toward them with peace. We only have to counter hostile yells and gestures with our peace.

Our group is standing on the shoulders of over 65 years of the modern Women's Movement in Gainesville. In 1963, Beverly Jones co-founded Gainesville Women for Equal Rights which was founded to end segregation in Gainesville. They met upstairs in downtown with low lights because it was illegal for whites and blacks to meet together.

The women who worked in Civil Rights here gradually became aware of their 2nd class status in that movement — always secretaries, never featured speakers. Along with four other cities, the Gainesville women founded Women's Liberation consciousness groups.

Yes, it is true that Gainesville was one of only five cities where the modern Women's Liberation movement began. In 1970, Carol Hanish of Gainesville authored "The Personal is Political." It became a founding document for the fledgling movement. In 1974, right after Roe vs. Wade was passed by the US Supreme Court, four local women founded the Gainesville Women's Health Center to offer well women gynecological care including first trimester abortions. I worked there from the beginning until 1983.



Women for Harris rally in front of the University of Florida on August 10. Photo courtesy of Women for Harris.

In 1978, the same women started the Birth Place to give families a chance to have a baby in a homey setting instead of a sterile hospital. Gainesville still has a Women's Liberation group. It was instrumental in getting Amendment 4, legalizing abortion up to the viability of the fetus, on the ballot in November. We hope everyone votes Yes on Amendment 4.

From that time in the 1960s, Gainesville has become a haven for folks on the left of center. We're known all over the state for our vibrant music scene and for always being one of the blue spots in what has become a red state. We have strong hopes for flipping this state from red to blue in this election. But we need everyone to register to vote and then to vote BLUE. If you are inclined toward us, get a Facebook account and then ask to join Gainesville Women for Harris. In this way, you will always know where the next WAVE is going to be. You'll also have an easy way to sign up for other helpful actions to get Kamala Harris elected as the first woman President of the United States. And you're going to love the others who are working on this campaign.

We are jazzed. We feel our power and potency. We are joining with people all over the country who are doing the same types of organizing. Our whole team looks forward to meeting you. You can write to acupam45@gmail.com with any questions. See you at the ballot box! 🐾

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Learn Your Part. Do Your Part

In reality, there is no such thing as not voting: you either vote by voting, or you vote by staying home and tacitly doubling the value of some Diehard's vote.

- David Foster Wallace

From SAVING LAND, p. 2

Today, numerous City and County properties are on their Registries of Protected Public Places. This extra level of protection should give everybody confidence that we will protect the investment in these lands for the long-term public interest.

State and federal conservation lands do not have this protection; they can be sold, swapped, or developed at the whim of elected or appointed officials. When the Florida Forever statewide constitutional amendment, to fund land conservation, passed nearly two decades ago, 3/4 of Florida voters approved it. This was not enough of a mandate to keep Gov. Rick Scott, and now DeSantis, from robbing the program every budget year, gutting the environmental agencies, and every so often coming up with bone-headed notions of developing or selling state parks and preserves.

What is less obvious is how the State Park and Water Management District staffs have been privatized by replacing government park rangers with contractors to do much of the land management work. Some do a good job, but many are mercenaries with little accountability.

It's heartening to see the roaring pushback from Floridians who are fed up with the rape and pillage of our state parks. The real solution to this need for constant vigilance and repetitive fights is to replace our current crop of jugheads with responsible elected and appointed officials who share the values of the vast majority of their constituents which include protecting the wild heart of Florida. test

Robert Hutchinson is a retired land trust director and former Alachua County Commissioner. 🐢



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Gainesville area events

Week of SEPT 8-14

Sun 9/8 – Eva Gabriella Flynn reception, 5–7pm, Pennant Place (928 NW 21st Ave), flags for Chihuahuan desert border region, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9048

Tue 9/10 – Book Challenge Hearing, 1:30pm, School Board District Office Boardroom (620 E Univ Ave); sbac.edu

Tue 9/10 – Planting Fall Garden, 2:30–4pm, Ag Auditorium (22716 W Newberry Rd, Newberry), IFAS Extension event, free w/ pre-registration; tinyurl.com/Planting-the-Fall-Garden

Tue 9/10 – “Our Gulf, Our Future”, 5:30–6:45pm, UF Pugh Hall Ocora (296 Buckman Dr)(also on YouTube Live), panel on Gulf Coast communities & climate crisis, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9049

Tue 9/10 – Parents & Friends of Lesbians And Gays (PFLAG), 7–8pm on 2nd Tuesdays, Pride Ctr (3850 NW 83rd St, 2nd floor); pflaggainesville.org

Thu 9/12 – Food Pantry, 10am–4pm, UF HealthStreet (2401 SW Archer Rd), free, best choice available Mons & Thurs (health interview requested for repeat membership); 352-294-4880 & facebook.com/UFHealthStreet

Thu 9/12 – 20th Gvl Latino Film Festival, 6 pm (through 9/29), Harn Museum (3259 Hull Rd, UF), kickoff for 3 weeks of cinema/art/music events for adults, teens, kids, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9050 & pg 8

Thu 9/12 – Artist Meetup, 5:30–7pm 2nd Thurs, Gvl Fine Arts Ass’n (1314 S Main St), exhibit & conversation, free; gainesvillefinearts.org

Fri 9/13 – Local Public Utilities Campaign Kickoff + Concert, 6–8pm, The Bull Downtown (18 SW 1st Ave), help save Gvl Regional Utilities from DeSantis power grab - w/ Weeds of Eden & Lowly Worm, donation requested; tinyurl.com/iguana9051 & pg 12

Fri 9/13 – SoMa art show, 6–10pm, SoMain Art Media Hub (435 S Main St), music too, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9052

Fri 9/13 – Clubes de Escucha, 6–8pm, Curia on the Drag (2029 NW 6th St), segundo y cuarto Viernes de cada mes; clubesdeescucha.com

Fri 9/13 – Free Fridays Concerts, 7–9pm, Bo Diddley Downtown Plaza (111 E Univ Ave), every Fri through 9/27 (tonight: Dionysus (AstroJazz, Funk)), free; see pg 7 & tinyurl.com/Iguana9020

Fri 9/13 – “Bee-luther-hatchee”, 8pm (through 9/29), Acrostown Repertory

Theatre (3501 SW 2nd Ave), drama of race & deception, \$11.50; tinyurl.com/iguana9053 & pg 6

Fri 9/13 – Public Astronomy Night, 8:30–10pm Fridays when fall/spring semester classes in session, Campus Teaching Observatory (see link for map), free; tinyurl.com/iguana9054

Sat 9/14 – “Sarah’s Birthday Bash”, 2:30–4pm, Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Ave), Patchwork plays, free (bring blankets, chairs); mathesonmuseum.org/events & pg 9

Sat 9/14 – “That Librarian”, 5–6pm, The Lynx Books (601 S Main St), Louisiana librarian/author Amanda Jones on fighting book bans, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9055

Sat 9/14 – Jordan Burchel, 6pm, GFAA Gallery (1314 S Main St), 24 hours of composing/recording/mixing new album to benefit Gvl Fine Arts Ass’n, \$20; tinyurl.com/iguana9056

Sat 9/14 – Gvl Roller Rebels, 6pm, MLK Multi-Purpose Ctr (1028 NE 14th St), vs SoFlo Ridas, \$12 adv, \$15 at door; tinyurl.com/iguana9057 & pg 23

Sat 9/14 – Moonwatching, 6–10pm, Cuscowilla Nature & Retreat Ctr (210 SE 134th Ave, Micanopy), NASA International Observe the Moon Night event with telescopes, astronomy talk, food trucks, & more, \$5 parking fee (6 people max); tinyurl.com/iguana9082

Week of SEPT 15-21

Sun 9/15 – Sunday Assembly, 11am on 3rd Sundays, Pride Ctr (3850 NW 83rd St, 2nd floor), Zoharah Simmons on “My Odyssey in the Civil Rights Movement”, free; sagainesville.weebly.com

Sun 9/15 – Election Forum, 1pm, Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church (630 NW 2nd St), sponsored by African American Accountability Alliance (4As) PAC, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9058

Sun 9/15 – Moms Demand Action, 2:30–4pm, United Church of Gvl (1624 NW 5th Ave)(also on Zoom), elections & gun control, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9059

Sun 9/15 – “Swing Is King”, 3pm, Santa Fe College Fine Arts Auditorium (3000 NW 83rd St), Gvl Community Band plays Big Band era tunes, \$5; tinyurl.com/iguana900060

Tues 9/17 – “The Heat Will Kill You First”, 6–7:30pm (& 9/23), Bubbie’s Secret Garden (1225 NW 4th St), Lynx Book Club climate reading (texts provided — bring bug spray & sunscreen), free; tinyurl.com/iguana9061

Wed 9/18 – “Bloody Streets and Crooked

Lines: 100 Years of Black Voter Suppression in Florida”, 7pm, Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Ave; also on Zoom), James Abraham talk, free w/ registration; tinyurl.com/iguana9062 & pg 9

Thu 9/19 – Jazz on Main St, 7–10pm 3rd Thurs, Gvl Fine Arts Ass’n (1314 S Main St), local pros jam, \$10; gainesvillefinearts.org

Fri 9/20 – “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” opens, 7pm (through 10/6), Gvl Community Playhouse 4039 NW 16th Blvd), Webber-Rice musical, \$?; gcplayhouse.org/2023-4-season

Fri 9/20 – Florida Skies, 7–8pm, Santa Fe College Kika Silva Pla Planetarium (3000 NW 83rd St, Bldg X), weekly star & planet show, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9063

Fri 9/20 – Jazz Bandits, 7pm on 3rd Fridays, Cypress & Grove (1001 NW 4th St), free; tinyurl.com/iguana9041

Fri 9/20 – Sean Mason Quartet, 7 & 9pm, UF Phillips Ctr Upstage (3201 Hull Rd), southern piano jazz, \$55 at 7pm, \$35 at 9pm, \$12 UF students; tinyurl.com/iguana9064

Sat 9/21 – Creek Family Fest, 10am–2pm, Bubbie’s Secret Garden (1225 NW 4th St), Young Leaders for Wild Florida & Alachua Conservation Trust family/education event (bring bug spray, sunscreen), free; tinyurl.com/iguana9065

Sat 9/21 – Cade Museum Free Admission Day, 10am–4pm, Cade (811 S Main St), fun w/ science; cademuseum.org

Sat 9/21 – Free Store, 2–5pm 3rd Saturdays, Civic Media Ctr (433 S Main St), free stuff open to all; pg 18, civicmediacenter.org

Sat 9/21 “Women Politicking Politely: Breaking Boundaries in the Workplace and the Home”, 4pm, Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Ave; also on Zoom), Kimberly Voss, PhD, talk, free w/ registration; tinyurl.com/iguana9066 & pg 9

Sat 9/21 – “12 Years a Slave”, 6:30–9pm, Cotton Club Museum (837 SE 7th Ave), film based on true story, 2013 Oscar Best Picture winner, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9067

Sat 9/21 – Dancing Democrats, 7–11:30pm, Dem. Women’s Club of the Lake Area fundraiser with Crooked Counsel, Keystone Heights Woman’s Club (6747 Woman’s Club Dr, Keystone Hts), \$20; dwc-la.org/events-calendar

Sat 9/21 – Art & Craft Market, 6–11pm, How Bazar (60 SW 2nd St); thehowbazar.com

Sat 9/21 – “Stories of Pride”, 7:30–8:30pm, The Bull (18 SW 1st Ave), LGBTQ+ storytelling meetup, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9068

Week of SEPT 22-28

Sun 9/22 – “Building Belonging”, 12-4pm, Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E Univ Ave), celebrating immigrants, free; pg 5

Sun 9/22 – Candidate Forum, 12:30pm, Lyceum Concert Hall at Santa Fe main campus (3000 NW 83rd St) (also on YouTube), candidates for local offices meet public, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9069

Sun 9/22 – “Perfect Arrangement” final performance, 2pm, Hippodrome (25 SE 2nd Pl), comedy-drama of 1950s gay witchhunts, \$40–50; thehipp.org/perfect-arrangement

Sun 9/22 – The Currys w/ Chelsea Saddler, 6pm, Heartwood Soundstage (619 S Main St), fine indie-folk music, \$23.33 adv; tinyurl.com/iguana9070 - tix/deets, tinyurl.com/iguana9071

Sun 9/22 – “Ground Control”, 6–7pm, The Lynx Books (601 S Main St), author Savannah Mandel on ethics in space, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9072

Tue 9/24 – Music, 7pm, How Bazar (60 SW 2nd St); thehowbazar.com

Wed 9/25 – “Election Myth-Busters: Fact vs Fiction”, 5–6pm, UF Pugh Hall Ocora (296 Buckman Dr)(also live-streamed), expert panel answers questions, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9073

Wed 9/25 – “100 Things to Do in Gainesville Before You Die”, 7pm, Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Ave; also on Zoom), Lauren Gonzalez talk, free w/ registration; tinyurl.com/iguana9074 & pg 9

Thu 9/26 – “Voting in Alachua County and the 2024 Presidential General Election”, 6pm, Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Ave; also on Zoom), Election Supervisor Kim Barton talk (+ voter registration & registration updating), free w/ registration; tinyurl.com/iguana9075 & pg 9

Thu 9/26 – “The Hammer”, 7pm, The Lynx Books (601 S Main St), author Hamilton Nolan w/ Candi Churchill on labor struggles, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9076

Thu 9/26 – Basement Sessions, 7pm, The Hipp Basement (25 SE 2nd Pl), music w/ Edmondson, Will Hasell, & Nodal, \$10 sliding scale; thehipp.org/events

Fri 9/27 – Artwalk, 7–10pm last Fridays, various venues around town, free; see pg 7 & artwalkgainesville.com

Sat 9/28 – Hawthorne Sustainability & Resilience Summit, 9:30am–3:30pm, New Generation Church (22500 SE 71st Ave, Hawthorne), talks on “Building Sustainable Climate Justice Solutions for Our Most Vulnerable Communities”; tinyurl.com/iguana9077

Sat 9/28 – Gvl Pride Festival, 12am–8pm,

Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E Univ Ave), music, food, vendors; for all 11 Pride events, see pg 16 & tinyurl.com/iguana9078

Sat 9/28 – Oktoberfest x 2, 1 & 2pm, 1st Magnitude (1220 SE Veitch St) & Cypress & Grove (1001 NW 4th St), w/ live music & more at both sites; fmbrewing.com/events & cypressandgrove.com

Sat 9/28 – Gvl Roller Rebels, 6pm, MLK Multi-Purpose Ctr (1028 NE 14th St), vs Bradentucky Bombers, \$12 adv, \$15 at door; tinyurl.com/iguana9057 & pg 23

Week of SEPT 29-OCT 5

Mon 9/30 – “Remembering Rwanda”, 2–5pm, UF Smathers Library (1545 W University Ave, 2nd floor Judaica Suite); genocide survivor, professor & researchers on 30th anniversary of massacres, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9079

Tue 10/1 – “The Vaster Wilds”, 5–7pm, The Lynx Books (601 S Main St), author & Lynx co-owner Lauren Groff celebrates release of paperback edition of latest novel, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9080

Thu 10/3 – “Guest Chef Gvl”, time & location tba, Peaceful Paths fundraiser; peacefulpaths.org/events

Fri 10/4 – “Les Preludes”, 7:30–9:30pm, SF College Fine Arts Aud (3000 NW 83rd St), Gvl Orchestra w/ Maestro Evan Haile, \$20–40; gainesvilleorchestra.com

Sat 10/5 – Newberry Community Health Fair, 10am–2pm, Newberry Municipal Building (25438 W Newberry Rd), education, fun, blood drive; visitgainesville.com/event/newberry-community-health-fair

Week of OCT 6-12

Sun 10/6 – Abortion Rights Fundraiser, 5:30pm, Boca Fiesta Backyard (232 SE 1st St), local bands support Nat’l Women’s Liberation & Amendment 4, \$10-20 slide; see pg 13

Wed 10/9 – David Sedaris, 7:30pm, Phillips Ctr (3201 Hull Rd), humor & storytelling, \$35–55 (UF students \$12); <https://performingarts.ufl.edu/events/an-evening-with-david-sedaris>

Thu 10/10 – Tom Petty Weekend opens, ?pm, >16 bands, \$50–350; tinyurl.com/iguana9083

Thu 10/10 – “Every Brilliant Thing” preview, 7pm (through 10/16), Hippodrome (25 SE 2nd Pl), play of good things in life, \$30; tinyurl.com/iguana9084

Sat 10/12 – Cade Museum Free Admission Day, 10am–4pm, Cade (811 S Main St), fun w/ science; cademuseum.org

RECURRING EVENTS

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

Saturday Farmers Market, 8:30–noon, 5920 NW 13th St

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 7 & tinyurl.com/iguana9020

Civic Media Center volunteer meetings, 7pm, 1st & 3rd Wednesday, at CMC (433 S Main St) & via Zoom

Live Community Music, Wednesdays, 6–9pm Heartwood Soundstage inside & out

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!

More than we can list each month at The Lynx: thelynxbbooks.com/events

Democratic Women’s Club meets 3rd Mondays, 11:30am (except Dec & Jan), B’Nai Israel (3830 NW 16th Blvd); gvilleddoris@hotmail.com

PFLAG meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7 pm at the Pride Center, 3850 NW 83rd St, second floor.

GAINESVILLE OPEN MICS

Gainesville is a talent-rich town, and open mics are a great way to have an evening of varied entertainment out of the house. Here is a list of open mics for a variety of music and other entertainment. Also, of course for you performer-types to go perform at. Each have their own character.

The Bull: Monday, 7pm, sign up at 6:30

Mai Kai: Monday, 8:30pm, sign up at 8pm

“The Reverend Angel Dust’s Tabernacle of Hedonism Hosted by Tom Miller” at the University Club (UC): Every Monday (until December), 10:30pm, sign up at 9

How Bazar: 3rd Wednesday of the month, 8–10pm, DM to sign up

Satchels: first Wednesday of the month, 6–9pm, sign up at 5:30pm

“Front Street” at Boca Backyard: 4th Wednesday of the month. 7:30–11pm

Swamp Head Brewery: 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7–9pm, sign up at 6:30pm

The Midnight: every Tuesday, 8pm–?, sign up at 7:30 ☞

Iguana Directory

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

Readers: If there is inaccurate information here, let us know. If you are connected to an organization listed here, please check and update your listing so others can be accurately informed. Readers should confirm times of meetings with individual organizations.

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

Alachua Conservation Trust, Inc. is a non-profit land trust protecting North Central Florida's natural, historic, scenic and recreational resources for over 36 years. 352-373-1078 | AlachuaConservationTrust.org **Alachua County Greens** is part of a worldwide movement built out of interrelated

pillars that support its politics: the peace, civil rights, environmental and labor movements. Meetings are the 1st Sunday of the month @4pm., for location contact 352-871-1995 | alachuagreens@gmail.com | GainesvilleGreens.webs.com

Alachua County Labor Coalition organizes to support local labor and advance the Medicare for All and A Living Wage campaigns. Meets monthly on the 4th Tuesday at 6pm: on Zoom. 352-375-2832 | info@laborcoalition.org | LaborCoalition.org

Alachua County Organization for Rural Needs Clinic is a not-for-profit in Brookier providing low-cost, high-quality dental care for people with and without health insurance to Alachua, Bradford and Union County residents. The Clinic fulfills its mission with the help of volunteers. 352-485-2772 | acornclinic.org

American Civil Liberties Union has no Alachua County chapter. For info on forming a new chapter, or for ACLU info, contact the

Northeast Chapter at firstcoastaclu@gmail.com | northeastflorida.aclufl.org

Alachua NAACP – With 2+ million activists across the country, we work to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all people and to eliminate racial hatred and discrimination. Everyone invited to join. [Facebook.com/alachuaNAACP](https://facebook.com/alachuaNAACP) | NAACPacb.org

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

Avian Research and Conservation Institute is a non-profit research group working to stimulate conservation action to save threatened bird species in the southeast. 352-514-5606 | arcinst.org

Black Graduate Student Organization helps UF Black graduate and professional students foster meaningful and lasting

Spotlight on ... Gainesville Women for Harris

Gainesville Women for Harris focuses on actionable ways to support Kamala's candidacy online and offline. We partner with Gainesville Indivisible, Moms Demand Action, and the local Democratic

party. In addition to canvassing, postcard writing, and ballot curing, we gather women and men to do a WAVE action every Saturday morning from 10 am to 11 am until the election. For more

information and to get involved, join our Facebook group Gainesville Women for Harris (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1050204089955856/>) or contact acupam45@gmail.com.



"This constant lying is not aimed at making the people believe a lie, but at ensuring that no one believes anything anymore.

A people that can no longer distinguish between truth and lies cannot distinguish between right and wrong.

And such a people, deprived of the power to think and judge, is, without knowing and willing it, completely subjected to the rule of lies. With such a people, you can do whatever you want."

Hannah Arendt

German historian and philosopher
(1906 – 1975)

From ELECTIONS, p. 1

funded Republican opponent and, with the Tallahassee-mandated district-only voting as opposed to at-large voting, a steeper climb; this is a very important race. Kim Barton, a career elections office worker who has done a fine job, is against a well-funded local Republican Party officer with no elections office experience(!).

Yvens Pierre-Antoine for state attorney presents a progressive challenge to incumbent State Attorney Brian Kramer.

There are regional races that include Democrat for State House Dist. 22 David Arreola, who nosed out Amy Trask in the primary, Tom Wells for US House Dist. 3 versus Kat Cammack, and Debbie Mucarsel-Powell for US Senate ... if we could knock out current Senator Rick Scott it would be amazing. Do we shamelessly support Democrats over

Republicans? Pretty much, yes, and this time, with what the Republican Party has turned into, for sure yes.

It's gonna be a long ballot. There are referendums and amendments at the end of the ballot, which are very important, especially the local ones. We will cover these in more detail in the October Iguana, which will print Oct. 9.

But locally we will be trying to regain local control of our Gainesville Regional Utilities public utility company from state intervention and control. We also will try to counter another DeSantis/Republican intervention in local control by restoring "at-large" County Commission voting.

Statewide, there are amendments that would legalize marijuana use by adults, and enshrine the right to abortion to the State Constitution. Those would all be big YES vote recommendations and campaigns worth supporting. ✨

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 women-led 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 surveillance companies. Divestuf.org | facebook.com/Divest UF

Edible Plant Project is a volunteer-run, non-profit Gainesville collective aiming to create positive alternatives to the unsustainable food system in this county. facebook.com/groups/edibleplantproject

Families Against Mandatory Minimums works to reform Florida's sentencing laws and restore fairness to Florida's criminal justice system. PO Box 142933, Gainesville, 32614 | gnewburn@fammm.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 organizations 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.

Friends of Susan B. Anthony, Gainesville recognizes local women who exemplify some of the qualities of Susan B. Anthony, that is, concern for full enfranchisement of women and minorities and equal rights for all citizens. fosba@fosba.com | fosba.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 HIV/AIDS. 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. climateresultprojectgnv@gmail.com | @climateresultprojectgnv | climateresultprojectgnv.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 equality. Contact Lisa@352-450-1912 for

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meeting info | info@gainesvilleNOW.org | facebook.com/gainesvilleNOW

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

Gainesville Residents United educates, advocates, negotiates, and litigates issues of community concern – currently the State takeover of Gainesville Regional Utilities. www.GRUnited.org

Gainesville Roller Rebels, a women's Flat Track roller derby team, needs skaters and volunteer assistance. join@gainesvillrollerrebels.com | gainesvillrollerrebels.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, locally-generated 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@lwv-alachua.org | LWValachua.org

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

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

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

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

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

National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare works to preserve these threatened programs for senior citizens and families. Local volunteers needed. Marion.Co.Fl.1590@gmail.com | ncpsm.org

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

National Women's Liberation is a feminist group for women who want to fight back against male supremacy and win more freedoms for women. Inequalities between women and men are political problems requiring a collective solution. 352-575-0495 | nwl@womensliberation.org | womensliberation.org

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

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

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

Paynes Prairie Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society promotes the preservation, conservation and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida. paynesprairie.fnpschapters.org | <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. | 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 modern-day slavery in the fields. billy@sfalliance.org or brett@sfalliance.org | facebook.com/sfalliance

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

Suwannee-St. Johns Group Sierra Club is a local group within the nation's largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization, representing 14 North Central Florida counties. 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/UNAUSAGainesvilleFIChapter | UNA-USAGainesvillefl.org

United Way Information & Referral is a human-staffed computer database for resources and organizations in Alachua County. 352-332-4636 or simply 211 |

UW211help@gmail.com | unitedwayncfl.org

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

UF Un-PAC is a non-partisan organization working to reform our democracy and get big money/lobbying out of politics. Our Youth Power Campaign works to make UF work better for students to participate in/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 | vfp Gainesville.org

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

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

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom has been promoting peace since 1915. Donate or join the at-large Jane Addams Branch. Local info: juned@stevellittler.com | wilpfus.org

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

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



The Repurpose Project

A bigger better building supply store

By Aurora Hadsock, HR Director of The Repurpose Project

Imagine you've got a DIY project around the house. Instead of heading straight for the big box hardware store, what if there was a local nonprofit alternative that provided valuable building materials to the community at good prices and prevented construction waste from ending up in landfills? If that sounds like an appealing addition to the neighborhood, you are in luck. The Repurpose Project is moving and expanding its reuse hardware store (and you might be surprised to hear where).

Renovator Reuse, our third and newest reuse store, currently sits on the same block as The Repurpose Project but tucked away in a small rented warehouse. Since opening in May we've been happily connecting DIYers, handy folks, first-time home owners and seasoned pros with the materials to make their projects happen. From day one we knew the rented space was too small and not able to accommodate the vast volume and broad range of reusable building material available, but the rent was what we could manage and a great start. Days before our grand opening, we learned that the property consisting of two large buildings nestled between The Repurpose Project and Satchel's Pizza was for sale and we knew the opportunity was too potent to pass up.

As one might guess, a growing city like Gainesville generates a tremendous amount of construction waste. These materials—which often go straight to the landfill—have the potential to be repurposed into countless projects. In this new location, Renovator Reuse can house and offer an even larger selection of low-cost building materials, reducing what ends up in the dump and giving people an alternative to big box hardware stores.

The high cost of building supplies is often a barrier for people looking to maintain or repair their house, and the upgrades and beautification projects that make it feel like a home can be well out of reach. The Repurpose Project aims to provide materials at affordable prices so folks have a better chance to access the resources they need.

You'll find plenty of the basics, but some of the materials we are able to salvage range from quirky to truly inspiring. There's a little of everything, from one-of-a-kind items like beautiful heart pine beams and antique door knobs to everyday needs like hammers, nails, faucets and fasteners.

In addition to the expanded hardware store, this property purchase also paves the way for a designated donation processing center that can support all three of our stores. Perhaps strangely, one of the biggest challenges is that we often receive more materials than we can process at once due to our limited space. Currently, The Repurpose Project location is so overcrowded that even finding room to sort the next donation is a struggle.

We are excited to improve our infrastructure for receiving, processing and storing donations. This will help us rescue more of the valuable materials that would otherwise wind up wasted but also, excitingly, an improved donation facility will improve working conditions for our dedicated staff. Imagine a paved donation drop off with roof coverage to protect staff, donors and donations from the rain and sun. And imagine a climate controlled sorting and processing warehouse designed for carts that would ease the physical strain on staff. These improvements will

help us take better care of our people, which is a priority for us. Our model is rooted in the idea that reuse can be a sustainable economic system in itself—one that provides meaningful, stable jobs for the community.

We are thrilled to be under contract to purchase the property at 1814 NE 23rd Ave. The future is always unknown but as we approach the closing date we are feeling confident that our expansion will become a reality and we are feeling so very grateful.

We are grateful to the private lenders who are making the purchase possible with their investments. (In a humbling show of faith, the building loan is held by community members instead of a bank.)

We are grateful to our staff for their incredible work and willingness to keep innovating as we grow. Their patience and literal sweat make our operation possible.

And, we are grateful to you, our community, for your support, your donations and your business. In fact, if you're curious how you can help out with the new expansion, the simplest answer is the best one. Buy used! By shopping with us and all the other amazing reuse businesses in town, you are keeping new stuff out of production, your dollars local and reusable material flowing off the store shelves and back into the community where they can be used and appreciated. That helps us expand reuse and create the better world we imagine! 🐢

The Gainesville Iguana

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

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