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# The Gainesville Iguana

March 2025 ~ vol. 39, issue 3

'a soapbox for Alachua County activists'

# THIS IS A COUP

## Coup: An illegal or overt attempt to seize control of a government

from *Choose Democracy*

We are in an administrative coup.

This is not a test—it's not a "Test of the Constitution" or testing the "limits of presidential power." It's a fully-fledged coup attempt.

Coups d'état, or coups, are illegal or overt

## There is always a reckoning for those lacking humility, empathy

by Charles Luckey

*Publisher's note: This is from a small independent newspaper in Moore County, North Carolina, and stood out to me as an example of the tuning in of mainstream Americans to what has just happened to this country. Charles Dana Luckey (born 1955) is a retired Lieutenant General in the United States Army who, at age 65, retired from the Army as its oldest Green Beret in uniform after serving as the Commanding General of the United States Army Reserve Command*

We are a month into the second Trump administration and, as advertised, the "shock and awe" of executive orders, firings, security clearance revocations, cannibalization of congressionally chartered agencies, infiltration of the IT backbone of the U.S. Treasury or confirmation of

See *RECKONING*, p. 25

attempts to seize control of a government. You can have a coup by a democratically elected regime.

There are different types of coups:

- palace coup—in which one faction of the government illegally displaces another faction
- putsch—secretly plotted and suddenly executed attempt to overthrow a government, typically by the military
- self coup—in which a legally appointed leader tries to stay in government illegally, for example by saying the election is rigged
- administrative coup (sometimes called a soft coup)—illegal overthrow of a gov-

ernment, but achieved primarily without overt violence and relying heavily by claiming powers, intimidation, bullying, extortion, threatening media, and thereby seizing all powers.

We are in an administrative coup.

Actions that constitute this coup include:

- Reuters reporting that Elon Musk has seized all personnel and payroll records and locked out government workers
- The illegal firings of government watchdogs, often in direct retaliation for their oversight of Elon Musk
- The seizure of over \$3 trillion of our funds in federal funding ("federal freeze"),

See *COUP*, p. 28



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# Congress must oppose DOGE's lies, targeting of Social Security

by Mary Savage

The horror of the Trump-Musk regime continues and is being felt throughout the nation and world with the unjust elimination of thousands of federal jobs and the destruction of federal agencies and departments.

But now, Donald Trump, Elon Musk and the dystopian-sounding Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) accomplices are targeting the Social Security Administration. We are hearing that Trump and Musk plan to lay off half of the SSA workforce and shutter field offices across the country. This will mean the delay, disruption and denial of benefits.

It is a back-door cut to the benefits Americans who have paid into the system rightfully earned.

A Feb. 26 press release from Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee Ranking Member Rep. John Larson (D-CT), opposes plans to close Social Security field offices and gut the Social Security Administration workforce.

“Donald Trump pledged no cuts to Social Security on the campaign trail, but now he and Elon Musk have plans to do exactly that,” said Larson. [These cuts are] “to pay for trillions in new tax breaks for the wealthy. This has nothing to do with governmental efficiency. As 10,000 baby boomers a day become eligible for Social Security, SSA already operates with administrative costs of under 1 percent and staffing at a 50-year low. This is all about an effort to pad the billionaire class with tax breaks, they do not need, off the backs of Americans’ hard-earned benefits. I stand with the 70 million Americans who rely on Social Security to make ends meet, and the dedicated civil servants who work tirelessly to ensure they receive their benefits in full and on-time every month.”

While word is getting out and opposition slowly builds, you may be asking, what can we do right now? Some answers include: Protest! Talk to family, friends and neighbors. Tell them to contact their U.S. Congressional representative and two U.S. senators. Do so yourself. Tell the elected officials who work for YOU to, “Keep the dystopian DOGE away from Social Security!” Include your name and zip code. Be civil in word and resolved in tone. Do this today.

Find your Congressional representative at [tinyurl.com/Iguana2144](http://tinyurl.com/Iguana2144)

Find your two U.S. Senators at <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana2146> 🐢

**Want your article, ad, event or PSA in the next Iguana?**  
**Deadline is Wednesday, April 2**  
 Submit events, content, questions to:  
[gainesvilleiguana@cox.net](mailto:gainesvilleiguana@cox.net)

### 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.*

## Hey, Readers!

We are now accepting both Venmo (gmv-iguana) and PayPal ([gainesvilleiguana@cox.net](mailto:gainesvilleiguana@cox.net)) donations.

Links to both can be found on our website:  
[wwwGainesvilleIguana.org](http://www.GainesvilleIguana.org)

*From the publisher ...*

## Well, here we are ...

Welcome to a coup whose goal seems to be the dismantling of the social order based on empathy. The practices that allowed a flawed but vibrant democracy to succeed are being cast aside by a zealous gang of uber-wealthy oligarchs and their ideological acolytes. They have come in hard and fast, overwhelming us with everything all at once. These are stunning, historical times as we witness the crass and cavalier shattering of accepted norms of governing.

From this little platform in the Iguana we'd pointed out the dangers, alerting people to Project 2025, repeatedly said "Democracy is fragile," and we expressed our discomfort at a Democratic Party more willing to compromise than fight the attacks from the Right. Back in September I wrote about the potential problem of non-voters and folks disillusioned with the system. I had no crystal ball, but a gut feeling that the onslaught of attacks from the Right and poor messaging from the Democrats were having an effect.

So what's to be done? Number one for everyone is to not give up hope, because we will need help in turning this (hopefully) unsustainable attack on our way of life around, and then later beginning a recovery. Each of us are going to be impacted at varied levels, and those of us less threatened by the coming changes need to be there for the others who are impacted more. Try not to be all doomy, as bad as things seem.

By all means curate your news and information sources. Limit your corporate news intake with its repetitive minute-by-minute bytes of distractions and attention-grabbing outrages. There is massive normalization of the coup as it is being covered by major outlets. Seek news coverage of the varied ways people are fighting back and find inspiration there. Did you see where the National Parks Service people hung a U.S. flag upside down at the top of El Capitan as a symbol of the country's distressed state? Or the thousands of immigration supporters who lined the bridges over the highway in Texas? Or the big Presidents' Day demonstrations in cities all over the country? (See a glimpse of ours on page 13.)

Pay attention to our elected people like AOC, Bernie Sanders, Chris Murphy, Melanie Stansbury, and Jasmine Crockett, or labor unions, student organizations, and national organizations trying to make an impact like 50501, or locally Women for Democracy. Try to find and use current event analysis from places like we list on page 21. Use your own keyboard to share relevant information to others. But then TURN IT OFF! Get outside and recreate, leave the house to find others for either friendship, socializing, or organizing. Support your local farmer's markets, go to museums, bookstores, libraries, get out for live music at any number of venues we have in town.

If you have time and inclination you can join and/or support local organizations like Alachua County Labor Coalition, National Women's Liberation, League of Women Voters, the Alachua County Democratic Party, UF Young Democratic Socialists, the Pride Center, or whoever appeals to you. Even become a bit more political with whoever you may be affiliated with, from churches to bowling leagues, your co-workers or your neighbors. Be more informed. Be positive in your outlook, and you may be the voice that helps others feel better about the mess these folks are making of our country, and in that way build resistance and eventual recovery.

Trump was the tool used to make this happen, a self-promoting celebrity for whom truth does not matter. This coup has been long in the making, way longer than most of us realize. Briefly: when Franklin Roosevelt pushed through the New Deal in the '30s, the wealthy and the racist found common cause in opposing it. That simmered below the surface under the guise of anti-communism through the '50s and '60s. But the coup really got its start in the '80s under Reagan: the attacks on labor unions and the repeal of the Fairness Doctrine, from which grew Rush Limbaugh and Right Wing talk radio, followed in the '90s with Fox News and harshly adversarial politics promoted by Newt Gingrich. Corporations grew mightily, aided by banking laws that facilitated their unchecked growth, and corporate news media became driven by profits over truth and public service. The culmination, though, was the Supreme Court swinging hard Right after Trump won in 2016. With Project 2025 they had their plan, and winning in 2024 gave them the keys. So, as I said, here we are ... 🐾



*Joe Courter*

## Subscribe!

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

Individuals: \$15

(or more if you can)

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Groups: \$20

*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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# The Gainesville Free Grocery Store

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

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Web: [www.facebook.com/GNVFGS](https://www.facebook.com/GNVFGS)

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

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Hours: 10:30-4:30

Wednesday-Sunday

And by appointment

Meeting Rooms are available!

## Gainesville Women for Democracy to host Hope Fest for left-wingers

Gainesville Women for Democracy is busy on two fronts: one is Coalition Building and the other is Visible Actions that encourage and fortify the left wing of our county. We fashion ourselves after the non-violent Civil Rights Movement of the '60s—build alliances, build on our strengths, make actions meaningful and uplifting. We aim to encourage the local activists to keep on bringing forth a vision of what a just world would look like.

In that spirit, we give you Hope Fest. On Sunday, March 30, from 1-5 pm, we are hosting a gathering of any and all left-wingers. It will be at Heartwood Soundstage, is free but attendees can give donations and can buy raffle tickets for great items and adventures. We'll use the money to continue bringing you these kinds of events. There will be music and poetry happening on the outdoor stage. The two bands that are committed so far are: Mama Trish vs. Godzilla and the HogTown Pickers. Individual performers are Nate Turner and Phillip "JazzDad" Thomas. C. Nooriel and Susan Mickleberry will read some original poetry and the incomparable Taylor Williams of Guts and Glory will MC. Stay tuned for additional performers. Write to Pam Smith—[acupam45@gmail.com](mailto:acupam45@gmail.com)—if you have suggestions for performers or if you have any questions.

Hope to see you there! 🐾

**GAINESVILLE'S JOHN PRINE MUSIC MATINEE**

**SUNDAY APRIL, 6TH** **EST. 2025**

**HEARTWOOD SOUNDSTAGE**  
619 S MAIN ST, GAINESVILLE, FL 32601

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**HEARTWOOD SOUNDSTAGE** **90.1 WMBT**

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# Gainesville hosts Zine Fest, March 7-9

Gainesville Zine Fest is a free three day comics and art event happening the weekend of March 7-9. The Sequential Artists Workshop (SAW) and the Civic Media Center (CMC) are partnering to put on an inclusive, accessible, art-filled weekend at both locations.

This will be SAW's first ever zine festival. SAW was established in 2011 by indie cartoonist Tom Hart as a nonprofit school for comics and visual storytelling. They host Draw Jams every first Saturday of the month, comic readings at Word of Mouth shows, and host both in-person and online workshops for how to make your own comics.

The CMC has hosted tabling events in the past, but we are so excited to host the incredible organization Mapping Trans Joy for a collaborative zine making and oral history presentation on Friday from 5-7pm at the CMC at 433 S Main St. Masks are required indoors. We encourage a majority of trans audience members and participants.

On Saturday, SAW will be hosting Panel Palooza from 12-6pm at 1314 S Main Street. The itinerary is stacked: Multiple workshops on how to make comics and flip-o-ramas, a panel on comics and social justice featuring scholars and working graphic novelists, and a comic reading by the revered Grovertoons, author of Hamburglar and Jake Spooky. There will be plenty of zine tablers selling their art.

On Sunday, there will be folks slinging zines and art from 12-6pm at the CMC. There will be variation on the tablers; there is no overlap between Saturday and Sunday. Follow @comicsworkshop, or sign up for the SAW Local newsletter at sequentialartistsworkshop.org to get updates, rain plans, fun news, and more. 🐢

## GNV ZINEFEST

### MARCH 7, 8 & 9 2025

#### WHAT IS A ZINEFEST?

**Zine (noun)**  
1. Most commonly a handmade, photocopied small circulation of self-published work

**Festival (noun)**  
1. A zinefest is a place where people gather to celebrate each other's work

#### 7 FRI

**MAPPING TRANS JOY**  
*Collaborative zine making and oral history presentation \*masks required\**  
Civic Media Center, 433 S Main Street  
5 - 7 PM

#### 8 SAT

**PANEL PALOOZA**  
*Tabling, presentations, & workshops \*masks encouraged\**  
Sequential Artists Workshop, 1314 S Main Street  
12 - 6 PM

#### 9 SUN

**ZINE TABLING**  
*Tabling & community \*masks required\**  
Civic Media Center, 433 S Main Street  
12 - 6 PM

@CIVICMEDIACENTER\_
@COMICSWORKSHOP

## Remembering Travis Fristoe: Co-founder of CMC's zine library

Travis Fristoe was an important person in Gainesville counter-culture, and beloved by many across the country.

He played in numerous bands and was a key person at Wayward Council, an independent record store and music venue here from 1998 to 2012. He was also a co-founder of the Civic Media Center's zine library in the late '90s, as well producing his own zine "America?"

The Iguana and the Civic Media Center

are very grateful for the generous donation to both organizations by Brenda Fristoe, Travis's mother, on the ten-year anniversary of his death while living in Philadelphia. Alcoholism and the pressures of life led him to suicide, and the impact of his loss is measured in many tribute articles online including ones in the magazines Maximum RocknRoll and Razorcake.

How we live on is in the ways our lives continue to affect other people. Thank you Brenda, he was a gem. Travis Fristoe, Presente. 🐢



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# Former Vikings punter Chris Kluwe tears into MAGA

by Dave Zirin

For folks who've known me for a long minute, you know that eight years ago I did a sports/politics History Channel pilot ("one of the ones that doesn't get made") with Jamilah King and former NFL punter Chris Kluwe. (It was great but that's another story.)

Chris Kluwe is a terrific guy and yesterday he was arrested doing civil disobedience after calling MAGA the fuck out at a Huntington Beach, Ca. City Council Meeting.

Huntington Beach is an oasis for fascists on the California scene and Chris put the reality of what they stand for right in their faces. This needs to be replicated around the country. It's also incredibly inspiring.

Would that we had political parties that could speak with such clarity and anger in the face of Musk's orange baby boy, and then back it up with deeds not just words. People should watch this and even if you can't do what Chris did for reasons of safety, health, or status, send this clip to your elected representative and

pose the question: "Why are former NFL players feeling more urgency than you?"

Chris's words for those who can't play videos online: "MAGA stands for trying to erase trans people from existence. MAGA stands for re-segregation and racism. MAGA stands for censorship and book bans. MAGA stands for firing air traffic controllers while planes are crashing. MAGA stands for firing the people overseeing our nuclear arsenal. MAGA stands for firing military veterans and those serving them at the VA, including canceling research on veteran suicide. MAGA stands for cutting funds to education, including for disabled children. MAGA is profoundly corrupt, unmistakably anti-democracy, and, most importantly, MAGA is explicitly a Nazi movement. You may have replaced a swastika with a red hat, but that is what it is."

See the full video at [tinyurl.com/Iguana2142](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana2142).

*Dave Zirin is a political sportswriter who writes for The Nation. This article is from his Feb. 20 Facebook post.* 🐸

## Climate and Energy Book Club invites new readers

By Jyoti Parmar, Organizing Representative, Sierra Club of Florida, and David Hastings

The local Sierra Club Suwannee St Johns group has organized a Climate and Energy Book Club where we read important and readable books that focus not just on the problem, but on solutions. Together, we will learn more about climate science and policy and discuss viable solutions.

Our first book is "**The New Climate War: The Fight To Take Back Our Planet**" by Michael Mann. In the book, Mann, a renowned climate scientist, shows how fossil fuel companies have waged a thirty-year campaign to deflect blame and responsibility and delay action on climate change. Mann offers a battle plan for how we can save the planet. He believes that the societal tipping point won't happen without the active participation of citizens everywhere aiding in the collective push forward.



### 11th Annual Peace Scholarship Program

Sponsored by Veterans for Peace, Gainesville

VFP will be awarding three college scholarships of \$1,500 each for high school seniors, college students or adults.

Recipients must demonstrate commitment to one or more social justice activities which may include: peace and nonviolence, intersectional coalition building, Black Lives Matter, women's reproductive freedom, environmental sustainability, economic justice, education and social change.

The deadline for applications is April 25. See the application and more information at [vfp Gainesville.org](https://vfp Gainesville.org).

Join us at The Lynx Books on March 16, 1:30-3pm, 601 S. Main St, Gainesville. Please register at [tinyurl.com/Iguana2147](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana2147) to let us know you are coming or email [dwhastings@gmail.com](mailto:dwhastings@gmail.com).

Other books we will be reading include:

**"Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming"** by Paul Hawken

Monday, April 21, 6-7 pm at The Lynx Books

What is going to solve the climate crisis? Paul Hawken, a trailblazer in green business, gathered a coalition of 200 advisors to model the most substantive solutions to climate change. Viable solutions exist, are economically viable, and promise cascading benefits giving us every reason to see this planetary crisis as an opportunity to create a just and livable world.

**"Revolutionary Power: An Activist's Guide to the Energy Transition,"** by Shalanda Baker

Sunday, May 18, 1:30-3pm at The Lynx Books

Revolutionary Power is a playbook for the energy transformation complete with a step-by-step analysis of the key energy policy areas that are ripe for intervention. Shalanda Baker tells the stories of those who have been left behind in our current system and those who are working to be architects of a more just system.

**"Electrify: An Optimist's Playbook for Our Clean Energy Future"** by Saul Griffith

Sunday, June 29, 1:30-3pm at The Lynx Books

In Electrify, Griffith lays out a detailed and feasible blueprint for fighting climate change while creating millions of new jobs and a healthier environment. Griffith explains exactly what it would take to transform our infrastructure, update our grid, and adapt our households to make this possible.

Please contact David Hastings ([dwhastings@gmail.com](mailto:dwhastings@gmail.com)) for additional info. Happy Reading! 🐸

# What REALLY went wrong in 2024

## If all legal voters were allowed to vote, Harris would have won the presidency

by Pierce Butler

Voter turnout in last year's election dropped by 19 million from the totals of 2020, as I wrote in our Jan-Feb issue, and I may have left some readers blaming slackers and airheads who failed to remember the harms caused by Donald Trump's first term.

I have to apologize for that, at least in part, because Kamala Harris was defeated by dirty tricks on state and local levels by Republican officials and operatives, at least according to many reports on the pre-election dirty tricks of 2024. Data reporter Greg Palast leads the pack in uncovering who did what when and where, and he concludes:

- 4,776,706 voters were wrongly purged from voter rolls according to US Elections Assistance Commission data.
- By August of 2024, for the first time since 1946, self-proclaimed "vigilante" voter-fraud hunters challenged the rights of 317,886 voters. The NAACP of Georgia estimates that by Election Day, the challenges exceeded 200,000 in Georgia alone.
- No less than 2,121,000 mail-in ballots were disqualified for minor clerical errors (e.g. postage due).
- At least 585,000 ballots cast in-precinct were also disqualified.
- 1,216,000 "provisional" ballots were rejected, not counted.
- 3.24 million new registrations were rejected or not entered on the rolls in time to vote.

Citing respected sources such as the US Elections Assistance Commission, the Brennan Center for Justice, the US Civil Rights Commission, and more, Palast brings the numbers to spotlight both the scale and the biases of last year's voter suppression:

Rejection of Black in-person votes, according to a US Civil Rights Commission study in Florida, ran 14.3% or one in seven ballots cast.

... if not for the mass purge of voters of color, if not for the mass disqualification of provisional and mail-in ballots, if not for the new mass "vigilante" challenges in swing states, Harris would have gained at least another 3,565,000 votes, topping Trump's official popular vote tally by 1.2 million.

In short (Palast's emphasis):

*That is, if all legal voters were allowed to vote, if all legal ballots were counted, Trump would have lost the states of Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Georgia. Vice-President Kamala Harris would have won the presidency with 286 electoral votes.*

Meanwhile, Florida continues to expand its voter suppression tactics:

- Gov. DeSantis' Office of Election Crimes and Security still works to find and arrest those with, say, invalid voter ID cards;
- The state still bars anyone from voting who has not paid in full all fines from prior convictions - and still provides no way for would-be voters to see what they might still owe;
- A 2021 law, per Tom McLaughlin of the Pensacola News

Journal, "limits the availability and accessibility of mail ballot drop boxes and requires voters to put their state ID number or Social Security number on their mail ballot applications, but does not provide an alternative for voters who don't have that type of information."

- U.S. District Court Judge Mark Walker wrote, "... the state of Florida has, with surgical precision, repeatedly changed Florida's election code to target whatever modality of voting Florida's Black voters were using at the time. That is not this court's opinion, it is a fact."—but he was overruled by the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta;

- Voter registration groups now face such harsh penalties for minor errors that most, maybe all, have ceased work in Florida, and mail-in voting has even more restrictions.

Republican politicians surely have more barriers to democracy in mind, as we will see when the state legislature gavel itself into action this month.

Nationally, the GOP also offers the "Safeguard American Voter Eligibility" (SAVE) Act, requiring everyone registering or updating their registration to show, in person (not online, not by mail or through public voter-registration drives), a birth certificate or passport—military or tribal ID won't cut it either.

Groups including FloridaRising.org, the League of Women Voters (lwvfl.org), BlackVotersMatterFund.org, NAACP.org, and more are pushing back, but as the Trump-Musk-Vance juggernaut has demonstrated daily since Jan. 20, our new (and old) oligarchs don't want mere citizens to get in their way. (Go ahead and tell Senators Scott and Moody, and Rep. Cammack, to protect American democracy anyway: phone 202-224-2131.)

Palast's full report, more digestible summaries, and a video ("Vigilantes Inc.: America's New Vote Suppression Hitmen")—all with an eye to the Jim Crow history as well as last year's dirty tricks—wait for you at [gregpalast.com](http://gregpalast.com). Take a look—and don't slack off or space out if/when we get another chance to speak out as a nation next year! ✨



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# Sen. Chris Murphy: On the country's 'most serious moment'

*In an interview, Sen. Chris Murphy issued a grave warning about the country's most "serious moment" since the Civil War, and answered questions about how Democrats must change their ways fast. Murphy [M] was interviewed by Anand Giridharadas [G]*

**G: I've pressed you and your party on what you can do for people. But obviously, this is a democracy. And at the end of the day, people need to make their own voices heard and pressure people to do things. But I think a lot of people are at a loss. What can people do besides the obvious stuff that they know to do?**

**M:** I think the obvious stuff that people know to do still works. There were protests yesterday, some with hundreds of people, some with thousands, but not necessarily of the size and scope that you would think this moment would demand.

And I think that is due to the fact that a lot of folks don't think that it has impact and influence—and it does. The only route through this crisis is the mobilization of the public. Political gravity still exists in this country. It works a little bit differently than it did 10 years ago or 20 years ago. But if the public is mobilized, it will and can have an impact. Right now, join-

ing groups like Indivisible and Move On, calling, showing up—all of that matters. Volume matters.

It may not persuade Elon Musk to stand down, but it will start to eat away at enough Republicans so that everything they want to do becomes a little bit harder, so that there is finally a little bit of legislative friction against the tasks that they are undertaking.

Donald Trump's net popularity has come down by six or seven points already. If that drops by another six or seven points because of our mobilization, well, then that frays a bit the hold that he has on the party.

I remember back in 2017 when their number one agenda item was to repeal the Affordable Care Act, and they didn't do it only because we mobilized, only because in the end, we made just enough Republicans realize that this was not going to be worthwhile for them politically. That works now.

Now, ultimately, if they completely break this thing—and I think that comes by the transparent, brazen violation of a court order, and most significantly, an order from the Supreme Court—then we have to talk about a wholly different set of tactics. And I don't think we need to cross that bridge right now.

But if we are at a moment in which they have just completely and brazenly taken control of the government without any regard to the judicial branch, then we have a different conversation about the kind of things that citizens should be doing.

But right now, traditional political mobilization can and I think will work. But we need more people than hundreds out at these protests. And part of that is our job, to have more people talking like me to convey the sense of urgency that will convince people to mobilize.

**People have suggested a general strike. Is that something you think people should look at?**

Listen, I think when we talk about those elevated tactics—general strikes, civil disobedience—I think people will know the moment when it comes. And you frankly don't want to promise that you can do something that you can't.

So I think you've got to be very thoughtful and planful in those kinds of actions. I don't think we are there yet. If the moment comes, I think people will know it.

*This interview is from the Feb. 19 issue of The Ink, a newsletter on politics and culture. See more at the.ink. 🐐*

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# Medical students fight for health care justice, you should too

## On the push for a universal, comprehensive single-payer health care system

by Madeline Canal

As future doctors, we enter medical school eager to learn how to heal. But too often, we find ourselves asking a different question: How do we help patients who can't afford or access care in the first place?

Across Florida, medical students are no longer willing to accept the cruel reality of our fragmented, for-profit healthcare system that does not serve us nor our patients. Instead of waiting for change, we are fighting for it.

We are members of Students for a National Health Program (SNaHP), a growing movement of medical students pushing for a universal, comprehensive single-payer healthcare system. We have seen too many patients forced to choose between food and lifesaving medications, rent and crippling medical bills. We believe healthcare should be a right—not a privilege reserved for those who can afford it. SNaHP chapters across Florida have popped up rapidly over the past few years, growing from a small subset of medical students to a statewide initiative led by more than 100 active members.

In Florida, over two million people remain

uninsured. Even those with coverage face high deductibles, outrageous co-pays, and delays in care due to bureaucratic hurdles from private insurance companies. As students and soon-to-be physicians, we see the consequences of this every day. From Gainesville to Miami, student-run and community clinics provide healthcare to the uninsured—but it's not a viable solution. Patients rely on charity care and safety net hospitals absorbing unsustainable costs because our system leaves them with nowhere else to turn.

The problem is especially stark for those trapped in the Medicaid gap—people who earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but too little to afford ACA marketplace insurance. They are left with no options, falling through the cracks of a system that values profits over patients.

Organizations like the American Medical Association (AMA) have historically blocked universal health care efforts, choosing to protect the financial interests of private insurers over the well-being of patients. In contrast, Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP), our parent organization, has spent decades advocating for Medicare for All, publishing

research on the cost savings and efficiency of a single-payer system, and fighting against corporate influence in healthcare.

In the 1960s and 1970s, medical students and young doctors played a role in advocating for the passage and expansion of Medicare and Medicaid, as well as forming groups like the Student Health Organizations (SHO) to address racial health disparities and provide care to underserved communities. Now, decades after these initial efforts, the healthcare landscape isn't for the better.

However, we should not have to fight this battle. As medical students, we should be focusing on our training—not begging lawmakers to do what's morally right. But until our leaders recognize healthcare as a human right, we will continue to use our privilege and voices to advocate for our patients.

And we're taking that fight straight to Tallahassee.

On March 13th, medical students from across Florida, along with other grassroots organizations like Medicare for All Florida and PNHP will march to the state Capitol to demand real healthcare reform.



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We are pushing for policies that will make healthcare affordable, accessible, and patient-centered.

Among the key bills we support:

**The Insulin Cap Bill for Florida:** Over two million Floridians have diabetes, yet 14% of insulin users nationwide face catastrophic costs. This bill would cap insulin co-pays at \$35/month for all state-regulated plans—not just Medicare.

**The Task Force on Universal Health Care Bill:** More than two million Floridians are uninsured, and countless others struggle with out-of-pocket costs. This bill would establish a task force to explore a state-wide universal healthcare system—one that guarantees access to care without financial barriers.

**The Healthy Florida Act:** Private insurance companies waste nearly 30% of healthcare spending on administrative costs, while Medicare operates at just 2% overhead. This bill would reduce waste and expand coverage to include mental health, dental, vision, long-term care, and prescription drugs—without copays or deductibles.

SNaHP members have already met with local Representatives Maxwell Frost and Cherfilus-McCormick to discuss key issues like the privatization of Medicare and Medicare for All. SNaHP also hosted a virtual town hall on Feb. 18 with local representatives to speak to the community about these issues and provide a forum for public discussion. This movement is growing, but it can't be limited to medical students. We need patients,

doctors, families, and communities to join us. If you've ever delayed care because of cost, struggled to navigate insurance bureaucracy, or watched a loved one suffer due to a lack of access, this fight is your fight too.

Universal healthcare isn't radical—it's common sense. Countries around the world have proven that a single-payer system saves money and saves lives. It's time for Florida—and the U.S.—to catch up.

The system is broken. We refuse to accept it. Do you?

*Madeline Canal is a UF College of Medicine student and an EMT. SNaHP is the student arm of Physicians for a National Health Program. See more at [pnhp.org](http://pnhp.org).*

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## GRU, Inc. files lawsuit to enforce voter mandate

*by Gainesville Residents United*

On Nov. 5, 72% of local voters approved a referendum amending the City of Gainesville's home rule Charter to eliminate the gubernatorially appointed Gainesville Regional Utilities Authority and restore control of the utilities to the elected City Commission.

The referendum restored control of municipal utilities to the citizens of Gainesville through the City Commission.

Despite that voter mandate, the Authority and its board members refuse to cede control over the utilities to the City; have not withdrawn their lawsuit challenging that referendum; and continue to assert their authority over city property and employees, including decisions affecting long-term GRU operations.

Because the Authority has not complied with that public referendum, GRU, Inc. is petitioning for effective judicial relief. That relief would include a determination that the Authority and its board members have no authority to control or direct any aspect of the City's utilities or to take any other action other than to disband.

The citizens of Gainesville clearly have the authority to amend our home rule charter. And just as clearly, there is no state preemption of that local authority in the prior legislation (HB 1645) that had created the gubernatorially appointed authority.

GRU, Inc. is presenting these legal arguments in parallel with a similar, separate case filed against the City by the Authority challenging the citizens' referendum. While the two cases are separate and distinct, counsel for the respective cases are communicating and coordinating on these complementary suits that present many similar legal arguments. GRU, Inc. counsel is pleased and confident that each party has made well-founded cases that have very compelling legal arguments and thus are likely to prevail in persuading the court to rule in our favor in each case.

The price of freedom is vigilance. Gainesville Residents United, Inc. will continue to advocate for local control of our public utilities. We support our Gainesville City Commission, our local residents, and will continue to promote home rule and de-

*See GRU, p.16*



## Presidents' Day protest draws crowds in Gainesville, around the country

On Presidents Day, Feb. 17, the corner of Main and University Ave. in downtown Gainesville was packed with at least 500 people showing their opposition to the MAGA takeover of our government. The protest generated much horn honking support from traffic that day, as was true in cities all over the country. Read more about the nationwide protests at [tinyurl.com/Iguana4170](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana4170). Photo collage by Chuck Ross. 🦎

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# Why unions matter

by Jason Bellamy-Fults

In the coming months, I and other local union members are committed to working with the Gainesville Iguana to bring you front-line stories that are relevant to working people in our region and will help us collectively resist the ongoing attacks against working people by oligarchs and their political cronies.

For this issue, we want to remind you why unions matter in this struggle. We've seen no better articulation of this argument recently than Michael Podhorzer's essay "Oligarchs Understand Power. Do We?" ([tinyurl.com/Iguana4148](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana4148)). We strongly recommend reading Podhorzer's essay in full, complete with charts and references. But for those short on time, here's the abbreviated version:

"Elon Musk's destructive ransacking of our government should remind us of what previous generations of Americans understood intuitively: that 'we may have democracy, or we may have wealth concentrated in the hands of a few, but we cannot have both,' as Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis put it. Yet in all the commentary about how to survive the Trump regime, almost no one mentions the single most proven constraint on oligarchy and autocracy: unions.

"There's a reason ... Trump has fired the first Black woman member of the National Labor Relations Board, Gwynne Wilcox—clearly violating labor law and denying the board the quorum it needs to conduct business and protect employee rights; fired two commissioners of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; and asserted in an executive order that he can fire any member of the Senior Executive Service, which includes regional directors at the NLRB who run union elections and investigate and decide whether to prosecute corporations' unfair labor practices.

"It's the same reason that Project 2025, which has informed the lion's share of Trump's early shock-and-awe actions in office, would effectively dismantle union power nationwide by banning public sector unions, eliminating overtime protections, and making collective organization nearly impossible.

"It's the same reason Musk—who wants to make the entire NLRB unconstitutional and whose companies have been fined millions of dollars for labor or workplace safety violations—is reportedly targeting the Department of Labor for the next round of DOGE sabotage. (Of course, Musk's aims are two-fold: defending his coup, and his very real interests in protecting Tesla and Space X from ongoing investigations into their anti-worker efforts.)

"And it's the same reason corporations and billionaires spent decades working to decimate union power in the United States. The reason is: Oligarchs know politics is about power, and they know strong unions don't just deliver better wages and benefits for their members (though they do that in spades). Unions also build the kind of real democratic power—for all of us, not just union members—that keeps oligarchs in check.

"Unions are the only major civil society institution in this country that give ordinary working Americans reliable access to collective political power. Corporations and billionaires, on the other hand, have boundless options to exercise outsized collective power over our elections, legislation, and judicial appointments, especially after Citizens United.

“Unions build democratic power in three crucial ways. First, they offer members the chance to practice democracy in their everyday lives, which leads to higher rates of voting, community involvement, and political participation. Second, although far from perfect in this regard, unions have been at the forefront of pluralistic social change, promoting racial and gender equality and resisting authoritarian tendencies. Third, unions help prevent the translation of economic power into political domination. As Frederick Douglass observed, “power concedes nothing without a demand.” But in today’s economy, individual demands mean little against oligarchic power. Unions turn individual grievances into organized demands backed by real institutional power.

“Encouragingly, organized labor is already playing a major role in fighting the latest round of oligarchic abuses ... Unions have filed critical lawsuits to block Musk’s access to Treasury payment data and to challenge the Trump administration’s shady “buyout” offers to federal workers.

“Oligarchs like Musk will continue to have more and more power, and we less and less power, until we heed Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s warning that “the liberty of a democracy is not safe if the people tolerate the growth of private power to a point where it becomes stronger than their democratic state itself. That, in its essence, is fascism.”

“Oligarchs try to break the back of civil society because when people see they can’t succeed together, they lose the courage to act and the imagination to even think a different future is possible. Thus, it is for us—as it was for those facing down the robber barons in this country and the rise of fascist movements in here and in Europe—to recognize that rebuilding democracy and restoring shared prosperity has to begin with the robust democratic counterweight only unions can provide. There are no shortcuts or work-arounds.”

So, in short, please join and get involved with your workplace

union if you’re lucky enough to work somewhere where one exists. If one doesn’t already exist, as is the case for most of us, then consider helping to start one. A good local example would be United Campus Workers at UF ([ucwfl.org/](http://ucwfl.org/)), which is seeking to represent all UF workers who don’t already have access to a union. And if you can’t find your way to either of those options, then please consider joining a labor-adjacent organization like the local Alachua County Labor Coalition ([laborcoalition.org/](http://laborcoalition.org/)) and/or the AFL-CIO campaign “Department of People Who Work for a Living” ([deptofpeoplewhowork.org/](http://deptofpeoplewhowork.org/)). Keep an eye on the news and support workers elsewhere (e.g., Amazon, Starbucks) who are taking the fight directly to the oligarchs. Encourage your friends and family to do the same—as the old saying goes, the longer the picket line, the shorter the strike!

Till next time, keep resisting and keep organizing!

*Jason Bellamy-Fults is the recording secretary for IBEW Local 1205, a delegate for the North Central Florida Central Labor Council, and a member of the United Campus Workers. He can be reached at [jasonfults@gmail.com](mailto:jasonfults@gmail.com). See more at [substack.com/@workerscreateallwealth](http://substack.com/@workerscreateallwealth). ✨*

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## 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Alachua County Peace Poetry Contest 2025

The Gainesville Chapter of Veterans for Peace invites all students, K-12, in Alachua County to create and submit one original poem on the subject of *peace and social justice*.



**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: March 28, 2025**

Entries should be emailed to [vfpeacepoetrycontest@gmail.com](mailto:vfpeacepoetrycontest@gmail.com).

**REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMISSION:** Please include (1) the poet’s name; grade level; school; parent/guardian and/or teacher’s name; and (2) two preferred methods of contact (e-mail, phone number and/or mailing address).

Winners will receive a valuable prize and have their poems published in the 2025 Peace Poetry Contest Book. Winning poets will have the opportunity to read their pieces aloud at the public Peace Poetry Reading in May in Gainesville. All poets will be notified, whether their poems place or not.

For additional information, email [vfpeacepoetrycontest@gmail.com](mailto:vfpeacepoetrycontest@gmail.com).



*From GRU, p. 12*

mocracy by the people and for the people.

We look forward to successfully resolving this legal challenge. And, in so doing, call upon the Gainesville City Commission to begin work with local citizens and governments to devise an inclusive, semi-autonomous, locally controlled public utility.

Local governance should be decided by local public participation and GRU, Inc. will be advocating for such ideas as a city commission-appointed board consisting of five city residents and two county residents that has final decision authority on all matters other than budget, rate setting, and general services contribution.

For more information, visit [www.GRUnited.org](http://www.GRUnited.org).

## Jane Fonda at SAG Awards: 'Community means power'

by Ty Cole, *Out Magazine*

Jane Fonda delivered a legendary speech while accepting the Screen Actors Guild Life Achievement Award at the 2025 SAG Awards. The actress praised how unions can unify workers into a community, noting that "community means power."

In one of the most poignant moments of the night, Fonda addressed the ever-changing interpretation of the term "woke."

"Make no mistake: empathy is not weak, or woke," she said. "by the way, woke just means you give a damn about other people."

Fonda labeled herself a "big believer in unions," noting how particularly important unions are at a time when the power of workers "is being attacked, and community is being weakened."

Addressing President Trump's new term in office, Fonda declared that "a whole lot of people are going to be really hurt by what is happening [and] what is coming our way."

Fonda referenced historical events such as the Civil Rights Movement, urging listeners to understand that "we are in our documentary moment" right now.

*This is an excerpt from Out.com; see the full story and watch Fonda's speech at [tinyurl.com/Iguana4150](http://tinyurl.com/Iguana4150).*



Gainesville Chapter of the United Nations Association of the USA present:

### A Public Forum

*"The Impact of the Trump Administration on the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)"*



**Speaker:**

**Rick Gold, Retired USAID Foreign Service Officer**

- USAID Foreign Service Officer for 29 years
- Specialist in democracy, governance, rule of law
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**Saturday, March 22, 2025**

**11:00 am – 12:30 pm**

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Free and open to the public. Discussion will follow Mr. Gold's talk.



For more information: [una.usa.gainesville@gmail.com](mailto:una.usa.gainesville@gmail.com)



# And the good news is ...

## Bill banning golf courses, pickleball courts from Florida state parks advances in Senate

The Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee unanimously advanced legislation that would prevent the construction of hotels, golf courses, and pickleball courts in state parks. Republican Sen. Gayle Harrell filed SB 58 in response to the widely criticized

plans unveiled last summer to build such amenities in at least nine parks, prompting protests across the state and a bipartisan backlash. The bill, known as the “State Park Preservation Act,” requires the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to notify the

public 30 days before a public hearing about a development plan or updates within a state park.

*From an article by Jackie Llanos in the Florida Phoenix on Feb. 11. See the full story at: [tinyurl.com/Iguana4151](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana4151).*

## How states will keep fighting for climate progress under Trump

Trump brings renewed threats to climate progress. He has called climate change a hoax. In his first term, he withdrew the U.S. from the Paris climate agreement and rolled back more than 100 environmental rules. In his second term, he signaled he would attack Joe Biden’s climate

policies any way he can, increase fossil fuel production, and stymie the expansion of renewable energy. He may not be as successful as he hopes, because states will once again take action. Their efforts have pushed utilities to move away from fossil fuels, limited tailpipe emissions,

and mandated energy-efficiency rules for buildings. It’s here, at the state level, where climate progress will continue, or even accelerate, in the years ahead.

*From an article by Matt Simon and Izzy Ross in the Grist on Jan. 15. See the full story at: [tinyurl.com/Iguana4152](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana4152).*

## Movement supporting public employees is rising

Thousands of workers around the country hit the streets Feb. 19 at federal offices, at Tesla dealerships and public spaces — to declare their opposition to the slashing and burning of public services currently happening under the guise of “efficiency.” Workers focused on billionaire Elon Musk’s power within President Donald

Trump’s new administration, through the so-called Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). National Park Service workers, standing in the snow, brandished signs reading, “Immigrants didn’t steal my job. The president did.” The protests were more than just an expression of outrage and an attempt to stop the slicing. They

amounted to a massive public education project, showing the United States, in real time, the work its government actually does, and how many lives that work touches.

*From an article by Sarah Jaffe in In These Times on Feb. 21. See the full story at: [tinyurl.com/Iguana4153](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana4153).*

## Pride Center Library reopens to promote frequently challenged LGBTQ+ books

The Pride Community Center of North Central Florida relocated to the Gainesville Community Counseling Center, located at 3850 NW 83rd St., two years ago. On Saturday, it reopened its library. The library focuses on LGBTQ+ books, especially those often challenged in K-12 schools,

like “Gender Queer,” an illustrated memoir by Maia Kobabe and the most challenged book of 2023. With 82% of transgender youth reporting having considered suicide, Collins emphasized the need for identity affirmation. Books are an important way to promote identity-affirmation, they said.

Because of this, they view the legislation regarding gender-affirming care as a matter of life or death.

*From an article by Juliana DeFilippo in The Florida Independent Alligator on Feb. 16. See the full story at: [tinyurl.com/Iguana4154](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana4154).*

## Seven ways to rise up against Trumpism 2.0

Since Donald Trump’s second term began, his administration has aggressively launched a deluge of multi-pronged attacks on immigrants, transgender people, racial equity initiatives, federal workers, climate regulations, and more. “It is a fire hose right now,” Rep. Jasmine Crockett (D-TX)

told the Associated Press. “That’s what he does. He creates a ton of chaos so it’s hard to keep up with it.” In other words, overloading us so we don’t know where to begin is the point. But the good news is people are fighting back with every tool at their disposal, from trainings and legal

challenges to walkouts and strikes. This is a list of seven ways people across the United States are rising up against Trumpism.

*From an article by Sonali Kolhaatkar in Yes! Magazine on Feb. 18. See the full story at: [tinyurl.com/Iguana4155](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana4155).*

## Ten reasons for modest optimism

The Secretary of Labor during the Clinton era details ten reasons for modest optimism in today’s political climate: boycotts are taking hold, international resistance is rising, independent and alternative media are growing, Musk’s popularity

is plunging, Musk’s “DOGE” is losing credibility, the federal courts are hitting back, demonstrations are on the rise, stock and bond markets are trembling, Trump is overreaching -- pretending to be “king” and abandoning Ukraine for Putin, and the

Trump-Vance-Musk “shock and awe” plan is faltering.

*From an article by Robert Reich in Substack on Feb. 21. See the full story at: [tinyurl.com/Iguana4156](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana4156).*

## What Leonard Peltier’s freedom represents for indigenous futures

Before leaving office, former President Biden issued executive clemency to Leonard Peltier, commuting the remainder of his life sentence to be served at home. Peltier’s release after 49 years of incarceration is an undeniable victory. Peltier’s freedom is priceless in its own right. But just as his

wrongful imprisonment symbolized the systemic oppression of Indigenous peoples, his release embodies the liberation that’s possible through intergenerational organizing. It speaks to the possibilities of collective Indigenous power. Peltier’s release shows us what is possible when

we stay rooted in our values, connected to one another’s humanity, and committed to organizing for the liberation of all people.

*From an article by Nick Tilsen in Yes! Magazine on Jan. 31. See the full story at: [tinyurl.com/Iguana4157](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana4157).* ✨

# The oppressor doesn't determine what's true; refuse to be silenced

More than ever, we need to make space for Black History Month as a time for deep reflection

by George Yancy

Since Donald Trump came to power for the second time in the United States, the attacks on all of our intersecting communities have been raining down fast and hard.

The current Trump administration has unleashed an assault on undocumented immigrants; teachers who refuse to excise discussions of systemic racism from their curricula; trans school-children and their teachers; people in need of reproductive health care; Palestinians resisting the ethnic cleansing of Gaza; recipients of humanitarian aid; diversity, equity and inclusion workers; Muslims in the U.S.; U.S. citizens who speak Spanish; children who are born in the U.S. to immigrant parents; Indigenous people; union workers; pro-Palestine activists; incarcerated people; abortion pill providers; trans workers facing discrimination; and many others among us.

Already the policy changes made under the second Trump administration have derailed anti-discrimination laws and affirmative action initiatives, clean water protections, consumer protec-

tion measures, standard public health measures, doctors' ability to access basic medical information and environmental protection efforts.

In the face of these attacks, more than ever we need to make space for Black History Month as a time for deep reflection. Let's claim space for a sense of Black care, a time and space where we celebrate or assemble to honor each other and those Black voices that have shaped us, empowered us, augmented our critical imaginations, and have given of themselves their time, energy, pain and love.

There is nothing simply abstract or cerebral about this process. It isn't easy. Remembering can be painful, and yet transformative and joyful. It is a profoundly embodied and affective process, a coming together that encourages differences and yet negotiates such differences for mutually greater understanding and empowerment.

*This article was originally published by Truthout on Feb. 8. See more at [truthout.org](http://truthout.org)*

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## Targeted postal workers are a bellwether for all U.S. unions

by Eric Chornoby

The Trump administration has set its sights on the U.S. Postal Service and its 600,000 workers, 91% of whom are union members. The USPS is the nation's largest unionized employer.

Postal workers like me are raising the alarm. If any agency should be immune to political meddling, it's the USPS. The Postal Service's role is outlined in the U.S. Constitution. The 1970 Postal Reform Act establishes postal workers' right to collective bargaining and to filing with the NLRB. If the Trump administration thinks it can interfere in this unionized workplace, no worker is safe.

The Washington Post reported on Feb. 21 that President Trump planned to move control of the USPS to the Commerce Department and fire the Postal Service's Board of Governors.

President Trump confirmed that Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick was "going to look at" the USPS. The Board of Governors has sought legal representation to defend against this eventual attack.

Meanwhile, Postmaster General Louis DeJoy notified the Board of Governors that he intends to step down and that they would need to seek a replacement.

The two largest postal unions, the American Postal Workers Union and the National Association of Letter Carriers, are operating under expired collective bargaining agreements. The current agree-

ments are extended by mutual agreement with the current USPS leadership.

But the Trump administration might assert that a reformulated USPS allows it to void the existing contracts, cut wages, and fire employees.

### FROZEN BOARD

The unions could normally seek redress for such overreach by turning to the National Labor Relations Board. But although workers can still file charges at the NLRB's regional offices, cases that are appealed may get stuck in limbo—the board at the top of the agency no longer has a quorum, after President Trump fired NLRB chair Gwynne Wilcox, so it cannot currently issue decisions.

Workers' other recourse would be in court. But even if the courts eventually rule in their favor, much damage will already

have been done, and the precedent set.

The USPS is the most popular federal agency in the country. No other group of union workers has such broad support. A 2020 Pew survey found that 91% who responded had a favorable view of the agency. And it's no wonder: People from all political parties rely on the USPS. Small businesses need it to survive. Veterans and many others rely on it to receive medication.

APWU and NALC are mobilizing their members and the public to stand up for the Postal Service and its union workers, including by calling their senators and congressmembers.

*Eric Chornoby is an officer in the Michigan Postal Workers Union and a steward in APWU Local 480-481.*

*This article was originally published by LaborNotes on Feb. 26. See more at [labornotes.org](http://labornotes.org).*

### Companies sticking with diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)

- Abercrombie & Fitch
- Alliance Health
- Adobe
- Ancestry
- Apple
- Ben & Jerry's
- Best Buy
- Chik-Fil-A
- Cigna
- Cisco Systems
- Costco
- Delta Airlines
- Dollar Tree
- Gap
- Goldman Sachs
- Honda
- John Deere
- Johnson & Johnson
- JPMorgan Chase
- Logitech
- Macy's
- MassMutual
- Mastercard
- Microsoft
- National Football League
- Nike
- Old Navy
- Patagonia
- Philip Morris
- Pinterest
- Procter & Gamble
- Sephora
- Tiffany & Co
- Ulta Beauty
- Verizon

*This is a partial list of companies supporting DEI, despite Trump's war on it. For more, see [tinyurl.com/Iguana4168](http://tinyurl.com/Iguana4168)*

# Hey, don't panic — organize!

It's never been more important for organizers to remember: workers have power

by Kari Thompson

The Trump administration has swept into office with a volley of attacks: Gutting programs that acknowledge race and gender inequality. Freezing funding for a wide swath of programs (though that order has already been rescinded). New work rules. Immigration raids. Replacing career civil servants with political lackeys. A mass email inviting federal employees to resign.

The firehose of bad ideas over the past week is alarming and overwhelming. It's never been more important for organizers to remember: workers do have power.

The shock and awe is well underway. That is the new administration's main goal. It's straight out of the employer playbook:

- They're creating confusion across federal agencies and the many state and local agencies that rely on federal funding, as well as across research and university systems.
- They're sowing division, pitting workers against one another by asking them to report on each other, or compete over who will have a job if departments are downsized.
- They're sowing fear that even long-standing workplace protections won in union contracts and guaranteed under existing laws are no longer enforceable.
- They're using a show of force and bravado to inspire hopelessness, making

workers feel powerless to stop their takeover of all aspects of our government.

This is classic boss behavior, used to disorganize workers—the same tactics outlined in the book “Secrets of a Successful Organizer” ([labornotes.org/secrets](http://labornotes.org/secrets)). Bosses create these feelings on purpose to maintain control. When working people are scattered, intimidated, and demoralized, the boss has the upper hand.

They want us to react fast, and individually. They want us to type “resign” into the email. (Attorneys and unions agree: don't do that!)

The new administration is thick with billionaires who want to bring their greedy tactics into the federal government to enrich themselves even further. They're eager to attack the gains that organized working people have won over generations, like Social Security, a minimum wage, the 40-hour work week, and healthy and safety protections on the job.

Many of our victories have already been eroded (including the purchasing power of the minimum wage), but this new administration is piling on to directly attack the workers who keep these programs and laws in operation.

Resist the urge to panic. Instead, think like an organizer. Our job is to help our co-workers recognize what the boss is doing and find a path forward together. See the chart we use in “Secrets of Successful Organizer.”

The same principles still apply. As a shop floor organizer, you are more prepared for this moment than you may feel.

- When confusion erupts over a new work rule, find the real source of the information. Question whether new rules comply with existing laws. Then check your contract, if you have one. It's still in force! Share these findings with your co-workers.
- When fear bubbles up, connect with your co-workers. Make sure they know they're not alone. You and others will have their back to act with courage.
- When divisions threaten, find unity of purpose—perhaps in your work itself. Use that as a starting point to build bridges and get on the same page.
- When hopelessness threatens to overwhelm, get people together—even a small group—to make a plan for both the short and long term.

Federal workers organizing across unions through the Federal Unionist Network (FUN) are connecting activists to share information and strategies and make plans about how to fight. If you're a federal worker you can get connected with them at [federalunionists.net/join-us](http://federalunionists.net/join-us) and join their next meeting on Monday, Feb. 3.

Remember: Organized people have power! Don't act alone.

*This article was originally published by LaborNotes on Jan. 29. See more at [labornotes.org](http://labornotes.org).*

## HOW BOSSES DISORGANIZE US

The boss relies on...	The organizer...	Co-workers find...
... <b>fear</b> of conflict and retaliation.	...taps into <b>righteous anger</b> .	...the <b>courage</b> and determination to act.
... <b>hopelessness</b> , the feeling that we have no power.	...develops a <b>plan to win</b> .	... <b>hope</b> that change is possible and worth fighting for.
... <b>division</b> , pitting workers against each other.	...identifies <b>common ground</b> and builds relationships.	... <b>unity</b> to act together.
... <b>confusion</b> , passing around messages that will alarm or distract us.	... <b>interprets</b> and shares information, fitting it into a bigger picture.	... <b>clarity</b> to see through the boss's plan.

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<https://wmbt901.com/listen-live/>

# Editors' picks: News that didn't fit

## **37 ways Project 2025 has shown up in Trump's executive orders**

by Liset Cruz, Ali Bianco, Megan Messerly, Abhinanda Bhattacharyya, Anna Wiederkehr ~ Politico ~ Feb. 2~ [tinyurl.com/Iguana4160](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana4160)

On the campaign trail, Trump disavowed Project 2025, saying he knew nothing about the effort. However, many of the conservative blueprint's ideas have made their way into his early executive orders, signaling the sweeping impact the Heritage Foundation document has had on the his administration's policy making.

## **Anxiety mounts among Social Security recipients as DOGE troops settle in**

by Eli Hager ~ ProPublica ~ Feb. 22~ [tinyurl.com/Iguana4161](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana4161)

Elon Musk's team has descended on an already understaffed Social Security Administration, which now faces further workforce cuts and closures of vital local offices. The consequences could be significant for millions of the most vulnerable Americans.

## **By refusing to obey court orders, Trump is provoking a constitutional crisis**

by Marjorie Cohn ~ Truthout ~ Feb. 13~ [tinyurl.com/Iguana4162](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana4162)

Trump is making real the words of Office of Management and Budget director Russell Vought, who said, "we are living in a post-Constitutional time." No sooner did Donald Trump take the oath of office than he immediately took a wrecking ball to government agencies and programs that protect nearly every aspect of Americans' lives.

## **Family separation leaves lifelong scars**

by Nahid Fattahi ~ Progressive ~ Feb. 17~ [tinyurl.com/Iguana4163](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana4163)

"The day my mom told me, 'If I'm not here when you come back from school, don't be scared. I didn't abandon you. I was deported.'" That moment shattered Isabel's childhood. Every morning, she left for school burdened by uncertainty, not knowing if she would return to an empty home. The fear burrowed into her psyche, manifesting as debilitating anxiety that followed her into adulthood.

## **How Trump's federal funding, hiring freezes leave America vulnerable to catastrophic wildfire**

by Mark Olalde ~ ProPublica ~ Feb. 14~ [tinyurl.com/Iguana4164](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana4164)

Donald Trump and Elon Musk's efforts to shrink the federal government have left the country's wildland firefighting force unprepared for the rapidly approaching wildfire season. The administration has frozen funds and issued a deluge of orders eliminating federal employees, which has thrown agencies tasked with battling blazes into disarray as individual offices struggle to interpret the directives. It has left some firefighters with little choice but to leave the force.

## **Immigration myths feed divisions among workers**

by Aviva Chomsky ~ Labor Notes ~ Feb. 26 ~ [tinyurl.com/Iguana4158](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana4158)

Chomsky, a professor of history, tackles six myths that are used to divide native-born workers from immigrants, and explains why they are fallacies. Myths are: immigrants take American jobs, immigrants compete with low-skilled workers and drive down wages, immigrants don't pay taxes, immigrants are a drain on the economy, the country is being overrun by illegal immigrants, and tougher U.S. policies will slow down immigration. They are not accurate.

## **Trump may have just ended the Florida governor's race**

by Kimberly Leonard and Gary Fineout ~ Politico ~ Feb. 20 ~ [tinyurl.com/Iguana4165](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana4165)

Trump brought an early end to the speculation around his favorite for the 2026 Florida governor's racer, endorsing loyalist Rep. Byron Donalds for the job. Should Donalds run and win, he'd be the first Black governor of Florida.

## **Trump tyranny tracker**

by Olga Lautman ~ Substack ~ [tinyurl.com/Iguana4169](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana4169) (click the "No thanks" link)

Lautman, who specializes in reporting on Russian disinfo, runs an almost-daily free Substack with dozens of summaries (+ links) of our White House's shock-and-awe attacks on the U.S. government, people, and environment, plus some of the pushback from citizens and elected officials. Highly recommended (but maybe not for every day exposure).

## **The militia and the mole**

by Joshua Kaplan ~ ProPublica ~ Jan. 4 ~ [tinyurl.com/Iguana4166](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana4166)

A wilderness survival trainer spent years undercover, climbing the ranks of right-wing militias. He didn't tell police or the FBI. He didn't tell his family or friends. He penetrated a new generation of militia leaders, which included doctors and government attorneys. Experts say that militias could have a renaissance under Donald Trump. The conversations that he secretly recorded give a unique, startling window into the militia movement.

## **Trump administration litigation tracker**

from [Lawfaremedia.org](https://Lawfaremedia.org) ~ [tinyurl.com/Iguana4160](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana4160)

This is a table that tracks legal challenges to the Trump administration's executive actions since he took office in January that deal with national security issues, as well as cases on behalf of the Trump administration to enforce them. As of Feb. 28, there were 91 cases.

## White House revoked access to AP for refusing to comply with censorship

by Sharon Zhang ~ Truthout ~ Feb. 12 ~ [tinyurl.com/Iguana4161](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana4161)

The Trump administration revoked Associated Press reporters' access to a White House event after officials demanded that the publication change an editorial standard in compliance with a President Donald Trump order—a chilling instance of censorship that violates constitutional rights, the publication said. Why? The AP did not comply with the Trump administration's demand that it change its editorial standards to align with Trump's order to rename the Gulf of Mexico to "Gulf of America." The name change has not been recognized by other countries, including Mexico.

## Wondering what DOGE is up to? Check the court doc

by Kyle Cheney ~ Politico ~ Feb. 21 ~ [tinyurl.com/Iguana4167](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana4167)

Elon Musk's operation to break the federal bureaucracy has been both lightning quick and shrouded in darkness. Judges, deciding whether to order an abrupt halt to DOGE's operations, have demanded explanations from the Musk associates tasked with rifling through and revising sensitive government databases. Those operatives' words have revealed key details about the aggressive project. ✨

## Recommended blogs / web sites



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

### Letters from an American

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



<https://heathercoxrichardson.substack.com/>

### Belle of the Ranch

(formerly Beau of the Fifth Column)

Beau has stepped away from personally doing his commentaries and his wife has taken them over. Her softer presentation conveys great information and analysis on the turbulent times we are in. 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/c/BeauoftheFifthColumn](https://youtube.com/c/BeauoftheFifthColumn)

### Today's Edition Newsletter

### Robert Hubbell

Citizen. Optimist. Realist.  
[roberthubbell@substack.com](mailto:roberthubbell@substack.com)



Robert B. Hubbell is a former lawyer who writes about current political issues and policies. He is the author of Today's Edition, a daily newsletter emailed for free on Substack with as many as 80,000 readers.

### The Point

Daily Roundup from WUFT News

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](https://WUFT.org/thepoint) and enter your email.

### Florida Phoenix

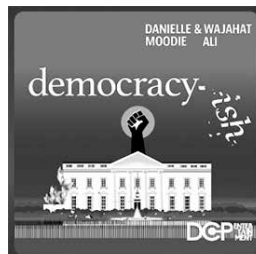
FloridaPhoenix.com is a free, nonprofit news site that covers Florida government and politics with a mix of in-depth stories, briefs, and social media updates on the latest events, editorial cartoons, and progressive commentary. Many stories focus on emerging innovative ideas or report on the people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

### Robert Reich

writes at [robertreich.substack.com](https://robertreich.substack.com). He is a professor of public policy at Berkeley and served as Secretary of Labor in the Clinton administration. He writes a daily newsletter "not just to inform (and occasionally amuse) you, but also to arm you with the truth —



about how the system works and doesn't, where the power is located and where it's lacking, and the myths and lies used by those who are blocking positive social change."

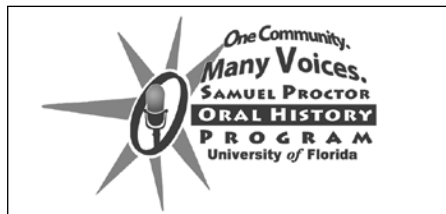


In a series of videos and shorts, Danielle Moodie and Wajahat Ali of Democracy-ish discuss how we can achieve a multiracial democracy, cover the ground left behind by mainstream media, and seek to make sense out of the nonsense. Check them out on YouTube:

<https://tinyurl.com/Iguana2122>

# Oral History Program

## History and the people who make it: Mildred Hill-Lubin



*This month, the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program at the University of Florida features excerpts from an interview with Dr. Mildred Hill-Lubin (1933-2018), a retired professor and assistant dean at UF, who was instrumental in bringing African literature to UF.*

*Hill-Lubin [H] was interviewed by Ryan Morini [M] in 2014. Excerpt edited by Beth Grobman. For the full interview, go to [tinyurl.com/Iguana2141](http://tinyurl.com/Iguana2141).*

**M: Let's start with a little background—your career was sort of situated between African and African American Literature ... how did you get started on that track?**

**H:** My early days in college did not include that much African American literature. I remember my senior year, the professor put one book on reserve and had us read a bit out of it. The book was Sterling Brown's "The Negro Cavalcade." Because we—at that time, our minds were not even on African American literature—we thought it was not any good, because we had never had any in any place.

I was able then to go and get my master's. And while I was there, the desegregation of schools began. We also had written a grant to help improve the teaching of English among public high schools, and while we were doing that, we had one consultant to come in—a very dedicated English professor who had studied African Literature. This is around [19]61 or so. She knew all about Chinua Achebe, and she introduced us to him and some of the other African literature writers. Well, immediately—as soon as I read those writers, I began to see the similarities. That is the way I became interested at looking at the relationship, or the interconnections, between African and African American Literature.

So that was my road. A pretty long road, but it was always a long road for me.

[Laughter] The funniest [story] is, the first time that I went to college, I was not even accepted. Nobody had told me or sent me a letter saying "You may come," or anything. So I always tell people I went to college without being even accepted. But I made the highest score, so they weren't going to send me away then.

**M: Did exposure to that literature kind of change your perception of Africa?**

**H:** Oh, it did. But by that time, the Black Movement had started. I went back and graduated in 1960 as an undergraduate, and graduated at Western Reserve in 1961. So, this was the period when everything was on fire—I mean, literally, as well as stimulating in many ways. By then, I was feeling pretty close to Africa, and also I had the opportunity to go to Ghana, so I went and studied some. As I said, Africa and African American was in the air. The word that I was trying to remember for a long time was Africanism: that's what you call our focus.

**M: That's right. Alongside the civil rights, there was a lot going on.**

**H:** The Black arts came a little bit later. By that time, I was very much into African and African American literature. So much so that I was being hired as a consultant to come and talk about African and African American literature to high school teachers.

**M: I was going to add, concomitant with that, you've also got a lot of the independence movements in Africa, so there's a lot of African nationalism.**

**H:** Oh yeah, the African countries were becoming free. You know that Chinua Achebe's novel was written in [19]58, so he tells—and we then taught it as more of a view of history, a real life view of Africa. In that case, it was eye-opening that we could do that. We could see these were people who had a society, who had rules, and so on. And then at the same time, we could see the literary aspect of it, too.

**M: In a previous interview, you noted there was another pivotal moment for you, and that was when Martin Luther King was assassinated —**

**H:** Oh, that was a terrible day. Well, that day, we heard that Martin Luther King—

it was sad then. But fortunately, we went into the chapel and had a little service, and that calmed people down a little bit. But we were very upset about that. That period was awful altogether, because people in the community, the whites in the community, had been calling persons who were talking about integrating, desegregating the schools, that they were going to get the children or do harm to them. And they finally got my telephone number. And they would tell me things like, "We going to shoot him [her son] just like we did Kennedy," and things of that nature. So it was scary.

**M: I can imagine. And so, you ended up coming to UF, then, in [19]74, is that correct?**

**H:** It was ten years later. Then I went to graduate school to get my Ph.D.—Got the Ph.D. in [19]74 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Then I was to go back to Paine, because I went on one of their scholarships to help teachers, but instead, Florida was recruiting Black professors.

**M: So you were the only Black female faculty member here at that time?**

**H:** Well, I think that they had some in the College of Education. In the College of Liberal Arts, at that moment, there was a group of white women teaching literature, looking at women characters in the writing, and discussing it—you know, woman as agents and so on. So I decided, "Well, I'm a woman. I may as well join." And that's how I became involved in women's programs. [Later] I was nominated to become an assistant dean in the graduate school. But I taught African American culture more than I did literature.

**M: When you came in in [19]74, you would have been about the only person teaching African literature here. Is that right?**

**H:** I had to plead for the course from the department! Nobody was teaching African literature! There was one lady teaching African American literature, but she was happy when I came and gave it to me. They didn't have any idea about African literature in English. When I told them I wanted to teach it, they thought I

was going to be teaching in translation. And I told them, “No, most of them wrote in English. And furthermore, they studied the same English people that we did.” [Laughter] So, they allowed me to start this class in African literature. I called it “African Literature in English.”

**M: When was the first time you read James Baldwin? Do you recall?**

**H:** I don’t think I had met Baldwin, but I had read so much about Baldwin that I thought I already knew him! [Laughter] In graduate school, I took a class—we did a great deal of Black literature in graduate school. And I took a class on Wright, Ellison, and Baldwin. Although I had not met [Baldwin], I just felt I knew him. Because he was not only a scholar, but he was a popular figure. So you just heard a great deal. And when he did “Fire Next Time” and all of those, he was on television shows, and just everywhere. And I definitely knew him through his works. We read “Go Tell It on The Mountain.” Many of his essays.

But I did get to meet him, [when he came to speak at a conference in Gainesville]. It was a full audience. Guess they were just as happy and excited as I was. It was going along very smoothly. Until all of the sudden, Baldwin was talking, and this voice came over the loudspeakers: “We don’t have that kind of talk here! You can’t talk like that!” And the whole college—“Oh!” and everybody’s eyes went up, and people were trying to figure out what to do, and where, and who was doing it. And of course, Baldwin, at first, was shocked. Like, “Who is this talking to me?” And, then, all of the sudden, Baldwin rolled those eyes up. And he’s saying, “Oh, white supremacy is over! It’s over!” Oh, he went on then to start preaching about white supremacy was over, and “We aren’t going to have that kind of thing, either, down here.”

**M: Had you seen much of the—I mean, obviously, Gainesville still had—well, even still—but in the [19]80s, there was sort of very much an Old South kind of mentality in parts of Gainesville, and outlying areas, Alachua County.**

**H:** Oh, definitely outlying areas! I have seen the Ku Klux Klan in a park up there in Lawtey. It was a service station there, and they parked with their hoods on and everything!

**M: Did holding this conference, this event, open any doors at all, or make it easier to get more African literature into the curriculum? Did it change anything at UF after that?**

**H:** I don’t think so. Because they act now like they just started International Studies! [Laughter] They don’t even count that class. But now, when I retired, one of the thing they did say, that I introduced so many new courses to the department. That was my significance. Which I think was a big one.

**M: Academic politics are already pretty strange, to say the least.**

**H:** I will say that we received great cooperation from the university to handle this conference. Many groups contributed. They decided to start inviting African poets or writers to campus. We did get funds for that. Ama Ata Aidoo came right after. And she came back quite a number of times. And it wasn’t long before they had begun teaching a bit about African writers. We brought in some new faculty members. And they had had some African literature.

**M: Did you notice any more student interest in it after that?**

**H:** Not noticeably, but I taught a course in African literature.

And I would normally get a pretty good class full of students. I think many of them were looking for some elective in English, and that was the only thing open by that time, and so they would take it. [Laughter] But I don’t think they were that excited about it. But they did a pretty good job of working with it once they did get in the class. As I used to tell my students—many of them didn’t know anything about Africa or African American literature anyway—so I’d have to have so many books for them to look up this and all. But then, afterwards, I’d tell them, “Now, you pass it on, and then we won’t have to have people go reading everything else before they can begin to talk about the novel.”

**M: When you first started teaching African literature, did the Smathers Library on campus have the materials you needed already, or was that an issue?**

**H:** We have a pretty good collection now, but back then, it wasn’t that much.

**M: You were pretty much swimming upstream and trying to—**

**H:** When my teacher in undergraduate school put the Sterling Brown book on reserve, practically every Black book was out of print. Even Sterling Brown’s “The Negro Cavalcade.” No books—no Black books—were in print. And then, with the Movement, when people started hollering for Black courses and literature, and more and more, then we started getting many minimal collections. And I used to go around to the small bookstores. I told them I wanted to see children’s books with Black children in it. Then we’d buy it. I encouraged a lot of the bookstores to do that.

**M: Thank you very much for sharing all of this. It’s important for people to be able to know what it took to get African literature to the point that it is now at UF. So thank you very much.**

*The Samuel Proctor Oral History Program believes that listening carefully to first-person narratives can change the way we understand history, from scholarly questions to public policy.*

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*UF is planning to demolish Maguire Village on UF's campus, despite their promise that no demolition would take place before alternatives for grad student housing were found. That still has not happened. Photo courtesy of Save UF Grad Housing.*

# Save historic housing on UF campus

*by Save UF Grad Housing*

The multi-year fight to save historic Maguire Village and University Village South, a beautiful 348-apartment UF housing community for grad students and their families, the majority international and low-income, is coming to a boil. UF has finally announced a timeline for demolition, which is slated to begin in less than a month.

UF is proposing to put up construction fencing around the 27-acre tree-filled property (located along SW 34th St. between the Harn Museum, the Southwest Rec Center, and the graffiti wall) on March 19, and plans to begin gutting them on April 3. These treasured 44 brick buildings, the multiple playgrounds, outdoor pool, clubhouse, picnic areas, and dozens of large trees would be completely removed by December if UF is allowed to pursue its plans, leaving nothing but grass, dirt, and perhaps a parking lot.

If you are wondering what UF plans to do with that space, the answer is: they have no plan! There is currently NO plan to put any other structure on this massive site, in large part because there is no funding. Through a largely non-transparent effort, starting with a "closed-to-the-public retreat" by the University of Florida Board of Trustees in summer 2024 and culminating in a Board of Trustees vote in December 2024, UF somehow acquired over \$10 million to demolish these buildings from Tallahassee, taxpayer money which definitely should go towards reinvestment in the buildings (to generate future returns), instead of complete removal, which benefits no one and is money down the drain.

Some people at UF are falsely claiming that Maguire Village and UVS are "unlivable," which is completely untrue because people were living there as little as two years ago, until UF unfairly evicted the entire community. Unless UF has secretly damaged them, the majority of the apartments should be move-in ready, with a handful needing work, which can be expected for any residential complex in Florida.

Up until about 2020, UF maintained these buildings to a very high standard, and the question needs to be asked: did some officials at UF let some of these public buildings "go bad" on purpose, so they could close them? Did they not fix simple roof leaks so that they got bigger? What happened to the rent money that was supposed to go into this maintenance?

Graduate student surveys have repeatedly shown that what they want, what is considered "livable," is affordability, proximity to

campus, good family amenities (like open space), and a safe and welcoming community. They have (or had) all of that at Maguire Village and UVS, which some people have called not only the best graduate housing in the country, but also the "greatest achievement of mankind" (due to the way it creates peace among cultures), so why is UF not treating it as such? If they are simply kept clean and necessary repairs made (as is UF's job), these apartments can be a beacon to future graduate students for generations more, and the envy of other universities.

What is additionally frustrating is that UF made promises to students, stakeholders, and the public that NO demolition would take place before alternatives were found, and to date, that still has not happened. They promised that they would "acquire" Varsity House, and even got a \$185+ million bond approved by Alachua County to do so, but never followed through. They promised to involve graduate students more in the process, but don't have a single grad student living in campus housing on the newly formed "Graduate Student Housing Subcommittee." They promised to use UF's own institutional knowledge to find alternatives, but instead are now putting a chilling effect on any professors looking to help.

UF has also refused to identify who is responsible for damaging the McNair Bostick Memorial at UVS last year, and has been unclear about what, if anything, will be preserved on site after the demolition. This non-transparency and disregard for people is another example of how this whole debacle is negatively affecting UF's reputation and future.

So what can you do to help? For one, visit our website, [SaveUF-GradHousing.com](https://SaveUF-GradHousing.com), and learn more about the issue. There you can sign our [Change.org](https://Change.org) Petition (which has over 1700 signatures), and you can reach out to us at [SaveUFGradHousing@gmail.com](mailto:SaveUFGradHousing@gmail.com) if you'd like to volunteer. We are also asking everyone to contact the UF Board of Trustees before their March 27-28 meeting and demand that they keep Maguire/UVS. And if you are a former resident, or just someone with a housing experience you would like to share, please send us your story (videos or letters welcome).

Regardless of what happens in the next few months, our coalition is dedicated to holding UF accountable into the future, not just for securing affordable housing options, but also for preserving our history and our right to public participation in the decisions they make. ✨



*From RECKONING, p. 1*

profoundly problematic Cabinet members is having its intended psychological and emotional impact on the nation. That's largely the point: Disrupt. Disorient. Dismantle. Destroy. At speed.

The impact of all this "action" on our institutions, national security, the constitutional norms of our governance structure and the lives of millions of Americans is yet to be fully determined.

In the fullness of time, the courts and the people will have their day. But this is not yet that day. We are, as we anticipated, in the "flash-bang grenade" phase of brute force unencumbered by accountability. We all saw it coming, and tens of millions voted for it. It is time to breathe deep and think soberly.

For some, the weeks have been exciting and empowering; the intended decimation of norms has had a thrill all its own for those who feel entitled to extract vengeance and retribution, as well as for those who prefer the excitement of lawless chaos over the stodginess of professional, and often entrenched, bureaucracy.

For others, it is a mix of confusion, dismay and massive anxiety about where this all goes and what America will feel like—much less how it will be assessed in the community of nations—in the months and years to come. That, too, is not yet written.

Understandably, even the most steady professionals in the domains of strategic stability; national security; global markets and finance; the rule of law; the maintenance of standards and discipline in our armed forces; the fundamental norms of public oversight and accountability; or the separation of the church from the state are hard-pressed to find their footing on this Nantucket sleigh ride that is custom-built for sensational spectator entertainment.

Whether it be annexing Canada, buying (or invading) Greenland or "owning" the rubble pile that was Palestine, our new foreign policy proclamations are probably breathtakingly disorienting for a good percentage of the other 95% of humanity that shares the planet with the United States. Maybe that's the big idea. Maybe it isn't. Who knows?

To be fair to all of us, there has been so much activity and noise in so many quarters—some is chaff and some is existentially substantive—that it is easy to lose sight of the long view and to become

shocked into silence and detachment simply as a matter of intellectual or emotional survival in a highly dynamic, and over-stimulating, environment.

To that, I'd submit that as a free people in a free land, we do not have—and can ill afford—the luxury of sitting this one out. It is time for all of us, regardless of political party or how we cast a vote last November, to take stock of where we are, and to begin the work of shaping tomorrow.

What does that look like?

It looks like engagement, and it begins by seeing things through a different lens, in a different frame. The framing of our time will end up being one of love. Why? Because, in the powerful words of the brilliant theologian Gary Dorrien, "Democracies don't let their own people starve."

What does this have to do with the public-private partnership between the president of the United States and the richest human being in both the world and, arguably, in that world's history? Everything.

The answer is everything, because these are two men of immense power who, while they emerged from very different families, backgrounds and life experiences, share one profound trait: They are wholly bereft of empathy. That is to say, bluntly, neither of them does, or could, give a tinker's damn about any of us. Not an ounce. Zero.

In America, this will prove to be a big deal. It is their strategic vulnerability because, as we have said here before, in the end this place — these United States and a huge swath of the humans that live in it—have a big heart.

They feel sorrow and compassion for the families of all the souls lost when an American Airlines flight from Wichita and an Army Blackhawk helicopter on a training mission collide in the dark of night over the icy waters of the Potomac River. They may have questions about the cause of the devastating loss, to be sure, but they do not begin their moments of grief with accusations about gender or social policy or the competence of air crews or air traffic professionals. They do not start with blame.

They start with empathy, and many start, as well, with a profound sense of gratitude because they, too, have flown through those cold skies at night and landed alive and, once more, are able to hold their loved ones at least one more time. That is also what authentic leaders

do. They care for others, thinking not less of themselves but thinking of themselves less. They willfully burden themselves with the responsibility of giving a damn. It is called humility and, at the end of the day, it matters. Plenty.

What is coming is the iceberg of collective disappointment, which will take a bit of time to reveal its critical mass. But it will be revealed. This, because the magnitude of the implications of what has already transpired within the last 30 days or so has yet to swim fully into view.

The scale of suffering, displacement, loss and the thuggish tactics that are spawned by those who do not regard their fellow human beings as anything but consumers, or pawns, or servants, or subjects, or worse, will not be lost on the tens of millions of voters who remain carriers of the light in the world—regardless of their politics or past votes. They will hold to liberty as the core defining mandate of the American Revolution, while also knowing deep in their souls that, in a free nation, any government that forgets the dignity, value and individual sovereignty of its citizens will not rule either well or long.

The billionaires' wealth only goes so far. Souls are priceless.

*Charles Luckey, a seasoned soldier, lawyer and engaged citizen, lives in Jackson Springs. He can be reached at doubleeaglesix@gmail.com. This article was originally published by The Pilot on Feb. 22. See more at thepilot.com. ✨*



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# Gainesville area events

## WEEK OF MAR 2-8

- Thu 3/6 **Women In Wine Tasting**, 6-9pm, Public & General (1000 NE 16th Ave), 6 wines from women-run/owned wineries, + entrée, \$25; [tinyurl.com/iguana9210](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9210)
- Fri 3/7 **"The Importance of Being Earnest"**, 7:30pm (through 3/14), UF Constans Theatre (1800 McCarty Dr), Oscar Wilde comedy classic, \$20 (UF students/faculty \$15); [tinyurl.com/iguana9179](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9179)
- Fri 3/7 **Gvl Zinefest 2025**, 5-7pm (& 12-6pm, 3/8 & 9), Civic Media Ctr (433 S Main St, 4/7 & 4/9) & Sequential Artists Workshop (1314 S Main St, 4/8), "Mapping Trans Joy" (masks required), \$10 suggested; pg 5 & [tinyurl.com/iguana9181](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9181)
- Fri 3/7 **Clubes de Escucha**, 6-8pm, Curia on the Drag (2029 NW 6th St), primer y tercer Viernes de cada mes; [clubesdeescucha.com](http://clubesdeescucha.com)
- Fri 3/7 **Uplift GNV Benefit Concert**, 6pm, 1st Magnitude Brewing (1220 SE Veitch St), supports mental health for musicians, free entry; [tinyurl.com/iguana9182](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9182)
- Sat 3/8 **Creek Cleanups**, 11am, starting at Hogtown Creek (behind Lowes on NW 13th St), also at noon at Springstead Creek & NW 13th St & NW 36th Pl at KFC & at 1pm, Springstead Creek off N. Main St. & NW 35th Ave, "go three blocks to the back", free 352-222-5727 or [cleanup@currentproblems.org](mailto:cleanup@currentproblems.org)
- Sat 3/8 **Poe Springs Plein Air Paint-Out**, 11am-4pm, Poe Springs Park (28800 NW 182nd Ave, High Springs), live painting + music, food trucks, Springs celebration, dog soccer, more, free; [tinyurl.com/iguana9183](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9183)
- Sat 3/8 **"An Evening with Frederick Douglass & Captain John Brown"**, 2pm, Matheson Museum (513 Univ Ave), dramatization of fiery history, free; <https://mathesonmuseum.org/events/>
- Sat 3/8 **Nowruz & Internat'l Festival**, 4-8pm, Thornebrooke (2441 NW 43rd St), Persian New Year celebration including music, dance & food of 9+ nations, free; [tinyurl.com/iguana9184](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9184)
- Sat 3/8 **"Harriet"**, 6:30-9pm, Cotton Club Museum (837 SE 7th Ave), screening of 2019 movie of Harriet Tubman's life, free (donations appreciated); [tinyurl.com/iguana9185](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9185)

## WEEK OF MAR 9-15

- Sun 3/9 **"Music in Survival: 80 Years After Auschwitz"**, 4-5pm, United Church of Gvl (1624 NW 5th Ave), concert of music composed in camps with ShabbaTones Chorus, \$20; <https://shabbatones.org>
- Sun 3/9 **"Courageous Young Voices"**, 4-7pm, Thomas Ctr (306 NE 6th Ave), ArtSpeaks presents teen poets

& storytellers, free; [artspeaksgnv.org/whathappening](http://artspeaksgnv.org/whathappening)

- Mon 3/10 **Fla Free Speech Forum**, 11:30am, Inst. of Culinary Arts at Eastside High School (1201 SE 43rd St), Dr AJ Jung on political dialog, free
- Tue 3/11 **PFLAG** meeting, 7pm, Pride Ctr (3850 NW 83rd St, Ste 201), parents & friends of lesbians and gays; [gainesvillepride.org](http://gainesvillepride.org)
- Tue 3/11 **Peking Acrobats**, 7:30pm, 7:30pm, UF Phillips Ctr (3201 Hull Rd), fantastic physical feats, \$25-45 (UF students \$12); [tinyurl.com/iguana9186](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9186)
- Wed 3/12 **Community Nights**, 6-9pm Wednesdays, South Main Station (619 S Main St), live music, kid & pet friendly, free; [tinyurl.com/iguana9187](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9187)
- Wed 3/12 **"The Alachua Phenomenon: Two Centuries of Florida's Eden"** opens, 7pm, Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Ave), Matheson's newest historic exhibit, free; <https://mathesonmuseum.org/events/>
- Wed 3/12 **"The Exile of the Musicians"**, 7pm, The Hipp (25 SE 2nd Pl), part of Gvl Jewish Film Festival (through 3/18), free; [tinyurl.com/iguana9188](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9188)
- Thu 3/13 **The Constitution**, 10:30am & 6pm, Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Ave), Alachua Democrats' civics class taught by Donna Waller, free; [tinyurl.com/iguana9189](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9189)
- Thu 3/13 **Artist Meetup**, 5:30-7pm, Gvl Fine Arts Ass'n Gallery (1314 S Main St), all artists & public welcome, free; [tinyurl.com/iguana9165](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9165)
- Thu 3/13 **Forward Focus**, 6-8pm, Jerusalem Church of God by Faith (1230 NE 156th Ave), planning for eastern Alachua County meeting comes to Monteocha, free; [tinyurl.com/iguana9190](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9190)
- Fri 3/14 **"The Magnificent Jumping Gulf Sturgeon"**, 6-7:30pm, Fla Springs Welcome Ctr (18645 Main St, High Springs), Dr. Ken Sulak on sturgeon science, free; [tinyurl.com/iguana9191](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9191)
- Fri 3/14 **"The Taming of the Shrew"** opens, 8pm (Fri-Sat, 2 pm Suns, through 4/6), Acrosstown Rep (3501 SW 2nd Ave), all-female cast in Shakespeare comedy, \$20 (srs)-25; [tinyurl.com/iguana9192](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9192)
- Sat 3/15 **Gvl Free Store**, noon-6pm, Civic Media Ctr (433 S Main St), free stuff for all (masks required); [civicmediacenter.org](http://civicmediacenter.org)
- Sat 3/15 **Less Than Jake**, 1pm, 1st Magnitude Brewing (1220 SE Veitch St), acoustic set, \$?; <https://fmbrewing.com>
- Sat 3/15 **Conservation Stewards Awards**, 5-9pm, Prairie Creek Lodge (7204 SE County Rd 234), dinner & music honoring friends of wild Florida, \$125; [tinyurl.com/iguana9193](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9193)
- Sat 3/15 **Seven Sides of Shakespeare**, 7:30-9:30pm, Theatre of Memory (1705

NW 6th St), Shamrock McShane's tales of The Bard, \$21.50; [tinyurl.com/iguana9194](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9194)

## WEEK OF MAR 16-22

- Sun, 3/16 Registration deadline for **Alachua County Citizens Academy** (free 8-week Thursday-mornings intro to county operations starting April 3); [tinyurl.com/iguana9195](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9195)
- Sun 3/16 **Sunday Assembly**, 11am, Pride Ctr (3850 NW 83rd St, Ste 201), Barbara Oberlander on "The Radical Woman on the Quarter: Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray", free; [sagainesville.weebly.com](http://sagainesville.weebly.com)
- Sun 3/16 **Climate & Energy Book Club**, 1:30-3pm, The Lynx Books (601 S Main St), on Michael Mann's "The New Climate War," free; pg 6
- Thu 3/20 **Banned Books Book Club**, 6-7pm, The Lynx Books (601 S Main St), on Jodi Picoult's *Nineteen Minutes*, free; [tinyurl.com/iguana9196](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9196)
- Fri 3/21 **"Ragtime: The Musical"** opens, time etc tba, through 4/13, \$12-24; [tinyurl.com/iguana9197](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9197)
- Fri 3/21 **Jazz Bandits**, 7pm, Cypress & Grove (1001 NW 4th St.), free; [cypressandgrove.com/calendar](http://cypressandgrove.com/calendar)
- Sat 3/22 **Garage Sale**, 7am-2pm, 2221 NE 12th St, benefits Gvl Roller Rebels; [tinyurl.com/iguana9211](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9211)
- Sat 3/22 **Kanapaha Spring Garden Festival**, 9am-5pm (also Sun), Kanapaha Botanical Gardens (4700 SW 58th Dr), 100 vendors, live music, garden tours, more (no animals), \$12 (\$7 kids 5-13); [tinyurl.com/iguana9198](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9198)
- Sat 3/22 **USAID & Trump** talk, 11am, Millhopper Branch Library (3145 NW 43rd St), Gvl UN Ass'n presents former USAID officer Rick Gold, free
- Sat 3/22 **"Single Black Female in the Navy"**, 7-9pm (also 3/23, 3pm), The Hipp (25 SE 2nd Pl), play set in 1980s, \$20-25; [tinyurl.com/iguana9199](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9199)

## WEEK OF MAR 23-29

- Sun 3/23 **Gvl Internat'l Guitar Showcase**, noon, Heartwood Soundstage (619 S Main St), open meet & workshops 12-4pm free, performances & presentations 4pm-on, \$15-100; [tinyurl.com/iguana9212](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9212)
- Sun 3/23 **Kristen Warren**, 10:30pm-1am, The Bull (18 SW 1st Ave), jazz singer/storyteller, \$20; [tinyurl.com/iguana9213](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9213)
- Mon 3/24 **Keb' Mo' & Shawn Colvin**, 6:30pm, Florida Theater (128 E Forsythe St, Jacksonville), legendary musicians, \$49.50-79.50; [tinyurl.com/iguana9214](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9214)
- Tue 3/25 **Alachua County Labor Coalition** meets, 6pm, Emmanuel Mennonite Church (1236 NW 18th Ave), open to all; [laborcoalition.org](http://laborcoalition.org)

- Wed 3/26 **Pre-Columbian Tech**, 7:30-9pm, Theatre of Memory (1705 NW 6th St), Nerd Night puts it all in context, free w/ RSVP; [tinyurl.com/iguana9200](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9200)
- Thu 3/27 **African Intellectual History**, “all day” 3/27, UF Reitz Union 3325 (655 Reitz Union Dr) & 3/28 UF Smathers Library E (1545 W Univ Ave), conference, free (registration required); [tinyurl.com/iguana9201](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9201)
- Thu 3/27 **“Agent of Happiness”**, 5-7pm, UF Pugh Hall Ocora (296 Buckman Dr), documentary & talk on Bhutan’s Gross National Happiness program, free; [tinyurl.com/iguana9202](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9202)
- Thu 3/27 **“Preserving Modernist Houses”**, 6-8pm, Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Ave), George Smart talk on architectural preservation, free (reservation ticket required); <https://gainesvillemodern.org>
- Thu 3/27 **Eriksen Quartet**, 6pm, Lightnin’ Salvage (), jazz; [tinyurl.com/iguana9214](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9214)
- Thu 3/27 **Jennifer Knapp**, 6-9pm, The Bull (18 SW 1st Ave), Australian Christian LGBTQ folk rocker, \$20-70; [tinyurl.com/iguana9215](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9215)
- Fri 3/28 **“Welcome to Florida”**, 6-7pm, The Lynx Books (601 S Main St), author/journalist Craig Pittman with author Cynthia Barnett, free; [tinyurl.com/iguana9203](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9203)
- Fri 3/28 **“Morning After Grace”**, 7-9pm (through 4/20), The Hipp (25 SE 2nd Pl), Fla retirement community rom-com, \$55; [tinyurl.com/iguana9204](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9204)
- Fri 3/28 **Alex Cuba**, 7-8:30pm & 9-10:30pm, UF Phillips Ctr (3201 Hull Rd), Latin guitar soloist, \$55 (7pm) & \$35 (9pm) (UF students \$12); [tinyurl.com/iguana9205](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9205)
- Fri 3/28 **Artwalk**, 7-10pm, downtown Gvl, free; pg 14 & [artwalkgainesville.com](http://artwalkgainesville.com)
- Sat 3/29 **Merfolk Fest**, 10am-7pm (& Sun, 10am-5pm), Rum 138 (2072 SW County Rd 138, Ft White), music, costume parade, conch blowing, more, \$20, \$30 for weekend pass; pg 11 & <https://rum138.com/events-1>
- Sat 3/29 **“Remember Hope”**, 7pm, First United Methodist Church (419 NE 1st St), choral concert celebrating 200th anniversary of Alachua County, free; <https://fumcgnv.org/remember>
- Sat 3/29 **Ted McVay**, 7:30-9:30pm, Theatre of Memory (1705 NW 6th St), quirky original songs, \$21.50; [tinyurl.com/iguana9206](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9206)
- Sat 3/29 **Indie Night**, 8pm, The Wooly (20 N Main St), Madwoman/Rohna/The Nancys/Noise Next Door, \$13 adv/\$15 door; [tinyurl.com/iguana9216](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9216)

## WEEK OF MAR 30-APR 8

- Sun 3/30 **Blues on the Patio**, 7-9pm, A. Quinn Jones Ctr (1013 NW 7th Ave), local artists perform, free; [tinyurl.com/iguana9207](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9207)
- Sun 3/30 **Hope Fest**, 1-5pm, Heartwood Soundstage (619 S Main St), Women for

Democracy poetry, music, & hope event, free; pg 5

- Tue 4/3 **Survivors of Violence Art Exhibit** reception, 4-6pm, Harn Museum (3259 Hull Rd), recognizing artists in exhibit shown Apr 1-30, free; <https://harn.ufl.edu>
- Fri 4/4 **Bard & Broadside Poetry Festival** opens, runs 4/4-13, starts with “The BIG Read” text & image workshop at downtown library (401 E Univ Ave) & events there, at Thomas Ctr & Bo Diddley Plaza, etc, some featuring renowned local poet Lola Haskins, free; [tinyurl.com/iguana8217](http://tinyurl.com/iguana8217)
- Fri 4/4 **Local Playwright Festival**, times tba (4/4-6), Acrostown Rep (3501 SW 2nd Ave), theme: “Art of Adaptation”; [tinyurl.com/iguana9208](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9208)
- Fri 4/4 **“History of Black Cowboys/Girls in Florida”**, 6pm (4/5, 11am-4pm), Cotton Club Museum (837 SE 7th Ave), fun parts of Florida’s hidden history, free; pg 32 & [cottonclubmuseum.com/events](http://cottonclubmuseum.com/events)
- Fri 4/4 **Free Fridays Concerts** resume, 7-9pm thru 9/26, bands tba, free; [tinyurl.com/iguana9209](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9209)
- Sat 4/5 **Living History**, 9:30am-1:30pm (1st Sats through 5/3), Morningside Nature Ctr (3540 E Univ Ave), historical farm life, free; [tinyurl.com/iguana9151](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9151)
- Sat 4/5 **How Bazar Street Market**, 6-10pm, How Bazar (60 SW 2nd Ave)
- Sun 4/6 **John Prine Matinee**, 1:30pm, Heartwood Soundstage (619 S Main St), 13 acts, sliding scale \$0-10; pg 4 & [tinyurl.com/iguana9218](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9218)

## RECURRING EVENTS

- Monday Farmers Market**, 4-8pm: Cypress & Grove
- Saturday Farmers Market**, 8:30-noon, 5920 NW 13th St
- Thursday evening Poetry Jam**, 8pm at Civic Media Center
- Civic Media Center volunteer meetings**, 1st & 3rd Wednesday, at CMC (433 S Main St) & via Zoom
- Peace Pickets**, 4:30-5:30pm every Tuesday, sidewalk at Fresh Market (4120 NW 16th Blvd), signs provided or byo
- Gainesville official and public meetings**: <https://www.gainesvillefl.gov/Government-Pages/Government/Public-Meeting-Participation/Public-Meeting-Calendar>
- County official and public meetings**: [alachuacounty.us/events/Pages/default.aspx](http://alachuacounty.us/events/Pages/default.aspx)
- Public Astronomy Night**, 8:30-10pm Fridays when fall/spring semester classes in session, SFC Campus Teaching Observatory (see link for map), free; [tinyurl.com/iguana9054](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9054)
- Democratic Women’s Club** meets 3rd Mondays, 11:30am (except Dec & Jan), B’Nai Israel (3830 NW 16th Blvd); [gvilleddoris@hotmail.com](mailto:gvilleddoris@hotmail.com)
- Clubes de Escucha**, 6-8pm, Curia on the Drag (2029 NW 6th St), primer y tercer Viernes de cada mes; [clubesdeescucha.com](http://clubesdeescucha.com)

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

**Food Pantry**, Tue/Wed/Fri 10am-4pm Mon/Thu 12-4pm, UF HealthStreet (2401 SW Archer Rd), free, best choice available Mons & Thurs (health interview requested for repeat membership); 352-294-4880 & [facebook.com/UFHealthStreet](https://facebook.com/UFHealthStreet)

**Artist Meetup**, 5:30-7pm 2nd Thurs, Gvl Fine Arts Ass’n (1314 S Main St), exhibit & conversation, free; [gainesvillefinearts.org](http://gainesvillefinearts.org)

**Jazz on Main St**, 7-10pm on 3rd Thursdays, Gainesville Fine Arts Ass’n (1314 S Main St), free; [gainesvillefinearts.org](http://gainesvillefinearts.org)

**Basement Sessions**, 7pm, The Hipp Basement (25 SE 2nd Pl), mostly jazz, \$10 sliding scale; [thehipp.org/events](http://thehipp.org/events)

## 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 6:30pm

**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 9pm

**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 7:30pm

## OTHER CALENDARS

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.

**Live Community Music**, Wednesdays, 8pm Heartwood Soundstage inside & out

See [visitgainesville.com/events](http://visitgainesville.com/events) for an event list, updated Thursdays; also try [352arts.org](http://352arts.org); and don’t forget [civicmediacenter.org](http://civicmediacenter.org)!

More than we can list each month at **The Lynx**: [thelynxbooks.com/events](http://thelynxbooks.com/events)

**Art House films**: [thehipp.org/cinema-3](http://thehipp.org/cinema-3) 🐊



# Iguana Directory

Call 352-378-5655 or email [gainesvilleiguana@cox.net](mailto: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](http://AlachuaAudubon.org) | [facebook.com/AlachuaAudubon/](https://www.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](http://AlachuaConservationTrust.org)

**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](mailto:info@laborcoalition.org) | [LaborCoalition.org](http://LaborCoalition.org)

**Alachua County Organization for Rural Needs Clinic** is a not-for-profit in Brooker providing low-cost, high-quality dental care for people with and without health insurance to Alachua, Bradford and Union County residents. The Clinic fulfills its mission with the help of volunteers. 352-485-2772 | [acornclinic.org](http://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](mailto:firstcoastaclu@gmail.com).

[com | northeastflorida.aclufl.org](http://northeastflorida.aclufl.org)

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

## From COUP, p. 1

- The unconstitutional attempt to end birthright citizenship (and what media casually call a “test to the limits of Presidential authority”)
- Suing media and companies to get them to comply and give him money,
- Overt intimidation of government workers and asking for “loyalty”
- The legal but terrifying pardoning of violent insurrectionists—the first time any sitting president has freed thugs who helped them seize power.

These all add up to what Robert Reich describes:

“Make no mistake. These initiatives are *not* about shrinking the size of the federal government. They’re about centralizing control of the federal government in Trump’s hands.

“Trump’s attempted takeover of the US government is itself part of a larger strategy to replace American democracy with an oligarchy.

**“Patriots don’t support wanna be kings. We defeat them. Patriots don’t support authoritarians. We fight them. Patriots don’t support wars of conquest. We end them.”**

- David Hogg

Vice chair of the Democratic National Committee and survivor of the Stoneman Douglas High School shooting

“Concentrated power promotes concentrated wealth, just as concentrated wealth promotes concentrated power. The two are symbiotic.

“Bernie Sanders described the situation succinctly (or watch him on Instagram):

“In the first two weeks of his Presidency, Donald Trump defied the constitution—by ending birthright citizenship, firing government watchdogs, allowing drilling along our coastlines, pardoning violent insurrectionists, suspending all foreign aid and trying to cut off virtually all federal funding.

“Most importantly, the move toward oligarchy in our country—a government run by the rich and the powerful—is proceeding rapidly. And it’s not being done secretly.

“A little over a week ago [editor’s note: in the following weeks the pattern described here accelerated], Donald Trump was inaugurated for his second term. Standing right behind him were the three richest men in the world (Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, Mark Zuckerberg). Men who have become over \$200 billion richer since Trump was elected and *who are now worth almost \$1 trillion—more money than the bottom half of American society, 170 million people.*

“But it’s not just oligarchy that we should worry about. *This country under Trump is moving rapidly towards authoritarianism.*

“Just a few examples: In violation of the

Constitution and federal law, Trump attempted the other day to suspend all federal grants and loans. That means he blocked funding for Medicaid, food stamps, Head Start, homeless veterans, etc, etc. Tens of millions of Americans, some of the most vulnerable people in our country were impacted by that decision.

“Fortunately, Americans all across the country stood up in outrage and said no, no. And with the help of the courts, much but not all of that freeze and funding was rescinded.

“You may have noticed that Trump is intimidating the media with lawsuits against ABC, CBS, Meta, and the Des Moines Register.

“If Trump does not like what the media reports, he is threatening them with lawsuits and undermining the first amendment. *This is a direct movement toward authoritarianism.*”

*Choose Democracy shares practical actions and lessons from around the globe to fight authoritarians. Sanders’ talk is available on Instagram at [tinyurl.com/Iguana4171](https://www.tinyurl.com/Iguana4171). See more at [choosedemocracy.us](http://choosedemocracy.us).*

*Editors’ Note: In this Iguana are views from different quarters of our society. Get ready to both resist and to assist those affected in the coming period until we can claw back to a semblance of what we had (flawed as it was). 🐊*

**Baker Interfaith Friends Volunteers** visits people in immigration detention in Baker County, volunteers welcome! Contact: bakerinterfaithfriends@gmail.com or on Facebook.

**Black Graduate Student Organization** helps UF Black graduate and professional students foster meaningful and lasting relationships that aid in academic achievement and success. bgsoutuf@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/NCForidaDSA

**Citizens Climate Lobby** builds awareness and lobbies for sensible climate policies. 352-214-1778 | btancig@gmail.com | citizensclimatelobby.org/chapters/FL\_Gainesville | facebook.com/CitizensClimateLobbyGainesvilleFL

**Civic Media Center** is an alternative reading room and library of the non-corporate press, and a resource and space for organizing. 433 S Main St., Gainesville | 352-373-0010 | civicmediacenter.org | coordinators@civicmediacenter.org |

**The Climate Reality Project Gainesville Area Chapter** is the local chapter of an international nonprofit group dedicated to accelerating urgent action globally on the climate crisis. Join the chapter (see website) for news, action alerts, meeting alerts. ClimateRealityProjectgmv@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 | alachua Dems.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@fam.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

**Flipping the System** is a non-profit organization dedicated to eradicating sexual violence on campuses. Through educational programming and events, FTS believes that a future free of sexual violence is possible. www.flippingthesystem.org | flippingthesystemtoday@gmail.com | @flippingthesystem | 954-589-7626

**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. climateralityprojectgmv@gmail.com | @climateralityprojectgmv | climateralityprojectgmv.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: @gmvbooks2prisoners. Donate funds at paypal.com/gmvb2p.

**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

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

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

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

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

**Gainesville Stamp Club**, established in the 1960's, is open to 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

**Gainesville Women for Democracy**, previously Gainesville Women for Harris, are a group of women whose number one focus is to build coalitions with like-minded groups and individuals for the purpose of strengthening our communities, including surrounding rural counties, and preserving our democracy. Contact Julie Thaler via Facebook Messenger.

**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

**Greater Gainesville International Center** celebrates and elevates our diverse international community by serving as a hub between cultural, economic, educational and governmental partners, to unlock the full potential of our unique global city. Programs include 10 sister cities and refugee

resettlement. Lauren Poe | poe@gnvc.org | 352-871-0895.

**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@lww-alachua.org | LWValachua.org

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

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

**Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America** is a grassroots organization working to end gun violence by electing gun sense candidates, advocating for policies that save lives, educating parents on responsible gun

storage. Alachua County events listed at momsdemandaction.org/events

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

**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. gainesvillengl@gmail.com | nlgl.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 | nw1@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

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

**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 LGBTQ+ community. 3850 NW 83rd St, 2nd floor, Gnv. Pccncf@gainesville.pride.org | GainesvillePride.org. Library & community room open Mon-Thu 9am-7pm, Fri 9am-5pm (unstaffed).

**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

**Sandhill Chapter, Florida Trail Association** is the local organization to develop, maintain, protect, and promote the Florida National Scenic Trail, a 1,500 mile federally designated trail beginning at big Cypress National Preserve and ending at Gulf Islands National Seashore. 352-378-8823 | Floridatrail.org/Sandhill | Facebook.com/SandhillChapterFTA

**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

**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

**Sierra Club, Suwannee-St. John** 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 | @uf\_ydsa

**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-USA Gainesville FL.org

**United Way Information & Referral** is a human-staffed computer database for resources and organizations in Alachua County. 352-332-4636 or simply 211 | UW211help@gmail.com | unitedwayncfl.org

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

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

**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. 🐊



# Florida's Black cowboys, cowgirls

The Cotton Club Museum is presenting the second Annual "History of Black Cowboys/Cowgirls in Florida: Then and Now."

Did you know that Florida has a long history of Black Cowboys and Cowgirls dating back to the 1500s? No? Well, this is just one example of the history most of us never learned in school. However, on Friday and Saturday, April 4 and 5, that history will come alive at Gainesville's Cotton Club Museum and Cultural Center.

**Friday, April 4, 6 pm**

John H. Nix and Rick Wallace, will tell their stories as longtime ranchers and cowboys in our area. The presentations are accompanied by a walk-thru photo exhibit showcasing the history of Black cowboys and cowgirls in Florida. Their stories span from West Africa in the 1600s to Mexico and Spanish Florida before Florida became a state.

John Nix, President of the North Central

Florida Black Farmers Association, is a fourth-generation cattleman and horseman who manages his own 100-acre farm. Rick Wallace is a rodeo organizer who works with young cowboys and cowgirls to teach them knowledge and skills to participate in rodeo events.

**Saturday, April 5, 11am - 4pm**

This will be a day of fun and education.

Everyone—kids to adults—can see the horses up close on the CCMCC grounds managed by experienced horse handlers. Learn about their care and feeding, hop on a horse for a guided ride, and see demonstrations of roping and lassoing skills. Local groups will have displays on farming, agriculture, local history, and related topics.

The popular dance group *Smooth Flava* led by Wanda Lloyd, will lead us through the fun of square and line dancing. Enjoy delicious barbecue and fried fish served by local vendors.

Put on your favorite cowboy/cowgirl outfits or casual wear. Join others who want a richer appreciation of this vibrant local history. And even feed or make friends with a horse.

This two-day event is free and open to the public. Food may be purchased from vendors.


Register in advance at: [CottonClubMuseum.com/events](http://CottonClubMuseum.com/events).

The Cotton Club Museum and Cultural Center is located at 837 SE 7th Avenue in Gainesville.

For more information contact Committee Chair Barbara McDade Gordon at [bmcdade07@gmail.com](mailto:bmcdade07@gmail.com)



## BLACK COWBOYS & COWGIRLS IN FLORIDA— THEN AND NOW



★ **Friday, 6 p.m.** ★

*A History of Black Cowboys & Cowgirls in Florida: Then and Now*

John H. Nix, President of North Central Florida Black Farmers Association and Rick Wallace, Rodeo Organizer

Panorama: A Walk-thru Exhibit  
Movie & Popcorn



★ **Saturday, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.** ★

**Inside and Outside Activities All Day  
Fun for All Ages**

Horses on the grounds: Meet and ride the horses, take a photo on horseback

How to care for horses: Saddling, feeding, and grooming

Lasso & roping demonstrations

*Smooth Flava* square and line dancing

Cowboy and Cowgirl Western Wear

Local Vendors. BBQ & Fried Fish

Music




Free Events. Tell us you're coming! Register online at: [CottonClubMuseum.com/events](http://CottonClubMuseum.com/events)


**Two-Day Extravaganza**


**April 4-5, 2025**

For more information please contact: [bmcdade07@gmail.com](mailto:bmcdade07@gmail.com)



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





# The Gainesville Iguana

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