



No kings! No dictators!

The enemy within?

by James Greenberg

I watched the CBS coverage in stunned silence. Trump stood before a room of military officers, invoking “the enemy within” and proposing that American cities be repurposed as training grounds for domestic combat. The words weren’t metaphorical. They were operational. And as they landed, I recoiled — not only in horror, but in a deeper, more disorienting sadness. Is this where we’re going?

It wasn’t just the rhetoric. It was the reclassification: dissent reframed as insurgency, cities recoded as battlegrounds, the military recast from a steward of defense into an instrument of internal enforcement. The structural shift was not subtle. It signaled a collapse of civic motifs that once marked the boundary between politics and war.

Trump’s recent language points toward a model of governance that treats dissent as insurgency. His definition of the “enemy within” is intentionally vague, shifting from day to day depending on who stands in his way. At times it is Democratic leaders like Adam Schiff or Nancy Pelosi, at times city governments, and at other moments judges, bureaucrats, or journalists. The category shifts by design. Its vagueness is the source of its usefulness.

In anthropology, words are not just descriptions. They are practices that shape reality. To call someone an “enemy within” is to reclassify them. It redraws the boundary of belonging, transforming neighbors into adversaries and dissent into betrayal. This is cultural work carried out through

language, and its effect is to redefine citizenship itself.

At Quantico, speaking to military officers, Trump warned that “the enemy from within” would be their responsibility to confront. The remark was deliberate, meant as a signal. By invoking a domestic “enemy,” he collapsed the civic frame of politics into the military frame of war. Opposition was no longer disagreement among citizens but a threat to be suppressed.

Ambiguity has a purpose. It allows him to raise the specter of treason without proof.

It creates a climate of fear where loyalty is constantly tested. It recalls McCarthy-era tactics, though now suspicion can be converted into action almost instantly through executive orders and mass media. From an anthropological view, this is a ritual of exclusion: vague accusations become a means of producing solidarity among insiders while pushing others to the margins.

The consequences extend beyond rhetoric. Trump has floated renaming the Department of Defense as the Department of War,

See ENEMY, p. 24

City voters, Yes GRU Nov 4



by Susan Bottcher, Gainesville
Residents United, Vice President

HOW WE GOT HERE

Those with long memories know the fight to protect the citizens’ rights to determine how GRU is governed started in 2013.

That year the Chamber of Commerce created an Energy Study Group that conducted its own (uninvited) review and analysis of GRU. Their 77-page Energy Competitiveness Report made four recommendations,

three of which the City Commission immediately implemented. The fourth demanded an independent board to govern GRU. The Chamber asserted a board independent of the Commission is the only avenue to reducing electric rates.

That same year the Florida Municipal Electric Association was asked to give a presentation to the Chamber and the Commission on the issues of rates and governance. After comparing the various forms of utility ownership (i.e., municipal, investor owned, co-ops) and governance structures they concluded, “no form of governance guarantees low rates.”

Still unsatisfied, the Chamber asked then-State Representative Keith Perry to take legislative action. He created a GRU governance bill, but it failed in the 2014 session.

See GRU, p. 18



Over 150 people attended the book release event for “PubNotes 2012-2025” on Oct. 1 at the First Magnitude Brewery. Photo by Chuck Ross.

In this issue...

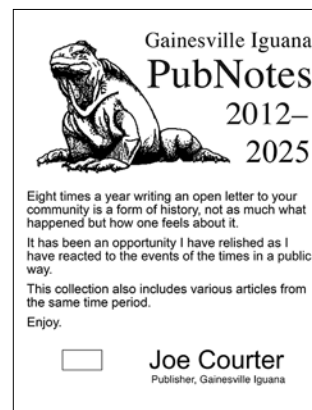


The enemy within?	1
Yes GRU Nov. 4	1
Pub Notes 2012-2025 book release	2
Publisher Notes	3
Federal workers declare five-alarm fires	4
Biggest union-busting ever	5
Legislative update	6
No kings	6
Senators/Representatives contact info	7
Social Security calls to action	8
Bernie on the American media	8
What can you do?	10
Keep Gator workers cool, save the trees	11
Medicare Expansion petition	12
Editors' picks	13
Thanks from the publisher	13
Trump's NSPM-7 (national security directive)	14
On Charlie Kirk	16
And the good news is	17
Ketchup and free speech	20
Recommended blogs/web sites	21
Oral History Program: Judy Hudson	22
Gainesville area events	26
Iguana directory	28
Spotlight on Sunrise Movement Gainesville	28
Fight to save RTS continues	32

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.

PubNotes 2012-2025



Oct. 1 marked the release of PubNotes 2012–2025 with a book launch at First Magnitude Brewery. The book is 180 pages, with all of the Publisher Notes from that period plus an assortment of articles that appeared during that time. Over 75 books were sold, a very gratifying experience to see so many friends and have so much support.

The event coincided with the day marking 50 years since I drove into Gainesville, my stuff packed in the car, and launched the next chapter of my life. And here I still am. Thank you, Gainesville, Florida, for being exactly the right place for me to land! Now I need to see if I need to do another hundred copies of the book!! Send an email or text and let me know if you are interested. ~ Joe Courter, Publisher

Want your article, ad, event or PSA in the November Iguana?
(Due to come out Thursday, Nov. 13)

Deadline is Wednesday, Nov. 5

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

Hey, Readers!

We are now accepting both Venmo (gnv-iguana) and PayPal (gainesvilleiguana@cox.net) donations.

Links to both can be found on our website:
www.GainesvilleIguana.org

Fear Factor/Heightened Concern

Things are moving really fast right now, and I am much more concerned about this country slipping further into an authoritarian Christo-Fascist regime than ever.

Lawlessness by the government is rampant, unconstitutional edicts and actions are everywhere, firing, budget cuts, punishing Blue states with grant cutbacks. Look what we have in ICE, founded in 2003 in the civil liberties crackdowns we got from George W Bush & Co after the September 11 attacks. Many on the Left saw ICE as a danger right from the get go. It has now morphed into bands of well-armed, masked virtual gangs snatching people off the street. Its budget is hugely expanded, it is a frickin' army unto itself, a para-military organization overruling local police. I do not know, and I have not seen any speculation, of how something like that can be decommissioned were we to actually get the votes to turn the government around.

All that had already been in my head, a great cause of concern. But that wasn't what really triggered my larger concern now. It was the lionization of Charlie Kirk, and the knee-jerk outpouring of sympathy for a young guy, gunned down who's now icon but who most people had hardly heard of before. Who was he? He was a well-funded and paid political operative of the Right, coached up over the last dozen years into a recruiter of young men and women with a big manufactured platform called Turning Point USA, hosting big conferences, and running slick messaging from social media platforms. He was a glib showman, a skilled rhetorician able to create well-edited sound bites as he would ambush college speaking tour questioners, and turn their flustering into videos for his social media platforms. He would gleefully spout sexism, racism and homophobia, which had influence with his followers. He was no hero to me. But the shocking moment of his death, played on screens over and over, is as traumatic a generational moment as 9/11, or for my generation JFK, Bobby Kennedy and the Mi Lai massacre.

His death became the focus of a very opportunistic campaign to create a Christian martyr, as his funeral repeatedly showcased. The rapid and unfounded blaming of the Left became a driving force in the messaging from the MAGA sphere, amplifying what was already being stated. But another thing caught my attention, especially regarding young men. Yes, some are into the Christian Right, others, exemplified by the Groyper, are leaning much more White Nationalist and violent, and related to the Proud Boys who were key to the January 6 insurrection. Some seem more just flat nihilistic, and just want to create havoc or simply mess with culture that they reject. This is all thriving below the surface on social media, facilitated by video gaming culture, and manifesting in the warped motivations of these shooters and attackers. Common bond in all them? They don't like the Left, or Liberals. Some may lean Libertarian, as was the young guy who shot up an ICE detention center, only hitting prisoners, and who supposedly had written "ANTI-ICE" on the bullets. That anti Left view is of course primary in MAGA: "F. the Libs."

As Kirk's death is played as a Horst Wessel Reichstag (see eds pix on p. 13) moment, then the follow-up to that time 90 years ago was a lot more violence. Now with unwanted troops and ICE going places where they are not welcomed (or truthfully not needed), into LA, Chicago and Memphis, the danger of right-wing-incited violence is rising. Old riot footage of Portland in 2020 was used as if current by Fox news.

I am not sure there are enough Republicans in power that are willing to switch sides to make a difference, but I keep hoping. The Generals all got a firsthand view of Trump and Hegseth, maybe they can exert some influence. And I am not sure proclaiming a massive work stoppage and "hitting the streets" would help...heck they are willing to shut the government down on their own! We are in a mess.

The vulnerable people among us have every right to be fearful. Those not threatened or fearful have all the more reason to step up their resistance. Stay healthy, stay safe, but do what you can. 🐢



Joe Courter

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The Gainesville Iguana is Alachua County's independent progressive newsletter.
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Federal workers declare five-alarm fires at agencies

by Jenny Brown

Braving retaliation, thousands of federal workers across six agencies have signed open letters charging that their workplaces are being hamstrung or dismantled by the Trump administration. They join federal unionists at dozens more workplaces who have been sounding the alarm to Congress and the public.

When deadly flooding in central Texas killed 135 people in July, “FEMA’s mission to provide critical support was obstructed by leadership who not only question the agency’s existence but place uninformed cost-cutting above serving the American people,” wrote 155 Federal Emergency Management Agency workers on Aug. 25.

A third of FEMA’s staff were either fired or have resigned so far this year.

The unprecedented public letters from workers at FEMA, NASA, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, and the Centers for Disease Control express outrage and dismay that their work protecting the public is being wrecked by know-nothing administrators and trashed by political lackeys.

HEALTH THREATENED

Over a thousand workers at the Department of Health and Human Services wrote Congress Sept. 3 demanding the resignation of HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. “Our oath requires us to speak out when the Constitution is violated and the American people are put at risk,” the health workers wrote. “We warn the president, Congress, and the public that Secretary Kennedy’s actions are compromising the health of this nation.”

That letter came after Kennedy rescinded authorization for the Covid-19 vaccine without explanation. He fired the director of the Centers for Disease Control, Susan Monarez, when she objected. Then federal guards removed three additional top CDC officials from their Atlanta offices on Aug. 28.

National Nurses United wrote in August that Kennedy “has maligned federal health workers, tried to strip HHS workers of their collective bargaining rights, fired experts from CDC’s vaccine advisory committee and replaced them with vaccine critics, cancelled millions of dollars



Environmental Protection Agency workers and supporters rallied in New York City in July after 139 workers were put on leave for signing a letter to agency head Lee Zeldin and Congress saying the agency’s mission was being undermined. Now some have been fired. Photo by Jenny Brown.

in research into mRNA vaccines [and] spread lies about vaccines.” NNU is the largest nurses union in the U.S.

The American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) also issued a strong warning July 28. They called cuts and reorganization of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, including the Food Safety and Inspection Service, “a direct and catastrophic threat to our nation’s food supply” — and a threat to farmers and ranchers who rely on the Department.

The reorganization plans seem designed to drive experienced workers out of the agency. Many will leave their jobs rather than “uproot their families for lower pay in unfamiliar locations,” AFGE President Everett Kelley wrote in a letter to Congress. AFGE represents 800,000 government workers, including thousands at USDA.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

When Trump cut 90 percent of the workforce at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, union members pointed out that gutting the Institute is “a blow to every worker in the country.” NIOSH assembles the data that OSHA uses to regulate dangers at work.

“It harms the research on cancer prevention for firefighters, on preventing workplace violence, on the development of exposure limits for new chemicals used in industry,” wrote Micah Niemeier-Walsh, vice president of AFGE Local 3840. Niemeier-Walsh is a member of the Federal Unionists Network, which has been organizing federal unions to fight back collaboratively.

In July, Environmental Protection Agency

workers signed a public letter addressed to EPA administrator Lee Zeldin, warning that “this administration is recklessly undermining the EPA mission” and “directly contradicting EPA’s own scientific assessments on human health risks, most notably regarding asbestos, mercury, and greenhouse gases.” EPA faces a 54 percent budget cut.

VA FIGHT BACK

Veterans and veteran health care workers have pressured the Department of Veterans Affairs to back away from some planned cuts. Seventeen thousand workers have been terminated, but the agency has shelved its stated goal of an 83,000-worker reduction in force (around 15 percent). Workers say VA hospitals were already understaffed.

At the Internal Revenue Service, too, the Trump administration has backed off from plans to cut 40 percent of the workforce, though it has terminated at least 7,000 IRS workers (7 percent).

VA health workers charge that the administration is trying to bypass the VA by sending veterans to outside clinics and hospitals. But at a D.C. rally July 6, nurses and federal workers argued that, in the words of Andrea Johnson of NNU, “our outside hospital systems are already overrun.”

“Instead of taking money from the VA [to go to private clinics], hire more people ... so the veterans can have those services,” Tampa VA nurse Justin Wooden told the rally.

LOST IN SPACE

In July, hundreds of National Aeronautics and Space Administration workers signed

a letter to Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy, warning that management actions “waste public resources, compromise human safety, weaken national security, and undermine the core NASA mission.”

They denounced “indiscriminate cuts,” writing that “basic research in space science, aeronautics, and the stewardship of the Earth are inherently governmental functions that cannot and will not be taken up by the private sector.”

The Trump administration plans budget cuts that will destroy two currently orbiting climate satellites that are key to assessing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

ILLEGAL RETALIATION

Federal workers have the right to speak out on their own time and in an individual capacity. NASA workers can initiate a formal dissent, and whistleblowers are protected by law.

But after 139 EPA workers signed their letter to EPA Administrator Zeldin, they were forced onto administrative leave for two weeks and put “under investigation” for undermining the goals of the administration.

At least eight were fired, and some are still appealing their forced leaves. “This was plain and simple retaliation for protected activity to promote a culture of loyalty,” said one EPA worker, who asked for anonymity to speak freely. “Zeldin was on Fox News on July 2 saying how he’ll get rid of anyone who undermines Trump’s agenda.”

Three dozen of the FEMA workers who signed their letter were also put on administrative leave. They have argued that the letter is covered by whistleblower protections, since they are pointing out violations of the law, and that retaliation for that is illegal.

Trump fired FEMA’s acting head in May when he expressed the opinion to Congress that the agency should not be abolished.

LESSONS FROM DISASTERS

At many agencies, improvements that had been spurred by past disasters are now being reversed, workers argue. And that is setting the stage for future tragedies.

FEMA was shown to be ineffectual after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita destroyed New Orleans and the nearby Gulf Coast in 2005, killing 2,000 people. Congress passed a law reworking the agency and requiring that FEMA’s administrator have five years of disaster management experience (George W. Bush’s appointee at the time, Michael

Brown, had none). The law also bans meddling by Homeland Security.

The FEMA workers’ August 25 letter pointed out that Trump has ignored the law, appointing another inexperienced person to head the agency. Meanwhile, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem has been holding up FEMA funds. The administration argues that FEMA’s duties should be devolved to the states.

At NASA, too, a disaster led to reform. Space Shuttle Columbia broke up on re-entry in 2003, killing all seven astronauts on board. Workers who believed that protective tiles damaged during ascent would make re-entry dangerous had been intimidated into silence. After that, the agency created stronger protections for workers to speak out.

But now, NASA workers said in their letter to Duffy, “the culture of organizational silence promoted at NASA over the last

six months already represents a dangerous turn away from the lessons learned following the Columbia disaster.”

Meanwhile, the administration is claiming that federal workers can no longer have unions, for national security reasons (see box below).

“Not everybody loses their power and their voice at once, it goes step by step,” said Joseph Allen, a member of the Treasury Employees (NTEU) Chapter 66 at IRS in Kansas City. “Everybody’s got to stand in solidarity now.”

Allen said that union efforts are vital: “If they take away the power from the unions, they’re going to take away power from management, they’re going to take away the agencies. This is to save what we have of our republic.”

This article was originally published by Labor Notes on Sept. 23. See more at labornotes.org. ✨

Biggest union-busting ever

Over six months in office, the Trump administration has engaged in the largest union-busting effort in memory, using executive orders to try to cancel contracts for nearly a million federal workers. In addition, agencies that private sector workers and unions rely on — OSHA, the NLRB — are being gutted. It’s all part of Trump’s billionaires-first agenda.

As a result of the executive orders, agency heads no longer recognize the union for about half a million workers. Other agencies are still in court, or have not acted on the orders yet. At the IRS, for example, the agency stopped collecting dues, but workers still are able to take “official time” to do union work.

The latest executive order came just before Labor Day, stripping workers at six more agencies of union protection.

The administration claims that everyone from janitors to environmental regulators can’t have a union because they are “determined to have as a primary function intelligence, counterintelligence, investigative, or national security work.”

They claim that these workers are so important to national security that they can’t have a union. Yet they’re not too essential to terminate: The administration has inflicted drastic cuts on nearly every agency.

CORPORATE PROTECTION RACKET

When Trump ordered mass federal firings starting in January, the Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), the Treasury Employees Union (NTEU), and other unions representing federal workers sued to stop him. Then Trump turned to attacking the unions, which sued again, charging that they were being targeted as retaliation.

The agencies first to be attacked were those that restrain corporations from doing damage to the public, such as the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

The cuts also target agencies that provide cheap or free public services that for-profit corporations seek to replace, in whole or in part: The Postal Service, the National Weather Service, Veterans Affairs, Medicare, the National Park Service, and Social Security. ✨

Legislative update

Reckoning with what's been done, preparing for what's next

by Jason Bellamy-Fulfs,
Recording Secretary, IBEW Local
1205, proud member of the North
Central Florida Central Labor Council

Though the Florida Legislative Session doesn't begin until mid-January and there's a whole lot of holidayin' between now and then, our legislators and their corporate sponsors are already well under way. Legislative committee meetings begin in just a few weeks.

Per Progress Florida:

State legislative delegation meetings (town halls) happen in each county and bring together Florida House and Senate members representing any part of that county. These open forums are scheduled before the Legislative Session begins at the Florida Capitol in Tallahassee on Jan. 13, 2026. They offer a unique chance for local communities (nonprofits, businesses, stakeholders, and constituents) to express their priorities to elected officials. This is your opportunity to speak to your representatives about the issues important to you and your family.

Progress Florida has also created a webpage, <https://progressflorida.org/florida-town-halls/>, which includes a map that provides details on all of the planned town halls throughout the state as well as "talking points/messaging on issues like the economy, health care, and the environment, and best practices for giving an impactful testimony."

Alachua County's town hall will take place Oct. 20 at 1pm at Santa Fe College's main campus (3000 NW 83rd St, Gainesville). The most recent notice I saw online said "for information or to be added to agenda contact treibner.jennifer@flsenate.gov (Office of Rep. Johnson)." Other town halls are also planned for Clay, Levy, Marion, and Putnam counties, among others.

These town halls are not necessarily sleepy affairs. You may remember that at the town hall earlier this year, newly-elected Rep. Chad Johnson proposed a new GRU bill for this year's legislative session. That bill was created at the request of GRU's current overlords and would have strengthened their position in response to an overwhelming 73

percent of Gainesville voters who wished to disband the GRU Authority. Johnson withdrew the legislation in the face of swift and overwhelming community backlash, but when asked at the recent Newberry town hall whether he would resurrect such legislation again this year, he didn't rule it out.

Given that this town hall takes place just days before a second scheduled referendum on this same topic, it will be very interesting to see what Rep. Johnson (or others) bring forward this time.

Particularly given the increasingly heavy-handed role that our state legislature and Governor have been choosing to take in the local affairs of our communities, it's more important than ever to be aware of who our state legislators are and what they're up to.

What follows is a continuation of our recap of the 2025 Florida legislative session and what it meant for working Floridians. Our emphasis has been on the Alachua County legislative delegation, but a similar methodology can be applied to other counties throughout our state. Hopefully this will help prime folks for

NO KINGS

2.0



SPEAKERS MUSIC COMMUNITY

OCTOBER 18, 2025

CORA ROBERSON PARK

10 AM - 12 PM

**SHUTTLE SERVICE: Depot Park lot, School District
lot (Univ Ave/NE 7th St), Bo Diddley corner**

NORTH CENTRAL FL INDIVISIBLE
GAINESVILLE WOMEN FOR DEMOCRACY
DEMOCRATIC WOMENS CLUB ALACHUA CO.
BADASS FEMINISTS GAINESVILLE

No Kings 2.0

A peaceful, nonviolent day of resistance, Oct. 18

by Jyoti Parmar, North Central Florida Indivisible

On Saturday, Oct. 18, join us (NCF Indivisible, Gainesville Women for Democracy, Badass Feminists, and many other community organizations) for No Kings, a peaceful, nonviolent day of music, community, protest, and solidarity. This event is part of a national movement rooted in the principle that in our democracy, no one rules by fiat or force — "No Thrones. No Crowns. No Kings."

Morning Rally (10-12, Cora Roberson Park)

We'll open the day in community: live music, speeches, dancing, and tabling by local grassroots groups. This is a space for people to gather, to hear one another, and to amplify voices working for justice. If your organization wishes to table, you can sign up the form: linktr.ee/TakeActionNorthFlorida or email us (subject line: "Tabling"). We'll send arrival and logistics information in advance.

During the rally, we'll also host a mutual aid drive to collect supplies that our community needs. If you or your group can assist with collection, sorting, and distribution, please reach out (subject line: "Mutual Aid") or sign up at this link: tinyurl.com/Iguana2297. Our ability to run this depends on strong volunteer commitment.

Shuttles & Volunteer Drivers

To make participation easier, we'll run shuttles from 9–9:30 from three lots: the Depot Park lot (limited capacity, the School

See No Kings, p.25

active engagement in this year’s session, including the Oct. 20 pre-game, which we should all try to attend.

Alachua County legislative delegation

Our delegation is composed of two senators and three representatives. To the right are details on these legislators, including their contact information. Senator Bradley and all three of our reps will be up for re-election in 2026. Time to hold some folks to account!

An important bill from the 2025 legislature that may impact working people for many years to come

Fortunately, this year the same infighting that led to a much-delayed budget also meant that the legislature wasn’t nearly as “effective” in their attacks on workers and our rights as in recent years. Many of their most egregious bills failed this year. Some of them sure tried though, and we get a glimpse through these bills of what is likely in store for us in the future.

One can only hope that we have hit our low point in this state and that voters will be ready to start the long, slow process of righting the ship in next year’s election.

Eliminating the Citizen’s Initiative Process (PASSED)
SB 7016/HB 1205

AFL-CIO OPPOSED – The Florida Legislature has passed many changes to state law over the years to make it more difficult for citizens to propose, petition, and vote to make changes they want to the Constitution, usually in response to legislative inaction on key issues (e.g., dedicated funds for land conservation, smaller class sizes, restoration of voting rights for returning citizens, universal pre-K, a higher minimum wage, and medical marijuana – all passed by citizens’ initiative).

These bills continued the years-long attack on the Citizens’ Initiative process in many ways, increasing costs dramatically and even going so far as to threaten volunteer petition-gatherers with felonies unless they first register with the state and go through a government-mandated training program. If allowed to proceed by the courts, this legislation could be the final nail in the coffin for the citizen initiative process.


As one close watcher of the legislature commented: “This is legislation that has been specifically engineered to sabotage future citizen-led amendments by tangling them up in red tape and hitting them with astronomical fines and criminal investigations if they trip over any of it.”

Senators (http://www.flsenate.gov/):				
Name	District	Party	Next Election	Contact
Jennifer Bradley	6	Rep	2026	Capitol: (850) 487-5006 District Office: (904) 278-2085
Stan McClain	9	Rep	2028	Capitol: (850) 487-5009 District Office: (352) 264-4040

Representatives (http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/):				
Name	District	Party	Next Election	Contact
Robert Charles "Chuck" Brannan, III	10	Rep	2026	Capitol: (850) 717-5010 District Office: (386) 758-0405
Yvonne Hayes Hinson	21	Dem	2026	Capitol: (850) 717-5021 District Office: (352) 264-4001
Chad Johnson	22	Rep	2026	Capitol: (850) 717-5022 District Office: (352) 313-6542

Reps. Brannan and Johnson voted YES for this bill on the House floor, while Rep. Hinson voted NO. Both Senator Bradley and McClain supported this bill on the Senate floor. Perhaps at the Oct. 20 meeting, we can ask our legislators why some of them believed that this bill was necessary when it had already been made incredibly difficult by previous legislation to pass citizen ballot initiatives in Florida.

Why do they seem to believe in making it more burdensome for Floridians to engage in civic democracy and amend our own Constitution? Especially when the real criminal in last year’s citizens’ initiatives resides in the governor’s mansion?

- References:
- *Florida AFL-CIO Sine Die Legislative Brief*
 - *Caring Class Revolt*
 - *Seeking Rents* 



Protect Our Checks

Organized labor celebrates Social Security's 90th with calls to action

The Protect Our Checks National Day of Action brought out the crowds on Aug. 16 in Wilkes-Barre, Penn.

The rally was part of nationwide celebrations to mark the 90th anniversary of the Social Security Act, signed into law on Aug. 14, 1935, by President Franklin Roosevelt. But the events included warnings of the ongoing cuts to Social Security benefits such as raising the retirement age and projections of benefit payment reductions by 2034. And since the start of this administration, the Trump-Musk-DOGE tyranny has fired at least 7,000 Social Security Administration employees, causing delays in SSA phone service and Web site access, among other setbacks.

In a conversation with other Social Security advocates, Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, expressed her disdain towards those harming Social Security: "The threats to dismantle Social Security are really serious. To have something that the majority of the country really wants and wants to keep ... and to watch the amount of energy and action that is used to undermine it ..."

Back in Wilkes-Barre, Jessica Lapointe, president of the American Federation of Government Employees Council 220, took to the microphone to warn that Social Security's mission of community-based service is being replaced with impersonal chatbots and AI weirdness while field offices shut down. Here are excerpts from her speech:

"AFGE Council 220 represents over 25,000 Social Security workers in field offices, tele-service centers, card centers and your communities across this great nation. I'm here from Madison,

Wisc., where the Wisconsin idea gave birth to Social Security 90 years ago on Thursday. I'm here to tell you the truth about your program. Because it's your money. Never forget that ...

"For 90 years, Social Security workers have had this country's back. Through wars, depression, recessions, 9-11, pandemics, through every struggle Americans have faced, we have been there for you. We are mission-driven. The customer service reps, claim specialists, technical experts, benefit authorizers, decision writers, benefits and records technicians, IT specialists, quality reviewers and more. We are a dedicated federal workforce.

"For 90 years, we've kept America's greatest anti-poverty success story alive. We serve widows, orphans, the elderly, disabled, every vulnerable soul in your families and in your communities because you deserve respect and dignity when you apply for your earned benefits ...

"In March of this year, they sent this so-called Department of Government Efficiency in to gut your Social Security workforce ... [someone said 'Elon' referring to Elon Musk] Yes, he and the rest of them, the billionaires, executed the largest staffing cuts in SSA's 90-year rich history. And due to a decade-long understaffing crisis in the making, these were workers you could not

Website: bingodeli.square.site

IG: [bingodeli](#)

FB: [BingoDeliGNV](#)

M W F 5-9 pm, Th 4-9 pm, Sat 12-9 pm, Sun 12-8 pm

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This is what American media looks like today:

The wealthiest person in the world, Elon Musk, owns X. The second wealthiest person in the world, Larry Ellison, owns Paramount, including CBS, and will possibly now be taking over TikTok and CNN. Jeff Bezos owns the Washington Post and Twitch. Mark Zuckerberg owns both Facebook and Instagram.

In fact, the top five richest men in the world are ALL media owners or executives.

When we talk about oligarchy in America, it's not only income and wealth inequality. It's control over the media and what the American people are able to see, hear and read.

afford to lose. Because listen, we're administering benefits, your earned benefits, to the Baby Boomers who are retiring at a rate of 10,000 a day.

"Where are my Baby Boomers at? [crowd cheers] Exactly. Exactly. We affectionately refer to you at the Social Security Administration as the Silver Tsunami. We love you all but there are so many of you and there are too few of us. [someone shouts 'We love you.']] Thank you. It's mutual.

"Since July, they have been reassigning more workers away from your community-based field offices, right here in Wilkes-Barre, across Pennsylvania and the 57 field offices across this country. They closed one of them down, which you will hear about today. They're reassigning workers out, so you can no longer reach your community-based case worker to access your community-based earned benefits. Is that okay? [crowd shouts 'No!']

"They're dismantling community-based service that has been the cornerstone of Social Security for almost a century. And they're hiding the data. They're hiding the data that shows the service declines. Do not let them hide that data!

"Right now, with too few workers to handle your claims and issues timely, benefits and services delayed are earned benefits and services denied. And they're cherry-picking the stats, creating smoke-and-mirror improvements, shuffling staff around like deck chairs on a sinking Titanic ship ... While simultaneously stripping workers' rights and benefits, dismantling our union ...

"Employee morale is at an all-time low. Is this any way to treat hard-working, dedicated, extremely skilled federal unionized Social Security workers? [crowd shouts 'NO!']

"So, what's their plan? Does anybody know? [crowd murmurs answers] All of the above — a manufactured crisis, claim the agency is beyond repair, bust our unions, replace skilled federal workers

with contractors and AI, expose your private data and take your \$2.7 trillion dollar surplus — your money from your hard work from the sweat of your own brow — and privatize it all.

"Also, your corporate CEOs can make record profits off of your communities, off of your earned benefits ... That's right, it's shameful. But here's what they forgot: We don't work for them. Who do we work for? We work for you, the American people. We're Social Security worker strong. The workers that remain are not backing down.

"We refuse to abandon you ... For 90 years we've had your back. Right now, we need you to have ours. We need a worker and retiree movement so big they will know they've messed with the wrong working and retired class America. Because when Social Security is under attack, what do we do? [the crowd shouts 'fight back!'] When Social Security is under attack, what do we do? [the crowd shouts, 'fight back!'] Because who are we? We are Social Security strong! Repeat after me: Who are we? [the crowd shouts, 'Social Security strong!'] Who are we? ['Social Security strong!']"

See the entire rally on You Tube: tinyurl.com/Iguana2290 🐢



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In the midst of a whirlwind, what can you do?

by Janice Garry, of What You Can Do

Nationally, in the state, and locally, there's a lot going on. Shortly after the inauguration, a couple of local activists could see that responding to the onslaught against our democracy would require activism. And we knew that people are busy, making it hard to be involved. Thus, on Feb. 13, What You Can Do was first distributed. It started with about 100 people and has grown to about 250 recipients. Here's why.

Jay Rosenbek and I are constantly reading and noting the most profound offenses against the well-being of our country, state and local community. Every week or so, we compile a handful of topics and write up a concise summary of a topic and list actions that even busy people can take. We call it activism for busy people and strive to provide doable tasks that can be accomplished in ten minutes.

Often the actions are calls to legislators with phone numbers and scripts. For local issues, we provide meeting dates and suggested emails to local leaders about topics that have significant impact. We also summarize local protests and rallies and how to participate. For a deeper dig into a topic, we provide attachments or links. Our messages are based on reputable reporting sources that are referenced. In other words, we do the digging that makes it possible for each email reader to be a part of the push-back.

The feedback has been positive. One person said she comes home from work, puts down her car keys, and makes calls. Several people have said that doing something keeps them sane.

Some people have said that their health does not allow them to protest, but they faithfully make calls. That's the whole idea. Everybody can do something. To be silent is to be complicit. We will not be complicit.

If you live in Gainesville the most important thing you can do between now and Nov. 4 is to vote in the special election. There is one item on the ballot. For the third time, we have a referendum on GRU. A YES vote would remove the state from our city charter, return control of GRU to our local elected officials and kick out the governor appointed Authority members.

They have cancelled a contract for a 75mw solar array, cancelled net metering that makes residential solar more affordable and abandoned a plan to transition to renewable energy. They do not meet the qualifications required by law, as outlined in the What You Can Do message sent on Sept. 29. They do not reflect Gainesville values. If you are a GRU customer who lives outside city limits, you won't be able to vote in the city election. But you can sure encourage your Gainesville friends to vote YES on the referendum.

The state forced us to remove rainbow crosswalks. They have inserted ICE into our county. They have changed what books our children can read and made it illegal to support diversity. We have a chance to tell them loud and clear that we want our utility back. That's what we can do.

To join What You Can Do or get more information on the GRU referendum, contact me at jgcommunity@gmail.com. Gainesville is a caring community. WYCD reflects our closeness. We welcome you. 🐾

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Keep Gator workers cool, save UF's shade trees

By Savannah Green, the FL4EverGreen Team

Did you know UF is currently planning to remove hundreds of large, healthy trees across campus, with little transparency or input from the public? From the Graham Pond area tree stripping (155 trees) to Jennings Creek recontouring (69 trees), campus will become much more barren in the name of UF's insatiable appetite to build, build, build, at the expense of its history and the environment. However, there is at least one upcoming Project that the Gator Nation can still weigh in on vital to the campus ecosystem and worker health, and organizers are asking for your help to sign a petition (tinyurl.com/Iguana2292) and learn more about the harmful "Surge Area" Project.

Heat exposure is one of the biggest dangers facing Florida workers today, and they need shade for safety! But the University of Florida is planning to cut down ~30 large, healthy trees vital for sun protection for some of the most heat-stressed employees on campus, including those who handle hazardous waste in a warehouse without air conditioning.

The public has been kept in the dark regarding the plan, and nearly all of the workers, researchers, students, and faculty in this area were not informed about these tree removals before the design decision was made. Besides the lack of transparency, the supposed purpose of the Project is to construct water retention ponds to "alleviate" water storage concerns in a naturally wet part of campus (called the "Surge Area" for a reason), and it is not clear that this proposal will do much to fix that.

Regardless, trying to solve one problem while creating several more at the expense of the environment and vulnerable workers is not a solution, so petitioners are asking UF to stop the Project or at least redesign it to save all the important shade trees, while also guaranteeing the hiring of a full-time arborist and more transparency in future decision making.

As more background, beginning July 3, the UF Lakes, Vegetation and Landscaping "LVL" Committee held a secretive meeting right before the holiday without posting the agenda online beforehand, and refused to make the Zoom link available to the public, despite voting members attending virtually. That belated agenda requested the removal of more than 100 trees on campus, nearly all of which were "approved" through this non-transparent manner. The last item, "Project MP07942," which was voted on during an equally-non-transparent "continuation" of the meeting on July 17, sought the removal of 30 huge and healthy trees, five of which are large enough to be considered "heritage," and many of which are vital to the everyday life of workers in the Surge Area in the southwest part of campus.

As the name implies, the "Surge Area" lies largely within a floodplain, which makes the area naturally wet after heavy rains, but not generally dangerous to people. This swamp and forested area is what makes the Natural Area Teaching Laboratory ("NATL"), adjacent to many of those buildings, a wonderful place to learn about Florida ecosystems. In 2024, two small, old buildings were removed in the southwest part of the Surge Area, and that space is now being used to make way for more retention ponds, which are contemplated under this Project, fully called "MP07942 – Health Center Surge #4 Flooding Issues."

However, another nearby building, the Nuclear Field Building (#0554) along Natural Area Drive, was chosen to be renovated instead of demolished. The one-story brick building was originally

built at ground level, and perhaps as an oversight or due to cost issues, recent renovations did not include elevating the foundation.

Instead, original renovation plan designs back in mid-2023 called for minimal tree removal, consisting of ~7 trees, which were approved by the LVL Committee in June 2023. But once renovations began, those myopic designs led to yet another round of requests for tree removals in December 2024, this time to create even more trenches and piping around the building, bringing the total tree removal count into the double digits, and still not fixing the fundamental "problem" of building in or near a flood zone.

As stated in the presentation now available online (starting pg. 45, tinyurl.com/Iguana2291), the plan seeks to protect "infrastructure and vehicles" but does not consider the people who will be most affected by these changes and what puts them most at risk, including the blinding Florida sun. UF did not even seek input let alone inform the workers in the existing Surge Area buildings before coming up with the design and getting approval from the LVL Committee. These students, researchers, and staff work with and even transport many hazardous chemicals, and the tree loss contemplated here would potentially endanger those activities if the tree canopy currently protecting them is removed.

UF campus deserves better, and UF needs to be smarter about where and how it builds. Please sign this petition (tinyurl.com/Iguana2292), and support UF workers, transparency, and the environment!

The FL4EverGreen Team is a new campus organization focused on saving the trees on UF's campus. For more information, email them at FL4EverGreen@gmail.com.



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2026 Medicaid Expansion petition initiative paused, preparing for 2028

by Alachua County Labor Coalition and National Women's Liberation-Gainesville

The Alachua County Labor Coalition and National Women's Liberation-Gainesville are pausing distributing Medicaid Expansion petitions. Florida Decides Healthcare, the statewide campaign to amend Florida's Constitution to expand Medicaid, has suspended petition collection and distribution operations until February, 2026. If you have petitions, please shred and recycle them but save the envelopes.

Florida Decides Healthcare will be pursuing a ballot initiative aimed at the 2028 election, the earliest chance to amend the state constitution. They are also preparing for the lawsuit they hope will loosen restrictions imposed by the new anti-direct democracy law that seeks to repress the constitutional amendment initiative process.

The campaign expects to resume petition operations in February. In the meantime, our organizations will continue organizing for healthcare justice, including as Hubs for the Medicaid Expansion campaign. To kick off this phase of the campaign, we are helping to collect personal testimonies from Floridians to highlight the need for Medicaid Expansion. If you have a positive experience with Medicaid or have struggled because you've fallen in the "coverage gap" (e.g., made too little of an income to qualify for Affordable Care Act subsidies), please submit a testimony at laborcoalition.org/medexstory.

Please see the state campaign's official announcement below for more information.

Abridged Florida Decides Healthcare 9/5 Statement

Florida Decides Healthcare (FDH) announced that it will shift its Medicaid expansion ballot initiative efforts to the 2028 ballot. The decision comes after unprecedented barriers created by House Bill 1205, legislation passed by the Florida Legislature and signed by the Governor this year, changed the ballot initiative rules mid-campaign and deliberately undermined FDH's 2026 effort.

Despite these obstacles, FDH has collected more than 200,000 petitions, raised over \$6 million, and built a coalition of more than 100 grassroots organizations spanning labor, faith, healthcare providers, democracy advocates, and community groups across Florida.

HB 1205 imposed roadblocks that made signature gathering nearly impossible on a 2026 timeline. With three years to fund-raise and organize, FDH is confident it will have the resources necessary to get on the ballot in 2028.

"Politicians in Tallahassee didn't just make it harder to get on the ballot, they tried to shut Floridians out and deny them their constitutional right to participate in their own democracy. HB 1205 wasn't about transparency, it was sabotage aimed directly at citizen-led ballot initiatives. This law may have delayed us until 2028, but it will not stop us. Sadly, it's everyday Floridians who will pay the price of Florida's refusal not to expand Medicaid: veterans who served this country, caretakers holding families together, and working people now facing the loss of healthcare if ACA tax credits expire," said Mitch Emerson, Executive Director of FDH. "In 2028, Floridians will have their say, and together, we will win access to healthcare for all those who need it the most."

Florida already has 1.4 million people stuck in the "coverage gap," making too much to qualify for Medicaid but too little to afford private insurance. If ACA tax credit enhancements expire in January, more than 3 million Floridians — one in five of us — could be left uninsured. Every year Florida refuses Medicaid expansion, the state turns away billions in federal funding. Right now, that's \$4 billion annually of Florida tax payers' money that could be covering healthcare for families here at home but instead flows to subsidize healthcare access for states like California and New York that have already expanded Medicaid. By 2026, that loss could grow to more than \$10 billion a year.

Without expansion, hospitals across the state, especially in rural communities, will face closure. Florida risks losing up to 50,000

See *MEDICAID*, p. 25

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Editors' picks: News that didn't fit

Black professors on Turning Point's Watch List face harassment on and off campus

by Alecia Taylor ~ Capital B ~ Sept. 26 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2289

Professors open up about being on the list started by the organization Charlie Kirk co-founded. The list of more than 300 professors is "dedicated to documenting professors who have spoken about anything the far right deems 'radical.'"

Blackpill Aesthetics: A crash course in meme extremism

by Cy Canterel ~ YouTube ~ Sept. 13 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2294

This video breaks down why two often-confused major factions on the right are not the same thing: hardline Christian nationalism ("builders") vs. the Groyper, black-pilled accelerationist scene ("burners"). "What looks like politics is often subculture; what looks like a manifesto is sometimes a dare wrapped in a joke wrapped in a void."

How the enemies of our movement are using the Kirk assassination

by Frank Chapman ~ Chicago Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression ~ Sept. 19 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2287

And this is from Sept. 19, things have gotten worse, more obvious with the NSPM-7 release (see page 14). It may take more than just mass people in the streets, some folks with power need to step up, switch sides. The MAGAts are going for it.

National park proposed for Florida springs doesn't spring from desire to fix problems

by Craig Pittman ~ Florida Phoenix ~ Sept. 18 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2293

Thousands of petition signers are not fine with Rep. Randy Fine's proposal for a park between Jacksonville, Orlando and Gainesville. This bill threatens the long-term health of one of Florida's most ecologically sensitive regions, says a Change.org petition.

The murder and myth of Charlie Kirk

by Werner Lange ~ Common Dreams ~ Sept. 23 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2286

To propel American fascism, the real Charlie Kirk had to be replaced by a mythologized one, something masters of deceit promptly manufactured. There are two ideologies, one that is both cool with fascism and the "we can build it," and the other is just fuck it all. In either case it is "fuck the libs."

Trumpism ... is primarily about the acquisition of power – power for its own sake

by David Brooks ~ New York Times (reprinted on Facebook) ~ Sept. 24 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2288

Yes, things have gotten so out of the norm that the Iguana is getting to print sensible wisdom from David Brooks. Even he sees it: "The only way [Trump's] going to be stopped is if he's confronted by some movement that possesses rival power ..." 🐢

Thanks from the Iguana publisher

A huge thank you to the folks who helped make the "Joe in GNV 50 years/PubNotes 2012-2025 Book Launch" such a success: First Magnitude Brewery for hosting, pizza from Five Star, salad from Satchels, music from DJ Wax Atom, Florida Sun Printing for getting the book done on time, and all of you who came, mingled and bought books. Sold 75 of them! And of course Iguana editors Beth, Jessica, and Pierce who went with my crazy idea and made the book happen. THANK YOU! 🐢

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- If one doesn't already exist, then consider helping to start one.
- If you can't find your way to either of those options, then consider joining a labor-adjacent organization like the local Alachua County Labor Coalition (laborcoalition.org) and/or the AFL-CIO campaign "Department of People Who Work for a Living" (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.

*If the workers are organized, all they have to do
is put their hands in their pockets and they have got the capitalist class whipped.*

- Big Bill Haywood

unionhall.aflcio.org/north-central-florida-central-labor-council
workerscreateallwealth.substack.com



Trump’s NSPM-7 alarms law firms while Congress is silent, Domestic terror watchlist to double, sources say

by Ken Klippenstein

Washington’s biggest law firms are issuing memoranda on the implications of NSPM-7, Trump’s new national security directive, yet virtually no one in Congress has bothered to say a thing. What little the mainstream media have said about NSPM-7 has so far been wrong, often downplaying it.

Sources tell me that NSPM-7 will likely cause the FBI’s domestic terrorism watchlist, currently at about 5,000 U.S. citizens, to double in the coming months.

Last Thursday, President Donald Trump issued National Security Presidential Memorandum-7 (NSPM-7), titled “Countering Domestic Terrorism and Organized Political Violence.”

It creates a national strategy to investigate, prosecute, and dismantle organized political violence and domestic terrorism, identifying indicators of a potential domestic terrorist as the expression of “anti-Christian” or “anti-capitalism” or “anti-American” views. NSPM-7 directs the federal government to disrupt groups “before” they result in violent political acts. In other words, pre-crime.

Law firms like Arnold & Porter, WilmerHale, Caplin & Drysdale, Akin Gump, and Elias Law Group swiftly responded to NSPM-7 by issuing guidances explaining the implications for non-profits and other organizations that are among their clientele.

To date though, almost no members of Congress have commented on NSPM-7. I reached out to the following congressional leaders for a statement, but received nothing:

- Sen. Chuck Schumer (Minority Leader)

- Sen. Mark Warner (Senate Intelligence, ranking member)
- Sen. Gary Peters (Senate Homeland, ranking member)
- Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (Minority Leader)
- Rep. Jim Himes (House Intelligence, ranking member)
- Rep. Jamie Raskin (House Judiciary, ranking member)

Rep. Bennie Thompson, ranking member of the Homeland Affairs Committee, responded with the following statement:

“Just like with Trump’s reckless — and incorrect — antifa designation, his domestic terrorism memorandum serves no purpose other than an excuse for the Trump administration to stifle dissent, investigate anyone — or any group — they don’t like, punish their enemies, and potentially label any American they want as a terrorist.”

But the national security directive is far more consequential in that it directs the countrywide network of Joint Terrorism Task Forces to characterize, surveil, and conduct actions to thwart organizations and individuals espousing the domestic terrorism indicators described above (“anti-Christian,” “anti-capitalism” and “anti-American” rhetoric).

Legal heavyweights from Akin Gump to WilmerHale warn that NSPM-7 is not mere rhetorical theater — it presents real danger for tax-exempt organizations.

(The directive says that the Secretary of the Treasury should make available ‘all resources’ “to identify and disrupt financial networks that fund domestic terrorism and political violence”; and that the Secretary “shall provide guidance for financial institutions to file Suspicious Activity Reports and investigate indicia [indicators] of illicit funding streams to ensure such activity is rooted out at the source and referred for law enforcement action ...”)

Arnold & Porter, a heavyweight in Washington’s legal and pol-

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icy circles, says “the stakes are high,” cautioning that NSPM-7 signals Justice Department plans to target tax-exempt organizations and their funders for criminal investigations based on actions historically protected by the First Amendment.

“The Presidential Memorandum makes clear that DOJ intends to target tax-exempt organizations and their funders for investigation and potential criminal prosecution,” the legal minds at the law firm say.

“Even the ‘indirect’ financing of ‘political violence’” could provoke liability, they warn.

Their analysis further notes that the memo doesn’t just threaten fringe actors: it stretches to organizations seen as supporting “progressive causes,” suggesting the scope could well include mainstream nonprofit advocacy. This runs contrary to the Trump administration’s framing of the crackdown as merely focused on extremist or radical elements, the law firm concludes WilmerHale, a DC legal powerhouse, offers a similar reading. Their guidance warns that NSPM-7 may cause the federal government to pursue IRS investigations of nonprofit groups, assess terrorism designations, block nonprofit assets, and even target individual officers and employees.

“Employees and officers ... are possible subjects of Justice Department and other investigations,” the law firm’s alert states.

Caplin & Drysdale, known for its political law practice, flagged the revival of the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) as especially significant, saying that with NSPM-7, Trump had brought FARA “back from the dead.” They call NSPM-7 a signal that the firm’s clients must no longer treat FARA enforcement as a low priority. (FARA requires registration and disclosure of individuals who act at the behest of foreign entities—at the intersection of political speech and foreign influence.) They also emphasize that NSPM-7’s focus is heavier on nonprofits and civil society than on for-profits.

Akin Gump, a leading international law firm with more than 900 lawyers, offers a brief summary of the practical effects of NSPM-7: “Directs the National Joint Terrorism Task Force to investigate, prosecute, and dismantle networks, organizations, and funding streams behind domestic terrorism and organized political violence. Orders federal law enforcement and financial regulators to prioritize identifying, disrupting, and prosecuting those involved, including funders, tax-exempt entities, and foreign-linked actors, and allows the Attorney General to recommend formal designation of domestic terrorism organizations.”

Elias Law Group, which describes itself as “the nation’s go-to law firm to fight back against voter suppression and election subversion,” warns that under NSPM-7, the government may interrogate individuals about “financial sponsorship” of protests or political activity. NSPM-7, the firm goes on to warn, “sends a troubling signal” that organizations opposing the administration may face investigations, punitive measures, or revocations of tax status.

“At a minimum, such politically motivated investigations would bog down targeted organizations with legal costs and compliance headaches all while detracting from their missions,” Elias concludes.

At root, NSPM-7 is not just about thwarting violent actors — it’s about chilling free speech and association. The directive empowers federal task forces to pursue not only organizations deemed in “support” of violence, but also funders, officers, employees, and indirect financial supporters, which means donors. Under the

framework, even speech or advocacy currently considered protected could be swept into criminal exposure.

Maybe, someday, eventually, Congress will take notice of the most important change in the expansion of government power since the PATRIOT Act.

This article originally appeared on Ken Klippenstein’s website on Sept. 29. See more at kenklippenstein.com. 🐢

“What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.”

~ Jane Goodall (1934-2025)



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On Charlie Kirk, empathy and national division

by Autumn Johnstone

On Sept. 10, I was sitting in one of my journalism class lectures when another student gasped behind me. I turned around. The student looked mortified as he stared down at his phone. A video on Twitter of Charlie Kirk's assassination played over and over again. I asked to see the video, completely unaware of how gruesome the video would be. Now, I wish I never saw it.

I've seen various responses to his killing. Some say it's inhumane, some say it's justified and some, like usual, "don't want to get political."

I personally believe that it's hard to be empathetic for a man who didn't believe in empathy in the first place. He was a man who died because of the very things he defended. He wasn't a martyr; he was a zealot.

It was ironic that on the day Kirk was shot, I had just learned about a tweet posted by Washington Post reporter Felicia Sonmez in 2020.

Only about an hour after basketball legend Kobe Bryant's death, Sonmez reposted a link to an old article about Bryant's sexual assault case from 2003. Bryant was accused of rape and was charged with felony sexual assault during the 2003 allegation.

After Sonmez received over 10,000 emails and death threats because of the timing of her tweet, she said on Twitter, "Any public figure is worth remembering in their totality." She was placed on administrative leave for two days for allegedly "violating the Post's social media policy."

I usually have empathy for all kinds of people — even the people who vote for me to not have rights. Brainwashed or not, people are allowed to have their own opinions. But, after reposting Instagram videos of Kirk's various debates against students and professors with Turning Point USA, I had my own loved ones ask me why I am "justifying murder for a man who didn't deserve it."

I had only reposted Kirk's own posts. No columns. No commentary. His own posts showed him antagonizing and belittling people while he claimed to be having a "fair debate."

Something broke in me then. I stood up for myself and explained why Kirk should be remembered in his totality, even at the sake of his own hand. For the lives that he ruined, for the people who he instilled fear in and for the uneducated people that still remain supporters of a man who openly claimed the Civil Rights Act to be a "mistake."

I have my own reasons for not supporting a man who supported racism and homophobia, and encouraged divide rather than unity. But what reasons are there to support such a thing? What more could Kirk have said to show that he was filled with malicious intent?

I encourage you to read up on Turning Point USA's Instagram account, Kirk's replies were not rebuttals. They were attacks on freedom of speech with blatant lies, crude jokes and hate speech.

Kirk's debates fostered fear in those who disagreed with him — which in a true debate is not an ethical route to take. Using evidence against a claim is proven to work

regardless of who is refuting it. You can't just claim a dolphin fetus to be a human embryo and it magically becomes an embryo.

No logic and no empathy: two things that went hand in hand with this man. His supporters followed him and Trump blindly — picking and choosing things to ignore or acknowledge. There's no critical analysis when it comes to the inconsistent character traits, criminal history or even cognitive skill of the people in power. There's a reason Trump said he loves "the uneducated."

This killing was not just an attack on free speech, but a major step in the wrong direction for the sake of our country. This dystopian level of fear has reduced the power of our democracy.

It is hard to believe our country was once founded on the free exchange of ideas, rule of law, civic virtue and protection of minority views. Political disagreement was to be settled by ethical arguments, and violence was abhorred. (This was, of course, not always followed, especially regarding Native Americans and the whole institution of slavery.) We have strayed so very far from the American dream that it has been convoluted into a deranged American nightmare.

For those who still look for hope, we can find it in ourselves and in small acts around us. Maybe in the small acts of kindness from strangers in passing streets, in the classrooms where children have gratitude for their education and even in newsrooms where journalists seek the truth, we can reinvent the American dream into something everyone can fight for. ✨

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Education group brings in chair dedicated to tackling ‘fascist playbook’

Educated We Stand, a national education organization founded to combat the influence of the conservative Moms for Liberty, has announced a new chair dedicated to tackling what she believes to be a “fascist playbook.” That’s Karla Hernández-Mats, ex-president of the country’s third-largest teachers’ union and a former Democratic nominee for lieutenant governor. The organization was founded in 2024 to promote the importance of public

education, school board races, and taking on “far-right extremists” in the education sphere. “I truly believe in public schools being the cornerstone of democracy,” Hernández-Mats said. “But we are seeing so many MAGA extremists attacking its foundation.” Hernández-Mats condemned Republican officials for “spreading fear” by banning certain books in schools and “censoring” teachers and professors who have criticized conser-

vative influencer Charlie Kirk on social media following his murder. Although she denounced any speech inciting violence, noting that “senseless” attacks are dangerous to democracy, she stressed that expressing harmless opinions is a First Amendment right.

From an article by Livia Caputo in the Florida Phoenix, Sept. 22. See the full story at tinyurl.com/Iguana2282

Federal judge overturns part of Florida’s book ban law

When a junior at an Orange County public high school in Florida visited the school library to check out a copy of “On the Road” by Jack Kerouac, it wasn’t in its Dewey decimal system-assigned location. It turns out the title had been removed from the library’s shelves because of a complaint, and in compliance with Florida House Bill 1069, it had been removed from the library indefinitely. Kerouac’s quintessential chronicle of the Beat Generation in the 1950s, along with hundreds of other titles, was not available

for students to read. Gov. Ron DeSantis signed the bill into law in July 2023. Under this law, if a parent or community member objected to a book on the grounds that it was obscene or pornographic, the school had to remove that title from the curriculum within five days and hold a public hearing with a special magistrate appointed by the state. On Aug. 13, Judge Carlos Mendoza of the U.S. Middle District of Florida ruled in Penguin Random House v. Gibson that parts of Florida HB 1069 are unconstitutional and violate stu-

dents’ First Amendment right of free access to ideas. The plaintiffs who filed the suit included the five largest trade book publishing houses, a group of award-winning authors, the Authors Guild, which is a labor union for published professional authors with over 15,000 members, and the parents of a group of Florida students.

From an article by James B. Blasingame in The Conversation, Sept. 17. See the full story at tinyurl.com/Iguana2296

MIT professor cancels Israeli military grant after student pressure

‘This concession shows that student campaigns do have an influence,’ one student said.

Pro-Palestine student activists across the country have struggled to get their universities to respond to pressure for divestment from Israel and its military-industrial complex. So when a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology withdrew from a grant from the Israeli military after hearing feedback from students protesting the ongoing genocide in Gaza, it was especially welcome news. “This is one of the only cases where we know that student activism and public

pressure led directly to an Israeli tie being cut, let alone a collaboration with its genocidal military,” said Mila Halgren, a postdoctoral associate at MIT. MIT has come under internal and public scrutiny for conducting research on warfare technology sponsored by Israel. In July, the United Nations condemned the school for conducting “weapons and surveillance research funded by the Israeli ministry of defense — the only foreign military financing research at the institute.” That re-

search included projects on drone swarm control — technology which the Israeli military has used during its siege on Gaza — pursuit algorithms, and underwater surveillance. Markus Buehler, a professor in the civil engineering department, withdrew the grant earlier this summer, shortly after a student pro-Palestine group publicized it on Instagram.

From an article by Akela Lacy in The Intercept, Sept. 22. See the full story at tinyurl.com/Iguana2285

Vending machines offer free naloxone, pregnancy tests, hygiene kits

In the lobby of the YMCA in Reading, Pennsylvania, stands a row of vending machines — but one machine is different from the rest. Instead of stocking chips or soda, this vending machine has drug-testing strips, hygiene kits, socks, soap, wound care supplies and naloxone, a medication also known by its brand name Narcan that is used to reverse opioid overdoses — all completely free. The Health To Go vending machine has been in the Reading YMCA for over a year.

Another one is in Harrisburg, outside of the UPMC Harrisburg Emergency Department. The machines list the names of resources such as mental health care, food banks, housing assistance and substance use disorder treatment on the screen and provide contact information and a QR code to scan for more info. More than 2,300 distinct usernames were registered to the two machines in the past year. The usernames are the person’s birth year, a color and a nature or animal icon. This

allows tracking individuals anonymously over time as they use the machine and get info as they answer survey questions. Nearly 40 percent of users reported being unemployed, and almost a quarter said they are experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity.

From an article by Alice Zhang and Jennifer Murphy in The Conversation, Sept. 15. See the full story at tinyurl.com/Iguana2284

The Long and Winding Road for control of GRU (apologies to the Beatles)

From GRU, p. 1

Perry tried again in the 2015 and 2016 legislative sessions but those too failed.

Amid this the Commission hired Navigant Consulting to conduct an independent investigative review of GRU's history including the ongoing issue of governance. Their 179 page report concluded: "Navigant would suggest that it may be more practical to (create) a utility advisory board ... (to) provide an avenue for citizen input into the decision process, while allowing

the Commission to retain its full rights as the governing body of GRU."

In 2015, after countless public meetings and discussions on governance and the Navigant Report, the city formed the Utility Advisory Board (UAB). This was done in the spirit of compromise with the Chamber. This was a Commission-appointed board made up of city and county residents. That same year they hired Ed Bielarski as General Manager of GRU.

Despite all that, Perry's successor State

Representative Chuck Clemons put forward a bill to turn GRU over to an independent Authority board. This bill forced a referendum on the 2018 city ballot. In November of that year the voters in Gainesville defeated that referendum 60%-40%.

Everyone thought this issue had been finally settled. We The People played the game by the rules and won. The Commission continued governing GRU, they hired a new GM, and the UAB was doing its work. Most importantly, citizens kept control over who governed their utility.

In time, serious disagreements with how GRU was being managed and working (or not) arose within the UAB. As a result, GM Bielarski was fired by the Commission in April 2022 and replaced with long time GRU executive, Tony Cunningham. In retaliation, Bielarski declared his candidacy for mayor. The citizens considered the two candidates and decisively chose Harvey Ward by 58%-42% later that year.

Early in the 2023 legislative session, Rep. Clemons circumvented established procedures for filing bills by creating a Special Act of the legislature, HB 1645. This would give Governor DeSantis control of GRU without a referendum vote of the people.

In response a local, grassroots non-profit organization, Gainesville Residents United, Inc., was formed to fight that bill. Working with our organization, attorneys and the city, state house representative Yvonne Hinson submitted an amendment to HB 1645. This amendment was intended to do two things: It would put a referendum on a ballot for citizens to vote on and would allow GRU customers who reside outside city limits to vote on it.

Since "county representation" was a stated concern of the Chamber, the legislature and citizens, GRUUnited was pleased Rep. Hinson sought a way to give them a voice some felt they'd been denied. Not surprisingly Rep. Clemons rejected the entirety of that amendment without any consideration. All customers of GRU were denied their voice and any vote.

HB 1645 went into effect October of 2023, and the governor began appointing his Authority board. This structure is an aberration as no other utility company anywhere in America is controlled in this manner.

We fought back with another referendum that was on your 2024 ballot last November. DeSantis' Authority filed multiple lawsuits to prevent the vote and to block



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the implementation of the referendum if it passed. The referendum election was held and passed with an historic 73 percent YES vote. However, the judge who ruled in favor of the city's right to amend its charter, also took issue with the ballot language, so the vote was nullified.

This year, we are doing it again on Nov. 4. With your vote, this special election will be the final leg of this torturous journey. Early Voting is Oct. 31 - Nov. 2 at the Supervisor of Elections office and the Millhopper Library. Or vote on Election Day (Nov. 4) at your regular polling place.

For more information, visit KeepGNVLocal.com. 🐘

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On ketchup and free speech

If I say, "ketchup is the worst," that's just an opinion.

If I say, "people who like ketchup are idiots," that's bullying.

If I say, "because I don't like ketchup, no one should be allowed to have it," that's oppression.

If I say, "people who eat ketchup are dangerous and must be controlled," that's racism, bigotry, or fascism.

If I say, "anyone who defends ketchup should be silenced or locked up," that's the destruction of free speech and democracy.

~ drbbayruthie



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Robert Reich writes at robertreich.substack.com

A professor of public policy at Berkeley and former Secretary of Labor in the Clinton administration 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."

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Oral History Program

History and the people who make it: Judy Hudson



In this interview, polio survivor Judy Hudson recounts her experience with paralytic polio that she contracted at age 19, probably during her honeymoon. Born in 1939, she came down with polio after the vaccine was available. Part of what she discusses was her choice, due to the newness of the vaccine, not to get vaccinated and how it felt later to live with that choice. Hudson [H] was interviewed by Nina Stoyan-Rosenzweig on July 23, 2013; transcript edited by Beth Grobman.

S: Can you tell us where you were born and grew up and also when?

H: I was born in Tampa on July 8, 1939. I'm seventy-four. I lived in Tampa all my life.

S: Could you tell us about meeting your husband and when you were married?

H: I met my husband in high school before I was even allowed to date. I was fifteen and he was seventeen. We dated through high school, and we were married when I was nineteen and he was twenty-one, and nineteen days following our marriage is when I contracted polio.

S: Tell me more about that ...

H: I was told that probably I came into contact with it during our honeymoon. I was at work at the telephone company in Tampa, when I first got sick with fever and was admitted into Tampa General.

I worked all day the first day I had fever. Because I had just been away on vacation, honeymoon, I didn't want to say I was sick to go home. I was working with the public, which I learned later that it was contagious. I first had a headache, a really bad headache, all day long. And the next morning I woke up, stomach upset and just flu symptoms, just aching all over. The only thing that was a bit different was that I had a stiff neck. I couldn't bend my neck forward. This all happened on a Wednesday, and on Friday my sister-in-law took me to our doctor, our family doctor. He examined me and asked me at

that time: Had I had a polio vaccination? Which I had not, nor did I really know what polio was. And so, I went back home and two days later, on Sunday, I couldn't walk then. My legs were really weak. My husband and I, we called the doctor again. I was admitted into Tampa General, and I was in isolation seven days. The polio really raged. And by the end of that time, I was completely paralyzed from my neck down. I could hardly bat my eyes. And I stayed there as a patient for nine months. I had to lay in bed with my arms over my head and wear shoes with braces, holding my feet apart and upright.

S: And so, it sounds like your doctor may have suspected polio if he asked you about whether you'd been vaccinated. It was, what, [19]58?

H: I contracted it in [19]58, and I believe the vaccine actually came out [19]54 or [19]55. And [19]57, I was a senior in high school and the polio vaccination was offered at my high school because a young man there that was in the tenth grade contracted polio. At the time, my stepmother was concerned and was a bit afraid because the polio vaccination was so new. I was always told that it was the live virus, which it was not with the Salk. But I didn't take it. All my friends did take it, and I remember laughing about it that I would never need that.

S: So, I guess at the time there really wasn't like a widespread epidemic. Or was there?

H: There was, we just weren't believing to it. Because when I was at Tampa General, there were quite a few adults [with polio]. Actually, there were children, too, but we were on the tail end of it.

S: Okay, and when you went home from the hospital after nine months, you were in a wheelchair?

H: Mhmm ... I still couldn't feed myself. I could sit up only for a certain length of time. And we had to have someone come in three days a week. I couldn't feed myself; I couldn't use my hands. I couldn't fill the coffee pot other than one cup at a time. And Dr. Passik used to tell me that in six months I would be receiving back half of what I was going to receive. And within two years, I would be at my best. And I disproved his medical facts, because I wasn't improved very much at all in six

months. And yet, I did improve beyond the two years. It was just much slower. I regained the use of my hands. I am still quadriplegic, an incomplete quadriplegic, in the fact that I cannot use my shoulders. But with the polio syndrome, now, I'm losing some of the use of my hands and arms. But it's been very limited because of not being able to use my shoulders.

S: The use of your arms, you mean?

H: Yes, I mean, just all kind of things. My children learned to flush the toilet by putting their hand under their elbow like I did. They reach and they had to learn the correct way. But so many things that I just do to — not compromise — to help in other ways that I've just always done. And now, so much of the weakness, the wearing out of the neurons is causing limited use.

S: You did get rehab at the hospital? Were they still using the Sister Kenny method?

H: Yes, with the hot pads. I also went into the hot tubs every day, twice a day. I did do occupational therapy. It just helped my hands a lot. I wore braces on my hands. At the time, in rehab, I walked with leg braces. But I never could stand up by myself or walk to use the walking as normal walking. It was always for therapy, rehab. I had to have help with doing it. Even someone having to pull me up to leverage. And not having the use of my shoulders, it really limited that type, too.

S: I guess you mentioned earlier you stopped working at the telephone company, and you came home. How did you feel at the time?

H: I always felt that I was going to get better. We were married six years when I had my daughter. She's forty-nine now, and she works with disabled people. And our son is forty-five. I was busy with them. When they started to school, it was a whole new adventure. It was things that I had to face that I had not ever faced before ... it was a challenge and also depressing. And I went through two years of really deep depression. I was about thirty years old and it was it the time when I realized I wasn't going to get better physically. So, it was the psychology part. It was just sort of different, I think, with polio, because you sort of grow into your status. Where if you have a spinal cord injury, I mean, it's there. You

know the damage is there, and it's final. Where [with polio] you have that little bit of hope ... And the things that bothered me so badly that I couldn't really talk about or kneel down were things that I couldn't do. Things with my children, going to the mall, shopping, just little things. If I went out, I always had to have someone to be with me or to push my chair. And so that too made me feel real helpless as a disabled or challenged person.

S: I think that moment of depression is something that has certainly struck — a moment or years of depression — certainly struck other people who've gone through your experience. So, I would like to know if there's more you wanted to say.

H: Just feeling very sad, feeling very sorry for myself, focusing on all the things I couldn't do, things I wanted to do. Beginning to feel resentful to the people that could do those things and didn't appreciate doing them. [Laughter] I don't have battles of depression [now] at all, but I like to be an advocate for disabled people. Not just for me, but for other people, because I feel like I know what they feel. And so many of my friends, I mean, all my friends are so wonderful, because being around me, they know the battles. They are more outgoing toward other people. But there's so many people that are still so — They don't have the thoughts of what challenges are in life for other people and really don't care. And so, that bothers me.

For so long, I was really focused on the things I couldn't do, the negative things in life. And my children were a lot of joy. And Ervin [my husband] has never treated me that I was less of a person. And that has just been so important. We did have so many battles financially, and the physical things, you know, to adjust.

I did [finally] go to a power wheelchair, and it had more pluses than minuses for me in my life. Physically, it was a minus, the fact that just even a little bit of movement was good for me. And yet, when I was in the power chair, I needed it because I was losing the use of my arms, even pushing the chair at home.

S: Could we go back and talk about children and having children and whether that was a challenge and how you kind of negotiated that?

H: It was a challenge, but it was wonderful challenge. I wish I could redo it. They tried me a lot. [Laughter] My daughter climbed on top of our house when she

was two, when I was home alone, and fell off. My husband was out of town and my stepdad had left the ladder up beside the house. He had fixed a TV antenna back in those days, and Holly had just taken off to climb up on the roof. That was one of the most trying and testing cons of being a disabled person not being able to help your child when you think they're gonna die. But we got through that. We laugh about a lot of things that they did, knowing I was disabled.

S: Like what? Can you give me—

H: Running from me. My son ran away one time knowing that I couldn't get him. We were in the grocery store together, just what kids would do knowing that mom can't give 'em a little whack on their rear. I mean, there was times when I would go into the kitchen and my daughter would be in the flour and have white flour all over her. And to clean that up in a wheelchair, you get one spot on a wheel and it's all over the house and things like that were challenging.

S: So if you are faced with someone who doesn't understand, or you feel is not treating you appropriately, what do you do? How do you call them on it?

H: There's just some battles still that people don't care about the disabled, and it bothers me. It doesn't matter what the disability is, they want to be treated just like anyone else is treated. The civil rights laws that came into effect in [19]64 entitled disabled people — it wasn't just racial. And I lived before that as a disabled person, and after that, and during that. So, I can sympathize with the racial feelings of being put down and having to go through a back door to a restaurant, and being called, "you people." Even today, I'm still faced with some of those challenges. And I'm a fighter. [Laughter] I don't mind now being faced with those things.

With an individual person, I've talked to them. And I've had to learn, because I have come at it in not a good way. Because people can read me wrong, that I'm not appreciative, that I'm demanding on something that I'm not entitled to. But I still keep in mind, I'm not feeling like I am for me only. There's some things that are legal that I can write the Department of Justice, and they can do something about it, and have in the past.

S: So, would that be facilities that aren't ADA compliant, and that kind of thing?

H: Exactly. And we had a bout in South Carolina some years ago with a restaurant.

To me, it doesn't matter if someone is trying and they are financially not able to and understand the problem, it's tolerant. But in this situation, they were not. And they informed us that the city council owned the building, and they didn't have to. And so, I wrote the proper people and didn't get a response. So, I did write the Department of Justice, and they referred me to the state in South Carolina. I had wonderful advocates there. It took some time, but they did have a ramp put it in. [Laughter] And I went back and took pictures. But the people there on the state level really did what— Just legally visiting and sending out letters and telling them what was required and by what time. And even though they bought it, they had to—

S: To comply.

H: Mhmm. The attitude was just terrible that they had the idea that because they were government officials that they didn't have to abide. I mean, most people have gone overboard to do the right thing. And even in cases when they're faith-based and are not under the auspices of the ADA and don't have to do it, they do it, because it's the right thing to do.

There are some steps to take that fifty years ago, there was nothing you could do about it. There was no restrooms. I knew what it was to go all day and not be able to go to a restroom. And speak to managers at the mall and they would pat me on the head, and you know, "You people," this and that and do nothing. And then I saw when the laws were implemented. People always told me, "Don't go to Washington because there are steps everywhere." But they were the first one to implement the laws, and that meant so much to me to go to the Lincoln Memorial. It was the first place I had ever gone with an elevator to a bathroom. And so, they were the fore-runners of implementing the ADA laws. It takes using the law, because I feel strongly that if we have laws and they're not implemented, we don't have laws. And so, it's sad to think they're forced to do it.

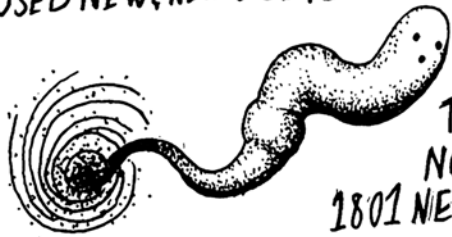
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From ENEMY, p. 1

a symbolic shift that reimagines the military's purpose. He has proposed using the National Guard in cities without state consent. He has signed orders creating rapid deployment forces for "civil disturbances." Institutions are not neutral machines. They are cultural systems. Changing their names, missions, and rituals alters their meaning and reshapes what they exist to do.

The label "radical left" plays a similar role. It collapses ideological diversity into a single enemy category. Democrats, activists, journalists, academics, and entertainers can all be branded as "radical." When a label can stretch to fit nearly anyone, it ceases to describe and becomes a threat in itself.

Antifa follows the same script. A decentralized movement with no central leadership has been redefined by executive order as a terrorist organization, even though U.S. law has no such category for domestic groups. The designation was never about dismantling an organization. It created a precedent that protest itself can be treated as terrorism. From a necropolitical perspective, it marks groups as disposable, stripping them of protection and exposing them to state violence.

Together, these terms — "enemy within," "radical left," and "Antifa" — reshape civic life. Protest is cast as insurgency, dissent as treason, cities as combat zones, and citizens as suspects. The vagueness of the language makes it possible to bypass the safeguards of law. It prepares the ground for violence by recoding opposition as a threat to the body politic.

Trump's allies have reinforced this drift. Pete Hegseth, his close advisor, has promised to remake the armed forces around "warrior culture." Diversity and inclusion would be scrapped, protections against toxic leadership weakened, and disciplinary oversight loosened. Rebranding the Pentagon as the Department of War is more than administrative tinkering. It is cultural reprogramming. The military is recast from a steward of defense into an instrument of domestic enforcement, with loyalty redirected from the Constitution to the executive.

Rallies operate in the same way. Chants replace debate, symbols substitute for argument, and repetition binds followers into a moral community defined against outsiders. In this ritual space, Trump's words do not merely describe but enact a new order: one in which dissent is treated as heresy and loyalty as devotion. Anthropology reminds us that politics often relies on ritual to produce cohesion, and Trump has turned rallies into ceremonies of belonging and exclusion.

The strategy is plain. Through ambiguous language, altered institutions, ritualized displays of loyalty, and necropolitical designations that mark opponents as expendable, Trump is reshaping both the role of the military and the meaning of citizenship. The protections of law are treated as obstacles to be worked around. Civilian rule is worn away through redefinition.

This is how preparations for military dictatorship take shape. They emerge through language that reclassifies, institutions that are renamed and repurposed, rituals that bind followers, and the marking of neighbors as disposable. Democracy falters when categories of belonging are narrowed, when opposition is treated as insurgency, and when the state claims the power to decide who lives securely and who lives under threat.

James Greenberg is emeritus professor of anthropology at the University of Arizona and the cofounder and coeditor of the Journal of Political Ecology. 🐸

From No Kings, p. 6

Board building lot, and E. University Ave and NE 7 St” to the School Board. Return shuttle times are to be determined. Volunteer drivers are crucial — interested folks should contact Shirly Lasseter at shirley@webpdq.com

Car Caravan to High Springs (12:30, tentative)

At noon-ish, we depart in a peaceful car caravan to High Springs. We need drivers! This caravan is not just symbolic — it is training for the continued mobile actions and vigils we plan in opposition to the Baker Detention Facility. It’s an act of presence, solidarity, and practice in nonviolent public protest. For more information: linktr.ee/TakeActionNorthFlorida.

High Springs Rally (2pm, near City Hall TBD)

We’ll conclude with a rally in High Springs, location pending but likely near City Hall.

Look for updates on our linktree or on our facebook page. Contact Jyoti Parmar at NCFIndivisible@gmail.com for more information. 🐢

From RTS, p. 32

These partial restorations are in addition to the restoration of Route 118, a UF campus route. Administrators restored the 118 after university representatives faced backlash over their plans from a packed room at a joint RTS-UF community meeting. The ACLC, UF YDSA, and allies mobilized those meeting attendees, despite the community receiving minimum notice of the meeting. Importantly, these service restorations reverse the trend of the University cutting their contribution to RTS.

SEPTEMBER RALLY:

In September, student organizations held a rally to save RTS in Turlington Plaza and the Hub at UF. The event was organized by UF YDSA, Sunrise Movement, and the ACLC. UF-GAU, genCLEO, and other student organizations also participated in the event.

We are happy to report it was a massive success! Over 100 students attended the rally, despite it lasting around two hours in the hot sun. Students shared their disapproval and experiences of the recent service changes with local press. Most lo-

cal media covered the event. And it got results! Sources tell ACLC staff that it was well-noticed by UF administration, indicating the pressure on UF to reverse course is building up.

MORE TO BE DONE:

Despite the Summer victories and momentum from last week’s rally, we still have a lot of work to do. We will continue to organize and mobilize to fully restore RTS service.

Currently, we are collecting data on bus riders’ experiences with the route and schedule changes, which we’ll share with UF administration. UF Transportation and Parking representatives have indicated their need for specific examples of problems with the changes as a condition of restoring service.

So, if you have been affected by RTS route and schedule changes, please fill out a very short survey at laborcoalition.org/rtscuts.

And please pass it along to anyone you know who has been affected. We’re just getting started. So, be on the lookout for future actions to help save RTS! 🐢

From Medicaid, p. 12

healthcare jobs; many of our best doctors will leave the state, and healthcare costs for everyone will continue to climb. Insurers are asking for premium hikes of 15% nationwide for 2026, the largest increase in years, which appears to be driven by the looming expiration of ACA tax credit enhancements and the expectation that healthier enrollees will leave the marketplace.

FDH remains committed to its lawsuit against HB 1205, with a full trial scheduled for January 2026. That legal fight is not just about Medicaid, it is about protecting Floridians’ constitutional right to direct democracy. Regardless of the outcome, FDH is moving forward with a robust three-year plan. Polling shows overwhelming, bipartisan support for Medicaid expansion. A June 2025 GSG poll found 67% of Floridians support expansion — including 87% of Democrats, 67% of independents, and 52% of Republicans. Comparable ballot measures have passed in conservative states like Missouri, Idaho, and Oklahoma, where opposition collapsed once voters had the chance to weigh in.

Floridians are united in believing it’s time to stop sending billions of our tax dollars to other states while leaving families here behind. Medicaid expansion is not a partisan issue, it’s life or death for many Floridians. 🐢

From October’s Harper’s Index

- Number of annual preventable deaths of Americans projected to occur as a result of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act: 51,000
- Percentage of Republicans who say they would support Donald Trump in the 2028 presidential primaries: 56 🐢

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Gainesville area events

**Please notify the Iguana
of upcoming events at:
gainesvilleiguana@cox.net**

WEEK OF OCT 5-11

Wed 10/8 Banned Book Read-in, 6–8pm, The Lynx (601 S Main St), honoring Banned Books Week, \$5–10 donation requested; tinyurl.com/iguana9361

Wed 10/8 Community Nights, 6–9pm Wednesdays, South Main Station (619 S Main St), live music, kid & pet friendly, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9187

Wed 10/8 “Before Instagram”, 6:30–9:30pm, Thomas Ctr (302 NE 6th Ave), Sweetwater Print Coop 30th anniversary celebration & printmaking exhibit (runs through 1/20/26), free; tinyurl.com/iguana9362

Fri 10/10 Fall Plant Sale, 9:30am–5pm, & 10/11, 9am–3pm, UF Wilmot Botanical Gardens (2023 Mowry Rd), flowers, fruits, native plants, grasses, more; tinyurl.com/iguana9363

Fri 10/10 “Just Freedom”, 6–7pm, The Lynx (601 S Main St), Daniel Rivero on his book about Florida voting rights, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9364

Fri 10/10 “Wicked”, 7–10pm, Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E Univ Ave), Oz spin-off movie, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9365

Fri 10/10 “Shipwrecked!”, 7:30–9:30pm (also Sat), Sasser Fine Arts Hall (3000 NW 83rd St), play based on adventurer’s memoirs, \$0–20; tinyurl.com/iguana9366

Sat 10/11 40th Fall Arts Festival, 10am–5pm (also Sun), Thornebrook (2441 NW 43rd St), local artists, food trucks, more, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9367

Sat 10/11 Braze Ranch Fall Festival, 10am–6pm weekends through 10/26, 19004 NE US Hwy 401, farm animals, pumpkin patch, treats, \$12 for 11+, \$8 for 10 & under; tinyurl.com/iguana9638

Sat 10/11 Pumpkin Patch Festival, 10am–4pm (also Sun), Bryer Patch Farm (5700 SW 250th St, Newberry), crafts, u-pick veggies, hay ride, live music, \$12 for 13+, \$10 3–12; tinyurl.com/iguana9369

Sat 10/11 “Saturday Walk or Ride Tour”, 10am–noon Saturdays, Carson Springs Wildlife Fndn (8528 E Cty Rd 225), 100 rare/endangered animals including big cats, giraffe, \$15 2–11, \$45 12+, \$85 riding; tinyurl.com/iguana9370

Sat 10/11 “Ghosts N’ Gators Fall Festival”, 11am–4pm, Alpha Epsilon Delta (3536 NW 8th Ave), haunted house, carnival games, food trucks, more, \$7 (supports Fla Diabetes Camp), 3 & under free; tinyurl.com/iguana9371

Sat 10/11 Book Fair, noon–5pm, Swamp Head Brewery (3650 SW 42nd Ave), authors, booksellers & other vendors, live music, family friendly, benefiting kids’ literacy project, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9354

Sat 10/11 “Great Pumpkin Bash”, noon–5pm, Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E Univ Ave), food, games, pumpkin carving contest, more, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9372

Sat 10/11 “Poe’s Raven Party Murder Mystery Dinner”, 5–8:30pm, Little Orange Creek Nature Park (24115 SE Hawthorne Rd, Hawthorne), buffet & LARP game, raffles, \$25; tinyurl.com/iguana9373

Sat 10/11 The Shoddy Beatles, 8:30pm, The Wooly (20 N Main St), 2 sets of “shoddy” music, \$15 adv, \$20 door; tinyurl.com/iguana9374

WEEK OF OCT 12-18

Sun 10/12 Plantstay Fall Swap & Sale, noon–4pm, Swamp Head Brewery (3650 SW 42nd Ave), botanical beings & beer, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9375

Sun 10/12 “Strength in Strides”, 2–5pm, Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E Univ Ave), Peaceful Paths’ fundraiser & awareness walk with music, info, more, free (walkers must register); tinyurl.com/iguana9376

Sun 10/12 “Into the Woods”, 3pm, Star Center Theatre (11 NE 23rd Ave), final performance of Sondheim musical, \$?; tinyurl.com/iguana9377

Sun 10/12 Hiromi’s Sonicwonder”, 7:30pm, UF Phillips Ctr (3201 Hull Rd), jazz fusion quartet, \$40–60 (\$12 UF students); tinyurl.com/iguana9378

Sun 10/12 “The Last Class”, 2pm, Hipp Cinema (25 SE 2nd Pl), last screening of Robert Reich documentary, \$12–14; tinyurl.com/iguana9379

Mon 10/13 Fla Free Speech Forum, 11:30am–1pm, Inst. of Culinary Arts at Eastside High School (1201 SE 43rd St), Susan Botcher on GRU referendum, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9380

Tue 10/14 Springs Academy, 12–1pm, Fla Springs Welcome Ctr (18645 Main St, High Springs), springs chemistry w/ Greg Owen, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9381

Tue 10/14 “Poisonous Plants in Cats and Dogs”, 2:30–4pm, Alachua County Ag Auditorium (22716 W Newberry Rd, Newberry), what every pet owner should know, free with adv registration; tinyurl.com/iguana9382

Tue 10/14 “Kedi”, 5–7pm, UF Pugh Hall Ocora (296 Buckman Dr), Global Film Night, Istanbul, Turkey seen through eyes of its cats, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9383

Thu 10/16 “We Wiggle Dolls”, 7pm, The Atlantic (15 N Main St), adult touring puppet cabaret from Brooklyn, \$12–20; tinyurl.com/iguana9384

Fri 10/17 UF Homecoming Parade, noon–2pm, University Ave, world’s largest student-run parade, free; gatorgrowl.org/parade; see ufhomecoming.org for related events

Fri 10/17 “Rocky Horror Picture Show”, 7pm through Nov 2, Hipp Theatre (25 SE 2nd Pl), live action cult classic, \$55; thehipp.org

Fri 10/17 CMC Show, 7–11pm, Civic Media Ctr (433 S Main St), June Henry, The Last Arizona, Taryn Kody,

Fri 10/17 “Evil Dead: The Musical” opens, 8pm (through Nov 9), Acrosstown Rep (3501 SW 2nd Ave), “horrifically hilarious” play, \$20–25; tinyurl.com/iguana9385

Sat 10/18 Fall Horticultural Expo & Plant Market, 9am–4pm, Alachua County Ag Ctr (23100

W Newberry Rd), w/ Jennifer Jewell, kidzone, 75+ vendors, more, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9386

Sat 10/18 “No Kings” protests, 10am–noon, Cora Roberson Park (600 SW 6th St) & nationwide, free; see pg 6 & tinyurl.com/iguana9387

Sat 10/18 Gvl Free Store, 2–5pm 3rd Sats, Civic Media Ctr (433 S Main St), free stuff for all (masks required); civicmediacenter.org

Sat 10/18 “The Paper Bag Plan”, 4pm & 10/19 & 30, 11/1, Hipp Cinema (25 SE 2nd Pl), father-son comedy-drama, \$12–14; tinyurl.com/iguana9388

Sat 10/18 Pop Punk & Emo Night, 9pm–2am, Vivid Music Hall (201 W Univ Ave), 18+ costume dance party, \$14+; tinyurl.com/iguana9389

WEEK OF OCT 19-25

Sun 10/19 Pride at Prairie Creek, 10am–2pm, Prairie Creek Lodge (7204 SE County Rd 234, wildlife demonstrations, hiking, music, more (bring blankets/chairs), free; tinyurl.com/iguana9390

Sun 10/19 Sunday Assembly, 11am, Pride Ctr (3850 NW 83rd St, Ste 201), Jan Tucci on Friends of the Library, & potluck, free; sagainesville.weebly.com

Sun 10/19 Mental Health, Education, Gun Violence and I.C.E. talk, 1–4pm, Alachua County HQ Library, Room A, free, see pg 12

Sun 10/19 UF Soccer, 4–6pm, UF Dizney Stadium + livestream (157 Gale Lemerand Dr), vs Mississippi, free

Sun 10/19 Bobfest, 6pm, Heartwood Soundstage (619 S Main St), Bob McPeck tribute/celebration, \$13–227; tinyurl.com/iguana9391

Tue 10/21 “Our Gulf, Our Future”, 5:30–6:30pm, UF Pugh Hall Ocora (296 Buckman Dr), climate resilience expert Shalini Vajjhala on long-term planning & building around the Gulf of Mexico, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9392

Thu 10/23 “Twisted Issues”, 6:30–10?pm (also 10/24), Hipp Cinema (25 SE 2nd Pl), Gvl punk band splatter-comedy movie w/ director Q&A, \$12–14; tinyurl.com/iguana9388

Fri 10/24 Fest 23 opens, noon (through 10/26), Multiple venues all over downtown, monster music marathon returns, tickets vary by venue, some free (The Bull, 1st Mag), others ticketed; pg 14 & <https://thefestfl.com> (a fantastic website)

Fri 10/24 “Spirits of the Past: An Evening of History and Hauntings”, Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Ave), peek into the local paranormal limited to 13 guests, \$85; tinyurl.com/iguana9393

Fri 10/24 “The Nightmare before Christmas”, 7:30–9pm, Tioga Town Ctr (133 SW 130 Way, Newberry), Tim Burton PG movie, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9394

Sat 10/25 Cancer Chomp, 8–11am, UF Cancer & Genetics Research Complex (2033 Mowry Rd), kidzone, UF Gator Band, mini horses, “human side of medicine”, more, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9395

Sat 10/25 Plant Sale & Orchid Show, 9am–5pm, Kanapaha Botanical Gardens (4700 SW 58th Dr), ~50 booths + orchid contest, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9396

Sat 10/25 Friends of the Library Book Sale opens, 9am–5pm, Sun–Wed noon–6pm, FOL Bookhouse (430 N Main St), books, CDs, videos, puzzles, art at incredible prices, free (bring yr own boxes); folacld.org

Sat 10/25 Forward Focus Year 1 Summit, 9am–2pm, Cuscowilla Nature Ctr (210 SE 134th Ave, Micanopy), meeting on economic uplift for E Alachua County, free (limited seating); forwardfocus.alachuacounty.us

Sat 10/25 Florida Bat Festival, 10am–5pm, Lube Bat Conservancy (1309 NW 192nd Ave), famous bat celebration w/ Chiroptera experts, \$5 kids, \$10 adults, beer garden \$35 adv (ends 10/11), \$45 door; tinyurl.com/iguana9397

Sat 10/25 Chili Cookoff & Music Fest, 11am–4pm, One Love Café (4989 NW 40th Pl), Fix Them All's "For the Animals" event with live music, pet adoptions, kidzone, raffles, live bands, \$15 (under 12 free w/ adult); tinyurl.com/iguana9398

Sat 10/25 United Nations Day, 12:30–2:30pm, Oak Hammock (5100 SW 25th Blvd), Ellen R. Siegel & Isabella Villa Urrego speak, buffet lunch, \$25; una-usagainesvillefl.org

Fri 10/25 Billifer and the Fearless Pals, 7:30–9:30pm, Theatre of Memory (1705 NW 6th St), ToM house band, \$21.50, tinyurl.com/iguana9399

WEEK OF OCT 26-NOV 1

Sun 10/26 "Pumpkin Spice and Everything Nice", 1–3pm, Rockwood Park (2221 NW 2nd St), Alachua Conservation Trust's annual pumpkin carving & tasty treats, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9400

Mon 10/27 "A Queer Little College Town", 7–8pm, The Lynx (601 S Main St), panel on Gvl LGBTQ history, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9401

Tue 10/28 "AI & US Nat'l Security", 5–6pm, UF Pugh Hall Ocora (596 Buckman Dr), Hagar Chemali on future, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9402

Tue 10/28 Alachua County Labor Coalition meets, 6pm, Emmanuel Mennonite Church (1236 NW 18th Ave), open to all; laborcoalition.org

Wed 10/29 "History of the Death Care Industry in Alachua County", 7–8pm, Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Ave), local historian Don Davis & funeral home operators on undertaking & cemeteries, free w/ registration; tinyurl.com/iguana9403

Fri 10/31 Peanut Butter Challenge, 8am–4:30pm, IFAS Ext. Office (22712 W Newberry Rd, Newberry), last day to contribute unopened jars of peanut butter for local food banks, tinyurl.com/iguana9404

Fri 10/31 Artwalk, 7–10pm, downtown Gvl, free; artwalkgainesville.com

Sat 11/1 50th Micanopy Fall Festival, 9am–5pm (Sun 9am–4pm), 202 NE 7th Ave, Micanopy, 200 arts/crafts vendors, live music, food, free; micanopyfallfestival.org

Sat 11/1 Gvl Pride Festival, noon–8pm, Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E Univ Ave), food, fun, & festivities w/ Crystal Methd, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9405

Sat 11/1 Tu Fiesta Radio Festival, 2–10pm, Alachua County Sports Ctr (4870 Celebration Pointe Ave), Latin food, music, & dance w/ "Prince of Salsa" Luis Enrique, \$36.39 & up; tinyurl.com/iguana9406

Sat 11/1 Living History Saturday, 9am–1pm (1st Sats, Sept–May), Morningside Nature Ctr (3540 E Univ Ave), farm life of the past re-enacted, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9312

Sat 11/1 OtherEndofTheRoad, 7:30–9:30pm, Theatre of Memory (1705 NW 6th St), original acoustic folk rock, \$21.50, tinyurl.com/iguana9407

WEEK OF NOV 2-8

Sun 11/2 "Connecting Communities", 1–2pm, Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Park (1500 NW 45th Ave), Austin Burton on economic benefits of public lands, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9350

Tue 11/4 Gvl Election, 7am–7pm (early voting 10/31–11/2, see tinyurl.com/iguana9408), precincts within Gvl limits, vote on keeping city utilities in local control - see pg 1

Wed 11/5 "Florida: A History in Pictures", 7–8pm, Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Ave), Jeff Davies and Mike McGinnes on 300,000-member Facebook group's contributions to state history, free w/ registration; tinyurl.com/iguana9409

Thu 11/6 "Baldwin vs Buckley", 7:30–9pm, also Fri, UF Squitieri Studio Theatre (3201 Hull Rd), live reenactment of famous 1965 debate, \$12–35; tinyurl.com/iguana9410

Fri 11/7 Tom Petty Weekend opens, 1–10pm, also 11/8 & 11/9, Heartwood Soundstage (619 S Main St), tribute to Gvl's biggest rock star, \$75–250; tinyurl.com/iguana9411

Sat 11/8 Jumbo Yard Sale, 10am–1pm, 25930 NW. 206th Pl. High Springs, Florida Springs Inst fundraiser; https://floridaspringsinstitute.org

Sat 11/8 Brunch and Brass, 11:30am–3:30pm, Cotton Club Museum (837 SE 7th Ave), fundraiser to restore Perryman Grocery Store, \$125 for 11:30 brunch, free 1:30 jazz festival; https://tinyurl.com/iguana9412

Sat 11/8 Books Launch, 5–9pm, Civic Media Ctr (433 S Main St), readings from new books by Shane Hinton and Teresa Carmody, free; civicmediacenter.org

Sat 11/8 "Let Me Tell You about the Skin I'm In", 6–8pm, SF College Blount Hall (530 W Univ Ave), 2-day women's writing workshop, \$100–200; tinyurl.com/iguana9413

RECURRING EVENTS

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

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

Saturday Haile Farmers Market, 8:30am–noon, Haile Village Ctr (5213 SW 91st Terr)

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

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

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

Art House films: thehipp.org/cinema-3

"Bobo a Gogo: the Nacho Clowns Extremes' Strange and Lovely Variety Show" starring Rain Drop and Auntie Bobo, open stage every Monday (sign up by 8pm) at University Club (18 E Univ Ave)

Gainesville official and public meetings: tinyurl.com/iguana9308

County official and public meetings: alachuacounty.us/events/Pages/default.aspx

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

Democratic Women's Club of Santa Fe Springs meets 4th Sunday 3–5pm (except Dec & July), High Springs Women's Club; dwcosfs@gmail.com, Facebook.com/dwcosfs

Alachua County Democratic Party meets 3rd Tuesdays, 6pm, LifeSouth (4039 W Newberry Rd)

Clubes de Escucha, 6–8pm, Curia on the Drag (2029 NW 6th St), primer y tercer Viernes de cada mes; clubesdeescucha.com

PFLAG meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm at the Pride Center, 3850 NW 83rd St, second floor.

Democratic Socialists of America meets 6:30pm on 2nd Tuesdays at the Quaker Meeting House (702 NW 38th St).

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

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

Jazz on Main St, 7–10pm on 3rd Thursdays, Gainesville Fine Arts Ass'n (1314 S Main St), free; gainesvillefinearts.org

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

Drag Bingo, 7–9pm last Thursdays, 1st Mag (1220 SE Veitch St)

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

"Bobo a Gogo: the Nacho Clowns Extremes' Strange and Lovely Variety Show" starring Rain Drop and Auntie Bobo, open stage every Monday (sign up by 8pm) at University Club (18 E Univ Ave)

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

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

"Front Street" at Boca Backyard: 4th Wednesday of the month, 7:30–11pm

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

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

Iguana Directory

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

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

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

Alachua Conservation Trust, Inc. is a non-profit land trust protecting North Central Florida's natural, historic, scenic and recreational resources for over 36 years. 352-373-1078 | AlachuaConservationTrust.org

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

Alachua County Organization for Rural Needs Clinic is a not-for-profit in Brookier providing low-cost, high-quality dental care for people with and without health insurance to Alachua, Bradford and Union County

residents. The Clinic fulfills its mission with the help of volunteers. 352-485-2772 | acomnclinic.org

American Civil Liberties Union has no Alachua County chapter. For info on forming a new chapter, or for ACLU info, contact the Northeast Chapter at firstcoastaclu@gmail.com | northeastflorida.aclufl.org

Alachua DSA is part of the largest socialist organization in the U.S., The Democratic Socialists of America (DSA). They have organized to build working-class democracy and power in workplaces, neighborhoods, local governments, and throughout Alachua County. They are member-funded and member-run. alachuadsa@gmail.com | www.instagram.com/alachuadsa

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

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

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

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. bgsoatuf@gmail.com | [facebook: UF BGSO](https://facebook.com/UFBGSO)

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 | civicmediacenter.org

Climate Reality Project Gainesville Area Chapter is the local chapter of an international nonprofit group dedicated to accelerating

Spotlight on: Sunrise Movement Gainesville

Sunrise Movement Gainesville is a UF student-led organization focused on environmental justice through political engagement and community organizing. They work within local Gainesville infrastructure to push for immediate community relief, while simultaneously pushing for a clean future that prioritizes the marginalized.

Some of their past successes include securing a Green New Deal student resolution, mobilizing UF students to speak with Florida legislators on a bill related to the state park preservation (HB 209/SB 80, which passed!), and, most recently, leading a successful rally on UF campus with their Save RTS Coalition partners on the matter of RTS funding cuts.

Their fight is not done, as they are in the midst of multiple local campaigns:

- Restoring RTS funding
- Campaigning for a GRU referendum
- Aiding in regional disaster relief
- Rebuilding functions of the now defunct UF Office of Sustainability
- and so much more!

They serve UF and the broader Gainesville community with the vision that everyone deserves the right to a clean, equitable future, no matter where they live.

To stay connected, follow them on Instagram at [@sunrisemvmtgnv](https://www.instagram.com/sunrisemvmtgnv).

~ by Ace McLain, Co-Political Action Director



urgent action globally on the climate crisis. Join the chapter at <https://tinyurl.com/mwkwetyb> for news, action alerts, meeting alerts. ClimateRealityProjectgnv@gmail.com | facebook.com/groups/climateactrealitygnvgroup

Coalition of Hispanics Integrating Spanish Speakers through Advocacy and Service is a UF student-run group focusing on immigrant rights and immigrant advocacy. chispasuf@gmail.com | chispasuf.com | facebook.com/chispasUF

Code Pink: Women for Peace is a women-led grassroots peace /social justice movement utilizing creative protest, non-violent direct action and community involvement. Facebook.com/CodePINKgainesville | CodePink4Peace.org

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

Community Weatherization Coalition's mission is to help their neighbors save energy and water and reduce utility bills by engaging volunteers, building community, and learning together. info@communityweatherization.org | 352-450-4965 | communityweatherization.org

Conservation Trust for Florida, Inc. is a Gainesville non-profit land trust working to protect Florida's rural landscapes, wildlife corridors and natural areas. 352-376-4770 | info@conserveflorida.org | conserveflorida.org

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

Democratic Party of Alachua County meets monthly on the second Wednesday at 6pm: on Zoom. 352-373-1730 | alachuadems.org

Democratic Women's Club of Santa Fe Springs meets 4th Sunday 3-5pm (except Dec & July), High Springs Women's Club; dwcosfs@gmail.com | Facebook.com/dwcosfs

Divest Gainesville advocates divesting City financial assets from fossil fuel industries and educating on racial justice and climate change. youngersn@outlook.com | facebook.com/DivestGainesville

Divest UF is a student-run organization and a loose collective of Gators seeking to divest the university from fossil fuels, the prison industry, and arms and surveillance companies. Divestuf.org | facebook.com/DivestUF

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

Families Against Mandatory Minimums works to reform Florida's sentencing laws

and restore fairness to Florida's criminal justice system. PO Box 142933, Gainesville, 32614 | gnewburn@famm.org | 352-682-2542 | FAMM.org

Final Friends, run by volunteers, helps families learn how to accomplish legal home funeral care as an alternative to a commercial funeral home. 352-374-4478 | FinalFriends.org@gmail.com | FinalFriends.org

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.org | 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 Free Speech Forum is a lecture series that provides a place for open and constructive dialogue. The group advocates, protects and defends freedom of speech through open dialogue. floridafreespeechforum.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

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

Friends of the Library is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in Gainesville. We support the Alachua County Library District and literacy programs throughout Alachua County. We accept donations of books, art, records, puzzles, games and much more. We have a huge sale every April and October. Find us at 430 N. Main St. 352-375-1676 www.folacld.org and Facebook and Instagram @FOLACLD

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. climateralityprojectgnv@gmail.com | @climateralityprojectgnv | climateralityprojectgnv.wordpress.com

Gainesville Books to Prisoners is a volunteer-run, donation-based organization that sends hundreds of books monthly to incarcerated people in Florida. We pack books at the CMC on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month, 6-7:30pm. We also need brown paper grocery bags and packing tape. Instagram: [@gnvbooks2prisoners](https://www.instagram.com/gnvbooks2prisoners). Donate funds at paypal.com/gnvb2p.

Gainesville Citizens for Alternatives to Death Penalty works to abolish the death penalty. Join vigils when Florida has an execution. 352-378-1690 | mark1343@juno.com | www.fadp.org

Gainesville for All The Gainesville Sun's GNV4ALL initiative is an effort to identify and address problems related to inequities and racial injustice in our community. See Facebook for online activities. GNV4ALL@gmail.com | facebook.com/GNV4ALL

Gainesville Interfaith Alliance for Immigrant Justice organizes faith communities to work together for immigrant justice. Meetings are the second Monday of the month on Zoom. Richard@371-6772 | Gainesvilleiaij@gmail.com | gainesvilleiaij.blogspot.com

Gainesville National Organization for Women focuses on reproductive rights, ending sex discrimination, constitutional equality, promoting diversity, ending racism, economic justice, stopping violence against women, lesbian rights including marriage equality. Contact Lisa@352-450-1912 for 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

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

Gainesville Stamp Club, established in the 1960's, is open to all interested in philately. Auction held every meeting. Advanced level program occasionally. Under 18 must be accompanied by adult. First and third Tuesdays starting at 7:30pm; no meetings in December/holidays. For meeting locations and info. call 352-371-1991 | Stamps4Laffs@yahoo.com

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@gnvic.org | 352-871-0895.

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

McRorie Community Garden is a community garden where local residents can grow vegetables and learn how to do so. It is at 615 SE 4th Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601 Volunteer Day is on the last Sunday of every month. mcoriegarden@gmail.com

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

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. gainesvillnlg@gmail.com | nlg.org

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

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

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

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

Peoples' Progressive Agenda is a grassroots, working-class, member-led group organizing against the harmful impacts of Trump-era policies on our families and communities. peoplesagendax@gmail.com

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. Veronica or Adriana @ 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.com/studentanimalallianceUF

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

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

Sunrise Movement Gainesville is a UF student-led organization focused on environmental justice through political engagement and community organizing. Follow them on Instagram at @sunrisemvmtgenv.

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

UCW Florida (CWA Local 3165) is a union of Florida public sector higher education workers open to all currently unrepresented employees at UF. We are part of a national union, the Communications Workers of America. CWA is home to a network of higher education workers, United Campus Workers, across the Southeast and Southwest fighting for social and economic justice in our institutions and communities. See UCWFL.org for more information or contact uniteduf@ucw-cwa.org.

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](https://facebook.com/ufdemocrats) | 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. UFPrisesu@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, justice for all affected. 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](https://twitter.com/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/UNAUSAGainesvilleFICChapter | UNA-USAGainesvillefl.org

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

University of Florida HealthStreet is a

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

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

Unspoken Treasure Society's mission is to empower, uplift, and advocate for the well-being, equity, and rights of the LGBTQIA+ community. Monthly meetings are held every third Thursday at 7pm at 3850 NW 83rd St, Suite 201 in Gainesville. unspokensociety.org 352-377-0384

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

Voices for Common Ground focuses on issues, not political parties and members are united by a shared commitment to civil rights (reproductive rights, anti-racism LGBTQ+ rights, voting rights). tinyurl.com/Iguana2153 or email voicesforcommonground@proton.me.

WGOT-LP 100.1 FM is a community low-power radio station operating as part of the Civic Media Center, with progressive talk like Democracy Now and Thom Hartmann daily, and eclectic music shows from bluegrass to punk. 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. wspus.org. 🐉



UF students demand UF fully restore their RTS funding outside of Turlington Hall at the Sept. 10 Save RTS Rally. Photo by Bobby Mermer.

by Bobby Mermer, PhD, Alachua County Labor Coalition Coordinator

Those who moved to Gainesville from elsewhere in Florida know that Gainesville Regional Transit System (RTS) punches well above its weight. RTS provided over 25.9 trips per capita in its service area in 2023, the most recent year available from the Department of Transportation. HART in Tampa provided 11.4 trips per capita that same year. LYNX in Orlando provided 8 and Jacksonville provided 5.28.

Our buses and routes are vital for scores of workers who rely on them to get to their jobs. They are the only transportation option for many members of our vulnerable communities, such as GRACE Marketplace clients, who need them to get to medical appointments. They make Gainesville accessible to many working class, elderly, and disabled people who cannot afford a car or are unable to drive.

And because our city hosts UF, a fully funded and functional RTS can bolster public support for public transit beyond our city. It can do this by demonstrating what a transit system can and should be to 6,500 to 7,500 incoming freshmen per year. Many of those students will become opinion leaders after they graduate and return home or move to a new city. These opinion leaders could play a key role in supporting public transit when the topic comes up in the public conversation.

But RTS is again under threat from UF, which cut about \$2.9 million from the system. This comes over a year after the Alachua County Labor Coalition, UF YDSA, UF's Change Party, labor unions, and countless individuals successfully fended off UF's proposed \$6.9 million cut.

We've seen partial victories this year and momentum for the cause is growing. But there is still a lot of work to do. Continue

reading to catch up on this year's Save RTS campaign and learn what you can do to help.

ROUTE RESTORATIONS:

In case you missed it, RTS service has been largely restored to four of the most important RTS routes. Peak service (7-11am and 3-7pm) is restored for routes 8, 15, and 43, while peak service is partially restored for route 5, compared to the Spring 2025 schedule.

This is thanks to the outpouring of support from ACLC members, our allies, and RTS riders. You called and emailed UF administrators and the City Commission. You attended public hearings. You made your voice heard and they listened!

The service restoration will cost nearly \$738,000. UF will chip in a little more than \$215,000 and the City will cover the rest. This represents a huge victory. Prior to this agreement, these routes were doomed.

See RTS, p. 25



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The Gainesville Iguana

Gainesville's progressive newsletter

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

Submit events, content, ads and questions to: GainesvilleIguana@cox.net or 352-378-5655

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

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