

The Southeastern Conference named Lauren Haeger Player of the Week on Monday. Read the story on page 14.



Minor tech issues, low turnout in first SG elections day

HANNA MARCUS

Alligator Staff Writer

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The first day of voting in Student Government elections saw a lower turnout than the Spring 2013 semester.

Supervisor of Elections Justin Hoover said 5,457 ballots were counted Tuesday. Last year, the first day of voting turned out 817 more ballots.

"I think voting is important because it's a chance to see what you want to happen on campus."

Tori Corrado

UF biomedical engineering sophomore

engineering sophomore

Hoover said there were a few minor technical difficulties on the first voting day, but all were resolved quickly.

One incident that arose Tuesday morning was that the sample ballot reflected the Spring 2013 candidates, Hoover said. The issue was resolved in 15 minutes, and no students were unable to view and vote for current

candidates.

Hoover said two students contacted the SG office about an error when trying to write in candidates. The issue was resolved by 9:30 a.m., and fewer than five students were impacted. All the students were able to vote after the problem was resolved.

Around 4 p.m., a power surge at the CSE polling location caused the entire lab to experience technical difficulties. They were unable to be resolved, and Hoover instructed the poll workers to immediately begin directing students to Marston Science Library.

Tori Corrado, an 18-year-old UF biomedical engineering sophomore, said her experience with the voting process was simple, and the instructions for voting were straightforward.

"I think voting is important because it's a chance to see what you want to happen on campus," she said.

Casey Madden, a 20-year-old UF criminology junior, said she had no difficulty

SEE ELECTIONS, PAGE 4

STATE

Dunn trial draws local reactions

BEATRICE DUPUY

Alligator Staff Writer bdupuy@alligator.org

About two hours south of Gainesville, there was Trayvon Martin. About an hour north and 10 months later, there was Jordan Davis.

With Gainesville left in the middle, locals are feeling the effects of the death of 17-year-old Davis and the trial of the man involved, Michael Dunn.

In November 2012, Davis, from Jacksonville, was riding in a car with



Dunn

three of his friends when Dunn shot into their SUV. Dunn was recently tried and found guilty of attempted second-degree murder for firing into the car, but the jury could not

decide on the murder charge for the death of Davis.

For some, the Dunn trial brings back memories of George Zimmer-

man's trial and the death of Trayvon Martin.

Sharon Davis, UF director of African-American Studies, said the deaths of Martin and Davis reveal a deeper problem.

"It's a scary thing that so many people in society are trigger happy," she said. "I have a 17-year-old nephew. It could have easily been him."

Zimmerman's case brought Florida's Stand Your Ground law to the forefront of national discussion. This

SEE DUNN, PAGE 4



Kristi Camara / Alligator

Brick By Brick

Gainesville elementary and middle school students play with Legos in the Reitz Union Grand Ballroom on Tuesday during the Engineering and Science Fair Day 1. The fair is part of UF's Engineers' Week.

Body of missing FSU student found in Tallahassee building

He was last seen on Feb. 2

SEAN STEWART-MUNIZ

Alligator Staff Writer

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The Florida State University student who went missing two weeks ago was found dead Tuesday morning by Tallahassee Police.

Ryan Uhre's body was found in a building in downtown Tallahassee when inves-

tigators checked an open window on the building's second floor. Police were re-canvassing the area after Uhre, 23, showed up on surveillance-camera footage from a nearby alleyway.

Tallahassee Police spokesman Officer David Northway said at a press conference that foul play is not suspected, but



Uhre

Northway said.

Uhre was last seen leaving the area of Andrew's Restaurant on Feb. 2 and was re-

ported missing to campus police five days later.

the cause of Uhre's death is unknown and still being investigated. "We are keeping it open and active, and we will do everything we can in order to find the cause of death for Mr. Uhre and his family,"

Northway said police are collecting forensic evidence, but because it involves chemical analysis, the results will take time to develop.

"We feel the profound loss of a life ending far too soon, and our thoughts and prayers go out to Ryan's family, which has shown much courage during the past few weeks," wrote FSU spokeswoman Jeanette De Diemar in an email.

Uhre was last seen leaving the area of Andrew's Restaurant on Feb. 2 and was reported missing to campus police five days later.

Today



81/52

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Floridians buzz about beekeeping as bee health declines

The decline was first documented in 2005, pg 5.

Campus program to help veterans launch, grow businesses

Applications for the free program are due Feb. 28, pg 9.



Florida sweeps Florida State

Olivia Janowicz led UF in No. 1 singles as the Gators swept the Seminoles in a 7-0 home victory on Tuesday, pg 20.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

Arabic culture-themed movie screening and discussion

Join the Arabic Cultural Association and the Lebanese American Society at UF at our second event exploring religion in Arabic culture at 6:30 p.m. today in McCarty Hall B, Room G086. Doors open at 6:15. We will show the film "Fordson: Faith, Fasting, Football." After the movie, professor Khadidja Arfi will lead a discussion about religious identity among Arab Muslims in the Middle East. Free baklava and coffee will be served.

Latino Festival planning meeting

The 13th Annual Downtown Latino Festival planning meeting will be today at 7 p.m. at the Institute of Hispanic-Latino Cultures (La Casita), located at 1504 W. University Ave.

Resume and cover letter workshop

Get tips and inside knowledge from an expert about how to put together an effective resume and cover letter or improve the ones you already have. The Hispanic Scholarship Fund Scholar Chapter invites you to its workshop led by a representative from the Career Resource Center. It will be today at 6:30 p.m. in McCarty Hall B, Room G108. Popcorn chicken and refreshments will be served.

Midterm relaxation days

The Library Ambassadors welcome you to join us for two days of relaxation. On Monday from 3 to 4 p.m., we will have a visit from Orion, a sweet, friendly therapy dog, while playing "The Lion King" and serving refreshments. On Tuesday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., we will have a variety of board games. Both events will be held in Library West, Room 212. Email libraryambassadors@uflib.ufl.edu for more information.

Mr. Engineer 2014

Come witness the ultimate battle for Mr. Engineer 2014 presented by the Society of Women Engineers. Which of these superheroes of engineering will rise to the top? Come out Friday from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. to the University Auditorium to witness all of the antics and vote for your favorite in the fan favorite contest. All majors are welcome.

Sustainable UF craft event

Sustainable UF is proud to present the first Green It Yourself event of the year! Stop by Weil Hall, Room 0234, on Monday anytime between 4 and 6 p.m. to make your own crafts out of magazines. We will have examples to show how to make the crafts, but of course you can always come up with something on your own. Contact Angela Neal at angela.neal@ufl.edu with questions.

Empowerment service trip to Colombia

Sign up to go on one of Children

FORECAST

TODAY

PARTLY
CLOUDY
81/52

THURSDAY

PARTLY
CLOUDY
84/60

FRIDAY

THUNDER-
STORMS
78/59

SATURDAY

PARTLY
CLOUDY
75/55

SUNDAY

RAIN
72/52

Beyond Our Borders' Bound For Peace service trips to the beautiful cities of Medellín or Cartagena in Colombia. Volunteers are trained to build and execute education empowerment workshops for at-risk youth in Colombia. There will be a one-week trip during Spring Break and two two-week trips at the end of the summer. Trip prices vary but include housing, food, transportation and a plane ticket. If you are interested in signing up or have any questions, email the coordinators at servicetripinfo@chbob.org or visit chbob.org.

Ubisoft Facebook drawing

Ubisoft is one of the world's largest video game producers in the world and is represented at UF. Enter February Frenzy for a chance to win cash prizes and free swag. Enter by going onto the Ubisoft at University of Florida Facebook page and clicking on the link in the latest status update. Like all three pages and enter your name and email address.

Suit and Tie: Men's Appreciation Ceremony Nominations

The Institute of Black Culture is seeking nominations for its men's appreciation ceremony. The ceremony will recognize outstanding men whose work and lives have helped make a difference in their communities. The nominee should have served as a leader and role model to other men, students, colleagues and/or his community. The selected recipients will be honored at the Suit & Tie: Honoring Our African American Men award ceremony April 10 in Ustler Hall. Nomination forms can be found at bit.ly/1ipguu8 and are due Friday.

Emily Dickinson and the samurai sword

Drawing upon a selection of Emily Dickinson's poems, Sheila Barksdale combines artwork and the practical application of the Japanese sword to explore the range of the poet's perception of time, space and relationship to cosmic principles. The event will be Saturday from 2 to 3 p.m. at the Archer Community Center.

Student organizations needed for RecSports photo shoots

RecSports is looking for UF student organizations to volunteer as models for photo shoots promoting the department's group services, including activities with Lake

Wauburg, competitive sports, fitness and more. They are looking for organization members who will sport smiling faces and their club's T-shirts while participating in one of the activities guided by RecSports marketing leaders, photographers and videographers. To volunteer your organization, contact Hayden Manuel at haydenm@recsports.ufl.edu.

Register for Three Minute Thesis Competition

The UF Graduate School is partnering with I-Cubed to host its first Three Minute Thesis Competition in April. The competition challenges doctoral students to present their dissertations to a non-technical audience in three minutes or less. Preliminary heats will be held in March to determine finalists for the grand finale event on April 3. Along with helping graduate students hone their communication and presentation skills, winners will be awarded cash prizes. For more information and to register, please visit tinyurl.com/UF3MT. This competition is open to international students.

Got something going on?

Want to see it in this space? Send an email with "What's Happening" in the subject line to kgriffis@alligator.org. To ensure publication in the next day's newspaper, please submit the event before 5 p.m. Please model your submissions after above events and keep them 150 words or fewer. Improperly formatted "What's Happening" submissions may not appear in the paper. Press releases will not appear in the paper.

Have an event planned?
Add it to the Alligator's
online calendar:
alligator.org/calendar



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PEDRO BRAVO CASE

Murder trial proceedings moving along

JULIA GLUM

Alligator Staff Writer jglum@alligator.org

At about 2 and a half minutes, Tuesday's hearing in the Pedro Bravo case might have been its shortest yet.

After lawyers confirmed that taking depositions is going well, Judge Ysleta McDonald set another hearing for April 22. The trial of Bravo, the 20-year-old former Santa Fe College student accused of killing UF freshman Christian

Aguilar in 2012, is due to start Aug. 4. Pretrial hearings are set for July 16.

Those are the days Christian's dad, Carlos Aguilar, is focusing on.

"It's a relief to know the date," he said. "Hopefully, by the end of August, everyone will know the truth, and everybody will be able to say justice was served."

But Tuesday's hearing just served as a check-in on the attor-

neys' progress.

In January, defense lawyer Michael Ruppert told the judge that his witnesses numbered more than 100. State Attorney Brian Kramer previously explained the need to travel to collect some of his depositions, and Tuesday he said he has set up dates to do so.

With these developments and the announcement of a trial schedule, Aguilar said he can see "the light at the end of the tunnel."



Ryan Jones / Alligator Staff

Pedro Bravo walks in for a case management hearing at the Alachua County Courthouse on Tuesday. Another case management hearing was scheduled for April 22.

Gainesville reflects statewide tourism rise

► UF'S CAMPUS HELPS.

CHRISTIAN COOPER

Alligator Contributing Writer

Last year was record-setting for Florida tourism, and some ripples have reached the Swamp.

More than 94.7 million visitors came to the state in 2013, a number that exceeded the previous high of 91.5 million in 2012, according to a press release from Gov. Rick Scott.

It was also a good year for tourism in Gainesville. The city isn't usually regarded as a tourist hot spot beyond people traveling to UF, but John Pricher, the interim director of Visit-Gainesville, said that is starting to change.

Although it is hard to measure, Gainesville's tourism is steadily growing, Pricher said. Last year Gainesville saw about 1.88 million visitors, compared with the 1.76 million in 2012 and 1.63 million in 2011.

The university is Gainesville's "beach," he said, because it draws people to the city and attracts national attention. But once people get here, they realize there's more to do than visit campus.

"We're not a beach, and we don't have an amusement

park," he said. "We have to be creative in trying to find our other markets."

VisitGainesville's role is to expose as many people as possible to nature-based attractions in and around the city such as springs, state parks and nature trails.

Daniel Urban, a 21-year-old UF mechanical engineering junior, said he doesn't feel like there are enough options for visitors.

"I feel like most of the tourism in Gainesville is focused on the partying scene and lacks options for those who want to spend their nights away from clubs," Urban wrote in an email. "Areas like Paynes Prairie provide some alternatives, but there aren't enough options overall, especially at night."

However, UF's Outdoor Adventure Recreation President Nelson Anderson wrote in an email that the city has an extensive park system with enough sites to keep anyone busy for an entire summer. He said the La Chua Trail at Paynes Prairie is one of his favorites.

"On a sunny day, the trail can look like Disney World it's so crowded," he said. "It's a 3-mile hike, and you will see more alligators and birds than you've seen in your life if the weather is right."

UF student jailed in child porn discovery

► OFFICERS FOUND IT ON HIS LAPTOP.

JENNA LYONS

Alligator Staff Writer

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Gainesville Police arrested a UF Ph.D. student Tuesday morning after officers reported he accessed child pornography on his laptop.

Officers arrested 26-year-old Abdulaziz Mohail Alshehri on three counts of promoting a photo/movie of a sexual performance by a child, according to an arrest report.

In early November, Alshehri used the file-sharing program BitComet 1.3 to access child porn on the BitTorrent network and offered the files to be downloaded by others.

Law enforcement downloaded the files and found the IP address was leased by Cox Communications, according to the report. A Cox subpoena identified Alshehri as the account holder.

A search of Alshehri's room in Ridgemar Commons Apartments, located at 3611 SW 34th St., revealed he lived alone and possessed a secure Wi-Fi router, according to the report. When forensic specialists searched Alshehri's laptop at his apartment, they found several torrents with titles suggesting child pornography.

During questioning, Alshehri confirmed the Sony laptop was his. He also admitted to using BitComet and to watching child pornography on his laptop, according to the report.

Officers booked Alshehri into the Alachua County Jail at about 11:40 a.m. Tuesday, where he remained as of press time. His bond has not been set yet.

#DangerousBlackKids a trial spinoff

DUNN, from page 1

law was revisited by Dunn's lawyers in their case.

Kenneth Nunn, a Levin College of Law professor, said something needs to be done about the current law.

"There is this view that it is reasonable to use deadly force against African American males while they're basically doing nothing," he said. "The law symbolically suggests to people that this is acceptable behavior. That is concerning."

After the Dunn mistrial, Americans took to Twitter to voice their concerns. Users have been posting

"There is this view that it is reasonable to use deadly force against African American males while they're basically doing nothing."

Kenneth Nunn

Levin College of Law professor

pictures with the sarcastic Twitter hashtag #DangerousBlackKids.

Awurama Acquah, a 19-year-old UF telecommunication sophomore, said she thinks the hashtag is a brilliant way to discuss how people should stop stereotyping.

"Young black people are not dan-

gerous. They are normal kids," she said.

Davis and his friends had been playing music in their car when Dunn got into an argument with them about the noise level. Dunn then thought he saw a gun and fired into the car, Reuters reported.

Charles Goston, former Alachua County Democratic Black Caucus president, said the murders of the two teenagers show that, even with a black president, not much has changed in America.

"People are still flying rebel flags. They don't only have the flag on their cars," he said. "They got the rebel flag on their hearts."

Voting continues today until 8:30 p.m.

ELECTIONS, from page 1

with the voting process and that voting is important when it comes to "being involved on campus."

Swamp Party spokeswoman Susan Webster said the first day of voting was successful for her party.

"We got very positive feedback from students and have enjoyed informing them about elections and our party," she said. "Students have been extremely receptive to our qualified candidates."

Taco Libre Party Student Body Treasurer candidate Micaela Montero Dokser said her party is focusing mainly on a social media campaign and spent the



Montero Dokser

first day of voting creating Facebook posts and reaching out to students online.

Students Party spokesman Alex Klayman said he predicts general voting turnout to be lower this year.

"It's confirming what we already knew," he said. "Given the lack of competitiveness of the ticket, the turnout would be lower than usual."

Voting will continue today from 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Floridians buzz about art of beekeeping as bee health declines

► THE NUMBER OF STATEWIDE BEE COLONIES HAS DOUBLED.

KELSEY MARTINEZ
Alligator Contributing Writer

The buzz about the decreasing honeybee population has motivated some Floridians to invest in a new hobby.

Each year, the nation's population of honeybees declines by more than 30 percent.

Meanwhile, the number of Floridian beekeepers has nearly tripled in the past decade, with more than 2,700 people currently combating the buzzkill.

Researchers first documented a decline in honeybee health around 2005, said Daniel Schmehl, postdoctoral associate for UF's Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory.

The problem is colony collapse disorder — the reduced population of adult bees in beehives.

Although the ultimate reason for the disorder is uncertain, researchers think pesticides, reduced nutrition, transportation and climate change are possible suspects, Schmehl said.

Some Floridians realized the threat to the state's agriculture and environment and are choosing to do something about it.

"It's a good thing that came out of a bad thing," said Dennis Riggs, webmaster for the Florida State Beekeepers Association. "A lot of people became concerned when they started hearing warnings that bees were in trouble."

Schmehl said the increase in bee-

keepers has more than doubled the number of Florida bee colonies from approximately 150,000 to about 400,000 in about eight years.

However, the increased number of Florida beekeepers and colonies does not ensure proper beekeeping handling and instruction, he said.

"It's a good thing that came out of a bad thing. A lot of people became concerned when they started hearing warnings that bees were in trouble."

Dennis Riggs

Florida State Beekeepers Association webmaster

UF's Entomology and Nematology Department offers a long-term training and certification program for registered beekeepers.

But for newbies, the department hosts the UF Bee College, a program for the general public that teaches individuals how to become better beekeepers.

"It's focused on education — maintaining your bees, starting beekeeping — just acquiring those basic skills," Schmehl said.

The program, which will be held March 7 - 8, offers more than 50 training, lecture and hands-on courses over a two-day period. It will take place at the Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience in St. Augustine.

"We're just making everyone aware of the goodness and importance of bees," he said. "They realize it's a doable hobby. It's not something that's impossible."



Adriana Barbat / Alligator

Breaking Down Bambooville

UF greenhouse manager Jeff Hubbard helps dismantle artist Jon Anderson's "Bambooville" on Tuesday. The university requested Monday that the site be cleared within 72 hours.

LOCAL

Man dies, three others injured in Tuesday morning I-75 accident

JENNA LYONS

Alligator Staff Writer

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A Lake Butler man died and three people were injured early Tuesday after a semitruck crashed into a pickup on Interstate 75.

At about 1:45 a.m., Ronald W. Sapp, 33, was driving south in a pickup truck in the center lane of I-75 near Archer Road, according to a Florida Highway Patrol media release.

The pickup truck moved

into the right lane in front of a semitruck then abruptly stopped, causing the semitruck to crash into its back. After the crash, both vehicles ran off of the road, according to the report.

The pickup overturned and ended up facing west on its left side. The semi skidded along the shoulder until it crashed into a group of trees, facing south.

Authorities pronounced Sapp dead on the scene at about 2 a.m., according to

the report.

Two passengers were inside the pickup with Sapp. Kristopher Doski, 29, of Ormond Beach, and Michael P. Hammer, 52, of Lake City, were taken to UF Health Shands with serious injuries.

The passengers were not wearing seatbelts, according to the report.

James A. Gloss, a 62-year-old Longwood resident, was driving the semitruck. He was taken to UF Health Shands with serious injuries.

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Opinions

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2014
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Editorial

Why do I vote this way? Hey, must be the money

Although some UF students get fired up over Student Government elections, the overwhelming majority just don't. During last year's elections, voter turnout accounted for just 20 percent of the UF Student Body.

Hey, we get it: With trekking out to a polling location, waiting in line and trying to make sense of the referendums, as comedian John Mulaney said, it is so much easier not to do things than it is to do them.

However, the editorial board of the Alligator is beseeching you, readers, to take a few minutes and go vote. And it really takes just minutes. Polling locations are all over campus, including the Broward Hall basement, the Reitz Union computer lab and Southwest Recreation Center. The polling locations are open today from 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

After all, SG's decisions directly affect you.

Although SG really only enters the general UF consciousness during election seasons, you should know that every week they meet to make decisions that influence every aspect of student life, including how your money is spent.

According to the UF Bursar's office, undergraduate students pay \$17.35 per credit hour for the activity and service fee, or the money SG controls. Multiply that by 30 credit hours per year, as required by Bright Futures Scholarships to continue receiving funding, and then multiply that by four. Most undergraduates pay \$2,082 in activity and service fees over the course of their education at UF.

For the 2013-14 fiscal year, the amended activity and service fee budget totaled about \$18.9 million.

Whether you're paying for your own education, receiving scholarships or benefiting from Bright Futures, someone — either yourself, your parents, organizations or the state — is paying for you to be here, and you/they are giving money to SG for them to spend on your behalf. Don't you want a say in how it's spent?

This election's ballot also has a constitutional amendment and two referendums you should know about before going in to vote. The amendment calls for updates to the language in UF's anti-discrimination policy to include genetic information in the list of things UF and UF-affiliated organizations may not discriminate against.

The first referendum proposes changes to UF's open-container policy on gamedays to allow anyone of legal drinking age to carry an open container of alcohol on campus during home football games.

The second referendum proposes a 50-cent-per-credit-hour Student Green Energy Fund fee to finance renewable-energy products on campus and update existing campus technology to be more eco-friendly. As a forerunner for sustainability, it makes sense that students would approve of this nominal fee for UF's betterment.

Bottom line, folks, go vote. We guarantee it won't take any longer than stopping for coffee at the Library West Starbucks.

Reader response

Today's question: Do you agree with the Stand Your Ground law?

Tuesday's question: Will you vote in the SG elections? **58% YES**
42% NO
84 TOTAL VOTES

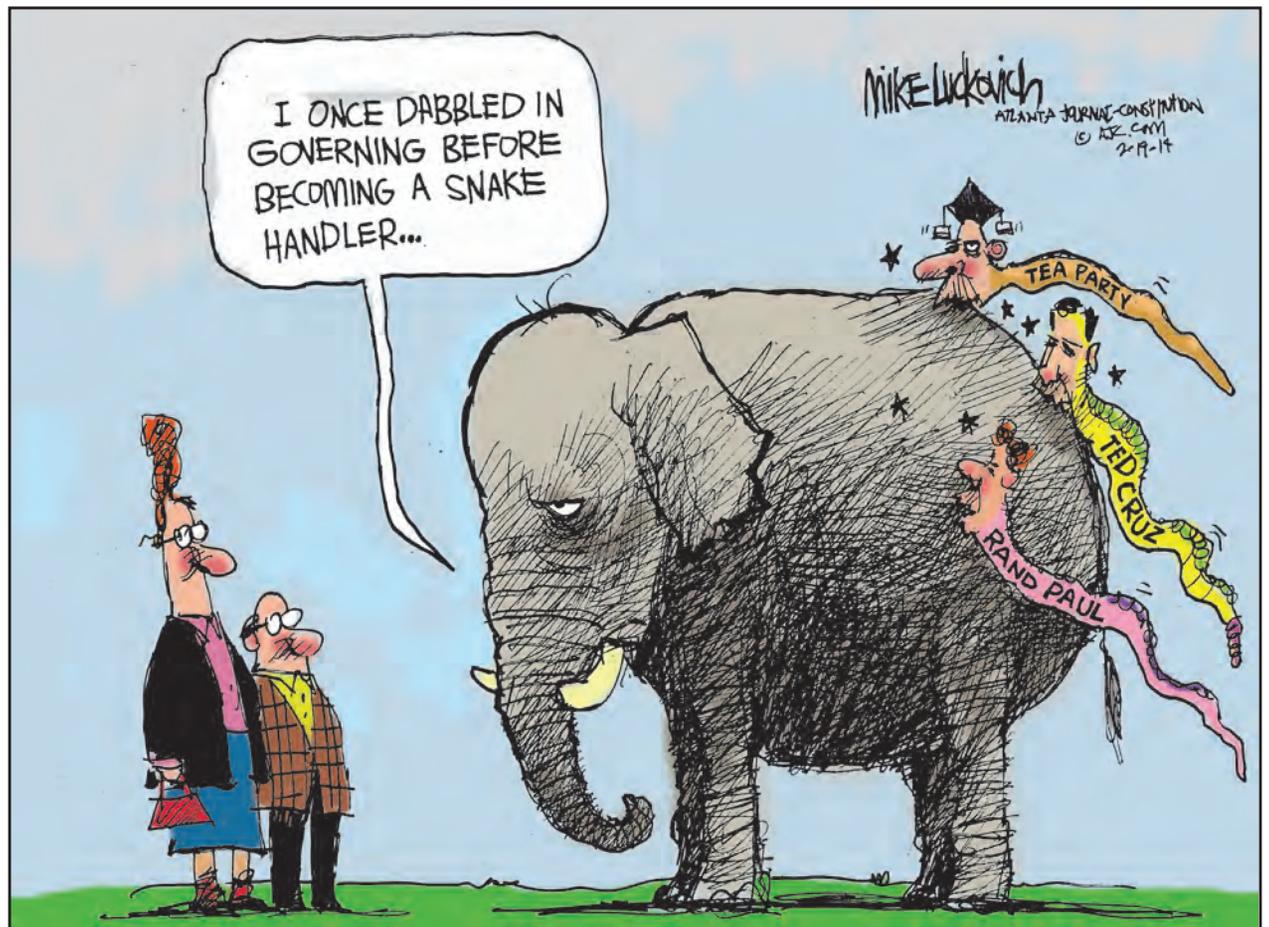
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Column

Protect Earth and her scarce resources

Our sun is amazing. It keeps us warm and keeps things lit. It's pretty much the best thing to happen to this solar system since sliced bread — well, before sliced bread, to be exact. I guess you could say we're the sun's Goldilocks child because to date, we are the only planet with observable life in our solar system.

This is because Earth is the perfect distance from the sun, where we will not all freeze to death nor get scorched alive. The sun comprises approximately 99.8 percent of the mass of our solar system.

Astronomers have a scale for the size of stars, labeled conveniently by the acronym O.B.A.F.G.K.M. Starting with "O," the classification lists in descending order from brightest to dimmest. On this list, our sun ranks up to a staggering G. Meaning, it's not too big and not too bright.

Our sun is only one of 100 billion stars in our galaxy. The next nearest star to us is 4.2 light years away. Each star has some sort of orbiting body. Therefore there are possibly billions of other planets out there. And that's just in our own galaxy.

The Hubble Space Telescope estimates that there are hundreds of billions of galaxies in our universe. To put it in perspective, we are one of eight planets — a rather small planet at that — that revolves around a star, which is one of more than a billion stars in a galaxy and one of a billion galaxies in our universe.

With all the technology we have today, scientists still have not found evidence of current flourishing life on other planets. The odds are against us though, due to the amount of unknown that exists in space. This is why most scholars say we simply cannot be alone in the cosmos. For the time being though, we have no proof. We may never find proof, making our planet, abundant with life, all that more rare and precious.

Yet here we are, destroying the Earth.



Rachel Kalisher
opinions@alligator.org

It's a disastrous ecological domino effect. Carbon dioxide emissions from cars, aerosol, greenhouse gases and burning of fossil fuels are contributing to the hole in the ozone layer.

Deforestation by the masses is taking away one of the only resources that can convert the CO2 into oxygen. This ozone

hole is allowing the sun to come in hotter and brighter. That means stronger UV rays, causing problems such as more probable skin cancer all the way to reproductive problems in marine life.

This heat is also melting our ice caps, devastating wildlife and ruining agricultural cycles. We all might lovingly refer to this as global warming.

The whole point of this column was to show how insignificant our place in the universe is, but through that, how significant it really becomes.

We cannot ruin the only place to survive lest we risk the extinction of our kind. It will not happen in our lifetimes, but one day humanity will find themselves using resources far too quickly and will be lost in terms of what to do next.

We are the future, and we have to care about this. It's our responsibility.

Many UF graduates will go on to become chemists, engineers or will hold public office. We can figure out alternative methods of energy through technology and policy making.

But it's up to us to recognize and repair. It's cliché, but we've got the whole world in our hands.

We've got one Earth, folks. Let's be sure not to drop it.

Rachel Kalisher is a UF anthropology and classics junior. Her columns usually appear on Tuesdays.

The views expressed here are not necessarily those of the Alligator.

Column

Anti-LGBT laws show intolerance

Last week I wrote about how the reaction of prominent Republicans to Coca-Cola's "America the Beautiful" commercial reflects conservative intolerance toward nonwhite and non-English speaking Americans.

In the past few days, policies proposed by Republican legislators have taken aim at another minority group that has been a frequent target of discrimination: the LGBT community.

Conservatives who oppose the legalization of same-sex marriage have recently suffered a series of major defeats.

The Supreme Court ruled in June 2013 that part of the Defense of Marriage Act, a federal law that forbade the government from recognizing same-sex marriages, was unconstitutional.

In the months since the DOMA decision, courts in Utah, Oklahoma, Ohio, Kentucky and Virginia have all produced rulings either legalizing same-sex marriage or significantly expanding the rights of gay Americans.

Now that religious conservatives are losing the battle over same-sex marriage, they are exploring new avenues to discriminate against LGBT Americans.

A bill recently passed by the Kansas House of Representatives would allow private businesses and government officials to refuse service to any marriage celebration, provided that the refusal is based on "sincerely held religious beliefs ... regarding sex or gender."

If enacted, this bill could deny LGBT Kansans access to vital social services such as counseling and employment benefits simply because a government official or employer believes homosexuality or gay marriage to be immoral.

A bill proposed by a Republican representative in Idaho goes even further. The legislation would allow any "doctor, nurse, pharmacist, attorney, social worker, firefighter, police officer, estate agent or insurance provider" to refuse service to gay Americans without risking the loss of their licenses.



Elliot Levy
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For example, this bill would allow doctors and police officers to refuse life-saving emergency services to members of the LGBT community solely on the basis of their religious beliefs with no risk of being fired.

The Daily Beast's Janelle Bouie calls these anti-LGBT proposals a "close cousin" of the Jim Crow laws of the segregation-era South. Just as the Jim Crow laws

legalized racial discrimination, Bouie argues, these bills would enshrine discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Republicans at the federal level are also engaging in efforts to discriminate against LGBT Americans. Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, recently introduced the State Marriage Defense Act. The bill would allow individual states to not recognize same-sex marriages that were performed in other states where the practice is legal.

This law represents a callous attempt to circumvent the DOMA ruling and allows continued discrimination against LGBT Americans in the 33 states that have not yet legalized same-sex marriage.

Conservatives have also sought to marginalize and demonize LGBT Americans through symbolic actions.

Republican members of the House of Representatives recently held an hour-long session on the House floor in support of "National Marriage Week," during which conservative and religious groups vigorously promote anti-gay legislation. Rep. Ted Yoho, R-Fla., who represents Gainesville, was one of the members in attendance.

The tireless efforts of Republicans around the country to promote discrimination against the LGBT community demonstrate conservatives' intolerance of anyone outside its base of old, white, straight, religious fundamentalists.

The Republican Party's inability to expand its support beyond this rapidly shrinking base spells serious trouble for its long-term viability.

Elliot Levy is a UF political science and public relations junior. His columns appear on Wednesdays.

Guest column

What to know about Venezuela

Last week, I spent my Wednesday night watching "Breaking Bad" episodes on Netflix.

Meanwhile, my best friend spent his Wednesday night hiding from the police and military forces in the streets of Caracas, Venezuela. He was one of thousands of students who marched peacefully all over Venezuela to express their discontent with the government led by Nicolas Maduro. Luckily for him, he wasn't one of the almost 100 students who were captured, arrested and tortured by the police. Luckily for him, he wasn't one of the two students killed by gunfire.

Maduro took over Venezuela's presidency after the death of Hugo Chavez in March of last year. Since then, Venezuela has suffered the worst scarcity, inflation and murder rates in Latin America. Caracas, the capital, was ranked the third most dangerous city in the world in 2013. Every day, Venezuelans spend three to four hours in line to buy groceries or medicine.

Monica Spear, a former Miss Universe, was murdered while on holiday with her family. Hers is one of the 200,000 murders in Venezuela during the last 15 years. All of this happens while Venezuela sells oil at record high prices to the world.

The student protests have been going on since last Wednesday. Today marks one week of continuous manifestation. Yesterday Leopoldo Lopez, the leader of the opposition, turned himself in to government forces. But why doesn't anyone know about this? Why doesn't the situation in my country get the same attention as troubles in Syria or Turkey?

The answer: a media blackout from the government.

In 2006, Chavez ordered RCTV, a channel with almost four decades of history, to close. Since then, many TV channels have been sold or have changed their editorial lines in favor of the government. Last year, with the selling of Globovision, Venezuelans saw how their last TV outlet was turned into a puppet of the govern-

Miguel Machado
Speaking Out

ment. Now Globovision has prohibited Henrique Capriles, one of the leaders of the opposition, to go on air.

There is also no paper for the newspapers. El Nacional, a newspaper founded in 1943, had to reduce its publication to 14 pages due to lack of resources, so Venezuelans have fewer and fewer outlets from which to get their information. It's almost as if George Orwell wrote the script.

However, when Orwell wrote "1984," neither Twitter nor Facebook existed.

Social media has become the most powerful weapon available to Venezuelans. Hundreds of images have been shared through social media to raise awareness of the human rights violations taking place. Through social media, Venezuelans have let the world see what the government doesn't want to be seen.

Still, as politicized as this situation may seem, this is not a fight between left and right. Or, as the Venezuelan government puts it, a fight between good and evil.

The reality is that Venezuelans don't have medicine. The reality is that Venezuelan supermarkets are empty. The reality is that more and more Venezuelan students and professionals flee the country to find opportunities abroad. The reality is that Venezuelans don't have a neutral media outlet to get their news from.

What the students in Venezuela are fighting for is for their human rights to be recognized and respected.

So, after reading all this, how can you help? Raising awareness of what is happening can be enough. Share the information through social media, but be careful. Remember, there is no "official information" because the government tries to control all news outlets. Andreina Nash, a 21-year-old UF marketing and telecommunication junior, helped by publishing a video called "What's Going On In Venezuela (In a Nutshell)," which has gotten close to two million views on YouTube.

Me? I'm giving my country a helping hand from far away by writing this column.

Miguel Machado is a UF telecommunication junior.

Column

Minimum-wage raise would be ineffective, increase layoffs

To say that Democrats will have a difficult election cycle this year would be an understatement. Forget the fact that the majority of senators up for reelection are Democrats who represent red states and that House seats are pretty secure. Forget the fact that the president is losing favorability each month while the economy struggles to grow.

The reason why Democrats will undoubtedly face rough times ahead is the fact that their party seems to be embracing an anti-jobs agenda.

At first blush, this appears to be a ridiculous assertion. Why would a major political party advocate policies that hurt businesses? But when you realize that the policy points Democrats are advocating — a minimum-wage hike, opposition to the Keystone Pipeline and a continual support of Obamacare — this assertion becomes more credible and even more worrisome.

Start with the minimum-wage increase. Let me first make clear: I am not necessarily against a raise in the minimum wage. I think that increasing the wage to a reasonable rate in a healthy, booming economy may not be a bad idea.

But right now we do not live in such times. The economy is still slowly trudging along. No real big boost in economic growth is occurring. But left-wing politicians and talking heads believe that raising the minimum wage will be an economic cure-all. The fact of the matter is, this pay hike will no doubt lead to many worker layoffs.

Consider all of the mom-and-pop stores struggling to make ends meet. With the cost of labor rising, keeping more expensive employees with low profits does not make economic or rational sense.

Businesses have to factor in the cost of labor to their budgets. In many industries, the budgets and profit margins are very slim. With labor increasing, they have to change some aspect of their businesses to combat the cost difference. In some instances, some of the now more expensive employees would have to be let go.

Yes, the people who manage to stay in the workforce will have more money at their disposal. But an important question remains: Will they spend that money or save it?

Democrats say spend it, which would lead to more money entering into the marketplace and strengthen the economy. I think these workers will save it. Think about it: If you are work-



Michael Beato
opinions@alligator.org

ing at a job that does not pay well, wouldn't you be more likely to save what discretionary income you have until you really have to use it?

Also, keep in mind that 1.1 percent of Americans actually earn minimum wage and the majority of that percentage are young employees our age working at their first jobs. Guess which group the majority of layoffs will affect?

Consider next the Keystone Pipeline. Much to the chagrin of environmentalists, this project would create actual "shovel-ready" — to quote the president — jobs. Though there is some debate about the exact number, the reality is that jobs will be created, period. This work would have more net jobs than the proposed shovel-ready jobs the president promised — which, for the record, is zero.

The left-wing politicians standing in the way of this project only hurts the Americans looking to work on it.

And the last policy point — supporting the Affordable Care Act — is really no surprise. And though this topic is debated ad nauseam on cable TV and in the blogosphere, it is still a real problem for many Americans.

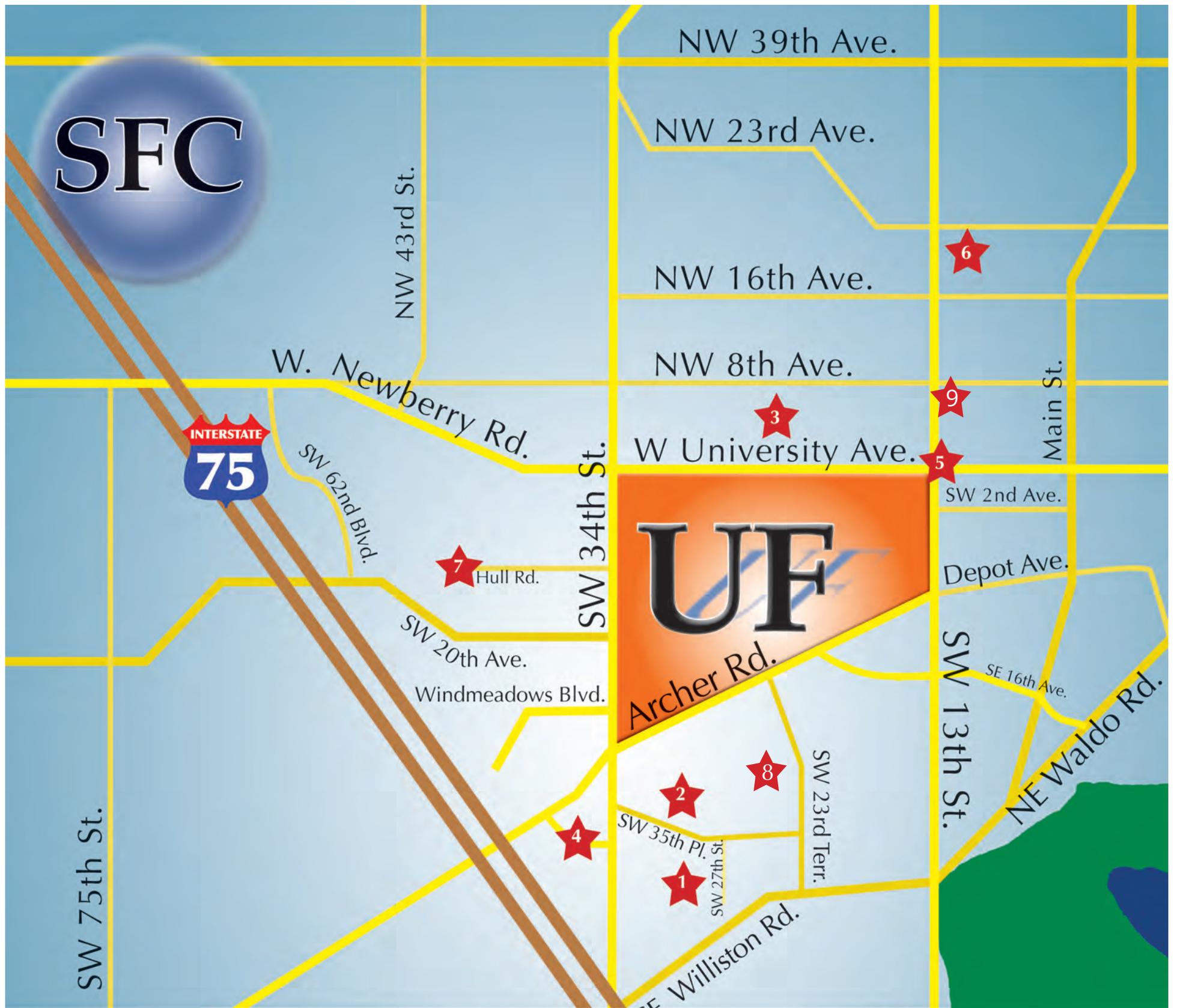
The latest concern entering into the political arena comes from the recent Congressional Budget Office study about Obamacare's effects on having health care no longer tied to one's job.

Many will no doubt leave their jobs because of this. Whether or not you believe this is a good provision, you have to realize this is a disincentive for people to work. The economy does not need a decrease in already bad workforce participation-rate numbers. Add this reality to the many other aspects of the Affordable Care Act and you have an economic mess.

For many Democrats this year, it's going to be hard to defend that agenda. Some pundits and pollsters believe that many Democrats will lose their jobs in Congress because of it.

But the good news for the left is that at least all of the jobs in the executive branch are secure in 2014.

Michael Beato is a UF economics sophomore. His columns appear on Wednesdays.



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Campus program to help veterans launch, grow businesses

▶ APPS ARE DUE FEB. 28.

KATELIN MARINER
Alligator Contributing Writer

To honor military veterans who made sacrifices for the U.S., UF is turning the tables and making a few

sacrifices for them.

The Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation is hosting the Veterans Entrepreneurship Program to help veterans with disabilities start businesses for free.

UF is partnering with Oklahoma State University and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga to bring

the national program to Gainesville. It teaches veterans how to successfully launch and grow businesses, according to a news release.

Director Michael Morris said he has emotional ties to the program.

"With disabled veterans, they are a classic underserved and highly deserving segment of the population,"

said Morris, an Air Force veteran.

Ronnie Davenport knows how difficult the transition from military to civilian life can be. Davenport, a 24-year-old UF business junior, has six years of service under his belt, including a tour in Iraq.

"All those veterans are so used to military service, and sometimes,

that's not the best way to run a business," Davenport said. "A program like this could help them understand how to be successful in the civilian world."

Applications can be found on the Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation's website and are due Feb. 28.

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- 6 Furnishings
- 7 Computers
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- 9 Bicycles
- 10 For Sale

- 11 Motorcycles, Mopeds
- 12 Autos
- 13 Wanted
- 14 Help Wanted
- 15 Services

- 16 Health Services
- 17 Typing Services
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9 Bicycles

In the market for a new set of wheels or just looking to add a second to that collection? Want personalized handlebars or a fitted seat? Check in the Alligator Classifieds

10 For Sale

●UF Surplus On-Line Auctions● are underway...bikes, computers, furniture, vehicles & more. All individuals interested in bidding go to: SURPLUS.UFL.EDU 392-0370 4-23-14-72-10

Guitars and Musical Instruments New, Used and Factory Refurbished Check Us Out Before You Buy or Sell!! Leonardo's Music, Micanopy, FL 352-450-0928 Leonardos302.com 4-23-14-72-10

Party Supplies: Complete line of Bar Supplies, glassware, Liquor Pours, Shakers, Professional Cooking Utensils. R.W. Beaty Co. 1120 N. Main St., Gainesville 352-448-3433 beatyequip@aol.com 4-23-14-72-10

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BOOKS: A wilderness may be prowled by creatures of the forest. Or it may be urban, highly cultured, and just as deadly. WILDERNESS, a science fiction novel, is by Alan Kovski. Available via Amazon.com 2-28-14-12-10

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11 Motorcycles, Mopeds

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11 Motorcycles, Mopeds



4-23-14-72-11

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12 Autos

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●●● We Buy Junk Cars ●●● ●Trucks, Vans - Titled only● Call KT 352-281-9980 or 352-215-3191 4-23-72-12

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SUN CITY AUTO SALES ALL VEHICLES \$0 DOWN NO CREDIT CHECK!! NO EMPLOYMENT CHECK 352-338-1999 4-23-72-12

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SUNRISE AUTO RENTALS ALL VEHICLES 2014 3630 N. MAIN ST. www.carrentalsunrise.com 352-375-9090 4-23-72-12

SUNRISE AUTO SALES DOWN PAYMENT DEFERRED NO CREDIT CHECKS!!! NO EMPLOYMENT CHECK 352-375-9090 4-23-72-12

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93 CADILLAC SLS \$1999 92 TOYOTA CAMRY \$1999 91 CHEVY CAPRICE \$1900 00 BLAZER \$1999 352-338-1999 4-23-72-12

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13 Wanted

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UF GRAD PAYS MORE for gold jewelry, scrap gold, Rolex, diamonds, guitars, etc. Top \$\$\$\$. Get my offer before you sell! Call Jim 376-8090 or 222-8090 4-23-72-13

The American Cancer Society Road to Recovery Volunteers Needed! VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED to transport cancer patients to treatment. Flexible schedule. Training and liability insurance provided. Please call 352-240-5062 if interested.



St. Francis House is a homeless shelter and soup kitchen located in downtown Gainesville, and we are looking for help from volunteers like you. St. Francis House depends on monetary support from individual donors and community businesses in order to help feed the homeless and the hungry. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Stephanie Breval at (352) 378-9079 or sfhcoor@stfrancis.cfcoxmail.com To make a donation by mail, please send checks payable to St. Francis House P.O. Box 12491 Gainesville, FL 32604

CASH PAID \$300 AND UP!!! ANY CONDITION-RUNNING OR NOT!!! FREE TOWING & SAME DAY PICK-UP NO TITLE NEEDED CALL 352-771-6191 4-23-14-72-13

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED I AM BLIND & WOULD LIKE HELP WITH: ●Rides to church: Mass at Queen of Peace. ●Learning to rake knit hats to send to Haiti & other places. Call 352-219-6948 2-21-14-72-13

13 Wanted

Work on NewGov.us! Must be interested in web or UX design, programming, history and/or politics. Contact eric@buygood.us 2-24-14-7-13

14 Help Wanted

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Students in Accounting, Aviation, Business/Sales and computer science needed for various positions. Flexible schedules and competitive pay. Join our team! Learn more at www.gleim.com/employment 4-23-14-72-14

SBSG is a financial transcription company offering part-time work. - Create your own schedule - Competitive Production-Based Pay - Close to campus! - Must be able to touch-type 65wpm Apply Online: www.sbsgrp.com 12-3-14-151-14

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BEST PART-TIME JOB IN GATOR NATION 3 Miles from Campus \$11.25/ Hr to Start | \$12-\$15 After Training Flexible Schedule | Ideal for Students Call Today (352) 264- 0044 2-20-13-28-14

Summer Jobs - \$2400 for 8 weeks - Co-ed camp - Room and Board included Get Paid to Play! The Florida Elks Youth Camp (FEYC) needs male and female camp counselors ages 18 and up. FEYC is an over-night camp located in Umatilla, FL. The camp runs June 9th - August 2nd. Please contact Krys Ragland at 352 455-4267 or Krys@feyc.org. 4-23-14-64-14

Looking for Emergency Alarm Operators. Similar to 911 dispatching. Ability to work fast paced. This is an as needed position. Clean background check. Inquire to ddamiano@cpss.net 2-28-14-30-14

OFFICE ASSISTANT \$8/hr, 15+ hrs/week, flexible schedule. Typing skills, Word/Excel, some hardware knowledge a plus. Resume to officegnv@gmail.com. Indicate available days & hours. 2-21-14-15-14

Up to \$15 an hour! Busy Car Wash now looking for hard workers. Must have weekend availability and clean driving record. Apply online www.parkplacecarwash.com click the green "Join Us" ball. 2-27-14-12-14

Opus Coffee

We are searching for fun and motivated team players to work 15 to 40 hours per week at a fast-paced coffee bar.

Starting pay is \$8/hour + tips. Applications downloaded at opuscoffee.com; click on the Employment link at the bottom and follow the instructions. 2-21-14-8-14

Santa Fe College Accountant, Finance Application Deadline: March 4, 2014 For additional information please contact Human Resources at 352-395-5187 or go to http://www.sfcollege.edu/hr/. EA/EO notice is found at http://www.sfcollege.edu/eaeo. 2-20-14-7-14

Another Saturday night without a date? Read The Alligator.

SPECIALS





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3/2 Townhouse	\$950 \$850*
4/2 Townhouse	\$1150 \$950*

*Specials valid for select units. Rates subject to change. Some restrictions may apply.

- Large sparkling pool
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- 3 Bus routes to UF
- Clubhouse with billiards & foosball
- Computer Lab
- Alarm systems in every unit
- Dog Park
- Lighted basketball, raquetball & tennis courts
- Vegetable Garden

14 Help Wanted

Food Science and Human Nutrition at the University of Florida is conducting a research study for women 20-40 yo on birth control pills. Compensation given. For details call Luisa Rios-Avila at 392-1991 Ext 266. 4-23-14-45-14

Certified Lifeguard for residential pool activities. Permanent Full time position available that serves as a Lifeguard during open pool season and as a Treatment Specialist for adult male psychiatric patients during the remainder of the year. Position will start at \$12.00 hourly with current Lifeguard Certification. Full time position will also require completion of some college course work or experience in a direct care treatment facility. Candidates must also have a valid Florida Drivers License, a non-disqualifying criminal record, and be able to provide college transcripts if applicable. Temporary Part time position -Requires current and active certification as a Lifeguard. Drivers License and a non-disqualifying criminal record required. No other education or experience required. Apply online @ <http://peoplefirst.mylorida.com>. Select vacancies in Alachua County. Position # 60033454 Unit Treatment Specialist (Lifeguard). You may also contact Grady Carthon @ (352)264-8248. Deadline for applications will be February 28, 2014. 2-27-14-9-14

Local tech company looking for content creators and customer support. Must be familiar with WordPress. Great Pay, Flexible Hours (P/T or F/T). Contact Syed at 561-247-5395 2-21-14-3-14

Pt Cleaner in GOOD HEALTH w/ own car and a valid DL and Insurance. Background checks will be ran and 3 references are needed Please call or text@ 352-214-0868 2-25-5-14

WORK FROM ANYWHERE, UP TO \$12-15/HR DRIVING YOUR VEHICLE AND DELIVERING FOOD FROM RESTAURANTS! Email Jeremiah@gainesville2go.com with what side of town you live on, what kind of car you drive, and your availability. Delivery experience preferred, not required. 2-21-14-3-14

AFTER SCHOOL MOTHER'S HELPER needed ASAP for two GIFTED children, 8 and 10. Reliable car + clean driving record must. Student of elementary ed preferred. Great pay+mileage. Send resume to AlligatorNanny@gmail.com 2-25-14-5-14

ACCOUNTS Immediate PT, flex hours, \$8/hr. Quickbooks knowledge or accounting major. officegnv@gmail.com 2-28-14-8-14

15 Services

Do you have a business that provides a service? Place your ad in the Services Section of the Alligator Classifieds for as little as **\$2.50 per day**. Call us at 373-FIND.

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Want to be a CNA, phlebotomist or pharm tech? Express Training offers courses, days, eve, weekend. All classes live, no videos. Call 352-338-1193 or expresstrainingservices.com 4-23-14-72-15

PERSONAL TRAINING 300 Personal and Group Training Flexible Scheduling Exclusive Facility Call for a free workout 339-2199 4-23-72-15

15 Services

NEED A LAWYER? SiddiquiLegal.com Private Experienced Affordable 4-23-72-15

Want to be a CNA? Don't want to wait? Express Training Services now offers a CNA class which can be completed in one weekend. Perfect for busy college students. www.expresstrainingservices.com/ww 4-23-14-67-15

16 Health Services

HIV ANTIBODY TESTING Alachua County Health Dept. Call 334-7960 for app't (optional \$20 fee)

THE TRUE YOU! Lose 8-15 pounds in 4 weeks Only \$119! Gain muscle while you lose fat Groups forming now. 339-2199 4-23-72-16

18 Personals

HIV ANTIBODY TESTING Alachua County Health Dept. Call 334-7960 for app't (optional \$20 fee)

★**Family Chiropractic**★ Since 1977. Two blocks from U.F. 373-7070 4-23-72-18

SPRING BREAK! is just around the corner. U still have a lil holiday weight hangin around? U have 45 min. we can tighten, tone & firm any area. For only \$25,\$15 or Free!Msg me wrapurich.com or 352-538-5550. 2-25-14-9-16

Your roommate hasn't done the dishes in How long?! Find a better dishwasher in the Alligator Classifieds.

19 Connections

Want to make a connection? Place your ad here to look for someone to share a common interest with or for your true love

20 Event Notices

IS YOUR BUSINESS, CLUB OR ORGANIZATION HAVING AN EVENT? DO YOU HAVE A SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT? PLACE YOUR AD HERE AND GET IT NOTICED!

21 Entertainment

Get the party started! Place your Entertainment classified today to get people up and about. Call 373-FIND.

● **Rocky Creek Paintball** ● In Gainesville ● It's a Blast! Call 371-2092 4-23-14-72-21

23 Rides

Trying to get to and from somewhere? Want to cut back on that gas bill? Place an ad in the classifieds to find trip arrangements or show off your bus and shuttle service. 373-FIND

24 Pets

Furry, feathery, scaly...no, not your roommate...pets. Find or advertise your pets or pet products here in the Pets section of the Alligator.

Affectionate, funny, senior, female pit bull rescued from dog fighting/breeding operation needs stable, safe home. Dog loves people but is aggressive toward other canines. Otherwise very easy-going and quiet. For more info and pics, contact rbauman@ufl.edu. Without help, this poor girl might have no other options. 3-11-14-24

24 Pets

ARMADILLO LIZARD \$10 - includes tank. Call 352-529-0259 2-19-14-3-24

25 Lost & Found

Finders Keepers? If you find something, you can place a FREE FOUND AD in our lost & found section. Be kind to someone who's lost what you've found. Call 373-FIND.

FOUND PERSONAL NOTES "You" "Me"

in parking lot at Alligator, Friday morning. Please call 352-373-3463 8am-5pm Mon-Fri or email elight@alligator.org to arrange for confidential return.

25 Lost & Found

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A ₁ E ₁ E ₁ H ₄ H ₄ T ₁ C ₃	Triple Word Score	RACK 1
[] [] [] [] [] []		[]
A ₁ A ₁ I ₁ I ₁ N ₁ T ₁ T ₁		RACK 2
[] [] [] [] [] []		[]
I ₁ I ₁ O ₁ R ₁ T ₁ L ₁ V ₄	1st Letter Double	RACK 3
[] [] [] [] [] []		[]
A ₁ A ₁ I ₁ R ₁ L ₁ F ₄ C ₃		RACK 4

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle
Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Appliance connector, briefly	3 Long (for)	38 Seeks, with "for"	52 "Ace of ___": 2000s Food Network bakery show
7 Cairo cobra	4 Inheritance	40 Picasso's "this"	53 Marriott rival
10 Selling site with a Half.com division	5 Naked	41 Provide with new weaponry	54 Like leaf blowers
14 Point in the right direction	6 Potent '60s-'70s Pontiac	42 ___ egg	55 RN workplaces
15 Bather's facility	7 Stars in Kansas' motto	48 "The Dick Van Dyke Show" surname	59 Military assignment
16 No longer green, perhaps	8 Animal trail	49 Figure of high interest?	60 Certain chorister
17 Confederate slogan symbolizing financial independence	9 Khakis, e.g.	50 Man with a van, perhaps	61 Family group
19 Asia Minor honorific	10 Timeline chapter	51 Emulate Cicero	65 Debatable "gift"
20 Swipe	11 Deceitful sort, on the playground		
21 Thin soup	12 Sap sucker		
23 Plywood wood	13 Century units		
24 Romaine lettuce dishes	18 "Very funny" TV station		
27 Literary alter ego	22 Good start?		
30 Slowing, to the orch.	25 Architect		
31 Great Lakes' ___ Canals	Saarinan		
32 Speak harshly	26 In ___ of: replacing		
36 Co-founding SkyTeam airline	27 Connection rate meas.		
39 "Happy Feet" critters	28 Cowboys quarterback Tony		
43 Small thicket	29 Fit to be tied		
44 Sans serif, e.g.	33 Getty collection		
45 Razor-billed diver	34 Le Carré's Smiley, for one		
46 "Isn't ___ shame?"	35 Get-up-and-go		
47 Sudden jets	37 Fastener with flanges		
50 Study guides for literature students			
56 Cousin of edu			
57 Municipal ribbon cutter, often			
58 Rapper ___ Shakur			
62 Femme fatale			
64 Sandwich choice			
66 List catchall			
67 Sci-fi staples			
68 Rest of the afternoon			
69 Modernize			
70 Messy digs			
71 How coal may be priced			

DOWN

1 Launchpad thumbs-ups	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71
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By Jeffrey Wechsler (c)2014 Tribune Content Agency, LLC 02/19/14

Transfer notches big hit in UF's four-run seventh inning

ADAM PINCUS
Alligator Staff Writer

@adamDpincus

A chance encounter for Braden Mattson put the Texas-bred catcher on a one-way ticket to Gainesville. He played his freshman season at Texas Christian, where Chuck Jeroloman, the brother of former Gators catcher Brian Jeroloman, served as a volunteer assistant in 2011.

Mattson and Jeroloman stayed in touch as the catcher transferred to San Jacinto College. Eventually, Gators hitting coach Craig Bell paid Mattson a visit and liked what he saw.

"[Mattson is] so ready for this. That kid was born to play baseball."

Taylor Gushue
UF catcher

The courting reaped dividends on Tuesday when Mattson's single in the seventh drove in two runs to extend the Gators' late lead, which they would not relinquish. No. 23 Florida (3-1), fueled by the seventh-inning offense, defeated Central Florida (3-1) 5-1 in McKethan Stadium.

"He's so ready for this. That kid was born to play baseball. His head is in the game at all the time. He loves it," catcher Taylor Gushue said. "I told him before the game, 'Dude, sometimes I'm nervous, and I look at you and I'm not nervous anymore.' He's that kind of kid."

That calming effect manifested itself in a four-run seventh inning in which Florida benefited from a bullpen implosion by Central Florida. After the two teams entered

the seventh tied at one, right-hander Joe Marrota walked four batters, including junior Zack Powers for Florida's go-ahead run. The free

pass set the stage for Mattson.

Florida added one more in the inning on a Justin Shafer infield single to shortstop. The Gators

sent 10 to the plate in the seventh for the first time this year. Gushue opened the scoring with a first-inning solo home run landing just

below the right-field scoreboard. Lost in the opportunistic offense

SEE BASEBALL, PAGE 15



Ryan Jones/Alligator Staff

Taylor Gushue swings at a pitch during Florida's 4-0 win against Maryland on Friday at McKethan Stadium. Gushue hit his — and the team's — first home run of the season in UF's 5-1 home win against UCF on Tuesday. Gushue leads the Gators with six RBIs through four games.

Gators face potential trap

► UF LOST AT NO. 2 SPOT IN '13.

JONATHAN CZUPRYN

Alligator Staff Writer

@jczupryn

Even though Florida's most anticipated game of the year is in its rear-view mirror, it cannot afford to skip any steps in preparation for Auburn (12-11, 4-8 Southeastern Conference) tonight at 7 in the O'Connell Center.

Coach Billy Donovan said one of the most challenging parts of the No. 2 Gators (23-2, 12-0 SEC) having one of its best seasons in school history is dealing with contentment in the locker room.

"We obviously had a week where we played two road games — it was two really good wins for our guys," Donovan said. "But right now, they don't mean anything as it relates to going into this next game against Auburn. So are we willing to take ourselves all the way to the bottom and realize that we're starting off at the bottom and now we obviously have to build and prepare for this next them, and then after the Auburn game are you prepared to go all the way back down to the cellar again and have to prepare and have to go back up?"

The last time the Gators were ranked

SEE HOOPS, PAGE 15

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Florida sweeps Florida State

IAN COHEN

Alligator Writer

@ibcohen5

For an in-state rivalry that always draws a large crowd, Gators-Seminole matches are rarely close.

The trend continued Tuesday night.

No. 5 Florida (7-1) beat Florida State (5-3) in a 7-0 sweep, improving its record against FSU to 54-1 all time.

Freshmen Kourtney Keegan clinched the match with a 6-2, 6-0 decision to give the Gators their fifth shutout of the season.

"I thought we were very aggressive," coach Roland Thornqvist said. "We hit the ball really well, and we're good when we're hitting our pace and depth, and our play at

the net was executed really well."

Florida controlled the pace of the match from start to finish. Olivia Janowicz and Stefani Stojic won the first doubles match 8-1, followed closely by an 8-1 win from Brianna Morgan and Keegan.

Belinda Woolcock had the only ace of the match and played well alongside Sofie Oyen. The pair did not finish but led their opponent 6-3 when the doubles point was clinched.

"I think we're improving a lot, especially this semester," Woolcock said of the chemistry she has developed with Oyen. "I feel like our relationship on the court has gotten a lot better each match. When we have fun and

SEE W-TENNIS, PAGE 15



Lauren Haeger and the UF softball team will host Jacksonville tonight in their home opener. Read the story on page 14.

UF swimming and diving competes

Florida's swimming and diving teams competed at Day 1 of the Southeastern Conference Championships on Tuesday. The men's team won a pair of relay races, and the women won bronze in two relays.

Poll question

Will the Florida men's basketball team win the remainder of its Southeastern Conference games? Vote online at alligatorSports.org.



Alligator File Photo

Lauren Haeger prepares to swing at the plate during Florida's 6-5 win against Tennessee on March 15, 2013, at Katie Seashole Pressly Stadium.

SOFTBALL

Haeger earns league honor following four-homer weekend

JORDAN MCPHERSON

Alligator Writer

@J_McPherson1126

After two successful years at the plate and in the pitcher's circle, Lauren Haeger knows what is expected of her.

"I don't really have a lot of pre-game jitters anymore, because I know how it's going to be and how fast-paced the game is," she said. "I know what coach (Tim) Walton's expectations are. I know what the routine is. I know how we do things."

And with her best offensive showing of the early season, she lived up to those expectations at the Easton Desert Classic last weekend.

The junior earned her second consecutive league honor when she was named the Southeastern Conference Player of the Week on Monday.

During Florida's sweep of the UNLV-hosted tournament, Haeger posted a .533 batting average in five games at Eller Media Stadium. Half of her eight hits left the park.

Haeger also pitched a complete game against Seattle in Florida's opening matchup in Las Vegas, striking out six batters while drawing only two walks and one earned run in the Gators' 8-1 win against the Redhawks.

Haeger attributes her success at the plate to her dual-role as a pitcher and a hitter.

"It's good because I get the pitcher mentality of it and I get the hitter mentality of it, and I think it works in my advantage most of the time," she said. "It's good because I can read pitchers' spins well. I can see movement just because I do the same thing."

Haeger hopes to continue her success when No. 1 Florida (11-0) hosts Jacksonville (5-4) tonight at 6:05.

The Gators are 8-0 against the Dolphins in Walton's tenure at Florida, winning the contests by a combined score of 57-6.

In its home debut, Florida also hopes to see continued improvement from its three freshmen.

Despite starting the season batting .100, freshman outfielder Justine McLean now boasts a .348 average after posting a team-leading .538 clip at the plate in Las Vegas.

Utility player Chelsea Herndon, who has been used mainly as a pinch hitter through Florida's first 11 contests, has logged three hits, including her first career home run against then-No. 22 Minnesota, in five at-bats.

Pitcher Delanie Gourley boasts a 4-0 record in the circle, including wins against then-No. 5 Michigan and Minnesota. The left-hander from Lakeside, Calif., boasts a 4.4:1 strike-out-to-walk ratio and has allowed only eight earned runs through 22 innings.

While McLean and Herndon had a slow start to the season, Haeger saw their potential immediately.

"They (the freshmen) totally bought into the system right away and they just wanted to start right away, and you can see it in their attitude," Haeger said.

"They listen to everybody. They just soaked in everything that was thrown their way and so I think that really helped them in the long run."

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Shore tosses 5.1 innings, strikes out four in debut

BASE, from page 13

was the stellar debut of right-hander Logan Shore. The 29th-round pick of his home state Minnesota Twins struck out four and allowed three hits in a methodical 5.1 innings.

His night, nearly identical to Hudson Randall's collegiate debut against UCF on Feb. 24, 2010, mirrored the efficient pitching the red-haired right-hander from Dunwoody, Ga., stymied hitters with his entire Florida career.

This time last year, Shore was dealing with the Minnesota snow. He didn't make his first start as a senior for Coon Rapids (Minn.) High until May in sub-40 degree weather. Less than a year later, he took the mound against a veteran UCF lineup with seven juniors, a senior and just one freshman.

"I'm not going to say I knew he was going to pitch this well tonight, but it's not surprising," Gators coach Kevin O'Sullivan said. "We don't go out of state very often. Certainly we're not going to go to Coon Rapids, Minnesota, for a right-hander, but there was something special about him. He's mature. He's competitive, and he's very talented."

Sophomore left-hander Danny Young followed Shore's outing of one unearned run with 3.2 scoreless innings to earn the win.

UF hosts North Florida tonight at 7 before travelling to Coral Gables for a three-game set against Miami.

Florida's two heroes from Tuesday's in-state matchup hail from South Texas and Southeast Minnesota. One player spent 2013 at a junior college while the other at a city that is under a winter storm watch until Thursday.

The Gators huddled in the third-base dugout as the home crowd left the stadium after Young finished off the Knights. Audible congratulations could be heard for Shore from his teammates.

"It felt really good. I got a great group of guys. I couldn't really ask for a better team to play behind me," Shore said. "I'm looking forward to hopefully keeping it going."

UF preparing for dynamic Auburn guards

HOOPS, from page 13

the second-best team in the country was more than a year ago on Feb. 4, 2013. Florida lost the next day to unranked Arkansas, which was 13-8 and 4-4 in the SEC heading into the matchup.

Last season's squad then fell five spots to No. 7 with a 19-3 overall record and just that one conference defeat.

In the first contest against Auburn on Jan. 18, Florida needed 21 points from Casey Prather, who had just returned from a bruise in his right knee that caused him to miss the two previous games, to pull away late for a 68-61 victory on the road.

With Kasey Hill doubtful for Wednesday's matchup due to a groin injury, Donovan said he has to continue to preach the importance of staying focused.

"The hardest thing right now in regards to that is we're dealing with really good kids that are between 18 and 22 years old that are trying to figure their way in life and understand they have some great opportunities to learn and grow in a lot of different ways," Donovan said. "But at the same point, they're human. They're not robots. They're not machines. The challenge I always talk to them about is are you prepared today to battle human nature? Human nature says let's take it easy."

Scottie Wilbekin said he is most concerned about Auburn guards Chris Denson and KT Harrell. The two are not only the Tigers' leading point scorers on the season, but Denson also leads the SEC averaging 20.9 per game with Harrell just trailing at No. 5 with 19.2.

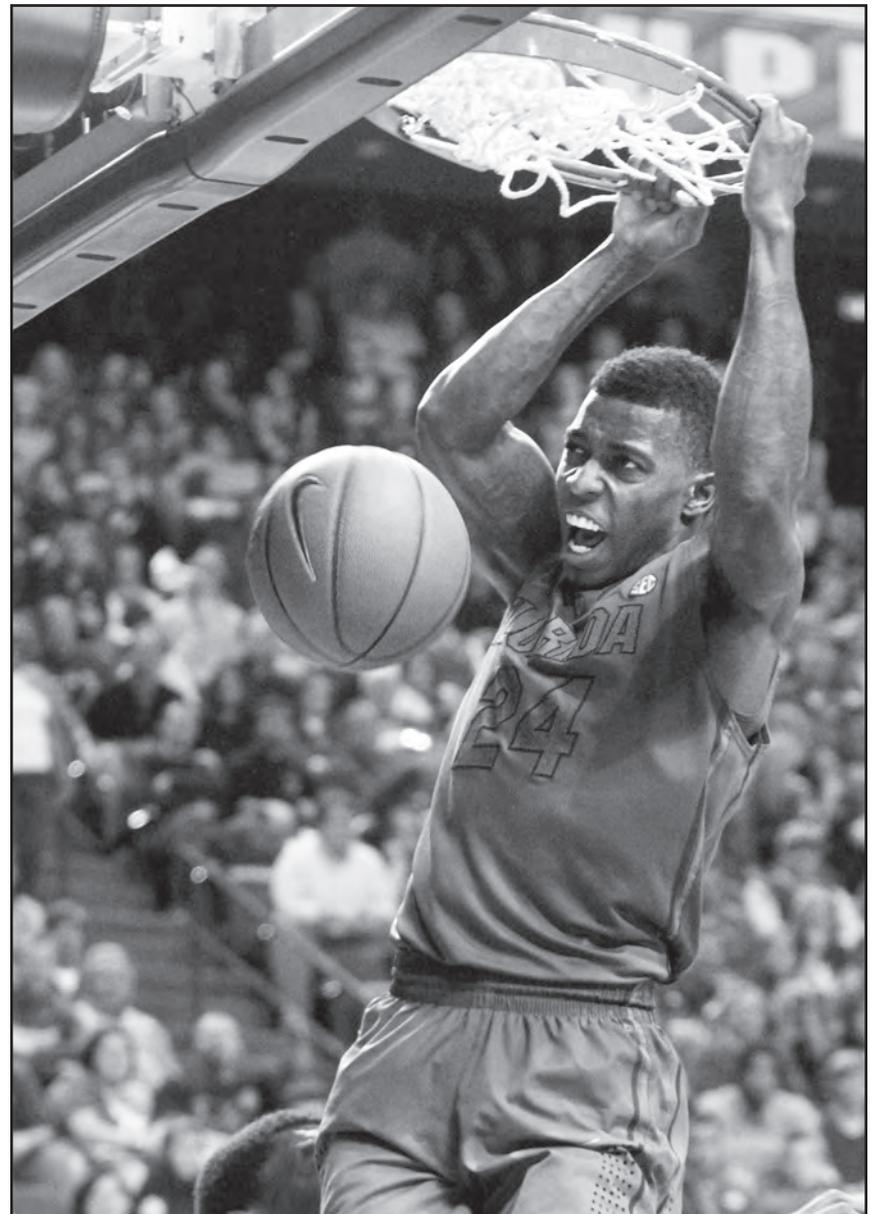
"They're capable of going off with big nights, both of them, so we've got to do a better job this game on limiting their straight-line drives and just playing better on-ball defense," Wilbekin said of Denson and Harrell.

But because only two of the Gators' six remaining regular-season opponents have above-.500 records within the league, and with the SEC nearly sewn up, Florida could start implementing freshman Chris Walker and sophomore DeVon Walker more in its rotations to

give him helpful playing experience before the postseason.

"I think for Chris, because our front-court for the most part stayed out of foul trouble, there wasn't really a need for

him," Donovan said. "But I still think those guys could be called upon here on Wednesday night. And we could really, really need them. And they need to be ready to play."



AP Photo

Senior forward Casey Prather dunks during the second half of Florida's 69-59 win against Kentucky on Saturday in Rupp Arena in Lexington, Ky.



Jordan McPherson / Alligator Staff

Kourtney Keegan swings at the ball during UF's 7-0 win against Florida State on Tuesday at the Ring Tennis Complex. Keegan clinched the match with her 6-2, 6-0 singles win.

Janowicz wins at No. 1 position

W-TENNIS, from page 13

when we're enjoying each other and competing, we always play at a really high level."

It was more of the same for Florida heading into singles play. Janowicz won the first singles match 6-1, 6-1, increasing her dual match record to 5-1 this season on the No. 1 court. The Gators led by two.

"The first match at home was a little harder," Janowicz said. "I was a little nervous to play [the] one [position], but I think now after competing against really good teams and getting some huge wins and climbing up the ranking, I feel more confident."

Janowicz was the No. 11 ranked singles player in the nation last week, and her ranking should continue to rise.

"Really, most of it is on the mental side, not necessarily just forehands and backhands," Thornqvist said.

"[Olivia] looks more comfortable, more confident, and I thought she was flawless today or close to it."

After Janowicz's win, Morgan won the next singles match 6-3, 6-0, followed by wins

in straight sets from Keegan, Oyen and Stojic. Alexandra Cercone rounded out the sweep with a 6-4, 4-6, 1-0 (10-5) victory.

The win was Florida's second straight after a bitter loss to Northwestern at the National Team Indoors on Saturday. However, many of the players credited the loss as being instrumental to their last two wins.

"I think it's good early on to feel that pain of losing and be hungry to never have to feel it again," Janowicz said.

"So I think it was a really good lesson to learn, especially coming back and winning after that against [Southern California] who's ranked even higher."

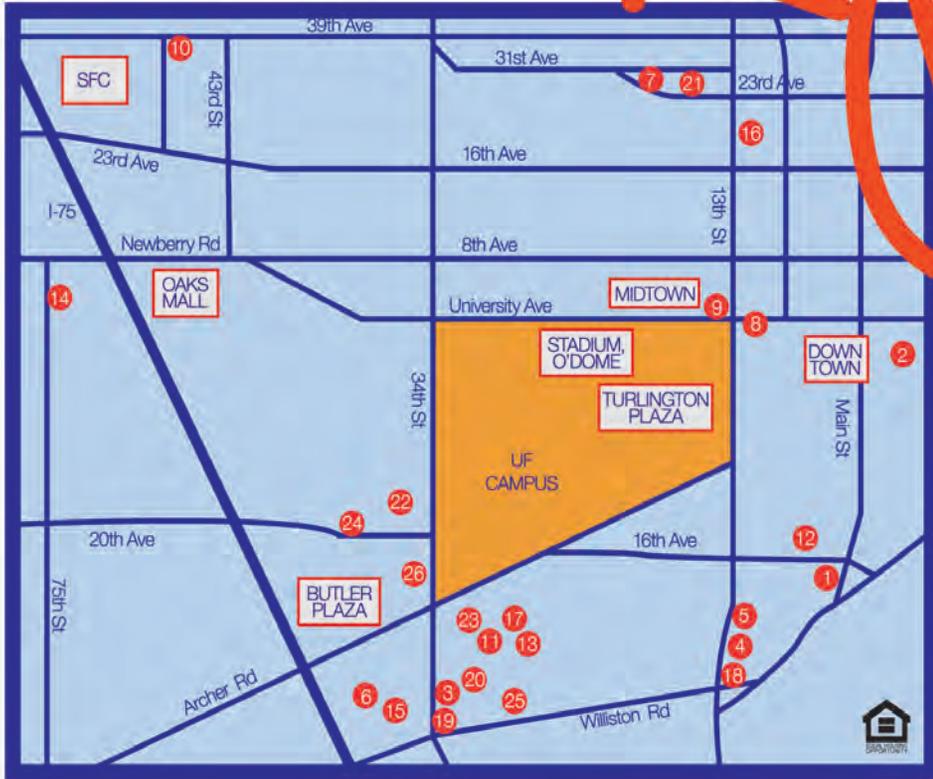
Florida travels to the West Coast to play St. Mary's on Saturday and No. 4 Stanford on Sunday. The back end of the four-game road trip will feature No. 10 Texas A&M and Missouri.

"I told [the team] in the locker room we're hitting the ball really, really well. And so our job now is to just have great legs for the weekend," Thornqvist said. "We're going to make sure we have full strength when we go out there and we'll see what we can do."

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