

# alligator



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## MCSO: Forest High School shooter tells deputies why he did it

By Amanda Rosa, Christina Morales and Robert Lewis  
Alligator Staff Writers

Forest High School students were supposed to walk out in calm protest.

Instead, they ran out flanked by armed police officers.

The students had planned to walk out of their classes at 10:20 a.m., along with other schools across the country, in honor of the 19-year anniversary of the shooting at Columbine High School. However,

minutes after school started Friday, Sky Bouche, a 19-year-old former student, shot a 17-year-old student in the ankle, putting the second-largest high school in Marion County on lockdown, according to Marion County Sheriff's Office.

Police were called at about 8:40 a.m. when the sound of Bouche's shotgun rang out, according to the sheriff's office. School resource officer Jim Long, who was assigned to the high school, ran toward the shot, found Bouche and stopped him, Sheriff Billy Woods said.

"I want to assure Marion County residents that today, they should be proud of their first responders," Woods said.

Deputies, Ocala Police and Florida Highway Patrol responded to the school.

Bouche was arrested on charges including terrorism, aggravated assault with a firearm, possession of a firearm on school property and possession of a short-barreled shotgun.

MCSO deputies escorted Bouche in a white jumpsuit out of the school, according to a video posted on the

MCSO's Facebook page. Media who swarmed him as he was taken to a patrol car asked if he had anything to say.

"Sorry," he said, pausing. "It doesn't make it better anyways."

After his arrest, Bouche told deputies he drove nearly an hour from his home in Crystal River, Florida, with a 17.5-inch barreled shotgun hidden in a guitar case. He said he didn't want to hurt anyone, just scare students, according to an arrest report.

He had planned to conduct a

shooting April 13 but changed his mind, according to the report. He told police he had researched shootings and knew a school shooting would gain more public attention.

Before the shooting, Bouche put on a tactical vest and gloves in a school bathroom, according to the report. When he came out of the bathroom, a female student walked passed him without noticing him, so he fired the shotgun at a door, deputies said.

He dropped the gun and surren-

SEE SCHOOL, PAGE 4



Will Clewis / Alligator Staff

### BROWSING FOR BOOKS

Shoppers browse and flip through a row of mystery books and other genres at the Friends of the Library Alachua County Library District book sale on North Main Street on Sunday afternoon. The Spring 2018 book sale, which is open to the public, began on Saturday and ends on Wednesday.

## Gilchrist County Sheriff's Office deputies to be buried Tuesday

By Robert Lewis  
Alligator Staff Writer

Shortly after midnight Friday, red, blue and white flashing lights lit the 30-mile path from Trenton to Gainesville's medical examiner's office.

Two Gilchrist County Sheriff's Office deputies, who died in a shooting Thursday afternoon, were brought to Gainesville in two hearses and escorted by hundreds of patrol cars from over ten local law enforcement agencies, including Alachua County Sheriff's Office, Gainesville Police and Florida Highway Patrol, at about midnight.

Sgt. Noel Ramirez, 30, and Deputy Taylor Lindsey, 25, were eating at Ace China restaurant, located at 1122 E. Wade St. in downtown Trenton, at about 3 p.m. when John Hubert Highnote, 59, of Bell,



Lindsey

Florida, walked in the restaurant and shot them, Gilchrist Sheriff Bobby Schultz said. Bobby Schultz said. Highnote was found dead inside his car from what appeared to be a self-inflicted gunshot

wound.

Responding deputies found both Ramirez and Lindsey dead from their injuries, according to a press release.

They were the first deaths in the line of duty in Gilchrist County since Sheriff Mark Read was killed in 1956 while responding to a drunk person with a shotgun, according to the press release.

At about 7:30 p.m., after notifying their next of kin, Schultz announced Ramirez and Lindsey's names during a press conference outside the restaurant, saying nothing about the shooter's identity.

SEE DEPUTIES, PAGE 4



Ramirez

## Gainesville Police: Man shot, killed near Satchel's Pizza

By Robert Lewis  
Alligator Staff Writer

A man shot in front of a home near Satchel's Pizza on Sunday afternoon was later pronounced dead, Gainesville Police said.

The man, whose identity has not

been released, was arguing with at least two other men in a black sedan in front of the house, located near the intersection of Northeast 23rd Avenue and Northeast 15th Street, said GPD spokesperson Officer Ben Tobias. Witnesses called 911 at about 3 p.m. and reported hear-

ing gunshots before seeing the car drive away, leaving the man on the ground, Tobias said.

Police arrived shortly after and found the man in critical condition with multiple gunshot wounds, Tobias said. Gainesville Fire Rescue and Alachua County Fire Rescue

took the man to UF Health Shands Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Tobias did not know if the man was shot inside the car and pushed out of it, or if he was shot outside of the car. He said police will notify the man's family and continue to in-

vestigate.

Authorities said anyone with information should call GPD's Detective Bureau at 352-393-7670 or the Combined Communications Center at 352-955-1818.

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Gators place third in NCAA Super Six

Florida's gymnastics team will lose seniors Alex McMurtry, Kennedy Baker and Rachel Slocum,



Santa Fe College Teaching Zoo welcomes gibbon  
The name and sex won't be known until it is 3 months old, pg. 3

Eastside High School students walk out  
The national walkout took place on the 19-year anniversary of the Columbine shooting, pg. 4

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## Today's Weather



AM



NOON



PM

HIGH 80° LOW 67°

Local Events / News in Brief

## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

**Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Heritage Month**

April commemorates the first Japanese immigration to the U.S. on May 7, 1853. It also honors the Chinese immigrants who worked to complete the transcontinental railroad May 10, 1869. Asian Pacific Islander American Affairs will celebrate Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Heritage Month with events until today. The 2018 theme is the Japanese concept of *ikigai*, meaning "a reason to live."

**Midnight Fun Run**

UF RecSports is calling all superheroes for a Midnight Fun Run on Wednesday. The event is open to faculty, staff, students and guests. Each participant will receive an event T-shirt and breakfast following the race. Register today on RS Connect.

**'What Were You Wearing?' art exhibit**

The "What Were You Wearing?" art exhibit is being displayed until April 30 on the third floor of the Ustler Hall Library. STRIVE at GatorWell and the American Student Medical Association have collaborated with anonymous UF student survivors to show the outfits they wore during their attacks. For more info, call 352-273-4450.

**Runoff election early voting**

Early voting sites for the 2018 City of Gainesville runoff election will be open until Saturday. Hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., except Tuesday and Thursday, when locations will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The early voting locations are Cone Park Branch Library at 2801 E. University Ave., Millhopper Branch Library at 3145 NW 43rd St. and the Supervisor of Elections Office at the Josiah T. Walls Building at 515 N. Main St.

**Talking Gators Toastmasters**

Talking Gators Toastmasters, which helps people get more comfortable speaking in public, meets at 5:45 p.m. every

Tuesday in Steinmetz Hall, Room 1031. Meetings are free to attend and open to all. For more information, visit [talking-gators.toastmastersclubs.org](http://talking-gators.toastmastersclubs.org).

**Computing Program**

UF is accepting applications from ninth and 10th-grade high school students for the Gator Computing Pre-College Program for summer 2018. The program will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. from June 4 to June 15 at UF. Program attendees will explore the role of computers in society, research and the economy with faculty from engineering, social sciences, medical research and biotechnology disciplines, as well as university staff with expertise in emerging technologies, such as 3-D printing and virtual reality. Visit [cpet.ufl.edu](http://cpet.ufl.edu) for more information and to access the application portal. The cost is \$500.

**Got something going on?**

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

## NEWS AROUND THE WORLD

**Nicaragua's president cancels social security overhaul**

Nicaragua's president on Sunday withdrew changes to the social security system that had triggered deadly protests and looting. President Daniel Ortega said in a message to the nation that the social security board of directors had canceled the changes implemented on April 16. The overhaul was intended to shore up Nicaragua's troubled social security system by both reducing benefits and increasing taxes.

**Libyan navy rescues migrants**

Libya's navy says it has recovered the bodies of 11 migrants



Have an event planned? Add it to the **alligator's** online calendar: [alligator.org/calendar](http://alligator.org/calendar)

and rescued 263 others in two separate operations off Libya's western coast. Libya was plunged into chaos following a 2011 uprising and is now split between rival governments in the east and west, each backed by an array of militias. Libya has since been a frequently used route to Europe for migrants fleeing poverty and conflicts in Africa and the Middle East.

**Toll from Kabul bombing climbs to 57 dead**

Afghan officials say the toll from a suicide bombing in Kabul claimed by the Islamic State group has risen to 57 dead and 119 wounded. Public Health Ministry spokesman Wahid Majro confirmed the toll of Sunday's attack, in which the bomber targeted a voter registration center in the capital. IS claimed the attack, saying it targeted Shiite "apostates." Both IS and the more well-established Taliban have stepped up attacks across Afghanistan in recent years.

**UK calls on social media firms to better protect children**

Britain's health secretary says the government will introduce new laws targeting online social media companies if they don't do more to protect children. In a strongly worded letter to Facebook, Google, Snapchat, Twitter and others, Jeremy Hunt said their failure to prevent young children using social media and exposing children to its "harmful emotional side effects" was "unacceptable and irresponsible." Hunt said Sunday he was particularly concerned about the lack of age verification measures, with thousands breaching minimum user age rules. He gave the companies a week to set out steps they are taking to cut underage use, prevent cyberbullying and promote limited screen time.

The Alligator strives to be accurate and clear in its news reports and editorials.

If you find an error, please call our newsroom at 352-376-4458 or email [editor@alligator.org](mailto:editor@alligator.org).

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# UF study identifies patients prone to long-term pain

By Angel Kennedy  
Alligator Contributing Writer

UF researchers have discovered ways to identify patients who may suffer from long-term physical pain, which can help physical therapists provide tailored treatment instead of prescribing opioid medication.

The team of five UF researchers published the study April 16 in a peer-reviewed journal called *Physical Therapy*, said UF physical therapy research assistant professor Jason Beneciuk. The study tested two tools made by the UF Pain Research and Intervention Center of Excellence, which assessed pa-

tients to find who would be more prone to long-term pain.

The study said patients who showed an initial high intensity of pain, had previous medical diagnoses, physical symptoms and psychological issues were more likely to experience chronic musculoskeletal pain, or pain to the muscles, bones and joints, one year after receiving treatment, the study said.

About 2.4 million Americans are hooked on powerful prescription painkillers or heroin, according to the Associated Press.

About 120 people in the U.S. die from opioid overdose every day, and many hundreds more are brought back from the brink of

death, AP reported.

Musculoskeletal pain is a leading cause of disability, affecting an estimated 126.6 million Americans — one in two adults — according to a 2016 report by the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. Common musculoskeletal disorders include arthritis, back pain, neck pain and osteoporosis, the report said.

“The link to opioid use is using tools like this to identify patients that are more vulnerable to developing musculoskeletal pain,” Beneciuk said.

The research team received a \$300,000 grant by the Orthopaedic Section of the American Physi-

cal Therapy Association in 2012, Beneciuk said. He said the study began in 2013 and took 2 1/2 years to complete testing.

The study looked at 440 patients who were receiving physical therapy treatment for shoulder, back, neck and knee pain, Beneciuk said. Patients were initially assessed for a measure of pain intensity and a history of previous mental diagnoses and the two new assessment tools created by the team.

UF professor Samuel Wu, another researcher involved in the study, said one tool asked patients to report physical symptoms they felt in their body. The other tool screened for pain-related psycho-

logical issues, including depression, anxiety and pain acceptance.

“The purpose of the study was to develop these two tools,” Wu said.

Patients involved in the study completed the screening tools prior to treatment, then again four weeks, six months and one year after treatment, Wu said.

Of 279 patients who were assessed a year after treatment, 101 patients, or 36.2 percent, were found to have a higher pain intensity than the remaining participants, the study said. These are patients who could be prescribed tailored physical therapy rather than opioids.

# Santa Fe College Teaching Zoo welcomes newborn gibbon

By Angela DiMichele  
Alligator Contributing Writer

As Clarie Santiago spoke to about 20 people Sunday morning, a white-handed gibbon named Cajun swung down from the top of her enclosure with a 3-week-old black peach-fuzz fur baby clutched onto her stomach.

Santiago, 25, spoke to the audience at Santa Fe College Teaching Zoo's Earth Day event about a typical five- to seven-minute training session zoo trainers give the gibbons. She is joining the gibbon-training team in May and will be one of the first students to work with the newborn. Santiago explained that when the trainers gave an “L” with their hands, the primates knew to open their mouth. Then, they gave them a piece of food for reward.

Santiago said she is about to begin her fourth semester as a zoo animal technology student at Santa Fe. She was assigned to work with Cajun, who gave birth March 31.

“The baby gibbon looks like a little alien with big eyes and long fingers,” Santiago said. “When it was born, it was about the size of a sweet potato, and now it's only slightly bigger.”

Cajun, a 27-year-old primate, has lived

in the Santa Fe College Teaching Zoo for about 10 years, said Jade Salamone, the zoo's conservation education specialist. The gibbon family of five includes Cajun, her two sons Rainer and Gibson, the father Eddie and the unnamed newborn.

They are one of the smallest ape species, Salamone, 33, said. They're only about 3-feet tall standing up on their legs. When Cajun was pregnant, her stomach was the size of a basketball.

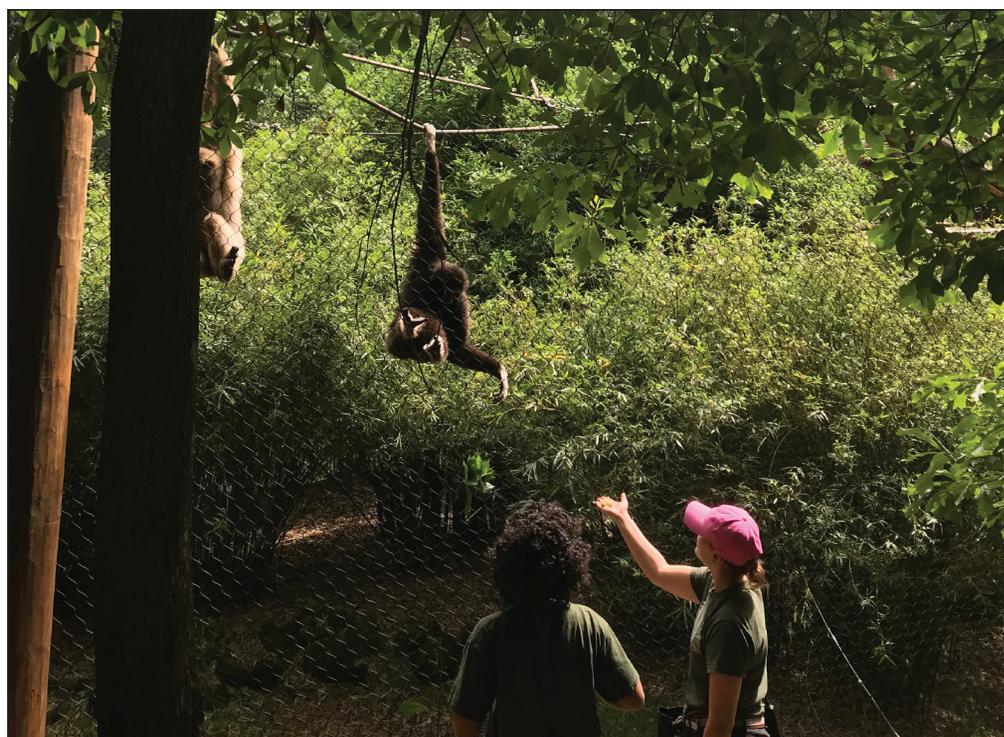
In the wild, this species lives around 30-plus years, but in captivity, they can live up to 40 years, Salamone said. Eddie is 37 years old.

The name and sex of the newborn will not be known until it is about 3 months old, Salamone said. Cajun keeps it close to her body and tucked away, making the sex unidentifiable.

Keepers discovered the baby after doing their daily enclosure checks, Salamone said.

They called Chelsea Dunlap, an assistant curator at the zoo, and asked her to come to the gibbon enclosure. Dunlap had a good feeling and asked, “Is there an extra one?” Salamone recalled.

Salamone said students who work with the gibbons get to see the newborn up close frequently during training sessions.



Angela DiMichele / Alligator

Cajun's trainer, Sidnee Santana-Mellor, reaches out to the new mother during a demonstration training session on Sunday morning at the Santa Fe College Teaching Zoo. The 3-week-old newborn is clinging to Cajun's stomach.

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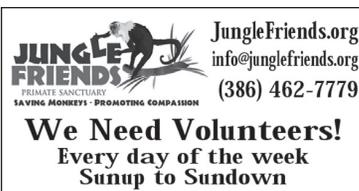
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# Eastside High School students participate in walkout

**ABOUT 200 STUDENTS WALKED OUT OF CLASS.**

**By Jessica Giles**  
Alligator Staff Writer

Hours after a single gunshot rang out at Forest High School about 40 miles away, about 200 students walked out of Eastside High School on Friday morning as part of a National School Walkout.

The Eastside High School walkout, which was coined "Unity Day," was organized in hopes of bringing together students from various programs to continue the conversation about gun reform, said Jovanna Liuzzo, an Eastside junior and walkout organizer. At 10 a.m., students walked out onto the track field and listened to speeches by three peers. Until 10:45 a.m., the group completed laps around the track, toting signs and chanting pro-gun-reform slogans like "Hey Hey, Ho Ho, the NRA has got to go."

"There's so many things that we can do in this town to invoke actual change," she said.

The walkout was meant to both give students a voice and point them

to resources they could use to continue their involvement, she said. The 17-year-old encouraged students to register to vote at a booth set up during lunch.

Bailey McIntyre, 17, stopped before walking out of her math class to send her parents a text to let them know she was being cautious. The news of the school shooting Ocala still lingered in her mind.

"I remember I walked out and I don't know, I still had this fear," the Eastside High School senior said. "Nothing has changed really."

One Forest High School student was injured after a non-student brought a sawed off shotgun and shot it into a classroom minutes after first period started Friday, according to Alligator archives.

McIntyre said students will have to stand together to create the change they want to see.

"We need to help teach each other and share our experiences with each other and connect so that we're not ostracizing each other," she said.

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Courtesy to The Alligator

Students at Eastside High School walk out of class as part of a National School Walkout. It aimed to continue the conversation about gun reform on the 19-year anniversary of the Columbine shootings.

## Middle and high schools went on lockdown

**SCHOOL**, from pg 1

dered to a teacher, MCSO said. He was taken to the Marion County Jail where he remains without bond.

Forest High School has 2,350 students and 125 teachers, according to its website.

All Marion County middle and high schools were put on code yellow, which closes campuses to outsiders, as a precaution Friday.

Not even five minutes into Fletcher Reece's first period reading class at 8:30 a.m., the 17-year-old heard the sound of one gunshot echo through his classroom in Building 1, D Hallway.

"It sounded like a bomb went off," the Forest High School junior said. "It was echoing

off of everything. It was kind of like a sonic boom."

His teacher, Ms. Williams, rushed everyone from the class in the hallway into the classroom, turned off the lights and made everyone get away from the door. Fletcher quietly sat down with his classmates who whispered to each other, trying to figure out what was going on. A woman came onto the announcements and said there was a code red.

Across the school, his sister Katie Reece, 15, was listening to the same announcement with her teacher and 14 other students. The class, locked behind a thick wooden door, turned off the lights and huddled together, nervous and whispering. She told herself she would be OK.

"I knew I was going to be fine and that nothing was going to hurt me in the moment,"

she said. "I knew God was going to protect me no matter what."

Fletcher texted his mom as soon as the shooting happened and told her about the gunshot he heard.

Fletcher and Katie's mother, Amber Reece, texted them to stay safe and use their best judgement.

"She told me she loved me a whole bunch," Katie said.

At about 10:30 a.m., two SWAT officers and three police officers checked her classroom, erupting the students to tears and Katie into a panic attack. It took her a couple of minutes to calm down. She was hyperventilating and thought she was going to pass out. She saw the SWAT car outside the window she was standing by, took a video and calmed down.

"I realized that everything was under control," she said.

About 10 minutes later, a police officer told the students to walk out of the school with their hands up. She boarded a bus for a five-minute drive to the First Baptist Church in Ocala, where parents were picking up their kids.

Katie was reunited with her brother and then their mother.

"I could tell she had been crying," she said. "It was just a happy moment to realize that I could've died today, I could've been shot and never have seen my mom again, so I was lucky that I was able to see her again."

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## About 100 vehicles escorted them

**DEPUTIES**, from pg 1

"The world is full of cowards, and the world is full of heroes," Schultz said. "We need to highlight those heroes."

He went on to talk about the deputies and their experiences at the county's sheriff's office.

"Sgt. Ramirez and Deputy Lindsey were the best of the best," Schultz said. "They were men of integrity. They were men of loyalty. They were God-fearing, and they loved what they did, and we are proud of it."

Ramirez had been in law enforcement for about seven years and with GCSO for about two years. Ramirez was a husband and father with an "infectious" smile, Schultz said. He said Lindsey had worked with the sheriff's office in the past and recently returned.

The shooting is still an active investigation, and there is no apparent motive, Deputy Chief Darry Lloyd said. The type of weapon used and

how many rounds were fired have not been released, he said.

Sheriff's offices and police departments from around the state and country, including Pasco County Sheriff's Office, Los Angeles Police and Gainesville Police, have sent their condolences for the deputies through tweets.

"Our hearts are heavy today hearing from the Gilchrist County Sheriff's Office that they lost two of their own," according to a GPD Facebook post. "Please keep their agency and families in the forefront of your minds."

GPD Lt. Marc Plourde said Gainesville police officers support their fallen brothers. As the hearses drove on West University Avenue, Gainesville officers blocked intersections with their patrol cars. When the bodies were carried into the medical examiner's office on Southwest Third Avenue, officers stood at attention.

"It's overwhelming," Plourde said. "This is like a brotherhood. Unfortunately, it has to be at a time like this

when you see it at its strongest."

At about 6:45 p.m. Saturday, another escort of about 100 vehicles took the deputies from the medical examiner's office to a funeral home in Trenton, said ACSO Lt. Becky Butscher.

"That is a show of support for our fallen heroes that died in the line of duty," said Butscher, who was part of the escort.

Drummond Community Bank opened an account for donations to the families of the deputies, and Ramirez's father-in-law started a GoFundMe page for his grandchildren, which has raised \$11,945, as of press time.

On Tuesday, a public viewing will be hosted for the deputies in Trenton, followed by a service at 11 a.m. at Bell Middle/High School, GCSO said. The burial and graveside honors will be held at 2:30 p.m. at Bronson Cemetery on Northeast State Road 24.

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rlewis@alligator.org



Courtesy to The Alligator

Law enforcement officers closed West University Avenue as the killed deputies are escorted to the medical examiner's office Friday.

# About 30 people make trek for environmental awareness

By Tamarra Thal

Alligator Contributing Writer

Twenty-five people armed with backpacks, cargo pants and hats took off on a six-mile hike on a 70-degree cloudy Saturday afternoon to persuade Florida legislators to preserve the state's wildlife.

This was the second time a group of Gainesville residents made the trek to raise awareness for environmental protection, but last Fall, the hike was in Ocala. On the day before Earth Day, the group followed the Hawthorne Trail from First Magnitude Brewing Company, located at 1220 SE Veitch St., to the La Chua Trail and back.

Rhett Barker, a 24-year-old UF wildlife ecology and conservation alumnus, said he organized the hike to tell lawmakers they should follow through on the promises they made regarding Amendment One.

In 2014, Floridians voted for Amendment One, passing legislation for what they thought would focus on land acquisition and reinstating money into the Florida Forever program, which is an environment conservation fund. Instead, funds from the amendment have been

spent on small projects and maintenance for currently owned land, Barker said.

"Many Floridians live here because of the outdoors, and it would be a shame to obliterate that," Barker said.

At the rate Florida's population is projected to grow, its wildlife habitat is in danger of being destroyed, Barker said. In order for wildlife to truly be sustainable across large areas, it must have a single connection — that connection being the Corridor.

The Corridor is a statewide network of land and water, which could help conserve wildlife by connecting existing pieces of land, Barker said. Large animals, such as bears, require a lot of land to live, which is why it's imperative Florida uses the Corridor for wildlife conservation.

Lindsey Jones, a Gainesville resident, said she decided to participate in the hike because people don't appreciate the natural area in the county.

"I really enjoy North Florida's nature and all that it has to offer," the 26-year-old said. "It's important to me because I see that Gainesville is changing, and I want our nature to be protected."



Tamarra Thal / Alligator

Rhett Barker, 24, leads 25 hikers down Hawthorne Trail for a six-mile hike. Saturday's hike was the second one organized by Barker and some friends to tell lawmakers to invest in conservation land.

## One of GPD's 'hot cops' will be at the Grammys, then Oscars

By Rachel Porter

Alligator Contributing Writer

One viral Facebook post has led a Gainesville Police "hot cop" to be at the 61st Grammy Awards show in Los Angeles in early 2019 to interview celebrities on the red carpet.

He'll then continue to do the same thing at the Oscars on Feb. 24, 2019.

SWAT Officer Daniel Rengering, 28, is better known as the GPD officer with the swooped back hair in a selfie posted on GPD's official Facebook account that went viral in September. The original post was taken down Sept. 15 after one of the officers in the photo made a statement that was contrary to the views of GPD, said GPD spokesperson Officer Ben Tobias.

Before it was taken down, the post had 186,000 comments and a reach of 52,662,033 peo-

ple, Tobias said.

Rengering said he will be reporting live from the Grammys for PopWrapped TV, he wrote in an email. The gig was set up by his manager Zachary Jaydon, who has previously been a voter for the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, the group that votes for the Grammy winners.

"I'm beyond floored, and really honored to be able to represent such an amazing organization," Rengering said. "To stand on such an iconic red carpet and be able to candidly chat with so many incredible performers is both humbling and unreal."

Rengering said he will also be a host at the Screen Actors Guild Awards on Jan. 27, 2019 and will be a guest speaker at the 91st Annual Rudolph Valentino Memorial in August.

"I don't know if I'm supposed to say anything yet, but I'm also doing the same thing

for the Oscars the following week," he said.

Rengering said he is still employed by GPD and plans to continue working there even while taking up work in entertainment.

"I will continue to bring 100 percent to whatever job I'm working on, whether it's on the SWAT team, in a police car or on a red carpet," Rengering said.

As for the rumors on his potential status on the next season of "Survivor," he said he cannot comment at this time.

Danielle Jaffe, a 21-year-old UF nursing junior, said she recognized the GPD officer's name as being one of the internet viral "hot cops."

"It blows my mind the ways in which people can become famous nowadays," Jaffe said. "It's cool, though, to have someone from the same area as UF being on national television for an awards show."

## MCSO deputy, group shot at by other group

THERE WERE NO REPORTED INJURIES.

By Robert Lewis

Alligator Staff Writer

Three days after two Gilchrist County Sheriff's Office deputies were slain, a Marion County Sheriff's Office deputy was shot at early Sunday morning, MCSO said.

Deputy Joseph Spratlin was responding to a call at around 2 a.m. about a crowd of people gathered outside Paradise Bar & Lounge, located at 13007 N. Highway 441, in Citra, said MCSO spokesperson Lauren Lettelier. While Spratlin worked to clear the group, a separate group of people started shooting into the crowd and at the deputy. No one was injured.

Spratlin took cover behind his patrol car, which was hit by a bullet on the driver's side door handle, according to a press release. He did not return fire because he was trying to get people to safety, accord-

ing to the release.

Lettelier said Spratlin and the group he was with were shot at multiple times by multiple people, but she did not know how many people there were or if they came on foot or by car.

"We don't know whether the deputy was the target or the crowd, or both," Lettelier said.

The shooting was over in minutes, and the crowd dispersed before Spratlin or responding deputies could interview witnesses, Lettelier said.

"This is a fresh and ongoing investigation," Lettelier said.

Lettelier said the shooting was not related to Thursday's shooting of the GCSO deputies in Trenton.

Authorities ask anyone with information to call Sgt. Donald Buie at 352-368-3538 or the Marion County Crime Stoppers at 352-368-7867.

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## UF researcher aiming to make golf courses eco-friendly nationwide

By Daphna Krause

Alligator Contributing Writer

A UF researcher wants to make golf courses nationwide more eco-friendly.

The golfing industry is trying to reverse its poor environmental policies. Mark Johnson, associate director of the environmental program with Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, said he put out a proposal request to researchers

in order to fix the issue.

He ultimately chose UF because the state of Florida has specific guidelines already laid out for golf course management.

"For many, many years, the golf industry did not communicate what they were doing," he said.

Bryan Unruh, a UF environmental horticulture professor, said he has worked alongside a team of researchers from other universities to implement change in the industry

since 2003.

Through their research, they've created a web portal for Florida golf courses that will outline more environmentally friendly practices based off of each golf course's needs.

This web portal was created to help connect courses with the best management practices and mitigate these environmental misconceptions, Johnson said.

Golf course management can go into the web portal and fill out their

course characteristics such as the weather and water drainage. The portal will tailor to the individual needs of their specific courses, their conditions and their constraints.

These outlines "are the shared language between regulation agencies, activists and scientists," Unruh said.

But Unruh's manual goes beyond the permit-driven Clean Water Act of 1972, by having whole sections of best management practices in ar-

eas such as energy conservation and protecting pollen producers.

Unruh was contracted by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America in 2015 to bring this manual-creating system to the nation, Unruh said. The system is scheduled to make a nationwide launch this August. The association granted UF \$47,358 for the research.

Unruh said his goal is to have a web portal for each state by 2020.

## Editorial

# Don't fight prejudice with prejudice

**A**round 3 p.m. Thursday, two Florida deputies were eating at a Chinese restaurant in Trenton, Florida, when they were shot and killed by a gunman.

According to Gilchrist County Sheriff Bobby Schultz, the gunman fired through the window of Ace China and hit the two officers who were eating inside. Schultz said the two deputies were 30-year-old Noel Ramirez and 25-year-old Taylor Lindsay. He further dubbed the two men as “the best of the best.”

The Miami Herald reported the gunman, as well as the two deputies, were found dead on the scene. The suspect has been identified as 59-year-old John Hubert Highnote.

During a press conference held shortly after the incident, Schultz stated the deaths were not a result of political issues but did hint at the idea of it. He asked the audience, “What do you expect happens when you demonize law enforcement to the extent that it’s been demonized?”

His question is not without reason. Throughout the past several years, police officers have made headlines across the country for targeting minority populations in their arrests and for a slew of accidental shootings, often resulting in the murders of black men. As a result, many Americans have developed an unfavorable opinion of police officers, citing that they are racist or trigger happy. And in suit, Americans have found themselves divided on yet another major issue.

What this gunman did in north Florida is horrendous. It was cruel, heartless and unhinged. More than that, it was disrespectful to the many men and women in uniform who work tirelessly every day to protect us.

That being said, an issue with police brutality against minorities does exist, and we cannot pretend it doesn’t by neglecting to publish stories about it in the media. No amount of respect for our officers deems it acceptable to ignore the fact that glaring racial disparities exist in how police officers use force.

In 2017, Vox released an analysis of FBI data, showing black people are far more likely to be shot at by a police officer than are white people. In fact, despite making up only 13 percent of the U.S. population, black people make up 31 percent of those killed by police officers. When considering the number of people killed by policing while not attempting to attack anyone, the number jumps to 39 percent.

We can’t pretend this isn’t a problem. There is a bias against black people in this country, and that’s true whether you are a police officer or not. When the media publicizes events where black people are once again treated unjustly and with a clear bias, they do it to bring attention to the topic and let people know racism and profiling are still very much alive in our country.

However, despite the fact they are often received as such, these stories also are not published in an effort to demonize police officers. Understandably so, many minority groups have lost faith in police officers and others have been led to believe all officers are evil and racist. But when you are making those assumptions about police officers, aren’t you doing the same thing they are supposedly doing with black people?

The key to fighting prejudice and violence is not more prejudice and violence. Just how we cannot ignore that there is an issue with police brutality against black people, we can’t ignore that there is an issue with Americans profiling police officers.

The uncertainty makes for a less safe environment and for a country filled with even more hate than we currently have.

The lives of deputies Ramirez and Lindsay should serve as a call to action for Americans and officers to stop the epidemic of prejudice in our country. It’s time we stop adding fuel to the fire.

Melissa Gomez	Abby Miller	Caitlin Ostroff	Jimena Tavel
EDITOR	OPINIONS EDITOR	DIGITAL MANAGING EDITOR	ENGAGEMENT MANAGING EDITOR

the independent florida  
**alligator**

“MOM, DAD, HOW DO YOU SPELL ‘RUSSIAN HOOKER?’”



## Column

# Farewell column: This is how you start to let go

I’ve never been good at goodbyes. I much prefer a quick hug and a “see-you-later” to a drawn-out adieu. It’s not because I’m not emotional; on the contrary, it’s because I’m afraid I’ll start to weep as soon as I meet your eyes with that “Well, this is it” look we’ve all seen before.

But I’m not looking to make this column a French leave or an Irish exit. In keeping with the tradition set forth by current and former staff members at The Alligator, I present to you, in roughly 600 words, my farewell column.

This is how you start to let go. You look around your college apartment with the tapestries on the walls, the empty wine bottles on the cabinet tops and the cheap, plushy chairs in the living room. You walk with a little less urgency as you pass Century Tower. You look up and around you a little more, breathe a little more deeply. You smile a little more to yourself.

This is how you start to let go. You mind a little less when someone catches you on Turlington Plaza with a flier. You print your essay with borrowed paper and realize only after turning it in that it’s the last one of your undergraduate years. You chuckle like the seasoned student you are while everyone else registers for classes next year.

This is how you start to let go. You say “yes” a little bit more. You say “no” a little bit more, too. Your throat tightens when you notice the milk expires after graduation. You shake your head because grocery shopping shouldn’t induce this much emotion. You cross the days off the calendar until the rest of the semester is staring right back at you. You don’t know whether to smile or shudder, so you do both.

This is how you start to let go. You go to Midtown



**Mia Gettenberg**  
opinions@alligator.org

with your friends on a weekday and stay in with your roommates on the weekend, just because. You show up to your final exam without a pencil. You end sentences with “... before we all ...” and trail off without finishing the thought. You walk through campus, through Midtown, through downtown and the memories flood back. You let them.

This is how I’ve started to let go. I’ve reflected on the experiences that have made me, me each year I’ve been here. I’ve remembered the veteran members of my extracurriculars

and classes who welcomed a frightened, confused teenager into their ranks. I’ve thought of the friends, new and old, who pulled me close and said, one way or another, “You have a home here.”

This is how I’ve started to let go. I’ve felt nostalgic for a place I haven’t even left yet. I’ve begun to write it all down. I’ve hugged people a little tighter, and honestly, I’ve studied a little less. I’ve said “thank you” in my head more times than I can count — and I know it’s time to start saying those thank-yous out loud. But you’ll have to excuse me if the tears start to flow.

Letting go is a process of loving, even though you know it’s time to leave. For me, it’s just about that time. I will never forget the memories I’ve made, the lessons I’ve learned and the folks I’ve shared the time with along the way. I am, and always will be, grateful for this university, for this town and for these people. Good luck to all of you, no matter where life takes you in the future near and far.

This is how I’ve let go.

*Mia Gettenberg is a UF criminology and philosophy senior. This is her final column.*

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

## Column

# Take care of yourselves and take care of each other: my parting words

**H**appy Monday, dear readers. That sentence holds a lot of weight for me because this is the last time I will be writing it in a column in this paper.

I have had the privilege of having a weekly platform for my opinions for the past two years. I remember reading the opinions section when I was a freshman and thinking about how incredible it would be if I got to write my own column.

Sophomore Fall rolled around, and I went to The Alligator's open house, dripping with August sweat and carrying a freshly printed resume and cover letter in my equally sweaty hands. I was ecstatic a few days later to open an email telling me I was offered a spot. I knew it would be cool, but I never thought I would love it as much as I did.

I have changed my mind and changed it again since starting college. I have changed my major and my career path. I have changed political affiliations. I have changed my goals. I am not the same person I was when I walked

onto this campus, and I am not the same person I was when I clicked "send" on my first column back in September 2016.

I would like to thank everyone who ever supported me, but also to everyone who ever challenged me. If no one ever challenges you, you won't have the opportunity to grow. I have found myself through the process of being challenged by circumstances and by people. Of course, challenges are just that — challenging. You may feel downtrodden, overwhelmed and just plain tired sometimes. College is hard. Life is harder. You're trying to do both right now.

While success and salary and your love life and your grades and whatever else you're worrying about today are important, these are not the most important things. The two most important things in this life are the people you love and your mental health. Notice you can-



**Taylor Cavaliere**  
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not hope to be there for the first if the second is not taken care of.

I will no longer be writing a column in this paper, but I will never stop fighting for awareness of mental health. I will never stop working to help people understand how important they are. I will never stop fighting for love and for self-care. I will never stop reminding others of their importance.

Additionally, I want to make sure you know you have a voice. You may not think you do. You may not think what you say or do impacts anyone, but I promise it does. I spent much of the past two years thinking no one even read my columns. But I have had many people come to me and talk about them. I mean, you're reading it right now.

You may not think anyone listens to you, but I promise, someone out there is listening. Don't give up. Keep writing, keep speaking, keep sharing. Keep fighting to make your

voice heard. If it matters to you, it matters. Don't let the world make you think it doesn't.

You are loved. You are enough. Love yourself, and love others. There is already enough hatred and anger in this world. Don't add to it. I'd like to leave you with my favorite quote from Gandhi: "Be the change you wish to see in the world."

Remember, as hard as you try and as much as you do, you can't force others to change. Rather, be that change. Be a light in this world. I've spent the last two years talking about school shootings, intolerance of mental illness, transphobia, racism and more. Help create a world where these are a thing of the past.

Above all, take care of yourselves and take care of each other, dear readers.

*Taylor Cavaliere is a UF journalism and psychology junior. Her column focused on mental health.*

## Column

# To save Earth, environmentalists should improve their argument

**E**arth Day was this past Sunday. Across the country, children drew Earth on paper plates while learning to reduce, reuse and recycle.

Today's relatively stronger push by the general population for a more environmentally friendly country can be attributed to more generations of Americans growing up and experiencing those Earth Day campaigns in elementary school.

Although more people may care about the environment, the world isn't much better off than it was decades ago. Eighty percent of energy still comes from fossil fuels, more carbon dioxide is present in the atmosphere than ever before in modern civilization and an underfunded Environmental Protection Agency administration refuses to even use the words "climate change."

The lack of effectiveness in environmental campaigns originates from less impactful focuses. More people may care about the consequences of human actions on the environment, but they are misled to concentrate on movements that don't maximize effectiveness. If scientists and policymakers want to see more success in movements to protect this precious

planet, they must improve their argument as to what people should really focus on.

The three Rs are a prime example of a relatively successful environmental effort that falls short on impact. The U.S. recycling rate is five times higher today than it was in 1970, the year Earth Day began. Policymakers were successful in getting people to recycle, but let's analyze the importance of increased recycling efforts from a scientific point of view.

One reason for the push in recycling is the mentality that Americans are running out of landfill space. If we don't minimize the amount of trash we produce, we will soon see trash in every direction we look. In reality, according to Clark Wiseman, an economist at Gonzaga University, if Americans keep dumping trash into landfills at their current rate until the year 3000, landfill space would only amount to 35 square miles for all of the U.S.

Another misconception is landfills are polluting the environment, but landfills have been under strict regulations since the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act was enacted



**Joshua Udvardy**  
opinions@alligator.org

in 1976. Landfill operators are required to monitor nearby groundwater for any leachate pollution, and the amount of methane emissions from the decomposition of landfill garbage is restricted by the Clean Air Act.

Now, it may seem as though any sort of environmental movement is successful despite its level of impact, but people can only exert so much effort in caring for the environment. According to a series of studies recently published in the European Journal of Psychology, a considerable amount of people hold strongly negative stereotypes about environmentalists, and those feelings reduce the average person's willingness to adopt the behaviors environmental activists promote.

Basically, the average person cares about the environment as long as that concern doesn't consume their lives, and environmentalists are currently wasting the average person's limited attention on less important problems. Conditioned since childhood that recycling can save the Earth, people are given the false hope that throwing their trash in different bins is doing

enough for the planet. On the other hand, there are other focuses that could have more impact on saving the environment.

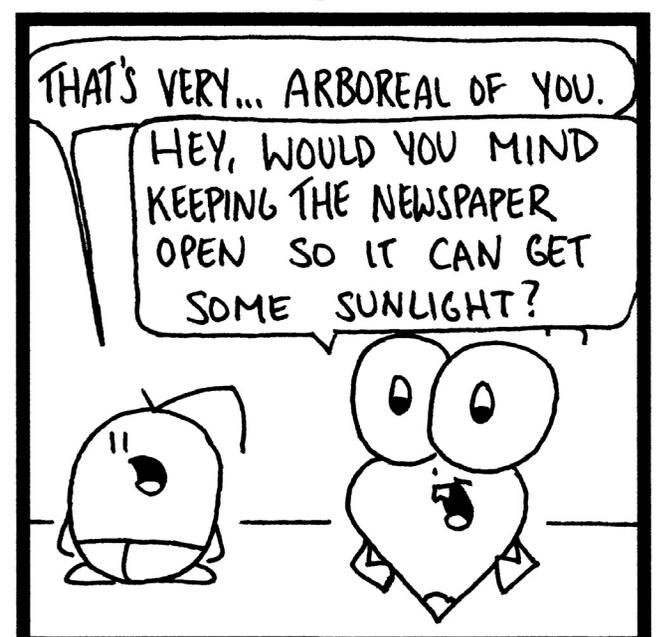
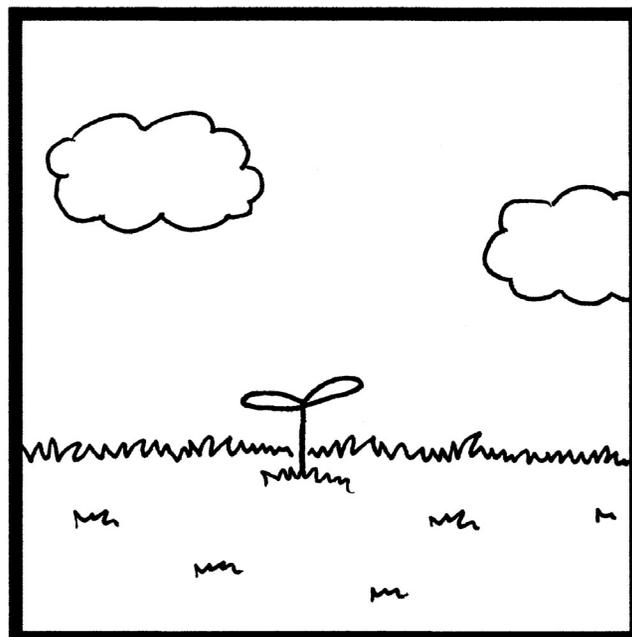
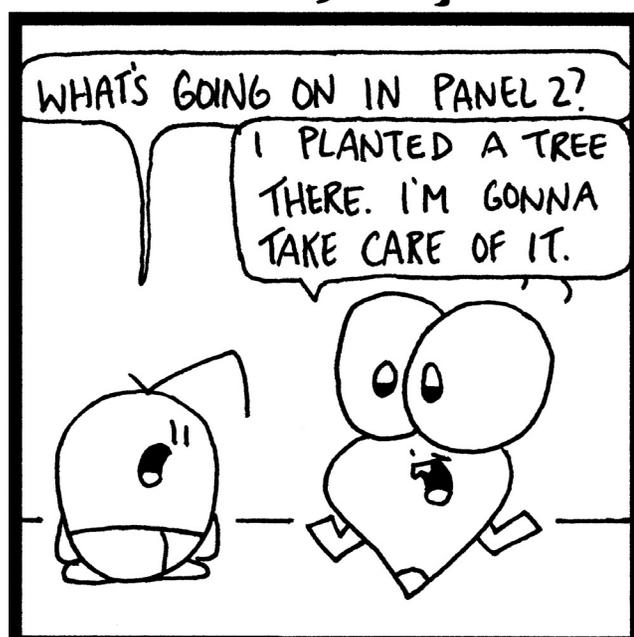
Somewhere between the 1960s and today, the fundamental point of environmental protection got lost in translation. The point of environmental action is to save lives and promote health, things that any sane person can understand. Promoting clean air and clean water with pollution prevention and government regulations ensures access to necessities of life. If focus on environmental action intertwines with human health, environmental movements would become necessary instead of polarizing.

Environmentalists care for the environment because it's the right thing to do. The average person isn't going to buy that argument. If environmentalists really want to save the planet, they're going to have to harness the limited attention of the average Joe. To do so, the focus of environmental movements need to concentrate on the fundamental importance of environmental protection.

*Joshua Udvardy is a UF environmental engineer junior. His column focuses on science.*

## Lifeless Joey

By Michael Smith



# The Swamp sweats: Hundreds join CrossFit-style event

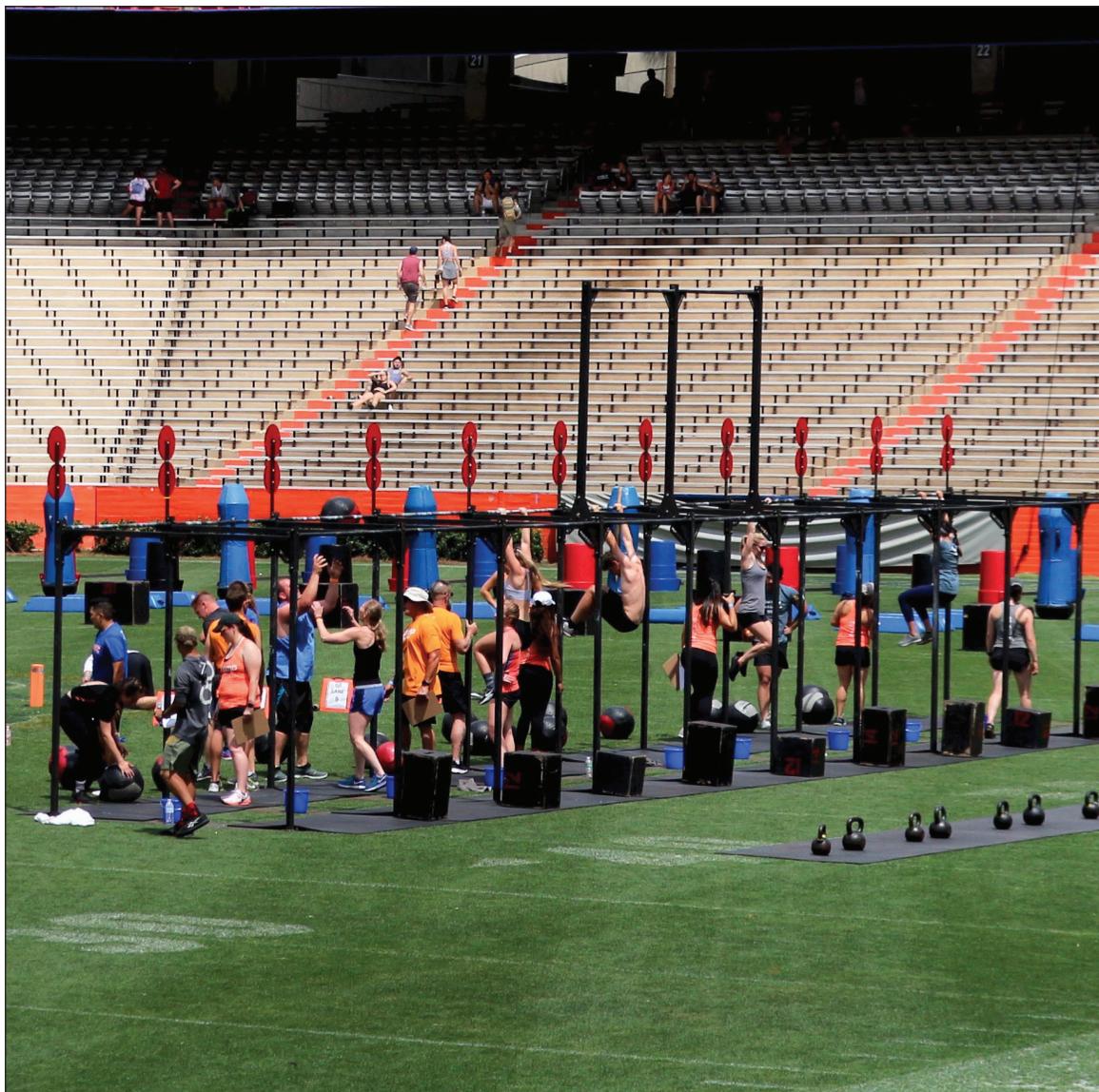
Photos by Alan Alvarez  
Alligator Staff

field, according to its website. Hundreds of athletes participated in cardio, bodyweight and obstacle workouts at the one day event across three classes, Male/Male, Female/Female and co-ed, and three divisions, Masters, Scaled and RX.

The 2018 Swamp Challenge, which celebrated its eighth year this past weekend, is the only CrossFit-style event to take place on an SEC



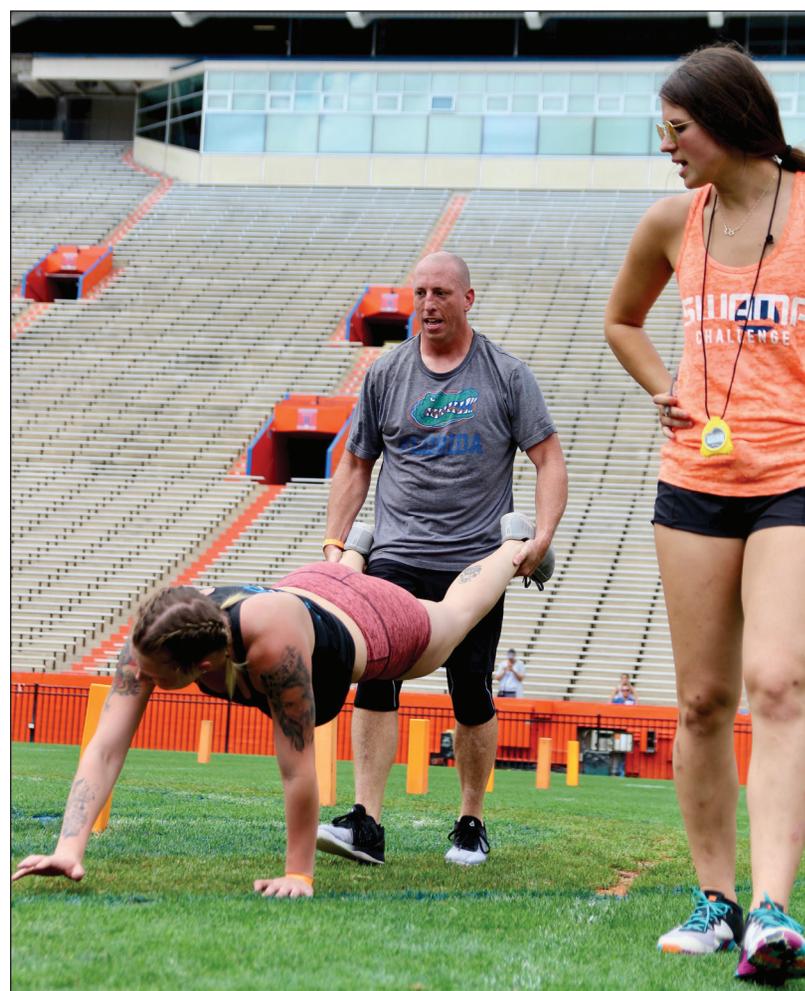
Denise Pope, a 37-year-old Gainesville resident, competes alongside her female partner, Melissa Scott, 43, in the ball wall exercise.



The majority of the exercises performed at the 2018 Swamp Challenge took place on the Ben Hill Griffin Stadium field.



Participants perform toes to bar during the workout event called "10 minute AMRAP" at Ben Hill Griffin Stadium on Saturday afternoon.



Scott Streit, 38, holds April Bieri's legs, 25, during the wheelbarrow exercise portion of the "Workout Two" event. Scott and April both attend the same gym in Deerfield Beach called CrossFit HSN.

# A cleaner campus: Students celebrate Earth Day

Photos by Taylour Marks  
Alligator Staff



**Left:**

Danny Guerra, 19, and Shauntelle Cruz, an 18-year-old UF geography freshman, help to clean up garbage on the banks of Lake Alice as part of the Earth Day Campus Clean Up hosted by the Strong Roots Movement and UF's Surfrider Foundation.

**Above:**

Ashley Powers, a 20-year-old UF marketing junior, helps to pick up trash around Lake Alice with Natalie Belluccia, a 20-year-old UF business administration sophomore, and her dog Boo.

**ATTENTION**

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The Alligator will not be publishing from **Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup> to Monday, May 14<sup>th</sup>**

The deadline for Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> is Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup> by 4:00 p.m. for Display & Classified Ads

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# UF researcher's project to help blind, visually impaired

HE CREATED A PROGRAM FOR SELF-DRIVING CARS.

By Vivian Nguyen

Alligator Contributing Writer

When Solomon O'Leary lost his vision four years ago, he never thought he'd run errands alone.

But in January, O'Leary got into the rear passenger seat of a Volkswagen SUV and went to Kmart — guided by Atlas, a program in self-driving cars designed by UF researcher Julian Brinkley to address the needs of those with visual im-

pairments.

Brinkley said he designed the system to help visually impaired people interact with a self-driving vehicle. He used about \$60,000 in grants from UF and Enteraxion Labs to fund his research, which began in 2016.

Because the project is in its early stages of development, Brinkley could not estimate how much the program will cost users. But he added, the idea is that it will be incorporated into manufacturer systems and cost nothing for the user.

The Atlas system is part of a larger research project that consisted of

surveys, focus groups and participatory design sessions with blind and low-vision participants, the 39-year-old said. The goal was to identify the needs, preferences and concerns of visually impaired people using self-driving cars.

O'Leary, a 34-year-old from Ocala who tested the program, said he got in the car and used voice commands to operate it. Even without having the address, Atlas took O'Leary to the nearest Kmart.

Along the way, Atlas told him the landmarks he was passing, O'Leary said. Just in case O'Leary needed to stop at a gas station, Atlas could

change the route.

When O'Leary arrived at his destination, Atlas told him where he was and gave him walking directions to get inside, he said. The system even asked him if he wanted it to park the car and wait for him.

"I liked that it was very easy to control," O'Leary said. "A child can do it."

Brinkley said he began working on Atlas in 2017 but has been working on technology to help the visually impaired since 2012, when he was working on his master's degree at East Carolina University in North Carolina.

People with disabilities who can't drive often have higher rates of unemployment, Brinkley said. Limited mobility has been related to medical issues, mental health issues, social isolation and lower quality of life.

He said the problem is self-driving technology is potentially inaccessible to visually impaired people.

O'Leary said Atlas is important because it gives him the freedom to do things on his own, without relying on others for help.

"One of the main things you lose when you lose your vision is your independence," he said. "Atlas would definitely change my life."

# UF students launch app to encourage eco-friendly habits

THE APP REWARDS USERS BY PLANTING TREES IN NEPAL, MADAGASCAR AND HAITI.

By Christina Morales

Alligator Staff Writer

A student-developed app tracking environmental impact will allow users to help trees be planted in Nepal, Madagascar and Haiti.

LiveGreen, an app created by UF students, tracks a user's carbon footprint — the amount of carbon dioxide contributed to the environment — by asking users to log their meals, transportation, expenses and utilities, said one of the app's developers, Brian De Souza, 20.

By logging their daily carbon footprint, users can get random points, the computer science sophomore said. After 100 points, a tree is planted.

"The reason behind (including) those countries is because they were deeply affected by deforestation," he said.

The developers committed with the non-profit Eden Reforestation Project to plant about 2,500 trees for \$350. As more users engage with the app, the number of trees planted can change, he said.

Users can see how many trees they've raised and where they're planted on an interactive map.

The app will also offer in-app messaging,

but only for users participating in the daily environmental challenges, like the "greenest commuters of the day," where people are ranked for their carbon footprints with transportation.

The app will be available for download through Apple's app store Friday, De Souza said. Eventually, he hopes to expand to Android. The app currently has 10 people testing before its launch, and about 50 more will test it soon, he said.

The app was supposed to launch Sunday, on Earth Day, but needed final tweaks, like adding the metric system, said Pablo Garces, 20, another app developer.

"We have a lot of interest from people in

European countries too, so we had to give an option for metric values," he said.

Garces, a computer science sophomore, said they're trying to get environmentalists to use the app, but they hope other people can join too.

The goal of the app is to make users aware of their habits and help them make small changes to their lifestyles, De Souza said.

"The app itself cannot solve climate change, the app is just a tool, and the people who are using it are the ones doing the change," he said.

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# CELEBRATING COMMUNITY THROUGH MUSIC, FOOD



Marcelo Rondon / Alligator

The Jazz Bandits, a local band, performs at the 39th Annual 5th Avenue Arts Festival. From left to right: Shireen Taha, 35, Mary Fukuyama, 70, and Kali Blount, 61.



Marcelo Rondon / Alligator

Flennoy Powell, 44, cooks bacon at the 39th Annual 5th Avenue Arts Festival on Sunday. He made avocado BLTs for the Fountain of Restoration Ministries.

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Small pet ok. 352-372-1201 or 352-213-3901  
6-21-18-55-2

★★ ELLIE'S HOUSES ★★  
Quality single family homes. Walk or bike to UF. www.ellieshouses.com 352-215-4991 or 352-215-4990 12-5-18-111-2

★★★HOUSE 4BR/2BA★★★  
Available 8/1, lawn care, nice yard, W/D, tile flr, bike to UF. No pets. 3532 NW 7th Ave. See flier \$1450/mo. 352-256-8370  
5-15-18-21-2

House across from Law house available August 2018! 4/2 full bath renovated, granite counter tops, parking, W/D, lawn care and sunroom for studying! Walk to class! \$2250  
352-317-6353 5-22-18-5-2

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## 3 Subleases

Don't get stuck with an extra rent payment. Advertise your subleases in the Alligator Classifieds and save yourself some cash. Call 373-FIND.

## 4 Roommates

I'VE HAD IT WITH YOUR LOUD MUSIC!  
Is your roommate driving you crazy? Find a replacement in the Alligator Classifieds!

## 5 Real Estate

Sell your house, condo, acreage, mobile home and much more in the ALLIGATOR CLASSIFIEDS! Reach thousands of possible buyers! Mastercard and Visa accepted over the phone, by fax, email or **CHECK OUT PLACING YOUR AD THRU OUR ONLINE AT [www.alligator.org](http://www.alligator.org)**. or please call 373-Find (373-3463)

NEW CONDOS-WALK TO UF  
For Info on ALL Condos for Sale, Visit [www.UFCONDOS.COM](http://www.UFCONDOS.COM) or Matt Price, University Realty, 352-281-3551  
4-25-43-5

Lake Property Liquidation  
Foreclosure Resale \$39,900  
Before Foreclosure sold for \$137,900  
Financing Available. Being sold off May 5th!  
Watch Video: [www.LakeLotsCloseout.com](http://www.LakeLotsCloseout.com)  
877.712.3650  
Florida Waterfront Marketing, LLC. Licensed Real Estate Broker. 4-20-1-5

## 6 Furnishings

Got a new couch?. Sell your old one in the Alligator Classifieds. Call 373-FIND (3463) to place your ad today.

BEDS - Brand Name, Brand NEW Pillowtop Mattress & Box Set: Twins \$89, Fulls \$100, Queens \$120, Kings \$200. Can Deliver 352-377-9846. Gainesville Discount Furniture. 3-28-167-6

## 7 Computers

Selling computers, parts, or repair services or just looking for that new rig? Look in the Alligator Classifieds. Call 373-FIND for more information.

## 8 Electronics

Place an ad to sell your old stereo, cell phone, and more in the Electronics Section of the Alligator Classifieds. 373-FIND

## 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](http://SURPLUS.UFL.EDU) 392-0370  
4-25-18-43-10

Goats for Sale & Lease  
Horse Boarding - 7 miles to UF  
Charlie - 352-278-1925 4-25-43-10

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Ext.300N 4-20-1-10

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## 12 Autos

Unload your lot. Sell your cars through Alligator Advertising for cheap. 373-FIND or place your ad online at [www.alligator.org/classifieds](http://www.alligator.org/classifieds)

● We Buy Junk & Used Cars ●  
● Trucks, Vans - Titled only ●  
KT 352-281-9980 [sunnyman352@gmail.com](mailto:sunnyman352@gmail.com)  
4-25-43-12

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4-25-43-12

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4-25-43-12

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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 located in downtown Gainesville.** Our mission is to empower families with children to transition from homelessness to self-sufficiency by providing case management, housing, food, training and educational resources in a secure environment.  
**If interested in volunteering please contact the volunteer coordinator at 352-378- 9079 ext 317 or [sfhcoor@stfrancis.cfcxmail.com](mailto:sfhcoor@stfrancis.cfcxmail.com)**  
St Francis House depends on monetary support from individual donors and community businesses in order to provide meals to the homeless and the hungry.  
**To make a donation by mail, please send checks payable to St. Francis House P.O. Box 12491 Gainesville FL 32604 or our website at [Stfranchishousegfv.org](http://Stfranchishousegfv.org)**

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M-F, 8am - 4pm

**By E-mail:** [classified@alligator.org](mailto:classified@alligator.org)  
**By Fax:** (352) 376-4556  
**By Mail:** P.O. Box 14257 G-ville 32604  
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Ads placed by 4 pm will appear two publication days later. Ads may run for any length of time and be cancelled at any time. Sorry, but there can be no refunds or credits for cancelled ads.

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Alligator errors: Check your ad the FIRST day it runs. Call 373-FIND with any corrections before noon. THE ALLIGATOR IS ONLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FIRST DAY THE AD RUNS INCORRECTLY. Corrected ads will be extended one day. No refunds or credits can be given after placing the ad. Corrections called in after the first day will not be further compensated.  
Customer error or changes: Changes must be made BEFORE NOON for the next day's paper. There will be a \$2.00 charge for minor changes.

- |                         |               |                        |                    |                  |
|-------------------------|---------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1 For Rent: Furnished   | 6 Furnishings | 11 Motorcycles, Mopeds | 16 Health Services | 21 Entertainment |
| 2 For Rent: Unfurnished | 7 Computers   | 12 Autos               | 17 Typing Services | 22 Tickets       |
| 3 Sublease              | 8 Electronics | 13 Wanted              | 18 Personals       | 23 Rides         |
| 4 Roommates             | 9 Bicycles    | 14 Help Wanted         | 19 Connections     | 24 Pets          |
| 5 Real Estate           | 10 For Sale   | 15 Services            | 20 Event Notices   | 25 Lost & Found  |

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**"I found it in The Alligator!"**

Total Home looking for a floor associate in downtown Gainesville. Duties include: working sales floor, assembling cabinetry, loading materials and general upkeep. \$10/hour. Email resume to [totalhome@totalhomefla.com](mailto:totalhome@totalhomefla.com) 5-15-18-10-14

Engineering & Arts Day Camp Hiring Now! Build and play with kids this summer. Need education, engineering, arts majors to help us run this incredibly special camp experience. (FT/PT avail) [www.masterbuildercamp.com](http://www.masterbuildercamp.com) to apply. 4-20-18-7-14

**14 Help Wanted**

Paralegal, part-time, for Immigration Law firm. Will train. Must be fluent in Spanish and English. Must make a one year commitment. Resume to: [robert.jacobs@rjimmigration.com](mailto:robert.jacobs@rjimmigration.com) 4-25-18-8-14

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**HIRING** home/office/apartment cleaners(m-f and every other sat). Day and night shifts available. Must own a car. weekly pay \$8.50/hr. if interested please call 352-214-0868 5-15-18-4-14

Makos Aquatics Club of Gainesville Is looking for swim/lesson coaches for May & summer work. \$11.00 an hour. Send resume/3 references to [kraus.leonard@gmail.com](mailto:kraus.leonard@gmail.com) 5-15-18-4-14

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 5-17-18-4-14

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**16 Health Services**

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 (352) 727-4733 [www.GatorCPR.com](http://www.GatorCPR.com)  
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 Reduce your showertime by 2 minutes.  
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E <sub>1</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	P <sub>3</sub>	G <sub>2</sub>	L <sub>1</sub>	P <sub>3</sub>		RACK 1
A <sub>1</sub>	I <sub>1</sub>	I <sub>1</sub>	U <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	N <sub>1</sub>	M <sub>3</sub>		RACK 2
A <sub>1</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	I <sub>1</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	V <sub>4</sub>	L <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>		RACK 3 1st Letter Double
A <sub>1</sub>	I <sub>1</sub>	I <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	P <sub>3</sub>	L <sub>1</sub>	G <sub>2</sub>		RACK 4 Triple Word Score

**PAR SCORE 145-155**      **FOUR RACK TOTAL**  
**BEST SCORE 213**      **TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN**

**DIRECTIONS:** Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Finally, 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, 5th Edition. **SOLUTION TOMORROW**

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04-23

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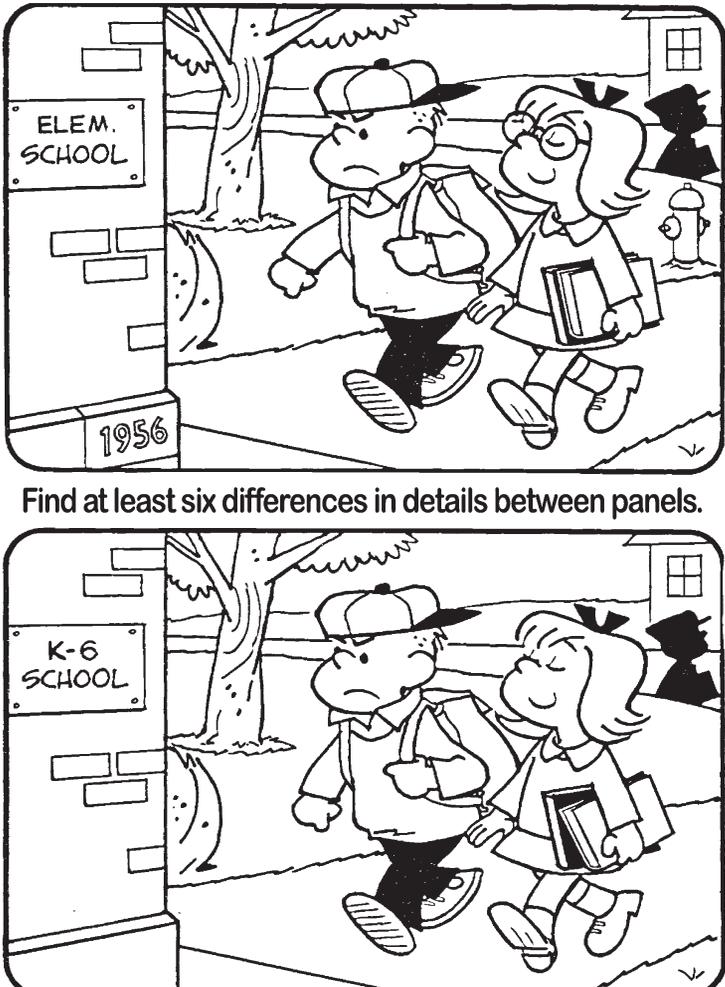


**Paul Anthony Huggins**  
 White Male  
 DOB 9/5/1996  
 5'2", 160 lbs  
 Brown Hair  
 Green Eyes

**Wanted for:**  
 Felony criminal  
 Mischief & Aggravated  
 Assault with Deadly  
 Weapon

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Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Sign is different. 2. Cornerstone is missing. 3. Arm is moved. 4. Glasses are missing. 5. Book is moved. 6. Fireplug is missing.

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RELEASE DATE— Monday, April 23, 2018

## Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

<p><b>ACROSS</b></p> <p>1 Ejects, volcano-style</p> <p>6 Coin toss</p> <p>10 Org. with a "Parliament" TV channel</p> <p>13 Vietnam's capital</p> <p>14 Loughlin of "Full House"</p> <p>15 Hide in the soil</p> <p>16 *Actor who played Ché in the 1996 "Evita" movie</p> <p>19 Conked out</p> <p>20 Sign light</p> <p>21 "Snowy" bird</p> <p>22 Sobbed</p> <p>24 Winter bug</p> <p>25 *1990s-2000s Red Sox Hall of Fame pitcher</p> <p>32 Scratch or dent</p> <p>34 With courage</p> <p>35 Actress Campbell</p> <p>36 Leave out, as the "g" when saying "sayin'"</p> <p>38 From ___ Z</p> <p>39 It's accessed via manholes</p> <p>40 To boot</p> <p>41 End of a Seuss title about a mischievous feline</p> <p>43 Good bud</p> <p>44 *Argentine who shared the FIFA Player of the 20th Century award with Pelé</p> <p>47 Rte. finder</p> <p>48 October birthstones</p> <p>50 Tea variety</p> <p>53 Extra: Abbr.</p> <p>56 British slammer</p> <p>58 *20th-century Spanish dictator</p> <p>61 Like small print</p> <p>62 Civil mayhem</p> <p>63 Like Machu Picchu</p> <p>64 Explosive stuff</p> <p>65 Without ... or, as a plural, what the starts of the answers to starred clues are without?</p> <p>66 Winter melodies</p>	<p><b>DOWN</b></p> <p>1 Roe fish</p> <p>2 Lose it in an emergency</p> <p>3 "Star Trek" ship</p> <p>4 Stereotypical surfer's wagon</p> <p>5 Pride or envy</p> <p>6 Ice sheet</p> <p>7 Gray wolf</p> <p>8 Persian rug source</p> <p>9 Sticker</p> <p>10 1804 duel winner</p> <p>11 Scottish hillside</p> <p>12 Skin concern</p> <p>15 "Begin the ___": Cole Porter song</p> <p>17 Vedic weather god</p> <p>18 Shoulder muscle, informally</p> <p>23 Beat by a bit</p> <p>24 Cook in deep fat</p> <p>26 Nebraska city</p> <p>27 Parking ___</p> <p>28 Hawaiian welcome</p> <p>29 Puma competitor</p> <p>30 Perpetually</p> <p>31 Celsius freezing point</p> <p>32 Honeyed drink</p> <p>33 "___ want for Christmas ..."</p>	<p>37 Danged</p> <p>39 "Cut that out!"</p> <p>41 Many corp. logos</p> <p>42 First name from which the "Adi" in Adidas is derived</p> <p>45 Oil gp.</p> <p>46 1998 Olympics city</p> <p>49 Tinseltown region, familiarly</p> <p>50 Fizzling sound</p> <p>51 Ireland, in verse</p> <p>52 German thinker</p> <p>Immanuel</p> <p>53 Largest continent</p> <p>54 Anti-rodent brand</p> <p>55 Things to connect</p> <p>57 Chaney Jr. and Sr.</p> <p>59 Tax-auditing org.</p> <p>60 ___ Tin Tin</p>
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**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**

S	H	I	N	U	S	O	C	C	R	O	S			
A	I	R	E	A	L	D	A	A	A	U	D	I	O	
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L	A	D	L	E	E	X	E	C	S	P	I	N		

04/21/18

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61					62				63			
64					65				66			

By Jeff Stillman  
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### 16 Health Services

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352-376-8008  
[www.uncoastna.org](http://www.uncoastna.org)  
pr@uncoastna.org

### 20 Events/Notices

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

**\$2,500**  
Healthier Future Essay Scholarship

Learn more at:  
[FastSlimBody.com/Scholarship](http://FastSlimBody.com/Scholarship)  
4-25-20-20

### 21 Entertainment

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

**WALDO FARMERS & FLEA MARKET**  
Vintage & Unique - Like EBay in 3D  
Sat & Sun [www.WaldoFlea.com](http://www.WaldoFlea.com)  
12-5-111-21

### 18 Personals

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

### 22 Tickets

BUYING OR SELLING TICKETS?  
Place your ad here and get results!  
Visit: [alligator.org/classifieds](http://alligator.org/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

### 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.

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### 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.

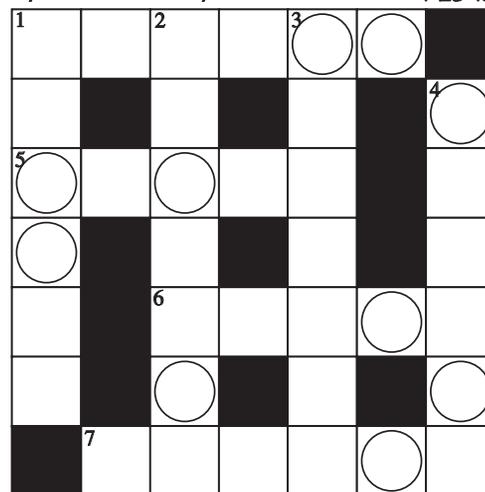
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## JUMBLE CROSSWORDS™

by David L. Hoyt 4-23-18



**ACROSS**

<b>CLUE</b>	<b>ANSWER</b>
1. Mass ____	DSXUEO
5. Hot ____	CAOOC
6. Another time	INAAG
7. Onset, arrival	VNADTE

**DOWN**

<b>CLUE</b>	<b>ANSWER</b>
1. Repeat performance	RNEOEC
2. Apple ____	DARROHC
3. Out of the loop	WRUNEEA
4. Red ____	EPLTNA

**CLUE:** \_\_\_\_ lived from 1473 to 1543.

**BONUS** ○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○

**How to play** Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.

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Send comments to TCA - 435 N. Michigan Ave., Third Floor, Chicago, IL. 60611 or DLHoyt@aol.com.



by Chris Richcreek

1. Who was the last Chicago Cubs pitcher in the modern era before Jake Arrieta (2015, '16) to toss more than one no-hitter?
2. In what year did Rickey Henderson pass Lou Brock as baseball's career stolen base leader?
3. Adam Gase, in 2016, became the third Miami Dolphins coach to win six consecutive games. Who were the other two to do it?
4. Kentucky's men's basketball team holds the record for most official NCAA Tournament appearances (57). Which school holds the men's mark for the most Final Four appearances?
5. Name the last rookie before Vancouver's Brock Boeser in 2018 to win the MVP Award at the NHL All-Star Game.
6. How many consecutive 400-meter hurdles races did Edwin Moses win between 1977 and 1987?
7. In 2018, Bubba Watson became the third PGA golfer to win three times at Riviera Country Club in California. Name either of the other two golfers to do it.

**Answers**

1. Ken Holtzman, in 1969 and 1971.
2. It was 1991 when he surpassed Brock's 938 career steals.
3. Don Shula and Nick Saban.
4. North Carolina, with 20.
5. Pittsburgh's Mario Lemieux, in 1985.
6. He had 122 consecutive wins.
7. Ben Hogan and Lloyd Mangrum.

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## SCRABBLE G.R.A.M.S. SOLUTION

P <sub>3</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	P <sub>3</sub>	L <sub>1</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>		RACK 1 =	<u>10</u>
M <sub>3</sub>	I <sub>1</sub>	N <sub>1</sub>	U <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	I <sub>1</sub>	A <sub>1</sub>	RACK 2 =	<u>59</u>
V <sub>4</sub>	I <sub>1</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	L <sub>1</sub>	A <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	RACK 3 =	<u>64</u>
P <sub>3</sub>	I <sub>1</sub>	G <sub>2</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	A <sub>1</sub>	I <sub>1</sub>	L <sub>1</sub>	RACK 4 =	<u>80</u>

**PAR SCORE 145-155** TOTAL **213**  
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## GYMNASTICS

# Florida says goodbye to McMurtry, Slocum, Bakers after NCAAs

By **Alana Gomez**  
Sports Writer

As it marched out to The Chain-smokers' "Something Just Like This," the Florida gymnastics team danced, Gator Chomped and smiled, hyping up the crowd at Chaifetz Arena in St. Louis on Saturday night with its infectious energy. Even UCLA's fans participated in the fun, doing the Gator Chomp back to UF as it lined up single file on stage to collect its third-place trophy at the NCAA Super Six team final. There were no signs that the team had just lost a national title to UCLA by .225 of a point.

But there was one gymnast whose smile was masked by tears. Senior Alex McMurtry moved a little slower than her teammates, gazing around the arena as her final collegiate gymnastics meet officially came to a close.

"No regrets," McMurtry said in a release.

For the 18-time All-American, there shouldn't be. In the 2018 season alone, she scored two perfect 10s — one

on vault and one on beam — in the Gators' meet against Oklahoma on Jan. 26. Her score on beam completed a "Gym Slam," which is when a gymnast records a 10 in every event over the course of her career.

She played a key role in UF's two-loss regular season and led the Gators with 26 event titles, including 10 on bars, eight on vault, five on beam, two in all-around and one on floor.

"We had the toughest season I've ever been a part of," McMurtry said. "I started balling, not because I was that upset, but because I was so happy that we finished on a strong note."

The team will also say goodbye to seniors Rachel Slocum and Kennedy Baker. Slocum made an impact at the NCAA Regionals on April 7 with a shared win on floor and a win on vault and continued to be a source of joy and motivation for the Gators. Though Baker's season ended early — she suffered a ruptured Achilles tendon on Feb. 23 in a meet against Arkansas — she also served her time well this year, posting

SEE GYMNASTICS, PAGE 16



Emma Green / Alligator Staff

Alex McMurtry is one of three seniors departing from Florida's gymnastics program following UF's third-place finish at the NCAA Super Six on Saturday.

## BASEBALL

# Behind the scenes at McKethan: The logistics of UF baseball games

By **Ethan Bauer**  
Sports Writer

McKethan Stadium is quiet now.

Florida just wrapped up a road trip to Lexington, Kentucky, this weekend, where the No. 1 Gators took two of three games from the Wildcats. Their first contest back home will be against Mercer on Tuesday night at 6, but if you were to walk by the stadium sometime Monday afternoon, you'd probably never know.

You might hear the rhythmic whir of a lawnmower or the persistent ping of leather meeting aluminum, but the stadium seems dormant in the absence of fans and teams and life. Rest assured that inside, where nobody's watching, plenty of preparation is going into Tuesday's game against the Bears.

Mitchell Wydetic knows that better than anyone. He's the head student manager for Florida's baseball team, and his job is basically to make sure everything that needs

to get done behind the scenes does indeed get done. His journey started back at Henry Plant High School in Tampa.

He wanted to play baseball, but he was too small. At 5-foot-8 and without standout skills, his coach approached him with a proposition: What if he gave up playing and used his strongest baseball attribute — his brain — to help coach the team?

"People don't give up their career at 15 to start coaching," Wydetic thought. "They do that at 35."

But he wanted to stay around baseball, and becoming a student-coach would make that happen.

"I'll do it," he finally decided, "but if I don't like it after two weeks, I'm out."

About six years and one college enrollment later, he's still performing many of the same tasks minus the actual coaching. And on a recent Tuesday, he sat down to explain how he and the rest of the operations staff makes sure games get played smoothly.

### The Balls

What would baseball be without, well, baseballs? You can't play a game without them, after all. But the scale at which UF purchases these spheres of cork and yarn wrapped like sausage between two leather strips may surprise you.

Wydetic explained that UF orders about 35 cases of baseballs every fall. Each case carries 120 balls, which makes the total about 4,200. Each ball is worth about \$5 individually, Wydetic said, without factoring in any bought-in-bulk discounts.

Some of them get used right away as practice balls, which are kept in their own basket for batting practice. Others are saved for games.

Read the rest of the story online at [alligator.org/sports](http://alligator.org/sports).

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## WOMEN'S TENNIS

# Vandy shuts out Gators in SEC Tournament final

By **River Wells**  
Sports Writer

Last year, Florida's women's tennis team fell to Vanderbilt in the championship match of the SEC Tournament. This year, it was more of the same.

The No. 1-seeded Commodores defeated UF 4-0 in the conference tournament title match on Sunday, their second sweep of the Gators this year.

Freshman Katie Kubicz and senior Peggy Porter were the first to fall in doubles play, as the duo lost to the Commodores' Christina Rosca and Amanda Meyer 6-1. Vanderbilt's Fernanda Contreras and Astra Sharma clinched the doubles point with a win over senior Anna Danilina and freshman Victoria Emma. Danilina and Emma, despite being UF's No. 1 duo, went winless in doubles play throughout the entirety of the SEC tournament.

Up 1-0, the Commodores continued their strong play in singles. Meyer struck first with a win over Emma 6-1, 6-2.

Summer Dvorak, who defeated

Porter on April 14 to clinch the regular season SEC championship, followed up shortly after with a 6-2, 6-1 victory over Kubicz.

The Commodores completed the shutout when Contreras defeated senior Josie Kuhlman, winning 6-2, 6-1 and bringing the SEC Tournament trophy back to Nashville.

Despite the lopsided defeat, UF coach Roland Thornqvist looked on the bright side after the match.

"We've come close to two trophies," Thornqvist said in a release, "but I feel nothing but pride on what these Gators have achieved."

Florida will get a short break before they move on to the NCAA Tournament, which begins on May 11.

"We've got three weeks here, so we can take care of some academics and then start working toward the NCAAs," Thornqvist said. "We can start from zero in our preparations. It comes at a good time for us."

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**Marta Perez** and the Florida women's golf team fell to Arkansas in the quarterfinal round of SEC Tournament match play on Saturday.

## GATORS WIN FOURTH STRAIGHT BIG EAST TITLE

Florida's lacrosse team defeated Denver 18-13 on Saturday to increase its record in conference play to 8-0. With the five-goal victory, UF clinched its fourth consecutive regular season Big East title.

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## MEN'S TENNIS

# FAR FROM HOME: Alfredo Perez thriving after immigrating

By Benjamin Brandt  
Sports Writer

In a backyard as big as his imagination, a young Alfredo Perez Jr. can't resist the sweet summer smell of fresh mangoes.

His parents have told him many times to stay out of the trees, but they can hardly contain their son's hunger for fun. In a sacred moment of privacy, Alfredo Jr. jumps into the long arms of the mango tree and climbs toward his prize. Once within reach, he snaps the fruit from its branch and lowers himself excitedly to the green grasses of his childhood, where he is free to enjoy his hard-earned fruit.

The memory of its taste will be enough to bring a blushing smile to his face over a decade later. But for now, Alfredo Jr. isn't thinking about the future or his 300-mile journey to a foreign, but free, country. He only wants to play.

It's the summer of 2006 and at 9 years old, Alfredo Jr. has grown accustomed to the freedom of long days playing in the street in front of his home in Artemisa, Cuba. He has many neighborhood friends, and together they fly kites against the blue sky, roll marbles and spin tops on the paved roads and play hide-and-seek in the large lawn.

When parents finally manage to herd their children indoors after dark — sometimes as late as 9 p.m. — the kids all gather at Alfredo Jr.'s house. Here, the ceiling and walls do little to curb the merriment. Alfredo Jr. plays his favorite song on a CD player given to him by his godfather. Its name will eventually be forgotten, but his parents will remember its maker: Shakira. Her signature vibrato begins to narrate the evening's fun as the friends sing and dance playfully. Ever the jester, Alfredo Jr. throws himself to the floor as part of his choreography. He will repeat the song more than 15 times tonight and many other evenings to come.

This is the life Alfredo Jr. knows. But in less than one year, he will find himself far from home, stripped of the power of his native language and equipped with only a dream of greatness. Fortunately for Alfredo Jr., a tennis ball responds to the language of passion alone.

Tennis runs in Alfredo Jr.'s family.

Alfredo Perez Sr. began playing as a young child and never gave it up, ultimately making it his profession to teach the sport. So it wasn't out of the ordinary when he first put a racket in his son's 1-year-old hands. Alfredo Jr. — “Alfredito,” as his father calls him — played with tennis rackets and threw balls against walls before he could even walk.

When he did learn to walk, Alfredo Jr. joined his father at the tennis courts. While Alfredo Sr. played, Alfredo Jr. stood beside the court and mirrored his father's actions: the long forehand motion, the quick movement of his feet.



Emma Green / Alligator Staff

Florida men's tennis player Alfredo Perez moved from his hometown of Artemisa, Cuba, to Miami when he was 10 years old.

Soon enough, the younger Alfredo was obsessed. He played every day — on the court after school, against the wall behind his house after practice and against the walls in his house after dark.

By the time he was 7 years old, his father recognized he had a gift. As an experienced tennis player himself, he had an eye for talent and saw that his son was special.

Once a year, Alfredo Jr. had the opportunity to travel and represent his hometown in another province for a junior-level national tournament. He remembers the tournament fondly, grateful to have had the chance to visit another part of Cuba.

“We didn't really get to travel much,” Alfredo Jr. said. “(The tournament) was a reason I kept playing at first.”

But he had to go without his parents.

Travel was expensive, especially in the context of a broken, communist economy. An average salary wasn't enough for Alfredo Sr. to afford many necessities. He relied on the black market to provide for his family, but still, food was a daily struggle.

“If you have a child who asks you for a candy and you do not have

money for a candy, it's very hard,” Alfredo Sr. said. “So you start to look at other options.”

In 1994, he applied for residency in the United States. The paperwork was finally completed 13 years later.

On April 30, 2007, the Perez family cashed in on the spring's promise of rebirth and left Cuba to start their lives anew. At 10 years old, Alfredo Jr. — with both his parents and his 2-year-old brother, Alejandro — arrived at their new home: Miami.

Fortunately, one of Alfredo Sr.'s brothers, who had immigrated to South Florida several years prior, agreed to house the Perezes for the next 12 months before they could afford a place of their own.

Living with family helped protect Alfredo Jr. from the growing pains associated with such a radical transition. He remembers playing with his cousins in a big backyard, where mango and avocado trees added a touch of familiarity.

During Alfredo Jr.'s first junior tennis tournament in Miami, he experienced what would ultimately be his greatest challenge in the U.S. He didn't speak any English and found he had no means of expression without language.

“I couldn't explain myself. I couldn't talk,” Alfredo Jr. said. “It was not good.”

Alfredo Jr. lost handily in the tournament's first round. A new home, a new language and a crushing defeat all thrust into the arms of a 10-year-old boy.

With the help of an Argentinian referee, Alfredo Jr. was able to communicate with other players during his next few tournaments. But the feeling of estrangement remained.

One weekend, a local coach named Robert Gomez happened to see Alfredo Jr. play at a tournament and was immediately convinced of his potential. He approached Alfredo Sr. and expressed an interest in working with Alfredo Jr. While the offer was everything the Perezes wanted for their son, they knew they couldn't afford private lessons.

But money didn't matter to Gomez. Whether moved by the passion that pumped through each of Alfredo Jr.'s lanky limbs or touched by the story of a boy looking for his place in a new world, Gomez just wanted to help. And so he began to teach Alfredo Jr. for free.

Gomez is the director of tennis at the Biltmore and Salvadore Tennis

Centers in the Miami area, where he operates a youth program for a variety of levels. After agreeing to train Alfredo Jr., Gomez offered Alfredo Sr. a job as a coach for entry-level players. Thanks to the grace of Gomez, the Perezes were finding their fit in Miami.

Alfredo Jr. quickly advanced to the top of Gomez's program and became his primary project. The two began traveling together to give Alfredo Jr. the opportunity to play competitive tennis. In the five years that Alfredo Jr. trained under Gomez, he played in over 100 United States Tennis Association (USTA) junior tournaments.

At the age of 15, Alfredo Jr. secured the seventh seed in the 16-under division of the Bobby Curtis State Championships in Orlando. He made the trip with Gomez, an assistant coach and his training partner Mirko Radosevic, who competed in the same age division as Alfredo Jr.

After unchallenged victories in the first two rounds, Alfredo Jr. experienced what Gomez refers to as “a mental lapse.”

He lost the first set of his round of 16 match 6-4 and faced his first deficit of the tournament. But before his rising temper lost him the match, he reversed his apparent fate and won 12 consecutive games to advance in dominating fashion.

The victory wasn't enough to save Alfredo Jr. from the wrath of his assistant coach. Immediately after the match, Alfredo Jr. was forced to run a mile as punishment for his slow start. He ran his mile through the deep, green forestry surrounding Sanlando Park and then ran through his remaining three opponents, including Mirko in the final round. Alfredo Jr. was a state champion.

“That was a pretty cool moment,” Gomez said.

Alfredo Jr. defended his title the following year, a feat rarely accomplished by a junior tennis player, according to Gomez.

But the winning never surprised Gomez. He had always known who Alfredo Jr., the tennis player, could be. In their five years together, however, Gomez spent much less time in the presence of Alfredo Jr., the young man.

But on a trip to Kalamazoo, Michigan, for a national tournament, 16-year-old Alfredo Jr. shed himself of the competitive gusto that earned him his many trophies and revealed a piece of his heart.

Read the rest of this story online at [alligator.org/sports](http://alligator.org/sports).

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## Alfredo Perez

**Class: Junior**

**Height: 6-foot-3**

**Weight: 170**

**Hometown: Artemisa, Cuba**

# UF advanced to NCAA Championships for 36th time in 37 years

## GYMNASTICS, from pg 14

her third career perfect 10 on floor against Alabama on Feb. 9.

"I am truly thankful for their leadership," coach Jenny Rowland said about the team's three seniors. "They've left an amazing mark on this team."

Even with the loss of McMurry, Slocum and Baker, UF has much to look forward to in its underclassmen. Freshman Alyssa Baumann was a major asset on the team, collecting three wins on beam and one win on floor in the regular season.

She also led the Gators on floor at the NCAA Championships and Super Six, finishing second in

both events with a collegiate best of 9.950.

"This is just the beginning," Baumann said. "The next three years is going to be special."

In her third year as UF's coach, Jenny Rowland has a lot to be proud of. Florida finished ranked third in the nation with accolades including advancing to the NCAA Championships for the 36th time in 37 years and 23 collegiate-best marks on the season.

"They laid their heart out on the floor," Rowland said. "They laid their gymnastics out on the floor, and I couldn't ask for anything more."

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Emma Green / Alligator Staff

Freshman Alyssa Baumann led the Gators on floor at the NCAA Championships and Super Six this weekend.

### YEAR IN REVIEW: FLORIDA GYMNASTS TOP SCORES OF 2018

Name	Top Score on VAULT	Top Score on BARS	Top Score on BEAM	Top Score on FLOOR	Top Score on ALL-AROUND
Sierra Alexander (So.)	9.85 (Jan. 19)	DID NOT COMPETE	DID NOT COMPETE	DID NOT COMPETE	NOT AVAILABLE
Kennedy Baker (Sr.)	9.90 (Two Times)	9.875 (Feb. 23)	9.80 (Jan. 12)	10.0 (Feb. 9)	39.35 (Jan. 12)
Alyssa Baumann (Fr.)	9.775 (Feb. 2)	DID NOT COMPETE	9.975 (Two Times)	9.95 (Two Times)	NOT AVAILABLE
Alicia Boren (Jr.)	9.95 (Feb. 16)	9.925 (Feb. 9)	9.925 (Five Times)	9.95 (Three Times)	39.60 (Feb. 9)
Maegan Chant (So.)	9.825 (Feb. 9)	DID NOT COMPETE	DID NOT COMPETE	DID NOT COMPETE	NOT AVAILABLE
Amanda Cheney (Jr.)	DID NOT COMPETE	DID NOT COMPETE	DID NOT COMPETE	DID NOT COMPETE	NOT AVAILABLE
Jazmyn Foberg (Fr.)	9.90 (March 9)	9.95 (March 9)	9.70 (Jan. 5)	9.825 (Three Times)	39.125 (Jan. 5)
Rachel Gowey (So.)	9.875 (Feb. 23)	9.925 (Feb. 23)	9.95 (Two Times)	9.875 (Two Times)	38.725 (March 2)
Amelia Hundley (So.)	9.90 (March 24)	9.925 (Three Times)	9.90 (March 9)	9.925 (April 21)	39.475 (April 21)
Francesca Lawal (Fr.)	DID NOT COMPETE	DID NOT COMPETE	DID NOT COMPETE	DID NOT COMPETE	NOT AVAILABLE
Grace McLaughlin (Sr.)	DID NOT COMPETE	DID NOT COMPETE	9.65 (Feb. 9)	9.90 (March 2)	NOT AVAILABLE
Alex McMurry (Sr.)	10.0 (Jan. 26)	9.975 (Five Times)	10.0 (Jan. 26)	9.925 (Two Times)	39.825 (March 9)
Megan Skaggs (Fr.)	9.825 (Three Times)	9.90 (Three Times)	9.90 (Three Times)	9.925 (Jan. 12)	39.375 (March 9)
Rachel Slocum (Sr.)	9.95 (Two Times)	DID NOT COMPETE	DID NOT COMPETE	9.95 (Feb. 16)	NOT AVAILABLE
Nicole Webb (Fr.)	DID NOT COMPETE	DID NOT COMPETE	9.725 (Feb. 16)	DID NOT COMPETE	NOT AVAILABLE

**#1 BASEBALL**

**TUESDAY APR. 24 @ 6 PM**  
vs. **MERCER**

**UF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NIGHT**  
ALL UFAA MEMBERS  
RECEIVE 2-FOR-1  
RESERVED BLEACHER  
SEATING

**UF & SANTA FE FACULTY  
& STAFF NIGHT**  
ALL UF AND SANTA FE  
FACULTY AND STAFF  
RECEIVE 2-FOR-1 RESERVED  
BLEACHER SEATING

FREE ADMISSION WITH A GATOR 1 ID  
ALFRED A. MCKETHAN STADIUM

**#5 SOFTBALL**

**WEDNESDAY APR. 25 @ 6 PM**  
vs. **FLORIDA STATE**

**COASTER GIVEAWAY**  
THE FIRST 500 FANS WILL  
RECEIVE A COASTER!

FREE ADMISSION WITH A GATOR 1 ID  
KATIE SEASHOLE PRESSLEY STADIUM

**#1 FOOTBALL**

**STUDENT SEASON TICKET RENEWALS  
NOW ON SALE!**

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