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Letters to the Editor for June 9

Published: Monday, June 9, 2008 at 6:01 a.m.

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No more homeless pets

I am writing to express the Humane Society's delight in seeing funding from the Alachua County Commission for No More Homeless Pets. It is a program which will prove valuable to both the human and animal citizens of our county.

I commend the County Commission on recognizing the long-term investment in our community which will help reduce the needless deaths of unwanted companion animals and will assist in public safety of our two legged citizens.

Our organization was delighted to be present at the commission meeting, where the decision was made, to voice our endorsement for the program. We are very proud here at the Humane Society of our efforts which results in over 1,000 animals being rescued annually. But so much more remains to be done.

The Humane Society, along with the other rescue organizations, have reduced the overall euthanization rate in Alachua County by 60 percent over the past 6 years. With a program like No More Homeless Pets and its low cost spay/neuter clinic, we can be well on our way to being a zero kill community regarding our companion animals.

Kirk Eppenstein,

Executive director,

Alachua County Humane Society,

Gainesville

Pledge to 'eat local'

This May our family accepted the challenge brought to us by Hogtown HomeGrown. They encouraged local families to buy local and seasonal food for each meal during the month of May.

During the 2008 Eat Local Challenge, we have had the opportunity to meet new people, save money and feel healthier. We have picked strawberries and blueberries at local U-Pick farms, planted vegetables in our garden, shopped at our farmers market and more!

A special thank you for all who organized the community celebration on May 31, 2008, at Westside park. Everyone in the community can make a difference. I would encourage all residents to visit the Web site, www.hogtownhomegrown.com, stop by the local farmers markets and eat local when you can!

Amanda Boyarshinov,

EVENTS CALENDAR [MORE EVENTS](#) [SUBMIT EVENT](#)

30 WED	31 THU	1 FRI	2 SAT	3 SUN
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- Snipes not meeting bond requirements
- Tight end pledges to play for Gators
- Gators cross country coach leaves for UGA
- 19-year-old accused of having sex with minor
- ESPN's TitleTown goes to Valdosta, Ga.
- Taurean Green released by Knicks
- Transgender-law challengers submit 8,600 signatures
- The Swamp makes its debut on Golf Channel
- Local business caught in trademark fight

FEATURED BUSINESSES

Thornebrook Gallery
2441 NW 43rd St Ste 6D
Gainesville, FL 32606
(352) 371-4940



Children's Home Society Of Florida
605 NE 1st ST #H
Gainesville, FL 32601
352- 334-0955



Haven Hospice of North Central Florida
4200 NW 90th Blvd
Gainesville, FL 32606
(352) 378-2121

Gainesville

I'm looking for experience

This will be one Democrat, and I hope one of millions, that will be voting Republican this year. How can you ask people to vote for a man who doesn't have any experience to be president or even enough to be a senator?

Walter Starr,

Gainesville

Keep your cats inside

In light of the several cats that have apparently been killed by coyotes in central Florida recently, I urge everyone to keep their cats indoors and allow them outdoors only on a leash or in a fenced-in yard, under close supervision.

Hungry coyotes aren't the only reason to keep Kitty indoors: Cats that are allowed outdoors are at risk of becoming trapped or lost, being stolen by "bunchers" who sell animals to laboratories for painful experiments, or dogfighters who use friendly cats as "bait," getting hit by cars, being tortured by cruel people, contracting deadly diseases like rabies and feline leukemia, or ingesting rat poison or antifreeze.

Every year, our office receives chilling reports of animals who have been shot, set on fire, had their mouths duct-taped shut, and worse after being left outside alone for "just a few minutes." Free-roaming cats often become predators themselves, taking a massive toll on vulnerable wildlife species including birds and small mammals.

For tips on keeping cats content in the "great indoors," visit www.HelpingAnimals.com.

Martin Mersereau,

Cruelty Investigations Department,

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA),

Norfolk, Va.

Way to go, Gators

I have been attending every home Gator Softball game for the past 7 years. I sit in the same spot every game and cheer as loud as I can!

I am so glad to see the bleachers filling up with many more fans to support this softball program. I am so extremely proud of how well our girls did at the College World Series.

Each and every one of them are amazing softball players, students, mentors to the girls in youth leagues and valuable members of our community. Coach Walton is a wonderful coach and mentor to these girls, and I can't wait until next year.

Gator Nation will miss our only senior, Mary Ratliff, next year. But an outstanding group of student athletes will return! Congratulations on all the individual, team, SEC and NCAA records set during this amazing journey! I can't wait for next year!

Lisa Gagne,

Gainesville

A living legend retires

It is no exaggeration to say that Jerry Scarborough is a living legend. After 19 years as executive director of the Suwannee River Water Management District, Jerry officially

retired May 31. He is succeeded by the very capable David Still.

A remarkable man, Jerry is a native of north central Florida and a University of Florida graduate. He served in elected office as Suwannee County Clerk of the Court, and did a stint as editor of the Suwannee Record newspaper. He has been the dean of water management districts' executive directors and has always provided effective leadership, balance, wise and practical judgment. His political skills and acumen are a big part of his legend.

Most of all Jerry's passion for preserving and conserving our precious water resources has been relentless and continues to influence water management policy and decision making. Jerry has and will continue to make a meaningful and positive difference for Florida and its citizens, particularly those in the Suwannee River Basin.

It has been an honor to know and work with Jerry Scarborough. And even if you've never met him or known of him, you owe him much for his service and stewardship.

David Flagg,

Gainesville

Correction

Alison Law, author of the Sunday, June 8 Speaking Out column titled "Wealth, poverty, infrastructure," lives in southwest Gainesville. Due to an editing error, the column indicated otherwise.

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