

## **QUARTERLY ISSUES REPORT**

**Date:** **January 10, 2015**

**Submitted To:** **WGFL Public File**

**Re:** **WGFL-TV Quarterly Issues Report**  
**Covering the period of October 1, 2014**  
**through December 31, 2014**

**WGFL-TV**  
**Fourth Quarter 2014 Quarterly Issues Report**  
**Covering October 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014**

Through informal ascertainment by written and oral communication with community members, it was determined that among the concerns of the Gainesville community at-large were the following issues:

Consumer Information

Healthcare and Medical News

Education

Crime

Child Safety

Elections

Senior Safety

## **WGFL-TV QUARTERLY ISSUES**

Issue: Consumer Information

Program: Alachua County Talks

Type of Program: Public Affairs half hour weekly

Airdate: Fridays and Sundays, Fourth Quarter 2014  
October 1, 2014 through Dec. 31, 2014

Airtime: Fridays, 4:30am and Sundays, 1:30am

Duration: 30 Minutes

Description: This weekly program is a locally produced discussion program concerning various issues in the community and county. It features people from our community who are involved in bettering our lives and those who live here.

## **WGFL-TV QUARTERLY ISSUES**

Issue: Local Crime

Program: Police Beat

Type of Program: Locally produced half hour with Police Department

Airdate: Fridays and Saturdays, Fourth Quarter 2014  
October 1 through December 31, 2014

Airtime: Fridays, 4am and Saturdays 6pm

Duration: 30 Minutes

Description: In cooperation with the Gainesville Police Department, we air this locally produced show featuring current day-to-day problems that face this local law enforcement agency.

## **WGFL-TV QUARTERLY ISSUES**

Issue: Community Public Affairs

Program: Ilene Silverman Show

Type of Program: Public Affairs

Airdate: Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, Fourth Quarter 2014  
October 1 through December 31, 2014

Airtime: Tuesdays 6am, Fridays 2:30am,  
Saturdays 6:30am

Duration: 30 Minutes

Description: Ilene Silverman is a locally produced public affairs program which covers a wide array of community issues, including education, crime, health and community events, etc. See attachment for specific 4th quarter shows.

## **WGFL-TV QUARTERLY ISSUES**

Issues: Crime/Healthcare and Medical News/  
Consumer Information/Education/  
Government/Environment

Program: GTN News on CBS4

Type of Program: Daily Half Hour News Program

Airdate: Monday-Friday, Fourth Quarter 2014  
October 1 through December 31, 2014

Airtime: 6pm and 11pm

Duration: 30 Minutes

Description: See attached for details on specific issues  
covered throughout the quarter.

## **WGFL-TV QUARTERLY ISSUES**

**OCTOBER  
NOVEMBER  
DECEMBER**

**2014**

### **CRIME**

**10/1/14 6 & 11pm**

### **Domestic Violence Month**

The Gainesville Police Department is joining other law enforcement agencies, victim advocacy groups and victims of domestic violence in recognizing October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

There have been numerous recent cases both locally and nationally that have gained the attention of the public, including sports figures and even the death of an entire family in a nearby county. So far this year, the Gainesville Police Department has responded to 407 non-criminal domestic disturbances, and arrested 778 abusers for various charges of Domestic Violence where evidence of a threat or injury was present.

GPD is committed to investigating incidents of domestic violence and has two detectives that are assigned only domestic violence cases. Those detectives work with victim advocates also assigned to GPD to help give these victims a voice and guidance through a difficult, likely embarrassing point in their lives. Additionally, every patrol officer receives training on how to properly investigate domestic violence incidents, and GPD policy dictates that if there is *any* evidence of domestic abuse that an *arrest must be made*.

GPD also has a Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP) in place to identify high-risk domestic violence cases. Each time an officer is dispatched to a domestic-related incident, an LAP checklist is completed. Certain answers will require the officer to contact a domestic violence counselor by telephone while on-scene. Officers may also decide to contact the counselor on-scene even if the victim's answers do not trigger the protocol. Victims sometimes choose not to speak to the counselor, but the responding officer still makes the phone call while on-scene to document the information.

While most information is aimed at domestic violence victims, Gainesville Police Spokesman, Officer Ben Tobias reminds offenders that they are the only ones that can stop violence. "Without the abuser making the choice to abuse an intimate partner, there would be no issues of domestic violence" Tobias said. "Domestic abusers think it's simply a loss of control that

creates violent behavior. In fact, abusive domestic behavior is a deliberate choice to gain control over their partner. Make the choice right now to not become that abuser.”

The Gainesville Police Department takes issues of domestic violence extremely seriously. We recognize that these cases span all ages, races, sexual orientations and gender. If we expect issues of domestic violence to stop, then we all have a responsibility to effect social change. The following page lists some information about domestic violence and how and when to call for help:

### **What should I do if I think I'm being abused?**

- **Always call 9-1-1 in an emergency, especially if the abuse is going on right now.**
- Seek medical attention if necessary and document all injuries
- Go to a safe place, such as a domestic violence shelter.
  - o Peaceful Paths 24 hour hotline is 352-377-8255
- Seek support from caring friends and family. You do not need to face abuse alone.
- Have a safety plan to protect yourself and your children if you have to leave quickly.

### **What can I do to help someone I think is being abused?**

- Talk about it with the person you believe is being abused BUT make sure to do this privately. If the abuser finds out, it may enrage them and cause further harm to the victim.
- Listen without judgment. Many victims are embarrassed and afraid they will lose further control over what happens to their lives.
- Be honest about your concerns for his/her safety. Interpersonal violence can be fatal. Let the person know if you believe their safety is in jeopardy.
- Let them know that she/he can seek your support at any time, even if that means they need to leave in the middle of the night.
- Recommend he/she seeks help from local domestic violence experts to develop a safety plan, better understand their options and receive support. Counselors will discuss resources available such as protective injunction orders, making a police report and getting into emergency shelter.

**CALL POLICE IF YOU WITNESS VIOLENCE!**

**The Gainesville Police Department has a very close working relationship with Peaceful Paths, who can provide immediate assistance to domestic violence victims. For help, either call GPD at 955-1818 or Peaceful Paths at 352-377-8255.**

## **10/14 6 & 11pm**

### **New Laws**

32 new laws go into effect in the state of Florida today. One of these new laws addresses human trafficking. It increases the penalties for human trafficking violations and eliminates the statute of limitations for prosecution for a human trafficking charge.

Also starting today is a law called the "White-Miskell Act", named for two women who died in Florida parasailing accidents. This new law will enact stricter regulations for parasailing companies. Owners of the parasailing vessels will be required to maintain an insurance policy and hold a current license issued by the US Coast Guard. The vessels used for parasailing will also be required to have certain equipment on board to monitor weather conditions and will be prohibited from operating if certain weather conditions like high wind speeds or reduced visibility are present.

A third law effective today allows for more closed meeting by public universities. It exempts universities from state public meeting requirements if the university direct support organization is discussing donors or research funding. According to the law, these meetings contain sensitive information and closed meetings are necessary for keeping that proprietary information confidential.

## **10/14 6 & 11pm**

### **Crime Prevention Month**

It's National Crime Prevention Month. The Alachua County Sheriff's Office is looking into a new software to keep a more thorough track of criminals.

"We are the custodian of finger print records."

ASO has tens of thousands of hard copy finger prints - 40 years worth.

"The older prints are definitely available for cold case instances in our county and other counties if a person has happened to have an arrest in our county. They're certainly available for those."

They're also now digital.

"We have a life scanner - a device used to roll the finger prints and then they come up on the computer."

Adkins deals with civilian fingerprints while Schmidt deals with criminal prints. The two sets have been kept separate, but ASO is getting a new software that will combine the prints so that both civil and criminal IDs are integrated.

ASO says it's hoping to get that new software within a year.

**12/1/14 6 & 11pm**

## **Bomb Threat**

Gainesville Police say they have arrested the person responsible for calling in bomb threats at the Gainesville High School.

Two weeks ago Gainesville High School received calls for someone making bomb threats on the school.

Nearly two thousand students needed to be evacuated.

Now we are learning the person who police say made that call is a Gainesville High School student.

"You can't call a school and try to blow it up and then think they're not going to do nothing about it." on November 19th Gainesville High School received a bomb threat and the school was evacuated.

Gainesville Police responded to the scene and made a full sweep of the school.

The very next day -- another bomb threat was made.

"We had an exact same call that said bomb threat and then hung up the phone, we consulted with the superintendents office, they decided not to do a full evacuation of the school since it was from the same number and it was the same basic information so we swept the school internally with some of our security protocols there."

During the investigation police were able to track the call down to 15-year-old Tyree Nigel Harris -- a Gainesville High School student.

Some students say Harris may have been trying to get out of taking a test or doing school work.

"So you didn't do your homework the night before so you're going to make a fake bomb threat to do it that night. It doesn't make any sense, especially to do it two days in a row i mean anyone would know that that's a pretty big deal, i mean a bomb threat is not a little tiny thing."

Alachua county school public schools say they take threats like this very seriously.

"Making a bomb threat is not a joke, it is a crime and it has very serious consequences, not just the potential of expulsion from school but obviously very serious felony charges that could haunt you for the rest of your life."

Harris is currently facing second degree felony charges.

**12/3/14 6 & 11pm**

## **Threats at University of Florida**

Shortly before 8:00 last night, the University of Florida received a threatening twitter message saying someone was going to "shoot up the school today."

Now campus police say they are taking extra steps to make sure all the students and faculty are safe.

The threats came from fifteen different twitter accounts across the country which may have been hacked.

Today the University of Florida remains open but campus police say they are taking the threat very seriously even if it does turn out to be a hoax.

"We have brought in additional officers to increase invisibility and to patrol our campus, while it is considered a low threat at this point, it's still a threat to our community and we want to be prepared to respond."

Still --- there's a mix of emotions from students on campus after they received the news of a shooting threat on their school.

Many say what happened at f-s-u is still fresh in their minds.

"I'm not saying you know we should all go to extremes but we shouldn't take this as lightly as it is because it just at a school not, just only a couple of hours away from our so it's not completely taboo in like it can't happen here, like it can."

Even areas like Turlington Plaza which are usually jam packed with student organizations --- were almost empty today.

"I know some organizations like dance marathon and the Filipino student organization there not here today in Turlington because they feel like there is a potential threat to their lively-hood and and to the student body so i fee like even if this e-mail... This tweet was a joke it definitely wasn't funny, this is something you don't even joke about."

Classes were not cancelled but we heard from some students who say they had professors who decided to cancel class or postpone exams today.

Meanwhile UF Police say they are also working closely with the F-B-I to determine who sent out these threatening twitter messages.

## **12/11/14 6 & 11pm**

### **Contraband smuggling**

A Suwannee County Corrections Officer is in jail after smuggling contraband into the prison. Investigators say it happened at least three times.

Investigators say Suwannee County Corrections Officer Robert Cote III smuggled tobacco and synthetic marijuana into the prison and sold it to inmates. Investigators say the drugs were smuggled in during the end of September and early October. Inmate phone calls and testimony revealed the family members would load money onto Cote's prepaid Green Dot card and ship the drugs to him. He would then deliver the drugs to the inmates in prison.

According to bank statements, more than \$2,200 were loaded into that Green Dot account. Cote is facing three counts of introduction of contraband, unlawful compensation, and money laundering. The Department of Corrections says this arrest led to Cote's termination.

Florida Department of Corrections Press Secretary, McKinley Lewis, says, "He was dismissed from the Department of Corrections on December 4th."

Cote is currently in the Suwannee County Jail held on a \$75,000 bond.

**12/12/14 6 & 11pm**

### **Christmas Theft**

"While Christmas is typically the season of giving police say they've seen an increase in the number of packages stolen off of porches in Gainesville, including right here in the Hillcrest neighborhood."

Xaun Oshea spends much of her time at her daughter's home in Hillcrest.

She says she was out on her front porch when a strange car stopped outside her daughter's home.

"I get - start walking back in my house and I just turned around and looked and there - the young man just hold a - come out from one of my neighbor front yard which the packages - and they just jumped in car and run off and that's when I realized that something is not right."

Oshea says she told her neighbor what she saw and they realized the packages had been stolen.

They contacted police immediately --- and they were able to track down the suspects.

Police arrested 30-year-old Courtenay Thomas after searching her home and finding nearly 15 missing packages.

Another suspect is still being investigated.

Police say there are things residents should do to make sure their packages do not get taken.

"During this time of year you know folks are getting a lot of things delivered to their home, make sure to leave a note for your delivery man or have type of per-approved signature delivery set ups or your packages are not laying on the front porch."

Police say Thomas is being charged with seven counts of burglary and theft.

Stealing packages off porches is considered petty theft -- but the charges can increase from petty theft - if items stolen are worth more than 300-dollars

## **ELECTIONS**

**10/2/14      6 & 11pm**

### **Political Advertising**

We've seen countless campaign ads for this years race for Florida governor, but none quite as controversial as this one.GTN's Hailey Holloway hit the streets today to find out how some of you feel about the ad that's now making national headlines.

"It was created by the College Republican National Committee and it's been dubbed the most sexist campaign ad of the year - but some people say it's just good marketing."

"What's your reaction?"

"I think it's stupid. It's really stupid because it doesn't really address anything. It's kind of really superficial."

"You can tell they're targeting the young age with the type of marketing they're using, and it's great advertising to be honest."

"It's an insult to women."

"I am an ardent feminist but for some reason I didn't see that ad as demeaning."

"I think they think we're dumb, we're dumb. They're putting all of this with a wedding dress... we're smarter than that."

"It's basically dumbing it down for women to understand, to put it in simple terms for them. I just think in general the whole video is ridiculous."

"Do you think that women would understand the governor's race without it being compared to a wedding dress?"

"Um no comment."

"It may be perceived as sexist, I think women in general are smart enough to see through that."

"Is there an equivalent of explaining politics to men in this race?"

"No of course not, of course not."

"I haven't seen anything like that and if that's the direction political ads are going, we're all in trouble."

**11/3/14      6 & 11pm**

### **Medical Marijuana on the ballot**

3 The low THC marijuana extract, "Charlotte's Web", was legalized by Governor Rick Scott earlier this year. But on tomorrow's ballot, Floridians have the choice whether or not to legalize all forms of medical marijuana. This would amend the state constitution to legalize the medical use of marijuana for people with debilitating diseases. These diseases include cancer, glaucoma, HIV and AIDS, hepatitis C, and others which a physician believes prescribing marijuana will

provide significant health benefits.

Attorney Jon Mills says, "It can relax muscles, help people eat, help people sleep, help people in terms of pain, epilepsy, reduces epileptic seizures."

Alachua County Sheriff Sadie Darnell says she sees the merit to medical marijuana, but doesn't think Amendment 2 is the way to go.

Sheriff Darnell says, "I'm not opposed to the use of some components of the marijuana plant for medical use. It's been proven to have some efficacy, some good benefits to it. There are currently three different versions of medical marijuana compounds that are available currently from physicians.-- I definitely think it has to have more research but the research is hampered because under federal law, the use and study is still against the law."

She says the amendment is not restrictive enough and is concerned legalization will be rushed without covering all possible issues. Attorney Jon Mills, who helped write the proposed amendment, disagrees. He says regulations requiring patients having a medical marijuana identification card and having a Florida doctor prescribe the drug for only serious medical needs will restrict the usage to those who truly need it.

Mills says, "It will be more difficult for me to have access to medical marijuana certification than for me to have a prescription for oxycodone. So it is, the regulations are reasonable and suspect if this passes, the legislature and the Department of Health will act reasonably to create a rational system."

Darnell says, "If you read the wording in the amendment, it gives the Department of Health only six months to lay out the guidelines to provide the oversight, to enhance the security that's needed to determine the potency. Six months is not a lot of time. It is not enough time to do this right."

Because this vote is for an amendment to the state constitution, it will require a vote of 60% or more to pass.

## **HEALTH**

**10/8/14 6 & 11pm**

### **Ebola Outbreak**

In light of the recent Ebola outbreak in West Africa, University of Florida faculty and experts will be holding a panel discussion today.

The event will cover potential impacts, challenges and information about the virus. It will be held at the Pugh Hall Ocra and will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Speakers at the event will include Leonardo Villalon, dean of the UF International Center. Other panelists are Dr. Paul Psychas, professor in the department of community health and family medicine in the College of Medicine; Sharon Abramowitz, assistant professor in the department of anthropology and the Center for African Studies; and Tim Nevin, a lecturer in the department of history and Center for African Studies.

**10/15/14 6 & 11pm**

### **Ebola Training**

Over the weekend Governor Rick Scott asked that every Florida hospital have all their health care professionals undergo Ebola training.

"We have identified staff who will be involved in taking care of patients both in the emergency department setting also in the patient setting, we've identified areas in the hospital very specifically to take care of these patients, we've ensured that we got the appropriate personal protective equipment and we're ensuring that individuals who are responsible for taking care of these patients are absolutely trained to do this."

The announcement came just after a Texas nurse wearing protective gear tested positive for Ebola. Twenty-six-year old Nina Pham became infected with Ebola when she was treating Thomas Eric Duncan - the first Ebola patient to die in the U.S.

Shands officials say they've been preparing their hospital in case of an Ebola outbreak for some time now - and they know how important it is to protect their staff members.

"We have you know specific equipment - not just impermeable equipment or suits we actually put on, we also have special respiratory devices that are really responsible for ensuring that we protect against any sort of contact with fluid to the face or neck region."

**10/21/14 6 & 11pm**

## **Medical Studies at UF**

University of Florida is partnering with the American Lung Association to conduct a study. The study will develop and test a behavioral weight-management program for young children who have asthma and are overweight or obese. This is the first study to combine weight-management strategies to children with asthma. Asthma can be problematic specifically for overweight children. It leads to increased medication use, more emergency room visits and lower quality of life. This study will test whether weight loss can improve lung functionality and in the long term better control asthma. The program is called UF Childhood Health and Asthma Management Program or CHAMP. It is available to families in the Alachua county area. Children between the ages of 6 and 12 who have asthma and are at the higher end of the weight spectrum for their height are encouraged to participate. The program will run over a four month period and families will participate in 12 group-based sessions. Sessions will be held at UF Health Shands Hospital and families will receive reimbursement for travel costs to each meeting. Family members interested in signing up for the program can call the CHAMP office at 352-273-5124.

**10/23/14 6 & 11pm**

## **Enterovirus**

Almost 1,000 cases of enterovirus strain D-68 have been confirmed in the U.S. and now Alachua County has its first confirmed case of the virus.

According to the health department, a child in Alachua County came down with a severe respiratory illness in September. That child was tested for enterovirus and those results just came back positive.

Officials at the Alachua County Health Department are just now getting those results back from September because it's not common to test for the virus unless the child is extremely ill.

Alachua County Environmental Health Director Anthony Dennis says, "Enterovirus is not routinely tested for unless the child becomes severely ill and has to go to the hospital and is negative for influenza and then the test is done."

Children are usually the most affected by enterovirus D-68, especially if they have asthma. The infected child has since completely recovered from the virus, but local parents are concerned about protecting their children.

One parent, Toya McCloud, says, "I'm going to ask about it. Things that I can do to just keep him more safe. Definitely."

The Health Department says enterovirus can be very contagious and parents can protect their children by following some simple precautions.

Dennis says, "Cover your mouth and nose when you're sneezing, disinfect surfaces that you come in contact with, and stay at home if you're sick and avoid sick people."

Parents say they already take many steps to keep their children healthy.

McCloud says, "Keep a lot of sanitizer around when you're dealing with the kids, especially babies, and that's basically what we do. We wash everything. Blankets and everything daily."

Symptoms of enterovirus include fever, runny nose, sneezing, coughing, and aching joints. The health department recommends children who have enterovirus see a doctor immediately

**11/7/14      6 & 11pm**

## **E-cigarette ban**

Last December, the Alachua County Commission banned e-cigarettes from all of the same places traditional cigarettes are banned. But that ordinance only applies to unincorporated areas of the county and now the city of Gainesville is getting involved.

Gainesville City Commissioners unanimously approved a draft ordinance for e-cigarette regulation. It basically says the e-cigarettes and traditional cigarettes are one in the same and can only be used in designated smoking areas under Florida's Clean Indoor Air Act.

Gainesville City Commissioner At Large, Helen Warren, says, "So whatever your workplace policy is for smoking cigarettes, that's going to apply for the nicotine dispensing devices-- the e-cigarettes. Public places, restaurants, it will continue in that same flow of the policies that are already city-wide for cigarettes."

The suggested penalty for using a nicotine dispensing device where smoking is prohibited is a \$75 fine. One e-cigarette user, who wished to remain anonymous, says he's not surprised the city is cracking down.

He says, "Once unincorporated Alachua County took it up, it was a matter of time."

Commissioners say they are creating these regulations with young Gainesville residents in mind.

Warren says, "I understand the argument that for some individuals this has been really helpful for them to kick the habit, and I want to support them to be able to continue to do it, but there are some that the argument is this is a way that individuals at a young age are going to see this as a cool thing and then they pick up on the smoking habit. So whatever way we can support people to a healthier lifestyle is what we're moving on."

The ordinance still needs a final approval before passing, but Commissioners seem confident it will pass because the initial vote was unanimous.

## **12/11/14     6 & 11pm**

Experts say flu rates, as a whole, have been dropping.

And that drop can be linked to more children getting vaccinated.

University of Florida scientists are weighing in on the flu virus.

According to a new study, flu vaccines can be more helpful than you think.

That increased benefit starts with students.

The study cites indirect protection --- meaning the more school-age kids get vaccinated, the less likely others will get sick.

"Everyone six months and over, now's a great time to get vaccinated," said CDC director Dr. Tom Frieden.

And this trend could take flight sooner now that many schools nationwide are using flu mist nasal sprays.

"It induces therefore frankly a better response in the upper respiratory tract, and the data for younger

children are that it's a better vaccine," Dr. Paul Offit.

"He's 3-years-old, but he's got a lot of allergies," said mother Stephanie Crum.

Crum says even though her son can only get a traditional vaccine --- many parents prefer this alternative method.

"I think I would prefer the mist because it's one less shot. They have to get so many vaccines and I hate when he has to get like three or four at a time," said Crum.

It could help make protecting kids, and the community, a whole lot easier.

## **Consumer Information**

**10/21/14        6 & 11pm**

### **Online crime reporting**

Gainesville Police Department is now offering online reporting to Gainesville residents. This will allow residents to report on non-emergency incidents. The purpose of this service is to be direct and timely without the need of an officer. Gainesville Police Department wants to investigate every crime report fully, so certain factors require an in-person officer response instead of an online report. Only non-emergency incidents will be considered for online reporting. For example, criminal mischief, damaged or lost property, fraudulent use of a credit card or harassing phone calls. Gainesville Police department reminds the public that it is a crime to make a false or fraudulent police report. All online reports are reviewed. Incidents reported online must not have a definable suspect, a crime scene or evidence and must not involve a firearm. To make a report, visit [gainesvillepd.org](http://gainesvillepd.org) and click on the blue "Online Reporting" button near the top of the page.

**10/21/14    6 & 11pm**

### **Catching driving violations**

Operation Blue Bird is in full swing and Alachua County Sheriff's deputies are looking for drivers who don't obey traffic laws around school buses.

About 40% of Alachua County students ride a bus to get to school. In an effort to make sure those kids make it to school safely, Alachua County School Resource Deputies are taking to the roadways to make sure drivers are not illegally passing school buses.

Deputy Brian Phillips says, "With us being out and being visible and doing traffic stops, and enforcement, we're educating them."

If a school bus is stopped, drivers are required to stop in both directions if on a two lane road or if on a paved-across multi-lane road. If the bus is stopped on a divided highway with a raised median or a five foot unpaved area, then only the cars behind the bus are required to stop. Breaking this law could result in a fine up to \$359.

Deputy Phillips says, "A lot of times it's not because they don't know... everybody knows you gotta stop for the buses but a lot of people nowadays are distracted while driving. Cell phones, and texting, and just doing a lot of things they're not supposed to be doing while they're driving. And you know they're just not paying attention."

Deputy Phillips says sometimes these traffic rules can be confusing and it's best to play it safe.

He says, "If you're not sure if you should stop or you don't know, by all means, stop. It's better and safer to do so and there's no question. If you stop, then there's no question if you're doing the right thing."

Operation Blue Bird runs through the end of the week.

**10/31/14     6 & 11pm**

### **Florida-Georgia game day driving**

Deputies say they are keeping a close eye for drunk drivers in town and those heading to Jacksonville for the Florida-Georgia game.

Forgey says drivers should expect stepped-up patrols on U.S. 301 in Waldo after the city's police department was disbanded recently.

"Don't get the false sense of security that you can do whatever you want there because we do have officers in Waldo that are patrolling Waldo and they're looking for traffic violations and drunk drivers," said Forgey.

And once fans get to Jacksonville, the city has set up sideline safety zones near Everbank Field.

"They are there as support for students or really anyone who feels that they're uncomfortable with the situation or they've had too much to drink, or they just need water or somewhere to charge their phones. Just a way for them to feel like they are more safe in that situation," said UF recreation sports director

David Bowles.

Here are some safety tips for those going to the big game; stay in groups and in high-traffic areas, choose a designated driver and act responsibly.

## **11/3/14     6 & 11pm**

### **Emergency texting to 9-1-1**

The Alachua County Sheriff's Office announced it's cell phone users will be able to send emergency text messages to 9-1-1 today. Service providers include AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile and Verizon wireless. This is a significant improvement to the current system of the Sheriff's Office. It will help the hearing and speech impaired as well as anyone in imminent danger. Texts sent to 9-1-1 should have the following information prepared:1.) What is the address or location of the emergency? 2.) What is the emergency or problem? When making a text to 9-1-1, remember to be brief and concise, text in plain words and avoid using abbreviations. Also, photos and videos cannot be sent to 9-1-1 and remember, don't text and drive. If you have any questions contact the E 9-1-1 Office at (352) 338-7631 or [e911addressing@alachuacounty.us](mailto:e911addressing@alachuacounty.us).

## **11/3/14     6 & 11pm**

### **Moving Alachua County Forward**

The Moving Alachua county forward is a referendum on the November 4th general election ballot. It calls for a one cent county surtax that is aimed at improving roads, bus systems, and bike paths.

The surtax is estimated to bring in 30 million dollars a year for these types of transportation projects.

Kamal Latham the Alachua Chamber of Commerce Vice President of Public Policy says one important project that would benefit if the surtax is passed --- is the south west twentieth avenue bridge.

He says currently it's unsafe for residents.

"There are some safety enhancements that could be materialized if the surtax is passed such as having lights and having a guard rail so that you can protect the residents who are going to be walking over that bridge.

Others like the citizens coalition political action committee are urging voters to vote no on the eight year, two-hundred and forty million dollar transportation surtax.

"Road repairs have been neglected because commissioners have failed to make them a budget priority -- waiting two more years for commissioners to prove that they can be trusted with another tax will not do our transportation and road systems, commissioners need to re-do their priorities first."

The coalition says people don't realize the sales tax will increase the cost of many things people buy.

They say it will affect things like over the counter medicine and commercial rent and electricity.

## **11/5/14     6 & 11pm**

### **Citizen's Academy Program**

The Marion County Sheriff's Office will be offering a free twelve-week educational course.

The Course will be hosted by the Citizens Academy and Partnership (CAP) program.

During the program, students are given an in-depth understanding of what the agency is doing for the community.

Students will be able to view specialty unit equipment, hear from law enforcement officials as well as learn about how investigations are performed.

After graduating, students will be given the opportunity to obtain their concealed weapons license through a firearms safety course.

- The Marion County Sheriff's Office will host a Tuesday evening class from 6-8:30 p.m. beginning August 26, 2014. The class will be held at MCSO Central Operations, 3300 NW 10 Street, Ocala in the Multipurpose Conference Room.
- The Reddick Community Center, 4345 NW 152nd St, Reddick, will host a class on Wednesday afternoons from 2-4:30 p.m. beginning August 27, 2014.
- On Top of the World will host a class at the Master the Possibilities school on Thursday mornings from 9-11:30 a.m. beginning August 28, 2014.

To register for the MCSO or Reddick class, email Jenifer Lowe at [JLowe@marionso.com](mailto:JLowe@marionso.com) or call 352-368-3598. To register for the OTOW class, you must sign up through OTOW at [www.masterthe possibilities.com](http://www.masterthe possibilities.com). All students must complete the application form found on [marionso.com](http://marionso.com).

During the program, MCSO staff will highlight all units within the Sheriff's Office, giving citizens an in-depth understanding of what the agency is doing for the community. Each week will focus on a different aspect of the agency, personnel, equipment, policies, procedures and overall function. Students will have an opportunity to view specialty unit equipment, hear from experts in the field of law enforcement, investigations, corrections and prosecution. After graduation, students will be offered an exclusive chance to obtain their concealed weapons license through a firearms safety course.

## **11/5/14      6 & 11pm**

### **Uber in Gainesville**

The city of Gainesville is taking the first steps to regulate the popular app-based ride service Uber.

The service does not have to follow the same rules as other vehicles for hire-- like taxis.

After being in Gainesville for two months -- city commissioners are trying to come up with new ways to regulate Uber - a popular app-based ride service.

Gainesville city commissioners are discussing how to protect Uber customers and taxi companies -- Uber works by connecting riders through their app with drivers.

Unlike taxi riders-- people can select the drivers they want to ride with simply by selecting them to through the app.

Cab companies say their businesses have been hurting since Uber came to town.

"If Uber is not paying the fees that we're paying i think that they should be shutdown until they comply with the city ordinance - cause if i was running around town illegal and not having the right insurance and not having the name badges - they would shut me down immediately."

local cab companies like best-way cab are upset because they say Uber doesn't have background checks and they don't have to pay for the same regulations that taxi's pay for.

"the amount of fees we have to pay - you know we have to pay airport fees to pick up at the airport which is two-hundred dollars per cab also we have to pay for a medallion which cost twenty-nine dollars per cab - um we have to pay for transportation insurance which is thirty-eight hundred dollars a year."

Uber drivers like Dan Henry disagree -- they say they do have certain regulations to follow.

Drivers must have background checks and they do have insurance through the uber company.

"and what was cool was they actually sent me a copy of my background check with all the counties that they looked out in the state of Florida because i lived in Florida for the last ten years and that's where they looked."

drivers must also make sure their vehicles are in good condition.

He says in his opinion Uber is much safer than Gainesville cabs.

"i would say that you know based on the horror stories that I've heard from Gainesville cabs that we're definitely safer, definitely cheaper by two thirds, i mean this is my own car, this is something i take pride in, it's not some rented car."

Henry says customers can check the ratings of the drivers on the phone app before they even get into the car with an Uber driver.

Commissioners are still looking at all the regulations and fees for both taxi and Uber drivers before they make a new ordinance—

## **12/9/14      6 & 11pm**

### **Prominent Local lawyers Trial**

The jury has finished deliberating in the case against a prominent local lawyer-- after a family says their lawyer, Christopher Chestnut, charged too much money in their case against AT&T. GTN's Mayci McLeod has more on the verdict that was announced just a short time ago.

The jury determined that Christopher Chestnut did breach fiduciary duty when representing Emanuel Baker, but will still be partially compensated for the time he worked on the case.

Plaintiff's attorney, Robert Rush, says, "The main thing really is the liability is clear and that was our position all the way along-- that someone was trying to cheat Mr. Baker and we're not going to allow that to happen and the jury did a great job in vindicating that."

The jury says Chestnut breached fiduciary duty, committed civil theft, and exploited a disabled adult with damages totaling over \$350,000. However, they say Chestnut is still entitled to compensation for services provided for working on Baker's original lawsuit against AT&T. Chestnut said after achieving an \$8 million settlement for the Bakers, he was owed \$3.6 million, but the jury cut that total almost in half. Chestnut says he may make some changes to be sure contracts are clear to future clients.

Chestnut says, "As you grow you get better and I guess we will act with even an abundance of caution. Sometimes you have to practice defensive law. But there was no bar violation, so-- that's just that, there was no violation. I think what perhaps we'll do in the future is certainly in the future we will require clients to come into the office and make sure there are multiple witnesses there for execution of contracts."

Robert Rush says there are still many post-trial matters to be worked out before determining exactly how much money the Bakers will receive.

## **CHILD SAFETY**

**10/23/14     6 & 11pm**

### **Follow up murder investigation**

Don Spirit murdered his daughter and six grandchildren last month. Now, since that tragedy, DCF has been investigating the case and as part of that investigation and as part of that investigation, is demoting two employees. Both Amy Butler and Cynthia Speed worked in management roles for the Bell jurisdiction of DCF at the time of the murders. Butler worked as a Family Safety Operations Manager and Speed as a Child Protective Investigator Supervisor. After failing to prevent the family massacre in Bell after multiple reports to DCF, both were demoted and received a significant pay cut. Butler's salary decreased by 54% and Speed's by 47%.

Also in light of the shooting, Yun Suk Manchester, Program Administrator for Circuit Eight Child Protective Services, Resigned from DCF.

DCF says in light of the tragedy, there will be an overhaul of their policies. All investigative staff will receive additional training. With new legislation, DCF will be able to look at patterns of abuse instead of looking at matters on a case-by-case basis, and the department is reviewing open investigations for children ages three and under with chronic family issues. DCF is reviewing 272 cases in Dixie and Gilchrist counties with longstanding family issues with the hope to prevent a similar tragedy.

**10/28/14     6 & 11pm**

### **Halloween Safety**

"Witches and Ghouls are scary but what can be even more frightening is making sure children are safe especially when there are sex offenders on Halloween."

In the state of Florida if someone is listed as a sex offender and they've completed their requirements for probation --- meaning they've only had to register their home address  
-- they can still participate in Halloween activities and hand out candy to kids.

"Which is why we urge parents on a routine bases if they're going to take the kids out trick or treating especially in neighborhoods that they're not familiar with to visit the F-D-L-E sex offender site and take a look at sex offenders that are living and the area that way they can be aware of which houses that they may want to keep their kids away from."

Restrictions are put in place for sex offenders who are currently on probation or those considered sexual predators.

"Those individuals are not allowed to participate in Halloween activities meaning they can not give away candy - they can't dress up in costume."

The Alachua County Sheriff's Office says they team up with other law enforcement officers and they do a sweep of sex offenders in the area.

Everyone make sure they are following the law and not decorating their homes or giving out candy to trick-or-treaters.

Officials say sex offenders who violate these restrictions could face felony charges.

"In which case that we would file charges - make an arrest in that case and we have done so in the past.

The Alachua County Sheriff's office recommends children always stay in a group and never trick or treat alone.

Also -- children should carry flash lights or glow sticks and stay in familiar areas that are well-lit.

## **11/26/14    6 & 11pm**

### **Social Media & Teens**

Teens are catching on to social media faster than anyone else -- and what may seem like innocent fun could have extreme consequences.

In the past decade a wave of social media sites like Facebook and Twitter have made it easier to connect with people like never before.

And the group of people soaking it up faster than any one else --you guessed it -- teenagers "they think they can trust whoever they send stuff to."

And with new photo sharing app's like Snapchat and Tinder -- sexting reigns supreme.

"Most people don't understand what it can lead to."

For some teens -- sexting or sending sexually explicit messages or images by a cell phone...

"It can go on social media, it can lead to even suicidal thoughts for people."

In 2009 -- Hope Witsell, a 13-year-old girl from hillsborough county sent a topless photo to a boy she liked.

It was meant to be fun – flirtatious and most of all \*private\* -- but after another student got a hold of the photo –the image quickly spread to neighboring schools.

The photo -- led to bullying from other students.

The name calling was so severe - Witsell ended her life months after the picture was sent.

A recent study published last month in the official journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics - has triggered national attention.

The study indicates sexting has become \*normal\* among teenagers.

"I've seen it posted on Facebook – i've seen it printed and i've seen it shared in many different ways um we've also had a case or cases where sexual activities between the minors was recorded."

Detective Tate with the Alachua county sheriff's office criminal investigation division deals with many cases involving child exploitation.

He says in some cases -- parents don't see sexting as a serious problem.

"I've been told that i should be investigating more serious offenses and not deal with these because this is what kid's do now a days... and to me that's unacceptable – i don't think we should look at something like this as something kids do.."

Last month two teens from west port high school in Marion County got in trouble for sexting pictures off campus.

A 16-year old girl took a nude photo and sent it to a 15-year-old boy using the popular app Snap-chat.

The boy who was given a civil citation -- apparently decided he would share this photo with several other people and so he sent it to other people. "

Despite these cases -- West Port High school has implemented a program called \*student improvement time\* where they look at current issues students are facing.

"and sexting is one of those topics that's important for us to have that conversation with our students so that they understand the ramifications, the things that can happen to them, not today, not tomorrow, but these can have long lasting impacts on their future."

Daniel Remmington -- now 23-- says in high school he sexted and so he's not surprised students are still sexting.

"Back then in high school everyone is just coming out and exploring themselves and other people and i mean you still live at home with your family so you have a little more constraints on your life style.. So texting or sexting was the way that you could go behind your parents back or do something without people seeing.:

He says he remembers one event in high school that got him to stop sexting for good.

"I had one girl who sexted a couple of guys on the football team and and a picture of her ended up getting out and flyers being printed out all around my high school and being distributed her senior year so it doesn't always turn out good and that's why i think i just wasn't really interested in it anymore."

Just last month – thousands of private snap-chat photos were leaked online by hackers -- those private photos were posted on numerous sites for anyone to see.

-- Not to mention many snap-chat users are minors –

According to the cyber-bullying research center -- 20 states \*including Florida\* have laws related to sexting.

In Florida -- while the first offense is usually a civil citation --

The second is a misdemeanor and the third offense is a felony.

--If a minor receives a sext message and reports the image and they were not involved with sending the text -- then the minor will not be charged with a sexting offense.

Some students say their schools are stepping up their anti-sexting education

"A couple months ago we had an assembly about sexting, stuff like that and how it was bad for school and stuff – they crack down on stuff like that – they'll take your phone away and stuff like that, tell your parents and stuff."

According to the pew internet and American life project -- 20 percent of 16-year-olds and 30 percent of 17-year-olds have already received a sext message.

**11/6/14      6 & 11pm**

## **Senior Safety**

University of Florida's Department of Occupational Therapy is hosting CarFit, a free national program that helps senior drivers fit safely in their vehicles.

Trained occupational therapy students will lead participants through a 12-point checklist, and will work with them to make sure their vehicles are properly adjusted to ensure maximum comfort and safety.

A good fit in one's car ensures not only the drivers safety but also the safety of others on the roads.

Seniors are often the safest drivers on the roads, however they are more susceptible to injuries due to the fragility of their bodies.

People of all ages can attend. If you'd like to participate, the event is from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. today at the Senior Recreation Center, 5701 NW 34th Street.

## **EDUCATION**

**11/12/14      6 & 11pm**

### **Real World Experience in a classroom setting**

A local high school has a new program that's helping students gain real-world experience in a classroom setting.

"We worked on a project where we altered a memory game that was already previously built and we could alter one or two things on it and I changed everything about the game so I'm kind of proud of that one."

Arianna Rodriguez is just one student in a brand new course at Eastside High school geared towards teaching students advanced compute programming skills.

"What we do is we start learning like the basics for computer programs like java and python and things like however the teacher - he teaches it in a way that it's very easy to learn and it's appealing to people who have never learned it before cause it looks very intimidating at first."

Their teacher Justin Dennison has taught numerous technology and math classes -- but this is the first year he's teaching the web application development program. Dennison says when they graduate high school, students will already be well prepared to get a job in an advanced career.

"and in the Gainesville area just for Java programmers there were eighteen job postings so if we can help them build a portfolio, gain industry certification so they're recognized by the governing bodies for these technologies then it would make them very competitive."

These kids say the skills they learn will really help them later in life.

"This class is helping us build up a portfolio of tons of different things so definitely going to a technology oriented school like MIT or something like that."

"I want to go probably somewhere on the west coast like Cal Tech or work for Google or something in like the Silicon Valley."

Students say they will actually get to create an android app that you can download at the end of the year.

## **11/13/14 6 & 11pm**

### **Value of a college education**

Many would agree college is a worthwhile investment.

But more students are worried that paying for four years--may not really pay off for them in the long run. So they're opting for something else.

"Santa Fe has the best, one of the best dental hygienist programs in the state of Florida so i wanted to go to a school that's appealing for what i want to do."

Students like Sarai Morell say they didn't want to go to a four year college when they could get the same education at a 2-year college.

Some students say they'll even get an earlier start on their career.

"I plan to start working after i get my two year degree and that way i start making money right after i get a job - and then i can save up again for the four year program - whatever i want to go into."

The institute for college access and success found that the average student debt across the country is about thirty grand

-- which may also prove to be a more attractive price tag for community colleges and technical trade schools.

"Our students find that when they come out of community educate especially if they've been working with an adviser - they've been working with their schools - they'll be following their path, they're going to receive advice so they're not taking a lot of extraneous courses -- courses that they're not going to need and ultimately pay for."

For people over 50 and who think they may want to return to school or look into other career opportunities --- Santa Fe is hosting a career training expo. It runs until 7:30 tonight.

## **ILENE SILVERMAN SHOW**

**Client:** The Ilene Silverman Show

**Title:** 400 - Bike Florida

**Air Dates:** 10/12/14, 10/19/14, 10/26/14

**Guests:** Ron Cunningham

**Synopsis:** This show featured Bike Florida. Bike Florida is an organization dedicated to educating vehicle drivers about bicycle safety. Ron Cunningham offered safety advice such as vehicles should give a cyclist 3 feet of room. The show highlighted an event in which cyclists visit a memorial dedicated to several cyclists who lost their lives due to a car striking them from behind.

**Client:** The Ilene Silverman Show

**Title:** #398 Florida Conservation Trust

**Air Dates:** 11/2/14

**Guests:**

Keith Fountain - Managing Member - Conservation Advisors LLC

Ed Montgomery - Vice President - Conservation Trust for Florida

## **Synopsis:**

This show featured the Florida Conservation Trust. The organization is dedicated to creating awareness on the importance of the greenspaces in Florida. In particular, the guests discussed the importance of having areas of protected parks that are interconnected with each other. The goal is to be able to have animals roam freely from park to park. Guests also discussed ways in which the community can become involved with the organization

**Client:** The Ilene Silverman Show

**Title:** #401 – Alachua County Scholastic Chess Association

**Air Dates:** 11/9/14, 11/16/14

### **Guests:**

Robert Kaplan-Stein-Director - Alachua County Scholastic Chess Association

Kelley Kostamo-Business Partner Specialist - Alachua County Public Schools

## **Synopsis:**

This show featured the Alachua County Scholastic Chess Association. The association is dedicated to bringing the game of chess into elementary schools across Alachua County. Guests explained how chessboards are distributed to students free of charge at various elementary schools. Students are offered instruction on how to play the game. Guests shared how the game of

chess can help students learn to be team players and how it improves their cognitive abilities. Towards the end of the show, Robert, offered a chess instruction demonstration.

**Client:** The Ilene Silverman Show

**Title:** #392 – Martha Speaks

**Air Dates:** 11/23/14

**Guests:**

Mary Brandenburg – Education Outreach Coordinator – WUFT

**Synopsis:** This show featured a WUFT program titled “Martha Speaks”. Martha Speaks is a kid’s show about a dog that is able to talk and discover new words. The show is designed to help young children learn new vocabulary words through each 30min episode. Mary Brandenburg highlighted that the show offers a classroom program that provides teachers with workbooks that the students can use during each episode. The program is expanding into schools throughout Alachua County. Mary further discussed how sponsors are able to sponsor by providing the program to their local elementary school.

**Client:** The Ilene Silverman Show

**Title:** #392 - Martha Speaks

**Air Dates:** 11/23/14

**Guests:**

Mary Brandenburg – Education Outreach Coordinator – WUFT

**Synopsis:** This show featured a WUFT program titled “Martha Speaks”. Martha Speaks is a kid’s show about a dog that is able to talk and discover new words. The show is designed to help young children learn new vocabulary words through each 30min episode. Mary Brandenburg highlighted that the show offers a classroom

program that provides teachers with workbooks that the students can use during each episode. The program is expanding into schools throughout Alachua County. Mary further discussed how sponsors are able to sponsor by providing the program to their local elementary school.

**Client:** The Ilene Silverman Show

**Title:** #402 – Lucky Dog

**Air Dates:** 11/30/14, 12/7/14

**Guests:** Dr. Sarah Boston- Associate Professor of Surgical Oncology - College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Florida

**Synopsis:**

This show featured Dr. Sarah Boston, veterinary oncologist at the University of Florida. Sarah is the author of a book titled *Lucky Dog*. *Lucky dog* is about how she was diagnosed with cancer. She compared her treatment to the treatment a dog would receive when diagnosed with cancer. She also explained her story and hardships while being treated. Her dog Rumble was present on the show in order to raise awareness about cancer research

**Client:** The Ilene Silverman Show

**Title:** #403 – PLAG Gainesville

**Air Dates:** 12/14/14,

**Guests:**

Sue Littell-Founding Board Member-PFLAG Gainesville

Russel Roy-President / Board Member-PFLAG Gainesville

**Synopsis:**

This show featured an organization titled PFLAG. PFLAG is dedicated to providing rights and awareness to gay people across the city. The organization offers counseling to individuals attempting to discover themselves. The show also discussed stereotypes and hardships gay individuals may face in society. Guests offered information on a local support group open to anyone

free of charge.

**Client:** The Ilene Silverman Show

**Title:** #404 – University Galleries

**Air Dates:** 12/21/14, 12/28/14

**Guests:**

Roy Hunt - Curator, Roy Craven Legacy Exhibition - Second President, Gallery Guild

**Synopsis:**

This show featured the University Galleries. The show featured guests discussing the history of University Galleries and highlighted their upcoming 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Guests provided information on the event features and how guests can attend the anniversary events. Guests also provided the public awareness to the various exhibits the organization hosts.