

The remaining portion of the “Roads to Ruin” not killed by legislative action earlier this year is back like the villain from a horror movie. Expensive, unwanted, unneeded and environmentally ruinous, the Florida Department of Transportation nonetheless wants to build a new turnpike extension in the Ocala area to line the pockets of developers and construction interests.

[This column offers fantastic insight](#) into the historic and contemporary tradition of Florida in valuing asphalt over nature with this latest resurrection of the “Roads to Ruin” as its backdrop. Why is Florida the way it is? Read this.

LINK: <https://floridaphoenix.com/2021/11/18/the-florida-dots-latest-billionaire-boulevard-plan-has-rural-fl-outraged/>

What was achieved at the recent COP26 United Nations climate summit? [Not much](#). Bickering between the U.S. and China and a general lack of willingness by wealthy nations to take the steps necessary to prioritize the climate and human health over industry and economics continued preventing the transformative policies and commitments necessary to prevent ongoing climate catastrophe.

LINK: <https://www.latimes.com/politics/story/2021-11-12/what-un-climate-summit-achieved-and-did-not>

While the Biden Administration did little to move the needle on climate change at COP26, it did just auction off [drilling rights to more than 1.7 million acres in the Gulf of Mexico](#), more than during the Trump Administration, increasing the likelihood of another pan-Gulf Deepwater Horizon style disaster.

Through actions like this, the Biden Administration continues demonstrating its fealty to the fossil fuel industry, in direct opposition to its campaign promises, and validates the opinions of those who believe there isn't a dime's worth of difference between our two political parties.

LINK: https://www.huffpost.com/entry/biden-gulf-lease-sale-final_n_61951ebee4b025be1ad57446

Here's a look at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers [new Lake Okeechobee water management plan](#) which is better than before, but not everything environmental groups and Everglades advocates were hoping for.

LINK: <https://abc-7.com/news/environment/2021/11/16/new-losom-plan-reduces-harmful-releases-from-lake-okeechobee-into-swfl-waters/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=773f89db-305b-44bd-851a-3299e0f5481a>

Mostly bad news this week, here's some good: migrating monarch butterflies have returned to areas of California where they were absent last year in [encouraging numbers this year](#).

LINK: [https://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/western-migratory-monarch-butterflies-California-16595196.php?utm_campaign=CMS%20Sharing%20Tools%20\(Premium\)&utm_source=t.co&utm_medium=referral](https://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/western-migratory-monarch-butterflies-California-16595196.php?utm_campaign=CMS%20Sharing%20Tools%20(Premium)&utm_source=t.co&utm_medium=referral)

[Cut down your own Christmas tree](#) from the Ocala National Forest! While this seems outrageous, it's actually a sustainable forestry practice and conducted in conjunction with the Florida Wildflower Foundation.

LINK: <https://flawildflowers.org/211204-field-trip-christmas-tree/>