

Astoundingly GOOD NEWS here!

The University of North Florida Shark Biology Program caught, tagged and released [the first sawfish recorded in its 16 years](#) of surveying shark populations in Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia. Dr. Jim Gelsleichter, shark biology program director, along with one graduate student and three undergraduates, found the 9.9-foot smalltooth sawfish in the St. Marys River on Tuesday, July 16.

LINK: <https://www.unf.edu/newsroom/2024/07/First-Sawfish-Tagged.html>

The grotesque Wildlight mega-development just east of the Interstate 95 exit 373/SR 200/AIA will be [adding another 500 homes](#). Wildlight put the bullet in the head of Nassau County's rural character.

The development is run by Raydient Places + Properties, a subsidiary of timber giant Rayonier, the same people behind the effort to bring a toxic waste producing bioethanol plant to Fernandina Beach.

LINK: https://www.jaxdailyrecord.com/news/2024/jul/22/wildlight-announces-plans-for-westerly-park-a-500-home-neighborhood-with-amenity-center/?fbclid=IwY2xjawER0ulleHRuA2F1bQlxMAABHRItnDtczllUD8hTZkUUI DGcvag0JYZScLeNv0XM4HjVWZsyrCggLmixhw_aem_l1d26fKiDuHGIGoYupkYgQ

Florida springs and riverkeepers are fighting the state's anti-conservation, pro-development and industry Department of Environmental Protection (Prostitution) over [the volume of water flow at springs and rivers](#) in the northern part of the state. Years ago, minimum flow volumes for springs and rivers were established to set a boundary beneath which water volumes could not go before action to restore them was mandated by law.

Not surprisingly, the springs and rivers have been below those minimum water flow levels since 2015 without action from DEP.

Wednesday in Live Oak is a big DEP meeting where the subject will be addressed and environmental advocates are trying to rally citizens to attend.

LINK: <https://www.floridaspringscouncil.org/santafe>

Here's a sobering fact. [The average person in Florida](#) emits 16.5 tons (36,376 pounds) of CO2 annually. A mature tree absorbs about 48 pounds of CO2 each year.

LINK: https://www.instagram.com/p/C9LXO7_y-Rq/?igsh=MXByOTdxYjh5Y3Jheg%3D%3D&img_index=1

Sunday July 21 was [the hottest day on record](#) for the earth.

LINK: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/weather/2024/07/23/july-21-hottest-day-in-history/74514675007/>

Two Fridays ago, the Biden administration announced that it will [phase out single-use plastics](#) across the federal government by 2035. The administration also committed to the phase out of single-use plastics from federal food service operations, events, and packaging by 2027.

The U.S. government is the largest purchaser of goods and services in the world, so this change will make a big impact. More accurately stated, it could. Any change in the party holding the White House between now and then will surely do away with this initiative.

VOTE!

LINK: <https://www.reuters.com/business/environment/us-phase-out-single-use-plastic-federal-operations-2024-07-19/>

If you're interested in [the environment, the climate crisis, and community activism](#), check out the Jacksonville Climate Coalition.

LINK: <https://www.jaxclimate.org/>