

In case you missed video of the swirling vortex of fire on the Gulf of Mexico resulting from the rupture of a natural gas pipeline operated by a Mexican petroleum company, [you can see that video here](#). Remember this image the next time you hear oil companies – or politicians – present fossil gas as a “clean” energy option.

LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zra6u0LDFuw>

Closer to home, the U.S. Navy set of a [40,000 pound explosive charge](#) 100 miles offshore from Palm Coast to stress test an aircraft carrier. Wonder what the whales, turtles, birds and fish in the area thought about that?

LINK: https://www.ecowatch.com/navy-explosion-atlantic-ocean-florida-2653526624.html?fbclid=IwAR1EISJ2zcqu4JdePGZF5asDqxuSyGBpo92lhRLso5JSgby-WL2G_j-QCKo

A barge carrying 14,000 tons of coal ash which [ran aground and partially sank](#) offshore of Florida about a mile south of the St. John’s River leaking as much as 5,000 tons of the toxic byproduct of burning coal as fuel has finally been raised.

Interestingly, the waste came all the way from Puerto Rico, where it was burned, but the Puerto Rican government refused to allow the dangerous material to be disposed of there. Thankfully for the coal company, officials in Georgia were happy to have it. That’s where it was headed before running into trouble here.

This, and the pipeline fire in the Gulf, are perfect reminders that it’s not just the devastating ecological impacts of extracting fossil fuels from the ground, or the devastating ecological impacts of burning it for energy, its transportation and disposal are equally as ruinous to the planet.

LINK: <https://newsbinding.com/health/this-barge-capsized-and-leaked-a-massive-stream-of-toxic-coal-ash-near-florida/>

Good news was hard to find this week. Here’s a smidge: the North Florida Land Trust helped expand the [McGrits Creek Preserve](#) on Jacksonville’s west side recently.

LINK: <https://www.nflt.org/2021/06/24/north-florida-land-trust-has-helped-to-expand-mcgrits-creek-preserve/>

If you live or work in Nassau County, the City of Fernandina Beach is seeking your help in directing its Parks and Recreation vision for the future. More green space, natural areas, tree canopy and resilience are among the choices on this survey:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfFDIXCoGydexUnqLiHP-Nv_NJOeMAMPCQjchezdkgonwlvnA/viewform

Have you ever wondered why Florida’s land use, zoning, environmental policy and regulation is so fouled up? On this week’s episode of my [“Welcome to Florida” podcast](#), I discovered the origin story to much of it in Florida’s mid-century “land giant communities.” They’re as gross as they sound. Give a listen.

LINK: <https://www.stitcher.com/show/welcome-to-florida/episode/episode-54-the-swamp-peddlers-floridas-land-giant-communities-85061426>