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Offer expires 5/31/2026 ‡Most Bath Fitter installations are completed in one day. Some exceptions apply. See location for full details. Kevin J. O'Gorman CFC1426242

The Gainesville Sun

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PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

U.S.-Iran ceasefire on tenuous ground



Rescuers search through wreckage in Beirut on April 8 after Israeli strikes killed and injured hundreds. MOHAMED AZAKIR/REUTERS

Israel continues attacks on Lebanon

Swapna Venugopal Ramaswamy, Christopher Cann, Melina Khan, Natalie Neysa Alund and Michael Loria
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump's ceasefire with Iran was on tenuous ground on April 9 after Israel launched its deadliest day of strikes on Lebanon yet and Tehran vowed

not to desert its allies. A day after announcing the Iran war ceasefire, Trump took to social media to warn the country that if the "REAL AGREEMENT" was not complied with, all U.S. military assets would remain in place ready for a military response. He warned Iran to keep the Strait of Hormuz open and safe but did not ad-

dress the strikes in Lebanon in the past.

"If for any reason it is not, which is highly unlikely, then the "Shootin' Starts," bigger, and better, and stronger than anyone has ever seen before," he wrote.

Meanwhile, strikes on Lebanon, which borders Israel came on April 8, a day after United States and Iranian

See IRAN WAR, Page 3A



The Alachua County Jail's main entrance is shown on Oct. 16, 2024, in Gainesville. ALAN FESTO/THE GAINESVILLE SUN

ACSO cites hiring gains at county jail

Elliot Tritto
Gainesville Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Alachua County Commission received a mixed snapshot of the county jail system during a special meeting on April 7, with officials touting gains in detention officer hiring and inmate programs alongside surging mental health needs behind bars.

With Alachua County Sheriff Chad Scott present, ACSO Capt. Ray Swallows presented the quarterly update to the commissioners.

Swallows said that when Scott and his administration took office in January 2025, the jail had 68 vacant certified detention officer positions.

After nearly a year and a half under Scott's administration, 63 applicants have been hired, trained and retained.

Currently, 35 detention officer and deputy vacancies remain. Swallows added that if 17 employees currently on academy or military leave are included, the number of vacancies drops to 18.

In addition, 15 detention officer recruits are scheduled to graduate from the Corrections Academy on May 5. Eleven applicants are currently in the background process for detention

See JAIL, Page 2A

Sunny skies set stage for big weekend in Gainesville

Alan Festo
Gainesville Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK

Much-needed rain across Gainesville and Alachua County this week is expected to clear out just in time for one of the area's biggest weekends of the spring.

Tens of thousands are expected to attend the Gator football team's annual spring scrimmage on April 11, with thousands more heading out to festivals featuring live music, art, food trucks and more.

The National Weather Service is forecasting sunny skies with highs ranging from 79 to 85 degrees this weekend.

Here's a quick look at some of this weekend's biggest events.

Big: Culture & Arts Festival

Head to downtown Gainesville for this three-day event running April 10-

12, presented by Dion Dia and How Bazar. The festival will feature live music — including rapper and DJ Zack Fox and DJ and producer The Alchemist — along with more than 130 artists and vendors, live murals, food trucks, circus performers, a decompression room with workshops, and film screenings spotlighting Florida filmmakers.

The festival will be held in and around the Streatery, with the main stage at Lot 13, 106 SW First Ave. General admission tickets cost \$75, with a \$125 VIP option. For more information and tickets, visit bigcaf.com.

Newberry Spring Festival/Battle Reenactment

As part of the Main Street Spring Festival, the city of Newberry will kick off its America 250 celebration at 11 a.m. on April 11 with a Lexington & Concord

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The Santa Fe College Spring Arts Festival will take place April 11-12 at SF's Northwest Campus, 3000 NW 83rd St. GAINESVILLE SUN ARCHIVE

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