



## WMS Science Fair is held

Page 14

# The Wakulla Sun

*"It's a New Day"*



Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



Cloudy

AM Rain

Mostly Sunny

Hi: 71° Lo: 60° 21%  
Sunrise 7:27 AM  
Sunset 6:15 PM

Hi: 63° Lo: 43° 79%  
Sunrise 7:26 AM  
Sunset 6:16 PM

Hi: 64° Lo: 48° 4%  
Sunrise 7:25 AM  
Sunset 6:17 PM

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Our 2nd Year 5th Issue  
Thursday, February 2, 2023



\$1  
One Section

# Legislative delegation

Teacher pay and insurance are discussed as teachers pack the meeting room

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN  
Editor

There was standing-room only as a crowd of citizens, many of them classroom teachers dressed in red shirts, took their concerns about high insurance costs to the Wakulla Legislative delegation meeting to ask for help.

The teachers were there to ask that public school teachers be allowed to access the state insurance plan.

While Sen. Corey Simon, R-Tallahassee, and Rep. Jason Shoaf, R-Port St. Joe, said they were supportive of teachers and would look for solutions, it wasn't clear that what teachers are asking for is possible.

As Shoaf noted, the state government spends hundreds of millions of dollars to pay to subsidize the insurance of state employees. "The rates aren't lower because there's a bigger pool," he said, "but because they're subsidized." He estimated it could potentially cost billions of dollars for the state to add teachers.

School board member Laura Lawhon, a former teacher, was



Sen. Corey Simon and Rep. Jason Shoaf at the legislative delegation meeting Monday.

the the last person to speak at the two-hour long meeting and said she had spoken with someone she described as a math whiz who had come to same conclusion – that it would cost the state billions to add teachers. Instead, she said, if teachers were unable to go under the umbrella of state insurance, perhaps there could be some special appropriation by the Legislature for school districts like Wakulla that are struggling with higher insurance premiums.

Teacher after teacher – and supporters of teachers – came for-

ward to plea for help from the legislators.

School board chair Melisa Taylor indicated the school board's support for Gov. Ron DeSantis's proposed \$200 million increase for school funding, and said the issue was how to get more money into the hands of teachers.

At same time, Taylor added, increases in the cost of insurance have meant "no real change in the take-home pay for teachers."

Superintendent Bobby Pearce acknowledged that the rising cost of insurance is hurting the district, and adding to the local

teacher shortage.

One teacher, Bill Peck, told the legislators that if given a college classroom of 30 education students, he could persuade 20 to come to Wakulla to teach. The problem would be when discussing benefits, such as insurance. "The teacher benefit package is more of a hardship," he said.

Teachers described the difficulty of paying \$1,200 a month for a family insurance plan that is one-third of their salary.

One teacher, Dina Davis, noted that for a custodian with family

Turn to Page 3

# Death of man in St. Marks was hypothermia

Body of homeless man was found in woods off Riverside Drive on Christmas when temperature was in the teens

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN  
Editor

The body of a man found in St. Marks on Christmas was Bradley Wright, 65, who froze to death in his makeshift camp off Riverside Drive, according to a report from the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office.

The Sun reported in the Jan. 5 issue that a body had been found, but because the matter was still under investigation by the sheriff's office, no details were released. (All unattended deaths are investigated thoroughly to determine if foul play was involved.)

The medical examiner recently released results of the autopsy and determined that the cause of death was hypothermia, with contributing cause of carcinoma on the vocal cord and coronary disease.

A St. Marks resident found the body on Sunday, Dec. 25: he was going to the campsite to bring food and wish Wright a merry Christmas.

Deputies responding to the scene found a makeshift campsite with no heat source or cover. The deceased was wrapped in a tarp in an apparent attempt to stay warm.

It was noted the temperature was 19 degrees at the time the body was found.

According to the report, a wallet with ID was found near the body along with a cellphone. There were discarded liquor, beer and soda containers. The man's clothing, as well as pillow and blanket were described as damp.

Wright's sister told detectives that he had been living in a house in Woodville but was kicked out. She knew her brother suffered from cancer and was a heavy drinker. She hadn't seen her brother since September.

# Safe Families launches

Lauded as 'innovative, grassroots, faith-approach to serving' to help families in crisis

Story & Photos By  
RIDDHI PATEL

Safe Families for Children North Florida, the local chapter of a non-profit organization that has both national and international chapters, held a well-attended Wakulla Community Launch event at the Wakulla County Community Center on the evening of Tuesday, Jan. 24.

The North Florida chapter is in the process of expanding their outreach into Wakulla County. The goal of the community launch event was to inform the community about the organization and how individuals and churches can get involved with efforts to support local families experiencing crisis situations.

Following a prayer and a few worship songs, Department of Children and Families Circuit 2 Community Development Administrator Terrence Watts was invited to speak. "I would not get up here and promote or encourage anyone to do anything that I didn't feel strongly about, and I feel strongly about Safe Families," said Watts



Safe Families for Children is a group committed to helping families in crisis. A local chapter held a meeting at the Wakulla Community Center, above, on Tuesday, Jan. 24 and drew a large crowd of interested citizens.

who called the organization an "innovative, grassroots, faith-approach to serving."

Watts shared a story of mother who had moved to the area without a strong support system. He said the situation had turned into a crisis when the mother had a medical emergency during which her children could have been sent to foster care. Watts called Safe Families for Children North Florida's Cathy Campbell when the case reached

his desk, and she was able to host the children. He said Campbell and the mother are still connected to this day.

"That relationship of someone just reaching out – 'I'm here willing to help you' – it's a seed," said Watts. "It's meeting people where they are in the time of crisis."

He continued by saying that Safe Families is "such an impactful ministry."

While speaking to Campbell earlier in the evening, she said that Safe Families is faith-based and connects families in need to volunteer host families who have been vetted (including background checks and fingerprinting). According to Campbell, churches are based in family networks, and the organization is asking them to extend that network

Turn to Page 3



A photo of the Page Store at Wakulla Station in the 1930s.

# General stores to be subject of history programs

Special to The Sun

The Wakulla County Historical Society begins a series of programs on old General Stores on Tuesday, Feb. 14 at 4:30 p.m. at the Wakulla County Public Library.

Not long ago, before there were dollar stores and convenience stores and supermarkets, communities had general stores. The general store usually had hardware, groceries, automotive and gasoline products, and pretty much anything anyone needed. They were places where children were sent by their parents to pick things up and charge that on their account, and where the men of the community would hang out and play checkers. They were the hub of a community. A lot of information would be shared, some of which was news, and the old-fashioned gossip.

Stores we will feature in this first program include the Willis Store in Sopchoppy; the Roddenberry Store and R&L Trading Post in Sopchoppy; the Page Store at Wakulla Station; and the Raker and Linzy Stores at Ivan.

If your family had a store in Wakulla County and you would like to share its history with us in a future program, please call the Historical Society at 850-926-1110.

## Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park Carolina Jessamine

By LYNN ARTZ and SANDY TEDDER



Carolina Jessamine's trumpet-shaped flowers.

The bright yellow, trumpet-shaped flowers of Carolina jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*) bring welcome color to the leafless woods in late winter. This twining, evergreen vine will climb high into trees, cover fences, or form a mound of tangled stems on the ground. Its sweetly scented flowers attract bees and hummingbirds. Carolina jessamine is best grown in moist, humus-rich soil in full sun. While a lovely vine to train on arbors and trellises, all parts of the plant are highly poisonous if swallowed by children, pets, or livestock. The plant is deer-resistant and has few disease or insect problems. Birds are attracted to the seeds in the fall. Carolina jessamine adorns 5 of the 8 pillars on the 2 picnic pavilions at Sopchoppy Depot Park.

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## Student of the Week

Kinsley Senn, 6th grader at Wakulla Middle School

Principal: Simeon Nelson

Achievements/Reason for Nomination: Kinsley is a 6th grader at Wakulla Middle School. She is the daughter of Amanda Senn and the late Richard Senn. Kinsley is an "A" Honor Roll student and a member of the WMS band where she plays the clarinet. Kinsley has a positive attitude and is always helpful to her classmates and teachers. Kinsley enjoys reading and dogs are one of her favorite topics. At home, Kinsley has a pitbull named Jango and a guinea pig named Rose. In her time away from school, Kinsley enjoys building Legos, creating diamond art, hiking, hunting with her Papa, playing with her dogs & sister, and hanging out with her friends. Kinsley is a great all-around student and WMS is proud to call her a Wildcat.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.



Wakulla County Tax Collectors Office

### SPECIALTY TAGS

\$20 - \$30 additional to cost of tag.

 Lisa Craze, CFC  
Wakulla County Tax Collector

NEW LICENCE PLATE COMING SOON.



This new license plate features the slogan "Don't Tread On Me" accompanied by a black coiled rattlesnake over a yellow background. Funds from the plate will benefit the Florida Veterans Foundation.

Currently this plate is not in stock as we are awaiting arrival of the plates from the state. If you would like to pre order then please complete the 0 dollar purchase and you will be placed on the waiting list.

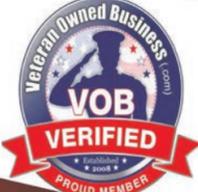


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## Legislative delegation

### From Front Page

insurance, it would leave them with about \$943 in pay to get through the rest of the month – leaving some employees with no option but to take second or third jobs to try to get by.

Davis, a 12-year veteran educator, also raised the issue that new minimum pay requirements set by the state for first-year teachers do not include pay increases for experienced teachers like her. While the state had mandated districts reach \$47,000 for starting teacher pay, currently Wakulla has managed to get to \$45,300.

Another veteran teacher, Sandy Byars, who has been at Wakulla Middle School for 31 years, said a new teacher makes practically as much as she does.

Byars also noted that her monthly insurance premium is more than her mortgage payment.

Another teacher, Amber Stanley noted that some teachers have left Wakulla for higher pay: commuting to Leon County will get you

\$47,000 in salary and insurance that's \$500 a month. In Franklin County, insurance is \$438 a month for Capital Health Plan. Teachers at Florida High, which is under Florida State University, pay only \$180 for insurance.

Laney Smith, a senior at Wakulla High, recounted lessons she's learned from her teachers and said she polled her teachers to find their biggest problems. She said the top three were high insurance, not feeling supported, and paying out-of-pocket for 90% of their classroom supplies.

Teacher Desiree Wisheart asked legislators, "Why can't you make educators a priority?"

Jennifer Redfern, a teacher at Shadeville and president of the Wakulla County Teachers Association, the local union, asked for increased pay for teachers.

Shoaf asked Redfern which she would choose – higher pay or lower insurance?

Redfern answered that the union usually chooses higher pay be-



The commission meeting room was standing-room only for Monday night's legislative delegation, seen from behind the dais where Rep. Shoaf and Sen. Simon listened to local concerns.

cause half of employees don't take the insurance.

One teacher, Amanda Gaines, said her family was struggling with the high insurance and decided to go without. She questioned why it is that her co-pay remained the same as when she had insurance – same \$75 for a doctor visit, same prices at the pharmacy – and what insurance was paying for. She did express concern if she

suffered from a major illness.

Another teacher, Deirdre Walker, said she felt compelled to speak because four teachers in the room were her former students who graduated from Wakulla and then came back to teach. It was emotional, she said, to see "my kids" as she called them need to leave to make a living.

Another matter discussed was the Wakulla

County Airport, with several Tarpine residents complaining that they were disappointed to hear a bill by Rep. Shoaf hadn't been filed.

The Wakulla Airport, which is a simple grass airstrip, is lumped in with larger airports in FAA requirements for noise studies that could potentially cost hundreds of thousands of dollars – money which Wakulla County commissioners are reluctant

to pay.

The solution has been for the county airport to be removed from those requirements.

Shoaf answered that he had a good conversation with the state Department of Transportation and said he believes it will be possible to resolve the issue "without passing a new law."

The 2023 Legislative session is scheduled to begin on March 7.

## Safe Families launches

### From Front Page

outward into the community to support families experiencing crises. She noted that families are referred to the organization through various channels including the Department of Children and Families, churches, courts, parents, volunteers, and more.

An infographic shared at the event mentioned that "the goal is to prevent children from unnecessarily entering the foster care system," and that the organization's network of volunteers is able to step in to "build social support systems around families experiencing: medical emergencies, unemployment, domestic violence, homelessness, alcohol/drug rehabilitation, [and] many other concerns."

Potential volunteers are able to serve in a variety of capacities

including host families, family coaches, family friends, resource friends, and ministry leads.

During the event, a video about one family who was experiencing a crisis and the network of Safe Families' volunteers and staff who built relationships with and helped to create a support system for that family was played to show an example of the impact that the organization chapter has had within the region.

Following the video, Tammy Pulsifer, who started as a volunteer and is now on the Safe Families staff, said, "Our goal is to fill gaps with people that just really need someone to come alongside them – whether that gap is a skill that you have, a resource that you have, or just having an understanding."

Pulsifer added, "They don't need perfect; they just need a friend – so

come alongside us." Pulsifer noted that even if individuals do not belong to a church community, Safe Families still welcomes them to serve with the organization.

To the audience, Pastor Mike Montague from Authentic Life Church said, "If we show up, we now have a beauti-

ful opportunity to pour back into a family that might be less privileged than you and I."

Executive Director of Wakulla Pregnancy Center and member of Authentic Life Church Pam Pilkinton said that her church found out about Safe Families while looking for outreach opportunities,

and that they found the organization to be a right fit. Pilkinton introduced all the speakers and performers during the event.

Individuals were able to complete the fingerprinting process and sign up to volunteer onsite at the community launch.

More information about Safe Families for Children North Florida and how individuals and churches can get involved can be found by calling (850) 508-3892, emailing Tallahassee@safefamilies.net, or visiting safe-families.org.

## PUBLIC NOTICES:

For our readers' convenience, The Wakulla Sun provides this Public Notice Section for all Public Notices not published in the Legal Notice section of the newspaper.



### ADVERTISEMENT TO BID

## WAKULLA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Pre-qualified General Contractors are invited to bid on a General Contract for the Medart Elementary School Gutter Replacement in Crawfordville, Florida in accordance with Contract Documents. All bids must be a lump sum basis; segregated Bids will not be accepted.

PROJECT: Medart Elementary School Gutter Replacement

BID DATE: February 23, 2023

TIME: 2:00 p.m. local time

WCS BID NO. 22/23-01

A Pre-Bid conference will be held on **February 16, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.** at 69 Arran Rd, Crawfordville, FL 32327, and all bidders or their representatives are encouraged to be in attendance. The Pre-Bid Conference date is subject to change.

The Wakulla County School Board will receive sealed bids until **2:00 p.m. local time on February 23, 2023**. Bids received after this time will not be accepted. All qualified bidders are invited to attend the Bid Opening. Bids will be opened publicly and read aloud at the following location:

Wakulla County School Board  
Administration Building (Board Room)  
69 Arran Rd  
Crawfordville, FL 32327

Drawings and Specifications may be obtained by contacting:

Emily Winston  
Clemons, Rutherford & Associates  
Phone: 850.385.6153  
ewinston@craarchitects.com

In accordance with the Instructions to Bidders upon receipt of \$50 (non-refundable) per digital set. All materials furnished and all work performed shall be in accordance with Drawings and Specifications. Each Bid shall be addressed to:

Mr. Michael Barwick  
Director of Facilities and Maintenance  
Wakulla County Schools  
Post Office Box 100  
Crawfordville, FL 32327

and be marked:

1. Bids for Medart Elementary School Gutter Replacement
2. (Name of Bidder)
3. (Address of Bidder)
4. (City, State, Zip Code)

All bids shall be delivered by a representative of the Bidder or by registered mail with return receipt requested. Bid security in the amount of five percent of the Bid must accompany each Bid in accordance with the Instruction to Bidders.

The Owner reserves the right to waive irregularities and/or informalities in any Bid and to reject any or all Bids in whole or part, with or without cause, and/or accept the Bid that in its judgment will be for the best interest of the Wakulla County School Board.

WAKULLA COUNTY SCHOOL  
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MR. MICHAEL BARWICK  
DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE

February 2, 9, 2023

## NOTICE TO RECEIVE SEALED BIDS

Pursuant to the regulations found at 2 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 200 et seq, in addition to the statutory authority requirements, and programmatic guidance governing the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Disaster Recovery Programs, the City of St. Marks invites qualified firms to submit a bid for:

## PURCHASE OF PORTABLE EMERGENCY GENERATOR

This project shall consist of the purchase of a portable emergency generator for St. Marks City Hall.

Bid documents can be obtained at Dewberry Engineers Inc., 20684 Central Avenue East, Blountstown, Florida 32424. For questions, please contact Katie Taff at ktaff@dewberry.com. All questions must be submitted in writing. The bid must conform to Section 287.133(3) Florida Statutes, on public entity crimes.

The completion date for this project will be **250 days** from the date of the Notice to Proceed presented to the successful bidder.

Liquidated damages for failure to complete the project on the specified date will be set at \$200.00 per day.

Please indicate on the envelope that this is a sealed bid for "**PURCHASE OF PORTABLE EMERGENCY GENERATOR**".

Bids will be received until **2:00 p.m. (EST) on, February 22, 2023** at the City Manager's Office in the St. Marks City Hall, 788 Port Leon Drive, St. Marks, FL 32355, and will be opened and read aloud on, **February 22, 2023 at 2:15 p.m. (EST)**.

The Bid will be awarded to the lowest responsive bidder.

Cost for Specifications will be **\$50.00 per set** and is non-refundable. Checks should be made payable to DEWBERRY ENGINEERS INC. Digital copies will be available free of charge.

The City of St. Marks reserves the right to reject any and all bids received and to waive any and all minor irregularities or informalities in any bid.

Small business and minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are encouraged to submit proposals and firms using such subcontractors are strongly encouraged to solicit such firms in the subcontracting process. Any Contracts/subcontracts issued under this procurement must comply with the necessary affirmative steps to assure that minority businesses, women's business enterprises and labor surplus area firms are used when possible, in accordance with 2 CFR § 200.321.

All Bids shall remain firm for a period of sixty days after the opening. All bidders shall comply with all applicable State and local laws concerning licensing registration and regulation of contractors doing business to the State of Florida.

February 2, 2023

## Richardson Cemetery Meeting

The Wakulla County Historical Society will be holding a meeting on Feb. 7th, 2023 at the Wakulla County Library at 5:30 pm. We wish to invite all families with relatives interred at the cemetery and anyone who has interest in the cemetery to attend. The Historical Society is currently involved in the restoration/preservation of the site with an African-American Cultural and Historical Grant. We are planning to discuss current project plans and gather input from the community. For further information, contact Debbie Jay at debbiejay@wakulahistory.org.



Leave Nothing  
But Your Footprints

# Opinions

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

## LETTERS FROM READERS

### Come to the variety show on Feb. 11

**Editor, The Sun:**

We would like to invite the public out to a fun night of entertainment – the Wakulla Community Theater Variety Show! The evening will begin at 5 p.m. with food trucks, followed by the show starting at 7 p.m. Advanced tickets for \$15 can be purchased at McIver Flooring and the Crawfordville Branch of the Capital City Bank.

The show will feature the singing of Tanner Pafford, Andy Harper & Frank Messersmith, Leah McManus, DJ Butch, Tony Chapman, and Brandon Autrey. The Wakulla High Drama Troupe will perform a scene from their upcoming musical, “Matilda” and the band, Rockulla, will feature two of their singers. Lori White

& Victoria will have you questioning which is the ventriloquist and who is the dummy? Mark Richards will tickle your funny bone with his musings, while Studio 88 and the Panhandle Lindy Hoppers will have you dancing in your seat!! The whole show will be organized by MC Desmond Maxwell, always entertaining on his own!

Come out and have a good time, while also supporting your local theater!!

Get your tickets now – the price goes up to \$20 the day of the show!!

Thank you,

**Mina Sutton & Nancy Commander**  
Wakulla Community Theater

### Air strip is a waste of taxpayer money

**Editor, The Sun:**

The air strip license has been temporarily renewed!....I'm sure that makes Commissioner (Ralph) Thomas very happy. He's fought tirelessly to continue wasting taxpayers money on this white elephant since the first day he was elected.....I've always wondered why?

Now we have a representative from Port St. Joe and a senator from Tallahassee in the battle?.....as far as I can see, the politicians and the Tarpiners are determined to keep this air strip with no regard for the wishes of

the residents and taxpayers (opponents) of Wakulla County.....I understand the Tarpiners, they want a free air strip, but why are the politicians so adamant?.....is there something we're not being told?.....maybe we'll find out in August when the license expires again...

As Commissioner (Chuck) Hess points out, if the air strip remains, “We still have all the expense to upgrade the airport to meet FDOT requirements”....

**F J Young**  
Crawfordville

### More on FWC due-process issue

**Editor, The Sun:**

This is the fourth letter to the editor from my associate, David Grix, and me, Ronald F. Crum. Countless court battles with the FWC for everyone's due process has taken up the last 30 years of our lives. Here is where we started...

June 17, 1993 the Attorney General of Florida received his requested advisory opinion, case number 81-394, from the Supreme Court of Florida about the “Limited Marine Net Fishing” amendment. The amendment's ballot title accurately portrayed the limit, not ban, sought on the use of nets for catching saltwater; finfish, shellfish, or other marine animals.

In 1993, recognizing the amendment would pass, I had three 500 square foot (sf) nets made for real life testing. Two for the fisherman and one for the Marine Fisheries Commission. The Marine Fisheries Commission (MFC) was not interested and refused the net. We (fisherman) began testing two of the newly required 500sf nets for commercial viability. The test nets proved to be commercially viable. So there would be life after the limitation.....

On Nov. 8, 1994, Florida voters overwhelmingly approved the Limiting Marine Net Fishing Amendment. I began to search for a circuit court to seek a Declaratory Judgment to see whether or not the nets complied with the amendment.

While researching the courts, I determined the Wakulla Circuit Court was not Net Limitation friendly and that Franklin County appeared to be friendly to the rule of law. My decision was to go to Franklin County Court and to get a seafood dealer and shrimp boat captain to join the case. Franklin County ruled the shrimp net was in keeping with the net limitation.

The case was then declared an issue of “critical concern,” bypassing the appeals court and was sent straight to the Florida Supreme Court. On Jan 18, 1996, in Case No. SC 85.880, the high court placed in stone certain aspects of the Net Limitation.

“We hold that both the evidence of the amount of raw stock used to construct the Golden-Crum net and the evidence of commercial viability are relevant and were properly considered by the court.” The nets were upheld as constitutional, thus complying with the amendment.

**Ronald Crum**  
Panacea

## On the Horizon

### Calendar of upcoming events for the week of Feb. 2

#### Thursday, February 2

- The Rotary Club of Wakulla County meets at the TCC Wakulla Center at 8:30 a.m.
- The VFW Auxiliary Bingo Night will be held at 7 p.m. at 475 Arran Road in Crawfordville, every Thursday. There will be concessions and raffles.
- Hatha Yoga with Zoe at 9 a.m. and Yin Yoga with Nellie at 6 p.m. Classes are \$12, packages available at New Posh on 3079 Crawfordville Hwy. Please RSVP email at newposh3079@gmail.com or text/call at (850) 528-5838.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

#### Friday, February 3

- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and 8 p.m. every Friday at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

#### Saturday, February 4

- Seat at the Table: A free screening of “Till” followed by a group discussion will be held at Palaver Tree Theater at 3 p.m. Reserve your spot by emailing palavertreetheater@gmail.com.
- Panacea Farmers Market held in Downtown Panacea next to the Panacea fire department from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Local vendors will be selling homemade and homegrown items and food vendors will be there.
- The St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge WHO Festival will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Intro to Tai Chi held at the Community Center from 9 to 10 a.m. All ability levels are welcome; please wear comfortable clothing. For questions call Rich or Terri Bushman at 850-228-9214.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

#### Sunday, February 5

- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 10 a.m. and at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

#### Monday, February 6

- The Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners will meet at 5 p.m. in the

Commission Chambers.

- Intro to Tai Chi held at the Community Center from 9 to 10 a.m. All ability levels are welcome; please wear comfortable clothing. For questions call Rich or Terri Bushman at 850-228-9214.

- The Wakulla Respite Program will be available for anyone with memory impairment at no cost from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lake Ellen Baptist Church.

- Rise and Shine Yoga with Lacey at 6 a.m. Hatha yoga at 9 a.m. and Restorative Yoga at 6 p.m. with Zoe. Classes are \$12, packages available at New Posh on 3079 Crawfordville Hwy. Please RSVP email at newposh3079@gmail.com or text/call at (850) 528-5838.

- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

#### Tuesday, February 7

- The Wakulla County Charter Review Commission meets at 6:30 p.m. at the Wakulla County Community Center.
- Wakulla County will hold an informational public meeting about the Wakulla Gardens Phase III Sewer Expansion Project at 6:30 p.m. at the Wakulla County Community Center.
- Sopchoppy Community Dinner is held every week at the Towles House at 6:30 p.m.
- Yin Yoga at 10:30 a.m. and Flow Yoga at 6 p.m. with Nellie. Classes are \$12, packages available at New Posh on 3079 Crawfordville Hwy. Please RSVP email at newposh3079@gmail.com or text/call at (850) 528-5838.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

#### Wednesday, February 8

- Intro to Tai Chi held at the Community Center from 9 to 10 a.m. All ability levels are welcome; please wear comfortable clothing. For questions call Rich or Terri Bushman at 850-228-9214.
- A Line Dance class will be held at 1 p.m. at the Wakulla Senior Center.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.
- The Wakulla County Garden Club will be meeting at the Wakulla County public library hosting presentations and workshops about gardening in Wakulla soil at 12 noon.



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William Snowden  
Editor & Publisher  
The Wakulla Sun

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## ◀ Question of The Week ▶

– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

### Polled at Crawfordville Quick Stop What games did you play as a child?



**KELLI LORD**  
STAY AT HOME MOM

“I remember playing Candyland, that was my favorite.”



**JEANNETTE ADDISON**  
DISABLED

“I played Pac Man”



**ANGELA MAXWELL**  
TEAM LEAD

“Hide-and-Go-Seek, Red light Green light.”



**TOM PRICE**  
RETIRED

“We had Kick the Can, Mother May I, Dodge Ball, Football and swimming.”



**ALONZO DONALDSON**  
SEINEYARD-COOK

“Video games, checkers, Chess, and I remember Jenga.”

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Buckhorn News

By **ETHEL SKIPPER**

There are seven days in a week, and 24 hours in a day. Solomon said to everything there is a season and a time.

Let's take one day – it's amazing what you can do in just one day. It depends on what day you take: I like Tuesday at 6 a.m. A time to pray, med time, breakfast time, call a few people on the phone, have prayer with those

in need.

Many people need to be built up in their spirit. Those things that are not alive need to die as they are heavy weight to the body and soul. A time to weep. Some people let the day pass and don't laugh. You can dance – put one foot before the other foot and turn to the left then to to right and give the Lord some Thank you! and Praise the Lord!

A time to get, a time to lose, a time to love, a time of peace. 6 p.m.: A time for Bible study.

There is a time for everyone to fulfill their purpose.

During the time and days of Martin Luther King Jr., he fulfilled his purpose and now it is time for others to step out and stand out for the better and good for our world.

We wish a happy birthday to the following family and friends in January: Kenneth Rosier, Elbonita Rosier

Nicholas, Wanda Gavin Bailey, Colleen Skipper Mitchell, Glenda Skipper Simmons, Lenard White, Warren Paschal, Tamarick Holmes, Leston Green, Mother Willie M. Stevens, Aliyah Paschal, Deborah McRoy, and George Franklin Jr. We love each one of you. Enjoy your special day.

Our prayers and concern goes out to all the sick and shut-in, those in hospitals, nursing homes, prison, the homeless – pray that people will be saved and all needs will be answered.

### Wakulla Station News

By **VERNA BROCK**

First, I have actual news for Wakulla Station. It appears we have thieves amongst us. There has been a string of burglaries in the neighborhood over the past few months, with an interesting pattern of items stolen. They range from bicycles to beer, while more valuable items are left untouched. This leads to the conclusion that the culprits are aimless teens with nothing more interesting to do than hunt for trouble.

The most recent break-in was the Wakulla United Methodist Church last Thursday. Two windows were smashed in, and the quilt room was completely vandalized to the point that professional restorers will be needed to make the space functional again. But the Kast Net has been victimized, as have several of our neighbors as well.

Friends, please be careful! Whoever the vandals are, they seem to want to take small things that are easy to carry. We at the Church are praying for them, as this pattern seems to indicate they are young people who need all the help they can get.

Please continue to keep the Grimes family in your prayers as they mourn both Don and Sheryl, who are sorely missed. Also in need of our prayers are the family of our dear Donna Kendrick, the family of R.H.Carter and Irene Payne. Louis Hernandez, Linda Dunwoody, Clem Bunker and Shawn Pearson are all recovering from illness or injury, and stand in need of our prayers also.

What a joyous celebration of life we had for Bev Toole this past Saturday at Wakulla Springs. Her friends and family gathered on a bright and sunny day to remember the powerhouse that was Bev, and it was such

a fitting way to honor her.

Also in need of our prayers are the friends and family of Brenda and Bob Clemons, who were tragically killed in an auto accident this past month. There are no words to describe the shock, the grief, the overwhelming loss their loved ones are enduring.

Many thanks to all who have supported my family in prayers during our time of grief. We celebrated Alice's life together on the 21st, and it warmed the hearts of my family to see so many family and friends there, sharing their love and memories with us. I cannot brag enough on Family Funeral and Cremation Services and the caring people who work there. They made a painful and overwhelming process much less so.

While we are on the subject of prayer, let me invite you to join me in praying for our country to find some semblance of peace and sani-

ty. I don't believe anything is written in black and white, our world today is complicated and swathed in grey. More than ever we need clarity and compassion for one another, as well as a bedrock foundation of truth and justice. Amen, and AMEN.

I want to recommend to you an amazing series, “The Chosen,” which we access through Peacock on cable. It is the best depiction of the life and ministry of Jesus I have ever seen, and it has moved me to my core. If you get the chance, check it out. I don't think you'll be disappointed.

This coming Sunday we will celebrate Communion at 10 a.m. during our Church service, which will be followed by a special first Sunday fellowship meal. Our beloved Miss Norma Woodcock is moving to central Florida to be nearer to her extended family there. This covered-dish dinner will be especially poignant as we fete Miss Norma, and send her off with all of our love and best wishes. Please join us for this special day.

### Library News – Feb. 2

**Thursday, February 2**

Sphero Chariot Challenge Sign Up 5pm  
The Flowers BOD/ACC Committee 6:15pm

**Friday, February 3**

Quilting Guild 9:30am

**Saturday, February 4**

Coast Guard Auxiliary Training 9:30am

**Monday, February 6**

No Programs Today

**Tuesday, February 7**

Book Bunch 10am

Dungeons & Dragons 2pm

Wakulla County Historical Society 6pm

**Wednesday, February 8**

Book Babies 10am

Wakulla County Garden Club Noon

Knitting Group 4pm

3D Printing Class 5pm

After Hours Speaker Series 6:30pm

#### AFTER HOURS SPEAKER SERIES

Our exciting new speaker series is set to start at the end of this month! All programs will take place at the Library at 6:30 p.m.

• Wednesday, February 8th – Lisa Keith-Lucas from Camp Gordon Johnston presents “WWII African American Amphibious Truck Companies at Camp Gordon Johnston”

• Monday, February 13th – Michelle Hearn, Senior Curator for the Museum of Florida History, presents “The Florida Highwaymen – African American Landscape Painters”

• Wednesday, February 22nd – Michelle Hearn, Senior Curator for the Museum of Florida History, presents “Civil Rights in the Sunshine State”

#### FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY ANNUAL MARDI GRAS FUNDRAISER BALL

The Annual Friends of the Library Mardi Gras Fundraiser Ball will take place on Saturday, Feb. 18, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Wakulla County Community Center. This year's ball will feature catering by Harry's Seafood, live music provided by the Thursday Night Music Club, and amazing cocktails served up by the Yard Bar.

Tickets are \$50 per person and tables are available for sponsorship at different funding levels. Special Date Night two top tables which will include prime seating, a bottle of champagne, and two souvenir champagne flutes will be available for \$150.

Tickets and tables can be purchased at the Wakulla County Public Library via cash or check.

#### SPRING OPEN HOUSE AND COMMUNITY PARTNER FAIR

Join us for a day of fun and learn all about your library! Explore the library, get a library card, meet the staff, enjoy refreshments, get your face painted, play some games, make a craft, and so much more! Also, don't miss the opportunity to meet some of our other Community Partners and learn about all of the activities and services they have to offer. Saturday, March 4, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Interested in setting up a table or booth as a Community Partner? Email [rdrummond@mywakulla.com](mailto:rdrummond@mywakulla.com) for more information.

#### UPCOMING HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

- Saturday, February 18th, for President's Day
- Friday, April 7th and Saturday, April 8th for Easter

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# Outdoors

outdoor sports

## HOME ON THE RANGE

### What to do when something's wrong



By MARJ LAW

“Oh, no! Something's wrong with my semi-automatic handgun! It didn't go off!”

What's Newbie to do next?

The good news is there's always a deputy at the WCSO range to help. But wait! Don't grab your gun and go running to the office.

First, keep that muzzle pointing downrange. Yes, we've said it before many times, but sometimes, when things don't go right, we kinda forget what we know. So, point it downrange.

Next, drop the magazine onto the counter (called a shooting bench) in front of you. Look into the ejection port. Is the round lodged there? If so, rotate the gun so that gravity will allow it to fall out. Great. The gun is empty and you can reload your magazine and try again.

What? You can still see the end of the casing lodged in the chamber? Oops. If you're new to shooting and you see that the round is lodged here, then it's time to get help.

Place the gun on the shooting bench with muzzle downrange. If you have an experienced friend nearby, ask for help. If you're not sure you trust anyone there to fix the problem, leave your gun on the bench. Ask your friend to keep an eye on your gun while

you go to the office seeking assistance from the deputy.

So, what are some of the likely problems you might experience?

A big three are:

- Failure to feed,
- Failure to extract, and
- Failure to eject.

Let's talk about a failure to feed.

Several things can cause a failure to feed. One is that you may have a problem with your magazine. Especially if the gun is old, the spring in the magazine may be worn or defective. That spring may not be able to push the round into the gun.

Also, if the lips at the mouth of the magazine have been crushed, damaged, or worn, rounds might not be able to feed through the magazine. This is more likely to occur with an older gun, or one that has been shot a lot or abused. I don't see magazine problems often at all, but then, the guns I've been shooting are generally less than 15 years old.

Another scenario is what we call a “nose dive.” When you pull back your slide, you see that the round is still sitting inside the ejection port, with its nose facing downward at the base of the ramp. Why didn't it go up the ramp and into the barrel?

This again can be caused by an old, damaged or cheap magazine. It happens. Not too often, though.

Another failure to feed can be caused by putting the wrong caliber round in the gun. I've seen a person put a 9mm round in a 40-caliber handgun. The 9 might fit in the magazine, but the gun wasn't made for it, so the 9mm round won't fit and feed correctly.

Either scenario: a bad

magazine or an incorrect caliber round can either not feed into the gun or can become hung up before it gets to the ramp.

In the above cases, the round has experienced a failure to feed.

Failure to extract.

You fire your gun. The bullet, which is the projectile part of the round, flies out of the gun. Your extractor has grabbed the outer rim of the round's casing and yanks the casing backwards into the ejection port. Then it's the ejector's job to shove the casing out of the gun.

Extractor and ejector sound very similar, but think of the extractor as a yanker and an ejector as a heaver. The extractor yanks the casing back and the ejector acts to heave that casing out of the gun.

So, if the extractor, (yanker) does not grab the casing out of the chamber and back into the ejection port, then you've got a failure to extract. If you pull the slide back, all you'll see is the back of the casing at the rear of the barrel.

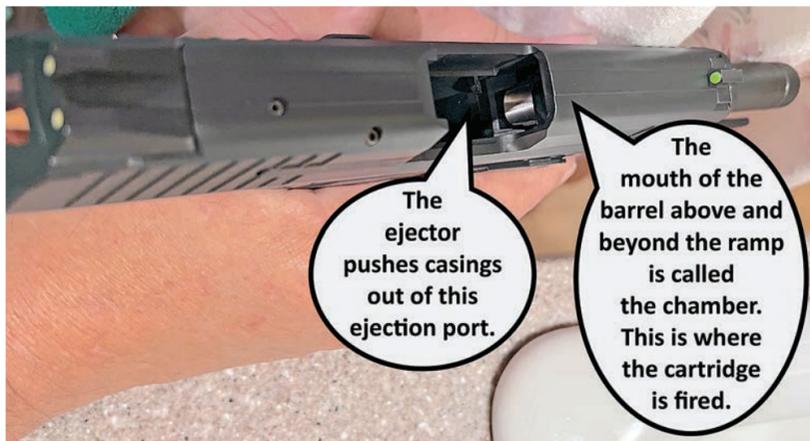
Failure to eject.

Now the extractor has grabbed the casing and pulled it back into the ejection port. If the ejector (the heaver) doesn't push the casing out of the ejection port, you've got a failure to eject. Is the ejector defective? It's possible.

Darn ejector bar could be broken, weak or worn down. Now that the end of the casing can't run into the ejector bar, the casing can't be pushed out of the port. This failure to eject prevents the slide from closing and your gun can't load a new round.

Your extractor itself may cause a failure to eject if it is worn, broken, or encrusted with shooting residue. If it can't move up and grab the casing firmly, that casing can end up not leaving the chamber.

Failure to eject and stovepipes.



You may get a “stovepipe.” That's when your gun has fired and the bullet has flown out of it. However, the casing may be stuck upright or cockeyed in the ejection port. This is pretty obvious because then the slide cannot return to battery and you can see that casing peeking out of the ejection port. This does happen more often than most other problems. It's probably because so many things can cause stovepipes: not just one happening.

Who's at fault here? Let's look at parts, ammo and you. Yikes.

• It's the darn ejector. Bent, worn, broken? Yep. That ejector isn't there to push out the casing, so it can stovepipe or sit cockeyed in the ejection port.

• It's the ammunition. It's old, defective, worn, or lacking gunpowder. It lacks the oomph needed to cycle the gun strongly. Then the extractor may not be able to move the casing firmly backwards. Which means the ejector won't be able to perform his job, either. The casing remains in the port

in some sort of angle keeping the slide from returning to its original position.

• It's a dirty gun. The grooves where the slide moves along the frame are full of grease and shooting residue. Now the slide can't move freely.

• It's a dirty gun. The extractor's got goop in its hook so it can't grab the casing properly. The casing comes into the port half-heartedly, but not with enough oomph to hit the ejector so it can fly out.

• It's a “dry gun.” Lack of lubrication could cause dragging and prevent the slide from moving properly against the frame.

• It's a recoil spring. A recoil spring too weak to allow the slide to move back as it should, so the extractor and ejector can't do their jobs.

• It's you “limp-wristing” the gun.

As a new shooter, this is the most common thing that will be said to you. It's not the gun: it's you. You don't have a firm grip on the gun. If you had a better grip, this

wouldn't happen.

Don't let this happen. Learn how to hold your gun very firmly. When you're fairly new to shooting, and especially if you are a gal, if there's a stovepipe, a guy will accuse you of limp-wristing.

If a limp-wristing does cause a stovepipe, this is what happens: You don't hold the grip firmly when it fires. Instead, your hands give and go backwards as the gun fires. Now the slide and gun are going in the same direction. The slide does not whack firmly against the frame, so it doesn't have the power to eject the empty casing, causing the casing to be either trapped parallel in the ejection port or stovepiped.

So, Newbie, learn to grip your gun properly. Limp-wristing is a patronizing term. Don't let it be applied to you.

Failure to feed, to extract and to eject are major gun difficulties. As a new gun owner, the deputy at the WCSO range is there to help you. Often, more experienced gun owners are only too happy to assist as well.

As you become more experienced, you'll be more and more able to detect what goes wrong with your gun.

Then your only concern is how well you punch out that x-ring.

*Marj Law is the former director of Keep Wakulla County Beautiful who has become an avid shooter in retirement.*

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(*Cliona celata*)

This sponge when a larvae will literally bore 2" holes into limestone rock or mollusk shells. Once it has created its hole and eaten the mollusk, it transforms to a 20x40" red to yellow feathery structure which releases new larvae. The red color is likely due to red algae living in it. It forms large colonies in shallow water up to 650ft. It is found around the world's temperate and warm oceans from the Baltic sea to the Gulf.

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**WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO**

Retired Wakulla Springs State Park Ranger Bob Thompson, on his weekly wildlife survey at the park last week, took photos that included this Great Blue Heron.

# Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences

**Thursday 2**

Sun rise/set: 7:26AM 6:14PM  
Moon rise/set: 3:31PM 5:29AM  
Moon Illumination: 91%

**Friday 3**

Sun rise/set: 7:25AM 6:15PM  
Moon rise/set: 4:25PM 6:17AM  
Moon Illumination: 95%

**Saturday 4**

Sun rise/set: 7:25AM 6:16PM  
Moon rise/set: 5:22PM 7:00AM  
Moon Illumination: 99%

**Sunday 5**

Sun rise/set: 7:24AM 6:17PM  
Moon rise/set: 6:18PM 7:39AM  
Moon Illumination: 100%

**Monday 6**

Sun rise/set: 7:23AM 6:17PM  
Moon rise/set: 7:15PM 8:12AM  
Moon Illumination: 100%

**Tuesday 7**

Sun rise/set: 7:23AM 6:18PM  
Moon rise/set: 8:10PM 8:42AM  
Moon Illumination: 97%

**Wednesday 8**

Sun rise/set: 7:22AM 6:19PM  
Moon rise/set: 9:04PM 9:10AM  
Moon Illumination: 93%

## Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

Feb. 2 - Feb. 8

GO FISH!

Tide charts by tides4fishing.com

Best fishing days this month  
January 21-31

**Thursday 2**

Minor Times: 4:44AM 2:46PM  
Major Times: 9:14AM 9:40PM

**Friday 3**

Minor Times: 5:32AM 3:40PM  
Major Times: 10:05AM 10:30PM

**Saturday 4**

Minor Times: 6:15AM 4:37PM  
Major Times: 10:54AM ---

**Sunday 5**

Minor Times: 6:54AM 5:33PM  
Major Times: 11:18PM 11:41AM

**Monday 6**

Minor Times: 7:27AM 6:30PM  
Major Times: 12:04AM 12:26PM

**Tuesday 7**

Minor Times: 7:57AM 7:25PM  
Major Times: 12:47AM 1:08PM

**Wednesday 8**

Minor Times: 8:25AM 8:19PM  
Major Times: 1:29AM 1:49PM

For tides at the following points add to Dog Island Listings:

	High Tide	Low Tide
Carrabelle	28 Min.	25 Min.
Apalachicola	1 Hr., 53 Min.	2 Hrs., 38 Min.
Cat Point	1 Hr., 13 Min.	2 Hrs., 31 Min.
Lower Anchorage	1 Hr., 36 Min.	2 Hrs., 3 Min.
West Pass	1 Hr., 26 Min.	2 Hrs., 39 Min.

**St. Marks River Entrance**

Th	6:48 am ▼ -0.6 ft	1:24 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	6:10 pm ▼ 1.5 ft
Fr	12:06 am ▲ 2.9 ft	7:25 am ▼ -0.7 ft	1:51 pm ▲ 2.6 ft
Sa	12:47 am ▲ 3.0 ft	7:56 am ▼ -0.7 ft	2:17 pm ▲ 2.8 ft
Su	1:23 am ▲ 3.1 ft	8:23 am ▼ -0.7 ft	2:43 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
Mo	1:56 am ▲ 3.2 ft	8:46 am ▼ -0.7 ft	3:08 pm ▲ 3.0 ft
Tu	2:29 am ▲ 3.2 ft	9:08 am ▼ -0.6 ft	3:31 pm ▲ 3.1 ft
We	3:02 am ▲ 3.2 ft	9:30 am ▼ -0.4 ft	3:52 pm ▲ 3.1 ft

**City of St. Marks**

Th	7:52 am ▼ -0.5 ft	2:00 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	7:14 pm ▼ 1.3 ft
Fr	12:42 am ▲ 2.7 ft	8:29 am ▼ -0.6 ft	2:27 pm ▲ 2.4 ft
Sa	1:23 am ▲ 2.8 ft	9:00 am ▼ -0.6 ft	2:53 pm ▲ 2.6 ft
Su	1:59 am ▲ 2.9 ft	9:27 am ▼ -0.6 ft	3:19 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
Mo	2:32 am ▲ 3.0 ft	9:50 am ▼ -0.6 ft	3:44 pm ▲ 2.8 ft
Tu	3:05 am ▲ 3.0 ft	10:12 am ▼ -0.5 ft	4:07 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
We	3:38 am ▲ 2.9 ft	10:34 am ▼ -0.4 ft	4:28 pm ▲ 2.9 ft

**Shell Point, Spring Creek**

Th	7:05 am ▼ -0.7 ft	1:43 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	6:24 pm ▼ 1.6 ft
Fr	12:20 am ▲ 2.8 ft	7:47 am ▼ -0.8 ft	2:14 pm ▲ 2.5 ft
Sa	1:04 am ▲ 3.0 ft	8:23 am ▼ -0.8 ft	2:43 pm ▲ 2.6 ft
Su	1:42 am ▲ 3.1 ft	8:54 am ▼ -0.8 ft	3:10 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
Mo	2:17 am ▲ 3.1 ft	9:20 am ▼ -0.7 ft	3:35 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
Tu	2:51 am ▲ 3.2 ft	9:44 am ▼ -0.6 ft	3:58 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
We	3:26 am ▲ 3.1 ft	10:05 am ▼ -0.4 ft	4:19 pm ▲ 3.0 ft

**Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay**

Th	6:59 am ▼ -0.4 ft	1:16 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	6:21 pm ▼ 1.1 ft
Fr	7:36 am ▼ -0.5 ft	1:43 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	7:03 pm ▼ 0.9 ft
Sa	12:39 am ▲ 2.3 ft	8:07 am ▼ -0.5 ft	2:09 pm ▲ 2.1 ft
Su	1:15 am ▲ 2.3 ft	8:34 am ▼ -0.5 ft	2:35 pm ▲ 2.2 ft
Mo	1:48 am ▲ 2.4 ft	8:57 am ▼ -0.5 ft	3:00 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
Tu	2:21 am ▲ 2.4 ft	9:19 am ▼ -0.4 ft	3:23 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
We	2:54 am ▲ 2.4 ft	9:41 am ▼ -0.3 ft	3:44 pm ▲ 2.3 ft

**St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.**

Th	6:44 am ▼ -0.7 ft	2:14 pm ▲ 1.7 ft	6:23 pm ▼ 1.3 ft
Fr	7:23 am ▼ -0.8 ft	2:31 pm ▲ 1.7 ft	6:59 pm ▼ 1.2 ft
Sa	12:26 am ▲ 2.3 ft	7:56 am ▼ -0.8 ft	2:47 pm ▲ 1.7 ft
Su	1:08 am ▲ 2.3 ft	8:26 am ▼ -0.7 ft	3:04 pm ▲ 1.8 ft
Mo	1:47 am ▲ 2.4 ft	8:53 am ▼ -0.6 ft	3:23 pm ▲ 1.9 ft
Tu	2:26 am ▲ 2.3 ft	9:19 am ▼ -0.6 ft	3:43 pm ▲ 2.0 ft
We	3:07 am ▲ 2.3 ft	9:46 am ▼ -0.4 ft	4:06 pm ▲ 2.1 ft

**Dog Island West End**

Th	7:04 am ▼ -0.7 ft	3:17 pm ▲ 1.5 ft	6:50 pm ▼ 1.4 ft
Fr	7:38 am ▼ -0.8 ft	3:25 pm ▲ 1.5 ft	7:20 pm ▼ 1.2 ft
Sa	12:16 am ▲ 2.0 ft	8:09 am ▼ -0.8 ft	3:36 pm ▲ 1.6 ft
Su	1:07 am ▲ 2.1 ft	8:37 am ▼ -0.8 ft	3:47 pm ▲ 1.6 ft
Mo	1:51 am ▲ 2.1 ft	9:05 am ▼ -0.7 ft	3:59 pm ▲ 1.6 ft
Tu	2:32 am ▲ 2.1 ft	9:33 am ▼ -0.6 ft	4:13 pm ▲ 1.7 ft
We	3:15 am ▲ 2.0 ft	10:01 am ▼ -0.4 ft	4:30 pm ▲ 1.7 ft

Best hunting and fishing based on solunar times: MAJOR feeding periods are 2 hours long, centered on the solunar time. MINOR feeding periods are only 1 hour long, again centered on the solunar time.



Flotilla 12 hosted the division meeting of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

## Underwater Wakulla

By Rusty Miller

### Side Mount journey continued.

Well, the sore I had on my stump left foot has completely healed. That means I can get back to my side mount training. During my down time at the shop, I have gotten a new side mount harness and a couple of 50 cubic foot steel tanks, and I serviced my regulators and set them up for side mount tanks. With the new harness, I can put weights on the inside of the back to help with my horizontal position. The key to being a good side mount diver is to be able to control your positioning while on your dive.

I know I might have mentioned in one of my past articles that I tell my students that if you purchase a new set of scuba gear you should try your new gear in a pool before you use it in the open water. Well, as you might have guessed, when I let my instructor know that my stump was healed we set a date to continue my training. I was truly excited to try out my new equipment and to see if it worked as I hoped it would.

We met at Emerald Springs around 10 a.m. and we got our gear unloaded to set it up. I put weights in the spine pockets of my harness, about 12 pounds, then I anxiously put the rest of my equipment together and put my wetsuit on; we carry our tanks down to the water. If you have never been to Emerald Springs it has a double staircase down to the spring so it was a little difficult for me to carry my 50's down to the water even though I carried one at a time. My instructor entered the water first and on our way down to the spring we noticed it was a bit tannic but we entered anyway.

I was able to connect the 50's one on each side relatively OK, then I connected the low pressure inflator to the harness and situated the second stages properly around my neck. It was time to slide into the water and check to make sure that everything was in its proper place and working. I inflated my harness and situated myself so the instructor could let me know what we were going to do next. She said we will go to the underwater tree to start our descent to about 30-feet down.

When we got to the required depth, we would swim around so I could get comfortable with my new rig. We made it to the tree then started our descent. Things were going pretty good, then I started swimming using the frog kick and that's when it got fun. Remember the 12 pounds of weight I put in the harness, well I put a bit too much in and as soon as I went horizontal and bent my knees about 90 degrees up that's when I got a big surprise. I went almost vertical in a head down position. I didn't panic because I let my feet down and arched my back and I became horizontal again.

This time I inflated my harness bladder a tiny bit and I turned my feet up but not quite 90 degrees and actually started frog kicking pretty good because I was able to move a distance each kick. I wasn't as relaxed as I hoped I would be but it was a step in the right direction. Remember I stated the water was a bit tannic, well when I looked around and lost sight of my instructor for a moment. The water was getting darker by the minute and in my excitement I didn't notice it. When I finally saw my instructor she motioned that we need to surface. We surfaced and I explained I felt like I had a little too much weight in my harness and that I need to remove a few pounds. We headed to the ledge and while I was removing the excess weight she would run a line around the spring basin at a depth of 30 feet. Just as I got my harness on she reappeared at the surface holding what is described as a birds nest in the line she used to set the trail with.

The water had gotten so bad in such a short time that it was hard for her to set the line. I don't mind dark water because I train law enforcement in search and recovery and you train to look for bodies in such dark water and my instructor is used to diving in caves but when you have a student with new equipment you need to be able to see them well. So we decided to not finish the dive and that we would meet at the pool in a couple of weeks to let me get my gear balanced and then we can practice the remainder of the skills. Then we can reschedule the open water portion to finish my certification on side mount diving. I will keep you posted on how the pool session goes. Until then, keep making bubbles.

Russell Miller NAUI #59999

## Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports

By Carolyn Brown Treadon

This past weekend, Flotilla 12 hosted the Division 1 Meeting of 2023. We had members attending from across our Division, which ranges from Pensacola to our Area of Operation. Many thanks to all who attended and made this event possible. Division Commander Doug Ritchie focused on the strengths of being involved in the USCGAux, including fellowship, service and engagement with the active duty. The day was filled with setting up division goals for 2023, training and fellowship.

This week is also the final part of three from Bob Currie's article. Bob Currie is a U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Recreational Boating Safety Specialist, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Station Galveston Flotilla. It is also available on the US Coast Guard Heartland Safe Boating Site.

### STAY HYDRATED

A great many calls for help on the water are due to persons on board becoming seriously ill due to dehydration. Drink plenty of water during the trip. Don't wait until you feel thirsty. The water surface acts like a giant magnifying glass and effectively doubles your exposure to direct sunlight by reflecting it from the water's surface. You get those rays coming and going.

## Boating Emergencies

- Coast Guard Station  
Panama City ..... (850) 234-4228
- Coast Guard Station  
Yankeetown ..... (352) 447-6900
- Coast Guard Auxiliary  
Apalachee Bay (Flotilla 12) ..... (850) 942-7500  
or ..... (850) 284-1166

A minor heat-related discomfort can quickly become a serious illness such as heat exhaustion or even life-threatening heat stroke. Yes, we can come to your rescue in a fast helicopter, but once you reach the stage of heat stroke your life expectancy can be measured in minutes rather than hours. Beer does not hydrate.

### LEARN LINE HANDLING

The trickiest part of flying a plane is taking off and landing. Anyone can steer. It's the same with a boat. On a plane the copilot has chores such as lowering the landing gear and setting the flaps. On a boat it helps to have a crewman who can handle docking fenders and lines when leaving or approaching the dock. Learn the basic knots used by mariners, especially those used for securing a boat to a dock. Learn how to use a walking fender to keep the dock from chewing up the rub rail on the

boat. Someone who can help with line handling at the dock is a valuable person to have aboard.

### LEARN THE NAVIGATION RULES

Being a contributing member of the crew is more enjoyable than just sitting there and watching the action. Knowledge is the key to enjoying a trip on the water. The more you know the more you can appreciate what is going on. Learn the navigation rules, also known as the Rules of the Road, also known as the COLREGS (Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea). You are a much more valuable passenger if you can point out to the captain that the boat ahead is flying the "Restricted in Ability to Maneuver" day shape. Learn the Responsibilities Between Vessels

### SUMMARY

You do not have to own a boat to be a mariner. You can gain knowledge and experi-

ence as a well-trained passenger that makes you much more knowledgeable than the average recreational boater, and you can become a mariner in your own right. By becoming a well-trained passenger you will increase your enjoyment of the water as well as increase your own safety on the water. Now is a good time to take that Boater Education Course.

If you would like to learn more about vessel safety checks, please contact Steve Hults, Staff Officer for Vessel Examinations at [steve.hults@uscgaux.net](mailto:steve.hults@uscgaux.net).

Thanks to Sherrie, we will always remember safe boating is no accident!

Please contact us for more information about our safe boating classes or learning more about getting involved in the Auxiliary, check out our website at [www.uscgaux.net](http://www.uscgaux.net) follow us on FaceBook @ Apalachee Bay Flotilla 12 or contact our Flotilla Commander Phil Hill at [pnkhill2000@yahoo.com](mailto:pnkhill2000@yahoo.com).

*The Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed civilian volunteer component of the U.S. Coast Guard and supports the Coast Guard in nearly all mission areas. The Auxiliary was created by Congress in 1939. For more information, please visit [www.cgaux.org](http://www.cgaux.org).*

# Do you need a spiritual haircut?



By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

Early in my first marriage, money was tight, so I offered to cut my husband's hair. I was a bit anxious because

I'd never cut anyone's hair before, but snip, snip – so far, so good.

Then one more snip on the right side of his head ...

"Uh-oh."

My husband ran to the bathroom mirror – and left me – seven years later.

It must have been that "one more snip" that began my marriage's demise. Certainly it wasn't because of my shortcomings, right?

Truth be told, our marriage would have

been better served if we'd snipped a few of my husband's and my character flaws, rather than my husband's locks.

I'm incredibly thankful for all the snipping God has done in me since then, but I still need a few more "haircuts."

With God's help, I want to do whatever I need to grow and mature. I want to progress in my spiritual journey today and everyday throughout 2023.

Will you join me?

In Christ, we can make choices to honor Him with our entire being—even when we're tempted not to.

Let's begin with a realistic plan that will allow us to make steady growth in our Christian walk throughout the rest of the year.

First, let's ask God to examine our hearts as in Psalm 139:23-24 (AMPC):

"Search me [thoroughly], O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there is any

wicked or hurtful way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

What if, at the beginning of each month for the rest of this year, we asked God to search our hearts and thoughts to show us one area in our life (the choices we're making) that is displeasing to Him?

Then, prayerfully, throughout the month, do whatever it takes (meditating on and memorizing Bible verses, spending more time with God in prayer and Bible reading, embrac-

ing accountability, etc.) to change?

If we allow God to snip away areas in our lives that are not pleasing to Him throughout 2023, imagine what we'll have to celebrate next New Year's Eve.

*Sheryl H. Boldt is a sales executive for Wave 94 and author of the blog, www.TodayCanBeDifferent.net. Connect with her at SherylHBoldt.Wave94@gmail.com.*

# Isn't it time we return



By **CHERYL CRUCE**

At one point in my life, I was prolific in the gym. Recently, I found myself showing signs of neglect and age. I struggled with fatigue and motivation. All it took was for my daughter Tiffany to call and ask if I wanted to join the gym. It was a welcomed invitation that I quickly accepted.

It wasn't long before the soreness and difficulty of the daily routine began to over-

take me causing me to second-guess my decision. My body ached everywhere. At one point, even my eyelashes hurt from the strain of movement. Lifting weights, repetitive movements, and diet combined proved difficult, but I persisted. Finally, my persistence began to pay off as I felt the aches turn into a healthy burn of success.

I have often heard that muscles remember. Finally, mine remembered the joy of a workout. It had been years since I could maintain a healthy exercise schedule and a good diet. Yet, in just a few short weeks of working out, my head is clear; and I have noticed an increase in my energy level. My

spirit feels peaceful, and I am rediscovering my confidence.

I find this lesson true: what a man feeds into his body affects his spiritual well-being. As the body needs physical exertion to maintain good health, so the soul of man needs spiritual training to maintain peace within. The proverbial flip of the coin teaches that a man who cares for his relationship with God also cares for his body. Our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, and our body is temporal; however, our soul is eternal. Boosting our body is essential; caring for the soul is critical. Caring for both is the ultimate praise to the Lord who has redeemed us (1 Corin-

thians 6:19-20).

C.S. Lewis said, "You don't have a soul. You are a soul. You have a body." If this is true, it is time to strengthen our core being, the soul of who we are. A strong person is wise because knowledge increases strength, and consequently, a person will become the well-rounded individual he was created to be, walking in the holiness of God (Proverbs 24:5).

We may exercise and consume protein shakes to enhance the body but consider the last nutrient you offered to your spirit. Was it words of anger or words of grace? Did you fill your time with activities contrary to the Will of God, or did you choose a fellow-

ship with like-minded believers? Why is it that church is the most challenging habit to form and the simplest habit to break?

Here is an invitation for you. Become the soul you were created to be. Go for an evening stroll and thank God for the beauty of creation. Turn off the world's chaos, pick up the Word of God, and read about His peace. Dismiss the anger of another before it penetrates your being. Search your soul for unforgiveness and offer forgiveness as freely as it is given to you. Find an accountability partner who will pray with you. Talk out loud with no one else in the room, knowing your Heavenly Father is right beside you.

"In your soul are infinitely precious things that cannot be taken from you." – Oscar Wilde. Search for what is precious inside of you. In the beginning, you may feel the burn of persistence. Be sure of this; your soul will remember the presence of God. You will find your reward in Him.

"Like newborn babies, [you should] long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may be nurtured and grow in respect to salvation [its ultimate fulfillment]." 1 Peter 2:2 (Amplified).

*Cheryl Mixon-Cruce is Pastor of Ochlockonee Bay United Methodist Church and Sopchoppy United Methodist Church.*

## OUT TO PASTOR

# Sow a thought, reap a pie



By **JAMES SNYDER**

One thing that has been burning in my life has been thoughts. Not that I don't have thoughts, but I'm not quite sure how to use them when I have them. Looking back over my life, it has been my thoughts that got me into trouble. I just never learn.

I was finishing up a little project in my office, and I couldn't help but think about The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage's wonderful coconut cream pie. She makes a lot of pies, but this one has to be her best. It's been a long time since she baked a coconut cream pie.

Being a husband as long as I have been, over 50 years, I know it doesn't do any good for me to tell my wife what to do, particularly in the kitchen. My access to the kitchen has to be supervised by her.

How can I get her to bake her famous and delicious coconut cream pie?

This thought took a

whole bunch of other thoughts to come up with a good idea. I don't always come up with a good idea, but I thought I had done it this time. I needed to plant a thought in her mind concerning this coconut cream pie.

How I was going to do this demanded some more thought, then I came up with an idea.

We get spam callers about medicare benefits and my expiring auto warranty, so I came up with a little idea. The next time someone like this calls me, I will use it to plant a thought into my wife's head.

It didn't take long, and one of those spam calls came.

Somewhere in the conversation, they asked me a question, and I noticed The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was in the next room within hearing distance.

I inserted into the conversation, "And my wife bakes the most delicious coconut cream pie I have ever eaten." I mentioned it several times in the conversation, hoping I had planted some thought in someone's mind.

The expiring car warranty call came, and I used that as an opportunity to say, "You should taste the amazing coconut cream pie that my wife bakes. You would love it."

I even used it when some friends called me. I would say, "Do you remember my wife's delicious coconut cream pie?"

This routine went on for a couple of weeks, and I hadn't noticed any difference with The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. I was beginning to feel that maybe my "sowing a thought" wasn't working. That thought in and of itself caused a little bit of despair on my side.

Giving this quite a bit of thought, I just couldn't come up with another scheme to entice her to bake coconut cream pie without knowing it was me.

I kept it up for several weeks, hoping that one little thought might take root. It was worth the trouble if I got one of her coconut cream pies.

One day this past week, I had several appointments across town

that would take up most of the day. So, I would be out of the house all that time, unable to sow any more thoughts.

It was a long and boring day, but finally, it was over, and I headed home. I pulled into the driveway, got out, and entered the house. As I entered, there was this familiar aroma that I really couldn't place at the time. It smelled delicious, but I didn't quite understand what it was.

My wife was in the kitchen, so I went into my office and sat at my desk to finish my day's task.

It wasn't long before The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came to the doorway into my office with something in her hand. Then she said, "Look what I baked this morning. It's a coconut cream pie. For some reason, I kept thinking about my coconut cream pie I made a couple of years ago. I don't know why, but I just decided to bake

this pie this morning." Then she smiled at me.

I smiled back at her and said, "When can I have a piece of that delicious pie?"

She brought me a piece, and I sat there enjoying every bite. I was beginning to think that my planting the thought would not work.

After finishing that pie, I began thinking, is this pie the result of me planting a thought, or did she just hear what I was saying and was trying to trick me?

I never will know which way it was. But then I got to thinking; maybe I will try this again to get my wife to do something in the future. I'm going to have to give this an awful lot of thought because it's very hard to fool The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

S o m e t i m e s m y

thoughts get me into trouble and sometimes they don't. I can never tell which way any of thoughts will go.

I thought about what David said, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Psalm 139:22-24).

It is important for me to allow God to search me and know my thoughts and if there is anything that offends God, I need to deal with it regularly..

*Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamesnyder51@gmail.com, website www.jamesnyderministries.com.*

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Worship 11 a.m.  
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# Obituaries

## DEATH NOTICES

• **Linda Swanner Gross**, 71, of Crawfordville, died Jan. 24, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey-Young Chapel 850-926-5919, www.familyfh.com

• **Edward Keith Hileman**, 62, of Crawfordville, died Jan. 24, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey-Young Chapel 850-926-5919, www.familyfh.com

# Marcia Mathis appointed NWF Faith Liaison

### Special to The Sun

Today, NWF Health Network (NWFHN) announced Marcia Mathis as the company's newly appointed Faith Liaison. The purpose of this new position is to dedicate and direct resources in support of Governor DeSantis' Faith and Community-Based Initiative. As Faith Liaison, Mathis will work hand-in-hand with faith-based organizations in support of the families and children served by NWFHN across 18 counties in

the Florida panhandle. "We proudly stand with Governor and First lady DeSantis in dedicating a full-time position to enhance our faith-based services in order to better address the needs of the children and families we serve in our 18-county region," said NWF Health Network CEO, Mike Watkins. He added, "Mathis's dedication to the work of enhancing child protection and behavioral health services, coupled with her own personal commitment

to her faith, makes her perfectly suited for this important role."

The goals of the Governor's council are to enlist, enable, empower and expand the work of volunteer faith-based and community-based organizations and it serves as the primary point of contact for faith-based institutions and community organizations in Florida.

"Faith-based partners play a crucial role in our communities and having their support and inspiration will reap great



Marcia Mathis

rewards for all involved this side of Heaven. I feel incredibly blessed to

be a part of NWF Health Network and to be able to serve children and families in this capacity," said Mathis.

Mathis has worked for the past five years as NWF Health's Community Engagement and Communications Director. Prior to that, she served in various capacities with the Florida Legislature for over two decades. She attended Liberty University, lives in Wakulla County, and attends River of Life Church where she volunteers in the Chil-

dren's Ministry.

NWF Health Network is a private not-for-profit organization that serves as the Network Management agency for child protection and behavioral health services across 18 counties in northwest Florida. The organization has established relationships with over 100 current faith-based organizations throughout the region and in partnership with the vast network of providers/partners under the NWF umbrella.

# Welding program success

### Special to The Sun

The Wakulla High School Welding program has been busier than ever in the past few months. The semester ended with 27 students earning their AWS certified welders certification, while also learning how to use a newly purchased Radnor plasma table. The most exciting project they completed this month was a Reef project for the Gulf through Eastern Shipbuilding.

The project began with students creating a plan with specific standards from ESB to create an artificial reef that will be used to help with the ecological coral growth in the Gulf of Mexico. Surrounding schools from the

area like Franklin County and Bay participated as well by creating their own reef at each school. Each class level, Welding Technology Fundamentals as well as the Welder Assistant course (Lively dual enrollment) worked on the Artificial Reef. The students were able to watch their work being moved by Eastern Shipbuilding in December.

Next on the agenda for our Welding program is preparing for the second round of certification testing through AWS. Mr. Grant is extremely excited to see his students take on Flux core testing since 90% passed the Stick test already. After testing is complete prior to Spring Break, WHS will be hosting a mini welding competition where a few local schools will compete on Wakulla High's campus. This mini competition will help prepare all of the participating schools for the Lively Technical College Welding Competition in May where Wakulla took 2nd place overall last year.

An artificial reef built by Wakulla High welding students is loaded onto a truck.



# \$1,500 donated to FWMA

### Special to The Sun

Benefit Trivia at the Crooked River Grill began in February of 2021, with the intention of partnering with local community organizations and raising funds and awareness for their causes. Trivia costs just \$1 per person, with the cash jackpot going to the winning team, which they can either keep or donate to the community partner. St James Bay then matches the donations at the end of the 3 month period, and donates the full amount to the organization. Personal donations are matched as well as the

contributions from each week's game. Previous community partners include the Franklin County Humane Society, Franklin Food (Farm Share), the Franklin County Senior Center, the Accelerated Reader Store at Franklin County Schools, Apalachicola Riverkeepers, the Carrabelle Artists Association, the ToyMakers of Franklin County, and the Florida Wild Mammal Association. Over \$8500 in donations have been made since benefit trivia began. Our current community partner is the Carrabelle History Museum.

# Sheriff's Report

Activity reported for the week of Jan. 20 to 27:

### FRIDAY, JAN. 20

• After a traffic stop for reckless driving, Vernon Rodgers was arrested for driving under the influence. Rodgers was observed driving a vehicle and unable to maintain a single lane. During the performance of field sobriety exercises Rodgers was noted to smell of alcohol and be unsteady on his feet. Rodgers was subsequently arrested for DUI and transported to the Wakulla County jail. Deputies Ernesto Trujillo and Todd Kent investigated.

### SATURDAY, JAN. 21

• Celeste Hernandez reported damage to her mailbox and fence. Upon viewing video surveillance, a vehicle can be seen pulling into the driveway then backing out damaging the property in the process. Total damage is estimated at approximately \$350. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Rudolph Hinson investigated.

• William Shockly reported a kayak stolen from his camp site at Mack Landing along with a deck bag with various items. The Kayak is valued at approximately \$1,500. This case has been sent to detectives

for further investigation. Deputy Rudolph Hinson investigated.

### SUNDAY, JAN. 22

• David Deitz reported theft of an outboard motor and power tools from his shed. Deitz was unable to provide an exact timeframe for the burglary at the time of the interview. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Sgt. Mike Alexander investigated.

### MONDAY, JAN. 23

• Alan Whitehead reported the theft of his gardening cart. Whitehead stated he last saw the cart on Friday, Jan. 20, under his carport. Whitehead valued the cart at approximately \$400. Whitehead advised

he simply wanted the incident to be documented with the Sheriff's Office. Deputy Jeremy Creel investigated.

### TUESDAY, JAN. 24

• Deputies Edwin Grove and James Williams responded to North Florida Medical in Panacea in reference to a dog bite. The victim, had been at an address on Spruce Avenue when she was bitten several times on the arm. The victim declined EMS. The dog was taken by the Animal Control Office and put into quarantine to be evaluated.

### WEDNESDAY, JAN. 25

• John Landrum reported finding a Bolt Arrow stuck in the siding of a finished new construction home which

was recently built. The arrow was possibly shot from a crossbow. Digital images were taken of this incident and Landrum signed an Affidavit of Prosecution pending the discovery of further information in this incident. Deputy Dylan Causseaux investigated.

• The pastor of Wakulla United Methodist Church reported that the church was broken into. Damage was caused to a rear door window of the Church and the office was rumbled through. Crime Scene responded along with detectives to process the scene. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Kendrick Gavin investigated.

### THURSDAY, JAN. 26

• Robert Haddock reported his residence at 55 Pam Drive was broken into on Wednesday, Jan. 25. The suspect, Shaun Haddock, had been arrested the evening before with some of the stolen property. A firearm that was in the suspect's possession at the time of his arrest was found to belong to Robert Haddock. Shaun Haddock provided a statement confessing to the burglary and was subsequently arrested. Deputy Dylan Causseaux investigated.

Report suspicious or illegal activity at 850-745-7100, or call 911 for emergencies.

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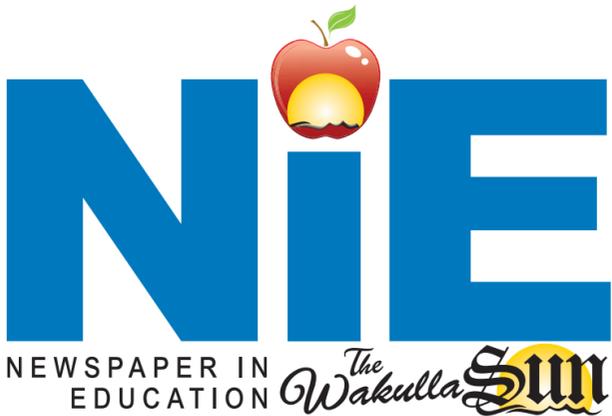
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## Use the News

### 1. Animated Oscars

The Oscar awards have been given out for 95 years to honor top achievements in movies. For families and kids, the category that gets the most attention each year is the award for Best Animated Feature Film. This award is given for full-length cartoons and stop-motion movies featuring puppets or other figures. This year the Disney movie "Turning Red," "Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio" and "Puss in Boots: The Last Wish" lead the field, along with the quirky family adventure "Marcel the Shell With Shoes On" and the sea monster story "The Sea Beast." Both "Pinocchio" and "Puss in Boots" are based on classic fairy tales. "Pinocchio" features a wooden puppet that comes to life, and "Puss in Boots" follows the life of a bold and adventurous cat. "Turning Red" is the story of a 13-year-old girl who turns into a giant red panda whenever she gets excited or has to deal with being a teen. Last year, the hit Disney movie "Encanto" won the Best Animated Feature award. Animated films use cartoons and art to tell stories in entertaining ways. In the newspaper or online, find and closely read stories about animated movies that are popular with families. Pick one you have seen, or would like to see, and write a movie review telling why it's a good choice for families. Or write a review of another animated movie you have seen and liked.

Goals: Reading closely what a text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task.

### 2. Great White

Talk about a road trip to remember! When 12-year-old Campbell Keenan traveled to Florida to watch his sister in a hockey tournament, the Massachusetts sixth grader didn't think that he'd be the one making headlines. Yet he turned out to be a newsmaker when he took a charter fishing trip with his family. One mile out from the city of Ft. Lauderdale, Campbell caught a great white shark! He knew right from the start that he had caught something big. The heavy-duty line on his fishing rod shot out about 300 yards, and when he tried to reel it in it felt "like a 50-pound weight." The fish was so strong, Campbell felt it might pull him over the side of the boat, even with others hanging onto him. It took him about 45 minutes to reel in his catch, and he didn't know until almost the end what he had caught. "When it got to 10 feet of the boat and we saw the belly, the captain was like, 'that right there is a great white shark!'" Campbell told WBZ-TV in Massachusetts. "I was so happy.

We all screamed." Campbell's shark was a female about 11 feet long and weighing more than 400 pounds. The crew didn't bring it on board the boat but tagged it and let it go. The tagging will allow scientists to track where the great white travels in the future. People often have amazing encounters with wildlife. In the newspaper or online, find and closely read a story about such an experience. Write the name of the wildlife species down the side of a sheet of paper. Use each letter in the name to start a complete sentence stating why the wildlife experience was amazing or memorable.

Goals: Writing informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly; citing specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions.

### 3. South Pole Meteorite

Meteorites are hunks of space rock that break off from comets or asteroids and crash into the Earth. Scientists study materials from meteorites to learn more about the history of the solar system and are excited

when they find a large one. On the continent of Antarctica near the Earth's South Pole, a new meteorite discovery has scientists buzzing this month. An expedition that ended January 16 came back with one of the largest meteorites ever found in Antarctica. The rare meteorite is about the size of a cantaloupe but weighs a hefty 17 pounds because it is packed with dense metals like iron and nickel. Because meteorites often melt as they pass through the Earth's atmosphere, their surface is usually smooth or glassy. Scientists study materials from meteorites, asteroids and comets to learn more about our solar system, how it was formed and how it has changed over time. In the newspaper or online, find and closely read a story about a space mission seeking to do this. Use what you read to write a paragraph or short paper detailing what the mission seeks to achieve, what it has achieved so far and why that is important.

Goals: Citing specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions; reading closely what a

text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it.

### 4. 'Toadzilla'

In comic books and movies, Godzilla is King of the Monsters. In the South Pacific nation of Australia, "Toadzilla" is King of the Toads. "Toadzilla" is a poisonous cane toad, and wildlife officials believe it may be the biggest ever found. It weighed a whopping six pounds and measured nearly 2 feet long when its legs were extended. After the toad was found in a national park, wildlife experts determined it was a female due to its size (female cane toads are larger than males). Cane toads feed mostly on insects, but they will eat just about anything, including reptiles, birds and even small mammals, the Washington Post newspaper reported. They can live up to 15 years in the wild and got their name when they were released in sugarcane fields to control insect pests. When attacked, cane toads secrete a milky poison from glands behind their shoulders that can be fatal to other wildlife. Cane toads are also dangerous to dogs that bite them. Cane toads and other wildlife have developed

different ways to protect themselves from attackers or predators. With a partner, use the newspaper and Internet to read stories about ways wildlife protect themselves. Pick two and create a chart comparing the advantages and disadvantages of how the two species protect themselves. Present your chart to the class.

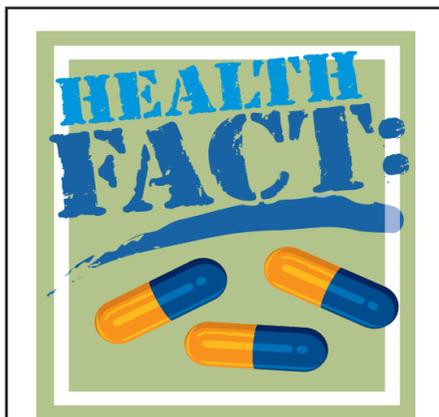
Goals: Organizing data using lists, concrete objects, pictures, tallies, tables, charts, diagrams and graphs; conducting short research projects that build knowledge about a topic.

### 5. Gardening Is Healthy!

Gardening is a great way to connect with nature, have fun and feed a family. It also is a great way to improve your health. According to a new scientific study, people who garden eat more fruits and vegetables, consume more fiber, get more exercise and feel less stress than those who don't garden. All those things contribute to healthier lifestyles and overall health. The study in the science journal Lancet Planetary Health focused on people who have participated in community gardens in which neighbors share

space for their crops, the Washington Post reported. Participants were all given health surveys that looked at such factors as body weight, waist size, physical activity and diet. "These findings provide concrete evidence that community gardening could play an important role in preventing cancer, chronic diseases and mental health disorders," said the senior author for the study. In late winter, people start thinking about things they would like to grow in gardens in the spring. In the newspaper or online, find photos of vegetables, flowers, fruits and herbs you might like to grow for your family. Clip or print photos and create an art collage called "My Family Garden." Write a paragraph to go in the middle of your collage (KOLE-ahj) telling why this garden would be special to you and your family.

Goals: Integrating information presented in different media or formats to develop a coherent understanding of a topic; conducting short research projects that build knowledge about a topic; using drawings or visual displays when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or points.



HUMAN HEARTS ARE THE SIZE OF A FIST. WHICH MAMMALS HAVE THE LARGEST HEARTS?

ANSWER: WHALES

### Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-10. The numbers in each row add up to the totals to the right. The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

2		1	7
	0		14
	7	6	21
19	11	12	

9	7	8
6	1	8
5	0	6
1	4	2

Solution

### Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

THARE NTOHM

Answer: Heart month

### THIS DAY IN...



### HISTORY

- 1653: THE CITY OF NEW AMSTERDAM, WHICH WILL LATER BE RENAMED THE CITY OF NEW YORK, IS INCORPORATED.
- 1876: THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL CLUBS IS FORMED.
- 1922: "ULYSSES" BY JAMES JOYCE IS PUBLISHED.



### MURMUR

a recurring sound in the heart usually indicative of disease or damage

### How they SAY that in...

- ENGLISH:** Vein
- SPANISH:** Vena
- ITALIAN:** Vena
- FRENCH:** Veine
- GERMAN:** Vene



THE BEATING SOUND OF THE HEART IS CAUSED BY THE VALVES OF THE HEART OPENING AND CLOSING.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: STETHOSCOPE





## CHAMBER NEWS

# Luncheon catered by Kast Net at Sherlock Springs

By **HEATHER BRYAN**  
Of the Chamber

Our very first Chamber Networking Luncheon of 2023 took place on a very rainy Wednesday, Jan. 25. Despite the bad weather, we had 71 members and guests join us for lunch in one of our favorite locations: the beautiful Lodge at Sherlock Springs. The Kast Net catered, and the menu consisted of eggrolls, Lo Mein, fried rice, and their famous Kentucky Bourbon Chicken. For dessert, vanilla, chocolate and red velvet cupcakes.

Mary Wallace announced our 14 new members from November to January. OneBlood Inc., Integrity Healthcare and Training Solutions, Southern Oaks Real Estate, Rockstar Bin Cleaning, Emerald Striping, Sweet Magnolia Inn, Dave Marker, Timber and Tides Real Estate, Dentistry By The Sea – Panacea, Wakulla Dance Academy, Barineau Heating and Air, Tk Creative LLC, Sign Gypsies of Wakulla and the Big Bend, Sweet Magnolia General Store and More. Two of our new members were there and spoke about their business. Brandon McGee with Rockstar Bin Cleaning and Leigh Anne Batt with Barineau Heating and Air Conditioning.

As we should, there were quite the number of introductions this



Chamber members at Sherlock Springs for lunch, catered by the Kast Net.

afternoon. Mary Wallace introduced guest Elizabeth Johnson owner of the web design and branding company Sophisticated Southern Grace. Keep Wakulla County Beautiful's Tammie Nason announced two of their board members June Davis and Steve Sanabria. Amy Geiger with Capital City Bank introduced Lisa McPherson as their new Investments Advisor. David Batson introduced Ben Sharkey as the Crawfordville Zaxbys new General Manager. Camille Duke owner of Jeep Girl Realty introduced their new agent Marina Jade Patrick. Our members Misty Bird owner of 30 Palms Event Venue, and Crystal Fogg owner of Crystal Clean Maid Services came to their first Networking Luncheon!

More than 20 items were brought to give away! Thank you to Capital City Home Loans, Sue's Art Workshop, Shepard Account-



Luncheon MC Mary Wallace and Petra Shuff draw the name of Elaine Gary as the cash winner.

ing, Kent's Property Preservation, English Financial, Lionel and Marianne Dazevedo with Exit Realty, Sand and Soul Designs, Urban Catalyst, Capital City Bank, Sophisticated Southern Grace, The Wakulla Sun, Barn's Spirits, Medical AR Solutions, Sherlock Springs, and Oyster Radio. Announcements and Upcoming events and dates to look out for:

- Paulina Pendarvis the Profession-

al Relations Liaison with the Big Bend Hospice announced the 20th Road Runners Chili Cook Off Fundraiser for the Big Bend Hospice on February 4th for information see the Chamber Events Calendar.

- Mary Wallace announced on behalf of Megan and Jordan from English Financial that their Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening is on Feb. 23rd. Entertainment by Jordan Miller and Highway Natives and catering by Posey's Up the Creek Seafood Steam Room and Oyster Bar. For more information see the Chamber Events Calendar.

- The Senior Center Fundraising Celebrity Dinner is on March 1st at The Seineyard at Wildwood. Local Dignitaries will be serving, all proceeds go to the programs at The Senior Center. For more information see the Chamber Event Calendar.

- Richard Abrams owner of Sherlock Springs announced the Vietnam Veteran's Of America Big Bend Chapter #96 Antique Auto and Motorcycle Swap-Meet at Sherlock Springs on February 4th. For more information call Joe (850) 212-2587 or Rick (850) 545-1811

- Ron Copland with Oyster Radio announced they have partnered with the Wakulla Tourist Development Council. For more information on this partnership or how to advertise with Oyster Radio contact Ron at (850) 323-1391

- Sue Scott with Sue's Art Workshop has a wide array of classes available in February and March. No experience needed! For more information see the Chamber Events Calendar.

Mary Wallace announced our Executive Board that has been sworn in for the 2023 year, President Amy Geiger, President Elect Jeanie Booth, Vice President Frank Messersmith, Treasurer Jessica Revell, Secretary Megan Smith, and our Past President Greg James. She also announced we will be adding a luncheon back to July.



A ribbon-cutting was held for Integrity Healthcare and Training Solutions at their office in North Pointe Center on Jan. 19.

24th Annual



# Valentine's Day Festival & Parade

AT AZALEA PARK  
SATURDAY, FEB. 11, 2023

Want to participate  
in the parade?  
Registration is **FREE!**

**Color Fun Run – 8:00 a.m.**

The Wak-Color run is a 1 mile Color Run for suicide awareness and prevention!

**New this year**, a color run will take place at 8:00 AM! The Wak-Color run is a suicide awareness campaign that is entirely free to the community! Prior to the run, we will gather to listen to a presentation from The Jason Foundation, an organization whose mission is suicide awareness/prevention! Due to the nature of this conversation, it is recommended all participants are aged 12+ and all underage attendees must have an adult present.

All participants must register. Tickets are limited to 250. All participants will be provided with a WakColor Run t-shirt, sunglasses and a bandana, while supplies last.

By **Wakulla County FL Department of Health**

**Line-Up 9 a.m.  
starts at 10 a.m.**

**Cash Prize awarded  
for 1st Place \$200.00  
2nd Place \$150.00  
3rd Place \$100.00**

Does your business want to participate in our Valentine's Day Festival? Go to [www.wakullarotary.org/Valentines](http://www.wakullarotary.org/Valentines) for all forms to participate.

## Vendors Needed!

[WakullaRotary@yahoo.com](mailto:WakullaRotary@yahoo.com)

Want a great way to advertise your business? You can get your business name out there by sponsoring the Valentine's Festival!

**All proceeds to benefit High School Scholarships the Rotary Club of Wakulla Provides!**

# Winners of Wakulla Middle School Science Fair

## Special to The Sun

The Wakulla Middle School Science Fair was held on Thursday, December 15. Charlotte Hoover, the fair's coordinator, oversaw the fair and invited local business people and community members to judge the fair. They were Cal Jamison (Retired DEP/Wakulla Springs Water Quality), Padraic Juarez (Florida Health), Sharon Wolfe (Retired Teacher/Shadeville Elementary), Terri Johnson (FSU/Medical Librarian), Dale Holcomb (Retired/Florida Health OPS), Robin Will (Retired/St. Marks Wildlife Refuge), Eric Livingston (Retired Water Management) and Laura Lawhon (School Board Member/District 5).

The fair showcased the end products of students learning about the Scientific Method in their science classes. This year's winners were:

### Research

- 1st place – Hadley Brown
- 2nd place – Jon Tyler Ripstein
- 3rd place – Brody Baker

### Chemistry

- 1st place – Kaitlyn Bickford
- 2nd place – Annalynn Martin
- 3rd place – Madeline McGuire

### Technology & Engineering

- 1st place – Holden Stroud
- 2nd place – Arabella Martinez

### Earth Science

- 1st place – Declan Walsh

### Consumer Science

- 1st place – Matthew Byrne
- 2nd place – Logan Hand
- 3rd place – Tucker High

### Behavioral & Social Science

- 1st place – Hannah Hall
- 2nd place – William Derrenberger

### Environmental Science

- 1st place – Emily Matson
- 2nd place – Miles Briethaupt
- 3rd place – Mason Dimmen

### Physics

- 1st place – Corbin Ferreira
- 2nd place – Sylvia Boykin
- 3rd place – Destiny Brannon

### Inventions

- 1st place – Logan Crum
- 2nd place – Collin Ryan
- 3rd place – Lillian Brown

The two projects winning best of show were 8th grader Kaitlyn Bickford for Chemistry and 6th grader Logan Crum for Inventions. Kaitlyn's project was an experiment to see if colored candles burn faster than white candles. Logan made a homemade swamp cooler to see if he could cool air without electricity. There were 56 projects entered into the Science Fair.



Best of show: 6th grader Logan Crum and 8th grader Kaitlyn Bickford.



Wakulla Middle Science Fair participants.

# THEY'RE HERE!

# ALUMA



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[WWW.BIGBENDHOSPICE.ORG](http://WWW.BIGBENDHOSPICE.ORG)



If you or someone you know could benefit from Hospice Services, contact us at (850) 878-5310.

# VARIETY SHOW

## Fundraiser

# Saturday, FEB 11<sup>th</sup>

Sopchoppy Auditorium  
164 Yellow Jacket Ave. Sopchoppy FL

# Wakulla

COMMUNITY

# Theater

Food Trucks 5p.m. • Show Starts 7p.m.

Featuring

Local Singers ~ Musicians ~ Dancers ~ Comedian  
Drama by Wakulla High Theater Group  
Ventriloquism ... and more!

Tickets: Available now at McIvers Flooring & Capital City Bank In Crawfordville - \$15.00

\$20.00 At the door

# San Marcos Mexican Grill & Cantina

Six different flavors of GREAT Margarita!  
GREAT Food...GREAT people...GREAT Fun!

Lunch Specials • Monday – Friday 11:00 – 3:00 p.m. *Indoor & Outdoor seating*

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fajitas.....11.50 <small>Chicken or steak with rice, beans, lettuce, sour cream, guacamole, pico de gallo &amp; tortillas.</small></li> <li>2. Speedy Gonzales ..... 7.50 <small>Enchilada, taco, rice &amp; beans.</small></li> <li>3. Burrito, Tostada, &amp; Taco ..... 8.29</li> <li>4. Burrito, Enchilada, &amp; Taco ..... 8.99</li> <li>5. Beef Tostada, Tamal, &amp; Rice..... 8.20</li> <li>6. Burrito, Rice, &amp; Beans..... 7.50</li> <li>7. Taco, Rice, &amp; Beans ..... 7.50</li> <li>8. Burrito, Chile con Carne, &amp; Rice ..... 8.50</li> <li>9. Burrito, Flauta, &amp; Taco ..... 8.99</li> <li>10. Chile Pablano, Guacamole Salad, &amp; Beans ..... 8.99</li> <li>11. Burrito with Enchilada Sauce, Taco, &amp; Tamal..... 8.50</li> <li>12. Burrito Supreme ..... 8.50 <small>Bean &amp; Beef Burrito, topped with Cheese &amp; Salsa. Served with Lettuce, guacamole, &amp; sour cream.</small></li> <li>13. Two Enchiladas, Rice &amp; Beans..... 9.25</li> <li>14. Quesadilla, Rice, &amp; Beans..... 7.50</li> <li>15. San Marcos Salad..... 7.50 <small>Lettuce, ground beef or chicken, cheese, guacamole, sour cream, &amp; tomatoes in a crispy shell.</small></li> <li>16. Your Choice of Eggs..... 9.25 <small>Huevos rancheros, eggs, with chorizo or Mexican style, served with rice, beans and tortilla.</small></li> <li>17. Beef or chicken chimichanga ..... 7.50 <small>Beef or chicken chimichanga, topped with cheese dip, served with lettuce, guacamole, sour cream, &amp; tomatoes.</small></li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>18. Burrito, Enchilada, Tostada, &amp; Taco.....10.25</li> <li>19. Quesadilla, Tostada, &amp; Taco ..... 8.50</li> <li>20. Chile Poblano, Flauta, and Taco ..... 8.99</li> <li>21. Quesadilla Suprema ..... 8.99 <small>Beef or chicken, topped with lettuce, guacamole, sour cream, &amp; tomatoes</small></li> <li>22. Tostada, Chile Poblano, &amp; Flauta..... 8.50</li> <li>23. Grilled Chicken Salad .....10.25 <small>Grilled Chicken Breast. Served on a bed of lettuce, &amp; shredded cheese with pico de gallo</small></li> <li>24. Steak Burrito.....10.25 <small>Served with rice, beans, lettuce, guacamole, sour cream, pico de gallo.</small></li> <li>25. Grilled Chicken Breast .....10.25 <small>Served with rice or fries.</small></li> <li>26. Taco Salad ..... 8.50 <small>Steak or grilled chicken, with lettuce, guacamole, tomatoes, sour cream, &amp; cheese in a crispy shell.</small></li> <li>27. Chicken Fingers &amp; Fries..... 9.99</li> <li>28. Carnitas.....10.25 <small>Fried pork chunks with onions, and Mexican pieces. Served with rice, beans, &amp; tortillas.</small></li> <li>29. Chilaquiles <small>Served with rice and beans, or two eggs. Go to : <a href="https://www.toasttab.com/sanmarcoscrawfordville/v3">https://www.toasttab.com/sanmarcoscrawfordville/v3</a> To see kids menu, Salads, Vegeteriano, sides and full menu!</small></li> </ol>
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