

OUR FIRST ISSUE

By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**
Editor

This is the first issue of The Wakulla Sun, a new newspaper with a mission to cover Wakulla County.

Our goal, simply, is to report local news and events fairly and accurately, to produce a newspaper locally without interference from a corporate parent.

Community journalism is the backbone of what we do, report-

ing on the people and places in Wakulla. We look forward to providing you, the reader, with meaningful, trustworthy journalism.

We will be a staunch defender of free speech and the public's right to know. We are the community's watchdog over the governments that serve us. We are the catalyst to initiate positive change for the betterment of the community and will be the No. 1 information provider in Wakulla County.

We trust and believe in the pow-

er of our readers. Without you, we wouldn't be here.

We welcome our readers to share insight, feedback and news tips. Send us a Letter to the Editor.

Also, a sincere thank you to all of those who have offered your support and encouragement as we've undertaken this.

If you're in Crawfordville, stop by our office at 12 Arran Road – the old Mowrey Law Office with the awnings – and say hello.

Meet the staff of your local newspaper

Staff Report

The staff of The Wakulla Sun have more than 80 years of combined experience with newspapers.

Here's who we are:

WILLIAM SNOWDEN

Editor and publisher William Snowden started in journalism nearly 40 years ago as a reporter for the Marietta, Ga., Daily Journal. He later worked for the Tallahassee Democrat, Capital City magazine, and the Gadsden County Times before joining The Wakulla News. He was with that paper for 26 years, serving as editor and general manager for the last 10 or so years.

Snowden has won numerous awards for in-depth and investigative reporting. He is also a playwright with plays produced off-Broadway, regionally and in Europe.

He is a member and former president of the Rotary Club of Wakulla, serves as secretary of Big Bend Hospice's Wakulla Advisory Council, and is a member of the Wakulla County Chamber of Commerce.



William Snowden

He is married to Meredith Woodrum Snowden and they have three adult daughters and two grandchildren.

LYNDA KINSEY

Sales representative Lynda Kinsey has been involved in sales and marketing for her whole career. She started with marketing at Wakulla Springs Lodge back when it was owned by Ed Ball handling special events. That experience in hospitality later came in handy when she joined the Wakulla News as office manager and later as sales representative. She was also staff photographer,



Lynda Kinsey

and was a contributor to the Working Waterfronts project focusing on local fishermen. She left the paper after 33 years.

In her spare time, Lynda loves yard and estate sales and finding bargains. She has volunteered with Florida Wild Mammal Association and Habitat for Humanity, and has supported numerous other local organizations.

Lynda's paramour of 18 years is Thomas Owen. She has an adult daughter, Ashley Kinsey, who lives in suburban Washington, D.C.



Eric Stanton

ERIC STANTON

Wakulla native Eric Stanton is the newspaper's graphic artist and handles IT and production matters. He's a graduate of Wakulla High School, attended Tallahassee Community College before joining The Wakulla News as graphic artist almost 20 years ago.

In his spare time, he is an avid scuba diver, loves kayaking, and being outdoors.

He has done volunteer work for Florida Wild Mammal Association, Gulf Specimen Marine Lab, the Wakulla County Chamber of Commerce, and COAST Charter School.



Riddhi Patel

RIDDHI PATEL

Riddhi Patel was valedictorian of Wakulla High School in 2018. She graduated from Florida State University in 2021 with a Bachelor of Science in Cell and Molecular Neuroscience. She joined The Wakulla News as a correspondent in May 2021.

In 2019, she was Global Scholar through FSU and worked with the non-profit Light of Hope Youth Initiative in Kenya.

She is the reporter for The Wakulla Sun.

HELP SUPPORT COMMUNITY JOURNALISM

Soon you will be able to make a tax-deductible donation to support The Wakulla Sun

Very soon you can support The Wakulla Sun with a tax-deductible donation to help us cover the stories that matter to you.

By donating, you help us keep citizens informed, hold officials accountable and cover the most important topics in our community.

Your contributions will equip our newsroom to better serve you and all our readers.

That means:

- More reporters on the street
- More local news about our community
- More local content on the environment and local

businesses

A little bit goes a long way. With your help, we can keep the presses running through hard times.

We would very much appreciate your contribution.

William Snowden
Editor & Publisher
The Wakulla Sun

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT DONATING

How does my donation get to my local newspaper?

Donations are processed

through the Florida Community News Fund and then sent to the newspaper you select.

Are donations tax deductible?

Yes, donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

The Florida Community News Fund is a program administered by the Florida Press Foundation, tax ID #59-2449377, a 501(c)3 organization.

The Florida Press Foundation is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization with its principal place of business in Flor-

ida. The Florida Press Foundation is registered to solicit charitable contributions in Florida. Financial and other information about the Florida Press Foundation's purpose, programs and activities can be obtained by visiting <https://floridapressfoundation.org> or by writing to Florida Press Foundation at 336 East College Avenue, Suite 304, Tallahassee FL 32301.

A copy of the official registration (ch63336) and financial information may be obtained from the Division Of Consumer Services by calling 1-800-HELP-FLA

(1-800-435-7352) toll-free within the state or by visiting <https://www.Fdacs.Gov/consumer-resources/charities> and selecting the check-a-charity search feature. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.

What payment types do you accept?

We accept donations by card or check. If by check, payment must be made to the Florida Press Foundation and designate you want the donation to go to The Wakulla Sun.

DECEMBER MURDER

Man arrested in Purify Bay Road murder

Stuart Mauney is charged with the Dec. 12 killing of man found in roadway

By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**
Editor

Detectives with the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office arrested Stuart Earl Mauney, 66, on Friday, Feb. 18 for the December murder of a man on Purify Bay Road.

The name of the murder victim is not being released by the sheriff's office after the victim's family invoked Marsy's Law, the recently approved state constitutional amendment intended to protect crime victims.

Back on Dec. 12, a citizen found a deceased male lying on the dirt portion of Purify Bay Road, just south of the kiosk at the entrance to the St. Marks Wildlife Refuge, and reported it to the sheriff's office at 1:22 p.m. Deputies responded and secured the scene. Two large standard poodles were running throughout the area,

which was later determined to be significant. The investigation was assigned to detectives of the sheriff's Criminal Investigation Division.

The man who discovered the body in the road told The Wakulla Sun that he was out that day driving down Purify Bay Road and saw several trucks and a group of men dressed in hunting clothes. After he turned around at the end of the run and came back by the spot, there was a body in the road. He was on the scene when deputies arrived and said the dead man appeared to have been shot three times.

That area of the refuge is hunted for general gun, mobility impaired, archery, and small game hunts. The mobility impaired hunt took place Dec. 11-13, and was to be followed by the general gun hunt Dec. 17-19, 2021.

The murder victim was an



Stuart Mauney

authorized hunter for the upcoming general gun hunt, so he was permitted to scout the area ahead of time.

Detectives determined the murder victim died from gunshot wounds. Among the items collected from the scene were tire and shoe impressions, the victim's cell phone, and multiple spent shell casings. A search of

the victim's cell phone revealed that on that day, at 1:06 p.m., it was used to photograph the license plate on the rear of a red Ford F-150 pickup truck registered to Mauney.

Detectives interviewed a hunter who stated that on Dec. 12, he spoke with a man walking two large poodles in the refuge. The hunter said he then drove to the kiosk on Purify Bay Road and had a conversation with the victim. According to the hunter, the man with the poodles arrived in a red Ford F-150 pickup, parked, and walked over to the kiosk. When presented with photographic lineups, the hunter identified Mauney and the murder victim as the two men at the kiosk. The hunter stated he left Mauney and the victim at the kiosk between 1 and 1:15 p.m.

On Dec. 12, a search warrant was executed at

Mauney's residence, located about 1.5 miles from where the victim had been found. Among other items, detectives seized Mauney's red Ford F-150 pickup truck, his cell phone, and a pair of shoes with a tread pattern consistent with those found at the crime scene.

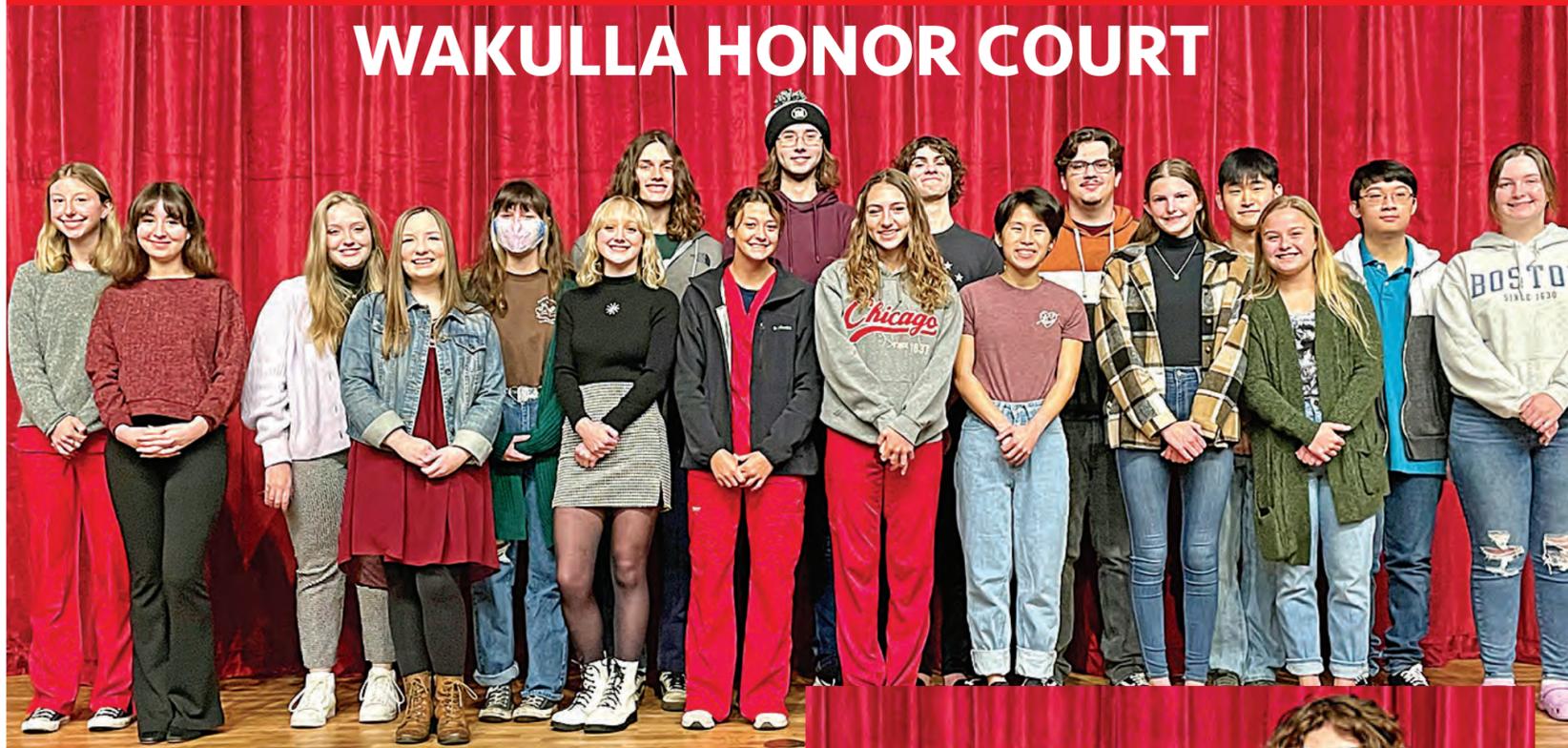
A search of Mauney's cell phone revealed a photo of a box of the same caliber, brand and type ammunition as the spent shell casings found at the crime scene.

On Feb. 16, detectives were informed that the FDLE Crime Lab had linked Mauney's pickup truck tires and a shoe seized from his residence to impressions found at the crime scene.

On Feb. 18, detectives obtained an arrest warrant charging Mauney with second degree murder. Mauney was arrested and booked into the Wakulla County Jail.

20 TOP STUDENTS

WAKULLA HONOR COURT



Wakulla High School announces the 2021-22 Honor Court students, led by Valedictorian Stephen Hartwein and Salutatorian Samantha Piotrowski.

The Honor Court for the graduating Class of 2022 is Stephen Henley Hartwein, Samantha Paige Piotrowski, Clara Marie Alford, Victoria Michelle Beck, Bailee Madison Bendeck, Ryan Daniel Brabham, Victoria Leigh Dichio, Gabriella Marie Jacobs, Ryan Van Ly, Annika Michele Matlock, Genevieve Kate Montgomery, Kaitlyn EmmaRee Newell, Allie Alida Nutting, Casey Adam Paarlberg, Tristan Dale Silcox, Lily

Marie Stolk, Kanoa Montgomery Tucker, Natalie Jean Whaley, Marina Huanle Whitsell, and Isaac Hwan Yu.

The Honor Court Banquet will take place this spring and will include dinner at Wakulla Springs Lodge for students and a presentation at Wakulla High School auditorium to follow. The presentation will feature speeches by teachers of the honoree's choice. "To maintain such a high level of academic rigor with high honors is a great accomplishment and speaks to these students' perseverance and commitment to excellence," said Superintendent Bobby Pearce.



Salutatorian Samantha Piotrowski and Valedictorian, Stephen Hartwein.

PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE WAKULLA SUN

\$20 million for additional career programs

Triumph Gulf Coast grant will expand career and technical education programs at Wakulla High School

By **RIDDHI PATEL**
Reporter

The War Eagle Career Academy will be a partnership between Wakulla County Schools and Lively Technical College aimed at expanding access to career and technical education (CTE) programs for local students.

A \$20 million grant awarded by Triumph Gulf Coast on Thursday, Feb. 10 to Wakulla County Schools will go towards the creation of a career academy directly on the Wakulla High School campus. The academy will include the expansion of CTE programs, certifications, and post-secondary opportunities through a partnership with Lively Technical College in Tallahassee.

The grant money distributed by Triumph Gulf Coast is money from BP intended to help mitigate damages to the coastal Florida counties, including Wakulla, affected by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon



Superintendent Bobby Pearce

oil spill.

Wakulla High School students have had access to a handful of CTE programs and industry certifications over the years including opportunities to receive certifications in Autodesk through the engineering academy and certifications in ServSafe through the culinary program.

Such programs have touched a variety of industries including healthcare,

hospitality, and technology. Some of the programs have also included partnerships with Lively to offer career focused dual enrollment courses on the Wakulla High School campus.

Wakulla Assistant Superintendent Sunny Chancy said the career academy will "expand on our career dual enrollment that we already have in place" and will "offer more certifications and get them ready for the workforce."

Potential new CTE programs or extensions to existing programs the academy will offer include coding, artificial intelligence, information technology, cloud computing, digital design, banking/finance/investments, and automotive/diesel/marine technology.

These programs will be linked with additional opportunities for students to receive industry certifications. Those opportunities will include the ability to receive CompTIA, AWS (Amazon Web Services), and other certifications. Many

of these programs and certifications will be stacked so that students can build on their skills and achieve foundational, intermediate, and advanced certifications in their chosen industry.

"It provides our students with certifications that they can use immediately upon graduation," said Wakulla Superintendent Bobby Pearce. "With help from Lively and Triumph Gulf Coast, Wakulla will be able to continue its push to provide options for our students as they exit our system, our adults, and continue our reputation of excellence."

Whether academy students choose to pursue further post-secondary education in the industry they chose in high school, immediately enter the workforce based on their certifications, or choose a completely different path, the career academy will aim to prepare students with the certifications, transferable skills, and career planning

they may need.

Beyond industry certification, the academy will also work to help students build skills that will transfer between industries and allow them to succeed in whichever path they choose. Job placement, career planning, and on-the-job training will also be available through the academy and its programs – allowing students to be better prepared to enter the workforce.

The grant application notes that the goal of the academy is to "fill gaps" in "high-skill, high-wage, in-demand jobs," and ultimately the hope is to expand the post-secondary options and opportunities available to local students.

According to a statement released by Wakulla County Schools, "The Academy classes will be open to K-12 students during the school day, K-12 and adult students during the summer, and adult students in the evenings."

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Colby Sparkman's election lawsuit argued

Circuit Judge Ron Flury weighs a decision after both sides motion for summary judgment

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

Wakulla Circuit Judge Ron Flury heard arguments in a zoom call from attorneys in Colby Sparkman's lawsuit against the Wakulla County Canvassing Board on Monday, Feb. 7.

Sparkman was a candidate for Wakulla County property appraiser in August 2020 who lost the race by three votes to candidate Ed Brimmer.

At the crux of the case are 12 ballots that were rejected by the canvassing board because of a lack of a signature or the signature did not match the elector's signature on file.

One voter did cure her ballot but then asked, after learning of the close margin, that her vote not be counted. The voter, Debra Russell, was a former employee of the property appraiser's office

under Donnie Sparkman, Colby Sparkman's father. Russell had sued the office alleging sexual harassment by a deputy property appraiser, and was later fired.

Russell asked that her vote not be counted because, given the razor-thin margin, it would be obvious how she voted.

Mark Herron, the attorney for Sparkman, asked the judge to order that Russell's ballot be counted and that the other 11 voters be given an opportunity to cure their ballots.

Attorneys Leonard Collins, representing Brimmer, and Wayne Malaney, representing the canvassing board, contended errors were made with the election – but contended there was no fraud and no effort to help one candidate or another.

"There was no corruption, fraud or misconduct that subverted the will of the peo-



Colby Sparkman was a candidate for property appraiser in the 2020 election.

ple," Collins told the judge.

He also stressed that there were actually 53 ballots with problems, but that the supervisor of elections office worked with voters to fix problems on 41 of those ballots.

Malaney noted that "20 percent of voters chose not to respond for whatever reason."

Judge Flury did not indicate how he will rule, only

saying he is taking the arguments under advisement. He asked for proposed orders to be submitted to him by Feb. 18.

Much of the controversy in the case arises from Sparkman being told not to contact any of the 12 voters with the rejected ballots. He asked for and was given the names of the voters and acknowledged in deposition that he had called one, but couldn't remember who it was.

A voter called County Administrator David Edwards with concerns about Sparkman calling voters, and Edwards called two canvassing board members – County Judge Jill Walker, and County Commissioner Quincee Messersmith. Both said the issue would be brought before the canvassing board and then-Supervisor of Elections Buddy Wells.

Edwards walked over to Wells' office and confronted

the supervisor "cussing and raising Cain," according to Wells' deposition.

Wells said he overreacted to Edwards' concerns by instructing then-Deputy Supervisor of Elections Joe Morgan to call Sparkman and order him not to call voters.

It was later acknowledged by Wells that that was a mistake, that Sparkman was entitled to call voters to alert them to problems with their ballot if he wanted to.

The election night had more drama when Sparkman was initially declared the election winner before Wells realized that a number of precincts had not been counted in the race. After those votes were tallied, Brimmer was declared the victor by four votes.

After a recount by the canvassing board a few days later, the margin was narrowed to three votes for Brimmer.

SOPCHOPPY CITY COMMISSION

City to amend alcohol sale regulations

Will allow Sunday alcohol sales at local taproom after a 4-1 vote

By RIDDHI PATEL
Reporter

The Sopchoppy City Commission voted 4-1 at their February meeting in favor of adopting an ordinance amending two sections of the code about the sale of on-premises alcohol consumption.

The Sopchoppy ordinance on alcohol had stated that alcohol sold for on-premises consumption could only be sold from Monday through Thursday from 4 to 9 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from noon to 10 p.m. It also specified that "taprooms" could only sell the beers and malt beverages they brewed.

Back in December, the owner of Civic Brewing, Elliot Seidler, asked if the city would allow him to sell wine from a distributor and if the hours he can sell could be extended. He hoped to be able to open earlier during the week and open for a few hours on Sunday.

An ordinance was proposed to amend the hours of sale and additional requirements sections of the alcoholic beverages chapter of the code, and public hearings for the ordinance were held at the January and February commission meetings.

The final ordinance amended the permitted hours of sale to be Monday through Thursday from noon to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday from noon to 10 p.m., and Sunday from 1 to 6 p.m. It also amended the additional requirements section to allow "taprooms" to sell wine.

Opinions on the ordinance at the second public hearing at the Feb. 15 city commission meeting varied among members.

Sopchoppy City Commissioners Fred McClendon, Richard Harden, and Roger McKenzie were all concerned about the permission to sell alcohol for on-premises consumption on Sunday – asking if selling on Sunday

was a necessity.

Seidler said that the ability to sell on Sunday would positively impact the brewery's success because increased beach-going traffic on that day would mean more potential customers.

Harden and McKenzie mentioned the outpouring of community concerns about the brewery prior to

all Elliot wants to do is go 1 to 6 (o'clock)," said Sopchoppy Mayor Lara Edwards in response to the concerns about Sunday sales.

McClendon spoke about how Sopchoppy is a quiet town, and he wondered where the line should be drawn in such situations.

While Seidler was ready to compromise again at this

Lewis said, adding that the relationship was positive and that he had not heard any complaints about Civic Brewery's alcohol sales.

Lewis said the ordinance should be approved including permitting Sunday sales at establishments like Civic Brewery considering that the city is not completely dry on Sundays and the

it's cute, it's safe," said Sopchoppy resident Nancy Paul. She added that the brewery has responsible business practices related to its alcohol sales while cans and bottles bought at the Chevron or Dollar General often end up as litter.

No other community members spoke in favor of or against the ordinance.

While Harden was still unsure of Sunday sales in breweries, he did note that at the previous hearing he asked for Seidler's originally requested start of sale time of noon on Sundays to be moved later, and that Seidler fulfilled the request by changing the requested opening time to 1 p.m.

Lewis made a motion to approve the ordinance, and the motion was seconded by Edwards. Harden and McKenzie voted in favor of adopting the ordinance while McClendon cast the lone dissenting vote.

In another matter, City Commissioners Nathan Lewis and Richard Harden both announced they would be stepping down from the city commission because of Florida Retirement System (FRS) rules.

Currently, FRS requires that anyone who retires from a state job cannot work or volunteer for another FRS affiliated position within a year of retirement. Retirement benefits cannot be received during months an FRS retiree works for or volunteers with an FRS-participating employer during the one-year re-employment limitation period.

Commissioner Lewis will resign at the end of February and Commissioner Harden will resign at the end of March.

The city commission will be looking to appoint qualified candidates to the commission in their places for terms that will end in 2024.

SOPCHOPPY CLERK



Ashley Schilling is designated as Master Municipal Clerk

Sopchoppy City Clerk Ashley Schilling recently earned the Master Municipal Clerk certification which is the highest designation granted by the International Institute for Municipal Clerks. Jackie Lawhon, a past president of the Florida Association of City Clerks and the former Sopchoppy city clerk,

presented Schilling with a plaque and pin to commemorate the designation. From left to right, city commissioners Roger McKenzie, Fred McClendon, Richard Harden, Jackie Lawhon, Ashley Schilling, Nathan Lewis and Mayor Lara Edwards. (Photo by Riddhi Patel)

its opening, and it was noted that Sunday was left off the table during those discussions.

"I think its an injustice to Civic Brewery to not let him run a responsible business – a local business – and let him profit off of that while the Chevron station is selling cases of beer all day throughout Sunday when

meeting to see if to-go orders would be permissible as it would work similarly to the beer sales at the Chevron and Dollar General, City Commissioner Nathan Lewis is added another layer to the discussion.

"We gave Elliot an opportunity to demonstrate what his relationship to the community was going to be,"

lack of major complaints about the Sunday issue at the previous hearing for the ordinance.

With some commissioners on the fence about how to vote, the floor was opened to any community members who wanted to share their view on the issue.

"I support Elliot in everything he does – it's quaint,

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“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.”

Opinions

How we got here: The start of The Wakulla Sun



By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**
Editor

I didn't set out to start a newspaper, but I didn't like the changes that the corporate owner intended to make with the newspaper I had been with for 26 years.

First came the staff reductions: two positions were cut, including an inside sales person/receptionist who had been with the paper for 5 years.

Then came the loss of local control – ads and pages would no longer be built at the newspaper but at a “hub” out of state. The design of pages would now be a template for cookie-cutter design for the dozens of newspapers being built.

Three times I offered to buy the newspaper – I wanted to keep it a local, community paper. Three times I was told no.

So I turned in my resignation before Christmas with no idea what I was going to do next.

On a Monday after the holidays, the first person I told I was leaving and why asked if I had thought about starting my own newspaper. I proceeded to tell him all the reasons that wouldn't work. The worst of it was that I felt I needed to resign from all the organizations I was involved in – Rotary Club, where I had been appointed president a second time to fill the term of the former president who stepped down for personal reasons; plus Big Bend Hospice's local advisory board, and the Wakulla Wonderful committee planning the celebration of Wakulla County's founding with a festival on March 12. To me, the prospect of giving up that community involvement was heart-breaking but I felt I needed to walk away from it.

I told other people, they gave me the same response: Why don't you start your own paper? I told them why it wouldn't work. By Thursday of that week, I was telling yet another person why I couldn't and something reached a tipping point. True, there would be very significant hurdles to overcome. You'd be starting from nothing and trying

to assemble all the systems and processes to generate a paper.

But these were solveable problems.

(I'm not using any names in this, but the first person I told and the person who made me wonder if maybe it could work are next-door neighbors with each other. In a conversation over the fence, the two of them actually worked out their roles in the story.)

When I got home that evening, I told Meredith, my wife, that I was thinking about starting a newspaper. She was hesitant. She was fully supportive of buying an established newspaper – but starting a new one?

But it was better than some of my earlier ideas, one of which was to go to racing school.

“To do what?” she asked.

“Be a race driver.”

(Long silence. Throat clearing, then:) “Have you thought of anything else?”

Though I wasn't fully committed to it, I began to think of what would need to happen to start a new business.

I began to tell people I was thinking about starting a paper. The reaction was always supportive. People were excited.

And what really pushed it over the line were those peo-

ple who offered financial support. I didn't take it, but the fact that people were willing to put up money to back the paper made me believe that it really could work.

(Soon, we will be set up to accept tax-deductible donations to support community journalism through the Florida Community News Fund, a 501(c)3 operated by the Florida Press Foundation.)

In private conversations, the other members of the newspaper staff – salesperson Lynda Kinsey and graphic artist Eric Stanton – said if I started a paper, they would join. We began referring to it as “our” paper.

They both submitted their resignations to come here. And I want to acknowledge what a giant leap of faith that was for both of them – Lynda had been with that newspaper for 33 years, Eric for nearly 20. Both gave up a steady paycheck and benefits to step out into this venture. I believe both did it because they are sincerely committed to community journalism, and what a local newspaper is supposed to be.

I have thanked both of them for jumping off this cliff with me.

I want to thank Meredith for her support of this venture.

There's a lot of other people to thank – everyone I talked to in the community who offered support and encouragement.

Thanks to the advertisers in this issue.

Thanks to Al Pasini, a good friend and Rotarian, who was the official first subscriber to The Wakulla Sun. Thanks to all of you who have subscribed.

Thanks to Riddhi for joining us. And Jessi.

Thanks to the columnists who contributed.

Thanks to those people who helped us get the business started.

And thank you to our readers. Without you, none of this means anything.

We hope to earn your trust and keep it. Though we will inevitably make mistakes, we will own up to them and correct the record.

This is your newspaper.

It is local. It is sold, designed and built by local people.

If you have a problem or a news tip or just want to chat, call me. We don't have landlines yet, but my cell phone is (850) 566-2232. Or stop by the office, 12 Arran Road.

William Snowden is the editor and publisher of The Wakulla Sun.

Are you election ready?



By **JOE MORGAN**
Supervisor of Elections

Thank you, Wakulla County, for the opportunity to serve you as your Supervisor of Elections.

Here are a few questions for you...Are you election ready? Do you know when the primary election will be held this year?

Simply put, if an election was held tomorrow are you ready to cast a ballot? We are fast approaching the primary election season so here are a few dates to re-

member... Early voting will begin on August 13th thru August 20th from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Election Day will be on August 23rd from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Here are a few questions you can ask yourself to be prepared for the upcoming primary election. Are you registered to vote? Are you in the party you want to be in? Will you want a vote by mail ballot or are you already set to receive a vote by mail ballot? Do you know where your precinct location is? These are just a few of the questions that come up during an election cycle. This is how you become election ready.

Have you thought of running for office? Here is a list of local offices up for election. County Judge, County Commission District 2, County

Commission District 4, School Board District 1, School Board District 3, School Board District 5, Soil & Water District 2, Soil & Water District 3, and Soil & Water District 4.

If you are unsure of any of the above information you can contact our office at 850-926-7575 or you can email us at www.wakullacounty-soe@wakullaelectionfl.gov. We appreciate the opportunity to serve you and will do our best to help in any way possible to make the voting process as easy as possible.

You can also like our Facebook page at Wakulla County Supervisor of Elections for updates. We look forward to serving you.

Joe Morgan is Wakulla County Supervisor of Elections.

Something on your mind? Email Letters to the Editor to editor@thewakullasun.com or drop it by the office at 12 Arran Road, Crawfordville FL 32327.

Wakulla Wonderful celebration is set for March 12



By **RACHEL PIENTA**
4-H Agent

The Wakulla Wonderful event is back! In 2019, 4-H led the first ever and now annual celebration of Wakulla County's birthday, the day the county was founded, March 11, 1843. The first celebration was held on the courthouse lawn, with live music, a food vendor, birthday cake, and a proclamation reading by 4-H members.

Plans for 2020 expanded to a street festival behind the courthouse. Plans were canceled by Covid two days before the event.

In 2021, Wakulla 4-H celebrated Wakulla Wonderful with the Walk Across Wakulla program and a proclamation reading at the county commission meeting.

For 2022, we are bringing back the street festival birthday party and incorporating the Walk Across Wakulla program into the festivities leading up to and during the event. There is still time to walk with us, register at this link or call the Wakulla County Extension Office at 850-926-3931 <https://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/wakullaco/2022/01/31/walk-across-wakulla-with-us/>.

On Saturday, March 12, from 3 to 8 pm, Wakulla 4-H invites the community to join us at the Wakulla County Courthouse square on High Road for a free celebration of Wakulla's founding and community history. Weather permitting, the celebration will be in the closed road and parking lot areas.

Wakulla County has a rich and extensive histo-

ry dating back 12,000+ years! Wakulla County was formed on March 11, 1843 by an act of the Florida Legislature as the 23rd county of Florida. In recognition of Wakulla's founding, Wakulla 4-H has asked the Board of County Commissioners to declare March 6 – 12, 2022 as Wakulla Wonderful Week in Wakulla County.

The objective of Wakulla Wonderful Week is to share a message of recognition and celebration of Wakulla's 179th birthday. This week sets aside time to reflect on the wonderful county we live in and the benefits we enjoy living here.

The event will feature live music, historical tours and an illustrated history walk, vendors, and more. “Walk Across Wakulla” participants will be recognized during the event. Participants may choose from a self-guided historical timeline exhibit experience, narrated historical tours of the Old Courthouse (currently used by the Wakulla Chamber of Commerce), the Old Jail (currently houses the Historical Society), and the historical timeline exhibit. Tour narrations provided by Wakulla Historical Society member Brent Thurmond.

Entertainment will be provided by performers from Rockulla and the Coon Bottom Creek Band. Wakulla County's birthday cake will be provided by Kast Net and the cake will be cut at 3:20 p.m. Cake slices are free while supplies last.

Event Schedule:
3 p.m. Event Begins with Wakulla Wonderful Week Proclamation Reading & Welcome.
3:10 p.m. Walk Across Wakulla participants will be awarded race medals for completing 32 miles.
3:20 p.m. Birthday Cake Cutting.
3:30 p.m. Historical Tours begin.
3:35 p.m. Rockulla

musical performances begin.

6 p.m. Coon Bottom Creek Band performs.
7:55 p.m. Event closing and final remarks.

The best way to enjoy this event is to bring your family and outdoor chairs to sit in front of the stage. Enjoy the vendors and the tours. Purchase meals from the food trucks. Settle in for a relaxing evening outdoors and enjoy the live music with your neighbors.

Special thanks are due to all the Wakulla Wonderful partners, volunteers, and committee members. This event would not be possible without support from The Wakulla Sun, the Wakulla Library, Friends of the Library, Wakulla County Sheriff's Office, Lamar Advertising, the Wakulla County Historical Society, the Wakulla County Chamber of Commerce, UF/IFAS Wakulla County Extension, the Wakulla County Clerk of Court, and the Wakulla Board of County Commissioners. Thank you to Jason and Jessica Revell for the stage and to David Pienta for providing technical sound support.

Community and civic organizations are invited to participate in the celebration. Please contact Dr. Rachel Pienta at 850-926-3931 or r.pienta@ufl.edu for registration information. Local vendors who offer Wakulla-made items may also apply to be included in the event. Space is limited. Food truck vendors may also apply to participate. All organizations and vendors must submit registration forms by March 1. Forms are available at the Wakulla Extension office located at 84 Cedar Avenue, Crawfordville, Florida.

For more information about Wakulla Wonderful Week or other Wakulla 4-H and extension programs, please call 850-926-3931 or visit sfl.ifas.ufl.edu/wakulla/4-h/.

“It's A New Day!”

The Wakulla Sun



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◀ Heard on the Street ▶

Polled at the Wakulla Christian Coalition's Black History Parade: What's your favorite thing about Wakulla County?



BOSSIE HAWKINS
WAKULLA CHRISTIAN COALITION

"I like the rural feel of it."



JENNIE V. JONES
WAKULLA CHRISTIAN COALITION

"The ruralness of it! But we are growing so much right now. I want to add that the Christian Coalition is going on 20 years."



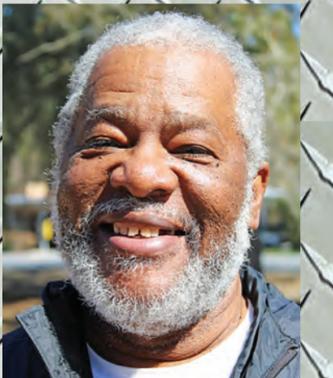
SHIRLEY HOWARD
COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER

"I like the unity and togetherness. And, in times of need - United We Stand!"



KENNY MANNING
EVENT COORDINATOR

"The love from the citizens and the agencies. The sheriff's office, the school board, the health department, and so many more, lots of unity."



ROBERT MANNING
EVENT COORDINATOR

"The camaraderie, the unity of this community."

—Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

Wakulla Station News

By **VERNA BROCK**

Welcome to the newest journalistic kid on the block, The Wakulla Sun! I am very excited to see my friend, Bill Snowden, stepping out to fill the local news gap with a brand new venture that is all about Wakulla County.

Without a doubt, our citizens can generate enough local news to fill the pages of this ambitious enterprise. I decided to offer my modest literary skills writing weekly columns all about the Wakulla Station area, for the first time in years. Old timers will recall I wrote this column many years ago, covering all manner of news, happy and sad.

I invite you to contact me with upcoming events, happenings, and news you wish to share with your neighbors. My phone number is 850-

421-3730; my email is vernalsbrock@gmail.com. Please give me your news and information by noon each Monday.

Currently, I can tell you that the Woodville Founders Day Festival is planned for Saturday, March 12th, at the J. Lewis Hall Ball Fields, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is both a fundraiser for the Woodville VFD and a celebration of the amazing history of Woodville. There are already 54 vendors signed up with fun, beautiful and useful items for sale. We will also have a wide variety of performers, re-enactors and demonstrators sharing everything from quilting to blacksmithing, to a rare Galicenos heritage breed horse. Be sure to plan to come out and join the fun!

Later in the evening of the 12th, you are invited to join us for the annual Wakulla Wonderful celebration in

Crawfordville. Beginning at 3 p.m., there will be food, entertainment and displays for the entire family.

If your church is planning special activities for the Easter/Lenten season, be sure to let me know so I can let our neighbors plan. The Wakulla United Methodist Church has already made plans for Ash Wednesday service, Palm Sunday, a combined Maundy Thursday/Good Friday service, and a glorious celebration of Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Ash Wednesday service will be on March 2nd, at 6:30 p.m. and all are welcome to join us. Details for further Easter services will be forthcoming soon.

Surely many of you have noticed the building frenzy happening across the county. Directly across the Woodville Hwy. from my home is a

brand new subdivision that will eventually have nearly 80 new homes. I am pleased that the county and the developer are ensuring each home will have a "high performing" septic system, since this side of the county rests directly over the karst system and the Wakulla Springs water basin. But I am concerned about the prospect of gas, oil, fertilizer and pesticide runoff that could pollute the Florida Aquifer.

I have asked FDOT to re-examine the speed limits along this stretch of the Woodville Hwy., since it is 45 mph at the traffic signal, increasing to 55 mph at the subdivision, which clearly is inappropriate for the traffic that will soon traverse the road. If you share my concerns, let me know.

For the most part folks welcome growth in the county,

but want it to be well-planned and an asset for our citizens.

With that, I am pleased to welcome Forgotten Coast Animal Clinic to the neighborhood. Drs. Julia Whited and Cassie Manuel opened their doors in 2020, giving the northeast side of the county a convenient and professional option for pet care. Having known Dr. Whited long before she became a vet, and Dr. Manuel since she practiced in Monticello, I was really excited to have them practicing practically on my doorstep (sure beats driving to Monticello)! We are very fortunate to have several excellent options to choose from in Wakulla County, and this recent addition is very welcome.

Remember, if you have news you want to share, let me know! I look forward to hearing from you.

Senior Citizens News

By **JOHN SHUFF**
and **SANDI McDANIEL**

The Wakulla Senior Citizens Council has been busy formulating our plans for 2022.

First off though, we would like to congratulate the Wakulla Sun for "rising" to the challenge of starting a new business and we wish them well!

Last year, we were focused on getting our legs back under ourselves financially and better understanding the challenges we faced. We feel we overcame those challenges with our first ever financial audit, successful

fund raising, learning to deal with Covid, and now looking forward to the New Year. We have grown from being open 4 days a week to 5, and also have live music on Tuesdays and Fridays instead of just Fridays. We look forward to adding new activities soon!

We are actively planning for a change to the old "Christmas in July" event to a "Christmas after Dark" event on July 22nd from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Senior Center. Please save the date as our team puts the finishing touches on the event.

We also are in the beginning stages of a long

journey working with the National Council on Aging to get our center accredited for the first time. We expect this initiative to take up to two years to complete, but the destination will be worth the journey. Very few centers are nationally accredited with the benefits being a deeper understanding of programs that work best for our seniors, national and regional recognition, increased credibility when applying for grants, and we hope, even better "buy in" from our local donor base the citizens of Wakulla County.

We are also starting

up a new committee for fund raising, separate from traditionally being part of the events committee. We will be exploring ways to raise funds through social media events like "Giving Tuesday" and other options like voluntary payroll contributions, etc. All senior organizations are funded with the expectation that local fundraising will be used to top off their budgets.

So this looks to be another transformative year for our Center and we look forward, with your help, to another excellent year!

The Wakulla Senior

Citizens Council is probably the most complex non-profit 501(c)3 organization in the county. We have 29 employees, large before- and after-school programs, one of our volunteer adminster the local transportation system,

provide the Meals on Wheels program, and do in home healthcare besides the more visible functions at the Center.

If you meet up with our volunteer board members thank them for their service!

Kiersten Smith

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Library News

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Thursday, February 24

Kids Coding 5pm
Friends of the Library General Meeting 6pm

Wakulla Democratic Executive Committee 6pm

Friday, February 25

Quilting Guild 9:30am
Virtual Reality Coding 4:30pm

Saturday, February 26

Book Club 10:30am

Monday, February 28

No Programs Today

Tuesday, March 1

Book Bunch 10am
Lego Club 4pm

Wednesday, March 2

Book Babies 10am
Wakulla Feeding Wakulla 2pm
Knitting Group 4pm
Public Library Artemis Pro-

gram 5pm

Thursday, March 3

Kids Coding Signup 5pm

NEW BOOK CLUB!

Join others interested in reading about history! The first selection will be W.E.B. DuBois' classic book on the Reconstruction era in American History: "Black Reconstruction in America" (published in 1935). DuBois, a historian, sociologist, and civil rights activist, was the first black person to earn a doctorate from Harvard. Born in Massachusetts in 1868, he became a professor of history at Atlanta University. The discussion leader for this book will be Dr. Aurelia Aubert, Ph.D. The Book Club will meet on Saturdays from

10:30 am to 12 noon beginning Feb. 26. For more information contact Andrea Carter at (850) 926-3164.

DR. SEUSS'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Join us as we celebrate the quirky man himself - Dr. Seuss! Beginning at 6pm we will have games, photo ops, themed snacks, and end the silly fun with a showing of the Lorax. 6pm March 4th.

VETERANS MEETUP

Veterans who served in any branch of the Armed Forces are invited to a casual meetup for coffee, donuts, and conversation. Adults only. Third Thursday of each month at 11am.

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WAKULLA STATION

Rotary Valentine's Parade and Festival on Feb. 12



Heather Bryan tosses necklaces from the Wakulla Public Library's Mardi Gras float.



The Wakulla County Sheriff's Office float.



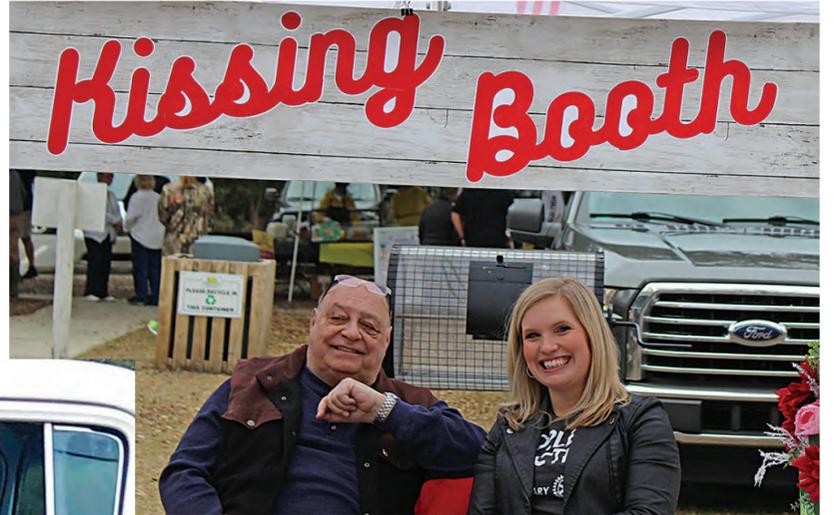
School Board members Joann Daniels and Verna Brock with Superintendent Bobby Pearce.



Tiger Rock Martial Arts students show off their skills.



Major Ray Johnson, United Way's Beth Phillips, Sheriff Jared Miller, and United Way's Sara Dow.



Rotarians Al Pasini and Kiersten Smith, above, at the club's 'Kissing Booth' – which gave out Hershey's kisses, not smooches.

PHOTOS BY RIDDHI PATEL
EXCEPT SNOWDEN PHOTO BY RACHEL PIENTA



Wakulla Sun editor William Snowden, left, was the honorary Grand Marshal of the parade and rode in Bob Hartsfield's 1955 Chevy truck.

Black History Parade on Feb. 19



Little Salem Primitive Baptist Church Youth Department walk in the parade.



The float for Spirit & Truth Christian Fellowship.



After the parade, visitors at Hudson Park.



The Wakulla High School Dance Team.

PHOTOS BY RIDDHI PATEL

The power of transforming love



By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

Soon we'll enter another election season. If history repeats itself, the opposing side will post on social media ev-

ery disgraceful moment their "enemy" ever did. It's distressing seeing our political leaders' worst moments televised.

Every minute of every day, there's no escaping inquiring minds.

As wonderful as I am (tongue in cheek, for sure), I'm glad there isn't a camera or Smart-phone recording my every word and action.

Yet God hears and sees everything I do, every minute of every day. If I allow myself to think about this too

much, I feel ashamed.

The point of this week's column is not to comment on our candidates' poor behavior – or the grave consequences of their actions. Rather, I hope to encourage us to remember that we all need a Savior.

"But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8 ESV). The Redeemer Himself – while we were in our shameful, sinful state – died for us.

The closer we come

to Christ, the more we recognize how utterly wretched we are and how much we need a Savior. Yet, God, in His mercy, sees us as endearing and worthy of love.

It is this mercy and love that transforms us.

If we feel we're not as bad as the one who sits on death row, or someone who got suspended from school, or a politician exposed for saying or doing despicable acts, perhaps we need to read Luke 18.

Observe the humil-

ity of the tax collector when he recognized his own faults and stood "far off, [and] would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'" (verse 13, ESV).

We. All. Sin.

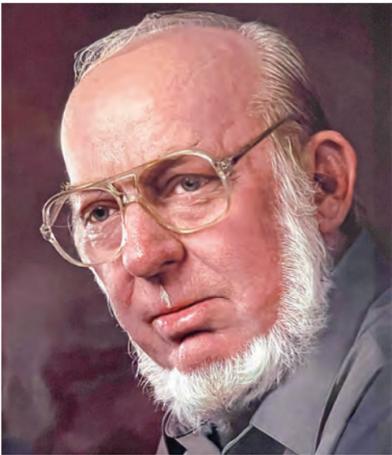
The sooner we go to our heavenly Father to confess our sin and ask for forgiveness, the sooner we'll experience His mercy and transformational power.

As we allow God to continue His work in us, we'll become people

of integrity and enjoy the benefits of a good reputation. And with humble and grateful hearts, we'll be less likely to point fingers on social media – and more likely to pray for those who are stumbling.

Sheryl H. Boldt is a sales executive for Wave 94 and author of the blog, www.Today-CanBe-Different.net. You can reach her at SherylHBoldt.wave94@gmail.com.

Obituaries



Henry 'Buddy' Wayne Vause

Henry "Buddy" Wayne Vause, 80, of Crawfordville, passed away Feb. 15, 2022.

He was a native and life-time resident of Wakulla County. He worked in construction, building homes for

several years and then he taught carpentry at Wakulla High School for 28 years. He also served 4 years as a Wakulla County Commissioner, during that time the Hudson Park Pavilion was built. He was a member at Whiddon Lake Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Gay Vause; children, Billy Raker (Jennifer), Connie Sanders (Billy Rae), Juan Key (Debbie), and Keith Key (Michele); sisters, Ethel "Red" Vause and Raye Wright; brother, D.R. Vause (Dalyn-da); seven grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

The family received friends Saturday, Feb. 19, 2022, from 10 to 11 a.m. at Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel and the Funeral Service was held at 11 a.m. Burial followed at the Whiddon Lake Cemetery.

Skip & Trey Young are assisting the family. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com



James 'Jimmy' P. Laird

James "Jimmy" P. Laird, 78, of Crawfordville, passed away Feb. 14, 2022.

He was born Oct. 18, 1943 to the late Bill C. and Clora Mae Laird. He had lived in Crawfordville his entire life, where he loved being outdoors, whether hunting, fishing, camping, he en-

joyed every minute of it. He retired from the City of Tallahassee after 32 years of employment.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Gail Patricia Laird; two sons, James Perry Jr. (wife Colleen), Ronald Lesley Laird; four sisters, Louise Henderson (Mike), Loretta Lawrence (Alton), Marion Robert (Delbert), and Cathy Roberts; brother, Tony Laird (Mary Ann); two grandsons, Cliff and Josh Laird; two great-granddaughters; and many friends.

He was predeceased by his father, Bill C. Laird Sr.; his mother Clora Mae Laird; two sisters, Olean Reeves and Ethelle Robinson; and brother Bill C. Laird Jr.

Graveside funeral services were held Friday, Feb. 18, 2022, at 2 p.m. at the New Light Church Cemetery in Crawfordville.

Skip & Trey Young are assisting the family. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

DEATH NOTICES

- Norman "Normie" Geske, 79, St. Teresa, died Feb. 13, 2022. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com
- William Franklin Hatton Jr., 68, of Sopchoppy, died Feb. 15, 2022. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

- John Walter Hitron, 77, of Carrabelle, died Feb. 11, 2022. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com
- Kathleen "Kitty" L. Strickland, 88, of Crawfordville, died Feb. 13, 2022. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

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I have proudly served the Citizens of Wakulla County for more than 40 years. Helping people is my passion, and we, at Family Funeral Home and Crematory, are honored to serve families when they need us the most. I know how important it is for our community to support locally owned businesses. I want to personally welcome The Wakulla Sun to Crawfordville and wish them much success in their endeavor to report on local news and events to the people here in our county.

Skip Young

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\$20 million for additional career programs

From Page 2

Overall, the academy will improve accessibility to CTE programs and certifications for local students of all ages. Through school choice, academy programs may also be available on a limited basis to students from surrounding counties as well.

The programs implemented through the War Eagle Career Academy will be offered at no cost to enrolled students. This, along with the academy being located at the high school, increases the accessibility of career and technical education for local students.

Industry certifications often correlate with higher earning potential, and as career academy students

enter the workforce, they will be able to reap these benefits without having incurred any cost for the education received.

“It gives our kids an opportunity to accelerate themselves further outright upon the point that they leave us,” said Pearce.

According to the final grant application for the project, the career academy will benefit students, their families, and the community as a whole when it comes to income.

Students and their families will not have to spend part of their household income for the certifications and the certifications will increase the likelihood of higher paying jobs for students exiting the academy. For those rea-

sons, the median household income for Wakulla will be expected to increase in the long run due to the creation and implementation of the War Eagle Career Academy.

The Triumph Gulf Coast grant funding will allow for the construction of the academy and the initial implementation of the expanded CTE programs.

Pearce said the academy will be constructed as “an addition onto the rear of Wakulla High School.” He continued by saying it will be near and possibly connected to the bus garage – which was recently renovated to house automotive and HVAC programs.

The career academy and programs will be maintained by Wakulla County Schools

and Lively Technical College. As mentioned in the final grant application, the school district plans for the academy to be sustainable long term through state funding allocated based on student enrollment numbers – enrollment that they expect will increase annually.

According to Pearce, funding to do major construction projects like what will be required for Wakulla’s CTE academy is often a major roadblock for small rural districts like Wakulla. Chancy has been the driving force behind this project, and her efforts combined with the efforts of everyone in the Wakulla Superintendent’s office and the Triumph grant funding have made this project, which has been a goal for

over five years, a possibility.

Though no official opening date has been set for the War Eagle Career Academy, the Triumph grant will allow for Wakulla County Schools to immediately move forward with the project.

The War Eagle Career Academy is expected to have a significant positive impact on local students and their families, the community at large, and potentially even the surrounding counties.

In their grant application, the school district shared that Wakulla County Schools and Lively Technical College “are focused on promoting talent and innovation to its community and students.”

Chancy said, “The main goal is to serve our students and our community.”

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Happy Birthday Wakulla County



As We Anticipate the Celebration of Wakulla County's 179th Birthday Friday, March 12, 2022 from 3pm - 8pm

on the Courthouse Lawn, along High Street
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and extending to our other historical surroundings, I would love to take this opportunity to hear from persons who have the most Birthday candles in our county, and invite you to come join us for this festive event.

Please contact Quincee Messersmith at 850-933-8371



Wakulla 4-H cordially invites the Board of County Commissioners, all Elected officials, our business community and all citizens to join Wakulla 4-H for a celebration of Wakulla County.

Wakulla Wonderful Week, March 6 - 12, 2022, seeks to send a message of recognition and celebration of Wakulla's 179th birthday. This week will allow time to reflect on the wonderful county we live in and the benefits we have living here. Wakulla 4-H serves the purpose of educating our citizens and youth, inspiring growth in everyone and pledging our heads to clearer thinking, our hearts to greater loyalty, our hands to larger service, and our health to better living so that our citizens can make Wakulla County even more wonderful.



Looking Forward to Hearing from you as we Celebrate our County's Birthday and all the Great Reasons we all Call Wakulla County Home.
Wonderfullee Wakulla ~ Quincee Messersmith

Congratulations to *The Wakulla Sun* on your first issue! Here's to many more!



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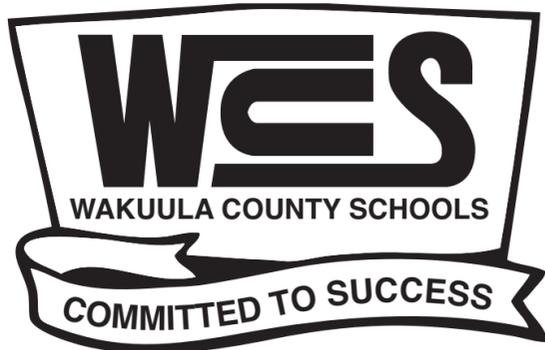
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For Black History Month: The Florida Black Heritage Trail



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In 1990, the Florida legislature created the Study Commission on African-American History in Florida to increase public awareness of African Americans contributions to the state. The commission was asked to recommend methods to establish a “Heritage Trail” to identify sites, buildings and other points of interest in black history that should be preserved and promoted as tourist attractions.

The first edition of the Florida Black Heritage Trail, published in 1991, was a product of the commission, the Florida Division of Historical Resources and the many citizens who assisted in developing the book. The Florida Black Heritage Trail is a microcosm of African-American landmarks and legacies that exist in various Florida locations.

Released in May 2007, this third edition of the Florida Black Heritage Trail was produced by VISIT FLORIDA, the Florida Department of State and the Florida African American Heritage Preservation Network. It features 64 colorful pages highlighting historic African-American sites from Pensacola to Key West and like the previous editions includes profiles and biographical sketches of many distinguished and accomplished African-American Floridians.

Celebrating Newspapers in Education Week

By JODI PUSHKIN

President Florida Press Educational Services

Florida Press Educational Services (FPES) is proud to commemorate Newspaper in Education Week 2022 and encourages teachers, parents and students to read the newspaper daily in school and at home to enrich their lives. FPES and its member Newspaper in Education programs join in celebrating Newspaper in Education Week the first full school week in March.

This annual event is a fantastic opportunity for publishers and marketing, news, circulation and advertising directors to learn the importance of Newspaper in Education (NIE) programs, too.

Since the 1800s, NIE programs have been implemented by newspapers to engage young readers in their local news and communities. Engaging young readers is paramount for a newspaper’s longevity. Newspapers are paramount for the future of a prosperous and well-educated society.

Reading every day is imperative for all people, especially children. Reading increases vocabulary, writing skills and knowledge of the world around us. What better way to increase knowledge about the world than by reading the local newspaper?

Did you know that more than 60 percent of people with high exposure to newspapers in childhood are regular readers of newspapers as adults, according to a study conducted for the News Media Alliance, former Newspaper Association of America Foundation? That percentage is significant because statistically people who read the newspaper daily are more engaged citizens. Engaged citizens participate in their communities by voting and practicing good citizenship.

The goal of NIE programs is to create a generation of critical readers, engaged citizens and consumers. John F. Kennedy said, “Our progress as a nation can be no swifter than our progress in education. The human mind is our fundamental resource.” The goal of NIE is to engage and develop that resource.

The No. 1 reason to use newspapers in education at school and at home is the newspaper provides readers with a living textbook. The newspaper is an opportunity and a resource for students to practice higher-order comprehension skills. It is the job of NIE programs across the Florida to not only provide that resource, but also to encourage active teacher and student engagement of resource.

Using newspapers as a teaching tool can improve reading skills and student performance on standardized tests. In addition, reading the newspaper at school and home helps young people learn about the world around them.

Teachers utilize newspaper activities to promote learning, support Florida Standard benchmarks and expectations, plus have fun interpreting photos, advertisements, cartoons and headlines.

Newspapers add dynamic dimensions to all subjects, from Language Arts to business to science and everything in between.

NIE programs around Florida partner local businesses and government organizations to promote community engagement, awareness and encourage real-world education lessons that combine educational marketing goals of the businesses with the needs of the schools.

To learn more about Florida’s NIE programs, visit the Florida Press Educational Services (FPES) website at fpesnie.org.

Jodi Pushkin is the President of Florida Press Educational Services. She is the manager for the Tampa Bay Times Newspaper in Education program.



Ritz Theater, Davis and State Streets, Jacksonville, Florida.



People FACT:

WHAT IS THE NAME FOR THE ORGANIZATIONS THAT HOST PARADES AND PARTIES FOR THE MARDI GRAS CARNIVAL?

ANSWER: KREWEES

Mardi Gras Crossword

1		2		3		4
				5		
		6				
7						

CLUES ACROSS

1. New ____, Mardi Gras location
5. Family and relations
6. To drag
7. Touching or pushing

CLUES DOWN

1. Sustained show of appreciation from a crowd
2. Found position of
3. Off center
4. Making vocal sounds

Answers
 Across 1. Orleans 5. Kin 6. Tow 7. Nudging
 Down 1. Ovation 2. Located 3. Askew 4. Singing

THIS DAY IN...
 February 21
HISTORY

- 1878: THE FIRST TELEPHONE BOOK WAS ISSUED IN THE UNITED STATES.
- 1965: MALCOLM X WAS ASSASSINATED.
- 1995: STEVE FOSSETT WAS THE FIRST PERSON TO CROSS THE PACIFIC OCEAN SOLO IN A HOT AIR BALLOON.

new word
carnival
 period of public partying

How they SAY it in...

ENGLISH: Music
SPANISH: Música
ITALIAN: Musica
FRENCH: Musique
GERMAN: Musik

Did You Know?

“THROWS,” OR TREASURES, TOSSED TO MARDI GRAS REVELERS ARE AN AGE-OLD TRADITION. SOME OF THE MOST COMMON THROWS ARE BEADS, CUPS AND DUBLONS.

get the PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture featured here is?

ANSWER: SAXOPHONE

Outdoors

outdoor sports

HOME ON THE RANGE

Racking the slide the easy way



By MARJ LAW

We're at the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office range one fine Wednesday morning.

Anna is a newbie. She comes to me.

"I'm having trouble jacking the slide," she complains. "Can you help me?"

"What are you shooting?"

"My Sig Sauer P320 compact 9mm," she replies.

"That doesn't sound too bad," I say encouragingly. "What's the problem?"

"Well, my husband Henry showed me how to do it," she explains. "You hold the gun just below chest high. He said to hold it with my right hand, since I'm right-handed."

"Sounds good so far."

"OK. Now, this is what I'm supposed to do. Keeping my index finger off the trigger, and pointing the gun in a safe direction, I grip the back of the slide with my left hand's thumb and index finger."

She shows me. So far, so good.

"Henry says to push my right hand towards the left, and push the left hand towards the right. This is supposed to move the slide backwards. If the gun locks back, then I push down the slide release button and the slide zips forward."

"Great! What's the prob?"

"Well, I can't push it all the way back. And, another thing, he says

to push the slide back, and if it doesn't lock, let it zip forward on its own."

"And?"

"Well, I can't do that, either. I'm pushing hard with both hands (in opposite directions), but I can't seem to push hard enough."

"What does Henry say to that?"

"He demonstrates again. He says to me: 'Anna Banana, you're a hundred (mumble mumble)-pound weakling. With your birdie bones, maybe you just can't do it.' So he racks the slide over and over to show me how easy it is for him."

"I can't do it that way. I've got a major problem with arthritis. My arms and wrists are not very strong. He's got a hundred pounds on me and he still lifts weights. What's easy for him is not easy for me. He thinks I really can't learn how manage my handgun."

She's right. A lot of guys are bigger and stronger than women. They really don't understand how it is to be small-boned and not so strong.

I've heard her Sig is a great gun.

"May I?"

She understands I'm asking to check out her Sig.

"Of course!" she nods toward her gun on the shooting bench.

I pick it up and pull the slide back. It is a little stiff. I sure can understand her predicament. The slide is somewhat difficult, but I think she can overcome it.

"As for learning," I tell her. "Henry thinks you can't learn this? Today, you brought your unloaded Sig to the range in a sack. Your ammunition was in another pouch. We saw how you waited for Alice to call the range 'hot' before you brought your gun and ammo to the shoot-

ing bench.

"You put on eye and ear protection when you heard the word 'hot.'"

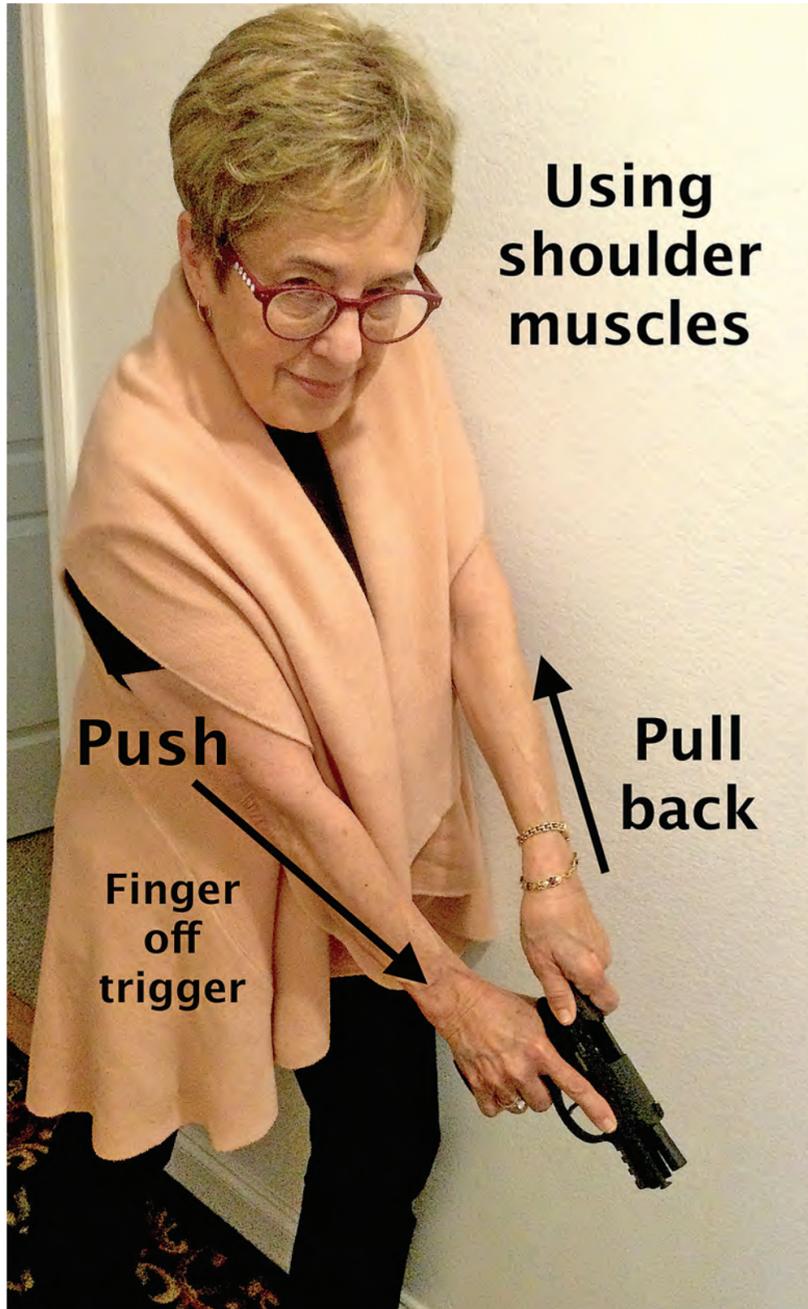
"You did a great job in keeping the muzzle pointing downrange. You kept your finger off the trigger. You've learned a lot, even before shooting!"

Anna looks happier for a moment. Then she looks defeated.

"That doesn't do me any good if I can't jack the slide."

"Then let's try it the Easy Way," I suggest.

"The Easy Way?" she asks.



Using shoulder muscles

Push

Pull back

Finger off trigger

ing bench.

"Yes. Often when your arms and wrists aren't strong enough for the task, you can use your shoulder muscles instead."

"How do I do that?" she wonders.

"First, take your gun in your shooting hand again. Point downrange, along the side of the frame, but this time point it at about a 45° angle to the ground."

"Like this?"

"Right! Take your left hand and put your left index finger and your thumb on those heavy

serrations on the back of the slide.

In this motion, you will be pushing the gun with your right hand."

She pushes her arm forward.

"Like this?"

"Yes. Now, holding the gun firmly, push your right arm forward and at the same time, pull your left arm backwards towards your body. It's a push/pull movement. Pay attention to your shoulders. When you rock them as you push/pull, you are using your shoulder muscles."

"Do I have to lock my

elbows?"

"Your arms will be mostly straight, but you don't have to lock your elbows. Think about your shoulders as you push and pull."

"It's like patting your head and rubbing your tummy at the same time," she grins.

"Let's see you do it! Push right, pull left. Think shoulders."

She rocks her shoulders, then stands and thinks for a moment. She nods. She pushes and pulls.

"Oh my goodness! The slide locked back! It worked!" She turns her head towards me.

"Now, how do I get the slide to move forwards again?"

"Where's your slide release button?"

Keeping the muzzle downrange, she looks at the side of the gun.

"It's this one, right?"

"You got it. Push down, and the slide will return forward."

"I did it! I did do it! By myself!" She is really happy. "In the past, I've been able to shoot, but Henry racked the slide for me. Yay!"

She aims her Sig, aligning the front dot sight with the back 2 dots.

Smack! Right on the center red circle of her target.

"Super shooting! Are you ready to empty the rest of the ammunition in your magazine?"

"No," says Anna. "I'm going to wait until the range is 'cold.' Then I'll take this target down and put up a fresh one. I want Henry to see this."

We practice for an hour or so, then pack up. Anna is all smiles. As she moves her bags to her trunk, I hear her sing:

"I am woman. Hear me roar!"

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

THE OLD PRO

Predators and Season Updates



By AL HARTMAN

Hope you all had a good Valentines Day. The weather is sure doing its own thing. Shivering mornings and rain off and on. This has been one of the longest winters in a long time. We even had some snow flurries in some spots.

Fishing has been touchy. Biting one day and not the next. Seatrout and Redfish have gone way up rivers and streams looking for warmer waters in deep holes. I don't know how that works. Seems to me the deep water would be colder.

There are a few being caught offshore, but not too many. I fished the other day and couldn't buy a fish of any kind.

Another thing that puzzles me is the crabs. I have blue and stone crab traps out and it's been very strange. There seems to be none at all. The last three times I checked my traps I've gotten none. And some of the traps still have bait in them. But I've seen on Facebook and in the Tallahassee Democrat that big stone crabs are being caught offshore in deep water. Is that to find warmer water? I do not know.

Most hunting seasons have come to a close except small game which runs until March 6. Rabbits, wild hog, raccoons, opossum, skunks, nutrias, beavers and coyotes may be taken year round.

There is a bag limit on rabbits of 12 a day and a possession of 24. No limits on the others.

Turkey season starts March 19 and runs until April 24. There is a possession limit of two turkeys a day and two for the entire season.

Duck hunting was way down in the number of ducks this year. Maybe because of the brutal winter up north they left early. At the pond next to the St. Marks Light there were no big numbers as years before.

Speaking of coyotes! They are running all over Wakulla County. They are in people's yards and even in towns. They can cause a lot of damage killing small game, rabbits, small dogs, young deer and cats. They are not afraid to go in your yard. Don't let small dogs or cats out after dark. And sometimes even during daylight if you are not visible to them. Coyotes will even root through your trash looking for easy meals.

If you noticed, a lot of farmers and ranchers have donkeys in with their cattle. Donkeys will kill coyotes and chase panthers and wild dogs. If unprotected, coyotes will kill calves.

We have wild dogs,

but I don't think they are as bad as they were. Coyotes kill a lot of them too. And just to add to our problem, feral cats. Cats that have been left to fend for themselves. That is a statewide problem. There are enough wild cats in the U.S. to overflow the Super Bowl. That is a lot of cats.

Coyotes can't keep their numbers down because they are very agile, cunning and climb trees. I read the other day scientists say wild cats have killed 33% of the wild bird population in the U.S. If you are going to have a cat have it neutered and keep it in the house.

Speaking of cats! The Florida Panther and cougars are making a comeback. There's more in Florida than the researchers are counting. We have had them in Gadsden County since the beginning of time. Cougars are now in most eastern states.

In Sopchoppy, a friend of mine's grandfather

had a panther on film in his yard. In Franklin County, panthers are running around in downtown Carrabelle. I almost hit one in broad daylight!

Well stay warm and

don't forget to sign up with MyFWC.com. It is worth your time.

Take a young'un hunting or fishing. You'll both be glad you did.



BORING SPONGE

(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.

Eukarya, Animalia, Porifera, Demospongiae, Hadromerida, Clionaidae

Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratory

www.gulfspecimen.com

Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences

Thursday 24	
Sun rise/set 7:14AM 6:20PM	Moon rise/set 2:19AM 11:47AM
Moon Illumination 44%	
Friday 25	
Sun rise/set 7:12AM 6:21PM	Moon rise/set 3:31AM 12:39PM
Moon Illumination 32%	
Saturday 26	
Sun rise/set 7:11AM 6:22PM	Moon rise/set 4:36AM 1:42PM
Moon Illumination 22%	
Sunday 27	
Sun rise/set 7:09AM 6:24PM	Moon rise/set 5:33AM 2:53PM
Moon Illumination 13%	
Monday 28	
Sun rise/set 7:08AM 6:25PM	Moon rise/set 6:19AM 4:07PM
Moon Illumination 6%	
Tuesday 1	
Sun rise/set 7:06AM 6:26PM	Moon rise/set 6:57AM 5:22PM
Moon Illumination 2%	
Wednesday 2	
Sun rise/set 7:05AM 6:27PM	Moon rise/set 7:29AM 6:34PM
Moon Illumination 0%	

Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

Feb. 24 - Mar. 2

Tide charts by tides4fishing.com

First Mar. 10 Full Mar. 18 Last Mar. 25 New Mar. 2

Best fishing days this month
March 2-18

St. Marks River Entrance

Th	2:03 am ▼ -0.3 ft	9:11 am ▲ 2.1 ft	12:52 pm ▼ 1.7 ft	6:45 pm ▲ 3.0 ft
Fr	3:37 am ▼ -0.5 ft	11:00 am ▲ 2.3 ft	2:35 pm ▼ 2.0 ft	8:26 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
Sa	4:58 am ▼ -0.7 ft	12:05 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	4:32 pm ▼ 1.9 ft	10:24 pm ▲ 3.0 ft
Su	6:00 am ▼ -0.9 ft	12:49 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	5:51 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	11:42 pm ▲ 3.2 ft
Mo	6:50 am ▼ -1.0 ft	1:25 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	6:45 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	
Tu	12:41 am ▼ -1.0 ft	7:33 am ▼ -1.0 ft	1:57 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	7:30 pm ▼ 0.7 ft
We	1:30 am ▲ 3.5 ft	8:10 am ▼ -0.8 ft	2:25 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	8:11 pm ▼ 0.4 ft

City of St. Marks

Th	3:07 am ▼ -0.3 ft	9:47 am ▲ 2.0 ft	1:56 pm ▼ 1.6 ft	7:21 pm ▲ 2.8 ft
Fr	4:41 am ▼ -0.4 ft	11:36 am ▲ 2.2 ft	3:39 pm ▼ 1.8 ft	9:02 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
Sa	6:02 am ▼ -0.6 ft	12:41 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	5:36 pm ▼ 1.7 ft	11:00 pm ▲ 2.8 ft
Su	7:04 am ▼ -0.8 ft	1:25 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	6:55 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	
Mo	12:18 am ▲ 3.0 ft	7:54 am ▼ -0.9 ft	2:01 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	7:49 pm ▼ 1.0 ft
Tu	1:17 am ▲ 3.3 ft	8:37 am ▼ -0.9 ft	2:33 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	8:34 pm ▼ 0.7 ft
We	2:06 am ▲ 3.3 ft	9:14 am ▼ -0.8 ft	3:01 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	9:15 pm ▼ 0.3 ft

Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	2:21 am ▼ -0.3 ft	9:31 am ▲ 2.1 ft	1:14 pm ▼ 1.7 ft	7:04 pm ▲ 3.0 ft
Fr	3:59 am ▼ -0.4 ft	11:22 am ▲ 2.3 ft	2:45 pm ▼ 2.0 ft	8:37 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
Sa	5:24 am ▼ -0.6 ft	12:31 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	4:44 pm ▼ 2.0 ft	10:38 pm ▲ 3.0 ft
Su	6:29 am ▼ -0.9 ft	1:16 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	6:11 pm ▼ 1.7 ft	
Mo	12:00 am ▲ 3.2 ft	7:21 am ▼ -1.0 ft	1:52 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	7:08 pm ▼ 1.3 ft
Tu	1:00 am ▲ 3.4 ft	8:04 am ▼ -1.0 ft	2:24 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	7:54 pm ▼ 0.9 ft
We	1:50 am ▲ 3.5 ft	8:41 am ▼ -0.8 ft	2:52 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	8:36 pm ▼ 0.5 ft

Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	2:14 am ▼ -0.2 ft	9:03 am ▲ 1.6 ft	1:03 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	6:37 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
Fr	3:48 am ▼ -0.3 ft	10:52 am ▲ 1.7 ft	2:46 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	8:18 pm ▲ 2.2 ft
Sa	5:09 am ▼ -0.5 ft	11:57 am ▲ 2.0 ft	4:43 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	10:16 pm ▲ 2.2 ft
Su	6:11 am ▼ -0.7 ft	12:41 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	6:02 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	11:34 pm ▲ 2.4 ft
Mo	7:01 am ▼ -0.8 ft	1:17 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	6:56 pm ▼ 0.8 ft	
Tu	12:33 am ▲ 2.6 ft	7:44 am ▼ -0.7 ft	1:49 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	7:41 pm ▼ 0.5 ft
We	1:22 am ▲ 2.7 ft	8:21 am ▼ -0.6 ft	2:17 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	8:22 pm ▼ 0.3 ft

St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	2:02 am ▼ -0.5 ft	10:00 am ▲ 1.6 ft	12:14 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	6:51 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
Fr	3:37 am ▼ -0.6 ft	11:52 am ▲ 1.7 ft	2:33 pm ▼ 1.8 ft	8:32 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
Sa	5:00 am ▼ -0.7 ft	1:21 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	5:00 pm ▼ 1.8 ft	9:52 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
Su	6:05 am ▼ -0.9 ft	1:43 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	6:08 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	11:16 pm ▲ 2.5 ft
Mo	6:56 am ▼ -1.0 ft	2:04 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	6:55 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	
Tu	12:22 am ▲ 2.6 ft	7:39 am ▼ -0.9 ft	2:23 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	7:36 pm ▼ 0.9 ft
We	1:18 am ▲ 2.7 ft	8:17 am ▼ -0.7 ft	2:42 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	8:16 pm ▼ 0.6 ft

Dog Island West End

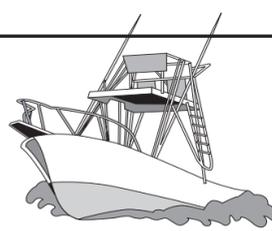
Th	2:33 am ▼ -0.4 ft	9:59 am ▲ 2.1 ft		
Fr	4:01 am ▼ -0.6 ft	11:52 am ▲ 2.1 ft	5:31 pm ▼ 1.7 ft	9:58 pm ▲ 2.1 ft
Sa	5:26 am ▼ -0.7 ft	1:21 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	6:45 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	11:14 pm ▲ 2.2 ft
Su	6:33 am ▼ -0.8 ft	2:26 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	7:23 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	
Mo	7:20 am ▼ -0.9 ft	3:18 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	8:00 pm ▼ 0.9 ft	
Tu	12:29 am ▲ 2.2 ft	7:59 am ▼ -0.8 ft	2:55 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	7:58 pm ▼ 0.9 ft
We	1:30 am ▲ 2.3 ft	8:33 am ▼ -0.6 ft	3:10 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	8:33 pm ▼ 0.6 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.



Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports

By Carolyn Brown Treadon



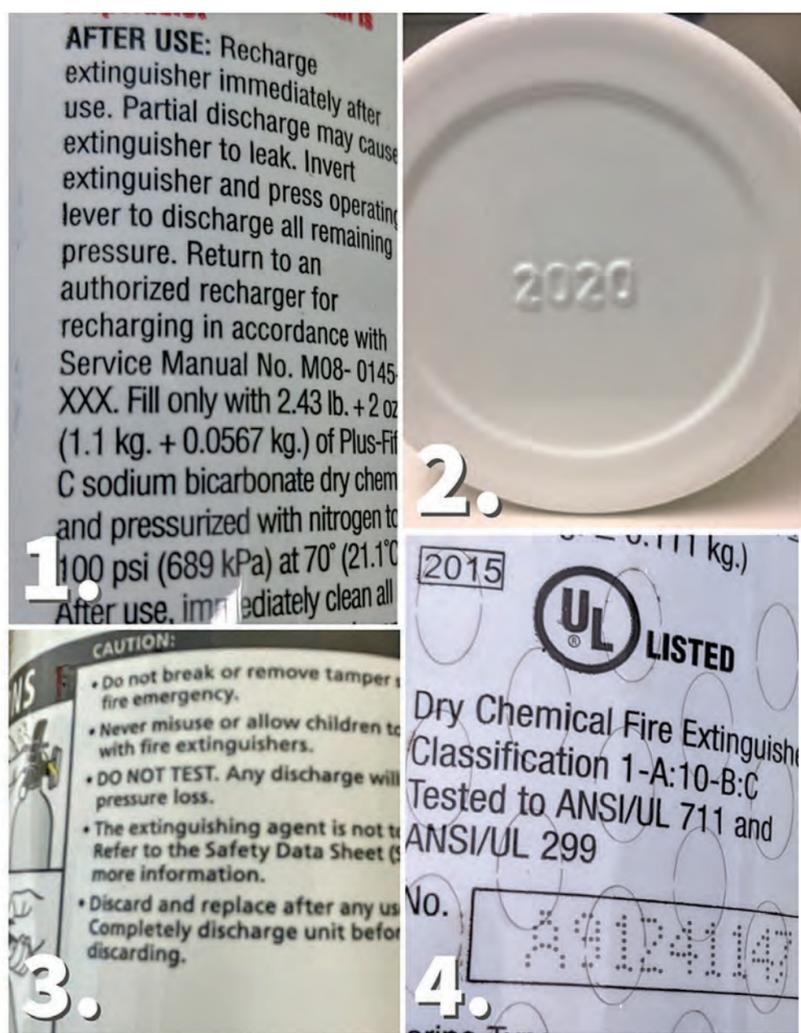
This following information comes from Paul Barnard with U.S. Coast Guard Heartland Safe Boating and is part 1 of 2:

Many of you may have heard that fire extinguisher regulations are changing. The good news is that the changes are very minor. The bad news is that it can be confusing if you let it. I did this write-up with pics to try to take the mystery out of it. You will probably need to lay eyes on YOUR fire extinguisher for this to make sense.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER REGULATIONS ARE CHANGING

Effective April 20, 2022, recreational boaters will be subject to new fire extinguisher regulations. This has the potential to be confusing, so I'll unpack it for you! I won't delve into the specifics of what is changing, but rather I'll focus on presenting, in lay language, how boaters can easily comply with the new requirements.

For the purpose of this conversation, there are two kinds of portable fire extinguishers. There are disposable extinguishers and rechargeable/serviceable extinguishers. It is im-



portant to know which kind you have, or which kind you are buying. All extinguishers must be USCG approved as indicated by the label.

Rechargeable extinguishers can be iden-

tified by the label. The label will have language as such: "After Use: Recharge..." (Image 1). It will also have a year of manufacture near the UL label (Image 4). These extinguishers need to be

served/inspected by a National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) certified technician annually, and will need a current service tag on them.

Disposable portable extinguishers can be

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

identified by a year of manufacture stamped on the bottom (Image 2) and by the language "discard..." (Image 3) on the label. Disposable extinguishers expire and must be replaced within 12 years of the year of manufacture.

Both disposable and rechargeable extinguishers must be kept in good and serviceable condition to meet the requirements.

Good and serviceable means that the gauge reads in the green/charged zone, the pull pin is in place, the handle isn't damaged, the nozzle is clear of obstructions and there is no obvious damage or corrosion to the bottle.

Check back next week for the second part of this article.

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 follow us on Facebook @ Apalachee Bay Flotilla 12 or contact our Flotilla Commander Phil Hill at pnkhill2000@yahoo.com

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.

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.

ONE SHALLOW DIVE CAN WRECK A NECK. PERMANENTLY.

EACH YEAR, HUNDREDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE ARE PARALYZED FROM NECK AND SPINE INJURIES CAUSED BY DIVING HEAD FIRST INTO SHALLOW LAKES AND POOLS. DON'T LET KIDS DIVE IN—UNLESS YOU KNOW WHAT'S BELOW. CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE DIVING SAFETY TIPS.

csrs.org

asia-spinalinjury.org

orthoinfo.org

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WAKULLAREALTY.COM

LEGALS

Notice Under Fictitious Name Law Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Hot Water Publishing desires to engage in business under the fictitious name of: The Wakulla Sun. Located in Wakulla County in the State of Florida.

Hot Water Publishing intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida. Dated at Tallahassee, Florida this 16th day of February 2022.

This advertisement also appeared in the Tallahassee Democrat on February 21, 2022.



Please Recycle



CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

- Quantitative fact
- Capital of Norway
- Son of Lynceus
- White crested parrots
- Mother of Hermes
- Beyond expectations
- Office of Public Information
- Loony
- The center of a city
- Prev. Br. penny
- Legislator
- NFL star & actor Alex K. ___
- Randomness
- Tip of Aleutian Islands
- Canadian swimming medalist Joanne M. ___
- Covered a house exterior
- Cajan pea
- Wives of Rajas
- Chern. analysis counterweight
- Olive oil fatty acid
- Shanghai silver unit
- 8th Jewish month
- Toiletary scent
- Indian groom
- Latticework for vines
- My Fair Lady racetrack
- Eggs
- Military leader (abbr.)
- 1/100 Macao pataca
- Famous Greeley quote
- German river
- Anathemise
- Green (French)
- Wm. the Conqueror's burial city
- Colored

CLUES DOWN

- Ice cream utensil
- Hairpiece
- Lactogenic hormone: prol. ___
- Referee declares

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
13				14					15				
16								17					
18				19				20					
21			22				23			24	25	26	
			27		28	29	30						
31	32	33			34		35			36			
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41				42		43				44			
45					46			47	48				
49									50		51	52	53
				54			55	56	57			58	
	59	60					61				62		
							63						
							64						
							65						
							66						
										67			

- ___ Von Bismarck, Iron Chancellor
- New York art district
- A cut of meat
- CIA predecessor
- Quantities
- Atrocities
- Garlic
- Showing sorrow
- In following order
- At what time
- White vegetable
- World baseball finale
- Presently
- Classical music for the stage
- Albert Pinkham ___, US painter
- Swiss river
- Writing tablets
- Take into one's family
- Teeto _ : abstainer
- Not here
- ___ log; not digital
- Skilled in deception
- A drain under a road
- Missing soldiers
- Chili con ___, Mexican dish
- P&G soap
- Elliptic
- Distinguished by a specific color
- S shaped profile moulding
- Be apathetic or dazed
- stein: town in Lower Austria
- LOOO billion electron volts
- A lyric poem
- A local twitching esp in the face
- Greatest common divisor

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Blackfoot Roofing helps VFW



The VFW Post with a new roof.

SPECIAL TO THE SUN Blackfoot Roofing partnered with CertainTeed to offset the costs of the new roof for the Wakulla VFW post. The community and local residents were also up on the local Wakulla Citizens Facebook Group seeking help for our local VFW post.

When the project was complete, the final number of donations from Blackfoot Roofing, and CertainTeed, totaled just over \$11,000!

"Projects like this are what we live for. We truly enjoy impacting our Wakulla County community in positive ways and we appreciate the opportunity to continue to give back. Your patronage to our Roofing Business allows us the benefit to give back to the people around us," declared Travis. "And obviously a huge Thank you to our veterans, past, present, and future. We are honored to be able to give back."

Travis, a veteran himself and a former Marine, felt a familiar "call to duty" when he saw this post and immediately jumped into action. Throwing his hat into the ring, Travis offered to donate the permit for the new roof, any and all labor, and match any donations raised for the VFW's new roof!

Don't sacrifice safety for convenience

By SAMANTHA KENNEDY
Wakulla Extension

Online shopping is more popular than ever. While its popularity has been steadily trending upwards over the last decade or so, the Covid pandemic has really caused online shopping's prevalence to spike. With more people working from home and fewer people travelling, the convenience of ordering items and having them delivered to your home with just a few mouse clicks has really changed the way many people complete their common, everyday errands.

Even as the pandemic eases and more people begin to resume their pre-pandemic activities, online shopping continues to thrive. Howev-

er, along with the ease of online shopping – which includes ordering from websites as well as through mobile apps – comes an increased risk of consumer-based crimes such as identity theft and phishing scams.

The top three ways cybercrooks target online shoppers are by intercepting insecure transactions, creating fraudulent websites and emails (phishing), and grabbing data from the hard drives of vulnerable computers.

But you can protect yourself. Here are a few ways to make sure you are keeping your data as safe as possible when shopping online.

Use a credit card. While this advice may seem counterintuitive for some people – after



TYLER JONES, UF/IFAS

Online shopping can be fun and convenient. By taking a few safety precautions, you can help protect your data from cybercriminals.

all, are we not told to limit credit card use? – it is so much easier to dispute fraudulent charges on a credit card than on a debit card. There are more consumer protections for credit card purchases than debit card purchases. Also, fraudulent debit card purchases can easily leave your account balance depleted, which may cause overdrafts and other problems.

Make sure your data is being encrypted. Only purchase items from websites whose URL (the

website address) begins with “https” instead of just “http.” Secure websites also have a small padlock icon either next to the web address at the top of the page or in the bottom corner of the page. The placement of the icon varies by web browser, but each browser should put the icon in the same place for all secure pages. If the icon is in an odd place for your web browser, it may be a fraudulent website.

Be careful with shopping apps. Mobile apps make online shopping

even easier, since you can purchase items from just about anywhere with a device you hold in the palm of your hand. But before purchasing anything through an app, be sure the app describes how your data will be used and how it will be secured. There is no legal liability with money stored in a shopping app or on a gift card. In other words, unless otherwise stated, you are completely responsible for all charges made through a shopping app.

Check your statements. The best way to recognize fraudulent charges is to periodically check your credit card and bank statements. At least once a month (more

often is even better), look at each statement and see if there is anything that seems odd or unfamiliar to you. If you find something, contact the credit card company or bank immediately to explore your options.

These are just a few ways you can help keep your data safe from cyberthieves. It is perfectly okay to enjoy the convenience of online shopping, but please just do it safely.

For more information about this and other consumer topics, please call Samantha Kennedy, Family and Consumer Sciences agent, at (850) 926-3931.

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