

2022 PANACEA BEER & OYSTER FESTIVAL PANACEA, FLORIDA

See Page 11

The Wakulla Sun

WAKULLA WeatherSTEM

Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Thunderstorms Hi: 74° Lo: 59° 99% Sunrise 7:28 AM Sunset 7:55 PM	Partly Cloudy Hi: 78° Lo: 56° 62% Sunrise 7:27 AM Sunset 7:56 PM	Thunderstorms Hi: 72° Lo: 57° 70% Sunrise 7:25 AM Sunset 7:57 PM



\$1
One Section

"It's a New Day"

Locally Owned & Operated

Our 1st Year, 6th Issue
Thursday, March 31, 2022

25 years for Hoover death

With jury waiting, Jarvis Strickland, dying of colon cancer, decides to plea rather than go to trial

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

TALLAHASSEE – With a jury waiting outside the courtroom, the man accused of killing Paul Hoover in a hit-and-run crash almost five years ago decided to enter an open plea and forgo a trial.

On Tuesday, March 22, Jarvis Strickland, 43, entered a plea to charges of vehicular homicide, leaving the

scene of an accident with death, arson, and tampering with evidence for the May 2017 death of Hoover.

Strickland, who has a terminal diagnosis for colon cancer, was sentenced to 25 years in state prison by Leon Circuit Judge Stephen Everett.

Strickland, his head shaved, unable to stand up straight when he was sworn-in by the judge and frequently putting



Paul Hoover



Jarvis Strickland

his head on the defense table as he complained about pain, expressed remorse for his actions.

He told the court and Hoover's family: "I just wanna say that I'm sorry." (He began sobbing.) "I wish it'd never happened. I can't –" (Again cried.) "That's all I can say."

In May 2017, Hoover was out for an evening run on the GF&A Trail and was crossing Springhill Road when Strick-

land, who was allegedly heavily intoxicated and traveling nearly 90 mph, hit Hoover in the crosswalk. Strickland left the scene and abandoned his car and set it afire to hide evidence of the wreck.

Strickland's mother, Edna "Susie" Strickland, told the court that everybody lost in the case: "I lost a son at the same time as they lost a husband and dad."

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Samantha Kennedy is the new extension director

By RIDDHI PATEL
Reporter

Samantha Kennedy, who has been the Family and Consumer Sciences Agent at Wakulla County UF/IFAS Extension since April 2017, has accepted an offer to become the new Wakulla Extension Director. She accepted the offer on March 16 and is set to be confirmed by the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners at their

April 18 meeting.

Kennedy received a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology and Nutritional Sciences in 2000 and a Masters in Agricultural Education in 2002, both from the University of Florida.

She has been a part of Extension since 2004 when she joined the Manatee County Extension Office as the Family and Consumer Sciences Agent. As a part of family and consumer sciences, Kennedy's main fo-

cus was on life skills including health and wellness, food safety, budgeting and financial education, and more.

From 2013 to 2016, she was the Extension Director for Manatee County – until she joined the Wakulla Extension Office in 2017. "That experience would help me to guide the extension office here," said Kennedy. She said that her experience with Extension has grown over the

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Expanded beach hours issue fizzles

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

Wakulla County Commissioners rejected a proposal by Commissioner Ralph Thomas – especially Shell Point Beach – to 24/7 access.

Currently, beaches are open sunrise to sunset.

Why not allow public access to beaches, Thomas asked, as long as the people out there are being law-abiding, and if they're breaking the law, there should be zero-tolerance for that.

Dozens of homeowners at Shell Point, who complain of nighttime beach visitors with loud music and marijuana and drinking and litter and people having sex, showed up at the commission meeting on Monday, March 21, to object.

But it never got that far: the other four commissioners let Thomas' motion die for lack of a second.

"I'm not gonna support 24/7 opening of beaches," said Randy Merritt. He noted that the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge is public land but it's not open all hours for visitors.

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Ralph Thomas

CANDIDATE ANNOUNCEMENT

Dod Walker is candidate for school board

Principal at Riversprings Middle and later director of adult education is running for District 1 seat

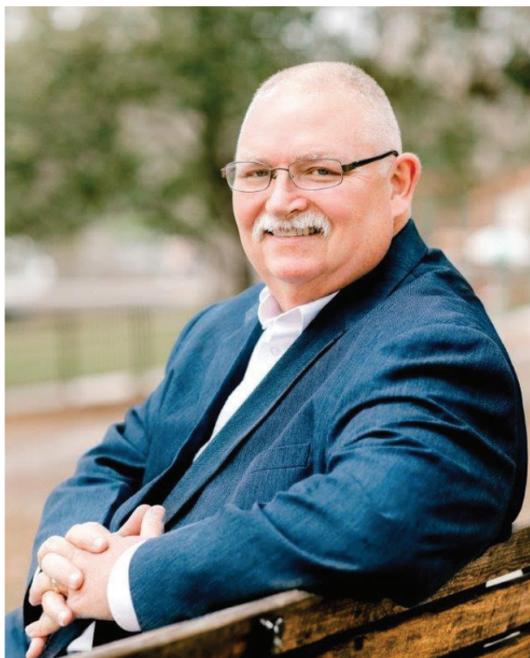
By DOD WALKER

My name is Dod Walker. I was born and raised in Wakulla County and am a 1980 graduate of Wakulla High School. I have a BS from Florida State University, a MS from FSU and an ED.S. from Stetson University.

While I have spent most of my life in Wakulla, I did leave for five years in the late 80's and early 90's to be a Guidance Counselor in Central Florida and to start my family. The five years I spent in Volusia and Seminole County only served to deepen my appreciation and love for our county. When my mentor, Bob Myhre called me in 1993 and asked me to come back to Wakulla County and interview for the Assistant Principal's position at Wakulla Middle School I was thrilled. I was the AP at WMS for seven years under the late Superintendent Roger Stokley and Principal Bob Myhre.

Both of my sons, Dodge III and Jake, graduated from Wakulla High School. They went on to successful college careers due, in no small part, to the education they received in the Wakulla School System.

In 2000 I was asked again to step forward and apply for the new Principal position at Riversprings Middle School. Opening RMS was an incredible experience and taught me how to truly be a leader, bringing community, teachers and students together to build a school worthy of being in the Wakulla



Dod Walker

County school system. I know what it takes to put and keep schools on top in our state. In 2013 I felt

like I needed a different challenge and accepted the position of Director of Adult Education, Athletics, and Minority Recruitment Programs. This job gave me a whole new perspective on education. Many of my Adult Education students, I knew as youngsters. It made me very happy to see them achieving their goals even if it was a different route than they and their parents once envisioned.

It was also in this role my love for vocational education was formed and I hope to take vocational education to the next level as a Board member.

Another important aspect of my job was the recruitment of minority educators to Wakulla County. I recruited Florida State, Flagler College, Bethune Cookman and of course FAMU to find the most highly skilled young minority teachers in the state. While I was a principal, I had the highest percentage of minority teachers in the county. I knew first-hand what an asset a diverse faculty was to the student body.

Since my retirement in 2021, I have worked full time as a Realtor in Wakulla. I understand the growth of the county and what needs to happen to facilitate the educational needs of our students while not burdening homeowners with additional property taxes.

I have been a member of the Wakulla Rotary, the Wakulla Men's Club and currently serve on the Wakulla Recreation Board. I am a past presi-

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Volunteers George Boszilkov, Therese Larsen, Lara Edwards cleaning up the Depot Park.

Spring at Sopchoppy Depot Park

By LYNN ARTZ
Special to The Sun

Spring blooms are showing off at Sopchoppy Depot Park. Plan a weekly visit to the park for the next month to enjoy the spring flower show. In addition to seeing the older plantings near the park entrance on Rose Street, now is the time to enjoy many of the new plantings in the southwest corner near the pond and swale. Native azaleas, woodland phlox, black-eyed susan, blue-eyed grass, red buckeye, and atamasco or zephyr lilies are among the many beautiful native plants now in bloom.

Besides enjoying the park, consider volunteering to help maintain the park. More than a dozen volunteers gathered on Saturday, March 19, to spruce up the park for the Sopchoppy Worm Gruntin' Festival on April 9. Volunteers picked up downed limbs, cut back last year's flower stalks, removed dead trees, and pulled weeds.

Volunteers included Lara and John Alex Edwards, Debbie Singletary, Nancy Paul and her grandson Christopher, Therese Larsen, Betsy Rudden, Linda Turner, Nick Marino, George Boszilkov, Norma and Abigail Land, Jeannie Brodhead, Lynn Artz, Sandy Tedder, and David Roddenberry.

Community volunteers are needed again on Saturday, April 2, to continue weeding, mulch the plant beds with pine straw, and train coral honeysuckle vines to climb fencing.

Volunteers are needed for another cleanup day on Saturday, April 2, to weed, mulch plant beds and train honeysuckle vines. Show up after 9 a.m. and look for Sandy Tedder to sign in.



A Zephyr Lily at the park.

Volunteers may simply show up after 9 a.m. and look for Sandy Tedder to sign in. Volunteer hours are recorded to satisfy the Viva Florida Landscape Demonstration grant from the Florida Wildflower Foundation that funded the purchase of many plants now blooming.

Sheriff's Report

Activity reported from March 18 to 24:

SATURDAY, MARCH 19

- Deputy Colton Sheridan conducted a traffic stop on Savannah Road for faulty equipment. During the stop the driver Kenneth Scott was found to have an outstanding warrant from Wakulla County and methamphetamine was allegedly found during a search of his person. The passenger, Marta Scott, was also allegedly in possession of methamphetamine as well. Both subjects were arrested and taken to the Wakulla County Jail without incident.

- Deborah Goodwin reported being scammed out of \$100 for the purchase of a dog. Goodwin made the purchase using a cash app. Goodwin arrived at a local address to retrieve the dog but discovered the residence to be vacant. Goodwin signed an affidavit for prosecution form. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Jeremy Creel investigated.

MONDAY, MARCH 21

- Rebecca Harrod reported an unknown charge on her credit card for \$1,499. Prior to contacting the Sheriff's Office, Harrod had already called and reported the incident to her credit card company. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Dustin Matthews investigated.

- Patches Rakes reported damage to her vehicle stating that someone keyed her vehicle during the night. Rakes was able to provide a possible suspect in this case. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Tiffany Spears investigated.

TUESDAY, MARCH 22

- Deputies responded to an address on Crawfordville Highway in reference to a report of a juvenile shooting vehicles with a BB gun. The complainant stated they heard "ping" sounds coming from outside. When they walked out, they witnessed a juvenile, dressed in camo, running through the woods. The complainant walked over to the fence line where the juvenile ran from and located a Daisy Red Ryder BB gun. A work van had been struck multiple times with BBs. The windshield and passenger side body had been damaged, and the passenger window was destroyed. A search of the wooded area yielded negative results in locating the suspect. The BB gun was collected for evidence and digital images were taken of the damage. Contact was made with juveniles residing at an address in the area. Deputy Causseaux was able to link the BB gun to the juveniles in question as the suspects name was engraved on the side of the gun. Victims decided not to pursue charges after learning the age of the juveniles. The BB gun was returned to the juvenile's father. The father and the victim agreed to work out a way to pay for damages. Deputies Michelle Stripling and Dylan Causseaux responded.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23

- Michael Flores reported someone changing the lock on his storage unit. Upon making entry into the storage unit. Multiple power tools and household items were discovered missing from the unit. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Arturo Cordoba investigated.

THURSDAY, MARCH 24

- Krista Graham reported an unknown person entered her vehicle during the night and stole her purse, \$160, wallet with credit cards and her Social Security card. Total loss was estimated at \$315. Wakulla County Crime Scene Investigation responded to the scene to assist. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Colton Sheridan investigated.

Please remember to always report suspicious or illegal activity at 850-745-7100, or 911 for emergencies.

Sparkman files appeal

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

Candidate Colby Sparkman, who sued the Wakulla Canvassing Board after he lost the 2020 race for property appraiser by four votes to Ed Brimmer, has filed

an appeal of his losing lawsuit that claimed the court should open and count the 12 ballots that were rejected by the canvassing board because signatures don't match those on file.

On Feb. 24, Wakulla Circuit Judge Ronald



Colby Sparkman

Flury rejected Sparkman's lawsuit and found, in a 13-page order, that Sparkman had shown no evidence that alleged misconduct by the canvassing board of then-Supervisor of Elections Buddy Wells, would have changed the outcome of the election.

Sparkman filed a notice of appeal to the First District Court of Appeal in Tallahassee on Friday, March 25. The notice included the judge's order but did not outline the reasons for the appeal.

The canvassing board acknowledged mistakes were made: Sparkman was told by elections staff not to contact any of the 12 voters whose ballots were rejected so they could cure the problems.

One voter did cure her ballot in time, but asked that it not be counted because the community would know how she voted.

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SPORTS

WAKULLA HIGH BASEBALL

Over spring break, War Eagles improve to 8-3



By **KEITH ANDERSON**
WHS Baseball Coach

The Wakulla High War Eagles took to the diamond during spring break week improving to 8-3 on the year winning 2 out of

3 games.

On Monday, March 21, the War Eagles traveled to Madison. Thomas University commit Brandon Cook faced off against UF commit Blaydon Plain on the hill.

Brandon Cook was the winning pitcher throwing 4.2 innings with 6 strikeouts and giving up 3 runs.

Reid Joyner gave up no hits in his relief appearance.

The War Eagles pounded out 14 hits

in the 17-6 win. Colby Zinser led the War Eagles with 3 hits. Levi Anderson and Haden Klees each had 2 hits. Austin Hamilton, Jacob Hammond, John Pierini, Brayden Lawhon, Brady Crum, Reid Joyner, and Briyaun Butler-Moore all contributed a hit each.

On Tuesday, March 22 the War Eagles hosted a double header with two top 5 ranked teams in the state in 1A.

The first game was

with Holmes County. John Pierini started on the mound getting the win throwing 5 innings scattering 6 hits and 3 runs. Colby Zinser closed out the game for the War Eagles in a solid relief appearance.

The War Eagle offense was still hot producing 9 runs on 12 hits to win the game 9-4. Third baseman Colby Zinser and Brayden Lawhon led the offense each having 3 hits. Lawhon

had 3 RBIs and Haden Klees also had 2 hits and 2 RBIs.

The War Eagles had a tougher time with Bozeman, losing the game 15-6 despite being tied at 5 runs each in the 4th inning.

Reid Joyner started on the mound throwing 2.1 innings.

Brady Crum, Levi Anderson, and Austin Hamilton all had relief appearances.

Freshman Trenton Wonsch entered the game in the 7th

pounding the strikezone with a 9 pitch shutout inning.

Despite the losing effort, Wakulla once again stayed hot on the offensive side producing 10 hits to Bozeman's 11 hits.

Levi Anderson and Austin Hamilton each managed 3 hits each.

Michael Hurley, Briyaun Butler-Moore, Colby Zinser, and John Pierini also chipped in a hit a piece.

District teachers, employee of the month

Special to The Sun

TERRI CARTER IS CRAWFORDVILLE ELEMENTARY MARCH TEACHER OF THE MONTH

Crawfordville Elementary teacher Terri Carter is March Teacher of the Month. Carter said the following of coming to teach in Wakulla County Schools, "Originally, I grew up in Wakulla County Schools, and after graduating from FSU returned to teach in the school of my youth, Soppchopy Elementary. Luckily, I had the pleasure to work with some of the same teachers who had taught me as a young student. Then, in 2018, I returned to Florida from Alaska, and I am privileged to have been hired at Crawfordville Elementary School."

She also said of teaching at Crawfordville that, "Well, the top of the list is working with the students in my class. Every day is a new adventure, and the impact one can make is great. Everyone brings a different set of strengths and needs to the class. Creating a classroom that can use those strengths to meet the needs of others is an exciting experience"

Principal Alena Crawford noted that "Ms. Carter is the kind of teacher that kids love to have and administrators love to work with." Continuing on Crawford pointed out



Terry Carter

that, "She builds an amazing classroom community that encourages problem solving and critical thinking. For two years she has teamed with a class in Alaska to complete an awesome project. In addition to her classroom duties, she is our student council sponsor. She has done a great job at promoting a positive school climate and school spirit among students and staff. Her program is embedded with community service projects, and she does a superb job of showing the importance of being a resource to those in the community that may be in need. She is the epitome of a team player and goes above and beyond to meet the needs of her students. We are more than appreciative of all she has done for her students and our school as a



Kelly Dykes

whole. Her passion for family/community building goes unmatched. Not only is she a great academic instructor, but she is also quite good at modeling the importance of being a good person. We are very blessed to have Ms. Carter on our team at CES."

Congratulations to Terri Carter Crawfordville Elementary Teacher of the Month.

KELLY DYKES IS RIVERSPRINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE MONTH

Mrs. Kelly Dykes is Riversprings Middle School's March Teacher of the Month. She retired from Publix and came to work at Wakulla County Schools as a paraprofessional before becoming a full-time



Karlyn Langford

teacher at RMS in 2010. She was also a leader of the AVID team that made RMS a national demonstration school.

When asked what was most enjoyable about her job Kelly remarked: "I really enjoy working with the students that have a tough time believing in themselves; seeing them turn around., becoming a success, believing in themselves, and becoming proud of themselves and their grades is awesome."

Principal Josh Sandgren congratulated Mrs. Kelly, saying "Mrs. Kelly is a great representative of the Riversprings faculty to be honored as a Wakulla County Teacher of the Month. She works very hard as our AVID site coordinator to ensure RMS's National Demonstration School status. One of her talents is her ability to connect with her

students and instill in them a level of confidence that many of them have not had in the past."

Congratulations to Mrs. Kelly our Riversprings Middle School Teacher of the Month.

KARLYN LANGFORD IS MEDART ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Mrs. Langford works in Data Entry at Medart Elementary School where she was previously a paraprofessional since 1996. Langford notes that "What I enjoy the most about my job is the children and the people I get to work with each day. My MES family is awesome!"

Principal Stan Ward had the following to say about Mrs. Langford, "Mrs. Langford is a treasure for MES. She is my "go to" person for events and celebrations.... Especially ones that involve food! Her presence at our school makes a huge positive impact on all our faculty, staff, and students. Mrs. Langford is always ready to help and looks for ways to make everyone else have a better day. I am proud to be able to honor her as Employee of the Month for March."

Congratulations to Mrs. Karrie Langford, Medart Elementary Employee of the Month.

25 years for Hoover death

From Front Page

She also complained: "My son's dying and I can't even touch him... He's tired and he's ready to quit."

Hoover's daughter, Tiffany Dillon, talked about her father's reputation for being ethical and upright, and contrasted it with Strickland's behavior: "Everything Mr. Strickland did after the death of my dad... He has never taken responsibilities for the choices he made in the death of my dad."

The most emotional testimony came from Hoover's widow, Myrna, who noted her husband stood for law enforcement and the process of justice, but admitted it had been a long four years waiting for justice in this case. She praised her family for their grace and resilience in the case, saying that's what Paul would have wanted.

She said she forgave Strickland for the death of her husband on the day of his death because she didn't want to live with those negative emotions. But her grief, she said, had

reduced her to a shell of her former self, having "lost the person I'm supposed to spend the rest of my life with."

Assistant State Attorney James Beville, who prosecuted the case, told the court that the skid marks on Springhill Road where the accident occurred measured 324 feet. If the car Strickland was driving came to a complete stop, Florida Highway Patrol specialists estimated it was traveling at 87 mph, Beville said.

He asked the court to sentence Strickland to 30 years in prison and noted that, before today, Strickland had never expressed remorse for the death.

Judge Everett adjudicated Strickland guilty and sentenced him to 15 years in prison for vehicular homicide, 25 years in prison for leaving the scene of a crash with death, 15 years for the arson and 15 years for tampering with evidence, all to run concurrent, with credit for 1,384 days considered served.

Wakulla Chief Prosecutor Brian Miller said he is seeking to have

Strickland transported to Wakulla County for prosecution for violation of probation on charges. Miller will be asking the court to impose an additional 10 years consecutive to the Leon County sentence.

Hoover was 66 when he was killed. He was a retired Game and Fish officer who was

posthumously inducted into the Florida Law Enforcement Hall of Fame. He had worked as track and cross country coach at Wakulla High School for several years and earned a reputation as a patient and encouraging coach. Whole families were drawn into running because of Hoover's guidance.

The track field at Wakulla High School has since been named for him.

After retiring from Game and Fish, Hoover also worked as a part-time bailiff at the Wakulla County Courthouse, assigned to Wakulla County Judge Jill Walker.

On his last day at the courthouse, before

he was killed, Hoover clipped his bailiff's tie to the blinds in the bailiff's office and it is still there in his honor. Allen Dees, who has retired as a bailiff, clipped his tie to the blinds along with Hoover's in what is becoming a courthouse tradition.

The City of St Marks is seeking qualified applicants for a Full Time Maintenance Position.

This is routine work involving the use of some skills acquired by experience or on-the-job instruction. This work requires more than usual physical strength, endurance and able to lift 50lbs. A Maintenance Worker works under the supervision of a foreman or a crew leader who issues oral work orders and inspects work frequently. Employees in this class may be assisted by one or more unskilled laborers.

Essential Duties: a variety of semi-skilled outside building maintenance, carpentry, painting, and masonry tasks; acts as helper to mechanics, digs and braces sewer and water lines and ditches; raises and lowers manholes. Makes water taps and cuts water on and off, work on sewer lift stations; sets up and operates sewer rodding machines; frequently operates backhoes and weed eaters, landscaping, lawn mowers and related equipment, keeping equipment clean, when not working as a skilled laborer, works as unskilled laborer as assigned. Performs related work as required.

The successful candidate must be 18 years of age, be high school graduate or possess an acceptable equivalency diploma. Starting salary is \$18.00 an hour and this position is eligible for our generous package. Applications are available at City of St Marks, 788 Port Leon Drive,

St Marks, FL 32355 850-925-6224 Mon.-Fri. 9:00 am-12:00 & 1:00-4:30 Closing date April 14, 2022 at 4:30 pm.

March 31, 2022

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Closing: April 15th 2022**

For Application, Job Description, education & experience requirements, skills & other requirements, please visit <https://wakullaclerk.org/employment/>.

By Florida Law all applications for employment are open for public inspection. Background check & drug screening are required. Veteran's preference given to qualified applicants. Wakulla County Clerk of the Court and Comptroller is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

Respond to: Human Resource Office -Tiffany Conn email: tconn@wakullaclerk.com, Wakulla County Court and Comptroller,

3056 Crawfordville Hwy, Crawfordville, FL 32327.

March 31, April 7, 14, 2022

“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

Being a real person



By GREG GAST

“What are your goals in life?” “What are you striving for?” “What is your purpose?”

These are questions that every individual has asked themselves at one time or another. Sometimes in deep meditative and calm thoughts or perhaps in times of agonizing uncertainty and despair.

In the research of one Charles Morris he looked at five dimensions which he thought were responsible for individual choices.

1. The first such value dimension involves a preference for responsible, moral, self-restrained participation in life, appreciating and conserving what man has attained.

2. The second places stress upon the delights in vigorous action for overcoming obstacles. It involves a confident initiation of change, either in resolving personal and social problems, or in overcoming obstacles in the natural world.

3. The third dimension stresses the value of self-sufficient inner life with a rich and heightened self-awareness. Control over persons and things is rejected in favor of

a deep and sympathetic insight into self and others.

4. The fourth underlying dimension values a receptivity to persons and to nature. Inspiration is seen as coming from a source outside the self, and the person lives and develops in devoted responsiveness to this source.

5. The fifth and final dimension stresses sensuous enjoyment, self-enjoyment. The simple pleasures of life, an abandonment to the moment, a relaxed openness to life, are valued.

The best way that I can state in becoming a real person is to use the words of Soren Kierkegaard – “to be that self which one truly is.” What does it mean? What does it imply? Here are my top eight answers.

1. A movement away from a self that he is not. In doing so he begins to define what he is.

2. A tendency to move away from shoulds, oughts, musts and the nevers in life. Stopping catastrophes in everything in life.

3. Moving away from what culture or society expects of them. Being and thinking for oneself not giving over to the pressures of conformity.

4. Not trying to please everyone. As Shakespeare’s – “To thine own self be true.”

5. B e c o m - ing self-directing. Moving toward being autonomous. Moving toward goals they choose

becoming responsible for and to themselves.

6. Seeing themselves as a process. Moving toward being more a process, a fluidity, a changing. Being in flux, not looking for conclusions or end states.

7. A movement toward complexity. A desire to be all of oneself in each moment with nothing hidden from oneself, and nothing feared in oneself.

8. An openness to experience not being rigid or closed-minded.

9. Moving toward acceptance of others. Acceptance of just what is. An appreciation of the humanness of both themselves and others.

10. Trust in oneself. Development of the process of being themselves, feeling their own feelings and values discovered within and expressing themselves in their own unique ways.

To be a real person, to be that self which one truly is not an easy direction to move, nor one which is ever completed. It is a continuing way of life.

Let me know what you think.....

Send your questions to Real Life Counseling, 3295 Crawfordville Hwy., suite #4, Crawfordville FL 32327 in care of Gregory E. Gast, MS, LMHC, NCC. Your name will be changed and the answer to your question will appear in an upcoming issue of The Wakulla Sun.

Krystal Sheppard joins the staff of The Wakulla Sun



By KRISTAL SHEPPARD

This is only my first day on the job here at The Wakulla Sun, but it already held a piece of my heart before I stepped through the front door.

I worked at The Wakulla News for about 5 years, and in that time I grew to think of my coworkers, the same group of people who now make up The Wakulla Sun, as family. We were an amazing team that respected one another, became friends and worked really well together.

When I left The Wakulla News in August of last year, it was with a painful and tearful goodbye.

However, a new day has dawned and the sun is shining bright!

I am elated that Bill Snowden not only “jumped off the cliff” as he says

and started the new newspaper, but also that he asked me to rejoin the team. They have had my full support from the beginning of their adventure, but his acknowledgment that I was a valued member of his team in the past is very validating and somewhat makes up for any disappointment I may have felt.

I can truly say that everyone here at The Wakulla Sun values journalism as it was meant to be, and sincerely wants to be here to support and inform our wonderful community.

Working here at The Sun feels like coming home, and I am so excited to be here!

I am only working part time for now, as I’m also currently a student at FSU working toward earning a master’s degree in Information Technology and graduate certificates in Information Management & Leadership and Information Architecture. My role here is still evolving, but I’m sure that once the phones are working you will likely speak with me if you call the office. I will be available to help with any customer service issues, managing current subscriptions, creating new ones, and of course I will also be doing some writing! I look forward to working for The Wakulla Sun and with and for the people of Wakulla County again!

Krystal Sheppard handles circulation for The Wakulla Sun.

LETTERS

Scholarships available for seniors

Editor, The Sun:

The Wakulla Academic Boosters have 50 scholarships to give away in May. The deadline to apply has been extended.

The application is available on-line at WakullaAcademicBoosters.org. Apply on-line or take the completed app to your guidance counselor. Make sure you have turned in your

community service hours.

There are several scholarships intended for nursing, welding, golf, teaching, carpentry or vocational students and many others for TCC and four year colleges.

Don’t miss out!

Jo Ann Daniels

Wakulla Academic Boosters

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.

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William Snowden
Editor & Publisher
The Wakulla Sun

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“It’s A New Day!”



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DISTRIBUTOR
Jessi Smith

The Wakulla Sun is published weekly at 12 Arran Road, Crawfordville FL 32327
For advertising please call Lynda at 850-570-9944

Subscriptions to The Wakulla Sun

In County - \$35/yr. - \$20/6 mo. Out of County - \$50/yr. - \$30/6 mo. Out of State - \$60/yr. - \$35/6 mo.

◀ Question of The Week ▶

Polled at the Quick Stop - Crawfordville

What do you like to do on the weekends this time of year?



BRANDON HOBBS
GORDON OUTDOORS

**“Fishing!
I like the
Shell Pt.
area.”**



DYLAN SIZEMORE
GORDON OUTDOORS

**“Normally I stay
home and stay
cool. Maybe go
swimming, I work
in the sun all week.”**



DEBORAH GRAY
DHL DELIVERY DRIVER

**“Have fun going
to outdoor
concerts, festivals,
maybe flea
markets.”**



PHILLIP THORNTON
BULLFROG COATINGS

**“I like to hang
out with friends
at the beach,
go fishing and
swimming.”**



ROMERO WILLIAMS
CONE DISTRIBUTING SALESMAN

**“I like to take my
kids to a park or to
the beach. This is the
perfect time to be out
doors. My 2 year old
loves to be outside.”**

- Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

COMMUNITY NEWS

Wakulla Station News

By **VERNA BROCK**

The Woodville Volunteer Fire department has asked me to let you know that a pair of very nice eyeglasses were found in the ladies restroom on March 12th, during the Founders Day Festival. These are black and silver prescription glasses; if you think they may be yours, contact me at 850-421-3730.

I visited Sunblest Garden Nursery during their open house last Saturday, and boy howdy, was it packed! Vehicles were parked on both sides, up and down Commerce Boulevard, for at least a mile, for most of the day. There was an amazing assortment of annuals, perennials, ground covers, pots and baskets filling over 10 acres of greenhouses and fields. I managed to pick out some really nice plants, while seeing lots of friends inching their way to and fro among the crowd. It was a perfect day and everyone was happy to be able to attend in person.

This coming Sunday, April 3rd, is Communion Sunday at the Wakulla United Methodist Church, and will be followed by our monthly pot-luck dinner. You are invited to join us for fellowship at 10 a.m. and a

delicious dinner in the social hall immediately after worship. Hope to see you there!

I am very pleased to report that Lyric Oaks continues to make steady progress in his recovery from a serious accident, as well as Ian Wickham, who was injured when he was riding his scooter. Both young men are showing improvement, and both continue to have a long road to complete recovery. Please continue to keep them and their families in your prayers during this very challenging time.

I had the pleasure of meeting a recent addition to our little neighborhood, the Bartlebaugh family. They are active in the community, and have their own business in addition to regular jobs! Doug and Beth own East Coast Finishers, LLC, and you can reach them at 850-716-0024 or eastcoastfinishers@outlook.com. They can renovate, repair, paint, screen, install all kinds of floors and do interior design projects if you are looking for some help in that direction. I had the best visit when I stopped by a couple of weeks ago to welcome this lovely family to the neighborhood.

Believe it or not, 4-H is already taking applications for summer camp! There will be eight weeks

of camp, and each will have a different emphasis. They include everything from Animal Science; STEM Science; Target Sports; to Arts and Crafts; to Plants, Bees and Trees; and more. There will also be three specialty camps, including the outstanding 4-H Teen Leadership Certification Camp. For more information, you can contact Christy Pearson at 850-901-7092 or email her at christinepearson@ufl.edu.

Ed and I celebrated our 46th anniversary this past Sunday, and I can attest that time flies when you're busy! It hardly seems possible that so many years have gone by, and I do believe the days are picking up speed with each passing month. Is it just me, or does it seem that way to you too? I think this is a reminder (as my Pastor, Steve Montgomery, advises) to be present IN THE PRESENT! Let's resolve to live in the moment, let go of the regrets of the past, and make the future better for everyone.

Don't forget! You can share your family, community and church news right here. Just email me at vernalsbrock@gmail.com or call me at 850-421-3730. I love getting the news out!

Blessing box locations

By **MARVA PRESTON**

For those who need food, here are locations of food boxes in the community:

1. WAKULLA COUNTY COURTHOUSE - 3056 CRAWFORDVILLE HWY- (ON ARRAN RD)
2. 4-H IFAS 84 CEDAR AVENUE CRAWFORDVILLE, GI
3. CHRIST CHURCH ANGLICAN - 3383 COASTAL HWY (BETWEEN HIGH SCHOOL AND MEDART PARK)
4. SHADY SEA BAPTIST CHURCH - 47 SHADY SEA ST CRAWFORDVILLE)
5. WAKULLA SENIOR CENTER - 33 MICHAEL DR CRAWFORDVILLE)
6. WAKULLA COUNTY HEALTH DEPT- (48 OAK ST CRAWFORDVILLE)
7. PANACEA FLORIDA (RT 98- NEXT TO COMMUNITY GARDEN AND ACROSS FROM DOLLAR GENERAL)
8. CITY OF SOPCHOPPY- (HWY 319-ACROSS FROM DEPOT PARK AND NEXT TO THE TRAIN DEPOT)
9. WAKULLA PREGNANCY CENTER -(886 WOODVILLE HWY CRAWFORDVILLE)

Wakulla Citizens Page News

By **BECKY WHALEY**

Slower week with the most commented post being that the Board of County Commissioners did not second for vote the extended park hours issue.

Second most popular post was by Danielle Crum showing the true spirit of Wakulla County:

To the group around

my neighborhood singing Back Streets Back and Don't Stop Believing karaoke at the top of your lungs... KEEP ON KEEPIN ON This is the energy we need for the rest of 2022 and I'm here for it!

This week's poll was relative to the School Board's request for one-half cent sales tax on the November ballot to help pay for air con-

ditioning needed, those voting are not in favor of the additional tax.

Lastly, Wakulla Citizens Group is trying to help raise the money to have one of our former homeless senior citizens burned mobile home removed from her property. At the time of this writing, \$4,000 of the \$5,000 needed has been committed for donation as soon as a spe-

cial bank account is set up this week. If anyone would like to donate not active on social media, please contact Amy Geiger at Capital City Bank to see how you can join in this effort.

Becky Whaley is administrator of the Wakulla Citizens Facebook Group.

Kiersten Smith

Agent Bus: **850 745 2148**

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Expanded beach hours issue fizzles

From **Front Page**

Other commissioners – Mike Kemp and Chuck Hess – indicated they supported expanded hours, but not around-the-clock.

Hess suggested a closure from 12 midnight to 6 a.m., but Merritt asked for more time to study the issue.

Kemp, a retired major in the Wakulla County Sheriff's Of-

fice, said he pulled statistics on calls to Shell Point since 2019 and found there were 78 calls – 58 of those were at night, and 51 were for suspicious vehicles.

Kemp noted that, years ago, he often went castnetting or fishing at Shell Point during all hours of the night, depending on the rising or falling tide.

Allowing fishermen

access to the beach was obviously a concern to commissioners.

They discussed giving deputies the authority to do a trespass warrant on anyone causing a disturbance. Somebody playing loud music, for example – typically a deputy shows up and tells the person to turn the music down and gives them an opportunity to comply. After a second

complaint, the deputy can tell the person to leave.

Under trespass warrants, a deputy could tell a person they have to leave the beach after the first complaint.

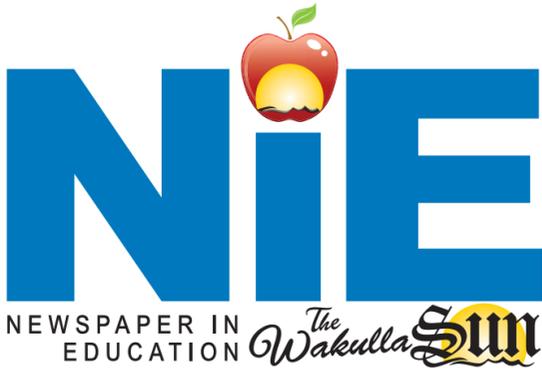
It was agreed by commissioners that “Mashes Sands is a different situation” than Shell Point – although what that means as a practical measure remains to be seen.

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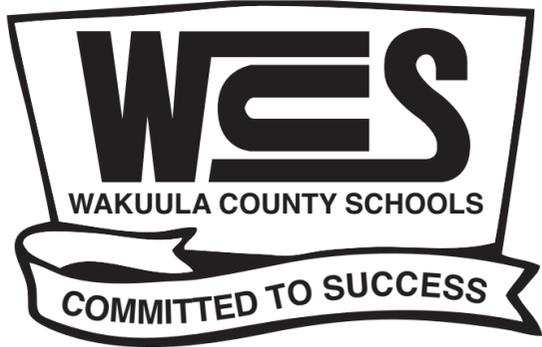
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National Nutrition Month: Healthy eating tips



School distribution sponsored by



Celebrating National Nutrition Month

By JODI PUSHKIN

President Florida Press Educational Services

Florida Press Educational Services (FPES) is proud to commemorate National Nutrition Month 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 have provided some activities focusing on nutrition for lesson plans during this month.

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 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 with 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. Jodi holds an M.A. in English Education and a B.A. in writing and literature. Jodi has worked in NIE for the past 17 years. Jodi is a former high school teacher. In addition to her work with NIE, Jodi is an adjunct instructor at Saint Leo University, Hillsborough Community College and Pasco Hernando State College. Contact Jodi via e-mail at jpushkin@tampabay.com



1 Game day or hard-workout day plate

Depending on your sport and goals, up to half of your plate can be carbohydrates on a day when you participate in more than an hour of activity at a time. Choose a mix of complex and simple carbohydrates. Fill one quarter of your plate with lean protein and the remaining quarter with vegetables. Consider enjoying fruit as a snack during the day, instead of during your meal. A meal for a game day will have slightly more fat and higher calories than an off-season or light workout day.

Yummy Red Beans and Rice

What you need:

- ¼ pound smoked turkey sausage, chopped
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- ½ large onion, chopped
- 1 tablespoon garlic, chopped
- 1 rib celery, chopped
- ½ bell pepper, chopped
- ½ can diced tomatoes
- ½ can red beans
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ⅛ teaspoon black pepper
- ½ teaspoon dried thyme
- 1 teaspoon dried basil
- ½ tablespoon paprika
- 1 cup instant brown rice
- 1 cup water

What you do:

1. Measure the salt, black pepper, thyme, basil and paprika into a small container and set aside.
2. Heat the oil in a skillet at 350 degrees. Add the sausage, onion, pepper, celery and garlic and cook until the vegetables are soft, about 5 minutes.
5. Add the spice mix to the skillet.
6. Add the tomatoes, beans, rice and water to the skillet and stir to mix. Cover and cook for 5 minutes.
7. Turn the heat off and let stand, covered, for an additional 5 minutes. If there is a lot of water remaining, continue to cook uncovered until the liquid has evaporated.



HEALTHY FOOD OPTIONS

Veggies

- Broccoli
- Carrots
- Spinach
- Kale
- Peppers
- Tomatoes

Protein

- Fish
- Chicken
- Turkey
- Eggs
- Beans
- Nuts and seeds

Grains

- Quinoa
- Whole wheat toast
- Whole wheat wrap
- Whole wheat pita
- Whole wheat pasta
- Brown rice

Fruit

- Apple
- Banana
- Grapes
- Oranges
- Berries

Dairy

- Low-fat or fat-free milk
- Low-fat or fat-free cheese
- Low-fat or fat-free yogurt

Carb confusion

Chances are you've heard someone talk about simple and complex carbohydrates. Put simply, simple carbohydrates are sugars. All simple carbohydrates are made of just one or two sugar molecules. They are the quickest source of energy because they are digested rapidly. Some examples of simple carbohydrates include table sugar, brown sugar, corn syrup, honey, maple syrup, molasses, jams, jellies, fruit drinks, soft drinks and candy.

Complex carbohydrates are commonly referred to as starchy foods. They are often rich in fiber and high in vitamins and minerals, and are usually filling. You can find complex carbohydrates in whole plant foods such as green vegetables, potatoes, corn, pumpkin, beans, lentils, peas and foods made from whole grains such as oatmeal, pasta and breads.

6 tampabay.com/nie



World FACT:

WHAT IS THE FLORAL EMBLEM OF IRELAND?

ANSWER: SHAMROCK

Maze Craze

See if you can find your way to the four-leaf clover at the center of this maze.



Maze Solution



THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1889: THE EIFFEL TOWER OPENED OFFICIALLY IN PARIS.
- 1917: THE UNITED STATES TOOK POSSESSION OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS.
- 1995: MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL PLAYERS ENDED THE LONGEST STRIKE IN HISTORY AFTER A JUDGE ORDERED A PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION AGAINST TEAM OWNERS.

new word

gaelic

any of several languages spoken in Ireland and Scotland

How they SAY it in...

ENGLISH: Green

SPANISH: Verde

ITALIAN: Verde

FRENCH: Vert

GERMAN: Grün

Did You Know?

WHILE NEW YORK CITY HAS THE LARGEST NUMBER OF IRISH-AMERICAN RESIDENTS IN THE U.S., BOSTON HEADS THE LIST OF CITIES WITH THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF IRISH-AMERICANS.

get the PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture featured here is?

ANSWER: POTATOES

How much does God love you?



By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

The line was long but moving steadily. We were all dressed the same, in long white robes.

As I neared the front

of the line to heaven, I could see Jesus' face beam as He greeted each newcomer – until He saw me. His countenance changed from an expression of loving delight to a well-I-guess-since-you're-here-you-might-as-well-come-in-kind-of look.

Each time I envisioned the day I'd enter heaven, the above scene played through my mind. I didn't doubt my salvation; I just couldn't imagine that Jesus would be happy to see me personally. I felt unlovable (even by

God). I suspect these feelings played into many of the destructive choices I made during that time.

As the years passed, I prayed and read my Bible more. The more time I spend with my Savior, the more I understand how hugely He loves me. His love – for me – is far beyond my comprehension. I'm forever thankful that God, despite all my sinful deeds, does, indeed, love me.

Now I imagine Him on that future day not only beaming, but envel-

oping me in His warm embrace.

But not always.

Whenever I experience rejection from others and feel as if I don't matter, or when I don't feel as if I deserve God's love (for any reason), I need to recall, once more, the unconditional nature of His love ... for me.

What about you?

If you can relate, even in a small way, consider asking God this week to help you know how much He loves you – especially when you feel unlovable.

Imagine what understanding how much God loves you will do for you. How realizing (and experiencing) God's love for you would change the way you think about yourself. How experiencing Almighty God's love would confirm that you indeed matter.

Is it even possible to comprehend the "breadth and length and height and depth" of such a love (Ephesians 3:18 ESV)? Can you think of a more delightful pursuit?

I can't close this week's column with-

out mentioning John 3:16 (ESV): "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

This, my friend, is how much God loves ... you.

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.

Obituaries

DEATH NOTICES

• Shirley Haley-Jones, 86, of St. George Island, died Tuesday, March 22, 2022. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel

• Charles "Billy" W. Smith, Jr., 72, of Carrabelle, died March 23, 2022. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfh.com

'A Seat at the Table' intended to spark conversation

By **RIDDHI PATEL**
Reporter

The March "A Seat at the Table" meeting was held on Thursday, March 24 at Palaver Tree Theater.

The meeting was centered on Women's History Month, and event organizers invited women running for office in Wakulla to speak to meeting attendees and answer questions. One candidate accepted the invite – Gwendolyn Manning Staten who is running for Wakulla County School Board, District 1.

Staten told the audience who she is, why she is running for school board, and the concerns she hopes to focus on if elected. Then Palaver Tree's Herb Donaldson opened the floor up for a question-and-answer session. A variety of concerns were voiced and discussed by meeting attendees including there being relatively few Black teachers, guidance counselors, and administrators in Wakulla County Schools and how representation is import-



Palaver Tree Director Herb Donaldson talks to attendees at a recent Seat at the Table.

ant; superintendent selection and whether it should be changed from an elected position to an appointed position, fair processes for consequences students may face; career and technical education and more.

Many of the attendees expressed concern about limited representation and about how the systems that create such issues haven't changed much in recent years.

Donaldson shared that a meeting held in 2014 called "Wakulla SPEAKS! See-

ing Wakulla County Schools through the eyes of Wakulla's Black Community" was videotaped and posted on YouTube, and that the video would be a great resource to learn more about concerns that Wakulla County's Black community has regarding the local school district.

Following the discussion about concerns related to the school system, Donaldson spoke about the month-long series of events that will occur between two dates

that commemorate emancipation – May 20 which is significant in Florida and Juneteenth which is a federal holiday as of 2021.

So far, potential events for this year include celebrations, discussions, "visit a church days," an art exhibit, and more.

Donaldson said the "A Seat at the Table" meetings began, mainly by Kenny and Robert Manning, as a four-week series of meetings that bridged the two dates.

Since then, "A Seat

at the Table" has been a monthly meeting. Meeting organizers have announced that the purpose of the meeting is to "break bread, meet neighbors and discuss pres-

enting the Black community of Wakulla County."

The next "A Seat at the Table" will be on Thursday April 21 at 6:30 p.m. at Palaver Tree Theater.

Samantha Kennedy is new extension director

From Front Page

years, and that she wanted to challenge herself by taking on the leadership role again.

Kennedy said that she hopes to help Extension "be more recognizable in the community." As Wakulla Extension Director she wants to help more people in the community know and understand what Extension is and what resources, education, and skills can be found through Extension. She said, "I'm excited about the new opportunity."

Dod Walker is candidate for school board

From Front Page

dent of Cal Ripken Baseball in Wakulla and also coached every sport at the rec park at least three times each.

Extracurricular activities such as band, drama, ROTC and athletics are an important part of our school system and I will continue to be a strong supporter of these programs. For many children, extracurricular programs provide the additional motivation needed to achieve in the classroom.

This is a very exciting time to be a student, a parent, a teacher and yes, a School Board Member in Wakulla County. I have spent the majority of my life dedicated to children, my own and thousands more. I look forward to this next chapter in my life. I have more to give.

Shell Point Beach advisory

The Florida Department of Health in Wakulla County (DOH-Wakulla) has issued a high bacterial level advisory for Shell Point Beach.

DOH-Wakulla has been systematically sampling the local beach waters for indicators of human and animal pathogens. Enterococci are enteric bacteria that normally inhabit the intestinal tract of humans and animals. The presence of enteric bacteria in beach water can be an indication of fecal pollution. If they are present in high concentrations and are ingested while swimming or enter the skin through a cut or sore, they may cause human disease, infections or rashes. For more information on the program, visit the website at <http://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/beach-water-quality>.

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Outdoors

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HOME ON THE RANGE

Three carbines: Which is better?



By MARJ LAW

If someone places three different carbines in your hands, all with 16-inch barrels, which is better: the cheaper or the most expensive?

Prices on guns vary dramatically. Today, we are looking at the Kel-Tec Sub 2000, the AK-47 and the AR-9mm Windham.

The Kel-Tec is the least expensive. It ranges from about \$350 - \$450. Next is the AK-47 at about \$750. Last, but

certainly not least is the Windham AR-9mm at about \$1350-\$1500.

Whoops. Big difference.

Let's look a bit closer. All are 9mm carbines. Carbines can be known as "sub rifles." They have a small size, and they are lightweight. Weight matters if you're going to lug something all day. The AK-47 and the Windham AR are about the same at close to 7 pounds, while the Kel-Tec is lighter at around 4 1/2 pounds.

All three of these can use 17 or 31-round Glock magazines. What? You can use Glock mags in all of these carbines?

Yes, really. If you've got a Glock in your gun safe, its 17 and 31-round mags can be used in all three of the carbines listed above.

Joe, Heather, Jeremy, Rocco and Nick try both the 17 and the 31 round magazines to make sure this is true and they



found that it is.

At the price of magazines, that's not half bad. Law enforcement people who carry Glocks may appreciate this when they want a gun with a longer barrel. The longer the barrel, the higher the velocity which means more power when your round hits your target.

Production costs of carbines is supposed to help them be less expensive.

The five people at the range find the recoil to be quite easy on all of the carbines. Also, the smaller length of the barrel makes carbines more maneuverable than rifles. This can be especially useful around heavy foliage, walls, or around vehicles. Besides being able to move around quickly, the stronger velocity allows for greater penetration of the target.

While this AK-47 stock is made of wood, if you rotate the Kel-Tec's barrel upwards and back, you kind of

fold the carbine in not quite half. At this point, it is now 16.25 inches by 7 inches. Drop it in your backpack, and nobody will know you are carrying a gun! On top of its foldability, you can remove a pin in the stock and place it in either of 2 other holes so that it sits just right against your shoulder. The Windham AR has a telescoping stock. Squeeze a little lever, and you can change up to six positions. When space is an issue, the Kel-Tec and the Windham are especially conservative.

Sights on these three carbines are different. The AK-47 has a v shaped notch for a rear sight and a post for a front sight. I don't find these easy to line up. The Kel-Tec's sights are similar with a circular rear sight and a post front sight. The five people find they have to put their faces right down to the gun in order to line up the sights.

This Windham, however, has a Holosun

red dot sight (which did not come with the gun). Line up the sight to the target, and there you go. You don't have to squish your face to the metal of the gun. It's more comfortable and much easier to line up the red dot sight to the target.

Trigger pull on the Windham AR is, according to all five people, easier than on the Kel-Tec and the AK-47 although the latter 2 are pretty similar. No one feels trigger pull is difficult: it's just easier on the Windham. Trigger pull on the Windham AR is about 5 pounds 8 ounces and close to the same on the AK at over 6 pounds. However, trigger pull on the Kel-Tec is about 4.5 pounds.

Carbines can be especially useful for their light weight, short barrel, accuracy, less expensive manufacturing, changeable stock positions, use of Glock magazines, light recoil and more.

Now, which of the three carbines is the

best, remembering that the Kel-Tec is about 1/3 the price of the Windham AR and the AK-47 ranges between the low of the Kel-Tec and the high of the Windham?

Combining scores of trigger pull, trigger pull difficulty, recoil, and grip, the 5 shooters rate the AK-47 as the least easy to shoot, with the Kel-Tec coming very close to the AK. The Windham, though, rates as best and easiest in all these comparisons.

Is the Windham AR really worth three Kel-Tecs?

Well, I've got the Kel-Tec, and I got to shoot the Windham. The way the Kel-Tec folds is very cool.

However...

If the gun fairy ever pops down to offer me a free gun, I'm asking for the Windham AR 9mm carbine.

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



SOUTHERN FLOUNDER

(*Paralichthys lethostigma*)

Flounders are a type of "flat fish". As the young larvae develop, one eye migrates across the head so both end up on the same side. They lie flat, eyes up, and can change their color to blend in. They hide from predators and ambush small fish prey with their studded teeth. They are tolerant of temperatures from 50-90F and salinities of 0-36 ppt. They weigh from 1-2 lbs and grow to 36" in their five year life span.

Eukarya, Animalia, Chordata, Actinopterygii
Pleuronectiformes, Paralichthyidae



BIRDING AT THE REFUGE

Night birding, and at first light

By DON MORROW

When I got down to St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, a bright half-moon hung high in the clear night sky. There was time for almost two hours of night birding before sunrise and I slowly worked my way out to the back edge of Stony Bayou. I stopped often to listen for owls, but heard only the staccato trilling of Leopard Frogs.

Out on the Stony Bayou levee things began to pick up. A pair of Chuck-wills-widows were duetting. King Rail and Sora called from deep in the marsh and

a Least Bittern sounded off close by. At first light Marsh Wrens began to sing and a flock of seven Common Loons flew over heading for their summer home in the Great North Woods.

At sunrise I swung around the end of Stony Bayou and headed West on the Outer Levee. Tree and Barn Swallows were hunting over the marshes and three-foot tall Purple Thistles were growing along the levee's edge. Because thistles are a favored nectar source for newly-arrived Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, I kept scanning them.

I saw a quick flit-

ting movement. It was a hummer flying in to feed on a thistle. As I approached, it flew off to the North. I kept checking the thistles as I drove along the levee and kept seeing hummers. In total, I found eleven Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, almost all were male, which is typical of the first migratory wave of hummers.

My actual purpose for driving the levees was not to monitor hummingbird migration. Technically, I was doing a shorebird survey with a little freelance recreational birding on the side. I ran my usual route and ended up with

2,712 shorebirds of 13 species. Eighty percent of the shorebirds were on Tower Pond at high tide and most of them were Dunlin. The remainder were mostly Short-billed Dowitchers and Willets.

We're just past the Vernal Equinox and it is now officially Spring, but at St. Marks the seasons flow together with no sharp boundaries. A few Winter species linger at the refuge, even as returning summer resident birds are setting up territories and trans-migrants are passing through.

On my way out of the refuge, I stopped on

Lighthouse Road to walk at the Double Bridges. March is leaf out month and the cypresses, oaks, maples, ashes, willows and other trees were in various stages of leaf growth. Their leaves were in multiple shades of green, pale yellow and red. The hammock along the road had winter birds; Hermit Thrush, Orange-crowned Warbler and Ruby-crowned Kinglet, but also summer birds; Northern Parula and Red-eyed Vireo. That's how it is in later March.

The pace of seasonal change is not constant. Like the flow of water in a river, it varies and is

sometimes faster and at other times slower. We are about to enter a very fast and turbulent period. During the next few weeks as many as ten million birds may pass through St. Marks. Most will simply fly over, but some will stop at St. Marks to feed and rest before continuing a journey that may end in the boreal forests of Canada or along the arctic coast.

Come down to St. Marks for Spring migration 2022. There's no memorial T-shirt, but there will be some exciting birding.

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Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences

Thursday 31	
Sun rise/set 7:27AM 7:55PM	Moon rise/set 7:21AM 7:33PM
Moon Illumination 1%	
Friday 1	
Sun rise/set 7:26AM 7:56PM	Moon rise/set 7:51AM 8:32PM
Moon Illumination 0%	
Saturday 2	
Sun rise/set 7:25AM 7:56PM	Moon rise/set 8:51AM 9:30PM
Moon Illumination 2%	
Sunday 3	
Sun rise/set 7:23AM 7:57PM	Moon rise/set 8:51AM 10:28PM
Moon Illumination 5%	
Monday 4	
Sun rise/set 7:22AM 7:58PM	Moon rise/set 9:25AM 11:26PM
Moon Illumination 10%	
Tuesday 5	
Sun rise/set 7:21AM 7:58PM	Moon rise/set 10:01AM ---
Moon Illumination 17%	
Wednesday 6	
Sun rise/set 7:20AM 7:59PM	Moon rise/set 10:41AM 12:23AM
Moon Illumination 25%	

Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

Mar. 31 - April 6

Tide charts by
tides4fishing.com

Best fishing days this month
April 1-16, 30

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				City of St. Marks				Shell Point, Spring Creek						
Th	2:28 am ▲ 3.5 ft	8:38 am ▼ 0.0 ft	2:45 pm ▲ 3.6 ft	8:59 pm ▼ 0.0 ft	Th	3:04 am ▲ 3.2 ft	9:42 am ▼ 0.0 ft	3:21 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	10:03 pm ▼ 0.0 ft	Th	2:49 am ▲ 3.6 ft	9:09 am ▼ 0.1 ft	3:09 pm ▲ 3.5 ft	9:22 pm ▼ 0.1 ft
Fr	3:09 am ▲ 3.5 ft	9:06 am ▼ 0.2 ft	3:08 pm ▲ 3.7 ft	9:34 pm ▼ -0.2 ft	Fr	3:45 am ▲ 3.2 ft	10:10 am ▼ 0.2 ft	3:44 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	10:38 pm ▼ -0.2 ft	Fr	3:30 am ▲ 3.6 ft	9:37 am ▼ 0.4 ft	3:32 pm ▲ 3.6 ft	9:57 pm ▼ -0.1 ft
Sa	3:47 am ▲ 3.4 ft	9:31 am ▼ 0.5 ft	3:30 pm ▲ 3.7 ft	10:08 pm ▼ -0.4 ft	Sa	4:23 am ▲ 3.1 ft	10:35 am ▼ 0.5 ft	4:06 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	11:12 pm ▼ -0.3 ft	Sa	4:08 am ▲ 3.5 ft	10:00 am ▼ 0.6 ft	3:53 pm ▲ 3.7 ft	10:30 pm ▼ -0.3 ft
Su	4:24 am ▲ 3.2 ft	9:54 am ▼ 0.8 ft	3:50 pm ▲ 3.7 ft	10:41 pm ▼ -0.3 ft	Su	5:00 am ▲ 3.0 ft	10:58 am ▼ 0.7 ft	4:26 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	11:45 pm ▼ -0.3 ft	Su	4:44 am ▲ 3.4 ft	10:22 am ▼ 0.9 ft	4:12 pm ▲ 3.7 ft	11:03 pm ▼ -0.3 ft
Mo	5:01 am ▲ 3.0 ft	10:17 am ▼ 1.0 ft	4:09 pm ▲ 3.6 ft	11:15 pm ▼ -0.2 ft	Mo	5:37 am ▲ 2.8 ft	11:21 am ▼ 0.9 ft	4:45 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	12:18 pm ▼ -0.3 ft	Mo	5:21 am ▲ 3.2 ft	10:43 am ▼ 1.1 ft	4:32 pm ▲ 3.7 ft	11:37 pm ▼ -0.3 ft
Tu	5:40 am ▲ 2.8 ft	10:41 am ▼ 1.2 ft	4:30 pm ▲ 3.6 ft	11:52 pm ▼ 0.0 ft	Tu	6:15 am ▲ 2.6 ft	12:04 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	5:06 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	1:00 pm ▼ -0.3 ft	Tu	5:59 am ▲ 3.0 ft	11:05 am ▼ 1.3 ft	4:53 pm ▲ 3.6 ft	11:53 pm ▼ -0.3 ft
We	6:25 am ▲ 2.6 ft	11:08 am ▼ 1.5 ft	4:54 pm ▲ 3.4 ft		We	7:01 am ▲ 2.4 ft	12:12 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	5:30 pm ▲ 3.2 ft		We	6:42 am ▲ 2.8 ft	11:32 am ▼ 1.5 ft	5:18 pm ▲ 3.5 ft	

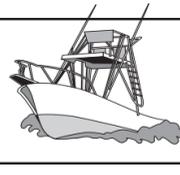
Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay				St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.				Dog Island West End						
Th	2:20 am ▲ 2.6 ft	8:49 am ▼ 0.0 ft	2:37 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	9:10 pm ▼ 0.0 ft	Th	2:27 am ▲ 2.7 ft	8:49 am ▼ 0.1 ft	2:49 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	9:03 pm ▼ 0.2 ft	Th	2:42 am ▲ 2.3 ft	9:06 am ▼ 0.2 ft	3:07 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	9:17 pm ▼ 0.2 ft
Fr	3:01 am ▲ 2.6 ft	9:17 am ▼ 0.2 ft	3:00 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	9:45 pm ▼ -0.2 ft	Fr	3:13 am ▲ 2.7 ft	9:17 am ▼ 0.4 ft	3:06 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	9:36 pm ▼ -0.1 ft	Fr	3:29 am ▲ 2.3 ft	9:33 am ▼ 0.5 ft	3:23 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	9:47 pm ▼ 0.0 ft
Sa	3:39 am ▲ 2.5 ft	9:42 am ▼ 0.4 ft	3:22 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	10:19 pm ▼ -0.3 ft	Sa	3:56 am ▲ 2.6 ft	9:43 am ▼ 0.7 ft	3:25 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	10:09 pm ▼ -0.3 ft	Sa	4:13 am ▲ 2.3 ft	9:58 am ▼ 0.7 ft	3:42 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	10:20 pm ▼ -0.2 ft
Su	4:16 am ▲ 2.4 ft	10:05 am ▼ 0.6 ft	3:42 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	10:52 pm ▼ -0.3 ft	Su	4:38 am ▲ 2.5 ft	10:06 am ▼ 0.8 ft	3:47 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	10:43 pm ▼ -0.3 ft	Su	4:56 am ▲ 2.2 ft	10:23 am ▼ 0.9 ft	4:04 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	10:54 pm ▼ -0.2 ft
Mo	4:53 am ▲ 2.3 ft	10:28 am ▼ 0.7 ft	4:01 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	11:26 pm ▼ -0.2 ft	Mo	5:19 am ▲ 2.4 ft	10:29 am ▼ 1.0 ft	4:11 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	11:18 pm ▼ -0.3 ft	Mo	5:38 am ▲ 2.1 ft	10:47 am ▼ 1.2 ft	4:28 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	11:32 pm ▼ -0.2 ft
Tu	5:32 am ▲ 2.1 ft	10:52 am ▼ 0.9 ft	4:22 pm ▲ 2.7 ft		Tu	6:01 am ▲ 2.2 ft	10:50 am ▼ 1.3 ft	4:38 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	11:57 pm ▼ -0.2 ft	Tu	6:18 am ▲ 2.0 ft	11:10 am ▼ 1.3 ft	4:54 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	
We	12:03 am ▼ 0.0 ft	6:17 am ▲ 1.9 ft	11:19 am ▼ 1.1 ft	4:46 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	We	6:49 am ▲ 2.0 ft	11:11 am ▼ 1.5 ft	5:08 pm ▲ 2.7 ft		We	12:12 am ▼ -0.1 ft	7:01 am ▲ 1.8 ft	11:29 am ▼ 1.5 ft	5:21 pm ▲ 2.3 ft

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



Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports

By Carolyn Brown Treadon



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

The weather is warming up and spring break is fast approaching for our local areas. Most are familiar with Carbon Monoxide dangers in our house, but the danger is also present on our boats. The following information comes from the National Safe Boating Council.

What is carbon monoxide?

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, and tasteless gas. It is produced when a carbon-based fuel—such as gasoline, propane, charcoal, or oil—burns. Sources on your boat may include engines, gas generators, cooking ranges, space and water heaters.

Why is it so dangerous?

Carbon monoxide (CO) enters your bloodstream through the lungs, blocking the oxygen your body needs. Prolonged exposure to low concentrations or very quick exposure to high concentrations can kill you. Early symptoms of CO poisoning include irritated eyes, headache, nausea, weakness, and dizziness. These symptoms are often confused with seasickness or intoxication, so those affected may not receive the medical attention they need.

Where can CO accumulate?

- Inadequately ventilated canvas enclosures
- Exhaust gas trapped in enclosed places
- Blocked exhaust outlets
- Exhaust of another vessel next to you
- “Station wagon effect” or back drafting
- At slow speeds, while idling, or stopped

How can you protect others and yourself?

- Know where and how CO may accumulate in and around your boat.
- If you can smell engine exhaust, you are inhaling CO.
- Follow all warnings and instructions for canvas, engine operations, etc.
- Maintain fresh air circulation throughout the boat at all times.
- Know where your engine and generator exhaust outlets are located and keep everyone away from these areas.
- Stay off the back

deck and the swim platforms while the engines are running.

- Never enter areas under swim platforms where exhaust outlets are located unless the area has been properly ventilated.

Although CO can be present without the smell of exhaust fumes, if exhaust fumes are detected on the boat, take immediate action to ventilate these fumes.

- Treat symptoms of seasickness as possible CO poisoning.
- Get the person into fresh air immediately.
- Seek medical attention – unless you’re sure it’s not CO.
- Install and maintain marine grade approved CO detectors.
- Every alarm requires immediate action.
- Replace detectors as recommended by the manufacturer.
- If CO is suspected, open all hatches, windows and ports to ventilate.
- Changing course

and speed to place boat heading into the wind can improve ventilation.

- Maintain your engine in accordance with manufacturers’ recommendations.

Engines that are not tuned properly produce more CO.

- Get a Vessel Safety Check.

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.



Underwater Wakulla

By Gregg Stanton

Returning.

The Safe Travels Program (vaccinations and/or tests proving you’re not sick) here in Hawaii has ended, not that I am going to lose the mask like so many others are doing.

With return flights secured, and the last boosters scheduled this week, we are packing out of Hawaii, bound for a return to Wakulla, the Wakulla Diving Center and our Florida home.

Our Kalopa Orchard (the best avocados you’ll ever taste!) has released its crop, now sold at supermarkets on the Big Island. And we are facing yet another threat, the Lace Wing Bug, that we must treat the trees for before we depart.

The trees are in full bloom and otherwise all smells wonderful! And we depart in a week! Never a dull moment being a Hawaiian farmer out here.

Each summer I return to Wakulla to help with the store, and recently to resolve my late brother’s estate. Since last year’s disastrous Covid attack, I have been in recovery in Hawaii. I have returned to driving, having secured better eyesight, and a determination to carry on at all levels. We shall see how well I do!

The world I return to has changed. Training agencies have lost their leaders, such as IANTD with the passing of Tom Mount, and others are regrouping to pick up the pieces. I must now visit each and see what is left and reconnect. Diving will continue as there is a big ocean out there with many wonderful things to see and do underwater.

Rebreather technology is still improving and Wakulla Diving is still strong with the best staff we have ever had. And folks are asking to purchase my brother’s property, so I will be busy this summer.

Rusty Miller is now a retired Production Engineer, learning the ropes of the diving world. I look forward to engaging his creative mind in new diving pursuits.

Jonathan Mills is our Dive Technologist, running the back, the blender and hydrostatic tester; he is a specialist in an advanced facility that will expand as opportunity permits.

Normally, I return to offer advanced training opportunities, but we shall see how much I can do this trip.

Since my escape home left no truck on the west coast, we fly directly back to Tallahassee and begin rebuilding what was lost from my sudden departure.

I just got off the phone with Dr. Joerg Hess, one of our technical instructors and a close friend. He is very excited about new rebreathers now on the market that will soon be available through our sales and training options this summer.

So, the summer is opening up and back online, the hydrostatic facility is ever so busy getting everyone’s cylinders inspected, to be filled with Nitrox or air for diving expeditions offshore.

And we are packing our bags for a return trip for the beginning of April.

Ann will be coming with me as we have no idea what is left behind in my hasty retreat. We will be up north during much of April but I should be around the shop in May and June. Stop by and say hi!

Tips to co-exist with alligators

From FWC News

Signs of spring – balmy weather, blooming flowers and nesting birds – are occurring throughout Florida. Warmer temperatures also mean alligators are more active and visible. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) recommends taking precautions when in and around the water and has expanded its safety materials to include a video and infographic in

Spanish.

While serious injuries caused by alligators are rare in Florida, the FWC offers the following tips about how to safely co-exist with them:

- Keep a safe distance if you see an alligator and never feed one. When fed, alligators can lose their natural wariness and instead learn to associate people with the availability of food.
- Swim only in designated swimming areas during daylight hours. Alligators are most ac-

tive between dusk and dawn.

Keep pets on a leash and away from the water’s edge and never let them swim in fresh or brackish water. Pets often resemble alligators’ natural prey.

Call the FWC’s Nuisance Alligator Hotline at 866-FWC-GATOR (866-392-4286) if you believe an alligator poses a threat to people, pets or property and the FWC will dispatch a contracted nuisance alligator trapper to re-

solve the situation. The FWC places the highest priority on public safety and administers a Statewide Nuisance Alligator Program (SNAP) to proactively address alligator threats in developed areas, while conserving alligators in areas where they naturally occur.

- Find more resources about living with alligators and Spanish translation information tools at MyFWC.com/Alligator.

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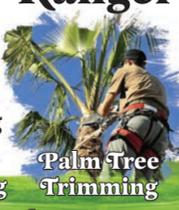
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CROSSWORD

- CLUES ACROSS**
- Latin ballroom dance
 - Overhead lining of a room
 - Henry's last wife Catherine
 - Rise upward into the air
 - Eagle's nest
 - Mistake
 - Makes joyful
 - Bonitos
 - In a way, removes
 - City in SW New Hampshire
 - Lettuces
 - Sum
 - Plays music
 - Gallium
 - Plateaus
 - Synagogues
 - Anwar ____, Egyptian statesman
 - Ends
 - Monkey of W. Africa
 - Hosts film festival
 - Bow ____: light spar
 - Accumulate
 - Story
 - Network of nerves
 - Fabric
 - Liabilities

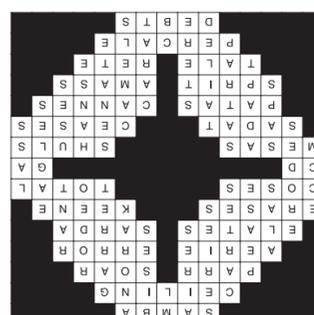
- Ceiling
- Parr
- Soar
- Aerie
- Error
- Elates
- Sarda
- Erases
- Keene
- Coses
- Total
- CD
- Ga
- Mesas
- Shuls
- Sadat
- Ceases
- Patas
- Cannes
- Sprit
- Amass
- Tale
- Rete
- Percale
- Debts

- ANSWERS ACROSS**
- Samba

- CLUES DOWN**
- Succession of programs
 - Buenos ____
 - Milliliter
 - Wood I ____: large wading birds
 - Ski jacket
 - Bills of fare
 - Attic

- 1st Baron Daryngton, Herbert
- Cowboy show
- Expression of sorrow
- Emotional speech
- In a way, falls into ruin
- Electronic counter-measures
- Raptors
- Young lady
- Drains
- Conform
- Ancient Persian ruler
- Assembly possessing high legislative powers
- ____ and Gretel

- Economic consumptions
- Followed
- Even-toed desert mammals
- Cubic meter (French)
- Weight unit for gems
- A radio band



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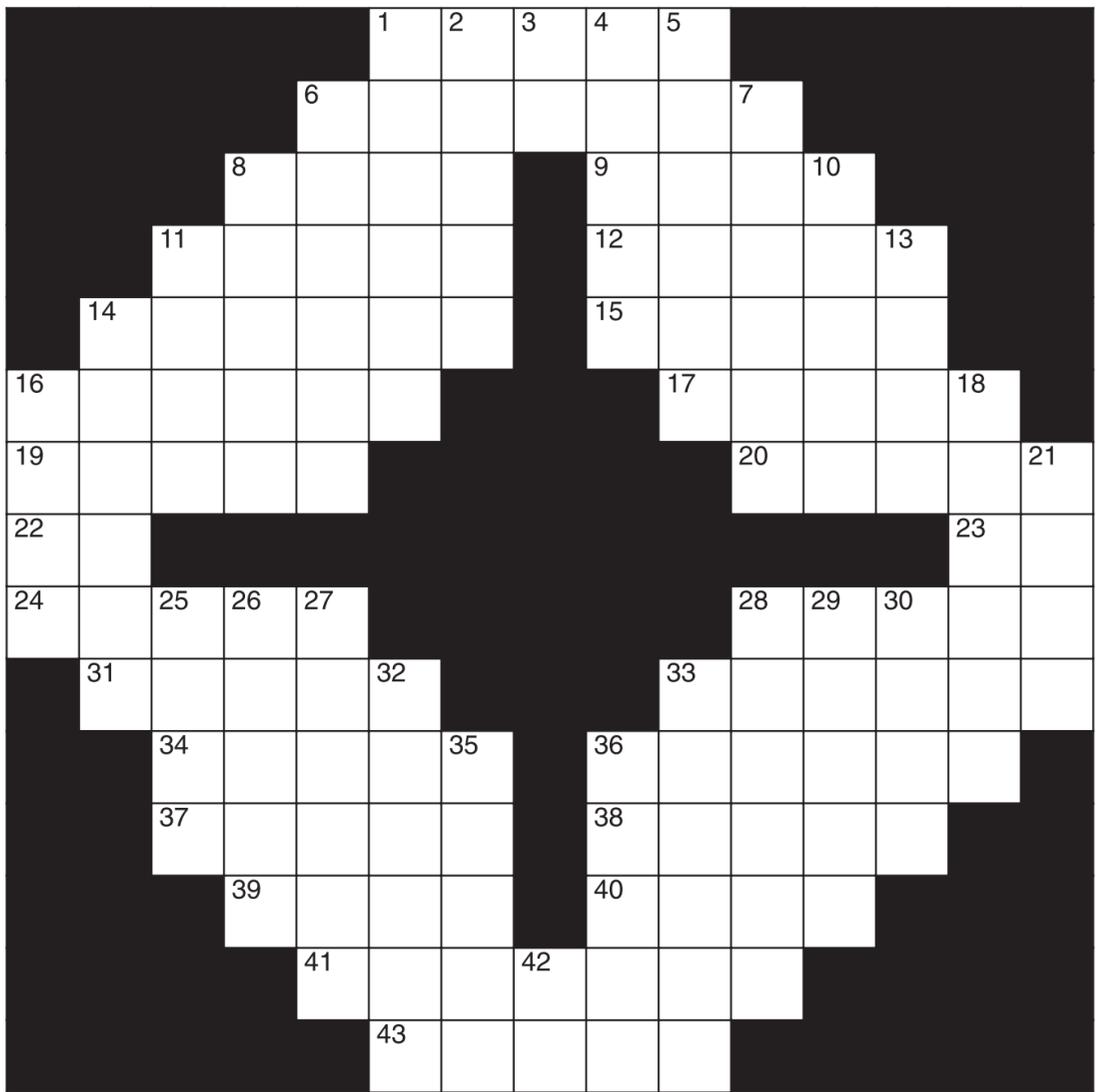
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2022 PANACEA BEER & OYSTER FESTIVAL

PANACEA, FLORIDA



Thousands of people attended this year's Panacea Beer & Oyster Festival at Woolley Park.

PHOTOS BY RIDDIHI PATEL



Sam Reynolds, Mattie Crumbaker, Desiree Aller, and Robert Montalbano.



Kenny Reynolds, Jimmy Wynne, Ron Hartsfield, Arlene Nunnery, and Misty Rhodes with Saucy Lady Oyster Company.



Jane Tillman pouring a beer in the First Magnitude Brewing Company tent.



Dice Pickett with a wooden boat that was designed and built in 5 days by 12-17 year-old girls at a Big Bend Maritime Center summer camp.



Chris Howard, Jonathan Cooper, and Shane Brooks.



Brady Harris, Dawson Kidd, and Robin Kidd from St. James Island Oyster Co.



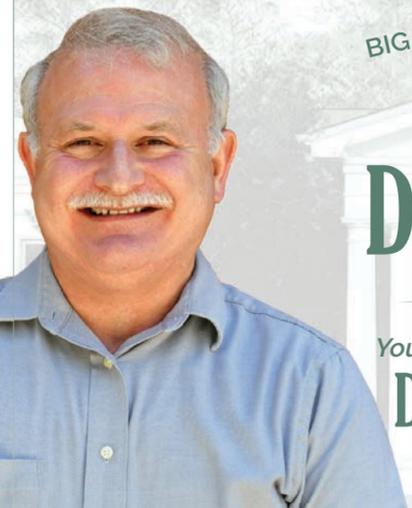
Petra Shuff and Lisa Vince.



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Florida Wild Mammal Association

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FWMA.org
363-2351

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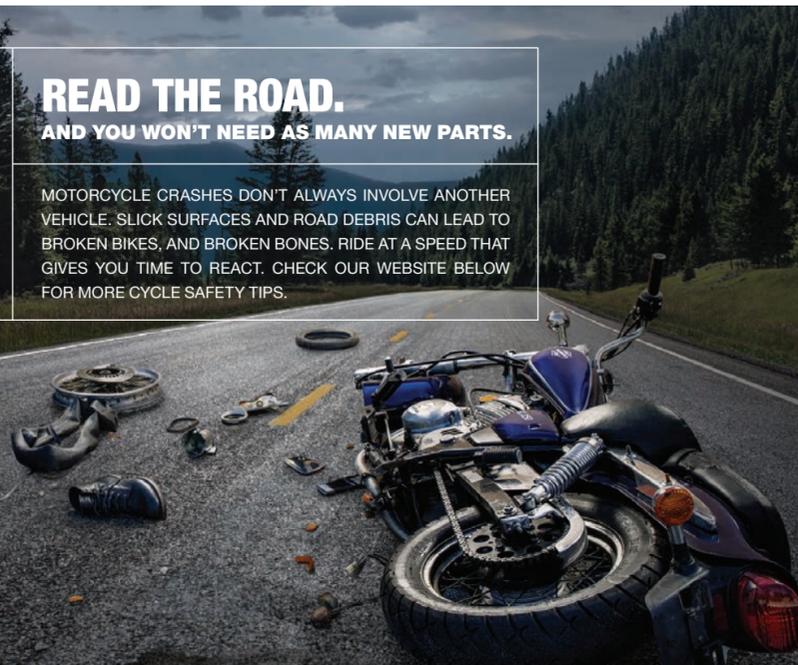


The Wakulla County School Board is looking for individuals with an excellent driving record and who loves kids! Being a bus driver means you have a job with full benefits and full pay with flexible working hours allowing you time off during the day. Currently, our starting pay for drivers with no experience is \$15.53 an hour with a 7-hour a day guaranteed pay. In addition, there is currently a \$500 signing bonus and the opportunity to earn \$1,250 per quarter for attendance. That is an additional \$5,500!! You also have opportunities to get over time pay (time and a half!) by driving extra hours: school field trips, athletic activities, and many other similar types of driving.

You do not know how to drive a bus? No worries! We train you at no cost and get you safely prepared to transport children each day. Once you become a Wakulla County Bus Driver, you have your Commercial Driving License (CDL) and become a part of the Wakulla County School Board Family! Call the Transportation Department at 850-926-7550 and ask for the Administrator of Drivers in Training, Shannon Smith or Director of Transportation Pat Jones. They can tell you all about becoming a bus driver, the hours, the pay and how to get you started right away!

READ THE ROAD. AND YOU WON'T NEED AS MANY NEW PARTS.

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The Friends of the Wakulla County Public Library would like to give a wholehearted THANK YOU to our beautiful Wakulla County Community for your generous support in making this year's Mardi Gras Event the most successful yet. The funds that The Friends raise from this event sponsor all the children's programs at the Wakulla County Public Library. We would like to give a special thank you to the sponsors of this year's event:

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Lastly, thank you to our community. Without the community's continued support, The Friends would not be able to provide stimulating literacy programs to the children of Wakulla County.

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