Worm Gruntin' Festival/Page 2

The Wakulla Sun

"It's a New Day" Locally Owned & Operated

$1 One Section

Our 1st Year, 8th Issue
Thursday, April 14, 2022

WAKULLA WeatherSTEM

Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Scattered Thunderstorms	AM Thunderstorms	Mostly Cloudy
Hi: 76° Lo: 65° 9%	Hi: 81° Lo: 63° 41%	Hi: 81° Lo: 65° 24%
Sunrise 7:11 AM Sunset 8:04 PM	Sunrise 7:10 AM Sunset 8:04 PM	Sunrise 7:09 AM Sunset 8:05 PM

Tarpine rejects airport deed

The Homeowners Association met on Saturday and refused to take over the airport under current conditions

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

The Tarpine Homeowners Association voted not to accept the deed for the airport that the county had offered, according to some who took part in the meeting.

While it rejected taking the deed at its meeting on Saturday, the HOA did support efforts to continue negotiating with the county.

At the county commission meeting last week, on April 4, the board voted to declare the airport surplus property and give it to Tarpine.

Tarpine residents appearing at the meeting asked the county not to surplus it, saying the HOA doesn't have the financial resources to make the improvements necessary to bring the airport into compliance.

Some residents of Surf Road, including longtime airport critic James Parham, indicated their support for giving the airport deed to Tarpine. Among their concerns are use of the airstrip by heavy military aircraft, and their homes being at the end of a runway.

After the HOA meeting on Saturday, one resident, Ted Recker, said the HOA was not seeking any acrimony with the county government and would make every attempt to work out a resolution.

At the same time, when asked if a lawsuit was a possibility, Recker said, "All options are on the table. We're not just gonna roll over and die."

Ultimately, if the airport stops being used as an airport, the property will revert to the heirs of Fenton Jones, who gave the property to the county for an airport back in the 1960s.

The airport – which is a grass airstrip with no fuel operations – has been required by aviation authorities to move the runway some 50 feet to come into compliance. There are also runway lighting and irrigation problems.

Tarpine HOA had installed lighting and irrigation at the airfield and the county removed it.

A March 10 memo from County Administrator David Edwards to Tarpine HOA stated that "The Runway Lighting System was originally given and installed by a user of the airport. Due (to) its sporadic operation it was agreed by (Florida Department of Transportation) and the county to remove it. The owner removed the system. The county will not be installing a new system."

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Riverside Cafe in St. Marks is for sale

RIDDHI PATEL

Riverside Cafe owner Stan West in the walkway over the St. Marks River that connects to the restaurant's tiki hut.

By RIDDHI PATEL
Reporter

Riverside Cafe, the iconic open-air restaurant in St. Marks, has been put on the market. Owner Stan West felt that this was the right time to shift gears and explore other opportunities should he find the right buyer for the restaurant.

West, along with his then-business partner Dave Vaillancourt, began Riverside in 1995 as a shop that rented canoes and bicycles – eventually adding a hot dog cart. He said they began to only sell hot dogs because the demand for food was higher than the number of people renting canoes. Back then Riverside only consisted of the original block building.

Community requests led them to add to the menu over the years, and today Riverside Cafe sells a full menu including a variety of seafood. West said they wanted to "create something people wanted to come to."

West eventually became the full owner of Riverside Cafe, and he expanded the business to include an open-air tiki hut, a stage, and a floating bar. The restaurant's open-air dining concept and Key West feel were some things that West wanted to bring to the community. He said they started with

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Judge protects identity of 'John Doe'

In public records case, Judge Flury confirms right to anonymity when requesting records

By RIDDHI PATEL
Reporter

A Wakulla Circuit Judge granted an order protecting the identity of an anonymous public records requestor, John Doe, who had previously submitted public records requests to the Wakulla County Property Appraiser's office. Doe was asking for public records related to alleged embezzlement by then-Property Appraiser Brad Harvey.

Circuit Judge Ronald Flury

The protective order was granted by Wakulla Circuit Judge Ronald Flury at a hearing on Tuesday, April 5.

Former Wakulla County Property Appraiser Harvey was arrested in April 2020 and ordered removed from office by Gov. Ron DeSantis. Harvey faces felony charges alleging he overpaid himself hundreds of thousands of dollars over three years in office. He is set to go to trial on the charges in June.

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CANDIDATE ANNOUNCEMENT

Gwendolyn Staten is running for school board

Third generation Wakulla Countian, retired employee at FAMU, is a candidate in the crowded District 1 field

By GWENDOLYN M. STATEN

WHO AM I?

I'm Gwendolyn Manning Staten

• A third generation native of Wakulla County

• A resident of District 1 for more than 50 years

• Attended the 'original' Shadeville School and a graduate of Wakulla High School – Class of 1975

• Attended Florida State University (75-77)

• A graduate of Florida A&M University's (FAMU) - Bachelor's Degree in Business Education and Masters of Applied Social Sciences, with a concentration in Public Administration

• The widow of my late husband of 30 years, Kenneth R. Staten

• Mother of four: Randy Nichols, Kandis Staten, Kendalyn Staten Gordon, Tesia Staten and 5 grandchildren – Semerah, Gabrielle, Hakeem, Giselle & Kareem

• Daughter of the Late Eddie Hughes Sr., and the Late Elouise Manning, who were also graduates of Wakulla's school system.

• A retired employee of the State of Florida and the State University System at FAMU where I was responsible for daily monitoring of the university's cash management/ banking transactions, which involved millions of dollars to include federal, state, and local deposits.

Gwendolyn M. Staten

• Owner, Staten Enterprises LLC – Staten Notary & Loan Signing Service

WHY AM I RUNNING?

I was asked WHY would I want to do this at this stage of my life? My answer is, I have a wealth of educational and work experience spanning over 45 years to offer the Board. Also, I will be able to offer a fresh perspective and a sense of cultural sensitivity and diversity to the governance of this Board. And, in terms of Educational Opportunities, emphasizes the benefit of education, it offers ways out of poverty, pathways to a better life and improvements to our society. Also, we must remember that education is a continuous process, and it is NEVER too late to learn, to do something new and right for the betterment of the community.

My most compelling inspiration for seeking this office is my mother, Elouise Manning. She instilled in me the importance of education; thereby my belief in the "Opportunities of Education" and ALL the students who deserve to receive them. So, by Opportunities of Education, I mean reintroducing and/or inspiring ALL of our students to the value and need for a quality education. I also believe that "higher" does not have to mean a secondary or college education, it can mean a quality vocational

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R- RESPECTFUL
E- EFFICIENT
D- DEPENDABLE
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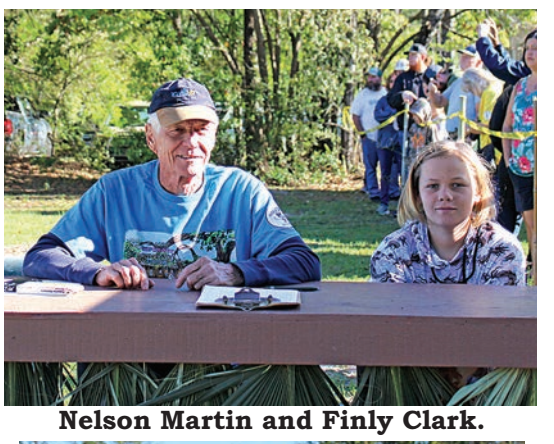
The Leon County School District does not discriminate against any person on the basis of sex (including transgender status, gender nonconforming, and gender identity), marital status, sexual orientation, race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, age, color, pregnancy, disability, military status, or genetic information.

Join Big Bend Hospice as we celebrate
NATIONAL HEALTHCARE DECISIONS DAY
It always seems too early, until it's too late.
Start the Conversation TODAY!
FIVE WISHES®
is an Advance Care Planning (ACP) tool that helps you make decisions about your healthcare wishes.
To schedule your 5 Wishes Presentation, contact
(850) 878-5310
Big Bend Hospice
your hometown hospice, licensed since 1983
Visit www.bigbendhospice.org/advance-directives to fill out your digital Five Wishes® on Demand!

Worm Gruntin' Festival was Saturday

A big crowd was on hand for the 20th annual Worm Gruntin' Festival in Sopchoppy.

Snap Revell gives a lesson on how to grunt for worms.



Nelson Martin and Finly Clark.

Wanda Bryant and Dallas Marshall.

PHOTOS BY RIDDHI PATEL

State Sen. Loranne Ausley, above left, tries her hand at worm gruntin'; Zane Oakes, Jordan Roberts, Becky and Ted Roberts of Lula's in Sopchoppy, above right.

PHOTOS BY GERALD BROWN X2

Rockulla Music featuring Claire Blackwell, above left; Sean of Blazing Arts, right, at the Worm Grunters Ball.

BECOME A BUS DRIVER!

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!

WAKULLA HIGH BASEBALL

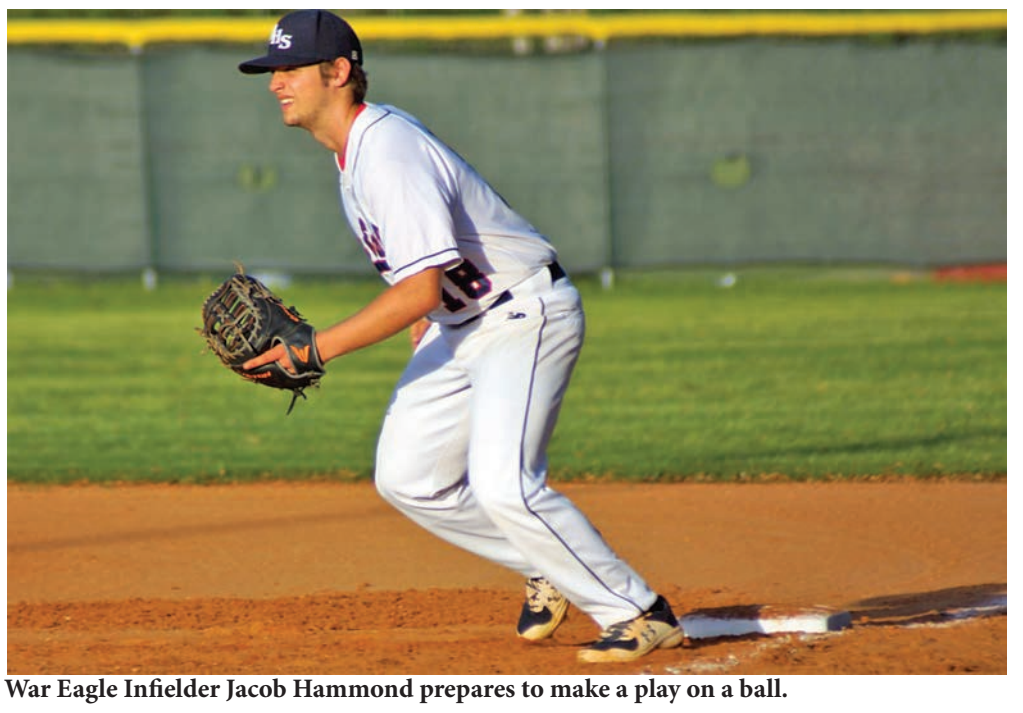
War Eagles beat Godby and Madison

By KEITH ANDERSON
WHS Baseball Coach

Wakulla High Baseball had swept the week moving to 10-5 with wins over Godby and Madison County.

To start the week WHS had a big district win over Godby 24-2. Sophomore Brady Crum started on the mound giving a strong start and receiving the win throwing 2 1/3 innings giving up 3 hits, 1 run and striking out 3. Two other sophomores Haden Klees and Michael Hurley each pitched solid innings in relief in the 4 inning affair. Brayden Lawhon and Levi Anderson both had multiple hit games. Brady Crum, Colby Zinser, Michael Hurley, Jacob Hammond, and Haden Klees also had a timely hit. Klees had 4 RBIs on the day.

The Friday night showdown with a talented Madison County team proved to be a good one here at Houston Taff Field. Madison County scored first and surged ahead of the War Eagles three different times. The last lead change seemed to come in the top of the seventh. The War Eagles went out with the lead at 5-4, but Madison county strung together 3 hits including a 2 run triple to take the lead 7-5 going into the bottom of the 7th. Momentum seemed to be on the Cowboys side with the War Eagles down to their last 3 outs. John Pierini began the 7th hitting a hard ground ball to third and reaching on an error to start the inning. Michael Hurley down quickly 0-2 battled and scorched a single to right. Brayden Lawhon then executed a perfect bunt down the third base line to load the bases. Centerfielder Briyaun Butler-Moore then sharply singled to right to bring the tying and winning run into scoring position. Levi Anderson coaxed a bases loaded walk to tie the game. That brought second baseman Austin Hamilton to the plate with bases loaded, no outs and the winning run 90 feet away. Hamilton then proceeded to draw a walk to send Brayden Lawhon to the plate for the walkoff RBI win.



War Eagle Infielder Jacob Hammond prepares to make a play on a ball.

RMS Bears beat Madison to set up Taylor semifinal

By KYLE MARKS
RMS Coach

After ending the regular season on a 3-0 run beating Trinity (7-5), FSUS (15-7), and Wakulla Middle (12-3), the Riversprings Middle Bears beat Madison in the first round of the playoffs 13-3 on Monday night.

Dedicating the baseball field to former principal of RMS and long-time advocate for Wakulla sports, Dod Walker, was not the only exciting part of the baseball game on Monday. The Bears would score 7 in the 1st inning. The Bears would keep the lead by scoring in every inning until they ended the game in the 5th by 10-run rule.

Owen Klees and Brent Wells would lead RMS from the mound. Connor Crawford and Sam Bruce both led the team with two hits and 3 runs. Klees, Cason Marlow, and Fletcher Brown recorded a hit.

On Thursday, RMS visits Taylor for a rematch in the semifinals.

The winner will host either Suwannee or FSUS for the conference championship.

Owen Klees shines on the mound this season with a 1.333 ERA.

A NEW FEATURE TO FOCUS ON STUDENTS AT WAKULLA SCHOOLS, ROTATING TO A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK:

Student of the Week

Chevy Riggs-Helfery, 5th grader at Riversink Elementary

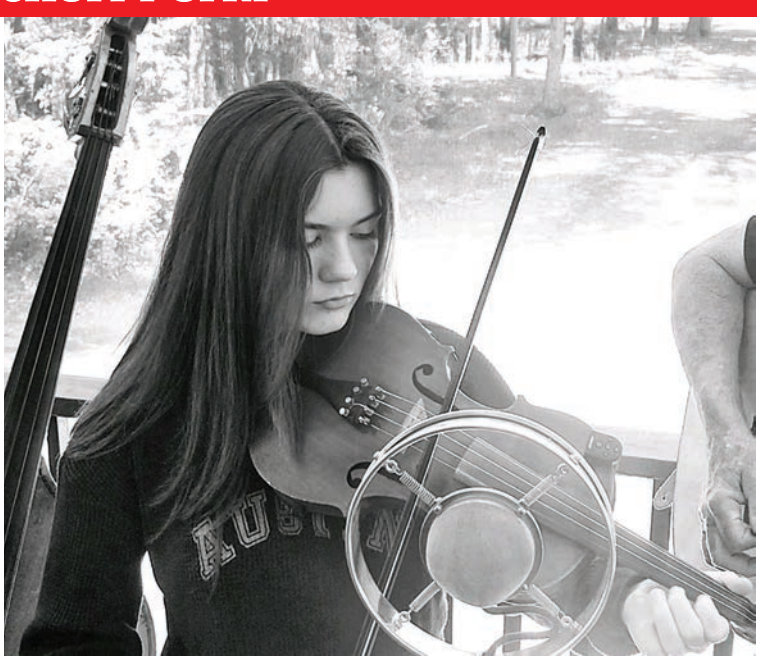
Principal: Catherine Cutchen

Achievements/Reason for Nomination:
Chevy brightens any room with her infectious smile, dynamic personality, and comedic sense of humor. Chevy is the Riversink Student Counsel Vice President. Chevy was an active member of our STEAM afterschool program. She is a fantastic student-athlete. Chevy plays both softball and soccer. Chevy is a model student and maintains an A/B average. Most importantly, Chevy has a tremendously caring heart for her family, classmates, and school staff.

SOPCHOPPY OPRY

Katy Hill to perform April 30

Fiddle player Katy Hill will make her Sopchoppy Opry debut Saturday, April 30, at 7 p.m. in the historic Sopchoppy School Auditorium. She is the newest member of the Kenny Hill Band and joins her parents, Brian and Jennifer Hill along with Ken Baldauf and Kevin Robertson. Tickets are $15 and may be reserved at 850-962-3711 or purchased at the door.



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Wakulla County Tax Collectors Office
SPECIALTY TAGS
$20 - $30 additional to cost of tag.

Enacted: 2006

The "Support Homeownership for All" license plate helps fund affordable housing projects throughout Florida. Proceeds from the sale of the license plate will be used exclusively for housing programs. The goal is to provide housing assistance to first responders, teachers, nurses, and others to help them afford a home.

Enacted: 07/01/2007

Proceeds from the sales of the NASCAR license plate received by The NASCAR Foundation will help bring technology and innovation to classrooms. The NASCAR Foundation is dedicated to helping children learn how to win, both inside and outside of the classroom, through a variety of opportunities focused on education, health and volunteerism.

Stop in our office to see the many tags available Or call
850-926-3371

Opinions

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Jubel Bissonnette poker run benefits Big Bend Hospice

By KARA WALKER
Big Bend Hospice

The fourth annual Poker Run and Memorial Ride for Jubel Bissonnette took place on Saturday, March 19th, 2022. The weather that day may have been rainy and dreary, but that didn't stop the love of Jubel's family and friends from shining.

As a result of the hard work of Jubel's loving wife, friends and the Wakulla Free Riders a total of $3,537.22 was raised – a new high for the event.

This money was donated to Big Bend Hospice to benefit the residents of Wakulla County. Sandy Bissonnette chose to start this event to not only remember Jubel and his amazing life, but to also give back to an agency that brought so much comfort to her and Jubel during a very difficult time.

"I appreciated all of the help that Big Bend Hospice provided to my sweet husband," Sandy Bissonnette said. "BBH is always there when you need them so I wanted to show my appreciation by helping them continue to support others."

Most attendees of the event had their own experience with Hospice and shared their appreciation. Sandy Bissonnette hopes that the tradition of the Poker Run will be carried on by the future generations, including her great-grandson Bradley Winship Nunnally and great-granddaughter Adley Jubilee Godwin, who were both present at the event.

Jubel's family would also like to thank the restaurants that participated in the Poker Run. Members of the Poker Run attended stops at Dux, Ouzts Too, Donkey's, Skybox and South Side Hobbit. There was a prize for the best hand and the worst hand, which was announced at the wrap-up party. The winners of "Best Hand" and "Worst Hand" both donated their winnings to Big Bend Hospice. The wrap up party was hosted by The Wakulla Free Riders at their clubhouse. There was food and a local band "Electric Mayhem" providing entertainment.

The family would also like to thank the community for their donations and for attending the poker run. Jubel has made Wakulla his home since the 1970s and the community support was greatly appreciated.

For more information about the services provided or to donate to Big Bend Hospice, please visit bigbendhospice.org.

Kara Walker is community liaison for Big Bend Hospice in Wakulla County.

"It's A New Day!"
The Wakulla Sun

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For editorial please call William at 850-962-8024

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.

LETTERS

About The Wakulla Sun and Monthly

Some of the messages we've received over the past week

• Good morning. Received our Sun up here in NC today. Just one suggestion – bring me a Sudoku! Love watching the SUN grow!
– Jane Raker

• The first issue of the Sun Monthly is what it should be – local news and local newsmakers, really interesting and valuable. Keep up the good work; I know you will. I'm cheering you on! – Kitty Culkin

• (Voicemail:) "This is Jimmy Humphries. I read your article in the Sun Monthly and I want to thank you for bucking corporate. There needs to be more of that going on. I'm sending in my subscription for The Wakulla Sun and keep on keepin' on, brother. I'll talk to you later. Bye."

The sign at Myra Jeans.

• Note scribbled on a new subscription form: "Prayin for good things."

• Another note on a subscription form: "Love your paper. I read every word. I seldom do that with Wakulla News or Tallahassee Democrat. Keep up the good work! I like the large puzzles too."

THANK YOU, Wakulla County, Zaxbys and My United Way Team for supporting our second annual share night on April 5th, held at Zaxbys benefiting Wakulla County.

We raised $415.73! And with a very gracious thank you to Frank & Commissioner Quincee Messersmith for matching the $415.73 for a total of $831.46 which goes a long way for those in our community who are struggling day by day to make ends meet in their cry for help.

"We Do More in Wakulla County Together as We Live United."

Beth Phillips
United Way

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.

HELP SUPPORT COMMUNITY JOURNALISM

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 Florida. 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.

< Question of The Week >

Polled at Crawfordville Quick Stop

– *Compiled by Lynda Kinsey*

What is something you remember about Kindergaten?

SCOTT HOWELL
RETIRED
"My first kiss, her name was Mindy and we are still friends today."

SEDRIC JOHNSON
POST OFFICE
"Wow! There were shapes, colors & Alphabets and I remember my teacher Ms. Brookins."

ELIJAH WRIGHT
WALMART/MUSICIAN
"We would have to take steady naps. I remember sleeping a lot."

KEITH HARRISON
WELDER
"I remember having a crush on my teacher, puppy love. Show and tell was my favorite. We were rural so we had lots of different animals."

WILLIE JEFFERSON
RETIRED
"We didn't have kindergarten in my day, we went straight to first grade. We were taught a lot by family and my aunt beforehand though."

COMMUNITY NEWS

Wakulla Station News

By VERNA BROCK

Interested in becoming a bee-keeper? Want to help support our pollinators? The Apalachee Bee Keepers Association is seeking interested participants for a beginners' bee-keeper course in May. If you would like to learn more, go to the apalacheebee-keepers.com website to fill out the form under "learn to be a bee-keeper". ABA is considering a half-day crash course in May. Everyone who completes the form will be notified about the class at a future date.

I continue to rejoice at the good reports for Ian Wickham and Lyric Oaks. Ian, who has been asking for "REAL food" was finally able to eat, while Lyric has been able to speak with friends and family on the phone. Your prayers and support have meant so much to the families of these young men!

I am so pleased to report Ms. Leah Pearson has returned home safely, following a recent surgery and rehab for back pain.

Thanks again to my pastor Steve Montgomery, and friend Thomas Rheinhart for helping Sue Austin with some much desired yard work. The weather was as perfect as it could have possibly been with clear skies, cool temps and a comfortable breeze. It was a great opportunity to help someone and fellowship together!

If you have old paint, pesticides, batteries or any other kinds of hazardous materials needing to be safely disposed of, wait no more! Keep Wakulla County Beautiful is sponsoring an amnesty day on Saturday, April 23rd at the Wakulla Community Center from 8 a.m. until noon. They won't accept latex paint, alkaline batteries, oil, or household trash, but everything else is pretty much fair game. For more information call 850-745-7111 or visit KWCB.org.

Congresswoman Val Demings learning to worm grunt at Saturday's festival.

I hope you were able to enjoy the Worm Gruntin' Festival in Sopchoppy last Saturday! Another perfect spring day saw hundreds, if not thousands, of folks visiting Wakulla County, sharing our hospitality and good times. For me, the highlight was being able to introduce Florida Congresswoman Val Demings to the intricacies of worm grunting, as well as to the wonderful people of North Florida. She was completely smitten with Wakulla County as she continued her campaign for the U.S. Senate.

This week the Wakulla United Methodist Church will observe both Maundy Thursday and Good Friday on Thursday, April 14th at 7 p.m. For Easter Sunday we will begin the celebration of Christ's resurrection with a sunrise service at 7:30 a.m., followed by a light breakfast in Alford Hall, an Easter egg hunt for children, the final Lenten season Bible study at 9, and traditional Easter service at 10 a.m.

Shadeville Elementary School is having a fundraiser featuring 27 baskets full of goodies to please every hobby and interest. Raffle tickets are $1 each, and you can bid as often as you like, on as many baskets as you like. Items range from deluxe date nights to romantic get-aways to a family vacation trip to Orlando and much more. To see all the baskets, go to the Shadeville Elementary School Facebook page. Tickets are available through Shadeville students, and you can always contact the school with any questions you may have.

This Friday, April 15th, is significant to my family for some reason other than being "tax day". My father, Will Swanson, will celebrate his 90th birthday. Currently he is at TMH, under observation for A Fib, but he should be home before the big day. We all appreciate your prayers for the doctors and a solution that works to stabilize my dad's heart rhythm.

I have to brag a little bit on Dr. Chris DeRosier, the plastic surgeon in charge of my father's scalp wound that is very slowly (over 18 months) healing. Dad had a very large squamous cell cancer removed while living in Melbourne, and Dr. DeRosier began supervising the wound care last year. He has made a point of visiting Dad in the hospital, even though his current issue isn't skin or wound related. It has meant a lot for Dad to see a familiar face while at TMH, and is an example of the genuine care and concern Dr. DeRosier shows his patients.

Library News

UPCOMING EVENTS!
Thursday, April 14
No Programs Today
Friday, April 15
Library Closed
Saturday, April 16
Library Closed
Monday, April 18
No Programs Today
Tuesday, April 19
Book Bunch 10am
Lego Club 4pm
Sarracenia Chapter of the Native Plant Society 6:30pm
Wednesday, April 20
Book Babies 10am
Wakulla Feeding Wakulla 2pm
Knitting Group 4pm
Thursday, April 21
Veteran's Meetup 11am
Kid's Coding 5pm
The Wakulla County Amateur Radio Club 7pm

Puzzle Exchange

Did you know that we offer a puzzle exchange here at the library? We have a very large selection of puzzles available. How do you get one? Well, if you bring a puzzle, you can take a puzzle. It's just that simple! All we ask is that the puzzles that you bring in are in good condition and not missing any pieces.

Upcoming Holiday Closings

• Friday, April 15th and Saturday, April 16th for Easter
• Saturday, May 28th for Memorial Day
• Saturday, July 2nd for Independence Day

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Wakulla Citizens Page News

By BECKY WHALEY

Sorry I was AWOL last week but I was working extremely hard to encourage those who supported the extended park hours to attend the county commission meeting. Of those contacted, most were unable to attend due to the 5 p.m. start time. Although polls overwhelmingly supported the extended hours, few speakers arose to support the effort. The most impactful speaker was Rikki Taylor Mobley – her heartfelt plea to gain more access to areas in Wakulla that were never regulated in her youth for the use of her children was spot on.

Interestingly, the poll this week was relative to change of the commission meeting start time and the majority of those responding would only attend if there was an item of personal interest and an extremely low participation.

The weather has been wacky as opinions abounded about Emergency Management making the call to close schools. I say this often: Wakulla County has been blessed in recent years to not be devastated like our neighbors from tornadic activity and an ounce of prevention although inconvenient was worth the safety of our children.

The most overlooked news in the community by citizens and elected officials in print media was the School Board's award of a grant from Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. for $20 million to partner with Lively Technical College to build the War Eagle Academy that would focus on job placement and high-level credentials for all students. The exact estimated time of opening and what will be offered has not been relayed to the public.

Overall, this was extremely exciting news for most residents with few exceptions who believe that the overcrowding at the schools should be addressed first and Commy Taff suggested some of the money should be used to fix the air conditioning in lieu of implementing a half-cent sales tax.

Who would have thought that a post about the return of watermelons next to Tractor Supply would reach 6.7 thousand people and have nothing but positive reactions!

Becky Whaley is administrator of the Wakulla Citizens Facebook Group.

NiE
NEWSPAPER IN EDUCATION
The Wakulla Sun

School distribution sponsored by

WCS
WAKUULA COUNTY SCHOOLS
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April is National Poetry Month: 30 ways to celebrate

1. Invite your students to email letters to award-winning poets as part of this year's Dear Poet project.

2. Learn more about the educator resources on Poets.org with this brief video guide featuring Richard Blanco.

3. Begin each day or class period with a new poem.

4. Find your local, state, county, or city poet laureate, or find out how you can create a local poet laureate position.

5. Talk to your school librarian about creating a reading list of poetry books.

6. Send your students on a scavenger hunt for favorite poems in the Poems for Kids section of Poets.org.

7. Ask your students to choose a poem to read aloud to their families.

8. Organize a reading of your students reading original or favorite poems out loud.

9. Ask each student to create an anthology of their favorite poems.

10. Show your students these poets' definitions of the word poetry and ask them to provide their own.

11. Decorate your learning environment with the National Poetry Month poster.

12. Read 2021's most-read poem by a contemporary poet, Amanda Gorman's "In This Place (An American Lyric)."

13. Explore the glossary and introduce your students to a different poetic term every day.

14. Sign up for Teach This Poem to receive a weekly poem, classroom activities, and multimedia resources.

15. Have your students make and send greeting cards to their family members featuring lines of poetry.

16. Browse some lesson plans about ars poetica poems and assign your students to write their own.

17. Ask your students to read aloud a poem from Respect the Mic: Celebrating 20 Years of Poetry from a Chicagoland High School.

18. Have your class choose poems and write them in chalk on the sidewalk or driveway.

19. Invite your students to read about ekphrastic poetry and write poems in response to their favorite pieces of art.

20. Make a playlist of audio recordings of poets reading their work.

21. Publish a school-wide literary journal or anthology of student poems.

22. Help your students find digital events and opportunities through Poetry Near You.

23. Celebrate Poem in Your Pocket Day on April 29 and ask your students to mail or email a poem to someone in their community.

24. Talk about immigration and heritage in the classroom with these selections of poems and lesson plans.

25. Browse a selection of poems about spring.

26. Have your students illustrate poems and hang them around their homes.

27. Celebrate Earth Day with this lesson plan which asks students to build a birdhouse out of reusable materials.

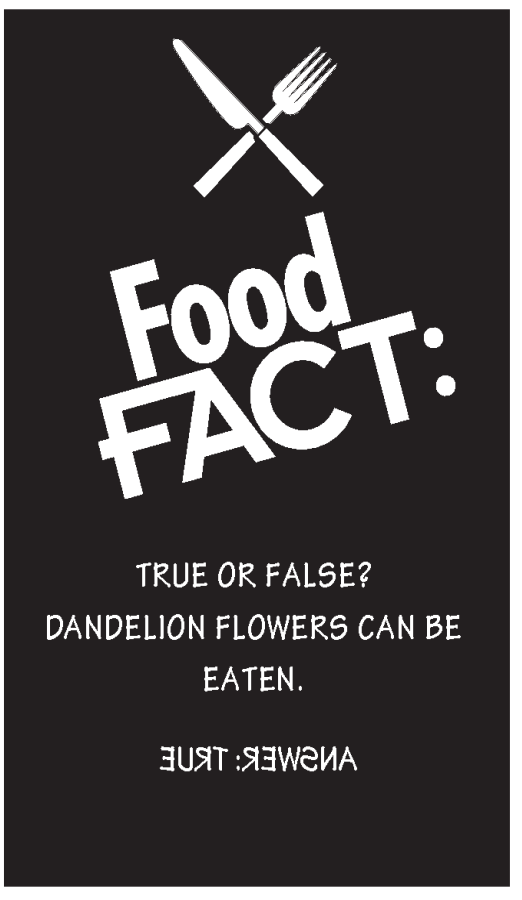
28. Assign your students to watch and respond to a select Blaney Lecture recording.

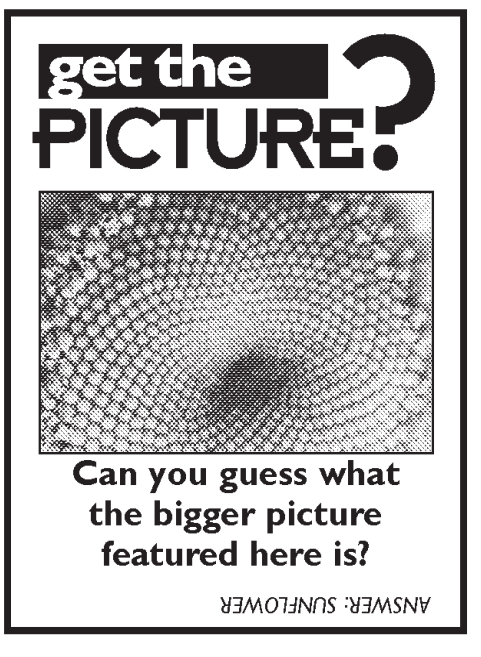
29. Challenge students to create a poetry notebook and write one poem per day.

30. Download the Poetry in the Classroom Calendar and plan ahead for more opportunities to bring poetry into the classroom.

Creative Coloring

Celebrate National Garden Month. Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.





Experience the joy of Easter

By SHERYL H. BOLDT

It makes me shudder to think what life would be like if Jesus were an impersonal God.

Think about it: If we had to serve a God Who didn't want a relationship with us, it would make every day unimaginably hard and lonely.

Or even worse, what if Jesus never rose from the dead? How "empty" would our prayers feel if we were talking to a God who graciously died for our sins, but remains dead to this day?

Thankfully, every Sunday – and especially on Easter – our hearts sing because not only does Jesus want us to know Him, but our hearts celebrate that He's alive!

Yet we often take this for granted.

So for the next seven days, what if we took steps to change this by meditating on and applying Philippians 3:10 (ESV): "That I may know him and the power of his resurrection"?

Imagine if, every day for an entire week, we did whatever it takes to know our risen Savior. Not only to grow in our knowledge of our Redeemer – but also to grow in our relationship with Him.

How would knowing God (really, really knowing God – just as you would a dear friend) help you pray more honestly and more regularly? And how would experiencing a transformed, resurrected life affect your choices, especially those you'd love to change?

Today can be different.

This day can be the first day of a new life for everyone who has trusted Jesus as their Savior.

We don't have to continue living in a way that brings us (and those around us) sorrow and disappointment.

Not a believer?

If you don't know Jesus as your Savior (One Who paid for your sins by dying on the cross), consider accepting His gift of salvation right now.

Invite Jesus to make His home in your heart and life by confessing to God you've sinned. Tell Him you know you can't perform enough good deeds or say enough prayers to redeem yourself. Ask Jesus to be Your Savior and Lord (authority of your life). If you do, this will be the best Easter you've ever experienced.

Only Christ can save you from hell. God loves you and wants you to spend eternity with Him, so He sent His only Son to die an agonizing death for your sins. Three days later, He rose from the grave.

Jesus Christ is alive!

And He, the King of kings and Lord of lords, wants to have a warm and personal relationship with you(!). What's more, if you accepted God's gift, Your Redeemer … Your Risen Savior … desires to be actively involved in your life.

As unbelievable as this may seem, it is indeed true.

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

• Ronald B. "Ronnie" Barksdale, 62, of Crawfordville, died April 9, 2022.
Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel.

• Constance "Connie" Bowers, 69, of Panacea, died April 6, 2022.
Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• Thomas P. Doyle, 76, of Crawfordville, died April 1, 2022.
Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• Richard Wade Gott, 62, of Crawfordville, died April 6, 2022.
Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel.

• Steven Patrick McAuliffe, 75, of Macy, Indiana, died April 3, 2022.
Family Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

• Duke Stevens, 73, of Tallahassee, died April 4, 2022.
Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

Sheriff's Report

Activity reported from April 1 to 7:

FRIDAY, APRIL 1

• Kari Smith of Cal-Co Construction reported a theft and burglary to one of their new construction homes. A 120-gallon well tank was removed from the yard and a bathtub was taken from the garage. Smith valued both items at approximately $2,400. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Jeremy Creel investigated.

• Deputy Cory Smith responded to a home on Cruse Road in reference to a possible theft. Upon arrival, Deputy Smith made contact with John Taylor, who said he had several items missing from his office. Taylor believes an ex-employee might have taken them. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

• Deputy Cory Smith conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for faulty equipment on Ivan Church Road. Upon making contact with the driver, Christopher Rodgers, it was discovered he did not have a valid driver's license. Rodgers was discovered to be a habitual offender for driving while license suspended or revoked (DWLSR) and was placed under arrest.

SATURDAY, APRIL 2

• Barbara Scott reported her iPhone 11 had been stolen from her vehicle. Scott placed the phone in her vehicle approximately three weeks ago. Scott stated she went to activate the phone on this day and discovered it was missing. The phone is valued at $500 and was entered into NCIC/FCIC as stolen. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Lt. Gibby Gibson investigated.

SUNDAY, APRIL 3

• Walmart Asset Protection personnel reported a subject stealing an iPhone valued at $874. Walmart employees reportedly observed the subject tear off the security device on the phone and exit the store without paying. Security footage of the theft was collected and turned into evidence. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Edwin Grove investigated.

• Deputy Kirby Matheus responded to an address on Crawfordville Highway in reference to a stolen trailer. Nicholas Cotes advised his 8-foot wooden trailer had been stolen. Cotes estimated the value of the stolen trailer at $1,800. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

MONDAY, APRIL 4

• Rebecca Sims reported that a male suspect took three DeWalt drills from the Ace Hardware without paying. Sims advised the suspect placed the items in a trash can and exited at the NAPA store. Video of the event was secured and placed into evidence. A possible suspect has been identified in this case. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Ernesto Trujillo investigated.

TUESDAY, APRIL 5

• Deputy Dylan Causseaux conducted a traffic stop on a white van for no taillights. The driver, Tina White, did not have a valid driver license. A licensed driver was unable to be located and the vehicle had to be towed from the scene. Tina was arrested for DWLR and transported to the Wakulla County Jail.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6

• William Coultry reported damage to items located at a home he is currently remodeling. Coultry reported ceiling fans, PVC pipes, well pump and light fixtures had been damaged. Coultry estimated damages at approximately $1,290. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Sgt. Mike Alexander investigated.

• Deputy Colton Sheridan allegedly observed Tommie Webster III driving a truck on Coastal Highway. Webster was known to have a suspended driver's license and to be a habitual DWLSR offender. Deputy Sheridan conducted a traffic stop and placed Webster under arrest for DWLSR.

• While patrolling the Panacea area Sgt. Steven Parfitt came in contact with Blake Hart. Sgt. Parfitt knew Hart had an active warrant out of this agency. Upon making contact with Hart, he was also allegedly in possession of meth and paraphernalia. Hart was arrested on the outstanding warrant and was additionally charged with possession of methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia.

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

Hours after beach vote, man arrested with drugs

Staff Report

Austin Cagle

Several Shell Point residents called The Sun to report that, right after the county commission meeting where the board voted 3-2 to expand beach hours from sunrise to sunset to sunrise to midnight, a man was arrested for drug possession at Shell Point.

The sheriff's office reported that Sgt. Eddie Webb responded to Shell Point Beach in response to calls about people "snorting cocaine" on the beach. Upon arrival Sgt. Webb made contact with Austin Cagle.

During the investigation Cagle made his way to the bathroom and attempted to flush narcotics. His backpack was seized, and inside was THC butter, and a small bag of psychedelic mushrooms.Cagle was arrested and transported to the Wakulla County Jail.

Riverside

From Front Page

a small kitchen, but that they had grown so much since opening. The restaurant is a family place that is dog friendly.

"I owe it all to the community," said West. He said he is proud of how they have been able to support the community, such as student organizations in local schools and live music nights to support bands from Wakulla and the surrounding areas.

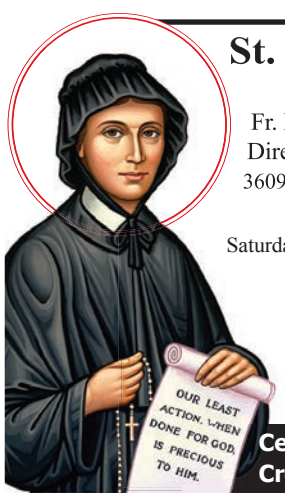
West also started the St. Marks Stone Crab Festival in 1997, and hosted the event for 9 years before other local groups took over hosting it. According to West, they created the festival to "do something for everyone."

West said he has had some great employees over the years, and that the employees are the "backbone of the restaurant."

"I love it, so I'll miss it," said West. "I enjoy people, and I enjoy seeing the happy faces. I enjoy working."

The restaurant was put on the market for $2.475 million, and West feels that the market is good right now. He said that while he loves Riverside Cafe and enjoys the work, it was time to "open the door" for the place to be sold sometime down the road. After selling the restaurant, West plans to open a campground in St. Marks – the campground is a project he is excited to undertake in the future.

Ultimately when it comes to selling Riverside Cafe, West said, "I'm looking for somebody that wants to love it like I do."



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Director of Music & Choir - Jeff Cook
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Wednesday Mass 7:00 pm
1st Saturday: Confessions at 9:00 am
1st Saturday: Adoration Mass at 10:00 am
Every Saturday: Confessions at 4:30 pm
Live Streaming - Sundays and Wednesdays
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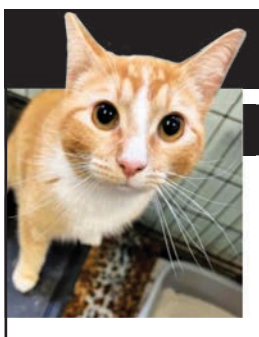
Cemetery lots and Cremain spaces available. 850509-7630



Morris
Your best friend
10 month old male shy at first but once you give him a treat he becomes your best friend. He loves cuddles and to troam around the room taking in all the scenery near him.
Morris is looking for a forever home with someone who will love and play with him for the rest of his life.

Run & play!

4 yr old neutered male in need of someone to give him a second chance at life. He needs a patient and understanding home to help him overcome adversity he has faced. He loves to run and play but is protective over his food and prefers to be the only dog in the home.

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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?"

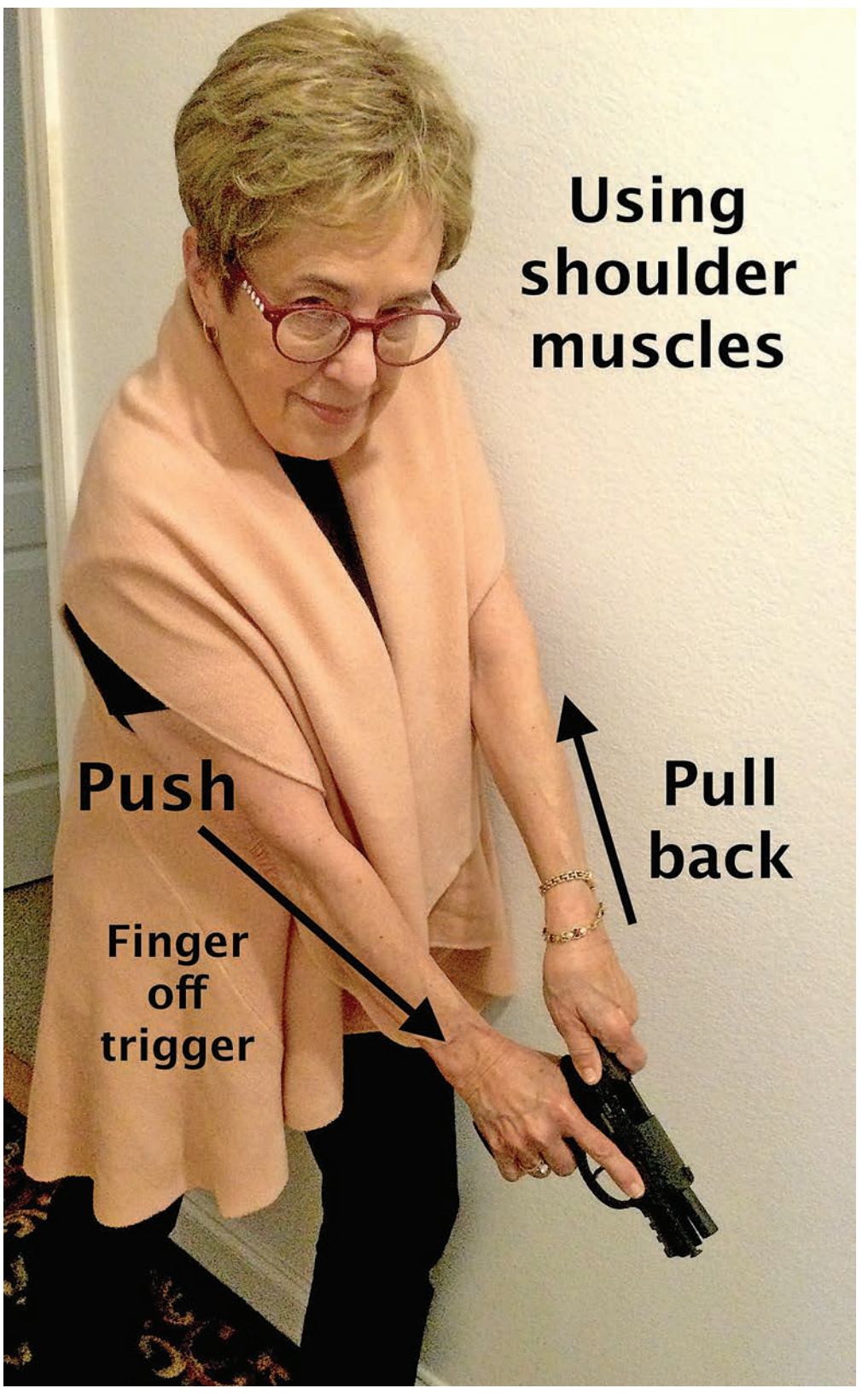
She understands I'm asking to check out her Sig.

"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 shooting 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.

"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, again with your finger 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.

Editor's Note: Marj is away. This is a repeat of a column that ran on Feb. 24.

Judge protects identity of John Doe

From Front Page

Doe, represented by attorneys David Kemp and Stephen Webster, made multiple anonymous public records requests to the Property Appraiser's office in early 2020 for records related to Harvey's activities while in office – each time Doe was provided with incomplete records.

At the hearing, Flury instructed the Property Appraiser's office to disclose any relevant records that were previously undisclosed.

Since Harvey was removed from office, James Burke served as interim property appraiser, and Ed Brimner won election to the office in August 2020 by four votes. Brimner was sworn-in in January 2021.

Attorney Matthew Carson represents the Wakulla County Property Appraiser's Office. Although Doe has requested to remain anonymous, Carson has been attempting to determine who Doe is by questioning employees in the Property Appraiser's office. Carson's search for Doe led one interviewed employee, Katie Taff, to speak to Kemp about her concerns.

In response to Carson's efforts to determine Doe's identity, Kemp and Webster eventually filed a motion for a protective order to request that Carson cease that specific line of questioning – ensuring that Doe's identity remains anonymous. In the filed motion, Kemp said "If one of the employees Mr. Carson interviewed were in fact 'John Doe,' his conduct would force that employee to choose between their right to counsel and their right to access the public record and proceed in this cause anonymously."

While Florida statutes pertaining to public records allow for requests to be made, Carson argued that there was no guarantee of anonymity for court cases – except in a few situations. "Who knows who is submitting the public records request," said Carson. In the motion for a protective order, it was shared that Carson deemed his interviews, including knowing Doe's identity, essential to his task of finding records from when Harvey was Property Appraiser.

Webster said the right to make anonymous public records requests is especially important when the requestor is a close affiliate, like an employee or a competitor, of the agency or person in question. "If you can't enforce that right anonymously, you effectively cannot make requests anonymously," said Webster in response to the idea that a person can anonymously request records, but then would be forced later in a subsequent court case to disclose their identity.

During the hearing, Flury asked Kemp and Webster if they would be seeking attorney's fees, and they said they would likely seek attorney's fees sometime in the future. Flury said the situation changes if attorney's fees are being sought – he indicated that in seeking attorney's fees, anonymity may not be guaranteed.

"I'm going to grant the protective order until it comes time to seek attorney's fees," said Flury. In granting a protective order, Flury made it so that Carson cannot inquire about Doe's identity ensuring that Doe's identity remains anonymous for now.

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Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences

Thursday 14	
Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
7:10AM 8:03PM	6:06PM 6:06AM
Moon Illumination 93%	
Friday 15	
Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
7:09AM 8:04PM	7:09PM 6:37AM
Moon Illumination 98%	
Saturday 16	
Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
7:08AM 8:04PM	8:13PM 7:10AM
Moon Illumination 100%	
Sunday 17	
Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
7:07AM 8:05PM	9:21PM 7:44AM
Moon Illumination 99%	
Monday 18	
Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
7:06AM 8:06PM	10:31PM 8:23AM
Moon Illumination 96%	
Tuesday 19	
Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
7:05AM 8:06PM	11:43PM 9:08AM
Moon Illumination 90%	
Wednesday 20	
Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
7:04AM 8:07PM	---- 9:59AM
Moon Illumination 82%	

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.

Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

April 14 - April 20

Tide charts by tides4fishing.com

First	Full	Last	New
May 16	April 16	April 23	May 8

Best fishing days this month

April 1–16, 30

St. Marks River Entrance

Th	1:20 am ▲ 3.2 ft	7:40 am ▼ 0.2 ft	1:58 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	8:01 pm ▼ 0.4 ft
Fr	2:05 am ▲ 3.5 ft	8:10 am ▼ 0.3 ft	2:19 pm ▲ 3.6 ft	8:36 pm ▼ -0.1 ft
Sa	2:48 am ▲ 3.6 ft	8:38 am ▼ 0.5 ft	2:41 pm ▲ 3.8 ft	9:13 pm ▼ -0.5 ft
Su	3:31 am ▲ 3.7 ft	9:07 am ▼ 0.8 ft	3:03 pm ▲ 3.9 ft	9:52 pm ▼ -0.8 ft
Mo	4:16 am ▲ 3.6 ft	9:37 am ▼ 1.0 ft	3:28 pm ▲ 4.1 ft	10:33 pm ▼ -0.9 ft
Tu	5:03 am ▲ 3.4 ft	10:07 am ▼ 1.3 ft	3:56 pm ▲ 4.1 ft	11:19 pm ▼ -0.9 ft
We	5:55 am ▲ 3.1 ft	10:38 am ▼ 1.5 ft	4:29 pm ▲ 4.1 ft	

City of St. Marks

Th	1:56 am ▲ 3.0 ft	8:44 am ▼ 0.2 ft	2:34 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	9:05 pm ▼ 0.3 ft
Fr	2:41 am ▲ 3.2 ft	9:14 am ▼ 0.3 ft	2:55 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	9:40 pm ▼ -0.1 ft
Sa	3:24 am ▲ 3.4 ft	9:42 am ▼ 0.5 ft	3:17 pm ▲ 3.5 ft	10:17 pm ▼ -0.5 ft
Su	4:07 am ▲ 3.4 ft	10:11 am ▼ 0.7 ft	3:39 pm ▲ 3.6 ft	10:56 pm ▼ -0.7 ft
Mo	4:52 am ▲ 3.3 ft	10:41 am ▼ 0.9 ft	4:04 pm ▲ 3.8 ft	11:37 pm ▼ -0.8 ft
Tu	5:39 am ▲ 3.1 ft	11:11 am ▼ 1.2 ft	4:32 pm ▲ 3.8 ft	
We	12:23 am ▼ -0.8 ft	6:31 am ▲ 2.9 ft	11:42 am ▼ 1.4 ft	5:05 pm ▲ 3.8 ft

Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	1:41 am ▲ 3.4 ft	8:02 am ▼ 0.3 ft	2:11 pm ▲ 3.5 ft	8:18 pm ▼ 0.4 ft
Fr	2:26 am ▲ 3.6 ft	8:33 am ▼ 0.4 ft	2:35 pm ▲ 3.7 ft	8:56 pm ▼ 0.0 ft
Sa	3:10 am ▲ 3.7 ft	9:04 am ▼ 0.6 ft	2:59 pm ▲ 3.8 ft	9:33 pm ▼ -0.4 ft
Su	3:55 am ▲ 3.8 ft	9:34 am ▼ 0.8 ft	3:24 pm ▲ 4.0 ft	10:13 pm ▼ -0.7 ft
Mo	4:40 am ▲ 3.7 ft	10:05 am ▼ 1.1 ft	3:51 pm ▲ 4.1 ft	10:55 pm ▼ -0.8 ft
Tu	5:28 am ▲ 3.5 ft	10:37 am ▼ 1.4 ft	4:20 pm ▲ 4.1 ft	11:42 pm ▼ -0.8 ft
We	6:21 am ▲ 3.3 ft	11:11 am ▼ 1.7 ft	4:53 pm ▲ 4.0 ft	

Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	1:12 am ▲ 2.4 ft	7:51 am ▼ 0.1 ft	1:50 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	8:12 pm ▼ 0.3 ft
Fr	1:57 am ▲ 2.6 ft	8:21 am ▼ 0.2 ft	2:11 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	8:47 pm ▼ -0.1 ft
Sa	2:40 am ▲ 2.7 ft	8:49 am ▼ 0.4 ft	2:33 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	9:24 pm ▼ -0.4 ft
Su	3:23 am ▲ 2.7 ft	9:18 am ▼ 0.5 ft	2:55 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	10:03 pm ▼ -0.6 ft
Mo	4:08 am ▲ 2.7 ft	9:48 am ▼ 0.7 ft	3:20 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	10:44 pm ▼ -0.7 ft
Tu	4:55 am ▲ 2.5 ft	10:18 am ▼ 0.9 ft	3:48 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	11:30 pm ▼ -0.6 ft
We	5:47 am ▲ 2.3 ft	10:49 am ▼ 1.1 ft	4:21 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	

St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	1:19 am ▲ 2.5 ft	7:41 am ▼ 0.3 ft	1:48 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	8:01 pm ▼ 0.5 ft
Fr	2:04 am ▲ 2.7 ft	8:12 am ▼ 0.4 ft	2:07 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	8:32 pm ▼ 0.1 ft
Sa	2:50 am ▲ 2.8 ft	8:42 am ▼ 0.6 ft	2:29 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	9:06 pm ▼ -0.3 ft
Su	3:37 am ▲ 2.8 ft	9:13 am ▼ 0.9 ft	2:54 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	9:44 pm ▼ -0.6 ft
Mo	4:26 am ▲ 2.8 ft	9:44 am ▼ 1.2 ft	3:22 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	10:27 pm ▼ -0.8 ft
Tu	5:19 am ▲ 2.7 ft	10:14 am ▼ 1.4 ft	3:54 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	11:14 pm ▼ -0.8 ft
We	6:18 am ▲ 2.5 ft	10:45 am ▼ 1.7 ft	4:29 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	

Dog Island West End

Th	1:28 am ▲ 2.2 ft	8:08 am ▼ 0.4 ft	2:05 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	8:20 pm ▼ 0.4 ft
Fr	2:26 am ▲ 2.4 ft	8:39 am ▼ 0.6 ft	2:25 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	8:52 pm ▼ 0.0 ft
Sa	3:18 am ▲ 2.5 ft	9:08 am ▼ 0.8 ft	2:48 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	9:26 pm ▼ -0.3 ft
Su	4:10 am ▲ 2.5 ft	9:38 am ▼ 1.1 ft	3:14 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	10:06 pm ▼ -0.6 ft
Mo	5:04 am ▲ 2.5 ft	10:09 am ▼ 1.3 ft	3:43 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	10:52 pm ▼ -0.7 ft
Tu	5:59 am ▲ 2.4 ft	10:40 am ▼ 1.6 ft	4:15 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	11:43 pm ▼ -0.7 ft
We	6:57 am ▲ 2.2 ft	11:13 am ▼ 1.8 ft	4:50 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	

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

Thursday 14	
MinorTimes	MajorTimes
5:21AM 5:21PM	10:48AM ----
Friday 15	
MinorTimes	MajorTimes
5:52AM 6:24PM	11:11PM 11:34AM
Saturday 16	
MinorTimes	MajorTimes
6:25AM 7:28PM	11:58PM 12:22PM
Sunday 17	
MinorTimes	MajorTimes
6:59AM 8:36PM	12:47AM 1:13PM
Monday 18	
MinorTimes	MajorTimes
7:38AM 9:46PM	1:40AM 2:08PM
Tuesday 19	
MinorTimes	MajorTimes
8:23AM 10:58PM	2:37AM 3:07PM
Wednesday 20	
MinorTimes	MajorTimes
9:14AM ----	3:37AM 4:09PM

Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports

By Carolyn Brown Treadon

This past week, Admiral Karl Schultz, the 26th Commandant of the U.S.Coast Guard sent out the following message:

I applaud the Department of Homeland Security and President Joe Biden's nomination of Admiral Linda Fagan as the 27th Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard! Admiral Fagan is an exceptional senior Coast Guard officer and nominee, possessing the keen intellect, the depth of operational experience, and the well-honed leadership and managerial acumen to serve with distinction as our Service's 27th Commandant. Adm. Fagan has selected, and the president has nominated, Vice Adm. Steven Poulin, Atlantic Area Commander, as the Coast Guard's 33rd Vice Commandant of the #USCG. Upon confirmation, Admirals Fagan and Poulin will lead our incredible Coast Guard Team into the future, protecting our Homeland and advancing our prosperity and National Security interests.

Her biography reiterates her dedication to the mission of the USCG.

Admiral Linda L. Fagan assumed the duties as the 32nd Vice Commandant on June 18th, 2021. As the Vice Service Chief and Chief Operating Officer, Admiral Fagan executes the Commandant's Strategic Intent, manages internal organizational governance and serves as the Component Acquisition Executive.

She reports to Coast Guard Headquarters from a tour as the Commander, Pacific Area, and Commander, Coast Guard Defense Force West. Prior flag assignments include Deputy Commandant for Operations, Policy, and Capability; Commander, First Coast Guard District; and a joint assignment as Deputy Director of Operations for Headquarters, United States Northern Command.

Admiral Fagan has served on all seven continents, from the snows of Ross Island, Antarctica to the heart of Africa, from Tokyo to Geneva, and in many ports along the way. Operational tours include Commander, Sector New York, more than 15 years as a Marine Inspector, and sea duty in USCGC POLAR STAR, a 399ft heavy polar icebreaker. Staff assignments include Executive Assistant to the Commandant and Vice Commandant, and Division Chief of the Foreign and Offshore Compliance Office.

Possessing extensive interagency as well as intergovernmental experience, Admiral Fagan has worked with both the International Maritime Organization and International Labor Organization on flag state and port state issues. This work includes the development of the International Ship and Port Security Code (ISPS), and the Consolidated Maritime Labor Convention.

Admiral Fagan holds a Bachelor of Science in Marine Science degree from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, a Master of Science in Marine Affairs degree from the University of Washington, and a Master in National Resource Strategy degree from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. She has earned numerous personal and team awards during her 36 years of Coast Guard service. Admiral Fagan is the longest serving active duty Marine Safety Officer, which has earned her the distinction of being the Coast Guard's first-ever Gold Ancient Trident.

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 pnkkhill2000@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.

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

Admiral Linda L. Fagan has been nominated as commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard.

Underwater Wakulla

By Rusty Miller

Night diving.

Hello Wakulla.

We continue to enhance our diving skills and experience with the advanced training from my last column. So let's dive right in.

Night diving is a totally different type of diving experience: you have heard the old expression "strange things come out at night." In the ocean environment it is a true enough statement. In this environment there are animals and invertebrates that you will only see after the sun goes down, and, yes, sharks do come out at night too. I can say with all my years of diving with students that I have seen, on a rare occasion, a shark or two. It was very thrilling to be able to see them swimming around the area we were diving. Let me state that as a general rule sharks don't like the loud noises of the bubbles we make so they generally keep away from us. Now all bets are off when you are spearfishing but that's for another column.

To me, the best part of the night dive is the descent to the wreck that we are exploring. Remember the first scene of the movie "Titanic" when they are descending in the deep dark water and then the ghost silhouette of the bow of the ship comes into view? That's kind of the way it happens when you go on your night dive and you are descending down the anchor line to the top of the wreck. The silhouette of the ship comes out and it's a tremendous sense of awe and for a moment you feel like you're the first one to set eyes on it. Your heart is beating very rapidly and you can hear every beat, you start to feel a little anxious and then you are at the bottom of the anchor rope. Now you have to make a conscious decision to leave your anchor of safety and start swimming around with you, your buddy and flashlights.

At this point now you're focused on "don't forget where we left the anchor rope" then you start to venture off into the darkness only revealing itself just beyond the beam of your flashlights. At this point I would recommend you check your pressure gauge to make sure you have enough gas in your scuba cylinder because through the nervous breathing you want to gauge how far around the wreck you can go before you head back to the anchor point. So I suggest that before you start exploring that you stop and get your breathing under control.

You are ready to begin your exploration of the wreck. You give your buddy the OK and go. Remember NOT to penetrate any of the holes that seem big enough for you and your gear to get through – you are not trained for wreck penetration. You can, however, use your flashlight to see a small distance inside the wreck. I have seen on almost every night dive on the wrecks under gunnels, or small holes in the side of the wreck several species of sea anemone. There are all kinds of fish species that you will only see at night and did I mention invertebrates, a lot of those sharp things that look dead and like little bowls you see during the day come out at night and if you are very slow in your movement you will see what looks like little flowers that are catching the small plankton in the water for food.

At this point in time you need to check your air pressure so that when it gets to 1200psi you start making your way back to the anchor rope to make your ascent and commit what you saw to your memory and write it in your log book when you get back on the boat.

I hope you have seen that diving at night can be a very gratifying experience and one that I hope you will want to do more often.

Remember to only leave bubbles

Russell Miller NAUI Instr#59999

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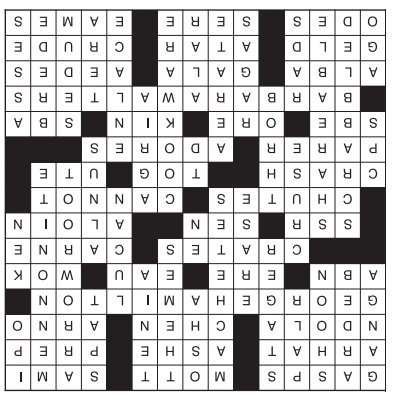
CLUES ACROSS
1. Pants
6. Lucretia C. ____, Am. advocate
10. Seuss character ___ _ Am
14. One who has attained enlightenment
15. Flushing Meadows stadium
16. Pre-collegiate school
17. City in N. Zambia
18. Chinese dynasty from 557 - 589
19. River in Florence
20. Dracula in "Love At First Bite"
23. Airborne (abbr.)
24. Before
25. Cologne
26. Chinese cooking pan
28. Shipping boxes
30. Chili con __, Mexican dish
32. Used to be U___
34. 1/100 yen
35. Bitter compound from aloe
36. _____ and Ladders: game
38. Negative of can
40. Come down violently
41. Provide with clothes
42. Shoshonean people
43. Knife used with fruits or vegetables
44. Loves intensely
46. One point east of due south
47. Mined metal-bearing mineral
49. People related by blood or marriage
50. Helps little firms
53. "The View" creator & star
57. Sunrise (Spanish)
58. Festive occasion
59. Yellow-fever mosquitoes
60. Live Aid rocker Bob ____of
61. Essential oil obtained from flowers
62. Showing lack of skill
63. Lyric poems
64. Dried up (esp. of vegetation)
65. Designers Charles & Ray

CLUES DOWN
1. Rural Croatian singing
2. Egyptian dry measure
3. Shoe (pl., archaic)
4. Precision approach and landing radar (abbr.)
5. "Life in Biblical Israel" author Lawrence
6. Large heavy knives
7. Federal job safety law
8. Unifying ideas in literary work
9. Narrow headband
10. Petty quarrel
11. Cooking thickener
12. Annabaptist
13. Corporation's first offer to sell stock to the public
21. Rub out
22. Pharsalia poet
27. Barbie's boyfriend
28. Small earthenware jar
29. 14th letter
31. Alder genus
32. Covered with sparse vegetation
33. OK to portion out
37. Pulsate
38. Pots & pans
39. Of agriculture
40. Hz
41. End zone score
44. Expose to fresh air
45. Entwine
48. Hindu melodies
50. Fleshy leaved perennial
51. Norwegian footballer Hangeland
52. Donkeys
54. Radioactivity units
55. Axillary
56. Biu-Mandara
57. In the past



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Gwendolyn Staten is running for school board

From Front Page

education for high demand trade specialist jobs, i.e., A/C repair, healthcare, automotive repair & other technical jobs, as well as a belief in themselves to develop their entrepreneurial ideas for owning their own businesses.

• I believe in the power of education to develop well-rounded children who will directly impact our future.

• I believe in providing ALL students with a realistic understanding of the benefits of "Opportunities of Education."

PRIORITIES

• The future growth of our schools, especially the high school considering the substantial housing growth in this county.

• Allow student to explore educational opportunities outside of 4-year institutions.

• Enhanced measures to meet before & after-school needs; address the growing need for teenage activities outside of organized sports, as well as mental health & social needs like food insecurity and homelessness.

• Budgetary review and accountability to determine the best use of funds; teacher incentives and pay increases for all staff.

• Clear, concise, and transparent communication with parents and the community to ensure they understand the value of their child's education.

• A way for teachers and employees to have anonymous reporting where they can submit their concerns without fear of repercussions - confidential tip line or whistleblower reporting to ensure issues can be addressed.

Running for any office is not for the faint of heart and I am not seeking this position to dismantle or disrupt the Board of our school system. I am running to become a valuable contributing member and to be able to provide a different or cultural perspective that will enhance the Grade "A" system that we currently have. As with any good thing, there is always room for improvement and inclusion.

I am not your typical candidate. I may not be well-known by every educational or social organization in the county, nor by my presence at every 'child-involved' sports event, nor am I a teacher; however, I know TEACHERS are the backbone of our success. While these criteria are important in their respective places, I believe that student learning, their safety and their mental wellness at school are the most important factors we need to ensure.

I consider my candidacy to be that of a 'grassroot' candidate, one that is willing to be the catalyst of change and to serve the greater good of the county. I am not backed by major financial donors, but I consider that to be a good thing because my allegiance would be to the students, faculty, and staff of this school system.

If you would like to lend your support to this vision financially or otherwise, you can do so by contacting me by email at gstaten4wcsb@gmail.com; CashApp- $gmstaten; PayPal 850-556-7878; Zelle 850-556-7878 or mail to 326 Statten Road, Crawfordville FL 32327.

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Thursday, April 28 from 4:00pm-7:00pm
Come out and meet the staff of The Wakulla Sun at 12 Arran Rd. in Crawfordville.
Snacks, Beverages and Conversations!

Shell Point Regatta is April 29-May 1

Special to The Sun

This year's 49th Annual Stephen C. Smith Memorial Regatta (www.smithregatta.com) is scheduled for April 29-May 1. For the past 48 years, this regatta has been held at Shell Point Beach in southern Wakulla County for the benefit of the American Cancer Society and in memory of Stephen Smith, a local sailor who died from a rare form of leukemia at the age of 29.

The Regatta draws as many as 200 registered participants and hundreds more spectators from all over the southeast. The event includes races for yachts rated under the PHRF handicapping system, catamarans such as Hobie Cats, smaller day sailors including Sunfish, and windsurfers, the most numerous and arguably the most colorful participants in the Regatta.

The windsurfing fleet will be competing in multiple races Saturday and a long-distance race Sunday morning. Catamarans and one design day sailors, and small and large (22 feet and over) monohulls will race over their own courses on Saturday.

THE AUCTION

The public is invited to view the races on Saturday and Sunday, get lunch at the Regatta Grille, and to participate in the auction of thousands of dollars' worth of donated items, from jewelry to sailboats. The silent auction begins at 11 a.m. on Sunday followed by the live auction around 2 p.m. Everyone has a great time as our auctioneers describe the items and ask for bids. You can pick up some great deals while making a contribution to help us all fight cancer.

In addition to the many patient services provided to children and adults, the American Cancer Society funds research and public education, which is vital in the effort against this stealthy killer. The ACS receives no government funding and relies exclusively on the generous support of private donations.

Over the last five years, the Stephen C. Smith Memorial Regatta Foundation, Inc. has been able to contribute over $90,000 to the ACS, most of which stayed in Wakulla, Leon, Jefferson, Gadsden, Madison, Taylor and other Big Bend counties.

The Foundation

The Stephen C. Smith Memorial Regatta Foundation, Inc. is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that conducts the regatta annually. The 2022 event organizers are the Shell Point Sailboard Club (SPSC), the American Cancer Society (ACS), the Apalachee Bay Yacht Club (ABYC) and numerous businesses and individuals.

Contributions may be made by donating items for the auction, in-kind merchandise to support the event, or negotiable funds. To join our team or to donate auction items, contact an event chairman www.smithregatta.com/foundation.cfm.

Can't make the Regatta but would still like to help? Then donate directly by going to www.smithregatta.com/donate.

Tarpine

From Front Page

Of the request that the county install an irrigation system that was removed, the county response was: "The county will not be installing a new irrigation system."

The HOA had also requested that the county bring the airport into compliance and obtain a "standard" license from DOT. The county's response in the memo: "This demand is based on factually inaccurate assertions that the county has allowed to airport to 'fall' out of compliance. To the contrary, the applicable licensing regulations were modified after the county acquired the airport, imposing stricter licensing requirements that could not be accomodated on the airport property that had been deeded to the county. The county was unwilling to accept the FDOT grants that would assist in bringing the airport up to these new stricter standards because the grant conditions were not acceptable to the BOCC, including the obligation for the county to commit to continued ownership and operation of a facility that is seldom used by and provides little benefit (to the) community at large and the possible need for the county to use eminent domain to acquire property from unwilling sellers. The current airport license will be transferred to the HOA in accordance with FDOT procedures upon the transfer of the airport property."

The county had a $175,000 grant from the state for airport improvements. The county would have had to buy additional property for the airport currently owned by Steve Fults, a Tarpine HOA officer and manager of the airport. There was a contention by the county that they might have to use eminent domain to force Fults to sell the land, but Fults has contended that was false, that the county doesn't want to deal with him because of past battles over issues like a county boat ramp on his property at Lake Ellen.

The airport has long been controversial. Supporters say it provides a facility that is an engine for economic growth and, if it closes, is unlikely to be replaced. Critics have contended the county is subsidizing a facility used by only a handful of people, most of them financially well off.

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