



Big crowd on hand for Wakulla Sun Open House/Page 13

The Wakulla Sun



Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Partly Cloudy Hi: 86° Lo: 71° 23% Sunrise 6:50 AM Sunset 8:18 PM	Scattered Thunderstorms Hi: 84° Lo: 70° 50% Sunrise 6:49 AM Sunset 8:18 PM	Mostly Sunny Hi: 87° Lo: 67° 24% Sunrise 6:48 AM Sunset 8:19 PM



\$1
One Section

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

Our 1st Year, 10th Issue
Thursday, May 5, 2022

Fees for beach parking voted down

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

Commissioners voted unanimously on Monday night to not charge parking fees for beach access.

The proposal had drawn considerable concern among beach visitors, especially to Shell Point Beach, where weekend parking is often a problem – with vehicles parked illegally on roadways and private property.

What was under consideration was a \$2

an hour fee for parking on weekdays and \$5 an hour on weekends. There wouldn't be actual parking meters, but visitors would scan a QR code and pay through the Park Mobile app on their phone.

Calling it "too much hassle," Commissioner Randy Merritt made the motion to remove parking fees from beach areas.

Merritt commented that "the crowd I run with" has probably never scanned a QR code, much less paid for park-



Ralph Thomas

ing with an app.

Commissioner Ralph Thomas seconded the motion, acknowledging in his comments that while the county would be giving up money from visitors outside the coun-



Randy Merritt

ty who would be supporting the upkeep of the beach, and that those costs would be fully upon county residents, he had concluded that, ultimately, "The juice is not worth the squeeze."

Several citizens were at the meeting to raise objections to fees for beach parking, and most were happily thrown by the sudden change.

"It really is wonderful," said Linda Downey.

Greg Marr Jr., who frequently comments on various issues in which he sees a government overreach into personal freedoms, said the county needs to come up with another strategy: deputies at last weekend's Stephen Smith Regatta, an annual fundraiser at

Shell Point Beach, were overwhelmed with trying to handle parking problems – some deputies, Marr said, had to park illegally themselves in order to deal with the crowd.

Later in the meeting, commissioners did vote to approve an agreement with Park Mobile to allow the app's use at county boat ramps. Merritt verified that cash payments could still be made at the ramps as well as the electronic payments.

Wakulla Springs Watch



Julia McGlynn, Sean McGlynn, David Shepard, Brian Lupiani, and Cal Jamison at the spring on Thursday, April 28.

Volunteers work to collect and track weekly data on Wakulla Springs

By RIDDHI PATEL
Reporter

Volunteers dedicated to the protection of Wakulla Springs have been meeting every Thursday morning to collect data on the water at the springs. In addition to their regular weekly sampling, the group of volunteers is a part of the Florida Springs In-

stitute sponsored SpringsWatch program – through which they collect additional data once a month. Volunteers have collected water samples, taken pictures, and taken readings about light transmittance and visibility, specific conductance and salinity, nitrate and oxygen concentrations, and more. For SpringsWatch, readings are

taken at multiple stations along the Wakulla River and at various depths at each station.

The Thursday, April 28 SpringsWatch volunteers were Dr. Sean McGlynn, Cal Jamison, David Shepard, Brian Lupiani, and McGlynn's daughter Julia. Jamison said another volunteer who usually joins them is Ken

Turn to Page 12

David Harvey named to law hall of fame

Was Wakulla sheriff from 1976 to his retirement in 2011

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

Former Wakulla Sheriff David Harvey has been named to the state Law Enforcement Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony will be held at the Capitol in Tallahassee on Saturday, May 21.

Harvey was elected sheriff in 1976 at age 26 and served 35 years in the post, retiring in 2011 to take a post as executive director of Florida Sheriffs Risk Management Fund.

He retired from that post in 2017 and started David F. Harvey & Associates, a consulting and lobbying firm.

Gov. Ron DeSantis and other Cabinet members voted to approve Harvey's induction into the Hall of Fame.

"He's very deserving of the award," said current Wakulla Sheriff Jared Miller, who started his career under Harvey. Miller noted it's a very competitive process to be inducted into the hall.

Harvey will join another Wakullan in the Hall of Fame: Paul Hoover, who worked for Game & Fish and, after retiring, joined the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office's bailiff unit and was also a beloved track coach at Wakulla High who was killed while out on an evening run in 2017 by a drunk driver.



David Harvey

County settles asbestos lawsuit

Loftin family accepts \$65,000 payment over asbestos on their land at old landfill in Medart

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

Wakulla County Commissioners voted last month to accept a settlement in a case that challenged the county had not properly closed the old landfill in Medart and that asbestos that had been buried in the landfill was on their property.

In a case going back to 2019, Thomas and Andra Loftin, a brother and sister, sued the county after plumbers digging trenches on their property uncovered bags of asbestos in the ground.

The Loftins' parents, Wade and Dorothy Loftin, leased a portion of their property to the county from 1977 to 1983 for use as a landfill. The Medart Landfill was capped in 1984.

The lawsuit claimed the county had not properly capped the landfill and attributed certain health problems in the Loftin family to the improperly capped landfill.

The Loftins surmised that the

asbestos came from a renovation of Wakulla High School in the early 1980s, but it's not clear if that was every confirmed.

At one point in negotiations, the county had countered that the Loftins had improperly buried the asbestos on their own property.

Last month, county commissioners voted to approve a settlement agreement that pays the Loftins \$65,000 and will pay a contractor to remove and dispose of the asbestos.

The Loftins were represented by attorneys Marie Mattox and Ron Mowrey.

The county was represented by Nabors Giblin & Nickerson attorney Heather Encinosa.

At one point, the county was weighing having Mowrey barred from representing the Loftins as he was county attorney during the time of the alleged events at the landfill.

The case had been set to go to trial in May.

The county's former public works

vendor, ESG, got its insurance company, Zurich, to pay the cost of attorneys fees from March 2021 to the present, according to a transcript of what Encinosa told commissioners in an executive session to discuss the proposed settlement on March 7.

Also, half of the settlement amount – the \$65,000 paid to the Loftins – was covered by Zurich. (The insurance company was brought in over concern about potential liability to ESG when they went onto the property to inspect the bags of asbestos. Some of the material could have potentially been disturbed.)

Up till then, the county had paid some \$125,475 to defend the lawsuit over the previous three years, according to financial records from the clerk of courts office.

Encinosa told commissioners at the shade meeting that the county had surveyed the amount of asbestos on the property early on in the case, and she said, "There's not very much. We had it all – we had it surveyed,

and located and report done years ago, and we volunteered to go in and do this in 2017, maybe 2018... and they wouldn't let us on the property."

Commissioner Merritt said at the closed hearing that the settlement was a good deal for the county, pointing to possible administrative closure of the landfill site by the state Department of Environmental Protection, which would relieve the county of the \$30,000 or so it annually spends on monitoring the site.

"This is absolutely a non-brainer," Merritt is quoted in the transcript as saying. "This – we're going to pay this just to get out of monitoring it."

Commissioner Hess comments: "WE would have thought that we should have bought it a long time ago and we wouldn't be –"

"Well, they wouldn't sell it," Merritt answers.

A few lines later, Hess laments that if the county had bought the property, "We would have saved money 20 years ago."

Student of the Week

Kyrin Hand, 8th grader at Wakulla Middle School

Principal: Simeon Nelson

Reason for Nomination: Kyrin is an All-A student and student athlete. Kyrin participated in cross-country earlier in the year and is currently playing soccer for the Wildcats and Wakulla United.

After school, Kyrin takes music lessons. She is currently playing the piano and ukulele. Kyrin is an AVID reader and enjoys going to the bookstore. She also likes to go to the beach.

Kyrin is sweet and hard-working. She makes sure her work is neat and on time. She puts her best effort into everything she does. Kyrin also likes to know how she can do better (even though she makes As) and asks questions when she needs extra assistance.

**STUDENT OF THE WEEK
FEATURES A DIFFERENT
SCHOOL EACH WEEK.**



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Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park

By JACK & JOEY COETZEE

Stokes aster (*Stokesia laevis*) is a native wildflower found in only nine Florida counties, including Wakulla (although it grows elsewhere in the southeast). It's blooming now at Sopchoppy Depot Park. This showy wildflower is typically blue-lilac but can vary between white, blue, purple, or rosy-pink. Its leaves persist all year. This plant is easy to grow and is a bountiful nectar source for pollinators such as butterflies. It grows 12 to 30 inches high and blooms during May, June, July, August, and September. Stokes asters prefer moist soil and a partly sunny environment.

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Riversprings Middle School's Brain Brawl team.



Wakulla Middle School's Brain Brawl team.

Optimists host middle school Brain Brawl

By **JO ANN DANIELS**
Special to The Sun

The Coastal Optimist Club hosted the Middle School Brain Brawl Competition between Riversprings Middle and Wakulla Middle School on Wednesday, April 13th. The two teams faced some unbelievably difficult questions and their lightning fast answers shocked the adults in the audience. Students are not given any study guides nor

do they know what information will be covered. Every answer must come from the students' own knowledge of the subject. The questions follow the NAQT (National Academic Quiz Tournament) standards.

Riversprings Middle School took first place and won the three round competition. Taking home the blue ribbons were Captain Ronin Taylor, Matthew Thaxton, Daniel Allen, Trey Thaxton,

Emily Zak and Benjamin Sawyer.

Receiving the second place red ribbons were Captain Ashleigh Franklin, Christian Whitlock, Captain Marc Carbonsag, Connor Golden, Logan Hand and J.P. Dissmore.

Receiving the Highest Scorer ribbon on the RMS team was Ronin Taylor.

The Highest Scorer ribbon went to Christian Whitlock on the WMS team after winning a run-off round with

Ashleigh Franklin.

The Red, White and Blue ribbon for achieving the Highest Overall Score went to Ronin Taylor on the RMS team.

The Time Keeper for the event was Optimist member Tim Roach. The score keeper was Trey Thaxton and the moderator was Jo Ann Daniels. Special thanks go to the Academic Team sponsors, Jennifer Anderson and Bill Taylor.

Sopchoppy Lions Club names Peace Poster winners

By **ARLENE VAUSE**
Special to The Sun

Each year, Lions Clubs International sponsors a Peace Poster Contest for Middle School Students. This year's theme was "We are all connected." Sopchoppy Lions Club sponsors the contest at Wakulla Middle School. This year's First Place Winner was Alexis Nichols. Her poster was sent on to the District 35-L level and she won Third Place in District. On Monday, April 25, members of the Sopchoppy Lions Club went to Wakulla Middle School and presented Alexis with her framed poster and a check for \$100.

This year we also had a student, Nevaeh Castellano, who entered the essay contest. She was the First Place Winner in District 35 and received a framed copy of her essay and a check for \$200. Nevaeh was not available for a photograph.

The Sopchoppy Lions Club congratulates Alexis and Nevaeh, and we thank Art Teacher Morgan Jackson and all of the art class students who participated and worked hard on this contest. We thank Lion Marshall Catoe for all the work he has done over the years as Chairman of our Peace Poster Committee.



BID #21/22-02 WAKULLA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES FOR

WAKULLA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE WAR EAGLE CAREER ACADEMY THE WAKULLA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD IS ACCEPTING PROPOSALS FOR ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES TO PROVIDE PLANNING, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION OF THE WAR EAGLE CAREER ACADEMY. ALL THOSE INTERESTED SHOULD SUBMIT FOUR (4) COPIES OF THE FOLLOWING: RESUME, SF 330, LIST OF SIMILAR OR RELATED PROJECTS AND LIST OF REFERENCES AND QUALIFICATIONS TO ROBERT PEARCE, SUPERINTENDENT OF WAKULLA COUNTY SCHOOLS, P.O. BOX 100, 69 ARRAN ROAD, CRAWFORDVILLE, FLORIDA 32327 BY 10:00 A.M. MAY 26, 2022. CONTACT PERSON IS MICHAEL BARWICK, DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE AT (850) 926-0065.



WAKULLA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT SEEKS NEW CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER (CFO) \$80,850 - \$89,650

Wakulla County School Board is accepting applications for individuals interested in working as the CFO for Wakulla County Schools.

All applicants must hold a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business, Management, or a related field and have five (5) years professional experience. Basic knowledge of accounting and financial management is also a requirement for this job.

The person hired will be responsible for having effective leadership skills, coordinating and maintaining all fiscal services, and work closely with the Superintendent.

All interested candidates should apply online at the Wakulla County Schools website, wakullaschooldistrict.org.

Join the team of Wakulla County School District and make a difference!

“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

Huge turnout for our Open House last week



By WILLIAM SNOWDEN

Thanks to everyone who came out for our ribbon cutting and Open House last week.

There were well over 100 people in attendance – our little office was packed and we had tents outside where people also gathered.

It was terrific to see everybody – to catch up with old friends, and make some new ones.

I want to give a special thank you to Rob Olin of Estuary Oysters and his wife for providing and shucking fresh oysters for the crowd.

I also want to thank Niraj Patel of Barn's Spirits for order-

ing the beer and wine for us. He also brought tents and helped set them up.

Thanks to Petra Shuff at the Chamber for the loan of a tent. (And for organizing the ribbon cutting.)

I have the best, most dedicated staff you could imagine: Lynda Kinsey and Krystal Sheppard were up late the night before baking and cooking the delicious hors d'oeuvres.

Poor Eric Stanton, our graphic artist and production manager was back in his office with the door shut during half the Open House trying to send the latest copy of the Sun Monthly to the printer.

Meanwhile, reporter

Riddhi Patel was running around snapping photos.

Thanks to a couple of the Library Ladies, Robyn Drummond and Heather Bryan, for helping put up a last-minute tent.

Thanks to Zoe Mansfield for her help setting up the foods – she showed up and just jumped in and helped out.

And thanks to everybody who stopped by. I tried to speak to everybody who came out, but if I didn't just know we appreciate your support.

William Snowden is editor and publisher of The Wakulla Sun.



The Wakulla Sun: Riddhi Patel, Lynda Kinsey, Meredith and William Snowden, Krystal Sheppard, and Eric Stanton.

George Nesmith and the fight to save Wakulla County

The Wakulla County Historical Society will present a program on Tuesday, May 10, at 4:30 p.m. at the Wakulla County Public Library. The featured speaker will be Eddie Page with a presentation on George Nesmith and the Fight to Save Wakulla County.

During the 1943 Florida Legislative session, Wakulla County's economic survival was in jeopardy. Deprived of its annual share of racetrack funds as a result of the closing of Florida's racetracks by federal mandate, Wakulla County faced insolvency and possible annexation to Leon County. This presentation by Eddie Page describes how George Nesmith, Wakulla's legislator in the Florida House of Representatives, fought to save the county from economic catastrophe.

Page's family has resided in Wakulla County through 7 generations. He has lived in Wakulla Station since 1983. He received a Master's in History from Florida



State University in 1994. He has worked at FSU since 1988, currently serving as the Director of Student Services for the College of Fine Arts. Arcadia Publishing printed "Wakulla County" in its Images of America series which he put together in 2001. Another of Eddie's projects is documenting the history of the mullet seine fishery in Wakulla County.

LETTERS

Rest in peace, formerly great airport

Editor, The Sun:

I want to thank editor Mr. Bill Snowden for his excellent, concise and precise piece on the continuing saga concerning our Wakulla County Airport. All of the airport turmoil mentioned in editor Snowden's article was spot-on.

My name is Bill Catalina, a former ten year resident of Tarpine subdivision and a further ten year aircraft hangar renter at the airport mentioned.

Since I've been an outspoken person at many county commission and state governmental meetings about the airport, I don't think I need to address my position here. Those of you who are staying abreast of the airport controversy know exactly who I am. I'm a pilot who tells the truth about the airport.

In one sentence, the airport which once was a great little grass airstrip was full of people and even perfect strangers who came to visit my friends and myself at my hangar. It was wonderful for all. Airplanes, the personifi-

cation of freedom, was the only subject asked by those private citizens who saw us flying. They all wanted to know more!

All that has now passed into memory. The airport has been run into the ground by someone who should never have been allowed to volunteer himself as an airport manager. Since his appointment, the flying and open arms friendliness has disappeared. The airport, for the most part, is abandoned. I could add a lot more but most of you know my story in dealing with an out of control so-called airport manager.

A sad end to what could've been a never ending time of companionship and happy memories for all. Is there any hope? I doubt it considering the years of controversy and now the battle of who even wants the airport.

Rest in peace, a formerly great and friendly little airport. It's a testament to bad decisions by county officials and poor management. That's stating it lightly.

Bill Catalina
Crawfordville

\$20 million for schools is a game changer

Editor, The Sun:

A wonderful thing happened last week at the Wakulla school district office - our Wakulla school system was awarded \$20 million by Triumph Gulf Coast for major upgrades to the learning capabilities at our high school. Our school system has done such an amazing job with our children for so long that it is easy to take this latest milestone for granted but please don't, this is a game changer.

I have worked with our Economic Development Council for many years and have learned that the most important component to growing your economy is to grow it from within. Sure it is good to hit the occasional home run and land a big employer but it is the singles and doubles, good fielding and pitching that wins ball games.

This new pilot program is going to help make our education system more responsive to the rapidly changing realities of the new digital economy we

are now in and will help create opportunities for starting new businesses in the cyber, investment, physical therapy, and digital realm.

Some of these new businesses will be formed by our sons and daughters and they will hire the people they went to school with to help them run their business.

Creating jobs is one of the main ingredients needed to develop strong extended families and these families are what make our community stronger.

So thank you to our superintendent Bobby Pearce, Sunny Chancy, our School Board, and the entire Wakulla County school system.

Let's not forget Triumph Gulf Coast, thank you for the award and your emphasis on educating our children for future, real world opportunities

John Shuff
President
Wakulla Economic Development
Council

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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◀ Question of The Week ▶

– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

Polled at the Quick Stop in Crawfordville What was your favorite class in school?



CARL MILLS
A/C REPAIR

“My favorite class was typing, because of all the girls. Some of my friends took Home Economics. It’s the girls!”



CEPHUS GREENE
RETIRED DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION

“Mathematics, I wanted to make sure people didn’t cheat me out of my money.”



NATACHA HAMILTON
WAKULLA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

“Home Economics class with Mrs. Evans.”



ROBERT JARMON
TRUCK DRIVER

“Science is the one that interested me the most, I went to Florida High School.”



STEVEN GLAZER
ATTORNEY

“American history, from 1861 to 1865.”

COMMUNITY NEWS

Wakulla Station News

By **VERNA BROCK**

I need to make a correction before moving on. Last week I mentioned George Hernandez was involved in a serious auto accident, but it was his brother Alex. Alex continues to do well, despite the loss of his car.

You and I know current events can be so disheartening, but allow me to share some news worth sharing! My friends, the Samal family, are celebrating the graduation of their daughter Kavita from the New England Law School this month. I have known Kavita and her family for many years, since first meeting them as library patrons.

Kavita is 100% a product of the Wakulla County School system, gradu-

ating from Wakulla High School in 2017. She was dual enrolled at FSU, graduating with degrees in International Affairs and English Literature in 2019. From there she was awarded the Sandra Day O’Connor (full tuition) scholarship to law school in Boston. There, she distinguished herself scholastically, earning the CALI Award of Business Compliance and Human Rights in her second year.

She plans to take the Florida Bar in July, and has applied to FSU to earn a Masters degree in Information Technology. Her long range goal is to become a Law Librarian, which warms the cockles of this old librarian’s heart!

Kavita wishes to thank her excellent teachers and mentors

for supporting her love of reading and learning. She is especially grateful for the AVID program, which has helped so many students become more confident, self-aware, organized and to set goals.

Kavita is just one of so many success stories coming out of Wakulla County, and I am very proud to know and love her. Congratulations to her, and her family, on this milestone achievement.

I appreciate your continued prayers for Linda Dunwoody, Sue Austin, Ian Wickham, Lyric Oakes, and Louis Hernandez, Jr. If you want to request prayers for loved ones, or share news, call me (850-421-3730) or shoot me an e-mail (vernalsbrock@gmail.com)

By the way, spring has shown herself to be a Warrior Queen, refusing to allow winter to leave her behind for summer’s inauguration. My yard is currently redolent with the heady fragrances of jasmine, roses, magnolias, gardenias and ligustrum blooms. The wild gladiolus are opening, and my Easter lilies are about to open along with gloriosa lilies. I am getting ready to plant annuals, along with perennial blue sage (which I HIGHLY recommend!). Did I mention I love spring?

Remember these words from my Pastor, Steve Montgomery, be present in the present and don’t forget to be fruitful.

Have a wonderful week!

Buckhorn News

By **ETHEL SKIPPER**

We were reading about a mother of great faith, love of pure strength. This woman stood at the cross to see her son die for the sins of the world, and seeing her son there on the cross.

This mother witnessed the death of her son knowing he was sent to die on the cross. Mothers are a gift from God and we do have a great command. (Genesis 2:15-22)

This is a time to show your love and great things for your mother. During the pandemic, mothers spent more time being at home with their family and that means more work.

I was talking with a young person and they said my life has changed because my mother and I have become good friends. We pray together everyday, eat together, and have spent so much time together. She said, “I thank the pandemic.” I said, “Thank the Lord.”

Honor your mother by doing something special for her: Take her out shopping, buy her a new outfit. Whatever you do, make her feel that she is the most special person.

On Saturday, from 5 to 7 p.m., the Skipper Temple Church will have a one-night revival meeting. On Sunday at 11 a.m., we will have a special service honoring all mothers.

Library News – May 5 to 12

UPCOMING EVENTS!

- Thursday, May 5**
Tech Learning Lab 4:30pm
- Friday, May 6**
Garden with the Director 8am
Quilting Guild 9:30am
The Revenge of the Sixth Star Wars Event 6pm
- Saturday, May 7**
No Programs Today
- Monday, May 9**
Wakulla Christian Coalition 6pm
- Tuesday, May 10**
Book Bunch 10am
Tinker Tuesday 5pm
Tobacco Free Fl Stop Smoking Class 5:30pm
- Wednesday, May 11**
Book Babies 10am
Knitting Group 4pm
- Thursday, May 12**
Tech Learning Lab 4:30pm
Wakulla Amateur Radio Club Testing 6:30pm

fun for children and families as Mrs. Rebecca and Mrs. Heather present weekly age-specific programs designed to encourage a life-long love of reading. Track your summer reading and participation using Beanstack to earn level completion prizes and an entry for the grand prize - a kid’s Kindle Fire with headphones! Keep an eye out here, on Facebook, our website calendar, and on our summer reading brochure that should come home in backpacks from school soon for our schedule of events! Please note, this is NOT a “day camp” environment. Caregivers are expected to stay with children for the duration of individual programs. All of our summer reading programs are offered thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Friends of the Wakulla County Public Library.

- morial Day
- Saturday, July 2nd for Independence Day
- Saturday, September 3rd for Labor Day
- Friday, November 11th and Saturday, November 12th for Veteran’s Day
- Thursday, November 24th to Saturday, November 26th for Thanksgiving
- Friday, December 23rd and Saturday, December 24th for Christmas

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!

To have all of this information & more delivered to your email, please visit our website at <http://wcpl.wildernesscoast.org/> and subscribe to our weekly email newsletter. Our newsletter contains information about upcoming events, exciting pictures of changes taking place in the library, and interesting updates on new arrivals to the collection.

UPCOMING HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

- Saturday, May 28th for Memorial Day

2022 SUMMER READING PROGRAM: READ BEYOND THE BEATEN PATH

Join us for a FREE summer of

Miss Wakulla pageant is Saturday

The 2022 Annual Miss Wakulla County Scholarship Pageant will be held Saturday, May 7th at 4 p.m. at the Wakulla High School Auditorium. Doors will open at 3:30 p.m. and tickets can be purchased at the door for \$5.

Crowning will take place for Tiny Miss Division (K & 1st), Little Miss Division (2nd & 3rd), Young Miss Division (4th & 5th), Junior Miss Division (6th to 8th) and Miss Division (9th to 12th).

The winner of the Miss Division will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

Brian C. English, CASL®

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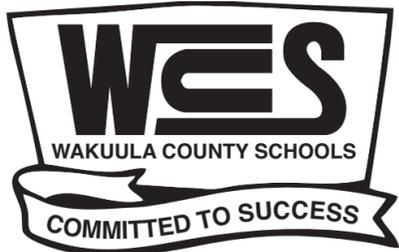
EARLY BIRD CLASSES

Starting in March

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The 2022 World Press Freedom Day was on May 3

2022 Theme: Journalism under digital siege

This year's World Press Freedom Day theme "Journalism under digital siege," spotlights the multiple ways in which journalism is endangered by surveillance and digitally-mediated attacks on journalists, and the consequences of all this on public trust in digital communications.

The latest UNESCO World Trends Report Insights discussion paper "Threats that Silence: Trends in the Safety of Journalists," highlights how surveillance and hacking are compromising journalism. Surveillance can expose information gathered by journalists including from

whistle-blowers, and violates the principle of source protection, which is universally considered a prerequisite for freedom of the media and is enshrined in UN Resolutions. Surveillance may also harm the safety of journalists by disclosing sensitive private information, which could be used for arbitrary judicial harassment or attack.

There is a growing global push encouraging more transparency regarding how Internet companies exploit citizens' data; how that data informs predictive models and artificial intelligence, and enables amplification of disinformation and hatred. This was underlined in the Windhoek+30 Declaration call for tech-

nology companies to "work to ensure transparency in relation to their human and automated systems."

World Press Freedom Day 2022 Global Conference

Organized annually since 1993, the Global Conference provides an opportunity to journalists, civil society representatives, national authorities, academics and the broader public to discuss emerging challenges to press freedom and journalists' safety, and to work together on identifying solutions.

On 2-5 May 2022, UNESCO and the Republic of Uruguay are hosting the annual World Press Freedom Day Global Confer-

ence in a hybrid format in Punta Del Este, Uruguay. Under the theme "Journalism under Digital Siege," the digital era's impact on freedom of expression, the safety of journalists, access to information and privacy are to be discussed.

The conference will reunite relevant policymakers, journalists, media representatives, activists, policy makers in Internet companies, cybersecurity managers, AI researchers and legal experts from around the world to explore the digital era's impact on freedom of expression and the safety of journalists, media viability and public trust.

Origins and purpose of the Day

World Press Freedom Day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in December 1993, following the recommendation of UNESCO's General Conference. Since then, 3 May, the anniversary of the Declaration of Windhoek is celebrated worldwide as World Press Freedom Day.

After 30 years, the historic connection made between the freedom to seek, impart and receive information and the public good remains as relevant as it was at the time of its signing. Special commemorations of the 30th anniversary are planned to take place during the World Press Freedom Day International Conference.

May 3 acts as a reminder to governments of the need to respect their commitment to press freedom. It is also a day of reflection among media professionals about issues of press freedom and professional ethics. It is an opportunity to:

- celebrate the fundamental principles of press freedom;
- assess the state of press freedom throughout the world;
- defend the media from attacks on their independence;
- and pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/press-freedom-day>



World Fact:
WHICH LANGUAGE IS THE SECOND MOST WIDELY SPOKEN LANGUAGE IN THE WORLD?
ANSWER: SPANISH

Spanish-Language Word Find

Just in time for Learn Spanish Month, see how many related words you can find and circle throughout the puzzle below.

- | | | |
|-----------|----------|-------------|
| CULTURE | HISPANIC | PRONOUNCE |
| EDUCATION | LANGUAGE | SPANISH |
| FOREIGN | LATINO | TONGUE |
| HERITAGE | LEARN | TRANSLATION |

A H L X F O K L I J N Z
M S E E T N G I E R O F
I I E U A C G R A R I E
B N A P G R F R J R T D
I A F C F N N R P Q A U
F P Y M I G O F C Y L C
H S P R E N I T K T S A
E G A U G N A L G E N T
G O N I T A L P T T A I
E R U T L U C D S T R O
H E R I T A G E D I T N
P R O N O U N C E I H H

KC081103

Spanish Scramble

Unscramble the letters below and uncover the Spanish translations to these common words.

- Dog: R P O E R
- Winter: V I N N I E O R
- Translate: D R T I R U C A
- School: A E S L C E U

Answers: 1. Perro 2. Invierno 3. Traductor 4. Escuela

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1777: GEORGE WASHINGTON DEFEATED CORNWALLIS' TROOPS AT THE BATTLE OF PRINCETON.
- 1870: CONSTRUCTION OF THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE BEGAN IN NEW YORK.
- 1987: ARETHA FRANKLIN BECAME THE FIRST WOMAN TO BE INDUCTED INTO THE ROCK AND ROLL HALL OF FAME.

new word

tongue

a particular language

How they SAY it in...

ENGLISH: Language
SPANISH: Idioma
ITALIAN: Lingua
FRENCH: Langue
GERMAN: Sprache

Did YOU KNOW?

NEARLY 30 PERCENT OF THE RESIDENTS OF SPAIN SPEAK SOMETHING OTHER THAN SPANISH AS THEIR FIRST LANGUAGE. SPANISH IS USUALLY SPOKEN AS A SECOND LANGUAGE.

get the PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture featured here is?

ANSWER: PLANTAINS

We can learn from the rewind



By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

“All I want is a room somewhere, far away from the cold night air!” I could tell my singing in the school’s talent show wasn’t going

well. My shaky hands and trembling voice sent a clear message that I wished I were already in that faraway room. “Aow wouldn’t it be lover-ly? ... Lover-ly, lover-ly,”

When my performance finally ended, the tepid applause confirmed my singing was anything but lovely.

“If only I could rewind the clock,” I thought.

Wouldn’t it be great if we could go back in time to change some of our choices? My decision to sing in the talent contest was a

minor one, especially when compared to the more serious choices we make. Think of those that cue “I should have” or “I wish I hadn’t” playing in our minds every time we recall our foolish behavior.

At the time, it seemed worth the risk to date that person who lived by different morals, tell that lie to a parent or spouse, or steal that money from the office’s petty cash. Only later, we experienced torment when we realized our actions grieved our heavenly Father and

strained the relationships of those who used to have no trouble believing the best about us.

This week’s verse is not a pleasant one to envision. However, I hope its visual will be effective. “Like a dog that returns to his vomit is a fool who repeats his folly” (Proverbs 26:11 ESV).

Imagining a dog returning to his vomit is no fun – much less, actually watching a dog doing it. Yet, how often do people watch us return to our folly, over

and over again?

What if we were to paraphrase Proverbs 26:11 to say, “When I don’t learn from my mistakes (when I repeatedly choose to mess up my life with sinful and/or destructive choices), I am like a dog returning to his vomit.”

Would this help us rethink our decisions?

Proverbs 26:11 is not my favorite verse. But if I allow the Holy Spirit to use its disgusting visual to keep me from repeating my sinful choices, it could well become one of my favorites – or at

least, most effective – verses.

Let’s rewind the memory of our bad choices and ask God to help us repent and make wiser choices going forward.

Wouldn’t this be better than giving another encore of a bad performance?

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



Lois Ann McElroy

Lois Ann McElroy, 88, of Crawfordville, passed away Tuesday, April 26, 2022 after a short illness.

She was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on Nov. 28, 1933 and had lived in Wakulla County since 1976. She served in the U.S. Army. She owned

This-N-That Ceramics in Crawfordville and was a member of the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Medart. She enjoyed hobbies such as cross stitch, crochet and word games.

Ann was preceded in death by her husband of 56 years, James Mitchell McElroy Jr.; and her parents, James Greene and Mary Louise Hillman.

She is survived by her sons, James Bruce McElroy and wife, Jane, of Las Vegas, Charles Virgil McElroy of Crawfordville, and David Mitchell McElroy and wife, Belinda, of Sopchoppy; her sister-in-law, Cecelia Lucille Mulligan, of Alto, Georgia; eight grandchildren, Samantha, Ryan, Gerrick, Meredith, Angela, John, Brittany and Brooke; and several great-grandchildren including great-grandson, Finn Prince, of Tallahassee.

Graveside services were held at 10 a.m. on Monday, May 2, 2022 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Cemetery in Medart.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Big Bend Hospice, 1723 Mahan Center Blvd., Tallahassee, FL, 32308.

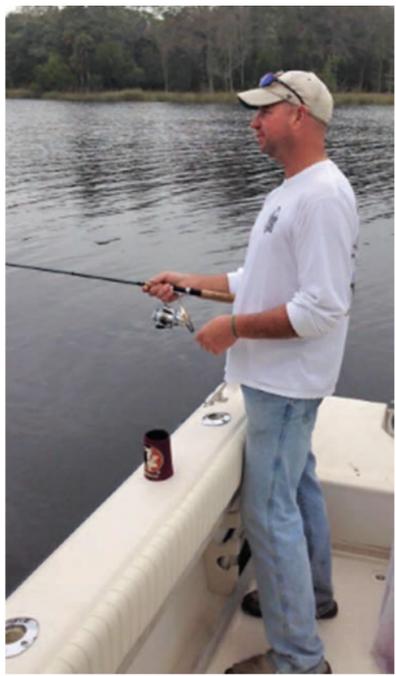


Meriddie Rosier Sr.

In the year 1944 in the little community of Sopchoppy, now known as Surf Road, my brother was born. He was a true gift to the Rosier family.

We, the family of the late Deacon Meriddie Rosier Sr., the third son of the late John and Charlotte Rosier, would like to thank you for all the acts of kindness shown to us.

Gifts, food, cards, encouraging words and your prayers to our family in his death and home-going celebration.



Michael David Smith

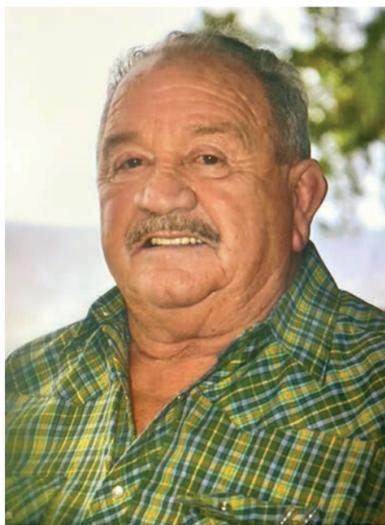
Michael David Smith, 50 of Crawfordville, passed away suddenly on April 22, 2022.

He was an electrician by trade, currently working for Anytime Electric. He was also an ASE Certified Mechanic, and worked as a crabber. He enjoyed fishing and hunting and he was a die-hard FSU fan.

He is survived by his daughter, Maxie Smith and her mother, Amanda Allbaugh; brother, Ryan Smith (Jenny); and grandson, Waylon Cole.

There was a gathering of friends on Monday, May 2, 2022 from 9:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. at Family Funeral Home, Harvey-Young Chapel, which was followed by a Funeral Service at 10 a.m. Graveside Services will be held the same day at New Hope Baptist Church Cemetery in Marianna, at 1:30 p.m. EDT.

Skip and Trey Young with Family Funeral Home, Harvey-Young Chapel are assisting the family with arrangements (850-926-5919, www.familyfhc.com).



Kenneth Willie Morgan

Kenneth Willie Morgan, 76, of Smith Creek, passed away on April 23, 2022 surrounded by his loving family.

He loved deer hunting, bream fishing and spending time with his family and friends, especially his grandsons. He proudly served in the U.S. Marines as a sergeant in the Vietnam War. He

received a National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with three stars, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Combat Action Ribbon, Air Medal and Marksman Badge, Rifle M-14. He retired from Peter Brown Construction as a construction superintendent.

Survivors include the love of his life, his wife, Wanda Morgan; children, Nikki Crum (Travis) and Kody Morgan; brother, David Morgan; sisters, Shirley Merkinson and Mary Elizabeth Harrell; and grandchildren, Chandler and Braxton Crum.

He was predeceased by his brothers, Marvin Morgan, Wallace Morgan, and Richard Morgan; sister, EmaJean Morgan and mother, Vivian Hartsfield Snyder.

There will be a gathering of friends on May 7, 2022 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. followed by a Memorial Service at 11 a.m. at Mount Beasor Baptist Church.

Skip & Trey Young with Family Funeral Home at Harvey-Young Chapel are assisting the family with arrangements (850-926-5919, www.familyfhc.com).

DEATH NOTICES

• Gretchen M. Heinke, 88, of Alligator Point, died April 29, 2022. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com.

• Robert “Bob” Allan Myhre, 72, of Crawfordville, died April 30, 2022. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com.

• Paulia Sue Rose, 68, of Crawfordville, died May 2, 2022. Family Funeral Home at Harvey

Young Chapel 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com.

• Carol Susan Stapleton, 82, of Tallahassee, died April 29, 2022. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com.

• Joshua Tailer, 23, of Tallahassee, died April 23, 2022. Young-Fulford Funeral Home and Crematory (850-610-4444 or www.youngfulfordcremationandfuneralservices.com).

Camp Gordon Johnston has exhibit on Philippines campaign

Special to The Sun

Camp Gordon Johnston WWII Museum in Carrabelle is presenting a special exhibit on the Philippines campaign. This exhibit opened Tuesday, May 3 and will be on display at the museum until Saturday, May 28.

The Philippines, had fallen into Japanese hands after a long and brutal effort that began hours after Pearl Harbor and ended with the surrender of the US-Philippine forces in May 1942, and the subsequent march of prisoners from Bataan.

The invasion of the Philippines began at Leyte, on the Oct. 20, 1944, and resulted in a naval battle that was a disaster for the Japanese. Japanese control



The invasion of Leyte in 1944.

ended in mid-1945.

This exhibit will chronicle the major battles and participants, from the loss to the Japanese in 1942 to the final mopping up in 1945.

The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. There is no charge for admission, but donations are gladly accepted.

Contact the museum

at (850) 697-8575.



St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church

Fr. Dustin Feddon • Dcn. Dave Harris
Director of Music & Choir - Jeff Cook
3609 Coastal Hwy. Crawfordville FL 32327
850 745-8359

Saturday Mass 5:00 pm • Sunday Mass 11:00 am
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
Facebook - Seas Parish

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Outdoors

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HOME ON THE RANGE

Shooting the 'Evil Roy'



By MARJ LAW

In the past 2 issues of The Wakulla Sun, we talked of shooting a breech break and a pump or “gallery” gun. These are both rifles that shoot the .22 short, .22 Long, and .22 Long Rifle. Today, most people shoot the .22 LR. That’s because, unless they’ve been hoarding rounds for a long time, the .22 S and .22L are harder to find, cost more, and can’t be used in

as many guns as the .22 LR.

I’m a handgun type of gal. However, Joe thought it was time to discuss some .22 carbines. OK, Joe.

Carbines are basically short rifles. A lot of young folk begin their shooting days with .22 carbines. And, because of the shorter stocks and ease of shooting, a lot of newbies young and older are happy with beginning their shooting experience with these carbines.

That’s what Joe said, anyway. When a muscular guy 50 – 150 pounds more than you says: “Try it. It’s easy!” Well, take that with a grain of salt. I have to try it first to believe him.

A couple weeks ago, Buck, Nora, Joe and I shot a Rossi breech



break gun. Again, it is sort of like a short rifle. This one shoots one round at a time. Press a lever to the right of the hammer and the barrel folds down. Pop a round in the chamber in front of you and snap the gun shut. After you do this snap action, then you cock the hammer.

The pump or gallery gun is similar. You feed up to 14 rounds into a tube under the barrel. Push the fore-grip away from you and back. This is how the gallery gun cocks the hammer. Push it forward to fire.

When you close the breech break gun and cock the hammer to shoot, or pump the gallery gun to cock the hammer, all that is left for the trigger to do is release the hammer. The trigger does this one action. This is why both guns are single action guns.

Now Joe brings out the “Evil Roy.”

“It’s easy,” he grins.

With a name like “Evil Roy?” I’m not so sure I believe him. Evil Roy is another name for Gene Percy: a champion shooter and teacher. “I wanted a great looking short, lightweight, but accurate .22 rifle...” The company, Henry, used Percy’s input to make Evil Roy.

Between the breech break, the gallery

pump gun, or Evil Roy... Which is more fun?

The four of us (Joe, me, Buck and Nora) find the breech break to be easy and light. The pump gun’s action was new to Nora and me. She finds the pump gun to be heavy. I just feel it’s not familiar and is kind of bulky; especially after shooting the breech break gun. Once you get used to it, though, the “kaaa-runch” of the pump gun makes it more fun to shoot.

So now we’ve got Evil Roy. It’s also a .22 carbine which can take .22 S, .22 L and .22 LR. If your dad or granddad have any shorts or longs tucked away in an old ammunition can, here’s a great place to use up that old ammo.

Evil is made of American walnut and is smooth, sleek and short. Run your hands over it. Feels good in the hands. It’s a lever action gun. Overall, it is 34 inches long. The thick octagon barrel is 17 inches. It’s not bulky like the pump gun.

When you grab the stock, your four fingers naturally fall inside this big loop. Flick your fingers down and back and your hammer is cocked. Similar to the breech break and the gallery gun, Evil is a single action gun because you’ve already

cocked the hammer, and the trigger’s only action is to release the hammer. While the pump gun makes a satisfying kaaa-runch, kaaa-runch, Evil goes clack, clack.

Like the pump gun, Evil has a tube for its rounds. Evil’s tube will hold 12 LR rounds or 14 S. Load them in. Now, your fingers are in the loop. Open your fingers: clack! Close those fingers: clack!

Yes, Joe, that was indeed easy. Makes a nice sound too. But how does it shoot?

I find my sight by lining up the beaded front sight so it sits right on top of the white diamond in the semi-buckhorn rear sight.

Squeeze that trigger. Smack!

The gun doesn’t move. And what happened to the target?

Wow! It touched the x-ring! First shot with an unfamiliar gun! Better take a picture! This might never happen again! But fun?

Clack clack smack! Clack clack smack! Man, this gun is really fun! You want to keep shooting.

Joe and Buck are both familiar with lever guns. They’re not so impressed as I am. Nora is surprised that the lever is easy to manipulate; not like the one she shot as a child.

We rate Evil for dif-

ficulty of trigger pull. Since a 1 is easy and a 5 is difficult, we rate trigger pull as a 1. Yes, easy. I look it up on the internet and find the trigger pull to be 3 pounds. Nice.

The length of travel on the trigger is very short. We rate it a 1 as well.

Kick? Everyone wants to know about recoil. Well, on a 1 – 5 scale, we give it a 0. Evil has no recoil, despite his name!

We all find racking the lever to be simple as well.

Joe is right. This gun is easy and fun. I always expect that the first shots of an unfamiliar gun are practice and that with familiarity comes better shooting.

How much better can you get?

As Dave Higginbotham on Guns America said: (Did) “You ever pull the trigger on a gun that just can’t miss? It has a way of making any day better.”

Another writer said: “This gun will spoil you. All guns should be like this.”

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



ATLANTIC STINGRAY
(*Dasyatis Sabina*)

Stringrays are best known for their whip-like tail armed with venomous spines. When threatened, they lash their tail to jab at the attacker. Poison from glands along the grooves on each side of the spines flows into the wounds. Stingrays are not aggressive and will swim quickly away if you shuffle your feet slowly forward when entering the water. They lie on the bottom almost covered in sand or mud. Here they forage for worms, small clams, and shrimp.

Eukarya, Animalia, Cordata, Elasmobranchiomorph, Rajiformes, Dasyatida



Sheriff's Report

Activity reported from April 22 to 28:

FRIDAY, APRIL 22

• Deputy Ernesto Trujillo conducted a traffic stop in the area of Martin Luther King Road. The driver of the vehicle Jerry Sanders was found to not have a valid drivers license. A check of Sanders driving history showed him to have multiple prior convictions for driving while license suspended or revoked (DWLSR). Sanders was placed under arrest and transported to the Wakulla County Jail.

• Deputy Tiffany Spears responded to a home in reference to a burglary which had already occurred. Contact was made with Kimberly Purser. Kimberly stated she is in the process of getting a home ready to sell. Kimberly stated she arrived today to find the side door of the residence was damaged along with the frame. Kimberly advised a bag of clothes, power tools and a socket were also missing. A possible suspect has been

identified. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

SATURDAY, APRIL 23

• Deputies responded to Dux Liquor due to a fight. Upon arrival contact was made with Security Guard Damion Jones, who said Dwayne Reed had gotten into a confrontation with Richard Miller. Reed shoved Miller at one point prior to deputies arrival. Miller did not wish to pursue charges. Jones advised Reed was no longer welcomed at the establishment and requested he leave. Reed was intoxicated and argumentative with deputies the entire encounter. While deputies were still on scene, Reed began a verbal dispute with patrons in the parking lot. The other individuals attempted to ignore Reed but he would not stop. At this point, he was taken into custody. Reed refused to comply with lawful orders and had to be placed on the ground. He reportedly continued to

resist by tensing his arms refusing to place them behind his back. Dwayne was secured into handcuffs. After being cuffed, a small bag of marijuana was located on his person. Dwayne Reed was arrested and transported to the Wakulla County Jail.

SUNDAY, APRIL 24

• Deputy Dylan Causseaux conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for an expired tag on Spring Creek Highway. Upon contact with the driver, Perry Shackelford, the odor of marijuana was observed coming from the vehicle. A search of the vehicle found, methamphetamine, marijuana, prescribed medication not belonging to Perry, and drug paraphernalia. Perry was placed under arrest and transported to the Wakulla County Jail.

MONDAY, APRIL 25

• Deputy Kory Smith responded to Nelson Road in reference to a theft complaint. Upon

arrival Deputy Smith made contact with Jason Allbaugh, who advised sometime during the night someone had stolen two pairs of construction stilts from his residence. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

• Deputy Colton Sheridan conducted a traffic stop at Ann Circle and Woodville Highway in reference to the driver James Leek having a suspended driver’s license. Upon making contact with Leek, Deputy Sheridan also made contact with the passenger, Austen Cardin. During the investigation Cardin was found to be in possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia. Leek was arrested and charged with DWLSR and Cardin on possession of marijuana and paraphernalia. Both were transported to the Wakulla County Jail.

TUESDAY, APRIL 26

• Deputy Kory Smith conducted a traffic stop at the intersection of Kenneth Circle

and Shadeville Highway in reference to faulty brake lights. Deputy Smith made contact with the driver and sole occupant Darwin Kirby. Upon further investigation, Kirby was allegedly in possession of narcotics and drug paraphernalia. Darwin Kirby was arrested and transported to the Wakulla County Jail.

• Robert McKenzie reported multiple tools had been stolen from his job site. The tools were left in the master bedroom of a new home construction site. Entry was made through the garage via an unsecured door. McKenzie valued the total loss of tools at \$695. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Lt. Gibby Gibson investigated.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

• Reece Cazee, who works with Verizon, reported copper wire stolen from the cell tower located at 1506 Old Woodville Hwy. The copper is valued at approximately \$300

with labor cost of over \$1,700 to replace. Cazee advised there was a similar case with the tower on Old Woodville Highway two weeks ago in Leon County. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Wade Wright investigated.

• Deputy Tiffany Spears responded to the probation office for a wanted subject. Upon arrival Deputy Spears informed Lyntonio Bowdry he was under arrest. Bowdry resisted and attempted to flee the building. While resisting, Bowdry struck Deputy Spears and a probation officer as they were trying to apprehend him. Bowdry was subsequently Tasered and taken into custody. He was arrested on the outstanding warrant as well as battery on a law enforcement officer and resisting arrest with violence.

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

Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences

Thursday 5	
Sun rise/set 6:49AM 8:17PM	Moon rise/set 10:08AM 12:03AM
Moon Illumination 19%	
Friday 6	
Sun rise/set 6:49AM 8:17PM	Moon rise/set 11:01AM 12:54AM
Moon Illumination 27%	
Saturday 7	
Sun rise/set 6:48AM 8:18PM	Moon rise/set 11:56AM 1:40AM
Moon Illumination 36%	
Sunday 8	
Sun rise/set 6:47AM 8:19PM	Moon rise/set 12:53PM 2:21AM
Moon Illumination 45%	
Monday 9	
Sun rise/set 6:46AM 8:19PM	Moon rise/set 1:52PM 2:59AM
Moon Illumination 55%	
Tuesday 10	
Sun rise/set 6:46AM 8:20PM	Moon rise/set 2:50PM 3:32AM
Moon Illumination 65%	
Wednesday 11	
Sun rise/set 6:45AM 8:20PM	Moon rise/set 3:49PM 4:04AM
Moon Illumination 74%	

Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

May 5 - May 11

Tide charts by tides4fishing.com

Best fishing days this month
May 1-16, 30, 31

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	6:10 am ▲ 2.8 ft	10:52 am ▼ 1.6 ft	4:33 pm ▲ 3.6 ft	Th	12:36 am ▼ 0.0 ft	6:46 am ▲ 2.6 ft	11:56 am ▼ 1.5 ft	5:09 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	Th	6:27 am ▲ 2.9 ft	11:06 am ▼ 1.8 ft	4:48 pm ▼ 3.7 ft	
Fr	12:13 am ▼ 0.2 ft	7:03 am ▲ 2.7 ft	11:31 am ▼ 1.8 ft	Fr	1:17 am ▼ 0.1 ft	7:39 am ▲ 2.5 ft	12:35 pm ▼ 1.7 ft	5:43 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	Fr	12:34 am ▼ 0.1 ft	7:17 am ▲ 2.8 ft	11:44 am ▼ 1.9 ft	5:23 pm ▲ 3.5 ft
Sa	1:03 am ▼ 0.4 ft	8:13 am ▲ 2.6 ft	12:25 pm ▼ 2.0 ft	Sa	2:07 am ▼ 0.3 ft	8:49 am ▲ 2.4 ft	1:29 pm ▼ 1.8 ft	6:25 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	Sa	1:26 am ▼ 0.4 ft	8:21 am ▲ 2.7 ft	12:37 pm ▼ 2.1 ft	6:07 pm ▲ 3.3 ft
Su	2:08 am ▼ 0.5 ft	9:38 am ▲ 2.6 ft	1:50 pm ▼ 2.1 ft	Su	3:12 am ▼ 0.5 ft	10:14 am ▲ 2.4 ft	2:54 pm ▼ 1.9 ft	7:29 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	Su	2:30 am ▼ 0.5 ft	9:39 am ▲ 2.7 ft	2:00 pm ▼ 2.2 ft	7:13 pm ▲ 3.0 ft
Mo	3:22 am ▼ 0.6 ft	10:48 am ▲ 2.8 ft	3:42 pm ▼ 2.0 ft	Mo	4:26 am ▼ 0.6 ft	11:24 am ▲ 2.6 ft	4:46 pm ▼ 2.4 ft	8:22 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	Mo	3:42 am ▼ 0.6 ft	10:49 am ▲ 2.8 ft	3:50 pm ▼ 2.0 ft	8:14 pm ▲ 2.8 ft
Tu	4:29 am ▼ 0.7 ft	11:35 am ▲ 3.0 ft	5:09 pm ▼ 1.7 ft	Tu	5:33 am ▼ 0.7 ft	12:11 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	6:13 pm ▼ 2.1 ft	9:22 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	Tu	4:48 am ▼ 0.7 ft	11:39 am ▲ 3.1 ft	5:22 pm ▼ 1.7 ft	9:14 pm ▲ 2.8 ft
We	5:25 am ▼ 0.7 ft	12:09 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	6:07 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	We	6:29 am ▼ 0.6 ft	12:45 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	7:11 pm ▼ 1.1 ft		We	5:43 am ▼ 0.7 ft	12:16 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	6:22 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	

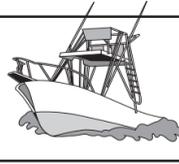
Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay				St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.				Dog Island West End				
Th	6:02 am ▲ 2.1 ft	11:03 am ▼ 1.2 ft	4:25 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	Th	6:32 am ▲ 2.2 ft	10:41 am ▼ 1.7 ft	4:34 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	Th	6:55 am ▲ 2.0 ft	10:55 am ▲ 1.8 ft	4:44 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	
Fr	12:24 am ▼ 0.1 ft	6:55 am ▲ 2.0 ft	11:42 am ▼ 1.3 ft	Fr	12:15 am ▼ 0.0 ft	7:27 am ▲ 2.1 ft	11:14 am ▼ 1.8 ft	Fr	12:28 am ▼ 0.0 ft	7:49 am ▲ 1.9 ft	11:25 am ▼ 1.8 ft	5:19 pm ▲ 2.4 ft
Sa	1:14 am ▼ 0.3 ft	8:05 am ▲ 1.9 ft	12:36 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	Sa	1:08 am ▼ 0.2 ft	8:40 am ▲ 2.1 ft	12:02 pm ▼ 1.9 ft	Sa	1:16 am ▼ 0.2 ft	5:59 pm ▲ 2.3 ft		
Su	2:19 am ▼ 0.4 ft	9:30 am ▲ 2.0 ft	2:01 pm ▼ 2.0 ft	Su	2:14 am ▼ 0.4 ft	10:06 am ▲ 2.1 ft	2:16 pm ▼ 2.0 ft	Su	2:11 am ▼ 0.3 ft	11:15 am ▲ 1.9 ft	1:44 pm ▼ 1.9 ft	6:54 pm ▲ 2.1 ft
Mo	3:33 am ▼ 0.5 ft	10:40 am ▲ 2.1 ft	3:53 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	Mo	3:30 am ▼ 0.5 ft	11:05 am ▲ 2.2 ft	4:52 pm ▼ 1.8 ft	Mo	3:22 am ▼ 0.5 ft	11:28 am ▲ 2.0 ft	4:36 pm ▼ 1.7 ft	8:04 pm ▲ 1.9 ft
Tu	4:40 am ▼ 0.5 ft	11:27 am ▲ 2.2 ft	5:20 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	Tu	4:38 am ▼ 0.6 ft	11:38 am ▲ 2.4 ft	5:50 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	Tu	4:32 am ▼ 0.6 ft	11:41 am ▲ 2.1 ft	5:50 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	9:04 pm ▲ 1.9 ft
We	5:36 am ▼ 0.5 ft	12:01 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	6:18 pm ▼ 0.8 ft	We	5:32 am ▼ 0.6 ft	12:03 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	6:27 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	We	5:34 am ▼ 0.8 ft	12:00 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	6:40 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	

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



Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports

By Carolyn Brown Treadon



This past Saturday, April 30, members of Flotilla 12 represented the Auxiliary at the Florida State University's Coastal Marine Lab Open House.

Thanks to member Phil Hill for the information and Scott Hausmann and Norma Hill for the images.

The event highlighted the importance of increasing awareness of the links between healthy ecosystems and healthy societies. Local habitats such as sea-grass meadows, oyster reefs, saltmarshes, and other types of wetlands protect their inhabitants, retain sediments, and dampen storm surge. These habitats also filter the air and water of pollutants, and fix carbon.

The Open House showcased many of FSU's scientists and their students by providing an opportunity for them to share their knowledge of the land and sea. Over 35 research labs, public agencies, and community organizations presented their work at booths surrounding the buildings of the facility. Hot food was available from local food trucks so those attending could enjoy lunch.

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



Tim Ashley, Caleb Harper and Phil Hill at the FSU Coastal Marine Lab's Open House on Saturday, April 30.

trated on paddle sport safety, handing out many orange "If Found" stickers to place on kayaks, canoes, and paddleboards. These

stickers can be helpful in locating the owner of craft that may have gotten away from the owner. These stickers can also help eliminate

a costly search for a person not in danger.

Members attending included Tim Ashley, Caleb Harper, Norma Hill, and Phil Hill. Also in attendance was Scott Hausmann, representing both the auxiliary and the Marine Lab.

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 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 Rusty Miller

The need for various scuba training.

Over the next few articles I would like to breakdown and give some background on the need for various scuba training.

I will start with the basic open water certification. In the late 1960s when the California divers association began to teach scuba diving in the recreational side it started a phenomenal sport that has swept this country. It was television shows like my all time favorite "Sea Hunt," and it wasn't reruns of the show it was the original version. That show inspired many young folks (at the time) like me to want to see the underwater world for the first time.

At that time you couldn't go down to your local dive shop because frankly they just didn't exist. If you had a local YMCA they would give you an introductory scuba course after you took their swim course. If you were interested in the scuba you had to seek out an instructor that they approved. Fortunately for me it was my brother-in-law at the time.

So the journey began. At that time in the late '60s, early '70s your basic open water certification was all they had. There were no specialty courses like advanced open water or rescue courses, it was just called scuba.

In that course we learned in great detail the basic gas laws for air under pressure and at depth. These classes were several weeks long, then we were able to get in the pool after you passed the exam. Once the pool portion began it was also several weeks long at least two nights four hours each week. By the time you were able to go to the open water portion you had the equivalent to a rescue certification. In other words, you were a well-trained scuba diver.

Through the classroom portion we learned how to plan our dives using the U.S Navy dive tables to predict the nitrogen absorption in our bodies. We also learned how to "Drown the Rat" which is to calculate the residual trace nitrogen after the surface interval after each dive or repetitive dive.

Then the pool exercises we had to go through. They were very intense and grueling. You would be swimming underwater and without notice the instructor or their assistant would come and rip your mask off your face just to see if you would panic. Then they might grab your regulator out of your mouth to the same end. If you didn't panic then you could proceed with the rest of the class and that was during the introduction portion. That would weed out at least 50% of the students. At the time I thought it wasn't fair to do it that way but looking back it made sense because the equipment was not as sophisticated as it is today, by that I mean there was no redundancy with an alternate air source (octopus second stage regulator) to breathe on.

There was so much training involved before you were ready for the open water portion of your training but I will say that you were very confident that you could safely dive and survive most any failure that could happen with your equipment or the environment that might happen.

The next article I will compare to what we now know and train too for our scuba certification.

Until next time, remember: "An out of air emergency to a scuba diver is not as bad as an out of air emergency to a sky diver."

This is a repeat of a column that appeared March 10.

Lionfish Removal Festival set in Destin for May 14-15

From FWC News

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is excited to announce the eighth annual Lionfish Removal and Awareness Festival May 14 and 15 at HarborWalk Village in Destin. Come out and celebrate the fight against invasive lionfish with the FWC and Destin-Fort Walton Beach.

Activities will include fillet demonstrations;

family-friendly games and activities; art, diving and conservation booths; and the world's largest lionfish spearfishing tournament, the Emerald Coast Open. Satisfy your taste buds by visiting any of the participating locations of Lionfish Restaurant Week (May 8-14) for your chance to try this delicious invasive. Learn more by visiting FWCReefRangers.com.

What is Lionfish Re-

moval and Awareness Day?

A 2015 Resolution declared the first Saturday after Mother's Day each year as Lionfish Removal and Awareness Day. FWC hosts the Lionfish Removal and Awareness Day (LRAD) Festival on this date each year to continue to raise awareness about the lionfish invasion.

The two-day festival is typically headquar-

tered in the Panhandle with satellite events sometimes occurring around the state. The festival brings in thousands of visitors each year to learn about lionfish, taste samples, and enjoy a variety of events and vendors.

Questions?

Contact the FWC Division of Marine Fisheries Management at 850-487-0554.

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CLUES ACROSS

- Shoulder gesture
- Upper limb
- Quantitative fact
- West Chadic
- Lacrimal secretion
- Strip forming part of a fence
- Declare invalid
- Double-reed instrument
- Iris genus
- Headache
- Package
- Anticipations
- Fertilized eggs
- Public violence
- Caviar
- Snakes
- Expression of sorrow or pity
- Short cloaks
- Qatar capital
- Hygienic
- Celestial latitude
- SNL comedian Carvey
- Easily duped victims
- Dinner call
- Greek god of light

CLUES DOWN

- Feign
- Akha
- Step of a ladder
- High interest money lender
- Collection of star systems
- Repents
- Medieval fiddle
- Tse-tung
- Displaying liveliness
- Mexican silver city
- A short and amusing opera
- Wife of a raja
- Less than average tide
- Any plant of the family Araceae
- Design
- Being the only one
- _____ Jeane Baker
- A small island
- Soviet Union or U_____
- Cause to change

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- Noncitizen
- Bluish greens
- Mends
- ___d: music file device
- At the peak
- Tall perennial woody plant
- Geological times
- Headfish
- Hit on the head with a baseball

- Observe secretly
- Badfinger album "___ce"
- You
- Pouches
- Spare time activity
- Big guns
- W. Rumanian city
- Afrikaans
- Capsicum
- Fed
- Albanian capital

- Steroid alcohol
- Wrists
- Iridescent opaque gems
- Pheasant
- Intended achievements
- Civil wrong
- Fourth dimension
- 6th Jewish month
- Goddess of the dawn

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CHAMBER NEWS

Donkeys hosts Chamber luncheon

By **PETRA SHUFF**
Of the Chamber

What a fun and exciting luncheon! We thank **Jon and Michel Turner** for hosting us, serving delicious barbecue baked beans, and potato salad, which is really more like a potato casserole, it was delicious! We also got to hear some exciting news, straight from the horse's mouth so to speak – the new, 8,200 square foot **Donkeys Restaurant** plans are 80% complete, and will be built behind the new Publix. It will be two-story, include a banquet room for events like our luncheons, will have indoor and outdoor seating, and plenty of parking. Plans are to also have a pick-up drive-thru window. Construction hopefully will be completed in about a year or so. Nothing is ever set in stone when it comes to construction, especially these days.

Jon and Michel are also in the process of remodeling the old Family Coastal restaurant building to open an Italian restaurant serving true Italian brick oven baked pizza, named **Asini's Woodfired Grill**, and yes you may have guessed it means Donkeys in Italian. We look forward to the opening!

Mary announced our new members in April as **AT&T** and **Expandacraft – Adventure Camp**. Please join us at the ribbon cutting for AT&T May 5th at 4:30pm. Our newest members joining during this luncheon are **Camille Duke** and **Mark Dobert** with **House Savers**. Mark and Camille have recently moved their real estate business to Wakulla, buying, managing, and selling homes.

Our announcements included:
New manager of T-Mobile Store, **Janelle Shannon**, introduced herself and let us know about their 5G access and \$50 a month home internet service. T-Mobile will celebrate their 1-year anniversary and host a rededication celebration May 14, so be on the lookout for the announcement and visit their location at Preston Circle.

Dr. Rachel Pienta with Wakulla 4-H introduced her new program assistant for after school and summer camp, **Jennifer Wilkins**.

Novella Franklin introduced her guest and colleague **Betty Proctor**, founder of the non-profit organization MPAC (Motivating People through Arts and Crafts) with the vision to provide a space where persons with autism spectrum disorder and communication



PHOTOS BY LYNDA KINSEY

Chamber members serve themselves barbecue at Donkey's on Wednesday, April 27.



Jon Turner of Donkeys with Zoe Mansfield (Vanna 1), luncheon MC Mary Wallace, and Ethel Jefferson (Vanna 2).

disorders can learn employment, social, and life skills. They are in Railroad Square in Tallahassee.

Josh Brown introduced his guest, **Katrina Richardson**, Executive Director of the Monticello-Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce. Katrina shared news of the Monticello Watermelon Festival with us, which is set for Father's Day weekend. For more information and vendor opportunities visit monticellowatermelonfestival.com.

Amy Geiger introduced **Josh Lovett**, Wealth Consultant with Capital City Strategic Wealth, serving

clients with comprehensive financial, business, insurance, and estate planning.

We also were introduced to **Fred Nichols** running for County Commission Seat District 2; **Gwendolyn Statton** – running for School Board District I, as well as **Dod Walker**, also running for School Board District I.

Cheri Harris, editor of The Wakulla News, introduced **Nancy Floyd Richardson**, the new advertising accounts executive. Nancy shared a new section in the Wakulla Neighbor with us. The Wakulla News Business Digest will run monthly in the Wakulla Neighbor. Submit local new hires, promotions, trainings, conferences, certifications, Employee of the Month, and other employee recognition to nancy.richardson@thewakullanews.com by noon on the second Friday of the month. Submit 50 words or less with a headshot.

Dr. Pienta, chamber education committee member, reminded everyone of the "What is Meta Face?" workshop presented by Audrey Frazier of FlaBiz-Co. Also just rolled out is the upcoming Lunch & Learn, presented by Wakulla County Fire Rescue. The workshop will cover fire safety for businesses as well as letting attendees know what to expect at fire inspections.

Sandi Poreda, American Red Cross visited us today to recruit volunteers as home fire responders and to help find shelter for families after a fire. Currently there is only one volunteer in Wakulla. For more information or to volunteer, contact Sandy at 850-766-1906

North Florida Medical Center staff showed their support for Wakulla programs, presenting Wakulla 4-H with a \$1,000 check today. Thank you to North Florida Medical Centers!

The winner of the \$64 cash drawing was **Travis Coker**. Congratulations!

Ethel Jefferson and **Zoe Mansfield** surprised **Mary Wallace** wearing T-shirts they had printed to wear when helping with giving out the prizes. Mary lovingly calls them her Vanna 1 and Vanna 2.

We would like to extend a big thank you to the businesses donating to our monthly gift drawing: **Capital City Home Loans; Rapid Press; Wakulla 4-H; Smith, Thompson, P.A.; Urban Catalyst Consulting, Inc.; Sue's Art Workshop; CareerSource Capital Region; English Financial Group; Capital City Bank; The Wakulla Sun; Shepard Accounting and Tax Service; Revell Tractor Worx; North Florida Medical Centers; T-Mobile.**

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North Florida Medical Center presented a \$1,000 check at the Chamber luncheon to Wakulla 4-H.

Ribbon cutting held for Art by Cheryl



PHOTO BY LYNDA KINSEY

The chamber held a ribbon cutting for Art by Cheryl, Thursday, April 7th. Cheryl, like most children enjoyed coloring as a child, moving on to canvas as she got older. She has been dabbling in many aspects of arts and crafts for many years; from making wreaths to cloth dolls, painting rocks for her flower beds, making Christmas ornaments and painting mailboxes as gifts for her real estate Buyers and Sellers. She is now working on her technique using Alcohol Inks, Acrylic

Inks and Acrylic paints on paper and canvases, which has been something she really loves doing.

Cheryl's studio is in Crawfordville, and she will be happy to let you browse her collection by appointment. She also participates in many local festivals showing off her pieces for sale; they include art on canvas, greeting cards, coasters, and other media.

Cheryl can be reached via email Cswiftrealtor@yahoo.com or by phone (850) 766-3218.

WAKULLA HIGH BASEBALL

War Eagles end regular season with 14-9 record



By **KEITH ANDERSON**
WHS Baseball Coach

The War Eagles went 1-2 on the week to end the regular season 14-9 playing Maclay, and two of the best teams in the

state in their classifications, Chiles and Bozeman High School. The district playoffs will start the first week of May.

Monday April 25th, the War Eagles (13-7) hosted Maclay for senior night. The War Eagles bats showed up pounding out 18 hits in the 4 inning affair winning 15-0 against a solid, but young Maclay team. Levi Anderson had a perfect night going 4-4. Haden Klees also was 3-3. Briyaun Butler-Moore was

3-4. Colby Zinser had the biggest night going 3-3 with a Grand Slam and a whopping 8 RBI's on the evening pushing his batting average to .529 on the year. He has a team leading 36 hits in 21 games. Senior night couldn't have went any better for starter Brandon Cook. He threw 4 innings in 49 pitches, giving up no runs, hits, walks, or baserunners, striking out five to throw a PERFECT game. On Tuesday, April

26th, the War Eagles hosted No. 3 ranked Chiles Timberwolves. In what would be a wild offensive game the War Eagles pounded 14 hits to Chiles' 13 hits in the game. Both swung the bat well, but the Timberwolves came out on top 22-12. Both teams struggled defensively and on the mound in the high scoring affair.

Junior Colby Zinser kept his bat hot going 4-4 with 2 doubles. Levi Anderson was 2-4. Ha-

den Klees was 2-4. John Pierini was 2-3 with a towering 3 run homerun in the 4th inning. Reid Joyner also added a double.

On Thursday, April 28th, The War Eagles traveled to the Panama City area to play #1 ranked Bozeman (1A). The War Eagles battled back from a 5-0 deficit in the 4th inning to tie the game up at 5. Brandon Cook came on in relief of starter Reid Joyner in the 4th giving

up only 1 run in three innings giving up only 3 hits and striking out 3.

The War Eagles made another strong showing at the plate, having the tying run on base in the 7th inning, but wasn't enough to overcome the Bucks and it was a tough loss losing 7-5. Levi Anderson led the War Eagles going 3-4 with 2 RBIs. Brayden Lawhon and Briyaun Butler each tallied 2 hits a piece on the evening.

SpringsWatch

From Front Page

Beattie.

The group collected light and visibility readings through a variety of methods including Secchi disk, which Jamison said are circular disks with a black and white pattern that are lowered into the water until the pattern is no longer visible. He said this indicates the visibility in feet. The April 28 Secchi disk reading was 20.2 feet. According to charts generated by McGlynn Laboratories, a visibility of at least 75 feet must be reached in order for the state park to run the glass bottom boat. The trend between January 2021 and now shows visibility staying mostly between 10 and 30 feet; however, there were a couple of readings in June of last year that met the threshold to run the glass bottom boat.

"All the contributions that affect the springs

come from north of the spring," said Jamison. "And really, water runs downhill." He said water takes 65 days to go from the sprayfield in Tallahassee to Wakulla Springs, and that dye traces have shown that water flowing from lakes in Tallahassee arrives at Wakulla Springs in only 35 days.

McGlynn said clear water flows from Tallahassee lakes to Wakulla Springs through the underground cave system. He continued by saying the tannic water, which is darker, flows to the Springs from swamps and creeks in the Apalachicola National Forest. "That's the cleanest water that comes out of the springs," said Jamison about the tannic water.

The SpringsWatch group noted that they are seeing less clear water than tannic water, and that the clear water that is arriving at the springs from lakes in the Tallahassee area

has also been bringing algae to the springs. They said some of those lakes are completely covered with algae.

McGlynn said the tannic water is detrimental to the algae and hydrilla, and that the hydrilla situation has improved some over the years – "we haven't used herbicides here in seven years."

McGlynn remarked that water quality issues are more so due to factors like high nitrate concentration than the color of the water. Graphs generated by McGlynn Laboratories show a decrease in nitrate concentration between 1986 and 2020; however, there has been a slight uptick in the concentration over the past two years. McGlynn and Jamison both noted that nitrate concentration is impacted by factors like old leaking septic tanks north of the springs and fertilizers.

The group has also found that Wakulla Springs reversed flow

for one day around Hurricane Michael's landfall – they attributed this to a rise in water level.

He said climate change, sea levels rising, pollution, and/or over pumping of water can also lead to increases in salinity. While the specific conductance, or ability to conduct an electric current, has mostly stayed within acceptable limits for drinking water over the last 20 years, there have been a few instances over the last 10 years where conductivity was higher than acceptable limits for drinking water.

Another reading taken by the SpringsWatch group is oxygen concentration.

"Groundwater shouldn't have oxygen in it – it's normal," said McGlynn who noted that oxygen concentration is lower at the springs itself. He later said their readings show increased oxygen levels further along the river – away from the

springs opening.

According to McGlynn, there are currently about 30 manatees living in the river full time, and 10 to 15 years ago the Wakulla River did not have any fulltime resident manatees. He added that they are seeing ospreys for the first time in a couple of years, and since the birds only eat fish, this could indicate some improvement in the water quality.

The SpringsWatch group has participated in water sampling

and springs research at Wakulla Springs for many years – an effort that was increased by and continued after the termination of a Florida License Plate Grant that the Wakulla Springs Alliance had received. Over the years, they have been able to explore water quality, plant life, and animal presence at Wakulla Springs and in the Wakulla River. McGlynn said, "This is really one of the most remarkable places in the world."

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Wakulla Sun ribbon-cutting and Open House

The Wakulla Sun held a ribbon cutting and Open House on Thursday, April 28. The newspaper is locally owned by William and Meredith Snowden. Snowden and longtime Wakulla News staffers Lynda Kinsey and Eric Stanton, along with reporter Riddhi Patel, started the Sun in February after they resigned from the News over concerns

about the direction the newspaper was heading under a new corporate owner. “The goal was to create a community newspaper that could operate without interference from a corporate parent,” said Snowden. “The response, and the support from the community, has been overwhelming.” Former News staffer Krystal Sheppard is also working at

the Sun handling circulation and former News route driver Jessi Smith is delivering papers to racks and dealers. More than 100 people attended the Open House at the Sun, which included fresh-shucked oysters from Rob Olin at Estuary Oysters. (Photo by Riddhi Patel)



Mary Wallace, Elaine Gary, Harriet Rich and Mark Dobert get some food.



Katie Taff gets some Estuary Oysters as Rob Olin shucks more.



David Pienta and Marj Law talk guns as guests pick over food.



Cheri Morgan, David Miller and Beverly Keister.



Lynda Kinsey with Mariane and Lionel Dazevedo.



Becky and Greg Gast with Tiffany Hartsfield.



Amy Geiger, John Shuff and Doug Apple.



Dallas Marshall with a copy of the Sun Monthly.



John and Petra Shuff with Kiersten Smith.



Tim Jordan, Bonnie Holub and Niraj Patel.

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