

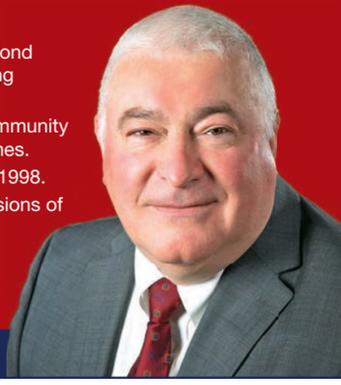
Elect **EDDIE**
EVANS
 FOR WAKULLA
COUNTY JUDGE
 PROVEN EXPERIENCE AND SERVICE

www.EddieEvansForWakullaJudge.com

Paid by Eddie Evans for Wakulla County Judge, Group One.

Legal Background and Service:

- General Counsel for the State Attorney's Office, Second Circuit, which includes Wakulla and the 5 surrounding counties.
- Assistant State Attorney since 1992 keeping our community safe by prosecuting those who have committed crimes.
- State Attorney Office's Wakulla Division Chief 1996-1998.
- Over 100 jury trials in both the criminal and civil divisions of the court.
- 30 year member of the Florida Bar.
- Served 20 years on the Sopchoppy City Council.
- Currently serving as a deacon in his church.



Man charged with dealing fentanyl/Page 10



Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Scattered Thunderstorms Hi: 86° Lo: 73° 51% Sunrise 7:02 AM Sunset 8:22 PM	Scattered Thunderstorms Hi: 87° Lo: 72° 57% Sunrise 7:03 AM Sunset 8:21 PM	Scattered Thunderstorms Hi: 86° Lo: 72° 58% Sunrise 7:03 AM Sunset 8:20 PM



\$1
One Section

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

Our 1st Year, 25th Issue
Thursday, August 11, 2022

Sewer connection moratorium

The 45-day moratorium will give the county a chance to fix problems with the sewer collection system

By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**
Editor

Wakulla County commissioners approved an emergency 45-day moratorium on sewer connections at their meeting on Monday, Aug. 1. The moratorium spe-

cifically affects new sewer connections for homes that are served by Hickory Park and Wakulla Gardens Master Lift Stations located in the Crawfordville service area.

It was announced that building permits would

continue to be approved in this area with sewer connection and Certificates of Occupancy contingent on sufficient capacity.

After a recent analysis of the sewer system, officials determined that several critical compo-

nents are at, or near, capacity in areas served by the Hickory Park and Wakulla Gardens Master Lift Stations.

One possible problem with the system is a potential blockage that is slowing flows in the main that was bored under

Lost Creek: solids may have settled in the line, and there may also be air blockages there, as Commissioner Randy Merritt noted.

New valves are planned to be put in the lines, work that is expected to be completed

in two weeks.

County Commissioner Ralph Thomas asked if citizens and businesses on the system would experience any outage of service and was told the work will be done while the lines are "hot."

Turn to Page 3

New school Guardians sworn-in



Wakulla Sheriff Jared Miller was present at the certification of new school Guardians on Friday, Aug. 5 at the sheriff's gun range. Guardians train with School Resource Officers to provide additional

protection on school campuses. Above, Scott Rojas, Guardian Nate Litowsky, Sheriff Miller, Guardians Richard Moon and Jim Griner, Major Ray Johnson. See story on Page 3. (Photo by Charity Tumbleson)

School Board prepares to pass lowest taxes ever

By **CHARITY TUMBLESON**
Reporter

The Wakulla County School Board is proposing the lowest tax rate ever.

"This is the lowest taxes in the history of Wakulla County schools," said Superintendent Bobby Pearce. But he noted that, because of increased local property values, it also amounted to a tax increase. "The school board has no control over tax values."

At the first budget hearing on Aug. 1, the school board proposed a millage rate of 5.5 mills, which is 3.3 mills for Required Local Effort, set by the state, and a 1.5 mill discretionary levy for Capital Outlay. Plus a basic discretionary levy of .74 mills.

A mill is 1/1000 of a dollar, so, for an average \$100,000 home without homestead ex-

Turn to Page 5

CANDIDATE ANNOUNCEMENT

Brian Miller is running for county judge

By **BRIAN MILLER**
Special to The Sun

My name is Brian Miller, I am a candidate for Wakulla County Judge. I am currently the chief prosecutor for Wakulla County, a position I have held since 2016. I am committed to ensuring the fair and consistent application of Florida Law in Wakulla County.

While I grew up in Tallahassee, my family has been in Wakulla County for over 150 years. My mother is Janice Brown of Sopchoppy. My wife is Kelly Lynn Langston of Smith Creek. Our daughter will be the 7th



generation to live in Wakulla County. Wakulla County has seen many new arrivals in the past few years, drawn here for our way of life. As the Wakulla County Judge, I can represent everyone, by having deep roots in our past, spending every day protecting our present, and serving you as our judge as we look to the future.

I am a graduate of the Florida State University College of Law, magna cum laude, and was elected to the Order of the Coif, an honor reserved for the top 10% of law school students. I was hired as a full-time prosecutor

Turn to Page 8



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- Chief Prosecutor for Wakulla County Since 2016
- Assistant State Attorney Since 2012
- Tried nearly 100 cases, 55 of which were felonies
- Prosecuted thousands of cases, from homicides and sexual offenses to property crimes and narcotics
- Graduate of the Florida State University College of Law, Magna Cum Laude and Order of the Coif

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 FOR WAKULLA COUNTY JUDGE

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PAID BY BRIAN MILLER FOR WAKULLA COUNTY JUDGE



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Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park Leavenworth's tickweed

By JACK & JOEY COETZEE



Florida's state wildflower is Coreopsis. Leavenworth's tickseed (*Coreopsis leavenworthii*) is the most common of nearly a dozen coreopsis species in Florida. Leavenworth's tickseed is an annual wildflower with bright yellow petals and a dark brown center ringed with orange. The lovely flowers are held upright upon leafless stems that grow 1-3 feet tall. This native wildflower flourishes in full sun and slightly moist soil. Blooming mainly from May through July, it attracts small butterflies and provides nectar and pollen for honeybees, native bees, and wasps. The plant's common name of tickseed comes from the resemblance of the seed shape and color to ticks. Wildflowers called tickseed do not attract ticks. Leavenworth's tickseed can be found in the center of the northwest flower bed at Sopchoppy Depot Park, to the right of the park's Rose Street entrance.



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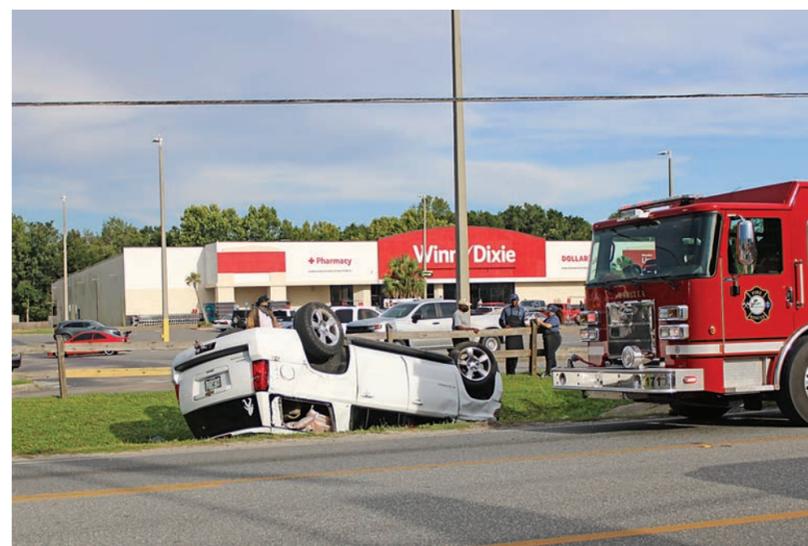
Local Publix opens

After years of waiting, Publix Supermarkets opened a store in Crawfordville on Thursday, Aug. 4. Gail Moore and Lisa Bishop were among the first shoppers on opening day. (Photo by Lynda Kinsey)



Car flips in crash Tuesday

A white SUV was flipped after a crash on Tuesday, Aug. 2 in front of Winn-Dixie. Wakulla Sheriff's Office indicated that there were no serious injuries in the crash. (Photo by William Snowden)



The Wakulla
SUN

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Red, White and Blue Bikers Care: Enacted: 10/01/2003.
Purchase the red, white and blue Bikers Care tag, you will help thousands of citizens by funding programs to prevent blindness and provide support for Floridians with disabilities.

3 new school Guardians added

By CHARITY TUMBLESON
Reporter

Three new Guardians were certified on Friday, Aug. 7.

Guardians are armed personnel in addition to School Resource Officers (SROs) to aid in the prevention or abatement of active assailant incidents on school campuses.

Nate Litowsky and Richard Moon became certified Guardians at the ceremony, along with district School Safety Officer Jim Griner, after completing the mandatory training.

Moon felt the “comraderie” was prevalent throughout the whole process, and said it “was very rewarding.”

Lenny Reid graduated from the program 3 years ago and is Guardian at Riversprings Middle School. He said after the Parkland shooting that Superintendent Bobby Pearce was

very proactive in upgrading the school’s security.

“Our SROs jumped from four to 10 after that took place,” Reid said. “The training for the Guardians is mandatory across the board to be certified, no matter if you already have a law enforcement/military background.”

Capt. Jeremy Johnston, head of the Safe Schools Division and the School Resource Officer program for the sheriff’s office, emphasized the amount of training that’s put in to be certified.

“They have put in 131 hours into training and have shot over 1,800 rounds each to be certified,” Johnston said.

Alongside training, some of the newest technology provided includes a projector screen programmed to test shooting speed and accuracy with various simulations.

Of the 10 SROs in Wakulla schools – two are at Wakulla

High and one is assigned to every other school campus. There are six Guardians – including one at COAST Charter School in St. Marks.

While Guardians train with SROs, the Guardians are paid by the school district (except COAST, which pays for its Guardian).

School Resource Officer Scott Rojas assisted in the training of the Guardians and gave a big shout-out to Vicki and Boonie Mitchell, and Patrick Fleming for playing a big role in the training process as well.

Sheriff Jared Miller and Major Ray Johnson attended the ceremony and handed out the certificates.

Rojas proudly said, “You all did a wonderful job and I look forward to you all being out there keeping our kids safe.”

Hunt leads to The Sun

Amber Stallings and Kim Bartnick popped into The Wakulla Sun on Friday afternoon on a Scavenger Hunt put on by Crawfordville Elementary. They needed a photo of themselves with the newspaper. Good luck, ladies! (Photo by Lynda Kinsey)



Sheriff’s Report

Activity reported for the week of July 29 to Aug. 4:

FRIDAY, JULY 29

Christin Cook reported an unknown black male entered the gas station at Bloxham Cutoff and Highway 319, took a phone charger, then left the store passing the final point of sale failing to pay for the merchandise. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Rudolph Hinson investigated.

SATURDAY, JULY 30

Robert Hancock reported someone came into his yard on Friday night and stole his 2021 Ninja motorcycle. Hancock stated a friend contacted him and advised the bike was located on McCallister Road. Officers located the stolen Ninja and with investigation it was determined James McIntyre stole the bike and was in the process of attempting to get the bike running without the key. The bike was recovered and McIntyre was arrested for grand theft. Deputy Dustin Matthews investigated.

SUNDAY, JULY 31

A unknown male purchased a loaf of bread using the self-check-out

at Walmart. He used his debit card and requested \$100 in cash back. After receiving the cash and his receipt, he went to another register paying for the same loaf of bread with his debit card. When the cashier handed him his receipt, he switched receipts then told the cashier he was owed \$100 in cash. The cashier failed to check the receipt to see which register it was issued from. The male was given another \$100. A few minutes later a female entered the store and did the same thing as the male suspect. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Lt. Vickie Mitchell investigated.

MONDAY, AUG. 1

Christian Bradley awoke and discovered his vehicle missing. The vehicle is described as a 2012 tan in Chevy Silverado Z71 bearing an Alabama tag. The vehicle was entered into NCIC/FCIC as stolen. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Edwin Grove investigated.

Deputy Kory Smith responded to Destiny Lane, in reference to a suspicious person complaint. Upon arrival Deputy Smith made contact with Sandra Choc-Pec and Sonia Ma-

ribel. Choc-Pec said she noticed five black males walked up to her neighbor’s car and started rummaging through it. Sonia advised she had \$250 stolen out of her work apron that was located in the floor board. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

TUESDAY, AUG. 2

Cody Jones woke up and discovered his vehicle had been burglarized. Taken was a work phone and a Smith and Wesson handgun. Jones had the serial number in which the gun was entered into NCIC/FCIC as stolen. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Carla Skelly investigated.

Deputy Colton Sheridan responded to Emmett Whaley Road in reference to a found firearm. Upon arrival Deputy Sheridan made contact with Amy Anderson, who said that while she was kayaking today on the Wakulla River, she found an old rusty revolver. Deputy Sheridan took possession of the pistol and placed it into Evidence.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 3

Ashley Yost reported her son’s phone being stolen while he was

at Wakulla Springs. The phone was described as an iPhone 13. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Rudolph Hinson investigated.

Connie Stallings reported a Bank of America credit account opened in her name. Stallings advised she does not have a credit account with Bank of America. All of her personal information was used to open the account. Stallings advised she became aware of the account after she received an email from Bank of America updating her email preferences. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Kyle Hanks investigated.

THURSDAY, AUG. 4

Farrah Dugger reported an unknown person opened a Verizon phone account in the name of her company. She stated she was made aware of this account after she received a bill for \$1,000. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy William Bennett investigated.

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

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45-day moratorium on new sewer connection

From Front Page

After the implementation of these corrective measures, pump times and flow rates of lift stations will be monitored for 30 days to determine if the system has stabilized and can handle an increase in capacity. Officials

will review the data recorded to determine if the moratorium can be lifted.

The county has identified potential remedies which should enable the collection system to handle new homes and businesses in the Crawfordville area connecting to the sewer system

until the planned infrastructure force main projects have been completed.

These projects have been planned for years and are anticipated to take one year to complete.

“We took quick action to maintain the environmentally re-

sponsible and efficient operation of the public wastewater treatment system, without causing a negative impact to local jobs and economic development,” Commissioner Thomas was quoted as saying in a county press release.

“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

Sun has an online presence

As of Thursday, Aug. 4, The Wakulla Sun went online.

Some news stories are posted at thewakullasun.com.

It's a bare bones website right now, with only a handful of articles – basically, we posted some of the lead news stories. We have plans to expand offerings in the near future.

There is no pay wall at this point – access is free.

We are investigating other online options, but at least now, after six months in business, we finally have a presence on the web.



Dr. Rachel Pienta of Wakulla 4-H speaks at the Realtor luncheon.

Pienta asks for 4-H volunteers at Realtor luncheon



By **LYNDA KINSEY**
Staff

Dr. Rachel Pienta of Wakulla 4-H was the speaker at the local Realtor luncheon on Thursday, Aug. 4 at the Seineyard Wildwood restaurant.

Pienta gave a brief history of 4-H in Wakulla stating that it is more than 100 years old and the first local office was in Sopchoppy from around 1905 to 1910.

Pienta was reaching out to the Realtors in hopes they can share information with newer res-

idents about the many activities the program has to offer and that some financial assistance may be available in some programs.

“The club offers many youth programs, clubs, services and more,” Pienta said. “Sustainable Gardening teaches children to grow plants and to identify them,” as an example. She also added that they plant teas and herbs.

Wakulla 4-H also offers an air Rifle Club, a Chicken Club, Archery Club, crafting, cooking and so many more.

“We prepare youth in the 14 to 15 age range for future careers,” she said. “This age group generally do not have a job yet and are too young to

drive.”

They prepare them by working as a team, verse them in customer service skills, packaging disaster emergency kits for seniors.

“They learn by doing,” she said. “There are many leadership opportunities in 4H.”

Pienta also expressed that there are many opportunities to volunteer in 4H. You can volunteer for one hour a month to 10 hours per month.

Bob Hartsfield of American Inspections and Mary Wallace of Capital City Home Loans were the co-sponsors of the luncheon.

Lynda Kinsey is Sales & Marketing director for The Wakulla Sun.

LETTERS FROM READERS

Endorsing Eddie Evans for judge

Editor, The Sun:

Eddie Evans is a candidate for Wakulla County Judge. He is a life-long resident of Wakulla County, and I have personally known Eddie since he was a young boy growing up in Sopchoppy. Eddie is my son's best friend and has always been a part of my family. I can attest to his integrity, intellect and professionalism. Eddie is an outstanding individual who has demonstrated great integrity throughout his life. He has great credentials, and I'm very proud of him and his accomplishments.

Eddie has an extensive legal and professional background. He is a member of the Florida Bar, the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States, and the Bar of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Florida. He graduated from Florida State University College of Law in 1991, and has worked as an Assistant State Attorney for the State of Florida's Second Judi-

cial Circuit since 1992, handling all types of cases from very minor ones to the death penalty. He has extensive courtroom experience on this side of the bench in both the criminal and civil divisions of the court with over 100 jury trials, so let's give him the opportunity to rule from the other side.

Not only does Eddie have a brilliant legal mind, he is also very civic minded. Eddie previously served on the Sopchoppy City Council for 20 years, is a former Mayor of the City of Sopchoppy, and a past President of the Sopchoppy Lions Club. He has served as an auxiliary state trooper with the Florida Highway Patrol, and is currently serving as a Deacon at the Sopchoppy Southern Baptist Church.

Please join me in voting for Eddie Evans, Wakulla's next County Judge.

Callie Roberts Colvin Quigg
Sopchoppy

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.

On the Horizon

Calendar of upcoming events for the week of Aug. 11

Thursday, August 11

- **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL** for students of Wakulla Public Schools. It is an early release day.
- Sopchoppy Depot Committee meeting at the Depot, 34 Railroad Ave., at 4:30 p.m.
- The VFW Auxiliary Bingo Night will be held at 7 p.m. at 475 Arran Road in Crawfordville. There will be concessions and raffles.
- Sopchoppy Depot Committee meeting at the Depot, 34 Railroad Avenue at 4:30 p.m.
- Because of the lack of a quorum, the St. Marks City Commission meeting set for this date has been canceled.

Group will meet at the Wakulla County Public Library at 10 a.m.

- Sopchoppy Depot Committee meeting at the Depot, 34 Railroad Avenue at 6 p.m.

Monday, August 15

- The Board of County Commissioners will be having a meeting at 5 p.m. A budget workshop is set for 3:30 p.m.
- The Wakulla Respite Program will be available for anyone with memory impairment at no cost from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lake Ellen Baptist Church.

Wednesday, August 17

- An Intermediate Line Dance class will be held at 1 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Saturday, August 13

- The Wakulla Caregiver Support

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- More local content on the environment and local businesses

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William Snowden
Editor & Publisher
The Wakulla Sun

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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.



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◀ Question of The Week ▶

– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

Polled at The Seineyard Wildwood – Realtors Luncheon

How does school starting back change your life?



BOB HARTSFIELD
AMERICAN INSPECTIONS, LLC

“It’s going to be wonderful. They go back to school and not to work with me so much.”



AMY BANNING
INSURE IT ALL

“I’m excited. I have three kids and it changes their lives more than mine.”



ED BRIMNER
PROPERTY APPRAISER

“OMG! Our inspectors will now be back in the field inspecting now that the kids are back in school.”



DR. RACHEL PIENTA
WAKULLA 4-H

“I have a Rotary Exchange Student this year so I am a back to school mom.”



KATHY GALLOWAY
SEINEYARD WILDWOOD

“There’s more traffic and I worry about the way some people don’t pay attention to the stop sign on the buses.”

COMMUNITY NEWS

Buckhorn News

By **ETHEL SKIPPER**

In today’s society, temptation abounds. Turn on the TV, watch a movie, or stand in line at the grocery store and you will see alluring images or headlines designed to seduce. And there’s the internet.

There are many challenges to Biblical marriage, but these are not new

problems.

Many ask how do I live a pure life? How do I keep my heart centered on God and His word?

There is God’s guideline to marriage.

The good news is that we have the wisdom of God’s word and the revelation and inspiration of the Holy Spirit to impart fresh applications for our day.

Those who keep God first will experience His guidance and strength. “Keep thy heart with all diligence for out of it are the issues of life.” (Proverbs 4:23).

“Flee also youthful lusts, but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.” (2 Timothy 2:22)

The Holy Spirit empowers us to live in right relationship with others and

with Him.

Our prayers and concern goes out to all the sick and shut-in, those in the hospitals, nursing homes and prisons, those with Covid, and those who have not accepted Christ as their Savior.

Library News – August 4

Thursday, August 11

The Parks HOA Covenant Review Committee 6pm

Friday, August 12

Quilting Guild 9:30am

Saturday, August 13

TMH READ Therapy Dogs 10am

Alzheimer’s Caregiver Support Group 10am

Monday, August 15

American Legion 6:30pm

Tuesday, August 16

Forgotten Coast Homeschool Co-op 9:15am

Book Bunch 10am

Sarracenia Chapter of the Native Plant Society 6:30pm

Wednesday, August 17

Book Babies 10am

Thursday, August 18

Veterans Meetup 11am

The Parks HOA Covenant Review Committee 6pm

Wakulla Amateur Radio Club 7pm

WHEW! TIME FOR A BREAK!

Children’s Programs are taking a break for the first two weeks of August while staff plans new and excit-

ing programs and themes! Regularly scheduled programs will resume on Tuesday, August 16th.

TAKE YOUR CHILD TO THE LIBRARY DAY: PIRATE EDITION

Our spring open house, Take Your Child to the Library Day, went so well we decided to have it again in the fall season. When we discovered that it would fall so close to Talk Like a Pirate Day, we decided to combine the two! We are happy to announce a new event that will be a library open house where you can learn all about library programs and services, play games, have some great snacks, visit with and learn about other community organizations, and even have your face painted! The event will be September 24th, from 9am to 1pm. If you are a part of a community organization that benefits children and families, please email Robyn Drummond at rdrummond@mywakulla.com if you are interested in setting up an information table.

Wakulla Station News

By **VERNA BROCK**

Good news concerning Robert Russ, is that he’s recovering from a serious bout with “flesh-eating disease.” He and his family continue to need our prayerful support, and appreciate it very much.

The Wakulla United Methodist Church’s “Back to School Bash” was a success, despite being rained out by 2 p.m. Many thanks to the Wakulla Fire Department for bringing out an ambulance and fire truck. They were a huge hit with everyone! The remaining backpacks and supplies will be distributed among the elementary schools. I believe every child got their fill of cotton candy, sno-

cones and water sliding.

Last Friday the school district celebrated the new school year with a breakfast for teachers, and a luncheon for support staff. The food was prepared by Sodexo food service, and both events were sponsored by Centennial Bank and Prime Meridian Bank. It was the first time in two years we’ve been able to have these shindigs, and it was so much fun to see everyone in one place again.

Please keep the Bowman family in your prayers. Joy Bowman passed away on Aug. 2 after a long fight with cancer. May she rise in glory.

School board budget

From Front Page

emption would pay \$550 in school taxes. (That doesn’t include other taxing authorities or special assessments.)

This year’s school board taxes are projected to bring in just over \$11.4 million. Last year’s property tax levy was \$10.1 million.

The school board budget is some \$50.5 million this year, an increase of 11.3% over last year. More than half of the budget – about \$26.7 million – goes to teacher pay.

The Required Local Effort taxes to receive more than \$28.7 million from the state.

State revenues to the district increased by 2.3% and makes up 60% of the total budget.

“This year we are proposing to collect almost \$1.3 million more in local taxes but the overall millage is decreasing by .321 mills,” said district Chief Financial Officer Randy Beach. “It is interesting that in the late 2000’s we were collecting more in taxes than we are proposing for 2022-23.” The millage rate from the year 2000-01 was 10.1 mills.

The school board imposes a 1.5 mill tax for Capital Outlay projects that qualifies the district for fund-

ing for state special funding that has been used to build schools.

The Capital Outlay tax will generate more than \$2.9 million and will be used for the construction/remodeling of the War Eagle Academy; maintenance/renovation/repairs; purchase of a school bus; technology equipment; software; Insurance premium on district plant; leasing of portable classrooms, and a loan through Prime Meridian bank for 9 school buses.

The final public hearing date will be Monday, Sept. 12 at 6 p.m.



A Wakulla Wild Animal Rescue WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP?

We always need donations of these items:

- Bleach
- Paper towels
- Fruit cocktail
- Birdseed & nuts
- Pedigree wet & dry dog food
- Friskies wet & dry cat food
- Dawn dish liquid

Florida Wild Mammal Association

198 Edgar Poole Road
Crawfordville, FL 32327
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363-2351

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HOME ON THE RANGE



By MARJ LAW

“What do you want to shoot this Wednesday?” Joe asks me. On Wednesday mornings, a bit before 10, we go to the Wakulla County Sheriff’s Office range to practice our shooting skills. Also, if a person comes who is new to shooting and who wants a little assistance, we are happy to help.

“I’m going for something easy,” I tell Joe. “It’s a good day for my 9mm with the red dot. Feeling lazy.”

“Didn’t you say you wanted to shoot a cowboy load?” he asks.

“A cowboy load? You’re talking about shooting a .45, right?” My voice goes up an octave. I’m hoping I heard him wrong. Generally, a .45 has a bunch of recoil. I’m looking for an easy day.

“Yes, that Uberti Peacemaker is a great gun to shoot. We can try a hot hollow point load and compare it with a cowboy load. Let’s shoot both kinds of ammunition and see how they feel.”

He’s all excited. He really likes his reproduction of the 1873 Colt Peacemaker: the gun that “won the west.” I’m less than enthusiastic. It’s a .45. Sigh. I’m not thrilled about shooting a gun with a lot of kick. Oh, well. He’s teaching me something, and it’s always good to learn.

“OK. Let’s see if there’s a big difference.”

“Oh, and while we’re at it,” he continues, “how about we shoot the Ruger Security Six with a jacketed load versus a Wadcutter? Usually, the Wadcutters make it easier for people to handle the recoil of .38

revolvers.”

“The .38? Are we shooting in single or double action?”

“Double action, of course,” he answers cheerfully.

Oh, goody.

The reason that I’m less-than-delighted is this: The Ruger Security Six is a six-shot revolver and can take .38 loads or .357 magnum loads. It weighs 33.5 ounces and has a 4-inch barrel. It can be shot in single or double action. It’s tolerable in single action. Here, you pull back the hammer, then squeeze the trigger. The trigger’s only action is to release the hammer so the gun fires. You don’t have to pull the trigger very hard. If you’ve pulled the hammer back first, then trigger pull according to our Lyman digital scale averages out to be 4.9 pounds. Sturdy, but not too hard.

But in double action, and yes, of course he wants us to shoot in double action, the trigger has two jobs. It has to pull back the hammer and then release it. Giving the trigger two jobs makes the trigger pull harder. A lot harder. A whole lot harder.

At home, after putting dummy snap cap loads into the Ruger, I squeeze the trigger without pulling the hammer back first. Well, I mean I try to squeeze the trigger with the pad of my finger. No dice. Try again. Still, nothing happens. Moving my index finger to the first joint, I pull again. That is some hard trigger pull.

Is it really as hard as it seems? Joe picks up the Lyman digital scale. Setting the pull on the trigger, the scale reads “over.” Joe tries it again. Over. The third try results in the same readout. The Lyman scale stops reading at 12 pounds, so the Ruger, in double action, must be somewhere between 12 and 15 pounds. Yes, it’s heavy.

According to Wikipedia: “Shooting the Security-Six double action was tantamount to using a grip exerciser.

In order to manipu-

Easy shooting?



Uberti's .45 Peacemaker

Heavy 250-grain “cowboy” load = less recoil than a 230-grain hollow point round.

The Ruger .38/357 Security Six

148-grain “Wadcutter” = same recoil as 158-grain full metal jacketed round

late that heavy action, we need optimal finger placement on the trigger, and that is at the first joint, known in anatomy as the distal interphalangeal joint and usually abbreviated as DIP.”

Instead of my easy day, I’m going to be pulling a trigger of more than 12 pounds! Yikes!

However, in the bonus column, the weight of the Ruger is on our side. The bigger the mass, the lower the recoil. Right? This heavy guy is almost 2 pounds. So, it shouldn’t be too bad. Maybe. The grip is fat and has finger grooves, so the good grip ought to help, too.

The first load we try is a 158-grain full metal jacket round. Now that I’m expecting a whomping hard trigger pull, I take in a breath, let it out, relax and then slowly squeeze the trigger. Blam!

This is exciting! Somehow, I get the x-ring on the first shot. Must be a miracle. I shoot again. Not bad! Even though the trigger pull is indeed very strong, the mass of the gun has absorbed most of the recoil.

Joe tries the Ruger with the same rounds.

He also has no difficulty in slamming his two practice rounds close to the bull’s eye.

Then we try the Wadcutter rounds. These are 148-grain flat nose rounds. When we shot these rounds in the snub-nose .38 Smith & Wesson Chief’s Special a while back, we found they make a large difference in recoil. However, the Chief’s Special is a lighter gun with a short barrel. It doesn’t have the mass or the fat grip of the Ruger to absorb recoil.

This is most likely why, when we shoot the Wadcutter rounds, we do not notice a difference if any, in the kick while shooting the Ruger. I’m surprised.

Since Wadcutter rounds in the Ruger .38 made little to no difference in perceived recoil, will cowboy rounds in the .45 Uberti 6-shot revolver make a difference in recoil? We’ll shoot the cowboy load last.

First, I’m thinking about trigger pull. Will this be difficult?

The Uberti rendition of the Colt .45 Peacemaker is a Western-style gun, so you have to cock the hammer. Since we’re only asking the trigger to

do the one job of releasing the hammer, this is a single action gun and trigger pull should be fairly light.

Measuring trigger pull on the Lyman scale, three tries average to be about 3.10 pounds of trigger pull. This is very light.

The Uberti is a 6-shot handgun with a 5.5-inch barrel. Although its barrel is longer than the Ruger’s, the two guns weigh about the same. Will this one have enough mass to absorb the oomph of a hot 230-grain jacketed hollow point round?

We shoot.

Wow! Joe said these hollow points will have a lot of zip, and they do! The mass of this Uberti doesn’t do much to take away any recoil. On a 1-5 scale, with 5 being the hardest recoil, Joe gives it a 3.5 and I give it a 4.

Then we try the 250-grain cowboy load. This is a heavier round with less powder to set it off.

Sure enough, the kick is a whole lot less. We both give kick a 2.5 on that 1-5 scale. Recoil is much easier to manage with the cowboy load.

Different ammunition make your gun

fire differently. The Wadcutter rounds in the snubby S&W Chief’s Special make that .38 much easier to shoot because the recoil is so much less. However, put Wadcutters in the heavy Ruger Security Six, and they don’t make much difference at all in perceived recoil.

With cowboy loads in the .45 Uberti Peacemaker, the heavy and slow rounds make a big difference in perceived recoil. Cowboy loads in this gun make it a lot easier to shoot. They cut down on recoil tremendously.

Hot ones, like the 230-grain loads in the .45? Lots of recoil. After shooting the .45 with “hot” rounds, I can’t get a good grouping because of the .45’s short grip. You need a good grip to shoot well. Also, shooting that .45 was dang uncomfortable. My fingers are tingling. I’ve had enough.

So much for an easy day at the range!

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

BIRDING AT THE REFUGE

Birding in August is an acquired taste

By DON MORROW

It is August at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge’s pools and ponds are full from the heavy rains of July and the East River is flowing under the Double Bridges. Horsemint has started blooming along Lighthouse Road, always a sure sign of late summer. The fruits of Grape, Peppervine and Virginia Creeper are ripe. Beautyberry and Silverbay are ripening fast.

August at St. Marks is an acquired taste. It is marginally cooler than July, but only by the most technical analysis. The unrelenting humid heat of Gulf summer continues and won’t really begin to let up until October. It would be easy

to decide to stay inside. Yet, there is much to draw you to the refuge. August brings momentous changes as the pace of seasonal change increases.

August is the month that the first of our wintering Bald Eagles return. It is the month that Ospreys begin to migrate and when we can expect to see Blue-Winged Teal. These first teal are in their camouflaged nonbreeding plumage and are usually the only duck species seen this month along Lighthouse Road. These first teal are through-migrants from the Midwest. After a period of rest to fatten up, they’ll continue down to northern South America. Our wintering teal may come from as far away as

Manitoba and will soon follow.

Finished with nesting, local Wood Ducks flock up in August. They will remain at the refuge through the winter and be joined later in the fall by migrant Wood Ducks from further North. By now, many of our resident birds have also completed their breeding cycles and have begun to form mixed-species feeding flocks. These small flocks, which usually include titmice, chickadees and Downy Woodpecker, are good places to find early migrants like American Redstart and Black-and-White Warbler. Watch for them at the Double Bridges and along Tower Pond Trail.

Migrant Yellow War-

blers seem to like the Cabbage Palms along the levees and Lighthouse Road. They are abundant and breed from the mountains of North Georgia through the boreal forests of Canada. Yellow Warblers have one of the longest fall migration periods of any warbler at St. Marks. The first are often seen in July and the last South-bound migrants may not pass through until mid-November.

Annually at the refuge, beginning in late August and continuing into September, flocks of Eastern Kingbirds spend the night in the Stony Bayou marshes. They begin to rise up out of the sawgrass and cattails at first light

and fly east to migrate down the peninsula. The number of kingbirds on any given night is variable, but these flocks can easily measure into the hundreds and one flock was estimated at 2,500 birds.

Shorebird migration is continuing to pick up and shorebird numbers at the refuge will increase modestly in August as transiting shorebirds come and go and as winter birds begin to arrive. The first Black-bellied Plovers from the High Arctic, still in their distinctive breeding plumage, will appear at the refuge this month and join the drably-plumaged yearlings that have overwintered here. Some of these adult plovers

will move through and winter along the coast of South America, some as far South as Uruguay. Other arriving shorebirds have not travelled as far. Our summer Willets have headed south and are replaced in August by the refuge’s wintering Willets that bred on the edges of shallow wetlands in the plains of the western US and Canada.

It’s August at the refuge and summer is stubbornly holding on. If you try to outwait it, you will miss some amazing things.

Come join me at the refuge. I’m willing to share.

Don Morrow can be reached at donaldcmorrow@gmail.com.

Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences

Thursday 11
Sun rise/set 7:01AM 8:35PM
8:22PM 6:15AM
Moon Illumination 100%

Friday 12
Sun rise/set 7:02AM 9:17PM
8:21PM 7:28AM
Moon Illumination 100%

Saturday 13
Sun rise/set 7:02AM 9:53PM
8:20PM 8:37AM
Moon Illumination 97%

Sunday 14
Sun rise/set 7:03AM 10:25PM
8:19PM 9:44AM
Moon Illumination 92%

Monday 15
Sun rise/set 7:04AM 10:56PM
8:18PM 10:46AM
Moon Illumination 85%

Tuesday 16
Sun rise/set 7:04AM 11:27PM
8:17PM 11:47AM
Moon Illumination 76%

Wednesday 17
Sun rise/set 7:05AM 11:59PM
8:16PM 12:46PM
Moon Illumination 67%

Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

Aug. 11 - Aug. 17

Tide charts by tides4fishing.com

Best fishing days this month
August 1-11, 27-31

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.

Location	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We
St. Marks River Entrance	3:03 am ▲ 3.5 ft 8:02 am ▼ 1.8 ft 2:06 pm ▲ 4.4 ft 9:16 pm ▼ -0.7 ft	3:40 am ▲ 3.5 ft 8:52 am ▼ 1.5 ft 2:58 pm ▲ 4.4 ft 9:57 pm ▼ -0.5 ft	4:13 am ▲ 3.6 ft 9:38 am ▼ 1.2 ft 3:46 pm ▲ 4.3 ft 10:33 pm ▼ -0.2 ft	4:43 am ▲ 3.6 ft 10:23 am ▼ 1.0 ft 4:32 pm ▲ 4.1 ft 11:05 pm ▼ 0.3 ft	5:09 am ▲ 3.6 ft 11:07 am ▼ 0.8 ft 5:18 pm ▲ 3.8 ft 11:33 pm ▼ 0.7 ft	5:24 am ▲ 3.5 ft 11:53 am ▼ 0.8 ft 6:05 pm ▲ 3.4 ft 11:58 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	5:56 am ▲ 3.5 ft 12:44 pm ▼ 0.8 ft 7:00 pm ▲ 3.0 ft
City of St. Marks	3:39 am ▲ 3.2 ft 9:06 am ▼ 1.6 ft 2:42 pm ▲ 4.0 ft 10:20 pm ▼ -0.6 ft	4:16 am ▲ 3.3 ft 9:56 am ▼ 1.3 ft 3:34 pm ▲ 4.1 ft 11:01 pm ▼ -0.5 ft	4:49 am ▲ 3.3 ft 10:42 am ▼ 1.1 ft 4:22 pm ▲ 4.6 ft 11:37 pm ▼ -0.1 ft	5:19 am ▲ 3.3 ft 11:27 am ▼ 0.9 ft 5:08 pm ▲ 3.8 ft 11:26 pm ▼ 0.3 ft	12:09 am ▼ 0.3 ft 5:45 am ▲ 3.3 ft 12:11 pm ▼ 0.7 ft 5:54 pm ▲ 3.5 ft	12:37 am ▼ 0.7 ft 6:10 am ▲ 3.3 ft 12:57 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	1:02 am ▼ 1.1 ft 6:32 am ▲ 3.3 ft 1:48 pm ▼ 0.7 ft 7:36 pm ▲ 2.8 ft
Shell Point, Spring Creek	3:21 am ▲ 3.6 ft 8:19 am ▼ 1.9 ft 2:20 pm ▲ 4.5 ft 9:37 pm ▼ -0.7 ft	3:58 am ▲ 3.6 ft 9:09 am ▼ 1.6 ft 3:10 pm ▲ 4.5 ft 10:17 pm ▼ -0.5 ft	4:32 am ▲ 3.7 ft 9:57 am ▼ 1.4 ft 3:58 pm ▲ 4.4 ft 10:53 pm ▼ -0.1 ft	5:02 am ▲ 3.7 ft 10:43 am ▼ 1.1 ft 4:45 pm ▲ 4.2 ft 11:26 pm ▼ 0.3 ft	5:31 am ▲ 3.7 ft 11:30 am ▼ 0.9 ft 5:32 pm ▲ 3.9 ft 11:54 pm ▼ 0.8 ft	5:57 am ▲ 3.7 ft 12:17 pm ▼ 0.9 ft 6:21 pm ▲ 3.5 ft	12:21 am ▼ 1.2 ft 6:23 am ▲ 3.7 ft 1:10 pm ▼ 0.8 ft 7:17 pm ▲ 3.1 ft
Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay	2:55 am ▲ 2.6 ft 8:13 am ▼ 1.3 ft 1:58 pm ▲ 3.3 ft 9:27 pm ▼ -0.5 ft	3:32 am ▲ 2.6 ft 9:03 am ▼ 1.1 ft 2:50 pm ▲ 3.3 ft 10:08 pm ▼ -0.4 ft	4:05 am ▲ 2.7 ft 9:49 am ▼ 0.9 ft 3:38 pm ▲ 3.2 ft 10:44 pm ▼ -0.1 ft	4:35 am ▲ 2.7 ft 10:34 am ▼ 0.7 ft 4:24 pm ▲ 3.1 ft 11:16 pm ▼ 0.2 ft	5:01 am ▲ 2.7 ft 11:18 am ▼ 0.6 ft 5:10 pm ▲ 2.8 ft 11:44 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	5:26 am ▲ 2.7 ft 12:04 pm ▼ 0.6 ft 5:57 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	12:09 am ▼ 0.9 ft 5:48 am ▲ 2.6 ft 12:55 pm ▼ 0.6 ft 6:52 pm ▲ 2.2 ft
St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.	3:35 am ▲ 2.7 ft 7:57 am ▼ 2.0 ft 1:39 pm ▲ 3.5 ft 9:12 pm ▼ -0.5 ft	4:03 am ▲ 2.7 ft 8:47 am ▼ 1.8 ft 2:36 pm ▲ 3.6 ft 9:54 pm ▼ -0.3 ft	4:30 am ▲ 2.7 ft 9:37 am ▼ 1.5 ft 3:32 pm ▲ 3.5 ft 10:33 pm ▼ 0.0 ft	4:55 am ▲ 2.7 ft 10:27 am ▼ 1.2 ft 4:27 pm ▲ 3.3 ft 11:09 pm ▼ 0.3 ft	5:20 am ▲ 2.8 ft 11:18 am ▼ 1.0 ft 5:22 pm ▲ 3.0 ft 11:41 pm ▼ 0.7 ft	5:46 am ▲ 2.9 ft 12:10 pm ▼ 0.8 ft 6:20 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	12:11 am ▼ 1.1 ft 6:13 am ▲ 2.9 ft 1:05 pm ▼ 0.7 ft 7:24 pm ▲ 2.4 ft
Dog Island West End	4:16 am ▲ 2.5 ft 8:36 am ▼ 1.9 ft 1:56 pm ▲ 3.1 ft 9:29 pm ▼ -0.4 ft	4:39 am ▲ 2.5 ft 9:17 am ▼ 1.7 ft 2:53 pm ▲ 3.1 ft 10:09 pm ▼ -0.2 ft	5:00 am ▲ 2.5 ft 10:03 am ▼ 1.4 ft 3:48 pm ▲ 3.0 ft 10:48 pm ▼ 0.1 ft	5:20 am ▲ 2.6 ft 10:54 am ▼ 1.2 ft 4:43 pm ▲ 2.8 ft 11:25 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	5:40 am ▲ 2.6 ft 11:47 am ▼ 1.0 ft 5:37 pm ▲ 2.6 ft 11:56 pm ▼ 0.9 ft	6:01 am ▲ 2.6 ft 12:36 pm ▼ 0.8 ft 6:30 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	12:23 am ▼ 1.2 ft 6:22 am ▲ 2.6 ft 1:24 pm ▼ 0.7 ft 7:28 pm ▲ 2.1 ft

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



Auxiliarists training at the pavilion at the St. Marks Boat Ramp, clockwise from top left: first aid training, knot-tying practice, and then out on the water for practice. (Photos special to The Sun)

Underwater Wakulla

By Rusty Miller

Summer season.

Hello Wakulla. The summer season is in the last month by the calendar but in Florida the summer usually lasts until late fall, or some spearfishing folks say summer is over when they can't get gag grouper or red snapper because their season is closed.

For now the ocean is very warm and the fish are very active.

I took a family of six for their open water certification to PCB (Panama City Beach for all you new Wakulla residents) on Monday and Tuesday of this week. The water temperature was a bone chilling 89 degrees from surface to 60 feet down.

If you have lived in Florida for any length of time you will know that ocean water that warm is hurricane fuel.

With that said, we are in hurricane season but it doesn't get active until the latter part of August and through October. I'm not going to go into what you should do to prepare as I did when the season started, but what I am going to tell you is if you have not been diving much lately you should go before we get any heavy storms. Right now we are seeing water visibility like never before even on dives that are close to shore (3-5 miles).

Don't get me wrong there are times where you will get patches of murky water but it's not like that for long.

The other part of this, almost every class I have taken to PCB for their open water the ocean has been near flat and little to no surface or bottom current. That along with the visibility makes for a near perfect diving condition.

The sea life even on the wrecks or dive sites has been incredible to see. The enormous bait balls and some natural coral have been awesome to see.

While we were diving the hovercraft my students saw a massive goliath grouper along with a sea turtle. I saw a school of queen angels that were bigger than I have ever seen before. There were black sea urchins all over the wreck, the sea slugs and starfish were all over the sandy bottom around the wreck.

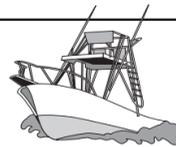
The takeaway from this is while the weather and water temperatures are steady you need to take advantage of these conditions before we have our first big storm come in and really mess up the coastal waters.

Check with your local dive shop or instructor to get the current conditions in the area.



Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports

By Carolyn Brown Treadon



Many thanks to Linda Olson for the article and both Linda Olsen and Norma Hill for images.

This past weekend, Flotilla 12 held the regular monthly meeting at the St. Marks Boat Ramp. Following the meeting, members participated in dockside Boat Crew Training. Instructors were Bob Asztalos, Phil Hill and Norma Hill. Included in the training was first aid, knot tying, how to use signal flares and navigation maps. These are all skills needed on patrols.

Following these dock side sections of the training, instructors took students onboard a patrol vessel to learn pre-patrol check list procedures and how to determine a GAR score. GAR uses the Green-Amber-Red model to

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

assign a general assessment of risk. This is used to determine the value of the patrol when considering the risk of weather, personnel, and other possible danger factors.

GAR takes into account several factors including qualifications of team leaders, planning for the mission, qualifications of team members, fitness level of the team, environmental factors current and fu-

ture and the complexity of the mission. As with any outing on the water, these skills are critical for not only the Auxiliary, but every boater. To learn more about safe boating, consider taking a safe boating course!

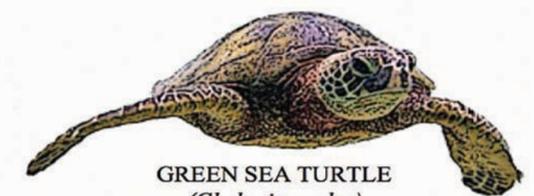
Thanks to Sherrie, we will always remember safe boating is no accident!

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.



GREEN SEA TURTLE
(*Chelonia mydas*)

GREEN SEA TURTLES graze on the vast sea grass beds of the tropics. Florida's coastal waters are an important feeding grounds. Juveniles hunt crabs jellyfish and sponge. Each year they will swim thousands of miles to return to their birthplace to mate and lay eggs. Artificial lights on beaches confuse them and prevent them from laying eggs. Sea walls block their path. This turtle is called "green" because it was favored for soup and the fat is greenish. Hunting for the turtle meat and eggs and habitat destruction means this turtle is now endangered. This is the one of the largest of the living sea turtles and can grow to 700 pounds.

Eukaryota, Animalia, Chordata, Reptilia, Testudinidae, Cheloniidae



Satan hates it when we spend time with God



By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

First Chronicles 16:11 (ESV) says, “Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!”

While it's easy to conclude why this would please God, it's important to consider why the devil works constantly to keep us from doing so. What does Satan know that compels him to divert us from spending time with God?

Imagine how much the devil hates our reliance on, our adoration of and our allegiance to his enemy. Think how it enrages him that, in

Christ, we find salvation, redemption, and purpose.

What does Satan know (that many of us miss) about the benefits of drawing near to a powerful, wise, merciful God? The God Who transforms our lives, our families, our legacies? The God Who instructs and guides us with His infinite wisdom? The very God Who loved us so much that He sacrificed Himself for us on Calvary so we could spend eternity with Him? Compare this to Satan, who never sacrificed anything for

his followers, but (crucially) also looks forward to spending eternity with them.

I imagine the devil shudders even thinking about the changes we'd experience if we daily sought the Lord. Could it be he understands (more than we do) the completeness we'd find in the presence of the Creator of the universe?

Perhaps he hopes that if he creates enough distractions, we'll begin to wonder if our quiet time with God really matters. He craftily sways us by planting the thought in

our mind, “I can't fit it in today, but I will definitely have my quiet time tomorrow.”

And we repeat the scenario the next day and the next. Eventually, the demands of our jobs, family and social lives successfully elbow out the One Satan hates most. In the end, we spend less and less time thinking about our heavenly Father, rarely pray for our neighbor, and only open our Bible on Sundays at church – if we go at all.

Is this the way we want life to be? Of course

not. Then what kind of relationship do we want to have with God?

Let's meditate on 1 Chronicles 16:11 and spend relationship-building time with our heavenly Father. There's nothing that will give God more joy.

And there's nothing that will do more to drive Satan up the wall.

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.

The creative power of words



By **CHERYL CRUSE**

ple “yes.” To my “yes” came this response: “Good, because when most people move in, they find they can never afford to move out.” This was the mindset of the greater community.

Thirty years later I still remember the conversation. Not because of its wisdom, but the creative power of her spoken words. Her words spoke of poverty in her hometown and her community's people. She felt trapped in a never-ending cycle of hopelessness, a constant routine of working just to stay afloat. Time and again, I won-

der what happened to her, where is she today?

I have since moved away and started a new life here in Crawfordville. Nevertheless, that one conversation has followed me and taught me well.

What words do I speak? In my conversations am I speaking blessings or curses? How often have we heard the phrase “If you can't say something nice, do not say it at all?”

Proverbs 18:21 Teaches that the tongue can bring life or death. We have the creative power to speak

life into darkened situations.

As we speak to neighbors and friends what do our words say? Are our words kind and uplifting? It is easy to get caught up in the circumstances that plague our society.

The evening news is full of brokenness and heartache. We have new laws that should bring order to the chaos, yet they do not. We have leaders who promise to make the world a better place, and still, there is disenchantment.

The power is not in man or law but within

our own spoken words. We need to speak life into the brokenness.

Man, nor man's law is capable of bringing order to the chaos without the blessings of God. New laws rewrite the original ten, and leaders are only men doing what they consider is right. Yet God's law teaches us, that if we who are called by His holy name, will humble ourselves before Him, He will be faithful and hear our pleas. God will heal our land (2 Chronicles 7:14). Healing comes from the Lord.

Today, I pray I will speak the blessings of

God over my brother. May I speak life into difficult circumstances? I do not wish my words to be ominous, but words of hope and encouragement. Lord, let my words glorify your Holy Name. Amen.

1 Peter 4:11 If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God.

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

Brian Miller is running for county judge

From Front Page

while still in law school in 2011, working a full caseload during the day and finishing my last semester of law school at night. I was quickly promoted through the State Attorney's Office, to supervising the five Leon County Court divisions less than a year after graduating law school to becoming chief prosecutor in Wakulla County less than 4 years later.

In the past 11 years, I have prosecuted thousands and tried nearly 100 cases, over 50 of which were felonies, ranging from murders and sexual offenses to drug and property crimes.

My last 15 trials

in Wakulla County resulted in one death sentence, four life sentences, and six sentences in the Florida Department of Corrections ranging from 5 to 35 years. Three others resulted in jail or probation sentences.

Since my promotion to chief prosecutor of Wakulla County in 2016, two of the accomplishments of which I am most proud are the relationships I have built and maintained with the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office and Wakulla County Schools. I work with the detectives and deputies of the Sheriff's Office on a daily basis to assist them in providing Wakulla County the highest standard of law en-

forcement our county deserves. Together, we have successfully investigated and prosecuted hundreds of cases, from misdemeanor and traffic offenses to homicides.

In addition to prosecuting homicides and other felonies, I also handle our juvenile cases and have since 2018. Thanks to our superintendent and school principals, I began speaking to our middle and high school students in both large assemblies and small classroom format about issues they may face. I also facilitated the inclusion of Wakulla County Schools and our local Department of Health in juvenile court, ensuring that our children are not

only held account-

able for their actions, but learn from their mistakes and avoid committing additional crimes as adults.

Thanks to the involvement of multiple agencies, each providing unique services that can be tailored to each juvenile and each case while having the same objective, the number of juveniles in court and the recidivism rate among juveniles drastically declined.

I have served Wakulla County every day for the past six years, protecting the rights of the citizens of this county as its chief prosecutor.

I am honored to ask for your vote on Aug. 23 to continue to serve you as Wakulla County Judge.

Obituaries

DEATH NOTICES

• **Jan Dale Crisp**, 67, of Crawfordville, died August 4, 2022. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **Ruth T. Harrell**, 89, of Crawfordville, died August 1, 2022. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **Jim Anderson Sego**, 72, of Monticello, died August 4, 2022. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **Maria Elena Essman Shiver**, 75, of Tallahassee, died August 6, 2022. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

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- Panel
- Capital of Morocco
- Of moderate temperature
- Extent of space
- Dropsy
- Continent
- Projecting jaws of a bird
- Outfit
- Narrow strip of land
- Not divisible by two
- Drinks slowly
- U.S. state
- Drunkard
- Team
- Convert into leather
- Member of political party
- Gr. goddesses of the seasons
- Polite
- Help
- Highly excited
- Civil War novelist, John _____
- Worn by exposure
- Linen vestment
- Evanescenced
- Anagram of goryd
- Signings
- The cry made by sheep
- Strengthened seam
- Mathematician Charles _____
- Urge forward
- Crimson
- Not or
- Boy or man
- Spanish friend
- Forage
- Spotted
- Second largest violin
- Capital of Italy
- Murder

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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63						64						65		

- Between
- Small integers
- Adult male deer
- Guarded from injury
- Wading bird
- Cares
- The villain in Othello
- Fastened with a lace
- Whirlpool
- The Hague (Dutch)
- A way to look
- Fleeces
- Trainee
- Ancient Scandinavian chief
- Saddle horse
- A way to supply
- Imbecile (British slang)
- Slubbed
- Monkey with dog-like muzzle
- Brass wind instrument
- Moses' elder brother (Bible)
- Sprite
- Advantages
- Hobs
- Flexible armor
- Humble request for help
- Make angry
- Play a role
- The common gull of Eurasia
- An athlete who plays for pay

CLUES DOWN

- Ruffled front of a blouse
- Hives
- Understands (slang)
- Humorous anecdote or remark
- An extended location
- Someone who is highly skilled
- Stakes
- Atomic Mass Unit
- Draw from
- Stray
- On the sea
- Marked by great productivity
- Powerful mackerel shark
- Foretell
- Material object of worship

S	E	N	O	N	B	B	M	L	A	V	T	S
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Task force arrests Wakulla man for fentanyl

Special to The Sun

On July 29, Wakulla County Sheriff's Office detectives, alongside detectives of the Leon County Sheriff's Office, members of North Star Multijurisdictional Drug Task Force and K9 Officers of the Florida Department of Corrections, executed a search warrant at 51 Renee Street in Crawfordville as part of "Operation Death Dealer."

As a result of the search warrant execution, Robert Samuel Hughes, 42, was arrested for possession of Methamphetamine/Fentanyl and other charges.

Operation Death Dealer was begun in order to specifically address the rise in illegal fentanyl distribution which has recently led to numerous overdoses in North Florida. Those overdoses often lead to serious medical conditions, and or death. Operation Death



Drugs and paraphernalia seized by the task force.



Robert Hughes

side the gun safe multiple firearms were located to include a short-barreled shotgun. The shotgun had a barrel of approximately fourteen inches in length rendering it illegal. The firearm was seized as evidence in this case. The suspected methamphetamine and fentanyl mixture was weighed utilizing a digital scale and produced a prepackaged weight of 6.3 grams.

A special thanks is given to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement in assisting the above-named entities during the duration of Operation Death Dealer. Robert Samuel Hughes was arrested and booked into the Wakulla County Jail on the charges of possession of methamphetamine, possession of a controlled substance (Fentanyl), manufacturing drug paraphernalia and possession of a short-barreled shotgun.

Dealer is a multi-faceted ongoing operation.

On July 29, 2022, WCSO & LCSO Detectives, North Star Multijurisdictional Drug Task Force members, and officers with the

Florida Department of Corrections traveled to 51 Renee Street, upon execution of the search warrant, a small amount of a crystalline substance and digital scale was located on top of the

bedroom dresser. The crystalline substance field tested positive for both methamphetamine and fentanyl. Upon entry into a shed on the property, a small amount of a crystalline substance

Backpack drive-thru giveaway held on Saturday

The Be a Hero to Heroes organization held a drive-thru giveaway for backpacks on Saturday, Aug. 6 at the community center to provide back-to-school supplies for kids. The group has held giveaways at communities around the county each week leading up to the start of school. (Photos by Charity Tumbleson.)



Volunteers prepare to distribute back-to-school supplies.



Event organizers with Be a Hero to Heroes.



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