

War Eagles will head to Pensacola for playoffs

Page 16

Two local veterans: one is 103, one is 99

Page 3

The Wakulla Sun

"It's a New Day"



Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Rain/Wind	AM Showers	Partly Cloudy
Hi: 70° Lo: 67° 100%	Hi: 78° Lo: 60° 47%	Hi: 78° Lo: 47° 14%
Sunrise 6:58 AM Sunset 5:43 PM	Sunrise 6:59 AM Sunset 5:43 PM	Sunrise 7:00 AM Sunset 5:42 PM



\$1 One Section

Locally Owned & Operated Our 1st Year, 38th Issue Thursday, November 10, 2022

ELECTION RESULTS

County commission, judge, school board

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN Editor

The election turned out as many had predicted: Republican Fred Nichols beat Democrat John Quinton, and Republican Quincee Messersmith beat Democrat Sam McGrew for the district 2 and 4 county commission seats; Brian Miller was elected county judge over Eddie Evans; and Eddie Hand won the school board seat over Dod Walker.

On the question of whether the county could extend property tax breaks for another 10 years as a economic development tool, local voters said no.

But they did, by a narrow margin, 52% support the school board's half-cent sales tax.

REACTIONS

Fred Nichols won by a wide margin, with more than 66% of the votes cast. "I am overwhelmed by the support I have received!" Nichols responded in a text. "I would like to thank my family, friends and community. I look forward to serving the citizens of Wakulla."

John Quinton texted a statement that said he was thankful for the opportunity to run in the election. "The best part was all the new and wonderful people I met along the way. Thank you for sharing your concerns about rapid growth



Political signs outside the precinct at the extension office.

and threats to our water quality and unique way of life. Congratulations to Fred Nichols. I wish him the best as our commissioner."

Quincee Messersmith said simply, "Thank you, Wakulla. Kindness al-

ways wins. I look forward to the next four years."

Sam McGrew said he was at a loss for words. "At the end of the day I want to thank all the voters – and thank those who voted for me."

The write-in Patricia

Dyszer may have received as many as 36 votes or .26% of the votes cast in the race. She spent no money.

The race for county judge had come down to a runoff between Brian

Turn to Page 14

Paul Johnson, former Chamber president, passes

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN Editor

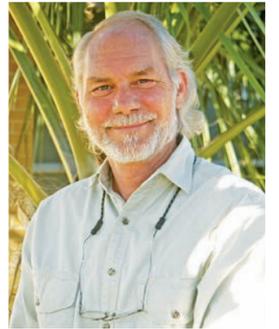
Paul Johnson, a local environmentalist and former president of the Wakulla Chamber of Commerce, died unexpectedly on Friday, Nov. 4, a day before his 70th birthday.

During his term as Chamber president in 2009, Johnson kicked off the Shop Local campaign to encourage Wakulla residents to support locally owned businesses. Shop Local is still encouraged by the Chamber.

As an environmentalist, Johnson was involved in lobbying state agencies in Tallahassee and throughout Florida and the southeast region.

Johnson, soft-spoken with a quick smile and a quiet laugh, had one local issue that he felt tarred him – his work for Wakulla Springs Bottled Water, a proposed water bottling plant to be located a couple of miles near Wakulla Springs. Johnson was brought on board by D.P. High, owner of the proposed facility, and contended the withdrawal of water for the plant would have a very minimal impact on local water. There was also the promise of good-paying jobs.

The facility had a permit to withdraw up to 1.9 million gallons of water, but the plans provoked a wave of local opposition to the plant and it was ultimately rejected in 2007.



Paul Johnson



Chris Beatty feeding fawns in 2002.

'Election guide' sent by PAC

County commission race draws mailer from Florida Integrity PAC

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN Editor

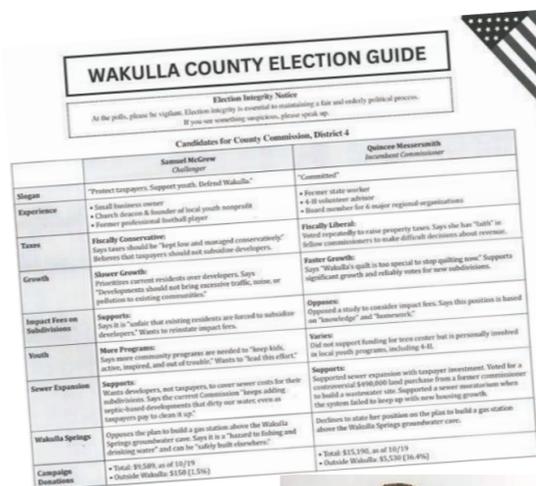
In the days leading up to Election Day, Wakulla voters received a mailer labeled "Wakulla County Election Guide."

While statewide and regional races often focus on Wakulla voters, it's unusual for local races to draw interest from outside political groups.

The mailer focused on the candidates in the two county commission races – John Quinton and Fred Nichols II in district 2 and, on the other side of the mailer, Samuel McGrew and Quincee Messersmith in the district 4 race. (There is also a write-in candidate in that race, Patricia Dyszer, but she isn't mentioned in the mailer.)

A QR Code on the mailer that says "Watch Candidates Debate Here" leads to The Wakulla Sun's YouTube page with the video of the county commission debate.

The mailer gives opinions from the candidates,



especially on growth and sewer.

The disclaimer on the mailer reads "Paid for and approved by the Florida Integrity Political Action Committee."

According to the Department of State, Florida Integrity is based in Fort Lauderdale and was created on Oct. 5.

Willie Rumph Jr. is listed as treasurer, and Yolanda Brown as officer.

Yolanda Brown is listed as the officer of at least a dozen political action committees, ranging from



Yolanda Brown is an officer of Florida Integrity PAC.

groups with names like Floridians for Truth Now and Justice for Florida to Forward Florida, which lists Andrew Gillum as chairperson.

Brown is also listed as

an officer of Build Black Better, which is listed as as making the \$5,000 donation to Florida Integrity PAC.

State records indicate some \$4,200 was spent by Florida Integrity on the mailer.

Brown's LinkedIn page says she graduated from Florida A&M in 1994, attended University of Miami Law School and is currently an administrator at Broward College in Fort Lauderdale.

Efforts to contact Brown about the mailer were unsuccessful.

Some past election mailers in local races include a negative mailer against then-commissioner Howard Kessler when he was being challenged by Sally Gandy.

Several years later, in the race to be Wakulla sheriff, Maurice Langston's campaign sent out a mailer claiming candidate Charlie Creel as a state trooper in South Florida was reckless in shooting incident.

Chris Beatty, founder of wildlife group, dies

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN Editor

Chris Beatty, founder and longtime director of Florida Wild Mammal Association, died on Monday, Nov. 7.

Along with her husband, Mike, and daughter, Jessica, Beatty had long cared for injured and orphaned wildlife at her home on Edgar Poole Road in the southern part of the county. Scores of volunteers helped with caring for the animals over the years.

It was especially difficult caring for the number of animals taken in by FWMA during the spring, or "baby season." Beatty would sleep only a few hours a day to keep up the rigorous feeding schedule of babies.

FWMA has held fundraisers in recent years for plans to buy a larger piece of land and construct new facilities. FWMA did buy some land, and had done some land clearing and was holding fundraisers for more work.

Beatty was fiercely dedicated to the animals she took in, cared for, and ultimately released – if their injuries allowed them to be released.

In person, she was quiet and shy. Jessica appears at festivals and other events with some of the tame wildlife to allow people to pet the animals, while Beatty stayed in the background.

She had health problems in recent years.

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Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park

Elliott's Aster

By **LYNN ARTZ, SANDY TEDDER** and **DAVID RODDENBERRY**



Elliott's aster (*Symphotrichum elliottii*) is a showy wildflower with lavender petals and yellow center. Blooming in late fall, its large clusters of fragrant flowers attract many butterflies and bees. Elliott's aster occurs in most of Florida in sunny roadside ditches, swamps, and marshes. This long-lived perennial grows to about 4' tall and forms dense stands. Plant in a moist, sunny location with room to spread. It tends to fall over in shade and may outcompete smaller plants in a mixed planting. Elliott's aster is blooming now at the west end of the pond at Sopchoppy Depot Park. Look also for the bright lavender Savannah aster (*Symphotrichum chapmanii*) along the pond's south side. This smaller aster is found almost exclusively in the Florida panhandle.

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Student of the Week

Lainey Smith, 12th grader at Wakulla High School

Principal: Michelle Falk

Lainey Smith is a senior at Wakulla High with a 3.52 weighted GPA. She is the theatre troupe president, an FCA leader and an amazing performer. Lainey is currently the stage manager for Wakulla High's One Act play that recently received a perfect score from judges at competition. She led the backstage crew, called cues to those in the booth on top of being the costume manager. In addition, she will star as Mrs. Clause in Rudolph in December and is already working on designs for the spring show. She will be soon competing in individual and oridngal performances. Lainey is always helpful and willing to volunteer for any task. She has a positive attitude and incredible work ethic. She is a role model amongst her peers. **GO WAR EAGLES!**



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

Lisa Craze, CFC
 Wakulla County Tax Collector

ENACTED: 2006.
 More than \$1 million has been raised through the sale of Florida Realtors "Support Homeownership for All" specialty license plates, which help fund affordable housing programs across Florida. The goal is to provide housing assistance to teachers, nurses and others unable to afford a home. Ninety percent of the proceeds from the sale of the "Support Homeownership for All" license plate goes to support affordable housing programs. Just 10 percent of the funds go toward marketing the plate.

Enacted: 07/01/2014.
 The annual use fees are distributed to the Florida Sheriffs Association to develop and provide important training for members of local sheriff's offices as well as deputies across the state.
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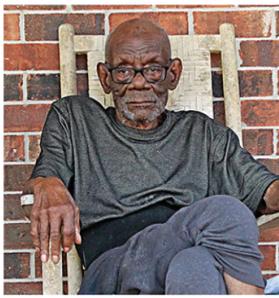


103-year-old Wakulla veteran Joe Williams

By CHARITY TUMBLESON
Reporter

Joe Williams is a 103-year-old veteran from World War II. Williams was born and raised in Wakulla County and was drafted into the U.S. Navy in 1944 and served aboard a destroyer. Williams was the oldest of three other brothers who all ended up getting drafted at different times. He recalled being sent to basic training for 10 weeks. “Then we got to come back home on a leave. Then your family, your community, give you a good send-off because most likely go-

ing to see you no more in years. Sometimes we never see you no more because I know several people went back and got on that ship and were killed over there,” he says. Williams recounts during his travels what it was like going from New York City to the Philippines. “Considering how we live in the country you can imagine how it was. New York was noisy and you couldn’t sleep at night,” he says. “I stayed on



the ship with the convoy and we might sail around and around for months. We had to protect those ships and cargo ships,” he says. Life on the ship for Williams was based on a routine. They would get up early and start the day sometimes for Williams he was put on cook duty. Williams was the cook’s helper on the ship, he did not enjoy it very much at the time. “Most of the time anytime you are a helper to somebody you had to move when they tell you to move.

They would call me and I had to come to pour their coffee,” he says. Williams spent six months at a time sailing around the Pacific Ocean. Williams was discharged in New Orleans in 1946. “Then I came on home and I haven’t left since,” he says. Williams spends his time sitting on his front porch and spending time with his grandchildren. Having made it to the age of 103 Williams has some advice for young people, “The life that you live needs to be good. That midnight partying, especially that hard dope is no good. I’ve been tipsy two, three times my whole life. Be moderate in whatever you do,” he says.

99-year-old Wakulla veteran Bonnie Sturchio

By CHARITY TUMBLESON
Reporter

Bonnie Sturchio was born in a small town called Algoma in Wisconsin 99 years ago. One Sunday afternoon when she and her family were on a drive they passed a sign on the road seeking people to join the U.S. Marine Corps “and I did,” she says. Upon joining the Marines, Sturchio was sent off to boot camp riding the bus and picking up other people on the way. This was during World War II. She worked in the post office. “Even though it was a mundane job, I liked the comradery of everybody, it was very nice,” she says. “While the boys were shipped out, we girls took their

place.” Sturchio was in the Marine Corps for nearly two years before meeting her husband, Gene Sturchio, who was a First Lieutenant. “It was love at first sight,” she says. Sturchio and her husband Gene would see each other at night on the beach at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina whenever they could. They were soon married. “I guess we just thought we would lose each other so were quick to marry,” she says. Two months after Sturchio was pregnant with her first child, Chip.



Her husband Gene was sent to Guam during his time in service and also served in the Korean War. “He was able to come back a couple of days before my first son was born,” she says. Gene came back from Guam with ulcers, which ultimately led to his

discharge. He served for four years in the military. They then met up in Wisconsin and later on Gene decided to go to Rollins College in Winter Park to major in English, and went on to be a teacher and principal. They had four children together: Chip, Pat, Carmen, and Sharman. Now Sturchio resides in Sopchoppy, and was on the first Tallahassee Honor Flight in 2013, that flies veterans out to Washington, D.C. to see the monuments. “I was the only woman on the flight,” she says. In her free time Sturchio relaxes in her Sopchoppy home and enjoys spending time with her children.



The VFW float in Saturday’s Veterans Day Parade.

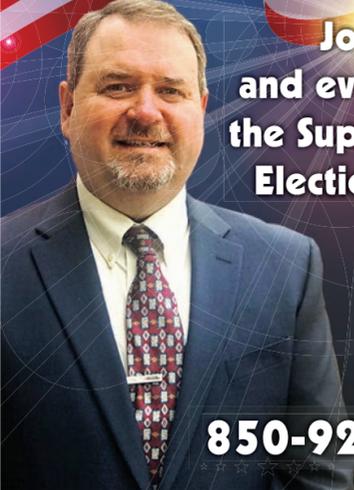
Veterans Day observance

Saturday, November 5, the Veterans Day Parade was held along Crawfordville Hwy. This year’s theme was “Honor and Service.” Shortly after the parade, a Veterans Day ceremony was hosted at the Wakulla County Community Center with the posting of colors by the Wakulla High School NJROTC Cadets. The keynote speaker for this year’s ceremony was Chaplain Robert Sutton. (Photos by Charity Tumbleson)



VSO Winston Murphy, Chaplain Robert Sutton.

“Without heroes, we are all plain people, and don’t know how far we can go.”
-- Bernard Malamud



Joe Morgan and everyone at the Supervisor of Elections Office

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VETERAN'S DAY SPECIAL

We are reducing our Management fees by 10% to any Veteran or Veteran's family member who signs on a new rental during the month of November.

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Thank you to all the men and women who have served.

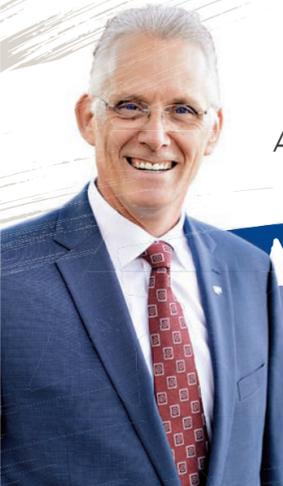
Happy Veterans Day!



LISA CRAZE AND STAFF
WAKULLA COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE
Wakulla County Tax Collector

THANK YOU VETERANS

From the Wakulla County Property Appraiser's Office.



Ed Brimer Wakulla County Property Appraiser

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VETERANS DAY
HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

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Thank you VETERANS
HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



from sheriff Miller and the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office

Opinions

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Randy Merritt has served Wakulla County well



By WILLIAM SNOWDEN

served as county public works director and county engineer before he was elected.)

For 12 years, Merritt has been a county commissioner – well-informed, making decisions based on facts, and perhaps most importantly he has been a voice for moderation and compromise.

Which is not to take anything away from the collegial attitude of the current board – they don't always agree, in fact they often disagree, but they can do it without being disagreeable.

Merritt also has a



Commissioner Randy Merritt is presented with the jacket he's worn to county commission meetings for the past couple of years. He said he would add his shirt to the display.

sense of humor and doesn't take himself too seriously. He told me a few months ago that he's worn the same shirt to county commission meetings for the past 12 years – with a couple of exceptions.

County administration knew he had the same jacket he's worn at every meeting for the past couple of years and made a point of having it framed and presenting it to him. He said he would add his shirt to the display.

County Administrator David Edwards presented Merritt with a

plaque and called him one of the smartest people he's ever known.

Commissioner Quincee Messersmith praised Merritt for never straddling the fence; Ralph Thomas called him “a tremendous asset”; Chuck Hess praised some of Merritt's ideas; and Mike Kemp thanked him for his leadership.

Wakulla County owes him thanks for serving the people of the county well.

William Snowden is editor and publisher of The Wakulla Sun.

Randy Merritt's last meeting as a county commissioner was Monday night, and he was honored by fellow commissioners and county staff for his service. (And to note, Merritt has also

Property Appraiser speaks at Realtor luncheon



By LYNDA KINSEY

Wakulla County Property Appraiser Ed Brimmer Office was the featured Speaker at the Wakulla Chapter of the Tallahassee Board of Realtors monthly meeting last week.

Brimner told the crowd at Seineyard at Wildwood on Thursday, Nov. 3, that he had some interesting statistics to share about Wakulla.

Among those interesting stats:

- In 2021 there were 438 new homes built in Wakulla and in 2022, as of Oct. 31 this year there were 394 homes built.

- In 2021 there were 2,071 homes sold and as of Oct. 31 there have been 1,497 homes sold. (He noted these numbers do not include banks or sales between relatives and \$100 deeds.)

- The market value total for Wakulla in 2021 was \$3.1 billion; and this year the numbers reach to \$3.6 billion.

- The taxable values are much lower of course with 2021 taxable value at \$1.5 billion and in 2022 it is at \$1.7 billion.

Brimner also talked about a few of the higher commercial

sales values for 2022: Two mini warehouses have sold – one for \$2.8 million and then another for a whopping \$6.2 million. A local car wash recently sold for \$5.8 million and Publix recently bought the completed strip mall where its grocery store is located for \$14.75 million.

Brimner recognized the members of his staff at the luncheon and gave his appreciation for their hard work and expertise, said that he could not run the office without the great staff that he has.

Lynda Kinsey is the sales and marketing representative for The Wakulla Sun.



Property Appraiser Ed Brimmer speaking at the Realtors luncheon at Seineyard at Wildwood last week.

LETTERS FROM READERS

Sam McGrew says thank you, Wakulla

Editor, The Sun:

To my friends and neighbors,

This campaign has been a true blessing. From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank you all for inviting me into your homes, making me laugh, and opening up about your needs and hopes. Running for office is hard. But every day, you've inspired me with your love, grace, and sincerity. You've taught me so much, and—win or lose—I'll always be grateful.

For those I haven't met yet, I hope to use this final opportunity to tell you who I am. I'm a proud 5th-generation Wakulla man, raising the 6th with my wife, Janice. Growing up, I had a home filled with love and a church blessed with joy. There was plenty of space to hunt, fish, and explore. Wakulla County gave me the freedom and stability to grow.

From a young age, I was taught to work hard, and football gave me an outlet for that. I eventually became an all-state linebacker and impressed Coach Bobby Bowden. As a Florida State Seminole, I'd sack quarterbacks on Saturday and be dressed for church Sunday morning. Whether I was in a deer stand or on the porch with my family, I found my peace in Wakulla County.

As a professional football player, I got to see the world, but I couldn't wait to come home. I moved back to Wakulla 15 years ago to start a family and a small business. Janice and I had three kids, and we started a childcare cen-

ter, where we keep prices low to help families afford care. To keep Wakulla strong, I started a youth sports non-profit, served as a motivational speaker in the DARE program, and worked to become a deacon in my church.

Unfortunately, the peaceful place that so many of us love is not being protected. Our tax dollars are being used to subsidize infrastructure for developers and to support projects that pollute our water. Meanwhile, the sewer system is overwhelmed and our youth seem not to be a priority.

I'm running for office to restore strong values to the Wakulla County Commission: fiscal responsibility, responsiveness to citizens, and a youth focus. I even put “Defend Wakulla” on my campaign signs. Somebody has to play defense and I know a thing or two about that.

As we approach Election Day, I want to again say thank you to all I've met on this journey. No matter the outcome on Tuesday, you have reminded me of what makes Wakulla County so special.

If I haven't had the opportunity to meet you yet, I hope you'll call me this week at 850-280-6706.

With gratitude,

Sam McGrew

Editor's Note: This letter was received prior to the election but did not run last week because of our policy on letters from candidates.

On the Horizon

Calendar of upcoming events for the week of Nov. 10

Thursday, November 10

- The VFW Auxiliary Bingo Night will be held at 7 p.m. at 475 Arran Road in Crawfordville. There will be concessions and raffles.
- The Rotary Club of Wakulla County will meet at TCC Wakulla at 8:30 a.m. Speaker will be Paula Pendarvis of North Florida Medical Center.
- The Wakulla County Tourist Development Council public meeting held at the Ochlocknee River State Park at 9 a.m.
- The St. Marks City Commission meeting will be held at St. Marks City Hall at 6 p.m.
- The Sopchoppy Depot Committee meeting will be held at the Depot, 34 Railroad Avenue at 4:30 p.m.

Friday, November 11

- VETERANS DAY – Banks, schools and government offices will be closed.
- The Wakulla War Eagles football team will travel to Pensacola for first-round playoff game against Pensacola Catholic. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m. CST.

Saturday, November 12

- Intro to Tai Chi held at the Community Center from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. All ability levels are welcome and wear comfortable clothing. Any questions can be directed to Rich or Terri Bushman at 850-228-9214.
- The Sopchoppy oyster and mullet fest will be held at Sopchoppy Depot Park from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fundraiser mullet fish fry, local oysters, food vendors, best mullet contest, mullet toss, music all day, historic displays, touch tanks, kids activities, vendors of homemade and home-grown treasures, beer garden and more.

Monday, November 14

- The planning commission meets in the commission chambers at 6 p.m.
- The Sopchoppy City Commission meets at city hall at 6:30 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
- The Alzheimers Support Group meets at Lake Ellen Baptist Church from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
- The Wakulla County Library Advisory Board meets at 10 a.m. at the Wakulla County Public Library.

Tuesday, November 15

- Sopchoppy Community Dinner is held every week at the Towles House at 6:30 p.m.
- The Wakulla County One Cent Sales Tax Committee public meeting will be held in the Board of County Commissioners Administration Conference Room 3093 at 2 p.m.
- The county commission will hold a special public hearing, serving as the Board of Adjustment at the commission chambers at 10 a.m.
- The Sarracenia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society will hold their monthly meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Wakulla County Public Library. Forester Emily Martin will speak on the Forest Service's Pine Tree production program. A zoom link for the presentation will also be available, you can request it at Sarracenia.nps@gmail.com.

Wednesday, November 16

- Intro to Tai Chi held at the Wakulla County Community Center from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. All ability levels are welcome and wear comfortable clothing. Any questions can be directed to Rich or Terri Bushman at 850-228-9214.
- A Line Dance class will be held at 1 p.m. at the Wakulla Senior Center.

"It's A New Day!"

The Wakulla Sun



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 Reporter: Charity Tumbleson

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



◀ Question of The Week ▶

– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

Polled at Crawfordville Quick Stop

Do you vote by mail, early vote or vote on Election Day?



AUSTIN TRUMAN
NATIONWIDE TRANSMISSIONS

“The day of.”



JOANN WATKINS
SORORITY HOUSE CHEF

“I’ve voted by mail and on election days, I’ve done it both ways.”



DAVID HARRISON
IT CONSULTANT

“Early vote, absolutely!”



ROBERT DAX COURSON
W.O.R. & FABRICATION SHOP

“Early vote.”



GLADYS KILGORE
48 YEARS IN COMMERCIAL TIRES

“I usually early vote.”

COMMUNITY NEWS

Wakulla Station News

By **VERNA BROCK**

I cannot believe we are in November, and the temperatures are reaching the high 80s every day! Whatever happened to Autumn? Pretty soon we’ll be in the middle of Winter, and still perspiring. I am over it for a little while.

Be careful out there, folks. The flu is circulating in and around the county, and it can still make us really sick. Most of us can get free flu shots, and it is well worth the time it takes to NOT spend a few days in

bed. After Church, Ed and I went to the North Florida Fair on Sunday with daughter Eden and granddaughter Harper. Despite it being hotter’n heck, we had a great time. We saw our old friend Harold Thurmond there, working with his Christian campers group. What a great surprise to see him, hale and hearty, welcoming fair-goers with the love of Christ!

As we moved on, Harper decided she would really like to have a cow. We visited the bovine competitions

and shows several times, as well as the petting zoo. We also saw the 4-H exhibits, always a favorite, and I am proud to tell you, Ed’s dark honey won first place! I may be biased, but it IS really yummy.

Harrison had a previous appointment with a fishing trip with Dad Brian, and managed to catch what I can only describe as a whopper. I don’t think he missed the fair. Meanwhile, Brennan was home recovering from, you guessed it, the flu.

Please continue to lift the family of Ms. Betty Manning in your prayers,

as well as Barbara Vickery, Paul Clark, as they mourn the losses of their loved ones. Linda Dunwoody and Cindy Blackstock also need our prayers, as does Pastor Steve Montgomery. Steve has a broken leg which was surgically pinned on Tuesday, and will have an estimated 10 week recovery. Somehow, even this has failed to slow Steve down!

If you, or your organization, have any news or activities planned for the upcoming holiday season, let me know! I am happy to write about your special events. You can reach me at 850-421-3730 or 850-212-3131, or vernalsbrock@gmail.com.

Library News – Nov. 10

Thursday, November 10

The Flowers HOA 5:45pm
Wakulla Amateur Radio Club Testing 6:30pm

Friday, November 11

Library Closed

Saturday, November 12

Library Closed

Monday, November 14

Library Advisory Board Meeting 10am
Wakulla Christian Coalition 6pm

Tuesday, November 15

Forgotten Coast Homeschool Co-op 9:15am
Book Bunch 10am
LEGO Club 4pm
Florida Sarracenia Chapter of the Native Plant Society 6:30pm
The Parks HOA Covenant Review Committee 6:30pm

Wednesday, November 16

Book Babies 10am
Knitting Group 4pm

Thursday, November 17

Veteran’s Meetup 11am
Advanced Kid’s Coding 5pm
The Parks HOA Covenant Review Committee 6:30pm
Wakulla Amateur Radio Club 7pm

FREE LEGAL HELP FROM LEGAL SERVICES OF NORTH FLORIDA

Join Legal Services of North Florida at the Wakulla County Public Library on Tuesday, December 13th from 4-7pm for a FREE legal clinic to assist with disaster issues, title clearing, probate, contractor disputes/liens, insurance coverage disputes, FEMA assistance, family issues, and more.

Walk-ins are welcome and assistance is provided on a first-come, first-served basis and is based on lawyer availability. Please bring documentation & paperwork related to your legal question. Masks are required.

FIRST ANNUAL SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES FAIR

The Summer Opportunities Fair is an outdoor community event at Azalea Park which provides a venue for parents and children to learn about available summer programs. The fair will present a wide range of local programs, camps, and summer study opportunities for kids of all ages in academic and cultural enrichment, outdoor adventures, sports, community service, and volunteer programs.

If your organization is interested in attending, please fill out the registration form at <https://forms.gle/NELT-1p62UwwFeKLp8>.

AFTER HOURS SPEAKER SERIES

The Wakulla County Public Library is seeking speakers for a new program series. This will be an evening, adult program. We are seeking speakers on topics such as science, nature, history, health, safety, finance, the humanities, etc. If you are interested in speaking at one of these evening programs, please fill out our interest questionnaire at <https://forms.gle/Rt4B95toyWpp5Gys8>.

Upcoming Holiday Closings

- Friday, Nov. 11th and Saturday, Nov. 12th for Veterans Day
- Thursday, Nov. 24th to Saturday, Nov. 26th for Thanksgiving



Health department thinks pink

In recognition of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October, the Florida Department of Health, Florida Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program in Wakulla encourages all women to receive regular breast exams and mammogram screenings to promote early detection and treatment of breast cancer. “Breast Cancer is the second leading cause of death among women worldwide.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, breast cancer is the most common cancer in women in the United States. The American Cancer Society estimates nearly 21,000 new cases will be diagnosed in Florida this year alone. In 2022, it is estimated that 3,150 women

in Florida will die from breast cancer. In 2019, the age-adjusted rate per 100,000 of Female Breast Cancer Incidence in Wakulla County was 110.3 compared to Florida at 128.

Over the past 10 years, breast cancer mortality rates in Florida have decreased by 14.8%.

The Florida Department of Health provides access to free or low-cost breast cancer screenings statewide to women who are uninsured or underinsured, have a low income, and meet the program eligibility requirements. For more information about the Florida Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program please visit MakeTimeForScreenTime.com.

Kiersten Smith

Agent Bus: 850 745 2148

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Outdoors

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HOME ON THE RANGE

Thoughts about concealed carry



By MARJ LAW

Carrying concealed is very cool. When you carry concealed, it means you passed a test showing you have been taught when, where, and how to carry your gun. It shows you have a basic competency with shooting a gun. It shows you have met requirements for a concealed weapons license.

In Florida, you need to take a class for this or can show evidence of experience gained during military service. Your application goes to the Division of Licensing under the Florida Department of Agriculture. With your application goes fingerprints, a photograph and the application fee.

After you've jumped through this hoop, do you really want to carry a gun? Do you think you may be in a location where your life could be endangered?

Personally, I don't carry most of the time. Most of the time, the likelihood of danger in my mind is very limited. Carrying involves a huge amount of responsibility.

First, in Florida, your gun must be concealed so that others can't see it. Many people feel viewing a gun shows someone is an aggressive, rude, careless or an angry person. They can see the gun as a threat. Naturally, that

will intimidate people, and people who want to protect themselves aren't out to cause fear in others.

So, you have to make sure your gun doesn't show. If you wear a see-through shirt, and your gun shows behind it, then it's not concealed. If you wear your shirt high, and the butt of your gun shows in your waistband, then no, it's not concealed. When you can see the outline of your gun on your clothing, it's called "printing." You can't do this, because again, the gun is not concealed.

Remembering where you cannot carry your gun is important. You'll learn this in the class, and need to check when you visit federal buildings, parks, airports and other places. But with all the errands you do during the day, will you remember which buildings you can't carry in? Some private stores also hang "no gun" signs in their entrances. You need to respect this too. And if you can't carry it where you plan to go, do you have a locked safe in your car to place it while you do your other errands?

When you do carry, remember to bring your concealed carry license with you.

Whew! And you thought all you needed was a license? So not true.

What about safety? When you carry, where is your muzzle pointed? Remember, just like shooting at the range, your muzzle is always pointed at something you're willing to destroy. Your foot? Your neighbor? Your fanny? No, you don't want to have that muzzle pointed at any of these.

And that "finger off the trigger until you're ready to shoot rule?" Yes, it applies here too. What if



Inside Waistband Holsters

Elite Survival Systems: a "sticky" holster

Alien Gear holster: with clips to waistband or belt

you trip and your finger is on that trigger? Yikes! Big danger!

Wherever you carry, you'll want your gun to be very stable, in a condition where you can draw it in a safe manner. I'd always suggest a holster, so that your gun is firmly placed where you can reach it when you have to. And this means practice. Your shirt will likely cover your gun. Can you lift your shirt quickly and discretely to reach your gun? When you do, will you place your index finger along the gun as you draw, to keep it off the trigger until you're ready to shoot?

Is your gun in the proper position? If you're out in public, now is not the time to check. Other people sure don't want to see you messing with a gun. Practice securing and drawing your gun at home, unloaded. Having all your ammo locked up in another room is a good safety practice, too.

When do you draw?

In the class, you learn that you draw your gun only if your life is in danger or if someone else's life is in danger. You never ever draw to settle an argument. Never to show that you've got a gun and you're not afraid. Only draw to defend and protect lives.

Where is your gun? Recently, I've asked many friends how they carry their guns. Fortunately, and most carefully, all say they use holsters. The correct holster will place your gun in a secure position to stay in place and to be of a proper angle if you need to draw.

A waistband or belt, therefore, is no place for a gun. How tight is your waistband? Will the angle of the gun change with your movements? Could it slide down your pants if the waistband is loose? Could you experience an accidental discharge of your weapon? Yikes, again! You sure don't want to allow this to happen!

What about pocket car-

ry? Do you have a small gun that fits in your pocket?

Don't do it! What angle will the gun be in after you've walked, and sat, and gotten in and out of the car? If you have to draw your gun, you sure don't want to be fumbling around in your pocket, looking for a decent hold. Also, that pocket is full of candy wrappers and washing debris. Will the junk clog your gun? You don't want to jeopardize the useability of the gun that could save your life. Many holsters are made to fit safely and to angle properly in pockets.

I'm always for a holster. If that bad day should ever come, I want my gun to be placed securely on my body. In a holster. At an angle where I can grab it quickly and safely to myself and others, and with my index finger along the side as I pull it out.

Some girlfriends carry in their purses. Each friend has either a special "carry" purse, designed to

hold her gun safely and at a correct angle, or she has a holster, properly angled, that fits in her purse.

The gals who carry in their purses say they always keep their purse on themselves: not on the chair behind them or on the floor beside them, so Mr. Bad can't slide alongside and whisk it away. Even in public bathrooms, their guns are not hanging on the inside of the doors.

You'll see IWB and OWB holsters. This stands for "inside the waistband" and "outside the waistband."

You'll hear the words: "sticky holsters." These are soft rubberized holsters, unlike the hard formed Kidex holsters which attach to your belt or pants. You can put sticky holsters IWB and they don't attach to your belt.

Two men friends, who are tall and somewhat portly, say they don't choose IWB because their tummies squish the gun and it is not comfortable. One of them carries in an OWB holster within his back pocket. Another man uses a square pack: a Sneaky Pete brown leather OWB holster which attaches to his belt outside his right hand. Two gal friends have carry purses.

The right way to carry depends on the correct holster for your gun. It depends on your body type, your condition, your preference and your comfort level.

As the Alien gear people say: "Safety is relative; if you carry safely, and handle and operate a gun safely, bad things tend not to happen."

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



BIRDING AT THE REFUGE

Halloween duck survey

By DON MORROW

October 31st is an important day at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. It is not the day that the refuge staff wear pink leggings and dress up as flamingos. Although that would be a great rumor to get started. It's the refuge's birthday and this year St. Marks turned ninety-one. For me, though, it is the day that I do the first duck survey of the season.

This is the sixth year that I have done a Halloween survey. I've gone a day early or late a few times because of weather, but I have stuck with an end of October start to the winter duck surveys. The first survey of the year is generally an easy gig, because most ducks haven't come down. In 2017 I had 465 ducks, but since then, the totals have ranged from 106 birds up to 220 birds, which makes for easy counting in good early Fall weather. This is something to which I look forward.

So, Halloween morning found me counting the dawn flight of Wood Ducks on the North levee at Stony Bayou II. I had only five ducks, a slow and inauspicious start

to the survey, but things picked up as I swung around the pool. I found Blue-winged Teal, Ring-necked Ducks. Northern Pintails and fourteen more Wood Ducks. Things were looking up.

It was an overcast, warmish day. I scanned Stony Bayou I, but found nothing. A few days earlier, refuge staff had seven early Snow Geese there.

The ducks on East River Pool were mostly staying in the back of the pool. Even with a scope, I struggled to identify them at over a half mile distance. Occasionally, they would fly, making it easier. There were both teal species, Pintail, Gadwall and Ring-necks.

The majority of the ducks were on the North and South ends of Mounds Pool III. There were hordes of Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal, Redheads, Gadwall, wigeon, pintail and a single Northern Shoveler.

Most of my route is on levees, allowing me to avoid Lighthouse Road, where heavy equipment was being used for road maintenance. I did have to drive to Lighthouse Pool, but a 25-ton Caterpillar excavator was clearing roadside vege-

tation and had scared away most of the birds. Miraculously, ten Redheads and a Canvasback were floating in the shallow water and the flamingo was unperturbed.

There were more ducks on my survey than I have ever recorded at the refuge this early in the season. I had 780 ducks of eleven species. A combination of early cold fronts and low rainfall across much of the country's interior are moving ducks down. As usual, about three quarters of the ducks were teal with Blue-wings predominating at this early point of the season. The other nine species accounted for 128 ducks with two species, shoveler and canvasback, represented by single birds. The raw numbers are higher than normal, but the species mix is typical of a Halloween survey and shows an early movement by waterfowl, rather than by one or two species.

This early influx of ducks is great for local birders, but it masks an issue with continent-wide waterfowl populations. The 2022 Waterfowl Population Status report shows a 12% decrease in duck

populations since the last report in 2019. (Annual population surveys had been suspended during the Covid epidemic.) Drought conditions across the main waterfowl breeding areas appear to be a factor in the decrease, but other weather and climate factors also play a role.

An important part of managing our waterfowl populations is the coordinated system of private lands protected by conservation easements and public lands belonging to local, state and Federal agencies. They make it possible to maintain breeding, migration stopover and wintering areas for waterfowl. The St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge plays a critical role in that system.

So, come down to the refuge and see some ducks. They're here and more are coming. While you're at it, support your local refuge in any way that you can; volunteer, pay your entrance fee or shop at the Nature Store. The ducks need the help.

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

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Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences

Thursday 10
Sun rise/set: 6:58AM 7:17PM
Moon rise/set: 5:43PM 9:03AM
Moon Illumination 96%

Friday 11
Sun rise/set: 6:59AM 8:04PM
Moon rise/set: 5:42PM 10:01AM
Moon Illumination 91%

Saturday 12
Sun rise/set: 6:59AM 8:56PM
Moon rise/set: 5:42PM 10:54AM
Moon Illumination 85%

Sunday 13
Sun rise/set: 7:00AM 9:51PM
Moon rise/set: 5:41PM 11:43AM
Moon Illumination 77%

Monday 14
Sun rise/set: 7:01AM 10:47PM
Moon rise/set: 5:41PM 12:26PM
Moon Illumination 69%

Tuesday 15
Sun rise/set: 7:02AM 11:44PM
Moon rise/set: 5:40PM 1:04PM
Moon Illumination 60%

Wednesday 16
Sun rise/set: 7:03AM
Moon rise/set: 5:40PM 1:39PM
Moon Illumination 51%

Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

Nov. 10 - Nov. 16

Tide charts by tides4fishing.com

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

Th	1:52 am ▲ 3.7 ft	9:04 am ▼ -0.4 ft	3:36 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	8:39 pm ▼ 1.5 ft
Fr	2:19 am ▲ 3.6 ft	9:40 am ▼ -0.2 ft	4:14 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	9:11 pm ▼ 1.6 ft
Sa	2:48 am ▲ 3.5 ft	10:17 am ▼ 0.0 ft	4:57 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	9:47 pm ▼ 1.7 ft
Su	3:21 am ▲ 3.4 ft	10:59 am ▼ 0.3 ft	5:47 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	10:31 pm ▼ 1.8 ft
Mo	3:59 am ▲ 3.2 ft	11:50 am ▼ 0.5 ft	6:49 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	11:29 pm ▼ 1.9 ft
Tu	4:47 am ▲ 2.9 ft	12:54 pm ▼ 0.7 ft	8:03 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	
We	12:53 am ▼ 1.9 ft	6:02 am ▲ 2.7 ft	2:05 pm ▼ 0.8 ft	9:10 pm ▲ 2.7 ft

City of St. Marks

Th	2:28 am ▲ 3.5 ft	10:08 am ▼ -0.3 ft	4:12 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	9:43 pm ▼ 1.4 ft
Fr	2:55 am ▲ 3.4 ft	10:44 am ▼ -0.2 ft	4:50 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	10:15 pm ▼ 1.4 ft
Sa	3:24 am ▲ 3.3 ft	11:21 am ▼ 0.0 ft	5:33 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	10:51 pm ▼ 1.5 ft
Su	3:57 am ▲ 3.1 ft	12:03 pm ▼ 0.2 ft	6:23 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	11:35 pm ▼ 1.6 ft
Mo	4:35 am ▲ 2.9 ft	12:54 pm ▼ 0.4 ft	7:25 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	
Tu	12:33 am ▼ 1.7 ft	5:23 am ▲ 2.7 ft	1:58 pm ▼ 0.6 ft	8:39 pm ▲ 2.5 ft
We	1:57 am ▼ 1.7 ft	6:38 am ▲ 2.5 ft	3:09 pm ▼ 0.7 ft	9:46 pm ▲ 2.5 ft

Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	2:07 am ▲ 3.8 ft	9:26 am ▼ -0.4 ft	3:55 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	8:53 pm ▼ 1.7 ft
Fr	2:33 am ▲ 3.7 ft	10:02 am ▼ -0.3 ft	4:33 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	9:22 pm ▼ 1.8 ft
Sa	3:01 am ▲ 3.6 ft	10:40 am ▼ -0.1 ft	5:15 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	9:56 pm ▼ 1.8 ft
Su	3:34 am ▲ 3.5 ft	11:23 am ▼ 0.1 ft	6:04 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	10:38 pm ▼ 1.9 ft
Mo	4:12 am ▲ 3.3 ft	12:15 pm ▼ 0.3 ft	7:03 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	11:35 pm ▼ 1.9 ft
Tu	5:00 am ▲ 3.0 ft	1:16 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	8:12 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	
We	12:58 am ▼ 1.9 ft	6:13 am ▲ 2.7 ft	2:22 pm ▼ 0.6 ft	9:17 pm ▲ 2.7 ft

Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	1:44 am ▲ 2.8 ft	9:15 am ▼ -0.3 ft	3:28 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	8:50 pm ▼ 1.1 ft
Fr	2:11 am ▲ 2.7 ft	9:51 am ▼ -0.1 ft	4:06 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	9:22 pm ▼ 1.2 ft
Sa	2:40 am ▲ 2.6 ft	10:28 am ▼ 0.0 ft	4:49 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	9:58 pm ▼ 1.2 ft
Su	3:13 am ▲ 2.5 ft	11:10 am ▼ 0.2 ft	5:39 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	10:42 pm ▼ 1.3 ft
Mo	3:51 am ▲ 2.4 ft	12:01 pm ▼ 0.4 ft	6:41 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	11:40 pm ▼ 1.4 ft
Tu	4:39 am ▲ 2.2 ft	1:05 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	7:55 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	
We	1:04 am ▼ 1.4 ft	5:54 am ▲ 2.0 ft	2:16 pm ▼ 0.6 ft	9:02 pm ▲ 2.0 ft

St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	1:39 am ▲ 3.0 ft	9:00 am ▼ -0.5 ft	3:53 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	8:33 pm ▼ 1.6 ft
Fr	2:09 am ▲ 2.9 ft	9:36 am ▼ -0.4 ft	4:33 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	8:58 pm ▼ 1.6 ft
Sa	2:43 am ▲ 2.9 ft	10:16 am ▼ -0.2 ft	5:17 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	9:27 pm ▼ 1.7 ft
Su	3:20 am ▲ 2.7 ft	11:02 am ▼ 0.0 ft	6:09 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	10:03 pm ▼ 1.7 ft
Mo	4:01 am ▲ 2.5 ft	11:55 am ▼ 0.2 ft	7:15 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	10:58 pm ▼ 1.8 ft
Tu	4:53 am ▲ 2.3 ft	12:59 pm ▼ 0.4 ft	8:32 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	
We	1:09 am ▼ 1.8 ft	6:15 am ▲ 2.1 ft	2:13 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	9:32 pm ▲ 2.1 ft

Dog Island West End

Th	1:54 am ▲ 2.6 ft	9:11 am ▼ -0.5 ft	4:28 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	8:48 pm ▼ 1.6 ft
Fr	2:22 am ▲ 2.6 ft	9:47 am ▼ -0.4 ft	5:07 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	9:10 pm ▼ 1.7 ft
Sa	2:52 am ▲ 2.5 ft	10:29 am ▼ -0.3 ft	5:47 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	9:32 pm ▼ 1.7 ft
Su	3:25 am ▲ 2.4 ft	11:14 am ▼ -0.1 ft	6:38 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	10:01 pm ▼ 1.8 ft
Mo	4:01 am ▲ 2.3 ft	12:00 pm ▼ 0.1 ft		
Tu	4:42 am ▲ 2.1 ft	12:52 pm ▼ 0.2 ft	10:02 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	
We	12:49 am ▼ 1.8 ft	5:37 am ▲ 1.9 ft	1:58 pm ▼ 0.4 ft	10:11 pm ▲ 1.9 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



Thank you to Duane Treadon for submitting the following article.

Over the weekend the Flotilla held its monthly meeting. The big talk of the meeting is the Flotilla's participating in the upcoming FSU military appreciation day being held November 19th before the game. Member Tim Ashley has been working with USCG Station Panama City and USCG recruiters based out of Mobile.

Station Panama City will be sending over one of their fast response vessels and crew for a static display. The vessel will be trailered over with a crew of three. The recruiters will set up an information station and talk about the Coast Guard and Coast Guard

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

life.

Our Flotilla will have a station and provided information about the Auxiliary as well as safe boating. In addition to the information, those attending can expect some interaction by throwing a heaving line and learning nautical knots. There will be something for everyone!

We hope you will come out and say hi.

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

Please contact us for more information about our safe boating classes or learning more about getting involved in the Auxiliary, check out our

website at www.uscgaux.net follow us on FaceBook @ Apalachee Bay Flotilla 12 or contact our Flotilla Commander Phil Hill at pnkhill2000@yahoo.com

If you would like to learn more about vessel safety checks, please contact Steve Hults, Staff Officer for Vessel Examinations at steve.hults@uscgaux.net.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed civilian volunteer component of the U.S. Coast Guard and supports the Coast Guard in nearly all mission areas. The Auxiliary was created by Congress in 1939. For more information, please visit www.cgaux.org.

Underwater Wakulla

By Rusty Miller

Fall and winter diving continued.

I will continue my discussion on the fall and winter diving season. I talked about Morrison Springs or what I call the Westside Springs diving destinations. I will talk about the other Westside spring: Vortex Springs.

Vortex Springs has been a diving and training destination for decades. They have been family owned and operated since the beginning. The first time I dove Vortex was several decades ago and it has maintained its charm for all this time.

Vortex Springs also has a hotel and bunk housing as well as modern and primitive camping for those who want to make a long weekend out of their diving and hiking trips.

When you arrive at the springs you will need to go into the dive shop to register and pay for your diving. The dive shop is a moderate sized shop that sells a variety of scuba and snorkeling gear, you can rent some gear but you need to check with them before you go, because of Covid they may not rent regulators. They have a small camp store located to the rear of the shop to get some supplies. Once you fill out the paperwork then you pay the entrance fee for either open water or cave diving. If you're an instructor it is a great place to take your students to give them a great first time diving experience.

You need to be aware that as a premier diving destination that you need to get there early to get registered and then find a parking place. Once you find your parking spot then you need to find a place to put your equipment. They have quite a few very sturdy picnic tables and they even have lounge type lawn chairs for those who want to catch some sun while others are diving. They are very pet friendly as long as your pet is on a leash.

There is a swimming area for the kids and non-divers in the family, the swimming area has a rope swing and a diving/jumping platform for the more courageous swimmers. They have the scuba area separated from the swimming area by a floating buoy rope.

The spring basin itself is gin clear water but has a lot of sediment on the rocky bottom that gets kicked up when there are a lot of divers swimming around. It doesn't make the water murky though it does make it dense with particulate so the visibility is diminished somewhat. So for all you instructors out there it is very important to try to teach your students the basic lesson of buoyancy and staying off the bottom as much as possible when they swim around.

I mentioned cave diving and the Vortex does have a cave system. The entrance of the cave is about 50 feet below the surface. It is marked with a rectangular float at the surface just of the right side of the floating dock. The rope is anchored at the bottom off to the right of the cave entrance itself. When I take students to the Vortex I take them to the entrance at the bottom of the rope to experience at least 50 feet depth, then I place myself in front of the entrance so I can stop any of my curious students from entering. Once everyone has looked around that tiny area we make our ascent to the ledge and swim around the basin. I have purposely not mentioned anything that is in the basin so you will have to visit Vortex Springs to find your own adventure. I hope you will go diving with me to the Vortex sometime.

WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO



Retired Wakulla Springs State Park Ranger Bob Thompson, on a wildlife survey at the park last week, snapped this photo of Climbing Aster on the river.

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Thank you, veterans

By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

Have you served the United States through military service? Or stood bravely with your comrades on the battle-

field? Have you courageously fought in supportive, administrative or commanding roles?

Wherever you've been stationed, and in whatever capacity you've served, I join the millions who stand humbly in your presence. I have no words big enough to express my thanks, but I'll give it my best effort. You are my hero.

I don't know your story, but I've benefited from your courage. Your sacrifice began the day you pledged to defend our nation's hon-

or. Although you knew fighting our enemies would be terrifying, you stepped forward. You stayed in the fight, and you defended me and those I love.

Thank you.

I'd like to express my gratitude to your family as well – your parents, spouse, and children who lie awake night after night worrying about and praying for your safety.

You, the family, sacrificed too. You demonstrated your own brand of courage and endur-

ance as you kept the home. You pressed forward, one day at a time, without your loved one by your side. You continued to serve our country in this way until the day he or she finally returned home. Or maybe you're still waiting for that glorious reunion.

Thank you.

And to you, family members, whose loved one paid the ultimate price in defending the country I love, I'm so very sorry for your loss. And so very, very grateful for your sacrifice.

I wish there were no wars. I hate how war pits nations against each other. Perhaps someday, we'll learn to resolve our conflicts in more peaceful ways.

Yet, while I wish wars weren't part of our world, I understand why we have them. In a perfect world, other nations wouldn't want to conquer us and take away our freedoms.

Thankfully, people like you and your family who love our country have the integrity and fortitude to fight to de-

fend her.

You've embodied John 15:13 (ESV): "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."

We owe you a great debt. May we never take your service for granted.

You have our endless gratitude.

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 gift of presence

By **CHERYL CRUCE**

I remember when the fresh scent of baked biscuits meant it was time for Daddy to come home from work. As soon as I smelled the fragrance of bread, I began walking down the old dirt road to meet him. Just a short distance from the house, he would stop his 1956 international pick-up and lift me to his lap. Placing my hands on the steering wheel let

me believe I was driving us home. Looking back now, I see Daddy's big arms around my waist and his two thumbs guiding us safely home-

ward. There was something surreal about being in the presence of my Dad. I felt safe and comforted as his arms encircled me. I also thought I could accomplish great things, like driving a truck at age five, even though Dad kept his thumbs on the steering wheel. Today, I look back on my childhood innocence and embrace the lesson of presence. Dad was present with each of us. We were the apple of his eye. He was a man of quiet strength who walked humbly before God and

instilled faith into the heart of his children.

Amazing how time changes things. Three generations have been born since then. The dirt road is paved, and the stately oak trees have disappeared with the old blue house that used to be home. However, the lesson of "presence" is unchanging and lingers in each of us. We cared for one another, our victories, and our losses. We were present with one another. We were family. We are family now. However, today we live in different homes and are gathered around other tables with much older faces, but a family still.

In this month of thanksgiving, I am grate-

ful for many things; Today, I am thankful for the "lesson of presence." Did you know the smallest gesture can say, "I am here?" When you smile at a stranger or place a hand on the shoulder of someone grieving, when you lend someone your strength or faith, that is the art of presence. Have you ever received a card in the mail unexpectedly that brightened your day? If so, then you have received the gift of presence.

Our Heavenly Father desires His children to be present with one another. I have discovered that I am with family regardless of my travels. There only needs to be an introduction of a name. There is a kinship

beyond the biological realms of the physical world. Holy Spirit bears witness within us that we are the children of God, heirs of our Father in Heaven, joint heirs with His Son Jesus (Romans 8:16-17). Therefore, since we are brothers and sisters through Christ, should we not be present with one another?

Today, let us celebrate presence as described in 1 Peter 3:8. Let us become a people of a tender heart, full of sympathy with a humble, unified mind, loving one another with brotherly love. When we love as we were created to love, we will fully understand the gift of presence. In celebrating our presence, we

celebrate the presence of our Father, whose greatest desire is to be with His children, for we are indeed the apple of His eye. Today, I am thankful for the "gift of presence" taught by my Dad and endowed by our Heavenly Father. Today, let us safely rest in the presence of our Heavenly Father.

Lord, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. The Lord replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." Exodus 33:13-14

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

Obituaries

Chris Beatty

I will not lie to you all and tell you that my mom, Chris Beatty, died peacefully. Besides the fact that she hated lying, she always was a doer, and doers aren't peaceful people by nature. So instead I will be honest and tell you that she died at 4 something in the morning as a ploy to get me to wake up before the sun even rose one last time. Her mornings started at 4:30 AM (with two cups of coffee that could kill a lesser person) and everyone else's must too, nothing could start past 8 AM because by that point "the whole morning is completely wasted".

She moved here in 1995 and fought tooth and nail to provide Wakulla County with a wildlife rehabilitation center that it didn't know it wanted, but she knew it sorely needed. For the last 27 years she has had deer in our laundry room, furniture covered in possum formula, a house that people pull up to at all hours with injured animals, and stray kids wandering in and out. She was the safe haven for injured people and animals alike and if anyone showed up with an attitude or problem to work out, she made sure they left here winded with blisters from raking or scrubbing but also a lighter heart. She was quick to tell you when you were not doing (or dating) your best but just as fast to tell you how proud she was of how much you accomplished. Every single person that walked onto the property left smarter and more well loved than they had arrived. They also left with a suspiciously long to-do list, even when they thought they were just coming for a social visit.

She never balked at a task or found it daunting, and in fact was frequently in the middle of at least 18 different tasks at any given time. Which is why she decided to have her lung cancer metastasize in her brain in the middle of planning two different fundraisers, my birthday, several vet appointments, a birthday bash for my grandmother, orders for several different things, replacing our roof, and who knows what else. Literally, who knows what else? I have not had a chance to catch up with her phone or emails so if she was in the middle of anything else not listed, please don't tell me. I, although gifted in other ways, find tasks very daunting and would prefer if they were scary some-

where else far away from me.

I've been struggling with the idea that all of the things she does and thinks and starts are just going to end. The whirring machine that is her mind and motivation finally silenced. The only thing that brings me any solace is that maybe it won't all end, it is just going to take many people to keep it going. She contained so many multitudes, so much energy, so many ideas and projects that when released, they are going to take a crowd to keep it all running. We were always a team and I'm absolutely terrified of how to continue on without her. But if this last year has taught me anything it is that we have so many people that love her too. All of her love, support, and words that she has poured into our community have been coming back to us.

Like every other group project we've ever done, I knew this obituary could not be the standard one. She would not rest until my english projects were paper mache creations that were bigger than I was. Everything she did had to be larger than life. Her house had to be something pulled from a busy street in Jamaica with limestone sides she spent two years placing herself and filled with rescue dogs that were just as neurotic as we are. Her center had to stretch to hold every animal in a multi-county radius and do so on a shoestring budget. All her kids had to scatter from Tampa to Rhode Island and lead neat and fulfilling lives everywhere in-between. Her Christmas baskets had to have the sugar content and caloric index of the average supermarket candy aisle. She was everything, all the time, to everyone and I know my heart is definitely not the only one broken by her passing.

Although she loved flowers and food, we never had a green thumb and most of the food she liked best was 90% sugar, carbonation, or caffeine. So, in lieu of flowers or food gifts, please consider donating to a charity close to your heart, volunteering a few hours somewhere special, or taking food to a friend or local food bank. Although she was best known for running FWMA, she was constantly lending a hand everywhere she could. The best way I know how to honor that is to spread it. Love everyone in your life a little fiercer and always be willing to help wherever you can.

DEATH NOTICES

• **Stacy Diane Bower**, 47, of Crawfordville, November 4, 2022. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **Cheryl Lynn Ellison**, 63, of Crawfordville, died November 8, 2022. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **Dana Nicole Gibbs**, 51, of Tallahassee, died October 29, 2022. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **Ralph Stanley Graham**, 58, of Crawfordville, died October 30, 2022. Family

Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **Paul Johnson**, 69, of Crawfordville, died November 4, 2022. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **Victor Lovett**, 57, of Crawfordville, died October 22, 2022. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **Wynona Sleeth**, 90, of Tallahassee, died November 2, 2022. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

Revival continues at Panacea Full Gospel

Special to The Sun

Come join us for our Homecoming Revival at Panacea Full Gospel Assembly from Wednesday, Nov. 9 through Friday, Nov. 11 at 7 p.m. nightly featuring Brother Lindon Frost.

On Saturday, Nov. 12, a Gospel sing will be held featuring Reborn from Tennessee at 7 p.m.

Homecoming Service will be held Sunday, Nov. 13 at 11 a.m. with Brother Don Anderson.

Lunch following and singing after.

The church is located at 8 Taylor St. in Panacea.



Sopchoppy United Methodist Church

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11 a.m.
Bible Study Wed. 6 p.m.

Pastor Cheryl Mixon-Cruce 850-962-2511



First Baptist Church
CRAWFORDVILLE

3086 Crawfordville Highway
(Just south of the Courthouse on Hwy 319)

850-926-7896

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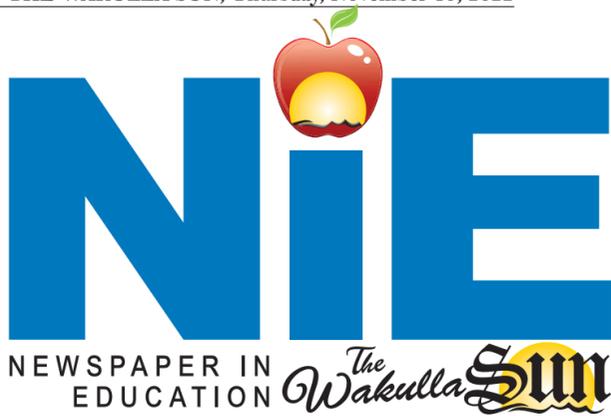


St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church

Fr. Paul Raj, HGN • Den. 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 at 7:00 pm
1st Saturday: Adoration and Confessions at 8:30 am
1st Saturday: Mass at 9:30 am
Every Saturday: Confessions at 4:30 pm
Live Streaming - Sundays
Facebook - Seas Parish

850 509-7630
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Use the News

1. Election Day

Tuesday was Election Day all across the country. In state after state, voters will be choosing people to serve as governors, U.S. senators, U.S. representatives and state legislators. Some communities also will be choosing local leaders. As a class, talk about qualities you think people need to be good leaders. Then look through the newspaper and find three people who are leaders in some way. Write a complete sentence for each, explaining what quality each person has that makes him or her a good leader.

Goals: Writing informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly; conducting short research projects that build knowledge about a topic.

2. Cliff Climber

When 8-year-old Sam Baker was born, his parents gave him the word "Adventure" as his middle name. In his short life the second grader from Colorado Springs, Colorado has had lots of amazing adventures, most of them involving mountain climbing. Now he has had his biggest adventure of all, climbing the cliff that forms the face of the famous El Capitan rock formation in California's Yosemite National Park. By successfully reaching the top of El Capitan, Sam became the youngest climber ever to master the 3,000-foot summit. He did it over four days with the help of ropes, metal clamps and anchors, and a team that included his father Joe Baker, ABC News reported. The multi-day effort required that Sam and his dad sleep at night in platforms attached to the face of the cliff hundreds of feet in the air. El Capitan ("The Captain") is widely regarded as one of the most difficult rock formations to climb. The youngest person to climb it previously was a 10-year-old who climbed to the top over the course of five days in 2019. Sam Baker has been having adventures with his dad climbing mountains. In the newspaper or online, find and closely read a story about someone your age having an adventure or interesting experience with a parent or relative. Pretend you are the child who had the adventure and write a thank-you note to the parent/relative telling why it was special to have the experience with them. Share notes as a class and discuss special experiences you have had with parents or relatives.

Goals: Producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task; engaging effec-

tively in a range of collaborative discussions.

3. What a Flight!

Every fall, millions of birds migrate from cool areas where they spend the summer months to warmer areas where they spend the winter. Some of these journeys cover amazing distances, and this fall a wading shore bird has made the most amazing journey of all. A bird called a Bar-Tailed Godwit has set a new world by making a non-stop journey that covered 8,426 miles! The journey, which took 11 days and one hour, started in the U.S. state of Alaska and ended on the island of Tasmania south of the Pacific nation of Australia. Scientists know exactly how far the 5-month-old Godwit traveled, because it had been equipped with an electronic monitor that was followed by satellites orbiting in space. It easily topped the previous non-stop flying migration, which had been set last year by another Bar-Tailed Godwit at

8,100 miles. Bar-Tailed Godwits are large wading birds with red breast feathers, long legs and a long, upturned bill. They feed on worms and shellfish along beaches and other coastal areas and can grow up to 16 inches long. They have black bars on their tails, a wingspan of 30 inches and can fly as fast as 55 miles per hour. Birds, animals and other wildlife often do amazing things. In the newspaper or online, find and closely read a story about a wildlife species doing something unusual or amazing. Use what you read to write a paragraph explaining what skills or physical traits the species needed to do the amazing thing.

Goals: Reading closely what a text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; citing specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions.

4. Longest Passenger Train

For people who love

railroads, one of the greatest pleasures is watching a long train pass by and counting the number and variety of the cars. Those people would love to have been in the European nation of Switzerland this fall. A passenger train hauling 100 cars set a new world record for length while traveling one of the most spectacular tracks through the Alps Mountains. The narrow-gauge train was 6,253 feet long (1.2 miles), contained 4,550 seats and traveled a 15.5-mile route through the mountains in about one hour, UPI and the Hindu News reported. A narrow-gauge train runs on a narrower track than most railroads and can make tighter turns in mountainous areas. The previous record for the world's longest passenger train was 5,686 feet and was set in the European nation of Belgium in 1991. Trains are one of many forms of transportation that move people, products and materials from place to place. In the newspaper or online, find examples of other forms of transportation. Use what you find

to create a chart listing the advantages and disadvantages of each type of transportation.

Goals: Organizing data using lists, concrete objects, pictures, tallies, tables, charts, diagrams and graphs; conducting short research projects that build knowledge about a topic.

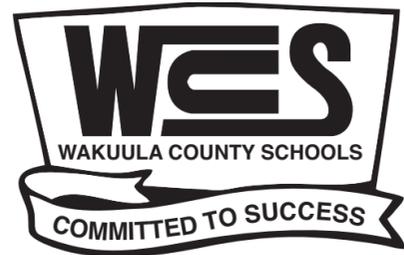
5. 'Fairy Circles'

"Fairy Circles" got their name because they look like something that magical creatures might have created in the middle of the night. Yet they are a very real thing in the Namib Desert in the African nation of Namibia — and no one can agree where they came from. The circles are areas of bare ground surrounded by plants in dry, desert areas, and they have stumped scientists for years. Some have argued they are caused by poisonous gases, while others point to plant-killing microbes or even termites. A new study of fairy circles released this fall points to a less exotic cause for the desert formations — and it will make sense to people who follow

nature. The study says competition for water creates fairy circles by drawing moisture from the inside of the circles to support plants on the edge and beyond, the New York Times newspaper reports. All scientists know that water is necessary to support all plants, and without it they dry up and die. In the desert conditions of Namibia, "Plants are forced to create these circles to redistribute water to maximize their chances of survival," said an author of the new study. Scientists are always looking to explain unusual events or occurrences in nature. In the newspaper or online, find and closely read a story about an unusual event that scientists are trying to explain. Use what you read to write a letter to a friend describing the unusual event and what scientists think is the cause of it.

Goals: Citing specific textual evidence when writing or speaking; writing informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

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THIS IS THE TERM FOR SOMEONE WHO AVOIDS EATING ANIMAL PRODUCTS.

ANSWER: VEGAN

Creative Coloring

Celebrate cooking vegan foods. Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1892: PUDGE HEFFEL-FINGER BECOMES THE FIRST PROFESSIONAL AMERICAN FOOTBALL PLAYER ON RECORD.
- 1933: NAZI GERMANY USES A REFERENDUM TO RATIFY ITS WITHDRAWAL FROM THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.
- 1936: IN CALIFORNIA, THE SAN FRANCISCO-OAKLAND BAY BRIDGE OPENS TO TRAFFIC.



EDAMAME

a dish of green soybeans boiled or steamed in their pods

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Fruit

SPANISH: Fruta

ITALIAN: Frutto

FRENCH: Fruit

GERMAN: Frucht

Did you know?



VEGETABLES, FRUITS WHOLE GRAINS, AND BEANS MAKE UP MUCH OF VEGAN DINING.

GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: SOY FOODS

CAREGIVER WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- ACUTE
- AGENCY
- ASSISTIVE
- CARE
- CHRONIC
- COMORBIDITY
- COMPANION
- COMPETENCE
- CUSTODIAL
- DIRECTIVES
- DISABILITY
- DISCHARGE
- FACILITY
- FAMILY
- GUARDIANSHIP
- HOME HEALTH AIDE
- HOSPICE
- INDEPENDENT
- INFORMAL
- MEMORY
- MOBILITY
- PROXY
- SUPERVISION

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

⊙ * ✨ ☺ ☼ ☽ ☿ ♀ ♁ ♃ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

CRYPTO FUN

☰ ☾ ♁ ✨ ♀ ☽ ☿ ☼ ✨ ✨
 Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to role models.
 Each number corresponds to a letter.
 (Hint: 19 = E)

- A. 3 10 4 20 6 19**
Clue: Have a goal to reach
- B. 9 19 3 7 19 6**
Clue: One in charge
- C. 25 17 20 7 19**
Clue: Show the way
- D. 20 22 10 14 6 17 5 14**
Clue: Direct

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to role models.

EL SAD

--	--	--	--	--

9	1	4	5	7	6	8	2	3
7	3	6	4	8	2	1	5	9
5	8	2	9	3	1	6	7	4
6	5	3	1	9	7	4	8	2
2	7	8	6	4	5	9	3	1
4	9	1	3	2	8	5	6	7
8	2	9	7	6	4	3	1	5
3	6	5	2	1	9	7	4	8
1	4	7	8	5	3	2	9	6

				5	3			6
3	6		2	1	9	7		
8		9			4			
			3	2		5		
2	7	8				9		
6		3	1	9			8	2
5				3				4
	3		4			1		
9		4		7	6			

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!
Here's How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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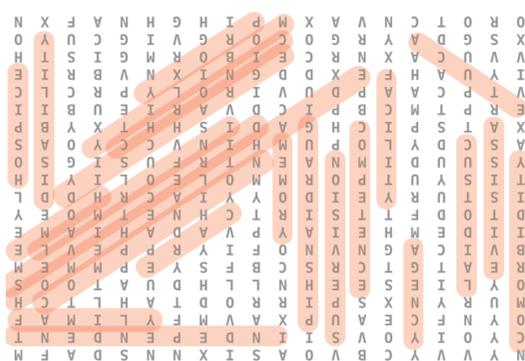
 Phone # _____ E-MAIL _____

Guess Who?

I am an actor born in California on November 11, 1974. I was a child star on television before making it onto the big screen in "Critters 3." I rose to prominence in the 1990s with several successful films.

Answers: A. aspire B. leader C. guide D. instruct

Answer: Leads Leonardo DiCaprio



Christmas for the Critters

Saturday, November 19, 2022 at 10 AM - 2 PM, UF/IFAS Wakulla Extension (behind Hudson Park)
84 Cedar Avenue, Crawfordville

Hosted by: Florida Wild Mammal Association

Santa Claws
Sponsors:



Come out and join the FWMA elves and decorate a tree to take home or give as a special gift to a friend. These little southeastern red cedars make the perfect gift as they are native and can be planted after the season and are only \$25. Visit with animals from our animal partner organizations. This will be great fun for the kids so bring the whole family! Trees are limited this year so please don't miss out on getting yours early. Look forward to seeing you!

Featured organizations that will be at the event

Redemptive
Love
Farm



GULF SPECIMEN
MARINE
LABORATORIES



WAKULLA
4-H
MAKING TREATS
FOR WILDLIFE



Don't miss out on our drawing! Tickets are ONLY \$5 each (suggested donation)



Fin Action Charters
Eco Tour



Seineyard \$25
Gift Certificate



Cooler full of Bud
Light Beer

Feathers and Fur Masquerade Ball

Hosted by

Florida Wild Mammal Association



FWMA is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) organization dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife in the Big Bend region (over 1,200 per year) and is equally committed to educating the public on wildlife issues. FWMA is headquartered in Wakulla County and has served our area including Franklin, Jefferson, and Taylor counties for over 27 years. We receive no local, state, or federal funds; therefore rely solely on donations, fundraisers, and grants obtained through private foundations. We are supported by an incredible group of volunteers and members that help us with our mission.

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OUR SPONSORS, SUPPORTERS, FUNDRAISING
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The Wakulla
News
Celebrating 125 years of local news



Sheriff's Report

Activity reported for the week of Oct. 28 to Nov. 3:

SATURDAY, OCT. 29

• Gary Land reported being struck by his co-worker David Albonese. Land stated they had been arguing over work and unrelated events. Land was pushed and held down by Albonese. A non-prosecution form was signed by Land and this incident was documented for informational purposes. Deputy Ernesto Trujillo investigated.

• Matthew Ainsworth reported seeing two people on his camera around his residence. Deputies made contact with the suspect, Christine Banaghan, who said she was checking a fence line and looking for her dog when she entered the property. Ainsworth additionally stated Banaghan had removed property. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Ernesto Trujillo inves-

tigated.
 • William Bassett reported someone throwing rocks at his residence which also caused damage to his vehicle. Contact was made with the juvenile suspect and his parents regarding the incident. All parties have agreed to handle the matter civilly instead of criminally. Deputy Kendrick Gavin investigated.

SUNDAY, OCT. 30

• Sarah McGilvary reported that she had accidentally fallen asleep while in the process of making French fries. McGilvary stated she smelled smoke coming from within the residence and immediately woke her friend and exited the residence. Estimated total loss approximately \$40,000. Lt. Dave Pienta investigated.

• Katelyn Rueth reported Tommy Sanders stole her 2002 black Chevy Avalanche truck from a jobsite at 120 Boynton Road. The vehicle was located pull-

ing into Rocky's parking lot. Contact was made with the driver, Bridget Forist, who is the girlfriend of Sanders. Forist was arrested for driving while license suspended or revoked (DWLSR) third or subsequent offense and transported to the Wakulla County Jail without incident. Rueth arrived to take possession of her truck and declined to pursue charges for the vehicle theft. Deputy Kendrick Gavin investigated.

MONDAY, OCT. 31

• Lt. Danny Harrell conducted a traffic stop at 2911 Crawfordville Hwy. for inoperative tail lights. During the stop the driver and the passenger were found to have outstanding warrants out of Wakulla County. Both, Joseph Brown and Sara Malphurs, were taken into custody and transported to the Wakulla County Jail without incident.

• Deputy Jake Scott attempted to make contact with the driver of

a vehicle that was at a closed convenience store. The vehicle hastily left the parking lot and went north on Crawfordville Hwy. Deputy Scott attempted to stop the vehicle at Bloxham Cutoff and 319 but the driver accelerated away initially at a high rate of speed then slowed and turned on emergency flashers. The vehicle pulled over approximately two miles north of Bloxham Cutoff. The driver, Darla Pease, had a suspended license and warrants out of Georgia. She gave a false name and several false dates of birth. She was taken into custody for obstruction of justice and failure to yield to an emergency vehicle. After being handcuffed she became combative and spit on one of the deputies. Pease also slipped a handcuff while in transit to the jail and when she exited the truck, she hit one of the deputies with the free cuff. She was subsequently charged with battery on a law

enforcement officer.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 2

• Thomas Callaway reported an unauthorized charge of \$1,800 on his credit card. Callaway had reported the incident to his credit card company prior to making contact with the Sheriff's Office. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Dustin Matthews investigated.

• Sandra Brown reported unknown persons opened two credit card accounts without authorization. One account was Bank of America and the second account was Target. Both accounts have been stopped but it is unknown if this is the only activity. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Sgt. Ronald Mitchell investigated.

THURSDAY, NOV. 3

• Jayna Thrumann reported an unknow

white male came into the Circle K convenience store and took several alcoholic beverages. Thrumann stated the white male did not pay and left the store passing the final point of sale. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Lt. Brent Sanders investigated.

Eric Mills came into the lobby of the Sheriff's Office to report two fraudulent checks which had been passed on his account. Mills had been alerted by his bank of the suspicious activity and after speaking with the bank made contact with the Sheriff's Office regarding the matter. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Lt. Jeffrey Yarbrough investigated.

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

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BINGO

WEEKLY CONTEST

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\$100 Weekly Prize
\$300 Grand Prize

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Buy hunting or fishing supplies _____	Purchase from a liquor store _____	Make a bank transaction _____	Buy a bakery item _____	Pay for lawn or tree services _____
Share this purchase on social media _____	Get your vehicle detailed or serviced _____	#SHOPLOCAL FREE SPACE _____	Order online from a local retailer _____	Buy office or school supplies _____
Local purchase of your choice _____	Buy a locally made item _____	Donate to a food bank or non-profit _____	Buy a plant or flowers _____	Fill up your gas tank _____
Get a haircut _____	Purchase from a small business _____	Purchase something fun for kids _____	Buy something from Sopchoppy _____	Follow the Chamber on social media _____

Winner drawn on **Nov. 17, 2022**. Grand prize drawing on **Nov. 23, 2022**.

#ShopLocal Wakulla and support our local businesses!

WIN BIG MONEY - Every Bingo enters you into a drawing for CASH prizes. Random drawings will determine winners.

RULES:
Be sure to include contact info on each bingo card you submit!

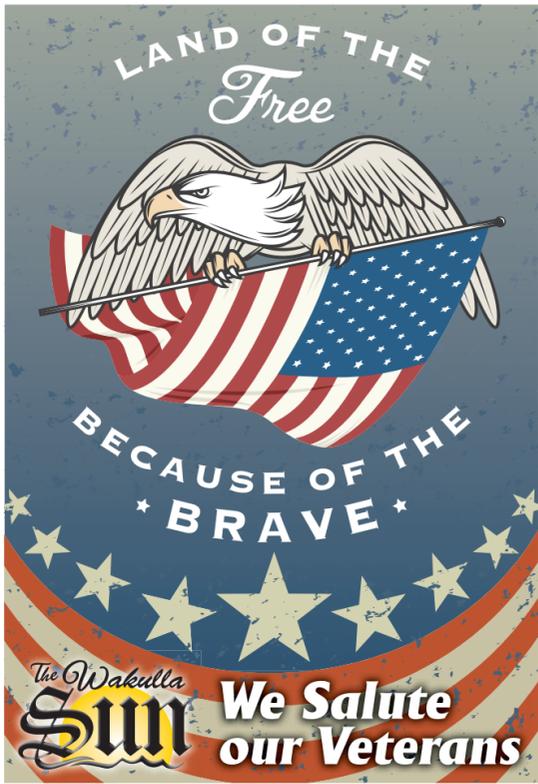
TO ENTER A PAPER CARD:
 Complete the listed purchases/tasks in any given row. Note the business at which you shopped in each square. Once you have a Bingo (horizontal, vertical or diagonal), mail it to P.O. Box 598, Crawfordville, FL 32326 or drop your Bingo card off at 23 High Dr., in our drop box.

TO ENTER ELECTRONICALLY:
 E-mail your completed card to WakullaBusinessBingo@gmail.com. Winners may provide proof of purchase in the form of a receipt, picture of a receipt, or picture of yourself with applicable donations.

BINGO CARDS AVAILABLE at various local businesses and online at WakullaCountyChamber.com and the Wakulla County Chamber of Commerce Facebook page.

Name _____ Phone _____ e-mail _____

Must be at least 18 to enter. See complete rules at www.WakullaCountyChamber.com and the Wakulla County Chamber of Commerce Facebook page.



Election results

From Front Page

Miller and Eddie Evans after neither had a 50%-plus-one in the August primary with a third candidate.

Brian Miller, who won the race handily, could not be reached for comment on election night.

Eddie Evans said he had called Miller to congratulate him. "I think he'll do a great job," he said. He added that he appreciated the help and support from people, and all those who voted for him.

In the school board race, Eddie Hand said, "I think the voters spoke loud and clear – they want change and that's what I campaigned on. I support Gov. DeSantis' agenda." He thanked Dod Walker for running a clean race.

Dod Walker responded: "I did my best. I wish the best for Mr. Hand and I know he'll do a great job."

CITY ELECTIONS

In the Sopchoppy

city race, the top two vote-getters in the four person field are winners, and that means incumbents Fred McClendon and Lara Edwards are returned to office over Corey "DJ Butch" Benedict and Thomas E. Porter II.

In St. Marks there were three races for seats:

- Dan Albers won by two votes over incumbent Richard Chichetti for Seat 1.

- Paula Bell won over Joe Crousore for Seat 4.

- Ryder Rudd beat Murray Stokes for Seat 5.

TURNOUT

Overall, there was a 63.5% turnout for the election.

Supervisor of Elections Joe Morgan reported no major issues with the election. "I'm thankful to the voters of Wakulla County for showing up and showing out for the last 10 days of early voting," he said.

Of the just over 15,000 local votes cast in the election, some 6,500 were cast on election day; another 5,000 were cast during early voting; and 3,400 were vote by mail.

Please Recycle



Nicole headed to Florida

Staff Report

From Wakulla Emergency Management Director Jennifer Nagy on Tuesday, Nov. 8:

Subtropical Storm Nicole is currently located 522 miles east of West Palm Beach moving NW at 8mph. The maximum sustained winds are 45 mph however Nicole is

forecast to make a transition to a tropical storm Tuesday and continue to strengthen. The forecast track has the center of Nicole approaching the East coast of Florida Wednesday night and moving across Central and Northern Florida Thursday and Thursday evening.

As of Tuesday, there

is now a Tropical Storm Watch in affect for coastal Wakulla County. That watch is from the Ochlockonee River to the Suwannee River.

Tropical Storm winds could begin Wednesday night along the coast, with breezy conditions beginning Tuesday.

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CHAMBER NEWS

Chamber luncheon held at Asini's

By **PETRA SHUFF**
Of the Chamber

Many thanks to Michel and Jon Turner for hosting our last luncheon in 2022 today at Asini's!

Jon and his crew have been working on perfecting their pizza pies, which is no small task when you work with a wood fired oven at 900 degrees. The four signature pies we got to taste, Buffalo Chicken, Pepperoni, Supreme and White Pie, all were delicious and had a wonderful crust, and we want to thank the crew for accommodating one of our vegetarian guests with a special cheese pie.

Mary Wallace began the program with announcing our six new members for October - Fla-BizClean (A professional janitorial company located here in Crawfordville and serving clients in the Tallahassee metropolitan area. They offer a variety of commercial & residential cleaning services, and you can reach them at (850) 228-7719); Elect Training Academy (small group personal fitness training, 1 on 1 personal fitness training, mini camps for youth and adults. Details will be announced soon); Elite Group Real Estate (A Tallahassee Real Estate Company expanding to Wakulla County); San Marcos Mexican Grill and Cantina (A family-owned Mexican restaurant serving authentic Mexican cuisine); Tallahassee & Wakulla Handyman, LLC (new local handyman company located in Crawfordville); and The Parrish Group (Real Estate Developer with a local office working on bringing medical facilities and retail businesses to Wakulla. The Parrish Group is very active in the community and loves giving back and getting involved with local non-profit groups).

As you may already know, I am retiring end of this year, and our pres-



Asini's owner Jon Turner talks to Chamber members about his wood-fired pizzas.

PHOTOS BY LYNDA KINSEY

ident, Greg James, had the pleasure of introducing Heather Bryan, who will be the chamber's new Executive Director. Heather has been serving our community at the library for 7 years now and is looking forward to getting to know and working with our members.

Our third year of Business Bingo starts October 27, so check our Facebook page or website calendar (October 27, November 3, November 10, November 17) for your weekly bingo cards and play, shopping locally! There will be a weekly drawing of \$100 and one grand prize winner of \$300.

Jeanie Booth with CareerSource Capital Region gave the monthly workforce update. As you may know, Wakulla has the State's lowest unemployment rate at 2.2%. We have 413 jobs available in Wakulla, ranging from no experience needed to PhD positions. Jobs are available for individuals 16 years of age and over. With the hol-



Chamber President Greg James introduces Heather Bryan as the new director to replace Petra Shuff when she retires.

iday season approaching, employers are hiring additional help, so whether you are looking for part-time or full-time employment, visit CareerSource Capital Region Crawfordville office at 3278 Crawfordville Highway.

We were joined today by Ophelia, owner of A'nai Clothing Company who will be joining our chamber. Their store offers men's and women's clothing, shoes, and jewelry, and is located in the Forest Village Shopping Center on Capital Circle.

Nancy Richardson with The Wakulla News invited us to the Think Pink – Girls Night Out Quarter Auction event October 27 at The Wakulla Senior Center. Doors open at 5:30pm to shop with vendors. Bring your quarters for the auction, and don't forget to cast your vote for your Sassy Bra choice! The Wakulla News will have special offers on ads to honor your special veteran, and their Hometown Guide 2023 – Wakulla Connections. To find out more, contact Nancy at The Wakulla News at 850.926.7103.

Crissy Cornelius with Operation Santa shared that families in need for Christmas are still applying, and Operation Santa needs 'adopters', and monetary and/or toy donations, and volunteers. To find out more, contact Operation Santa at 850.745.6963.

The cash drawing was won by Josh Brown with Waypoint Properties, and he donated his winnings to Operation Santa. Thank you, Josh!

Even though we had a smaller crowd today, we had some super cool door prize donations and want to thank the following individuals and businesses for their generous contributions: Petra Shuff; Sunrays Spa; Capital City Home Loans; Lionel and Marianne Dazevedo; Fla-Biz Clean; CareerSource Capital Region; Sand and Soul Designs; Smith, Thompson P.A.; Shepard Accounting and Tax Service; North Florida Learning Center; The Shack; Operation Wakulla; The Wakulla Sun; Barn's Spirits; English Financial Group; A'nai Clothing Company.

Ducks Unlimited chapter recognized for efforts

Special to The Sun

The Wakulla County Ducks Unlimited Chapter was recently recognized by Ducks Unlimited in the latest Nov/ Dec magazine edition for "Reaching New Heights." The Chapter was recognized for holding the largest North Florida event that took place in March 2022. The magazine states, "under the leadership of co-chairs, Sara Clark and April Posey, the committee hosted more than 500 attendees and raised more than \$120,000 for the DU conservation mission."

Co-Chair Sara Clark was recognized earlier in the year as the North Florida Chairman of the Year for 2021-2022. Clark says that, "The chairman of the year award really goes to my outstanding co-chair (and the previous Chair) April Fender-Posey and to the dedicated previous Chairman for more than 10 years, Tara Sanders, who paved the way for the foundation our Chapter has today. Having one of the largest events in North Florida is a huge accomplishment, and it wouldn't be a success without a good foundation and our committee."

Following their March success, the Chapter held their annual fall event on Oct. 28, the Fire & Ice Oyster Bash. The event was held at Skybox and local oysters were supplied by Oyster Boss Oyster Company. Purchased ticket holders were entered



Ducks Unlimited co-chairs April Posey and Sara Clark.

to win raffle prizes such as guns, coolers, custom corn hole boards and more. It was a great success and the Chapter was able to meet their fundraising goal.

The DU committee announced their annual spring event for Saturday, March 11, 2023. Two weeks earlier than their long standing last Saturday of March due to requests to move it away from Spring Break week. Details of the event will be announced in the New Year.

For more information on the Chapter, how to donate or sponsorship opportunities for the events you can contact the Chapter at Wakuladu@gmail.com or 850-510-4897.



Ribbon cutting – The Hot Spot

The Hot Spot: Friends, family and chamber members participated in The Hot Spot Ribbon Cutting & Open House, Thursday, October 13. The Hot Spot is located at 3 High Drive in Crawfordville, serving Lucky Goat coffee creations,

breakfast items, soups and salads and new lunch items will be added for rotation.

The Hot Spot is open weekdays from 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Ribbon cutting – Forward Wellness

Forward Wellness was established to give the power back to the patient and to bring a level of intimacy and compassion back into healthcare. Forward Wellness is a Nurse Practitioner owned and operated clinic dedicated to providing accessible, affordable, and patient-focused care for those they serve.

Courtney is a dual-certified family and acute-care nurse practitioner. She is passionate about using her training and expertise to help men and women take control of their diagnosis, increase their quality of life, and achieve optimal wellness.

Courtney offers Direct Primary Care putting the patient and the provider in

charge of healthcare decisions by removing insurance companies from the relationship. For a low, flat monthly fee your membership includes 25 office visits per year, unlimited access to Telehealth, discounted labs, and most importantly care from a provider who knows you.

Forward Wellness also offers weight loss programs, health coaching, IV vitamin infusions as well as routine lab work/blood draws on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday by appointment only at their new location, 1616 Crawfordville Hwy., Suite D. For more information visit <https://forwardwellnessgroup.com> or call 850-343-5800.



Wakulla native Jordan Miller performed at Nashville's famous Bluebird Café. He's the son of Sheriff Jared Miller.



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This week's game:

Friday, Nov. 11 at 7 p.m. CST

Wakulla War Eagles travel to Pensacola to play Pensacola Catholic in the first round of the playoffs.



8 War Eagles named to district team

Quarterback Haden Klees is named the district Player of the Year



SAMRON BRINSON
Wide Receiver



XAVIER BLAKE
Utility



DEONDRE STRONG
Offensive line



TODD WILLIAMS
Defensive end



CODY WALKER
Defensive line



JEREMIAH THOMAS
Free safety

By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**
Editor

Eight players on the Wakulla War Eagles football team were named to the first-team of the Florida Athletic Coaches Association All Big-Bend

Team. And Wakulla quarterback Haden Klees was named the 2S Player of the Year and the overall Player of the Year.

The FACA team was drawn from the 9 teams in the region: besides

Wakulla, that includes Lincoln, Florida High, Godby, Gadsden, Taylor, Rickards, Chiles and Leon.

Klees was a statewide leader in passing yards until a collarbone injury

two weeks ago. Head Coach Scott Klees, who is Haden's dad, said this week that the injury was a dislocation of the collarbone, not a break.

The War Eagles have dropped two straight games since Klees was injured, and lost the chance to grab the district title in a game against Suwannee.

If the War Eagles can make a run in the playoffs, Klees could return to play. He was told he needed five weeks to recover from the injury and this is week three.

The War Eagles are ranked No. 5 in 2S and are on the road for the first round of the playoffs, traveling to Pensacola to face the No. 4 ranked Pensacola Christian, who are 9-1.

The winner of that game will face the winner of the Suwannee vs. South Walton game this week.



HADEN KLEES
Quarterback



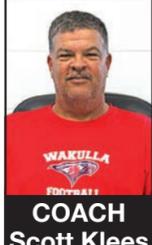
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FROM THE COACH

Scouting report: Pensacola Catholic Crusaders throw a lot. 'There's a reason they're 9-1,' says Coach Klees.

Keys to victory: No turnovers. Special teams need to play well. Defense needs to tackle.

Playoffs: For the playoffs, you always have to play your best game to win.

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WMS Lady Wildcats start season

By **DANA STOLK**
Special to The Sun

The Wakulla Middle School Lady Wildcats opened up their season with a brand-new team and a new head coach, Coach Kelly Mitchem. Coach Stacy Pfeifer, current Teacher of the Month, returned to help lead the girls to another successful season.

The Wakulla Middle

School Lady Wildcats started strong on Nov. 2 with a win against West Gadsden.

7th grader Sophia Stolk put the Wildcats on the board with the first goal of the season. Two more goals were scored by 7th graders, Morghyn Milligan and Jolee Harden. Final Score: 3-2.

The girls experienced a loss against a strong Taylor County team on

Nov. 3. WMS keeper, Madison Varnes, put on a great show by stopping many goals against a tough Taylor County offense.

The WMS Wildcats are hoping to get their second win against longtime rivals, River-springs Middle School, on Nov. 8.

Lady Wildcat Jolee Harden with the ball.



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