



Missy Hudson is school Employee of Year

Page 3

The Wakulla Sun

"It's a New Day"



Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday Friday Saturday



Sunny Hi: 68° Lo: 49° 11% Sunrise 7:15 AM Sunset 5:36 PM
Partly Cloudy Hi: 72° Lo: 57° 11% Sunrise 7:16 AM Sunset 5:36 PM
Mostly Sunny Hi: 75° Lo: 57° 8% Sunrise 7:17 AM Sunset 5:36 PM



\$1 One Section

Locally Owned & Operated

Our 1st Year, 41st Issue Thursday, December 1, 2022

Denser subdivision approved, 3-2

Originally approved at one home per two acres on 176 acre lot, state requires sewer, so developer requests one home per acre

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN Editor

Wakulla County Commissioners voted last week to approve a comp plan amendment for 176 acres adjacent to The Park subdivision with one unit per acre.

The proposal, from Robby Miller of Golden Construction, came after the state rejected an earlier proposal to build one home per two acres without sewer.

County Planning Director Somer Pell told commissioners that "The state was explicit they wanted sewer because of the septic-to-sewer projects" in the area that are funded by state grants.

Required to connect to sewer, Miller submitted the revised plan of one unit per acre.

The board split 3-2 on the proposal, with Chair Ralph Thomas, Quincee Messersmith and Fred Nichols voting for it; commissioners Chuck Hess and Mike Kemp voted against.

The earlier proposal had drawn concern from some residents when presented, some urging Miller to commit to a performance-based septic system.

Kemp said he would have preferred the two-acre home development with performance-based



The sitting board of county commissioners: Chuck Hess, Quincee Messersmith, Chair Ralph Thomas, Mike Kemp and Fred Nichols.

treatment - but said he couldn't go along with the higher density and traffic impacts that would have.

Nine area residents spoke out against the revised project - most expressing concern that the parcel has no access except through Raker's Ranchettes, and those residents do not want the additional traffic.

Miller said the project is "years down the road, if this is developed" - and committed to paying for the sewer expansion and road paving if the development does move forward.

There was some tension as well - Miller was obviously frustrated with some of the comments from residents, and with comments that had been made at the previous week's Plan-



Judge Walker swears in new commissioner Fred Nichols.



Quincee Messersmith is sworn-in for a new term.

New school board members are sworn-in. Page 3

ning Commission meeting, which recommended against the change.

"Let's don't base this on opinion," Miller said, instead base the decision on facts.

An example of comments Miller took excep-

tion to were that traffic studies say whatever the developer wants. Miller had engineer Joe Hope of Hydra Engineering, which did his traffic study, talk about the science that goes into it.

NEW BUSINESSES

Guardian Public Adjusting

By CHARITY TUMBLESON Reporter

Guardian Public Adjusting has been in business for about two years with owners Angie and Clay Bozeman.

Clay worked for a roofing company for 11 years, and after seeing customers struggling with their insurance claims he became motivated to start his own business in the field of public adjusting.

"I discovered that there was no real public adjuster in Crawfordville and really not even in surrounding areas, so it was something that I saw a need for and I decided to make the switch," he says.

Business has been good for Clay and Angie.

"Really the biggest hurdle we've come into is - and it is with the whole entire industry - that nobody really knows what a public adjuster is. I would say 95% of my customers in the past two years had no clue about me until they needed me or were referred to me," Clay says.

Public adjusters don't work for the insurance companies, they advocate for the insured homeowner, and make sure they get everything they are



Angie and Clay Bozeman of Guardian Public Adjusting.

entitled to according to their policy by maximizing the insurance benefits that are due to them after experiencing loss or damages to their property.

"We review the policy that they have on their structure and make sure that they have the coverage afforded to them and then we make sure that they get paid properly according to the policy with their insurance company," Angie says.

With insurance policies getting up to 400 pages long it can be overwhelming to find what you're looking for when handling

an insurance claim, and having a public adjuster review these policies can be helpful.

The services offered by Angie and Clay at the Guardian Public Adjuster are more than just handling a claim from the beginning, but also reviewing denied claims and helping people who have been underpaid in re-evaluating the situation.

"We have a statutory fee that we can charge," Angie says, "so if we don't get our customers any more than what the insurance company either

already paid or say it's a denial and we can't get it overturned, there's no fee. If we don't recover additional money then we don't charge.

"It's definitely been rewarding for us to be able to help people in this way," she adds. "Just to get people back to their normal lives where they don't have to worry about the sun coming into their home, or the water coming into their house."

Guardian Public Adjusting is located at 3119-B Crawfordville Hwy. in Crawfordville. Contact them at (850) 556-6847.

Editor's Note

Because of the Thanksgiving holiday last week, some regular features - such as Sheriff's Report and Student of the Week - are not in this week's paper. The features should resume next week.

Thanksgiving dinners given away by friends

By CHARITY TUMBLESON Reporter

Megan Curler and Lois Cook organized a community Thanksgiving dinner on Wednesday, Nov. 23, giving away 500 plates of food at Azalea Park and in Panacea.

This was the second year of the community dinner. Curler says it all started with her wanting to participate in a soup kitchen or a homeless shelter during Thanksgiving.

"I talked to my husband about it and then while I was talking to him it was like God laid it on my heart to do it on my own," Curler says. "So me and my best friend Lois, she's more like a sister, we were in town one day and I told her about it and she said let's do it, this is what we need to do."

Last year Curler and Cook organized the giveaway in two months, this year it took five months of planning. Their goal is to continue to do the giveaway every year and to expand their operations.

"We would like for it to take off and become a staple here, we need it. We didn't realize how many people were in need," Curler says, "And we just want to thank all our volunteers, it wouldn't be possible without them."



Megan Curler and Lois Cook gave away 500 dinners.

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Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park
Scarlet Sage

By LYNN ARTZ and SANDY TEDDER



Scarlet sage (*Salvia coccinea*) is still displaying its bright red flowers near the entrance to Sopchoppy Depot Park. Its charming, 1-inch, tubular flowers are loosely arranged in whorls on upright stems. Also called red salvia and tropical sage, this southern native grows 1 to 3 feet tall. It blooms continuously from spring through fall. In warm areas, it can bloom year-round. Scarlet sage attracts butterflies, bumblebees, and hummingbirds. This member of the mint family is easy to grow, adapts to a variety of conditions, and readily reseeds. It is drought tolerant and deer resistant. Although scarlet sage has not been found in the wild in Wakulla County, it has been documented in the wild in Gadsden, Leon, and Jefferson counties and other counties in Florida.

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Enacted: 07/01/2014.
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New school board members

New Wakulla County School Board member Laura Lawhon was sworn-in by Chair Melisa Taylor at a special school board meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 22. New school board member Eddie Hand was sworn-in by the Rev. Keith Wallace. And Cale Langston was given the oath for another term on

the school board by his father, retired Wakulla deputy sheriff and pastor Maurice Langston. During the reorganization portion of the meeting, Melisa Taylor was again chosen to chair the school board, and Langston was chosen as vice-chair. The school board also includes Josh Brown, who missed the re-org meeting because of previously scheduled holiday travel. The next school board meeting is set for Dec. 12 beginning at 5:45 p.m.. (Photos by William Snowden)

Employee, teachers of month for November

By **DANIEL LILLY**
Of the School Board

Carl Brown is Wakulla County School's Employee of the Month.

Carl Brown of Wakulla County Schools Transportation is November Employee of the Month. Brown is currently a bus driver and was previously a bus attendant. When asked what is most enjoyable about his job Brown said, "Being able to do my small part in helping students overcome their obstacles and reach their personal fullest potential." He continued, "I enjoy advocating for the students and working with others to accomplish things that benefit the students. This year I have been privileged to work with people to help special needs students learn to use the stairs on the bus, get the upgraded equipment to be transported safely, and to get the medical training to be prepared in case of a potential life threatening situation for one of the students on my bus."

Mrs. Pat Jones said the following of Brown, "Carl Brown is the type of bus driver that I wish I had 10 more like him. His dedication to the safety of the students he transports is impeccable. His daily performance of his duties in completing the federal and state requirements of a pre-trip inspection is of the highest standards. Additionally, the inside of his bus looks like it



Carl Brown



Brooke Autrey



Angela Den Bleyker

just rolled out of the assembly line. Mr. Brown has been a middle, high, elementary and PreK driver. While driving these students he is that driver, that spent time communicating with parents when needed or just to say, "Your child is a well-behaved bus rider". Parents love hearing this from their driver. Currently Mr. Brown is the special needs bus driver for Gretchen Everhart. In this capacity, he shows great concern and dedication to the special students he transports and has put forth the effort to learn the needs of all his students. Mr. Brown is an asset to this school board and to the transportation department."

Brooke Autrey is Riversprings Middle School's November Teacher of the Month.

Brooke Autrey is Riversprings Middle School's November Teacher of the Month. Autrey grew up attending Wakulla County Schools and completed her practi-



Superintendent Bobby Pearce, Missy Hudson, and Transportation Director Pat Jones.

Employee of the Year

Special to The Sun

The Wakulla County School Board announced Missy Hudson from Transportation is the 2022 Employee of the Year. Thank you for all you do for our students and families every day. Congratulations, Missy!

cum and internship at Crawfordville Elementary School before becoming a first-grade teacher at Shadeville Elementary School. Since 2019 Au-

trey has been a sixth-grade teacher with the Riversprings Bears.

Autrey noted that "I am at the point in my career where my first

few years of students are graduating high school and working in the community." She went on to say, "It is such a joy to see my former students succeed and watch them pursue their goals. When students stop by at open house and school events to visit or write letters after being in my class, it means the world to me and helps me to know that I was a positive influence in their lives. I hope that all my students know how much I believe in them and how thankful I am to have been one of their teachers."

Principal Joshua Sandgren said the following of Autrey, "Words cannot express the appreciation we have at RMS for Mrs. Autrey. Her attention to detail, work ethic, and love for her students does not go unnoticed. Thank you for all you do for the students and staff at RMS. Great job and go bears!"

Angela Den Bleyker is Crawfordville Elementary School's November Teacher of the Month

Angela Den Bleyker is November's Teacher of the Month Crawfordville Elementary School. Den Bleyker is currently a first-grade teacher and came to work for Wakulla County Schools in 2007 as a fifth-grade teacher after completing her internship with Flagler College.

When asked what was most enjoyable about

her job Den Bleyker said "The relationships that I build with my students is my favorite part of the job. My students become a part of my family the moment they step into the classroom." She continued, "I spend so much time in my classroom on relationship building because I feel that it is essential for students to feel valued and appreciated while they are with me. I also love when former students (some are even starting to have their own children) come back to visit me and tell me what is going on in their lives."

Principal Alena Crawford said the following of Den Bleyker. "Angela Denbleyker is one of the most dedicated teachers on our campus. Every student that enters her classroom instantly becomes "hers" and the rest of the school knows it! Her love and passion for the students is energetic and never wavering. She takes great pride in her craft and is always willing to continue shaping herself into the best educator she can be for her students. She is always willing to participate in any professional development asked of her, she takes on leadership roles and is beyond supportive of her coworkers. She truly wants everyone to know they are loved and to feel special! CES employees, students, and families are all lucky to have Ms. D!"

Obituaries

Richard David Harnage Jr.

Richard David Harnage Jr., 88 of Crawfordville passed away on Nov. 27, 2022.

He was a Christian and a loving family man. He retired from the City of Tallahassee, Streets and Drainage Department. He was a member of Friendship Primitive Baptist Church. Richard enjoyed fishing, hunting and playing Phase 10 card games. He especially enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Lou Ella; daughter, Barbara Hall (Bruce); sons, Richard J. Harnage (Deborah) and Steven Harnage (Cyndi); 9 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral Services will be held on Friday, Dec. 2, 2022 at Friendship Primitive Baptist Church at 12:00 PM. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service.

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



PHOTO BY KEN FIELDS

FSU running back Trey Benson stiff-arms a Gator defender in Friday night's win over Florida.

FSU ranked No. 14

From The Osceola

Another win, another week rising the polls for the Florida State football team.

The Seminoles' fifth-straight win came Friday night as they outlasted rival Florida for a 45-38 win at Doak Campbell Stadium to close out the regular season with a 9-3 record.

With the win, FSU rose two more spots from No. 16 to No. 14 in both this week's USA Today Coaches Poll and Associated Press Poll.

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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.”

Wakulla Community Theater is seeking support

By **MINA SUTTON**
Of **WCT**

Back in 1991, Reba Mason had a dream. She and her husband, Mike, had been living in Wakulla County for several years. Reba was a successful choir director at the Crawfordville United Methodist church. Mrs. Mason led her choir in a fundraiser that turned into what we now know as Wakulla Community Theater. Reba's dream of bringing live theater to Wakulla County had come true!

The last musical was the spring of 2009. In the meantime, Nancy Commander and Mina Sutton were teachers and co-directors of the theater group at Riversprings Middle School. One day they were talking and the subject of the community theater came up. Both ladies agreed that upon retirement, they would work together to bring Wakulla Community Theater back to the county.

After many meetings with Reba, Nancy and Mina are organizing the theater. Plans are in the works to host a fundraiser variety show February 11, 2023, a benefit concert (Nashville band, “Highway Natives”) February 24, 2023, and a play in the fall of 2023.

“Reba has been such an inspiration to me,” Nancy commented. “She has given such good advice and information to help us get the theater going again.”

“Reba has been a mentor to me,” Mina added. “My years of involvement, with her tutelage, has given me confidence in my every-day life.”

Both Nancy and Mina have found that getting the theater back up and running has been no easy task.



Mina Sutton with Reba Mason and Nancy Commander of Wakulla Community Theater.

Sponsorship Levels

- Angel Sponsor: \$125. Two tickets, name in program.
- Bronze Support: \$250. Two tickets, car decal, name in program.
- Silver Patron: \$500. Two tickets to all plays, two drink tickets, car decal, ad in program.
- Gold Benefactor: \$1,000. Four tickets to all plays, four drink tickets, car decal, bumper sticker, ad in program.
- Platinum Champion: \$2,000 plus. Six tickets to all plays, six drink tickets, two car decals, two bumper stickers, two T-shirts, ad in program.

Make checks out to Wakulla Community Theater and mail to **Wakulla Community Theater, 52 Railroad Ave., Sopchoppy FL 32358.**

Many people have contributed their time and expertise – from helping work at the physical location, to acquiring a bank account, etc. A group is in the process of starting a website and enabling the public to order tickets online. We are now established as a non-profit enabling the public to claim donations made to WCT as tax exempt.

Basically, starting from scratch, the theater will need headsets, props, costumes, money for royalty costs and advertising. Live theater can be a costly endeavor, but the end result greatly enriches the lives of those who are able to share in the experience.

Wakulla Community Theater has a Facebook

page, where people can view photos from old programs and pictures from many shows. Facebook will be one location interested parties can get information on auditions and fundraising activities.

A Wakulla County couple has made a challenge – If the theater can raise \$2,500 by the end of December, they will match this amount and donate \$2,500 to WCT!

For more information, join the Wakulla Community Theater Facebook page. Donations can be made via checks made out to Wakulla Community Theater and mailed to: Wakulla Community Theater, 52 Railroad Ave., Sopchoppy FL 32358.

Boy holding fundraisers for sick mom starts a GoFundMe

Adrion Mancilla, 15, who was the subject of a feature story back in July for using a loaned hot dog cart to raise money for his mother's medical bills, said his mom has entered stage five kidney failure and has been put on dialysis.

“I'm trying to raise money to get my own hot dog cart,” he says. “Someone in Massachusetts, a family member of ours, she's trying to give me a hot dog cart she has, but I can't get up there. I don't have the funds for it and can't afford the trailer and other things – so I'm just trying to raise money to get it here.”

Mancilla has gotten a part-time job at Hungry Howies to try to save up money for his mom.

“I appreciate all the community help I've gotten so far, it helps me and my mom,” he says. “Since she started her dialysis there are a lot of people that cheer her on and help her out. It's a lot of encouragement.



Adrion Mancilla, his mom Amanda Kelly, and Tracy Patterson who let Mancilla borrow her hot dog cart for a fundraiser on Saturday, July 9.

If people could help me get this hot dog cart I could help her way more.”

Mancilla has made a GoFundMe for his mom at <http://gofund.me/ebf58c02> and has a cash app at \$AmandaHealthFunds.

On the Horizon

Calendar of upcoming events for the week of Dec. 1

Thursday, December 1

- The Wakulla County Tourist Development Council public meeting will be held at the Wakulla County Community Center at 9 a.m.
- Hatha Yoga with Zoe at 9 a.m. and Yin Yoga with Nellie at 6 p.m. at New Posh, 3709 Crawfordville Hwy. Packages available for \$12. Please RSVP email at newposh3079@gmail.com or text/call at (850) 528-5838

Friday, December 2

- Wakulla County Sheriff's Office Christmas In The Park at the Crawfordville Community Center from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Hay rides, photos, bounce house, and family fun. Food will be provided by the WCSO.

Saturday, December 3

- Panacea Farmers Market will be held next to the Panacea Fire Department from 9 a.m. to noon. Local vendors will be selling homemade and homegrown items and food vendors will be there.
- 18th Annual Christmas in Panacea from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. next to the Panacea Plaza. Visit with Santa from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Parade of lights on Coastal Hwy at 6 p.m. There will be games, bouncy house, face painting, free refreshments, cornhole tournament, and a classic car show with monster trucks.
- Wakulla County Historical Society Annual Christmas Open House from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at 24 High Drive in Crawfordville. Tickets are \$2 each for a chance to win a handmade, ceramic tree, drawing is held on December 3rd.
- North Florida Fairgrounds Market Days from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Over 300 artists from across the country gathered to showcase their handmade, one-of-a-kind creations.

Sunday, December 4

- North Florida Fairgrounds Market Days continue from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Monday, December 5

- Intro to Tai Chi held at the Community Center from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. All ability levels are welcome; wear comfortable clothing. Any questions can be directed to Rich or Terri Bushman at 850-228-9214.
- 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 Wakulla Caregiver Support Group will meet at Lake Ellen Baptist Church at 12:30 p.m.
- The Planning Commission meeting will be held in the Commission Chambers at 6 p.m.
- Hatha yoga with Zoe at 9 a.m. and at 6 p.m. Packages available for \$12 at New Posh, 3079 Crawfordville Hwy. Please RSVP email at newposh3079@gmail.com or text/call at (850) 528-5838.

Tuesday, December 6

- Sopchoppy Community Dinner is held every week at the Towles House at 6:30 p.m.
- Yin Yoga with Nellie at 10:30 a.m. and Flow Yoga at 6 p.m. Packages available for \$12 at New Posh on 3079 Crawfordville Hwy. Please RSVP email at newposh3079@gmail.com or text/call at (850) 528-5838.

Wednesday, December 7

- A Line Dance class will be held at 1 p.m. at the Wakulla Senior Center.

Santa's Mailbox at courthouse

Santa's mailbox is back in front of the courthouse! Please be sure to leave a return address on your envelope or on your letter to receive a personalized reply from the North Pole's Jolly

Man himself! No need for postage as the elves pick up this mail. Be sure to get your letter in the mailbox before December 17th, as the elves will be very busy in the workshop.

Something on your mind?

Email Letters to the Editor to editor@thewakullasun.com or drop it by the office at 12 Arran Road, Crawfordville FL 32327.

SUPPORT COMMUNITY JOURNALISM

You can support The Wakulla Sun with a tax-deductible donation to help us cover the stories that matter to you.

By donating, you help us keep citizens informed, hold officials accountable and cover the most important topics in our community.

Your contributions will equip our newsroom to better serve you and all our readers.

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- More reporters on the street
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- More local content on the environment and local businesses

A little bit goes a long way. With your help, we can keep the presses running through hard times.

We would very much appreciate your contribution.

William Snowden
Editor & Publisher
The Wakulla Sun

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"It's A New Day!"

The **Wakulla Sun**



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◀ Question of The Week ▶

– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

Polled at 2nd Annual Community Thanksgiving Meal at Azalea Park What do you prefer on Thanksgiving – Ham or Turkey?



TRINA THOMAS
A TIME TO CHANGE COUNSELING

“Ham, I don’t need it. Ham goes faster in my house.”



TAYNA HAND
AHCA

“Fried Turkey, I prefer the breast.”



BEA KENYON
SUBSTITUTE TEACHER

“Turkey – baked not fried.”



PAM POSEY
DEPT. OF EDUCATION

“Ham, I just like ham...”



PEGGY MCLAUGHLIN
WAKULLA RECREATION DEPT.

“Turkey, the only time I have it is Thanksgiving.”

COMMUNITY NEWS

Buckhorn News

By **ETHEL SKIPPER**

There is so much to be thankful for. I was praying and thinking the other day, and I asked myself a question. I picked up my daily guide at Psalm 118:1 and it enlightened my thoughts of Thanksgiving: “O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good: because His mercy endureth for ever.”

We have so many things to be grateful for: family, houses, land, cars, jobs, finance, food, and the list goes on.

Then I had to thank Him for His mercy, Psalm 6:2: “Have mercy upon me, O

Lord; for I am weak: O Lord, heal me; for my bones are vexed.”

We must learn to ask the Lord and thank Him for the blessings He gives us. The Lord has done great things for us.

How would you feel if no turkey was on your table or Smithfield ham and the side dishes were not on the dinner table on Thanksgiving day?

Matthew 4:4: ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds. out of the mouth of God.’

We love God because He first loved us and He told us to love each other.

During your Thanksgiving celebration, reach out to someone whose table might not have all the good food on your table.

In Psalms 15:1 David asked the Lord who shall abide in thy tabernacle? Who may live on your holy hill? He who walked uprightly and worketh righteousness and speake the truth in his heart. He that backbiteth not with his tongue nor doeth evil to his neighbor not taketh up a reproach against his neighbor.

Exodus 20:17: “Thou shalt not covet anything that is thy neighbor’s.”

1 Thessalonian 5:18: “In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

Let us cease not to give God thanks because he is so good to each of us.

Be blessed. And hope your Thanksgiving was wonderful.

We wish a happy birthday to Roosevelt Ross, Isaiah U. Hines, Apryl Bailey, Sanchez Rosier, David Andrews, Sylvia Holmes, Loyce Smith. Enjoy your special day.

Our prayers and concern goes out to all the sick and shut-in, those in hospitals, nursing homes, prison, the homeless – all in need of help everywhere. Let us love one another and do good to all men and women.

Wakulla Station News

By **VERNA BROCK**

Now that Thanksgiving is firmly behind us, efforts turn to Christmas and all of its festivities, celebrations and joy. Hanukkah begins December 18th-December 26th, and Kwanzaa begins December 26th-January 1st, so we have many special occasions to enjoy.

In the middle of all of these events is the New Year, which is also my Mamacita’s birthday. So much to look forward to! Thank goodness we have a whole month to prepare.

Speaking of joy, it was such a wonderful surprise to see Cindy Blackstock at Church this past Sunday. After more than 8 weeks of bed rest for a herniated disc causing excruciating sciatica, she is on the mend at last. Prayers are definitely answered, and surgery won’t be necessary at this point.

So much better is Cindy, she was able to join Cathy McCollum, Sam Jose and me for lunch at the brand new Italian restaurant, Baggio’s, in Woodville. They are currently serving only pizza at this point, baked in the astonishing oven shipped from Italy. The owner told us he plans to provide pasta dishes and breakfast starting some time next year (only a month away, after all). The pizzas were very

good, with the freshest ingredients and piping hot from the futuristic oven. What a lovely way to celebrate Cindy’s return to mobility!

Next week, the Wakulla United Methodist Church is having its regular first-Sunday covered dish dinner, following Communion service at 10 a.m. This will be a holiday celebration, combining favorite dishes from Thanksgiving and Christmas. I hope our friends and family will join us for a delicious dinner. I know Ed is planning to fry a turkey, and we ALWAYS have fried chicken. So y’all come!

Please keep Terry McClure in your prayers, as well as her daughter, as they recuperate from flu and pneumonia. Also, please continue to remember Pastor Steve Montgomery as he continues to heal from surgery to repair his broken leg. Larry and Sandie Shiver also need our prayers as they recover from the flu. Finally, your prayers continue to be coveted for Sheryl Grimes and Barbara Vickery, both recently, and unexpectedly, widowed.

I invite (and remind!) you to share your holiday news for the community’s edification. My phone number is 850-212-3131 (cell), 850-421-3730 (landline); email is vernalsbrock@gmail.com.



Join Us in Sharing
Christmas Greetings
in the
Dec. 22nd, 2022

The
Wakulla SUN

Features Letters for Santa

Business Card - \$45	3 x 5 - \$139
2 x 3 - \$65	1/4 page - \$231
2 x 4 - \$90	1/2 page - \$350
2 x 8 - \$139	Full Page - \$600

For more information:
Call Lynda Kinsey at 850 962-8019
or email her at LKinsey@thewakullasun.com

Kiersten Smith
Agent Bus: **850 745 2148**
23 Azalea Drive Unit A,
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FOLLOW THE SUN.

Outdoors

outdoor sports

HOME ON THE RANGE

Easy but cheesy?



By MARJ LAW

What are you carrying? A friend carries the Sig Sauer P365. This popular 9mm handgun weighs only 17.8 ounces. It is a striker-fired handgun. In the box, you also get 2 magazines: a 10-round and a 12-round.

Small is good when you're carrying. If you're short, try to appendix carry a gun with a nice long barrel and it will jab you on top of your leg while the grip will dig into your ribs. But the 365 at 5.8 inches of overall length and with a 3.1 inch barrel, it's almost as small as you get. So, especially if you're small-framed, a small compact or micro-compact gun like this is more comfortable than its full-sized cousins. Size is the biggest pro I can think of for this Sig. Wear it in or outside your waistband or put it in your purse. Size is a big advantage.

Another selling point is that although small, this is a 9mm handgun. The 365 has decent "take-down" power if that awful day ever comes. And it's accurate.

When I bought my 365, I liked it a lot. I could rack the slide (and yes, it did take some strength), and the trigger pull was about 6.5 pounds. Recoil wasn't too bad either. It was great for my small hand, but the grip was too short for Joe to get more than a two-finger hold. When you have three fingers on the grip, you have a more secure

control of the gun. Joe didn't care for the gun so well because he knew if the gun had a longer grip, he'd have better control and thus would shoot better.

However, something newer and maybe better would come along, and my 365 would be history.

I sold the 365 for a 9mm Stoeger. Trigger pull was light and recoil wasn't too strong. But I hadn't learned my lesson.

Put it in a inside the waistband holster and sit quickly? Ow! Right in the ribs! Darn thing is 7.5 inches long. And weight? At 26.4 ounces, it needed to go on a diet.

Since I got a good price for selling the 365, and since the Stoeger is pretty inexpensive, I wasn't out any cash. But I learned a lesson. Hopefully.

A friend wanted the Stoeger. He has a much taller frame, and he had shot the gun and liked it. I gave him a great price, knowing he'll be happy with it.

What to do for a 9mm carry gun now?

I get on the internet and start reading.

I'm looking for a small gun: as compact as possible. I'd like one that is very easy to handle. How about a slide that is easy to rack, a trigger that is light, and one that holds as many rounds as possible for its size?

So, what do you know but Smith & Wesson has now come up with another 9mm handgun called the Equalizer? It utilizes a technology which gives all those favorable qualities I desire.

Maybe. Maybe not. Joe and I mosey on over to our local gun store. Browsing. And guess what just came in?

Yes! That very gun! The S&W Equalizer. Actually, two Equalizers! One with a manual safety and one without.

Both guns come with three, count 'em, three

Maglula included!



Yes!
3 Magazines!
10 rounds
13 rounds
15 rounds!



Smith & Wesson's
9mm Equalizer



Easy to rack slide,
Light trigger,
Low recoil,
Light price,
Manual and/or
Grip Safety

magazines! They come with 10, 13 and 15-round magazines. On top of all this bounty, S&W throws in a double-stack Maglula! And the price?

I look up the price of the Sig Sauer P365. According to truegunvalue.com, the average price for one in 2022 is \$623.25. On dkfirearms.com and smga.com, the Equalizer is selling at \$499.

You say that's only about \$125 difference? But remember the Equalizer is adding an extra magazine worth about \$40 and a Maglula worth at least another \$29. Add this \$69 to the \$125, and the Equalizer is now almost \$200 cheaper than the Sig Sauer P365! This gladdens my penny-pinching heart.

That is, if S&W's Equalizer claims are real. Do we believe? We really want to. The S&W ends up going home with us.

This past Sunday finds us at a range. Our friend brings his Sig Sauer P365 so I can shoot it to refresh my memory. We shoot the 365 first.

I've forgotten that the Sig, although easy to pull the trigger, isn't so wonderfully easy. At 6.5 pounds, the trigger seems a little

on the heavy side. The trigger's edge leaves a red mark on the outside of my index finger. Ow. Is this from trigger pull or recoil?

The slide is stiffer than I recall. Oh, sure. I can rack the slide. But I wouldn't want to do it all day.

I don't remember the grip being quite so small. Got a case of pinky dangle.

But remember, the 365 is really small, is a 9mm, is very concealable and doesn't weigh much. That's all good.

The guys agree on all counts. Except that they are all big and strong men who are easier with trigger and recoil. All have pinky dangle and want a longer grip.

Now we're ready for the Equalizer. Did Joe and I make a good buy?

I use the included Maglula to load the 13-round magazine. Loading with a Maglula is simple.

Next, I pull back the slide. Wow. This is much lighter than the 365. Good.

Wrapping my hand around the grip, there's no pinky dangle! None! Good.

How's that trigger pull? 5 pounds, 10.5 ounces. Less than the 365 and no red mark on my index finger. Nice.

Recoil? Oh, it's much lighter than the Sig 365.

The target? It has a hole right above the red bullseye. It's touching the bullseye's black rim, so it counts. Yay! The gun is accurate!

What's wrong with the Equalizer? "That is one ugly sidearm..."

Ugly? How superficial can you get? The slide has deep serrations for a firm grab. It even has "ears" that protrude at the base of the rear sights for an easy pull. Give me ugly any day.

And some complain about the name, suggesting it could initiate a lawsuit. I haven't heard any claims that shooting a Judge might be litigious. Yep. Some people worry about words and political correctness. I'm tired of tiptoeing around every single word.

Some don't like the name "EQUALIZER" emblazoned in large, capital letters on the left side of the slide. Some equate the name to a "cheesy pickup" line.

Another objection: "... like it was designed by a 90's Jersey housewife. Throw some leopard print on it."

Well, when it comes to

potentially saving my life, function is preferable to pretty. Can we be a little more superficial?

I haven't read anything yet on internet sites that discuss failures to fire, failures to feed or light strikes. The three men and I have no problems whatever with the Equalizer right out of the box (and cleaned and lubed first, of course). Even the man who owns the Sig Sauer P365 notes that the Equalizer is more controllable, although he has no problem with his Sig.

When it comes to guns, I want mine to be easily controllable and to never break down. Pretty doesn't cross my mind.

I never encourage anyone to purchase a particular handgun. Handguns are personal, and they need to fit your personal needs.

If you want an easy-to-manage 9mm handgun, I won't suggest you buy the Smith & Wesson Equalizer.

But I sure am glad I did.

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

BIRDING AT THE REFUGE

Fall migration has ended

By DON MORROW

Fall migration at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge is essentially over.

It starts slowly each year in August as arctic-nesting sandpipers, southern-nesting warblers, Swallow-tailed Kites, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and Purple Martins begin to move.

It intensifies in September as cuckoos, flycatchers and warblers from mid-continent stream through and waves of herons and ibis stop in at St. Marks to rest and feed.

By mid-October, the refuge's winter residents ducks, sparrows, Yellow-rumped Warblers and phoebes start to arrive. Almost all trans-gulf migrants finish moving by the end of October and by late-November most of the refuge's wintering bird species have been reported.

Migration at the refuge will continue at a slow pace into December when

the last Buffleheads, mergansers and Cedar Waxwings filter down. However, the bulk of Fall migration at the refuge is over by late November.

Most migration occurs at night and this year, more than 67-million nocturnal migrants crossed over St. Marks between the beginning of August and the middle of November. Most were smaller birds – warblers, tanagers, thrushes and grosbeaks. However, shorebirds on multi-day flights and some duck species are also included in this number.

Migrants were flying at altitudes ranging from a few hundred feet up to two miles above the refuge. A few species were headed west to move into or through Central America. Some species were headed east to travel down the Florida peninsula to winter there or jump to the Caribbean or South America. Many species were making a long Gulf crossing to their

wintering grounds.

In September and October, on average, a million birds were moving through the refuge every night. However, birds move on favorable winds and mostly hunker down during bad weather.

On most nights during migration, a few tens of thousands of birds are in the air, but some nights during these two peak months see flights of several million birds. This year, the biggest night flight was on October 8th when 5.8 million birds migrated through the refuge.

Not all birds migrate at night. Every Fall, millions of diurnal migrants – swallows, kingbirds, herons, hummingbirds, ibis, falcons, pelicans and hawks – also pass through the refuge. Daytime migrants are generally birds that are large, fast or dangerous. Some daytime migrants are solitary travelers, but many species fly in flocks that may number in the

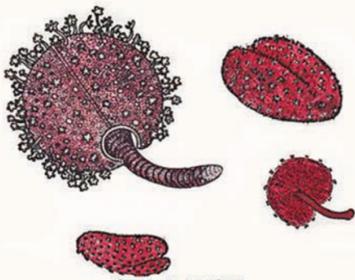
hundreds.

The Fall migrants that we observe at the refuge are a combination of diurnal migrants and an extremely small portion of the nocturnal migrants who pass through the refuge, birds that were too tired to continue their journey and stopped to rest and feed for a day or two.

St. Marks wintering ducks are coming in early and at higher numbers than in recent years. Shorebirds are also showing up in good numbers and mixed feeding flocks of wintering songbirds are in the refuge's pinewoods and oak hammocks. It looks to be a good winter birding season at the refuge.

Fall migration has ended for another year. It's time you came down to the refuge for some good winter birds.

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



SEA PANSY
(*Renilla mulleri*)

A sea pansy is a soft coral colony of polyps adapted for living in turbulent water. The colony can independently inflate/deflate the anchoring stalk or plumed top. When conditions are calm the colony inflates so all the polyps can feed on plankton. If currents are strong, the top deflates, and the stalk inflates, to avoid being swept away. If attacked, the the top inflates, the stalk deflates and it catches a current to float away. Sea Pansy's are bioluminescent, glowing softly greenish at night.

Eukarya, Animalia, Cnidaria, Pennatulacea, Sessiliflora, Renillidae

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Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences

Thursday 1	
Sun rise/set 7:15AM 5:36PM	Moon rise/set 1:55PM 12:54AM
Moon Illumination 60%	
Friday 2	
Sun rise/set 7:16AM 5:36PM	Moon rise/set 2:24PM 1:56AM
Moon Illumination 70%	
Saturday 3	
Sun rise/set 7:17AM 5:36PM	Moon rise/set 2:54PM 2:55AM
Moon Illumination 79%	
Sunday 4	
Sun rise/set 7:17AM 5:36PM	Moon rise/set 3:25PM 3:54AM
Moon Illumination 87%	
Monday 5	
Sun rise/set 7:18AM 5:36PM	Moon rise/set 3:57PM 4:53AM
Moon Illumination 93%	
Tuesday 6	
Sun rise/set 7:19AM 5:36PM	Moon rise/set 4:32PM 5:53AM
Moon Illumination 97%	
Wednesday 7	
Sun rise/set 7:20AM 5:36PM	Moon rise/set 5:13PM 6:53AM
Moon Illumination 100%	

Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

Dec. 1- Dec. 7

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	2:01 am ▼ 1.3 ft	8:11 am ▲ 2.6 ft	2:45 pm ▼ 0.7 ft	9:13 pm ▲ 2.8 ft
Fr	3:35 am ▼ 0.9 ft	9:59 am ▲ 2.6 ft	3:46 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	10:00 pm ▲ 3.0 ft
Sa	4:44 am ▼ 0.4 ft	11:14 am ▲ 2.7 ft	4:39 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	10:41 pm ▲ 3.1 ft
Su	5:37 am ▼ -0.1 ft	12:10 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	5:23 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	11:18 pm ▲ 3.3 ft
Mo	6:22 am ▼ -0.4 ft	12:56 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	6:02 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	11:52 pm ▲ 3.4 ft
Tu	7:03 am ▼ -0.6 ft	1:36 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	6:38 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	
We	7:41 am ▲ 3.4 ft	2:13 pm ▼ -0.7 ft	7:12 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	7:12 pm ▼ 1.4 ft

City of St. Marks

Th	3:05 am ▼ 1.2 ft	8:47 am ▲ 2.4 ft	3:49 pm ▼ 0.7 ft	9:49 pm ▲ 2.6 ft
Fr	4:39 am ▼ 0.8 ft	10:35 am ▲ 2.4 ft	4:50 pm ▼ 0.9 ft	10:36 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
Sa	5:48 am ▼ 0.3 ft	11:50 am ▲ 2.5 ft	5:43 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	11:17 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
Su	6:41 am ▼ -0.1 ft	12:46 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	6:27 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	11:54 pm ▲ 3.1 ft
Mo	7:26 am ▼ -0.4 ft	1:32 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	7:06 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	
Tu	8:07 am ▲ 3.1 ft	2:12 pm ▼ -0.6 ft	7:42 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	7:42 pm ▼ 1.3 ft
We	8:45 am ▲ 3.2 ft	2:49 pm ▼ -0.6 ft	8:16 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	8:16 pm ▼ 1.3 ft

Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	2:33 am ▼ 1.4 ft	8:26 am ▲ 2.6 ft	3:11 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	9:45 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
Fr	4:02 am ▼ 0.9 ft	10:14 am ▲ 2.6 ft	4:11 pm ▼ 0.8 ft	10:30 pm ▲ 3.1 ft
Sa	5:08 am ▼ 0.4 ft	11:30 am ▲ 2.7 ft	5:04 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	11:09 pm ▲ 3.2 ft
Su	6:00 am ▼ -0.1 ft	12:27 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	5:48 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	11:43 pm ▲ 3.3 ft
Mo	6:44 am ▼ -0.5 ft	1:15 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	6:26 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	
Tu	7:25 am ▲ 3.4 ft	2:25 pm ▼ -0.7 ft	7:00 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	7:00 pm ▼ 1.5 ft
We	8:04 am ▲ 3.4 ft	3:25 pm ▼ -0.8 ft	7:32 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	7:32 pm ▼ 1.6 ft

Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	2:12 am ▼ 1.0 ft	8:03 am ▲ 1.9 ft	2:56 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	9:05 pm ▲ 2.1 ft
Fr	3:46 am ▼ 0.6 ft	9:51 am ▲ 2.0 ft	3:57 pm ▼ 0.7 ft	9:52 pm ▲ 2.2 ft
Sa	4:55 am ▼ 0.3 ft	11:06 am ▲ 2.1 ft	4:50 pm ▼ 0.9 ft	10:33 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
Su	5:48 am ▼ -0.1 ft	12:02 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	5:34 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	11:10 pm ▲ 2.5 ft
Mo	6:33 am ▼ -0.3 ft	12:48 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	6:13 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	11:44 pm ▲ 2.5 ft
Tu	7:14 am ▼ -0.4 ft	1:28 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	6:49 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	
We	7:52 am ▲ 2.6 ft	2:05 pm ▼ -0.5 ft	7:23 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	7:23 pm ▼ 1.0 ft

St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	2:51 am ▼ 1.2 ft	8:06 am ▲ 2.0 ft	3:02 pm ▼ 0.3 ft	9:41 pm ▲ 2.1 ft
Fr	4:12 am ▼ 0.7 ft	10:01 am ▲ 1.9 ft	4:07 pm ▼ 0.6 ft	10:16 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
Sa	5:08 am ▼ 0.2 ft	11:27 am ▲ 2.1 ft	5:01 pm ▼ 0.9 ft	10:47 pm ▲ 2.4 ft
Su	5:52 am ▼ -0.2 ft	12:31 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	5:45 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	11:15 pm ▲ 2.5 ft
Mo	6:30 am ▼ -0.6 ft	1:21 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	6:21 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	11:42 pm ▲ 2.6 ft
Tu	7:05 am ▼ -0.7 ft	2:02 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	6:50 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	
We	7:39 am ▲ 2.7 ft	2:38 pm ▼ -0.8 ft	7:16 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	7:16 pm ▼ 1.4 ft

Dog Island West End

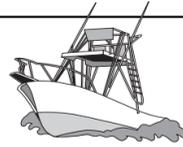
Th	3:36 am ▼ 1.1 ft	8:11 am ▲ 1.5 ft	3:02 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	9:57 pm ▲ 1.9 ft
Fr	4:43 am ▼ 0.7 ft	10:19 am ▲ 1.5 ft	4:04 pm ▼ 0.8 ft	10:18 pm ▲ 2.0 ft
Sa	5:36 am ▼ 0.2 ft	12:00 pm ▲ 1.6 ft	5:04 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	10:40 pm ▲ 2.1 ft
Su	6:19 am ▼ -0.1 ft	1:15 pm ▲ 1.7 ft	6:01 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	11:06 pm ▲ 2.2 ft
Mo	6:53 am ▼ -0.4 ft	2:04 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	6:43 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	11:37 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
Tu	7:24 am ▼ -0.7 ft	2:44 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	7:14 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	
We	7:54 am ▲ 2.3 ft	3:21 pm ▼ -0.8 ft	7:39 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	7:39 pm ▼ 1.4 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



The following information was shared by Bob Curry on the U.S. Coast Guard Heartland Safe Boating Facebook page. Bob is a Coast Guard Auxiliary Recreational Boating Safety Specialist.

As we all anticipate the upcoming holidays, helping the boaters in your life be safer is one of the greatest gifts you can give! Bob adapted the "The Twelve Gifts of Christmas" song parody written and sung by Allan Sherman to offer safe boating gifts. This week, I will share with you 6 of the 12 recommendations. Check back next week for the second set of 6.

On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me, a Marine VHF/FM radio with Digital Selective Calling (DSC). Be sure to obtain an MMSI (Maritime Mobile Service Identity) number and program it into the radio. A good, waterproof, floating handheld radio can be had for around \$150-250. If your true love already has a mounted VHF/FM marine radio, then get them a handheld radio for their ditch bag. If your true love goes offshore, then they need a satellite communication device such as an Emergency Position Indicating Radio

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

Beacon (EPIRB) for the boat or a Personal Locator Beacon they can wear on their life preserver.

On the second day of Christmas, my true love gave to me, a U.S. Coast Guard approved automatic self-inflating Type V personal flotation device (PFD). The other types are good, too.

On the third day of Christmas, my true love gave to me, a copy of "A Boater's Guide to the Federal Requirements for Recreational Boats." A hard copy is always nice to have aboard, but it can also be downloaded to your smart phone electronically. If you were thinking about giving your true love a smart phone for Christmas, you can download the U.S. Coast Guard app and have the regulations available at hand, along with a great deal of other safe boating

information.

On the fourth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me, a dry box to keep your true love's wallet, cell phone, car keys, and required certificates dry.

On the fifth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me, a marine compass. You can't take a heading without a compass. A good marine compass is a good backup to your GPS. A compass does not need electricity to work like a GPS does, and GPS units can fail at any time. You can either get a marine compass that is designed to be mounted on the console or you can get a handheld unit.

On the sixth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me, a nice aluminum anchor instead (hammered or not)? Your true love already has one? Well, it is nice to have a

backup anchor. We are actually required to have two anchors on our patrol boats.

Thanks to Sherrie, we will always remember safe boating is no accident! Check back next week for the second round of recommendations!

Please contact us to get your own "If Lost Please Contact" sticker(s). for more information about our safe boating classes or to learn 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

End of the normal season.

Well, red snapper season is officially over for the recreational spearfishing season of 2022. That does not mean diving is over completely. Here in North Florida we still go diving but not in the ocean much, there is a hard core ocean diving community here but for the average diver the ocean is getting too cold to dive.

I personally don't like the diving when the water temperature is below 68 degrees and in the winter here the ocean can get as low as 62 degrees. The recreational diving does slow down a bit here but doesn't stop like in the northern states. If you have been following my last few articles we have a number of springs that make winter diving enjoyable. There are quite a few springs I didn't mention that I have personally dived, I just mentioned the ones that I take my classes to because they are within a 2-2 1/2 hour drive from Wakulla.

With that said, it is time for most of you divers to start thinking about getting your dive gear serviced for next season diving. I have mentioned this several times in past articles and I will mention it again. Before you hang up that BCD and regulator set you should take it to the dive shop for service. Now is the best time to get your regulators serviced and tuned because you don't want to have issues when you hit the water next May like a free flowing regulator or one that has other issues and won't operate like they did this last season. Most good regulators will let you get away with going a couple of seasons diving without getting serviced but all it takes is one time when you have loaded your gear on the boat that you paid for and get to the dive site and hook it up to the tank only to find it leaks or has a free flow issue that you can't stop. If you have a spare set you might be able to dive unless that set hasn't been serviced in a long time and it doesn't work either. Don't be that diver.

Diving gear such as regulators are easily overlooked after the dive season is done, so you have rolled them up and place them in a regulator bag waiting for next year. First off please do not store your regulators in a regulator bag. Regulator bags are ONLY for traveling to the dive site and not for storage. I don't know how many regulators come into the shop for a long overdue service (like several years) only to take them out of the regulator bag and the hoses have a set curl in them that will not straighten out when you hold them by the first stage. The danger to using them in this condition is a possible leak or worse one or more might rupture while diving and cause a quick out of air emergency.

When you do store the regulators please store them hanging vertical. You can buy special hangers that you can hang the regulators and your BCD on. If you don't have the correct hanger you can make one using a standard wire hanger to hold the first stage by so the hoses can hang vertically down.

To insure that your regulators work perfectly for the next dive season please get them serviced every year to insure a great and safe diving season.

If you are going to get your regulators serviced please get them to the dive shop as soon as you can to insure they will be serviced and ready before your first dive. If you wait too long, then you won't have them ready before your first dive excursion.

Most dive shops get very busy servicing their equipment to have it ready for classes and rental and will not get yours done because you waited too long.

Keep the bubbles flowing.

Russell Miller #59999

WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO

Retired Wakulla Springs State Park Ranger Bob Thompson, on his weekly wildlife survey at the park, recently snapped this photo of Great Egret taking flight.



Changing our reckless behavior



By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

Do you drive as fast as you think you can get away with – even though your reckless driving could endanger yourself and others?

When you're pulled

over, do you lie and pretend you didn't know what the speed limit was? And later, when you tell others about the experience, do you give an honest account of what happened, or do you play the victim and describe how unfair the officer was?

Are you confident that the rules of the road are for your safety, or do you think the laws are a nuisance, keeping you from getting where you want to go? Surely your unique circumstances and above-average skills exempt you from the rules.

"I'm running late, so I've got to go a little faster."

"My drinking doesn't affect my driving."

"I can text and drive."

I find myself most tempted to exceed the posted speed limit when other drivers are speeding. I get caught up in their choices and foolishly try to keep up with them.

Until I see a police car. Suddenly, my motivation changes. Suddenly, I start wising up and shying away from my foolish conduct. Suddenly, I turn back into a faithful law abider.

The way we drive often reflects the way we live and think. Off the road, we sometimes push the envelope, embellish the truth, disregard the validity of rules, rationalize our choices, or follow the wrong crowd.

Reckless behavior goes beyond our driving habits. It can also include excessive use of alcohol, gossiping and sex outside of marriage.

Consider Proverbs 14:16 (ESV): "One who is wise is cautious and turns away from evil, but a fool is reckless and careless."

Why do we risk every-

thing with our irresponsible behavior? Isn't our life, the safety of others, the health of our relationships, our integrity, and most of all, our Christian witness, worth protecting?

If you don't think you have a problem with out-of-control behavior, perhaps you need to ask a respected person who knows you well what he or she thinks about your choices. Or consider jotting down some of the bad stuff that has happened to you (especially the recurring incidents) in the last year or two. Journal about what led

up to those relationship conflicts, job problems or integrity issues. Then talk to someone you trust about your experiences.

If your reckless driving reflects the way you live, what would it take to steer you toward wisdom? Slowing down and following "the Manual" – for your driving and your choices – would be a good place to start.

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.

Hope is healing



By **CHERYL CRUCE**

It was exciting to step into the sanctuary on Sunday and see the beautiful Christmas decorations. The poinsettias were carefully placed, as were other items representing the season of the birth of Christ. There was the echoing sound of conversations regarding recent Thanksgiving meals, family gatherings, and the antics

concerning the latest sporting events. The morning was filled with a warming of the hearts of friends as we came together in a shared faith of redemption and hope.

Sunday was the first day of the advent season. We lit the candle of Hope. The room was quiet; the proverbial pin hitting the floor could be heard as three generations of a family read its meaning.

I must admit my mind initially drifted during the reading, yet young Marlowe drew me in as he prayed. His prayer recognized the hope he found in God. He asked God to help him to trust when his faith was weak. He recognized God as a source of safety and a place of

refuge. Hope! The innocence of his young voice resonated with a hope that carried on throughout the day.

Hope...Hope is healing. I have not met anyone who has not needed a healing touch from the God of creation. I love reading the scripture of the healing touch from Jesus. Sometimes, people have great faith, bringing them to the Lord. "Lord, help us to trust."

A blind man cried from the side of the road, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me; restore my sight." Jesus healed the man's eyes. The blind man had strong faith, and when the people around Jesus tried to silence him, he cried out even loud-

er, "Lord have mercy on me" (Luke 18:38). The man had hope in the touch of the Lord.

Then there are those times when one should pray as Marlowe did when lighting the candle of hope; "Lord, help me to trust." Sometimes our faith is weak, and we need to ask for help. Asking a fellow believer to take you to the Lord for healing will strengthen your faith. Coming together in faith will strengthen the candle of hope and cause it to burn brighter than before.

Scripture teaches that if any are sick among you, people of faith are to come together and pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord

(James 5:14). Sunday morning, we had an opportunity to pray for someone. The anointing and the prayer increased the individual's faith. The presence of faith filled the congregation with hope. You could hear it in the voices, see it in their smiles. Hope is healing.

This world is filled with brokenness, and we often struggle with life's curve balls. Nonetheless, God is our constant.

The same God that delivered us yesterday is the God that delivers us today. And He will be the God who provides for us tomorrow. He will not leave nor forsake His children. Let us choose to trust in Him. When our faith weakens, let

us call upon our brothers and sisters in Christ to help strengthen us. We can choose to cast anxiety on the Lord and allow Him to care for us (1 Peter 5:7) or focus on this world's chaos, silencing our hope.

Marlowe is right! God is hope, and we find our refuge in the Lord who created us.

We put our hope in the Lord. He is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. Psalm 33:20-21

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

OUT TO PASTOR

If only I took notes



By **JAMES SNYDER**

As a writer, I always have a small notebook in my shirt pocket to take notes when I have an idea. I don't have too many ideas, so I want to write down any I get so I don't forget them.

There is one exception. When The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage talks to me, I fail to take notes about that conversation. You would think after being married as long as I have, I would know better.

I never think of it until she asks, "Do you remember what I told you this morning?" That always catches me off my guard, which I think she just may be doing this on purpose.

Then I come in and have to face, "Do you remember what I told you this morning?"

Once, trying to get a step ahead, I said, "Yes, I do remember, and I'll get to it tomorrow." Thinking this will solve a problem, I smile and go about my business. But, boy, was I wrong.

I can never outmaneu-

ver The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. When I said that, she replied, "Great, what are you going to do tomorrow?"

I knew I was backed into a corner and responded as cheerfully as possible, "I'm going to do tomorrow what you told me to do this morning."

I try to tell The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage that, at my age, I'm too poor to pay attention. I tell her when I save up enough money, I will spend it on paying attention.

She never buys that. She looks at me, both hands on her hips, and says, "What have I told you about saying that?"

One day I tried it out for myself to see if I could trick her. She came into my office, and I said, "Remember what I told you this morning?"

"Yes, I do," she said with a smirk, "here are the batteries you asked me to get at the store."

All I could do was say, "Thank you, my dear." I have no recollection of ever asking her to pick up any batteries for me at the store. If I did, I sure don't remember.

The next time she said, "Remember what I told you this morning?" I looked at her and said, "Yes, my dear, and here are the donuts you asked me to get you this morning." I then handed her a box of doughnuts from

the bakery.

She replied, "If you remember, I said, don't go nuts today."

I just can't win.

Reflecting on this I was reminded of one of my favorite Bible verses.

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

My big failure is when I try to lean on my own understanding instead of trusting God. My trust in God will raise me above human understanding, which puts me on the right track. Also, my trust keeps me going in the right path.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamesnyder51@gmail.com, website www.jamesnyderministries.com.

DEATH NOTICES

• **Floyd Edgar Adams**, 78, of Woodville, died Nov. 21, 2022. Family Funeral Home at Harvey-Young Chapel, 850-926-5919, www.familyfhc.com

• **Ann M. Bartlow**, 79, of Sevierville, Tenn., died Nov. 25, 2022. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **Berney Kemp Barwick Sr.**, 84, of Crawfordville, died Nov. 20, 2022. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **James Connell Jr.**, 84, of Tallahassee, died Nov. 16, 2022. Family Funeral Home at Harvey-Young Chapel. 850-926-5919, www.familyfhc.com

• **Crandall Dale Roberts**, 63, of Crawfordville, died Nov. 23, 2022.

Family Funeral Home at Harvey-Young Chapel, 850-926-5919, www.familyfhc.com

• **Edward B. Kulish**, 65, of Crawfordville, died Nov. 22, 2022. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **Dianne B. Marquis**, 79, of Crawfordville, died Nov. 21, 2022. Family Funeral Home at Harvey-Young Chapel, 850-926-5919, www.familyfhc.com

• **Ronald P. Murray**, 59, of Crawfordville, died Nov. 25, 2022. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **Cyril G. Smith**, 99, of Live Oak, died Nov. 27, 2022. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

An obituary for Richard David Harnage Jr. is on Page 3

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Use the News

1. World Cup Geography

The World Cup soccer tournament is held every four years to crown the top national team among countries that play soccer. More than 200 teams compete for the right to play in the international tournament, and 32 teams play in its final rounds. The finals this year are being played in an Arab nation in the Middle East for the first time. The nation of Qatar is hosting the event, which began last week and will run through December 18. Competing teams come from the continents of North and South America, Asia, Africa and Europe, with Europe fielding the most teams at 13. Rounding out the field, Asia has qualified six teams, Africa five and North and South America four each, including the United States. The U.S., by the way, is one of the few nations that call the game “soccer” — the rest call it “football” or “futball.” One of those nations, France, is the defending champion, having defeated Croatia 4-2 in the 2018 World Cup final. The World Cup tournament is a great way to learn more about geography. In the newspaper or online, find and closely read stories about nations that win tournament games this week. Use a world map to locate them. Which is farthest north? Which is farthest south? Which is farthest from the United States? Which is nearest? Which is farthest from Qatar?

Goals: Conducting short research projects that build knowledge about a topic; reading closely what a text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it.

2. Special Signing

American Sign Language was created to allow people who have lost all or part of their hearing to communicate with others. Users of this special language — called ASL for short — form symbols for words and letters with their fingers so that people with hearing loss can have conversations without having to speak. In the city of Suffolk, Virginia, students at an elementary school are learning the benefits of ASL first-hand, so that they can communicate with a deaf woman who works in their cafeteria. Leisa Duckwall has been working as a “lunch lady” at Nansemond Parkway Elementary School for four years, and up to now students have ordered food from her by pointing to the items they want. Now, thanks to a teacher who knew ASL from her family, students throughout the school are learning sign language. Fourth grade teacher Kari Maskelony started the school-wide effort after she approached Duckwall in front of students one day, and had a conversation using sign language. Her class was fascinated, and the next day she asked if they would like

to learn to “sign” as well. They all said “Yes!” and the program was off and running. Soon it spread beyond one class, the Washington Post newspaper reported. When the principal learned how excited Maskelony’s students were about ASL, she decided to have the whole school learn, the Modern Met website reported. American Sign Language is one way that people communicate with each other. In the newspaper or online, find and list other ways people communicate. Use what you read to write a letter to a friend, telling which are the most important ways for communication for you and your family. Give reasons for each one.

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.

3. Love for ‘Peanuts’

In the history of cartoons, few characters have been more popular than the “Peanuts” gang featuring Charlie Brown, Snoopy, Lucy, Linus, Franklin, Pig-Pen and Peppermint Patty. Every year kids and families look forward to the TV special “A Charlie Brown Christmas” during the

winter holiday season, as well as to holiday specials in other months like “A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving” and “It’s the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown.” This year, the “Peanuts” specials and the comic strips they are based on are having special meaning. That’s because Team Peanuts is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of the man who created “Peanuts.” Charles M. Schulz was born on Nov. 26, 1922, in St. Paul, Minnesota and died in February 2000. Yet his cartoon characters live on after him, inspiring everyone from TV stars to astronauts. “Charlie Brown is the friend and person I wanted to be, and Snoopy is the cool astronaut I wanted to be,” U.S. astronaut Mike Massimino told the Washington Post. “I think it’s the greatest comic strip and characters ever created.” Comic strips feature characters people love or tell stories that reflect real life. In the newspaper or online, find and closely read comic strips that do this. Pick one and re-draw it in a way that reflects your life or people you know. Draw several installments of your strip and share with family or friends

Goals: Using drawings or visual displays when appropriate to enhance the development of main

ideas or points; reading closely what a text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it.

4. Perfect Ancient Statues

In the ancient Roman Empire more than 2,000 years ago, public bath houses were popular places for gathering and socializing as well as bathing. They were used by both wealthy and non-wealthy people, and their decorations revealed a great deal about how ancient Romans lived when they controlled most of the continent of Europe. A new discovery in the city of Siena, Italy has now given scientists an eye-opening look at Roman life. Digging in an ancient bath house, scientists have discovered 24 beautiful statues that had been hidden from view for more than 2,300 years. The perfectly preserved statues include likenesses of the sun god Apollo; Hygieia, the goddess of good health, and portrayals of members of prominent families, the Modern Met website reported. One statue showed a woman dressed in flowing robes and another was a female “entirely bejeweled, with very detailed necklaces and earrings.” The statues are currently being restored and will eventually be displayed in a museum. Discoveries of artifacts from the past help sci-

entists understand how people lived and worked long ago. With a partner, pretend you are scientists from the future trying to understand how people live today. In the newspaper or online, find and study ads of five items people use today in daily life. Write a sentence or paragraph telling what each item reveals about how people live today. Share and discuss as a class.

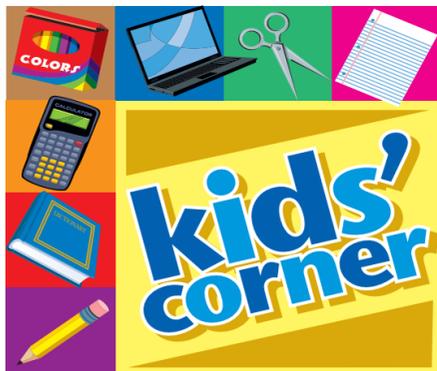
Goals: Writing informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly; conducting short research projects that build knowledge about a topic.

5. Happy Crash Ending

The crash of a small plane in the dead of winter is a recipe for disaster under the best of circumstances. The risks get that much greater if the plane is carrying 53 rescue dogs looking for new homes. Yet when a small plane carrying all those dogs crash-landed on a snow covered golf course in the state of Wisconsin, every dog survived — and one even was adopted by one of his rescuers. The crash occurred near the end of a flight transporting rescue dogs from the state of Louisiana to Wisconsin, the Washington Post reported. The flight had been organized by the Humane Animal Welfare Society, as part of

its program to bring at-risk dogs to Wisconsin for new homes. As word of the crash spread, people stepped up quickly to adopt the dogs, including deputy fire chief Tony Wasielewski. As Wasielewski was unloading crated dogs from the plane, a dog that had gotten loose jumped into his arms and “slathered” him with kisses. A day later, he and his wife went to the HAWS shelter to adopt the dog, who was named CeeCee. “As soon as the lady opened up the door, she bypassed my wife, jumped in my arms and started giving me kisses,” Wasielewski said. “It was over,” he said, and he adopted CeeCee on the spot. Animal shelters do many things to get people to adopt dogs, cats and other animals that need new homes. In the newspaper or online, find and closely read a story about something a shelter is doing to call attention to animals that need homes. Pick one animal and write a letter to possible owners telling why it would be a good animal to adopt. You can write the letter from the point of view of the animal, if you like.

Goals: Producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task; citing specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions.

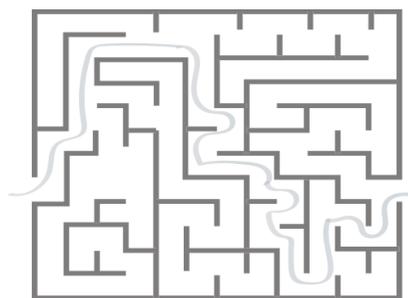
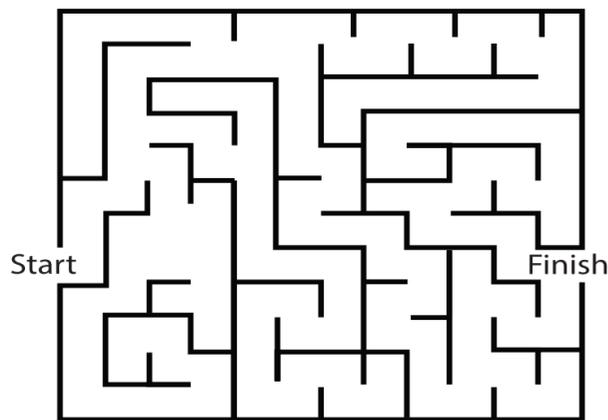


HOW MANY CONTINENTS ARE ON PLANET EARTH?

ANSWER: SEVEN

Maze Craze

Can you find your way through the maze?



THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

• **1814:** “THE TIMES” OF LONDON BECOMES THE FIRST NEWSPAPER TO BE PRODUCED ON A STEAM-POWERED PRINTING PRESS.

• **1960:** MAURITANIA BECOMES INDEPENDENT OF FRANCE.

• **1990:** MARGARET THATCHER RESIGNS AS THE LEADER OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY AND, THEREFORE, AS BRITISH PRIME MINISTER.



NAVIGATE

to plan and direct a course of travel

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Map

SPANISH: Mapa

ITALIAN: Mappa

FRENCH: Carte

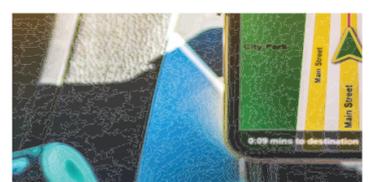
GERMAN: Karte

Did You Know?

A GLOBE IS A CYLINDRICAL MAP OF THE WORLD THAT MAY PROVIDE A MORE REALISTIC INTERPRETATION OF THE PLANET THAN A FLAT MAP.



GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: MOBILE PHONE GPS

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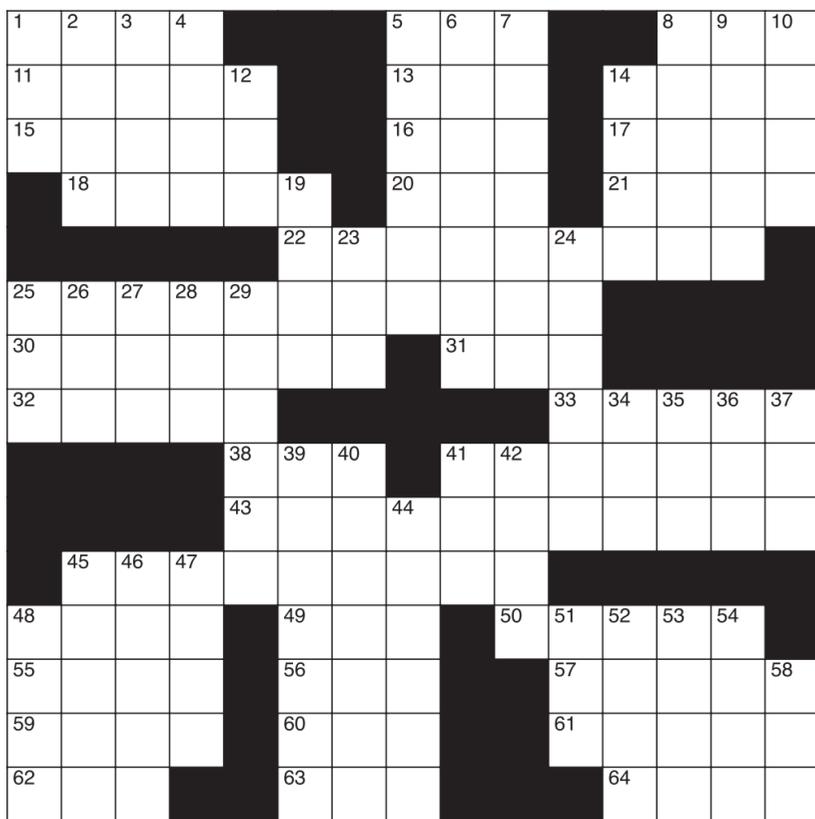
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CLUES ACROSS

1. A people of Eastern Afghanistan
5. Supervises interstate commerce
8. Touch lightly
11. Relating to bees
13. Mauna __, Hawaiian volcano
14. Mosuo culture religion
15. Italian village
16. Stiff bristle
17. Wealthy enclave in Rio
18. Cause to lose courage
20. Examines animals
21. Ethnic group of Laos and Thailand
22. Gets rid of
25. Having easily perceived thoughts

CLUES DOWN

30. Removed surgically
31. Principle underlying the universe
32. Popular airline
33. Antelopes
38. Peacock network
41. Utter repeatedly
43. One from the Golden State
45. Photographers
48. Father
49. Popular BBQ dish
50. Cavalry sword
55. Ancient Greek sophist
56. Atomic mass unit
57. Afflicted in mind or body
59. Indian mythological figure

CLUES DOWN

60. Mild expression of surprise
61. Jewish spiritual leader
62. Brew
63. Doctor of Education
64. Impudence
1. State attorneys
2. Imitated
3. Latvian capital
4. Irish goddess
5. Taste
6. Dried
7. Spanish saloon
8. Mother of Perseus
9. Evergreen coniferous trees
10. Refuse to comply
12. Negative
14. Hyphen
19. A way to record
23. Not good

24. One who tends the furnace
25. Small amount
26. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
27. The whole quantity
28. __ King Cole, musician
29. One's opinion
34. Holds ashes
35. Stablecoin cryptocurrency
36. Side-blotched lizards genus
37. Legislator (abbr.)
39. Concentrated bombardment
40. Took for oneself
41. Nigerian City
42. Thousands of pounds
44. Inspired
45. Secret clique
46. Expression
47. Dough made from corn flour
48. Comedian Carvey
51. Swiss river
52. Prejudice
53. Actor Idris
54. Resistance fighters
58. Criticize



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Your generous support helps us to continue our mission to educate and inspire.

Holiday Gift Shopping Guide

Shop Local Wakulla

SHOP SMALL

Did you know?
When you shop with local merchants more of your money stays closer to home; supporting your local parks, recreation centers, libraries and other things that make this community a great place to live.
Shopping local can stimulate and help restore a poor economy!

Local ownership means that important decisions are made locally by people who live in the community and who will feel the impacts of those decisions.

Your dollars spent in locally owned businesses have three times the impact on your community as dollars spent at national chains. When shopping locally, you simultaneously create jobs, fund more services through sales tax, invest in neighborhood improvement and promote community development. Locally owned businesses create more jobs locally and, in some sectors, provide better wages and benefits. Locally owned businesses build strong neighborhoods by giving back to the community, linking neighbors, and by contributing more to local causes. Shop local and keep your local dollars circulating in your home town!

CHOCOLATE AND POTTERY POP-UP
With Panacea Chocolate & Sarah T. Pottery
FREE HANDMADE CUP
While supplied last
Saturday, December 3 4-7 pm
91 Wild Turkey Circle - Crawfordville
Contact Anne Thurmond for questions 850-528-8798.

APALACHEE BAY

Coastal Christmas

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

Xmas Market 1448 SHELL POINT RD
9 AM-3 PM OVER 20 VENDORS
MUSIC BY BRUCE GRAYBEAL

Golf Cart Parade LINE UP 4:45 PM
5 PM PEBBLE COURT

Shell Point Beach, looking west at sunset.

FOR MORE INFO: (850) 545-6850

RMS Marine
We Can Tell You What He REALLY WANTS for Christmas
Specializing in All of your Commercial Fishing & Crabbing Needs
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SINCE 1985
FORMERLY AMS

Join Us for the 16th Annual St. Marks **GOLF CART Christmas Parade**
Saturday December 10th, 2022

Line up at **Bo Lynn's Grocery** at 6:30 pm
Parade at 7:00 pm

Additional Info
Please Call Paula Bell at 850-879-8671

BRING AN UNWRAPPED TOY FOR OPERATION SANTA OF WAKULLA COUNTY!!!

GALEO

Less than 25% of stolen construction equipment is recovered. Motor vehicles or trailers are stolen once per minute in the United States. Annual costs of lost and stolen equipment from trailer thefts in the United States is estimated to be as much as one billion dollars.

Galeo Pro GPS + LTE
theft alert and recovery device
Protect your trailer and assets

- **Rugged** - with an IP69K rating- built to withstand Snow, Dust, Rain and even pressure washing. The industry's most water-proof device, with the extreme temperature range -40 degrees to 185 degrees F
- **Low cost cellular** - \$1.99/month \$19.99 annually or \$49.99 /3 yrs
- **Made in the USA product**
- **Long life battery** - 3-5 yrs

Shop Early for a Merry & Bright Christmas!

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