

Ever wanted to visit Antarctica?



Travel column by Linda Carter  
Page 14

# The Wakulla Sun

"It's a New Day"

WAKULLA WeatherSTEM

Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday



Partly Cloudy

Hi: 77° Lo: 59° 11%  
Sunrise 7:21 AM  
Sunset 5:37 PM

Friday



Mostly Sunny

Hi: 77° Lo: 59° 9%  
Sunrise 7:21 AM  
Sunset 5:37 PM

Saturday



Partly Cloudy

Hi: 77° Lo: 59° 14%  
Sunrise 7:22 AM  
Sunset 5:37 PM



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Our 1st Year, 42nd Issue  
Thursday, December 8, 2022

## Meeting held on river dredge piles

State agencies are looking at restoring the salt marsh along the St. Marks River; stakeholders question the benefit

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN  
Editor

About 50 people packed the Education Center at the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge last week to hear a presentation on a proposal to remove dredge piles from along the St. Marks River and restore the salt marsh and to give input on the project.

The comments largely questioned the benefit of spending millions of dollars on trying to restore damage done decades ago.

Attendees were given a presentation on Wednesday, Nov. 30, and the vast majority seemed extremely skeptical about removing the spoil and attempting to restore the marsh.

In fact, some questioned whether the project would make matters worse by trying to do the restoration work.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has received some \$2.1 million from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to study the matter. (The funding to NFWF came from BP restoration money.)

Some in the crowd estimated the actual restoration work would cost \$18



Spoil from dredging the St. Marks River decades ago created "islands" of sand and rock in the marsh that have become grown over with cedar and palmetto. The FWC is studying the possibility of removing the piles and restoring the marsh.

million to \$20 million and questioned the logic of the expense. Consultants noted that there is no current estimate for possible work.

And no decision has been made to go forward with the project. It was

noted repeatedly that there are a total of 25 spoil piles from dredging along the river. Sixteen are on the west side of the refuge, covering 16 acres, and were the areas being looked at. (The other side of the river is Wilderness

Area and heavy equipment is not allowed in there.)

The study will look at options including re-establishing salt marsh habitat; some work to create other habitat for birds; or do nothing.

St. Marks resident Chuck Shields, owner of Shields Marina, noted some of the dredge piles go back to the 1930s, when workers for the Army Corps of Engineers used dynamite and dredgeline to cut the Devil's Elbow to make it easier for tankers to get in. In the 1950s, the river was dredged with a pump.

The dredge piles are dominated by cedar, prickly pear and poison ivy, said one consultant.

When asked why the refuge didn't just use the millions to buy more property around the refuge, the answer came back that they couldn't. The money is specifically for restoration of areas affected by the 2010 BP oil spill.

One person noted that the St. Marks Wildlife Refuge consists of 80,000 acres of which some 30,000 acres are salt marsh. "I don't think these 15 acres will make much difference," the person said.



River and Saylor Stevens share their wish list with Santa and Mrs. Claus with Sheriff Jared Miller.

## Christmas at the Park

The Wakulla County Sheriff's Office hosted its annual Christmas at the Park at the Community Center on Friday, Dec. 2. The line to see Santa was all the way out the door with hundreds of children waiting patiently. For entertainment, there was a bouncy house in the play area, and the sheriff's office offered free food including hamburgers and hotdogs. Many children were happy to see Santa and get a toy, and each parent had the chance to get a picture of their child and Santa. (Photo by Charity Tumbleson)



Snowmen aboard the North Florida medical parade float.

## Christmas in Panacea

The 18th Annual Christmas in Panacea took place on Saturday, Dec. 3rd. There were bouncy houses for children, free food and drinks, a face painting station, cornhole tournaments, live music, and a lit-up Christmas tree in the center of the attractions. This was all followed by a Christmas parade lineup that started at 6 p.m. The parade featured Santa and Mrs. Claus riding in a wagon, throwing candy to the children. (Photos By Charity Tumbleson)



## Lion gets a new look

Rachell Mathis and Jody Martin dedicated time to painting the lion at Azalea Park, inspired by Thanksgiving. Mathis says what inspired them for their creation was the peace between the pilgrims and Indians on the first Thanksgiving. On one side of the lion is a hawk perched in a landscape with a sunset in the background. On the other side of the lion, there is a harvest scene with corn and sunflowers. The finishing-up details of the lion are the arrow down the spine of the lion that pulled the two pieces of art together. They also added an archival varnish over the face and body to protect the paint from chipping and fading in the sun. Both Mathis and Martin bonded over their love for art. They wanted to share their artistic abilities with the community not only to freshen up the lion but to inspire other artists out there that you can start anywhere with your art. Mathis and Martin both have received a lot of positive feedback from the community and have even heard that "this is the best the lion has ever looked." (Photo by Charity Tumbleson)



Santa and Mrs. Claus on the JK Rocks float.



Crum's Mini-Mall had a decorated boat in the parade.

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**Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park**  
**Orange Coneflower**

By LYNN ARTZ and SANDY TEDDER



While most wildflowers are a memory, orange coneflower (*Rudbeckia fulgida*) continues to display its yellow-orange flowers at the entrance to Sopchoppy Depot Park. This carefree native grows 1-3 feet tall, attracts native bees, and is a larval host for the silvery checkerspot butterfly. Orange coneflower is related to black-eyed susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*) but is less common in Florida. Black-eyed susan occurs nearly statewide. Orange coneflower is found in a few central panhandle counties. Black-eyed susan spreads by seed and travels. The perennial orange coneflower stays where it is planted. Orange coneflower can be hard to find in nurseries. Many nurseries carry the cultivar *Rudbeckia fulgida* 'Goldstrum' instead. Experts recommend planting true natives due to the unknown appeal of cultivars to native pollinators and the risk of cross-pollination.

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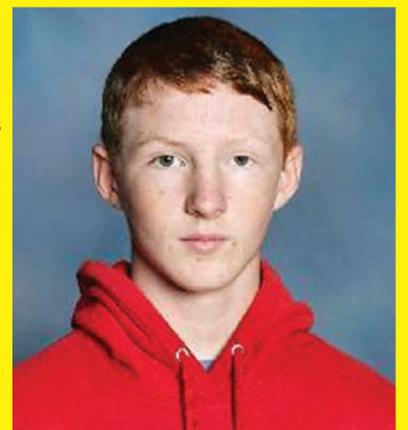
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**Student of the Week**

**Colt Sanders, 7th grader at Wakulla Middle School**

Principal: Simeon Nelson

Colt is very helpful, trustworthy, well-behaved and respectful to everyone. He excels in the classroom by always working hard toward academic success. Colt participates in the school's AVID program. Besides the daily school routine, Colt engages in many extracurricular activities. Currently, he is a member of the WMS wrestling team. Outside of school, Colt enjoys fishing and hunting. After high school, Colt plans to work on HVAC systems.



STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.

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**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. Accountability. Since 1893, the Florida Sheriffs Association has been the voice of Florida's sheriffs, 67 men and women united in the service of protecting Florida's citizens and visitors.



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Jason and Monica Freeland will be featured performers at the Sopchoppy Opry this week.

## Opry Christmas Show on Dec. 10

Jason and Monica Freeland are featured performers in the Sopchoppy Opry's Christmas concert on Saturday, Dec. 10 at 7 p.m. in the historic Sopchoppy School Auditorium! Joining the popular couple is the legendary Purvis Brothers & Encore II Band. Frank and Wendell Purvis will host the show and lead an all star cast of vocalist and musicians in an evening of traditional Christmas, classic country and rock 'n' roll music. Tickets are \$15 and may be reserved by calling (850) 962-3711 or purchased at the door. For more information about this show and the Sopchoppy Opry, go to [sopchoppyopry.com](http://sopchoppyopry.com).

## Orientation for Miss Wakulla set for Dec. 8

Special to The Sun

Miss Wakulla County Scholarship Pageant will hold the 2023 Pageant on Saturday, Feb. 11th, 2023. Orientation for the Pageant will be on Thursday, Dec. 8th, at 6:30 p.m. at River of Life Church.

Tiny Miss Division (K or 1st), Little Miss Division (2nd or 3rd), Young Miss Division (4th or 5th) entry fee is \$50. Junior Miss Division (6th to 8th) entry fee is \$75. Miss Division (9th to 12th) entry fee is \$100 and the winner of this category will receive a scholarship.

All contestants must be a resident of Wakulla County and attend a Public, Private or Homeschool Group in Wakulla County. If you have any questions, please contact us by email at [misswakullacounty@gmail.com](mailto:misswakullacounty@gmail.com) Sara Clark at 850-510-4897 or Candace Hicks at 850-510-9835.

**SAMUEL HORDGES**  
 TURNS **80** Monday, December 12, 2022



Family and Friends will gather to celebrate on Sunday, December 11, 2022 At Hotel Duval, Autograph Collection In Tallahassee

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**  
 With Love, your wife - PAULINE




**Hospice Tree of Remembrance ceremony.**  
Help us decorate our tree.

Join us Thursday, December 15, 2022  
between 4:30-6:30 PM

We will have ornaments available to purchase in memory of your loved ones.

There will be refreshments, Christmas music by local churches and a time of sharing with Hospice Chaplain Ed Lyon.

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Happy Birthday Jesus and Merry Christmas!

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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.”

## A few items from the notebook



By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**  
Editor

A few things from this week:

• At the stakeholders meeting on the possible removal of the St. Marks River dredge piles, a lot of the 50 or so people who attended complained that they didn't know about the meeting beforehand, that they only learned about it earlier in the morning.

One of the consultants stepped forward and said she'd put something in "The Wakulla Times," apparently referring to The Wakulla News.

One member of the audience spoke up and said: "But we've

all switched over to The Wakulla Sun."

• It's been a thrill to see the progress of Maya King's career as a reporter.

Maya is a childhood friend of my youngest daughter, Harper.

Maya went off to journalism school at Howard University and came home during a summer break asking if she could get some experience writing, back when we were at The Wakulla News.

Those were her first bylines.

She is now working for the New York Times based in Atlanta and covering the U.S. Senate race in Georgia between Raphael Warnock and Herschel Walker. It gives me great pleasure to see her byline on the front page of the Times.

• Last, but certainly not least – Estelle Lee Lanier McGowan was born on Dec. 1 to my daughter Harper and her husband Caleb.

It's their first child.

It's my third grandchild – my grand-

daughter Raleigh Mills just turned 5, and her brother Baker is 4. They are the kids of my oldest daughter Dylan and her husband Trent.

My middle daughter Emily and her husband Heath are expecting a child in April.



**Estelle McGowan coming home from the hospital.**

Meredith and I are heading out to Dallas later this week to see little Estelle.

Welcome to the world, Estelle! I can't wait to meet you.

*William Snowden is editor and publisher of The Wakulla Sun.*

## On the Horizon

### Calendar of upcoming events for the week of Dec. 8

#### Thursday, December 8

- The VFW Auxiliary Bingo Night will be held at 7 p.m. at 475 Arran Road in Crawfordville.
- The Rotary Club of Wakulla County will meet at the TCC Wakulla Center at 8:30 a.m.
- The Sopchoppy Depot Committee meets at the Depot, 34 Railroad Ave. at 4:30 p.m.
- The St. Marks City Commission meeting will be held at St. Marks City Hall at 6 p.m.
- Hatha Yoga with Zoe at 9 a.m. and Yin Yoga with Nellie 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
- Miss Wakulla County scholarship pageant orientation will be held at the River of Life Church at 6:30 p.m.

#### Saturday, December 10

- Intro to Tai Chi held at the Community Center from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Contact Rich or Terri Bushman at 850-228-9214.
- Christmas in Sopchoppy from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- St Marks 16th Annual Golf Cart Christmas Parade. Line up at Bo Lynn's at 6:30 p.m., parade starts at 7 p.m.
- The 5th Annual Coastal Christmas Market will be held at the volunteer fire department and community center, 1448 Shell Point Road, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. followed by a golf parade at 5 p.m.
- Panacea Christmas village market from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

#### Sunday, December 11

- Christmas Cantana at the First Baptist Church in Crawfordville, starting at 6 p.m.

#### Monday, December 12

- The Alzheimers support group will meet at Lake Ellen Baptist Church from 9:30a.m. to 10:30a.m.

- Intro to Tai Chi held at the Community Center from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.
- Respite Care available for anyone with memory impairment at no cost from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lake Ellen Baptist Church.
- The Sopchoppy City Commission meets at City Hall at 6:30 p.m.
- The county commission will have a meeting in the Commission Chambers at 5 p.m.
- Rise and Shine with Lacey at 6 a.m. Hatha yoga with Zoe at 9 a.m. and 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.

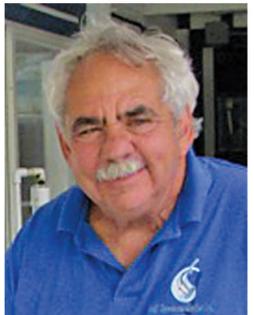
#### Tuesday, December 13

- Sopchoppy Community Dinner is held every week at the Towles House at 6:30 p.m.
- The Wakulla County Charter Review Commission will meet at the Community Center at 5:30 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 14

- A Line Dance class will be held at 1 p.m. at the Wakulla Senior Center.
- The Wakulla County Garden Club meets at the Wakulla County Public Library hosting presentations and workshops about gardening in Wakulla soil at 12 noon.
- The Wakulla County Audit Committee is holding a public meeting in the BOCC conference room at 10 a.m.

## If others saw the coast as I do, they wouldn't destroy it



By **JACK RUDLOE**

The following is the forward to my book, "The Erotic Ocean: A handbook for Beach Combers," published by World Publishing Company in 1972. It summarizes the reason we just built a classroom at Gulf Specimen Marine Lab. It is for those who come to our coast to appreciate it, and partake of its wonders—not those who come to destroy it. A great teacher and prophet named Jesus once said, "Forgive them for they know not what they do."

I'm trying... It's taken me many years to realize that developers and builders and their pet

politicians do not see the coast as I do. If they did, they might stop destroying it.

So here is what I wrote a long, long time ago:

"The ocean has been good to me. With my nets, biological dredges, and diving gear I have made a delightful living by selling her wonderful renewable resources – the living creatures that dwell in her waters and live on her bottom. I have hauled out nets gorged with struggling fish, swum through coral reefs so breathtaking with their varieties of colors, strange-looking fish, and eerie monsters that the scenes have been etched forever in my memory. I have weathered storms at sea, lived with thundering waves pounding the beaches and howling winds during a hurricane, and taken advantage of her treasures cast upon the beach when the sea calms.

"Decades have passed since I started Gulf Specimen Compa-

ny, a small collecting enterprise. I settled in Panacea – a tiny fishing village in northwest Florida, so small that it seldom appears on maps – and began working with shrimpers, crab fishermen and gill netters. As time passed, the demand for specimens from schools, research laboratories, and hobbyists increased, and with the demand I had to learn more about the behavior and ecology of the marine animals and plants of the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic coast. There was, and still is, much to learn.

"A collecting business is subject to tides, winds and weather. It follows the movements of jellyfish, the migrations of squid, the ripeness of sea-urchin eggs and the spawning patterns of polychaete worms. Large conchs spew out ribbons of accordion like egg capsules, and purple sea hares ooze copious green strings containing millions of jelly-coated eggs. Female blue crabs carry thousands of de-

veloping larvae under their aprons in the form of a sponge, and commercial shrimp migrate to the deep waters of the Atlantic and the Gulf and explosively burst forth sperm and egg that unite--and the tiny planktonic larvae drift shoreward with the tides and currents, along with uncountable numbers of fish eggs, larval fish and a host of other developing creatures. The ocean is so full of life, so productive that one can only marvel at it.

"In a tide pool of this erotic ocean, needily female sea urchins spew out bright red eggs into the water and the males exude white sperm from the little pores between their spines. The waters turn cloudy with gametes, and hundreds of sperm mass around a single egg, causing it to spin and gyrate. Then one penetrates and a clear fertilization membrane almost magically appears. The fertilized egg goes on spinning and then starts dividing, first into two cells, then

four and now into eight and soon it hatches into a tiny ciliated larva that joins the plankton in the sea. The miracle of life, the conception of all living things, can be so easily studied from life in the sea. At midnight in the calm bays and estuaries of north Florida, you sometimes hear male porpoises letting out exuberant whimpering calls to their mates, and under the moonlight you hear them splashing about. Then the lumbering sea turtle comes ashore, dragging her heavy shell over the white sands and depositing her eggs high up on the beach.

"Throughout the marshes and mangrove swamps shorebirds lay their eggs and the young hatch and feed upon the tiny fish and fiddler crabs. The waters become milky with veliger larvae of oysters during the spawning seasons, and soon the wharf pilings and dead shells are growing anew with tiny young oysters. The waters teem with

gametes of sponges, tunicates, hydroids and tiny crustaceans, which unite and settle on the bottom. The conditions must be just right for them to take hold and grow to maturity. Only a particular weed-grown rock may be suitable for a terebellid worm to colonize, or only a coarse sand bottom in high saline waters is right for lancelet larvae to settle in. Grass shrimp seek the protective grasses of tidal marshes, and spiny boxfish and long-legged arrow crabs live among the sea grasses.

"The ocean does not give up easily the secrets of where to find these animals. Only by traveling around and diligently searching in her rock piles and mudflats, day after day and year after year, will you learn when creatures spawn and what they eat and where they hide."

*Jack Rudloe is the President of Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratories, Inc. in Panacea.*

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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 the Wakulla County Historical Society Annual Christmas Open House: What part of Wakulla's history interests you the most?

|  |   |  |   |   |
|--|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>JENNIFER RAKER</b><br>VICE PRESIDENT<br>HISTORICAL SOCIETY                    | <b>MARYANN LAIRD</b><br>HISTORICAL SOCIETY<br>BOARD MEMBER                        | <b>EILEEN HARRIS</b><br>HISTORICAL SOCIETY<br>MEMBER                               | <b>MARK PERRIN</b><br>SELF EMPLOYED   | <b>CATHY FRANK</b><br>EXHIBIT CHAIR / BOARD<br>MEMBER                               |
| <b>“The heritage!”</b>   | <b>“How the county first got started and the people involved in starting it.”</b> | <b>“When the GF&amp;A Railroad was here.”</b>                                      | <b>“The lost and missing cemeteries.”</b>   | <b>“The early days, the events and circumstances that brought people here.”</b>     |

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Buckhorn News

By **ETHEL SKIPPER**

As believers in Christ, we must be united and determined in our witness that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God and the savior of sinners. We who are believers in Christ are witnesses of who He is and what He has done.

Unlike the first witnesses of Christ, we have not seen the incarnate Son of God. It is important that our faith in

Him be firmly built on the witness of God's word about who He is.

Isaiah 9:6: "Unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

The Savior's coming foretold is observed by most Christians. The word "advent" simply means the coming.

This advent refers to the coming of the birth of the son of God, the baby Jesus, observed by most Christians. The prophets foretold of the coming of the messiah.

This season of the year brings a blessed spirit into our lives. Many of our family and loved ones. We were reading in the Wakulla Sun about the passing of former county judge Mike Carter, who was a friend of my partners John and Charlotte Rosier – and that made him our family friend. It takes me back to 1987 when we founded the church

on Surf Road. Judge Carter suggested the name be Skipper Temple Community Church. In 1982, when our partners celebrated the 50th wedding anniversary at Wakulla Springs Lodge, he blessed our family.

To the Carter family – you have our love and blessing.

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.

### Wakulla Station News

By **VERNA BROCK**

What a fun time we had, celebrating granddaughter Harper's 8th birthday. This was her first party in a long time, due to Covid, and it was so much fun to watch kids just be kids together. The weather was as perfect as it could possibly be, and a good time was had by all.

We had a great service last Sunday, followed by a delicious holiday meal full of fellowship and joy. Church ladies sure can cook!

Afterwards, when the rain stopped, I made my way up to Market Days at the fairgrounds in Tallahassee. I scored some awesome Christmas gifts and recruited vendors for the Woodville Founders Day Festival (Saturday, March 18th!). What a nice surprise to see so many artists and craftsmen from Wakulla County, including friends Brent and Anne Thurmond. They had his handcrafted bread boards and her Panacea Chocolate, and can be regularly found at the Sopchoppy market.

Please keep Ms. Gwen Rogers in your prayers. She was in a car accident in October, and is now in rehab, recovering from a broken sternum and vertebrae. She isn't up for visits just yet, but appreciates our prayers. Your prayers continue to be coveted for Barbara Vickery, Sheryl Grimes, Linda Dunwoody, Also keep Larry and Sandie Shiver, and the families of Mike Carter and Lucy West in your prayers.

Ed and I attended a holiday band concert Monday evening, at Riversprings Middle School, and had the best time. One of our favorite things is being able to go to programs pre-

mented by our students of all ages in our school system!

Next Sunday, the Praise Team at the Wakulla UMC will present its own Christmas concert, and it will be so much fun. I hope you will join us during worship service at 10:00 am for this special music.

Don't forget, I love to put your special events, prayer requests and joys in this article. Hope to hear from you soon (850-421-3730; vernalsbrock@gmail.com).

BTW, the name of the Italian restaurant in Woodville is Bagigio's. I left an "i" out last time.

### Library News

**Thursday, December 8**  
Tech Learning Lab 5 p.m.  
Entry Level Radio Technician Class 5:30 p.m.  
Friends of the Library Board Meeting 6 p.m.  
**Friday, December 9**  
Quilting Guild 9:30 a.m.  
Library Bingo 6 p.m.  
**Saturday, December 10**  
Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group 10 a.m.  
TMH READ Therapy Dogs 10 a.m.  
**Monday, December 12**  
Wilderness Coast Public Libraries Board 10:30a.m.  
Wakulla Christian Coalition 6 p.m.  
**Tuesday, December 13**  
Book Bunch 10 a.m.  
Legal Services of North Florida Advice Clinic 7 p.m.  
Tobacco Free FL Stop Smoking Class 5pm  
**Wednesday, December 14**  
Book Babies 10 a.m.  
Wakulla County Garden Club Noon  
Knitting Group 4 p.m.  
**Thursday, December 15**  
Veterans Meetup 11 a.m.  
Big Bend Area Healthcare Center Federal Marketplace Health Insurance Assistance 2 p.m.  
Entry Level Radio Technician Class 5:30 p.m.

#### WCPL PRESENTS: ANIMAL TALES HOLIDAY SAFARI

Tuesday, December 20th @ 6 p.m., join us at the Community Center as Animal Tales helps us celebrate the holidays! Participants will select a present from beneath a small Christmas tree containing a clue which corresponds to one of the surprise guest animals. All will have an opportunity to get "hands-on" during this special program! Animal Tales is an insured, USDA and Fish and Wildlife Licensed business. Be prepared to get up close and personal with unique animals like you've never seen!

#### 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 4-7 p.m. 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.

#### HEALTH INSURANCE OPEN ENROLLMENT ASSISTANCE

Join navigators from the Big Bend Area Health Education Center as they provide free, unbiased help applying for and enrolling in federal marketplace health insurance plans. December 15th, 2022, from 2-7 p.m. here at the Wakulla County Public Library. Please call Big Bend AHEC for more information 850-224-1177.

#### IT'S YOUR LIFE!

Memoir writing class coming in January!

#### 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>.

### Historical Society's open house

Dozens of people enjoyed the Annual Christmas Open House hosted by The Wakulla County Historical Society held on Saturday afternoon, Dec. 3.

The raffle for the handmade 18" inch lighted Christmas tree was a success also raising \$250. for the museum. The winner of the drawing was Arlene Vause.

– Lynda Kinsey



Debbie Jay, Sue and Churchill Grimes, Arlene Vause and Brent Thurmond with a book of FBI wanted posters – some going back to 1933.

### Kiersten Smith

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# Outdoors

outdoor sports

## HOME ON THE RANGE

### What to look for in a second handgun



By MARJ LAW

“Ammunition is the most important consideration in your book?” I’m surprised. “When people ask me about handguns, the first question is about recoil. People, especially mature people over 50-ish don’t want to have to manage much recoil. To me, the recoil factor is much more important than availability or cost of ammunition.

“You’re not quite a newbie, but you are looking for another handgun. What’s important to you?”

I ask Joe that question, and he tries to think like an almost-newbie, or what he will want to keep in mind.

“Most important is ammunition,” he says. “Ammunition can get expensive, and some of it is even difficult to find, even if you can afford it.

For instance, while you might pay \$22 for 50 rounds of 9mm, you might pay \$50 for 50 rounds of 10mm. Personally, I don’t want to spend \$1 per round. And .22s and 9s are popular rounds. They are easiest to find and also least expensive. Not to say they’re not expensive. Recently, the price of ammunition has come down, but it was high in the more distant past. So, I’ll suggest buying a gun that takes ammunition readily available and cheap.

Furthermore, if you have a 9mm gun already, you might want to consider purchasing another 9mm handgun. This way, you’ll need the same ammunition for both.”

Recoil isn’t all about the caliber of a gun. Some 9mm handguns have a lot of recoil; others don’t. Partly, this is due to the size and weight of a gun. One with more mass generally has a lighter recoil. Also, Smith & Wesson makes a line of EZs that have much lighter recoil than most other handguns. Even men with strong hands and lots of background agree that this line has a reduced recoil.

I bet that if you ask Mr. or Ms. Newbie what they look for first, they’ll say the gun with the least recoil. “Well, it’s not most important to me,” he says firmly. “That’s because you’re a big strong guy,” I return. “Yep,” he smirks.

“What’s next on your list, big strong guy?” I’m wondering. “Sights are important,” he replies. “I like big white dot sights. They’re easy to see and easy to align to the target. Two big white dot back sights and one big white dot front sight are the best. I like the fiber optic sights too: specifically, the red and green fiber optic sights. They are also clear and easy to see.”

“Really? You prefer

them to the red dot reflex sights? The ones you mount on top of the gun and aim the red dot at the target?”

“Not all guns are capable of having a red dot. You have to have a rail on the gun or a special mount to go on the gun to accommodate the red dot. Not all guns have a rail or a special mount for the red dot sight, so you can’t use a red dot with them.”

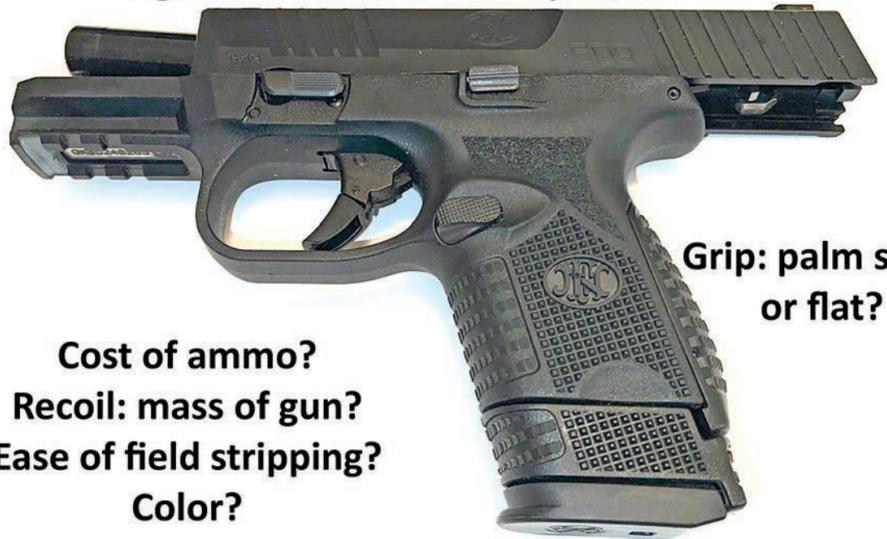
“What about grips? Are they important to you?” I ask as he’s about to go onto a long discussion of screws and blue over red Loctite for the mount.

“You know we both prefer our guns to have palm swells in the grips. I don’t like some of the baby Ruger LCPs. They have flat grips. I feel like I can’t get a good grip on the ones that are flat-sided. If you can’t get a good grip, you don’t shoot so well. So, a firm grip is next on my list.”

“Next on my list is

#### What do You look for in a handgun?

Sights: white dot, fiber optic, reflex?



Grip: palm swell or flat?

Cost of ammo?

Recoil: mass of gun?

Ease of field stripping?

Color?

recoil. People I speak to want as light a recoil as they can find.”

“You’ve already mentioned recoil.”

He thinks my memory is going bad. “Yep. I think most people want a gun that’s easy to shoot,” I return. “Who worries about sights when they’re experiencing a lot of kick? Next on my list is recoil.”

“Well, next on my list is availability of after-market parts. They can be less expensive. You may want a different trigger or sights. You may want to change your grips to ones with different stippling or color.”

“Recoil is most important,” I argue. “Color is important. Not just for fancy grips, like the ones you find on Esmerelda’s site. She has some attractive carved wooden grips. A real man doesn’t want pink, red or turquoise grips. Grips should be black or camo-colored.”

That real man ar-

gument again. How superficial can you get?

I agree with him on this point, but not about the “real man” factor. A brightly-colored gun may draw attention to it. If Mr. Bad is threatening, you don’t want color to point his eyes in your direction.

“Recoil is more important than any color,” I maintain. “And you haven’t mentioned take-down. Some guns are a bear to field strip. And you have to take down your gun to give it a good cleaning.

What about if you have a 1911? For these, you need a wrench and a paper clip. Don’t ask about the process of taking it apart. Suffice it to say, these guns can be a bear to field-strip.

On many striker-fired guns you pull and lock back the bolt, then you turn a lever on that bolt downward in a 90° angle. At this point, you release the slide, and gently roll

this assembly off the lower part of the gun.

Take down is important, but recoil is even more so.

“Now that we’ve chewed over the question of what is most important in looking for in a second handgun, have you changed your mind?” I ask him.

“Nope. Ammo is still on the top of my list.”

Oooooo-key dokey. He’s wrong. When looking for your second handgun, the amount of recoil should be first on your list. Find someone who has this gun you think you’d like, and ask to take it to the range to try it out.

Shoot. Does it have a lot of recoil?

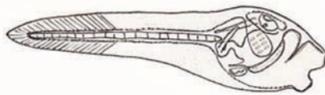
Yes? Head for the hills.

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

#### WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO



Retired Wakulla Springs State Park Ranger Bob Thompson, on his weekly wildlife survey at the park last week, snapped this photo of a Yellow Crowned Night Heron.



SANDY SEA SQUIRT (*Molgus occidentalis*)

There are 3000 types of tunicates and this is one of the largest of them. It is a filter feeder. It has a sac-like body with two spouts, one for taking water in and one for expelling it. Sea Squirts have both male and female body parts and release both eggs and sperm. The fertilized egg developed into a swimming larvae with a spine-like notochord. Eventually the larvae settles on the sea bottom and transforms into the adult for of tunicate.

Eukarya, Animalia, Tunicata, Ascidiacea, Pleurogona, Molgula



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# Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences

| Thursday 8                       |                                     |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Sun rise/set<br>7:20AM<br>5:36PM | Moon rise/set<br>5:58PM<br>7:51AM   |
| Moon Illumination 100%           |                                     |
| Friday 9                         |                                     |
| Sun rise/set<br>7:21AM<br>5:37PM | Moon rise/set<br>6:48PM<br>8:46AM   |
| Moon Illumination 98%            |                                     |
| Saturday 10                      |                                     |
| Sun rise/set<br>7:22AM<br>5:37PM | Moon rise/set<br>7:42PM<br>9:37AM   |
| Moon Illumination 95%            |                                     |
| Sunday 11                        |                                     |
| Sun rise/set<br>7:22AM<br>5:37PM | Moon rise/set<br>8:38PM<br>10:22AM  |
| Moon Illumination 90%            |                                     |
| Monday 12                        |                                     |
| Sun rise/set<br>7:23AM<br>5:37PM | Moon rise/set<br>9:35PM<br>11:02AM  |
| Moon Illumination 84%            |                                     |
| Tuesday 13                       |                                     |
| Sun rise/set<br>7:24AM<br>5:37PM | Moon rise/set<br>10:31PM<br>11:38AM |
| Moon Illumination 76%            |                                     |
| Wednesday 14                     |                                     |
| Sun rise/set<br>7:24AM<br>5:38PM | Moon rise/set<br>11:26PM<br>12:09PM |
| Moon Illumination 68%            |                                     |

## Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

### Dec. 8 - Dec. 14

Tide charts by [tides4fishing.com](http://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 | 12:58 am<br>▲ 3.4 ft | 8:17 am<br>▼ -0.7 ft  | 2:48 pm<br>▲ 3.0 ft | 7:47 pm<br>▼ 1.4 ft  |
|----|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Fr | 1:30 am<br>▲ 3.4 ft  | 8:52 am<br>▼ -0.6 ft  | 3:23 pm<br>▲ 3.0 ft | 8:22 pm<br>▼ 1.3 ft  |
| Sa | 2:03 am<br>▲ 3.4 ft  | 9:26 am<br>▼ -0.5 ft  | 3:59 pm<br>▲ 2.9 ft | 8:59 pm<br>▼ 1.3 ft  |
| Su | 2:37 am<br>▲ 3.3 ft  | 10:00 am<br>▼ -0.3 ft | 4:36 pm<br>▲ 2.8 ft | 9:39 pm<br>▼ 1.3 ft  |
| Mo | 3:13 am<br>▲ 3.2 ft  | 10:34 am<br>▼ -0.2 ft | 5:16 pm<br>▲ 2.7 ft | 10:23 pm<br>▼ 1.4 ft |
| Tu | 3:53 am<br>▲ 3.0 ft  | 11:11 am<br>▼ 0.0 ft  | 6:00 pm<br>▲ 2.7 ft | 11:16 pm<br>▼ 1.4 ft |
| We | 4:40 am<br>▲ 2.8 ft  | 11:53 am<br>▼ 0.2 ft  | 6:48 pm<br>▲ 2.6 ft |                      |

#### City of St. Marks

| Th | 1:34 am<br>▲ 3.2 ft  | 9:21 am<br>▼ -0.6 ft  | 3:24 pm<br>▲ 2.8 ft  | 8:51 pm<br>▼ 1.2 ft  |
|----|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Fr | 2:06 am<br>▲ 3.2 ft  | 9:56 am<br>▼ -0.5 ft  | 3:59 pm<br>▲ 2.8 ft  | 9:26 pm<br>▼ 1.2 ft  |
| Sa | 2:39 am<br>▲ 3.1 ft  | 10:30 am<br>▼ -0.4 ft | 4:35 pm<br>▲ 2.7 ft  | 10:03 pm<br>▼ 1.2 ft |
| Su | 3:13 am<br>▲ 3.1 ft  | 11:04 am<br>▼ -0.3 ft | 5:12 pm<br>▲ 2.6 ft  | 10:43 pm<br>▼ 1.2 ft |
| Mo | 3:49 am<br>▲ 3.0 ft  | 11:38 am<br>▼ -0.2 ft | 5:52 pm<br>▲ 2.5 ft  | 11:27 pm<br>▼ 1.2 ft |
| Tu | 4:29 am<br>▲ 2.8 ft  | 12:15 pm<br>▼ 0.0 ft  | 6:36 pm<br>▲ 2.5 ft  |                      |
| We | 12:20 am<br>▼ 1.2 ft | 5:16 am<br>▲ 2.6 ft   | 12:57 pm<br>▼ 0.2 ft | 7:24 pm<br>▲ 2.4 ft  |

#### Shell Point, Spring Creek

| Th | 1:14 am<br>▲ 3.4 ft | 8:41 am<br>▼ -0.8 ft  | 3:11 pm<br>▲ 2.9 ft | 8:03 pm<br>▼ 1.6 ft  |
|----|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Fr | 1:44 am<br>▲ 3.4 ft | 9:17 am<br>▼ -0.7 ft  | 3:47 pm<br>▲ 2.8 ft | 8:35 pm<br>▼ 1.5 ft  |
| Sa | 2:15 am<br>▲ 3.4 ft | 9:53 am<br>▼ -0.6 ft  | 4:22 pm<br>▲ 2.8 ft | 9:10 pm<br>▼ 1.5 ft  |
| Su | 2:49 am<br>▲ 3.3 ft | 10:28 am<br>▼ -0.5 ft | 4:59 pm<br>▲ 2.7 ft | 9:49 pm<br>▼ 1.5 ft  |
| Mo | 3:26 am<br>▲ 3.2 ft | 11:03 am<br>▼ -0.3 ft | 5:38 pm<br>▲ 2.7 ft | 10:33 pm<br>▼ 1.4 ft |
| Tu | 4:07 am<br>▲ 3.0 ft | 11:41 am<br>▼ -0.2 ft | 6:20 pm<br>▲ 2.6 ft | 11:27 pm<br>▼ 1.4 ft |
| We | 4:56 am<br>▲ 2.8 ft | 12:22 pm<br>▼ 0.1 ft  | 7:05 pm<br>▲ 2.6 ft |                      |

#### Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

| Th | 12:50 am<br>▲ 2.6 ft | 8:28 am<br>▼ -0.5 ft  | 2:40 pm<br>▲ 2.3 ft | 7:58 pm<br>▼ 1.0 ft  |
|----|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Fr | 1:22 am<br>▲ 2.6 ft  | 9:03 am<br>▼ -0.4 ft  | 3:15 pm<br>▲ 2.2 ft | 8:33 pm<br>▼ 1.0 ft  |
| Sa | 1:55 am<br>▲ 2.5 ft  | 9:37 am<br>▼ -0.3 ft  | 3:51 pm<br>▲ 2.2 ft | 9:10 pm<br>▼ 1.0 ft  |
| Su | 2:29 am<br>▲ 2.4 ft  | 10:11 am<br>▼ -0.2 ft | 4:28 pm<br>▲ 2.1 ft | 9:50 pm<br>▼ 1.0 ft  |
| Mo | 3:05 am<br>▲ 2.4 ft  | 10:45 am<br>▼ -0.1 ft | 5:08 pm<br>▲ 2.1 ft | 10:34 pm<br>▼ 1.0 ft |
| Tu | 3:45 am<br>▲ 2.3 ft  | 11:22 am<br>▼ 0.0 ft  | 5:52 pm<br>▲ 2.0 ft | 11:27 pm<br>▼ 1.0 ft |
| We | 4:32 am<br>▲ 2.1 ft  | 12:04 pm<br>▼ 0.2 ft  | 6:40 pm<br>▲ 2.0 ft |                      |

#### St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

| Th | 12:40 am<br>▲ 2.7 ft | 8:12 am<br>▼ -0.8 ft  | 3:12 pm<br>▲ 2.1 ft | 7:41 pm<br>▼ 1.4 ft  |
|----|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Fr | 1:12 am<br>▲ 2.7 ft  | 8:47 am<br>▼ -0.7 ft  | 3:46 pm<br>▲ 2.0 ft | 8:09 pm<br>▼ 1.4 ft  |
| Sa | 1:48 am<br>▲ 2.6 ft  | 9:23 am<br>▼ -0.6 ft  | 4:21 pm<br>▲ 1.9 ft | 8:42 pm<br>▼ 1.4 ft  |
| Su | 2:27 am<br>▲ 2.6 ft  | 10:01 am<br>▼ -0.5 ft | 4:59 pm<br>▲ 1.9 ft | 9:22 pm<br>▼ 1.4 ft  |
| Mo | 3:09 am<br>▲ 2.4 ft  | 10:41 am<br>▼ -0.4 ft | 5:39 pm<br>▲ 1.9 ft | 10:11 pm<br>▼ 1.3 ft |
| Tu | 3:54 am<br>▲ 2.3 ft  | 11:23 am<br>▼ -0.2 ft | 6:23 pm<br>▲ 1.9 ft | 11:14 pm<br>▼ 1.3 ft |
| We | 4:47 am<br>▲ 2.0 ft  | 12:07 pm<br>▼ 0.0 ft  | 7:08 pm<br>▲ 1.9 ft |                      |

#### Dog Island West End

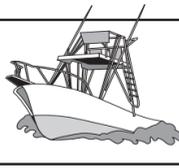
| Th | 12:48 am<br>▲ 2.3 ft | 8:23 am<br>▼ -0.8 ft  | 3:56 pm<br>▲ 1.9 ft | 8:03 pm<br>▼ 1.4 ft  |
|----|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Fr | 1:24 am<br>▲ 2.4 ft  | 8:56 am<br>▼ -0.8 ft  | 4:29 pm<br>▲ 1.9 ft | 8:27 pm<br>▼ 1.4 ft  |
| Sa | 1:59 am<br>▲ 2.3 ft  | 9:32 am<br>▼ -0.7 ft  | 5:02 pm<br>▲ 1.8 ft | 8:53 pm<br>▼ 1.5 ft  |
| Su | 2:34 am<br>▲ 2.3 ft  | 10:12 am<br>▼ -0.6 ft | 5:34 pm<br>▲ 1.8 ft | 9:29 pm<br>▼ 1.4 ft  |
| Mo | 3:12 am<br>▲ 2.2 ft  | 10:53 am<br>▼ -0.5 ft | 6:07 pm<br>▲ 1.7 ft | 10:27 pm<br>▼ 1.4 ft |
| Tu | 3:54 am<br>▲ 2.0 ft  | 11:33 am<br>▼ -0.3 ft | 6:44 pm<br>▲ 1.6 ft | 11:34 pm<br>▼ 1.4 ft |
| We | 4:42 am<br>▲ 1.8 ft  | 12:11 pm<br>▼ -0.1 ft | 7:27 pm<br>▲ 1.6 ft |                      |

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



## 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. Last week included the first six ideas, this week we finish the list! In case you missed it, here is the summary: VHF/FM radio with Digital Selective Calling, a U.S. Coast Guard approved automatic self-inflating Type V personal flotation, "A Boater's Guide to the Federal Requirements for Recreational Boats," a dry box, a marine compass and an aluminum anchor.

On the seventh day of Christmas, my true love gave to me, a "U.S. Coast Guard Approved Type IV" throw cushion. Your true love may already have the U.S. Coast Guard required throw cushion, but we recommend that you have two cushions, with the extra one equipped with a line so that the cushion can be tossed to someone in the water and the line can be used to pull them to your boat. Ring buoys with 60-90 foot lines can be quite helpful in rescuing someone who falls overboard also.

On the eighth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me, a bucket. Most boats have automatic bilge

### 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

pumps. When we forget to put our plugs in before launching our boats, some automatically come on and begin pumping out water. The Coast Guard recommends that you have a backup dewatering system, and that can simply be a bucket. That bucket can serve more than one purpose. It can be used to store items such as your first aid kit and visual distress signals (rockets, flares, and flag). You can find some fancy survival/safety packs at marine stores, or you can go to a paint store and get an unused paint bucket with a lid for almost nothing and create your own.

On the ninth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me, a good pair of boat shoes instead for several reasons. First, you want something that doesn't slip on the deck. Second, you need the extra foot support and grip that a good pair of boat shoes provides. Third, with that sun beating down on the boat, unless you liberally apply sunscreen to the tops of your feet, you will end up with fried feet.

On the tenth day of Christmas, my true love

gave to me, a thingamajig. Your true love needs such a gadget on the boat. You can't go wrong with just about any combination tool for your true love's boat.

On the eleventh day of Christmas, my true love gave to me, a GPS/Sonar combo. There are many different models out there, and they all let you know where you are in the water, how deep it is, if there are any fish below the boat, etc. There is nothing like having a GPS on board when the fog rolls in and you are way out there in the middle of the bay with no visual references

On the twelfth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me, a U.S. Coast Guard Approved, non-expired, gauge in the green, fire extinguisher. Although fire extinguishers are generally good for 12 years after manufacture, they should be replaced if the charge needle is not in the green or the body of the extinguisher shows signs of rust (especially on the bottom of the extinguisher). Although it may seem strange; on the twelfth day of Christmas, I am going to exchange all that stuff listed above. I am going

out on a limb here, but I bet you don't have any plans to buy your true love twelve days' worth of gifts. I have given you several options, ranging in price from \$ to \$\$\$\$. You know what your budget is. I would like to make one final recommendation. Check out your true love's boat and see when their fire extinguisher expires. No boater should be out on the water without one on board.

Many thanks to Bob for this rendition of the Twelve Days of Christmas! And as always, thanks to Sherrie we will always remember safe boating is no accident!

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](http://www.uscgaux.net) follow us on Facebook @ Apalachee Bay Flotilla 12 or contact our Flotilla Commander Phil Hill at [pnkhhill2000@yahoo.com](mailto:pnkhhill2000@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](mailto: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](http://www.cgaux.org).

## Underwater Wakulla

By Rusty Miller

### New training.

Try new things. Sometimes even old dogs like me need to expand our horizons no matter what age you are, the older the harder it is to do. That is what I am going to talk about today. I am about to embark on a new way of diving, at least for me starting today.

I've been diving for several decades using the old standard of having a scuba tank on my back with a BCD in the standard configuration. I am getting ready to take a class on side mount scuba diving.

The first day was spent in the classroom. I learned the history of side mount diving, the mechanics, and then the equipment requirements. The history was pretty interesting and so was the mechanics of it, but the equipment was the most interesting part. The equipment uses all the familiar components of basic scuba diving. You use two regulators instead of one; you use two tanks instead of one, so the tanks I used were aluminum 80's. Even as my instructor was trying to tell me how different those sides mount diving will be. I never imagined how true that was going to be.

I need to give my instructor a big shout out. She has to be the most patient and honest instructor I have ever met in my over 50 years of scuba diving. I'll explain as I go on.

The first two dives we did at Peacock 2. It's part of the Wes Skiles State Park in Live Oak. The spring we used is a fairly large to mid size bowl shape that is about 20 feet at the deepest point. It has a lot of green algae and silt all over it so buoyancy control is everything as well as being able to frog kick correctly. You cannot take students there for open water classes however you can go to Orange Grove Spring which is located in the park. My instructor and I walked down to the spring so she could brief me on what she wanted to accomplish during the two dives. She explained the flow of the springs in the park and how they are all connected via underground tunnels. I was totally fascinated but knew that cave diving was not something I wanted to do.

We walked back to the trucks and she went through again how to rig up the two tanks so they could be connected to the harness. This has to be very precise because if you don't rig them up correctly then you will have a lot of issues that will get you into trouble later on.

She brought a dolly cart to transport the tanks to the spring; I told you she was very thorough.

Now comes the fun part (sarcasm). It was not as easy as it looked when she hooked up the tanks to her harness. Now it was my turn and I failed miserably and had to try it several times before I got my tanks hooked up to the harness.

Oh, but it gets worse for me: remember I said she was very patient, well she did an amazing job of encouraging me through each step and skill I would try. Finally I was in the water with everything rigged up on the harness. I need to tell you this is not your typical BCD - it is far from it, though it does have an inflatable wing that is the only thing that they have in common. It will keep you on the surface and your head above the water.

Next article I will tell you how both dives went. Remember I told you my instructor was very patient and encouraging, you will find out why.

Until then keep making bubbles.

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# When we're desperate to be valued



By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

The phone is quiet. Perpetually quiet. Your eyes well up with tears as you pray for it to ring. Desperate for an indication that somebody cares. Des-

perate to be someone's BFF. Unfortunately, your obsessive need for others to want to spend time with you sabotages any real chance for healthy relationships. And your angry responses to their perceived rejection only perpetuate the cycle. You feel helpless. Your gaping need screams louder than your ability to calm down enough so that others can enjoy your company. The huge chips on both your shoulders, including the why-didn't-you-

return-my-calls chip, don't do much for spreading holiday cheer at family gatherings, either. I've been there. It wasn't until my sister, Teri, suggested I focus more on loving others – rather than demanding them to love me – that things changed. When we validate others, not only do they benefit, but a wonderful healing takes place in us. Especially when we show love to those who aren't easy to be around. Those who wear their own chips

on their shoulders. We can't truly appreciate others, however, if we're convinced that no one loves us. Thankfully, Someone does – deeply and completely. And because Almighty God loves us so magnificently, we can love others. Look at this powerfully beautiful verse: "We love because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19 ESV). Because God loves and cherishes us, even with all the chips we shoulder, we find comfort, security and stability in Him. In gratitude,

we can stop dwelling on our bottomless need for validation and ask our heavenly Father to show us people who also need to feel loved. An act of kindness or even a simple smile can change someone's day. Everyone, every single person, has a need to be noticed, valued and loved. Even nitpicky Aunt Marion, prettier-than-me Christina and nosy-church-member Agatha. Caring about others is the best way to overcome feelings of rejection. It might even make our telephone

ring. But on the days when the phone seems silent, we can pick it up and reach out to a person who needs to know someone cares. The more we realize that we are extraordinarily loved, the more our lives will become complete – and less lonely. We might even become someone's BFF. *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.*

## OUT TO PASTOR

# Do I really talk in my sleep?



By **JAMES SNYDER**

For a long time, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has accused me of talking in my sleep. I never believed her and just thought she was joking. One time she accused me of that and said, "Why do you talk so much in your sleep at night?" Thinking this was a platform for jokes, I said, "That's because, during the day, I don't have any opportunity to talk." Then I flashed her one of my signature smiles. It was about our third Christmas, and as we gathered around the Christmas tree, I hand-

ed her a little Christmas box all wrapped up in red paper with a nice little bow on the top. Looking at me, she smiled and said, "Is this the watch you were talking about in your sleep the other night?" One morning at breakfast as we were finishing, I said to her, "I've been thinking that today..." She interrupted me and said to me, "I know. You want to go and get that new computer you've been talking about in your sleep." I have been worrying about what secrets I'm exposing at night while I'm sound asleep. Then the other day at breakfast time, she looked at me and said, "I think that's an excellent idea you have." Looking at her, I wondered what she was talking about, so I said, "What are you talking about?" "You know," she said with a big smile, "that

vacation you're planning for this coming summer. I think it is a wonderful idea." Not knowing what to say, I looked at her, "Where did you ever get that idea?" With one of her chuckles, she said, "You know. That vacation you were talking about in your sleep last night. I agree with everything you said about it." Thinking about this for some time, I devised a little plan. I pretended I was asleep one night, and I began talking around the middle of the night. I said, "I think I'm going to surprise my wife by buying her a brand-new car. After all, she deserves it." I was surprised when she said nothing about me talking in my sleep last night. Maybe she fell asleep and didn't hear me. So, I decided to try it the next night. That following day

there was absolutely nothing she said about me talking in my sleep. I did this for two more nights in a row, and to my surprise, she never even acknowledged that I talked in my sleep. Then I decided to do it one more night. The following day at breakfast, while we were eating, she stared at me, and I said, "Is something wrong?" "I don't think that was very funny." "What are you talking

about?" I asked her. "You know what I mean, all that talking about buying me a new car, but I know you were not asleep when you said that. You are just trying to trick me, and I'm not going to have anything to do with that." Then I was reminded of a verse in the Bible. "For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether" (Psalm 139:4). I'm comfortable with knowing God hears ev-

erything I say. With that I need to discipline my tongue and keep it under control. *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.* **Cheryl Mixon-Cruise's column should return next week.**

## DEATH NOTICES

• **Lisa Susan Stockard**, 62, of Tallahassee, died November 30, 2022. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

## Family Funeral to host Remembrance

Family Funeral Home will host the Big Bend Hospice Tree of Remembrance ceremony on Thursday, Dec. 15 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Ornaments will be available to purchase in memory of a loved one to decorate the tree. Come support the outstanding work that Big Bend Hospice does for the community. For more information, contact the funeral home at 850-926-5919.

# Sheriff's Report

Activity reported for the week of Nov. 25 to Dec. 1:

### FRIDAY, NOV. 25

• Russell Wireman reported Eric Wireman on his property after being issued a trespass warning. A previously issued trespass warning requested by Wireman's daughter was confirmed. The investigation revealed that after being issued a trespass warning Eric has been staying in the wooded area on the property. Wireman's daughter refused prosecution and simply requested Eric be removed from the property. Deputy Kendrick Gavin investigated.

### SATURDAY, NOV. 26

• Bryan Lalonde reported theft of an Amazon box from his mailbox. The box contained \$70.96 in clothing. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Kendrick Gavin investigated.

### SUNDAY, NOV. 27

• An employee at the gas station at Spring Creek Highway and U.S.

98 reported someone driving off with the nozzle from the gas pumps. The nozzle was recovered. The estimated damage is approximately \$750 to \$1,500. A report was needed for insurance purposes. Deputy Kendrick Gavin investigated. • Jamie Decker reported the tires on her vehicle being slashed while she was out of town. A possible suspect has been named. The tires were valued at approximately \$260. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Tiffany Spears investigated. • Glinda Morse reported being defrauded out of \$205. Morse made a partial payment for items on Facebook. When she arrived at the address provided by the seller it was a vacant lot for sale. Morse continued to attempt contact with the seller, she was then provided another location to meet a family member who would give her an address after she paid the remaining balance. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Rudolph Hinson investigated.

• Joshua Colman was stopped for speeding and failure to maintain a single lane. Colman refused field sobriety exercises. Based on the evidence available Colman was placed under arrest and transported without incident for DUI. Deputy Dustin Matthews investigated.

### MONDAY, NOV. 28

• Deputy William Bennett responded to the sheriff's office lobby for a reported fraud. Upon arrival the victim, who was very recently released from prison, advised he was turned down when he attempted to open an account at the bank. The victim advised someone had opened an account using his information while he was incarcerated. This case has been

sent to detectives for further investigation.

### TUESDAY, NOV. 29

• Deputy William Bennett responded to a home on Peaceful Lane in reference to a theft. Contact was made with Blair Bull, who stated someone attempted to cash a paycheck belonging to her juvenile daughter. The paycheck was from working the fairgrounds and was \$115. There is also a \$40 check missing. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

• Deputy Heather Will responded to an address on Sycamore Trail. Contact was made with James Loperfido, who stated someone cut his Christmas tree lights damaging them. Total damage is approximate-

ly \$70. Loperfido stated this is the second time it has happened. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

• Deputy Wade Wright responded to a home on Catawba Trail in reference a vehicle theft. Contact was made with Kodie Nix, who stated someone had taken her vehicle and refused to return it. Nix was able to provide a possible suspect in this case. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

### THURSDAY, DEC. 1

• The pastor of the Greater Mount Trial Primitive Baptist Church reported an unknown person(s) in a white pick-

up truck with a lowered backend was seen doing tire burn outs and "donuts" on the parking lot and grass area of the church, causing damage to the grass. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Rudolph Hinson investigated.

• The pastor of Medart Assembly of God reported a catalytic converter was stolen from a church van which had been parked on the church lot in the past few weeks. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Kendrick Gavin investigated.

Remember to always report suspicious or illegal activity at 850-745-7100, or call 911 for

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Wednesday: Mass at 7:00 pm  
1<sup>st</sup> Saturday: Adoration and Confessions at 8:30 am  
1<sup>st</sup> Saturday: Mass at 9:30 am.  
Every Saturday: Confessions at 4:30 pm  
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Facebook - Seas Parish

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**Sopchoppy United Methodist Church**

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

Pastor Cheryl Mixon-Cruise 850-962-2511

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## Use the News

### 1. Holiday Season

December has arrived, so that means it's time to get the holiday spirit. Three major holidays are celebrated in December — Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa. And for many people, that means giving and receiving gifts. As a class, talk about favorite gifts you have given or received in the past. Then use ads in the newspaper or online to find gifts you would like to give family and friends, and gifts you would like receive. Don't worry about prices when doing your "shopping," but think carefully about the reasons you would like to give or receive the gifts you choose. Make a list of gifts you would choose for family or friends and write a reason for choosing each one. Then make a list of gifts you would like to receive and write a reason for each. Share lists with the class.

Goals: Engaging effectively in a range of collaborative discussions; using drawings or visual displays when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or points; producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task.

iday decorations. In the newspaper or online, find a story or photo of a person you would like to draw to be part of the decorations. Draw a picture of this person, and write a sentence explaining why you chose him or her. For added fun, draw a picture of yourself for the White House celebration.

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.

### 3. Double Volcano

**Volcano eruptions** are among the most dramatic events in the natural world. They happen when pressure builds up on hot, liquid rock called magma inside the Earth, forcing it through the outer layer of the Earth's crust. This month the world's biggest active volcano erupted in the U.S. state of Hawaii — and it gave Hawaiians a double dose of volcano excitement. The eruption of the giant Mauna Loa volcano happened next door to the volcano Kilauea, which has been erupting for more than a year on Hawaii's Big

Island. Just 21 miles apart, the two volcanoes have not erupted together since 1984, CNN News reported. Neither volcano is threatening homes, roads or other structures at this time, according to officials of Hawaii's Volcanoes National Park. Yet with lava and gases soaring as high as 200 feet in the air, the Mauna Loa eruption is causing dangerous volcanic fog — known as "vog" — that affects air quality. Mauna Loa, whose name means "long mountain," rises 13,679 feet above sea level (2.5 miles) and about 30,000 feet from the ocean floor, according to the National Park Service. Volcano eruptions are a natural event that can have great impact on the surrounding area. In the newspaper or online, find and closely read a story about another natural event that is affecting people and the environment. Use what you read to write a paragraph or short paper on the cause and impact of this natural event. Print or clip photos from the newspaper or Internet to illustrate your paper.

Goals: Integrating information presented in different media or formats to develop a coherent understanding of a

topic; conducting short research projects that build knowledge about a topic; citing specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions.

### 4. A First for Space

The European Space Agency (ESA) is the continent of Europe's version of America's NASA space agency. And like NASA, the ESA is doing new things in space every year. This month, the European agency announced it has done something no space agency has ever done before. It has selected a person with a physical disability to train to be an astronaut. John McFall, a 41-year-old British paralympic runner who now works as a doctor, is one of 17 candidates chosen from 22,500 applicants to join the space agency's 2022 astronaut class, the Washington Post newspaper reports. The members of the class now will go through one year of basic training in space technology, science and medicine before entering training for service on the International Space Station orbiting above the Earth. McFall, who lost his right leg in a motorcycle accident at age 19, is a former sprinter who represented Great Britain in the 2008 Beijing

Paralympic Games — and won a bronze medal for finishing third. People with disabilities — or "different abilities" — often make news for doing unusual things. In the newspaper or online, find and closely read a story about such a person doing something special. Use what you read to write a short editorial, telling how this person's achievement could inspire others.

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.

### 5. Save Those Memories

In the holiday season families get together for meals or special events and make memories that they will look back on with smiles and warm feelings. In the state of Missouri, a woman with a big family has come up with an unusual way to preserve those memories. Every Thanksgiving, Deb Mills asks everyone who comes to dinner to sign their name on her holiday tablecloth in colored marker. Then she uses thread of the same color to make those signatures permanent with a

sewing skill called embroidery. She started the tradition 22 years ago, and since then she has added dozens of names to her tablecloth, TV station KAKE reports. She uses a different colored thread and marker for each year, so she can tell which guests she had for each holiday. The tradition strengthens family connections, she says, and that's what is most important to her. "We are so blessed with such a great family," she says. "Families are of extreme importance, and making memories and traditions that carry on to the next generation [is] irreplaceable." At every holiday, families do things that they will remember happily in years to come. In the newspaper or online, find and closely read a story about a family doing something they will remember this way. Use what you read to write a letter to a friend telling why this family's activity will become a special memory. Talk as a class about some of your favorite holiday memories. What made them special?

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

### 2. White House Decorations

One of the things people look forward to at this time each year is seeing how the White House will be decorated for the holidays in Washington, DC. As the home and workplace of the President and First Lady, the White House gets special attention not only for the beauty of the decorations but for the message they offer the nation and the world. The theme is picked by the First Lady, and this year Jill Biden chose "We the People." Those words are taken from the first lines of the U.S. Constitution and reflect the First Lady's belief that the White House is "the People's House." To show this, some of the 77 Christmas trees on display are decorated with mirrors, so that visitors can see themselves as part of the White House celebration. Other trees are decorated with self-portrait drawings created by students of the 2021 Teachers of the Year from across the country. "The First Lady specifically wanted the project to include self-portraits, because she wanted kids to see themselves in the holiday decorations," said a White House spokeswoman. More than 50,000 people are expected to visit the White House to view the decorations this holiday season. As a teacher, First Lady Jill Biden wanted to include children's drawings as part of the White House hol-



THIS TYPE OF ANIMAL IS THE MOST COMMON AROUND THE WORLD.

ANSWER: BIRD

### Creative Coloring

Celebrate birds of all types. Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



### THIS DAY IN...



### HISTORY

- **1642:** ABEL TAGMAN IS THE FIRST RECORDED EUROPEAN TO SIGHT NEW ZEALAND.
- **1769:** DARTMOUTH COLLEGE IS FOUNDED BY REVEREND ELEAZAR WHELLOCK ON LAND DONATED BY ROYAL GOVERNOR JOHN WENTWORTH.
- **1962:** NASA LAUNCHES RELAY 1, THE FIRST ACTIVE REPEATER COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE IN ORBIT.



**MIMIC**  
to copy or imitate closely

### How they SAY that in...

- ENGLISH:** Beak
- SPANISH:** Pico
- ITALIAN:** Becco
- FRENCH:** Bec
- GERMAN:** Schnabel

### Did You Know?

AROUND 75% OF THE WORLD'S WILD BIRDS WILL ONLY LIVE FOR AROUND A YEAR. THE LARGER THE BIRD, THE LONGER IT TENDS TO LIVE.



### GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: BLUE JAY AT FEEDER

# SAFE DRIVER WORD SEARCH

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

## WORDS

- ACCIDENT
- AIRBAG
- ALERT
- BLINDSPOT
- CAMERA
- COURTESY
- DEBRIS
- DISTRACTION
- DRIVE
- HAZARD
- LAW
- MERGE
- PATROL
- REDUCED
- REGULATION
- SAFETY
- SEAT BELT
- SIGNAL
- SIGNS
- SLOW
- SPACE
- VEHICLE
- VISIBILITY
- WEATHER

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

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## CRYPTO FUN

☼ ☽ ☿ ♀ ♁ ♃ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓  
 Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to being spiritual.  
 Each number corresponds to a letter.  
 (Hint: 25 = I)

- A. 2 26 25 8 25 15 11 21 13**  
*Clue: Relating to the human spirit*
- B. 24 16 13 25 16 19 2**  
*Clue: Things one accepts as true*
- C. 15 17 25 4 14 25 4 12**  
*Clue: Using rational judgement*
- D. 15 5 12 16 15 17 16 8**  
*Clue: In proximity to another*

## WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to safe driving.

**D P E S E**

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| 3 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 6 |
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| 6 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 9 |
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| 3 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 6 |
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### CLUES ACROSS

- Take weapons away from
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Most ancient Hindu scriptures
- Actress Lathan
- Baseball's strikeout king
- British code-breaker Turing
- One who lives by disreputable dealings
- Tropical American plant
- Opposite of right
- Importance
- Monetary units
- Lawmen
- Cool!
- Affirmative answer
- Thrust horse power (abbr.)
- Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- Muslim nobleman
- About aviation

### CLUES DOWN

- Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
- The back side of the neck
- A type of imine
- Black bird
- Partner to "Pa"
- Puts together in time
- Lucid
- Transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm
- Demonstrates the truth of
- Ancient Greek City
- Nishi language
- Slang for fidgety
- Southwestern farmers
- Metric weight unit
- Instant replay in soccer
- Less polished
- Popular pickup truck model
- Slang for a cigarette
- Large pile

- Solid geometric figure
- One from the Big Apple
- Male admirers
- Balsam is one
- Local area network
- Canadian law enforcers
- Koran chapters
- Cooperstown, NY museum (abbr.)
- Certificate (abbr.)
- An official who carries a mace of office
- Briefly in fashion
- Volcanic ash
- Dutch city
- Made of wood
- Legendary golfer
- Restaurant
- None
- Spanish city
- Stony waste matter
- Father
- Confederate soldier
- The ancient Egyptian sun god



CHAMBER NEWS

# Here are the winners of Chamber Bingo



Emily Rudd – week 1



Rachel Woofter – week 2



Chad Peltier – week 3



Chelsea Carter – week 4



Ashley Isman – grand winner

**By MISSY RUDD GAINER**  
Of the Chamber

Out of dozens of entries, five lucky Wakulla County bingo players won cash for the holidays last month -- just for shopping locally.

Sponsored by the Wakulla County Chamber of Commerce, the Business Bingo

contest paid \$100 weekly prizes to winners Emily Rudd, Rachel Woofter, Chad Peltier and Chelsea Carter. Ashley Isman won the \$300 grand prize. She played all four weeks and commented, "Thank you! I had such a fun time playing!"

2022 Business Bingo was the Chamber's third annual contest. Players submitted

traditional paper cards and emailed entries, with receipts from nearly 100 Wakulla County businesses. "It was great to see the wide support of our small, local businesses as well as our bigger stores," said Tiffany Hartsfield, a Chamber board member and local Realtor. "This year's contest connected many shoppers to

local businesses and that really boosts our local economy."

Many businesses supported the Chamber in making this year's contest a success. Special thanks to The Wakulla Sun and Sun Monthly for a month-long advertising campaign; Signs by Bri for printing four weeks of traditional cards; Doug Apple and Wave 94.1 for

creating, editing and airing our radio ads and interviews; and all the businesses who stocked our cards in their storefronts and shoppers who submitted their entries.

See you all in 2023, and remember to shop local this holiday season and all year long!

## From the Chamber desk:



**By HEATHER BRYAN**  
Of the Chamber

First, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Heather Bryan, I will be taking over for Petra as she retires at the end of the year. So far, I have learned so many

things on how the Chamber gears work, and it is a well-oiled machine. I couldn't have asked for a better person to train me; Petra is a wealth of knowledge and wonderful to work with. Now down to business.

In November, we added a new member, One Blood, Inc., a blood bank located in Tallahassee, serving our community via their blood bus. This brings our total to 74 new members so far this year! There have been 4 Ribbon Cuttings/Grand Openings in November-San Marcos, American Dream Realty, Sunrays Spa, and 319 Nutrition.

We had a full house at our Business Excellence Awards Banquet. Thank you to our title sponsor Ameris Bank for the continued support of this annual event. You will be able to see all the winners in the different categories on our website and Facebook page.

Last month kicked off our Shop Local campaign for the season! What does it mean to shop local? Shopping locally is the conscious act of everyday consumers, like you and me, making the decision to buy gifts, day to day items, food and so much more from a local business. When spending

the money at our local small businesses, you're making a personal investment into our community, which is huge! In fact, for every \$100 spent roughly \$68 to \$73 stays in our community, that is an impressive statistic. Part of this campaign is our Business Bingo which runs for 4 weeks with a weekly payout of \$100 and a grand prize of \$300 in week 5. All cards entered though out the 4-week period are entered in the grand prize drawing. Thank you to all the participants, both players and the local businesses.

Also, a big thank you

to the committee: Missy Rudd Gainer, Megan Smith, Tiffany Hartsfield and Katie Taff for making Business Bingo the best way to kick off the season!

Things upcoming to look forward to in December:

- December 10th – Christmas in Sopchoppy
- December 17th–Wakulla Horseman's Association Club Show
- December 24th and 25th –Christmas holiday

On the Chamber website you can find times and locations for these events: <https://wakullacountychamber.com/event/>

As always, a list of our members, services and products they provide on our website at <https://wakullacountychamber.com/>. Our 2022 Wakulla Co. Chamber Business Directory was released in May and is available at several Chamber businesses and at the Chamber office. Call the Chamber office at (850) 926-1848 or send an email to [info@wakullacountychamber.com](mailto:info@wakullacountychamber.com) to get your paper or electronic copy today.

We also want to thank all of our sponsors who made the directory possible this year.

## Ribbon Cuttings:



### Sunrays Spa

Welcome from Sunrays Spa, your #1 source to relax, revive and rejuvenate your body! Owned and operated by Nationally Board-Certified Massage Therapist Sandra Steward, with over 14 years of experience in multiple facets of massage and relaxation. We are here to help you unwind from the stress and tension of everyday life, reduce your pain, and stimulate your body's healing process!

We are open by appointment only from Monday-Saturday, and you may book your appointment online or purchase gift cards at [www.sunraysspa.com](http://www.sunraysspa.com). Feel free to contact us at 850-745-6422 for any information or any questions you may have. We look forward to working with you to achieve the best results possible!



### San Marcos Mexican Grill

San Marcos Mexican Grill and Cantina is located at 2000 Crawfordville Hwy. The restaurant serves freshly prepared food Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Sunday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., as well as margaritas, frozen, or on the rocks. For reservations call (850) 962-8079.



### American Dream Realty

American Dream Realty: The American Dream is excited to be expanding into the Wakulla area and surrounding communities. Our mission is simple, "To Provide the highest quality real estate services, passionately serve our community, build personal and lasting relationships, and help each individual God puts into our path."

Our business model consists of hiring and training the top Realtors in our area and to perform the highest quality real estate services for each community we do business in.

Our Florida brokerage was started July 1st, 2021 in Perry, Florida and had quickly grown to a Top 20 Brokerage in all of the North Florida area. (currently the #12 ranked brokerage in TBR for 2022) We bring a full-service real estate experience to you complete with high-end marketing, professional photography/videography, 3D home tours and so much more! This keeps our team on the cutting edge of Real Estate marketing and gets your property SOLD in record time.

We look forward to growing, and giving back, in the Wakulla community for years to come.



### Shepard Accounting

Shepard Accounting celebrated its 25th anniversary with an after-hours reception on Tuesday, Nov. 22. Staffer Chelsea Carter with co-owner Jessica Revell, her mother and co-owner Lorra Phillips, and staffer Ashley Isman.



### 319 Nutrition

319 Nutrition is a Nutrition Club with meal replacement shakes, loaded teas, beauty drinks, protein iced coffees, protein bars, supplements, and many other healthy alternatives to fast food and sugar filled sodas and energy drinks. The store is open Monday thru Friday from 7 am- 5pm, Saturday 9am – 4pm and Sunday Noon till 3pm.

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SCAN ME for electronic editions of *The Wakulla Sun* mobile users scroll down to dates

# Holiday Gift Shopping Guide

Shop Local Wakulla

**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!



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# Christmas Cantata

December 11 • 6 pm

## "Christmas: The Story of God's Family"

Join us in celebrating the birth of Christ the Savior in the telling of the wondrous story of God's plan of salvation in song and narrative reading.  
Light refreshments and fellowship to follow in the Christian Life Center.

**EVERYONE WELCOME!**



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# Have you ever wanted to take an Antarctic expedition?



By **LINDA CARTER**  
Staff Reporter

Some people dream of visiting the South Pole, while others simply dream of seeing whales and penguins. For the adventurer it may be the thrill of going somewhere few people get to visit. Whatever your reason a trip to the Antarctic is far more affordable this year due to an oversupply of new luxury cruise ships visiting this region. A good starting point for planning is to remember that our winter is their summer; the full season is October til March

When people refer to the Antarctic, they are generally referring to the area made up of the Antarctic Peninsula, the South Shetland Islands, the South Sandwich Islands, South Orkney Islands, Falkland Islands and South Georgia. The Antarctic is separated from the coast of South America by the Drake Passage, named after Sir Frances Drake. While Drake never actually sailed this passage, in 1578 his ship drifted farther south after crossing the Straights of Magellan, leaving sailors to speculate that there might be a connection between the Atlantic and the Pacific.

Before you book your

cruise here are 9 things to consider:

1) October to early November is the best time to see the most pristine icebergs with very few footprints in the pristine snow.

2) By December the average high reaches 30 degrees, and you are most likely to see hatchling penguin chicks and elephant seal pups. This is the height of the summer with nearly 20 hours of daylight

3) By January and early February, a high of 37 degrees melts the ice further, so you can journey further south. You can watch penguins interact with their young, with February being the best time to spot many varieties of whale. By March the season winds down and wildlife is leaving this region.

4) The Drake Passage can be rough, sometimes affectionately termed the Drake shake, and at other times the Drake Lake, like rounding the horn, there is no way to predict the weather. Some companies offer one-way, or round-trip flights instead, but those can be canceled due to bad weather, leading to a cancelled cruise vacation.

5) There are four different size ships that can explore the Antarctic. The smallest is a sailing motor yacht for up to 12. Cruise ships from 13-200 guests can do two or more landings a day. Ships with 201-500 guests can typically make one and possibly two landings in a day. Ships with over



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500 guests cannot make landfall on the Antarctic Peninsula. Instead, larger ships typically visit the Falklands' and just cruise by the Antarctic.

6) The IAATO is a member organization whose mission is to advocate for a practice of safe and environmentally sound practices in the Antarctic. They regulate the number of people allowed on the

continent at a time. It is for this reason that only 100 guests are allowed onshore at a time in any location. The remaining guests would either be doing tours via zodiacs kayaks or even snorkeling.

7) If your bucket list is a specific penguin, such as the famous emperor penguin, this will dictate your destination choices. The rock hopper

penguin is found only in the Falkland Islands. The emperor penguin is found in the Falklands and South Georgia, and the macaroni is found in South Georgia Island. The Antarctic Peninsula and South Shetland Islands, and the South Sandwich Islands are home to the gentoo, the chinstrap and the adeliie penguin. You will find penguin colonies in

South America, as well as numerous destinations around the world.

8) For seabird spotting most of the bird species are found on one of the islands rather than the peninsula, and while sailing in between you may see more than five species of whales and six species of seals.

9) The level of luxury service varies between cruise lines. Since to some extent the cruise lines choose their own description terms this can be subjective. Some descriptions include: Contemporary (Linblad,) Premium (Celebrity and Holland America and Hurtigruten) Ultra Premium (Viking, Oceania), Luxury (Swan Hellenic, Atlas Ocean and Aurora), Ultra Luxury (Seabourn, Silversea, Scenic, Quark, Ponant, and Hapag Lloyd) The level of luxury amenities varies, including butlers, inclusive alcohol and excursions, inclusive Wi-Fi, specialty dining, and even a submarine on Seabourn Cruise Line.

The Antarctic land mass is 1.5 times the size of the US, and in the winter its size doubles as the ice builds up around it. For the explorers among us, this is just one more continent just waiting to be visited. If this is on your bucket list, and you have time to spare, then this is the year to visit; unlike the usual advertising hype, some fares are truly half off.

Linda Carter is Luxury Cruise & Travel Inc and she can be contacted at 850-556-9881.

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