



Page 3

Rudolph Jr. is this weekend at high school

The Wakulla Sun



Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday



Thunderstorms

Hi: 71° Lo: 45° 60%
Sunrise 7:15 AM
Sunset 5:36 PM

Friday



Sunny

Hi: 61° Lo: 43° 1%
Sunrise 7:16 AM
Sunset 5:36 PM

Saturday



Partly Cloudy

Hi: 58° Lo: 40° 1%
Sunrise 7:17 AM
Sunset 5:36 PM

"It's a New Day"

Locally Owned & Operated

Our 1st Year, 43rd Issue
Thursday, December 15, 2022



\$1
One Section

County gets \$4.9M

State DEP awards money for aquifer recharge at the golf course

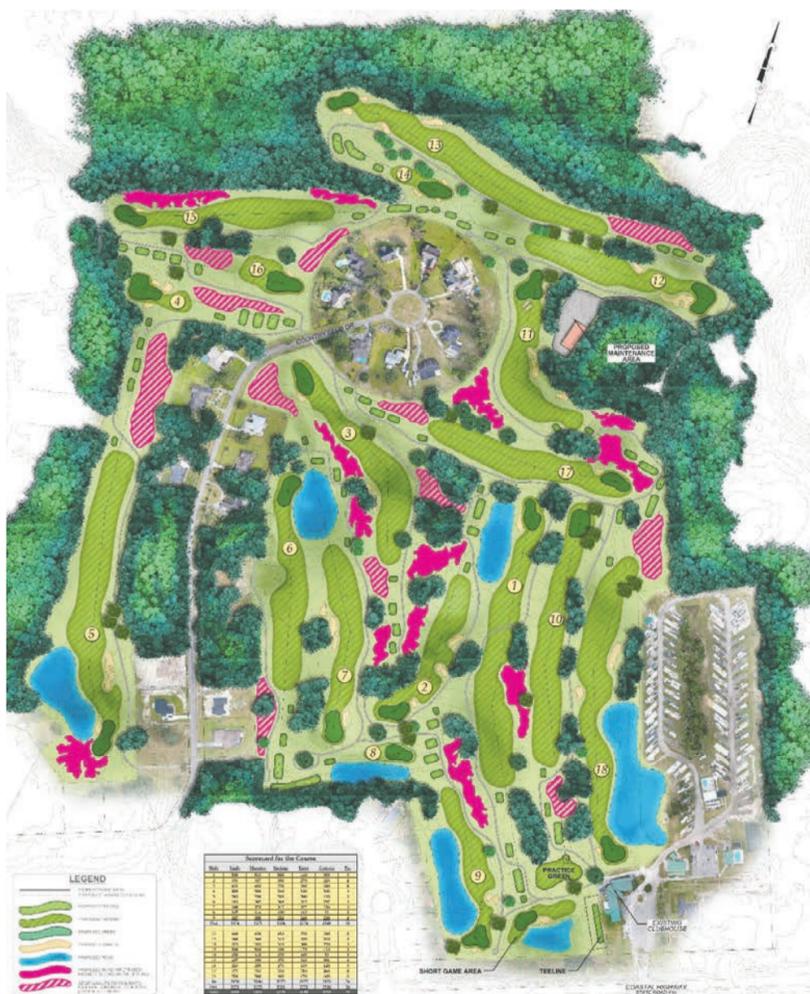
Special to The Sun

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection recently awarded Wakulla County \$4,942,250.00 to replace the irrigation system and install rapid infiltration basins for aquifer recharge at the Wakulla County Golf Course.

The funding was awarded through the DEP Alternate Water Supply Program and came from State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds and Springs Funds. Projects funded through this program prioritize regional projects in the areas of greatest need and projects that provide the most significant benefit to the environment.

"Wakulla County is grateful for DEP's commitment to safeguarding our aquifer and springs, to date they have invested over \$74 million in funding for wastewater infrastructure improvements and septic to sewer connection projects," said County Administrator David Edwards, "this new project allows the Golf Course, previously irrigated with water from the aquifer, to be utilized as the County's primary aquifer recharge site."

The Golf Course is in a Primary Focus Area of the Wakulla Springs Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP). The BMAP was created with the goal of restoring the basin. Since its creation, the county has implemented multiple strate-



gies necessary to achieve this goal. Working with DEP has allowed planning for future wastewater treatment capacity needs, benefiting generations of citizens and our environment.

In 2012, the county began pursuing funding to expand wastewater treatment by .650 Million Gallons Per Day using advanced wastewater treatment standards, the highest standard in Florida.

After years of work to secure approval and grant funding, the county's treatment capacity increased to 1.2 MGD. With an average current flow of .780 MGD, .600 MGD can be sprayed on the golf course to recharge the aquifer safely. Upon completion of the rapid infiltration basin and the golf course spray system, the county plans to have a spray capacity of 2.0MGD.

"Projects like this are

vital to sustaining Florida's natural water resources for generations to come," said DEP Deputy Secretary of Ecosystem Restoration Adam Blalock. "Through this partnership with Wakulla County, this alternative water supply project is a critical component in recharging the aquifer and supporting the reduction of total nitrogen in the aquifer and nearby Wakulla Springs, a first magnitude spring."

R.H. Carter, longtime senior center director, passes

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

R.H. Carter, the former executive director of the Wakulla Senior Citizen Center, died on Wednesday, Dec. 7. He was 79.

He was financial officer for Wakulla Public Schools until he retired.

He took over running the senior center and built the new building and oversaw construction of the adjacent senior center apartments. He oversaw expansion of the county transportation department, which is run by the senior center, and expanded offerings to local seniors. He often said that the biggest threat to seniors was loneliness and it was the job of the center to give seniors somewhere to go where they could socialize and have a meal and do something.

He retired again, saying he wanted to care for his ailing wife, Beverly. While retired, the senior center building was named for him in his honor.

After Maurice Langston stepped down as senior center director, the board convinced Carter to come back temporarily – he worked for no pay for a period – while the board sought a new director, and ultimately convinced Carter to stay.

But Carter's time at the center did not end well: He was fired by the board for insubordination and his name struck from the building.

Prior to all of that, Carter was widely respected for his financial acumen and his dedication to Wakulla County and its senior citizens.



R.H. Carter

Correction

Last week's Chamber News included a photo and outline of Shepard Accounting and Tax Service's 25th anniversary celebration. It should have noted that the firm was founded by Lorra Phillips. We regret the error.

Community parades and festivals



Santa was in Sopchoppy on Saturday with Landon.

Saturday, Dec. 10 featured a plethora of Christmas festivals and parades, literally from one end of the county to the other: from the annual Christmas in Sopchoppy with Santa arriving on a firetruck, to the 5th annual Apalachee Bay Coastal Christmas at Shell Point, to St. Marks' 16th annual golf cart parade. (Photos by Charity Tumbleson)

More photos on Page 3



Santa and Mrs. Claus outside Bo Lynn's in St. Marks and the golf cart parade.



The golf cart parade at Shell Point on Saturday.

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Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park

Oakleaf Hydrangea

By LYNN ARTZ and SANDY TEDDER



Oakleaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*) is a flowering shrub found in the southeastern U.S. along streams and in woods. It thrives with morning sun and afternoon shade. Oakleaf hydrangea is a prized landscape shrub due to its year-round appeal. In summer, it sports huge, long-lasting clusters of white flowers that slowly turn pink. In fall, the large leaves turn vivid red and persist before dropping. Even the exfoliating bark of the bare stems is attractive. Oakleaf hydrangea grows 3-12 feet tall and 2-5 feet wide and attracts native bees. Although not found in the wild in Wakulla County, this shrub has been documented in Liberty, Gadsden, and Leon Counties. See oakleaf hydrangea at the north edge of the woods at Sopchoppy Depot Park.



NORTH FLORIDA LEARNING CENTER
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PK-12 Tutoring / Test Prep Center

Student of the Week

Lillabeth Kilgore, 3rd grader at Shadeville Elementary

Principal: Tim Wheeler

Lillabeth is always contributing to our classroom, feeling like a "family" by being kind and patient with everyone. She treats her table group, Kagan partners, and friends with the same level of respect and kindness. Of course, she also loves to be goofy and have fun when the time is right! She puts 100% effort into everything she does and tries to be a great role model for the students around her.



STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.

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



Lisa Craze, CFC
 Wakulla County Tax Collector

ENACTED: 2006.

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



Enacted: 07/01/2014.

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




A Wakulla Wild Animal Rescue
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP?

We always need donations of these items:

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

Florida Wild Mammal Association

198 Edgar Poole Road
 Crawfordville, FL 32327
 FWMA.org
363-2351

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More special events photos



Vendor Courtney Morgan with art work at the Sopchoppy Festival.



Parker Revell with Santa at the Open House at Blackfoot Roofing on Tuesday, Dec. 6. Parker put his bid in for a Hoverboard and a BMX trick bike.

Photos by
**LYNDA
KINSEY**



At Blackfoot Roofing's ribbon-cutting on Tuesday, Dec. 6, owner Travis Bozeman got Santa to pose with the Toys for Tots drive box.



Lynette Ramsey and Valerie Taylor shopping at the Herbal Remedies booth of Delayne Griffin at the Coastal Christmas festival at Shell Point on Saturday.



Brent Thurmond bags a sale of Panacea Chocolates at the Sopchoppy Market.

Rudolph Jr. to be performed at high school this weekend



Special to The Sun

"You know Dasher and Dancer and Prancer and Vixen, Comet and Cupid and Donner and Blitzen. But do you recall the most famous reindeer of all?" Join us for Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer Jr at Wakulla High! This 60-minute performance brings the holiday classic to life with songs like "Jingle, Jingle Jingle, Silver and Gold" and "Holly Jolly Christmas." Come out Friday and Saturday, Dec. 16th and 17th at 7 p.m. or Sunday, Dec. 18th at 2:30 p.m. for Troupe 5036's Winter production. Tickets are sold at the door, \$8 for adults and \$5 for students. This will be our last production until April so come out and support the WHS theatre program!

Medart School of Music holds its winter recitals

Special to The Sun

The Medart School of Music held its Winter recitals on Dec. 10 at the Ochlockonee Bay United Methodist Church located at 2780 Surf Road.

There were two performances: One at 11 a.m. and one at 2 p.m.

Students who attend the music school are Logan Bramblett, Matthew Hamel, Dylan Hamel, Rayna Hamel, McKenna Sanders, Taylor Cook, Trenton Wells, Addison Wells, Logan Hand, Ruari Robinson, Sabian Jett, Lauretta Compton, Laila Francis, Lynette Taylor, Ronin Roe, Noble Holloway, Gunner Roe, Ariel Roe, Isaiah Loughton, Eliana Howard,

Bay Sanders, Carter Dunn, Gary Diskerud, Fabiola Larregui, Isabella Larregui, Nina Fox, Latesha Monroe, Hannah Crook, Chandler Bechtel, Aubrey Recks, Alexis Porter, Charlie Moss, Ella Yost, Emily Chen, Grayson Van Vliet, Lulu Fenenbock, Bryson Sanders, Brooks Loper, Riley Solano, Zoe Norris, Isabella Maskell, Kara Maskell, Jacob Llyod, Emily Lloyd, Samantha Bunch, Brooks Baker, Brooklyn Ruggless, Anya Gabrielov, Jewel Morgan, Sebastian Diez-Gomez, Isabella Laughlin, Joe Miller, Liam Miller, Walker Roberts, Gabriele Kent, Graylan Lloyd Carrah, Gogle, Marlene MEEKS, Mollie Robinson, Debbie Carter, and Olivia Tillman.

On the Horizon

Calendar of upcoming events for the week of Dec. 15

Thursday, December 15

- The Rotary Club of Wakulla County meets at the TCC Wakulla Center at 8:30 a.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.
- Big Bend Hospice Tree of Remembrance ceremony at Harvey-Young Chapel at Family Funeral Home from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- The Wakulla County Tourist Development Council will host a special public meeting at the Wakulla County Community Center at 9 a.m. for the purpose of planning marketing activities.
- The VFW Auxiliary Bingo Night will be held at 7 p.m. at 475 Arran Road in Crawfordville. There will be concessions and raffles.
- The Wakulla County Cancer Support Group meets in the Education Center of the Crawfordville United Methodist Church at 7 p.m. This group meeting is for men and women, regardless of the type of cancer. Spouses, caregivers, and friends are welcome. For more information, call 850-926-6050.

Friday, December 16

- Sheriff Miller reads "The Night Before Christmas" at the public library at 5:30 p.m. Following the story, stay for hot chocolate and cookies provided by the Friends of the Library and stop by the Reindeer food station to make your custom take home bag of Reindeer food.

Saturday, December 17

- Intro to Tai Chi at the Community Center from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. All ability levels are welcome and wear comfortable clothing. Any questions can be directed to Rich or Terri Bushman at 850-228-9214.
- Wakulla County Horseman's Association show held at 1757 Lawhon Mill Road. All shows start with exhibitions at 11:00 a.m. and the Jackpot starts at 12:00 noon. Club classes will follow the jackpot class. Entry Fees are \$25 for Jackpot; ex-

hibitions are \$3; club classes are \$6 for members and \$8 for nonmembers. Membership is \$25 for single and \$40 for family.

Monday, December 19

- Intro to Tai Chi held at the Community Center from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. All ability levels are welcome and wear comfortable clothing. Any questions can be directed to Rich or Terri Bushman at 850-228-9214.
- The 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 American Legion Post 114 will be meeting at the Wakulla County public library at 6:30 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 20

- Sopchoppy Community Dinner is held every week at the Towles House at 6:30 p.m.
- Waterfronts meeting at 6:30 p.m. at St. Marks.
- 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
- Animal Tales Holiday Safari at the Wakulla Community Center at 6:30 p.m. 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.

Wednesday, December 21

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

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.”

Not Fake News: We are surrounded by Eden

MY VIEW

By **ROBERT SEIDLER**

Every bit of what we read as news is fake. Sure there is about one-tenth of a percent that's true but we ignore that because it doesn't fit our agendas.

That little .1% will obliterate that 99.9% in time if we continue to ignore it. That .1% deals with our spaceship flying through the cosmos while suppling air, water, food and heat and cold. It's free you do however need to pay attention if you don't pay for it directly.

There is no plan(et) B there are no birds without lots of bugs. There is no oxygen without lots of plants and most of them in the seas. There are many fewer fish without mosquito larva even the hazardous no see ums have an aquatic stage that fuels our estuaries with food stock that the tiny creatures eat and they get eaten by the small fry of the fishes we eat when they are grown. No no see ums many less fish for us to eat.

You can believe this is fantasy, or not notice or care but it is law and real law that can't be broken by humans and these and the other laws of nature cannot ever yield. No amending, no hiding no different outcome than that intended. Break these laws and get no water, no food and no air.

I had the pleasure to be part of the oyster aquaculture start up group about 8 years ago. I traveled to Europe and Japan to see how and why they did what they did for hundreds of years in regards to the cultivation



PHOTO BY ROBERT SEIDLER

of oysters.

Water quality turned out to be key to longevity and success. Caring about water became their “ways” and the water provided and still provides.

I came home to the belief and actuality that “water is god” – take care of water, all living things are mostly water around 70% so maybe 70% of our thoughts and plans should be here not at Walmart or watching the Fox.

The Fox is poisoning our minds with irrelative trash and hate it is the #1 of Fake News. But all the media none excluded are Fake News. They omit the essence of life, love and happiness for all the things connected and dependent on the spaceship...earth!

Every day we should

thank it, honor it, protect it and fight for its health...every day and this is proven as the most important feature about our life and we ignore the “earth” damage the earth, exploit the earth and all of its interwoven processes.

Oysters are a keystone species and hundreds maybe thousands of little critters use them for food, shelter and habitat. Bigger critters like Black Drum just eat young oysters and it's their main foodstuff. Well after we added oysters to the estuary again the biodiversity returned very quickly.

Amazingly fast just a couple of years. Monster schools of drum roam the leases. Crabs of all types dozens of species show up in the oyster baskets. Hundreds of living crea-

tures I had never seen returned to the bay.

There is no Fake News here this is life and living and function with oysters improving water quality and diversity to marine and terrestrial environments.

Fishes grow fast about a foot a year well everything grows fast in the water – it's 400 times denser than air and it's zero gravity to most creatures too. Energy isn't wasted fighting gravity you see.

You get light flakey filets not tough stringy red meat. Thank you water!

The real news is you can find the real news and leave the fake News behind but you have to start noticing and that's the Eden that's around all of us each day. It's run by the planet and

evolution not magic or some guy or girl in the clouds it's water powered and fueled by oxygen and carbon dioxide in a dance.

It happens even when we take no actions, we breathe, drink water, fish and never notice Eden.

It's time to notice and get involved because it's payback time. Leave the fake News and watch the natural and real news going on around you. Toss your pesticides away, protect the water, the bugs, the plant and the animals or you lose them all.

There is no plan(et) B or plan B or other choice. Learning and understanding IS now the only choice.

Starvation, dehydration and disease will deliver this news unless we wake up and it

will not be fake or be amended or anything but real.

The real news is we are surrounded by Eden and also a working part of it and not apart from it. Noticing what actually provides us with air, water, food, heat and cold was the most important part of all the native peoples that came before us. 750 generations of those people lived in the Ochlocknee basin that encircles my home. Their gigantic kitchen mounds of recycled food shells rise high enough to protect them from hurricanes which they did.

Their spirits are still here as are their atoms and impacts on the ecosystems. 750 generations is quite a run at civilization but there Eden was real and the only way and place they ever knew.

Our civilized ways destroyed them and their cultures. Our forced so-called laws trampled, and in the short term undermined their real laws.

Nature and the planet owns all the real laws and they cannot be cheated or denied. Time always presents them without regard to species, sex, wealth, education or power.

Those laws will reduce all us humans to helpless little primates hoping to find food, water, air, heat and cold once again.

What should be on our currency? “In dubio pro natura” that would be the first step in saving us.

Robert Seidler is a filmmaker in Sopchoppy.

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.

LETTERS FROM READERS

Treat environment with respect, don't litter

Editor, The Sun:

This Letter to the Editor is not directed at the good citizens who dispose of their litter properly, but at the deviant behavior of the ones who think the road side is their garbage dump and ashtray for cigarettes / cigar butts.

We are extremely fortunate

to live in an area filled with beautiful places and we need to treat our environment with respect.

My question to those that litter, is that how you treat your home?

Rich C. Panacea

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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.

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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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Send it to Florida Press Foundation at 336 East College Avenue, Suite 304, Tallahassee FL 32301

"It's A New Day!"

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For editorial please call William at 850-962-8024

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Out of State - \$60/yr. - \$35/6 mo.

◀ Question of The Week ▶

– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

Polled at Christmas in Sopchoppy: What were you hoping to find here today?



AUDREY JONES
FLHSMV

“I was hoping to find the perfect gifts for those on my list, and I’ve accomplished just that.”



DEAN STALTARE
SELF-EMPLOYED

“We’ve already found it, we live here now!”



LISA TATTE
RETIRED

“Christmas presents, I’ve found three so far.”



PATSY DUNNING
THURMAN RODDENBERRY & ASSOCIATES

“I’m looking for Christmas gifts.”



DEBBIE DIX
NEW POSH MASSAGE-YOGA

“Unique gifts and friendly faces.”

COMMUNITY NEWS

Wakulla Station News

By VERNA BROCK

Another mover and shaker in Wakulla County has left us this past week, as R. H. Carter passed away on December 7th. After a stellar career in education with the Wakulla County School Board, Mr. Carter went on to champion the cause of our older citizens, artfully helping the Senior Citizens Center for many years.

I had the privilege of volunteering on the County Constitution Revision Commission a few years ago with Mr. Carter, and a number of other great, civic-minded folks. We all valued Mr.

Carter’s insights and balanced approach to decision making. His dedication to Wakulla County will be missed; please keep his family and friends in your prayers during this sad time.

December 7th is also Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. As a child living in Honolulu, in the early ‘60s, my mother’s best friend in Hawaii was the daughter of Japanese immigrants living in Honolulu during the war. Her name was Amy Shinoki, and that fateful December 7th,

as she walked to Sunday School, she heard the roar of the Japanese

Zeros and saw the rising sun on their bellies. She immediately turned and ran home, even as the sounds of the bombings at Pearl began to ring out.

Not long after that, the U.S. entered the war, and Amy’s older brother enlisted to serve and fight with the 100th Infantry Battalion (formerly the Hawaiian National Guard). The storied 100th eventually became the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the most decorated unit in U.S. military history. While fighting in Europe, the 100th helped to liberate concentration camps and also earned the title “the Purple Heart Battalion”.

I have so many vivid memories of Amy sharing her personal memories of the attack on Pearl Harbor,

the war, and visiting the memorial at the battleship Arizona. As a child there, we had regular “duck and cover drills” at school, and believe me, those drills had a special meaning for the children of survivors of the attack on Honolulu and Pearl Harbor.

On Sunday, Ed and I had a fun afternoon with our daughters and their children at Wakulla Springs, while having family photos made with the kids. Can’t wait to see the finished product!

Should you wish to have your special holiday events, family gatherings or prayer requests in this article, you can call (850.421.3730) or email (vernalsbrock@gmail.com) me.

Thanks for reading!

Library News

Thursday, December 15

Veteran’s Meetup 11am

Big Bend Area Healthcare Center Federal

Marketplace Health Insurance Assistance 2pm

Entry Level Radio Technician Class 5:30pm

Friday, December 16

Quilting Guild 9:30am

Holiday Storytime with Sheriff Miller 5:30pm

Saturday, December 17

No Programs Today

Monday, December 19

American Legion 6:30pm

Tuesday, December 20

Sarracenia Chapter of the Native Plant Society

6:30pm

WCPL Presents: Animal Tales Holiday Safari (@

Community Center) 6:30pm

Wednesday, December 21

Knitting Group 4pm

Thursday, December 22

Entry Level Radio Technician Class 5:30pm

Friends of the Library General Meeting 6pm

Wakulla Democratic Executive Committee 6:30pm

Friday, December 23

CLOSED

Saturday, December 24

CLOSED

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.

HOLIDAY STORYTIME WITH SHERIFF MILLER

Join us Friday, December 16th at 5:30pm as Sheriff Miller reads *The Night Before Christmas!* Following the story, stay for hot chocolate and cookies provided by the Friends of the Library and stop by the Reindeer food station to make your custom take home bag of Reindeer food!

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!

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>.

UPCOMING HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

- Friday, December 23rd and Saturday, December 24th for Christmas
- Friday, December 30th and Saturday, December 31st for New Year’s
- Saturday, January 14th for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

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**A Free Press
Your Key To
Freedom**

The Wakulla Sun

Outdoors

outdoor sports

HOME ON THE RANGE



By MARJ LAW

Joe and I are at the gun show at the Fairgrounds in Tallahassee on Saturday. We see hundreds of handguns.

“Handguns are like cars,” I say. “Cars generally have four wheels, doors, headlights and brake lights. They get you from one place to another and hopefully never break down.

“Handguns have triggers, grips, barrels and slides,” I say. “With them, you can protect your life or that of another. They do their job and hopefully never have firing problems. A gun is a gun is a gun.”

But Joe? Heck no. To Joe, each of his handguns has its very own characteristics. He could have 100 handguns, and justify a separate use for each one.

We all have personal preferences and wants when it comes to our handguns.

Joe is big and strong, and he looks for a 9 or 40mm handgun most of the time. I prefer a .380 or a 9mm.

A gal at the gun show has been told that 9s have sturdier trigger pulls than .380s, they have more kick, their slides are harder to pull back and they have to be a bit larger because of the longer length of each round. She is leaning towards getting a .380

because it's easier to handle than a 9mm.

The gun show gal is comparing the Smith & Wesson .380 Shield EZ to the Smith & Wesson Equalizer 9mm handguns. Same company: Smith & Wesson. So, according to what she thinks, the .380 will have a lighter trigger pull, it will be easier to rack the slide, it will be shorter and narrower, and best of all, it will have less recoil. Nice.

Maybe it will have less take down power than the 9mm Equalizer, but with all its advantages, isn't this a no-brainer?

The woman at the gun show has a Ruger Mark IV .22, and she wants a carry gun with more power than a .22.

“I'd like the Equalizer because it's a 9mm handgun, but I don't think I can handle more than the .380,” she says. “But I'd like that 9,” she adds wistfully.

You really have to know your guns before you buy. A while back, I would have said exactly the same thing because 9mm handguns are bigger and tougher to handle than .380s.

Except. First, the similarities. The .380 Shield EZ and the 9mm Equalizer guns look alike. Both have 3.675” barrels. Both have 2 rear white dot sights and 1 front white dot sight.

While you can't see a hammer, don't be fooled to think these are striker fired guns. Both are internal hammer fired handguns.

Both have safeties built into the grip. You can get manual safeties as well, but in this case, both have grip safeties.

Now for some differences.

The 9mm Equalizer weighs more at 22.9

A gun is a gun

S&W .380 Shield EZ	S&W 9mm Equalizer
↓	↓
5" high	Both: 6.75" length Internal hammer 2 rear white dot sights, 1 front
	
1.05" wide	4.5" high
Comes with: 2 8-round mags	Comes with: 10, 13 & 15 round mags and an UPLULA

ounces. The .380 is 18.5 ounces.

The Equalizer is 1.04 inches wide while the .380 is 1.05 inches wide. Yes, you'd think the .380 would be a smidge less wide, but it's the other way around.

The .380 is 6.7 inches, which is a tad longer overall than the Equalizer. And, get this: when both have flush mount magazines, the .380 is a half inch taller than the Equalizer! Not what you'd expect when the .380 holds eight rounds while the Equalizer holds 10.

The 9mm Equalizer comes with magazines holding 10, 13 and 15 rounds. And it comes with an UPLULA too.

The .380 comes with two 8-round magazines. At Smith & Wesson, the .380 runs \$454 with a \$50 rebate. At sportsmanoutdoorsuperstore.com, the cost is \$399.99.

At Smith & Wesson, the Equalizer costs \$599. At sportsmanoutdoorsuperstore.com, it is \$499.

Yes, the Equalizer runs about \$100 more, but the extra magazine and the loader in the Equalizer's box almost make up the difference in cost, bringing the Equalizer's price to about the same as the .380.

But what is the difference at the range? Shooting the gun is what really counts to me.

Joe is much taller and stronger than I. He has much larger hands. We may come to different findings. Let's see! First, we shoot the .380 EZ. Joe thinks it has an easy trigger pull. On our 1-5 scale, with 1 being the easiest and 5 being the most difficult, he gives trigger pull a 1.5. Trigger pull travel isn't too bad, either. Trigger travel rates a 2.

I agree with both scores. Not hard at all.

Kick? He thinks recoil is easiest of all. He puts recoil a 1 on that 1-5 scale while I give it a 2.

He likes the grip and so do I. Grip gets a 1.

Joe finds racking the slide to be easy and gives it a 1. So do I.

The S&W .380 Shield EZ is truly an easy gun to handle and shoot. It has an easy trigger pull, a slide that's easy to rack, and not much recoil.

Now for the 9mm Equalizer.

How much more difficult will this 9mm Equalizer handgun be?

Joe gives the Equalizer a 1 for trigger pull and a 2 for trigger pull travel. I do, too.

We both give the recoil a 2. Not bad!

We like the grip and give it a 1.

I find the slide harder than he did, and give racking it a 2.5. He gives it a 1.

Bottom line: is there much difference between the 2 guns? Is the Equalizer significantly harder to use than the .380?

We end up giving both guns close to the same scores.

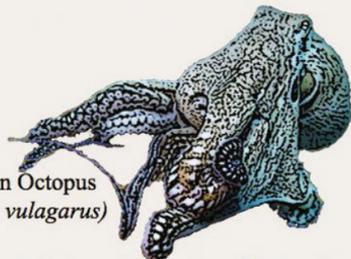
This kind of ruins the gun show gal's assumption that all .380 handguns are much easier to shoot than 9mm handguns. This thought may be true in general, but Smith & Wesson has worked hard to create handguns that are easy to manage. The .380 Shield EZ and the 9mm Equalizer are great for someone who wants a carry gun that is small, has a low recoil, a fairly easy to rack slide, and an easy trigger.

Each handgun is different. Some are easier to use than others. If you know what you want, you might locate it at a gun show. If you're not sure, find a way to rent or borrow the model you think you'll like so you can try it out before you buy.

The one that you like and can manage the best is the gun for you.

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

Common Octopus (*Octopus vulgaris*)

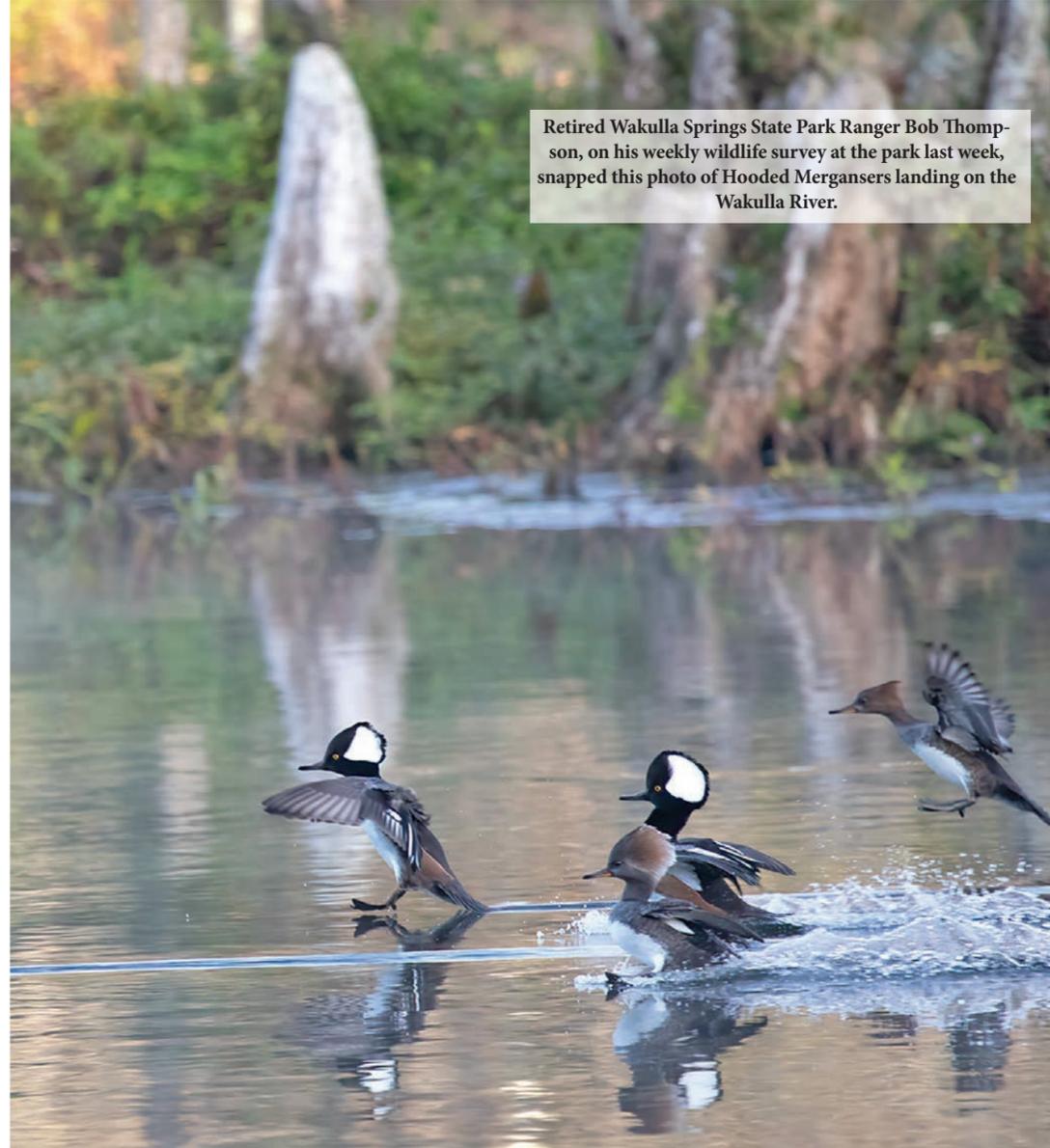


A fearsome predator and a master of camouflage, the common octopus grows to 3ft and lives 2 years. They hunt at dawn in costal waters up to 350ft using a secreted nerve poison to paralyze prey and a hard beak to crack shells. They hide in crevices and can squeeze their bodies through tiny spaces and making them escape artists. They change color or squirt a cloud of black “ink” to confuse attackers. Females lay up to 500,000 eggs but most are eaten as plankton. Octopi can learn complex tasks like opening a jar. They are also an important protein source for humans.

Eukarya, Animalia, Mollusca, Cephalopoda, Octopoda, Octopodidae



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 Hooded Mergansers landing on the Wakulla River.

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Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences

Thursday 15

Sun rise/set
7:25AM
5:38PM

Moon rise/set

12:38PM

Moon Illumination 58%

Friday 16

Sun rise/set
7:26AM
5:38PM

Moon rise/set
12:21AM
1:06PM

Moon Illumination 49%

Saturday 17

Sun rise/set
7:26AM
5:39PM

Moon rise/set
1:18AM
1:34PM

Moon Illumination 39%

Sunday 18

Sun rise/set
7:27AM
5:39PM

Moon rise/set
2:15AM
2:03PM

Moon Illumination 29%

Monday 19

Sun rise/set
7:27AM
5:40PM

Moon rise/set
3:16AM
2:36PM

Moon Illumination 20%

Tuesday 20

Sun rise/set
7:28AM
5:40PM

Moon rise/set
4:21AM
3:14PM

Moon Illumination 12%

Wednesday 21

Sun rise/set
7:28AM
5:41PM

Moon rise/set
5:31AM
4:00PM

Moon Illumination 5%

Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

Dec. 15 - Dec. 21

Tide charts by
tides4fishing.com

Best fishing days this month
December 23-31

Thursday 15

Minor Times
11:53AM

Major Times
4:51AM
5:11PM

Friday 16

Minor Times
11:36PM
12:21PM
Major Times
5:32AM
5:53PM

Saturday 17

Minor Times
12:33AM
12:49PM
Major Times
6:14AM
6:35PM

Sunday 18

Minor Times
1:30AM
1:18PM
Major Times
6:58AM
7:20PM

Monday 19

Minor Times
2:31AM
1:51PM
Major Times
7:44AM
8:09PM

Tuesday 20

Minor Times
3:36AM
2:29PM
Major Times
8:36AM
9:03PM

Wednesday 21

Minor Times
4:46AM
3:15PM
Major Times
9:33AM
10:03PM

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	12:21 am ▼ 1.3 ft	5:43 am ▲ 2.5 ft	12:43 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	7:38 pm ▲ 2.6 ft
Fr	1:37 am ▼ 1.2 ft	7:09 am ▲ 2.3 ft	1:40 pm ▼ 0.7 ft	8:28 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
Sa	2:53 am ▼ 0.9 ft	8:51 am ▲ 2.3 ft	2:42 pm ▼ 0.9 ft	9:14 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
Su	3:58 am ▼ 0.6 ft	10:18 am ▲ 2.5 ft	3:43 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	9:56 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
Mo	4:54 am ▼ -0.1 ft	11:27 am ▲ 2.8 ft	4:39 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	10:35 pm ▲ 3.0 ft
Tu	5:44 am ▼ -0.6 ft	12:24 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	5:29 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	11:15 pm ▲ 3.0 ft
We	6:32 am ▼ -1.0 ft	1:16 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	6:16 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	11:57 pm ▲ 3.4 ft

City of St. Marks

Th	1:25 am ▼ 1.2 ft	6:19 am ▲ 2.4 ft	1:47 pm ▼ 0.4 ft	8:14 pm ▲ 2.4 ft
Fr	2:41 am ▼ 1.1 ft	7:45 am ▲ 2.2 ft	2:44 pm ▼ 0.6 ft	9:04 pm ▲ 2.5 ft
Sa	3:57 am ▼ 0.8 ft	9:27 am ▲ 2.2 ft	3:46 pm ▼ 0.8 ft	9:50 pm ▲ 2.5 ft
Su	5:02 am ▼ 0.4 ft	10:54 am ▲ 2.3 ft	4:47 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	10:32 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
Mo	5:58 am ▼ -0.1 ft	12:03 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	5:43 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	11:11 pm ▲ 2.8 ft
Tu	6:48 am ▼ -0.5 ft	1:00 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	6:33 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	11:51 pm ▲ 3.0 ft
We	7:36 am ▼ -0.9 ft	1:52 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	7:20 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	

Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	12:32 am ▼ 1.3 ft	5:58 am ▲ 2.6 ft	1:08 pm ▼ 0.3 ft	7:52 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
Fr	1:48 am ▼ 1.1 ft	7:24 am ▲ 2.3 ft	2:00 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	8:40 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
Sa	3:05 am ▼ 0.8 ft	9:07 am ▲ 2.3 ft	2:57 pm ▼ 0.8 ft	9:25 pm ▲ 2.8 ft
Su	4:13 am ▼ 0.4 ft	10:35 am ▲ 2.4 ft	3:54 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	10:08 pm ▲ 3.0 ft
Mo	5:12 am ▼ -0.2 ft	11:44 am ▲ 2.6 ft	4:49 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	10:50 pm ▲ 3.1 ft
Tu	6:04 am ▼ -0.7 ft	12:43 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	5:41 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	11:31 pm ▲ 3.3 ft
We	6:54 am ▼ -1.1 ft	1:35 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	6:29 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	

Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	12:32 am ▼ 1.0 ft	5:35 am ▲ 1.9 ft	12:54 pm ▼ 0.3 ft	7:30 pm ▲ 2.0 ft
Fr	1:48 am ▼ 0.9 ft	7:01 am ▲ 1.7 ft	1:51 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	8:20 pm ▲ 2.0 ft
Sa	3:04 am ▼ 0.6 ft	8:43 am ▲ 1.7 ft	2:53 pm ▼ 0.7 ft	9:06 pm ▲ 2.1 ft
Su	4:09 am ▼ 0.3 ft	10:10 am ▲ 1.9 ft	3:54 pm ▼ 0.8 ft	9:48 pm ▲ 2.2 ft
Mo	5:05 am ▼ -0.1 ft	11:19 am ▲ 2.1 ft	4:50 pm ▼ 0.9 ft	10:27 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
Tu	5:55 am ▼ -0.4 ft	12:16 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	5:40 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	11:07 pm ▲ 2.4 ft
We	6:43 am ▼ -0.7 ft	1:08 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	6:27 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	11:49 pm ▲ 2.6 ft

St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	12:37 am ▼ 1.2 ft	5:56 am ▲ 1.8 ft	12:57 pm ▼ 0.2 ft	7:53 pm ▲ 1.9 ft
Fr	2:10 am ▼ 1.0 ft	7:26 am ▲ 1.6 ft	1:54 pm ▼ 0.4 ft	8:35 pm ▲ 2.0 ft
Sa	3:25 am ▼ 0.7 ft	9:06 am ▲ 1.6 ft	2:55 pm ▼ 0.7 ft	9:14 pm ▲ 2.1 ft
Su	4:19 am ▼ 0.2 ft	10:33 am ▲ 1.7 ft	3:54 pm ▼ 0.9 ft	9:49 pm ▲ 2.2 ft
Mo	5:04 am ▼ -0.2 ft	11:42 am ▲ 1.9 ft	4:46 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	10:24 pm ▲ 2.4 ft
Tu	5:45 am ▼ -0.6 ft	12:39 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	5:31 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	10:59 pm ▲ 2.5 ft
We	6:27 am ▼ -1.0 ft	1:30 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	6:11 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	11:38 pm ▲ 2.7 ft

Dog Island West End

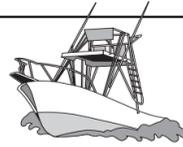
Th	12:44 am ▼ 1.2 ft	5:39 am ▲ 1.6 ft	12:51 pm ▼ 0.2 ft	8:11 pm ▲ 1.7 ft
Fr	2:20 am ▼ 1.0 ft	7:07 am ▲ 1.3 ft	1:39 pm ▼ 0.4 ft	8:48 pm ▲ 1.7 ft
Sa	3:36 am ▼ 0.6 ft	9:17 am ▲ 1.3 ft	2:39 pm ▼ 0.7 ft	9:19 pm ▲ 1.8 ft
Su	4:32 am ▼ 0.2 ft	10:51 am ▲ 1.4 ft	3:42 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	9:51 pm ▲ 2.0 ft
Mo	5:25 am ▼ -0.3 ft	12:28 pm ▲ 1.6 ft	4:48 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	10:25 pm ▲ 2.1 ft
Tu	6:14 am ▼ -0.7 ft	1:37 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	5:57 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	11:04 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
We	6:58 am ▼ -1.1 ft	2:30 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	6:48 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	11:49 pm ▲ 2.4 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 members of Flotilla 12 wish all of you a very special holiday season! In the spirit of the holidays, we wanted to share with you again the story about how the Coast Guard helps bring the Christmas Spirit to Chicago every year. This year, the Cutter Mackinaw delivered the trees on 27 November to Navy Pier.

As the story is told, Herman Schuenemann was the captain of the original Christmas Ship. He came to Chicago from Michigan for more than 30 years with fresh evergreens and wreaths for the holiday season during the late 1800s and early 1900s. On Nov. 23, 1912, Captain Schuenemann was at the helm of the fabled Christmas Ship, the Rouse Simmons. On that day while transiting from Michigan, Captain Schuenemann and the Rouse Simmons was lost in a storm and sank with a crew of 16 between Kewaunee and Two Rivers, Wisconsin.

As was reported by the Chicago Sun Times, "In the spirit of the tradition, This year, the Mackinaw brought about 1,200 pine trees, which are given to needy families. The drop-off in early December capped a five-day

Boating Emergencies

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Coast Guard Station
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Coast Guard Auxiliary
Apalachee Bay (Flotilla 12) (850) 942-7500
or (850) 284-1166

mission that started in Cheboygan, Michigan, on Lake Huro. In charge was Capt. Kristen Serumgard, the first woman to command the Mackinaw. The 240-foot icebreaker and its 55-person crew left Cheboygan on Nov. 30, arriving in Chicago on Dec. 2."

Once arrived, many community organizations, including the Auxiliary, work to offload the trees and deliver them to needy families throughout Chicago and the surrounding areas. In years past, the trees have been donated by the Chicago Christmas Ship Committee.

The annual event, held at Navy Pier, continues the legacy of the Captain Schuenemann and the Rouse Simmons, as it had become a part of their family tradition to purchase their trees from the schooner. The Mackinaw

opens for tours following the unloading of the trees. This year, the ship arrived at Navy Pier on 1 December, with 1,200 trees that were donated to families in need.

The wreck was found in 1971, sitting upright on the bottom roughly nine miles off Two Rivers. In 2009, the crew of the Mackinaw held a solemn tribute and dropped a wreath into the waters near the resting place of the Rouse Simmons.

In addition to search-and-rescue and maritime law enforcement operations, the annual charitable activity takes place in conjunction with a scheduled aids-to-navigation mission in the southern region of Lake Michigan to remove buoys for winter maintenance and replacement with "winter marks" to protect them from ice damage.

Additionally, regular underway crew training and drills are conducted in preparation for the ship's primary winter mission of ice-breaking to keep commerce moving through the Great Lakes.

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 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

Side mount diving.

Well as I promised here is the continuation of my journey into the beginning tech diving with side mount. We walked down to the spring and entered the water; I have to caution you that if you have never been there you will find it has some slippery rocks. My instructor was a great help for me to get down to the edge of the water. I have an issue with my feet, I have a very small left foot because of several amputation surgeries so the bottom of it is sewn to the top of what's left and my right foot is missing my big toe. So I only can count to 14 using my fingers and four toes. Anyway from the edge I jumped into the spring then went to the ledge where my cylinders were waiting for me to hook them to my harness.

This is where it gets interesting at least for me. This is the first time that I have ever tried to attach the tanks to the harness. So picture if you will the T. Rex on "Meet the Robinsons" animated movie when the bowler hat guy goes to the past to bring the T. Rex back only to find it wasn't the smart thing to do and he asked why the T. Rex couldn't reach his victim and all the T. Rex could say is, "My arms are too small." That is the way I felt trying to get the tanks connected to the back rings of the harness. I didn't think I could stretch my arms backwards enough but after about a dozen or more tries and some colorful words to myself I was able to get them attached on the harness. The front connection was a piece of cake because you do that first.

Once the regulators on both tanks are checked for breathing and leaks it was time to try out this out. My instructor said we need to go under the water head first and do what she calls the dog shake. The dog shake will get the tanks in their proper place on the harness so they won't move around during the dive. It seemed kind of weird at first but it worked remarkably well. At this point my instructor was very patient with me so it was time to get underwater and check out my horizontal buoyancy. Remember I said this is not like learning to open water scuba. It is a whole different experience of diving.

I was totally surprised to find out being horizontal was not as difficult as I thought, in fact it was a very relaxing position even with two aluminum 80s. It felt very balanced. The first real skill was to swim around and monitor the air consumption out of both tanks. You really have to feel comfortable with switching the regulators about every 200psi, like I instruct all my students to exhale tiny bubbles as they remove the regulator from their mouth. You have to do the same here with this skill, the nice part is one of the regulators has a lanyard attached around your neck so it's very easy to do this skill as you swim.

You do this continually throughout the dive to maintain the same psi in both tanks for balance and to have plenty of air in case you have to let your dive buddy use one of them in an emergency. I found myself occupied with watching both my gages during the dive, it's not a bad thing but you really have to concentrate on your kicking skills also. I know this because when I looked at my instructor I could sense her eyeroll when I finally looked around I had messed up the spring with silt and algae so the visibility was pretty crappy. Fortunately there is enough flow that in a few minutes the spring was back to clear. This was the easy skills for me but wait there's more; I really have difficulty as I progress so stay tuned for next week's article. So make bubbles.

FWC will investigate the impacts of 'long-term stored vessels'

From FWC News

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has retained Atkins Global to conduct a study in Florida to better understand the impacts of long-term stored vessels. Feedback from residents, business owners, visitors and others who use and enjoy Florida's waters is a crucial part of the research.

A virtual meeting was set for Tuesday, Dec. 13 at 6 p.m. EST to announce the study and to explain how the

public can participate. The meeting will begin with a formal presentation from subject matter experts and will conclude with a question-and-answer session.

The intent of the project is to:

- Investigate whether, and to what extent, long-term stored vessels contribute to the number of derelict and abandoned vessels on Florida's waters.
- Investigate the impacts of long-term stored vessels, those anchored or moored outside of public moor-

ing fields for more than 30 days, and those moored within public mooring fields on local and state economies, public safety, public boat ramps, staging docks, and public marinas during and after significant tropical storm and hurricane events.

- Provide recommendations for appropriate management options for long-term stored vessels to mitigate any identified negative impacts to local communities and the state.

For the purposes of this study, a "long-

term stored vessel" is a boat on state waters that is not under the supervision of a person capable of operating, maintaining or moving it from one location to another and that has remained anchored or moored outside of a public mooring field for at least 30 days out of a 60-day period.

Persons wishing to participate in the study can do so at the project website VesselsStudy.com. Stakeholder input will be collected through Feb. 10, 2023.

Do you know how much God loves you?



By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

Years ago, I cuddled my 1-year-old granddaughter. Looking into her sweet little face, I said, “Emma, do you know how much I love you?”

Immediately, I sensed my heavenly Father asking me the same question.

“Sheryl, do you know how much I love you?”

I don’t remember if I stopped to ponder my heavenly Father’s grand question that day, but I’m positive I didn’t come near to understanding the extent of His love.

What about you? Do you know how much God loves you?

If you’re like me, you’ve done some pretty terrible things. And because of our poor choices, our relationships have suffered. We feel insecure. There

are times when we wonder why anyone would love us.

Especially God.

Wouldn’t it be wonderful if, especially this Christmas season, we could take God at His Word and believe, absolutely believe, that He loves us? Despite of all we’ve done?

How would this truth transform us? How would being secure in our heavenly Father’s love change the way we see ourselves in the mirror? How would our ambition and goals look when illuminated with perfect, uncondition-

al love?

And how would it change our relationships? Would we begin to invest more time in others? Forgive easier and sooner? Would we finally be able to forgive ourselves?

Believing God loves us – unconditionally – could change the way we celebrate Christmas. But how can we know, without a doubt, that the creator of the universe really does love us, rebelliously flawed as we are?

Listen to God’s own words: “but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sin-

ners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8 ESV).

If this verse is too familiar, you may miss the beauty of its message. Take a moment and read it again, personalizing it and emphasizing each word:

“But God clearly shows and proves His own love for me, (your name), by the fact that while I was still a sinner, Christ died for me (insert your name again!).”

Let me ask again (while also asking myself): Do we know, absolutely know, how much God loves us?

Let’s be clear: we will

never fully comprehend how much our heavenly Father loves us. How could we ever grasp its vastness? Perhaps the more we think about this week’s verse and the more we speak it out loud in the first person, the more we’ll begin to understand ...

... how much He truly does.

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.

A candle of peace



By **CHERYL CRUCE**

On the second Sunday of the Advent season, the candle of peace flickered in sanctuaries across this great nation. As a couple from our congregation read the meaning of peace and the correlating scripture, I wondered how we could celebrate peace in a not-so-peaceful world. Then my mind drifted to the peaceful time of my youth – a time when innocence shielded

me from the truth of the world.

It is incredible what the innocence of childhood recalls. I remember a three-bedroom, one-bath house built by Dad. I recall a pink sidewalk he made especially for our mother. Dad embellished one end of the concrete walkway with multi-colored marbles that spelled our last name. The word “welcome” placed near the front door entrance greeted family, friends, and strangers.

Looking back, I do not remember the struggles that must have happened over one bathroom or the shared bedrooms among five siblings. However, I remember the hours my brother Lonnie and I spent trying to free just one marble from

that pink walkway. Sibling rivalry has escaped my memory even though I am sure it was present. I know there must have been disagreements; nevertheless, my memory only recalls a dinner table of laughter and quiet, peaceful evenings.

Whoever said, “you cannot go home again,” must have been referring to the innocence of youth and not the lessons learned. From childhood, I have chosen to remember the good of family, putting away the disagreements and hurt that may have happened. Recalling harm creates a grudge that builds an undue burden in life—focusing on what is noble and pure is the better course. Concentrating on what is praiseworthy

invites the God of peace into my life (Philippians 4:8-9). The God of peace desires to dwell with you also.

Peace is not a concept of the world but a belief within man’s heart. Peace of God is a choice. At any given time, a news broadcast is ready to fill the airways with disheartening reports of doom and destruction coming against our world. Still, we light the candle. We do so because our hope is found in the Prince of Peace and not in the world. Isaiah 9:6 tells of a child born, a son given, who is called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace.

The birth of Jesus affords us the choice of a peaceful spirit, a peace

that surpasses all understanding. John Wesley said, “God’s grace is immeasurable, His mercy inexhaustible, and His peace inexpressible.” We cannot measure the grace of God that has given us renewed life through His Son, Jesus. Nor can we understand the boundless mercy that comes from the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. On the other hand, we cannot explain the peace in knowing Jesus as Lord and Savior. It is a peace only known to a believer.

I am not naïve in thinking that belief in Jesus will erase our troubles. Unfortunately, that is the world in which we live. However, I have learned there is no better friend I can talk

to. Indeed, we cannot go home again – childhood innocence has faded. Yet we can walk in peace because we believe in a Kingdom beyond this world where darkness and violence do not exist.

Jesus said He is preparing a place for all who believe, a home of peace. Nonetheless, until that day, let us walk in the peace of His spirit.

“I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

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

OUT TO PASTOR

Do I need a missing person report?



By **JAMES SNYDER**

Every week comes and goes, and some go faster than others. Such was last week.

It started pretty well, but then everything went downhill.

I had my semiannual doctor’s visit. After all, he has kids that need to go to college. After his complete examination of me, he said, “You’re doing great.”

I asked him to repeat that several times, because The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was there, and I wanted her to hear it from someone other than me. I wanted him to put it in writing and sign it, but he wasn’t going to do that. So I accepted his oral pronouncement because it was in front of my wife.

My wife put together the plan for the day so that we could accomplish many things in one day. So the doctor’s visit was first.

Then we had to go to the police station to file a report.

My bank informed me that somebody had counterfeited one of my checks and even my signature for \$1,800. How they

counterfeited my check as well as they did was beyond me. Fortunately, the bank refused to accept the check because they thought it was a fraud. So they took pictures and even had a video of him coming up to the drive-through.

In the memo, on that check, the guy wrote “bonus pay.” I don’t know what he meant by that, but I sure would like to give him a bonus pay, if you know what I mean.

I spent an afternoon in the bank closing that account and opening another account so they wouldn’t try that again. So the bank encouraged me to take this information to the police department and file a complaint.

The bank where they tried to cash the counterfeit check was in Georgia.

So after the doctor’s visit, we went to the police department to file a complaint.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said, “You can go in, and I’ll stay here in the car.”

That worked for me, and so I went in to the police station to file the complaint.

After I presented my case, the police officer said, “What is your address?”

I told him, and he said, “I’m afraid that’s in the county, and we cannot process that complaint because we are here in the city.” Therefore I had to take my complaint to the sheriff’s office. It was okay because it wasn’t

that far from our house.

I left the police department, and looked for my wife’s car. It was nowhere to be found. So I looked up and down, and nowhere could I find her red sissy van.

At the time, I didn’t know what to do because, as “luck would have it,” I did not bring my cell phone. Isn’t it interesting, I never need my cell phone unless I don’t have it with me?

So I couldn’t text her to see where she was at.

After a while, I became nervous about this. Where is she?

I was tempted to return to the police department and file a missing person report.

Thinking about the

whole situation, I asked myself, “If I was my wife, where would I go?”

That sure is a crazy question to ask, but you try anything when you’re in a difficult situation. It’s been over ½ hour, and I still could not find her.

Then one of those crazy thoughts bounced into my head. If I was my wife, I know exactly where I would go. She isn’t known as the Thrift Store Queen for naught. At least, this was something to do.

The police department is at the beginning of a long line of shopping stores for over a block. Perhaps along that line, there was a thrift store. My only problem with that, I would have to walk

the whole distance.

As I was standing there thinking of what to do next, a woman passed by, and I stopped her and said, “Ma’am do you know if there’s a thrift store nearby?”

She laughed and said, “Yes, but it’s usually just for women.” And she laughed some more.

Smiling as I looked at her, I said, “Where would that thrift store be?”

“What are you looking for,” she asked, “maybe there’s one I could direct you to.”

I was nervous, but without thinking I said, “I’m looking for a wife.”

“Well,” she said laughing, “a thrift store is the best place to find a wife that I know of.”

Then she pointed up the row and said there was a thrift store at the end of that line. She added, “You’ll find a lot of wives in that store so that you can make your own choice.” Then, walking away, she laughed hysterically.

From where I was standing, I could see something that looked like a thrift store way down at the end. So I started walking and when I arrived at that thrift store, guess who was inside?

On our way home, I couldn’t help but think of the Bible verse in Isaiah 41:10. “Fear thou not; for I am with thee; be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.”

No matter what my fears might be, I know that God is going to guide me through that situation for his honor and glory..

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

DEATH NOTICES

• **James “Jimmy” Edward Autrey**, 58, of Crawfordville, died Dec. 6, 2022. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **Robert Herbert “R.H.” Carter**, 79, of Crawfordville, died Dec. 7, 2022. Family Funeral Home at Harvey-Young Chapel 850-926-5919, Familyfhc.com

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1st Saturday: Mass at 9:30 am.
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Use the News

1. Books Make Great Gifts

For holidays or any day, books are gifts that keep on giving. They can be read again and again, shared with friends and family or even “re-gifted” to others. To help parents and kids choose books to give as gifts, reading organizations and experts issue lists of Best Books for Children each year around this time. There are many lists to choose from, but here are four to check out this holiday season: one from a family columnist for the Washington Post newspaper (click here), one from librarians working with Good Housekeeping magazine (click here), one featuring winners of the Coretta Scott King Awards for books written by African Americans (click here) and one for Latino/Latina children’s literature (click here). Use these lists, or the newspaper and Internet, to read about new or favorite books for students your age. Use what you read to make a list of books you would choose to give to friends, brothers, sisters or cousins for the holidays. Write a sentence or paragraph for each book, explaining why you chose it for each person. Share choices as a class and discuss.

Goals: Conducting short research projects that build knowledge about a topic; producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task.

2. Flying Record on Mars

The word “ingenuity” means the ability to do clever, new and inventive things. On the planet Mars, an American helicopter named Ingenuity (IN-jen-OO-it-ee) is thrilling scientists by doing new things its inventors never thought possible. The helicopter, which is the first to ever be landed on the so-called Red Planet, has just recorded its 35th flight and set a new record for the highest flight ever on Mars. The flight earlier this month reached an altitude of 46 feet in the thin Mars atmosphere and paved the way for future flights at even greater heights and distances, CNN News reported. Ingenuity landed on Mars a year and a half ago with the rover Perseverance and has been working as a partner and scout for rover journeys ever since. America’s NASA space agency originally planned just five flights for Ingenuity, but the 4-pound helicopter has proved tougher and more valuable than scientists had imagined. NASA is now planning to send two more helicopters to Mars on future space flights. The record flight of the helicopter Ingenuity is the latest achievement in U.S. efforts to explore the

planet Mars. In the newspaper or online, find and closely read stories about Ingenuity, Perseverance and other NASA missions to Mars. Use what you read to write a letter to the editor explaining one mission and why it is important or interesting.

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.

3. That’s Some Swimmer!

Dogs can be great pets, but they also can be great athletes. Consider the case of a 6-month-old puppy who broke away from its owner in New York City earlier this month. The puppy named Bear demonstrated amazing strength and endurance before being rescued and returned to his owner. Bear, who is a mix of the large Leonberger and Bernese breeds, broke out of his collar while out for a walk with his owner. Frightened

by the noise and bustle of the city, he ran a mile and half through city streets and along a bike trail next to the famous Hudson River. Then, for reasons no one can understand, he jumped into the water and started swimming, the New York Post newspaper reported. Bear’s owner called 911, but when rescue boats didn’t find him, the owner thought Bear was lost for good. Two days later, however, Bear turned up on the opposite shore of the Hudson more than a half mile from where he went in the water. “He did like a full triathlon [race],” Wolpin said. “Because he ran about a mile-and-a-half and then swam [nearly] a mile.” Animals often make news by doing amazing or unusual things. In the newspaper or online, find and closely read a story about an animal doing something like this. Use what you read to brainstorm an idea for a video telling what the animal did. Write an outline for your video, including images you would use. Give your video a title that would make kids your age want to watch it.

Goals: Writing narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events; reading closely what a text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it.

4. Another ‘Miracle’

The town of Lake Placid, New York is world famous as the site for the “Miracle on Ice” hockey game in which the United States upset a powerful Russian team on the way to winning an Olympic gold medal. This winter, Lake Placid is offering a kind of “Miracle Off Ice,” thanks to an unusual program of the local police force. Instead of giving tickets to drivers they pull over, officers are offering “second chances” that are sometimes paired with gifts of \$100 cash! The program is funded by a local “Secret Santa” who donated money to the police department, plus contributions from other residents. This month police will have \$4,000 to give out to drivers in Lake Placid and neighboring Saranac Lake. “I think it’s a good change of pace,” one officer told NBC 5 TV. “Usually, we deal with people in their low moments, and it’s a good

chance to turn it around [and] make someone happy.” “I definitely didn’t see this coming” said one driver who had been pulled over. People often do random acts of kindness for others during the holidays. In the newspaper or online, find and closely read a story about someone who has done this. Use what you read to write a thank you letter to the person as if you were the one who was helped. Be sure to explain why the act was meaningful or special.

Goals: Writing opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information; reading closely what a text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it.

5. Unusual Donations

In the holiday season, the bell ringers of the Salvation Army are a familiar sight outside stores and shopping malls. They collect donations in bright red kettles to provide aid to the poor, the homeless or other people in need. Many donations from shoppers come in the form of coins people have in their pockets, but sometimes unusual gifts

are given as well. In the city of Des Moines, Iowa this month, bell-ringers got two extremely unusual coins as donations — and they are worth a whole lot more than a nickel or quarter. Outside one store, a shopper donated a \$100 Queen Elizabeth II coin from the South Pacific nation of Australia that has a value of \$2,000 or more, TV station KCCI reported. At a Town Center in West Des Moines, another shopper donated a \$50 Elizabeth II coin from the nation of Canada that is valued at \$1,800. In the holiday season, people often donate money to organizations that help people in need. In the newspaper or online, find and closely read a story about an organization that provides such help. Use what you read to write a short editorial urging people to support this organization — and explain why.

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



PEOPLE FACT!

THIS GREEK/TURKISH BISHOP WAS KNOWN FOR HIS GENEROSITY AND HUMILITY. HE MAY HAVE INSPIRED SANTA CLAUS’ SIMILAR BEHAVIORS.

ANSWER: SAINT NICHOLOS

Crossword Puzzle

1				2			3
				4			
5							
				6			
7							

ACROSS

- In good spirits
- Large grain cereal plant
- Come together
- Animated film
- Joyous

DOWN

- Santa _____
- Lately
- Yearning, desire

Answers:
 Across
 1. Cheerful 4. Corn 5. Unite 6. Toon 7. Jolly
 Down
 1. Claus 2. Recently 3. Longing

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1620: THE MAYFLOWER PILGRIMS LAND ON WHAT IS NOW KNOWN AS PLYMOUTH ROCK.
- 1923: NEPAL AND THE UNITED KINGDOM SIGN A FORMAL AGREEMENT OF FRIENDSHIP.
- 1968: APOLLO 8 IS LAUNCHED FROM KENNEDY SPACE CENTER.



JOLLY

happy and cheerful

How they SAY that in...

- ENGLISH:** Jolly
- SPANISH:** Alegre
- ITALIAN:** Allegro
- FRENCH:** Enjoué
- GERMAN:** Fröhlich



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ANSWER: SANTA CLAUS

SPIRITUALITY WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- AFTERLIFE
- AWAKENING
- BELIEF
- BLESSING
- COMMONALITY
- CONCEPT
- CONGREGATION
- CONSCIOUSNESS
- CONTEMPLATION
- CUSTOMS
- ESSENCE
- EXISTENCE
- FAITH
- FRIENDS
- GOODNESS
- HIGHER POWER
- MEDITATION
- MORALS
- PEACE
- PRINCIPLES
- RELIGION
- SPIRITUAL
- TRUTH
- WORSHIP

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

⊙ * ☼ ☽ ☿ ♀ ♁ ♃ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓ ♀ ♂ ♁ ♃ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓

CRYPTO FUN

☼ ☽ ☿ ♀ ♁ ♃ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓ ♀ ♂ ♁ ♃ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to reading books.
 Each number corresponds to a letter.
 (Hint: 3 = S)

- A. 2 6 9 17 8 19 20**
Clue: Division in a book
- B. 3 12 15 10 17 3 14 3**
Clue: Summary
- C. 8 6 19 16 19**
Clue: Topic or subject
- D. 3 19 8 8 14 15 11**
Clue: Location

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to spirituality.

TFHIA

--	--	--	--	--

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

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

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I am a singer and songwriter born in Pennsylvania on December 13, 1989. I began performing in musical theater as a child and moved to Nashville at age 14. I became the youngest artist to write and record a #1 hit on the U.S. charts.

Answers: A. chapter B. synopsis C. theme D. setting
 Answer: Faith
 Answer: Taylor Swift

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

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CROSSWORD

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CLUES ACROSS

- Chop up
- Ones who utilize
- Sings with closed lips
- South American hummingbird
- Serves as a coxswain
- Liquor distilled from coconut or rice
- Spur
- Senile
- Tanzanian people
- Cruel
- Boxing's "GOAT"
- Yokels
- London soccer team
- Chinese chess piece
- Supervises flying
- 007's creator
- Shaft horse-power (abbr.)
- A spider makes one
- Liquefied natural gas

- Opaque gem
- Brazilian palm
- Periodical (slang)
- You might step on one
- Marvin and Horsley are two
- Partner to cheese
- Unpleasant smell
- Field force unit (abbr.)
- Fashion accessory
- Cool!
- Time zone
- Songs to one's lover
- German river
- Go bad
- Sword
- Very eager
- Leaf bug
- Italian seaport
- Napoleon Dynamite's uncle
- Member of Jamaican religion
- Large wading bird
- Carries out
- Eternal rest

- It holds up your headwords
- Not low
- Small water buffalo
- A mark left behind
- Archaic form of have
- Fiddler crabs
- Popular Hyundai sedan
- Deport
- Making over
- Midway between south and southeast
- Arabic masculine name
- Type of acid
- Popular 1980s Cher film
- Outdoor enthusiasts' tools
- Chinese city
- "Star Wars" character Solo
- The bill in a restaurant
- Old, ugly witch

- Burn with a hot liquid
- To claim or demand
- "A Doll's House" playwright
- Involuntary muscular contraction
- Pea stems (British)
- Double or multiple fold
- No longer is
- Lakers' cross-town rivals (abbr.)
- S. American plant cultivated in Peru
- Cloth or fabric
- Flanks
- Disfigure
- Angry
- Baltic coast peninsula
- Large, flightless birds
- Plants of the lily family
- Medieval Norwegian language
- Polio vaccine developer
- Not soft
- Exchange rate
- Voice (Italian)
- Baseball's Ruth
- Famed guitarist Clapton
- Take a chance
- Wife
- Elaborate handshake

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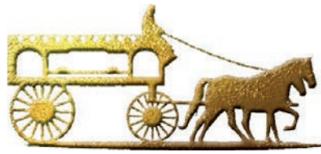
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