

LETTERS TO Santa

and holiday greetings

B Section



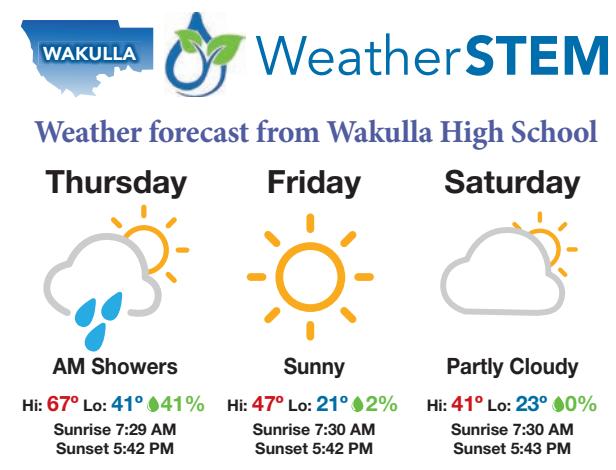
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Two Sections

The Wakulla Sun

"It's a New Day"

Locally Owned & Operated

Our 1st Year, 44th Issue
Thursday, December 22, 2022



School-level Teachers of Year named

By DANIEL LILLY
Wakulla Schools

Wakulla County Commissioners of Wakulla County Schools recently announced the 2023 Wakulla County School-Level Teachers of the Year. Teachers were presented with gifts and cheered on by their students and colleagues as each was visited by Superintendent Bobby Pearce and Assistant Superintendent Sunny Chancy.

The eight Teachers of the Year for 2023 are Lesley Jamison representing the District Office; Kelly Tomberlin for Crawfordville Elementary; Shari Smith for Medart Elementary; Kristen Cason for Riversink Elementary; Marsha Dixon for Shadeville Elementary; William Taylor for Riversprings Middle; Lindsey Perez for Wakulla Middle; and Krissy Sanchez for Wakulla High School.

Lesley Jamison of Wakulla County Schools has 11 years of teaching experience and has been in her current role for two. Jamison holds a bachelor's degree, is currently pursuing a Master's in Educational Leadership and is certified in English grades 6-12 with Reading endorsement.

Mrs. Jamison has been a Kagan Coach, Teacher Coach, and



Superintendent Bobby Pearce and Assistant Superintendent Sunny Chancy with school-level teachers of the year, clockwise from top left: Perez, Sanchez, Smith, Tomberlin, Jamison, Taylor, Dixon and Cason.

SAC Chair as well as school-level teacher of the year during 2018-2019 at Riversprings Middle School.

Kelly Tomberlin of Crawfordville Elementary is currently Associate Dean and has 10 years of teaching experience in Florida while this is her first year in her current position. Tomberlin holds a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Flagler College, and maintains endorsements in Reading, Gifted, and ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages).

Tomberlin currently serves as a TEACH trainer and is Chairperson for Crawfordville Elementary's Boosterthon.

Shari Smith teaches

first-grade at Medart Elementary School. She has 14 years of teaching experience, using her Bachelor of Arts degree from Flagler College, and maintains endorsements in Reading, Gifted, and ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages).

Smith demonstrates leadership as Student Council Sponsor, Teacher Coach, and as a Mentor Teacher at Medart Elementary.

Kristen Cason of Riversink Elementary has been teaching for 29 years, with 19 years teaching experience in Florida and is currently teaching 1st grade. Cason holds a bachelor's degree in ESE and a

Master's in Elementary Education with an emphasis on reading.

Cason helps by demonstrating leadership at Riversink Elementary as a Team Lead, Mentor Teacher, and Wellness Coach.

Marsha Dixon has been with Shadeville Elementary as a fourth-grade teacher for 9 years and this is her 10th year teaching. Dixon holds a Bachelor's in Elementary Education from Flagler College. She is both Reading and ESOL endorsed.

Dixon is currently Team Lead for the fourth grade, is the Sunshine Committee Lead, and was Shadeville's Teach-

er of the Month January 2021.

William Taylor is currently a 7th teacher at Riversprings Middle School. He has 22 years of teaching experience and has been in his current position.

Lindsey Perez of Wakulla Middle School has 11 years of teaching experience and is

currently teaching 6th grade. Perez holds a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education and is both Reading and ESOL endorsed.

Perez leads at Wakulla Middle School, she is a Teacher Coach, Mentor Teacher, and was an FLDOE High Impact Teacher in both 2016 and 2017.

Krissy Sanchez is in her sixth year as Wakulla High School's Theatre instructor and her eleventh-year teaching. Sanchez holds a Bachelor's in Theatre and is certified in Theatre Education and Pre-K through 3rd Grade as well.

Sanchez leads and enriches at Wakulla High School. She is Dramatis Personae Troupe Sponsor, Wakulla County Coalition of the Arts President, and District One Thespians Scholarship Chair.

These eight teachers serve as candidates for Wakulla County's 2023 District Teacher of the Year. A qualified panel of judges from outside of our district rates a written packet and an interview from each teacher.

The selected 2023 Wakulla County District Teacher of the Year then competes with the other 71 districts' Teachers of the Year for the Florida Teacher of the Year award in the summer.



Sheriff Jared Miller presents a plaque to Judge Jill Walker at a retirement party Monday. The sheriff noted he started work as a courthouse bailiff as a college student.

Judge Walker honored

A surprise retirement party was held on Monday, Dec. 19, for Wakulla County Judge Jill Walker, who is retiring at the end of the month after 32 years on the bench. The judge was stunned: she thought she was coming to the courtroom to announce the winner of decorated office doors in the courthouse to find about a dozen circuit and county judges, clerk's staff, and numerous elected officials applauding her. Walker got tearful as she noted the end of her time on the bench is rapidly nearing.

— William Snowden



Judge Walker is surprised as she walks into the courtroom to find a crowd of people, including about a dozen sitting and retired judges and other people she's worked with.

Tree of Remembrance



Family Funeral hosted the service that supported Big Bend Hospice: Kimberly Crum, Skip Young, Paula Johnson, and Renee' Garrett.

A Tree of Remembrance service supporting Big Bend Hospice was held on Thursday, Dec. 15 at Family Funeral Home's Harvey-Young Chapel. The service is in support of those who, as the holiday season approaches, have lost friends or family members. Pastor Keith Wallace of Lake Ellen Baptist spoke of the work done by Big Bend Hospice, and performers sang Christmas carols and other songs of the season, including Pastor David Fell of First Baptist and wife Deborah.

— William Snowden



Kathy Lawhon and friends from First Baptist Church of Crawfordville sing Christmas carols at the service.



Pastor Samuel Hayes of Mount Olive P.B. and his wife performed acapella.

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HELP WANTED

WAKULLA COUNTY EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
Animal Control Officer
Department of Public Safety

RE-ADVERTISEMENT

The Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners is seeking qualified applicants for a full-time, Animal Control Officer. Starting salary is \$13-\$14 an hour, depending on experience and comes with a robust benefits package. Refer to www.mywakulla.com for additional information. Must be a resident of Wakulla County to qualify. Veteran's preference will be given to qualified applicants. Wakulla County is an AA/EOE employer. Applications must be received on or before 5 p.m. on Wednesday, January 11, 2023. Dec., 22, 29, Jan., 5



WAKULLA COUNTY EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
BUILDING TECHNICIAN I

The Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Building Technician I. This is a full time, benefited position, which is primarily responsible for assisting with front desk operations, including but not limited to the receiving, reviewing, and processing permit applications for the Building Department.

For more information visit www.mywakulla.com Veteran's Preference will be given to qualified applicants. Wakulla County is an AA/EOE. Starting salary is \$14.30 an hour. The application closing date for this position is Wednesday, January 11, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

Dec., 22, 29, Jan., 5



WAKULLA COUNTY EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
FLEET MECHANIC
ROAD AND BRIDGE DEPARTMENT

The Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners is seeking qualified applicants for a full-time benefitted position of Fleet Mechanic in the Road & Bridge Department. Generous benefit package with starting salary of \$16.00 per hour. For additional information visit www.mywakulla.com. Drug screening is required. Veteran's preference will be given to qualified applicants. Wakulla County is an AA/EOE. Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m., Wednesday January 11, 2023.

Dec., 22, 29, Jan., 5

RENTALS

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year



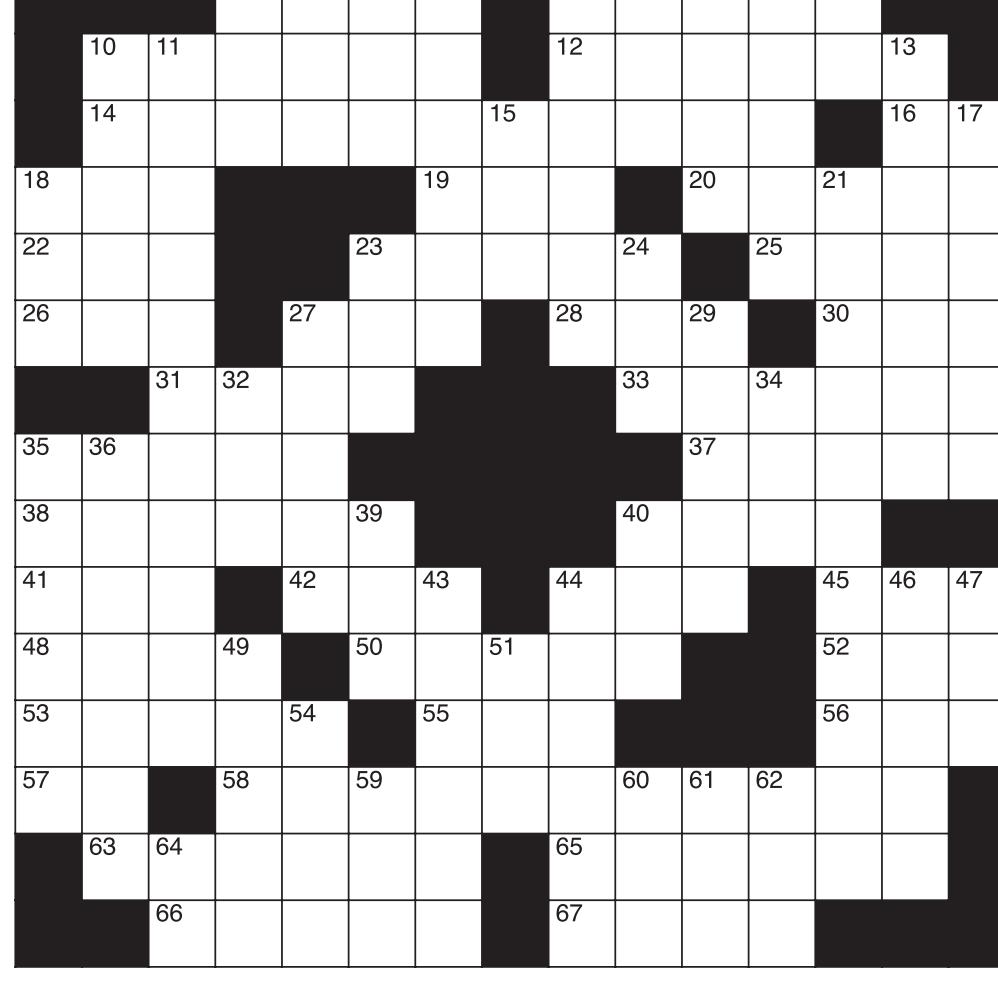
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CROSSWORD**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Chinese Muslim group
- 5. Alternative name
- 10. Resounds
- 12. Supporter
- 14. Furnishes anew
- 16. Beloved Holly-wood alien
- 18. Supervises flying
- 19. Ballplayer's tool
- 20. Coarse edible red seaweed
- 22. Former CIA
- 23. Basketball player
- 25. Travel necessities
- 26. Honey producer
- 27. Military analysis (abbr.)
- 28. Diego, Francisco, Anselmo
- 30. Mental sharpness and inventiveness
- 31. Popular Easter meal
- 33. Man (Spanish)
- 35. __ de la __
- 37. Counter-weights
- 38. Made a harsh, grating noise
- 40. Monetary unit
- 41. Commercials
- 42. Cool!
- 44. Partner to cheese
- 45. Expression of creative skill
- 48. Unit of angle
- 50. Transported
- 52. N. American people of Kansas
- 53. Computer game character Max
- 55. Moved swiftly
- 56. Everyone has one
- 57. Tin
- 58. A mole is one
- 63. Nocturnal hoofed animals
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Cole Wells, Lt. Tom Kilbourn, Angie Kilbourn, and Callie Quigg at the Opry.

Officer honored at Opry

Special to The Sun

On December 10th, Sopchoppy Opry held its 23rd Annual Christmas Special. There were many fans in attendance at the sold-out show, some of whom came all the way from Nome, Alaska to watch. A special honor was given to Lt. Tom Kilbourn during the intermission to celebrate his retirement and 12 years of service to the Opry. Lt. Kilbourn has worked in law enforcement for the past 45 years and has always been committed to the betterment of his community.

Sopchoppy Opry managers Jesse Quigg and his sister-in-law, Callie Quigg, hosted The Purvis Brothers and Encore II Band. The band played country and Christmas that everyone enjoyed. The next performance will be on Jan. 28, 2023, at 7 p.m. where they will host the South Bound Band. Season tickets have gone on sale for the 2023 year, please come see us down at 164 Yellow Jacket Ave. at the Sopchoppy School for great food and great music. You can also visit us at www.sopchoppyopry.com for more information or call us at 850-962-3711.



Sophia Stolk, Lion Christie Holland, Claire Blackwell, P J Brazier, Cole Hatcher and Lion Arlene Vause.

Peace Poster winners

Special to The Sun

Four Wakulla Middle School students were recognized as winners of the Sopchoppy Lions Club 2022 Peace Poster Contest. Lions Clubs around the world sponsor the annual art contest where students create posters

to display what world peace means to them. This year's theme was "Lead With Compassion."

Congratulations to 1st place - Cole Hatcher, 2nd place - P J Brazier, 3rd place - Claire Blackwell, 4th place - Sophia Stolk.

Wakulla GOP selects new leaders

Special to The Sun

The Wakulla Republican Executive Committee selected a new slate of officers which included Chair Mike Watkins and Vice-Chair Beatriz (Bibi) Ramos. In addition, the Committee re-elected Treasurer Rick Parks and Secretary Rebecca (Becky) Green. The new officer terms were effective immediately and will run through December 2024.

The Wakulla Republican Executive Committee congratulates Chair Mike Watkins on his appointment. "It is an honor to be Wakulla Republican Chair at this time in Florida. We have been blessed with great success and leadership locally and statewide", said Watkins. "Wakullians believe in the Free State of Florida and we are willing to do the work to keep it that way."

Mike Watkins is an 8th generation Floridian and resident of Wakulla County and has served the panhan-

gle in leadership roles for the past 31 years working on pro-family efforts to improve school safety, reduce opioid and methamphetamine addiction, and protect abused children.

Outgoing Chair Marcia Mathis said, "Wakulla County continues to appreciate a large Republican majority. We experienced our largest Republican voter turnout in the 2022 November Election, and for the first time ever all Republicans were elected in our local offices. While we have accomplished a lot we have more to accomplish between now and the 2024 Presidential Election, and I know this new slate of officers will continue the momentum and help elect Republican candidates."

Wakulla County Supervisor of Elections reports 11,829 registered Republican voters at www.wakullaelection.com. More than 70% of all voters in Wakulla County participated in the General Election on Nov. 8, 2022.



Mike Watkins



Beatriz Ramos



Rick Parks



Rebecca Green

Depot Park offers seed depot

By BETTY RUTTEN
Special to The Sun

When you have a city park with over 120 species of native wildflowers, ardent harvesters of wildflower seeds, and a growing need to educate the public about the importance of native plants, what do you do? Give the seeds away, of course!

A team of enthusiastic volunteers at Sopchoppy Depot Park saw these factors as an opportunity to install a Seed Depot. Designed and created by Florida Native Plant Society member of the Sarracenia Chapter Robert Speed, this sturdy wooden structure with its metal roof stands 5 feet tall and is a permanent installation designed to resemble the Sopchoppy (Train) Depot located directly across from the park on the other side of Rose Street.

The inner compartment houses wildflower seeds harvested from the Depot Park gardens as well as from park volunteers' home gardens. The inner side of the door features a changeable message board under plexiglass. Initially designed to display the park map and

highlight the benefits of planting native wildflowers, it can be updated to draw attention to upcoming bloom times.

One side of each seed packet in the Seed Depot features the plant's scientific and common names as well as a unique QR-code which links to the Florida Native Plant Society website and other reliable sources for extensive details on growing conditions, habit, etc.

The other side of the seed packet provides information about the Sarracenia Chapter of the FNPS, including meeting time, date, location, email address and URLs. The QR-codes also are featured on each species' plant identification signs throughout the gardens. By downloading a free QR-scanner app, visitors to the park can use their smart phones to scan the QR codes on the plant ID signs and conduct an informative self-guided tour. The inner compartment also provides space for distribution of Florida Native Plant Society and Florida Wildflower Foundation brochures on how to grow native wildflowers; how to attract birds, bees and beneficial insects to your garden; and other topics of interest to wildflower lovers

Obituaries



Glenda Rae Phelps

Glenda Rae Phelps, 85, died Friday Dec. 16, 2022, at Eden Springs Nursing Home.

Glenda Rae was born in Panama City and grew up in Sopchoppy where she loved living an easy paced life.

Glenda is preceded in death by her parents Florence & Gwynn McAllister, her beloved grandparents Joe and Callie Langston, her first husband Herman Eudell Blackman Jr. ("Buddy") who passed away in 1967 and her husband of nearly 40 years, Jack Carmel Phelps Sr. who died in September 2012. She was also preceded in death by her eldest son, Douglas Mize Black-

man who died in October 2021.

Glenda Rae is survived by her son, David Neil Blackman (Melissa); her brother, Shelton McAllister "Sonny" (Shellee McAllister); her daughter-in-law Teri Blackman (late Douglas Blackman); son, Jack C. Phelps Jr. (Eva); her grandchildren Josh Phelps, Shawn Phelps, Krista Blackman, and Evan Blackman. She also leaves two great-grandchildren, Isabella and Madison. She will be missed by many cousins, family members and friends.

Glenda went to Andrew Jackson High School in Jacksonville. She enjoyed working at the Florida Highway Patrol on the Homicide Investigation team in Tallahassee; she also enjoyed her tenure with Johnston Memorial Hospital in Abingdon, Va. Her favorite occupation was that of wife, mother, grandmother, and "Honeymine."

A Celebration of Life Memorial Service will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2022, at Sopchoppy Southern Baptist Church, 117 Curtis Mill Road, Sopchoppy FL 32358. Visitation will be held just prior to the service at 10:30 a.m. Pastor David Allen will officiate.

Skip and Trey Young along with Paula and Kimberly are assisting the family. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel, 850-926-5919 Familyfch.com.



Alice M. Swanson

Alice M. Swanson died at age 88, on Dec. 17, 2022, after a valiant fight with Parkinson's Disease. Alice was the first baby born on January 1st in Waycross Ga. in 1934. Her family eventually settled in Baldwin, Fla. when she was 7 years old.

After graduating high School she married the love of her life, Willard Jerome Swanson, joining him in San Diego, Calif., where he was serving in the U.S. Navy. They became the parents of two children, Verna Lynne and Richard Alan. Due to the peripatetic nature of military life, Alice contented herself with homemaking and service to her church and community. She was a lifelong member of the United Methodist Church, devout Christian, and especially loved teaching 2nd grade Sunday School and vacation Bible School.

After Will retired from the Coast Guard, the family moved to Melbourne Fla. where he and Alice resided for 50

years. While there, Alice fulfilled a lifelong dream of attending college, earning her associate's degree from Brevard Community. Due to health concerns, Will and Alice relocated to Tallahassee in 2020, to be near family.

She and Will had a daily routine for years, while in Melbourne, of meeting with a large group of friends and family for breakfast at McDonalds. The group was ever expanding, due to the welcoming and fun nature of this long standing social enterprise.

Alice was predeceased by her parents, Ira R. and Verda Mae Mangum Harrison; her brothers, Theodore, Ray, and Richard Harrison and sister Ruth Harrison Ingram.

She is survived by her husband of nearly 71 years, Will Swanson; children Verna Lynne S. Brock (Ed) of Wakulla Station and Richard Alan (Kent) of Chicago; her brother Jack E. (Sally) of Fernandina Beach; grandchildren E. Alan Brock of St.Petersburg; Anna Brock Simmons (Josh); Eden Marie Rodgers (Brian), both of Crawfordville; and Mary Emma Smith (Matt) of Grand Ridge; grandchildren Brennan and Avery Simmons; Harrison and Harper Rodgers; and Brooke, Lana and Kara Smith; as well as many beloved nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date, after the holidays. The family requests donations be made to Big Bend Hospice in lieu of flowers.

Skip and Trey Young, of Family Funeral Home, are assisting the family with arrangements (850-926-5919; skip@familyfch.com).

DEATH NOTICES

- Nellie M. Rutledge, 98, of Crawfordville, died December 19, 2022. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfch.com
- Shelia Byrne May, 67, of Crawfordville, died Dec. 18, 2022. Family Funeral Home at Harvey-Young Chapel. 850-926-5919, www.familyfch.com

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.”

Yes, Virginia – there is a Santa Claus

Eight-year-old Virginia O'Hanlon wrote a letter to the editor of New York's Sun, and the quick response was printed as an unsigned editorial Sept. 21, 1897. The work of veteran newsman Francis Pharcellus Church has since become history's most reprinted newspaper editorial, appearing in part or whole in dozens of languages in books, movies, and other editorials, and on posters and stamps

DEAR EDITOR: I am 8 years old.

Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.

Papa says, If you see it in THE SUN it's so.'

Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?

VIRGINIA O'HANLON.

VIRGINIA, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether

they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, VIRGINIA, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no VIRGINIAS. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove?

Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, VIRGINIA, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

On the Horizon

Calendar of upcoming events for the week of Dec. 22

Thursday, December 22

- Christmas with Aaron & Friends – mix, mingle & dance with live music at Palaver Tree Theater, 50 Shadeville Road, at 7 p.m. \$25 per person.

- Hatha Yoga with Zoe at 9 a.m. and Yin Yoga with Nellie at 6 p.m. at New Posh, 3709 Crawfordville Hwy. Packages available for \$12. Please RSVP email at newposh3079@gmail.com or text/call at (850) 528-5838

- The VFW Auxiliary Bingo Night will be held at 7 p.m. at 475 Arran Road in Crawfordville. There will be concessions and raffles.

Saturday, December 24

CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday, December 25

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Monday, December 26

- Intro to Tai Chi held at the Community

Center from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. All ability levels are welcome; wear comfortable clothing. Any questions can be directed to Rich or Terri Bushman at 850-228-9214.

- Hatha yoga with Zoe at 9 a.m. and at 6 p.m. Packages available for \$12 at New Posh, 3079 Crawfordville Hwy. Please RSVP email at newposh3079@gmail.com or text/call at (850) 528-5838.

Tuesday, December 27

- Sopchoppy Community Dinner is held every week at the Towles House at 6:30 p.m.

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

Wednesday, December 28

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

Buckhorn News

By ETHEL SKIPPER

The good news of Christmas is about the birth of Jesus the Messiah, the son of God. It is also about family – husband and wife, father and mother, ordained by God.

God sent His son Jesus to live with godly parents who were to committed to live in a manner pleasing to God. Although there are no perfect families, let us do what we can to encourage and help one another live close to God's ideal for the family.

God blesses the family that lives by His word. For every relationship there are responsibilities in the Scripture outlined for our learning. It is good to know that God does have a plan and purpose for the family in a world where family has tended to be redefined.

God created the family. He knows what makes a healthy marriage and family. The church must return to God's word and His plan for the family.

The good news of the season is it brings families together at a time they can sit at the dinner table and eat together. I was reminded of last Christmas 2021 and the conversation was

not about the food. There was a need to talk about the family.

Christmas brings a Christ-like spirit, everyone is called to proclaim the Gospel in both word and deed.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life.

The people God used for introducing His son into the world were all sincerely devoted to God. God uses people who are devoted to Him to accomplish His purpose in the world.

To be used by God for His glory in service to Jesus Christ and in Christ-like ministry to others, it is essential that we be sincerely devoted to God.

Our prayers and concern goes out to all the sick and shut-in, those in hospitals, nursing homes, prison, the homeless –those that lost loved ones and family members.

Our Sopchoppy area was hit by a tornado last week. Our prayers go out to the Lawhon family.

And let us thank God for his son Jesus and bless his name.



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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.

FLORIDA PRESS ASSOCIATION NEWSPAPER

LETTERS FROM READERS

Article doesn't describe Big Bend Hospice

Editor, The Sun:

Dear Community Partners, ProPublica and The New Yorker recently published an article, How Hospice Became a For-Profit Hustle, outlining multiple instances of fraud and malfeasance targeting the Medicare hospice benefit. The story illustrates how patient care can suffer when lackluster providers are able to manipulate the original intent and purpose of the benefit. We at Big Bend Hospice, along with our colleagues at the National Partnership for Healthcare and Hospice Innovation (NPHI), are saddened by these practices and welcome a much-needed conversation around the incentives driving bad actors into end-of-life care. However, the activity described in this piece does not reflect the care we provide or the mission that we've dedicated ourselves to advancing.

Big Bend Hospice is a community-based, independently owned, non-profit, end-of-life care provider. We have served this community for 40 years and have always been guided by our mission to deliver high-quality care to anyone at any time, all to ensure patients and their families experience dignified and respectful care in their most challenging moments. Unfortunately, there is a growing problem of fraudulent and harmful practices by some providers. These practices must be identified and eliminated wherever possible. However, the practices outlined in the article are not indicative of Big Bend Hospice. Instead, we seek to deliver the full interdisciplinary hospice care model while striving to respect the choices, wishes, and desires of our patients and their families.

Big Bend Hospice provides the full hospice experience, including services above and beyond those required by the benefit. In 2021, we cared for over 2,091 beneficiaries and their families, provided \$230K in charitable care, and tapped into 15,781 volunteer hours – all to ensure each person in our community had access to the care they needed.

Recent survey research, commissioned by NPHI and conducted by SIR and Emergence Creative entitled, Views and Experiences of Aging & End-of-Life Care in the US, shows that only 31% of people trust the healthcare system. The research found, however, that hospice stands out as a care that patients and their families still trust and value. We know that trust is fragile and earned over time. Big Bend Hospice is committed to maintaining your trust through continued exemplary service to our community.

We look forward to continuing to work with our colleagues and partners at the local, state, and national levels to ensure that opportunities for fraud and abuse in hospice are eliminated. All the while, we intend to continue serving as an example of what hospice can and should be for those in need.

We thank you for your continued support and wish you all the best.

Bill Wertman, CEO
Big Bend Hospice

Editor's Note: In full disclosure, The Wakulla Sun has supported Big Bend Hospice with discounted or free advertising and the newspaper's editor serves on the BBH Advisory Council for Wakulla.

Article on R.H. Carter was well done

Editor, The Sun:

The article about Mr. Carter was especially well done (not that I'd expect anything less!). Among other things, it helped me to know and understand him more completely. We had a "serious discussion"

about 4 years ago that also did not go well.

In contrast to that of another publication, the front page of the Sun is clean, bright and uncluttered. Keep up the good work!

Kitty Culkin

SUPPORT COMMUNITY JOURNALISM

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Yes, the Florida Press Foundation is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization with its principal place of business in Florida.

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We accept donations by card or check. If by check, payment must be made to the Florida Press Foundation and write in the check memo line that you want the donation to go to The Wakulla Sun.

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

William Snowden
Editor & Publisher
The Wakulla Sun

< Question of The Week >

- Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

Polled at Azalea Park Small Business Saturday Event with 87 Booths

What is your favorite Christmas movie?



JOHANNA REAMS
COORDINATOR OF SMALL
BUSINESS SATURDAY
"The Grinch."



**SANTA
TOY MAKER**
**"A Christmas
Story."**



NIKKI STEVENSON
FACE PAINTER/ARTIST
**"National
Lamoon's
Christmas
Vacation."**



JAY JAY MORGAN
JAY JAY'S PEANUTS &
NOVELTIES
**"Frosty The
Snowman and
It's A Wonderful
Life."**



MARY FLETCHER
RETIRED
**"Miracle on 34th
Street."**

COMMUNITY NEWS

Wakulla Station News

By Verna Brock

Christmas is quickly approaching, with all of its traditions and joy. Hanukkah is in full swing, and Kwanzaa will begin on December 26th. This is such a happy season, filled with introspection and celebration. I hope each and every reader has a time to reflect on the passing year, while looking forward to the promise of the new one.

There are so many hymns, old and new, that move our spirits, but a favorite of mine is "It Came Upon A Midnight Clear" with its message of peace and hope. One of the last

verses says, "When peace shall o'er all the earth, its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world give back the song, which now the angels sing" conjures a worthy vision of what and who we as people can become. May our coming year be filled with peace for people everywhere.

We at the Wakulla United Methodist church will be having a Christmas Eve service this coming Saturday, at 6 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join us for this celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Please keep our dear friend Sheryl Grimes in your prayers, as well as her family, as she is transitioning

from this realm to the next. Also in need of our prayers are the families of Mike Carter, R.H. Carter, and Lucy West as they face their first Christmas without their beloved family members. Linda Dunwoody and Sue Austin continue to need prayer as they deal with serious and chronic conditions.

On a sad note, my Mamacita left this earthly plane late last Saturday evening, after a long, and characteristically fierce, battle with Parkinson's disease. Alice Swanson was the feistiest, bravest person I have ever known, and I have always done my best to be as fearless as the example she set. The stories I could share!

Despite barely weighing 85 pounds, standing all of 4 feet, 8 1/2

inches tall in her bare feet (Heaven forbid you leave off that half inch!) she would rush in where angels feared to tread. No one ever intimidated her, or backed her down. Shakespeare has a line in A Midsummer Night's Dream, "And though she be but little, she is fierce..." which describes Alice perfectly.

Because of her diminutive size, medical diagnoses often came back "borderline this" or "borderline that". She finally said we should put "Here lies Alice, she is only borderline dead." on her tombstone. I swear, I am tempted to do it. May she rise in Glory.

My family and I appreciate your prayers during this time, as we adjust to life without Alice in it.

Library News – Dec. 22

UPCOMING EVENTS!

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

Monday, December 26

No Programs Today

Tuesday, December 27

No Programs Today

Wednesday, December 28

Knitting Group 4pm

Thursday, December 29

Entry Level Radio Technician Class 5:30pm

Friday, December 30

CLOSED
Saturday, December 31
CLOSED

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

Sheriff's Report

Sheriff's Report for Dec. 9-15.

FRIDAY, DEC. 9

• Deputy Ernesto Trujillo responded to the area of 159 Landfill Rd. In reference to an excavator on fire. Upon arrival Deputy Trujillo made contact with the Head of Wakulla Road & Bridge, Mike King, who said the Caterpillar Excavator was a total loss. King advised the estimated value of the machine was over \$300,000. Wakulla Fire & EMS advised there was no foul play suspected.

• During a traffic stop conducted for tag attached not assigned, Gabriel Tilley and Dylan Gil were allegedly found to be in possession of

marijuana, methamphetamine, and other narcotic equipment. Both subjects were arrested and transported to WCSO Jail without incident. Deputy Dylan Causseaux investigated.

SATURDAY, DEC. 10

• Brian Milam reported the theft of one of his game cameras. The camera sent a last photo to his phone as it was being taken. A possible suspect has been identified. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Arturo Cordoba investigated.

• A manager of Winn Dixie reported a theft from the store. Deputies responded to the area attempting to locate a

male subject who ran from the store with unpaid merchandise. The subject reportedly fled with approximately \$60 in steaks. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Rudolph Hinson investigated.

MONDAY, DEC. 12

• Lt Gibby Gibson responded to Stuart Cove reference a stolen tag. Contact was made with John Towles, who said he received multiple unpaid traffic tolls in New York City. Towles stated the tag went missing in 2018 during Hurricane Michael. John was provided a stolen tag form. The tag was placed into FCIC/NCIC as stolen.

• Deputy Heather Will responded to Koch Street reference a theft. Contact was made with

Cathy Pemberton, who said someone had stolen the 75-gallon fresh and grey water tank off of her RV. The water tank is valued at \$375. A possible suspect has been identified in this case.

• Deputy Anthony Paul responded to a vehicle fire at Beechwood and Maple Dr. The vehicle, a 1997 Jeep Cherokee, was deemed to be a total loss. No foul play is suspected in the case.

TUESDAY, DEC. 13

• Deputy Michelle Stripling responded to Walden Road in reference to a theft of a cell phone. Upon arrival Deputy Smith made contact with Julie Merritt, who said some subjects pulled up in the yard and started throwing things and yelling. Upon further investigation one of the subjects, Chrystal Lapine, was found to have active warrants out Georgia. Lapine was taken into custody and transported

THURSDAY, DEC. 15

to the Wakulla County Jail.

• Lila Porter reported being the victim of a fraud. She was contacted by a male who identified himself as Jose, working for DirectTV. Porter provided Jose with her credit card number after being advised she would receive \$25 off her next bill. Shortly after the call was disconnected Porter began receiving similar calls. Porter advised she realized she had been scammed. Porter made contact with her credit card company, and she was advised at the time of this report no charges have been made against her credit card. The card was locked and a new card will be sent to Porter. Deputy Dustin Matthews investigated.

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

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Outdoors

outdoor sports

HOME ON THE RANGE



By MARJ LAW

If there's another gun show in Tallahassee, you know Joe and I will be there.

Not that we need to. Our friends are super generous and let us borrow their handguns. But it's always interesting and informative, especially if we avoid coming home with anything.

So, we're plastering our noses to the cases, and Joe calls: "Marj, there's a Sig Sauer P365 you need to see."

"Joe. We've had a 365. You thought it had too short a grip. Then we tried out the 365L. The 365L did have a longer grip, and you liked the feel of that one. Finally, we got our hands on the 365 SAS. The SAS model was cool because all the levers were indented into the gun, so nothing would snag on your pocket or in your purse. We ended up not liking the SAS because it was so difficult to break down. Those indentations, which were supposed to make the gun better caused it to be more difficult to use after all. So, no, Joe. We don't need another 365!"

"Marj, you got to see this. It's different."

Grumble grumble.

Okay, so it's another Sig Sauer 365. So what?

I pick it up. The grip fits really nicely. I like it. Joe likes it. A lot.

"Is this the only grip size?" I ask.

"No. This P365XCA-9-COMP comes with three different-sized back-

straps," the seller says. "This is the medium-sized one."

I have a small hand. Joe's is a lot larger. The 365's beavertail sinks right into the soft skin between thumb and index finger. The beavertail and the weight of the gun make your hand ride nice and high on the grip. Good for control and accuracy. Indentations for thumb and area below the index finger further make this grip extremely comfortable.

"Yes, okay. It fits nicely into my hand. Give me a better selling point." Gun lust and a good grip are not nearly enough reason to covet another handgun.

"It's a small carry gun."

"You have a small carry gun." I'm not impressed with that argument.

"It's a 9mm handgun."

"You have a 9mm handgun!"

"It holds 17 rounds. Seventeen!" he repeats to keep my attention.

"Sure." Do we believe that?

He pops out the magazine. This tiny gun with the narrow grip top really does hold 17 rounds. Really. It's double-stacked in a zig-zag pattern which allows for that narrow top.

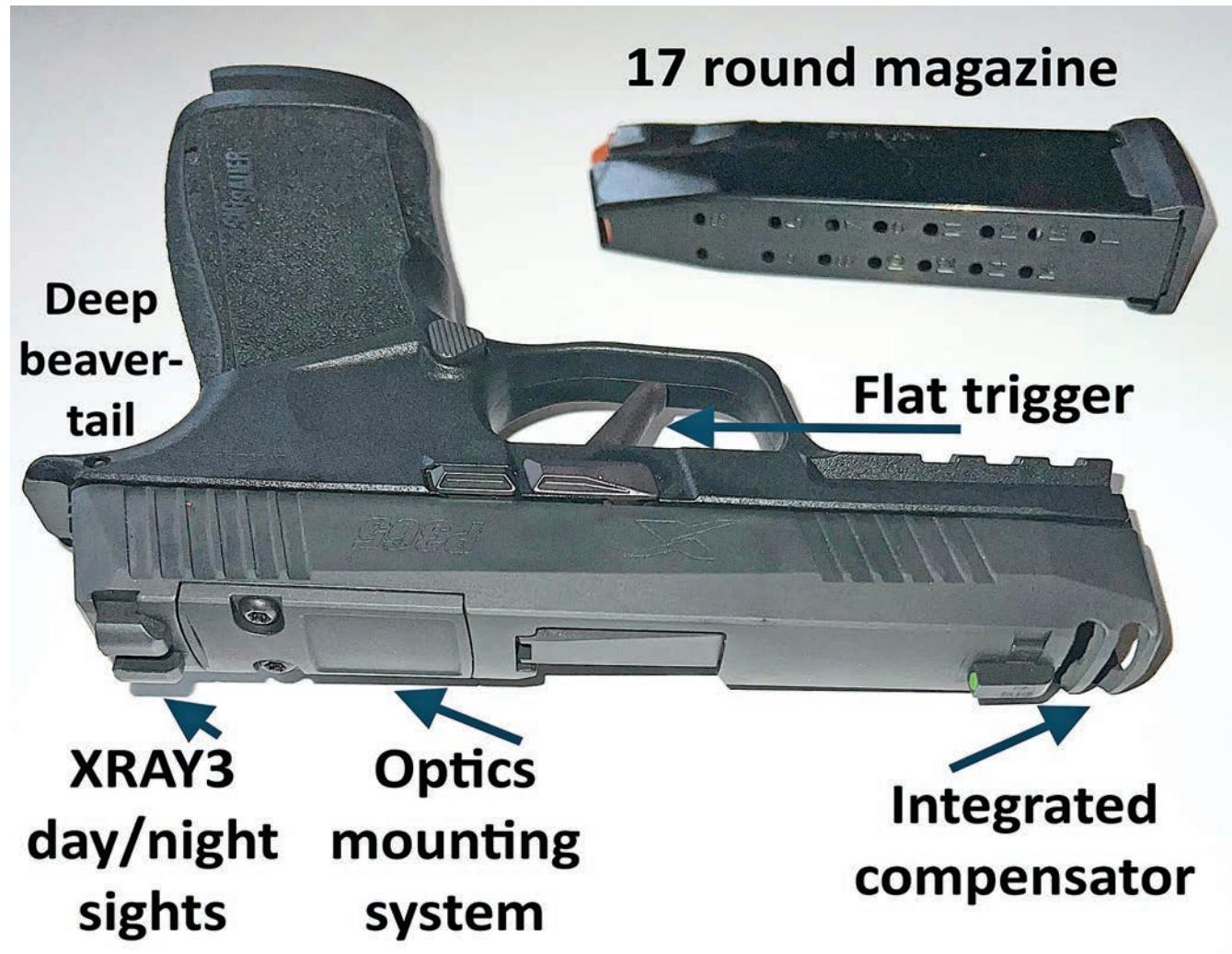
Hmm. I look at the sights. Holding my hand over the rear sights, I see they glow. Tritium. The front sight is tritium also, but it has a bright green circle around it. These are called "XRAY3 day/night sights. Easy to acquire a fast sight picture.

"Now, that's pretty cool. But you don't like striker-fired guns."

"I do like Sigs. The P320 is an excellent gun. It's striker-fired too. Besides, most Sigs are hammer-fired. Sig is a great company, whether their guns are hammer or striker-fired."

And see how small this is? It's only 5.2-inches tall.

With an overall length of 6.6 inches, its barrel is 3.1 inches. At 1.1 inches



Sig Sauer P365XCA-9-COMP

wide and at 21.5 ounces, a deal.

yes, it's a good carry gun.

Did you notice the flat trigger? I like flat triggers.

Check out the two large oval shaped ports on the top of the slide. Sig calls this an integrated compensator. It's supposed to reduce the muzzle flip and make it so follow-up shots are faster and more accurate.

And while you're looking at the slide, see the two screws in front of the rear sights? These unscrew and a rectangular plate comes off so you can mount a red dot sight. Sig calls this an 'updated optics mounting system.'

Yup. I like this gun."

Drat! I can tell this gun is coming home with us.

As luck would have it, Joe just happened to have brought along a gun he's been trying to trade. The seller is happy to make

"What's the first thing we do with a new gun?"

Joe asks me when we return home.

"Duh. Clean it. But how hard is it to break down?"

I ask. People often don't take into account field-stripping their guns. Some are a real bother.

He shows me by locking the slide back. Then he moves the takedown lever 90 degrees. After that, he moves the slide off the lower. Easy. That's good.

Once it's cleaned, we're off to the range.

It's always good to have a gun feel right in your hands; it's another thing to shoot it well. This is why people always say: "try before you buy."

So, does Joe regret this admitted impulse buy?

We rate guns on a 1-5 scale. When we give a "1"

like it. When we give a "5" it means it is difficult and we do not like it.

Joe shoots first.

"Okay, Joe. How is the trigger pull? Is it hard to pull back?"

"No. It's not the easiest, but it's easy. I'll give it a 2," says Joe.

"How far did the trigger travel before the gun went off?"

"I'll give travel a 2 as well. Not far."

"How much recoil?"

Most people want to know how much kick to expect.

"I'll give that a 2 as well. The kick isn't bad at all."

"And how do you like the grip?"

"Now that I've put the large backstrap on, I give it a 1. It feels just right."

With my smaller frame, I expect different results.

However, even with the large backstrap, I still like the feel of the grip.

I aim and squeeze the trigger.

Blam!

Joe's right about that trigger pull. It's an easy 2. So is the trigger travel. Kick is a 2 as well. And, even though I'd prefer the small backstrap, that bigger grip is really good.

What's this new P365 good for?

As Graham Baates says on The Truth About Guns: "I know most folks carry a small subcompact or micro-compact gun, but take a larger gun to training courses IF they even train at all. The P365 XMACRO is comfortable enough for training while still slim enough to use as a carry gun."

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

EASTERN BEADED CHITON
(Chonetes apiculata)

Chitons are tiny (<0.5") primitive mollusks with eight shell plates or "valves". Chiton use unique scraping teeth to crush shells and eat attached algae. Some species eat solid rock! The teeth have a magnetite cover interlaced with sodium and magnesium. Engineers are fascinated by the strong material. There are over 1000 different species, many of which are larger and beautifully colored. Some larger species are also edible.

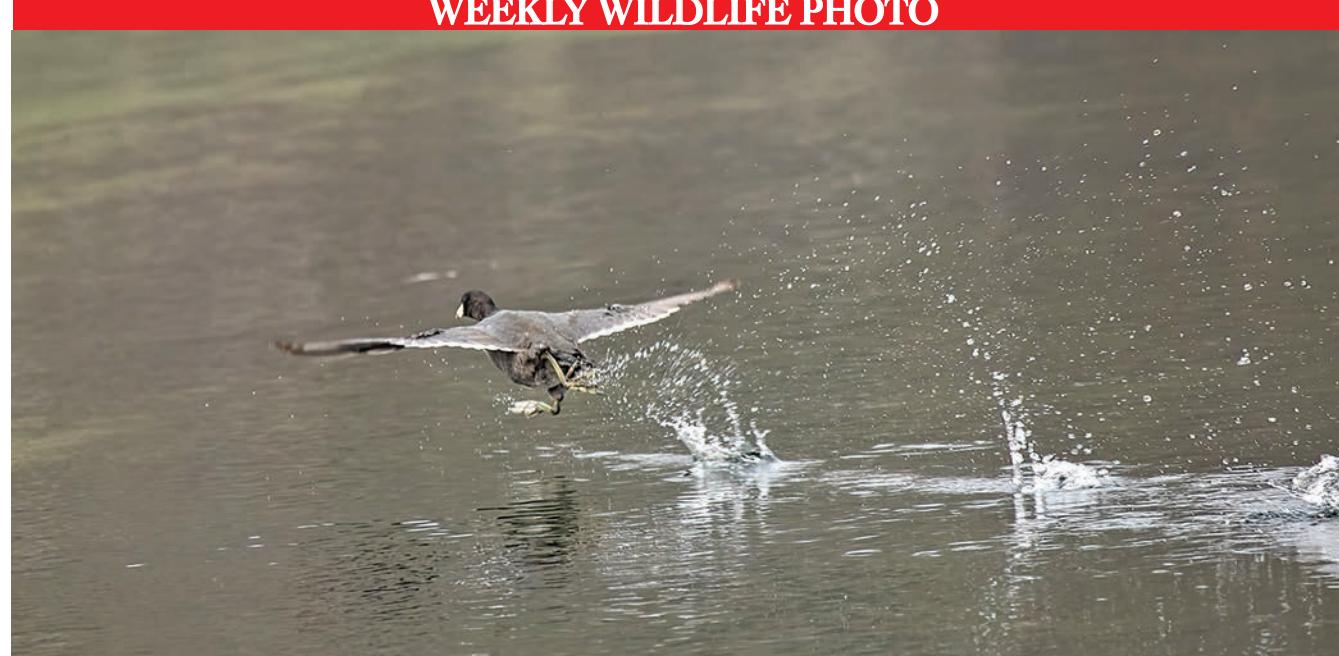
Eukarya, Animalia, Mollusca, Polyplacophora, Chitonida, Chaetopleurida

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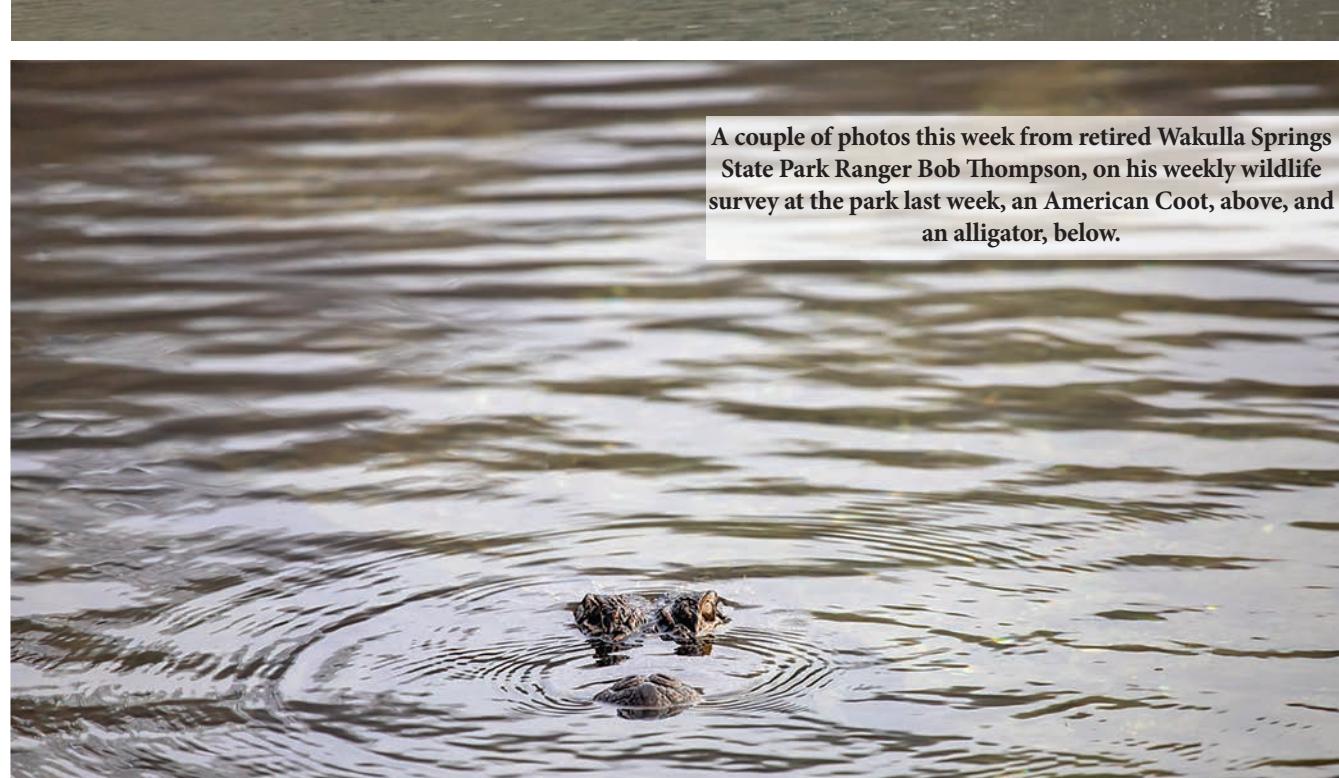
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SIDEMOUNT UNITS & MORE.

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2784 COASTAL HWY, CRAWFORDVILLE



A couple of photos this week from retired Wakulla Springs State Park Ranger Bob Thompson, on his weekly wildlife survey at the park last week, an American Coot, above, and an alligator, below.



Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences

Thursday 22	
Sun rise/set 7:29AM	Moon rise/set 6:43AM
5:41PM	4:55PM
Moon Illumination 1%	

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.

Friday 23

Sun rise/set 7:29AM	Moon rise/set 7:54AM
5:42PM	5:59PM

Moon Illumination 0%

Saturday 24

Sun rise/set 7:30AM	Moon rise/set 8:59AM
5:42PM	7:11PM

Moon Illumination 2%

Sunday 25

Sun rise/set 7:30AM	Moon rise/set 9:55AM
5:43PM	8:24PM

Moon Illumination 6%

Monday 26

Sunrise/set 7:31AM	Moonrise/set 10:42AM
5:43PM	9:36PM

Moon Illumination 14%

Tuesday 27

Sunrise/set 7:31AM	Moonrise/set 11:22AM
5:44PM	10:44PM

Moon Illumination 23%

Wednesday 28

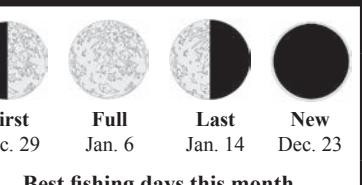
Sunrise/set 7:31AM	Moonrise/set 11:56AM
5:45PM	11:49PM

Moon Illumination 33%

St. Marks River Entrance			
Th 7:20 am	2:05 pm	6:59 pm	
▼ -1.3 ft	▲ 3.2 ft	▼ 1.5 ft	
Fr 12:40 am	8:08 am	2:51 pm	7:42 pm
▲ 3.6 ft	▼ -1.5 ft	▲ 3.2 ft	▼ 1.5 ft
Sa 1:26 am	8:55 am	3:35 pm	8:26 pm
▲ 3.8 ft	▼ -1.5 ft	▲ 3.1 ft	▼ 1.4 ft
Su 2:13 am	9:41 am	4:17 pm	9:12 pm
▲ 3.8 ft	▼ -1.3 ft	▲ 2.9 ft	▼ 1.3 ft
Mo 3:02 am	10:27 am	4:58 pm	10:02 pm
▲ 3.7 ft	▼ -1.0 ft	▲ 2.8 ft	▼ 1.1 ft
Tu 3:55 am	11:12 am	5:39 pm	11:01 pm
▲ 3.4 ft	▼ -0.5 ft	▲ 2.7 ft	▼ 1.0 ft
We 4:56 am	11:57 am	6:20 pm	
▲ 3.0 ft	▼ 0.0 ft	▲ 2.6 ft	

City of St. Marks			
Th 12:33 am	8:24 am	2:41 pm	8:03 pm
▲ 3.2 ft	▼ -1.2 ft	▲ 3.0 ft	▼ 1.3 ft
Fr 1:16 am	9:12 am	3:27 pm	8:46 pm
▲ 3.4 ft	▼ -1.4 ft	▲ 3.0 ft	▼ 1.3 ft
Sa 2:02 am	9:59 am	4:11 pm	9:30 pm
▲ 3.5 ft	▼ -1.4 ft	▲ 2.9 ft	▼ 1.2 ft
Su 2:49 am	10:45 am	4:53 pm	10:16 pm
▲ 3.5 ft	▼ -1.2 ft	▲ 2.7 ft	▼ 1.1 ft
Mo 3:38 am	11:31 am	5:34 pm	11:06 pm
▲ 3.4 ft	▼ -0.9 ft	▲ 2.6 ft	▼ 1.0 ft
Tu 4:31 am	12:16 pm	6:15 pm	
▲ 3.1 ft	▼ -0.5 ft	▲ 2.5 ft	
We 12:05 am	5:32 am	1:01 pm	6:56 pm
▲ 3.0 ft	▼ 0.9 ft	▲ 2.8 ft	▼ 2.4 ft

Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac			
Dec. 22 - Dec. 28			
			
Tide charts by tides4fishing.com			
			



First Dec. 29

Full Jan. 6

Last Jan. 14

New Dec. 23

Best fishing days this month

December 23-31

Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	12:14 am	7:43 am	2:25 pm	7:16 pm
Fr	12:59 am	8:32 am	3:13 pm	8:02 pm
Sa	1:45 am	9:21 am	4:00 pm	8:50 pm
Su	2:34 am	10:09 am	4:45 pm	9:40 pm
Mo	3:25 am	10:56 am	5:28 pm	10:34 pm
Tu	4:18 am	11:42 am	6:12 pm	11:34 pm
We	5:18 am	12:27 pm	6:55 pm	12:00 pm

Dog Island West End

Th	7:41 am	3:20 pm	7:27 pm
Fr	12:39 am	8:24 am	4:08 pm
Sa	1:28 am	9:11 am	4:51 pm
Su	2:17 am	10:01 am	5:29 pm
Mo	3:09 am	10:52 am	6:03 pm
Tu	4:06 am	11:38 am	6:36 pm
We	12:01 am	5:07 am	12:20 pm

Th	7:31 am	1:57 pm	7:10 pm
Fr	12:32 am	8:19 am	2:43 pm
Sa	1:18 am	9:06 am	3:27 pm
Su	2:05 am	9:52 am	4:09 pm
Mo	2:54 am	10:38 am	4:50 pm
Tu	3:47 am	11:23 am	5:31 pm
We	4:48 am	12:08 pm	6:12 pm

Th	7:12 am	2:20 pm	6:49 pm
Fr	12:20 am	7:58 am	3:09 pm
Sa	1:06 am	8:47 am	3:57 pm
Su	1:56 am	9:38 am	4:44 pm
Mo	2:51 am	10:28 am	5:28 pm
Tu	3:51 am	11:19 am	6:10 pm
We	4:59 am	12:09 pm	6:51 pm

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



By SHERYL H. BOLDT

announcement forever: "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High" (Luke 1:31-32 ESV).

Wow! Mary, a young virgin, probably around 15 years old, would conceive by the Holy Spirit and give birth to the Son of God!

The angel appeared, and then he was gone – but his brightness lingered. Mary would remember His unexpected

With one beyond-imaginable visitation, Mary's life catapulted in a new direction. Even with questions



By CHERYL CRUCE

It is the Christmas season, and a winter chill has decided to greet the deep south with a blanket of frost. Afghans decorate couches and recliners for warmth as fireplaces push back the cold. Children are excited about the jolly ole elf who magically delivers the best toys underneath the Christmas tree.

Christmas is a time

of excitement and good cheer. As a child, I would watch my Mom put together a silver Christmas tree, each limb fitted into place and decorated with red balls. As a final touch, a red, green, yellow, and blue light rotated beneath the tree, reflecting the colors of the season. Butterflies would churn in my stomach as I awaited the magical morning when the gifts would appear. I remember lying in my bed, unable to sleep, as I listened for the sound of reindeer on the rooftop. I am amazed at how quickly my childhood passed by.

The silver Christmas tree with rotating light remains an essential

Say yes to God

and uncertainties swirling in her head, Mary answered Gabriel (and God): "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38 ESV).

Such an inspiring response.

But what if Mary had responded differently and said, "I'm humbled by your offer, Gabriel, but I'd rather not"? Who would've blamed her for wanting a life free from scandal and the unknown? Or one with an easier, more predictable

path?

If Mary had rejected Gabriel's message, how would her refusal have affected her life, Joseph's life, and the lives of future generations?

Let's bring it closer to home: How often do we say no when we sense God leading us in a different direction? When He wants to do the unexpected, beyond-imaginable in (and for) us? How often do we allow our own agendas or fear to rob us of what could be an amazing life-changing moment? Not to mention

the full repercussions of how these choices might affect the lives of future generations.

Instead of saying no, ponder what God might do each time you say yes.

What if, the next time we feel God guiding us in a new direction, we respond with faith like Mary's? A faith that refuses to focus on the "How?" and "What if?"

The type of faith that understands who we are – servants of the Lord. And Who we serve – our Creator, the Almighty

God, the King of kings.

Let's ask God to give us the faith to trust His wisdom so we, too, will say, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." Then we can experience everything He has planned for us.

His beyond-imaginable plan.

Sheryl H. Boldt is a sales executive for Wave 94 and author of the blog, www.TodayCanBe-Different.net. Connect with her at SherylHBoldt.Wave94@gmail.com.

If we only believe

decoration in my home today. It is a childhood memory I have held onto. The red ornaments faded over the years and have been replaced with newer ones. The meaning of Christmas has also changed. I no longer listen for the reindeer hooves on my rooftop. Nonetheless, I still have the desire to receive that special gift underneath the tree. I have grown through the years of telling my children that Santa Claus would soon be here. I used to enjoy the excitement in their eyes as they found it hard to sleep. I miss those days with them; however, I enjoy watching them share the magic with my grandchildren.

So goes the seasons of life; it changes so quickly. I would love to have one more Christmas with my mom and dad or one more day with my children underfoot. Yet we cannot go back to yesterday. We can look forward to tomorrow, to a time when all longing will cease. In the scripture, we learn of a time when King David and Bethsheba lost a child. King David knew he could not bring his son back to life, yet generations later, a son would be born, bringing eternal life to all who believe. When we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we celebrate the end of all longing. We celebrate a kingdom where all sadness and grief subside. We observe an eternal life where the hope, peace, joy, and love of advent are endless. Christmas is a time of preparing our hearts to meet those that have gone before us.

In this lies our hope as well, the preparation of our hearts. We celebrate Christmas with

a tree, gifts, and good cheer. However, the most incredible gift given was laid in a manger made of stone. King David could not bring his son back to life, yet generations later, a son would be born, bringing eternal life to all who believe. And that is the constant that remains every Christmas season.

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

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

OUT TO PASTOR

As luck would have it

I went to the elevator and saw a sign that said, "Do not enter if flashing." I'm not quite sure, but I can't remember the last time I did any flashing. So very cautiously, I got into the elevator. Thankfully, I was alone.

But how many 4th floors can a hospital have? I was to go to the fourth floor, and they gave me the room number. So I went there, and when I walked in, I almost dropped over. In the bed was a man who looked like he was 125 years old and had every physical problem in the book. So I gasped and then went back to the nurse's desk in panic.

I found out this hospital has two 4th floors,

and, "as luck would have it," I was on the wrong 4th floor.

I had to go down the hallway, turn to my right, then turn to my left and I will find a door that would lead me to where I wanted to go.

I finally got up to the nurse's desk and asked

where my granddaughter would be. Right behind me was a hallway, and her room was the seventh one on the left.

I knocked on the door in full preparation that I had the wrong room. I was invited in, and "as luck would have it," I was at the right place, and there was my granddaughter.

The new father-to-be

and his mother were there beside her. I joined them, and we had a very pleasant conversation. I thought I would be there for 10, maybe 15 minutes, and then I would leave and go home. It was around 4 o'clock, so I planned to go home for supper.

As the conversation developed, she was ready to have the baby anytime.

"As luck would have it," I would be there and see our great-granddaughter before my wife would be there. She planned to be there on Wednesday when the baby was due.

The nurse came in, and we went out to the

waiting room to wait for the good news.

I now know why they call it the "waiting room." All you can do in that room is wait, wait, wait. My waiting was weighing heavy upon my patience.

Over two hours later, we received notification that she had the baby and we could go in.

As we walked down the hall to the room, we were stopped, and it was the wrong baby. Therefore, we had to go back to the "waiting room" and wait some more.

Finally, we got another call, and it was the right one this time, and we went in and saw the new baby, my great-granddaughter. Of all the babies I've seen, this has to be one of the most beautiful.

We all had the privilege of holding this baby, and I was elated when it was my turn. I now could go home and rub this in The Gracious Mistress of the Parson-

age's face. I got to hold our great-granddaughter before she did. I certainly will remember this for the rest of my life.

Wallowing in my delight about my new great-granddaughter I could not help but think of what Solomon said in Proverbs 17:6, "Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers."

Whenever I feel sorry for myself because I'm getting old, and getting old does have a negative side, there is the positive side. If I was not as old as I am, I would never have seen my great-granddaughter.

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.

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CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

CAROLS
CELEBRATION
CHRISTIAN
CHRISTMAS
COOKIES
DECEMBER
EVE
EVERGREEN
FAMILY
GATHERING
HOLIDAY
JESUS
LIST
MIDNIGHT
ORNAMENT
PRESENTS
REINDEER
ROAST
SHOPPING
STORES
TINSEL
VACATION
WREATH
YULETIDE

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

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to driver safety.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 2 = E)

A. 13 3 21 21 25 21

Clue: Reflective device

B. 11 2 23 5 24 2 19 5

Clue: Safety device

C. 17 2 18 2 9 11 3 6 2

Clue: Style of driving

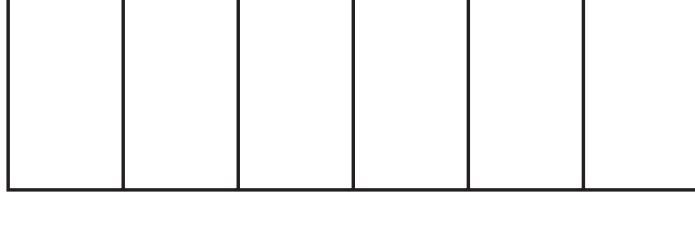
D. 20 23 7 5 3 25 9

Clue: With care

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to colds.

S T U E S I



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

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

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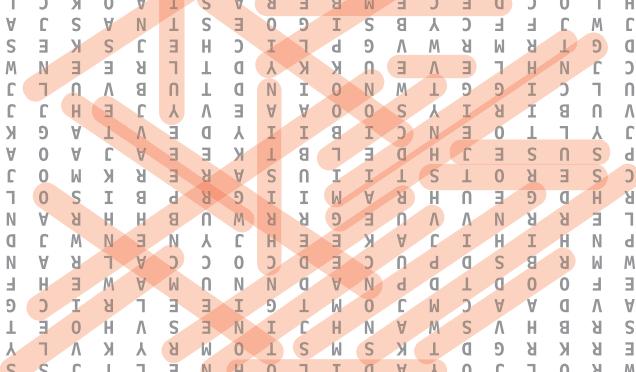
Phone # _____ E-MAIL _____

Guess Who?

I am an actor born in California on December 20, 1983. I began writing and performing my own plays while in college. I rose to Hollywood stardom for roles in funny films, and was nominated for an Academy Award for "Moneyball."

Answers: A. mirror B. seat belt C. defensive D. caution

Answers: Tissue John Hill



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**Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park****Yaupon Holly**

By LYNN ARTZ and SANDY TEDDER

Yaupon holly (*Ilex vomitoria*) is one of three native hollies at Sopchoppy Depot Park. This large, evergreen shrub (or small tree) has small, fragrant, white flowers that attract bees and butterflies in spring. Yaupon holly is most dramatic in the fall and winter when female plants sport bright red "berries." Birds eat the fruit and nest in the dense branches. The small, evergreen leaves are not prickly like other hollies, and feed the caterpillars of Henry's Elfin butterflies. Yaupon holly grows 10-25 feet high, does well in varied conditions, and tolerates both drought and salt spray. Prune this versatile plant into a specimen tree or use to create a dense hedge, screen, or windbreak. Yaupon hollies form the east and west borders of the northern gardens at Sopchoppy Depot Park.



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Student of the Week

Izabella Murphy, 3rd grader at Medart Elementary

Principal: Stan Wad

Izzy is one of our most helpful Mustangs, especially in music class. She is a great leader for classmates and encourages others with kind words. We are very proud to call Izzy a Medart Mustang!



STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.

**Wakulla County
Tax Collectors
Office**

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ENACTED: 2006.

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Enacted: 07/01/2014.

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Section B



Here are some of the Letters to Santa received this year from the Courthouse mailbox. Thanks to Santa's elf for sharing.

Santa

and holiday greetings

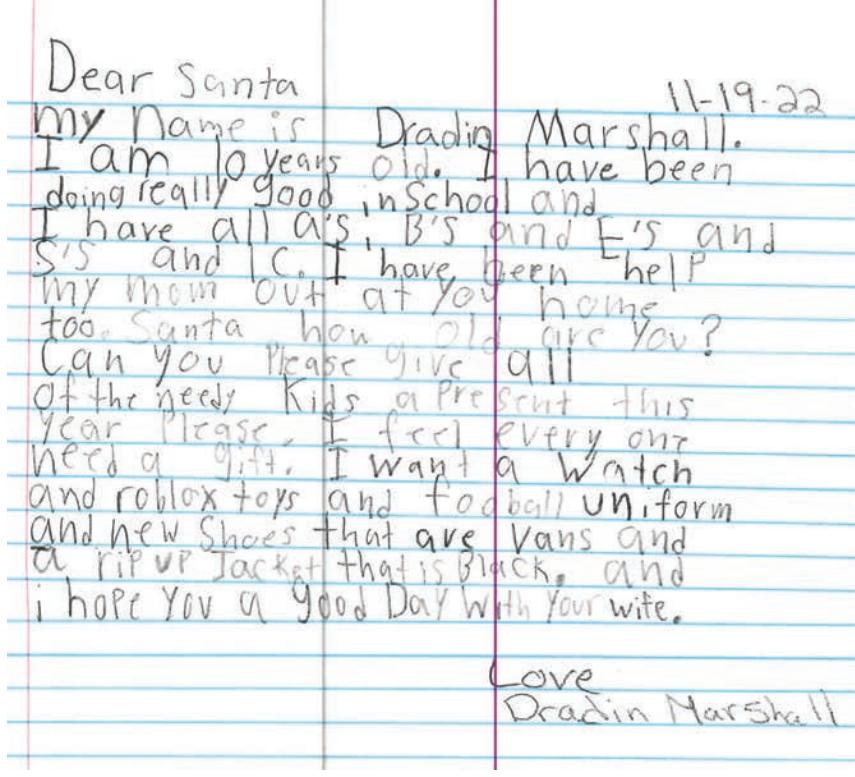
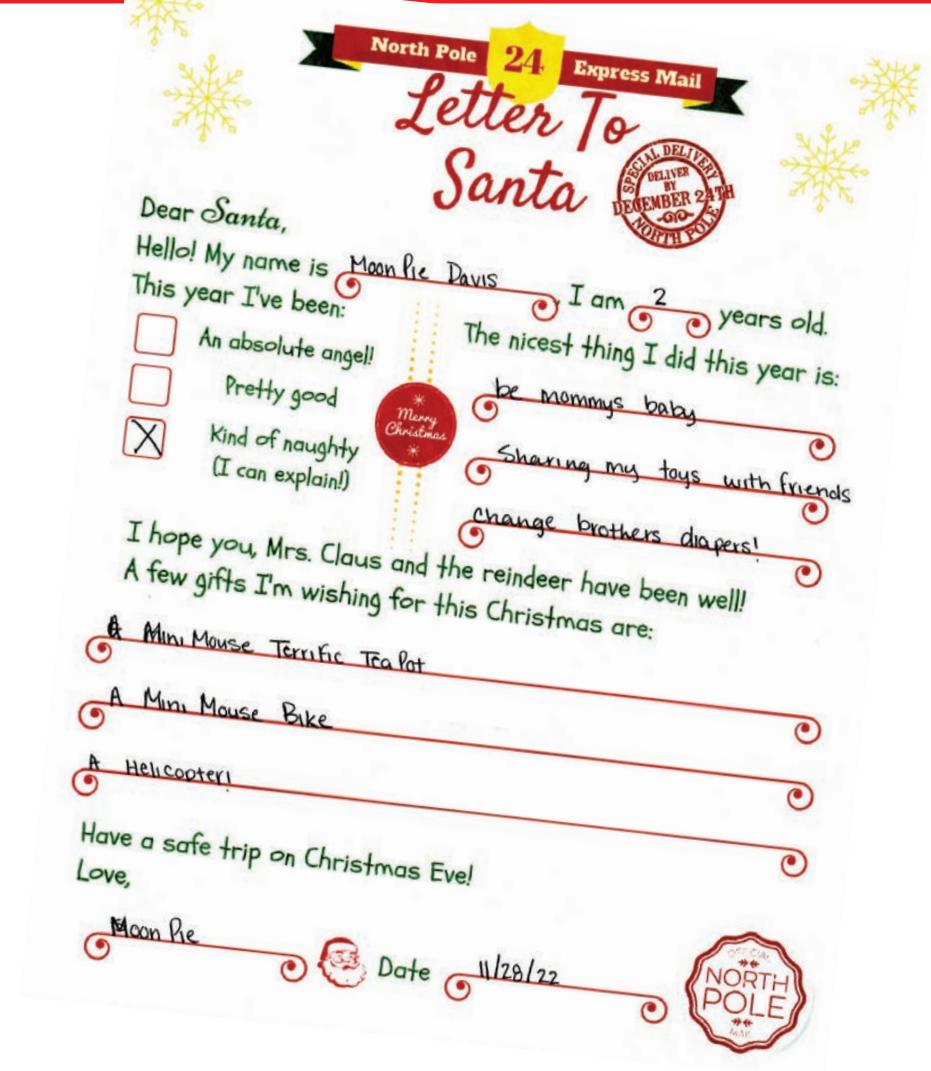
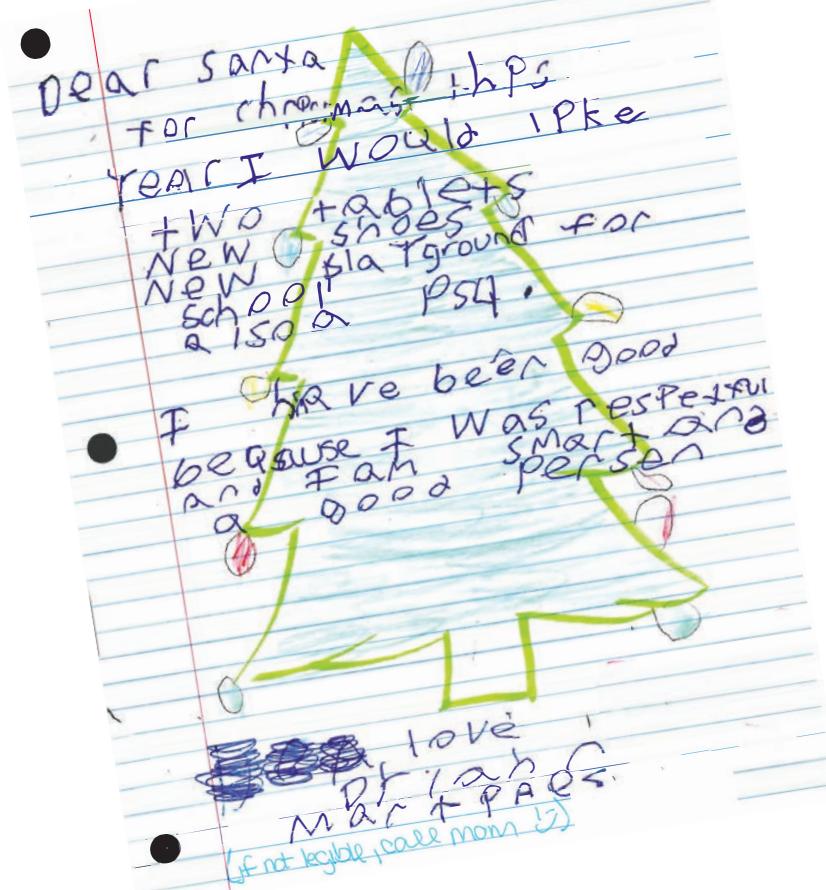
Dear Santa, I have been very good this year. But a little mean to my brother. But the three things I really want for Christmas is... a hover-board that's hot pink; computer that's purple and what I really want for Christmas is a elf and I really want is to Snow for Christmas

Dear Santa,

You are so nice. How good have I been? Grandma says I have been the best little boy. If I have been a good boy this year, could you please get me these things for Christmas?

A trampoline
A pull up bar (for exercise)!
A book about the military people

Please consider my request.
Warmly,
Martin Valencia



Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year
From Our Family to Yours!

The Wakulla Sun



LOVED



Dear Santa,

Thank you for my gifts

Last year I've been a good boy this year made honor roll and helped my mom and been wanting Five Nights at Freddy and Pokemon a lego sets and anything animals

Love

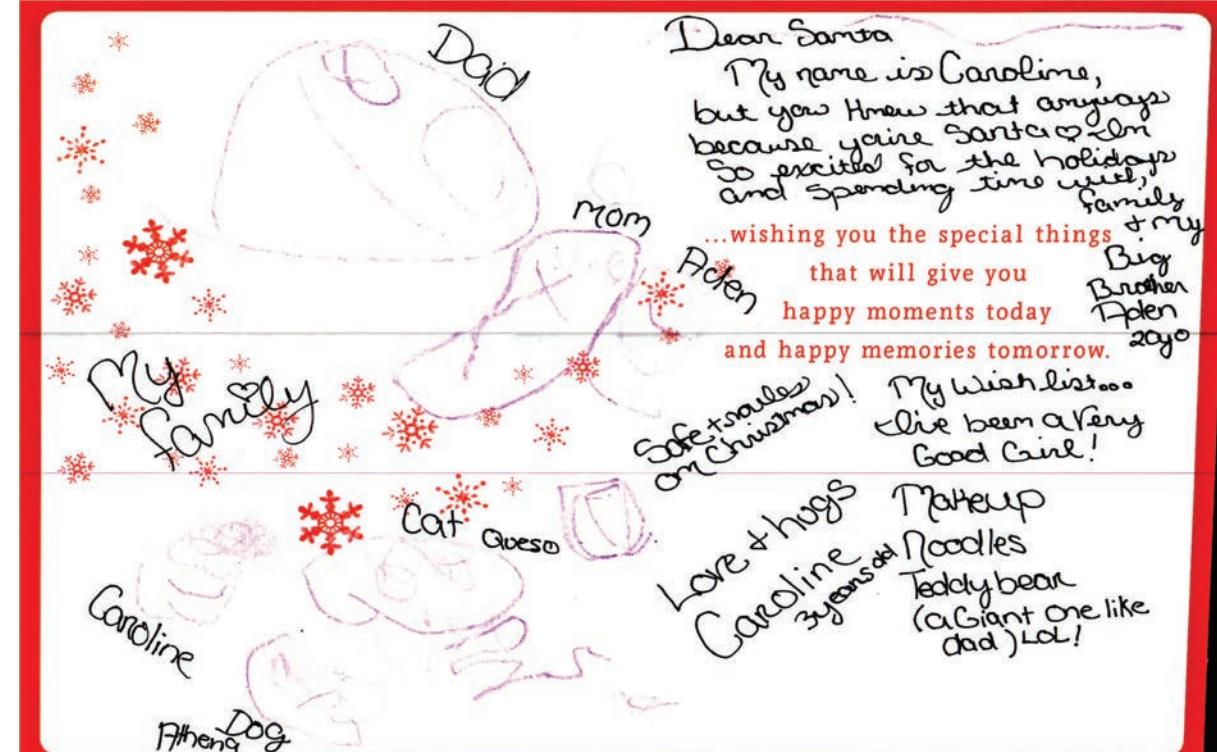
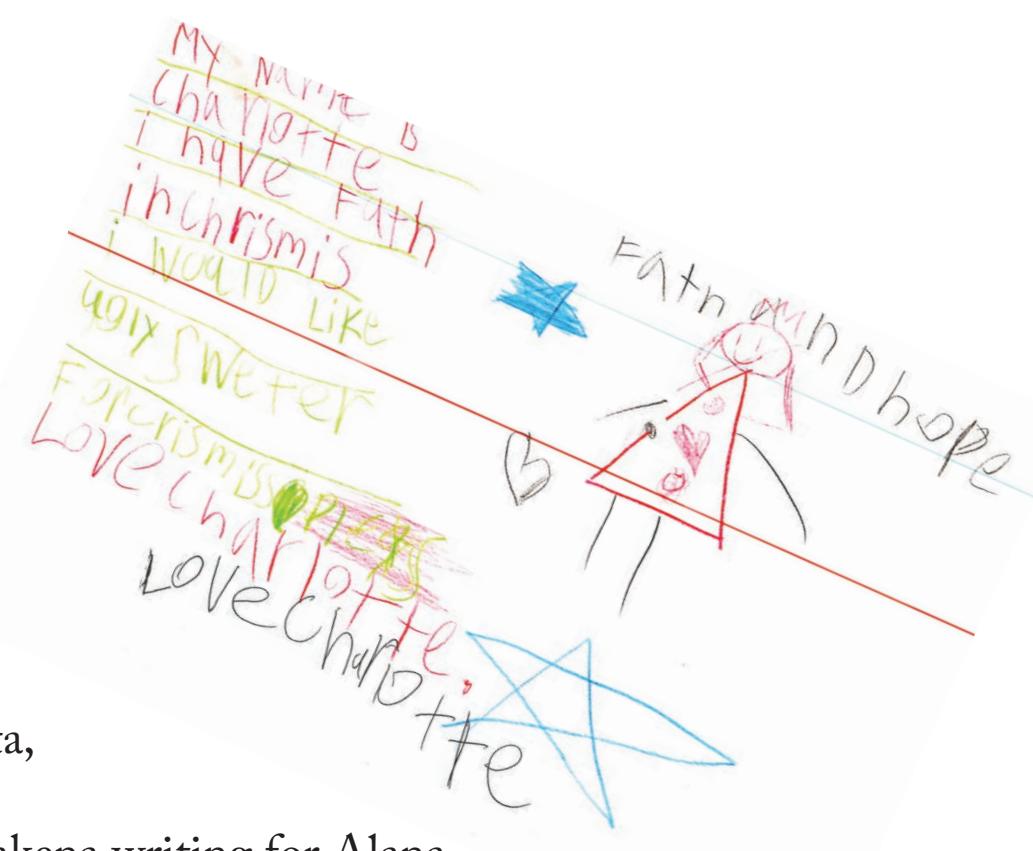
Cody Waters

Dear Santa,

This is Makena writing for Alana because she's 3. What Alana could like is any toy. She likes cocomeron and Minnie Mouse.

From Alana

Thanks



Dear Santa,

For Christmas I would like two things, a black kitten and a few new books, please. I'm not sure I'm on the good list this year, but I've been trying my best to get on it.

P.S. Some lipgloss would be nice too :)

Sincerely, Aubrey (Bre) Martinez (Heart)

Dear Santa,

Hope you're feeling well and how's Mrs. Claus? This year, I think that I was good. If I was good this year, can I at least have some of these things? One or more sketchbooks, more pencils, a laptop if possible, and some horror books which you can decide what kinds of horror books. That's all I would like for Christmas this year, please.

Sincerely, James

Happy Holidays From Our Family To Yours

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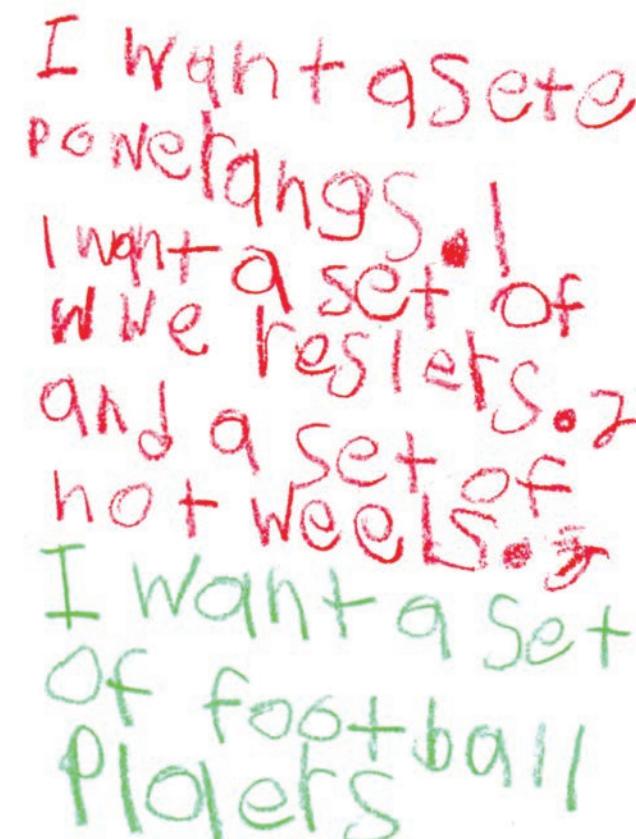


Dear Santa,

I have been good.
My I have a barbie
~~and~~ Van Doren Jaliahna
show

 Dear Santa I really
want a self on the
self. can you make his
name Spike?

From: John
To: Santa



Dear Santa,

Do you like cotton candy? I wonder if you know the Easter Bunny. You are very handsome, Rudolph.

I don't know if I have been good this year but I tried my best and laughed a lot.

For Christmas, my dad would like a boat, and so would I, so we can go fishing. I would also like a Snorlaz decorative pillow, art supplies, bath bomb or candle making kits, and a tablet.

I'm trying to get along with my brothers
better, I promise. Thank you, Santa.
Leah

— 60 —

Dear Santa,

I've been a really good girl this year. I would like an LOL Camper LOL doll and a pink ride-jeep.

Love,
Jenna

Dear Santa,

My name is Jalynn.... I am 4 years old. I have been a very good girl this year. I started Pre-K at Medart Elementary and my teacher say I am doing very well. I would like a monster truck, green head phones, an LOL doll, pink ride-on Jeep, a Toy Story 4 forky action figure, and a toy story bullseye action figure.

Love, Jalynn

Love, Jalynn

Dear Santa,

I have been pretty good this year. And would like to get a lot of chocolate. And a lot of fidgets. I would like a new bike and I would like it to be blue. I would also like cat treats and dog treats for Shadoo (cat) and Lilly (dog)

We Wish Everyone A Merry Christmas!

Come check out our End of the Year Inventory Reduction Sale*

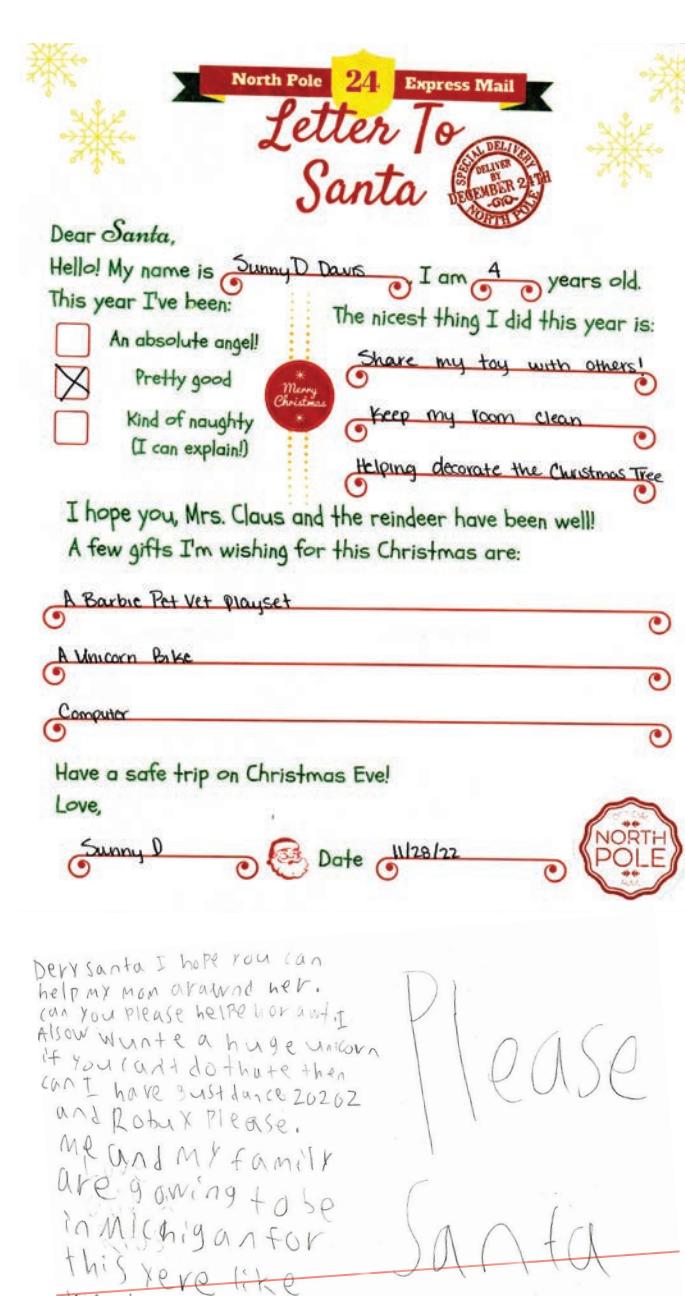
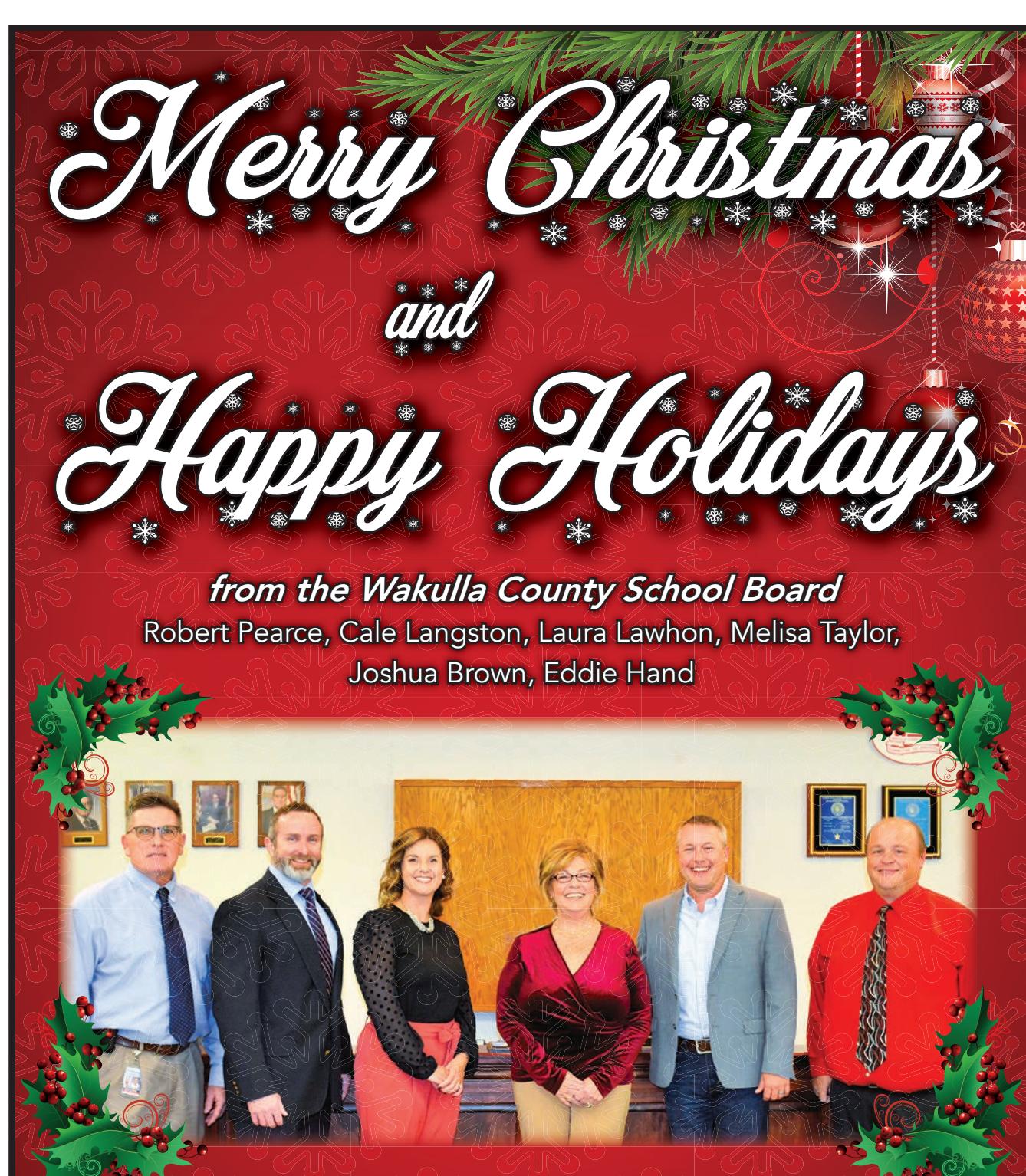
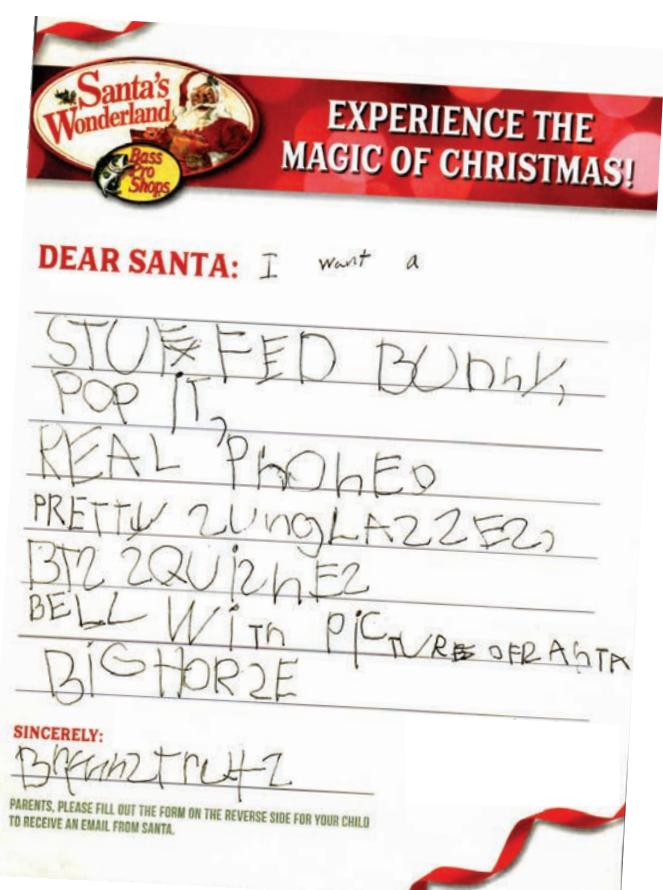
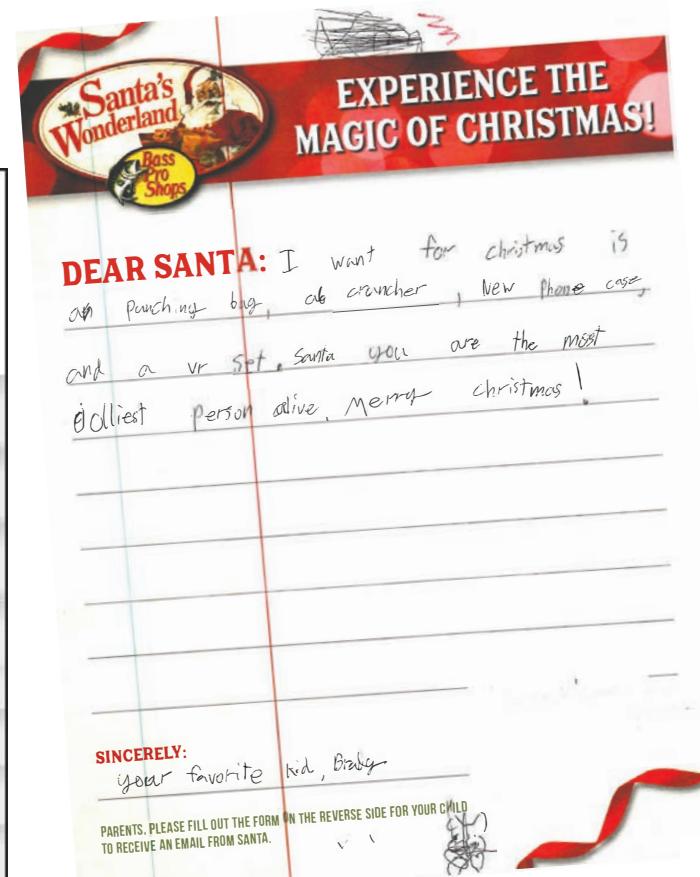
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Dear Santa, I have been very good this year. But a little mean to my brother. But the three things I really want for Christmas is... a hover-board that's hot pink that's purple and what I really want for Christmas is a elf and I really want is to snow for Christmas.

Dear Santa, My name is Roslyn Lee. I am 6 years old, these are the things I want for Christmas

1. the wholl cleshin of doorables
2. a phone
3. mine plush 5
4. mine series 2
5. BenBen cat plush pillow set 3
6. Chrismas-plush-cute and soft Rockey the Racoony



Dear Santa,

I would like a remote control voice control robot dog. Because I want a dog when I grow up so this will be good practice. Thank you,
from Teagan

Dear Santa,

My name is Roslyn Lee. I am 6 years old, these are the things I want for Christmas

1. the wholl cleshin of doorables
2. a phone
3. mine plush 5
4. mine series 2
5. BenBen cat plush pillow set 3
6. Chrismas-plush-cute and soft Rockey the Racoony

**Stan and the gang wish you a
Very Merry Christmas,
Happy New Year and God Bless**

*Thank You
for 27 Years* We look forward to
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Christmas**
and Happy New Year!

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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

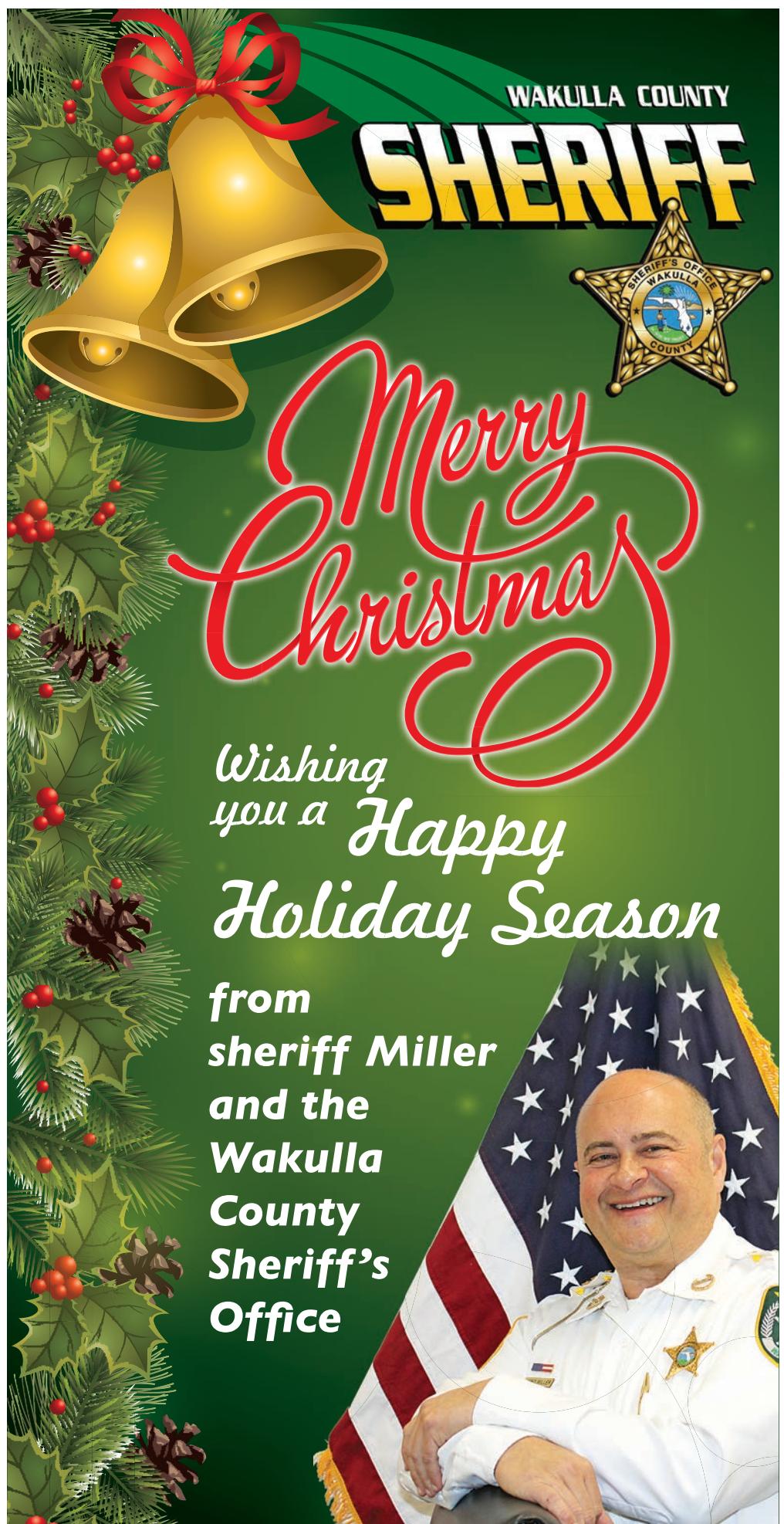
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God Bless America

MERRY CHRISTMAS & Happy New Year

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The Wakulla Sun

THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

I was walking down the street in my neighborhood today,
 And saw all the Christmas lights that were there on display
 Gleaming thru the window panes, yet the Christmas tree's all seemed so plain.

Santa's, reindeer's and snowman's I see,
 but no Jesus, No Mary, No Joseph
 No Nativity.

No cheer, no joy, just coldness on my walk
 I looked up with sadness, and said Jesus we need to talk.

My Lord said, they have forgotten me,
 And went about the world's way,
 The children seek a Santa,
 And the parents fail to pray.

I felt so much brokenness, my heart was in despair,
 It's my Lord's birthday,
 And no one seems to care.

Christmas is now profaned,
 Thru covetousness, greed and gain
 wreaths on the door, toys galore!
 spoiled children screaming for more!

I want, I want, I want echoes all around!
 Christmas tree's full of presents
 but no love to be found!

The least of these, with all the need
 your eyes to blind to see!
 why won't you make a difference,
 And put yourself under the tree?

The greatest gift, that God did give
 You won't find on a shelf
 Nor given out by a Santa,
 or receive from an elf.

It's not in silver wrapping paper
 It won't fit in a box any size, large or small
 but it is the best gift
 desired of them all!

It's a gift, that is forever, a life without end
 Jesus Christ, our blessed Savior
 The payment of your sins.

Go and tell it everywhere! to all who will receive,
 First you must believe,
 Jesus the reason,
 We have the Christmas tree.

As I finished my walk, and headed back
 Thinking of this world and me,
 Knowing I'm a branch
 That's growing from Jesus tree

Thanking God for my CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

His blessed gift to me

Tony Duncan

-All glory to Jesus

Unto us a Son is born

Hallelujah!

(formerly published in "Love And Luminaries"

The International Library of Poetry)

Merry Christmas & HAPPY NEW YEAR!



JASON SHOAF
FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

To All A Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year!

Wishing you the gift of love, the gift of peace and the gift of happiness during this time of Celebration



EVELYN CELINA JOE JASON

WAKULLA COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS OFFICE



Wakulla County
IN GOVERNMENT WITH TRUST

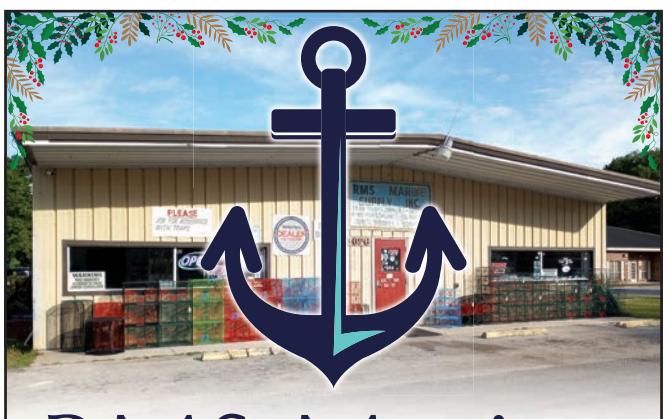
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