

# Sun Monthly

Locally Owned & Operated

"The little paper"

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The story behind The Wakulla Sun newspaper and monthly  
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## Leonard Tartt

The Sopchoppy Public Works Director is retiring this year to spend time with family and farming

By **RIDDHI PATEL**  
Reporter

"What attracted you to Wakulla County?" says Sopchoppy Public Works Director Leonard Tartt. This is one question that Tartt asks community members to consider as Wakulla continues to grow. "I've enjoyed living in Wakulla," says Tartt. He has fond memories of living here, and he especially enjoys spending time outdoors and the small-town, "easy-living" feel of Sopchoppy.

Tartt grew up in Wakulla County, and he graduated from Wakulla High School in 1973. After spending some time seeing if college was the right fit for him, Tartt ended up joining the military. He is a U.S. Navy Veteran. After his time in the military, Tartt moved back home to Sopchoppy with his wife Peggy, whom he married in 1979. Upon moving home, Tartt says he briefly worked in the seafood industry under



Leonard Tartt outside the Sopchoppy City Hall.

Earl Vause.

Tartt eventually began to work for the Olin Corporation in St. Marks – currently St. Marks Powder. He started there in 1980 and ended up working there for almost 20 years. In May 1999, Tartt was driving home from work and he got in a bad car accident. He said that soon after the accident, the company terminated his employ-

ment.

Working in St. Marks did not stop Tartt from remaining heavily involved in his home community of Sopchoppy. He served on the Sopchoppy City Commission for 12 years, and he even spent 7 years as Sopchoppy's Mayor. He was Mayor until about 2002. In October 2003, Tartt took a job with the

Turn to Page

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**BEST LIQUOR AND WINE SELECTION IN WAKULLA!**

From the first issue of The Wakulla Sun on Feb. 24:

# How we got here: The start of The Wakulla Sun



By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**  
Editor

I didn't set out to start a newspaper, but I didn't like the changes that the corporate owner intended to make with the newspaper I had been with for 26 years.

First came the staff reductions: two positions were cut, including an inside sales person/receptionist who had been with the paper for 5 years.

Then came the loss of local control – ads and pages would no longer be built at the newspaper but at a “hub” out of state. The design of pages would now be a template for cookie-cutter design for the dozens of newspapers being built.

Three times I offered to buy the newspaper – I wanted to keep it a local, community paper. Three times I was told no.

So I turned in my resignation before Christmas with no idea what I was going to do next.

On a Monday after the holidays, the first person I told I was leaving and why asked if I had thought about starting my own newspaper. I proceeded to tell him all the reasons that wouldn't work. The worst of it was that I felt I needed to resign from all the organizations I was involved in – Rotary Club, where I had been appointed president a second time to fill the term of the former president who stepped down for personal reasons; plus Big Bend Hospice's local advisory board, and the Wakulla Wonderful committee planning the celebration of Wakulla County's founding with a festival on March 12. To me, the prospect of giving up that community involvement was heartbreaking but I felt I needed to walk away from it.

I told other people, they gave me the same response: Why don't you start your own paper? I told them why it wouldn't work. By Thursday of that week, I was telling yet another person why I couldn't and something reached a tipping point. True, there would be very significant hurdles to overcome. You'd be starting from nothing and trying

to assemble all the systems and processes to generate a paper.

But these were solveable problems.

(I'm not using any names in this, but the first person I told and the person who made me wonder if maybe it could work are next-door neighbors with each other. In a conversation over the fence, the two of them actually worked out their roles in the story.)

When I got home that evening, I told Meredith, my wife, that I was thinking about starting a newspaper. She was hesitant. She was fully supportive of buying an established newspaper – but starting a new one?

But it was better than some of my earlier ideas, one of which was to go to racing school.

“To do what?” she asked.

“Be a race driver.”

(Long silence. Throat clearing, then:) “Have you thought of anything else?”

Though I wasn't fully committed to it, I began to think of what would need to happen to start a new business.

I began to tell people I was thinking about starting a paper. The reaction was always supportive. People were excited.

And what really pushed it over the line were those peo-

ple who offered financial support. I didn't take it, but the fact that people were willing to put up money to back the paper made me believe that it really could work.

(Soon, we will be set up to accept tax-deductible donations to support community journalism through the Florida Community News Fund, a 501(c)3 operated by the Florida Press Foundation.)

In private conversations, the other members of the newspaper staff – salesperson Lynda Kinsey and graphic artist Eric Stanton – said if I started a paper, they would join. We began referring to it as “our” paper.

They both submitted their resignations to come here. And I want to acknowledge what a giant leap of faith that was for both of them – Lynda had been with that newspaper for 33 years, Eric for nearly 20. Both gave up a steady paycheck and benefits to step out into this venture. I believe both did it because they are sincerely committed to community journalism, and what a local newspaper is supposed to be.

I have thanked both of them for jumping off this cliff with me.

I want to thank Meredith for her support of this venture.

There's a lot of other people to thank – everyone I talked to in the community who offered support and encouragement.

Thanks to the advertisers in this issue.

Thanks to Al Pasini, a good friend and Rotarian, who was the official first subscriber to The Wakulla Sun. Thanks to all of you who have subscribed.

Thanks to Riddhi for joining us. And Jessi.

Thanks to the columnists who contributed.

Thanks to those people who helped us get the business started.

And thank you to our readers. Without you, none of this means anything.

We hope to earn your trust and keep it. Though we will inevitably make mistakes, we will own up to them and correct the record.

This is your newspaper. It is local. It is sold, designed and built by local people.

If you have a problem or a news tip or just want to chat, call me. We don't have landlines yet, but my cell phone is (850) 566-2232. Or stop by the office, 12 Arran Road.

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

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# Parking at local beaches has been an ongoing problem



By **JARED MILLER**  
Wakulla Sheriff

I wanted to take time to talk this month about something my office generally receives numerous complaints about in the summer and that is parking issues at our local beaches and boat ramps. As Summer nears and the weath-

er gets nicer Wakulla County's public beaches and boat ramps, I'm sure will once again be popular places to visit.

It's important for anyone who is planning on visiting a Wakulla County public beach or boat ramp to remember that parking is only allowed in the designated parking areas or spots. Perhaps the greatest complaint we receive during the summer regarding public access areas is individuals parking on the roadside or private property. It is illegal to park on the shoulder of a public roadway (this would include on or near the many bike paths in our county). Doing so might get the vehicle

owner a citation and could even result in a vehicle being towed at the vehicle owner's expense. On this same topic in many locations such as Mashers Sands Road or Shell Point, the public areas are adjacent to private property. Please know parking on private property without the permission of the owner, could result in your vehicle being towed. If you are attempting to visit one of our public beaches or boat ramps, please make sure to park in the properly designated locations. If there are not any available, it might be a good idea to attempt to find another location to visit. I know doing so would

be an inconvenience, but a much smaller one than a ticket or towed car. In October 2021, county commissioners passed a new ordinance for Wakulla County which allows for the ticketing and or towing for vehicles illegally parked on Wakulla County property. I would encourage everyone who intends on visiting a county beach or boat ramp to read this ordinance and be familiar with all applicable laws.

At the Sheriff's Office, we do our best to try and resolve issues such as these to the best of our abilities in a way that is beneficial for everyone. We certainly understand that

our outdoor areas are popular and that many people want to enjoy them. It is not our goal to unduly punish anyone or ruin their trip out. However, we also have to enforce state and county rules, make sure our roadways and bike paths are open and safe for normal and emergency vehicle traffic. We also have to ensure that the citizens living near these public areas have access to their homes and property.

Whenever you or your family choose to go out and enjoy the many wonderful outdoor activities, be a good neighbor and make sure to utilize the posted available parking. If you can't

find a parking spot travel to a different location or try again at a different time. There are close to 10 public boat ramps in Wakulla County and a handful of public beaches across the county, not including the two state parks with swimming areas.

As always please remember if there is anything I or anyone here at the Sheriff's Office can do for you do not hesitate to call, and always remember to report illegal or suspicious activity.

Call 850-745-7100 or 911 for emergencies.

Your Sheriff,  
Jared F. Miller.

## On the Horizon – A monthly calendar

### Friday, April 1

- April Fool's Day

### Saturday, April 2

- The Chamber of Commerce's 11th Annual Low Country Boil will be held at 3Y Ranch from 5:30 to 10 p.m. For tickets, call the chamber at 850-926-1848.

### Monday, April 4

- The Board of County Commissioner's meeting will be held at 5 p.m. in the Commission Chambers.

### Saturday, April 9

- The 20th Annual Sopchoppy Worm Gruntin' Festival, including a 5K race in the morning and the Worm Grunter's Ball in the evening, will be held in downtown Sopchoppy.

### Monday, April 11

- The Planning Commission meeting will be held at 6 p.m. in the Commission Chambers.
- The Sopchoppy City Commission Meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. in Sopchoppy City Hall.

### Thursday, April 14

- The St. Marks City Commission meeting will be held at 6 p.m.

### Saturday, April 16

- PAWS Dog Wash will be held at Hudson Park.

### Sunday, April 17

- Happy Easter!

### Monday, April 18

- The Board of County Commission-

er's meeting will be held at 5 p.m. in the Commission Chambers.

- The Wakulla County School Board meeting will be held at 5:45 p.m.

### Saturday, April 23

- Keep Wakulla County Beautiful's Household Hazardous Waste Day will be held from 8 a.m. to 12 noon at the Wakulla Community Center.

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## Save the date for Christmas in July



By JOHN SHUFF and SANDI McDANIEL

**Christmas in July** is back after a two year hiatus due to the Covid-Delta-Omicron epidemic; we can only hope that BA.2 will not affect our lives like the other 3 variants did!

The event has been renamed in keeping with the many positive changes that have been happening at the Senior

Center, to **CHRISTMAS AFTER DARK** and will be held **at the center on July 22 from 6-9PM** so please mark your calendars. Heavy Hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar will be there for your enjoyment along with celebrity servers, music, silent auction items, fishing trip and beach condo auction, and Christmas decorations for everyone to enjoy. All proceeds will go to the Senior Center to help fund all the things we do for the senior community.

Admission tickets are \$60 per person with sponsorships available ranging from \$250 to a title sponsorship at \$5,000. For more information please contact Jennifer Miller at [j.miller@wakullaseniorecitizens.com](mailto:j.miller@wakullaseniorecitizens.com) or by phone at 850-925-7145 Ex.26

or Sandi McDaniel at Ex. 25.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank **Carl Thomas** for a true act of kindness about a month ago. Carl got a chopped up motorcycle from a friend, Greg Diehl, did some repairs on it, and sold raffle tickets with the motorcycle being the prize. Carl came to our March board meeting and, after paying Greg back for the bike, presented the Board with \$3,250.00 as a donation to our Senior Center. **Thank You, Carl!**

I am pleased to announce a new member to the Wakulla Senior Citizen Board, **Sue Anderson**. Sue is a long term resident of Wakulla, and retiree from our school system. Sue began her career as a teacher but as the years

passed took on more responsibility writing and managing federal grants, and helping develop and implement academic improvement plans. She ended her career as Director of statewide testing for our school district. We look forward to having Sue's attention to detail, her organizational abilities, and her desire to help our senior community.

While on the subject of our Board I would like to recognize board member **Marva Preston** for her "Volunteer of the Year" award from the Chamber of Commerce. Marva works with too many volunteer organizations to count, truly one of our outstanding citizens, Wakulla County is lucky to have her!

We have two other announcements regarding the work being done by

our board members. As mentioned before we are developing, and separating, our fund raising and events activities. While they both have the same goals they are very different in their approach, causing the fund-raising side to always get less attention because of the immediate needs of the next event. I am happy to announce that our new fund raising committee will be chaired by **Quince Messersmith**, our current Chairperson for the Board of County Commissioners.

In other Senior Citizen Board news, **Denise Colangelo** has agreed to lead our effort to gain national accreditation for our Senior Center, as mentioned in an earlier article, this will probably be a two year effort but again,

we have another great leader on our board with excellent attention to detail and a desire to get to the finish line.

Last but not least, I would like to thank **Becky Black** and **Pat Patterson** and their committee, for the many hours they put in planning the Christmas After Dark event. Their committee is holding weekly meeting and they are at the center working out details more than that to assure a successful event that will be enjoyed by all, thank you Becky and Pat!

In closing I would like to say how amazing it is to work with such a talented, dedicated, and strong Board of Directors, our senior community is in good hands!

## It's time for spring cleaning



By SAMANTHA KENNEDY  
Extension Director

Spring has officially started. Have you started your spring cleaning yet? If not, it is time to start thinking about cleaning up and clearing out for a healthy and refreshed home.

The tradition of spring cleaning began back in the days before electricity, when homes were heated with coal and oil and lit by gas and candlelight. These fuels were notorious for leaving behind soot and grime. Once winter was over, people threw open the doors and windows and set about cleaning, scrubbing, airing, and sweeping everything out.

Although electricity does not leave behind the same type of soot and grime as more traditional energy sources, being closed up all winter still leaves our homes feeling dingy. Spring cleaning can

freshen any home and leave a clean, positive feeling.

One of the most important things to do during spring cleaning is clearing out the clutter. Take a quick inventory of every room and storage space and evaluate what is necessary and what it not. If it is not necessary, it is clutter.

Clutter not only makes a home feel crowded and uncomfortable, it also serves as additional places where dirt, dust, and allergens can hide. Clearing away the clutter will go a long way to making any house feel more like a home.

There are three ways to deal with clutter. Recycle things such as old magazines, newspapers, and junk mail. Sell items that are still usable and in excellent condition, such as small kitchen appliances, electronics, and tools. Donate items that could benefit others in need such as clothes, books, and baby items.

All good spring cleaning strategies require the right tools and supplies. According to the American Cleaning Institute, any good cleaning kit should include the following items: an all-purpose spray cleaner, an all-purpose powder cleaner, an abrasive cleaner,



There are a lot of choices when it comes to cleaning products and they are not all created equal. Take the time to compare brands and choose the ones that work best for your needs.

a nonabrasive cleanser, chlorine bleach, glass cleaner, a furniture-dusting product, and toilet bowl cleaner.

Keep in mind many of these products can be replaced with baking soda and white vinegar, which are two non-toxic household products that serve many functions within the home. Baking soda and water is a good deodorizer. Vinegar and water cleans glass like a dream. It is not always necessary to buy expensive, task-specific cleaners to get the

job done.

Make a cleaning game plan. The prospect of cleaning the entire house can be daunting. By creating a game plan, this overwhelming task can be broken down into smaller, more manageable tasks. Instead of tackling all the tasks in one room – windows, vacuuming, dusting, polishing, mopping, etc. – before moving on to the next, maybe just focus on cleaning all the glass in the house first. Then work on the dusting or the polish-

ing or the vacuuming next.

Enlist all members of the family to help with the cleaning. Spring cleaning is a big job – too big for one person. Besides, everyone contributed to the clutter, so everyone should help. Also, if someone expends the effort to make their space spic and span, they are more likely to make the effort to keep it that way.

Hiring professionals for big jobs such as clearing out the gutters or cleaning the

carpets is a good option as well, as long as it is in the budget.

Spring is a time of renewal for the outside environment, as the flowers bloom and the vegetables grow. It should also be a time of renewal for our home environment as well. Spring cleaning is a good way to get a head start on summer.

*For more spring cleaning tips, please call Samantha Kennedy, Family and Consumer Sciences agent, at (850) 926-3931.*

**FROM THE CLERK OF COURTS**

# What's happening at the courthouse



By **GREG JAMES**

Hello from the Clerk's Office! There are many things happening at the Clerk's Office and I hope to use this forum to keep you informed about upcoming events and what we do at the Clerk's Office. I hope to vary the message each month to inform you about the many important statutory duties we perform and how they impact you as a citizen.

By the time you read this article an important annual event will have just passed but it is the focus of our topic this month because it really is an activity the Clerk's Office is involved in that is ongoing year-round. March 14th – 18th, 2022 was "Sunshine Week". "Sunshine Week" is a national initiative celebrating access to public information and open government. In Florida, the nickname the "Sunshine State", takes on a double meaning since we have uniquely strong laws supporting citizens who want to be engaged in their com-

munities, learn more about their local and state political activities, and hold their leaders accountable. Transparency in government is a central focus of each of Florida's 67 Clerk of Court & Comptroller's offices.

Sunshine Week was created in 2005 to coincide with the March 16th birthday of James Madison, the nation's fourth president and a major architect of our Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Madison and others championed the First Amendment to prevent the kind of tyranny colonists faced from King George III who prevented newspapers critical of him from publishing during the American Revolution. Madison said, "A popular government, without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a prologue to a farce or a tragedy; or perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance; and a people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives."

As Clerk of Court & Comptroller of Wakulla County, I am responsible for providing our citizens with access to court records, audits, reports, land records, meeting minutes, ordinances, resolutions and much more, and I believe the process of accessing these records

should be as easy and efficient as possible. The responsibilities of the Clerk related to public records are enumerated in the State of Florida Constitution (Article V, Section 16 and Article VIII, Section 1(d)), the Florida Statutes (Chapters 28, 119, and 125) and the Court's Rules of Judicial Administration (RJA Rule 2.420).

The laws and rules related to public and court records are extensive and there isn't enough space or time to cover every detail in this article. Please note that for Chapter 119 public records you do not have to put your request in writing, identify yourself or the reason you want the record. For RJA Rule 2.420 court records, all court record requests must be put in writing but you are not required to identify yourself or the purpose of the request. There are fees associated with providing copies of public records and those fees vary and depend on a number of factors but, generally speaking, Chapter 119 public records are \$0.15 per page and RJA Rule 2.420 court records are \$1 per page.

To make access as easy and efficient as possible, there are numerous ways to obtain the public record information you are interested in:

- For public court records, there is a "quick

link" on our website that will provide you online access to available court records - <https://www.civitekflorida.com/ocrs/county/65/>. Court records are governed by the Rules of Judicial Administration Rule 2.420 and not Chapter 119, Florida Statute. There are some court records or information that are confidential such as cases or information related to adoptions, minors, victims, mental health cases and others.

- For Wakulla County official records, there is another "quick link" on our website that will provide you online access to all available public records recorded in Wakulla County - <http://wakullaclerk.com/landmarkweb>. Currently, public records (deeds, mortgages, land records, etc...) from 1963-1986 are not viewable online since they have not been converted to an electronic record or have not been electronically indexed yet. These records are only viewable by coming to the Courthouse. Access to public records (non-court records) are governed by Chapter 119, Florida Statute and there are some public records (or portions thereof) that are confidential such as social security numbers, bank account or credit card numbers, emergency contact information, medical information,

certain internal audit and litigation matters, security system plans and others.

- For Board of County Commission ordinances, there is another "quick link" on our website - [https://library.municode.com/fl/wakulla\\_county/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances](https://library.municode.com/fl/wakulla_county/codes/code_of_ordinances). Click on "County Code & Ordinances" to research these records.

- For all other public records, you can simply call 850-926-0300 and ask for our public records custodian to make a public records request. If you want to email your public records request, please email our office at [receptionist@wakullaclerk.com](mailto:receptionist@wakullaclerk.com).

As mentioned above, there is sometimes confidential information within the pages and pages of public and court records we are custodian of. I have a statutory responsibility to ensure this confidential information is not

released to the public. We ensure the safety of this information with both a manual and electronic redaction process. The Clerk's Office takes public records very seriously and provides training to staff through several organizations such as the Florida Court Clerks and Comptroller Association, the Florida Government Finance Officers Association, the Florida Records Management Association, and the Property Records Industry Association.

As your elected Clerk of Court & Comptroller, a constitutional officer, and a public trustee, I promise to continue to work hard every day to defend your right to access this important public information and ensure transparency for all of the records you have a right to access.

*Greg James is Wakulla County Clerk of Courts and Comptroller.*

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**FROM THE PROPERTY APPRAISER'S OFFICE**

# Property Taxes and Equity



By **ED BRIMNER**

Property taxes represent the single largest source of revenue for our local government – Wakulla County Commissioners, School Board Members, and St Marks Commissioners have the authori-

ty to impose property taxes.

Whether you rent or own your home, ad valorem taxes, also known as property taxes, impact you.

As your elected property appraiser, I have citizens alerting me on an almost daily basis of inequitable assessments.

Assessments are important since taxes are based on the value of property as determined by property appraisers.

As an example: If one property is undervalued and another is

properly valued, the result is that the undervalued homeowner gets a tax break and the properly valued homeowner must pick up the slack.

It is my goal that every property in Wakulla County be accurately assessed. If this office fails to properly assess every property, taxes will not be equitable or fair.

On the surface, property taxation is simple. Everyone who owns the same kind of property in the same community pays a fixed share of the value

each year to support public schools, public safety, road construction and the other basic functions of local government.

In reality, it's not so easy to figure out the value of a house. Assessed value is an estimate of market value – the amount a typical buyer would pay.

We use recent sales to estimate the value of properties similar to the sales. For properties that are unusual or unique in some way it is extremely difficult to get these values correct.

Both low-cost and expensive homes are, by definition, very difficult to properly assess. Even similar homes in a cookie-cutter subdivision are not so easy to assess. A new kitchen can push up the value of one home while an old roof can depress the value of another. Therefore, you may see an agent from our office in your yard measuring and taking pictures – we need to be accurate in our assessments.

I encourage anyone who feels their assessment is unfair to con-

tact our office. Don't wait until the TRIM notices are mailed to you in August.

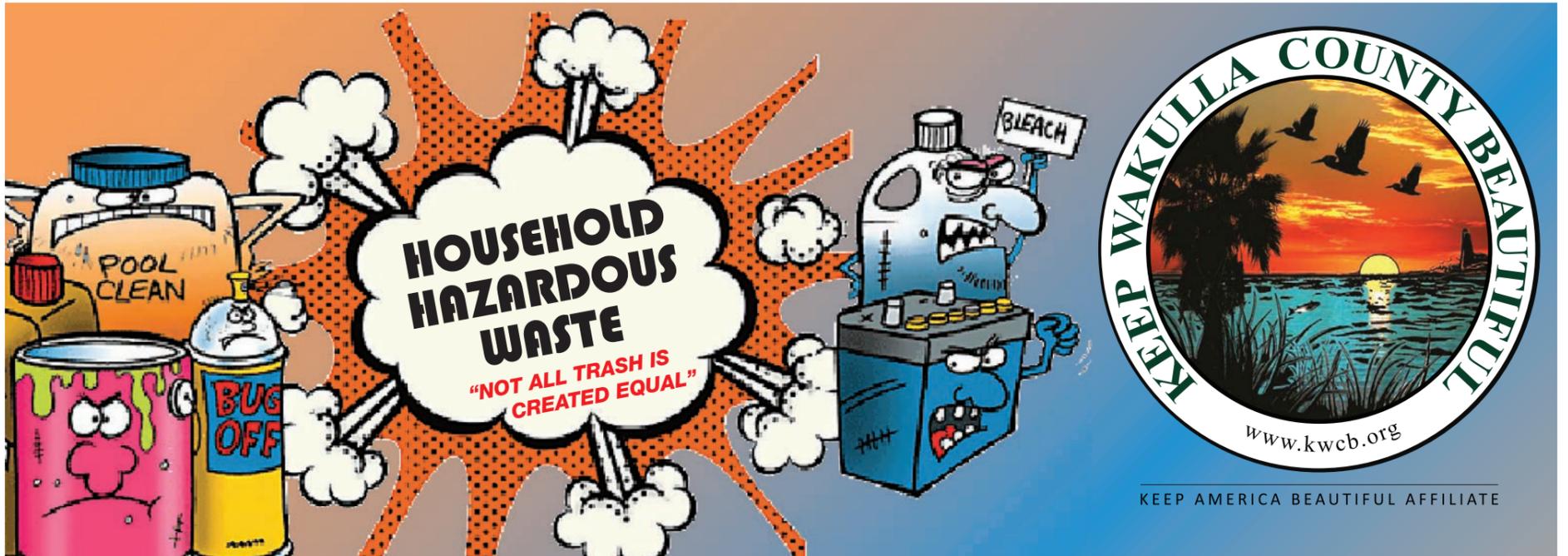
We review assessments throughout the year and will give immediate attention to those who ask.

Errors are corrected, if found.

While we will never be perfect, equitable assessment is possible.

Anything less is unacceptable.

*Ed Brimmer is Wakulla County Property Appraiser.*



## Saturday, April 23, 2022

**Wakulla Community Center • 8am-12pm  
or until capacity is met**

318 Shadeville Rd., Crawfordville  
**For Wakulla County Residential Households  
and Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators Only**

(CESQG's will be charged for disposal and must register by calling 850-926-7616 by April 15)



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MORE INFORMATION OR CALL 745-7111



## What to bring to Household Hazardous Waste Day...

- Bring your household cleaners - such as oven cleaners, wood/metal cleaner or polishes, toilet bowl cleaners, disinfectants, drain openers.
- Automotive products - such as additives, solvents, refrigerants, starter fluid, body putty, anti-freeze, gasoline, diesel, kerosene.
- Home Improvement Products - such as non-latex paints, paint thinner, paint stripper/remover, adhesives.
- Lawn & Garden Products - such as herbicides, pesticides, fungicides, wood preserver.
- Miscellaneous Hazardous Items - such as recyclable batteries (automotive batteries, lithium-ion batteries, button cell batteries, phone batteries, nickel batteries, battery packs, power tool batteries), nail polish remover, fluorescents, photo developing chemicals, pool chemicals, aerosols/compressed gas, reactive materials. Televisions will be accepted at this time.
- Wakulla County Sheriff's Office will be accepting prescriptions, sharps, and ammunition.

No Latex Paint \* No Household Alkaline Batteries \* No Oil \* No Household Trash • Free disposal of oil at the landfill  
• Paint will be limited to 5 gallons per resident (Latex can be dried and put in trash) • Electronics can be donated to Goodwill or deposited in your trash can  
• Household alkaline batteries need to be placed in a container and placed in your trash (i.e. milk jug, plastic bottle, etc.)

The Landfill will accept the following items on Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays 8-5 & Saturdays 8-3. • OIL - FREE DISPOSAL \* E-scrap - FREE DISPOSAL \* Recyclable Material - FREE DISPOSAL  
Tires - \$10 off rim, \$15 on rim (NO BIG TIRES) \* TIRES WILL NOT BE TAKEN AT THIS AMNESTY DAY • Free Curbside Bulk Pickup on 1st and 3rd Saturdays. • Call 926-7010 to schedule ahead of time. (up to 2 cubic feet)

# Leaving your 401(k) to a charity



By **BRIAN ENGLISH**

An important part of establishing an IRA, 401(k), 403(b) or other qualified plan is naming a beneficiary. On the positive side, this helps ensure that upon your death, any remaining account balance will transfer directly to your heirs without going through probate. On the negative side, your heirs could lose up to 80 percent of the account's balance to income and estate taxes, both federal and state.

On other assets, heirs pay less or even no tax. For example, an inherited home can be sold for

its value at the owner's date of death and the heir will pay no federal income or capital gains tax – unless the home's value increases between the date of death and the time it is sold. Stocks the owner holds outside a qualified account and passes to his heirs receive a step-up in cost basis to the value on the date of death, so heirs avoid no capital gains tax on the stocks' appreciation during the original owner's lifetime.

By leaving qualified plan balances to nonprofits and more tax-advantaged assets to your heirs, you have the potential to get more of your wealth where you intended. Nonprofits, being tax exempt, pay no income tax on the money they receive. Proper estate planning can help you avoid a few potential mistakes and decide which method to use for distributing your assets.

Two relatively simple issues can create the biggest problems in a

qualified plan bequest to a charity. The first is not specifying the precise organization name on the beneficiary form. If you're an animal lover, putting "Humane Society" on the form will probably result in the account's reversion to your estate and subsequent probate process. You need to list the exact name of the organization, such as "Nebraska Humane Society," and include the organization's tax identification number. Tax ID numbers for many nonprofits can be found at [guidestar.org](http://guidestar.org).

The second issue involves possession of funds. The account assets must be transferred directly to the nonprofit organization. If your estate or other heir takes possession of the assets and then transfers them or writes a check for the same amount to the organization, income and possibly estate taxes will be incurred. An estate can claim only a partial charitable deduction,

leaving more of the assets subject to taxes.

You can choose from a number of methods for getting funds from your qualified plan account to a nonprofit. As mentioned earlier, one of the easiest is to name the charity as the beneficiary on the account forms. For certain types of accounts – including money purchase pensions, profit sharing, 401(k)s, stock bonuses, employee stock ownership plans or defined benefit or annuity plans – your spouse must sign a waiver relinquishing his or her right to the account. This rule does not apply to IRAs.

You can name multiple beneficiaries with a specified percentage of the account for each or list the charity as the

contingency beneficiary. This means that if all other beneficiaries are deceased, the account passes to the charity. You can also designate a charitable remainder unitrust or charitable remainder annuity trust as the qualified plan account beneficiary. You can designate an heir who receives the income from the trust on a tax deferred basis over his lifetime. When that heir dies, the principle of the trust passes to the charity. This option may be the most tax-advantaged option if the qualified plan requires an immediate lump-sum distribution upon the account holder's death, because the income tax can be deferred rather than being due in total with the

lump sum.

Designating a charity as a beneficiary on your qualified plan account can help protect your estate from state and federal income tax and estate tax. You should consult an estate attorney, tax professional and financial services professional to ensure your estate plan gets your assets exactly where you intend.

**Brian can be reached at 850-926-7487.**

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## Wakulla Pregnancy Center LifeWalk 2022



### Love Them Both

1 John 3:18

*"Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions."*

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Chris and Valerie Russell  
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### SILVER

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## Leonard Tartt

### From First Page

City of Sopchoppy as a maintenance supervisor, and in 2005 he was promoted to public works director.

He says that as public works director he mainly deals with the local water system, and that the Sopchoppy water system has significantly grown since he began working for the city.

“In the Sopchoppy water system, when I started in 2003, we had approximately 1,500 customers, and I think now we have close to 4,500 connections,” says Tartt. “We probably average pumping

approximately 900,000 gallons a day of water here in Wakulla County on our system.” Tartt notes that they are also working on building a 300,000-gallon water tank near Wakulla Middle School.

As the water system and the county continues to grow, Tartt says, “I want to see growth, but responsible growth in our county.” For him, this means remaining true to the feel of the community and also being cognizant of the natural resources and waterways that are iconic to the area. “Water is a very precious commodity,” says Tartt.

His concerns about the local environment and natural resources

are no surprise considering the draw he feels to the outdoors including farming, hunting, and fishing. “My wife and I have been married 42 years, and we’ve been farming for about 40,” says Tartt. He says they used grow and sell watermelons, peas, squash, and butter beans; and that they previously had a U-pick program where these fruits and vegetables could be picked by the customer. “As many as 70 to 80 people would come to pick vegetables every year – the beginning of picking season was kind of like a homecoming.” Tartt says that U-pick and seeing all the familiar faces year after year was one of his

fondest memories.

The Tartts raised their children on their Sopchoppy farm. Tartt’s wife Peggy was a schoolteacher who taught for 35 years in the Wakulla County School System. They have two children: Kacie who graduated from Florida State University and now works as a professor at the University of Central Florida, and Jim who graduated from the University of Florida and now owns JB’s Sopchoppy Sauce. The Tartts also have five grandchildren.

Tartt says his kids were always involved with organizations in school like drama or sports, and that they were also involved with

4-H. “Just because you’re from Wakulla County, don’t limit yourself to what you can do,” advises Tartt who says he has previously worked with youth in Wakulla County. He enjoyed watching his kids participate in activities through school and within the community, and he even got involved through 4-H and by coaching at the Rec Park in Medart.

Tartt was also a past president of the Wakulla High School Gridiron Club, the Wakulla County Youth Fair Association, and the PTO at his kids’ school. He was one of the first members on the Wakulla County Planning Commission. Through the City of Sop-

choppy, he was also a part of the 4th of July Committee.

“I’ve always tried to be involved in the community,” says Tartt, who is inspired by his parents who taught him to work hard, respect others, and lend a helping hand when needed. “That’s what I was taught as a young boy – to be a contributor to your community.”

Tartt will retire from being the Sopchoppy Public Works Director on Oct. 31. His post-retirement plans include spending more time with his grandkids and working on the farm – which he has always enjoyed doing in his free time.



## Shirley Monroe

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# Al Hartman, aka The Old Pro – There’s a lot going on



By AL HARTMAN

your bait until you find them.

There are a lot of changes the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has made recently.

One is:

Allow for the culture and sale of Florida largemouth bass as a food fish.

Incorporate FWC’s Genetic Authentication Standards for Florida largemouth bass into rule by reference.

Prohibit the importation into or transportation within the state of any live bass species, except permitted Florida largemouth bass that meet FWC’s largemouth bass Genetic Authentication Standards.

Require any shipment of live bass in Florida to be accompanied with documentation required by FDACS and FWC.

Prior to presentation of the draft rules at the December Commission meeting, staff held four public meetings and solicited online comments from stakeholders. Both angling and industry stakeholders

attended meetings and their combined input was taken into consideration and utilized during the rule drafting process.

A second one:

At its March meeting, the FWC approved a limited, highly regulated recreational harvest of goliath grouper in state waters beginning Spring 2023.

This unique recreational opportunity is possible through conservation efforts by state and federal agencies that aided in the goliath grouper population rebuilding over the course of three decades, following years of overfishing. This limited harvest will allow access to a fishery that has been closed since 1990 by issuing up to 200 harvest permit tags via random-draw lottery.

This approved recreational harvest of goliath grouper includes:

A recreational harvest of up to 200 goliath per year, with a maximum of 50 from Everglades National Park.

A required recreational goliath harvest

permit and tag, issued via a random-draw lottery, to legally harvest a goliath (\$150 for residents, \$500 for non-residents).

Limiting harvest to one fish per person per open season with permit and tag, non-transferable.

A March 1 through May 31 season.

Allowable gear will be hook-and-line only.

A slot limit of 24 to 36 inches total length.

Harvest would be permitted in all state waters except those of Martin County south through the Atlantic coast of the Keys, all of the St. Lucie River and its tributaries, and Dry Tortugas National Park.

Post-harvest requirements, such as proper utilization of the harvest tag, reporting harvest data and submitting a fin clip for genetic analysis.

And third:

It’s almost spring and that means it’s peak mating season for horseshoe crabs. Help biologists with the FWC gather valuable information about these ancient creatures by re-

porting sightings on the online survey.

Horseshoe crabs mate by pairing up, with the smaller male attached to the larger female. They then crawl onto the beach up to the high tide line where the female digs a nest and lays her eggs, all while the male is attached and fertilizing the freshly laid eggs. They mate year-round, but it is most common to see mating groups along the shore of sandy, lower wave action beaches in March and April as well as September and October. Beachgoers will have the most luck spotting horseshoe crabs around high tide within a few days of a new or full moon.

Reporting horseshoe crab sightings provides valuable information about habitat use, population distribution and environmental conditions for nesting to the FWC. Although horseshoe crabs have existed for more than 450 million years, scientists are still learning about Florida populations. Public sighting information helps FWC re-

searchers target nesting beaches for the Florida Horseshoe Crab Watch Program, a citizen science based initiative to collect data throughout the state.

If you see a horseshoe crab on its back, you can help it flip back over by gently picking it up (holding both sides of the shell), turning it over and releasing it back into the water. Simple actions such as this help conserve this species and the many other species that depend on it.

The FWC asks the public to report sightings by visiting MyFWC.com/research and clicking on “Crustaceans” then “Horseshoe Crabs” and selecting “Report Your Nesting Horseshoe Crab Sighting”.

I have been telling you how to stay informed by signing up and registering with myFWC.com. That way you will get it straight from them as to what is going on. And keep you up to date.

Happy Hunting and Fishing.

Turkey season started March 19 and is open until April 10. You are allowed two in a day but it’s just two for the season also.

Fishing should be picking up if we ever get rid of these cold chills. Most of the Redfish and Sea trout are up river in deep holes. Use your depth finder or drift

# Puzzle Place

I	E	S	I	K	R	A	P	S	L	O	V	E
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P	O	R	D	O	N	L	A	O	F	2	E	E
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A	S	N	O	I	T	U	L	O	S	E	R	H

WORDSEARCH BY MARYANN ZEIZNAK

Wakulla Sun  
 Happy New Year  
 Guy  
 Lombardo  
 Eve  
 Champagne  
 Father Time  
 Midnight  
 Resolutions  
 Kiss  
 Ball  
 Drop  
 Auld Lang Syne

Times  
 Square  
 Silver  
 Gold  
 Spark  
 Party  
 Wish  
 Logs  
 Love  
 Sip



## CROSSWORD

**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Political action committee
- 4. British fools
- 9. Quick
- 14. Self-esteem
- 15. High-altitude habitation
- 16. Cocoa plum tree
- 17. \_\_\_ Trump, magnate
- 19. Expungings
- 21. Imbued
- 22. Of urea
- 23. Predictors
- 24. Academic terms
- 28. Rug at the door
- 29. Article
- 30. Original matter
- 31. A nomad
- 33. Paragons
- 37. 3rd tone of the scale
- 38. Ed Murrow's network
- 39. Not showing effort or strain
- 41. A way to attack
- 42. Element
- 43. Principle
- 44. Extremely angry
- 46. Pueblo Indian vessel
- 49. Sodium
- 50. \_\_\_na cum laude
- 51. Longings
- 55. Fireplace (Brit.)
- 58. End
- 59. Slanted
- 60. Family parties

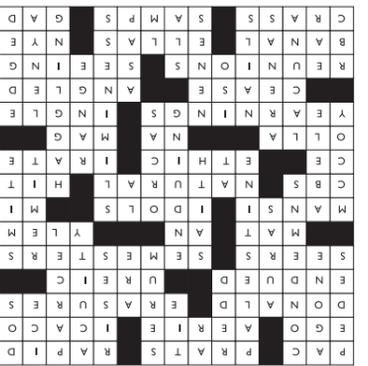
- 63. \_\_\_\_\_-eye dog
- 64. Unoriginal
- 65. Fitzgerald and Blame
- 67. Louie \_\_\_\_, comedian
- 68. Unrefined
- 69. Coarse hominy (plural)
- 70. On the go without aim

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. \_\_\_trian — person on foot
- 2. Past (archaic)
- 3. Declares reprehensible
- 4. Biblical country
- 5. Spawning ground
- 6. One of the six noble gases
- 7. String
- 8. Body fluid
- 9. Gets up
- 10. Sharp-sightedness
- 11. Small package
- 12. Frozen Italian dessert
- 13. Runs PCs
- 18. Subtle sensory stimuli
- 20. Living
- 24. Speaks, archaic
- 25. Providing
- 26. Pay
- 27. Strike sharply
- 31. The real \_\_\_\_\_
- 32. White poplar tree

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
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			58						59					
60	61						62		63					
64						65		66				67		
68							69						70	

- 34. Killer whales
- 35. Element
- 36. A slimed quality
- 40. Indicates position
- 41. Bargaining
- 45. Stove
- 47. Missing part
- 48. Gladiatorial fighting places
- 52. Grow on fingers and toes
- 53. Equal, prefix
- 54. Endangered Hawaiian geese
- 56. Lotte \_\_\_\_, Kurt Weill singer
- 57. Bordered
- 59. As fast as can be done, abbr.
- 60. Corpuscle count, abbr.
- 61. Human sound receptor
- 62. Patty Hearst's captors
- 66. Lumen



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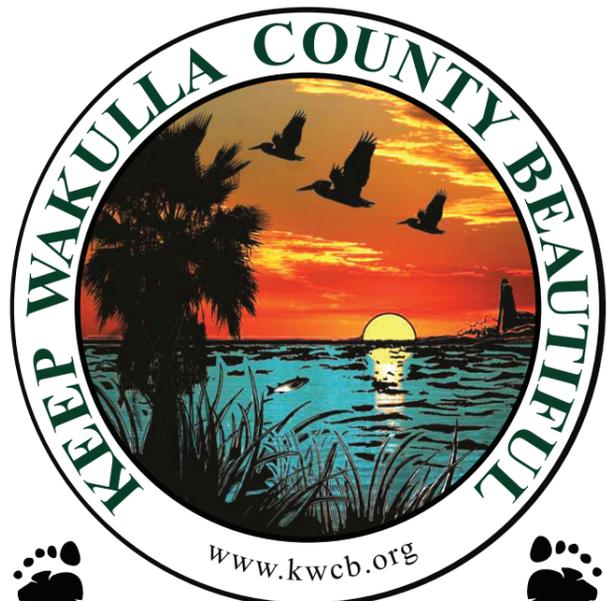
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## **Megan Smith, Director of Operations**

Megan is a Crawfordville native, graduated from Wakulla High School, and earned a Bachelor’s degree from Flagler University in Business Administration. She will be serving as the Director of Operations for English Financial Group. Before joining the team, Megan worked for Talquin Electric Cooperative as a Communications and Outreach Specialist. Megan is very active in several local organizations as President of the Rotary Club of Wakulla, Vice President of the Big Bend Hospice, Treasurer of the Coastal Optimist Club, Member of the Wakulla County School Board Advisory Committee, Past Campaign Coordinator of the Year for United Way of the Big Bend, and is active with the Wakulla County Chamber of Commerce. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends. Megan’s genuine care for others and great attention to detail make her a perfect fit for our practice.



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