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"The little paper"

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The Mitchells

Mark and Maureen Mitchell were committed to Panacea Waterfronts and improving the community

By RIDDHI PATEL
Reporter

Panacea has truly become home for Mark Mitchell and his wife Maureen, and though they recently retired from the organization, they have spent years working with local non-profit organization Panacea Waterfronts Florida Partnership to support their community.

In the early 2000s, the Mitchells bought an ice plant on Hwy 98 in Panacea. They owned the plant for about 10 years, initially commuting from Tallahassee.



Mark and Maureen Mitchell at their home in Panacea.

Turn to Page 9

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EDDIE EVANS

FOR WAKULLA COUNTY JUDGE

Legal Background and Service:
Currently serving as General Counsel and Assistant State Attorney for the State Attorney's Office of the Second Judicial Circuit which includes Wakulla County and the other five surrounding counties.

Since 1992 serving as an Assistant State Attorney, helping to keep our community safe by prosecuting those who have committed crimes.

- Over 100 jury trials in both the criminal and civil divisions of the court.
- 30 year member of the Florida Bar, as well as a member of the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States, and the Bar of the United States
- Served 20 years on the Sopchoppy City Council. Also, served as a member of the Sopchoppy Volunteer Fire Department. Currently serving as a deacon in his church.

EDDIE EVANS:
PROVEN EXPERIENCE AND SERVICE

Email: EvansForJudge22@gmail.com
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Website: www.EddieEvansForWakullaJudge.com

Paid by Eddie Evans for Wakulla County Judge, Group One.

Real life is difficult



By GREG GAST

This is one of life's great truths, but once we truly know that life is difficult – once we truly understand and accept it – then life is no longer difficult.

Because once it is accepted, the fact that life is difficult no longer matters.

In my private practice I see that most people don't see this truth that life is diffi-

cult.

Most people moan more or less incessantly about the enormity of their problems, their burdens, and their difficulties in life, as if life should be easy.

Life is a series of problems. The question is do we want to moan about them or solve them?

Discipline (Thinking) is the basic toll required to solve life's problems. Without it you can't solve anything in life.

With some discipline you can only solve some problems. With total discipline you can solve all problems.

Life is difficult because you have to confront and process problems and this is often painful.

Life is an endless series of problems and is

always full of pain and joy.

Yet it is this process of dealing with the problems of life that gives life its meaning.

If we never suffer we would never learn. It helps us to grow.

Ben Franklin said it best, "Those things that hurt, instruct."

The wiser of us learn not to dread but actually welcome problems and the pain of those problems because they profit from them.

Unfortunately, most of us are not so wise. Fearing the pain involved most attempt to avoid problems.

We procrastinate, hoping they will go away.

We ignore, forget, or pretend they don't exist.

We attempt to get out of them rather than

suffer through them.

This tendency to avoid problems and emotional suffering is the primary basis of all human mental illness.

Some people go to extraordinary lengths to avoid their problems and sufferings looking for an easy way out. They build elaborate fantasies in which to live, sometimes to the exclusion of reality.

If we are to be more mentally healthy we must all learn the necessity of suffering and the value thereof.

Discipline is the ability to experience the pain of problems constructively.

Here are the tools:

1. Delay of Gratification: It is the process of scheduling the pain and pleasure of life in such a way as to enhance the plea-

sure by meeting and experiencing the pain first and getting it over with. It is the only decent way to live.

2. Acceptance of Responsibility: You have to accept responsibility for a problem before you can solve it. You can't say, "It's not my problem" or hope someone else will solve it for you. You have to say it is my problem and it's up to me to solve it.

3. Dedication to the Truth: The self-discipline of truth requires far less energy than the energy required for secretiveness. The more honest one is, the easier it is to continue being honest, just as the more lies one has told, the more necessary it is to lie again

4. Balancing: For one to have flexibili-

ty and judgment one needs balance. The less reactive one will be. The less anxious, guilt ridden, and insecure you will be. It requires "giving up." It is giving up a part of ourselves so we can negotiate the curves and corners of our lives. Personality traits, patterns of behavior, and ideologies even whole life styles.

Let me know what you think...

Send your questions to Real Life Counseling, 3295 Crawfordville Hwy., suite #4, Crawfordville FL 32327 in care of Gregory E. Gast, MS, LMHC, NCC. Your name will be changed and the answer to your question will appear in an upcoming issue of The Wakulla Sun.

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We are OFTEN ASKED WHAT INSURANCE COMPANY We Recommend. Here are Some THINGS I WOULD CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING.



Forget About ALL the Advertising! You have been brainwashed with what's on TV! You're not in good hands. None are good neighbors. They are not on your side. None take better care of veterans than others. Some cute lizards lie... And On and On!

The estimates you will get from sending in pictures is not how you want Your Vehicle Repaired! Trust me. Dealing with insurance companies is a little like dealing with Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. The people you deal with in claims are not always the smiling faces that take your money each month. So when choosing consider this:

- 1. LIABILITY!** You need enough to cover YOU! Some new vehicles cost over \$60,000! Hit one or two vehicles with only \$10,000 worth of liability and you're in trouble, big time!
- 2.** A \$500 deductible may as well be \$10,000 if you don't have it, or can't get it after a wreck.
- 3.** All insurance companies try and use cheaper used or Aftermarket (AM) parts to repair Your Vehicle after a wreck... Yes, all of them! They have written it into your policy with misleading statements like "Like Kind & Quality" (LKQ). Or they will guarantee the repairs if you agree to use them. If you don't agree, YOU pay extra! **UNLESS you have an Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) ENDORSEMENT** on your policy. If you have a newer vehicle and your company will not give you an OEM endorsement, find another company! New Aftermarket, is NOT the same as New OEM. Don't be fooled!
- 4.** Make sure you have rental coverage and you know how it will work if you need it! How much is your share? Is there a dollar limit? Is it only for 30 days? A lot of newer vehicles have Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS). ADAS systems can often take longer than 30 days to repair properly!

Regardless of which insurance company you choose, this information should make a bad situation better the first time you need it and not a learning experience for the second time.

AFTER ALL - ISN'T THAT WHY WE BUY INSURANCE IN THE FIRST PLACE?



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At the shelter, we try to reunite lost pets with owners



By JOANN SANDERS

If you've ever had the misfortune of losing a pet, then you know what a distressing experience

that can be.

At Wakulla Animal Services, we're here to help! A large part of our mission is to help reunite lost pets with their owners, so contacting us is an important first step when you begin your search.

Every animal that finds its way to the shelter is immediately scanned for a microchip, then placed in a 5-day stray hold while we attempt to locate the owner.

In the event your

pet is missing, it's a good idea to physically visit the animal shelter and have a look around.

Alternatively, you may call the office directly, or send a message with a photo of your pet to our Facebook page.

Remember, the shelter is a busy place, so continue to check back with us for as long as your pet is missing!

In addition to the animal shelter, there are several local

Facebook pages that have proven invaluable in reuniting lost pets with their owners, namely "Wakulla Pets," "Wakulla Pets Community," and "Wakulla/Leon Missing and Found Pets."

Stray pets are found every day and posted in these groups so please be sure to utilize social media in your search.

Finally, you should post flyers bearing a description of your pet at the main en-

trance and exit of your neighborhood. This is a good way to reach those people who aren't online but may have seen or found your missing pet.

Of course, the single best way to ensure the safety of your pet is to make sure he's microchipped and/or wearing a collar with your phone number before it goes missing.

Having your phone number on your

dog's collar is the best way for animal control, a neighbor, or a passerby to return your dog to you if they should run away or get lost.

Wakulla Animal Services is always ready to assist you in the event you have an animal issue or emergency.

You can reach us at 850-926-0902. Shelter hours are Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

On the Horizon – A monthly calendar

Wednesday, June 1

- The Wakulla County Chamber of Commerce Lunch and Learn will be held at the Wakulla County Extension Office meeting room from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The educational luncheon will be led by the Wakulla County Fire Rescue - Prevention Division. RSVP by May 25 by calling (850) 926-1848 or emailing Petra@wakullacountychamber.com.
- An Intermediate Line Dance class will be held at 1 p.m. at the senior center.

Thursday, June 2

- A Women's Discussion moderated by Nikki Barnes and Marva Preston will be held at 6:30 p.m. at Palaver Tree Theater.

Friday, June 3

- Emancipation Days Event - Sit In Outside Movie Fest: A Drive-In Movie Night featuring the movie "Coming to America" (1988) will be held at 8 p.m. at Palaver Tree Theater. It will be \$10 per car.

Saturday, June 4

- The Wakulla Master Gardener Volunteers will hold a Summer Plant Sale from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Wakulla County Extension Office (84 Cedar Avenue). The sale will feature a wide variety of ornamental plants (40+) including Blanket Flower, Black-eyed Susan, Gingers, Rose of Sharon, and a number of different perennial salvias. Sorry, no vegetables will be available at this time. For questions, please contact the Wakulla County Extension Office at 850-926-3931.

Monday, June 6

- The Wakulla Respite Program will be available for anyone with a memory impairment at no cost from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lake Ellen Baptist Church.
- The Wakulla Caregiver Support Group will meet at Lake Ellen Baptist Church at 12:30 p.m.
- The Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners will conduct a workshop at 3:30 p.m. at the Commission Chambers to discuss design standards for recreational vehicle parks.

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

Tuesday, June 7

- The Wakulla County Parks Advisory Committee will hold a public meeting at 4 p.m. at the Wakulla County Community Center, Wakulla Room.

Wednesday, June 8

- An Intermediate Line Dance class will be held at 1 p.m. at the senior center.

Thursday, June 9

- The St. Marks City Commission meeting will be held at St. Marks City Hall at 6 p.m.
- A Teen Discussion moderated by Jesse Ransom Jr. will be held at 6:30 p.m. at The Arcade Room and Teen Center.

Saturday, June 11

- The Salvation Army Saltwater Fishing Tournament will be held at Shields Marina in St. Marks.
- The Wakulla Caregiver Support Group will meet at the Wakulla County Public Library at 10:00 a.m.

Monday, June 13

- The Wakulla Respite Program will be available for anyone with a memory impairment at no cost from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lake Ellen Baptist Church.
- The Sopchoppy City Commission meeting will be held at Sopchoppy City Hall at 6:30 p.m.
- The Wakulla County Planning Commission meeting will be held in the Commission Chambers at 6 p.m.

Wednesday, June 15

- An Intermediate Line Dance class will be held at 1 p.m. at the senior center.

Thursday, June 16

- The Wakulla Chamber of Commerce and Carrabelle Chamber of Commerce will hold a Mix and Mingle event from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Crooked River Grill in Carrabelle. You can RSVP with either Chamber of Commerce by June 10.
- The Wakulla County Cancer Support Group will meet in the Education Center of the Crawfordville United Methodist Church at 7 p.m. This group meeting is for men and women, regardless of the type of cancer. Spouses, caregivers, and friends are welcome. For more information, call 850-926-6050.

Sunday, June 19

- Juneteenth
- Father's Day

Monday, June 20

- The Wakulla Respite Program will be available for anyone with a memory impairment at no cost from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lake Ellen Baptist Church.
- The Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners will conduct a workshop at 3:30 p.m. at the Commission Chambers to discuss the Wakulla County Broadband Feasibility Study.
- The Board of County Commissioner's meeting will be held in Commission Chambers at 5 p.m.
- The Wakulla County School Board meeting will be held in room 106 at the WCSB District Office at 5:45 p.m.

Wednesday, June 22

- An Intermediate Line Dance class will be held at 1 p.m. at the senior center.

Friday, June 24

- The Gage Pitman Memorial Rockin' Reds Fishing Tournament will begin at Woolley Park in Panacea with a mandatory captain's meeting. Late registration will be from 5 to 7 p.m. The tournament will be June 24-26.

Saturday, June 25

- The Gage Pitman Memorial Rockin' Reds Fishing Tournament will held at Woolley Park in Panacea, and the official weigh-in station will be from 2 to 5 p.m. The tournament will be June 24-26.

Sunday, June 26

- The Gage Pitman Memorial Rockin' Reds Fishing Tournament will held at Woolley Park in Panacea, and the official weigh-in station will be from 1 to 4 p.m. The tournament will be June 24-26.

Monday, June 27

- The Wakulla Respite Program will be available for anyone with a memory impairment at no cost from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lake Ellen Baptist Church.

Wednesday, June 29

- An Intermediate Line Dance class will be held at 1 p.m. at the senior center.

A tribute to Peggy Mackin



By JOHN SHUFF and SANDI McDANIEL

Peggy Mackin passed from our world on May 10, after being blessed by our lord with 87 years of life.

She was born and raised in East Green-

bush, New York and graduated from St. Johns Academy.

Peggy was a emeritus board member for the Wakulla Senior Citizen Council. Peggy had been a member of the board for as long as any of us could remember and was Chairperson of the Board during the planning and construction of the Wakulla Trace apartments located right next door to our Senior Center.

Peggy was also Chairperson of the Senior Citizens Council while the Center was being

built. I recall working with her during the construction of the building, as I was the general contractor.

Peggy wasn't only involved with our senior citizens activities, she was also a founding member of Habitat for Humanity in Wakulla and started the Re-Store on Shadeville Highway that raises money to help build the houses that has allowed so many families to get a roof over their heads.

She was a prolific ticket seller for all charitable events. Retired Sheriff David

Harvey has been quoted as saying that "Peggy could sell a dead horse – if you saw Peggy coming you needed to get your wallet out."

One Habitat member mentioned to me that Habitat for Humanity would not have been here in Wakulla without Peggy as the driving force.

Habitat for Humanity has built one house per year for many years, and Peggy supervised each and every one. Peggy's goal wasn't just to turn the keys to the home over to a



Peggy Mackin was a longtime board member of the Senior Citizens Council and a founder of Habitat for Humanity in Wakulla and its ReStore.

new owner she tried to help them understand what it took to

maintain that home and how to manage their finances. She didn't just build houses, she also built homes.

Peggy was also very active in her church at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church where she served as president of the Lady's Circle and the Parish Council, again, always organizing her friends to help other people.

Peggy was one of those rare people that create the fabric that changes a mere name on the map into a community.

FROM THE PROPERTY APPRAISER'S OFFICE

Estimate of taxable value released



By ED BRIMNER

The June 1st estimates of taxable values required by Florida Statute 200.065(8), have been issued today to all taxing authorities for Wakulla County.

These estimates are based upon market conditions as of Jan. 1, 2022, as required by law and provide taxing authorities with information they need to develop their budgets.

Taxable values in Wakulla County have increased over 14%. These estimated increases to taxable value over the last year are a result of increased prices of property in 2021.

In addition, there has been completion of commercial projects and hundreds of new homes built and sold in 2021.

Your property appraiser's office will continue to refine the 2022 property values until approximately July 1st when we complete the 2022 preliminary

assessment roll.

Following the completion of the assessment roll, our office will submit "Official Certificates of Taxable Values" to all taxing authorities for their use in determining tax levies and rates through the public hearing process.

Once again, taxable values continue to move upward, as they have over the last several years.

Developers continue to build new homes, prices continue to increase, and sales are hot – all of which contribute to our estimated county taxable increases.

I am unaware of a county that has not seen a significant increase of their taxable values this year.

It's important to note that while market values continue to increase significantly in many areas of the county, the "Save Our Homes" cap and "Florida Amendment One" cap will continue to moderate the impact to taxpayers assessed values from rising market values.

For 2022, assessed values of most continuous homesteads established in 2021 or earlier without

changes, additions or improvement to the property will be capped at 3%.

The gross sum estimates provided below do not present final numbers.

Additional details on 2022 tax roll values will be provided on the July 1st certification. The real estate and construction industry together with tourism, small business and agriculture, all play a vital role in the recovery of our local economy and the future growth of our tax base.

For the county,



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school board, and St. Marks, the 2022 estimated Taxable Values are:

- Wakulla County Board of Coun-

ty Commissioners \$32,881,364
\$1,771,232,024

- Wakulla County School Board \$2,076,938,134
- St. Marks

Ed Brimner is Wakulla County Property Appraiser.

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Prepare now for disaster recovery



By **SAMANTHA KENNEDY**
Extension Director

Atlantic hurricane season officially begins June 1 and experts are already predicting a busy season. The time to prepare for a hurricane is now, before the storm is on its way. Waiting too long could mean not being able to secure the necessary supplies needed to survive and recover from a storm. And with the ongoing challenges in the supply chain across the country, preparing early could make a huge difference.

There are a lot of things to think about after a disaster and it can be overwhelming. The first priority should always be basic necessities: food, water, and shelter. Make sure any structure is safe enough for habitation. If the structure's integrity is compromised, seek alternate living arrangements.

Heed all boil water notices, if applicable. If boiling water is not possible, stick to using clean, bottled water for drinking, food preparation, and personal hygiene. Do not assume that because the food in the refrigerator is cool to the touch, that it is safe to eat. Perishable food must

be kept at or below 40 degrees Fahrenheit to be considered safe. If it is uncertain as to whether that temperature was maintained while the power was out, the food should be discarded. Definitely discard any perishable food after a power outage longer than 4 hours.

Be careful when assessing damage after the storm. Wear sturdy shoes and avoid wading through floodwaters. Wear a hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen when out in the sun. Drink plenty of clean water and maintain energy levels with small, nutrient-dense meals and snacks. Damaged tree limbs may continue to fall after the storm, so take heed of potential falling debris. Standing water can harbor snakes, fire ants, and other potentially dangerous critters, so take proper precautions at or around puddles or floodwater.

Use tools such as chainsaws and generators correctly and practice proper safety precautions. Do not run a generator inside and store gas cans a safe distance from both the generator and the living space. Allow others more skilled with using a chainsaw to help with debris collection and removal. If dealing with large amounts of mold, be sure to wear protective clothing and the proper respiratory mask to avoid contact with spores.

Unfortunately, many dishonest people take advantage of situations such as natural disasters to prey



One of the essential items in any emergency preparedness plan is to ensure there is plenty of clean water for drinking, hygiene, and food prep.

on those in need. Beware of people offering to help with repairs quickly and/or for an extraordinarily low price. Only hire reputable licensed contractors, even if that means having to wait for services. The Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation maintains a list of licensed contractors in the state of Florida. The Better Business Bureau provides ratings for a variety of businesses, including

contractors. Use these resources as a guide to finding the right contractor.

Contact insurance companies as soon as possible after the storm to get the claims process rolling. Have the policy on hand when the call is made to make the process easier. It would be helpful to document any damage and have those photos available to share with the insurance agent or claims adjuster.

Post-disaster is an extremely busy time for insurance companies, so be as cooperative and patient as possible during the process.

Disaster recovery is a very stressful time for everyone, often leading to confusion, anger, and helplessness. Reach out to existing support systems such as family, friends, churches, or other groups for emotional support. Practice self-care, such as regular meals and breaks. Es-

tablish a new normal routine and stick to it, especially for children. Most importantly, be kind to yourself and others during this difficult time.

The University of Florida/IFAS Extension Service is a local resource for post-disaster education and assistance. For more information, please contact Samantha Kennedy, Wakulla County Extension Director, at (850) 926-3931.

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YOUR NEWSPAPER
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Are blue-tailed scorpions poisonous?



By **ERIK LOVESTRAND**

Well, the answer to this question should be obvious, right?

However, when we take a closer look at these interesting creatures, the first impression created by their frightful name will likely evaporate completely.

First, scorpions are considered venomous, rather than poisonous (I know, a technicality). They have many predators that eat them with no ill effect so they are not poisonous.

Anything that has the ability to deliver a toxin by means of injection is classified as venomous.

Next, the name is a true misnomer because the group of animals referred to as blue-tailed scorpions are actually a type of lizard called a skink.

Scincidae is just one of the 16 families of lizards worldwide but it contains some of the most beautiful species of reptiles.

Florida is blessed (yes, blessed) with at least seven species of skinks, with one being divided into five sub-species. Three of these sub-species of

the mole skink have “protected” status under state or federal laws.

Several of our native skinks in Wakulla County are challenging to identify at first glance, particularly during their younger years.

The five-lined, southeastern five-lined and broadhead skink are all striped and have blue tails as youngsters, hence the origin of the frightening title for this article. According to folklore, these animals have the ability to deliver a painful sting with their tail.

Well, as a lifelong reptile enthusiast, I have had the experience of catching many young, blue-tailed

skinks without any stings.

Now, back to the question of whether or not these blue-tailed skinks are poisonous.

From everything that I have read, there is no scientific evidence that skinks are inherently toxic when eaten by other animals.

It is theorized that they could potentially harbor Salmonella bacteria but I have never heard of a documented case of this either.

Many people hold the belief that when a skink is eaten by a dog or cat it causes the animal to hold its head cocked and wander off to one side when walking. Veterinarians refer to these

symptoms as vestibular syndrome and often cannot diagnose a cause.

Vestibular syndrome is related to the inner ear or the parts of the brain that control balance and a sense of orientation to gravity. Our family witnessed this once with a beagle that we had and it lasted for several weeks but gradually improved to the point of normalcy.

We did not witness her eating a skink, although she could have.

However, there are many other more likely causes for this behavior including inner ear infections, cysts or tumors, head trauma, parasites, etc. I suspect that inner ear

issues are a common cause.

The largest species of skink in the Southeastern U.S. is the broadhead (or broad-headed) skink, reaching lengths of nearly 13 inches. When mature, these skinks lose the blue tail and most of their striping to become a tannish brown.

Males are larger than females and have a reddish color on the head, which intensifies during the breeding season.

If you want to identify this species as a juvenile, you will need to look at the scales on the underside of the tail to separate it from the two species of five-lined skinks that inhabit our area.

The central row of scales will be significantly wider than the other rows on either side.

Broadheads have powerful jaws and will bite if harassed. If you want to see two males engaged in epic combat, give a watch to the YouTube video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z8qbex-nZWew>.

Their stamina is truly amazing and they definitely come out with some battle scars.

Erik Lovestrand is a UF/IFAS regional Sea Grant agent in Wakulla, Franklin and Gulf counties.



A large male broadhead skink displaying bright breeding season color on its head.

PHOTO BY JAXSHELLS.ORG

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Three major retirement hazards to avoid



By **BRIAN ENGLISH**

Retirement can mean the beginning of a new life. Here are a few common dangers to avoid.

Retirement planning is a tricky process, one that requires careful planning and patience. But even if you have a retirement plan with a clear set of financial

and lifestyle goals, it's important to be aware of several common mistakes that many fall victim to.

1 - Underestimating the costs of health care

As health care costs continue to rise dramatically, employers are shifting more weight of the costs onto their employees. More companies are beginning to drop retired workers from their health plans, and millions of Americans have no form of coverage at all.

Consequently, a common mistake made in retirement is a lack of preparation for the financial impact of health expenditures. One of the most overlooked and

most expensive costs is long-term health care, which can be devastating to your financial goals. Long-term care insurance can provide some safeguards, and purchasing it early on can help lower its costs.

2 - Misjudging how long you or your spouse will live

Many underestimate the amount of assets that could be needed to last throughout their lifetimes. As medical technology improves and life expectancy increases, the odds are good that you or your spouse will live past age 90. So, it's vital that you are prepared to live longer.

3 - Presuming you'll work a long time

Your generation is famous for working long, hard hours to get ahead, and most baby boomers believe that they'll be working long into retirement. But that assumption can be one of the biggest retirement mistakes you make.

Census Bureau statistics indicate the average age of retirement in America is now 63. According to the 2019 Retirement Confidence Survey by Greenwald & Associates and the Employee Benefit Research Institute, just 13 percent of workers expect to retire before age 60, but 38 percent of retirees report retiring that early. Nineteen percent of workers

plan to retire between 60 and 64; 33 percent of retirees retired in that age range. Even if you want to work as long as you can, it may not always be possible because of circumstances such as poor health or disability, so it's vital that you plan and save for such a scenario.

Working with a financial professional and having the proper planning in place are essential keys to a successful retirement. It's also important to keep an eye on health care costs and stay informed on issues that will affect your retirement. By focusing on the long term and being aware of common pitfalls, you can be prepared to make your retirement the best years

of your life.

Brian can be reached at 850-926-7487.

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Sheriff's office will resume Citizens Academy



By **JARED MILLER**
Wakulla Sheriff

When I took office as Sheriff in 2017 one of the central platforms I established for my administration was transparency. One of the ways that I helped further that goal was bringing back the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office Citizens Academy.

Since my taking office WCSO held at

least one academy every year until Covid hit. I'm excited to announce that we are finally able to restart the WCSO Citizens Academy again. I wanted to take some time this month to talk about the Citizens Academy and what all it entails.

The Wakulla County Sheriff's Office is a multiweek course that provides those who attend with an inside look at the Sheriff's Office.

Over the course of the class those who attend are given a guided tour of the Wakulla County Jail, get an up-close look at our communications and Road Patrol equipment, work with the Wakulla County CSI crew, and get to go through some realistic training sce-

narios.

My staff and I try to provide as many hands-on and active events as possible during the course. Every academy is a little bit different, however in the past students have gotten to walk through replica crime scenes and utilize the WCSO "shoot house" with simunition guns. Attendees will also receive loads of information regarding what it takes to run WCSO day-to-day, and an in-depth look into the criminal justice system.

Beyond giving citizens hands-on experiences and information about the working of the Sheriff's Office, the Citizens Academy allows me and my staff an opportunity to bet-

ter get to know the citizens of our great county.

The first and last night of the Academy end with a group dinner, where WCSO staff, students, and myself have the chance to sit and fellowship with one another. We do this because while it is important that citizens understand what goes on behind the scenes at WCSO, it is vital for them to know the individuals who make up this office.

Being able to build relationships with citizens and them with us is my greatest goal of the Citizens Academy. We've had former students of the class go on to become certified and work with us, and hopefully everyone who attends will be-

come an ambassador for the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office and law enforcement.

This year's Citizens Academy will begin on June 7th and will be held every Tuesday from 6:30 to 8 p.m. until July 19th. If you have any questions or are interested in attending this or any future Citizen's Academy classes WCSO may hold, please contact Lt. Jeffrey Yarbrough at jyarbrough@wco.org.

As always please do not hesitate to call if there is anything that the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office can do for you, and please always report suspicious or illegal activity, 850-745-7100.

Your Sheriff,
Jared F. Miller

Jared Miller is Wakulla County Sheriff.



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The Mitchells

From Front Page

In 2005, they had their Panacea home built near Dickerson Bay. “We get to see every boat that comes in and out of our marina,” says Mitchell. He and Maureen say they feel that Panacea is a beautiful part of Wakulla County. She says, “It’s a jewel.”

They raised two sons, Mark Jr. who is married to Heather; and Matt who is married to Amy; and they have three granddaughters Jaynie, Elise, and Maddie. They say their kids and grandkids come down to Panacea often to enjoy all the community has to offer, especially activities like boating and fishing.

“They love Panacea as much as we do,” says Maureen.

Soon after moving to Panacea, Eloise Crum talked Mitchell into joining Panacea Waterfronts – an organization that has spearheaded numerous programs and events in Panacea, including many that specifically work to benefit local kids. Eventually, Mitchell was invited to become a member, and he later spent eight years as the chairman of Panacea Waterfronts. After she retired, Maureen also officially joined the organization.

“Panacea Waterfronts is amazing,” says Mitchell, adding that the organization and the people who make it up have a lot of heart.

Some of the many Panacea Waterfronts programs that Mitchell highlighted include

events for holidays like Christmas, Easter, and Halloween. The group also hosts fishing tournaments including Rock the Dock, as well as a kid’s fishing tournament which has been on hold for a couple years, and Rockin’ Reds.

Panacea Waterfronts has pulled out all the stops for their family events – there’s been thousands of Easter eggs scattered throughout Woolley Park, parades filled with bright and colorful lights, visits from Santa, a helicopter at the Easter egg hunt, and more.

The Rock the Dock Fishing Tournament has been a particularly significant event for Panacea Waterfronts. Mitchell said the tournament, which he and the late Paige Killeen began, has been their main fundraiser for years.

He continued by saying that many of the events the organization has planned for kids and families have been funded by money raised through Rock the Dock.

“It’s an amazing economic driver,” Mitchell said of the fishing tournament. Beyond fundraising, he adds, the goal of Rock the Dock is “to bring people to Panacea who don’t live here.”

Maureen says that people visit and then they come back. Mark finds this to be something special about the tournament, and he notes that there are times when he has seen over 3,000 people attend the event.

The Mitchells say

that one Panacea Waterfronts contribution that they are most proud of is the annual scholarship the organization has provided to students from Panacea who choose to attend Tallahassee Community College (TCC). As with much of what Panacea Waterfronts does, the scholarship was funded through Rock the Dock. It took \$100,000 to endow the scholarship through TCC.

Today, the scholarship annually funds one Panacea student’s full tuition at TCC and provides a stipend for books.

“We just think it’s important for the kids in Panacea to know they’re believed in,” says Maureen. “Don’t hold back – people are pulling for you.”

Mitchell says the organization also sponsored scholarships to boatbuilding summer camps offered by the Big Bend Maritime Center and helped with the afterschool program offered by Wakulla County 4-H at the Panacea Community Center.

Maureen says the organization was initially heavily involved with the afterschool program through activities like tutoring and homework help, and by providing local youth with a hot meal later in the evening.

“There was a real need,” she says.

In addition to events, scholarships, and programs, Panacea Waterfronts has focused on some community projects as well.

Mitchell says that one such project was the fixing of the commercial dock at Rock



SUMMER HINDLE, BIG BEND MARITIME CENTER

Student boatbuilders with a kayak built at the Big Bend Maritime Center in Panacea. The Panacea Waterfronts organization pays scholarships for young people to be able to attend the summer boat building camp.

Landing. The project was initiated by the organization and funded through a grant. According to Mitchell, it will benefit the local commercial fishing industry.

Another project is the community garden. Maureen says they have a core group of

volunteers who work to maintain the garden, which is also open during Panacea’s monthly Saturday community market.

“Enjoy the abundance of nature that surrounds you,” says Mitchell. Maureen adds, “Appreciate it and learn from it.”

She says Panacea Waterfronts is an organization filled with people who have lived in Panacea their whole lives and those who moved to the area later in life. She says it’s great to see the old families and the newcomers come together for the community. “It’s great to hear the stories of the people who have lived in Panacea for a long time.”

She and Mitchell would recommend the organization to those interested in contributing to the Panacea community including local youth and maritime industries. He adds that Sherrie Posey Miller would be a great person to speak to regarding more information about the organization.

A couple months ago, the Mitchells retired from Panacea Waterfronts. “It was just time,” says Mitchell. “We don’t know how to do anything halfway – we’re all in, or not in.” They hope to travel, spend more time with family, and continue their work with the community garden. About Panacea Waterfronts, Maureen says, “We appreciate the time we’ve spent there.”

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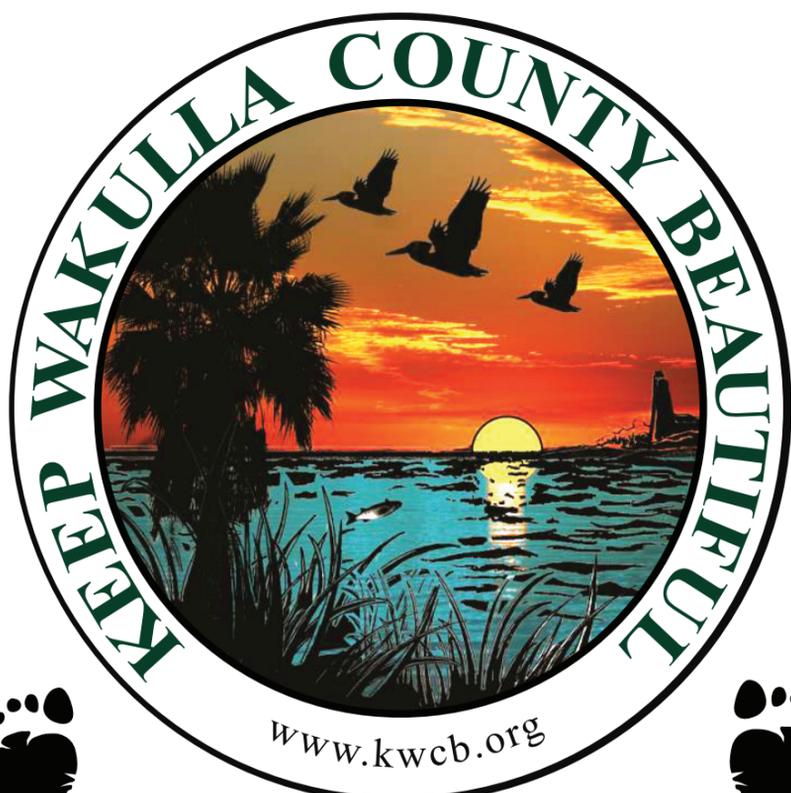
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FROM THE CLERK OF COURTS

Protecting county records from disaster



By **GREG JAMES**

Hello from the Clerk's Office! I'm often asked what keeps me up at night. One of the big concerns I have is protecting our county's records. June officially kicks off the Hurricane Season and many different organizations, public and private, are starting their preparation stages for getting through and/or recovering from a disaster.

Have you started your preparation yet?

Although there are a number of different types of events that can cause a disaster through out the year, we all know that hurricanes or fire are probably the biggest risk we face!

What risks does the Clerk's Office face if a disaster struck? We divide our risk into two main asset categories – physical and intangible (intellectual and electronic). The physical risks primarily include damage to

the courthouse itself. The dangers are 1) not being able to open for business, serve the public or hold court proceedings for an extended period of time and 2) loss of property such as computers, desks and furniture and paper records. The intangible risks primarily include damage to our computer servers that hold our various software and all of the electronic images and records for Finance & Accounting, Clerk to Board, Official Records and Court Records.

As we all understand, physical items, while expensive, can be replaced. We can build another courthouse, we can buy more computers, desks and furniture. But the records...they can't be replaced, can they? I can assure you these dangers keep me up at night sometimes! But all good recovery plans start with early preparation so we mitigate these risks with lots of preparation and planning. Let me describe what the Clerk's Office has done and is doing to prepare for such an event.

For the physical risks related to the building and physical assets such as computers, desks

and furniture, the County provides for insurance coverages for the loss of items that can be repaired or replaced. The only time in recent history the Courthouse has had to use an alternate location was when the Courthouse was being renovated back in 2010 and this was a scheduled event. Besides insurance coverages, having alternate location agreements with other organizations is important in case the building is out of service for an extended period of time. The County has also taken a number of steps to install safety systems (security and fire suppression) into the Courthouse.

The most challenging danger is our paper records! Once destroyed, those records can't be replaced. Our solution? Make electronic copies! Several years ago, the Clerk's Office took steps to make the electronic record the official record and not to rely on the paper record. First, you can make multiple electronic copies much cheaper than paper copies and second, the electronic storage of records doesn't take up much, if any, physical space! Starting several years ago,

all four main departments of the Clerk's Office went electronic – Finance & Accounting, Clerk to Board, Official Records, and Courts all maintain electronic records as the official record. The good news is that we no longer create a paper record (there are very few exceptions) that has to be stored in boxes, looked up manually and protected from the elements!

What about all those paper records from many years ago you might ask? Well, we do still have a lot of paper records in storage. The goal has been and continues to be to digitize all of those paper records. We have been scanning these paper records into an electronic record in all of our departments for many years now. As you can imagine, that has taken some time and we still aren't quite finished yet. It is not as simple as scanning a bunch of documents. We have to index and name those records so they can be found. Those records have to be imported or scanned into our various software so they can be retrieved in a logical manner. And, finally, some records have to be redacted of confi-

dential and sensitive information before they can be made available online.

This leads to the second type of risk – the intangible assets. Since all of these electronic records are stored on a computer server (we have several), those records can be destroyed too if the server is damaged or becomes corrupted. How do we mitigate this risk? In a number of ways. First, have you ever heard the saying "don't put all your eggs into one basket"? Well, we don't put all of our records onto just one computer. Finance & Accounting records are saved to a separate server from all of the other records. Official Records are saved to a separate server, Court records are saved to a separate server, and so on. If a particular server is damaged then we only have to concern ourselves with restoring one part of the electronic record.

Second, we back up our electronic records... lots and lots of back up records. This is accomplished in two ways. First, our servers make copies of our records many, many times per day. Second, these copies are stored "in the cloud"

(just another physical server in another location). We pay for a service that provides electronic storage of all of our records in three locations that I cannot disclose – one on the east coast, one in the central states, and one on the west coast. If our servers are ever destroyed (knock on wood!), we are able to restore our records from these electronic copies.

What happens to the paper record once electronic copies are made? Documents that are not considered to be of historical value are destroyed (generally by shredding). This saves lots of valuable space. Documents that are of historical value are kept regardless of how many electronic copies are made. Those documents are stored in a safe location within the Courthouse vaults and covered with additional protection during storm events. I would encourage you to stop by the Courthouse for a visit to see the many historical documents we are preserving!

Greg James is Wakulla County Clerk of Courts and Comptroller.

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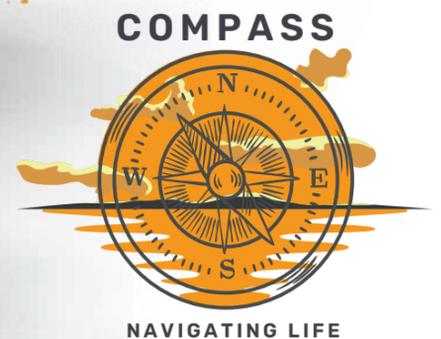
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FROM THE WAKULLA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A theory about the St. Marks Lighthouse

An excerpt from Allen Gerrell's book 'The Civil War and St. Marks'

By ALLEN GERRELL

In 1843, the existing St. Marks light house as we know it was built. In 1939, Mark Boyd, renowned historian of this area wrote in the Florida Historical Quarterly that the St. Marks light house was built from stones taken from the old fort at the junction of the St. Marks and Wakulla River. This he had taken from word of mouth from the Ladd brothers who lived in St. Marks at the time of his writing. Today this is written on a plaque erected at the St. Marks light house.

But! Was it true?

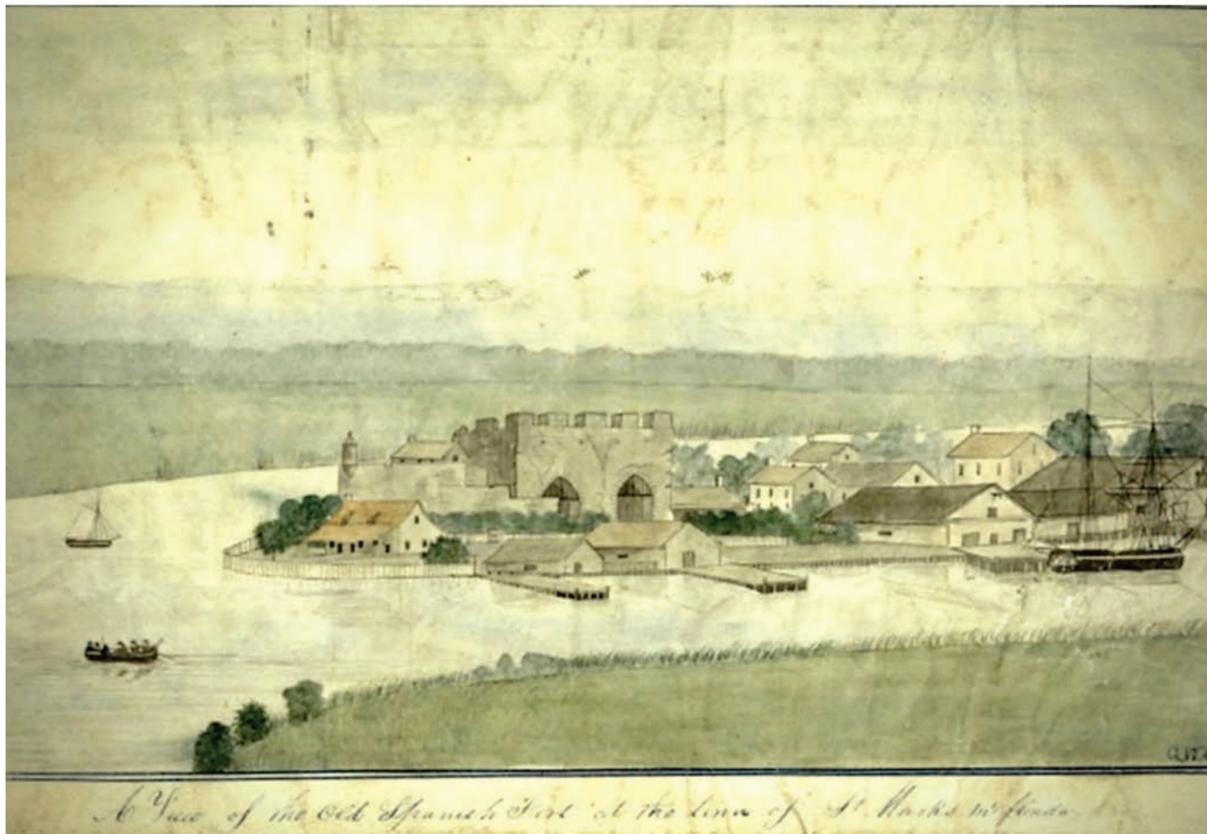
In 1856, it took an act of Congress and a President's signature to tear down the old Spanish fort at the junction of the St. Marks and Wakulla rivers. It was torn down to build a Marine Hospital for the sick sailors which at that time were coming in from all over the world. The general population wanted to quarantine the sailors away from them.

By 1857, the Marine Hospital was complete and at that time there were over 50,000 bales of cotton a year being exported from the St. Marks port.

Add on top of that the fact that the Spanish Fort was occupied during the 1840s. The Indian War was still on going. A tavern was at the junction of the rivers, with several people living in the old fort, with wharves up and down the river front.

Would they have let someone tear down their house to construct a light-house?

The location of St. Marks as we know it was just coming in to use with the completion of the railroad in 1836. So, the town had not fully moved to the new location



George Washington Sully watercolor painting of Fort St. Marks circa 1830, prior to the town moving upriver to its current location. Courtesy of the Archives and West Florida History Center, University of West Florida.

A note on G.W. Sully

George Washington Sully was born in Norfolk, Virginia, in October 1816. He was the fifth child and third son of Ann Hendree Sully and Chester Sully, a cotton merchant who was the brother of the noted portraitist Thomas Sully. In the 1820s, Sully and his family moved to Florida, which had just been acquired by the United States from Spain.

in 1840. An 1840 survey found in Curtis Shields' truck after he passed away showed extensive population of the fort site during 1840.

Examination of the old records do not state where the stones for the light house came from, so Mark Boyd took the word of the locals to be the truth.

But as I stated, the old fort was still standing in 1850 when the locals went to build a hospital for the sailors. So where did the stone for the light house come from?

In 1783 when the British took possession of the Florida Territory and came to St. Marks, they found across the Wakulla River from the Spanish fort, a stone tower that had been built by the Spanish for protection of the stone workers who quarried the rocks from

the ground there.

They left a very detailed description of this tower in their records stating the tower was 26 feet by 26 feet and 45 feet tall. The upper floors were decaying by the time the British took possession of the territory and they found no use for it during their stay.

An 1840's map shows the old tower still on the location of the quarry site across the river from the Spanish fort with a road leading right to the site. This road had been constructed by the Spanish in 1639 when they were quarrying the rock and portions of the quarry and road can still be seen today if you know where to look.

The St. Marks light house was built in 1843, and after the 1840 map there is no record of anything being in that area until the Civ-

il War when a Confederate Battery occupied it for a short time in 1862. Today the area is part of the National Wildlife Refuge isolated and very dense in forest. Unless you know where to look and what you are looking for, you can miss the gapping square holes cut into the ground by the quarry works. These holes today are full of years of mud and vegetation that have taken them over. No sign of any tower existing can be found today. There is no foundation, just nothing but the holes in the ground.

It has been my theory for years that the St. Marks light house was constructed from the stone taken from the fort at the junction of the St. Marks and Wakulla rivers just like Mark Boyd wrote, but not the

Spanish fort where the Marine hospital was constructed, but from the old Spanish tower that was across the river. The foundation cannot be found today and the records show that the size of the tower and the size of the light house frame were close in size, and with a road already constructed to the tower site it would not have taken much to get these stones to the light house area and reconstruct them as they had laid for centuries up the St. Marks River. This light house that the Spanish constructed in 1639 to protect their workers while quarrying stone could be seen for miles at sea because it was white, sticking up above all the tree line in the area, the same as the light house does today.

So why destroy a perfectly good occu-

ried fort, when you already have an existing light house not in use that could be moved closer to the coast and reconstructed as we know it today.

This Spanish tower constructed in 1639 would have been the first light house constructed in the United States, and with second and third floors with people living on them, lights would have to be used at night making it a light house with open windows toward the coast that could be seen for miles at sea. These open windows also helped keep the mosquito population from invading their dwelling.

There were two stones erected at the fort's site by the Spanish, one with the inscription that construction began in 1639. These were found being used as steps on the tavern at the junction of the rivers by Richard Keith Call in 1836 and taken to his house where they remained until after his death, when they were purchased by Railroad tycoon Henry Flagler and incorporated into his house in Fort Lauderdale, where they still are today.

I have found very few records to back up my light house theory, but only common sense tells me it would have been done this way.

This story is included in the writings of Allen Gerrell's "The Civil War and St. Marks" submitted with his permission by the Wakulla County Historical Society. Mr. Gerrell's writings are available to view at the Wakulla County Museum at 24 High Drive, Crawfordville, Florida. The Museum is open Thursday and Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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Mary Ashfield's scrapbook covered the years 1799 to 1889 and included samples from her travels to Europe

By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**
Editor

Crawfordville resident Stephen Fentriss donated a scrapbook with botanical samples, newspaper articles, a pass to the Vatican gardens, plus an Italian almanac from 1849 during a visit to the country.

The scrapbook was donated last month to the University of Florida's Museum of Natural History, which was especially interested in the botanical samples pressed in the book.

Alan Franck, the collection manager of the museum, traveled to Crawfordville to take possession of the scrapbook. He called it a



Arlene Vause of the historical society with Patty and Stephen Fentriss, Alan Franck of the University of Florida's Museum of Natural History, and historical society treasurer Debra Jay.

“valuable resource” for researchers.

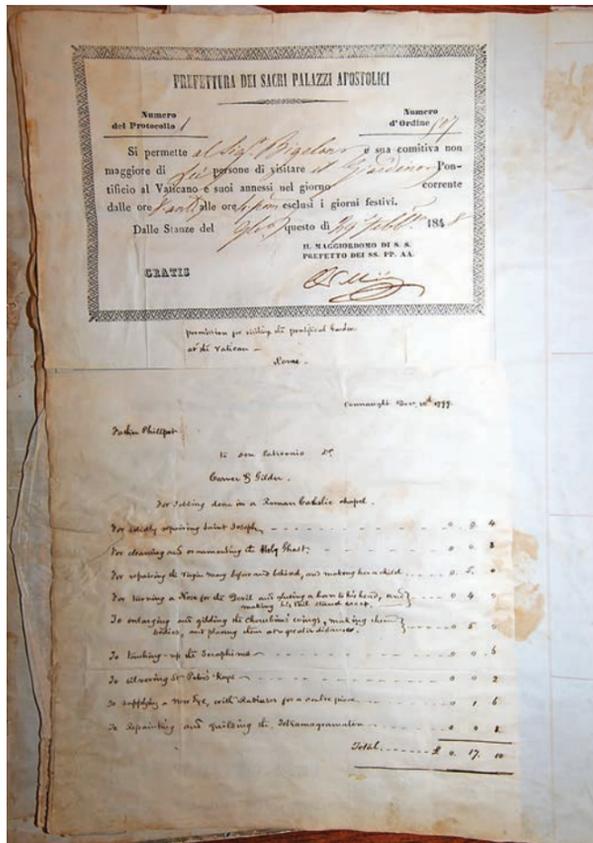
The scrapbook was the property of Mary Ashfield, a distant relative, and it passed down to his grandmother.

“I remember being shown this scrapbook by my grandmother about 1960,” he said, “and it has been passed down to me.”

Ashfield's travels were inspired by a travel writer she followed in a New York newspaper. Her travels included Italy, visiting Vatican City in Rome. Throughout her travels she collected samples of plants and put the pressed flowers and leaves in her scrapbook.



Above, a page from the scrapbook with samples taken from a European trip in 1849.



A visit to Rome in 1848 included this pass to visit the Vatican's Pontifical Garden.



Samples gathered in California in 1831.

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We are proud to have served the families of Wakulla County for more than 15 years. Supporting you during some of the most challenging times in life has been our greatest blessing. And we are committed to continue serving you in the years to come.

We have closed the office location of Bevis Funeral Home at 5 Shadeville Road. While this location is closed for the time being, our presence in the community has in no way changed.

We have several team members as part of the Bevis Funeral Home family who live and raise their families in Wakulla County. They play an important role in our efforts to celebrate lives, honor memories and plan for the future.

Should you need to plan a funeral for a loved one, we can come to you. We have a team of experienced, professional funeral directors who can meet with you and your family at a location convenient to you to review your options.

You'll not only have access to our team of 10 professionals who can guide you through the process, but you will also have access to our beautiful and warm 12,000 square foot chapel at 200 John Knox Road in Tallahassee. If you prefer to host your funeral or memorial service closer to home, we have relationships and experience working with the churches, assemblies and venues throughout Wakulla County, as well.

If you have pre-planned your arrangements with Bevis Funeral Home, your investment is protected. We will honor your wishes and ensure that the plans are executed just as you had intended. It reduces stress for your grieving loved ones and allows them to focus on honoring your life.

Thank you to all the families of Wakulla County who have turned to Bevis Funeral Home after losing a loved one.

We remain here for you, Wakulla County. If you have any questions or concerns or would like to reach us for your funeral needs, please call 850-385-2193.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R.J. Bevis", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

R.J. "Rocky" Bevis
President

2022 Disaster Survival Guide

Available at The Wakulla Sun, 12 Arran Road on the courthouse square or call us at (850) 962-8024 to get a copy.

And save the Chamber's handy list of emergency contacts in this Monthly

Be prepared, get connected, stay engaged

The Wakulla County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management, in coordination with The Wakulla Sun, is proud to provide you with this year's All Hazards Disaster Survival Guide.

Our Mission is to foster the growth of a resilient community that can adapt and stand strong in the face of any disaster that may come our way.

The road to resilience is paved with education and engagement. While we recognize that every household is different and requires a unique plan to address its individual challenges. We also realize that we can't accomplish the mission of having a strong and resilient community without the involvement of our local businesses, faith-based organizations, volunteer agencies, and citizens. We believe this mission can be broken down into steps that can be implemented and accomplished at every level from the individual citizen to the local business.

If we are all **prepared, connected, and engaged** our community will be more resilient to disaster. Resilience starts with individual preparedness and our hope is that you will use this guide to help us accomplish the mission.

Be Prepared

Do you know what hazards our community is vulnerable to? Whether you are new to the county or have lived here for many years as a citizen it's important that you understand your risk, develop a plan that meets the individual needs of your family, and take action when necessary.

You will find valuable resources in this guide to help you do just that. Our community is vulnerable to tropical cyclones, storm surge, wild fires, severe weather, floods, pandemics, and man-made disasters but your specific vulnerability may differ slightly based on where your home or business is located.

It's important to create a flexible plan that can be implemented in a variety of situations and addresses both what to do if you shelter in place as well as what you will do if you need to evacuate. Your plan should consider the dietary, medical, and mobility needs of each member of your household. Don't forget to include any household pets in your plan.

It's also important to build a disaster kit that can be utilized regardless of if you decide to stay or go. The first step is to choose a container that works for you. It can be a five-gallon bucket with a lid, a backpack or a plastic tote – the key is to make sure it works for your lifestyle and can be taken with you if you have to evacuate.

Your kit should have enough supplies to sustain you for a minimum of seven days. When an evacuation is ordered, citizens will be expected to know their zone and comply immediately. Have a plan for



JENNIFER NAGY
Wakulla County Director of
Emergency Management

where you will go. Shelters are designed for safety, not comfort. Accommodations are extremely basic. If you choose to stay in a local shelter, be prepared to sleep on the floor of a common area. Snacks and water will be provided, but we recommend that you bring a sleeping bag or blanket, a pillow, snacks and all prescription medications. If you have special dietary needs, you will need to bring your own products to cover that need.

If you or a family member has a special medical need (electricity dependent, oxygen dependent, etc.) they should contact the Emergency Management Office for information on our Special Needs registry at (850) 745-7200.

If shelters are open in Wakulla County a pet-accessible shelter will be available. If you need to bring a pet, please bring an appropriate pet carrier, and any required food and medication. Pets cannot be left at the shelter without their owner. Your pets will be housed in a separate area from the people and you will need to be prepared to look after their needs.

Get Connected

Do you know where to go for reliable local information and instructions? The internet can be a valuable tool but sometimes it feels like information overload and it can be hard to find accurate infor-

mation that you can count on. How to get and stay connected to the right information to help you and your family make important plans and decisions is a really big deal. There are several good resources available that you can turn to for everything from a summer thunderstorm warning to evacuation orders and instructions.

The Wakulla County Sheriff's Office now has an app that can be downloaded to your smart phone. The app is available for download on the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store by searching "Wakulla County Sheriff, FL" The app gives users quick access to information being released by WCSO as well as features like shelter locations, evacuation information, and a portal to report damages after a disaster.

You can also follow the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office on Facebook.

In addition to these resources when severe weather, a tropical storm or a hurricane threatens our area, you can stay informed by following the National Weather Service Tallahassee, The National Hurricane Center, and local news broadcasts.

When conditions require evacuations, you will receive information via local news networks on radio and television, EAS broadcasts over Weather radios, and via our Alert Wakulla notification system.

Wakulla County currently utilizes Alert Wakulla to provide emergency notifications. You must sign up for this service for both landlines and cell phones. You can sign up for the service at www.wcso.org/emergency-management/alert-wakulla/

Stay Engaged

Community members and businesses must be active and engaged in making their community a safe place to live, work, and play. We all have a role to play and something to contribute.

Please consider volunteering with a local non-profit organization, or contact Wakulla County Emergency Management at (850) 745-7200 for additional volunteer opportunities.

When disaster strikes local officials, first responders, and community partners will work around the clock to keep our community safe. We are all committed to the safety of our citizens and will continue to work together to face the challenges that future disasters may hold.

Our local businesses and members of our community are vital partners in preparedness, response and recovery. We again urge you to be prepared, stay connected, and be engaged we know we are stronger together.

#WakullaResilient

Attend Wakulla Preparedness Expo on June 25th

In lieu of Build a Bucket, this year we will be holding our first Wakulla County Preparedness Expo on Saturday, June 25th from 9 a.m. to noon at Hudson Park. The concept is an educational event for all ages where our partners can set up a table/tent and showcase how their organization fits into disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. There will be hands-on activities and a touch-a-truck component.

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- WATERMELON
- BLUEBERRY
- PAPAYA
- KIWI
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- RASPBERRY
- APPLE
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- STRAWBERRY
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CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. Temperaments
6. Bunde____: the German federal council
10. Mild Dutch cheese
14. Brief indulgence of your impulses
15. Have the skill to do something
16. Queen of Sparta
17. A.K.A. Lord Verulam
20. Basics
21. The top point
22. Force used in pushing
25. Surprise attack killer
30. Cambodian monetary unit
31. London radio station
32. Dry plaster fresco
33. Did go
34. Look up to
36. Physicist Georg Simon ____
37. Acronym for speed
39. Optical Storage and Retrieval
41. Direct something at an object
43. Popular bagel seed topping
47. Matchstick games
50. Hans ____: German biochemist
52. Wrapped package (abbr.)
53. Japanese socks

54. Attacked
56. Special animal lineages
58. Equal, prefix
59. Groom____: wedding attendants
60. 1966 J. Goldman play
68. Swiss river
69. Large burrowing rodent of S. Am.
70. Classic film director Frank
71. Dutch colonist
72. Ooze
73. Perceived sound

CLUES DOWN

1. Manuscripts (abbr.)
2. ____e Taylor from Mayberry
3. Bobby ____, NHL champ
4. No show losses
5. Bosnian ethnic group
6. Without (French)
7. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
8. 4th Caliph of Islam
9. Exams
10. Glide by
11. Calendar month (abbr.)
12. Much ____ About Nothing
13. Adult male
18. Behave in a certain manner
19. Diagonals

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22. Engineering company
23. Go quickly
24. Rechristens
25. Defensive nuclear weapon
26. ____ fi (slang)
27. Slags
28. I (German)
29. ____ de plume
31. "10" star initials
34. Mimic
35. Eggs of female fish
38. St. Francis of ____

40. Insect head appendages
41. Alias
42. Tax collector
44. One point east of due south
45. Determine the sum of
46. Millilitre
48. Megabaud (abbr.)
49. Female sibling
51. Utensil to remove water from a boat
55. Coils
56. Yuppie status car

57. The German state
59. Finger click
60. The bill in a restaurant
61. Vietnamese currency unit
62. Before
63. No (Scottish)
64. Water in the solid state
65. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
66. Stray
67. Radioactivity unit

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Al Hartman, aka The Old Pro – News and updates



By AL HARTMAN

Hope all is well with you as the summer months are coming.

The water is warming up and the fish are on the move. The winds this year on

the Gulf shallows have been a blustery ordeal.

I haven't seen a calm day so far this year.

The fish gods must know I'm there as the winds start when we pull up.

Sea trout and redfish are in the shallows close to shore. Best time is early morning. It is usually calm for a while at that time of day. Live shrimp, gulp and gigs are working well.

Live shrimp, cast out and slowly retrieve.

Gulps and gigs add a popper cork and

make plenty of noise.

Silver or gold spoons trigger some nice hits on big reds and large gator trout.

Offshore grouper, seabass, trigger fish and snapper of many types are hitting live and cut bait. Especially the black sea bass.

Some anglers are doing well casting or trolling minnow type lures close to the bottom. It is only going to get better from here.

Researchers have been feeding manatees lettuce in an effort to save them from starving to death.

The death toll on them has been very high due to the loss of the seagrass manatees eat.

Hope they can make a difference!

Most hunting seasons have ended until next fall, but did you know many Wildlife Management Areas have spring, summer and fall hog hunts?

Some of the changes for hog hunting are no hunting license required. No size limit and no bag limit.

Go to MyFWC.com for the locations and dates. Statewide it is

365 days a year.

HPAI, "Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza" has hit Florida. This new strain of bird flu has hit the eagle population hard this year killing 23 so far.

But eagles make up just a fraction of the bird cases. The bird flu as I told you about earlier has killed millions of domestic chickens and turkeys. That's what has made the price of eggs go up. Farmers had to kill entire flocks.

The bird flu attacks almost any bird in the U.S.

HPAI cases reported in Florida as of May 6 is several thousand birds so far and is likely to get worse.

If you see a sick or dying bird, don't pick it up. Call FWC or U.S. Wildlife department. A human can get the disease, but it is very rare and of low risk.

So we got Covid and the critters have their problems. Manatees, turtles, birds and the bees are joining in.

Happy hunting and fishing! And take a Young'un.



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-John C. Maxwell

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