Sun Monthly

Locally Owned & Operated

"The little paper"

VOL. 1, NO. 4 • JULY 2022

Serving Wakulla County, Woodville, Alligator Point and St. Teresa

Wakulla Sun
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POSTAL PATRON

Surf Dog

Checking in on Wakulla's favorite dog a year after he settled in with the Carroll family

By RIDDHI PATEL
Reporter

Surf Dog walked right into the home of the Carroll family on Father's Day of last year, and after a year of living as a house dog, it appears that the nomad has finally found his forever family and forever home.

Ivanhoe Carroll and her husband Cliff, had gone out to Savannah's for a meal on Father's Day last year. When they came back to their home, they found Surf near the house. Carroll said that all Cliff had to do was open the house door and say, "Come on,

Turn to Page 9

RIDDHI PATEL

Surf Dog at his forever home with Cliff and Ivanhoe Carroll.

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Elect EDDIE EVANS FOR WAKULLA COUNTY JUDGE

Legal Background and Service:
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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

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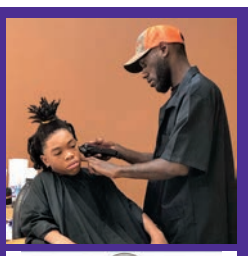

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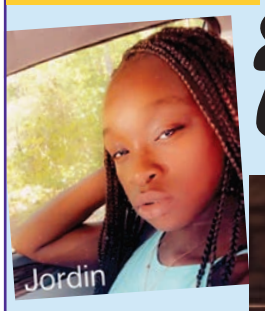

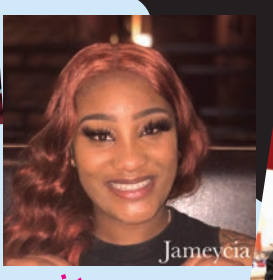

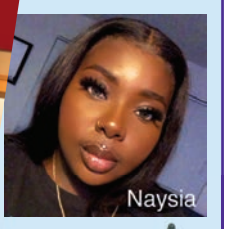

Event will be held on Sat., August 6, 2022 starting at 9:00AM 1st come 1st serve. One Stop Community Center – St. Marks Room 318 Shadeville Rd. Crawfordville FL 32327

Come with hair pre-washed

Masks required please. As you check in visit our phenomenal vendor: Delightful Soul Food Dish along with book bag give away. Sonja Hairstyles is honored to reach as many residents as possible to share hairstyles and cuts through our hands that love to help in all hair needs in Wakulla County. When our families are smiling and feeling better about themselves it brings great joy to our hearts. We are working together to make a difference in households that adds focus in our children lives and time back to our parents mornings. If you would like to support our event with donations of hair products and accessories it will be greatly appreciative. Contact Sonja at (850) 591-3793. Donations of book bags and supplies contact Kendrick (850) 443-1550.

YOU ARE INVITED TO A BIG BEND HOSPICE

Craft and Learn

Join us for a fun afternoon of sewing and learning about Volunteer opportunities with Big Bend Hospice!

JULY 27, 2022 | 10:00AM - 12:00 NOON
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We will be teaching our guests how to make Fidget Blankets for those living with Alzheimer's, Dementia, or other related disorders. The blankets have various sensory items such as buttons, zippers, pockets, etc. attached to them that provide a soothing effect that can help calm patients experiencing agitation or boredom. While we learn how to make fidget blankets for Big Bend Hospice patients, we'll discuss the many ways BBH Volunteers help make a difference in the community.

Volunteers need only basic sewing skills, such as sewing on a button. All supplies will be provided, as well as snacks and drinks.

To learn more, or to reserve your spot, contact Kara Walker at kmwalker@bigbendhospice.org or call (850) 878-5310!

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Shelter needs help fostering kittens

By JOANN SANDERS

If you've ever thought about fostering for the animal shelter, now is the perfect time to apply! We are squarely in the middle of "kitten season," a critical time period that runs from March through October, when numerous unwanted litters are born and brought to the animal shelter.

All these tiny kittens require the kind of consistent love and attention that is difficult to provide in the shelter environment, and due to the large number of intakes during these warmer months, kennel space is always at a premium. Sadly, tough decisions must be made when we run out of room, and this is where our amazing fosters come into the picture! When you foster, you are freeing up kennel space and quite literally saving lives!

There are several requirements to be met in order to be a candidate for fostering:

• Are you able to devote several hours daily to your foster kitten?

• Are you able to separate your foster kitten from other household pets for at least two weeks to allow for the proper adjustment period?

• Are you willing to practice proper cleaning procedures such as washing hands after every encounter, and cleaning the kitten's quarters routinely?

• Are you able to deal with the sickness or possible death of your foster kitten? According to Catster magazine, 15-27% succumb to "fading kitten syndrome" before they reach 9 weeks of age. Being able to handle this emotionally is important.

• Finally, are you able to handle letting go of the kitten once the foster period is over? It helps to remember what a heroic thing you're doing. This can make the process of letting go easier when it's time for your kitten to be welcomed into its new home.

If you have good vet references and can answer yes to all these questions, please reach out to Wakulla Animal Services for an application to foster. 850-926-0902

Everything you need to care for the kitten (or kittens!) will be supplied to you by the shelter, including milk replacer, food, litter, toys, etc.

Once the babies are eight-weeks old, they can be returned to the shelter and posted as available for adoption.

Please reach out to Wakulla Animal Services if you are interested and would like to know more! The shelter is open Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

On the Horizon – A monthly calendar

Friday, July 1

• A public meeting to review and discuss responses received for RFP 2022-01 Turnkey P25 Simulcast Radio System will be held in the Board of County Commissioners Administration Conference Room at 9 a.m.

Monday, July 4

• Independence Day!
• The Sopchoppy 4th of July Celebration and Parade will be held. The parade will start at 10 a.m. in downtown Sopchoppy, Myron B. Hodge City Park will open at noon, and fireworks will be over the river at dark.
• 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.

Wednesday, July 6

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

Thursday, July 7

• Keep Wakulla County Beautiful will hold a seafood boil at the Wakulla Community Center at 6 p.m.
• The VFW Auxiliary Bingo Night will be held at 7 p.m. at 475 Arran Road in Crawfordville. There will be concessions and raffles.

Saturday, July 9

• The Wakulla Caregiver Support Group will meet at the Wakulla County Public Library at 10:00 a.m.

Monday, July 11

• 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, July 13

• An Intermediate Line Dance class will be held at 1 p.m. at the senior center.
• The Code Enforcement Board Meeting will be held in the Commission Chambers at 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 14

• The St. Marks City Commission meeting will be held at St. Marks City Hall at 6 p.m.
• The VFW Auxiliary Bingo Night will be held at 7 p.m. at 475 Arran Road in Crawfordville. There will be concessions and raffles.

Monday, July 18

• 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 Board of County Commissioners will meet in the Commission Chambers at 5 p.m.

Wednesday, July 20

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

Thursday, July 21

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

Friday, June 22

• The Wakulla County Senior Citizen's Center Christmas After Dark cocktail party fundraiser will be held at the Wakulla Senior Center from 6 to 9 p.m.

Monday, July 25

• 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, July 27

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

Thursday, July 28

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

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History articles from the Magnolia Monthly

Elizabeth Smith published the Magnolia Monthly from 1963 to 1977, recording local Wakulla history to her subscribers. It has been a project of the local historical society to digitize those articles to make them available again. Here's an article from January 1964.

THE PIONEER FROM PAWTUCKET

Excerpt from Magnolia Monthly, January 1964, Volume II, No. 1 written by Elizabeth F. Smith

One of Wakulla County's earliest politicians to serve as a Representative in the Florida Legislature was a Yankee from Rhode Island named James Wolf Smith.

James who was proud of his birthplace, has it recorded on his tombstone in the old Smith cemetery located in the middle of a swampy patch of woods on the west side of Medart. At one time the Yankee who played the role of a southern squire, owned the property, and his tombstone along with that of his family, is surrounded by an iron picket fence to indicate his status. The woods are briar infested and later tombstones, usually those of colored people living close by, are placed on the outer perimeter of the trees. The acre of woods is surrounded by a plowed field and a fence with a "No Trespassing" sign. People who are not discouraged by the fence which they have to climb, nor the signs, the briar, the wet ground, or the snakes that might be hibernating under a fallen stone, will still have a time making out the names on the ornate, but molding slabs.

James Smith was born in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, in 1810 of the 6th generation of Smiths in that famous seafaring town. He came to Irwin County, Ga., in 1828 and lived on the Ocmulgee River. He married Lodoiska P. (family name unknown) Smith of Jacksonville, Ga., who was born in 1817. The couple then moved to Thomasville where he was a postmaster and junior partner in a mercantile firm with his father, who he apparently had come with from Pawtucket to the South, and a Col. E. Remington. The business was known as Simeon Smith Jr. and Sons. James was only one of these sons, and there is no record in Wakulla County telling of the others.

James came to the Medart area about 1848, the decade which saw the largest influx of settlers to a county established in 1843. He served in the legislature from 1850 to 1860.

Painting of James Wolf Smith from WikiTree.com geneological website.

Since he had only been in the county two years before being elected to his post, it is probable that he was an educated or well-read man able to speak for his adopted county.

For many years Medart was known as Pawtucket. The Rhode Island emigrant had a wife, children and grandchildren at the time of death in 1878.

Mrs. Sue Grambling of Sopchoppy, who had just finished "a dog killing wash" the day she showed the clipping of her great-grandfather's death to a visitor, had it pasted in an 1847 edition of the Bible. The notice was taken from a Pawtucket, Rhode Island newspaper and spoke of the legislator as having died in Pawtucket, Wakulla County. It went on to describe his activities and to state that "these, with a consistent membership, and full fellowship in a Church of Christ for a quarter of a century, speak for his integrity, ability, and, above all, his RELIGION."

A genealogy of the Smith family was written down over the years in Mrs. Grambling's Bible, where families in nearly every home kept all the records they wanted to preserve, but like most birth and death dates written down when they occurred, they did not have much order. However, on the next page are a list of the tombstones and of the Smiths registered in the Bible.

James Wolf Smith 1810-78
Lodoiska P. Smith 1817-86
(One fallen slab with G.P. S. on the footstone)
Sallie Smith (daughter of James W. and Caroline), 1868-77
John Coggins (his relationship to the Smiths is not known)
Mary Smith, 1872
George R. Smith 1868-71
Julia Smith, 1875-78
Adolphus F. Smith, 1834-1900
R. Sheldon Smith, 1857-96
Susan A. Smith (wife of A. F. Smith), 1837-86

Also in the unfenced area are the following stones:

May Smith, 1913-36
Ida Smith, 1898-43

The following are believed to be colored graves:

Thomas Mills, Pvt., 157 Depot Brig., d. 1936
Julia Quartermon, 1874-1938
Lewis Williams, 1909-10
Henry Wallace, born July 4, 18—

Descendants of James W. Smith other than those noted above include Martha W. Smith, d. 1855, Simeon Alexander Smith, d. 1872, Ida Smith, d. 1865, James A. Smith, d. 1868, Sue Chandler Smith, d. 1871, Sarrah E. Smith, d. ?, Ledoisha Trice Smith, d. 1937, J. L. Trice Sr. d. 1950, John L. Grambling, d. 1954. Other descendants include Thurston Smith, Panacea, Adolphus Laird, Sopchoppy, and Waldense Smith, Tallahassee.

The Wakulla County Historical Society wishes to remind everyone that most of the old cemeteries in Wakulla County are located on private property. Please do not enter these areas without the consent of the property owners.

The complete volumes of the Magnolia Monthly are housed at Wakulla County Museum and Archives at the Old Jail, 24 High Drive, Crawfordville.

The archives at the museum are rich with genealogical information. Please visit the museum if you would like help with researching your family history.

Please come and visit the Wakulla County Museum and Archives at 24 High Drive in Crawfordville. Our hours are Thursday and Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Wakulla Sun Monthly is a free paper delivered to every address in Wakulla County. The Wakulla Sun is a new, locally owned weekly newspaper. Copies are available at boxes around the county for $1. Subscriptions are $35 per year (see form on Page 15).

Stay safe in the sun this summer

By SAMANTHA KENNEDY
Extension Director

SAMANTHA KENNEDY, UF/IFAS EXTENSION WAKULLA COUNTY

Sunscreen, ample water and a good hat are all excellent precautions against problems with the summer sun.

An abundance of sunshine is one of the many reasons why so many people love Florida. In fact, it is why we are known as "The Sunshine State." However, while the sunny days provide tons of opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors, too much sun exposure can lead to minor injury, serious illness, or even death.

The harsh UV rays from the sun can begin to damage the skin in as little as 15 minutes. In fact, even if the skin is not outwardly burned, it may be damaged underneath. Continued unprotected short-term exposure adds up over time, leading to more serious skin damage such as melanoma.

Adopting a few sun safety practices greatly reduce the risk of serious skin damage. One simple practice is the daily application of sunscreen, even on cloudy days, as UV rays can penetrate cloud cover. A minimum Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of 15 is recommended for exposed skin, including lips. Do not use sunscreen past its expiration date, as it may not be as effective.

Eyes should be protected as well, as prolonged exposure to the sun can lead to vision loss or even blindness. Sunglasses which protect against both UVA and UVB rays offer the best protection. Wrap-around sunglasses offer the most comprehensive protection of both the eyes and the tender skin surrounding them.

Cover other exposed skin as much as possible with dry, loose-fitting clothing whenever possible, on top of wearing sunscreen. Reapply sunscreen every two hours, especially during continuous sun exposure and after swimming, sweating, and toweling off.

Children under one year of age should be kept out of the sun as much as possible. Keep babies in the shade of a tree, umbrella, or stroller canopy at all times. Older children should follow the same precautions as those given above. Keep in mind, very young children cannot state it is too bright or too hot, so be extra vigilant.

Staying cool and hydrated is also important during those hot summer days. Even those who are acclimated to the climate can easily fall into the dangerous trap of dehydration and overheating. Paying attention to the body's needs will help prevent heat stress and more serious heat-related illness.

The sun is at its hottest and most brutal between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Reducing outdoor activities between these hours can help reduce the risk of overheating. If this is impossible, be sure to take frequent breaks in a cool, shady spot to help maintain proper body temperature.

Lightweight, light-colored clothing reflects heat better than heavier, darker colors. Hats with wide brims going all the way around are ideal and offer more protection to the ears, neck, and scalp. Baseball caps are fine, but be sure to use a cloth in the back that drapes over exposed skin for more protection.

Drink plenty of fluids constantly. Plain water is the best choice to maintain proper hydration. Avoid alcohol, caffeine, and high amounts of sugar, as these can promote water loss, leading to dehydration. Find a shady spot or an air conditioned space to retreat to periodically throughout the day to keep from overheating.

Some symptoms of heat exhaustion include excessive sweating, confusion, dizziness, weakness, and nausea. Seek shade or air conditioning immediately.

Anyone experiencing an elevated body temperature, hot and dry skin, continued nausea or vomiting, and/or loss of consciousness may be suffering from heat stroke or other severe heat-related illness. Seek medical attention right away.

Florida's sunshine draws millions of visitors a year. But for visitors and residents alike, it can be dangerous without the proper precautions. By being sun smart, the dog days of Florida's summer will not take a bite out of the fun.

To learn more about summer safety in Wakulla County, contact Samantha Kennedy, Family and Consumer Sciences agent, at 850-926-3931.

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The Wakulla Sun

YOUR NEWSPAPER

PEOPLE SERVING PEOPLE

Copy cats abound in the insect world

By ERIK LOVESTRAND

When it landed on my hand, the first reaction was to brush it off as quickly as possible. However, something seemed to be slightly odd about this particular "wasp" that made me take another look. First, it was not prone to fly away as I moved my hand up for a better look. It even seemed okay with the interaction as I moved it around for a photo opportunity. There was also something odd about the shape of its body that wasn't exactly wasp-like.

As I looked closer, I realized that its head was very mantis-like and when it began grooming its antennae, I could make out the telltale folded arms that give the praying mantis its name. The yellow and black stripes encircling its abdomen, along with its wing shape and positioning veritably shouted "WASP!"

I had never heard of a praying mantis that expertly mimicked a wasp so I did a quick internet search and found that this was a wasp mantidfly (neither a wasp nor a mantis). Mantidflies are grouped by scientists into a separate order called Neuroptera, which includes lacewings, antlions, owlflies and others.

A simple definition of mimicry would be: similarities between different species of animals. It is different from camouflage, which refers to an animal resembling an inanimate object, but both are effective forms of deception that generally benefit and animal in some way. Another common insect that would fool most people is the soldier fly. It definitely looks like something that could sting but closer examination will reveal only one pair of wings (a fly trait) rather than two, as bees and wasps have.

Now, not to take you too far into the weeds on this subject, but we should also mention the different types of mimicry that scientists have identified in nature and note an example of each.

Henry Walter Bates studied butterflies in the Amazon and described a type of mimicry where one species mimicked the look of another that had some particularly nasty defense to predation. The mimic was lacking the defense mechanism but benefited by predators avoiding it based on its basic appearance. This type of mimicry is now known as Batesian mimicry and a good example are the butterflies that mimic the monarch. Monarchs are toxic because of the milkweed they eat during their larval stage. After a predator eats a few it learns to avoid anything that looks similar, such as a viceroy or queen butterfly.

Fritz Mueller was a German zoologist who described a form of mimicry, now called Muellerian mimicry, where multiple species mimic each other and they all have a similar defense mechanism. This spreads the benefit to all that look similar by reducing predation pressure on all.

The third type of mimicry is known as self mimicry, where an animal has one body part that mimics another (i.e. large eye spots to frighten or disorient an attacker), or a body part that may mimic some innocuous thing to fool prey into coming closer. We have a great example of this locally in the alligator snapping turtle. The tip of their tongue has a lure that resembles a worm and is capable of wiggling to enhance its effectiveness in tempting a fish to its doom in the vice-like jaws of the turtle.

Nature never ceases to amaze with the diversity and complexity of adaptations that various animals exhibit to gain an edge on the competition. When it comes to mimicry in the natural world, first impressions are generally wrong.

I mean, that's the point, right?

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

This tiny praying mantis species expertly mimics a wasp to avoid predation.

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Checklist for when a spouse or parent passes

By BRIAN ENGLISH

When you lose a spouse, partner, or parent, the grief can be overwhelming. In the midst of that grief, life goes on. There are arrangements to be made, things to be taken care of – and in recognition of this reality, here is a checklist that you may find useful at such a time.

First, gather documents. Ask for help from other family members if you need it. Start by gathering the following.

• A will, a trust, or other estate documents. If none of these exist, you could face a longer legal process when settling the person's estate.

• A Social Security card/number. Generally, the person's Social Security number will be retired shortly following the death. If you are uncertain, consider checking with the Social Security office.

Then, gather these additional highly important items.

• Any account statements

• Deeds/titles to real estate

• Car titles or lease agreements

• Storage space keys/account records

• Any bills due or records of credit card statements

• Any social media platform information, if applicable

Last, but not least, look for a computer file or printout with digital account passwords. Prior to their loved one's passing, some family members may try to centralize all this information or state where it can be found.

Next, take care of some immediate needs. One, contact a funeral home to arrange a viewing, cremation, or burial, in accordance with the wishes of the deceased.

Two, call or email the county clerk or recorder to request 10 to 12 death certificates; a funeral home director can often help you with this matter. (Counties usually charge a small fee for each copy issued.) Ten to 12 copies may seem excessive, but you may need that many while working with insurance companies and various financial institutions.

Three, if the person was still working, contact the human resources officer at your loved one's workplace to inform them what has happened. The HR officer might need you to fill out some paperwork pertaining to retirement plans, health benefits, and compensation for unused vacation time.

Four, consider speaking with an attorney – this can be the lawyer who helped your loved one create a will or estate plan. Should your loved one die without a will, you may want to contact a lawyer for an overview of how the probate process will work and see to what degree you might become liable if your loved one had any outstanding debt obligations.

Five, resolve to keep track of any recurring debts that your loved one had set to autopay. Consider placing the monthly bills for these debts in your name (or another family member or the executor).

Notify creditors and credit card companies that were part of your loved one's credit history. Creditors may want to know when existing debts will be paid, either by you or your loved one's estate. You can also notify the "big three" credit bureaus – Experian, Equifax, and TransUnion – of their passing, which can usually be done online, over the phone, or by letter.

Following these steps, address financial, insurance, and credit matters. Investment and retirement plan accounts and insurance policies should have beneficiaries, so reach out to the financial and insurance professionals who helped your loved one as well as the person overseeing their workplace retirement plan.

State and federal taxes for your loved one will also need to be paid, and possibly, other taxes for the year of their death.

Remember, this article is for informational purposes only and is not a replacement for real-life advice, so make sure to consult your tax, legal, and accounting professionals before modifying your any tax or estate strategy.

If your loved one owned a small business or professional practice, a discussion with business partners (and clients) may be necessary as well as a consultation with the attorney who advised that business.

Look after your future. Working through several of these issues may help bring closure to your loved one's estate.

Brian can be reached at 850-926-7487.

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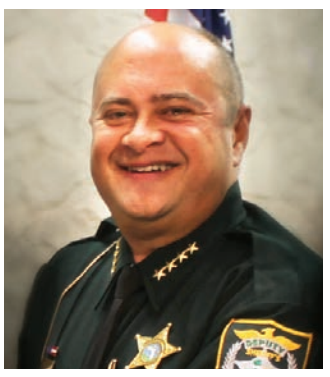
School resource officers assist with Crime Suppression



By JARED MILLER
Wakulla Sheriff

One of the main priorities I have set myself as Sheriff of Wakulla County is to effectively balance the need to fight and reduce Crime in our county, while running the Sheriff's Office as efficiently and fiscally responsible as possible. Certainly, if the resources were unlimited, I would love to add many additional deputies who staffed specialized crime fighting units. Unfortunately, to do something such as this would come with a cost to the county and the taxpayer.

However, it is with this priority and goal in mind this summer WCSO will be utilizing the extra manpower we have via our School Resource Officers being out of school to help bring some additional resources to the county. Currently the SRO unit is made up of 11 deputies, whose primary role the safety and security of Wakulla County's schools. However, with school out for the summer, except for the few campuses which are open for summer school, those deputies are freed up to serve in other roles. This boost in resources for the summer will certainly pay dividends for the county, during the Sheriff's Office busiest time of the year.

Because of the additional resources provided by the SRO Unit during the summer, it has allowed me to create the WCSO Crime Suppression Unit. The CSU is a specialized unit made up of proactive and motivated deputies whose mission is targeted enforcement in high crime areas within Wakulla County. The Crime Suppression Unit's primary focus currently, is making an impact on illegal drugs in our county. CSU deputies are not tied down to work a specific geographical zone or work schedule and thus are freed up to really target areas where many of Wakulla's drug and crime issues stem from. Already CSU has had an impact, in their first week CSU made seven felony arrest, closed a drug house, and were able to take some drugs off our streets.

Another thing the additional resources the School Resource Officers provide during the summer I have also been able to bring back our beach and river patrol. As I'm sure most of you are aware during the summer months Wakulla County received a great number of visitors to our outdoor attractions. While this is great for our county it can also lead to some problems. Because of this I wanted to ensure that the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office had as much of a presence in places like Shell Point or the Wakulla River, as we have in past years. During the summer months WCSO has a deputy patrolling the various water ways in Wakulla County 7 days a week. I have also assigned deputies who will patrol the beaches in Wakulla County every weekend. Again, this is all in addition to the Road Patrol Deputies who operate and respond 24/7.

It's my goal that utilizing all of WCSO's resources as efficiently and strategically as possible will help to keep Wakulla County one of the safest counties in the state. As always, my door is always open and if you ever need anything do not hesitate to contact me or one of my staff members, 850-745-7100 (911 for emergencies).

Your Sheriff,
Jared F. Miller

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Christmas After Dark is almost here!

By JOHN SHUFF and SANDI McDANIEL

Our main fundraising event of the year is almost upon us! Please call 850-926-7145 to get your tickets.

There will be heavy hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar, live music, celebrity bartenders, and live auctions which will include a stay at a beach condo. Instead of the traditional table set-up we will have catering stations, and Bistro tables for you to congregate around with your friends and new acquaintances. In keeping with the generosity of our citizens, sponsorships are going well and the pace of ticket sales will speed up as the event gets closer so better get your tickets while you can!

The Wakulla Senior Citizens Council was set up the Wakulla County Preparedness Exposition on June 25th at Hudson Park providing information regarding the transportation responsibilities we fulfill, and home delivered meals during a disaster.

During Hurricane Michael our transportation department evacuated many seniors to Tallahassee as there is not a shelter approved for a category 4 storm in Wakulla. A couple days after the storm, Tallahassee needed their facilities back so we then moved the evacuees to our Community Center as we waited for the waters to recede and areas to dry out along our coastline. We were then able to move everybody back home when conditions returned to normal. Our transportation department isn't just for seniors – it is a resource for anybody in the county that has transportation difficulties.

Ray JoĂson retired from our board recently; we want to thank Ray for his many years of service to the senior population of Wakulla County, and to our Board. Ray continues to serve our community as a Major with the Wakulla Sheriff's Office.

We would like to announce that Sue Anderson will serve as our event coordinator after Becky Black and Pat Patterson complete the first annual Christmas After Dark event.

Denise Colangelo and I began the long odyssey toward accreditation last week. We went to Tallahassee and met with the CEO of the Tallahassee Center which is accredited. Not very many centers are nationally accredited so we are lucky to have one so close. We had a long meeting with Sheila Salyer, the CEO, who also happens to serve on the national evaluation board for centers that are striving for accreditation. We learned and saw a lot including some ideas that we can start almost immediately. When we took the decision to begin this process we understood that it would take a couple years and that we may not make it all the way but knew that along the way we would only make the center better.

I will leave you with this little tidbit until next month: Whoever wrote the line "Summertime and the living is easy" was NOT from Wakulla County!

Y'all be careful with your outside projects; especially if you are over 50.

Surf Dog

From Front Page

Buddy, come on, Buddy" and Surf walked right in to their home.

Exhausted, limping, frightened and soaking wet from the downpour happening outside, approximately 10-year-old Surf was in a terrible state when he first entered the Carroll home. The Carrolls say the veterinarian reported that Surf had a mild case of heartworms, but that his joints looked great from years of roaming.

"We didn't know if he'd be happy here, and that was a big concern, but we took care of his ultimate needs," says Carroll. She and Cliff were surprised Surf chose their home. "I think he was just tired," says Cliff, who notes that Surf went into a neighbor's garage and came out before ultimately choosing their home. "He was just seeking inside," adds Carroll who notes that they may never know why Surf came in that day a year ago.

Though some people were initially upset and thought that Surf was in a home against his will – Surf chose the Carrolls and ultimately, he was able to receive the care he needed. The Carrolls said that after seeing Surf in their home even Bill Russell, who had fed Surf while he was on the streets, acknowledged that he was in the right home. The Carrolls gave Surf the name "Buddy Russell" to honor Russell's connection to the dog – he goes by both Buddy and Surf.

The Carrolls said Surf bounced back from his initial state fairly quickly – within a couple of months. Over time, Surf has learned to trust the Carrolls and his home situation. Carroll feels that her time working at the animal shelter helped her with Surf as she had gained knowledge about animal behavior.

"It's only been a year, but he's really coming around," says Cliff.

The Carrolls say that while he is still terrified of thunder and lightning, and likely always will be, he is mostly fine with noises around the house. They say Surf often looks to the sky when he goes outside – keeping a close watch for the first sign of thunder and lightning – it was something he strove to get away from when he was roaming the streets. According to Carroll, Surf always has an exit strategy, and doesn't like to be blocked in.

Surf now has a routine which includes waking up early, eating good food, going to the vet, getting excited when the Carrolls come home from work, and more.

Surf Dog and pal Murphy with Cliff and Ivanhoe Carroll.

Carroll says he is house trained, he protects his food bowl from their cat 98, and he loves traveling. He loves treats, just like most other dogs.

The Carrolls have been able to take Surf camping in their RV, on drives to Miami, and Cliff even took him to Louisiana to help deliver supplies after a hurricane. Carroll says she took Surf on a walk by the road during one of their RV camping trips – he stayed along the side, white line just like he used to when he was a street dog.

Over the past year, Surf has done a lot. His health has improved, he has explored social situations, and he has participated in events and contests. Surf was even the grand marshal for the Panacea Christmas Parade.

Carroll says, "He's very independent." Surf is more reserved compared to other dogs like his brother Murphy; however, he has adjusted relatively well to home life and interacting with more people. "We adore him," she says. "He shows us affection in his own way."

He gets along well with his family including the Carrolls and their other rescued pets – fellow dogs Murphy and Sweetie, cats 98 and Wilbur, mini donkey Hey Baby, and horse Candy. Cliff says, "All of our animals get along pretty good."

One of Surf's major accomplishments this year was winning Tallahassee Magazine's 2022 Tally Top Pet Contest. Be the Solution's Gerri Phipps had asked the Carrolls to enter Murphy. Surf was also with them this year, so they entered both Surf and Murphy into the contest.

Murphy made it to the final four before he was beat in the head-to-head brackets by Surf, who took it all the way to win the entire contest.

At the check presentation, Surf had to be in pictures and autograph magazines with his paw print, and according to the Carrolls, he did really well during the entire social situation. "He didn't seem to mind," says Carroll.

Through Tally Top Pet, Surf and other pets helped the contest raise over $69,000 for Be the Solution – an organization helping to provide low cost spay and neuter vouchers in the area.

It's been a year since Surf found his home, and although nobody knows what the future holds, the Carrolls hope Surf stays in the long run.

Carroll said, "As long as he's happy and healthy, we are too!"

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FROM THE CLERK OF COURTS

Clerk's duties include auditor to the BOCC

By GREG JAMES

Hello from the Clerk's Office! One of the many duties of the Clerk's Office is to serve as the accountant and auditor to the Board of County Commissioners, and the custodian of all County funds. As such, we are responsible for the County's investments. Did you know the County invests its funds? Like you and your personal funds, it is prudent for the County to invest "surplus dollars" in order to earn interest also.

Florida Statute 218.415 "Investment of Local Government Surplus Funds" provides the policy or rules that we must follow in our investing of County funds. The first important point that needs to be made is that we are only supposed to invest "surplus funds."

Surplus funds are defined as dollars that are not immediately needed to operate the County or pay the County's ongoing bills. The County has "surplus funds" in two ways – first, the County's taxes come in mostly in December-February and not all of those taxes are needed right away so those funds can be invested until they are needed later in the year; and second, the County has savings or "fund balances" that are not used unless there is an emergency and those savings are invested.

All of the rules that guide our investments are centered around three principles: Safety, Liquidity, and Yield. These three principles are in this order for a reason and its not because they make a neat acronym (SLY)! They are in their order of importance. Because we are investing the taxpayer's dollars, safety is always first and we never want to lose any principle. We do not invest in any investment vehicle where the principle, or any portion of it, could be lost. We might earn more interest if we invested in riskier investments but we do not because we must ensure the principle is never lost.

The second principle is liquidity. We need to make sure the investment can be returned to the County when it is needed for paying the County's bills. We could earn a very good interest rate if we invested in longer term (2 year to 10 year) investments but, if those funds were needed for operating purposes, we might have to sell them at a loss to get to the funds (see principle #1). So, liquidity rules determine that we keep the funds in short term investments of less than one year. Another consideration is the number of capital projects the County has going on at any given time. We have to ensure the funds to complete those capital projects are available. The County generally places surplus funds in what is called "overnight" investments – money market accounts at local banks or daily liquidity investment accounts. This ensures that we will always be able to have immediate access to the funds.

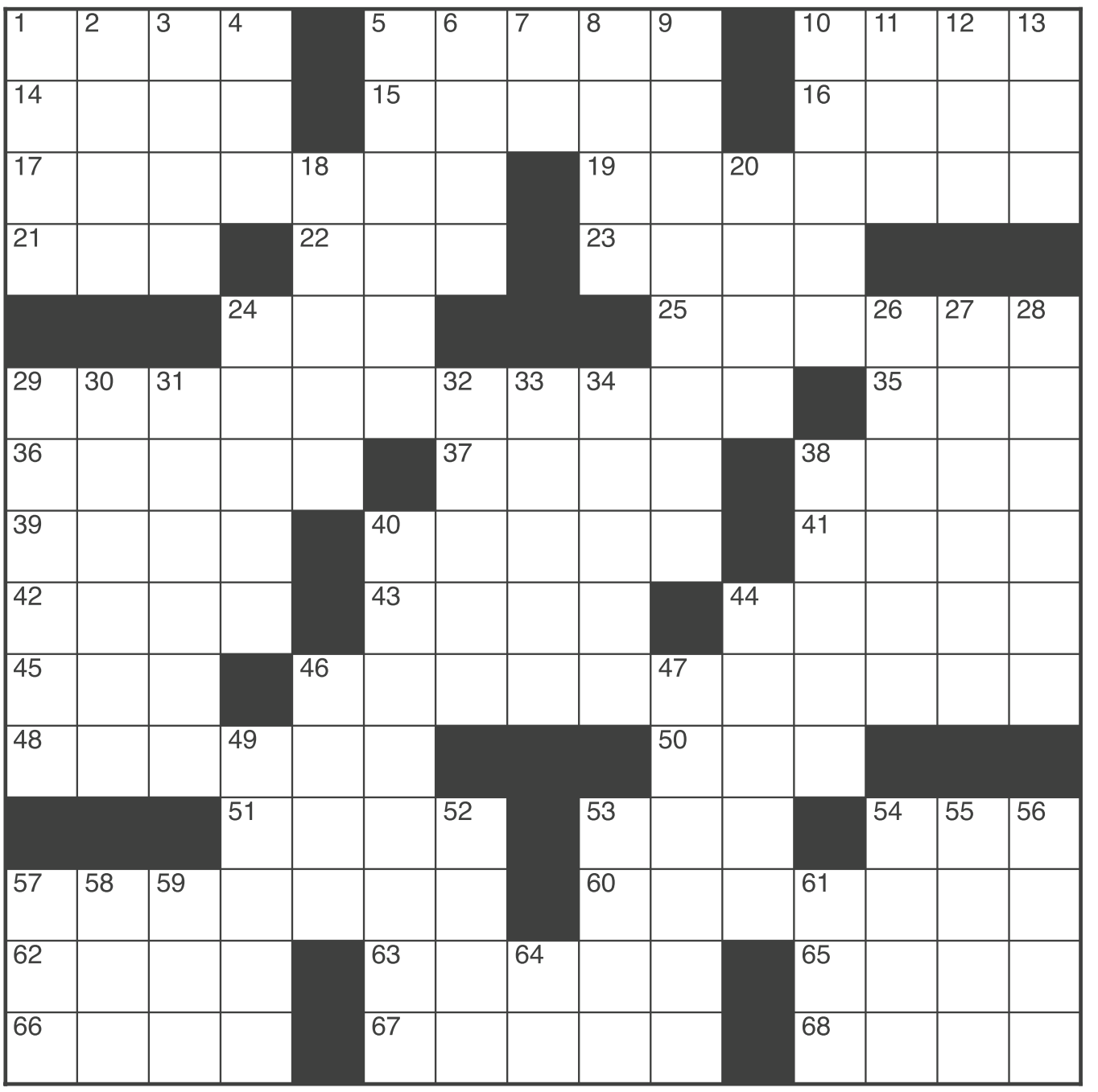
The third and last principle is yield. The interest rate that we earn should be the last consideration after ensuring the safety and liquidity of the funds. Once the safety and liquidity concerns are dealt with, we look for investments that will bring the best yield. Even then, we do not put all of the County's funds into one investment vehicle. You have probably heard the old adage "Don't put all your eggs in one basket". Well, we don't put all of the County's funds in one basket either for the same reason! We diversify, that is, we put the County's surplus funds in numerous investments with a variety of interest rates.

Last year (FY20/21), the County's surplus funds were invested in six different investments throughout the year – two local banks and four Board authorized investment pools that meet the criteria set forth in FS 218.415. The County's average investments last year were $17,726,881 that earned an average interest rate of 0.16%. The investment income for the County last year was $104,825. Given the recent interest rate hike by the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC), I anticipate the interest earnings to increase for the foreseeable future.

The Clerk's Office is also responsible for providing a detailed investment report to the Board each year. The FY20/21 report will be presented to the Board at their July 18th meeting. If you would like a copy of the report, it is available on our website at County Financial Reports – Wakulla County Clerk of Circuit Court & Comptroller (wakullaclerk.org). Let me know if you have any questions concerning the investment of your taxpayer dollars!

Greg James is Wakulla County Clerk of Courts and Comptroller.

CROSSWORD

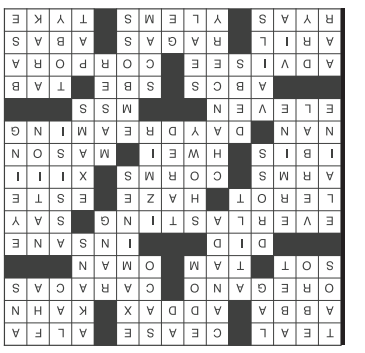


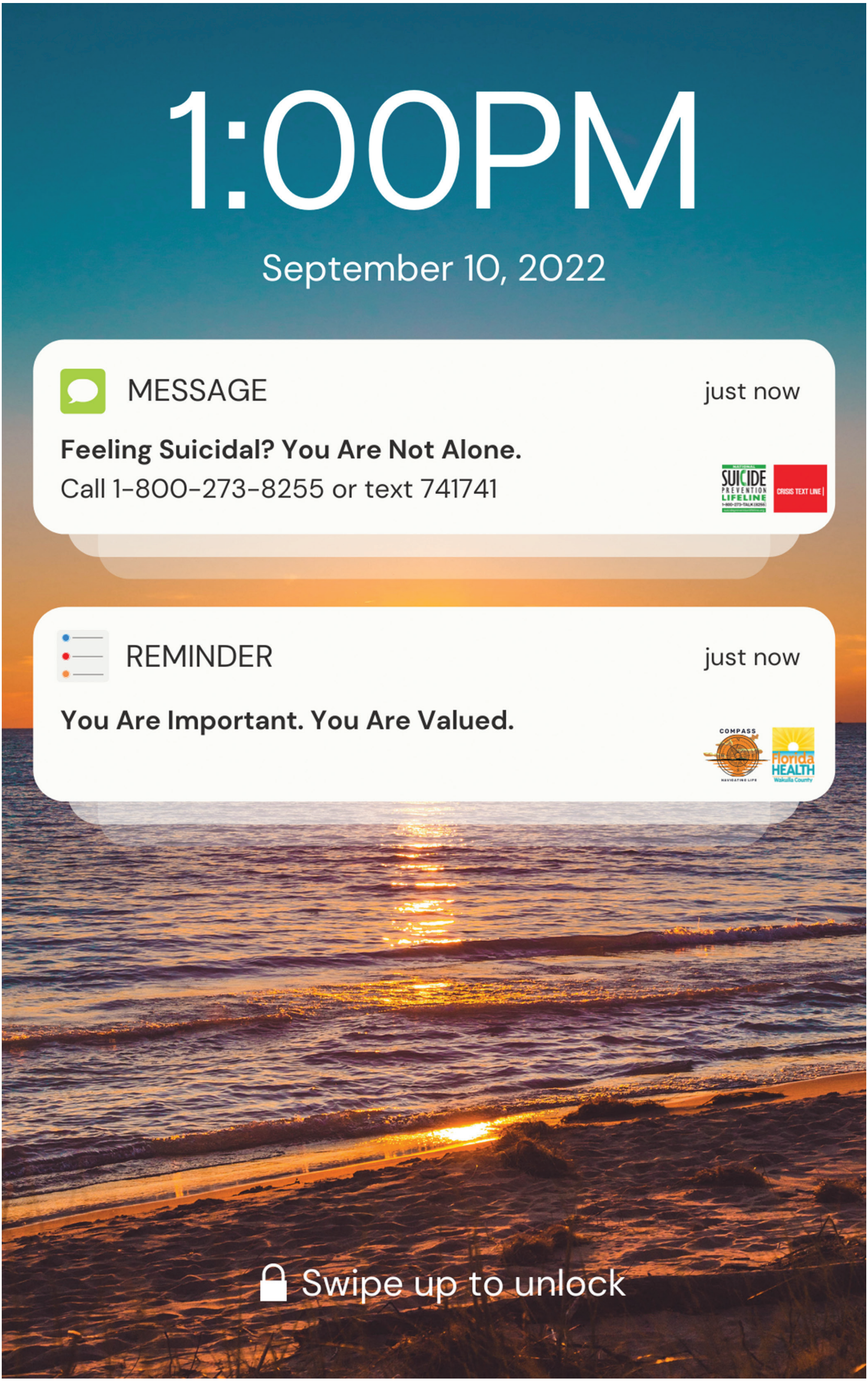
CLUES ACROSS

1. Bluish green
5. Terminate
10. __ Romeo, car
14. Swedish rock group
15. Nasomaculatus
16. Paper Moon actress Madeline
17. A.K.A. marjoram
19. So. American capital
21. Drunkard
22. Woolen cap of Scottish origin
23. Asian gulf
24. Have already done
25. Demented
29. Eternal
35. Express a supposition
36. Dormouse
37. Atmospheric moisture or dust
38. This (Spanish)
39. Equips with weaponry
40. Gladiolus bulbs
41. Thirteen
42. Storklike wading bird
43. Chinese Moslem
44. Brick artificer
45. __ Ling, Chinese mountain range
46. Engaging in reverie
48. Football team
50. Manuscripts (abbr.)
51. Basics
53. One point E of due S
54. Bar bill
57. One who receives counsel
60. Principal sums
62. Fleshy seed cover
63. Modes of Indian music
65. Cyprian St. Barn____
66. Swedish shag rugs
67. Forms of original matter
68. Small boy

CLUES DOWN

1. No. N.M. artist colony
2. A Spanish river
3. Assist a plan of action
4. Tarry behind
5. North American nation
6. A.K.A. Esau
7. A public promotion
8. New England river
9. Considers in detail
10. Members of Star Trek race Mint_____
11. Insect secretion used in varnish
12. Agency insuring home mortgages
13. Autonomic nervous system
18. Canted
20. Resounded
24. Impurity
26. St. Francis of __
27. Body politic
28. Perceive with attention
29. __ May, actress
30. Wordy
31. Shorttail weasel
32. Flamboyant
33. Deduced weight of
34. Turkish seaport
38. Tests
40. For public or ecclesiastic records
44. "Love Takes Time" Director Walter
46. Young women in society
47. A way to imprint
49. Doffs
52. A tight and perfect closure
53. Trickery
54. Type of jug
55. Previously Sultanabad
56. Military installation
57. Swiss river
58. Not wet
59. By way of
61. Mrs. Nixon
64. Parent of NBC

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Al Hartman, aka The Old Pro – Summertime

By AL HARTMAN

The weather is is hot and so is the fishing. But go in the early morning or later in the evening if fishing shallow waters. The fish don't seem to like the hot weather any more than we do. From daybreak to about 11 in the morning sea trout and reds are hitting crankbaits, live shrimp, live minnows and plastic grubs behind popping corks close to shore. But when the heat warms the waters they are gone.

If you are fishing offshore, things are different. Grouper and sea bass are gobbling up just about anything in the cooler waters. Some sheepshead and hogfish are around the barge wreck off St. Marks Light, but their are some monster barracudas down there and they will snatch your fish when you hook them. They cut several in half on us. We hooked a barracuda but the fight didn't last long as it cut the line.

Following the death of more than 1,600 manatees since Jan. 2021 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has ramped up to establish seagrass replanting for the manatees to eat. The Indian River Lagoon had a record die-off of seagrass and many manatees starved to death. The new habitat upgrades by the FWS should help the manatees to recover, but it will be slow.

If you have signed up with My FWC.com you probably know about the the FWC trophy catch. Ten bass have been tagged and released in 10 differant lakes in Florida. Lake Talquin is one of them. The bass are tagged with a pink numbered tag and make that bass worth a $5,000 gift card from Bass Pro shop and $1,000 card from Aftco if you catch him. Go to MyFWC.com for details. The first one so far this year was caught by Dale Dew near Tampa.

I got this from FWC this week:

You can help biologists learn more about Florida's wild turkey population by reporting all wild turkeys you see during your normal daily activities from June 1 to Aug. 31. It's important we get as many reported sightings as possible during this annual survey. Our goal is over 4,000 reported sightings this year (last year we had about 3,000) and we need your help to achieve that. Get started reporting wild turkeys on your mobile device by downloading the Survey123ArcGIS app or report sightings online.

Scallop season for us is coming and starts July 1 and runs until Sept. 24. So get your dive an snorkel gear checked out to be ready. Last season was good and this season should be on par too!

Well, happy fishing, an take a young'un.

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