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VOL. 1, NO. 7 • NOVEMBER 2022

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Dr. Dave Pierce

The retired doctor in Sopchoppy was called to help a mission in South Sudan

By CHARITY TUMBLESON
Reporter

Dr. Dave Pierce, a resident of Sopchoppy, started out life out in southern New England. "With no intentions of staying," Pierce says.

Pierce moved to Baltimore for a few years after finishing his undergrad in Buffalo, New York, eventually coming to south Florida in 1974, working as a registered nurse.

Pierce then came to North Florida, to a town called White Springs on the Suwannee River where he ran bicycle tours for more than 10



Dr. Dave Pierce outside the Towles House in Sopchoppy.

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FOR WAKULLA COUNTY JUDGE



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PLEASE VOTE ON
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

PAID BY BRIAN MILLER FOR WAKULLA COUNTY JUDGE

Quincee Messersmith

for
County Commissioner



I am seeking reelection to the Wakulla County Commission, District 4 where I have lived for the last 23 years, and I humbly ask for your consideration for support and your vote in the November general election.

It is both encouraging and inspiring to be a part of the efforts and decision-making process that make Wakulla a great place to live, to raise our children, and to retire.

As your County Commissioner, I have taken the time to know the issues. To remain "accessible and involved", and make knowledgeable, positive decisions that have been for the benefit of all residents.

I believe that when we look around, whether we are fishing from the newly renovated fishing pier at Woolley Park, camping at our Newport Campground, or enjoying one of our many trails, we all have a lot to be thankful for.

Wakulla's fabric of life is too special to stop quilting now. I humbly ask for your support and vote on November 8th. For those who love Wakulla County, I'm Quincee Messersmith.

You may reach me at 850-933-8371
or q.mmissioner@gmail.com

Paid for by Quincee Messersmith for Wakulla County Commission, District 4, Republican.

The 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).



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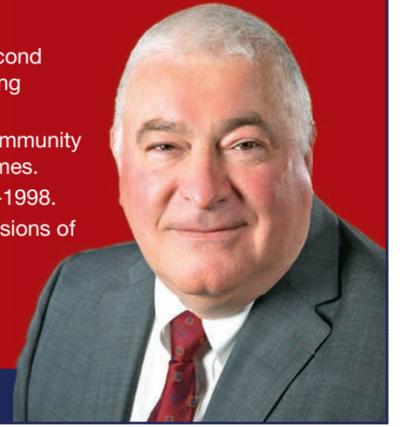
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Paid by Eddie Evans for Wakulla County Judge, Group One.

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- Assistant State Attorney since 1992 keeping our community safe by prosecuting those who have committed crimes.
- State Attorney Office's Wakulla Division Chief 1996-1998.
- Over 100 jury trials in both the criminal and civil divisions of the court.
- 30 year member of the Florida Bar.
- Served 20 years on the Sopchoppy City Council.
- Currently serving as a deacon in his church.



Candy and her kittens at the Wakulla County Animal Shelter.

The shelter is bursting at the seams with pets



By **JOANN SANDERS**

This is the story of just one of many cats the shelter has recently taken in.

"Candy" was found panting, bleeding, and about to give birth outside a residence in one of our local neighborhoods. It just so happens that one of our lifesaving fosters was at the shelter when the call came in. She immediately volunteered to go get the cat and care for her, giving us time to scramble for a plan to save her and the little ones she was about to give birth to.

Very soon after Candy was settled into a spare room in her foster's home, she brought eight tiny babies into the world that will be needing loving homes.

In addition to Candy, we've recently

taken in many others cats that were either lost or experiencing some sort of distress ...two fixed and microchipped cats that weren't properly registered, two beautiful and sweet owner-surrenders, a very tired and thin calico, two tiny kittens found all alone and hiding in a culvert, starving and crying for their mother, two one-day-old newborns that are being bottle fed by a dedicated first-time foster, and these are just a sampling of the recent intakes on the cat side of the shelter.

There are also many dogs coming into the shelter in distress too, and more often than not, no one ever comes for them.

Sadly, our little shelter is bursting at the seams! At the time of this writing, we have only one open cat kennel, and just a few open dog kennels in an already overcrowded shelter.

If you've ever thought about adopting a pet, now is the time! If you've ever considered fostering, now is a great time to apply!

Lives are at stake, and each one of

them is precious and unique. The animals aren't to blame for the predicament they're in. Someone in the past has let them down and we believe they are worthy of a chance at a better life.

There are many ways you can help! Donations of food, blankets, and toys are always welcome.

Monetary donations are also appreciated and are used to cover vet bills, and to purchase much-needed supplies.

In addition, we encourage you to have meaningful conversations with your friends about the importance of spaying and neutering your pets.

And lastly, don't underestimate the power of sharing our newspaper articles and Facebook posts with your friends! By sharing, you may reach someone's heart and save a life!

As always, we thank you for your continued support as we try to save the lives of Wakulla County's homeless pet population.

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- ✓ Be a true fiscal conservative by voting to reinstate impact fees on new subdivisions, protecting current residents from unfair tax hikes.
- ✓ Vote against subdivision proposals in the Wakulla Springs Priority Focus Area that are on outdated, high-polluting septic.
- ✓ Prioritize parks and programs for youth.
- ✓ Listen to you—the people who live here.
- ✓ Work to maintain the unique character of this beautiful, rural county for our children and grandchildren.

I would appreciate your vote on Nov. 8th. Please reach out to me any time at:

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Paid by John Quinton, Democrat, for Wakulla County Commissioner, District 2

Important birthdays over age 50



By **BRIAN ENGLISH**

than the last.

When you are older, “and-a-half” birthdays start making a comeback. In fact, starting at age 50, several birthdays and “half-birthdays” are critical to understand because they have implications regarding your retirement income.

AGE 50

Most children stop being “and-a-half” somewhere around age 12. Kids add “and-a-half” to make sure everyone knows they’re closer to the next age

At age 50, workers in certain qualified retirement plans are able to begin making annual catch-up contributions in addition to their normal con-

tributions. Those who participate in 401(k), 403(b), and 457 plans can contribute an additional \$6,500 per year in 2022. Those who participate in Simple Individual Retirement Account (IRA) or Simple 401(k) plans can make a catch-up contribution of up to \$3,000 in 2022. And those who participate in traditional or Roth IRAs can set aside an additional \$1,000 a year.^{1,2}

AGE 59½

At age 59½, workers are able to start making withdrawals from qualified retirement plans without incurring a 10% federal income-tax penalty. This applies to workers who have contributed to IRAs and employer-sponsored plans, such as 401(k) and 403(b) plans (457 plans are never subject to the 10% penalty). Keep in mind that distributions from traditional IRAs, 401(k) plans, and other em-

ployer-sponsored retirement plans are taxed as ordinary income.

AGE 62

At age 62 workers are first able to draw Social Security retirement benefits. However, if a person continues to work, those benefits will be reduced. The Social Security Administration will deduct \$1 in benefits for each \$2 an individual earns above an annual limit. In 2022, the income limit is \$19,560.3

AGE 65

At age 65, individuals can qualify for Medicare. The Social Security Administration recommends applying three months before reaching age 65. It’s important to note that if you are already receiving Social Security benefits, you will automatically be enrolled in Medicare Part A (hospitalization) and Part B (medical insur-

ance) without an additional application.⁴

AGE 65 TO 67

Between ages 65 and 67, individuals become eligible to receive 100% of their Social Security benefit. The age varies, depending on birth year. Individuals born in 1955, for example, become eligible to receive 100% of their benefits when they reach age 66 years and 2 months. Those born in 1960 or later need to reach age 67 before they’ll become eligible to receive full benefits.⁵

AGE 72

In most circumstances, once you reach age 72, you must begin taking required minimum distributions from a traditional Individual Retirement Account and other defined contribution plans. You may continue to contribute to a traditional IRA past age 70½ as long as you meet the earned-income requirement. Understanding key birthdays may help

you better prepare for certain retirement income and benefits. But perhaps more importantly, knowing key birthdays can help you avoid penalties that may be imposed if you miss the date.

1. If you reach the age of 50 before the end of the calendar year.
2. IRS.gov, 2022
3. SSA.gov, 2022
4. SSA.gov, 2022. Individuals can decline Part B coverage because it requires an additional premium payment.
5. SSA.gov, 2022

Brian can be reached at (850) 926-7487.

Brian can be reached at (850) 926-7487.

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Yesterday Is Gone Forever

Yesterday is gone forever, never again to relive; did you make it a day to remember, or was there much of yourself left to give?

Today is the time of the present, draw your attention to this day; don't forget to live and love and make a little time just to play.

Have you counted the cost that you paid? Living tomorrow, while forgetting about today. Time is special, and it flies by in a day, So don't forget about today.

What about the bedtime stories; when you tuck the little ones in the bed? And what about the night time prayers; the ones you never said?

What about the promises; that you forgot to keep, and those special words; that you forgot to speak? (I love you)

what about the hugs, and a kiss; and all the love, your children miss? Yesterday is gone forever.

Tony Duncan
 -All Glory Given to Jesus
 (formerly published in "Love And Luminaries"
 The International Library of Poetry)

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Dr. Dave Pierce

From Front Page

years.

Upon reaching his 40s Pierce decided to return to the medical field and got accepted into the University of Florida nurse practitioner program.

“That’s what I was really planning on doing until God stuck his foot in and told me I was going to med school,” he says, “and so I went to med school.”

After becoming a doctor, he practiced emergency medicine because he wanted a set schedule and didn’t want to be on call. Over his medical career he worked in the emergency rooms at hospitals all over the region. He recently retired.

Throughout Pierce’s life – for 27 years – he says did not believe in God. “I didn’t believe in it and it was not working,” he says. “God in the meantime continued to bless me and I actually knew it for most of the time that it was Him. I just had not truly come to terms with the gospel again.”

One night God started talking to Pierce and he was confronted with what he called, “the abyss of His grace.”

After Pierce’s encounter with God, he says, “There were no more questions. Because it is boundless, it is far more than you can dream or conceive. And when you really understand that we are totally forgiven,

that there’s no contract, because God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow no matter what we do.”

Giving his life to God, Pierce eventually got involved at Eastgate Christian Church in Panama City traveling back and forth from Sopchoppy.

“So I eventually bought a little mobile home so I had a place to stay on the long weekends when I both was going to work a couple of shifts and be there for church on Sundays,” he says.

In due course, he invited his adopted family, whom he met in medical school, to make the trip from Missouri to Sopchoppy for better employment opportunities.

“God had found a practice for my friends in Panama City, so they were planning on moving there,” he says. “And they were coming along with me every weekend with me and staying in this same mobile home. When this whole thing came through with the practice, I had a better job over there and we

all ended up moving into that trailer.”

One day, a missionary couple came to the church and made friends with Pierce’s adopted family, eventually spending a Christmas together in the trailer. “So that’s how I met them. And they did, they wound up spending Christmas in the trailer.” One of the missionaries, Suzy Kaj, founded In Deed and Truth Ministries, which focused on building up South Sudan and training the local people to be self sufficient.

Shortly after as Pierce was having lunch with his pastor, Rob, in Panama City, who was contemplating going on a mission to South Sudan.

“I just kind of looked at him because one thing I know about Rob is that he hates traveling,” Pierce says. “He had been to Haiti and he absolutely had a horrible time. At which point, the Holy Spirit said to me, ‘If he wants to go to South Sudan, make it happen.’ So I said OK. So after a week or so I

said Rob you’re going.”

Two months before Pastor Rob was due to go to South Sudan, Pierce found out Rob thought he was coming along with him.

“That was not my intention at all, South Sudan was about the last place on earth I wanted to go,” he says. But after lots of prayers, Pierce knew it was God’s design and will for him to go, and Pierce made his first mission trip to Sudan in 2010.

“It’s totally different over there. There is no power grid, there’s no city water, and there are no utilities whatsoever. But the thing is if you want power in South Sudan you figure out your own power source. If you want water, you dig a borehole.”

In 2019, a solar power system was designed and installed by a mission group working out of Missouri, that focused on serving the missionaries.

“It has done everything it was designed to do. I was just there during the rainy season, and we did not need the generator once,” Pierce says.

The mission of the

trip was to train local pastors and eventually to make it a locally driven proposition.

“And as it stands now that hospital is completely run by locals, who we trained.”

Currently, there are six clinical officers, two nurses, a medical technologist, and a hospital administrator who has a degree in hospital administration.

On the mission, high school grads from the area were hired and trained.

“Those that were really interested in getting into what we were doing, and wanted to work more than a year for us, we would send them usually to Nairobi, Kenya, and sometimes to Uganda,” Pierce says. “They graduated their first class in 2012,” in Pierce’s second trip to Sudan.

Seeing over 100 patients a day in the small clinic, a plan was started for a bigger clinic.

Pierce went back to Sudan in 2018 for the dedication of a new clinic.

Now the clinic in South Sudan sees 60,000 patients a year

and delivers more than 500 babies a year.

“They actually had procured a brick machine and made all 42,000 bricks that went into the building, and it had metal frames that a German architect actually supervised welding and putting up for them when he was there one time,” Pierce says.

“From that time on, I never worked in the clinic again, I was always involved in other things.”

Pierce continues to travel to Panama City in his free time and is a member on the board of In Deed and Truth Ministries. Pierce also spends his time reaching out to the community and helps with the community dinners hosted every week at the Towles House in Sopchoppy. These community dinners are free to anyone and everyone is welcomed.

“We now have 30 churches that we planted, that we need to supply pastors for,” Pierce says. “It was an amazing mission and an amazing place. And the people that have been involved in it are incredible.”

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Hurricane Ian shows time to prepare for disaster is now



By **JARED MILLER**
Wakulla Sheriff

From the Desk of Sheriff Miller:

Recently much of our state was seriously impacted by Hurricane Ian.

Sadly, for those affected the cleanup and recovery from such an event will take years to complete. Every-

one who was paying attention in the lead up to the storm will remember two things, first up until about 48 hours prior to landfall Wakulla County was very much in Ian's path, and second until shortly before landfall, Lee County was not expecting a direct impact.

These two points are really two sides of the same coin. I want to take time with this month's article to talk about some of the lessons we can take away from this storm.

I know that this year's hurricane season is largely winding down, but it still bears repeating that the time to prepare for any po-

tential disaster is now.

If Ian can teach us anything it's that while hurricane forecast has improved, they are still imperfect. Though this year's season is mostly over, take these lessons to heart. The start of every hurricane season, is the time to prepare for any potential impacts as much as possible.

Citizens should make sure they have a stash of several days worth of food, water, batteries and pet food if necessary.

Citizens should develop a plan as to when and if they will evacuate any potential storm and where they would evacuate to. Do this when the season starts

so you do not have to rush later, when time is of the essence.

In the event that a future hurricane enters the Gulf of Mexico or has a predicted path that may affect us, citizens should begin to make more immediate preparations such as obtaining emergency supplies of medication or gasoline.

Already having a plan for emergency food/water and whether or not your family will evacuate will eliminate a lot of stress during this time period.

Again, hurricane paths are hard to predict, do not assume that just because 4-6 days out a storm is not

expected to affect us, that the forecast will not change.

Unfortunately, as we saw with Ian, hurricane paths are unpredictable. If you wait until 2-3 days before the expected arrival of a storm there may not be sufficient supplies of needed items available at local stores.

Additionally, travel on the roadways is often slowed during these time periods as numerous citizens flee the path of storms.

The takeaway I would like everyone to have is prepare before it is necessary, have supplies and have a plan.

I will always encourage everyone to evacu-

ate if you the ability to.

Please continue to pray for our neighbors in south Florida as they continue with the long work of recovery.

Don't forget to download the WCSO mobile app and follow WCSO social media pages as they are the key ways my office communicates with the public (both during emergencies and on an everyday basis).

As always, my door is always open, if there is anything I or a member of my staff can help you with please don't hesitate to call, 850-745-7101.

Your Sheriff,
Jared F. Miller

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On the Horizon The monthly calendar of events

Tuesday, November 1

850-228-9214.

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

Wednesday, November 2

• Intro to Tai Chi held at the Wakulla County Community Center from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. All ability levels are welcome and wear comfortable clothing. Any questions can be directed to Rich or Terri Bushman at 850-228-9214.
• A Line Dance class will be held at 1 p.m. at the Wakulla Senior Center.

Thursday, November 3

• The VFW Auxiliary Bingo Night will be held at 7 p.m. at 475 Arran Road in Crawfordville. There will be concessions and raffles.
• The Rotary Club of Wakulla County will have its Friendsgiving breakfast at the public library at 8:30 a.m.

Saturday, November 5

• Annual Veterans Day Parade will start at 10 a.m. at Hudson Park. At 11 a.m., a memorial ceremony will be held at the Wakulla Community Center. After the ceremony, a box lunch will be provided for veterans from Mission BBQ.
• Panacea Farmers Market held in Downtown Panacea next to the Panacea fire department from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Local vendors will be selling homemade and homegrown items and food vendors will be there.
• Intro to Tai Chi held at the Wakulla County Community Center from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. All ability levels are welcome and wear comfortable clothing. Any questions can be directed to Rich or Terri Bushman at

Monday, November 7

• The Wakulla Respite Program will be available for anyone with memory impairment at no cost from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lake Ellen Baptist Church
• The Wakulla Caregiver Support Group will meet at Lake Ellen Baptist Church at 12:30 p.m.
• The BOCC will have a workshop regarding the Broadband Study and Implementation Plan at the Commission Chambers at 3 p.m.

Tuesday, November 8

• Election Day. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
• Sopchoppy Community Dinner is held every week at the Towles House at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 9

• Intro to Tai Chi held at the Wakulla County Community Center from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. All ability levels are welcome and wear comfortable clothing. Any questions can be directed to Rich or Terri Bushman at 850-228-9214.
• A Line Dance class will be held at 1 p.m. at the Wakulla Senior Center.
• The Wakulla County Garden Club will be meeting at the Wakulla County public library hosting presentations and workshops about gardening in Wakulla soil at 12 p.m.

Thursday, November 10

• The VFW Auxiliary Bingo Night will be held at 7 p.m. at 475 Arran Road in Crawfordville. There will be concessions and raffles.
• The Sopchoppy Depot Committee meets at the Depot, 34 Railroad Avenue at 4:30 p.m.

• The St. Marks City Commission meets at City Hall at 6 p.m.
• The Wakulla County Tourist Development Council public meets at the Ochlocknee River State Park at 9 a.m.
• The Rotary Club of Wakulla County meets weekly at the TCC Wakulla Center at 8:30 a.m.

Saturday, November 12

• Oyster and Mullet Festival will be held in Sopchoppy at Sopchoppy Depot Park from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Local vendors will be selling homemade and handcrafted items and food vendors will be there.
• Intro to Tai Chi held at the Wakulla County Community Center from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.
• The Wakulla Caregiver Support Group will meet at the Wakulla County Public Library at 10 a.m.

Monday, November 14

• The Wakulla Respite Program will be available for anyone with memory impairment at no cost from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lake Ellen Baptist Church.
• The Sopchoppy City Commission meets Sopchoppy City Hall at 6:30 p.m.
• The Alzheimers Support Group meets at Lake Ellen Baptist Church from 9:30a.m. To 10:30a.m.

Tuesday, November 15

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

Wednesday, November 16

• Intro to Tai Chi held at the Wakulla County Community Center from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. • A Line Dance class will be held at 1 p.m. at the Wakulla Senior Center.

Thursday, November 17

• The VFW Auxiliary Bingo Night will be held at 7 p.m. at 475 Arran Road in Crawfordville. There will be concessions and raffles.
• The Rotary Club of Wakulla County will have their weekly meeting at the TCC Wakulla Center at 8:30 a.m.

Friday, November 18

• 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.

Saturday, November 19

• Intro to Tai Chi held at the Wakulla County Community Center from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Monday, November 21

• The Wakulla Respite Program will be available for anyone with memory impairment at no cost from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lake Ellen Baptist Church
• The American Legion Post 114 meets at the Wakulla County Public Library at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 22

• The county commission meets in the Commission Chambers at 5 p.m. The commissioners elected on Nov. 8 will be sworn-in.
• Sopchoppy Community Dinner is held every week at the Towles House at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 23

• Intro to Tai Chi held at the Wakulla County Community Center from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.
• A Line Dance class will be held at 1 p.m. at the Wakulla Senior Center

Thursday, November 24

• Happy Thanksgiving!

Saturday, November 26

• Intro to Tai Chi held at the Wakulla County Community Center from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Monday, November 28

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

Tuesday, November 29

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

Wednesday, November 30

• Intro to Tai Chi held at the Wakulla County Community Center from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.
• A Line Dance class will be held at 1 p.m. at the Wakulla Senior Center.



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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. This article is from August 1964.

Memories of my grandfather, Robert Walker Ashmore

By **Blanche Syfret MacKnight**

(Mrs. MacKnight is the daughter of Carrie Ashmore and Daniel Wesley Syfret. She was born near Ashmore Station north of Sopchoppy, lives in DeLand, and is a free lance writer of numerous magazine articles, largely of an historical nature. The MAGNOLIA MONTHLY is grateful for her following account of her grandparents and life in Wakulla County in the 1890's.)

My grandfather had a college degree before he came to Florida from South Carolina, and for awhile he taught school in Wakulla County and married one of his pupils, Louisa Bostwick, my grandmother. I have been told that grandpa was a colonel in the Civil War.

My earliest recollections were of a man with white hair and a long white beard, a man of little words but an avid reader and a deep thinker. I remember the family library with shelves and tables filled with all types of books and he subscribed to the leading magazines and newspapers of the day.

Grandpa owned several hundred acres of land at one time and much of this was planted in general crops. He also owned considerable acreage in pineland which he later sold for lumbering and turpentine purposes. He had several hundred head of cattle.

Grandma and Grandpa lived in a large log cabin built like the pioneer houses of those early days, with a breezeway in the middle and a large piazza across the entire front. This was the only home they had in Wakulla County.

Grandma was a petite blonde with pretty blue eyes. Altho there were several children, Grandpa left the rearing of the family to her. He rarely took up any time with the young children, but he was a kind, human individual and a good disciplinarian. When he spoke, the children listened and obeyed. To get away from the daily routine of household drudgery, it was said that Grandma often saddled a horse and rode off into the woods and country lanes for 2 or 3 hours.

One of my aunts, whom I never knew, was Nannie Ashmore, who was said to have been a beautiful young lady. She died of tuberculosis around the age of 20. There was another child in the family who died about the age of 5.

To go back to the farm, I think just about every type of fruit was grown on the place: peaches, pears, figs, pomegranates, quince, and Japanese persimmons. Every fruit or shrub salesman that came along found a ready customer in my grandfather. There was a big orchard of mulberry trees and we grandchildren had a wonderful time when they ripened.

The Ashmores produced practically everything they ate...which was not unusual, since everyone else did too. There was an old spinning wheel at my grandfather's place on which grandma spun and wove during the Civil War. They also had a large flock of geese that provided feathers for beds and pillows. Grandpa kept bees, raised sugar cane, had hogs, cattle, and corn, and his place was a typical southern plantation except for one thing. He had no slaves.

In addition to the farm grandpa operated a general store at Ashmore Station and was the postmaster until his death. At one time he may have been quite well-to-do, but during his last years he extended so much credit and went on so many of his neighbors' notes that he died a poor man.

I guess kindness was his finest trait. When I was 8 years old, I remember a hurricane that struck the northwest Gulf Coast and extended inland. The grand old oaks, some more than a century old, that surrounded grandpa's house were uprooted and the roof on the front porch blown off. During a lull in the storm which lasted two days and a night, a Negro woman who lived about a mile away in the woods, braved the storm and fallen trees to come to my grandparents' house. She said the roof of her little one-room shanty had blown off and she and her children were without food. Grandpa sent one of the boys back with her to get the children and they stayed at grandpa's house until their place could be repaired.

Grandpa didn't complain. Even tho his crops and fruit for the year were destroyed, he went about without a word and diligently set about to restore the loss.

Another time grandpa took his horse and rode to Crawfordville on business. When he did not return at the expected time, the family began to worry, and the anxiety mounted when the old gray horse came back with the stirrups dangling. A few hours later grandpa half stumbled, and half crawled into the yard. He had been assaulted, robbed, and beaten about the head by two men he said. He was in bed two weeks recovering from the attack, but again he did not complain.

My uncles helped with all the work on the farm and Walter, the oldest, assumed the largest responsibility. He was the one to take the long trips to Tallahassee for supplies and farm equipment. At Christmastime, Wakulla County families went to Tallahassee in caravans. They would stop to camp at Long Pond, a few miles south of the capital. In those days the children were lucky to get some peppermint stick candy or an apple or orange in their Christmas stocking. My Uncle Walter said he could never get a complete set of clothes at the same time. If he received a new suit his shoes would be worn out.

And this brings up the subject of my grandmother's ruined taffeta dress. I think this must have been sometime in the 1880's and the material had been given to grandma by a friend.

The annual foot-washing ceremony at the West Sopchoppy Primitive Baptist Church was held annually. Everyone looked forward to the event. On this particular Sunday grandma, dressed in her taffeta gown and carrying the youngest baby, went to the home coming. My grandparents were not members of the church, but they often attended services there. The preacher always prefaced his sermons with these words, "Well folks, I hope you are all well today. As for me, I was sick all day yesterday, all the day before, and am by no means well today." Grandma said he started all his sermons this way.

Grandma was annoyed by all the crying infants and was proud that her baby had fallen asleep. But the inevitable happened. It awoke and started to cry. She quietly went outside to feed the baby and sat down under the eaves beneath an open window. She could hear the people inside preparing for the foot-washing. They began singing "Wash me and I will be whiter than snow."

She hated to be missing this part of the service, but she had little time for regrets before a shower of water hurled out the window and drenched both she and the youngster. The baby screamed and communicants came out to view the disaster. Someone found a blanket to wrap about the baby and they led grandma to a little anteroom where the ladies each contributed an item of apparel while hers and the baby's dried in the sun. A freckle-faced lad watching the unscheduled dousing said, "She shore did get a baptizin', didn't she?" And one of the elders shook his head and said, "We didn't know you were sitting out there when we threw out the tub of water." Both the day and the taffeta dress were ruined for grandma.

I spent a lot of Saturdays with my grandparents. I helped grandma sweep the yard, which was the size of a city block, with a broom that was made from gallberry bushes. Then we'd walk a half mile to grandpa's store where I'd get a bag of candy.

The Ashmore home was a hospitable one. Relatives came often and stayed long. Once during a cane grinding time a group of young folks came up from Carrabelle for the weekend. A hog was killed for the occasion and eaten entirely during those few days. The Ashmores also had an organ operated with a bellows, probably the first in the vicinity, and Nannie would play it on Sunday afternoons while we all gathered round and sang.

One of grandpa's boys, George, went to the South Florida Military Academy in Bartow for 2 years. His brother, John Henry, decided to try out a northern college in Poughkeepsie, New York. But after a year he came home and told his parents, "I couldn't understand a word they said." But the Ashmore boys were ambitious and pieced out the education with correspondence courses and lessons on musical instruments.

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.

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William Snowden
Editor & Publisher
The Wakulla Sun

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Real life time



By GREG GAST

So what is time?

Time is the continued sequence of existence and events that occur in an apparently irreversible succession from past, through present, into future. It is used to measure a sequence of events,

to compare the duration of events or the intervals between them and to quantify rates of change of quantities in material reality and conscious experience.

On a psychological level, when life speeds up, time slows down, such as at moments of great threat.

During a time of trauma time slows up so the will can act.

If you are about to be run over by a car, time slows down so you can hopefully jump out of the way.

People who have panic attack that last about 10-15

minutes actually will tell you they feel like the lasts for an eternity.

Time has long been an important in religion, philosophy, and science.

Memory-based time is carried out in branch-like patterns. For example: If I asked you to search your memory for happy times in your life, you could answer based on a year to year basis, month to month, week to week, day to day, hour to hour, and so on.

Time is the backdrop upon which we live our lives. At a practical level each

moment in time carries the potential for great integrity within our lives.

If we can live in the present becoming aware of the moments as they flow by we can connect to a thread of meaning that attaches moments together beyond time.

This thread can be strengthened, like a chain that anchors our security in a complex world.

You are you, right now and also a child at five wanting to be held, and a teenager at their first dance, and a young adult going to their first job.

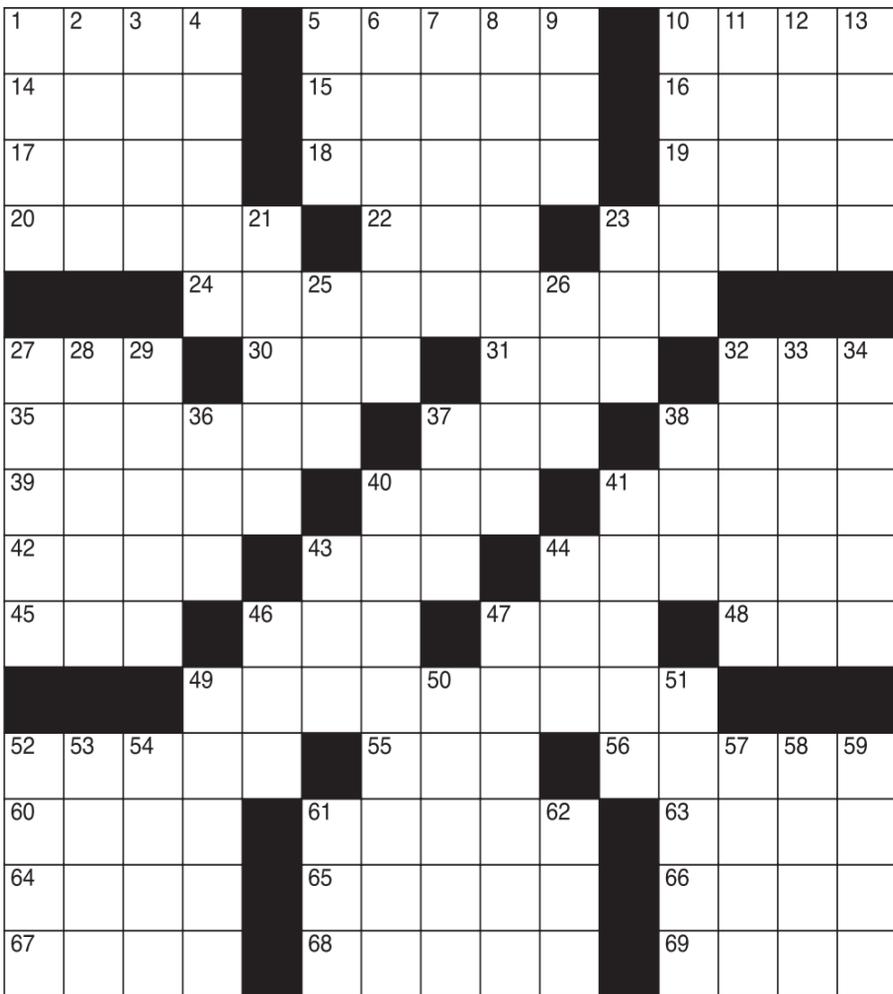
Through time we become more truly ourselves. Perhaps this is what we experience on our way to death. The weaving of our personal quilts of moments of time, big and small, all bound together. Maybe time slows into death approaching a place of separation from our current experiences of time and revealing a timelessness of an afterlife.

Perhaps that is what Quantum Physicists see when they look at the edges of the universe of huge and tiny. As wise shamans have always known be-

yond the ticks and tocks of time that we structure our existence. The oneness beyond time.

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.



CLUES ACROSS

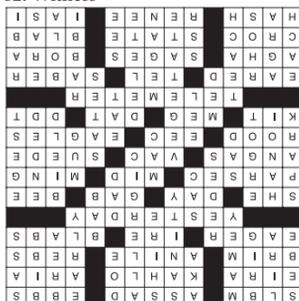
- 1. Nuclear undersea weapon
- 5. President of Syria al-__
- 10. Partner to flows
- 14. "Snow" in Welsh
- 15. Famed Mexican painter
- 16. Song
- 17. ticks outward from the crown
- 18. Doddering
- 19. Resist authority (slang)
- 20. Antsy
- 22. Wrath
- 23. Spills the beans
- 24. Past
- 27. The woman
- 30. One has 24 hours
- 31. Talk
- 32. It can sting
- 35. Astronomy unit
- 37. Halfway
- 38. Chinese dynasty
- 39. Australian river
- 40. Software to transfer audio (abbr.)
- 41. Fabric
- 42. Crucifix
- 43. Defunct European economic group
- 44. "Hotel California" rockers
- 45. Michael Knight's car
- 46. Actress Ryan
- 47. A digital tape recording of sound
- 48. Insecticide
- 49. Scientific instrument
- 52. Golden-__ corn

55. Israeli city __ Aviv

- 56. Sword
- 60. Ottoman military title
- 61. Aromatic plants
- 63. Cold wind
- 64. Large, semiaquatic reptile (slang)
- 65. Political unit
- 66. Indiscreetly reveal secrets
- 67. Comfort food dish
- 68. Actress Zellweger
- 69. Romanian city

CLUES DOWN

- 1. One point east of southeast
- 2. Italian monetary unit
- 3. Warship prison
- 4. Tropical American tree
- 5. Alias
- 6. Normal or sound powers of mind
- 7. English county
- 8. Not compatible with
- 9. Female deer
- 10. Not late
- 11. La __ Tar Pits, Hollywood
- 12. "Jupiter's Legacy" actress Leslie
- 13. Impudence
- 21. Advises
- 23. Founder of Babism
- 25. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- 26. Male parent
- 27. A type of plug
- 28. Capital of Vietnam
- 29. Fungal disease
- 32. Shelter
- 33. Finished
- 34. Excrete
- 36. Unhappy
- 37. Partner to cheese
- 38. Coffee receptacle
- 40. Spend time dully
- 41. Makes full
- 43. Snakelike fish
- 44. Take in solid food
- 46. __ student, learns healing
- 47. A way to take away
- 49. Impart a lesson to
- 50. "Transformers" actress Fox
- 51. Spiritual leader
- 52. Every one of two or more things
- 53. Indian city
- 54. 17th stars
- 57. Weapon
- 58. Amounts of time
- 59. Isodor __, American Nobel physicist
- 61. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 62. Witness



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FROM THE CLERK OF COURTS

How does tax deed process work?



By GREG JAMES

Hello from the Clerk's Office!

There are several constitutional officers involved in the tax process – first, the Property Appraiser sets the taxable values for each parcel; second, the Board of County Commissioners set the millage rate that each parcel will be tax at and adopts an annual budget; third, the property appraiser then sends out tax bills to each parcel/property owner; fourth, the tax collector collects tax payments from each owner and distributes those taxes to each governmental entity and; fifth, the clerk's office deposits the County's taxes and accounts for the expenditure of them.

Well, what happens if taxes are not paid on

time (by March 31st of each year)? The process begins with the tax collector advertising a list of parcels with delinquent taxes. If still unpaid after a period of time, the tax collector holds an auction for a "tax certificate sale" for each delinquent parcel. The process of acquiring a tax certificate involves a person bidding on the interest rate they are willing to accept or earn. The bidding starts at 18% and each bid goes down with the lowest interest rate bid "winning" the tax certificate sale. The winning bidder pays the delinquent taxes on behalf of the property owner and begins earning interest on that amount. If no one buys the tax certificate, the tax certificate reverts to the County. This helps the County collect all of the taxes due that the budget was built on collecting. For reference purposes, the County budgets to collect 95% of estimates taxes due. Why 95%? First, because the Florida Dept. of Revenue requires that the County budget at least 95% and second, because of the early payment discount

offered - 4% discount in November, 3% in December, 2% in January, and 1% in February.

If the tax certificate is purchased, the tax certificate holder must wait two years before a tax deed can be applied for. During this two-year period, the property owner can pay back (through the tax collector's office) the tax certificate holder with interest. It is important to note that a tax certificate can be sold for each year that the taxes are not paid. For example, if the taxes were not paid for the 2022 year, a tax certificate will be sold to "Holder A". If the taxes for 2023 are not paid by the property owner, another tax certificate will be sold. It is possible "Holder A" buys the 2nd tax certificate but it is also possible there is a different purchaser, "Holder B". There could be as many as seven different tax certificate holders on a single parcel (one for each of the seven years discussed later). Each tax certificate holder will earn interest at the rate established at the time of the tax certificate purchase.

It is possible, although unlikely, that a tax certificate holder never applies for a tax deed. If so, after seven years, the taxes are forgiven, the tax certificate holder(s) lose their investment and the property owner retains ownership of the property.

If, after two years, the tax certificate holder applies for a tax deed, the tax collector transfers the file to the clerk's office to prepare for the sale of the property "on the courthouse steps". There are a number of statutory procedural steps the clerk's office is required to follow prior to the sale. Limited space for this article won't allow for me to go into detail on all of the steps we must take. Simply put, we must ensure we advertise the proposed sale, calculate the amounts due, and make contact with property owners, heirs or lienholders to ensure they are aware of the pending sale. The property owners or heirs can "redeem" the tax certificates all the way up to the time of the sale with each tax certificate holder being reimbursed with

interest.

If not redeemed by the property owner or heirs, the property is sold to the highest bidder. The minimum statutory bid will be set depending on the circumstances of each parcel. Generally, the bid must include the amounts to reimburse each tax certificate holder, plus interest, plus costs for advertising, clerk fees, etc... For homesteaded property, the minimum bid must also include half of the assessed value of the home and property. Many times, the winning bid is a lot more than the minimum statutory bid which creates an "overage" amount. The overage amount is held in trust by the clerk for 120 days. After that time the clerk's office determines who is entitled to the overage funds. The determination of how much of this overage amount is paid to each owner/heir or lienholder is sometimes straightforward and sometimes a judge must decide how the amounts are distributed. While this process is part of the clerk's statutory responsibility, this is one of the more unpleasant parts of the job since we sometimes see property owners lose their property.

While it doesn't hap-

pen very often, sometimes a tax certificate holder will apply for a tax deed and the property doesn't sell at auction. There are a few reasons why this might happen but, simply put, it's because the minimum bid required is far greater than the value of the property. In the event no one buys the tax deed, the property is placed on the "List of Lands Available". I am only aware of a few parcels ever being placed on this list in Wakulla County and, currently, there are none on the list.

If the property is not purchased at auction and it is placed on this list, the County has the right to purchase the property for the minimum statutory bid in the first 90 days. If the County chooses not to purchase the property in the first 90 days, anyone can purchase the property for the minimum statutory bid plus any accrued fees within the next 3 years. If, after 3 years, no one buys the property, the County takes possession of the property free and clear and the tax certificate holder(s) lose their investment.

Greg James is Wakulla County Clerk of Court.

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Supervisor of Elections

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2 EARLY VOTING

Early Voting Dates:

BEGINS: October 29, 2022
ENDS: November 5, 2022
8:00 am - 6:00 pm

LOCATIONS:

Supervisor of Elections Office
3115-B Crawfordville Highway
Crawfordville, FL 32327

Riversink Volunteer Fire Department
491 Crawfordville Highway
Crawfordville, FL 32327

Florida Law requires the voter to present both picture AND signature identification.

For additional information contact the Supervisor of Elections Office or check our website at: WWW.WAKULLAELECTIONFL.GOV

3 ELECTION DAY

November 8, 2022

POLLS OPEN 7:00 am - 7:00 pm

- Polling locations are listed on your voter information card, or check the precinct finder on our website at www.wakullaelectionfl.gov.
- If voting at the polls, you must vote in the precinct of your legal residence.
- Confirm your address listed above. If different, call (850) 926-7575 before going to vote.
- VERY IMPORTANT! All polling locations provide disability compliant voting equipment.

YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO READ, MARK AND BRING THIS SAMPLE BALLOT WITH YOU ON ELECTION DAY TO ASSIST YOU WHILE VOTING YOUR BALLOT.

How To MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT

Our tabulation system uses an optical scanner to read your ballot.

You must completely fill in the oval for your vote to count.

CORRECT **INCORRECT**

Please do **not** use a check mark; do **not** mark the oval with an X; and do **not** circle the oval.

The
GENERAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 8, 2022
IS OPEN TO ALL VOTERS REGISTERED BY OCTOBER 11, 2022

PLEASE BE SURE YOUR RESIDENCE ADDRESS IS UP TO DATE TO SAVE YOU TIME ON ELECTION DAY! CONTACT YOUR ELECTIONS OFFICE IF YOU NEED TO UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS.

This is a "SAMPLE" Ballot for informational purposes only. Please study this sample ballot and use it as a guide for voting. This is not an "Official" ballot – **DO NOT** return this to the Elections Office.

This sample ballot was prepared in accordance with Section 101.20, Florida Statutes, and furnished by the Wakulla County Supervisor of Elections.

MAKE FREEDOM COUNT VOTE!

Official General Election Ballot • November 08, 2022 • Wakulla County, Florida

• To vote fill in the oval completely next to your choice.
• Use only the marking device provided or a black or blue pen.
• If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot. Do not cross out or your vote may not count.
• To vote for a write-in candidate, fill in the oval and print the name clearly on the blank line provide for the write in candidate.

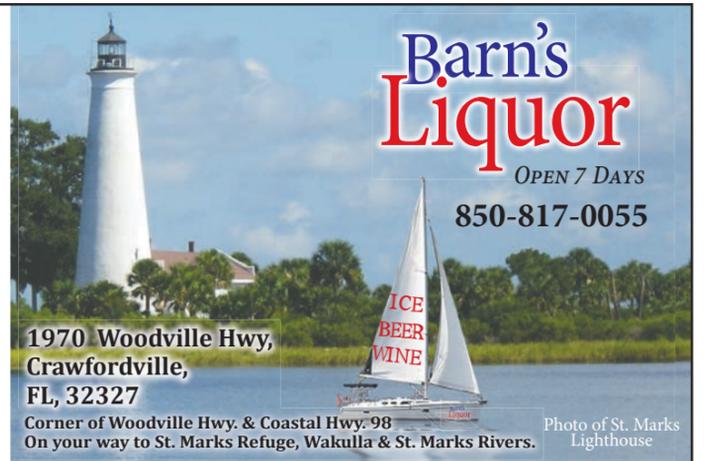
United States Senator (Vote for One) <input type="radio"/> Marco Rubio REP <input type="radio"/> Val Demings DEM <input type="radio"/> Dennis Misigoy LPF <input type="radio"/> Steven B. Grant NPA <input type="radio"/> Tuan TQ Nguyen NPA <input type="radio"/> Write-In _____		Commissioner of Agriculture (Vote for One) <input type="radio"/> Wilton Simpson REP <input type="radio"/> Naomi Esther Blemur DEM State Senator District 3 (Vote for One) <input type="radio"/> Corey Simon REP <input type="radio"/> Lorraine Ausley DEM		Justice of the Supreme Court Shall Justice Charles T. Canady of the Supreme Court be retained in office? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No Shall Justice John D. Couriel of the Supreme Court be retained in office? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No Shall Justice Jamie Grosshans of the Supreme Court be retained in office? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No Shall Justice Jorge Labarga of the Supreme Court be retained in office? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No Shall Justice Ricky Polston of the Supreme Court be retained in office? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		First District Court of Appeal Shall Judge Ross L. Bilbrey of the First District Court of Appeal be retained in office? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No Shall Judge Susan Kelsey of the First District Court of Appeal be retained in office? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No Shall Judge Bobby Long of the First District Court of Appeal be retained in office? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No Shall Judge Lori S. Rowe of the First District Court of Appeal be retained in office? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No Shall Judge Bo Winokur of the First District Court of Appeal be retained in office? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		No. 1 Constitutional Amendment, Article VII Section 4; Article XII, Section 42 Limitation on the Assessment of Real Property Used for Residential Purposes Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution, effective January 1, 2023, to authorize the Legislature, by general law, to prohibit the consideration of any change or improvement made to real property used for residential purposes to improve the property's resistance to flood damage in determining the assessed value of such property for ad valorem taxation purposes. <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		Wakulla County Ordinance No. 2022-08 Economic Development Ad Valorem (Property) Tax Exemptions for New Businesses and Expansions of Existing Businesses. Shall the Board of County Commissioners of Wakulla County, Florida, be authorized to grant, pursuant to s. 3, Art. VII of the Florida Constitution, property tax exemptions to new businesses and expansions of existing businesses that are expected to create new, full-time jobs in the County? <input type="radio"/> Yes - For authority to grant exemptions. <input type="radio"/> No - Against authority to grant exemptions.	
Representative in Congress District 2 (Vote for One) <input type="radio"/> Neal Dunn REP <input type="radio"/> Al Lawson DEM		County Commissioner District 2 (Vote for One) <input type="radio"/> Fred Nichols II REP <input type="radio"/> John Quinton DEM		Shall Justice Jorge Labarga of the Supreme Court be retained in office? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		No. 2 Constitutional Amendment, Article II, Section 5; Article XI, Sections 2 and 5 Abolishing the Constitution Revision Commission Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to abolish the Constitution Revision Commission, which meets at 20-year intervals and is scheduled to next convene in 2037, as a method of submitting proposed amendments or revisions to the State Constitution to electors of the state for approval. This amendment does not affect the ability to revise or amend the State Constitution through citizen initiative, constitutional convention, the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, or legislative joint resolution. <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		Wakulla County School Board Resolution No. 2002-21 One-half cent surtax to fund school facilities and safety, security, and technology improvement. Shall the School Board of Wakulla County levy a one-half percent (0.5%) sales surtax for a period of ten (10) years, beginning January 1, 2023 for the acquisition, construction, renovation, replacement, improvement, or equipping of school facilities and campuses including safety and security improvements, and technology upgrades, and the retirement of related debt. The revenues collected shall be shared with eligible charter schools based on the proportionate share of total school district enrollment. <input type="radio"/> Yes - For the one-half percent tax <input type="radio"/> No - Against the one-half percent tax			
Governor and Lieutenant Governor (Vote for One) <input type="radio"/> Ron DeSantis REP <input type="radio"/> Jeanette Nuñez REP <input type="radio"/> Charlie Crist DEM <input type="radio"/> Karla Hernandez DEM <input type="radio"/> Hector Roos LPF <input type="radio"/> Jerry "Tub" Rorabaugh LPF <input type="radio"/> Carmen Jackie Gimenez NPA <input type="radio"/> Kyle "KC" Gibson NPA		County Commissioner District 4 (Vote for One) <input type="radio"/> Quincee Messersmith REP <input type="radio"/> Samuel G. McGrew, Jr. DEM <input type="radio"/> Write-In _____		Only voters residing in City of Sopchoppy will vote on the following contest: Sopchoppy City Commissioner (Vote for Two) <input type="radio"/> Corey "DJ Butch" Benedict <input type="radio"/> Lara Edwards <input type="radio"/> Fred McClendon <input type="radio"/> Thomas E. Porter II		County Court Judge Group 1 (Vote for One) <input type="radio"/> Eddie Evans <input type="radio"/> Brian Miller		No. 3 Constitutional Amendment, Article VII Section 6; Article XII Additional Homestead Property Tax Exemption for Specified Critical Public Services Workforce Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to authorize the Legislature, by general law, to grant an additional homestead tax exemption for nonschool levies of up to \$50,000 of the assessed value of homestead property owned by classroom teachers, law enforcement officers, correctional officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, child welfare service professionals, active duty members of the United States Armed Forces, and Florida National Guard members. This amendment shall take effect January 1, 2023. <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		Only voters residing in City of St. Marks will vote on the following contest: St. Marks City Commissioner • Seat 1 (Vote for One) <input type="radio"/> Dan Albers <input type="radio"/> Richard Chichetti St. Marks City Commissioner • Seat 4 (Vote for One) <input type="radio"/> Paula Bell <input type="radio"/> Joe Crousore St. Marks City Commissioner • Seat 5 (Vote for One) <input type="radio"/> Ryder Rudd <input type="radio"/> Murray Stokes	
Attorney General (Vote for One) <input type="radio"/> Ashley Moody REP <input type="radio"/> Aramis Ayala DEM		Shall Justice Ricky Polston of the Supreme Court be retained in office? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		School Board District 1 <input type="radio"/> Eddie Hand <input type="radio"/> Dod Walker							
Chief Financial Officer (Vote for One) <input type="radio"/> Jimmy Patronis REP <input type="radio"/> Adam Hattersley DEM											



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Order online from a local retailer _____	Order takeout _____	Buy something for home improvement _____	Get a haircut _____	Advertise w/ a local company _____
Buy something from Sopchoppy _____	Buy office or school supplies _____	Pay for lawn or tree services _____	Pay for a service _____	Follow the Chamber on social media _____
Purchase something fun for kids _____	Fill up your gas tank _____	#SHOPLOCAL FREE SPACE	Buy a plant or flowers _____	Donate to a food bank or non-profit _____
Local purchase of your choice _____	Buy a locally made item _____	Purchase something for your pet _____	Pay it forward at a drive-thru _____	Purchase from a small business _____
Get your vehicle detailed or serviced _____	Purchase groceries _____	Buy a gift card _____	Share this purchase on social media _____	Leave a large tip _____

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Must be at least 18 to enter. See complete rules at www.WakullaCountyChamber.com and the Wakulla County Chamber of Commerce Facebook page.

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Al Hartman, aka The Old Pro



By AL HARTMAN

Hello friends. We were lucky Ian stirred clear of us! It was devastating to Central Florida. It is going to take some time before it gets back to normal. Homes, boats and property destroyed on a very large scale. I wish to thank all the responders from our area who sent people, food and supplies to the areas so badly damaged. Hunting season is on us again and there is a chill in the air. I hope Wakulla hunters have a successful and safe season. For more information go to myfwc.com for more. If you do not have internet you can pick up a brochure at the tag office and some sporting goods and hardware dealers when they become available. I hope you have a happy, safe and fun Halloween. We have Thanks-

giving and Christmas coming. I wish all of you have wonderful holidays with family and friends. At this time I would like to take a minute and have a word for all of you reading this article. I have been writing to you, the folks of Wakulla County, for over 40 years. My father and I owned Hartman Cycle Center in Tallahassee. Quinn Haskins, who published the Wakulla Area Digest magazine and phone book, sold us ad spaces in each of those publications. He and I became very friendly and we spent time talking to each other every time he came into our store. One day he told me the man who wrote hunting and fishing articles was leaving him. One thing led to another and he learned I was a freelance writer, and published in several newspapers and magazines. He asked if I would give it a try. I did! He named me, "The Old Pro." So I would like to take this time to tell you it has been a pleasure to inform you of hunting, fishing and at time diving information. I have a lot of fans who tell me they enjoy what I write, and look forward to the next issue. I want to thank you all so much. I have really enjoyed all these years and hope I have more to come! I enjoy talking with you, and I see a lot of you at Breakfast Station every Sunday morning. Some of you are on Facebook with me. One day at a boat ramp a lady yelled at her husband, "Honey, here is your hero, the Old Pro!" Here is a little note I think you will enjoy. there is a fish called a toadfish. Up north they are called Oyster Crackers. Nobody I know of keeps them. They are slimy, have a mouth full of teeth and ugly! It came as a surprise that they are listed in the record book. The world record toadfish is 4.91 pounds. I couldn't believe they were in the books as being caught off the Carolinas. Wish I had known that as I have caught two over 5 pounds off St. Marks. One I used for crab bait and the other I released Oct. 3! Happy hunting and fishing! Take a young'un, you both will be glad.



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