



Petra Shuff is celebrated

Page 13

The Wakulla Sun

"It's a New Day"



Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



Mostly Cloudy
Hi: 76° Lo: 65° 13%
Sunrise 7:16 AM
Sunset 6:26 PM



AM Light Rain
Hi: 68° Lo: 38° 64%
Sunrise 7:15 AM
Sunset 6:27 PM



Sunny
Hi: 63° Lo: 42° 0%
Sunrise 7:14 AM
Sunset 6:28 PM

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Our 2nd Year 7th Issue
Thursday, February 16, 2023



\$1
One Section

Brad Harvey ordered to pay \$249,000

The Ethics Commission orders the former property appraiser to pay restitution and fine; criminal charges still pending

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

The Florida Commission on Ethics has issued an order for former Wakulla County Property Appraiser Brad Harvey who misused his position to overpay himself in excess of his statutory salary, misused the office credit card to make personal purchases, and underreported income on his 2017 and 2018 financial disclosures.

The ethics commission, at their meeting on Jan. 27, ordered Harvey to pay a civil

penalty of \$40,000, restitution to Wakulla County in the amount of \$209,236.30, public censure and reprimand, and removal from public office was recommended.

(The commission made a finding in October 2021 finding probable cause for the ethics violations.)

Harvey is still facing felony criminal charges for embezzlement, and he has requested a trial. A case management hearing is set for May 4.

Harvey was removed from office by Gov. Ron DeSantis back in



Former Property Appraiser Brad Harvey

2020 after the criminal charges were filed against Harvey that

he overpaid himself more than \$176,000 and spent \$27,000 on personal expenses on the office credit card.

Harvey is represented in the case by Tallahassee attorney Shelly Thomas. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant State Attorney Andrew Deneen.

The case was initially under Wakulla Chief Prosecutor Brian Miller, but he recused himself citing that both he and Harvey were members of the Rotary Club of Wakulla. The investigation into finances of the property appraiser's

office were initiated after the Rotary Club became concerned about missing money from a gun raffle fundraiser – and Harvey was the club treasurer. (Miller has since been elected Wakulla County judge.)

A whistleblower in the property appraiser's office reported to law enforcement suspicions that Harvey was overpaying himself and misusing the office credit card.

The newspaper was aware of the suspicions of financial improprieties and, along with another interested par-

ty, began making public requests and writing news stories about it. Later public record requests indicated that Harvey continued overpaying himself even after he knew he was under investigation by FDLE.

Asked by the newspaper to provide justification for the overpayments, Harvey pointed to a supplement he had received when he was chief deputy under the prior property appraiser for work done on Fire and Solid Waste tax rolls. He seemed to

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JUDICIAL INVESTITURE



County Judge Brian Miller is sworn-in

Wakulla Circuit Judge J. Layne Smith administers the oath of office to new Wakulla County Judge Brian Miller as Miller's wife and daughter, Kelly and

Elliot, look on, at a judicial investiture ceremony on Friday, Feb. 10. More photos appear on Page 14. (Photo by William Snowden)

Human remains found in the refuge

Staff Report

Human remains were reported found in the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge on Thursday, Feb. 9, in the area known as the Cathedral of the Palms, according to the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office.

The sheriff's office reported that a citizen called to report finding the remains at about 1:15 p.m. Detectives confirmed that the remains were indeed human and began a death investigation.

Currently detectives are working to confirm the identity of the deceased individual and make notification to next of kin as necessary.

Due to the nature of the investigation, the sheriff's office said that further details will not be released, unless necessary for the investigation, until the case has been closed.

School bus wreck leads to minor injuries

Staff Report

A Wakulla County school bus with 60 children on board hit a stop sign on Trice Lane last week, causing a side window at the back of the bus to shatter, according to the Florida Highway Patrol.

According to FHP, the shattered glass struck one child causing a minor cut to his finger. There were no other injuries reported.

The accident occurred on Monday, Feb. 6. The accident was at Amelia Drive as the driver attempted to turn on to Trice Lane.

Superintendent of Schools Bobby Pearce said of the wreck that the bus driver misjudged the turn and sideswiped the stop sign at the corner.

Jim Griner, the district's safety officer, reported that, after the wreck, nine children on the bus were taken by their parents for medical checks. Griner did not know of any additional injuries being reported.

Valentine Festival cancelled

Staff Report

The annual Rotary Club Valentine Festival, which had been set for Saturday, Feb. 11, was cancelled on the eve of the event due to expected severe weather.

The event will not be rescheduled. The club will be in contact with vendors to refund money paid for booths.

Exploring with SUNFISH

Explorer Dr. Robert Ballard is trying out a cave mapping vehicle at Wakulla Springs

Story & Photos By
RIDDHI PATEL

A mission to test autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) SUNFISH was carried out over the past two weeks at Wakulla Springs State Park.

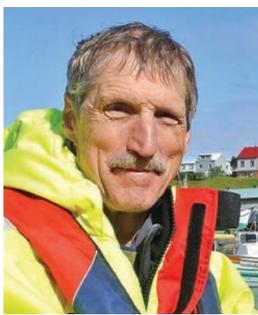
The expedition team, led by Dr. Robert Ballard and Dr. William Stone, conducted tests at both Wakulla Spring and Sally Ward Spring between Feb. 1 and Feb. 15 while staying at the historic Wakulla Springs Lodge.

The expedition team was composed of explorers, scientists, engineers, divers, and more from Ocean Exploration Trust, SUNFISH, Inc., and Karst Underwater Research.

The SUNFISH testing mission at Wakulla Spring and Sally Ward for the purpose of autonomously exploring and mapping underwater caves is a part of



The underwater vehicle SUNFISH. Dr. Robert Ballard, below left, and Dr. William Stone.



a larger project Ballard is pursuing. Ballard, who is known for his work in underwater archaeology including the discovery and exploration of the RMS Titanic wreck, mentioned that he is currently working on a larger research program called "Walk-

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Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park Flatwoods Plum

By LYNN ARTZ and SANDY TEDDER



Flatwoods plum can grow to 20 feet tall.

Flatwoods plum (*Prunus umbellata*) is a small tree with showy white flowers in spring. Native to north and central Florida, it grows in a variety of soils in full to part sun but does best in moist soil with afternoon shade. Flatwoods plum can grow to 20 feet tall with a 15-foot spread. Its cloud of flowers attracts native bees. The caterpillars of eastern tiger swallowtail butterflies feed on the leaves. Birds eat the dark purple fruit in the fall. Flatwoods plum is also known as hog plum due to its past use as livestock food. Though edible for humans, the fruit is best used for jelly. Several flatwoods plums are growing near the pond at Sopchoppy Depot Park. At least one is in bloom.

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Student of the Week

Ben Kucklick, 5th Grade at Medart Elementary School

Principal- Stan Ward

Achievements/Reason for Nomination:

Ben is a hard-working student who always tries his best. He is a kind student who enjoys helping his peers and teachers. Ben's teacher, Mrs. Dilorenzo, says what she admires most about Ben is his perseverance.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.



Wakulla County Tax Collectors Office
SPECIALTY TAGS
 \$20 - \$30 additional to cost of tag.

 Lisa Craze, CFC
 Wakulla County Tax Collector

NEW LICENCE PLATE COMING SOON.

 This new license plate features the slogan "Don't Tread On Me" accompanied by a black coiled rattlesnake over a yellow background. Funds from the plate will benefit the Florida Veterans Foundation. Currently this plate is not in stock as we are awaiting arrival of the plates from the state. If you would like to pre order then please complete the 0 dollar purchase and you will be placed on the waiting list.



SCAN ME for an electronic edition of this



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Wakulla COMMUNITY Theater
FRIDAY FEB. 24, 2023
 \$15-ADV \$20-DOOR
PRESENTS an acoustic evening with
Highway Natives
BRANDON AUTREY
ROCKULLA MUSIC
Food Trucks: 5pm Tickets can be purchased at:
Doors: 6pm McIver Flooring
Show: 6:30pm The Wakulla Sun & Highwaynatives.com
 Historic Sopchoppy Auditorium
 164 Yellow Jacket Ave Sopchoppy, FL

Girls weightlifting team places 3rd in district competition

By WINIFRED JONES
Coach

On Jan. 27, the Wakulla High School Girls Weightlifting team traveled to Panama City Arnold to compete in the District Championship weightlifting meet. As a team WHS placed 3rd overall. Riley Davis and Makenna Schissler both placed 1st in their weight class securing them a spot in the Regionals on Wednesday February 1st in St. Augustine. The top six totals received a medal. The number one lifter in each weight class was guaranteed a spot in the Regional meet and the 5 totals below number one were put into a pool to determine if they made it into the Regional meet.



DISTRICT MEDALIST

Name	Weight Class	Total	Place
Makenna Schissler	129	245	1st
Sara Chambers	154	275	1st
Vanessa Forman	154	275	2nd

129	245	1st	Riley Davis
154	275	1st	Sara Chambers
154	275	2nd	Vanessa Forman

129	225	3rd	Sydney Peddicord
183	280	3rd	Kaylee Walker
183	255	4th	Kaydee Taylor

Unl	275	4th	Ashley Winkler
119	190	5th	Kathryn Taff
139	200	6th	

REGIONAL MEDALIST

The following athletes qualified for Regionals. Makenna Schissler, Riley Davis, Sara Cham-

bers, Vanessa Forman, Sydney Peddicord, Kalyee Walker, Ashley Winkler, and Kaydee Taylor.

Sydney Peddicord	183	285	4th
Makenna Schissler	129	245	6th

The number one lifter in the Region is guaranteed a spot in the State meet and the 9 totals under that lifter are put into a pool with the other three regions to determine State Qualifiers.

Sydney Peddicord qualified to the State Tournament on February 18th, 2023.

This year's team worked extremely hard to get where they are and we had a very successful season. I have enjoyed watching these young ladies put in the work it takes to advance to the next level and to reach new goals each week in competitions.

WCT's variety show a success

Special to The Sun

If you missed the Wakulla Community Theater Variety Show Saturday, Feb. 11th, then you definitely missed out! This was an old-fashioned variety show held at the Historic Sopchoppy High School auditorium.

Master of Ceremonies Desmond Maxwell not only announced the acts, but entertained the audience with his wit and charm. Desmond, a graduate of Wakulla High, was a successful member of the Wakulla High Drama and Tallahassee Community College theater programs.

Leah McManus' original pieces, delivered with her gorgeous voice, about empty nesters and "hot flashes," created humorous moments. Frank Messersmith and Andy Harper were absolute audience favorites. They perform during the week at the Senior Center and had a definite crowd of fans. Tony Chapman, a member of the Brand Brothers Band entertained with guitar, saxophone and flute! His covers of "On and On" (a Stephen Bishop tune) and "Cry to Me" (Solomon Burke) were spot on. Brandon Autrey's original numbers, "Better Off With

a Beer" and "Lost at Sea" shows why he is such a Wakulla County favorite. On the piano, Tanner Pafford wowed the crowd with his version of The Commodores "Easy." Later in the show, he sang a Cee Winans tune, "Alabaster Box" center stage. His voice brought goose bumps to theater goers.

Ventriloquist Lori White, who used to speak professionally, brought her friend, "Victoria" to have a word (or two, or three) with the capacity crowd. Lori and Victoria also sang songs to the audience and led the attendees in crowd favorites.

Dry humor was provided by Mark Richards. Mark entertained the audience with his thoughts on unusual phrases, differences between Boston (or as he said, "BAASTIN") and Wakulla County, and living down here in the south. He has been here six months and summed it up by exclaiming how grateful he is to now call Wakulla County "home."

Rockkulla Music Studio owner Kevin Andrews played the guitar for two of his students to perform. Luna Martinez performed "Plastic Jesus" from Cool Hand Luke, and Emmalee Knutson followed with

a Patsy Cline favorite, "Walking After Midnight." Rockkulla will return as one of the opening acts when WCT hosts Nashville band, "Highway Natives."

The country rock band, with roots in Wakulla, will perform a benefit concert for the community theater on Feb. 24th. Brandon Autrey will also be a part of the Feb. 24 show at the Historic Sopchoppy auditorium.

Studio 88 performed one of the dance numbers from their trip to New York City over the holidays. Dancing to "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year" were three gorgeous and talented young ladies, Katelyn Babcock, Kaleigh Largent and Kailea Schneider, led by their teacher, Miss Lauren.

The Wakulla High School Drama Troupe performed two pieces from their spring show, "Matilda the Musical." Lynley Kendrick starred in "My House" and Riley Carraway was featured in "All I Know I Learned From Telly." The show will be April 27-30 at Wakulla High School. What a treat it was to watch this preview.

A sure-fire crowd pleaser was the Panhandle Lindy Hoppers. Emily Westmark, Dani

Brown, Roxie Smith, and Alex Morrison have been swing-dancing together for three years. Though some members presently live in Pensacola, the group gets together to attend swing dance conferences throughout the southeast. It was a delight to watch their unbounded energy!

DJ Butch and Solo Cupp wrapped up the night with the original piece "Take Me Home." What a way to end the show!

Heard from one audience member was, "What a great way to celebrate Valentines with my sweetie!" Also overheard was how much audience members hope this becomes a yearly event.

After such a successful evening, show organizers Mina Sutton and Nancy Commander will be strongly considering doing just that!

Thank you to the performers, organizers and crew, and all those who braved the weather and came out in support of Wakulla Community Theater.

Plans are already in the works for a summer play and fall musical, and with your continued support we know we can make our plans a reality!

Ashlyn Speigner named to President's List at Florida Gateway College

Staff Report

Ashlyn Speigner was named to the President's List for Fall 2022 at Florida Gateway College in Lake City. That represents a 4.0 grade point average while earning 12 credits.

She is the daughter of Brian Speigner and Nancy Speigner of Crawfordville.

Ashlyn is a 2022 graduate of Wakulla High School. She earned a scholarship to FGC for cross country.

The President's List is the highest academic distinction offered to FGC students prior to graduation. Students on the President's List have displayed the motivation and talent to achieve academic excellence.



Ashlyn Speigner

Brad Harvey

From Front Page

think he was still entitled to the supplement – though the total amount of overpayment far exceeded the supplement.

Harvey's statutory salary was \$103,000 in 2016 when he was elected. It increased to \$107,500 the next year and again to \$108,336 in 2018.

Harvey had done payroll and other office financials as chief deputy under former appraiser Donnie Sparkman, but Harvey continued those duties when he took over the office, with no oversight.

The county auditing firm did not uncover the problems until after

Harvey was removed from office.

Records indicate that among the personal expenses Harvey charged to the office were expensive off-road tires and other improvements on his personal truck; and more than \$3,000 for a family cruise to celebrate his daughter's high school graduation.

When Ed Brimmer took office as property appraiser two years ago, he handed off much of the financial work of his office to Clerk of Courts and County Comptroller Greg James, noting at the time that it would give more transparency and public confidence to his office.

PUBLIC NOTICES:

For our readers' convenience, The Wakulla Sun provides this Public Notice Section for all Public Notices not published in the Legal Notice section of the newspaper.



BID #22/23-02
Wakulla County School Board
Request for Architectural Services

For
THE SPECIAL CATEGORY GRANT FOR THE PROJECT OF SOPCHOPPY HIGH SCHOOL

The Wakulla County School Board is accepting proposals for Architectural Services for The Special Category Grant Project of Sopchoppy High School. All those interested should submit four (4) copies of the following: Resume, forms 254, SF 330 and a list of references and qualifications to Robert Pearce, Superintendent of Wakulla County Schools, P.O. Box 100, 69 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida 32327 by 10:00 a.m., on March 17, 2023. Contact person is Michael Barwick, Director of Facilities and Maintenance at (850) 926-0065.

February 16, 23, March 2, 2023

WAKULLA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT FOR
CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT AT RISK SERVICES

Project Name: **WAKULLA WAR EAGLE CAREER ACADEMY**
Project Location: **3237 COASTAL HWY, CRAWFORDVILLE, FLORIDA 32327**
Bid Number: **21/22-02**

The Wakulla County School Board, Department of Facilities and Construction, requests qualifications from construction management at risk firms to provide services for this project. Construction budget estimate for this project is **\$16,000,000.00**. Construction start is **TBA**. Applicant must be a **licensed general contractor in the State of Florida** at the time of application. Further, if a corporation, the applicant must be registered by the Department of State, Division of Corporations, to operate in the State of Florida at the time of application.

The selection will be made in accordance with Section 287.055 Florida Statutes, the School Board Policies, SREF rules and procedures and criteria which may be obtained from **Michael Barwick**, at the address and phone number below.

Firms interested in being considered for this project may attend a Pre-request for Qualification meeting at the **Board Room at the Superintendent's Office on February 16, 2023 @ 3:00 p.m.** Request for Qualification Procedures may be picked up prior to meeting at the **Wakulla County School Board/Facilities Office** from Donna Chatham located at **126 High Drive, Crawfordville, Florida 32327**. In addition, interested firms must submit an application with the following information:

1. A letter of interest detailing the firm's qualification to meet the above referenced selection criteria.
2. An Experience Questionnaire as referenced in RFQ, which may be obtained at the Pre-request for Qualification meeting from **Michael Barwick**, phone number **(850) 926-0065**.
3. The vendor must provide a current Florida Professional Registration Certificate for a Florida General Contractor License.

Submit 4 copies of your application to the Wakulla County School Board, **Robert Pearce**, Superintendent, **69 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida 32327**. Deadline date is **March 14, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.** The results of this selection will be posted at the Superintendent's Office **69 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida 32327**, during regular business hours starting **April 17, 2023**. Any protest on the selection must be made within 72 hours. Contract negotiation and award will proceed with the selected firm.

Published Feb. 9, 16, 23, 2023

Opinions

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

Wakulla Wonderful celebration returns on March 11



By **RACHEL S. PIENTA**
4-H Director

The Wakulla Wonderful event is back! On Saturday, March 11, from 11 am to 4 PM, Wakulla 4-H invites the Board of County Commissioners, all elected county officials, our business community and all citizens to join Wakulla 4-H at the Wakulla County Courthouse square on High Road for a celebration of Wakulla's founding and community history. Weather permitting, the celebration will be in the closed road and parking lot areas.

Wakulla 4-H, along with community part-

ners, invites everyone to come to this free birthday celebration that celebrates the history of Wakulla County. The 2023 event will feature a historical timeline, tours of the old county jail and old courthouse, vendors, live music, a birthday cake, food trucks, and an interactive “Passport to Wakulla Adventures” activity for the first 100 youth on the day of the event. Walkers who complete the 32 mile Walk Across Wakulla Challenge will be recognized at the event with a race-style medal! Register here <https://forms.gle/ufCF1PgtiG7xpaEi7>.

History of the Event

In 2019, 4-H led the first ever and now annual celebration of Wakulla County's birthday, the day the county was founded, March 11, 1843. The first celebration was held on the courthouse lawn, with live music, a food vendor, birthday cake, and

a proclamation reading by 4-H members. Our plans for 2020 expanded to a street festival behind the courthouse. Plans were canceled by COVID 2 days before the event. In 2021, we celebrated Wakulla Wonderful with the Walk Across Wakulla program and a proclamation reading at the county commission meeting. In 2022, we brought back the street festival birthday party and incorporated Walk Across Wakulla into the festivities leading up to and during the event.

4-H and Wakulla Wonderful: Ways to be Involved

How will 4-H be involved? 4-H are the hosts of the event. Youth are actively involved in planning and will have the opportunity to do one or more of the following roles:

- 1- be part of a 4-H booth/display about their club
- 2 - read a section of

the Proclamation on stage during the event

3 - play another role on stage with chance drawings and recognitions

4 - dress in costume that represents a specific time period and play a role with the history walk timeline OR be an event host at an assigned station

180 Years of Wonderful: Celebrating Wakulla's History

Wakulla County has a rich and extensive history dating back 12,000+ years! Wakulla County was formed on March 11, 1843 by an act of the Florida Legislature as the 23rd county of Florida. In recognition of Wakulla's history, Wakulla 4-H will ask the Board of County Commissioners to declare March 6-11, 2023 as Wakulla Wonderful Week in Wakulla County.

Wakulla Wonderful Week seeks to send a message of recognition

and celebration of Wakulla's 180th birthday. This week will allow time to reflect on the wonderful county we live in and the benefits we have living here. Wakulla 4-H serves the purpose of educating our citizens and youth, inspiring growth in everyone and pledging our heads to clearer thinking, our hearts to greater loyalty, our hands to larger service, and our health to better living so that our citizens can make Wakulla County even more wonderful.

The event will feature live music, historical tours and an illustrated history walk, vendors, and more. “Walk Across Wakulla” participants will be recognized during the event.

Special thanks is due to all the Wakulla Wonderful partners, volunteers, and committee members. This event would not be possible without support from Wakulla Sun, the Wakul-

la Library, Friends of the Library, Wakulla County Sheriff's Office, Lamar Advertising, the Wakulla County Historical Society, the Wakulla County Chamber of Commerce, UF/IFAS Wakulla County Extension, the Wakulla County Clerk of Court, Visit Wakulla, Rockulla, and the Wakulla Board of County Commissioners.

How to Get Involved

Community and civic organizations are invited to participate in the celebration. Please contact Dr. Rachel Pienta at 850-926-3931 or r.pienta@ufl.edu for registration information. Local vendors who offer Wakulla-made items may also apply to be included in the event. Space is limited. Food truck vendors may also apply to participate.

Dr. Rachel Sutz Pienta is director of Wakulla 4-H.

Highway Natives to perform Feb. 24



Editor, The Sun:

The Wakulla Community Theater (WCT) would like to invite everyone to come out on Friday, Feb. 24, and enjoy the sounds of Nashville's own Highway Natives at the Historic Old Sopchoppy Auditorium, located at 164 Yellow Jacket Avenue in Sopchoppy.

The event is a fundraiser for WCT, an organization founded in 1991 with the purpose of providing musical and theatrical performances to the residents of Wakulla County and the surrounding area. Under the hard work and direction of Mina Sutton and Nancy Commander, the WCT is gearing up again with plans to bring more quality musical and acting performances to Wakulla County! In an effort to give back, Highway Natives will donate all ticket proceeds from the show to the theater group.

Highway Natives are a 5-piece band out of Nashville. They have played in Wakulla and Leon counties before as the band has local ties. Jordan Mill-

er - guitarist, vocalist, and one of the founding members - is a Wakulla County native. The band has a Southern rock sound and mainly performs original music with some covers thrown in.

Food trucks will be on the premises starting at 5pm, and the doors will open for the event at 6pm. Rockulla and Brandon Autrey will kick things off at 6:30pm, with Highway Natives beginning at 8pm.

Advance tickets (\$15) can be purchased at McIver Flooring or The Waulla Sun, both located in Crawfordville, or online at highwaynatives.com. Tickets purchased the day of the show will be \$20.

Thanks in advance for coming out and supporting Wakulla Community Theater!

Mina Sutton
Nancy Commander
Wakulla Community Theater
www.wakullatheater.com

On the Horizon

Calendar of upcoming events for the week of Feb. 16

Thursday, February 16

- The Rotary Club of Wakulla County meets at the TCC Wakulla Center at 8:30 a.m.
- The VFW Auxiliary Bingo Night will be held at 7 p.m. at 475 Arran Road in Crawfordville, every Thursday. There will be concessions and raffles.
- Hatha Yoga with Zoe at 9 a.m. and Yin Yoga with Nellie at 6 p.m. Classes are \$12, packages available at New Posh on 3079 Crawfordville Hwy. Please RSVP email at newposh3079@gmail.com or text/call at (850) 528-5838.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.
- 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.

Friday, February 17

- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and 8 p.m. every Friday at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonees St.
- The Annual Arthur Lee Andrews Scholarship Gala will be held at Sherlock Springs at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 18

- The annual African American Heritage Parade and Celebration will be held in Azalea Park beginning at 10 a.m.
- The annual Friends of Wakulla County Public Library Mardi Gras Fundraiser Ball will be held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- A Murder Mystery Dinner Show will be held at the Wakulla Moose Lodge in Panama at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$45 and proceeds will benefit Palaver Tree Theater and the Wakulla High School Drama Club.
- Intro to Tai Chi held at the Community Center from 9 to 10 a.m. All ability levels are welcome; please wear comfortable clothing. For questions call Rich or Terri Bushman at 850-228-9214.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.
- Small Business Saturday at Azalea Park from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Wakulla County Horseman's Association show will be held at 1757 Lawhon Mill Road. All shows start at 11 a.m. and the Jackpot starts at 12 noon. Entry Fees are \$25 for Jackpot; exhibitions are \$3; club classes are \$6 for members and \$8 for nonmembers. Membership is \$25 for single and \$40 for family.

Sunday, February 19

- A Murder Mystery Dinner Show will be held at the Wakulla Moose Lodge in Panama at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$45 and proceeds will benefit Palaver Tree Theater and the

Wakulla High School Drama Club.

- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 10 a.m. and at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

Monday, February 20

- President's Day - Banks and government offices will be closed.
- The American Legion Post 114 will be meeting at the Wakulla County Public Library at 6:30 p.m.
- Intro to Tai Chi held at the Community Center from 9 to 10 a.m. All ability levels are welcome; please wear comfortable clothing. For questions call Rich or Terri Bushman at 850-228-9214.
- 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.
- Hatha yoga at 9 a.m. and Restorative Yoga at 6 p.m. with Zoe. Classes are \$12, packages available at New Posh on 3079 Crawfordville Hwy. Please RSVP email at newposh3079@gmail.com or text/call at (850) 528-5838.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

Tuesday, February 21

- The Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners will meet at 5 p.m. in the Commission Chambers.
- Sopchoppy Community Dinner is held every week at the Towles House at 6:30 p.m.
- Yin Yoga at 10:30 a.m. and Flow Yoga at 6 p.m. with Nellie. Classes are \$12, packages available at New Posh on 3079 Crawfordville Hwy. Please RSVP email at newposh3079@gmail.com or text/call at (850) 528-5838.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.
- The Sarracenia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society will hold their monthly meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Wakulla County Public Library. The program will be presented by Amy Conyers, park manager for Wakulla Springs State Park. She will discuss the vision for recent additions to park lands. A Zoom link for the presentation will also be available—request it at Sarracenia.nps@gmail.com. Meetings are free and open to the public. Come early for refreshments.

Wednesday, February 22

- Intro to Tai Chi held at the Community Center from 9 to 10 a.m. All ability levels are welcome; please wear comfortable clothing. For questions call Rich or Terri Bushman at 850-228-9214.
- A Line Dance class will be held at 1 p.m. at the Wakulla Senior Center.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

"It's A New Day!"

The Wakulla Sun

Editor/Publisher:
William Snowden
editor@thewakullasun.com

Production Manager/IT:
Eric Stanton
estanton@thewakullasun.com

Circulation:
Krystal Sheppard
circulation@thewakullasun.com

Sales & Marketing:
Lynda Kinsey
lkinsel@thewakullasun.com

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/@TheWakullaSun

TWITTER: www.twitter.com/@TheWakullaSun

DISTRIBUTOR
Jessi Smith

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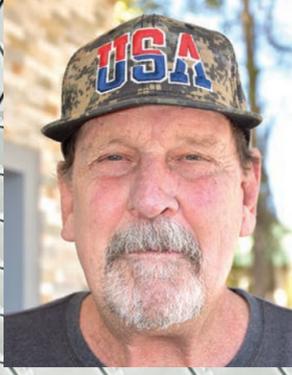
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◀ Question of The Week ▶

– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

Polled at Crawfordville Quick Stop: Smooth or crunchy?

				
DUSTIN MCKINNEY WASTE PRO	MICHAEL CLANAHAN RETIRED SR. BRIDGE INSPECTOR	TALEEA HICKS CRAWFORDVILLE ELEMENTARY	JASON F. HEALTH CARE	JOSE SOTO FLORIDA FRAMING GROUP
“Crunchy, I just like foods that have a crunch.”	“Smooth, because that’s like my life.”	“I have actually hated peanut butter all of my life, this year I have found that I do like the smooth.”	“Smooth peanut butter, all day long.”	“Crunchy, it has a better taste.”

COMMUNITY NEWS

Wakulla Station News

By **VERNA BROCK**

Friends, I have a very important request for prayer. Last week I had the privilege of meeting a young mother while waiting at the doctor’s office to have my laryngitis treated. Her name is Heather Mosely, who shared that she has a beautiful four month-old son, Sebastian.

Sebastian is currently awaiting a heart transplant at Shands, and cannot leave as he requires a special device to keep his blood circulating. Obviously, this is a frightening and stressful situation for her entire family. She has two older children, and she and her husband take turns staying in Gainesville with Sebastian, while maintaining as normal a homelife for Sebastian’s two siblings as possible.

I asked to pray with her, as well as put a prayer request in this article, and she was eager for me to do so. I am also searching for any kind of support group for parents and families who have similar experiences. If anyone knows of such a group please contact me right away (850.212.3131), and I will relay the info to Heather.

I know how overwhelming a diagnosis of this kind can be, having had a granddaughter who was diagnosed with bone cancer a few years ago. She is doing wonderfully well now, thanks to the medical miracles available to us nowadays. But prayer was also a huge part of the process also. So please, lift this family up so they can feel the love and support we want them to know.

Also in need of prayer is Miss Nor-

ma Woodcock, who completed her move to central Florida. Louis Hernandez also needs our prayers, as does Pam Adams, Pastor Steve Montgomery, Cathy McCollum, and Faye Sweeney.

I am sad to report that Mr. Ernest Newberry has died at age 96. He and his wife Betty were a precious part of our church family until Covid made its debut three years ago. Please keep Miss Betty and her family in your prayers during this sad time. Mr. Ernest will be sadly missed.

There are two festivals coming up in March, and both are actively seeking vendors.

First, Wakulla Wonderful is inviting any Wakulla participants who have arts and crafts, as well as services, to join them on Saturday, March 11th. There is no vendor fee

required to participate. Contact the Wakulla Extension Office if you’re interested in participating in this celebration of Wakulla County!

The second is the Woodville Founders Day Festival, on Saturday, March 18th. The vendor fee is \$25, and every penny goes to the Woodville Volunteer Fire Department for equipment costs. They serve both Leon and Wakulla counties, and do an amazing job saving lives and property. All interested participants can inquire further by contacting me (see phone number above) or by going to the webpage at <http://www-woodvillevfd.com> to pre-register.

Ed and Eden had a fun time watching FSU Softball this past weekend. Eden’s former catcher from the University of Wisconsin, Boo Gillette de Oliveira, is the coach for Purdue Softball, so it was especially fun to visit, despite the worst kind of weather to sit through.

Library News – Feb. 16

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Thursday, February 16

Veteran’s Meetup 11am
The Parks HOA Covenant Review 6:30pm
Wakulla Amateur Radio Club 7pm

Friday February 17

Quilting Guild 9:30am

Saturday, February 18

Library Closed

Monday, February 20

American Legion 6:30pm

Tuesday, February 21

Book Bunch 10am
Memoir Writing 10am
Dungeons & Dragons 2pm
Lego Club 4pm
Republican Women’s Group 5:30pm
Tobacco Free FL Stop Smoking Class 5:30pm
Sarracenia Chapter of the Native Plant Society 6:30pm

Wednesday, February 22

Book Babies 10am
Knitting Group 4pm
Virtual Reality Coding Sign Up 5pm
Library After Hours Speaker Series 6:30pm

Thursday, February 23

Understanding File Management 9am
Microsoft Excel: Beyond the Basics 11:30am
Best FREE Online Sources for Genealogy 2pm
Advanced Kids Coding Sign Up 5pm
Friends of the Library General Meeting 6pm
Wakulla Democratic Executive Committee 6pm

AFTER HOURS SPEAKER SERIES

All programs will take place at the Library at 6:30 p.m.

• Monday, February 13th – Michelle Hearn, Senior Curator for the Museum of Florida History, presents “The Florida Highwaymen – African American Landscape Painters”

• Wednesday, February 22nd – Michelle Hearn, Senior Curator for the Museum of Florida History, presents “Civil Rights in the Sunshine State”

TECHNOLOGY CLASSES!

Our technology classes are FREE and open to all Wakulla County residents. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. Please call 850-926-7415 to register. All classes are taught by instructor Deanna Ramsey.

• Understanding File Management (Windows Users) Thursdays, February 23 & March 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30th from 9-11am (Six-Part Class)

• Microsoft Excel Beyond the Basics - Thursdays, February 23 & March 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30th from 11:30am – 1:30pm (Six-Part Class)

• Best FREE Online Resources for Genealogy – Thursdays, February 23 & March 2 & 9 from 2-4pm (Three-Part Class)

ANNUAL MARDI GRAS FUNDRAISER BALL

The Annual Friends of the Library Mardi Gras Fundraiser Ball will take place on Saturday, Feb. 18, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Wakulla County Community Center. This year’s ball will feature catering by Harry’s Seafood, live music provided by the Thursday Night Music Club, and amazing cocktails served up by the Yard Bar.

Tickets are \$50 per person and tables are available for sponsorship at different funding levels. Special Date

Night two top tables which will include prime seating, a bottle of champagne, and two souvenir champagne flutes will be available for \$150.

Tickets and tables can be purchased at the Wakulla County Public Library via cash or check.

SPRING OPEN HOUSE AND COMMUNITY PARTNER FAIR

Join us for a day of fun and learn all about your library! Explore the library, get a library card, meet the staff, enjoy refreshments, get your face painted, play some games, make a craft, and so much more! Also, don’t miss the opportunity to meet some of our other Community Partners and learn about all of the activities and services they have to offer. Saturday, March 4, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Interested in setting up a table or booth as a Community Partner? Email rdrummond@mywakulla.com for more information.

UPCOMING HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

• Saturday, February 18th, for President’s Day
• Friday, April 7th and Saturday, April 8th for Easter

Talquin Youth Tour set for 2023

By **ASHLEY RODRIGUEZ**
of Wakulla Schools

This year, Caitlin Hall, Christopher Peak, and Legion Taylor will be representing Wakulla High School

in the annual Talquin Youth Tour.

This tour gives its 24 participants the opportunity to learn about cooperative business models as well as Florida’s Legislative process. Students will visit Florida’s Capitol, the

House of Representative’s chambers and even a session in the Supreme Court.

During the process, four students will be selected to represent Talquin in Washington, D.C. for the National

Rural Electric Cooperative Association Youth Tour this summer.

Good luck to the Wakulla High School participants!

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Outdoors

outdoor sports

HOME ON THE RANGE

10mm: S&W M&P 2.0 or Iver Johnson Eagle XL?



By MARJ LAW

Which is better: a striker-fired or a hammer-fired handgun?

A long or a longer barrel?

Today, Joe and our friend Rick will be comparing two 10mm handguns: the striker-fired Smith & Wesson M&P 2.0 and the hammer-fired Iver Johnson Eagle XL 1911.

You know that Joe is not-too-secretly rooting for the Iver. He still, in his heart, prefers the 1911s he trained with during his stint in the Navy.

“You can’t beat a 1911 trigger,” he pronounces.

However, in a somewhat half-hearted attempt to sound fair he adds: “The proof is in the operation.”

He has to have some give here because a couple years ago, Santa Claus brought him to the dark side by presenting him with a striker-fired Sig Sauer P320. He likes it. A lot.

He says of the Sig: “The grip is very good. It’s quite accurate. The trigger is smooth,” he begins, and I know what’s coming.

“It’s not quite a 1911 trigger, but it’s good.”

High praise from a 1911 fan. So, I expect he’s going to favor that 1911 Iver Johnson hammer gun over the striker-fired Smith. Let’s see.

I am, though, afraid that my favored striker-fired Smith might lose out here because it has a

4.6-inch barrel and the Iver has a 6-inch barrel. That’s quite a difference, and I think that almost inch-and-a-half will give Iver the edge.

Iver is heavier. A lot heavier. You’d wonder at this because Iver holds 8 rounds while Smith holds a whopping 15 rounds. But Iver is made of steel and Smith has a polymer frame. Steel is heavy. Iver weighs in at 46 ounces and Smith at 29 ounces.

Accuracy? While you might find carrying Smith a lot easier because it’s so much lighter, you might prefer Iver because its solid heaviness sits deeply in your hands and helps prevent muzzle rise. That’s so good for accuracy.

Both guns have two white dot sights in the rear and 1 in the front. Sights on the Smith are a lot larger. I like big fat white dot sights.

Smith comes with four different backstraps to conform the grip into your hand. And texture? Stippling on the grip is really high. No amount of Florida sweat is going to slip this grip from your hands.

Tyler Freel, writing in Outdoor Life, says of the Smith: “Shooting a 10mm well has everything to do with recoil management. The factory profile and texturing of the grip on this pistol do an excellent job facilitating a secure grip. The smooth rounded contour of the front of the grip and relatively thin trigger guard allowed for a close-to-bore-axis, tight grip. Recoil on 10mm pistols is sharp, and a comfortable solid grip aids with speed, accuracy, and confidence.”

He goes on to add: “it was the most comfortable un-modified 10mm that I’ve shot.”

Iver’s grips? Well, we found a site called Esmerelda on the internet. She has some of the prettiest grips you’ve ever

2 10mm Handguns

Iver Johnson Eagle XL 1911:
6” barrel
Steel—heavy at 46 ounces
Huge beavertail
3-dot sights
Great trigger



Smith & Wesson M&P M2.0
4.6” barrel
Polymer, 29 ounces
3 Big white dot sights
Heavy grip texture
Low bore axis

seen. Iver now sports Desert Ironwood grips. They’re smooth and gorgeous. Does the smoothness mean your hands will slip? Not with the weight of this gun!

A few years ago, I was in the Wakulla County Sheriff’s range office and heard, Blam! I jumped! What is that awful racket? Opening the door, I saw Joe shooting the Iver. Blam! He shot again. Horrors. He’s going to want me to shoot that 10mm monster!

Sure enough. “Marj, ready to shoot this gun?” Drat. Iver’s weight settled in my hand. I adjusted my earplugs and ear muffs (wearing both), take a breath, let it out, and take aim.

Blam! Lots of noise, but the gun stays nicely in my hands. Shockingly easy. That’s why I’m surprised when Joe takes out the Lyman scale to measure trigger pull and comes up with 7 pounds, 12 ounces. It feels so much less.

The Smith’s trigger pull comes out to 5 pounds, 11 ounces.

“The Iver has that great 1911 trigger.” I just knew Joe was going to say that. But I have to admit that the Smith, though having a lighter trigger pull, travels squishily all the way

to the wall. Then it breaks with an easy crack.

Jon Wayne Taylor, writing of the Smith, says: “I was interested, but didn’t think I would be impressed. I was wrong.” He adds: “It fits the hand well, and soaks up recoil for fast follow-up shots with the heaviest loads...”

“How much do I like this gun? I sold my Delta Elite and bought this T&E model instead. It’s certainly my favorite of the polymer framed 10s.”

Dr. John Woods, in All Outdoor says of the Iver: “The Eagle XL has one of the easiest slide cycles I have ever experienced. It was smooth, even, and easy to manipulate.

It would be an imposing defensive weapon... Shooting at 10 feet, the accuracy was exceptional in my opinion. This is one fine shooting 1911. It is definitely a keeper.”

Now Joe and Rick are going to a range. I am particularly interested in hearing how these 2 guns handle light and heavier loads. We bring 180 and 200-grain 10mm loads and will shoot two rounds of each for handleability and accuracy.

Rick shoots the Smith with 180-grain loads first.

“Wow. The grip texture is pretty strong!” he notes

right away.

Bang! Bang! The report is loud. Rick’s shots hit the small metal target from 35 yards away. He walks back to us, grinning.

“Smooth! Accurate!” he says. “But it does have a pretty strong kick! On a scale of 1-5, with 1 being the lightest kick and 5 the worst kick, I’d give recoil on the Smith a solid 3. My palm’s a little pink from the stippling and the recoil.

“I’d give the trigger a 2 out of a possible 5. It’s fairly light. But there’s some travel. I’d give travel a 3.

“The slide is still pretty stiff. Guess it’s partly because the gun is new. I’ll give jacking the slide a 3.5.”

He shoots the 200-grain load next.

“Who-ee! That thing comes back at you! With the heavier load, I’ll give the kick a 4 out of a possible 5.” His hand is even pinker now.

Joe says that’s because of the low bore axis of the barrel, which makes the gun come straight back at you.

He shoots next. Joe finds the recoil to be considerably less and gives it a 1.5. He had shot the gun a bit earlier and is prepared for the recoil.

Then he shoots the heavier 200-grain load. Joe is feeling a lot more recoil with this load and gives recoil a 3.5 as opposed to Rick’s 4. With this heavy load, both guys agree that the Smith has a very sturdy kick.

Iver is next, and Rick shoots the 180-grain rounds in it.

Bang!
“Nice!” he exclaims happily. He finds trigger pull and travel to be quite short and gives both a 1.5. He finds the recoil to be light as well, and gives a 2 for kick.

Joe shoots the 180-grain load. He gives trigger pull a 1.5 and travel a 1. He figures the kick at a 1.

Later, Joe shoots the 200-grain rounds and gives the Iver a 2.5 for recoil. Clearly, in both the Smith and the Iver, there’s a lot of difference in shooting the heavier load over the 180-grain target load.

“If the gun fairy drops down out of the sky and says you get to keep one of these guns, which would it be?” I ask Joe.

“If I were going hunting, I’d take Iver. The longer barrel imparts more energy to the round. It has a higher bore axis for more muzzle flip, but the weight of the gun holds it quite steady. I like the feel of the gun in my hand.

On the other hand, if I were to carry one of these 2 guns, I’d carry the Smith. It’s a whole lot lighter and shorter to make it easier to carry. It holds 15 rounds, which is a lot more than Iver’s 8 rounds. The bigger white dot sights make it easier to align them to the target. For carry, I’d take the Smith.”

It’s quite clear to me. Joe wants both guns.

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

Habitat birding at the refuge

By DON MORROW

Northern and Louisiana Waterthrushes are similar-looking, ground-dwelling warblers with brown backs, streaked breasts and prominent supercilia. Waterthrushes breed from Georgia to Alaska and pass through St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge on migration to and from their wintering grounds in the Caribbean, Central America, Colombia and Venezuela. They have distinctive tail-wagging walks and are found along the edges of streams and ponds, searching for insects and larvae.

Many years ago, I was birding with my friend John Hintermister when we saw a waterthrush bobbing along the edge of a wetland depression on the Tower Pond Trail at the refuge. For years afterward, whenever we were looking for warblers during migration and passed that depression, John would stop to look for waterthrushes explaining that, “They like that spot. You always

see them there.” Twenty years later, we finally saw a waterthrush in the depression again and John exclaimed, “See! I told you they liked that spot.”

Now, waterthrushes can live for about 10 years, but most don’t last that long. The waterthrush that we saw after a 20-year hiatus was likely the great-great grandson of the waterthrush in the earlier sighting. It wasn’t there because it liked that spot. That spot was good habitat for waterthrushes and the kind of place that waterthrushes seek out for foraging.

John’s strategy of looking where he had seen a species before and expecting to see it again is how most of us bird. It’s sometimes called habitat birding.

Birds are most likely found in their preferred habitat. You go to the Helispot with its low wet grassland to find LeConte’s and Henslow’s Sparrows. Common Goldeneye are in the mouth of the St. Marks River, diving for shellfish. Dunlin are on the mudflats of Tower Pond at high

tide and Red-cockaded Woodpeckers are in the pine woods.

Once you know a species habitat, it is easier to find it.

Going beyond habitat and knowing a bird’s microhabitat can even help in identification. Least Sandpipers like to forage on mud or sand, while Western Sandpipers like to keep their feet wet and are usually found in shallow water.

On the short-term, habitat birding is a good strategy, but habitats evolve over time. St. Marks refuge staff manage the water levels on Stony Bayou and Tower Pond in order to maintain them as habitat for breeding and wintering shorebirds. Without mowing at the Helispot, encroachment by shrubs and trees would render it useless as sparrow habitat and controlled burns are necessary to maintain the health of the refuge’s pine forests.

Some things are beyond the refuge’s control. A slowly warming climate has led to Canada Geese short-stopping, shorten-

ing their migration path and wintering further North. Although, occasionally sighted at the refuge in winter, they used to occur here in the thousands. The habitat is still there, but the birds are gone. A slow progression towards lower duck numbers at St. Marks may indicate that other waterfowl species are also beginning to short-stop.

The winter duck season is drawing to a close at St. Marks and it will soon be time for Spring migration birding. Louisiana Waterthrush, the more Southerly nesting of the two waterthrush species, is an early migrant and I look for it at the refuge in early March.

My friend John is gone now. Cancer took him a few years ago, but I’ll remember him when I walk past that wetland depression and I’ll stop to scan its edge to see if I can find a waterthrush.

They like that spot. You always see them there.

Don Morrow can be contacted at donaldcmorrow@gmail.com.



SOUTHERN FLOUNDER
(*Paralichthys lethostigma*)

Flounders are a type of “flat fish”. As the young larvae develop, one eye migrates across the head so both end up on the same side. They lie flat, eyes up, and can change their color to blend in. They hide from predators and ambush small fish prey with their studded teeth. They are tolerant of temperatures from 50-90F and salinities of 0-36 ppt. They weigh from 1-2 lbs and grow to 36” in their five year life span.

Eukarya, Animalia, Cordata, Actinopterygii
Pleuronectiformes, Paralichthyidae

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www.gulfspecimen.org

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Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences

Thursday 16

Sun rise/set
7:15AM
6:25PM

Moon rise/set
4:15AM
2:18PM

Moon Illumination 20%

Friday 17

Sun rise/set
7:14AM
6:26PM

Moon rise/set
5:19AM
3:29PM

Moon Illumination 11%

Saturday 18

Sun rise/set
7:13AM
6:27PM

Moon rise/set
6:14AM
4:42PM

Moon Illumination 5%

Sunday 19

Sun rise/set
7:12AM
6:28PM

Moon rise/set
7:02AM
5:57PM

Moon Illumination 1%

Monday 20

Sun rise/set
7:12AM
6:29PM

Moon rise/set
7:43AM
7:08PM

Moon Illumination 0%

Tuesday 21

Sun rise/set
7:11AM
6:29PM

Moon rise/set
8:19AM
8:16PM

Moon Illumination 2%

Wednesday 22

Sun rise/set
7:10AM
6:30PM

Moon rise/set
8:52AM
9:22PM

Moon Illumination 7%

Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

Feb. 16 - Feb. 22

GO FISH!

Tide charts by
tides4fishing.com

Best fishing days this month
February 1-5, 20-28

Thursday 16

Minor Times
3:30AM
1:33PM

Major Times
8:02AM
8:35PM

Friday 17

Minor Times
4:34AM
2:44PM

Major Times
9:07AM
9:39PM

Saturday 18

Minor Times
5:29AM
3:57PM

Major Times
10:11AM
10:42PM

Sunday 19

Minor Times
6:17AM
5:12PM

Major Times
11:11AM

Monday 20

Minor Times
6:58AM
6:23PM

Major Times
11:40PM
12:07PM

Tuesday 21

Minor Times
7:34AM
7:31PM

Major Times
12:33AM
12:59PM

Wednesday 22

Minor Times
8:07AM
8:37PM

Major Times
1:24AM
1:48PM

For tides at the following points add to Dog Island Listings:

	High Tide	Low Tide
Carrabelle	28 Min.	25 Min.
Apalachicola	1 Hr., 53 Min.	2 Hrs., 38 Min.
Cat Point	1 Hr., 13 Min.	2 Hrs., 31 Min.
Lower Anchorage	1 Hr., 36 Min.	2 Hrs., 3 Min.
West Pass	1 Hr., 26 Min.	2 Hrs., 39 Min.

St. Marks River Entrance

Th	5:13 am ▼ -0.8 ft	12:20 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	4:51 pm ▼ 1.8 ft	10:31 pm ▲ 3.0 ft
Fr	6:13 am ▼ -1.2 ft	1:05 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	6:01 pm ▼ 1.6 ft	11:46 pm ▲ 3.3 ft
Sa	7:03 am ▼ -1.4 ft	1:42 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	6:54 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	
Su	12:46 am ▲ 3.6 ft	7:47 am ▼ -1.4 ft	2:15 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	7:41 pm ▼ 0.8 ft
Mo	1:38 am ▲ 3.7 ft	8:26 am ▼ -1.2 ft	2:46 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	8:25 pm ▼ 0.3 ft
Tu	2:27 am ▲ 3.7 ft	9:02 am ▼ -0.8 ft	3:13 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	9:08 pm ▼ 0.8 ft
We	3:15 am ▲ 3.5 ft	9:33 am ▼ -0.3 ft	3:37 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	9:51 pm ▼ -0.2 ft

City of St. Marks

Th	6:17 am ▼ -0.8 ft	12:56 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	5:55 pm ▼ 1.7 ft	11:07 pm ▲ 2.8 ft
Fr	7:17 am ▼ -1.1 ft	1:41 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	7:05 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	
Sa	12:22 am ▲ 3.1 ft	8:07 pm ▼ -1.2 ft	2:18 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	7:58 pm ▼ 1.1 ft
Su	1:22 am ▲ 3.3 ft	8:51 am ▼ -1.2 ft	2:51 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	8:45 pm ▼ 0.7 ft
Mo	2:14 am ▲ 3.4 ft	9:30 am ▼ -1.1 ft	3:22 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	9:29 pm ▼ 0.3 ft
Tu	3:03 am ▲ 3.4 ft	10:06 am ▼ -0.7 ft	3:49 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	10:12 pm ▼ 0.6 ft
We	3:51 am ▲ 3.2 ft	10:37 am ▼ -0.3 ft	4:13 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	10:55 pm ▼ -0.2 ft

Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	5:37 am ▼ -0.8 ft	12:40 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	4:54 pm ▼ 1.9 ft	10:43 pm ▲ 3.0 ft
Fr	6:39 am ▼ -1.1 ft	1:27 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	6:13 pm ▼ 1.6 ft	
Sa	12:02 am ▲ 3.3 ft	7:31 am ▲ 3.0 ft	2:05 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	7:12 pm ▼ 1.3 ft
Su	1:04 am ▲ 3.6 ft	8:15 am ▼ -1.3 ft	2:39 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	8:02 pm ▼ 0.8 ft
Mo	1:58 am ▲ 3.7 ft	8:55 am ▼ -1.2 ft	3:11 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	8:49 pm ▼ 0.4 ft
Tu	2:48 am ▲ 3.7 ft	9:31 am ▼ -0.9 ft	3:39 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	9:33 pm ▼ 0.1 ft
We	3:35 am ▲ 3.6 ft	10:02 am ▼ -0.5 ft	4:06 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	10:17 pm ▼ -0.2 ft

Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	5:24 am ▼ -0.6 ft	12:12 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	5:02 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	10:23 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
Fr	6:24 am ▼ -0.9 ft	12:57 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	6:12 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	11:38 pm ▲ 2.5 ft
Sa	7:14 am ▼ -1.0 ft	1:34 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	7:05 pm ▼ 0.9 ft	
Su	12:38 am ▲ 2.7 ft	7:58 am ▼ -1.0 ft	2:07 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	7:52 pm ▼ 0.5 ft
Mo	1:30 am ▲ 2.8 ft	8:37 am ▼ -0.9 ft	2:38 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	8:36 pm ▼ 0.2 ft
Tu	2:19 am ▲ 2.8 ft	9:13 am ▼ -0.6 ft	3:05 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	9:19 pm ▼ 0.0 ft
We	3:07 am ▲ 2.6 ft	9:44 am ▼ -0.2 ft	3:29 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	10:02 pm ▼ -0.1 ft

St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	5:12 am ▼ -0.8 ft	1:22 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	4:56 pm ▼ 1.7 ft	10:01 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
Fr	6:13 am ▼ -1.1 ft	1:49 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	6:04 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	11:18 pm ▲ 2.5 ft
Sa	7:04 am ▼ -1.2 ft	2:14 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	6:54 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	
Su	12:23 am ▲ 2.7 ft	7:49 am ▼ -1.2 ft	2:37 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	7:40 pm ▼ 0.9 ft
Mo	1:23 am ▲ 2.8 ft	8:30 am ▼ -1.0 ft	3:00 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	8:25 pm ▼ 0.6 ft
Tu	2:19 am ▲ 2.8 ft	9:08 am ▼ -0.7 ft	3:23 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	9:11 pm ▼ 0.2 ft
We	3:14 am ▲ 2.6 ft	9:42 am ▼ -0.3 ft	3:47 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	9:58 pm ▼ -0.1 ft

Dog Island West End

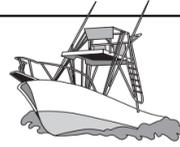
Th	5:39 am ▼ -0.9 ft	2:32 pm ▲ 1.7 ft	5:11 pm ▼ 1.7 ft	10:10 pm ▲ 2.2 ft
Fr	6:42 am ▼ -1.1 ft	2:39 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	6:42 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	11:24 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
Sa	7:29 am ▼ -1.2 ft	2:55 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	7:26 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	
Su	12:37 am ▲ 2.3 ft	8:10 am ▼ -1.1 ft	3:13 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	8:05 pm ▼ 0.9 ft
Mo	1:40 am ▲ 2.4 ft	8:49 am ▼ -0.9 ft	3:32 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	8:47 pm ▼ 0.5 ft
Tu	2:36 am ▲ 2.3 ft	9:26 am ▼ -0.6 ft	3:50 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	9:33 pm ▼ 0.2 ft
We	3:32 am ▲ 2.2 ft	10:01 am ▼ -0.2 ft	4:10 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	10:23 pm ▼ 0.0 ft

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



Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports

By Carolyn Brown Treadon



The following information comes from Jim McGraw at the U.S. Coast Guard Heartland Safe Boating group.

THE ACHILLES' HEEL OF INFLATABLE PFDs

Inflatable Personal Flotation Devices are great! They are comfortable to wear and they provide very effective flotation. They are popular with professionals on the water such as law enforcement and harbor pilots. However, they require maintenance. I consider the need for regular maintenance to be the critical weakness (Achilles' Heel) of inflatable PFDs.

Winter is an excellent opportunity to maintain your inflatable PFD. Since inflatable PFDs vary in the details of their design, it is critical that you follow the manufacturer's maintenance instructions. If you have misplaced the owner's manual, check the PFD itself for written maintenance instructions. Electronic copies of owner's manuals can often be

Boating Emergencies

Coast Guard Station
Panama City (850) 234-4228

Coast Guard Station
Yankeetown (352) 447-6900

Coast Guard Auxiliary
Apalachee Bay (Flotilla 12) (850) 942-7500
or (850) 284-1166

found at the manufacturer's web site under the "support" topic.

Who should do the maintenance? The best person to do the maintenance is the person who will be wearing the PFD. Performing this maintenance increases the likelihood that the wearer knows how to use the inflatable PFD effectively.

In general, the maintenance process is:

- Inspect the device for damage. Beware of damage to the belts, buckles, or fabric. Unfold the PFD to inspect the bladder.
- Verify the inflation mechanism is charged and within its expiration date (if any).
- Perform a bladder leak test by inflating the

vest orally. Typically, the process is to leave the bladder inflated overnight and then check to see if it has lost air.

- While the vest is unpacked inspect the survival/signaling equipment packed in the PFD. If there is none... consider adding a flat whistle, and a light designed for installation on an inflatable PFD.
- Re-pack the PFD. Verify that the manual activation handle is accessible!
- Note the maintenance on the record attached to the PFD.

Now that you have dealt with the inflatable PFD's Achilles' Heel, exploit its advantages and wear it whenever you

are underway! Check back next week for more information on inflatable PFDs.

If you would like to learn more about vessel safety checks, please contact Steve Hults, Staff Officer for Vessel Examinations at steve.hults@uscgaux.net.

Thanks to Sherrie, we will always remember safe boating is no accident!

Please contact us for more information about our safe boating classes or learning more about getting involved in the Auxiliary, check out our website at www.uscgaux.net follow us on Facebook @ Apalachee Bay Flotilla 12 or contact our Flotilla Commander Phil Hill at pnkhill2000@yahoo.com.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed civilian volunteer component of the U.S. Coast Guard and supports the Coast Guard in nearly all mission areas. The Auxiliary was created by Congress in 1939. For more information, please visit www.cgaux.org.

Underwater Wakulla

By Rusty Miller

Side mount practice in the pool.

Good news, I was able to get into the pool with my side mount gear on Sunday. The bad news is it was really cold outside. The outside temperature was 46 degrees and the wind was blowing steady about 20 miles per hour so it made it even colder. I will say that once you get into the pool it warmed up very quickly. The water temp in the pool is 82 degrees. Once I got my 5mil wetsuit on, then I had to get my harness set up and put on, I was ready to quickly get into the pool. Over the last couple of weeks I made some adjustments to my harness so it would make it easier to attach my tanks by moving a couple of attachment points away from my sides. I also added a couple of double-ended clips to the bungee straps that run under my arms to bring the top of the tank closer to my upper body.

For those of you who use side mount systems you know what I'm talking about but for the rest of you the best setup of a side mount system is to bring the tanks as close to your sides as possible. Once I got the tanks attached and the bungees around the tank valve it fit almost perfectly. My instructor asked me to go to the bottom and make sure everything fit me comfortably and it did.

She then told me to swim around and just to get used to the way things felt. I wasn't as graceful as my instructor but I was moving forward. I was digging it the whole time but I did notice that I still wanted to go head down and that my buttock wanted to go up. I surfaced and my instructor said to move the weight that is on the inside back of the harness down to the lowest weight pocket and try it again. It worked great. My body leveled out horizontally and this time when I would frog kick I went straight ahead with no feeling of being head down, I was awesome. I also noticed that when your body is in the horizontal position that it doesn't require as much effort to move smoothly thru the water.

Now it was time to really test my wings and swim a circuit around the pool without stopping to make any adjustments. To most of you swimming around is not difficult but consider I really only have my right foot doing most of the work and my left stump just trying to act like a rudder. It was the turning part that was very difficult. My instructor noticed that when I would want to turn I would flutter my left or right hand to move me in the direction I wanted to go. I surfaced and she said I needed to not gold fish turn, if you watch a gold fish they use their little front mounted fins to turn with. She knows my limits with my left stump so she gave me several suggestions to try and the one that really worked well was to over frog kick with my right foot then use my left one as a big rudder instead of trying to frog kick with it and it actually worked. I think with more practice it will become more natural.

We went to the shallow end of the pool and she said it's time to try to unhook the bottom of my right tank and swim with it extended out in front of me. The first time I tried it was with an 80 cubic foot aluminum tank that had a 5lb lead weight attached to the bottom of it at Peacock 2 and it was a disaster. The difference is now I have a 50 cubic foot steel tank plus my weighting and balance is much better. I was mildly successful this time - by that I mean I was able to actually swim forward and keep my body level and fairly horizontal, I still need to practice that skill more to make it comfortable for me.

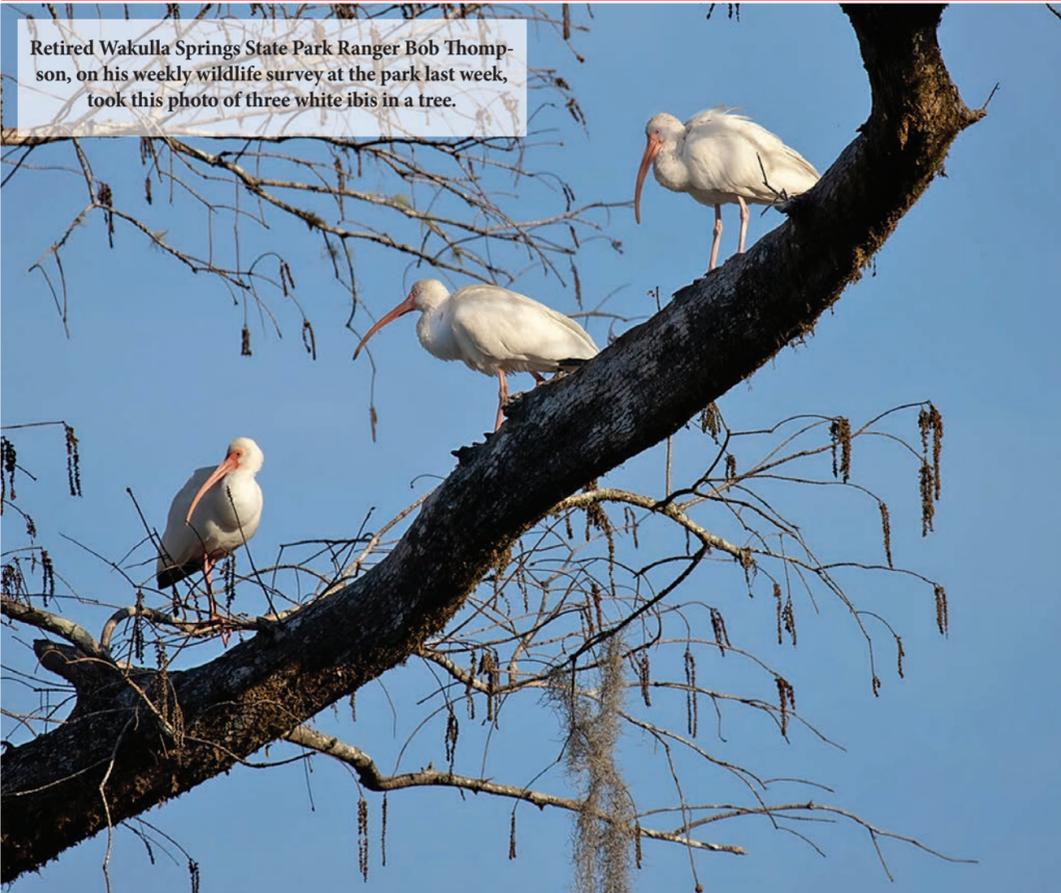
All in all it was a much better session with the side mount rig than when I first started. My instructor was very happy for me and gave me some suggestions on adding some more D rings in various locations on my harness to aid in my adjustments. It's like all new skills and equipment- you get it set to your liking and the rest is technique.

Keep making bubbles.

Russell Miller NAUI #59999

WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO

Retired Wakulla Springs State Park Ranger Bob Thompson, on his weekly wildlife survey at the park last week, took this photo of three white ibis in a tree.



More discipline. Less shame

By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

I love pasta, especially with marinara sauce and meatballs. I also love watching mystery programs on TV. If the government banned exercising for all people

with the initials “SHB,” I’d be okay with that. And frankly, there have been times (especially when I’m tired) when I wanted to read a good piece of fiction rather than my Bible.

But how would I look and feel if I ate only spaghetti and meatballs? What would come of my life if I spent all day watching TV? What would happen to me (and to you) if we didn’t do what was necessary to stay physically and spiritually strong?

In Romans 6, the apostle Paul writes about breaking free

from the bondage of sin. Sometimes, however, the behavior we struggle with isn’t necessarily a sin. Instead, we wrestle with “small” choices that hinder us and damage our relationships.

Over time, these seemingly harmless choices can snowball into larger and more grievous behavior.

The message of Romans 6, especially verse 21 can help us with the decisions we make each day: “But then what benefit (return) did you get from the things of which you are now ashamed? [None] for the

end of those things is death” (AMPC).

Think for a moment about the decisions we make. Is the payoff (or return) we reap from our imprudent choices really worth the cost? What price are we willing to pay for squandering our health, time and finances? How much shame are we willing to endure when we use words or behave in ways that offend those around us, not to mention God?

How much lower will our quality of life, our sense of well-being, even our view of ourselves be if we don’t reconsid-

er our behavior? How many dreams, relationships, or investments will we sacrifice?

Imagine what your life would look like without the negative behaviors. Think how different it would be if you practiced more self-control. Is the mental image enough to motivate you to read Romans 6 and apply its truth every day for the next week?

As we strengthen ourselves in God’s Word, we’ll make wiser choices and exercise more restraint. Each time we resist a second helping of pasta and turn off the

TV, not only will we step toward a more fulfilling life, we’ll gain more confidence in our ability to yield to God’s grace.

God’s grace working in us will help us overcome bad habits, build character and stop sinful behavior. It will enable us to live a life with more discipline and less shame.

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

A gentle reign

By **CHERYL CRUCE**

The gentle rains that fell to the earth began on Thursday and lasted through the weekend. The skies have finally cleared, and the sun is peaking through the clouds drying the ground on a chilly Sunday afternoon. I am amazed at the cleansing power of a gentle rain. The grass and foliage appear bright green and refreshed. The showers have washed away the pollen as al-

lergy meds are placed in the medicine cabinet until the next battle of floral sensitivity rises.

Aside from our physical need for cleansing waters, there is also a spiritual recognition of the liquid substance. The cleansing strength of water is observed in Genesis 6 when God looks upon the earth and grieves at man’s broken, sinful nature. In a moment of grief, God decides to destroy His creation with a flood. However, God sees Noah’s righteousness and stays His hand of complete devastation because of grace. As the flood waters covered the earth, that which was grievous to God was washed away, and righteousness remained safe in

the Ark.

The cleansing waters of our Lord flooded the scene again in Exodus 14 when the Children of Israel were being set free from Egyptian bondage. Four hundred years of oppression had thwarted Israel’s desire to worship God. Hearing the prayers of Israel, God moved to set the people free. Once Israel miraculously crossed the Red Sea on dry land, the waters poured in upon the enemy. Four hundred years of persecution and cruelty were swept away with one command from God.

The stories of The Flood and The Red Sea crossing are Old Testament images of baptism. In the New Testament, we read of baptism beginning in

the Book of Matthew with the baptism of Jesus. As John the Baptist plunged Jesus beneath the waters of the Jordan, the fulfillment of all righteousness was lifted to the heavens.

I stepped into the waters of baptism yesterday with two precious souls who came with a desire to follow the Lord. I wish I could explain the moment’s joy as each was plunged beneath the frigid waters, but I cannot. I can tell you it was one of the most joyous moments of my spiritual life. It is not as if they were held in bondage for centuries and needed to be set free. Nor were they individuals who could be grievous to God or man. In every sense of the word, they are the

epitome of innocence, yet they came to be cleansed by the fulfillment of righteousness.

I wish I could explain to you the joy on the faces of a congregation ready to receive and nurture these new believers, but I cannot. A fresh wind blows throughout our sanctuary as people gather to receive God’s cleansing reign. Grief and uncertainties of the soul are being showered beneath His living waters, inviting us into a new life of His fulfillment, for we are His children.

I do not know what sea of impossibilities lay ahead, but I know God will help you cross over. His promises are before you; your enemy is gone. Did you not know you are the apple

of His eye, and He will keep you always (Psalm 17:8)? Find a moment to come to the Father and enter the waters while the invitation remains open. Step into the righteousness of Jesus and experience His fulfillment. Allow His gentle reign to flood your soul. Know that you are invited to a sanctuary of believers experiencing a fresh wind of His spirit.

John 1:12 ESV But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

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

OUT TO PASTOR

Another celebration in the bank

By **JAMES SNYDER**

This month The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I celebrate the 52nd anniversary of our engagement. In August, it’ll be the 52nd anniversary of our wedding.

I can’t believe we have been together for 52 years. But, alas, here it is.

I first met her in September of 1970 when I went to Bible college. Knowing that God was calling me to be a pastor, I understood that I would need a wife to help me in this ministry.

Not being woman-wise, and no dating experience: I thought a date was simply a dried-up prune.

Not knowing what to do, I simply put it in God’s hands. Before I went to this Bible college, my prayer was, “Heavenly Father, make the first young lady I meet when I go to school be the wife you have chosen for me.”

It sounds ridiculous, but not being woman-wise, it was my best choice.

My parents took me up to New York, where the college was, as we drove into the men’s dorm driveway a young lady was coming out. This young lady had her hair rolled up in tomato cans which was rather usual at that time.

When I saw her walk out, I quickly prayed, “Not yet, Father. My feet have not touched the ground.”

I think God was chuckling. For some reason, I was never able to get away from her because it was a very small college, and everybody knew everybody.

Not being woman-wise, I did not know how to conduct myself in such a situation.

In December, we were on some date, and she happened to say, or so I thought she happened to say it, “Wouldn’t it be nice to get married?”

Again, my not being woman-wise did not allow me to understand what was going on. I simply replied to her, “I think it would be great to get married.”

Foolish me, I thought that was the end of the conversation.

The next day in school, as I walked down the hallway, everybody looked at me, smiled, and said, “Congratulations.” So I smiled back and thanked them.

I had no idea what I was being congratulated on, I thought perhaps I finally passed a test in school.

After a while, I stopped somebody congratulating me and asked what he was congratulating me for.

Laughing, he said, “Oh, you silly boy. I’m congratulating you on your upcoming wedding.” Then he walked away.

I stood in the hallway for a moment, trying to process what he had just told me.

Later that afternoon, I met her in the cafeteria, she looked at me, smiled, and said, “I’ve told everybody, and everybody is happy for us. Isn’t it wonderful?”

I then realized I was the last one in the college that knew I was getting married.

God was the first one to know who I was going to marry, and I was the

last one to know. That is chapter 1 in woman-wise psychology.

According to tradition back then, the next step was to get permission from her father to marry his daughter. So you understand I was rather nervous along this line because I had never met her father or mother.

Before the engagement, we traveled back to visit her family. It was then that I met her father.

I took him aside and said, “Sir, I would like to ask your permission for your daughter’s hand in marriage.”

He looked at me with a rather strange look and said, “No.”

At this point, my flabber just got gasted, and I didn’t know what to say.

He looked at me strangely and said, “Young man, you take my entire daughter or none of her. Not just her hand.”

At this point, I realized I was also not father-in-law-wise. That was well beyond my pay scale. My heart sank, and I did not know the next step.

Looking at me, her father finally broke down laughing. I had no idea what he was laughing about.

“Of course, you can have my daughter’s hand in marriage as long as you take the rest of her.”

I tried to laugh as best I could but had no idea what was happening in the world. If this is what I was marrying into, it will be a long voyage.

As we were driving back to school, the future Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage looked at me and said, “Well, what do you think of my family?”

I just smiled back at her and she said, “Welcome to my family.”

I smiled and thought about my favorite life verse from the Bible.

Proverbs 3:5-6, “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

This verse has guided me throughout my entire life, especially in the area of marriage. Either I can lean on my own understanding, or, I can trust in the Lord with all my heart. If I’m going to go down the right path only God can lead me.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamessnyder51@gmail.com, website www.jamessnyderministries.com.


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Pastor Cheryl Mixon-Cruce **850-962-2511**

Obituaries

DEATH NOTICES

• **Henry Clifford Curtis**, 69, of Crawfordville, died Feb. 7, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey-Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **Shellie G. Rowell Jr.**, of Carrabelle, died on Feb. 8, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey-Young Chapel 850-926-5919, www.familyfhc.com

SUNFISH

From Front Page

-ing with the Ancients.” Through the program, which is sponsored by the Office of Naval Research and National Geographic, Ballard is focused on tracing human migration along coastal routes. His theory was that some of the first Native Americans “walked the shoreline” while migrating across North America thousands of years ago - a theory that has led him and his team to old caves that are submerged, some of which are around 400 ft below sea level.

Ballard noted that some of the caves he is now seeking to study are too deep for divers

to reach and safely explore. Expedition leader Jason Fahy said one purpose of AUVs like SUNFISH is to “push past human capability.”

According to the mission director for this testing, SUNFISH Chief Technology Officer Kristof Richmond, the AUV is capable of moving 360 degrees and of thinking for itself. He noted that the AUV is equipped with thrusters, cameras, lights, and sonar. SUNFISH Field Operations Manager Vickie Siegel said that during the early phases of testing the AUV in unstructured underwater caves, it is also sent into the caves with three lines - a communication line, a fiberoptic tether, and

a closed-circuit television camera. The lines help individuals on the ground stay connected to the AUV.

Fahy noted that the features of the AUV allow it to both map caves using sonar and acoustics, and map caves through the collection of images. At a special presentation held immediately prior to the Friends of Wakulla Springs monthly board meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 1, SUNFISH developer Stone said, “the vehicle here is acquiring data from the environment by itself, and then it reacts to that and carries out high-level objectives that we give it.” In an interview, Ballard said that the SUNFISH AUV has the ability to create “precise, three-dimensional maps.”

According to Ballard, the SUNFISH team chose Wakulla Springs for this phase of testing and mapping. He noted that the cave system here is interesting in its own right. Ultimately, the goal is to gain confidence in the reliability of SUNFISH to explore and map underwater caves - hopefully at deeper depths.

As SUNFISH is expensive technology, Ballard’s goal at Wakulla Springs was to test it in underwater caves that can be reached by divers in case of any issues that may occur during the mission. He referred to this as “practicing in a cave that divers can reach, so I can put it in a cave divers can’t reach.”

Testing at Wakulla Springs was conducted in two parts. For the

first week, the team focused on mapping the Wakulla Spring cave using SUNFISH. Due to limited visibility, these tests focused on using SUNFISH’s sonar capabilities to map the cave. By Feb 8, the team had completed their tests and mapping at the Wakulla Spring cave, and they were starting their tests at Sally Ward Spring.

Sally Ward was included as a testing and mapping site because the water was more clear - thus visibility was better for the divers and AUV. Fahy noted that the focus at Sally Ward was SUNFISH’s ability to map Sally Ward’s cube room using the images that it takes. The ultimate goal for underwater cave mapping using the AUV is

to combine sonar mapping with the collected images to create a more complete three-dimensional map of the cave systems.

Fahy said that after mapping is completed, the team hopes to leave behind a product at the Wakulla Springs Lodge that will allow visitors to visualize and experience parts of the local cave system in a more immersive way. The team will be continuing their research on this project with the ultimate goal of mapping deeper caves using the AUV.

For more information you can find a recording of Ballard and Stone’s special presentation on the Wakulla Springs YouTube channel.

Sheriff’s Report

Activity reported for the week of Feb. 3 to 10:

FRIDAY, FEB. 3

• Deputy Arturo Cordoba responded to Dana Drive in reference to a fraud complaint. Upon arrival Deputy Cordoba made contact with Patricia Suderman, who advised her husband Patrick lost his debit card yesterday and now there have been several unauthorized charges made on their account. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

• Harry Raker reported the right flap on a window air conditioning unit was pulled back at his rental property. The flap was pulled back as if it was snatched from the window. Raker advised it would take \$150 to fix the window unit flap. No other damage was observed to have been done to the residence. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Todd Kent investigated.

• Robert Watford reported his 2007 Suzuki dirt bike being stolen. Watford stated he last saw his dirt bike at his residence a week ago. The dirt bike was not operational due to stale fuel in the tank.

The dirt bike was being stored unsecured in an open area besides an outdoor shed. Estimated value of the dirt bike is \$1,800. There are no known suspects at the time of this report. The dirt bike was entered into NCIC/FCIC as stolen. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Todd Kent investigated.

SATURDAY, FEB. 4

• Walmart Asset Protection reported an unknown male had passed the last point of sale with a Walmart cart filled with unpaid store merchandise. Deputies were able to arrive prior to the male loading the items in a vehicle. Lt David Pienta attempted to stop the suspect but he failed to follow commands and was subsequently Tasered. The suspect James Henry Robinson was taken into custody after being cleared by Wakulla County Fire Rescue. Total number of items stolen was 84 with a value of \$915.12. Robinson was charged with Retail theft, possession of counterfeit currency, and resisting arrest.

MONDAY, FEB. 6

• Timothy Keays re-

ported fraudulent activity on his bank account. Keays stated on Feb. 4 a charge of \$103.88 was made at Walmart via online. Keays stated he didn’t authorize the charge nor does he know who is responsible. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Dakota Haddock investigated.

• Deputy Edwin Grove responded to Ot-

ter Creek Road in reference to a theft. James Lamar Harvey reported his tool box was taken from his porch. He estimated the tools and box would cost \$500 to replace. Several possible suspects have been identified in the case. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 8

• John Davis report-

Two FHP wrecks in Wakulla in two days

Staff Report

Two crashes involving two Florida Highway Patrol vehicles were reported - one on Saturday, Feb. 11, and another on Sunday, Feb. 12.

In the first wreck, on Saturday, at about 8:20 a.m., a FHP Charger was traveling northbound on U.S. Highway 319 near Whitlock Way, which is north of Crawfordville and south of Bloxham Cutoff. The trooper, a 29-year-old female, went to make a U-turn and the car behind her, an SUV driven by a 19-year-old Sopchoppy man, ran into the back of the Charger.

The trooper suffered serious injuries and was transported to Tallahassee Memorial Hospital. The road was shut down for 4 hours.

The wreck on Sunday was on 319 near Bloxham Cutoff, and a trooper was slowing for a red light and was rear-ended by a distracted driver behind him. The trooper was only identified as a 27-year-old male. The other driver was reported as a 26-year-old female from Crawfordville driving an SUV.

Neither reported any injuries.

ed his medication was sent from the Veterans Administration and it failed to arrive by the normal delivery date. Deputy Arturo Cordoba responded and investigated.

• Dustin Smith reported leaving his Sthil 800x Backpack Blower out near the mailbox while he was cleaning the yard. Smith forgot about the blower and left the property upon job completion. Smith advised he drove for about five miles and remembered he left his blower from out by the mailbox, the blower was gone. The blower was entered into NCIC / FCIC with the provided serial number and the value was listed as \$650. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Dustin Matthews investigated.

• The manager of the Dollar General on Shadeville Highway reported an unknown white male being intoxicated in the store. The male took the key

to the store restroom outside with him which prompted the contact. The male became argumentative and incoherent with the manager when she asked for the restroom key. While deputies were enroute, the male left the store driving west on Shadeville to Cajer Posey Road. Deputies located the white 2023 GMC traveling on Cajer Posey using the description given by the manager. A traffic stop was initiated on the vehicle in the area of Nine Gables Lane and contact was made with the driver and sole occupant Markham Swisher. A DUI investigation was conducted and Swisher refused to participate in field sobriety exercises. Based on the evidence observed by deputies on scene, Swisher was arrested for DUI and transported to the Wakulla County Jail. Deputy Dustin Matthews investigated.

Report suspicious or illegal activity at 850-745-7100, or call 911 for emergencies.

Kiersten Smith

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Front Page Talking Points:

Congress hears calls for return of free hot meals for all students, regardless of family income

Some students' families are affected by the end of a pandemic-era federal program that provided free cafeteria meals. Families now have to pay if they don't qualify for breakfast and lunch because of income level. The School Nutrition Association said in January that 96 percent of schools it surveyed were facing an increase in unpaid meal debt because government grants for free meals to all students ended in the 2022-23 school year. (Schools often feed every student anyway, requiring them to pay later and creating a debt parents may struggle to repay. Some children stop getting hot food or a full meal.)

The nutrition group, a nonprofit in Arlington, Va., and others are urging Congress to bring back no-cost meals for all students. "We're very worried that at the end of the year, a lot of schools will have significant amounts of unpaid meal debt that they need to pay off," an association spokeswoman says, "and that could cut into education funds. . . . We want to make sure every student has equal access to healthy school meals." Congress earlier OK'd an extra 40 cents per lunch and 15 cents per breakfast for every school meal served this school year, but those funds expire July 1. Community organizations, social media influencers and national nonprofits are

Front Page Action Points:

1. Read education coverage of any kind and tell something you learn.
2. Briefly summarize news about another basic need, such as housing, clothing or transportation.
3. Now share a fact from any article about your age group.

trying to help fill the void with donations. Republicans in Congress oppose permanently extending universal free cafeteria meals, arguing that only the neediest families should be eligible. A handful of states are stepping in. California and Maine use bud-

get surpluses to start permanent universal school meal programs. Temporary extensions run through June in Vermont, Nevada, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania (breakfast only). "Free school meals are critical to child development," says Erin McAleer,

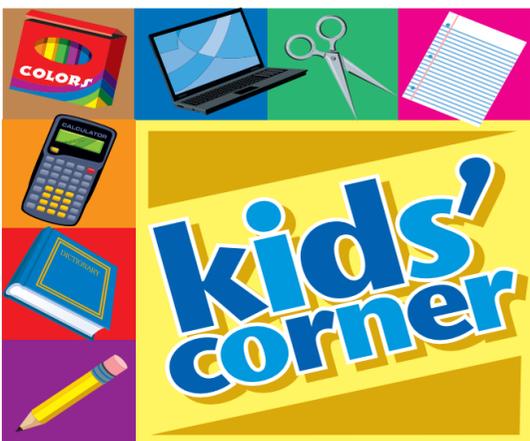
head of Project Bread, an East Boston nonprofit. In Minnesota, Gov. Tim Walz recently urged legislators to approve money for breakfasts and lunches at all public schools. Colorado will tax wealthier residents to generate \$100 million for free meals — a program overwhelmingly approved by voters in November.

National group says: "A family that's going through a medical crisis or just had a rent increase and is still struggling to make ends meet, they might not qualify for meal benefits, but they're still having a hard time putting food on the table." — Diane Pratt-Heavner, media rela-

tions director, School Nutrition Association

State lawmaker says: "We have a budget surplus and we know we can do this. No child in Minnesota should be going hungry." — Rep. Sydney Jordan, a Democrat

Professor says: "Expanding the school meals program to all kids, regardless of their families' income, leads to improvements for kids and families. Math test scores go up, exclusionary discipline — basically out-of-school suspensions — go down and the use of food bank services also falls." — Krista Ruffini, Georgetown University economist



PEOPLE FACT!

THIS PERSON IS A WISE AND TRUSTED TEACHER.

ANSWER: MENTOR

Crossword Puzzle

1				2			3
4							
				5			
6	7						8

- ACROSS**
1. Decorative light
 4. Twelve
 5. Number on calendar
 6. Feeling safe
- DOWN**
1. People in charge
 2. To clean clothes
 3. Ceramics
 7. Emergency room (abbr.)
 8. Towards

Answers:
 ACROSS
 1. Lava lamp 4. Dozen 5. Date 6. Security
 DOWN
 1. Leaders 2. Launder 3. Pottery 7. ER 8. To

THIS DAY IN... HISTORY

- 1014: HENRY OF BAVARIA IS CROWNED KING OF GERMANY AND HOLY ROMAN EMPEROR.
- 1849: JAMES K. POLK BECOMES THE FIRST SERVING U.S. PRESIDENT TO HAVE HIS PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN.
- 1920: THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS IS FOUNDED IN CHICAGO.

New Word

DIRECT

to supervise and control

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Leader

SPANISH: Líder

ITALIAN: Leader

FRENCH: Chef

GERMAN: Anführer

Did You Know?

TODAY'S YOUTH CAN BENEFIT FROM GETTING INVOLVED AND LEARNING THE QUALITIES OF EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP.

GET THE PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: YOUNG WOMAN

BREAKFAST WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- BACON
- BAGELS
- BIALYS
- CEREAL
- COFFEE
- COTTAGE CHEESE
- CREPES
- CROISSANT
- FRENCH TOAST
- GRANOLA
- HAM
- HASHBROWNS
- MUFFINS
- OATMEAL
- OMELET
- PANCAKES
- PARFAIT
- SAUSAGE
- SCRAMBLED
- SMOOTHIE
- TEA
- WAFFLES
- YOGURT

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

⊙ ✱ ☼ ☽ ☿ ♀ ♁ ♃ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

CRYPTO FUN

☾ ☾ ☾ ☾ ☾ ☾ ☾ ☾ ☾ ☾
 Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to the library.
 Each number corresponds to a letter.
 (Hint: 13 = O)

- A. 4 9 19 9 14 13 23**
Clue: List or itemized display
- B. 8 13 13 26 15**
Clue: Recorded written information
- C. 13 11 23 9 22 18 10 20**
Clue: Sort
- D. 15 3 20 14 25 20 15**
Clue: Racks

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to the library.

O V E M U L

--	--	--	--	--	--

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

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

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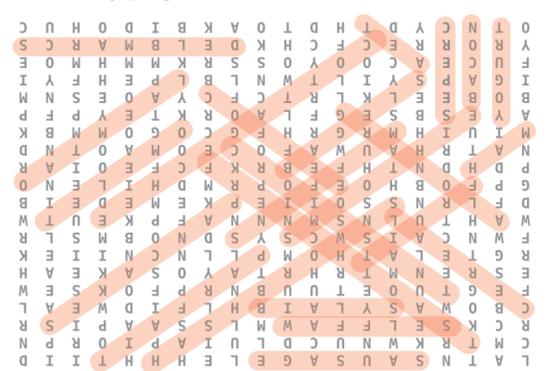
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Guess Who?

I am a singer and actress born in California on February 15, 1986. I unsuccessfully auditioned for "American Idol" when I was 17. However, I rose to fame on a television series about a high school chorus.

Answers: A. catalog B. books C. organize D. shelves
 Answer: Amber Riley
 Answer: Volume



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Feb. 16, 23, 2023

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CLUES ACROSS

- River in Tuscany
- A way to represent
- Rocker's guitar
- Civil Rights group
- Brew
- Scratch
- W. Asian country
- The Eye Network
- Clarified butter
- Part of the Cascade Range
- Downwind
- A way to steer
- Loop
- Not ingested
- Swampy coniferous forest
- Musician
- Signing
- Containing iron
- Part of a theorem or proof
- Veterans battleground (slang)
- Of enormous proportions

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CROSSWORD

- Italian city
- Come before
- Balm
- Undergarments
- Male parent
- Ropes
- Ear part
- Investment vehicle
- Dictator
- Cain and ___
- A type of code
- Border river along India and Nepal
- It's what's for dinner
- Consume
- Christian ___, designer
- City in central Japan
- Sorrels
- Twinned diamond
- Canadian province
- Monetary units
- Head honcho
- Goddess of wisdom
- Part of a play
- Get rid of
- Applicant
- Bowling alleys have many
- Explosive
- "The Say Hey Kid"
- Ultrahigh frequency
- No (Scottish)
- Make a mistake
- Credit card term
- Keyboard key
- Woman (French)
- In the middle of
- Score perfectly
- Coat a metal with an oxide coat
- Deadly disease
- A place to dock a boat (abbr.)
- Belch
- Member of U.S. Navy
- "In ___": separate from others
- Examine extensively
- Adjust
- Tattle
- Actor Pitt
- Gulls
- Within
- Exceptionally talented performer

CLUES DOWN

- Cuckoos
- Skin issue

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11		
12				13		14				15				
16					17		18				19			
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31							32							
33									34	35	36	37	38	
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				44	45				46					
				47				48						
49					50				51		52	53	54	55
56					57				58					
59					60					61				
62					63						64			

W O I G J V E J E B
V Q U V S d I Z T E B V
I N V H A L V H I E B O T
S E T B V O C V O S V B R
O G E S E B d V N E T S
W W W E T S W V N
V D I V L N E L V E N N
E N T M E E T V L S V H S
E H H D S B O T E V H S I
H O L I E T V d C V V N
S S V B d V W O N R V



Petra Shuff, retired executive director of the Chamber, gets a hug from Mary Wallace on the porch at Sherlock Springs. John Shuff in the background.

Petra Shuff celebrated for Chamber work

Story & Photos By WILLIAM SNOWDEN

Petra Shuff, who retired at the first of the year as executive director of the Wakulla Chamber of Commerce, was given a surprise party at Sherlock Springs

on Tuesday, Feb. 7.

The theme of the party was travel, as Petra wants to travel during her retirement.

Scott Gaby was Chamber president back in 2007 and hired Petra.

Gaby joked that there didn't seem to be a lot

of egos in the Chamber now, but back in his day there were a lot of big egos.

Current Chamber President Amy Geiger spoke of Petra's impact on the Chamber during her time.

"Your presence in the

Chamber office will be deeply missed," Geiger said.

Geiger presented Petra with an award made by Terry Hillier of Wakulla Sign Company that featured a brick from the courthouse walk.

County Commissioner

Quincee Messersmith remembered when she first met Petra years ago at a PAWS meeting at Bay Leaf Market.

Greg James, Jessica Revell and Sharol Brown presented Petra with a weathervane that resembles the one on top of the

old Courthouse.

Mary Wallace noted that she and Petra started the networking luncheons and events. She passed a beer stein around for the crowd to fill with dollars for travel money for Petra and her husband John.



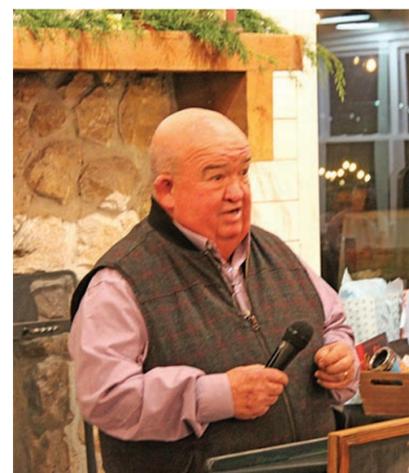
Current Chamber executive director Heather Bryan with Terry Hillier of Wakulla Sign Company and the plaque for Petra Shuff that features a brick from the old courthouse, with Chamber President Amy Geiger.



Former Chamber President Greg James with a weathervane presented to Petra Shuff by him and Chamber treasurer Jessica Revell and member Sharol Brown.



Petra Shuff, center, at the retirement party and dinner at Sherlock Springs, which was attended by about 65 people.



Scott Gaby, left, was president of the Chamber in 2007 when Petra was hired. Above, the cake served at the party.

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Brian Miller sworn-in as Wakulla County judge



Chief Judge Jonathan Sjostrom presides as retired Wakulla County Judge Jill Walker addresses the crowd.



Former Wakulla Circuit Judge Ron Flury, who was also chief prosecutor in Wakulla for several years, offers Miller advice on being a judge.

By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**
Editor

A standing-room only crowd was on hand at the Wakulla County Courthouse on Friday, Feb. 10 for the investiture ceremony for new Wakulla County Judge Brian Miller.

More than a dozen circuit and county judges attended, including retired Wakulla County Judge Jill Walker, current Wakulla Circuit Judge Layne Smith and Circuit Judge Ron Flury, who had the Wakulla assignment for the past few years and also served as chief prosecutor in Wakulla before that.

Miller was serving as Wakulla chief prosecutor when he was elected county judge in November.

In her comments,



Major Ray Johnson, Undersheriff Billy Jones, Judge Brian Miller and Sheriff Jared Miller.

Judge Walker, who served 32 years as Wakulla County judge, noted her conversations with Miller about his philosophy as a prosecutor and she said Miller replied that he wanted all defendants

to feel they were treated fairly.

Judge Flury noted that Judge Walker had been teaching or mentoring other judges throughout her long career.

Saying Wakulla vot-

ers faced a win-win situation with the judicial candidates in the election between Miller and Eddie Evans, both good lawyers and both exceptionally good-hearted people, Flury said.

"How you've treated



Circuit Judge Layne Smith with Judge Brian Miller and Judge Smith's judicial assistant Deanna Gravius at the reception at Wakulla Springs after the ceremony.

people in the past is the primary reason you're here," Flury told Miller.

Miller thanked his parents, his wife and daughter, and family. He thanked the judges in attendance, especially Judge Walker.

"I can only hope to continue the high standard you set," he told Walker, adding: "Thank you for your service."

A reception was held at Wakulla Springs Lodge after the investiture ceremony.

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