



County staff given award

Page 7

The Wakulla Sun

"It's a New Day"



Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mostly Cloudy Hi: 77° Lo: 68° 24% Sunrise 7:02 AM Sunset 6:37 PM	Thunderstorms Wind Hi: 78° Lo: 61° 64% Sunrise 7:01 AM Sunset 6:38 PM	Partly Cloudy Hi: 74° Lo: 53° 24% Sunrise 7:00 AM Sunset 6:38 PM

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Our 2nd Year 9th Issue
Thursday, March 2, 2023



\$1
One Section

School board may reconsider exchange

A month after rejecting foreign teachers, some school board members express interest in holding a workshop on it

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

School Board member Josh Brown brought up the possibility of again seeking exchange teachers to help with Wakulla's teacher shortage.

"We missed an opportunity," Brown told fellow school board members on Tuesday, Feb. 21.

Brown brought it up as a discussion item at the meeting. Last month, there was standing-room only as teachers and other concerned citizens expressed opposition to bringing in

foreign exchange teachers – as though the plan was to replace current teachers, and much was also made about salaries and insurance for teachers.

At last month's meeting, Brown made a motion to approve a contract with TPG, an Orlando-based company that facilitates foreign teacher exchanges, but it died for lack of a second.

Last week, Brown returned to the issue, and said he should have requested a workshop given how controversial the matter was, and how

much bad information was out there.

He noted that the district could potentially get two or three teachers as the district faces a shortage of 25 teachers.

He expressed surprise at the teacher reaction at the meeting, saying they hadn't gotten accurate information. "I would never want to disrespect teachers," he said, adding that he would always put students first.

School board members Cale Langston and Melisa Taylor said they were interested in the exchange program and

having a workshop. Langston said he didn't support the matter last month because of the way it was presented; Taylor admitted at the meeting that she wasn't sure how she would have voted if it had gone forward.

New school board member Eddie Hand said he would attend a workshop, but still stood by his opposition to foreign teachers. New member Laura Lawhon did not indicate an opinion.

Superintendent of Schools Bobby Pearce noted, though, that TPG

withdrew its contract offer after last month's meeting. The company's CEO was upset after viewing Facebook video of the school board meeting in which comments were made that the CEO felt were xenophobic and racist. Pearce said the CEO told him that they do not want to bring in teachers to communities that don't want them.

Taylor said she made phone calls to 12 of the 18 districts that have used TPG, and noted all of them were very pleased with the quality of teachers – adding that four of the districts had

TPG teachers who were teachers of the year. She stopped making calls after TPG pulled the contract.

Langston said that, if Wakulla shows interest, maybe TPG would reconsider.

Pearce was adamant in his answer that TPG would not be back with a contract. He asked several times if the school board wanted staff to investigate other exchange vendors to see what was out there, but didn't get a direct answer.

Langston bemoaned that a lot of information

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BASEBALL PLAY AT THE PLATE



War Eagles win season opener

The Wakulla War Eagles kicked off the new baseball season with an 11-0 win over the Godby Cougars on Tuesday, Feb. 21. The season opener was

also notable for senior Colby Zinser signing his scholarship with Lagrange College after the game. Both stories appear on Page 3. (Photo by Ken Fields)

Talquin answers questions about cloudy water

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

Administration from Talquin Electric Cooperative appeared at last week's county commission meeting to answer questions about dark water in the utility's system.

Appearing at the meeting were Tracy Bensley, general manager of Talquin, Water Manager John Halas, and David Miller, who represents Wakulla members on the board of directors. Halas explained that the system's water has a seasonal problem with iron and manganese in the aquifer.

A filter at the utility's well in Songbird had helped alleviate the problem in the past, but didn't work this year.

"We got the well water clean," Halas told commissioners, but by that time "it was throughout the system."

A new well located on Wakulla-Arran Road should help in the future.

Commissioner Chuck Hess asked if the issue was saltwater intrusion, but Halas said that wasn't the problem.

Hess noted that, in late fall, transpiration by trees has stopped and it is typically seasonally wet, which means more water coming off the forest – and that water is typically dark.

Halas said the new well is drilled, but with supply chain issues, he can't say when it will be built. "As soon as possible," he added.

Hess also asked about notices for trihalomethanes, which are formed when chlorine is used to disinfect water.

Halas noted that Talquin is in a pilot program to use an alternative disinfectant to see if it is an improvement.

He also added that Talquin has not sent out a notice on THMs for the last five quarters.

Commissioner Mike Kemp wanted reassurances that "Growth has nothing to do with this water problem."

Halas assured him it did not.

Forest cleanup is held

103 volunteers pick up nearly 6,000 pounds of debris on Saturday

By TAMMIE NASON
of KWCB

Keep Wakulla County Beautiful and the U.S. Forest Service were joined by 103 volunteers and community leaders in their effort to clean the national forest.

The Apalachicola National Forest is an annual event held with help from the Forest Service and kicks off the Keep America Beautiful Great American Cleanup for our local affiliate. There were 12 sites that had been identified as having an excessive amount of litter or being used for illegal dumping.

The Great American Cleanup is Keep America Beautiful's signature program. It is the nation's largest community improvement initiative, which takes place annually in an estimated 20,000 communities nationwide engaging more than 5 million volunteers and participants, on average, every year to create a positive and lasting impact.

"At Keep Wakulla County Beautiful, we work to inspire people



Some of Saturday's volunteers in the Apalachicola National Forest to pick up litter.

to take action every day to improve and beautify their community environment through programs like the Great American Cleanup. This initiative prompts individuals to take greater responsibility for their local environment by conducting grassroots community service projects that engage volunteers, local businesses and civic leaders." Per Tammie Nason, the Executive Director of Keep Wakul-

la County Beautiful.

The Leaders Against Litter was again tied into this year's event. The purpose of his initiative is to raise awareness about how Florida's pervasive litter problem affects communities by inviting community leaders to observe the problem first-hand by cleaning up a local site and educating participants about the direct and indirect costs and damage caused by litter.

Keeping Florida beautiful is a civic responsibility that rests equally on all our shoulders. The Leaders Against Litter is a program held by several of Keep Florida Beautiful's affiliates. Local leaders attending included Commissioner Quincee Messersmith who delivered our proclamation at the event, Commissioner Mike Kemp, Commissioner Fred Nichols, Soppchopy Mayor Lara

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Operation Green Light returns

Special to The Sun

Operation Green Light, the annual driver license reinstatement program that gives customers an opportunity to pay overdue court-ordered obligations, while saving on additional fees, returns for two weeks March 13-17, and March 20-24.

"We have assisted 78 Wakulla citizens get their driving privileges back over the last two years and collected \$29,483 in past due court fees" said Wakulla Clerk of Courts Greg James. "We will extend our office hours for one additional hour to be sure we can help everyone who may have difficulty getting to our office before 4 p.m. Our court office hours will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. during this two week event."

Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park Pinxter Azalea

By LYNN ARTZ and DAVID RODDENBERRY



The flowers attract hummingbirds, butterflies and bees.

The colorful azaleas that adorn southern yards came from east Asia. Florida has its own azaleas that wildlife prefer. Pinxter azalea (*Rhododendron canescens*) is a striking native azalea with tubular pink flowers that attract hummingbirds, butterflies, and bees. It grows 10-15 feet tall in dappled sunlight and moist soil with organic matter. Pinxter azalea is the most common native azalea in the southeast and can form large colonies. It has many names including wild azalea, piedmont azalea, honeysuckle azalea, mountain azalea, sweet azalea, hoary azalea, and bush honeysuckle. In the wild in north Florida, it grows in moist woods, at the edge of swamps, and along streams. Pinxter azalea is blooming now in the woodland swale and south of the stage at Sopchoppy Depot Park.

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Student of the Week

Kaylee Walker at Wakulla High School

Congratulations to Kaylee Walker! She was selected by her teachers as the Wakulla High School Student of the Week. Kaylee has maintained a 3.79 GPA while playing three different sports at WHS (Volleyball, Weightlifting & Softball). She is a selfless athlete who encourages her teammates on the field, in the classroom and outside the classroom. Kaylee has one of the most positive attitudes on our campus and she will always stand up for what is right. Fun fact, Kaylee is an avid reader who challenges other players on the softball team to read as well. When she isn't dancing or creating tiktoks, she is reading. Kaylee is more than an athlete; she is a leader on our campus, and we are lucky to have a student like her represent Wakulla High School.



STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.

Wakulla County Tax Collectors Office

Lisa Craze, CFC

SPECIALTY TAGS
 \$20 - \$30 additional to cost of tag.

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.



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Baseball season kicks off with wins



By **KEITH ANDERSON**
WHS Baseball Coach

The Wakulla High Varsity baseball team started the season this past week going 2-0 winning games against Godby High and Brookwood from Thomasville, Ga.

The score in the home opener on Tuesday, Feb. 21 was 11-0. Junior starting pitcher Leaston Spears picked up the win on the mound throwing 2 innings surrendering only 1 hit. Relief pitchers Jesse Nazworth, Gavin Estep, and Owen Klees all pitched a clean inning apiece in the 5 inning affair.



Freshman Owen Klees gets a base hit against Godby in the season opener.

On the offensive side, Michael Hurley was 3 for 3 with a double and

3 RBIs. Brady Crum was also 3 for 3 with a double, a home-run,

and 3 RBIs. Owen Klees and Colby Zinser each added singles.

On Friday, Feb. 24, the War Eagles hosted Brookwood from Thom-

asville. Starting pitcher freshman Owen Klees toed the rubber for WHS in his first Varsity start. After a rocky first inning giving up 3 runs, Klees settled down to give the War Eagles 2 2/3 solid innings of work before reaching his pitch count. Leaston Spears then came on in relief with the game tied to provide another solid outing giving 2 1/3 shutout innings striking out 3. Gavin Estep then came in to close out the 5th inning striking out two with just 11 pitches.

Offensively, the War Eagles pounded out 12 hits. Junior center-fielder Parker Lawhon led the team going 3-4 on the night with 2 RBI's and a double. Josiah Pierini added 2 hits. Colby Zinser, Michael Hurley, Brady Crum, Owen Klees, Reid Joyner, Leaston Spears, and Sam Bruce all added hits.



Colby Zinser signs scholarship

After the season-opening win against Godby, senior Colby Zinser signed his scholarship papers

with Lagrange College in suburban Atlanta. (Photo by Ken Fields)

Frank Allman is new chief judge

Special to The Sun

The Honorable Francis J. "Frank" Allman was unanimously elected Chief Judge of the Second Judicial Circuit by his colleagues. Florida's Second Judicial Circuit is comprised of Leon, Gadsden, Wakulla, Franklin, Jefferson, and Liberty counties.

Judge Allman was appointed to the bench in 2016 and was re-elected without opposition in

2018. He is the twelfth Chief Judge of the Second Judicial Circuit, and his term will run from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2025.

Judge Allman served as an assistant state attorney in Gadsden and Leon counties for nearly 19 years before being appointed to the bench. Judge Allman is married and has two adult children. He lives in Quincy and is the first chief judge of the Second Judicial Circuit to reside outside Leon County.



Ginger Delegal, center, executive director of Florida Association of Counties, with Elizabeth Hughes and Kinsey Miller.

County staffers presented with award from FAC

Staff Report

County Public Information staff Kinsey Miller and Elizabeth Hughes were presented with the Counties Helping Counties Award by Florida Association of Counties Executive Director Ginger Delegal at the county commission meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 21.

Miller and Hughes were thanked for helping set up a day for staff at FAC to visit Wakulla County to see firsthand the challenges facing small counties. The FAC staff rode down on a bus to Wakulla to talk to county staff, have lunch at Shell Point Beach, and visit the expanding sewage treatment facility at Otter Creek.



Rotary speaker

UF/IFAS Extension Agriculture, Horticulture Agent Khadejah Scott is thanked by Rotary Club of Wakulla's Sergeant-at-Arms Steve Sanabria for talking to the club about her work and services offered. The club meets weekly on Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. at TCC Wakulla.

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 Peare, 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 Mibael Barwik, Director of Facilities and Maintenance at (850) 926-0065.
February 29, 2023



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March Monthly, 2, 9, 2023

FOLLOW THE SUN.

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.”

Trap, Neuter, Release: 141 cats treated last week

Special to The Sun

RedRover is wrapping up its latest collaborative and Trap, Neuter, and Release (TNR) operation for 141 community cats, in thanks to a generous donation from BISSELL Pet Foundation. For four days, RedRover Responder staff and volunteers were on the ground helping Operation Catnip, PAWS of Wakulla, and community cat caregivers support free-roaming community cats (and their caretakers) in areas where they would be most impacted by hurricanes and flooding.

Teams have humanely trapped, spay/neutered, vaccinated, and treated the cats for parasites (fleas and worms), as well as other injuries/illnesses as needed. RedRover deployed a Team Leader and four RedRover Responders volunteers to assist in the humane trapping, and also cared

for the cats in the temporary shelter, ensuring they had food, fresh water, and a clean space. Today the cats are being returned to the site where they were trapped for humane release.

RedRover Director of Field Services Beth Gammie said, “We are so very grateful to BISSELL Pet Foundation for their generous support! They have enabled us to return to Wakulla County to help further curb the overpopulation of community cats in this natural disaster-prone area with our partners Operation Catnip and PAWS of Wakulla, along with community volunteers.”

With more than 4,700 trained volunteers in the United States and Canada, RedRover can deploy its volunteers quickly when communities become overburdened by a crisis involving a large number of animals. The volunteers provide a skilled and compassion-



PHOTO BY CHONTELLE BROWN

A notched ear signals a cat has been spay/neutered.

ate workforce which enables a jurisdiction to address local cases of

animal cruelty and neglect.

To donate to RedRover's Emergency Response Fund, visit redrover.org/donateresponders. To learn how to become a RedRover Responder volunteer, visit: redrover.org/volunteer.

RedRover is a 501(c)(3) national animal welfare nonprofit organization. Since 1987, RedRover has focused on bringing animals out of crisis and strengthening the human-animal bond through emergency sheltering, disaster relief services, financial assistance, and education. RedRover is a founding member of the National Animal Rescue and Sheltering Coalition (NARSC), established after Hurricane Katrina's devastating impact to more people and animals than any other storm in the history of the United States. RedRover has earned a coveted 4-star rating from Charity Nav-

igator, America's largest independent charity evaluator. To learn how RedRover is creating a more compassionate world, visit RedRover.org.

BISSELL Pet Foundation is a charitable 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to help reduce the number of animals in shelters through pet adoption, spay/neuter programs, vaccinations, microchipping, and crisis and disaster response. Founded in 2011 by Cathy Bissell, BPF is an extension of her long-standing love for animals and commitment to their welfare. BPF has since partnered with more than 5,700 shelters and rescues across the U.S. and Canada to help pets find loving homes. The foundation is supported by generous donors and BISSELL Inc. where every purchase saves pets. To learn more, visit www.bissellpetfoundation.org.

Poker Run honoring Bissonnette is set

Please mark your calendars for the 5th Annual Memorial Poker Run “Remembering Jubel, Run for Hospice” event to be held on Saturday, March 18. This event is sponsored by the Wakulla Free Riders, in memory of Jubel Bissonnette.

Wakulla Free Riders, Jubel's wife Sandy, and a host of dedicated volunteers and businesses in Wakulla County are honored to raise money for Big Bend Hospice to remember their friend and fellow Free Rider, Jubel. The Free Riders and community hope to exceed last year's proceeds.

The first bike leaves Dux at 11:30 with additional stops at Ouzts in Newport, Cooter Stew in St. Marks, Hobbit Southside, returning to Wakulla Free Riders Clubhouse for dinner at 5:00. (Please note the new address for the Clubhouse in Crawfordville: 45 Allen Harvey Road, enter on the side road, Raker street, and follow the yard signs). Community donation jars are available at all locations. Cars are also welcome!

The poker run is \$10 per hand. Cards can be purchased at each stop or at the clubhouse. Prizes include \$100 for best hand, \$25 for worst



Sandy and Jubel Bissonnette

hand and a 50/50 and raffle.

Food is provided again this year by Hamaknockers and music by classic Southern rock band Electric Mayhem.

All proceeds from the event go to Big Bend Hospice in Wakulla County. For more information, please contact Bryan at (850) 694-2789, Rick at (850) 661-3817, or Sandy at (850) 510-8942.

Exhibit on history of schools in Wakulla

The Wakulla County Historical Society is preparing an exhibit on the history of schools in Wakulla County, to be housed in the Old Courthouse and open to the public beginning Saturday, March 11 at the Wakulla Wonderful Festival. The society wishes to collect and exhibit yearbooks for each of the three former high schools in the county: Crawfordville, Shadeville and Sopchoppy, as well as Wakulla High School and Wakulla Middle School. Anyone who wishes to donate a yearbook to the exhibit may do so by contacting the historical society at (850) 926-1110 and leaving a message or dropping the yearbook off at the Museum at the Old Jail, or at the Old Courthouse. The Society encourages the public to visit the exhibit and contribute information and documents.

“It's A New Day!”

The Wakulla Sun



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Out of State - \$60/yr. - \$35/6 mo.

On the Horizon

Calendar of upcoming events for the week of March 2

Thursday, March 2

- 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.

Friday, March 3

- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and 8 p.m. every Friday at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

Saturday, March 4

- Take Your Child to the Library Day: Dr. Suess Edition (Spring Open House & Community Partner Fair) will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Wakulla County Public Library.
- The Pine Tree Church Music Festival will be held from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Palaver Tree Theater. Tickets are \$10.
- Panacea Farmers Market will be held in Downtown Panacea next to the Panacea fire department from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Local vendors will be selling homemade and home-grown items and food vendors will be there.
- 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.

Monday, March 6

- The Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners will meet at 5 p.m. in the Commission Chambers.
- The Wakulla County Library Advisory Board will hold a public meeting at 10 a.m. at the Wakulla County Public Library.
- 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, March 7

- The Wakulla County Charter Review Commission will hold a public meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Crawfordville Room at the Wakulla County Community Center.
- 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.

Wednesday, March 8

- The Wakulla County Code Enforcement Board meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. in the Commission Chambers.
- The Wakulla County Garden Club will be meeting at the Wakulla County Public Library hosting presentations and workshops about gardening in Wakulla soil at 12 p.m.
- 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.

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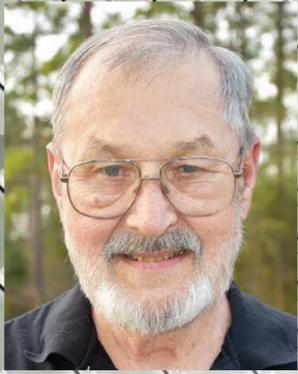
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◀ Question of The Week ▶

– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

Polled at Wakulla Community Theater Highway Natives event. Who is your favorite singer?



JOE WALLS
RETIRED
NUCLEAR ENGINEER
“I am a Lionel Richie fan, I have his CD in my old dg”



KELLY RENTE
REGISTERED NURSE
“I have to pick just one? I’ll say NEEDTO-BREATH.”



DIANE HAMILTON
RETIRED
“Elvis Presley”



DEBBIE KOSEC
REALTOR
“I don’t have just one. Our local boys are amazing – Jordan Miller, Trafton Harvey and Troy Allen.”



KEVIN ANDREWS
ROCKULLA MUSIC STUDIO
“Karen Carpenter”

COMMUNITY NEWS

Buckhorn News

By **ETHEL SKIPPER**

There are many needs in the world we live in today. Things have changed, so have people. It is not so easy to figure it out, but if you just go to the book of life, which is the Bible, and relax ourselves for a little.

Matthe 5:6 – “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled.” When I read the words of this scripture, something on the inside of me begins to feel empty and dry. Just for a moment, I want to put myself in that place – remembering a time in my life when I was hungry for

the word of the Lord.

After being filled with the Holy Spirit of God, it made the difference in my life and I became a new person.

Isaiah 55:1 says “Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!” Salvation is free but you have to be hungry for it. Give your heart, soul, mind, and all your strength to the Lord.

Jesus said, “I am the bread of life. He that cometh to me shall never hunger, and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.” (John 6:35)

In Matthew 5:20 Jesus said unto us that “except our righteousness exceed the righteousness of the scribes and

the pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.” In our daily living, we hunger for the world of life, which is God’s word – that is where we get our daily strength, in Him.

We thirst for a drink of living water. The Holy Spirit is a well of water that springs up into us. It gives you encouragement to continue working for Christ.

Happy birthday to Alberta Hines, March 24; Bobbery Rosier, March 5; Cyan Grimmet, March 7; Margutta Omotosho, March 19; Antonio Nicholas, March 21; Drake Green Jr., March 26; Meriddie Rosier Jr., March 16; Joey Rosier, March 2.

We remember Cassandra Gay, Meriddie Rosier Sr., Eva Mae Johnson, and Jacqueline Grimmitt.

On March 17 through March 19 will be the Northwest Florida Youth Convention of the Church of Christ at 7 p.m. nightly and Sunday service at 11 a.m. The convention will be held at Skipper Temple Church, 165 Surf Road in Sopchoppy.

The Greater Mount Trial Primitive Baptist Church family, along with the community, will celebrate the eighth pastoral anniversary of Elder Dominic Rollins Sr., the third Sunday, March 19, at 11 a.m. We welcome you.

Our prayers and concern goes out to all the sick and shut-in, those in hospitals, nursing homes, prison, the homeless – all in need of prayer everywhere.

Wakulla Station News

By **VERNA BROCK**

We’ve all been enjoying the unseasonably beautiful weather here in the Sunshine State the past two weeks. I am trying to be strong and resist the impulse to plant tender blossoms and veggies that could be fried by the inevitable late frost we always seem to have just before Easter.

But the weather has made it so nice to be out attending ball games, tournaments, vendor fairs and just plain soaking up the sunshine. Grandson Brennan and his Wakulla soccer team had a wonderful time in Destin at their tournament. The Odyssey of the Mind regional competition was held at RMS on Saturday and it was so entertaining!

With a great representation from our local elementary and middle schools, as well as the School of Arts and Sciences of Tallahassee and

Bucklake Elementary, enthusiastic young students competed in this unique exercise in problem solving. This incorporates building props, acting out skits, and engaging in a spontaneous team building exercises beyond the gaze of their adult coaches. And, it is all designed to address specific assigned problem solving activities! I daresay many adults, with years of education and professional experience, would quell in the face of such a challenge.

Congratulations to all the teams moving on to the state competitions in Orlando. Rest assured, Wakulla County will be well represented, as well as teams from Bucklake and the School of Arts and Sciences. Woot-woot!

What a joy it was to gather to contemplate the beginning of the Easter season with Ash Wednesday services. I appreciate the opportunity to take a moment and really

contemplate our brief existence and center myself with a deep appreciation of grace and the beauty of life. As the season progresses, I will let you know of more opportunities to join in fellowship and worship.

Please remember the family of Allen Lynn, who died very unexpectedly Saturday afternoon. Also in need of prayer are Pam Adams, Faye Sweeney, the family of Joyce Bowman, the Ernest Newberry family, Heather Mosely and her family as they await a heart transplant for baby Sebastian, Shelby Sloan and Hunter Peacock as they and their families mourn the loss of their precious newborn Emersyn, the Kendrick family, the Carter family, and so many others who mourn their loved ones.

The next few weekends will be full of fun activities, as the Battle of Natural Bridge kicks off the month of March in Woodville with three days of historical reenactments of this decisive battle that prevented Florida’s capital from falling into Union

hands. Tallahassee was the only Confederate capital to escape that fate, and the story of those combatants is both fascinating and moving.

The next weekend will be a celebration of the founding of Wakulla County, with Wakulla Wonderful on Saturday, March 11, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. They continue to seek vendors and you can fill out an application form at the County Extension office. This will be a good time of history, food, entertainment, and is free and open to the public!

The Woodville Founders Day Festival will be on Saturday, March 18th, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the J. Lewis Hall Recreation Park in Woodville. We are still seeking vendors of all kinds, and will have a wide variety of historical performers, reenactors, musicians, and food. It is also free and open to the public and all funds raised will go to the Woodville Volunteer Fire Department.

Y’all come on out and support all of these outstanding celebrations!

Library News – March 2

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Thursday, March 2

Understanding File Management 9am
Microsoft Excel: Beyond the Basics 11:30am
Best FREE Online Sources for Genealogy 2pm
Advanced Kids Coding 5pm
The Flowers BOD/ACC Committee 6:15pm

Friday March 3

Quilting Guild 9:30am
Zeta Phi Zeta 4pm

Saturday, March 4

Spring Open House and Community Partner Fair 9am

Monday, March 6

No Programs Today

Tuesday, March 7

Book Bunch 10am
Memoir Writing 10am
Community Traffic Safety Team 11am
Lego Club 4pm

Wednesday, March 8

Book Babies 10am
Wakulla County Garden Club 12pm

Knitting Group 4pm
Virtual Reality Coding 5pm

Thursday, March 9

Understanding File Management 9am

Microsoft Excel: Beyond the Basics 11:30am
Best FREE Online Sources for Genealogy 2pm
Advanced Kids Coding 5pm

AFTER HOURS SPEAKER SERIES

Our new speaker series has been CANCELLED due to lack of attendance.

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

- Friday, April 7th and Saturday, April 8th for Easter
- Saturday, May 27th for Memorial Day
- Tuesday, July 4th for Independence Day
- Saturday, September 2nd for Labor Day

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Outdoors

outdoor sports

HOME ON THE RANGE

Little facts that matter, Part 2



By MARJ LAW

EYES AND EARS

Newbies and oldies alike need “eyes” and “ears.” It’s a rule at the Wakulla County Sheriff’s Office (WCSO) range, as well as at most other ranges.

“Eyes” refers to eye protection. Hot shells flying out of your ejection port can go anywhere. If they come towards your face, you sure don’t want them to hit your eyes. They are hot and sharp. Many stores have ANSI-rated wrap-around eye glasses. The good news is that they are very inexpensive: usually around \$5.00.

And “ears?” You guessed it. Hearing protection. Sudden loud noises can damage your hearing. From ear muffs you wear to squishy pads you put in your ears, hearing protection can range from \$1 to... whatever you want to spend. But a decent pair of muffs that muffle sudden sharp loud sounds and still allow you to hear someone declare the range “hot” or “cold” can cost you under \$55.

HOT AND COLD

Almost every range, including the WCSO range, observes “cold” and “hot.” These two words help keep you safe.

When a range is “cold,” it means that nobody touches a gun. The WCSO pistol range has a painted red line that is drawn clear across from one side of the range’s cement floor to the other. When the range is cold, you have to stand on the side of

the red line closest to the parking lot.

Since guns don’t fire by themselves and since no one is now able to touch a gun, then it’s not possible to accidentally shoot someone who may be putting up a target downrange.

When everyone has finished putting up targets, and they all come behind the red line, then they can all agree to go “hot,” which means they can now step over the red line and load and shoot handguns.

It is important to make sure everyone at the pistol range knows and agrees when the range is hot or cold.

CALIBER

“You have to go for shooting power,” he declares. “You can’t defend your life with a .22, or a .380. Even a 9mm is too weak a load to take down a guy hopped up on drugs.”

Is this true? Should Newbie choose a .38, a 10mm, or a .40 or .45-caliber handgun instead?

A male relative near and dear to me brings his girlfriend to the WCSO range. He lays a .40 caliber handgun on the shooting bench.

“This is the gun we have at home for defense,” he states firmly, “so this is the gun my gal is going to shoot!”

“And she’s never shot before?” I ask. “May I show her our .22?”

“No. This is it.”

So, he shows her how to hold the gun. He tells her to squeeze the trigger. She does.

Blam!

Her hands shoot up in the air.

“I think I’ll just watch you,” she says as she sits down.

This is something you don’t do to Newbie. I’ve seen (humorous???) YouTube videos of a gal whapping herself in the forehead just like this gal did. It is not funny. It is thoughtless and dangerous.

After waiting a while, I ask her if she would like



to shoot my Ruger Mark III .22. She says “no” at first, but I reassure her that she will be able to manage a .22. She is naturally well-coordinated and athletic.

We discuss hot and cold, pointing the muzzle downrange at all times and keeping our fingers off the trigger until we are ready to shoot.

Blam! “That was easy!” she says happily.

“And you’ll do even better when you keep your eyes open next time!”

After shooting the .22 for a while, she tries a 9mm handgun and is still enjoying herself. She feels ready to shoot the .40. She is confident and shoots the .40 well.

Most of us learn to crawl before we learn to run. That’s a natural progression of development. The same works well for shooting handguns.

Out of .22, .380, 9mm, .38, .40 and .45 caliber handguns, the .22 is the smallest round with the least powder to set off its small projectile. This amounts to the least recoil of the above rounds. The other rounds are progressively larger with more powder. Shooting the .22 first helps Newbie to learn about proper stance and grip. She learns how to squeeze the trigger and how to aim her particular gun. The .22 is a great gun to learn on.

Of course, most newbies can’t afford to pur-

chase a gun of each caliber. In this case, Newbie can rent a gun at some ranges. Once proficient at a low caliber, Newbie can work her way to the highest caliber she feels comfortable with shooting repetitively.

This gun should be in her comfort zone, or she won’t want to practice. If she doesn’t spend any time practicing, will she be able to defend herself if that awful day ever comes?

This is why there is no “best” caliber handgun. While it is true that a higher caliber handgun is likely to have more “take down” power, if Newbie can’t manage it, it’s no good to her.

So, Newbie, don’t let anyone bully you into buying something you can’t handle.

RIM-FIRE AND CENTER-FIRE

.22s are rim-fire rounds. Look at the back of the casing. It might have a letter, like an “F” for Federal. That’s the brand name of your round.

When you shoot, the firing pin that whacks the back of the casing to set off the powder, hits the rim of this casing: hence rim-fire.

Now look at the back of a .38 casing. First of all, the whole casing is a lot larger than the .22’s.

Notice the round circle in the middle of the back of the casing. This is

where the firing pin hits. This pictured round has been shot. A dimple in the center of the casing’s back shows that the firing pin did indeed whack within this circle.

CARRYING

Do you plan to carry your gun? Or, now that you have one, do you plan to lock it in a safe?

Owning a handgun and knowing how to use it can give you a sense of security. Just think how secure you’d feel if Mr. Bad broke into your house and your gun was oh-so-safely locked away?

“Stay right there, Mr. Bad. Got to find the key to the safe.”

You do want that safe for when the grandkids come to visit, but it will provide no protection when you’re alone and Mr. Bad is crashing down the door.

Are you planning to carry in a purse? Then, when you lunch with friends, your purse is usually draped over the back of your chair. Easy for someone to swipe and dash.

Going to the restroom? Will you hang your purse on the door’s hook? A clever, watchful person can grab it then too.

And a not-so-clever person exactly my age once left her purse in a Winn Dixie parking lot buggy. Fortunately, she wasn’t carrying in her purse at the time. And so fortu-

nately, a Winn Dixie attendant discovered it and brought it to the office. Intact.

The most accessible place to carry is on your person. When you see the initials IWB, it means a holster is made to wear “inside the waistband.” You can also carry OWB, which means “outside the waistband.” Always use a holster so the gun doesn’t get filled with pocket debris, and so the gun is at the correct angle for drawing, the trigger is covered properly, and the gun doesn’t slide out of your clothing.

In Florida, we need to make sure the gun does not show and that it does not “imprint” under clothing. It must be concealed.

Rules for carrying vary, depending on your state. When traveling, check each state along your path. If you’re carrying to a different state, and you want to be super careful in every state, then provide 2 lockboxes in the unoccupied area of your car such as the trunk: using one for your unloaded gun, and one for your ammunition.

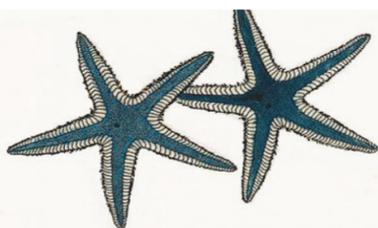
Last week in The Wakulla Sun, we discussed how to show a gun, how to tell if your gun is a hammer gun or a striker fired gun, how to tell if you have a single or double action gun, and how to notice differences between guns you might choose.

These are a few thoughts to keep in mind when buying your new handgun. And always, find a way to try the gun you want before you buy it.

The Wakulla Sun is located in the middle of Crawfordville. They keep copies and they have a web page if you want to read back issues.

There are so many things to consider when you buy or have bought a new gun. Stay tuned for Part 3: Kicking the Tires on a New Gun.

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



POINTED SAND STAR
(*Astropecten articulatus*)

This brightly colored starfish is probably the most common one in sandy continental shelf waters of the south east Atlantic coast. It has five spiny jaws for eating anything that comes its way. It is so good at eating anything that scientists use its stomach contents to do species census of sandy ocean floor. It is often called the royal starfish due to its purple color with gold trim. Arms commonly grow to 3.5 inches.

Animalia, Echinodermata, Asteroidea, Paxillosida, Astropectinidae

Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratory
www.gulfspecimen.org

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BIRDING AT THE REFUGE

Counting ducks for the survey

By DON MORROW

A lot went on last Wednesday during the hour before first light at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. The nocturnal leopard frog chorus, punctuated by the calls of Sora rails, slowly died out and segued into the calls of day birds; Cardinals, Marsh Wrens and the bored quacking of Blue-winged Teal. The Cheshire Cat grin of a crescent moon in the night sky faded as the stars winked out and clouds on the Eastern horizon shifted through a palette of colors, while the sky lightened and turned a pale blue.

At first light the dawn flight took off. Herons, ibis and egrets left their overnight roost at the far end of Stony Bayou and flew East to spread out and forage in the refuge’s pools. Blackbirds

noisily rose up out of the sawgrass where they had spent the night and Northern Harriers swept low over the marsh.

First light is when my work day began: counting the morning Wood Duck flight for the mid-February duck survey. I had eight birds silhouetted against the bright morning sky. I added them to the data sheet on my clipboard and then began to slowly drive my route on the refuge’s interior pools looking for more ducks.

We’re nearing the end of the winter duck season. This year started strong and peaked at almost 2,000 ducks in December, earlier than it usually does. Since then, numbers have dropped and on last week’s survey I had only 508 ducks, less than the refuge typically has in February. Mallards and Black Ducks are gone for another year.

Most of the Redheads and Green-winged Teal have also left and we’re down to one Northern Pintail. Most of these Northbound ducks are only going part way home. They’ll make their trip in stages as Spring unfolds and conditions allow.

Duck diversity has dropped by a third. I had only thirteen species on my survey. Diversity and numbers will drop further by the time of my next survey in mid-March, but the last migrant Blue-winged Teal will still be moving through in May. After that, it will just be our resident Wood Ducks.

I enjoy duck season at the refuge and always regret its end. However, it leads to the excitement of Spring migration and then the shift into the long, hot Wakulla summer with its breeding birds, wildflowers and swarms of dragonflies.

There’s plenty to keep you occupied until the first Southbound Blue-winged Teal come back in late August and another duck season begins.

It’s still winter, but Spring is stealthily and steadily sneaking in. Willow catkins are out, Swamp Dogwood is blooming along the East River and the first green cypress needles have appeared. I’ve already had my first migrant warbler—a Louisiana Waterthrush at the Double Bridges—and it’s time to watch for returning Swallow-tailed Kites.

Come down to St. Marks. Catch some late ducks, a flamingo and maybe some early migrants.

It’s important to stay busy.

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

Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences

Thursday 2	
Sun rise/set 7:01AM 6:36PM	Moon rise/set 2:18PM 4:14AM
Moon Illumination 79%	
Friday 3	
Sun rise/set 7:00AM 6:37PM	Moon rise/set 3:15PM 4:59AM
Moon Illumination 86%	
Saturday 4	
Sun rise/set 6:59AM 6:37PM	Moon rise/set 4:11PM 5:39AM
Moon Illumination 92%	
Sunday 5	
Sun rise/set 6:58AM 6:38PM	Moon rise/set 5:08PM 6:13AM
Moon Illumination 96%	
Monday 6	
Sun rise/set 6:57AM 6:39PM	Moon rise/set 6:04PM 6:45AM
Moon Illumination 99%	
Tuesday 7	
Sun rise/set 6:55AM 6:39PM	Moon rise/set 6:59PM 7:14AM
Moon Illumination 100%	
Wednesday 8	
Sun rise/set 6:54AM 6:40PM	Moon rise/set 7:54PM 7:41AM
Moon Illumination 99%	

Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

March 2 - March 8

GO FISH!

Tide charts by tides4fishing.com

Best fishing days this month
February 20-28, March 1-7, 21-31

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	5:50 am ▼ -0.1 ft	12:41 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	5:19 pm ▼ 1.8 ft	11:12 pm ▲ 2.6 ft
Fr	6:31 am ▼ -0.3 ft	1:02 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	6:09 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	
Sa	12:03 am ▲ 2.9 ft	7:04 am ▼ -0.4 ft	1:25 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	6:47 pm ▼ 1.1 ft
Su	12:42 am ▲ 3.0 ft	7:31 am ▼ -0.4 ft	1:48 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	7:21 pm ▼ 0.8 ft
Mo	1:16 am ▲ 3.2 ft	7:54 am ▼ -0.4 ft	2:10 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	7:53 pm ▼ 0.5 ft
Tu	1:48 am ▲ 3.3 ft	8:14 am ▼ -0.3 ft	2:30 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	8:24 pm ▼ 0.2 ft
We	2:20 am ▲ 3.3 ft	8:35 am ▼ -0.2 ft	2:49 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	8:55 pm ▼ 0.0 ft

City of St. Marks

Th	6:54 am ▼ -0.1 ft	1:17 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	6:23 pm ▼ 1.6 ft	11:48 pm ▲ 2.4 ft
Fr	7:35 am ▼ -0.2 ft	1:38 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	7:13 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	
Sa	12:39 am ▲ 2.7 ft	8:08 am ▼ -0.3 ft	2:01 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	7:51 pm ▼ 1.0 ft
Su	1:18 am ▲ 2.8 ft	8:35 am ▼ -0.3 ft	2:24 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	8:25 pm ▼ 0.7 ft
Mo	1:52 am ▲ 2.9 ft	8:58 am ▼ -0.3 ft	2:46 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	8:57 pm ▼ 0.4 ft
Tu	2:24 am ▲ 3.0 ft	9:18 am ▼ -0.3 ft	3:06 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	9:28 pm ▼ 0.2 ft
We	2:56 am ▲ 3.1 ft	9:39 am ▼ -0.2 ft	3:25 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	9:59 pm ▼ 0.0 ft

Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	5:54 am ▼ -0.1 ft	12:45 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	5:12 pm ▼ 1.9 ft	11:18 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
Fr	6:44 am ▼ -0.3 ft	1:16 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	6:23 pm ▼ 1.6 ft	
Sa	12:18 am ▲ 2.9 ft	7:23 am ▼ -0.4 ft	1:43 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	7:06 pm ▼ 1.3 ft
Su	1:01 am ▲ 3.1 ft	7:56 am ▼ -0.4 ft	2:09 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	7:42 pm ▼ 1.0 ft
Mo	1:37 am ▲ 3.2 ft	8:23 am ▼ -0.4 ft	2:32 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	8:15 pm ▼ 0.7 ft
Tu	2:12 am ▲ 3.3 ft	8:47 am ▼ -0.3 ft	2:54 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	8:46 pm ▼ 0.4 ft
We	2:46 am ▲ 3.4 ft	9:08 am ▼ -0.1 ft	3:13 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	9:17 pm ▼ 0.2 ft

Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	6:01 am ▼ -0.1 ft	12:33 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	5:30 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	11:04 pm ▲ 2.0 ft
Fr	6:42 am ▼ -0.2 ft	12:54 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	6:20 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	11:55 pm ▲ 2.1 ft
Sa	7:15 am ▼ -0.3 ft	1:17 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	6:58 pm ▼ 0.8 ft	
Su	12:34 am ▲ 2.3 ft	7:42 am ▼ -0.3 ft	1:40 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	7:32 pm ▼ 0.6 ft
Mo	1:08 am ▲ 2.4 ft	8:05 am ▼ -0.3 ft	2:02 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	8:04 pm ▼ 0.4 ft
Tu	1:40 am ▲ 2.5 ft	8:25 am ▼ -0.2 ft	2:22 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	8:35 pm ▼ 0.2 ft
We	2:12 am ▲ 2.5 ft	8:46 am ▼ -0.1 ft	2:41 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	9:06 pm ▼ 0.0 ft

St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	5:40 am ▼ -0.3 ft	1:41 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	5:43 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	10:39 pm ▲ 2.1 ft
Fr	6:27 am ▼ -0.4 ft	1:45 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	6:26 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	11:43 pm ▲ 2.2 ft
Sa	7:03 am ▼ -0.4 ft	1:53 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	6:58 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	
Su	12:29 am ▲ 2.3 ft	7:33 am ▼ -0.4 ft	2:04 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	7:27 pm ▼ 0.9 ft
Mo	1:09 am ▲ 2.4 ft	7:58 am ▼ -0.3 ft	2:17 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	7:56 pm ▼ 0.6 ft
Tu	1:46 am ▲ 2.4 ft	8:22 am ▼ -0.2 ft	2:33 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	8:25 pm ▼ 0.4 ft
We	2:23 am ▲ 2.5 ft	8:46 am ▼ -0.1 ft	2:51 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	8:56 pm ▼ 0.2 ft

Dog Island West End

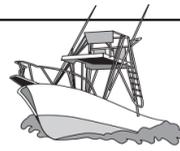
Th	5:59 am ▼ -0.2 ft	3:00 pm ▲ 1.6 ft	6:15 pm ▼ 1.6 ft	10:04 pm ▲ 1.8 ft
Fr	6:48 am ▼ -0.3 ft	2:38 pm ▲ 1.6 ft	6:50 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	11:13 pm ▲ 1.9 ft
Sa	7:22 am ▼ -0.4 ft	2:38 pm ▲ 1.6 ft	7:15 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	
Su	12:17 am ▲ 2.0 ft	7:50 am ▼ -0.4 ft	2:41 pm ▲ 1.7 ft	7:40 pm ▼ 0.9 ft
Mo	1:09 am ▲ 2.1 ft	8:15 am ▼ -0.3 ft	2:47 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	8:06 pm ▼ 0.7 ft
Tu	1:53 am ▲ 2.2 ft	8:38 am ▼ -0.2 ft	2:58 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	8:34 pm ▼ 0.5 ft
We	2:35 am ▲ 2.2 ft	9:03 am ▼ 0.0 ft	3:14 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	9:07 pm ▼ 0.2 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 is more good information from Jim McGraw at the U.S. Coast Guard Heartland Safe Boating group.

Discussion of "Distress Signals" with Recreational Boaters tends to focus on the signaling equipment required to meet the requirements. The Navigation Rules specify many other forms of distress signals. It is important that you be able to recognize the signals if used by another vessel, or be able to use them yourself.

RULE 37: parts "a" through "o" apply in BOTH International and Inland waters (edited for clarity). The following signals, used or exhibited either together or separately, indicate distress and need of assistance:

- (a) a gun or other explosive signal fired at intervals of about a minute;
- (b) a continuous sounding with any fog-signaling apparatus;
- (c) rockets or shells, throwing red stars fired one at a time at short intervals;
- (d) a signal made by any signaling method consisting of the group . . . - - - . . . (SOS) in the Morse Code;
- (e) a signal sent by radiotelephony consisting of the spoken word "Mayday";
- (f) the International Code Signal of distress indicated by N.C.;
- (g) a signal consisting of a square flag having above or below it a ball or anything resembling a ball;
- (h) flames on the vessel (as from a burning tar barrel, oil barrel, etc.);
- (i) a rocket parachute flare or a hand flare showing a red light;
- (j) a smoke signal giving off orange-colored smoke;
- (k) slowly and repeatedly raising and lowering arms outstretched

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

- (l) a distress alert by means of digital selective calling (DSC)
 - (m) a ship-to-shore distress alert transmitted by the ship's Inmarsat or other mobile satellite service provider ship earth station;
 - (n) signals transmitted by emergency position-indicating radio beacons;
 - (o) approved signals transmitted by radiocommunication systems, including survival craft radar transponders
- INLAND RULES ONLY:
- (p) A high intensity white light flashing at regular intervals from 50 to 70 times per minute. Having proper visual

distress signals onboard and knowing what to look for can be game changing. 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

Second open water class of 2023.

Let me continue with my article on the open water weekend last week.

Day 2: I asked the students to be at Vortex springs at 9:30 CST/10:30 EST Sunday morning because unlike the cold air and windy conditions it was forecast to be warmer and not too windy. When we arrived the sun was out and it was 55 degrees with 2-5mph winds out of the south. The park was a little crowded compared to Saturday.

All the students arrived at the requested time and looked very well rested. We unloaded the gear from the truck and placed it under the hotel on a couple of picnic tables. Once they were briefed on what was going to happen on the first dive it was time for them to get their wetsuits on and grab their mask, snorkel, booties, and fins to get in the water and do the 450 yard surface snorkel swim.

I normally have students do that swim on the first day but since it was so cold I decided to wait until the second day.

After their swim they assembled their gear and we were ready to get in the water. Did I mention it was getting crowded? By the time we got into the water the water had a lot of stuff kicked up but you could still see well enough though.

On the first dive I had my assistant instructor position himself at the entrance of the cavern facing outward so when I sent the students down to him he would be able to keep them from entering.

Once he was in place I motioned for the first two students to come to me on the decent line and sent them slowly down to the bottom. It's about 45-50 feet to the entrance of the cavern so they get to feel what almost two atmospheres feels like and how you tend to sink a little faster because the pressure starts to slightly compress the wetsuit. Just as the first two students headed down the line about six meathead divers rush over the ledge kicking up silt and debris to muck up the visibility for a moment so I went to where the two students were on the line to make sure they were OK and they were.

They made it to the bottom fine and stayed there a few minutes with my assistant instructor and then they slowly made their way back up the line. I then had a couple more come over to the line and sent them down to the bottom for a few minutes and repeated that until all the students were back at the platform. We then surfaced and took a surface break for about 45 minutes, ate some snacks and talked about the dive.

By the time we got our surface interval done it was around 3pm EST and it was time for them to change tanks and get back into the water for their first dive as open water divers.

Like every class I take to the springs I'm very proud and honored that they trust me enough as their instructor. I've been an instructor for about 37 years and every class is important to me just to see the expression on their face when they finally understand the passion that I have no matter how many thousands of dives I have made in my diving adventure.

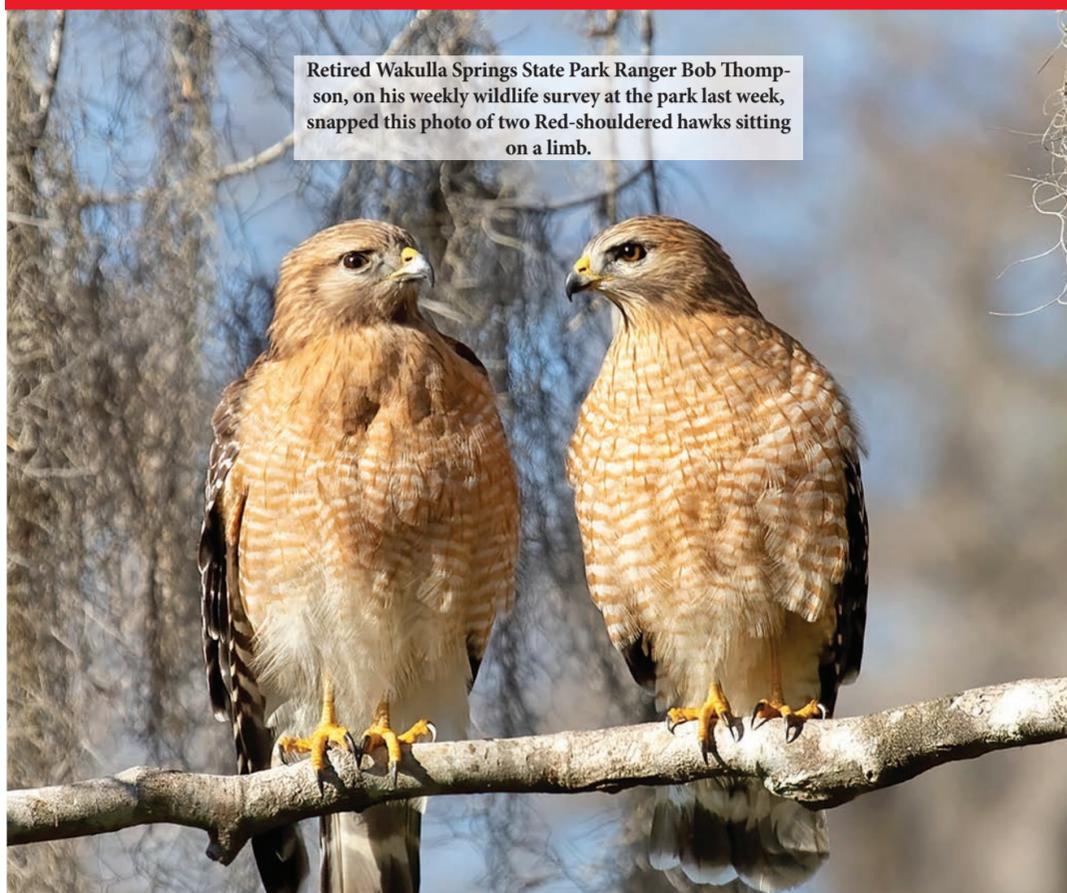
This dive I let my assistant instructor take with the newly certified divers while I got some dry clothes on and proceeded to break down my gear and to start loading the truck.

When the divers got done and back to the tables the crowd had thinned out greatly and the temperature was about 75 degrees. We finished loading the truck and headed back at around 4:30 pm. It really was a fun diving weekend.

Remember to make bubbles and be safe.

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, snapped this photo of two Red-shouldered hawks sitting on a limb.

We are better when we fear God

By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

God is everywhere. He sees everyone and everything 24/7. There is nothing too difficult for the Creator of the

universe. He is beautifully majestic and awe-some beyond words. And so very holy.

I find it difficult to understand (let alone describe) His purity and perfection, but it is glorious to imagine. Magnificence to the max.

Because God is always aware of my every move and thought, the holiness of God and the authority it carries cause me to tremble.

But I'm not afraid of Him. I hope you aren't either.

It's important that we

never minimize God's holiness. He is Almighty and deserves our complete respect and obedience. But even when we fail to revere or obey Him, this same mighty God still loves us and wants us to draw near to Him.

Hebrews 4:16 (ESV) says, "Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Rather than thinking of God as unapproachable, let's marvel

over the fact that God tells us we can confidently draw near to His throne of grace. This is only possible because of what Jesus did for us at Calvary.

I praise God for His mercy and grace!

When we sin against God, He acts justly to discipline us – and I'm grateful. We desperately need our heavenly Father's correction when we choose to go our own way. But how much harder would we find it to repent if we were afraid to go to Him in

these times of need?

When we mock our Creator, trivialize His standards and disrespect His holiness, it not only grieves Him, but it also prevents us from becoming the person we were meant to be. Instead of living as God's beloved children, we behave as entitled brats.

Let's spend time this week praising God for His holiness, thanking Him for His mercy, and asking for His help in the areas in which we struggle. Let's also ask

God to help us fear (revere) Him more, so we'll have greater respect for His ways.

And then, before our heavenly Father's presence, let's thank Him for being a God we're not afraid to run to, especially when we've failed Him.

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.

Revive us again

By **CHERYL CRUCE**

According to the dictionary, revival is a re-awakening of religious fervor. We often hear about past revivals and how they stirred the hearts of men. There have been 10 significant revivals since the first in 1734, and today we hear of a new revival in Wilmore, Kentucky.

The Great Awakening revival lasted from 1734-1743. In 1795 the Second Great Awakening fanned the flames of

faith in the Lord, lasting until 1835. As we move through the centuries, the 1960s brought a Charismatic Renewal and Jesus movement that engulfed our country.

I walked the Asbury Theological campus in Wilmore, Kentucky, during my studies. Walking between classes, the grounds, and the surrounding community, you could feel the presence of God. The manifestation of the Holy Spirit was heard in the students' conversations and the professors' teachings.

Today we hear of a new revival. The revival at Asbury results from the students and faculty who continually lift their voices of praise to the Lord. They are fanning the embers of faith.

People are coming from far and wide to experience this touch of the Lord. They refuse to leave until the Lord blesses them.

I remember a story of a man, Jacob, who wrestled with God through the night. During his encounter, Jacob was alone in the wilderness, away from the world's distractions. Jacob refused to let go of the Lord until he received his blessing (Genesis 32).

Revival, by definition and by happening, is a communal event. Nonetheless, let us consider revival an individual experience (like Jacob).

When was the last time you embraced the Lord praising His name? Scripture teaches that God inhabits the praises of His people (Psalm 22).

Did you know that when we draw close to God, He will draw close to us, purifying our hearts?

As we humble ourselves in the presence of the Lord, He will lift us up (James 4:8) to His courts. Revival begins within man's heart when he desires the presence of the Lord and humbles himself before God.

To be humble before the Lord is more than a Sunday morning experience. Living in His presence is a way of life that carries you moment by moment. It is easy to believe that Sunday morning is enough to take us through the week. Nonetheless, Jesus often used the phrase "follow me" when calling His disciples. The "follow me" is an invitation to go with the Lord daily throughout His journey

and ministry.

The invitation is the same today: we are called to follow our Lord's teachings as we stand in His righteousness. Each of us is given a measure of faith. Paul told young Timothy to fan the flames of his youth that were taught to him (2 Timothy 1). Essentially Paul was saying to give life to your faith, Timothy, and cause the spark to ignite into something greater than yourself.

We are not in Wilmore, Kentucky. However, there is a spark within our souls. Let us seek after the Lord daily, praising His Holy Name, inviting Him to draw close to us. It is His greatest desire.

Now is the time to fan the flames of our youth, allowing the embers

to become a fire. Others will draw near, and revival will gain wings when we do. The Father is waiting to revive, heal, and draw us closer to Him. Find a quiet place away from the world's distractions (like Jacob). Pursue Him today, read His word, and seek His presence. He is patiently waiting for you.

Psalm 119:40 Behold, I long for Your precepts; Revive me through Your righteousness.

Psalm 119:159 Consider how I love Your precepts; Revive me, O Lord, according to Your loving kindness.

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

OUT TO PASTOR

Relaxing is not always so relaxing

By **JAMES SNYDER**

For the past several weeks, or has it been several months, I've been busy with many projects to complete.

Finally, I finished my latest manuscript and sent it in; all the other projects were also finished.

That afternoon I sat back in my office chair and sighed deeply, appreciating the moment, that I was all caught up with everything. As I was thinking about it, I decided it would be good to take a day off.

I'm not one for taking days off, and I can't remember the last day I took off, but I had convinced myself that I deserved a good day off. Then, leaning back in my chair, I tried to think of what I would do on my day off. Then the thought came to me to do nothing. Have a day when I don't do anything.

After supper, I revealed my plan to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

"Tomorrow," I said with a big smile, "I'm going to

take the day off and do nothing."

As always, she looked at me with one of her curious smiles and asked me what my "do nothing" really meant.

"That means I will spend the whole day doing nothing and just relaxing. It's been so long since I've had a relaxing day."

I saw her smiling and remembered that kind of smile before, but it just didn't register at the time. A thought began nagging me; maybe I should not have told her I would take the day off. Oh well, it's already done.

I got up the following day, got a cup of coffee, sat in my easy chair, and started thinking about what I would do today. I always do that to organize my projects so I can get them finished.

My wife walked into the room and said, "What are you doing? I thought today you were not going to do anything."

Looking at her, I sighed deeply and said, "You're right. I guess I just forgot."

So, this is what doing nothing is all about. I'm not sure I can get used to it, but at least I was going to experience it for the very first time.

About that time, I heard the front door ring, and when The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage answered, I found

out that the great-granddaughter was coming to spend the day with us. I didn't know that before, but after all, it's good to have the great-granddaughter with us.

Looking at my wife, I said, "I didn't know she was coming today. You should've told me."

She looked at me and smiled; I recognized that smile for some reason but couldn't define it.

In a few minutes, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage carrying our great-granddaughter came into the living room and said, "You know, I forgot about the garbage today."

Not knowing what she was talking about, I said, "What do you mean?"

"Well," she stuttered a little, "I got the garbage all together in the garage to take to the dump today, and I just forgot that the great-granddaughter was coming. I was wondering if maybe you could take the garbage to the dump."

At that point, what in the world is a husband to say? So I agreed, went to the garage, put all the garbage in my truck, and headed for the dump.

So, I said to myself, driving back, this is what doing nothing is all about.

I got home, and my wife was on the rocking chair feeding the baby from the bottle.

Those little babies look so cute, especially the ones in my family.

The telephone rang, and my wife asked me if I would answer it.

A recorded message said that our latest prescriptions were ready to pick up at the local pharmacy. Looking at my wife, I told her the message and then hung up.

"Would you mind going to the pharmacy and picking up our prescriptions?"

Since I was doing "nothing" for the day, I nodded in the affirmative, went out to my vehicle, and headed for the phar-

macy to pick up our latest prescriptions.

I returned the prescriptions, put them on the counter, and headed to my easy chair and maybe read a book.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage entered the living room and said, "What would you like for lunch?"

I told her anything that she would like would be okay with me.

"How about going to Wendy's and getting our lunch?"

I looked at her, slowly shook my head, and headed for my truck. I got what she wanted written down so I wouldn't forget it and headed to Wendy's to pick up our lunch.

After finishing our lunch from Wendy's, I sat back in my chair and snoozed.

Before long, she returned to the living room and said, "You know, I

forgot I was going to go to the grocery store and pick up some groceries. Would you mind doing that while I babysit our great-granddaughter?"

Then she handed me a list of what she wanted at the grocery store.

At the end of the day of doing nothing, I ended up doing everything. I thought of what the Bible says in Ephesians 6:7, "With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men."

Doing nothing doesn't really please the Lord, but He is pleased when I dedicate my service unto Him.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamesnyder51@gmail.com, website www.jamesnyderministries.com.

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Obituaries



Annie 'Sue' Howell

Annie "Sue" Howell, 86, of Crawfordville, passed away Feb. 21, 2023, at the Margaret Z. Dozier Hospice House, with her loving family.

She was a native of Donalsonville, Ga. and had lived in Crawfordville for the last 30 years, where she was an active member of the First Baptist Church of Crawfordville. Sue taught the Gleaner's Sunday School class, was a choir member, volunteered at Bible School and was a member of the Young at Hearts. She retired as a Legal Secretary where she worked

with the Secretary of the State of Florida and the Attorney General, she served under three Governors, also worked with Wakulla County Judge Jill Walker and Wakulla County Supervisor of Elections Sherida Crum. Sue loved flowers, was an avid reader and author, each of her grandchildren were so very special to her and she was known countywide for her delicious, deviled eggs.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 30 years, Henry Howell.

She leaves behind her loving family, children Becky Cook and husband Dusty, Rusty Howell & Chris Howell, 9 grandchildren Bryan & Michelle, Curtis, Daryl & Sallie, Doyle & Saleeta, Drew & Lois, Samantha & Shawn, Priscilla & Robin, Jessica & Michael and Joy & Axel, also 12 great grandchildren Haven, Lorelei, Taylor, Hunter, Charlie Sue, Elijah, Easton, Emerson, Lorelei, Jase, Ben and Holton.

Funeral Service was Saturday, Feb. 25, 2023, at 11 am at the Sylvia Cemetery in Faceville, Ga.

Skip & Trey Young along with Paula and Kimberly are assisting the family. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com



Chester Allen Lynn

Chester Allen Lynn, 69, almost 70, as he always said, of Crawfordville, passed away peacefully on Feb. 24, 2023.

He was born on July 3, 1953 to William Albert and Jessie Vause Lynn in Tallahassee. He was a retired City Electrical Shift Supervisor from Arvah Hopkins Generating Station and also a Commercial Fisherman specializing in stone crabs and shipping, at Lynn Brothers Seafood in St. Marks. He and his brother Richard raised Angus beef cattle on their farm in Crawfordville. He also loved to wing shoot, Canadian geese, and his all-time favorite wood ducks, going to Texas, Arkansas, Canada and

local woods. Allen was a kind, gentle, caring person and how he loved his family is beyond measure.

He is descended from several grandfathers who served in the War Between the States. A great grandfather, Thomas Evander Vause and great-great grandfathers William N. Lynn, John M. Norris, Solomon Barber, William Thomas "Dugan" Blalock, Jesse J. Langston, Labron Carraway and Stephen H. White; and several great uncles, all served faithfully in the Southern Aggression.

He is survived by his loving wife of 50 years whom he met in the 4th grade in St. Marks, Tanya Watts Lynn; and devoted children, Kristel Marie Lynn Sircy (James) and Jerrett Allen Lynn of South Carolina; one grandson who hung the moon, Finton Allen Sircy; and mother-in-law Thelma Watts. He is also survived by four brothers, W. A., Richard, Johnny (Diane), Andy (Lynn); many nieces, nephews, cousins and many, many friends. He will be sorely missed.

The family will receive friends, Wednesday, March 1, 2023, at 12 noon at Family Funeral Home in Harvey Young Chapel and the Funeral Service will begin at 1 p.m. Burial will follow at Crawfordville Cemetery.

Skip & Trey Young along with James Sircy, Paula and Kimberly are assisting the family with their arrangements. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

DEATH NOTICES

• **Thomas Ray Loucks**, 84, of Tallahassee, died Feb. 22, 2023.

Family Funeral Home at Harvey-Young Chapel 850-926-5919, www.familyfhc.com

Sheriff's Report

Activity reported for the week of Feb. 17 to 23:

FRIDAY, FEB. 17

• The manager at Publix reported a Retail Theft which occurred on Jan. 13. The two unknown subjects checked out at a self-checkout register and did not scan several items valued at \$44.55. Video footage of this incident and an itemized receipt was provided to deputies. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Dustin Matthews investigated.

• A traffic stop was conducted in the area of Spring Creek Highway and Gavin Road in reference to excessive

speeds. Upon making contact with the driver Brian C. Williams, deputies detected the strong odor associated with an alcoholic beverage coming from his breath. A DUI investigation was conducted and Williams refused standardized field sobriety exercises. Williams was placed under arrest and transported to the WCSO Jail without incident. Deputy Dustin Matthews investigated.

SATURDAY, FEB. 18

• Deputy Ernesto Trujillo responded to the front lobby of the Sheriff's Office, in reference a walk-in complaint. Upon arrival Deputy Trujillo made

contact with Michael Busman, who advised he allowed a friend to borrow his boat but now the suspect will not tell him where his boat is. Busman advised he had already made a police report in Sumter, Ga. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

• Jeremy Nettles reported appliances stolen from a home he had listed for sale. Nettles named a possible suspect in this case. The total loss is estimated at approximately \$1,500. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Dustin Matthews investigated.

SUNDAY, FEB. 19

• Several subjects contacted the Sheriff's Office and advised

Khalil Mills was present at their door and was refusing to leave. Mills was reportedly armed with a long sword in a sheath. When deputies arrived, Mills was cooperative but he was still standing at the entry to the residence and he still had the sword. Mills was cooperative and followed deputies instructions. Both victims wanted Mills charged for trespassing as he had refused their requests to leave. One victim also stated he was fearful of Mills due to the fact he was in possession of a long sword. Mills was arrested and transported to the jail without incident. Deputy Kory Smith investigated.

TUESDAY, FEB. 21

• The manager of

Tractor Supply reported a former employee stealing from the business. From Dec. 1 to Dec. 31, the suspect stole approximately \$950 in cash. At closing on each date, the suspect would allegedly count the deposit and put money aside for himself. The suspect could be seen on videotaping the money. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Lt. Gibby Gibson investigated.

• Eugene Burke called reporting several items were taken from a trailer he loaded and left at an address on Rehwinkel Road after he moved out. Burke said he left several firearms in the trailer covered with a tarp. Two days later the guns were gone along with a hoverboard and TV.

This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Michelle Stripling investigated.

THURSDAY, FEB. 23

• Deputy Ernesto Trujillo responded to Tractor Supply in reference to a person who had just stolen a minibike from the store. A short time later the suspect, Robert Burke and the KTX minibike were located by the Circle K convenience store on Crawfordville Highway. The suspect was placed under arrest and the minibike was returned to the store.

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

Forest cleanup

From Front Page

Edwards, and County Administrator David Edwards.

Other volunteers consisted of several community members, USFS employees, and the Wakulla County Road & Bridge Dept.

Items gathered included many tires and rims, furniture, mattresses, appliances, flooring, a toilet, and more along with the normal cans and bottles that are always collected. In total, we collected near 6,000 pounds of debris from our forest. We do have to get the actual totals from Waste Pro once the dumpster is picked up and weighed.

Of the 573,521 acres of Apalachicola National Forest, over 172,000 acres of this forest lie

within Wakulla County. Wildlife that can be found in our forest includes Florida black bears, whitetail deer, fox squirrels, coyotes, alligators, and snakes, as well as protected, threatened, and sensitive species such as the American bald eagle, gopher tortoise, striped newt, and Flatwoods salamander. Did you know that The Apalachicola National Forest has the world's biggest population of endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers; broad white bands painted around the trunks of longleaf pine trees indicate nest clusters.

"We are so fortunate to have the beauty of the forest and it's wildlife right here and accessible to us" said Tamie Nason, Director of

Keep Wakulla County Beautiful "it is such a shame that not everyone respects our fragile environment."

Litter in our forests can pose risks to wildlife and environment in several ways. Toxins from accumulated litter can leak into the soil and eventually into the water. These toxins can be ingested by wildlife in the forest as well as some items that may cause injuries. Excessive litter can also affect the amount of light reaching the soil. This can cause an increase in herbivorous insects and decrease the growth of seedlings and other plant life. Litter tends to be flammable increasing the risk of fire hazards.

If you see any litter sites or dumping in the forest, please reach out to the Wakulla Ranger



Sopchoppy Mayor Lara Edwards and County Administrator David Edwards with their son John Alex at the cleanup.

District at (850)926-3561. A thank you goes out to Wakulla County for supporting our events, WastePro for the

donation of the dumpsters used for these large cleanup events, and our volunteers. We could not do this without them.

Following the event, volunteers were fed lunch sponsored by Waste Pro and asked to sign a pledge board that states:

"I will stand up, pick up and speak up!"

Leaders Against Litter Pledge for a Cleaner Tomorrow

"We all have an obligation to preserve and protect our beautiful state. Together, we can make a huge impact. I promise to support Keep Florida Beautiful and the local affiliates for a litter-free, more beautiful Florida.

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I will ... PICK Up litter whenever I see it.

I will ... STAND UP and lead the way for a litter-free Florida."

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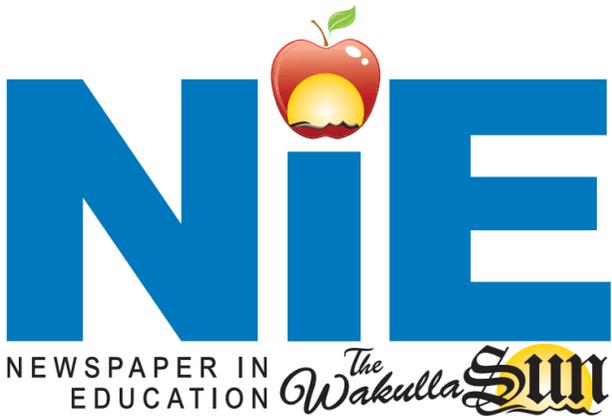
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USE THE NEWS

1. Healthy Heart Month

February is American Heart Month, a time when people pay extra attention to getting exercise, eating healthy foods and doing other things to make their hearts healthy and strong. Your heart is the most important organ in your body, because it pumps blood to all the other organs, plus your muscles, bones and even your brain. And it's an amazing organ. Though it is only the size of your fist, it pumps and recycles 2,000 gallons of blood through your body every day. That amounts to 700,000 gallons of blood a year — or more than 7-million gallons every 10 years! When the heart pumps, it carries oxygen and nutrients to all parts of the body and removes wastes that can harm your health if they build up. To keep your heart healthy, medical experts say you should get at least 30 minutes of exercise a day, eat lots of fruits and vegetables, choose lean meats like chicken for meals and cut back on fast foods and snacks that contain high levels of sugar, salt and cooking fats. To promote American Heart Month, search the newspaper and Internet for photos and ads showing people getting exercise or eating healthy foods. Use images you find to create a highway billboard showing people doing things that are good for the heart. You may create a stationary billboard that doesn't change, or an electronic billboard that shows different images and "pages."

Goals: Conducting short research projects that build knowledge about a topic; integrating information presented in different media or formats to develop a coherent understanding of a topic.

2. Cheetahs on the Move

Cheetahs are the world's fastest land animal, with the ability to run as fast as 70 miles per hour. They also are one of the world's most beautiful "big cats," with colorful spotted coats and distinct eye markings that look like tears. They are considered threatened or "vulnerable" in many places, and were once declared extinct in the Asian nation of India. Now, thanks to agreements with the African nations of Namibia and South Africa, cheetahs are being re-introduced to India in national parks. South Africa has agreed to send 12 cheetahs a year for the next eight to 10 years as part of a Project Cheetah pro-

gram designed to return cheetahs to India. Earlier, Namibia sent eight cheetahs for the program. Cheetahs were declared extinct in India in 1952, CNN News reports, and are the only large carnivore in the country to have suffered that fate. "Project Cheetah aims to bring back India's only extinct large mammal," one wildlife official said. "As part of the project, 50 cheetahs will be introduced in various national parks over [the next] five years." There are only about 7,500 adult cheetahs living in the wild in the world. Government and wildlife organizations do many things to help endangered or threatened species. In the newspaper or online, find and study stories and photos about a wildlife species that interests you. Use what you read to write a letter to the editor, outlining ways people could help this species survive or succeed in its environment.

Goals: Producing

clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task; citing textual or visual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions.

3. Changing Roald Dahl

Roald Dahl is one of the most famous writers of children's books, and the creator of such favorites as "Charley and the Chocolate Factory," "Matilda" and "James and the Giant Peach." His books have sold more than 300-million copies worldwide, and he has been called "one of the greatest storytellers for children of the 20th century." Yet many of his books were written more than 50 years ago at a time when attitudes were different than today. To bring Dahl's popular books up to date, the Roald Dahl Story Company that manages his works has announced it is reviewing and changing some of

the language to make it more inclusive and less offensive to readers. There are not a great number of changes, and they are "small and carefully considered," the Washington Post newspaper reported. In one instance a boy in "Chocolate Factory" is no longer called "fat" but is described as "enormous." What was described as a "weird African language" in the book "The Twits" is no longer weird. The Oompa Loompas that were once described as "small men" are now "small people." Not everyone agrees with the changes — some have called them "absurd censorship" — but the company said it wanted "to ensure that Roald Dahl's wonderful stories and characters continue to be enjoyed by all children today." People often feel strongly about favorite books and stories, and wouldn't want them to be changed. As a class, discuss books you like and why you like them. Pick one and write a book review for the newspaper or Internet. Tell what things you like most about

the book, why you like them and how the story would be different if one of those things were changed.

Goals: Writing opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information; reading closely what a text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it.

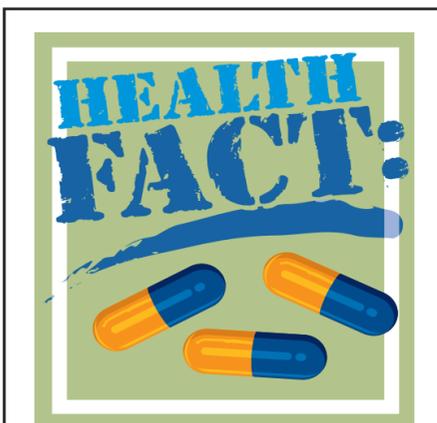
4. Hats Off to a Driver

Students who ride the bus to school can often get quite attached to their bus drivers. And bus drivers can get attached to their students! Consider the story of Patricia Reitz, a bus driver for the Clarence Central School District in western New York State. As gifts for her students, Reitz has knitted hats for them to wear in winter — lots and lots of hats. She started several years ago when a high school student admired a hat she was making, and since then she has hand made more than 7,000 hats for the students who have ridden her buses. She specializes in San-

ta hats, and it gives her a smile when she sees how many kids break them out and wear them during the winter holidays, the Modern Met website reports. She now drives elementary school children, and "she cares about her students," one third grade teacher says. "Any student that I've had that has been on Miss Patty's bus gets a hat, and they also get a friend. Miss Patty is one of the favorites." Bus driver Patty Reitz has made many friends with children by making hats for them. In the newspaper or online, find and closely read a story about another person who has made friends with children by doing something special for them. Use what you read to write a thank-you letter to that person as if you were one of the children helped.

Goals: Writing informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly; citing specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions.

School distribution sponsored by



TRUE OR FALSE?
FROZEN VEGETABLES ARE LESS NUTRITIOUS THAN FRESH OR CANNED ONES.

ANSWER: FALSE

How they SAY that in...

- ENGLISH:** Ice
- SPANISH:** Hielo
- ITALIAN:** Ghiaccio
- FRENCH:** Glace
- GERMAN:** Eis

Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-10. The numbers in each row add up to the totals to the right. The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

	2	5	10
7	10		23
	4		13
10	16	20	

6	4	0
6	10	7
5	2	3

Solution

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

Z F E R E R E R B N U

Answer: Freezer Burn

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- **1845:** FLORIDA IS ADMITTED AS THE 27TH U.S. STATE.
- **1910:** JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER JR. RETIRES FROM BUSINESS TO DEVOTE ALL OF HIS TIME TO PHILANTHROPY.
- **1986:** THE AUSTRALIA ACT 1986 COMMENCES, RESULTING IN THE COUNTRY'S FULL INDEPENDENCE FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM.



REFRIGERATE

to subject food to cold in order to chill or preserve it



DESSERTS LIKE ICE CREAM AND ICE POPS ARE POPULAR FROZEN FOODS.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: FROZEN (TV) DINNER

CROCHET BASICS WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- BEGINNING
- CHAIN
- CLUSTER
- CROCHET
- DECREASE
- DOUBLE
- HOOK
- INCREASE
- LOOP
- OUNCES
- PLACE
- REPEAT
- REVERSE
- RIGHT
- ROUNDS
- ROW
- SIDE
- SINGLE
- SKIP
- SPACES
- TREBLE
- WRONG
- YARN OVER

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

⊙ ** ☒ ☹ ☼ ☽ ☾ ☿ ♀ ♁ ♂ ♃ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓ ♀ ♁ ♂ ♃ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓

CRYPTO FUN

☒ ☽ ☾ ☿ ♀ ♁ ♂ ♃ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to employees.
 Each number corresponds to a letter.
 (Hint: 25 = C)

- A. 16 19 13 7 14 13**
Clue: Employee
- B. 19 4 4 26 25 14**
Clue: Place to do business
- C. 25 3 6 26 25 20 14**
Clue: Office desk configuration
- D. 6 19 15 15**
Clue: Supervisor

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to employees.

Y S A L R A

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

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

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

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!
Here's How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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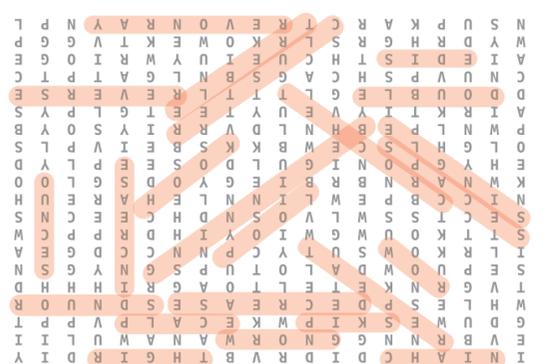
City, State, Zip _____

Phone # _____ E-MAIL _____

Guess Who?

I am a professional makeup artist born in the Netherlands on March 2, 1994. I joined YouTube in 2008 after being inspired by other online makeup artists. I joined Colourfool Agency in 2011, and now have more than 14 million subscribers on my YouTube channel.

Answers: A. worker B. office C. cubicle D. boss
 Answer: Nikkie de Jager
 Answer: Salary



SCHOOL NEWS

Teachers, employee of the month named

By DANIEL LILLY
Of Wakulla Schools

Alaina Miller of Wakulla Middle School is February Teacher of the Month

Alaina Miller of Wakulla Middle School is February Teacher of the Month. Miller is currently a math teacher at Wakulla Middle School. She previously taught chorus at Wakulla Middle and Riversprings Middle School and taught various musical courses at Raa Middle School.

When asked what was most enjoyable about her job Miller noted, "Teaching music or teaching mathematics, you experience different challenges and joys. Regardless of the subject, the ability to show kids they are more able than they think brings me great happiness and satisfaction. It's the "why" for me. Yes, there are extreme challenges in education today, but what keeps

me in my classroom are the moments when my subject becomes "easy" for the student."

Wakulla Middle School Principal Simeon Nelson said the following of Miller, "We are so thankful to have a Wildcat like Alaina Miller at Wakulla Middle School. She truly highlights what it means to be a highly effective teacher and mentor to students on a daily basis. The way Mrs. Miller scaffolds instruction for her students and meets them where they are at is truly a testament to her skills. Her classroom may sometimes feel chaotic, but it's definitely an organized chaos where students grow and learn in a supported environment. Mrs. Miller is a valuable asset to our organization and we are lucky to have her!"

Angela Swain of Medart Elementary School is February Teacher of the Month



Alaina Miller



Angela Swain



Jennifer White

Angela Swain is Medart Elementary School February Teacher of the Month. Swain has taught 2nd and 3rd grade at Medart and is currently varying exceptionalities teacher. She joined Wakulla County Schools in 2005 after hearing that Wakulla County has awesome schools.

Swain says "I really enjoy working with students. I love being able to break down problems in math so that the students are able to understand the concept. I absolutely love when the students finally understand how to

complete an assignment that they may have struggled on before. When you see their excitement about finally getting it, it puts a smile on my face!"

Medart Elementary Principal Stan Ward said the following of Swain, "Mrs. Swain is a master of her craft! She develops positive relationships with all of her students, and in turn they work hard to make her proud. Her calm and caring demeanor puts students at ease so that the most challenging of tasks seem doable with her support. As a teacher coach she

supports her peers by offering assistance wherever needed by sharing her experiences and knowledge from the classroom. I can't think of anyone better to represent our school as Teacher of the Month and we are all extremely grateful to be in the trenches with Mrs. Swain each day at Medart Elementary!"

Jennifer White of Riversink Elementary School is February Employee of the Month

Jennifer White a paraprofessional at Riversink

Elementary School is February's Employee of the Month. White moved to Wakulla County in 2016 with her family and started working at Wakulla County Schools shortly after.

White says of what she enjoys most about her job, "I enjoy working with the students because everyday is different. Where else can you get hugs everyday and make a difference in a child's life."

Catherine Cutchen, Principal of Riversink Elementary School shared, "Jennifer White has the most incredible work habits of any paraprofessional I've met in 20 years of service. She is a team player. Jennifer jumps in to help in every situation. Jennifer never complains and is drama free. When I want to train a new para, I tell them to follow her footsteps. Jennifer treats every student with great respect and love. We are blessed to have someone of her caliber on our staff."

Riversprings is again an AVID Demonstration School

Special to The Sun

Riversprings Middle School was approved to renew its status as an Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID) National Demonstration School after earning the first title 8 years ago. This renewal is the third time RMS has accomplished this well-deserved status.

In the 2015-2016 school year, RMS was one of only 152 middle schools in the United States to achieve AVID National Demonstration School status.

In Florida, there were only 15 middle schools earning this national recognition, held in total by 215 schools and counting.

AVID is an internationally successful non-profit college and career prep program that began in the 1980's with one teacher in one classroom.

The founder Mary Katherine Swanson saw college potential in students who were capable, but not well prepared for college or who were not encouraged to take college prep classes.

Currently, AVID is implemented in over 7,500 schools in 47 states, the District of Columbia, Canada, Australia and the Department of Defense Schools, and impacts over 2.5 million students annually. Many AVID students are the first in their families to graduate from college.

One goal is to target students who have the drive and desire to go to college, but who may not be recommended for



Teachers, students and administrators at Riversprings with the AVID banner.

advanced classes. These are capable students that are taught strategies to succeed in a rigorous curriculum.

Sunny Chancy, Assistant Superintendent, was in attendance for this event to help welcome the AVID staff and guests. "As the former Assistant Principal at Wakulla High School our team attended several Summer Institute training sessions. The value of professional development that AVID training provides allows teachers to utilize strategies to serve students in problem solving and critical thinking. Several of our former AVID students and tutors are now teachers in Wakulla

County and that speaks volumes."

RMS Principal Josh Sandgren stated, "AVID is not about just getting into college or to technical school. It's about being prepared to stay there and graduate, then going on to have a successful career. There was a tremendous amount of hard work put forth by students, teachers, and staff to achieve this recognition, and we are very proud of all of their efforts."

National Demonstration Schools use effective AVID strategies for everyone, schoolwide. They will also serve as visitation sites for schools who want to implement or improve their AVID

programs.

The role of AVID District Director is Katherine Spivey, who is currently working as an AP on special assignment at RMS.

Ms. Spivey helped coordinate the original work towards National Demonstration School for RMS and was both an AVID teacher and AVID site Coordinator at Wakulla Middle School.

RMS Site Coordinator Kelly Dykes teaches several of the AVID elective teachers to 6th, 7th and 8th grade students and helps train other teachers in AVID strategies. Mrs. Amanda Boam joined the AVID elective teacher team this school year and is currently

teaching 6th grade students.

These AVID site team members were vital in the preparation of the visit, Jessica Wells, Jennifer Thaxton, Carol Allen, Isabella Alvarez, Alexandria Hamel, Bill Taylor and Deana Davis, Heather Clark, Brooke Autrey, all assisted in submission of lesson plans, classroom decorations, and classroom observations during the validation process.

An additional request for the RMS renewal application was the creation of a Team Leadership Video. Principal Josh Sandgren and Assistant Principal Bethany Pafford, School Advisory Chair Jennifer Thaxton,

RMS AVID coordinator Kelly Dykes and District Director Katherine Spivey had to create and narrate the thirty-minute video about the school's accomplishments and history of AVID at RMS.

Bethany Pafford, stated "AVID is a part of our school culture. We don't have just a small group of teachers teaching a small, select group of students these skills and strategies. All our teachers and staff members are involved in our AVID program. We teach the organization skills and other strategies in all classes to all students at RMS. Our goal is for all our students to leave Riversprings with the skills to conquer their dreams. AVID also encourages field trips to colleges and guest speakers on careers and parental involvement.

"We have great teachers who have attended numerous AVID professional development courses, and have contributed to the school-wide goal of engaging students, teaching Focus Note Taking, and asking higher order questions of our students," adds Sandgren.

Says Superintendent Bobby Pearce, "AVID strategies work and we are honored to share these best practices with as many teachers and students as possible. Every resource our students acquire will help them be successful in college, technical training, and their future career. The goal of Wakulla County Schools is not only to educate but to create a love for lifetime learning."

Exchange teachers

From Front Page

was received about the issue after the fact.

Hand said he was supportive of a workshop, adding that he stood by his vote from last month. Hand added that the issue never

should have gone for a two-hour debate.

"I didn't realize it was a hot topic item," Brown answered.

"I didn't realize it was a hot topic item either," Pearce said as he stood up and motioned at staff and left the meet-

ing.

A few minutes later, Hand said "I don't agree with the superintendent getting up and leaving."

"He didn't need to be here for a discussion," Brown answered.

Later in the conversation, Brown noted that his son has had six different days in the auditorium over the past month because of a lack

of teachers. "Students got hurt," he said, "and I'm not OK with that."

Allison Garrett, vice-president of Wakulla Classroom Teachers Association, indicated a possible shift in the teachers union from opposition to support. She said the union's opposition was not because the teachers were foreign, "It was the way

it was presented," she said.

"It wasn't that we were misinformed, we didn't have any information," she said. She added that if the issue was presented in a different way, it would be received differently.

Brown again reiterated that he wasn't aware of how sensitive the topic would be. "But

just because we got it wrong the first time doesn't mean we can't get it right the second time," he said.

Taylor noted that at least three board members were interested in a workshop. It was stressed that the school board would advertise a workshop if one was to be held.



A huge crowd was on hand for the ribbon-cutting and open house at English Financial on Thursday, Feb. 23 at the group's new offices on Council-Moore Road. Owner Brian English prepares to cut the ribbon, flanked by associates Megan Smith and Jordan Lee.

English Financial holds a Grand Opening

PHOTOS BY LYNDA KINSEY



Chamber President Amy Geiger gives Brian English a hug after the ribbon cutting.



Jim Raker with a plate of food from Posey's Up the Creek catering.



Jordan Miller and Highway Natives perform.



Frank Messersmith, Quince Messersmith and Sedita Cayson.



Sheriff Jared Miller with Lt. Chris Savary and his mom, Evelyn Savary.



Kinsey Miller and Valerie Russell with a hot and tired John Posey in the background.



Shirley Howard and Petra Shuff both wore leopard print blouses.



Jordan Miller and Highway Natives perform for WCT

After performing at English Financial's Grand Opening on Thursday night, Jordan Miller and Highway Natives performed at a fundraiser for Wakulla Community Theatre at Sopchoppy School on Friday night. The fundraiser also featured students from Rockulla. (Photos by Lynda Kinsey)