



# Thousands attend Beer & Oysters

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# The Wakulla Sun

"It's a New Day"



Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday



Sunny  
Hi: 77° Lo: 60° 66%  
Sunrise 7:29 AM  
Sunset 7:55 PM

Friday



Partly Cloudy  
Hi: 79° Lo: 65° 22%  
Sunrise 7:28 AM  
Sunset 7:55 PM

Saturday



Scattered Thunderstorms  
Hi: 79° Lo: 63° 56%  
Sunrise 7:27 AM  
Sunset 7:56 PM



\$1 One Section

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Our 2nd Year 13th Issue  
Thursday, March 30, 2023

# County sued over radio contract

### Williams Communications sues Wakulla County over giving \$12M contract to Motorola for new first responder system

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN  
Editor

Attorneys for a Tallahassee communications company filed a lawsuit against the Wakulla County Commission on Friday, March 17, seeking to top a decision by commissioners on Monday, March 20 to award a multi-million dollar radio contract to Motorola.

The lawsuit contends that Motorola's proposal does not meet the county's requirements set forth in its Request for Proposal.

Under advice from County Attorney Heather Encinosa that the lawsuit did not mean commissioners could not go forward with the award of the contract, commissioners did

just that, voting unanimously to go with Motorola.

The county is purchasing a \$17 million public safety radio system to expand coverage for first responders. Some \$12 million of the cost is being underwritten by Triumph Gulf Coast, the entity created to spend money in counties affected by the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

Officials with Williams Communications appeared at the meeting to ask commissioners to delay the vote and look into the concerns. Brian Coker of Williams told the board: "You're clearly not getting what you're asking for."

The complaint filed in Wakulla Circuit Court contends "Motorola omitted key coverage data from its

proposal to the county and misrepresented its compliance with the RFP requirements... in order to reduce system infrastructure costs, utilize a non-compliant radio configuration, and deviate from the industry standards for reliability imposed by the county's RFP."

A representative of Motorola was at the meeting and denied the claims being made by Williams.

Commissioners indicated they were relying on their consultant, Nick Tusa of Tusa Consulting Services, who had indicated Motorola's proposal did meet the requirements of the RFP. (Tusa's contract with the county was approved at the same meeting under the consent agenda.) Tusa was not at the commission meeting.

It was noted that Williams did not include Tusa as a defendant in its lawsuit.

In the lawsuit, Williams contends that, "Buried in hundreds of pages of the Motorola proposed contract with the county (which Williams recently received in response to public records requests) are terms of system configuration, loss factor values, and coverage testing terms that reveal the county will receive far inferior coverage to that required by the RFP, a fact that should be well known to the county's designated expert consultant for this project, Tusa Consulting Inc., who designed this RFP and utilizes a coverage validation tool that can confirm the above-stated facts."

## CAPITOL PROTEST



A handful of local fishermen were at the Capitol last week to protest what they see as a lack of due process to challenge decisions of the Florida Fish

and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Wakulla fisherman Jonas Porter held up a sign in front of the old Capitol. (Photo by William Snowden)

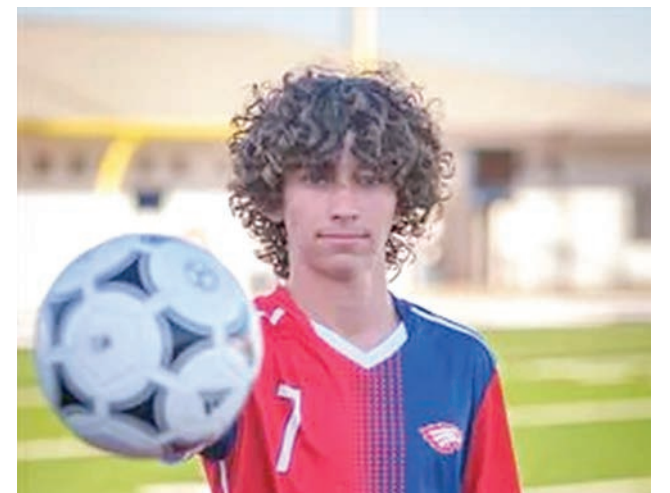
## SOCCER

# Braeden Paul is player of the year

Staff Report

Wakulla War Eagle Braeden Paul was named the All-Big Bend Boys Soccer Player of the Year.

Paul, a senior, scored 24 goals and had three assists in the War Eagles' 14-6-3 season - which included Paul scoring 4 goals in a 9-1 win over Marianna.



# Artist's maps of Wakulla to be displayed

By RIDDHI PATEL  
Correspondent

Two artistic maps of Wakulla County will be on display at one booth during the Sopchoppy Worm Gruntin' Festival on Saturday, April 8. Consultant Kim Ogren commissioned artist Jane Tennehill Perry to create two maps of Wakulla County that highlighted the area's natural and recreational features.

Ogren said she originally commissioned the maps because she felt one of her clients could benefit from the maps being included in their project; however, the client never ended up using the maps. Perry, an artist who has completed multiple projects including a mural in downtown Panama City, was chosen by Ogren as she has had experience creating art that matched Ogren's vision for the Wakulla maps.

Ogren noted that she wanted Perry to take inspiration from Gazetteer maps and to focus on the natural and recreational features of Wakulla County. Both maps were done in watercolor.

One map is zoomed out to show Wakulla County in relation to other counties on the Forgotten



Coast and in the Big Bend region. It shows regional context while highlighting Wakulla County. Ogren and Perry both said they have often seen Wakulla County in the crease of an atlas, and that the goal was to spotlight Wakulla and pull it out of the crease of a book.

The second map is zoomed into Wakulla County. It features locations of towns and cities like Crawfordville, Sopchoppy, Panacea, and St. Marks. The map highlights the Florida National Scenic Trail in red. Landmarks like the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge and Lighthouse, Wakulla Springs, the Wakulla Environmental Institute, Apalachicola National Forest, and more are also present in the map. Images of local plants, animals, and recreational activities can also be found throughout the commissioned piece - from trees, birds, and alligators to kayaking, biking, and fishing the map showcases Wakulla through a unique lens.

"I think that for people who love this area of the world, it's just a reminder of what makes this area so special," said Perry, who noted

Turn to Page 3

## Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park Wild White Indigo

By LYNN ARTZ, SANDY TEDDER  
and DAVID RODDENBERRY



Showy white flowers of white wild indigo last for weeks.

White wild indigo (*Baptisia alba*) is striking in spring. Tall flower stalks resembling asparagus shoots quickly reach 2-3 feet, and then bear showy white flowers that last for weeks. Bumblebees visit and pollinate the pea-shaped flowers despite no floral scent. The leaves feed the caterpillars of wild indigo duskywing and Zarucco duskywing butterflies. White wild indigo is a long-lived perennial best suited to the back of a wildflower garden due to its height. When its leaves die, puffy black seedpods cling to the bare winter stems. White wild indigo thrives in full to part sun in dry to moist soils. In the bean family, its roots have nitrogen-fixing nodules that improve poor soils. White wild indigo is blooming now in the northeast gardens at Sopchoppy Depot Park.

BECAUSE OF SPRING BREAK, THERE IS NO STUDENT OF THE WEEK. THE FEATURE WILL RETURN IN NEXT WEEK'S PAPER.

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**Lisa Craze, CFC**  
Wakulla County Tax Collector

**NEW LICENCE PLATE COMING SOON.**

This new license plate features the slogan "Don't Tread On Me" accompanied by a black coiled rattlesnake over a yellow background. Funds from the plate will benefit the Florida Veterans Foundation.

Currently this plate is not in stock as we are awaiting arrival of the plates from the state. If you would like to pre order then please complete the 0 dollar purchase and you will be placed on the waiting list.

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# 4-H shotgun team competes in state match

Special to The Sun

Wakulla 4-H sent four youth to compete at the State Shotgun Match in Jacksonville on Saturday, March 25.

The Florida 4-H Shotgun State Match is a 150-target event open to eligible Senior or Intermediate Florida 4-H members. The Wakulla 4-H team included Intermediate level competitor Blake Harrell and senior level competitors Carter Christensen, Emiliano Cadena, and Noah Pearson.

Blake Harrell, who competed in the Intermediate division for youth ages 11 to 13, placed first in trap shooting, second in skeet shooting, and was awarded first place overall in the Intermediate division.

Participants shoot two rounds of 25 clays in skeet, trap, and sporting clays for a total of 150 targets. Ribbons are awarded for each event. Teams are eligible to win medallions.



The 4-H Shotgun Team includes Blake Harrell, Carter Christensen, Emiliano Cadena and Noah Pearson.

Individual overall winners received trophies. Intermediate youth are ages 11 to 13 and senior youth are ages 14 to 18. Senior

competitors who compete in the State Match are eligible to qualify to represent Florida at National Competition. The top four

seniors have the option to attend Nationals. Intermediates do not advance beyond the State Match.

The Wakulla 4-H shotgun club is open to youth ages 10-18. The club meets monthly at the Wakulla Sheriff's Shooting Range and travels to Talon Range in Midway for additional practices during competition season. Coaches for the club include Mike Pearson, David Pienta, and Karl Gruebel.

For more information about how to participate in Wakulla 4-H Shooting Sports, please visit our website at <https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/wakulla/4-h-youth-development/> or call 850-926-3931. New club members will be accepted in August 2023. Interested in becoming a 4-H volunteer? 4-H accepts new volunteers throughout the year. Contact 4-H agent Rachel Pienta for more information at [r.pienta@ufl.edu](mailto:r.pienta@ufl.edu).



Randy and Shannon Merritt in Savannah, Ga.

## Merritt and Summerlin are wed

Randy Merritt and Shannon Summerlin were married Dec. 6, 2022 in Savannah, Ga.

He is an engineer and former Wakulla County commissioner. She is in marketing with the Tallahassee law firm Smith, Thompson, Shaw, Colon & Power.



Gail Quinton, Julia Lewis and Patty Strickland with plants at the SunBlest Gardens Open House on Saturday.

## SunBlest Gardens holds open house

PHOTOS BY LYNDA KINSEY



An estimated 2,000 people visited the nursery over the weekend, which is normally not open to the public.



Amy Geiger and Sheriff Jared Miller

## Geiger, Miller honored for fundraiser

Capital City Bank Wakulla President Amy Geiger and Wakulla Sheriff Jared Miller were recognized this week for being the top fundraisers for the Senior Center's annual spaghetti dinners in which celebrity servers get tips for service.

Geiger was the top fundraiser at the 2021 dinner, and the sheriff earned the most tips at this year's event.

### 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.

## Artist's maps of Wakulla to be displayed

Special to The Sun

noted that the maps work to celebrate what is unique about Wakulla.

According to Ogren, she and Perry will have a booth at the Sopchoppy Worm Gruntin' Festival where they will display the original

map artwork. They hope to also have some prints of the images. She noted that they are open to feedback and wanted to give the community an opportunity to see the artistic maps of Wakulla. She said, "I just hope they come and get to enjoy it."



### THE CITY OF ST. MARKS CHANGE OF HOURS OF OPERATION EFFECTIVE

Public notice to the city of St. Marks, Florida. Effective March 30, 2023, the St. Marks City Hall will be closed Monday's starting

Monday, April 3, 2023

The City of St. Marks office hours will be: Tuesday-Friday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm & 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm

City of St. Marks  
78 North LeDroit  
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March 30, April 6, 2023

# The Wakulla Sun

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# 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.”



Members of the Experimental Aircraft Association with a Ercoupe airplane they built in a hangar at Wakulla Airport.

## Story of Ercoupe plane at Wakulla Airport

By YOUNES ERRAHALI  
EAA Chapter 445

I am a member of the Experimental Aircraft Association, EAA. We meet every month at Tallahassee Airport to learn more about aviation. Many of us know how to fly an aircraft or want to learn how.

Our members like to take on projects for recreation but also for education. An average amateur-built aircraft will take between 1,000 and 3,000 hours to complete. The cost to build a plane can range from less than \$10,000 to more than \$100,000 depending on the desired characteristics. By comparison, a new factory-built Cessna 172 costs more than \$250,000!

I was invited by our president, Mr. Percy, to come down to one of the hangars at 2J0 (Wakulla Airport) to learn about and help build an Ercoupe aircraft. The small turf grass runway was always in view out front of our open hangar door as we worked in the balmy shade to organize parts and figure out where to go from just an empty airplane frame.

At a large airport, it would be unlikely, both economically and strategically, for a small group of hobbyists like us to find a home base to house our aircraft from bare frame to finished airworthy aircraft. At the Wakulla Airport, with pooled resources, our EAA members were able to have a place to come, without busy jet traffic, and often a nice Gulf breeze, to work on our little plane. Mr. Randy, Mr. Per-

cy, Mrs. Lynette, Mr. Jim, Mr. Richard and other EAA members at the Wakulla County Airport have spent the past 3 years checking electric circuits and the fuel line, installing the engine, and checking the altimeter, speedometer and fuel indicator.

Over the past three years, we've had many visitors at the hangar. Friends from Wakulla and curious visitors from all over the U.S. have stopped by off U.S. 98 and asked about our aircraft project.

I had always seen the airplane on the Tarpine neighborhood sign, but I never imagined how beloved the airstrip was by residents here who volunteer their time to help maintain the airport. We've befriended many Tarpine residents who have let us borrow a tool we didn't have or have shared a bit of their own aviation knowledge to help us build the Ercoupe. The Ercoupe took its first flight here at the airport just the other day!

I also came to learn that the Wakulla County Airport is the only airport in the entire county! It has a unique grass runway and is a great environment for learning to fly. It is a quiet airport with very little traffic and so it is a less stressful learning environment with no extra turbulence created by jets that is typical of larger airports.

This airport is a unique and unimposing jewel here in Wakulla County, like so many of the other beloved gems found here that can be found nowhere else on Earth. Shh! But we know Wakulla isn't

a perfectly kept secret and that is why people from all over have ended up wandering up to the hangar for a chat. I've heard stories of emergency landings having occurred here, possibly saving lives; pilots are trained to point the aircraft in the direction of the closest airport or suitable landing area, paved or not, during an in-flight emergency, and this airport is the only one in the whole of Wakulla County's coastline.

The airport has great untapped potential while still envisioning it remaining a small, low traffic airport with just a turf runway. There could be aviation training for student pilots, imagine local high school students being able to learn to fly here. There could be more aviation tourism. There could be a hangar for use by emergency responders. The potential goes on and on, and I hope the airport will be here, on and on, for the benefit of the people of Wakulla and the whole country, now and for generations to come.

As an EAA member, I imagine the possibilities that experimental aircraft could bring to us in the next 100 years. And I think back, how the first engine-powered plane flight was taken by the Wright brothers in 1903, just 120 years ago.

Nowadays, we fly hundreds of people at a time across whole oceans with little concern for the fact that a plane carrying just one human or two was "experimental" just over a century ago.

### LETTERS FROM READERS

## Traffic dumping needs to stop

Editor, The Sun:

Have you heard of traffic dumping? It's a sneaky practice used by some developers to dump traffic from a new development into an existing neighborhood. And it's happening regularly, right here in Wakulla County. Developers are buying up second-tier property that is cheaper, like farmland or wooded parcels with no access to a main road. Then, they buy an adjoining lot in an older neighborhood, put in a road, and voila, what was once unbuildable farmland becomes a new development. But at what cost? The existing neighborhood becomes a thoroughfare for hundreds of cars a day, disrupting the peace and quiet of once-quiet streets. This affects everyone, from families raising their children to older couples looking for a peaceful retirement. Imagine the noise, the dust, dirt and fumes and the constant danger to the pets and people from so many cars. So much for the quiet "rural" Wakulla County way of life that they once had! As you can imagine, this drives down the property values of the existing homes.

But the Wakulla County Commissioners have the power to stop one example of this practice on April 3 at 5 p.m. They will be deciding whether to protect the property rights of existing homeowners on Appaloosa Road, Tennessee Walker Road and

Palamino Road, or allow Golden Construction to develop the adjacent 88 acres with 176 proposed homes. If approved, this new development will put an estimated 700 plus cars a day on streets that currently get about 10 cars a day. This could be your neighborhood next.

We need a commission and administrator who will stand up to developers and demand quality development without traffic dumping. We need good developments with infrastructure, sidewalks, parks, and trees, not more clear-cutting and more ugly, high density cookie cutter development that ultimately brings down everyone's property value by making Wakulla County a less desirable place to live. Existing homeowners and their quality of life must be prioritized.

If you're tired of Wakulla County catering to developers and ignoring existing homeowners, speak up now. This development must go before the BOCC for a Comp Plan change, and our commissioners can stop it in its tracks if they choose to.

Let's work together to protect our neighborhoods, our property rights and our property values. Traffic dumping from one neighborhood into the next needs to stop in Wakulla County, for good.

David Damon  
Crawfordville

## Commission needs to listen to citizens

Editor, The Sun:

Wakulla County citizens are challenging builder's permit approval processes.

First of all, Wakulla County Commissioners work for all Wakulla citizens.

Wakulla Commissioners represent the will of the citizens by formulating an approval process to confirm to Florida regulations.

As one of the citizen's voices addressing a concern of the massive

number of builders destroying a recreational and scenic county, I say stop!

We need to re-examine how the need to profit trumps our need for mother nature to replenish us.

Wakulla citizens, go to every commissioner meeting involving building permits and voice your choice.

Live shoulder-to-shoulder or paddle your own boat.

Bob Provo  
Crawfordville

## On the Horizon

### Calendar of events for the week of March 30

#### Thursday, March 30

- The Rotary Club of Wakulla County meets this week 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 31

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

#### Saturday, April 1

- The 12th Annual Wakulla Chamber of Commerce Low Country Boil will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the 3Y Ranch.
- Panacea Farmers Market will be held in Downtown Panacea next to the Panacea Fire Department from 9 a.m. to noon. Local vendors will be selling homemade and homegrown 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, April 3

- The Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners will meet at 5 p.m. in the Commission Chambers.
- 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, April 4

- The Wakulla County Charter Review Commission will hold a public meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the St. Marks 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, April 5

- Muffins with Moms Prenatal Support Group will meet at 9 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 10 a.m. at the Wakulla County Health Department. Contact Liz Neighbors at 850-888-6078 or elizabeth.neighbors@flhealth.gov for more information.
- Intro to Tai Chi held at the Community Center from 9 to 10 a.m. All ability levels are welcome; please wear comfortable clothing. For questions call Rich or Terri Bushman at 850-228-9214.
- A Line Dance class will be held at 1 p.m. at the Wakulla Senior Center.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

*"It's A New Day!"*

# The Wakulla Sun

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## ◀ Question of The Week ▶

– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

# Polled at SunBlest Gardens Open House What is your favorite flower?



**AUDREY FRAZIER**  
FLABIZ CLEAN

“Hibiscus, it represents a happy plant.”



**PATSY DUNNING**  
RETIRED

“I just love flowers, but I do love zinnias.”



**JULIE DENNIS**  
WAKULLA EDC

English Lavender.”



**YESMIN ESCOBAR**  
SUNBLEST GARDENS

“For me it is a lot of them, but I do like more of the inside plants.”



**LENTZ WALKER**  
GOOD FENCES GOOD NEIGHBORS

“Calla Lily.”

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Buckhorn News

By **ETHEL SKIPPER**

The Church of Christ Written in Heaven Northwest Florida Diocese held its youth convention at Skipper Temple Church on Friday night.

The convention message was by Bishop Marshall Graham from Warner Robins, Ga.

Saturday night the youth celebrated Jesus with Holy dances, song and praise. Youth speakers were DeJohn Johnson, Omart Williams and Minister

Tracy Baker Jr.

On Sunday, the spoken word was by youth president Evangelist Philisia Holloman. Presiders were Elder Steve Jackson, pastor of the Woodville Church of C.W.I.H., Eddie Lovett from Shiloh Church in Quincy, Deaconess D. Johnson of Woodville Church, under the leadership of Bishop Alfred Nelson of the Big Bend District of West Florida.

The Diocese of the Church of C.W.I.H. have shosen as their Diocese Mother Chinesta Smith.

The Northwest Florida Diocese of the Church of C.W.I.H. Superintendent Elder Edward Brigham has chosen as their District Mother Glenda Simmon.

The Macedonia Community Church of Sopchoppy invites you to their Good Friday service on April 7 at 11 a.m. Speaker Sister Patsy Dunning. For more information, contact Elder DeLores Nelson at 850-408-7857.

A thought for this time: Memorize and meditate on God’s Word, Psalm 119:48 “My hands also will I lift up unto Thy commandments, which I have loved, and I will meditate on Thy

statutes.”

God’s word is like food to the follower of Christ. Without God’s word, the Christian will spiritually starve.

Happy birthday greetings to Isaiah Hines, April 22; Williams Johnson, April 28; Andrew Guidry, April 30; and Charles Guidy, April 30.

Our prayers and concern goes out to all the sick and shut-in, those in hospitals, nursing homes, prison, the homeless, and those who have not met Jesus as their heavenly father. Let us pray for one another in the name of Jesus Christ.

### Library News – March 30

**UPCOMING EVENTS!**

**Thursday, March 30**

Understanding File Management 9am  
Microsoft Excel: Beyond the Basics 11:30am  
Advanced Kids Coding 5pm

**Friday March 31**

Quilting Guild 9:30am

**Saturday, April 1**

No Programs Today

**Monday, April 3**

No Programs Today

**Tuesday, April 4**

Adult Crafting Group  
9:30am

Book Bunch 10am  
Memoir Writing 10am  
Dungeons & Dragons 2pm  
Lego Club 4pm

**Wednesday, April 5**

Book Babies 10am  
Wakulla County Coalition for Youth 12:30pm  
Knitting Group 4pm

Virtual Reality Coding 5pm  
**Thursday, April 6**  
Advanced Kids Coding 5pm  
The Flowers BOD/ACC Committee 6:15pm

**WCPL PRESENTS:  
STAR WARS DAY**

Join us for our annual Star Wars Day celebration! Journey through our walk-through experience where you will have a chance to battle storm troopers, complete the Kessel Run, and escape the Sarlac as well as create a craft to take home, test your trivia skills, and enjoy some

themed snacks. Keep an eye out for some of your favorite characters as well! Costumes strongly encouraged! Saturday, April 29th at 3pm at the library.

**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

### Sheriff’s Report

Activity reported for the week of March 17 to 23:

**FRIDAY, MARCH 17**

• Jason Weatherly reported being out \$20,000 after paying for a 2015 Kubota Excavator. Weatherly sent a check for the purchase but has never received the excavator This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Carla Skelly investigated.

• John Luper reported he had received a check for service that had been completed by an associate company the he does business with. The bank contacted him on this date and advised the check was a forgery and that it would be returned to him. This case has been sent to road patrol deputies for further investigation. Deputy Todd Kent investigated.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 18**

• Jordan Payne was arrested for the misuse of 911 after repeated expletive-laced calls were made to WCSO dispatch. Payne was requesting a deputy respond so that she

could retrieve some jewelry from a home occupied by her estranged significant other. Payne was informed that deputies were busy actively searching for a missing child, and would respond as soon as possible. Payne continued to make multiple calls demanding a deputy, and used her car to block traffic on Martin Luther King Drive. Deputies responded and began to look for Payne, who continued to make calls demanding deputies but would leave her location prior to deputies arrival. Deputy Kory Smith was eventually able to make contact with Payne in Crawfordville, where she was arrested for misuse of 911.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 19**

• Wyman Stubbs reported a fraudulent charge of \$3,000 on his credit card. FedEx called him advising of a package that would need his signature being delivered on March 19. Upon further investigation the card was used to purchase a camera and was routed to another address. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Carla

Skelly investigated.

**MONDAY, MARCH 20**

• An individual with the Florida Department of Transportation reported someone making forced entry into the building owned by the agency. As of this time nothing has been reported missing and the contents of the building appeared to be of no value. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy James Williams investigated.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 21**

• Deputies responded to the Dollar General in reference to suspicious vehicle. Contact was made with the driver and sole occupant identified as Stephanie Matthews. In plain view was an Adderall pill located on the floorboard. The investigation revealed multiple drugs, including cocaine and methamphetamine in the vehicle. Matthews was placed under arrest and transported to the jail. Deputies Todd Kent and Heather Will investigated.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22**

• Deputy Dakota Haddock got

out with a suspicious person with a motorcycle at Bloxham Cutoff and Spring Hill Road. Deputies observed the ignition system of the motorcycle had been damaged. Upon running the motorcycle, it was found to be stolen from Leon County. The driver, Garrett Revell, was placed under arrest. Leon County was notified of the recovery. Revell was transported to the Wakulla County Jail without incident. Deputies Dakota Haddock and Kendrick Gavin investigated.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 23**

• A representative with Talquin Water reported a carpet care business hooking up to a fire hydrant and using the water to pressure wash a residence. By doing this, the business operator was using a hydrant not metered. Talquin provided photographs and an Affidavit for Prosecution. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Rudolph Hinson investigated.

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

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# Outdoors

outdoor sports

## HOME ON THE RANGE

### Part 6: Your range bag



By MARJ LAW

Many handguns come in nifty plastic boxes. Others come in cardboard boxes. Did you notice that while there's room for the magazine(s), your "eyes" and "ears" will not fit in that little box?

So how do you bring your gun to the range? Somehow, you know that carting your glasses and ear muffs in a paper bag won't impress anyone.

Most people like a small gun pouch for their gun(s) and magazines, and a larger range bag for everything else.

"I put ammunition in the smaller gun pouch," Joe says, just so I know he hasn't forgotten to mention something so necessary. "There are usually pockets on one side of the smaller pouch for magazines, and larger pockets for boxes of ammo on the other side."

Let's talk about the range bags.

Some people have range bags that are made of hard plastic, but more seem to prefer good-sized heavy-duty fabric bags with many pockets. I don't like the hard plastic ones. They bump against my legs when I haul them

out of the trunk of my car and they seem oversized. The fabric bags are light and have room for all sorts of things I like to carry.

So, since you must have "eyes" and "ears" at the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office range, I ask Joe what he thinks are the next most important objects to put in his big range bag.

"Have we thought about targets and ammunition?" I ask.

"Yes, targets and a stapler and/or tape to put up those targets."

"Wouldn't a newbie prefer the sticky Shoot-N-See type target? Then you don't have to remember the stapler, staples and tape."

"A screwdriver, jackknife and Allen keys are good in the bag. Also, a spotting scope or small binoculars," he adds.

"Why are screwdrivers, jackknives and Allen keys good for Newbie?" I wonder. "After all, isn't that a bit much for a newbie?"

"They can adjust sights, or other parts that come loose," he says. "If you have a stovepipe, your jackknife can flick it out of the ejection port."

"I didn't bring those when I started out," I maintain.

"Well, I did," he replies smugly. "And I used them to help you with your guns."

Yes, I do have to concede that one.

"So, what next would you tell Newbie to bring in the big bag?"

"The spotting scope or binoculars. And gun cleaning supplies."

"Joe, they prefer it at the WCSO range that



Gun Pouch

you don't clean your guns at the shooting bench."

"Well, the spotting scope is good or those small cheap binoculars like you have are useful, too."

"Yes, even targets that change color when the bullet hits are easier to see when you've got baby "nocks," I agree. "Spotting scopes are more useful on the long gun range or for longer distances than we usually shoot in the handgun range."

Joe and I do have different priorities for our big range bags.

I really like to keep a MagLula in the case. Actually, I like two MagLulas. One is for single-stack magazines and one is for double-stack magazines.

"Master Chief Gunner's Mate Super Strong Thumbs would certainly disagree with you," he says sternly. "The only way to load a magazine is with your thumbs."

"Well, you have big and strong hands," I mimic sounding like a timid girl. "My hands are small and I'm not afraid of using a little assistance!"

"Add in a first aid kit," he suggests. "Not to scare Newbie, but you might cut your finger accidentally."

"And hole patches," he adds. "You can save money by covering bullet holes in your target. This allows you to use fewer targets, especially since you like those expensive sticky ones."

"Sue me. I like the bright colors. And it really shows up when I hit a bull's-eye." I'm not giving up my pretty targets.

"If you're new to handguns, a front and rear shooting rest can help. This way, you can steady your gun to find if your sights are aligned properly, or if you've just had too much coffee in the morning and your hands are shaking."

"Or if you're getting older and your hands shake anyway," I clarify. (He's not so happy with that thought.)

Tiny flashlights are handy to have in your case. Is a bullet lodged in the barrel? Aim the light down to the chamber to see if it's there. You always want a clear barrel. These lights are inexpensive and bright.

A microfiber cloth is very useful. Dirty eyeglasses? Microfiber. Spots on your red dot sight? Microfiber. Wet shooting bench? Well, you get the point. These microfiber cloths are good for many things. I halve one and sew 2 seams. This creates a good case for your shooting glasses.

Paper and a pen are good in a range bag. Met new people at the range and wish to record their information? Want to make notes on the way your gun is shooting? Yes, you can do this on

most cell phones, but some of us still write the old-fashioned way.

I think more gals than guys carry hand wipes. They're good for cleaning small cuts. They're good for getting the lead off your hands after shooting.

Most of us aren't bothered by the carpenter bees at the WCSO range. We ignore them as they don't seem to be biters. But sometimes those tiny gnats swarm, so we put bug spray in our bags.

I guess the guys don't add lip gloss, nailfile or a hair scrunchy, but they end up in my case.

Joe remembers to suggest a bottle of water to stay hydrated.

In the hot and muggy Florida summer, we gals wearing the ear muff kind of hearing protection get sweat in our hair. This makes for a bad "do." So, a comb helps some. Doesn't get the sweat out, but might make us a little more presentable as we get ready to do lunch.

Lunch after shooting is an important part of our day. It's social, and gives us some time to share information about what we've learned from our handguns and ammunition.

Mostly, though, we've become friends. That's most important.

So, what's in your range bag?

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

## BIRDING AT THE REFUGE

### Great Horned Owl at refuge

By DON MORROW

Friday afternoon, I saw a sleeping Great Horned Owl sitting on a pine branch at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. It opened its big yellow eyes and stretched its left wing out. The tip of its rounded wing hung well below the branch on which it sat.

Owl wings are perfectly adapted for a nocturnal predator. Their wings are over-sized providing extra lift and their wing feathers are designed to break up turbulence and muffle sound. Together, these adaptations allow them to fly slowly in the dark and glide in to ambush prey.

Great Horned Owls are apex predators. They will take prey ranging in size from mice up to geese, herons, raccoons, and even other large owls. They are opportunistic predators and will take anything within their prey size. They may be the reason that preschools dismiss in



the afternoon, allowing parents to get small children safely home before owls fly out at dusk to hunt.

Many years ago, I found a Great Horned Owl that was sitting on the ground beside a trail in the woods. When it was still there the next day, I called the local wildlife rehabilitation center. They told me that Great Horned Owls are visual predators and this bird had probably damaged an eye affecting its ability to hunt. It was weak and unable to fly. They had few staff, but told me that they would take it if I

brought it in. So, being well-intentioned, young and stupid, I set out to capture the owl.

My first attempt entailed trying to throw a blanket over the owl. However, as I approached it the owl leaned back stretching its talons out towards me and began to snap its beak open and closed, producing a loud clacking sound. Its beak was hooked and dangerous looking. Its talons were long, sharp and black. It was obvious that the owl did not consider me to be its savior. The blanket idea was not going to work.

I came back with a cardboard box and a friend. With some difficulty we managed to place the cardboard box over the owl. We slid a separate piece of cardboard underneath the box. The owl obligingly stepped up as we slid it under the box. We had successfully captured a Great Horned Owl.

It took the two of us to pick up our unwieldy

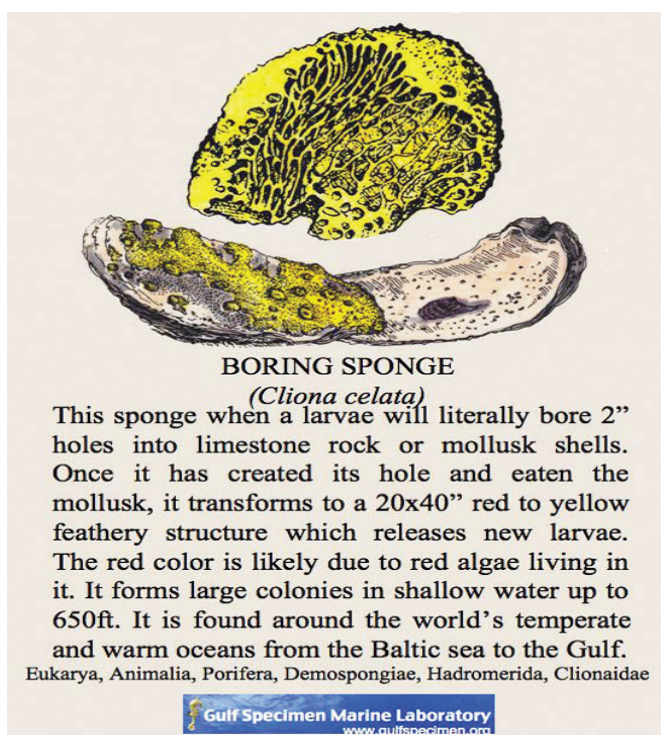
trap and hold it together for the two-mile trip to the car. As we were slowly walking back, my friend said, "You know the owl's talons can go right through this cardboard."

He did not need to point that out.

Although we successfully managed to transport the owl to the Santa Fe College Teaching Zoo, I would strongly advise that the capture of any owl be done by trained professionals who can do so without endangering either the raptor or the rehabilitator.

The Great Horned Owl that I saw at the refuge is one of a pair that has taken over an eagle's nest on Light-house Road, on the left just beyond Picnic Pond. There are two wide areas on either side of the road for parking. Be aware of traffic. This is an active roadway.

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



BORING SPONGE

(*Cliona celata*)

This sponge when a larvae will literally bore 2" holes into limestone rock or mollusk shells. Once it has created its hole and eaten the mollusk, it transforms to a 20x40" red to yellow feathery structure which releases new larvae. The red color is likely due to red algae living in it. It forms large colonies in shallow water up to 650ft. It is found around the world's temperate and warm oceans from the Baltic sea to the Gulf.

Eukarya, Animalia, Porifera, Demospongiae, Hadromerida, Clionaidae

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# Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences

**Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac**  
March 30 - April 5

For tides at the following points add to Dog Island Listings:  
 Carrabelle High Tide 28 Min. Low Tide 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.

Best fishing days this month  
March 21-31 April 1-6, 20-30

Tide charts by tides4fishing.com

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.

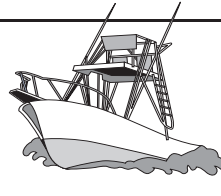
Thursday 30	Friday 31	Saturday 1	Sunday 2	Monday 3	Tuesday 4	Wednesday 5	
Sun rise/set 7:28AM 7:54PM	Moon rise/set 2:05PM 3:56AM	Sun rise/set 7:27AM 7:54PM	Moon rise/set 3:02PM 5:14AM	Sun rise/set 7:25AM 7:55PM	Moon rise/set 3:59PM 5:14AM	Sun rise/set 7:24AM 7:56PM	Moon rise/set 4:55PM 5:46AM
Moon Illumination 63%	Moon Illumination 72%	Moon Illumination 80%	Moon Illumination 87%	Moon Illumination 93%	Moon Illumination 97%	Moon Illumination 99%	

St. Marks River Entrance	City of St. Marks	Shell Point, Spring Creek
Th 5:11 am ▼ 0.5 ft	Th 6:15 am ▼ 0.4 ft	Th 5:01 am ▼ 0.4 ft
Fr 6:13 am ▼ 0.3 ft	Fr 7:17 am ▼ 0.3 ft	Fr 6:14 am ▼ 0.3 ft
Sa 6:54 am ▼ 0.2 ft	Sa 12:27 am ▲ 2.4 ft	Sa 7:05 am ▼ 0.2 ft
Su 12:44 am ▲ 2.8 ft	Su 1:20 am ▲ 2.6 ft	Su 12:59 am ▲ 3.0 ft
Mo 1:25 am ▲ 3.1 ft	Mo 2:01 am ▲ 2.8 ft	Mo 1:44 am ▲ 3.2 ft
Tu 2:01 am ▲ 3.2 ft	Tu 2:37 am ▲ 3.0 ft	Tu 2:22 am ▲ 3.3 ft
We 2:35 am ▲ 3.3 ft	We 3:11 am ▲ 3.1 ft	We 2:59 am ▲ 3.5 ft
Th 5:11 am ▼ 0.5 ft	Th 6:15 am ▼ 0.4 ft	Th 5:01 am ▼ 0.4 ft
Fr 6:13 am ▼ 0.3 ft	Fr 7:17 am ▼ 0.3 ft	Fr 6:14 am ▼ 0.3 ft
Sa 6:54 am ▼ 0.2 ft	Sa 12:27 am ▲ 2.4 ft	Sa 7:05 am ▼ 0.2 ft
Su 12:44 am ▲ 2.8 ft	Su 1:20 am ▲ 2.6 ft	Su 12:59 am ▲ 3.0 ft
Mo 1:25 am ▲ 3.1 ft	Mo 2:01 am ▲ 2.8 ft	Mo 1:44 am ▲ 3.2 ft
Tu 2:01 am ▲ 3.2 ft	Tu 2:37 am ▲ 3.0 ft	Tu 2:22 am ▲ 3.3 ft
We 2:35 am ▲ 3.3 ft	We 3:11 am ▲ 3.1 ft	We 2:59 am ▲ 3.5 ft

Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay	St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.	Dog Island West End
Th 5:22 am ▼ 0.3 ft	Th 4:53 am ▼ 0.2 ft	Th 4:50 am ▼ 0.3 ft
Fr 6:24 am ▼ 0.2 ft	Fr 6:04 am ▼ 0.2 ft	Fr 6:13 am ▼ 0.2 ft
Sa 7:05 am ▼ 0.2 ft	Sa 6:52 am ▼ 0.1 ft	Sa 7:12 am ▼ 0.2 ft
Su 12:36 am ▲ 2.1 ft	Su 12:35 am ▲ 2.3 ft	Su 12:08 am ▲ 2.0 ft
Mo 1:17 am ▲ 2.3 ft	Mo 1:21 am ▲ 2.4 ft	Mo 1:16 am ▲ 2.1 ft
Tu 1:53 am ▲ 2.4 ft	Tu 2:01 am ▲ 2.5 ft	Tu 2:10 am ▲ 2.2 ft
We 2:27 am ▲ 2.5 ft	We 2:38 am ▲ 2.6 ft	We 2:55 am ▲ 2.3 ft
Th 5:22 am ▼ 0.3 ft	Th 4:53 am ▼ 0.2 ft	Th 4:50 am ▼ 0.3 ft
Fr 6:24 am ▼ 0.2 ft	Fr 6:04 am ▼ 0.2 ft	Fr 6:13 am ▼ 0.2 ft
Sa 7:05 am ▼ 0.2 ft	Sa 6:52 am ▼ 0.1 ft	Sa 7:12 am ▼ 0.2 ft
Su 12:36 am ▲ 2.1 ft	Su 12:35 am ▲ 2.3 ft	Su 12:08 am ▲ 2.0 ft
Mo 1:17 am ▲ 2.3 ft	Mo 1:21 am ▲ 2.4 ft	Mo 1:16 am ▲ 2.1 ft
Tu 1:53 am ▲ 2.4 ft	Tu 2:01 am ▲ 2.5 ft	Tu 2:10 am ▲ 2.2 ft
We 2:27 am ▲ 2.5 ft	We 2:38 am ▲ 2.6 ft	We 2:55 am ▲ 2.3 ft



## Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports By Carolyn Brown Treadon



In 2021, the U.S. Coast Guard reported 4,439 boating incidents that resulted in 658 deaths, 2,641 injuries and about \$67.5 million in property damage.

The National Safety Council identified several factors that can help make a day on the water a safe and enjoyable day for everyone.

**Wearing a life jacket is essential.** Most injuries and fatalities are the result of individuals not wearing a life jacket. We have had several past articles on life jackets. It is important to continue to revisit this topic as it can be the difference in life and death for a person who falls overboard. Even the best of swimmers can get fatigued treading water for expended time.  
**Get educated, reduce the risk.** A safe boating

**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

course is a great tool to help refresh former skills and build new skills. Even those who are passengers may find themselves in need of skills if the captain becomes incapacitated. No one is too young to begin learning boating safety!

**Be Prepared.** Make sure your equipment is in good working order before leaving, do a radio check and check lights. No one

plans and emergency - a little preparedness can go a long way in making a bad situation better.

**Exercise good judgment.** Knowing your limits is necessary for safe boating. Personal limits in skill and comfort are critical to respect in all people onboard. It is also important to monitor the weather and head back to the docks if weather starts taking a turn.

Drinking and boating can be a dangerous combination. Be mindful of what is going on around you, things can change in a split second.

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

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](mailto:steve.hults@uscgaux.net).

*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](http://www.cgaux.org).*

## Underwater Wakulla

By Rusty Miller

### Finished side mount course.

I have good news; I finished my open water side mount course. A week ago Monday I met my Instructor Miss Aletheia at Orange Grove Springs in Live Oak, an hour and a half from Crawfordville east on 98. This is the only spring in the Peacock system in the park that open water divers can use. The cavern entrance is a little small and should only be entered by cavern or cave certified divers because you lose the sunlight very quickly.

There are no showers to rinse off with but they do have a big porta-potty and changing shed (two sides) with locking bolts on the inside of the doors. The pathway to the stairs/ramp is clear of debris so even with my gimp left foot I was able to walk carefully to the spring. I used the ramp to the final stair entrance to the spring. The stairs at the spring are very wide with a rail dividing the staircase. I will caution you that the last two stairs can be very slick because of some algae build up but still navigable.

When we were there the water was incredibly clear and they said it was blue (I'm color blind) but I could see the 70 foot bottom from the surface. The water temperature is a year round 72 degrees. There is a lot of silt on the branches and some on the walls of the spring so you need to either learn to frog kick or don't get close to the sides.

We wheeled our tanks to the entry stairs and laid them on the bottom stair connected to a looped rope so they wouldn't fall off into the spring. We connected the tanks to our harnesses, did the final checks for leaks and then we were ready to head out into the spring. Aletheia briefed me on what skills I needed to accomplish on this first dive. We were going to enter the cavern to the entrance to the cave but not penetrate the cave. Then we swam down to the entrance of the cavern. She tied off her line and we swam around exploring the cavern and literally after we made the first right turn in the cavern the entrance disappeared and we used our lights at that point, it was awesome. We saw the cave entrance and we were about 90 feet underwater at that point.

It was time to start making our way back to the entrance and then to our 20 foot safety stop. She asked me to lead the way out, at that point I started getting a little nervous because I'm still struggling with my frog kick and I didn't want to mess up the way out with silt because the place is covered up as are the tree branches that you have to navigate through. I followed the line she laid out very slowly and carefully; it seemed every time I kicked I hit a branch with the tips of my fins and my thoughts where that I was silting up the place, there was no silting. We made it to the entrance and the sunlight coming through was almost a spiritual thing because the way it danced in the water. Aletheia asked me to deploy my lift bag on my reel, I did but my regulator that I filled the bag with started to free flow but a good smack on the side it stopped. I made a mistake by putting the reel down on the rocks to attach it to the bag, that's a big no-no.

I deployed the bag and reeled up to our 20 foot safety stop. We completed our first dive. After about a half an hour surface interval we entered the water again and the skill that I have been dredging was about to take place. We descended about 30 feet and it was time for me to unhook the rear of one of my tanks and lay it out in front of me and swim 50 feet. I struggled a little bit but did it and connected it back and then unhook the rear of the other one and repeat the 50 feet. Then she wanted me to deploy my lift bag again but this time I was to stay in the horizontal position. I did and even frog kicked around clockwise then counter clockwise holding the reel out in front of me.

We surfaced and she said congratulations I passed and I was excited. Not bad for a nearly 66 year old diving instructor. So no matter what age you are you can learn new things. Keep blowing bubbles.

### WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO



Retired Wakulla Springs State Park Ranger Bob Thompson, on his weekly wildlife survey at the park, took this photo of an Egret watching the river flow.

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## You can get your life back on track

By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

Do you hate feeling as if your life is out of control? Would you like to get it back on track?

You used to feel great about the direction your

life was going, but today, you feel overwhelmed. Your bad choices have gotten the upper hand and are dictating your direction and purpose. I have good news. You can regain control of your life – today, this very minute.

When you're ready to repent of your poor choices and sinful behavior and choose (with God's help) to live in a way that honors Him, He will make your life meaningful.

Once we truly mourn our sinful path, not only because of the conse-

quences we've suffered, but because our choices grieve our heavenly Father, we're ready for the next step.

"Humble yourselves [with an attitude of repentance and insignificance] in the presence of the Lord," James 4:10 (AMP) says, "and He will exalt you [He will lift you up, He will give you purpose]."

Isn't this what we want? A life with purpose?

What causes life to spin out of control? Usually, it's because we choose to do things our

way or falsely believe we need that addiction, wrong relationship or destructive attitude (pride, revenge, disrespect).

If this week's message speaks to you, look objectively at the last few years of your life. See if you can pinpoint when the downward spiral began sucking away your life, one piece at a time. If you're not yet at the place where you can honestly say you hate your sin, ask God to help you get there. Ask Him to give you His perspective regarding your choices.

Perhaps you're not

sure whether this week's message even applies to you. If this is the case, ask yourself, "Would my spouse, children or the people I respect say my life is on track?" If your answer is "no," God would love to talk with you about this.

Regardless of where you see yourself relative to this message, begin now to prepare for Good Friday by reading the last chapters of each Gospel (which describe Christ's death and resurrection). Ask God's Holy Spirit to speak to you as you meditate on

what Jesus suffered for you at Calvary.

God will help you regain true purpose and significance for your life. If you humble yourself before our holy, merciful God, you will regain control of your life. It could begin today.

It could even begin this very minute.

*Sheryl H. Boldt is a sales executive for Wave 94 and author of the blog, [www.TodayCanBeDifferent.net](http://www.TodayCanBeDifferent.net). Connect with her at [SherylHBoldt.Wave94@gmail.com](mailto:SherylHBoldt.Wave94@gmail.com).*

## It's a slow fade

By **CHERYL CRUCE**

The song by Casting Crowns flows through the room from my playlist as it has many times before. However, the words "It's a slow fade" capture my thoughts, carrying me on a rabbit trail for the song's meaning. What is the slow fade that tricks the spirit into the alluring entrapments of the darkness?

In a time of childhood innocence, I often found myself frightened

to tears over the mon-keys in the Wizard of Oz. Yet today, my grandchildren will laugh at my teary recounts of the movie when I hid behind the safety of my mama. Their world has become filled with true crime segments and gaming systems that carry them into a lifelike world of corruption and destruction. It has been a slow fade from the days of ruby-colored shoes that could take us home with three clicks of the heel. The slow fade has traveled a long way from the rural countryside of peaceful Kansas.

Where has the fade carried us? The art of eye contact is etching its way into the shadows of yesterday. Cash registers and bank tellers are replaced with automatic

self-checkout and ATM systems. However, these stationary areas and cold machines are no substitute for the warm smile of an individual or the handshake of one who desires honesty.

I remember seeing my dad bind a deal with a promise of his word through an extended hand. My mother turned an enemy into a friend over a cup of coffee on a hot July afternoon. Isn't it interesting that I have 1,147 friends listed on Facebook, yet I have never made eye contact with most of them, let alone shared a cup of coffee? Don't get me wrong, I'll take friendship any way I can, but a friend's physical presence cannot be replaced through a social media window. There are times

when I need a hug; hugs are healing.

Scripture teaches that we are not to forsake the gathering of our brothers, for their righteous prayers bring us the restoring grace of Heaven. We are called to do nothing in selfish ambition. Instead, we are to value others above ourselves (Philippians 2:3). The importance of others cannot fall into the abyss of the slow fade or the desire for social media. We must maintain the significance of each person in our hearts. Charles Shultz's cartoon character, Snoopy, explains it best: "When my arms cannot reach the people close to my heart, I always hug them with my prayers."

In 2020, we learned how precious a hug

could be when a virus swept our land, and our prayer life increased as hugs decreased. Suddenly our doors were closed, our faces covered, and we were one step closer to being depersonalized.

A slow fade pulls us from each other and the One who created us. Our relationship with God should always be personal and should carry over into our relationship with each other. He has called us to love one another, including our enemies. When we pray for those who spitefully use us, we become children of the Father in Heaven (Matthew 5:44-45).

Touchless media cannot replace the human contact we all yearn for. All too soon, our loved

ones will disappear from our lives. It is time we put down our social media and hold the hand of the loved ones present with us. Let us pray for each other and build each other up in love before we slowly disappear into the empty, touchless void of the slow fade.

Encourage and build one another up. Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. Consider how to stir up one another to love and good works. (1 Thessalonians 5:11, Romans 12:15, Hebrews 10:24).

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

### OUT TO PASTOR

## I'm so poor I can't pay attention

By **JAMES SNYDER**

Occasionally I go to my computer and search for the wealthiest preachers in America. I am curious to know who came up with this idea, but I check it out occasionally to see who they are.

As often as I have checked this information, I have never found my name on that list. I so much wanted to see my name on that list. Everybody knows that the Internet never lies. So, I need to accept that I am not one of the wealthiest preachers in America. Poor me!

That may explain many things in my life that I did not quite understand before.

When traveling in the Sissy Van, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is always behind the steering wheel. I make it a point not to drive that Sissy Van anymore than I have to.

As we drive, my wife will say, "Did you see that car? They're from Idaho."

Of course, I did not see it because I was not paying attention. When

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage drives, she focuses on everything within her focus. Even when driving my truck, and she is in the passenger seat, she sees everything around her.

Do not let this get back to her, but she sees things that I do not think exist. I will never contest her on that subject.

Unlike my wife, I don't have that much focus to see everything that is happening around me.

Once when she asked me if I saw something, I replied, "No, I'm just too poor to pay attention."

I laughed, of course, but she didn't think it was funny.

Driving across town to church one Sunday morning, she said, "Did you see that sign? What did it say?"

I didn't see it, so I responded, "I'm sorry, but I'm too poor to pay attention." Then I chuckled.

She just threw me one of her infamous grimaces.

For some reason, she believes I should pay attention to everything around me. I don't know why because I'm not interested in many of the things around me. And, I am too poor to pay attention.

While driving to an appointment the other day, I asked, "Could I borrow a dollar from you?"

She looked at me quizzically and said, "Why do

you need a dollar from me?"

"Oh," I said softly, "I just need some money to pay attention while you're driving."

She did not respond to me; of course, she never gave me that dollar. So I tried to explain to her that it is very expensive to pay attention. I don't think she believed me.

Several weeks later, we went to our Sunday morning church service, and I noticed a license plate and said, "Look at that license plate. They're from Montana."

There was silence on the other side of the car, and finally, she looked at me and said, "Where did you get that dollar?"

I had no idea what she was talking about, so I just said, "What dollar are you talking about?"

She snickered like I had not heard her snicker in a long time and said, "You know, the dollar so that you can pay attention."

The only thing I can say is that she has enough money to pay attention to everything, even some things I don't know.

Having enough money to pay attention to everything around you must be nice. I'm sure my life would change if I could afford to pay attention to everything.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage can pay attention even when fast asleep. One time we were taking a trip to St. Augustine. She leaned back in her side and took a nap. At least, I thought she was asleep.

I was coming to where I needed to turn, but I wasn't sure if this was the right place. As I slowed down, I heard The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage say, "No, you need to turn at the next light."

Looking over, I saw her eyes were closed, and it looked like she was sound asleep. She is rich enough to pay attention even when she is sound

asleep.

I often wonder where she has all this money, probably in the Central Bank of Mind Your Own Business.

Watching television, suddenly, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said, "Did you see that? I wonder who that is?"

I begin to say, "No..." My wife jumped in and said, "I know, dear, you're too poor to have paid attention."

Boy, has she got me figured out? I'm going to have to open up some kind of a savings account, maybe a little piggy bank, and try to save up enough money to finance my poor attention. So far, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has refused to loan me money for this cause.

During my Bible reading recently, I read 1 Timothy 6:9-10, "But they that will be rich

fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

Being rich does have its challenge, which I will never face. The disturbing aspect of this passage is where Paul says, "the love of money is the root of all evil." That is my temptation.s.


*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](mailto:jamesnyder51@gmail.com), website [www.jamesnyderministries.com](http://www.jamesnyderministries.com).*

  
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# Obituaries

## DEATH NOTICES

• **Jimmy Halbert Calhoun, 83, of Tallahassee, died March 25, 2023.** Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **Mary Lou Mathes, 84, of Carrabelle, died March 24, 2023.**

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

• **Willard Jerome Swanson, 90, of Tallahassee, died March 25, 2023.** Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

## BEREAVEMENT COLUMN

# STP Recovery, Part 2



By TRACY RENEE LEE

Last week, I wrote a review showcasing the first suggestion, one of two sentinels, from my STP Grief Recovery Formula. That sentinel was Service. This week, my article will showcase the last suggestion, the final sentinel from my formula, Prayer. Service and Prayer are the two sentinels of my STP Grief Recovery Formula because they are the most powerful. They are the most powerful for several reasons.

Primarily, these two sentinels, Service and Prayer, are powers that are greater than self. When invoked, they involve growth and spiritual movement toward a higher power than ourselves. They incorporate a multitude of additional growth movements that all lead toward recovery.

As referenced in last week's article, when Christ was upon the earth, he replaced the Law of Moses with His New and Everlasting

Law, a higher code of new enlightenment: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." Matthew 22:37-40.

Today, I shall address the first of these two commandments, to "... love the Lord thy God with all they heart, and with all they soul, and with all they mind..." We communicate with those whom we love, and in return, they communicate back with us. Fortunately for us, God has given us a way to communicate with Him to show or love and to ask for His help and inspiration in life. This help and inspiration comes through a mode of spiritual communication.

Christ states that before all else, we should love the Lord our God. If we must love our Lord before all else, perhaps our Lord loves us before all else. If that is true, wouldn't it stand to reason that He would not want to see our hearts broken? And, that He would do all that He

could to help us recover from our pain, to comfort us, and to love us?

I love my children beyond belief. There is not a person, nor an item, that could ever come before them. In that reality, whenever they are injured, sick, lonely, afraid, or unhappy, my quest is to help them.

Because my children are adults, I have to help them within the confines they impose. Sometimes that is hard for me, because I want to jump right in and fix their problems. However, I must allow for their freedom of choice, their agency, and their liberty. I must work within their boundaries to help them in a manner that is acceptable to them.

If I see that one of my children has a problem, I can't just take over and fix it for them. If I did that they would be so angry, and most likely, would immediately reject my help as interference. Sometimes they want to do it on their own and they don't even tell me about it until they have taken care of it. However, if they allow it, I'm on it.

I think that might be how God works. He can't just interfere with our lives and our choices, if He did, we might reject Him. I think He has to wait for us to ask

for help, the same way I have to wait for my children to ask. Of course, I wait for a phone call; I think He waits for a prayer.

My assistance to them is rarely monetary. As parent's themselves, they do not want their mom paying for their issues. Most of the time, my assistance is in the form of suggestions based upon my past experiences; or brainstorming for solutions. Sometimes, it's just a redirection, or a fresh idea that is needed. Regardless, whatever their needs are, I jump at the opportunity to help them because I love them more than life itself.

I think that is how God feels about us. I believe that I am a child of God. I believe also, that my children are children of God. If God is my spiritual Father, I believe that He would love me at least as much as I love my children. If that is the case, I also believe that He would want to help me as much as I want to help my children. Under that premise, I believe that if I call upon my Heavenly Father for assistance, He would jump at the chance to assist me through whatever trials I face; especially the trial of grief.

Communication with deity brings comfort and peace to my existence. Bearing my soul through prayer fills me with inspiration and answers are distilled upon me. As I call upon Him, my mind calms down and I am still. The ravages of grief are quieted, and I am free to focus on healing.

Throughout the losses I have suffered in life, God has yoked me to Him, and has lifted my burdens from me. When I have crossed the river of no return, He has helped me back to a place in life of peace and joy. This transformation does not happen overnight, but He makes my journey possible, and I know that without Him, it would not be so.

Christ's commandment to love God with all our might, mind, and soul, is reciprocated through the glorious answers, comfort, and assistance received through prayer.

As you review and implement my STP Oil Recovery Formula, please remember that prayer and service are the two strongest grief recovery strategies available to you. You might also remember that they complement the greatest commandments given through our Lord and Savior. I fervently testify

to this truth, as I have successfully utilized prayer and service for grief recovery myself. The truth is, they are truth; they work.

My humble prayer is that God will bless each of us as we strive to overcome the ravages associated with loss and life.

*My name is Tracy Renee Lee. I am a Certified Grief Counselor (GC-C), Funeral Director (FDIC), published author, syndicated columnist, Podcaster, and founder of the "Mikey Joe Children's Memorial" and Heaven Sent, Corp. I write books, weekly bereavement articles, Podcasts, and Grief BRIEFs related to understanding and coping with grief. I am the American Funeral Director of the Year Runner-Up and recipient of the BBB's Integrity Award.*

It is my life's work to comfort the bereaved and help them live on.

**For additional encouragement, please visit my podcast "Deadline" on Spotify and follow me on Instagram at "Deadline\_TracyLee."**

# Weekly Roundup: On the fast track

By DARA KAM  
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — Forget about the days when lawmakers played cat-and-mouse with a governor's top priorities by holding off until the waning days of the legislative session to deliver the goods.

Way back when, House and Senate leaders would string out the most controversial or pressing issues as they engaged in horse trading and made surprise moves in the weeks leading up to the end of the 60-day annual session.

Such maneuvering appears to be a thing of the past as lawmakers have finished the third week of this year's carefully scripted session, with Gov. Ron DeSantis and Republican supermajorities in the House and Senate firmly in control.

DeSantis on Friday signed into law a far-reaching bill aimed at helping shield businesses and insurance companies from lawsuits. Supporters maintain it

will rein in "billboard lawyers," and opponents contend the law, which went into effect immediately, will harm consumers.

DeSantis' signature came a day after the Senate gave final approval to the plan (HB 837), a priority of the governor and House Speaker Paul Renner, R-Palm Coast.

Business and insurance groups have long sought the lawsuit changes, contending that Florida has been plagued by excessive litigation that drives up costs. As the heavily lobbied bill moved through the House and Senate, supporters often blamed what they called "billboard lawyers."

"We have a fundamental problem in Florida when you turn on your TV or your radio, and the ad says, 'If you have been injured, call an attorney first. Do not call your insurance. Call an attorney.' That is a problem. It's not right," Senate bill sponsor Travis Hutson, R-St. Augustine, said during floor debate

Thursday. "It's because current laws allow this situation to happen, and people believe they won the jackpot or the litigation lottery."

But opponents argued the bill is a gift to the insurance industry without any assurances that it will lower rates for such things as auto insurance.

"Instead of improving the lives of the average person, it will absolve bad actors of their duties and responsibilities," said Sen. Darryl Rouson, a St. Petersburg Democrat who is a plaintiffs' attorney. "After all, these large corporate entities can afford to pay their attorneys whatever long they need them. Many of our friends and neighbors and constituents back in our districts won't have such a luxury."

### ZIPPING ALONG

Lawmakers also made

quick work of a massive expansion of Florida's school-choice programs, sending to DeSantis a measure that would make all students eligible for taxpayer-backed vouchers.

The Senate voted along straight party lines Thursday to give final approval to the bill (HB 1), which the House passed last week. DeSantis already has pledged to sign the measure, which includes removing income-eligibility requirements that are part of current voucher programs. It has been a top priority of Renner, who was in the Senate chamber Thursday.

"We are funding students in this state. Parents have spoken," Senate sponsor Corey Simon, R-Tallahassee, said before the Senate's 26-12 vote.

Under the bill, students would be eligible to receive vouchers if they are "a resident of this state" and "eligible

to enroll in kindergarten through grade 12" in a public school.

The measure includes a tiered "priority" system for students to receive vouchers. Students whose household incomes are less than 185 percent of the federal poverty level, or roughly \$51,000 for a family of four, would get first priority. Next would be students whose family incomes are from 185 percent of the poverty level to 400 percent of the poverty level, which is about \$111,000 for a family of four.

Outnumbered Senate Democrats slammed the measure during a floor debate, characterizing it as a potential handout for wealthy people who would seek the vouchers.

"Let's just face it, if you are a parent and you are paying for private school, why wouldn't you want to take advantage of this program? I mean, this is going to be corporate welfare for parents

who are already paying for private schools," Sen. Lori Berman, D-Boca Raton, said.

**STORY OF THE WEEK:** Gov. Ron DeSantis quickly signed into law a sweeping measure aimed at helping shield businesses and insurance companies from lawsuits.

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:** "We're proud to serve our country, but we are being treated differently than other military families because of a decision by politicians in the state where we are stationed. We have no choice but to fight this ban to protect our daughter's physical and mental health." — Parent "Jane Doe," who is a plaintiff in a lawsuit filed Thursday challenging state medical boards' rules banning doctors from using puberty blockers, hormone therapy or surgery to treat transgender children.

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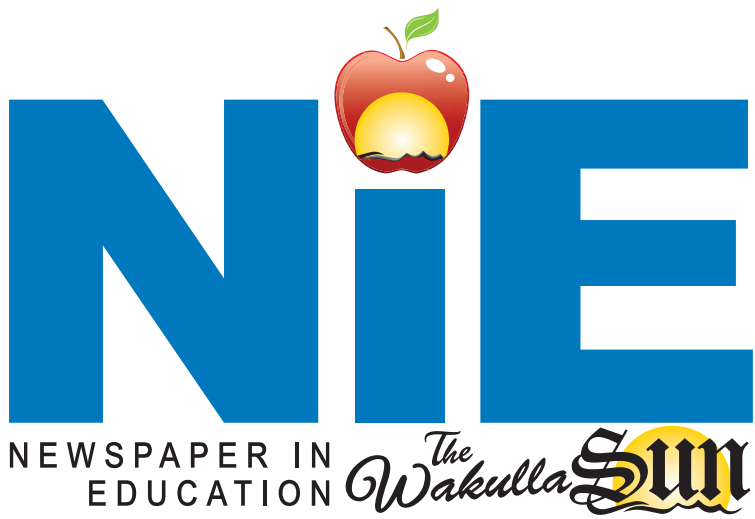
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## USE THE NEWS

### 1. French Bulldogs Rise

Dogs are the most popular pets in the United States, and for 31 straight years Labrador retrievers were the most popular dog. Not any more. In 2022 French bulldogs rose to the top spot among pure-bred dogs, according to the American Kennel Club. The Kennel Club, which tracks some of America's favorite dogs, said registration statistics from 2022 revealed that French bulldogs had nudged into first place. The bulldogs, which have flat heads, cute wrinkly faces and ears that stand up, were Number 2 the previous year. The popularity of French bulldogs has been rising in recent years with many celebrities owning them. Among the famous owners of the breed are Lady Gaga, John Legend, Reese Witherspoon, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, Megan Thee Stallion, Leonardo DiCaprio and Snoop Dogg. The rise of French bulldogs in 2022 dropped Labradors to Number 2, followed by golden retrievers, German shepherds, poodles, bulldogs, Rottweilers, beagles, dachshunds and German shorthaired pointers. As a class, discuss the kinds of dogs you and your classmates like. They can be purebred breeds such as French bulldogs, or mixed-breed "mutts" or rescue dogs. Then find a photo of a dog you like in the newspaper or online. Read the caption that goes with the photo, and any story connected to it. Then write an outline for a creative story about kids your age having fun with this type of dog.

Goals: Engaging effectively in a range of collaborative discussions; writing narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events.

### 2. Final Four Excitement

It's time to choose the champions in the top division for men's and women's college basketball. This weekend, the best men's and women's teams in the NCAA's Division I will face off in Final Four competition that will determine who will play in the national title games. The women's Final Four games will be held Friday, March 31 with the championship on Sunday, April 2. The men's Final Four games will take place Saturday April 1, with the championship game on Monday, April 3. With a partner, use the newspaper or Internet to find and read stories about the teams competing in Final Four games this weekend. Pick one that you think could be the champion for the men or women. Use information from your reading or prior knowledge, to write a sports column explaining your pick. Discuss picks as a class.

Goals: Writing informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly; citing specific textual evidence when writing; engaging effectively in a range of collaborative discussions.

### 3. Giant Clump of Seaweed

When it is floating in the ocean, seaweed can provide many benefits for the environment. It provides food and protection for fishes, mammals, marine birds and turtles, and homes for microscopic sea creatures as well. Too much seaweed can be a problem however, especially when it clumps together in large "blooms." This spring a huge bloom of seaweed twice as wide as the United States is heading toward the U.S. state of Florida and the Gulf of Mexico, CNN News reports. When it washes ashore on beaches it can pile up five or six feet deep and cause damage to wildlife, the environment and even humans. The seaweed threat is the result of a huge "bloom" of

a species known as sargassum out in the warm waters of the Atlantic Ocean. The bloom began forming over the winter and doubled in size between December and January. It could be the biggest bloom ever, covering more than 5,000 miles of ocean from the continent of Africa to the Gulf of Mexico south of the United States. In addition to polluting beaches, large quantities of sargassum can block sunlight from plant species in the ocean and create "dead zones" by sucking the oxygen out of the water. Natural events can sometimes cause problems for marine life in the world's oceans. In the newspaper or online, find and closely read a story about one natural event that has done this. Use what you read to write a letter to a teacher or friend telling how the natural event occurred and how it is affecting the environment or wildlife.

Goals: Reading closely what written and visual texts say and to making logical inferences from them; citing specific textual evidence when writ-

ing or speaking to support conclusions.

### 4. Washington Artwork Found

In American history, one of the most famous early events was General George Washington's crossing of the Delaware River to launch a surprise attack on soldiers working for Great Britain. The crossing from the state of Pennsylvania to Trenton, New Jersey on Christmas Day in 1776 led to the first major victory for American forces in the nation's War for Independence. Many artists have created paintings of "Washington Crossing the Delaware," and a significant one has just been re-discovered. It had been rolled up in the basement of a building at a New Jersey state park for more than 50 years. The painting by famous military artist George M. Harding had once hung in a theater in Trenton but had been removed when the theater was torn down in 1971. There were plans to display the painting at a museum on the New Jersey side of the river for the nation's Bicentennial in 1976, but at 16 feet long and 10

feet high it was too big for the available space. So it went into storage at Ringwood State Park 80 miles away, where it sat for more than half a century, the Philadelphia Inquirer newspaper reported. Now the painting showing General Washington standing tall in a boat during the crossing will get new life. A private group is raising money to have the painting restored for display during America's 250th anniversary in 2026. In the newspaper or online, find and closely read a story about an event that interests you. Think like an artist and draw a picture of this event showing how it looked as it happened and how it affected the people involved. Present your picture to the class and discuss.

Goals: Using drawings or visual displays when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or points; responding thoughtfully to diverse perspectives, summarizing points of agreement and disagreement.

### 5. April Fools!

Saturday is April 1, which is observed in many parts of the world

as April Fools Day. On April Fools Day people play jokes and pranks on each other to share humor and laughs. Or they pretend silly things have happened and shout "April Fools!" to let others know they were joking. April Fools celebrations have been around for hundreds of years, though no one knows how they first began. Some historians have linked April Fools Day to festivals such as Hilaria, which was celebrated in ancient Rome at the end of March. Hilaria involved people dressing up in disguises and mocking fellow citizens (the word "hilaria" has the same origin as "hilarious"). In the newspaper or online, find and closely read a news, sports or entertainment story that interests you. In the spirit of April Fools Day, rewrite the story by changing or adding facts in a humorous way. Share with family, friends and classmates.

Goals: Producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task; applying knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts.

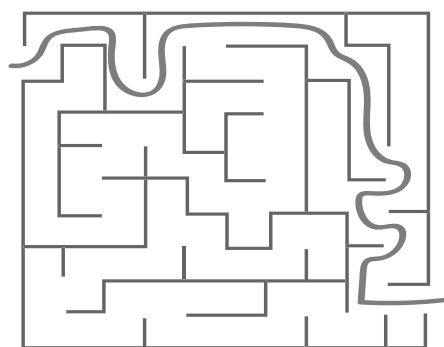
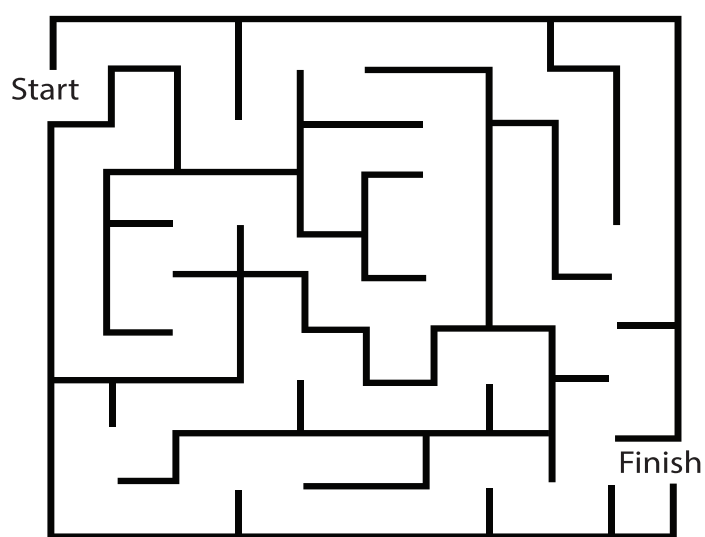


THIS MONTH IS WHEN THE SPRING EQUINOX OCCURS IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE.

ANSWER: SEPTEMBER

### Maze Craze

Can you find your way through the maze?



### THIS DAY IN...



### HISTORY

- 1871: THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL RUGBY MATCH TAKES PLACE BETWEEN SCOTLAND AND ENGLAND IN EDINBURGH.
- 1976: THE FIRST SECTION OF THE WASHINGTON METRO OPENS TO THE PUBLIC.
- 2020: NORTH MACEDONIA BECOMES THE 30TH MEMBER OF NATO.



### BULB

a food storage organ that produces a new flowering plant

### How they SAY that in...

- ENGLISH:** Warm
- SPANISH:** Tibio
- ITALIAN:** Caldo
- FRENCH:** Chaud
- GERMAN:** Warm



THE FIRST SPRING FLOWERS ARE LILACS, IRISES, LILIES, TULIPS, DAFFODILS, AND DANDELIONS.



### GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: GARDEN TOOLS

# EMPLOYEE BENEFIT WORD SEARCH

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

## WORDS

- COMMUTE
- COMPUTER
- COWORKER
- DEGREE
- EMPLOYEE
- HEADQUARTERS
- HIRE
- HOURS
- INTERVIEW
- JOB
- MEETING
- OFFICE
- PAYCHECK
- POSITION
- PROGRESS
- RAISE
- RESOURCES
- ROLE
- SUPERVISOR
- TIMECLOCK
- TRAINING
- WORK

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

## CROSSWORD

### CLUES ACROSS

1. Millisecond
5. Narcotic drug
11. Accident
14. Formal submissions
15. Popular 70s rock band
18. Discourage from doing
19. More socially elite
21. Arid
23. A way to look
24. Heroes
28. A surfer rides it
29. Potato state
30. Insect repellent
32. Cool!
33. Have already done
35. Collegiate women's fraternity
36. To the \_\_\_ degree
39. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
41. Blood type
42. Looked over
44. Language of Cameroon and Chad
46. Species of armadillo
47. Touch softly

### CLUES DOWN

1. Woman (French)
2. Province of Pakistan
3. This (Spanish)
4. Transportation device
5. Greater in importance or priority
6. The human foot
7. Within
8. Consumed
9. Respectful Malaysian term
10. Therefore
12. Ceased to exist
13. Type of macaroni
16. English composer

17. Wooded tract
20. Tall, slender-leaved plant
22. 36 inches
25. Take too much (abbr.)
26. Allow
27. Individually
29. Journalist Tarbell
31. Bar bill
34. Hong Kong food stall: \_\_\_ pai dong
36. Not messy
37. Species that includes reedmace
38. Former MLB catcher Ed
40. Northern U.S. state
43. Wilt
45. Commercial
48. Bolivian river
50. Nursemaid
51. A car needs four
53. Guns (slang)
54. American state
55. Clusters of fern fronds
57. Body part
58. A person's brother or sister
59. Breed of sheep native to Sweden
61. Of I

## WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to spring.

N U S Y N

--	--	--	--	--

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## Guess Who?

I am a singer born in Oklahoma on March 28, 1955. I was in a family singing group as a child and was discovered during a performance at a national rodeo event in college. I have had many #1 country singles in my career.

Answer: Sunny

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The Wakulla Sun is seeking a fulltime general assignment reporter. The Wakulla Sun is an independently owned weekly newspaper in Crawfordville with a circulation of 2,000 that also publishes a free monthly tabloid with a circulation of 16,000.

**SUBMIT RESUME TO**  
William Snowden, editor and publisher of the Sun, at [editor@thewakullasun.com](mailto:editor@thewakullasun.com).

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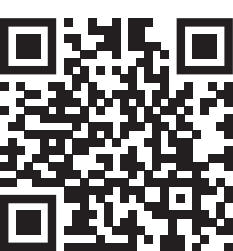
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**NOTICE OF SALE**

**NOTICE OF SALE**  
Notice is given pursuant to Florida Self-Storage Facility Act, Florida Statutes, Chapter 83, Part IV that Wakulla Realty will hold a sale by sealed bid on April 13th, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at 2655 Crawfordville Hwy. of the contents of Mini-Warehouse containing personal property of: Amber Roberts unit E-21 and Derek Smart unit E-11. Before the sale date of April 13th, 2023 the owner may redeem their property by payment of the outstanding balance and cost by mailing it to P.O. Box 535 Crawfordville Fl. 32326 or by paying in person at 10 Cedar Avenue, Crawfordville, Fl.  
March 23 & 30, 2023

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**BASEBALL**

# War Eagles split two games to get to 5-6



**By KEITH ANDERSON**  
WHS Baseball Coach

The Wakulla High War Eagles Varsity

Baseball team split two games this past week to move to 5-6 on the season so far.

On Monday, March 20th, the War Eagles traveled to Maclay winning 8-4. Starting pitcher Leaston Spears threw 3 innings giving up 4 hits and 3 runs coming out of the ball-

game tied at 3 in the 4th inning. Hayden Wright came on in relief to pitch a stellar 3 and 2/3 innings giving up 3 hits and 1 run in the effort notching his first Varsity win. Jesse Nazworth also threw the last out in the 7th in the win.

On the offensive side, Colby Zinser led the War Eagles going

3-3 on the day. Brady Crum was 2-2 with 2 RBIs, and Parker Lawhon and Sam Bruce each added a hit and an RBI.

The War Eagles then traveled to Madison on Tuesday, March 21st to play the Madison Cowboys where they took a 4-3 lead into the 6th inning, but the

Cowboys came alive in the bottom of the sixth to score 6 unanswered runs to eventually win the game 9-4.

Starter Gavin Estep had a solid outing throwing 5 innings scattering 7 hits on 3 runs with 6 strikeouts. Owen Klees, Jesse Nazworth, and Colby Zinser pitched in relief

for WHS.

Catcher Brady Crum led the War Eagles with the bat going 3-4 with two doubles. Sam Bruce had a hit and 2 RBIs, Gavin Estep had a single and an RBI, Michael Hurley had an RBI, Parker Lawhon had a hit, and Josiah Pierini added a single also.

## RMS team is 9-3

**By KYLE MARKS**  
RMS Coach

Riversprings Middle School pitchers and defense are peaking at the right time of the season, beating Wakulla Middle School twice, FSUS, and Madison these past two weeks to improve to 9-3 on the season.

RMS travelled to Florida High Tuesday looking to avenge a loss earlier in the season. The Bears did this behind Brody Johnson's performance on the mound and two

timely hits. Brent Wells pitched in relief to lead the Bears to a 7-5 win.

Madison came to RMS looking to avenge their first loss of the season, but they were denied by Kendall Wimes on the mound. Wimes threw a two-hit shut out with six strikeouts. The lone run was scored by Jackson Crawford to walk off the last inning.

The Wildcats visited the Bears Monday before spring break trying to respond to a 7-3 loss the previous week.

Brent Wells started on the mound for the Bears and threw three hitless innings. Kendall Wimes would pick up where Brent left off and pick up the win for RMS. Wimes threw three scoreless innings and had a base clearing double to lead the Bears to a 7-0 victory. Brody Johnson and Landon Phillips both hit doubles.

The Bears welcome an undefeated Suwannee team in a game before spring break.



Tim Jackson of Fort Wayne, Ind., drove his 1912 Jackson automobile.

Norm and Kathy Madson of Tallahassee are heading the 2023 Cabin Fever Tour, a five day adventure for vintage car owners. The touring group had never toured south of the Georgia line. It originated so that car collectors could get out of the colder weather and drive their early 20th century cars

to varied destinations. On Monday, March 27, the group visited St. Marks to see the fort, then was on to Wakulla Springs for a lunch catered by Seineyard, then a boat ride down the scenic Wakulla River. On Tuesday, they were headed to Pebble Hill in Thomasville and a stop at the Lapham

-Patterson House.

Participants on the tour were from Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Georgia, North Carolina and Florida. There were 15 cars, 35 people. The newest model car was a 1915 Packard owned by the Madsens, while the oldest in the tour was a 1910 Marmon.

- Lynda Kinsey

## SOPCHOPPY

21<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL WORM GRUNTIN' FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 2023

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### 2023 SCHEDULE

7:00 A.M.	REGISTRATION WIGGLE WORM FUN RUN	
8:00 A.M.	WIGGLE WORM FUN RUN- 1.4 MILES THROUGH SOPCHOPPY	
9:00-9:15	OPENING REMARKS, KICK OFF, VENDORS OPEN	
9:15-10:15	SIGN UP WORM GRUNTIN' CONTEST - CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER	
9:20-10:15	<b>LIVE MUSIC:</b> HEARTLAND GOSPEL SINGERS	
10:15-10:30	WORM GRUNTIN' DEMO	
10:30-11:30	WORM GRUNTIN' CONTEST UNDER 12	
10:30-11:20	<b>LIVE MUSIC:</b> ROCKULLA MUSICIANS	
11:30-12:00	WAKULLA COUNTY SENIOR WIGGLERS	
12:00-12:15	ANNOUNCEMENTS- CONTEST WINNERS & UP- COMING ACTIVITIES	
12:15-1:00	EASTER EGG HUNT	
12:15- 1:00	<b>LIVE MUSIC:</b> MOUNT OLIVE YOUTH CHOIR	
1:00- 2:00	<b>LIVE MUSIC:</b> DJ BUTCH- COREY BENEDICT	
2:00-3:00	<b>LIVE MUSIC:</b> FRANK LINDAMOOD LONG FORGOT- TEN STRING BAND	
3:00-4:30	<b>LIVE MUSIC:</b> FUNKY TATERS - 9 PIECE JAZZ BAND	
4:30-5:00	DJ MUSIC DURING VENDOR BREAKDOWN	
4:30-5:00	HULA HOOP CONTEST	
5:00-5:15	CROWN THE QUEEN	
5:15-9:00	<b>WORM GRUNTERS' BALL</b>	<p style="margin: 0; font-size: 0.8em;"><b>BRING THE FAMILY AND SPEND THE ENTIRE DAY IN BEAUTIFUL DOWNTOWN SOPCHOPPY. BRING A CHAIR OR BLANKET!</b></p>
5:15-6:45	<b>LIVE MUSIC:</b> YOUNG BUCKS	
7:00-9:00	<b>LIVE MUSIC:</b> NIGHT SHIFT	

The Worm Gruntin' Festival is Supported by Discover Sopchoppy LLC.

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# Panacea hosts Oyster and Beer festival on Saturday



Despite a cloudy and rain threatening day, estimated four to six thousand (possibly more) folks showed up for the 2nd annual event. It was a sea of people lining up to get fresh oysters and craft beer.

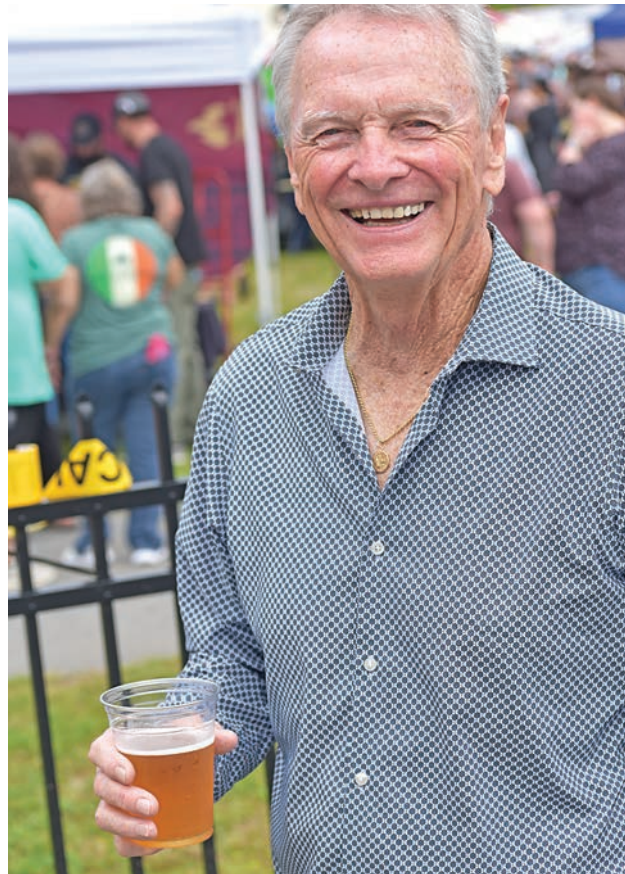


A pirate and a pixie greeted festivalgoers as they entered Woolley Park.

PHOTOS BY GERALD BROWN



Sheriff Jared Miller and Commissioner Fred Nichols.



Frank Messersmith at the festival.



Niraj Patel and Petra Shuff check in visitors.



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