



## Low Country Boil is held

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# The Wakulla Sun

*"It's a New Day"*



Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



Partly Cloudy  
Hi: 83° Lo: 67° 8%  
Sunrise 7:21 AM  
Sunset 7:59 PM

Mostly Cloudy  
Hi: 83° Lo: 68° 22%  
Sunrise 7:20 AM  
Sunset 7:59 PM

PM Thunderstorms  
Hi: 80° Lo: 64° 49%  
Sunrise 7:19 AM  
Sunset 8:00 PM



\$1  
One Section

Locally Owned & Operated

Our 2nd Year 14th Issue  
Thursday, April 6, 2023

# Controversial development OK'd

176-acre development near Park and Brookforest subdivisions,

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN  
Editor

County commissioners voted 3-2 to approve a comp plan change on 176 acres from agricultural to Rural 2 zoning, which would allow one home per acre with central water and sewer.

At the commission meeting on Monday, neighbors were voiceferous in their objections to the change, expressing concerns about pollution impacts on the aquifer and Wakulla Springs, traffic, wildlife – and especially the loss of their rural lifestyle.

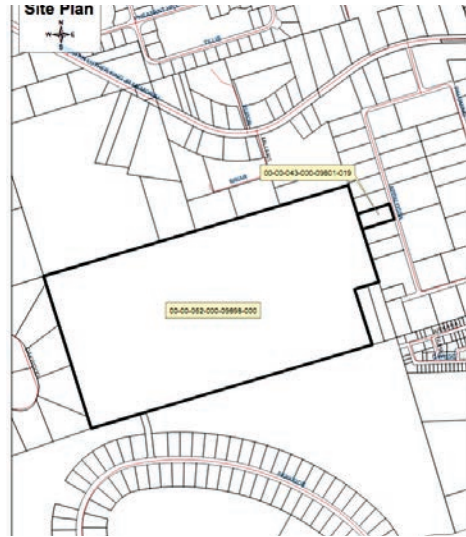
Developer Robby Miller, president of Golden Construction, which is developing the project, has not indicated his intentions or the specifics of the project. But it's early in the

process for Miller to show his plan.

As Commission Chair Ralph Thomas expressed to the residents in the audience before the meeting, what was before the commission to vote on was a very specific change of comp plan zoning. And Thomas checked off what the vote was not about: it's not about trees, it's not about the number of homes on the property, it's not about septic tanks or sewer, not about how the land will be accessed or if it's going through another neighborhood.

Commissioner Chuck Hess offered his own clarification, saying it's about the right to develop this piece of property. He stressed: "We can always turn this down."

Thomas answered that the question boiled down to a farm or homes.



The 176-acre tract, above, with an extra parcel that residents worry is for access to Appaloosa Road. The circular lots at bottom are the Park subdivision.

A dozen residents spoke on the issue, most speaking adamantly against the change. Unusually, two of the speakers were sitting members of the planning commission – Andrew Riddle and Chad Hanson. The planning commission voted against the comp plan change earlier in the process.

Hanson urged commissioners to consider the impact on additional nitrates from the development on the aquifer.

Riddle, who chairs the planning commission and voted against the measure there, commented that "This is a travesty" – saying that it wasn't clear what Miller's plans are since there has yet to be a site plan. "It could be 170 homes, it could be

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## EASTER CELEBRATION IN PANACEA



On Sunday, Panacea Waterfronts held a little different event for the kids before Easter at Woolley Park – instead of a traditional Easter egg hunt, it was more of a Trunk-or-Treat type of event, where kids stopped by and got eggs. They also had fun playing in bubbles, above. Clerk of Courts Greg James was one of those giving out Easter eggs. (Photos by Gerald Brown)



## SOPCHOPPY

# Worm Gruntin' Festival is Saturday

Staff Report

The 21st annual Worm Gruntin' Festival in Sopchoppy is Saturday.

The day kicks off with 1.4 mile Wiggle Worm Fun Run through Sopchoppy at 8 a.m. Registration begins at 7 a.m.

Opening remarks at 9 a.m. and vendors open.

The worm gruntin' contest for kids 12 and younger will be held from 10:30 to 11:30, with a demonstration at 10:15. Kids need to sign up for the contest between 9:15 and 10:15.

There's live music throughout the day.

The festival concludes with the Worm Grunters' Ball from 5:15 to 9 p.m.

# Legion Taylor named Sunshine State Scholar

Special to The Sun

Legion Taylor, a junior at Wakulla High School, has been selected as WHS' 2022 Sunshine State Scholar.

He is one of only 103 juniors statewide to earn this award.

Each of Florida's school districts select their top 11th-grade student in Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics (STEM). Each scholar, along with their parents, will travel to Orlando for an extraordinary program designed to bring together scholars from around the state, connect them with employers that specialize in the STEM fields, and create a networking opportunity between the scholars and schools from Florida's College and State University System.

The two-day program honors each scholar for their significant academic accomplishments and celebrates the potential they represent for their communities and state. In addition to the honor the scholars receive from the Commissioner of Education, the Senior Chancellor and representatives from Florida's colleges and universities meet with the students to discuss higher education

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Legion Taylor

# Local man arrested for child rape

James Crum of Crawfordville allegedly traveled to Alabama to have sex with child

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN  
Editor

A Crawfordville man, James Crum, 33, has been charged with allegedly traveling to Alabama to have sex with a 6 or 7-year-old child.

Crum was arrested in early December on the charges in Dale County, Ala.

The child's mother, Laura Edens, 29, was also arrested and charged and faces charges of human trafficking.

A family member said that Edens was



James Crum

trafficking the child, who the family member said is on the autism spectrum and has Downs syndrome.

The Dale County Sheriff's Office thanked the Wakulla

County Sheriff's Office and Florida Department of Law Enforcement for assistance. It appears WCSO and FDLE executed a search warrant on Crum's home in Crawfordville and seized some evidence in early December.

The Dale County Sheriff's Office received information from the Daleville, Ala., Department of Public Safety about the sexual abuse of a child and that prompted the investigation.

Crum is charged with traveling to meet

a minor for unlawful sex acts, two counts of rape, two counts of sexual abuse of a child less than 12 years of age, and possession of child pornography.

Edens is charged with first-degree sodomy, two counts of sexual abuse of a child less than 12 years of age, and possession of child pornography.

The FBI is reportedly involved in the case fueling speculation that there could be additional charges from other jurisdictions as well.



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



Red buckeye attracts hummingbirds, bees and butterflies.

By LYNN ARTZ, SANDY TEDDER and DAVID RODDENBERRY

Red buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*) is prized for its spring display of upright clusters of red flowers that attract hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies. A slow-grower, red buckeye seldom exceeds 25 ft tall and 10-20 feet wide. Found in upland hardwood forests, it prefers partial shade in moist well-drained soil. This small native tree makes a striking specimen in a naturalized area or wildlife garden. Its interesting palmate leaves droop handsomely. Each large brown seed has a whitish scar said to give it the appearance of a deer's eye, hence the name "buckeye." Native Americans crushed the seeds and put them in water to stun fish for capture. The seeds are toxic if eaten. Sometimes called firecracker plant, red buckeye is blooming now along the woodland at Sopchoppy Depot Park.

## Student of the Week

Ryan Nobles, 2nd grader at Medart Elementary

Principal: Stan Ward

**Achievements/Reason for Nomination:**  
 Ryan is the biggest helper to her teacher and classmates. She always follows school rules, is kind and smart. Her teacher Ms. Briggs says she can always count on a smile and hug from Ryan every morning!



STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.



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*Lisa Craze, CFC*

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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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# War Eagles improve to 7-7



By **KEITH ANDERSON**  
WHS Baseball Coach

The Wakulla War Eagles Varsity Baseball team won 2 of 3 games this week to improve to 7-7 on the year.

The War Eagles took a tough loss against North Florida Christian on Wednesday. Wakulla took a 6-3 lead into the 6th inning, but couldn't hold the Eagles from taking the lead. The War Eagles bounced back in the seventh leaving the tying run at the plate to lose with a final score of 12-8.

Starter Leaston

Spears gave a strong outing throwing 5 innings giving up 2 hits and 3 runs with 4 strikeouts. Hayden Wright, Owen Klees, and Jesse Nazworth each pitched in relief.

The War Eagles swung the bat well, pounding out 11 hits to NFC's 8 hits. Brady Crum kept his hot bat going having a 4-4 day. Garrett Veltkamp and Reid Joyner had 2 hits a piece. Josiah Pierini and Parker Lawhon also added a hit. Colby Zinser had a 2 run triple with 3 RBIs on the day.

The War Eagles bounced back on Thursday with a big win over a 10-3 Blountstown team.

The War Eagles once again brought out the bats with 14 hits and eventually won the game 16-6. Freshman Owen Klees led the of-

fensive onslaught with a perfect 4-4 day with 3 RBIs.

Garrett Veltkamp, Leaston Spears, Reid Joyner, and Sam Bruce each had 2 hits. Parker Lawhon and Colby Zinser had a hit a piece. Josiah Pierini had 4 RBIs on the day. Starting pitcher Gavin Estep threw 4 and 2/3 innings scattering 6 hits and 3 strikeouts.

Sophomore Hayden Wright came on in relief throwing 1 and a third innings giving up only 1 run with 2 strikeouts.

Brady Crum had an outstanding game behind the plate throwing out 3 runners.

On Friday, March 31st, the War Eagles traveled to Florida High for their third game in 3 days and it proved to be a good one. The War Eagles won a close one 6-5

behind a solid performance by starting pitcher Reid Joyner. He took the War Eagles into the 5th inning, giving up only 3 hits and striking out 3.

Hayden Wright was outstanding in relief finishing the game surrendering 2 hits and 1 run while striking out 2.

Garrett Veltkamp drove in what would prove to be the winning run. Brady Crum had a hit and an RBI. Owen Klees had 2 hits. Parker Lawhon, Colby Zinser, Reid Joyner, and Garrett Veltkamp all had singles.

The game ended in dramatic fashion in the bottom of the 7th when the tying runner tried to steal second and Brady Crum's throw was on the money to nail the base stealer.



Brianna Ly, the class of 2023 salutatorian, and Haley Taylor, the class valedictorian, with checks on Tuesday.

## Rotary gives checks to Honor Court

The Rotary Club of Wakulla donated checks for all 20 members of the Wakulla High School Class of 2023 Honor Court last week.

The \$100 checks are offered as a clothing allowance so that members have a nice outfit to the Honor Court Banquet.

Rotary Club has done this over the past several years in an effort to support those members of the Honor Court who may not have enough money for new shoes or other item of clothing for the Honor Court Banquet.

## Program on general stores continues

Special to The Sun

On Tuesday, April 11, the Wakulla County Historical Society will present the third program in a series on Old General Stores. This program will be held at 4:30 p.m. at the Wakulla County Public Library, 4330 Crawfordville Hwy, Crawfordville. The public is invited to attend.

Stores we will feature this month will include: Vause's Store in Panama presented by Jeanie Vause Crum and Eugene Vause; Mac's Store in Medart presented by Murray McLaughlin; and Alexander's Store located halfway between Shadeville and Crawfordville presented by Calvin Pearce. This promises to be another really good program

that everyone will enjoy. After we hear about these three stores, we will have a time for people in the audience to share a memory or two about any old general store in Wakulla County, especially those stores we have not already heard about in previous programs.

This series on Old General Stores has been very

interesting and everyone has really enjoyed remembering these times when locally owned general stores were in every community.

Mark your calendar and make plans to attend and learn more about Wakulla County's history. For more information call 850-926-1110.

## 3 earn certification, license

Special to The Sun

On March 29, 2023, three people in the Property Appraiser's office earned additional designations. These designations are the culmination of hundreds of hours of training and experience.

The Florida Department of Revenue (DOR) designated Ed Brimmer as a Certified Property Appraiser and Chuck Turner as a Certified Florida Evaluator. Jeff

Ed Brimmer, Jeff Stafford and Chuck Turner of the property appraiser's office.



Stafford completed the training to become a Licensed Appraiser Trainee in the State of Florida. Mr. Stafford is also training to become a Certified Florida Evaluator.

Ed Brimmer encourages every person in the office to continue their professional education so service to Wakulla County citizens can continue to improve. DOR has several designations available for property appraiser employees after they complete required training and the required time on the job.



## Shell Point man catches big redfish

Reuben Cochran of Shell Point resident caught this 33-inch redfish on March 29.

### 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.



### 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 on 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 LeDrie

St. Marks FL 3235

850-925-6224

March 30, April 6, 2023

## Legion Taylor is Sunshine State Scholar

From Front Page

opportunities available to them in Florida. This includes workshops for college applications and informational sessions on college funding for students and their parents! The 2022-23 Sunshine State Scholars program will be held April 13 to April 15 in Orlando.

Legion was chosen by a WHS committee for his outstanding academic record, his interest in math and science, plus his impressive ACT and Advanced Placement (AP) scores. After

graduating, he plans to attend a post-secondary institution, like Florida State or the University of Florida.

Taylor, who showed an early affinity for math and science, began high school courses in middle school. Currently enrolled in the toughest math and science courses at WHS, Legion is studying Advanced Placement Calculus and Environmental Science, alongside dual enrollment courses Intro to Lit and British Literature. Additionally, he has excelled as a

member of Wakulla High's Engineering academy.

Susan Bistrican, Legion's dual enrollment instructor through Tallahassee Community College, calls him a "powerhouse of a student who simultaneously maintains his humility." She says of his work ethic, "He completes all his work with thoughtful and thorough consideration, but he also really cares about what he is learning, regardless of grades."

A well-rounded student, Taylor is a member of the

Wakulla High School Brain Brawl team and a weekly volunteer at the Wakulla County Public Library.

Taylor is the son of William and Karen Taylor.

"As one of our own who attended both Shadeville and Riversink Elementary, Riversprings Middle School, and now Wakulla High School, we are so proud of everything that Legion has accomplished and continue to look forward to following his success in his chosen field," said Superintendent Bobby Pearce.

# 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.”

## LETTERS FROM READERS

## Airport

Editor, The Sun:

I'm responding to Mr. Robert Franco's Letter to the Editor of March 6th, 2023 of the excellent Wakulla Sun newspaper. I thank him for what he had to say and he is correct in every regard.

First off, I want to say that we have finally got our act together. I would advise county authorities to gather their legal eagles because a storm is about to erupt. This time it will not be a slanted view of the happenings at the Wakulla County Airport on May 2nd, 2019, specifically my part in that happening for which I had nothing to do with other than to take injury photos of the victim, Randall John Dick.

I have been studying this entire so-called investigation of the strangulation, abandonment and unbelievably, interrogation by the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office detective division, of my good friend Randall John Dick. He was strangled yet he was treated as the criminal. He was strangled to unconsciousness to within 1 to 3 seconds of his life by Steven Paul Fults. He was dragged from his truck, strangled, and left for dead on the hot and gravel-strewn asphalt of early May 2019, in front of his own hangar. The WCSO officials who signed off on the most ridiculous, malfeasance-riddled, and incompetent investigation in Florida history should be ashamed of themselves.

As for me, I am publishing, in book form, the entire travesty of justice and the crime of evidence tampering perpetrated by the WCSO on this case. I keep delaying as more details are examined but I expect publication in late May to mid-June. The title, which I've changed several times, will be "43:41". Those numbers represent the total investigative time as set by a WCSO 911 dispatcher. Now, imagine if your son, daughter, wife, brother etc. had been strangled and left for dead by our county airport manager, would you be upset? I have to think that upset would be an utter understatement to you.

Mr. Fults, from his March through Georgia at Lake Ellen, with an ongoing lawsuit against the county over it, is still the airport manager. Their Man of Tight Grip is a walking disaster area. Two Commissioners, Chuck Hess and Mike Stewart, in late 2019, and not long after the strangulation, recommended his firing to County Administrator David Edwards. No dice.

Mr. Fults' slash, burn, finagle, and strangle managerial policy at the Wakulla County Airport, was also recommended to be fired by our own County Attorney Heather Encinosa in December of 2022. This was possibly over the Lake Ellen fence dispute, still ongoing. Attorney Encinosa's counsel to Administrator David Edwards to fire Fults was also denied.

What exactly is this unholy alliance between Edwards and Fults? Most importantly, what is that shady-seeming association between the two, costing the taxpayers of Wakulla County? Commissioner Ralph Thomas, in a text with State Rep. Jason Shoaf, stated "Fults is costing the county a lot of

money." Whose money? The taxpayer? Of course, yet the association continues.

As for Mr. Franco, the rotor downwash from an Osprey aircraft at hover is 95 mph. That's a Cat 2 hurricane. That aircraft has no business at the airport and neither does the 17,000 pounds of a Polish-built Sky Truck aircraft. They rut up the runway and perform dangerous takeoffs for which I and two others witnessed. The people and homes on Surf Road do realize they are in danger but their letters etc. have had no effect on stopping any of this unnecessary activity. The military is scared of my 18-inch plastic drone.

Fults who flies Remote Control aircraft, almost the size of a real aircraft, in the middle of the runway, filed a complaint with the WCSO. It was given a case number. It was because of my drone hovering near his favorite military pals in their Sky Truck. He stated that he had to shut down the airport. Are you kidding me, Mr. Fults? My drone, at a 50-foot GPS hover, could sit there for years and nobody would hit it. I never heard anything from WCSO about my case number and just recently found out about this report. Thank you for ignoring it WCSO. You've done something correctly.

The military does not own or contribute monetarily to our airport Fults. This practice activity of our military can be performed elsewhere. It can also be simulated at their own facilities. Using heavy, complex aircraft to practice in a civilian environment surrounded by homes, children, etc. is very much not a good idea and can eventually result in a crash to homes with deaths. Not only do you not know what you're doing, Fults, but your unnecessary accommodation with your pals could also get innocent people killed.

I have nothing against the military. My brother was a retired Lt. Colonel in the U.S. Air Force. My service was 3 tours in South Vietnam as a Navy-trained salvage diver. We recovered bodies and pieces of bodies in the most dangerous rivers in the world. The Saigon, Mekong and their tributaries.

It overwhelms me that a strangulation to near-death occurred and nothing, absolutely nothing, was done about it. My input and my photo proof of this serious crime and near tragedy was even ridiculed by former detective Ross Hasty. State investigator Chris Lee was shown my photos taken within five minutes after my arrival at the hangar. After viewing my photos and speaking with us personally, investigator Lee stated two things. "That was malfeasance on the part of the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office" and "The marks on your back, prove you were drug." Would he admit that in court? He's an honest guy but I highly doubt he'd muddy the waters in his close association with WCSO.

Stay tuned to the Wakulla Sun, Mr. Franco. The storm is on the horizon.

**Bill Catalina**  
Crawfordville

## FROM THE CLERK OF COURTS

### Accounting and importance of statistics



By GREG JAMES

Hello from the Clerk's Office! Have you ever read the County's annual comprehensive financial report (ACFR)? Yeah, I didn't think so since last year (FY20-21) it was 314 pages long!

You might ask why we write such a long report about the finances of the County every year if no one ever reads it! Well, there are a number of reasons including:

- The Florida Statutes require this comprehensive annual report.
- The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) require an annual comprehensive report.
- Industry experts actually read these annual reports. The reports help credit lenders, bond counsel, grant agencies and others ascertain the financial condition of the County.

Each year we summarize the lengthy annual report into a shorter version call the "Popular Annual Financial Report" (PAFR). It can be downloaded at [wakullaclerk.org/coun-ty-financial-reports/](http://wakullaclerk.org/coun-ty-financial-reports/) under the same title, "Popular Annual Financial Report". This report summarizes 314 pages of financial information into 27 pages – still a long read! This report summarizes boring financial reports into easy-to-read pie charts and bar graphs. We also use these types of charts extensively in our annual Revenue Monitoring Report, annual Investment report, annual Debt report and others. These reports can be found at the same link mentioned

above.

Statistics have become an increasingly important part of our accounting department. With the help of statistical methods, we are able to better understand and better explain financial information. This in turn helps us provide more accurate advice and the County make better financial decisions. Statistics allow accountants to look at financial data in a different way. By using statistical data, we can analyze the data to identify trends, patterns, and relationships that would otherwise be difficult to detect. This can help us make predictions about future financial performance and make more informed decisions.

For example, we can use statistical methods to analyze past financial data to identify trends in revenues as well as County spending. This can help the County forecast future revenues and expenses and plan accordingly. Similarly, we can use statistical methods to analyze financial data from different departments and find out how efficient each department is. We can also use statistical methods to analyze financial data from different counties around the State for comparison. This can help the County better understand the differences between counties and identify opportunities for growth or to do things a little differently. Moreover, statistical methods can be used to evaluate the performance of financial instruments. This helps us identify which investments are performing well and which ones are not. This can be used to make decisions about where to invest or what financial instruments to buy or sell. Overall, the use of statistics in accounting is becoming increasingly important. By utilizing statistical methods, we can better understand financial data and use this information to make more informed decisions. This can help us

provide better advice and make better decisions for our citizens.

This year we will begin using another form of statistics – financial ratios. Financial ratios are used to compare different financial figures. This includes comparing different types of income and expenses, comparing how much debt we have, and comparing the profitability of various funds. By analyzing financial ratios, we can identify where the County is strong and where it needs to improve. For example, the debt-to-equity ratio is used to measure how much debt a county has compared to its equity. A higher debt-to-equity ratio indicates that a county is more leveraged and may be at greater risk of a financial crisis. Analyzing this ratio can also help us make better decisions about investments or financing.

Other financial ratios include liquidity ratios such as the current ratio, quick ratio, and fund balance ratio; solvency ratios such as the operating ratio and long-term liability ratio; debt service ratios such as the debt-to-equity ratio and debt service coverage ratio; and demographic ratios (based on per capita) such as the revenue per capita ratio and the expenses per capita ratios. These ratios, together, can be used to measure the financial health of a county. By analyzing these ratios, we can identify potential problems and take corrective action early.

These financial ratios will be monitored monthly, reported to County management monthly and published as part of our annual PAFR report each year.

As always, if you have any questions about our financial reporting or County finances, please call me (850-926-0325) or our accounting and finance department (850-926-0349).

*Greg James is Wakulla County Clerk of Court and Comptroller.*

## On the Horizon

### Calendar of events for the week of April 6

#### Thursday, April 6

- 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](mailto: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, April 7

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

#### Saturday, April 8

- Sopchoppy Worm Gruntin' Festival
- 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.

#### Saturday, April 9

- **HAPPY EASTER**

#### Monday, April 10

- The Planning Commission meets at 6 p.m. in the Commission Chambers.
- The Sopchoppy City Commission meets at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.
- 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.

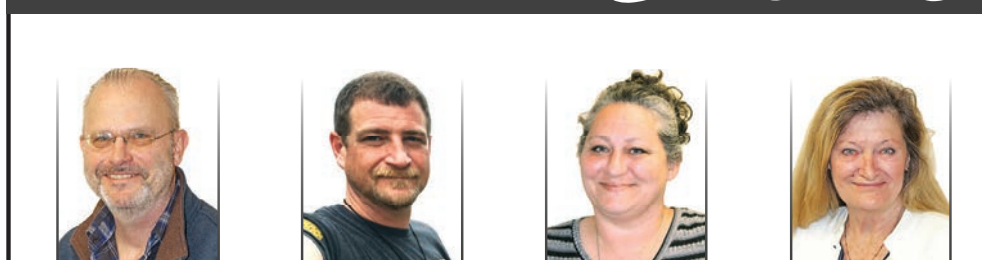
- The Wakulla Respite Program will be available for anyone with memory impairment at no cost from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lake Ellen Baptist Church.
- Hatha yoga at 9 a.m. and Restorative Yoga at 6 p.m. with Zoe. Classes are \$12, packages available at New Posh on 3079 Crawfordville Hwy. Please RSVP email at [newposh3079@gmail.com](mailto: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 11

- Historical Society presentation on local general stores at the public library at 4:30 p.m.
- 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](mailto: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 12

- The Wakulla County Garden Club will be meeting at the Wakulla County Public Library hosting presentations and workshops about gardening in Wakulla soil at 12 p.m.
- Intro to Tai Chi held at the Community Center from 9 to 10 a.m. All ability levels are welcome; please wear comfortable clothing. For questions call Rich or Terri Bushman at 850-228-9214.
- Line Dance class will be held at 1 p.m. at the Wakulla Senior Center.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.



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## ◀ Question of The Week ▶

– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

### Polled at the wakulla chamber low country boil: What is your favorite thing about the low country boil?



**DOLLY MITCHELL**  
PARKS & FACILITIES

“This is my first. The landscape and the family and the smell of the food.”



**CARL THOMAS**

“Seeing all the friends and family.”



**JESSIE YARBROUGH**

The food and the atmosphere. Seeing so many people from the community and people you haven't seen since high school.”



**CHUCK TURNER**  
PROPERTY APPRAISER'S  
OFFICE

“The shrimp”



**RAY GRAY**

“The food is wonderful, but I think it's seeing everyone.”

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Buckhorn News

By **ETHEL SKIPPER**

Christ's resurrection guarantees victory over death for all believers. 1 Corinthians 15:20-26 Now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept. For since by man came death by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

1 Corinthians 15:45 So it is written, the first man Adam was made a living soul, the last man was made a quickening spirit.

Our bodies bear the functionality of a corrupt physical world. But one day we will be healed, restored and transformed.

So we value the physical body today ministering with compassion to the physical needs of others. We are

reminded that one day we will experience the perfect and incorruptible, and we can share this hope with those who suffer today.

1 Corinthians 15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God, neither doth corruption inherit corruption.

There are many opinions about the afterlife in our fallen world. People are seeking answers in all kinds of wrong places. As believers, we have the opportunity to offer words of truth and hope to hungry souls. This Holy Week,

pray that God gives you opportunity to share the risen Christ with someone who needs to hear it.

Take time to call or reach out to someone who grieves the death of a loved one.

Have a blessed Easter and know that the suffering of Christ secures victory over sin.

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

### Wakulla Station News

By **VERNA BROCK**

I am seriously revelling in Spring right now. I tend to waffle between Spring and Autumn as to which season is my favorite, and right now Spring is winning. My dead-looking garden has erupted into a lush, green jungle, and tender buds are finally free from the threat of frost (I hope!).

The fragrance of jasmine and magnolias fill the dusky, evening air, along with the scent of what I call “green”. Everything is fresh and refreshed, and just plain wonderful. It just doesn't last long enough.

Happily, it all coincides with Easter and Passover, when we celebrate resurrection and liberation.

The soul can't help but smile everyday as we approach the culmination of Lent and the Risen Lord, all while watching the world renew itself in amazing beauty and life.

On April 6th, the Wakulla U.M.C. will host a contemplative Maundy Thursday service at 6 p.m., with communion and fellowship. On Easter Sunday morning there will be a 7 a.m. Sunrise service followed by a covered-dish breakfast in the fellowship hall. There will also be a 10 a.m. service in the sanctuary following breakfast. Everyone is invited to

join us for this celebration. I hope you can make it!

I continue my campaign to convince FDOT to reduce the speed limits in Wakulla Station. In early May, my neighbors and I are attending a meeting to ask, again, for a reconsideration of our request to reduce limits to 35 and 45 mph, instead of the current 45 and 55 mph. Before the road was re-paved, the limit was 35 mph all the way to Jerry's Bait 'n Tackle, and folks still drove too fast. Now, it's insane how fast some people speed through OUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

My grateful thanks to everyone who has held my family prayer and love during this difficult time. My dad joined my mother on the March 25th, just a few weeks short of his 91st birthday.

What an amazing 70-plus years they shared, may they rise in glory.

Please continue to remember the Carter family in your prayers, as well as the Allen family, the Kendrick family, the Sloane-Peacock family, and the Turner family. Little Sebastian Mosely continues to await a heart transplant at Shands, and his parents covet your prayers for him and their family during this stressful time.

Traveling mercies are requested as the Odyssey of the Mind contestants prepare to drive to Orlando for the State competition. Wakulla County is sending several teams to compete, and this will be an excellent learning experience for all of our students. I can't wait to hear all about their adventures.

### Sheriff's Report

Activity reported for the week of March 24 to 30:

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 24

- Emily Giddens reported William Porter broke her cell phone. Giddens stated Porter believed she was taking his picture while smoking drugs. Giddens stated Porter grabbed the phone and bent it until the phone broke. Contact was made with Porter who stated he accidentally stepped on the phone while exiting the residence. Due to conflicting statements on how the phone was damaged, a report was written for informational purposes. Deputy Dakota Haddock investigated.

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 25

- Ryan Conner called to report he found an unexploded ordinance in the forest near Lost Creek. Lt. Steve Smith responded and determined the device to a 105mm round from around World War II. The scene was turned over to the Fire Marshal and the ordinance was disposed of.

- Deputy Stripling responded to 364 Floyd Gray Road in reference to the report of criminal mischief. The complainant stated someone drove into her yard and did donuts. She pointed out damage on the rear of her car that might have been caused by flying debris. S

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 26

- Deputy Grove responded to 1584 Old Woodville Road in reference to the report of someone disturbing a church service. Upon arrival Donna

Noltee advised, she and her long-time friend John Reinhart had an argument at the church. Noltee said she asked Reinhart to return the phone she let him use. After an extensive investigation, Reinhart was arrested for theft.

- Deputy Don Newsome responded to Hunters Trace in reference to the theft of two dirt bikes. The victim reported his KTM-300 and Honda 150cc motorcycles were taken of shed between March 24 and March 26. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

- Deputy Dakota Haddock conducted a traffic stop on Spring Creek Highway for faulty equipment. Deputy Haddock determined the driver to have a suspended license and the driver was placed under arrest. During an inventory of the vehicle for tow, a small amount of marijuana and paraphernalia was seized for destruction.

#### MONDAY, MARCH 27

- Joshua Engle reported being in an altercation at the Stop & Save at 1497 Bloxham Cutoff. Engle advised while getting petitions signed by patrons coming into the store, a unknown white male approached him and started punching him in his face. An additional white male exited the vehicle and appeared to be headed towards him and the unknown subject. Seeing this, Engle attempted to defend himself using a machete from his backpack. The two male subjects left the scene prior to deputies arriving. Video footage of this incident is available and has been obtained by investigators. This case has been

sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Rudolph Hinson investigated.

#### TUESDAY, MARCH 28

- Deputy Arturo Cordoba responded to 2160 Crawfordville Hwy., in reference to a theft complaint. Upon arrival Deputy Cordoba made contact with Gene Ricks, who advised someone went into his truck and stole a pouch containing his medication and some cash. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

- Sgt. Ronald Mitchell responded to Windsong Circle in reference to a stolen firearm complaint. Upon arrival Sgt. Mitchell made contact with John Jay, who advised he had misplaced his Glock 19 and now believes someone might have stolen it. Jay advised it has been 3 weeks since he had last seen the firearm. The firearm was entered into NCIC/FCIC as stolen. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

- Deputy Kendrick Gavin conducted a traffic stop at Coastal Hwy. and Hwy. 319. The driver, Denny Davidson, did not have a valid driver's license. Davidson had one prior charge of driving while license suspended or revoked (DWLSR). Davidson was arrested and transported to the Wakulla County Jail.

#### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

- Deputy Heather Will responded to the lobby of the Sheriff's Office in reference to a theft. Upon arrival Deputy Will made contact with Helen Reese, who stated part of her water pump from her new construction home was stolen. Helen stated she obtained images of the unknown suspect and provided them for evidence.

This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

- Deputy Michelle Stripling responded to Bream Fountain Road in reference to a report of a battery. The victim reported being dragged out of a vehicle by her neck. The suspect, Francis Chmielewski left the scene prior to Deputy Stripling's arrival. He was located by Deputy Jake Scott near St. Marks and placed under arrest for battery.

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 24

- Deputy Todd Kent conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for faulty equipment. The driver and sole occupant was identified as Tony Roberts. Further investigation revealed Roberts did not possess a valid driver's license. Roberts was placed under arrest and transported to the jail.

- A subject identified as Brandon Dawson was discovered attempting to pass a worthless check at a local bank. Dawson was located in the lobby of the bank by deputies. Dawson was taken into custody and transported to the jail. Deputy William Bennet and James Williams investigated.

- Deputies responded to Dux in reference to a physical altercation. Upon arrival deputies made contact with David Michael Gibson in the parking lot. Gibson was highly intoxicated and belligerent. The bartender completed a sworn affidavit stating Gibson refused to leave when asked to do so. She said when the bouncer tried to force Gibson out the door he resisted. Gibson was subsequently arrested for Disorderly Intoxication.

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

# Outdoors

outdoor sports

## HOME ON THE RANGE

### The right 9mm round for your handgun



By MARJ LAW

Joe and I are at Bass Pro, looking at 9mm ammunition.

“Hey, aren’t you the little lady who writes for the paper about guns?” asks a guy who has been perusing the same shelves.

“Well, yes, thank you,” I reply, not quite certain how to respond.

“Finding 9mm bullets?” he asks.

“Yep.” Looks like we’re both pricing ammunition.

“Can’t do any better than these 115-grain bullets,” he advises, pulling a box away from the rest.

“You prefer 115s for your gun?” I ask.

“Can’t do wrong with them. They’re the best.”

“Why?” I wonder.

“Ever notice that if you can’t find any other bullets, you can usually find the 115-grain ones?” he asks. “That’s because people want them. Stores know to stock the best bullets.”

As he goes off, Joe and I pick up boxes of 115-grain, 124-grain and 147-grain rounds. The different numbers are the weight of the bullet within the round. The round is composed of two visible parts: a casing, which is often brass, and a projectile, which is the bullet.

Today, we plan to



shoot two guns, comparing how well they do with different ammunition.

When we reach the Wakulla County Sheriff’s Office range, we sign in at the desk.

“What are you shooting today?” asks one of our friends who is a deputy there.

“We’re shooting the Springfield XDM competition model with a 5 1/4-inch barrel against a Heckler and Koch VP9 match gun with a 6-inch barrel. We want to see which ammunition the guns prefer.”

“It will depend on the gun,” he advises. “While some guns like one weight of ammunition, other guns shoot a tighter grouping with another weight.”

We’ve noticed this. Joe has a P226 Sig Sauer which he says does best with 147-grain rounds. A couple years ago, we had shot a few handguns. Those all had seemed to shoot best with 124-grain rounds. But that was a while ago and we’re ready to try again. Will both guns prefer the 124s?

To compare the XDM and the VP9, we agree to shoot four rounds each of the three differ-

ent weights.

Let me just state that the XDM has a red dot on it. The VP9 has the original sights. Joe assures me that this will not affect the comparison.

“The accuracy of the weight of the bullets has to do with barrel, barrel length and the rifling; not sights. Accuracy with or without sights depends on the shooter. Not the gun.”

We put up three sticky-back targets and begin with the XDM.

Joe shoots his four 115 rounds into the right-hand target. Then I shoot my four into the same target.

The right target (115s) has scattered holes: none near the bullseye. One round has even hit the circle above the target we’ve placed! Three holes are tight at about 11 o’clock, and the other three are clearly visible against the black target. If we were afraid for our lives and shooting at Mr. Bad, yes, these would be good shots. But for target shooting? Not the best.

Now we’ve loaded the XDM with 124s and we’re aiming at the middle target. Better shooting!

One bullseye and six shots in the 8 and 9 rings. Where the 8th shot went, well, who knows? Must have been an “oops” shot. With control, however, the 124-grain bullets have a nice grouping close to the center of the target.

You can see five obvious holes in the 7, 8, and 9 rings of the left-hand target where we used 147-grain bullets. Less easy to see are three holes on the outer perimeter. While these holes were less scattered than on the 115 target, the results are much better on the 124 target than on this one.

The XDM likes the 124 grains best.

Does the VP9 prefer them too?

We call Cold! and walk down to the targets. Instead of putting up new ones (those sticky back targets get kind of expensive), we put black dots over the holes we’ve made.

Back with a Hot! range, we load the VP9 with 8 rounds: 4 for Joe and 4 for me.

With some imagination, you could argue that one bullet touches the x-ring on the 115 target. Barely. 6

other bullets have hit the target. If you look closely, 2 of the hits are doubles. The last one did make the x-ring. But not on the correct target. It’s on the big white x of the center backing!

In the 124 target in the high center, seven hits are scattered within the 7, 8 and 9 rings. The last hit is at about 11:00 on the perimeter of the target.

Last, the left target is for the 147 rounds. Two of the hits are in the center of the x-ring. One other is very close.

The other 6 are on the target. The low one, at about 6:00, was probably an “oops.” What appears to be a cluster of 3 hits above the x-ring is actually 2: the black dot we covered a previous hole with was pushed off the target. Those are really 2 shots.

Bottom line is, the VP9 does better with the heavier 147-grain bullet. Groupings are tighter than with the other rounds.

“Well, Joe, is it the shooter or is it the gun that makes a difference in what round is best for a particular handgun?” I wonder.

“The overall tolerance of the barrel and its rifling makes a difference in how a gun handles the different rounds. Since we both found certain rounds to work better in each gun, then the answer doesn’t lie with the shooter. It lies with how the gun shoots a particular round,” he replies.

“In each case, if we had to shoot at someone coming to harm us,” I’m thinking, “then any of the rounds would be adequate. Except for one instance, they all hit within the 63/4” target.

But, if we’re going for straight accuracy, the Springfield XDM seems to prefer the 124-grain bullets while the VP9 does better with 147-grain bullets. Humph. Looks like I’ll be buying both 124 and 147s.

Unless, of course, they’re hard to find. Or significantly more expensive.

Then, I’d go to the 115s.”

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

## DeSantis signs gun bill

News Service of Florida

Gov. Ron DeSantis on Monday signed a measure that will allow Floridians to carry guns without concealed-weapons licenses.

The Republican-controlled Senate gave final approval to the measure (HB 543) on Thursday, about a week after the House passed it.

The bill will do away with a decades-old licensing process, which has included requiring that people undergo firearms training and background screening to carry concealed weapons. The

bill will require people carrying concealed firearms to have valid identification and “display such identification upon demand by a law enforcement officer.”

The measure also includes various changes designed to bolster school safety, including providing additional money for school hardening.

The governor signed the proposal without holding a media appearance.

Sen. Jay Collins, a Tampa Republican who sponsored the bill, called it “monumental.” Collins said in a tweet, “You don’t need a permission slip from the gov-

ernment to exercise your constitutional rights. We are restoring the Second Amendment here in the Free State of Florida.”

Democrats criticized the bill signing and have contended the measure would make Floridians less safe. “Permitless carry increases the risk of both intentional violence and unintentional shootings, with the facts clearly showing an increase of fatalities and gun crimes in the dozens of states that have passed similar laws,” Sen. Shevrin Jones, D-Miami Gardens, said in a statement Monday.

## Controversial development

From Front Page

90,” he said. “There is a process. We need to follow the process.”

One objection heard repeatedly is that a 2-acre parcel on Appaloosa Road would be used as an access point to the new development – which residents of that area complained would change their rural area into a “suburb.”

One resident, Cliff Hancock, who lives in that area, said he would remove all objections if the commission could tell

him there was no possibility of that happening. (Miller has not presented his site or plat plans, so there is not yet any indication of how the land will be accessed.)

Ultimately, Hess and Commissioner Mike Kemp voted against the change. Kemp noted he supported an earlier version that would have seen one home per two acres – but the state rejected that because the development would have been on septic tanks – and the state is spending tens of millions of dollars in Wakulla

County to remove septic tanks. Miller then came back with the current proposal to commit to water and sewer and paved roads in exchange for the higher density.

Kemp drew the line at the higher density, though. “I just cannot support this particular issue,” he said, which drew applause from the crowd.

Hess checked off a list of eight reasons not to vote for the change including that neighbors oppose it because they would lose their rural lifestyle; the number of cars it would add to neighborhood streets; and the planning commission

turned it down.

Thomas and commissioners Fred Nichols and Quincee Messersmith voted for it, which seemed to stun some in the crowd.

A subsequent item, to approve a developer’s agreement in which Miller agreed to provide central water and sewer for the project also passed 3-2.

Hess complained about the project and access to the property, and Messersmith asked Hess if he had asked Miller about his plans for the property.

“No,” Hess said. “Thank you,” Messersmith answered.



Common Octopus  
(*Octopus vulgaris*)

A fearsome predator and a master of camouflage, the common octopus grows to 3ft and lives 2 years. They hunt at dawn in coastal waters up to 350ft using a secreted nerve poison to paralyze prey and a hard beak to crack shells. They hide in crevices and can squeeze their bodies through tiny spaces and making then escape artists. They change color or squirt a cloud of black “ink” to confuse attackers. Females lay up to 500,000 eggs but most are eaten as plankton. Octopi can learn complex tasks like opening a jar. They are also an important protein source for humans.

Eukarya, Animalia, Mollusca, Cephalopoda, Octopoda, Octopodidae

Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratory  
www.gulfspecimen.org

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2784 COASTAL HWY., CRAWFORDVILLE

# Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences

**Thursday 6**

Sun rise/set: 7:19AM / 7:58PM  
Moon rise/set: 8:41PM / 7:38AM  
Moon Illumination: 100%

**Friday 7**

Sun rise/set: 7:59PM / 7:59PM  
Moon rise/set: 8:08AM / 8:08AM  
Moon Illumination: 98%

**Saturday 8**

Sun rise/set: 7:17AM / 7:59PM  
Moon rise/set: 10:45PM / 8:42AM  
Moon Illumination: 94%

**Sunday 9**

Sun rise/set: 7:16AM / 8:00PM  
Moon rise/set: 11:52PM / 9:21AM  
Moon Illumination: 88%

**Monday 10**

Sun rise/set: 7:15AM / 8:00PM  
Moon rise/set: 10:06AM / 10:06AM  
Moon Illumination: 80%

**Tuesday 11**

Sun rise/set: 7:14AM / 8:01PM  
Moon rise/set: 12:58AM / 11:00AM  
Moon Illumination: 71%

**Wednesday 12**

Sun rise/set: 7:13AM / 8:02PM  
Moon rise/set: 2:01AM / 12:02PM  
Moon Illumination: 60%

## Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

April 6 - April 12

GO FISH!

Tide charts by tides4fishing.com

Best fishing days this month: April 1-6, 20-30

**Thursday 6**

Minor Times: 6:53AM / 7:56PM  
Major Times: 12:29AM / 12:51PM

**Friday 7**

Minor Times: 7:23AM / 8:57PM  
Major Times: 1:13AM / 1:36PM

**Saturday 8**

Minor Times: 7:57AM / 10:00PM  
Major Times: 2:00AM / 2:25PM

**Sunday 9**

Minor Times: 8:36AM / 11:07PM  
Major Times: 2:51AM / 3:18PM

**Monday 10**

Minor Times: 9:21AM / ---  
Major Times: 3:46AM / 4:15PM

**Tuesday 11**

Minor Times: 12:13AM / 10:15AM  
Major Times: 4:45AM / 5:15PM

**Wednesday 12**

Minor Times: 1:16AM / 11:17AM  
Major Times: 5:46AM / 6:17PM

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

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

**St. Marks River Entrance**

Th	3:11 am	9:00 am	3:04 pm	9:35 pm
Fr	3:47 am	9:24 am	3:23 pm	10:07 pm
Sa	4:26 am	9:50 am	3:44 pm	10:43 pm
Su	5:09 am	10:19 am	4:09 pm	11:24 pm
Mo	5:59 am	10:51 am	4:39 pm	
Tu	12:15 am	7:00 am	11:28 am	5:15 pm
We	1:20 am	8:25 am	12:17 pm	6:03 pm

**City of St. Marks**

Th	3:47 am	10:04 am	3:40 pm	10:39 pm
Fr	4:23 am	10:28 am	3:59 pm	11:11 pm
Sa	5:02 am	10:54 am	4:20 pm	11:47 pm
Su	5:45 am	11:23 am	4:45 pm	
Mo	12:28 am	6:35 am	11:55 am	5:15 pm
Tu	1:19 am	7:36 am	12:32 pm	5:51 pm
We	2:24 am	9:01 am	1:21 pm	6:39 pm

**Shell Point, Spring Creek**

Th	3:36 am	9:29 am	3:24 pm	9:56 pm
Fr	4:13 am	9:53 am	3:44 pm	10:28 pm
Sa	4:53 am	10:19 am	4:05 pm	11:04 pm
Su	5:37 am	10:47 am	4:30 pm	11:46 pm
Mo	6:27 am	11:19 am	5:00 pm	
Tu	12:36 am	7:28 am	11:55 am	5:36 pm
We	1:43 am	8:54 am	12:44 pm	6:23 pm

**Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay**

Th	3:03 am	9:11 am	2:56 pm	9:46 pm
Fr	3:39 am	9:35 am	3:15 pm	10:18 pm
Sa	4:18 am	10:01 am	3:36 pm	10:54 pm
Su	5:01 am	10:30 am	4:01 pm	11:35 pm
Mo	5:51 am	11:02 am	4:31 pm	
Tu	12:26 am	6:52 am	11:39 am	5:07 pm
We	1:31 am	8:17 am	12:28 pm	5:55 pm

**St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.**

Th	3:17 am	9:08 am	2:56 pm	9:30 pm
Fr	3:57 am	9:34 am	3:18 pm	10:02 pm
Sa	4:40 am	10:01 am	3:43 pm	10:39 pm
Su	5:27 am	10:28 am	4:10 pm	11:22 pm
Mo	6:22 am	10:55 am	4:41 pm	
Tu	12:13 am	7:31 am	11:19 am	5:16 pm
We	1:18 am	9:16 am	11:38 am	6:00 pm

**Dog Island West End**

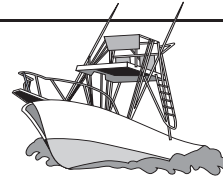
Th	3:39 am	9:30 am	3:15 pm	9:44 pm
Fr	4:24 am	9:55 am	3:37 pm	10:20 pm
Sa	5:12 am	10:21 am	4:02 pm	11:02 pm
Su	6:01 am	10:48 am	4:29 pm	11:50 pm
Mo	6:55 am	11:14 am	5:00 pm	
Tu	12:43 am	8:15 am	11:35 am	5:35 pm
We	1:43 am	9:17 am	12:11 pm	6:23 pm

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



## Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports

By Carolyn Brown Treadon



The National Safe Boating Council provided many great resources. The one shared today is about using your engine cut of switch.

Boats and jet skis are equipped with this safety feature to help ensure the safety of everyone on board. It is typically a lanyard that can be clipped to your life jacket or worn around your wrist.

It is a very disconcerting feeling to see your boat speed away from you after you have fallen overboard. In addition, using the engine cut-off switch reduces the risk of a propeller strike by stopping the engine in the event the operator falls overboard or there is an emergency. It allows the operator to gain control of the vessel more quickly.

**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

Using the engine cut off switch is also the law! Operators of recreational vessels less than 26 feet in length are required to use an engine cut-off switch (ECOS) and associated ECOS link (ECOSL) as of April 1, 2021, as the U.S. Coast Guard implements a law passed by Congress. Do your part to help

make our waterways safer for all! Thanks to Sherrie, we will always remember safe boating is no accident! Please contact us for more information about our safe boating classes or learning more about getting involved in the Auxiliary, check out our

website at [www.uscgaux.net](http://www.uscgaux.net). Follow us on Facebook @ Apalachee Bay Flotilla 12 or contact our Flotilla Commander Phil Hill at [pnkhill2000@yahoo.com](mailto:pnkhill2000@yahoo.com)

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

## Underwater Wakulla

By Rusty Miller

### Enhanced certification.

Let's look at how you can enhance your scuba skills beyond your Open Water certification. Various agencies have different ideas on what you need to further your under water experience. The basic progression from open water certification is to the advanced level.

The advanced certification gives you the opportunity to continue on with what you have learned from your open water cert. It may sound intimidating but it's not, it gives you the opportunity to get more diving and enhance your knowledge and skills.

For the advanced certification you are required to be 15 years or older, open water certified / Jr. Open water 10-14 accompanied by a parent or guardian.

In the advanced course you will be required to make (6) dives, (3) required dives; (1) navigation (use of a compass under water), (1) night dive, and (1) deep dive (below 80 feet) not to exceed 130 feet.

Now the other (3) dives that are given (my personal favorites); (1) boat diving, (1) intro in to wreck diving (no penetration), and (1) Eco or under water marine life observation. There are a few more to choose from but I would like to touch on the required dives.

The deep dive; that sounds scary but it's not if you are properly trained on what to look for as you descend into the abyss. When you took your open water I hope your instructor really focused on the physics and physiological aspect of diving. The physics help you deal with the pressures at the various depths and the physiological deals with your body's reaction to those pressures at different depths. When you're dealing with 4-5 atmospheres below it sounds scary but in all honesty you really don't notice any change in pressure (once you have gone deeper than 70-80 feet your ears will generally clear on their own), the thing you need to watch for is the narcosis. The way I train my advance students to keep most of the effects of narcosis away is to do simple math problems once they get past 60 feet.

Before you are aware of it you're at 100-130 feet and then you need to monitor your gas, bottom time, and O2 levels (if you're using 32% Nitrox). It's that simple and fun especially if you go to PCB and dive the Accokeek or the twin tugs, both are in 110 feet of water.

You can also go diving on several of the bridge spans that used to be the old Hathaway Bridge that connected Panama City Beach to the mainland. Several of those are in 80-100 feet of water.

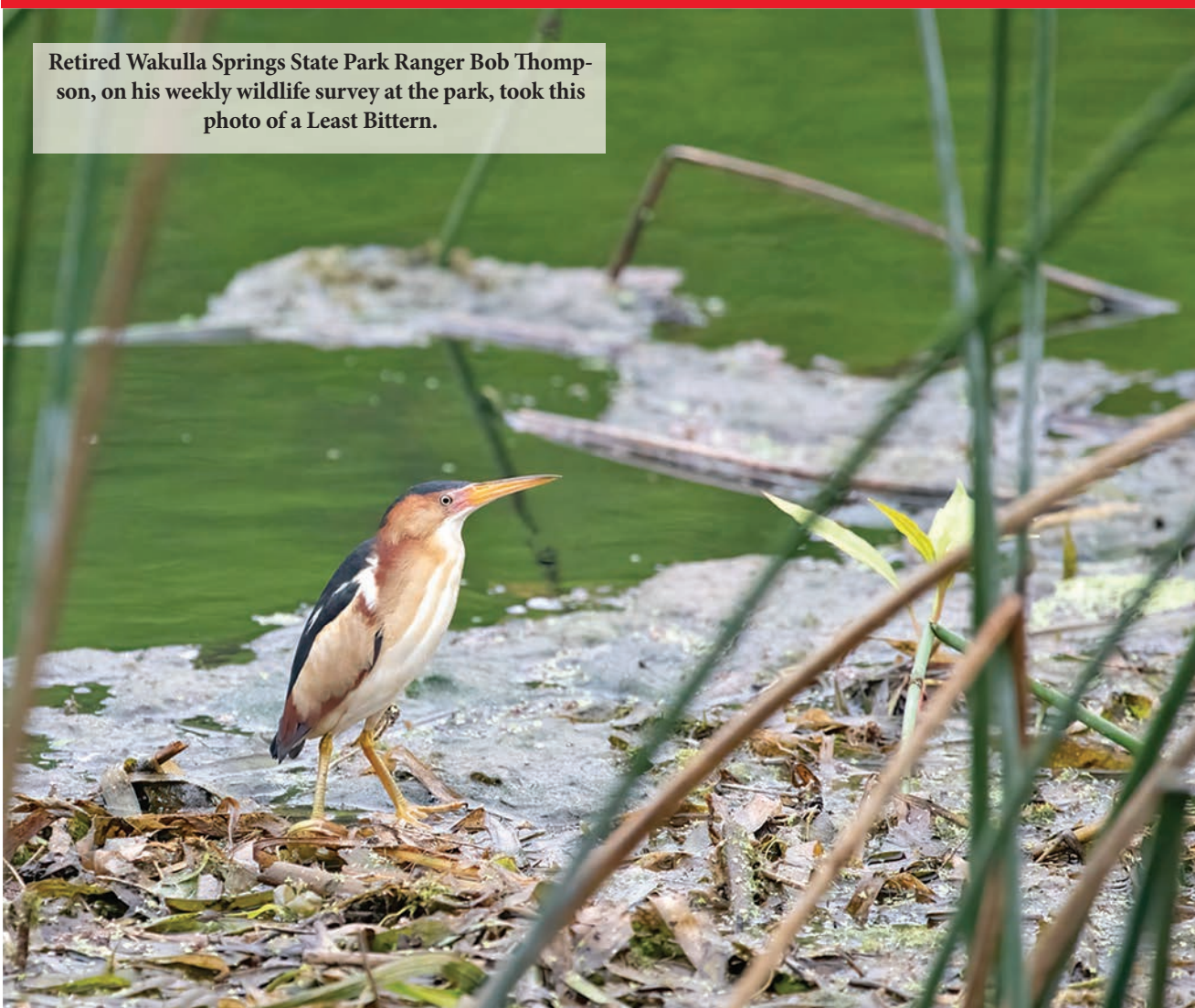
Intro into wreck diving; this one is especially fun because of the various types of wrecks that are available in the Gulf around Panama City. With this specialty you will have the opportunity to see the parts of a large boat that is sitting at the bottom of the ocean like you've not seen before. My advice is to look online and go to one of the several dive shops websites in PCB and go on the "Florida Panhandle Shipwreck Trail. It consists of 12 unique shipwrecks along Florida's Panhandle. Until then leave nothing but bubbles.

Russell Miller NAUI #59999

**Russell Miller is away this week. This is a repeat of a column that originally appeared in April 2022.**

### WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO

Retired Wakulla Springs State Park Ranger Bob Thompson, on his weekly wildlife survey at the park, took this photo of a Least Bittern.



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# Walking in newness of life



By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

Most of us struggle with a sin area that seems nearly impossible to resist. The devil is mean like that. He

cackles when we walk into his snare, believing there's no way we can experience the victory Christ provided.

But Satan's delight turns to horror when he sees us walking in the power that is provided to us through Christ's resurrection: "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4 ESV).

What recurring sin

or bad habit do you consistently give into? What behavior is holding you down with shame, leaving you to wonder whether you'll ever prevail over it? Perhaps you've reached the point that you dare not speak with God about it anymore. But you desperately need His forgiveness. You desperately want His help to overcome it.

What if we chose to turn Satan's delight to horror on a regular basis? Rather than spending less time with

Christ because we're so ashamed, how powerful it would be if we spent more time, going deeper with Him and His Word. A closer relationship with our Savior will help us become more sensitive to His Spirit so that we're able to choose to die to sinful behavior, including those behaviors we tend to justify.

With this in mind, what sins are we going to die to so that we can become the person we pray to be?

Imagine how differently we would live our lives

if we actually viewed ourselves as being buried with Christ in baptism (being dead to our old ways). During this Easter Season, picture yourself walking in newness of life—living a life that triumphs over sin and shame.

Let's pray.

Risen Savior, remind me to never avoid speaking with You, especially when I need You the most. Don't let me forget how much I need Your grace when I'm tempted—or when I'm filled with shame because I've

yielded to the temptation. Help me, Lord, to share Your fierce hatred for sin and anything that steals my heart from You. Then, let me witness Your tremendous love, mercy and compassion, and experience Your life-changing resurrection power every day. Amen.

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

# The meaning of family



By **CHERYL CRUCE**

The little kitchen nook of our home has become a favored gathering place for guests. A piece of carved wood spelling out the word family is carefully placed on a shelf above the kitchen window. Its brilliant white coloring set against a purple background grabs the eye of visitors who enter the room. This morning over a cup of coffee, my mind wanders, contemplating

the meaning of family.

My growing years were blessed with loving parents who taught me the value of family. To say we were perfect would be untrue; with seven children, we had our share of conflicts. George Bernard Shaw said, "If you cannot get rid of the family skeleton, you might as well teach it to dance." Everyone in my family learned to dance at a young age. However, despite our struggles, we remain devoted to one another.

As social structures change, so does the definition of family. Whether we agree or disagree with the characterization, the fact remains that family is built on love and understanding. Today's family may

be grandparents raising grandchildren. A family could consist of a single mom or a single dad trying to balance life while caring for their young ones. There are two-mom and two-dad households, multi-racial households, and families built from the halls of foster care and adoption. Adopting a child is a beautiful process my family has experienced many times.

Reflecting on our spiritual side, each of us is adopted into the family of God through the love, death, and resurrection of Jesus (Ephesians 1:4-5). I am amazed at the manner of love God bestows on His children, for we are His children made in His image. His greatest desire is to grow

us to love one another as He has loved us (1 John 3:1-2). Regardless of how we may define our earthly family, He chose us before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless through Him in love.

Scripture teaches the beauty of God's family through devotion, tragedy, and restoration in the Book of Ruth. After the tragic loss of her husband and sons, Naomi told her daughters-in-law to return to their own families. However, in a commitment of love, Ruth remained with Naomi saying, "where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God" (Ruth 1:16). For Ruth and Naomi, the family became struc-

tured by their faith and dedication to God and each other.

The teaching of the faith-structured family continued through the words of Jesus when someone said to Him that His mother and siblings were outside the place where He was teaching. Jesus responded that His family would be those who did the will of the Father (Matthew 12:48-50). He was not refuting the biological family and the need to love one another but reaching beyond the restraints of the physical man to bring us to a spiritual love for each other.

Regardless of where you are, the love of Christ can bind us together like no other. I

urge you today to find a Body of Christ (a fellowship of believers) and become a part of a family more remarkable than you can ever imagine. We are all created in the image of our Father. Our faith in God can cause our dry bones to live again (Ezekiel 37), to rejoice and dance before Him. Let us be the family He has called us to be.

Psalms 103:17 But from everlasting to everlasting the LORD's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children.

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

## OUT TO PASTOR

# What a wacky world we live in



By **JAMES SNYDER**

I like the old saying, "Just when you think it can't get any worse, it does."

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I will be watching the news, and a story of some devastation somewhere in the world will come on.

When this happens, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will say, "What a wacky world we live in." And if anybody knows about wacky, it is she. After all, she married me.

Watching the news the other night, a similar story was being reported, and I looked at my wife and said,

"What a wacky world we live in." I paused for a moment and then said, "It's not the world I grew up in." Then I laughed.

"Whatever made you think you have grown up?"

After she said that to me, I pondered for quite a few days on what does it actually mean to grow up? And, most importantly of all, does anybody ever grow up?

As we watched the news one night, she said, "What a wacky world we live in." At that point, I replied, "Maybe it's so wacky because people haven't grown up yet."

She went on a tirade explaining why most people have not grown up yet. I tried to listen carefully and take a few notes, but none made sense.

I couldn't keep it any longer, so I asked her, "What do you think I need to do to grow up?"

"Well," she started, "you should stop acting

like a silly person."

I chuckled and said, "But what if I'm not acting?"

"So, if you are not acting, you are the silliest person I have ever known."

According to her, you can't be silly and grown-up at the same time.

"The next thing you need to do is stop thinking every situation is a joke."

Pondering this, I'm not sure I will ever grow up if that is true. I see a joke where The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage sees something serious. She's much more grown-up than I ever will be.

"There is a positive side to this wacky world of ours." The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage looked at me smiling. Then she continued, "If the world weren't as wacky as it is, people would see that you're wacky."

After all of this, I wonder if it's worth

growing up. What good does it do to grow up when those people around you aren't? Maybe wacky is not that bad.

On the bright side, I'm going to try.

I couldn't help but think of one of the strangest stories about David in 1 Samuel 21, "And he [David] changed his behaviour before them, and feigned himself mad in their hands, and scabbled on the doors of the gate, and let his spittle fall down upon his beard. Then said Achish unto his servants, Lo, ye see the man is mad: wherefore then have ye brought him to me? Have I need of mad men, that ye have brought this fellow to play the mad man in my presence? Shall this fellow come into my house?"

David used "wacky" to his advantage. That worked for him and after giving some thought, maybe that could work for my advantage. Of

course, David was acting and I probably am not.

*Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress*

*of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamessnyder51@gmail.com, website www.jamessnyderministries.com.*

## Church Briefs

• **Workshop on abortion to be held by Mount Olive #2**

Mount Olive Primitive Baptist will have a workshop on the facts about abortion on Saturday, April 15, at 10 a.m. The church is located at 8 Spring Creek Highway in Crawfordville.

• **Seventh-day Adventists to hold special presentations**

Special Presentations on "Beyond the Grave" this weekend at Crawfordville Seventh-day Adventist Church, located at 107 Shadeville Road in Crawfordville: at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 7 "Praise"; at 10:45 a.m. on Saturday, April 8 "Prayer" with a special luncheon following service; and also Saturday at 7 p.m., "Proclaim." All are welcome.

**Sopchoppy United Methodist Church**

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Worship 11 a.m.  
Bible Study Wed. 6 p.m.

Pastor Cheryl Mixon-Cruce 850-962-2511

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# Obituaries

## DEATH NOTICES

- **Casey Lee Dabney**, 40, of Crawfordville, died April 2, 2023.
- **Brandon Wayne Dukes**, 37, of Crawfordville, died March 27, 2023.
- **Karen Bell Gray**, 76, of Tallahassee, died March 29, 2023.
- **Bobby Hill Sr.**, 89, of Crawfordville, died March 31, 2023.

- **Evelyn Hill**, 79, of Crawfordville, died April 1, 2023.
- **Gerald Albert Schweinsberg**, 73, of Crawfordville, died April 2, 2023.
- **Patricia L. Thompson**, 61, of Crawfordville, died March 27, 2023.

All of the deaths reported by Family Funeral Home at Havey-Young Chapel, 850-926-5919, www.familyfhc.com.

## BEREAVEMENT COLUMN

# When anguish threatens well-being



By **TRACY RENEE LEE**

Grief and loss can be overwhelming. The pain, sadness, and loneliness that come with them can make it difficult to think clearly, feel well, enjoy usual activities, and move forward. There are, however, things you can do to help yourself heal and take your mind off of the pain. A few suggestions would be to take an ibuprofen, start a project, or help someone else out.

Stress links the emotional and physical aspects of grief.

The systems in the body that process physical and emotional stress overlap, and emotional stress can activate the nervous system as easily as physical threats can.

When stress becomes chronic, increased adrenaline and blood pressure can contribute to chronic medical conditions.

Research shows that emotional pain and physical pain activate the same regions of the

brain.

Indications are that this link allows pain-relieving medication, such as acetaminophen, to ease emotional pain.

Two weeks ago, I suggested to an acquaintance of mine that he take ibuprofen to relieve the pain he was suffering after the recent loss of his wife. The emotional pain was linking up with physical pain, and between the two, he needed relief. Since emotional pain and physical pain activate the same regions of the brain, acetaminophen or ibuprofen should work to help relieve both issues. He took the medication and felt much better. (This is not presented as medical advice, merely an example of what worked for my friend.)

The following week, my acquaintance notified me that he had suffered a terrible week of emotional anguish. In cleaning his home, he happened upon a box of photos of his wife that he had never seen before, and the pain of her death crushed him all over again. He felt badly that he had never before seen the photos to tell her how beautiful she was in them and regret overwhelmed him.

I suggested to him that he use the photos

for something wonderful rather than lament over them, or hide them away. The discovery of these photos could be used to decorate his home or possibly used as Christmas cards for her siblings, nieces, and nephews. As he had never before seen the photos, the probability that others hadn't seen them either was high. Sharing them would bring joy to the rest of her family, and the photos could be used for remembering her during holiday celebrations.

### PICTURES

Once a loved one has been lost, pictures of the decedent become very important.

Photos preserve memories and remind survivors of the special relationship shared with the deceased.

They help alleviate the survivor's fear of forgetting and allow him/her to adapt their thoughts of the decedent into memories.

A very kind gesture upon the death of a loved one is to scan pictures of which you might be in possession and offer them to the survivors.

My final suggestion to him was that he begin a service project, or engage in a hobby or talent. He

felt that he was not ready to engage with others, so service seemed to be off the table for a while. He was, however, open to working on a hobby or talent. After some thought, he narrowed it down to a talent/project.

A project can be anything that helps you to express your grief and focus on something else. It can be something practical, like creating a memorial for a loved one or volunteering your time and efforts (in their memory) to a good cause. Or it can be something creative, like writing a song or poem, painting a picture, or crafting something special. My acquaintance decided that it would be a good time to clear out some of his storage items (the project) so that he could get to his drum set (the talent.)

Taking on a project can provide a sense of purpose and accomplishment. It can help you to grapple with your grief in a productive way and provide a healthy distraction from the pain. It can also be a way to honor the memory of your loved one, as you are using their passing as a motivation to do something meaningful.

After clearing out his clutter, my acquaintance found his drum

set and moved it back into his home. He has begun practicing his talent and sharing it with others. He reports back to me that clearing out his storage building has helped him feel as though he has done something constructive, and that practicing his drums has helped him feel great relief.

### HOBBIES

Hobbies occupy the mind and hands.

They engage our brains and keep them in good health.

Hobbies create a sense of accomplishment.

They propel us toward a healthier and happier grief recovery. (Mourning Lights, 2022)

A hobby or talent can help by giving you a place to focus your thoughts and energies rather than being occupied 24 hours each day with sorrow and anguish. It is; however, important to remember that grief is a process and there is no set timeline for healing. You should never feel pressured to complete a project or to move on quickly. Take your time and focus on what you need to do to take care of yourself.

If you are feeling overwhelmed or need help getting started, reach

out to a counselor or therapist for support. They can help you create an action plan for your project and provide guidance and resources.

Grief is a difficult thing to go through, but a project can help you cope with the pain and find meaning in the midst of it. So, don't be afraid to get started, and take recovery one step at a time..

*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: Locked and loaded

By **RYAN DAILEY**  
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — Florida, long dubbed the "gunshine state," is one stroke of Gov. Ron DeSantis' pen away from allowing people to carry guns without concealed-weapons licenses.

The Senate on Thursday gave final approval to a measure (HB 543) that would allow people to carry concealed weapons without having to meet requirements such as firearms training and background screening. The House approved the bill last week, and DeSantis has pledged to sign it.

Under the measure, people carrying concealed firearms would be required to have valid identification and be able to "display such identification upon demand by a law enforcement officer."

Sen. Jay Collins, a Tampa Republican who sponsored the measure, echoed many supporters in saying that it is designed to prevent Floridians from having to get a "permission slip" to carry guns.

Democrats have slammed the bill as having the potential to make Floridians less safe. Sen. Victor Torres, D-Orlando, drew on his experience as a former police officer in pushing against the removal of the training requirements.

"As a former law-enforcement (officer) for 20

years in New York City, I had the privilege of carrying a weapon on me, a gun," Torres said. "But I was trained, over and over and over and over and over. Why? The safety of the public."

But several Republican senators touted parts of the bill that seek to bolster school-safety, including a provision that would allow private schools to participate in a controversial program that allows armed "guardians" on campuses. The bill also would provide money for school hardening.

Many supporters labeled the measure a "constitutional carry" bill, in reference to Second Amendment constitutional rights. But as the bill has moved through the legislative process, a debate simmered about whether the "constitutional carry" label is a good fit for the proposal — with some gun-rights advocates arg

### PARENTAL RIGHTS, EXPANDED

At the midpoint of the 60-day legislative session, Republican lawmakers, who have supermajorities in the House and Senate, appear set to keep their foot on the gas as the chambers continue racing through high-profile bills.

The House on Friday took a step toward expanding a controversial 2022 law that prohibits

instruction about sexual orientation and gender identity in early grades, by approving a bill that would broaden the prohibition to pre-kindergarten through eighth grade.

The measure (HB 1069) would expand the law formally titled Parental Rights in Education, which critics disparagingly labeled the "don't say gay" measure. The law currently bars instruction on sexual orientation and gender identity in kindergarten through third grade.

The wide-ranging bill also seeks to restrict the way teachers and students can use their preferred pronouns in schools, and bolsters a process for people to object to instructional materials and school-library books.

Rep. Chase Tramont, R-Port Orange, said the bill is "pro-family, it is pro-teacher, it is pro-education."

"It is pro-family because it takes some of the most-sensitive and personal issues and discussions and it keeps them in the homes where it is the responsibility of the parent to determine the manner in which, and frankly the timing in which, some of these issues and conversations should be taking place," Tramont said.

But Democrats blasted the effort to expand the 2022 law.

"Look, the LGBTQ

community isn't going away, trans people aren't going away. What has gone away, that I pray comes back, is human decency," Rep. Angie Nixn, D-Jacksonville, said.

Rep. Marie Woodson, D-Hollywood, argued that the "expansion of the original 'don't say gay' bill will continue to cause confusion, fear and even more problems than we had with the original bill."

### TENURE TROUBLE?

The state university system's Board of Governors on Wednesday gave final approval to a regulation that would require faculty members to undergo post-tenure reviews every five years, amid heavy opposition from critics who argued it could lead to a "downward trend in morale" on campus.

The regulation, which stems from a 2022 higher-education law, has generated controversy as opponents contend that review processes already exist — and that the review revamp sends the wrong message to faculty.

The United Faculty of Florida union has fiercely objected to the tenure-review changes. Union President Andrew Gothard, who is a Florida Atlantic University professor, said the new regulation will turn tenure into a "five-year revolving

contract."

State university system Chancellor Ray Rodrigues, a former Republican state senator who took the helm of the system in September, was a sponsor of the measure that led to the new tenure-review process. Rodrigues acknowledged that every institution in Florida has post-tenure review, but defended the new regulation.

"We've got more than 25 years of data, and we know that adopting post-tenure review did not stop people — highly talented faculty members — from coming to the state of Florida," Rodrigues said.

**STORY OF THE WEEK:** The Florida Senate this week gave final approval to a bill that would allow people to carry guns without concealed-weapons licenses, sending the issue to Gov. Ron DeSantis.

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:** "The Second Amendment of the Constitution gives its people the right to keep and bear arms. It doesn't say, 'if you have a permit,' it doesn't say 'if you've gone through training,' it doesn't say 'if you've done a background check.'" — Sen. Jim Boyd, R-Bradenton.

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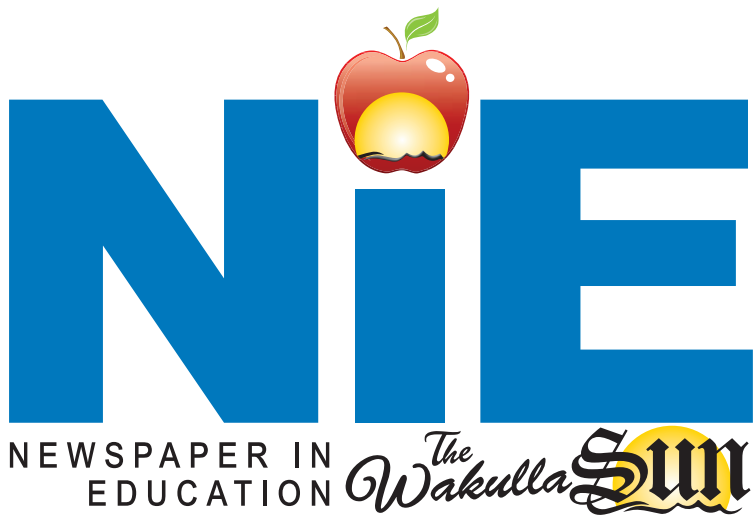
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## USE THE NEWS

### 1. 'Planetary Parade'

For people who love the night sky, it is a thrill to see planets along with stars and the Earth's moon. For the next several weeks, star gazers will get to see not one or two planets, but five lined up with the moon just after sunset. The unusual arrangement is called a "planetary parade" and will feature Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Uranus, CNN News reports. The parade will be visible looking west just after sunset in most of the United States. Astronomers say much of it should be visible to the naked eye, even in urban areas that have significant light pollution from buildings. Viewed from the Earth, the celestial objects will appear in a diagonal line, from top to bottom in this order: Mars, the moon, Uranus, Venus, Jupiter and Mercury. The easiest planet to spot will be Venus, which is often referred to as the "evening star" because it's the brightest object in the night sky after the moon. The second easiest planet to see will be Mars, because of its red color. America's NASA space agency is always looking to learn more about the planets in our solar system, and planets elsewhere in space. In the newspaper or online, find and closely read a story about something NASA has learned recently about a planet. Use what you read to write a letter to a friend telling what has been learned and why that is important to scientists.

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.

### 2. 'Potcake' Pups

It's a safe bet that when people go away on vacation, they don't plan on coming home with a puppy. Unless they happen to be traveling to the Turks and Caicos Islands in the Atlantic Ocean south-east of the U.S. state of Florida. There, they may meet a "Potcake Puppy," get to take it walking on a beach, fall in love and feel they just have to give it a home. That makes the Potcake Place K9 Rescue shelter very happy. Potcake Place rescues stray and abandoned dogs that roam the streets of the islands, the Washington Post newspaper reports. The dogs are called "potcakes" because residents put out cook-

ing pots caked with leftover food to give the dogs something to eat. Most are mixed breeds, and they have become a tourist attraction for visitors who come to the islands to enjoy beaches and shore attractions. Sometimes lines stretch down the street with people wanting to take a puppy for a beach walk. Even if tourists don't take a puppy home, they help the puppies get adopted by socializing them and helping them get comfortable with people. "Not everyone can do everything," says the founder of Potcake Place. "But everyone can do something." Individuals and organizations like Potcake Place do many things to help animals. And they often need the support of others to do it. In the newspaper or online, find and closely read a story about a person or organization helping animals. Use what you read to write a letter to the editor, describ-

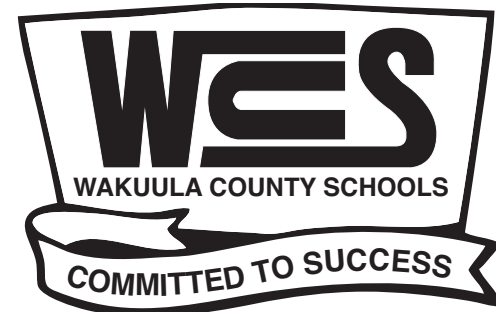
ing what the person or group is doing and how they could benefit from the help of others.

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. Hair-Freezing Experience

The nation of Canada is America's colder neighbor to the north, and they have a lot of winter traditions there. There is hockey, of course, and skiing, and outdoor skating, and sledding and then ... hair-freezing. Yes, hair-freezing is a real tradition at the Eclipse Nordic Hot Springs attraction in the far-north Yukon Territory next to the U.S. state of Alaska. People jump in the natural hot springs pools and then fling their heads into the freezing winter air to

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create wild designs and formations (click here). They quickly snap pictures while their hair is frozen and compete to see who can create the craziest look, the Washington Post reported. For maximum effect, the temperature must be at least 4 degrees below zero Fahrenheit for the hair to freeze quickly in weird shapes. This winter, however, the tradition was limited by warm temperatures caused by global warming. There were not enough days when the Yukon temperature was low enough to get the quick-freeze effect, and fewer people entered the hair-freezing competition. "Unfortunately, the contest is very dependent on the weather," the general manager of the Springs said. Many places have unusual or odd traditions or competitions. In the newspaper or online, find and closely read a story about one of them. Use what you read to write a humorous, rhyming poem describing the tradition and why people like

it. Read poems aloud, with feeling!

Goals: Demonstrating understanding of figurative language; reading prose and poetry orally with accuracy, appropriate rate and expression on successive readings.

### 4. Snow in August?

The state of California has been suffering for years from heat, lack of rain, and long dry periods that increase the risk of wildfires. This winter, however, California got tremendous amounts of rain and snow, and that is causing celebration all over the state. Especially happy are people who love to go skiing and snowboarding, because mountain areas have gotten record or near-record amounts of snow. That has caused a "snow-pack" so deep that ski resorts say they will be able to stay open beyond the Fourth of July and well into the summer, CNN News reported. Mammoth Mountain, a resort located in the Eastern Sierra

mountains, came with-in 5 inches of breaking its snowfall record of 668 inches (an amazing 56 feet!) and could offer skiing and snowboarding "into August this season," a spokesperson said. The heavy rain and snow in California created unusual problems and challenges for many communities. In the newspaper or online, find and closely read a story about another place where winter weather caused problems. Use what you read to write and design a "How To" handbook, telling people how to stay safe when they experience this kind of winter weather. Choose photos from the newspaper or Internet to illustrate your handbook. Share with the class.

Goals: Using drawings or visual displays when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or points; producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task.



THESE DEVICES IN VEHICLES DO MUCH TO HELP PREVENT INJURIES AND SAVE LIVES.

ANSWER: SEAT BELTS

### Math Blocks

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

9	0		14
		3	12
	7	4	13
12	15	12	

6	7	2
3	8	1
5	0	6

Solution

### Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

VRDEI SFLAYE

Answer: Drive safely

### THIS DAY IN...



### HISTORY

- 1141: EMPRESS MATILDA BECOMES THE FIRST FEMALE RULER OF ENGLAND.
- 1805: LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN PREMIERES HIS THIRD SYMPHONY AT THE THEATER AN DER WIEN IN VIENNA.
- 1906: MOUNT VESUVIUS ERUPTS AND DEVASTATES NAPLES.



### ACCELERATE

to begin to move more quickly

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Drive

SPANISH: Conducir

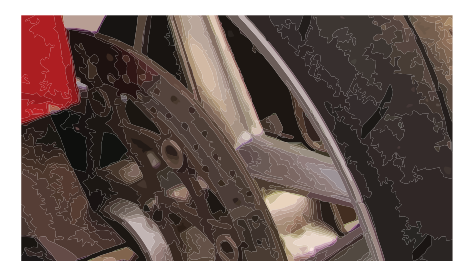
ITALIAN: Guidare

FRENCH: Conduire

GERMAN: Auto fahren



EATING OR DRINKING WHILE DRIVING CAN BE A DISTRACTION ON THE ROAD. DRIVERS SHOULD DO WHAT THEY CAN TO AVOID DISTRACTIONS.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: MOTORCYCLE WHEEL



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1985 BAYLINER VIN# BLZA31EKL485  
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# WMS track team is having great year

By **SAMANTHA ISAACS**  
WMS Coach

The Wakulla Middle School Wildcats are truly showing up to show off this year. Following an astounding season of success in 2022 with 9 FLYRA State Qualified athletes and 8 new school records, the new group of Wildcat Track & Field athletes are rising to that challenge.

Wakulla traveled to FSUS to attend the 2023 Sunshine Track Officials Middle School Invitational meet on Saturday. Come rain or shine (and there was both!), the athletes were ready to compete.

Coming out of the gate strong in the field events, we saw 8th grader Makiya Cash qualify for the 2nd year in a row on Triple Jump with a beautiful jump of 30'8.7", she placed 3rd overall, and also brought in 2nd place on the Long Jump with a 13'7" leap. Destinee Avery followed right behind in 3rd place. Arianna Manning and London Waymon placing 5th and 8th, respectively, in the girls Triple Jump. On the boys pit, 8th graders Jaylen Jones, Adam Pfeifer, and David Whitaker took in the top 10 spots. Jaylen in 1st with an impressive 18'7" jump. David coming in 7th and Adam in 10th place overall. Following with the Triple Jump was Jaylen Jones in 4th and David Whitaker in 5th, Anthony Vargas not far behind placing 11th.

Seeing some impressive distances at the sand pit was nothing compared to the throwing cage where Jacob Kinsey brought in 6th and 7th place in the Shotput and Discus with throws of 35 and 86-feet, respectively. For our girls, 8th grader Sian Garrett brought home 4th in shot put

while Madison Varnes (8th grade) came 2nd and 4th in Discus and Shotput. Madison is the new record holder for WMS in the Discus with a throw of 74'5". Heavyn Taylor, a seasoned thrower, placed 4th and 8th in the Discus and Shotput.

Our running events started in the cool breeze and light showers of the day, but we finished strong in the sunshine!

- Danny Godbolt – 8th grade, placing 4th in the 100m dash at 12seconds

- Trace Callaghan – 6th grade, placed 6th in the 100m dash at 12.3seconds

- Jayden Jean – 8th grade, placed 7th in the 200m in 26seconds

- Adam Pfeifer – 8th grade, placed 6th in the 1mi at 5:42

- Corbin Ferreira – 8th grade, placed 6th in the 3200m in 14:10

- Arianna Manning – 8th grade, placed 7th in the 100m dash in 13.96seconds

- Destinee Avery – 8th grade, placed 8th in the 100m Hurdle in 21.68 seconds

- London Waymon – 8th grade, placed 7th in the 200m Hurdle in 37sec flat

"We have some amazing talent in our 8th grade group and it's definitely going to be hard to let these guys go, just as it was for last years group. I see the potential in our 6th and 7th grade athletes though and I sincerely hope they all come back next season and show us what they have," says Coach Isaacs, "I'm just really proud of the work these kids have put in and the work they continue to do. I'm watching the 6th graders to see if they are paying attention, because this

will be them one day. It will be their names on the boards and on the awards. There are lessons about hard-work, determination, goal-setting, and effort being silently taught on the track and I want to encourage anyone who comes out to set their bar high."

State Qualified Athletes this year include:

Trace Callaghan – 4x100 Relay Team

Makiya Cash – Shot put and Triple Jump

Danny Godbolt – 4x100 Relay and Long Jump

Brandon Hayes – 4x100 Relay

Jayden Jean – Triple Jump and Long Jump

Jaylen Jones – Triple Jump and High Jump

Aries Travis – 4x100 Relay

David Whitaker – Triple Jump

New school records are now held by

Madison Varnes – Discus – 74'5"

D Godbolt, B Hayes, J Jean, A Vargas – 4x400m Relay – 4:01.9sec

See the Wildcats in action for yourself on Wednesday, April 5th at Wakulla High as they compete to hold on to the title of Big Bend Champions!



Adam Pfeifer running the 1600m.



Destinee Avery in the 100m Hurdle.



Holden Stroud, throwing shotput.



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# Chamber's Low Country Boil draws big crowd



Hundreds of people packed the arena at 3Y for the Chamber's 12th annual Low Country Boil on Saturday.



Mary Wallace and Shirley Howard.

PHOTOS BY GERALD BROWN



Chamber Executive Director Heather Bryan with her clipboard making sure things run right.



People serve up helpings of the boil that included crayfish and shrimp, with sausage, potatoes and corn.



Ray Gray, Melanie Brown and Sheriff Jared Miller.



Tina and Ed Brimmer on the dance floor.



On the floor doing a line dance.



Don and Elaine Gary, above, and one of the three eighty-gallon syrup kettles used to cook up three different recipes: one with seafood, one with sausage only, and one vegetarian version.



Guitarist Brian of the band Salt Rock plays.

