



Worm Gruntin' in Sopchoppy

Page 1

The Wakulla Sun

"It's a New Day"



Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



Thunderstorms
Hi: 77° Lo: 67° 85%
Sunrise 7:13 AM
Sunset 8:03 PM



AM Showers
Hi: 80° Lo: 62° 45%
Sunrise 7:12 AM
Sunset 8:04 PM



Partly Cloudy
Hi: 81° Lo: 68° 24%
Sunrise 7:11 AM
Sunset 8:04 PM



\$1 One Section

Locally Owned & Operated

Our 2nd Year 15th Issue
Thursday, April 13, 2023

State looks at hemp

Bills in the Legislature could potentially ban some hemp and CBD products

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

Vito Knowles, owner of ExtractShak in Crawfordville, which sells CBD and hemp products, said he expected some sort of state regulation – but current bills pending in the Legislature “would regulate us out of business.”

Knowles is referring to HB 1475 and SB 1676. The House bill limits 5 mg of THC in a single product and a total of 50 mg per package.

The Senate Bill has tighter regulations: it is proposed at .5 mg of THC per product or 2 mg per package.

THC is a naturally occurring compound in marijuana that produces a high. Hemp contains lower levels of THC and was allowed to be developed under the 2018 farm bill – but it can't contain more than .3% THC.

But ways have been



Vito Knowles, owner of Extract Shak in Crawfordville, with some hemp products that would be banned under the bills. He claims hemp extracts help anxiety and relieve pain.

developed to isolate naturally occurring within hemp – such as Delta-8, Delta-9, Delta-10 and now Delta-11 – which contain THC, and then concentrate it and put it in gummies and other products.

While Delta-8 and other extracts have not

been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration, Knowles credits the products with helping people deal with anxiety and pain.

The Legislature, acting on the issue as a child protection matter, has proposed prohibiting sales to anyone

under 21 and saying the packaging must not be attractive to children – which are proposals Knowles says he and other CBD stores support.

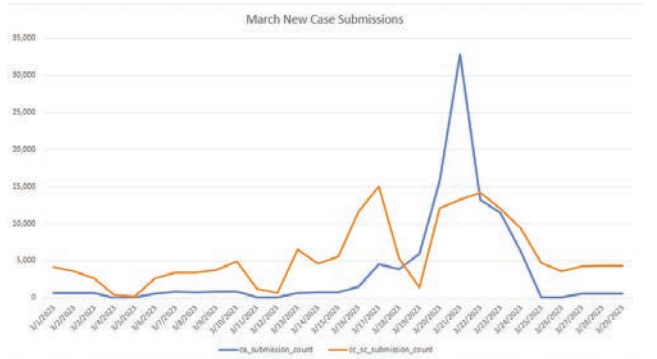
He claims that what is really pushing the bill are the big marijuana dispensaries that see

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CLERK OF COURTS

Unprecedented surge in court filings

After Gov. DeSantis signs tort reform bill, courts around the state – including Wakulla – are overwhelmed with cases



A graph from the Florida Clerks and Comptrollers showing the surge in lawsuits statewide

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

Courts all over Florida were inundated with cases filed after the Legislature passed a tort reform bill that was quickly signed into law by Gov. Ron DeSantis.

That included courts in Wakulla County.

Clerk of Courts Greg James reported his office received more than 512 circuit cases (which are cases for damages of more than \$30,000), and an additional 47 small claims cases.

The bulk of those cases were from attorneys seeking to preserve their cases ahead of the bill becoming law.

“It has greatly increased our workload,” Clerk James said.

The Legislature passed HB 837 – Civil Remedies on Thursday, March 23, and signed into law by DeSantis on Friday, March 24. It took effect immediately upon the Governor’s signature and contains new legal restrictions for certain civil lawsuits. It revamps attorney fees, the timeframe for filing negligence lawsuits, “bad faith” cases against insurers, premises liability, and comparison of fault.

In anticipation of enactment, there was an unprecedented surge in civil filings through the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal with Clerk’s offices across the state.

James praised his deputy clerks for processing the surge of cases.



Clerk of Courts Greg James

WAKULLA TITLE CELEBRATES 40 YEARS



Aulora Whatley, Savannah Hollington, Brian Plant, Jan Colvin, Trease Wright and Charles Davis.

Wakulla Title

Wakulla Title celebrated 40 years in business on Thursday, April 6. Owner Brian Plant and a friend started the business and opened in the Dobreja building. The friend preferred building surf boards and moved to St. Augustine. Plant credited having a great staff with his success in business. (Photos by Lynda Kinsey)



Correction

A front page story in the March 30th issue, “County sued over radio contract,” referred to Wakulla County’s advisor on the radio contract, Tusa Consulting Service, and Nick Tusa.

While Tusa Consulting is the county’s consultant on the project, Nick Tusa sold the company to John Dean Hart in October 2021 and he is not involved in the Wakulla County project.

We regret the error.



Sailor Chris Voith of Atlanta at last year’s Stephen Smith Regatta at Shell Point.

50 years of Stephen Smith Regatta

Special to The Sun

For the past 49 years, the Stephen C. Smith Memorial Regatta (www.smithregatta.com) has been held at Shell Point Beach for the benefit of the American Cancer Society in memory of Stephen Smith, a local sailor who died from a rare form of leukemia at the

age of 29.

This year, April 28-30, this home-grown family friendly event is celebrating its 50th birthday and has set an audacious fundraising goal of \$50,000! Come sail, watch, eat lunch at the Regatta grill and participate in the Sunday afternoon live auction!

The Regatta draws more

than 200 registered participants (sailors & guests) with hundreds more spectators from all over the southeast. The event includes races for PHRF yachts, catamarans such as Hobie Cats, smaller day sailors including Sunfish, and windsurfers which are the most numerous and

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Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park Hooded Pitcher Plant

By LYNN ARTZ, SANDY TEDDER and DAVID RODDENBERRY



Lured by nectar, insects enter the pitcher and are digested.

The intriguing hooded pitcher plant (*Sarracenia minor*) is blooming now in the Apalachicola National Forest and in the bog garden at Sopchoppy Depot Park. The yellow-green, upside-down flowers are mildly fragrant. The leaves form hollow green cones with curved hoods. Lured by nectar, insects crawl into these pitchers and cannot escape. Flying insects are confused by “windows” on the back of the hood that look like exits. Trapped insects are digested, compensating for poor soils. This carnivorous plant grows in boggy areas in the coastal southeastern U.S. Hooded pitcher plants are threatened in Florida. NEVER harvest these plants from the wild. Carnivorous plant nurseryman Kenny Coogan will speak about and sell hooded pitcher plants at the Sarracenia Chapter meeting at the Wakulla Library on April 18 at 6:30 p.m.

Student of the Week

Adalyn Moore, 8th grader at Riversprings Middle School

Principal: Joshua Sandgren

Achievements/Reason for Nomination:
 Adalyn Moore is an 8th grader at Riversprings Middle School. Adalyn is a defense player on the Lady Bears Soccer team, and plays for the Lady Bears Volleyball team. When she isn't representing her school in sports, she is a defense player on the ASG travel soccer team. Adalyn is a hard-working student keeping AB honor Roll. Adalyn's favorite part about being at RMS is socializing with friends. RMS is a better school because of students like Adalyn! Go Bears!

STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.



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 Lisa Craze, CFC
 Wakulla County Tax Collector

NEW LICENCE PLATE COMING SOON.

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

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



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Farm Bureau and 4-H partner on school enrichment

Submitted By **KAITLYN SHEFFIELD**
of **Wakulla Farm Bureau**
and **RACHEL PIENTA**
of **UF/IFAS Wakulla Extension**

This spring, Wakulla 4-H and Wakulla Farm Bureau have partnered to grow the scholastic embryology program in Wakulla County.

This year, seven classrooms in three elementary schools are experiencing embryology. Incubators are placed in participating classrooms and youth learn about the developmental stages that happen before the chicken hatches. After hatching, the chicks become celebrity classroom guests for about a week before starting new lives on a local farm. Wakulla 4-H started an equipment lending program with local schools three years ago.

In 2023, Wakulla Farm Bureau provided an incubator, brooding equipment, and a 4-H embryology education book to each school to supplement the 4-H lending program. In addition to the equipment partnership, Wakulla 4-H partners with local farmers to provide fertilized eggs for incubation.

This year's embryology farm partner



Medart Elementary teachers with 4-H Agent Rachel Pienta.

is the Thornton family, who also have two children enrolled in 4-H programs.

Embryology is a 4-H School Enrichment Project supported by the University of Florida Cooperative Extension

Service and your local County Extension Service. 4-H Embryology teaches students about elements of agricultural and biological science. Through this program, students hatch chicks in the

classroom and witness the day-by-day development process with activities such as egg candling.

Classroom educators have the opportunity to use additional online 4-H curriculum resources located at <https://florida4h.ifas.ufl.edu/4-h-embryology/>. Wakulla 4-H agent Rachel Pienta serves as a local resource for educators to connect schools with opportunities to extend classroom learning through STEM activities such as the Embryology program and Project Learning Tree.

For youth who want to raise chickens at home, Wakulla 4-H offers an actual Chick Chain project that runs from October through March. This project requires youth to raise chicks while learning elements of poultry science.

The experience culminates with a Poultry Show and Skill-a-Thon. For more information about Wakulla 4-H clubs, summer camps, and school enrichment programs, please visit us online at <https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/wakulla/4-h-youth-development/> or stop by our Crawfordville office at 84 Cedar Avenue in Crawfordville.

Optimist Club

Brain Brawl at Medart

Special to The Sun

Fifth grade students at Medart Elementary had a "Battle of the Brains" on Friday, March 31st. Two teams went head-to-head in a competition that required them to answer questions on a variety of topics ranging from science to sports. Team B was the winning team with a final score of 170.

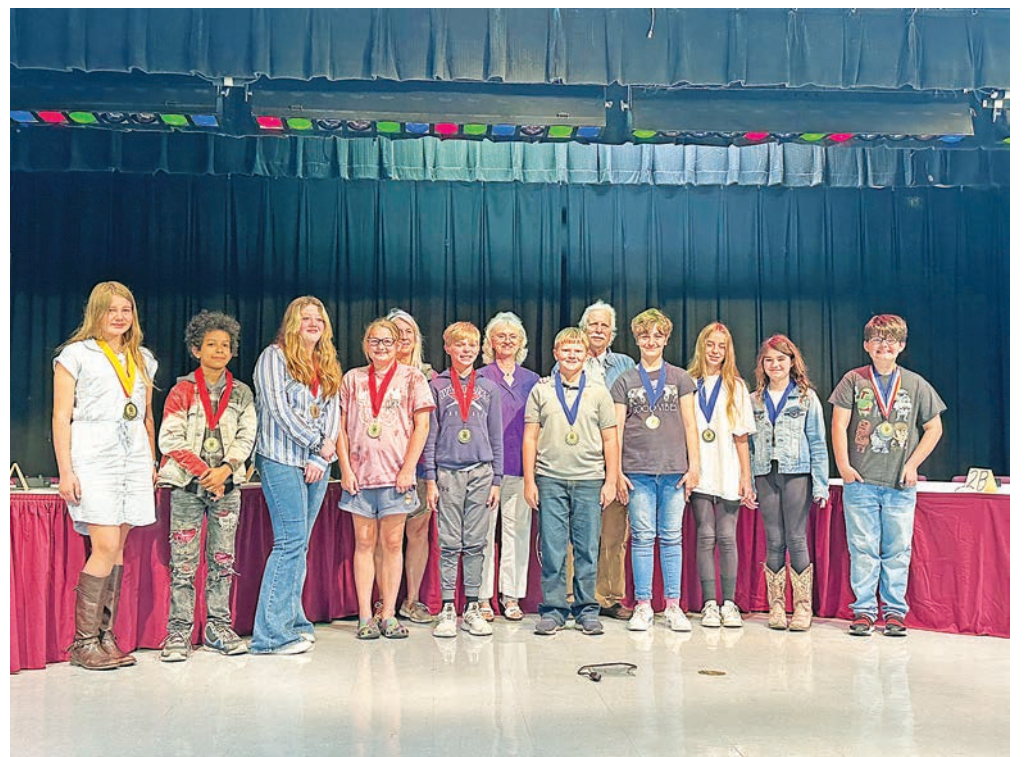
Team B members were Lila Carroll, Siris McKenzie, Ruby Metzler, Adalee Revell and Tanner Wright. Top scorer on Team B was Siris McKenzie. Team A was close

with a final score of 153. Team A members were Julian Colson, Laila Grove, Landon Jones, Maia Michalski, and Landon Thornton. Top scorer for Team A was Maia Michalski. Siris McKenzie was also the Top All-Around Scorer for the competition.

Teams were chosen by tallying the top scores on a trivia quiz taken by all 5th grade students. The top 10 high scorers were then put on two teams, with four students and one alternate on each team.

Medart 5th grade

teachers Stephanie DiLorenzo, Michele Lawhon, Shelley Spence and Diane Driggers helped prepare both teams for the big event. The Wakulla Coastal Optimist Club hosts this annual event that is held at all elementary schools in the county. Representing the Optimist Club at Friday's event were JoAnn Daniels, Tim Roach and Diana Sellers. In addition to moderating the competition, they presented both teams and top scorers with special medals honoring their accomplishments.



Middle School Brain Brawl

Special to The Sun

Academic Team students from Riversprings Middle School and Wakulla Middle School held their annual Brain Brawl competition. The students compete in a Jeopardy style contest in which they answer toss-up questions to earn points for their team. A correct answer allows the team to work together to

answer bonus questions. The topics can be many categories such as science, literature, math, current events, art and history.

The winning Riversprings team members were Captain Ronin Taylor, Matthew Thaxton, Max McCord, Jacob Perry, Daniel Allen and Emily Zak.

The Wakulla Middle School Team members

were Gus Barwick, Bobby Myhre, Tyler Ripstein and Captain Collin Ryan.

The highest scorer for Wakulla Middle was gold ribbon winner Bobby Myhre.

Scoring the most points on the Riversprings team and also earning the red, white and blue ribbon for highest scorer in the competition was Matthew Thaxton.



Groundbreaking

A groundbreaking ceremony was held in Alligator Point on Saturday for a new Alligator Point/St. Teresa Volunteer Fire Station. Among the speakers was Franklin County Sheriff A. J. Smith, above, and at right with volunteer firefighter Paul Parker. (Photos by Gerald Brown)



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.



WAKULLA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD REQUEST FOR MECHANICAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR SHADEVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HVAC RENOVATIONS AND UPGRADES

The Wakulla County School Board is accepting proposals for Mechanical Engineering Services to provide planning, design and construction administration for Shadeville Elementary School HVAC Renovations and Upgrades. All those interested should submit (4) four copies of the following: Resume, SF330 Form or equivalent, list of references and qualifications to Robert Pearce, Superintendent of Wakulla County Schools, P.O. Box 100, 69 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida 32327 by 10:00 A.M. on May 12, 2023.

April 13, 20, 27, 2023

Opinions

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

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

LETTERS FROM READERS

Thanks for support of variety show

Editor, The Sun:

The Wakulla Community Theater committee would like to thank the following folks for helping make our Feb. 11 Variety Show Fundraiser a great success!

First, a huge thank you to all of our performers, people aged 10 to 70, who gave of their time and talent to help raise funds for our theater. You were all amazing!

Thank you to Sally Wheeler for creating our new WCT logo. It is so eye-catching and we've received many compliments on it. Thank you to Amy Parker for designing and creating our tickets, flyer and programs.

Thank you to Kyla Parker for being “the girl behind the curtain!” Thank you to Lynn and Scott Rossow, Mary Katherine and Jay Westmark, and Andy Sutton, for taking care of so many, many things we could never list them all.

Thank you to Jason Westmark and Kru Howard for helping us clean up at the end of the night. Thank you to John and Diana Hays for the food tent, and Joy Arrington for her donation of the display easels.

A giant thank you to Mike Sherlock, Scott Rossow and Roddy Strickland for taking care of the sound and lights, one of the most difficult jobs of all! You guys rock!

Thank you to Capital City Bank and McIver Flooring for helping fill the theater by selling 150 tickets.

Thank you to all of the individuals and businesses that donated door prizes – The Shack, Breakfast Station, Brent and Anne Thurmond/Panacea

Chocolates, Diane Perez and Arte' Mexico, Sand and Soul, Civic Brewery, Laurie's Eye Candy, and Riverside Café.

We would like to thank the Wakulla Sun and the Wakulla News for all their support through advertising specials and publishing our informational articles. They have done a wonderful job getting the word out to the community on behalf of Wakulla Community Theater.

Special thanks to the Sopchoppy Opry, Wakulla County School Board, Mike Barwick, Cole Wells and the historic Sopchoppy High School Facilities Crew.

Thank you to Just Fruits and Exotics for the loan of the absolutely gorgeous ferns.

A huge thank you to Desmond Maxwell, the host with the most, for being the best MC ever!

Special thanks to those of you that have become WCT sponsors. Your donations and support of our program means more than you will ever know. To those interested, it is not too late to become a sponsor for the 2023 WCT theater season.

And finally, we appreciate you, the members of the community for all of the love and support we felt that night. Thank you for coming out in 100% rain and cheering our performers on!

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

Why I'm voting no on Talquin bylaws

Editor, The Sun:

Hi neighbors, I am writing to call your attention to the Talquin Electric Cooperative annual election. If you are like me, you received your ballot in the mail a few days ago. In it, aside from electing trustees to the cooperative, they are also proposing amendments to their bylaws. I am not writing to tell anyone how to vote, but I am writing to tell you why I will be voting “NO” to their proposed bylaws amendment. In their amendments, they propose adding a new Article XI entitled “Alternative Dispute Resolution” to their bylaws. This provision provides in relevant part: “The Parties agree that any disputes to arbitrate must be brought in an individual capacity and not as a plaintiff or class member in any purported class or representative capacity... It is the intention and agreement of the Parties not to arbitrate class actions or to have consolidated arbitration proceedings.”

The “Summary of Proposed Amendments” included with the ballot provides their rationale for proposing this provision in the amendment. I would encourage you to read it and read it carefully. Consider what the impact would be to you if you and several of your neighbors were injured, harmed, or negatively impacted in some way by Talquin's provision of services of water or electricity, or lack thereof, to your home by their own negligence or failure to comply with quality control regulations or standards. I personally do not find their rationale compelling or factually accurate. They claim that there are “no restrictions on class action litigation” in state or federal court. And that “[t]his forces the Cooperative to expend significant resources on litigation, regardless of whether the claims are meritorious.” They say the proposed amendment seeks to protect the Cooperative's resources. I take issue with all these claims. But first I would point out that the perception of whether a claim is meritorious depends on what side of the suit the party is on. In federal court any proposed class action suit must satisfy the requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23. I won't bore you with all the specifics but suffice it to say that a court must determine if all the requirements for bringing a class action have been met, and only then may the court certify the class action in order to proceed. Florida state court class actions are governed by Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.220, which has requirements similar to the federal rule, and also requires a court to determine whether a claim may or may not proceed as a class action. Practical considerations, efficiency considerations, and other factors are weighed by a judge in reaching that decision. Among the requirements that must be met are that the suit alleges a question of fact or law common to all members of the class. Once a court decides to allow a class action to proceed, the claim cannot be voluntarily dismissed by the parties without court approval.

Perhaps it is worth asking Talquin, just how much money has it spent defending against class action lawsuits? How many cases have there been? What were their outcomes? How many were dismissed for being non-meritorious? Is there a recent phenomena that prompted the need for this amendment now?

But aside from that, and more importantly, this would eliminate the ability of a group of homeowners or a homeowners association, on behalf of homeowners, to arbitrate any claims multiple residents may have against Talquin in a single class arbitration. That does not sound feasible or cost-effective to me. The amendment pits the single homeowner to do battle with Talquin all alone even if over a hundred or a thousand residents have the same injury or complaint. That would include all claims no matter how meritorious they are.

That is not what I call “protecting resources” of the cooperative. In my opinion, this would put the individual consumer in the weakest possible position to pursue any claim against Talquin should the need arise. That may be in the best interest of protecting Talquin from legal claims brought against them by their consumers, but I fail to see how it would be in the best interest of their consumers – especially if it involves multiple claims of the same harm to a large number of consumers for the same reason. One of the most common types of class actions are consumer related complaints. Does it really save resources, or make sense, to force multiple consumers with the same exact problem or complaint to individually arbitrate the same issue they all share, one at a time rather than all at once?

But that is not the last of it. To go even further, the last sentence of the amendment to Article XI purports to waive your right to a trial by jury in a court of law against Talquin. No thank you! I will not be voting to waive my right to anything. That is not to say that I believe it is even possible to waive an individual's right to jury trial in this manner.

One other thing, I don't know any of these people (the incumbents) seeking reelection, but the fact that they are recommending this gives me pause to vote for any of them. I have always thought that if you only have one option to vote for, you should have the right to vote “No” on that single option. An “election” with no choice is neither a vote nor an election. Your vote simply does not matter in those types of “elections.”

If it is one thing we don't need any more of, it is “elections” where your vote doesn't matter.

David De La Paz, Esq.
Crawfordville

De La Paz specialized in Constitutional Law, Judicial Process and Governmental Public Policy, and was a staff director for the Florida House of Representatives for several years in committees with oversight over the judiciary, and criminal and civil justice matters.

Seeking due process at FWC

Editor, The Sun:

Dear Attorney General Ashley Moody,

Seeing that we haven't had “adequate due process” to take the FWC to court for 25 years, no matter how egregious their rule, I have three questions.

1. Since the Governor is the head of the Executive Branch, does he have the power to veto an FWC “rule?”

2. Can the governor compel the FWC to establish the adequate due process that the FWC refused to establish after the Legislature instructed them to do so?

3. Finally, at what point are you going to hold the FWC accountable for their refusal to establish “adequate due process?” Per Art. IV, Sect 9. Fla. Const.

I started fighting this battle at age 43 and I am now 67 years old. If you THINK the legislature doesn't realize the problem, look at the inner workings on HJR 7173, which was signed into law in June 2007. I worked with the Senators and Representatives on that bill that passed 155-1. As you know, you recently fought against the Supreme Court reviewing Art. 12, Sect 23, and guess what? As a direct result,

there are groups that realize there is no “due process” at the FWC, whose attorneys have been in constant contact with me for the last year, creating petition drives that directly name Executive Branch officials, including the governor and FWC officials for lawsuits. The titles proposed for their amendments will easily win over Florida voters, but destroy this state. ALL because our “free state” refuses to enforce the constitution as written, voted on and guaranteed.

As 1st Chief Judge Edwin Browning Jr. stated in another of our cases: “If agencies are not required to justify their alleged rational basis at an evidentiary hearing when that basis is refuted, as here, this court is preparing a fertile field for the growth of imperious agencies, with all of the mischief it entails.”

Thank you for considering citizens that have not had “adequate due process” for 24 years. There is 100 times more proof than in this email. We don't want to go to Federal Court, but if we have to, what we have is irrefutable.

David Grix
President
Fishing For Freedom Inc.

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You can support The Wakulla Sun with a tax-deductible donation to help us cover the stories that matter to you.

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We would very much appreciate your contribution.

William Snowden
Editor & Publisher
The Wakulla Sun

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We accept donations by card or check. If by check, payment must be made to the Florida Press Foundation and write in the check memo line that you want the donation to go to The Wakulla Sun.

Send it to Florida Press Foundation at 336 East College Avenue, Suite 304, Tallahassee FL 32301

“It's A New Day!”

The Wakulla Sun



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

◀ Question of The Week ▶

– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

Polled at Wakulla Title Company's 40th Anniversary Party & Celebration: What were you doing 40 years ago?



MARY WALLACE
CAPITAL CITY HOME LOANS

B race yourself world, here comes a teenager."



LISA GRINER
FARM BUREAU

"I was graduating high school."



FRANK MESSERSMITH
TRYING TO RETIRE

Republican Leader Pro Tem" (in the state Senate).



DON HUFF
PROPERTY MANAGER

In 1983 we started Tupelo Construction in the old Gowdy building I got my General Contractors License that year."



ANN COLVIN
WAKULLA TITLE

"I worked for Chicago Title Insurance Co. in Fort Lauderdale."

COMMUNITY NEWS

Library News – April 13

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Thursday, April 13

No Programs Today

Friday, April 14

Quilting Guild 9:30am

Saturday, April 15

10am
TMH READ Therapy Dogs

Monday, April 17

American Legion 6:30pm

Tuesday, April 18

Crafting Group 9:30am

Book Bunch 10am
Memoir Writing 10am
Lego Club 4pm
Republican Women's Group

5:30pm

Sarracenia Chapter of the Native Plant Society 6:30pm

Wednesday, April 19

Book Babies 10am
Knitting Group 4pm

Thursday, April 20

Veteran's Meet-up 11am
Tech Learning Lab – Robots!

5pm

The Farm and Gardens HOA Annual Meeting 6:30pm
Wakulla Amateur Radio Club 7pm

WCPL PRESENTS: STAR WARS DAY

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

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

UPCOMING HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

- Saturday, May 27th for Memorial Day
- Tuesday, July 4th for Independence Day
- Saturday, September 2nd for Labor Day

Sheriff's Report

Activity reported for the week of March 31 to April 6:

FRIDAY, MARCH 31

- Gary Bundy reported being in a verbal altercation with his neighbor Nic Kalicki over his wife getting tangled up in his dog's leash. The altercation occurred on Thursday, March 30, but it was only reported a day later. One party stated there was chest bumping but the statements were conflicting, and no witnesses could be located. Deputy Arturo Cordoba investigated.

- Lorrie Keillor reported fraudulent use of her credit card. Four separate charges for a total over \$300. Keillor made contact with her credit card company and had the card cancelled. Keillor named a possible suspect in this case. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Dustin Matthews investigated.

MONDAY, APRIL 3

- Travis Carter reported sever-

al tools and equipment being stolen along with his son's Xbox. A possible suspect has been identified. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

TUESDAY, APRIL 4

- Deputy Heather Will conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle Paul Bradshaw was driving. Bradshaw was found to not possess a valid driver's license. Bradshaw also had a small amount of marijuana and paraphernalia in his possession. Bradshaw was issued a citation for driving while license suspended or revoked (DWLSR). The marijuana and paraphernalia were collected and turned in for destruction.

- Kyle Burdeshaw reported his vehicle had been burglarized. Taken was an assortment of tools and toolbox valued at approximately \$200. Additionally, the door handle had been torn off, which was valued at \$200 for replacement. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Heather Will investigated.

- Kenneth Faircloth reported being stabbed by a friend during an altercation and the subject had fled the scene. On arrival contact was made with Faircloth who had blood on his right ear. When asked what occurred, he stated Byron McCranie had beat him up but he had not been stabbed anywhere. Faircloth advised he did not wish to pursue the matter any further and signed a non-prosecution affidavit. He refused to be photographed and would not complete a sworn statement. Contact was made with McCranie who stated he had not seen Faircloth since around 4:30 p.m. Deputy Zac Monroe investigated.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

- A clerk for Coastal Market reported a gas drive-off. The driver of a Ford van failed to pay for \$80.84 in fuel. The clerk could not provide further information on the van or the driver. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Rudolph Hinson investigated.

THURSDAY, APRIL 6

- Richard Shays reported unknown suspects entered a residence under

construction. The suspect removed the copper wiring from the residence causing damage to the walls and cutting the wires to the A/C unit. The value of the theft and damage was greater than \$8,000. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

- Brenda King reported an unknown suspect used her bank card to make three charges in Tallahassee. The charges were disputed, and Capital City Bank is investigating. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Dustin Matthews investigated.

- Taylor Hussey reported a temporary license plate that was issued to her being used by an unknown person. Hussey began receiving an invoice from toll enforcement that she owed \$45.91 in fees. Hussey stated she turned the temporary tag into Up Rite Auto sales when she picked up her tag. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Carla Skelly investigated.

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

On the Horizon

Calendar of events for the week of April 13

Thursday, April 13

- St. Marks City Commission meets at City Hall at 6 p.m.
- 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 Push on 3079 Crawfordville Hwy. Please RSVP email at newpush3079@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 14

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

Saturday, April 15

- Horseman's Association Show at noon at the Equestrian Park.
- Intro to Tai Chi held at the Community Center from 9 to 10 a.m. All ability levels are welcome; please wear comfortable clothing. For questions call Rich or Terri Bushman at 850-228-9214.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

Monday, April 16

- The County Commission meets at 5 p.m. in the Commission Chambers.
- The Wakulla County School Board meets in the administration office at 5:45 p.m.
- Intro to Tai Chi held at the Community Center from 9 to 10 a.m. All ability levels are welcome; please wear comfortable clothing. For questions call Rich or Terri Bushman at 850-228-9214.
- The Wakulla Respite Program is available weekly 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 Push on 3079 Crawfordville Hwy. Please RSVP email at newpush3079@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 18

- The Sarracenia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 18, at 6:30 p.m. at the Wakulla Co. Public Library. The program will feature Kenny Coogan as he shares his vast knowledge of growing carnivorous plants. He will have native carnivorous plants for sale along with his book: "Florida's Carnivorous Plants". A Zoom link for the presentation will be available—request it at Sarracenia.nps@gmail.com. Meetings are always free and open to the public.
- 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 Push on 3079 Crawford-

ville Hwy. Please RSVP email at newpush3079@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 19

- 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.

The Wakulla
SUN
Your local source for news.

Outdoors

outdoor sports

HOME ON THE RANGE

A Wheel Gun: the Taurus 942 .22 Magnum



By MARJ LAW

"I really think I'd like a wheel gun," Newbie says to me.

"A real gun?" I'm not understanding her.

"No, a wheel gun. One with the round thingie in the middle."

"Oh, yes. A wheel gun. A revolver."

"That's it! I want a revolver. You just put your bullets in the holes and point and shoot. The gun is so easy to use and it never jams."

"Okay. You want a gun that's super easy to use."

"Yes! There's too much to learn with that other kind."

"You mean a semi-automatic?"

"Yes. That one. You have to put bullets in a magazine, then the magazine into the handle. How do you get the bullets in there? How do you know if the magazine's in all the way?"

Then you have to pull the top of the gun back. How do you know if you're strong enough? What if the gun jams? How do you fix it? And there's all these levers and buttons on the side of the gun. I think it's just too complicated to start out on a semi-automatic."

"Okay, so let's look at a revolver."

"Sure. But not a .22.

Jim said a .22 is just a peashooter. He says I have to have at least a .380 if I'm going to use it for self-defense."

"So, let's look at the Taurus .22 magnum revolver."

"But that's a .22!"

"It is. However, a .22 magnum has about the same stopping power as the .380. You can see that the round is a lot longer than the .22 long rifle round. This Taurus 942 is an 8 shot revolver. Most revolvers hold 5 or 6 shots, but this one holds 8. Let's look at it.

I'm pushing this button, which is called the cylinder release button. Now we can move the cylinder to the side and notice that all the chambers are empty. Whenever you handle a gun, first always make sure you know if the gun is loaded or not."

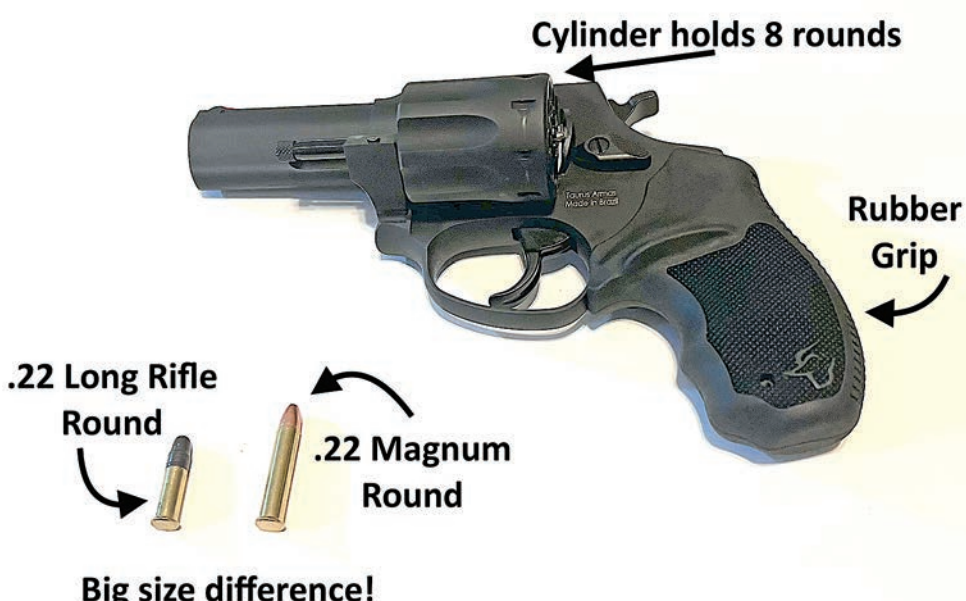
"I see all the holes are empty."

"Now, I'm going to pass you the gun, always pointing the muzzle in a safe direction."

"Why bother? We both know there isn't any ammunition in the gun!"

"Because terrible things can happen. You'd think that on the set of the movie Rust, there couldn't be a problem with a firearm. The set had an armorer, a first assistant director, an ammunitions supplier and a prop master. The actor, who was also the producer, shot off the gun, killing a person on the set. He should never have handled a gun because he didn't know how to make sure it was a safe gun. If it's in your hands, it's your responsibility. All those people should have verified, but no one made

Taurus 942 .22 Magnum



positive certain that there were no active rounds in the gun."

"Yeah. I sure heard about that movie. Okay. I've looked at every chamber and they're all empty."

I hand her the gun. "Wow! It's heavier than I thought it would be!" she exclaims.

"The gun is all metal. This is good because when you shoot, the mass of the gun will absorb a whole lot of the recoil. The Taurus 942 weighs 23.60 ounces."

"It's too heavy for my purse, but maybe I could wear it in a holster on my belt."

"Yes, it's probably too heavy to lug in your purse, but it's still quite a small gun at 4.64" high and 1.34" wide. With its 3" barrel, the total length is 7.6" long. A lot of people will find it carryable. Others will keep it by their bedside or in their car. Some will do all 3."

"Tell me. What is good about this Taurus?"

"Sportsman Outdoors Superstore says it is: 'lightweight. Low recoil. Exceptionally reliable. The all-new Tau-

rus 942 is an 8-shot 22WMR revolver that's ideal for concealed carry, recreational shooting and skills training.'

Gun Digest says of the Taurus:

'Beyond the weight, part of that in-hand appeal is the ergonomic rubber grip, which seats well in my large, glove-sized hands. The weight and the grip make it a sound-handling iron.'

It goes on to say: 'With no slide to rack, you can practice on easy repeat until your finger starts to blister.'

"I like the rubber grip," she says. "It fits my small hands. I like that it doesn't have buttons and doodads to learn about, too."

We are at the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) range. Since everyone at the pistol range has agreed that it is "cold," we are able to walk downrange and put up our target.

We return.

The shooters all agree now that the range is "hot." We can put on hearing and sight protection and cross the red line on the floor which indicates that we

are now on a hot range.

At this point, we can put our guns on the shooting bench, load them, and shoot at our targets. Before we shoot, we discuss safety rules listed on the sheriff's large sign. We talk about stance and grip, too.

"We will shoot this gun in what we call single and double action," I tell her. "In double action, we pull the trigger and the gun goes off. The trigger both cocks the hammer and releases it so the gun fires. However, the trigger pull can be kinda strong in double action, so first we will shoot in single action. We will cock the hammer ourselves, then all the trigger does is release the hammer and the gun fires. When you give the trigger less work to do, it is much easier to shoot the gun.

Let's try it. First put your thumb on the hammer and pull it all the way back."

"That's a little hard," she says.

"Now we aim. Line up the rear sight's empty square with the front sight. When the front

sight appears to fill in the top of the rear sight's empty square, you're ready to shoot at your target. Squeeze the trigger: don't yank it."

She aims. She squeezes the trigger.

Blam! She turns to me and grins.

"That wasn't hard at all! I didn't even feel much kick! Can we do it again?"

After several more shots, while paying attention to stance and grip, we shoot in double action.

"This time, all you will do is pull the trigger," I explain. "Be prepared that your finger will have to work harder because you're not cocking the gun first."

She aims. She pulls at the trigger.

"Huh," she says. "I'm going to have to pull harder."

She does. Blam!

"It sure is a lot easier in single action," she says. "But, if Mr. Bad had broken into my house and was coming after me, I know adrenaline will help me pull that trigger!"

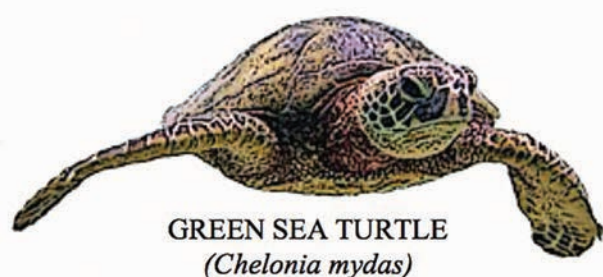
"That's right. But in the meantime, you can practice shooting in single action. This will help you to remember your good stance, grip, and aim. The Taurus 942 .22 magnum is a great gun to learn on and it is a lot more powerful than a .22 long rifle round.

Gun Digest sums up the Taurus: "The Model 942 from Taurus is a compact, quality, rim-fire revolver at a price that can't be beat. It could play a role in a self-defense kit or as a kit gun in the mountains or on the water. But, more than any-

WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO



Retired Wakulla Springs State Park Ranger Bob Thompson, on his weekly wildlife survey at the park, took this photo of a juvenile alligator sunning itself.



GREEN SEA TURTLE
(Chelonia mydas)

Green sea turtles adults graze on the vast sea grass beds of the tropics. Florida's coastal waters are an important feeding grounds. Juveniles hunt crabs jellyfish and sponge. Each year they will swim thousands of miles to return to their birthplace to mate and lay eggs. Artificial lights on beaches confuse them and prevent them from laying eggs. Sea walls block their path. This turtle is called "green" because it was favored for soup and the fat is greenish. Hunting for the turtle meat and eggs and habitat destruction means this turtle is now endangered. This is the one of the largest of the living sea turtles and can grow to 700 pounds.

Eukaryota, Anamalia, Chordata, Reptilia, Testunides, Cheloniidae



State looks at hemp

From Front Page but at the end of the day, it's intended to put us out of business," he says, adding: It would eliminate 189,000 jobs

and close 10,000 small businesses.

Knowles said when he first started the store selling only CBD products his sales were \$1,000 a day. With the development of Delta-8 and other derivatives, his sales have more than doubled to \$2,500 a day. Under the bill, he would be forced to go back to selling only the CBD isolate.

HUGE SELECTION
MASKS, FINS & SNORKELS,
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AIRLINE HOOKAHS (SURFACE SUPPLIED AIR),
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Wakulla Diving Center
 WAKULLADIVING.com 850 745-8208
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Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

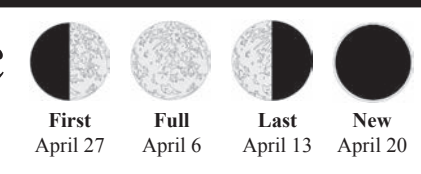
Local writers share their experiences

Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

April 13 - April 19

Tide charts by tides4fishing.com

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



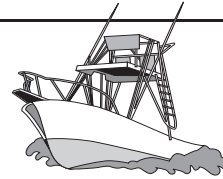
Thursday 13	For tides at the following points add to Dog Island Listings: Carrabelle High Tide 28 Min. Low Tide 25 Min. Apalachicola 1 Hr., 53 Min. 2 Hrs., 38 Min. Cat Point 1 Hr., 13 Min. 2 Hrs., 31 Min. Lower Anchorage 1 Hr., 36 Min. 2 Hrs., 3 Min. West Pass 1 Hr., 26 Min. 2 Hrs., 39 Min.	Thursday 13	Minor Times 2:14AM 12:24PM	Major Times 6:47AM 7:17PM
Friday 14		Friday 14	Minor Times 3:04AM 1:34PM	Major Times 7:46AM 8:15PM
Saturday 15		Saturday 15	Minor Times 3:47AM 2:43PM	Major Times 8:42AM 9:09PM
Sunday 16		Sunday 16	Minor Times 4:26AM 3:51PM	Major Times 9:35AM 10:00PM
Monday 17		Monday 17	Minor Times 5:00AM 4:57PM	Major Times 10:24AM ---
Tuesday 18		Tuesday 18	Minor Times 5:31AM 6:01PM	Major Times 10:48PM 11:12AM
Wednesday 19		Wednesday 19	Minor Times 6:03AM 7:06PM	Major Times 11:36PM 12:00PM

Location	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We
St. Marks River Entrance	2:44 am ▼ -0.1 ft	4:13 am ▼ -0.1 ft	5:27 am ▼ -0.1 ft	6:23 am ▼ -0.1 ft	12:50 am ▲ 3.3 ft	1:46 am ▲ 3.5 ft	2:35 am ▲ 3.6 ft
City of St. Marks	3:48 am ▼ -0.1 ft	5:17 am ▼ -0.1 ft	6:31 am ▼ -0.1 ft	12:15 am ▲ 2.9 ft	1:26 am ▲ 3.1 ft	2:22 am ▲ 3.3 ft	3:11 am ▲ 3.3 ft
Shell Point, Spring Creek	3:09 am ▼ 0.0 ft	4:41 am ▼ 0.0 ft	5:56 am ▼ 0.0 ft	12:02 am ▲ 3.1 ft	1:12 am ▲ 3.4 ft	2:07 am ▲ 3.6 ft	2:56 am ▲ 3.7 ft
Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay	2:55 am ▼ -0.1 ft	4:24 am ▼ 0.0 ft	5:38 am ▼ -0.1 ft	6:34 am ▼ 0.0 ft	12:42 am ▲ 2.5 ft	1:38 am ▲ 2.6 ft	2:27 am ▲ 2.7 ft
St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.	2:44 am ▼ -0.2 ft	4:20 am ▼ -0.1 ft	5:37 am ▼ -0.1 ft	6:35 am ▼ 0.0 ft	12:48 am ▲ 2.6 ft	1:49 am ▲ 2.7 ft	2:41 am ▲ 2.8 ft
Dog Island West End	3:03 am ▼ -0.2 ft	4:33 am ▼ 0.0 ft	5:51 am ▼ 0.1 ft	6:57 am ▼ 0.2 ft	12:59 am ▲ 2.2 ft	2:12 am ▲ 2.3 ft	3:08 am ▲ 2.4 ft

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



Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports By Carolyn Brown Treadon



Underwater Wakulla By Gregg Stanton

This week, we are celebrating the life of one of our members, Chuck Hickman. Chuck crossed the bar on 22 March 2023.

After joining the USCG Auxiliary in 2006, Chuck offered his time, talent and great sense of humor to our Flotilla and members of the community.

During his service he qualified as boat crew, RBS visitor, Vessel Examiner, Instructor, TCT Facilitator, AUXSCE Instructor (search, coordination, execution). He served as a Flotilla Staff Officer for Communications, Public Affairs, Program Visitor and Vessel Examinations and as a Division Staff Officer for Program Visitor.

He became AUXOP in 2021, the year he retired after over 15 years of dedicated service. He was awarded the Auxiliary VE/MDV Service Award, CG Meritorious Team Commendation, the Sustained Service Award, the Auxiliary RBS Insignia, the CG Unit Commendation, the Auxiliary Achievement Award, the Auxiliary PE Service Award, and qual-

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



Chuck Hickman joined the Coast Guard Auxiliary in 2006. He passed away on March 22.

ified for the DHS Outstanding Unit Award. In 2010, He offered his vessel, My Gail, as a

many years.

Fair winds and following seas Chuck, thank you for your service.

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

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

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.

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

Fires in Diving

Kona Divers on the Big Island of Hawaii, just down the street by an hour, had a very serious fire on Friday. Fortunately, the fire was contained to the upstairs of the store, as they had just installed an Oxygen blending facility downstairs. The oxygen cylinders would have been of great concern had the fire reached the fill station. Fire in diving is always a big concern. We know about the challenge with a house fire melting aluminum cylinder not fully filled. They explode before the burst disk pressure is reached, sending shrapnel throughout the building. Kona Divers had plenty of them downstairs too.

For starters, oxygen used to make Nitrox, or while filling oxygen cylinders, creates an elevated risk of fire in a number of ways. If the cylinder contains hydrocarbons left over from a compressor using non oxygen comparable lubricants, a fire can combust with the heat of compression and a spark. Partial pressure filling tanks to make Nitrox, results from first pumping 100% oxygen into the cylinder before topping it off with air. Worst would be when 100% oxygen is pumped directly into a cylinder, not rendered oxygen clean with a nontoxic, degreasing agent. A Nitrox facility in the Florida Keys exploded when one of their flasks, being pumped with oxygen, sent the entire stack flying everywhere, including across the canal and into yachts parked across the canal.

When hoses or fill valves are not made oxygen clean, they too can burn under the right conditions. When the fire happens in the hose, we call it flashing. Take a Q-tip and push it into the hose and see if you can pull out a black residue. All fill whips should be flushed with a degreaser like Crystal Green every few years just to be sure.

Many years ago, an oxygen cylinder was dropped while being filled, resulting in a curse, a clank noise, a whoosh noise and a bang explosion, killing the fill station operator and setting the store on fire. Customers were also injured. The company never fully recovered. Handling pure oxygen is risky. Cylinder pressures above 500 psi elevate the risk of a fire with higher pressure. The industry recommends not filling cylinders over 3000 psi, very slowly (not faster than 100 psi per minute) and cautiously. Containment is highly recommended.

Rebreathers are subject to the risk of fires. One of the cylinders on a rebreather is full of pure oxygen. That gas must flow through a regulator before being fed into the breathing loop. Fires have occurred when a simple interlocking o-ring was replaced, accidentally lubricated with silicone (very fire-prone in the presence of pure oxygen). The damage included melting the regulator, the tank valve and burns to the owner. A similar fire occurred when the tank valve was serviced by a technician unfamiliar with oxygen safety who lubricated it with silicone grease. The fill station operator had a similar explosive fire experience. On a boat in the Red Sea, a group of rebreather divers were assembling their rigs when a diver forgot to open his oxygen cylinder before putting the rig on his back. When he remembered, he reached back and flipped it on quickly. The regulator burst into flames, prompting the diver to swing the rig off his back and on to the deck of this wooded boat. Everyone then jumped overboard, all but one person leaving their rigs on the boat. The sea was flat calm, so everyone watched their expensive rebreathers burn up as rescue boats converged. Someone got a great picture.

Every year someone burns a compressor up explosively while blending Nitrox. We did once, when the monitoring oxygen sensor failed and resulted in too high an oxygen content for the design of the compressor. The resulting bang exploded the safety pressure relief devices, turned the oxygen compatible oil in the crank case black, and scared all of us! Fortunately no further injury or damage happened, but we never used that compressor again. Fires in diving are ever present!

From the Underwater Wakulla archives.

50 years of Stephen Smith Regatta

From Front Page

arguably the most colorful participants in the Regatta.

The windsurfing fleet will be competing in multiple races Saturday and a long-distance race Sunday morning. Catamarans and one design day sailers, and small and large (22 feet and over) monohulls will race over their own courses on Saturday. The public is invited to view the races on Saturday and Sunday. Eat your lunch on the beach - food will be available for purchase at the Regatta Grille!

THE AUCTION

Thousands of dollars' worth of donated items, from jewelry to sailboats will be auctioned at approximately 2 pm on Sunday afternoon. Everyone has a great time as our auctioneers describe the items and ask for bids. You can pick up some great deals while contributing! We encourage generous offers

since all the proceeds will benefit residents in the Big Bend area. There is also an early online auction from April 12-26, 2023 and items can be previewed at (www.smithregatta.com). Just look for the Auction tab at the top of the page.

AN AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY (ACS) BENEFIT

In addition to the many patient services provided to children and adults, the American Cancer Society funds research and public education, which are vital in the effort against this stealthy killer. The ACS receives no government funding, relying exclusively on the generous support of private donations. Thanks to our MANY wonderful supporters and volunteers, over the last five years the Stephen C. Smith Memorial Regatta Foundation, Inc. contributed over \$115,000 to the ACS, most of which stayed in Wakulla, Leon, Jefferson, Gadsden, Mad-

ison, Taylor and other Big Bend Counties, providing services to our area residents.

Contributions may be made by donating items for the auction, in-kind merchandise to support the event, or negotiable funds. To join our team or to donate auction items, contact an event chairman www.smithregatta.com/foundation.cfm. Can't make the Regatta but would still like to help? Then donate directly by going to <http://www.smithregatta.com/donate/> Thank you!

THE FOUNDATION

The Stephen C. Smith Memorial Regatta Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that conducts the regatta annually. The 2023 event organizers are the Shell Point Sailboard Club (SPSC), the American Cancer Society (ACS), the Apalachee Bay Yacht Club (ABYC) as well as numerous businesses and individuals.

Are your friends good for you?



By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

Are you hanging out with someone (or a crowd of someones) that isn't good for you? If you're having trouble answering this question,

perhaps a different one would give you some perspective: How would you feel if your children grew up to be just like the people you choose to spend time with?

If you continue to hang out with these people (or a similar type), what kind of person will you be a year from now? Five years from now? Will their influence help you become a better individual, spouse or parent? If you continue to spend time with these people, will it help you be effective at work, a blessing in your church

or a leader in your community?

Psalm 1:1 (ESV) talks about avoiding ungodly influence: "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers."

Do you want to emulate the people you spend most of your time with? Or are they simply a means to momentarily escape from life's pressures—at the expense of your integrity? Do they support your convictions and goals, or do they mock and ridicule what

you know to be true and good?

Sometimes friends may offer wrong advice, even though they have good intentions. They might help you make up a story to tell your boss that covers up the real reason you missed work, or encourage you to comfort yourself with an unwholesome activity. If we're not careful, during a weak moment, any of us can give in to ungodly counsel.

Poor influence can be subtle. The more we listen to dishonorable advice and take part

in harmful activities, the more our thinking becomes clouded. The next thing we know, our desires and goals derail. Rather than feeling blessed, as our verse mentions, we feel regret and disappointment. Not only about the way our life is going but also in ourselves.

This doesn't have to be the end of our story. Beginning today, with God's help, we can choose better friends. If this is an area you need help with, consider befriending someone you respect at church. Or

become a volunteer at Habitat for Humanity or some other worthwhile organization.

By spending time with people you admire, you'll form solid, healthy friendships with people you'd be proud to emulate—and pleased to have your children emulate.

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.

Raise them in faith



By **CHERYL CRUCE**

My earliest memories of Sunday are of ruffled dresses and shiny black patent leather shoes with a side buckle. Mom and Dad would spend the morning tending to their brood of young ones and setting a table of cheese grits and homemade biscuits for breakfast. Amazingly, our parents were impeccably dressed as we loaded up in the 1965 Comet and drove to the

church a short distance from home.

Lakeside Baptist Church consistently glistened with the look of fresh white paint. The stately old oaks that shaded the parking lot welcomed members and visitors alike. Each of us would make our way to the Sunday school classes until it was time for services in the sanctuary. The sanctuary was reverent and whisper quiet as friends greeted each other and families gathered together. The piano and the voices raised in song filled the building with a melody of joy.

Lakeside was my childhood church, the place where I learned of faith. I still have the Bible they presented to me

in 1968. There is something special about those memories that linger in the recesses of my being, continuing to teach me. Today, when I see young ones in church, I wonder what memories they will gather from their childhood church. Will their memories sustain their faith in the years to come?

Recently, our young people came forward for a youth moment during services. After we shared a few moments speaking from the scripture, they returned to the congregation to be with their families. However, one precious child asked if she could stay a little longer. She remained by my side during the joys and concerns of the people. Then we sat on the

step behind the altar as we prayed for the needs of the people. After this, she happily rejoined her family.

Scripture teaches us we are to raise a child in faith so that when they are old, they will remain in faith (Proverbs 22:6). We are also taught that we are not to anger or provoke our children to anger but raise them in love and the knowledge of God (Ephesians 6:4). Even so, we see a continuous trend of the absence of children and young families in our churches today. Our faith is more than tradition; it is our heritage. It is to be nurtured and passed down to our children.

There are so many theories tossed around

about the downfall of society, and many of these may be correct. Nonetheless, at the core of each is the lack of instructions and faith we have neglected to give to our children. Our children are our legacy; our responsibility is to teach them the ways of scripture so their faith will be unshakable.

I often recall picture-perfect days of my youth when we went to church, even though I am sure they were anything but perfect. Our memories have a way of letting go of those unpleasantnesses of life. I know Sunday mornings will always be the most challenging morning as you get your family ready for church. Something will break, break-

fast will burn, or some shirt will need pressing; that is the nature of the beast. Charles Swindoll said, "Each day of our lives, we make deposits in the memory banks of our children." What deposits are we making today? Are we raising our children in faith?

Psalm 127:3-5 Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior, are children born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them.

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

OUT TO PASTOR

Has anyone seen my marbles?



By **JAMES SNYDER**

Whenever a week goes by without any hitches, I have learned that something somewhere is wrong.

I have lived long enough to realize that problems are a part of life. Most of mine were created by me. I guess I'm a great creator in that regard. I don't think there is any reward for that kind of creativity.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is exceptionally educated in this area of my mistakes. She could receive the Nobel Peace Prize. She can recognize one of my mistakes two days before it even happens. I don't

know how she does that and probably never will find out.

Whenever I screw something up, she always responds, "Have you lost your marbles?"

One morning last week, I got up before The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and went out and got my coffee, I saw the kitties out on the porch looking in, so I opened the door, and they came marching in. What a great time they had together. As I was going to feed them, I heard a familiar voice down the hallway, "Have you lost your marbles? Get those cats out of here."

Of course, I didn't have to get the cats out because they ran for fear when they saw her coming down the hallway. I just stood there looking at the floor, trying to find my missing marbles.

If I had more appreciation for my marbles, maybe, just maybe, I would not be getting in

as much trouble with The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Her obsession with marbles is beyond my ability to comprehend.

If I still have one or two marbles left maybe I could figure out how I can get back at her.

We had a doctor's appointment last week, so she drove her Sissy Van, and I sat over on the passenger side. It's hard for me to get in and out of that Sissy Van, but it saves me gas money for my truck.

As we were going down the street, I looked at her and said, "Have you lost your marbles? You missed the street we were supposed to turn on."

Inside I was laughing hilariously, but she did not share in that. She just looked at me and flashed one of her quirky smiles.

I sure do like it when a plan comes together.

One morning this week, I got up rather late

and walked out to the living room in my pajamas. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage looked at me and said, "Have you lost your marbles? We have a breakfast appointment in about 10 minutes across town."

I had no idea, or at least I forgot about it, and maybe she was right; I did lose my marbles on this one.

I was thinking recently about how my life would change if I had all the marbles I lost. So what would my life be like at that point?

The other day as she was coming in the front door from a shopping trip I said to her, "Have you lost your marbles?"

Looking at me strangely, she said, "What are you talking about?"

Smiling back at her, I said, "Nothing, I just wanted to know if you had all your marbles together."

She didn't think that was funny and scowled at me and took the shop-

ping bag into the kitchen.

If anybody has marbles, I think she does. So my question is simply, what is she doing with all those marbles?

I think I have one or two marbles left, and I was thinking of a plan for her birthday. I've been putting a lot of thought into it, and I'm almost done with the thinking aspect and about ready to put it all together.

I was in Wal-Mart the other day, and walking down one of the aisles, I saw something that got my attention. There on the shelf were bags of marbles. It was the first time I ever saw marbles for sale. When I saw them, it gave me an idea. So I bought a bag of marbles.

This year I plan to give her a special birthday gift. It will be a box filled with marbles, wrapped in red paper with a lovely bow on the top.

When she opens it, I expect she will say, "Have you lost your marbles?"

I will respond, "No, my dear, I found your marbles."

I could not help but think of a Bible verse in Isaiah 55:8-9, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

God has never lost His "marbles." God shares His thoughts with us in the word of God.

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

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.

First Baptist Church CRAWFORDVILLE

Come & See **3086 Crawfordville Highway**
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850-926-7896 **Sunday Mornings**
Come & Worship **www.crawfordvillefbc.com** **at 11 am**
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Fr. Paul Raj, HGN • Den. Dave Harris
Director of Music & Choir - Jeff Cook
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Wednesday: Mass at 7:00 pm
1st Saturday: Adoration and Confessions at 8:30 am
1st Saturday: Mass at 9:30 am.
Every Saturday: Confessions at 4:30 pm
Live Streaming - Sundays
Facebook - Seas Parish

Cemetery lots and **850-509-7630**
Cremin spaces available. 850-745-8359

or the Church Office at:

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



Willard 'Will' Jerome Swanson

Willard (Will) Jerome Swanson was reunited with his beloved Alice on the morning of March 25th, 2023, after a separation of 10 weeks.

Born in his parents' home in Pierson, Florida, nearly 91 years ago, he never failed to tell friends and family of the blessed life he lived. He was the

youngest of five children, and is predeceased by his father Stanley Carl Adolpus Swanson, his mother, Lula Marion Ashcraft Anderson, his brother Edward, and his sisters Mary Orr, Anna Anderson, Verna Kingery, and great-grandson Price Schaub.

He grew up in a very different Florida, and marvelled at the life he lived, first as a high school senior who lied about his age to join the National Guard with his friends, then following his older brother Edward as a Naval recruit after graduation. While stationed in San Diego, Will proposed to Alice, and they were married at the North Island Chapel there. Eventually Will left the Navy to join the U.S. Air Force, and he was based at McDill AFB, where children Verna and Richard were born. Eventually, he joined the U.S. Coast Guard and completed his military career of 22 years with them.

That career took him to Morocco and post-war Japan, to Iceland, to lighthouses and strawberry fields in Michigan, to Cape May, N.J. and the U.S.S. Unimac, a sub-chaser keeping tabs on the Russians along the East Coast, to his retirement in his beloved Florida. Settling in Eau Gallie (Melbourne), he finally got to attend college on the GI Bill, earning an elementary education degree from UCF.

Along with Alice, he was an active member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church, and was a proud Mason. He was well-known among generations of neighborhood children as someone who fixed their bicycles and always kept a supply of bike parts on hand for that purpose. He never met a child or an animal he didn't care about, and believed in the brotherhood of all mankind.

Will is survived by his children, Verna Brock (Ed), Wakulla Station; Richard Swanson (Kent); Chicago; and Kim Schuab (Dennis), Lake Leelanau, MI; grandchildren Alan Brock, St. Pete; Anna Simmons (Josh) and Eden Rodgers (Brian) Crawfordville; Emma Smith (Matt) Grand Ridge, Katie Jo Gill (Nathan), St. Claire, MI; Dean Schaub (Amelia) Lake Leelanau; Derek Schaub (Olivia), Interlochen, MI; Dylan Schaub (Jordyn) Interlochen, MI; and Dustin Schaub, Suttons Bay, MI. He also has nineteen great-grandchildren: Brennan and Avery Simmons; Harrison and Harper Rodgers; Brooke, Lana and Kara Smith; Gracie Gill; Carson, Liam, Izabelle, and Penelope Schaub; Elijah and Easton Schaub; and Navy Schuab.

A memorial service will be held at the National Cemetery in Tallahassee, on Friday, April 28th, at noon, to be followed by a gathering and refreshments at the Piney Z clubhouse.

DEATH NOTICES

• **Rena Denise Cooley**, 60, of Crawfordville, died April 5, 2023.

• **Juanita L. Moore**, 83, of Crawfordville died Friday April 7, 2023.

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

BEREAVEMENT COLUMN

How to manage work performance during bereavement



By **TRACY RENEE LEE**

The death of a loved one is never easy and for many, it can be one of the most difficult and emotionally taxing experiences of life. The loss of a family member, friend, or even a pet can be particularly difficult to cope with and can have a dramatic impact on our ability to focus and perform in the workplace.

As such, it is important to acknowledge and understand the grieving process and to provide support to those in the workplace who are struggling with bereavement.

GRIEF BRIEF 172

Work I - Performance

One's work performance usually suffers when one is grief-stricken.

en.

This is normal, and one should see their usual level of accuracy and accomplishment return as healing takes place.

Unfortunately, not all workplaces understand the length and depth one might suffer during recovery.

One may be a highly functioning person with minimal loss experience.

In such a situation, a high functioning individual might temporarily suffer inaccuracy and dysfunctionality.

This can prove frustrating for the survivor and his/her workplace.

If this is the case, one might ask a co-worker, or an assistant, to assist temporarily by scanning one's work for any discrepancies.

As one works through grief recovery, one's level of work should return to a normal performance and accuracy level.

The death of a loved one is a difficult experience for anyone, but for those in the workplace, it can be particularly hard to manage and to maintain a satisfactory level

of work performance. It is important to remember that bereavement is an emotional process and that reactions to the loss of a loved one can be unpredictable and varied. People are likely to experience a range of emotions such as sadness, guilt, anger, and even relief. It is also important to remember that everyone grieves differently and that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to managing work performance during bereavement.

When it comes to managing work performance during bereavement, it is important to be mindful of the grieving process and to provide support as needed. Employers should be understanding and accommodating to employees who are dealing with a loss and should provide a safe work environment in which employees can openly express their feelings. Furthermore, employers should be willing to offer flexible working arrangements, such as part-time hours or remote working, in order to allow employees to man-

age their commitments and to take time off when needed.

It is at this time that employers and employees alike, should be aware of workload. One should consider lightening the workload temporarily or until the employee feels fit to return to their usual amount of assignments and tasks. During early onset of bereavement, employees may be preoccupied with their loss and may find that their attention is less focused. If bereavement is not adequately addressed, complicated or prolonged grief may become a reality.

GRIEF BRIEF 173

Workload II

The recently bereaved may find they stare into space, make mistakes, and feel shortly fused.

This can be a difficult time to return to a full workload.

If you are required, or find it necessary, to return to work soon after your loss, you might consider proofing your efforts before calling a

project complete.

Over time, you should see your work performance return to your usual level of accomplishment.

Employees should also be encouraged to take advantage of any available resources such as counseling services or bereavement leave. It is important to remember that grief is not a linear process and that it can take time to work through the emotions that come with a loss. Taking time to focus on self-care, such as engaging in activities that help to reduce stress or taking time to process the loss, can be beneficial for both mental and physical health.

Grieving the loss of a loved one can be a difficult and emotionally draining experience, and it can have a significant impact on work performance. It is important to acknowledge and understand the grieving process and to provide support and understanding to those in the workplace who are struggling with bereavement. By

providing flexible working arrangements, access to resources, and a safe space to express feelings, employers can create an environment that is supportive and understanding of those dealing with a loss.

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."

Discussion of Jody Kilgore's murder

Who killed Jody Kilgore? The unsolved murder of lifelong resident Jody Kilgore was the topic of discussion at Palaver Tree Theater on Friday, April 7. Kilgore was found dead at his home in 2014, having been stabbed to death. Palaver Tree's Herb Donaldson hosted the program on progress the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office is making to solve the crime and bring Jody's killer to justice. At right, Herb Donaldson, Sheriff Jared Miller, Gladys Kilgore (Jody's mom), and Detective Lt. Brett Surace. Contact the sheriff's office at 850-745-7100 if you have any information on this case. (Photo by Gerald Brown)



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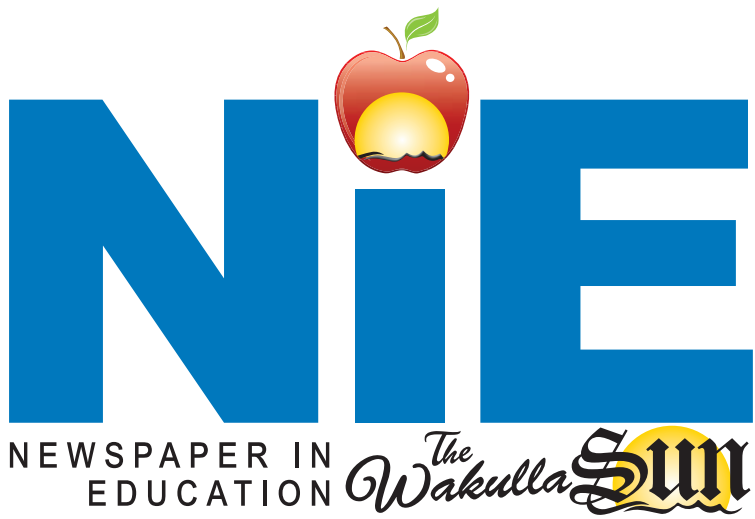


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USE THE NEWS

1. To the Moon!

With the Artemis II space program, the United States is making plans to fly astronauts back to the moon for the first time in 50 years. Last week America's NASA space agency announced the four astronauts who will make up the first crew of an Artemis moon mission in November 2024. The crew will include three American astronauts and an astronaut from the Canadian Space Agency of the neighboring nation of Canada. Commander of the crew will be G. Reid Wiseman, 47, a captain in the U.S. Navy who previously served as NASA's chief astronaut and spent 165 days in orbit aboard the International Space Station in 2014. Pilot of the mission will be Victor J. Glover, Jr., 46, the first Black man assigned as a crew member on the space station who spent 168 days on the orbiter and participated in four spacewalks. Mission specialists on the flight will be NASA astronaut Christina Koch and Jeremy Hansen of the Canadian Space Agency. Koch, 44, holds the record for the longest single spaceflight by a woman — 328 days — and performed the first three all-women spacewalks with astronaut Jessica Meir in 2019 and 2020. Hansen, 47, is a fighter pilot and one of four active Canadian astronauts. He will be making his first space flight as part of the Artemis II mission. The Artemis II mission to the moon requires a lot of planning by the NASA space agency. Other activities also require careful planning. In the newspaper or online, find and closely read a story about an event or activity that interests you. Pretend you are a planner for this event. Write out five things that need to be carefully planned in advance for the event to be successful.

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

2. Special Lullaby

When children are frightened or upset, music often can help them calm down and feel better. That's why mothers around the world sing lullaby songs to their children to help them relax at bedtime. In the Middle East nation of Syria, a special lullaby is being used to help children deal with the fear and stress of living in a country at war. Life in Syria has been disrupted by a civil war within the nation since 2011, and children have had to grow up hearing the sounds of bombs, gun-

shots, warplanes and soldiers fighting with each other. On top of that, a huge earthquake hit Syria in February, destroying many neighborhoods and towns. To help children deal with the stress of all these events, Syrian radio stations have started broadcasting the special lullaby "Close Your Eyes" every evening to help children across the country fall asleep. The lullaby was written and recorded by Syrian singer Ghaliaa Chaker as part of the Frequencies of Peace lullaby project, CNN News reports. The 24-year-old singer recorded the lullaby in the Arabic language spoken in Syria. It is broadcast every night at 8 p.m. so that it can be heard in homes, neighborhoods and refugee camps from radios and from speakers mounted on top of cars and trucks. Music can help children calm down and feel better when they are frightened or upset. In the newspaper or online, find and closely read a story about a situation that could make children up-

set in some way. Choose a song you know or like that you think would calm the children in the situation and make them feel better. Write a paragraph telling why you chose this song and how it would help.

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

3. Deep, Deep Fish

The world's oceans are home to 20,000 species of fish, and they come in all shapes, sizes and colors. They also live in drastically different depths and temperatures. Off the coast of the Asian nation of Japan, scientists recently took videos of fish living deeper in the Pacific Ocean than ever seen before. A team of scientists captured video of a young snailfish swimming near the bottom of an ocean trench more than 27,000 feet (5 miles) below the surface, CNN News reported.

Previously, the deepest snailfish ever spotted in the Pacific was at 25,000 feet. In addition to setting a record for filming, the scientists captured two snailfish at a deeper depth than ever before in the Pacific Ocean. The two fish were captured at a depth of more than 26,000 feet, the first time any fish had been captured in the Pacific below that depth. While snailfish also live in shallower water, young fish in the species stay as deep as possible to avoid being eaten by bigger predators. The world record holder for depth among fish is a species of cusk-eel observed and collected in the Puerto Rico Trench in the Atlantic Ocean at a depth of 27,455 feet. In the newspaper or online, find and closely read a story about a discovery such as this. Use what you read to design a poster or artwork showing what was discovered, how it was discovered and why that is important to scientists and other people.

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.

5. A Giant Egg Tradition

The European nation of France is known for its cooking feats and achievements. But every year around the Easter holiday, a small town there does something that is a tradition like no other. The town of Bessières collects 15,000 eggs, cracks them into a giant frying pan and creates an enormous omelet to feed to residents and visitors gathered in the town square. All for free. The giant omelet is the featured attraction of a yearly festival established by a local food organization that calls itself, not surprisingly, the World Brotherhood of the Knights of the Giant Omelet. The festival, which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, features a parade and musical performances along with the omelet and attracts visitors from all over the world. It is quite a show. At 6 a.m. on the Monday after Easter, chefs start cracking eggs and mixing them

with giant amounts of salt, pepper and French herbs, the Washington Post newspaper reports. Then a dozen gallons of duck fat is placed in a 13-foot frying pan that weighs more than a ton and has a handle made from a telephone pole. The omelet is cooked over a wood bonfire and then served with French bread to those who have gathered. "It's a story of friendship," the president of the omelet brotherhood said. "It's a story of sharing." Many communities have spring traditions like the omelet festival in the town of Bessières. In the newspaper or online, find and closely read stories about a spring festival in your community or state. Use what you read to write a letter to a friend, inviting him or her to attend the festival with you. Be sure to list the attractions included in the festival and how they would be fun to do together.

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



THESE AMPHIBIANS ARE CARNIVORES, WHICH MEANS THEY NEED MEAT TO SURVIVE.

ANSWER: FROGS

How they SAY that in...

- ENGLISH:** Frog
- SPANISH:** Rana
- ITALIAN:** Rana
- FRENCH:** Grenouille
- GERMAN:** Frosch

Creative Coloring

Celebrate frog habitats. Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- **1865:** PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN DIES AFTER BEING SHOT THE PREVIOUS EVENING BY JOHN WILKES BOOTH.
- **1912:** THE BRITISH PASSENGER LINER RMS TITANIC SINKS IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC AT 2:20 A.M., TWO HOURS AND FORTY MINUTES AFTER HITTING AN ICEBERG.
- **1947:** JACKIE ROBINSON BREAKS THE COLOR BARRIER IN BASEBALL.

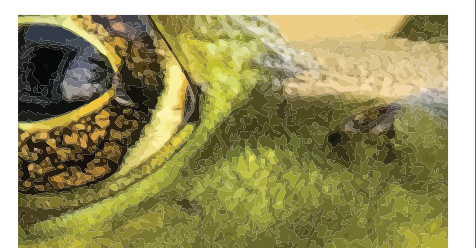


TADPOLE

the larva of an amphibian, such as a frog or toad



FROGS HAVE LUNGS AND MUST COME OUT OF WATER TO BREATHE.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: FROG FACE

SOYFOODS WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- AMINO ACIDS
- BEAN
- BEVERAGES
- BUTTER
- EDAMAME
- EMULSIFY
- FIRM
- ISOFLAVONES
- LECITHIN
- MISO
- MOISTURE
- NUTRITION
- OIL
- PHYTOESTROGEN
- PRESSED
- PROTEIN
- SAUCE
- SILKEN
- SOYBEAN
- SOY FLOUR
- STABILIZER
- TEMPEH
- TEXTURE
- TOFU

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

CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. Atomic mass unit
4. Criticize mightily
7. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
10. Stand in for
11. Everyone has one
12. Brew
13. Rectify
15. Popular Dodge truck model
16. Beef or chicken intestine
19. Satisfy
21. Of a particular people or localized region
23. Movements in quick tempos
24. Able to pay one's debts
25. Fleshy bird beak covering
26. Dueling sword
27. Helps
30. Court is in it
34. Touch lightly
35. Airborne (abbr.)
36. Of one
41. Baked good
45. Jai __, sport
46. About aviation

47. Low oval mound
50. Rugged mountain ranges
54. Compel to do something
55. A way to carve
56. Sao __, city in Brazil
57. Mustachioed actor
59. American Idol runner-up Clay
60. A way to soak
61. Car mechanics group
62. Born of
63. Time zone
64. Sea eagle
65. Even's opposite

CLUES DOWN

1. Sharp mountain ridge
2. Thin, fibrous cartilages
3. Provides new details
4. Muscular weaknesses
5. Ottoman military title
6. Banes
7. Horse-riding seats
8. Arms of a shirt

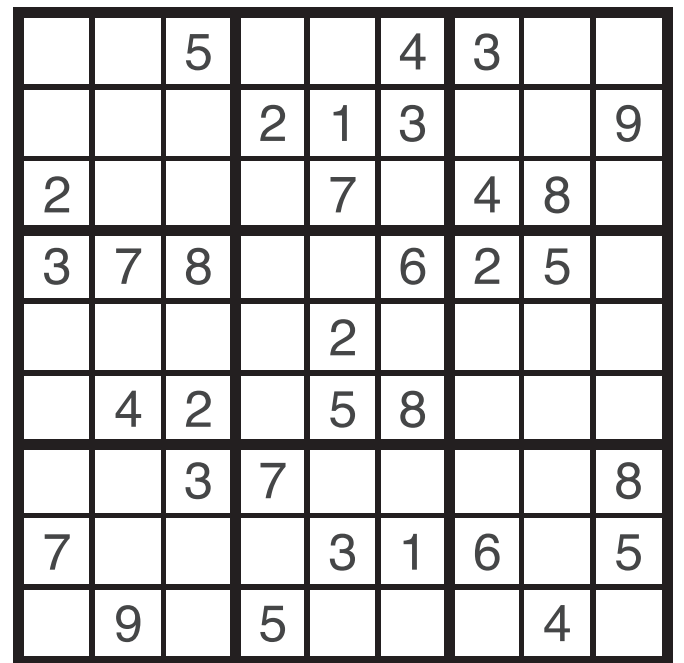
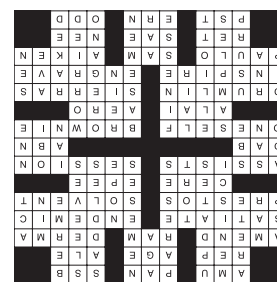
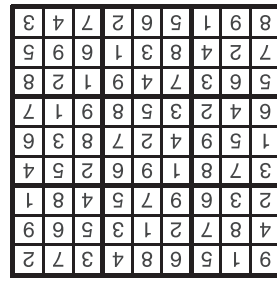
9. Narrow path along a road edge
13. Viper
14. Disfigure
17. Variety of Chinese language
18. Portray in a show
20. Wrongful act
22. No (slang)
27. State of agitation
28. __ Diego
29. One point east of due south
31. 007's creator
32. The NBA's Toppin
33. Midway between north and northeast
37. Examples
38. __ Gould, actor
39. The habitat of wild animals
40. Artful subtlety
41. Infielders
42. Keep under control
43. Herb
44. Distressed
47. A way to go down
48. Type of acid
49. Take by force
51. Collected fallen leaves
52. Shout of welcome or farewell
53. Monetary unit
58. Swiss river

WORD SCRAMBLE

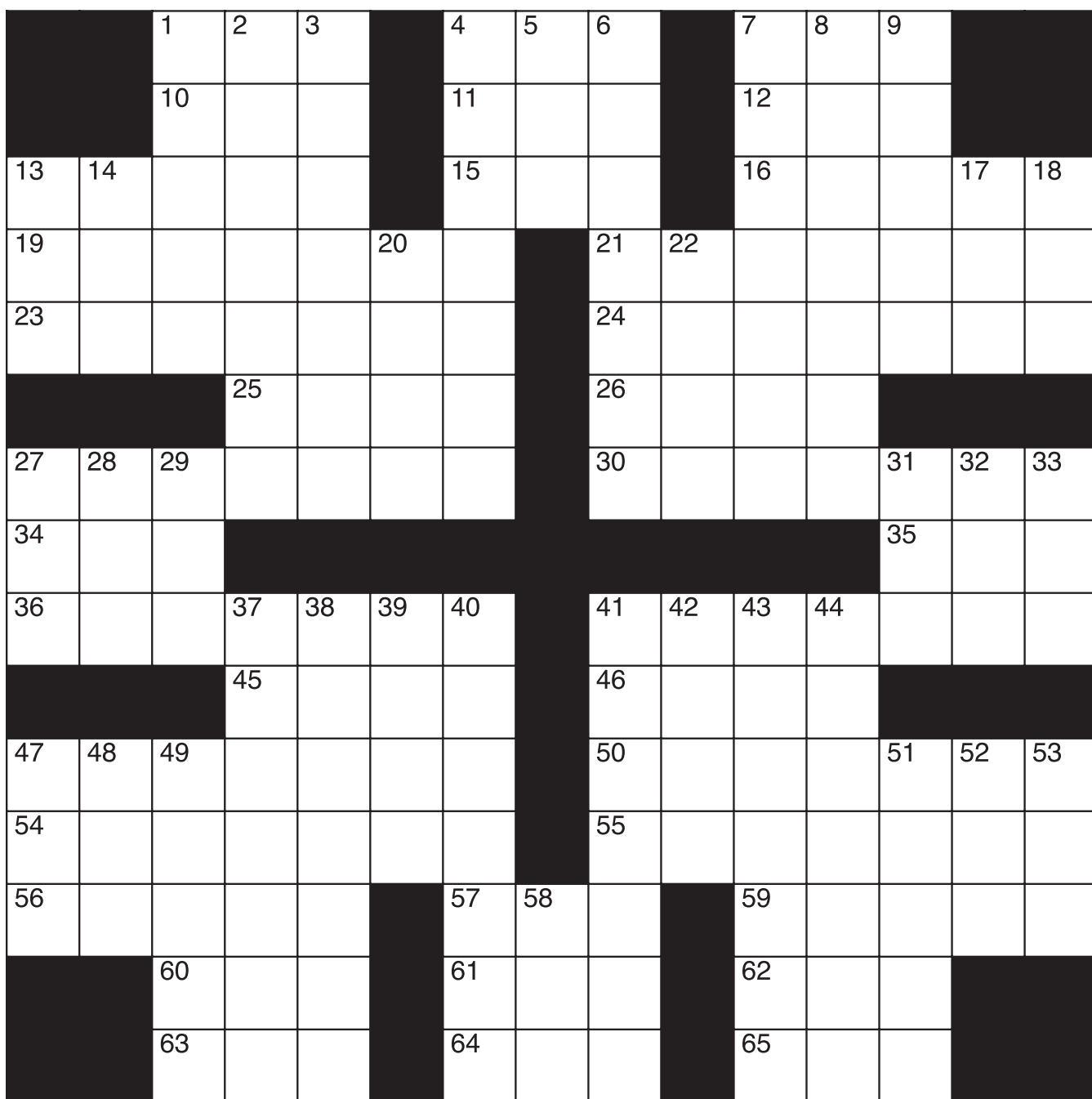
Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to finance.

C D T I R E

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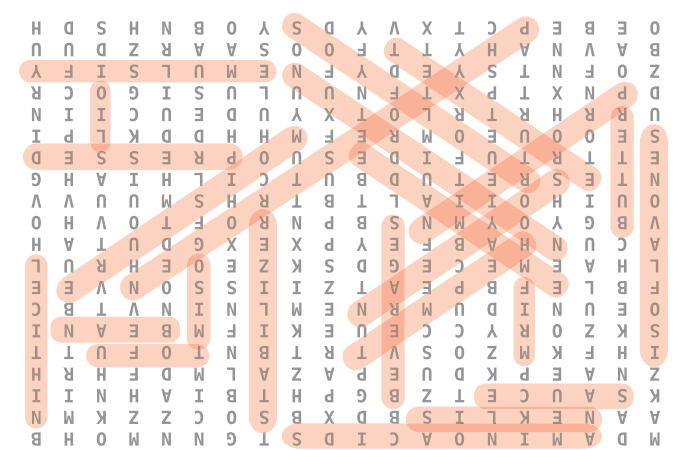
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RMS baseball is conference runner-up

By **KYLE MARKS**
RMS Coach

Riversprings Middle School baseball finished the year battling Suwannee for the top spot in this year's conference. Suwannee would eventually pull away late to win back-to-back championships and an undefeated season.

RMS finishes the year at 13-6, their only losses in March coming from Suwannee.

The Bears' success this year came from the leadership they had on the mound. Kendal Wimes, Brent Wells, Brody Johnson, Landon Phillips, and Jayce Hoffman were the leaders on the mound with a combined 1.716 era. Johnson led the team in with a .792 era. Wimes led the team with 5 wins while Johnson and Wells each earned 3. The Bears' offense was led by Wells who hit .409 and crossed the plate 15 times.

The baseball team says goodbye to four vocal, 8th grade leaders: Brent Wells, Brody Johnson, Landon Lawrence and Wesson Stanley.

"I would like to thank these boys for leading this team vocally, physically, and spiritually this season," said Coach Marks. "Your leadership and grit will be missed. Thank you to their parents, grandparents, and family for the time and effort they poured into this baseball program."



The Riversprings Middle School baseball team were conference runners-up this year.

War Eagles win 2 of 3 games



By **KEITH ANDERSON**
WHS Baseball Coach

The War Eagles won 2 out of 3 games to im-

prove their record to 9-8 this week.

Wakulla High School started the week again in dramatic fashion beating Leon (11-4) 11-10 at home. Leon came in as the number 2 ranked team in the area.

The War Eagles got a stellar performance from reliever Jesse Nazworth. He came in to start the 2nd inning down with the War Ea-

gles down 6-0 to throw 3 shutout innings against the Lions and got the win on the mound striking out 4 with 0 walks.

Gavin Estep came on to relieve Nazworth in the 5th to preserve the win throwing 3 solid innings also. Second baseman Reid Joyner led the offense going 3-4 with a double. Josiah Pierini, Brady Crum, Michael Hurley, Parker

Lawhon, Colby Zinser (2 RBIs), and Owen Klees also added a hit and an RBI.

The second game of the week, the War Eagles dropped a game to Madison County 11-3. Madison County's ace kept the Wakulla bats down only allowing three hits on the night.

Parker Lawhon, Colby Zinser, and Owen Klees each scattered a

singles in the contest. Brady Crum added 2 RBIs. Reliever Garrett Veltkamp had a strong appearance pitching the last 3 innings of the game allowing only 2 hits and striking out 7, while walking 1.

On Friday, April 7th, the War Eagles traveled to district foe Godby. The War Eagles bats came back alive pound-

ing 13 hits, winning

14-1. Starting pitcher Jesse Nazworth threw 4 innings, giving up only 1 hit striking out 4. Reid Joyner was 2-2, Josiah Pierini was 2-4 with a double, and Colby Zinser was 2-3 with 2 doubles and 3 RBIs. Hayden Wright, Parker Lawhon, Michael Hurley, Owen Klees, and Sam Bruce all had a hit a piece.

Weekly Roundup: Back to the elections drawing board

By **RYAN DAILEY**
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — Florida's elections in 2020 and 2022 were heralded as smooth-sailing affairs, but that isn't stopping lawmakers from going back to the drawing board and looking at re-vamping elections laws.

As lawmakers crossed the midway point of the 2023 legislative session this week, a bill began moving in the Florida Senate that would make wide-ranging changes in elections laws, including putting new restrictions on voter-registration organizations, creating a new crime for harassing elections workers and relaxing campaign-finance reporting rules.

The elections package (SPB 7050) got a green light Tuesday from the Republican-controlled Senate Ethics and Elections Committee in a party-line vote. The 98-page bill was released a day earlier, which led Democrats on the committee to question what they called a rush in taking it up.

When asked why the bill hadn't been vetted earlier, committee Chairman Danny Burgess, R-Zephyrhills, attributed the delay to "prudence," adding that lawmakers have plenty of time to scrutinize the measure during the second half of the 60-day session. Calling the proposal "very technical and mechanical," Burgess said the bill addresses changes in 43 sections of elections laws.

"Collectively, I think that enhanced our responsibility to try to get it right. ... So making sure all those machinations are working is really important, and I think prudence is kind of the operating word," Burgess said.

But Sen. Tina Polsky, D-Boca Raton, pushed

back.

"This process was really pretty awful. If this bill was so benign, we would have seen it a lot earlier," she said.

The bill deals with what Burgess described as "issues that arise" with third-party groups that register voters.

The groups currently have to register with the state. But under the proposal, they would have to re-register after every general election. The bill also would require the groups to provide receipts to people filling out voter-registration applications and would shorten a timeframe from 14 days to 10 days for the groups to deliver voter-registration applications to elections officials.

The proposal could lead to third-degree felony charges if people collect voter-registration applications for the groups and keep personal information about voters.

Brad Ashwell, state director of All Voting is Local Action, told the Senate panel that changes proposed in the bill would have a "chilling effect" on registration organizations.

"These organizations are providing a service to the community. Instead of further penalizing and discouraging them, perhaps you could focus on creating more obligations for the state to register voters," Ashwell said.

ABORTION CHANGES MOVE FORWARD

In what would be a monumental change, the Senate on Monday passed a proposal aimed at preventing abortions after six weeks of pregnancy.

The Republican-controlled Senate voted 26-13 to approve the bill (SB 300), which will go to the House, where it is expect-

ed to pass. It comes after the U.S. Supreme Court last year overturned the landmark Roe v. Wade abortion-rights ruling and left abortion decisions to the states.

The bill spurred heavy debate on the Senate floor, while protesters in the Senate gallery interrupted the proceedings several times by shouting in opposition.

Bill sponsor Erin Grall, R-Vero Beach, said the bill supports a "culture of life" and that fetal heartbeats can be detected at

six weeks of pregnancy.

"We have to rely on science, and what we know is that there is a heartbeat, there is a human life that exists, and we are either going to stand for life or not," Grall said. "And this life deserves protecting."

But Democrats said the bill would effectively ban abortion in Florida, in part because many women don't know they are pregnant at six weeks.

Senate Minority Leader Lauren Book, D-Plantation, said the Senate

was choosing to force an "extremist agenda" and described the issue as a war.

"We must all take up the fight, because this was never about life," Book said. "It is and it always has been about control."

STORY OF THE WEEK

Midway through the 2023 legislative session, Republican lawmakers Tuesday began advancing a sweeping elections package that would impose further

restrictions on voter-registration groups, create a new crime for harassing elections workers and relax campaign-finance reporting rules.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Every change I've seen in my five years in the Legislature has been intentional to hurt one party over the other, so there's just not a lot of trust here." — Sen. Tina Polsky, D-Boca Raton, on a new elections package.

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