



## Prom night photos at Azalea Park

Page 1



Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday



Sunny  
Hi: 83° Lo: 64° 66%  
Sunrise 7:05 AM  
Sunset 8:07 PM

Friday



Partly Cloudy  
Hi: 81° Lo: 65° 40%  
Sunrise 7:04 AM  
Sunset 8:08 PM

Saturday



Scattered Thunderstorms  
Hi: 77° Lo: 54° 54%  
Sunrise 7:03 AM  
Sunset 8:09 PM



\$1  
One Section

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Our 2nd Year 16th Issue  
Thursday, April 20, 2023

# Pitching Opportunity Park

Economic Development Council, N.G. Wade and partners hold a luncheon to promote commercial development at the site

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN  
Editor

About 100 people attended a luncheon at SunBlest Gardens to hear about development opportunities at Opportunity Park, Wakulla's industrial development site in the northeast corner of the county.

The event was organized by the Economic Development Council and focused on commercial realtors from Tallahassee, though numerous local realtors also attended.

Speakers included Rich Exline, vice president of NG Wade, which owns Opportunity Park. Exline said he is ready to negotiate to sell some property.

County Administrator David Edwards said Wakulla County has cut through the red tape for commercial growth and said the county is "pro-development."

Edwards listed off a string of amenities offered



About 100 people attended a luncheon on Wednesday, April 12, at SunBlest plant nursery, which is located near Opportunity Park, to hear from Wakulla officials on development. Caleb Wingerden of SunBlest addresses the crowd.

in Wakulla County: millage is relatively low at 8.2 mills; new \$150 million infrastructure improve-

ments, especially sewage is in the works; work on renovating the golf course; improvements to

parks and boat ramps; and a bike trail in which people can go from the Capitol to Mashes Sands

and go on to Sopchoppy. "We're doing it without breaking the bank," Edwards said.

He also noted that Wakulla's main industry is home building, acknowledging that some people don't like to hear that. Some locations have been stymied by a lack of housing, but Edwards noted Wakulla produces about 500 homes a year and has plenty of inventory.

At the same time, with 68% of the county as public lands, it means only some 30% can be developed, he said.

Edwards added that schools, tourism and aquaculture are important in the county - as is Opportunity Park.

Susan Payne Turner of Prime Meridian Bank which provided lunch noted how much has changed since the project first began when she was president of the Chamber of Commerce: Ted and Thelma Gaupin, two main drivers of Opportunity Park, are gone, along with former NG Wade President Sandy McDaniel.

## SPECIAL OLYMPICS TORCH RUN



Law enforcement officers, above, escorted the Special Olympics torch from the sheriff's office to the courthouse on Friday, April 14. A special ceremony celebrating local Special Olympics athletes and their accomplishments was held on the courthouse grounds. Sharon Scherbarth, right, Wakulla's Special Olympics director, and Undersheriff Billy Jones spoke to crowd. (Photos by William Snowden)



## ST. MARKS

# Facing financial shortfall, city to stop fixing grinder pumps

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN  
Editor

The St. Marks City Commission is facing a \$94,000 shortfall because of utility expenses, and warned residents at a meeting last week that if they don't take action to stem the losses, it could mean the end of the city.

As part of that, city commissioners proposed ending the city's "maintenance, repair and replacement of grinder pumps." An ordinance that is to be advertised and brought back before the city commission for two public hearings.

The city commission also voted to retain City Manager Zoe Mansfield, albeit with a reduction in pay reflected in reducing her and other city staff to a four-day work week for a savings of \$18,000.

City Attorney Ron Mowrey announced he intends to retire at the end of June and the city will need to find a new attorney. The city commission voted to retain Mowrey and Mansfield in their positions on a month-to-month basis. (Mansfield also announced her intention to retire next year, in September 2024.)

City commissioners indicated there had been a meeting with County Administrator David Edwards to look at the county taking over the city's sewer service.

As City Commissioner Dan Albers noted, St. Marks has five lift stations, one of which has been upgraded at a cost of \$15,000. The other four needed work as well.

Mansfield added that, if the county did take over sewer service in the city, St. Marks could close down the two sewer plants it operates and save a considerable expense there.

The proposed change with the grinder pumps, Albers noted the city has spent \$31,200 this year on repairs. "We gotta do something," he said.

Citizen Billy Bishop suggested adding a grinder pump fee of, say, \$25 per month for each account. Bishop said it was unfair that the expense for the pumps should fall completely on some citizens and not others.

Bishop claimed that, when the sewer system was being installed, half of the city residents

# 'Rivers beneath us' program set

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN  
Editor

Dr. Chris Werner is scheduled to speak next week about Wakulla's unique cavern system and its interconnectedness.

Werner is a member of the Wakulla Karst Plain Project and its science director for the past 20 years.

Werner noted that it was in 2007 that the connection was made between Leon Sinks and the Wakulla Springs cave system.

The latest discovery



Dr. Chris Werner

**Rivers Beneath Us, a look at the underground Wakulla Springs cave system by Dr. Chris Werner, will be held Tuesday, April 25, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Wakulla Environmental Institute. It's free.**

in January of the link between Chip's Hole and Wakulla cave system puts together a map of underwater caverns 45 miles long.

Werner said his presentation will focus on how the systems are intercon-

nected around the county - and how residents may want to look at balancing development and economic growth and still protect the water resources.

He noted that while the enormous cave system is inaccessible

to most people, just because you can't see it doesn't mean it isn't there.

Others who use the local resources - hunters, fishers, hikers - need to know how the water in the cave system affects those resources.

Turn to Page 7



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## Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park

### Smooth oxeye



The plant is sometimes called false sunflower.

By LYNN ARTZ, SANDY TEDDER and DAVID RODDENBERRY

The bright yellow flowers of smooth oxeye (*Heliopsis helianthoides*) cheerfully greet visitors at the entrance to Sopchoppy Depot Park. This undemanding plant grows 3-5 feet tall by 1-3 feet wide in full to part sun in moist to dry, sandy soil. Resembling a small yellow sunflower, it is sometimes called false sunflower or oxeye sunflower. Like sunflowers, smooth oxeye is a wonderful wildflower for butterflies and bees, including one specialist pollinator ground nesting bee. Other insects attracted to smooth oxeye include hoverflies and soldier beetles. Songbirds eat the seeds. Smooth oxeye is more common in states north of Florida but is found in the wild in panhandle counties. This showy wildflower blooms from late spring through late summer and is well suited to a wildflower or butterfly garden.

## Student of the Week

Evangeline Bell, 10th grader at Wakulla High School

Principal: Michele Falk

**Achievements/Reason for Nomination:**  
Evangeline Bell was nominated by four of her teachers for being an example of an outstanding War Eagle. Each teacher described her as sweet, helpful, and positive contributor to their classes. Evangeline is a conscientious student and as cliché as it may sound, a true delight to have in class. Additionally, Evangeline is a member of two honor societies, Beta Honor Society and National Honor Society (NHS). Ms. Bell also volunteers her time outside of school to the Wakulla Welcome Center in Panacea.

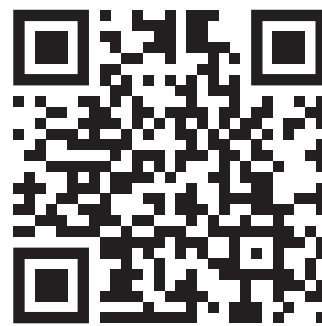
STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.

THE STUDENT OF THE WEEK DID NOT WISH HER PHOTOGRAPH TO BE PUBLISHED.

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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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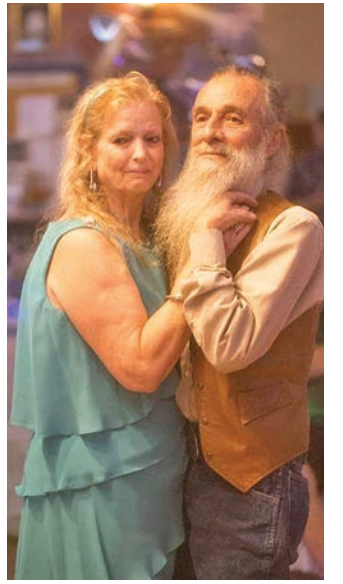


# Poker Run honoring Bissonnette supports BBH

## SPECIAL TO THE SUN

Big Bend Hospice wants to send a huge thank you to the Wakulla Free Riders and the entire Wakulla County community for making the 5th annual "Remembering Jubel, Run for Hospice" poker run such a success! The group made stops at Dux, Cooter Stew, Hobbit and Donkey's. Despite the weather, there was a huge turnout and the group was able to raise an impressive grand total of \$4,155 in Jubel's memory. The money will be used to benefit patient-families in the Wakulla County area.

Thank you to the following businesses that donated money or gift cards to the cause:



Sandy and Jubel Bissonnette, above; the Wakulla Free Riders, left.

Hamaknockers BBQ, Woodville Ace Hardware, Las Brazas in Woodville, Savannah's Country Buffet, Myra Jean's, Outz's Too, B&L Auto

Supply, Ray's Thrift Store, Clothesline, Harley-Davidson and Amazing Business Solutions. We would also like to extend our thank you to

any individual that donated to this wonderful cause.

A special thank you to the Wakulla Free Riders for donating their time

and clubhouse for the event. Big Bend Hospice would not be who we are today without the support of the community and this is a per-

fect example. For more information about Big Bend Hospice, please call 850-878-5310.



Contest winners with Optimist Club members.

## Oratorical contest held

### Special to The Sun

Students from Riversprings Middle School and Wakulla High School recently put their speaking skills to the test while participating in the Coastal Optimist Club Oratorical Contest. The topic was "Discovering the Optimism within Me". Each student's speech had to be between four and five minutes long and had to start with the official topic.

The first place winner was Alex Barlow who received a \$100 cash award. Matthew Thaxton received 2nd place and an award of \$75.

Both Alex and Matthew have been invited to the Regional Competition which will be held in Gulf Breeze on

Saturday, April 22nd.

Winning third place in the contest was Salome Hines. Salome also received a \$50 cash award. The fourth place winner was Kaylie Kosec. She received \$25.

All the participants received certificates. Optimist Jo Ann Daniels noted that the speeches were all well written and very interesting. While it is difficult for students to stand up in front of a group and give a speech from memory, it is a learning opportunity for a skill that will help these students throughout their careers.

The teacher sponsor was James Daniels. Judges for the contest were Tim Roach, Gail Quinton and Diana Sellers.

## Tourist development discussions

By **LYNDA KINSEY**  
Of The Sun

The Tourist Development meeting held Thursday, April 13 revealed a treasure trove of activity by the Board and Director Kinsey Miller to promote Wakulla County and attract visitors to our area.

The meeting opened with Elizabeth Carter, a member of the Friends of Sopchoppy River, who presented a map showing the Southwestern portion of the county with all of the trailheads that connect with the other trail starting in Sopchoppy.

There are 16 access locations for the trail. Carter said very few of the maps are available at this time, but the group is open to sponsorships for additional printings. The group is working toward securing the City of Sopchoppy in becoming a Florida Trail Town, a designation through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Greenways and Trails. They are awaiting a site visit for the designations and would require sig-

nage at the trails for approvals. There would be added perks and a wider range of reach, which would include website presence and other publicity.

There are 10 designated Florida Trail Towns in Florida but there are none in the Panhandle, according to Carter.

Other discussions during Thursday's meeting:

- Bowstern Marketing out of Tallahassee is working with the TDC to help promote Wakulla County. Part of the plan is filming the different areas of Wakulla County, attractions, rivers, etc., and blast across multiple social media platforms. Recent videos include canoeing and kayaking the rivers, a shoot was conducted at The Shack in St. Marks and video of the Gulf Specimen Marine Lab. They will continue to work on brand awareness and film in our area throughout the year. According to the agency engagement is up 34% from last year on the social media sites.

New videos of Wakulla County can be viewed

by going to Visit Wakulla. They are asking everyone to share whenever you view video via social media to gain more eyes on our area.

- Underway is a camping Guide and "things to do in Wakulla on a rainy day."

- A Paddling Guide is in progress.

- Fish racks at local boat ramps are coming so that folks may photograph their catch.

- Exploration of a new website called "Go Gulf State" that promotes the towns along the Gulf – the traffic is heavy and discussions will come in regards to involvement.

- Future plans for the Visit Wakulla website include making the site more user friendly and allowing new businesses large or small to add themselves and information about their business.

- County Commissioner Ralph Thomas has been involved at the Florida Legislature speaking against the bill to defund Visit Florida. The proposed bill wants to use local TDC tax dollars to fund Visit Florida.

- Next Meeting: June 29, 2023

## On the Horizon

### Calendar of events for the week of April 20

#### Thursday, April 20

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

#### Friday, April 21

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

#### Saturday, April 22

- Wak-Color Fun Run to raise awareness about suicide prevention will be held at TCC Wakulla, with registration at 7 a.m. and the run at 7:30 p.m.
- Family Fun Day, presented by the Wakulla County Health Department, will be held at Azalea Park from 9 a.m. to noon.
- 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 24

- 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 Posh on 3079 Crawfordville Hwy. Please RSVP email at newposh3079@gmail.com or text/call at (850) 528-5838.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

#### Tuesday, April 25

- Rivers Beneath Us, a look at the underground Wakulla Springs cave system by Dr. Chris Werner, will be held Tuesday, April 25, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Wakulla Environmental Institute. It's free.
- Sopchoppy Community Dinner is held every week at the Towles House at 6:30 p.m.
- Yin Yoga at 10:30 a.m. and Flow Yoga at 6 p.m. with Nellie. Classes are \$12, packages available at New Posh on 3079 Crawfordville Hwy. Please RSVP email at newposh3079@gmail.com or text/call at (850) 528-5838.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

#### Wednesday, April 26

- 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.

## 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

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# Opinions

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

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

## LETTERS FROM READERS

### Emergency landing at airport

**Editor, The Sun:**

Wednesday, March 22, was an eventful day for the Ercoupe folks at the Wakulla County Airport (2J0) near Panacea.

Jim Piche made two additional flights on that sunny mild day, making these the second and third flights since the first Ercoupe flight at 2J0 on Monday, Feb. 27.

While Jim was putting the Ercoupe through its paces in the skies over 2J0, the two ground crew members, Randy Robinson and Richard Travis, heard over their VHF radios a call from a Cessna 150 pilot announcing his intent to make an unscheduled stop at the Wakulla County Airport.

The C-150 pilot made an approach from the north to runway 18, and upon landing, taxied his aircraft to a full stop by the hangars. A young man and woman egressed – colleagues from the DeLand area north of Orlando, both having pilot certificates.

En route from Colorado Springs to DeLand, the couple had just refueled the C-150 at Apalachicola, and shortly after debarking on their next leg encountered engine problems and chose to land at 2J0 as it was the closest airfield. The couple had just picked up the aircraft in Colorado. Although new owners to that aircraft, the couple were not novice pilots. The young man was an Embry-Riddle graduate whose day-job was flying a corporate

Gulfstream. The young woman was a CFI who, coincidentally, was experienced with the Ercoupe, among other airplanes.

After Jim landed the Ercoupe, the three Tally Flyz Flying Club members joined the young couple around the C-150, providing them with the screwdrivers needed for removing the cowling. The young man described the unusual engine noise that led to their unplanned landing, and the group discussed a number of possible issues while examining the engine up close. A check of the fuel revealed no water contamination.

Not finding anything requiring specific correction, and thanking the Ercoupe guys for their help, the couple decided to run-up the C-150's engine, and as they encountered no follow-up engine issues on the ground, took off to complete their long cross-country journey back to DeLand.

Once the C-150 had departed, Jim got back into the Ercoupe for its second flight of the day, putting in an additional half hour for the logbooks.

The young female pilot reported by text message later that afternoon that they safely made it back to DeLand with the C-150 not exhibiting any further engine problems.

**Richard Travis**  
Former President  
Experimental Aircraft Association  
Chapter 445

### Thanks from Coastal Optimists

**Editor, The Sun:**

The Coastal Optimist Club would like to thank our 12 bakers and the many people in our community for their generous donations and support for our MEN BAKE CAKES FOR KIDS Facebook Auction March 30-31, 2023.

The 12 bakers were Josh Brown, Herb Donaldson, Eddie Hand, David Harvey, Greg James, Coach Scott Klees, Frank Messersmith, Jared Mill-

er, Joe Morgan, Bobby Pearce, Chris Russell, and Ralph Thomas.

Thanks again for a great fundraiser that will allow us to do more for the youth of Wakulla County. It exceeded our expectations. We have focused all our efforts around helping our kids since 1971.

**Bill Versiga**  
President  
Coastal Optimist Club

### Night of Joy at Wakulla Springs

**Editor, The Sun:**

The Spring Night of Joy, formerly known as the Special Needs Prom, will be held at Wakulla Springs Lodge on Saturday, May 13.

We are seeking funds to make this night possible. With donations, we are able to keep this event free for attend-

ees and their guest.

This year will be our first year back since 2019! Deadline for donations is May 5. All donations go right back into this event.

For more information, contact:

**Mary Wallace**  
(850) 228-5667

### Springs protection proposal inadequate

**Editor, The Sun:**

An open letter to the Wakulla County Commission:

I applaud the Wakulla County Board of County Commission in their effort to identify areas for water quality improvements and protection. Unfortunately, when I read the proposed updated requirements, I was underwhelmed. The document begins with the repeal of current protection while not articulating any improvements. The document fails to identify current vulnerabilities, existing geological studies, recent profound discoveries concerning the connectivity of caverns and underwater passages proving the fragile nature of our Karst topography to our drinking water and springs. I have highlighted the introduction for reference:

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that it is in the public interest to repeal Ordinance No. 94-28 and adopt updated water quality protection requirements to better protect ground water quality from contamination. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS: SECTION 1. INCORPORATION OF RECITALS. The above recitals are true and correct and are hereby incorporated by reference. SECTION

2. REPEAL OF WAKULLA COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. 94-28. Wakulla County Ordinance No. 94-28, entitled “The Wakulla Springs Water Quality Protection Regulation,” is hereby repealed in its entirety. SECTION 3. AMENDMENT OF SECTION 2-4 OF THE WAKULLA COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE. Section 2-4 of the Land Development Code, entitled “Definition of Terms,” is hereby amended to include the following definitions: ...

The proposed amendments need to be tabled due to numerous technical inaccuracies, misinformation, incomplete information and a host of other deficiencies. The current proposed amendments read like an instruction manual for storing hazardous materials in sensitive areas based on inaccurate and unproven mitigation procedures.

If the Board is sincere in their rhetorical wish for enhanced protection, I submit the following comment:

It is prohibited to store any hazardous materials in any manner within any area identified as being within 2000 feet of karst features, caverns, conduits or other sites identified as vulnerable to groundwater contamination.

Respectfully,

**Peter J. Scalco**  
Crawfordville

### Don't repeal springs protection

**Editor, The Sun:**

My name is Emily Johnson. I'm a proud Wakulla resident writing on behalf of the Downriver Project, a local nonprofit known for its Clean Water Wakulla Initiative.

Last year, Southwest Georgia Oil Company announced plans to build a 16-pump gas station above the main cave that sends water to Wakulla Springs. This company, known for its Inland and Sunstop brands, has been identified by Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) public records as the Responsible Party for at least 44 gas station historical contaminated facilities in Florida, plus a DEP finding of “gross negligence” for its operations in Wakulla County, and was the subject of a 1984 Consent Order for polluting the Floridan Aquifer. After fierce opposition from families and local business owners in February 2022, the company reluctantly paused its plan.

However, public records show that Southwest Georgia Oil Company has kept in touch with unelected Wakulla County staffers to note its interest in moving ahead with a gas station. Now, local bureaucrats, led by County Administrator David Edwards, want the County Commission to repeal groundwater protections and replace them with rules that would make it easy for Southwest Georgia Oil to execute their plan.

The proposed rule change would allow industrial gas tanks to be stored underground, directly above the caves where much of our drinking water is drawn. Furthermore, it would not pro-

tect (or even acknowledge) the caves under the gas company's property, which scientific divers recently linked directly to Wakulla Springs. Finally, the rule makes it so that sand could legally qualify as a “natural protective barrier” between a high-polluting facility and our groundwater.

County officials have claimed that their rule change would still protect our water through “stormwater management,” “geotechnical assessments,” and “record keeping.” But these requirements are extremely weak. They hardly exceed the minimums under state law and would advance the goals of Southwest Georgia Oil Company.

It is vital to stop Southwest Georgia Oil Company from getting the green light to pollute our water. We encourage our County Commissioners to see this plan for what it is: a brazen attempt to risk Wakulla's water for the benefit of an out-of-state oil company with a long, devastating history of pollution. Instead, we need real protections, including meaningful buffer regulations that keep gas stations and other hazards from being built on our groundwater caves.

**What You Can Do:**

County officials have permitted for a 10-day public comment window, which ends this Friday, April 21. Public comments matter, especially with local issues.

You can write them by going to: [tiny.cc/WakullaLetter](https://tiny.cc/WakullaLetter)

Sincerely,

**Emily Johnson**  
Crawfordville

## Something on your mind?

Email Letters to the Editor to [editor@thewakullasun.com](mailto:editor@thewakullasun.com); or mail it or drop it by the office at 12 Arran Road, Crawfordville FL 32327.

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William Snowden  
Editor & Publisher  
The Wakulla Sun

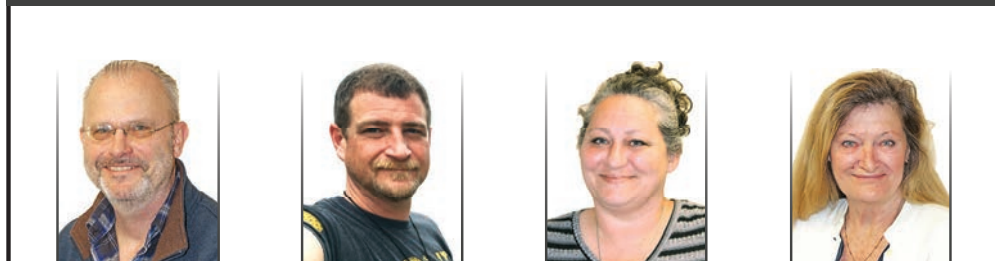
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## ◀ Question of The Week ▶

– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

# Polled at Azalea Park in Crawfordville on Prom Night: What is a favorite high school memory?



**GLORIA COOKSEY**  
LOVIN' LIFE

"The closeness of  
high school friendships  
and how they can  
continue if we  
strive to stay in  
touch."



**SHUA HUGHES**  
SENIOR BRIDGE INSPECTOR

"Mine is simple,  
just playing ball.  
We all grew up  
playing ball."



**LES SMITH**  
PROGRAMMER

"Graduation!  
Latin, Latin test!"



**MATHEW VOSSLER**  
BUSINESS LENDER

"Definitely the  
friendships?"



**HEATHER SHERIDAN**  
REGISTERED NURSE

"Prom was fun,  
and the busted  
up limousine that  
came to pick us up.  
Thanks, Kelsey!"

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Wakulla Station News

By **VERNA BROCK**

Happy 70th birthday to my friend, Sue Thornton Austin. She is celebrating with family and friends all this week! Also celebrating a birthday is Sam Jose, who is turning 12. Congratulations to each of the teams from Wakulla County who

participated in the Odyssey of the Mind competition in Orlando two weekends ago. It was a challenging and exciting experience for everyone involved.

This past Saturday, my family had a fun day at the St. Marks Powder annual picnic, held at what we old-timers refer to as the "Olin

Campgrounds," located on the Wakulla River. It was a beautiful day, spent with friends and family, enjoying the festivities.

Afterwards, Ed and I got to enjoy spending time with grandchildren, Harrison and Harper Rodgers, while their parents traveled to Troy, Alabama. Brian and Eden were there to celebrate Eden's former pitching coach, Barb Sherwood, being inducted into the Troy University Hall of Fame for all of her accomplish-

ments there. Coach Sherwood also worked with Sally Wheeler, who was also able to join in honoring her former coach. It is a small world!

Please continue to lift Sebastian Mosley and his family in your prayers, as well as the Sloan-Pea-cock family, the Carter family, the Kendrick family, and the Hobby family. Also in need of prayers are Faye Sweeney, Norma Woodcock, and Linda Dunwoody.

### Buckhorn News

By **ETHEL SKIPPER**

Let's talk about everyday living – let's talking about cooking and cleaning products that touch the food we eat as well as our skin.

One fantastic line of kitchen and household products is chemical-free parchment paper for baking, compostable bags made with potato

starch.

Look for these products next time you're shopping. There is much we can all do and ways to connect with the earth through cleanups – take a trash bag and go down your street and clean up any plastic you find. I do it even on a walk to the mailbox.

Years ago, everyone in our neighborhood had a garden. We thought it was

a vegetable store. Most everyone had hogs and cows. You didn't have to worry about your diet, and not much about your health.

Northwest Florida District Holy Convocation of the Church of Christ Written in Heaven will be held at Shiloh Church in Quincy on April 19 through 23, nightly at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 11:30 a.m. Host Presiding Elder Anthony and Lady Mary Matthews.

Macedonia Community Church of

Buckhorn will have their annual Mother Mary E. Green Day Service on Sunday, April 23 at 11 a.m. Speaker Elder George Nicholas Green from Raleigh, N.C. Deaconess Mary Green extends a welcome to everyone. Host Pastor Bishop Alfred Nelson.

Our prayers and concern goes out to all the sick and shut-in, those in hospitals, nursing homes, prison, the homeless, those that need a healing of mind, and let us pray for one another's soul.

### Library News – April 20

#### UPCOMING EVENTS!

#### Thursday, April 20

Veteran's Meetup 11am  
Tech Learning Lab – Robots!  
5pm

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

#### Friday, April 21

Quilting Guild 9:30am

#### Saturday, April 22

NWF Health Network-Foster/Adoption Class 9am

#### Monday, April 24

No Programs Today

#### Tuesday, April 25

Book Bunch 10am  
Memoir Writing 10am  
Farmers Market Coop 6pm

#### Wednesday, April 26

Book Babies 10am  
Knitting Group 4pm

#### Thursday, April 27

Tech Learning Lab – 3D

Doodle Pens! 5pm

Friends of the Library General Meeting 6pm

Wakulla Democratic Executive Committee 6pm

#### 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 April 7 to 13:

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 7

- A traffic stop was conducted on a vehicle for faulty equipment. The driver was identified as Brett Carroll who did not possess a valid driver's license. During a search of his person, a glass smoking pipe was discovered in his pocket. While being placed under arrest Carroll tried pulling away several times but was quickly detained. Carroll was transported to the jail without incident. Deputy Todd Kent investigated.
- Bruce Hauck reported the theft of a wedding band and wedding ring belonging to his deceased mother. Hauck was able to identify a possible suspect for the theft. Bruce valued the rings at approximately \$3,000. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy James Williams investigated.

#### SATURDAY, APRIL 8

- A traffic stop was conducted on a vehicle for excessive speed. The driv-

er, and sole occupant was identified as Rody Strickland. Strickland does not possess a valid license and has four prior suspensions. Strickland was placed under arrest and transported to the jail. Deputy Heather Will investigated.

- Richard Allshouse reported being scammed out of \$250. Allshouse stated he received a call from a subject identified as Chief Christopher Allen of the WCSO Registration Department. Allshouse wished to pursue charges and signed an affidavit for prosecution. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Heather Will investigated. (Sheriff Miller would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that no law enforcement representatives will ever contact you and demand money or payment to resolve a law enforcement/judicial issue.)

#### SUNDAY, APRIL 9

- A traffic stop was conducted on a vehicle with no tag attached. The driver and sole occupant was identified as Timothy Colt Sanders. Sanders had active warrants out of

Wakulla County. Sanders was taken into custody and transported to the county jail. Deputy Todd Kent investigated.

#### MONDAY, APRIL 10

- Niranjan Patel reported Kevin Outzs entered into his store and removed a pint bottle of liquor with out paying. Outzs reportedly made a purchase but also removed a bottle with-out paying for it. Outzs was located a short time later and give a notice to appear in court for the theft. Additionally Outzs was trespassed from the store at Patel's request.

#### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

- Helen Ward reported being scammed out of a large sum of money over the last month. Ward believed she had been sending money to someone claiming to be Elon Musk. Ward was supposed to receive several things from the suspect as part of the payments. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Todd Kent investigated.
- A juvenile was arrested for retail theft after he passed through the final point of sale with unpaid for merchandise in Walmart. The juvenile was detained by Walmart staff until

deputies arrived and arrested them. The juvenile was taken into custody and transported to the Wakulla County Jail, booked in and released to a parent. Deputy Don Newsome investigated.

#### THURSDAY, APRIL 13

- A traffic stop was conducted on a vehicle for excessive speed. The driver was identified as Kaleb Adam. Adam did not possess a valid license and he had a small amount of marijuana in his possession. Adam was issued a citation for driving while license suspended or revoked (DWLSR), and the marijuana was collected for destruction. Deputy Heather Will investigated.
- Traver Butenschoen and Karla Maxwell were arrested for possession of more than 20 grams of meth, paraphernalia and possession of THC Butter. Butenschoen was also charged with DWLSR after a vehicle Butenschoen was driving was stopped for driving with a faulty tail-light and an expired tag. Deputy Don Newsome investigated.

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



# Outdoors

outdoor sports

## HOME ON THE RANGE

### Pros and cons of a revolver



By MARJ LAW

gun would be more useful when I was starting out. Back then, it did seem that the revolver would be the easiest and best.

So, I'm trying to think like Newbie, remembering that first gun purchase. Choosing the right handgun was such an overwhelming consideration.

#### PROS AND CONS: PROS FIRST

"Jim said he's going to buy me a revolver," she told me when we met at the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office range. "The .38 he's getting me is a point and shoot gun. Easy to learn. And it will be easy to load. He says the .38 has plenty of 'stopping power,' in case Mr. Bad breaks into the house and threatens me while Jim is away.

"There are so many benefits to having a revolver," she says. "Jim also wants me to have a revolver because it will never ever jam. It is totally reliable. It is going to be easy to clean. And if the grip isn't just perfect, he can change it out or find a rubbery grip that slides over the existing one.

"Unlike other handguns, no red-hot casing will flip out of the gun, hitting me or someone else. The revolver doesn't need a safety, either. In a moment of stress, I might forget to take the safety off. So, it's good to have no safety.

"And, if for some really strange reason one round doesn't fire, I can just pull the trigger again and fire the next round.

"So, that's why Jim is getting me a .38. It's the best gun for a newbie!"

Revolver or semi-automatic. I remember wondering which hand-

At first, I too thought I wanted a revolver because of its simplicity. Point and shoot. No worrying about loading magazines, pulling back slides and having misfires or rounds that just didn't feed into the gun. Point and shoot. No learning curve there!

And yes, if one round doesn't go off, just squeeze the trigger again. Shoot. And no casings will fly out of a revolver.

A well-kept and clean revolver is reliable. It's highly unlikely to jam on you.

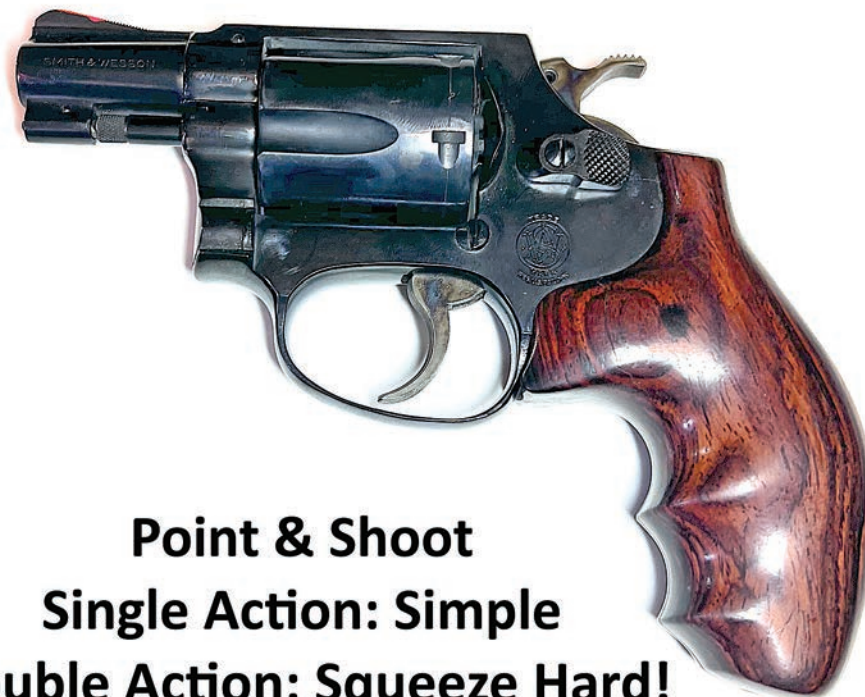
Loading the revolver is easy. Push the cylinder release button and slip a round into each empty chamber.

The .38? Lots of take-down power when your life is at stake. A safety? Who needs it? The trigger pull is really firm and long and the gun sure isn't going off by itself. The long hard trigger pull makes for a deliberate action.

Cleaning a revolver is pretty easy. You can run a "snake" through each chamber until they are all shiny and clean inside. Snake the barrel too. Take solvent and wipe off the front and rear of the cylinder. You don't have to dismantle a revolver to clean it.

Since no magazine dictates the size of the grip, many revolvers have grips that can be

### S & W .38 Chief's Special



Point & Shoot  
Single Action: Simple  
Double Action: Squeeze Hard!

swapped out by releasing screws. If the grips are too small, you can often find rubber grips to slide over the existing ones.

Newbie has a choice of many caliber revolvers. Newbie can find one in .22 LR, .22 Magnum, .380, 9mm and .38. Yes, there are higher-caliber revolvers, but they will have harder trigger pulls, a whole lot more recoil and are not suitable for a new shooter.

#### CONS NEXT

Since trigger pull is long and heavy, you don't have to worry about a safety. A tug on the trigger won't set these guns off.

However, ... I just had a Taurus .22 Magnum in my hands. Cock the hammer first, and the gun stays firm and true when you squeeze off the trigger. But, good golly. When I try to shoot without cocking the hammer? I squeeze and squeeze. Then I put

my opposite index finger over my trigger finger for added assistance. Finally, it goes off.

According to concealedcarry.com: "Many double action revolvers have a trigger pull in the area of 12 pounds, which is atrocious for someone without finger strength."

So, to pull that trigger easily, cocking the trigger sure helps. But when Mr. Bad is coming at you, will you remember to cock that hammer? Will you have the strength to squeeze the trigger if you haven't cocked the hammer?

Since revolvers have cylinders, they are often harder to conceal. Your gun is not supposed to "imprint," which means your clothing shouldn't show a bulge where you carry your revolver outside the waistband. The revolver may also be too wide to carry comfortably inside the waistband. And because of the cylinder, a revolver may be too wide and

heavy for purse carry.

Revolvers have a limited capacity. Most have room for 5-6 rounds. Some have 8, while a few have 9. Semi-automatic handguns can hold many, many more. We're talking not just 5 or 6 but 15 or 30. Sometimes more.

Unfortunately, that the revolver will "never jam" is not true.

According to firearmstalk: "Revolvers in general are much less reliable than semi auto pistols. The popular opinion is that revolvers are idiot proof and can't be 'jammed.' This is dead wrong, and unfortunately has been repeated so often that most believe it to be true. Here is why.

"Revolvers are an 'open action' firing mechanism with many nooks and crannies where dirt and debris can hide. But each of those nooks and crannies is there for a reason. They hold various parts in place or are

'ratchet stops' for other moving parts.

"When they are clogged with dirt, powder, sand, lint, etc., the gun does not function right."

Firearmstalk goes on to say: "Anything that hinders the rotation of the cylinder of a revolver will cause it to stop working. Anything that keeps the cylinder from locking up at the right place (timing) can affect its ability to fire. Something as simple as lint from a pocket or purse can stop a revolver from working."

It seems like "never jam" is a myth.

I've seen several cases where men, wanting to protect their women, have given them .38 revolvers. They like the idea of point and shoot, and they want "take down power" if their wives ever need that protection.

Newbies, shooting .38s for the first time, are most often very unhappy with both the heavy trigger pull and the harsh recoil.

Will Newbie then want to continue to practice shooting at the range? And if Newbie doesn't practice, will gun ownership make Newbie safe?

Smaller caliber revolvers may be easier to shoot. Will their few rounds take down an intruder?

Whichever revolver Newbie has, her chances of safeguarding herself are likely to be dependent on her practice at the range.

The best revolver for Newbie is the one she'll be comfortable with when she trains at the range.

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

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

Eukarya, Animalia, Porifera, Demospongiae, Hadromerida, Clionaidae

Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratory  
www.gulfspecimen.com

**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 Yellow Crowned Night Heron.

**HUGE SELECTION**  
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2784 COASTAL HWY., CRAWFORDVILLE

**FOLLOW THE SUN.** The Wakulla **SUN**  
Your local source for news.



# Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences

**Thursday 20**

Sun rise/set: 7:04AM 8:07PM  
Moon rise/set: 7:21AM 8:55PM  
Moon Illumination 0%

**Friday 21**

Sun rise/set: 7:03AM 8:07PM  
Moon rise/set: 7:56AM 9:59PM  
Moon Illumination 2%

**Saturday 22**

Sun rise/set: 7:02AM 8:08PM  
Moon rise/set: 8:34AM 11:02PM  
Moon Illumination 6%

**Sunday 23**

Sun rise/set: 7:01AM 8:09PM  
Moon rise/set: 9:18AM ----  
Moon Illumination 12%

**Monday 24**

Sun rise/set: 7:00AM 8:09PM  
Moon rise/set: 10:06AM 12:03AM  
Moon Illumination 20%

**Tuesday 25**

Sun rise/set: 6:59AM 8:10PM  
Moon rise/set: 10:58AM 12:59AM  
Moon Illumination 28%

**Wednesday 26**

Sun rise/set: 6:58AM 8:11PM  
Moon rise/set: 11:54AM 1:50AM  
Moon Illumination 37%

## Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

April 20 - April 26

Tide charts by [tides4fishing.com](http://tides4fishing.com)

Best fishing days this month  
April 20-30 • May 1-5, 19-31

St. Marks River Entrance					City of St. Marks				Shell Point, Spring Creek					
Th	3:20 am ▲ 3.5 ft	8:53 am ▼ 0.8 ft	2:48 pm ▲ 3.9 ft	9:39 pm ▼ -0.7 ft	Th	3:56 am ▲ 3.3 ft	9:57 am ▼ 0.8 ft	3:24 pm ▲ 3.7 ft	10:43 pm ▼ -0.6 ft	Th	3:40 am ▲ 3.6 ft	9:18 am ▼ 1.0 ft	3:08 pm ▲ 3.9 ft	9:59 pm ▼ -0.6 ft
Fr	4:03 am ▲ 3.4 ft	9:21 am ▼ 1.1 ft	3:12 pm ▲ 4.0 ft	10:17 pm ▼ -0.6 ft	Fr	4:39 am ▲ 3.2 ft	10:25 am ▼ 1.0 ft	3:48 pm ▲ 3.7 ft	11:21 pm ▼ -0.6 ft	Fr	4:22 am ▲ 3.5 ft	9:44 am ▼ 1.3 ft	3:31 pm ▲ 4.0 ft	10:37 pm ▼ -0.7 ft
Sa	4:44 am ▲ 3.2 ft	9:46 am ▼ 1.3 ft	3:36 pm ▲ 3.9 ft	10:55 pm ▼ -0.5 ft	Sa	5:20 am ▲ 3.0 ft	10:50 am ▼ 1.2 ft	4:12 pm ▲ 3.6 ft	11:59 pm ▼ -0.5 ft	Sa	5:02 am ▲ 3.4 ft	10:09 am ▼ 1.5 ft	3:55 pm ▲ 4.0 ft	11:14 pm ▼ -0.6 ft
Su	5:25 am ▲ 3.0 ft	10:12 am ▼ 1.5 ft	4:00 pm ▲ 3.8 ft	11:34 pm ▼ -0.3 ft	Su	6:01 am ▲ 2.8 ft	11:16 am ▼ 1.4 ft	4:36 pm ▲ 3.6 ft		Su	5:41 am ▲ 3.1 ft	10:33 am ▼ 1.6 ft	4:20 pm ▲ 3.9 ft	11:54 pm ▼ -0.3 ft
Mo	6:09 am ▲ 2.7 ft	10:38 am ▼ 1.7 ft	4:26 pm ▲ 3.7 ft		Mo	12:38 am ▼ -0.3 ft	6:45 am ▲ 2.5 ft	11:42 am ▼ 1.5 ft	5:02 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	Mo	6:23 am ▲ 2.9 ft	11:00 am ▼ 1.7 ft	4:47 pm ▲ 3.8 ft	
Tu	12:18 am ▼ 0.0 ft	7:01 am ▲ 2.5 ft	11:08 am ▼ 1.8 ft	4:56 pm ▲ 3.5 ft	Tu	1:22 am ▼ 0.0 ft	7:37 am ▲ 2.3 ft	12:12 pm ▼ 1.6 ft	5:32 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	Tu	12:37 am ▼ -0.1 ft	7:12 am ▲ 2.7 ft	11:31 am ▼ 1.9 ft	5:19 pm ▲ 3.6 ft
We	1:13 am ▼ 0.4 ft	8:15 am ▲ 2.3 ft	11:47 am ▼ 2.0 ft	5:32 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	We	2:17 am ▼ 0.3 ft	8:51 am ▲ 2.1 ft	12:51 pm ▼ 1.8 ft	6:08 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	We	1:31 am ▼ 0.3 ft	8:16 am ▲ 2.5 ft	12:14 pm ▼ 2.0 ft	5:57 pm ▲ 3.3 ft

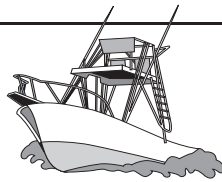
Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay					St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.				Dog Island West End					
Th	3:12 am ▲ 2.7 ft	9:04 am ▼ 0.6 ft	2:40 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	9:50 pm ▼ -0.5 ft	Th	3:30 am ▲ 2.8 ft	8:59 am ▼ 1.1 ft	2:35 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	9:35 pm ▼ -0.6 ft	Th	3:58 am ▲ 2.4 ft	9:21 am ▼ 1.1 ft	2:51 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	9:49 pm ▼ -0.4 ft
Fr	3:55 am ▲ 2.6 ft	9:32 am ▼ 0.8 ft	3:04 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	10:28 pm ▼ -0.5 ft	Fr	4:16 am ▲ 2.7 ft	9:26 am ▼ 1.3 ft	2:59 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	10:12 pm ▼ -0.6 ft	Fr	4:46 am ▲ 2.4 ft	9:46 am ▼ 1.3 ft	3:16 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	10:25 pm ▼ -0.5 ft
Sa	4:36 am ▲ 2.4 ft	9:57 am ▼ 1.0 ft	3:28 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	11:06 pm ▼ -0.4 ft	Sa	5:01 am ▲ 2.5 ft	9:50 am ▼ 1.5 ft	3:27 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	10:51 pm ▼ -0.6 ft	Sa	5:31 am ▲ 2.3 ft	10:10 am ▼ 1.5 ft	3:44 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	11:05 pm ▼ -0.4 ft
Su	5:17 am ▲ 2.2 ft	10:23 am ▼ 1.1 ft	3:52 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	11:45 pm ▼ -0.2 ft	Su	5:46 am ▲ 2.4 ft	10:13 am ▼ 1.6 ft	3:57 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	11:32 pm ▼ -0.4 ft	Su	6:13 am ▲ 2.2 ft	10:32 am ▼ 1.6 ft	4:13 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	11:47 pm ▼ -0.3 ft
Mo	6:01 am ▲ 2.0 ft	10:49 am ▼ 1.2 ft	4:18 pm ▲ 2.8 ft		Mo	6:34 am ▲ 2.2 ft	10:34 am ▼ 1.7 ft	4:31 pm ▲ 2.9 ft		Mo	6:56 am ▲ 2.0 ft	10:53 am ▼ 1.7 ft	4:44 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	
Tu	12:29 am ▼ 0.0 ft	6:53 am ▲ 1.8 ft	11:19 am ▼ 1.3 ft	4:48 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	Tu	12:18 am ▼ -0.2 ft	7:31 am ▲ 2.0 ft	10:55 am ▼ 1.8 ft	5:08 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	Tu	12:31 am ▼ -0.1 ft	7:53 am ▲ 1.8 ft	11:00 am ▼ 1.8 ft	5:18 pm ▲ 2.4 ft
We	1:24 am ▼ 0.3 ft	8:07 am ▲ 1.7 ft	11:58 am ▼ 1.4 ft	5:24 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	We	1:14 am ▼ 0.1 ft	8:53 am ▲ 1.9 ft	11:13 am ▼ 1.9 ft	5:53 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	We	1:19 am ▼ 0.1 ft	8:55 am ▲ 2.3 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



As summer approaches and the water is calling us for weekend adventures, it is important to refresh on safety tips when going out. These top 10 safety considerations for Tubing come from [www.DiscoverBoating.com](http://www.DiscoverBoating.com) and Bennington Marine.

**1. Make sure everyone is wearing a Personal Flotation Device (PFD)**

If we haven't stressed the importance of wearing a life jacket, let me restate it – everyone should have PFD on when out on the water. This is the single most critical thing you can do to prepare for an emergency. When tubing, if a tuber falls off or otherwise gets separated from the boat, it can make the difference in their ability to be located safely.

**2. Be familiar with and inspect all of your equipment**

Boat operators should take the time to be familiar with items used for tubing, just as with all the other equipment onboard. Knowing how to use equipment and knowing it is in good working order are essential.

**3. Know your Rider**

Not all riders are created equal, it is important to know the limits of your riders and respect when they tell you their comfort level.

**4. Assign a spotter**

Whenever you have

**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

someone in they water, you should have a spotter. This person's responsibility is to communicate with the driver what is happening with the rider(s).

**5. Know the regulations for the water**

Not all bodies of water have the same rules and regulations. Make sure you are knowledgeable about any specifics for the area such as tow speed, no wake zones or known dangers.

**6. Be a responsible driver**

First and foremost, the role of the driver is to return the rider to shore safely. While enjoying a day of water tubing, the driver should be alert, sober, and have a solid grasp of boating rules and regulations. It also includes watching for obstacles in the water, other boaters, taking wakes at a reasonable speed, and maintaining a responsible speed.

**7. Check before you start**

Before you start, make

sure that the rider is ready, holding on and properly positioned. Check that the boat, water tube, and towline are all free from obstructions. When water tubing with multiple passengers, riders should understand how to balance their weight correctly and work together to safely stay on the tube. Set a game plan with the rider in the event that they fall out of the tube so that they know what to expect and what action to take.

**8. Use a secure tow line**

Monitor the tow line to make sure it remains securely attached to your boat, the tube and is not fraying.

**9. Don't forget to use sunscreen**

As with all summer-time water activities, water tubing exposes people to more sun than if they were on shore. Apply and reapply sunscreen regularly throughout the day and watch for signs of burning.

**10. Stay hydrated**

Most people don't think about staying hydrated when they've been playing in the water all day. Be sure to pack plenty of drinking water and remind passengers that the beating sun and whipping wind can dehydrate them much faster than in typical conditions.

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

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

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

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

## Underwater Wakulla

By Rusty Miller

**First ocean dive of 2023.**

It may be April on the calendar for most of the United States but here in Florida it feels like the beginning of summer, highs in the 80's with lows in the mid 60's. The temperature of the Gulf is warming up quick, right now it's 74-76 degrees. The reason I know this is I took my open water class to Panama City Beach yesterday. We met at the Dive shop over there at 7:30 a.m. central time then we went to the dive boat at the marina a couple miles down Thomas Drive.

I introduced my class to Captain George and the dive master JC. We then started to unload the truck with all the Nitrox cylinders plus all the dive gear they used in the Vortex springs on Saturday. Once the gear was aboard the students and my dive masters assembled all the gear then rechecked it to make sure it was assembled properly. We pressurized the system and shutoff the tank to make sure there were no leaks. Captain George gave his safety briefing then went up to his area and started the engine. When the boat was untied he proceeded to head out to open water, at this time the dive master gave his briefing, and then we were in for the ride to either the Dan Safety Barge or the Navy trash pile.

Both places are within a half mile of each other. We saw that there was another dive boat at the safety barge so we proceeded to the Navy trash pile. The Navy trash pile is an interesting site: it has a lot of stuff that the Navy has dumped there over the years to make a pretty good artificial reef. It's pretty spread out but kind of in a big circle. The visibility was around 15-20 feet but that's normal for this time of year. I had one student who has had difficulty with her sinuses when she would take off her mask. Every time she would get a lot of water up her nose and was unable to deal with it. I gave her a solution and that was to put her on one of our rental full face masks. It's the Neptune 3 system by Ocean Reef. I personally bought one about 2 years ago and loved it so much I stocked them in the shop and put four in for rental.

Being a public service diving instructor I have used several different full face masks over the years but this one is a whole new design concept. Anyway I decided to have her try it to see if she would be able to complete the dives. The first time she put her head underwater she had this amazing smile on her face. She was absolutely beside herself she really did well with the equipment. When we got to the Navy trash pile JC hooked the anchor chain to one of the big metal structures and then the divers were ready to get wet. I took the lady with the full face mask with me and we went down the anchor rope to the bottom. The visibility was about 20-feet so she and I stayed close to the anchor point. Just in that area we saw all kinds of fish including about four big mangrove snapper, if I had my pole spear I could have had some nice fillets.

She was pretty excited and after 20 minutes she showed me her pressure gauge and it was down to 900psi, mine was still at 2300psi so we slowly went back up the anchor rope and stayed at the 15 foot for 3 minutes then proceeded to surface and climb on the back of the boat. Her excitement was very inspiring to the other students and to hear what the others saw was so great that after 37 years as an instructor it made me feel like I was making a change in someone's life. While on the surface interval we went over to the Dan barge to make the final dive. This time she asked if she could buddy up with her son and that was great. Everybody jumped back in and after they came up they were all excited and ready to go diving on the next trip. Keep making bubbles!

Russell Miller NAUI #59999 IANTD #224715

## St. Marks facing financial shortfall

From Front Page

were provided a gravity-fed system, but grant money ran out leaving the other half of the city with grinder pumps to essentially move the effluent.

The idea of an additional charge to water bills was supported by businessman Stan West.

City Clerk Ethel Jefferson noted that a \$25 fee would put the minimum monthly water charge over \$100 for residents. They currently pay \$87.

Citizen Ryder Rudd said the problem is that the city's utilities are being underwritten by general revenues, which is unsustainable.

Albers added that in 2018,

after Hurricane Michael, the city paid \$33,000 for grinder pump repairs. "We're gonna go under if we keep this up."

City Commissioner Steve Remke noted that the City of Steinhatchee is the only other government in the Panhandle that pays for grinder pumps for residents. He also suggested the city could be on the line for insurance problems if it were discovered that the city employees are going on to private land to do repairs.

"Utilities have to pay for themselves," Remke added later.

City Commissioners agreed to change the current ordinance to make every homeowner responsible for their grinder pump – it passed unanimously.

In other matters:  
• Shadrach Hines of St. Marks Waterfronts reported that the group is planning a Fourth of July celebration including fireworks.

Because of the city's financial condition, Mayor Sheddan said he didn't think it was responsible for the city to contribute to that.

The group has made one payment but needs another \$3,125 in June for fireworks.

• Hines said the group is planning for a St. Marks Brewfest to be held in October.

• Amy Sheddan and Raney Richardson announced plans for a community farmers market to be held the fourth Saturday. The first one is set for May 27 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.



# What kind of effect do we have on others?



By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

Would our friends or family members be eager to tell God how they spend their time with us?

The influence we have on each other affects

us more than we'll ever realize. As important as it is to consider the company we keep, it's equally important to consider what kind of company we are to others. What would it take for us to be a positive influence on those around us?

For some of us, it would take being truly sorry for our sins and having a healthy fear of God.

Don't you hate the moments (sometimes years) after you've willfully disobeyed God? Shame and damaged credibility are bad enough, but the wrench-

ing realization of how we've grieved our heavenly Father strips us of the joy we previously had with Him.

It's even worse when we entice others to follow our wayward lead.

In 2 Samuel 11, King David allowed his lust for Bathsheba to mature into a shameful affair. Then he callously arranged the murder of her honorable husband, thus bringing innocent men into his sin.

David—the king of Israel. What an example. What an influence.

But when the prophet Nathan confronted

David about his sin, David pled with God for forgiveness and promised, "I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you" Psalm 51:13 (ESV).

I admire the fruit (and proof) of David's repentance. Today, David's words continue to encourage people who feel trapped in their guilt.

When we genuinely repent (have more remorse for our rebellion against a holy God than despair for the consequences we experience), God mercifully restores our fellowship with Him and helps us deal with

the aftermath of our choices.

And the more we fear God, (the more we fear treading into any area of sin), the more we can help others do the same.

For the next several days, spend time reading Psalm 51. Allow its message to encourage you to genuinely repent of any area of rebellion against God—especially behavior in which you've encouraged others to sin along with you. Then humbly ask the Holy Spirit to use you to help those you've negatively influenced find their way back to Him.

If we, like David, allow the Holy Spirit to break our hearts over our sin and cultivate in us a healthy fear of Him, God will use us in ways we can only imagine in our friends' and family's lives. Perhaps even in the lives of those who haven't yet chosen to follow Christ.

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

# A place to come home to



By **CHERYL CRUCE**

From my earliest memory, the church has been a mainstay in my life. Somewhere between the recall of my childhood and present-day church, I have left behind the daisy shortbread cookies and red cool-aid of the Sunday School class. However, the lessons taught have remained with me through the years and

have become the core of my faith.

As a child, I enjoyed the stories of the Old Testament and the coloring pages that came with each. Noah's Ark and the Parting of the Red Sea were favored among the classes. Then there were the New Testament lessons on the miracles of Jesus. Tales of how He walked on water, fed the multitudes, healed the sick, and loved the children were easy to listen to. It was not until I was much older that I realized the comfort they brought to my life.

There is something else I only understood once I was much older. In my formative years, I never grasped the inner workings of the church.

There are so many hands that make the church work like little gears in a well-oiled machine. Deacons, ushers, and elders all work in their areas of leadership. There are hospitality, visitation, and Bible study groups. Many teachers spend hours preparing lessons to share with the people. The greeters, cleaners, musicians, and administrators all add to the health of the Body of Christ.

The church is the Body of Christ, with each member being called for a specific task. There is no one person more significant than the other. The head cannot tell the feet they are unnecessary, nor can the eye tell the hand to leave. The

parts of the body that seem weaker are still indispensable; if one looks less honorable, they are still honored by God. It is God that has called the Body to be one. If one part of the Body of Christ hurts, the entire body hurts (1 Corinthians 12). We indeed need each other to be complete.

Over the years, I have had many jobs within the church. Initially, I enjoyed the behind-the-scenes work, and then gradually, God started pulling me forward into other areas. I have worked as a server, a drama leader, a teacher, and now as a pastor. The reality is that each task was a learning place for the next oppor-

tunity. Every opportunity increased my faith as God supplied the ability needed. My faith grew because of my works, and my works increased because of my faith. Faith and works go hand in hand when led by the Lord.

What work are you being called to? You may be the teacher that leads a child to salvation. What if you are the greeter that welcomes someone in for the first time, and they come back because of your warm smile? Every church needs a song, a server, and a person like you to complete its purpose. I am sure somewhere deep in your being is a special gift God has given you, just waiting to be used. God gives each

man a measure of faith (Romans 12:3), but it is up to man to grow the faith.

We are the Body of Christ, and it is time to become who we are created to be. The world needs to know there is a place to come home to.

1 Peter 4:8 and 10:8 Above all, love each other deeply because love covers over a multitude of sins. 10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

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

## OUT TO PASTOR

# Who invented AutoCorrect?



By **JAMES SNYDER**

The other day I recognized something that had been happening for quite a while. As I was texting, I noticed that there was AutoCorrect. So whenever I spelled a word, it would finish the spelling before I was done. And, if I was spelling it wrong, it corrected me.

A few times, I am typing a word, and AutoCorrect uses a different word. If I'm not paying attention to my typing, I can send the wrong words to someone.

I was drinking my cup of coffee this morning and thinking about that. So who came up with the idea of AutoCorrect? I'm not saying it's not a good idea, but sometimes it can be annoying.

I began remembering certain things happening throughout my lifetime. Those things had to do with The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

Soon after we were married, we were at some family reunion, and I was telling a story,

and all of a sudden, my wife said, "No, it was not Thursday, but it was a Friday." So I corrected my story and went on.

I ignored that, but I noticed this has happened quite a few times in my home; I have the ultimate AutoCorrect.

One thing that worries me is that during my sermon, sometime she may stand up and correct me by saying, "No, it's John 3:16."

Whenever that happens, and the chances are good that it might sometime, how in the world will I handle that?

I don't mind being corrected, but I prefer she text me instead of speaking out with her voice in front of people.

Several times I wanted to see if she was on the right track. I made up a story that didn't make sense to see if she would correct me. And guess what? She said, "No, it was a coconut pie, not a chocolate pie."

I smiled at her, nodded, and said, "Thank you, my dear."

She was so appreciative that she was able to help me with that story. Unbeknownst to her, the story was untrue from the very beginning. But how she did not know the story wasn't true is beyond my comprehension.

That got me on a personal agenda.

What would happen

if I wrongly AutoCorrect her in one of her stories? The very idea brought giggles to my soul.

She was talking about our wedding and anniversary, and I jumped in and AutoCorrected her to see what she would do. "No, our wedding anniversary is August 14."

She looked at me with a puzzled look and said, "That's what I said. August 14."

"Oh," I said, "I thought you said August 14."

"I just smiled because her puzzled look was worth all the nonsense I had just produced."

That night when we got home, she asked me what that was about, and I said, "I'm sorry; I guess I just didn't hear you."

We were having lunch with several new friends and were talking about our children during the conversation. I spouted confidently, "We have four of the most wonderful children in the

world."

My wife looked at me and said, "We only have three children. Where did you get four?"

Looking at her, I said, "You mean we only have three children?"

I was snickering and tried to keep most of it inside, but she looked at me with one of "those looks," and our new friends had no idea what was happening. I love it when a plan comes together.

There's no way I could ever catch up with the many times she has AutoCorrected me, but it certainly will be fun trying.

Whenever I say something that's not exactly true, she cannot help but jump in and AutoCorrect me.

But I first remembered this happening right after we were married. I did not know how to handle it. I was a little frustrated when she did it. Now, after over 50 years of marriage, it is

one of the great aspects of our relationship.

Most importantly, she doesn't know what I'm doing. And I beg you not to let her know.

One time it did backfire on me. We were with some friends talking about money. I don't know why people talk about money, but they do. And I said something to the effect that we made over \$100,000 a year. I was waiting for her to jump in and do her AutoCorrect. But she said nothing.

I'm not sure why she didn't respond, but when we got home that night, she looked at me and said, "OK, where is all that money? What have you done with it?"

It took me a while to back out of that hole, but as far as I know, that's the only time it backfired on me.

I should be thankful that I have my own

AutoCorrect to keep me from embarrassing myself. It may not be free, but it is worth it.

As I was pondering this, I began to think of the spiritual side. David says in Psalms 119:11, 16, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word."

The most important AutoCorrect for me is the Word of God. I'm so thankful that God's Word AutoCorrects me in my daily life when I need it and it has always been true.

*Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamesnsnyder51@gmail.com, website www.jamesnsnyderministries.com.*

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# Obituaries



### Rena Denise Cooley

Rena Denise Cooley (60) nee Hartman went home to meet her Savior Wednesday, April 5, 2023. She was the cherished daughter of Barbara (William) Barnell and Robert Hartman, who preceded her in death. Rena was born in Sturgis, MI on Dec. 24, 1962 and graduated in 1980 from Sturgis Christian School, where she excelled in mathematics and enjoyed playing volleyball on the school team. She met her loving husband, Bruce Cooley, while working at The Chicken Coop Restaurant. They liked to say that Bruce started as Rena's manager, but she soon became his manager when they married a couple years later in 1983. Bruce and Rena started their family in southern Michigan before moving to central Illinois in 1995. Rena was a devoted mother to her four children. They fondly remember her lasagna and playing croquet on the lawn with her on cool summer evenings. In addition to being a homemaker, Rena worked as a florist at Casey's Garden Shop as well as a clerk at Naturally Yours health food store in Bloomington-Normal, IL. In the summer of 2014, the Cooleys settled in Crawfordville, where Rena became a dedicated

member of River of Life Church. She cherished her personal relationship with God all her life and faithfully sought to reflect God's love and truth in her every word and deed. Rena loved to draw as a child, and she grew into a talented watercolorist as an adult. Her deep appreciation of God's creation was evident in the beautiful hand-painted cards she shared with family and friends as well as her love of gardening, flower arranging, and nature walks. Rena especially loved to walk the beach with Bruce and her children at Alligator Point along the gulf shore. Rena is survived by her husband Bruce Cooley, her children Kevin (Elaina) Cooley, Kayla (Taylor) Cooley-Wood, Kyle Cooley, and Karl Cooley, and siblings Brad (Gail) Hartman, Timothy Hartman, Darrel (Cherie) Hartman, Lowell (Kisha) Hartman, and Heather (Patrick) Smith. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 15, 2023 at 11 a.m. at Family Funeral Home, Harvey-Young Chapel. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service. Skip and Trey Young along with Paula and Kimberly are assisting the family with arrangements. 850-926-5919, www.familyfhc.com.

### Thomas 'Tom' Joseph Kriel Sr.

It is with extreme sadness to inform you that Thomas "Tom" Joseph Kriel Sr. has gone to be with the Lord, Friday, April 14, 2023, at the age of 73. Tom was born in Detroit, Michigan, July 5, 1949, to Elmer & Elizabeth Kriel. After graduation he married Linda Mae Torigrossa and they had three children. After their marriage ended, he raised his children. Tom was a Meat Cutter in various grocery stores. He was a "superb" Meat Cutter, Assistant Meat Manager and Meat Manager. He worked at A&P, Albertson's and Winn-Dixie for 46 years. In the late 1970s, he and his kids moved to Holiday, Florida (Pasco County), and then in 2003 moved to Sopchoppy, and continued to work at Grocery Stores until his retirement Aug. 31, 2011. Tom loved camping at Wood Lake in Sopchoppy. He had his friends and he was an extremely quiet and private person. He loved fishing, hunting, gardening and going to Skybox and Dux. Tom was of the Catholic faith.

Tom was predeceased by his parents, Elmer J. Kriel and Elizabeth Rose Hovanec Kriel; his son, Tommy Kriel; grandson Jordan Kriel; brother Mike Kriel; his former wife and mother of his children Linda; and other relatives and friends. Survivors include his faithful companion and caregiver Edna Butler of Sopchoppy; his two children son Shon Kriel (Jennifer) of Lutz, Florida and daughter Christina "Candi" Kriel (Shuggie) of Arkansas; Michelle McPhillips (Jason) and Liam of Indiana & Joseph "Joey" Wycoff (his wife) and children of Arkansas; also his grandchildren Nicholas, Alyssa, Stephen, Kyra, Kayla, Levi and Regina Melder. He is leaving behind his Wood Lake friends Bill and Jerry Stafford, Joyce Glow, Pat Holloway, Vicky Bislick, Les and Wes Wright, Gary and Vicky Starlin and his best friends at Wood Lake, Gene Thaxton, he shared the love of Wood Lake and the NASCAR driver Bill Elliot with him, and his very best friend Hank White (South Dakota). Tom's nickname was "Dogie" and that is what they all

called him. He also had good friends DeWayne and Beth McClain from the Sopchoppy Grocery Store and Matt "Rooster", Becky and Dani Paul Howell. Even though Tom and Edna never married they were very fond of each other and their families. Per Tom's wishes there will not be formal services. Tom's final resting place will be in Indiana. Thank you so much to the wonderful people at Big Bend Hospice in Tallahassee & Crawfordville, especially Heather Sheridan, Dr. Lutz, Hanna Henderson, Sarah Dunlap, Linda Carrier, Sara Gregory and others for all the help during Tom's illness. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Big Bend Hospice, 2889 Crawfordville Highway Crawfordville FL 32327 and 1723 Mahan Center Blvd. Tallahassee FL 32308, in memory of Tom Kriel. Skip & Trey Young along with Paula and Kimberly are assisting the family. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

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### DEATH NOTICES

• Stewart C. Kusel, 60, of Crawfordville, died April 14, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey-Young Chapel, 850-926-5919, www.familyfhc.com.



### 'Newsies' visit The Sun

Dance students from Studio 88 visited The Wakulla Sun office over a recent weekend for a photo op at the newspaper office. The dancers have been performing routines based on the musical about newsboys going on strike. (Photo from Studio 88)



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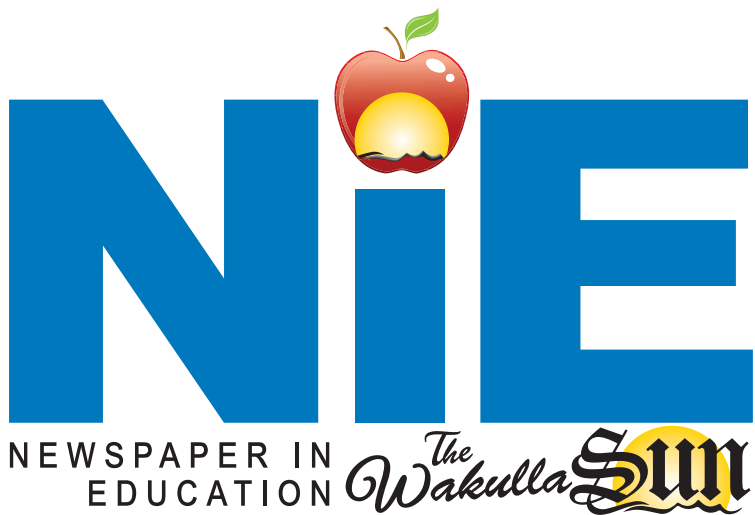
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# FOLLOW THE SUN.





## USE THE NEWS

### 1. Record-Setting Season

The Boston Bruins have had an amazing season in the National Hockey League. In fact, it's been one for the record books in pro hockey. The Bruins have become the first team ever to win 63 games in the regular season, and finished with a record 65. With 135 points accumulated for wins and overtime losses, the Bruins also have set a new league record for most points in a regular season. In addition, the Bruins set NHL records for the fastest team to 50 wins (64 games) and the fastest to accumulate 100 points (61 games), ESPN News reported. They also set a new team record for wins at their home arena in Boston, Massachusetts (34). On top of all that David Pastrňák is now the first Bruin to score 60 goals in a season since Hall of Famer Phil Esposito did it 48 years ago in 1975. Founded 99 years ago in 1924, the Bruins are one of the Original Six teams in the NHL and the first in the United States. They have won six Stanley Cup championships. Athletes and sports teams set new records for achievement every year. In the newspaper or online, find and closely read a story about a new record that has been set in sports this year. Use what you read to write a paragraph telling what skills, character and personal qualities it took for the athlete or team to set the record. Discuss which of those qualities you or your friends have.

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.

### 2. What a Ruby!

Rubies are precious gemstones that are famous for their bright red color. They are used to make fancy jewelry, and people pay millions of dollars for them. In June an "exceedingly rare" ruby may set a new record for a sale price. The ruby is the largest ever to be offered at an auction sale, and it could also become the most expensive ever sold. Named the Star of Fura, the ruby is expected to sell for more than \$30-million, according to the Sotheby's auction house, which is handling the sale. The ruby was unearthed at an underground mine in the nation of Mozambique on the east coast of the continent of Africa, CNN News reported. At a weight of 55.22 carats, it is more than double the size of the current record-holder for a ruby sale. The record holder, called the Sunrise Ruby, also holds top honors for price at \$30.3-million. Wealthy people often pay

great amounts of money for rare or unusual things. Imagine you had unlimited money. Find something advertised or written about in the newspaper or online that you would be willing to pay a lot for. It can be an item you would want for yourself or a family member or something connected to a person you admire. Write a letter to a classmate, describing the item you chose and why you would be willing to pay a lot for it. Share letters as a class.

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.

### 3. Scary Plane Ride

In a movie called "Snakes on a Plane," dozens of passengers panicked when poisonous snakes were released in an effort to harm a traveler who was a witness to a crime. In the nation of South Africa this month, a pilot of a small

plane is being hailed as a hero for NOT panicking when a highly poisonous Cape Cobra snake was discovered on board. Even though the snake briefly tried to get under the shirt of pilot Rudolf Erasmus, the New York Times newspaper reported. Erasmus, who is 30, was flying four passengers from the western part of the country to an eastern region when the snake was discovered. The plane was traveling at an elevation of 11,000 feet, and Erasmus knew he had to get the craft back on the ground as fast as possible. While sitting very still, he radioed the nearest airport to make an emergency landing. He also notified the passengers that an "uninvited guest" was on board. The passengers quickly left the plane after landing, and Erasmus was the last to leave. Once outside, he moved his pilot's seat forward and "saw this snake curled up in a nice little bundle underneath." The ordeal was over quickly but "That was definitely the longest 10, 15 minutes of my life," he said.

People often have to stay calm when faced with an emergency. In the newspaper or online, find and closely read about a person doing this. Use what you read to write a short editorial for the newspaper telling how the person staying calm helped in the situation and how it could be a model for others.

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

### 4. Volunteers

Volunteers can make a big difference in schools, neighborhoods and communities. They help coach sports teams, run art programs, clean up litter and help the elderly, among other things. Every April, the nation honors people who volunteer their time and services, while encouraging others to get involved. In celebration of National Volunteer Month, find and closely read a story about volunteers making a difference in their community. Use what you read to brainstorm an idea for your

class, family or school to volunteer to help others or the community. Write a summary of what your volunteers could do and why that would be important to others.

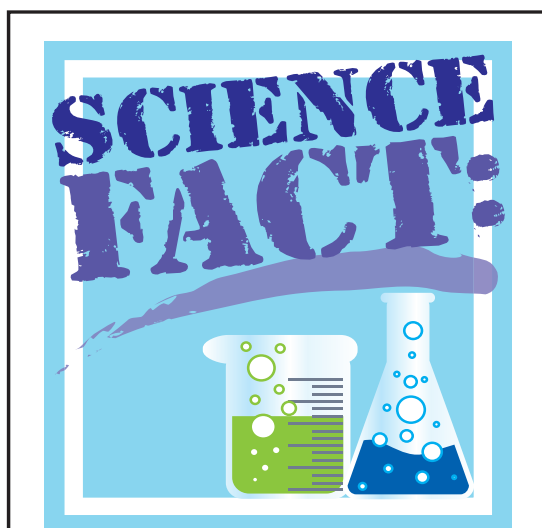
Goals: Producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task; citing specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions.

### 5. They Really Dig It

With strong front legs and long claws, badgers are amazing diggers. With great strength and energy, they can dig underground burrows as long as a football field and even disrupt human activities. In the Netherlands, badgers did just that recently by digging burrows under train tracks on a popular railroad line. The digging caused the ProRail organization that runs the railroad to shut down the line to make sure the tracks did not collapse — and to move the badgers out. The shutdown lasted several weeks while rail workers removed sections of track

so that the badger dens could be dug out. Workers also had to create a new "castle" for the animals, because they are a protected species in the Netherlands. Badgers are cousins to ferrets, otters, weasels and minks, and the European badger is the largest species. European badgers can grow up to 40 inches long and weigh 35 pounds. They have gray/brown body fur and a white-and-black head. The badgers in the Netherlands made news by doing something unusual. In the newspaper or online, find and closely read a story about another animal making news by doing something unusual. Use what you read to create a series of comic strips showing this animal acting in an unusual way and what happened as a result. Share with the class and discuss.

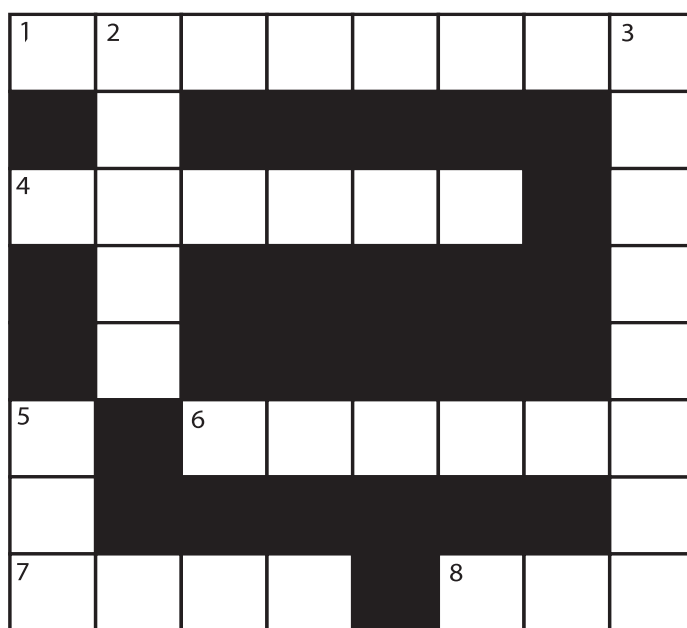
Goals: Using drawings or visual displays when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or points; responding thoughtfully to diverse perspectives, summarizing points of agreement and disagreement.



THIS SUBSTANCE IS MADE FROM DECOMPOSED ORGANIC MATERIALS AND IS USED AS FERTILIZER ON LAWNS AND IN GARDENS.

ANSWER: COMPOST

## Crossword Puzzle



### ACROSS

1. Warm coverings
4. Provides shade
6. Surface of Earth
7. Upper layer of soil
8. Grass used as fodder

### DOWN

2. Patches of grass
3. Weekend day
5. Trim

Answers:  
Across  
1. Blankets 4. Awning 6. Ground 7. Turf  
Down  
1. Lawns 3. Saturday 5. Cut

## THIS DAY IN...



## HISTORY

- 1907: THE ELLIS ISLAND IMMIGRATION CENTER PROCESSES 11,747 PEOPLE, MORE THAN ON ANY OTHER DAY.
- 1945: MONTESE, ITALY IS LIBERATED FROM NAZI FORCES.
- 1970: THE APOLLO 13 SPACECRAFT RETURNS SAFELY TO EARTH.



## GRUBS

immature forms of beetles that feed on grass roots

## How they SAY that in...

- ENGLISH:** Grass
- SPANISH:** Césped
- ITALIAN:** Erba
- FRENCH:** Herbe
- GERMAN:** Gras



A STRING TRIMMER IS USED TO CUT GRASS NEAR FENCE LINES AND AROUND OBJECTS LIKE POLES OR YARD STRUCTURES.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: LAWNMOWER







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Published on April 20, 2023



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# War Eagles win 2 to improve to 11-8



By **KEITH ANDERSON**  
WHS Baseball Coach

The Wakulla High Varsity Baseball team won both games this past week to move to 11-8 on the year with wins over Blountstown and Maclay.

In the first game of the week, the War Eagles traveled over to Blountstown and won

6-2. Starter Leaston Spears was strong again on the mound throwing 4 and a third innings giving up 2 runs and striking out 3. Gavin Estep came in in the fourth to finish out the game giving up only 1 hit and striking out 3 Tiger hitters.

Second baseman Reid Joyner who made two spectacular defensive plays in the game also led the offense going 2-4. Brady Crum was 1-4 with a crucial 2 out 2 RBI single that proved to be the winning run. Parker Lawhon, Sam Bruce, and Owen Klees had a hit

apiece.

On Thursday, the War Eagles hosted Maclay with Wakulla winning 7-2. Starter Owen Klees was solid on the mound throwing 4 innings giving up 2 unearned runs and striking out 4. Hayden Wright entered for him in the 5th and was dominant throwing 3 shutout innings and striking out 5 Marauder hitters. Parker Lawhon led the offense going 2-3 and stealing 2 bases. Michael Hurley, Colby Zinser, Josiah Pierini, and Brady Crum all had hits. Reid Joyner was 1-3 with a double and an RBI.

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## WAK-COLOR Fun Run

7:30 a.m. SATURDAY, April 22, 2023

Registration at 7AM  
Starting at TCC Wakulla's parking lot.

The Wak-Color run is a 1 mile Color Run for suicide awareness and prevention!

New this year, a color run will take place at 7:30 AM! The Wak-Color run is a suicide awareness campaign that is entirely free to the community! Prior to the run, we will gather to listen to a presentation from The Jason Foundation, an organization whose mission is suicide awareness/prevention! Due to the nature of this conversation, it is recommended all participants are aged 12+ and all underage attendees must have an adult present.

All participants must register. Tickets are limited to 250. All participants will be provided with a WakColor Run t-shirt, sunglasses and a bandana, while supplies last.

By **Wakulla County FL Department of Health**

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# Prom night draws students to Azalea Park for photos



Kalen Griffin and Kennedy Willis.



Hunter Hyde, David Cully, Arav Patel, Vanessa Foreman, John Foreman, Kelsey Sanders, Jacobi McQueen, Zac Cierpik, Charlie Boydston, Ben Vaughn, Anuj Patel.



Sophia Walden and Megan Johns.



Mikey Percy, Ethan Reeves, Brianna Milam, Tyler Watford, Aubrey Hutchinson, Brooklyn Leftwich, Bricyn Kennedy.



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Viking Prom: Olivia Vaughn, Cameron Sheppard, Bianna Ly, and Shannon Sandow

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