



Tobacco free at COAST

Page

The Wakulla Sun

"It's a New Day"



Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
PM Thunderstorms	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
Hi: 84° Lo: 68° 37%	Hi: 84° Lo: 67° 24%	Hi: 85° Lo: 67° 15%
Sunrise 6:46 AM Sunset 8:21 PM	Sunrise 6:45 AM Sunset 8:21 PM	Sunrise 6:45 AM Sunset 8:22 PM



\$1 One Section

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Our 2nd Year 19th Issue
Thursday, May 11, 2023

Big names come out for Law Day

Attorney General Ashley Moody, Congressman Neal Dunn speak at sheriff's annual event

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

Attorney General Ashley Moody was the keynote speaker at the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office's annual Law Day. Moody was joined by Congressman Neal Dunn.

"Law Day is everyday in Florida," Moody told the crowd, which included 10 sheriffs, several judges, and lots of law enforcement officers and elected officials. Moody blamed a spike in crime on "woke, weak, whackadoo policies" of progressive prosecutors.

The event was held on Wednesday, May 3 at English Financial's offices in Crawfordville. About 250 people attended.

The event is also when the sheriff's office presents its annual awards and those went to Law Enforcement Officer, Andria Farmer; Corrections Officer, Jonathan Kilbourn; Communications Officer, Chelsea Clemons; and Civilian, Andrea Vernon.

The event was sponsored by Prime Meridian Bank and a lunch of fried shrimp was catered by Posey's Up the Creek.



PHOTO BY WILLIAM SNOWDEN

Attorney General Ashley Moody speaks. On the dais: Sheriff Jared Miller, Prime Meridian's Susan Payne Turner, Congressman Neal Dunn, and Undersheriff Billy Jones.



PHOTO BY LYNDA KINSEY

Recipients of annual awards: Jonathan Kilbourn, Andria Farmer, Andrea Vernon, Chelsea Clemons.



PHOTO (2) BY GERALD BROWN

Prime Meridian Bank's Susan Payne Turner and Sammie Dixon talk with Sheriff Miller and Ashley Moody.



Sheriff Jared Miller addresses the crowd. Some 250 people attended, including 10 sheriffs from the area.

Worm Gruntin' artist Rachell Mathis

By LINDA ANN McDONALD
Correspondent

The Worm Grunter's Ball annual T-shirt is admired by local and visiting festival goers alike. Each year, the usually quiet City of Sopchoppy is visited by many folks to celebrate the annual Worm Grunting Festival.

When initially viewing the festival T-shirt art, one will probably observe worms having fun. Comparable to unseen worms beneath the surface of soil prior to worm grunting, beneath the surface of the tee shirt art, awaits a world of festival history and representation which can only be described by the artist herself, Rachell Mathis.

When asked, "What made you decide to share your art for the festival?" Mathis answered, "Being a Sopchoppy Florida native myself brings an abundance of love for the creative process and production of the art that the community has seen for the last four years running."

In 2018, I designed my first ever piece for the Sopchoppy Worm Grunting Festival by collaborating fun and playful ideas with members of the original committee that oversaw the approval for the annual design. They have since passed the baton of responsibility to Discover Sopchoppy, a new panel of delightful folks who also love and understand the importance of the traditions that have made this event so special for 21 years, (and counting)." Mathis said. Activities such as the Wiggle Worm Fun Run, music,



Rachell Mathis' artwork for this year's Worm Gruntin' Festival. Mathis, below.

worm grunting demonstrations, senior wiggler dancers, hula hoop contests, Easter egg hunt, crowning of the queen and the Worm Grunter's Ball are all a part of the festival. Mathis' art will show worms partaking in these events.

In respect to the 2023 shirt, Rachell Mathis wanted to share, "The moon is matched with the accurate phase for April 8, 2023. It illuminates the night sky that the annual Worm Grunter's ball is celebrated under each year. I wanted to accentuate its importance because that's when the 'Sopchoppy Wiggles' cut loose and dance to the music of talented musicians hired



for the event.

"The snail and bees are a representation of the 'easy living' life, balanced with the hard work of those in the community that run their small

businesses and the local city government that serve from the heart."

"The babies and butterfly tell a story of a new generation of Sopchoppians that were born this year. My grandson, Easton DeSherlia, Ginny McSweeney, and baby Waylon Roberts, who was actually born in Sopchoppy. They will one day transform the world in beautiful ways.

"I couldn't forget to show our food vendors, craftsmen and massive local talent some love as well, through the hungry lady bug and worms playing various instruments.

"The worm with the hook was in my first design, but he has since removed the obsta-

cle that pierced him with the help of his friends and now has a newfound look on life. So, if you've accomplished this in some form of your life, celebrate that with the ones that love and support you."

When she was asked about her family and growing up in Sopchoppy, Mathis shared: "A favorite memory of mine is with my father Joe Mathis. I am named after him by the way his middle name is spelled - my dad's middle name is Lamarr with two Rs at the end, and the two Ls at the end of my name, Rachell. We used to go to different parks and enjoy restaurants. We enjoyed supporting the local shops of Wakulla. My fondest memory as a child was on Saturdays, Pee Paw, Buster Mathis of Sopchoppy, would take us into Sopchoppy Grocery and we would pick out the prettiest rose to go to church with. I would hold his hand and get a piece of candy and a drink. Walking out of the store I would feel like a million bucks."

Regarding the future of art in Wakulla County, Mathis stated, "I hope to see in the future a gallery of art on display in a local area for all to enjoy."

Visible on this year's T-shirt is a DJing worm holding a microphone directly pointing a finger to its audience while wearing a hat with "CB." The worm is representative of Sopchoppy's DJ Butch (Corey Benedict). The CB stands simultaneously for both County Boyz and Corey Benedict. DJ Butch has been both a performer and volunteer for the

Turn to Page 9

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Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park Stokes Aster

By LYNN ARTZ, SANDY TEDDER and DAVID RODDENBERRY



Stokes aster visited by a Palamedes swallowtail.

Stokes aster (*Stokesia laevis*) is a spectacular, low-maintenance, native perennial. It bears large flowers with fringed petals, usually lavender blue, in late spring. The showy flowers attract a variety of butterflies and bees. Flower stalks emerge from a rosette of attractive, green leaves. Stokes aster grows 1-2 feet tall and wide in full to part sun in moist soil. It is deer and rabbit resistant. This low-growing, evergreen wildflower makes an excellent border plant. Stokes aster is native to the southeastern U.S. including north Florida. Uncommon in the wild, stokes aster is increasingly popular among growers with named cultivars in nurseries. In general, native pollinators need and prefer true native wildflowers rather than cultivars. Stokes aster is blooming now in the northern gardens of Sopchoppy Depot Park.

Student of the Week

Claire Blackwell, 7th grader at Wakulla Middle School

Principal: Simeon Nelson

Achievements/Reason for Nomination:

Claire is an amazing Wakulla Wildcat. She has a great attitude and works hard in the classroom where she is an honor roll student. Her personality lights up the room and she is well-liked by her peers, teachers, and administrators. Claire is a Wildcat Cheerleader and will be one of the squad's co-captains next year. She is an anchor for the Wildcat News morning broadcast team. Claire serves as a Media Center Teacher's Assistant for Mrs. Byars, the WMS Media Specialist. She also had one of the lead roles in this year's drama performance of High School Musical, Jr. Claire was recently inducted into the National Junior Honor Society. Outside of school, Claire enjoys wake surfing, horseback riding, and singing. She performs solo through Wakulla Music and sings with her church's praise team. Claire also enjoys horseback riding. Congratulations, Claire! Everyone at WMS is proud of you!



STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.

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Lisa Craze, CFC
Wakulla County Tax Collector

ENACTED: 2006.
More than \$1 million has been raised through the sale of Florida Realtors "Support Homeownership for All" specialty license plates, which help fund affordable housing programs across Florida. The goal is to provide housing assistance to teachers, nurses and others unable to afford a home. Ninety percent of the proceeds from the sale of the "Support Homeownership for All" license plate goes to support affordable housing programs. Just 10 percent of the funds go toward marketing the plate.

Enacted: 07/01/2014.
The annual use fees are distributed to the Florida Sheriffs Association to develop and provide important training for members of local sheriff's offices as well as deputies across the state. Accountability. Since 1893, the Florida Sheriffs Association has been the voice of Florida's sheriffs, 67 men and women united in the service of protecting Florida's citizens and visitors.

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BASEBALL

War Eagles are district 4A runner up



By **KEITH ANDERSON**
WHS Baseball Coach

The War Eagles moved into the district tournament last week as the No. 2 seed and hosted the Suwannee Bulldogs.

Starting pitcher Gavin Estep threw well in the semi-final win throwing 5 and a third innings scattering 5 hits giving up 1 earned run and striking out seven.

Hayden Wright came in to pitch the last 4 outs and closed out the game with a solid effort striking out 1. The War Eagles won 7-3.

Suwannee jumped out to a 1-0 lead in the first, but the War Eagles answered back quickly in the third inning as catcher Brady Crum hit a solo blast over the left field fence to tie the game. This got the offense going and the War Eagles never looked back pounding out 8 hits. Colby Zinser led with a 3-4 day with 2 RBIs. Brady Crum was 2-4 with 2 RBIs. Parker Lawhon, Owen Klees, and Reid Joyner all had a hit a piece in the semi final win.

The win on Tuesday put the War Eagles into the championship game with the No. 2 ranked 4A region 1 Baker County Wildcats.

Jesse Nazworth got the start on the hill and threw well getting the War Eagles into the 5th inning with a 4-0 lead



Michael Hurley scores against Baker County, cheered on by Gavin Estep and Sam Bruce. The War

giving up no earned runs in the start.

Hayden Wright and

Owen Klees came on in relief, but with some defensive miscues,

Wakulla found themselves down 6-4 in the 7th inning. The War

Eagles fought back tying the game on a Michael Hurley 2 run single to push the game into the bottom of the seventh. The War Eagles, however could not keep Baker off the bases and they hit a walkoff double to end the game and leave the War Eagles as the district runner up.

The War Eagles pounded out 10 hits in the effort. Colby Zinser, Michael Hurley, Josiah Pierini, and Parker Lawhon led with 2 hits each. Sam Bruce and Reid Joyner also chipped in with a hit a piece.

The War Eagles would finish the regular season and district tournament with a 16-12 record (No. 18 in the state in 4A) and will move into the FHSAA regional playoffs with an at-large bid.



Ben Clenney of WCS signs scholarship

Wakulla Christian Baseball senior Ben Clenney, secured his place on the college mound on Tuesday, May 2, signing a baseball scholarship with Gulf Coast State College.

Ben is the 18-year-old son of Byron and Val Clenney and has a brother, Dean, who also played baseball with Wakulla Christian. Ben has been playing baseball his whole life and has been a part of the Wakulla Christian baseball team since the program began when he was just a 5th grader. Ben has enjoyed being a part of winning the 2017 Florida Independent Christian Athletic Association (FICAA) State Championship, traveling to the FHSAA Final Four twice in 2018 and 2019 and being the FHSAA 2A State Runner Up in 2018. Ben has also enjoyed playing travel ball for many years.

The senior pitcher's 62 strikeouts in only 28 innings pitched while graduating with a 3.34 GPA illustrates a player that is focused on getting the job done on and off the field. Ben is dual enrolled, a member of the National Honor Society and will graduate Cum Laude later this month.

Ben's favorite memory of high school baseball was when he turned a double play from right field as a 5th grader on the Varsity baseball team. Ben's future plans are to attend Gulf Coast in pursuit of his AA degree while playing baseball and then see where God takes him.

Best of luck, Ben!

Wakulla Christian wins district 1A title

Special to The Sun

The Wakulla Christian Saints varsity baseball team defeated the Liberty County Bulldogs last Thursday night by a score of 5-4 to claim the Class 1A District 5 Championship. How they did it is an amazing story!

Wakulla Christian moved to Class 1A this year. The move requires the Saints to compete against public high schools in the Panhandle, almost all of which have graduating classes multiple times larger than Wakulla Christian.

Injuries made the move even more challenging. Several pitchers missed starts and had innings limited during the season due to injuries. Junior starter Caleb Jackson was lost after 16 games to shoulder surgery. He still ranks among the team batting leaders and is second on the team in RBIs despite being out the last 8 games. Colby Conley, the Saints starting centerfielder and one of the best defensive outfielders in the Big Bend, was hampered all season by hamstring and ankle injuries. He was also unavailable for the district title game due to an auto accident last Wednesday night. But as they have all season, the Saints marched on and found ways to overcome adversity. Fourteen different players saw action in a district title game they weren't expected to win.

The Bulldogs got on the scoreboard first by scoring twice in the bottom of the 2nd inning. After Trenton Hires walked, Alden Harper reached on an error. Harper advanced to 2nd base on the same error and Hires advanced to 3rd base. Rylan Roddenberry was intentionally walked and Nathan Carpenter

followed with a 2 RBI single to left. The Saints worked their way out of the jam with a 6-4-3 double play.

Liberty County added another run in the 3rd inning when Gavin Jerkins led off with a double to left, advanced to third on a passed ball and scored when Thomas Fletcher reached on an error.

The Bulldogs threatened again in the bottom of the 4th inning after Roddenberry reached base on an error with one out. Wakulla Christian got out of the inning on a spectacular 5-3-6 double play, getting Roddenberry at the tail end of the play as he tried to reach 3rd on the throw to 1st base.

Neither team scored again until the Saints scored 5 runs in the top of the 7th inning. Cam Brantley, pinch hitting for Jackson Lawhon who was injured on a line drive earlier in the game, drew a lead off walk. Sawyer Lawhon entered the game as a pinch runner and Corey Clark followed with a line drive single to right field moving Lawhon to 3rd base. Clark advanced to 2nd base on a ground out with Lawhon holding at 3rd base. With two outs and Junior shortstop Jace Estes at the plate, Lawhon scored on a passed ball to put Wakulla Christian on the scoreboard, and Clark advanced to 3rd base. Estes then drilled a hard single back up the middle scoring Clark.

After Estes stole 2nd base and Langston Stephens drew a walk, Garrett McKenzie hit a hard ground ball, ruled an error, into left field. Estes scored on the play, with Stephens advancing to 3rd and McKenzie hustling into 2nd base behind the throw to 3rd base. Ben Clenney then followed with a 2 RBI opposite

field single that scored Stephens and McKenzie, and put the Saints up 5-3.

Liberty scored one more run in the bottom of the 7th inning when Roddenberry reached on a walk, advanced to 2nd on a passed ball, moved to 3rd on a ground out, and scored on a single to left by Jenkins. Jacob Kent then singled to left to put runners at 1st and 2nd with 2 outs before Estes struck out the final batter to pick up a save and seal the win for Wakulla Christian.

Starting pitcher, 14-year-old 8th grader Mack Johnson, pitched 6 innings and looked like a seasoned veteran to get the win for the Saints. Coach Buddy Montague and his staff pulled out all the stops and made the right moves at the right times to keep Wakulla Christian in position to claw their way back in it.

Following the game, Montague praised his players and coaches for their grit, perseverance, and belief in one another. "That has been the theme for this team all season long," said Montague. "Encourage one another, build one another up, pray for one another, and love one another. Those are our building blocks for success."

The district title capped a big week for the Saints. It was announced after the game that Estes, who still has another year at Wakulla Christian, has accepted an offer to play at FSU. Earlier in the week, Clenney signed with Gulf Coast State College before pitching a gem against Blountstown to put Wakulla Christian in the title game.

The Saints will next face No. 1 ranked Lafayette in regional playoff competition on Wednesday, May 10th at 7 p.m. in Mayo.

Wakulla Christian junior Jace Estes commits to FSU

By **LINDA ANN McDONALD**
Correspondent

Jace Estes, a junior in high school has committed to the Florida State Baseball Program. Estes will attend Florida State after his senior year is completed at Wakulla Christian School.

With a batting average of .449, On Base Percentage of .598, 31 Hits, 18 Runs Batted In, 34 Runs, .652 Slugging Percentage, combined with a 4.3 Academic GPA, Jace Estes earned the title of 'Team Leader' through his hard work.

Additional stats include 8 doubles, 3 triples and 20 stolen bases. Estes said, "I was prepared when FSU baseball recruiter Coach Link Jarrett traveled to Wakulla Christian School to watch me play."

"I knew FSU was where I wanted to

play after talking with the coaches for a couple months.", Estes said. "FSU contacted me and asked me to be on their team."

If the Estes name sounds familiar, it is because Jace Estes was born into a baseball playing family. Jace's older brother Jay attended Auburn University and joined the Chicago White Sox while brother Jacob played ball for the University of West Florida Argos; Jacob graduated UWF this semester. Keefer Beaty, a cousin, made Wakulla headlines when he signed with Thomas University in 2016 on a baseball scholarship.

"My leadership on and off the field is what brought me to the next level," he explained. "My future plans are to volunteer for the Florida Christian Athletes Wakulla (FCA) and mentor other athletes."

"I will stay around and hit after prac-



tice to show others my commitment and dedication. My father influenced me to be the best I could be and he always put in the extra work to make me better."

Asked who played a major role in his achievements, he said: "My grandparents JC and Kathryn Beaty drove me to and from games, they never missed a game."

"I want to thank my Coach B. Montague for 5 years coaching and keeping me on the right track in my career," said Estes.

His parents, James and Shealyn Estes, said: "We are very proud of Jace. He has been dedicated to baseball since he was young, and we are proud to watch him make his dream come true. We want nothing but the best for him and it is rewarding to see all the hard work and dedication Jace has put into this for so many years."

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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

‘Light aircraft’ is 12,500 lbs or less

Editor, The Sun:

A response to L. James Parham’s Letter to the Editor last week, “Debate over defining ‘light aircraft’”:

I offer this letter as an American citizen and not as the volunteer airport manager. I could not agree more with Mr. Parham’s call for harmony in last week’s Sun, but truth and integrity are integral components for harmony to truly exist in any environment.

Mr. Parham’s relentless assertion that the county airport is somehow deed restricted to aircraft weighing less than 6,000 lbs is simply not true. There’s undoubtedly no such restriction or prohibition...PERIOD.

Aircraft were defined in 1963 by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Chapter 1, Subchapter A, Part 1, Subsection 1.1 as: “Small Aircraft” 12,500 lbs and under Maximum Certified Takeoff Weight (MTOW) or “Large Aircraft” 12,500 lbs and over MTOW. These definitions were codified well before 1963 and are still in effect today. There’s never been an FAA definition for “Light Aircraft.”

The plain language of the deed in no way whatsoever prohibits aircraft that are not “light” or over 6,000 lbs.

The true effect and intention of such a fictitious prohibition claim would be to prevent the brave young women and men aviators of our U.S. military service from utilizing the people’s airport to fulfill their training syllabus for fixed-wing operations on short, unimproved runways and pilot hot-swap rotary-wing operations.

This training is crucial for Special Operations Squadrons to safely accomplish their extremely demanding and selfless missions.

I, for one, simply cannot understand why increasingly, some Americans no longer support our Military and are so unwilling to make even the smallest of small sacrifices to help those who put their lives on the line to protect the freedom and liberty we all enjoy. I’m not willing to have to learn Mandarin or Russian; I respectfully suggest I’m not alone.

May God Bless America and our Military now and forever!

Steve Fults
Ochlockonee Bay

Springs to get minimal protection

Editor, The Sun:

On Monday night in a county commission room full of Wakulla Springs supporters, commissioners decided with a 4-1 vote that they know what’s best for the citizens and chose to proceed with the proposed new regulations they suggest are designed to protect Wakulla County rivers and springs. These new “stricter” regulations are the first steps designed to allow the construction of a gas station over Chips Hole Cave by SW Ga Oil. Chips Hole Cave is a step closer to taking the daily gas station/car wash runoff and mixing it in with our drinking water on its way to Wakulla Springs, Wakulla River, St. Marks River and eventually the Gulf.

These new regulations contain no setbacks for fuel tanks over a cave. You heard right, no setbacks. It was pointed out that other counties manage to enact setbacks from caves but for some reason Wakulla County can’t figure out how to do it, even though Chips Hole Cave is a cave that is well mapped and documented. A citizen spoke to the accuracy of Cave Radio Locators used by the divers for WKPP for mapping caves and conduits. The county (administrator and attorney) claim that they can’t use maps that aren’t certified, yet FDOT, FDEP, NW Florida Water Management, FSU and others use the same maps of underground caves for regulatory practices. It was also pointed out that if the county enacted setbacks, our pro-development county officials might not get their new SunStop/Inland and therefore want to avoid any setback language. Perhaps the setbacks are some of the “red tape” that County Administrator David Edwards was recently quoted as saying have been eliminated and Wakulla County is now “pro-development?”

The new regulations require that hazardous materials must be stored above ground, but not gas tanks over a cave. These new Wakulla County regulations don’t even count gasoline as a hazardous material as do other counties, and therefore, they are given

special status where fuel tanks in sensitive areas be put underground- where leaks are harder to detect.

Passionate and well-informed citizens spoke one after the other with convincing facts that largely fell on deaf ears. Commissioner Hess asked about what would happen if a collapse over the cave happened, swallowing a fuel tank. One of the Terracon officials reassured commissioners by telling them that “catastrophic failure was not a particular concern in this particular area.” Later an irate citizen quoted the Terracon official and asked, “if putting fuel tanks over a cave leading to Wakulla Springs doesn’t reach the level of concern for catastrophic failure, what does?” (Terracon was hand-picked by County Administrator David Edwards for their “impeccable” credentials). The other commissioners weren’t deterred. Commissioner Hess then suggested a workshop to consider input from The Friends of Wakulla Springs, Wakulla Springs Alliance and Clean Water Wakulla. He could not get a second and the motion failed.

Only one individual in the packed room spoke in favor of the new regulations. Commissioners Messersmith, Kemp, Nichols and Thomas then voted in favor of moving the new regulations forward, as they were written, allowing a gas station over a cave leading to Wakulla Springs with zero setbacks. Commissioner Hess was the lone nay vote.

The county had promised all along to include Wakulla Springs Alliance, Friends of Wakulla Springs and Clean Water Wakulla in drafting the new regulations, yet none were ever called upon. Setbacks were also the major component of springs protections when first discussed almost a year ago. But, in the end the new regulations were written behind closed doors by firms hand-picked by the county to provide minimum standards. In that regard, the county succeeded.

David Damon
Crawfordville

Don’t exceed aircraft weight limit

Editor, The Sun:

Regarding Jim Parham’s letter to editor in the Wakulla Sun of Thursday May 4th 2023:

Mr. Parham, you said it a lot more eloquently than I ever could or would have.

That 6,000-pound aircraft maximum weight limit should never have

been exceeded and I have no idea why Fults, our volunteer airport manager, allowed heavy military aircraft in there such as the V-22 Osprey. It has a known history of crashing. Anyone can type; V-22 Osprey crashes, on YouTube.

Bill Catalina
Crawfordville

Stop light pollution at Shell Point

Editor, The Sun:

An open letter to Tracy Bensley, GM of Talquin Electric Cooperative:

Dear Tracy,
I am writing to you today to address a growing concern in our community, which is the issue of light pollution. As you may be aware, light pollution is the excessive or misdirected use of artificial outdoor light that disrupts the natural patterns of wildlife, obscures the stars in the night sky, and has adverse health effects.

Light pollution can have negative effects on local wildlife, such as sea turtles, whose behavior is modified by the presence of artificial light at night. This can discourage egg-bearing females from coming ashore to nest and disrupt the natural patterns of their ecosystem. It lures some organisms like moths, and frogs, away from their natural habitat, making them more vulnerable to predation or exhaustion. In our community, we value our

night sky and the opportunity to enjoy the stars and constellations. However, the excessive lighting that you are adding to Paradise Village is making it difficult for us to do so. The light pollution is shining into people’s bedrooms at night, disrupting our sleep and preventing us from enjoying the beauty of the Milky Way and other stars.

I urge you to take action to reduce the light pollution at Paradise Village in Shell Point. This can be achieved by adjusting the lighting fixtures to ensure that they are only shining where they are needed and not into people’s homes or the surrounding environment. By doing so, we can preserve the natural beauty of our night sky and protect the local wildlife.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and I look forward to hearing back from you soon.

Sincerely,

Sue Damon
Shell Point

Something on your mind?

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

Hospice volunteers honored

Big Bend Hospice had a wonderful time celebrating their amazing volunteers on Saturday April 29 at Good Samaritan Church in Tallahassee. Volunteers from all eight counties served by Big Bend Hospice showed up to celebrate, enjoy some entertainment, eat some great food and win some amazing prizes! The luncheon included live music by Saylor Dollar, a lasso demonstration by Trey & Tripp Young, and line dancing instructions from John Shaw. Volunteers had a chance to win a raffled off gift basket. The baskets were made by each department of Big Bend Hospice, as the staff’s way of saying thank you. Baskets included items like gift cards to restaurants, moonshine, gardening items and a 2 hour trail ride donated by Trey Young with Family Funeral Home. Pictured are three Wakulla County volunteers, Hanna Henderson, Linda Carrier and Maryanne Geers at the luncheon.



Wakulla County volunteers Hanna Henderson, Linda Carrier and Maryanne Geers at the luncheon.

In learning more about volunteering with Big Bend Hospice, please reach out to Kara Walker at kmwalker@big-bendhospice.org or 850-878-5310.

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William Snowden
Editor & Publisher
The Wakulla Sun

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The Wakulla Sun



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◀ Question of The Week ▶

– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

Polled at the Shadeville Elementary field trip to the Sopchoppy Depot: What was your mother right about?



COLLEEN S. MITCHELL
DEPOT COMMITTEE

But everything she would risk the wrong for the rights in person, taking them a face hue?



CRIS SMITH
GOAT CONSTRUCTION

“She was right about my daughter, meaning that I was going to reap what I sowed.”



CARRIE B. REED
SALTY DOG CONSTRUCTION

Everything she has taught me that patience was a virtue?



NELSON MARTIN
RETIRED TEACHER

“She was right that Wakulla County needed a new library. She was a driving force behind the library we now have in Medart.”



HALIE COLVIN
WAKULLA HIGH

Remembering, I now know what she meant when she said that we chose our battles wisely. She has so said to enjoy the little moments?”

COMMUNITY NEWS

Wakulla Station News

By **VERNA BROCK**

Ed and I had the distinct pleasure of attending the Riversprings Middle School End of Year Band Concert last week, and it was really amazing. Mathes Spindler, the director of bands, is an absolute genius at teaching these middle school students. The Jazz Band was a revelation, and so much fun to watch; the Symphonic band literally moved me to tears with “Rippling Watercolors.” The Concert Band’s performance of “Down To the River” was sublime. I hope you will make plans to enjoy a band concert next year!

At the same time, the walls of the RMS multi-purpose room were covered in a year’s worth of art works by members of all three grades. Wakulla County certainly has a wealth of talent in the arts.

Kudos to the Wakulla High School softball team, on moving forward to regional competition! This time of year is always busy, with graduations, competitions, performances and school trips.

Speaking of graduations, I want to congratulate Alex Hernandez and his family on his successful graduation from both TCC and WHS this month.

We are all so proud for him, and can’t wait to see what he accomplishes next.

Let me also congratulate Dianne and Kelly O’Neil on the wedding anniversary. May you celebrate many, many more! Happy birthday wishes this week to Gloria Dock and Crystal Rudd also.

As I write this, plans for attending the Community Traffic Safety Committee are moving forward for May 9th. I will give you a full report next week as to how our concerns were received. I absolutely thank Sheriff Miller for the steps he has taken to remind folks to SLOW DOWN in our little neighborhood.

Please continue to keep little Sebastian Moseley and his family close

in prayers. He had a rough week, and needs to gain strength to receive a heart transfer. Our prayers are both deeply appreciated and coveted.

Please continue to lift the Kendrick family in prayer, as well as the Carter families, the family of Howard Hobby, my friend Esther Gavin as she recovers from a broken arm, the Hobbs family, the Vickery family, and the Peacock-Sloan family.

I also want to thank my friends and family for their prayers during the past few months. We celebrated my father’s life on the 28th, at the Tallahassee National Cemetery. It is such a beautiful place, and the volunteers there do a great job with the military honors for our loved ones.

Buckhorn News

By **ETHEL SKIPPER**

Our family had a joyful occasion celebrating with family and friends – the 70th wedding anniversary of Willie Fred and Ethel M. Skipper.

Some people ask how did it last? There should be love in a marriage. Love is patient. Love is kind. It is not envy. It does not boast. It is

not proud. It is not rude. It is not self-seeking. It is not easily angered. It keeps no record of wrongdoing.

Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices in the truth. It always protects, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love will always win. We thank all our family and friends for your love shown in every

way.

Skipper Temple Church of Christ will celebrate mothers on their day. Guest speaker will be Elder Rose Simmons from Woodville Church of Christ. Pastor Elder Steve Jackson. Mother of the year, Mother Vera Green. Honoring mother with most grandchildren, youngest mother, oldest mother.

On Sunday, May 21 at 11 a.m. will be Youth Day. Speaker will be Sister Charlotte Green, youth leader.

Everyone is welcome to these services.

We wish a happy birthday to Charlotte Green, May 21; Jamerion Green, May 8, Callie Gavin on May 13, Faith Johnson on May 4, and Ryan Hines on May 5.

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

Library News – May 11

UPCOMING EVENTS!

- Thursday, May 11**
Tech Learning Lab – 3D Printers! 5pm
Wakulla Amateur Radio Club 7pm
- Friday, May 12**
Quilting Guild 9:30am
- Saturday, May 13**
Zeta Phi Zeta 9am
Alzheimer’s Caregiver Support 10am
- Monday, May 15**
American Legion 6:30am
- Tuesday, May 16**
Crafting Group 9:30am
Book Bunch 10am
Memoir Writing 10am
LEGO Club 4pm

- Republican Women’s Group 5:30pm
 - Florida Sarracenia Chapter of the Native Plant Society **6:30pm**
 - Wednesday, May 17**
Book Babies 10am
Knitting Group 4pm
 - Thursday, May 18**
Veteran’s Meetup 11am
Wakulla Amateur Radio Club 7pm
- WCPL PRESENTS: SUMMER READING 2023 – IMAGINE YOUR STORY!**
- Join Mrs. Rebecca and Mrs. Patty for a FREE summer of fun for children & families starting June 6th! During

Summer Reading, WCPL offers weekly age-specific programs designed to encourage a life-long love of reading. Wondering what programs are appropriate for your kiddos? Here’s the breakdown:

- **Book Bunch:** This program for toddlers aged 2 1/2 to preschool includes stories, music, & crafts. Tuesdays at 10am.
- **Royal Readers:** This program for children in grades K-2, features stories and crafts. Tuesdays at 2pm.
- **Book Babies:** This program is an interactive story time and playgroup designed for infants, young toddlers, and their caregivers. Wednesdays at 10am.
- **Mythical Readers:** This program for children in grades 3-5, features books and activities focused around a central theme. Wednesdays at 2pm.

• **STEAM:** STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math. Kids in this programs will learn through hands on fun and building! Open to all ages. See schedule for dates and times.

• **LEGO Club:** LEGO Club is designed to provide kids with an enjoyable activity that stimulates & develops spatial intelligence. They will be able to create whatever leaps into their imaginations! Open to all ages. 1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 4pm.

UPCOMING HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

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

Claxton Vause celebrates his 90th birthday on Saturday



Claxton Vause with wife Vonita and daughters. Arlene Vause, Danita Vause Pope, and Myra Vause Rogers at Claxton’s 90th birthday celebration.

PHOTOS BY
GERALD BROWN



A large group of family and friends came together to celebrate at the Sopchoppy Gymnasium on Saturday.

Outdoors

outdoor sports

HOME ON THE RANGE

Which is better: Sig P238 .380 or P938-9?



By MARJ LAW

A couple days ago, our car stops at a gun shop. Big surprise!

Inside, Joe's nose is pressed against a showcase. He's looking at the Sig Sauer 9mm 938FDE. Now, I have the 238. It's a .380. The 938 looks just like it only it's a 9 versus my .380.

"What does FDE even mean?" I ask Joe when we look at the 938. It's frustrating when guys (or companies) talk shorthand. What does FDE mean?

Turns out, FDE refers to the color of the gun: flat dark earth. Ahem.

Joe wants this gun. Is that drool on the glass? Wants it wants it wants it.

We don't need the 938. Yes, it's a 9mm, but Joe already has a 9mm carry gun. Maybe more than one. He sure doesn't need another. I don't need it, either. I have that nice .380.

My little Sig .380 P238 is accurate. It's slim and fits oh-so-nicely in my hand.

Trigger pull is light and short. Jack the slide? Yes, the slide moves easily. You don't have to have muscles like Popeye to lock the slide back.

Light? 15 ounces. Yes, it fits in a carry purse. Even better, it doesn't imprint when you appendix carry in a sticky holster. Yay!

But best of all? The P238 has the lightest, easiest kick! Newbies who try out my 238 at the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) range love knowing they can handle this little gun.

You can't beat it. But Joe is lusting after that 938: the big brother of the 238. Yes, this is the carry gun we don't need.

Since the P238 works so well for me, I weaken. Maybe the 9mm is special too. I might like it!

"Okay. I'm not buying it, but maybe we could go halves," I mutter under my breath, hoping he won't hear me.

Joe doesn't always hear me. Might be selective. But this time, his ears perk up.

"You'll do half?" he questions. "We'll take it!" he crows.

So this Saturday, we're at the WCSO range. We're going to compare the .380 versus the 9mm Sig.

They are so darn similar.

My .380 holds six rounds, or you can get a seven round extended magazine. It's very thin and weighs only 15 ounces.

The new 9mm holds 7 rounds and weighs yes: only 16 ounces.

We'll shoot four rounds each. Joe will begin with my .380. We are rating trigger pull, recoil, grip, and difficulty of racking the slide. On a 1–5 scale, a 1 means "easy" or "light." A 5 means "difficult" or "darn well hate it."

Blam! Blam! Blam! Blam!

Joe is on target, but his grouping isn't great. I expected him to do some better.

"It's a small grip," he explains.

"So, how's the trigger pull?" I ask. He gives



trigger pull a 2, and trigger travel a 1. He says the kick is light, and gives it a 2. He gives the small grip a 2 as well. It's okay, but a bit small for good control. Jacking the slide? He says it's very light and gives it a 1.

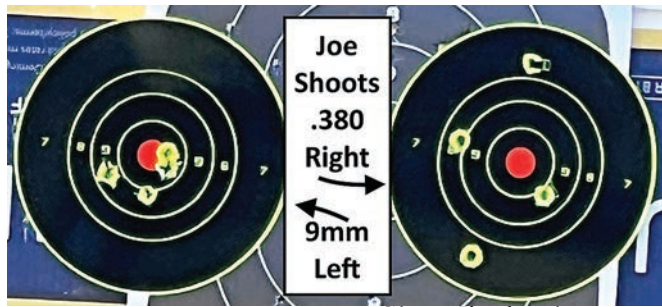
Next, he picks up the new 9mm. This gun isn't broken in. When Joe shoots cold, he usually hits the target low and to the left.

"It's all in finger pressure," he explains. "You only press your index finger. That's been my mistake in the past."

Four blams later, three are in the x-ring and the other is in the 9 ring. Very close grouping!

He gives trigger pull a 2, and trigger pull travel a 1: just like he did with the .380. A difference is the recoil. He gives recoil a 3, which is more than the 2 he gave the .380.

Joe prefers the grip of the 9mm. It's just enough to fit his hand



better than the .380. He gives it a 1 for a great grip. Jacking the slide is a bit harder than the .380, but not much. He gives jacking the slide a 2.

"I have more of a connection with this 9," he says. "The grip just feels good in my hand."

Darn. His scores will be really hard to beat. Even with my favorite .380!

My turn. I shoot my .380 first. It feels good in my small hand. But, after four shots, I only have two shots that hit the target. Trigger pull gets a 1, travel a 1, kick a 2, grip a 1 and slide a 1 as well. Everything feels right, but my dominant hand is damaged.

Since I'm having trouble with the right hand, I shift to the left hand with the 9mm. Wow! Between Joe and me, all of our eight shots are pretty close together.

Trigger pull is harder. While my .380 gets a 1, the 9mm gets a 2.5. Travel is a bit longer than the .380. But the bigger deal is the recoil. The 9mm has a firm kick, and I give it a 3.5. Remember, I gave the .380 just a 2. The 9 has significant more recoil.

The grip is larger. I prefer the smaller grip of the .380. The 9 is more difficult to jack the slide. I give the slide a 2.5, while that .380 was just an easy 1.

This isn't fair to my

little .380. I re-shoot the .380, using my left undamaged hand. Big difference! Suddenly four shots are in the 9 ring.

Both guns have shot quite equally for me. The 9mm has more oomph than the .380, but the .380 is easier for me. Between the thinner grip, lighter trigger and kick and the easier slide, my fave is still the .380. I like easy.

Joe shoots the 9mm much more accurately. He prefers the slightly larger grip. While he agrees it has more recoil, the amount of kick doesn't bother him. He wants to carry the Sig Sauer 9mm 938.

What can I say? The 938 is going to be Joe's new carry gun.

Looks like my "half" of the gun is going to Joe.

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

BIRDING AT THE REFUGE

Spring migration is going on now

By DON MORROW

Spring migration is a mass movement of billions of birds: hummingbirds, rails, vireos, cuckoos, sandpipers, sparrows, terns, tanagers, gulls and grosbeaks. Some have spent the winter here along the Gulf coast, while most are coming from their wintering grounds in South America. All are headed back to their summer homes to breed.

There are Western Sandpipers and Ruddy Turnstones bound for the North coast of Alaska; Common Loons headed home to the lakes of Ontario; Blackpoll and Bay-breasted Warblers returning to the Boreal forests of Canada; Scarlet Tanagers jumping to the hardwood forests of the Northeast and Green-winged Teal flying up to Quebec. Some birds have shorter journeys. Acadian Flycatchers, Orchard Orioles and Wood Thrushes will spread out over the Eastern

woodlands from the Gulf coast to Canada.

Two billion birds cross the Gulf each year on Spring migration. Five million of these migrants flew over St. Marks this April. Only a few of them stopped at the refuge and for those that did, the refuge provided a critical feeding stop. I watched a Rose-breasted Grosbeak in the woods near Headquarters Pond that had apparently just landed after a trans-Gulf flight. It was gorging on unripe blackberries and was so hungry that it ignored me and let me walk up to within a few feet of it.

Elsewhere on the refuge, Palm Warblers eat insects and Whimbrels probe in the mud for fiddler crabs. These and other migrants are intent on feeding and adding fat to fuel their next migratory jump. Undeveloped coastal lands like St. Marks NWR provide migratory stopover sites that are as necessary to these birds' survival as the protec-



A Rose-breasted Grosbeak gorging itself on unripe blackberries after its trans-Gulf flight.

tion of their nesting and wintering grounds.

Spring migration is moving to a close. Already, the refuge's summer breeders are busy. Common Gallinules are tending chicks and Northern Parulas are feeding young. Within the next week most migrant songbirds will have passed through St. Marks and by the end of May, the majority of migrant shorebirds will be on their way. St. Marks will have settled into the summer doldrums even

before the last North-bound arctic shorebirds come through in June. Then, in early July the first early nesting birds, through with breeding for another year, will begin to drift through heading South as the never-ending cycle of avian migration continues.

Come down to St. Marks and watch. It's fascinating.

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



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, Animalia, Chordata, Reptilia, Testudinidae, Cheloniidae

Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratory
www.gulfspecimen.org

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Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences

Thursday 11

Sun rise/set: 6:45AM / 8:20PM
Moon rise/set: 1:48AM / 12:11PM
Moon Illumination: 63%

Friday 12

Sun rise/set: 6:42AM / 8:21PM
Moon rise/set: 2:33AM / 1:20PM
Moon Illumination: 51%

Saturday 13

Sun rise/set: 6:44AM / 8:22PM
Moon rise/set: 3:12AM / 2:27PM
Moon Illumination: 40%

Sunday 14

Sun rise/set: 6:43AM / 8:22PM
Moon rise/set: 3:46AM / 3:32PM
Moon Illumination: 29%

Monday 15

Sun rise/set: 6:42AM / 8:23PM
Moon rise/set: 4:17AM / 4:35PM
Moon Illumination: 19%

Tuesday 16

Sun rise/set: 6:42AM / 8:24PM
Moon rise/set: 4:48AM / 5:38PM
Moon Illumination: 11%

Wednesday 17

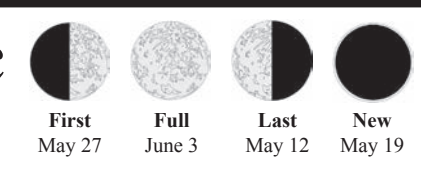
Sun rise/set: 6:41AM / 8:24PM
Moon rise/set: 5:20AM / 6:40PM
Moon Illumination: 5%

Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

May 11 - May 17

Tides charts by tides4fishing.com

Best fishing days this month: May 19-31



Thursday 11

Minor Times: 1:03AM / 11:26AM
Major Times: 5:42AM / 6:11PM

Friday 12

Minor Times: 1:48AM / 12:35PM
Major Times: 6:38AM / 7:05PM

Saturday 13

Minor Times: 2:27AM / 1:42PM
Major Times: 7:31AM / 7:56PM

Sunday 14

Minor Times: 3:01AM / 2:47PM
Major Times: 8:20AM / 8:44PM

Monday 15

Minor Times: 3:32AM / 3:50PM
Major Times: 9:07AM / 9:31PM

Tuesday 16

Minor Times: 4:03AM / 4:53PM
Major Times: 9:54AM / 10:17PM

Wednesday 17

Minor Times: 4:35AM / 5:55PM
Major Times: ---

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

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

St. Marks River Entrance

Th	1:13 am ▼ -0.3 ft	8:11 am ▲ 2.7 ft	12:25 pm ▼ 2.0 ft	6:08 pm ▲ 3.5 ft
Fr	2:22 am ▼ 0.0 ft	9:27 am ▲ 2.8 ft	2:02 pm ▼ 2.0 ft	7:40 pm ▲ 3.1 ft
Sa	3:35 am ▼ 0.3 ft	10:32 am ▲ 2.9 ft	4:00 pm ▼ 1.8 ft	9:53 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
Su	4:42 am ▼ 0.5 ft	11:22 am ▲ 3.2 ft	5:30 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	11:35 pm ▲ 3.0 ft
Mo	5:59 am ▼ 0.8 ft	12:02 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	6:32 pm ▼ 0.6 ft	
Tu	12:46 am ▲ 3.1 ft	6:27 am ▼ 1.0 ft	12:38 pm ▲ 3.7 ft	7:22 pm ▼ 0.1 ft
We	1:42 am ▲ 3.3 ft	7:08 am ▼ 1.2 ft	1:11 pm ▲ 3.8 ft	8:06 pm ▼ -0.3 ft

City of St. Marks

Th	2:17 am ▼ -0.3 ft	8:47 am ▲ 2.5 ft	1:29 pm ▼ 1.9 ft	6:44 pm ▲ 3.3 ft
Fr	3:26 am ▼ 0.0 ft	10:03 am ▲ 2.6 ft	3:06 pm ▼ 1.9 ft	8:16 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
Sa	4:39 am ▼ 0.3 ft	11:08 am ▲ 2.7 ft	5:04 pm ▼ 1.6 ft	10:29 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
Su	5:46 am ▼ 0.5 ft	11:58 am ▲ 2.9 ft	6:34 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	
Mo	12:11 am ▲ 2.8 ft	6:43 am ▼ 0.7 ft	12:38 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	7:36 pm ▼ 0.5 ft
Tu	1:22 am ▲ 2.9 ft	7:31 am ▼ 0.9 ft	1:14 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	8:26 pm ▼ 0.1 ft
We	2:18 am ▲ 3.0 ft	8:12 am ▼ 1.1 ft	1:47 pm ▲ 3.6 ft	9:10 pm ▼ -0.3 ft

Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	1:40 am ▼ -0.2 ft	8:45 am ▲ 2.9 ft	12:58 pm ▼ 2.2 ft	6:28 pm ▲ 3.5 ft
Fr	2:52 am ▼ 0.1 ft	10:01 am ▲ 2.9 ft	2:40 pm ▼ 2.2 ft	8:04 pm ▲ 3.1 ft
Sa	4:06 am ▼ 0.3 ft	11:04 am ▲ 3.1 ft	4:34 pm ▼ 1.8 ft	10:23 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
Su	5:13 am ▼ 0.6 ft	11:50 am ▲ 3.3 ft	5:57 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	
Mo	12:00 am ▲ 3.1 ft	6:09 am ▼ 0.8 ft	12:28 pm ▲ 3.5 ft	6:55 pm ▼ 0.6 ft
Tu	1:09 am ▲ 3.2 ft	6:56 am ▼ 1.0 ft	1:01 pm ▲ 3.7 ft	7:43 pm ▼ 0.1 ft
We	2:03 am ▲ 3.4 ft	7:35 am ▼ 1.3 ft	1:31 pm ▲ 3.9 ft	8:25 pm ▼ -0.3 ft

Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	1:24 am ▼ -0.2 ft	8:03 am ▲ 2.1 ft	12:36 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	6:00 pm ▲ 2.6 ft
Fr	2:33 am ▼ 0.0 ft	9:19 am ▲ 2.1 ft	2:13 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	7:32 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
Sa	3:46 am ▼ 0.2 ft	10:24 am ▲ 2.2 ft	4:11 pm ▼ 0.9 ft	9:45 pm ▲ 2.2 ft
Su	4:53 am ▼ 0.4 ft	11:14 am ▲ 2.4 ft	5:41 pm ▼ 0.4 ft	11:27 pm ▲ 2.2 ft
Mo	5:50 am ▼ 0.6 ft	11:54 am ▲ 2.6 ft	6:43 pm ▼ 0.4 ft	
Tu	12:38 am ▲ 2.3 ft	6:38 am ▼ 0.7 ft	12:30 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	7:33 pm ▼ 0.0 ft
We	1:34 am ▲ 2.4 ft	7:19 am ▼ 0.9 ft	1:03 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	8:17 pm ▼ -0.2 ft

St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	1:15 am ▼ -0.3 ft	9:07 am ▲ 2.3 ft	12:21 pm ▼ 2.1 ft	6:08 pm ▲ 2.8 ft
Fr	2:29 am ▼ -0.1 ft	10:25 am ▲ 2.3 ft	3:01 pm ▼ 2.0 ft	7:49 pm ▲ 2.4 ft
Sa	3:48 am ▼ 0.2 ft	11:12 am ▲ 2.4 ft	5:00 pm ▼ 1.6 ft	9:58 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
Su	4:59 am ▼ 0.4 ft	11:44 am ▲ 2.5 ft	6:02 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	11:43 pm ▲ 2.4 ft
Mo	5:56 am ▼ 0.7 ft	12:10 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	6:48 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	
Tu	12:58 am ▲ 2.5 ft	6:42 am ▼ 1.0 ft	12:34 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	7:28 pm ▼ 0.0 ft
We	1:58 am ▲ 2.6 ft	7:20 am ▼ 1.3 ft	12:57 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	8:05 pm ▼ -0.3 ft

Dog Island West End

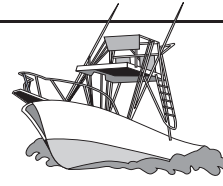
Th	1:34 am ▼ -0.2 ft	10:32 am ▲ 2.1 ft	1:19 pm ▼ 2.0 ft	6:24 pm ▲ 2.4 ft
Fr	2:41 am ▼ 0.1 ft	11:05 am ▲ 2.1 ft	3:48 pm ▼ 1.8 ft	7:51 pm ▲ 2.1 ft
Sa	3:56 am ▼ 0.4 ft	11:27 am ▲ 2.2 ft	5:23 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	10:14 pm ▲ 1.9 ft
Su	5:04 am ▼ 0.7 ft	11:46 am ▲ 2.3 ft	6:26 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	11:54 pm ▲ 2.0 ft
Mo	6:07 am ▼ 0.9 ft	12:07 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	7:13 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	
Tu	1:28 am ▲ 2.1 ft	7:04 am ▼ 1.2 ft	12:31 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	7:51 pm ▼ 0.1 ft
We	2:35 am ▲ 2.2 ft	7:47 am ▼ 1.4 ft	12:58 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	8:25 pm ▼ -0.3 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



Flotilla 12 held its monthly meeting this past weekend at The Wakulla County Public Library. Many thanks for Linda Olson for the following information and images.

During the meeting, Flotilla Commander Phil Hill presented Joe Storey and Wade Olson awards for Sustained Service. Bravo Zulu to both!

Following the meeting, Bob Asztalos led the mandatory Team Coordination Training for all members involved in operations. This includes Boar Crew, Communications and Coxswain.

Later that afternoon, Coxswain Bob Asztalos along with crew Norma Hill, Phil Hill, Steve Hults and Joe Storey conducted a safety patrol where they were able to put into practice their TCT skills. The crew launched from Shell Island Fish Camp and headed out to the channel where they practiced plotting, navigating and search patterns. All completed their annual day-

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



Bob Asztalos, Norma Hill, Phill Hill, Steve Hults and Joe Storey on Patrol.

time qualifications for crew recertification.

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. 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

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.



Underwater Wakulla

By Gregg Stanton

The Mighty O (Oriskany).

The aircraft carrier USS Oriskany (better known as the Mighty O.), was sunk as an artificial reef 25 miles off Pensacola in May of 2006. Soon thereafter I dove the rig, finding fish already moving in. The deck of this vessel was at 130 feet. But over the years it has settled to where today the deck, with more erosion, is at 145 feet.

The vessel was named after the Battle of Oriskany that took place in the Revolutionary War. It began construction in May 1944 in Brooklyn Navy Yard. It was designed to carry 91-103 aircraft. It was 888 feet (271 meters) with 911 feet overall length deploying 23 foot catapult extensions.

The Mighty O was launched in 1945 and commissioned in 1950 after a redesign to become the last Essex-class aircraft carrier. It served in the Korean War, earning two battle stars, and Vietnam, earning 10 battle stars, working primarily in the Pacific. In 1966, an accidental magnesium fire killed 44 people on board. See more details on Wikipedia.

In 1976 she was decommissioned and sold for scrap, only to be recovered in 1997. In 2006, the Mighty O became the largest reef ever purposely placed on the sea floor off Pensacola as an artificial reef. The ship sank in 37 minutes after detonation of charges. Her intended depth was exceeded by 10 feet in 2008 after Hurricane Gustav struck the area. To this day she still flies the U.S. flag.

On Monday, we dropped to the conning tower where the flag is still set and tied in to the railing. The ride out and back was somewhat rough but worth the 2-plus hour one-way trip. The two open circuit divers were restricted to the conning tower area while we had unlimited scope of the ship while diving rebreathers using a trimix (helium mixture) breathing gas. Our bottom time was planned at 100 minutes, but we carried 240 minutes of possible dive time. The water was a warm 70 degrees F. and almost no current present during the dive. I dove a 5 mil wetsuit and was quite comfortable.

Once oriented to the wreck, the four of us rebreather divers scaled the conning tower and hit the deck. Visibility was an awesome 100 feet. Much of the modified aluminum deck is eroded away leaving the underpinning pipes visible. We then climbed over the flight deck to the hanger deck below. There we encountered lionfish at 170 FSW. All we had was a camera, so they got their pictures taken. I noticed a window sash weight in the foreground and picked it up for our showcase. The lower flight deck was more cluttered than I recall from a decade ago, but equally spacious. Our return to the surface included required decompression stops along the way, albeit fascinating sightseeing of local fish and reef residents. We saw grouper (still out of season here) and barracuda in abundance. The Amberjack are plentiful!

The cost of the trip was \$175 plus the tips we provided the crew that performed splendidly. There are many vessels providing the transport service to the Oriskany.

WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO

Retired Wakulla Springs State Park Ranger Bob Thompson, on his weekly wildlife survey at the park, recently snapped this photo of Snowy Egret.



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Rather than avoiding social media on Mother's Day



By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

You catch your breath and let out a long sigh. Seeing photos of happy moms with their happy families popping up on social media always stings – but with Mother's Day around the corner, the idyllic images hurt all the more.

“Goodbye,” you say, resolutely closing your laptop. It'll be a while before you cautiously venture back.

Even when the world isn't celebrating Mother's Day, does it hurt to see moms with their children? You've longed to be a mother for as long as you can remember. Or maybe you'd give anything for one more chance to tell your mom, “Happy Mother's Day.” Or you miss your mom because she's serving in the military – or serving

time in prison.

Perhaps you're struggling under the sad fact that your relationship with your mother is lacking. So, so lacking.

You once looked forward to Mother's Day, but now your prodigal child doesn't seem to love you all that much. The phone is deafeningly silent as you stare at the hastily-scribbled signature on the one-size-fits-all greeting card that just arrived in the mail.

And for the mom who – despite every mother-fiber in your being, made the heart-wrench-

ing choice to give up your child for adoption so he or she could have a chance for a better life – not a day goes by that you don't wonder what your child is doing.

What's the best way to cope when Mother's Day hurts? What can you do to help take away the ache? Or at least lessen it?

Second Corinthians 1:3-4 (ESV) offers a way to find healing in the midst of your pain: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts

us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”

I want to encourage you to embrace the comfort your heavenly Father offers. Then, after you've experienced healing (or as a way to further your healing), ask God to use you in someone else's life. Your pastor or a trusted community leader probably knows a young lady who could use a mentor or an older woman who could use a friend.

You'll be amazed at the many ways you can comfort others with the same comfort you've received from God.

I pray that whatever your circumstances, you'll receive further healing as you experience God's grace, peace and love this Mother's Day. Even in the depths of your desolation.

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.

Let it be well with your soul



By **CHERYL CRUCE**

John Wesley often asked, “How is it with your soul?” There have always been days that start with burnt toast and spilled coffee. Days when our soul feels heavier than it should. I am familiar with times of putting a smile on my face while the little voice in my head pleads for me to return home. My greatest life lesson

is that it is OK not to be OK; obstacles will remain a part of this world, and certain moments will always insist on a one-step forward, two-step backward march.

The most significant part of my life has been filled with incredible joy. My childhood was built around a loving family. As an adult, I married and raised four children of my own, who, in return, blessed me with 10 grandchildren. And YES! Those grandchildren are the apple of my eye. Still, for all the blissfulness life has given me, heartache has also reared its dreadful head.

My family has not been immune to losing loved ones, parents, siblings, or children. I

have witnessed disease and disabilities, finding it hard to understand when it happens to the more innocent of the family, the children. My own body won the battle against cancer as I watched another fall victim to the same. So YES! Most days are incredibly blessed, and some weigh a little heavy on the heart. Scripture teaches us this is the way of life.

The Prophet Elijah victoriously defeated the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel, and then fear raised its grim head. Elijah, surrounded by victory, suddenly felt very alone and insignificant. He ran into the wilderness, asking God to take his life. However, he was not alone; God

was with him, and so were 7,000 others willing to stand in faith with Elijah (1st Kings 19).

King David is recognized as a man after God's heart despite his many broken days (Acts 13:22). When King David lost his infant son, he realized God was his only hope and continued faithfully trusting in God for all things (2nd Samuel 12).

Jesus had bad days when He would steal away to be alone with the Father. His friends did not understand His mission, one denied Him, and another committed the ultimate betrayal. While standing outside the gates of Jerusalem, Jesus cried for the lost souls. At the tomb of

Lazarus, he wept for His friend. In the Garden of Gethsemane, the world's weight fell upon Him, and Jesus was not OK. Jesus was not OK when His friends lay sleeping instead of keeping watch. He prayed for the cup to pass from Him, but in final submission, he accepted it for you and me, making us OK with the Father.

Wherever you are, whatever your burden, know that Jesus is not sleeping. God is not a God who slumbers but one who constantly watches over His children (Psalm 121:4). It truly is OK not to be OK all the time. Give your heavy load to the Lord and find your rest in Him. The grace of God

is enough for us, and His power is perfected in our weaknesses (2nd Corinthians 12). Life will always have struggles, and we may not always have good days; however, with God, it will always be well with our souls as we learn to trust Him.

Matthew 11:28-29 “Come to me, all you who are weary and heavy burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble, and you will find rest for your souls.”

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

OUT TO PASTOR

My reward: I'll eat it if I want to



By **JAMES SNYDER**

One day last week, I was up early working in my office as I normally do. I happened to pause what I was doing for a moment and smelled this wonderful aroma.

I know it wasn't me because I hadn't taken a shower yet. The aroma was coming from the kitchen area.

I got up from my desk, walked out into the kitchen and the closer I got the stronger that aroma was. It was so wonderful and I just could not get enough of it.

When I got to the kitchen there was The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage baking cookies. Oh, how delicious those cookies smelled.

“What are you doing?” I asked.

“I'm baking cookies for some friends who are having a party tonight. They asked if I could bake them some cookies and I just couldn't refuse.”

I smiled and just stared at all those cookies in the kitchen. There

were molasses and peanut butter cookies, two of my favorites.

As I was looking at them, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said to me rather sternly, “These cookies are not for you, they are for my friends. Do not eat them.”

She saw me staring at those cookies and said, “Did you hear me?”

Then she told me that she had to go across town to pick up some things. So, she would be out of the house and I will be with the cookies all by myself. I can't think of a better scenario.

There's just no way I can be left alone with all those cookies in the kitchen and not eat some. I think my wife realized that and thought she could negotiate with me and solve the problem at hand.

Looking at me she said, “If you are a good boy today I will allow you to eat one cookie. Just one.”

That brought me to quite a dilemma. What is her definition of “a good boy” and most importantly, how did she define “one cookie?”

I walked back to my office as she prepared to leave for the morning and I got back into the project I was working on. At least I tried to get back into my “saddle” for the morning, but it sure wasn't working

for me.

No matter how hard I tried to concentrate on my project all I could think about was those delicious cookies out in the kitchen which I could smell in my office. I don't think it's fair that I should be put in such a situation.

After all, it's really not my fault. It is the fault of The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage who makes cookies so delicious that I cannot refuse them. If it wasn't for that, I could ignore those cookies in the kitchen. So whatever happens, it is not my fault! And I am unanimous in that.

I then remembered that she said if I was a good boy I could have one cookie. That thought just ruminated through my mind and I couldn't handle it any longer and I had to go out into the kitchen and deal with it.

I think I'm a good boy, but that's only my

evaluation. I sat for a moment at my desk and tried to think of anything bad I did that morning and I couldn't think of one thing. Therefore, with the evidence on the table, I have been a good boy today.

The next thing I had to deal with was the word “one.” What does that word mean?

Looking at the cookies in the kitchen there were only two cookies: one was molasses and the other was peanut butter. So, in my understanding of the situation the word “one” means that I have to choose between the molasses cookie and the peanut butter cookie. That made sense to me.

So, according to my rationality, when I pick “one” cookie I can eat as many of them as I want to. I just can't eat the other one or I will be eating two cookies.

I can't tell you how happy I was in coming

to this wonderful conclusion. I'm doing two things. I'm doing what my wife said to do and I am only eating one of the cookies. I love it when a plan comes together.

Going to the kitchen I made up my mind that the “one” cookie will be the peanut butter cookie. Oh, how I love her peanut butter cookies.

Picking out five cookies I joyfully skipped back to my office to enjoy these scrumptious treats. I earned these treats and therefore I'm going to eat them with a great deal of satisfaction.

I had finished those cookies and was working at my desk when I heard the front door open and expected it was The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

I then heard her voice, “Did you eat all these cookies? When

I told you to eat only one?”

Now I have some “splainin” to do.

A Bible verse came to mind that refreshed me concerning rewards. 2 John 1:8, “Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.”

There are times when I convince myself that I deserve a certain reward. All I need to do is twist certain words to my benefit thinking I deserve something when in fact I am not being honest.

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

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Obituaries



Leon (Lee) LaVerne Driscoll

Leon (Lee) LaVerne Driscoll, aged 78, passed away at 12:08 am on April 25, 2023 at Big Bend Hospice in Tallahassee.

A celebration of life will be scheduled at a time and place determined by the family. Lee desired to be cremated and his burial will be held at Benton Primitive Methodist Church cemetery in Benton, Wisconsin where his parents are also buried. Lee was born on December 24, 1944 in Cuba

City, Wisconsin to parents Amy and LaVerne (Bum) Driscoll. Lee graduated from Benton High School in 1963. Upon graduating, he went to Madison Wisconsin Technical College, and received an Associates Degree in Food Management. He then worked at UW Madison, Mendota State Mental Institute and UW Platteville. Other careers and jobs over the years included Advance Transformer, John Deere, and Lands' End. He was married on July 1, 1967 to Pamela Giese from Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and they exchanged their vows in Middleton, Wisconsin. Through a marriage of nearly 56 years, Lee and Pam raised their four children and then happily watched 11 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren grow up. Lee was the man behind the camera. He took thoughtful pictures of people and things he loved; his family, Wisconsin scenes in all the seasons, Badger basketball and more recently Florida State Seminoles, and traveled all over the country. Lee was a painter too, and used his photos as references for paintings that often had surprise recipients. He appreciated the natural beauty in rural Wisconsin and, like his dad and brother, fishing amongst it. He loved birds, he greeted neighborhood cats and dogs and they always greeted him back. Lee was a server. Often joking "a man's work is never done," while cooking and cleaning and fixing and helping, the truth was, he just really liked taking care of people. He was humble and kind hearted, with a

Badger hat atop his head and smile on his face. He had a uniquely great sense of humor. There are not pages enough to contain all of the jokes and stories that those who knew him will share forevermore. Lee wasn't a perfect man, but it should be noted that he lived his whole life without a speeding ticket marring his record. Lee was a child of God and spent his last days surrounded by loving family, comforting scripture and music. He was a faithful member of the Wakulla Springs Baptist Church, which was a church family that he greatly treasured. He was ushered into the presence of his Creator with a calm assurance that his earthly body was just a precursor to the eternity that he longed for.

Forever adored and missed, Lee is survived by his wife Pam of Crawfordville; son Tony (Staci) Driscoll of Cape Coral; daughter Tiffany (Kory) Bleeker of Ames, Iowa; daughter Courtney (Skip) Manus of Eureka Springs, Arkansas; son Mike of St. Paul, Minnesota; and his brother Dave (Sharon) Driscoll of Benton, Wisconsin.

In lieu of flowers, the family asked that donations be made to Samaritan's Purse, www.samaritanaspurse.org or St. Jude's Children's Hospital, www.stjude.org.

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

DEATH NOTICES

• **Bradley Christopher Eiler**, 55, of Crawfordville, died May 7, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **Nicholas "Nick" Glen Moore**, 42, Fountain, Florida, died May 1, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **Gunda Schimkat**, 94, of Crawfordville, died May 2, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **Betty L. Shea**, 84, of Crawfordville, died May 1, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **Ralph David Strickland**, 67, of Woodville, died May 2, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey-Young Chapel, 850-926-5919, www.familyfhc.com

• **Charles B. Waller**, 63, of Crawfordville, died May 7, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

Hobby funeral features tow truck procession



The funeral of Howard Hobby, owner of Hobby Towing, on Wednesday, May 3, featured a procession of a dozen tow trucks from Lake Ellen Baptist to the Arran Cemetery. (Photos by Lynda Kinsey)



On the Horizon

Calendar of events for the week of May 11

Thursday, May 11

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

Friday, May 12

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

Saturday, May 13

- Night of Joy, formerly special needs prom, will be held at Wakulla Springs Lodge from 5 to 8 p.m.
- Dueling Duos – with Gypsy artrockers Due Artisti vs. folkies Hot Tamale at Palaver Tree Theater beginning at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$10.
- Mother's Day Brunch and fundraiser will be held at the community center from 10 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$20 at the door. Bring donations such as Walmart gift cards to help families in crisis. Call Erin Pierce at 850-879-0597.
- Gospel Praise and Worship at Sopchoppy Community Market. The market is 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Gospel performances begin at 10 a.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.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

Sunday, May 14

- MOTHER'S DAY

Monday, May 15

- County commission meets at 5 p.m. in the commission meet-

- ing room.
- School board meets in the school administration building 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 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, May 16

- The Sarracenia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society meets at 6:30 p.m. at the public library. The program will feature Dean and Sally Jue as they present their program, "Common Butterflies of North Florida and the Native Plants They Depend On". A Zoom link for the presentation will be available—request it at Sarracenia.nps@gmail.com.
- Sopchoppy Community Dinner is held every week at the Towles House at 6:30 p.m.
- One-cent Sales Tax Committee meets in the county administration conference room at 2 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, May 17

- 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.

Worm gruntin' art

From Front Page

festival for several years.

Asked about the DJ worm, Mathis said, "Andrea Cayson, a member of Discover Sopchoppy, reached out to me and only requested two things in the design this year: to add DJ Butch, our local celebrity, and have the 'SOP' portion of the art stand out with worms playfully incorporated throughout the design. 'We will give you full creative freedom beyond that, just do your thing,' Cayson said. And so, I did."

"Rachel's art represents us (Sopchoppy)," said DJ Butch. "Artists have been making art here for many years. There's Tom T. Hall, the Pottery Man, the studios, the painters and so much more."

Benedict added that he is "very honored to be a worm, it is a big deal to me."

The artwork for the shirt was never officially named, although Mathis said, "I would call it 'Worm Grunter's Ball' because that is my favorite part of the entire festival."

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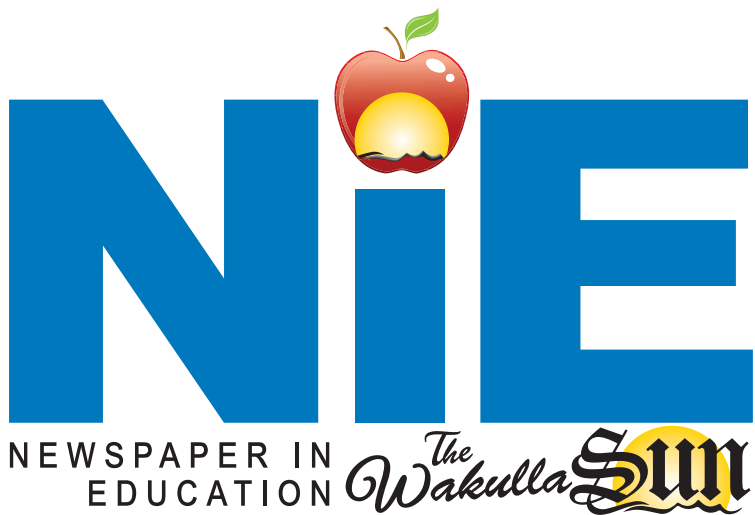
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USE THE NEWS

1. Be Kind to Animals

This week is Be Kind to Animals Week in the United States and around the world. It has been observed for more than 100 years in an effort to protect both wild and tame animals and raise awareness about their needs. It calls attention to the important roles that animals play in people's lives — from the pets who provide joy to families to wild animals that bring beauty to the natural world. During the weeklong celebration started by the American Humane Association, people work to help animals in a variety of ways. They may volunteer with rescue groups, adopt pets from animal shelters, clear trash from natural habitats or support groups that protect endangered species, among other activities. "Let's be kind to every animal we come across — both this week and always," the Humane Association declares on its website. "The vision and mission of this event [is] to show kindness to animals, anywhere, anytime." There are many ways to be kind to animals. In the newspaper or online find photos or stories involving tame and wild animals. Pick one wild animal and one tame animal. Write a paragraph for each telling how people could be kind to it or help it. Share and discuss as a class.

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

2. Rihanna Smurf

The superstar Rihanna has won worldwide fame as a singer, actress and businesswoman — and as the featured act at this year's Super Bowl. But she's always looking for new challenges, so she has decided to become ... a Smurf. The Paramount movie company has just announced that Rihanna will play the character Smurfette in the new "Smurfs" movie that is scheduled to come out in theaters in February 2025. Rihanna will also create and perform original music for the film, which will mix animation with live action. The new "Smurfs" movie is the sixth full-length film for the popular cartoon characters, and the fourth since 2011. The Smurfette character was the first girl to be featured in the tribe of male Smurfs. The "Smurfs" movie is not the first time Rihanna has lent her voice to an animated film. In 2015

she played a lead role in the movie "Home" that was a hit around the world. She also is the second-best-selling female music artist of all time, with sales of more than 250-million records worldwide. Her Super Bowl performance had the second highest audience in history. Cartoons and comic books often can inspire full-length movies. In the newspaper or online, find and closely read comic strips or comic books. Pick one and brainstorm an idea for an animated movie based on it. Write a summary of an adventure the comic characters could have in a movie. For added fun, pick actors and actresses you think would be good to provide voices for the characters.

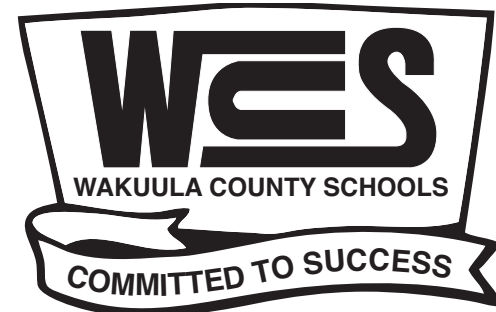
Goals: Writing narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events; conducting short research projects that build knowledge about a

topic.

3. The Most Coasters

When the weather gets warm in the spring and summer, kids and families like to get outside for thrills, excitement and entertainment. For nearly 140 years in the United States, one of the most exciting ways to find thrills has been riding roller coasters at amusement or theme parks. If you are a roller coaster fan, the place to be this summer is the Six Flags Magic Mountain theme park in Valencia, California. Magic Mountain is home to 20 roller coasters — more than any other theme park in the world. When Magic Mountain opened in 1971, it had just two roller coasters. But it added more and more through the years, and is now a destination location for roller coaster fans. Magic Mountain has one more coaster than the Number 2

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park, Energylandia in the European nation of Poland, which has 19. Number 3 is Canada's Wonderland, which has 17 roller coasters, while Number 4 is Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio, with 16. Amusement parks provide fun family activities in the spring and summer months. In the newspaper or online, find and study stories, photos and ads for amusement parks in your state or region. Use what you read to write an invitation to a friend for a visit to one or more parks. In your invitation, be sure to list attractions that you think would appeal to your friend.

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.

4. Buried Treasure!

People sometimes dream of finding hid-

den treasure as they go about their everyday lives. A group of hikers in the European nation of Italy actually did. The hikers discovered a stash of 175 silver coins that date back more than 2,000 years to the time of the ancient Roman Empire. The coins were Roman denarii coins, and they may have been the salary of a soldier in the Roman army, CNN News reported. They have a value of about \$28,000 U.S. dollars today. The coins were stored in a terra-cotta clay pot, and nearly all were in good condition. They were discovered by a group of archaeology researchers who were hiking in a cleared area of a forest in northern Italy near the city of Pisa and its famous leaning tower. A member of the group saw a few coins glimmering in the dirt, leading to discovery of the pot full of treasure. Experts said there is no way to know exactly who buried the coins, but the person would most likely have been

a former soldier. "This treasure is about a person's life, the savings of a soldier's life and his hopes for building a farm," one expert said. "However, it also tells a sad story: [T]he owner of the coins died before he could make his dreams come true." Starting this month, the coins will go on display at a museum near the forest where they were discovered. Items from the past often tell stories about the person who owned them. Items from today also can tell stories about their owners. In the newspaper or online, find and study a photograph of a person showing things he or she uses or owns. Use what you see in the photo to tell a short story about the person for your class or family.

Goals: Reading closely what written and visual texts say and to making logical inferences from them; citing specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions.



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Published on May 11, 2023

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TWS NTC PAUL SHEARER

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
 PROBATE DIVISION
 2022 -101 - CP

IN RE: ESTATE OF PAUL MILTON SHEARER, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of **PAUL MILTON SHEARER**, deceased, whose date of death was January 17, 2022; File Number 2022-101-CP is pending in the Circuit Court for Wakulla County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 3056 Crawfordville Hwy, Crawfordville FL 32327. The names and addresses of the Personal Representative and the Personal Representative's Attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, on whom a copy of this notice has been served, must file their claims with this court **WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE TIME OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.**

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court **WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.**

ALL CLAIMS AND DEMANDS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

Attorney for Personal Representative
 G. CLINE MOORE
 Florida Bar No. 119512
 107 East Green Street
 Perry, Florida 32347
 Telephone: (850) 584-3300
 Email: kende@fairpoint.net

G. CLINE MOORE
 ATTORNEY AT LAW, P.A.

Personal Representative
 SARAH J. SHEARER
 311 Marsh Sands Road
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May 11, 18, 2023

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

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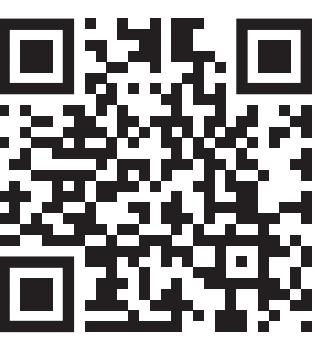
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E-EDITIONS



SCAN ME
 for an electronic edition of The Wakulla Sun

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.

REQUEST FOR BIDS
PROJECT: Historic Sopchoppy School Restoration and Repairs
OWNER: Wakulla County Schools
TO: Construction Manager
ISSUE DATE: May 11, 18 & 25, 2023
GRANT NO: 23.H.SC.100.036
ARCHITECT: MLD Architects

Notice is hereby given that Wakulla County Schools will accept sealed bids until 2:00 P.M. Est. (local time), on June 8, 2023, for Pre-Qualified General Contractors for the historical preservation restoration to the Historic Sopchoppy School.

Wakulla County Schools desires to hire a Construction Manager to oversee the Construction Administration for the construction activities funded by the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Preservation to consult on the restoration activities ensuring compliance with the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Historic Properties. All repairs and maintenance practices will utilize the Secretary of the Interior Standards for Historic Properties. Construction Manager selection will be to the lowest responsive, qualified bidder. Copies of the description of work may be obtained from Mrs. Donna Chatham or Mr. Michael Barwick, at 850-926-0065 during normal working hours.

At 2:00P.M. EST (local time), on June 8, 2023 the bids will be opened and read aloud. All bids must be in a sealed envelope reflecting on the outside thereof the proposer's name and "Historic Sopchoppy School Restoration and Repairs Project to be opened on June 8, 2023.

Wakulla County Schools shall be the sole judge of bids and the resulting negotiated agreement that is in its best interest and its decision shall be final.

Any bidder failing to mark outside of the envelope, as set for herein, may not be entitled to have their bid considered.

All bids should be addressed as follows:
Wakulla County Schools
Attn: Robert Pearce, Superintendent
P.O. Box 100, 69 Arran Road
Crawfordville, Florida 32327

Wakulla County Schools is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action, and Drug Free Workplace Employer.

May 11, 18, 25, 2023

FLORIDA PUBLIC NOTICES
 WWW.FLORIDAPUBLICNOTICES.COM

WHS Track team competes at region

Special to The Sun

Amazing job and congratulations to our Wakulla High War Eagles in their final round of competition at the FHSAA 2A Region 1 Championship. The athletes traveled to UNF in Jacksonville on Wednesday, May 3rd, to compete against the top-ranking athletes in the region and they came home proud.

Junior Taylor Pfeifer placed 8th in the girls 800m. Isabella Laugh-ton, sophomore, placed 12th in the 1-mile.

Freshman Alexis Green placed 14th in women's 100m hurdles with sophomore Kyendra Thomas follow-

ing in 16th place.

Senior Trista Heffren came in 5th place for javelin and Senior Chase Linville came in 9th for men's javelin. Chase also placed 12th in men's triple jump.

Samron Brinson, junior, placed 11th in the 100m dash. Henry Lewis, a freshman, placed 12th in the 1-mile and 10th in the 2-mile. Junior Andrew Nix came in 13th for the 2-mile.

The girls 4x100 team placed 13, the 4x400 team and 4x800 team both placed 12th. The men's 4x100m team placed 10th overall.

This concludes the Track & Field season for Wakulla High School.



Junior Samron Brinson, in the outside lane, placed 11th in the 100m dash.



Junior Taylor Pfeifer placed 8th in the girls 800m.

Field trip to the Depot



Colleen Skipper-Mitchell guides first graders through the display at the Depot Museum.



Mrs. Parks' first grade class learns about worm grunting.

Story & Photos
By **LYNDA KINSEY**

Fond memories were made of Sopchoppy as the entire Shadeville Elementary first grade class went on a fieldtrip to the Depot and park on Friday, May 5. A variety of educational and activity stations were set up for learning.

The children took a tour of the Depot as Colleen Skipper-Mitchell answered questions and gave the historical significance of the displays. The students were seated classroom style as Chris Brown used a mini-

sized example to illustrate how the trains used to run, including sound. Many hands were raised for questions after this demonstration.

The children received a hands-on worm grunting experience directed by Nelson Martin. They got to hold a wiggly worm, pick out a flower seed packet and planted the seeds. They learned how important the worms are to the soil for the plants to grow by Jamie Martin.

Over at the park they got to hula hoop, listen to live music by Frank Lindamood, learn about the plants and play on the playground.



RMS Odyssey of the Mind team

The Riversprings Middle School Odyssey of the Mind team has been busy this semester competing in Regionals and State Competitions.

Odyssey of the Mind allows students to use their natural creativity to solve problems and find original solutions. Odyssey of the Mind centers around teamwork, budgeting, time management, public speaking, and collaboration.

The Riversprings Middle School Odyssey of the Mind team participated in the Regional Competition at Riversink Elementary School on Feb. 25th. The RMS Bears took two teams: "The Most Dramatic Problem Ever" and "Classics...The Walls of Troy." Both teams are Division II teams. The Most Dramatic Problem Ever Team, comprised of Emily Zak, Ella Zak, Laci Yarbrough, Amillia

McCullough, Madilyn Waters, and Chloe Miller placed first in their division for this problem and will advance to State Competition in April. "Classics...The Walls of Troy" team comprised of Jennifer Carnevale, Cadence Dow, Desiree White, Noah Morey, Rowen Bishop, Sophia Love, and Dylun Kasheta placed second in their division for this problem. The Problem Five "The Most Dramatic Problem Ever" Division II team then travelled to Orlando April 8th to compete in the State Competition. The Captain, Emily Zak, led her team in a wonderful performance though they fell short of a spot in the top 5.

The next season begins in September. Sponsor Amanda LaTour said, "I could not be prouder of their hard work and dedication this year."

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Publication Date: May 25



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Moose Casino Night



The Moose Club in Panacea held its annual Casino Night fundraiser on Saturday. Tracey Guy congratulates Fran Pybus, above, for winning the Kentucky Derby hat contest, with Casey Jones. At left, a blackjack table with Beverly Keister, Becky and Greg Gast, Quinn Speck, Tracey Guy, Jeff and Kay Cannon. (Photos by Lynda Kinsey)

Sheriff's Report

Activity reported for the week of April 28 to May 4:

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

- Thomas Eddinger reported being contacted by the Small Business Administration in reference to a past due account. Thomas advised he was informed of a PPP Loan in the amount of \$56,000 being issued in his name. The past due payment amount was \$556. SBA advised Thomas to contact local authorities to file a fraud report. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Rudolph Hinson investigated.

- Deputy Ernesto Trujillo responded to Walmart in reference to a possible retail theft. Upon arrival Deputy Trujillo made contact with the suspect in the parking lot. As Deputy Trujillo attempted to place the suspect under arrest the suspect pulled away and fled on foot. A search of the area was conducted with negative results. Later in the shift the suspect was spotted walking on U.S. Hwy 319, close to Wakulla Springs Baptist. The suspect fled again into the wooded area west of the highway. The K-9 Team from Wakulla Correctional responded to assist in the location of the suspect. The suspect again evaded arrest. This case remains under active investigation.

SATURDAY, APRIL 29

- Kimberly McFarlain reported being defrauded out of \$729. McFarlain

advised she received several emails from Facebook advising her information had been changed. After contacting who she believed to be Facebook Customer Service via phone, McFarlain was instructed to download the "Mydesk" App and provide her IP address. Once she provided the information, the funds were transferred from her bank account to her CashApp account. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Shayne Broxie responded.

- Rebekah Lepp reported returning home to find the front door to her residence had been forced open. An inventory of the residence was conducted by Lepp and nothing appeared to be missing at the time of this report. The estimated cost to repair the damage to the French doors is between \$500 - \$5,000. WCSO detectives were notified and responded to the residence as well. This case is being actively investigated by detectives. Deputy Rudolph Hinson investigated.

- Deputy Kory Smith responded to a retail theft at Walmart. While enroute, Dispatch advised the suspects had left the store headed north on Hwy. 319. Deputy Smith was able to locate the suspect vehicle and initiate a traffic stop at the intersection of Bloxham Cutoff. Three suspects – Jeremy Brown, Sequoia Lewis, and Krista McGee – were located in the vehicle. As Deputy Smith was dealing with the traffic stop, another deputy was able to make contact with Walmart staff and review the secu-

rity footage of the incident. Subsequently Brown and McGee were arrested and charged with felony retail theft. Additionally, Lewis, along with Brown and McGee were found to be in possession of drug paraphernalia, MDMA, and cocaine for which they were also charged. All three suspects were arrested and transported to the Wakulla County Jail.

SUNDAY, APRIL 30

- Deputy Dustin Matthews responded to Boyton Court in reference to a possible theft. Upon arrival Deputy Matthews made contact with Brittany Purcell, who stated someone had stolen her wedding ring set and computer from a residence she had been staying at. Purcell stated the items had to have been taken in the past two weeks. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

MONDAY, MAY 1

- Deputy Edwin Grove responded to an address on Coastal Highway in reference to a stolen tag. Walter Guillen reported he parked his car in the lot in front of the Oaks motel the previous night and discovered his tag missing. Walter said he saw a man on a motorcycle parked near his vehicle around 11 p.m. who may have taken his tag. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

- Nicole Toney advised her wallet had been stolen while she was in Fort Lauderdale. Toney stated when she returned home, she began discovering multiple charges on her

bank card. Toney had nine unauthorized charges on her bank card totaling \$871.74. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy James Williams investigated.

- A traffic stop was conducted on a vehicle for an expired tag. During the stop the driver was identified as Joshua Jordan. Jordan did not possess a valid license and had three prior convictions. Several smoking pipes were discovered which were collected and turned in for destruction. Jordan was transported to the jail without incident. Deputy Todd Kent investigated.

THURSDAY, MAY 4

- Kelli Mathews reported her vehicle being taken from her driveway on Powerline Road. Mathews stated she last saw her vehicle around 10:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 2. The vehicle was described as a black 2012 Buick Lacrosse. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Shayne Broxie investigated.

- Deputy Dustin Matthews responded to the Triangle Petro on Coastal Highway in reference to a vehicle on fire. Upon arrival, Deputy Matthews made contact with the driver Michael Geiger, who stated as he was driving he heard a strange noise under the hood and when he pulled over the vehicle was on fire. The vehicle was considered a total loss.

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

Weekly Roundup: That's a wrap

By RYAN DAILEY
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — TLawmakers wrapped up the 2023 legislative session Friday by signing off on a record \$117 billion budget after a week of marathon floor sessions in which the Republican-dominated Legislature delivered for Gov. Ron DeSantis.

While Republicans and Democrats battled throughout the session on major policy issues, the House and Senate passed the budget (SB 2500) and an accompanying \$1.3 billion tax package (HB 7063) with little opposition.

Meanwhile, legislation that is ready to go to the governor stacked up throughout the week.

The Senate on Thursday gave final approval to a bill (SB 254) that would prevent doctors and other health-care providers from offering treatments such as puberty blockers and hormone therapy to transgender minors.

DeSantis, who has called such treatments "child mutilation," is expected to sign the bill.

In an interview with The News Service of Florida, House co-sponsor Randy Fine, R-Brevard County, described the transgender treatments issue as a "fundamental battle over the future of our children."

"The woke left does

not believe in the idea of childhood," Fine said. "They don't believe in protecting children."

The contentious legislation was among a slate of proposals targeted at transgender people. Legislators on Wednesday passed a bill (HB 1521) aimed at requiring people to use bathrooms that line up with their sex assigned at birth.

Rep. Anna Eskamani, D-Orlando, argued during debate over the treatment bill that lawmakers should not create divisions for "political gain."

"These (transgender people) are your neighbors, your friends, your loved ones, your co-workers," Eskamani said. "They just want to be their authentic selves and access the health care they need to do so."

Controversial bills that seek to make changes to Florida's public schools and higher-education system also made it past the finish line this week.

In one of the most-controversial education issues of the session, the Senate on Wednesday passed a measure (HB 1069) that would expand last year's "Parental Rights in Education" law — known to critics as "don't say gay." The bill also seeks to restrict the way teachers and students can use their preferred pro-

nouns in schools, a provision that has drawn ire from LGBTQ-advocacy groups.

In higher education, the House on Wednesday gave final approval to a bill (SB 266) that includes preventing colleges and universities from spending money on diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives.

Praising legislative leaders for what he called "major, major reforms" in higher education, DeSantis on Friday touted the "elimination of so-called DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion), and how that has been used as an ideological cudgel to impose ideology on the university."

GILLUM TRIAL ENDS

Former Democratic gubernatorial nominee Andrew Gillum was acquitted this week on charges of lying to federal investigators, but jurors were unable to reach a verdict on conspiracy and fraud charges.

Thursday's decision ended nearly five days of tumultuous jury deliberations and courtroom drama that included one juror posting information about the trial on social media and another making a mysterious request to meet with the judge.

It was clear in the run-up to Thursday that jurors were struggling to

reach a verdict. The jury sent a note Tuesday to U.S. District Judge Allen Winsor saying they had reached agreement on the false-statements charge but were unable to come to a unanimous decision on at least one other charge. Federal prosecutors told Winsor that they intend to pursue a second trial.

Speaking to reporters outside the federal courthouse Thursday afternoon, Gillum said he and his family have been "under attack on all sides" for the past seven years.

"I just got to believe that, through this all, maybe one of the things that needed to be revealed to me is that this system is in desperate need of reform. And I'll just say, 'to be continued,'" Gillum, who has steadfastly maintained his innocence, said.

Winsor declared a mistrial on charges that Gillum, a former Tallahassee mayor, and his political mentor, Sharon Lettman-Hicks, bilked political contributors out of money and illegally steered it to Gillum for his personal use.

The charges against Gillum and Lettman-Hicks were related to activities between 2016 and 2019, as Gillum's political star was on the rise. The pair were accused of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and

committing wire fraud. Gillum also was charged with making false statements to federal investigators about his dealings with undercover agents who posed as developers during his time as mayor.

As the not-guilty verdict was announced in a crowded courtroom Thursday afternoon, Gillum wiped away tears. His wife R.Jai Gillum, seated a few feet behind him, silently wept. She and other family members tearfully clung to each other as a courtroom deputy announced "no verdict reached" on each of the 17 other charges involving conspiracy to commit wire fraud and committing wire fraud. Thursday also was R. Jai Gillum's birthday.

A similar scene unfolded among Lettman-Hicks' family members and allies as they heard "no verdict reached" on the 17 charges against her.

"Thank God Andrew Gillum is not guilty. And the rest, you know, is just theater," Lettman-Hicks told reporters.

END OF AN ENTERPRISE

The Florida House on Thursday approved a plan to close the business-recruitment agency Enterprise Florida.

The measure would

fold more than 20 programs from the public-private Enterprise Florida into the Department of Economic Opportunity, which would be renamed the Department of Commerce. It also would repeal the Office of Film and Entertainment.

The House has tried for years to eliminate programs such as Enterprise Florida. A deal was finalized after the House agreed to increase funding for the Visit Florida tourism-marketing agency from \$50 million in the current fiscal year to \$80 million in the 2023-2024 fiscal year, which will start July 1.

STORY OF THE WEEK: Florida lawmakers on Friday finalized a \$117 billion budget and an accompanying \$1.3 billion tax package to end a legislative session that carried out many of Gov. Ron DeSantis' priorities.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "They've quite literally tried to take everything from us. And the beauty is that in our system, the powers that be don't always get to decide. Everyday people like you and me sometimes get our swing at the ball and today the jury took it." — Former Democratic gubernatorial nominee Andrew Gillum.



PHOTO BY WILLIAM SNOWDEN

Speaker Robb Holladay talks about the dangers of vaping.



Jason Dyer, Autumn Meher and Lilly Carlsward.



Above, students practice putting out fires from unattended burning cigarettes. At left, the SWAT Team: Christina Martin, Kayleen Pafford, Amanda West, Haley Carlton, Liz Neighbors, and Lauren Rivers.

Fun to be tobacco free at COAST

Story & Photos By
**LINDA ANN
McDONALD**

COAST Charter School hosted Florida Department of Health- Wakulla's Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) 2023 event on Friday, May 5th in St. Marks. The event included guest speaker Robb Holladay along with several interactive learning stations. 78 students were present for the event.

Robb Holladay is an award-winning speaker for teens, teachers, and parents. He combines humor, inspiration, and practical strategies that inspire change. Holladay empowers students by encouraging kids to take themselves to the next level. Promoting the dangers of vaping is a passion of Holladay.

Fun activities such as Extinguish The Flames, Blindfolded Taste Test, Weighed-Down Relay and Put on Your Face were events enjoyed by both students and

COAST staff.

Extinguish the Flames is a game that promotes the fact that more than a quarter of fire related deaths in our country are due to fires caused by smoking. Students were competing to fill a bucket up with water from large water guns from a distance to win the event.

In the Blindfolded Taste Test, students experienced what it is to have dulled taste which makes food less palatable. While blindfolded and pinching their nose closed, students had to guess what flavored wa-practical strategies that inspire change.

Physical fitness levels are reduced due to smoking- less oxygen is in your heart, lungs and muscles. Two teams of students faced off in a relay, one of which was burdened down with extra weight either by a weighted vest or handheld weights. DOH-Wakulla SWAT staff proved that life would be weighed down

because of smoking.

Put on Your Face was a hands-on activity promoting the fact smoking can cause serious eye conditions that can cause vision loss or blindness. Students had to sit behind felt boards blindfolded and try to adhere objects in the shape of eyes, nose, and mouth to the felt boards. After viewing the felt board holding the misconfigured faces created due to being blindfolded, the children were convinced of the dangers of tobacco.

After learning the dangers of smoking, children took pledges to avoid tobacco use and were awarded certificates for their oaths to make healthy choices. Liz Neighbors, DOH-Wakulla's Tobacco Prevention Program Manager said, "SWAT students are advocates in their own school and they partner with DOH-Wakulla to educate their peers in effort to prevent a lifelong addiction to tobacco."

Coast Principal, Jeffrey LaChapelle said, "This event will open the eyes of students to the dangers of cigarettes, vaping and drugs- I hope this shocks them and impacts them for a lifetime." LaChapelle continued to say, "I have seen previous students of mine that has completed the SWAT pledges to remain tobacco free and attended the motivational speeches who are still tobacco free years later; hopefully the generational gap will close and our generation and their generation, and students no longer use tobacco."

Jean Taylor, also of COAST Charter School said, "I am impressed with how much thought and effort has been put into this event, to make the kids interested it takes a lot, this is definitely a great event that drives the point home."

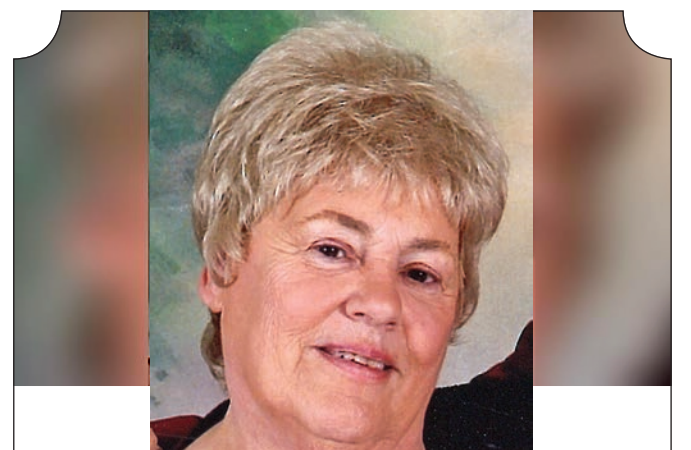
"I enjoy supporting this event because I am an ex-smoker of many years, I do not want

to see children getting hooked on tobacco," said Jamie Pontones of COAST who assisted in the activities.

The event concluded with Wakulla County Sheriff's Office providing hot dogs for lunch along with a kick ball game between COAST staff, DOH-Wakulla Staff and COAST's 8th grade students in which the students took home the win. The kickball game is to promote the fact that "you can have fun without dangerous

chemical addictive use", as Liz Neighbors stated.

COAST's music and art teacher Zach McAlpin said, "I love the idea of this event deterring students from using tobacco especially when today's social media portrays tobacco as an enjoyable pleasure." Zach continued with, "This event exposes the truth about vaping and shows the students the lethal dangers they are exposing themselves to if they make bad choices."



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