



Night of Joy Prom held at Lodge

Page

The Wakulla Sun

"It's a New Day"



Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Hi: 82° Lo: 68° 58% Sunrise 6:42 AM Sunset 8:25 PM	Hi: 83° Lo: 68° 51% Sunrise 6:41 AM Sunset 8:26 PM	Hi: 86° Lo: 70° 37% Sunrise 6:41 AM Sunset 8:27 PM

Locally Owned & Operated

Our 2nd Year 20th Issue
Thursday, May 18, 2023



\$1
One Section

Book removed from K-5

Graphic novel 'Little Rock Nine' about integration is pulled from lower schools

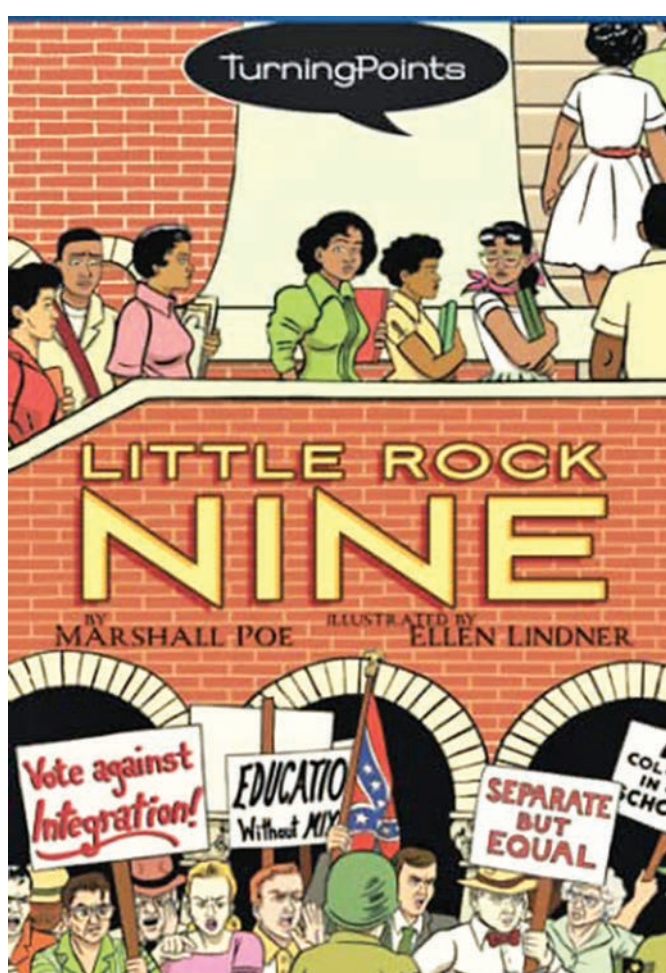
By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

After a complaint from a parent, the Wakulla County School administration pulled the graphic novel "Little Rock Nine" from elementary schools as "too intense" for elementary school aged children.

The district argued the book was not banned, but is available to older students in middle and high school.

Assistant Superintendent Sunny Chancy released a statement last week that read:

"In accordance with Florida Statutes, and Wakulla School Board Policy, concerns regarding curriculum from parents and community



members are appropriately reviewed. The outcome of the review for the book in question was the recommendation to move the book from elementary school to a grade level deemed more appropriate. This does not constitute a ban, as WCSB students will still have the opportunity to read the book during their K-12 experience."

Reportedly, the initial complaint was filed by a parent of a third grader.

The district noted the book has numerous uses of the N-word in it.

The book is about the integration of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, by nine students in 1957.

Brad Harvey set to go to trial in late July

Former property appraiser charged with taking hundreds of thousands from office in overpayments

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

Former Wakulla County Property Appraiser Brad Harvey is set for criminal trial in late July.

Harvey faces felony charges for overpaying himself more than \$209,000 during two years in office.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant State Attorney Andrew Deneen, who is reportedly seeking prison time for Harvey if he is convicted.

Gov. Ron DeSantis removed Harvey from office in 2020 after the criminal charges were filed.

Harvey is represented in the case by Tallahassee attorney Shelly Thomas.

In January, the state Commission on Ethics ordered Harvey to pay a civil penalty of \$40,000 plus make more than \$200,000 restitution to the county, as well as face public censure and reprimand.

The case was initially under Wakulla Chief Prosecutor Brian Miller, but he recused himself citing that both he and Harvey were members of the Rotary Club of Wakulla. The investigation into finances of the property appraiser's office were initiated after the Rotary Club became concerned about missing money from a gun

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Brad Harvey

WAKULLA SANDS GOLF CLUB



There was a groundbreaking for work on the golf course, formerly known as Wildwood, now to be known as Wakulla Sands Golf Club. Depending on how the grass grows, the course could be open as soon as the fall or lat-

er in the spring. Wakulla County bought the golf course mainly to have a place to release wastewater that's been treated to advanced standards. (Photos by Lynda Kinsey)



County officials shovel dirt at the ceremony.



Members of the high school golf teams take part.



Elections staff: Celina Greene, Evelyn Savary, Assistant Supervisor Diana Mitchell and Supervisor Joe Morgan.

Election office has a new website

Supervisor of Elections is now at wakullavotes.gov

Special to The Sun

Joe Morgan, Supervisor of Elections for Wakulla County, is announcing the launch of a new website address, WakullaVotes.gov.

The new, easier-to-remember website address is designed to assist voters in finding election related information and services while ensuring security and accessibility. The website will also be undergoing a redesign to provide voters seamless access to information and services available. "Our goal is to be as accessible as possible and getting information should be as easy a one click away," said Supervisor Morgan.

Other important improvements made to the Supervisor's office include a fresh update to the lobby and Early Voting areas and a new patriotic mural painted by local artists Kai and Avery Nakashima. "With the launch of our new website address, and improvements to the office, now is as good a time as any to launch our "Vote in Honor of a Vet" program. We are extremely proud of our veterans and all the sacrifices that they made that allows us the freedoms that we have today" said Supervisor Morgan.

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Board expands springs protection

'There's no good place for an oil spill in Wakulla,' so protections made county-wide

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

County Commission Chairman Ralph Thomas proposed expanding the ordinance on springs protection to the whole county.

"We all agree there's no good place for an oil spill in Wakulla County," Thomas said at the meeting, recommending the ordinance be expanded from the Wakulla Springs Protection Area to make it county-wide.

A number of citizens continued to express concerns about the proposed ordinance - most insisting that it does not go far enough in protecting groundwater.

The proposed ordinance would require more stringent soil testing before any sort of underground tank

with a regulated substance could be permitted. The regulations basically focus on gasoline - all hazardous substances would be required to be in above-ground tanks, but the Environmental Protection Agency regards gasoline as a regulated substance, not a hazardous one. Several citizens have questioned why gasoline is not considered a hazardous substance; several have also spoken on putting all tanks above ground.

It was noted at a past meeting and repeated by County Attorney Heather Encinosa that gasoline in above-ground tanks are potentially explosive and would face factors such as hurricanes.

The county has gotten no feedback from the state Department of Environmental Protection on the

proposed ordinance.

The main objection to the ordinance is that there should be some sort of setback from where known cave systems are located. The problem is, as Thomas pointed out, the underground cave system in Wakulla is not easily surveyed above ground. Where would a surveyor put red flags to mark the cave to know where to setback from?

The issue continues to be framed over the proposed gas station at U.S. Highway 319 and Bloxham Cutoff, withdrawn last year, that would be located on property with a known cavern. It was, in fact, that proposed development that led commissioners to direct staff to come up a new springs protection ordinance that would give them the rationale to reject such development.

Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park Indian Pink

By LYNN ARTZ, SANDY TEDDER
and DAVID RODDENBERRY



Indian pinks attract and are pollinated by hummingbirds.

Indian pink (*Spigelia marilandica*) is an uncommon native wildflower with brilliant red tubular flowers. The stunning flowers flare out in a star shape near the top to reveal a chartreuse yellow interior, like a firecracker exploding. Blooming in late spring, the flowers attract and are pollinated by hummingbirds. Also called wood pinkroot, this long-lived, clump-forming perennial is found in upland woods in the southeastern U.S., including Panhandle counties. Indian pink thrives in part to full shade in moist, organically rich soils. It blooms best in light shade and makes a terrific addition to woodland gardens. Care must be taken when weeding to protect this perennial from inadvertent removal. Indian pinks are blooming now at the north edge of the woodlands at Sopchoppy Depot Park

MICHAEL COLLINS
Home Energy Consultant
954.732.0768
michaelcollins@theprocompanies.com
goadtsolar.com

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Student of the Week

Kylee Smith- 5th Grade, Shadeville Elementary School

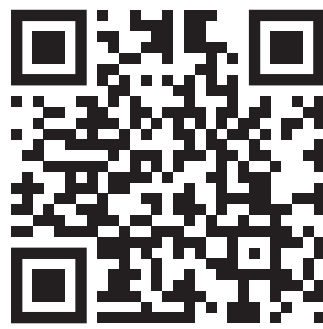
Principal: Tim Wheeler

Congratulations to Kylee Smith, Shadeville Elementary School's Student of the Week. Kylee is currently in fifth grade and has been a Shadeville Warrior since kindergarten. She has been a member of the Student Council for the past two years, is on the A/B Honor Roll, and was this year's winner of the Leon/Wakulla Retired Educators' Association speech contest. Kylee is an incredibly hard-working, dependable, and accomplished student. She is very deserving of this recognition, and we wish her well as she makes the move to middle school in the fall.



STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.

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Wakulla County Tax Collectors Office
SPECIALTY TAGS
\$20 - \$30 additional to cost of tag.
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.

Memorial Day 1st Annual Community Celebration

Join us in honoring the service of Our Military Heroes

Cake Walk
Silent Auction
BBQ
Hamburgers
Hot Dogs



Door Prizes
DJ
Games
Vendors
Bounce House

Wakulla County Memorial
VFW Post #
45 Arran Rd
Crawfordville, FL 32327

May 29, 2023 10 am to 3 pm

All proceeds from this event will go to VFW Post #45 to help support our military heroes.

BASEBALL

War Eagles season ends at quarterfinals



By **KEITH ANDERSON**
WHS Baseball Coach

Regional Quarterfinal
The War Eagles saw their season come to a close this past Tuesday night in the Regional Quarterfinal game against the No. 2 ranked Baker County Wildcats losing 5-0.
The War Eagles

fought hard all night with runners on base, but couldn't push them across.
Starter Gavin Estep pitched well throwing 4 innings until the game was delayed for an hour due to inclement weather. He scattered 8 hits giving up 3 runs and

striking out 6.
Reliever Jesse Nazworth threw 2 innings after the delay giving up 2 hits and 2 runs while striking out 3.
Parker Lawhon, Sam Bruce, Josiah Pierini, Owen Klees, and Gavin Estep all collected hits.
The War Eagles had

a successful season ending with a record of 16-12.
Coach Anderson added, "I am so proud of this team. They were fighters that never gave up. They played with grit and made huge strides since the fall season. We had some huge wins

over some of the best teams in Georgia and in the Panhandle. This group only had two seniors and we started two freshmen and three to four Sophomores each game. We are looking forward already to getting back to work and getting ready for 2024."

Safe Families holds fundraiser

Mother's Day brunch at the community center draws about 50 attendees

By **LINDA ANN McDONALD**
Correspondent

A Mother's Day brunch was held at the Wakulla County Community Center on Saturday May 15, in effort to raise funds for Safe Families for Children. About 50 people attended the event.
Jennifer Brown and daughter Marissa Davis brought their singing, guitar, and flute talent to the stage. Husband and wife Alex and Bethany Wells sang Mother's Day themed songs and shared testimonies related to the event's cause.
Bethany Wells shared her story about growing up as a child with a single mother and having to move after a divorce. "The help we had and support during these hard times is what this mission is all about. Without that sort of support, it (moving) would not of been possible," she said.
James Vernon sang about his mother, Laura Stephens Vernon Taylor,

who was present at the event. Donny Bennett of Future Christian Athletes (FCA) shared his story of being raised by his grandmother, Karen Bennett, when Donny was 8 years old.
Tiffany Currid, a volunteer for the event said, "I hope this brings awareness to our community and it makes a huge impact for those in need."
Safe Families for Children (SFFC) provides a secure circle of support for parents and their children who are facing a crisis in isolation.
The mission of Safe Families is to host children and support families who have nowhere to turn when facing unmanageable circumstances. SFFC is motivated by faith to keep children safe and families together by providing a network of support while parents get back on their feet. The goal is to prevent children from unnecessarily entering the foster care system.
Event Manager Erin Pierce of Grace Baptist Church in Crawfordville



Getting food at the brunch, above, which was attended by about 50 people. Stephanie Avello, Engagement Coordinator for Wakulla County, right.



shared, "The brunch today was such a heartwarming blessing, not just the final event, but the entire process. The relationships that were created and the lives that were touched was priceless. God was glorified through every per-

son in there, and even the lives of those around the event. He moved in hearts, he provided the

beautiful foundation was created to reach out to our community and to prepare to care for families in crisis."
Pierce added: "My hopes for today were to love on mothers in our community, to begin to build resources and funds for our SFFC ministry, to build relationships that may eventually point others to Christ and to see God glorified in it all. He exceeded all my expectations! From here, we continue to prepare our hearts, our homes, our church family, and our community for however God wants to move on this ministry. We prepare the field knowing and believing that he will bring the rain and lives will be touched."
The event was catered by Stacy Bunch and Old South Catering. Bunch was touched by the event and tearfully said, "I was thinking about my mom, she is the reason I opened my business."

Brad Harvey trial set

From Front Page

gun raffle fundraiser – and Harvey was the club treasurer. (Miller has since been elected Wakulla County judge.)
A whistleblower in the property appraiser's office reported to law enforcement suspicions that Harvey was overpaying himself and misusing the office credit card.
The newspaper was aware of the suspicions of financial improprieties and, along with another interested party, began making public requests and writing news stories about it. Later public record requests indicated that Harvey continued overpaying himself even after he knew he was under investigation by FDLE.
Asked by the newspaper to provide justification for the overpayments, Harvey pointed to a supplement he had received when he was chief deputy under the prior property appraiser for work done on Fire and Solid Waste

tax rolls. He seemed to think he was still entitled to the supplement – though the total amount of overpayment far exceeded the supplement.
Harvey's statutory salary was \$103,000 in 2016 when he was elected. It increased to \$107,500 the next year and again to \$108,336 in 2018.
Harvey had done payroll and other office financials as chief deputy under former appraiser Donnie Sparkman, but Harvey continued those duties when he took over the office, with no oversight.
The county auditing firm did not uncover the problems until after Harvey was removed from office.
Records indicate that among the personal expenses Harvey charged to the office were expensive off-road tires and other improvements on his personal truck; and more than \$3,000 for a family cruise to celebrate his daughter's high school graduation.

When Ed Brimmer took office as property appraiser two years ago, he handed off much of the financial work of his office to Clerk of Courts and

County Comptroller Greg James, noting at the time that it would give more transparency and public confidence to his office.

PUBLIC NOTICES:

For our readers' convenience, The Wakulla Sun provides this Public Notice Section for all Public Notices not published in the Legal Notice section of the newspaper.



**THE CITY OF ST. MARKS
REGULAR MEETING
DATE CHANGE**
Date: **May 18, 2023 at 6:00 pm**
Location: **788 Port Leon Drive, St. Marks FL 32355**
The City of St. Marks located at 788 Port Leon Drive, 9 AM to 4:00 PM T/F; Phone (904) 925-6224. Persons with special access considerations should call the City Office at least 24 hours before the date for scheduling purposes. The Board Office may be contacted at (850) 925-6224.
May 18, 2023

**THE CITY OF ST. MARKS
CITY COMMISSIONERS WILL
HOLD A BUDGET WORKSHOP**
Date: **May 18, 2023 at 6:35 pm**
Location: **788 Port Leon Drive, St. Marks FL 32355**
The City of St. Marks located at 788 Port Leon Drive, 9 AM to 4:00 PM T/F; Phone (904) 925-6224. Persons with special access considerations should call the City Office at least 24 hours before the date for scheduling purposes. The Board Office may be contacted at (904) 925-6224.
May 18, 2023

AN ORDINANCE OF CITY OF ST MARKS, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ST MARKS, FLORIDA, ARTICLE 4 SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL, REVISING CHAPTER 74-107 (a)(b)(c) FEES, DEPOSITS, COSTS, AND REQUIREMENTS FOR RESIDENTAL SEWER SYSTEM USES BY REPLACING AND PROVIDING THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENT AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE
Date: **May 18, 2023 at 6:00 pm**
Location: **788 Port Leon Drive, St. Marks FL 32355**
The City of St. Marks located at 788 Port Leon Drive, 9 AM to 4:00 PM T/F; Phone (904) 925-6224. Persons with special access considerations should call the City Office at least 24 hours before the date for scheduling purposes. The Board Office may be contacted at (904) 925-6224.
May 18, 2023

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 of 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 18, 2023

PUBLIC NOTICE:
Wakulla County is proposing to build a 300-foot Self-Support Telecommunications Tower located at 15 Oak Street, Crawfordville, FL 32327 (30° 11' 48.60" N/ 84° 22' 41.90" W). Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30-days from the date of this publication to Malissa Peabody, Terracon, 8001 Bay Meadows Way, suite 1, Crawfordville, FL 32256; 904-549-7377; Malissa.Peabody@terracon.com. Reference Terracon Project No. EQ237161
May 18, 2023

Opinions

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

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

LETTERS FROM READERS

Disheartened by book removal

Editor, The Sun:

I was very disheartened to hear a single individual has prevailed in having a graphic novel, “Little Rock Nine” by author Marshall Poe, removed from all of Wakulla County elementary schools. The complaint was made on the grounds that the subject matter was “too intense” for all elementary school students.

Even though the book was found to be historically accurate, the examining committee wrote the material covered was inappropriate for all students, K-5th grade, and might engender feelings of discomfort or be disturbing. It was recommended the item be added to middle and high school libraries, even though the reading grade level was at the elementary level (that raises concerns on its own).

Let me present my own “bonafides” on this issue: I have a BA in History, emphasis on history of the American South; a BA in Library Science; a MS in Library Science; many hours of advanced library studies; nearly 30 years of experience as a public library administrator with 2 years as a children’s program coordinator, and eight years service on the Wakulla County School Board.

I would posit to you that our trained Media Specialists, teachers and administrators are better equipped to decide which materials are appropriate for our elementary school Libraries. How does a single individual get to make a complaint against an item that is deemed “historically accurate” and cause it to be removed from the collection?

I inquired as to whether or not another “concerned citizen” could challenge the decision to remove the item,

and was told there is no procedure to do that. Perhaps that could be enacted?

It seems obvious the subject matter of the book and the very fact that it IS historically accurate triggered the campaign to have it censored. Frankly, as a mother of four children who came through Wakulla County Schools, as well as three grandchildren currently enrolled in our schools, I am angry at an attempt to prevent students from knowing accurate history.

As to this being “too intense” for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade psyches, allow me to remind you, many people my age actually lived through Jim Crow. We WERE 3rd, 4th and 5th graders watching history happen every night on our nightly news. Just like our current 3rd, 4th and 5th graders see school after school endure mass shootings where other 3rd, 4th and 5th graders are butchered.

All of our citizens who agree with me that “those who don’t learn history are doomed to repeat it” will be happy to hear I have ordered three copies of “Little Rock Nine”. I checked with the Wakulla County Public Library to see if they currently have a copy of this item; they do not. But they were happy to accept a donated copy from me.

The other two copies will be given to my grandchildren, currently 3rd and 5th grade, and 6th grade. Should they wish to read this book, they will be able to do so. I am not afraid for my beloved grandchildren to know accurate history. Indeed, I will make every effort to make historically accurate information available to them.

Respectfully,

Verna Brock
Wakulla Station

Cancer Support Group is available

Editor, The Sun:

The Wakulla County Cancer Support Group was established in 2009 and is the only one in the County. During Covid we noticed a decline in attendance and understandably so - no one wanted to attend meetings, but we are still meeting and going strong. Cancer is not going away and, unfortunately, we continue to hear of new cases.

We do not have a doom and gloom-type meeting. Yes, we laugh, we also give support and encouragement to each other. We bond with each other who understand, and this helps to lighten our load. We discuss health concerns and treatment issues and provide helpful information when appropriate. The concern of everyone attending, becomes our concern because we care. Family members also give support, of course, but members of our group know from experience

what you are going through - we have been there. All information discussed in our meetings is confidential and is not discussed elsewhere. Some of our members are in remission, also some are having tests waiting for results. Those who are now clear of cancer still attend because they want to give their support.

Please attend our meetings - we welcome you, spouses, caregivers, and friends. Our group umbrellas all types of cancer for both men and women.

We meet the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at Crawfordville United Methodist Church (you don’t have to be a member of the church to attend) in the Fellowship Hall (one block from the courthouse). For questions, please call Marge Kinder at 850-926-6050.

Marge Kinder
Crawfordville

Something on your mind?

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

Airport needs weight restriction

Editor, The Sun:

A rebuttal to Mr. Fults’ letter of May 11: “Light aircraft’ is 12,500 lbs or less”

While Mr. Fults points out, correctly, the official definition of light aircraft, he conveniently ignores the intent and provisions of the original deed and conditions of the Trust. Furthermore, Mr. Fults resorts to the old “Potomac side-step” by declaring himself a patriot and those who do not wish military aircraft buzzing their homes are vile Chinese Communists. Mr. Fults makes Nancy Pelosi proud following her example.

Mr. Fults is asserting that if you don’t want to subsidy his toys, then he suggests you’re a Communist. Not my words, his.

This tactic highlights the weak and feeble premise the entire “Panacea International” is predicated on. This is-

sue, while festered by cronyism and narcissism, needs to go away. The Board of County Commissioners has a moral obligation to do the right thing, yet, for some unfathomable reason, it will not. They must be in some 4-H gelding program since none of the Commissioners appear to have the cojones to address this issue and mercifully put it out of its misery.

Its real simple- protect and increase the value of the homes by restricting aircraft to 6,000 lbs or less, regardless if you speak English, Russian or Chinese Mandarin.

The Wakulla Sun does great service to the community by offering all sides an opportunity to voice their opinions and we should support their endeavor.

Robert Franco
Surf Road

On the Horizon

Calendar of events for the week of May 18

Thursday, May 18

- St. Marks City Commission meets at city hall at 6 p.m.
- Spring football game featuring Wakulla, Chiles and Leon, will be held at Gene Cox Stadium in Tallahassee beginning at 6 p.m.
- 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.

• 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 23

• Sopchoppy Community Dinner is held every week at the Towles House at 6:30 p.m.

• Yin Yoga at 10:30 a.m. and Flow Yoga at 6 p.m. with Nellie. Classes are \$12, packages available at New Posh on 3079 Crawfordville Hwy. Please RSVP email at newposh3079@gmail.com or text/call at (850) 528-5838.

• Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

Wednesday, May 24

• Intro to Tai Chi held at the Community Center from 9 to 10 a.m. All ability levels are welcome; please wear comfortable clothing. For questions call Rich or Terri Bushman at 850-228-9214.

• 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.

Friday, May 19

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

Saturday, May 20

- Emancipation Day Celebration at Palaver Tree Theater with Wakulla Family Reunion from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Horseman’s Show at the equestrian center beginning at 11 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.

Monday, May 22

SUPPORT COMMUNITY JOURNALISM

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

By donating, you help us keep citizens informed, hold officials accountable and cover the most important topics in our community.

Your contributions will equip our newsroom to better serve you and all our readers.

That means:

- More reporters on the street
- More local news about our community
- More local content on the environment and local businesses

A little bit goes a long way. With your help, we can keep the presses running through hard times.

We would very much appreciate your contribution.

William Snowden
Editor & Publisher
The Wakulla Sun

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“It’s A New Day!”

The Wakulla Sun




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◀ Question of The Week ▶

– Compiled by Linda Ann McDonald

Polled at the Night of Joy (formerly Special Needs Prom) at Wakulla Springs: What do you like best about Night of Joy?



SARA WALLACE

“I am having fun with my friends, singing and loving Wakulla Springs.”



JENNA STRICKLAND

“I like my fancy ring.”



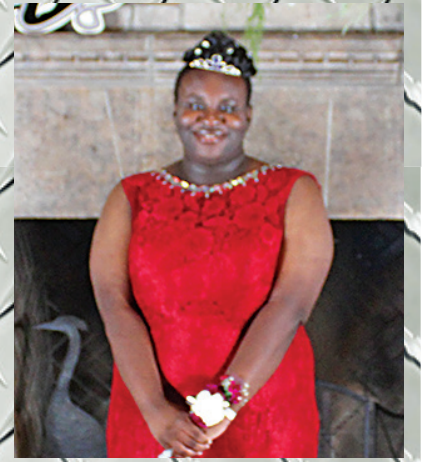
IANI KENDRICK

“I am a princess tonight.”



BROOKLYN LETTS

“I like the music.”



RACHEL MONROE

“I got to dance with my dad.”

COMMUNITY NEWS

Wakulla Station News

By VERNA BROCK

I was driving to Crawfordville one morning, and witnessed an eagle being harassed by several smaller birds. I wasn't able to identify the brave species ganging up on the much larger eagle, but it was certainly fascinating. I could only guess they were protecting their young.

On top of that, I have had numerous sightings of pairs of majestic swallow-tailed kites swooping and diving through the skies over Wakulla County. Twenty years ago, I was told these beautiful birds were non-existent here.

I am pleased to say, I see more and more of them every Spring.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Mother's Day. After all, we each have had a mother, even if we're not all moms. Ed took me to lunch, and we went plant shopping, and came home to a quiet, blessedly rainy afternoon. Sometimes a rainy day is the best day.

I attended the Community Traffic Safety meeting last week, and asked DOT to consider making the Woodville Highway a “no passing zone” in front of our little community. I continue to hope they will reexamine the area and its increasing traffic load through

Wakulla Station, and lower the speed limit back to 35 MPH (from 45 and 55 MPH).

I did learn there are plans to create a crosswalk across Crawfordville Highway at the traffic light and entrance to Publix. There should also be an addition of a better turning lane at Publix. There are some changes in the works to make a number of improvements to increase safety throughout the county, including improvements at the intersection of Old Woodville Road, Bloxham Cutoff Road, and Shadeville Road. We may even see an expansion of the St. Marks Rails to Trails State Park all the way to Wakulla Springs State Park!

In the last week, a very large plot

of land in Wakulla Station has been cleared in preparation for (another) new Dollar General Store. Not sure it's needed, but that doesn't appear to be a consideration. I sure hope the company will stock it as a market, with fresh fruit and veggies.

Please continue to lift the family of Howard Hobby in your prayers, as well as the Hobbs family, the Kendrick family, the Carter families, the Turner family, the Vickery family, the Grimes family, and the Peacock-Sloan family.

Six month old Sebastian Moseley continues to need our prayers while he awaits a heart transplant, as does his entire family. This is a very stressful process for everyone involved.

Library News – May 18

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Thursday, May 18

Veteran's Meetup 11am
Wakulla Amateur Radio Club 7pm

Friday, May 19

Quilting Guild 9:30am

Saturday, May 20

TMH READ Therapy Dogs 10am
Formation of Farmer's Market Coop 10:30am

Monday, May 22

No Programs Today

Tuesday, May 23

Book Bunch 10am
Memoir Writing 10am

Wednesday, May 24

Book Babies 10am

Knitting Group 4pm

Thursday, May 25

Friends of the Library General Meeting 6pm

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

Sheriff's Report

Activity reported for the week of May 5 to 11:

FRIDAY, MAY 5

- Deputy Donald Newsome responded to Mount Zion Road in reference to someone taking two junk cars from the victim's property. The cars had been inoperative for at least six years. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

- Deputy Heather Will responded to the high school and met with Joe Page, who stated he lost his wallet after a day of fishing. Page stated he left his wallet on the boat and it fell off between Mack's Meats and Shell Point Beach.

SATURDAY, MAY 6

- Deputy Donald Newsome responded to the area of Crawfordville Highway and Songbird Avenue in reference to a report of a possible intoxicated driver. Deputy Newsome located the vehicle and conducted a traffic stop for failure to maintain lane. During the traffic stop, Florida Highway Patrol assisted and completed a DUI investigation, arresting the driver, Victoria Wash, for DUI.

- Deputy Dakota Haddock conducted a traffic stop on a silver Honda sedan for failure to maintain lane. Upon Deputy Haddock making contact at the front passenger door,

he recognized the passenger as Antonio Green, who had active narcotics warrants out of Leon County. During the traffic stop, it was determined the driver, Angela Bailey was allegedly in possession of a crack pipe. Green was also allegedly in possession of crack cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamine, and paraphernalia. Antonio and Angela were both placed under arrest and transported to the Wakulla County Jail.

SUNDAY, MAY 7

- Deputy Todd Kent conducted a traffic stop on Woodville Highway. The driver, Tiffany Ruffin, was discovered to not have a valid driver's license. During the stop, Ruffin allegedly admitted to being in possession of methamphetamine. Ruffin was placed under arrest for possession of methamphetamine, possession of paraphernalia, and DWLSR.

- Deputy Heather Will conducted a traffic stop a vehicle driven by Jack Causseaux for tag attached unassigned. During the stop it was found that Causseaux was in possession of methamphetamine and paraphernalia. Causseaux was placed under arrest and transported to the jail.

MONDAY, MAY 8

- Stephanie Letts reported her tire

being slashed on her 2019 Toyota 4 Runner. Letts advised she last saw her vehicle in good condition at 11 p.m. on May 7. Letts was able to provide a possible suspect in this case. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Shayne Broxie investigated.

TUESDAY, MAY 9

- Enrique Cotes reported an altercation between him and an unknown male. Cotes advised he was trying to back his vehicle into the parking lot when another driver became agitated. Cotes advised the male brandished a weapon making threats. Cotes advised he told the male to put down the weapon and they could fight like men. The two got into a physical altercation where the unknown male didn't fare well. The unknown male fled the scene prior to deputies' arrival. Cotes provided a statement did not wish to pursue charges. Deputy Rudolph Hinson investigated.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10

- Deputy Jake Scott responded to Lonnie Raker Lane in reference to a fraud. Frances Hargrove reported two checks were stolen out of her mailbox, altered and then cashed. One was cashed at a Walmart in Marianna and the other at a Lowes Home improvement store in Florida. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

- Austin Victor was arrested for Loitering and Prowling along with Resisting arrest after he was observed running down East Ivan Road at approximately 11 p.m. When Deputy Donald Newsome stopped to speak with Victor he refused commands and attempted to flee into a neighborhood. Victor was tased and apprehended as he was trying to scale a fence into someone's backyard.

THURSDAY, MAY 11

- A traffic stop was conducted on a vehicle for faulty equipment. Prior to coming to a complete stop, deputies observed the male driver attempt to switch seats with the passenger. The driver was later identified as Martayvious Kilpatrick. Kilpatrick was discovered not to have a valid license and also had outstanding warrants out of Wakulla County. Discovered in the driver's side door handle pocket was small baggie with a white residue. The passenger was identified as Bethany Schultz. Schultz was discovered to be in possession of cocaine, marijuana, and drug paraphernalia. Both were also charged with obstruction for attempting to swap seats. Deputy Todd Kent investigated.

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

Outdoors

outdoor sports

HOME ON THE RANGE

Newbie's dilemma



By MARJ LAW

She isn't happy.

"Marj, I went to buy a gun. I told the man I was a newbie at shooting. 'Great,' he says. 'Are you interested in a rimfire or a centerfire handgun?'"

"What's with this rim and centerfire stuff? I just want an easy gun to shoot for protection. Maybe something to make holes in targets if I join you at the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office range."

"So, when I couldn't think of an answer right away, he asks if I want a .22, 9mm, .380 or a .38. Well, how the heck do I know? What are all those numbers?"

Then he asks if I want a semiautomatic or a revolver. Come on! A gun! A gun! Isn't that easy enough? What's with all the questions? He had some nerve to ask all those questions. He could tell I didn't have a clue. Makes me feel stupid. I'm not stupid. I just don't know from guns."

Yep. She's frustrated. Don't get me wrong. Sally's a great person. But right now, she's got a serious set of grooves in the middle of her forehead, her arms are crossed against her chest, and her right foot is tapping on the floor.

"You're right, Sally. Just about everyone is confused when they start out. I sure was, too."

"Really?" She looks

skeptical. "Is it necessary to know all that stuff?"

"Sure, Sally. Let's start with rimfire and centerfire. Look at these two rounds. What's different about them?"

"One is bigger. One has a dot thing in the middle of its back."

"Good observation! The one with the dot is called a centerfire round. The one without the dot is a rimfire round. A round has a casing, a primer, powder and a bullet."

"I thought those were bullets."

"We call them rounds or cartridges. The bullet is the nose or projectile at the end of the casing. These two casings have brass shells. This is how it works."

"A part of the gun called the firing pin or striker whacks the back of the casing. The primer is at the back. When hit, the primer sets off a spark that ignites powder inside the casing. This in turn makes an explosion which causes enough pressure to shove the bullet out of your gun to the target."

"I get it," she says. "Striker or firing pin whacks primer, igniting powder, setting off bullet. So why does one round have a flat back and the other has a dot in the middle of the back?"

"That's where rimfire and centerfire come in. If there's a dot in the center of the back, that's the location where the striker hits the primer and it's called a centerfire round. If there's no dot, the firing pin hits the rim of the casing instead of the middle and that's how it sets off the primer on a rimfire gun."

"OK, so do all guns shoot either rimfire or centerfire?"

"Basically, .22s are the guns you'll shoot that are rimfire. The .380, 9mm and .38 are centerfire."



"My friend Jane has a .22. She says it is really easy to shoot. But Dad wants me to have a .38. Does it matter which I choose?"

"We'll have to go to the range. That will help you decide what works best for you."

"Daddy says a .380 is too wimpy."

"Let's look at each of the rounds for these guns. Do you notice that this .380 and the 9mm rounds are almost exactly the same diameter?"

"Yes, I see that. But the length of the brass casing is longer for the 9mm."

"It is. There is more powder in the 9mm, so it can push out the projectile (which is the bullet) faster. Also, because it has more powder, it can push out a heavier bullet. More bullet speed and weight can be more effective to neutralize a threat. If you can handle the gun, that is."

"Does this mean the 9mm will have more recoil than the .380?"

"Yes. In most cases."

"Oh. Well, how about that .38 my Dad wants me to get? Is that more powerful than the 9?"

"No. The .38 is almost always a round you put in a revolver. Here's a revolver. It has a cylinder that rotates when you shoot. This Chief's Special holds five rounds: one for each chamber. Do you notice anything different about the .38 round versus the 9mm round?"

"They look about the same in diameter, but the .38s casing is longer. Also, the 38's rim is wider than the diameter of its casing."

"The .38's rim is made for a revolver. A 9mm round won't work in a .38 revolver because it does not have that wide rim."

"OK. So, it looks like the .380, the 9mm and the .38 all have about the same diameter. Don't they all have the same power?"

"No. There's a difference in the casing's powder. There's also a difference in the bullet

weight."

"Since the .380's round is smaller, I bet a .380 gun has less kick. The casing of the .38 is quite a bit bigger than the 9mm, so that's why Dad wants me to get the .38. The longer .38 round has more power, right?"

"You'd think so, but the 9mm round is more powerful. Although the .38 casing is longer, it generally has a slower and heavier bullet and a different type of powder."

"Does that mean the 9mm handguns have more recoil?"

"Recoil depends on the gun, the ammunition and on the shooter. However, recoil on this Chief's Special is a lot greater than on this 9mm Equalizer. The Chief's Special is a revolver. The Equalizer is a semiautomatic. The Equalizer's slide absorbs a lot of what would be recoil."

"You don't get that with a revolver. There's no slide to absorb kick. You'll feel a lot more recoil in this .38 versus

this 9mm."

"I don't want recoil." "Instead of putting five rounds into the Chief's Special, you can fit 10 rounds in the Equalizer. It also comes with 13 and 15 round magazines."

"Why is that important?"

"Depends. How good a shot are you?"

"I've never shot a day in my life."

"Then, if you're a new shooter, wouldn't you prefer more rounds to defend yourself?"

"Well, yeah."

"Most 9mm semiautomatics hold more rounds than revolvers. Some hold a lot more."

"I might need all I can get. So, why does Dad want me to have the .38?"

"Maybe he wants you to have the most simple gun. With the .38, all you do is pop a round in each of the 5 chambers, point and shoot. With the semiautomatic, you have to load the magazine and put it in the gun. Then, for most 9mms, you pull back the slide to move the first round into the chamber. Shooting a 9mm is more involved than shooting a .38."

"I'd rather have the extra rounds and less recoil if my life were at stake."

"That's why we'll go to the range and try out different guns. In theory, you want the 9mm. When you shoot the .380, 9mm and the .38, you'll probably enjoy the 9 more, since your Dad doesn't like the .380 caliber guns."

"But who knows? The one that you like and shoot the best is the one you ought to buy."

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

BIRDING AT THE REFUGE

Shorebird migration underway

By DON MORROW

A thunderstorm popped up at St. Marks NWR on Friday morning, just as I arrived at the refuge at 6:00 am. It was over in fifteen minutes and a bright half-moon peeked through a break in the clouds and reflected off a puddle as I unlocked the gate at the Double Dikes and headed out to start a shorebird survey.

I got started around sunrise. It took me six hours to run a seventeen-mile circuit of St. Mark's interior ponds and pools, stopping frequently to pull out my scope and count groups of shorebirds. I had to detour to avoid a section of levee where a Wilson's Plover had decided to nest in the middle of the road.

I recorded 1,323 shorebirds of nineteen species. About a thirty percent drop from my last survey, three weeks ago. This is a typical shorebird population level for the

refuge in mid-May.

Our wintering shorebirds are mostly gone. Almost 95% of the refuge's Dunlins have left. At their peak in December, there were over three thousand Dunlins. On Friday I counted only 216.

Most of the shorebirds that you see at the refuge now are migrants in transit. It shows in the species mix from the survey, which included Wilson's Phalarope, Spotted Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper and Red Knot. All are species that are usually found at the refuge only in migration. The most common shorebirds on the refuge right now are breeding plumaged Semipalmated Sandpipers and Short-billed Dowitchers. They are also migrants moving up from their South American wintering grounds. Those Short-billed Dowitchers that are not in breeding plumage by now are non-breeding yearlings that will oversummer

here.

In another few weeks, there may be only two or three hundred shorebirds left at the refuge. St. Marks has breeding Willets, Wilson's Plovers, American Oystercatchers and Black-necked Stilts. Along with them will be yearlings of a half dozen species that did not migrate.

Shorebirds have a difficult time and some species have never completely recovered from the devastation of unrestricted commercial hunting at the end of the nineteenth century. There once may have been as many as five million Eskimo Curlews. They were a favored market bird, because of their taste and ease of shooting. At the end, as they became less plentiful, they sold for seventy-five cents a bird. They are now extinct.

Today, shorebirds are dealing with pesticides, climate change, loss of habitat and a developing avian flu

pandemic. Many species have seen populations decrease by up to fifty percent in the last forty years. Yet they continue their journeys.

The Wilson's Phalarope that I saw at the refuge on Friday may have spent the winter on a saline lake in the highlands of the central Andes. Things that represent serious obstacles for a human are of little import to a phalarope. They are undeterred by mountains, jungles or a Gulf crossing. They are not afraid of heights nor of the dark. Phalaropes regularly fly two miles up and undertake flights that continue through the night and can last for four days.

Spread your wings, break free and fly down to St. Marks. There's still time to get in on shorebird migration this year.

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



KEMP'S RIDLEY SEA TURTLE
(*Lepidochelys kempii*)

The rarest of sea turtles, they mate offshore and then females come in a large group called an 'arribada' to all nest at the same time on beaches with dunes or swamp. A female will nest three times during each nesting season almost always on Rancho Nuevo beach in Mexico. Some also nest on the San Padre Island, Texas. The dark baby turtles hide in the sargassum beds. They hunt for mollusks, crustaceans, jellyfish, algae, sea weed and sea urchins. Critically endangered, almost all sea turtles killed by the BP oil spill were Kemp's Ridelys.

Eukaryria, Anamalia, Chordata, Reptilia, Testunides, Cheloniidae



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Wakulla Diving Center
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2784 COASTAL HWY., CRAWFORDVILLE

Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences

Thursday 18

Sun rise/set: 6:41AM 8:25PM
Moon rise/set: 5:53AM 7:44PM
Moon Illumination 2%

Friday 19

Sun rise/set: 6:40AM 8:25PM
Moon rise/set: 6:29AM 8:47PM
Moon Illumination 0%

Saturday 20

Sun rise/set: 6:40AM 8:26PM
Moon rise/set: 7:10AM 9:49PM
Moon Illumination 1%

Sunday 21

Sun rise/set: 6:39AM 8:27PM
Moon rise/set: 7:57AM 10:48PM
Moon Illumination 4%

Monday 22

Sun rise/set: 6:39AM 8:27PM
Moon rise/set: 8:48AM 11:41PM
Moon Illumination 8%

Tuesday 23

Sun rise/set: 6:38AM 8:28PM
Moon rise/set: 9:43AM ----
Moon Illumination 14%

Wednesday 24

Sun rise/set: 6:38AM 8:29PM
Moon rise/set: 10:40AM 12:28AM
Moon Illumination 22%

Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

May 18 - May 24

Tide charts by tides4fishing.com

First May 27
Full June 3
Last June 10
New May 19

Best fishing days this month
May 19-31

Thursday 18

Minor Times: 5:08AM 6:59PM
Major Times: 11:05PM 11:29AM

Friday 19

Minor Times: 5:44AM 8:02PM
Major Times: 11:54PM 12:20PM

Saturday 20

Minor Times: 6:25AM 9:04PM
Major Times: 12:46AM 1:12PM

Sunday 21

Minor Times: 7:12AM 10:03PM
Major Times: 1:39AM 2:06PM

Monday 22

Minor Times: 8:03AM 10:56PM
Major Times: 2:33AM 3:00PM

Tuesday 23

Minor Times: 8:58AM ----
Major Times: 3:26AM 3:52PM

Wednesday 24

Minor Times: 11:43PM 9:55AM
Major Times: 4:18AM 4:42PM

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	2:31 am ▲ 3.3 ft	7:44 am ▼ 1.4 ft	1:42 pm ▲ 4.0 ft	8:47 pm ▼ -0.6 ft
Fr	3:15 am ▲ 3.3 ft	8:18 am ▼ 1.5 ft	2:12 pm ▲ 4.0 ft	9:26 pm ▼ -0.6 ft
Sa	3:55 am ▲ 3.3 ft	8:50 am ▼ 1.6 ft	2:41 pm ▲ 4.0 ft	10:05 pm ▼ -0.6 ft
Su	4:34 am ▲ 3.2 ft	9:21 am ▼ 1.6 ft	3:11 pm ▲ 4.0 ft	10:42 pm ▼ -0.4 ft
Mo	5:12 am ▲ 3.0 ft	9:53 am ▼ 1.7 ft	3:42 pm ▲ 3.9 ft	11:20 pm ▼ -0.2 ft
Tu	5:53 am ▲ 2.9 ft	10:28 am ▼ 1.8 ft	4:14 pm ▲ 3.8 ft	11:59 pm ▼ 0.0 ft
We	6:37 am ▲ 2.8 ft	11:08 am ▼ 1.8 ft	4:50 pm ▲ 3.6 ft	

City of St. Marks

Th	3:07 am ▲ 3.1 ft	8:48 am ▼ 1.2 ft	2:18 pm ▲ 3.7 ft	9:51 pm ▼ -0.5 ft
Fr	3:51 am ▲ 3.1 ft	9:22 am ▼ 1.4 ft	2:48 pm ▲ 3.7 ft	10:30 pm ▼ -0.6 ft
Sa	4:31 am ▲ 3.0 ft	9:54 am ▼ 1.4 ft	3:17 pm ▲ 3.7 ft	11:09 pm ▼ -0.5 ft
Su	5:10 am ▲ 2.9 ft	10:25 am ▼ 1.5 ft	3:47 pm ▲ 3.7 ft	11:46 pm ▼ -0.4 ft
Mo	5:48 am ▲ 2.8 ft	10:57 am ▼ 1.5 ft	4:18 pm ▲ 3.6 ft	
Tu	12:24 am ▼ -0.2 ft	6:29 am ▲ 2.7 ft	11:32 am ▲ 3.6 ft	4:50 pm ▲ 3.5 ft
We	1:03 am ▼ 0.0 ft	7:13 am ▲ 2.6 ft	12:12 pm ▼ 1.7 ft	5:26 pm ▲ 3.3 ft

Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	2:51 am ▲ 3.4 ft	8:09 am ▼ 1.5 ft	1:59 pm ▲ 4.0 ft	9:05 pm ▼ -0.6 ft
Fr	3:33 am ▲ 3.4 ft	8:39 am ▼ 1.7 ft	2:27 pm ▲ 4.0 ft	9:44 pm ▼ -0.6 ft
Sa	4:13 am ▲ 3.4 ft	9:07 am ▼ 1.8 ft	2:54 pm ▲ 4.0 ft	10:22 pm ▼ -0.6 ft
Su	4:51 am ▲ 3.2 ft	9:35 am ▼ 1.9 ft	3:22 pm ▲ 4.0 ft	11:00 pm ▼ -0.4 ft
Mo	5:29 am ▲ 3.1 ft	10:05 am ▼ 1.9 ft	3:53 pm ▲ 3.9 ft	11:38 pm ▼ -0.2 ft
Tu	6:09 am ▲ 3.0 ft	10:39 am ▼ 1.9 ft	4:26 pm ▲ 3.8 ft	
We	12:19 am ▼ 0.0 ft	6:53 am ▲ 2.9 ft	11:20 am ▼ 2.0 ft	5:03 pm ▲ 3.6 ft

Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	2:23 am ▲ 2.5 ft	7:55 am ▼ 1.9 ft	1:34 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	8:58 pm ▼ -0.4 ft
Fr	3:07 am ▲ 2.5 ft	8:29 am ▼ 1.9 ft	2:04 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	9:37 pm ▼ -0.5 ft
Sa	3:47 am ▲ 2.5 ft	9:01 am ▼ 1.2 ft	2:33 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	10:16 pm ▼ -0.4 ft
Su	4:26 am ▲ 2.4 ft	9:32 am ▼ 1.2 ft	3:03 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	10:53 pm ▼ -0.3 ft
Mo	5:04 am ▲ 2.3 ft	10:04 am ▼ 1.2 ft	3:34 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	11:31 pm ▼ -0.2 ft
Tu	5:45 am ▲ 2.2 ft	10:39 am ▼ 1.3 ft	4:06 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	
We	12:10 am ▼ 0.0 ft	6:29 am ▲ 2.1 ft	11:19 am ▼ 1.3 ft	4:42 pm ▲ 2.7 ft

St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	2:48 am ▲ 2.7 ft	7:52 am ▼ 1.5 ft	1:22 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	8:41 pm ▼ -0.5 ft
Fr	3:34 am ▲ 2.6 ft	8:20 am ▼ 1.7 ft	1:49 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	9:17 pm ▼ -0.6 ft
Sa	4:16 am ▲ 2.6 ft	8:45 am ▼ 1.8 ft	2:18 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	9:54 pm ▼ -0.6 ft
Su	4:57 am ▲ 2.5 ft	9:10 am ▼ 1.9 ft	2:51 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	10:32 pm ▼ -0.5 ft
Mo	5:38 am ▲ 2.3 ft	9:37 am ▼ 1.9 ft	3:27 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	11:14 pm ▼ -0.3 ft
Tu	6:21 am ▲ 2.2 ft	10:09 am ▼ 1.9 ft	4:07 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	11:58 pm ▼ -0.1 ft
We	7:09 am ▲ 2.2 ft	10:50 am ▼ 1.9 ft	4:52 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	

Dog Island West End

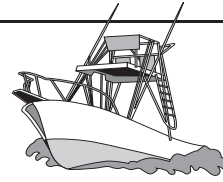
Th	3:27 am ▲ 2.3 ft	8:20 am ▼ 1.6 ft	1:29 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	8:57 pm ▼ -0.5 ft
Fr	4:13 am ▲ 2.4 ft	8:47 am ▼ 1.7 ft	2:01 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	9:29 pm ▼ -0.5 ft
Sa	4:56 am ▲ 2.4 ft	9:12 am ▼ 1.8 ft	2:33 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	10:03 pm ▼ -0.5 ft
Su	5:36 am ▲ 2.3 ft	9:35 am ▼ 1.9 ft	3:06 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	10:42 pm ▼ -0.4 ft
Mo	6:13 am ▲ 2.2 ft	10:00 am ▼ 1.9 ft	3:41 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	11:25 pm ▼ -0.2 ft
Tu	6:51 am ▲ 2.1 ft	10:28 am ▼ 1.9 ft	4:18 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	
We	12:09 am ▼ -0.1 ft	7:34 am ▲ 2.0 ft	11:15 am ▼ 1.9 ft	4:59 pm ▲ 2.5 ft

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



Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports

By Carolyn Brown Treadon



Thank you to Wade Olson for the following information that he and Joe Storey received. Joe served one deployment, Wade served two.

Thank you for your dedication in supporting the U.S. Coast Guard and Customs and Border Protection during operations on the South West Border from May 2022 to February 2023. Your diligence and devotion to duty are commended and in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.

You are hereby authorized to wear the Coast Guard Special Operations Ribbon.

Auxiliarists who participate in a Coast Guard special operation, not involving combat, may receive this award. It is for Auxiliarists not recognized by another service award for the same operation, during the same period

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

of service.

The citation for this recognition was read at N-Train 2023 where the award was presented to those in attendance at the event.

“140 Auxiliarists supported Customs and Border Protection operations at the South West Border in Eagle Pass, Texas, from May 2022 through November 2022, performing various activities to include personal property management and food services. These Auxiliarists allowed CBP to process the largest migration year in recent history by dedicating

nearly 13,000 hours in direct boots-on-the-ground support at the South West Border, helping process over 320,000 immigrants. Your dedication to the Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, and the Nation is greatly appreciated -you are awarded and authorized to wear the Special Operations Service Ribbon.”

Bravo Zulu to Joe and Wade for receiving this honor.

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

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

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

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

Underwater Wakulla

By Rusty Miller

SS Thomas Hayward

As we continue the shipwreck trail journey this week I would like to talk about an area just to the west of Panama City beach. Its called the SS Thomas Hayward. So let's get started.

SS Thomas Heyward was a liberty ship, a liberty ship is a class of cargo ship built in the United States during World War II under the Emergency American ship building program. Maritime Commission hull number 236. She was built in Mobile, Alabama and was launched May 31, 1942. It was named for Thomas Heyward Jr., one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence).

She was leased to Waterman Steamship Company and delivered on July 31, 1942. On May 5, 1946 she hit an unswept mine off Europe. Although damaged the vessel made it safely back to port for repairs. The vessel was placed in the Mobile reserve fleet in 1949, but was reactivated in 1951 for duty during the Korean War.

After final retirement, the vessel was laid up in the James River in Virginia for a time, then was purchased by the Florida Department of Natural Resources and prepared for final disposal as an artificial reef in Pascagoula, Mississippi salvage yard with the super structure cut down to the first deck to meet the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers specifications for artificial reef structures. It was sunk on April 14, 1977 off Destin.

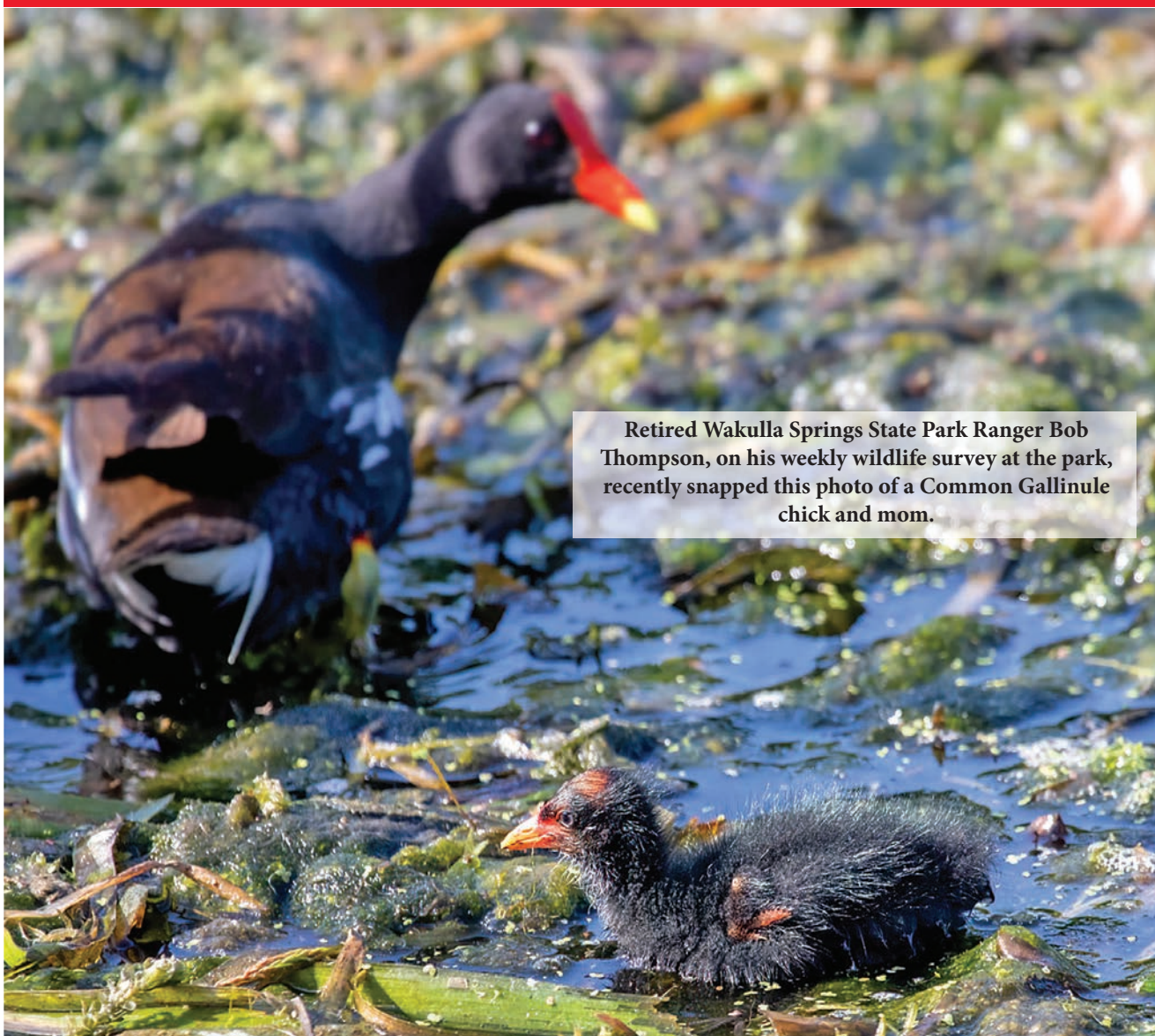
Here are some of the general characteristics of the ship: 360 feet in length, 57 feet wide. She sits in 90 feet of water which qualifies her for advanced divers.

I would like to dive her at some point in the near future. Maybe you might want to dive with me.

Until next week keep making bubbles.

Russell Miller
NAUI #59999
IANTD #224715

WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO



Retired Wakulla Springs State Park Ranger Bob Thompson, on his weekly wildlife survey at the park, recently snapped this photo of a Common Gallinule chick and mom.

FWC Law Enforcement Report

From FWC

This report represents some events the FWC handled over April 28 to May 4. It does not include all actions taken by the Division of Law Enforcement.

WAKULLA COUNTY

- Officer M. Fernbach was on patrol in Panacea when he observed a vessel coming in with multiple fishing rods on board. Officer Fernbach conducted a resource and boating safety inspection. The operator was found to be in possession of an undersized cobia. A misdemeanor citation was issued for the violation.

- Officer D. Travis was on patrol at the Red Lake Boat Ramp. He was conducting resource and boating safety inspections. Officer Travis inspected a vessel after the operator had been fishing. The operator stated he and his brother had been fishing but he had dropped his brother off at a different location. The operator admitted to possessing nine black sea bass. During the inspection, the operator admitted to fishing alone. Officer Travis issued a misdemeanor citation for over the bag limit of black sea bass.

- Officer S. Gray was on patrol at the St. Marks Fort. He conducted a resource and boating safety inspection on a vessel and occupants that had been fishing. The operator stated he caught multiple legal fish. Upon further inspection, Officer Gray discovered an undersized redfish. An individual on the vessel admitted to catching the redfish and was issued a citation.

Seek God with your family



By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

is your teen caught up in that causes your stomach to knot up? What conflicts do you deal with as a blended family?

Like you, Bert and I want to have a better marriage. Therefore, we've committed to pray together every day.

Is this something you'd like to do with your spouse – perhaps also with your children?

Each day, when we gather as a couple or family in Jesus' name, we experience the presence of God as we practice 1 Chronicles 16:11

(ESV): "Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!"

While in the Lord's presence, ask God to help you become closer to each other as you listen for His direction regarding your marriage and your household. Pray to grow together in your relationship with your heavenly Father.

When Bert and I pray as husband and wife, we often ask God to help us forgive one another for the hurts we've caused. We believe that humbling ourselves,

not only in God's presence but in each other's, will allow the God we both serve to bond us even closer. And during these times of joint prayer regarding those areas in which we fall short, we know healing will take place.

Consider also going before God's throne to intercede for others you care about. Spend time praising and thanking your heavenly Father for Who He is and all He has done.

Praying together can ensure that every member of your household

knows each other's wants, needs and challenges. Petitioning God together can create a special closeness that many families today lack.

To those who already do this, praise God for the years you've grown in Him and with each other.

For those who haven't yet established the habit of praying together, try it. See how this practice will transform your household.

Every day we have a choice.

We can experience

God's guidance and peace as we commit – as a family – to seek the Lord and his strength. Or we can continue to experience angst every time the enemy trips up our marriage and household.

Which will you choose?

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.

What keeps tripping up your marriage or your household?

How does the enemy keep baiting you or your spouse? What behavior

New beginnings



By **CHERYL CRUCE**

ety. She taught me the beauty of new beginnings through her love and determination.

It was through the difficulties of life that she learned to persevere. The loss of her parents at a young age and the tragic loss of children in later years weighed heavily on her. Nonetheless, she rose to a fresh start each day, trusting entirely in God's care.

Looking back, I realize her new beginnings always started with prayer, a conversation between her and the Father. Furthermore, I now recognize the beautiful inheritance of faith she left behind.

One day, while skimming through her old Bible, I found a fold-

ed piece of paper neatly tucked away among the pages. As I carefully unfolded the treasure, I read what must have been the recounting of a dream. In her closing words, she wrote, "Your miracle is on the way; you only need to remain still." The handwriting and the words of encouragement were unmistakably hers. The words burned into my heart as if they had been written for that moment and time. Somehow, she had reached beyond heaven's portal and calmed my spirit as if I were that little girl with the jumbled-up words again.

Life will always have rough and rugged roads. The "I wish I would have" will always come

to the forefront, causing us to doubt our lives. Do not allow your present to be filled with regret. Our yesterday is gone; we cannot live in its past; we only have the moment. Which of us, by worrying, can add a single moment to our lives (Luke 12:25)? God has a better outcome for each of us when we allow Him to calm our anxieties and rest in His care.

The Lord has promised to restore the years that the locust has eaten away, for He is a God of restoration (Joel 2:25). God has said He would be a Father to the Fatherless and a defender of the widows (Psalm 68:5). Moreover, God has poured His great love on us, calling us

His children (1st John 3:1). He promises never to leave nor abandon us regardless of the road we travel. Wherever life leads, whatever pain we feel, or inflict, our Heavenly Father's greatest desire is to restore what we have lost. The hardest thing is turning it over to Him.

C.S. Lewis said, "Getting over a painful experience is much like crossing monkey bars. You have to let go at some point in order to move forward."

God does not want our words jumbled up or our spirits anxious. He knows our needs, our hurts, and our desires. He wants the best for His children. Letting go of the bar may be a little

scary as we dangle, yet it allows us to reach for the Father's hand. The choice is ours; when do we let go and reach up? Reaching for His hand is the new beginning we all desire.

Philippians 4:6-7 (NKJV) "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus"

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

OUT TO PASTOR

I'd rather kiss a goat



By **JAMES SNYDER**

him to an activity he did not want to attend, he usually would respond by saying, "I'd rather kiss a goat."

People would smile because nobody had any idea what he was saying.

A friend once asked him, "Fred, will you watch the football game tonight?"

Looking at him as seriously as possible, Fred said, "I'd rather kiss a goat."

Knowing him as I did, he was not anti-social; he just liked to get under people's skin. Everything was a joke to him, and most people did not realize it. So they always took Uncle Fred seriously, which he wanted.

As a teenager, I spent time with him working in his garden one summer. He had a fantasy for garden work. If it could be planted, he would plant it. He had the best garden in the whole neighborhood at the time. Some plants in his garden I could not identify. Years later, much to my dismay, I found what some were, which explained a lot.

While spending time with him, I asked, "Uncle Fred, what do you mean when you say, 'I would rather kiss a goat?' Do you really mean that?"

I had been thinking about this question for a long time, and at this

point, I had the opportunity to ask him.

"Well, son," he said rather slowly, "it's a very interesting thing. I have no idea what it means, and the people I say it to have no idea what I mean." He finished by laughing hysterically.

Then he explained that it was better to confuse people sometimes than try to explain something.

"For instance, if somebody wants you to do something and you don't want to do it but don't want to hurt their feelings, it's best to confuse them. That's where I come in and say, 'I'd rather kiss a goat.'"

According to him, he got out of many sticky situations by saying that.

"Just don't tell anybody I said that." He looked at me and then winked. I wondered if he was telling me the truth or just what he wanted me to know.

It was his way of get-

ting along with people he liked but not doing what they wanted him to do.

It was the summer before Uncle Fred died that we had our family reunion. Just about everyone was there, and it was the last one that I got to go to.

Everyone was there except my grandfather. He was Fred's brother. Nobody knew where he was and was concerned because he never missed a family reunion.

Then, out of nowhere, my grandfather drove in, and in his truck was a goat. So he got out of the truck, brought the goat out, walked over to Fred, and said, "How about kissing this goat?"

Of course, Uncle Fred was stunned by the action, and everyone except Uncle Fred broke out in almost uncontrollable laughter.

Only my grandfather could pull one on Uncle Fred. I'm unsure

how long it took him to put this kind of plan together, and he surely deserves credit.

I sure do miss Uncle Fred and wish The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage would've had an opportunity to meet him. I'm afraid, though, she might've given him a goat to kiss but not what he had in mind.

Sometimes you don't really appreciate a person until after they're gone. The more I think of Uncle Fred, the more I appreciate his phrase, "I'd rather kiss a goat."

It all came to a head when the other day, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came into my office and said, "Would you like to go shopping with the girls and me?"

Trying not to smile, I looked at her and said, "I'd rather kiss a goat."

Glaring at me with one of "those glares," she said, "What did you say? Did you just call

me a goat?"

Oh boy, do I have some 'splainin' to do?"

As I was trying to figure out my defense, I was reminded of what Jesus said in Matthew 12:36-37, "But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."

The most important thing is to understand that God will hold me accountable for every word I speak, even those idle words.

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.

There are very few things in my life I regret; at least that I can remember.

One of the good things about getting old is that you can forget many things. The important thing is to forget the right thing, which is a challenge. You can be sure I work on this all the time. It takes a really good memory to forget the right things.

What I regret the most is that The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage never met my good old Uncle Fred. If she had met him, she would understand me more than she does today. She would understand why I am as crazy as I am. The problem is, she still would want to try to fix me.

One phrase I remember the most about Uncle Fred is, "I'd rather kiss a goat." I cannot tell you how many times I heard him say this. Where he got this phrase is a mystery to everyone who knew him.

If someone invited

Sopchoppy United Methodist Church

Pastor Cheryl Mixon-Cruce 850-962-2511

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Worship 11 a.m.
Bible Study Wed. 6 p.m.

First Baptist Church
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850-926-7896 **Sunday Mornings at 11 am**

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Wednesday: Mass at 7:00 pm
1st Saturday: Adoration and Confessions at 8:30 am
1st Saturday: Mass at 9:30 am.
Every Saturday: Confessions at 4:30 pm
Live Streaming - Sundays
Facebook - Seas Parish

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Cremaim spaces available. 850-745-8359
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Obituaries

DEATH NOTICES

• **Teresa E. Billingsley**, 68, of Carrabelle, died May 8, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **Joy Ann Story**, 64, of Crawfordville, died May 8, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **Betty Jean Bryant**, 80, of Tallahassee, died May 14, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **Joyce Stoller**, 86, of Crawfordville, died May 15, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

Dueling duos at Palaver Tree

PHOTOS BY
GERALD BROWN



Saturday night at the Palaver Tree Theater Dueling Duo's brought out a good crowd for the unique battle of the band. Tallahassee's favorite folk band Hot Tamale with Adrian Fogelin and Craig Reeder entertain the crowd with original music mixed with popular cover songs.



Duet Artista with Celia Caputi on vocals and guitar and Micheal Schad on lead guitar wowing the crowd with hard rock cover songs to Indie Rock mixed in with some original music. For the finale, both bands take the stage and lead the crowd in a sing-along and dance party to Chuck Berry's "Johnny B. Goode."

Weekly Roundup: Hey kids, put down those phones

By **RYAN DAILEY**
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — Curbing students' cell phone use, targeting illegal immigration and preventing Covid-19 mandates — Gov. Ron DeSantis this week signed dozens of bills, including one that will keep his travels under wraps.

The bills passed during the recently completed legislative session, which DeSantis touted as the most "productive" in state history and Democrats lambasted as being filled with "missed opportunities" and "culture war" issues.

Among other things, DeSantis signed a measure (HB 379) that will bar students from using cell phones during class time and curtail use of the social-media platform TikTok on school grounds.

The law is set to take effect in July and will prevent use of cell phones during "instructional time," unless expressly directed by teachers. Educators also will have to designate areas for the devices during class.

The bill also takes aim at one of the governor's technological targets, the popular social-media app TikTok. It will prevent the use of TikTok on devices owned by school districts and through internet access provided by districts.

DeSantis described the social-media restrictions as "reining in the use" of the technology in schools.

"Being normal kids, like kids were prior to social media, is important. The social media (causes) more problems than it solves, and I think it causes more harm than good. So, let's

have our education system be as much about traditional education as we can," DeSantis said.

The governor this week also signed a measure (SB 1616) that will prevent the release of past and future travel records of DeSantis and other state leaders.

The measure provides a public-records exemption for travel records of DeSantis, the governor's immediate family, the lieutenant governor, Cabinet members, the House speaker, the Senate president and the chief justice of the Florida Supreme Court.

Democrats sharply criticized the bill during the legislative session, contending the exemption would go beyond travel itineraries and also prevent the release of information about where the governor went — and who attended meetings and events.

Anders Croy, communications director of a DeSantis opposition group, DeSantis Watch, said in a Twitter post Thursday that the bill was signed a day before DeSantis begins "political trips to Illinois (and) Iowa, (and) amid reports of upcoming donor dinners at the Governor's Mansion." DeSantis has been traveling across the country as he prepares for a potential 2024 presidential campaign.

During a media appearance last week, DeSantis said he didn't "come up" with the travel-records proposal.

"With the security situation, how you do patterns of movements, if you're somebody that is targeted, which unfortunately I am, and I get a lot of threats, that could be something that could be helpful for people that may not want to do good things," the governor

said.

DeSantis signed the travel-related measure along with 36 other bills, including legislation (HB 1259) that will provide charter schools a new avenue of "capital outlay" funding for such things as purchasing land and facilities. Starting July 1, school districts will be required to share portions of tax revenues using a formula factoring in charter-school enrollment against overall district enrollment.

PUSHING THROUGH PRIORITIES

Also this week, DeSantis signed bills on two of his priority issues — cracking down on illegal immigration and blocking Covid-19 mandates.

The immigration bill (SB 1718) includes stepping up requirements on businesses to check the immigration status of workers. It will require all businesses with 25 or more employees to use the federal E-Verify system to check the immigration status of workers. Since 2021, such businesses have been required to use E-Verify or what are known as I-9 forms.

DeSantis, who is widely expected to run for president in 2024, criticized federal border policies as he signed the bill Wednesday.

"We are supposed to be the world's leading superpower, and yet we can't even maintain control of our own southern border," DeSantis said during an event in Jacksonville.

The measure also cracks down on people who bring undocumented immigrants into Florida and includes a requirement to collect

data about whether hospital patients are in the country legally.

Hope Community Center, an Apopka organization that provides services to immigrants, issued a statement Wednesday calling DeSantis "willfully ignorant" of the immigration system and expressing concerns about the hospital requirement and other parts of the bill.

"Undocumented immigrants want nothing more than to come out of the shadows. But the system is a dysfunctional maze that Washington refuses to fix. The Florida Legislature is punishing the wrong people for that and, in the process, dehumanizing their existence," Felipe Sousa-Lazaballet, the center's executive director, said in the statement.

The governor, who has made opposition to Covid-19 mandates a key part of his political brand, also signed a measure (SB 252) Thursday that includes issues such as barring businesses and government agencies from requiring people to take Covid-19 tests or wear masks to enter their facilities.

The new law also includes a prohibition on businesses, government agencies and schools requiring people to be vaccinated or tested for Covid-19 as a condition of employment.

DeSantis signed the bill in Destin on the same day that a federal public-health emergency for Covid-19 was set to end. But DeSantis pointed to a need to address the potential of future government mandates.

INSPECTING DISNEY

One of the 37 bills

that DeSantis signed Thursday will lead to the state inspecting Walt Disney World's monorail system.

The bill (HB 1305) came amid a feud between DeSantis and Disney that started last year when the company opposed a law that restricts instruction about sexual orientation and gender identity in schools.

Under the bill, the state Department of Transportation, starting July 1, will be required to complete compliance reports for the monorail every three years and conduct annual onsite evaluations.

STORY OF THE WEEK:

After a legislative session heralded by Gov. Ron DeSantis as historically productive and decried by critics as eaten up by culture-war issues, the governor is tearing through

bill-signings, with more than 40 under his belt this week.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"Being a close vote doesn't mean contentiousness. I think that this candidate was vetted very well. I think there were a lot of great candidates, and I think that's why it ended up being more of a close vote than some of the other votes you might have been watching." — Darlene Jordan, a member of the state university system's Board of Governors, on Florida Gulf Coast University trustees' selection of Aysegul Timur to be the school's next president. The comment came as Education Commissioner Manny Diaz Jr. suggested Timur receive a "shorter contract" because she was narrowly approved by the trustees.

BRIAN C. ENGLISH
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Election website

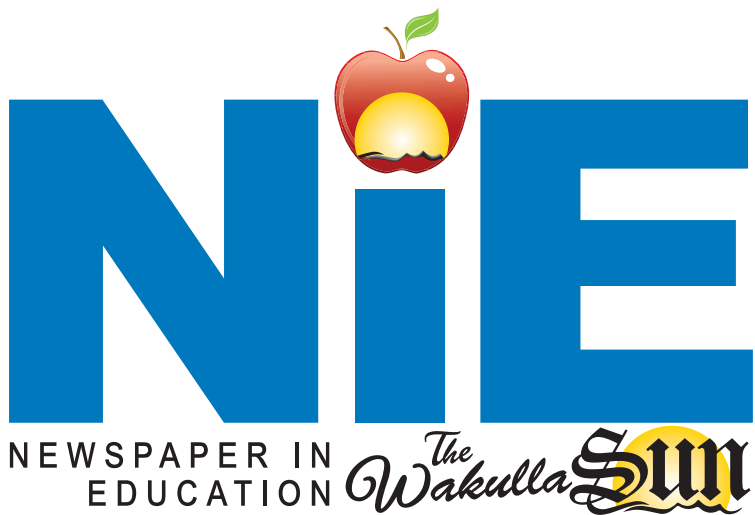
From Front Page

More information regarding this new program will be released soon.

Voters can expect further improvements to the office and website design to enhance election accessibility, transparency and se-

curity. Supervisor Morgan invites voters to bookmark the new website address, however the old address www.wakullaelectionfl.gov will still direct voters to the Wakulla Supervisor of Elections website.

Voters with questions are encouraged to contact the Supervisor of Elections Office by email at wakullacountysoe@wakullavotes.gov, or call (850) 926-7575, weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



USE THE NEWS

1. Move That Jet!

In strength competitions for men and women, contestants often do outrageous things like carrying giant logs, pushing boulders or pulling buses or tractor-trailer trucks. In Atlanta, Georgia this month, Delta Airlines employees and their families did something even more amazing. They dragged a 255,000-pound Boeing 757 jet across an airport tarmac with a rope to raise money for charity, UPI News reported. Delta employees from all over the country flew in for the Delta Jet Drag event, which raised more than \$1-million for the American Cancer Society. Teams of 25 attempted to drag the giant jet 25 feet each to earn pledges and donations from supporters. This year's Jet Drag was the 12th in the history of the partnership between Delta and the Cancer Society. The event has raised millions of dollars and involved thousands of employees who love the challenge of using muscle power to move a 155-foot jet with a 125-foot wingspan. "When you're out there, the adrenaline is so crazy," said the president of Delta's cancer support group. "It's crazy to think you can pull a 757 jet, but it is exhilarating to do that." People often do unusual things to raise money for charity or special causes. With a partner, use the newspaper or internet to find and closely read a story about people doing something unusual for charity. Use what you read and personal knowledge to brainstorm an unusual event you or other people could do to raise money for a charity or cause. Write a letter to classmates and the community describing your event, how it would raise money and how it would be fun and rewarding for participants.

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

2. 'Next 50' Rapper

At just 11 years old, Zyah Brown has already earned a following as a rapper in the music world of Washington, DC. Now she is getting national attention as well. Zyah, who performs as "Fly Zyah" on-stage, has been named one the "Next 50" national cultural leaders by the world famous Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. The Next 50 program was created as part of the Kennedy Center's 50th anniversary celebration to honor individuals whom the Center believes will "help shape culture and society through the arts" in the

next 50 years. Fly Zyah — the Fly in her stage name stands for "First Love Yourself" — already is seeking to shape society with raps that tackle serious issues like homelessness, racism and police violence but also with songs about Black joy and Black girlhood. Even with painful subjects, she tries to bring a positive, caring outlook to her songs, the Washington Post newspaper reported. And she has attracted some famous fans. Oscar-winning actress Viola Davis recently shared a video of Zyah rapping on her Instagram page with the caption: "This made me cry!!! Conquer the world, lil sis'. YOU are our hope." Rap, hip-hop and other forms of music give students and young adults a way to let their voices be heard on subjects that are important to them. In the newspaper or online, find and closely read a story about an issue that is important to you. Use what you read to

try your hand at writing a rap, rhyme or song about the issue. Write the opening verse to tell why the issue is important and who needs to know about it. Then use colorful adjectives and active verbs to write additional verses. Perform your rap for the class — with feeling.

Goals: Demonstrating understanding of figurative language; applying knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts.

3. A Record for Friendship

Friendship bracelets are handmade wristbands that are exchanged to show a strong friendship between people. They usually are woven or braided from thread known as embroidery floss and can be created in a variety of colors and patterns. Friendship bracelets can be traced back to Native Americans in North, South and Cen-

tral America and are now popular throughout the world. Friendship bracelets are meant to be long-lasting, like friendship. At an elementary school in the state of Texas, a very special friendship bracelet is simply long — really, really long. The students at Valley Creek Elementary School in the city of McKinney have set a new world record by creating the longest friendship bracelet ever. The bracelet took the students four months to make and measures a record 2,795 feet and 9 inches in length, UPI News reported. That is more than a half mile in length and more than 600 feet longer than the previous record of 2,166 feet and 11 inches. The bracelet was made of ribbon not thread and was so big it had to be laid out on a football field to be measured. Friendship bracelets are one way students, teens and young adults show friendship for each other. In the newspaper or online, find stories, photos and ads showing other ways people show

friendship for others. Study what you find for ideas on ways you could show a good friend how much their friendship means to you. Write a description of what you think would be the most meaningful effort for your special friend.

Goals: Conducting short research projects that build knowledge about a topic; writing informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly; citing specific visual or textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions.

4. Mother's Day

On Sunday, the United States and other nations celebrated Mother's Day to recognize all the things that moms do to help their children, their families and their communities. Mother's Day is celebrated on a different date each year, but it always takes place on the second Sunday in May. It has been a national holiday in the United States since 1914, and now is cele-

brated in more than 40 countries around the world. The holiday was established by President Woodrow Wilson who set aside "the second Sunday in May as a public expression of our love and reverence for the mothers of our country." Today Mother's Day celebrates all that today's mothers do while juggling jobs, careers and family responsibilities. As a class, discuss some of the things that mothers in your life do. Then use the newspaper or Internet to find and closely read a story about a mother who is doing one or more of these things. Use what you read to write a letter to the editor publicly thanking this mother for her special qualities and efforts.

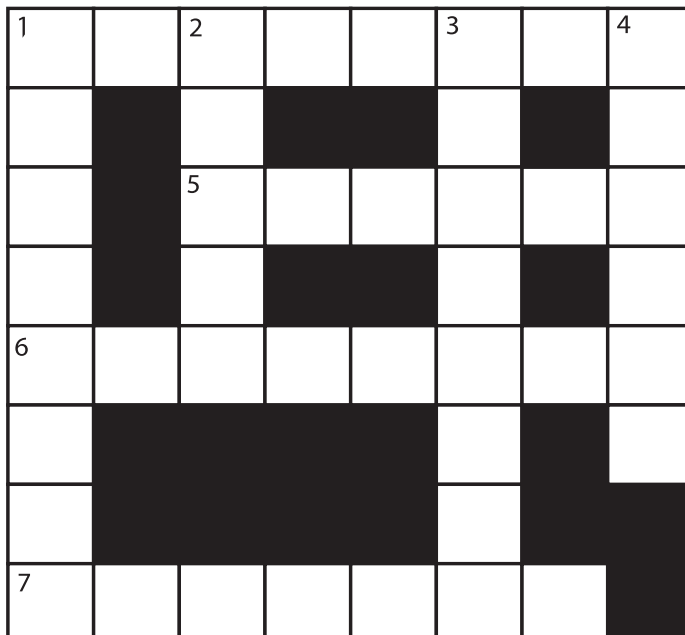
Goals: Engaging effectively in a range of collaborative discussions; responding thoughtfully to diverse perspectives, summarizing points of agreement and disagreement; producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to the task.



THERE WERE 73.6 MILLION OF THESE IN THE UNITED STATES IN 2021.

ANSWER: CHILDREN AGES 0-17

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- Determines using math
- Extreme fear
- Act of removal
- Counting symbols

DOWN

- Youngsters
- Shiny element
- Power-producing machine
- Physically powerful

Answers:
Across
1. Computes 5. Terror 6. Deletion
7. Numbers
Down
1. Children 2. Metal Turbines 4. Strong

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- **1813:** NAPOLEON BONAPARTE LEADS HIS FRENCH TROOPS INTO THE BATTLE OF BAUTZEN.
- **1927:** CHARLES LINDBERGH TAKES OFF FOR PARIS FROM ROOSEVELT FIELD IN LONG ISLAND, N.Y. ABOARD THE SPIRIT OF ST. LOUIS.
- **1980:** SIXTY PERCENT OF THE POPULATION REJECTS A PROPOSAL FOR QUEBEC TO BE INDEPENDENT FROM CANADA.



TRANSFORM

to make a dramatic change



ENGLISH: Power

SPANISH: Fuerza

ITALIAN: Potenza

FRENCH: Force

GERMAN: Kraft



KIDS HAVE THE POWER TO MAKE A REAL IMPACT IF THEY BELIEVE IN THEMSELVES.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: CHILD IN CHEF HAT

BURGER JOINT SLANG WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- ALL-THE-WAY
- BLOWOUT
- BLUE
- BUTTER BURGER
- COMBO
- DOUBLE MEAT
- EAST COAST
- FACIAL
- HAMMERED
- LTO
- MID-RARE
- MINIBURGER
- NO FUN
- ON WHEELS
- PATTY
- PLAIN JANE
- RABBIT FOOD
- RATIO
- SALLY
- SEAR
- SLIDER
- SLUG
- SMASH BURGER
- SPECIAL SAUCE

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

CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
4. Chinese philosophical principle
7. Branch
8. Jewish spiritual leader
10. Slang for requests
12. "So Human An Animal" author
13. Rocker Billy
14. British Air Aces
16. Type of tree
17. "Tough Little Boys" singer Gary
19. State attorneys
20. Goddess of fertility
21. Localities
25. Beloved singer Charles
26. Clue
27. Ridge of jagged rock below sea surface
29. Helsinki neighborhood
30. Farm resident
31. Ocean
32. Where ballplayers work
39. Unable to hear

CLUES DOWN

41. Cool!
42. Cape Verde capital
43. One point north of due east
44. Kilo yard (abbr.)
45. Middle Eastern nation
46. It yields Manila hemp
48. People operate it (abbr.)
49. Regenerate
50. Not healthy
51. Chinese sword
52. Mild expression of surprise
1. Unit of angle
2. Headgear to control a horse
3. Clots
4. Follows sigma
5. A woman who is the superior of a group of nuns
6. Greek units of weight
8. Radio direction finder (abbr.)
9. Systems, doctrines, theories

11. Stony waste matter
14. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
15. Hostile to others
18. U.S. State
19. Not wet
20. Something one thinks up
22. Where beer is made
23. Clumsy person
24. Belonging to us
27. Canadian flyers
28. Greek goddess of the dawn
29. Snakelike fish
31. Unhappy
32. Fruit
33. Not good
34. Zero degrees Celsius
35. Goo Goo Dolls' hit
36. Crawls into the head (folklore)
37. Legally responsible
38. Move in a playful way
39. Regarded with deep affection
40. Partner to flowed
44. Native American tribe
47. Head honcho

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to skin care.

DAIC

--	--	--	--

6	4	2	3	9	8	2	4	6	1	7	1	5
7	9	1	2	4	5	3	8	3	8	2	4	2
8	6	9	5	1	7	4	2	3	3	5	7	4
1	2	4	2	2	8	7	4	2	8	6	9	1
2	1	8	7	3	4	6	9	5	6	5	7	7
4	7	6	9	5	1	2	3	8	9	6	1	2
9	3	5	6	8	8	2	1	7	4	9	3	8

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

9			6	8		1		4
4	7	6	9		1			8
	1	8						9
1	2					8		
3	5		4				9	
8		9		1			2	3
		3		7		9	4	
7		1		4		3		
	4			9				5

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!
Here's How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Guess Who?

I am a singer born in New York on May 20, 1981. I began taking piano lessons at age 4. My style has been called catchy, light pop with lyrics that share hard truths about life. I have been compared to Alanis Morissette.

Answer: Rachel Platten

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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

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

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WMS Track team competes at state meet in Bradenton

Special to The Sun

On Friday, May 12, Coach Isaacs and the 2023 FLYRA State team traveled to Bradenton to the IMG Academy for the state championship meet.

Saturday morning saw an early start to the competition with 8th grade girls, Makiya Cash, Sian Garrett, and Madison Varnes, headed straight to the field events for Shotput and Discus. A wonderful finish for all three girls! Congratulations to Madison Varnes, placing 10th place in the Florida Middle School Girls' Discus with a throw of 83' 08.25".

Sian Garrett has been a fierce competitor this season and threw her personal best of 33'05.5" which landed her the 12th place finish and the newest record holder for WMS in Shotput. Makiya Cash came in 35th overall with a 29'07" toss. These girls have worked so hard, and their results are the reward.

While the girls were throwing, the boys were jumping! We have our kings of the jump pits taking over the top of the results charts. Danny Godbolt, blowing away the previous year's Long Jump record with an astounding 20' 06.75" jump. This landed him the 3rd place finish in the state of Florida!

Jaylen Jones competed in both long and triple jump and medaled in both. JJ jumped into 5th place with a 19'03.00" Long Jump and brought home 7th in the Triple Jump at 37'10.75".

Jayden Jean had a stellar performance this weekend as well with his long and triple jumps. Jayden brought home 9th place following an 18'07.25" Long Jump and then medaled in the Triple Jump with a mind-blowing 39'00.5" leap. Jayden is the new record holder for this



The WMS Track & Field team.

event and may be for quite some time!

David Whitaker competed in Triple Jump bring home 11th place at 36'08.5".

Makiya worked her way over to the Triple Jump pit after her shotput event and took home 14th in the state with a record breaking 31'03.25" jump. Makiya holds the top 6 spots for the Triple Jump at Wakulla Middle School.

Brandon Hayes took to the track while the rest of the team was jumping for his 400m individual run. The 400 has been Brandon's specialty this season and for good reason! He is the current record holder for WMS and placed 29th in the state with a time of 56.34 seconds.

Finally, our boys 4x100m Relay team lined up for their season's best time. Coming in .12 seconds shy of the current school record but setting their own PR

at 47.79 seconds, the team placed 21st overall with Aries Travis, Trace Callaghan, Brandon Hayes, and Danny Godbolt.

The Wakulla Middle School team is now ranked 12th in the state for Middle School Boys performances.

This wraps up the 2023 Track & Field season for WMS and for all these athletes it marks the end of their middle school career. Coach Isaacs would like to thank all the parents of the athletes this season for their time and support and patience. Without you, these kids wouldn't be the successes they are, so thank you! Thank you to the 2023 sponsors, your financial contribution has allowed this team to travel and experience something bigger than ourselves. You have given a gift of a dream and they will not forget the impact of it. Thank you to all the administrators, teachers, and staff at Wakulla Middle for your support and patience during this season as well.

Finally, thank you to the residents of Wakulla County who continue to support in any way they can. It takes a village, and we have the very best one.

Athletes, I hope you are holding your head high. You have accomplished great things in these last 5 months. You have trained and overcome, you have pushed and been rewarded. You have dreamed and set your bar high, and you have felt the air of success. Don't let that feeling fade. Everything you set your mind to do, you are capable of - you have seen it in yourself this year. It is possible, if only you are brave enough to dream it and work for it. I will truly miss each of you and the joy you have brought to our school, our team, our community, and to me personally.

Now, go fly high as War Eagles and do great things.



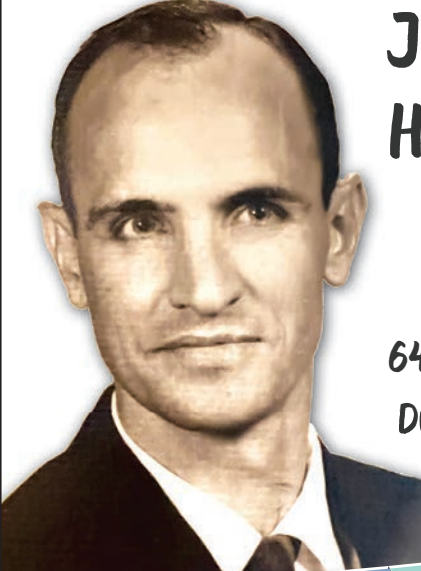
Sian Garrett, Madison Varnes, Makiya Cash, and Coach Isaacs.



Jaylen Jones, left photo, and Jayden Jean, right photo.

Join us in Celebrating HAROLD THURMOND TURNING 90

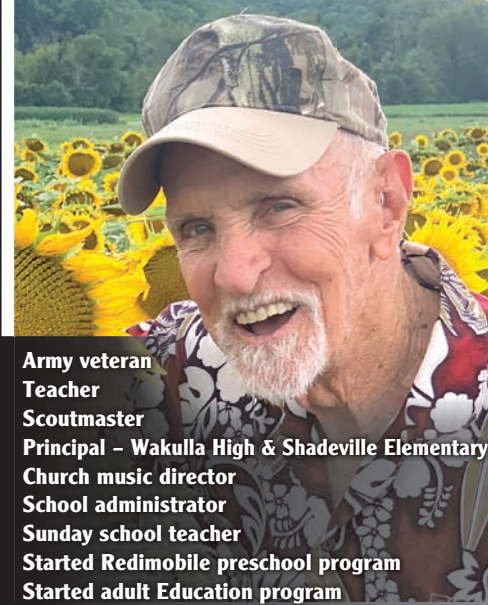
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CONGRATULATIONS MR. THURMOND

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Night of Joy at Wakulla Springs

Story and Photos
By LINDA ANN McDONALD

Wakulla Springs Lodge hosted the Night of Joy event for more than 100 people including students and their guests. The event that was formerly referred to as the Special Needs Prom, was held at the Lodge on Saturday, May 13th and organized by event manager Mary Wallace.

“This is an event for the students to come to a prom where they feel comfortable being together with their classmates – along with their family, teachers and school resource officers- people they see every day and gained familiarity with- to have fun and dance the night away,” said volunteer Quincee Messersmith. “The people involved is what creates a perfect combination for a true Night of Joy.”

There was a raffle including a Nintendo Game System, and a brand new SMART television along with other donated items and gifts that were given away during the event.

Sheriff Jared Miller proudly presented Student Abigail Maddi with her prize of a Roku TV.

“This event is absolutely awesome,” Sheriff Miller said.

Keepsake T-shirts of the event were provided to the students as well.

Leigh Anne Batt of the RoShenell Ellerbe and daughter Iani

Kendrick attended the prom. “This is beautiful,” Ellerbe said. “I feel joyful that the students enjoy a night just for them and participate in a traditional social event.”

When asked about the prom dresses, Wallace said, “I want the kids to be dressed how they feel comfortable; I want them to be themselves and have fun. If they do not want to wear a prom dress, that is perfectly OK!”

Rachel Monroe, a student attending the prom wearing an elegant red evening dress said, “My mom helped me pick out my dress and I am going to dance with my dad tonight.”

The event was started in 2009 by Wakulla Springs Baptist Church, Wallace’s church.

“In 2018, (the event) outgrew the church, and I wanted to find a way to continue it for the amazing kids we have,” Wallace said. “So I started finding other places to accommodate it. I am honored to be able to continue it and follow in the footsteps of an extraordinary testament of caring for all the Joy these children bring to everyone’s lives. I am so thankful to my church family for seeing the need for this back then.”

“2019 was the first year we had it at Wakulla Springs Lodge. It was such a huge success that our goal was to continue



Sheriff Jared Miller presents Abigail Maddi with a Roku TV.

it there,” Wallace said. “So happy to have been able to come back this year that Jesse Askew, general manager (of the Lodge) and I started discussing ideas back in November of 2022, and once the holidays had passed, wheels were set in motion.”

In March of 2023, Amy Drexler of End of the Rainbow Events joined in along with Wallace’s daughter Sara to brainstorm on all the ways to make the prom amazing.

“First,” Wallace said, “we change the name to Night of Joy, Spring Prom. Also creating a Facebook page and other social media to help get the word out. Along with Sara’s insight, we are creating a foundation, Joyful journeys that will allow us to offer more events throughout the year that the kids can participate in.

“I am so thankful for

all the wonderful people God has placed in my path. It is because of all of them, we were able to create a great team to accomplish Night of Joy 2023,” Wallace said.

Special thanks to Kevin Andrew with Rockulla music, studio, for DJ and all the flowers. Jamie at Clothesline for the T-shirts. Kristi Knowles with Anne & Me for decorations. Terri Hiller with Wakulla Sign Company for signage. Desiree Chapman for event photography, Volunteers Frank and Quincee Messersmith, Jordan and Andrea Lee, Angel and Carter Tallent, Claire and Caleb Drexler, Megan Smith, Heather, Bryan, Leigh Anne Batt, Joshua Chapman.

Donors included Wakulla County Sheriff’s Office, Operation Wakulla, Defenders Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, Coastal Optimist Club, The Wakulla Sun, Hayward Title Group, Jimmy John’s, Olan and Sonia Bronson, Heather Ryback, Barineau Heating and Air, Steve Cushman, Sandra Apthorp, Amy Geiger, Niraj Patel, Greg James, Sherry Fordham and Rachel Pienta.

Wallace has another event called the Festival of Joy which is slated for September at Wakulla Springs. You can find JOYful Journeys on Facebook.



Tiffany Noland and Daniel Abraham.



Taylor Marshall



Welcomes

NAILAH CORE, REALTOR

As someone who has grown up and lived in Franklin and Gulf counties her whole life, Nailah knows just how special this piece of Florida actually is. Ever since she was a child, Nailah has loved the beach, being outdoors and spending time with family and friends. Growing up on the sandy white beaches of the Forgotten Coast has given her a deep connection and appreciation for this place that she gets to call home. More than anything, she wishes to see this area prosper and thrive through real estate. With years of experience in the hospitality industry prior to her real estate profession, she knows that her number one goal should be the satisfaction of her customers. One of Nailahs greatest pleasures is helping people out, no matter what it takes. Whatever the task may be, she is on the job to get it done in the best way possible. Putting your needs above all, she will help you find your own slice of a paradise- a place she gets to call home and welcomes you to join her in enjoying.

850-491-4243
NAILAHSELLINGTHECOAST@GMAIL.COM

Call Nailah today and let her
“Help you find your way home...”