

**Wakulla County Graduation**  
The Future Looks Bright  
class of  
**2023**  
The future is yours, and the possibilities are endless. We wish you good health and good fortune as you embark on the next step of your journey.  
Congratulations on this fine achievement!

Inside

Produced by *The Wakulla Sun* Published May 25, 2023

# The Wakulla Sun

WAKULLA WeatherSTEM

Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
Hi: 84° Lo: 64° 13%	Hi: 81° Lo: 62° 17%	Hi: 81° Lo: 63° 22%
Sunrise 6:39 AM Sunset 8:30 PM	Sunrise 6:39 AM Sunset 8:30 PM	Sunrise 6:37 AM Sunset 8:31 PM

"It's a New Day"

Locally Owned & Operated

Our 2nd Year 21st Issue  
Thursday, May 25, 2023

## Brad Harvey has put property in wife's name

Former property appraiser, facing trial on fraud charges, deeded home and other property to his current wife

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN  
Editor

Former Wakulla County Property Appraiser Brad Harvey, who is set for criminal trial in late July on fraud charges, put his home and a tract of land in his current wife's name in November, public records show.



Brad Harvey

Harvey deeded his home and five acres on Quarry Springs Drive and a 40-acre tract of property to his wife, Dorothy Dione Grimes, on Nov. 8. Harvey now has no Wakulla property in his name.

A corrective deed was filed in the Clerk of Courts Records Division on May 2, with Harvey and Grimes deeding the property to Grimes.

A satisfaction of mortgage was filed in January of this year on a 2018 loan of \$110,000 on the home. An earlier mortgage from 2013 for \$185,000 on the home, was satisfied in August 2021, according to Records. There is no other mortgage on the property, meaning it is free and clear.

During two years in office as property appraiser, Harvey allegedly overpaid himself more than \$200,000 in salary overpayments and personal expenses. His salary at the time was close to \$110,000.

It's not clear if Harvey was having his name removed from the property to avoid having liens placed on it for restitution and fines in the criminal case.

The state Commission on Ethics has already ordered Harvey to pay a civil penalty of \$40,000 in addition to \$209,000 in restitution to Wakulla County for his ethics violations.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant State Attorney Andrew Deneen, who is reportedly seeking prison time for Harvey if he is convicted. Reportedly, a plea offer from the state that included three years in prison was rejected by Harvey.

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

## Memorial Day Observations are set

Ceremony to be held at the courthouse at 10 a.m., and then a celebration at VFW Post 4538

Staff Report

On Monday, May 29, the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners will observe Memorial Day at an opening ceremony at 10 a.m. on the grounds of the Wakulla County Courthouse. This Memorial Day Ceremony is dedicated to the lasting memory and sacred honor of the brave American servicemen and servicewomen who gave their lives in our country's defense.

"It is important that we pay tribute to those who dedicated their lives to ensuring our nation's freedom," said Winston Murphy, Veterans Services Officer. "Please join us on May 29, 2023, to honor our fallen soldiers, veterans, and their families."

This year's ceremony will include Keynote Speaker Commissioner Fred Nichols and the Wakulla Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 4538, who will perform the laying of the wreath.

After the ceremony at the courthouse, VFW will hold a community celebration at 11:30 a.m. with a cake walk, silent auction, barbecue, and hamburgers and hot dogs, plus door prizes, a DJ, games and vendors.

VFW Post 4538 is located at 475 Arran Road.

### CITY OF ST. MARKS

## Utility rates likely to rise

Facing a shortfall in its utility payments, residents could see 50% increase

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN  
Editor

Facing dire financial conditions, the City of St. Marks is looking at a sharp increase in utility rates – at a meeting last week, city commissioners discussed an increase of as much as 50%.

The average total for monthly utilities for residential is around \$84 a month. What city commissioners are looking at would increase the monthly bill to \$115 or \$120 a month for residential customers.

The problem is that the city's utility budget is subsidized by general revenues. As Mayor Paul Sheddman told residents at a meeting on Thursday, May 18, the city's accountant has warned that if drastic action

is not taken, the city could be bankrupt and unincorporated in 5 to 7 years.

At a previous meeting, the city commission cut staff to a four-day workweek to save money. At the May meeting, they did the first reading on an ordinance to have the city stop paying for replacement of grinder pumps – another money saving measure.

In June, they will discuss a utility rate increase.

One citizen called out at the meeting that the city will need a bigger meeting room for that discussion.

The city is having a study done to look at the feasibility of the rate increase.

Mayor Sheddman told citizens that the accountant has warned the city

that there is no way to cut enough to balance the budget.

The goal, city commissioners and staff agreed, is to have the utility system pay for itself.

Ryder Rudd, a lobbyist and husband of City Commission Sharon Rudd, commented that the way out of the financial problems "is going to hurt. Gonna be a lot of people in the community who are going to be upset about it."

The problems continued to deepen as City Manager Zoe Mansfield announced that blowers at the wastewater treatment plant went out and will cost \$53,000 to replace. And the city needs to pay another \$15,000 for work on one of the sewer lift stations.

Resident Billy Bishop suggested the city devel-

op a plan on the cost of replacing the city's sewer system, and pursuing state grants to pay for it.

Ultimately, the way out for the city may be to have the county government take over its sewer system as it expands its service area.

Sheddman indicated the county is doing a feasibility study on an East Wakulla sewer system – referring to east of the Wakulla River.

In another matter, St. Marks Waterfronts Florida committee is moving forward with planning fireworks for the Fourth of July celebration.

Shadrach Hines of Waterfronts also noted that a community market is planned for Saturday, May 27, with 15 vendors planning to be at the event. It is set for 9 a.m. to noon.

### LIFE IN WAKULLA



Local photographer Neil Hostnick sent us this photo of these day lilies dewed with rain drops with a note that read, "Morning wake-up, coffee and a camera, 'Breakfast of Champions.'"

### NEW BUSINESS

## Only good vibes at the Chill Spot

A family-friendly place where people can relax and enjoy games

By LINDA ANN  
McDONALD  
Correspondent

Need a place to relax, unwind and enjoy the breeze of the coast? Does the idea of an establishment with a family friendly atmosphere where live music, bingo, corn-hole tournaments and karaoke sound like your kind of groove? Then the Chill Spot is a place for you to enjoy.

Tiffany and Bob Hartsfield opened their establishment located at 3123 Spring Creek Highway on April 21, with a "Back Door Guests are Best" attitude. With a large open porch on the backside of the establishment, you will feel "right at home."

"We wanted to make a place where everybody



Tiffany Hartsfield at her new business, the Chill Spot.

can come and enjoy themselves without the worry of bringing the family to an 'adults only' atmosphere," said Tiffany Hartsfield. "We offer crayons and coloring books, face paint-

ing and sno-cones for the kids," she added.

Inside the bar area is a large, decorated wood bar made by Bob Hartsfield and friends. Vintage furniture and lighting

fixtures picked out by Tiffany Hartsfield makes the place feel warm, quaint and cozy.

Katie Lindsey, a visitor to the establishment said, "I love to come here, I feel included and the activities available for both the kids and adults are fun."

"I wanted to come and see the new hot place in town," said Michael Hedden. He and his wife Crystal were outside on the porch enjoying games.

When asked how she came up with the Chill Spot idea, Tiffany said, "We were originally going to rent the place out for office space, but we talked with the Rotary and their channels, and we decided to open up a bar out here near the coast with a chill kind of vibe."

## Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park Southern Magnolia

By LYNN ARTZ, SANDY TEDDER  
and DAVID RODDENBERRY



Magnolia flowers are pollinated by beetles.

The stately southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*) is one of our most beautiful native trees. Large, fragrant, creamy white, flowers adorn evergreen foliage in early summer. The flowers produce conelike seedpods with large red seeds. Beetles pollinate the flowers, and quail, turkey, opossums, and other wildlife eat the fruits. Southern magnolia grows in a pyramidal shape to about 80 feet tall and 30-40 feet wide. Lower branches often bend to the ground, hiding fallen leaves. Southern magnolia prefers moist soil in part to full sun. It can be a striking specimen or create a dense screen. Sopchoppy Depot Park has one large southern magnolia in the center green with younger trees in the woodlands. A dwarf cultivar called "Little Gem" graces the entrance. They are blooming now at Sopchoppy Depot Park.

**MICHAEL COLLINS**  
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## Student of the Week

Chandler Bechtel - 4th Grade, Medart Elementary

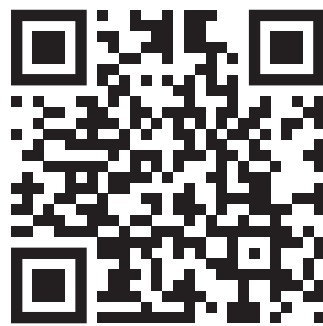
Principal: Stan Ward

Congratulations to Chandler Bechtel, Medart Elementary School's Student of the Week: Chandler is a dedicated student who always gives 100% at everything he does. He has a positive attitude and is a role model for his peers.



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 the VFW Post #45 to help support our military heroes.

# Graduation is Thursday, May 25 at 8 p.m.

Wakulla High School Class of 2023 Graduation is scheduled for Thursday, May 25 at 8 p.m. at J.D. Jones Stadium. (If canceled due to

inclement weather, graduation will be at the stadium at 9 a.m. Friday, May 26. The superintendent will determine.)

• Parking opens at

5:45 p.m.

• Stadium seating gate opens at 6:45 p.m.

• Seniors will receive 10 tickets at graduation practice.

• All spectators must have a wristband ticket to enter for graduation

• NOISE MAKERS, LARGE SIGNS, COOLERS OR

LARGE BAGS ARE NOT ALLOWED.

• Disability seating areas are located on south side of bleachers on both visitors and home side.

• SPECTATORS ARE NOT ALLOWED

ON THE FIELD BEFORE, DURING, OR AFTER THE CEREMONY.

## Two Wakulla law officers honored

Sheriff Donnie Crum receives Lifetime Achievement Award, Major Ray Johnson named to Hall of Fame

**Staff Report**

Wakulla law enforcement officers Donnie Crum and Ray Johnson were honored at Tallahassee Community College's Heroes in Public Safety Celebration Banquet recently.

Former Wakulla Sheriff Donnie Crum was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award; and Major Ray Johnson was named to the Hall of Fame.

**RAY JOHNSON**

Mayor Johnson began serving the citizens of Wakulla County as a member of the sheriff's office in June 1994. He has served for 29 years and counting, working in almost every division and position at the WCSO.

Johnson has been both a corrections and road patrol deputy, worked serving civil papers, and served as jail administrator, but it was his time as a School Resource Officer for which he is best known.

Johnson began work-

ing in the school system in 1996 and would remain an SRO for more than 13 years, during which he served at multiple schools and touched the lives of thousands of students.

Johnson is a Class Ten Commanders Academy graduate and sits on several local boards, including Wakulla Wellness Task Force, Operation Wakulla, Kiwanis Club, and Keep Wakulla County Beautiful.

He currently serves as a major over WCSO's Community and Youth Services Unit, overseeing the WCSO's active role at community functions.

From his first day on the job, he has never stopped serving the citizens of Wakulla County.

**DONNIE CRUM**

Born and raised in Wakulla County, Donnie Crum graduated in the last class of Sopchoppy High School in 1968. He went on to attend law enforcement classes at the Lively Law Enforcement Academy



Above, former Wakulla Sheriff Donnie Crum with current Sheriff Jared Miller and retired Sheriff David Harvey. At right, Major Ray Johnson.



ing's Office. He worked as a special agent with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement in

domestic narcotics operations between 1985 and 1989 before returning home to assume the

position of major, then Undersheriff of Wakulla County. The pinnacle of his career came when he was appointed Sheriff twice: the first as Interim Sheriff by former Gov. Charlie Crist and then as Sheriff by former Gov. Rick Scott in 2011, where he served until his retirement in 2013.

Crum attended the Florida Criminal Justice Executive Institute and became certified in the Investigation and Prosecution of Jamaican Gangs. He was a proud member of the Florida Sheriff's Association, the Florida Intelligence Unit, and a founding member of the extremely successful Big Bend Narcotics Task Force.

Over the course of 38 years, he worked undercover with local, state and federal agencies, including the Florida Marine Patrol, U.S. Coast Guard, Drug Enforcement Agency, and the U.S. Attorney's Office resulting in the seizure of drugs and money totaling millions of dollars and the prosecution of hundreds of offenders.



Students of the Wakulla High's Medical Academy got experience with a medical emergency with a building collapse scenario that included work with TMH's Survival Flight helicopter, as well as Wakulla Fire-Rescue and the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office.

## Emergency simulation at Wakulla High

By COLEMAN WELLS  
WHS School

Wakulla High School recently orchestrated an extraordinary Emergency Management Simulation, bringing together the school's Medical Academy students and local emergency services in a collaborative exercise.

This hands-on event aimed to provide students with practical experience in managing a "Building Collapse" scenario, while also fostering partnerships between educational institutions and the community. To make the exercise more realistic, volunteer students from the Cosmetology Program and Theater Department contributed by creating lifelike injuries using makeup and props. This allowed the Medical Academy students to practice their skills in assessing and treating various types of injuries under realistic conditions.

To further enrich the simulation, Wakulla County Fire Depart-

ment, Wakulla County Sheriff's Office, and TMH Survival Flight helicopter rescue actively participated by lending their expertise and equipment. These local emergency services not only provided invaluable knowledge but also made their equipment accessible to the students, allowing them to familiarize themselves with the tools used in intense emergencies. Throughout the simulation, the volunteers from each department generously dedicated their time and attention to ensure that every student effectively navigated their assigned scenarios. By patiently guiding the students, the emergency services professionals ensured that the students gained practical experience and developed the skills necessary to become future medical professionals.

The collaboration between Wakulla High School's Medical Academy and local emergency services is a testament to the school's commit-

ment to creating immersive learning environments. By providing students with opportunities to work alongside professionals in realistic scenarios, the school enables them to gain real-life experience while fostering a sense of community involvement. Events like the Emergency Management Simulation not only contribute to the student's academic growth but also inspire them to pursue careers in the medical field and emergency services. The hands-on experience and mentorship received from the professionals involved leave a lasting impact on the students, encouraging them to make a positive difference in their future professions.

Wakulla High School takes immense pride in facilitating these meaningful collaborations and providing its students with practical learning experiences. By partnering with local departments, the school ensures that

students receive a comprehensive education that extends beyond textbooks and classrooms. As the students who participated in the Emergency Management Simulation continue their educational journey, they will carry the knowledge and skills acquired during this exercise with them. Wakulla High School remains dedicated to nurturing the talents and aspirations of its students, preparing them to excel as future medical professionals and contributing members of society.

The successful collaboration between the Medical Academy, local emergency services, and volunteer students demonstrates the power of community engagement in shaping the educational experience. It serves as a shining example for other institutions, highlighting the benefits of hands-on learning and the significance of forging partnerships within the community.

### PUBLIC NOTICES:

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

May 18, 2023

Your local source for news.



# 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

### FWMA launches membership drive

Editor, The Sun:

The Florida Wild Mammal Association (FWMA) recently launched its annual Membership Drive and we, the FWMA Board and staff, are inviting all Wakulla Citizens to join us in this worthy endeavor. For 29 years the FWMA has been providing a community service to Wakulla and its surrounding counties through the rescue, rehabilitation and release of orphaned and injured birds and animals. In 2022 alone, over 1,700 birds and animals were received by our facility. Every bird or animal taken in has its own unique story: hit by a vehicle, injured by another animal, stuck in a fence, or displaced by clear cutting or a storm. Whatever the case, most arrive in shock and some with horrific injuries. And now it is BABY Season! Currently, 50 baby opossums have been orphaned and are being fed and nurtured for future release. Also dozens of baby birds, rabbits, squirrels, and raccoons are receiving care! The nursery is full!

The care provided by FWMA comes with a heavy price. And while we receive some grant funding, we receive no federal, state, or county funds. We are totally dependent on our fundraising efforts and membership donations to provide this level of care. To facilitate these efforts, we are urging

all citizens to join us by making an annual donation of \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250 or any amount you choose. Donations can be mailed to FWMA P.O. Box 9, Panacea, FL 32346 or 198 Edgar Poole Road, Crawfordville, FL 32327. These donations will allow us to continue this community service by providing the special care needed to prepare the rescues for their return to the wild and best chance at survival.

FWMA has many exciting plans for its future. In 2024, we are hoping to establish a Wildlife Educational and Learning Center at the facility site so that Wakulla's youth, and those of surrounding counties, can view first hand the work of the association, meet the staff and volunteers, learn how to be a responsible steward for our wildlife, and observe the birds and animals receiving our care.

To that end, please consider joining us in helping to keep Wakulla progressing, while maintaining and protecting a precious resource- its abundant wildlife.

I look forward to welcoming any and all who choose to join the efforts of this outstanding and worthy association.

**Jane Christie Tillman**  
Member, FWMA Board

### Praise for Sopchoppy's Depot Park

#### An email chain on the butterfly habitat

Editor, The Sun:

Hi All!

After tonight's presentation to the Sarracenia Chapter of FNPS, Sally Jue (co-founder of the Hairstreak Chapter of NABA) made a point of telling me how much she and Dean appreciate what we've done at Sopchoppy Depot Park.

She commented on how many nectar and larval plants we've provided for numerous butterfly species and noted that "thought went into it."

Sally also mentioned how nice it is for people who want to see Juniper Hairstreak butterflies (*Callophrys gryneus*) to be able to come to Depot Park to see them (because of the red cedar trees we've planted around the periphery).

She asked me to share this praise

with all of you.

Feel free to share her kind words with others.

Thank you!

**Lynn & the Depot Park Team**

That is wonderful and it does look beautiful up there!

Thank you all.

**Lara Edwards**

Mayor  
City of Sopchoppy

And the gardens become more beautiful as each season passes. (Flower emoji)

**Betsy Rudden**

### 'Vote in Honor of a Veteran' on May 26

Special to The Sun

Joe Morgan, Supervisor of Elections for Wakulla County, is announcing the launch of his "Vote in Honor of a Veteran" program on Friday, May 26.

This program recognizes the service and dedication of the men and women who are or have served in our armed forces by encouraging voters to cast their ballot in the names of those who fight to defend our liberty and to protect our right to vote. "Our purest form of democracy was defended so we could be afforded the freedom to cast a ballot," said Supervisor Morgan.

Veterans, friends and family members of veterans who wish to participate will complete and submit a photograph and a short biography on a Vote in Honor of a Veteran biography form that will be available May 26th on the

Supervisor of

Elections website [www.WakullaVotes.gov](http://www.WakullaVotes.gov). More information on submitting the photograph and biography is available on the website.

A wall in the Wakulla County Elections office has been designated as our Vote in Honor of a Veteran wall, and the veteran's photographs will be proudly displayed. All biographies will be kept in a book inside the elections office for interested citizens to view.

"We are honored to launch this program in recognition of those that have defended, and who are still defending, our freedoms," said Supervisor Morgan.

Voters with questions are encouraged to contact the Supervisor of Elections Office by email at [wakullacountysoe@wakullavotes.gov](mailto:wakullacountysoe@wakullavotes.gov), or by phone at 850.926.7575, Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## On the Horizon

### Calendar of events for the week of May 25

Thursday, May 25

- Wakulla High School Graduation is at J.D. Jones Stadium beginning at 8 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](mailto:newposh3079@gmail.com) or text/call at (850) 528-5838.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

Friday, May 26

- **Celebration of Harold Thurmond's 90th birthday will be held at the Crawfordville Women's Club, 64 Ochlockonee St. in Crawfordville, from 4 to 6:30 p.m.**
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and 8 p.m. every Friday at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

Saturday, May 27

- 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 29

- MEMORIAL DAY – Government offices and many businesses will be closed in observance.
- Memorial Day Observance will be held on the courthouse grounds beginning at 10 a.m.
- VFW Memorial Day Celebration will be held at Post 4538, 475 Arran Road, a cake walk,

silent auction, barbecue, and hamburgers and hot dogs, plus door prizes, a DJ, games and vendors.

- 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](mailto:newposh3079@gmail.com) or text/call at (850) 528-5838.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

Tuesday, 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](mailto:newposh3079@gmail.com) or text/call at (850) 528-5838.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

Wednesday, 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.

## Something on your mind?

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

*"It's A New Day!"*

# The Wakulla Sun



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For editorial please call William at 850-962-8024



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William Snowden  
Editor & Publisher  
The Wakulla Sun

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

## ◀ Question of The Week ▶

– Compiled by Linda Ann McDonald

### Polled at Crawfordville Quick Stop and Around Crawfordville

# What is your favorite breakfast?



**HEATHER BRYAN**  
WAKULLA CHAMBER

**The typical:**  
scrambled egg  
with hash browns,  
bacon and toast.  
**It can't go**  
wrong with that."



**HUNTER ROYCE**  
INSPIRED TECHNOLOGIES

**"Sausage, eggs,  
cheese grits, and  
some toast with  
jelly on it."**



**DEWAYNE GREENE**  
RETIRED

**Sausage, egg  
and cheese  
grits."**



**ASON HENDERSHOT**  
ABOUT TREE FIDDY

**"Sausage gravy  
over biscuits."**



**RYAN CANNON**  
E-COMMERCE

**I really don't  
eat breakfast  
anymore. I usually  
have brunch on  
Sunday."**

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Wakulla Station News

By **VERNA BROCK**

I am so excited for the Wakulla High School fast-pitch softball team. After a lot of hard work, these talented young ladies are headed for Clermont, to battle for their State championship! This is especially cool, since their Coach, Sally Jones Wheeler, was the catcher for the last Wakulla War Eagle team to go to State. She caught for my daughter,

pitcher Eden Brock Rodgers, so all our fingers and toes are crossed for a War Eagle victory this time.

We are also pretty stoked that the Lady Noles are headed to their super regional playoffs, and hoping for a repeat performance being National Collegel Fast-pitch Softball Champions. Hoping for a big, big victory for FSU!

This Fall-ish weather is much appreciated, waking up to refreshing,

cool mornings and dewy green grass. I realize we will all be spoiled when North Florida summer truly arrives. But my roses are loving it for now. I am "liking" all the flower and garden posts my friends are sharing on Facebook right now.

Sad news from this weekend, as my friend Lorrie Gallamore lost her father this past Sunday. Mr. James Hodges is now walking in Light with the Lord. Please keep his wife, Ms. Vernie, his daughters, and grandchildren in your prayers.

Also in need of prayer is Sarah Hamilton and her family, as well as the Howard Hobby family, the Vickery family, the Kendrick family, the Carter families, the Turner family, and the Hobbs family.

Faye Sweeney also continues to need our prayerful support.

Good news about baby Sebastian! He was extubated this past weekend, and hopefully will be receiving a new heart soon. Your prayers are deeply coveted for his heart surgery and recovery.

### Buckhorn News

By **ETHEL SKIPPER**

Mothers were honored on their special day at our church: Mother Vera Green was crowned as Mother of the Year, and oldest church mother.

Sister Charlotte Green was installed as a junior church mother.

All mothers were presented with a rose of their liking. It was a blessed day for everyone.

Visitors for Mother's Day were Callie, Elder Enda Gavin, Wanda, Windy Beard, Warn Parschell, Pastor Steve Jackson, Elder Andrew

Morris, Mother Doris Rosier, Deaconess Loretta Dially, and other family and friends.

On Sunday, we will focus on Pentecost Sunday, recounting the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost in Acts 1-2. In doing so will encourage Christian to realize baptism in the Holy Spirit is still available to all followers of Christ. And it also reminds believers in Christ that baptism in the spirit is important for public witness of Jesus Christ.

The baptism in the spirit results in changed lives, lives that are be-

coming more consistent with the life of Jesus, who lived in the power of the spirit.

The promise is unto you and to your children and all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

To talk to some Christians about witnessing is to stir up feelings of fear and doubt. If all we have to go on is our own ability and effort and understanding, then we have every reason to be fearful and doubt ourselves.

Jesus promised his disciples that we would be given the Holy Spirit to be effective witnesses of Christ, there is no need to fear.

On the day of Pentecost, those who were filled with God's spirit

spoke in unknown languages as the spirit enabled them. This was one of the signs that these Christian followers had been changed. We have the visible signs that we have been filled with the Holy Spirit – these signs are evidence of a changed life, one that is appealing to others who are without Christ.

On this week, encourage one another to be filled with and rely on the power of the spirit to be witnesses of Christ.

Our prayers and concern goes out to all the sick and shut-in, those in hospitals, nursing homes, prison, the homeless, those in need of help everywhere. Let us pray for each other.

### Library News – May 25

#### UPCOMING EVENTS!

**Thursday, May 25**

Friends of the Library General Meeting 6pm

**Friday, May 26**

Quilting Guild 9:30am

**Saturday, May 27**

Library Closed

**Monday, May 29**

No Programs Today

**Tuesday, May 30**

Memoir Writing 10am

**Wednesday, May 31**

Alzheimer's Brain Bus 10am

Knitting Group 4pm

**Thursday, June 1**

The Flowers BOD/ACC Com-

mittee 6:15pm

The Park HOA 6:30pm

#### 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 tod-

dlers 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



### Sopchoppy Opry is Saturday

Glenda Sue Bradley and Southbound Band will join the Purvis Brothers & Encore II Saturday, May 27 at 7 p.m. in the Sopchoppy Opry's annual Memorial Day tribute show in historic Sopchoppy School Auditorium! This special show will include patriotic music, an honor guard presentation by the Wakulla High School NROTC Cadets, 'Taps' and a poetic recitation, all to honor the memory of those who have given their lives in the preservation of our freedom. Tickets for the show may be acquired by calling (850) 962-3711 or purchased at the door. The Opry ticket office and cafe open at 5:30 pm on show date.



# Outdoors

outdoor sports

## HOME ON THE RANGE

### Comparison of 4 Heckler & Koch handguns



By MARJ LAW

Joe is very set on hammer-fired guns. I prefer striker-fired guns.

In my humble opinion, striker-fired guns are softer shooting, have less recoil, and are generally more comfortable to shoot.

Joe says a hammer-fired gun in single action has a crisp and lighter trigger pull. He began shooting in the service with a hammer gun. That's familiar to him. Not that he's an old fogie or anything (!), but you're not going to change his mind that striker-fired guns might be equal to hammer-fired guns.

Of course, he's old-fashioned and wrong, wrong, wrong.

We're going to go to the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office range, taking my striker-fired H&K VP9 Match gun and his hammer-fired H&K P30L. They are both 9mm handguns.

We'll rate them for accuracy, trigger pull difficulty, trigger pull travel, recoil, grip, and ease of racking the slide. On a 1-5 scale, an easy trigger pull will get a 1 and a difficult pull will get a 5. The same with travel, recoil, grip and slide racking ease.

And just to add to the fun, we've borrowed an H&K VP40, which is another striker-fired gun, and an H&K 45: a hammer gun.

So, we have two H&K striker guns and two H&K hammer guns.

Poor Joe is about to

learn that striker guns are best.

First, let's get the deets out of the way.

H&K VP9 Match: (striker)  
 Length: 8.78"  
 Height: 6.5"  
 Barrel: 5.51"  
 Weight: 24.16 ounces (no magazine)  
 Trigger Pull: 5 pounds, 12.5 ounces

H&K P30L: (hammer)  
 Length: 7.72"  
 Height: 5.43"  
 Barrel: 4.45"  
 Weight: 27.51 ounces (no magazine)  
 Trigger Pull: 4 pounds, 4.5 ounces

H&K VP40: (striker)  
 Length: 7.34"  
 Height: 5.45"  
 Barrel: 4.09"  
 Weight: 28.93 ounces (no magazine)  
 Trigger Pull: 5 pounds, 13 ounces

H&K 45 (hammer)  
 Length: 8.03"  
 Height: 5.91"  
 Barrel: 4.46"  
 Weight: 31.2 ounces (with magazine)  
 Trigger Pull: 5 pounds, 9 ounces

Trigger pull is based on using our Lyman Digital Scale. Joe pulls the trigger 3 times each, and the scale averages the pulls. This will vary with other guns, based on factors like the age of the gun, how much it has been broken in and on the individual gun itself.

We're using 5.5" Shoot N See targets. Hopefully, no shot will miss the targets at 7 yards. Joe will shoot 5 rounds with each gun. I will shoot 3 rounds each.

We begin with my 9mm Match.

Joe shoots first. His target holes show all 5 rounds, but grouping isn't as tight as I'd like. He rates trigger pull, travel, kick, and grip with 1s. Very easy. He gives the slide



Hard day for striker-fired guns

difficulty as a 2. Not hard.

I shoot next. My shots are all on the target, but again, there are no tight groupings. I find trigger pull and kick a 2.5. Not hard but not easy. Trigger travel, recoil and slide all rate a 2. Pretty easy.

It's my striker-fired gun and we shoot OK, but not especially well.

Next, we shoot Joe's hammer-fired P30L. It's also a 9mm handgun. We are shooting it in single action only.

Joe finds it easy to shoot and gives all ratings a 2, except for racking the slide. He gives that a 2.5. All his shots hit within the 5.5" target.

I give trigger, travel, kick and slide difficulty all 2s. Easy. The grip is really nice and it gets a 1.

Problem is: my shots are all smack in the x-ring. Go figure. And with Joe's hammer gun yet.

He's smirking. He doesn't care that my grouping is so good. He's smug because I shoot his hammer gun better than my striker gun. Sigh.

The next gun will redeem my preference. It's the H&K VP40: a strik-

er-fired gun.

Joe shoots first while I sit on the bench.

Blam!

The bench shakes and the report is loud. The Federal .40's concussion and crack are supersonic, traveling at about 1,000 feet per second (fps). Imagine: 1,122 fps is the speed of sound!

Joe gives trigger pull a 2, and its travel and grip a 1. He says the kick is a firm 2.5, and the slide difficulty a 3. The .40 has a strong slide pull.

I'm a bit concerned after feeling the seat under me vibrate with Joe's shooting. How much more difficult with this gun be, even though it's a striker-fired gun?

Yes, it is definitely more challenging to shoot. To me, trigger pull is 2.5 while trigger travel is a short 1.5. Kick is surely a 3: quite a hard recoil. The grip is okay, but pulling the slide back is a bear at 3.5. It's more than I like. Wouldn't want to do it many times in a day.

The HK 45 is next. After shooting the .40, I'm preparing for an even more difficult gun. Besides, this

one is another hammer gun. And it's a .45.

Joe shoots first. Cocking the hammer so it's in single action, he finds trigger pull is easy and it gets a 1. Travel is 1.5. Recoil is 3.

Aha. I thought so: it has to be a pretty strong recoil, even for Joe. And racking the slide? Joe gives it a 3.5. Even racking the slide is a challenge.

OK. I'm ready. Paying attention to breathing, stance and grip, I shoot the .45.

Yes, even in single action, trigger is a 2.5, but travel is short at 1.5. Kick, though, kick is as I expect. While Joe gives it a 3, I give it a 3.5. Since a 5 is the strongest recoil, 3.5 is pretty darn strong too.

I don't mind the grip, but pulling the slide? It gets a 4 out of the possible 5. Hard.

The .45 is a difficult gun for me; even in single action. But my target? Those darn bullets all hit in the 10-ring. How did that happen? And why, even with the robust recoil, did I not feel the crack and concussion of the .40?

Joe says the .45 has the

heaviest Magtech bullet at 230 grains. It's subsonic at only 837 feet per second, compared to the much faster .40's bullet.

Darn. For some reason, Joe's P30L 9mm hammer gun is easier for me to shoot than my VP9 striker gun, and I hit the target much better with it. Hm.

I'm also more accurate with the hammer-fired .45 than with the striker-fired .40. Even with better accuracy, the .45 isn't much fun to handle due to hard recoil and really formidable slide.

"The proof is in the targets," says Joe smugly.

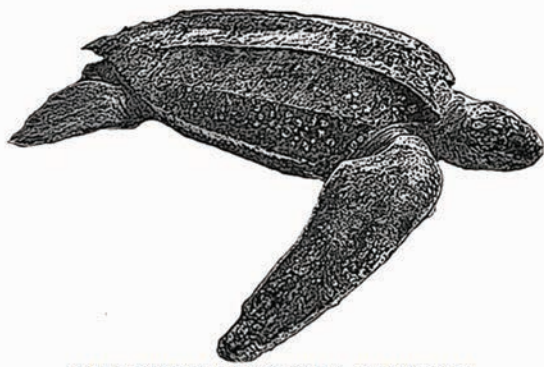
Yes, he prefers hammer-fired guns and he thinks today's shooting reflects that hammer-fired guns are best.

But there are other striker-fired guns out there. And striker-fired guns, in my opinion, are softer shooting and have less recoil.

Maybe the hammer guns just got lucky today.

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

## WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO



LEATHERBACK SEA TURTLE  
(*Dermochelys coriacea*)

The largest of all reptiles except crocodilians, leatherbacks can reach 2000 lbs, swim 22 mph and dive to 4200 ft. Unlike other turtles, leatherbacks have no bony shell. They have an oily skin covering its carapace. They swim in all oceans, staying warm even in cold water by sleeping only 15 minutes a day and having a thick insulating fat layer. They eat only jellyfish and can be sickened if they ingest floating plastic bags by mistake.

Eukaryota, Animalia, Chordata, Reptilia, Testudines Dermochelidae.



Retired Wakulla Springs State Park Ranger Bob Thompson, on his weekly wildlife survey at the park last week, snapped this photo of an Anhinga chick.

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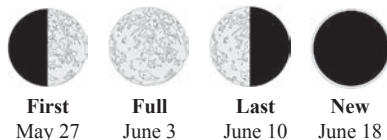
# Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences

## Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

### May 25 - May 31



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

Best fishing days this month  
May 19-31 • June 1-3, 18-30

#### Thursday 25

Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
6:37AM	11:37AM
8:29PM	1:09AM
Moon Illumination 30%	

#### Friday 26

Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
6:37AM	12:33PM
8:30PM	1:45AM
Moon Illumination 39%	

#### Saturday 27

Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
6:37AM	1:29PM
8:30PM	2:15AM
Moon Illumination 49%	

#### Sunday 28

Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
6:36AM	2:23PM
8:31PM	2:44AM
Moon Illumination 58%	

#### Monday 29

Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
6:36AM	3:18PM
8:31PM	3:11AM
Moon Illumination 68%	

#### Tuesday 30


Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
6:36AM	4:14PM
8:32PM	3:38AM
Moon Illumination 76%	

#### Wednesday 31

Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
6:36AM	5:13PM
8:33PM	4:06AM
Moon Illumination 85%	

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	12:41 am	7:29 am	11:58 am	5:32 pm
Fr	1:28 am	8:30 am	1:06 pm	6:27 pm
Sa	2:23 am	9:35 am	2:39 pm	7:52 pm
Su	3:22 am	10:29 am	4:14 pm	9:48 pm
Mo	4:19 am	11:11 am	5:25 pm	11:21 pm
Tu	5:11 am	11:45 am	6:18 pm	
We	12:28 am	5:57 am	12:15 pm	7:02 pm

#### City of St. Marks

Th	1:45 am	8:05 am	1:02 pm	6:08 pm
Fr	2:32 am	9:06 am	2:10 pm	7:03 pm
Sa	3:27 am	10:11 am	3:43 pm	8:28 pm
Su	4:26 am	11:05 am	5:18 pm	10:24 pm
Mo	5:23 am	11:47 am	6:29 pm	11:57 pm
Tu	6:15 am	12:21 pm	7:22 pm	
We	1:04 am	7:01 am	12:51 pm	8:06 pm

#### Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	1:03 am	7:43 am	12:11 pm	5:48 pm
Fr	1:52 am	8:41 am	1:23 pm	6:47 pm
Sa	2:47 am	9:42 am	2:57 pm	8:22 pm
Su	3:45 am	10:35 am	4:32 pm	10:20 pm
Mo	4:41 am	11:18 am	5:42 pm	11:47 pm
Tu	5:31 am	11:54 am	6:34 pm	
We	12:49 am	6:16 am	12:26 pm	7:18 pm

#### Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	12:52 am	7:21 am	12:09 pm	5:24 pm
Fr	1:39 am	8:22 am	1:17 pm	6:19 pm
Sa	2:34 am	9:27 am	2:50 pm	7:44 pm
Su	3:33 am	10:21 am	4:25 pm	9:40 pm
Mo	4:30 am	11:03 am	5:36 pm	11:13 pm
Tu	5:22 am	11:37 am	6:29 pm	
We	12:20 am	6:08 am	12:07 pm	7:13 pm

#### St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	12:46 am	8:03 am	11:51 am	5:44 pm
Fr	1:39 am	8:59 am	1:38 pm	6:54 pm
Sa	2:37 am	9:51 am	3:48 pm	8:34 pm
Su	3:38 am	10:31 am	5:06 pm	10:19 pm
Mo	4:35 am	11:03 am	6:29 pm	11:42 pm
Tu	5:24 am	11:30 am	7:27 pm	
We	12:43 am	6:06 am	11:56 am	7:02 pm

#### Dog Island West End

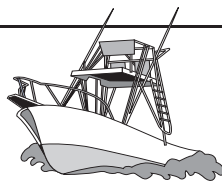
Th	12:53 am	8:53 am	12:23 pm	5:44 pm
Fr	1:37 am	10:09 am	1:40 pm	6:38 pm
Sa	2:28 am	10:27 am	3:48 pm	8:05 pm
Su	3:27 am	10:41 am	5:04 pm	10:16 pm
Mo	4:25 am	10:59 am	6:29 pm	11:42 pm
Tu	5:20 am	11:22 am	7:42 pm	
We	1:07 am	6:19 am	11:48 am	7:20 pm

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



## Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports

By Carolyn Brown Treadon



Thank you to Wade Thank you to Phil Hill for the following information.

This week is National Safe Boating Week (20 May - 26 May)!

The origins of the week can be traced back to a member of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary persuading the town of Amesbury, MA to issue an "Auxiliary Day" proclamation in June of 1949. In 1957, USCG Auxiliary leadership launched the first nationwide observance of safe boating week. June was used as the kickoff date for NSBW for years, but in 1993 the Coast Guard was persuaded to designate the first full week before Memorial Day in May as NSBW. During the week, safe boating practices are promoted.

This week we will discuss two pieces of paperwork to make you much safer on the water. The first will help locate you if problems occur on the water. A float plan is basically an outline of your planned day on the water, which is given to a friend, family member, or marina manager. There are five essential pieces of information that should be included in a float plan: A description of your vessel; The numbers of passengers on-board; Your projected route and destination; Up-to-date contact information; Date and time detailing your planned outing—including departure and return times. By handing over your

### 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

float plan before you depart, in case of an emergency, your float plan can be given to the authorities to help start their search. If by some chance your plans change, be sure to update your point of contact so they're aware. It's always a good idea to file a float plan regardless of what kind of boating you'll be doing. From recreational day boaters, kayakers, jet skiers, stand-up paddleboarders, long-distance cruisers and overnighters, a float plan can provide you and your loved ones with that extra peace of mind. When creating your float plan, remember that the more details you include the better. When providing a description of your vessel, be sure to include the manufacturer, color, size, engine information, VIN (vessel identification number), and registration number. You can also include the names, genders, and age information on all your passengers, as well as details about your departure marina or boat launch.

The second piece of paperwork is a pre-underway checklist. A vessel pre-departure checklist is essential to ensure you have all the items needed before your trip. It can also give you step by step instructions to make sure you complete all tasks before getting on the water. You can tailor the pre-underway list to meet your specific needs. If you pull your boat from home, you can have a section outlining your load list such as cooler with water, fishing poles, electronic gear stored in the garage. You can have a section to check lights, chains, tires, extra fuel tank, and boat straps. At the dock, you can have a list of steps to install or check your drain plug, unstrap your boat straps, unplug your lights before backing into the water. You can construct your pre-underway list in a way that works for you. This can help eliminate that sinking feeling when you reach in your pocket and realize the drain plug is there and your boat is squatting in the water next to

the dock. Paddle craft owners, a pre-underway can be useful for you also. Driving to your launch site, then finding you forgot your paddle can be frustrating. Being on the water should be fun. Let these two pieces of paper help keep your joy! Next week discussion of life jackets and their value. Stay safe and have fun!

Thanks to Sherrie, we will always remember safe boating is no accident! Check back next week for more safe boating tips!!

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

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

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

## FWC Law Enforcement Report

From FWC

This report represents some events the FWC handled over May 5-11. (There were no cases reported for Wakulla County.)

### FRANKLIN COUNTY

• Officer Hartzog was conducting patrol on Alligator Drive and observed an individual fishing from a canoe in Alligator Harbor. Officer Hartzog conducted surveillance on the individual and observed him catch and harvest multiple red drum. Officer Hartzog met the individual at a dock when he completed fishing to conduct a resource inspection. During the inspection, the individual was observed to be in possession of excess daily bag limit of red drum. The

officer addressed the violation accordingly.

• Officers Hartzog and Forbes were patrolling Highway 65 and observed an individual fishing from the bridge over Cash Creek. Hartzog and Forbes contacted the individual to conduct a resource inspection, but the individual denied he was fishing. The officers observed another individual beneath the bridge and three more in the wooded area adjacent to the creek, but they attempted to dump their catch into the creek and flee. Officer Hartzog began a foot pursuit on the individuals. Two of them circled back to the roadway and were detained by Officer Forbes. Officer Hartzog continued his foot pursuit on the third individual who continued down the creek bank and into the marsh. Officer Hartzog apprehended the third individual. All three individuals were arrested and charged accordingly.

## Underwater Wakulla

By Rusty Miller

### May dive.

I just got back late from Panama City Beach yesterday evening around 11:30 p.m., I had a good size class this weekend so we had to split it into two boat trips. The first boat trip left the dock around 8:30 a.m. We had 15 people on that trip and on the afternoon trip we had 13 people. The boat is only allowed 15 max besides the captain and one dive master.

Lets talk about the morning dive. We got to the dive shop at 7:30 a.m. and got all the legal paperwork signed, we met over at the boat at 8 a.m. We got the tanks loaded onto the boat and signed the boat roster. Every student and my divemasters got our gear set up and checked. Once the gear was checked the Captain gave his safety briefing he headed out of the dock. While on the way out to the channel, the boat divemaster gave his briefing.

It took about 30 minutes to get to the dive site which was the Dan Safety Barge. The dive is a 62 foot dive to the bottom so its perfect for open water students. The conditions of the water where almost perfect with no real waves or current at the surface. The bottom visibility was only about 20 feet with little or no current. The surface water temperature was about 79 degrees but once you got past 40 feet the temperature was 74 degrees.

One of my students was a 10-year-old young lady and I was really apprehensive because she had trouble clearing her ears in the pool and in the jetties on Saturday, I had her and her dad go in last in front of me in case any issues came up with her ears not clearing. She was also a little afraid but she did her giant stride behind her dad then I quickly jumped in behind her. As I followed her down I noticed she seemed to have little or no problem clearing her ears and we got to the barge without any problems.

We swam around the wreck until her gas hit 1000psi then they headed back up the anchor line, did their 3 minute safety stop and climbed back on the boat.

The second dive we stayed at the same site but this time after she got her gear on all she said was, "Come on, dad - let's get into the water!" She was very excited.

I will finish the dives for Sunday next week. I can tell you one of my divemasters made his bones on that dive.

Until then keep making bubbles.

Russell Miller  
NAUI #59999  
IANTD #224715

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# Teaching the next generation to pray for America

By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

What would happen if we taught our children and grandchildren to pray for our nation?

How different might our future generations

be if more of us earnestly prayed for those who serve in our armed forces? Think of how glorious our intercession could be for America – and for the nations who benefit from her influence.

Conversely, imagine where our country would be today if no one ever prayed for our nation and our military and their families. Or if we neglected our Gold Star families (families of fallen service members).

We owe a great debt to those who are serving and have served. Without them, we'd be vulnerable

to our adversaries and suffer unthinkable terror and bondage like some nations are experiencing.

We want our children and grandchildren (and their children and grandchildren) not only to live in a free country, but to understand the cost of freedom and to never take our great (albeit imperfect) country for granted.

Earlier this month, we prayed for our nation as we celebrated the National Day of Prayer. Now, on Memorial Day, we honor those who have died defending our country.

What better way to honor them than by continuing to pray for America, especially for our military?

Let's place the protection of our armed forces high on our prayer list. Let's also intercede for the soldiers' families – especially those who can never welcome their soldiers back home.

I'm thankful God blessed me with people who modeled prayer as a way of life. Because of their example, I endeavored to model the same to my children. If we teach our younger generations well, perhaps

they'll learn to respect our nation's leaders and our military. Maybe they'll be more likely to honor our flag and better appreciate our Gold Star families.

Paul, in 1 Timothy 2:1-2, urges us to pray for all people: "First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way."

If we commit to intercede for America, espe-

cially for our leaders and our armed forces – and teach future generations to do the same – we could become a country whose values God can bless.

Do our country and its leaders really need our prayers? Would our military and their families notice if we were to intercede on their behalf?

What do you think?

*Sheryl H. Boldt is a sales executive for Wave 94 and author of the blog, [www.TodayCanBeDifferent.net](http://www.TodayCanBeDifferent.net). Connect with her at [SherylHBoldt.Wave94@gmail.com](mailto:SherylHBoldt.Wave94@gmail.com).*

## Peace lilies

By **CHERYL CRUCE**

In the early morning, I often sit in the upstairs loft of our home. My husband and I have turned this area into a private haven. Nestled at the top of the stairs, we often listen to music while discussing our day. It is a quiet little nook perfect for morning devotions and being still before God.

This morning the sun

is filtering through the window, shining on the peace lily that adorns a corner of the room. I marvel at this plant and its resiliency. The proverbial green thumb skips a generation in my family, resting on the hands of my dad and my two daughters. Nonetheless, this plant has survived three years in the loft under my care.

The plant is commonly known as a "Peace lily." However, due to its survival status, I have renamed this fantastic piece of greenery "faith lily." Surprisingly, these lovely flowers are not lilies! The part of the peace lily we call the flower is a spadix. It encompasses a long line

of tiny blooms shrouded by a spathe. The spathe is a leaf that has faded from green to white, enhancing the beauty of the flower.

The lily teaches me about my faith. Some mornings, I notice the leaves of my faith lily wilting. When given water, the leaves lift upward in gratitude for the drink.

Other times I see the foliage turning dark, and the absence of new growth is quite evident. When this happens, I move it closer to the window to receive the nourishment needed from the sunlight.

As a pastor, I will admit that my spirit feels wilted sometimes. Life happens. There is the

sudden loss of a loved one or an unexpected report from a doctor. Work has busied, causing one-day to slip into two days, becoming three, and time is gone before the next breath can be taken. My spirit drops because I have forgotten the vessel of living water that brings me life. I overslept, and my morning devotion fell to the wayside as I hurried from the loft to the front door to begin my day.

How is it that I neglect the words of my Lord because of the busy world around me?

In John 6:35, Jesus referred to Himself as the living water. He said, "Drink from Me, and you will never thirst

again."

I fill my vessel with prayer, devotion, and the Word of God many mornings. But there are mornings when the world crowds in, and I neglect the well of life, causing my spirit to run dry. Then I see it, a text from a friend with living water. A reminder that they have prayed for me, covering me, offering me a drink from their cup.

And like the leaves of the "peace lily," my spirit is lifted as the grace of God encompasses me.

Jesus is the living water. As children of God, we need the water to be uplifted. We also need the light of the Son to grow and flower for the Kingdom.

Today if your vessel is filled with His grace, find a friend that is thirsty. Offer them a drink from your cup. Encourage those missing from your fellowship to return to the Son's light. Be a willing vessel for the Lord. And if by chance you thirst for water and Son shine, find that friend who prays for you.

Galatians 6:9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

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

### OUT TO PASTOR

## These old bones of mine

By **JAMES SNYDER**

I had a frightening experience the other day. I know I must be getting old because things that never frightened me before now frighten me. I also see things I never saw before.

Going into the bathroom one morning, I looked in the mirror, and my grandfather looked back at me. I almost passed out. With great haste, I left the bathroom, rushed to the living room, and sat down to think a little bit. What just happened?

I hadn't thought of my grandfather for a long time, and now here I am, looking at myself in the mirror and seeing my grandfather. Oh boy. How did he get in my mirror?

I knew my grandfather was old, at least from my perspective when I knew him. One thing I remember about him was how much he complained about his bones. You could hear his knees crack whenever he would get up

from a chair. I never could understand that.

At the time, I thought he was putting on a show. I never had my bones crack, nor did they ever hurt. So, I thought my dear old grandfather was trying to get pity from us, so I lavished it on as much as possible. I tried to come to the end of his joke, but he died before it ended.

The last two years that I knew him, he walked around with a cane. I thought he was just doing that for dressing. I thought he was acting like Bat Masterson; "He wore a cane and derby hat." Several times, I asked him where his "derby hat" was. He just looked at me as though he had no idea what I was saying. So, being the grandson that I was, I went on with his ploy.

Not until recently did I discover that this was not a ploy; rather, he had aching and creaking bones.

It seems that I have inherited his creaking bones. Now I know what he was going through back then, and it wasn't a ploy.

It seems every day, I find a new bone to creak. I will never know how my grandfather handled those creaking bones at his age, but I'm starting to find out. I guess I should've tak-

en him more seriously back then.

I have no idea how many bones I have in my body, but I am discovering new bones that are starting to creak daily. I didn't know I had so many bones.

After thinking about my grandfather and his creaking bones, I went back into the bathroom to chat with him, but instead of him being in the mirror, there I was. I am my grandfather!

My grandfather was 69 years old when he passed, and I am, let's say, a little past that age.

Instead of inheriting creaking bones from my grandfather, I would rather have inherited \$1 million. But life is as it is. I don't know how long I have yet before my old bag of bones exhausts itself. Till then, I will creak and crack my bones every day, just like my grandfather.

That may be why people have rather

short memories when they get older. Boy, would I like to forget these creaking bones of mine. When I think I have it all worked out, another bone pops and then starts creaking.

I don't know how close I am to getting a cane, but it just might be in the near future.

Of course, having a cane would be more helpful when walking down the street to protect me from some idiot who wants to rob me. So I've been thinking about that.

If it were just creaking bones, I wouldn't be too concerned. But looking in the mirror this morning caused me to see that old age is really ugly. I have more wrinkles than I can count on my face. Where do those wrinkles come from? What are they there, and how do I get rid of them?

I should start counting my wrinkles every morning to ensure I have the same amount

from the day before. Of course, there must be some good to these wrinkles, or I wouldn't have so many.

I think I have become the standard for old age with my musical bones and flourishing wrinkles. I sure could use some advice from my grandfather about this situation.

With that in mind, I went to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and told her I thought I needed to go to a body shop to see if I could get a new body. "Do you have any recommendations?"

She looked at me up and down and then said, "Just remember, it'll cost you an arm and a leg." And then she laughed as though it was funny.

I wasn't laughing on the inside.

Later that day, I checked my Bible for verses dealing with

bones, but I had never thought of these verses before.

Psalms 51:8, "Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice."

Psalms 34:20, "He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken."

I am a proponent of joy, but I never thought of bones being associated with joy. As I get older, I am discovering just how important my bones are. From now on, whenever one of my bones creaks, I will rejoice to know that God keeps all my bones.

*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](mailto:jamesnyder51@gmail.com), website [www.jamesnyderministries.com](http://www.jamesnyderministries.com).*



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# Obituaries

## DEATH NOTICES

- **Da'mya "Kane" Lockhart**, 22, of Tallahassee, died May 15, 2023.
- **Benny M. Lovel**, 93, of Crawfordville, died May 22, 2023.
- **Robert Joseph Ochala**, 88, of Alligator Point. Died May 19, 2023.

- **Peggy Porter**, of Tallahassee, died May 17, 2023.
- **Joyce Marlene Stoller**, 86, of Crawfordville, died May 15, 2023.
- **Mark Zilberberg**, 83, of Crawfordville, died April 30, 2023.

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

## Sheriff's Report

Activity reported for the week of May 12 to 18:

### FRIDAY, MAY 12

- Steve Baird reported fraudulent checks being cashed. Three checks made out to various vendors from the Board of County Commissioners where forged and cashed. The total loss is approximately \$1,650. A potential suspect has been identified. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Heather Will investigated.

- Deputy Kory Smith responded to R.L. McDonald Road in reference to an ongoing problem with the neighbor's dogs. Upon arrival Deputy Smith made contact with Clark Davis, who said his neighbor's dogs keep coming over to his property and fighting with his dogs. The dogs are causing damage to Davis' fence. Davis asked for the incident be documented. Deputy Smith also made contact with Animal Control and made him aware of the problem.

### SATURDAY, MAY 13

- Joseph Belvein reported the theft of a set of loading ramps from his vehicle while parked outside the Subway restaurant on Crawfordville Highway. Belvein stated he saw the ramps prior to going inside and once he returned they were gone. The ramps were valued at \$500. Contact was made with the restaurant manager and she advised she was in Tallahassee at the time, but would attempt to recover

video footage once she returns back to the restaurant later in the week. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Kendrick Gavin investigated.

- Daryn Wilkins reported having Ethan Osborn on video recording burglarizing his residence. Upon contact, Daryn was able to provide video footage of Osborn taking several bottles of alcohol from his residence and bringing the alcohol back after finding out it was nothing but water. Ethan was located at his residence and placed under arrest for burglary. Deputy Dustin Matthew investigated.

### SUNDAY, MAY 14

- Walmart Loss Prevention staff reported an unknown black male passing the last point of sale with a Razor Electric Dirt Bike valued at \$266.60. The male returned into the store and loaded a grocery cart with two televisions. Upon attempting to pass the last point of sale a second time, staff approached the suspect. The male left the cart inside and walked away headed towards Crawfordville Highway. Contact was made with a female believed to be working with the suspect, as she was in a large group of individuals at Publix. The female stated she knew the male was traveling with the group but she didn't know who he was. Walmart was able to provide video of the incident as well as a complete list of items taken by the suspect. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Kendrick

Gavin investigated.

### MONDAY, MAY 15

- A traffic stop was conducted on a vehicle for failure to maintain a single lane. Contact was made with the driver and sole occupant identified as Shasta Crews. Further investigation revealed Crews had a small amount of meth in her possession. Crews was placed under and transported to the jail facility. Deputy Dakota Haddock investigated.

### TUESDAY, MAY 16

- Deputy Michelle Stripling responded to Kangaroo Shell Point Gas and Grill at 4766 Coastal Hwy, in reference to someone passing a fake \$100 bill. Recorded video showed the suspect purchasing gas and other items and receiving change for the fake bill. A possible suspect in this case has been identified. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

- Garrett Morgan reported riding his Polaris side by side on May 15 in the Apalachicola National Forest off of FH 13 near the power line. Morgan stated the machine broke a belt and he left it off a trail in the woods. Morgan had a family member go to pick it up, however it was discovered missing. Deputies canvassed the area in which Morgan stated he left the machine, but yielded negative results. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Heather Will investigated.

- Justin Wright reported the theft of his oyster cages. Wright stated they had been stored at Gull Island in Oyster Bay which is a private island family. Wright discovered 26 cages were missing and valued them at approximately

\$5,200. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Anthony Paul investigated.

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 17

- April Clifton reported Jordan Garber entering her yard and sitting a chair. Garber was observed starting a fire in the firepit and then refused to leave the property. Clifton called the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office and Gerber was given a trespass warning for the property. Garber still refused to leave and he was placed under arrest by deputies. Garber resisted arrest by attempting to holding onto a chair and then failing to comply with lawful orders. Garber was eventually Tasered and then complied with commands. Upon arrival at the Wakulla County Jail, a glass pipe used for smoking narcotics was found hidden on Garber's person. Garber was ultimately charged with trespass after warning, resisting arrest, and introduction of contraband into a controlled facility. Deputy Ernesto Trujillo investigated.

### THURSDAY, MAY 18

- Kimberly Ogren reported her boat trailer tag lost or stolen. Ogren last saw the tag affixed to the trailer about 6 months ago when she transported the boat from Coral Gables to her friend's property in Sopchoppy. Ogren was issued a report number for DMV purposes. Lt. Vickie Mitchell investigated.

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

## Weekly Roundup: Protecting kids or promoting hate?

By **RYAN DAILEY**  
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — Gov. Ron DeSantis this week stood at a lectern with a placard declaring "let kids be kids" as he signed a suite of bills targeting LGBTQ issues — something the organization Equality Florida branded as the governor's "slate of hate."

Among the legislation signed by DeSantis at a Tampa Christian school Wednesday were bills that will prohibit or limit medical care for transgender people, prevent minors from attending drag shows and impose restrictions on which bathrooms trans people can use.

"I think this is something that we just made the decision as a state and me as governor to just say we're protecting kids. We're protecting kids. And we're going to protect kids when it's popular. We'll protect kids, even when you take some incoming as a result of maybe offending some ideologies or some agendas out there, but that's fine," the governor said.

One of the measures signed by DeSantis is aimed at prohibiting doctors from prescribing puberty blockers or hormones or using surgery to treat children diagnosed with gender dysphoria (SB 254) — building on rules recently adopted by the state's medical boards.

DeSantis said the new law, under which doctors could face third-degree felony charges for violating the prohibition on care for young people, will "permanently

outlaw the mutilation of minors."

Joe Saunders, political director of the LGBTQ advocacy group Equality Florida, swiftly condemned DeSantis' action on the legislation as part of an "all-out attack on freedom."

A former Democratic state representative who is running for a South Florida state Senate seat, Saunders called the package of bills passed by the Republican-controlled Legislature and signed by DeSantis the largest slate of anti-LGBTQ bills in the state's history.

Jennifer Solomon, the mother of a transgender student who participated in a press conference with reporters organized by Saunders' group, called the LGBTQ-focused measures "extremely scary."

"We have families that are leaving the state because they cannot properly parent their child," Solomon, the president of PFLAG Miami, said.

Also signed by DeSantis Wednesday was a bill (HB 1069) that expands a controversial 2022 law restricting instruction on sexual orientation and gender identity in schools.

Last year's law prohibits such lessons in kindergarten through third-grade. It was formally given the title Parental Rights in Education by supporters, but disparagingly given the moniker "don't say gay" by critics.

The measure signed by DeSantis this week broadens the restrictions to pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. It also limits the way

teachers and students can use their preferred pronouns in schools, preventing teachers and other school employees from telling students their preferred pronouns and barring educators from asking students about their preferred pronouns.

### DISNEY DOLDRUMS

The rift between the Walt Disney Company and DeSantis, sparked last year by the company's entertainment giant's opposition to the "parental rights" law, continued to deepen this week.

The company on Thursday scrapped plans to build a nearly \$1 billion office complex and relocate 2,000 California-based cast members to Florida. The ditched plans came after Disney earlier this year announced reorganization plans to cut costs by \$5.5 billion, including \$3 billion related to content spending, as it faces a growing legal and ideological clash with the governor.

Josh D'Amato, Disney's theme park and consumer products chairman, told cast members that "changing business conditions" spurred the decision to cancel the planned 1.8 million-square-foot Lake Nona corporate complex outside Orlando.

Walt Disney World Resort President Jeff Vahle in a letter to community leaders said the company continues to plan on investing \$17 billion into the region over the next 10 years, creating 13,000 new jobs.

Meanwhile, Disney CEO Bob Iger and DeSantis, who reportedly is preparing to launch a 2024 run for president, continue to escalate the dust-up.

During the company's second-quarter earnings call last week, Iger said questions about risks to Disney's future should be directed toward the state.

"Does the state want us to invest more, employ more people and pay more taxes or not?" Iger replied when asked how investors should view the short- and long-term impacts of DeSantis' clash with Disney.

In an interview with The American Conservative released Monday, DeSantis characterized the company as being held hostage by "a cabal of people who will go berserk if they don't get their way."

Democrats, however, were quick to blame DeSantis for Thursday's announcement.

"Florida just lost 2,000 jobs and millions in additional revenue because of Ron DeSantis' unhinged personal vendetta against Disney," Florida Democratic Party Chairwoman Nikki Fried said in a statement.

### HEADING WEST

DeSantis on Tuesday said Florida "stands ready" and will send Florida National Guard troops and law-enforcement officers to Texas to help with border control.

The governor's office said in a news release Tuesday afternoon that 800 members of the Florida National Guard,

along with Florida Highway Patrol troopers, Florida Department of Law Enforcement officers and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission officers were available and ready to deploy within 24 hours.

During a media appearance Tuesday, DeSantis criticized the Biden administration's handling of immigration issues and said he had offered personnel, boats and planes to assist Texas with migrants trying to come into the country.

"We're staying on them (the Biden administration), the state of Florida is, because it's a really important issue to actually have sovereignty in our country and have the rule of law upheld," DeSantis said at a bill-signing event in Lighthouse Point.

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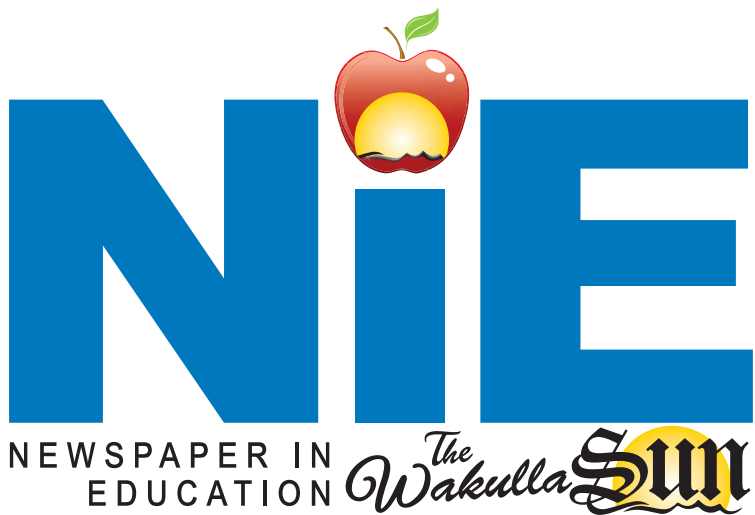
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## USE THE NEWS

### 1. Summer Travel

This upcoming weekend is Memorial Day weekend — the unofficial start of the summer travel season in the U.S. Summer is the busiest time for travel in the U.S., because kids are out of school and families go on vacation. And this year could be especially busy, travel experts say. Families who put off traveling during the coronavirus epidemic are making plans to head out again for vacation destinations. “This summer travel season could be one for the record books,” said a spokesman for the AAA Travel organization. “More Americans are planning trips and [planning] them earlier.” The four-day Memorial Day weekend will see millions of travelers on the road or in airports. Car trips are expected to be up 6 percent over last year, with more than 37-million Americans driving to their destinations, CNN News reports. At airports, it’s likely to be busier than it was in 2019 before the coronavirus epidemic. Air travel is expected to be up by 11 percent over last year, with 3.4-million people expected to fly over the holiday weekend. That figure exceeds 2019 levels by 5.4 percent — or 170,000 more air travelers — and the weekend could be the busiest at airports overall since 2005. Where would you like to go if you could travel this summer? In the newspaper or online, find and study stories, ads and photos of places you could visit. Pick one and design a travel ad for the newspaper or Internet telling why people would enjoy a visit to this place. Give your ad an eye-catching headline and share with the class.

**Goals:** Conducting short research projects that build knowledge about a topic; integrating information presented in different media or formats to develop a coherent understanding of a topic; using drawings or visual displays when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or points.

### 2. Dust Devil Rescue

Dust devils are swirling, mini-tornadoes that pick up dust and spin it in the air. They are usually harmless and don’t last long, but they can be scary to people who get caught in them. One person who got caught recently was a 7-year-old catcher playing a youth baseball game in Florida. Bauer Zoya was catching for the Ponte Vedra Sharks in a game in the city of Jacksonville when a swirling cone of dust formed right at home plate, UPI News reported. Bauer held up his hands to shield his face, but couldn’t find his way out of the whirlwind. That’s when um-

pire Aidan Wiles stepped in. Wiles, who is 17, rushed into the dust devil, scooped up Bauer and carried him to safety and fresh air. Though Bauer said he “couldn’t breathe that much” when he was caught in the dust devil, he continued catching the game after his dad poured water on his face to get the dust out of his eyes. “At first I was freaked out myself until I saw him trapped in it,” Wiles told the First Coast News TV station. “So, I decided to run in there and grab him out of it.” Dust devils (also known as “dirt devils”) form when a pocket of hot air near a flat surface rises quickly through cooler air above it, forming an updraft. If conditions are just right, the updraft may begin to swirl in a circle. Dust devils are just one way weather activities make news in the summer. In the newspaper or online, find and closely read a story about another weather event making news. Use what you read to write a

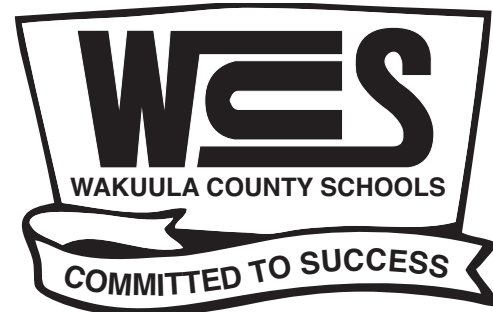
letter to the editor telling how to stay safe in this type of event.

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

### 3. Under the Sea

In the cartoon movie “The Little Mermaid,” the crab Sebastian sings to the mermaid Ariel that “under the sea ... under the sea ... Darling it’s better down where it’s wetter... take it from me!” A scientist from the state of Florida would certainly agree with that bit of watery advice. Joseph Dituri of the University of South Florida has just broken the record for most days in a row living in an underwater habitat. Dituri, who is a biomedical engineer, broke the record by living more than 73 days in a steel and glass “undersea lodge” 30 feet

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below the surface of a lagoon in Key Largo, Florida, UPI and CNN News report. And Dituri isn’t done. He says he won’t resurface until he reaches 100 days under water on June 9. Dituri, who calls himself “Dr. Deep Sea,” took on the challenge of living under water to research how well humans can survive in an isolated, confined environment, according to his website. When he resurfaces, he will undergo “an in-depth examination by a team of medical doctors to learn more about how the body reacts to such an environment,” he said. “My goal from Day 1 has been to inspire ... scientists around the globe who study life undersea and how the human body functions when in extreme environments,” Dituri wrote online. People often do unusual things to challenge themselves or learn about the world. In the newspaper or online, find and closely read a story about someone who has done this. Use what you read to make a chart listing skills and character

qualities a person would need to meet this challenge. Finish by using a marker or highlighter to indicate which of these skills and qualities you have. Share lists with the class and discuss.

**Goals:** Organizing data using lists, concrete objects, pictures, tallies, tables, charts, diagrams and graphs; conducting short research projects that build knowledge about a topic.

### 4. Firefighting Goats

With lack of rain and deadly heat in many parts of the world, wildfires have become a greater and greater threat in many countries. In the South American nation of Chile, officials are trying a four-legged approach to reduce the risks. More precisely, they are employing goats to eat the undergrowth that feeds fires when they break out in forests, the Washington Post newspaper reports. A program called Buena Cabra (which means “Good Goat” in English) trucks up to 150 goats at a time to forest ar-

eas to remove brambles and other bushes that burn in wildfires and allow them to spread. The brush becomes deadly fuel when it dries out in the hot summer months. Because Chile is located in the Earth’s southern hemisphere, it is summer there when it is winter in the United States. The Chilean summer was particularly brutal this year, with heat waves and drought causing fires in February that destroyed more than a million acres of forest. Animals can often be trained to do things that help people. In the newspaper or online, find and closely read a story about an animal that has been trained this way. Use what you read to write a thank-you note to the animal from a person who has been helped. Draw a picture to go with your note, if you like.

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



TRUE OR FALSE?  
EATING TOGETHER AS A FAMILY CAN REDUCE THE LIKELIHOOD KIDS DEVELOP CERTAIN HEALTH ISSUES.

ANSWER: TRUE

## What’s the Difference?

There are four differences between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all?

A



B



Answers: 1. Boy in window 2. Extra bushes on right side 3. Mom’s shirt neckline 4. Missing light on house

## THIS DAY IN...



## HISTORY

- 1869: BOSTON UNIVERSITY IS CHARTERED BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.
- 1917: SEVERAL POWERFUL TORNADOES RIP THROUGH ILLINOIS.
- 1967: THE BEATLES RELEASE “SGT. PEPPER’S LONELY HEARTS CLUB BAND.”



## FAMILIAL

relating to or occurring in families

How they SAY that in...

**ENGLISH:** Father

**SPANISH:** Padre

**ITALIAN:** Padre

**FRENCH:** Père

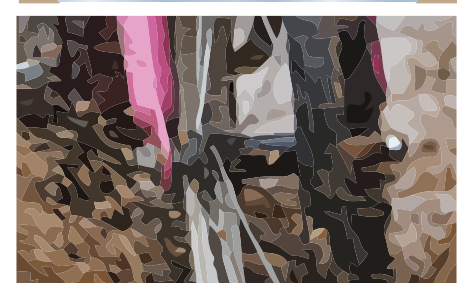
**GERMAN:** Vater

Did You Know?

FAMILIES MAY INCLUDE MANY DIFFERENT PEOPLE, AS LONG AS THERE IS LOVE INVOLVED, ANYONE CAN BE CONSIDERED FAMILY.



GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: BIKE WHEEL IN PUZZLE

# TOSSED SALAD WORD SEARCH

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

## WORDS

- APPLES
- ARUGULA
- AVOCADO
- BEANS
- BEETS
- BERRIES
- CELERY
- CHICKEN
- CHICKPEA
- CROUTONS
- KALE
- LETTUCE
- NUTS
- OIL
- OLIVES
- ONION
- PEPPERS
- RADISHES
- SEEDS
- SPINACH
- SPROUTS
- TOMATO
- VINEGAR

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

## CROSSWORD

### CLUES ACROSS

1. Wear away by friction
7. Insecticide
10. Elicited a secret vote
12. Beef
13. Disagreement
14. \_\_\_ Crawford, supermodel
15. Jeweled headdress
16. Digits
17. Trillion hertz
18. Snap up
19. Classical portico
21. Residue after burning
22. Large integers
27. Free agent
28. Where ballplayers work
33. Blood type
34. Scottish city
36. Google certification (abbr.)
37. Serbian monetary unit
38. Make a sudden surprise attack on
39. Wood or metal bolt

40. Relaxing attire
41. Famed neurologist
44. Dullish brown fabrics
45. Member of ancient Jewish sect
48. Griffith, Rooney
49. Lawmakers
50. Government lawyers
51. The arch of the foot

### CLUES DOWN

1. Nonflowering aquatic plant
2. Britpop rockers
3. National capital
4. Consumed
5. The habitat of wild animals
6. Sun up in New York
7. Cygnus star
8. Male parents
9. Talk to you (abbr.)
10. A place to clean oneself
11. Southwestern US state
12. South Korean idol singer

14. Pirate
17. Pituitary hormone (abbr.)
18. Mistake
20. Promotions
23. Prepares
24. Partner to flowed
25. State lawyer
26. Patti Hearst's captors
29. Pound
30. Electronic data processing
31. Sports player
32. Treats with contempt
35. Apprehend
36. Excessively talkative
38. Highways
40. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
41. College organization for males
42. Any customary observance or practice
43. Employee stock ownership plan
44. Male parent
45. The 23rd letter of the Greek alphabet
46. Female bird
47. Autonomic nervous system

## WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to hamburgers.

T K E U P H C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

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

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## Guess Who?

I am an actor born in Ireland on May 25, 1976. I was interested in acting since seeing a stage production of "A Clockwork Orange." I've starred in a number of movies, but my role on a television show about a street gang from the late 1800s made me a household name.

Answer: Ketchup  
 Answer: Cillian Murphy

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# Shark Pitch competition held at Wakulla High School

Story & Photos By  
**LINDA ANN McDONALD**  
Correspondent

It was Shark Week at Wakulla High School for Teacher Christina Diebler and her Entrepreneurship students. Afterwards, an Entrepreneurship Awards Ceremony was held in the Culinary Room on Friday night, May 12, 2023.

Students created their own fictitious business outfits and “pitched” their ideas to the local sponsors and business owner “sharks” of Wakulla County for feedback and advice.

Comparable to the television show, ‘Shark Tank’ where the show features a panel of investors called “sharks,” who decide whether to invest as entrepreneurs make business presentations on their company or product. The sharks often find weaknesses and faults in an entrepreneur’s product, business model or valuation of their company.

As an event kickoff, the students were equipped with “Fast Pitch Deck Instructions” as guidelines as to what was expected of them and to elaborate on how the judging will be based upon.

Some of the standards the students had to uphold as part of the contest -the business “Pitch” was a presentation created by students judged on 5 areas:

- Problem/Opportunity- student explains why this problem that has not been solved by others in the market
- Value Proposition, Primary data that shows customers would buy this as a solution to their problem
- Underlying Magic, student uses evidence to support solution to problem
- Target Market, Explores multiple perspectives as both the entrepreneur and customer
- Cost Structure- Accurately lists their variable and fixed expenses for



First Place went to 'Jellyfish Catering' McKenzie LeVeen and Ivi McIntyre, with teacher Christina Diebler.

this business.

The Winners of Shark Week’s First Place went to ‘Jellyfish Catering’ – McKenzie LeVeen and Ivi McIntyre, Second Place went to Tray Keep’s business owners Chez Dyke, Grace Gevawer, Jayden Litchfield and Kylynn Wright. The Smart School Book came in 3rd for Jaden McBratney and Sierra Boggs, Fourth Place went home with EZ Garden’s Hunter Barton, Samuel Bruce, and Evelyn McCoy.

When asked by the Sharks, “Why did you choose Jellyfish Catering?” The team responded with, “Wakulla High is by the coast, and the name had a nice ring.” They also told the Sharks, “When we make more profit as a catering business, we can become more like Door Dash. With our approach, we love small businesses and it would help them in the long run to help us.”

Teacher Christina Diebler explained, “I want parents to see how innovative and creative their kids are and open their eyes to future pathways that may or may not include the 4-year college path. As for our local business owners, I hope



Keynote Speaker was Daniel Williams of Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship.



Wakulla High alumni Landon Turner of Backwoods Mafia gave an inspirational speech.

they see the potential on our high school students and encourages them to stay involved with these students by means of employment possibilities and building job/work relationships.”

Diebler added, “In my

classroom, I feel it’s important to teach life skills such as creative problem solving, team building and collaborating, communication skills, the ability to take risks, hard work yields positive benefits, the emotions of failure

and rejection alongside sweet success.

In the beginning of Shark Week, Diebler said, “I had to hear the grumble and groans of students in the beginning, but then something changed; the moment they realize they can do it, everything shifts. It is that ‘a-ha’ moment.”

Diebler encouraged students: “When you come across a problem, find out what the problem is about first – it may be about something outside the problem, don’t be afraid to try, don’t be afraid of people judging you, and don’t be afraid to fail, you will only learn from it.”

Local Shark and Wakulla High School graduate Landon Turner of Backwoods Mafia delivered an empowerment speech and shared how he started selling T-shirts out of his truck at Wakulla High

School as he pursued a business in which he is passionate about. “Even though Covid about killed my business, I thought of a different way to bounce back- keep thinking outside the box.”

Daniel Williams of Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) also delivered an encouraging speech and motivated students to “GO FOR IT” no matter what.

Mark Milligan of F4 Tech said, “This amazed me: A high school teaching this at the high school level, I wish they had this curriculum when I was in high school.”

“Although our daughter Virginia Gunter did not place in the top 4, we are here to support the great program that allows students to have this type of opportunity it is a wonderful program with a hands-on aspect,” said Dina and Chris Gunter.

Virginia added, “Through this experience, I learned how to problem solve and I keep trying until I find success.”

Food for the Awards Ceremony was provided by Ms. Phillips and the Wakulla Culinary Arts, and keepsake water bottle to represent sustainability awards were produced by Wakulla Engineering.

Awards Ceremony Sponsors include Patrick Barineau of Barineau’s Heating and Air, Christine Marlow of White Rose Construction, Shark Pitch Sponsors include Chuck Adcock and Michael Poucher of Florida State Credit Union, Guest Speakers include Landon Turner of Backwoods Mafia and Mark Milligan of F4 Tech. Keynote Speaker was Daniel Williams of Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE).



## RMS Symphonic Band competes

By **MOLLIE ROBINSON**  
Wakulla Schools

On April 15th, Riversprings Middle School’s Symphonic Band had the honor of participating at the 2nd Annual FAMU Wind Band Festival. The Festival showcased high school and middle school talent from Florida and Georgia. RMS was invited to FAMU’s Festival based on their superior showing at the District 3 Music Performance Assessment (MPA) in March. The band performed on stage at Lee Hall Auditorium in front of judges from FAMU as well as judges from other places such as Michigan State University. After their performance the students had a clinic with Dr. Rebecca Phillips, director of bands at Colorado State University.

The Symphonic Band performed “Newcastle March” and “Two Scottish Dances,” by Johnnie Vinson, “Suo Gan” by Larry Clark and finally “Rampage” by Todd Stalter. This year’s band is composed of 27 seventh and eighth graders,

under the direction of 2nd year director Matthew Spindler. Mr. Spindler was a recent FAMU music alumnus and was excited to show off his students to his previous professors. When talking about his students, Mr. Spindler stated, “The RMS Band Students have worked so hard this year with receiving straight superiors rating from the Florida Bandmaster Associations District Music Performance Assessment. That is the highest possible rating. We have also had 10 students represent RMS at the All-District Band, an audition-based ensemble. Along with 46 students participating in Solo and Ensemble. As the Band Director at Riversprings Middle, I am so proud of the band students. I am excited to see what we can accomplish next year.”

The Symphonic band, as well as the Jazz, Concert and Beginning bands, finished off their performance season with an End of the Year concert and BBQ Dinner on May 2nd.

The future certainly looks bright for the Riversprings Middle music program.

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# War Eagles fly high at spring exhibition

The Wakulla War Eagles played the Leon Lions and Chiles Timberwolves in a spring game at Gene Cox Stadium on Thursday, May 18. A half was played against each team.

Against Leon, the War Eagles dominated 26-8.

Against Chiles, tougher game, but Wakulla 14-7.



Running back Marquez Johnson breaks into the open.



Quarterback Haden Klees uses his legs for a score.



Pass to receiver Samron Brinson for a score.



Head Coach Scott Klees talks strategy during a timeout.

PHOTOS BY GERALD BROWN

*Congratulations!*  
 Class of 2023  
 Wakulla High School Valedictorian  
*Haley Ann Taylor*

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 Lay speaker  
 Clerk of court  
 Missionary  
 World traveler  
 Mentor to many  
 Father grandfather and great grandfather