

DEP says no to county's spring protection ordinance

Snowden column

Page 4

The Wakulla Sun

"It's a New Day"

WAKULLA WeatherSTEM

Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday



Scattered Thunderstorms
Hi: 87° Lo: 70° 50%
Sunrise 6:35 AM
Sunset 8:37 PM

Friday



Scattered Thunderstorms
Hi: 88° Lo: 68° 38%
Sunrise 6:35 AM
Sunset 8:37 PM

Saturday



Mostly Sunny
Hi: 88° Lo: 71° 15%
Sunrise 6:35 AM
Sunset 8:38 PM



\$1
One Section

Locally Owned & Operated

Our 2nd Year 23rd Issue
Thursday, June 8, 2023

Property values up \$500M

Property appraiser's preliminary figures show major increase in commercial values

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

Wakulla County Property Appraiser Ed Brimmer said this week that preliminary figures compiled by his office show a \$500 million increase in property values over the past year.

Numbers released June 1 to the school board for taxable values up from \$2.05 billion last year to \$2.54 billion this year.



Wakulla Property Appraiser Ed Brimmer

The taxable value for Wakulla County government increased

from \$1.76 billion last year to \$2.21 billion this year.

(Different formulas are used to calculate the taxable values for the school board and county government. Basically, the school board gets the full taxable value.)

Brimmer said the increase was due to three factors: new homes, the increased value of existing homes, but especially to an increase in the

value of commercial properties.

Some of that, Brimmer said, was due to the property appraiser's office not keeping up with higher priced sales of commercial property.

He noted one example of a gas station in Wakulla Station that sold recently for \$1.6 million but its taxable value was still on the books at its 2016 assessed value of some \$300,000.



PHOTO SPECIAL TO THE SUN

Local memorial service set for Robyn Hurst

She won acclaim for her creative projects that drew patrons to the Wakulla Public Library

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

Robyn Hurst, who was library director of the Wakulla County Public Library for nearly 10 years and died two weeks ago, will be remembered with a local Celebration of Life to be held on Monday, June 12, at the Wakulla Community Center from 4 to 6 p.m.

Initial reports indicate she took her own life on Sunday, May 21, at her home in Thomasville, Ga., although the matter is still under investigation by law enforcement there.

A funeral was held in Thomasville on Monday, May 29, which would have also been her 45th birthday. Many Wakulla residents were unable to attend the funeral, prompting her friends to organize the local memorial service.

Robyn was beloved by library patrons and staff for her creativity and love of nature. She started numerous popular events – including the Mardi Gras Ball, a fundraiser for the library. “She could create anything out of cardboard and paper mâché,” said former librarian Heather Bryan, now director at the Chamber of Commerce.

She also brought in the chickens, which prompted “The Library With Chickens” T-shirts. Library staff and friends put together a list of her accomplishments:

Beloved Wakulla County Public Librarian, Rotarian, Mother, Wife and Friend

Turn to Page 3

REMEMBERING THE FALLEN



Resident Sandra Sheets shared this photo of Pastor David Allen of Sopchoppy Southern Baptist Church who, at 3 p.m. on Memorial Day last week, went to the Armed Forces Memorial at Sopchoppy City Hall and played Taps.

FEATURE STORY

'I See You' book is released

Herb Donaldson collaborated with photographer Gerald Brown on the book on local African American history

Story and Photos
By LINDA ANN McDONALD

Palaver Tree Theater in Crawfordville held a Book Signing for “I See You: A Glimpse of Wakulla County's African American Community” written by Palaver Tree founder Herb Donaldson and local photographer Gerald Brown.

The “I See You” photo journal is intended for future generations of African Americans in Wakulla to learn about their heritage, history, and representation in both schools and politics.

“These images would never have been captured without Gerald,” Donaldson said. The concept of the book was the answer to a question Brown had for Donaldson, “What are you going to do with all these photos?”

Also included in the book are historic photos of Buckhorn and the Buckhorn Masons.

A commonly used introduction in Africa, “I see you” - meaning, “I see myself in you” is practiced between Africans which is comparable to our local, “Hello, how are you?” - hence, the title of the book.



Dasha Rich, Tamika Rich, Herb Donaldson, Gerald and Barbara Brown, and Robert and Kenny Manning.

Brown has been a photographer for many past events held at Palaver Tree and around the community. (Brown is also a photographer for The Wakulla

Sun.) Donaldson pointed out that in the photos, Brown would always include African Americans who were visitors to community events, even when the

number of black event goers were small – everyone was included in Brown's pictures, another reason for the title of the book, “I See You. Brown's photos visually tell the audience that Brown “sees you” – Brown “includes” everybody without any judgment.

A book fair was held in addition to the book signing event. For a \$10 donation, a Palaver Tree tote was provided to the donor and for as many books as the tote could hold, the donor could bring home.

Donaldson did not stop anyone from taking the tote load to the donor's vehicle and coming back to the book fair for a second round of collecting books.

“When kids get a book and they start dancing, it's a good thing,” Donaldson said as a child was dancing as she was leaving with her new books.

Dasha and Tamika Rich, a mother/daughter team visiting the event said, “I am an avid reader and I love books; you will never see me without a book. If there is a reason to read, I am there!”

Books were supplied by Tallahassee's Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Chapter and

Turn to Page 2

Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park Black-Eyed Susan

By LYNN ARTZ, SANDY TEDDER
and DAVID RODDENBERRY



The wildflower is a nectar source for butterflies and bees.

Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*) is a sunny yellow wildflower with a dark center that is easy to grow and freely self-seeds. It grows 1-3 feet tall in full sun and tolerates dry soil. The stems are covered with bristly hairs. Black-eyed Susan is an excellent nectar source for butterflies and bees. Its leaves feed the caterpillars of several butterflies. Small birds including goldfinches eat the seeds. Deer resistance is high. The cheerful blossoms of black-eyed Susan liven up wildflower meadows and bouquets. Cut flowers last more than a week. Black-eyed Susan is blooming now in the wildflower meadow at Sopchoppy Depot Park. Packets of seeds collected from the park's black-eyed Susans are free for the taking at the Seed Depot, a miniature replica of the historic train depot.

'I See You' book signing

From Front Page

brought to the event by locals Robert and Kenny Manning.

Donaldson's future for the venue and classic theater itself is to highlight shows, photos and music focusing strictly on Wakulla County.

Save the dates for a music event on June 17th with Aaron Hayden and band. The African Art Exhibit continues until June 19th and upcoming events include Chomp and Stomp on July 22 from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Palaver Tree.

Donaldson can be contacted at (850) 933-9133.

Over a year went into getting this book out in time for the Palaver Tree Theater Emancipation Celebration.



Shelby Lynn Roney and Ruby Bodiford with their bag of books from book fair and then holding their favorite books they picked out at the Palaver Tree event.

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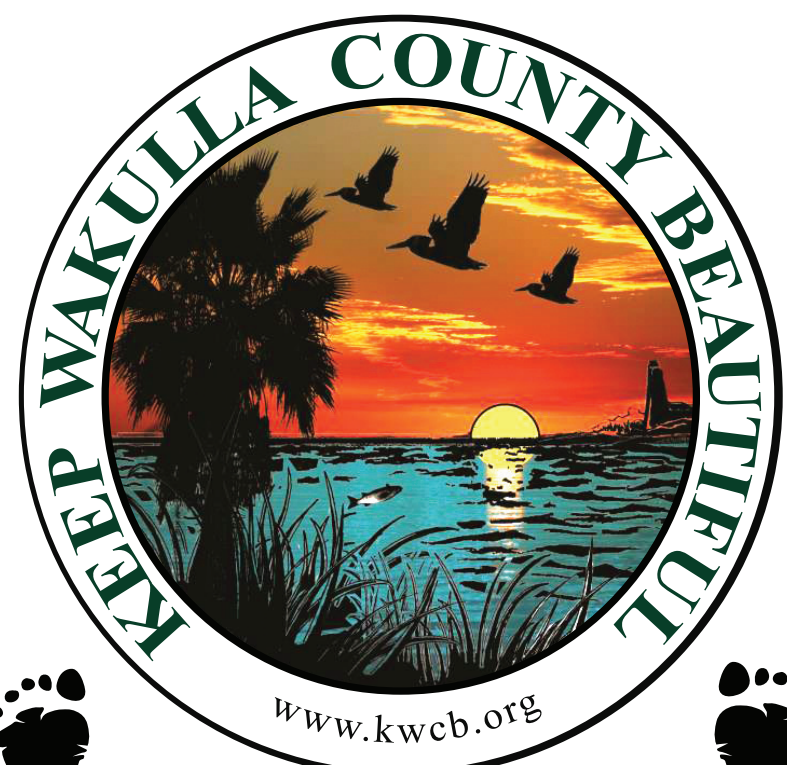


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Wakulla County Tax Collectors Office
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Lisa Craze, CFC
Wakulla County Tax Collector

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

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



www.kwcb.org
**Leave Nothing
But Your Footprints**

Studio 88 dancers shine at VIP Dance Competition

By **KRYSTAL SHEPPARD**
Staff Writer

Dancers from Studio 88 Dance Productions of Crawfordville recently attended the VIP Dance Competition at the Osceola Performing Arts Center in Orlando, Florida. This was their final competition of the season, and it was a long and exciting weekend filled with travel, costume changes, makeup, hair, performances, award ceremonies, laughter, and much excitement. Between their performances the dancers had the opportunity to observe and support the talented dancers from other dance schools and dance studios as well.

Studio 88 dancers from Mini, Little, Junior and Teen companies performed over 20 different dances for the judges, including large group, small group, duos, trios and solos, and won multiple awards throughout the weekend.

Studio 88's Production dance, which incorporated multiple costume changes and featured all dancers from Mini, Little, Junior and Teen companies was *Hallow's Eve*. Their energetic and "haunting" performance received a Diamond, Entertainment Award and 2nd in Production VIP List.

Teen Company was on fire, with a stellar performance of *Hit the Road Jack*, a high energy jazz dance that received a Diamond, 1st in division, 2nd teen MegaStar large group and 3rd on VIP list.

Another favorite was little company's adaptation of the famous *King of New York*, or "Newsies" which earned Diamond, 1st in division, 1st mini hot shot large group and a Judges Choice Award for "character and energy, and use of props." The Wakulla Sun is honored to have been represented in this dance, as the dancers' props included copies of The Wakulla Sun, and their adorable class photoshoot took place with The Wakulla Sun building as their backdrop.

The many other award-winning performances included:

- Oh So Quiet
- Platinum and 1st in



PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE SUN



division

- Costume Award
- 3rd overall Little BigWig

It's Bitsy Teeny Weeny Yellow Polka Dot Bikini

- Platinum and 3rd in division
- 5th Place Mini Hot Shots

Somewhere Over The Rainbow

- Platinum and 1st in division
- 6th place Mini Hot-Shots

Meet The Flintstones

- Platinum and 1st in division
- 1st in Little BigWig Large Groups

Route 66

- Platinum and 1st in division
- 1st in Little Big Wig Duo/Trio

Inspector Gadget

- Platinum and 1st in division
- Judges Choice "Creative Cuties. So entertaining, adored choreography and costuming"
- 2nd in Mini Bigwigs duo/trio

Beautiful Sound

- Platinum and 1st in division
- 3rd Place Mini Hot-Shot Duo/Trio

Singing in the rain

- Platinum and 1st in division
- 1st in Little BigWig

SuperGroup

Jump Jive n Wail

- Diamond and 1st in division
- Stand out award (Technique and Execution)
- 2nd place Junior MegaStar duo/trio

Scooby

- Platinum and 1st in division
- 5th Mini HotShot

Legs

- Diamond and 2nd in division
- Entertainment award
- 4th place Junior MegaStar small group
- 7th overall in Mega-Star category

Oh My God You Guys

- Platinum and 1st in division
- 2nd place jr hotshot large group

Shapeshifter

- Platinum and 3rd in division
- 6th overall hotshot

Us

- Platinum and 2nd in division
- 4th overall hotshot

I Enjoy Being a Girl

- Platinum and 1st in division
- Entertainment award
- 3rd overall hotshot

I Wanna Dance With Somebody

- Diamond and 2nd in

division

Judges Choice "Incredible jazz solo. So much energy, radiating joy, connecting the song with movement and expression."

Cold Hearted

- Diamond and 1st in division
- 8th overall teen MegaStar solo

Sunday Kind of Love

- Platinum and 1st in division
- 6th in senior Mega-Star solos

Sit Down You're Rocking the Boat

- Diamond and 1st in division
- 1st teen MegaStar large group
- 2nd on VIP list

Studio owner and dance instructor Lauren Holley said "Our girls left VIP Dance with the biggest smiles! Being awarded several Judges choice awards, Most Entertaining awards, Standout Award and every dance earning a high overall score is the icing on the cake of our 2023 competition season! Up next is recital and our Dollywood performance in Pigeon Forge!"

The 11th annual Studio 88 dance recital is scheduled for June 17 at Tallahassee Community College. All dancers, both recreational and competitive, will light up the stage and show off all the new dances they have worked so hard on this season. There will be 3 different shows at 10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Studio 88 is again offering summer dance classes beginning in July. Summer classes will include options for Ballet, Tap and Jazz for ages 18 months to 8 years and Hip Hop for dancers 5 to 18 years old.

Studio 88 Dance Productions is a platinum award-winning dance studio that helps young dancers discover their full potential and develop their love for dance. Contact the studio at (850)926-6088 or visit their website www.dancestudio88.com for more information or to register for summer dance classes.

Local memorial service set for Robyn Hurst

From Front Page

July 29, 2014 started all of her magic at the library.

She was well equipped to serve our community and serve she did!

Bachelors Degree Humanities with a focus in art.

Holder of two Master's Degrees: Business from Thomas University, and Information in Library Science from Valdosta State.

Both of her sons are Eagle Scouts: Josh Hurst - Eagle Scout Project - Little Free Libraries around Wakulla County; and Avery Hurst - Eagle Scout Project: Pergola at the library.

She was also the author of two children's books.

Rooms and/or spac-

es she transformed at the library and made available for patron use.

The Children's Room
The Adult Reading Room

The Friends of the Library Reading Room
The Library Escape Room

The gardens out front
Added the Lobby Meeting Room

Some of the Signature Library Programs:
An Evening at Hogwarts

Talk Like a Pirate Day

Take your Child to The Library Day

Dr. Suess's Birthday Star Wars

The Trick or Treat Story Walk

Holiday Story Time with Sheriff Miller

Day of The Dead

The Friends of the Library Mardi Gras Fund-

raiser Ball

Other Library Programs/Amenities:

The Library of Things
The Permanent Installation of Story Boards in Azaela Park

The Mobile Library
- Started Curbside Service during Covid (it is still used today)

- Universal Class access for all library card holders

- Access to 37,000 eBooks through a Plan Grant

- Spearheaded the start-up of the Library Advisory Board

- Revived the Friends of the Library Group

In addition to the chickens, other Library animals included Lola the bearded dragon, Nikodemus and Tempelton the fancy rats, and the fish tank.



Robyn Hurst, center, when Tallahassee Memorial Hospital donated the Humpty Dumpty figure used for a billboard advertisement that is now displayed in front of the library. Also in the photo, Rebecca Lutz of TMH, librarian Linda Oaks, librarian Rebecca Sahar, and Friends of the Library President Andrew Riddle.

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.”

DEP says no to county's springs protection efforts



By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**

I had written a nice little column this week about the county's efforts to pass a springs protection ordinance – some strict new regulations on protecting Wakulla's underground caves from potential contamination from surface pollution.

It was an explainer column with some praise for elected officials and staff working in good faith to protect groundwater. And I took a few jabs at the Tallahassee Democrat's flub of a story that came out Monday.

But then came the bombshell at Monday night's county commission meeting: County Administrator David Edwards and County Attorney Heather Encinosa told commissioners that at a meeting with officials from the state Department of Environmental Protection they were told in no uncertain terms that DEP would not approve the county's ordi-

nance.

Edwards and Encinosa had met with DEP officials and general counsel on Friday.

“DEP would not approve any heightened regulation by Wakulla County,” Edwards told commissioners.

All five commissioners looked stunned.

Commission Chair Ralph Thomas sought clarification: “So they're going to deny the ordinance as submitted?”

Edwards answered that DEP views the siting of underground tanks – meaning especially gas tanks – as its purview and it preempts any county regulation.

Encinosa reiterated that: DEP would not entertain heightened regulations.

Commissioner Chuck Hess looked disgusted and sighed out: “D-E-P. Don't Expect Protection.”

Hess bemoaned that while every other county in Florida has some level of confining soil to protect the underground water, Wakulla does not. Meaning anything spilled on the surface goes right through the sand and limestone into the water – into Wakulla Springs and the county's drinking water.

The county had proposed deeper soil borings for sites with underground tanks, a second



PHOTO BY LAUREN WILSON/WKPP

WKPP divers Steve Cox and Blake Wilson in the Turner Sink cave system on Jan. 14. The two divers found the tunnel that links Chip's Hole, a sinkhole north of Bloxham Cutoff near U.S. Highway 319, with Wakulla Springs.

review of the developer's report, monthly monitoring, and more.

Many citizens have been urging even tighter regulations than the county had proposed in the ordinance – much of the debate was about setbacks from known caves. Edwards had said at past meetings that setbacks were the original idea, but there is no way to have a surveyor put up red flags on private land that mark the extent of the caverns 200 feet below ground.

Earlier in the day, before commission meeting, I talked to Casey McKin-

lay of WKPP who told me the group does map the location of the caves, and said he believes the accuracy is very good. “However, if we're arguing 5 or 10 feet here or there, I don't understand that argument,” he said.

Instead, he said WKPP's job is to let people know “there is a very large cave system here” on this property.

All for naught.

At the start of the county commission meeting, citizen David Damon had been asking commissioners what the county would do to prevent an underground gas

tank being located over a cave. Turns out, they can't do anything.

In my original column, I wrote something about the challenge faced by the county in coming up with regulations to protect water was also an opportunity to do something that could potentially be a model for other Florida counties.

Never mind.

It appears the commission won't choose to waste its time on a battle they can't win.

As Edwards told them: DEP is a brick wall, and he's crashed into enough of them to know the wall

wins.

And here, I can't resist: We all make mistakes occasionally, but the Democrat's big flub in the story was attributing a quote to “Heather Bryan, the county's executive director” when they meant Heather Encinosa, the county attorney.

Heather Bryan is the executive director of the Wakulla Chamber of Commerce and had nothing to do with any of this.

William Snowden is editor and publisher of The Wakulla Sun.

On the Horizon

Calendar of events for the week of June 8

Thursday, June 8

- St. Marks City Commission meets at 6 p.m. at City Hall.
- The Sopchoppy Depot Committee meeting will be held at the Depot, 34 Railroad Avenue at 5 p.m.
- The Rotary Club of Wakulla County meets at the TCC Wakulla Center at 8:30 a.m.
- The VFW Auxiliary Bingo Night will be held at 7 p.m. at 475 Arran Road in Crawfordville, every Thursday. There will be concessions and raffles.
- Hatha Yoga with Zoe at 9 a.m. and Yin Yoga with Nellie at 6 p.m. Classes are \$12, packages available at New Posh on 3079 Crawfordville Hwy. Please RSVP email at newposh3079@gmail.com or text/call at (850) 528-5838.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

Friday, June 9

- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at

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

Saturday, June 10

- Panacea Farmers Market will be held in Downtown Panacea next to the Panacea fire department from 9 a.m. to noon. Local vendors will be selling homemade and homegrown items and food vendors will be there.
- Salvation Army's 3rd Annual Saltwater Slam fishing tournament at Shields Marina in St. Marks. To register, go to <https://bit.ly/saltwaterslam Salvation Army>. For questions, please contact Brittany Christie at 850-222-0304.
- Meet the Critters with Florida Wild Mammal Association at 30 Palms in St. Marks from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Photos with animals, bouncy house, food concessions. \$10 donation at the door.
- 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, June 12

- Planning commission meets in the commission boardroom at 6 p.m.
- City of Sopchoppy meets at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.
- Intro to Tai Chi held at the Community Center from 9 to 10 a.m. All ability levels are welcome; please wear comfortable clothing. For questions call Rich or Terri Bushman at 850-228-9214.
- The Wakulla Respite Program is available weekly for anyone with memory impairment at no cost from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lake Ellen Baptist Church.
- Hatha Yoga at 9 a.m. and Restorative Yoga at 6 p.m. with Zoe. Classes are \$12, packages available at New Posh on 3079 Crawfordville

Hwy. Please RSVP email at newposh3079@gmail.com or text/call at (850) 528-5838.

- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

Tuesday, June 13

- Chamber Lunch and Learn: “What to do when disaster strikes – your claim duties” will be held at English Financial beginning at noon, hosted by Clay and Angie Bozeman of Guardian Public Adjusting. RSVP by calling 850-926-1848.
- Sopchoppy Community Dinner is held every week at the Towles House at 6:30 p.m.
- Yin Yoga at 10:30 a.m. and Flow Yoga at 6 p.m. with Nellie. Classes are \$12, packages available at New Posh on 3079 Crawfordville Hwy. Please RSVP email at newposh3079@gmail.com or text/call at (850) 528-5838.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

Wednesday, June 14

- **FLAG DAY**
- 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.

Thursday, June 15

- The Wakulla County Cancer Support Group will meet in the Education Center of the Crawfordville United Methodist Church at 7 p.m. This group meeting is for men and women, regardless of the type of cancer. Spouses, caregivers, and friends are welcome. For more information, call 850-926-6050.



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William Snowden
 Editor & Publisher
 The Wakulla Sun

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◀ Question of The Week ▶

– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

Polled at Crawfordville Quick Stop:

What is your favorite summertime food?



HEATHER HICKS
BEACH PIT – SERVER

Hot wing and Margr ita, hav to hav them tog ther. Life on the beach at St. Georg .”



CHARLES TOLES
BIG BEND DISTRIBUTORS

“Fish Tacos.”



BOBBY EVANS
RETIRED HAIR DRESSER

Shrimp, I like them boiled or fried.”



STEPHANIE MANN
RETIRED

“It has to be seafood, grouper fingers are my favorite.”



HIAWATHA SCOTT III
BIGAAA PRESSURE WASHING

Sweet Shoepeg corn on the cob and barbecue ribs.”

COMMUNITY NEWS

Buckhorn News

By **ETHEL SKIPPER**

“As a young boy, I was encouraged to go into the service. I didn’t really have a reason. I just thought it would be something to do that would give me some benefits, and I would be able to help my mother, provide care for my older sister and brother. My stepfather had been killed when the sawmill in Sopchoppy blew up. It was a very sad time in our community.

“I was one of those blessed to

serve our country and return home. I was in the U.S. Navy.

“I went a lot of places and did a lot of things. When I got back home, things were a lot different.

“Being 94 years old, I still remember a lot about Navy life and serving our country.”

Memorial Day was celebrated with family and friends. It’s a time to remember those fallen soldiers and thank the Lord for those still standing.

Skipper Temple Church of Christ will celebrate its 35th anniversary on Sunday, June 11 at 3 p.m. Preacher will be Elder Willie L. Manning and Spring Hill Missionary Baptist Church of Tallahassee. We invite family and friends to the great celebration. Host pastor Ethel M. Skipper.

Zion Hill Primitive Baptist Church will be celebrating the pastor anniversary of Elder Ervin Donaldson on Sunday, June 11. Mother Dove Rosier extends an invitation of welcome to everyone.

Happy birthday to Arienna Haw-

kins, Christian Skipper on June 4, Rodney N. Smith III on June 4, Latrelle Skipper on June 9, John Johnson on June 20, Ethel M. Skipper on June 23, Willie Skipper Jr. on June 25, Gracie Williams on June 27, Nelson Smith on June 28, and Bakari Hines on June 13.

Our prayers and concern goes out to all the sick and shut-in, those in hospitals, nursing homes, prison, the homeless, those who have lost loved ones and family members. Let us pray for the young people all over this world.

Wakulla Station News

By **VERNA BROCK**

Hello, June! School is out for the summer, and 4-H has a few openings for 4-H camp. Staff and volunteers are busy training, and spots are going fast. If you and your kids are interested, call the Wakulla County Extension office for more information.

Also, there is a need for a new cooking club leader, since Samantha Isaacs will be busy teaching and coaching at Wakulla Middle School this coming year. If you love to cook, and want to share that enthusiasm with eager young minds, consider volunteering with 4-H!

Recently, I have noticed a whole

lot of social media buzz about the proposed reno/update of Wakulla High School. I thought it might be relevant to share the perspective of a former school board member on the topic.

First, despite widespread conviction, this has NOTHING to do with football and preventing an intra-county rivalry. It has EVERYTHING to do with the State of Florida and its requirements that must be met in order to qualify for state monies to help pay for a new high school.

Florida law requires schools to be very overcrowded, well past full capacity, to be eligible for state funding. According to the FDOE, Wakulla High isn’t there yet, at all. In order to

build a completely new facility, with all the amenities we have in Medart, costs could approach \$80 million or more. Add to that the duplication of staff, teachers, programs and services, and the costs become nearly insurmountable. Even with the additional tax revenue the county would need to assess, it would be a heavy load to lift.

Conversely, the original high school facility is well past its expiration date and showing its age. Florida considers the new plan a fiscally sound one that will give Wakulla years of additional service. When our population does exceed the facility, we can qualify for state monies to provide a second high school.

Don’t forget our tax funding comes from one quarter of our actual county land mass. Only one quarter of

the county can actually be developed. Obviously, this limits the size of our population and our available tax revenues

So, unless we find a very wealthy philanthropist willing to underwrite the costs of a second high school, Wakulla County must continue to rely on the State of Florida for any new schools. Or taxpayers can agree to levy much higher ad valorem taxes.

Hope this helps to clarify the discussion.

Condolences to Clementine (Clem) Bunker, on the loss of her beloved sister. Please remember Clem and her family in your prayers, as well as Sebastian Moseley. Little Sebastian continues to grow stronger, which allows him to remain on the heart transplant waiting list.

Sheriff’s Report

Activity reported for the week of May 26 to June 1:

FRIDAY, MAY 26

• Regina Deering reported that her debit card was lost after her husband made a trip to the store. Upon contacting their bank to cancel the debit card, Deering was advised of a recent purchase for \$246.31 at the Dollar General at Crawfordville Highway and East Ivan Road. Contact was made with the Dollar General Store manager who advised she remembers the person who came into the store and used the card. Security footage is available of the incident. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Dustin Matthews investigated.

• Walmart Asset Protection reported a man walking past the last point of sale with store merchandise without paying. Contact was eventually made with the a white Honda Accord the subject was driving. Upon contact with the male subject who was identified as being Darrius Smith, the 40lb bag of dogfood which was described as stolen by Walmart staff was discovered in the back seat compartment of the suspect’s car. Smith was detained and transported to the WCSO Jail Facility without incident. Deputy Kendrick Gavin investigated.

SATURDAY, MAY 27

• Michael Johnson reported his vehicle being vandalized in the parking lot of Bridle Wood Apartments. Someone scratched a slur into the paint of his vehicle. Johnson was able to provide a possible suspect in this case. Due to no paint and body shops being open, an estimate of the cost of repair couldn’t be provided at the time of the report. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Dustin Matthews investigated.

• David Seal reported his mailbox being damaged beyond repair. It appeared someone had beaten the mailbox with a bat. Seal’s mailbox was the only mailbox damaged on the street. He was able to provide a possible suspect in this case. The mailbox was valued at \$19.99. Deputy Rudolph Hinson investigated.

SUNDAY, MAY 28

• Thomas Darragh reported a burglary to his deceased mother’s residence. Darragh advised no one has resided at the residence for some time. Darragh last checked the residence over six months ago. Over 400 Holiday Barbie Dolls in the original packaging were stolen. Each Barbie was valued at between \$100 and \$300. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Shayne Broxie investigated.

• Garrett Edenfield was arrested for

criminal mischief after he busted the rear window out of a 2023 Kia driven by Anthony Huntsinger. Edenfield was transported to the Wakulla Jail without incident. Sgt. Michael Alexander investigated.

MONDAY, MAY 29

• Roger White reported his tenant was stealing items from his rental home. White stated some of the items had been posted on Facebook by the tenant. White is in the process of evicting the suspect. White went to check on the property and discovered the locks had been changed and he was no longer in contact with the suspect. It is undetermined at this time what items were sold or removed from the home. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Dakota Haddock investigated.

• A witness observed a subject exiting the woods carrying copper from the Hamptons Townhomes complex. The witness gave a description of the subject and his vehicle. The vehicle was soon located, and the driver, Robert Lombardi, was identified. Further investigation revealed Lombardi had allegedly burglarized several of the new townhomes and stolen copper from the construction sites. Lombardi was arrested and charged with Grand Theft, Criminal Mischief, Burglary, and driving while license suspended or revoked (DWLSR). Deputy Anthony Paul investigated.

TUESDAY, MAY 30

• John Bodiford reported his shed had caught fire. The shed was deemed a total loss. Bodiford stated he had miscellaneous tools and equipment in the shed valued at approximately \$15,000. Fire and Rescue were unable to determine the source, but do not believe foul play was involved. Deputy Dakota Haddock investigated.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31

• Benjamin Spivey was arrested for trespassing after he disrobed and got into the pool at the victim’s residence. The homeowner arrived back at their property and advised they did not know Spivey and he wanted him arrested. The victim’s young daughter had been in the residence observing Spivey during the incident. Spivey was arrested for trespassing and transported to the jail without incident. Sgt. Michael Alexander investigated.

THURSDAY, JUNE 1

• Brittany Timberlake reported two fishing poles missing from her back porch. Timberlake named a possible suspect in this case and advised the suspect is attempting to sell the fishing poles to her boyfriend. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Michelle Stripling investigated.

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

Outdoors

outdoor sports

HOME ON THE RANGE

More striker vs. hammer guns and a new handgun



By MARJ LAW

Recently, Joe and I compared four Heckler and Koch handguns. Two of them were striker-fired guns and two were hammer-fired. Thank you to our friends who loan us guns so we can discuss them.

Now, my opinion is that the more mature people and mainly military-trained men prefer hammer guns. For some reason, Joe heartily agrees.

So, I put forth my case before the deputy at the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office range. Of course, he's a bit mature too, but I'm sure he's up to the more modern striker-fired guns and he'll listen to reason.

He turns in his seat so we can see what he's carrying. He grins.

Sure enough, he's carrying a hammer-fired gun. Drat. And he's laughing with Joe because I did, ahem, make the error of firmly stating that the older guys like hammer-fired guns best.

Today we're comparing my new striker-fired Heckler & Koch VP9 with Joe's hammer-fired H&K P30L. They are both 9mm handguns. We had tried a friend's VP9 Match gun against that P30L a few weeks ago, and the P30L edged in front of the VP9 Match gun.

Well, that was a fluke. Maybe the borrowed Match gun wasn't sighted in the best. Maybe the barrel wasn't as good as it

should have been. Maybe it was "cockpit error" and Joe and I just didn't shoot it well that day.

So now I have a new VP9. This one is mine. I've just cleaned and lubed it. Striker-fired. It's going to beat out Joe's hammer-fired P30L. Which, he maintains, was personally worked over by Bruce Gray of Gray Guns. Bruce did some Teflon coating and some trigger work. According to Joe, Bruce is the Guru of Guns.

Yawn.

A cool thing about my striker-fired VP9 is that it comes with three backstraps and three sets of grip side straps for the grip. I choose the smallest backstrap for my small hands.

"Do you want the small side straps too?" asks Joe, because he has just pulled the pin out holding them in place.

"No, the smaller side straps don't have a palm swell, and I like to feel it in my hand," I reply. We keep the medium side straps on the gun.

The VP9 feels good in my hand, and now it's personalized for me.

We're at the WCSO range and we're ready to shoot. We agree to shoot five rounds from each gun. We're using 124-grain reloaded 9mm rounds and are shooting at 5.5-inch targets.

I like Joe to shoot his P30L first. All his rounds hit on the target. No tight groupings, but hitting a target that small is pretty darn good.

Then he shoots my new VP9. The bullets hit the target.

But there's a problem. The slide doesn't lock back. Hm.

Next, it's my turn to shoot his P30L. I hit the target with all five shots.

Now, it's time to take my new personalized VP9 into my hands and shoot.

Blam! Nice. Blam! Stovepipe!

Dump magazine. Pull



Heckler & Koch
VP9

slide to dump stovepipe and check chamber.

Magazine back in grip. Trigger pull. Blam! The casing stands up in the ejection port again. Stovepipe!

Drat. I drop the magazine and then dump that errant casing.

"I do not think you limp-wristed the gun," Joe says.

You know, we gals hate to even hear the term "limp-wristed."

I grab the gun even tighter and shoot two more times.

Ha! Two bullseyes.

I'm feeling smug until I notice the slide isn't locked back.

What???

"There seems to be a problem," says Joe. "The slide should have locked back when the magazine was empty. It didn't when you shot and when I shot.

You shouldn't have used stovepipes, either.

I think I know what's wrong. We'll go to the range and try out a different 124-grain ammunition. You've been using reloads. A better-quality

name-brand ammunition might work better. Also, the gun might shoot better with heavier NATO rounds or 147-grain rounds. We'll see."

I'm not thrilled. My other two 9mm handguns use 124-grain reloads most of the time because, well, reloads are generally cheaper than most name-brand rounds. A 9mm that's picky about using reloads? Get with the program, VP9.

Back at a range, Joe loads five rounds of those name-brand 124-grain rounds this time.

What do you know? All five rounds hit the target and the slide locks back.

I shoot next and the gun works just fine.

Joe's pretty sure the gun prefers this name-brand ammunition. To test his theory, he puts in some more of those reloads from the box we had used previously.

What do you know again? All five rounds he shoots cycle smoothly and the slide locks back.

Hm.

So, I take my five rounds

and shoot that VP9. Those rounds hit the target and the slide locks back.

For now, it looks like the problem isn't a preference for name-brand ammunition or heavier rounds.

Our friend Albert says he had discussed new gun behavior with George at NoShoe. He says George advised running 200 rounds through a new gun before considering the gun has a real problem.

We've heard this before, but we've been fortunate that the new guns we've owned or tested have cycled well right out of the box.

This doesn't happen with every gun. Some handguns seem to require a 100 or 200 round break-in period.

If your handgun doesn't act perfectly right away, try different things.

You might want to ask someone knowledgeable to shoot your gun. You might want to load different grain ammunition. You might want to try name-brand ammunition instead of cheaper

reloads. You might just patiently shoot your gun until you've shot a hundred rounds or more.

Remember, if you get a stovepipe, keep the barrel pointed downrange. Do not pull the trigger a second time. Drop the magazine. Pull the slide back to inspect the chamber. If the chamber is clear, then reload your magazine, put it in the grip, pull back the slide and try shooting again.

If this doesn't work, you may need to clean and lubricate your gun. And you did clean and lubricate your new gun before bringing it to the range, didn't you?

Give your new gun a chance to behave.

Now, back to the question of hammer-fired guns versus striker-fired guns. Which is best?

I'm sticking to my guns. Striker-fired that is.

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

WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO



HAWKSBILL SEA TURTLE

(*Eretmochelys imbricata*)

Reaching about 150 pounds as an adult, this turtle prefers to be in coastal waters where it can easily find its favorite food, sponges. It's omnivorous and will also eat mollusks, jellyfish, fish, shellfish and algae. When they are young their shell is heart shaped but as they grow it becomes oval. The pattern on their carapaces is made from overlapping bony plates. Unfortunately these turtles are still being killed for their shell and eggs. They have become critically endangered, mostly due to the activity of humans.

Eukaryria, Anamalia, Chordata, Reptilia, Testunides, Cheloniidae



HUGE SELECTION
MASKS, FINS & SNORKELS,
CYLINDERS, REGULATORS, COMPUTERS,
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AIRLINE HOOKAHS (SURFACE SUPPLIED AIR),
BC SYSTEMS, CAMERAS & HOUSINGS,
SIDEMOUNT UNITS & MORE.

Wakulla Diving Center
 WAKULLADIVING.com 850 745-8208
 2784 COASTAL HWY., CRAWFORDVILLE



Retired Wakulla Springs State Park Ranger Bob Thompson, on his weekly wildlife survey at the park last week, snapped this photo of an osprey and chick in a nest overlooking the river.

Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences

SEA TOW

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ARE YOU A MEMBER? SEA TOW BIG BEND \ 850-984-3456 \ seatow.com



Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

June 8 - June 14



Tide charts by
tides4fishing.com



Best fishing days this month
June 1-3, 18-30

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	12:08 am ▼ -0.6 ft	6:48 am ▲ 3.1 ft	11:31 am ▼ 1.8 ft	5:21 pm ▲ 3.9 ft
Fr	12:58 am ▼ -0.2 ft	7:38 am ▲ 3.0 ft	12:39 pm ▼ 1.8 ft	6:26 pm ▲ 3.4 ft
Sa	1:50 am ▼ 0.3 ft	8:30 am ▲ 3.0 ft	2:04 pm ▼ 1.7 ft	7:55 pm ▲ 3.0 ft
Su	2:46 am ▼ 0.7 ft	9:23 am ▲ 3.1 ft	3:41 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	9:47 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
Mo	3:43 am ▼ 1.2 ft	10:14 am ▲ 3.3 ft	5:06 pm ▼ 0.8 ft	11:28 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
Tu	4:41 am ▼ 1.5 ft	11:03 am ▲ 3.5 ft	6:13 pm ▼ 0.4 ft	
We	12:43 am ▲ 2.8 ft	5:35 am ▼ 1.7 ft	11:48 am ▲ 3.6 ft	7:08 pm ▼ 0.0 ft

City of St. Marks

Th	1:12 am ▼ -0.5 ft	7:24 am ▲ 2.8 ft	12:35 pm ▼ 1.6 ft	5:57 pm ▲ 3.6 ft
Fr	2:02 am ▼ -0.2 ft	8:14 am ▲ 2.8 ft	1:43 pm ▼ 1.6 ft	7:02 pm ▲ 3.2 ft
Sa	2:54 am ▼ 0.3 ft	9:06 am ▲ 2.8 ft	3:08 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	8:31 pm ▲ 2.8 ft
Su	3:50 am ▼ 0.7 ft	9:59 am ▲ 2.9 ft	4:45 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	10:23 pm ▲ 2.5 ft
Mo	4:47 am ▼ 1.0 ft	10:50 am ▲ 3.1 ft	6:10 pm ▼ 0.8 ft	
Tu	12:04 am ▲ 2.5 ft	5:45 am ▼ 1.3 ft	11:39 am ▲ 3.2 ft	7:17 pm ▼ 0.3 ft
We	1:19 am ▲ 2.6 ft	6:39 am ▼ 1.6 ft	12:24 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	8:12 pm ▼ 0.0 ft

Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	12:33 am ▼ -0.5 ft	7:18 am ▲ 3.2 ft	12:02 pm ▼ 2.0 ft	5:41 pm ▲ 3.8 ft
Fr	1:26 am ▼ -0.2 ft	8:12 am ▲ 3.2 ft	1:15 pm ▼ 1.9 ft	6:49 pm ▲ 3.4 ft
Sa	2:21 am ▼ 0.3 ft	9:07 am ▲ 3.2 ft	2:44 pm ▼ 1.7 ft	8:23 pm ▲ 3.0 ft
Su	3:19 am ▼ 0.7 ft	10:00 am ▲ 3.3 ft	4:16 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	10:18 pm ▲ 2.8 ft
Mo	4:17 am ▼ 1.1 ft	10:48 am ▲ 3.5 ft	5:34 pm ▼ 0.8 ft	11:53 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
Tu	5:14 am ▼ 1.5 ft	11:32 am ▲ 3.6 ft	6:35 pm ▼ 0.3 ft	
We	1:03 am ▲ 3.0 ft	6:05 am ▼ 1.7 ft	12:13 pm ▲ 3.8 ft	7:26 pm ▼ -0.1 ft

Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	12:19 am ▼ -0.4 ft	6:40 am ▲ 2.3 ft	11:42 am ▼ 1.3 ft	5:13 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
Fr	1:09 am ▼ -0.1 ft	7:30 am ▲ 2.3 ft	12:50 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	6:18 pm ▲ 2.6 ft
Sa	2:01 am ▼ 0.2 ft	8:22 am ▲ 2.3 ft	2:15 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	7:47 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
Su	2:57 am ▼ 0.5 ft	9:15 am ▲ 2.3 ft	3:52 pm ▼ 0.9 ft	9:39 pm ▲ 2.1 ft
Mo	3:54 am ▼ 0.8 ft	10:06 am ▲ 2.5 ft	5:17 pm ▼ 0.6 ft	11:20 pm ▲ 2.0 ft
Tu	4:52 am ▼ 1.1 ft	10:55 am ▲ 2.6 ft	6:24 pm ▼ 0.3 ft	
We	12:35 am ▲ 2.1 ft	5:46 am ▼ 1.2 ft	11:40 am ▲ 2.7 ft	7:19 pm ▼ 0.0 ft

St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	12:08 am ▼ -0.5 ft	7:28 am ▲ 2.5 ft	11:39 am ▼ 2.0 ft	5:18 pm ▲ 3.0 ft
Fr	1:04 am ▼ -0.2 ft	8:19 am ▲ 2.5 ft	1:12 pm ▼ 1.9 ft	6:34 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
Sa	2:03 am ▼ 0.2 ft	9:06 am ▲ 2.5 ft	2:58 pm ▼ 1.6 ft	8:12 pm ▲ 2.4 ft
Su	3:04 am ▼ 0.6 ft	9:48 am ▲ 2.6 ft	4:27 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	10:06 pm ▲ 2.2 ft
Mo	4:07 am ▼ 1.0 ft	10:27 am ▲ 2.7 ft	5:33 pm ▼ 0.6 ft	11:50 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
Tu	5:06 am ▼ 1.4 ft	11:02 am ▲ 2.9 ft	6:25 pm ▼ 0.1 ft	
We	1:10 am ▲ 2.4 ft	5:58 am ▼ 1.6 ft	11:36 am ▲ 3.0 ft	7:09 pm ▼ -0.2 ft

Dog Island West End

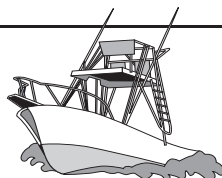
Th	12:30 am ▼ -0.4 ft	8:01 am ▲ 2.3 ft	12:35 pm ▼ 1.9 ft	5:37 pm ▲ 2.6 ft
Fr	1:19 am ▼ -0.1 ft	8:53 am ▲ 2.3 ft	1:57 pm ▼ 1.7 ft	6:43 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
Sa	2:10 am ▼ 0.4 ft	9:35 am ▲ 2.3 ft	3:37 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	8:18 pm ▲ 1.9 ft
Su	3:05 am ▼ 0.8 ft	10:05 am ▲ 2.4 ft	4:53 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	10:37 pm ▲ 1.8 ft
Mo	4:02 am ▼ 1.2 ft	10:31 am ▲ 2.4 ft	5:54 pm ▼ 0.6 ft	
Tu	12:26 am ▲ 1.9 ft	4:58 am ▼ 1.5 ft	10:57 am ▲ 2.6 ft	6:47 pm ▼ 0.2 ft
We	2:07 am ▲ 2.0 ft	5:59 am ▼ 1.8 ft	11:27 am ▲ 2.7 ft	7:31 pm ▼ -0.1 ft

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



Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports

By Carolyn Brown Treadon



The motto of the Coast Guard is Semper Paratus, always ready. We hope that you will be semper paratus should we see the effects of a storm in our area!

To help you navigate what preparedness means, think about what you would need to be safe if you did not have access to food, water or medicine for up to a week. Do you have enough water, non-perishable food (can opener too), medicines, pet supplies, cash, flashlights and batteries, hygiene items and toilet paper? If you or someone with you got hurt, do you have a first aid kit? Wipes for the bathroom and your hands will be needed so you do not waste water. If you have young children, be sure to have diapers, formula (if needed) and a special comfort toy/blanket. A dry change of clothing for each member of your family in a zip lock bag can be a welcome comfort if you are in flood prone areas.

While all of this may seem unnecessary, it is

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

better to be prepared and not need the supplies than be without after a disaster.

It is also important to know the difference between a watch and a warning. According to NOAA, in a Hurricane Watch, hurricane conditions are possible within the specified coastal area. Because hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the hurricane watch is issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds.

In a Hurricane Warning, hurricane conditions are expected in

the specified area of the warning. Because hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the hurricane warning is issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds.

For Tropical Storm Watches and Warnings, take these alerts seriously. Although Tropical Storms have lower wind speeds than hurricanes, they often bring life-threatening flooding and dangerous winds. Take precautions!

To assess your risk, visit NOAA at noaa.gov/hurricane-prep

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

Please contact us for more information about our safe boating classes or learning more about getting involved in the Auxiliary, check out our website at www.uscgaux.net follow us on Facebook @ Apalachee Bay Flotilla 12 or contact our Flotilla Commander Phil Hill at pnkhil2000@yahoo.com

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

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

Underwater Wakulla

By Rusty Miller

Hello, Wakulla.

I hope everyone had a good Memorial Day weekend. I had another open water class that weekend. The first couple of dives were in the jetties in St. Andrew Park in Panama City Beach. I like to get all the skills done there so the students will be ready when we go to the big water offshore a few miles. I would advise anyone that wants to spend the day at the jetties to get to the park at 8 a.m. central so you can get a good parking spot. When I got there at 7:30 a.m. the line was already backed up to the road before the gate.

The class went good with the normal weighting issues going from a fresh water pool to saltwater. Once we got the buoyancy right we were ready for the class to demonstrate their skills under water. We made a couple of dives to get them done, afterwards we rinsed the gear in fresh water and loaded the vehicles.

We decided to go to my favorite restaurant "Dat Cajun Place" (shameless plug) on Thomas Drive. They have a bread pudding to die for.

The next day, Memorial Day, we met at the boat at 8 a.m. We got the gear and tanks on board then the Captain gave his welcome and safety briefing. Then we got underway while the divemaster gave his briefing. It was about a 45 minute ride to the first dive site, the Red Sea.

Once the divemaster went down to tie up the anchor rope he came back on the boat to give us the conditions around the wreck. The visibility was 70-80 feet but there was a 3-5 knot current going bow to stern, there was a slight surface current of 2-3 knots and 1-2 foot swells. We jumped in the water and began the descent to the wreck. Pulling down to the anchor rope on the swim line you could see the wreck from a couple feet under water.

The dive went well and it was time to get back on the boat for our 1-hour surface interval. After discussing with the captain, we decided to move to one of the bridge spans in the area. After the surface interval we geared up and jumped in the water to make our way down to the span. The visibility was about 10 feet less but still had the same current.

My new divers swam around the span while I descended to the bottom of 70 feet. I saw a couple of starfish and lots of bait fish swimming around me.

At one point all the fish disappeared kind of like in finding Nemo, when I looked up and there was a 5-6 foot sandbar shark that was stopped nose-to-nose in front of me. We were both hovering about 6 feet off the bottom. It was only a couple minutes but it was fascinating to see it so close.

It was time for me to surface so I tapped it on the nose lightly with my knuckle and it left very quickly so that was my Shark Week moment.

Keep making bubbles.

Russell Miller NAUI #59999

FWC Law Enforcement Report

From FWC

This report represents some events the FWC handled over May 19-25 in the Northwest region. (There were no cases reported for Wakulla County.)

OFFSHORE PATROL

While conducting offshore patrol south of Franklin County, Officers Stallings, Hartzog and Nelson conducted a resource inspection of a recreational fishing vessel. During the inspection the occupants of the vessel told the

officers they had not caught any fish. The officers discovered two large red snapper on board the vessel. Appropriate action was taken regarding the violations.

While conducting offshore patrol south of Franklin County, Officers Hartzog and Nelson observed a vessel displaying a dive flag. The vessel occupants told the officers they speared several black grouper. The officers conducted a resource inspection and discovered the subjects had not speared any

black grouper but had speared three gag grouper. Currently gag grouper is closed in state and federal waters. Two of the three gag grouper were also undersized. The officers took appropriate action to address the violations.

GULF COUNTY

While conducting a resource inspection, Officer Gerber discovered whole stone crabs and claws in the subject's vehicle. They were in possession of eight whole stone crabs and 20 claws in total. Thir-

teen of the claws were undersized and the season was closed. The subject was cited for the violations.

Senior Officer M. Webb was conducting boating safety and resource inspections on vessels returning from fishing at a local ramp. A vessel with no registration displayed returned with two people on board. An inspection revealed the captain was in possession of a greater amberjack during closed season. A citation was issued to the captain of the vessel.

FOLLOW THE SUN.
Your local source for news.

An often-overlooked consequence of unforgiveness

By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

In the Bible, God tells us to forgive people who irritate us. In a former neighborhood, I lived near someone who had the reputation of belittling others. Although I

tried to be a good neighbor and spend time with her, she seemed determined to live in her pain.

One sleepless night, I wrestled with the memory of an event that happened a number of years ago. I tossed and turned for hours thinking of it. Like a rerun of a bad movie, her critical words and selfish behavior echoed in my head.

Tears rolled down my cheeks. The familiar (and hated) flush of anger filled my soul. I knew I had to make a choice: obey God and forgive my neighbor, or obey Satan and give in to the destructive

rage. I struggled between rehashing the hurtful encounters and recalling Bible verses about forgiveness. Thankfully, after an hour or so, God won.

I stayed awake a little longer, joyously thanking God for loving me enough to give me the grace (and the will) to obey His Word, and then slept like a person in a My Pillow commercial.

However, even in my relief, I knew it wouldn't be long before I'd be fighting the same battle again, if not with her, then with someone else. Will I have the desire and strength to

overcome the next time? Or will I allow my emotions and will to dictate otherwise?

When we're tempted by corrupt emotions, we often forget about one of the worst consequences of giving into unforgiveness (or any sin, for that matter) – shame.

Even emotional sins like unforgiveness and bitterness destroy parts of our character. When we don't forgive, we behave and speak in ways we're not proud of. The shame that pours over us erodes away who we are and who we want to become. (I often wonder

if perhaps this is why the neighbor I spoke about behaved the way she did. This thought makes me sad.)

How often have you embarrassed yourself – not to mention blown your witness (your reputation as a Christ-follower) with your unloving behavior?

Perhaps praying Psalm 25:2 (ESV) every morning (and as often as necessary) will help: "O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me."

Is your sin of unforgiveness worth the shame

it brings?

We glorify God when we allow His Spirit to help us walk obediently before Him. In contrast, the devil loves to hold our sins over us and celebrate our path to destruction. He tries to convince us that we can't triumph over unforgiveness. But Satan is a liar. God's power eclipses Satan's. Every. Single. Time.

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

The special guest

By **CHERYL CRUCE**

For the most part, we all have one special guest we want to please, so we work to make everything perfect. It is not the guest who desires perfection, although the hostess insists that every nook be immaculate. For my family, it was my Aunt Ann and Uncle Jack. Their visit always involved a deep cleaning ritual as Mom prepared the house for their stay.

The extra chores included young and old alike. The knick-knacks (too many to count) were taken from their shelves to be hand washed in hot soapy water, then dried and replaced in their freshly dusted resting place. Furniture would be cleansed with Murphy's Oil Soap while the cushions aired in the sunshine.

The kitchen and dining rooms were the last areas to be scrubbed. The pantry would be organized, along with the pots and pans. Eventually, the Currier and Ives dishes were placed in the sink and thoroughly cleaned for our evening meals. These dishes were reserved for special occasions, such as the arrival of Aunt

Ann and Uncle Jack. Everything looked fresh and clean when all was complete, including the family pets.

I remember the excitement of seeing our aunt and uncle arrive for the week, although their visit meant extra work. Upon reflection, I now understand the reason behind the preparation. During those short visits, Mom had time to relax and enjoy her sister. Dad and Uncle Jack had time to fish and appreciate each other's company.

It has been said that life is a great teacher. Cleaning houses and special guests are as old as the scriptures themselves. In the gospel, we read of two sisters who were good friends with

the Lord. One day as Jesus stopped in for an unexpected visit. Martha immediately began to busy herself with the housework and preparing a meal. In contrast, Mary decided to sit down and spend precious time with Jesus. As Martha hastily worked, she confronted the decision of Mary. Jesus responded by saying that Mary had chosen the better. Mary was not distracted by the work but valued the time with her Lord (Luke 10:38-42).

It is so easy for us to get caught up with the things of this world and lose the "better of the moment." The Psalmist wrote, "As the deer pants for streams of water, my soul longs for you." (Psalm 42:1-2). Nothing

can quench the thirst of one's soul like the presence of God. Mary understood the need to be with Jesus; He would not take that time away from her. Jesus was Mary's special guest.

Jesus is the special guest too. If we hear His voice and open the door, He will come inside and fellowship with us (Revelation 3:20). Jesus is no more concerned with the dust on the table than my aunt was concerned with the dust on Mom's table. My aunt wanted precious time with her sister. Jesus yearns for precious time with us. He has begun a work within us that He desires to complete (Philippians 1:6).

Today, let the dust go; find "the better" in the

presence of our Lord, allow Him to comfort you, and bring you into His salvation. Isn't it time we open the door for our Lord? Our relationship with Jesus is not about being perfect but being perfected in His presence.

"Your cry came to me at a favorable time when the doors of welcome were wide open. I helped you on a day when salvation was being offered." God is ready to welcome you. Today he is ready to save you 2 Corinthians 6:2 ESV.

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

OUT TO PASTOR

I feel sorry for my good-looking friends

By **JAMES SNYDER**

The one place in our humble residence I would prefer to avoid, especially in the morning, is my bathroom. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has her bathroom, and I have mine.

I make visiting my bathroom in the morning as quick as possible. As I walk into my bathroom, on the right side is that awful and terrible thing called the mirror. Whenever I look into it, some old man looks back at me and then smiles.

I have asked The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage if I could put a curtain in front of my mirror so that I would only see it when I had to.

She would laugh and say, "Oh, you silly boy, you need that mirror to help you look the best you can."

Her mirror is a lot different from my mirror. My mirror shows some grumpy old guy, whereas her mirror shows a charming young lady.

I have offered to exchange mirrors, but she would not have anything to do with that.

I'm not very concerned about how ugly I look. After all, ugly isn't really that big of a deal.

In the pharmacy section of Publix the other day, one of the workers came and asked me if I wanted some skincare products that were on sale. "It'll sure make your face look a lot better."

I declined her offer and left the store.

As I was thinking about this, it reminded me of some of my good friends who are rather good-looking despite their age. They spend much time and money keeping themselves looking young and beautiful.

I would rather use my money to buy Apple Fritters than any skincare products.

I have one friend, a very wonderful lady, whom I've known most of my life. One thing about this young lady is that she wants people to think she's young and works tirelessly to keep looking young.

Her biggest concern is wrinkles, and she seems allergic to them.

I love my wrinkles because they are a product of getting older. And I plan to get as old as I can.

But this young lady,

I will not mention her name for obvious reasons, seems quite allergic to wrinkles. She has had several facelifts to make sure all of the wrinkles disappear. Whenever she sees a wrinkle, she has to stop whatever she's doing and take care of it, no matter the cost.

I don't see her often anymore, but whenever I do, I usually say something like, "Is that a new wrinkle on your face? I think it's a wonderful wrinkle."

She will laugh and then disappear into the bathroom in a few moments to check out that wrinkle. Sometime that week, she will be at her doctor getting rid of that wrinkle.

If I had all the money she has spent caring for her wrinkles, I would be wealthy and could afford all the Apple Fritters I want.

That is why I'm very concerned about some of my good-looking

friends. I don't know, and I have yet to ask any of them how much it costs to look as young and good-looking as they appear. It does not come without cost, I assure you.

I have not spent a single nickel dealing with my wrinkles, and have the wrinkles to prove it.

If I had the time and money my friends used to eliminate the wrinkles, I could retire in luxury.

Many try to show how young they look whenever we have a family get-together. They walk around smiling, hoping somebody will notice how young they look.

For some of them, when we plan to get together, it takes several weeks to prepare for that get-together. I can get together overnight and have no problems with that.

I try to contain myself, but it is tough when you have all my

wrinkles. Whenever I meet one of those people, and I know who they are, I always compliment them on their good looks. They always smile back and thank me.

Then, out of nowhere, I sometimes say, "You don't have as many wrinkles today as you did the last time I saw you." I laugh, but they usually don't join in.

I don't know any of them that like me saying that sort of thing, but that's the cost of trying to look young when you're old.

It must be a very hard job to stay young anymore. On the other side of the mirror, I have an easy life of looking as old as possible. Every wrinkle on my face is an opportunity to celebrate that I'm still getting older.

In the Old Testament, Job had an issue with

wrinkles. "And thou hast filled me with wrinkles, which is a witness against me: and my leanness rising up in me beareth witness to my face" (Job 16:8).

I can relate to Job, but then I remembered what the Apostle Paul said in Ephesians 5:27,

"That he (Christ) might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."

My life, even my wrinkles, is in the capable hands of God.

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


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Obituaries

DEATH NOTICES

• James Blanton “Jim” Snyder, 65, of Crawfordville, died on June 1, 2023.

Family Funeral Home at Harvey-Young Chapel 850-926-5919, www.familyfhc.com

BEREAVEMENT COLUMN

A respite from grief



By TRACY RENEE LEE

Last week, my brother suffered a few days of intense grief. He recently lost his wife to cancer and the sadness seemed to be overtaking him.

SADNESS

Sadness is the most common feeling experienced during bereavement.

Persons who block sadness with excessive activity find that their sadness surfaces once they are exhausted.

Exhaustion renders one less able to over-

come the intensity of sadness.

Since my sister-in-law's death, my brother has immersed himself in work. He has embarked on a new business venture and is making and uploading easy guitar lessons on YouTube. His new channel is EZ3Chord-Country.

My brother has always been musically talented. Even as a child, he would tap everything in sight as though it were a set of drums. He plays guitar, banjo, mandolin, bagpipes, accordion, piano, etc. I don't know if he plays wind instruments, but he plays percussion too. His talent stems from our Cajun heritage. Each of our grandfathers, uncles, and cousins in South Louisiana plays multiple instruments.

NATURAL PAIN

Grief is the natural pain associated with loss.

The adage, “No pain, no gain” applies well to grief.

The pain sustained upon the loss of a beloved person motivates us into action; action to overcome our fears, devastations, changes to our reality, sadness, loneliness, etc.

Even when grief becomes prolonged and intense, it remains a natural response to loss.

Although 10% to 15% of the world's population suffer problematic loss adaptation and experience elusive recovery, research proves that treatment for mental health is far less effective for grief recovery than grief therapy.

It is wonderful when

your hobbies or talents become your work. At that point where they cross over, one is free to invest their time and efforts into constructive healing.

HOBBIES

Hobbies occupy the mind and hands.

They engage our brains and keep them in good health.

Hobbies create a sense of accomplishment.

They propel us toward a healthier and happier grief recovery.

I guarantee you that my brother never thought that his talent and pleasure in music would be his go-to medicine for grief recovery. It is though, and for that I am grateful. Music takes my brother to another place where he can experience joy. It helps him restructure

his life without the intense misery of searching for relief.

Of course, grief is still a painful experience for him, but his music gives him respite. On intense grief days, respite is a glorious gift.

His wife was also musical. Her degree was in Performing Arts with an emphasis on music; specifically piano. She was a great vocalist and pianist. There is music that my brother necessarily avoids because it was the music that his wife played.

I am grateful that my brother has such an immense talent that offers him respite from intense grief days, and that will also assist in his recovery. I hope that if you have recently lost a close loved one, you will be able to identify a hobby or interest that will help you lighten the

burden of grief and facilitate your recovery as well. Such gifts of relief are a God send..

My name is Tracy Renee Lee. I am a Certified Grief Counselor (GC-C), Funeral Director (FDIC), published author, syndicated columnist, Podcaster, and founder of the “Mikey Joe Children’s Memorial” and Heaven Sent, Corp. I write books, weekly bereavement articles, Podcasts, and Grief BRIEFS related to understanding and coping with grief. I am the American Funeral Director of the Year Runner-Up and recipient of the BBB’s Integrity Award.

For additional encouragement, please visit my podcast “Deadline” on Spotify and follow me on Instagram at “Deadline_TracyLee.”

Weekly Roundup: Getting inked

By RYAN DAILEY
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — Measures signed this week by Gov. Ron DeSantis will shutter Florida's business-recruitment agency, allow cameras that could nab drivers illegally passing school buses and boost state oversight of the insurance industry.

The newly signed laws came out of the 2023 legislative session and are set to take effect in July. DeSantis OK'd the bills as he traveled the country in his bid for president.

Supporters of the insurance bill (SB 7052), including House Speaker Paul Renner, R-Palm Coast, said it will increase “accountability” in the industry.

“It not only empowers homeowners but also cultivates market-driven competition, ultimately leading to lower costs. By establishing clear standards, fostering consumer trust and promoting fair practices, we can pave the way for a resilient and affordable insurance landscape that benefits homeowners and their communities,” Renner said in a statement after DeSantis signed the bill Wednesday.

The bill will ramp up regulations, including increasing fines that

regulators can slap on insurers, requiring property insurers to use claims-handling manuals and requiring that rate filings reflect changes in laws aimed at helping insurers.

The bill came amid widespread problems in the property-insurance market, and after lawmakers in recent months passed measures to help shield insurers from lawsuits.

DeSantis on Wednesday also signed a bill (HB 5) that will lead to the business-recruitment agency Enterprise Florida going the way of the dinosaur, while shifting contracts and more than 20 programs to the Department of Economic Opportunity. The Department of Economic Opportunity also will get a rebrand as the Department of Commerce.

A news release from DeSantis' office described the changes as an effort “to streamline and modernize Florida's economic development agencies.”

The governor also announced that J. Alex Kelly, who has served as a deputy chief of staff to DeSantis, will lead the revamped Department of Commerce.

The commerce department will pick up 20 positions and \$10 million a year as part of

the shift.

Another measure (SB 766) that got ink from the governor's pen Wednesday will allow school districts to use cameras designed to capture images of drivers who illegally pass school buses, potentially leading to \$225 fines.

The bill will allow districts to contract with companies to install cameras on school buses. Each camera will have to be capable of producing a recorded video and two or more still images documenting infractions. The law also will prevent the contractors from getting paid based on the numbers of violations detected.

Districts will have to give notice to motorists of plans to install cameras, including by conducting 30-day public-awareness campaigns. And if that doesn't get the word out, drivers likely will spot “high-visibility reflective signage” on buses with cameras.

The signs, in part, will have to say, “CAMERA ENFORCED.”

FAMU FIGHT

A potential class-action lawsuit alleging state discrimination against Florida A&M University appears poised to move forward.

But U.S. District Judge Robert Hinkle told plaintiffs' attorneys during a roughly hour-long hearing Thursday

that they need to revise the case and provide more specific examples.

The lawsuit, filed in September on behalf of six FAMU students, contends the school — the only historically Black public university in the state — has faced discrimination in funding and programs.

Plaintiffs' attorneys argue, in part, that decisions by the state violated the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution and a federal anti-discrimination law known as Title VI. One key issue in the case is whether state decisions are “traceable” to de jure segregation — segregation sanctioned by law.

During Thursday's hearing, Hinkle asked numerous questions and told plaintiffs' attorneys they need to rework the lawsuit.

“You need to take your best shot at alleging how something on the ground today is traceable to de jure segregation,” Hinkle told plaintiffs' attorney Josh Dubin.

Hinkle also asked numerous questions about arguments raised by the state's lawyers, who had filed a motion to dismiss the case. He questioned a contention that plaintiffs lacked “standing” to sue DeSantis, the state university system's Board of Governors, the State Board of Education, state university system Chancellor Ray Ro-

drigues and state Education Commissioner Manny Diaz Jr.

As an example of the state's arguments, Anita Patel, a senior assistant attorney general, said the Legislature, not the governor and other defendants, controlled funding decisions that affect the university. The Legislature is not a defendant in the case.

Hinkle indicated he might find a lack of standing to sue some defendants, such as DeSantis, but took issue with the overall argument.

“If your argument is, ‘We can run a segregated system and there's nothing you can do about it,’ that won't wash,” he said.

While Hinkle did not immediately issue a formal ruling on the motion to dismiss the case, he gave plaintiffs' attorneys 30 days to file a revised lawsuit.

COME ON DOWN

Visit Florida staff members have crafted a tourism-marketing plan intended to combat increased competition from states that in the past few years imposed tougher Covid-19 restrictions.

The plan comes as restrictions have been lifted nationally and eased internationally and as tourism-marketing dollars are up \$30 million in Florida's proposed budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

The Visit Florida Marketing Council rolled out plans Tuesday that, in part, would move up the start of winter and “families” advertising campaigns by a couple of months.

“We have moved these up to launch in October and March respectively, which we feel will position us to enter the travel discussion earlier in the decision process and maximize our traveler visitation,” Brett Laiken, Visit Florida's vice president of marketing, said during a conference call.

The marketing efforts will continue to highlight beaches and theme parks, but also regional and outdoor activities.

STORY OF THE WEEK:

Gov. Ron DeSantis this week signed a number of bills, including measures to boost state oversight of the insurance industry and allow “infraction detection” systems on school buses.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

“This could have been a really fantastic opportunity for the trustees, for our interim president, to build relationships with the students. And that just did not happen.” — Grace Keenan, the New College of Florida Board of Trustees student member, on the process of selecting the school's new mascot, the Mighty Banyans.

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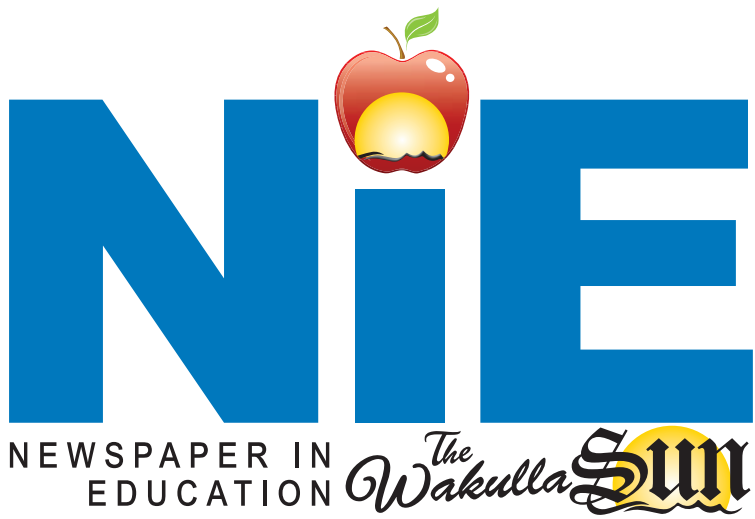
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USE THE NEWS

1. Review Rebuttal

Two weeks ago, “The Little Mermaid” became the latest Disney live-action remake to hit theaters. Since then, it’s made more money than the original 1989 film’s box office totals and star Halle Bailey has received worldwide praise for her portrayal of Ariel. Still, the movie, which faced controversy since the casting was first announced, is still struggling against critics—some of whom may not have even seen the movie! It’s been the target of “rating bombing,” a tactic where people who haven’t seen the movie post negative reviews to try to keep others from seeing it. The popular television show and movie website IMDB added a disclaimer on “The Little Mermaid” page, saying there was unusual activity in the film’s reviews, and it had used a special weighted calculation to provide more accurate ratings—leading to the current score of a 7 out of 10. Try your hand at writing a movie review! Think of the last movie you watched whether it was in theaters or at home. Write a brief summary of the plot, then note what you liked and didn’t like about it. Think about the actors or voices, the scenery, whether you liked the way the story unfolded, and what you might have done differently if you were the one making it. Don’t forget to give it a score out of 10, with 10 being the best.

2. Surprising Find

Magellan, a deep-water investigation company, recently completed a digital scan of the shipwreck of the Titanic, which sunk in 1912, and found something surprising. Among the wreckage, which is spread across three square miles of the ocean floor, was a gold necklace with a prehistoric shark tooth on it. The tooth was from a megalodon, a type of shark that lived 23 million years ago and was closely related to today’s great white sharks. Scientists estimate megalodon were about 47 to 67 feet (or about two school buses) in length with strong jaws that were almost 6 feet wide. In fact, the name megalodon means “big tooth.” However, it’s hard to know exactly how big megalodons were because there’s very little left of them: Like sharks, megalodons’ skeletons are mostly made of cartilage—like our noses—instead of bone, so their remains didn’t become fossils like those of dinosaurs and other prehistoric species. Pretend you

are a museum curator who has received the megalodon tooth necklace from the Titanic for display. Using the facts found here, write a description about its history so museum visitors know what it is and why it’s special.

3. Buckle Up

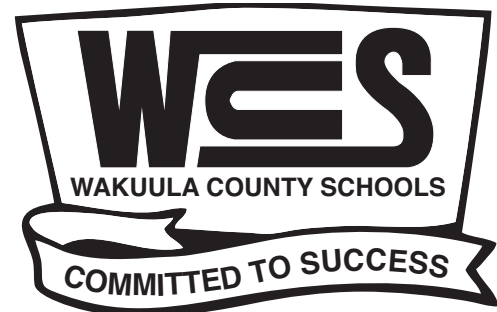
Ford is recalling 176,000 of its Bronco SUVs made from 2021 to 2023 after a study found that drivers in the front seats can have difficulty reaching the metal portion of the belt to put it on. The National Highway

Traffic and Safety Administration estimates that almost 15,000 lives were saved by seatbelts in the year 2017 alone, and properly wearing one is the most important way to keep yourself safe in a car. While 49 of 50 states have laws about wearing seatbelts, sometimes people still need a reminder. Design a campaign to help remind adults to buckle up or to help kids learn the importance of seatbelt safety for the first time.

4. Summit Rescue

A sherpa guide from Nepal saved a Malaysian climber’s life on Mount Everest, carrying and dragging him more than 1,900 feet down the mountain over six hours to an area where a helicopter could reach them to take the climber to base camp. Mount Everest is the tallest mountain in the world above sea level and is part of the Himalayas mountain range between China and Nepal. Sherpas are an ethnic group native to the Himalayas who help guide and support climbers on their journeys. The area close to the mountain’s summit where the sherpa and his client found

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the climber is known for its extremely cold temperatures, where it can get to -22 degrees Fahrenheit or lower, and there is very little oxygen to breathe. Write down some questions you would ask if you had the chance to interview the sherpa who rescued the climber for a news story. Think about what you would like to know and what questions readers might have for him, too.

5. Downhill Dash

One of the strangest sports in the United Kingdom is the annual cheese wheel race, where racers chase a 7-pound wheel of

cheese down a steep hill. The winner gets to keep the cheese! Most racers usually end up sliding or rolling down the 200-yard slope, and this year’s 19-year-old winner of the women’s race was knocked out briefly on her way to the finish line. The cheese-rolling race was first written about in the early 1800s, but the sport is believed to be even hundreds of years older than that. Design your own sport that uses everyday objects; think about the rules, scoring, how many people can play, and don’t forget to give it a name!



TRUE OR FALSE?
YOU SHOULD FEED AND APPROACH
ANIMALS YOU ENCOUNTER
IN THE WILD.

ANSWER: FALSE; KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

*How they
SAY that in...*

ENGLISH: Forest

SPANISH: Bosque

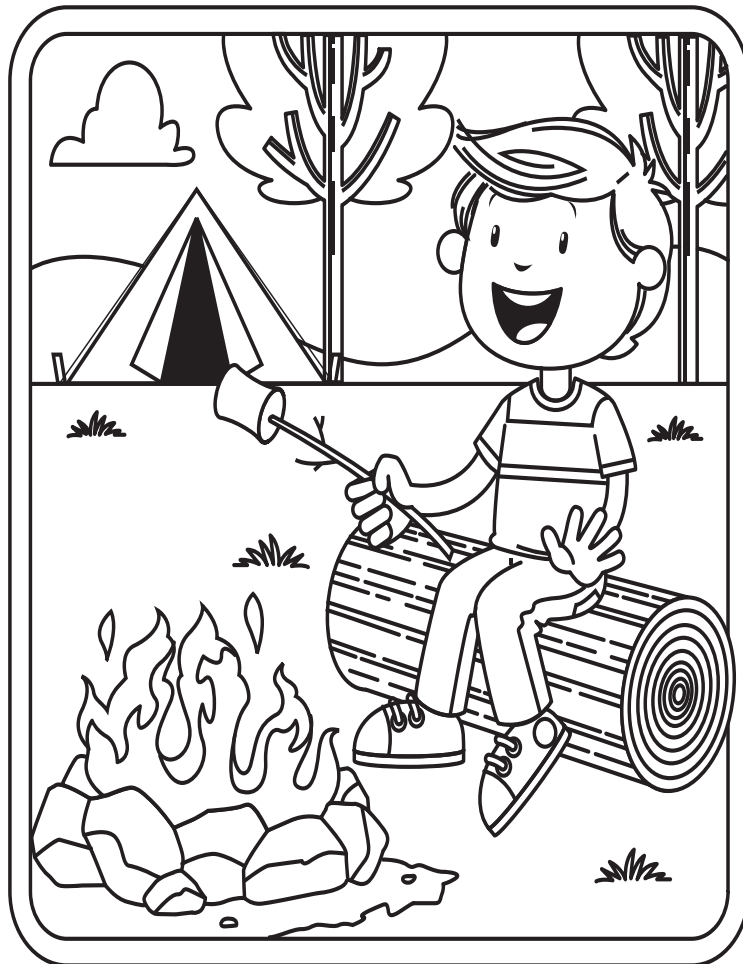
ITALIAN: Foresta

FRENCH: Forêt

GERMAN: Wald

Creative Coloring

Celebrate the great outdoors.
Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- **1901:** THE BOUNDARIES OF NEW ZEALAND ARE EXTENDED TO INCLUDE THE COOK ISLANDS.
- **1935:** EDWIN ARMSTRONG GIVES THE FIRST DEMONSTRATION OF FM BROADCASTING.
- **1963:** PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY ADDRESSES THE U.S. ABOUT THE PROPOSED CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964.



NATURE

the physical world



LOOK OUT FOR POSTINGS ABOUT FIRE RISK AND READ ANY RESTRICTIONS BEFORE LIGHTING A CAMPFIRE.



GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: FISHING REEL

KITTY CAT WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- CAT
- CUDDLE
- FELINE
- FUR
- HIDDEN
- HUNT
- INDEPENDENT
- LITTER
- LIVES
- LOUNGE
- MEOW
- MICE
- NIGHT
- NINE
- POST
- POUNCE
- PURR
- SCRATCH
- SLEEPING
- STEALTHY
- WHISKERS
- YARN

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

CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. Flat tableland with steep edges
5. Where there's ___, there's fire
10. Talked incessantly
12. Skill
14. Without shame
16. Where teens spend their days (abbr.)
18. Boxing's GOAT
19. Used to anoint
20. Cluster cups
22. Footballer Newton
23. They make up a forest
25. Split pulses
26. Self
27. Post-office box
28. Test for high schoolers
30. Large, flightless bird
31. Expectorated
33. Falsehood
35. Prickly, scrambling shrub
37. French river
38. Told on
40. Hillside
41. Peyton's little brother
42. Soviet Socialist Republic
44. Cathedral city in Cambridgeshire
45. Witness

CLUES DOWN

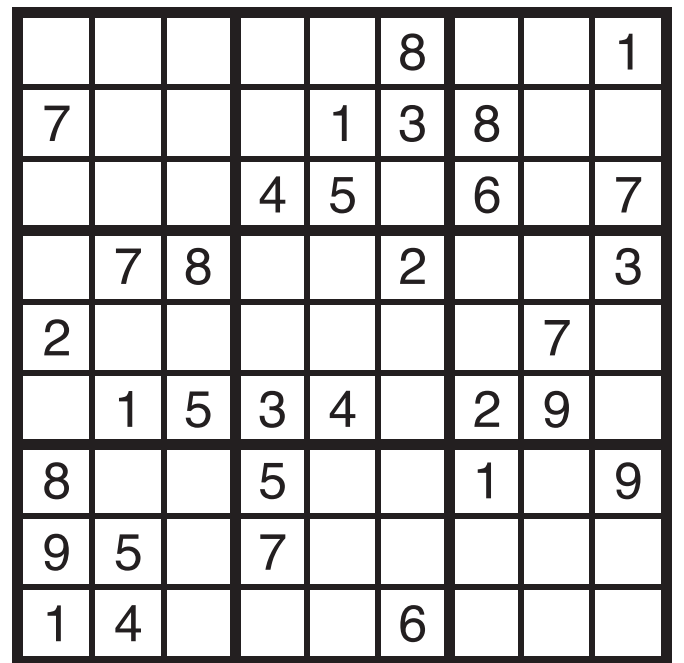
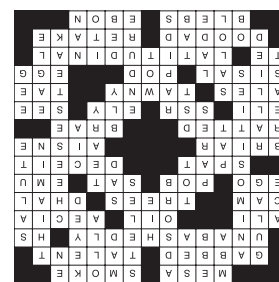
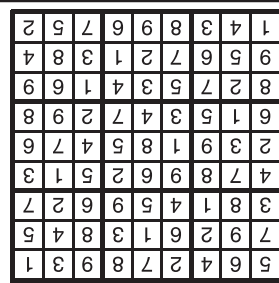
48. Brews
50. Yellowish-brown
52. Arctic explorers, abbr.
53. Mexican agave
55. A type of "cast"
56. Encourage
57. Atomic #52
58. Relating to position north of south of equator
63. Gadget whose name you forget
65. Another recording
66. Small blisters
67. Dark brown or black
1. Licensed for Wall Street
2. "___ and flow"
3. A very large body of water
4. Accumulate on the surface of
5. Central cores of the stem
6. Angry
7. Ceramic jar
8. Scraped a car
9. ___ route
10. Soviet labor camp system
11. Strong hostilities
13. Vitamin of the B complex
15. Go quickly
17. Toast
18. A team's best pitcher
21. A Philly culinary specialty
23. Small child
24. Unhappy
27. Trims away
29. Characterized by crying eyes
32. Soft touch
34. American spy organization
35. A person's chest
36. Came from behind to win
39. Fall back
40. Nellie ___, journalist
43. Great places to kayak
44. Suffer patiently
46. Majestic bird
47. Electroencephalograph
49. Organic compound used as an antiseptic
51. Objects connected to the web (abbr.)
54. Ship as cargo
59. The bill in a restaurant
60. Upper-class young woman (abbr.)
61. Judge in OJ Simpson trial
62. One's grandmother
64. Siberian river

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to salad.

Y C E R L E

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

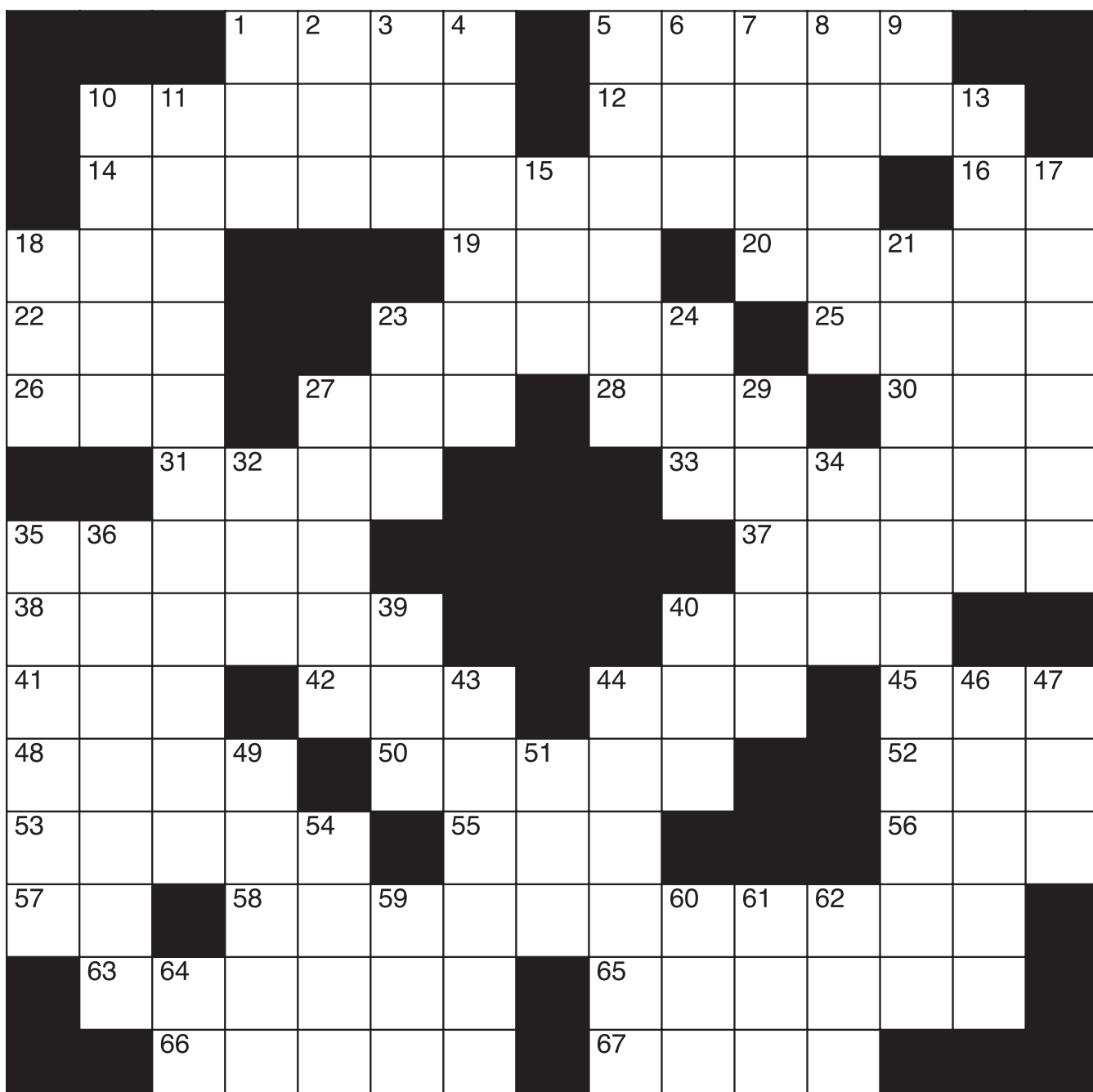


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Guess Who?

I am an actor born in California on June 6, 1947. I started acting as a child in a local children's theater. I am best known for my work as a nightmare-inducing character who slashed his way through several horror films.

Answer: Celery Answer: Robert Englund



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 Published on June 8, 2023

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Battleball 7: 'Hitting for Harris'

One-pitch tournament draws hundreds at Medart Rec Park

Story & Photos By
LINDA ANN McDONALD
Correspondent

Friday, June 2nd, Battle 14 organized its latest and largest Battleball tournament at the Medart Rec Park.

The 10-bracket competition was won by Adult division champions Reed Gamers and Jr. Champions Coastal 28. The game was organized to benefit Jason 'JT' Harris who is diagnosed with cancer. Harris is a member of Grace Baptist Church, Crawfordville.

Battle 14 is a nonprofit organization founded by Donny Bennett. BattleBall 7 was the biggest field ever with 10 adult teams and four Junior teams.

Battle 14 stands for testimonies of people that keep battling even in moments that you feel you can't keep going.

Allie Harris, JT's niece, a participant in the event said, "This is a great way for the community to come together to support a local family during a difficult time. This Christian based event is awesome and God will bless this event and help all who need prayer and support and comfort."

"This event will help the Harris family, a family who is always out in the community helping others," said MJ Stoffel, an event participant. "This is a way the community and my family can show their appreciation for the Harris family. This is also a great way for those who do not know the family, who want to come out and have fun to help a family in need."

JT Harris said, "I feel the power of God working through this (event). We are so grateful for the community coming together, I didn't know that many people cared. When I heard Donnie's speech, it was so positive



Winning adult team, above, and junior team, below.



and awesome, I can't get over all the pictures and messages shared with me. This event shows all the good things God can do."

JT's wife Crystal said, "I am blown away by this entire thing. When I was young, I was in and out of church, now I have a community that feels like a large family, people I don't even know. I do not have the words to express it all, but all I can say is that it is truly God working."

"I can promise," she added, "if you have any

doubts about a situation, God will show you and comfort you through faith that God's got this. God is not on my shoulder; He is slapping me in the face with all that He can do with His power."

Donnie Bennett said, "This event shows how a competition can bring a community together to help those in need. Every bit of the event was volunteer work – every umpire, every athlete, DJ Butch, we share and magnify the positive things."

"Battle 14 is still

growing and still gaining traction and my goal is to make this a full-time ministry. This ministry is not about Donnie, it is blessing families through other families coming together."

One -Pitch Tournament Rules:

1. Games will be 40 minutes or 7 innings.
2. Up to 11 player line up, 9 on field
 - Bring the players you want female or male
 - Every female that crosses the plate is 2 runs
 - 2 HRs then an out

- Females have unlimited HRs
- Run rule is 20 after 3, 15 after 4, and 10 after 5
- 3. Courtesy runners. Only a female can pitch run for another female to receive double run.
- 4. You get one pitch, NO EXTRA FOUL
 - 3ft-10ft arch
 - Ball must hit mat behind plate to be a strike
 - Pitcher must be in circle
- 5. Ground rule double if the ball bounces over outfield fence

6. BattleCoins
 - If your team turns a double play, they collect a BattleCoin
 - You can only win or use one BattleCoin per inning.
 - A BattleCoin can be used as an out or as an extra swing for any batter.
 - If you use the BattleCoin for an out, it would be either the next batter up that inning or the batter starting the next inning that hits next.
 - You can bet your BattleCoin for a homerun. You give the umpire your BattleCoin, you get one pitch. Its either a homerun or an out, nothing else counts.
 - You cannot use your BattleCoin to cancel another team's coin after the 5th inning.
 - BattleCoins will run over.

BattleBall Junior Rules ages 8-14

- There are only a few differences between the rules for the adults and juniors
- Females are not 2 runs.
 - Head coach will be all time pitcher for the team and doesn't hit or field.
 - Every player under 11 years old on a team gets 1 run up to 5 runs to start the game.

The Battle Partners of God for this event included whole smoked Boston Butts and sandwich plates provided by JB's Sopchoppy Sauce, DJ Butch, Wakulla Youth Baseball, Ashton Trucking, Dominos of Crawfordville, Howdy's Rent A Toilet, American Threads USA, and individual monthly donors and many volunteers.

BattleBall 8 is coming soon. Donnie Bennett can be reached at Battle.14@gmail.com or (850) 528-5019.



The crowd at the Battleball tournament at the Medart Rec Park.



Allie Harris, JT Harris' daughter, Vanessa Harris, his niece, with Ramsey Swanson, his great niece, all holding up a picture of JT.



DJ Butch performing Christian music.



The Tartts - Jimbo, dad Leonard, son Trapper - and Tracy Alvarez making pulled pork sandwiches.



Donnie Bennett with 10-team brackets for the Battleball tournament.



Alvin Young of Grace Baptist Church.



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