



# Franks brothers to be honored

July 14 will be Jordan and Felipe Franks Day in Wakulla to honor the brothers, who both played in the NFL

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN  
Editor

The Franks brothers, Jordan and Felipe, are being honored with July 14 being declared as Jordan and Felipe Franks Day in Wakulla County.

County Commissioner Mike Kemp proposed the resolution at the county commission meeting on June 19, praising the brothers for pursuing their football dreams.

July 14 is the date the brothers are hosting a free football camp at Wakulla High School from 9 a.m. to noon. Lunch will be provided to participants. (To register go to Eventbrite Franks

camp.)

Both were stars playing for the Wakulla War Eagles – Jordan, who is 2 years older, was a receiver; Felipe was quarterback.

Jordan received an offer from the University of Central Florida and his senior year was the season UCF went undefeated and were declared, at least by the Florida Legislature, as national champs – though Alabama held the official title. He made the Cincinnati Bengals practice squad and, after some team injuries, got playing time in several games. After two years with the Bengals, he was briefly



with the Philadelphia Eagles, then the Cleveland Browns, and last year played for the Kansas City Chiefs – and got a Super Bowl ring to show for it. He has now retired from the NFL and is a financial advisor in Kentucky.

Felipe was a five-star recruit in high school and accepted a scholarship to the University of Florida. (He was also drafted by baseball's Boston Red Sox, but didn't pursue it.) He was redshirted his freshman year, and played three seasons with the Gators and trans-

ferred to Arkansas as a fifth year senior. As a professional, this will be Felipe's third season with the Atlanta Falcons. Last year, Felipe added a twist, playing tight end.

One notable bit of trivia: the brothers were on teams that won the Peach Bowl in 2018, Jordan with UCF against Auburn in January; and in December, Felipe was named offensive MVP as the Gators demolished Michigan, 41-15.

Ginger Franks, their mom, said she's proud of her sons.

Jordan and Felipe Franks only faced each other's teams once in the NFL – at a preseason game between the Cleveland Browns and Atlanta Falcons.

## ROCKIN' REDS TOURNAMENT



Brandon "Boo" Waltman weighs a big redfish at the annual tournament at Woolley Park in Panacea. The event is a scholarship fundraiser in memory of Gage Pittman. There were 68 offshore boats, 28 inshore boats, and 8 kayaks that competed this year. (Photo by Gerald Brown)

## Man drowns in Wakulla River last Saturday

The victim, Mike Williams, was a resident of St. Marks and president of Florida AFL-CIO

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN  
Editor

A St. Marks resident, Mike Williams, reportedly drowned in the Wakulla River on Saturday, June 18, not far from his home.

The Wakulla County Sheriff's Office confirmed a response to a drowning in St. Marks but would not confirm the victim's identity, noting the case is still under investigation. Deputies responded to a call around 11 a.m. on Saturday.

Florida AFL-CIO announced Williams' death in a "water accident" near his home in St. Marks.

Williams had been the head of the state AFL-CIO since 2009.



Mike Williams

## Eagle Scout builds dive bench

By LINDA ANN McDONALD  
Correspondent

Eagle Scout Cole Randolph wanted to make a difference. He assisted both research and recreational specialists by heading the Emerald Sink Dive Bench project at Wakulla Springs State Park.

Along with his father Roger, he offered his services to the park. After meeting with park staff to review a list of possible projects including updating a previous Wakulla Springs State Park Eagle Scout project, the Tree Walk interpretive nature trail. Cole chose to tackle the Emerald Sink Dive Bench due to the uniqueness of the project.

After receiving final approval from the park, Cole solicited funding for his project by meeting with Woodville Karst Plain Project (WKPP) research diver Chris Werner, who reported his organization had money to contribute to the project and made a significant donation.



Eagle Scout Cole Randolph

Cole also met with Gulf Coast Lumber which provided discounts for materials. Cole's perseverance did not stop there, he utilized a "GoFundMe" page to obtain the additional funds needed.

In effort to improve cave diving access at the remote site, in January 2023, after several days, two wooden benches were built to endure visitor use and provide easy access for divers without blocking the public stair

entrance.

Cole's design provided ample room for easy unloading of double tanks and other features for smaller gear. Cole's Scoutmaster, Lambert West, improved the design and sturdiness with a series of probing questions. Boards were cut to specification prior to onsite installation.

As required for Eagle Scout, Cole was responsible for all aspects of project planning including implementation. For his building plan, he solicited input from park staff, local dive businesses and WKPP research divers. Cole also led the work crew of his family and fellow scouts. Cole's Scoutmaster, an Eagle Scout and master builder also assisted Cole with crew and construction supervision. Cole also had to plan for working in a remote area; so preparations for a generator for power tools along with plenty of food and water for his crew were made.

Cole's contribution

filled a special need for the cave diving community. Due to the high quality of the benches, Cole's contribution will continue to benefit research and recreational divers for many years to come.

For his Eagle Scout service, Cole met a high bar and made a significant contribution to the park.

Former Tallahassee Community College Construction Manager Chip Herrington, who happened to be a visitor to the park, evaluated the benches on a previous visit and was impressed with the quality of construction.

"To enhance my leadership skills," Cole said, "I learned how to lead not one part of the project, but multiple parts and assign leaders, I had to observe to see what they were doing, I was able to see the entire bigger picture of the project."

"Wakulla County is a kind county to live in and it was great to see all who were willing to help me and the project."

## Deer with chronic wasting disease is found in Florida

State wildlife officials are asking people to report sick, abnormally thin deer and deer found dead of unknown causes after a case of chronic wasting disease was found in Northwest Florida.

The positive test was the first known case in Florida of the contagious disease, which has been found in 30 other states, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The disease has been described as similar to mad cow disease, with deer becoming emaciated and often being found isolated and trembling.

The disease was found in a female deer in Holmes County that the commission described as "road-killed." Commission Executive Director Roger Young said in a news release that the state is trying to "limit the effects this will have on Florida's deer population and preserve our exceptional hunting opportunities for future generations statewide."

Chronic wasting disease is not known to affect people. But the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends against eating meat from animals that test positive for the disease. The state has monitored for the disease since 2002, testing about 17,500 dead deer. Florida also has rules about importing deer carcasses from other states to try to prevent spread of the disease.

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*Lisa Craze, CFC*  
Wakulla County Tax Collector

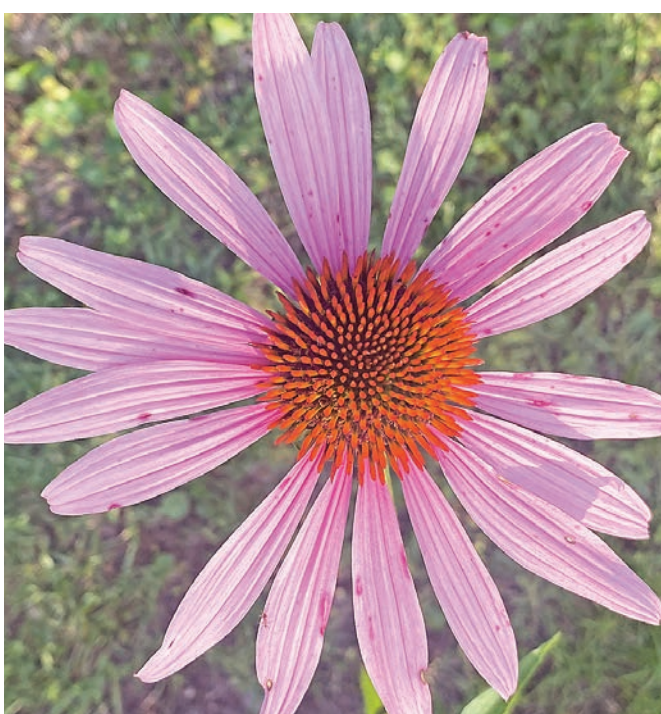
ENACTED: 2006.

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.

## Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park Purple Coneflower



Purple coneflowers attract a variety of pollinators.

By LYNN ARTZ, SANDY TEDDER and DAVID RODDENBERRY

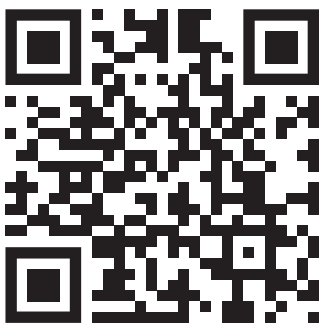
Purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*) is a popular perennial with striking pink to purple petals and a spiky mounded center. It grows 2-3 feet tall in well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. Afternoon shade enhances flower color and drought tolerance. Strong, hairy stems keep the large showy flowers upright in wind and rain. Purple coneflower attracts a variety of butterflies, bees, and even hummingbirds. Birds and other wildlife eat the seeds. Native to the central and eastern U.S., in Florida, purple coneflower occurs naturally in only Gadsden County. To persist as a perennial, a cold period is required. Further south, purple coneflower becomes an annual. Easily propagated by seeds or division, purple coneflower is blooming now in the northern gardens at Sopchoppy Depot Park.



### Solesse at Palaver Tree

The Americana band "Solesse" played to a good

crowd on Saturday at the Palaver Tree Theater. The band is David Starling on lead guitar, Mary Ann Hoffman on vocals, and Craig Daniel Hardin on guitar. (Photo by Gerald Brown)



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# Wakulla County to receive state money for projects

Special to The Sun

Gov. Ron DeSantis recently signed the highly anticipated 2023-24 budget, marking a significant milestone for Wakulla County. The approved budget not only includes critical allocations for essential infrastructure projects but also demonstrates the successful collaboration between the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners and the legislative delegation in securing these funds. This momentous achievement brings much-needed tax dollars back to Wakulla County, supporting its growth and development.

“The Wakulla County

Board of County Commissioners and our legislative delegation are proud to have played a pivotal role in securing this infrastructure funding for Wakulla County,” said County Commission Chairman Ralph Thomas.

The approved appropriation requests for Wakulla County in the 2023/24 state budget includes:

- Emergency Operations Center - \$3,250,000: Recognizing the importance of preparedness and safety, Gov. DeSantis has allocated \$3.25 million towards the construction and enhancement of the Emergency Operations Center. This funding will bolster

Wakulla County’s ability to respond effectively to emergencies and ensure the well-being of our citizens and businesses. This funding will be combined with a \$3 million allocation from Congressman Neil Dunn and a \$1 million match from Wakulla County for a total project allocation of \$7.25 million.

- Fire Rescue Bunker Gear - \$150,000: The approved budget includes \$150,000 dedicated to the acquisition of high-quality fire rescue bunker gear. This investment equips Wakulla County’s firefighters with the necessary equipment to carry out their duties safely and efficiently, ensuring their own protection as

they protect the community.

- Fire Engine - \$750,000: Gov. DeSantis has authorized \$750,000 for the purchase of a new fire engine, recognizing the invaluable service provided by fire departments in safeguarding lives and property. This new engine will enhance Wakulla County’s firefighting capabilities, enabling a rapid response to emergencies and ensuring the safety of Wakulla County.

- Library Design / Engineering - \$800,000: A modern and well-equipped library is crucial for fostering education, knowledge, and community development. The ap-

proved budget includes \$800,000 for the design and engineering aspects of a new library, bringing Wakulla County closer to realizing a vibrant hub of learning and exploration for its residents.

- Azalea Park Improvements - \$200,000: Governor DeSantis also recommended awarding Wakulla County Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) funding. If awarded, FRDAP funding would be utilized for renovations to restrooms, the purchase and site preparation of a picnic pavilion, the purchase and installation of the playground, picnic tables, trash receptacles, security area

lighting, electric vehicle charging station, and water stations for people and pets.

“These approved appropriations demonstrate our commitment to the well-being and success of our community,” said County Administrator David Edwards. “By bringing our citizens’ tax dollars back to Wakulla, we can enhance our infrastructure, ensuring a better quality of life for all residents.”

These investments will strengthen emergency response capabilities, support firefighters and emergency management, and provide an enriched educational environment.

## 4-H campers have fun with food

Special to The Sun

Youth ages 8 to 13 learned about MyPlate nutrition guidelines and engaged in hands-on cooking activities design to grow their culinary skills. The cooking lessons included instruction on kitchen safety and how to work as part of a team. Youth tested their creativity and applied their skills during a series of cooking challenges similar to the popular show “Chopped” – a competition that features a mystery ingredient. Youth ages 11-18 can choose to continue cooking with 4-H and enter a regional Food Challenge competition in January that can help them qualify to compete at the state competition that is scheduled during the Florida State Fair held annually in Tampa.

Participants also learned how to use a charcoal grill to prepare different types of protein. Youth ages 11 to 18 have



Danielle Aller cooking, above, and Harrison Rod

the opportunity to represent Wakulla 4-H at the regional tailgating competition in July. In this competition, contestants have 2.5 hours to prepare a beef, pork, poultry, or seafood dish on a provided 14” charcoal grill. Protein category winners can advance to the state competition in Gainesville. The purpose of this contest is to promote the use of animal protein in the diet by teaching the art and science of safe-

ly preparing beef, pork, poultry, and seafood in an outdoor setting. Youth who participate learn a variety of life skills, including decision making, healthy lifestyle choices, and communication.

This week’s advanced cooking camp participants included Sadie Greene, Taylor Marley, Abigail McDaniel, Raelynn Prentiss, Max Sarkisian, Georgia Teasley, Shelby Vause, Cece Vernon, Danielle Aller,

Emma Greene, Carolyn Grimes, Jason Jacobs, Paris London, Jennifer Masters, Harrison Rogers, Noah Wynn.

For more information about 4-H camps and programs, please visit our website at <https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/wakulla/4-h-youth-development/> or stop by our office at 84 Cedar Avenue in Crawfordville. Additionally, mark your calendars for the 4-H Open House in August. On Saturday, August 26th from 9 to 11 AM, the community is invited to an informal open house event at the Extension Office. Walk through our arena, enjoy light refreshments, meet 4-H volunteer club leaders and staff, and learn about 4-H activities and clubs that you and your family can choose to participate in during the 2023-24 club year. Have questions about 4-H? Reach out to 4-H agent Dr. Rachel Pienta at 850-925-3931 or email her at [r.pienta@ufl.edu](mailto:r.pienta@ufl.edu).

## Wakulla Airport bill is signed

Special to The Sun

During the 2023 Legislative Session, language was passed and signed into law that no longer requires a noise study for the Wakulla County Airport. Previously, Florida Statutes required airports to partake in a federal Part 150 noise compatibility study to be approved by the Florida Department of Transportation.

The new Florida Statutes regulation now implies for airports that have not conducted a noise study, the focus shifts to mitigation rather than prohibition. Potentially incompatible uses associated with residential construction and most educational facilities would be subject to mitigation measures instead. The bill also specifies the area around the airport where these regulations apply.

“Before the passage of this bill, Wakulla County was mandated to pay for a very expensive and unnecessary noise study,” County Commission Chairman Ralph Thomas stated, “I am appreciative of the Florida Legislature and Governor for removing this burdensome regulation.”

The Wakulla County Airport is a grass airstrip located on Bay Drive off Surf Road in Ochlocknee Bay.

## Wakulla jobless rate at 2.5%

News Service of Florida

Florida’s unemployment rate remained at a near-historic low of 2.6% in May and has been unchanged since January, according to a report released Friday by the state Department of Economic Opportunity.

The May rate represented an estimated 287,000 Floridians qualified as unemployed in mid-May from a labor force of 10.998 million. It was down from 2.9% a year earlier and was below the national rate last month of 3.7%.

Locally, Wakulla County’s unemployment rate is the lowest in the Capital Region at 2.5%.

According to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, the regional unemployment rate for the Tallahassee Metropolitan Area, which consists of Leon, Gadsden, and Wakulla counties, was 3.1% for June 2022. The region’s June 2022 unemployment rate was 1.7% lower than the region’s year ago rate of 4.8% and was 0.2% lower to the state’s rate of 2.9%.

Leon County followed at 3.1%. Gadsden County was at 3.6%. There were a total of 6,012 unemployed residents in the region.

The number of people out of work in Florida was up 6,000 from April, but down 22,000 from May 2022.

A news release from Gov. Ron DeSantis’ office pointed to private-sector employment increasing by 17,200 jobs in May and growing faster than the national pace.

Jimmy Heckman, the Department of Economic Opportunity’s chief of workforce statistics and economic research, said Florida’s numbers might be able to improve in some areas, pointing to population growth and the state leading the nation in business formations over the past three years.

But the state might not be able to reach the spring 2006 unemployment rate of 2.4%.

“There’s a strong possibility that we could see lower unemployment rates in the future, but 2.6% is a very, very low rate,” Heckman said. “It’s very close to the lowest rate we’ve ever seen in the state.”

One area that has slumped is construction, which dropped 1,600 jobs in May and has been on a decline for five consecutive months.

The decline is most noticeable in South Florida, while growth has occurred in the Jacksonville and Tampa Bay regions, Heckman said.

Heckman on Friday didn’t address why construction jobs are in decline. Last month, Heckman attributed the drop to rising mortgage rates affecting demand for new housing.

## Some new laws take effect on July 1

News Service of Florida

More school vouchers. Expanded restrictions on teaching about sexual orientation and gender identity. Limits on using TikTok. Carrying guns without concealed-weapons licenses. A larger Florida State Guard.

More than 200 laws passed during the 2023 legislative session, including a record \$116.5 billion budget, will take effect Saturday.

Gov. Ron DeSantis has signed nearly 300 bills that the Republican-controlled Legislature passed during the session. About one-third went into effect immediately or will hit the books in October or January.

Here are some of the laws that will take effect Saturday:

- SB 2500, a \$116.5 billion budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, which will run from Saturday through June 30. DeSantis vetoed \$510.9 million from the budget passed by lawmakers in May.
- HB 1, expanding taxpayer-funded vouchers to all Florida students and eliminating income-eligibility requirements.
- HB 3, prohibiting government investment strategies that consider “environmental, social and governance,” or ESG, standards.

- HB 5, eliminating Enterprise Florida, the state’s business-recruitment agency. Contracts and programs will be shifted to the Department of Economic Opportunity, which will be renamed the Department of Commerce.
- SB 102, making changes to try to expand affordable housing, including boosting funding for housing and rental programs, providing incentives for investment and encouraging mixed-use developments in struggling commercial areas.
- SB 106, designating \$200 million to help link hiking and biking trails, which are part of the Shared-Use Nonmotorized Trail Network, to a statewide wildlife corridor.
- SB 214, preventing credit-card companies from tracking firearm and ammunition sales through a separate “merchant category code” at gun businesses.
- HB 225, allowing “opening remarks” of up to two minutes on public-address systems before high-school championship events. The change came amid a legal battle about whether a Christian school should have been able to offer a prayer over the loudspeaker before a championship football game.

- SB 240, offering tax breaks for businesses that employ apprentices or pre-apprentices.
- SB 262, placing restrictions on large online companies about collecting and using consumers’ personal data.
- SB 264, preventing, with some exceptions, property purchases in Florida by people from China who are not U.S. citizens or permanent U.S. residents.
- SB 266, prohibiting colleges and universities from spending money on diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives.
- HB 379, prohibiting the use of the social-media platform TikTok on devices owned by school districts and through internet access provided by districts. TikTok has been controversial because of its Chinese ownership.
- HB 389, allowing school districts to provide free menstrual hygiene products in schools.
- HB 411, changing residency requirements for county school-board members. The bill will require board members to reside in the districts they represent by the date they take office, rather than at the time they qualify to run.
- HB 477, imposing eight-year term limits on school-board members, down from the current 12 years.

- SB 540, allowing “pre-vailing” parties to recover legal fees in challenges to local government comprehensive growth-management plan changes.
- HB 543, allowing Floridians to carry guns without concealed-weapons licenses.
- HB 637, barring automakers from offering direct-to-consumer or online sales if their vehicles are currently sold through dealerships in the state.
- SB 766, allowing school districts to use cameras designed to capture images of drivers who illegally pass school buses.
- SB 846, banning state colleges and universities and employees from accepting gifts from “foreign countries of concern” — China, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Russia, Syria and Venezuela.
- SB 902, placing additional safety requirements on amusement rides. The bill is named after 14-year-old Tyre Sampson, who was killed when he fell from a ride last year in Orlando.
- HB 931, prohibiting colleges and universities from using “political loyalty” tests in hiring, admissions or promotions.
- HB 1259, requiring school districts to share portions of local property-tax revenues with charter schools.

# 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.”

## A three-legged stool! and taxes



By ED BRIMNER  
Property Appraiser

County.

• The first leg is the Wakulla County Property Appraiser's Office; we appraise property and cannot raise or lower taxes nor can we collect taxes. We are independent to prevent any influence by taxing authorities to increase or decrease assessments.

• The second leg is made up of taxing authorities which consists of the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), the Wakulla County School Board, the City of St Marks, and Northwest Florida Water Management District; they determine tax rates (millage) but cannot assess properties, nor can they collect taxes.

• The third leg is the Tax Collector. The Tax Collector's staff collects and disperses taxes; however, they cannot assess property, nor can they levy taxes.

This is a necessary

My staff and I often hear comments such as, "I hope you don't raise my taxes!" or "Why did you increase my property taxes?"

The simple answer is, "The Wakulla County Property Appraiser cannot raise or lower taxes." However, I know it's a little more complicated than that.

Imagine tax administration as a 3-legged stool. Each leg has its job and is independent of the other two. It takes three independent offices to do their part before property taxes can be collected in Wakulla

	TOTAL TAXABLE VALUE	Tax Rate	Money Raised
Year 1	\$1.7 Billion Dollars	8.2 Mills	\$13.94 Million
Year 2	\$1.5 Billion Dollars	9.29 Mills	\$13.94 Million

separation of powers established by our Florida Constitution to assure fair and equitable assessments and subsequent taxation for the funding of county and municipal services such as schools, police, fire & rescue, roads, parks, etc.

If property values dropped and the Property Appraiser reduced assessed values accordingly, taxing authorities are authorized by State law to raise tax rates to get the same revenue they had the prior year

without calling it a tax increase (FS 200.065 and Florida Administrative Code 12D-17.0035). See the example at top.

The tax rate levied by taxing authorities are determined by the spending needs of the taxing authority (BOCC, School Board, St Marks, etc.).

In Jan 1, 2022, Wakulla County had a total taxable value of over \$1.7 billion dollars. The BOCC set a tax rate of 8.2 mills and raised almost \$14 million dollars in ad valorem taxes.

On Jan 1, 2023 (the 2023 Tax Bill), Wakulla County's taxable value increased to approximately \$2.2 billion dollars, a 22.8% increase. To raise the same amount of tax dollars, the millage rate would be reduced to 6.4 mills. However, inflation will almost certainly prevent a complete rollback to last year's taxes.

Below are examples of different millage rates commissioners could use in determining the 2023 tax rates. The same exercise will be

done by each taxing authority.

The Property Appraiser has completed assessments for 2023 with a new total taxable value of \$2.2 Billion dollars. Our taxing authorities will soon be advertising budget meeting dates to determine the next millage rates. The Tax Collector will send tax bills and begin collecting taxes in November. The Florida Constitution has purposely separated taxing authority to ensure we all work together for the common good of citizens.

Please give me a call if you have questions or comments. My goal is Fair and Equitable Assessments!

Ed Brimmer is Wakulla County Property Appraiser. He can be contacted at edbrimmer@mywakullapa.com or (850) 926-0500.

Wakulla Property Appraiser		Wakulla Commissioners	
Tax Base using Jan 1, 2023, Market Value (rounded)		Tax Rate based on Budget Needs	
TOTAL TAXABLE VALUE	Tax Rate	Money Raised (Rounded)	
2022	\$1.7 Billion Dollars	8.2 Mills	\$13.94 Million
2023	\$2.2 Billion Dollars	8.0 Mills	\$17.60 Million (20.8% increase)
2023	\$2.2 Billion Dollars	7.5 Mills	\$16.50 Million (15.5% increase)
2023	\$2.2 Billion Dollars	6.4 Mills	\$14.08 Million (1% increase)

### LETTERS FROM READERS

## Group seeks support for back to school outreach

Editor, The Sun:

Dear Community Friends:

We hope the new year is off to a great start, and that all roads are leading to success!

For the past 13 years, "Be A Hero to Our Heroes, Inc." and the F.R.E.S.H. Wakulla County Back to School Outreach Ministry have been privileged to spearhead a community wide initiative to ensure that students in our county are prepared to return to school at the beginning of the fall term.

With the support of the community and many others, we are pleased to have served over 1,000 students during each of the last five years, and it is our hope to reach as many students this year. In order to accomplish our goals, we invite you to share in making a difference in the lives of students through sponsorships.

Donations and sponsorships are appreciated. Your support constitutes an agreement to advertise your business on our flyers, T-shirts and other media outlets such as Facebook. All donations are tax deductible.

Be a Hero to Our Heroes, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c) organization whose mission is to provide a forum to bring parents, students, and community friends together to learn of ministries, programs and activities available to assist our students in effectively accomplishing their educational goals. Our purpose is to encourage and empower students, parents and the community holistically (spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically) for an effective school year.

Sponsorship Levels



Date	City	Location
July 15 <sup>th</sup>	St. Marks	Coast Charter School, 48 Shell Island Rd
July 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Panacea	Panacea Plaza, 1353 Coastal Hwy
July 29 <sup>th</sup>	Sopchoppy	City Hall, 105 Municipal Ave
August 5 <sup>th</sup>	Crawfordville	Wakulla County Community Center, 318 Shadeville Rd

If you have questions, please contact:  
Kenny Manning (850) 545-5982 or Cheryl Randolph (850) 284-9233



Platinum Level (monetary/items value)  
\$1,500 and above

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- Logo on F.R.E.S.H.'s registration form
- Advertisement - social media
- Sponsorship Listings
- Sponsorship Poster
- Gold Level (monetary/items value)  
\$1,000 and above
- Sponsor's name on back of F.R.E.S.H.'s t-shirt

- Advertisement - social media
- Sponsorship Listings
- Sponsorship Poster
- Silver Level (monetary/items value)  
\$500 and above
- Advertisement - social media
- Sponsorship Listings
- Sponsorship Poster
- Bronze Level (monetary/items value)  
\$250 and above
- Advertisements -social media
- Sponsorship Poster
- Donation Listings (monetary/items value)

less than \$250

- Advertisements
- Donation Poster

\*Please make checks payable to Be A Hero to Our Heroes, Inc.

We are grateful for your support and your willingness to assist us in this worthy cause.

If you have questions, or need additional information, please contact Kenny Manning at (850) 545-5982 or Cheryl Randolph at (850) 284-9233.

Sincerely,  
**Glenda Washington, President**  
Be A Hero to Our Heroes, Inc.  
**Kenny Manning & Cheryl Randolph**  
F.R.E.S.H. Event Coordinators

## SUPPORT COMMUNITY JOURNALISM

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- More local content on the environment and local businesses

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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

*"It's A New Day!"*

# The Wakulla Sun

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## ◀ Question of The Week ▶

– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

### Asked at Crawfordville Quick Stop on a rainy day: Do you grill out on the 4th of July?



**JON MORGAN**  
PIPELINES/CONSTRUCTION

**“ Dang it! Filet Mig on, catfish, and bacon wrapped asparagus.”**



**MATTHEW STEWART**  
GOT A GUY NOW-CONSTRUCTION

**“You betcha, doesn’t everyone? I make my stewy sliders and beer brats.”**



**CYNTHIA DICKEY**  
RETIRED/FOSTER MOM

**“ Yes, but sometimes we use the inside grill.”**



**SHANTAS NIXON JR.**  
FSU IT

**“My family always grills out, we do a big party and everyone brings a dish. We’ll be doing a cornhole tournament this year.”**



**TOM PRICE**  
RETIRED

**“ Yes, either I grill or my son-in-law will grill out.”**

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Wakulla Station News

By **VERNA BROCK**

Well, the heat wave is finally hitting North Florida. Say what you will about all the rain, it kept our temps at a moderate level. Now we’re back to blistering, soul withering, triple digit heat indices. ARGH! Break out the hoses, kiddie pools and icy refreshments!

As I await news on the speed limit front here in Wakulla Station, I had another illustrative moment. A very sweet lady called about buying more of Ed’s local wildflower honey, and asked for directions. After a lovely conversation, I went out to wait for her arrival. She told me she had to drive by the house **THREE TIMES**,

for fear of being rear ended! I totally felt her apprehension, living here on the edge of the Indy 500 as we do.

I met the most interesting neighbor this past weekend. He had stopped by to ask questions about Ed’s pecan grove, and we began conversatin’. What a fascinating life he has had! He is a retired professional home services provider, as well as having served in Vietnam and worked for the government in Afghanistan. He is currently hand crafting the final details on his home, and is just a delight. I am so glad he stopped and chatted.

We have also had several people stop by just to admire all our butterflies (Mexican yard art included,

lol!). This really has been a good year for gardens and flowers. The critters sure seem to appreciate it!

Happy birthday to my hardworking husband, who will celebrate another trip around the sun this week. June is a birthday rich month for our family, but it will be July before we can all gather in one place to celebrate one another. Even during the summer, we all stay busy, busy, **BUSY**.

A local Wakulla landmark will be moving to Crawfordville soon, and we will sure miss them. The Pregnancy Help Center will move to bigger, better digs by the end of summer, and we will have new next door neighbors. I so appreciate these loving folks who serve parents with love rather than judgment. Their entire mission is to offer support

and guidance to whomever seeks it.

Please keep the Chitwood family in your prayers, as they have lost a beloved aunt. Also in need of prayer are the Kendrick family, the Carter families, the Vickery family, the Hobby family, the Lynn family and Clem Bunker.

I’m happy to report that baby Sebastian is continuing to prosper and heal after his heart transplant. Thelme Watts is recovering from her surgery and illnesses. Please keep Faye Sweeney in your prayers. Pam Adams still needs our prayers, as does her elderly neighbor.

I know there are many unspoken prayer requests, but God is faithful and knows our hearts. God bless and keep us all.

## Sheriff’s Report

Because of the Juneteenth holiday, this report is for activity from June 9 to June 22:

### FRIDAY, JUNE 9

- Shea Webb reported an unknown person had made two charges on her credit card without authorization. The two charges were over \$3,000. The card has been canceled and all charges disputed. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Sgt. Ronald Mitchell investigated.

- Hillary Brigham reported an unknown person stole a check from her mailbox and the check was used at Walmart in Gainesville for \$900. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy William Bennett investigated.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 10

- Mark Vargo reported finding a water port cover placed on his boat motor. The boat may have been damaged by the cover as the motor had been running while the cover was on and it obstructed the water flow into the motor. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy William Bennett investigated.

- Sara Clark reported an unknown suspect used her credit card to make a Wal-Mart purchase. The order was canceled and closed. One item was in shipment, and it was delivered and returned for credit. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Arturo Cordoba investigated.

### MONDAY, JUNE 12

- Thadis Parker reported an unauthorized charge to his debit card in the amount of \$15.61 at ASAP Smoke Shop in Tallahassee. Parker advised he still had possession of his card. ASAP advised that security video was available. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Jake Scott investigated.

### TUESDAY, JUNE 13

- Deputies responded to a report of a physical disturbance on Renegade Road. Contact was made with Leslie Morris and her neighbor Katlyn Truman. Both parties have conflicting statements of what occurred. Due to conflicting statements and no independent witnesses, no arrest was made, and the parties were separated for the day. Deputy Donald Newsome investigated.

- James Chunn reported finding a bicycle on his property near Mohave Road. The bicycle was placed into the bike impound yard for safekeeping until the owner can be located. Deputy Edwin Grove responded.

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14

- Jacob Sparks was arrested after he was found breaking into a property in Panacea. As deputies were responding to the scene the caller confronted Sparks regarding the break in, at which point Sparks allegedly produced a knife and threatened to stab the caller. Deputy William Bennett located Sparks and took him into custody without incident. Sparks was taken to the Wakulla County Jail and charged with Armed Burglary and Aggravated Assault.

- During the evening of June 14th WCSO responded to numerous calls during the Severe Weather Wakulla County experienced throughout the evening. WCSO Communications received approximately 45 reports of downed trees throughout the county, as well as two traffic crashes involving trees down with one major and one minor. Only one resident reported damage from a tree falling onto the residence.

### THURSDAY, JUNE 15

- The Road patrol shift responded to seven separate reported burglaries of homes which are currently under construction. The suspect(s) entered the construction sites and removed electrical equipment and wiring which had already been installed in the homes. Each of these

cases has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

- Campground host at the Newport campground reported a shed had been burglarized. Taken was a speaker box with four speakers and amps, and a Stihl backpack blower. The complainant estimated both items at approximately \$1,000. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Anthony Paul investigated.

- Deputies responded to an address on Springwood Boulevard in reference to a possible trespass. Upon arrival contact was made with the victim who discovered squatters inside a vacant home that they own. Contact was made with Jonathan and Brandy Vaillancourt at the residence. During the investigation Jonathan was discovered to have several illegal narcotics on his person. He was placed under arrest and transported to the Wakulla County Jail. Deputy Todd Kent investigated.

- A vehicle was reported to have been abandoned on Taflinger Road. The vehicle had flat tires and was partially in the roadway. The vehicle had been there for approximately one week.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 17

- Michael King reported an intoxicated male banging on his door demanding to be let in because his girl was inside. King stated he told him several times no one else was there but his grandson. Upon arrival contact was made with Daryn Wilkins who was extremely intoxicated and had somehow gone to the wrong apartment. Wilkins was placed under arrest and transported to the jail. Deputy Jake Scott investigated.

- Sandra Gentry awoke and discovered a window on her vehicle had been busted out. Gentry was unsure of who might have damaged her vehicle. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Zac Monroe investigated.

- Michael Partida reported losing his wallet. Partida stated he went to the bank and to an establishment outside of Wakulla County. Partida was unsure of where he lost his wallet. Deputy Todd Kent investigated.

### SUNDAY, JUNE 18

- Asset Protection for Walmart reported a black male with a prosthetic leg entering the store and bringing several items to the tobacco check-out line. There he proceeded to have the cashier make change in several transactions quickly. The suspect confused/scammed the cashier into handing him approximately \$3,600 in cash back. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Don Newsom investigated.

- Brian Pellman was pulled over for driving without his headlights on. A check with Wakulla County Dispatch showed Pellman’s license had been revoked for 10 years due to multiple DUIs. Pellman was subsequently arrested and transported to the jail, for driving while license suspended or revoked. Deputy Jake Scott investigated.

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21

- A traffic stop was conducted on a vehicle for an expired tag. The driver Robert Ward was found not have a valid driver’s license. During the stop, Ward was discovered to have drug paraphernalia in his possession. Ward was placed under arrest and transported to the jail facility. Deputy Dakota Haddock investigated.

### THURSDAY, JUNE 22

- Sara Wright reported the theft of her jonboat via telephone. The boat is described as a plastic green in color 12-foot Suntracker Dolphin style valued at approximately \$800. Wright observed two subjects on her property and dock around 6 a.m. on June 21. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Lt Gibby Gibson investigated.

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

# Outdoors

outdoor sports

## HOME ON THE RANGE

### Red dot or green dot?



By MARJ LAW

An accessory quite popular now is the “red dot” reflex sight. If your handgun can accept one, you place it at or near the rear sight; wherever you have space and location for the red dot. Now, popularity is never my choice for handguns or their accessories. What I want is simply what works easiest, and to me, best. I sure do like a red dot sight.

Once you have your red dot mounted, you peer through the sight. You will see a red dot when you point your gun at a target. You might see a circle with a red dot in its center. You can also see a red dot inside a red triangle. Instead of learning to align front and rear sights, now you just point the dot at your target. Presto! Fast acquisition!

With improved speed and acquisition, you can have better accuracy. Don't we all love to whack out the bull's-eye of our targets?

Practicing muscle memory at home? After dumping your magazine and checking the chamber of your handgun, you can choose a “target” on a wall. Bring the red dot to this target to reinforce muscle memory.

And a red dot is no

big old scope; it's a compact piece of equipment. However, unlike a scope, it does not provide magnification. Are you considering putting a red dot on your carry gun? This may or may not work for you as the sight, though compact, is a lot larger than the sights that come on your gun.

Another way it's different from the scope is that the sight is parallax-free. This means the dot stays fixed on your target regardless of your head's position behind the optic. Move your head?

That's okay. Your dot is still on your target. And you don't have to use just one eye, like you would when looking through a scope. With the red dot, you can use both eyes.

Some red dot sights run on batteries and some on solar power. And some have a “shake awake” feature. This feature turns on the sight when the gun is moved, and then turns itself off after a few minutes. This saves battery time especially if a person is apt to forget turning the sight off before putting the handgun away.

Another popular red dot sight is green. Go figure. Even though it's green, it is still called a “red dot sight.” A green red dot sight. Kinda sounds like an oxymoron.

Do you prefer a red dot or a green red dot sight? They are different and they are not cheap, so you do need to see both before you buy. Unless you have lots of disposable cash.

The sight you choose depends on your requirements for its use, and the ability of your



gun to accept the optic.

So, let's talk dots.

Joe's happy with a red dot on one of his hunting pistols. Why?

If he had chosen a green dot, the green could blend in with the greenery around whatever he is hunting. The red is more noticeable against the green background of grasses and leaves.

Red dots show up well in low light conditions, although most have brightness settings to help with illumination in stronger light.

Red dots tend to be less expensive than green dots. Sometimes a lot less expensive.

I do appreciate red dot sight. But I like the green dot sight a lot better. I've tried shooting one of Joe's guns which has a red dot sight at the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) range. The red dot did not

appear bright enough

for me and I found it difficult to locate on the black target. The green showed up really well. It was bright and crisp.

Green dots tend to appear brighter than red dots, especially in strong light. According to an article in The Truth About Guns in June of 2021: “The human eye is about six times more sensitive to green light than it is to red light. That's why a green dot or reticle appears brighter to the human eye than standard red at the same intensity.”

A need for a brighter dot is at stronger light conditions, such as in the desert.

The site Shooting Mystery in April of 2023 has further reason why many of us see better using the green dot. “Astigmatism is the known cause of anomalies associated with red dot sights.

Additionally, other refractive conditions of

the eye, such as myopia, hyperopia, scotopia (low light vision), and presbyopia, may produce similar dot distortion.

These anomalies may be in various forms, such as:

- Excessive starbursting
- Dot clusters
- More than one dot
- Sight with a tail

These problems are often associated with red illumination.” Since people with eye difficulties generally see better using green dot sights, using green dots can result in less eyestrain and eye fatigue.

Green dots generally work better with night vision equipment, too but that does depend on the particular sight. If this is important to you, ask the person at your local gun store to be certain.

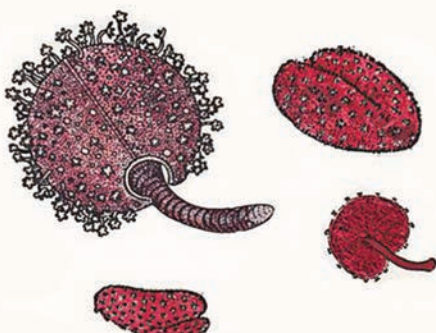
Wouldn't you know, green dots tend to be quite a bit more expensive than most red

dots? Drat. There's always a downside and I think cost is the major one when choosing between red and green dot sights.

If your handgun is to be used for hunting, if your eyesight is good, if the red dot sight you choose has sufficient brightness adjustability and if you are concerned about cost, a red dot can be a good choice.

On the other hand, The Truth About Guns in the 2021 article sums up an opinion: “Combine this increased intensity, a larger reticle, and the ability to be more readily seen in daytime light conditions, a green light sight is the better choice for most users.”

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



SEA PANSY  
(*Renilla mulleri*)

A sea pansy is a soft coral colony of polyps adapted for living in turbulent water. The colony can independently inflate/deflate the anchoring stalk or plumed top. When conditions are calm the colony inflates so all the polyps can feed on plankton. If currents are strong, the top deflates, and the stalk inflates, to avoid being swept away. If attacked, the the top inflates, the stalk deflates and it catches a current to float away. Sea Pansy's are bioluminescent, glowing softly greenish at night.

Eukarya, Animalia, Cnidaria, Pennatulacea, Sessiliflora, Renillidae

Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratory  
www.gulfspecimen.org

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

## WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO



Retired Wakulla Springs State Park Ranger Bob Thompson, on his weekly wildlife survey at the park last week, snapped this photo of a Prothonotary Warbler having caught a caterpillar.

# Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences

**SEA TOW**

## 24/7 PRIORITY ON-WATER ASSISTANCE

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



### Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

June 29 - July 5



Tide charts by tides4fishing.com



Best fishing days this month  
June 18-30, July 1-3, 17-31

Thursday 29	
Sun rise/set 6:38AM 8:42PM	Moon rise/set 5:01PM 3:06AM
Moon Illumination 80%	
Friday 30	
Sun rise/set 6:38AM 8:42PM	Moon rise/set 6:08PM 3:44AM
Moon Illumination 88%	
Saturday 1	
Sun rise/set 6:38AM 8:42PM	Moon rise/set 7:18PM 4:29AM
Moon Illumination 95%	
Sunday 2	
Sun rise/set 6:39AM 8:42PM	Moon rise/set 8:25PM 5:24AM
Moon Illumination 99%	
Monday 3	
Sun rise/set 6:39AM 8:42PM	Moon rise/set 9:28PM 6:28AM
Moon Illumination 100%	
Tuesday 4	
Sun rise/set 6:40AM 8:42PM	Moon rise/set 10:22PM 7:40AM
Moon Illumination 98%	
Wednesday 5	
Sun rise/set 6:40AM 8:42PM	Moon rise/set 11:08PM 8:53AM
Moon Illumination 94%	

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	4:49 am ▼ 1.8 ft	11:02 am ▲ 3.3 ft	6:30 pm ▼ 0.2 ft	
Fr	1:07 am ▲ 3.0 ft	5:49 am ▼ 2.0 ft	11:49 am ▲ 3.5 ft	7:22 pm ▼ -0.2 ft
Sa	2:04 am ▲ 3.2 ft	6:44 am ▼ 2.1 ft	12:36 pm ▲ 3.8 ft	8:12 pm ▼ -0.6 ft
Su	2:55 am ▲ 3.3 ft	7:33 am ▼ 2.1 ft	1:24 pm ▲ 4.0 ft	8:59 pm ▼ -0.9 ft
Mo	3:40 am ▲ 3.4 ft	8:20 am ▼ 2.0 ft	2:12 pm ▲ 4.2 ft	9:45 pm ▼ -1.0 ft
Tu	4:23 am ▲ 3.4 ft	9:06 am ▼ 1.9 ft	3:00 pm ▲ 4.4 ft	10:29 pm ▼ -0.9 ft
We	5:03 am ▲ 3.4 ft	9:53 am ▼ 1.7 ft	3:49 pm ▲ 4.3 ft	11:11 pm ▼ -0.7 ft

#### City of St. Marks

Th	12:35 am ▲ 2.6 ft	5:53 am ▼ 1.6 ft	11:38 am ▲ 3.1 ft	7:34 pm ▼ 0.2 ft
Fr	1:43 am ▲ 2.8 ft	6:53 am ▼ 1.8 ft	12:25 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	8:26 pm ▼ -0.2 ft
Sa	2:40 am ▲ 3.0 ft	7:48 am ▼ 1.9 ft	1:12 pm ▲ 3.5 ft	9:16 pm ▼ -0.5 ft
Su	3:31 am ▲ 3.1 ft	8:37 am ▼ 1.9 ft	2:00 pm ▲ 3.7 ft	10:03 pm ▼ -0.8 ft
Mo	4:16 am ▲ 3.2 ft	9:24 am ▼ 1.8 ft	2:48 pm ▲ 3.9 ft	10:49 pm ▼ -0.9 ft
Tu	4:59 am ▲ 3.2 ft	10:10 am ▼ 1.7 ft	3:36 pm ▲ 4.0 ft	11:33 pm ▼ -0.9 ft
We	5:39 am ▲ 3.1 ft	10:57 am ▼ 1.6 ft	4:25 pm ▲ 4.0 ft	

#### Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	12:23 am ▲ 2.9 ft	5:13 am ▼ 1.8 ft	11:21 am ▲ 3.6 ft	6:48 pm ▼ 0.1 ft
Fr	1:25 am ▲ 3.2 ft	6:08 am ▼ 2.0 ft	12:06 pm ▲ 3.8 ft	7:39 pm ▼ -0.2 ft
Sa	2:19 am ▲ 3.3 ft	7:00 am ▼ 2.1 ft	12:51 pm ▲ 4.0 ft	8:28 pm ▼ -0.6 ft
Su	3:08 am ▲ 3.5 ft	7:49 am ▼ 2.1 ft	1:38 pm ▲ 4.2 ft	9:16 pm ▼ -0.9 ft
Mo	3:55 am ▲ 3.5 ft	8:36 am ▼ 2.1 ft	2:25 pm ▲ 4.3 ft	10:03 pm ▼ -1.0 ft
Tu	4:40 am ▲ 3.5 ft	9:24 am ▼ 2.0 ft	3:14 pm ▲ 4.4 ft	10:49 pm ▼ -0.9 ft
We	5:23 am ▲ 3.5 ft	10:14 am ▼ 1.9 ft	4:04 pm ▲ 4.4 ft	11:33 pm ▼ -0.7 ft

#### Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	5:00 am ▼ 1.3 ft	10:54 am ▲ 2.5 ft	6:41 pm ▼ 0.2 ft	
Fr	12:59 am ▲ 2.3 ft	6:00 am ▼ 1.4 ft	11:41 am ▲ 2.6 ft	7:33 pm ▼ -0.1 ft
Sa	1:56 am ▲ 2.4 ft	6:55 am ▼ 1.5 ft	12:28 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	8:23 pm ▼ -0.4 ft
Su	2:47 am ▲ 2.4 ft	7:44 am ▼ 1.5 ft	1:16 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	9:10 pm ▼ -0.6 ft
Mo	3:32 am ▲ 2.6 ft	8:31 am ▼ 1.5 ft	2:04 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	9:56 pm ▼ -0.7 ft
Tu	4:15 am ▲ 2.6 ft	9:17 am ▼ 1.4 ft	2:52 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	10:40 pm ▼ -0.7 ft
We	4:55 am ▲ 2.5 ft	10:04 am ▼ 1.3 ft	3:41 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	11:22 pm ▼ -0.5 ft

#### St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	12:25 am ▲ 2.2 ft	5:01 am ▼ 1.7 ft	10:50 am ▲ 2.9 ft	6:28 pm ▼ 0.1 ft
Fr	1:28 am ▲ 2.4 ft	5:52 am ▼ 1.9 ft	11:29 am ▲ 3.0 ft	7:11 pm ▼ -0.3 ft
Sa	2:22 am ▲ 2.5 ft	6:37 am ▼ 2.0 ft	12:10 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	7:56 pm ▼ -0.6 ft
Su	3:12 am ▲ 2.6 ft	7:18 am ▼ 2.1 ft	12:54 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	8:43 pm ▼ -0.8 ft
Mo	4:00 am ▲ 2.6 ft	8:01 am ▼ 2.1 ft	1:42 pm ▲ 3.5 ft	9:31 pm ▼ -0.8 ft
Tu	4:45 am ▲ 2.6 ft	8:49 am ▼ 2.1 ft	2:34 pm ▲ 3.5 ft	10:19 pm ▼ -0.8 ft
We	5:28 am ▲ 2.6 ft	9:44 am ▼ 2.0 ft	3:30 pm ▲ 3.5 ft	11:07 pm ▼ -0.6 ft

#### Dog Island West End

Th	1:19 am ▲ 2.0 ft	4:50 am ▼ 1.8 ft	10:49 am ▲ 2.6 ft	6:47 pm ▼ 0.0 ft
Fr	2:38 am ▲ 2.2 ft	6:03 am ▼ 2.0 ft	11:29 am ▲ 2.8 ft	7:37 pm ▼ -0.4 ft
Sa	3:29 am ▲ 2.4 ft	7:17 am ▼ 2.1 ft	12:15 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	8:22 pm ▼ -0.6 ft
Su	4:15 am ▲ 2.5 ft	8:05 am ▼ 2.1 ft	1:09 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	9:05 pm ▼ -0.8 ft
Mo	4:58 am ▲ 2.5 ft	8:44 am ▼ 2.1 ft	2:03 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	9:51 pm ▼ -0.8 ft
Tu	5:36 am ▲ 2.5 ft	9:26 am ▼ 2.0 ft	2:56 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	10:39 pm ▼ -0.7 ft
We	6:09 am ▲ 2.5 ft	10:19 am ▼ 1.9 ft	3:51 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	11:28 pm ▼ -0.5 ft

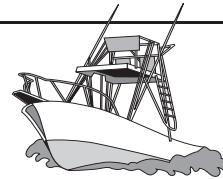
Thursday 29	
Minor Times 2:21AM 4:16PM	Major Times 8:44AM 9:10PM
Friday 30	
Minor Times 2:59AM 5:23PM	Major Times 9:37AM 10:05PM
Saturday 1	
Minor Times 3:44AM 6:33PM	Major Times 10:35AM ---
Sunday 2	
Minor Times 4:39AM 7:40PM	Major Times 11:07PM 11:39AM
Monday 3	
Minor Times 5:43AM 8:43PM	Major Times 12:12AM 12:44PM
Tuesday 4	
Minor Times 6:55AM 9:37PM	Major Times 1:17AM 1:49PM
Wednesday 5	
Minor Times 8:08AM 10:23PM	Major Times 2:20AM 2:50PM

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



A few weeks ago, we discussed hurricane preparedness. This past week has thankfully not impacted us, but we cannot be sure that a storm will not impact us in the near future.

In addition to taking care of us, we also need to be read to take care of those we are responsible for. Preparing for your pet's safety is just as important as preparing for your own.

Most critical, according to PetMD is to make sure your pet is microchipped and that you have updated the contact information should you be separated. It is important that you have a hurricane emergency kit for your pet.

Recommended items include:

- Enough food and bottled water to last one week or more
- Pee pads, litter boxes, poop bags, and paper towels for cleanup.

### 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

- Medical records, name of veterinarian, medication, feeding schedule, and current photos of your pet(s).
  - Toys or treats to ease stress.
  - A 1- to 2-month supply of pet medications is needed, as they may be difficult or impossible to find during and after a hurricane.
  - Roomy carriers that allow your pet to move around, ensure safety, and help them to feel more comfortable during their confinement.
  - Sturdy, extra leashes that have reflective tape or flashlights.
  - A hand-powered can opener to open any food cans.
  - A pet first aid kit to help stabilize your pet in its case if injured, until veterinary care is found.
- While it is our most sincere hope that you will never need to use this kit, if needed it is better to be semper paratus, always ready.
- Thanks to Sherrie, we will always remember safe boating is no accident!

Please contact us for more information about our safe boating classes or learning more about getting involved in the Auxiliary, check out our website at [www.uscgaux.net](http://www.uscgaux.net) follow us on FaceBook @ Apalachee Bay Flotilla 12 or contact our Flotilla Commander Phil Hill at [pnkchill2000@yahoo.com](mailto:pnkchill2000@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.uscgaux.org](http://www.uscgaux.org).*

## Pollinator Profile: Ruby-throated hummingbird

From FWC

While everyone knows hummingbirds drink nectar, their role as pollinators is often overlooked. Found only in the western hemisphere, hummingbird beaks are adapted to dip into their preferred flowers when feeding, leaving a scattering of pollen along their feathers that is transferred to the next blossom. The Ruby-throated Hummingbird is the most common hummingbird in Florida, named for the striking red color of the male's throat. Like many other hummingbirds, these feathers are iridescent, meaning their color changes depending on how the light



Young male Ruby-throated Hummingbird, with red throat feathers just beginning to grow in. Photo by Travis Blunden.

hits them. From a different angle the shining red patch may appear black. Both males and females have a whitish-grey underside and metallic green across their

heads and back, with the male having a more obvious forked tail. They are about three inches long with a wingspan of about four inches and weigh just 0.1 to 0.2 ounces.

Every year these tiny birds migrate thousands of miles from their wintering grounds in Mexico and Central America to the eastern and central United States and into parts of southern Canada. To sustain the enormous amount of energy required for this feat they feed on small spiders and insects for protein and fat as well as consume large quantities of nectar, pollinating plants along the way. Some Florida-friendly hummingbird favorites include coral honeysuckle, red buckeye, coralbean, firebush and trumpet creeper. Plant them in your yards and communities to help hummingbirds.



## Underwater Wakulla

By Gregg Stanton

### Fishing off Wakulla.

I finally got to go fishing off Wakulla County! We went midweek and were amazed at all the red snapper found mid-water column right under the boat. Being spearfisher-people we selected only the largest fish to collect.

Of course we met the limits allowable before dropping to the bottom to seek Grouper, Hog Fish and Lionfish.

We were 30-40 miles offshore in 60-80 FSW. The sea was flat all day. And the water was warm enough not to require wet suits. That was wonderful mid-June, but a concern due to climate change.

There was a thermocline that brought the temperature down just below 80 degrees near the bottom. Perhaps that is why the snapper were near the surface.

I made three of the four dives offered as the day wore on. We got back to Carrabelle by 7 p.m. and the shop by 8 p.m., a very long day.

My partner, Dr. Joerg Hess, was having challenges with his speargun so I eventually loaned him mine, after which he did much better.

We were chased out of the water by sharks on almost every dive! The first dive, it was a hammer or bonnet head shark that came in fast and furious, clearly in a search mission.

The second dive had a Bull shark (probably) that arrived after 15 minutes.

By the third dive we borrowed the single Shark Shield that was on the boat, and saw no sharks. That's when I cleaned up on my limit of fish. I stayed out loaning my new gun to Joerg on his fourth dive.

But I heard that same boat diving the next day had major shark problems. I also determined that they did not charge the Shark Shield the night of my dives before using it the next day.

Shark Shields need to be charged every day between uses. Thankfully, no injuries occurred.

I dove using my rebreather, legally used to spearfish in Federal waters. We did not stop in any State waters.

While I used a very advanced Liberty rebreather, which made it heavy and awkward to get out of the water at the end of the dive, it was what I had available at the time.

Next time I will take the much smaller side mount or Dive Rite back mount rig.

Rebreathers are silent underwater, unlike the loud bubble-generating open circuit rigs most folks currently use. So curious fish came right up to or near me.

My newer, smaller gun permitted me to select either those fish already injured by others, or the largest of a selected species.

Yes, a Shark Shield is highly recommended for spearfishing off Wakulla now.

Use one between at least every dive team while in the water. Better yet, use one on every diver, so that when one loses its charge, the other keeps on repelling sharks.

They carry a capacitor and battery to produce a pulse that is at the best frequency to repel sharks by striking their lateral line system.

There is no evidence that such a charge will bother other fish.

Turn off the Shark Shield before getting out of the water as it will shock you on the ladder!

Aloha!

This column was written by Gregg Stanton in June 2021.

# FOLLOW THE SUN.

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# God sees America, the land that I love

By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

How have you been affected by the chaos going on in the world? As wars escalate, racial tensions increase and the political divide

seems to widen, it's hard not to feel apprehensive.

Do you wonder what to do with your thoughts, your days – your life? What changes should we make in our priorities? Should we keep working, playing, dieting... praying?

Let's begin with a comforting verse. In the book of Genesis, a woman named Hagar described God as, "a God who sees me" (Genesis 16:13 NASB).

With all the instability going on, I remember –

that not only does God see all the chaos, He's also the God Who sees me. And thankfully, He's the God Who sees America, the land that I love.

He sees our fears, confusion, hurt and anger. He sees each of us individually. And He sees us as a nation. Though He grieves for us, He hasn't given up on us.

I've been praying more for God to increase our desire for Him and to give us (individually and as a country) the wisdom

to go to Him with our needs and our fears.

As we celebrate America's 247th birthday, let's live as if we truly believe God sees us – especially now. I'd like to think that the more we become conscious of an all-powerful God's presence, He'll reveal Himself in ways we can't deny, even in our daily activities, including the way we handle our political differences.

As a result, maybe we'll work harder to protect our freedoms by voting more respon-

sibly, respecting our flag and praying for our leaders. And rather than complaining and blaming one another, perhaps we'll work together to find solutions for our country's problems. Subsequently, we – and the world – might look at America differently.

Becoming more aware of God's presence may well change our thoughts and biases about one another. May the God Who sees us find millions of His children interceding for those who have been

hurt by wars, racial tensions and political divides.

Finally, may lives, not only in our nation, but throughout the world, be changed because of what our all-seeing God is doing (and will continue to do) in America – the land that I love.

*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.*

# Forgiving others, forgiving oneself

By **CHERYL CRUCE**

I love writing about memories of the past.

As the youngest child of a large family, I had plenty of opportunities to learn from the mistakes of my siblings. However, those siblings always believed I was spoiled because I was the baby. Believe me, I played that trump card.

Honestly, Mom and Dad were fair to each of us. Dad walked with

quiet strength; his word and handshake were his bonds. Mom complimented Dad's assuredness with her own brand of strength and truth. Together they instilled faith, forgiveness, and a work ethic in their children that continue to carry us today.

Work, I cannot remember a time that our hands were not calloused. Faith, we were taught faith, and each learned to fan the flames of faith as we grew – forgiveness of others was also taught as a valued life lesson. We were taught, according to scripture, that forgiveness is seven times 70; we were not allowed to keep tally marks against the other.

The seven times 70

also includes the forgiveness of self. I have learned to forgive others and am still learning to forgive myself. Granted, I am not a significant breaker of the original Ten Commandments. Nonetheless, I have had my share of mistakes and regrets. "Forgiveness is the greatest gift you can give yourself" (Maya Angelou). It is time to give and to receive the gift.

When we do not forgive ourselves for the past, we give the enemy a grip on our spirit that hinders our relationship with God (Ephesians 4:27). The enemy sets traps of many kinds to deter our faith. Often that hindrance comes in the form of recalling the past. When we remem-

ber our faults and disappointments of yesterday, feelings of unworthiness begin to control our actions of today.

A social media meme reads, "Father, forgive me for the times I craved a place at the table You would have flipped" (unknown). I wonder what fruit was upon the table when Jesus cleared the temple. Certainly, unforgiveness has rested as a centerpiece for many. The Gospel of Matthew reads that forgiving another will lead to our forgiveness. Repeatedly Jesus brought physical wellness to many. However, "your sins are forgiven" was first spoken to bring spiritual healing.

We serve a God of grace whose word teach-

es that our failings are not only forgiven they are also forgotten (Isaiah 43:25). They are cast as far as the East is from the West, not to be remembered anymore (Psalm 103:12). Scripture tells us that when we seek Him and turn from our wrong, He is quick to forgive (1 John 1:9), refreshing us with His presence (Acts 3:19). If this is the promise of God, why can we not receive it?

I know we cannot change our yesterday. However, today is a brand-new story; grace is its author. We can choose a new centerpiece for our table, one of mercy for others and ourselves. It is time we let go of our past and walk in the healing of

our Lord.

Chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, and discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, and quick to forgive an offense. Forgive quickly and thoroughly as the Master forgave you. Regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It is your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it. Colossians 3:12-14 (The Message)

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

## OUT TO PASTOR

# I'm too smart to be stupid

By **JAMES SNYDER**

After being married for over 50 years, my wife, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, knows more about me than I know about myself. At least, that's the perception I get from her actions.

It must be true when she says something about me, and I won't challenge her with anything she says. I have a PhD. (Pretty Hard Dude) in the husbandology field. I can take anything she throws at me.

Recently we were watching TV, and the news had an outlandish story. Looking at my wife, I said, "I sure hope I'm not that stupid."

Of all the times to be stupid, I chose the right time.

Looking at me, she said, "Well, my dear, my opinion is that you are too smart to be that stupid."

I did not think I heard what I heard, so I asked her to repeat it.

"You heard me. You just want to hear it again," she said laugh-

ingly.

It was just the beginning of a new chapter, and I wasn't sure where it was going.

One day this past week, we drove across town, and the traffic was rather crazy. Cars were weaving in and out and racing down the street. Then a motorcycle passed, weaving in and out of the traffic.

Looking at me, my wife smiled and said, "At least you're too smart to be that stupid."

With a nod of agreement, I smiled as we continued our journey. I'm not sure what's happening, but that phrase is ringing in my head like no other phrase I've heard before. The fact that my wife of 50 years thinks I'm too smart to be stupid has to have some credibility.

I've been thinking of ways to use this to my advantage. I've never had such an advantage, so I need to be very careful about how to use it. For example, I need to be able to use it in such a way that The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage doesn't recognize my advantage.

I was smiling as I thought about this because I would have a great victory if I could pull this one over on my

wife. The problem is, if I do have this victory, how can I celebrate it without giving myself away? After all, she said I was too smart to be stupid.

To process my plan, I needed to have her repeat what she said, so as we were driving, I pointed to one driver and said, "I hope I'm not that stupid."

"Remember what I said," she chuckled, "you're too smart to be that stupid."

Smilingly I thanked her, and we continued driving while I looked for something stupid to call her attention. By the time we got to our destination, I had found about three incidences of stupidity, and for all three, I got her to tell me that she thought I was too smart to be that stupid.

I can't relay how wonderful it was to hear that phrase. I need to be able to develop more ways in which

to hear her say that without showing my hand. I don't often get compliments like this, so I will try to plan it out carefully.

Just before we got home, we saw someone doing something more crazy than I had ever seen. Not thinking too much, I said, "I hope I'm not that crazy."

Smiling at me, she said, "My dear, I said you were too smart to be stupid but not crazy."

At the time, I didn't quite understand what she was saying, but as I thought about it, I was concerned about what she thought I was doing that was crazy. Now if I was in my right mind, and believe me, I have no mind left, I would ask her what she meant by being crazy.

If I asked that, I was sure she would tell me, and when she told me, I was sure I would not be a happy camper. It's very obvious through

time that her idea of crazy and my idea of crazy are certainly not twins.

I think crazy is something people do that makes them look foolish. That's what I would think, but then if that's what she thinks, then she doesn't think I'm not smart enough to be crazy. As I was thinking about that, my brain went into an ultra-crazy mode. I had to be careful in case some of that crazy seeped out, and my wife saw it.

I thought maybe I could trick her into describing it to me, so I asked, "When have you seen me acting crazy?"

She laughed like I'd never heard her laugh in a long time. At the time, I didn't understand what she was laughing about, and then she told it.

"Oh my dear," she said, taking a deep breath, "when you are

acting crazy, believe me, you are not acting."

I had to think about that for a long time. So if I had to choose between "crazy" and "stupid," my best choice would be crazy.

Later as I reflected on this I remembered what Solomon said. "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise. A fool's wrath is presently known: but a prudent man covereth shame" (Proverbs 12:15-16).

I'm going to commit myself to hearken unto some wise thinking to cover my shame.

*Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala 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



## Charlie Woodrow 'Woody' Palmer Jr.

Charlie Woodrow "Woody" Palmer Jr., 76, of Crawfordville passed away peacefully surrounded by family on June 19, 2023, after a long illness.

He was born on Nov. 19, 1946, in Bainbridge, Ga. to Charlie Woodrow Palmer Sr. and Shirley Palmer.

Woody was always quiet and unassuming. The gentlest and kindest man you would ever meet. He was a man of few words, but people listened when he talked. He loved riding his Honda Goldwing with what his wife called his "posse," working with his hands and building wooden works of art. He served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam era. In his career he was a mechanic, service writer for auto dealers and retired from being part of the maintenance department for CSU, Chancellor's Office, Long Beach, California.

Throughout his life, Woody's kindness knew no bounds. He volunteered countless hours to Keep

Wakulla County Beautiful and wherever there was a need. To say he was devoted to his wife and family would be an understatement as he always put them first. Woody spent his life building great memories, raising his son and daughter, teaching them the skills to fix it, build it, or just replace it and to have a life full of great adventures. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Jo Ann Palmer; son, Charlie Woodrow "Woody" Palmer III and wife Cindy and granddaughter Peyton of Overland Park, Kansas; daughter Sherri Lynch and husband Mike of Panama City Beach; four loving sisters, Judy (James) Barber, Linda (Terry) Cumbie, Sarah (Robert) Cohen, Sharlene Clayton; brother Raymond Palmer; lots of loving nieces, nephews and lots of friends.

The family wants to thank everyone for their prayers and support. A celebration of his life is planned for a later date. Memorial donations may be made to the charity of your choice.

## DEATH NOTICES

• Douglas "Doug" Ray Chadwell, 60, of Woodville, died June 20, 2023.

• Reynold Deater, 78, of Panacea, died June 23, 2023.

• Barbara Christine "Chris" Helms, 65, of Sopchoppy, died June 21, 2023.

• Clara Mae Thomas, 76, of Panacea, died June 23, 2023.

• Steven Wayne White, 61, of Tallahassee, died June 24, 2023.

Deaths reported by Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919, Familyfhc.com.

## On the Horizon

### Calendar of events for the week of June 22

#### Thursday, June 29

- 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 30

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

#### Saturday, July 1

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

#### Monday, July 3

- 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, July 4

- HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY! Fireworks at sundown in Sopchoppy and St. Marks.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

#### Wednesday, July 5

- 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.

## Weekly Roundup: Orders in the courts

By RYAN DAILEY  
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — Suspended Hillsborough County State Attorney Andrew Warren's nearly year-long bid to get his job back, after being removed from the post by Gov. Ron DeSantis in August, took another major hit this week.

In a 6-1 decision released Thursday, the Florida Supreme Court rejected Warren's request that the court reinstate him, ruling that the twice-elected Democrat waited too long to bring the case.

Warren in February asked Florida's highest court to put him back on the job, arguing that DeSantis "exceeded his powers" in the suspension. But the request came after Warren filed a separate federal lawsuit in September challenging his removal from office.

U.S. District Judge Robert Hinkle in January ruled that the governor's suspension of Warren violated the Florida Constitution and U.S. Constitution — but the judge said he did not have the authority to reinstate Warren. A federal appeals court has heard arguments but not yet ruled in the case.

The Supreme Court's majority opinion, authored by Justice Charles Canady, said the state court has limited power to curb executive suspensions. But Canady also focused on how long it took Warren to seek the Supreme Court's review of his removal, rather than the merits of his suspension.

"Almost one month after the federal district court issued its merits order — extraneous comments and all — and more than six months

after his suspension, petitioner (Warren) finally knocked on this (Supreme) Court's door and requested our 'expeditious review,'" the majority opinion said.

The five justices who concurred with Canady's opinion are appointees of DeSantis. But Justice Jorge Labarga, who was appointed in 2009 by then-Gov. Charlie Crist, wrote a dissenting opinion.

"Given that this case involves the suspension of a then-sitting elected official — for whom a substantial portion of the term yet remains — I am unpersuaded by the majority's conclusion that Warren's petition is properly denied on the ground of unreasonable delay," Labarga wrote.

In his Aug. 4 suspension of Warren, DeSantis accused the prosecutor of "incompetence" and "neglect of duty." The governor based his punishment of Warren on a letter the prosecutor signed pledging to avoid enforcing a law preventing abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy.

The state Constitution gives the governor the authority to suspend elected officials, but the ultimate decision about removal from office rests with the Florida Senate. Senate leaders put Warren's case on hold, pending the outcome of his lawsuits.

Warren blasted Thursday's ruling.

"Rather than addressing the substance of the governor's illegal action, the court cited a technicality and avoided a ruling on the merits of the case. We are extremely disappointed by today's decision," Warren said in a statement Thursday.

### TRANS CARE RULING

A federal judge on Wednesday ruled against the state in a challenge to Florida's prohibition against Medicaid coverage for gender-affirming care such as puberty blockers and hormone therapy.

U.S. District Judge Robert Hinkle in a 54-page decision called the state's policy "invidious discrimination" against transgender people, ruling that the coverage ban is unconstitutional.

"Same record, same findings and conclusions," Hinkle wrote, referencing an earlier ruling in a separate case on state restrictions on gender-affirming care for children and adults. "Gender identity is real."

Wednesday's ruling came in a lawsuit filed by two adults and the parents of two children against the state Agency for Health Care Administration, which runs most of the Medicaid program. The agency last year adopted a rule banning Medicaid reimbursements to health-care providers for "sex-reassignment" treatments, such as puberty blockers, hormone therapy and surgeries.

Hinkle's ruling addressed only gender-affirming medicines.

The health agency adopted the rule based on a report that concluded such treatment

was "experimental" and "not medically necessary," and thus did not meet the threshold for Medicaid coverage. The report was by researchers who oppose gender-affirming care.

Hinkle found that the state only sought evidence to support a foregone decision to scrap the coverage, saying that the process "was, from the outset, a biased effort to justify a predetermined outcome" and not based on a fair analysis of evidence.

Hinkle also disputed state allegations that many young patients later "regret" using gender-affirming care.

"Regret is rare; indeed, the defendants have offered no evidence of any Florida resident who regrets being treated with GnRH agonists (puberty blockers) or hormones," Hinkle wrote.

### THUMBS DOWN?

The presidents of Florida's 12 universities are going to have to wait until their request to be allowed to raise tuition for out-of-state students will be considered by the governing body that oversees the schools.

The university presidents and chairs of the dozen schools' trustee boards made the request in December, citing an influx of applications from students

coming from outside of Florida and a desire to "prioritize" students from within the Sunshine State. They also pointed to the last tuition hike for out-of-state students coming roughly a decade ago.

But the proposal was put on pause Thursday during a meeting of the state university system's Board of Governors.

Eric Silagy, the board's vice chairman, announced the postponement and said "additional work" is needed before potentially implementing the tuition increase.

Silagy's comments came shortly after DeSantis addressed tuition during a media event in Tampa Thursday morning.

"We are the lowest in America for tuition and fees in higher education, and that's really important," DeSantis said. "And I don't think we have done tuition increases in Florida for about 10 years. So, that's something that's been very, very signif-

icant."

DeSantis, who is running for president in 2024, has made keeping Florida's college and university tuition low a pillar of his higher-education policies.

### STORY OF THE WEEK:

The Florida Supreme Court on Thursday rejected an attempt by suspended Hillsborough County State Attorney Andrew Warren to get his job back, ruling that the twice-elected Democrat waited too long to bring the case.

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"The court's order is a much-needed win for Floridians, amidst a climate where the rights of transgender individuals are being relentlessly attacked by the state." — Simone Chriss, director of the Transgender Rights Initiative at Southern Legal Counsel, on a federal judge's ruling this week that Florida's prohibition against Medicaid coverage for gender-affirming care is unconstitutional.

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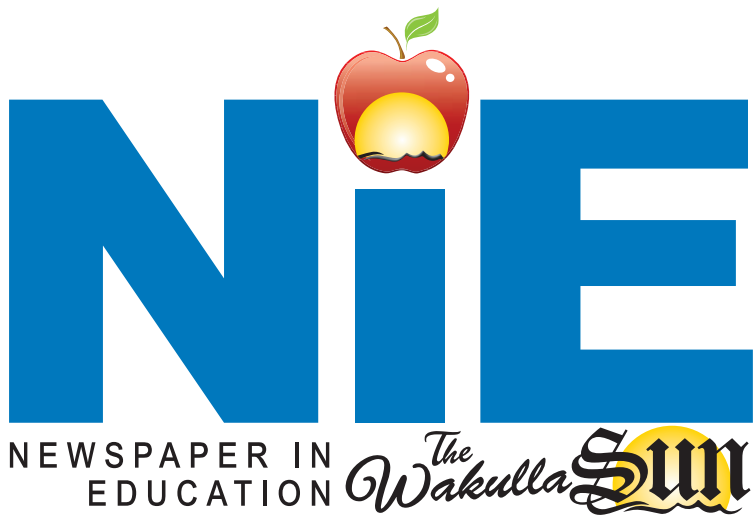
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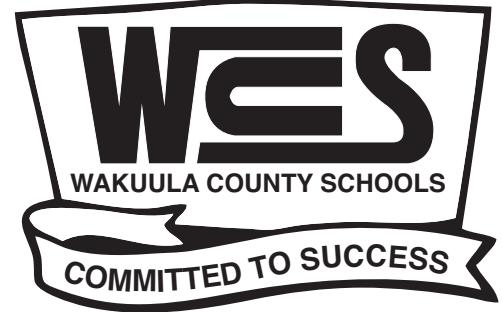
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## USE THE NEWS

### 1. SUNK SUB

An underwater vessel carrying five people to the Titanic shipwreck lost contact with the surface, which led to a several day hunt in the Atlantic Ocean. The US Coast Guard announced that it found parts of the vessel, meaning it probably broke apart in the water. Many have now questioned the safety risks and why people were allowed to be on it in the first place.

Research the history of the Titanic shipwreck and write a short article summarizing the story.

### 2. TROUBLE FOR AMAZON

The Federal Trade Commission, which helps regulate businesses and protect Americans from fraud and scams, sued Amazon for allegedly tricking customers. The FTC claims Amazon trapped people into enrolling in memberships for its Prime service without their knowledge and making it difficult for them to cancel or be refunded. Amazon has denied the claims against it.

Write an article that explains what Amazon allegedly did wrong and why it would be a problem for customers.

### 3. WATERMELON SNOW

Mountains in Utah are turning shades of pink, red, and orange because of the growth of algae on the snow's surface. The algae produces the reddish pigment to protect it against the sun's rays and help absorb heat, which melts the snow and provides the algae the water it needs to grow. The phenomenon is called watermelon snow.

Write a short arti-

cle about the snow and draw your own pictures to accompany it.

### 4. LAB GROWN

The United States' Department of Agriculture has approved the sale of chicken meat that was grown in a lab from

cell cultures. The meat starts from cells collected from chickens; the cells are grown in steel tanks to produce meat that can be formed into patties and sausages. It could help reduce the effects of climate change from the agriculture industry to grow

meat this way and help produce more food to solve global hunger problems.

Write a list of ways lab-grown meat could be helpful for the planet and any ways you think it would be a problem.

### 5. SCORES ARE

**DOWN**  
New national studies showed that reading and math scores for middle-school students are at their lowest in decades. Math scores for 13-year-olds dropped 9 points and reading scores for 13-year-olds dropped 4 points,

with declines showing regardless of gender, race, or religion. Think about why scores may have declined at this time in history and what recent events could have affected students.

Share your ideas with your classmates.

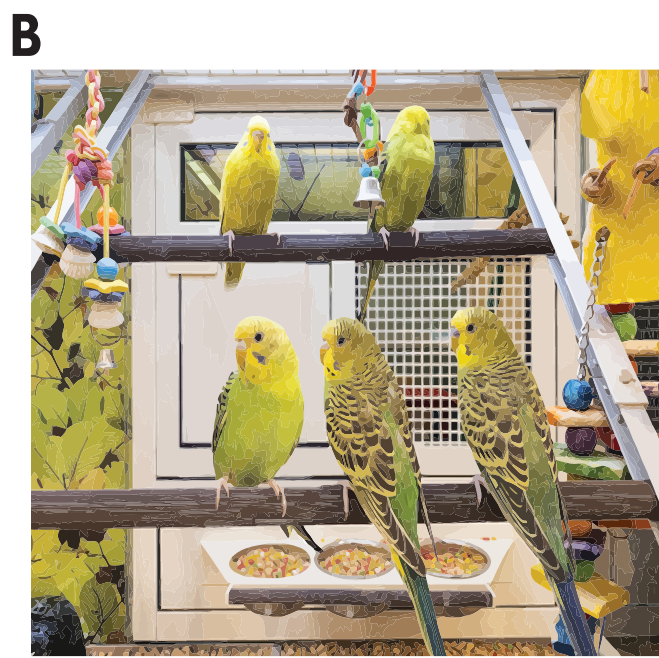


THIS IS THE PRACTICE OF TEMPORARILY OPENING YOUR HOME TO A PET IN NEED.

ANSWER: FOSTERING

## What's the Difference?

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



Answers: 1. Bird on left front row facing other direction 2. Mesh missing 3. Extra food 4. Third knot missing top right

## THIS DAY IN...



## HISTORY

- 1947: "THE DIARY OF A YOUNG GIRL," BETTER KNOWN AS "THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK," IS PUBLISHED.
- 1975: MOZAMBIQUE ACHIEVES INDEPENDENCE FROM PORTUGAL.
- 1997: THE NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE APPROVES EXPANSION FRANCHISES FOR ATLANTA, NASHVILLE, COLUMBUS, AND MINNEAPOLIS-SAINT PAUL.



## TEMPORARY

lasting for only a limited time



**ENGLISH:** Adopt

**SPANISH:** Adoptar

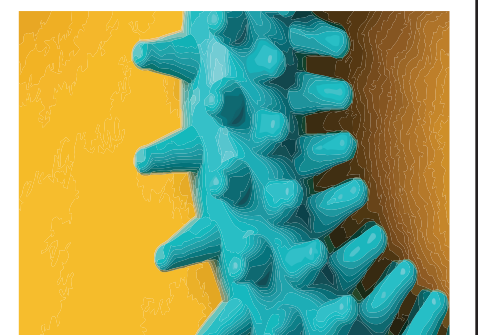
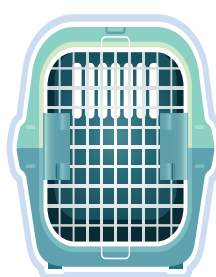
**ITALIAN:** Adottare

**FRENCH:** Adopter

**GERMAN:** jnd adoptieren



FOSTER FAMILIES HELP ANIMAL RESCUES PROVIDE HOUSING TO PETS FOR WHOM THERE IS NO ROOM IN SHELTERS.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: DOG CHEW TOY



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**SUBMIT RESUME TO** William Snowden, editor and publisher of the Sun, at [editor@thewakullasun.com](mailto:editor@thewakullasun.com).

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God Bless America  
 Sheriff Jared Miller wishes you  
 a Safe & Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July

WAKULLA COUNTY  
**SHERIFF**

**SHERIFF JARED MILLER**

**-SMILE-  
 GOD LOVES YOU!**

**LUBE-  
 XPERT**

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 ONE HEART, ONE HAND,  
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**INDEPENDENCE DAY**  
**USA**  
 SINCE 1776

*Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July*

Happy Birthday  
**America!**

Lisa Craze and Staff  
 Wakulla County  
 Tax Collector's  
 Office

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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA!**

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**WAKULLA COUNTY**  
**We Be People**  
 SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

Joe Morgan,  
 Supervisor of Elections  
 and Team

**HAPPY 4<sup>th</sup> OF JULY**

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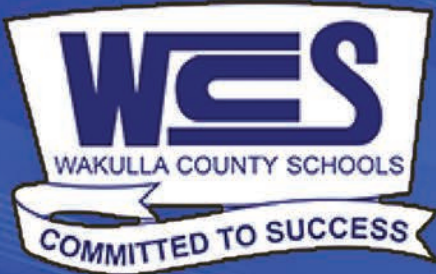
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*Happy Independence Day!*

*The Wakulla Sun*



# WE'RE HIRING

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- Secondary Teachers 6-12
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- ESE Teachers
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- Media Specialist
- Technology Teacher
- Paraprofessionals
- Art Teacher
- Elementary Music Teacher

**APPLY AT: WWW.WakullaSchoolDistrict.ORG**



## Readers' Choice Awards

Enter your ballot online at [TheWakullaSun.com](http://TheWakullaSun.com) to Participate in Choosing Wakulla County's **FAVORITE** Local Businesses!



Submit your completed form by July 7 for your chance to...

**WIN \$100**

Submit your completed entry form and be entered in the drawing to win \$100 in Cash\*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Are you a current subscriber to *The Wakulla Sun*?  Yes  No

### Readers' Choice Categories:

- ANIMAL CARE:**  
 Pet Care/Sitting \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pet Grooming \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pet Supplies \_\_\_\_\_  
 Veterinarian \_\_\_\_\_
- AUTOMOTIVE:**  
 Auto Engine Repair \_\_\_\_\_  
 Auto Body Shops \_\_\_\_\_  
 Car & Truck Dealer \_\_\_\_\_  
 Oil Change \_\_\_\_\_
- FINANCIAL SERVICES:**  
 Bank \_\_\_\_\_  
 Credit Union \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mortgage Company \_\_\_\_\_
- FOOD & BEVERAGE:**  
 Liquor Store \_\_\_\_\_  
 Grocery \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ice Cream/ Frozen Yogurt \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bakery \_\_\_\_\_  
 Butcher \_\_\_\_\_
- HEALTH & FITNESS:**  
 Gym \_\_\_\_\_  
 Massage Therapist \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chiropractor \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fitness Instructor/Trainer \_\_\_\_\_
- HOME:**  
 Builder \_\_\_\_\_  
 Real Estate Company \_\_\_\_\_  
 Individual Realtor \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title Company \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Rental Co. \_\_\_\_\_
- HOME-OUTDOORS:**  
 Surveyor \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lawn Care/Landscaping \_\_\_\_\_

- Nursery/Garden Center \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tree Service \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pools/Pool Care \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Improvement \_\_\_\_\_
- SERVICES/REPAIR:**  
 Flooring \_\_\_\_\_  
 Plumbing \_\_\_\_\_  
 Electrician \_\_\_\_\_  
 A/C - Heating \_\_\_\_\_  
 Painter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Cleaning Service \_\_\_\_\_  
 Roofer \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fencing \_\_\_\_\_
- PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:**  
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 Attorney \_\_\_\_\_  
 Doctor \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dentist \_\_\_\_\_  
 Insurance Agent \_\_\_\_\_
- PERSONAL SERVICES:**  
 Barber Shop \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Nail Care \_\_\_\_\_
- RETAIL:**  
 Women's Boutique \_\_\_\_\_  
 Clothing \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gifts \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hardware \_\_\_\_\_  
 Seafood Market \_\_\_\_\_
- MISC:**  
 Kids Activities \_\_\_\_\_  
 Childcare \_\_\_\_\_  
 Storage Centers \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dance Studios \_\_\_\_\_

- Photographers \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hotel/Lodging \_\_\_\_\_  
 Local News Source \_\_\_\_\_  
 Local Band/Musician \_\_\_\_\_  
 Local Artist \_\_\_\_\_  
 Non-Profit \_\_\_\_\_
- RECREATION:**  
 Marina \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fishing Charter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bait & Tackle \_\_\_\_\_  
 Boat & Motor Repair \_\_\_\_\_  
 Canoe/Kayak Rental \_\_\_\_\_  
 Scuba \_\_\_\_\_
- RESTAURANT:**  
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 Coffee \_\_\_\_\_  
 Breakfast \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lunch \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dinner \_\_\_\_\_  
 Service \_\_\_\_\_  
 Entertainment \_\_\_\_\_  
 Seafood \_\_\_\_\_  
 Grouper \_\_\_\_\_  
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Tell us your favorites by filling out the official ENTRY BALLOT online at [TheWakullaSun.com](http://TheWakullaSun.com) or below. Your name will then be registered in a random drawing for \$100 in Cash.\*

**THIS AD IS YOUR OFFICIAL BALLOT & ENTRY FORM.**

**Go to [TheWakullaSun.com](http://TheWakullaSun.com) to complete the ballot. Limit one ballot entry per person.**

Complete and return to The Wakulla Sun by 5:00 p.m. July 7, 2023.

**Print Entry Form:**

Mail your official entry form and completed ballot to:  
 The Wakulla Sun c/o Readers' Choice Contest  
 The Wakulla Sun 12 Arran Rd., Crawfordville FL 32327

### Official Rules

\*Entries must have 15 of favorites filled, all contact information filled out and be entered on [TheWakullaSun.com](http://TheWakullaSun.com) or be handwritten on official entry ballot from *The Wakulla Sun* to be counted. \*Computer generated ballots, mechanical reproductions, photocopies, carbon copies, illegible entries or ballots with answers that are not true and/or relevant will not be accepted. \*One entry per person. \*Ballots not meeting these requirements will be voided and will not be eligible for the \$100 prize. \*All ballots must be received by *The Wakulla Sun* by 5 p.m. on August 7, 2023. Send entire ballot to *The Wakulla Sun* "Readers' Choice Contest", 12 Arran Rd. Crawfordville FL 32327 (No purchase required.) \*Winning entry will be drawn by a representative of *The Wakulla Sun*. \*All entrants agree to publication of their name, home town, and photograph without additional compensation. Announcement of the winner will appear in the "Readers' Choice" special section to be published August 2023 in *The Wakulla Sun*. \*Employees of *The Wakulla Sun* and their families are not eligible to win. Not intended for residents of states where prohibited by law. Winner must be 18 years of age or older. \*All ballots that do not meet this criteria will not be counted.