



It's scallop season!
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The Wakulla Sun

"It's a New Day"



Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
PM Thunderstorms	PM Thunderstorms	Scattered Thunderstorms
Hi: 93° Lo: 75° 58%	Hi: 90° Lo: 75° 58%	Hi: 91° Lo: 76° 58%
Sunrise 6:41 AM Sunset 8:42 PM	Sunrise 6:42 AM Sunset 8:42 PM	Sunrise 6:42 AM Sunset 8:42 PM

Locally Owned & Operated

Our 2nd Year 27th Issue
Thursday, July 6, 2023



\$1
One Section

OPIOID OVERDOSES

Last year, there were 28 opioid overdoses in Wakulla County (none fatal). Six months into 2023, there have already been 52 (none fatal), with most of those cases in people 60 and older.



'That's why I was asked to come speak to you today.'

Lisa Sherry, community outreach coordinator at Disc Village, talks about opioids at the senior center last week.

Health officials educate on opioids at senior center

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

Health officials held a special presentation on opioids at the Wakulla Senior Center last week because of concerns about the increasing number of overdoses by seniors.

Lisa Sherry, community outreach coordinator for Disc Village, led the presentation on , which covered the history of opioids and attempts at government regulation.

Also available were free Narcan and Naloxone kits that can reverse an overdose from opioids. All of the kits were given out to the seniors.

Sherry talked about how to dispose of medications, noting it is no

longer considered appropriate to flush medications down the toilet. Instead, drug take-back sites (such as the sheriff's office) are good, or you can mix opioids with used coffee grounds or kitty litter in a plastic bag and then throw in the garbage. Then scratch out personal information on the prescription bottles and dispose of them.

Sherry noted the dangers of fentanyl – a synthetic opioid that is 100 times more potent than morphine.

Fentanyl and other synthetic opioids are the most common drugs involved in overdose deaths. More than 150 die every day from fentanyl overdose nationwide.

Sherry also provided fentanyl detection kits to seniors.

Opioids were first marketed in 1898 by the Bayer Company, Sherry noted. In 1914, the U.S. passed the Harrison Narcotic Act, which regulated opiates and coca products. Heroin was outlawed in 1924. The Controlled Substances Act was passed in 1970 and created to regulate substances based on medical use, potential for abuse and dependence.

Sherry also noted the opioid epidemic of the past 20 years kicked off with Purdue Pharma began aggressively marketing oxycodone, which was supposed to have time-release qualities that

prevent abuse – which turned out could be circumvented by crushing the tablets.

Sherry noted that some people can become addicted to opioids in as little as five days.

She suggested some alternatives for pain management without medication, including meditation, massage, and exercise.

"If people weren't buying, they wouldn't be selling... and people are buying because they're in pain – either physical or emotional pain," she said. "Both are valid."

"We can get through this together," she told the seniors. "We just need to change behavior."

Editor's Note

Because of the Fourth of July holiday, printing and delivery of The Sun was delayed, so subscribers may receive the newspaper a day later than usual.

We apologize for any inconvenience.

A PERSONAL REMEMBRANCE

Jean Dykes, local businesswoman, has passed away

The native of Crawfordville owned a restaurant and liquor store

By LYNDIA KINSEY
Staff

Jean Dykes passed away on Friday, June 30, surrounded by family. She was 88.

I just saw her two weeks ago going into the Quick Stop in Crawfordville. That makes me think about seeing her several months earlier and her telling me about buying \$100 worth of \$1 lottery tickets. She said that I should do it at least one time because she had so much fun scratching all of those tickets.

For those of you who are not familiar with this strong-minded woman, she grew up in downtown Crawfordville. Over the years she has told me so many stories about growing up in this very small town with mostly just dirt roads, where kids could be kids and play outside and you didn't have to worry about the things parents worry about today. There were more freedoms for children and they played outside all the time with the neighborhood kids. She talked about swimming a lot at Wakulla Springs.

She was born in 1935 in our nation's capital and the family later moved to Crawfordville. Her family owned the H.T. Adams gas station and store that was torn down a few years ago – located across from Pet Stop on Crawfordville Highway in downtown Crawfordville. It was the hub of Crawfordville back then, offering hot meals, groceries and vegetable that the family grew on their property down Arran Road. I believe she served beer to the soldiers when she was 12.

Listening to her talk about life growing up in Crawfordville. It always sounded so innocent and like she grew up in Mayberry. She absolutely loved Wakulla County, growing up here, and the great respect she has for neighbor and the people who live here and love it as much as she does.

She fell head over heels for a young man when she was just a teenager. Jimmy Dykes was the love of her life. In stories she would tell, it sounded like

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Jean Dykes passed away Friday. Her obituary appears on Page 9

Wakulla outperforms state in tests

Local schools rank 6th in reading in the state; 12th in math

Special to The Sun

The Florida Department of Education recently released results for the first year of new statewide testing, and Wakulla's students and teachers demonstrated incredible resilience by outperforming their peers across the state.

Wakulla's percentage of students earning a passing score in Reading improved 2% on the new assessment compared to a decrease of 2% for all students statewide.

This improved Wakul-

la's statewide ranking in Reading from 13th to 6th amongst all 67 school districts in Florida.

In math, Wakulla improved 3% compared to an only 1% increase for the state, which represents an increase in rankings from 14th to 12th.

Other notable statewide rankings include: 14th in 5th Grade Science, 6th in Biology, 13th in Civics, and 4th in US History.

"The innovative use of new data by our teach-



District Director of Instructional Data Rick Myhre

ers, and school leaders, has clearly led to successes for our students," says Director

of Instructional Data Rick Myhre. "These cumulative results also demonstrate our entire community's support of education, and positive parental involvement to ensure their students are successful. The entire county should share a sense of pride in these accomplishments."

School grades will not be issued until the Winter as the state DOE must determine different grading calculations and scale for the new assessments.

Legion Taylor joins staff of The Sun as a reporter

Legion Taylor has joined the staff of The Wakulla Sun as a reporter, editor William Snowden announced this week.

Taylor is a rising senior at Wakulla High School who is dual-enrolled at Tallahassee Community College.

He is looking forward to being a part of the Sun, as he feels it will be a great start on the path to writing full-time, a goal he has had for many years.



Legion Taylor

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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.

FLORIDA A HOME
 Support Homeownership For All

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.

FLORIDA M801D
 FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park Narrowleaf Ironweed

By LYNN ARTZ, SANDY TEDDER and DAVID RODDENBERRY



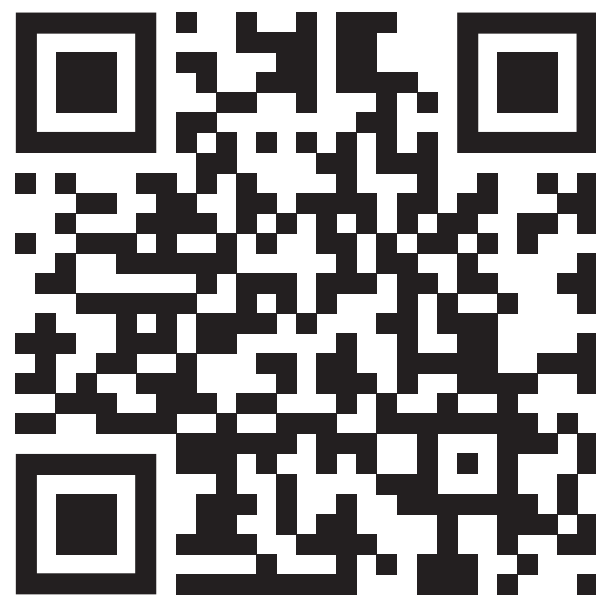
Narrowleaf ironweed grows in full sun and dry soil.

The bright magenta flowers of narrowleaf ironweed (*Vernonia angustifolia*) sit atop 40" stems with many very narrow leaves that curve down. The colorful blooms attract native bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. This short-lived perennial grows naturally in pine woods and sandhills in the northern half of Florida. Narrowleaf ironweed is easy to grow in full sun and dry soil. Get free seeds at Sopchoppy Depot Park or buy seeds online from the Florida Wildflower Grower's Cooperative. Sow seeds in the fall for spring germination. Also called tall ironweed, narrowleaf ironweed is easy to distinguish from giant ironweed (*Vernonia gigantea*) which has lance-shaped leaves, prefers moist habitats, and can grow up to 8-feet tall. Narrowleaf ironweed is blooming now along the fence in the northeast garden of Sopchoppy Depot Park.



Rotary banquet

Linda Oaks, above, was named Rotarian of the Year by outgoing club president Katie Taff. And County Judge Brian Miller swore-in incoming president Kiersten Smith at the banquet held Tuesday, June 27 at Wakulla Springs Lodge. (Photos by William Snowden)



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The Wakulla Sun

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SAVE THE DATE!

BACKPACK/SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE-THRU DISTRIBUTIONS

Date	City	Location
July 15 th	St. Marks	Coast Charter School, 48 Shell Island Rd
July 22 nd	Panacea	Panacea Plaza, 1353 Coastal Hwy
July 29 th	Sopchoppy	City Hall, 105 Municipal Ave
August 5 th	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



\$1 million gift for Big Bend Hospice facility

First Commerce Center for Compassionate Care will fund services at Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare

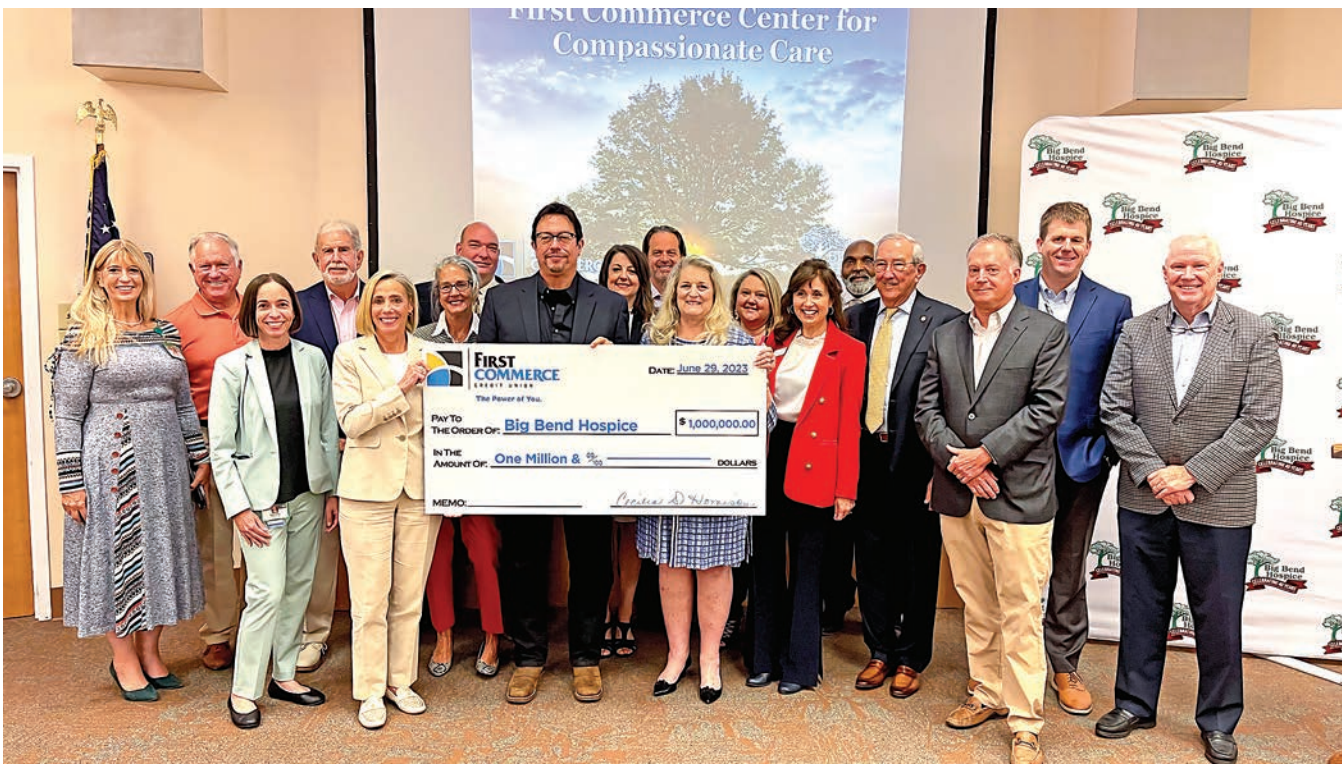
Special to The Sun

A \$1 million gift from First Commerce Credit Union (FCCU) kickstarted Big Bend Hospice's fundraising campaign for a new state-of-the-art center for compassionate hospice care, currently under construction on the third floor of Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare. In recognition of FCCU's support of Big Bend Hospice's mission and the sincere generosity of this gift, the new space will be named the First Commerce Center for Compassionate Care.

"We could not be prouder of taking our longtime support of Big Bend Hospice to a whole new level with the First Commerce Center for Compassionate Care," said Cecilia Homison, CEO of First Commerce.

"We are blessed to live in a community where the contributions of Not-For-Profit organizations are valued and supported," said Bill Wertman, CEO, Big Bend Hospice. "First Commerce Credit Union is a longtime partner to Big Bend Hospice and the community, and we are honored by their legacy gift to our capital campaign. No one ever wants to think about or be in an end-of-life situation, but it is our privilege to support this sensitive and intimate time in people's lives. This new inpatient unit we are creating in partnership with TMH will provide a beautiful home-like setting where we will give focused, specialized care and comfort to our patients and their families."

Upon completion of the First Commerce Center



Officials from First Commerce Credit Union, Big Bend Hospice, and the Big Bend Hospice Foundation at the public announcement on Thursday, June 29 in Tallahassee.

for Compassionate Care at Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare later in 2023, an entire team of Big Bend Hospice skilled in end-of-life care including doctors, nurses, social workers, bereavement, music therapists, and trained volunteers will provide loving hospice care to patients and families who otherwise would be unable to receive it due to their condition.

"This expansion will touch countless more families during one of the most difficult times in their lives by providing access to Hospice's care, comfort, and inpatient services at Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare," said Alan Neubauer, Chairman of the Board for First Commerce.

This major milestone is being celebrated as part of Big Bend Hospice's 40th anniversary year serving

as the hometown hospice for eight counties in the Big Bend area, with a mission of providing a standard of excellent care for those in our community. Throughout its history, Big Bend Hospice has added and expanded services, and the First Commerce Center for Compassionate Care will fulfill its latest goal by offering hospice care and services for patients and families in the most advanced stages of illness who are too fragile to be cared for away from a hospital setting.

"Big Bend Hospice Foundation is honored First Commerce Credit Union has chosen to provide the lead gift in our \$5 million Capital Campaign to name the center," said Dena Strickland, Foundation President. "The First Commerce Center for Compassionate Care will provide a place of hope

and state-of-the-art care for our community."

The First Commerce Center for Compassionate Care will have eight modern, comfortable patient rooms, one of which can be easily converted to accommodate pediatric patients, and two that will have the ability to isolate patients with airborne diseases to avoid the risk of exposure. Patients being treated at Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare who may need hospice services can be transferred to the First Commerce Center for Compassionate Care on the third floor, where they will benefit from the full services of the Big Bend Hospice's team.

Big Bend Hospice has been proudly serving this community since 1983, inspiring hope by positively impacting the way our community; Leon, Frank-

lin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, and Wakulla counties; experiences a serious illness or grief – one family at a time. If you would like information about services, please call 850-878-5310 or visit www.bigbendhospice.org.

First Commerce Credit Union is a #LocalStrong award-winning, full-service financial institution and the largest locally-based credit union in Tallahassee with more than \$1 billion in assets and serving more than 70,000 consumer and business members in North Florida/South Georgia. First Commerce

is well known for supporting the communities we serve, including recognition as a two-time national 1st place winner of the Dora Maxwell Social Responsibility Community Service Award from the Credit Union National Association, with back-to-back wins in 2020 and 2021, and a longtime consistent winner at the state level by the League of Southeastern Credit Unions. Our dedication to empowering people to enhance their well-being includes providing free financial education online and in-person through the FCCU Foundation, our 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit organization. The credit union has 14 locations – in Florida, 6 in Tallahassee and 1 in Marianna and in Georgia, 3 in Valdosta, and one each in Thomasville, Adel, Nashville and Ray City. First Commerce offers best-in-class consumer and business products, services, and technology – including EasySWITCH, which makes switching to a First Commerce checking account easier than ever. First Commerce also offers comprehensive financial planning and investment services through its subsidiary Six Pillars Financial Advisors. For details, visit FirstCommerceCU.org or call 850.488.0035 or 800.533.5772. Insured by NCUA. Equal housing opportunity lender.

PUBLIC NOTICES:

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

Remembrance of Jean Dykes

From Front Page

of her life. In stories she would tell, it sounded like she set her sights on him and was determined that he was the one. That is Barbara Jean Moore Dykes in many aspects of her life. I loved listening to her tell the story of how they eloped and got married in Thomasville after Jimmy found out that he was drafted into the service. They were going to keep their marriage a secret. They were married for over 56 years.

I remember Jean would come into the paper several times over the years and bring pictures and stories to run an ad in memory of Jimmy after he passed. She spoke so highly of him and as she wanted to place these tributes to him, she wanted others to remember him. She also knew that placing this memorial tribute to him in the local paper that it would also be archival so that people a hundred

years from now could also know who he was and also for their family generations.

She loved to talk about being in the restaurant business in the building across from Ace Hardware. (Ace was not there during this time period.) Listening to her, it never really seemed to be all about the money but more about how proud she was to offer a service to the community. With that said, she really was a strong businesswoman and entrepreneur. I really don't remember many stories about the gift shop or the liquor store, she seemed to talk to me about the restaurant the most. She so has wanted a restaurant to thrive in the location of her past restaurant.

She also has had smaller businesses that she would advertise with me from time to time.

I enjoyed sitting at her table and talking about her ad, then chatting about her life growing up in Wakulla.

Another story is when she realized that I smoked cigarettes, she told me she would not advertise with me any more until I stopped smoking. It wasn't that she was trying to be demanding, she really thought that may help me quit. Again, that was Jean, she wanted me to stop and she wanted to steer that. She might have been a little bossy at times but it was generally something for your own good.

Jean would seem to always say something kind, have a smile and I especially enjoyed seeing her sitting with all the ladies at the Seineyard at Wildwood playing bingo.

When we launched The Wakulla Sun and the Sun Monthly, we wanted to do a story on Jean and her life growing up in Wakulla. In July of last year, we asked her for an interview and she somewhat declined and said she was not ready. But I know where she lives! So, I went to her house and knocked on her door, we sat down at her table and I tried to convince her to do the story. She wanted

me to do the story for her. That is really the reporter's job and I thought that the reporter would do a much better article for Jean anyway so I had to convince her.

I remember thinking, "How am I going to convince this strong-willed woman to consent to doing this?" But I did! She wanted to know if the reporter was from Wakulla County. I told her that Charity, our reporter at that time, was originally from Woodville but that she and her family had lived here for a long time and that she graduated from Wakulla High School. Somehow that made it better for Jean and she finally said to have the reporter call her.

Jean Dykes was the featured person in the August 2022 Sun Monthly.

I have known this family for many years and feel connections in different ways. Jean would tell me she loved me and say I was family, just like she called Jewell Hudson "Uncle Jewel."

Please keep Jean and her family in your prayers during this time.

I'm sure I could go on and on about this great Wakulla gem whom I have enjoyed over the years, but I think I would like to hear stories from others too.

If you would like to write a memory about Barbara Jean Moore Dykes, I would love to read it. You can email it to editor@thewakullasun.com or drop it off at the Sun office, 12 Arran Road, the building with the awnings on the courthouse square.



WAKULLA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE UNCLAIMED MONIES JULY 2023

As required by FS 101 below is a list of unclaimed monies the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office is holding. Named Individuals must submit a written claim on or before September 9, 2023 by the close of business at the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office. A valid form of identification will be required to make a claim. If these monies are not claimed on or before said deadline these monies shall be declared forfeited under Florida Statute 101.22 to the Wakulla County Board of Community and Future Fund.

First Name	Last Name	Balance
JASSON	BAKER	\$10.00
ADMIRAL	BARWICK	\$15.55
PETER	BEARSE	\$10.54
HERMAN	BODIFORD	\$29.80
HECTOR	CANALES	\$63.44
BRANDY	CARLETON	\$30.00
TONY	CLARK	\$68.00
TERA	CRUSON	\$32.68
DONALD	DIXON	\$10.00
JUDE	DOLCEME	\$34.07
AROLDO	ESPINA	\$22.43
MIGUEL	ESQUIVEL-NIETO	\$80.00
KYLA	FOUNTAIN	\$12.21
JESSE	GIDDENS	\$77.17
CHRISTIAN	GODWIN	\$15.00
KENNETH	GRIEGER	\$23.33
DAVID	HARRELL	\$11.00
DONOVAN	LENNOX	\$15.00
HUMBERTO	MACHUCA	\$230.00
ANTHONY	MILLER	\$65.22
BERT	MIRANDA	\$16.15
LEE	PITTMAN	\$34.00
JOSEPH	RILEY	\$46.00
BRANDON SHAMAR	ROSIER	\$12.00
LEONARD	SAFFORD	\$33.00
JAMES	SARTIN	\$16.00
SCOTT	SCHEXNAILDRE	\$98.00
STEVEN	SKIDMORE	\$36.94
ETHAN	TAYLOR	\$61.00
HANNAH	TINSLEY	\$15.04
BRANDON	TRUSSELL	\$10.00
BRAXTON	TUCKER	\$20.00
JESSE	WARD	\$190.00
TAYLOR	WARD	\$65.00
GARRETT	WATSON	\$18.00
SOPHINA	WEBB	\$15.00
JAMES	WHITE	\$18.15
JAMES	WILLSON	\$10.86
NICHOLAS	YOUNG	\$12.59
MATT	HEDGES	\$32.88

July 6, 2023



Jean Dykes and friends, playing bingo at the Seineyard.

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.”

Florida making incredible strides in mental health



By **MIKE WATKINS**
CEO of NWF Health

In a world where critics and naysayers abound, it is vital to recognize the very real fact that our state is making progress – significant progress – in managing mental health services for our children and young adults.

By way of background, let us be reminded that in the wake of the 2018 Parkland shooting, Florida lawmakers passed a comprehensive new law to address several critical elements surrounding the tragedy. One of the areas rarely discussed publicly is the largest

and most significant expansion of children’s mental health resources in our state’s history.

How we respond to children’s behavioral health matters. A wide array of interventions was legislated and implemented both in our schools and throughout every Florida community with the goal of promoting safety, preventing trauma, and intervening with youth in crisis. As a result, there are now new ways we administer mental health services in this state and these have made a meaningful and positive difference for hundreds of thousands of children.

Let me offer one clear and shining example by way of the newly conceived and implemented “Mobile Response Teams” (MRTs). MRTs are rapid response teams of trained mental health professionals who provide emergency behavioral health assess-

ments and connect those in crisis with alternatives to inpatient psychiatric treatment when appropriate. These teams are operated by community mental health centers, were designed by law to be a first response alternative, and to be on-site quickly within 60 minutes. And in many rural communities – where meeting such a timeline would be functionally impossible, we are partnering with local Sheriffs to make certain that we meet that requirement.

As a result, one of the easily measurable and positive outcomes has been the avoidance of forced inpatient treatment of individuals, also known as “Baker Acting.” The objective of MRTs is not just to provide immediate support to a person in need, but to also engage the family in their home community to eliminate risk to the individual and to others with wraparound ser-

vices.

And to be clear, the MRTs don’t just arrive, treat, and leave. They begin the process, where appropriate, of immediately addressing the problem and connecting the family to ongoing treatment services.

Has it worked?

Yes! Fantastically so!

Statewide we have seen a net reduction in Baker Acts (involuntary institutionalization) even while our population continues to grow and even while we suffered through a very stressful global pandemic.

In the Northwest region served by NWF Health – the 18 counties from Escambia to our west to Madison and Taylor to our east – we have seen a net reduction of about 15% in Baker Acts (even while our population increased nearly 5%). Perhaps most impressively, in our region, more than 10,000 children have been seen by

MRTs and about 80% (yes, 4 in 5!) did not result in-patient treatment – a level of care never before available to our children.

Why is this critical?

When someone is in a crisis mental health state and needs to be involuntarily put into an inpatient setting, that alone can be traumatic. While that is sometimes a necessary part of the treatment protocol, it is good to know those charged with protecting lives and providing treatment have another tool in their tool chest and it appears to be having the desired effect. Our schools, school resource officers, and law enforcement agencies are working together to identify students in need, utilize MRTs to avoid Baker Acts altogether, and improve awareness of students needs post-crisis.

In a complex world of managing mental health and keeping our

children safe, there are many aspects underway worth discussing, but it is important to note the largest expansion of student mental health care with specific strategies that are clearly working. Florida lawmakers got this one right and with continued support from Governor and First Lady DeSantis, coupled with their first-in-the-nation childhood resiliency initiatives – it is undeniable that we are on the right track.

Mike Watkins is the CEO of NWF Health Network with extensive experience in the provision of health care, mental health, and child protection services in both the government and private sectors. NWF Health Network serves as the network management agency for child protection and behavioral health in northwest Florida. He can be reached at mwatkins@nwfhealth.org.

LETTERS FROM READERS

Complaint about costs for inmates

Editor, The Sun:

I am writing in concern as to the costs of incarceration on the families. I have worked for the Department of Corrections for over 27 years. I even worked in a prison for more than nine years. I’ve heard their voices, but never really understood what the financial costs were. I did understand the emotional toll incarceration took on the family.

My son is 36 years old and has a drug problem along with many here in Wakulla County. He has gone to jail a couple times, but this is the first time in Wakulla County Jail. He is there because he broke the law and is not there by choice. He is constantly asking for money for his canteen because he is hungry. You cannot purchase a care package like in Leon County Jail. When you send him money, there is a large fee. See illustration.

I understand if you pay in cash at the kiosk in the jail there is only

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Amount	
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Fees	
Amount	Fixed Fee + Variable Fee
\$0.00 - \$25.00	\$3.25 + 3.0000%
\$25.01 - \$100.00	\$4.50 + 3.0000%
\$100.01 - \$200.00	\$6.00 + 3.0000%
\$200.01 and up	\$7.50 + 3.0000%

Fee Calculation: (Amount + Fixed Fee) / 0.97 = Total
 Click here for a more detailed fee explanation. (./Fees.aspx)

a two-dollar fee, but not sure if you must use a credit card what the fee is.

The county also charges an incarceration fee of \$4.00 a day. I was told that they are considering raising the fee to \$10 per day. If we send him money and if he owes any of the \$4 per day, they take half of the money we (the family) send him. The money we send is for hygiene products, under clothes, socks, food, and money so he can call people he cares about (a lifeline). I feel these fees are too high. I would like for you to request a cost break down of the items that he can

order and the cost for medical care.

We are waiting on the courts to do something. His charges are drug possession and drug paraphernalia. My hope is that he can get help. I am not sure if the county can do that. They just want to incarcerate and/or put on probation (another money pit). We need a good drug rehab center here in the county. They really need to get the dealers and put them away.

In closing, my concern is real and want to enlighten the public. Don’t judge as you never know when it might be someone you love

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Wakulla needs water, not a gas station

Editor, The Sun:

Clean water should be an unquestioned priority, and our county officials should be staunch defenders of our water resources. They should unequivocally oppose developments, such as the S.W. Ga. Oil Sunstop/Inland 16-pump gas station and car wash, which pose threats to our water.

As taxpayers, we deserve officials who prioritize our interests rather than impeding our efforts to protect our water resources.

Wakulla County has a very unique geology. Underground rivers run throughout the county often undetected until they connect with the surface as karst features and springs. Unseen and sometimes unmapped they are everywhere, right under our feet, under our homes and our roadways, just below a layer of porous lime rock and unconfined sand. Many, if not all of these underground rivers find their way to Wakulla Springs and Spring

Creek and eventually the Gulf. These underground rivers are the life blood of Wakulla County providing drinking water, along with water for recreation, commercial fishing, and our abundant wildlife. This is the backdrop for a group of scientists and citizens determined to protect it, and County Administrator David Edwards directing staff and an engineering firm to write minimal new springs protection regulations. Regulations that offer some protection but are still weak enough to allow S.W. Ga Oil Co. to build a Sunstop/Inland 16-pump gas station and car wash with in-ground fuel tanks atop a well-documented cave system that leads directly to Wakulla Springs.

Let’s look back a couple of years to see a pattern. The county wanted everyone to think that a proposed new wastewater treatment facility built in a flood zone, with wetlands and karst features such as sinkholes, was also a good idea. It would have discharged into Spring Creek and

Wakulla Springs. Using their “experts” they tried to justify the project that was started with a misrepresented purchase, using taxpayer dollars, from a former commissioner. It seemed that some county officials were so eager to keep up with the booming housing market and desperately needed more sewer capacity and it had to go somewhere, anywhere. With backlash from citizens, that poorly conceived plan was finally stopped.

Now, the county has spent about a year drafting these new springs protection regulations along with their hand-picked engineering firm, Terracon. Behind closed doors and with no outside input, they drafted their minimal new springs protection regulations. Terracon primarily mimicked existing state regulations for gas stations, adding a few more stringent requirements but still without any real protections for the cave systems that provide water to the

Turn to Page 5

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William Snowden
Editor & Publisher
The Wakulla Sun

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“It’s A New Day!”

The Wakulla Sun

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◀ Question of The Week ▶

– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

Asked at Crawfordville Quick Stop:

What is your home thermometer set on?



AVRI KNOWLES
CVS

Our A/C stays on at all times. We have a metal roof and if we set it on 71 it feels warm.”



BRANDON LAIRSEY
DISABLED

“I think about 73 or 74. That’s comfortable to me.”



FREDDY DEBAUFFER
ZAXBY’S

72, I wish it was a little lower but that is what the family is set on.”



WAYNE BOUDREAU
SELF EMPLOYED

“76, I’m cheap. If it gets a bit uncomfortable I walk outside, when I walk back in it feels cool.”



RONNIE TUMLIN
HANDY-MAN HELPER

Mine is set on 74 I’ve got to keep my dog cool too!”

COMMUNITY NEWS

Wakulla Station News

By **VERNA BROCK**

I hope everyone had a fun and safe 4th of July! We just celebrated the 247th anniversary of our Declaration of Independence from England; this means we have a pretty big celebration in the offing...our Semiquincentennial (the officially designated by Congress choice of names). Other suggested monikers are Sestercentennial (my favorite), Quarter Millennium (the simplest) or Bicenquingagenary (HORRORS!). So let’s get busy! We need to start planning a birthday party.

Our day was a quiet one, with hotdogs, coleslaw and baked beans.

Simple pleasures really are the best. Like this past weekend when Ed and I got to babysit grandchildren Brennan and Avery, so their parents could celebrate their anniversary. Suffice to say, Ed and I had a really good time!

Speaking of the Simmons family, they have a bear living in the woods directly across from their house in The Flowers! There is a wooded buffer there, between two sets of houses. It is pretty amazing that this (LARGE) apex predator has taken up residence in a highly populated neighborhood and seems to be prospering just fine. The ring doorbell camera caught excellent photos of

Brother Bear exiting the little woods, and my daughter’s trash wound up in there on at least one occasion. I doubt this bodes well for Brother Bear in the long run.

We are spending a lot of time watering the pecan grove and flower gardens. I sure wish the weather could find a happy medium, but I fear those days are gone. Flood or drought seems to be the order of the day. Seems strange to think that there are parts of Florida that are now designated deserts.

The Wakulla United Methodist Church is seeking a pianist and a choir leader. Since the sad loss of Don Grimes nearly a year ago, we haven’t had a choir. All of our pianists have either stepped down or are celebrating with the Celestial

Choir. If you would be interested in joining a loving little community of Christians, call or text me at 850-212-3131.

Please keep Sissy Malloy in your prayers. She is recuperating from serious health issues after a hard fought battle with cancer. Also in need of prayer is Tim Givens, who is fighting for his life at Shands. Thelma Watts, Faye Sweeney and Sebastian Mosely continue to need our prayerful support. Sebastian is growing stronger every day, and it is such a blessing to see him doing well with his new heart.

The grieving among us also need our prayers: the Carter families, the Peacock-Sloan family, the Kendrick family, the Lynn family, and the Vickery family.

Letter: Jail

From Page 4

that is incarcerated for a drug problem.

Anonymous

(Editor’s Note: It is not typical that we run anonymous Letters to the Editor, but it was requested in this case as the letter writer was concerned about possible retaliation against the son. The letter writer did provide their name to the editor.)

Response from sheriff’s office:

Inmates at the Wakulla County Jail

are treated with the utmost care and concern. WCSO has a proven track record of exemplary conditions and treatment as shown by our accreditation from independent accreditation agencies. In WCSO’s most recent accreditation review the WCSO Law Enforcement and Corrections Divisions were awarded what is known as Excelsior status for the second consecutive assessment. To achieve Excelsior status an agency must initially pass 5 accreditation cycles that span 15 years of rigorous inspections without any observed violations or issues during the assessment period. Part of every accreditation cycle also includes multiple on site visits from accreditation inspectors who reviewed policies and standards to make sure the sheriff’s office was providing the most professional and expert services in law enforcement,

corrections and communications. The inspections included interviews with WCSO staff to determine how well they know their jobs and interviews with inmates to see how they are being treated and how they interact with WCSO staff.

To address some of the specific complaints from the noted letter: With regards to the \$4 fee associated with incarceration in Wakulla County, all fees are in line with current statutory and accreditation standards. The fees go to cover the cost of food and care for the inmates while incarcerated. Inmates are provided with three meals a day, basic toiletry items, and medical care. Inmates or their families have the opportunity to put money into a commissary account. The inmate can utilize this account to purchase certain snacks or treats, along with additional toiletry

items. The Wakulla County Sheriff’s Office uses a third-party company to handle all commissary payments and money. The noted fees regarding putting money on an individual’s account are set by that company, not the Sheriff’s Office. If an inmate does have a debt to their account associated with delinquent fees, money placed in the account may be utilized to cover those late fees. However no more than half of any deposit would be used for this at any one time.

The insinuation that an inmate is being denied food, care, or needed items is simply untrue.

Respectfully,

Lt. Jeffrey Yarbrough
Wakulla County Sheriff’s Office
Public Information Officer

Letter: Water

From Page 4

springs. Their first draft looked like a manual for gas stations and never once even mentioned “caves” much less setbacks. Amazingly, they say that their new regulations were written to “protect our springs” but would still allow the S.W. Ga. Oil Sunstop/Inland 16 pump gas station and car wash with in-ground fuel tanks atop Chips Hole Cave at Bloxham Cutoff.

Then, at the June 5 Board of County Commission meeting, County Administrator David Edwards dropped the bombshell news that their new springs protection regulations were basically worthless. It turns out that apparently nobody, not Edwards, not county staff, not the Terracon experts, knew about state preemptions. Preemptions, according to Edwards interpretation, meant that our new regulations must basically mirror state regulations and cannot be more stringent. So now it seems that the plan is to throw everything out on July 17, their next meeting, and have virtually nothing but the state’s minimal regulations to protect our caves and springs and drinking water.

Since that June 5 BOCC meeting and after a great deal of research, with

members of Wakulla Springs Alliance, Friends of Wakulla Springs and Clean Water Wakulla, (the three groups that were initially told would help draft the new regulations- but were then not included) with help from state Department of Environmental Protection and Florida Geological Survey, a completely different picture of state preemptions has emerged. State preemptions, as it turns out only apply to the part of the regulations that have already been addressed by the state. For example, the state regs don’t address setbacks, so county regulations can include setbacks, according to DEP. The preemption only applies to storage tank design, registration, financial assurance, inspection and reporting requirements not location. Setting setbacks from karst features (sinkholes, swallets, etc.) and/or caves are location/land use requirements and are not preempted. FGS also provided a list of counties that currently have setbacks from springs and caves in their regulations. Setbacks, like how far to put a gas station from a spring or cave are critical to protecting our drinking water. Edwards publicly stated that he supports setbacks, his consistent efforts to avoid them seem to tell another story.

Numerous requests for a community forum to discuss springs regulations have been ignored by the county. On Wednesday, June 14 the first community forum took place anyway. It was

not sponsored by the county, it was sponsored by Wakulla Springs Alliance, Friends of Wakulla Springs and Clean Water Wakulla. About 60 citizens showed up and were finally heard. It was a productive meeting providing direction and new ideas.

As a result of that meeting, members of Wakulla Springs Alliance, Friends of Wakulla Springs and Clean Water Wakulla, and citizen volunteers, have joined forces to rewrite the Wakulla County Springs Protection Regulations. This committee is made up of experts, real experts, citizen volunteers, scientists, academics, a retired DEP official and retired attorneys. These new springs protection regulations should meet the guidelines set forth by DEP, avoid preemptions, and will include protections for our springs.

It’s clear to everyone watching this drama unfold that some Wakulla County officials care more about full throttle development without red tape that includes having another mega gas station and car wash, than they do about protecting our drinking water and Wakulla Springs. Gas stations contaminate their surroundings, it can’t be helped. Gas stations can be relocated, Wakulla Springs cannot. Why would anyone, much less county officials, be willing to risk fuel and daily runoff getting into our drinking water or risk destroying Wakulla Springs, one of the greatest natural treasures

on earth? It’s completely irresponsible. Clean water should not be something citizens have to fight for. Instead, our county officials should be fighting to stop developments like S.W. Ga. Oil has planned, that threaten our water, instead of fighting the citizens (taxpayers) trying to protect our water. The same taxpayers that pay their salaries.

If you care about Wakulla Springs and your drinking water, join the Wakulla Springs Alliance, Friends of Wakulla Springs, and Clean Water Wakulla who are hosting a second workshop on July 11 at the Wakulla Environment Institute from 6 to 8 p.m. Then, on July 17, during the Board of County Commission meeting at 5 p.m., the commissioners will decide whether or not to prioritize the protection of our water resources. They will have the completed citizen-drafted regulations and their own version to consider before voting.

This is their opportunity to genuinely protect “Wakulla County, the natural place to be,” as they often promote it. Alternatively, they can once again make excuses and cater to the wishes of developers, disregarding the interests of everyone else. Be sure to attend the July 17 BOCC meeting to see where their priorities lie.

David Damon
Crawfordville

Outdoors

outdoor sports

HOME ON THE RANGE

Looking at some sights



By MARJ LAW

Handgun sights are not all the same. I know many readers will mentally say: “Duh!” but Newbie will have to learn how to use the sights she has on her handgun. And, if her sights are changeable or if her gun changes, she’ll figure out over time which sights are the ones she prefers. She might have a preference for fiber optics, night sights, big white dots, u-shaped rear sights with front ramps... Yep. A lot of sights, but Newbie Glenda is taking her gun to the Wakulla County Sheriff’s Office (WCSO) range for the first time.

“OK, am I supposed to look at the sights near me or the one out front?” Glenda asks. Her gun is sporting three big white dots: two in the rear and one in the front.

“Let’s look at both,” I suggest. “First, here’s a piece of paper. These two dots represent the sights nearest to you. They are your rear sights. The dot further away from you is your front sight. They are lined up in a straight line on this paper.

“Now, hold up your gun, muzzle always pointing away from you, and make the sights appear to be in a

straight line. When the center dot is just below the bull’s-eye on your target, this is when you have lined up your sights properly.

“Remember your strong stance and squeeze the trigger.”

“I did it! I almost hit a bullseye!” Glenda is excited.

Three big white dot sights are easy for me to see. I like them. Some guns have smaller white dots. I like them too, but I sure do appreciate the larger white dots more.

Some guns have what look to be small white dots. Actually, in bright light, they look less like white dots and more like milky glass dots.

If you cup your hands around the rear sights to take away most of the light, you’ll notice them glow.

These are night sights. They are glass vials filled with tritium. Tritium glows in the dark. People in the military may need night sights. You might want night sights on your handgun if it is to be kept by the bed and this is your defensive weapon at night.

Night sights with two dots in the rear and one in the front line up just like the three dots on Glenda’s gun. Well, almost.

If you bring a gun with night sights to a dark place, you’ll notice that the dots are not so close together as they appear in daylight. The sights are built on the gun with usually a black surround holding them in place. The surround won’t show up in the dark. This means it will take some practice to align the sights, since they will appear

to be further apart.

Joe says night sights have a half-life of eight years. Basically, at 10 half-lives or eighty years, the tritium light will fade to nothingness. By around 50 years, the brightness may have faded so that you’ll want to replace the sights.

Good news is, tritium sights are replaceable. If your gun is brand-new, you will probably not notice any fading for about eight years. Even after those eight years, you still have plenty of years before you think: “Time to get new sights.”

I’m not a big fan of night sights. Since they are enclosed in black metal, they are fairly small. In daylight, they don’t show up as well as white dots. They look tiny in comparison to big white dots.

You may need tritium sights on your gun. If so, take into account the age of the gun, so you’ll have a good guess as to how long these sights will perform well for you.

Most new handguns have sights that are replaceable. Some of my friends like to put on fiber optic sights. I call them “Christmas tree lights” as they are often red and green. Light shining on these sights



makes them appear to glow brightly. Take the two green rear sights and move your gun until the front red sight appears in the middle. Your bull’s-eye should be right above the red fiber optic sight. Easy to see!

Some handguns have a squared-off u-shape sight in the rear. Sometimes, this “U” has a white line around it. The front sight can be a black rectangle. In this case, you move the gun to where the black rectangular front sight sits within the U of the rear sight. Like the three-dot sights, the combination of the U and the rectangle form a straight plane when aligned perfectly. Then, you’ll aim with the bullseye centered and atop this plane.

Some of these rear sights do not have the white stripe around them. In my opinion, this makes aligning the sights a bit more difficult.

Others have a front sight that is called a “ramp.” It is a black rectangle closest to the muzzle of the gun. It slopes downward towards the rear sights. Again, you place the top of the front sight to form a solid plain with the rear sights.

Black on black sights

can be difficult to see easily. A lot of men, yes men! bring out their bright white or neon orange nail polish. The front sight or the ramp’s front sight can be covered in polish. This makes it easier to see against the black rear sights. If you ever want to sell your gun, you can carefully wipe off the polish with nail polish remover or acetone.

Big, small, and tritium are often found in sights having the configuration of two dots in the rear and one in the front.

Other handguns have a square U-shape in the rear and a rectangle or ramp in the front.

“Well, that’s not much to learn about sights,” Glenda says happily. “Most have three dots and others have the U-shape thing going on.”

Yikes!

“Sorry, Glenda.” We’ll talk sights again one day, but she doesn’t need to be overwhelmed.

Another time, we can discuss figure eight sights, and guns whose sights are simply a groove along the top of the frame. Some guns have rear sights with a white line to partner with the white line of the front sight.

The best way to learn to love your sights is to practice regularly. We usually visit the WCSO on Wednesday mornings around 10. We may soon come earlier: at 9:30 or so, because of the heat. You are welcome to join Joe, me and friends on Wednesday July 12th, and Wednesdays after that if you would like a bit of assistance, if you want to learn the rules of the range, or if you simply want moral support when you shoot your handgun.

The WCSO range is very safe. There is always a deputy at the front desk. Any one of them has a huge amount of firearm knowledge and they are always willing and happy to share what they know. They’re also willing and happy to help if you have a difficulty.

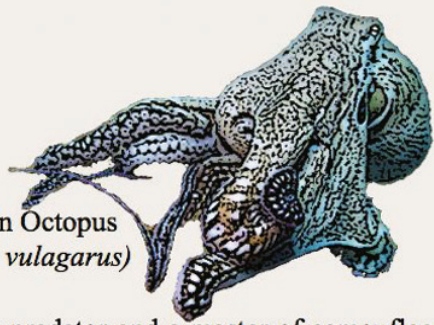
After you visit the range, you can decide if you’d like to be a member. This is the most reasonable range I’ve visited. For \$75.00/year, you, your spouse, and supervised children under 18 can shoot any time the range is open.

This is usually Tuesday through Saturday (with exceptions of holidays). According to the WCSO Range website, they are open from about 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Do you have a handgun? The WCSO range is a great place to learn.

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

Common Octopus
(*Octopus vulgaris*)



A fearsome predator and a master of camouflage, the common octopus grows to 3ft and lives 2 years. They hunt at dawn in costal waters up to 350ft using a secreted nerve poison to paralyze prey and a hard beak to crack shells. They hide in crevices and can squeeze their bodies through tiny spaces and making then escape artists. They change color or squirt a cloud of black “ink” to confuse attackers. Females lay up to 500,000 eggs but most are eaten as plankton. Octopi can learn complex tasks like opening a jar. They are also an important protein source for humans.

Eukarya, Animalia, Mollusca, Cephalopoda, Octopoda, Octopodidae

Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratory
www.gulfspecimen.org

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 Least Bittern with a minnow, top, and white ibis.



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Obituaries



Jean Dykes

Jean Dykes, 88, of Crawfordville, died Friday, June 30, 2023, at her home with her family by her side after a brief illness. Jean was a member of the Crawfordville United Methodist Church. She worked many years with Capital City Bank, was a Historian, a Commercial and Residential Landowner and Manager; she along with her husband owned and operated Dykes Family Restaurant and Liquor Store for many years. Jean was part of six generations representing her family in Wakulla County and she was very proud of it.

Jean will be remembered by her loving family, her children Kimmie Canfield and husband Steve, Jeffrey Dykes and wife Kelly, and Jenkie Dykes Latil and husband Bryan; seven grandchildren, Allison, Clint, Mattie, Davie, Jessica,

Tyler, and Emma; five great-grandchildren, Isaiah, Gracie, Steven, Damien, and Dominick. Jean also leaves behind her many friends and family from Hardees.

Jean is preceded in death by her husband of 55 years, Jimmie Dykes; and her parents H.T. & Gladys Adams; a brother, Hargrove Ralph Moore; and half sister Helen Adams Strickland.

Family visitation will be Friday, July 7, 2023, from 5 to 7 p.m., at Family Funeral Home in Harvey Young Chapel and Memorial service will be Saturday, July 8, 2023, at 11 a.m. at the Crawfordville United Methodist Church. Final Resting Place will be at the Crawfordville Cemetery.

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

DEATH NOTICES

• **Patricia Ann Boyette, 80, of Crawfordville, died June 25, 2023.**
Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **Gary Oberquell, 61, of Woodville, died June 29, 2023.**
Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **Richard James Peckham, II, 43, of Crawfordville, died June 25, 2023.**
Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **June Stanley, 96, of Crawfordville, died June 27, 2023.**
Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

On the Horizon

Calendar of events for the week of July 6

Thursday, July 6

- Rotary Club of Wakulla meets at TCC Wakulla at 8:30 a.m.
- The VFW Auxiliary Bingo Night will be held at 7 p.m. at 475 Arran Road in Crawfordville, every Thursday. There will be concessions and raffles.
- Hatha Yoga with Zoe at 9 a.m. and Yin Yoga with Nellie at 6 p.m. Classes are \$12, packages available at New Posh on 3079 Crawfordville Hwy. RSVP to 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, July 7

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

Saturday, July 8

- Pack the Bus School Supply Drive from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lindy's Chicken, 2120 Crawfordville Highway.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

Monday, July 10

- Official opening of Lower Bridge Boat Ramp with county officials will be held at 10 a.m.

- Planning Commission meets at 6 p.m. in the commission meeting room.
- Sopchoppy City Commission meets at city hall at 6:30 p.m.
- 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, at New Posh on 3079 Crawfordville Hwy. RSVP to 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 11

- Water forum, to discuss springs protection, will be held at Wakulla Environmental Institute from 6 to 8 p.m.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

Wednesday, July 12

- 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: Road to controversy

By RYAN DAILEY
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — As he worked his way through a final batch of bills from the 2023 legislative session, Gov. Ron DeSantis signed a few controversial measures this week.

That included a bill (HB 1191) directing transportation officials to determine if a waste byproduct from the fertilizer industry could be used in building roads.

The measure will trigger a study by the Florida Department of Transportation on the use of phosphogypsum in road-construction “aggregate” material. The department will have to finish the evaluation by April 1.

Phosphogypsum includes radioactive elements and is stored in huge stacks. It drew heavy attention in 2021 when about 215 million gallons of wastewater were discharged into Tampa Bay to avoid a potentially catastrophic breach at the closed Piney Point phosphate plant in Manatee County.

Senate bill sponsor Jay Trumbull, R-Panama City, cited the Piney Point issue when arguing for the measure during a May 1 floor session.

“Our goal is to hopefully identify this as a suitable road base so that we don’t continue to just stack it and have these things that could potentially become Piney Point, and that we’re able to pull out some bad stuff and use it, you know, for a road base that’s safe,” Trumbull

said.

But the idea of using phosphogypsum in building roads drew heavy opposition from environmental groups. After DeSantis signed the bill Thursday, Elise Bennett, an attorney who is Florida and Caribbean director for the Center for Biological Diversity, blasted it as “reckless.”

“This opens the door for dangerous radioactive waste to be dumped in roadways across the state, under the guise of a so-called feasibility study that won’t address serious health and safety concerns,” Bennett said.

In 2021, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency barred the use of phosphogypsum in road construction. An April state Senate staff analysis of the bill said that “until such time as the EPA approves such use” of phosphogypsum, the state transportation department would be barred from using it.

DeSantis also on Thursday signed a bill (SB 170) that could bolster legal challenges to local ordinances.

The law, in part, would require local governments to suspend enforcement of ordinances that are challenged legally. It would not apply to several types of ordinances, such as measures needed to comply with federal or state laws or regulations.

Critics of the bill, which will take effect Oct. 1, argued that it could limit local governments’ ability to address issues ranging from water quality to climate

change.

Rep. Anna Eskamani, D-Orlando, said progressive issues could be “at risk, simply if an individual business owner doesn’t like it.”

But the measure received support from groups such as the Florida Chamber of Commerce, Associated Industries of Florida, the Florida Retail Federation and the Florida Home Builders Association.

JUST SAY NO?

Attorney General Ashley Moody is trying to stop a proposed constitutional amendment that would allow recreational use of marijuana by people 21 and older.

Lawyers in Moody’s office filed a brief Monday at the Florida Supreme Court arguing that a ballot summary would be “misleading to voters in several key respects.”

The Smart & Safe Florida political committee, which is spearheading efforts to pass the amendment, needs the Supreme Court to sign off on the proposed ballot wording before the measure can go before voters. Under the Florida Constitution, ballot initiatives must not be confusing to voters and must address a single subject.

Voters in 2016 passed a constitutional amendment that allowed medical marijuana. The new ballot summary, in part, says the proposed amendment would allow “adults 21 years or older to possess, purchase, or use marijuana products and marijuana acces-

sories” for non-medical consumption.

“That is incorrect and misleading,” because marijuana remains illegal under federal law, the state’s brief said. “In previously approving similarly worded ballot summaries, the court erred.”

Smart & Safe Florida spokesman Steve Vancore said the company disagrees with Moody’s analysis.

“We believe the language as written clearly complies with the requirements of the Constitution. We look forward to bringing this matter to the Florida Supreme Court and are confident that the court will conclude that there is no lawful basis to set aside the ballot initiative,” Vancore said.

Trulieve, the state’s largest medical-marijuana operator, had contributed \$39 million as of the end of May to the political committee. Most of that money went to gathering petition signatures to put the measure on the 2024 ballot.

SCHOOL RULES

The state Department of Education on Tuesday released a series of proposed rules that would outline restrictions on “adult live performances” at field trips and prohibit school districts from using the social-media app TikTok.

The proposal dealing with adult live performances was spurred by a new law aimed at blocking children from attending drag shows.

In part, the proposal would put guidelines

on “school-sponsored events or activities” which include things such as field trips and extracurricular activities. It includes barring districts from admitting “a child to an adult live performance” and would prevent such performances from being held in buildings or properties owned or leased by districts.

Another proposed rule would put in place requirements for school-district internet safety policies.

The proposed rule also targets the popular social-media app TikTok, and would prohibit use of the app on district devices or on school internet networks. TikTok also could not be “used to communicate or promote any school district, school, school-sponsored club, extracurricular organization, or athletic team.”

STORY OF THE WEEK: Gov. Ron DeSantis on Thursday signed a controversial measure that directs transportation officials to determine if a waste byproduct from the fertilizer industry could be used in building roads.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: “There’s the potential for muddying the waters, not just to create attack ads or disinformation about your opponent, but to try to clean yourself up. It’s an octopus. There’s just so many ways that I don’t think we’ve even thought about how it could be deployed.” — Janet Coats, managing director of the University of Florida’s Consortium on Trust in Media and Technology, on the use of artificial intelligence in political campaigns.

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• Events

• Beach Portraits

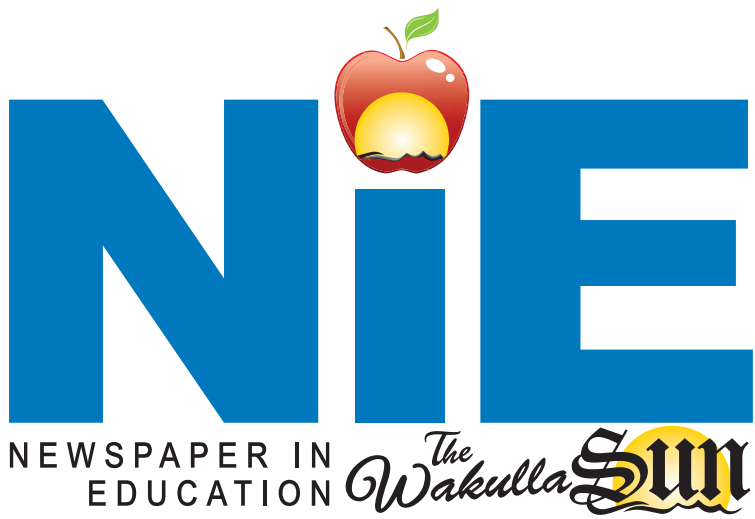
• Special Occasions

• Musicians

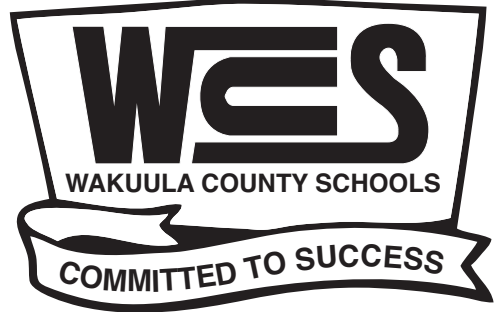
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USE THE NEWS

Government doctor sees potential mental health threats from students' social media use

There's a new warning about social media dangers for users your age. A top federal health official, Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, cites potential drawbacks of sites like TikTok, Snapchat, Instagram and YouTube. While they benefit some students, Dr. Murthy writes in a recent report, "there are ample indicators that social media can also have a profound risk of harm to the mental health and well-being of children and adolescents."

His 19-page advisory calls on tech companies to enforce minimum age limits and create default settings for children with high safety and privacy standards. (Instagram already makes the accounts of people under 16 private and limits content that teens can see.) At the family level, the surgeon general urges parents to set limits – such as no devices at meal-times to help build social bonds and promote conversation. He suggests a "family media plan" to set boundaries around content and keeping personal information private.

Up to 95% of teens say they use at least one social media platform, according to 2022 survey results from Pew Research, while more than one-third said they used social media "almost constantly." Teens spend an average of 3½ hours a day on social sites. At their best, the popular platforms let you connect with others, find community and express yourself. "This can be especially true for marginalized youths, including those in the LGBTQ+ community," Dr. Mur-

thy writes in The Washington Post.

But as use has risen, so have adolescent cases of anxiety and depression, along with hospital visits for self-harm and suicidal thoughts. Social platforms have lots of bullying and "extreme, inappropriate and harmful content," says the government report, including posts about self-harm,

Front Page Action Points:

1. Summarize other coverage of social media or any pop culture news.
2. Share two facts from an article involving teens or online content.
3. Find a clever or amusing social post by this paper and tell why it appeals.

eating disorders and other destructive behavior. The American Psychological Association last month issued its first social media guidance, recommending that parents closely

monitor teens' use.

• **Surgeon general says:** "We're in the middle of a youth mental health crisis, and I'm concerned that social media is contributing to the harm that kids are experiencing." – Dr. Vivek Murthy

• **His report says:** "In early adolescence, when identities and sense of self-

worth are forming, brain development is especially susceptible to social pressures, peer opinions and peer comparison."

• **State actions:** Utah and Arkansas this year banned social media services from enrolling users under 18 without consent of a parent or guardian.



SANDWICHES, AS WELL AS THIS FOOD, ARE COMMON PICNIC TREATS.

ANSWER: FRIED CHICKEN

Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-10. The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right. The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

4		7	13
	1		4
	8	9	23
10	11	19	

6	8	9
3	1	0
4	2	7

Solution

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

C P C I I N M T E I

ANSWER: Picnic Time

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1928: SLICED BREAD IS SOLD FOR THE FIRST TIME.
- 1958: PRESIDENT EISENHOWER SIGNS THE ALASKA STATEHOOD ACT INTO LAW.
- 2003: NASA OPPORTUNITY ROVER, MER-B OR MARS EXPLORATION ROVER-B, IS LAUNCHED INTO SPACE ABOARD A DELTA II ROCKET.



COZY

giving a feeling of comfort

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Egg

SPANISH: Huevo

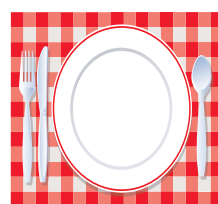
ITALIAN: Uovo

FRENCH: Oeuf

GERMAN: Ei

Did you Know?

PICNIC TABLE CLOTHS ARE MADE FROM GINGHAM FABRIC, THE RECOGNIZABLE RED AND WHITE PATTERN. GINGHAM IS EASY TO MAKE, DURABLE AND INEXPENSIVE.



GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: PICNIC BASKET

ON THE GRILL WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- ASH
- BACKYARD
- BARBECUE
- CHAR
- CHARCOAL
- DELICIOUS
- ENTERTAIN
- EXTINGUISH
- FIRE
- FLAVOR
- FLIP
- GRATES
- GRILLING
- HARDWOOD
- MARINATE
- OUTDOORS
- PATIO
- ROTATE
- SEAR
- SMOKE
- SPIT
- TEMPERATURE

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

CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. Small Eurasian deer
4. Irish county
10. A major division of geological time
11. Broadway actor Lane
12. Canadian province
14. It causes fainting (abbr.)
15. Two
16. A notable one is blue
18. Utter repeatedly
22. Rings
23. Sullies
24. Occurs
26. Publicity
27. Near
28. Tools of a trade
30. Offer in good faith
31. "American Idol" network
34. Garments
36. Soviet Socialist Republic
37. Retired NFL DC Dean

39. Hot meal
40. A type of gin
41. Percussion instrument
42. A \$10 bill
48. About ground
50. Medicine man
51. Seedless raisin
52. National capital of Albania
53. Appendage
54. OJ trial judge
55. By the way
56. Bicycle parts
58. Barbie's friend
59. In a way, stretched
60. Commercials

CLUES DOWN

1. Make up for
2. American songbird
3. Pay
4. International organization
5. Engravers
6. Declared as fact
7. Criminal
8. Jewelry
9. Hospital worker (abbr.)

12. Nonsense (slang)
13. Town in Galilee
17. Value
19. Another name
20. Sheep in second year before shearing
21. Town in Surrey, England
25. Appropriate during a time of year
29. Creative output
31. Recesses
32. District in N. Germany
33. Rider of Rohan
35. The official emblem of the German Third Reich
38. One who puts down roots
41. Scribe
43. Painted a bright color
44. Tycoons
45. Actress Thurman
46. Walking accessory
47. Crest of a hill
49. Member of a North American people
56. Type of computer
57. U.S. State (abbr.)

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to Fourth of July.

IRLSGL

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

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

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

Guess Who?

I am a comic actor born in Philadelphia on July 6, 1979. I worked as a shoe salesman after attending community college. I later won several amateur comedy contests around New England. I've starred in many hit films and I had an album go five-times platinum in June of 2012.

Answer: Kevin Hart

Answer: Grills

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Agency Manager

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF DIANE G. HARRELL, DECEASED.

CASE NO. 2023-CP-68

NOTICE TO CREDITORS - SUMMARY ADMINISTRATION
TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS OR DEMANDS AGAINST THE ABOVE ESTATE:

You are hereby notified that an Order of Summary Administration has been entered in the Estate of DIANE G. HARRELL, Deceased, File No. 2023-CP-68 by the Circuit Court of the Second Judicial Circuit for Wakulla County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Circuit Court, Wakulla County Courthouse, 3056 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, FL 32327; that the Decedent's date of death was August 13, 2022; that the total value of the estate, less homestead and exempt property, is less than \$75,000; and that the name and address of those to whom the Estate has been assigned by such Order are:

BARNEY HARRELL, JR. - P.O. Box 291, Sopchoppy, FL 32358 - 100%
ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:

All creditors of the Estate of the Decedent and persons having claims or demands against the Estate of the Decedent, other than those for whom provision for full payment was made in the Order of Summary Administration must file their claims and demands with this Court WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES, SECTION 733.702. ALL CLAIMS AND DEMANDS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER APPLICABLE TIME PERIOD, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH ON AUGUST 13, 2022 IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this Notice is July 6, 2023.

WILLIAM H. WEBSTER
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 4
Hosford, FL 32334
850 443-5901
billwebsterlaw@yahoo.com
ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER

BARNEY HARRELL, JR
Petitioner
P.O. Box 291
Sopchoppy, FL 32358

July 6, 13, 2023

E-EDITIONS



SCAN ME for an electronic edition of this



Sheriff's Report

Because of the Juneteenth holiday, this report is for activity from June 23 to 29:

FRIDAY, JUNE 23

- Starla Pritchard report Xfinity cameras being stolen from her home. The suspect busted windows out of the home to obtain the cameras. Some video footage of the incident was able to be collected as evidence. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Matt Hinson investigated.

- Capt. Andy Bowman reported a chainsaw missing from St. Marks VFD. The chainsaw was last seen approximately one month ago. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Matt Hinson investigated.

SATURDAY, JUNE 24

- Waviel Porter was arrested after struggling with officers on the side of the road. Porter was reportedly intoxicated and had been in the road as well as laying down on the road. As officers attempted to assist Porter, he

became aggressive and then struck officers while resisting. Once arrested, Porter began kicking the cage area in the vehicle and would not comply as he was being seat belted in. Porter was arrested and charged with disorderly intoxication, battery on law enforcement, and resisting arrest. Deputy Arturo Cordoba investigated.

SUNDAY, JUNE 25

- Jeremy McKinney was located at Azalea Park after a suspicious person call was received. McKinney allegedly stated, "Just take me to the crazy house" – then placed himself in the back of a patrol vehicle. McKinney handed the deputy a bag of cocaine when asked if he had anything on him. McKinney was arrested for possession of cocaine and taken to the Wakulla County Jail. Deputy Dustin Matthews investigated.

- Billy Goodson reported an unknown person entered his shed and removed two coolers and a pizza oven. A possible suspect has been identified in this case. Deputy Arturo Cordoba investigated.

MONDAY, JUNE 26

- Ruben Castro was stopped for failing to maintain a single lane. Castro appeared to be intoxicated and he refused all sobriety test on the roadside. Castro was arrested for DUI and once at the jail he refused the breath test. Deputy Dustin Matthews investigated.

- Deputy Heather Will responded to the lobby of the Sheriff's Office in reference to Karen Lindsey finding fraudulent charges on her credit card. Lindsey's bank has been notified of the charges and this case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

TUESDAY, JUNE 27

- A traffic stop was conducted on a vehicle for faulty equipment. The driver, David Defibaugh, was discovered not to have a valid license. During the stop drug paraphernalia was discovered to be in his possession. The paraphernalia was collected and turned in for destruction. Defibaugh was issued a citation for Driving While License Suspended or Revoked. Deputy Zac Munroe investigated.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28

- Deputy Don Newsome responded to Wakulla Springs Park in reference to FWC requesting assistance. Upon Deputy Newsome's arrival on scene several individuals were encircling the FWC Officer, who had a subject on the ground and attempting to secure him in cuffs. Deputy Newsome gave Santana Ahrent several commands to back up, to no avail. Ahrent continued to ignore Deputy Newsome's lawful command and was subsequently placed under arrest for obstruction of justice.

THURSDAY, JUNE 29

- William Mackie reported finding what appeared to be crack cocaine in the woman's bathroom as he was cleaning the facility. The crack was taken for destruction only. Deputy Arturo Cordoba investigated.

- An employee with Pigott Asphalt reported a check forged and cash for \$4,572.77. The check was originally made to Southern Tire Mart but appeared to have been altered. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Dustin Matthews investigated.

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

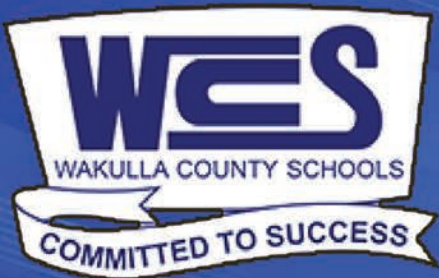
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- Media Specialist
- Technology Teacher
- Paraprofessionals
- Art Teacher
- Elementary Music Teacher

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Enter your ballot online at 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:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>ANIMAL CARE:
 Pet Care/Sitting _____
 Pet Grooming _____
 Pet Supplies _____
 Veterinarian _____</p> <p>AUTOMOTIVE:
 Auto Engine Repair _____
 Auto Body Shops _____
 Car & Truck Dealer _____
 Oil Change _____</p> <p>FINANCIAL SERVICES:
 Bank _____
 Credit Union _____
 Mortgage Company _____</p> <p>FOOD & BEVERAGE:
 Liquor Store _____
 Grocery _____
 Ice Cream/ Frozen Yogurt _____
 Bakery _____
 Butcher _____</p> <p>HEALTH & FITNESS:
 Gym _____
 Massage Therapist _____
 Chiropractor _____
 Fitness Instructor/Trainer _____</p> <p>HOME:
 Builder _____
 Real Estate Company _____
 Individual Realtor _____
 Title Company _____
 Home Rental Co. _____</p> <p>HOME-OUTDOORS:
 Surveyor _____
 Lawn Care/Landscaping _____</p> | <p>Nursery/Garden Center _____
 Tree Service _____
 Pools/Pool Care _____
 Home Improvement _____</p> <p>SERVICES/REPAIR:
 Flooring _____
 Plumbing _____
 Electrician _____
 A/C - Heating _____
 Painter _____
 Home Cleaning Service _____
 Roofer _____
 Fencing _____</p> <p>PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:
 Accountant _____
 Attorney _____
 Doctor _____
 Dentist _____
 Insurance Agent _____</p> <p>PERSONAL SERVICES:
 Barber Shop _____
 Hair Salon _____
 Nail Care _____</p> <p>RETAIL:
 Women's Boutique _____
 Clothing _____
 Gifts _____
 Hardware _____
 Seafood Market _____</p> <p>MISC:
 Kids Activities _____
 Childcare _____
 Storage Centers _____
 Dance Studios _____</p> | <p>Photographers _____
 Hotel/Lodging _____
 Local News Source _____
 Local Band/Musician _____
 Local Artist _____
 Non-Profit _____</p> <p>RECREATION:
 Marina _____
 Fishing Charter _____
 Bait & Tackle _____
 Boat & Motor Repair _____
 Canoe/Kayak Rental _____
 Scuba _____</p> <p>RESTAURANT:
 Atmosphere _____
 Coffee _____
 Breakfast _____
 Lunch _____
 Dinner _____
 Service _____
 Entertainment _____
 Seafood _____
 Grouper _____
 Shrimp _____
 Mullet _____
 Steak _____
 Sandwich _____
 Barbecue _____
 Wings _____
 Burger _____
 Portions _____
 Pizza _____
 Soup _____
 Buffet _____
 Romantic Dinner _____
 Fried Chicken _____</p> |
|--|--|--|

Tell us your favorites by filling out the official ENTRY BALLOT online at 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 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:
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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 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 July 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.