Pago 15





Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday

AM Thunderstorms Hi: 90° Lo: 75° \$41% Hi: 93° Lo: 76° \$17%

Friday

Mostly Sunny

Sunrise 7:06 AM Sunset 8:15 PM

Partly Cloudy

Saturday

Sunrise 7:07 AM Sunset 8:14 PM



One Section

"It's a New Day

Locally Owned & Operated

Our 2nd Year 33rd Issue Thursday, August 17, 2023

Westerlund pleas to murder

Drunk, arguing with the mother of his child, he picked up a shotgun and shot her. He faces 25 years to life in prison

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN **Editor**

Chad Westerlund entered a plea of no contest to a charge of second degree murder last week. He faces 25 years to life in prison. A pre-sentence indered by the court

vestigation was orand a review of the case is set for October. No sentencing date has been set.

Westerlund was originally charged with first degree murder for killing his girlfriend and the mother of one of his children, Chelsea Bramblett, on Jan. 25, 2020.

According to the reports at the time, Bramblett and Westerlund were arguing at their King Bee Drive home. Westerlund was heavily intoxicated and went outside to calm down. He came back inside, saw a shotgun, and on impulse allegedly picked it up and fired at her, hitting her in the head and killing her. She was reportedly nursing a baby when she was shot, though the child was unharmed.

Westerlund reportedly called 911 to report the incident and



Chad Westerlund, above, is charged with killing Chelsea Bramblett, right in a photo from Facebook, with Westerlund's children.

kept telling dispatchers repeatedly that "I messed up" and allegedly admitted to the killing.



rested by responding shooting. A level of deputies. He had a blood alcohol level of .187 when taken into custody at the the murder charge,

.08 is considered legally intoxicated.

In addition to Westerlund was ar- jail, hours after the Westerlundwas also charged with one count of child endangerment. He was not facing the death penalty for the murder charge.

The case is being prosecuted by Wakulla Chief Prosecutor Jon Fuchs. Westerlund is represented by attorney Joe Bodiford. Wakulla Circuit Judge Layne Smith is presiding over the case.

Because relatives in the case work for Wakulla and Leon sheriff's offices, Westerlund had been held in the Franklin County Jail.



These four girls headed in to Shadeville Elementary on Thursday for the first day of classes for students in Wakulla County Public Schools. Superintendent Bobby Pearce said the first days went smoothly, although the district - like other districts throughout North Florida - face a teacher shortage that has impacted class size. Currently, Wakulla schools have openings for about 15 teachers. (Photo special to The Sun)

Gulf Specimen's Picklelarium

The exhibit features creatures from deep in the Gulf, preserved and on display

Story & Photos By LIN-DA ANN McDONALD Correspondent

The opportunity to observe creatures that live in the Gulf's great depths, where light never penetrates, where temperatures are just above freezing point is now available at Gulf Specimen Marine Lab's newest exhibit, the Picklearium.

Jack Rudloe, founder, and president of the Marine Lab said, "On December 11, 2022, by way of a 110-foot shrimp trawler, at 220 fathoms deep, with one single four hour drag, **Turn to Page 14**



Visitors Emily Pendley and Gracie Terrell with the Picklelarium exhibit.

City of St. Marks hikes utilities 75% on residents

By LEGION TAYLOR Reporter

The St. Marks City Commission discussed the increase in utility rates by 75% at their meeting on Thursday, Aug. 10, although it was made clear that the price to connect a home to utilities would not be increased.

The fee increase is not for garbage collection, only on city water and sewer.

Due to some recent problems with building permits, the City Commission has decided to get their newly hired attorney, Bill Garner, who was introduced at the meeting, to draft a letter or agreement that structures cannot be built on a vacant residential lot, as some building permits were issued that allowed this, though city ordinances strictly forbid it. It was also made clear that until the construction of a house was underway, campers or RVs cannot be stored on what are called "Vacant Residential Lots," which is any piece of residential land with no

house on it. There is still some concern about grinder pumps, which the city returned to the ownership of the citizens a few months ago. Some citizens are upset that the city isn't paying costs to maintain, repair of replace grinder pumps. Dan Albers responded to this by saying that anyone who was having a problem with the grinder pumps should contact the city and ask them to come take a look at it, but that they didn't have the resources to repair them all.

The boat ramp's manager Joe Crusoe has asked that the trash cans be replaced with a dumpster so that garbage won't spill out everywhere if someone hits it with their truck or boat. The city isn't totally in favor of this idea, with Commissioner Steve Remke worried that people might stack garbage there as if it were a place to dump oversized trash, and would like to look for other solutions. No decision was made on that.

The state has unfortunately run out of grant money for now and as such the St. Marks River Park will not be getting its parking lot paved anytime soon, City Manager Zoe Mansfield announced.

The city got new signs for the recreational public areas such as the river parks and the boat ramp.

Some properties by the highway have been flooding due to heavy rainfall and lack of drainage, and have cited the sidewalk the city had put in as the cause, as it filled in the ditch that would have normally kept the water at bay. The city commission did not feel like they needed to take responsibility, though Ryder Rudd, the owner of the property which floods the most as a result did, and after some discussion it was determined that the city would evaluate the situation and decide what would be done about it at a later date.

Harvey & Sons Enterprises Fill Sand & Topsoil Land Clearing Debris Removal

850-661-4194



Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park Skyflower



It attracts bees, but there's little nectar for butterflies.

By LYNN ARTZ, SANDY TEDDER and DAVID RODDENBERRY

Skyflower (Hydrolea corymbosa) is a wetland wildflower with brilliant blue flowers and vibrant orange pollen. The eye-catching flowers open in the morning and mainly attract the bees that self-pollinate them. Butterflies are infrequent visitors as skyflower blooms offer little nectar. Found almost exclusively in Florida, skyflower is broadly distributed across the state. Its foliage tends to be overlooked until the stunning blooms appear in late summer and fall. This 1-2-foottall perennial grows naturally in freshwater marshes, swamps, ponds, ditches, and wet pine flatwoods. It is planted mainly in habitat restorations. When commercially available, skyflower adds a burst of color to sunny, moist-to-wet wildflower gardens and will slowly spread by suckering. Skyflower is blooming now in the pond at Sopchoppy Depot Park.





Remembering Jody Kilgore on his birthday

Palaver Tree Theater hosted a memorial on Friday, Aug. 11 for murder victim Jody Kilgore on what would have been his 59th birthday. Palayer Tree's Herb Donaldson sits with Kilgore's mother, Gladys, to discuss the case. Kilgore was stabbed to death in his Crawfordville front yard on Oct. 6, 2014. 2023. Current and former detectives with the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office attended the event, and the case remains open. Big Bend Crimestoppers is offering upto \$10,000 reward for information on Kilgore's murder. Call Crimestoppers at 850-574-TIPS if you have any information on the case. Or call the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office at (850) 745-7100. (Photo by Gerald Brown)



3152 Crawfordville Highway Crawfordville, FL 32327

(850) 251-9792

www.blackfootroofing.com





Wakulla County Tax Collectors Office

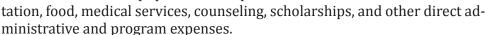
SPECIALTY TAGS

\$20 - \$30 additional to cost of tag.



ISSUED IN 2008.

HORSE COUNTRY - Annual use fee is distributed to PCMI Properties, Inc., to fund programs involved in the rehabilitation of at-risk youth to provide educational materials, athletic equipment, transpor-



REDESIGNED 2015.

Protect our Oceans - Annual use fee - a portion of the yearly plate registration supports the Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation (GHOF).





A Wakulla Wild Animal Rescue **WOULD YOU LIKE** TO HELP?

We always need donations of these items:

- Bleach
- Paper towels
- Fruit cocktail
- Birdseed & nuts
- Pedigree wet & dry dog food
- Friskies wet & dry cat food
- Dawn Dish Soap

Florida Wild Mammal **Association**

198 Edgar Poole Road Crawfordville, FL 32327 FWMA.org 363-2351



Subscribe & Save.

Call (850) 962-8019 to get started.

TRIM notices go out to property owners Aug. 17



By ED BRIMNER **Property Appraiser**

TRIM (TRuth In Millage) notices will be mailed on Aug. 17th to every Wakulla County property owner. Please be on the lookout for this important information. Remember your TRIM notice is not a bill

– but it is an estimate of your property taxes. For know the following:

• Column 1 on the

TRIM's top table shows you what last year's taxes were. Column 2 shows what the tax rate would need to be for Wakulla County to collect the same amount of tax revenue as last year and what your taxes would be if that was the new tax rate. This is called the rollback rate. Column 3 shows the tax rate being proposed by your taxing authorities and what your projected taxes for

• When you receive that reason, you need to vour TRIM, final taxing decisions have not yet been made. Public input is expected and encouraged. The TRIM notice provides information regarding public meetings to discuss tentative budgets and proposed millage rates. I encourage vou to study the issues and communicate with local officials by attending scheduled meetings, sending emails, and/or calling your taxing authorities. A phone call to County Commissioners, School Board members, or City

Council members could make a difference in your tax rates. You may contact these officials by calling the BOCC administrative offices at (850) 926-0919, the Superintendent of Schools administrative offices at (850) 926-0060, the St. Marks City Hall at (850) 925-6224, or the NW Florida Water Management District offices at (850) 539-5999.

 The middle table on your TRIM shows non-ad valorem assessments. This year, there is a proposed increase for the fire assessment to \$248; last year's fire

assessment was \$152. There is no proposed increase for the garbage assessment, and it should remain \$204.

• The bottom portion of your TRIM provides your 2022 and 2023 market, assessed, and taxable values of your property allowing you to know the changes in value. Each of these could be different. An explanation of these values is provided in the TRIM package. All value information is based on sale(s) or change(s) prior to Jan. 1, 2023. Review your TRIM notice and if you feel your

property value is overvalued or vou are missing an exemption that you applied for, please contact our office prior to September 11th. No one knows the details of your property better than you and a phone call to the Property Appraiser can make a dif-

As always, our customer service staff is available to answer questions at (850) 926-0500. You can also visit the Property Appraiser's website www.MyWakullaPA.com or visit us on our Facebook page.

Wall of Honor for veterans at elections office

SPECIAL TO THE SUN

Joe Morgan, Supervisor of Elections for Wakulla County, is announcing the dedication of the new "WALL OF HONOR" in honor of our veterans. The wall, located in the public area of the Supervisor

of Elections office, recognizes the service and dedication of the men and women who are or have served in our armed forces by proudly displaying their photograph and including the veteran's information in a book available for the public view. "Our purest

form of democracy was defended so we could be afforded the freedom to cast a ballot," said Supervisor Morgan.

Veterans, friends, and family members of veterans who wish to participate can submit a photograph to be printed by Supervisor

Morgan and displayed on the Wall of Honor. Photographs can be submited through the Wakulla Votes website at www.WakullaVotes. gov, emailed to wakullacountysoe@wakullavotes.gov or simply dropped by our office. The staff will scan the

picture and return the original to the owner. More information on submitting the photograph and biography is available on the website.

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

freedoms," said Supervisor Morgan.

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

Lower Bridge boat ramp opens after refurbishment

Construction of refurbished boat ramp at Lower Bridge was celebrated with an official opening ceremony on Thursday, Aug. 3. Several county commissoners and county staff, along with representatives from the state Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), stand on the newly finished boat ramp with a sheriff's office boat in the background. (Photo by Legion Taylor)



Extension faculty ready to support local schools

Special to The Sun

programming to all our following: area schools. Programs horticulture, environ- egg hatching unit. mental education, civic ing Tree weeks at area classroom and school program that includes school years, we have resources to support sci-ufl.edu/wakulla/.

schools on request.

Wakulla Extension of- IFAS Wakulla Exten- office in Crawfordville in request. fice in Crawfordville of- sion office include but April. Youth advance to fer school enrichment are not limited to the a district level contest itol: School age youth guest instructors and dents from planning to

4-H Embryology: Our include agricultural ed- faculty supports class- An elementary school in Tallahassee during port: Extension faculty schools want a credenucation, embryology, room with equipment partner is invited to the legislative session. can help teachers pre- tialed guest speaker or public speaking, nutri- and curriculum to teach bring 4th graders on Youth meet with public pare applications for an expert program faciltion, personal finance, poultry science with an the Annual Ag Adven- officials, tour the House Florida Farm Bureau itator, Extension faculty

education, and more. Faculty provide curric- demonstration farm in islative debate and vot- room and/or School For more information University of Florida ulum, ribbons, and me-Quincy. Extension faculty par- dallions for elementary

in Mav.

Living On My Own:

public speaking contests a facilitated personal helped local schools ence units with hands-Annual signature (formerly known as the budget simulation ex- plan and install school Each school year, school enrichment pro- Tropicana competition). ercise. This program gardens and provide University of Florida grams offered by the A county level contest provided to middle and age-appropriate cur- Extension faculty can faculty located at the University of Florida is held at the Extension high school classes by riculum for teachers to help teachers implement

> ages 5 to 18 are invited facilitators. 4-H Ag Adventures: by 4-H to spend a day tures field trip to enjoy and Senate chambers, mini-grants, Florida Ag- are only a phone call 4-H Public Speaking: an educational day on a and participate in a leg-riculture in the Class-

ing simulation. School Garden Proticipate in Project Learn- and middle school-level Financial education grams: In previous Extension faculty have line at https://sfyl.ifas.

use with students in service learning with 4-H Day at the Cap- addition to serving as

> Grant writing sup-Garden grants.

STEM Skill-a-Thon(s):

on activities and more.

4-H Service Learning: youth that engages stuhands-on service.

Whether teachers or away at 850-926-3931. about local Extension programs, visit us on-



Joan and Jerry Johnson who live near the Wakulla County Public Library discovered a huge hornet's nest on in the eave of their home on a side porch they really never use. 'It is the size of a basketball, it's the largest hornet's nest I have ever seen in my lifetime,' said Mrs. Johnson. They called their pest control company and scheduled a service for the nest so that their grandchildren or others do not get stung. (Photo by Lynda Kinsey)

Library News – Aug. 17

August 17th

- Creative Writing 10am
- Veteran's Meetup 11am
- Pregnancy Loss Support Group
- The Park HOA 6:30 pm
- Wakulla Amateur Radio Club
- August 18th
- Wakulla Fall Gardening Group

- Quilting Guild 9:30 am

August 19th

- Lake Ellen HOA 10am • READ Therapy Dogs 10am
- August 20th • No Programs Today
- August 21st • American Legion 6:30pm

August 22nd

- Book Bunch 10 am
- August 23rd
- Book Babies 10am • Knitting Group 4pm

SAVE THE DATE EVENTS

 Saturday September 30th Fall Open House Pirate Edition

Saturday October 28th

Trick or Treat Story Walk at Azalea Park 5:30pm

UPCOMING HOLIDAY CLOSING

• Saturday, September 2 for Labor

pinions

"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."

LETTERSFR OM RED ERS

An alternative to the gas station

Editor, The Sun:

If the state purchase of the parcel of land over Chip's Hole cave does not work out, another solution to protect Wakulla Springs from contamination risk of a new mega gas station over the cave system may be to do what the Wawa chain of gas/convenience stores will try-out in Largo, a gas/ convenience store without the gas

pumps, focusing instead on selling food and drinks.

Since it is predicted that half of the new cars sold in 2030 will be electric, they could continue to sell "fuel" by providing electric vehicle charging

> John Parks Crawfordville

Tell Shoaf, Simon you support BOCC

Editor, The Sun:

Wakulla friends and neighbors,

Our commissioners need your support. On Monday, Aug. 7th, Commissioners Thomas, Hess, Nichols, Messersmith, and Kemp voted unanimously to work together with state representatives to purchase the proposed gas station land which lies atop the Wakulla Springs cave system.

This small parcel is located near the county border on Hwy 319 at its intersection with Hwy 267. If purchased by the state and managed by the county, this land could serve as a small park and place of welcome into our community. A Welcome to Wakulla County - Gateway to the Springs sign could remind those of us coming home from work and errands in Tallahassee to slow down and appreciate that we are back in one of the best places on Earth. A short, meandering interpretive trail on these few acres

could explain that we live above one of the most complex and fantastic underwater cave systems in the world. Those passing through to St. George Island and 30A would be prompted to visit Wakulla Springs, the largest fresh-water spring in Florida, bringing revenue in to support our community.

Take three minutes and Google "contact Representative Jason Shoaf" and "contact Senator Corey Simon" which will bring you to their contact pages. Write them both a quick note telling them you support the goal of our commissioners. Then take another moment, if you have it, to send a note of thanks to our commissioners for their efforts to protect our drinking water and springs.

> **Kellie Keys** Crawfordville



Be A Hero to Our Heroes Board Members.

F.R.E.S.H. coordinators thankful

Editor, The Sun:

We're delighted to report all the F.R.E.S.H. (Fully Refreshing and Empowering Students Holistically) Back to School Outreach Events for the 2023-24 School Year were a tremendous success!

We were able to bless over 1,000 students and we are so thankful!

For three consecutive Saturdays in July, we distributed backpacks and school supplies in the respective communities of St. Marks, Panacea, and Sopchoppy, and our final event was held on Saturday, August 5th in Crawfordville.

We provided school supplies for 133 students in St. Marks; 161 students in Panacea; 172 students in Sopchoppy; 608 students in Crawfordville; and as of August 8, 2023, 63 students were served after the

Our supporters and sponsors

continue to astound us by their willingness to make a difference in the lives of students in Wakulla County. The love that was shown and freely given is the reason that we as a community could be a blessing to so many people.

Our mission is to encourage and empower students, parents and the community holistically (spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically) for an effective 2023-24 school year. With all of our combined efforts, the mission was a great success.

It is with heartfelt love that we thank all of the organizations, churches, businesses, and individuals who supported us in this event. We look forward to working with all of you next year!

In His Service,

Cheryl Randolph and Kenny Manning F.R.E.S.H. Event Coordinators

Something on your mind?

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

On the Horizon

Calendar of events for the week of August 17

Church.

Thursday, August 17

- 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, August 18

• High school football kicks off with meets at 5:45 in room 106 in their of-

- Wakulla War Eagles host the Madi- •The county commission meets at 5 at 6:30 p.m. son Cowboys at J.D. Jones Stadium at p.m. in the commission chambers.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and 8 p.m. every Friday at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

Saturday, August 19

- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.
- The Wakulla Caregiver Support Group will meet at the Wakulla County Public Library at 10 a.m.

Monday, August 21

The Wakulla County School Board

- 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
- 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, August 22

• Sopchoppy community dinner is

a pre-season exhibition game as the fice at 69 Arran Road in Crawfordville held every week at the Towles House

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

Wednesday, August 23

- Gentle Yoga and Stetching Class, Wednesday, First Class - 11 a.m. Wakulla Community Center. Bring a Mat. Come early to sign in. Chair Yoga participants welcome. \$2 per
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.
- A Line Dance class is held at 1 p.m. at the Wakulla Senior Center every Wednesday.





editor@thewakullasun.com

Reporter: William Snowden **Legion Taylor**









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

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

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

That means:

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

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

We would very much appreciate your contribution.

William Snowden Editor & Publisher The Wakulla Sun

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We accept donations by card or check. If by check, payment must be made to the Florida Press Foundation and write in the check memo line that you want the donation to go to The Wakulla Sun.

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

When do you think the weather will get a little cooler?



MATT QUINCEY

H opefully before Halloween."



CLARENCE COLVIN DANNY COLVIN TOWING

"When the good Lord says it's time."



KELLEY DETTMER CENTENNIAL BANK

P robably not until November, you just never know."



HAYLEE TAFF SHELL STATION

"Honestly, I feel like it's going to be closer to the end of October."



O SHUA MANNING CORRECTIONS OFFICER WCI

W e live in Florida, you never know what you're gi ng to g t here in the

COMMUNITY NEWS

Wakulla Station News

By VERNA BROCK

Sing 'n Supper at the Woodville U.M.C., Gospel music, fun and entertaining, heat was brutal. followed by a delicious dinner and fellowship. You are missing a guaranteed good time! Next month, September ing the Comprehensive Plan and zonand Jeannie Perez of St. Augustine. impact on Wakulla Springs. Now these there for a Spirit-filled evening.

What an interesting meeting last Monday evening, when hundreds of the community center, which can acour fellow citizens gathered to participate in our democratic process. Well ter late than never, I guess. before 5 p.m. the BOCC chambers had standing-room only. The overflow the value of our world renowned gem, indifferent, who thinks the proposed

crowd filled the front of the building to capacity in the 121 degree heat (this If you missed the Second Sunday was the ACTUAL temperature measured on-site). Although there were you really missed a great time. It was several tents, an industrial sized fan

tabled the two items concerning chang-

Wakulla Springs. Everyone knows changes are smart, logical, or justifihow fragile the ecosystem that sur- able. EVERYONE expresses pure outrounds the karst system is. There has rage at the notion. been a region-wide effort to heal and preserve the Springs. Afterall, the wa- special meeting for these agenda items. ter that fills this miraculous treasure Our elected representatives want, and is also our drinking water. What we need, your guidance as they vote an see at Wakulla Springs reflects what issue that will have an irreversible iman amazing performance of Bluegrass and cold water bottles available, the is happening to the Florida Aquifer. pact on the quality of life in Wakulla How long has it been since you could County. Come support the future of After an hour and a half, the Board board a glass-bottomed boat? Not in Wakulla County, our children and our this century, I'll wager.

There are no excuses for approving 10th, the Church will present Tracey ing of the site that would have a direct a 16-pump gas station directly over the prayers, as she recovers from Covid, Wakulla Springs/River basin. Frankly, Mark your calendars, and plan to be items will be debated and voted on at a if there are some "state requirements" later time to be announced. The BOCC that prevent the county from protect- surge in cases, as more and more promised to hold the next meeting at ing the Springs, I'd ask the BOCC to people congregate indoors due to the stand up for what is right and moral. commodate a much larger crowd. Bet- The Springs, our water, and our children's futures are worth the fight. I ha-I know the readers are aware of ven't met a single person, left, right or will be right there to get it.

If you are able, plan to attend the grandchildren.

Please keep Clem Bunker in your along with several of her neighbors. The health department is seeing a excessive heat we are enduring. I understand the updated vaccine will be available in September, and Ed and I

Buckhorn News

By ETHEL SKIPPER

Now that our children are back in meal together. school, I was uplifted listening to them and seeing them do their own shopping than what they may learn at school. and deciding what to wear.

They grow up fast and things are not like they used to be.

changes. (Proverbs 22:6) "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it."

Lord and when they start public school is is the beginning of their training. We need to teach them to pray, to take nity Church with those attending from

time out each day to thank the Lord for a good day, and sit down and have a

What you teach your child is better What you teach them will last forever.

Pray daily for our children, the teachers, bus drivers, all the school The Word is still the same. It never and county workers.

The 5th Sunday Union meeting of the Northwest Florida Diocese of the Every child should be taught of the Church of C.W.I.H. Superintendent Elder Edward Brigham of Blountstown was held at Skipper Temple Commu-

who attended.

will be the First Second-to-None Holy God's sight. Convocation. Wednesday night is guest night; Thursday night diocese churches in charge, speaker will be Pastor Elder wishes go out to Christine O'Neal and Chris Baker of New Beginning Church all of the August birthday people. of C.W.I.H. On Friday at noon, speakers will be Elder Dorothea White from Shiloh Church of Christ W.I.H.

Pastor Dr. Ethel M. Skipper of Skipper dren's safety and protection. Temple Community Church in Sop-

Quincy, Blountstown, Gretna, Talla- choppy. Youth presidents in charge hassee and Woodville. Thanks for all on Saturday are Evangelist Felice Holloman and Mother Charlotte Green. Sunday will conclude the convocation Beginning on Wednesday, Aug. 16 message with Superintendent Dr. Edthrough Aug. 20 in Blountstown at ward Brigham. All the people of God True Holiness Church of Christ W.I.H. - everybody is somebody and great in

Our prayers and happy birthday

Let us pray for all the sick and Midway, Evangelist Vera Lee Brown of shut-in, those in the hospital, nursing homes, those in prison, the homeless, those that have lost family and loved Women's Day with Diocese Mother ones. Let us pray daily for our chil-

Sheriff's Report

10:

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4

- Kayde Taylor was arrested for stealing cash while working as a during the month of July. An investi-Cordoba investigated.
- Ralph Pigott reported multiple addresses which he is constructing days. The total damage valued at the liam Bennett investigated. homes is over \$5,000. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy James Williams investigated.
- 2002 Ford Mustang GT catching on fire. Upon deputies arrival, the ve-County Fire Rescue arrived and exdeemed a total loss. The vehicle's Paul investigated. value was estimated at \$5,000.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5

This report is for activity Aug. 4 to a large gathering. Several attendees had to be reminded of Florida laws regarding loud music and noise.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

• Blonza Washington reports some investigated. front-line cashier for Winn-Dixie, unknown person(s) damaged the outside air conditioning unit and stole gation revealed that Taylor allegedly the heat sink/radiator from the unit. stole several hundred dollars during Theft and damages were estimated multiple incidents. Deputy Arturo at over \$18,000. The air conditioning a unit was last seen/used for church services approximately 2 weeks ago. were damaged in the past several for further investigation. Deputy Wil-

MONDAY, AUGUST 7

- · Deputies responded to the new • Chad Allen Downer reported his construction site behind Subway. Contact was made with Paul Keen who advised diesel fuel had been
- driver, Luis Roman Reyes, was dis-• Deputies patrolled the area of license. Reyes was placed under ar- an unauthorized online purchase Sky Box Liquors throughout the rest and transported to the jail facili- in the amount of \$128.21 from her ity at 850-745-7100 or call 911 for

• Deputies responded to a construction site in reference to an ex- of both a Sthil chainsaw from the cavator on fire. The excavator was bed of his truck as well as a trailer deemed a total loss valued at ap- which had been left on the roadside proximately \$165,000. Contact was due to multiple flattened tires. Rueth made with Jimmy Oyler who advised first noticed the chainsaw missing a hydraulic line had busted and on Aug. 4. This case has been sent caught fire. Deputy Dakota Haddock to detectives for further investiga-

TUESDAY, AUGUST 8

· A traffic stop was conducted on vehicle for faulty equipment. The driver was identified as Michale Par- ed to the front lobby of the Sheriff's is. In plain sight were several smok-This case has been sent to detectives ing pipes and needles. A search of the vehicle revealed Paris had meth made contact with Daniel Wagner, and fentanyl in his possession. Paris who stated he noticed on Aug. 8 his was placed under arrest and transported to the jail facility. Deputy the bed of his truck. This case has Todd Kent investigated.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9

hicle was fully engulfed. Wakulla stolen and a fire blower had been to the front lobby of the sheriff's ofdamaged. Keen stated he suffered a fice, in reference to a walk-in com- Matthews made contact with Steve tinguished the fire. The vehicle was total loss of \$726. Deputy Anthony plaint. Upon arrival Deputy Smith Gordon, who advised he noticed an made contact with Pamela Anagnost, unauthorized charge made, in the • A traffic stop was conducted on who said someone had made an un- amount of \$3,190 on his account. a vehicle for tag not assigned. The authorized charge on her bank ac- This case has been sent to detectives count. Anagnost said that on Aug. for further investigation. covered not to have a valid driver's 8, she noticed someone had made shift due to an event that produced ty. Deputy Don Newsome investigat- account. This case has been sent to emergencies.

detectives for further investigation.

• Ronald Rueth reported the theft tion. Deputy Rudolph Hinson investigated.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10

- Deputy Ernesto Trujillo respond-Office, in reference to a walk-in complaint. Upon arrival Deputy Trujillo backpack blower was missing from been sent to detectives for further investigation.
- Deputy Dustin Matthews responded to the front lobby of the · Deputy Kory Smith responded sheriff's office in reference to a walkin complaint. Upon arrival Deputy

Report suspicious or illegal activ-

Outdoors

HOME ON THE RANGE

Know your ammo or know your re-loader



By MARJ LAW

(On a Wednesday...) "OMG! OMG! What a huge kick!"

I am shocked at this and 9mm Canik. Kahr's recoil. It's only a 9mm. Am I turning to swap guns into a wimp?

I put the gun on the shoot. shooting bench.

odd! Looks like part of shoot the Canik. the Kahr is missing! I can see the inter- some rounds that nal mechanism near are "hotter" than the ejection port! And my 124-grain where's the magazine? rounds. The Can-

owner, is reaching on fensive gun and the ground, gathering prefers stronger pieces. Pieces of the loads. I haven't gun's magazine.

It blew up! Yes, the all that well. gun blew up! Oh, no!

I shake my dominant Blam! hand. The webbing between thumb and in- three bullseyes dex finger smarts.

Travis is still on the with those hot ground. He has located loads. Drat. I havthe casing of the spent en't managed one round and holds it yet with that gun. up for me to see. The metal is twisted and Equalizer. He pulls broken.

"What happened?" I grins. am stunned.

certified NRA Instrucinspects the casing.

"The round may have get? been double-charged," a re-load."

Travis looks ruefully

at his Kahr. gun, anyway."

We had been shoot- admit. ing most of the morn-

(Earlier...)

Travis owns a brand new compact 9mm Kimber and a 9mm Kahr.

"I've never shot a Kahr, and sure am interested in your new Kimber. Want to try out each other's guns?" I'm always up for learning about other handguns. So, Travis is going to shoot my 9mm Smith & Wesson Equalizer We're both ready to see how they

I'm interest-What's this? How ed to see Travis He has been using Travis, the gun's ik is a small debeen shooting it

Blam! Blam!

Travis gets right off the bat

He picks up my

"Very easy slide!" he Travis's friend, Ed, a exclaims happily.

Blam! Blam! Blam! tor and Range Safety He's in the shooting Officer, comes over and groove today! Can I pretend that's my tar-

It's my turn to shoot he muses. "It might be his Kimber. He has it loaded for me.

Blam!

"Wow! That little guy "I didn't like that has more recoil than I can manage well," I

"Do you want to

back the slide and point. Too much recoil all, may be re-loaded for me."

So, that's when it

Whack!

and the magazine is in too.

All morning, Tra- utable manufacturer from.

rounds. happens. I pick up the wrong. I'm not dissing cause of the design: loaded Kahr and fire. reloads. For the past that the majority of the kick! I shake my hand. Georgia Arms. They've towards the magazine look down and realize is reloads from Georgia shooter. the gun has exploded. Arms. Just about all

And I'm not dissing the Kahr, either. Now don't get me I'm impressed that bedecade, I've bought force of the explosion What a hard hard 124-grain reloads from pushed downwards Yep. Got a bruise going been great, and I've and outward to the saved a few dollars. In right instead of back-And that's when I fact, most of my ammo wards towards me, the

In the past, I have I am so lucky. Part of my shooting friends shot ammunition that of the frame is missing, have bought re-loads has been given to me, and haven't always Re-loads from a rep- known where it came

Guess I won't be doing that again. Travis probably won't either.

I take a photo of the damaged gun, magazine, and round casing and go to the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office range deputy. He agrees with the Range Safety Officer, and with Joe, who came over from the rifle range, that the round may have been double-charged. Or the re-loader may not have noticed that the casing may have been too old and/or flawed before re-loading.

"Know your ammunition," he advises, "and if you have re-loads, then know your re-loader."

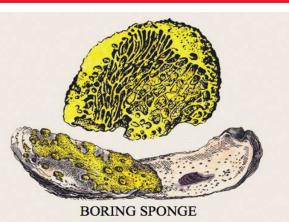
Shooting a handgun can be a dangerous sport. When you shoot at the WCSO range, you must always use safety glasses to protect your eyes, and hearing protection as well.

But accidents happen and you can minimize them by using dependable ammunition.

*Next Wednesday, around 10:00, we'll be at the WCSO range again, and plan to shoot the fairly new Ruger Security 9mm handgun. It has a remarkably easy slide to manipulate. If you'd like to see this gun join us at the range!

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





(Cliona celata)
This sponge when a larvae will literally bore 2" holes into limestone rock or mollusk shells. Once it has created its hole and eaten the mollusk, it transforms to a 20x40" red to yellow feathery structure which releases new larvae. The red color is likely due to red algae living in it. It forms large colonies in shallow water up to 650ft. It is found around the world's temperate and warm oceans from the Baltic sea to the Gulf. Eukarya, Animalia, Porifera, Demospongiae, Hadromerida, Clionaidae

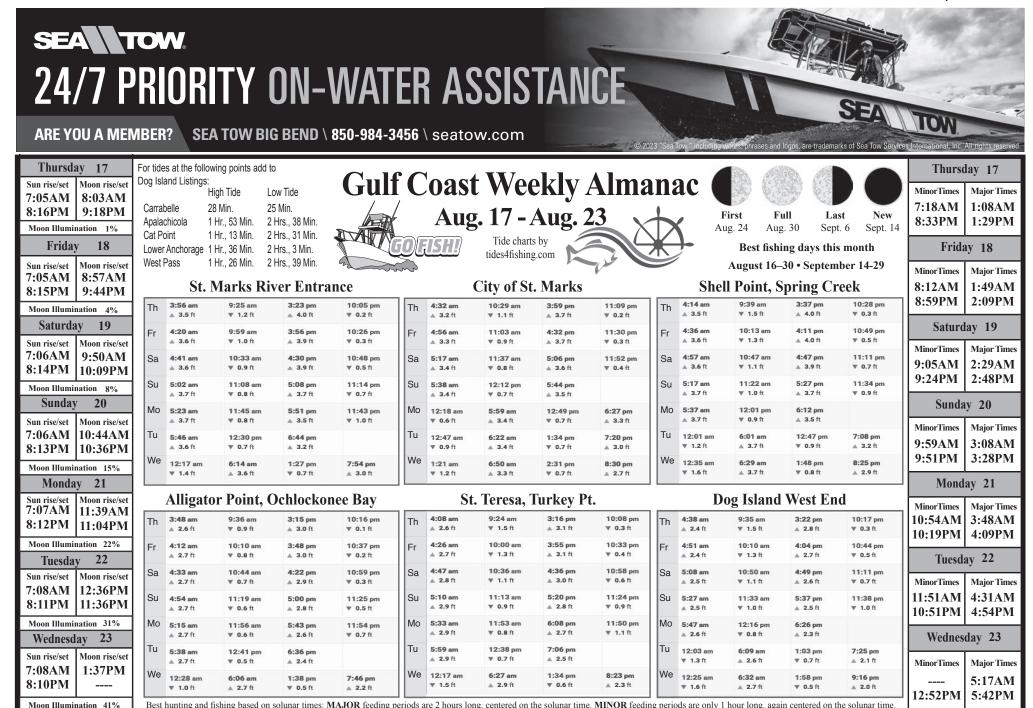
Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratory





a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences





Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports By Carolyn Brown Treadon



As with so many things these days, there's an app for it! The Coast Guard is no different. The USCG Boating Safety App features include:

- Find the latest safety regulations
- Request a vessel safe-
- · Check your safety equipment
 - File a float plan
 - Navigation Rules
- Find the nearest
- NOAA buoy · Report a hazard
 - Report pollution
- activity
- Request emergency

assistance reational boating safety ment checklist; free boatcoordinator, the Coast ing safety check requests; Guard works to minimize navigation rules; float loss of life, personal inju- plans; and calling feary, property damage, and tures to report pollution environmental harm. Our or suspicious activity. boating safety program When location services involves public educa- are enabled, users can tion programs, regula- receive the latest weather tion of boat design and reports from the closest construction, approval National Oceanic and of boating safety equip- Atmospheric Adminisment, and vessel safety tration weather buoys as checks for compliance well as report the location with federal and state of a hazard on the water. safety requirements. The Coast Guard Mobile App an Emergency Assistance track a user's location un-

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

• Report suspicious most commonly requested by boaters.

4

include: state boating in-As the nation's rec- formation; a safety equip-

The app also features

supports these missions button which, with loca- la Commander Phil Hill by providing the essential tions services enabled, at pnkkhill2000@yahoo. services and information will call the closest Coast com Guard command center.

> The Boating Safety Moto replace a boater's marine VHF radio, which the aboard their vessels. The app was mainly designed to provide additional for mobile device users.

The app is self-contained, so personal information is stored on the phone and is not sent to the Coast Guard unless the user chooses to send it. The Coast Guard does not track a user's location, and the app does not

less the app is being used Thanks to Sherrie, we will always remember safe boating is no accident.

Please contact us for more information about our safe boating classes or learning more about getting involved in the Auxiliary, check out our website at www.uscgaux. net follow us on FaceBook @ Apalachee Bay Flotilla 12 or contact our Flotil-

If you would like to Features of the app bile app was not designed learn more about vessel safety checks, please contact Steve Hults, Staff Coast Guard strongly rec- Officer for Vessel Examommends all boaters have inations at steve.hults@ uscgaux.net.

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

FWC Law Enforcement Report

From FWC

some events the FWC handled July 28 to Aug. 3. (There were no cases reported for Wakulla County or in the North-Central region:

CITRUS COUNTY

for the violations.

COLUMBIA COUNTY

west region.) These are enport received a Wild- the raccoon over to the restrained in Osceola cases from the North life Alert tip about a FWC and it was taken to Wildlife Management raccoon without a Class in Lake City. A written season. III permit. Once arriving warning was issued for at the residence, the of- possession of the rac-· Lieutenant Ransom, ficer observed a raccoon coon without a Class III Officer Pietroburgo, and was observed trough license. Officer Jovanov were the living room window. 300 feet of properly dis- he had purchased the the immediate area and fawn. Appropriate cita-

played diver down flags raccoon from a licensed located deer tracks ex- tions were issued.

and scallopers in the wa- dealer, he said no and iting the woods where ter. All vessel operators indicated some young multiple hunting dogs This report represents were stopped and cited boys brought it to him. exited as well. Appro-The officer explained priate citations were a Class III permit from issued for training deer the FWC was required hunting dogs during the to possess the raccoon. closed season and hunt-• Senior Officer Dav- The homeowner signed ing dogs not properly subject possessing a a rehabilitation facility Area during the closed

UNION COUNTY

· Officer Fanelli and • Officer Fanelli and Shope responded to a conducting patrols near Officer Davenport met Shope were on patrol in complaint regarding an local scalloping areas with the homeowner Osceola Wildlife Man- individual in possession over the weekend and who stated the raccoon agement Area when they of a fawn. The officers reobserved four vessels had been in his posses- located two individuals sponded to the residence operating above idle sion for nearly 1 1/2 catching a hunting dog. and the homeowner adspeed on plane within years. When asked if The officers searched mitted to possessing a

Underwater Wakulla By Rusty Miller

Class reunion dive.

Hello Wakulla.

I got back late last night from a couple of dives in Panama City. I had the privilege to take a group of FSU students and several FSU alumni on an afternoon dive out of Panama City on Sunday, Aug. 13. Several of the student and alumni I had as my dive students in the last couple of summers so it was kind of like a class reunion dive.

We met at the boat at Bristol Harbor marina in downtown Panama City at 1 p.m. CST and began loading our dive gear on the boat. We put our gear together before the captain gave his safety briefing. Once the briefing was done they shoved off away from the dock ready to set sail towards our pre-determined dive sites. The captain had to radio the lift bridge operator to raise the bridge so we can head out to the big pool.

It only takes about 15 minutes to get to the first dive site about 6 miles offshore. The first dive site was bridge span 12, it was part of the old Hathaway bridge that was sunk at least 30-plus years ago. She is now really starting to show the toll the salt water and storms have taken on her. Part of her structure has completely collapsed on the ocean floor but other parts of her superstructure still remain upright and intact. The good news is there are many species of fish that call her their home. The bait fish that swim around her are in the thousands and with what looks like a choreographed dance swim as a major cloud that literally blocks out the sun light similar to a large cloud going over head.

Most divers who dive sites like this generally don't notice what is living around and in the structure itself. I have dived that span since it was first laid to rest there and I am so amazed at the different species of marine life that's there. That is the number one reason I am not that good of a spear fisherman because I get side-tracked by looking at the various fish that are at the site. We saw different types and colors of starfish, several species of tangs, as well as huge queen angelfish the size of dinner platters.

The visibility was typical for Panama City 25-30 foot but the water temperature was interestingly different, at the surface to 45 feet was 98 degrees and from 45 feet to the bottom at 70 feet it was a cold 94 degrees. Normally this time of year the temperature from surface to the bottom is 88-90 degrees. It was so warm that I didn't wear my 2.5mm shorty because it was uncomfortable because of the temperature. I would highly recommend diving this particular span because of the variety of fish.

Well until next week, keep making bubbles

- Russell Miller, NAUI instructor #59999



By SHERYL H. BOLDT

Ladies, when your husband looks at you, do his eyes say he knows, without a doubt, that you believe in him? Men, when your wife

First step towards a better marriage passes you in the hall-

way, do her eyes say, "I'm so glad I married

Take a moment to recall the last time you saw that twinkle in your spouse's eyes. Remember the deep satisfaction you felt watching your husband's eyes light up with soaring confidence because he sensed vour admiration for him. Or the way your wife's eyes misted when she knew she had your support.

How long has it been since you've experienced moments like this? Too long?

Would you like to return to that good place in your marriage? Or are you afraid too many years have passed, too many hurtful words have been said, too many "too-manys" have taken place?

In most cases, both partners contribute to a marriage's demise. Yet God can use just one of you to begin restoring vour relationship. Read 1 Corinthians 13:7b (AMPC): "Love ... is ever ready to believe the best of every person."

You have a choice. You can continue to feeling each time you see hurt and discouragement in your husband or wife's eyes because you berated them again – for not doing something "right." (Just writing this makes me never want to see this look in my husband, Bert's, eyes again.)

Or you can have deeply satisfying moments every time you stand with your spouse, believing in your partner and choosing to focus on what's good about

Ladies, what would be loved and respected.

experience that sinking happen if you began right now believing in your husband, trusting that he really wants to be the man God created him to be? Men, what if you complimented your wife and focused on her beautiful qualities so that, one day, she couldn't imagine life without you?

> If your marriage is in a bad place because your needs aren't being met, let me assure you that God knows and cares about every one of these needs. He knows how deeply you want to

What might happen if we, husbands and wives, trusted God's Word by faithfully practicing 1 Corinthians

13:7 for one month? After 30 days, what do you think our spouses' eyes will be saying when he or she looks at us? What will our eyes

Let's try it and see.

be saying to them?

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

Rescued by His love



By CHERYL CRUCE

It has been said that the youngest child of a large family is the uncomplicated, most outgoing, and fun-loving of individuals.

These are traits any person would like to have included in their resume of life. Nevertheless, there is a flip side to every coin. The youngest of the family can also add life skills like manipulation, attention-seeking, and re- me, or I could sit in the to sea. Scared and cry-

As the family's baby, I can attest to the validity of the abovementioned traits. Yet, in defense of the personality-building class of life, hopefully, the latter three are no longer a part of my being. Looking back on my youth, though, my manipulative-attention-seeking-rebellious side raised its head a few times, especially when Daddy spent time with the boys.

I recall a small boat Dad built for my brothers to paddle around the canals of Cedar Island. Christened "The Two Sons," the boat was the highlight of their summer. To my dismay, I to use the oars. Regardcould only be in the boat less of my efforts, my di-

boat if it were tied to our dock.

One day, I saw my opportunity and climbed into the homemade vessel. The rope tied to the dock would only let me drift so far. I would be in trouble if I untied the knot with my hands. However, if my bare feet manipulated the rope enough, I would be freed from the port and able to paddle the boat around the canal, showing my Daddy that I was his big, little girl - manipulation class 101.

The plans of a 5-yearold will often go wrong. I did not understand the strength of a receding tide or the skills it took if my brothers were with rection was heading out

ing, I looked up to see my Dad standing at the front door of our home and my oldest brother coming to rescue me.

Once again, secured to the dock, Daddy reached for me, holding me close. I was grateful for the safety of his arms. There was no punishment; the fear of being lost forever was punishment enough. I never manipulated the rope or tested the tides again.

Oh, the lessons of life that remind us of the Father's undying love. Just as my Dad had compassion on me that day, the Heavenly Father shows compassion on His children (Psalm 103:13). God understands the current of has written our name on

this world. Many tides of this world threaten to pull us away from the Father's love. We may not be strong enough to maneuver against the antics of the darkness, but the darkness is as light to Him. His protected us together in our mother's womb. We can go nowhere to hide from His presence. (Psalm 139).

I do not know where you are today, but God does. Our Heavenly Father is always watching from the front porch. His eyes are on His children. His love is everlasting; His salvation is for those who acknowledge Him (Psalm 91:14). The world cannot separate us from His love. He

the palm of His hand. Our picture remains in His heart (Isaiah 49:16). When we trust His compassion, nothing can pull us from His grasp (John 10:28-30). Trust Him today.

Romans 8:38-39 For tion covers us. He knit- I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

OUT TO PASTOR

One more scam call and I'm going to scream



By JAMES SNYDER

Upon retirement, my life changed in few ways. I'm still as busy as before; I just don't get a paycheck for being busy. Nothing has changed that much.

The one thing that has changed is I schedule a nap every day. As most people know, a NAP is simply Navigating A Position. That position is level. At my age, I tell people that having these naps is essential; every day, I schedule a NAP at a particular time known only to myself.

It's important for me to keep this a secret so nobody knows when I'm doing it. I try to keep it from The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage for obvious reasons. Usually, right after lunch, she goes to the store and picks up groceries. As soon as she closes the front door, I'm in my lazy chair, leaning back, ready to snooze away.

There is only one problem with this scenario. My phone is next to my lazy chair, in case anybody needs to reach me. The truth being said, since my retirement, nobody needs to get a hold of me. But you never know, and I can only hope. Habits are hard to break.

The other day I was in the middle of sawing some very important logs when a noise next to my chair frightened me. It was my phone. It took with that sacred time. me a while to realize the phone was ringing, and I needed to answer. Who knows who's calling me?

Setting up, I cleared ny throat and answered the phone. Wouldn't you know it was one of those phone scams? For some reason, the person on the other end knew my car warranty had just expired. For his information, that car warranty ran out 10 years ago, and it was a truck, not a car.

I wasn't too happy with this phone call, and I must confess that I let the person on the other end of the phone know how unhappy I was. It's good I don't know French.

That took me a while to settle down after that kind of phone call, but I soon drifted off into La-la-land, my favorite place.

It wasn't long before I heard the phone ring again, and without even thinking, I sat up and answered the phone.

After all, why would anybody call me the second time? Was it another scam?

This time it had something to do with my Medicare. According to the person on the other end of the phone, he had an amazing offer for me to enhance my Medicare coverage. Being drowsy from sleeping, I didn't quite understand what he was talking about.

"According to our records," the person said most enthusiastically, "you qualify for an upgrade in your Medicare coverage."

I wasn't a happy camper because my nap time is a fairly important part of my day, and how dare somebody interfere

With a bit of anger, I asked, "Is there any extra coverage for mental insanity? I am about to go crazy."

The next thing I heard was a click on the phone. My phone buzzed all

afternoon, and I was about to lose my mind.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came home and noticed I was sitting up in my chair, fully awake. She just looked at me and then took her groceries into the kitchen.

Then, surprise, surprise, surprise, my phone rang again. I answered it, and a live person was on the other end of the phone. Just then, a thought came to me. I called my wife and said, "My dear, I think there's a thrift store owner on the phone and would like to talk to you."

She almost danced her way to me to pick up the phone. I must say I was dancing in my head when she came.

"Hello," she said enthusiastically, "I've been expecting your call. Thanks for calling."

Then there was a pause, and she said, "Who did you say you were?"

Another pause, and I heard her say, "You better never call me again." And she hung up the phone.

Looking at me with one of "her looks," I could see she wasn't very happy about it. She stood before me, staring a little bit, and then said, "Don't you ever do that again to me. Do you understand?"

What was I supposed to do? There was so much laughter within me that I didn't know if I could keep it from exploding. When she went back into the kitchen, I softly chuckled to myself. Then I heard, "You're not laughing, are you?"

"No, my dear," I said, "I was just thinking about a joke. Why was

Sunday

6 afraid of 7? Because 7, 8, 9."

"No, you weren't," she said sarcastically, "and that's not even funny."

That gave me pause think Does it matter who is lying? Is a scammer's lie worse than my lie? I then thought about some verses of Scripture that address this.

Proverbs 12:22-23, "Lying lips are abomination to the Lord: but they that deal truly are his delight. A prudent man concealeth knowledge: but the heart of fools proclaimeth fool-

ishness."

It's easy to think that my lying is not as bad as some scammer trying to hook me out of some money. Lying is lying, and I'm trying to process that. Lying is a serious business, no matter who does it.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamessnyder51@gmail. com, website www. jamessnyderministries.

9:45 a.m.

Worship II a.m.

Bible Study

Wed. 6 p.m.

Sopchoppy Sunday School

United

Methodist

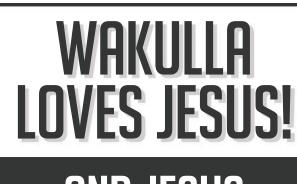
Church



3086 Crawfordville Highway Come (Just south of the Courthouse on Hwy 319) & See 850-926-7896 Come & **Mornings** www.crawfordvillefbc.com

Worship facebook.com/fbccrawfordville at 11 am THE LORD IS FAITHFUL TO THOSE WHO ARE FAITHFUL & EARNESTLY SEEK HIM."





Pastor Cheryl Mixon-Cruce 850-962-25 | 1

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Obituaries



Betty Genell Mullins

Betty Genell Mullins, 89, of Crawfordville, passed away peacefully on Monday, Aug. 7, 2023, surrounded by her family. She was born in Wakulla County to W.G. and Ethelle Moore, on July 14, 1934

Betty enjoyed being a native and lifelong resident of the area. She graduated from Crawfordville School where she was a talented basketball player and cheerleader. She retired from the City of Tallahassee, Traffic Engineering Division, where she worked for over 30 years. But Betty was first and foremost a mother and grandmother. Right up until she was no longer physically able, she would cook

huge family dinners every Sunday and Thursday night. The whole family would show up (and usually a few extras), as her cooking was well known for being some of the best there was. She was affectionately known as "Mema" to her grand and great-grandchildren. Betty, and her late husband Hugh (Pepa), loved attending their grandchildren's softball, volleyball and football games. From the Rec Park Leagues, all the way through High School and Travel Leagues, they tried hard to never miss a game, even with seven grandchildren all active in one sport or another simultaneously. This constant presence led to her "family" of children being extended far beyond her biological children to include many others who also called her Mema.

Betty had many passions: God, music, dancing, cooking, Seminole football, Holiday decorating and travel. She and Hugh even drove from Crawfordville to Alaska on a "once in a lifetime" two-month trip, returning home with many stories of the wonders they had seen and experienced along the way. In her later years, she would travel only once a year, to see the Elvis Blue Christmas Concert that she proclaimed always got her into the Christmas Spirit. This was her "never miss" trip. She loved watching the Saturday Seminole games though she could be pretty cranky the morning after a loss. Seafood was her favorite fare, and on the weekends, you could usually find her at John Posey's restaurant attempting to eat him out of oysters and soft-shell crab. She always said, "nobody can cook 'em like John."

She is survived by two sons, George Randall Gerrell (Michelle) of Crawfordville; Ted Gerrell (Dianne) of Crawfordville; one daughter Sharon Young (Mike Dallman) of Niceville; seven grandchildren, Alena

Gerrell Crawford (Kyle); Matt Gerrell (Cary); Eli Gerrell (Julia); Lesley Gerrell; Cassidy Bryan (Patrick); Heath Gerrell (Michele Rowe); Mandy Gerrell Everton (Jerry); 12 great-grandchildren, Connor, Jackson, Gavin and Maddux Crawford; Clayton and Cory Gerrell; Everett and Kade Gerrell; Jonathon and Jack Everton; Rowen Gerrell and Abigail Bryan. She is also survived by one brother, William Lewis Moore (Elaine); one nephew, Lew Moore (Tammy); and one niece, Laurie Beaton (Rob); two great-nephews, Garrett and Billy Moore; two great nieces, Lauralee Moore Mitchell (Mark) and Chaise Bishop Tinsley (Dallas).

She is rejoicing in heaven today with her husband, Hugh Mullins, her parents W.G. and Ethelle Moore, and her oldest son, James Gordon Gerrell, Jr.

Family and friends will be received for a celebration of her life on Aug. 24, 2023 at Family Funeral Home, with visitation beginning at 5 p.m., service at 6 p.m.

The Gerrell family would like to express their heartfelt thanks and gratitude to her caregivers, Lesley Gerrell (granddaughter), Denise Cunningham and Amanda Brock for their compassion, excellent care and love for our Mother, Grandmother and Great-Grandmother. We would like to also thank Family Funeral Home for handling the arrangements for our Sweet Mother. May she Rest in Peace.

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

DEATH NOTICES

- Mary Alice Bouton, 79, of Crawfordville, died August 11, 2023.
- Randy David Causseaux, 58, of Panacea, died August 9, 2023.
- Jacqueline Susan Devine, 70, of Crawfordville, died August 8, 2023.
- George Andrew Jones, 85, of Crawfordville, died August 12, 2023.
- Frances Pretty Mathis, 98, of Crawfordville, died August 11, 2023.
- Joyce C. Millender, 80, of Crawfordville, died August 10, 2023.
- Sandra Lynn Nichols, 68, of Sopchoppy, died August 10, 2023.
- Lily L. Rodgers, 96, of Carrabelle, died August 13, 2023.

The arrangements for all of the deaths are being handled by Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

Weekly Roundup: DeSantis aims at another state attorney

By RYAN DAILEY
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — Gov. Ron DeSantis this week suspended a second Democratic state prosecutor from office, targeting Central Florida State Attorney Monique Worrell and accusing her of "neglecting her duty" and being soft on criminal enforcement.

DeSantis, flanked by state and local law enforcement officials, made the "major announcement" about Worrell's suspension Wednesday.

"We had a duty to act to protect the public from this dereliction of duty," DeSantis said during a press conference.

In an executive order, DeSantis maintained that Worrell's policies prevent or discourage assistant state attorneys from seeking mandatory minimum sentences for gun crimes and drug trafficking offenses.

Worrell's practices and policies constitute "abuse of prosecutorial discretion" and reflect "a systemic failure to enforce incarcerative penalties called for by Florida law," the order said.

Hours after the governor's announcement, Worrell was on the steps of the Orange County Courthouse telling reporters she intends to fight the suspension.

"I am your duly elected state attorney for the 9th Judicial Circuit, and nothing done by a weak dictator can change that," Worrell said.

Worrell also said she will continue running for reelection to the post in 2024.

"I will not be quiet. I will not sit down. This office is just a building. I have been a public servant for my entire career. And I will continue to serve our community. I will continue to stand for democracy. I will continue to protect the rights

of the disenfranchised," she said.

DeSantis' suspension of Worrell, who was elected in 2020 as state attorney for Florida's 9th Judicial Circuit in Orange and Osceola counties, came almost exactly a year after the governor stripped twice-elected Hillsborough County State Attorney Andrew Warren of his role.

Warren was among numerous Democrats who rebuked DeSantis for suspending Worrell.

"Another illegal and unconstitutional attack on democracy by a small, scared man who is desperate to save his political career," Warren said in a statement.

Florida Democratic Party Chairwoman Nikki Fried also attacked De-Santis' action, calling the suspension "a political hit job" that "threatens our democracy and undermines the will of the people."

But Republicans and law enforcement officials — including Attorney General Ashley Moody, the state's top cop — praised the governor's actions. The attorney general said Worrell has dismissed charges or failed to file cases against defendants at a higher rate than any other prosecutor.

"If she were allowed to continue in this office, her failure would continue to cause needless pain, suffering, and death," Moody added, who joined DeSantis at Wednesday's announcement.

Worrell's suspension came after she drew criticism from police union leaders who said her office should have done more to keep behind bars a man accused of shooting two Orlando police officers on Friday.

DeSantis on Wednesday also named Andrew Bain, who recently served as an Orange County judge, as acting state attorney. DeSantis in 2020 tapped Bain — a member of the conservative Federalist Society legal group — to serve on the county court.

The Florida Constitution gives the governor the authority to suspend elected officials. The ultimate decision about removal from office rests with the Florida Senate.

STATE OF FLUX

School districts across Florida this week scrambled to figure out what to do about teaching a college-credit psychology course, amid a dustup between DeSantis' administration and the College Board.

Confusion over the College Board's Advanced Placement psychology course is rooted in a controversial Florida law and a state regulation that restrict instruction on sexual orientation and gender identity in schools.

As students began returning to class this week, district leaders were taking a patchwork of approaches to the course.

The state Department of Education reportedly last week told school superintendents in a conference call that schools were not allowed to teach a unit in the psychology course dealing with "gender and sexual orientation." The College Board then issued a statement saying the state restrictions would prohibit teaching the course.

But after news reports that the course was off-limits in Florida, state Education Commissioner Manny Diaz fired back at the College Board. Diaz told superintendents in a memo last Friday that the course could be taught "in its entirety in a manner that is age and developmentally appropriate."

After Diaz released his memo, the College Board said it "represents revised guidance" on the course.

"We hope now that Florida teachers will be able to teach the full course, including content on gender and sexual orientation, without fear of punishment in the upcoming school year," the College Board said in a statement.

With the academic year kicking off Thursday in many districts, local school officials rushed to make decisions about the course.

A number of districts announced that they dropped the Advanced Placement psychology course and replaced it with other college-credit classes. Some moved ahead with the AP course, which 28,000 Florida students took last year, according to the College Board.

For example, Pinellas County was among the districts that decided to forego the College Board's course. The county was "transitioning" to a college-credit course offered by Cambridge AICE, the district said on its web-

site

In contrast, Suwannee County Superintendent of Schools Ted Roush said he "backed teaching the traditional AP psychology course" but left it up to individual school administrators to decide whether to offer the course, switch to an alternative college-credit course or offer a "regular" psychology class to students.

In Broward County, where classes resume on Aug. 21, district officials said Wednesday they would require parental consent for students to take the AP course.

IT'S GETTING HOT IN HERE

With air conditioners cranked up to combat scorching heat, Tampa Electric Co. set a record Tuesday for summer electricity use, the utility said.

At 5 p.m. Tuesday, Tampa Electric customers used 4,640 megawatts of electricity, the highest amount used at any moment. That topped the previous record of 4,514 megawatts on Aug. 18,

2021, the utility said in a news release Wednesday.

"This weather is not easy on our customers," Archie Collins, president and chief executive officer of Tampa Electric, said in a prepared statement. "Air conditioners are working harder, and bills are higher as a result."

STORY OF THE WEEK: Gov. Ron De-Santis on Wednesday suspended Orlando-area State Attorney Monique Worrell, accusing the prosecutor of "neglecting her duty" and being lax on criminal enforcement.

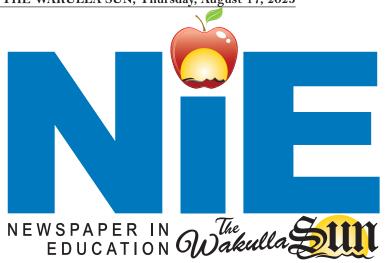
QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "The authoritarian tactic of removing duly-elected officials without legal cause is a direct affront to voters and Gov. DeSantis' removal of the Orlando state attorney is a brazen and petulant act of a flailing presidential candidate whose disregard for democracy and the rule of law is deeply troubling." — U.S. Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, a South Florida Democrat.



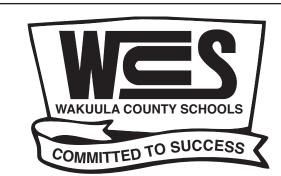




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USE THE NEWS

1. IT'S MONUMEN-**TAL**

has a new national monument. Located in the area surrounding the Grand Canyon, the new monument is called Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni, which comes from the phrases for "where tribes roam" and "our footprints" in the languages from two Indigenous tribes. The area is home to several tribes and locations they use for ceremonial stories and rituals. Read more about some of the tribes that live in the land encompassed by the new national monument in your newspaper or online. Choose one and write a paragraph summarizing what you learned about them.

2. CLEAN-UP CREW

The United States is funding a new plan to vacuum greenhouse gases from the sky. The \$1.2 billion plan will help build two plants that will vacuum carbon dioxide out of the air to help fight global warming. The cost will be split between the government and two companies, Occidental Petroleum and Battelle, who will build the two plants in Texas and Louisiana. Scientists question whether the technology will really help, as it requires a lot of money and energy to do. However, the plants will create 4,800 jobs and are predicted to remove so much carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, it'd be equivalent to taking 500,000 gas-powered cars off the road. Write a short summary of this story and draw a picture of what you imagine a machine that vacuums carbon dioxide out of the air might look like.

3. NO DRIVER? NO **PROBLEM**

Two "robotaxi" services recently got approval to operate in California. The driverless cars from Cruise and Waymo have been tested for the past year in San Francisco and did cause some issues, including blocking traffic—including emergency vehicles, which were affected at least 55 times during the trial period by driverless cars stopping in the way. The city's commis-

sioners still voted to approve the compa-The United States services through the city. What do you think of driverless cars? How could they be helpful or harmful in a busy city like San Francisco? What about in a more rural area? Do you think they would be better or worse than a regular taxi cab, rideshare service, or public transportation like a bus or train? Write down your thoughts.

> 4. A BIG GROUP **PROJECT**

Earth BioGenome nies rolling out their Project, or EBP, is trying to sequence the DNA of every plant, animal, and fungus on the planet before it's too late meaning before species go extinct. To do it, researchers are constantly searching oceans, deserts, forests, rain and other landscapes to find examples of every species that they can. They hope that by 2029, they will have one sequence from all 180,000 genuses-well on their way to the 1.8 million

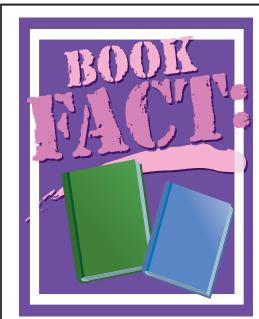
A group called the species we've discovered on Earth so far. The amount of data will be equivalent to at least 200 million DVDs. It'll all be used to create a genetic "tree of life" and could help with everything from crops to medical research. How could understanding the DNA that makes up other living things help us understand things about humans better? Write down what you think and share your answers with your classmates.

> 5. SAVE THE RAINFOREST

Leaders of eight countries in South America have agreed to help stop deforestation in the Amazon rainforest. The Amazon is home to many unique species and also helps fight global warming, as the vast amount of trees pull carbon dioxide from the air. At least 17 percent of the rainforest has been lost in the last 50 years from people cutting down trees to make room for industrial growth. If more of the rain forest is lost, it will no longer

be large enough to help reduce the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and could lead to species of plants and animals not found anywhere else to go extinct. Read about some of the different species that live in the Amazon rainforest. Thinking about the previous story about the Earth BioGenome Project, why would it be bad for the planet if species that only live in the Amazon go extinct because their habitat is destroyed? Write a paragraph about your answer.

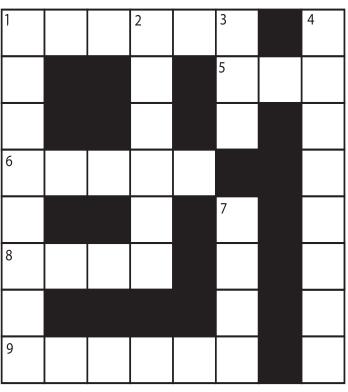




THIS BOOK BY GEORGE ORWELL IS WIDELY READ IN SCHOOLS.

ANSWER: "NINETEEN EIGHTY-FOUR"

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1. Place for learning
- 5. Singular
- 6. Midday meal
- 8. Display of excitement
- 9. Period of learning

DOWN

- 1. Full of talent
- 2. Units of
- measurement 3. "Laughing out loud"
- 4. Educators
- 7. In charge of school

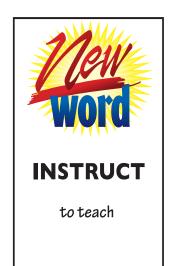
7. Dean 1. Skillful 2. Ounces 3. LOL 4. Teachers UMOM

1. School 5. One 6. Lunch 8. Fuss 9. Lesson Across :SIƏMSUY



THIS DAY IN...

- OPENS IN COPENHAGEN, DENMARK.
- 1965: THE BEATLES PLAY TO NEARLY 60,000 FANS AT SHEA STADIUM IN NEW YORK CITY. THE EVENT IS NOW WIDELY REGARDED AS THE BIRTH OF STADIUM ROCK.





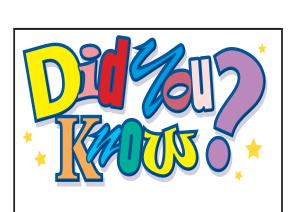
ENGLISH: Teacher

SPANISH: Maestro

ITALIAN: Insegnante

FRENCH: Professeur

GERMAN: Lehrer



BOSTON LATIN SCHOOL IS THE OLDEST PUBLIC SCHOOL IN THE UNITED STATES IT OPENED ON APRIL 23, 1635.





Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

YNOMEK: BEYKEKS

REEL 'EM IN WORD SEARCH

G Α D R Ι Н G N Ι М U H P U S P T S C Ι C U F L E R C E B Ι J Y 0 Y L J G S S N 0 Α K R C C R E E Ι М Ι Т C Y Y N R F F N R N P M R K D D P G H K S G D J U F U D B 0 B B E R N 0 U D A D S D A G B J Y F 0 A K L 0 M B L A A Ι Ε B E D S D G N B B Α D S B K E G Ε Н M D Ε G G Ι J G G G Ε S P Ι M D Α Ν S S M N 0 0 G Ι R Α K Α Н C M R G D K E E R L N G C R K D P K B M 0 Α М L J S F Ι B Н Ι C B М A R B K C N 0 D L M B Ι R G G U Ι R C E C 0 B U U A A P N R H S Ι D C E K R Ε R S G Н E R Ε R N Α R C T F Ι E K 0 0 R B D T B Y C J М D T Ι T H Ε S T D М R P G R H J L Ν М М 0 G Ι P Ι N E A Y E R U L R B 0 A D A S Ι G C T Н G Y Ι N C T В 0 Ι N Α P C U T S T R B A K N K G Ι J B K K C Н E S Ι E 0 Y D 0 N L U 0 R Y D Α N Α Ι Ι E B N

WORDS

ANGLER BACKCAST BAIT **BARB BOBBER BOTTOM FEEDER** BRAID BUCKTAIL BUNKER CHUMMING CREEL LIMIT CRIMP DRAG **FISHING** FLY **GAFF** H00K **JIGGED** LINE LURE REEL ROD SINKER

SP00L

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

CLUES ACROSS 1. Civil rights organiza-

CROSSWORD

- 5. Calendar month (abbr.)
- 8. Monetary unit of Burma
- 11. Twyla ___, US dancer
- 13. Everything included
- 14. "Antman" actor Rudd leader 15. Italian city
- 17. Mild yellow Dutch
- cheese made in balls 18. Turkish officer
- 20. Perform on stage 21. Ribosomal ribonu-
- cleic acid
- 22. Canadian coastal provinces
- 25. Furnishes anew
- 30. Edible mollusk
- 31. No seats available 32. Garden figurine
- 33. Two-legged support
- 38. Rest here please (abbr.)
- 41. In a silly way 43. One from the Gold-
- en State
- 45. Photographers 48. Native religionn in
- 49. Dickens character

2

3

parts of China

50. Brodway actress Daisy

- 55. Ancient Greek soph-
- 56. Undivided
- 57. Daniel ___, French
- composer 59. Nocturnal S. Ameri-
- can rodent 60. Rusty
- 61. Jewish spiritual
- 62. Patti Hearst's captors 16. Nowhere to be found 63. Popular global holiday (abbr.)
 - 64. Tall, slender plant

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Defunct US energy
- company 2. Fellow
- 3. It's issued from volca-
- 4. Type of acid
- 5. Winged nut
- 6. Arouses 7. Things are served on
- 8. San Diego ballplayer
- 9. Currency and a Chi-
- nese dynasty 10. __ mater, one's
- school 12. Exclamation that
- denotes disgust
- 14. Hairstyle 19. Supreme ancient

Egyptian god

- 23. They _
- 24. Connecting line on a map
- 25. Mock
- 26. One point north of
- due east
- 27. Chinese philosophical principle
- 28. Type of tree 29. Persuade to do
- something
- 34. A place for travelers to rest
- 35. National Gallery of
- Art designer 36. Panamaniaan prov-
- ince 37. Field force unit
- (abbr.)
- 39. Whalers' tool
- 40. Simply 41. Nigerian City
- 42. Not one
- 44. Obstruct
- 45. Political plot
- 46. Manila hemp plant 47. Dough made from
- corn flour
- 48. Fishes by letting the
- bob fly 51. Swiss river
- 52. Plant that makes
- gum 53. A French abbot
- 54. One point east of northeast
- 58. Get free of

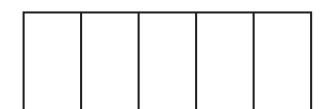
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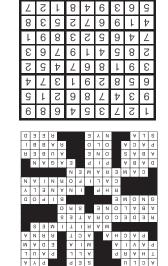
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WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to fairs.

SEDIR





9

10

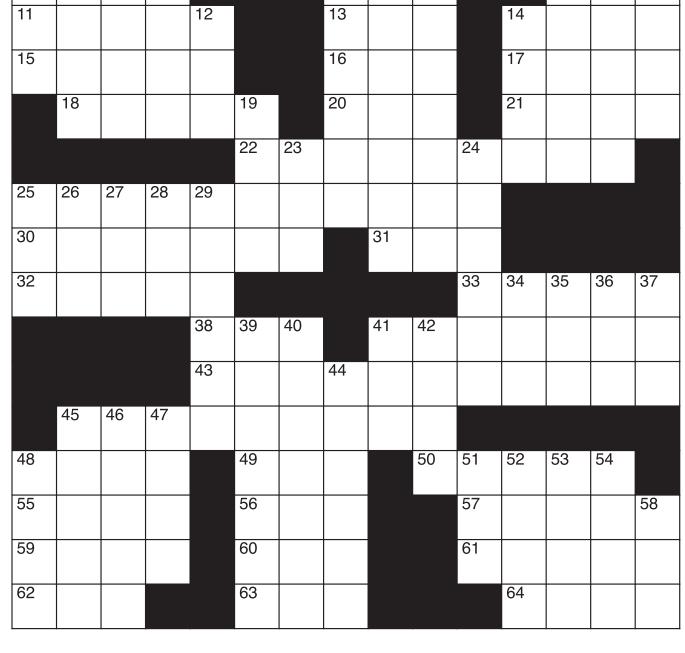
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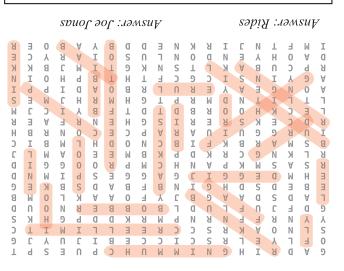
				5		6		9
9						2	1	5
6		8			1		7	
	9	1		6			5	2
2	8		4					
7		6	5		3			
			6	7				8
	6		9		8			
		2					4	

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

Guess Who?

I am a singer born in Arizona on August 15, 1989. My brothers and I made appearances on hit TV shows like "Hannah Montana" before becoming known as a pop music group. I was the lead singer, but left the group to be a solo artist.





Life Along the Newport Road: Chapter 3

Written by Elizabeth F. Smith and originally published by the Magnolia Monthly Press in 1972

By ELIZABETH SMITH

Chapter Three

In 1850 when a plank road was built from Newport northward to Chaires in Leon County as competition to the Tallahassee Railroad hauling cotton down to St. Marks, there were two hotels in Newport, both of them located near a sulphur springs. The Washington Hotel may have been on the east bank of the St. Marks River in Newport, for there was a puny springs near the wooden bridge where there is now a roadside park. The other one was two miles further north on the west bank and is still there. The large frame building located on the springs was the Newport Springs Hotel. If the springs in Newport weren't sufficient for people benefitting from the waters, the proprietor offered to take them up to the bigger one

by horse and carriage. The proprietor of the Washington Hotel in Newport was Alonzo B. Noyes in 1853, a Massachusetts Yankee who was as much a go-getter as Daniel Ladd, but not nearly as successful. Noyes had married a Canadian girl and had come down to Florida before 1835, for his five children had all been born in Florida. Since his parents, Thomas and Mary B. Noyes, also lived with him, he had nine people to feed, and his outlay necessitated some business sense on his part. Beside running the hotel he was also the customs' house officer and he had a busy time going up and down the river to tend all his investments. For a long time the customs house had been at the lighthouse, then at St. Marks, even though Noyes lived at Newport. Noves was an inveterate letter writer to the federal government, and among the many projects for his fertile mind was the building of a marine hospital in St. Marks for sailors coming off the ships with yellow fever. He first suggested the hospital in 1853 after Newport and St. Marks had suffered their worst epidemic and were panicky for fear their trade would fall off with the cotton planters. One source said 160 people died that year in the two towns and the bodies were buried in the Newport and St. Marks graveyards at nighttime to keep the panic from spreading. But the wheels of bureaucracy ground slowly until 1857 when the army engineers under a young officer used limestone blocks out of the old Spanish fort, San Marcos de Apalache, to build a foundation adjacent to the ruins and in a swampy spot that was not calculated to help the victims of the fever. Though the people at that time didn't know yellow fever was caused by mosquitoes, they did think it came from the musky swamp odors, or miasmas, and a higher place would have been wiser. The federal government paid a doctor at Newport to tend any sailors who came in sick, but in 1861 when the blockade pinched off trade, the hospital was closed. It is not known that the Confederate government ever used the hospital, though they were desperate for beds and space. It is possible that they were afraid it was too close to

the enemy prowling in

ships offshore, and they

did not want Yankees

coming in and murdering the sick and injured in their beds.

While this was going on Noves was also importing ice in partnership with Daniel Ladd. There was also a man named Noyes who captained the ship in which the ice was hauled, no doubt a relative in those days of rampant nepotism, since it would have been impossible for Alonzo to do that too. The ad he and Daniel had in the WAKUL-LA TIMES for June 23, 1858, said, 'KEEP COOL -Ice for all by the Express Line. The Brig GENERAL BAILEY, Noves master, 15 days from New York, has just arrived with 350 tons more of this luxury, which will be dispensed to all who desire it, by sending their orders to the Ice Houses at St. Marks and New Port, in such quantities as desired at 2c per pound for lots of 100 pounds or more (where cutting is not necessary): under 100 pounds, 3c. Houses open from daylight to 8 a.m., and from 6 to 7 p.m. Those buying to sell again furnished on liberal terms." At the end of the ad was this rejoinder, "No credit given - melts too fast to credit." The two partners preferred to take the cash and let the credit go.

Noyes was on the Board of Trustees for a school in Newport the same year, and also ran the hotel for railroad workers that stood n St. Marks. Two interesting things occurred to Noyes during the Civil War. When the South seceded from the Union, Noves went over to the Confederacy and kept up his custom's collection but his letters to Confederate Secretary of The Treasury Memminger always listed more expenses than income because of the federal blockade, and when the war was over, Noves promptly switched back again to the Union and kept his job. His authority extended all the way down to Tampa Bay, since he was the chief collector on the upper Gulf Coast, and his two deputies were stationed at Cedar Key and Anclote Key. Noyes even suggested having a deputy at Anclote Key after the war started, thought the blockade left very little to collect. Memminger wrote and asked what reasons Noyes had to suggest his extra expense

Though Noyes had plenty of other problems, the on which seems to have caused him the most trouble was 76 tons of steel rails brought in for the Pensacola and Georgia Railroad which was to complete the line to Quincy from Tallahassee. The company did not have the money at the time to pay the \$56.60 duty and Noyes kept it interned in his warehouse in St. Marks. One night in April of 1861 a group of men from the company broke into the building and carried off the rails. Noyes wrote post haste to Memminger who replied that the duty still had to be paid and cited the law covering it. The exigencies of war had prompted the desperate act, but here is no evidence that the duty was ever paid. Strangely enough, in spite of the need for railroads in carrying on the war against the North, steel trackage had a high duty of 25%, while such trivial vanities as women's hats had only 5%.

Two miles north of Newport was the other hotel at Newport Springs, an elaborate and ornate frame building for planters and their families to visit, usually in the fall when fresh oysters were brought in for their meals. In the early 1850's the family of Susan Bradford came, for in her diary in 1855 she tells of the deaths from yellow fever in her family and her mother's desire to receive some benefit from the healing sulphur water. The family lives at PINE HILL, a plantation north of Tallahassee on the Centerville Road, and when talk of secession had begun not long after the plank road was built, many of the northern machinists and sawmillers who had worked for her father, Edward Bradford, had returned to the north. Susan again returned to the springs when her father in 1863 went down to the coast to make salt for preserving meat, and Susan bathed at the springs and ate some fresh fall peaches.

From Newport Springs

it was only two-thirds of

a mile to Magnolia. Here a dirt road veered off to the right to enter the town, but by 1850 it was only a ghost town with a few buildings and a rotting stockade to remind people of its importance only 20 years before the plank road was built. To look at the palmetto scrub and briar among the pinewoods today, no one would ever know a town had existed at Magnolia. Though the M. M. has written much about the town in earlier issues, further research has turned up new information about the town. Bertram Greene in his book ANTEBELLUM TALLA-HASSEE mentions that the four Hamlin brothers who founded Magnolia were in Tallahassee in 1825 looking for government land to buy on a stream from which cotton could be shipped out to the gulf and around the Florida peninsula to northern ports. In H. Franklin Andrews' book, THE HAMLIN FAMILY, the brothers had come down to New Orleans in 1816 with their father from Augusta, Maine by ship. The father had sold his iron ware in New Orleans and gone back north but the brothers, three in their twenties and two in their teens, had gone up to Liberty County, Miss. and bought government land along the Mississippi River which they sold in lots to new settlers while shipping cotton down to New Orleans. Nothing is known about this period in the brothers lives except that John and Nathaniel Hamlin married two girls, probably related named Amanda and Amelia Robinson, and Theophilus Hamlin Jr., the youngest boy, died in his teens. Lizzie Brown of Tallahassee mentions the Hamlin's being in Tallahassee in 1825. Her father later became Governor Thomas Brown.

Greene mentions that the first bridge ever to span the short St. Marks River was built a little north of Magnolia to connect with a road going to Monticello in Jefferson County. The road was mentioned as being planned in an issue of the MAGNOLIA ADVERTIS-ER which was published from late in 1828 to early in 1830. With a road thus going to Monticello thru an area of swamp known as the Pinhooks, another branch veering northwestward to Tallahassee and still another going

north to Chaires, Magnolia was the fulcrum for a lot of cotton.

The town was founded in 1827 and lots sold briskly for 6 or 7 years. The road to Chaires became known as the Magnolia Road. In 1829 a shipload of important men from Augusta came down to visit Magnolia and at least one stayed for a year, but the others returned North. Yet another stayed for good. That was Joseph Ladd, brother-in-law of the four Hamlin brothers who had married their sister, Sarah. That same year the youngest of the brothers, Weld, died and was buried at Magnolia.

A new, unpublished DANIEL manuscript, **MERCHANT** LADD, PRINCE OF THE FLOR-IDA FRONTIER, written by Dr. Jerrell Shofner of Tallahassee, seems to have done more to throw light on the Hamlin's and the Ladd's than any book yet written. It is the first mention so far made outside of official records. that Joseph Ladd's wife and nearly all of his ten children, came to Flor-Like Theophilus Hamlin, Joseph also had five sons and five daughters. The importance of these two families on the American frontier is such that they are mentioned extensively not only in antebellum newspapers but in such periodicals NILE'S REGISTER and DEBOW'S REVIEW. Never had members of two families traveled so much under such hazardous conditions, going back and forth by boat the 1600 miles between Magnolia and Augusta as if they were snow geese making the seasonal trek, their activities and their advertisements covering the papers from Pensacola to New York to Augusta where the KEN-NEBEC JOURNAL, begun by Luther Severance, who married the Hamlin's sister, Ann, started the paper in 1824. It is

still being published. Apparently Joseph sent for his family after he had time to get established in Magnolia, and they came down in 1833. During this time Magnolia had acquired a hotel and a bank, the Merchants and Planters Bank of Magnolia that printed its own bills which are still being turned up in odd places, such as the state of Washington.

Magnolia had its best vears between 1830 and 1833. In 1834 when a group of Tallahassee businessmen decided to build a mule tram to St. Marks, the sale of lots in Magnolia began to decline. In 1835 the Hamlin brothers were having financial troubles and George Hamlin, the second oldest of the brothers and the only unmarried one, fought a duel with a man named Alexander Campbell because the latter had informed their creditors that the brothers' business was failing. George killed Campbell in a pistol fight at Mannington on the Georgia line north of Chaires, Joseph Ladd bought out his brothers-in- law and saved them from bankruptcy, and two months later died of yellow fever. The next year the Tallahassee mule tram to St. Marks was completed and the people of Magnolia slowly began to move

Only Shofner's manuscript seems to tell the real reason why Magnolia declined. The Forbes purchase during the second

away.

Spanish period in Florida (1783 - 1821) had been invalidated by the U.S. Supreme Court and the townspeople thought their lot purchases had been illegal. Many left, some even tearing down their houses and moving them off the land. It was probably during this time that Sarah Hamlin Ladd and several of her children returned to Augusta because one of them. Franklin, became a portrait painter in Maine and it was his home where all the relatives visited when they came up from Florida. Joseph E. Ladd also went back to Maine and was a druggist in the capital, but apparently came back to Florida in the early 1850's, for he too is buried in the old Magnolia cemetery. He died in 1853. His stone, like that of Joseph Ladd, his father, and Weld Hamlin, his uncle, are still standing in the briar along the St. Marks River to show that a town of Magnolia had really existed. All three of these men are listed on a commemorative tombstone that stands in the Winthrop St. Cemetery in Augusta, surrounded by family members and their graves. The Winthrop St. Cemetery is well tended. The Magnolia Cemetery has nearly disappeared.

Another man owned a lot of property I Magnolia was Benjamin Byrd who had settled with his family north of Chaires in the Miccosukee area after coming down from North Carolina in the middle of the 1820's. Other members of the family who came down to Wakulla County included A. W. C. Byrd who probably had more slaves than any other man in the county, and Olivia Byrd, who had a plantation near Sopchoppy in the 1850's. Most of this family is buried in the Byrd-Parrish Cemetery near Miccosukee. Dr. James Bryant of

Tallahassee tells much about the Byrd's in his book INDIAN SPRINGS. published in October of 1971 and reviewed in the February M. M. Benjamin Byrd's father-in-law, Arthur Burney, was born in North Carolina in 1773, moved with his wife Sarah down to Twiggs County, GA in 1805, and arrived in Leon County in 1826. They had nine children, a common amount for those days. They worshipped at the church on Joseph White's Casa Bianca Plantation in Jefferson County before the Indian Springs Baptist Church was founded in 1829 near Miccosukee. In 1828 Arthur bought a town lot in Magnolia for shipping out his cotton, though still living at his Miccosukee plantation. The next year his daughter Mary married Benjamin at a ceremony in Magnolia performed by Justice of the Peace Ed

Seixas. Benjamin Byrd was born in North Carolina in 1798 and bought a lot from the Hamlin's in 1829, a year after his father-in-law bought one lot. Then, in 1835 when the Hamlin's were having so much trouble with their creditors, he bought 681 acres at Magnolia, undaunted by the problems over the Forbes Purchase which had other neighbors leaving the town. He became a town councilman and a Justice of the Peace. His son, Nathan, was born at Magnolia in 1838.

Meanwhile the Second Seminole War had begun, and the Indians were ha-

rassing the people of the town. Cattle were stolen and in 1840 an unfriendly Seminole who had gotten inside the town stockade, killed a man with his hatchet. About the time this occurred, two forts were built near Magnolia. Ft. Stansberry was built around a log house abandoned by a settler, a wood stockade built on a rectangle, and another was erected slightly north of Magnolia near the bridge to the Pinhook Road and known as Ft. Lawton. A road went westward from Ft. Lawton to Ft. Stansberry near Wakulla Springs, and then the road went on to Fishers Mill and from there to Ft. Braden on the Leon County line to the northwest.

At the same time the Tallahassee Railroad built a bridge across the St. Marks River and put its terminal at the town of Port Leon three miles nearer to the open bay. The town of Port Leon was on land now part of the St. Marks Wildlife Refuge. The bridge stopped all traffic coming up the river except for that brought in by barges. (Shofner mentions the obstruction at the Devil's Elbow near the fort, a narrow channel that made it hard for ships drawing more than 8 feet to come up the river even when there were no bridges to stop them.)

By this tie Daniel Ladd, Joseph's son, had learned all there was to know about cotton factoring from his uncles John and Nathaniel, and bought a waterfront lot in Port Leon where he built a warehouse higher off the ground than anyone else. His Uncle John also bought a lot in Port Leon and probably a few other men from Magnolia, but the others seemed to have drifted up the Magnolia road and settled to plant cotton instead of exporting it.

Benjamin Byrd abandoned the store ha had in Magnolia. In 1841 a new yellow fever epidemic raged in the Territory, in 1842 the Indian troubles died down and Fts. Stansberry and Lawton were abandoned. In 1843 a fire destroyed much of the city of Tallahassee and a hurricane four months later wiped out Port Leon. In 1845 Florida changed from a territory to a state and William Mosely, a Miccosukee planter became the state's first governor and he named Benjamin Byrd, his old neighbor on the Magnolia Road, his first State Treasurer. But life was not happy for Byrd. In 1848 his wife, Mary Burney Byrd, died in Tallahassee, and his son Nathan, born in Magnolia died in Quincy in 1854 where he was attending the Quincy Academy. In 1859 his daughter Mary Eliza died in Cuthbert, GA while attending the Female Academy there. Life along the Newport Road was, for the people who lived there, a lot of deaths.

(To be continued)

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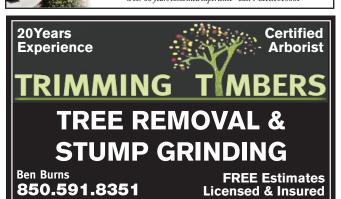
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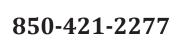
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Jessica Haubrick and son Franklin at the Picklelarium exhibit.

Picklelarium

From Front Page

m(the ship) Our Mother out of Bon Scours, Alabama, caught 84 creatures and donated them to Gulf Specimen Marine Lab in effort to bring the dead back to life in the imaginations of visitors to Picklearium."

Organisms collected for this exhibit are all mini monsters who lived in the depths of the Gulf of Mexico. Because of the enormous depths from which they live, the opportunity to see live specimens is impossible due to the pressure drop of being hauled to the water's surface. The exhibit was funded by a \$25,000 grant from the Division of Cultural Affairs, from Florida's Department of

Because there is no practical way to keep creatures such as deep-water spider crabs,

starfish, cookie cutter sharks, and elephant skates alive, the specimens are pickled with formalin, a saturated formaldehyde solution, suspended in lit aquariums within a darkened room. Alongside the displayed creatures are educational videos for visitors to further research. QR codes associated with the displays are available for visitors to capture. Specimens display a dark glowing bioluminescent

All sharks were positively identified by Dr. Dean Grubbs, a renowned shark specialist at University of Florida along with Dr. Gavin Naylor. Just a Geek's Josh Thompson is credited with the computer and lighting expertise associated with the exhibit. Volunteers from the AmeriCorps worked on injecting, mounting

and securing the exhibits on platforms with monofilament line. Branson Balanjee, a world-famous artist shared his art work. A large octopus is painted on the ceiling by Carrie Hamburg.

"It is a big world out there," said Rudloe. "There are many things to explore and to see. with Pickelarium, visitors will get to see things they would never get to see firsthand elsewise. Fact is, live creatures don't last forever, but when you pickle them, they can last for a hundred years, and you don't have to feed them. This exhibit is a work in progress, we want to make a real museum for visitors to

enjoy."
Gracie Terrell and friend Emily Pendley, visiting the aquarium from Indiana, said, "This is completely different than what we have in Indiana, this is really cool and unique."



A 5th generation Wakulla resident, Lee's family roots run deep in this community. Lee has two daughters; Baylee and Mack, and his wife Katie of 20 years who is also a lifelong resident. They are members of Grace Baptist Church and when Lee is not at the ball field with his girls, he enjoys cornhole, men's league softball, and hanging out on one of our amazing rivers!

Lee has a passion for the outdoors and loves hunting and fishing. He considers his time in the outdoors his alone time with God, where he finds peace.

Lee has spent the last thirteen years working at St. Marks Powder where he developed valuable communication and time management skills. He made continuous growth during his tenure there. Lee also has more than a decade of construction industry knowledge and experience. Because of this, he prioritizes providing adequate research to ensure his clients have all the details necessary to make informed decisions.

Aside from his incredible work ethic, Lee handles each transaction as if were his own and takes pride in developing long-lasting relationships with his clients. Give him a call today to take the next step toward your real estate dreams!

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