



Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mostly Sunny	PM Thunderstorms	Isolated Thunderstorms
Hi: 92° Lo: 73° 22%	Hi: 91° Lo: 74° 53%	Hi: 90° Lo: 71° 33%
Sunrise 7:17 AM Sunset 7:53 PM	Sunrise 7:18 AM Sunset 7:52 PM	Sunrise 7:19 AM Sunset 7:50 PM



\$1
One Section

"It's a New Day"

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Our 2nd Year 36th Issue
Thursday, September 7, 2023

'DODGED A BULLET'



Brett Shields of Shields Marina and Stan West of Riverside Café talk about Hurricane Idalia. Both have been through numerous storms.

Hurricane Idalia hits

St. Marks received high waters in the streets. Riverside Café flooded again, but Stan West, owner of Riverside Café was grateful that it has not gotten into his kitchen

equipment. Brett Shields of Shields Marina says that the water was not brackish. Both Shields and West have weathered these storms many times before. "It is what it is, and we move on," West says. "When the water goes down we will clean, disinfect and hopefully reopen on Friday." More on Idalia on Page 5. (Photos by Lynda



The folks at Bo Lynn's were concerned that people driving into the water on the road were creating waves causing further flooding of properties.

Sopchopy's Depot to be celebrated with 'Depot Day'



The historic depot in Sopchoppy.

Will be held this Saturday with lots of train-focused exhibits

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

The First Annual Depot Day celebration will be held on Saturday, Sept. 9th in Sopchoppy, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with lots of train-focused exhibits – including groups such as the Big Bend Model Railroad Club, who will be setting up in the Towles House full of train layouts for viewers to come see, and the National Railway Historical Society out of Tallahassee.

Last year's event was canceled due to inclement weather, but this year event organizers have planned many attractions and activities to bring people in. (The Sopchoppy Community Market will also be set up with vendors in Depot Park.)

"There's a lot of interest everybody, I think, here," says Nelson Martin, the current caretaker of the Sopchoppy Museum.

Martom moved to Sopchoppy from Baltimore, Maryland in 1972.

"There were all these old-timers on the loafer's bench in Sopchoppy talking about the railroad days and the 1920s," he recalls. "They were just so full of interesting stories."

Those stories about how Sopchoppy used to be sparked an interest in the history of the town and its depot, but before 1993 he had no opportunity to take action to preserve the depot or the history.

In '93, the man who owned the depot went bankrupt and was going to sell the property off to the bank, who would bulldoze the depot and replace it with something else.

"I put together a group and started the Gopher, Frog, and Alligator (a local nickname for the Georgia, Florida, and Alabama Railroad that ran through Sopchoppy) corporation and sold enough shares of stock that we were able to purchase the property for \$35,000," says Martin.

From there, Martin and the group he put together started to clean and fix the depot, but they unfortunately ran out of money before they could finish.

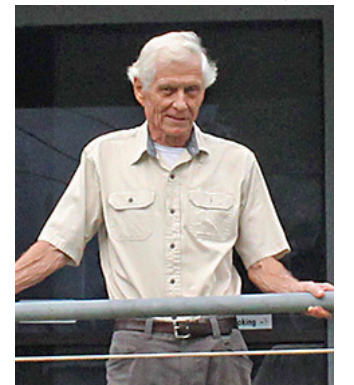
Eventually, the depot was fully restored through a federal grant that dealt with historical transportation buildings, and was turned into a public museum that opened in 2010.

Martin has kept continuously updating and adding exhibits and displays, focusing on the ways that the railroad affected Sopchoppy, and the ways that the residents of the time made their living. They have extensive displays on things such as the logging industry, which was the main reason the railroad extended through Wakulla county, and they even have the original typewriter and telegraph used in the depot a century ago.

Even though the museum is already packed full of the history of Sopchoppy's railroad days, Martin wants to continue to add more exhibits.

Currently, he is working on putting up one

Turn to Page 5



Depot Caretaker Nelson Martin

Editor's Note

Because of the Labor Day holiday, there is no Sheriff's Report this week. The weekly crime blotter will return next week.

Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park Cumberleaf dune sunflower

By LYNN ARTZ, SANDY TEDDER
and DAVID RODDENBERRY



Dune sunflower has a high tolerance for salt spray.

Cucumberleaf dune sunflower (*Helianthus debilis* subsp. *cucumerifolius*) is one of the most prolific wildflowers at Sopchoppy Depot Park. Its cheerful yellow flowers bloom from spring through fall on shrubby plants 2-4 feet tall. Sunflowers are a keystone perennial because they support the most pollen-specialist bees and host numerous caterpillars. Cucumberleaf dune sunflower is one of three dune sunflowers native to Florida. It grows naturally in Wakulla County and the Gulf coast, thrives in full sun, and is found on beach dunes and sandy areas. It is an excellent choice for coastal homeowners due to its high tolerance for salt spray and storm surges. It can stabilize the backside of dunes and reduce wind erosion. Cucumberleaf dune sunflower is blooming now in the northern gardens of Sopchoppy Depot Park.

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Student of the Week

Joe Edwards – 5th Grade, Crawfordville Elementary School

Principal: Alena Crawford

Achievements/Reason for Nomination: Joe Edwards is a Fifth-grade student here at Crawfordville Elementary School. Joe is a standout student who made A honor roll all last school year, as well as came in second for reading the most words in the school with 4,422,538 words read. He is a natural leader and a positive role model for others in the school. Outside of school, Joe loves to play baseball and recently participated in the Battle Ball which is a fundraiser that raises money for families in need. Joe goes out of his way to help others and is always challenging himself to meet new goals. We are excited to see what all Joe accomplishes this school year!



STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.

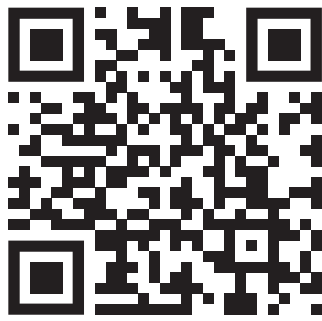
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REDESIGNED 2015.
Protect our Oceans – Annual use fee - a portion of the yearly plate registration supports the Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation (GHOF).

Alligator Point opens new fire station



Despite a steady rain on Saturday, Sept. 2, a good crowd turned out for the dedication. Above, committee chair Kathy Yaeger cuts the ribbon.



Fireman Anthony Del Campo shows off the volunteer fire department's Jaws of Life.



The two-bay firehouse with its trucks.



Fire Chief Hugh Hartsfield talks to the crowd.

PHOTOS BY GERALD BROWN

Courts grapple with death penalty change

By DARA KAM
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — A new state law lowering the number of jurors required to recommend death sentences has spurred a rash of litigation, triggered conflicting judicial rulings and infused an additional level of uncertainty in capital cases.

The changes have caused what numerous attorneys called “chaos” in the death-penalty system.

The law allows death sentences to be imposed based on the recommendations of eight of 12 jurors, an easier threshold than a previous requirement of unanimous jury recommendations. The change — prompted by Parkland school shooter Nikolas Cruz receiving a life sentence after a jury did not unanimously recommend death — gave Florida the lowest death-penalty jury standard in the nation.

Allowing 8-4 recommendations is the latest in a series of changes in the capital-sentencing process since a 2016 U.S. Supreme Court decision in a case known as *Hurst v. Florida*. The ruling found that the state's death-penalty process was unconstitutional.

In October 2016, in the similarly named case of *Hurst v. State*, the Florida Supreme Court interpreted and applied the U.S. Supreme Court ruling and said unanimous jury recommendations were required. The Legislature responded in 2017 by putting such a unanimous requirement in law.

Amid uncertainty over whether the unanimity requirement should be applied retroactively to older cases, justices ordered resentencing for about 150 Death Row inmates who were sentenced based on recommendations by non-unanimous juries. Before 2016, inmates could be sent to Death Row based on majority — or 7-5 — jury recommen-

dations.

About 90 resentencing proceedings were completed under the unanimity requirement before this year's law went into effect. More than three-fourths of those proceedings resulted in life sentences, with prosecutors often not asking for the death penalty in the resentencings.

When Gov. Ron DeSantis signed the 8-4 law this spring, nearly five-dozen Hurst resentencing cases were pending. That has led to disputes about which standard should apply. “Undoubtedly, the new statute will plunge Florida's death-penalty system into further instability and chaos,” Maria DeLiberato, executive director of Floridians for Alternative to the Death Penalty, told The News Service of Florida. “This knee-jerk change, in an understandably emotional case (the Cruz case), is causing complete destabilization of Florida's death penalty.”

The Legislature approved the change after an ideological shift in recent years on the Florida Supreme Court. Shortly after DeSantis took office in 2019, he appointed justices who established a conservative majority. The court in 2020 reversed course on the death penalty and said unanimous jury recommendations were not necessary.

The unanimity requirement remained on the books, however — until this spring, when state lawmakers passed the law responding to the Cruz life sentence. DeSantis, who championed the change to a lower standard, signed the legislation on April 20.

The change is affecting Death Row inmates preparing for resentencings because of the Hurst decision. The unanimous standard was in place when the resentencings were ordered, leading their attorneys to argue it should continue to apply in the cases.

The new law also is having an impact on cas-



The case of convicted Wakulla murderers Guerry Wayne Hertz, left, and Jason Looney, who were sentenced to death, has been held up by questions on the new law.

es involving defendants accused of committing murders before DeSantis signed the law. Their attorneys also maintain the 8-4 threshold should not apply retroactively.

“Here we go again, with changes of laws that create different categories of people that are being treated very differently, which has to be a violation of the Constitution. And then, we're looking at the overreach or the overstep as a result of very emotional, traumatized community and the play of politics in the death penalty, which is just horrifying, but we know it's very political,” Hannah Gorman, a professor who is director of The Balanced Justice Project at Florida International University's College of Law, said in an interview.

The dispute over applying the 8-4 standard, in part, involves what is known as the “ex post facto” clause in the state and federal constitutions.

Defense attorneys contend that applying the new standard to cases initiated before April 20 would violate the ex post facto clause because the standard represents a substantive change in the judicial process.

Prosecutors, however, maintain that the lower threshold amounts to a “procedural” change and therefore should apply in such cases.

Judges — including in the same judicial circuit — are divided on the issue.

In the 10th Judicial Circuit, Judge Kevin Ab-

doney last month rejected prosecutors' request to apply the 8-4 standard in the sentencing of Bryan James Riley, who was charged with four counts of first-degree murder in September 2021.

Abdoney, a Polk County-based judge, found that the new law “moved the goalposts” on the state's death-penalty process.

“In the same stroke of the pen, the Legislature has reduced friction on the path toward death while increasing it on that toward life. As a result, the risk to a defendant confronted with the possibility of being executed that he will actually meet such an end is greater now than before. Shouldering the defendant with such increased risk not present at the time he allegedly committed his crimes substantially implicates ex post facto concerns,” Abdoney wrote in a July 12 ruling.

But three weeks earlier in the same circuit, Judge Angela Cowden ruled that the 8-4 standard should be used in the sentencing of Zephan Xaver, who was accused of killing five women during a bank robbery in 2019.

“In defendant's (Xaver's) case, the change in the law has increased his chances of receiving the maximum sentence he already faced; however, it has not ‘change(d) the punishment, (or) ‘inflict(ed) a greater punishment, than the law annexed to the crime, when committed,’” Cowden, who is based in Highlands County, wrote

on June 26, partially quoting a legal precedent.

Both judges' analyses were rooted in prior court rulings on the ex post facto issue.

As circuit judges grapple with which standard should apply, a number of appeals have made it to the Florida Supreme Court. But a “lead” case — if there will be one — has not emerged.

Lawyers for Attorney General Ashley Moody argue that the new law should apply to “all defendants whose penalty phases” will occur after April 20.

A Supreme Court case drawing attention is the appeal of Leonard Gonzalez, a Death Row inmate ordered to be resentenced following the Hurst decision. Gonzalez, who was convicted in the 2011 murders of an Escambia County couple, is appealing a circuit judge's ruling that called for the 8-4 standard in resentencing.

Gonzalez's case includes a number of twists, with Moody's lawyers initially asking justices to weigh in on the retroactivity issue.

“Capital trials and Hurst resentencings are being stayed and delayed

awaiting guidance from this (Supreme) Court regarding the constitutionality and proper application of the recently amended death penalty statute. This court should address these issues as quickly as possible to prevent any further delays,” Charmaine Millsaps, a senior assistant attorney general, wrote in a brief filed June 19.

But just weeks later, another one of Moody's lawyers filed a motion asking the Supreme Court to dismiss the case, arguing that Gonzalez's appeal raised issues “best addressed in a post-trial direct appeal.”

The court rejected the state's request, and the case remains pending.

Melanie Kalmanson, an attorney who publishes the Tracking Florida's Death Penalty blog, pointed to the state's filings in the Gonzalez case to demonstrate what she called “widespread chaos” in the death-penalty system.

“There's some indication that even the state is not sure how they want to address the litigation about the new statute,” she said.

PUBLIC NOTICES:

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



THE CITY OF ST. MARKS CITY COMMISSIONERS WILL HOLD A CITY OF ST MARKS SEWER SYSTEM WORKSHOP

Date: September 13, 2023 at 6:00 pm
Location: 788 Port Leon Drive, St. Marks FL 32355

The City of St. Marks located at 8 Port Leon Drive, 9 AM to 4 PM T/F; Phone (850) 923-2323. Persons needing special access considerations should call the City Office at least 2 hours before the date for scheduling purposes. The Board Office may be contacted at (850) 925-6224.

Sept. 7, 2023

Opinions

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

LETTERS FROM READERS

Historical Society program on Sept. 12

Editor, The Sun:

Kevin Blair will give a presentation on “Medicine during the Civil War” at the monthly Wakulla County Historical Society program on Tuesday, September 12, 4:30 p.m., at the Wakulla County Public Library. The public is invited.

Kevin Blair, a Navy veteran, has been an adjunct professor of history at Tallahassee Community College, and is currently working on a doctoral dissertation on Civil War Medicine at the Battle of Pittsburg Landing, aka Shiloh, which was fought April 6-7, 1862. He holds a master's degree in liberal studies from Johns Hopkins University, focusing on medicine and war. He plans to return to TCC to teach after finishing his doctoral degree in history from Liberty University.

He participated in the Tallahassee History Fair with a booth on Plagues and Diseases. He has written papers and made presentations on Gorrie and the nineteenth century ice trade and, along with Dale Cox, was interviewed by ASU TV (PBS) for the pro-

gram Local Routes on John Gorrie at the John Gorrie Museum in Apalachicola. His paper, First Battle of Manassas: Unwarranted Deaths of Savable Men, was published in the journal Surgeon's Call, through the National Museum of Civil War Medicine.

For more information, please call 850-926-1110.

Gayla Kittendorf
Publicity Chairman
Wakulla County Historical Society



PHOTO SPECIAL TO THE SUN
Historian Kevin Blair will speak on Civil War medicine.



Jimmy Buffett at Gulf Specimen Marine Lab in 2011 with a Kemp's Ridley sea turtle.

A tribute to Jimmy Buffett

Editor, The Sun:

We are saddened by the death of Jimmy Buffett and grateful for the support and encouragement that he has given us over the years. In 2011 he visited our aquarium and we spent a delightful day feeding sharks and sea turtles. As we watched him happily picking up horseshoe crabs and squirting sea squirts in our touch tanks, it quickly became clear that he had a great depth of knowledge of marine life. It came from a lifetime of fishing and hanging out in the mangroves. His songs often mention jellyfish, crabs, and oysters. This year, University of Miami scientists named a new species of marine isopod discovered in the Florida Keys after him, Gnathia jimmybuffetti.

Jimmy kept a copy of my 1978 book, “The Living Dock,” published by Alfred A. Knopf aboard his yacht. He gave us a jacket quote for our latest book, “Shrimp: The Endless Quest for Pink Gold,” published by FT Press in 2010. He wrote: “Most humans are said to be composed 90% of water, but for those of us

who grew up on the Gulf of Mexico, I think that other 10% must be shrimp. The Rudloes leave the Living Dock behind for a voyage to the land of Pink Crustaceans, and I for one am happy to be aboard for that voyage.”

He cared deeply for the environment, and disdained the developers who were destroying it. Through his Singing For Change Foundation he donated funds to renovate our Mother Ocean Room where we kept octopuses, and helped us renovate our traveling SeaMobile trailer. At his request we brought the SeaMobile to his Feb. 28, 2012 concert at the Donald L. Tucker Civic Center in Tallahassee. Two months later when Anne Rudloe passed away, he wrote: “Anne left her mark on the world and more particularly our beloved Gulf. That is really all we can do in this short time on this blue marble, is try and leave it a little better off than it was when we got here. She did that.”

And so did Jimmy Buffett.

Jack Rudloe
Gulf Specimen Marine Lab

Something on your mind?

Email Letters to the Editor to editor@thewakallasun.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 Sept. 7

Thursday, September 7

- 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, September 8

- The Wakulla War Eagles have their regu-

lar season home opener, hosting the Munroe Bobcats at J.D. Jones Stadium at 7 p.m.

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

Saturday, September 9

- The Sopchoppy Depot Days Celebration will be held at the Sopchoppy depot from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

Monday, September 11

- Wakulla County planning commission meeting will be held at 6 p.m. in the county commission chambers.
- Sopchoppy city commission meets at

the city hall at 6:30 p.m.

- The Wakulla Respite Program is available weekly for anyone with memory impairment at no cost from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lake Ellen Baptist Church.
- Hatha Yoga at 9 a.m. and Restorative Yoga at 6 p.m. with Zoe. Classes are \$12, at New Posh on 3079 Crawfordville Hwy. RSVP to newposh3079@gmail.com or text/call at (850) 528-5838.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

Tuesday, September 12

- Wakulla Historical Society will hold a program on Civil War medicine presented by historian Kevin Blair at the public library at 4:30 p.m.
- Sopchoppy community dinner is held

every week at the Towles House at 6:30 p.m.

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

Wednesday, September 13

- St. Marks city commission will hold a workshop on the sewer system at 6 p.m.
- 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 class.
- 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.

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William Snowden
Editor & Publisher
The Wakulla Sun

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◀ Question of The Week ▶

– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

Polled at the Crawfordville Quick Stop #:

What did you do during Hurricane Idalia?



TAYLOR SANDERS
HEALING FOR NOW

I was at the emergency room for bones getting broken in my hand."



TOMMIE WEBSTER
WEBSTER CONSTRUCTION

"I stayed up all night to see what was happening. Wind and heavy rain. We were blessed."



JEN BROWN
CAPITAL CITY BANK

"I slept and asked Robert to wake me when things started, he let me sleep. We sure dodged a bullet in Wakulla. We've been helping some in Perry."



DAVID OWEN
UNIVERSAL ELECTRIC

"Stayed at the house and took care of the family. I had to make sure that my dad was taken care of and keep power going for his oxygen machine."



DENISE COLLIER
LONG TERM CARE COORDINATOR

I st Curled up on the couch with my dog, Yoshe and Smokey de . We binge-watched the series 'Ballers.'"

Hurricane Idalia: Long recovery starts for Taylor County

By **RYAN DAILEY**
News Service of Florida

PERRY — Several hours after Hurricane Idalia hit, Gov. Ron DeSantis on Wednesday went to rural Taylor County, where debris, downed trees and some power lines littered the roads.

The Category 3 storm made landfall in Taylor County's Keaton Beach area, and county Sheriff Wayne Padgett said other hard-hit areas included downtown Perry and Steinhatchee, "a little fishing village on the coast down there," which he said had the most storm surge.

"As bad as it is, it still ain't as bad as it could have been," Padgett said.

Padgett also said that no fatalities had been reported "that we know of, right now."

"We may get some reports tonight or tomorrow ... as the water recedes and we can go in to try to check on people. As of now, we have not," Padgett said.

Idalia, which made landfall about 7:45 a.m. with maximum sustained winds of 125 mph, pounded rural Florida counties, including Taylor, Dixie, Levy, Suwannee and Madison, before racing into South Georgia. DeSantis said clearing debris and downed trees will be a "huge effort."

"There's going to be a lot that's going to be required to be able to clean this up, and to get everything back up and running again," DeSantis



Gov. Ron DeSantis visited hard-hit Perry to discuss Hurricane Idalia damage.

said during a news conference just after 3 p.m. At the time of DeSantis' visit, a bridge leading into Steinhatchee was not passable. Florida Department of Transportation Secretary Jared Purdue also said State Road 24 leading into Cedar Key in Levy County also was not accessible Wednesday afternoon.

DeSantis said that some aspects of recovery in the area could take months.

"You have people's lives that have been at risk. We don't necessarily have any confirmed fatalities yet, but that very well may change. And then you have people whose livelihoods have been turned upside down, so they're going to need support," the governor told reporters.

While no fatalities had been confirmed, DeSan-

tis said during a 6 p.m. news conference in Tallahassee that the Florida Department of Law Enforcement was investigating a traffic-related death.

DeSantis contrasted the impacts of Hurricane Idalia with Hurricane Ian, which devastated Southwest Florida nearly a year ago.

"I can tell you, with Hurricane Ian ... within an hour after it hitting, there were frantic phone calls to 911 locally there, of people that were literally drowning in their house," DeSantis said. "And I remember talking to the sheriff down in Lee County on the phone, just the feeling of dread that those phone calls represented. You knew that there were going to be a lot of problems. We have not seen that in the same way on this storm."

DeSantis added that "a lot of people really heeded the warnings that their local officials issued."

The Taylor County Sheriff's Office on Tuesday issued a mandatory evacuation order for all coastal residents.

Padgett said that "most" people in Steinhatchee evacuated ahead of the storm.

"We had a few that did not, but so far everybody's safe," said Padgett, who also urged people to "stay home" as power lines and trees were being removed from roads.

Heavy damage to some buildings was evident Wednesday.

The storm knocked over a canopy of a gas station operated by Ware Oil and Supply Co.

"Most everybody here, company-wise, evacuated. As a matter of fact, my county manager was just rolling back into town from evacuation. They don't know what their house looks like, they haven't been there yet," Tallahassee resident Doug Everett, an owner of the company, told The News Service of Florida outside the station. "Nobody died, that's the key."

Everett echoed state officials' sentiments that recovery would be a long road.

"In the last 40 years, this is probably hurricane number four for me. And, when you start fixing stuff like this, it's quite an undertaking," Everett said.



PHOTO BY LYNDA KINSEY

St. Marks fisherman Daniel Conner said he has been up all night tending to the fishing boats, keeping them tied and water drained. "It's too close to stone crab season to lose a boat right now," Conner said.

Sopchoppy Depot Days

From Front Page

display about the Apalachee who lived here before European arrival, as well as a diorama that will show a detailed layout of the town when the railroad was thriving, right down to the pigs that were always heard un-

der the depot.

"This diorama project will keep us busy for the next few years... that is going to be a continuing focus now," he says.

Martin also has an idea to make the museum more interactive, by hooking up two separate telegraphs

from the railroad era on opposite sides of the depot, and use digital readouts to allow visitors to communicate across them.

The new trail town designation will also bring some changes. "We originally wanted this to be a welcome center, as well as a mu-

seum, and it's perfect for that. People who come to the area for recreation and exploring, we can provide maps and directions and anything they need." Martin is also confident that the designation will also boost the economy of Sopchoppy, saying, "I just hope this

trail town brings us a good restaurant or two, at least."

Despite all the hard work that Martin and others have put in to making the depot a special place, they still need the help of the community in order to keep it running and continue to update it. They're always on the lookout for old photographs of the depot,

specifically with a train in the station, as those can be used in many exhibits for many years to come.

They would also like to have more volunteers. The depot is typically open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and having volunteers willing to help man the depot would make things much easier, Martin says.

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Outdoors

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HOME ON THE RANGE

Striker or hammer-fired? Which is better?



By MARJ LAW

In order to make an omelet, first you have to break some eggs. Gotta start somewhere.

The same is true of handguns. Whether you are holding a striker or a hammer-fired gun, there's a similar issue: something has to whack the primer of the round you put in the gun. How, exactly, you do that basically boils down to whether you have a striker or a hammer-fired gun.

So how can you tell which you have? This can be confusing because you can see the hammer in hammer-fired guns. Except when you can't. Some of the hammers are internal. You can't see them. But that doesn't mean they aren't there.

You don't see a hammer on a striker-fired gun because there isn't one.

I'm at a gun store recently (not nearby, so don't worry), and I want to "see" the new Ruger Security .380.

"It's a striker-fired gun," says the man behind the counter confidently.

Truly, I don't see any hammer.

Just as Joe has instructed me, I lock back the slide of the Ruger. Then I turn the gun upside-down to inspect the underside of the slide.

What do you know, but there it is: a round

hole with a firing pin inside. Even though I can't see it, I know that pressing the trigger will release a hammer which will whack this firing pin.

I am holding a hammer-fired gun. Not a striker-fired gun.

What is your gun? First, holding the muzzle in a safe direction away from you and anyone who could be hurt, release the magazine from the gun. Then pull back the slide and peer into the ejection port so that you can see the chamber. Make sure you see no round in either the port or in the chamber.

Now that you are confident your gun is unloaded, lock the slide back. Turn the gun upside-down like I did at that gun store. Do you see a hole and a firing pin within?

No? What do you see?

Directly under those rear sights of the slide you'll see a squarish metal piece sticking up. How it works is this: when you pull the trigger, part of the trigger mechanism on the lower pulls backwards. Then it comes in contact with that striker metal piece located under the slide. It pushes the striker backwards against the force of the striker's spring and then it releases the striker. This makes the striker fly forward. The striker is part of the firing pin, so the firing pin is flying forward too, until it hits the primer of your round.

You are holding a striker-fired handgun.

Again, in both cases you're slamming a firing pin against your round to make the primer ignite. This explosion within the round forces the bullet forward and out of the gun. The dif-

ference between hammer and striker-fired guns is in what makes the firing pin shove into the primer.

When the Great Gun Fairy offers you either a striker or hammer-fired handgun, which will you take? Which is the better gun to own?

Joe is going to say the hammer-fired triggers are more crisp and have been so traditionally. Traditionally? Well, tradition happened a long long time ago.

Sure, hammer-fired guns were made first and that's what you'd get for decades and decades. Striker-fired handguns have been on the market for a much shorter period of time.

And yes, the triggers were better traditionally on hammer guns. However, striker guns have more refined triggers nowadays, and I really don't think that battle holds much ammo.

To prove his point, Joe pulls the trigger on the Sig Sauer P365 (striker) and then on the Smith & Wesson M&P .380 Shield (hammer).

"The striker trigger is



a little bit sluggish compared to the hammer gun," he reports. But he had to pull both triggers and think about it for a while. It is not an easy decision.

Joe will emphasize that once cocked, the hammer gun will have a shorter and lighter trigger pull. Yep. Back in the old days. Today, you can find many striker-fired guns with short and light pulls. Sorry, Joe. I don't buy this one, either.

Joe will maintain that once cocked, hammer guns have slides that are easier to rack. Well, okay.

So, what is the real reason he prefers hammer guns?

"The first center-fired gun I ever shot was a hammer-fired gun. I was used to it."

I get it. My first favorite gun was a Springfield XDM competition model. A striker. Truth is, a fine armorer called Mark worked over the gun and its trigger until the gun goes off like butter. It's smooth and accurate, and I used to plug the x-ring with enthusiasm. Your per-

sonal history surely makes a difference in your present day likes and dislikes.

This is why I'm used to maintaining to Joe that striker-fired are best.

"What about the Smith & Wesson M&P 10mm?" I ask to make my point about strikers.

"I liked shooting that one a lot. It's a very good gun," he admits. "If the Great Gun Fairy offers one of those, I'd take it in a heartbeat."

"What about your Sig Sauer 320 with all its modular variations?" He nods. That's a striker-fired gun too.

"And now, striker-fired handguns are less expensive than hammer-fired!" I declare triumphantly. "So, you may have to change your mind about striker-fired guns!"

"Sure," he agrees. "Let's talk about your striker-fired guns. How about that new little Ruger Security .380 you just bought for under \$300?" he snickers, knowing my penchant for things cheap. Um, inexpensive.

"And you like the way

you can rack the slide with only 2 fingers, right?" he adds, trying not to grin.

"Well," I begin.

"You like how accurate it is, don't you? You're comfortable with its small grip? You like that it holds a whopping 15 rounds too, right? Oh, and finally, you're so delighted that it's a hammer gun!"

Drat. Striker or hammer-fired? It just all depends...

"At the end of the day," reports Jeremy S. on The Truth About Guns, "both hammer and striker serve the same function – to ignite a primer – and they can do it equally well. Rather than focusing on hammer vs striker, most of us would be better served by focusing on how well we shoot a given [reliable] firearm and how good of a fit it is for our hands and our carry and use preferences."

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

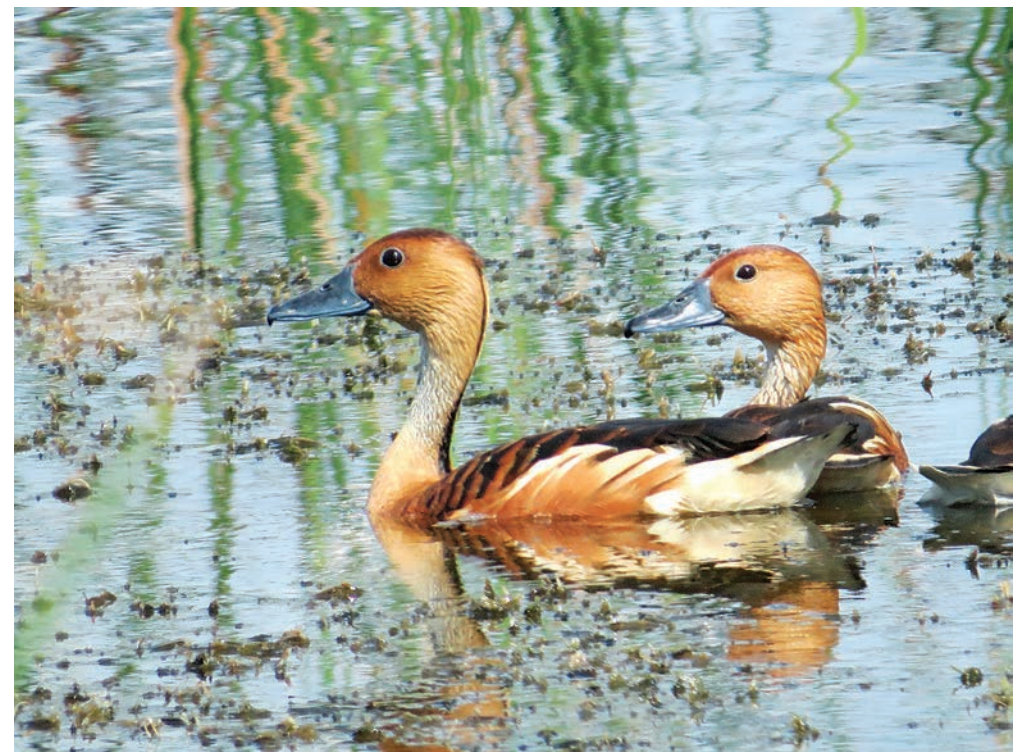
BIRDING AT THE REFUGE

A rare duck

By DON MORROW

I was doing a shorebird survey at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge in early August when I saw three Fulvous Whistling Ducks. They are tropical ducks whose range extends up into Central Florida and are one of the 14 waterfowl species that occur at St. Marks, but are not seen every year. A few of these species, like Common Eider, have only been recorded once. Others, like Greater White-fronted Goose are seen in most, but not all, years. Fulvous Whistling Ducks have only been recorded at St. Marks a handful of times and I had definitely not expected to see them.

Although, its 80,000 acres provide habitat for a wide range of birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians, St. Marks NWR was founded as a waterfowl



Fulvous Whistling Ducks at the refuge.

refuge. Thirty-eight waterfowl species have been recorded at the refuge, twenty-four of which are annual. Most of these species are winter birds, but Wood Ducks are resident and Black-bellied Whistling Ducks migrate through the refuge.

We are at the very beginning of the duck season at St. Marks. August is not a big duck month. I expect only the first Fall Blue-winged Teal, our resident Wood Ducks and any odd birds that refused to migrate – this year we had a pair of Greater Scaup that

stayed through the first part of the month.

September often sees Northern Shovelers coming in, but duck numbers and diversity at the refuge won't really start increasing until October and will then climb rapidly up to a peak of

Turn to Next Page



ATLANTIC CROAKER
(*Micropogon undulatus*)

On the incoming tide schools of the commercially important Atlantic or "hard jaw" croakers are common over sand and mud bottoms, using their small barbels to sense crustaceans, worms mollusks and smaller fish. Atlantic croakers grow to 20" and 4 lbs. Like other estuarine dependant fish, they tolerate wide range of salinities (0-35ppt) and temps (35-86F). Like many members of their family, they can vibrate a muscle next to their swim bladder to produce a deep croaking sound. Males do this to attract females during early fall spawning

Eukarya, Animalia, Cordata, Actinopterygii, Perciformes, Sciaenidae

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www.gulfspecimen.org

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Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences



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Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

Sept. 7 - Sept. 13



Tide charts by
tides4fishing.com



Best fishing days this month
September 14-29

For tides at the following points add to Dog Island Listings:

	High Tide	Low Tide
Carrabelle	28 Min.	25 Min.
Apalachicola	1 Hr., 53 Min.	2 Hrs., 38 Min.
Cat Point	1 Hr., 13 Min.	2 Hrs., 31 Min.
Lower Anchorage	1 Hr., 36 Min.	2 Hrs., 3 Min.
West Pass	1 Hr., 26 Min.	2 Hrs., 39 Min.

Thursday 7	
Sun rise/set 7:16AM 7:52PM	Moon rise/set 12:28AM 3:19PM
Moon Illumination 44%	
Friday 8	
Sun rise/set 7:17AM 7:51PM	Moon rise/set 1:18AM 4:13PM
Moon Illumination 35%	
Saturday 9	
Sun rise/set 7:18AM 7:50PM	Moon rise/set 2:11AM 5:01PM
Moon Illumination 26%	
Sunday 10	
Sun rise/set 7:18AM 7:49PM	Moon rise/set 3:08AM 5:44PM
Moon Illumination 18%	
Monday 11	
Sun rise/set 7:19AM 7:47PM	Moon rise/set 4:05AM 6:20PM
Moon Illumination 11%	
Tuesday 12	
Sun rise/set 7:19AM 7:46PM	Moon rise/set 5:02AM 6:52PM
Moon Illumination 6%	
Wednesday 13	
Sun rise/set 7:20AM 7:45PM	Moon rise/set 5:58AM 7:21PM
Moon Illumination 2%	

St. Marks River Entrance

Th	12:30 am ▼ 2.2 ft	6:30 am ▲ 3.5 ft	3:47 pm ▼ 0.9 ft
Fr	7:31 am ▲ 2.6 ft	5:24 pm ▼ 0.8 ft	
Sa	12:37 am ▲ 2.6 ft	3:27 am ▼ 2.5 ft	10:16 am ▲ 3.1 ft
Su	1:10 am ▲ 2.8 ft	5:30 am ▼ 2.3 ft	11:58 am ▲ 3.3 ft
Mo	1:37 am ▲ 3.2 ft	6:35 am ▼ 1.6 ft	12:51 pm ▲ 3.7 ft
Tu	2:02 am ▲ 3.4 ft	7:20 am ▼ 1.3 ft	1:31 pm ▲ 3.8 ft
We	2:27 am ▲ 3.4 ft	7:57 am ▼ 1.3 ft	2:06 pm ▲ 3.8 ft

City of St. Marks

Th	1:34 am ▼ 2.0 ft	7:06 am ▲ 3.2 ft	4:51 pm ▼ 0.8 ft
Fr	8:07 am ▲ 3.0 ft	6:28 pm ▼ 0.7 ft	
Sa	1:13 am ▲ 2.4 ft	4:31 am ▼ 2.3 ft	10:52 am ▲ 2.9 ft
Su	1:46 am ▲ 2.6 ft	6:34 am ▼ 2.1 ft	12:34 pm ▲ 3.1 ft
Mo	2:13 am ▲ 2.8 ft	7:39 am ▼ 1.8 ft	1:27 pm ▲ 3.3 ft
Tu	2:38 am ▲ 3.0 ft	8:24 am ▼ 1.5 ft	2:07 pm ▲ 3.5 ft
We	3:03 am ▲ 3.1 ft	9:01 am ▼ 1.2 ft	2:42 pm ▲ 3.6 ft

Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	1:03 am ▼ 2.3 ft	7:02 am ▲ 3.6 ft	3:57 pm ▼ 0.8 ft	11:09 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
Fr	2:01 am ▼ 2.5 ft	8:09 am ▲ 3.4 ft	5:27 pm ▼ 0.7 ft	
Sa	12:33 am ▲ 2.8 ft	4:01 am ▼ 2.6 ft	10:39 am ▲ 3.3 ft	6:35 pm ▼ 0.6 ft
Su	1:17 am ▲ 3.0 ft	5:56 am ▼ 2.4 ft	12:11 pm ▲ 3.5 ft	7:25 pm ▼ 0.4 ft
Mo	1:49 am ▲ 3.2 ft	6:59 am ▼ 2.1 ft	1:05 pm ▲ 3.7 ft	8:04 pm ▼ 0.3 ft
Tu	2:17 am ▲ 3.4 ft	7:41 am ▼ 1.8 ft	1:46 pm ▲ 3.9 ft	8:36 pm ▼ 0.3 ft
We	2:43 am ▲ 3.5 ft	8:17 am ▼ 1.5 ft	2:22 pm ▲ 4.0 ft	9:04 pm ▼ 0.4 ft

Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	12:41 am ▼ 1.6 ft	6:22 am ▲ 2.6 ft	3:58 pm ▼ 0.6 ft
Fr	7:23 am ▲ 2.4 ft	5:35 pm ▼ 0.6 ft	
Sa	12:29 am ▲ 2.3 ft	3:38 am ▼ 1.8 ft	10:08 am ▲ 2.3 ft
Su	1:02 am ▲ 2.1 ft	5:41 am ▼ 1.7 ft	11:50 am ▲ 2.5 ft
Mo	1:29 am ▲ 2.2 ft	6:46 am ▼ 1.4 ft	12:43 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
Tu	1:54 am ▲ 2.4 ft	7:31 am ▼ 1.2 ft	1:23 pm ▲ 2.8 ft
We	2:19 am ▲ 2.5 ft	8:08 am ▼ 0.9 ft	1:58 pm ▲ 2.9 ft

St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	12:07 am ▼ 2.1 ft	6:57 am ▲ 3.0 ft	3:42 pm ▼ 0.5 ft
Fr	8:03 am ▲ 2.8 ft	5:13 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	
Sa	2:38 am ▲ 2.4 ft	4:42 am ▼ 2.4 ft	9:51 am ▲ 2.7 ft
Su	2:21 am ▲ 2.4 ft	6:21 am ▼ 2.2 ft	11:29 am ▲ 2.8 ft
Mo	2:27 am ▲ 2.5 ft	7:07 am ▼ 1.9 ft	12:33 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
Tu	2:35 am ▲ 2.5 ft	7:41 am ▼ 1.7 ft	1:20 pm ▲ 3.1 ft
We	2:45 am ▲ 2.6 ft	8:11 am ▼ 1.4 ft	1:59 pm ▲ 3.1 ft

Dog Island West End

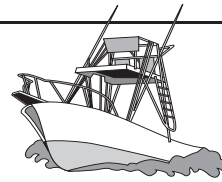
Th	6:49 am ▲ 2.7 ft	3:52 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	
Fr	7:30 am ▲ 2.3 ft	5:17 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	
Sa	9:24 am ▲ 2.5 ft	6:34 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	
Su	3:16 am ▲ 3.2 ft	7:02 am ▼ 2.2 ft	10:54 am ▲ 2.5 ft
Mo	3:09 am ▲ 3.4 ft	7:38 am ▼ 2.0 ft	12:02 pm ▲ 2.6 ft
Tu	3:11 am ▲ 2.3 ft	8:04 am ▼ 1.7 ft	1:05 pm ▲ 2.6 ft
We	3:15 am ▲ 2.3 ft	8:28 am ▼ 1.5 ft	1:57 pm ▲ 2.7 ft

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



Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports

By Carolyn Brown Treadon



Following major events, the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary work tirelessly to make sure all members are safe and accounted for. This was no different following Idalia. We are very thankful that no members were injured during the storm. Thank you to Norma Hill for the following information and images.

One of our members was in the path and their home had a lot of debris in the yard. Once it was safe, a crew of auxiliaries drove down to Perry to assist with clean-up. The clean-up crew included Phil Hill, Tim Ashley, Steve Hults, Alexander Gulde, Scott Boyd, Norma Hill and Kathy Braud. Throughout the day, the team joined in fellowship, comradery, sweat and a few good laughs. Everyone ended the day with sore and exhausted bodies, all for a good cause as we helped fellow flotilla member. The crew kept drinking plenty of water

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



Coast Guard Auxiliaries clean up crew.

to ensure they did not become dehydrated. Thanks to Sherrie, we will always remember safe

boating is no accident!

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

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

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

Underwater Wakulla

By Rusty Miller

Dodged a big bullet.

Hello Wakulla

It looks like we here in Wakulla County dodged a big bullet on Wednesday, Aug. 30th. It was looking real bad for us with a Category 4 baring down on us but it made that easterly turn and all we got where some heavy rain and winds.

Though it hit land it wasn't as densely populated as say where Ian hit so there wasn't as much destruction as it could have been.

I'm sorry for the folks in Perry and Taylor County that lost their homes and other property.

I didn't get any sleep on the night before the hurricane as well as many of you, I'm sure. All I could do was lay there and pray that Wakulla County would survive this storm. We did with the loss of a few trees and downed powerlines, I know because I was on post storm patrol to see all of them.

We had some flooding in St. Marks, Mashas Sands and Surf Road area as well as some in Live Oak, Oyster Bay and Shell Point.

We still have three months left in this hurricane season with several storms brewing off the coast of Africa headed possibly towards us again. Now is the time to get your emergency supplies stocked up. The stores have plenty of what you're going to need to stock up for a few days without power.

I am continually stocking up a little at a time when we go to the store for groceries. The thing we do is we have a big freezer in the garage that all we put in there are bags of ice so when the power goes off we can live out of the coolers for a few days.

I keep telling myself I need to get a generator but life happens and it has not been on my top priority list. Mainly, it's a money thing right now but at some point I will get one for the house.

When the power goes out after the storm passes through it's good to have a propane grill with about five gallon tanks so you can cook any meals you need just make sure you don't use the grill in the house or garage, always use it outside where it's well-ventilated.

Finally please have an evacuation plan and destination set because when we have that Cat 3 or 4 hurricane you will have to evacuate and if you don't have any idea where to go it could be a dangerous situation you could find yourself in and please don't forget about your pets during this process because they will depend on you for their survival.

Until next week keep making bubbles.

– Russell Miller, NAUI instructor #59999

A rare duck

From Previous Page

over two thousand birds in December and January before beginning to drop in February.

St. Marks NWR is part of a national system of public and private lands that protect breeding, migratory stopover, and wintering sites for waterfowl. I look forward to the St. Marks' winter duck season every year. There is something majestic and timeless about watching a mixed flock of hundreds of ducks flying

against the backdrop of a pure December sky.

The US Fish & Wildlife Service has just released their Waterfowl Population Status 2023 report. It surveys most North American duck species, with the exception of sea ducks and Wood Ducks. This year it showed approximately thirty-two million ducks, a decrease over last year and a continued decrease from the high of around fifty million in 2015. Since the annual survey began in 1955, it has shown spikes and dips in the

duck population, related to weather, climate and the availability of suitable habitat for breeding. This year's numbers are likely affected by drought in the Canadian prairies.

About 70% of North American ducks breed in Canada and it will be interesting to see what effect the Canadian fires will have on our duck populations. The population survey is done at the start of the nesting season and doesn't reflect failed nesting or mortality due to the fires. Already, there are birding

reports from Maine showing that boreal forest-nesting warblers – usually the last birds to migrate – are showing up early. The fires may have caused them to give up on nesting for the year.

The duck season at the refuge starts out slow and you still have plenty of time to come down and get in on it. Who knows? Maybe you will find a rare duck.

Don Morrow can be contacted at donaldcmorrow@gmail.com.

When people look at Your church, Lord



By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

Father, when people look at Your church, what do they see? Love and selfless sacrifice?

Or competition and selfishness?

I think I know.

And I, along with many others, am so very sorry.

Forgive us for our pride and our know-it-all attitudes. For caring more about our own needs than the needs of others. Forgive us for focusing on growing our churches, rather than joining with others to meet the needs of our communities.

Reach deep into our hearts and help us see

our self-righteousness. Convict us not to judge others for their imperfections, but to love them as You love us. Convict us until we truly understand how our behavior grieves You. And keep convicting us until our behavior grieves us.

Give us a desire to make every effort to live out Paul's words in Ephesians 4:1-3 (ESV): "Walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing

with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

Help us to change so people will see Your church differently, Father. Remind us, despite our rebelliousness and unloveliness, how much You love us. Let this memory cause us to fall to our knees in sincere repentance.

Renew in us a desire to draw so close to You, to love You so completely, and experience Your love so absolutely that

we're compelled to love one another. May we never want to return to our old ways.

Help us, instead of judging our brothers and sisters when they struggle, to compassionately lift them up and pray for them to be restored. Let our love for each other become a testimony of the way You love us.

Show us how us how to recognize the adversary and his tactics so we won't fall for his lies. Remind us that the devil is our enemy, not each

other. Satan would gladly use us to crush each another. Equip us to effectively resist his plan.

Father, help us grow into a new, deeper and more mature way of loving one another, so ...

... when people see Your church, they see You.

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

What we are busy about



By **CHERYL CRUCE**

At 96, he seemed one of the wisest men I had ever known. Placed in hospice for a failing heart, I would become his caregiver for the next few months. Mainly, I was the fortunate one who was given the task of listening to his stories of the old days when life seemed less complex. Often, he spoke of the one-room schoolhouse, the first car he ever saw,

barn dances, and Sunday afternoon picnics by the cool springs. Those cool springs were where he and his friends would skinny-dip on their way home from the one-room schoolhouse.

He would say, "Life wasn't always fun and games; we worked hard, too." Then he talked about early morning chores around the farm before breakfast. The usual milking of the cow and gathering the eggs, along with other tasks of caring for the animals, were shared with his brother.

The afternoon was filled with gardening, fence repairs, and helping his Dad until late evening. When I asked him if he ever had time to play as a child, he

laughed, reminding me of the cool springs and barn dances.

During one of our days together, he noticed my planner filled with appointments and questioned what seemed to be a hectic schedule. He said everything we do to make our lives easier only complicates things. Cars are faster and more plentiful, but we have lost those long walks with friends on old dirt roads. Malls are more convenient with everything under one roof; however, nothing can replace an Orange Nehi Soda from the local country store.

In his opinion, the more people did, the less people had. He believed that for everything gained, there is a trade-

off that can never be regained.

There is a lot of truth to his words. The simplicity of life is quickly fading into marked calendars and scheduled meetings. The faster we travel, the quicker we find the knowledge, the more time grows out of control. AI is taking over the workplace, moving us into a new era of unfathomable probabilities and uncertainties. So, we fill our calendars with busy work to keep up with the rush of the world surrounding us, thinking we will find our purpose in the "doing." Henry David Thoreau said, "It is not enough to be busy; so are the ants. The question is: What are we busy about?"

Martha and Mary are

prime examples of finding true purpose beyond the agenda. Jesus and His friends had visited their house, and Martha became Thoreau's ant. She was busy with what needed to be done but had lost sight of being with the Lord. On the other hand, Mary cleared her calendar to sit with Jesus, realizing His presence was the greater purpose (Luke 10). The Psalmist writes that the Lord is near the one who calls on Him in truth, fulfilling their needs (Psalm 145:18-19). I believe Mary was like the deer panting for the waters, her soul thirsty for the calming presence of the Lord.

We are all thirsty souls seeking something to satisfy a longing deep

within us. That seeking creates schedules that never meet the needs of the person. Our response to Thoreau's question, "What are we busy about?" should be followed by a morning prayer, "Lord, help me stay within your plans for my life, and may I walk in a way so others may see You coming."

Psalm 90:17 – "May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands."

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

OUT TO PASTOR

How many coughs are enough for one day?



By **JAMES SNYDER**

This past week started rather rough. At least rougher than others.

It started with a cough. A cough is not that serious if it's just one cough or maybe two. But it is not good when it is one cough after another and another.

One day last week, right after this coughing spell began, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I enjoyed a fine supper, and I sat back in my chair as we started watching TV and relaxing after a busy day.

Then, my coughing spree began. I coughed and coughed and coughed almost uncontrollably. I've had a coughing fit, and then I sneezed my brains out. That's snot good.

I was hoping to get this under control and quite soon.

Looking at me, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said,

"What's all that coughing about?" She said it as though I had control over my coughing.

"Oh, nothing," I said, "I think I just swallowed a fly." Then I smiled. "What," she exclaimed, "you swallowed a fly? Didn't you have enough at supper?"

Now, I'm in trouble. I had no explanation that she would accept.

Then, I had another coughing spell that seemed worse than before. I tried to stop but just could not.

At my age, you would think I could control the things in my life. I tried, but I have yet to be successful.

Now, Miss-Nurse-Am-I stepped in. She had a thermometer to take my temperature, and it was high. She gave me a Covid test, and I passed, much to her chagrin and my smile. She then took my blood pressure, and it was high. Imagine 2 out of 3!

When all her testing was finished, she looked at me seriously. This was on Saturday, and she said we had to cancel our Sunday morning service. I tried to protest, but I was coughing too much to respond.

Not having the

church service on Sunday morning is a great downer for me. I love nothing more than Sunday church. And there was no replacement, so the service had to be canceled. That made me cough even more with a sour ending.

Then, the law was laid down. "I'm calling the doctor," she said, "on Monday and schedule an appointment. You're sick."

In my position, I had nothing to do but cough.

There is nothing more that I like doing than seeing my doctor to begin the week. He loves seeing me, and we all know why. It ain't my charming, good looks, that's for sure.

There is no Sunday I like less than not going to church and wearing pajamas all day. I did try to get dressed, but Miss-Nurse-Am-I caught me and said, "Don't you dare get dressed. You're spending the day in bed. You're sick."

Well, if I want to object to Miss-Nurse-Am-I, I had better make plans for my funeral.

I did not know how long a Sunday is when I'm in my pajamas, not permitted to do anything but cough. And

cough, I did.

I tried to take advantage of these coughing spells and sometimes faked some. Don't let her know, but a fake cough can have a soothing element to it, along with a smile.

Then Monday came, as it always does. The appointment was made for the morning, thanks to a cancellation. And I was getting ready to go to the doctor and get his report on my condition. I wasn't that anxious, but I had no choice then.

My appointment was at 10:15, and I arrived just before 10. I like to be early. I was lucky, and I got to see my doctor at 11:10. This is why doctors call us patients. We have to have patience to see the doctor.

Finally, the doctor was ready for me. First, I had to see his nurse to get the information for the medical evaluation. She took my temperature, my blood pressure, and all the rest.

Thirty minutes after she was finished, the doctor finally came. At that time, I was thinking of slipping out and go home and tell the wife the doctor said I was fine. As I was finishing this thought, guess who walked in?

I greeted him with a series of coughs.

"Not doing well," the doctor asked.

"That's why I'm here, Doc."

He looked through the nurse's information and then checked my lungs.

After checking the statics and asking me questions, he finally concluded.

Looking at me, he said, "You have acute bronchitis."

I glared back at the doctor and said, "Doc, this bronchitis is not cute to any degree."

I then coughed in his direction three times.

After the doctor's visit, the worst part of the day, I had to return to the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and

tell her what the doctor said was wrong with me and that she was right. She said I had bronchitis.

Looking at my watch, I saw I had enough time to stop and get some personal medication, an Apple Fritter. What she doesn't know gets me in no trouble.

While recovering from my sickness, I read something interesting in the Bible. "But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick" (Matthew 9:12).

As I get older, I realize that there are times when I do need to see a doctor. Even Jesus believed that.

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


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Obituaries

DEATH NOTICES

- **Margaret Ann Blay**, 69, of Crawfordville, died Aug. 30, 2023.
- **James M. Catton**, 74, of Crawfordville, died Aug. 30, 2023.
- **Donna L. Crum**, 77, of Crawfordville, died Aug. 30, 2023.
- **Mary Donner**, 77, of Panacea, died Aug. 29, 2023.
- **George Rusty Flowers**, 40, of Tallahassee died Sept. 2, 2023.

- **Sarah “Sally” Leonard**, 69, of Panacea, died Aug. 29, 2023.
- **Warren G. Shepherd Sr.**, 61, of Crawfordville, died Aug. 31, 2023.
- **Mary “Louise” Smith**, 82, of Crawfordville, died Aug. 31, 2023.

All of the deaths posted by Family Funeral Home at Harvey-Young Chapel, 850-926-5919, www.familyfuneralhome.com.

BEREAVEMENT COLUMN

A husband's love



By **TRACY RENEE LEE**

During my first year of business in the funeral profession, I met a man known throughout the area as a cantankerous sort of man. I somehow found favor with him, and we became good friends. He was my first client who asked me to do an estate burial.

In Texas, families can bury their deceased loved ones on their property. The ground must be set aside as a burial ground, and access must be granted to anyone who desires to visit the existing graves in perpetuity.

My friend has recent-

ly suffered the signs of aging and was recently placed in hospice. Due to his health, he found it necessary to sell his ranch. Therefore, he contacted me and said he wanted to disinter his wife and daughter and reinter them at a municipal cemetery. I filed for the necessary permits, and as soon as we received them back from the state, we arranged to follow his wishes.

We are currently suffering a heat advisory throughout Texas, and it is hotter here than I ever imagined it could be. My husband and I worked a few years in Las Vegas, and I am surprised how the hot Texas summer dwarfs the Nevada heat. It must be the East Texas humidity that makes it so excruciatingly hot.

As we arrived at my friend's ranch this weekend, we drove to the location where his wife and daughter have

laid in rest for over a decade. My friend was sitting in his truck, watching to ensure that the utmost respect was taken and that every precaution was observed to protect the integrity of their encasements. At one point, my friend exited the truck to view the caskets of his loved ones as they were raised out of the earth, and overcome with grief, he fell to his knees. Tears were streaming down our faces as we disinterred his beloved and daughter and transported them to their new place of rest.

As we reinterred his loved ones, my friend looked on with a broken heart. He walked with me, and we marked his grave, the one to the right of his beloved. My heart was broken as my friend reminded me of his wishes. He blew a kiss toward his beloved, now resting in her new grave, and

I heard him whisper these words to her. “I’ll be there soon, my love. Give me about two weeks, and this will all be over.” Then he turned his attention back to me, and with a tender look, he said, “I trust you; you know I do. You’ve always done just as I’ve asked, but this is my most important request because I won’t be here to see it done. Don’t allow anyone to change my wishes. Please make this happen for me.” I promised that I would do as he bade. He expressed his love and appreciation for me, and I for him, and then he returned to the old truck. He sat there for a moment, his head bowed, and I knew he was uttering prayers to his Lord and words of endearment to his beloved. He drove away. Tears streamed down my cheeks.

My friend is very ill, but as his last act of

getting things right, he insisted on honoring his beloved wife and deceased daughter. That is what men of honor do. They take their last ounce of energy and put things right before they leave this earth. I don’t care what my friend may have done in the past. His final concern, the very last thing he can do, is protecting his family’s dignity and integrity.

When he dies, as I know he will very soon, I will call for his body. With dignity, honor, and respect, I shall prepare him to rest beside his wife in her new place just as he asked me to. When I do, I will say a prayer for them to progress throughout eternity together as a family.

I look forward to that day. The day I will see them together, beaming in happiness, rather than the solitude I have seen him suffer since I have known

him. My heart will be joyful for them on that beautiful and glorious day. I know his will be too.w.

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

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

Weekly Roundup: Old Florida takes a hit

By **JIM SAUNDERS**
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — Steinhatchee, as Taylor County Sheriff Wayne Padgett described it, is “a little fishing village on the coast down there.”

But this week, Steinhatchee and other out-of-the-way North Florida communities became ground zero, as Hurricane Idalia roared in from the Gulf of Mexico and caused massive damage before heading into Georgia and South Carolina.

Flooding. Destroyed buildings. Widespread power outages. The Category 3 Idalia brought all of that — and more.

Now comes the long process of rebuilding in a rural swath of the state dotted with small towns, scattered homes, timber and farms.

“There has been significant damage, particularly along Florida’s Big Bend,” Gov. Ron DeSantis said Thursday. “But the community is resilient, and we are going to work hard to make sure people get what they need.”

Idalia made landfall about 7:45 a.m. Wednesday in the Keaton Beach area of Taylor County after increasing in strength as it moved up the gulf. Storm surge inundated places such as Steinhatchee and, further to the south, Cedar Key.

Once on land, the storm caused damage and knocked out electricity in places such as Jefferson County, Madison County, Lafayette County, Suwannee County and Hamilton

County.

Idalia caused less damage than Hurricane Ian, which made landfall last year in the Fort Myers area before crossing the state. But conducting searches and helping rural residents after Idalia presented its own set of challenges.

“Up here in the Big Bend, you may have two houses on a five-mile road,” state Division of Emergency Management Director Kevin Guthrie said as recovery efforts began Wednesday.

As of Friday morning, the state had confirmed one death tied to Idalia. That death was a traffic-crash victim in Alachua County.

Several hours after the landfall Wednesday in his county, Padgett sounded like he was trying to keep things in perspective.

“As bad as it is, it still ain’t as bad as it could have been,” the sheriff said.

KEATON BEACH KUMBAYA?

After spending much of his time in recent months running for president, DeSantis hopped off the campaign trail to grapple with Idalia.

And in what might be described as a crisis creating strange bedfellows, DeSantis and President Joe Biden were talking and coordinating on restoration efforts.

Biden on Wednesday said “believe it or not” politics hadn’t come up in phone calls with DeSantis, who is try-

ing to take his job. The president said the focus remained on helping Idalia victims.

“I was down there (in Florida) when the last major storm,” Biden said, referring to Hurricane Ian. “I spent a lot of time with him (DeSantis) walking from community to community, making sure he had what he needed to get done. I think he trusts my judgment and my desire to help. And I trust him to be able to suggest that this is not about politics, this is about taking care of the people of the state.”

Asked a short time later about Biden’s comments, DeSantis replied, “We have to deal with supporting the needs of the people who are in harm’s way or have difficulties.”

“And that has got to triumph over any type of short-term political calculation or any type of positioning,” DeSantis said. “This is the real deal. You have people’s lives that had been at risk. We don’t necessarily have any confirmed fatalities yet (on Wednesday), but that very well may change. And then you have people whose livelihoods have been turned upside down. And so, they need support. So, we’re going to work together

from local, state, federal, regardless of party to be able to deliver results for the people in their time of need.”

Biden on Thursday issued a disaster declaration that, in part, makes federal money available to help people in Citrus, Dixie, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Suwannee and Taylor counties. DeSantis said Friday the state hopes to expand the declaration to other counties.

The president is expected to travel to the Big Bend region Saturday.

NOT AGAIN

While Idalia grabbed much of the attention this week, that shouldn’t minimize another nightmare that happened Saturday, when a gunman killed three Black people in a racially motivated shooting at a Dollar General store in Jacksonville.

Authorities said Ryan Christopher Palmeto, 21, or Orange Park, first attempted to park at the historically black Edward Waters University but was refused entry. A short time later, he drove to the nearby Dollar General store, where he used an AR-15-style rifle to kill Angela Michelle Carr, 52, Jer-

rald De’Shaun Gallion, 29, and store employee Anolt Joseph Laguerre Jr., 19. Palmeto also killed himself.

DeSantis, who was booed at a vigil Sunday for the victims, announced that Edward Waters would receive \$1 million for security upgrades and the victims’ families would receive \$100,000, with the money coming from the Volunteer Florida Foundation.

“We are not going to allow our HBCUs (historically black colleges and universities) to be targeted by these people,” DeSantis said, referring to people such as Palmeto.

But Rep. Angie Nixon, D-Jacksonville, issued a statement criticizing DeSantis and saying his “track record speaks louder than his hollow words. We need

actions, not publicity stunts. I urge the governor to do more than make empty gestures and call folks names. It’s time for him to truly reckon with the damage he has caused, to apologize for the harm he has inflicted, and to actively work towards undoing the racist system he’s helped uphold and grow.”

STORY OF THE WEEK: Category 3 Hurricane Idalia made landfall Wednesday and caused major damage in North Florida.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: “This thing’s powerful. If you’re inside, just hunker down until it gets past you. You don’t want to be messing around with these winds.” — Gov. Ron DeSantis, shortly before Hurricane Idalia made landfall.

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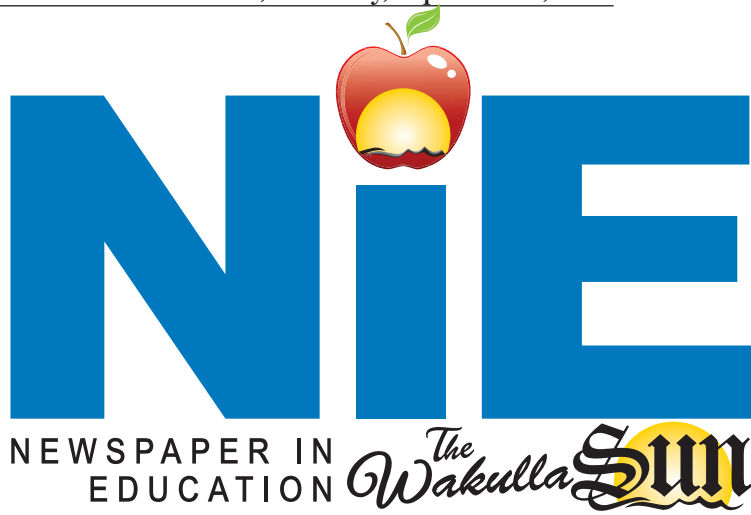


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USE THE NEWS

1. AI IN THE CLASSROOM

While many schools rushed to ban the use of AI in the classroom and “ChatGPT-proof” their curriculums, some are pivoting their stance as the school year begins. Caught up in the fear of academic dishonesty and the spread of misinformation, many districts blocked ChatGPT on school Wi-Fi and school-owned devices this year. However, this exposed inequity as wealthier students with access to their own computers and smartphones were still able to use ChatGPT at home, while students who relied on technology from the school district could not. Many have now reversed their stance, embracing the opportunity to teach students about the emerging technology in a way that exposes the flaws and promotes the benefits—learning how to properly create chatbot prompts, looking for misinformation and biases, and understanding how it can be used as one tool of many in a learning environment. Read your own school district, school, or class’ policy on the use of AI and talk to your teachers to see how, if at all, they plan to use AI in their classes this year. Then, write a summary of what you’ve learned and how it will affect your school work in comparison to previous years without AI.

2. ELECTION SEASON

Last week was the first Republican Party debate for the 2024 presidential election. While former president Donald Trump didn’t attend the debate, he still holds a substantial lead over the field of some dozen candidates. For many, they have no substantial hope of winning the nomination—so why run? Often it’s for the notoriety—becoming a household name by appearing in the nationally broadcasted debates can position them for other high-profile jobs, including in another president’s administration, as political commentators, on corporate boards, and more. Read more about the first Republican debate in your newspaper or online. Then, write a brief summary of the candidates’ backgrounds and the stances they took on various issues brought up during the debate.

3. PSL SEASON

The seasonal superstar of Starbucks fame turns 20 years old this year with its launch on

August 24. The pumpkin spice latte, or PSL in barista shorthand, launched in 2003 and spurred a flavor phenomenon, with thousands of products launching “pumpkin spice” iterations each fall. From August 2022 to July 2023, pumpkin-flavored products earned \$802.5 million in the US. Part of the reason Starbucks’ PSL took off was its novelty at the time—pumpkin spice may be a staple of fall now, but twenty years ago, it was a unique seasonal beverage. If you were the marketer in charge with coming up with

a new campaign for the PSL this year, how would you spin the twenty year anniversary in a market now saturated with pumpkin spice products? Write a description or draw an illustration to describe your campaign.

4. A NECESSITY, PERIOD.

New Jersey became the latest in a group of ten states (plus the District of Columbia) to require schools to provide free menstrual products for grades six through 12. Under the new law, at least half of the girls’ and

gender-neutral bathrooms at the state’s 1,400 schools will be stocked with period products. “Menstrual hygiene products are a necessity, not a luxury. When this becomes an obstacle and decisions are made to not attend school, the loss is greater than just the one day,” New Jersey Senate Majority Leader Teresa Ruiz said. How can a lack of access to period products affect students, and what groups are primarily affected? Write a paragraph describing how the issue could affect all schools and students.

5. DISASTER AVERTED?

During the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan, several reactors at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant melted down; to avoid a nuclear disaster, workers flooded the reactors with water to cool them. The plant is no longer in use, but water still must be used to cool the existing reactors, creating a byproduct of contaminated wastewater that has continued to pile up, reaching 350 million gallons. Last week, workers began releasing the waste-

water, which had been treated, into the Pacific Ocean. While a review by the United Nations’ nuclear watchdog said it will have a negligible impact to the environment and humans, other nations have expressed concern—China announced it will halt imports of seafood from Japan following the event. Write a short article summarizing the issue Japan is facing and how they’ve attempted to solve it, using additional research in your newspaper or online as needed.



TRUE OR FALSE?
A BOND BETWEEN A PERSON AND A PET IS LINKED TO MANY HEALTH BENEFITS, SUCH AS LOWER BLOOD PRESSURE AND A LOWER RISK OF LONELINESS.

ANSWER: TRUE

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Tail

SPANISH: Rabo

ITALIAN: Coda

FRENCH: Queue

GERMAN: Schwanz

Math Blocks

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

10		4	16
	6		16
0		2	5
19	11	7	

0	3	2
9	6	1
10	2	4

Solution

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

ODG LOCLRA

Answer: Dog Collar

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1620: THE PILGRIMS SAIL FROM PLYMOUTH, ENGLAND, ON THE MAYFLOWER, HOPING TO SETTLE IN NORTH AMERICA.
- 1939: SOUTH AFRICA DECLARES WAR ON GERMANY DURING WORLD WAR II.
- 1997: THE FUNERAL OF DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES, TAKES PLACE IN LONDON.



SNOUT

the projecting nose and mouth of an animal



RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP REQUIRES KEEPING DOGS ON LEASHES FOR THEIR SAFETY AND THE SAFETY OF OTHER PEOPLE AND PETS.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: DOG'S SNOUT

JOB SEEKING WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- ADVERTISEMENT
- APPLY
- ATMOSPHERE
- ATTIRE
- BENEFITS
- COMPANY
- COVER LETTER
- EMPLOYMENT
- EXPERIENCE
- FOLLOW-UP
- INTERVIEW
- JOB
- KEYWORDS
- LISTING
- MATCH
- NEGOTIATE
- OFFER
- RECRUIT
- RESUME
- SALARY
- SEEK
- SKILLS

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

CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. Second sight
4. Standard electrode potential
7. Type of gibbon
8. John Joseph __: American industrialist
10. Manning and Whitney are two
12. Abrupt
13. Baroque musical instrument
14. Post-burning residue
16. When you hope to arrive
17. Sign up (Brit. Eng.)
19. Sun up in New York
20. Employee stock ownership plan
21. Where people live
25. Method to record an electrogram
26. Angry
27. No longer living
29. Simple
30. Swiss river
31. Portion of a play
32. It's under the tree
39. Wood sorrels

CLUES DOWN

41. No (Scottish)
42. Dialect of English
43. Former Steelers' QB
44. Popular beer
45. It can make you sick
46. Tropical tree and fruit
48. Company officer
49. Contact lens term
50. Your consciousness of your own identity
51. "Ghetto Superstar" singer
52. Piece of turf

11. Walk heavily
14. Chemical compound (abbr.)
15. Artificial openings
18. Luteinizing hormone
19. Unit of energy
20. Circular movement of water
22. A way of holding
23. Popular book of words (abbr.)
24. States' group
27. Dashes
28. Body part
29. Electronic counter-measures
31. Consumed
32. Small bird
33. Unhappy
34. Football's big game (abbr.)
35. Valued object offered in good faith
36. Wild goats
37. Precede in place
38. Small edible fish
39. Notice of death
40. Body cavity of a metazoan
44. Partner to cheese
47. Not around

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to getting a job.

FOECIF

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

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

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

Guess Who?

I am a singer born in Canada on September 9, 1975. As a young man I prayed to become a famous singer. Since then, I have become a Grammy Award-winning jazz singer who has sold over 50 million records internationally.

Answer: Office

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E-EDITIONS



SCAN ME
 for an electronic edition of The Wakulla Sun



FSU blows out LSU in 2nd half

By Curt Weiler
TheOsceola

ORLANDO – It's truly hard to put into perspective what Florida State did Sunday night.

After we spent an off-season building up what this FSU team could be, the Seminoles spent much of their first half looking fairly pedestrian.

LSU hit a 55-yard screen pass on the first play from scrimmage.

Quarterback Jordan Travis made a few uncharacteristic mistakes, throwing a dreadful interception just outside the red zone and nearly throwing an even worse one shortly thereafter.

Standout wide receiver Johnny Wilson had an unfortunate string of dropped would-be first downs.

The vaunted run game was having very minimal success.

The Seminoles had 58 penalty yards – whatever you may think of the calls – while LSU had no penalty yards.

Little was going right and everyone was left wondering if the offseason had been spent setting unrealistic expectations for Mike Norvell's fourth season.

How foolish we were to doubt this team.

After trailing 17-14 at the break, the Seminoles came out looking like a brand new team out of halftime. Not even the team it was believed they could be, but a team that transcended its ceiling, scoring the first 31 points of the second half to turn a close game into an absolute thrashing of the fifth-ranked team in the country, a 45-24 statement.



PHOTO BY KEN FIELDS

FSU QB Jordan Travis scores against LSU.

"I wasn't real pleased with some of the things that showed up in the first half. I thought we made some foolish mistakes at times," FSU head coach Mike Norvell said after the win. "That happens. You've got to play this game with emotion and I want an emotional team. But I want it to be controlled. I want to make sure we're disciplined, we're continuing on the little things. I told the guys at halftime and both sides did a remarkable

job in how they responded to that. That second half, that was a glimpse of what I think this team can do, where I think it can go."

It's hard to find much more you could have wanted to see from the Seminoles over the final 30 minutes.

FSU's offense scored on its first five possessions. FSU's defense allowed seven points the entire half and it came on the final LSU series, when the Seminoles had true freshmen on the field with the game all but over.

A game that seemed up for grabs and that just about everyone thought would come down to one moment was decided long before the clock struck zero with only a sea of garnet and gold left inside Camping World Stadium as all the LSU fans that had been talking a big game headed back to Baton Rouge with their tails between their legs.

"I'm not really worried about the statements they make. I just want

to see them go play to their capability. I told the offense at halftime, 'You will score every drive in the second half if you go out there and just focus on the little things, focus on the details.' I'm glad that they went out and executed that. They did a wonderful job," Norvell said. "Defensively, what a great second half that they had. Created a take-away, getting able to get stops, get pressure on the quarterback."

One thing is clear: That was one of the most impressive performances by an FSU team in recent memory.

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Originally hailing from Tallahassee, I've called Crawfordville, Florida home since 2008. Falling in love with the captivating beauty of Wakulla County at a young age, I connected with the locals and explored every corner of this picturesque region.


My diverse background includes being a dedicated cosmetology teacher at Wakulla High School. Sharing my passion for education, I've guided countless students to find their creative talents in the beauty industry. Beyond the classroom, I've been fortunate to embrace the rich community spirit of Wakulla County.

When I'm not assisting clients or teaching, you'll find me alongside my husband, cherishing moments with our two boys. Our family values an active lifestyle, and our boys are actively involved in team roping, baseball, and football. Additionally, they're proud members of the Sopchoppy Youth Church, where they're cultivating strong connections and values.

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Wakulla War Eagles host the Munroe Bobcats from Quincy at J.D. Jones Stadium.



War Eagles wallop Balboa, 41-0

By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**
Editor

The Wakulla War Eagles traveled to Orlando on Thursday to play the Balboa Buccaneers from San Francisco and came away with a big 41-0 win.

Wakulla Head Coach Scott Klees said he felt Balboa was not used to the humidity and the hour-long lightning delay sapped them.

“I was excited at how we came out,” Klees said. “Defense only allowed one first down in the first half. And Special Teams played very well: we didn’t punt, but they made all the extra points and kick offs.”

And then there was the offense. “The offense was explosive,” he said. “As long as the line continues to block and we can get the ball in open space.”

Klees said this is a different type of offense this year. “We’re not gonna run the ball 30 times. If teams are gonna come up to stop the run, then we’re gonna pass. If they’re gonna drop back with two-high safeties, then we’re gonna run.”

Wakulla quarterback Haden Klees had a big first half, going 14 for 22 with 275 yards and 5 touchdowns.

Nehemiah Chandler had 2 catches for 91 yards and 2 touchdowns. Del Zanders catch 5 passes for 111 yards and a touchdown.

Jeremiah Thomas had 2 catches for 9 yards and 2 touchdowns.

All in the first half because it was 35-0 at half-time and the second-team

played the second half with a running clock.

On defense, Brandon Burton had 5 tackles and a sack. Tanner Lanier had 5 tackles.

And defensive back Devontae Roberts had 3 tackles and an interception he returned for a touchdown.

GAME RECAP

After an hour-long lightning delay, the game finally gets underway with Wakulla taking the opening kickoff from Balboa.

Deep pass along the sideline and receiver Samron Brinson does a toe-tap along the sideline to set up Wakulla at the 11.

Touchdown pass to Jeremiah Thomas is called back because of a holding penalty against Wakulla. Then defensive encroachment penalty makes 4th and 5. Then another offsides against Balboa make it 4th and 1 at the 3.

But quarterback Haden Klees scrambling on 4th down is sacked. Ball goes over to Balboa deep in their own territory.

War Eagle defensive back Devontae Roberts picks off a Balboa pass and returns it for touchdown. Extra point puts Wakulla up 7-0 with 7:58 in 1st quarter.

On the next series, Balboa has to punt from their own end zone, War Eagle Delvon Zanders returns it to the 25. Facing a 4th and 2 at 8, running back Bradley Kelly picks up the first down and dives but comes up just short



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WEEKLY WAR EAGLE GAME HIGHLIGHTS
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PHOTOS BY WILLIAM SNOWDEN

War Eagle receiver Samron Brinson gets the defender turned around as he comes back for the ball and touches a toe down in front of the sideline.

of goal line. Next play: Klees touchdown. pass to Thomas. Wakulla up 14-0 with 2:38 in 1st quarter.

Balboa punts. QB Klees throws a 75-yard bomb to Nehemiah Chandler who catches it in full stride. Extra point makes it 21-0 with 29 seconds left in the 1st quarter.

Another Balboa pass picked off, this time by Andrew Nelson. Two plays later, Klees pass in the

corner of the end zone and Wakulla is up 28-0.

Another offensive series, another touchdown pass - this time 65 yards from Klees to Zanders. War Eagles are flying high, 35-0 over Balboa with 6:34 left in the half.

War Eagle defense gets another interception, this time it’s Jaylen Jones with the pick off.

It was 35-0 at half-time, and the second half featured a running clock because of the mercy rule, and the second team got to play for the War Eagles, with the offense led by

sophomore backup quarterback Owen Klees.

In the 4th, a couple of big passes by Klees to Auvion Thomas and a tough run by Danny Godbolt and Wakulla is inside the 5 with 2:15 left.

As time expires, running back Sion Ransom scored on a 5 yard run. No time on the clock, no extra point.

Final: Wakulla 41, Balboa 0.

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COACH Scott Klees

FROM THE COACH

Scouting report: Munroe is big and physical with several Division 1 athletes.

Keys to victory: Be patient. Give the QB time. And defense continue playing like they've been playing.

Last week: Offense was explosive against Balboa, with the first team scoring 35 points in first half. Defense was excellent, not allowing a first down in the first half.



Running back Bradley Kelly dives for the goal line but was just short.



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