

The People's Choice

The Wakulla Sun

Readers' Choice Winners 2023

INSIDE

- Readers Choice Winners
- \$100 Cash Prize Winner
- Thank You's from the Winners

Thursday, September 14, 2023

The Wakulla Sun



Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
PM Thunderstorms	PM Showers	Partly Cloudy
Hi: 89° Lo: 72° 48% Sunrise 7:21 AM Sunset 7:44 PM	Hi: 87° Lo: 69° 44% Sunrise 7:22 AM Sunset 7:43 PM	Hi: 86° Lo: 70° 36% Sunrise 7:22 AM Sunset 7:42 PM



\$1
Two Sections

"It's a New Day"

Locally Owned & Operated

Our 2nd Year 37th Issue
Thursday, September 14, 2023

HARVEY GETS 12 1/2 YEARS



PHOTO BY LYNDA KINSEY

Former Wakulla Property Appraiser Brad Harvey is taken out of the courthouse after his sentencing and loaded in a van for transport to the Wakulla County Jail.

The former property appraiser stole more than \$200,000 from the county over three years in office

By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**
Editor

Former Wakulla County Property Appraiser Brad Harvey was sentenced to 12 1/2 years in state prison followed by 17 1/2 years of probation at his sentencing hearing last week on charges that he embezzled more than \$200,000 from his office during the three years he served.

Harvey showed no reaction when his sentence was pronounced by Wakulla Circuit Judge Layne Smith at a hearing on Thursday, Sept. 7.

In July, Harvey entered an open plea of no contest to two counts of fraud – one for overpayments to himself of more than \$176,000, and the other count for using the office credit card to rack up more than \$26,000 in

personal charges. There was no plea deal in place, so Harvey was essentially throwing himself on the mercy of the court.

Harvey's attorney, Shelly Thomas, claimed that he had made restitution for the \$26,000 in improper credit card payments. The state attorney was unaware of the payment – and it could not be immediately confirmed by the Clerk of Court's office.

"Brad Harvey was elected by the people of Wakulla County to position of trust," Judge Smith said. The judge then went through the definition of an "organized scheme to defraud." Noting that Harvey had written himself dozens of paychecks to overpay himself, the judge commented, "This was not a one-time lapse of judgment, this was a systematic organized scheme

to defraud with some effort to escape detection or avoid detection."

Harvey stole more than \$200,000 from the office, and used the money for expenses like outfitting a hunting truck, and to take his family on a cruise after his daughter graduated from high school.

Several friends and family members spoke to the court, asking for leniency, noting good things he had done for community and remarking on his "servant's heart."

Prior to his arrest, Harvey had responded to a public records request from the newspaper about his justification for the additional payments to himself, and he pointed to a \$30,000 supplement he had been paid in previous years as Chief Deputy under then-Property Appraiser Donnie Sparkman. The supplement was

for extra work on the county's Fire and Solid Waste tax rolls.

Assistant State Attorney Andrew Deenen, who prosecuted the case, said at the hearing that Harvey wasn't entitled to the supplement as property appraiser – he wasn't even doing the work, he had gone outside his office and hired a consultant. Even then, the county paid \$30,000 a year for the additional work, but Harvey paid himself more than \$76,000.

Harvey's statutory salary was \$103,000 in 2016 when he was elected. It increased to \$107,500 the next year and to \$108,336 in 2018.

Harvey had done payroll and other office financials as chief deputy under Sparkman, but Harvey continued those duties when he took over the

Turn to Page 3

War Eagles keep on winning



Wakulla Sun sports photographer Ken Fields got a great sequence of photos of War Eagle receiver Samron Brinson laying out for a touchdown catch against the Munroe Bobcats on Friday night. The War Eagles are 3-0 on the season after defeating the Bobcats 48-7. See story on Page 14.

Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park Swamp milkweed

By LYNN ARTZ, SANDY TEDDER
and DAVID RODDENBERRY



The large, showy flowerheads attract many pollinators.

Swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) is a tall, striking native milkweed. Also called rose or pink milkweed, it is one of 6 milkweed species at Sopchoppy Depot Park. This species prefers wet or moist soil in full sun but can grow in moderately dry soil. Milkweed leaves are essential food for monarch, queen, and soldier butterfly caterpillars. The large, showy flowerheads attract many pollinators, especially native bees. Don't be concerned if aphids, ants, milkweed bugs, milkweed beetles, tussock moth caterpillars, lady bugs, and other insects show up, too. They're all part of the milkweed ecosystem. A recent study found monarch caterpillar survival was higher on milkweeds with numerous nonpredatory insects. So, leave those other insects alone. Swamp milkweed is blooming now along the pond edges at Sopchoppy Depot Park.

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Student of the Week

Laila Francis – 8th Grade, Wakulla Middle School

Principal: Simeon Nelson

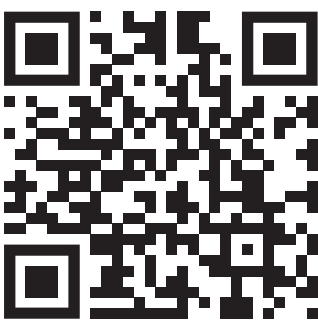
Achievements/Reason for Nomination: Laila Francis is a role model and leader at Wakulla Middle School. She is friendly and well-liked by everyone. Laila is a captain on the WMS Cheer Team. She performs in the school's drama productions, the most recent being High School Musical, Jr. Laila is an A/B Honor Roll student and was inducted into the National Junior Honor Society last May. Laila also helps in the Wildcat Paws program assisting students who need extra help with their work.



STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.

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FWMA.org
363-2351

VINTAGE QUILT SHOW
Historic Wakulla County Courthouse
Saturday, October 14, 2023
2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Wakulla County Historical Society invites you to our Quilt Show to be held at the historic Wakulla County Courthouse, 23 High Drive, Crawfordville, FL.

On display will be vintage quilts created by local artisans including quilts made by our ancestors as well as newer designs. The show will begin at 2:00 p.m. and conclude at 5:00 p.m. Available for purchase are tickets for two quilts (see below). The cost of the tickets will be 1 for \$1 or 6 for \$5. The drawing will be held at our Annual Christmas Open House in December. You may visit the Wakulla County Historical Society Museum Thursday-Friday, 10 – 4 p.m. or Sat. 10 – 2 p.m. to purchase these tickets in advance. These quilts were created by Diane Curlee and Cheryl Blose and have been generously donated for this event. All proceeds will be used to support the Wakulla County Historical Society. Call Arlene at 850-962-2210 to display your quilt.

Wakulla County Tax Collectors Office
SPECIALTY TAGS
\$20 - \$30 additional to cost of tag.

Lisa Craze, CFC
Wakulla County Tax Collector

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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, transportation, food, medical services, counseling, scholarships, and other direct administrative and program expenses.

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

The Wakulla Sun

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Call (850) 962-8019 to get started.

9/11 Memorial service held



The crowd at the sheriff's office on Monday morning for the memorial service.



Sheriff Jared Miller has military veterans come up to the front to be honored.



County Commission Chair Ralph Thomas spoke on lives of children who lost a parent in the 9/11 attack.



The sheriff's Honor Guard flies the flag at half-staff as a trumpet plays 'Taps.'

PHOTOS BY WILLIAM SNOWDEN

Commissioners vote to uphold conditional use

By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**
Editor

Wakulla County commissioners voted 4-0 to uphold a conditional use granted by the planning commission for a pickleball court to be constructed at a proposed RV park on U.S. Highway 98 and Spring Creek Highway.

Linda Alexander, who lives on property adjacent to the proposed RV park, filed the appeal with an expectation that she was challenging

the proposed RV park, not just the pickleball courts.

Alexander's appeal alleged that staff and the planning commission did not do due diligence on the issue.

"I did not file an appeal because of the pickleball court – that would be a little crazy," Alexander said. "I filed the appeal because of the effect on my neighborhood."

The 20-acre lot adjacent to Alexander's home has already

had 13-acres rezoned to Commercial Travel Trailer Park in September 2022, and the site plan calls for 171 RVs.

"Nobody wants that next to them," Alexander complained. She said the planned RV park had already caused potential buyers for her home to look elsewhere.

The site is also located next to the Richardson Cemetery and the developers of the property, the Boyd family, using ground-penetrating radar, found 28

unmarked graves. The property with the unmarked graves, about a half-an-acre, is being donated to the Wakulla County Historical Society, which owns the cemetery.

The original site plan called for pickleball courts and a pool, but the land being donated with the unmarked graves led the developer to decide against a pool.

Several people spoke out against the RV park and its impact on the area – also expressing

concern about traffic safety. The Highway 98-Spring Creek intersection is the most dangerous in the county.

There were also numerous people at the meeting concerned about the potential impacts on the cemetery by people visiting the RV park. There were also questions about whether all the graves had been found.

Alexander was also sharply critical of developer David McQuary, who sold the property

to the Boyds after getting the CTPP zoning. Alexander said that McQuary had promised her a 70-foot buffer from her property and only 40 or 50 RVs on the land.

But commissioners were only considering the conditional use and Chair Ralph Thomas and commissioners Chuck Hess, Mike Kemp and Quincee Messersmith all voted to uphold it. Commissioner Fred Nichols was absent.

Capital City Bank donates to local groups

Special to The Sun

Capital City Bank Group Foundation – a nonprofit organization created in 1983 by Capital City Bank Group, Inc. – has donated annually for 40 years to charitable institutions across the Capital City footprint in Florida, Georgia and Alabama.

During the 2023 grant cycle, the CCBG Foun-

dation reinvested \$5,000 into the Wakulla County community, awarding grants to the Friends of the Wakulla County Public Library, Keep Wakulla County Beautiful, Paws of Wakulla and Panacea Waterfronts Florida Partnership.

The donations provided by the CCBG Foundation help nonprofits carry on the mission of the Founda-

tion to enhance the quality of life for countless local citizens in the areas where we do business.

"Community involvement has been a hallmark of Capital City Bank since our inception in 1895," said Amy Geiger, Capital City Bank president of Wakulla County. "We remain dedicated to investing in worthwhile organizations and seize every



Capital City Bank's Wakulla President Amy Geiger

opportunity to empower local nonprofits and foster positive change in our own backyard."

The CCBG Foundation provides grants to nonprofits, charitable organizations, and institutions exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The mission of the CCBG Foundation is to invest in initiatives that benefit local communities.

Most of the funds are distributed to specific areas of focus, including: arts/culture, children/youth services, economic/community development, education, health/sciences and human services.

For more information on the Capital City Bank Group Foundation, visit www.ccbgfoundation.org, she said.

Brad Harvey

From Front Page

office, with no oversight.

The matter started in 2018 after members of the Rotary Club of Wakulla realized that checks and cash for a fundraiser had never been deposited. Harvey was club treasurer at the time. After being told of the missing money, Sheriff Jared Miller, also a member of Rotary, ordered an investigation. After being interviewed by detectives, Harvey turned over about \$1,000 in cash from a gun raffle the club had held. No charges were brought in the case because the evidence – namely, ticket receipts for the raffle – had not been retained by the club.

But the Rotary incident prompted a member of Harvey's staff to begin

looking into office finances – and evidence quickly piled up that Harvey was stealing public money.

The staff member went to County Administrator David Edwards with the concerns – and FDLE was brought in to investigate.

In April 2020, Harvey was arrested on a warrant and processed in the Wakulla County Jail. Because of Covid restrictions at the time, Harvey was not put in a jail cell, and he did not have to post bond.

The same day, Gov. Ron DeSantis removed Harvey from office.

During the FDLE investigation, the newspaper was aware of the suspicions of financial improprieties and, along with another interested party, began making public record requests

and writing news stories about it. Later public record requests indicated that Harvey continued overpaying himself even after he knew he was under investigation by FDLE.

Asked by the newspaper to provide justification for the overpayments, Harvey pointed to a supplement he had received when he was chief deputy under the prior property appraiser for work done on Fire and Solid Waste tax rolls. He seemed to think he was still entitled to the supplement – though the total amount of overpayment far exceeded the supplement.

The county auditing firm did not uncover the problems until after Harvey was removed from office. A new auditing firm has replaced them.

When Ed Brimmer took office as property appraiser two years ago,

he handed off much of the financial work of his office to Clerk of Courts and County Comptroller Greg James, noting at the time that it would give more transparency and public confidence to his office.

In May, The Sun found property documents filed in the courthouse that showed Harvey had deeded his home and other property to his current wife. It's not clear if Harvey was having his name removed from the property deeds to avoid losing it for restitution and fines in the criminal case.

Several months ago, unrelated to the criminal case, the state Ethics Commission ordered Harvey to pay a civil penalty of \$40,000 in addition to restitution of \$209,000 to Wakulla County for ethics violations related to the overpayments.

Veterans Service office new location

Special to The Sun

The Wakulla County Veterans Services Office has moved to a new location. Rest assured, Winston Murphy continues to serve as your dedicated Veterans Service Officer.

The new office address is Wakulla County Community Center, 322 Shadeville Road, Crawfordville, FL 32327.

Winston can now be found inside the Wakulla County Community Center. If you require assistance or need directions to our new office, please feel free to reach out to Winston directly at wmurphy@mywakulla.com, his cell at 850-661-8231, or his office number at 850-926-0919 ext. 751.

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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

Thoughts on county's decisions

Editor, The Sun:

I attended a county commission meeting on Sept. 5 at 3 p.m., an odd time of the day for the public to have and give input about such an issue of great importance to our communities – the Richardson graveyard. The focus tends to have been on allowing an RV camp and a pickleball court to set up near and around the graveyard, which is very upsetting to those of us who have loved ones buried there. It is our belief that once a property is designated as a burying site, it is not to be disturbed or tampered with out of respect for the dead.

We all know how boundaries, hedges and fences are respected and overlooked and there lies the problem.

Our county focuses on so many businesses coming into the county and none of these are about or for our youth who have nothing appropriate in place for them during the summer months or after school.

Those of us who can afford to drive into Leon County and access their parks and rec facilities have that option, but most don't.

So much for the plans that were made back in the day for the One Stop Center to include youth activities. An investment in our youth is always a good thing and fosters good citizens.

Little did we know at the time of the commission meeting that thing had already been decided and we were just satisfying the process.

Jennie V. Jones
Crawfordville

Editor's Note: The 3 p.m. county commission meeting was an appeal of a conditional use permit granted by the planning commission for a pickleball court at a proposed RV park on U.S. Highway 98 at Spring Creek Highway. The site is adjacent to the Richardson Cemetery. The county commission voted to uphold the conditional use.

Concern about identity theft

Editor, The Sun:

I recently found it necessary to send personally identifiable information and other sensitive documentation to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement due to an issue with a person with a criminal record who has a name very similar to mine. While the core problem was quickly resolved, the manner in which the documents I submitted were returned to me was inexplicably horrendous and there is a high probability that my identity has been compromised as a result.

I was in the front yard when the envelope containing my sensitive documents arrived and retrieved it immediately. I actually exchanged pleasantries with the mail carrier. Upon inspection I noted the envelope had a prominent FDLE logo displayed as well as a bold CONFIDENTIAL identifier. It was also apparent that the envelope was open. A closer inspection showed that it most likely was never sealed to begin with. Absolutely incredible.

I called FDLE to vent my frustration at this and was supposedly connected with a supervisor in the department involved. I was told that it was not their problem and that I should contact the U.S. Postal Service and asked if there was anything else? There was.

I questioned the competency of sending sensitive items like this through USPS mail system with prominent markings that invite attention from bad actors. I was told that that was their procedure, he would make a note of my suggestion to send things like this in a less obvious manner and was again asked if there was “anything else?” No empathy, no understanding, no agreement with how

the process needs to be revised. No worry about my identity probably being compromised due to those “procedures.” No, this “supervisor” did everything possible to NOT go the extra-mile for me.

During this 2-week long process I spent long periods on hold with FDLE with no answer (1 hour was the longest) before giving up to try again later. As a result, I became very familiar with the helpful recorded messages the FDLE has on their “hold-loop,” especially the one giving timely hints on how to protect one's self from Identity Theft and the importance of doing so. I find that advice incredibly ironic given my situation, especially in view of the tone-deaf response I received from the so-called supervisor I spoke with.

To FDLE's credit they handled the root issue behind all of this with alacrity and with a major hurricane doing tremendous damage to the state at the same time. That was indeed impressive. My problem is solely with the haphazard manner in which my sensitive documents were returned to me.

I would still very much like to talk with someone of standing at FDLE about my experience and whether the procedures referenced above should be given more thought, some common-sense thought perhaps, probably beginning with using envelopes that properly seal.

Name Withheld
Crawfordville

Editor's Note: The author of this letter identified himself when submitting, but due to the sensitive nature of the subject requested that his name not be published.

Historical Society to hold quilt show

Editor, The Sun:

Wakulla County Historical Society invites you to our Quilt Show to be held at the historic Wakulla County Courthouse on Saturday, Oct. 14.

On display will be vintage quilts created by local artisans including quilts made by our ancestors as well as newer designs.

The show will begin at 2 p.m. and conclude at 5 p.m.

Available for purchase are tickets for two quilts. The cost of the tickets will be 1 for \$1 or 6 for \$5. The draw-

ing will be held at our Annual Christmas Open House in December.

You may visit the Wakulla County Historical Society Museum Thursday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. or Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to purchase these tickets in advance. The quilts to be given away were created by Diane Curlee and Cheryl Blose and have been generously donated for this event. All proceeds will be used to support the Wakulla County Historical Society.

Call Arlene at 850-962-2210 to display your quilt.

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 Sept. 14

Thursday, September 14

- The St. Marks City Commission meets at 6 p.m. at the City Hall.
- 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.

- The Wakulla War Eagles have a home game, hosting Seminole County at J.D. Jones Stadium at 7:30 p.m.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and 8 p.m. every Friday at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

Saturday, September 16

- The Coastal Cleanup will be held at various beaches around Wakulla, starting at 8 a.m. with a celebration in Wooley Park in Panama at noon.
- Boots & Bingo, a fundraiser for Rotary, will be held at 3Y Ranch from 5 to 11 p.m.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

Monday, September 18

- The county commission will hold a regular meeting at 5 p.m. in the county

- commission chambers. A workshop on legislative priorities is set for 3:30 p.m.
- The school board will meet at 5:45 p.m. in room 106 in their office at 69 Arran Road in Crawfordville.
- 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 19

- Wakulla County Charter Review Commission will be held at 6 p.m. in the

Wakulla community center.

- A meeting to discuss a grant for a new library facility will be held at the Wakulla County Public Library at 6:30 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 20

- 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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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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"It's A New Day!"

The Wakulla Sun



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◀ Question of The Week ▶

– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

Polled at the Crawfordville Quick Stop #:

What is your favorite Jimmy Buffett song?



ANDREW CURLES
TECHNICIAN

“Margr itav lle!
The lyrics just fit
all of the mov s.”



MIKE D YNER
RETIRED

“Margaritaville! It’s
just always been my
favorite, it sums up
his musical spirit.”



RICK MILLER
MCIVER FLOORING

“A Pirate Looks at
Forty. My dad used to
strum Jimmy Buffett
songs and sing to me at
bedtime to put me to
sleep.”



JOSHUA TURBEVILLE
A BETTER WAY COATINGS

“Margaritaville!
And my favorite
tequila is
Margaritaville
Silver.”



KRISTY SNYDER
STAY AT HOME MOM

M argr itav lle.
It’s just a classic. So
sad to hear about
his passingH e was
an icon.”

COMMUNITY NEWS

Wakulla Station News

By VERA BROCK

(After missing last week, this article is a two-fer!) Wow. What an eventful few days we just lived through. Hurricane Idalia turned slightly to the east before making landfall, sparing Wakulla and Franklin counties the brunt of her wrath. But that doesn't mean we went completely unscathed. Many folks are still dealing with downed trees and some flooding. To our east, our neighbors are facing months, if not years, of cleaning, clearing, and the rebuilding of their homes, businesses and neighborhoods. Hopefully most are well on the road to some form of normalcy.

Kudos to everyone who rallied to assist in these monumental tasks. To the linemen who jumped into action restoring power to us all, our deep appreciation for your dedication. Almost before Idalia had exited, our linemen were on the job assessing the damage, removing downed trees and get-

ting our lives back up and running. Words fail to express the gratitude of all of us for your amazing courage and quick response. Many thanks to all the citizen neighbors who volunteered to provide and distribute supplies, helped clear roofs and roads, and offered comfort any way they could.

Further south, Central Florida's west coast experienced extreme flooding and downed trees, all along Idalia's path. It will take a long time and a whole lot of money to restore Florida's beauty. Please keep everyone in your prayers and give thanks for the small loss of life Idalia inflicted. And for so many, their property insurance has been deemed insufficient. Did you know flood insurance doesn't cover STORM SURGE?! Heaven help us all. Is there even a thing called storm surge insurance? I am seriously just shaking my head.

My granddaughter Brooke Smith welcomed a sweet little girl a week ago. Paisley Grace is as beautiful as her mother and loved beyond mea-

sure. We are all very excited to meet her.

The Coastal Optimist Club will welcome the folks from our very own wild animal rescue, Florida Wild Mammal Association, on Thursday, Oct. 5th at noon, at Myra Jean's. We are excited to hear about recent events, updates and progress, especially in light of the recent bad weather. Please plan to join us for this informative presentation.

On Oct. 19th, Property Appraiser Ed Brimmer will join us for lunch, to answer questions about TRIM Notices, taxes and how he navigates the intricacies of evaluating Wakulla's growing tax rolls. I had the opportunity to hear him speak at Herb Donaldson's Palaver Tree Theater last week and learned several facts about homestead exemptions as well as other exemptions available to citizens.

If you would like to celebrate your civic group, church, or business, consider participating in the Blue Crab Parade in Panacea on Saturday, Sept. 30th. There is no cost to do so; all you have to do is fill out the registration form found on the Blue Crab Festival

or Coastal Optimists Facebook pages and send it in. If you'd like to be a vendor, there is a form for that, and more information, on the Blue Crab page. This is the first parade in several years, due to Covid restrictions. Panacea is very excited for the festival and hopes everyone will come out for a day of fun and seafood.

As we welcome (slightly!) cooler weather, plans are shaping up for Homecoming at the Wakulla United Methodist Church. Put Oct. 8th on your calendar, and join us for food and fellowship at 10 a.m. There will be a covered-dish dinner immediately following the service and we look forward to welcoming everyone to this celebration of faith.

Condolences to the family and friends of Jadon Gerrell. After a long life caring for her friends, family and community Ms. Gerrell has gone home to her Lord. What a blessing she has been to all who knew her. Your prayers for so many experiencing catastrophe, loss and grief across the globe are needed also. These events seem never-ending.

Unity in the Community holds its 9th annual event

Story & Photos By
LINDA ANN McDONALD
Correspondent

Ecclesia Outreach Ministry and Community Partners held its 9th annual Unity in the Community recognition ceremony on Saturday, Sept. 9th at the Wakulla County Community Center.

The event was led by Rev. Dr. Renita Allen-Dixon.

The goal is to unite the Community as one body and to encourage our citizens to embrace the unique qualities and natural elements within our borders. Each year, we celebrate those individuals who have demonstrated having a heart for people, who have shown strong leadership, who have a history of giving back to



Honorees at Unity in the Community on Saturday.

others and our community and who are a continual blessing to others by acts of kindness.

Based on public nomination, Pastor Robert and Gail Jetton received the Giving Back Award, Corey Benedict/DJ Butch received the

Acts of Kindness Award, Strong Leadership Award was presented to the Wakulla County Christian Coalition, William (Billy) and Elaine Moore received the Special Recognition Award, James (Tank) Arnett won the Assisting Those

In Need Award and the Hyde Park Community Legacy (Bossie Hawkins, Thomas Mitchell and Mae Frances Williams) took home the Heart of Wakulla Award.

Music was presented by Tommy Roberts of Revival Railroad Min-

istries. The event was filled with prayer and acknowledgements of selflessness and the joy of giving back.

Dr. Amber Jones Williams, presiding host of the event said, "I came to support Pastor Dixon and to see the commu-

nity come together to recognize people who have taken their time and effort and poured it back into the community for all Wakulla citizens; it is great to focus on them and to focus on the foundation of God and to see that God is in everything."

Pastor Robert Jetton and wife Gail said, "We are deeply honored and humbled to be recipients of this award. God graciously allowed us to be a part of the community and its only through him and the Christian community that we are able to be vessels to do God's work."

Major Ray Johnson of the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office presented the event's Greetings, and the Opening Prayer was led by Audrey Franklin.

DEPOT DAY HELD IN SOPCHOPPY



Charlotte Irons, husband Collin and son Sawyer were among the visitors at Sopchoppy's Depot Day on Saturday. Lots of people turned out to visit the Depot museum and train exhibits at the Towles House. (Photo by Linda Ann McDonald)

BLUES AT PALAVER TREE



Chris "Cottonmouth" Perry performed at Palaver Tree Theater Saturday night of original blues and covers songs with Will Anderson on the Congas and G.B. Hammond on lead guitar and vocals (Photo by Gerald Brown)

Outdoors

outdoor sports

HOME ON THE RANGE



By MARJ LAW

Do you remember your very first time?

Your first roller coaster ride... You're exhilarated at the idea of the wind in your hair and yet terrified that you'll scream and sound like a sissy?

That big dip in the road... You've speeded up in anticipation of flying over the hump, and terrified that your tummy might not land with you?

Your first trip to the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office range?

The combination of excitement and terror as you shoot a gun for the first time?

That first time is magnificent and wonderful and you only have this experience once.

But maybe not. Sometimes you're given the gift of that first time all over again.

I'm at the WCSO range. A pretty woman is standing on the porch of the office.

As Joe and I climb the steps to sign in at the desk, she smiles and asks: "Are you Marj?"

I nod and smile. "I'm Sally. I was hoping you might help me. I'm new here. I shot a gun years ago, but am having problems with my new Glock 42."

The Glock 42 is a .380. It's small and concealable. "What's wrong with it?" I wonder.

"I can't seem to shoot it right. The bullets get stuck in the top and stick up. My husband says it's because I'm not holding the gun tight enough. He says I'm 'limp-wristing' the gun. Can you help me?"

Right away, I notice Hubby isn't here.

Sometimes a woman just wants another woman when she is new to shooting.

We walk over to the pistol range.

"I've memorized all the rules on that big sign," she says. That's a really good beginning!

"Did you bring your Glock?" I ask her.

"Well, no," she replies. "But I did bring some .380 ammunition so you don't have to use yours."

That is thoughtful, indeed! And my new Ruger Security .380 just happens to be waiting in the trunk of my car. I like it for beginning shooters. I like it for its size and concealability. I like it for enhancing hand/eye coordination. I like it for its accuracy. Heck! I just plain like this little gun.

So, even though she doesn't have her Glock, I'm pretty confident she'll be able to enjoy shooting this particular Ruger.

Before we even take the gun out of its pouch, we discuss eye and ear protection. She has safety glasses and ear muffs. I give her some squishy stick-in-your-ear cushions to add under the muffs. They are not mandatory: simply even more hearing protection.

We look at the red line on the concrete floor.

"When the range is 'cold,' you always stay behind this red line on the side nearest to the parking area. You don't touch either guns or ammunition at this time. A 'cold' range is when people can go safely out to put up their targets, secure that no gun can be fired because no one is able to even touch a gun now.

"When the range is 'hot,' you can step on the other side of the red line and bring your gun to the shooting bench, which is really this table. Your gun must be in a shooting bag when you bring it to the table. Otherwise, we call it a 'naked gun.' A naked gun isn't safe.

"When the range is hot, you can load and shoot your gun."

I look at Sally. "Did you notice that all the shooters have called the word 'hot'?" They are making sure ev-

The first time

Ruger Security .380



Easy to rack slide
Accurate
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Magazines: 10 & 15 rounds!
Inexpensive: around \$300!

everyone here knows that we can shoot now. We always make certain that every single person at the pistol range knows and agrees whether the range is hot or cold. Knowing when the range is hot or cold is a huge safety factor."

I take the Ruger out of the sack.

"No matter what we are doing, the muzzle of the gun always faces downrange," I tell her, making sure this is so.

Sally is shaking just a bit. I am sensing her thrill and terror. Oh, it's just like experiencing that first time all over again. What a feeling!

"Let's get the magazine out, so we can load it." Still holding the gun so the muzzle is downrange, I show her the magazine release button. When the button is pushed, out goes the mag!

I push it back in the grip and hand the gun to her.

"Now you try it!" She presses the button and out zips the magazine. Yay! Sally's had her first success!

"You did it! Now, let's load our ammunition in the magazine. I use this UpLula. Yes, it costs about \$35, but it makes loading easy.

Placing the UpLula above the magazine, squeeze the front and back of the UpLula together. Now, push it down over the mag. Keep your squeeze

going. See the picture of a round on top of the UpLula? Plop the round on top of the slide of the UpLula in the same direction as this picture. Now, un-squeeze the UpLula and the round sinks into your magazine. Lift the UpLula to above the mag, and do it all over again!"

She holds the UpLula over the mag. "Squeeze!" I say. She squeezes.

"Push down!" She pushes it down.

"Plop in your round!" She plops.

"Un-squeeze!" She loosens her grip and the UpLula rises to the original position above the magazine.

"Good job! Now, do it again! Squeeze! Push! Plop! Un-squeeze!" Ah. Sally's got the hang of it and she knows it. Dang, this is fun.

Soon the magazine is full.

"Now we put it in the grip." Muzzle downrange, I slide the mag into the grip.

"Give it a gentle but firm tap to make sure it's in all the way." I tap the butt end of the mag. It's in there. Then, I push the mag release button so the mag shoots back to the table.

"Now, you do it!"

Sally picks up the gun and makes sure I know she is keeping the gun pointing downrange. She slides the mag into the grip. She taps the butt.

"Good job!" She is following instructions exactly. What a pleasure!

"Are you right or left-handed?"

"Right."

"Now, put your feet about as far apart as your shoulders. Good! Next, put your left foot slightly forward. Good!"

Though there are several correct stances, this one provides good stability.

"Pick up the gun with your right hand. Place your index finger along the lower frame of the gun. I know it's tempting to put your finger in the trigger, but we don't have our finger in the trigger until we are ready to shoot."

She places her finger along the frame. "Great!"

"Place your left hand over your right, fitting your fingers in the grooves of the fingers of your right hand. Good!"

One of the most important things to remember with any semi-automatic handgun, is to place your left thumb (or your non-dominant thumb) on the same side of the gun as you have put your right thumb. If right-handed, then both thumbs must be on the left side of the gun. Never cross your thumbs behind the gun. Otherwise, when the slide returns backward, it can rip that tender webbing between thumb and index finger."

Sally moves her thumb.

"I know it feels natural to cross your thumbs. Don't do it! Same side only!"

"I might tape those words on my mirror at home," she grins.

"Notice the sights on the gun. You have two sights on the back, which is the side closest to you. There is 1 sight in the front. Line them up so all 3 are in a solid line. When you aim, aim so that the target's bull's-eye is directly above the front sight."

She aligns the gun towards the target.

"To get a firm grip, push outward toward the target with your right hand. At the same time, pull back towards you with your left. Feel how that tightens your arms?"

She pushes and pulls. Then she nods.

"That makes my wrists tighten too," she observes.

"We're ready to shoot! First, we're going to breathe in, then we let the air out. Blow slowly. Notice how this relaxes you. You will shoot after you exhale."

To shoot, you're going to squeeze that trigger. You're not going to pull it back: you're going to squeeze it through. Arms tight. Breathe in. Breathe out. Squeeze."

Bang!

Yay! She hit the target with her first try!

Sally lowers the gun and turns toward me.

"I hit the target!" she says wonderingly.

"Yes, you did!" What a moment!

"Now, do it again!"

Sally shoots 10 times and 8 of her bullets have made holes in the 8-inch target, with 2 of them just outside it.

"You know," I tell her, "If Mr. Bad were coming at you, you'd have protected yourself very well. Good job!"

All of us at the pistol range call the range "cold," so Sally and I walk over to pull off her target.

"I'm taking this home to show my husband," she grins.

As she leaves the range, I'm thinking: "This has been the most fun I've had in a long time!"

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

BIRDING AT THE REFUGE

Fall migration is underway

By DON MORROW

I stood in the dark out on one of the back levees at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. It was still and quiet with only the occasional random grunting of a pig frog from somewhere out in the marsh. Above me, the sky was clear and full of stars. There was a thick crescent moon and Venus gleamed brightly in the east. The Northern horizon flickered with silent lightning as a massive storm moved in from Georgia, but it was 40 miles away and I heard no thunder.

The storm's path was predicted to pass east of the refuge. Least Bitterns and a few King Rails were now calling. Black-crowned Night Herons were squawking as they flew in to roost after a night's hunting and a Common Nighthawk flew by me at head level. From the tree line across the marsh, I heard the long woooah of a Barred Owl.

Clouds from the storm were beginning to spread across the eastern sky and I felt a breeze developing. Lightning within the storm created a constant ripple of light that marked its location. I heard low

rumbles of thunder as the first Wood Ducks flew and checked my phone to make sure that the storm would not affect me. It was passing through Madison and headed south.

With sunrise coming on strong, I started to run my survey route. Yellow Warblers were flitting through the brush along the levee. Barn Swallows were flying East and a high flock of seventy Blue-winged Teal passed over. I drove slowly down the Outer Levee and turned on to the cross levee between the two Stony Bayou Pools. I began to count shorebirds. By now, the storm's clouds had spread out even further and there was a steady cool wind.

The water levels were up from the recent rains and had covered most of the mud flats. I struggled to count and identify birds moving in the low grasses along the water's edge. There were mostly peeps – Western and Least Sandpipers. However, I was also getting Ruddy Turnstones and plovers; Semipalmated, Black-bellied and seven Wilson's. A Wilson's Phalarope was dancing in the shallow water.

A few drops of rain hit

my windshield, but I kept stopping to pull out my scope and scan for birds. I added Reddish Egrets, Short-billed Dowitchers and Willets to my list. Flocks of Blue-winged Teal were moving around the pond. It began to rain – only a light drizzle at first – and I continued scanning with my 10-power binoculars through the open window of my Honda, counting and recording as I slowly rolled down the levee.

At this point, it started to rain heavily and I rolled the window up and stopped the car to wait it out. After about 10 minutes the rain let up and I continued surveying from the slowly moving car. I passed the refuge's resident flamingo, about 20 Roseate Spoonbills and a flock of resting Black Skimmers. There were more peeps and a few Greater Yellowlegs.

The rain stopped as I swung around to do the West side of the pool. Almost all of the mud flats on this side were under water. I scared up Spotted Sandpipers, but didn't see much else. I turned on to the Outer Levee and continued my survey route. On one of the salt flats near the lighthouse,

I found a mixed flock of several hundred birds; Willets, Western Sandpipers, Ruddy Turnstones, three Red Knots and ten Marbled Godwits. Mixed in with them were White Ibis, Forster's and Royal Terns, Black Skimmers, Laughing Gulls, a sizable flock of Blue-winged Teal and a single Caspian Tern.

At the Lighthouse Pool where there was another adult American Flamingo, an Idalia refugee that has been there for a week now, and then finished up my survey by checking on some of the smaller ponds. As I drove out of the refuge, the sky was mostly clear and it was a sunny pleasant September day. I ended up with 61 species including 293 Blue-winged Teal, a good number this early in the season. I had just over 800 shorebirds of 15 species. They were mostly peeps, plovers and Willets.

Fall migration is well underway. Bird diversity and numbers are increasing. You should plan a trip down here. Check the weather before you come.

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



ATLANTIC SPADEFISH
(*Chaetodipterus faber*)

Abundant in shallow coastal or brackish waters, in reefs or around channel markers and docks, these can often grow to 3" long. Juveniles (black phase) are common in estuaries and often found in very shallow water swimming at an angle imitating plant debris. Adults often occur in very large schools of 500 or more feeding on invertebrates or nibbling on jellyfish. They spawn in late spring.

Eukarya, Animalia, Cordata, Actinopterygii, Perciformes, Ehippiidae

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Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

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Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

Sept. 14 - Sept. 20



Tide charts by tides4fishing.com



Best fishing days this month September 14-29

Table with tide information for Thursday 14 through Monday 18, including Sun rise/set, Moon rise/set, and Moon Illumination.

For tides at the following points add to Dog Island Listings: Carrabelle, Apalachicola, Cat Point, Lower Anchorage, West Pass

Tide table for St. Marks River Entrance with columns for Th, Fr, Sa, Su, Mo, Tu, We and times for High and Low tide.

Tide table for City of St. Marks with columns for Th, Fr, Sa, Su, Mo, Tu, We and times for High and Low tide.

Tide table for Shell Point, Spring Creek with columns for Th, Fr, Sa, Su, Mo, Tu, We and times for High and Low tide.

Tide table for Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay with columns for Th, Fr, Sa, Su, Mo, Tu, We and times for High and Low tide.

Tide table for St. Teresa, Turkey Pt. with columns for Th, Fr, Sa, Su, Mo, Tu, We and times for High and Low tide.

Tide table for Dog Island West End with columns for Th, Fr, Sa, Su, Mo, Tu, We and times for High and Low tide.

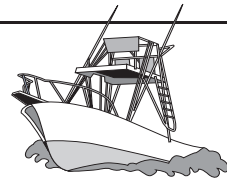
Best hunting and fishing based on solunar times. MAJOR feeding periods are 2 hours long, centered on the solunar time. MINOR feeding periods are only 1 hour long, again centered on the solunar time.

Summary table with Minor Times and Major Times for each day from Thursday 14 to Wednesday 20.



Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports

By Carolyn Brown Treadon



Although Labor Day has passed, the National Safe Boating Campaign, a worldwide effort focused on responsible boating led by the National Safe Boating Council, shared key tips for boaters to responsibly enjoy that bear sharing.

Peg Phillips, executive director of the National Safe Boating Council stated, "Choose to boat responsibly and protect yourself and others by wearing a life jacket, using an engine cut-off switch, and never boating under the influence.

Don't wait to put on a life jacket in an emergency - always wear it. Make sure everyone wears a life jacket - every time. A stowed life jacket is no use in an emergency. U.S. Coast Guard statistics show that drowning was the reported cause of death in three out of every four recreational boating fatalities, and that 85 percent of those who drowned were not

Boating Emergencies box with Coast Guard Station contact info for Panama City, Yankeetown, and Apalachee Bay (Flotilla 12).

wearing life jackets. An engine cut-off switch is a proven safety device to stop a powerboat engine should the operator, or even passenger, unexpectedly fall overboard. Using the engine cut-off switch prevents propeller injuries and deaths - and, it's the law. U.S. Coast Guard statistics show that in 2022, there were 173 propeller accidents resulting in 41 deaths and 182 injuries.

Boating under the influence is the leading contributing factor in recreational boater deaths.

Boating can magnify the side effects of alcohol use, including impaired judgment, reduced balance and poor coordination. Never boat under the influence, and always designate a sober skipper.

"Be extra vigilant while boating..., and assign a lookout to watch for others on the water and keep a close eye on children," said Phillips.

Check back next week for additional information from the NSBC.

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.cgaux.org.

Underwater Wakulla

By Rusty Miller

Advanced scuba class.

Hello Wakulla

I had a great weekend teaching a few FSU students and Alumni their advanced scuba class.

We started in Morrison Springs by showing them how to do light salvage by using different size lift bags along with using their reels to secure the lift bags around the big tree across the main spring sink. I will say that this is the first advanced class to get it correct on the first attempt. If you have never used a lift bag set up then you would see how difficult it is to do safely and properly. When the students finished rolling up the bags and securing their reels we surfaced and did the safety sausage deployment and then we rolled up those then we went back to the pavilion.

There was one little detail of this training that I didn't mention was while we were under the water we kept hearing a loud noise that sounded like a jet going overhead. When we surfaced we saw lightning storm moving our direction. After the last skill we hurriedly got out of the water and under the pavilion for safety.

While we were waiting for the storm to pass I went over the next skill underwater compass reading. I went over the parts of the UW compass that is a little different than a land base compass. One of the compasses we used was the first compass I got back in the 80's, A Dacor compass. It's nothing fancy but it works well enough.

We then met at the boat in Panama City at 3pm that afternoon for a (3) tank dive that is a deep water dive (80 feet - 100 feet) then we do a wreck observation and then we finish with a night dive.

The first dive on the Black Bart in 80 feet of water went well. The surface was calm with very small swells. So entry and exit was very easy. The visibility was another issue, at best we had 10-15 foot vis. The jellyfish have made it back to PCB in full. Several folks where nervous because of so many jellyfish that you could see on the surface. We still stepped off the platform to make our way to the anchor chain then we descended to the Bart. The boat captain placed the anchor where it suspended the chain directly over the pilot house so when you got near the boat you just let go of the chain and you where right there.

Everyone had to really stay close to the Bart and had to really look for the very diverse sea life that makes the Bart its home. We then ascended back to the boat and moved to the next dive site.

I'll finish the rest of the dives on the next article.

Until next week keep making bubbles

- Russell Miller, NAUI instructor #59999

FWC Law Enforcement Report

From FWC

This report represents some events the FWC handled Aug. 18-24 in the Northwest Region. (There were no cases reported for Wakulla County.)

BAY COUNTY

Officers Z. Rice and T. Basford were on patrol in plain clothes at the Panama City Pass. They noticed a diver with no dive flag spearfishing near St. Andrews State Park jetty. The officers identified themselves and stopped the diver. He was issued citations for spearfishing in a closed area and for having no dive flag.

Officers D. Palmer, Z. Rice, C. Boley, C. Jarrell, and Lieutenant J. Allen received a call about a missing boater on Deer Point Lake. The individual went fishing the evening before and the family had not had any contact with him after dark. The officers searched the lake with their patrol vessels while Aviation Pilot T. Tolbert and Lieutenant Allen searched by air. The boater was located uninjured on the northeast side of the lake by Officers Palmer and Rice. His vessel's engine had broken down the night before. The officers took him back to the boat ramp to be reunited with his family.

ESCAMBIA COUNTY

Officers Waters and Hahr were patrolling Perdido River Wildlife Management Area and found three groups of recreators using marijuana and methamphetamine. Two people were charged with use of medical marijuana in a public place, one was charged with possession of cannabis, and two men were charged with possession of methamphetamine. One of the subjects was also arrested for two felony warrants.

JACKSON COUNTY

Officer J. Carr was

on patrol at the Chipola River near the mouth of Spring Creek. While conducting a boating safety inspection, he heard screaming and saw three males chasing another male along the shoreline of Spring Creek. Officer Carr immediately went to the location and the three males stated the other male had struck his girlfriend several times. Officer Carr brought the subject on board his vessel and obtained witness accounts of the events. The subject was booked into jail and the case is being reviewed by the State Attorney's office for possible additional charges.

FOLLOW THE SUN.

Your local source for news.

What happens when we pray a Bible verse?

By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

You wouldn't say it out loud to your church friends, but frankly, you wonder what people get from reading the Bible. Sometimes when you

open its pages, the passages seem dry and lifeless – not relevant to what you're going through right now. You envy those who glean so much hope from God's Word.

What's their secret? Could it be they've learned how to personalize and pray specific Bible verses relevant to their needs?

For example, let's say you've been worried about your teenage son. Try personalizing 1 Peter 5:7 (ESV): "Casting all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you" by reading it this way: I

will cast all my anxiety on You, Lord, because You care for me.

If you were to use the same verse and turn it into a prayer, it would sound something like this (with help from the Amplified Bible, Classic Edition):

"Father, I'm so worried about Tommy's failing grades and the kids he's hanging out with. I'm scared he might be doing drugs – or worse. Please intervene and show me what to do. Help me cast all my care [all my anxieties, all my worries, all my concerns, once and

for all] on You. Let me rest in knowing You care for Tommy and me affectionately and watchfully. Amen."

Personalizing Scripture transforms a Bible verse into a beautiful declaration between us and God. It helps us recognize more clearly who we are: Christ-followers, God's representatives, lovers of people – and individuals totally dependent on a God Who loves us.

The more we pray this way, the stronger our faith grows. The stronger our trust grows. The stronger our hope be-

comes. Praying Scripture can transform dry words on a page into words that overflow with hope and meaning. It can help us build a deeper, more fulfilling relationship with the Author.

Psalm 119:105 says God's Word is a lamp unto our feet. The Word of God guides us, including our thoughts and decisions. Scripture lights our path, giving us direction as we humbly seek God's will and counsel.

Before you go to bed tonight, write down one of your favorite Bible verses. As you meditate on it this

week, personalize the verse until it becomes a prayer from your heart. Then sense God's Word come alive in your spirit with a renewed awareness of your Heavenly Father's incredible love for you. ...

And experience hope for what you're going through right now.

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.

Our neighborhood

By **CHERYL CRUCE**

Waking up in the early morning for a sip of coffee on the back porch and the singing of the birds used to be a great pleasure. I still enjoy the back porch and the cup of coffee, but the birds have been replaced by the tap, tap, tap of a hammer as more houses are built around us. I must admit I am drawn more to the woodland areas than I am to asphalt.

Yet, here I am with more neighbors than I will ever be able to know.

The neighborhood of my youth had five houses with acreage between each for baseball, football, hide-and-seek, or tag. We would run out of our pent-up energy in the evening after school. Sometimes, we would find a tree to climb or ride our bicycles to the corner store. When the evening sun began setting, we would hurry home for supper and homework.

Life was slower then; families had time to get to know each other. Parents looked out for all of the children. It was a neighborly thing to share from household abundance, like freshly gathered eggs or a pail of

fresh milk collected from the cow. Sometimes, the neighbor would leave the cream on top for Mom to use in her morning coffee. Mom often sent out a pan of her fresh-baked biscuits as a thank-you for the cream.

Now I see houses on lots, and I wonder, where do the children play?

Rec parks have replaced the neighborhood baseball games. Milk is purchased from the local store; it is good, but it will never compare to the taste of a fresh pail with the cream on top. The cost of progress is this quickly changing world around us, which is the void of open fields. However, despite the change, the definition of a good neighbor remains

the same.

Jesus teaches in the scripture that a man was beaten, robbed, and left to die on the side of the road. A Jewish Priest and a Levite walked past this man without assisting him. Later, a Samaritan saw the man and was filled with compassion. He dressed the man's wounds and found him lodging until he was well again. After telling this story, Jesus asked, "Who was the good neighbor?"

Scripture teaches us that a good neighbor does not seek after personal benefit but the good of others, encouraging one another and building each other up (1 Corinthians 10:24 & Thessalonians 5:11). A neighbor loves without

hesitation or judgment; a neighbor loves as Jesus loves, unconditionally and compassionately (John 15:12). Loving in this manner will find a way to bring neighborhoods together regardless of all the houses built on the city block.

Maybe the word neighborhood puts the definition of neighbor in the proverbial box.

A neighbor lives in the house across the street. They are also sitting beside us at the rec park or on the same aisle in the grocery store. When we understand this definition, the proverbial box will be removed, and our neighborhood will become the world around us.

We will become kind-hearted people who ren-

der aid where needed and reach beyond social boundaries. We will become who God has created us to be, walking in the image of Christ, our Lord.

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. The second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Matthew 22:37-40 NIV

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

OUT TO PASTOR

Why do some cute babies grow up ugly?

By **JAMES SNYDER**

Our second great-grandbaby was born at the end of last year. Since then, it has been a delight to watch her grow.

I will not say she is the cutest baby in the world, but I haven't met any cuter. She was born cute, and I'm not sure what part of the family she got that.

Sometimes, when in the hospital, I walk by the maternity ward and look at all the new babies. Looking at them, I can see how cute everyone is. I have not found an ugly baby in the maternity ward yet.

The other day, I had to go to Walmart to pick up some items. Walking down the aisles, I saw a few babies pushed around in shopping carts. I looked at each one and smiled, noticing they

were all very cute.

Walking down the last aisle was another baby in a shopping cart, and I stopped to look and smile. Then I did something I had not done before. I looked up to see the mother that was pushing the shopping cart. Boy, was I shocked.

I'm not an expert on ugly, but that mother was the ugliest mother I have ever seen. It got me thinking about that cute baby. Will she grow up to be as ugly as her mother?

I have never seen an ugly baby, so I had to ponder why some babies grow up ugly.

That evening, as I was getting ready for bed, I looked into my bathroom mirror. Staring back at me was one of the ugliest persons I have seen in a very long time. I was shocked. How in the world did I get so ugly? Was I born ugly?

The next day, I got out one of my old photo albums to look through it and see what I looked like as a baby. Sure enough, there were several baby pictures of me. You won't believe it, but I was a cute

baby. I never gave that a thought before.

Growing up, I never thought of my parents as ugly. After all, they were my parents. I noticed some of my school friends had really ugly parents. I tried to keep their secret because I didn't want to embarrass them.

Looking through my photo album, I saw all those pictures from when I was a cute baby up to my wedding. I will not brag, but I was a cute little guy when I was young. After looking in the bathroom mirror, I wondered what happened to make me so ugly.

The only thing different in my life was that I got married. I'm not going to go there for obvious reasons.

If a baby is born cute, why doesn't it stay cute for the rest of its life? What happened to me that I lost my cuteness, as I got older?

Following this thought about cuteness, I was in Walmart and happened to go down the aisle of beauty products. This is the first time I have looked in this aisle, so I

was unsure what I was looking at. All of those products guaranteed that if I used them, I would look beautiful.

I don't want to look beautiful; I just want to look cute! [Sigh!]

I was tempted to get some of the products, but I didn't know where to start. Where does the journey back to cuteness start?

As I was looking at these products, one of the workers at Walmart came by and said, "Can I help you with anything?"

You do not know how tempted I was to ask her what I needed to restore my cuteness. I stuttered and said, "No, ma'am. I'm just looking for some products for my wife."

That got me out of a sticky situation. My wife does not need anything to look cute; she has maintained it since I met her. I have been

tempted many times to ask her her secret, but then I was afraid she would tell me.

Maybe when I was young, if I had paid more attention to my cuteness, I might have retained it much longer than I did. But nobody told me what to do along this line. I blame my parents who should have told me how to retain my cuteness. Maybe I can find a lawyer to help sue them for allowing me to become so ugly. How much is ugly worth?

I may have to settle with the fact that I'm just not cute. Maybe the secret is not to regain my cuteness but to slow down my ugliness.

If I'm as ugly as my mirror suggest, how in the world do people around me tolerate me? I'm not sure I could tolerate me. I don't have an inferiority complex, but I do

have an exterior complex and I'm not sure what to do about it.

In my devotions recently, I read this verse. "And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you" (Isaiah 46:4).

That verse got me thinking about growing old. I don't need to worry about the past because God will carry me through everything. The secret to this is allowing God to be God and allowing Him to do what only He can do in my life.

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

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Obituaries

DEATH NOTICES

• **Jadon Gerrell**, 86, of Woodville, died September 7, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel.

• **Lloyd R. Holtman**, 89, of Crawfordville, died September 7, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel.

• **Joseph Al Mattson**, 70, of Crawfordville, died September 8, 2023.

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

• **Mary Karon Tucker**, 75, of Perry, died September 9, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel, 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **Todd Wayne Tucker**, 57, of Crawfordville, died September 7, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey-Young Chapel, 850-926-5919, www.familyfhc.com

BEREAVEMENT COLUMN



By **TRACY RENEE LEE**

I go to church in the church that I was born in. Almost everyone I go to church with is a relative of mine. There are a few families that go to my church who are not related to me. I have known these families all my life, so although they are not, they seem like relatives.

People shared their thoughts, feelings, and beliefs this past Sunday at church. Most everyone who shared spoke of family members who have passed on. Some spoke of parents, others of grandparents, and some spoke of children. Most of the people being remembered were my family members. It was a bittersweet meeting because it was lovely

hearing stories about their lives, but sad.

Each person expressed their love for their decedents and shared memorable experiences. One of my cousins spoke of her mother dying of cancer while her father suffered Alzheimer's. She told us of her dad's difficulties after his wife died and how difficult it was to see him suffer so profoundly. She said that one day, right before he passed, he had a moment of clarity and shared his testimony of God the Father and his son, Jesus Christ. That sweet testimony shared by her father brings her so much comfort because she knows that even though he didn't know who he was, he knew who God was.

My brother was sitting in the pew behind me. He recently lost his wife. He was so sad. It broke my heart to see him in such pain. When we love someone with all that we are, the grief we suffer upon their death is unimaginable. It is a miracle that we survive

it. His pain was so great that he could not control his sobbing.

I have lost two grandsons. I thought that I would die, too, from the pain of losing them. It took me years before I could speak about it. It has been five years since my first grandson was lost and there are moments during my days that still sting my eyes with tears of yearning for him. His little brother was lost this past Christmas. Experiencing the loss of my first grandson did not make the loss of my second grandson any easier. The pain is stacked like bricks on my shoulders. The weight is, at times, unbearable.

During the 1980s, a type of picture was sold that hid an image in it. After staring at the picture intently, the hidden image would suddenly appear like magic.

I recently visited a funeral home in another town. As I walked through the halls, the owner told me that the painter who had painted her funeral

home had painted angels hidden on the walls like those pictures in the 1980s. I spent hours looking at her walls from every angle possible. I never saw any angels.

Sunday morning, before I rose from bed, I had a dream. In the dream, I was staring at a wall in the funeral home that I had recently visited. Like my visit to this funeral home, I was staring at the walls, looking for angels hiding in the paint. Suddenly, just like those 1980's pictures, I saw angels on the walls. I wondered what was happening, and I prayed for inspiration. My impressions were that angels are among us. Even though we cannot see them, they are there, just like those hidden images in the 1980's pictures. They are there helping us, but we don't have eyes to see them or ears to hear them. They are there to guide us spiritually if we will only open ourselves to their influence.

I believe that angels are indeed among us. I

believe we are surrounded by loved ones from the other side who want the best for us and try to help us reach our greatest potential. I believe that love and family ties transcend death and that one day, we will reunite with our loved ones when we die. These beliefs bring me comfort as I know that one day I will die and that I will worry and love my family members who are still living. I do not want my influence and relationship with my children and grandchildren to die with my death. I want to protect and guide them as a guardian angel. I believe these things are possible, and I have faith that they are true.

My dream Sunday morning brought me great comfort and relief. I hope that my cousins and brother feel that same comfort from our family members beyond our mortal restrictions. I hope they spiritually connect and feel the love our loved ones surround us with just beyond our gaze.

If you have lost a loved one, I hope you can feel their love surrounding you, guiding and protecting you from afar. I pray for your peace and comfort this week, and I hope that happiness finds you and blankets you with love.

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: Abortion rights in the balance

By **RYAN DAILEY**
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — The Florida Supreme Court on Friday heard arguments in a case that could have major implications for access to abortion in the state.

Justices are weighing a legal challenge to a 2022 law that prevented abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy. A ruling in the lawsuit, which could take months, also will affect a law passed this year that would bar abortions after six weeks of pregnancy.

Much of Friday's arguments hinged on whether the seven-member court should overturn decades of legal precedent that said a privacy clause in the state Constitution protects abortion rights.

Plaintiffs in the lawsuit include seven abortion clinics and a doctor who performs abortions.

The law violates "fundamental rights" and subjects women to "serious and unnecessary risks to their health" by forcing them to give birth, plaintiffs' attorney Whitney Leigh White argued Friday.

Florida's privacy clause protects "the autonomy of the intimacies of personal identity" and "a physical and psychological zone within which an individual has the right to be free from intrusion or coercion ... by government."

Justices questioned White about whether the privacy clause should apply to abortion.

"Why does it not connote a negative implication? It's the right to be let alone," Justice Meredith Sasso asked. "How does that square ... with the right to procure

something?"

The right to be left alone "and free from government interference into a person's private life" encompasses "private activities and private decisions," White, an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation, said.

"There's no basis to exclude a decision as deeply personal and private as the decision whether to continue a pregnancy from otherwise broad protections for freedom from interference in private life," she added.

But Chief Justice Carlos Muniz — who at one point during Friday's arguments said that the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade decision "might have been an abomination" and referred to fetuses as "human beings" — appeared unconvinced.

"You are asking us to essentially take a whole class of human beings and put them outside of the protection of the law essentially, in the sense that if the legislature wants to protect those human beings, they are precluded by the Constitution of Florida from doing that," he said.

White pushed back, arguing that "there is no other context in which this court has held that the state can constitutionally force an individual to take on increased and serious medical risks and harm for the purported benefit of others."

State Solicitor General Henry Whitaker said the privacy clause "does not establish a right to abortion" and urged justices to defer to state lawmakers on the issue.

"The plaintiffs have raised substantial concerns about women who

need to have abortions, suffer barriers from getting abortions, and other terrible things. The legislature weighed and balanced those concerns against the interest in preserving life. That kind of weighing and balancing is precisely the kind of thing that should be done by the legislature, and not this court," he said.

NEW MEMBERS FOR ETHICS PANEL

Days before the Florida Commission on Ethics was poised to hold a high-profile meeting, Gov. Ron DeSantis appointed two new members to the panel — one of whom is a co-founder of the prominent conservative group Moms for Liberty.

DeSantis on Wednesday named Tina Descovich, a former Brevard County School Board member who helped found Moms for Liberty, and South Florida-based attorney Luis Fuste to the ethics board. Descovich and Fuste, whose appointments went into effect immediately, replaced the board's former chairman and a member whose term expired.

Descovich said in a statement that she was "honored" to be named to "this important statewide

commission."

"The Florida ethics commission is charged with serving as the guardian of the standards of conduct for public officers and employees as well as safeguarding public trust," Descovich said.

Democrats quickly seized on DeSantis' choice of Descovich, with many pointing to her involvement with Moms for Liberty. The group has been a major player in controversies about attempts to remove or review books at schools.

Moms for Liberty has maintained it is trying to prevent children from having access to adult-oriented books and material, but critics have accused the group of book banning.

Jennifer Jenkins, a Brevard County School Board member who appeared with Democratic Party officials in July 2022 during the same weekend as a Moms for Liberty summit in Tampa, criticized Descovich's appointment to the commission.

"Qualifications include: losing an incumbent school board seat & creating a nationally recognized hate group," Jenkins said in a tweet Wednesday, referring to the Southern Poverty Law Center labeling Moms for

Liberty as an "antigovernment organization."

Moms for Liberty has disputed that label and threatened legal action against the Southern Poverty Law Center.

LATVALA CASE DROPPED

The state ethics panel on Friday ended a long-running probe into former state Sen. Jack Latvala, who left office amid sexual-harassment allegations.

The commission, in a voice vote, approved a recommendation from state lawyer Elizabeth Miller to dismiss an ethics complaint filed in December 2017. The case involved allegations that Latvala sexually harassed a Senate aide and had a sexual relationship with a lobbyist.

The aide, Rachel Perrin Rogers, and the lobbyist, Laura McLeod, declined to testify, leading Miller to say she had little choice

but to seek dismissal.

Latvala has denied sexually harassing Perrin Rogers but has acknowledged an affair with McLeod.

STORY OF THE WEEK: In a case that could have a dramatic impact on women's reproductive rights in the state, the Florida Supreme Court on Friday heard arguments in a legal challenge to a 2022 law that prevented abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "When they're ready — right now they're not — but when they're ready, we have money set aside to work with them, to help them rebuild a small but very important tourism industry." — Visit Florida CEO Dana Young, referring to the tourism-marketing agency's plans to help rural and coastal areas recover from Hurricane Idalia.

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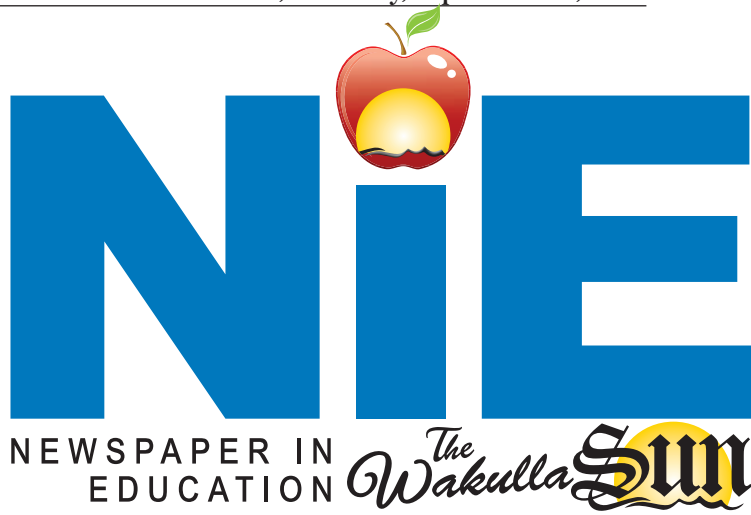
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USE THE NEWS

1. NEW PROFESSOR

Former secretary of state, First Lady, and U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton is now teaching a class on foreign policy at Columbia University in New York City, nearly 50 years after she last taught at University of Arkansas Law School in Fayetteville. She's also helping to establish an Institute of Global Politics at the school, where a group of fellows will work with students to address social and political problems facing the world. Among the inaugural group are Stacey Abrams, voting rights activist and former candidate for governor of Georgia; Eric Schmidt, former CEO and chairman of Google; and Marie Yovanovitch, former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine. Would having a famous person like Hillary Clinton be a benefit or a distraction to a learning environment? Write an opinion piece about your thoughts.

2. TONIGHT SHOW TROUBLE

Last week, more than a dozen former and current employees accused Jimmy Fallon of creating a toxic work environment at The Tonight Show. Reports accuse Fallon of snapping at crew members and belittling staff members, creating an environment where many said their mental health was impacted. Fallon has since apologized to the staff and NBC, the network behind the show, has said they've investigated and taken action where appropriate. Look up Jimmy Fallon's apology online, then write an article comparing his response with other celebrities who have faced similar accusations in recent history, such as Lizzo and Ellen DeGeneres.

3. PARENT PROBLEMS

Teachers in South Korea are protesting harassing behavior from parents in the country known for its highly competitive schools. Tens of thousands of teachers took a coordinated leave of absence to protest across the country last week, finding a way around South Korea's law against going on

strike. Among their demands are clear disciplinary guidelines and a revision to the Child Welfare Act, which is meant to protect children from abuse but currently is used by some parents to file or threaten child abuse charges against teachers who discipline students. As such, students are able to misbehave in the classroom without any repercussions, while teachers face harassing calls and texts from parents about their students' performance. Brainstorm how

you would write the guidelines in South Korea to help teachers while still protecting children. Share your ideas with your classmates.

4. PUBLIC HEALTH FAILURE

A new report exposed widespread issues at two state-run veterans' homes in New Jersey during the Covid-19 pandemic. The two homes in Menlo Park and Paramus saw dozens of deaths early in the pandemic because of a lack of communi-

cation and staff competency, according to the report. The virus was able to spread because infected people were allowed to be around uninfected people and they didn't properly use personal protective gear. The report also criticized the state for a lack of oversight, though they did try to improve conditions. Starting with reading the report, how would you go about writing an article about this topic? Write down the steps you would take, including information you would research,

who you would interview, and what questions you would ask them.

5. BALLOT BUSTER

A lawsuit could keep Donald Trump off the ballot in at least one state. Six voters in Colorado filed a lawsuit under the 14th Amendment, which says anyone who has "engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the Constitution after taking an oath to defend it is ineligible to hold office. They allege that his actions surround-

ing the January 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol was engagement in insurrection and would therefore disqualify him. However, even if the lawsuit is upheld, an appeal would go to the Supreme Court, which has a conservative supermajority. Read more about this lawsuit in your newspaper or online. Then, write an article summarizing what the lawsuit is about and why the 14th amendment could (or could not) apply to Donald Trump in this case.



THIS EVENT THAT STRETCHES FROM SEPTEMBER 15 TO OCTOBER 15 CELEBRATES CITIZENS FROM SPAIN, MEXICO, THE CARIBBEAN, AND CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA.

ANSWER: NAT'L HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Culture

SPANISH: Cultura

ITALIAN: Cultura

FRENCH: Culture

GERMAN: Kultur

Creative Coloring

Celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month. Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1609: HENRY HUDSON REACHES THE RIVER THAT WOULD EVENTUALLY BEAR HIS NAME.
- 1898: HANNIBAL GOODWIN PATENTS CELLULOID PHOTOGRAPHIC FILM.
- 1956: THE IBM 305 RAMAC IS INTRODUCED. IT IS THE FIRST COMMERCIAL COMPUTER TO USE DISK STORAGE.



HERITAGE

valued objects and qualities passed down from previous generations



NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH BEGAN AS A WEEK-LONG OBSERVATION. IT WAS EXPANDED BY PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN IN 1988.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: MARIACAS

POULTRY WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- BREED
- BROILER
- CAPON
- CHICK
- CHICKEN
- COLOR
- COMB
- DOMESTICATED
- EXHIBITION
- FEATHERS
- FINISH
- FOWL
- HATCHED
- HEN
- LAYER
- PLUMAGE
- POULTRY
- PRODUCTION
- PULLET
- ROASTER
- TEMPERAMENT
- TURKEY
- VARIETY
- WEIGHT

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

CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. Type of crayon
7. Fashion accessory
10. Most cerebral
12. Incline from vertical
13. Dependent on
14. Broken in
15. Strongly desires
16. Mounted soldier
17. Ad __: when necessary
18. Cattle
19. Ottoman military commanders
21. __ student, learns healing
22. Composed in poetic meter
27. Promotional material
28. Where people live
33. Sodium
34. Embarrassing
36. Medical man
37. Mother of Hermes
38. One who saves the day
39. Tooth caregiver

40. Not clothed
41. Slope covered with loose stones
44. Used to cook
45. Praises enthusiastically
48. Rooney is a famous one
49. Beekeeper
50. Pigpen
51. Potato chip brand

CLUES DOWN

1. Living quarters
2. Horizontal passage
3. Attacks
4. Vietnamese offensive
5. Midway between east and southeast
6. Confined (abbr.)
7. Book of Esther antagonist
8. Port in Yemen
9. CNN's founder
10. Type of bulb
11. Prepare
12. Promoted
14. Dinner jackets

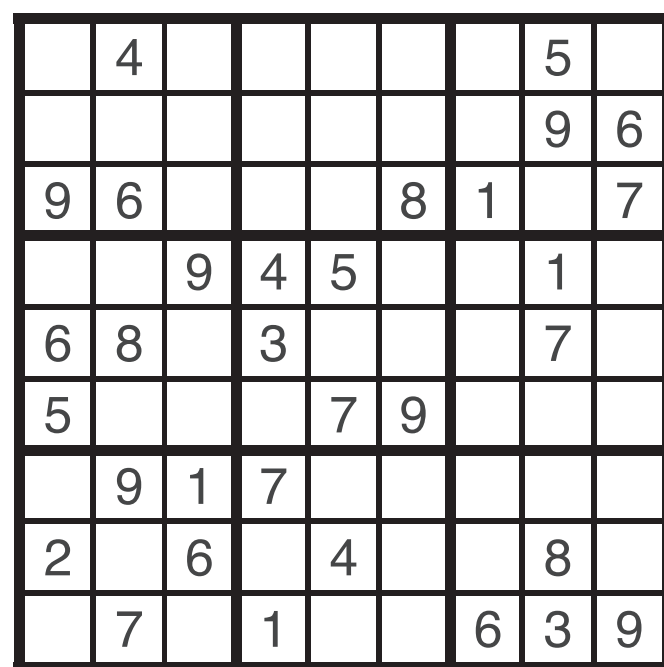
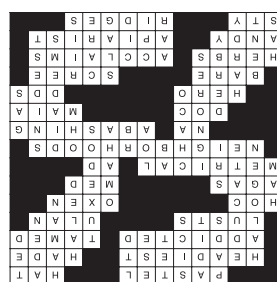
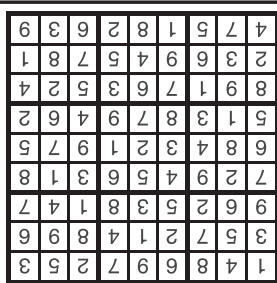
17. Partner to cheese
18. Nebraska city
20. Human gene
23. Pays no attention to
24. Lowland South American plain
25. Blood group
26. Mauna __, Hawaiian volcano
29. Atomic #37
30. Unit of electrical resistance
31. Jeweled crowns
32. Nastiest
35. Traditional cars need it
36. Bowler hat
38. Robust
40. Not straight
41. Stony waste matter
42. Have an interest in
43. Jacob __, journalist
44. Maintains possession of
45. Swiss river
46. Average cost of market goods
47. Spanish soldier: El __

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to mold.

TRWHOG

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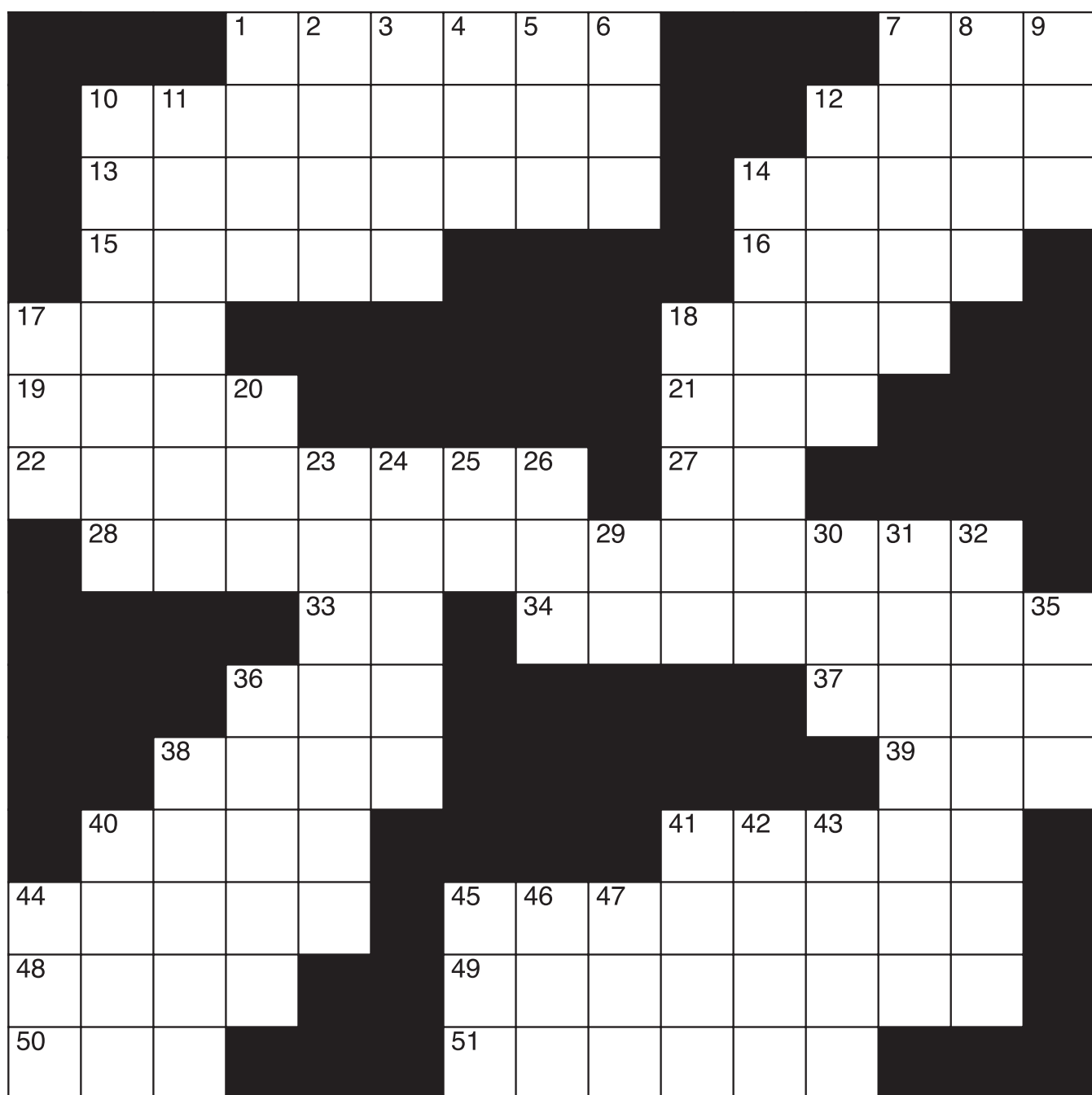
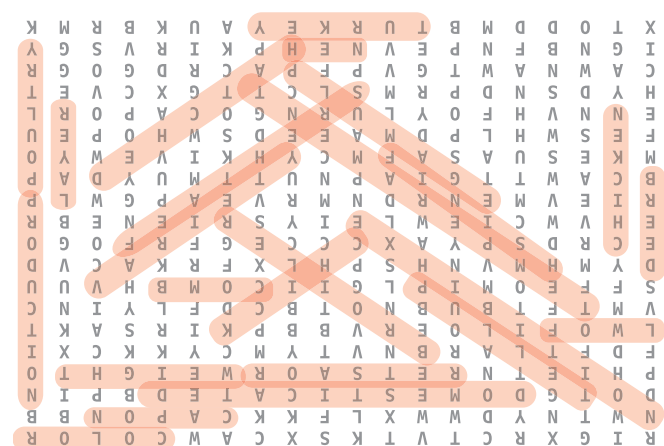


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Here's How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure 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 an actor born in England on September 10, 1960. I lived in England, Nigeria and the U.S. as a child. I am known for "Pride & Prejudice" as well as "Bridget Jones' Diary." I won an Oscar for a role about a stuttering monarch.

Answer: Growth Answer: Colin Firth



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FSU flexes depth in dominant win

By NICK CARLISLE
TheOsceola

While Florida State might not have been able to completely fight off the hangover from an impressive win against No. 14 LSU the previous week, the No. 4 Seminoles were able to cruise to a dominant 66-13 win over Southern Miss on Saturday night.

"I'm proud of our team coming off a short week and a very emotional game," coach Mike Norvell said after the win. "There were some plays that we left out there - there is no question. There will be a lot of things that we are going to get to do to continue to work. Our guys came out and played with passion. They played with effort and they played with physicality."

Redshirt juniors Deuce Spann and Darion Williamson contributed early as the Seminoles' passing attack could not get much going in the first quarter. Williamson caught his first touchdown as a Seminole with an athletic 10-yard catch to open up the scoring. Johnny



FSU running back Trey Benson scores a touchdown against Southern Miss.

Wilson and Keon Coleman were both held without a reception for much of the first half.

While Coleman ended the night with three catches, a touchdown and an extremely athletic hurdle, Wilson ended the night without a catch despite being targeted five times.

The Seminoles' offense found its rhythm in the second quarter, producing its second straight 31 point half en route to FSU's eighth straight game of scoring 35 points or more. FSU's 66 points is the most points scored in the Mike Norvell era, surpassing the 59 from a

win over UMass in 2021.

All four scholarship quarterbacks made appearances, with Jordan Travis and Tate Rodemaker throwing for two touchdowns. True freshman Brock Glenn broke a 34-yard run that was enabled by a Hykeem Williams block. Eleven receivers

caught passes over the course of the game — three of them being true freshman. Hykeem Williams, Destyn Hill and Vandrevius Jacobs all caught their first pass as a Seminole. Jacobs checked off multiple firsts, as his lone reception was also his first touchdown reception.

FSU DOMINATES SOUTHERN MISS

While Trey Benson had a hat trick of touchdowns, backup running backs Caziah Holmes and Rodney Hill contributed strong, physical runs that gashed the Golden Eagles defense. Holmes earned his first touchdown as a Seminole with a 40-yard touchdown run.

"Caziah is one of my closest RB's on the team," Benson said. "I'm talking to him every single day. We hang out outside of football. Seeing him out there today — I almost cried for him. I know what he has been through these past few years and I'm excited to see the future for him."

Lawrance Toafili also had an impressive run but to call him a back-

up feels like it would be demeaning to how explosive and valuable he continues to be for this Florida State offense.

Defensively, multiple young players saw action throughout the second half including many true freshmen. Quindarius Jones made a pair of nice plays in coverage after letting up a touchdown late last week against LSU. Blake Nichelson ended the game with the most registered tackles, and defensive backs Edwin Joseph, Jabril Rawls and Conrad Hussey had multiple pass break ups.

"It prepares you for when your time comes," linebacker Kalen DeLoach said. "I want all of our young guys to get reps so when it's time, they play full speed and with no hesitation. It was a good thing for our young guys to get their feet wet, to understand the game speed and to go out and communicate. The game is faster compared high school. I thought they did a good job tonight, getting the opportunity to go out there and compete."

War Eagles beat Munroe

From Page 14

until we reach our goal at the end of the season," Klees said.

Players of the Week were quarterback Haden Klees as MVP. He completed 16 passes on 21 attempts for 375 yards 5 touchdowns and no interceptions in the first half.

Offensive Player of the Game was Samron Brinson who tallied up 119 yards on 4 receptions and 3 touchdowns including an amazing diving one handed grab in the endzone in the 2nd quarter and that's after pulling a muscle last week and coming into this game a true

game time decision.

Defensive Player of the Game went to Brandon Burton who finished the game with 6 tackles and a big fumble recovery that set up an early score for the War Eagles.

Special Teams Player of the Week went to Owen Klees who piloted a successful fake field goal passing for a touchdown to get the War Eagles on the board early and set the tempo for their match-up ahead.

Through three contests this War Eagle squad has put up some impressive numbers on both sides of the ball. The offense has passed

for 14 touchdowns on 996 yards with no interceptions and rushed for 2 touchdowns on 281 yards. The defense has been dominating only allowing 24 points through three contests (7 points over the last two games combined)

and have 9 sacks, 6 interceptions, and 3 fumble recoveries.

The War Eagles are now 3-0 on the season and have a Friday night Florida vs. Georgia matchup taking on Seminole County (1-2) from Donalsonville, Ga.

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Next game:

Friday, Sept. 15 at 7 p.m.

Wakulla War Eagles host the Seminole County (Ga.) Indians at J.D. Jones Stadium.



War Eagles beat Munroe, 48-7

By **CHRIS SAVARY**
Sports Correspondent

The Wakulla War Eagles returned to Reynolds Field Friday night to take on the Munroe Bobcats from Quincy for the varsity squad's home opener. The War Eagles came into this game looking to capitalize on the momentum gained from their first two victories all secured on the road against Chiles (21-17) and Balboa (41-0). Munroe arrived for the matchup having lost their first matchup last week against Mobile Christian (31-0). These two squads met last year at Munroe with the War Eagles taking the game 43-13.

After both teams opened drives that stalled the War Eagles opened up the offense, amped up the aggression defensively, and never looked back. The first touchdown of the game came in the 1st quarter with a surprise fake field goal attempt when the War Eagles drive stalled to a fourth and goal at the Munroe 6-yard line. Right before the snap kicker Luis Quintonilla and holder Owen Klees switched positions with Klees taking the direct snap finding Tanner Lanier wide open in the end zone for the first of what would be seven War Eagle touchdowns in this game.

Later in the 1st quarter the War Eagles would

get the ball back after Marcus Gardner made a crushing hit on the Munroe quarterback forcing him to fumble the ball. Linebacker Brandon Burton scooped up the forced fumble and returned it to the Munroe 23-yard line. From there the War Eagles scored quickly on a pass from quarterback Haden Klees to receiver Samron Brinson on a one play 22-yard strike. The 1st quarter would end with the War Eagles up 14-0.

The 2nd quarter saw the War Eagles absolutely take over, control and dominate the game. Hayden Klees and Brinson would connect again early in the 2nd on a 46-yard touchdown pass to put the War Eagles up 21-0. After yet another stingy defensive effort the War Eagle offense took advantage scoring again on a 26-yard touchdown pass from Hayden Klees to Brinson putting the War Eagles up on Munroe 28-0 with plenty of time left before the half. The War Eagle offense put two more touchdowns on the scoreboard before halftime. A 28-yard touchdown pass from Hayden Klees to Nehemiah Chandler and a 42-yard touchdown pass from Hayden Klees to Jeremiah Thomas put the War Eagles up 41-0 at the half.

Under FHSAA rules when a team goes up by



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PHOTOS BY KEN FIELDS

War Eagle linebacker Brandon Burton scoops up a Bobcat fumble.

35 points or more officials install a running clock for the second half. With the War Eagles starting the second half up by 41 points the hometown team operated the second half with a running clock for the second game in a row. With the matchup in hand, Head Coach Scott Klees elected to use this half to get much-needed snaps for many of the team's second string players and underclass-

men who we will see action out of in the future.

The second half moved very quickly with the clock only stopping for timeouts or official stoppage. The War Eagles continued to play with aggression resulting in numerous defensive stops and tough offensive efforts. Munroe's lone score in the game came in the fourth quarter with the game in hand. Wakulla added one more score in the

fourth as well with a 5-yard touchdown rush from Sion Ransom, his second rushing touchdown in the last two games. The game ended with Wakulla winning 48-7 moving to 3-0 on the season.

After the game Head Coach Scott Klees said, "I'm just so proud of this team right now. We continue to improve each week and that's what we look for as coaches. All three phases of this

team are playing at a high level, the offense is clicking on all cylinders, the defense is lights out playing fast and aggressive and creating turnovers, and the special teams is also hitting the marks and gets better each week.

"We still have a long season ahead of us and the competition only gets tougher from here so we need to remain focused, keep improving and have a desire to do

Turn to Page 13

COACH'S CORNER

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COACH Scott Klees

FROM THE COACH

Scouting report: All Georgia teams are highly disciplined. Seminole County's offense is a mix of the spread and the old-fashioned single wing.

Keys to victory: How quickly the defense can figure out the Seminoles offense and adjust to it.

Last week: Played very well right from the beginning and went up 42-0 before the half.



Running back Bradley Kelly had 11 carries for 49 yards.



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