



Partly Cloudy

Hi: 88° Lo: 68° 22%
Sunrise 7:25 AM
Sunset 7:35 PM



Sunny

Hi: 87° Lo: 65° 5%
Sunrise 7:26 AM
Sunset 7:34 PM



Mostly Sunny

Hi: 86° Lo: 66° 9%
Sunrise 7:26 AM
Sunset 7:33 PM



Photos on Page 13



\$1
One Section

Locally Owned & Operated

Our 2nd Year 38th Issue
Thursday, September 21, 2023

CITY OF ST. MARKS

Concern about rate increases

Some city residents are shocked by the 75% increase in water, sewer bills – from \$80 a month to \$140

By LEGION TAYLOR and LYNDIA KINSEY

A group of St. Marks residents led by Tim Roach appeared at last week's St. Marks City Commission meeting to request a workshop about the steep increase recently in the city's water and sewer rates.

At the City Hall meeting on Thursday, Sept. 14, the residents expressed concerns that the rate increase had blindsided many of them, and that a workshop should be held both to discuss the rate increase and to brainstorm other ways of raising money for St. Marks, rather than the residents paying directly.

During last month's City Commission meeting, the commissioners voted to raise the prices of the city's water utilities by 75%, the first increase in the city's water utilities in several years. For many, the increase came as a surprise, with Roach stating at the meeting that one woman thought her bill had gone up because she had company stay with her over the course of the month, not realizing there had been a rate increase.

The residents suggested a few possible solutions, such as looking into ways to reduce expenses as much as possible or to increase revenue from other sources, such as collecting boat ramp fees. Roach also brought up that many of the residents who were affected felt as though City Hall wasn't communicating these decisions very well, and they wanted to ensure that was discussed.

No date or time was set for the



PHOTO BY LYNDIA KINSEY

St. Marks residents held a community meeting last week at Bo Lynn's to discuss their concerns about the steep 75% increase in rates for water and sewer. They asked for a town workshop the next night at the city commission meeting to come up with ideas.

workshop during the meeting.

A day earlier, Wednesday, Sept. 13, a group of residents met at Bo Lynn's store to discuss their concerns about the city's utility rates.

"When I first got my bill and saw that the increase went from \$83 to \$144, I went through town passing

out these flyers," Roach said, adding: "And this is just for water, sewage and trash."

"My toilet flushes fine but the water doesn't taste any better," Roach said.

More than 30 people attended the Wednesday community meeting expressing various concerns.

One citizen thought that the city was spending too much money on a city manager while other small cities operate for much less, St. Marks is a city of only 302 people.

Discussions came up about the boat ramp fees not being collected and

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Coastal Cleanup held Saturday

By TAMMIE NASON of KWCB

Keep Wakulla County Beautiful participated in the 38th Annual International Coastal Cleanup on Saturday, Sept. 16.

With the support of Waste-Pro, Wakulla County and other sponsors, we had an outstanding turnout with hundreds of volunteers. Volunteers met at sites at Mashas Sands, Woolley Park, Bottoms Road, Shell Point, San Marcos de Apalache, and St.

Marks Lighthouse. We also had divers that cleaned in the St. Marks River near the boat ramp.

This year we offered event T-shirts that had artwork by local artist Rachell Mathis.

KWCB and the 4-H Team CERT program had worked together on a litter campaign. The 4-H teens then worked with Rachell on eye-catching artwork for anti-litter signs that can be seen throughout the county. One of these designs is now the

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PHOTO SPECIAL TO THE SUN

CITY OF SOPCHOPPY

Discussions with D.R. Horton over possible well site

By LEGION TAYLOR Reporter

The Sopchoppy City Council meeting last Monday once again was focused on the issue of wells and water, progressing the acquisition of land that had been discussed in previous meetings.

Stewart Haire came to the meeting on behalf of the D.R. Horton construction company to discuss the possibility of trading land for a well for the city water system. Haire asked for a letter from the city that would allow Horton to go ahead with purchasing land for a new subdivision.

The city commission is considering the offer, as it would likely be much cheaper for the city if they were given this land rather than purchasing a different location for \$150,000. The commission was still unsure, however, because if they did go through with the deal with Horton, they don't know if they'd be able to have the well up and running by the time the proposed subdivision would be constructed, which could potentially mean costly expansion to an already overtaxed water grid, or leave a hundred-plus new homes without water.

Rather than make a decision they're unsure of, the city commissioners decided to have a dialogue with Horton's representatives, and have some studies done to make sure the property is good for the well site before proceeding any further.

They haven't yet gone through with the purchase of land that has been discussed at the last few meetings, as the state Department of Environmental Protection hasn't sent through all the paperwork needed to determine if the site is good or not.

City commissioners said they would rather wait rather than make a rushed decision and end up regretting it.

The city commission also discussed putting proportional share fees on the wells that new developments are tapping into, which would force the developers building and selling these homes to pay a percentage of the well's cost based on the

Turn to Page 3



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



Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park

Water cowbane



A member of the carrot family, it attracts many pollinators.

By LYNN ARTZ, SANDY TEDDER and DAVID RODDENBERRY

Water cowbane (*Tiedemannia filiformis* subsp. *filiformis*) is a wetland wildflower that bursts into bloom in shallow freshwater in late summer and early fall. Numerous small white flowers form umbels, flower clusters with equal length stalks from a common center. The dainty flowers attract many pollinators. Black swallowtail caterpillars depend on this member of the carrot family as a food source. Water cowbane grows naturally in Florida in marshes, bogs, wet prairies, along small streams, and in roadside ditches. Rarely for sale in nurseries, this wildflower grows easily from seed. Flower stalks reach 4-5 feet tall in full sun in wet organic muck. Water cowbane deserves inclusion in wetland gardens, bog gardens, rain gardens, and restoration areas. Water cowbane is blooming now in the pond at Sopchoppy Depot Park.

Student of the Week

Jayson Reams – Shadeville Elementary School

Principal: Timothy Wheeler

Achievements/Reason for Nomination: His teacher Mrs. Ro Samlal says, "Jayson loves to know the rules and is a stickler for following them. He has been a great role model to his friends in the classroom and has helped new students learn and follow the classroom rules and expectations."



STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.



SCAN ME for an electronic edition of this



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WMS Wildcats sweep competition at tourney

Special to The Sun

The Wakulla Wildcats headed to Tallahassee early Saturday morning to compete in the Holy Comforter Invitational Volleyball Tournament. The tournament consisted of 8 local teams, all competing for the #1 spot. The WMS team had stiff competition against heavy hitters Holy Comforter, Maclay, and the School of Math and Science. After a long day games, the Wildcats remained undefeated and headed to the championship game against the host team. The Wakulla Wildcats arose victorious against the Holy Comforter Crusaders and claimed their duly deserved No. 1 championship title.

This stunning achievement and level of play could not have been ascertained without the perseverance and dedication of their coach Sara Balkcom.



Wildcats Sophia Stolk, Olivia Barksdale, Hailey Carroll, Taylor Mercer, Maddison Hart, McKenna Peddicord, Alexis Nichols, Hayden Jones, Jordan Hubbell, and Alyson Terrell.

Big Bend Hospice in Franklin Co.

Special to The Sun

Big Bend Hospice celebrated the opening of their new Franklin County office in Eastpoint earlier this month. Although BBH has been providing end-of-life care for Franklin County residents for over 40 years, having a permanent office in the area provides opportunities to offer additional programs and services.

“Hosting caregiver workshops, bereavement counseling, and Veteran recognition events are just a few ways we intend to use this space,” says Sharon Davidson, Director of Community Engagement for BBH.



Mary Tufnell, BBH, Sharon Davidson, BBH, Sheriff AJ Smith, and Kara Walker, BBH.

“Staff will also use this office in between patient visits.”

BBH staff invited the

community to an open house on Sept. 7th. Over 30 stakeholders stopped by to learn more about

the services available through BBH. In addition to enjoying lunch provided by Chef Gormley, a local favorite, they also received information about the upcoming Dealing with Dementia workshop for caregivers on Oct. 25th and a new volunteer orientation to be held on Nov. 17th. If you would like to learn more about becoming a BBH Volunteer, please contact Kara Walker @ kmwalker@bigbendhospice.org.

To learn more about the Dealing with Dementia workshop please contact Susan Droessler at sddroessler@bigbendhospice.org or call 850-878-5310.

School bus involved in near-accident

Staff Report

A Wakulla County School bus was involved in an accident early Monday morning, according to the Florida Highway Patrol.

The school bus with 28 passengers, driven by a 73-year-old man, was stopped at a stop sign on Dan Miller Road facing southbound. A motorcycle being ridden by a 52-year-old Crawfordville man was traveling westbound on Bloxham Cutoff.

The school bus failed to yield the right of way to the motorcycle as it turned left onto Bloxham Cutoff, according to FHP. This caused the motorcycle to overturn onto the right side. The school bus stopped on the south shoulder and the motorcycle came to final rest at Dan Miller Road. There was no collision between the two vehicles. The motorcyclist suffered minor injuries. There were no injuries reported to students on the school bus.

FHP does not release names of people involved in wrecks citing the agency’s interpretation of Marsy’s Law.

St. Marks

From Front Page

that no one puts money in the envelopes.

Allen Hobbs, former owner of Shell Island Fish Camp who had served for decades on the city commission, expressed alternative options such as selling the old Seminole Refinery property on the St. Marks River.

Most of the residents stated that they didn’t know anything about the increase until they got their monthly bill and more than half raised their hand when asked how many were on fixed incomes.

Ryder Rudd, a former city commissioner who stepped down because a state ethics law prevents lobbyists from holding elected office and whose wife, Sharon Rudd, was

appointed to the city commission seat he had held, said that changes need to occur, adding that a new city commission was just elected and citizens need to just give them a chance.

“The water and wastewater fund had been drastically under funded,” Rudd said, adding that the issue was neglected for 10 years and the city needs to catch up on rates.

Rudd said he thought the city has bunch of commissioners who care and are going to get this city headed in the right direction. There is also a new city attorney and this guy is sharp.”

Others agreed that smaller increases over a longer period of time would have been much easier for residents to

handle.

Resident Billy Bishop suggested that they appoint someone to speak for the group and ask for a workshop at the commission meeting where everyone can throw out their ideas and concerns.

“A spokesperson could ask for the workshop,” Bishop said. “If everyone gets up there saying the same things over and over the commissioners are going stop hearing it after a while.”

Roach was appointed to be the spokesperson for the group with Lucy Gee as alternate at the city commission meeting to be held the following evening.

In other matters:

- Shadrach Hines spoke on behalf of the St. Marks Waterfronts Florida committee asking for community help for the Brew Fest set for Oct. 28.

Profits from the Fest will be put back into St. Marks to improve things around the city.

- The Community Re-development Area that St. Marks had put in place in 2007 still hasn’t reached the threshold needed for it to pay off, both because of the slow growth of the city and because of the inflated prices of the housing market when the CRA was implemented. The city commission isn’t sure the CRA is right for St. Marks anymore, but they’re going to keep an eye on it and see before making any decisions.

- New City Attorney Bill Garner has been asked to look into the way laws have been applied when it comes to the construction of pole barns within the city of St. Marks, but at the time of the meeting had no conclusive results yet.

Sopchoppy

From Front Page

percentage of the well’s output their development will use.

This would mean that if a new development were to use 5% of the maximum amount of water that well could pump, it would have to pay 5% of the costs to construct the well. That way, the City of Sopchoppy would lose far less money on the wells, and be able to use that money to improve things elsewhere.

In other matters:

- The local 4-H club came to the meeting to request the monetary support of the City of Sopchoppy, and after a brief presentation about what 4-H is all about, the city commission decided to support them at the same level they did last year, which amounts to \$1,000.

- The city commission unanimously adopted the operating budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year, with no debate.

- A motion was read to close an alley on Wakulla Street. The city commission decided that rather than closing all alleys all at once, they would close them down as they were requested to save staff the hassle of paperwork. They were fine with closing the alley, but some paperwork still needs to be done by the city staff before it can be officially closed.

- The “Light the Night” event was approved to be held at Sopchoppy’s Depot Park on Oct. 28th.

Coastal Cleanup

From Front Page

artwork for the event T-shirts.

In partnership with volunteer organizations and individuals around the globe, the International Coastal Cleanup engages people to remove trash from the world’s beaches and waterways. Thanks to volunteers around the world, the ICC has become a beacon of hope, leading and inspiring action in support of our ocean. Since its beginning, over 16 million volunteers have collected more than 340 million pounds of trash. Held in more than 100 countries around the world every September, the International Coastal Cleanup is the world’s largest effort to rid the ocean and waterways of plastics and marine debris and Keep Wakulla County Beautiful is proud to be among

those participating.

After the cleanup, all the volunteers were invited to Woolley Park for lunch. Volunteers helped in grilling and serving hot dogs provided by Winn Dixie, in appreciation for their efforts. Beverages were supplied from Pepsi Refreshment Services and chips & cookies from KWCB through the sponsors. While lunch was being served, entertainment was provided by Kevin Andrew and Rockkulla students and Chris “Cottonmouth” Perry. Several drawings were held with prizes from local merchants and the “Weigh Your Butts” cigarette litter prize was won by the Cub Pack 5 and 4H.

The cigarette litter collected will be retained and added to, then sent to Terracycle. Terracycle recycles them into useful objects including park

benches and ash trays.

We also had an opportunity to show off our new supply trailer. It will be used to transport supplies to and from events and cleanups. The trailer features photos from local photographers of photos that show of some of Wakulla County’s beauty and wildlife. On the back is featuring some of our sponsors that are committed to helping us keep our community beautiful. The photos were submitted by local photographers and then judge online and by board members and other county residents. Photographers that have the images featured are Ashlee Barton, Justin Putnam, Patricia Collins, Mary DeGreef, Nicole Afyouni, Barbara Lollie, Tom Slade, Bob Strauss, & Degreta Corbin. The trailer also features the artwork from Rachell Mathis, that is on the t-shirts.

The cleanup yielded

approximately 6 tons of trash including everything from the usual cigarette litter and single use plastics to an old camera, corded phone, vehicle parts, furniture, and an old pool liner. The trash collected was removed from shorelines, wooded areas, nearby streets, and in the water along the Wakulla County coastline.

We are very thankful at Keep Wakulla County Beautiful for our wonderful sponsors, KWCB board members and volunteers. The 2023 KWCB board members are President Jim Davis, President Elect Steve Sanabria, Secretary Ethel Jefferson, Treasurer Marc Dickieson, Joe Morgan, Greg James, Lesley Cushman, Steve Cushman, Debbie Singletary, June Davis, Christina Sanabria. These members, sponsors and volunteers are the people that make these events possible and successful.

PUBLIC NOTICES:

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



ADVERTISEMENT TO BID

WAKULLA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD REQUEST FOR MECHANICAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR RIVERSPRINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL HVAC RENOVATIONS AND UPGRADES

The Wakulla County School Board is accepting proposals for Mechanical Engineering Services to provide planning, design and construction administration for HVAC Renovations and Upgrades for portions of Riversprings Middle School. All those interested should submit (4) four copies of the following: Resume, SF330 Form or equivalent, list of references and qualifications to Robert Pearce, Superintendent of Wakulla County Schools, P.O. Box 100, 69 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida 32327 by 10:00 A.M. on October 20, 2023.

Sept 20 2023

Opinions

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

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

LETTERS FROM READERS

On last week's front page

Editor, The Sun:

Re: Sept. 14th front page photo on Brad Harvey's sentencing:

Bill & Lynda,

Having done a lot of Photography in my life from a windup 8mm movie camera & owning one of the first B&W instant cameras, I consider myself a semi-pro.

However, that front page photo by your staff member, Lynda Kinsey, of Mr. Havey's arrest, blew me away. Ms. Kinsey captured that absolutely perfectly!

Congratulations on having her continue with you! Her work is superb!

Bill Catalina
Crawfordville

Editor, The Sun:

Good work on the front page this week!

Running the picture as large as you

did was a paramount message to the crime of stealing from the taxpayers.

Ray Cade
Crawfordville

Headstone repair workshop set

Editor, The Sun:

On Saturday, Oct. 7th, the Wakulla County Historical Society in partnership with the Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN) will be holding the first ever Cemetery Resource Protection Training - Plus (CRPT+).

This full-day workshop, led by FPAN archaeologist Nigel Rudolph, will start in the Richardson Cemetery at 9 a.m. with some demonstrations of headstone repair techniques. We will then break for lunch and reconvene at the Old Jail Museum & Archives to discuss headstone repair in more detail from 1 to 4 p.m.

Richardson Cemetery is located at

the northeast corner of Hwy. 98 and Spring Creek Hwy. The workshop will meet there from 9 a.m. to noon.

After a one hour break for lunch the workshop will reconvene at the Old Jail Museum & Archives, 24 High Drive, behind the courthouse.

Wear outdoor clothes and closed-toed shoes.

Be sure to bring water!
Suggested donation of \$25 to help cover costs (not mandatory)

For questions or to register, please contact Debbie Jay at debbiejay@wakullahistory.org.

Debby Jay
Wakulla County Historical Society

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.

Festival of Joy is Saturday

Editor, The Sun:

Wakulla County, JOY-Filled Journeys is having another event. It is our annual fundraiser Festival of JOY, an event for the special needs community of Wakulla County will be on Saturday, Sept. 23 from 2 to 5 p.m. at Wakulla Springs Lodge.

The event is free for those with special needs and a nominal fee for any other attendees.

We welcome all of Wakulla to come out and have fun while sup-

porting our special needs community.

There will be carnival games, face painting, boat rides, food, treats and much much more.

Please visit our Facebook page facebook.com/JOYfuljourneyscorp to register by Sept. 20.

For more information on this event please call Mary Wallace 850-228-5667.

Mary Wallace
Crawfordville

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*Photo with a Unicorn
*Touch a Firetruck & Patrol Car
*Facepainting & Tattoo
* Boat Tour if you haven't had one before

REGISTER NOW >

FESTIVAL OF JOY

Saturday, September 23, 2023
2 PM - 5 PM
The Lodge at Wakulla Springs

On the Horizon

Calendar of events for the week of Sept. 21

Thursday, September 21

- The Wakulla War Eagles have an away game at Mosley in Lynn Haven at 7 p.m.
- 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.
- **Tobacco Free Partnership Meeting,**

4p.m.. Wakulla County Health Department.

Friday, September 22

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

Saturday, September 23

- The Festival of Joy, an event for Wakulla's special needs kids, will be held at the Lodge at Wakulla Springs from 2 to 5 p.m.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

Monday, September 25

- 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 26

- 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 27

- 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.

Upcoming:

Saturday, September 30

- The Blue Crab festival will be held in

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William Snowden
Editor & Publisher
The Wakulla Sun

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

"It's A New Day!"

The Wakulla Sun

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Out of State - \$60/yr. - \$35/6 mo.

◀ Question of The Week ▶

– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

Polled at Rotary Club of Wakulla's annual Boots & Bingo fundraiser:

BOOTS or BINGO?



BHAVESHRI PATEL
SYSTEMS ANALYST

Bing, I just enjoy it. Nice way to spend your time."



ASHLEY MCDONALD
MARIE MACK BOUTIQUE SALON

"Boots - I cant sit still long enough for Bingo."



MELISSA HUNT
NURSE

"Bingo!"



ELENA MYHRE

"BOOTS! I've got to go with fashion!"



EILEEN SMITH

Bing! It's more fun. I had boots on but they were killing my feet."

COMMUNITY NEWS

Buckhorn News

By **ETHEL SKIPPER**

Someone asked me a question about friendship. We don't talk of friendship these days. Most people are so busy, they don't need friends.

The truth is they don't have time for friends. I want to share this with you about true friendship: A friend loveth at all times, even when the world forsakes you.

A friend will gladly suffer privation and want in any way possible to bring you comfort, and do all he or she can

for your happiness without expecting to receive anything back.

A friend will penetrate the raging, fiery flames, will go around and endure untold hardship, pain and suffering. Friendship lives in the heart, grows in the mind, travels in speech.

Friendship is the surety of peace, the seal of love.

Proverbs 18:24 "A man who has friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."

A friend loveth at all times, and a

true friend will do you no wrong. As Christians, we have the greater friend, who is Jesus Christ our Father. Let us abide in Him and His love, keep His commandments.

He tells us, "Greater love hath no man this that a man lay down his life for his friends."

WE don't have to lay down our lives, but we can pray for one another and be there when they need us.

True friends are not easy to find. They are life-given to keep.

We wish a happy birthday to these lovely ladies: Mother Dove Rosier Sept. 13 and Dr. Davis on Sept. 26. The psalms tell us the days of our life are

three score years and 10, and if by reason of strength they be four score years.

Skipper Temple Church will honor one of their deaconesses, Colleen Mitchel, on Saturday, Sept. 30 at 3 p.m. The service is open to all family and friends. Speaker will be Deaconess Peathre Johnson from Woodville Church of Christ Written in Heaven, pastor Elder Steve Jackson.

Let us pray for all the sick and shut-in, those in the hospital, nursing homes, those in prison, the homeless, those that have lost loved ones and all in need of help.

Wakulla Station News

By **VERNA BROCK**

Finally, we can welcome slightly cooler, slightly less humid weather to North Florida! Now if it will only last, we could all breathe a sigh of relief. I have been able to actually tuck in and do some gardening without flirting with heat stroke.

Fall is such a glorious season, with all my ginger plants blooming, and my "hurricane lilies" (aka, spider lilies) popping up. My summer flowers

are fading, my winter shrubs' buds are swelling, and leaves are just beginning to change colors. After the sweltering summer we've all had, it is hard not to jump the gun on Autumn. I know you feel it too.

At the end of this month, Saturday, the 30th, Panacea will once again celebrate the Blue Crab and its rich history of harvesting the bay. After several years' absence due to Covid precautions, it promises to be a really good family time. Mark your

calendars and join us for a great parade and festival!

If your church, civic organization or business wants to participate in the parade or have a booth, you can find registration forms at the Blue Crab Facebook page. There is no fee to be in the parade, and fees for a booth are listed with the registration forms. Come on out and have a great time with friends and visitors alike.

Birthday blessings to Alex Hernandez and Rosa Maria Fay, who both celebrated their natal days this month. Hope they both had wonderful birthdays!

Your prayers are deeply appreciated for both baby Bennie Mott and baby Sebastian Mosely as they recover from serious health issues. Both are fighters and holding their own, praise God!

In a few weeks the Wakulla Station United Methodist Church will be celebrating Homecoming. Whether you are a friend, family, or just curious, you are invited to join us at 10 a.m. for worship service and at 11 a.m. for a delicious covered dish dinner full of faith, food, and fellowship.

Sheriff's Report

This report is for activity Sept. 8 to 14:

FRIDAY, SEPT. 8

- A traffic stop was conducted on a vehicle for faulty equipment. The driver was identified as Patrick Manges. Further investigation revealed Manges had a stolen firearm in his possession, along with marijuana and THC butter. He was additionally charged with possession of narcotics with intent to sell and possession of a weapon during the commission of a felony. Manges was arrested and transported to the Wakulla County Jail. Deputy Zac Monroe investigated.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 9

- Deputy Todd Kent responded to Mossy Drive reference a theft. Darren Murphy reported his two katanas stolen. Darren identified a possible suspect in the case. Dar-

ren advised the swords were real and valued the swords at \$250-300. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

MONDAY, SEPT. 11

- An employee reported an unknown white female taking items from the Dollar General, at 3134 Crawfordville Highway, without paying for them. The investigation identified Joyce Andrew as the suspect in the case. Andrew was located by deputies and provided with a notice to appear in court for the theft. Deputy Kory Smith investigated.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 12

- Deputy Arturo Cordoba responded to the Wakulla Health Department in reference to a complainant finding some clothing and other items in the wood line. Upon arrival Deputy Cordoba took possession of two bags of clothes and some miscellaneous medications. The proper-

ty was turned in to Evidence for destruction.

- Deputy Kory Smith responded to Flossy's Hair Salon in reference to the owner finding anti-theft devices in the parking lot. Upon arrival Deputy Smith took possession of four anti-theft "push-outs" from the complainant. Deputy Smith then made contact with staff at Walmart. Walmart confirmed the devices were theirs but was unable to tell when they were stolen.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 13

- Deputy Dakota Haddock responded to Walmart in reference to multiple thefts occurring over several days. Contact was made with asset protection staff who advised two females and a male entered the store and stole miscellaneous items passing the last point of sale multiple times the last few days. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

- Deputy Jake Scott responded to a home on Mohican Trail to speak with James Hooker, who reported

his ex-boss pointed a gun at him a couple of weeks ago. Hooker said he didn't report the incident earlier because was worried for his family's safety. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 14

- Anthony Mildred reported his storage unit had been burglarized. Mildred stated a guitar was valued at \$800 was the only thing taken. There were cameras, however they were outdated and non-working. Lt. Gibby Gibson investigated.

- Micahlyn Jeziorski reported fraudulent activity on a business's bank account. Jeziorski reported an employee had deposited a fraudulent check into their personal account in the amount of \$2,951. An affidavit for prosecution was signed by Jeziorski. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Zac Monroe investigated.

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

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HOME ON THE RANGE

Tips for women, mature women and men



By MARJ LAW

Yes, women, mature women and men are different. When it comes to shooting your first handgun, wouldn't you rather have the size and the big-boned physique of a 30-year-old man? Notice the helpful videos on YouTube. Young men at a range show you how to shoot 9mm, .38, .40 or .45-caliber guns. They hit the target many times. Easy peasy. No problem!

But there is a problem. We're built differently.

Yesterday, at Walmart, a woman wanted a case of 12 bottles of water. Wouldn't you know, it's on the top shelf.

She has a tool to move the case closer to the edge of the shelf. Then she looks at the case. She starts to raise her arms. She looks at the case again.

Then, she turns around and sees a 30-ish young man about to pass her cart.

"Would you mind helping me?" she asks.

In a flash, the good guy reaches up, lifts down the case, and puts it in her buggy.

"Thank you so much!" she calls as he waves and continues on.

Could she have lifted the case herself? Maybe. Did she want to chance it? No.

And this is a huge problem when it comes to some people and guns. What's easy for a 30-year-old young man is not so easy for a mature woman, or even a mature man.

Often, a first suggestion from a man for a woman is that she should have a .38 snub-nose air weight revolver for defense.

"It is just point and shoot, it will never jam, it will fit in your purse, and it has great take-down power when you need it," he will say.

Pretty close to true. So, what's the prob?

In the 12 years that Joe and I have assisted women shooting, only three of them shot their .38s well and happily. All the others who had .38s (and there have been many), hated their guns and never shot them again, or sold them for something they really liked and could handle.

The problem here is that this snubby .38 has a long and very hard trigger pull and a really hard recoil.

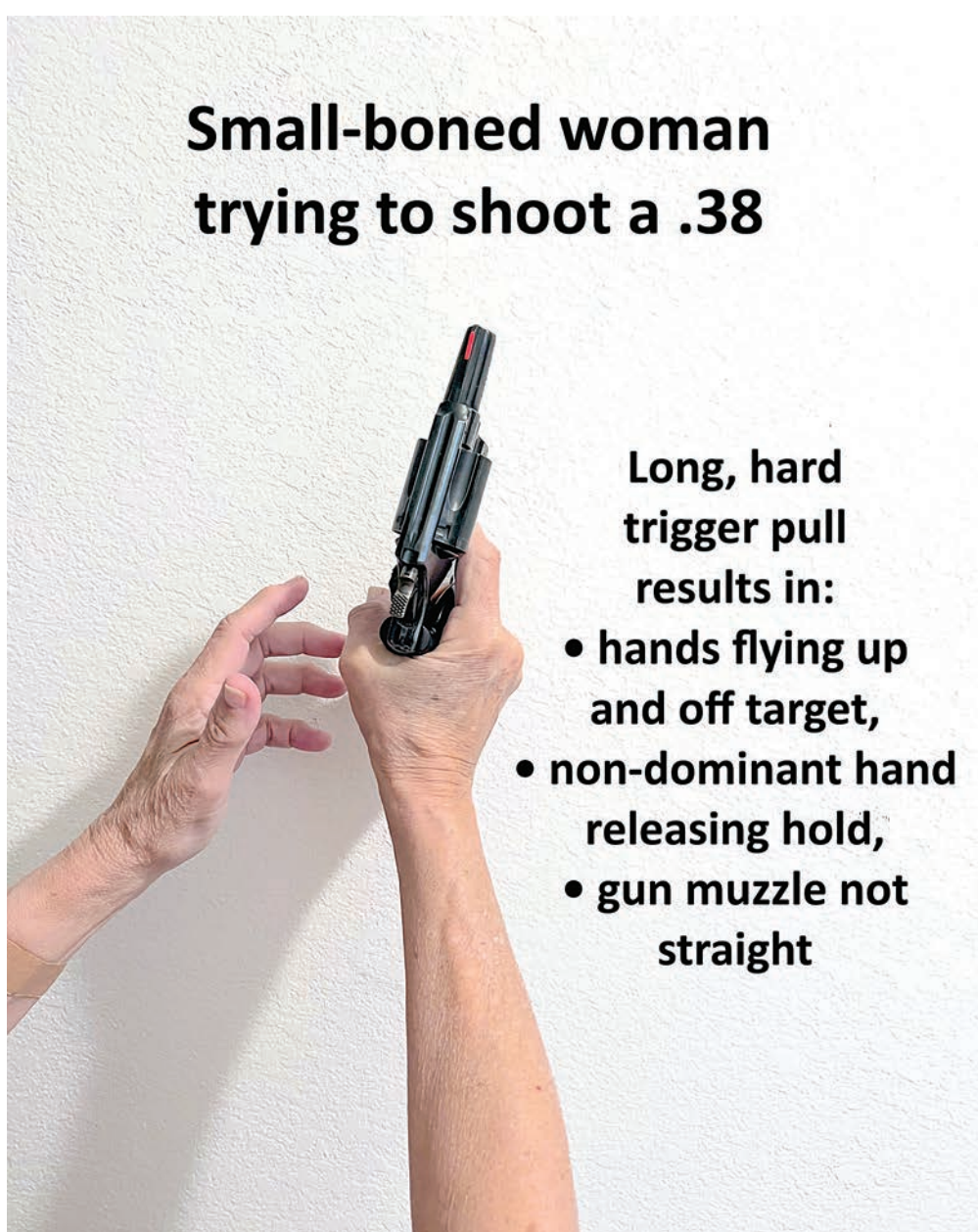
Yes, it's light and fits in her purse, but because it is light, it has no mass to take up some of that dreaded recoil. The recoil is so harsh that it makes a woman's hands fly up in the air right after she shoots.

Now, if Mr. Bad had friends, how long would it take her to bring down her arms and aim that gun again? It may be too late.

Also, if you want to become proficient with your gun, will you want to practice with your .38? Probably not. So, you won't be very secure with it when you need it.

Many ranges have handguns you can rent. This way, you'll know which gun you can handle easily and comfortably. So, when you see the YouTube videos of young men shooting, take them with a grain of salt. Find something that works for you.

Since you're new to handguns, and gun ownership is a huge responsibility, a beginner's class or a concealed carry class or both will give you a whole lot of information. This is such a good idea. You'll learn about safety, when and where you can carry



Small-boned woman trying to shoot a .38

Long, hard trigger pull results in:

- hands flying up and off target,
- non-dominant hand releasing hold,
- gun muzzle not straight

a gun, how to point and shoot, how to make sure no one else can get at your guns, and so many other pieces of information that will make you more comfortable even before you own a gun. Knowledge is a very good thing.

For your first few times, take a range experienced person with you. That person can help you remember important instructions.

Read all the signs at the range. More knowledge. Know what "hot" and "cold" means. Buy eye and ear protection. Now you have some background about shooting.

What to wear? What to wear?

No, we're not just being girlie. First, scoopy-necked T-shirts may draw attention to some of your assets, but those shirts are not for the range. When a semi-automatic

handgun ejects a shell, the shell flies out, usually to the right or in front of the shooter. This very hot casing goes up, then comes down.

If you're wearing a scoopy shirt, this is a logical place for the shell to fall. Hot, hot, hot. Burn. You'll pull your shirt away from your body, and dance the hot-shell Watusi to get that casing out.

The answer is to wear a high-necked T-shirt, or to button up all your buttons to your neck.

Another way to keep the casings away from you is to wear a ballcap. Yes, you'll have eye protection, but a cap's brim helps to keep those hot casings away from your face or from sliding between your glasses and your face.

Casings are very hot, but if they fly, touch you and fly right off, they really don't burn. It's just when

they stay on you for a few seconds that you'll get a red mark. So, don't let a casing have a way to stay touching you.

I'm going to add 7 things I think are important to most women and most mature women and men:

1. You, yourself, choose your gun.

2. You, yourself, choose how to carry it, depending on your personal comfort and best access while keeping it hidden from others.

3. Lean a bit forward when you shoot. Many people have a tendency to lean backwards. Don't do it! Think about sending your child to his room. "Go!" and you point your index finger, and lean forward as you point. That's about the way to incline your body for shooting.

4. Choose how much of your index finger to

place on the trigger. I was taught to put just the tip of the index finger on the trigger. Instead, do what works for you. Joe puts his finger up to that first knuckle. Do whatever keeps your finger securely on the trigger and helps you to squeeze through the trigger pull. And, of course, keep your finger entirely off the trigger until you are ready to shoot.

5. Use your dominant hand and arm to push forward, while pulling backward with your non-dominant hand and arm. This helps to hold the gun firmly and avoid a loose grip which will take you off target.

6. Is this your self-defense gun? Make it yours. Who cares what it looks like? If you need to add a rubberized grip for a more secure hold, don't worry about how it looks. If it helps you to handle your gun, go for that slide-on grip.

7. If it helps you to keep your magazines away from your spouse's, go ahead and highlight the name on the butt of the magazine with French white nail polish. Again, looks don't count. Safety does.

A mature person's body frame gives him/her challenges that strong young people do not have. Yet, most instructional videos show young, strong people handling and shooting guns. Learn from them, but don't use their take on shooting as gospel.

Instead, go to a range and rent several handguns. Bring an experienced person with you. Try the different guns to see which works the best for you.

These are a few of many tips that you may not hear from YouTube videos.

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

BIRDING AT THE REFUGE

The importance of public lands

By DON MORROW

When I was four years old, I went over the fence.

My family had moved into a new subdivision in West Jacksonville, behind which there was a nine-acre remnant piece of longleaf pine flatwoods. It was much more interesting than my yard and the hog wire fence that separated it from the yard was easy to climb over.

I spent every day exploring those woods. There was a cypress dome to wade through and a low area full of pitcher plants and sundews. Later when my parents forced me to go to school, I would return home, head across the backyard, and climb over that fence to continue my education.

There was much to learn.

Carnivorous plants

fascinated me and I found that I could use a pocket knife to slit open old pitcher plant tubes and examine the remains of the insects that had been trapped inside.

Using a field guide from the library, I managed to identify my first bird, a Rufous-sided Towhee. In time, I outgrew my little woods and graduated to a larger patch of woods within biking distance of my house.

That nine-acre patch of longleaf pine flatwoods behind my house was nothing special. Longleaf pines once covered 90-million acres of the coastal plain in the Southeast, including most of the state of Florida. However, those woods across the fence were an important part of my life. They were like a starter drug for me,

leading to a lifelong fascination with the natural world.

When I was growing up it was much more common to have undeveloped plots of land adjacent to housing areas. They acted as accidental parks.

Today, the world is more urbanized and 83% of the U.S. population now live in either urban or suburban areas.

The woods beyond my fence that I explored as a child are now mostly a strip development. The larger patch of woods that I had graduated to is covered by 40-acres of pavement where you can buy any of several makes of cars.

Nowadays, taking a walk in the woods is not as simple as jumping over a fence. We rely on public lands: national wildlife refuges, state forests and local parks.

They belong to us as part of our birthright as American citizens.

The fourth Saturday of every September is celebrated annually as National Public Lands Day.

This year it falls on the Autumnal Equinox, Sept. 23rd. Admission to St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge will be free. The Lighthouse Keepers Quarters will be open, as will the Nature Store at the Visitor Center.

St. Marks is your National Wildlife Refuge.

Come down on the first day of Fall and celebrate National Public Lands Day on your very own refuge.

There's no fence. You can drive right in.

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



BLACK CHEEKED TONGUEFISH
(*Symphurus plagiatus*)

This flat fish, is the most common of 20 known species that live in nearshore Atlantic/Gulf water and the only one found in brackish estuary waters including the Mississippi. It grows to 8". During development one eye migrates to the opposite side so the fish has two eyes on one side. The eye side has a row of 71-86 sharp teeth but none on belly side. This fish is of little commercial value but survive in areas of high sulfur gas release which would be toxic to other fish. Flatfish are a favorite food of the Asian markets

Eukarya, Animalia, Cordata, Actinopterygii, Pleuronectiformes, Cynoglossidae

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www.gulfspecimen.org

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Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences



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Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

Sept. 21 - Sept. 27



Tide charts by tides4fishing.com



Best fishing days this month
September 14-29

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

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

St. Marks River Entrance

Th	5:27 am ▲ 3.8 ft	12:59 pm ▼ 0.4 ft	7:45 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	
Fr	12:27 am ▲ 2.0 ft	6:09 am ▲ 3.7 ft	2:21 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	9:25 pm ▲ 2.8 ft
Sa	1:32 am ▲ 2.3 ft	7:12 am ▲ 3.5 ft	3:57 pm ▼ 0.4 ft	11:07 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
Su	3:14 am ▼ 2.4 ft	9:03 am ▲ 3.4 ft	5:20 pm ▼ 0.2 ft	
Mo	12:14 am ▲ 3.4 ft	4:59 am ▼ 2.2 ft	11:02 am ▲ 3.6 ft	6:23 pm ▼ 0.0 ft
Tu	12:59 am ▲ 3.2 ft	6:14 am ▼ 1.8 ft	12:20 pm ▲ 3.9 ft	7:13 pm ▼ -0.1 ft
We	1:35 am ▲ 3.6 ft	7:10 am ▼ 1.2 ft	1:21 pm ▲ 4.1 ft	7:57 pm ▼ 0.0 ft

City of St. Marks

Th	12:47 am ▼ 1.5 ft	6:03 am ▲ 3.5 ft	2:03 pm ▼ 0.4 ft	8:21 pm ▲ 2.8 ft
Fr	1:31 am ▼ 1.8 ft	6:45 am ▲ 3.4 ft	3:25 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	10:01 pm ▲ 2.6 ft
Sa	2:36 am ▼ 2.1 ft	7:48 am ▲ 3.2 ft	5:01 pm ▼ 0.4 ft	11:43 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
Su	4:18 am ▼ 2.2 ft	9:39 am ▲ 3.2 ft	6:24 pm ▼ 0.2 ft	
Mo	12:50 am ▲ 2.9 ft	6:03 am ▼ 2.0 ft	11:38 am ▲ 3.3 ft	7:27 pm ▼ 0.0 ft
Tu	1:35 am ▲ 3.1 ft	7:18 am ▼ 1.6 ft	12:56 pm ▲ 3.6 ft	8:17 pm ▼ 0.0 ft
We	2:11 am ▲ 3.3 ft	8:14 am ▼ 1.1 ft	1:57 pm ▲ 3.9 ft	9:01 pm ▼ 0.0 ft

Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	5:40 am ▲ 3.9 ft	1:19 pm ▼ 0.6 ft	8:17 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	
Fr	12:41 am ▼ 2.2 ft	6:21 am ▲ 2.5 ft	2:47 pm ▼ 0.6 ft	10:08 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
Sa	1:48 am ▼ 2.5 ft	7:23 am ▲ 3.6 ft	4:30 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	11:46 pm ▲ 3.0 ft
Su	3:39 am ▼ 2.6 ft	9:22 am ▲ 3.5 ft	5:51 pm ▼ 0.3 ft	
Mo	12:43 am ▲ 3.3 ft	5:27 am ▼ 2.4 ft	11:26 am ▲ 3.7 ft	6:51 pm ▼ 0.1 ft
Tu	1:23 am ▲ 3.3 ft	6:39 am ▼ 1.9 ft	12:42 pm ▲ 4.0 ft	7:39 pm ▼ 0.0 ft
We	1:57 am ▲ 3.7 ft	7:33 am ▼ 1.3 ft	1:40 pm ▲ 4.3 ft	8:20 pm ▼ 0.1 ft

Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	5:19 am ▲ 2.8 ft	1:10 pm ▼ 0.3 ft	7:37 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	
Fr	12:38 am ▼ 1.3 ft	6:01 am ▲ 2.7 ft	2:32 pm ▼ 0.4 ft	9:17 pm ▲ 2.1 ft
Sa	1:43 am ▼ 1.7 ft	7:04 am ▲ 2.6 ft	4:08 pm ▼ 0.3 ft	10:59 pm ▲ 2.2 ft
Su	3:25 am ▼ 1.7 ft	8:55 am ▲ 2.5 ft	5:31 pm ▼ 0.2 ft	
Mo	12:06 am ▲ 2.4 ft	5:10 am ▼ 1.6 ft	10:54 am ▲ 2.7 ft	6:34 pm ▼ 0.0 ft
Tu	12:51 am ▲ 2.5 ft	6:25 am ▼ 1.3 ft	12:12 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	7:24 pm ▼ 0.0 ft
We	1:27 am ▲ 2.7 ft	7:21 am ▼ 0.9 ft	1:13 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	8:08 pm ▼ 0.0 ft

St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	5:30 am ▲ 3.1 ft	12:58 pm ▼ 0.3 ft	8:14 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	11:54 pm ▼ 2.0 ft
Fr	6:05 am ▲ 3.0 ft	2:18 pm ▼ 0.4 ft		
Sa	7:00 am ▲ 2.9 ft	4:02 pm ▼ 0.3 ft		
Su	8:44 am ▲ 2.8 ft	5:30 pm ▼ 0.2 ft		
Mo	1:28 am ▲ 2.6 ft	5:43 am ▼ 2.3 ft	10:43 am ▲ 2.9 ft	6:33 pm ▼ 0.0 ft
Tu	1:42 am ▲ 2.7 ft	6:41 am ▼ 1.9 ft	12:07 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	7:21 pm ▼ 0.0 ft
We	1:59 am ▲ 2.8 ft	7:25 am ▼ 1.4 ft	1:12 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	8:03 pm ▼ 0.1 ft

Dog Island West End

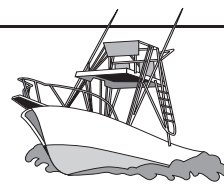
Th	5:41 am ▲ 2.8 ft	1:27 pm ▼ 0.3 ft		
Fr	6:12 am ▲ 2.8 ft	2:42 pm ▼ 0.3 ft		
Sa	6:57 am ▲ 2.7 ft	4:18 pm ▼ 0.3 ft		
Su	8:58 am ▲ 2.6 ft	5:42 pm ▼ 0.2 ft		
Mo	2:09 am ▲ 2.4 ft	6:13 am ▼ 2.2 ft	10:48 am ▲ 2.6 ft	6:53 pm ▼ 0.1 ft
Tu	2:14 am ▲ 2.4 ft	7:16 am ▼ 1.8 ft	12:10 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	7:44 pm ▼ 0.2 ft
We	2:25 am ▲ 2.5 ft	7:57 am ▼ 1.3 ft	1:27 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	8:24 pm ▼ 0.3 ft

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



Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports

By Carolyn Brown Treadon



Last weekend, Flotilla 12 conducted a post-storm patrol to verify the channel buoys and markers were intact. The crew included Tim Ashley, Bob Asztalos, Steve Hulst and Joe Storey. They were not able to make it to verify aids at the Econfina and Aucilla River entrances as seas were too rough. The crew remained in the in the St Marks channel and reviewed all aids.

As a follow-up to last week's information from The Safe Boating Campaign, boaters are encouraged to remember these additional safety tips as they head out on the water:

- Check equipment. Schedule a free vessel safety check with local U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or U.S. Power Squadrons to make sure all essential equipment is present, working, and in good condition.

- Make a float plan. Always let someone on shore know the trip itinerary, including operator and passenger information, boat type and registration, and communication equipment on board.
- Watch the weather. Always check the forecast before departing on the water and frequently during the excursion. Follow local weather ad-

Boating Emergencies

Coast Guard Station
Panama City (850) 234-4228

Coast Guard Station
Yankeetown (352) 447-6900

Coast Guard Auxiliary
Apalachee Bay (Flotilla 12) (850) 942-7500
or (850) 284-1166



Coast Guard Auxiliaries on patrol.

visories.

- Know what's going on around you at all times. Nearly a quarter of all reported boating accidents are caused by operator inattention or improper lookout.
- Know where you're going and travel at safe speeds. Be familiar with the area, local boating speed zones, and always travel at a safe speed.

- Keep in touch. Have more than one communication device that works when wet. VHF radios, emergency locator beacons, satellite phones, and cell phones can all be important devices in an emergency.

The Safe Boating Campaign is produced under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund and

administered by the U.S. Coast Guard. The campaign offers a variety of free and paid resources to support local boating safety education efforts. Learn more at www.safe-boatingcampaign.com.

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 Hulst, Staff Officer for Vessel Examinations at steve.hulst@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.

FWC Law Enforcement Report

From FWC

This report represents some events the FWC handled Sept. 1-7 in the Northwest Region. (There were no cases reported for Wakulla County.)

GULF COUNTY

- Officers Gerber and Lipford were on patrol conducting boating safety and resource inspections. During an inspection, a device capable of producing an electrical current

JACKSON COUNTY

- Officer J. Carr was conducting boating safety inspections at Magnolia Landing along the Chipola River. A vessel came to the ramp with an improperly displayed reg-

SANTA ROSA COUNTY

- Officers Valdez and

Mullins were on patrol conducting resource inspections at boat landings on Escambia River. They located two subjects recovering their vessel at Williams Landing. After contacting the subjects, the officers conducted a boating safety and resource inspection and discovered 16 largemouth bass in a cooler on the boat. The daily bag limit is five bass per person. Both subjects were charged with taking over the bag limit.

Underwater Wakulla

By Rusty Miller

Advanced scuba class continued.

The early evening dive, the second of three we did on the Dan Safety Barge just a couple miles from shore. We didn't expect any different dive conditions, the visibility was still 10-15 feet and the surface conditions remained the same. We put on our equipment and jumped into the water. I was the first to the bottom but I was surprised by what I encountered. When I descended to the bottom to find the anchor chain just laying on the bottom with no wreck in sight. I looked around but the limited visibility didn't help. I ascended up the chain and told the students to hold onto the chain until I figure out what's going on.

I made my way to the surface to look for the boat dive master and the captain said he was at the end of the chain so I went back down and found him waiting at the end where I saw a beacon light and the anchor itself. I got the divers and literally 2 feet from the end of the anchor was the wreck. It was an awesome sight because it just popped out of the murky water. All the divers made their way around the wreck staying very close to it for safety. As I made my way around I took my flashlight and started looking very carefully in every little space that you could see along the top edge of the structure. I came to one of the large rusted out cleats and shined my light in the rusted out section I saw a little crab but the coolest thing I saw was a fire worm. I had not seen one of those in over 30 years in Panama City Beach.

I did a little research on the fire worm and they say that if you where to just brush up against it with you bare skin that a bunch of the little hairs it has will inject a neurotoxin that is worse than a lion fish or a Portuguese man of war. You could have respiratory and heart issues in some cases, in other words DON'T TOUCH. The one I saw was about 6-8 inches long, 3/4 inches wide and about a 1/4 inch thick. It was looped inside the cleat but as I illuminated it with my flashlight it started to move towards me and about that time the dive master saw it and started trying to yell at me to get my attention so I didnt touch it even though I had my gloves on. I really knew better. We returned to the boat for our 1 hour surface interval to wait for the sun to set and prepare for the night dive.

When it was dark I put the chemical stick lights on everybody's first stage yoke and to give anyone who only has one flashlight a spare light. Before we jumped into the dark ocean we noticed a lot of squid swimming just below the surface. We jumped in and started our descent to the same wreck we made our dusk dive on. This time when everyone turned on their flashlights they where greeted with thousands of squid swimming around us because the light attracted thousands of small fish. It was a great dive and everyone loved it so we got back on the boat for our travel back to the dock. I have made thousands of night dives and I never get tired of it.

Keep making bubbles and dive safe.

– Russell Miller, NAUI instructor #59999

We can be healed from our bitterness

By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

How would we feel if someone we've hurt chose to pray for us – while they're still dealing with the pain we caused them?

Think how their gesture could change our lives on so, so many

levels.

I'd like to challenge us to do this for those who have hurt us – even when the memory of the event still brings tears to our eyes.

I'll warn you. This week's verse is tough to consider, much less obey, especially if you're being abused. Nevertheless, we're still called to pray for our abusers – even when it's necessary to separate ourselves from physical or mental harm. I've experienced abuse, which is probably why I have learned to appreciate Luke 6:38 so much.

Luke 6:28 (ESV) says, "Bless those who curse

you, pray for those who abuse you."

Now let's read this verse in the Amplified Bible, Classic Edition: "Invoke blessings upon and pray for the happiness of those who curse you, implore God's blessing (favor) upon those who abuse you [who revile, reproach, disparage, and high-handedly misuse you]."

Does this seem like an impossible command from Jesus?

Impossible because the hurt is still so raw and the injustice can't be undone?

It's also an incredible command, because it's an extraordinary

response to injustice. A Jesus-kind-of response.

Do we have the kind of relationship with God that makes it possible for us to respond in this impossible, incredible way?

Do we trust God's love for us enough to sincerely pray for the happiness of those who insult, take advantage of or mistreat us? Or are we afraid to trust Him with our pain, our anger, our hunger for justice? If we're honest, wouldn't we prefer to pray for our enemies to suffer – at least as much as we're suffering?

When someone behaves in a mean-spirited way toward us, it can

suck us into an emotionally and spiritually dark place. If we respond with hatred and bitterness, we could descend into a spiral more devastating than the original offense.

Once we get caught in this downward spiral, we're trapped.

Unless ... we apply Jesus' words and (by God's grace) pray for those who "least deserve" but most need our prayers.

We can trust our heavenly Father to know what to do with our prayers, even when we pray for the happiness of the person who mistreated us. God can use our prayers for our enemies to set us free

from bitterness, heal our shattered emotions and release us from painful memories.

And when we allow God to lead us in this impossible, incredible, Jesus-kind-of response, imagine what a witness it will be to the one who offended us – and to anyone who knows about the wrong done to us.

It could be life-changing on so, so many levels.

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.

Soap language

By **CHERYL CRUCE**

Growing up, I recall the phrase "soap language." I do not ever remember the taste of a soap bar; the threat of it was enough to keep me mindful of my words. I do not remember any of us being punished much for our speech or behavior in our growing years. It seems that Mom and Dad ruled with a quiet authority tempered with love. We grew up

respecting our parents and each other.

We didn't know much about the world beyond our neighborhood. The telephone was connected to the wall with party line capability. A party line meant one could carefully pick up the phone and hear a neighbor's conversation. I did that once, and Mom walked by, took the phone, interrupted the conversation, and then handed it back to me to apologize for listening in. The embarrassment taught me to respect the privacy of others. Today, there is a phone in every pocket.

The television was in the center of the living room with one channel. If the wind blew, Dad would have to readjust

the antenna for the station to come in. The one channel carried local and world news. The news consisted of facts, not opinions, with a simple "And that's the way it was" sign-off. Lucille Ball and Andy Griffith were our comic relief. Perry Mason filled our need for suspense. Hanna-Barbera entertained us on Saturday mornings. Today, every phone has television capability with YouTube and other social media sites.

The Psalmist writes of the Lord, "How long will you hide your face from me, will you forget me forever?" (Psalm 13:1) I do not believe God forgets us; I think He doesn't want to hear our language. Soap language is everywhere. We

learn in Ephesians 4 that we should not engage in unwholesome talk. Our speech should build others up, creating hope in their spirit. Our bitterness and rage should be replaced with compassion and forgiveness. Bitterness, rage, and misspoken words grieve the Holy Spirit.

There is a lot to be said for pleasant language. Pleasing words are like a honeycomb, adding sweetness to the soul and health of a man's bones (Proverbs 16:30)? Our lives could use a little sweetness. Instead of using a multitude of words and falling into sin, we might consider remaining silent carefully choosing our words as wise and Godly people. (Proverbs 10:19). Scrip-

ture reads that we will give an account for every idle word spoken. Our words have the power to defend and to condemn (Matthew 12:36).

"What we say is important... for in most cases, the mouth speaks what the heart is full of (Jim Beggs)."

The issue is not our words alone but what we pour into our hearts. Scripture teaches us the same. Every occurrence around us has the potential to penetrate our spirit. The choice becomes ours.

Are we exposing our souls to light or darkness? Are we speaking good, or are we speaking evil? Are we lifting up or tearing down?

As children, we were not exposed to the out-

side world. We were in church, learning the truth of God's word and living accordingly.

Soap language was words we never heard; therefore, they were never spoken. I know the internet is here to stay. So is the Word of God; let us tip the scales toward Him.

A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. Luke 6:45

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

OUT TO PASTOR

Oh memory – how I miss thee

By **JAMES SNYDER**

Driving home from a luncheon with friends, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage asked me a stunning question.

"Did that story you told really happen?" She glanced at me with one of her quizzical looks.

Because I told several stories at lunchtime, I was wondering which one she was referring to. To the best of my knowledge, everything I say is true. Of course, people have different views of truth.

"Which story are you referring to, my dear?"

"You know. The one about the chicken attacking you."

Since I told quite a few stories, I couldn't remember that one exactly. My memory has a problem with really staying focused. I can tell one story one time and tell it again, and it is pretty different. If you heard both, you would know they were the same story.

It's not that I lie. I have a creative attitude and imagination with the stories I tell.

It's not the story I'm telling but rather the point I'm trying to con-

vey.

"Well, my dear, if I told it, it must true because I do not lie except when I go to bed." But I smiled at her and nodded in a very affirmative way.

She didn't think that was funny and said so.

"Well," she said very seriously, "I've heard you tell that story at least six times and each time it's different. What do you have to say about that?"

Looking at her rather soberly, I said, "The only thing I can think of is that they were six different stories."

That is one of the astounding things about memory. If it's my memory, I should be able to tell it how I want to. After all, I can't remember back that far in my life. And, to tell the truth, it may not have happened at all. Who knows?

That is why if I tell any story, it is one before I met The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. All during our marriage, she has been very faithful in correcting the stories I tell while I'm telling

them. At least those stories that happened while we were together.

That is the challenge I have just about every day of my life. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has a flawless memory. Don't let her know I said this, but I suspect she remembers things that never happened. But with my flawed memory, there's no way I could correct that.

She knows everything that has ever happened since the day we first met. If only I had half of her memory skills. [Sigh!]

I learned this long ago, so if I tell a story, it was before I met Miss Know-It-All. Then, I can tell it according to my memory, which is somewhat flawed.

One of the blessings of a flawed memory is that I can tell a story that happened way back half a dozen times, and nobody would know it. Most of the time, I don't know it.

A long time ago, I accepted that I should not try to correct a story whenever she tells it.



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Obituaries

DEATH NOTICES

• **Patricia Savary Blakstad**, 83, of Crawfordville, died September 16, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **Henry “Mark” Coyle**, 83, of Sopchoppy, died September 17, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey-Young Chapel, 850-926-5919, www.familyfhc.com

• **Mary Webb Herron**, 79, of Crawfordville, died September 10, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **Elizabeth Jerline Hurst**, 79, of Crawfordville, died September 11, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **Joseph Al Mattson**, 70, of Crawfordville, died September 8, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **Wilton Lee Pyles**, 66, of Woodville, died September 11, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **Diana Lynn Sanders**, 43, of Tallahassee, died September 16, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel

• **Virginia “Ginger” Tillman**, 85, of Crawfordville, died September 13, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

BEREAVEMENT COLUMN

Thoughts about life and death



By TRACY RENEE LEE

Death is such a crazy thing. One moment, you're here, and then suddenly, you're not. Your body is here, but it can no longer function as it did just a moment ago.

In funeral school, I found the moment of death confusing. Up to that point, I had always had a firm belief in God and the hereafter. Somehow, though, that moment of life's cessation became very bewildering to me. Don't get me wrong, I still believed in God and the hereafter, but I was confused about

how it all worked and found myself questioning why life was set up with such sorrow.

Once we experience the death of a loved one, we are changed. We see life differently. What may have seemed important to us before loss may seem of little value, whereas things outside our concern may become vastly important. We are never again the same.

That is what death has done to me. I am different. Pain and anguish have made me keenly aware of the importance of relationships and how quickly they can move beyond my reach. The line between good and evil has become more precise and critical. In a world where I see others accepting fluidity, my concepts have become less so. Honesty and truth, especially within the human relationship, have become paramount

to me. Time with my husband, children, and grandchildren is more precious than ever. I can no more pass up a moment with them than I can live without breathing. They are all that matters to me in life. All that I do is for them. My self-fulfillment is wholly based on their welfare, joy, and success.

Life after loss has changed for me. The world, as it currently is, is utterly worthless in my heart; however, I strive to remain here to protect and support my sweet family. Without their draw on me, I see nothing of value, nothing to encourage me.

I love my work, mainly because it is service-based. I enjoy serving others because it is fulfilling, but I wish I were more talented and less restricted by the limits brought on by aging. I love my husband. He has

given my life meaning, true joy, and happiness. I love my children and grandchildren because they are the meaning of my life. I love my friends and the enrichments they have gifted to me. And I love God because he has given me the most extraordinary life I could have ever wished for and never dared to dream of.

I hope your life has been as glorious as mine. Survival has always been a struggle, but the challenges have always been worth the growth. Looking back on my life, I wish I had been more dedicated to some things and worked a little harder to achieve and grow when I was younger, but those years have passed me by. I move forward now with an awareness of my weaknesses and a desire to improve.

I believe that my responsibilities lie with those who will remain

after my death. I must dedicate myself to their welfare and improvements. That is my direction and my dedication. Encouraging and guiding my children and grandchildren to obtain their full potential as sterling human beings will improve their lives, the lives of those around them, and, in a small way, the world at large. That is my goal. I hope for them the happiness and joy I have had, and I will work until I die to help them obtain it.

I have such apprehension today. Perhaps it is because it is September 11th. Today is a sad day, and it pains me that businesses go on as usual when our nation has suffered such loss. I sit silently and pray for a world that recognizes life is sacred, holy, and precious. Today is a “Day of Remembrance” for all the families that suffered

such horrific tragedy 22 years ago, and I pray for them just as I do year after year.

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: Another triumph for the tribe

By RYAN DAILEY
News Service of Florida

The Seminole Tribe of Florida scored another legal win this week when a federal appeals court turned down a request for a rehearing in a case that gave the tribe control over sports betting throughout the state.

The request came from pari-mutuels Magic City Casino in Miami-Dade County and Bonita Springs Poker Room in Southwest Florida, who challenged the multi-billion dollar sports-betting plan. Owners of the pari-mutuels asked for what is known as “en banc,” or full court, hearing. But the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia rejected the request Monday without a detailed explanation.

Monday’s ruling came after a three-judge panel of the court in June reversed a November 2021 decision by a federal judge who halted the agreement. U.S. District Judge Dabney Friedrich ruled that the plan ran afoul of the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, which regulates gambling on tribal lands, because the deal would allow gambling off property owned by the Seminoles.

The 30-year gambling deal, signed by Gov. Ron DeSantis and Seminole Tribe of Florida Chairman Marcellus Osceola in 2021, included a “hub-and-spoke” sports-betting plan designed to allow gamblers anywhere in the state to place bets online.

The three-judge panel of the appeals court, however, ruled unanimously in June that the Washington, D.C.-based district judge erred when she found that the compact violated the federal

law because it authorized gambling “both on and off” Indian lands.

The impact of Monday’s ruling on sports betting in Florida was not immediately clear. Gary Bitner, a spokesman for the Seminoles, said Tuesday the tribe was “pleased” with the appeals court’s decision not to grant the en banc hearing. But the Seminoles did not comment on whether they planned to start accepting bets again on a mobile app that was put on hold amid the legal wrangling.

The pari-mutuels “are weighing all options, including a possible petition seeking the (U.S.) Supreme Court’s review,” Hamish Hume, a lawyer with the Boies Schiller Flexner LLP firm who represents them, said in a statement this week.

Daniel Wallach, an attorney who specializes in gambling law, told The News Service of Florida Tuesday that the ruling in the Florida case “is in conflict with at least eight federal appeals court decisions from other circuits declaring that” the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act “has no application to off-reservation tribal gaming activities.”

Wallach added that the U.S. Supreme Court will need to resolve the issue “sooner or later.”

A LOOK AT EXPANSION

The growth of Florida’s school voucher programs following a major expansion of the programs started coming into focus this week.

Data published Wednesday showed that nearly 123,000 new students have received vouchers after state lawmakers approved the

expansion during this year’s legislative session.

As of Sept. 8, 242,929 students had enrolled in 2,098 private schools using vouchers through the state’s two main programs, the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship and Family Empowerment Scholarship, according to a report by Step Up for Students, an organization that administers the vast majority of vouchers in the state.

That is an increase from the roughly 170,000 students who received vouchers through the programs during the 2022-2023 school year.

Of the nearly 243,000 students this year, 122,895 “are new to the programs,” though many had already been enrolled in private schools, according to Step Up for Students.

“Of the 122,895 new students, 84,505 (69%) were already in private school, 16,096 (13%) came from public schools, and 22,294 are entering kindergartners,” the report released Wednesday said. “Does 16,096 represent an ‘exodus’ from the public schools as critics forecast HB 1 (the bill that included the expansion) would cause?”

The Florida Policy Institute, a non-profit that has opposed the major voucher expansion, raised concerns about other parts of the data released this week.

“As we continue to analyze the data provided by Step-Up For Students, what initially stands out is that roughly 7 in 10 new scholarship awards are going to students already enrolled in private school, at what FPI (Florida Policy Institute) estimates is a \$676 million cost to the state,” the Florida Policy Institute,

which strenuously opposed the voucher expansion, said in a statement Thursday.

The information released this week also addressed other questions about the expansion, which in part eliminated income eligibility requirements for receiving vouchers.

The report said that 27 percent of the voucher students enrolled this year in private schools are from households with incomes above \$120,000 — which is 400 percent of the federal poverty level for families of four — or from families who “did not submit income information.” About 29 percent are from families whose incomes are between 185 percent and 400 percent of poverty level, which would include household incomes of up to \$120,000 for families of four. Another 44 percent are from families below 185 percent of the federal poverty level, or \$55,000 in income for a family of four.

The expanded voucher programs also now allow families of homeschooled students to receive the scholarships.

The law created what is known as the Personalized Education Program, which the state Department of Education’s website said was “created to serve Florida’s home education population who would like access to an education saving account to fund their student’s learning.”

According to Step Up for Students, 15,097 homeschooled students have enrolled in the new program.

BOOSTER-BASHING

Continuing a long-running clash with federal

health officials, the DeSantis administration on Wednesday recommended that people under age 65 not receive newly approved Covid-19 booster shots.

State Surgeon General Joseph Ladapo issued guidance that was dramatically different from a recommendation Tuesday by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which said people 6 months old and older should receive updated Covid-19 vaccines. The CDC recommendation came a day after the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved use of vaccines that it said are “formulated to more closely target currently circulating variants.”

The Florida Department of Health guidance, however, said “the most recent booster approval was granted in the absence of any meaningful booster-specific clinical trial data performed in humans.” It also con-

tended that the “federal government has failed to provide sufficient data to support the safety and efficacy of the Covid-19 vaccines.”

STORY OF THE WEEK: Dealing another victory to the Seminole Tribe of Florida, a federal appeals court has denied a request from pari-mutuel owners for a rehearing after a ruling that upheld a multibillion-dollar deal giving the tribe control over sports betting throughout the state.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: “That doesn’t mean we’re out of the water ... We want everybody to be very vigilant about stopping those mosquitoes to bites.” — Sarasota County Mosquito Control District Director Wade Brennan, after a mosquito-borne illness alert for malaria in Sarasota and Manatee counties was lifted this week.

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USE THE NEWS

1. REPELLANT MOSQUITOES

Around 400 million people are infected with dengue (pronounced deng-gay) fever every year around the world. The disease is spread by mosquitoes and has symptoms similar to a very bad case of the flu. Scientists in the Central American country Honduras have come up with a unique way to fight it: mosquitoes that have been bred with a specific bacteria that keeps them from transmitting dengue fever. When the mosquitoes reproduce, they'll pass the bacteria to their offspring, meaning fewer outbreaks in the future. Millions of the special mosquitoes have been released in the capital of Honduras so far. Write a paragraph that summarizes how the dengue fever is spread and how the special mosquitoes can help.

2. A SERIOUS SWIM

A 53-year-old man swam the entire length of the Hudson River, which reaches from the Adirondack Mountains to New York City. Lewis Pugh spend a month swimming the 315 miles from the river's source to its end to bring attention to the need for clean waterways. "Rivers are the arteries of our planet," he said. A support team followed him in a kayak and boat to make sure he was safe. At parts of the river that were too shallow to swim or were not swimmable because of waterfalls or dams, he ran along the banks. How can an achievement like Pugh's swim draw attention to bigger things like environmental issues? Write a paragraph about how feats like his can help make change in the world.

3. FRENCH BAN

At schools in France, women can no longer wear abayas, loose-fitting long robes that many Muslim women choose to wear as part of their religion. The new rule, created by France's new education minister, has created a fierce debate in the country. Many have pointed out that other long garments, like kimonos, aren't banned, so the rule unnecessarily targets Muslim students. The government says that "you should not be

able to distinguish or identify a student's religion by looking at them" because education shouldn't be about religious or ethnic identity. Write a paragraph about what you think: is it unfair to target an item of clothing only worn by people of one religion? Does knowing a classmate's religion have a positive, negative, or no effect on another student? Why?

4. HURRICANE HEADED NORTH

While Canada is far from a tropical climate,

parts of the country were under a tropical storm warning last week, along with the New England region of the U.S. Meteorologists, or weather scientists, were expecting the storm to weaken as it approached Canada, but still have hurricane-force winds when the center of the storm reached the coastline. Tropical storms and hurricanes get their energy from warm water and send that energy upward through the center, or eye, of the storm. Hurricane Lee became "post-trop-

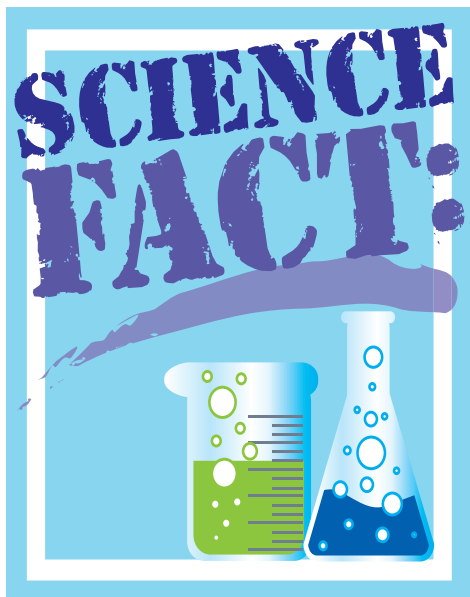
ical" when it moved over colder water in the northern Atlantic and became more like a typical storm that we see anywhere in the country – those get their energy from warmer and cooler air meeting, creating warm and cold fronts. Draw or print out a map of North America. Then, draw the path of Hurricane Lee and color in what parts of the continent were affected by the storm.

5. STRUGGLES OF A GENERATION

According to a new

study that talked to 3,000 people, only 47 percent of Gen Z Americans describe themselves as "thriving" in their lives, which is the lowest across all generations in the US today and lower than millennials reported when they were the same age. (Gen Z are people aged 12 to 26 currently.) The study also shows that Gen Z people are more likely to report feeling negative emotions like stress, anxiety, and loneliness. Ten years ago, 52 percent of millennials age 18 to 26 said their mental

health was "excellent," but currently, only 15 percent of Gen Z people in the same age range said the same. What are some reasons you can think of why Gen Z might be a generation that's unhappier or struggling more than other generations? How does the world today compare to the world 10 years ago, from what you've learned about or heard from adults in your life? Write down your answers and share with your classmates.



FEWER HOURS OF SUNLIGHT IN FALL CAUSES TREE LEAVES TO PRODUCE LESS OF THIS SUBSTANCE.

ANSWER: CHLOROPHYLL

Crossword Puzzle

1			2		3		4
5							
			6				
							7
8							

ACROSS

- Block or shut
- Body of water
- Dog-like animal
- Absence of light

DOWN

- Less warm
- Place to stroll
- No longer in use
- September season
- Past form of "be"

Answers:
 Across
 1. Close off 5. Lake 6. Wolf 8. Darkness
 Down
 1. Cooler 2. Sidewalk 3. Obsolete 4. Fall 7. Was

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1793: THE FIRST CORNERSTONE OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL IS LAID BY GEORGE WASHINGTON.
- 1809: THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE OPENS IN LONDON.
- 1851: THE FIRST EDITION OF THE NEW-YORK DAILY TIMES, WHICH LATER BECOMES THE NEW YORK TIMES, IS PUBLISHED.



EQUINOX

the date when day and night are of roughly equal length



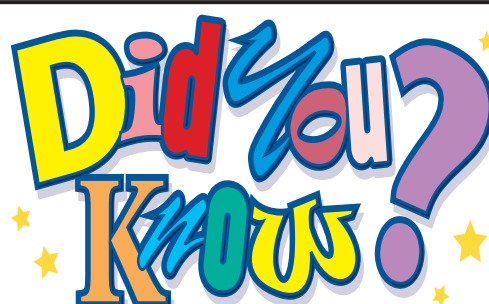
ENGLISH: Fall

SPANISH: Otoño

ITALIAN: Autunno

FRENCH: Automne

GERMAN: Herbst



RAKING LEAVES BY HAND IS A GREAT WORKOUT THAT CUTS DOWN ON NOISE POLLUTION CAUSED BY LEAF BLOWERS.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: GOURDS

WILDERNESS WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- ALPINE
- ANIMALS
- AVALANCHE
- CLIMATE
- COASTAL
- CONSERVATION
- CYPRESS
- DECIDUOUS
- EXPLORE
- FLORA
- FOREST
- HORIZON
- LAKE
- MAPLE
- MEADOW
- MOUNTAINS
- OAK
- OASIS
- RAPIDS
- REMOTE
- RIDGELINE
- SOIL
- STREAM
- VALLEY

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

CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. Type of cat
6. Weaponry
10. Western Christian Church service
14. Significant eruption of pustules
15. Baltic nation
17. Start of American holiday season
19. Unhappy
20. Maintains possession of
21. Metrical foot of one long and three short syllables
22. Mountain pass
23. Vestments
24. Type of dish
26. Escaped quickly
29. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
31. Wings
32. Political action committee
34. Touches lightly
35. Stood back from
37. Philippine Island
38. Popular winter activity
39. Type of amine
40. Small freshwater duck
41. Filled with love
43. Without (French)

45. Vetch
46. Swiss river
47. Describes a sound
49. Sign language
50. Hair product
53. Have surgery
57. Quality of being imaginary
58. Far-right German party
59. Drove
60. Former French coin of low value
61. Hard, durable timbers

CLUES DOWN

1. Body art
2. Middle East military title
3. Actor Pitt
4. Container
5. Speak incessantly
6. Relating to algae
7. Jacob ___, journalist
8. Rock TV channel
9. Boat's cargo
10. Most wise
11. Within
12. Chinese industrial city
13. Scotland's longest river
16. Not capable
18. Footwear
22. Savings account

23. Capable
24. Vaccine developer
25. Tax collector
27. Fencing swords
28. Native religion in China
29. Promotional materials
30. A shot in a film production
31. Afflict in mind or body
33. A passage with access only at one end
35. Breathing devices
36. Employ for wages
37. Kids' TV channel (abbr.)
39. Popular Boston song
42. Made amends
43. Selling at specially reduced prices
44. Atomic #18
46. With fireplace residue
47. Unleavened cornbread
48. Draw out
49. Southwestern Alaska island
50. Where the Pyramids are
51. People of Nigeria
52. Smaller quantity
53. Destroy the inside of
54. City
55. Chivalrous figure (abbr.)
56. No (Scottish)

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18								
19						20					21			
				22							23			
		24	25								26			27 28
29	30										31			32 33
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			45								46			
		47	48										50	51 52
53											54		55	56
57													58	
59						60							61	

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to chickens.

NGSIW

--	--	--	--	--

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75

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

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

Guess Who?

I am a comic actor born in Michigan on September 21, 1959. My career as a comedian started when I impersonated my high school principal. I gained fame in the 1980s and 1990s on a sitcom about an unconventional family.

Answer: Wings
 Answer: Dave Coulier

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75

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 Published on September 21, 2023

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Rotary's Boots and Bingo drew a crowd

PHOTOS BY GERALD BROWN & LYNDA KINSEY



Rotarians Katie Taff, Tiffany Hartsfield, Megan Smith and Heather Bryan.



Lewis McCartha rides in.



Stephen Webb won the 50-50 drawing, some \$2,600 and was presented winnings by Rotary President-Elect Andy Riddle.



Kris Calloway and Sedita Cayson cutting up.





Shirley Howard got the award for Best Dressed.



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Next game:

Thursday, Sept. 21 at 7 p.m.

Wakulla War Eagles travel to Lynn Haven to take on the Mosley Dolphins.



War Eagles wallop Indians, 52-7

By **CHRIS SAVARY**
Sports Correspondent

The Wakulla War Eagles played their second home game of the season this past Friday at Reynolds field. The War Eagles (3-0) faced the Seminole County Indians (1-2) in a Florida vs Georgia high school matchup.

The War Eagles came into the game with a perfect record through the first three games and ranked fifth in Florida Class 2S football. There were widespread showers falling before kickoff that threatened to make this a wet and potentially sloppy football game but the rain let up about 15 minutes before kickoff and with the turf draining nicely, the Wakulla faithful were treated to another outstanding effort by the young men on the War Eagle squad.

Wakulla came into the game having put up huge numbers both offensively and defensively winning the first three games by a combined score of 110 to 24. Many wondered if this Seminole County team out of Georgia would be the team that along with the wet weather came into Reynolds Field and dampen the fire created by this supercharged War Eagle offense and stingy defense. It would not take long to get that answer.... they would not.

The scoring came fast and furious early in this game. In the first quarter after a quick drive senior quarterback Haden Klees found receiver Delvon Zanders in the endzone for a 3-yard touchdown. Then two minutes later after getting the ball back on offense junior running back Bradley Kelly got the ground game going for the War Eagles scoring on a 29-yard rushing touchdown pushing the lead to 14-0 very early in the first quarter. The defense continued to be dominant getting the ball back to the offense just a few minutes later.

QB Klees then found senior receiver Nehemiah Chandler connecting for a 51-yard touchdown to move the score to 21-0 War Eagles midway through the first quarter. The War Eagle offense tacked on two more touchdowns in the first, a 47-yard touchdown reception from Klees to Zanders and a 32-yard touchdown reception by Samron Brinson that made the score 35-0 War Eagles at the end of the first quarter.

The second quarter started with the War Eagle defense absolutely refusing to give up anything to the visiting Indians of Seminole County.

The offense rewarded the defensive effort by scoring quickly on a 2-yard touchdown rush by Zanders making the



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PHOTOS BY GERALD BROWN

War Eagle receiver Delvon Zanders puts the ball across the goal line to score.

score 42-0 early in the second quarter.

Seminole County then found their way into the endzone on a 11-yard touchdown rush in what would be the only score allowed by the War Eagle defense in this game.

Late in the second quarter Klees again found one of his favorite targets – Samron Brinson – and fired a missile to him for a 45-yard touchdown mak-

ing the score 49-7 War Eagles with a little over two minutes to go before the half.

The final score of the game came on an outstanding 40-yard field goal from senior kicker Luis Quintonilla to push the score 52-7 as time expired in the first half.

For the third contest in a row the War Eagles found themselves in a running clock situation to start the second half. A running clock is established in Florida high school football when a team goes up by 35 points or more and the clock only stops for time outs or injuries.

The second half went by very quickly with the War Eagles again getting very important game reps for the younger players on the roster. The game would end with the War Eagles posting a dominant 52-7 victory and unblemished 4-0 record.

Defensively the War Eagles stayed dominant allowing only one touchdown and creating two turnovers: Jeremiah Thomas forced a fumble that was recovered by Brandon Burton;

and Nehemiah Chandler snagged an interception all in the first half.

Offensively the aerial fireworks continued with Klees finishing the contest throwing for 317 yards on 14 completions for 5 touchdowns and zero interceptions. Klees is now the No. 2 ranked quarterback in the state and has now thrown for 1,185 yards, 18 touchdowns and no interceptions through four games on this young year. (And Klees has only played the first half in the past three games because the War Eagles have been so far ahead.)

Zanders had 5 catches for 76 yards and 3 touchdowns.

Brinson had 4 catches for 102 yards and 2 TDs.

Nehemiah Chandler had 4 catches for 133 yards and a TD.

War Eagle head coach Scott Klees said his team had come out on fire and had played well in all three aspects of the game – offense, defense and special teams.

“Defense is playing at a high level,” Klees said. “They’re flying around making plays, forcing turnovers and three-and-outs.”

The offensive production is because of the defense giving them more possessions, Klees said.

“They will test us,” Klees said.

He noted Mosley’s one loss came last week – unfortunate, Klees said, because he anticipates the Dolphins will be focused.

Also, as a Thursday night game, the War Eagles will be missing a practice. And there’s the potential distraction for the War Eagles of leaving early to travel.

“We need to be focused,” Klees said. “We make little mistakes. Can’t make penalties or turn the ball over. We have to play well on offense, defense and special teams.”

Wakulla will be looking to avenge last year’s home loss to Mosley. Gametime will be 8 p.m. EDT at Tommy Oliver Stadium with live pre-game and play by play coverage starting at 7:15 p.m. on 94.1 FM.

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

The overall player of the week was running back Bradley Kelly, who got the War Eagle running game going with 5 carries for 89 yards and a touchdown.

Dalton Avera was the offensive player of the week with the lineman grading out at 88%.

Linebacker Tanner Lanier was defensive player of the week with 8 tackles and a forced fumble.

Kicker Luis Quintonilla was special teams player after kicking 7 of 7 extra points and a 40-yard field goal.

COACH'S CORNER

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LET'S MOW DOWN THE COMPETITION





COACH Scott Klees

FROM THE COACH

Scouting report: Mosley will be ready, and they are really good. Before their loss last week, the Dolphins were ranked higher than the War Eagles.

Keys to victory: Stay focused. No mistakes, no penalties, no turnovers.





Last week: War Eagles came out fired up and excelled at all three levels – offense, defense, special teams.



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BRADLEY KELLY Running back	DALTON AVERA Lineman	TANNER LANIER Linebacker	LUIS QUINTONILLA Kicker

NEXT UP: MOSLEY

The War Eagles now go back on the road for a tough short week matchup against a very good Mosley Dolphins (3-1) football team Thursday night in Panama City.

