

War Eagles wallop St. John Paul II



See Page 14

The Wakulla Sun

"It's a New Day"



Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday Friday Saturday



Rain/Thunder Hi: 80° Lo: 72° 78%
Sunrise 7:37 AM
Sunset 7:10 PM

Thunderstorms Hi: 83° Lo: 73° 83%
Sunrise 7:38 AM
Sunset 7:09 PM

AM Thunderstorms Hi: 85° Lo: 58° 54%
Sunrise 7:39 AM
Sunset 7:08 PM

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Our 2nd Year 41st Issue
Thursday, October 12, 2023



\$1 One Section

Land deal in the works

Negotiating and purchase and swap of gas station property

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

ZONING AND SPRINGS PRIORITY FOCUS AREA
SW GA OIL & ST. JOE TIMBER • WAKULLA CO., FLORIDA • AUG 2023

A deal is moving forward to purchase the land on Bloxham Cutoff that had been a proposed location for a controversial gas station.

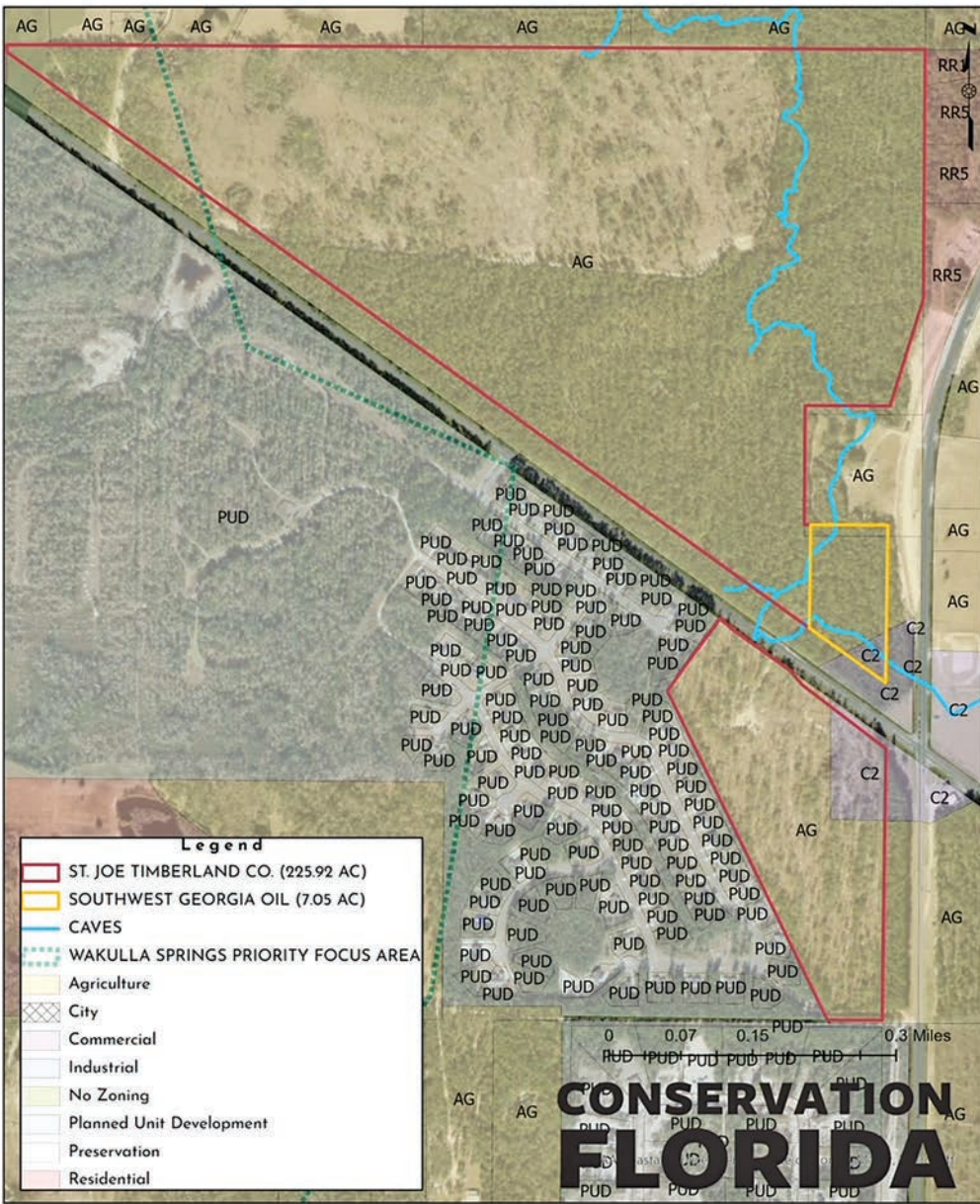
Southwest Georgia Oil had proposed building a gas station and car wash on a parcel at the corner of Bloxham and U.S. Highway 319 which was recently mapped with underground caves with water that flows from Chip's Hole sinkhole to Wakulla Springs.

Talks are underway for Conservation Florida to buy the 224-acre parcel owned by St. Joe Co. for \$3.4 million, according to Rep. Jason Shoaf at last week's legislative delegation meeting.

Conservation Florida would purchase the land with private funds. Shoaf said he would work to get a state appropriation to reimburse Conservation Florida for the land purchase.

The parcel with the mapped underground caves is proposed to be some sort of park with trails and information about karst features and underground rivers in Wakulla.

According to the Wakulla Springs Alliance, Southwest Georgia Oil would do a land swap to build a gas station on the south side of the intersection where there are no known un-



A map showing the land involved in the proposed purchase and land swap: Conservation Florida would buy the land with the underground caves and Southwest Georgia Oil would swap for land south of Bloxham Cutoff to build a gas station.

derground caves.

The Wakulla Karst Plain Project completed the link between Chip's Hole and Wakulla Springs in January.

Hundreds of people turned out to a county commission meeting several months ago to object to the location of the gas station and

express concerns about contaminating groundwater and degrading Wakulla Springs. The proposal was pulled by the oil company.

County agrees to pay \$78,000 attorney bill

Lawyer Wayne Malaney represented canvassing board in Sparkman vs. Brimmer lawsuit

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

Wakulla County commissioners agreed to pay attorney's fees of nearly \$78,000 for representing the canvassing board over three years as the lawsuit and appeal were resolved.

Attorney Wayne Malaney was hired to represent the Wakulla County Canvassing Board – consisting of then-County Judge Jill Walker, County Commissioner Quincee Messersmith, and Tax Collector Lisa Craze – when it was sued in 2020 by candidate for property appraiser Colby Sparkman after his election loss to Ed Brimmer, who won by three votes.

Sparkman lost his lawsuit at the circuit court level and then on appeal.

At their meeting on Monday, Oct. 2, county commissioners were shocked at the legal bill, which current Supervisor of Elections Joe Morgan said he had no money in his budget to pay.

Turn to Page 3

Charter Review has a couple of proposals so far

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

After months of meetings, the Charter Review Commission has so far come up with two proposed amendments to the Wakulla County Charter: one deals with panhandling and the other with how often the charter should be reviewed.

The Charter Review Committee passed the two recommendations at their meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 3. The committee's recommendations will be formally presented at public hearings in November – the dates have yet to be set – and reviewed by the county commission. Citizens will vote on the proposed changes next year.

The first proposed amendment: Shall the Charter of Wakulla County be amended to require the County Commission to adopt a public safety ordinance, with with approve exemption and designated penalties for violating such ordinance which specifically addresses interactions between citizens and motorists at medians, public right of ways, crosswalks, sidewalks, arterial roads, and applicable public spaces?

The second proposed amendment: Shall the Charter of Wakulla County be amended to require a Charter Review Commission to be appointed at a minimum of every six years instead of the current

Turn to Page 3

Groundbreaking at Wakulla High



The groundbreaking ceremony for the War Eagle Career Academy at Wakulla High School on Friday.

Staff Report

An official groundbreaking was held for the War Eagle Career Academy on the Wakulla High School campus on Friday.

Superintendent of Schools Bobby Pearce called it a "big day for Wakulla County, and a big day for Wakulla County Schools."

The academy, designed by Clemons Rutherford Architects and funded by Triumph Gulf Coast, will be a 55,000 square foot facility with 21 classrooms that will cost an estimated \$4.5 million to build.



District facilities manager Mike Barwick points out classrooms on the plans to Superintendent of Schools Bobby Pearce and school board members Cale Langston and Laura Lawhon.

Man sentenced to a year in jail for BUI that killed friend

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

A Tallahassee man involved in a boating accident off St. Marks in 2019 in which a friend was killed after being thrown from the boat was ordered to serve 11 months and 29 days in the Wakulla County Jail for Boating Under the Influence Manslaughter.

Wakulla Circuit Judge Layne Smith accepted the plea deal between Evan Hamilton and the state and held the sentencing hearing on Thursday, Oct. 5.

Hamilton was 21 years old in February 2019 when he and two friends were boating in St. Marks



Evan Hamilton

Turn to Page 3

Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park Snow Squarestem

By LYNN ARTZ, SANDY TEDDER
and DAVID RODDENBERRY

Snow squarestem (*Melanthera nivea*) displays its small but showy white flowers in the fall. An insect magnet, the nectar of this native perennial attracts butterflies, skippers, wasps, and bees. Flowering may last into early winter. Snow squarestem grows 1-4 feet tall and tolerates a wide variety of conditions. Though often used for habitat restoration, it can be used in butterfly and wildflower gardens. Also called salt and pepper, snow squarestem has a high tolerance for drought and salt spray. Despite its square stem, this wildflower is in the aster or daisy family, not the mint family. Snow squarestem is blooming now in the large pot at the Rose Street entrance to Sopchoppy Depot Park.



The salt and pepper alisa is a t magnet.

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Student of the Week

Akylah Hogans – 6th Grader, Riversprings Middle School

Principal: Josh Sandgren

Achievements/Reason for Nomination:
Akylah Hogans is a 6th grader at Riversprings Middle School. Akylah is an AVID student and is looking forward to track season to compete for the Bears. In her free-time, Akylah enjoys riding her bike and resting. Adalyn is a hard-working student keeping up her grades. Akylah's favorite part about being at RMS is socializing with friends. RMS is a better school because of students like Akylah! Go Bears!

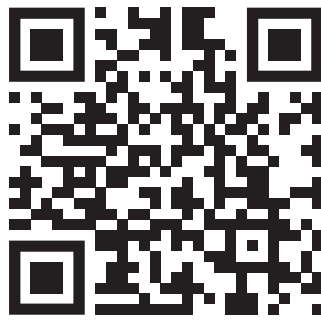


STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.

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Crawfordville, FL
KIERSTEN SMITH State Farm

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

Lisa Craze, CFC
Wakulla County Tax Collector

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Talquin solar

Talquin Electric, alongside Seminole Electric and Origis Energy, have opened new solar farms to generate renewable energy for North Florida. These three substations, in Wakulla, Gadsden, and Liberty counties, are the first of several planned installations in North Florida. Tracy Bensley, the General Manager from Talquin Electric, said at the Solar Dedication in Wakulla that these three new sites would bring renewable energy to about 1400 more homes around

the areas they're installed in. Talquin has increased its total percentage of renewable energy to 9%, with 7% coming from the Jackson Bluff dam and 2% from these new solar sites. The rest of the energy is purchased from Power Plants further west along the coast, though Bensley stated that he hopes to change that. According to him, Talquin is starting the process of making their energy clean and renewable, and wants to slowly expand upon the solar grid, and hopes to get 20% of Talquin's power to be renewable in the next five years. (Photo by Legend Taylor)



Park reopened

County commissioners, staff, and volunteers, in the remodeled pavilion at Hudson Park during a reopening ceremony held on Friday. The park now features a level walking path and a fan in the pavilion, as well as several landscaping changes to make the park more attractive to anyone who wishes to use it. Also in the pavilion are electronic

displays that show the blueprints for further expansions to the park. This includes plans for a splash pad and playground area, as well as vendor stalls and permanent food truck parking, complete with water and electricity hookups. This improvement is the first step in a much grander plan, one that will try to connect all the parks and recreational spaces in Wakulla County, from Azalea to Mashes Sands, by a walking trail. (Photo by Legion Taylor)



Dog wash

PAWS held its dog wash fundraiser on Saturday, which included washes, above, and Jeanette Burdette from Shepherd Springs Animal Hospital gives Daisy a toenail trim with Liz Cybulski holding Daisy and Eaton looking on. (Photos by Gerald Brown)



\$78,000 Legal bill

From Front Page

County Commissioner Chuck Hess objected to the bill, saying attorney Malaney should have been in contact with the county.

County Attorney Heather Encinosa noted

it certainly was unusual for an attorney to submit a bill for three years work on a case.

Commissioners voted 3-1 to pay the bill with Commissioners Quincee Messersmith, Mike Kemp and Fred Nichols voting to pay; Hess voted no;

Commission Chair Ralph Thomas was absent.

The center of the controversy were 12 ballots whose signatures did not match the signatures on file. Sparkman requested the name of the electors on those ballots and contacted at least one to notify them they could cure their ballots. Then-Supervisor of Elections Buddy Wells or-

BUI Manslaughter

From Front Page

and Hamilton, who was operating the boat while drunk, caused the three to be thrown overboard. The unoccupied boat was running in a circle and the propeller struck Heath Bohannon and killed him.

Another passenger on the boat held onto to Bohannon's body for fear it would sink and be lost.

When Hamilton was brought to shore, his blood alcohol level was reported at .138 and .140. A level of .08 is considered intoxicated in Florida.

At the hearing on Thursday, family of Bohannon – his mother, sisters, father, and his then-girlfriend – gave emotional testimony to the court about the impact on their lives of the loss.

Hamilton spoke to the court about how he had tried to be a credit to his friend's memory over the past 4 1/2 years – going to school and improving

Lions Club marks 71 years of service

President Sal Martocci and member Christie Green Holland with original charter of Sopchoppy Lions Club that was issued by Lions Club International in September 1952. 2023 marks the 71st year of the club's continuous service to the community. Lion Christie Holland carries on a family tradition of service set by her father Emory Green, a charter member of the club. For more information call 850-962-3711.



TCC rebranding



About 35 people were on hand on Tuesday, Oct. 3, for a workshop on rebranding Tallahassee Community College at the Wakulla Environmental Institute. TCC President Jim Murdaugh said a name change would reflect the college's expanded offering. Possible new names include Tallahassee State College and Tallahassee College. (Photo by William Snowden)

Bra donations for decoration

Medical A/R Revenue Solutions, LLC – a local medical billing company in Crawfordville – is planning to string donated brassieres along the fence in front of our building facing Martin Luther King Road beside Feli Way in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

A few years ago, the Bristol to Blountstown bridge had bras on the rails from one side to the other and we loved the idea so much, that we decided to do it too! We wanted to let the local paper know and maybe share the information with the community through the paper or online forum.

The company is taking bra donations to add to the fence up until Oct 18. If you have any questions, call the office at 850-926-6110.

Meeting set on cemetery

The Wakulla County Historical Society will be holding a meeting at the Wakulla County Library on Tuesday, Oct. 17th at 6 p.m.

The Historical Society is in the process of restoring Richardson Cemetery. We are requesting families that have relatives buried at Richardson to come meet with us to discuss the restoration and site plans.

If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Jay at 850-508-7914.

Charter review

From Front Page

requirement of every eight years?

The Charter Review Committee has grappled with some big issues – impact fees, the percentage of signatures required for citizens initiatives, and expansion of the Wakulla Springs Protection Zone in county ordinances.

Some members of the committee, notably vice-chair David Damon and member Lynn Artz, have complained that the committee hasn't accomplished anything because, after months of meetings, it hadn't passed any proposals until last week.

Other members, including committee members Andrew Rid-

dle, Walt Dickson and John Shuff have answered that weighing changes and voting them down is hardly doing nothing.

Chris Russell is chair of the committee.

At a planned meeting on Monday, Oct. 23 at the community center's St. Marks Room at 6 p.m., the committee will take up issues including a "heritage tree" preservation recommendation.

dered Sparkman to stop contacting voters, and Wells later acknowledged in his court deposition that he over-reacted and shouldn't have stopped Sparkman.

Sparkman's lawsuit sought to give a new opportunity for the ballots to be cured and counted. But when then-Wakulla Circuit Judge Ron Flury found in his March 2022

ruling that "There is no evidence to suggest that there was an ulterior nefarious motive that actually drove the canvassing board's decision. There is no reason to overturn the will of the people as expressed in the election results presented."

The 2020 election night had more drama when Sparkman was initially declared the

election winner before Wells realized that a number of precincts had not been counted in the race. After those votes were tallied, Brimmer was declared the victor by four votes.

After a recount by the canvassing board a few days later, the margin was narrowed to three votes for Brimmer.

himself. He did briefly apologize to the Bohannon family, but it was somewhat tone deaf.

Wakulla Chief Prosecutor Jon Fuchs, in his last case before taking leave from the state attorney's office, stood up after Hamilton's comments saying, "I'll not say, but I didn't hear him take responsibility and apologize." Fuchs added that he couldn't do

it, but wanted to withdraw the plea deal because he was so irritated by the lack of apology.

Even Judge Smith commented that Hamilton "needs to work on his apology skills." The judge added: "You could have done a lot of good with a heartfelt apology to these people you have hurt," motioning at the Bohannon family.

In addition to the jail sentence, Hamilton was ordered to serve 2 years of house arrest followed by 12 years of probation with no alcohol and the condition that he perform 50 hours of community service every year with Mothers Against Drunk Drivers to talk about his experience.

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.”

WHS Carpentry Class builds benches for Pre-K

By **JOSH BROWN**
School Board Member

On a recent school visit to Wakulla Pre-K during an outdoor classroom event, several teachers and even some students spoke up about the need to replace some of their outdoor stools and benches.

Donated some time ago, they had fallen into disrepair and were starting to show their age. Their stools are actually rounds cut from trees, which work perfectly and fit in nicely with the outdoor classroom theme the Eaglets of Wakulla Pre-K have. One phone call to Vito Knowles with Good Times for Rent and the rounds needed for their outdoor classroom were graciously donated and delivered.

If you see he or his crew around town give them an “Attaboy.” People helping people is what Wakulla is all about and the time and effort spent by Mr. Knowles and his crew

were much appreciated. But what about the benches? Buying them was going to cost quite a bit and the money wasn't in the school's budget for new benches. This got me to thinking, which can be dangerous. Wakulla High School has an excellent carpentry program. Maybe with some help we could handle this need in House?

Again, one quick phone call to Principal Michele Falk at the high school and I had an immediate “Yes, absolutely we can do that!”

With some community help the materials were donated to build three benches custom-sized for our small friends at the Pre-K.

Thank you to Gulf Coast Lumber for helping facilitate getting them ordered and delivered. Within days, Mr. McCurley, our MVP in this operation who runs the carpentry program at Wakulla High School, sprang into action and work began. Teaching and working with his



Wakulla High School carpentry students with outdoor benches they built for students at Wakulla Pre-K.

many gifted students, the carpentry class designed, constructed, and helped deliver two custom benches, complete with Eco-Friendly long-lasting composite tops built to last many, many years serving the Wakulla Pre-K outdoor classroom.

What a great way

to not only teach our students construction skills that will serve them for their lifetimes, but it also showed them how to use those skills to help others, which in my opinion might even be the most valuable lesson our students learn.

The Wakulla High School Carpentry program of today is so much more than just a place for students to build things, it's a

Home Builder Institute Accredited program, offering students three different certifications. Many of the students who worked on the project have already earned their HBI PACT industry certification, and many more are taking the test this November.

At the same time some of these students are earning dual enrollment hours through Lively Technical Col-

lege.

Problem solving at its best: Wakulla Pre-K now has new stools and the absolute best outdoor benches. Wakulla High School Carpentry program learned some new skills and were able to see their work help others in need.

Perhaps best of all, because of such a giving community we live in, no money was spent and everything was donated. That's a Win, Win, Win scenario if I do say so myself, and I am grateful to live in a county where this is the norm, not a miracle. If you know or happen to see Principal Falk, Mr. McCurley, or Mrs. Wheeler, or any students in the carpentry program please give them a pat on the back. Our oldest students helping out our youngest students is a model that will never get old.

Job well done everyone! You made me very proud to be a War Eagle alumni and a member of this great school system and community.

Josh Brown is a Wakulla County School Board member.

Something on your mind?

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

On the Horizon

Calendar of events for the week of Oct. 12

Thursday, October 12

- St. Marks City Commission meets at City Hall at 6 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.
- Yoga with Nellie, Yin yoga at 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Classes are \$12, packages available at New Posh on 3079 Crawfordville Hwy. RSVP to newposh3079@gmail.com or text/call at (850) 528-5838.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

Friday, October 13

- The Wakulla War Eagles host the Taylor County Bulldogs at J.D. Jones Stadium at 7 p.m.
- The Wakulla High 30th Annual Fish Fry Fundraiser will be held before the football game from 5 - 7 p.m. Tickets

are \$12 at the gate, if one isn't purchased beforehand. Proceeds go to the Wakulla High NJROTC.

- The Wakulla County Value adjustment board will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the county commission chambers.
- A workshop on how to run for political office hosted by the supervisor of elections office will be held from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the St. Marks room of the Wakulla Community center
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and 8 p.m. every Friday at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

Saturday, October 14

- The Wakulla County Historical Society will hold its annual meeting at the old courthouse at 23 High Drive in Crawfordville, starting at 12:30 p.m.
- The Sopchoppy Community market will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 34 Rose Street
- The Outdoor Wakulla Living Festival will take place at Hudson Park from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at

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

Monday, October 16

- The Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners meets at 5 p.m. in the commission chambers.
- The American Legion Post 114 will be meeting at the Wakulla County Public Library at 6:30 p.m.
- The Wakulla Respite Program is available weekly for anyone with memory impairment at no cost from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lake Ellen Baptist Church.
- Yoga with Nellie, Restorative yoga at 9:30 a.m. and 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 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

Tuesday, October 17

- The Wakulla County Charter Review Commission meets at 6 p.m. in the St.

Marks Room at the community center.

- 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.
- Yoga with Nellie, Restorative yoga at 9:30 a.m. and 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.

Wednesday, October 18

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

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William Snowden
Editor & Publisher
The Wakulla Sun

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The Wakulla Sun



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◀ Question of The Week ▶

– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

Polled at the SunBlest Nursery Open House on Saturday

What's your favorite fall flower?



TONYA HOBBY
Rotary Member

"I like the burgundy colors and all the different greens and shades of color they come in."



LAUREN TORCHIA
DOP at SunBlest Gardens

"I like the mums, the Chrysanthemums. But, I really just like ALL flowers."



RHONDA SAPP
Paralegal

"I like all flowers, but I'm going to go with the mums."



LOYCE VAUSE
Retired

"The Lantana, they draw the butterflies."



DONOVAN PICKFORD
SunBlest Gardens

"Lantana! It's a needy plant, but it tells you when it needs something and perks right back up. They attract the butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds."

COMMUNITY NEWS

Buckhorn News

By **ETHEL SKIPPER**

Today we give praise and Thanksgiving unto our Lord. We obey His word, and give our bodies as a living sacrifice. When the Lord does something good for us we ought to share it with others, believers and unbelievers, they also need strength as their faith continues to grow in the Lord. We all need deliverance from troubles, and as we pray out to Him, and give Him praise and thanks Him. One can praise God at all times and pray because He is with us.

No matter what storm you are going through, praise God. In the storm, through the storm, and praise Him out of the storm. We serve a God of mercy and goodness. Let us praise Him and bless His name because He is worthy of

all thanks and praise.

In everything in any matter of life the way to be free of anxiety is to be peaceable and prayerful about everything. God is eager to hear our request, we should go to Him in prayer thanking Him for all the things He has already done for us.

The Church of Christ W.I.H. in Woodville will be having their pastor anniversary on Sunday Oct 22nd, at 3 p.m. We welcome you to fellowship with us. Host pastor Elder Steve Jackson

Today I received my perspective Pasco-Hernando State College fall issue as they highlight the 50th anniversary celebrations, reading about the college president who is my nephew Timothy L. Beard, Ph.D. with mixed emotions. He

is preparing to conclude his tenure at PHSC on Jan. 21, 2024 as president.

Celebrate Ethel Skipper, pastor and founder of Skipper Temple Church of Christ Written in Heaven. She will be honored and appreciated by the church members, friends, community, and all that know her. You can celebrate with just a prayer or good thought. Ethel Mae Rosier Skipper, born in Sopchoppy at the home of John and Charlotte Rosier. In 1982 she was called in the ministry her first revival was in Seattle. In 1988 pastor Skipper was appointed to pastor in Carrabelle. She was there for 18 years. In 2007 she was sent back to Sopchoppy and built the Skipper Temple Church. She is thankful for her husband Willie F. Skipper Sr., church members and family, all those who have been a supporter of the work God has enabled her to do.

As she celebrates 35 years of pastor-

ing, let us come together with singing, shouting, praying, and giving God the highest praise on Sunday, Oct. 22, at 11 a.m., everyone is welcome. Come and be blessed.

Let us keep the family of Vera Mae Rosier Thomas in our prayers

Buckhorn community celebrated Honoring the Legacy of our families on Saturday, Oct. 7 at Mount Trial Fellowship Center. Special thanks to cousin Renita Allen Dixon, cousin Dove Green Rosier, cousin Jerrlyne Allen Jackson. Buckhorn community families serve the community in keeping it alive. The Allen, Arnett, Belt, Gainey, Hill, Hines, Mills, Plummer, Skipper, Reed, Scott, Simmons and many other families. Thanks to everyone who helped to make honoring the Legacy of our family such a success, good blessings upon each of you.

Library News

By **LINDA OAKS**

Library News Oct. 12 through 18th:

October 12th

- Creative Writing 10am
- Homeschool History 12:30pm

October 13th

- Quilting Guild 9:30 am

October 14th

- Zeta Phi Zeta (BAIZ) 9am
- Alzheimer's Support Group 10am
- READ Therapy Dogs 10am
- Solar Eclipse Viewing Party 12pm

October 15th

- No Programs Today
- October 16th
- American Legion 6:30pm

October 17th

- Book Bunch 10 am
- Postpartum Support Group 1pm
- Lego Club 4pm
- Wakulla County Historical Society 5:45pm
- Florida Sarracenia Chapter of the Native Plant Society 6:30pm
- Pregnancy Support Group 6:30pm

October 18th

- Book Babies 10am
- Knitting Group 4pm
- Upcoming Holiday Closings
- Nov. 10th and 11th for Veteran's Day

Save the Date

- Saturday October 28th
- Trick or Treat Story Walk at Azalea Park 5:30pm-8:30pm

Jessi Smith is Sun's newspaper carrier

This year, the newspaper industry has designated Saturday, October 7, 2023, as International Newspaper Carrier Day, a salute to the many newspaper carriers who deliver the news to Americans every week.

The Wakulla Sun's carrier is Jessi Smith. Even before the newspaper was printed, Jessi helped put the Sun logo on our newspaper racks – and does promotional deliveries of newspapers to selected neighborhoods. For years, she was the carrier at the other newspaper and came over with other staff when we started the Sun.

Thank you, Jessi.



Wakulla Sun carrier Jessi Smith

Sheriff's Report

This report is for activity Sept. 29 to Oct. 5:

FRIDAY, SEPT. 29

• Jose Martinez reported several items stolen from his yard. Martinez advised he purchased the home approximately 2 weeks and the items were left by the previous owner. He stated when he returned on this date the items were gone. Deputy Kory Smith investigated.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 30

• Ryan Clint reported someone opening a credit card account in his name. Clint was able to get the account closed before any charges were made to the account. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

• Samuel Green reported being in an altercation with Cameron Harris. All parties were intoxicated after attending a party. Green requested no charges be pursued and signed an

affidavit of non-prosecution. Deputy Norman De Guzman responded.

SUNDAY, OCT. 1

• Robert Allen reported receiving credit cards that he had not applied for. He contacted the company and filed a fraud complaint. He has received two cards so far and is concerned. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Dustin Matthews investigated.

MONDAY, OCT. 2

• Phillip Rankin reported the theft of his father's headstone from Buckhorn Cemetery. The headstone is approximately 30 years old and it is unknown who might have taken it or when it might have gone missing. Deputy Zac Munroe investigated.

• Deputy Anthony Paul responded to Damon Circle in reference to the report of fraud. Terry Nazworth advised he was contacted by Sean

Watson of the "DEA." Nazworth was told he had a warrant out of Texas for trafficking narcotics and money laundering. He was instructed to send \$20,000 in Bitcoin in order to avoid arrest. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

TUESDAY, OCT. 3

• A traffic stop was conducted on a vehicle for faulty equipment. The driver, Francisco Flores Hernandez, did not have a valid license. Hernandez admitted to being in the U.S. for 14 years and never having had a driver's license. Hernandez was placed under arrest and transported to jail without incident.

• Billy Danos reported being struck on the face while at Riverside Cafe on Saturday, Sept. 30. Danos stated he did not know who struck him but suffered a broken nose. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Anthony Paul investigated.

THURSDAY, OCT. 5

• Christopher Pandolfi reported

an unknown person entered his vehicle and removed items valued at approximately \$100. A photo was taken of the suspect on a surveillance camera in the yard. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Kory Smith investigated.

• A Toyota Tundra was stopped on Tafflinger Drive after the owner advised it was reported as stolen in Leon County on Wednesday, Oct. 4. It was determined the vehicle was not entered NCIC/FCIC as stolen. Deputies made contact with the investigating deputy from Leon County. He advised it was a civil issue and an attempt to locate BOLO only was requested the evening before. The driver of the vehicle was identified as Matthew Willis, whose Florida driver's license has been suspended/revoked for several years. Willis was placed under arrest for Driving While License Suspended or Revoked (DWLSR) with knowledge. Deputy Don Newsome investigated.

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

Outdoors

outdoor sports

HOME ON THE RANGE

Sally and her new Sig Sauer P238



By MARJ LAW

Bullseye! Bullseye! Sally got a bullseye!

We're at the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office range on Wednesday, and it's Sally's third trip to the range with Joe and me.

This is how Sally got her gun: After shooting several .380 caliber handguns at the range, Sally emails to say that the gun she tried out, my little Sig Sauer P238, is her favorite over the Glock 42, Smith & Wesson .380 EZ Shield and the Ruger Security .380. She visits gun shops, and what do you know but Sig doesn't make this gun anymore!

Sally wants this little Sig. She does her research and finds that it's true: Sig does not make this gun now. However, the good news is that you can still find the Sig P238 if you look around for it.

So Sally does find her Sig at two places. She promptly purchases a used one that looks pretty good to her. The salesman points out a very minor wear spot on the block of the barrel. Sally's a bit concerned, but she thinks this gun is for her.

She buys it and brings it to the range on Wednesday. She shows me the wear spot.

"Is it too bad?" she wonders.

I have to look carefully to locate it.

"That's a common spot to show some signs of wear. I bought my gun new several years ago, and it shows a lot more wear than that," I reassure her. "However, looking at that spot and racking the slide, I think the gun is quite dry and needs some grease."

Your gun will rack better, and wear spots (unless they're unusually heavy wear) do better with a light coat of grease. Not too much, or it's like swiping on too much furniture polish. Too much furniture polish attracts dust and dirt. Too much grease in a gun collects shooting residue and can lower its performance. Too little, and the slide doesn't rack as smoothly as it ought to. Did you clean and lube the Sig since you bought it?"

"No, but my husband can do it."

Joe shows her how to fieldstrip her new Sig.

"Now you can do it yourself," I suggest. "You want to be master of your own gun."

Sally nods, but doesn't appear too enthusiastic. I get it. Cleaning a gun is like dusting furniture or vacuuming the floor. Has to be done, but isn't much fun.

"How come my sights aren't so white as your sights?" she asks.

I check. "You have night sights," I tell her. "Normally, those are more expensive than my white dot sights."

"They don't show up like yours do," she comments. "Can I get big white dot sights like the ones on your gun?"

Joe suggests she looks on the Sig Sauer site under "Accessories."

"I'll bet you can find them there," he says.

"If you can't (but I think you'll find them), you might dab on some French White nail pol-



First Bull's-Eye!

ish. Not white polish, but French White. It stands out more," I advise.

We wait for the range to be cold, and then put up a target. Well, we try to put up a sticky target, but the back board is wet and the target won't stick. Since Joe uses paper targets and carries a stapler, we ask for help and Joe staples the target firmly.

As soon as all of us are finished putting up our targets, we call "hot" so everyone knows the range is no longer cold. Everyone has on "eyes" and "ears" and we are all ready to bring our covered guns to the shooting bench. The shooting bench is really a counter-high table.

Sally has pre-loaded her two magazines. One is a flush 6 and the other is an extended 7-round magazine.

She racks the slide

and aims. And aims some more. I notice she has crossed her thumbs behind this semi-automatic gun and am about to tell her to put both thumbs on the same side, when she notices what she has done and she moves her thumb over correctly. Good for her that she notices and self-corrects!

Finally, she pulls the trigger.

No dice.

She pulls again.

Nothing.

She turns toward me and flips the gun on its side while still keeping the muzzle of the gun pointing downrange.

I grin at her and point out that the magazine well is empty.

"Don't print that!" she laughs.

"Don't worry, Sally. Every shooter I know has done the exact same thing."

Sally pushes in the

extended magazine and gives it a little pop to make sure it's in position.

She aims. She shoots.

Whack! Her bullet hits the target left: at the 9 o'clock position.

"Keep going!"

She shoots some more. All of her shots hit the target, but they are all to the left.

Joe watches her index finger.

"Maybe you can try shooting with the pad of your finger instead of the first joint. It might make a difference," he suggests.

Sally ejects the first magazine and puts in the other. Again, all of her shots are to the left.

"I notice you normally wear glasses," I say to her.

"Why, yes. I do. I have monovision. One eye is for distance: the other is for close up."

"So, you're seeing the

target with your distance eye."

"Well, no. I've been squinching my distance eye closed."

"How is that working for you?" I grin at her.

"I should be using my distance eye," she admits.

"You'll find many experts advise looking at the target with both eyes. However, I have monovision too. I cock my head ever so slightly and shoot, using my distance eye. You might want to try it both ways. Shoot, leaving both eyes open and see how you do. Then shoot, using your dominant eye when you aim. See what works best for you."

Sally shoots some more. Her bullets start to make holes just above and just below the x-ring.

"This shows your sights are aligned well: neither right nor left. Now, making sure your rear sights form a line with your front sight, shoot some more."

She shoots.

"Marj, is that hole in the x-ring?" she asks, not believing what she's seeing.

"Yes! Yes, you got a hit smack in the center of the x-ring! You made a bullseye! You surely did!"

Sally is happy. Sally is really happy.

"You know, Sally," I begin, "you have a lot of holes above and below the x-ring. All of those are great shots. If you're defending yourself, Mr. Bad doesn't stand a chance."

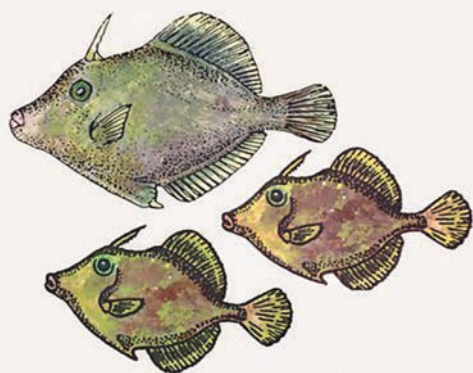
She agrees. But...

"I got a bullseye," she marvels.

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

WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO

Retired Wakulla Springs State Park Ranger Bob Thompson, on his weekly wildlife survey at the park last week, snapped this photo of a snowy egret looking for a meal.



GREEN FILEFISH
(*Stephanolepis hispidus*)

Fishermen named this fish for the sandpapery skin using it to strike matches. The fish has a trigger like mechanism on its dorsal spine that makes it spring erect when they are threatened. This fish lives in in sargassum (seaweed) beds where it eats tiny marine invertebrates. Juveniles often inhabit floating sargassum weed rafts. It grows to about 14" and is often eaten by dolphins and larger fish.

Eukarya Animalia Cordata Osteichthyes
Tetraodontiformes Monacanthidae

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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

Oct. 12 - Oct. 18



Tide charts by tides4fishing.com



Best fishing days this month October 14-28

Table with tide and moon information for days Thursday 12 through Monday 16. Columns include Sun rise/set, Moon rise/set, and Moon Illumination.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

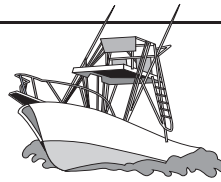
Best hunting and fishing based on solunar times. MAJOR feeding periods are 2 hours long, centered on the solunar time. MINOR feeding periods are only 1 hour long, again centered on the solunar time.

Table with Minor Times and Major Times for days Thursday 12 through Wednesday 18.



Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports

By Carolyn Brown Treadon



The following was shared by the United States Coast Guard:

Diversity in both our mission and our personnel make the United States Coast Guard a force to be reckoned with! During Hispanic Heritage Month, the USCG recognizes and celebrates the contributions of Hispanic American Coasties who have served and are serving in the Coast Guard. BZ shipmates!

This year's theme, as determined by the National Council of Hispanic Employment Program Managers (NCHEPM), is: "Unidos: Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation."

"Unidos" translates to mean united or connected.

Unification is a driving factor in the #Coast-

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

Guard in creating a workplace that is inclusive and equitable. As early as the 1800s, Hispanic Americans have served with honor and distinction in the Coast Guard as lighthouse keepers, surfmen, cutterman, and aviators.

Today, the Coast Guard's Hispanic American workforce continues to achieve and contrib-

ute to the Service and can be proud of the legacy they follow and the one they leave behind for future members.

Thanks to Sherrie, we will always remember safe boating is no accident.

Please contact us for more information about our safe boating classes or learning more about

getting involved in the Auxiliary, check out our website at www.uscgaux.net follow us on Facebook @ Apalachee Bay Flotilla 12 or contact our Flotilla Commander Phil Hill at pnkhill2000@yahoo.com

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

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

FWC Law Enforcement Report

From FWC

This report represents some events the FWC handled Sept. 22-28. There were no cases reported for Wakulla County or the Northwest Region.

These cases were reported in the North Central Region:

CITRUS COUNTY

• Officer Specialist Sarmiento was on water patrol in Crystal River when he initiated a stop on a vessel with fishing rods and other fishing

DIXIE COUNTY

• Members of FWC's North Central Region dive team assisted the Dixie County Sheriff's Office with a death investigation at a boat ramp

SUWANNEE COUNTY

• Officer Cline responded to a traffic stop

conducted by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services where a deceased alligator was observed in the bed of a utility task vehicle. Officer Cline spoke with the two occupants of the vehicle who told him the alligator was already dead when they put it in the back of the utility task vehicle. The officer noted there was blunt force trauma to the head of the alligator. Further inspection revealed a hammer on the utility task vehicle that contained blood. Appropriate citations were issued for the violation.

Underwater Wakulla

By Rusty Miller

First fall class.

I had my first fall class this weekend and it was a little different. Saturday I had eight students plus one refresher. The difference was it was all adult men.

Four of them were college and five were men in their late twenties to late sixties.

I haven't really had all men very often. I'm used to young to middle aged couples with several kids in class.

They made it through the Saturday portion including the 2 hour nitrox part at the end. We started at 8 a.m. and finished around 5:30 p.m. None of them fell asleep during class but like most men I had to have stretching breaks so they wouldn't zone out on me.

Next we moved to Sunday for the pool portion of the training. We met at 9 a.m. at the pool and unloaded the gear and tanks. Then it was time for the swim test portion of the class. You have to show that you can swim at a bare minimum in order to do the pool and open water portion of the training.

You have to be able to swim 50 feet holding your breath underwater. It sounds easy enough but most people can barely make it to the 50 foot mark on one breath. I know I have certified thousands of divers over the years to know this.

As an instructor I had to swim 75 feet underwater on one breath, it took me three tries before I made it. *Disclaimer here* For all you TRAINED breath old divers I'm not talking about y'all, just the average individual.

The next part is to swim 250 yards without stopping or 10 laps in a 25 yard long pool any stroke. Unless you swim a lot of laps daily in a pool it is way more difficult than you might imagine - especially if you're older, out of shape, or you smoke.

The next part is treading water for a total of 10 minutes with the last 2 minutes with your hands out of the water. For those of you who can float this is a very easy part but for some of us who sink like a rock (yours truly) it can be very difficult and demanding.

After that we started the pool portion of the class. I forgot to mention that the pool I use for the class normally is heated to about 85 degrees year round but for some reason it was about 68-70 degrees. The outside air temperature was 50 degrees and so the pool kind of felt warm.

We stayed in the pool for about 5-6 hours and had to call it quits for the day because we were all shivering so bad it hurt. We will finish the surface skills in the springs on our first open water dive with wetsuits on.

- Russell Miller, NAUI instructor #59999

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Are you a secretly depressed Christian?

By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

For almost 30 years, I struggled with clinical depression and suicidal thoughts. For 26 of those years, I was a born-again, Bible-believing Christian.

Which means, off and on, for 26 years, I was what many would consider a spiritual oxymoron – a suicidal Christian.

Are you a Christian who thinks about suicide?

Can you remember what it feels like not to be depressed?

Do you wish you could tell your pastor or your friend sitting next to you in church, but the shame of your “lack of faith” keeps you from opening up?

I’ve been there. I remember how lonely and scary it felt.

But I took a chance and talked to a few fellow Christians, and it made all the difference. God led me to people who cared and never gave up on me. Believers who – with huge amounts of loving endurance – counseled and prayed with me throughout my dark season. They reminded me God would never give up on me either. That He still had a purpose for me, as Psalm 138:8 (ESV) says: “The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.”

Many don’t have people to walk with them through their dark season. The church has come a long way in dealing with the issue of depression, but we still have a long way to go.

Perhaps those of us in the body of Christ need to ask ourselves:

“Why is it so hard for church-going, Bible-believing Christians to tell their pastor or church friends that they’re suicidal?”

And ...

“How can we make it easier for them to do so?”

This would be a discussion worth having, wouldn’t it?

Especially if those of you who struggle with depression and thoughts of suicide were included in that discussion.

As we (the church) continue to work on this, dear reader, refuse to believe the lie that you are hopeless – or worse, that no one cares. More and more people are coming to understand the reality of your struggles. Please, don’t give up on your church community.

Please.

October is National Depression Education and Awareness Month. If you’re in a mental health crisis, dial 988 and speak to a trained counselor. This nationwide Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is available 24/7.

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.

Adopted into His family

By **CHERYL CRUCE**

He was 9 years old when he walked into the school with the social worker handling his case. He had years of foster care, constantly changing homes and schools; why should this time be different?

His bright green Ninja Turtle sweater matched the brightness of his smile, and he quickly made friends despite his learning disabilities. Before long, his fourth-grade classmates be-

came his protectors as Phillip became known throughout our small country school.

I worked as a teacher’s assistant in the third-grade classroom and the Physical Education department. Our youngest daughter, Tiffany, was in Phillip’s class. She constantly talked about the funny things he did. It was apparent that the two had become good friends, although I did not realize how deep the bond would be nor how long it would last.

During recess, Phillip often sat beside me, and we would talk about different things. Then, one day, at the top of the concrete steps, he reached for my hand, looked up with those crystal blue eyes, and said, “I want you to be my mommy.” Looking

down at the innocence of this young child, those seven words pierced my heart and soul.

What was I thinking? My twins were in 8th grade, Tiffany was in fourth grade, and our family was complete. It would be impossible to add another child, especially a child with disabilities. However, concerns about adoption vanished when I watched Tiffany and Phillip play together. With only 10 months separating them in age, it would be like having two sets of twins.

As we started the adoption process, Tiffany and Phillip searched baby books for his new name. In April 1997, Phillip became a desired member of our family.

Adoption is a beautiful word. Yet it comes

with other words like: “unadoptable,” “permanent issues,” “disabilities,” and “lifelong commitment.” At his age, Phillip was considered unadoptable because of his learning disabilities, his medications, and his extended time in foster care. However, something about the love of family and sibling experiences made those words disappear. Phillip needed our home, and our home needed Phillip.

Adoption is as old as scripture. King David adopted Jonathon’s disabled child, Mephibosheth, bringing him to his dinner table (2nd Samuel 9). In the same manner, God desires to adopt us into His family (Ephesians 1:5), inviting us to His dining table (Revelation 19:9).

Through our faith in Jesus, we become His children (Galatians 3:26). We are redeemed and adopted as His sons and daughters (Galatians 4:4-5), despite spiritual disabilities.

I am sure we have felt unadoptable, living with insecurities that made us feel unlovable. Yet we have always been loved by our heavenly Father. Like foster children, the world will tell us we are not good enough.

Still, God says we are fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14). The world says we are broken; The Word says we are a new creation in Him (2 Corinthians 5:17). We may feel undesirable. However, He desires us.

Regardless of our past or current situation, we are loved and

wanted. God has initiated an adoption process through His Son. His home needs us; we need Him. Just as Tiffany and Phillip chose his new name, The Lord has chosen a new name for us (Revelation 2:17). Isn’t it time we say, “I want you to be my Father.”

Ephesians 1:4-5: He chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world that we should be holy and blameless before him in love. He did this by calling us to adoption as his legal heirs through Jesus Christ, according to the pleasure of his will.

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

OUT TO PASTOR

Life can be a series of dreams

By **JAMES SNYDER**

Lately, I’ve been having some fascinating dreams at night. Usually, I don’t give much thought to dreams, but lately, I’ve been thinking more about them.

Last night, for example, I had this exciting dream, and everything seemed to be coming in my direction, and then I woke up before the end. Once I woke up, I did not know how the dream ended.

I tried thinking about the dream, but I could not remember any elements of that dream. While dreaming, everything was very clear, and I even noticed people I knew. Then, I woke up and couldn’t remember anything.

I’ve been having these kinds of dreams lately. Maybe it’s because I’m getting older, and my brain has nothing else to do. I wish I would

not wake up until the dream was finished.

I asked The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage at breakfast if she knew about a certain building. I then described that building in as much detail as I possibly could.

She finally nodded at me and said, “That doesn’t ring any bells with me.”

I’m the only ding-a-ling here; if she didn’t remember that building, it never existed.

It had to exist somewhere, and I needed help figuring out where in the world I saw that building.

Then I said, “Do you remember...” And I described a person that was in my dream.

Again, none of her bells were ringing on that one either.

“Why are you asking me these questions?” I explained to her that these things were in my dreams and I couldn’t remember where I saw them last.

Thinking about this throughout the day, I realized that my life, in general, is pretty much like these fading dreams I’ve been having. None of these dreams made sense after I woke up.

While I was dreaming of them, they made sense, but when I woke up, all sense disappeared.

Maybe life should be more like that. If I didn’t wake up, I would know what was happening.

One time, at a conference, I drove through a little town and saw several familiar buildings. I had never been to this town before, so I couldn’t figure it out. But it came to me.

These buildings were in my dreams the other night.

So, as I was driving, I began to think, am I dreaming, or am I driving?

I guess it doesn’t make any difference one way or the other.

If I could remember my dreams, my life would change a little bit for the better. But I have these wonderful dreams and wake up before they’re finished and then don’t remember anything about them, which is rather sad.

I tried an experiment the other night. I went to bed, had my prayer time, and then decided to invent a dream for the night. I’ve never

done this before and was not sure how to do it. I tried to put together all kinds of little suggestions of my dream that would catch.

In a few minutes, I was sound asleep. The next thing I knew, it was morning, and I was awake. I lay there in my bed thinking, what happened to that dream? It was the first time in weeks that I did not have any kind of a dream. That made me a little frustrated.

For the next few nights, I tried the same experiment all to naught. Where in the world do these dreams come from?

That morning at the breakfast table, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage looked at me and smiled and said, “I had the most marvelous dream last night.” Then she told me about her dream and how it ended. She remembered everything about it.

What disturbed me was that was the dream I was trying to create for myself last night. How in the world did she get my dream?

I’m beginning to

think she can get inside my head whenever she wants, which is much more than I can do.

All day long, she was smiling, and once in a while, she would remember something of that dream and share it with me.

That evening, I decided to ask her about her dream. “How did you get such a wonderful dream in your head last night?”

Then she talked for quite a few minutes, explaining how all of that came together in her head.

“Why didn’t you wake up before the dream ended?” I asked with anticipation.

“I make it a habit not to scare my dreams away like some people I know,” she explained.

“What do you mean by that?”

“Well,” she stuttered a little bit, looking at me, “I do not snore when I’m sleeping which is what scares dreams.”

I got the implication that I snored at night, which scared my dreams away, which was a little difficult for me to understand. I see

and hear my dreams but have never heard me snore. How does all of that work?

Life is not built on dreams. I was reminded of a Bible verse. “Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.” (2 Corinthians 5:6-8).

My faith in God is what guides my daily life, not my dreams.

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



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Obituaries

DEATH NOTICES

• **John C. Cissell**, 67, of Tallahassee, died September 22, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **Selma Hill Jr.**, 71, of Carrabelle, died October 8, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **Leslie Ernest Lynch Jr.**, 71, of Crawfordville, died October 5, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **James L. Osgood**, 79, of Crawfordville, died October 4, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **Leslie Charles Rivers**, 77, of Tallahassee, died October 2, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel, 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **Barbara Elaine Swayze**, 73, of Tallahassee, died October 2, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel, 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

BEREAVEMENT COLUMN

Guitar lessons for recovery



By TRACY RENEE LEE

My brother lost his wife in January of this year. She died from breast cancer. He misses her so much, but he is doing well. His recovery is moving along in a healthy direction and time frame.

One thing that my brother is not suffering from is depression. Depression is not a normal part of grief; it is a complication that interferes with recovery and raises the risk of serious illness. Right after my sister-

in-law died, my brother began having chest pains. Because grief can cause physical pain, we thought it was pain related to his loss. After a few months, he eventually saw his cardiologist. It came to light that his heart was out of arrhythmia. His doctor scheduled a corrective procedure, and we were instructed to keep him from getting excited and suffering from grief until his appointment.

This is where we became concerned that delaying his grief experience might lead to depression. We took precautions to avoid this and keep his recovery moving forward in a positive trajectory.

On the scheduled day, my husband took my brother to his doctor's office for his procedure, and the doctor discovered

that my brother required immediate open-heart surgery. My husband went with my brother to a different part of the hospital, and my brother was admitted into the cardio intensive care unit.

After surgery, my brother came to stay at my home during his convalescence. Again, the doctor expressed the importance of my brother delaying his grief experience, making complications even more likely.

My brother seemed to be recovering very well, but a few weeks ago, he noticed some difficulties. He went back to see his doctor, and his heart was again suffering arrhythmia. His doctor scheduled a procedure, which took place last week. My brother is feeling very well, and his heart is normalizing.

Now that my brother's heart seems to be healthier, he can handle his grief recovery much better. He has moments of sadness but has incorporated new strategies to cope and swing away from depression. He has focused on a new venture. He teaches guitar lessons on YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/@EZ3ChordCountry>.

His YouTube venture takes up most of his time. This time invested in an activity that he enjoys and excels in is an excellent strategy for recovery. My brother and his wife used to have a band that visited nursing homes to spread cheer through music. This new activity is an extension of that mission. My brother continues to play at nursing homes, but he has added another

service to his lifelong goal of serving others.

If you are suffering loss, I hope you will be able to find something that you love to do that allows you to facilitate your recovery while serving others. Service helps to ward off feelings of loneliness and depression. Service is one of the best things you can do for grief recovery.

Service to others brings instant movement away from the pain and anguish of grief.

It moves your focus from the pain you suffer onto the needs of others.

This redirection of focus brings progress to your life and allows your heart, mind, and efforts to carry your soul back to a meaningful and peaceful existence.

Service will not shrink

the significance of your loss; it merely shrinks your focus on that loss.

Investing in an activity that allows you to serve others and memorialize the legacy of your loved one is an excellent strategy for grief recovery. I am happy my brother has found such a wonderful tribute to his wife.

Tracy Renee Lee is a Certified Grief Counselor (GC-C), Funeral Director (FDC), published author, syndicated columnist, Podcaster, and founder of the "Mikey Joe Children's Memorial" and Heaven Sent, Corp. She is the American Funeral Director of the Year Runner-Up and recipient of the BBB's Integrity Award. It is my life's work to comfort the bereaved and help them live on.

Weekly Roundup: Presidential picks

By RYAN DAILEY
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE – The outcome this week of one higher-education presidential search was widely expected, as Richard Corcoran was chosen to lead New College of Florida — but a state college had an unexpected turn of events.

Broward College began an expedited search for an interim leader last week, after former President Gregory Haile resigned. By Tuesday, the college's Board of Trustees had selected Henry Mack, a former senior chancellor at the state Department of Education, to become interim president.

But it wasn't meant to be. Mack asked for a salary and a contract length that were more than what the college was willing to give, the chairwoman of the trustees told The News Service of Florida.

So on Wednesday, Broward College announced that the trustees' second choice, Barbara Bryan, will serve as interim president.

Bryan has been CEO of Higher Education Consulting and worked at the school for 26 years, holding roles such as campus president and provost of the college's North Campus in Coconut Creek. She will be the first woman to hold the top job at the college.

"I've spent the greater part of my career at the institution, and it is an honor for me to return

in the capacity of acting president to serve among the dedicated and passionate faculty and staff in our mission to provide quality education and job training to our community," Bryan said in a statement.

Trustees agreed on a contract that is slated to run for six months and includes a \$287,000 annualized base salary. Mack had been offered a similar contract, with an additional travel reimbursement of up to \$3,000 because he lives in Tallahassee.

But Broward College trustees Chairwoman Alexis Yarbrough said Mack requested a \$400,000 salary and a term of at least one year.

A job posting listed a salary range for the position of \$250,000 to \$350,000. "You are stepping into his (Haile's) shoes. The salary should be the same as that exiting president. And we do not do housing and transportation allowances at Broward College," Yarbrough said.

Meanwhile, Corcoran, who took over as interim president of New College in February, was chosen Tuesday from among three finalists to become president of the Sarasota school on a permanent basis.

The former state House speaker and state education commissioner received 10 of 12 votes from the New College board, which is dominated by appointees of Gov. Ron DeSantis. The

board's faculty and student members voted for other finalists.

The trustees' selection of Corcoran set in motion negotiations on a contract, with board Vice Chairman Ronald Christaldi designated to work out the details. The New College Presidential Search Committee in July approved a pay range of \$487,000 to \$868,000.

GAETZ EYES RETURN

Like father, like son — maybe? While former state Senate President Don Gaetz launched a campaign this week to try to return to the Legislature, his son, Congressman Matt Gaetz, is widely rumored to be considering a run for governor in 2026.

Don Gaetz, a Niceville Republican who served in the Senate from 2006 to 2016, was president of the chamber during the 2013 and 2014 legislative sessions. He filed paperwork this week to run in 2024 in the Panhandle's Senate District 1.

"I can tell you that there is no sideline in the Senate," Gaetz, a former hospice executive and

Ocala County schools superintendent, said. "There are 40 members, and the way the Senate operates any one of those 40 members can make a significant contribution. And any one of those 40 members can stand in the way of bad legislation. So, I want to be the best freshman senator I can be."

The 75-year-old Gaetz said he hadn't contemplated a legislative run until a few weeks ago, when a Pensacola radio host asked him about "rumors" of a 2024 candidacy. Sen. Doug Broxson, R-Gulf Breeze, can't run again in the district because of term limits.

The Gaetz name has drawn heavy attention nationally as Gaetz's son, U.S. Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla., forced a vote Tuesday to oust California Republican Kevin McCarthy as U.S. House speaker.

The younger Gaetz was highly critical of McCarthy for working with Democrats to pass a stopgap bill to avoid a federal-government shutdown.

But while rumors swirl that Matt Gaetz could be eyeing the governor's

mansion, he told Jim DeFede of CBS News Miami that he doesn't plan to run.

"I'm not running for governor," the congressman said. "I'm exactly where I'm supposed to be. I'm doing exactly what I'm supposed to be doing."

DOING THE DEPOP

Amid a push to move policyholders into the private market, regulators have approved proposals by six private insurers to take as many 153,000 policies from the state's Citizens Property Insurance Corp.

Insurance Commissioner Michael Yaworsky signed six orders during the past week giving the go-ahead to the private insurers to make offers to Citizens customers. The state Office of Insurance Regulation issued similar orders July 31 and Sept. 1 that could lead to insurers taking as many as 386,000 policies from Citizens.

The number of policies that end up leaving Citizens likely will be significantly lower than the approved totals. Nev-

ertheless, what is known as "depopulation" is a key state strategy for trying to shrink Citizens, which has grown to more than 1.4 million policies because of financial problems in the private market.

"Depop (depopulation) is critically important," Citizens President and CEO Tim Cerio said last week. "We've got to do it for the health of the market."

STORY OF THE WEEK:

Less than 24 hours after selecting former state education official Henry Mack as its interim president, Broward College announced Wednesday that a long-time former administrator at the school — not Mack — will take the helm.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

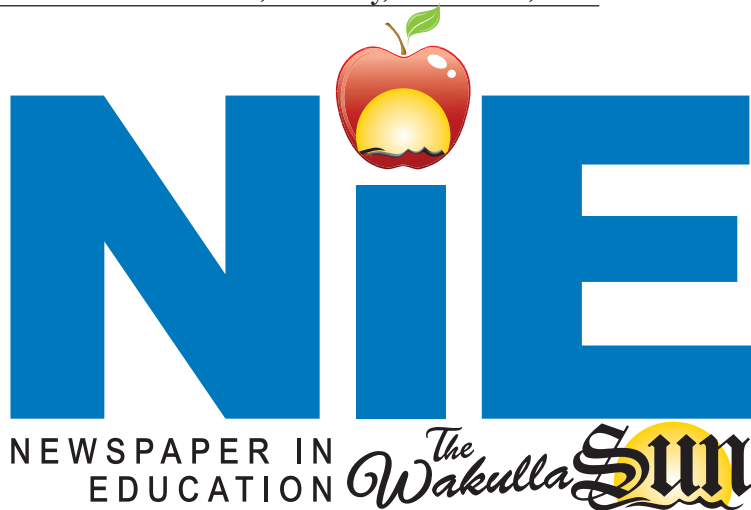
"The good thing is, I love to campaign. My family loves to campaign. We like to go door-to-door. We're almost sick in our love for campaigning." — Former Senate President Don Gaetz, who launched a campaign to return to the Senate.

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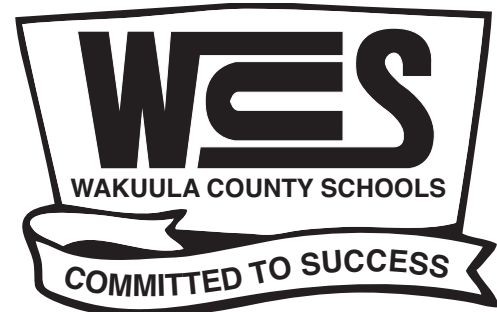
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USE THE NEWS

1. FOLLOW THE FOOTPRINTS

Did you know that footprints could tell history of humans? Researchers have studied fossilized human footprints in New Mexico and determined they are the oldest direct evidence of humans in North and South America. The footprints are between 21,000 and 23,000 years old. To figure out their age, scientists used a technique called carbon dating on aquatic plants, conifer (or pine tree) pollen, and quartz from the area around where the footprints were found. Previously, scientists thought humans first came to the Americas around 15,000 years ago, so the new finding changes the whole timeline of humans reaching these continents. Write a short article that summarizes the facts of this story. Draw a picture to go along with it.

2. GENIUSES AWARDED

Every year, the MacArthur Foundation awards fellowships, known as “genius grants,” to people who have outstanding talent in some way. This year’s fellows include a lawyer who shaped federal election laws, a composer and pianist that focuses on the experiences of African Americans, and a cultural preservationist who is a master Hawaiian hula dance teacher. Each receives a grant of \$800,000 to spend over five years to spend however they want, and many don’t know they’ve been nominated or are being considered until they are awarded the fellowship. Many people think of a “genius” as a scientist or mathematician, but the MacArthur genius grants are given to people from all careers and walks of life. Think about what would make someone a “genius” as a poet, an artist, a musician, or a teacher. Write your own definition of the word genius and explain how it could apply to anyone.

3. A DYING LANGUAGE

While we may not think of languages as living things, it is possible for a lan-

guage to die. A language is considered dead when it is no longer used for communication—once it’s no longer being taught to new generations as a native, primary language, it will eventually be forgotten. People in an ethnic enclave (an area where a specific ethnic group lives, like Chinatown in San Francisco or Jewish communities in Manhattan) in Moldova, a country in Europe, are worried that their language will soon die out. It’s called Gagauz and is in the same language family as Turkish. Most of the country speaks Ro-

manian, and many in the Gagauz area also speak Russian, leftover from the days when Moldova was part of the Soviet Union. Since the language was declared endangered by the United Nations in 2010, scholars and teachers have worked hard to keep it alive, including by teaching it to children as young as kindergarteners. Write an article that summarizes what it means for a language to die and how people can prevent that from happening.

4. PRIZE FOR PEACE

The winners of the Nobel Prize, which includes categories for literature, physics, chemistry, and the prestigious Peace Prize, were awarded last week. The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Narges Mohammadi, an activist for women’s rights in Iran. She’s currently in prison in Iran for the thirteenth time, and in total she has been sentenced to 31 years behind bars for her human rights work. Her husband, who was exiled from Iran and now lives in Paris, said she likes to repeat that “Every single award will make me more intrepid, more resilient and more brave for realizing human

rights, freedom, civil equality and democracy.” Write down some questions you would ask if you were going to interview Narges Mohammadi for an article about her life and the Nobel Peace Prize.

5. PRIZE-WINNING WRITER

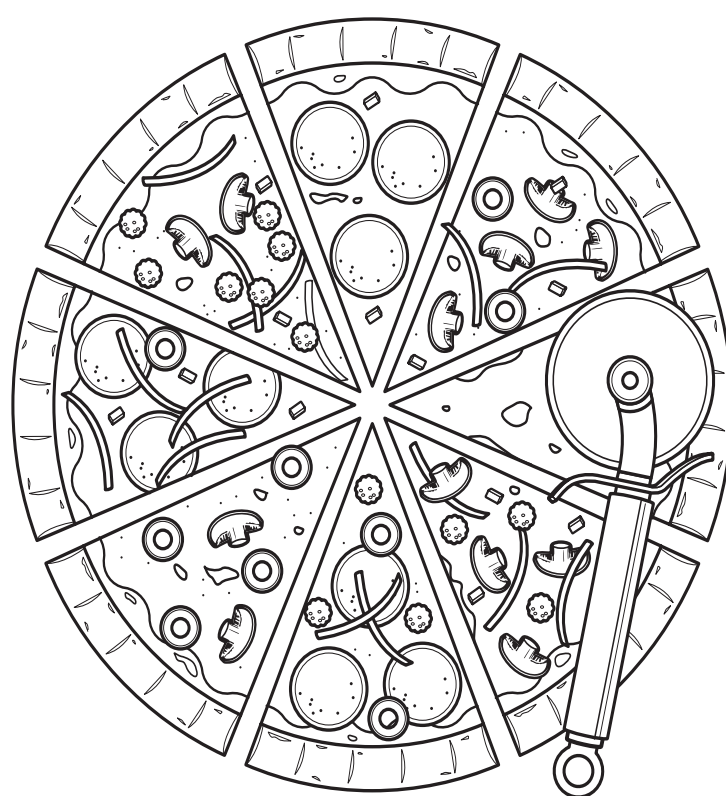
Another of the Nobel Prize winners is Jon Fosse, an author from Norway with a unique claim to fame: He wrote an entire book with just one sentence. His book “A New Name: Septology VI-VII” is the last installment in a seven-novel series and written without any periods or other sentence breaks. His writing

focuses on human aspects of life like birth, death, faith, insecurity, and anxiety. He’s written forty plays along with novels, children’s books, and more, and he writes in Nynorsk, one of the official written versions of Norwegian that’s used by just 10 percent of the country. However, his books have been translated into dozens of languages around the world. Thinking about languages like you learned about in lesson #3, how does Jon Fosse’s work being in a less-used language in Norway help preserve it? Write down your thoughts and share them with your classmates.



Creative Coloring

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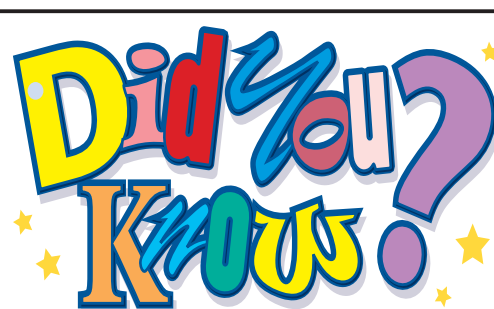
ENGLISH: Slice

SPANISH: Rebanada

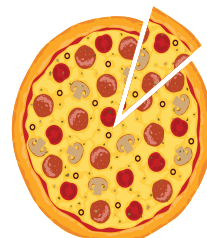
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Published on October 12, 2023

E-EDITIONS



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The Wakulla SUN

Vigil held for murder victim Jody Kilgore



PHOTO BY NEIL HOSTNICK



PHOTO BY WILLIAM SNOWDEN

Gladys Kilgore, mother of Jody Kilgore, held a vigil on Friday, Oct. 6 at the courthouse on the 9th anniversary of her son's murder, Oct. 6, 2014. The case is unsolved.

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

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

On display will be vintage quilts created by local artisans including quilts made by our ancestors as well as newer designs. The show will begin at 2:00 p.m. and conclude at 5:00 p.m. Available for purchase are tickets for two quilts (see below).

The cost of the tickets will be 1 for \$1 or 6 for \$5. The drawing will be held at our Annual Christmas Open House in December. You may visit the Wakulla County Historical Society Museum Thursday-Friday, 10 - 4 p.m. or Sat. 10 - 2 p.m. to purchase these tickets in advance. These quilts were created by Diane Curlee and Cheryl Blose and have been generously donated for this event. All proceeds will be used to support the Wakulla County Historical Society. Call Arlene at 850-962-2210 to display your quilt.



FSU off to 5-0 start

By **CURT WEILER**
TheOsceola

For the first time in eight years, the Florida State football team has started a season 5-0 with Saturday's 39-17 win over Virginia Tech.

There should be rejoicing abound from the fanbase. The Seminoles have gone through the hinterlands of a national title coach leaving them, the dreadful coaching tenure that followed and an extensive rebuild under Mike Norvell and come out the other side in their long-awaited return to national relevance.

There is certainly some of that, especially considering FSU remains unbeaten with all of its goals still quite possible.

And yet, there's an undeniable level of frustration as well. Because for as many moments of brilliance as there have been from this FSU team this season, there have been just as many moments that make you want to pull your hair out.

While those moments of brilliance can't be ignored, neither can the struggles. And while FSU fans have grown frustrated at the Seminoles have fallen marginally in the polls despite continuing to win, it's hard to deny that FSU has not looked like the No. 5 team in the country two of the last three weeks.

FSU started fast — up 22-0 before the end of the first quarter — and finished strong, leading by multiple scores for almost the entire second half.

The defense was exceptional early and clutched up late and the offense had nearly 200 yards by the end of the first quarter.

And yet, people are still looking for that complete performance by the Seminoles. As tantalizing as FSU's second half for the ages against LSU back in Week 1 was, we haven't seen a half like that since.

The offense, high-powered and loaded with talent as it may be, sputters at times. The defense, clutch as it may be, has struggled in moments and certain situations.



PHOTO BY KEN FIELDS

Seminole running back Trey Benson breaks the tackle of a Virginia Tech defender.

It's fair, even probably correct, to say that FSU hasn't yet played up to its potential. And yet, here they sit at 5-0, nearly halfway to an undefeated regular season.

And when you look at the rest of college

football in what would up being a bloody Week 6 across the nation, that certainly couldn't be taken for granted. Eight of the remaining 22 college football unbeaten lost this week.

Texas, widely considered the most im-

pressive team so far this season, lost as a 5.5-point favorite over rival Oklahoma.

Miami, one of the surprises of the early season in terms of exceeding expectations, lost at home to Georgia Tech as a 19.5-point favorite.

"At the end of the day, we're not done yet. We're going to celebrate tonight, come back tomorrow and get ready to work," said quarterback Jordan Travis.

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Next game:

Friday, Oct. 13 at 7 p.m.

Wakulla War Eagles host the Taylor Bulldogs at J.D. Jones Stadium for Homecoming.



War Eagles wallop JP II, 45-0

By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**
Editor

The Wakulla War Eagles improved to 7-0 with a dominating win Friday night over the St. John Paul II Panthers by a score of 45-0.

Wakulla Head Coach Scott Klees said he was “very pleased” with his team’s performance, noting that JP II, while winless, had played very competitively against some very good teams – especially Lincoln and IMG.

“Our kids came out hitting on defense,” Klees said, “and our offensive line set the tone – those were keys.”

The only flaw in the War Eagles high-powered offense were dropped passes. Klees attributed it to a loss of focus by receivers who are looking to make a move and make a play before the ball is in their hands.

Of that offense, Klees commented that his team has “Four or five guys who can score anytime they touch the ball.”

GAME RECAP

Wakulla took the opening kickoff and, on that first series, facing 4th and 5 deep in their own territory, fake a punt and make it. Next play deep pass to Del Zanders puts Wakulla at the Panther 40. Couple of plays later, QB Haden Klees to Nehemiah Chandler for Wakulla

touchdown. Extra point good, Wakulla up 7-0 with 9:14 left in 1Q.

The Panthers had a good offensive series going but it was stopped by War Eagle safety Jeremiah Thomas’ interception at the 9.

The War Eagle offensive drive would stall at the Panther 4 and turn it over on downs. The Panthers would be forced to punt and the War Eagles would drive the field from the 15 and score on a 3-yard Jeremiah Thomas run to go up 14-0.

On the Panthers next drive, they go to punt and the ball sails over the punter’s head into the end zone and he’s tackled for a safety. On the free kick, War Eagle Del Zanders receives it and returns it 65 yards for a touchdown. Fake the extra point kick and go for 2 with a toss to Brandon Burton who scores. In three plays, the War Eagles score 10 points to make it 24-0.

On the next series, receiver Samron Brinson makde a brilliant diving catch in the end zone for the score, to make it 31-0 at halftime.

On the second half kickoff, the JP II runner has the ball knocked loose, it’s recovered by Wakulla at 30. Next play, Klees to Nehemiah Chandler for TD. Extra point makes it 38-0. That started a running clock under the mercy rule.

The final score came



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WEEKLY WAR EAGLE GAME HIGHLIGHTS
on the Wakulla Report, Wolf 103.1, ESPN 97.9 and WAVE 94.1!



PHOTOS BY KEN FIELDS

War Eagle receiver Nehemiah Chandler reaches across the goal line for a touchdown.

in the 4th quarter with the second string in for Wakulla and defensive back Auvion Thomas jumps the route on a JP II pass and returned in 80 yards for a touchdown. Extra point puts War Eagles up 45-0.

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Overall Player of the Week was Nehemiah Chandler, who allowed no catches as a defensive back. On offense, he had 4 catches for 95 yards and 2 touchdowns.



Running back Jeremiah Thomas dives forward for yardage.

Offensive Player of the Week was Jedd Hoffman, a player just returning after breaking his hand earlier in the year. The wing back had 1 catch for 28 yards and graded 88% blocking.

Defensive Player of the Week was Auvion Thomas with his interception returned for a score and 6 tackles..

Special Teams Player of the Week was Chris Smith, caused a fumble, recovered a fumble, and had 4 tackles on special teams.

Other notable players included quarterback Haden Klees, who went 23 for 41 passing for 339 yards and 3 touch-

downs.

Receiver Del Zanders had 5 catches for 92 yards and that kickoff return for a touchdown.

And running back Jeremiah Thomas had 6 carries for 65 yards and a touchdown, and 6 catches out of the backfield for 68 yards.

NEXT UP: TAYLOR COUNTY

Wakulla play its final home game of the regular season at J.D. Jones Stadium on Friday night against the Taylor County Bulldogs.

It’s the first district game of the year and it’s being played against a

longtime rival.

Taylor is 1-4 on the season so far, and they’ve faced a lot of obstacles this season with Hurricane Idalia leading to some game cancellations.

“They’re coming to our place, which is good, it’s our last home game, and it’s Homecoming, and all the distractions that come with that,” Klees said.

He said Taylor is very athletic and have two quarterbacks – one who runs and a lefty who is a passer.

“Defense has to get after them and stay aggressive,” Klees said. “And offense needs to be

COACH'S CORNER

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FROM THE COACH

Last week: “Very pleased” with how team played against a talented John Paul II Panther team..

Scouting report: Taylor is athletic and has two QBs – one is a runner who makes plays with his feet, the other is a passer..

Keys to victory: Stay focused. Defense has to stay aggressive, and offense has to be patient and take what they give us.

COACH Scott Klees



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MVP	Offense	Defense	Special Teams
			
NEHEMIAH CHANDLER Receiver/defensive back	JEDD HOFFMAN Wing back	AUVION THOMAS Safety	CHRIS SMITH Special Teams

30th annual Fish Fry before game

Wakulla High School will be holding its 30th annual Fish Fry fundraiser at the Oct. 13 home football game between the Wakulla War Eagles and Taylor County Bulldogs, from 5 to 7 pm.

The meal consists of Fried Shrimp, Cheese Grits, Coleslaw, and Hushpuppies and will be prepared by Posey’s Up the Creek Catering Service. The meal is available for a \$12 donation to the WHS NJROTC.

Tickets can be purchased from a cadet prior to the event or at the gate.

