

Questions about deputy

Colton Sheridan's traffic stops, drug seizures were investigated by WCSO

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN Editor

A Wakulla County Sheriff's deputy was the subject of an internal affairs investigation in 2022 for not being truthful in his reports that led to him receiving a written reprimand and placed on disciplinary probation for six months.

Personnel records obtained by The Sun through a public records request show that Deputy Colton Sheridan was found to not be truthful about obtaining probable cause for several traffic stops. He had been disciplined before about not being truthful to his shift supervisor in 2020 when seizing drug evidence from a car claiming it was in plain sight when it was not.

In July 2022, the then-chief prosecutor Brian Miller wrote a memo to the the WCSO's internal affairs investigator, Danny Deal, declining to write a Giglio memo on Sheridan, noting there was insufficient evidence to show the deputy committed perjury. (A Giglio memo is written when a law enforcement officer has been untruthful in the past and is not a credible witness in court.)

In April 2023, a few months after Sheridan's disciplinary probation ended, he was called as a witness for a drug case based on a traffic stop he made in which the presiding judge determined that the deputy's testimony was not credible.

Sheridan wrote in his report that he was driving the patrol car when actually another deputy was driving; he said that he could see the driver of an SUV, recognized her and ran her license and it came back not valid. But it turned out there was no record of the license check and the passenger side windows of the vehicle were tinted.

Wakulla Circuit Judge granted the defense' motion to supress in the case, calling Sheridan's testimony "an absolute dumpster burn." The drug charges were dropped against the defendant.

Shortly after, Sheridan resigned from the Wakulla sheriff's office and is now working in Franklin County as a deputy.

Sheridan applied to the sheriff's office in 2018 and was hired in 2019, according to personnel records.

Here are some of the questionable arrests and traffic stops cited in the internal affairs investigation:

• On March 14, 2020, Sheridan was dispatched to Walmart on a retail theft call. The suspect had fled the scene prior to his arrival. He and other deputies searched for the suspect but were unable to locate him. Sher-

idan went inside the store and, working with store asset management personnel, located the vehicle the theft suspect had arrived in. He located the vehicle with a passenger inside who was unable to drive and contacted his shift supervisor, Lt. Vicki Mitchell, and asked if he could tow the vehicle. Lt. Mitchell advised not to tow the vehicle and to have the registered owner of the car, a relative of the passenger, come get the vehicle.

A short time later, Sheridan called Mitchell to say he had now placed the passenger under arrest for retail theft. He said that viewing store video he determined the passenger had also stolen items from the store. He said he was able to recover items from the vehicle.

Mitchell asked him had he reached into the truck to recover the stolen items? Sheridan said

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Man charged with murder won't get his hunting bow back

Stuart Mauney is charged with killing a man while out hunting; he wanted to bow hunt this season

> **By WILLIAM SNOWDEN** Editor

Stuart Mauney, who is out on bond on a charge of second degree murder, was in court last week asking to have his hunting bow returned to him so he could hunt this

season.

Circuit Court Judge Layne Smith said no.

Mauney was charged in February 2022 with the December 2021 murder of a man in the Purify Bay Road area.

Mauney was released on \$500,000 bond with conditions that he possess no weapons, wear a GPS monitor, not leave the

judicial circuit, and have no contact with the victim's family or witnesses.

Last March, Mauney had turned over his hunting bow in to Harrison Bail Bonds, which posted his bail bond.

A motion filed by Mauney's attorney, Joseph Bodiford, asked the court to have the bow returned so Mauney could hunt recreationally.

Wakulla Chief Prosecutor Andrew Deneen argued against the motion, noting that Mauney was at a hunting site when he allegedly got into an argument over hunting with the victim.

The victim's family invoked Marsy's Law, the constitutional amendment intended to protect

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Stuart Mauney

The Wakulla High School Homecoming King and Queen - Samron Brinson and Isabella Taff - were crowned at halftime of Friday night's football game between the Wakulla War Eagles and the Taylor

County Bulldogs. Brinson is a star receiver for the football team. Taff was crowned a few months ago as Miss Wakulla. (Photo by Gerald Brown)

No bail for former deputy charged with sexual battery on child

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN Editor

A judge refused to set a bond amount for a former Wakulla deputy in jail on charges of lewd and lasicivous sexual assault on a child under 16.

Wakulla Circuit Judge Layne Smith said at a hearing on Wednesday, Oct. 11, that he was concerned that the former deputy, Kenneth Malphurs, had indicated he had considered suicide as a result of the charges. The judge also expressed concern that Malphurs' seized phone had photos of law enforcement officers with FDLE working on the case as well



Former Wakulla deputy Kenneth Malphurs

as deputies and staff of the sheriff's office and their families.

The judge said he had a number of concerns over those matters and found that Malphurs was a risk to himself and members of the community.

Malphurs is facing life in prison if convicted of the crime. He is currently being held in the Franklin County Jail and appeared at the hearing by Zoom.

Malphurs was a former school resource officer for the sheriff's office. (There is no allegation that the sexual battery had anything to do with children he came in contact with as an SRO.) When the charges were first made, he was pulled from the school campus and worked as a corrections officer in the jail. As the investigation moved forward, he was placed on paid administrative leave. When charges were filed, he was terminated by the agency.

Defense attorney Stacy Sharp opened the hearing by requesting that the courtroom be cleared, noting that the victim's family had invoked Marsy's Law - the constitutional amendment intended to protect crime victims.







Fri. and Sat. 11-10

Toasttab.com/SanMarcosCrawfordville

Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park Lopsided Indiangrass



It is inconspicuous until 6-foot tall flower stalks emerge.

By LYNN ARTZ, SANDY TEDDER and DAVID RODDENBERRY

Lopsided Indiangrass (Sorghastrum secundum) is inconspicuous until 6-feet-tall flower stalks emerge in the fall. The flowers and seeds hang on one side, making the stalks look lopsided. They have bronze hairs, reddish bristles, and pollen-laden yellow anthers that flicker in the sun. This perennial bunchgrass is native to the southeast, especially Florida. Found in upland pine communities, lopsided Indiangrass thrives in sandy soil in full sun. Populations have declined with clearcutting of flatwoods forests in north Florida. In a wildflower garden, plant lopsided Indiangrass in the back where the 2-feet-tall grass blades can feed skipper caterpillars until the tall stalks appear in the fall. The seeds feed terrestrial birds. Lopsided Indiangrass is blooming and setting seed now in the northwest garden of Sopchoppy Depot Park.

Student of the Week

Shelby Vause – 4th Grader, Riversink Elementary

Principal: Catherine Cutchen

Achievements/Reason for Nomination: Shelby Vause is a talented and dedicated student at Riversink Elementary School. She is a student of academic excellence with a GPA of 4.0. Shelby says that her favorite thing about Riversink is the awesome teachers. While excelling in all classes, reading is her favorite. Her fondest memory was taking part in the school Fun Run. Shelby consistently exhibits kindness, empathy, and respect. Outside of school, her favorite activity is spending time with her little sister Taylor. Shelby beams when talking about her family. Shelby enjoys baking and playing recreational soccer in her free time. Riversink is a better school because of students like Shelby, who demonstrate exceptional character, and we are proud to nominate her.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.











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Stone Crab season opened Oct. 15

Lynda Kinsey with her annual photo essay of the boats coming in to St. Marks with stone crab claws



Unloading the catch at the St. Marks Seafood dock.

Darren Archer, Phillip and Rick Tooke sorting claws by size.



Boiled claws go into the cooling vat.



Mike Smith gets a claw while opening another one.

Palaver Tree to present new play

Special to The Sun

Palaver Tree Theater will present its first play of the 2023-24 season, running Thursday, Oct. 26, through Saturday, Oct 28.

The play, "A Matter of Seconds," was written by Palaver Tree founder Herb Donaldson, and features Corion Ty'rell



forming in Tallahassee and surrounding areas for over eight years, and am studying theatre at FSU. This 3-person cast has worked tirelessly to produce 'Seconds' for the Crawfordville community and I hope they enjoy the performance."

Corion Knight, ('Adam') in the show, is a hometown athletic hero. He is a former Wakulla High state champion and was once All-Big Bend Field Athlete of the Year. He became an eighttime All-American and two-time NAIA national champ before entering FSU. He was second-best all-time indoor jump in FSU history, behind Olympian Ngoni Makusha's ACC-record jump of 8.21m. "I'm super excited about this play!" says Corion, "This is my first time acting and I'm really looking forward to it. The work has been nothing short of an incredible experience." "A Matter of Seconds" plays for one weekend only, beginning Thursday, Oct. 26 through Saturday, Oct. 28. Showtimes are 8 p.m. nightly, plus a 2 p.m. matinee on Saturday. Tickets are available online at www.Palaver-TreeTheater.org

PUBLIC NOTICES:

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Knight, Ryan Moore, and E. Marie Sissle.

The play received its first reading at Woodie King Jr.'s New Federal Theatre and was directed by Chadwick Boseman (Black Panther). It went on to perform at The Downtown Urban Arts Festival, The Urban Pop Festival, and was later produced by BanjiGirl Productions at the Walnut Street Theatre, in Philadelphia (the oldest operating theatre in America).

The play delves into the relationships between a mother and her two sons after the death of a well-known writer. The sons believe the writer was their father. But, was he? The play's many twists and turns reveal a number of unwanted truths and deceptions.

E. Marie Sissle (who plays 'Jessie' in the show) says, "I'm thrilled to collaborate with a director

PHOTO BY GERALD BROWN FOR PALAVER TREE The cast of 'A Matter of Seconds' by Herb Donaldson, from top to bottom, Corion Knight, Ryan Moore, E. Marie Sissle.

who possesses such profound knowledge. After spending a few years on the other side, returning to the stage with this poignant and genuinely moving story is incredibly fulfilling." Ryan Moore, ('Malcolm') and who is also in the cast of 'Grease" at the Wakulla Community Theater says, "I am so grateful to work with the astounding Herb Donaldson. I have been per-



Talquin Electric Cooperative, Inc. is adding antenna structures to the existing water tank located at:

689 Crawfordville Hwy Crawfordville, Wakulla County, Florida Lat: 30.274343° Long: -84.356992° Overall Height: 214ft Lighting Specifications – Med-dual system

Contact: Talquin media inquiries at TEConnects@TalquinElectric.com or 850-627-7651

Following is information as to the procedure for interested persons to file Requests for environmental processing. Such Requests may only raise environmental concerns.

If an interested person alleges that a particular action, otherwise categorically excluded, will have a significant environmental effect, the person shall electronically submit to the Bureau responsible for processing that action a written petition setting forth in detail the reasons justifying or circumstances necessitating environmental consideration in the decision-making process. If an interested person is unable to submit electronically or if filing electronically would be unreasonably burdensome, such person may submit the petition by mail, with a request for waiver under FCC Rule Section 1.1304(b). (See FCC Rule Section 1.1313). The Bureau shall review the petition and consider the environmental concerns that have been raised. If the Bureau determines that the action may have a significant environmental impact, the Bureau will require the applicant to prepare an EA (see FCC Rule Sections 1.1308 and 1.1311), which will serve as the basis for the determination to proceed with or terminate environmental processing.

Informal objections which are based on environmental considerations must be filed electronically prior to grant of the construction permit, or prior to authorization for facilities that do not require construction permits, or pursuant to the applicable rules governing services subject to lotteries. If the interested person is unable to file electronically or if filing electronically would be unreasonably burdensome, such person may submit the objection by mail, with a request for waiver under FCC Rule Section 1.1304(b). October 19, 26, 2023





pinions

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."

LETTERSFR OM RED ERS

Wakulla should expand housing program

Editor, The Sun:

To all elected officials, chamber members and realtors, leaders:

Wakulla is a very blessed county with nearly a billion dollars in Property Taxes being collected this year. It's previous county budget has been far less than this amount and great needs that have been left behind can now be lifted to the top of the list.

The most important goal of leadership in governments is caring for its most vulnerable citizens.

Children and those homeless or facing homelessness.

The Federal Government has a program that Wakulla needs to expand. Partners like Habitat for Humanity could participate along with many others.

I know some folks will be critical of such. Judging those who work at the minimum wage and asking why they cannot afford a \$300,000 home. The income to do so takes \$72,000 a year. Business cannot afford to pay all employees \$72,000 a year. I personally believe that's not enough, \$100,000 would be my best guess. I do not think that number includes any form of health, disability, death or retirement planning. Health insurance if not provided by employer cost around \$7,200 per person a year for one healthy

person. Then what if something happens to one or both providers of this house hold. We saw that in Covid.

Now dream, Wakulla.

Wakulla could establish a private public partnership with a consortium of builders and act as the Developer of this project to build the homes. Lease/Sale (HCV) to the recipients who payments would be paid by the HUD directly to the Lender (Wakulla/ Housing Partners).

Something similar has already happened. About 50 times.

Some of you may not know that households with more than two children cannot find housing they can afford. Wakulla also has many seniors, who after the Covid crisis cannot afford the present cost of home and health insurance or providing for their food.

I do not want to get lengthy, cause all of you are intelligent. I pray the King of Kings will move on Wakulla, before all the excess funds are spent.

Please call your commissioners and ask them to immediately expand the Housing Program to include the Section 8 (HCV) housing home ownership program for its Seniors, Disabled and Families.

> **Linda Seeders** Crawfordville

Educators fight against childhood obesity

Editor, The Sun:

It is not unheard of that early childhood obesity is a nationwide epidemic. Over 20% of all children are considered obese, which is defined by having a BMI that is over the 95th percentile of the recommended growth tables provided by the CDC. When a child is overweight, they have a higher percentage of getting deadly health concerns later in life such as cancer, hypertension, heart disease and diabetes, just to name a few. It is our job as parents and educators to provide the tools and be role models for what it means to live a healthy lifestyle. Children are with educators for the majority of their day, and for most of their week. It is our duty to incorporate lessons about healthy lifestyles and when food is involved, it would be beneficial in my opinion to use less treats and more whole foods.

Instead of using candy to teach a "fall themed" lesson about pumpkins for example, we could use oranges instead and let the children enjoy them after. Sometimes candy and sweets are okay for a nice treat as they are children and it's okay in minimal amounts, but if we offer new foods and make it exciting then we could get children to associate "healthy" with being yummy too! We've noticed that if parents bring a fruit or

vegetable tray that is in the shape of whatever theme we are celebrating, the children find it fun and are more enticed to try new foods, especially if their peers are involved.

For two hours every day, children should be getting structured outside play time where they get to exert their energy and get their heart rate up. Sometimes it's easier to sit children in front of a tablet or television but we need to make a conscious effort as parents and especially educators to get our children outside. When we create a fun learning environment where we include ourselves in the activities and put a conscious effort into getting our children to work as a team and form those relationships, children are working on social and emotional development which is so crucial. In conjunction, when our children get enough exercise, they are more likely to sleep better at night. Sleep is so important and improves their day because they are more rested and can focus more efficiently in the classroom. From where I'm standing, it is our responsibility as educators to give our children, who are the next generation, the tools to make smart and conscious decisions to take care of their bodies and give them the brightest possible future.

> **Macy Vernon** Crawfordville

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. 19

Thursday, October 19

• The Chamber of Commerce will hold Lunch and Learn event on how to maintain strong boards starting at 12 noon at the Wakulla Community Center. The program is free for members until 50 people have arrived, • Alcoholics Anonymous meets at Center the price is always \$25. • 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.

Friday, October 20

• The Wakulla War Eagles travel to Tallahassee to play the North Florida Christian Eagles at 7 p.m.

• Shadeville Elementary will hold its annual Fall Festival from 5 to 8 p.m.

54 Ochlockonee St.

Monday, October 23

• Wakulla County Charter Review Commission will hold a meeting at 6 p.m. at the Wakulla Community

then it costs \$20. For non-members noon and 8 p.m. every Friday at the • Wakulla County Historic Preser-American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee vation Comittee will hold a meeting 54 Ochlockonee St. at 4 p.m. at the BOCC conference room.

Tuesday, October 24

• The new Sun Chaser gym will have its ribbon cutting at 4:30 p.m.

• Sopchoppy community dinner is held every week at the Towles House at 6:30 p.m.

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

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

St.

Saturday, October 21

• !st Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Walk will be held from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. in Azalea Park.

• The St. Marks community market will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 815 Port Leon Drive.

• Halloween Craft Show Extravaganza/ Small Business Saturday will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Hudson Park, and will feature craft vendors and food.

• Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion,

• 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.

• 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 25

• 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 Amer-



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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

< Question of The Week >

- Compiled by Lynda Kinsey



COMMUNITY NEWS

Wakulla Station News

By VERNA BROCK

here on out, in the immortal words about those who came before us. It support. of Calvin and Hobbs, "The days are was particularly wonderful to have FULL!"

Shadeville Elementary School PTO less! is hosting its annual Fall Festival fundraiser. Always a hit, this event that is loving and seeking the guid- in the Holy Land joins the ongoing offers lots of family friendly activ- ance of the Holy Spirit, check out the tragedy in Ukraine, and I ask each of 2024 Woodville Founders Day fesities, while proceeds go directly to Wakulla UMC. It's easy to find, just you to lift prayers for peace. programs and teachers. Come on out look for the log cabin church on the for this much anticipated tradition, bike trail in Wakulla Station. have a great time, and help enrich students' education.

ed Methodist Church was a good time for everyone, Thank you to ev-Folks, I believe we have official- eryone who came out to share fel-This coming Friday evening and now, The gift of music is price-

in need of prayers is the family of Ja- live in! Baby Bennie Mott continues son Rudd, whose mother succumbed to need our prayerful support as he to serious health issues last week . fights a brain tumor. The family of My parents' ARNP, Pam Garcia, lost Donald Garrison seeks our prayers her beloved husband to cancer last as he has passed away. week, after a valiant struggle, and ly entered the "busy season." From lowship and food while reminiscing their family also needs our prayerful ones, we celebrate the birth of a new

If you are searching for a church The sad waste of life we've witnessed delighted.

is thriving, growing in leaps and facebook and web pages. Vendor fees Please keep Steve Montgomery in bounds, as he makes up for the are only \$25 per site and go directyour prayers as he recovers from year he spent in Shands receiving ly to support the purchase of vital Homecoming at the Wakulla Unit- knee surgery this past Monday. Also life-saving surgeries and medical fire-fighting equipment. support. What an age of miracles we

Even as we grieve the loss of loved baby girl. Congratulations to Brooke I am certain people of good will ev- Smith and Zac Roshong as their pianist Jennifer Brown with us then, erywhere are praying for the peace beautiful, precious Paisley Grace of Israel, and an end to the horrible has arrived! Technically, this makes conflict ignited by Hamas terrorists. me a great-grandmother, and I am

> Plans continue for the upcoming tival in March. The Woodville VFD Little Sebastian Mosely-Bennett has vendor registration forms on its

Sheriff's Report

This report is for activity Oct. 6-12: \$2,000. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Depu-

Paul investigated.

• A traffic stop was conducted on a vehicle for no tag. The driver was iden- vehicle for a stop sign violation. The tified as Justin Keith. Keith did not driver Kevin Perez did not possess a possess a valid driver's license and valid license. Perez was arrested and had five prior suspensions. Keith was transported to the Wakulla County placed under arrest and transported to Jail. Deputy Zac Monroe investigated. jail. Deputy Heather Will investigated.

vestigation.

• A traffic stop was conducted on a

FRIDAY, OCT. 6

equipment, and the driver was identi- ning groceries in self-checkout. She fied as Leonel Mejia. Mejia admitted to never possessing a license and has lived in Tallahassee for four years. Mejia was placed under arrest and transported to by \$129.78. This case has been sent the jail without incident. Deputy Todd Kent investigated.

 Barbra Scott reported an unknown subject shot the windows out of an abandoned truck on her property. Scott was able to provide a possible suspect in this case. However, Scott only want- of his motorcycle. The motorcycle is ed this report written for informational purposes only. Deputy Zac Monroe investigated.

• Deputy Jake Scott responded to Dux Liquors in reference to Michael Marshall returning to the bar within an hour of being served a trespass warning. He was taken into custody and Deputy Austin Rivers responded. transported to jail without further incident.

SATURDAY, OCT. 7

several antique vehicles on her prop- legedly had cocaine in his possession erty. The vehicles had windows, head- along with drug paraphernalia. Both lights, and tail-light damage. Rozar subjects were placed under arrest and estimated damages at approximately transported to jail. Deputy Anthony

tv Dakota Haddock responded.

• Walmart staff reported two frequent • A vehicle was stopped for faulty customers consistently under-scanprovided security video of the incident as well as a sworn affidavit. On this visit, Sept. 22, the couple underscanned to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Michelle Stripling responded.

SUNDAY, OCT. 8

• Clayton Weaver reported the theft described as a 1979 Harley-Davidson Shovelhead valued at approximately \$10,000. Weaver was able to provide a possible suspect in this case. The motorcycle was entered into NCIC/FCIC as stolen. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

• A traffic stop was conducted on a vehicle for stop sign violation. The driver Deanjerla Sampson was discovered to have drug paraphernalia on her person and did not have a valid license. • Tammy Rozar reported damage to The passenger Cassions Thompson al-

· A traffic stop was conducted on a motorcycle for no tag. The driver identified as Williams Cutz-Xiloj did not poser Will investigated.

TUESDAY, OCT. 10

eral thousand dollars being withdrawn Jail. from his bank account by an unknown suspect. The currency was withdrawn vehicle for no tag displayed. The driver in \$1,000 dollar increments over a series of transactions. This case has been not possess a valid license. Price was sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Shayne Broxsie investigated.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 11

missing several items from the trailer he left on the property. The three missbeen sent to detectives for further in- gencies.

THURSDAY, OCT. 12

• Multiple deputies and detectives sess a valid motorcycle endorsement. responded to Walmart in reference to Cutz-Xiloj was transported to the jail retail theft. Dondrick Eaves was arrestfacility without incident. Deputy Heath- ed for failing to scan all of the items in his cart. Eaves is the suspect in 16 other similar cases over the past few weeks, totaling several hundred dollars in alleged thefts. Eaves was arrested • Edward Cunningham reported sev- and transported to the Wakulla County

> • A traffic stop was conducted on a was identified as Dayne Price who did taken into custody and transported to the jail. Deputy Anthony Paul investigated.

· Garland Landers was observed operating a motor vehicle. He is known by deputies to not have a valid license. • Deputy Austin Rivers responded to Landers' license is suspended with Shadeville Road in reference to the re- three prior convictions. He was placed port of a theft. Michael Clark said when under arrest and transported to the he got to work on this date, he was jail. Deputy Austin Rivers investigated.

Report suspicious or illegal activity ing items totaled \$9,600. This case has at 850-745-7100 or call 911 for emer-



FISH FRY

The annual fish fry fundraiser for Wakulla High School's NJROTC was held Friday night, sponsored by Posey's Steamroom. It's the 30th year of the event, which was started by Noah Posey. Servers included Sherrie Posey Miller and county commissioners Mike Kemp, Quincee Messersmith and Fred Nichols. (Photo by William Snowden)

Library News

By LINDA OAKS

Library News Oct. 19 through 25th:

October 19th

- Creative Writing 10am
- Sickle Cell Foundation 10am
- Veteran's Meetup 11am
- Homeschool History 2:30pm

 Pregnancy Loss Support Group 6:30pm

• Wakulla Amateur Radio Club 7pm

October 20th

- Quilting Guild 9:30 am
- **October 21st**
- No Programs Today

October 22nd

• No Programs Today

October 23rd

No Programs Today

October 24th

- Crafting Group 9:30am
- Book Bunch 10 am

October 25th

- Book Babies 10am
- Snacks & Backpacks 3pm
- Knitting Group 4pm

Upcoming Holiday Closings

• November 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

Outdoors

outdoor sports

HOME ON THE RANGE

Sally's no longer a newbie



By MARJ LAW

Wakulla County Sheriff's Office range.

WCSO range rules on the big sign," says Sally.

the most important rules are?" I ask her.

the range is 'hot' or 'cold' is really important," she replies. "I wouldn't want to be downrange putting up a target if I knew someone was fiddling with his gun. I'm glad everyone is strict about calling hot and cold."

"What's second important to you?"

"Probably eye and ear protection. Those are two senses I wouldn't want to lose. And look at my new ears!" she hands them to me.

"Ah! You bought the electronic ear muffs," I note.

"Yes, when you showed "What's the problem?" me your ear muffs, they made a lot of sense. I like aims her gun and I can to be able to hear people talking, like when they're saying "hot" and "cold," but I also like that they muffle the sound of some- is stuck in the ejection one shooting. These do chamber, but no. The both. I still use the stick- slide is fully closed shut. it-in-your ear cushions

nekked!" she laughs. "It holds ammo too." "And lookie here at

your grips! Those didn't come with your gun."

"No. I really like your grips because they are pretty and have texture. The carving helps when my hands are sweaty. I thought it would be a good idea to find some of a different color, so we can tell our guns apart easily." "Well, the dark brown

looks really nice."

The range is hot. We This Wednesday is shoot for a while. Her Sally's fourth trip to the shots are on target. At first, I watch her. That left thumb of hers wants "I've memorized the to cross over the back of the Sig. This is a natural thing to want to do, but "What do you think it is dangerous. When the gun is fired, or when it locks back because it's "Well, knowing when out of ammunition, the slide moves backwards fast. If your thumbs are crossed, you stand a good chance of ripping that tender area between your thumb and your index finger.

> Anyway, I see her cross that left thumb. Just as I'm about to stop her from shooting so she doesn't hurt herself, she moves her thumb to the same side of the gun as her other thumb. No crossing. She's remembering on her own!

"Drat!"

I move over and ask,

"Watch this!" Sally see that she is squeezing the trigger. Nothing happens. I look at the top of the slide to see if a casing

"Hmm. May I see your



"Oops!" she says. We both grin. Won't be the range agrees that we can first time this happens! go "cold." Going "cold" load the magazine and down their guns and am-

to see how well the sights utan, you can't touch then Joe does too. Feels hind this line. Since guns Sig P238, but the slide means that people walk- means this shot is in the is a bit stiffer. Although ing downrange are safe bullseye!" she bought it "used," I from any shooting. think it hasn't had many rounds through it. After holes in her target. "Two! you shoot a gun for a I got two!" while, the slide loosens up a bit and the trigger usually smooths out a bit too.

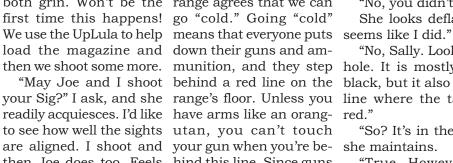
Joe and I both hit the target near the bull's-eye, but not directly on it. Too bad. I'd like to think Sally would see us at our best. She takes back her gun. More holes in the target.

"How are you aiming?" Then I hear her say I ask her. "Are you using your distance eye, or do you find you shoot better with both your eyes open?"

"I'm using my distance eye. It feels more comfortable, and I find I hit the target better when I shoot this way.'

"Whatever works best for you is good," I tell her. I hear her shoot, and

she calls: "Whoops!" She shoots twice more and I hear more exclamations.



Everyone at the pistol

"See?" she points at in the red?"

I inspect the target. "No, you didn't."

She looks deflated. "It

"No, Sally. Look at this then we shoot some more. munition, and they step hole. It is mostly in the "May Joe and I shoot behind a red line on the black, but it also hits the your Sig?" I ask, and she range's floor. Unless you line where the target is

"So? It's in the black!"

"True. However, if it just about like my own don't fire by themselves, it touches the line, that

"Yep. That's another bullseye."

"Well, you and Joe shot on this target. These shots in the red might have been from you or Joe."

Believe me, Joe and I know when we make bullseyes. This time, we hadn't. Those were Sally's shots. She did better than we did today.

Sally is really happy.

"Well, I'd be thrilled," I tell her. "But I'm sad at the same time."

"Why? I've done what you've told me!"

"Yes, you have, Sally. But I can't call you a newbie. You know the rules and you have the basics of shooting down pat. All you need now is to practice so you have muscle memory.

"You're not a newbie anymore."

Marj Law is the former "Even if it's mostly not director of Keep Wakulla County Beautiful who has become an avid shooter in retirement.



Outdoor Expo First-ever Outdoor Living Expo

PHOTOS BY LINDA ANN MCDONALE

Even when I'm using I can hear almost everything people are saying. Electronic ear muffs are totally worth it."

"I see you have a new chamber. bag for your gun."

my Sig to run around ty of rounds?

"Seeing" her gun means both kinds of protection, "may I hold it and try it myself?" and she understands, passing it to me. I drop the magazine and prepare to inspect the

What do you know but

"Yes! Wouldn't want the magazine is fully emp-

I come over to see what's going on.

"Look!" she says. "I got two bullseyes!"

"Let's see if everyone's OK with going cold and we'll take a look at your target."

was held Saturday at Hudson Park. Vendors included the Florida Native Plant Society, above. Tammy Nason of Keep Wakulla County Beautiful, 4-H Director Rachel Pienta, county commissioner Quincee Messersmith, county grants coordinator Michelle Metcalf, county public information officer Kinsey Miller, and firefighter Andy Bowman.



WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO



HARDHEAD SALTWATER CATFISH (Arius felis)

With painfully sharp spines on its fins, hardheads growing to 2ft and 4lbs. They are bottom feeder using whisker-like barbells to aggressively locate food on sandy or muddy bottoms. Females lay 50 or so pea sized eggs which males pick up and hold them in their mouths until hatching. The growing babies then use their father's mouth as a home. He does not eat during this month long period, but once his appetite is triggered he will not hesitate to eat his own offspring. The bones of this catfish are sold in curio shops as the 'crucifix' bone.

Eukarya, Animalia, Cordata, Actinopterygii, Siluriformes, Ariidae

Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratory



MASKS, FINS & SNORKELS, GYUINDERS, REGULATORS, COMPUTERS, SHEARING SUPPLIES, WEISUNS, AIRLINE HOOKAHS (SURFACE SUPPLIED AIR), BC Systems, Cameras & Housings, SIDEMOUNT UNITS & MORE





FOLLOW THE SUN.

THE WAKULLA SUN, Thursday, October 19, 2023 - Page 7

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences

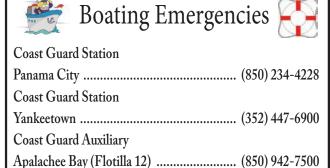
	RIORITY ON-WATER ASSISTANCE	SEA TON
ARE YOU A MEN	BER? SEA TOW BIG BEND \ 850-984-3456 \ seatow.com	© 2023 "Sea Tow," including words, phrases and logos, are trademarks of Sea Tow Services International, Inc. All rights reserved
Thursday 19Sun rise/setMoon rise/set7:41AM12:34PM7:02PM10:32PMMoon Illumination22%Friday20	or tides at the following points add to og Island Listings: High Tide Low Tide Carrabelle 28 Min. 25 Min. Apalachicola 1 Hr., 53 Min. 2 Hrs., 38 Min. Lower Anchorage 1 Hr., 36 Min. 2 Hrs., 3 Min.	FirstFullLastNewOct. 21Sept. 29Nov. 5Nov. 13Best fishing days this monthFriday 20
Sun rise/set Moon rise/set	West Pass 1 Hr., 26 Min. 2 Hrs., 39 Min.	October 14–28, November 13–27 MinorTimes Major Times
7:42AM 1:35PM 7:01PM 11:34PM	St. Marks River Entrance City of St. Marks	Shell Point, Spring Creek 12:50PM 4:48AM
Moon Illumination 32%	Th 4:20 am 11:46 am 6:31 pm 11:19 pm Th 4:56 am 12:50 pm 7:07 pm ▲ 3.9 ft ▼ -0.1 ft ▲ 3.1 ft ▼ 1.8 ft ▼ 1.8 ft ▼ 0.0 ft ▲ 2.9 ft	Th 4:34 am 12:06 pm 6:59 pm 11:34 pm 2.1 ft 10:49PM 5:18PM
Saturday 21 Sun rise/set Moon rise/set	Fr 4:58 am 12:47 pm 7:42 pm Fr 12:23 am 5:34 am 1:51 pm 8:18 pm A 3.8 ft V 0.1 ft A 2.9 ft V 0.1 ft A 2.9 ft V 0.1 ft A 3.5 ft V 0.1 ft A 2.7 ft	ft ▲ 3.9 ft ▼ 0.2 ft ▲ 2.9 ft
7:42AM 2:30PM 7:00PM	Sa 12:11 am 5:49 am 2:05 pm 9:11 pm Sa 1:15 am 6:25 am 3:09 pm 9:47 p v 2.1 ft ▲ 3.6 ft ♥ 0.3 ft ▲ 2.8 ft Sa 1:15 am 6:25 am 3:09 pm 9:47 p	5.40A M
Moon Illumination 43%	Su 1:30 am 7:06 am 3:31 pm 10:33 pm ▼ 2.2 ft ▲ 3.3 ft ▼ 0.3 ft ▲ 2.9 ft ■ Su 2:34 am 7:42 am 4:35 pm 11:09	
Sunday 22 Sun rise/set Moon rise/set	Mo 3:21 am 9:14 am 4:47 pm 11:30 pm Mo 4:25 am 9:50 am 5:51 pm ▼ 2.1 ft ▲ 3.2 ft ▼ 0.3 ft ▲ 3.1 ft ▼ 1.9 ft ▲ 3.0 ft ▼ 0.3 ft	Mo 3:52 am 9:34 am 5:19 pm Sunday 22
7:43AM 3:18PM 6:59PM 12:40AM	Tu 4:58 am 11:04 am 5:48 pm Tu 12:06 am 6:02 am 11:40 am 6:52 p v 1.7 ft 3.3 ft v 0.4 ft 4.2 9 ft v 1.5 ft ▲ 3.1 ft v 0.3 ft	1111.55DM 1 4.49AM
Moon Illumination 54%	We 12:13 am 6:05 am 12:19 pm 6:38 pm We 12:49 am 7:09 am 12:55 pm 7:42 p ▲ 3.4 ft ▼ 1.1 ft ▲ 3.6 ft ▼ 0.5 ft ▲ 3.1 ft ▼ 1.0 ft ▲ 3.3 ft ▼ 0.4	
Monday 23 Sun rise/set Moon rise/set	Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.	Dog Island West End
7:44AM 4:00PM 6:58PM 1:50AM	Th 4:12 am 11:57 am 6:23 pm 11:30 pm Th 4:17 am 11:43 am 6:54 pm 10:59	Ppm Th 4:30 am 12:13 pm 7:37 pm 10:54 pm 1:05AM 7:44AM
Moon Illumination 65%	A 2.9 ft V 0.0 ft A 2.4 ft V 1.3 ft A 3.1 ft V -0.1 ft A 2.4 ft V 1.9 Fr 4:50 am 12:58 pm 7:34 pm Fr 4:52 am 12:44 pm 8:21 pm 11:25	5 pm Fr 5:04 am 1:11 pm
Tuesday 24 Sun rise/set Moon rise/set	▲ 2.8 ft ▼ 0.1 ft ▲ 2.2 ft ▼ 2.1 Sa 12:22 am 5:41 am 2:16 pm 9:03 pm Sa 5:36 am 2:04 pm	ft A 2.8 ft V -0.1 ft Tuesday 24
7:44AM 4:37PM	v 1.5 ft ▲ 2.7 ft ♥ 0.2 ft ▲ 2.1 ft Out ▲ 2.9 ft ♥ 0.1 ft SU 1:41 am 6:58 am 3:42 pm 10:25 pm SU 6:47 am 3:40 pm 11:58 pm	MinorTimes MajorTimes SU 6:47 am 3:52 pm
6:57PM 2:59AM Moon Illumination 76%	▼ 1.6 ft ▲ 2.5 ft ▼ 0.2 ft ▲ 2.2 ft ▲ 2.7 ft ▼ 0.2 ft ▲ 2.4 ft	▲ 2.4 ft ▼ 0.2 ft 3:52PM 9:03PM
Wednesday 25	▼ 1.5 ft ▲ 2.4 ft ▼ 0.2 ft ▲ 2.3 ft ▼ 2.2 ft ▲ 2.5 ft ▼ 0.2 ft	Mo 12:26 am 4:57 am 9:08 am 5:11 pm ▲ 2.2 ft ▼ 2.0 ft ▲ 2.2 ft ▼ 0.3 ft Wednesday 25
Sun rise/setMoon rise/set7:45AM5:11PM	IU 5:09 am 10:56 am 5:59 pm IU 12:22 am 5:46 am 10:58 am 6:05 m ▼ 1.2 ft ▲ 2.5 ft ▼ 0.3 ft ▲ 2.5 ft ▼ 1.7 ft ▲ 2.6 ft ▼ 0.3	ft 🔹 🔺 2.3 ft 🔍 1.6 ft 🔺 2.2 ft 🔍 0.5 ft MinorTimes Major Times
7:45AM 5:11PM 6:56PM 4:07AM	We 12:05 am 6:16 am 12:11 pm 6:49 pm We 12:42 am 6:35 am 12:20 pm 6:53 ▲ 2.5 ft ▼ 0.8 ft ▲ 2.7 ft ▼ 0.3 ft ▼ 0.3 ft ▼ 0.4 ft ▼ 1.2 ft ▲ 2.8 ft ▼ 0.4 ft	
Moon Illumination 85%	Best hunting and fishing based on solunar times: MAJOR feeding periods are 2 hours long, centered on the solunar time. MINOR	R feeding periods are only 1 hour long, again centered on the solunar time.



Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports By Carolyn Brown Treadon

While it may not feel like Fall has arrived, the changes in our local waters will be evident. As the seasons change, the tidal waters will undergo transformation. High tides may be a bit higher and the low tides will be noticeably lower.

As a boater, this has ramifications for you.



getting involved in the Auxiliary, check out our website at www.uscgaux. net follow us on Face-Book @ Apalachee Bay Flotilla 12 or contact our Flotilla Commander Phil Hill at pnkkhill2000@ yahoo.com

If you would like to learn more about vessel

Underwater Wakulla **By Rusty Miller**

National Geographic moment.

As a scuba diver for many years I have always wanted to have what I call a "National Geographic moment while diving." I had my moment this past Sunday. No, I wasn't at some exotic place like Belize or the Caribbean I was in our Gulf waters just 2 miles offshore at Panama City Beach in 60 feet of water.

To start this adventure I need to let you know I had a scuba class of 11 open water students along with my assistant instructor and my newly certified dive master. The captain and I discussed what dive site

Our area is already prone to low water levels with the oyster and sand bars. It is easy to other boaters and the and debris in your en- inations at steve.hults@ it may not be possible to tides change. get your boat in and out tide. Some launching or other similar device areas will be dry during onboard to use to try and low tides.

it is important to notify ing up too much sand or learning more about



run aground if you are Coast Guard on chan- gine could lead to more uscgaux.net. not familiar with the nel 16. If you cannot problems for you. area even in a typical low get yourself free, unless tide. As we get further there is an emergency, will always remember iary is the uniformed civilinto the fall and winter, you will most likely be safe boating is no acci- ian volunteer component there will be times when advised to wait until the dent. Be sure to check of the U.S. Coast Guard

of the water during low member to keep an oar the water.

Thanks to Sherrie, we the tide tables before and supports the Coast It is a good idea to re- heading out for a day on Guard in nearly all mis-

dislodge yourself should more information about mation, please visit www. If you do run aground, you run aground. Suck- our safe boating classes caaux.org.

safety checks, please contact Steve Hults, Staff Officer for Vessel Exam-

The Coast Guard Auxilsion areas. The Auxiliary was created by Congress Please contact us for in 1939. For more infor-

FWC Law Enforcement Report

From FWC

County.)

BAY COUNTY

did not have any fish in the minimum length the boat. During her in- is 10 inches. He was spection, Officer Basford warned for being over found a bag containing the bag limit and issued three Spanish mackerel a citation for possesed they were using them snapper. for bait. Officer Basford explained the fish are required to be in whole condition. A citation was issued to one indi- the Apalachicola River, revealed the captain was tions as well. Approvidual for possession of Lt. Smith, Officers Hart- in possession of two red priate citations were

whole condition.

some events the FWC Deerpoint Dam con- the vessel to conduct a sized red snapper. handled Sept. 29-Oct. 5 ducting resource in- boating safety inspecin the Northwest Region. spections. While talking tion. During the inspec-(There were no cases to one individual, she tion, the operator of the resource inspections on reported for Wakulla noticed another person vessel was observed to pack their gear and start be operating the vessel opening weekend when to leave. She went to after consuming multicheck the person and he ple alcoholic beverages hunting over a baited stated if he had anything and smoking cannabis. • Officer N. Bas- illegal, he would throw it The officers determined ford was on patrol and back in the water. Offi- the operator to be opchecked a vessel re- cer Basford inspected erating a vessel while turning from fishing his catch and found under the influence. to conduct a resource him to be in possession The operator was arinspection. There were of nine undersized gray rested and transported three individuals on the snappers. The bag limit to Franklin County Jail vessel that stated they is five per person and for boating under the Holmes County Squad fillets. The subjects stat- sion of undersized gray checking vessels at a

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Spanish mackerel not in zog and Nelson observed groupers out of season

a vessel operating with • Officer N. Basford improper display of reginfluence.

GULF COUNTY

• Officer M. Webb was local ramp that were returning from fishing. He observed a vessel with hunted were determined four people on board. • While on patrol in A resource inspection several license viola-

and one undersized red snapper. The captain was cited for red grouper out of season and This report represents was on patrol at the istration and stopped warned for the under-

> • Officers Gerber and Lipford were conducting dove fields during the they discovered a group area. One individual was cited for the violation.

WASHINGTON/ **HOLMES COUNTIES**

•The Washington/ worked a first phase dove season detail. Opening weekend of this ongoing effort resulted in six groups being checked, consisting of about 95 users in total. Three of the areas being to be baited. There were issued.

we need to dive at since half of my class of students where ages 12-14 years old. I didn't want to have to be concerned with the depth that they where diving so we decided, for the first dive, to go the lost pontoon.

The lost pontoon is in 60 feet of water to the bottom so I didn't have to be concerned with the kids diving below the 60 foot maximum of their certification depth. The site has several parts of a concrete road bed laid out in several directions. This is a great underwater navigation site to train underwater compass navigation but that's not why we are here. We are here for the standard open water part of their certification. Along with the road beds there is a rather large round steel structure that is 15 feet in diameter and about 75 to 85 feet in length. At one end at the top of the structure there is a top section that is cut out so you could swim into it but with a little specialized training. This structure is where I had my moment in time that will probably never happen again.

As I made my way to the east end of the pontoon at about 50 feet from the surface I felt what I call a pressure wave of water off my right shoulder and then I felt something hit the top of my right shoulder. I didn't panic because it shoved me towards the side of the pontoon.

I slowly looked to my right and there was the biggest manta ray I have ever seen in the wild. I slowed my breathing to a slow steady inhale and a very slow and deliberate exhale. I didn't want to spook this gentle giant that was very curious about me. I didn't look like a typical diver because of the full face mask that I wear and my breathing is very different than most divers so I don't exhale a mass of bubbles.

When I say huge I mean the wing tip to tip was approximately 12 foot or bigger, the main body was at least 10 feet to where the tail starts and the tail was at least 10 feet to the barb. She was at least 3-4 feet thick center mass then tapered down to the tip of the wings to about a foot thick.

The best part of this moment is she stopped beside me to where I could have touched her wing tip but I didn't because I didn't want to spook her away. She was barely moving her wings to where she was stationary next to me and I could see her looking at me.

We stayed there next to each other for at least 7 minutes then suddenly she flaps those massive wings and she disappears into the murky water. I made my way to the anchor rope for my slow accent to the safety stop then back on the boat. I can only guess that she was taken off course due to the hurricane from southern Florida. I hope she makes it back to her home waters.

Make lots of bubbles.

Russell Miller #59999

This column originally appeared in October 2022.

Are you going through a difficult time?



By SHERYL H. BOLDT

"Hi, Emma. I'm calling to see how you're doing."

"I'm doing OK. Thanks for checking." Her voice was somber but strong. "It's been tough. My car broke down - again. But

the kids and I prayed, with a Bible verse that me; I am self-sufficient have a challenge for us: and thankfully, I have a second interview with one of the companies I've applied with."

Almost a year ago, Emma, a single mother of three, lost her job. Although she receives help from family, friends and her church, the stress she lives with is real. But her faith in God's ability to meet their needs is also very real.

Maybe you're also going through a financial trial, or you're feeling pressure at work or home to do more than you think you can. Perhaps you're struggling tells you to forgive those who have hurt you. Or maybe you've recently been diagnosed with cancer - stage 4.

God's strength equips us to handle whatever life throws at us. Notice how Philippians 4:13 (AMPC) powerfully expresses God's ability to help us overcome anything and everything we face - today and every day:

"I have strength for all things in Christ Who empowers me [I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him Who infuses inner strength into

in Christ's sufficiency]."

"Ready for anything and equal to anything." Wow! But this equipping only happens when we allow God to infuse (saturate) us with His inner strength.

Think about what it means to have the strength of Almighty God saturate our entire being. And picture what might happen if we shared this verse with the Emmas in our lives - even the ones who, like her, recognize the power of prayer. Imagine how it could strengthen their faith too.

1) Let's commit to memorizing Philippians 4:13 in our favorite translation. (You get extra points if you memorize the AMPC version.)

2) Watch how memorizing and meditating on Philippians 4:13 changes our perspective on (and maybe the outcome of) the trials we're facing.

3) Share with the Emmas in our lives how God worked in our situation.

How might sharing our Philippians 4:13 journey change our spouse's or child's With this in mind, I feelings of inadequacy at work or school? Or strengthen our pastor's wife if she's feeling unsettled in her role?

The trials we face are real. Meditating on Philippians 4:13 won't remove them, but spending time pondering this verse and allowing God's presence to infuse our soul can change the way we handle the hard times.

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.

Monsters under the bed



By CHERYL CRUCE

I was one of those kids who believed monsters lived under the bed. If it was dark, my mind ran wild with all the popping and cracking sounds a house can make late at night.

Falling asleep alone was nearly impossible; if I did, the dreams that followed matched my fears.

Thankfully, my bedroom was shared with

two older sisters. For them, the room was too crowded; however, I believed the room was the perfect fit for the three of us.

When my older sister started dating, and the other began staying with friends, I learned to dread the weekends. Eventually, the two would be gone simultaneously, leaving me alone to fight against my fear of the dark. On those weekends, every monster possible lived in the closet, under the bed, and in my dreams.

I remember one Friday night, Mom and Dad tucking me in against the protest of my 6-year-old self. They had looked under the beds and in the closet, chasing away all the could imagine. Nonetheless, my fears could not be quieted, even with the promise of the light being left on.

That was when my Daddy said he would be just outside my door watching over me. With that promise, I settled down and closed my eyes.

I drifted in and out of sleep that night. Each time I woke up, I would tiptoe to the door and see my Dad sitting in his old, reupholstered armchair. Long after the television signed off at midnight, he remained vigilant by my door, keeping me safe. There was so much comfort in his presence. Dad was the first face that greeted me the fol-

a tune only known by him.

There are a lot of monsters in this world. They are not always hiding under the bed or in the closet. They are open and bold. The news tells us of war, violence, and hatred every evening. The darkness is intense, and we are often afraid to close our eyes. Yet scripture teaches us that the darkness is as light to our Heavenly Father, that the night will shine like the brightness of day (Psalm 139:12). He promises that when the monsters come our way, we will not be overwhelmed because He is with us (Isaiah 43:2). Through His son, Jesus, we are assured

scary things my mind lowing day, humming of His presence even be it is time we trustuntil the end of the age (Matthew 28:20).

> Daddy's sincerest yearning was for his children to feel safe, even if he had to stay up all night to accomplish it. His love helped me defeat the monsters of my youth. In the same way, the Heavenly Father wants His children to be secure in His love. He promises to keep us safe as He watches over us. The Psalmist tells us of a Father who does not slumber nor sleep. He constantly watches over His children (Psalm 121:3-4).

> Our Heavenly Father desires to be present with His us, to chase away our fear and hurt. To make us whole and new before Him. May-

ed Him to guard us through the night, to keep us safe when life seems to be its scariest. With God, we are never alone. His love will defeat the monsters of our souls. Rest in Him today.

Proverbs 3:23-24, 26b Then you will go on your way in safety, and your foot will not stumble. When you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet. 26, for the Lord will be at your side.

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

OUT TO PASTOR





you're ready for summer?'

frustration, I said, from happening again?

Looking at her in How can I keep this our time like nobody I prepare for the day,

know.

and if there are any

By JAMES SNYDER

This past week started out as the best week of the whole year. At least, I thought so at the time.

I finished my book manuscript and sent it to the publisher. I caught up with some other projects that were lagging. And I had time to balance my checkbook.

What could be better than that?

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came into my office and said, "Why are you smiling so much? Did you win the lottery?"

It was better than the lottery.

"No, my dear, I'm just so excited that I'm all caught up with my projects. Now I'm ready for summer to begin." Then I laughed with a joyful laugh.

"What you mean

"Like I said, I'm all caught up and now I have the whole summer to really enjoy myself and have a little bit of fun."

Looking at me rather strangely, which is not unusual, she said, "You do know it's October, don't you?"

Although my smile was frozen, it began to deteriorate inside.

"What you mean it's October?"

She laughed at me and said, "Don't you have a calendar? Don't you know what day it is?"

I could not say anything for a moment because I did not know what to say. Then I got out my cell phone and checked the calendar.

Sure enough, like every other time, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was right. If I live a thousand years, there will never be a day when she is wrong.

It is October, and for some reason, I have not kept up with the time. I was so busy trying to get caught up with my projects, especially my book manuscript, that I wasn't paying attention to the ticking clock.

"Where did the summer go?"

I guess that's the trouble with life. You are so focused on one thing that everything else falls by the wayside. I am glad I'm caught up, but I don't know how I lost track of time.

I wish there was a way to freeze time for as long as you want to. If I have a project on a schedule, I could freeze time so that I can be caught up and then come back and unfreeze time. Where are these genius scientists when you need them?

"So," I said to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, "it is October and I just got caught up with my time."

Being caught up with time is not a possibility. When I get up on a Wednesday morning that means Tuesday is gone forever.

"If you need help getting caught up," my wife said, giggling, "just let me know." Then, she returned to her craft room.

I sat back in my chair and thought a little bit.

How can I keep time in hand?

Of course, I could ask help from The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, but you know what that would do. I need to figure out how to keep up with time.

What I really need is a nice hot cup of coffee and a fresh Apple Fritter. Of course, if I had the Apple Fritter, I would be in "timeout." I just went and got a nice hot cup of coffee, returned to my office and sat down to think this through.

It was not that I missed that time; I was focused on some important things then. Sometimes, my priorities overtake what I should be doing.

What bothers me is, what did I miss by missing the summer?

Thinking back over that time, I realized I did not miss anything. In fact, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is in charge of all our activities, and not one was missed. She has a wonderful way of keeping up a good schedule and balancing

I lived through the summer and enjoyed each day of that summertime; it's just that I was more focused on projects. I wanted to complete each project in good time.

One of the great aspects of getting old is not remembering. Oh, don't get me wrong, I don't forget hardly anything; it's just that many things I don't remember.

For example, on a Monday morning, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will come to my office and say, "Do you remember you have a doctor's appointment this afternoon?"

Then I remembered I had a doctor's appointment.

In all truth, my not remembering is entirely the fault of The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. The simple fact is I don't have to remember anything because she remembers everything, and I can depend upon her memory. I can use my memory for better things.

In the morning, I get up, go to my office and

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Catholic Church Fr. Paul Raj, HGN • Dcn. Dave Harris

Director of Music & Choir - Jeff Cook

3609 Coastal Hwy. Crawfordville FL 32327

Saturday Mass 5:00 pm • Sunday Mass 11:00 am

Tuesday and Thursday: Mass at 8:30 am.

Wednesday: Mass at 7:00 pm Saturday: Adoration and Confessions at 8:30 am

1st Saturday: Mass at 9:30 am.

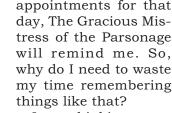
very Saturday: Confessions at 4:30 pm

Live Streaming - Sundays Facebook - Seas Parish

18

Cemetery lots and

Cremain spaces availabl



In my thinking, a certain Bible verse came to mind. "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24).

I only have one shot at today, and I had better make the most of it. My best shot is to rejoice and be glad in it. This I plan to do.

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







Obituaries

Charles 'Chuck' Wesley Harden

Charles "Chuck" Wesley Harden, age 53, of Sopchoppy, left this world on the morning of Oct. 3, 2023, in Vero Beach, Florida. Chuck was born on Nov. 11, 1969, in Tallahassee, Florida to his parents, Larry and Teresa Harden, and lived in Wakulla County most of his life.

In 1987, Chuck graduated from Wakulla High School and enlisted in the U.S. Navy, continuing his father's (U.S. Army veteran) military service tradition. His six years of honorable service during the Gulf War included qualifying as a Navy Electrician's Mate (EM), achieving the rank of Petty Officer Second Class, and earning the coveted title of a "Fighting Seabee." He was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, Southeast Asia Medal, Navy Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Navy Unit Commendation Medal, Meritorious Unit Commendation, and National Defense Service Medal.

From 1992 to 1996, Chuck served as a Sopchoppy Volunteer Firefighter. His invaluable roles included Structure Firefighter and Medical First Responder. The life-saving impact of his countless contributions with that team can never be fully measured.

His strong sense of community service took a broader path when he joined the Florida Forest

DEATH NOTICES • Ronald Charles "RC" Nuebling, 77, of Crawfordville, died October 13, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

Service (1996-2004). His State Forest Service accomplishments included serving on the Tate's Hell State Forest and in Franklin County as a Senior Forest Ranger, State Certified Burn Manager since 1998, and playing a key role in training all new firefighters on the district.

Chuck's continuing love of working outdoors and respect of nature led him to join the U.S. Forest Service in 2004. For the past 19 years, his professionalism and sense of humor helped the Apalachicola National Forest team thrive. Some of his most notable accomplishments there include serving as Engineering Equipment Operator (Fire Tractor/Plow); Lead Presenter, Prescribed Fire Training Center Field Day; Region 8 Heavy Equipment Committee Member; Region 8 Heavy Equipment Academy Instructor; and Semiroon Historical Society Certificate of Achievement for Prospect Bluff Development.

However, the sum of a man's life is not determined by job titles, training records or tours of duty. It's measured by the intangible impressions that person leaves on others around them. The value of Chuck Harden's legacy is woven within the people who knew him, whether for five minutes or 50 years... In those who witnessed his strength of character and core values

Chuck was also known for his easy smile, sense of humor, enjoyment of hunting and fishing, and above all - love for his family and friends. He was married to Anne Eldridge Harden for 30 years and together they had three children

Chuck is preceded in death by his father, Larry Whaley Harden; and his younger sister, Cheryl Ann Harden Andrews.

He is survived by his mother Teresa Curles Harden; his former spouse, Anne Eldridge Harden; his daughters, Valerie Suzanne Harden and Sarah Joyce Harden; his son, William Chance Harden; and his nieces, Natalie Andrews and Audrey Andrews.

His family appreciates your thoughts, prayers and support during this difficult time. Condolences and flowers may be sent to his children at 18 Thrasher Lane, Crawfordville FL 32327 and his mother at 7277 Smith Creek Road, Sopchoppy FL 32358.

A Memorial Service celebrating Chuck Harden's life is planned for Sunday, Oct. 22, 2023 at 3 p.m. at the Sopchoppy United Methodist Church (10 Faith Avenue in Sopchoppy. where he was a member, with graveside following. There will be a visitation from 2-3 p.m. at the church.

Bevis Funeral Home in Tallahassee is in charge of the arrangements.

• Julia Butler Knight, 62, of Panacea, died October 15, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• John Lewis Watson, 75, of Crawfordville, died October 5, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

Trinity Lutheran women host rally

Special to The Sun

Trinity Lutheran Church of Wakulla hosted a Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) Fall Zone Rally Saturday, Oct. 7. Ladies from churches as far away as Albany participated in a fun filled and spiritual day of fellowship. LWML's focus is on missions, and this time 4H of Wakulla received gifts of peanut butter and money to help them in their outreach programs. The monetary gifts we collect for 4H will go towards membership/summer



Lutheran Women's Missionary League Fall Zone Rally.

camp fees

Wakulla County, and Christy Pearson rep- surrounding areas. Church is located at resented 4H and gave a Many of the LWML la- 3354 Coastal Hwy, talk about the variety dies had been enrolled Crawfordville (850)926of clubs right here in in 4H at a young age!

Trinity Lutheran 7808.

Mount Beasor to hold homecoming revival

Special to The Sun

Mount Beasor Baptist Church, 29 Winthrop Avenue, Sopchoppy has announced that a special four-day Homecoming revival meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 19 through Sunday October 22 in celebration of the church's 170th consecutive year of Gospel ministry!

Evangelist Bill Jenkins, a dynamic speaker and Bible teacher will be guest minister. Starting times for the four-day event are 7 pm October 19 -21 and 11 am, on Sunday, October 22. There will be special singing every night and a fellowship luncheon following the Sunday morning worship service.

Elder Bruce Taylor, Pastor and the congregation at Mt. Beasor extend a cordial invitation to all for this special time of spiritual enrichment and fellowship. For more information, transportation and /or directions, call 850-510-0619 or 850-570-0512.

Veekly Roundup: All eyes on Israel

By RYAN DAILEY News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — Amid the war between Israel and Hamas, Gov. Ron DeSantis this week called for sanctions against Iran for aiding Hamas and declared a state of emergency that, in part, would allow Florida to transport supplies to Israel.

The governor and Republican presidential candidate on Tuesday went to a synagogue in South Florida to announce that he will ask lawmakers to further block Iranian business ties in Florida. Iran had already been included in Florida's list of foreign countries "of concern," along with China, Russia, North Korea, Cuba, Venezuela and Syria.

With the "country of concern" designation, Florida since 2008 has prohibited state agencies and local governments from contracting for goods and services of more than \$1 million with any business that has contracts with the Iranian government.

DeSantis said during the appearance Tuesday at the Shul of Bal Harbour in Surfside that his new proposal will reinforce a commitment against doing business with state sponsors of terrorism. While a detailed proposal was not issued, it could affect such things as the financial, construction, manufacturing and mining sectors, according to

information released by his office.

"We're going to prohibit state and local governments from contracting with any company on this expanded sectors list, and we will not lift the sanctions until both the president and the U.S. Congress certify that Iran has stopped supporting international terrorism in seeking to acquire weapons of mass destruction," DeSantis said.

The governor's proposal to broaden sanctions against Iran got immediate support from Senate President Kathleen Passidomo, R-Naples, and House Speaker Paul Renner, R-Palm Coast.

But Rep. Anna Eskamani, an Orlando Democrat whose parents immigrated from Iran, questioned the effectiveness of the proposal.

"I have never even heard of a state sanctioning a foreign country, and the United States has already placed heavy sanctions on Iran which have been pretty constant through several presidents," Eskamani said.

The 2024 session will start in January. Eskamani said resolutions have been filed for the session supporting the people of Israel. And she suggested Florida could expand "services and provide financial support for refugees."

DeSantis followed up Thursday by issuing the emergency declaration, with his office saying the action would allow the Florida Division of **Emergency Management** to "bring Floridians home and transport necessary supplies to Israel."

The declaration came as the federal government said it was arranging charter flights to transport Americans. Some commercial airlines halted service to Israel amid the escalating war that started Saturday with Hamas' surprise attack on Israel.

DeSantis' order, in part, called for the activation of the Florida National Guard and Florida State Guard as needed and authorized the state emergency management director to carry out an emergency-management plan and "other response, recovery and mitigation plans necessary to cope with the emergency, including any logistical, rescue or evacuation operations."

A news release from DeSantis' office did not provide details about how bringing Floridians stateside and transporting supplies to Israel could be undertaken.

MOODY FIGHTS AMENDMENT

A Monday filing in the state Supreme Court signaled Attorney General Ashley Moody will try to block a ballot initiative that would enshrine abortion rights in the Florida Constitution.

The Supreme Court must review the initiative's proposed wording and determine if it meets legal requirements for clarity and dealing only with a single subject. In the filing Monday, Moody wrote that the initiative "does not satisfy the legal requirements for ballot placement."

Moody also wrote an opinion piece that ran on the Florida's Voice website in which she said her opposition to the issue going on the November 2024 ballot "has nothing to do with my personal views on abortion."

"Instead, as I have done throughout my two terms, I have objected to initiatives when the language of the summary will mislead voters," Moody wrote in the opinion piece.

Moody also is asking the Supreme Court to block a proposed constitutional amendment that would allow recreational use of marijuana.

The proposed abortion amendment would bar laws that restrict abortions "before viability or when necessary to protect the patient's health, as determined by the patient's healthcare provider."

Moody in the opinion piece pointed to the proposed amendment's use of the word "viability," writing that the term can have more than one meaning.

The group Floridians Protecting Freedom launched the ballot initiative in May after the Republican-controlled

Legislature and DeSantis approved a bill that seeks to prevent abortions after six weeks of pregnancy.

Along with needing Supreme Court approval of the proposed wording, Floridians Protecting Freedom must submit at least 891,523 valid signatures by a Feb. 1 deadline to get on the ballot.

The committee released a statement Tuesday disputing Moody's argument about the wording.

"The proposed amendment is clear and precise in limiting government interference with abortion 'before viability," Floridians Protecting Freedom Campaign Director Lauren Brenzel said in the statement. "Viability in the abortion context has always meant the stage of fetal development briefing Thursday.

when the life of a fetus is sustainable outside the womb through standard medical measures."

STORY OF THE

WEEK: Gov. Ron DeSantis on Thursday declared a state of emergency in response to the war between Israel and Hamas, with his office saying the declaration allows the Florida Division of **Emergency Management** to "bring Floridians home and transport necessary supplies to Israel."

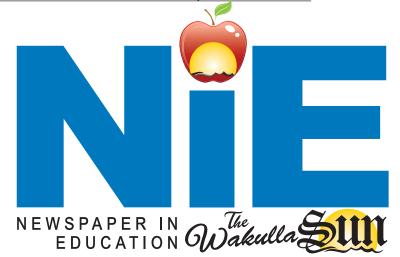
QUOTE OF THE

WEEK: "In this time of crisis, we're focused on getting things done and supporting Israel, that's where our heads are." -National Security Council spokesman John Kirby during a White House

GeraldBrownFoto



Page 10 - THE WAKULLA SUN, Thursday, October 19, 2023



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USE THE NEWS

1. WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST

in the Middle East, it does when it's Minnesota, the aca war has broken at full brightness, out between Israel it can still end up and the shoes were and a group called hurting your eyes. after Hamas, а terrorist against innocent civilians by Hamas. The two sides have been fighting for years, but it has now escalated to a war. The fighting has prompted people to express their support for both Israelis and Palestinians, who have been killed, hurt, or forced to leave their homes in order to stay safe. Look at a world map and find where Israel is in relation to the United States. (If you have trouble finding it, start by locating Egypt, in the top right corner of Africa. Israel is the country that borders Egypt to the east.) Write journal entry а talking about what you know about the war and how you feel.

the moon, so even from though it doesn't Garland Museum Across the world hurt to look at like in Grand Rapids, Write a paragraph attack summarizing what an eclipse is, including a picture to represent it, and why you can't look directly at it.

3. MUSEUM HEIST

nesota guilty last week to stealing the ruby slippers that Judy the filming of the Garland wore in 1939 movie, but "The Wizard of Oz" movie. The theft pairs are known to

is in shadow from took place in 2005 the Judy tor's hometown, recovered in 2018. The man who stole them said he thought they contained real rubies and he had hoped to sell the gems, but when he found out the stones were made of glass, he got rid of them made and they their way to the A man in Min- FBI. Judy Garland pleaded wore several pairs of the famous ruby slippers during only four authentic

len pair is current- Week on which ly worth \$3.5 million. Write a short the year's winner. article summarizing the facts of this 2,200 brown bears case.

4. FAT BEAR WEEK

about bears their natural habitat, Katmai National Park Preserver The annual contest successfully. tracks brown bears that live in the park as they stock up on salmon before moving into hibernation for the winter, live-streaming is for anyone to Tuen in into on their web- capital of Wales, site. Viewers vote making him the

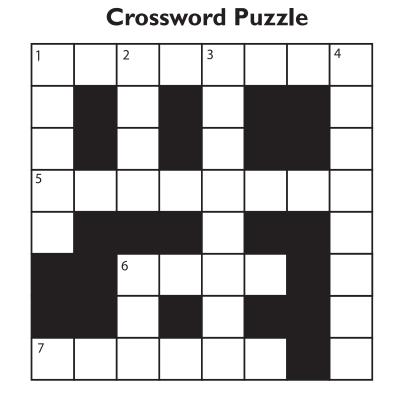
still exist. The sto- during Fat Bear latest celebrity to bear to name as Of an estimated in Katmai, the winner this year was a fierce mama bear named Grazer. Read about what As an entertain- it means for a bear ing way to learn to hibernate in the in winter. Then, write a paragraph that explains why bears and need to eat a lot started in the summer in Fat Bear Week. order to hibernate

5. RAPPER **TURNED SPON-**SOR

Rapper 50 Cent sponsoring а trail cam videos girls' soccer team Cardiff, the

support a Welsh team. The father of one of the players worked with the rapper on a tour and he agreed to sponsor the team for players under age 14, putting them in the spotlight. As part of the sponsorship, the team's jerseys will include the name of 50 Cent's hip hop group, G-Unit. Imagine you owned a team for your favorite sport. Draw your own jerseys, including sponsorship logos from any brands or celebrities you would want to sponsor your team and, of course, the team name.



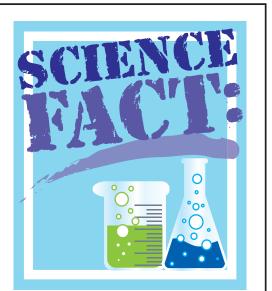




2. SOLAR **SPECTACLE**

Last week, a rare solar eclipse called the "ring of fire" moved across the sky in North and South America. It happens when the moon lines up between the Earth and sun, blocking all but the sun's outer edges from view. While this isn't a total solar because eclipse, the moon is too far from Earth to completely block out the sun, all that's visible in the sky is a bright circle, or "ring of fire," around the outline of the moon. It's important to know that you can't look at a solar eclipse directly, the same way you shouldn't look directly at the sun. It can hurt your eyes, particularly the part of the eye that sends information to the brain. This is because the solar radiation that comes from the sun is still there even when the sun





THIS POPULAR HALLOWEEN DECOR DEVICE USES A GLYCOL- OR GLYCERIN-BASED FLUID TO MAKE A THICK VAPOR. IT CAN MAKE HAUNTED HOUSES SEEM MORE SPOOKY.

ANSWER: FOG MACHINE



ITALIAN: Pauroso

FRENCH: Effrayant

GERMAN: Angsteinflößend

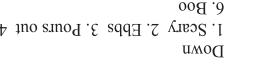
DOWN ACROSS

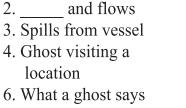
- 1. Showing a lack of self-confidence
- 5. Hold back
- 6. Reading material
- 7. Specters

1. Frightening

1. Scary 2. Ebbs 3. Pours out 4. Haunting

1. Sheepish 5. Restrain 6. Book 8. Chost Across : ѕләмѕиү





GET TH PICTUR Can you guess what the bigger picture is? **ANSWER: SKULL**

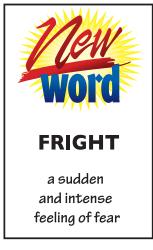


MANY PEOPLE ONCE BELIEVED THE DOOR TO THE AFTERLIFE IS OPEN ON HALLOWEEN, ALLOWING SPIRITS TO PASS THROUGH.

LAUNCHED IN BOSTON HARBOR.

• 1854: FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE IS AMONG A GROUP OF NURSES SENT TO THE CRIMEAN WAR.

• **1959:** THE SOLOMON R. GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM OPENS TO THE PUBLIC IN NEW YORK CITY.



KITCHEN & BATH WORD SEARCH

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

CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. A device to disengage without a key 5. Subdivision 8. Network of nerves 12. Lounge chair 14. Ocean 15. C. European river 16. Bowl-shaped cavity 18. __ Caesar, comedian 19. Lyric poems 20. Tia's sister 21. A way to develop 22. Cows collectively 23. Areas close by 26. Slightly disreputable 30. Made a mistake 31. One who cites 32. Food stall: ____ pai dong

47. Free from slavery 49. Thick piece of something 50. Containing two nitrogen atoms between carbon atoms 51. Removed entirely 56. Late rocker Turner 57. Appreciated 58. Observation expedition 59. Opposite of subtracts 37. They ____ 60. Unit of work 61. Wreckage on the sea bed public 62. Affirmative! (slang) 63. Witness 64. River in England

CLUES DOWN

Gaelic language 13. Someone who serves in the armed forces 17. Bring up 24. Factual written account (abbr.) 25. Having three sides 26. Annoy 27. Hustle 28. American WW2 leader 29. Stale atmosphere 35. US Treasury 36. Sound unit 38. Soviet Socialist Re-40. Places to play video games 41. Medical event 42. When you hope to arrive 43. Fixed prices

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to dental hygiene.

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BATHROOM

CLEANLINESS ESSENTIAL FAUCET FIXTURES GATHER GRANITE HUMIDITY ISLAND KITCHEN MAT MICROWAVE OVEN REFRIGERATOR REMODEL SHOWER SINK TABLE TILES TOILET VANITY

uong	1. It disserting enque	1
33. Narrow valley be-	2. Japanese city	44. Popular Boston song
tween hills	3. Spiritual leader	45. Valley in Indiana and
34. Members of people	4. Second letter of Greek	Illinois
living mainly in the	alphabet	47. Omit when speaking
Congo	5. Musical term	48. German explorer of
39. More (Spanish)	6. Ruled over	the Congo Basin
42. Classroom imple-	7. Fortified wine	49. Stick around
ments	8. First year player	52. From a distance
44. Cognizant of	9. Moved in a circular way	53. Heroic tale
46. One who tells on	10. Adolescents	54. Amounts of time
others	11. Scottish or Irish	55. Eat

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		2	5	6	4		

7

9

4

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 rapper born in Missouri on October 17, 1972. I aspired to be a comic book artist until I was introduced to Ice-T's song "Reckless." I became an international rap sensation. My stage name refers to the initials of my real name.

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Questions about deputy

From Front Page

the passenger did.

In her memo on the incident, Lt. Mitchell wrote that "Deputy Sheridan was advised he did not have probable cause for search and he still could not tow the vehicle.

"A short time after the second call, Deputy Sheridan called again, he advised he now had probable cause to search the vehicle. I asked him to explain. He stated: 'It's in plain view, on the center console."

Lt. Mitchell responded that if it's in plan view then go ahead with the search. She also asked the deputy, "'Did you ask permission to search?' He stated he did not. I advised him to ask for permission to search. Deputy Sheridan hung up the phone only to call back seconds later advising (the passenger) gave him permission to search. Deputy Sheridan then stated, 'But I don't need it, cause I've already found it."

Lt. Mitchell noted in her memo that the time between the phone calls was not long enough for Deputy Sheridan to have spoken to the passenger and then to have conducted a search of the vehicle.

Mitchell wrote that she was about to leave at the end of her shift when she heard Sheridan making a call for a wrecker to tow the vehicle. She went to Walmart and asked Sheridan about the search. "As he got to the point of 'plain view' Deputy Sheridan stated, 'The scale was in plain view, kinda sorta!" Lt. Mitchell asked what that meant. Sheridan replied that "Well, it was kinda sticking out just a little bit from under the seat."

have him come outside to his vehicle.

Sheridan came out and the deputy advised Sheridan that his patrol vehicle was unlocked. Sheridan reportedly said that he couldn't lock it because he only had one key. The off-duty deputy walked away and then saw Sheridan return to the store again leaving his patrol vehicle unsecured.

He was brought up on agency charges for violation of policies on firearms and fleet vehicles and the charges were sustained.

• In April 2020, he was placed on six month disciplinary probation and suspended for three days without pay.

• In May 2020, Sheridan was involved in a traffic stop at McDonalds. Sheridan made a radio call that "I got one running" and was reportedly following a driver trying to obtain probable cause for a search. Lt. Mitchell phoned Sheridan to ask for details. "He advised he did not have probable cause for the stop at this time." About 10 minutes later, Sheridan called back and said he identified the driver after seeing him drive by and knew him from previous contact and that the driver did not have a valid driver license.

But two other deputies reported to Mitchell that Sheridan stopped the vehicle and made contact with the driver, requesting his identification but did not report it to dispatch.

"Due to conflicting statements and Deputy Sheridan having a history of being untruthful to me, I started a supervisor inquiry," Mitchell wrote in a memo to Undersheriff Billy Jones.

In interviews with other deputies on duty that night, the deputy serving as "acting sergeant" on the shift said Sheridan had asked if he could attempt to get a radar clock on the driver he was following. He added that the car had a cracked windshield on the passenger side. The acting sergeant advised Sheridan it was a "bad stop" and to "back down as he had no probable cause for a stop." Another deputy noted that the driver of the car Sheridan was following had passed him at slow speed and the driver had a hat and shirt pulled high and could not be identified by sight. In his formal interview, Sheridan's story changed and he acknowledged that he stopped the car and had a brief conversation with the driver, including asking him for ID. Lt. Mitchell pointed out these details were different from what he had reported earlier. Mitchell added that being truthful keeps the sheriff's office from civil and criminal liability. Sheridan said he understood, but told the lieutenant that sometimes he gets caught up in the moment. • Later in May 2020, Sheridan was on Shawnee Trail on a call for a possible burglary in progress. As the investigation concluded and the call was determined to be unfounded, Sheridan wrecked into Lt. Mitchell's patrol car causing minor damage to both vehicles. In February 2020,

Sheridan had crashed a patrol car on Crestwood Lane where he was dispatched on a call for a child not breathing. The deputy missed a curve and crashed into several trees about 20-30 feet from the roadway.

An investigation determined he was not traveling at a safe speed and did not have the vehicle under control. He was required to take a remedial driving course.

• In April 2022, Sheridan made a stop for driving while license suspended or revoked and a subsequent search found drugs and paraphernalia.

Sheridan's report stated that he was on patrol when he saw a black Equinox pull into the Circle K convenience store on Coastal Highway and that he recognized the woman from past law enforcement encounters. He checked the woman's driver license status and determined it was suspended.

When he saw the woman leave the store and get in the car, he followed and made a traffic stop. Determining she was driving with a suspended license, he arrested the woman and searched the vehicle and found meth and pipes.

That arrest was the subject of an internal affairs investigation, and interviews with other law enforcement involved indicated Sheridan told one deputy on scene that he made the stop because of a faulty brake light. Video from the convenience store indicates Sheridan was not where he said he was and so could not have seen the woman when she went in and came out of the store. Store video also showed the brake lights on the vehicle worked when Sheridan pulled it over.

The internal affairs report found that "photographic and video evstatement" about seeing the woman enter and leave the store, get in the car, and ID her in his "official arrest affidavit, that it may be a violation of (state law), making false affidavit perjury."

Instead, investigators opined that Sheridan didn't know the driver of the vehicle "but instead initiated a non-probable cause traffic stop on the vehicle because he recognized it and assumed the registered owner, whom he knew from previous law enforcement encounters was driving it."

The criminal charges against the woman were dropped days after the arrest.

• Later in April 2022, Sheridan made a traffic stop on Shadeville Highway claiming the car's brake lights were out.

But a sergeant on patrol saw the car pass by him and the brake lights were working. The car stopped at a convenience store and another deputy stopped at the store and was looking for a reason to pull the car but couldn't come up with probable cause - he noted the lights were all working. That deputy had run the tag and determined the car was owned by a criminal habitual offender but, again, he had no reason to stop the car.

And internal affairs pulled video from the convenience store and determined the brake lights on the car were working.

The sergeant on duty that night filed a complaint on Sheridan for "conduct unbecoming" which prompted the internal affairs investigation.

The couple who were in the car that was pulled by Sheridan complained about his interaction with them: At the stop, the deputy reportedly demanded their ID, but not the car of a faulty brake light, but the male passenger said he had checked the lights before the trip and said there was nothing wrong. The male passenger wanted to get out of the car and look at the alleged broken light, but Sheridan ordered him to stay in the car. The deputy asked where they were going. When the woman who was driving said she was going to visit her children who live with her parents, the deputy reportedly asked why her kids didn't live with her. He then asked to search the car – but the male passenger told the deputy no, that he could

call a canine to sniff the car and if the dog hit on anything then he'd give consent. Sheridan then report-

edly released the car from the stop with a warning to get the brake light fixed.

The male passenger told internal affairs that he was upset by the stop - he acknowledged he had served time in prison, but said he had straightened out his life. He said the woman in the car that night, his girlfriend, was so upset about the traffic stop that she was crying.

Internal affairs investigators opined that the facts did not line up and that Deputy Sheridan had lied on his report.

A memo between internal affairs investigators noted that "Deputy Sheridan writes most of his sworn affidavits to meet his agenda and that they are not accurate or are downright lies." That memo notes that the sheriff and state attorney have received complaints about Sheridan.

Then-chief prosecutor Brian Miller reviewed the internal affairs report but declined to write a Giglio memo on Sheridan, saying there wasn't enough evidence of perjury. (Miller had

THE WAKULLA SUN, Thursday, October 19, 2023 - Page 13

on a Wakulla deputy, Robert Standeford, who lied on the stand in an administrative hearing in Tallahassee. Standeford resigned after the memo was filed. He has a pending lawsuit against the sheriff's office claiming discrimination by the agency.)

But as a result of the internal affairs investigation, Sheridan was placed on six months of disciplinary probation.

Then in April 2023, came Sheridan's arrest of the woman on drug charges after a traffic stop on Woodville Highway - and the court's finding that Sheridan was not a credible witness.

According to a transcript of the hearing, Wakulla Circuit Judge Layne Smith found that "Deputy Sheridan's testimony is about as all over the board as one could imagine, meaning, I find him to be an exceedingly weak witness for his own case. He's the driver. He's not the driver. He wrote he's the driver... I find him to be an exceedingly weak witness. No, he admitted under oath that he had been put on probation at least one time for untruthfulness." The judge noted the defense would likely challenge Sheridan with that if the case went to trial.

It didn't go to trial, though, because Judge Smith ordered the evidence that was seized at the traffic stop to be suppressed and Assistant State Attorney Eli Bentley dropped the charges against the woman.

A short time later, Sheridan resigned from the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office.

It's not clear if he was given the option of termination or resignation. The internal affairs report was supposed to be delivered to the agency that oversees law

"I reminded Deputy Sheridan that he told me on the phone it was in plain view on the center console." A sergeant on the scene advised Sheridan to go back to the office and write his report and get with Lt. Mitchell in the morning.

The next day, Lt. Mitchell noted that Sheridan's report said an inventory search of the vehicle due to the vehicle being towed revealed a Crown Royal bag - drugs and paraphernalia was found in the bag.

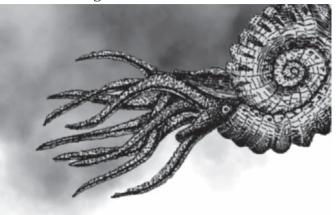
"This (was) different than what he told me on the phone and what he told me talking to him at Walmart," Lt. Mitchell noted. She added that the report said that all the items were found together and does not say where the items were located.

In response, Lt. Mitchell sent out an email to her shift advising that in the future all searches will have at least one back-up officer. The email added that vehicle searches would now require a signed consent to search form.

• In March 2020, while answering a call at Walmart, Sheridan was inside the store while his patrol vehicle was unlocked, as discovered by an off-duty deputy.

The deputy opened the vehicle, found Sheridan's ID, along with his patrol rifle, handgun, wallet and cell phone. The deputy phone dispatch and asked them to contact Sheridan and

idence indicates that registration. He said he Deputy Sheridan's stopped the car because written a Giglio memo



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Page 14 – THE WAKULLA SUN, Thursday, October 19, 2023



THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 16-20, 2023 SCHOOL BUS DATIONAL SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK



Superintendent Bobby Pearce, The Wakulla County School Board and the Transportation Department takes this time to remind parents, students and motorist of the importance in following the state laws and safety rules regarding stopped school buses.



OUR TRANSPORTATION TEAM: Pat Jones, Transportation Director; Shannon Smith, Asst. Transportation Director and Mr. Rick Myhre's, Director of Data Information.

MOTORIST: Slow Down and watch for children at designated bus stops.

Remember the Yellow Flashing Lights on the school bus indicate the bus preparing to stop to load or unload children. Motorist should slow down and prepare to stop. Red Flashing Lights and Extended Stop Arm indicate the bus has stopped and children are getting on or off the school bus. Motorist must stop and wait until the red lights stop flashing, the extended stop is withdrawn and the bus begins moving.

Never pass on the right side of the bus, where children enter or exit. This is illegal and can have tragic results. Slow down and watch for children walking to and from school bus stops and especially in neighborhoods.

PARENTS: Make sure students arrive at the bus stop 5 minutes before the designated bus pickup time. Remind your children to follow the school bus rules which are posted in the bus and in the student code of conduct handbook.

A special "THANK YOU AND SHOUT OUT" to the Wakulla County School Board Transportation Team for making a BIG IMPACT on our students daily and striving to get our students to school and home safely! We appreciate you and all you do for our "PRECIOUS CARGO".

Akers, llene Bell, Stephanie Brandt, Dennis Brandt, Edie Brown, Carl Bulloch, Christine Bunch, John Coburn, Preston Cox, Denise Crum, Emily Crum, Vickie DeLong, Grace Delones, Henry Dugger, Talana Glover, Rodney Goodson, Deborah Hamilton Donna Harris, Crystal Harris, John Hazen, Jim Hudson, Missy

Knearnem, Tracy Langston, Linda Langston, Ramona Lefferts, Candis Meany, Micheal Mispel, Nerys Morrison, Teri Murray, Brannon Nichols, Cassondra Nichols, Oscar Oaks, Robin Pierotti, Debbie Poulus, Taylor Pope, Christina Pumphrey, Julia Rodriguez, Courtney Simmons, Rebecca Slusher, Johnny Smith, Kendra Smith, Lisa

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Spears, Ginger Swartzfager, Cynthia Taylor, Brian Taylor, Misty Thomas, Phillis Toth, Katia Vause, Eugene Whitelock, Jason Wilson, Jennifer Wisham, Sharon Youngblood, Mary

FSU wins against Syracuse; face Duke next week

By BOB FERRANTE TheOsceola

Florida State should be getting some very big pieces of the offense back just in time for a top-20 matchup with Duke on Saturday.

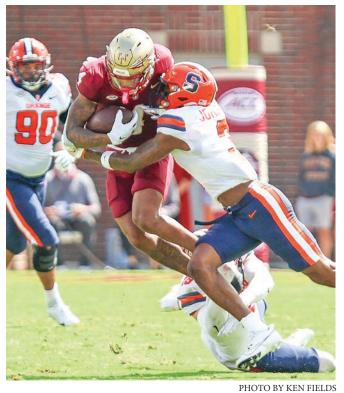
Wide receiver Johnny Wilson missed the Syracuse game due to an undisclosed injury but coach Mike Norvell expects him to be good to go this week in practice.

"I feel very good about Johnny," Norvell said on Monday. "He progressed really well over the weekend. Was able to get reps in practice. Plan on having

him rolling throughout the week."

Wilson left last Saturday's game against Virginia Tech after he was sandwiched by two defenders. He caught his first two touchdown passes of 2023 against the Hokies. Wilson has 20 receptions for 357 yards and two touchdowns, both of which came against VT.

Without Wilson, quarterback Jordan Travis connected with 10 receivers and finished 25 of 39 for 239 yards and a pair of touchdowns to Keon Coleman. Jaheim Bell had four receptions for 87 yards, Destyn Hill caught three



Seminole receiver Keon Coleman takes a hit after making a reception against Syracuse.

passes and both Darion Williamson and Markeston Douglas each had two catches.

Norvell was asked directly about Jordan Travis's status and if he had a left hand injury, and the coach responded: "He's going to be good.

Offensive tackle Bless Harris is also good to play against Duke. Harris has started four games at left tackle but did not play against VT or Syracuse with an undisclosed injury.

"He's going to be ready to go," Norvell said. "He was very close last week. I think if it was absolute emer-

gency he could have probably went in. He practiced toward the end of the (Syracuse) week."

Darius Washington started for FSU at tackle the last two games but left the Syracuse game with an undisclosed injury.

"Darius went out in the game and we'll see where that goes this week," Norvell said. "I think he'll have a good chance (to play)."

FSU (6-0, 4-0) will face Duke (5-1, 2-0) in a top-20 matchup on Saturday at 7:30 p.m. (ABC). The game is sold out, as are all of the Seminoles' ACC home games.



The crowd at the Seineyard Wildwood for the Florida Wild Mammal Association's Bingo fundraiser.



FWMA board members Jane Tillman, Kathie Brown, and Jan Estevez.







Cathy Frank, left, prepared for the Wakulla County Historical Society's quilt show held at the old courthouse on Saturday. And society president Brent Thurmond and secretary Arelene Vause present Kathy Shirah with volunteer of the year award.

Mauney **From Front Page**

crime victims, so the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office never released the victim's name.

But the Wakulla Sun searched obituaries from the time of the scription. death and identified the murder victim as Timothy Wayne Blyth, refuge lands. He was a U.S. Ma- multiple times. rine veteran who served two tours overseas and received numerous ning around the site loose when photo on the victim's phone was of medals.

gument as he was walking down the location. the road with his dogs after one

911 call after a man driving on from the home. who was 52 when he was killed Purify Bay Road found a body in while scouting a hunting area on the road. The victim had been shot found four 9mm spent casings

deputies arrived. Mauney's wife Mauney's F150 showing the tag.

argumentative. He got into an ar- that her husband had not been at

After developing leads, detecperson suggested he wear an or- tives searched Mauney's home ange because there was a mobility and found bloodstained boots that hunt going on. At the kiosk where matched prints at the scene, as hunters note their deer harvests, well as bloodstained jeans. The Mauney got into an argument tire tracks of Mauney's Ford F150 with a man matching Blyth's de- matched tire tracks at the scene.

But a 9mm handgun Mauney The sheriff's office received a reportedly owned was missing

At the crime scene, officers and the victim's phone about 40 Mauney's poodles were run- yards away from the body. The last

According to the arrest report, arrived and collected the dogs. She Mauney could face life in priswitnesses reported Mauney in reportedly told deputies the dogs on if convicted of second degree the area with his two standard had escaped from their Jack Crum murder. He is scheduled to go to Poodles and described him as Road home about a mile away and trial in April.

Steve Brown and Sheriff Jared Miller. PHOTOS BY LINDA ANN McDONALD



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Malphurs

From Front Page

Judge Smith noted there was media interest in the case and said he had to weigh Marsy's Law against the First Amendment rights of a free press.

victim," the judge said to defense counsel, "the state certainly does, and I know... We don't need to clear the courtroom if we can be disciplined enough not to name tor and now county judge. the victim." He said the victim could be referred to as "the child."

Wakulla Chief Prosecutor Anin jail, called Detective Ashley agency has a transaction log that

alleged sexual battery.

of notified of the child's claims of be blocked from accessing her sexual battery in April 2021. The reports. child came forward after taking part in a safety program at her questioned some of the things school.

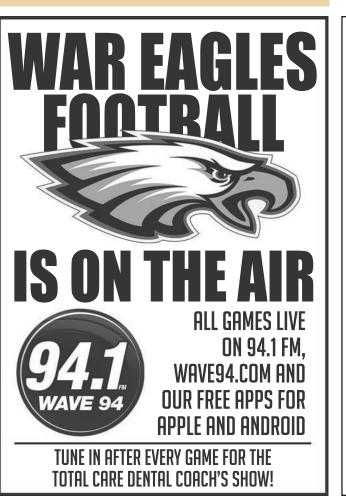
Malphurs phone was seized in what was left out. August 2021, and Hudson testi-"You know the name of the fied about some of the searches that were found, including "Major relevant. Sharp asked what was Whaley," the former head of criminal investigations, and "Brian Miller," the former chief prosecu- replied that it was connected to

Hudson also testified that Malphurs used access at the sheriff's from the testimony in open court office to look at her past case drew Deneen, presenting his case reports, specifically past sexual for why Malphurs should remain battery cases with children. The activities.

Hudson, who investigated the records who looks at reports. Hudson said she went to her su-Hudson said the sheriff's office pervisor to request that Malphurs

> On cross-examination, Sharp included in Hudson's report and

Hudson noted some internet searches were left out that weren't relevant about the search for "cryptocurrency" - and Hudson another investigation of Malphurs that is still ongoing. It's not clear what that investigation is about, but appears to be related to online



Crawfordville **FALL BAZAAR** Saturday, Oct. 28, 2023 9a.m. to 2p.m. **Crawfordville United Methodist Church** 176 Ochlochonee Street, Crawfordville **METHODIST WOMEN'S** BAZAAR **PROCEEDS to BENEFIT MISSIONS SHOP FOR CHRISTMAS**

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War Eagles crush Taylor, 61-0

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN Editor

The Wakulla War Eagles completely dominated the Taylor County Bulldogs on Friday night with a big 61-0 district win.

It was a breakout game for receiver Del Zanders - who scored a touchdown everytime he touched the ball: the opening kickoff he returned for a touchdown, and four pass receptions in which he outran defenders to the end zone.

"Everything clicked for us," said Wakulla Head Coac Scott Klees. "Just a good, good game for us in all three phases - offense, defense and special teams."

GAME RECAP

Zanders took the opening kickoff 73 yards for a touchdown to put Wakulla on the scoreboard with 12 seconds off the clock.

On the next offensive series, a 40-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Haden Klees to receiver Devontae Roberts and Wakulla is up 14-0.

Then a 30-yard TD pass from Klees to Zanders. Extra point good. Wakulla up 21-0, still in the first quarter.

First play of second quarter, 75-yard pass play from Klees to Zan-

Eagle territory. Wakulla's drive goes backwards. Facing a 3rd and 15 at their own 5, the War Eagles try a double flea-flicker but pressure forces Klees to scramble in the end zone, runs to the 1. Punter Owen Klees at the inches away from the end line when he punts, it's returned to Wakulla 18.

The War Eagle defense makes a big stand, forcing Taylor County to turn it over on downs at the Wakulla 11.

Next play: Del Zanders scores for the fourth time - an 89 yard pass and run. Kick is good. It's 35-0 with 6 minutes to the half.

On defense, a tipped pass intercepted by Wakulla defensive back Auvion Thomas. Wakulla ball at Taylor 40. Pass from Klees to Nehemiah Chandler for touchdown. Extra point good. Wakulla 42, Taylor 0.

Taylor goes to punt from their own end zone, snap goes over the head of the punter, out the back of end zone for a safety. Wakulla up 44-0.

Zanders fifth touchdown came on a bomb from Klees. Extra point makes it 51-0 at halftime.

Second half underway with a running clock. Taylor takes kickoff, but can't move ball. Wakulla takes over ball on downs. Second string gets some playing time.

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



War Eagle Del Zanders gets a lead block from Nehemiah Chandler as he runs for a touchdown. Zanders scored every time he touched the ball - five touchdowns on the night.

er Colby Carranz nails a 20 yarder and Wakulla goes up 54-0 over Taylor with 3 minutes left in 3Q. Later, Jordan Barnes scores on a 50-yard run. Extra point puts Wakulla up 61-0.

PLAYERS OF THE



ders. Extra point makes it Wakulla 28-0. It's Zanders' third TD of the game.

Wakulla intercepts a Bulldog pass deep in War

Coaches Corner

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COACH

Scott Klees

60条6

well.

fall behind.

physical team will win.

On first down at the 10, Coach Klees elects to kick a field goal. JV kick-

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OUTDOOR

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FROM THE COACH

Scouting report: North Florida Christian is fast and talented

like Wakulla. Both teams can score quick. You don't want to

Last week: Big district win over Taylor. War Eagles played 🗧

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Overall Player of the Week was Del Zanders, with his five touchdown performance: a 73-yard



return of the opening kickoff, and four catches for 244 yards and four touchdowns.

Offensive Player of the Week was offensive lineman Kane Tucker who graded 88% blocking.

Defensive Player of the Week was Brady Jackson with 7 tackles and 2 assists.

Special Teams Player of the Week was Sion Ransom who had three special teams tackles.

Other notable players included quarterback Haden Klees, who went 11 of 21 passing for 385 yards and 6 touchdowns.

Chandler had one catch for 37 yards and a touchdown. On defense as defensive back, the receiver he covered had no catches. (Chandler is a Georgia Tech commit as a DB.)

And running back Jeremiah Thomas had 5 carries for 38 yards and two catches for 20 yards.

Linebacker Tanner Lanier had 9 tackles and linebacker Brandon Burton had 8 tackles.

NEXT UP: NORTH FLORIDA CHRISTIAN

Wakulla travels to Tallahassee to face North Florida Christian on Friday night.

"That's gonna be another good game," said Coach Klees.

He noted that NFC

Receiver Nehemiah had nine of last year's starting 11 offensive players back this year. And NFC beat Wakulla last year.

"Both teams have a lot of speed," Klees said. "There's a lot of guys on the field who will be playing at the next level next year."

Wakulla's offense is playing at a high level and the defense is playing so well, Klees said.

"We can't turn the ball over, because both teams and score and score quick. You don't want to fall behind.

"Whoever is the mot physical team will win," Klees said.

In addition to the game being broadcast on WAVE 94, it will also be televised on the CW, the fourth game to be televised locally this year.

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DEL ZANDERS Receiver



KANE TUCKER **Offensive lineman**



BRADY JACKSON Safety



SION RANSOM **Special Teams**



PHOTO BY WILLIAM SNOWDER Zanders with teammates accepting a trophy from sideline reporter Emily Peters of Friday Night Rivals on CW.

Keys to victory: Can't turn the ball over. Whoever is the most