

# War Eagle QB Haden Klees named FACA Player of the Year

7 other players named to first team for All-District

See Page 13

War Eagle Nehemiah Chandler runs after a catch.



Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
Hi: 79° Lo: 59° 9%	Hi: 81° Lo: 64° 24%	Hi: 80° Lo: 62° 18%
Sunrise 6:57 AM Sunset 5:44 PM	Sunrise 6:58 AM Sunset 5:43 PM	Sunrise 6:59 AM Sunset 5:43 PM

"It's a New Day"

Locally Owned & Operated

Our 2nd Year 45th Issue  
Thursday, November 9, 2023



\$1  
One Section

# Water issues at charter review

Resolutions fail over adding a Water Quality Advisory Board, right to clean water

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN and LYNDA KINSEY

Members of the Charter Review Committee last week voted down last-minute proposals to put on next year's ballot a question about whether to create a Water Quality Advisory Board to report on issues, and another that would have stated "Every man, woman and child in Wakulla County has the right to clean water."

The Charter Review Committee had announced two weeks ago that it had finished holding meetings to discuss proposals, then a special meeting was set for Thursday, Nov. 2 to discuss the proposals, which were brought up by David Damon.

The first proposal, to create a board that would create an annual report on drinking water and groundwater issues, failed by a vote of 5-8. (A resolution



Members of the Charter Review Committee at last week's meeting.

required 10 of 13 members present to pass.)

That board would have monitored issues such as tap water quality in

Wakulla schools; the old gasoline spill at the former jail – now Tax Collector's Office – that is underground and moving towards the Sopchoppy well near

the old Courthouse. It would have also reported on pollutants at the old landfill in Medart off Jack Crum Road.

The other issue of saying people have a right to clean water failed by a vote of 3 yeas to 10 nays.

The Charter Review Committee takes up possible changes to the county's charter every eight years. Proposals go before county voters to vote up or down.

There are currently five proposals to be placed on the ballot: impact fee review every five years; require new development to preserve live oaks and longleaf pines larger than 6 inches in diameter; a limitation on RV parks to 5 units per acre, down from the current limit of 10; an anti-panhandling proposal; and a measure to review the charter every 5 years instead of 8.

Public hearings are set for Nov. 14 and 28 at the community center to discuss the proposals.



# 'Grease' at WCT

Story & Photos By LINDA ANN McDONALD  
Correspondent

Wakulla Community Theater presented Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey's musical "Grease" to four consecutive sold out audiences with 250 guests per show on Nov. 2 through Nov. 5 at the Historic Sopchoppy School.

Wakulla Community Theater started in 1991 with a history of 32 years, 28 shows and 82 performances, after a 14-year hiatus, Nancy Commander and Mina Sutton decided it was time to bring back WCT.

"We called each other and said, Hey, we are retired now, it's time to bring back the theater."

Directors Sutton and Commander, both retired Wakulla County School teachers, agreed, "We did not think this type of turn-out would happen, we are blown away by the feed back and how much the community loved the show; it is important we keep the theater and contin-



Scenes from the musical top and above; at left, 'Grease' director Mina Sutton and set designer Mary Katherine Westmark.

To add a little Wakulla County flavor to the show, during the scene where Danny Zuko and Sandy Dumbrowski are in the drive-in theater, the movie playing on the big screen was "Creature From the Black Lagoon," which

we had to turn people away because we were sold out, we had people begging for tickets, we were not prepared for this."

# School voucher bills set for legislative special session

By JIM SAUNDERS  
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — With a special legislative session poised to start Monday, the Florida House and Senate on Thursday released proposals that could lead to more students receiving school vouchers through a program aimed at helping children with disabilities.

The proposals (HB 3C and SB 4-C) would effectively lift a cap this school year on students who receive vouchers under the program, known as the "Family Empowerment Scholarship for Students with Unique Abilities."

Under a formula in law, the program was capped at 40,913 students this year, up from 26,500 students during the 2022-2023 school year, according to Senate and House staff analyses.

But the bills would eliminate the use of the formula this year and say the maximum number of students participating in the program would be the number "determined eligible" by the Florida Department of Education and non-profit groups that administer vouchers.

The staff analyses do not include estimates of how many students could get the aid.

The House analysis said the change would have "indeterminate fiscal impact." The Senate analysis said "any additional students will be absorbed" with money already in the state budget. That is because lawmakers created a \$350 million "educational enrollment stabilization fund" to address potential school-district enrollment changes during the year.

Lawmakers will start the special session Monday to address a series of issues, including the voucher program, assistance after Hurricane Idalia and additional state sanctions against Iran.

Senate President Kathleen Passidomo, R-Naples, and House Speaker Paul Renner, R-Palm Coast, issued a joint proclamation last month that said the session will include an effort to provide "a mechanism to increase the number of students served under the Family Empowerment Scholarship for students with disabilities."

Passidomo also sent a memo to senators that said lawmakers would "address demand" for the program.

"With the start of the new school year, we are seeing an increase in the number of students with unique abilities applying for the scholarship. Students with unique abilities receive additional funding for their scholarships, depending on their needs," the memo said.

The voucher bills are sponsored by House PreK-12 Appropriations Chairwoman Josie Tomkow, R-Polk City, and Sen. Jay Collins, R-Tampa. The House Appropriations Committee on Monday will take up Tomkow's bill, while the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee will consider Collins' bill.

The Republican-controlled Legislature and Gov. Ron DeSantis approved a massive expansion of the state's voucher programs during this spring's regular legislative session. But some school-choice

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Turn to Page 3

## Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park Cardinal flower

By LYNN ARTZ, SANDY TEDDER  
and DAVID RODDENBERRY



Cardinal flowers depend on hummingbirds for pollination.

Cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) is one of north Florida's most stunning wildflowers. Its brilliant red flowers bloom in summer through fall. Dazzling clusters of tubular flowers top flower stalks 3-4 feet tall. An aquatic perennial, cardinal flower is found on streambanks and in spring runs and swamps, often in standing water. Cardinal flowers depend on hummingbirds for pollination. Although the flowers attract butterflies and bees, insects have trouble navigating the flowers. Thus, hummingbirds are the main pollinator. In Florida, cardinal flower is a threatened species. Park volunteers have struggled to establish this wildflower with purchased plants and sown seeds. The latest effort puts cardinal flowers in even wetter and shadier locations, hoping they return next year. Recently planted cardinal flowers are blooming now in the pond at Sopchoppy Depot Park.

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## Student of the Week

Zander Ingram – 7th grader at Wakulla Middle School

Principal: Simeon Nelson

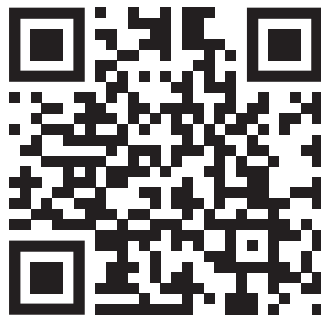
**Achievements/Reason for Nomination:**  
Zander was selected for this honor unanimously by his 7th grade teachers. They say he is a thoughtful and engaged student. He works hard in his classes and is always willing to go the extra mile with his work. He is also a friendly and likeable student. At school, Zander is in the Band and plays the trumpet. Outside of school, Zander enjoys playing soccer, gaming, reading and watching movies. Some of his favorite books are Captain Underpants, The Last Kids on Earth and The Diary of a Wimpy Kid. He says his all-time favorite movie is Transformers. He also likes to play Fortnite and Spiderman on his gaming systems. WMS is proud of Zander and lucky to have him as a Wakulla Wildcat!



STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.

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SCAN ME for an electronic edition of this



**Saturday Nov 11th**  
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Downtown Sopchoppy Depot Park



**Fundraiser Mullet Fish Fry, Local Oysters, Food Vendors, Best Mullet Hair Contest, Mullet Toss, Music all day, Historic Displays, Touch Tanks, Kids Activities, Vendors of Home Made & Home Grown Treasures, Beer Garden and more.**

## Oyster & Mullet Festival November 11, 2023 Schedule

Music on the Stage  
9:00 Opening Ceremonies: Mayor Lara Edwards  
10:00-11:30: Humble Road  
11:30-12:30: Rockulla Musicians  
12:30-1:00 : Music for Mullet Haircut Contest  
1:00-2:30: Funky "Taters (Funk R & B )  
2:30-4:00: Hot Tamale Duo

Mullet Competitions  
11:30-12:30: Mullet Toss (Depot Museum Green)  
12:30-1:00: Best Mullet Haircut Contest (Stage)

Contact Discover Sopchoppy:  
Winky Jenkins-Rice 850-294-9601 or Nancy Paul 864-483-6862

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

Lisa Craze, CFC  
Wakulla County Tax Collector

**Live the Dream:**  
Enacted: 07/01/2004.  
The "Live the Dream" plate is to be distributed by the Dream Foundation, Inc. When you purchase a "Live the Dream" specialty plate above, a percentage of the proceeds go to Sickle Cell Association of Florida (to distribute to sickle cell chapters throughout Florida)

**Red, White and Blue Bikers Care:** Enacted: 10/01/2003.  
Purchase the red, white and blue Bikers Care tag, you will help thousands of citizens by funding programs to prevent blindness and provide support for Floridians with disabilities.

## FOLLOW THE SUN.

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# Ice trade and ice machines to be next historical program

Special to The News

The Wakulla County Historical Society welcomes back Kevin Bair, who will present a program on “The Civil War Blockade, Smuggled Ice Machines, and the End of the Natural Ice Trade” at our monthly program at 4:30 p.m., on Tuesday, Nov. 14, at the Wakulla County Public Library.

The public is invited and there is no charge for this event.

Have you ever won-

dered what life in the South was like before the ice-making machine? Ice in the South was supplied by the natural ice trade. Frederick Tudor of Boston started the natural ice trade in 1805. Tudor built an ice empire. He was coined the “Ice King”. Tudor shipped ice to Calcutta, the Caribbean, and Southern United States ports.

In 1850, Dr. John Gorrie of Apalachicola patented an early ice-making machine. The future of



Kevin Bair will speak on the impact of ice trade and ice machines at the public library on Nov. 14.

mechanical ice-making machines threatened the natural ice trade and the “Ice King” by having the capability to produce ice year-round and it was less expensive to produce than shipping ice to the South. In retaliation, the natural ice trade created fake news against Gorrie and others who lobbied for mechanical ice-making machines thus stifling the developing new technology.

It took the Civil War and the Union block-

ade of Confederate ports that prompted enterprising men in New Orleans desperate for ice in the beer-making businesses to smuggle two ice-making machines from France through the blockade. These machines were reverse-engineered and slowly distributed in the South, cutting the South’s dependence on Yankee ice.

For more information, please call the Museum at 850-966-1110.

# Sheriff’s office recognized for reducing Baker Acts 15%

Special to The Sun

NWF Health Network recognized Sheriff Jared Miller and the Wakulla County Sheriff’s Office for their role in reducing the number of Baker Acts across the region by 15%.

In the wake of the 2018 Parkland shooting, Florida lawmakers passed a comprehensive new law to promote safety, prevent trauma, and intervene with youth and adults in crisis. Specifically, Mobile Response Teams (MRT’s) are required to be on-site within 60 minutes to connect those in crisis with alternatives to inpatient psychiatric treatment. The Wakulla County Sheriff’s Office under agreement with NWF Health agreed to be the bridge between persons in crisis and the



County Commissioner Mike Kemp, Wakulla Sheriff Jared Miller, an unidentified woman, and NWF Health CEO Mike Watkins.

Apalachee Center MRT team. These teams pro-

vide emergency behavioral health assess-

ments and begin immediate on-site treatment.

Since its inception more than 90% of the mobile responses were successful in avoiding the need for a “Baker Act.” This would not be possible in rural counties without the aid of the sheriff’s office.

“Our sheriffs are critical in making this mission successful,” said Mike Watkins, CEO of NWF Health. “Sheriff Miller understands public safety and he values getting people the help they need quickly.”

“NWF Health Network has given WCSO the opportunity to help citizens in crisis immediately. The MRTs are an extremely valuable tool to assist citizens in crisis and help our deputies do their jobs more efficiently and effectively,” said Sheriff Jared Miller.

In the northwest

Florida region – the 18 counties from Escambia to Madison – we have seen a net reduction of 15% in Baker Acts (even while our population increased nearly 5%). Perhaps most impressively, in our region, more than 10,000 children have been seen by MRTs and 90% of the responses did not result in inpatient treatment. Governor and First Lady DeSantis, and the Florida Department of Children and Families, have made the pan-handle a priority and our communities are safer and healthier as a result.

NWF Health Network serves as the network management agency for child protection and behavioral health across northwest Florida.

## PUBLIC NOTICES:

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



### ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSALS

## WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA

Public Announcement Requesting Proposals from Pre-Qualified Construction Managers.

Proposals are requested from Pre-Qualified Construction Managers by H2Engineering, Inc. on behalf of Wakulla County School Board:

**WCSB PROPOSAL NO.: 22/23-04**

**PROJECT NAME: SHADEVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HVAC RENOVATIONS AND UPGRADES**

**PROPOSAL DUE DATE: Wednesday, November 29, 2023**

**TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

A Pre-Request for Qualification Meeting will be held on November 14, 2023 at 2:00p.m. at 69 Arran Rd, Crawfordville, FL 32327, in the School Board Room. All firms or their representatives are encouraged to be in attendance. The Pre-Request for Qualification date is subject to change.

#### GENERAL INFORMATION:

- SCOPE: Wakulla County Schools Shadeville Elementary School HVAC Upgrades. The Project consists of the replacement of the existing HVAC systems throughout Shadeville Elementary School, approximately 99,000 square feet. The Project consists of the consolidation of two existing air-cooled chillers, two fuel-oil boilers and the one for one replacement of the air handling units on campus. Existing DX air handling units will be replaced with 4-pipe air handling units. Additionally, all new hydronic piping will be provided and distributed underground to all mechanical rooms.
- The entity responsible for all aspects of project management: H2Engineering, Inc. 114 East 5th Avenue Tallahassee, Florida 32303 Phone: (850) 224-7922 Fax: (850) 224-5876
- Proposals will only be accepted from Construction Managers Pre-Qualified with the Wakulla County School Board for this project.
- Sealed proposals must be received at the Wakulla County School Board administration building, 69 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida 32327, no later than 2:00 P.M. local time, on Wednesday, November 29, 2023. Proposals must be clearly marked with project name and Proposal number on the outside envelope. Submittals received after deadline will not be considered.

The Owner reserves the right to waive irregularities and/or informalities in any Proposal and to reject any or all Proposals in whole or part, with or without cause, and/or accept the Proposal that in its judgment will be for the best interest of the School Board of Wakulla County, Florida.

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
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**ROBERT PEARCE,**  
SUPERINTENDENT

October 9, 2023



## Wall of honor

Wakulla Supervisor of Elections Joe Morgan and his team had been talking about an idea they had to create a Wall of Honor in their office to commemorate treasured service members associated with Wakulla County.

In August of this year, they went into action to make this a reality by posting a photo of those who have served on the Wall of Honor in the elections office for all to observe. “Everyone is welcome to bring us a photo to post on the wall of their family member who has served. They can be living

or deceased, we want to fill this wall so that we will always be reminded of these heroes. You can drop by the office with the photo for us to scan or email a jpeg to Wakullacountysoe@wakullavotes.gov. Let’s fill this wall!” says Joe Morgan. (Photo by Lynda Kinsey)

## School vouchers

From Front Page

advocates have called for eliminating the cap on participation in the program for students with disabilities.

“It’s a cap that limits the number of kids in the program. It’s not that the providers don’t have

any space. It’s a very different conversation. The providers are saying we’ve got space. But the state has said, we put a limit on how much money we’re willing to spend,” Steve Hicks, president of the Florida Coalition of Scholarship Schools, said in a recent interview

with The News Service of Florida.

The formula in current law allows the program to grow by certain amounts each year, based on the state’s overall “exceptional student education” enrollment, excluding gifted students, according to the House analysis. That led to the 40,913-student cap this year.

While the cap would be

lifted this year under the bills, the formula would be used in the future.

The vouchers can be used for a variety of services in addition to private-school tuition. For example, they can be used for instructional materials, tutoring and fees for specialized summer and after-school programs, according to the House analyses.

bring the arts to Wakulla County. It adds something to do, for families to look forward to, just good clean fun.”

Zoe Lanier along with Scott Rossow and Tate Reynolds in Sound and Lights said, “It had been a great experience and we enjoy doing it, we love to see the reactions of the crowds, the cheers and the applause, it

makes 3 months of hard work come to an enjoyable ending.”

“Proceeds from tickets go back into the theater to purchase goods such as copyrighted material which is very expensive, props and costumes, and we also want to thank Wakulla County High School for donating props for the show,” said Commander.

## ‘Grease’ at WCT

From Front Page

was filmed at Wakulla Springs State Park.

Director Nancy Commander made the comment, “Taylor Whittle did a great job with choreography, she created the routines by taking small steps and putting

it together as she went.”

Tanner Pafford who portrayed lead bad boy Danny Zuko said, “It was a lot of fun, I have not been in a show since middle school, but I was able to get back in touch with old friends from school, make new friends and it is great to

# Opinions

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

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

LETTERS FROM READERS

## No kid should sleep on the floor

**Editor, The Sun:**

The Holiday season is upon us and as we get ready to give thanks for our blessings, please be aware that there are many children in Wakulla County who do not have and have never slept in their own bed. The lucky ones share a bed or a couch with a sibling. Many are sleeping on the floor.

If you know a child who does not have their own bed, we want to help. The Rotary Club of Wakulla has partnered with Sleep in Heavenly Peace and will be conducting a bed building event on December 2nd at 9 a.m. Sheriff Jared Miller and the WCSO have generously provided their parking lot as the location for this event.

These beds will be constructed

and delivered at no cost to families in Wakulla who have applied through the SHP website.

Please go to [shpbeds.org/apply/](http://shpbeds.org/apply/) and fill out the simple one-page form. You can refer a family who many not be aware of this program. If you are unable to fill out the form online please contact SHP Tallahassee Chapter President at 844-432-2337 extension 5707. Your information will be kept confidential.

A child's outcomes in all aspects of their life will be significantly enhanced simply by having their own bed. Let's make this the best Christmas ever for a child in Wakulla.

**NO KID SHOULD SLEEP ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN.**

**Steve Sanabria**  
Rotary Club of Wakulla

## \$307 Million tax error is not a shortfall

**Editor, The Sun:**

Re: “\$307 Million error,” last week's front page story on the overvaluation of a lot and subsequent budget problems for the county and school board.

As I read the Wakulla Sun's account of what happened, and what county officials were having to cope with concerning the problem, I took notice of the choice of terminology used to describe what was simply an error. It was a big error to be sure, but an error nonetheless. This error was repeatedly described as a “shortfall.” Why is it being called a shortfall? The answer is because the county budgets took these nonexistent funds into account when planning their budgets. Obviously, no money from the 2024 tax year has been spent by the county or the school district. We have not come up “short” of funds to pay next year's bills because nothing can be spent out of money that has not been collected yet. Being a lawyer for thirty-three years I understand how important, and slippery, language can be. How an issue is framed by the use of specific terminology can directly impact how a matter will be explained, analyzed, and ultimately resolved.

For instance, in response to this “shortfall,” the Sun quoted County Administrator David Edwards saying: “Thank God we have reserves.” School Superintendent Bobby Pearce is reported

to have said that the school district is entitled to state monies to cover the error and that the district has reserves as well.

TIME OUT! The characterization of this error as a shortfall overlooks the elephant in the room. These are funds we simply do not have and which should not have been included in the budget planning process in the first place. The fact is, for all the talk of shortfalls, delay of hiring new employees, and having to dip into reserves, what is being called a “shortfall” is really just another way to describe money that they never had and would not have even planned for had the error never occurred! Now suddenly we are told county officials have to scramble to find money to pay for the amount of an accounting error? Wrong! The sky is not falling. We are not \$4.1 million deficient in tax revenue.

I would suggest the responsible thing to do, knowing what [they] know now, is to fix the mistake, rather than find ways to spend money it turns out the county really doesn't have. Finding creative ways to pay for the error now will have long term consequences because it will cement the error into future budgets. Funding 18 new positions is not a one-time matter. The new positions will be a recurring cost to the county budget year after year. Where will future funding for these new recurring expenses we would not have budgeted for

**Turn to Page 5**

## Vote all the incumbents out of office

**Editor, The Sun:**

Wakulla County has cancer and it's terminal.

This cancer has a cure and it is to vote on Nov. 5, 2024 every incumbent out of office.

Anybody in the county can do a better job than what we got now. They make a mistake and raise your taxes to pay for it.

**Stephen Harper**  
Crawfordville

## Something on your mind?

Email Letters to the Editor to [editor@thewakullasun.com](mailto: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 Nov. 9

#### Thursday, November 9

- The Wakulla Chamber of Commerce will hold a Business after Hours event at Barn's Spirits in Panacea starting at 5:30 p.m.
- St. Marks City Commission meets at the St. Marks City Hall at 6 p.m.
- Rotary Club of Wakulla meets at TCC Wakulla at 8:30 a.m.
- The VFW Auxiliary Bingo Night will be held at 7 p.m. at 475 Arran Road in Crawfordville, every Thursday. There will be concessions and raffles.
- Yoga with Nellie, Yin yoga at 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Classes are \$12, packages available at New Posh on 3079 Crawfordville Hwy. RSVP to [newposh3079@gmail.com](mailto:newposh3079@gmail.com) or text/call at (850) 528-5838.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

#### Friday, November 10

- The Wakulla War Eagles host the first round of the playoffs against the Gadsden County Jaguars at J.D. Jones Stadium at 7 p.m.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and 8

p.m. every Friday at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

#### Saturday, November 11

- The annual Veterans Day parade will be held in Crawfordville with the parade starting at 10 a.m.
- The Sopchoppy oyster and mullet festival will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Sopchoppy Depot Park
- The First Annual Wakulla County Freedom Fest Variety Show will be held from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Panacea Community Center at 115 Otter Lake Road.
- The Wakulla Caregiver Support Group will meet at the Wakulla County Public Library at 10 a.m.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

#### Monday, November 13

- The Wakulla County School Board meets in the school administration building at 5:45 p.m.
- The Wakulla County Planning Commission meets at 6 p.m. in the county commission

chambers

- The Sopchoppy City Commission meets at 6:30 p.m. at Sopchoppy City Hall.
- Crawfordville Woman's Club monthly meeting will held at 6:30 p.m. at 64 Ochlockonee Street, Crawfordville FL 32327. Call (850)566-5727 for more information.
- 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](mailto:newposh3079@gmail.com) or text/call at (850) 528-5838.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

#### Tuesday, November 14

- The Wakulla County Historical Society will have its monthly program at 4:30 p.m. at the Wakulla County Public Library. The program will be on the historic ice trade by Kevin Bair.
- The Wakulla County Charter Review Com-

mission will hold a Public Hearing at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center

- The Wakulla County One Cent Sales Tax Committee Public Meeting will be held at 2 p.m. in the Board of County Commissioners Administration Conference Room
- Sopchoppy community dinner is held every week at the Towles House at 6:30 p.m.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.
- Yoga with Nellie, Restorative yoga at 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Classes are \$12, packages available at New Posh on 3079 Crawfordville Hwy. RSVP to [newposh3079@gmail.com](mailto:newposh3079@gmail.com) or text/call at (850) 528-5838.

#### Wednesday, November 15

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

## SUPPORT COMMUNITY JOURNALISM

### Are donations tax deductible?

You can support The Wakulla Sun with a tax-deductible donation to help us cover the stories that matter to you.

By donating, you help us keep citizens informed, hold officials accountable and cover the most important topics in our community.

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That means:

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- More local news about our community
- More local content on the environment and local businesses

A little bit goes a long way. With your help, we can keep the presses running through hard times.

We would very much appreciate your contribution.

William Snowden  
Editor & Publisher  
The Wakulla Sun

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We accept donations by card or check. If by check, payment must be made to the Florida Press Foundation and write in the check memo line that you want the donation to go to The Wakulla Sun.

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

*"It's A New Day!"*

# The Wakulla Sun




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## ◀ Question of The Week ▶

– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

Polled at Crawfordville Quick Stop:

# Do you have veterans in your family?



**WYATT JONES**  
Slushy repair tech guy

**My Papaw, Allen Adams, was shot in 1953 in the neck and survived. Many in my family would not be here today had he died.**



**MICHAEL GRAHAM**  
FWC

**“My grandfather, Roger Blom, was a full-bird colonel in the Air Force. I have served in the Army as well.”**



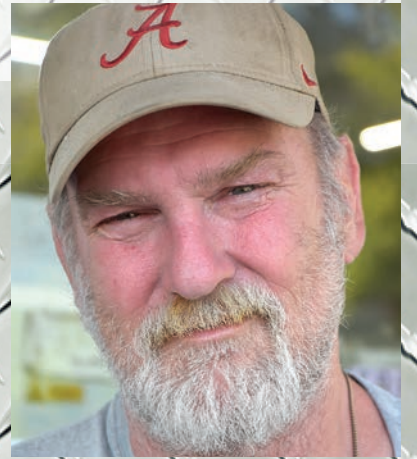
**JON O'BRIEN**  
Retired

**“I am the veteran in our family. I served 20 years in the U.S. Special Forces, Combat Diver.”**



**FRED HARVEY**  
Retired FSU

**“My son, Daron Harvey; two brothers, Wilton Booth and Johnny Booth; and also my sister, Glynis Martin.”**



**JERRY PLUNKETT**  
Handy man

**My Uncle Adell Plunkett served in World War II and my nephew, Weston Davis served in the U.S. Navy.”**

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Wakulla Station News

By **VERNA BROCK**

The countdown to the holidays has begun. Wanna take bets on when the Christmas music on every radio, intercom and loudspeaker will begin? I'm not complaining, mind you. I love holiday music, all the lights and decorations, and festivities. I do think it's a little strange to see Christmas stuff in the aisles before HALLOWEEN. Oh, well. Enjoy it while it lasts.

I am so happy to report that Clem Bunker's daughter safely traversed from California to St. Marks. She and

her pets made the drive over a period of days, and will now begin their new adventures as Floridians.

I was ticked pink to attend the Sunday matinee of the Wakulla Community Theater's "Grease" with my friend June Watts. The Sopchoppy auditorium / theater was the perfect venue for a musical set in mid-century America. The performances were outstanding and so much fun. Kudos to director Mina Sutton on a job well done, as well as to the cast and stage crew. During the intermission I was able to chat with old friends and new, includ-

ing Mary Updegraff and her daughters. Wakulla County is blessed to have so many talented, enthusiastic and dedicated folks working to give first class entertainment.

Pastor Steve Montgomery is recovering well from his knee surgery, and appreciates your prayerful support as he recuperates. Please keep Jim Lannon in your prayers, as he is coping with some serious health issues, as well as Baby Bennie Mott and his family. Sebastian Bennett-Mosely continues to grow stronger and healthier.

Ed and I made the trip to the Crawfordville Publix to receive our annual flu shot, as well as our Covid boosters. The process was simple and (relatively)

painless. My arm was a little achy and itchy, and I ran a low-grade fever for a few hours that evening. I think that is a small price to pay to avoid either of those diseases. I have actually never had the flu or Covid, and really want to keep it that way. As I grow older every year, I feel more vulnerable to the worst effects of respiratory illness, and basically do whatever it takes to stay well. I know many people question how best to protect their own health, and as a librarian I advise you to do your research and act accordingly. Since we all have different reactions and allergies to medicine, we all have to make decisions based on our experience and judgement. Stay well!

### Buckhorn News

By **ETHEL SKIPPER**

Someone asked me, why do people go to church? I said, the church is a place where those who are saved, and have been born again, love God and one another, and where the Bible, which is the Word of God, is taught and preached.

In the New Testament, the Greek word "ekklesia," which has been translated as "church," means that which is called out. We are a called out people.

The Bible also refers to us as being God's own notion of set apart people – that is the universal church.

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's spe-

cial possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." (1 Peter 2:9-10)

We are also the congregation or assembly of believers that is the local church. And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul and not one of them claims that anything belonging to him was his own. And all of those who had believed were together and had all things in common.

The church is a family, not an organization. The concept of family is the

same, yet every family is different, just as each individual within the family is different.

We are the church: "...upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hades shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:18)

Every believer must be a functioning part of the church. The spiritual new birth immediately places us in covenant relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

This week reach out to someone at church you see at each service, but don't know their name.

On Sunday, Nov. 19 at 11 a.m., Skipper Temple Church of Christ will have an old-fashioned worship day, singing, shouting, telling of God's goodness.

Preacher of the hour will be Elder Andrew Morris of Buckhorn village community.

Zion Hill P.B. Church will have their anniversary celebration on Sunday, Nov. 12. Worship time is 11 a.m. Speaker will be minister Shaw Webster. We welcome everyone. Host Pastor Elder Ervin Donaldson.

The Church of Christ Written in Heaven will be in its 84th Holy Convocation from Nov. 7-12 in Waycross, Ga. Florida churches will be in charge of services on Wednesday, Nov. 8. Wear your church colors. On Friday is Women's Day – wear your white and emerald green.

### Sheriff's Report

This report is for activity Oct. 27-Nov. 2:

#### FRIDAY, OCT. 27

- Deputy Jake Scott responded to Winn-Dixie in reference to someone passing two fake \$20 bills. The store did not want in investigation just a report of the incident.

- A traffic stop was conducted on a vehicle and trailer for no tag displayed. The driver identified as Angel Ramirez, was discovered not have a valid driver's license. Ramirez was transported to the jail facility without incident.

#### SATURDAY, OCT. 28

- Jennifer Allen reported the tires being slashed on her vehicle. Allen was able to identify a possible suspect. Digital images were taken of the damaged tires and submitted as evidence. The estimated cost of repairs for new tires is \$672. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Matt Hinson investigated.

- While working the Brew Fest festival in St. Marks, Lt. Dave Pienta was notified by the Event Coordinator of a vehicle parked in the roadway impeding the flow of traffic. The vehicle was hindering the shuttle cart's passage to and from the event parking area. After investigating, Lt. Pienta determined the vehicle was in fact a traffic hazard and needed to be removed from the roadway. Several unsuccessful attempts to contact the owner of the 2005 Chevrolet Tahoe were unsuccessful. Hobby Broth-

ers Towing was requested and responded to remove the vehicle from the scene.

- An employee reported an unknown female suspect came into the Circle K at Songbird/ Hwy 319 and became disorderly with employees. It was advised the suspect wanted a pack of menthol cigarettes. When presented with the brands requested, the unknown female became irate and slung a Big Gulp cup full of fluid onto the countertop near the registers, the electronic safe and stormed out the store. Video footage of this incident was recovered and submitted with this report. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

#### SUNDAY, OCT. 29

- Kaileigh Heiker reported her 2008 Honda CRV stolen. Heiker stated she let an acquaintance use the car to go up to the bank on Oct. 24. Heiker stated she has been attempting to contact the suspect in efforts to get him to return her vehicle. Heiker states the suspect is turning his cellphone off and on and not answering when she calls. Heiker wished to pursue charges for vehicle theft. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Kendrick Gavin investigated.

- Adrian Godfrey was arrested for DUI after he was stopped for failing to slow down and move over while passing emergency vehicles in accordance with Florida's Move Over Law. Upon contact with Godfrey, Deputy Don Newsome observed that Godfrey appeared to be intoxicated. Godfrey refused all field sobriety exercises and was subsequently

arrested for DUI and transported to the Wakulla County Jail.

#### MONDAY, OCT. 30

- A traffic stop was conducted on a vehicle for faulty equipment. The driver, identified as James Horne, was discovered to not have a valid license. Further investigation revealed Horne was discovered to have Fentanyl in his possession as well. Horne was arrested for DWLSR and Possession of Narcotics and transported to the Wakulla County jail. Deputy Todd Kent investigated.

#### TUESDAY, OCT. 31

- Deputy James Cooper responded to the lobby to take a report on stolen property. Upon arrival the victim listed several items his son-in-law "borrowed" and did not return. Some of the missing

items were a welder, weed eater, trailer and compressor. The total for all stolen items is \$8,600. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

#### WEDNESDAY, NOV. 1

- Cecil Brodrey reported purchasing a set of Nike shoes from an individual on Facebook marketplace. The suspect requested \$40 from a cash app for the shoes but subsequently requested more money to complete the sale. Brodrey attempted to cancel the deal however the suspect kept the money and did not send any items. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

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

### Letter: Not shortfall

From Opinion Page

come from in succeeding years? It won't be from reserves, but it will be from us.

The truth is that we do not have a shortfall, not a single dime of one. We are not short of funds to the tune of \$4.1 million dollars. We have a plan to spend \$4.1 million that it turns out we never had. Have you ever made plans to buy something and then realize you can't afford it? That is not a shortfall, it's simply a reality.

What the county has is an accounting error and some work to be done

reprioritizing and recalculating budgets and distinguishing its wants from its essential needs.

The plan now is to find ways to pay for things we should not have planned for, with money we do not have. That approach, I'm afraid, will do more harm and cost taxpayers far more than simply correcting the respective budgets to fix an accounting error. We can dispense with all the talk of "shortfalls" and address the matter by recognizing what it truly is – not a shortfall at all, but an accounting error in need of correction.

**David De La Paz, Esq.**  
Crawfordville

# Outdoors

outdoor sports

## HOME ON THE RANGE



By MARJ LAW

Joe and I continue to have a... discussion about safeties on handguns.

"When I was in the Navy, Master Chief Gunner's Mate Do-It-The-Hard-Way says that all handguns should have an external safety and that using it has to be in your automatic muscle memory. This reduces the possibility of accidental discharge," says Joe.

Oh, yawn.

That was how many decades ago? Times have changed. I assert that a safety is the last thing a mature person wants on his or her new handgun. In fact, I'd go so far as to say a safety is anything but safe.

OK. Now you old geezers are up in arms, and I don't know what I'm talking about.

Yes, I'd agree you need all the safe you can get when you're trying to teach 18-24 year-old guys just coming into the service. (Back then, it was just guys.) At that age, they know they'll live forever. But Master Chief has to be hard and definite on certain procedures so that maybe they'll have a chance to grow into adulthood.

"Sliding your thumb down on the safety should be automatic when you draw your gun," Joe pontificates.

That was then and this is now.

Now we're talking about mature people who are not used to guns or newbies who are also not used to guns, but who are learning. Do you want your spouse to have to face Mr. Bad while wondering:

"The gun is loaded and I'm scared to death. Did I put the safety on? Does that little lever flip up or down? And, let me see... Which is the correct lever?"

I'd rather know that the threatened person should be secure that he can point that handgun, fire, and defend himself.

This doesn't mean that I don't believe in safeties. I sure do. Today, there are several different kinds of built-in safeties that you might not even notice.

Yes, usually you can have the option of having or not having a manual safety when you purchase a handgun. But depending on the gun you choose, there are several other safeties to prevent accidental firing.

One is a grip safety. I like this one. It's built into the back of the grip. When you grab your gun, you must have a good and secure grip, getting the web of your hand (the part between thumb and forefinger) high up and pushing into the grip. If you are not holding the gun securely, the gun is unable to fire. Holding the gun by the grip alone is not sufficient. Your handhold must be firm and secure.

The Smith & Wesson M&P .380 Shield EZ has a grip safety. So does the Smith &

## Safety or no?



Wesson 9mm Equalizer. I like these both for defense.

Another kind of safety that you can see looks like a second trigger.

It's a small lever in front of the trigger. If this is not depressed, the gun is unable to fire. The Canic TP9 Elite has one of these.

Some safeties that you can't see are built into the gun. One is a long trigger travel.

A long trigger travel can act as a safety. If you haven't pulled the trigger all the way back, it can't fire. We're not talking about a tube of lipstick getting stuck in the trigger and pushing it back some. That's not sufficient to fire the gun. The trigger must be squeezed and squeezed until the gun goes off. This is an intentional and deliberate long pull.

A hard trigger pull can be another safety you can't see.

While some triggers have long pulls, other guns have triggers that require a lot of strength to pull. You must squeeze very hard

to pull these triggers. Again, something in your purse or pocket is not likely to push hard enough on these triggers to set the gun off. Pulling with great force makes the shooting of these guns a very deliberate act. However, a person with arthritic hands may find one of these guns to be unmanageable.

For instance, in small handguns, I've found a SCCY CPX-4 to have about a 9-pound trigger pull. 9 pounds of pressure is a lot to me. This is a gun I can shoot, but it is not comfortable. The Smith & Wesson .38 Chief's Special has about a 12-pound trigger pull. I don't like it, either. Joe, though, with his large and strong hands, really likes the Chief's Special. I find a trigger with a 4 to a 5.5-pound trigger pull to be most comfortable. And, if your gun is comfortable to shoot, you're more likely to practice with it.

Many handguns have triggers that are both long and hard as well. Several of us shooting

at the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) range rated the Taurus Spectrum to have about a 9-pound trigger pull. We thought it had a longer trigger travel than most, too, and felt it was an uncomfortable handgun for mature people.

There are downsides to trigger and grip safeties.

The grip safety can be a problem if you need to fire the gun and you have not placed your hand high and firm enough on the grip. I've seen people at the WCSO range who have told me their guns will not fire. Many times, it was because they didn't have a secure hold on the grip.

A problem with long travels and/or hard trigger pulls can be that people with any kind of hand problem may not be able to pull or manage the trigger. Sometimes these difficulties can be overcome with practice. For others, owning a different handgun altogether may be more useful. And then...

Some handguns have more than 1 safety. The Ruger Security-380 has both a trigger safety and a manual safety.

Where are the manual safeties?

Most manual safeties are located on the frame of the gun. Usually, you push the safety down with your thumb, and the gun is "hot" and ready to fire. There are a very few exceptions, where you push the lever upward to make it hot. You have to be aware of your gun and when it is safe to shoot and when it is not.

A few guns have manual safeties on their slides. It is more likely that the safety will be located on the frame, but some are on the slide. Again, you have to know your gun.

While some guns have manual safeties that you can see, other guns have safeties like the trigger and grip safeties. A trigger that is long and/or hard is a safety feature, too.

No matter what kind of safety you have, always keep the muzzle of your gun pointing in a safe direction.

When your life is on the line, you'll be glad you practiced shooting targets at the WCSO range.

Part of choosing the gun that is best for you is being comfortable with and knowing how the gun's safety works.

This is something to check out when you "try before you buy."

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



LINED SEA HORSE  
(*Hippocampus erectus*)

This larger seahorse species lives in sea grass and coral reefs feeding on tiny crustaceans using its long tongue. All sea horses are "marsupium" with the father taking eggs from the mother and carrying the babies until they are ready to swim free. Sea horse males will spar for a female with tail wrestling and head snapping. Seahorses form monogamous pair bonds after an elaborate courtships dance that lasts for three days before mating. The female stay with the male throughout his pregnancy.

Eukarya, Animalia, Chordata, Actinopterygii, Gasteroteiformes, Sygnathidae, Hippocampus erectus

Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratory  
www.gulfspecimen.org

## WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO



Retired Wakulla Springs State Park Ranger Bob Thompson, on his weekly wildlife survey at the park last week, snapped this photo of a great egret rising into the air.

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# Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences



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### Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

Nov. 9 - Nov. 15



Tid charts by tides4fishing.com



Best fishing days this month November 13-27

<b>Thursday 9</b>	
Sun rise/set 7:57AM 6:44PM	Moon rise/set 4:24AM 4:45PM
Moon Illumination 15%	
<b>Friday 10</b>	
Sun rise/set 7:58AM 6:43PM	Moon rise/set 5:18AM 5:11PM
Moon Illumination 8%	
<b>Saturday 11</b>	
Sun rise/set 7:58AM 6:42PM	Moon rise/set 6:15AM 5:40PM
Moon Illumination 4%	
<b>Sunday 12</b>	
Sun rise/set 7:59AM 6:42PM	Moon rise/set 7:13AM 6:12PM
Moon Illumination 1%	
<b>Monday 13</b>	
Sun rise/set 8:00AM 6:41PM	Moon rise/set 8:15AM 6:50PM
Moon Illumination 0%	
<b>Tuesday 14</b>	
Sun rise/set 8:01AM 6:41PM	Moon rise/set 9:20AM 7:34PM
Moon Illumination 1%	
<b>Wednesday 15</b>	
Sun rise/set 8:02AM 6:40PM	Moon rise/set 10:26AM 8:27PM
Moon Illumination 5%	

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

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

#### St. Marks River Entrance

Th	5:32 am ▼ 0.8 ft	11:48 am ▲ 3.1 ft	5:43 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	11:48 pm ▲ 3.3 ft
Fr	6:10 am ▲ 3.4 ft	12:29 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	6:12 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	
Sa	12:11 am ▲ 3.4 ft	6:45 am ▼ 0.4 ft	1:07 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	6:40 pm ▼ 1.2 ft
Su	12:33 am ▲ 3.5 ft	7:19 am ▼ -0.3 ft	1:46 pm ▲ 3.5 ft	7:08 pm ▼ 1.3 ft
Mo	12:55 am ▲ 3.7 ft	7:53 am ▼ -0.5 ft	2:24 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	7:38 pm ▼ 1.5 ft
Tu	1:21 am ▲ 3.8 ft	8:30 am ▼ -0.6 ft	3:05 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	8:10 pm ▼ 1.6 ft
We	1:50 am ▲ 3.8 ft	9:09 am ▼ -0.7 ft	3:48 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	8:44 pm ▼ 1.6 ft

#### City of St. Marks

Th	6:36 am ▼ 0.7 ft	12:24 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	6:47 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	
Fr	12:24 am ▲ 3.0 ft	7:14 am ▼ 0.3 ft	1:05 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	7:16 pm ▼ 1.1 ft
Sa	12:47 am ▲ 3.1 ft	7:49 am ▼ 0.0 ft	1:43 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	7:44 pm ▼ 1.1 ft
Su	1:09 am ▲ 3.2 ft	8:23 am ▼ -0.2 ft	2:22 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	8:12 pm ▼ 1.2 ft
Mo	1:31 am ▲ 3.3 ft	8:57 am ▼ -0.4 ft	3:00 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	8:42 pm ▼ 1.3 ft
Tu	1:57 am ▲ 3.4 ft	9:34 am ▼ -0.6 ft	3:41 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	9:14 pm ▼ 1.3 ft
We	2:26 am ▲ 3.5 ft	10:13 am ▼ -0.6 ft	4:24 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	9:48 pm ▼ 1.4 ft

#### Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	5:52 am ▼ 0.8 ft	12:04 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	5:59 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	
Fr	12:01 am ▲ 3.4 ft	6:30 am ▼ 0.4 ft	12:47 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	6:30 pm ▼ 1.1 ft
Sa	12:26 am ▲ 3.5 ft	7:05 am ▼ 0.0 ft	1:27 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	7:00 pm ▼ 1.2 ft
Su	12:49 am ▲ 3.6 ft	7:39 am ▼ -0.3 ft	2:07 pm ▲ 3.5 ft	7:29 pm ▼ 1.4 ft
Mo	1:13 am ▲ 3.7 ft	8:14 am ▼ -0.5 ft	2:47 pm ▲ 3.5 ft	7:59 pm ▼ 1.5 ft
Tu	1:38 am ▲ 3.8 ft	8:51 am ▼ -0.6 ft	3:30 pm ▲ 3.5 ft	8:30 pm ▼ 1.6 ft
We	2:07 am ▲ 3.8 ft	9:31 am ▼ -0.7 ft	4:14 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	9:05 pm ▼ 1.7 ft

#### Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	5:43 am ▼ 0.6 ft	11:40 am ▲ 2.4 ft	5:54 pm ▼ 0.8 ft	11:40 pm ▲ 2.4 ft
Fr	6:21 am ▼ 0.3 ft	12:21 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	6:23 pm ▼ 0.8 ft	
Sa	12:03 am ▲ 2.5 ft	6:56 am ▼ 0.0 ft	12:59 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	6:51 pm ▼ 0.9 ft
Su	12:25 am ▲ 2.6 ft	7:30 am ▼ -0.2 ft	1:38 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	7:19 pm ▼ 1.0 ft
Mo	12:47 am ▲ 2.7 ft	8:04 am ▼ -0.3 ft	2:16 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	7:49 pm ▼ 1.0 ft
Tu	1:13 am ▲ 2.8 ft	8:41 am ▼ -0.4 ft	2:57 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	8:21 pm ▼ 1.1 ft
We	1:42 am ▲ 2.8 ft	9:20 am ▼ -0.5 ft	3:40 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	8:55 pm ▼ 1.1 ft

#### St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	5:54 am ▼ 0.6 ft	11:57 am ▲ 2.4 ft	5:52 pm ▼ 0.9 ft	11:42 pm ▲ 2.6 ft
Fr	6:22 am ▼ 0.3 ft	12:38 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	6:20 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	
Sa	12:01 am ▲ 2.7 ft	6:49 am ▼ 0.0 ft	1:16 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	6:46 pm ▼ 1.1 ft
Su	12:21 am ▲ 2.8 ft	7:16 am ▼ -0.3 ft	1:54 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	7:11 pm ▼ 1.2 ft
Mo	12:44 am ▲ 2.9 ft	7:46 am ▼ -0.5 ft	2:33 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	7:38 pm ▼ 1.4 ft
Tu	1:10 am ▲ 3.0 ft	8:21 am ▼ -0.6 ft	3:15 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	8:06 pm ▼ 1.5 ft
We	1:40 am ▲ 3.0 ft	9:01 am ▼ -0.7 ft	4:03 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	8:36 pm ▼ 1.6 ft

#### Dog Island West End

Th	6:16 am ▼ 0.7 ft	12:04 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	6:11 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	11:40 pm ▲ 2.2 ft
Fr	6:43 am ▲ 2.4 ft	1:02 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	6:44 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	
Sa	12:03 am ▲ 2.5 ft	7:09 am ▼ 0.0 ft	1:48 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	7:12 pm ▼ 1.2 ft
Su	12:29 am ▲ 2.6 ft	7:37 am ▼ -0.3 ft	2:31 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	7:37 pm ▼ 1.4 ft
Mo	12:57 am ▲ 2.5 ft	8:08 am ▼ -0.5 ft	3:15 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	8:02 pm ▼ 1.5 ft
Tu	1:27 am ▲ 2.6 ft	8:42 am ▼ -0.7 ft	4:03 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	8:26 pm ▼ 1.6 ft
We	1:58 am ▲ 2.7 ft	9:24 am ▼ -0.7 ft	4:52 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	8:52 pm ▼ 1.8 ft

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

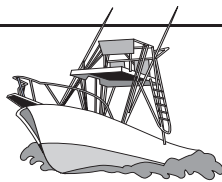


The recent launch of the Coast Guard Cutter Argus with a flag donated by Publix.



### Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports

By Carolyn Brown Treadon



Many thanks to Bob Asztalos for the following information and image.

As mentioned last week, The Coast Guard made a big splash in Panama City with the christening and launch of its new offshore patrol cutter (OPC), the Argus.

Publix in Palm Harbor contacted Bob before the launch that they had a 12x20 foot flag to donate. Bob contacted the USCG to ask if they wanted it for the launch of Argus and the shipyard got back and said yes. After the launch, we received word from the shipyard that they put it on the ship for launching. It was hung on the aft (rear) deckhouse. You

### Boating Emergencies

Coast Guard Station Panama City .....	(850) 234-4228
Coast Guard Station Yankeetown .....	(352) 447-6900
Coast Guard Auxiliary Apalachee Bay (Flotilla 12) .....	(850) 942-7500
or .....	(850) 284-1166

can see it in the image shared with us.

It is always a great feeling when the community, Auxiliary and active duty Coast Guard are able to come together and share in such a momentous event. Thank you to Publix for being a community leader and supporting the USCG.

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

Please contact us for more information about our safe boating classes or learning more about getting involved in the Auxiliary, check out our website at [www.uscgaux.net](http://www.uscgaux.net)

follow us on FaceBook @ Apalachee Bay Flotilla 12 or contact our Flotilla Commander Phil Hill at [pnkhill2000@yahoo.com](mailto:pnkhill2000@yahoo.com)

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

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

## Underwater Wakulla

By Rusty Miller

### The dive community.

Today's article will be a little different than usual. I want to discuss the dive community. Sometimes we take it for granted that the diving community is just a bunch of folks who care only about diving, to a small extent that's true but it is more like a community of folks who also care for the environment, safety, and each other.

It's the last one I want to talk about today. I got a call early Friday morning from my assistant manager of the dive shop whowas on his way to the shop and he got a call from his grandfather that smoke was coming from the eaves of his home and he needed to come back home now. By the time he arrived home it was fully engulfed in flames. He tried to get inside but it was too late. Within 20 minutes his home was burned to the ground. Everything he had including his two cats were gone in a matter of minutes, all he had were the clothes on his back. It was a tragic loss.

The unfortunate thing is he could not get any homeowners insurance because the mobile home was built in the early '80s and no one would insure it. It was his grandmother's house that he came to live there and take care of it. It has been there since the '80s and his family used it when he was a young child.

When he called me to tell me about what happened I immediately started to make phone calls to several folks in our diving community. I was able to get him some personal stuff as well as some more clothes to take to him. I saw the destruction when I got there later to drop off some clothes and toiletries - it was horrible to see such destruction that happened so quickly.

I spent all Saturday making phone calls to folks to see what can be done to help him. I called the church that I attend and they got the word out to our folks, my dive master set up a GoFundMe page to try to help out and a lot of our fellow divers have given to it.

He will be staying with his other grandparents in their camper until we can figure out what the next steps need to be. People have been bringing clothes to the shop even though we don't open until Tuesday morning.

I would personally like to thank all the divers that have given to this cause. That why I always have referred to this as a community that has been building here in Wakulla and the surrounding counties.

Russell Miller #59999

## FWC Law Enforcement Report

From FWC

This report represents some events the FWC handled Oct. 20-26 in the North Central Region. (There were no cases reported for Wakulla County or the Northwest Region.)

### BAKER COUNTY

• Officers Shope and Waychoff were on patrol in John M. Bethea State For-

est when they located a large dump site containing construction material. Officer Shope investigated the violation and located witnesses and a subject. Felony dumping charges will be filed.

### NASSAU COUNTY

• Officer Shope and Master Officer Burnsed were patrolling U.S. 301 at the Georgia border when they stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation. While addressing

the traffic violation it was determined the subject had deer meat containing high-risk parts such as bone. The subject deboned the meat and the bones were seized and incinerated. The officers educated the subject about rules that prohibit possessing or importing deer, elk, moose or caribou carcasses or high-risk parts from anywhere outside of Florida and charged the subject with importing meat containing high-risk parts.

### TAYLOR COUNTY

• Officer Humphrey was called upon by Officer Glover of Jefferson County to assist in an interview of a subject regarding a violation that occurred at a wildlife management area. Officer Glover followed a blood trail from a deer that had been killed to a location where there was a treestand and corn. After a brief interview, the subject admitted to placing the bait in the WMA. Charges were filed for the violation along with an infraction for failure to log and report the harvest. The subject was also issued warnings for the use of a crossbow and taking of a spotted fawn.

# Thinking of veterans and future veterans

By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

How did you spend your week? Perhaps you fellowshiped at church, enjoyed lingering meals with your family, and had fun bonding with friends while watching

your favorite movies on Netflix.

How do you imagine our veterans on the battlefield spent a typical week? Perhaps they held frantic prayer meetings with members of their squadron in between skirmishes, gulped down MREs (vacuum sealed, Meals Ready to Eat) far from their loved ones, and fought back tears as they watched their comrades die in battle.

The differences between the two scenarios are staggering.

At home, we can usually predict what we'll be

doing in the next several days. But our veteran soldiers lived with constant uncertainty. The only thing they knew for sure was that nothing was predictable – except the likelihood of another military engagement.

Our armed forces kept watch, dodging bullets and missiles, so we could experience the life we enjoy. What kept a soldier from deserting after constant missile attacks, numerous sleepless nights, too many missed Thanksgiving dinners and multitude deployments?

A love for their family.

And an allegiance for the greatest country, unparalleled to any other – America.

What if no one was willing to risk his or her life to defend our country? Or what if families lacked the courage to let their soldiers enlist, knowing they might never see them again?

Most of us can't begin to imagine the horrors of war and the life-altering changes many veterans now live with. May we all pause to remember their sacrifices, not just once a year, but daily as we enjoy the lives they fought to defend.

With the increasingly violent conflicts exploding in Ukraine and now in Israel, we're more mindful of the terrors of war. I have no doubt that the families who have loved ones serving in the military today are in constant prayer for the safety of their service members. On the days they wonder if they can go another minute worried about their soldier, they cling to verses, such as, "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my

righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:10 ESV).

To you, Vets, and those currently serving in our military (our future vets) and to your families, be assured you are not forgotten. God is here equipping, holding, listening and compassioning.

You are in our hearts and prayers – and in God's enormous hands.

*Sheryl H. Boldt is a sales executive for Wave 94 and author of the blog, [www.TodayCanBeDifferent.net](http://www.TodayCanBeDifferent.net). Connect with her at [SherylHBoldt.Wave94@gmail.com](mailto:SherylHBoldt.Wave94@gmail.com).*

## Rewrite my story, Lord

By **CHERYL CRUCE**

Sometimes, looking at the blank screen or a clean piece of paper, a million thoughts run through my head. Memories of yesterday and life lessons taught conjure up so many good emotions that I must write them down. Then there are those days when neither the screen nor the paper is clean, and every thought is

a jumbled-up mess of senselessness as I wonder what I will write. It is not only in the writing but in life itself.

Truthfully, the world is a cluttered mess of senselessness, and we all wonder what will happen next. There is chaos on every corner, the news is filled with war, offering little hope for an ending, and anger seems to be the emotion for the day. Nonetheless, it does not have to be. We may never see world peace, yet we can breathe in soul peace. When outside thoughts clutter my writing, I close the screen to meditate on the goodness of God's word.

I begin to think of a shepherd that leads His

sheep to green grasses and cooling waters and not into a place of wanting. As I concentrate on His righteousness and name, restoration begins to happen within my soul. No darkened shadow can cause me to fear because I realize He is my protection. I reflect on a cup that is full and overflowing as a table of goodness is set before me. In my meditation, I see the enemy fall around me as His goodness and mercies fill my spirit. There is an unexplainable peace in knowing I will dwell in the house of my Lord for eternity (Psalm 23).

The Word of God frees my thoughts as I turn the chaos over to His will. This practice

did not happen overnight. It is a process of learning that began in my youth. I watched the faith of my parents sustain them through difficult times. I recognized the strength they found in the Holy Scripture, and I began reading it for myself. My parents learned their faith from their parents and so on. Generational faith is an eternal heritage that must be passed on.

The Apostle Paul recognized this heritage in his young apprentice Timothy. Paul recalled the sincere faith of Timothy's grandmother and mother. Paul encouraged Timothy to fan the flames of his youth so his faith would grow in strength and love (2

Timothy 1). Due to the strengthening of his faith, Timothy became a vital leader in the early church. Timothy could have looked to the turmoil of his day, but he chose to look to the Word of God, where he found comfort.

I know we have not all had the advantage of a faith-based childhood. Although some have had a faith-based childhood and, for one reason or another, have walked away. Storms of faith come to everyone. We are called to persevere because perseverance strengthens our character and gives us hope (Romans 5:4). When we have hope in the Lord, we have a gift to give to others to help

strengthen their faith.

Let today be the day we give the Lord the cluttered pages of life, allowing Him to rewrite our stories. Let us trust Him to show us His ways so we can walk beside His still waters of peace.

Psalm 25: 1, 4-5 - 1 In you, Lord my God, I put my trust. Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.

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

### OUT TO PASTOR

## I don't believe in superstition, but...

By **JAMES SNYDER**

I don't believe in any of the superstitious nonsense that seems to be going around these days. Some people have a fear of numbers like 13 and 666. What in the world does a number have to do with anything?

When I am around people who are superstitious like that, I'm afraid I lean toward the naughty side and harass them a little bit. It's not my fault they're afraid of some number. But I believe I do have a responsibility to myself to take advantage of situations like that.

Not being superstitious, there are times I am slightly confused about life. Something happens that I don't feel I'm in charge of. I won't go to the superstitious side of the road

because I don't believe in that. But sometimes, things happen that I really can't explain.

For example, the other morning, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage entered the living room, where I was sitting on my easy chair drinking coffee. With a huge smile, she said, "I got you an Apple Fritter for this morning." And she gave it to me, smiled at me, and then walked away.

Now, I'm supposed to accept this as normal? Absolutely not. There is no reason why she would bring me an Apple Fritter without something attached to it. For the life of me, I could not figure out what was behind this Apple Fritter. There had to be something because The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage never does anything without some reasoning behind it.

Not knowing what to do, I took a little bite of the Apple Fritter, which brought me to a wonderful place of enjoyment. I drank my coffee and ate my Apple Fritter, and my life seemed to be very spectacular

at that time.

When I finished the Apple Fritter, I returned to normality and tried to figure out what was behind all of this. There had to be something behind it, and I could not figure it out.

At my stage in life, I wouldn't ask any questions because I never got the answer I wanted. I just decided to accept it and move on with the day.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage went about the day as though nothing strange had happened. I decided to go along with her on that. After all, I don't know what is behind this.

The following day, I got up and got my coffee, went out to my easy chair in the living room, and started to sip it very carefully. Every morning starts great with a cup of coffee.

As I was getting situated, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage walked in, and I saw in her hand another Apple Fritter. "Here, my dear, is an Apple Fritter. I think you'll enjoy this today."

I possibly could pro-

cess yesterday's Apple Fritter, but two days in a row was beyond my processing ability. Something is going on, and I have no idea what it is. Being that as it is, I enjoyed that Apple Fritter to the last delicious crumb.

Again, nothing was said to indicate what was behind this Apple Fritter. I was getting a little itchy, and I wanted to find out what was going on. But I didn't want to sabotage my situation at this time. After all, an Apple Fritter is worth the pain.

The day went normal, and she never mentioned the Apple Fritter.

By the time we came to go to bed, nothing was said concerning that. It was just a coincidence, and I could not explain it satisfactorily.

Again, I got up the following day, went and got my coffee, and sat in my easy chair. In a few moments, in walks The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, and in her hand is another Apple Fritter. Obviously, I did not get up this morning and was still in bed, sleeping and

dreaming. This does not happen in real life. I was afraid to do anything for fear of waking up out of this dreamland.

"Here's an Apple Fritter for you this morning. I think you'll enjoy it today." She smiled at me, turned around, and returned to the kitchen.

I held that Apple Fritter in my hand for a few moments, basking in its deliciousness, and then began to eat it slowly and enjoyably.

Three Apple Fritters in a row has to be some record. It's not that I can't handle an Apple Fritter because I can. It's the fact that someone is bringing these Apple Fritters to me who does not like Apple Fritters. Something is happening behind the scenes, and I'm anxious to find out.

The next day, the same thing happened. To have four Apple Fritters in a row is okay with me, but now I'm getting to be suspicious. What in the world am I missing here?

Not wanting to sabotage my good luck the last four days, I kept silent and enjoyed the

Apple Fritter. Whatever is behind this, I may never know, but I will enjoy it for whatever it is worth.

I'm expecting the day when The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will say, "Remember those Apple Fritters I gave you?"

I couldn't help thinking of a Bible verse, "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Galatians 6:9).

Sometimes, the best thing to do is NOTHING and let God have it.

*Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail [jamesnyder51@gmail.com](mailto:jamesnyder51@gmail.com), website [www.jamesnyderministries.com](http://www.jamesnyderministries.com).*



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# Obituaries

## DEATH NOTICES

- **Mickey Brock**, 65, of Greenwood, died November 2, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com
- **Fanny Carosi**, 93, of Crawfordville, died November 1, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com
- **Linda Jo Davis**, 72, of Crawfordville, died November 5, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com
- **Marlyan Gray**, 83, of Carrabelle, died November 3, 2023.

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

- **Francis Xavier Porter**, 63, of Tallahassee, died November 4, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com
- **Katherine Sanders**, 78, of Sopchoppy, died November 6, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com
- **Clayton Emmett Whaley**, 83, of Crawfordville, died November 2, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

## BEREAVEMENT COLUMN

# Internment to inurnment



By TRACY RENEE LEE

My brother is currently a student at a funeral school. He is studying to become a licensed funeral director and embalmer. We talked about his classes over Sunday dinner, and he mentioned something I had never heard.

Our family moved from Louisiana to the western United States when we were children. Our mother was a Cajun from south Louisiana, and our father was from north Louisiana. A short time after moving out west, our mother's father was brutally murdered. Our mother immediately packed up her four children, boarded an airplane, and took us back to southern Louisiana for his funeral.

Our grandfather's fu-

neral was not the first we had ever attended, but it was the first Deep Southern, Catholic, Cajun funeral we had ever attended. It was so different from the funerals out west and north Louisiana. At the time of my grandfather's funeral, my mother had changed her religion from Catholicism. Her religious change made Catholicism culturally foreign to me and my siblings.

The next day, funeral day, brought surprises as well. As my grandfather's grandchildren, we were seated toward the front of the cathedral where his casket was staged. The Catholic Priests sprinkled his casket with holy water and carried incense burners as they walked around his casket several times. I remember the water sprinkling over on me, getting my new funeral dress spotty with droplets. I wondered if the raised markings of water stains would stay visible on my dress forever or if they would disappear from the cloth as my grandfather was now

disappearing from my life.

As the priests walked by in succession, the one with the incense came by. Just when I thought the smoke from the night before was intense, the overpowering smoke from the incense burner invaded my air. I don't know if it was the strength of the incense or that, as a young child, my body had taken all that it could bear, but right there, near the front row of the cathedral, I began to vomit. The nausea and trauma proved too much for me, and I was embarrassed that I became sick at my grandfather's funeral.

The service ended, and my mother's family walked my grandfather's casket down the lane from the Catholic Cathedral to the cemetery. This was also a new experience for me. I had never seen an entire cathedral of people walk the casket to its final resting place. Because I had fallen ill, my paternal grandmother drove me in her car behind the walking congregation to the cemetery.

When we exited her

car, I was astonished. The cemetery was filled with above-ground columbaria. I had never seen Columbaria before, and they were fascinating, like little churches for dead people. My grandfather was placed in his above-ground columbarium, and we drove to my mother's childhood home to be with her family.

I will never forget the experience of my grandfather's funeral. Not only was his death horrific, but his funeral was an uncomfortable cultural event in my young life.

As I talked with my brother after church yesterday, he mentioned that he was studying cemeteries of the Deep South; the type of cemeteries our grandfather had been buried in so long ago. He noted that the columbaria worked as very slow re-torts and that over time, approximately 50 to 60 years, the decedent's body would break down into cremains. In other words, the columbaria of South Louisiana slowly cremate the remains of those interred in them due to the

high temperatures and extreme humidity.

I had never heard of this, so I decided to research it. It turns out that after one year and one day of being in a columbarium in the Deep South, the decedent's body is moved from an upper shelf and placed on a lower shelf to complete the 50 to 60-year cremation process. Moving the decedent to a lower shelf allows room for newly departed loved ones within the same columbarium.

This is a unique post-mortem transition that I was unaware of. My funeral professors did not teach anything about this process when I was in college, and at such a tender and confusing event, I guess my mother did not see any need to expose it to me.

It is interesting that I can be a licensed professional in funeral practice and be completely unaware of the events that will take place to my grandfather's body over time in the Deep South. As we have just recently passed the 50th anniversary

of my grandfather's death, and as I have just recently become aware of his slow columbarium cremation, I will contact the cemetery in South Louisiana to see if anything is to be done to inurn his cremains. I am happy that my brother discussed this with me before either of us passes away. Hopefully, before that time comes, we will be able to complete the internment to inurnment process for our grandfather. While we are at it, we will also make arrangements for our grandmother's body.

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

# Weekly Roundup: Friendlier audience for redistricting plan

By JIM SAUNDERS  
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — Voting-rights groups headed to the courthouse after Republican lawmakers last year approved a congressional redistricting plan pushed by Gov. Ron DeSantis.

And in September, it looked like the groups might succeed: A Leon County circuit judge ruled that the plan violated the state Constitution because of the way it overhauled a North Florida district that in the past elected Black Democrat Al Lawson.

But the picture changed this week when the 1st District Court of Appeal heard arguments, with some judges clearly skeptical of the groups' arguments.

The groups, such as the League of Women Voters of Florida and Florida Rising Together, and other plaintiffs contend that the overhaul of North Florida's Congressional District 5 violated part of a 2010 constitutional amendment that barred drawing districts that would "diminish" the ability of minorities to "elect representatives of their choice." The overhaul led to white Republicans getting elected in all North Florida congressional districts in the 2022 elections.

Jyoti Jasrasaria, an attorney for the plaintiffs, said during Tuesday's appeals-court hearing that the Florida Supreme Court in 2015 approved the Lawson district and that DeSan-

tis defied Supreme Court precedent in pushing for the changes last year.

"The only map that is before this court is the enacted map (approved in 2022), and that map, it's undisputed, does not comply with the Florida Constitution," Jasrasaria said.

But Judge Adam Tanenbaum, who was appointed to the bench by DeSantis, asked at one point why the appeals court shouldn't question the 2015 Supreme Court decision.

"It's acting in a political capacity when it's drawing a district, which is the same with what the Legislature typically would do," Tanenbaum said. "So why isn't it fair to question what the Supreme Court did when it was enacting, or approving the enactment, of (a) court-drawn set of districts?"

State Solicitor General Henry Whitaker said lawmakers last year drew a "race-neutral map" and that keeping a district that mirrored the Lawson district would have been an unconstitutional racial gerrymander under the U.S. Constitution's Equal Protection Clause.

Judge Robert Long, another DeSantis appointee, said the Florida Supreme Court has not addressed the equal-protection argument and how that should affect the interpretation of the 2010 state constitutional amendment, known as the Fair Districts amendment.

"There's nothing that has discussed this equal protection issue in light

of the Fair Districts amendment," Long said.

It is not clear when the appeals court will rule, but the case is expected to go to the Florida Supreme Court. That seven-member court includes five DeSantis appointees.

## KICKING OFF SPORTS BETTING

If everything goes as planned, gamblers will be able to bet on the 2024 Super Bowl at Seminole Tribe casinos in Florida.

The tribe this week announced it will roll out sports betting at its casinos in December — a first step in what could be a major expansion of gambling in Florida triggered by a go-ahead from the U.S. Supreme Court.

The announcement came after more than two years of legal wrangling about a 2021 deal with the state that allowed the Seminoles to offer online sports betting anywhere in Florida and add craps and roulette to their casinos.

While the deal would allow sports betting statewide, the tribe is moving forward initially with a more-limited step of in-person sports betting at its six Florida facilities. A lawsuit challenging broader online sports betting remains pending at the Florida Supreme Court.

The U.S. Supreme Court on Oct. 25 refused to block the 2021 deal, which was signed by DeSantis and Seminole Tribe of Florida Chairman Marcellus Osce-

ola Jr. and ratified by state lawmakers. That case was filed in federal court by two pari-mutuel companies opposed to the online betting plan. The pending Florida Supreme Court case is separate from the federal lawsuit.

Pointing to the U.S. Supreme Court decision, a news release issued Wednesday by the Seminole Tribe and Seminole Hard Rock said they plan "to celebrate 'A New Era in Florida Gaming' with star-studded celebrations" next month.

The Seminoles will start offering sports betting, craps and roulette at the tribe's three South Florida casinos on Dec. 7, the release said. The Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa will launch the games on Dec. 8, and the tribe's casinos in Immokalee and Brighton will follow on Dec. 11.

The Super Bowl will be held Feb. 11.

## NO LOVE LOST

U.S. Sen. Rick Scott, R-Fla., and DeSantis are widely believed to have a frosty relationship.

So perhaps it wasn't surprising this week when Scott endorsed former President Donald Trump over DeSantis in the race for the Republican presidential nomination. But the move couldn't have been welcome for DeSantis, who continues to trail Trump badly in polls.

Scott, who served two terms as governor before getting elected to the Senate in 2018, wrote an opinion piece in News-

week that said he supports "my friend President Donald J. Trump" and encourages "every Republican to unite behind his efforts to win back the White House."

The opinion piece did not mention DeSantis or other GOP candidates by name, but it caused a stir in Florida political circles.

"I know most of the candidates running for president, and I respect their decision to put themselves through this very difficult process," Scott, who is running for re-election in 2024, wrote. "They've made their case to voters, laid out their agendas and their plans, and told their stories. Make no mistake: every single one of them would be a better president than Joe Biden. But Repub-

lican voters are making their voices heard loud and clear. They want to return to the leadership of Donald Trump."

**STORY OF THE WEEK:** Members of a state appeals court appeared skeptical of a challenge to a congressional redistricting plan passed last year.

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:** "It's time for the Republican Party to come together, behind one candidate, and declare with one voice that we are united in our efforts to defeat Joe Biden and rescue America." — U.S. Sen. Rick Scott as he endorsed former President Donald Trump over Gov. Ron DeSantis in the race for the GOP presidential nomination.

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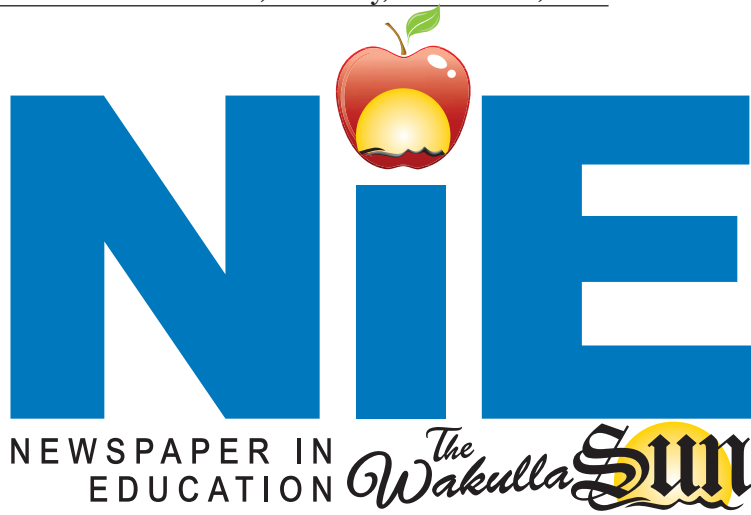
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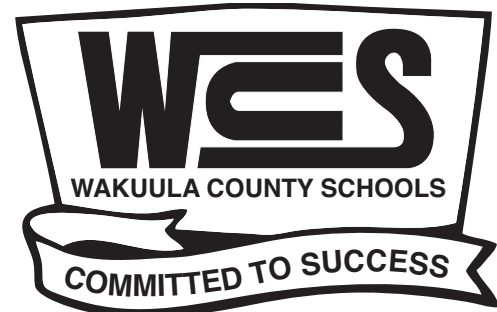
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## USE THE NEWS

### 1. THERE'S ALWAYS A WAY

Former TV star and children's book author Henry Winkler just released a new book, a memoir about his life. But being an author didn't come easily to Winkler. He has dyslexia, a learning disorder that makes it harder to read and process language. "There is always a way," he says. "You think you can't do something, but there is a way." Think about an obstacle that's keeping you from doing something you want to do, whether it's something within you—a physical or mental ability or disability—or something in the outside world. Write down your goal, the obstacle in your way, and think of at least three creative ways you could overcome that obstacle. If you need help thinking of some, ask a classmate how they would approach your obstacle—sometimes it helps to get someone else's perspective!

### 2. NOW AND THEN

Thanks to modern technology, the Beatles were able to release their final single, "Now and Then." It features the four members of the band playing and singing together, despite the fact that two of them died decades ago. John Lennon's vocals and piano part were recorded at his home in 1977. With the help of artificial intelligence, which separated John's audio from background noise, they were able to preserve his vocals and use it to complete the song he started almost 50 years ago. By putting it together with a recording of George Harrison playing the guitar from 1995 and Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr recording their vocals and the drum part last year, they were able to release the group's final song last week. Listen to the song or read the lyrics online. Do you think the song is better knowing it took almost 50

years to make? Why or why not? Write down your thoughts and share with your classmates.

### 3. BIRD BRAIN

A new study shows that roosters might recognize their own reflections in mirrors. Scientists used a version of a mirror test that's been around since the 1970s: A psychologist put red dye on chimpanzees' faces. When they were in front of a mirror, they would look at and touch the red spot on their faces, which made the psychologist believe the chimps recognized

that they were looking at themselves, not another animal. Only a few other animals, like dolphins and elephants, have passed the mirror test. Roosters failed the same version of the test, but scientists thought of a way to test it that made more sense for the birds. Roosters crow to warn each other of danger but are quiet when they're alone and see a predator. Researchers used this set-up to see if they would crow to their reflection, thinking it was another rooster, but they stayed quiet. Why do you think it would be smart to

have different tests for different kinds of animals? Use at least three different animals to explain your answer.

### 4. VENUS LIKE US

The atmosphere on Venus is very different from Earth. The temperature on the second planet from the sun is about 860 degrees Fahrenheit—more than 6 times hotter than the hottest temperature ever recorded on Earth. But scientists who study astronomy now think that Venus may have had a feature similar to Earth: tectonic plates, or parts of the planet's outer crust that continuously move and rearrange.

Plate tectonics are how we have mountains, volcanoes, and earthquakes. If it's true that Venus also had tectonic plates billions of years ago, the planet was probably much cooler then and may have had forms of life on it. Why might knowing the history of other planets be useful for us here on Earth? Write down your ideas and share them with your classmates.

### 5. FALL BACK

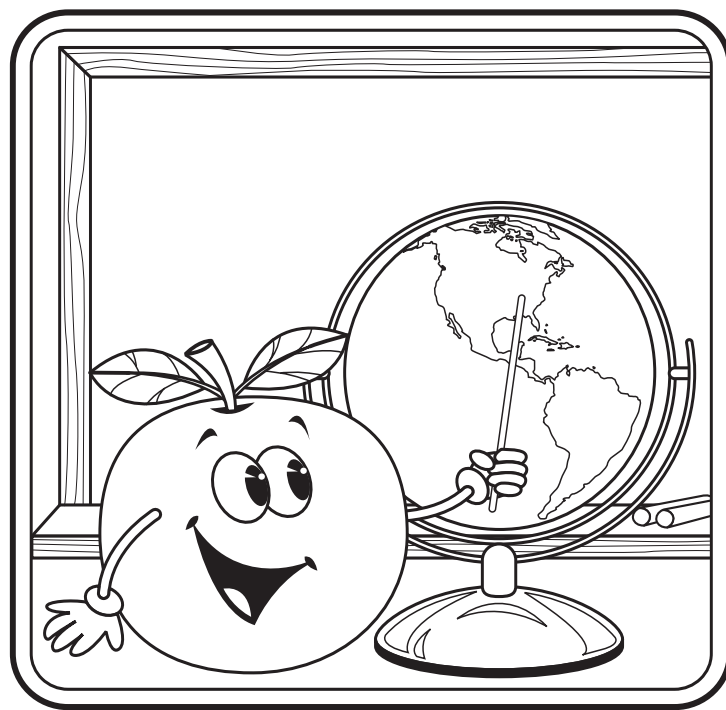
Last Sunday marked the end of Daylight Savings Time, when most Americans moved their clocks back one hour. That shift means an extra 60

minutes of sunlight in the morning. The practice started during World War I as a way to need less artificial lighting and therefore save money. It was used again during World War II and then on and off until the Uniform Time Act of 1966, which set the "spring forward" and "fall back" dates in the US. Two states don't participate in Daylight Savings Time: Hawaii and Arizona. Most countries in Europe still have Daylight Savings Time too, but most other countries do not. Write a short paragraph that summarizes what it means to "fall back" when daylight savings time ends.



## Creative Coloring

Celebrate geography. Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



## THIS DAY IN...



## HISTORY

- 1918: THE WESTERN UNION CABLE OFFICE IN NORTH SYDNEY, NOVA SCOTIA, RECEIVES A TOP-SECRET CODED MESSAGE FROM EUROPE.
- 1946: A MAGNITUDE 6.9 EARTHQUAKE HITS THE PERUVIAN ANDES.
- 1970: LUNA 17, AN UNCREWED SPACE MISSION, IS LAUNCHED BY THE SOVIET UNION.



NINETY PERCENT OF THE EARTH'S POPULATION LIVES IN THIS HEMISPHERE.

ANSWER: NORTHERN



## LATITUDE

coordinate that refers to a north or south position on Earth



- ENGLISH:** Globe
- SPANISH:** Globo terráqueo
- ITALIAN:** Mappamondo
- FRENCH:** Globe
- GERMAN:** Globus



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Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: MAP



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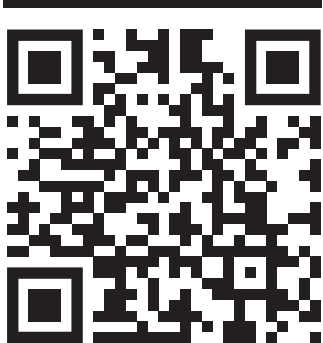
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 WHS class of '23



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# First round of playoffs:

## Friday, Nov. 10 at 7 p.m.

### Wakulla War Eagles host the Gadsden County Jaguars at J.D. Jones Stadium.



# Wakulla to face Gadsden in playoffs

By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**  
Editor

they would host the winner of the Florida High-Marianna game next week.

The Wakulla War Eagles go into the first round of the playoffs on Friday night with a home game against the Gadsden Jaguars.

The Florida High School Athletic Association released the playoff brackets over the weekend, and Wakulla is ranked No. 2 in 2S Region 1.

Walton is the No. 1 seed the region and plays the 8th seed South Walton.

Florida High is the third seed and plays the 6th seed Marianna.

And 4th seed Pensacola Catholic plays No. 5 Suwannee.

Should Wakulla win,

Of the upcoming Gadsden game, Wakulla Head Coach Scott Klees said, "In our bracket, by far, this is the game to watch."

Wakulla finished the year an undefeated 10-0. Gadsden comes in with a 6-4 record in which they won 4 of their last 5 games.

And Gadsden played good opponents, including Lowndes County, Ga., out of Valdosta.

Klees said he was just watching film of Gadsden and called them "a very, very athletic team."

"You're gonna see



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PHOTO BY WILLIAM SNOWDEN

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**COACH Scott Klees**

### FROM THE COACH

**Last week:** Bye week gave the War Eagles a chance to heal up and hopefully the return of some key players.

**Scouting report:** Gadsden Jaguars are very athletic and very fast. They've played some of the top teams in the region.

**Keys to victory:** The War Eagles can't have turnovers in the playoffs. They have to play great defense, and make plays on Special Teams.

War Eagle running back Jeremiah Thomas breaks into the open against the Suwannee Bulldogs in the district showdown two weeks ago.

a lot of speed on the field," Klees said of the upcoming playoff game.


of the regular season with medical condition. When Kelly went out,

Jeremiah Thomas was shifted from receiver to running back.

**INJURY REPORT**


Coach Klees anticipated that the week off may give time for his team to heal up. He is hopeful that War Eagle receiver Del Zanders, out the last week of the regular season with a leg injury, is likely to be back. It is also possible that running back Bradley Kelly, may return. Kelly has missed most

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