



War Eagles beat Gadsden

See Page 14

War Eagle Sion Ransom breaks a run outside.

The Wakulla Sun



Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday Friday Saturday



Showers

Hi: 69° Lo: 62° 60%
Sunrise 7:03 AM
Sunset 5:40 PM



Mostly Cloudy

Hi: 76° Lo: 58° 19%
Sunrise 7:04 AM
Sunset 5:40 PM



Mostly Sunny

Hi: 76° Lo: 49° 7%
Sunrise 7:05 AM
Sunset 5:39 PM

"It's a New Day"

Locally Owned & Operated

Our 2nd Year 46th Issue
Thursday, November 16, 2023



\$1 One Section

Westerlund gets life in prison

He murdered the mother of his child, Chelsea Bramblett, back in January 2020

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

Chad Westerlund, who murdered the mother of his child as she sat nursing the child on a sofa, was sentenced to life in prison at a hearing last week.

Westerlund had entered a plea to second degree murder and a felony count of child neglect several months ago. At a hearing on Thursday, Nov. 2, Wakulla Circuit Judge Layne Smith ordered Westerlund to serve life in prison and to have no contact with his

daughter.

It was an intensely emotional hearing with friends and family of Chelsea Bramblett, the murdered woman, portrayed Westerlund as an unfeeling often violent alcoholic.

According to the arrest report, Westerlund's blood alcohol was .186 six hours after he placed the 911 call - .08 is considered legally drunk.

Westerlund's attorney, Ed Bodiford, said that his client drank a half-gallon of liquor a day and was a functional alcoholic.

In Westerlund's



Chad Westerlund entered a plea to second-degree murder for killing Chelsea Bramblett, with whom he had a child.

statement to the court, read by his attorney Bodiford, Westerlund wrote that he never

wanted to hurt anybody, and that if he hadn't been drunk that night, the killing never would have happened.

At one point he stood and turned to Bramblett's family and said, "I just want to say I truly am sorry."

But the family didn't buy it, father Donnie Bramblett said Westerlund never showed any emotion in the time he's known him - except at his first appearance and today.

Jon Fuchs, the former chief prosecutor for Wakulla, had left the position to take time off but came back

for Westerlund's sentencing, and he cast doubts on Westerlund's apology to the family, saying he heard Westerlund's attorney tell him to stand and face the family and say he's sorry.

In Westerlund's account to law enforcement, he and Bramblett argued and he stepped outside to calm down. When he re-entered the house, he saw a shotgun, grabbed it and fired at Bramblett, striking her in the face as she nursed her child. (Two other children of Westerlund's were also in the house at the time,

children that Bramblett had taken to raise in her relationship with Westerlund.)

Fuchs noted that the child was still attached to the mother's nipple when law enforcement arrived.

Fuchs called the murder "cold blooded," saying Westerlund "either aimed at the mother of his child and shot her in the face or he fired at her and by the luck of God missed the child."

Bodiford asked the court to sentence his client to 25 years; Fuchs asked for a life

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Veterans Day parade

Wakulla loves a parade, and Veterans Day was observed with a parade down Crawfordville Highway on Saturday. Floats included the Coastal Optimist Club, above, and the Wakulla County School Board, right, and the Wakulla War Eagle cheerleaders. The parade was sponsored by the VFW Post 4538. (Photos by Legion Taylor)



ST. MARKS

City commission votes to remove Sheddan as mayor

City commissioners express concern that he exceeded powers of office

By LEGION TAYLOR
Reporter

St. Marks Mayor Paul Sheddan was removed from office at the city commission meeting last week, as a result of a 3-0 vote from the members of the commission who were present. They selected Steve Remke to take over as Mayor of St. Marks in a following vote, which also passed 3-0.

Commissioners Dan Albers and Sheddan were absent from the meeting, leaving Mayor Remke, Commissioner Paula Bell, and Commissioner Sharon Rudd to decide on these issues.

Rudd in particular spoke to the crowd of people who came to the meeting on Thursday, Nov. 9, stating that she and the commission as a whole feel that the community's trust has eroded, and that the only way to build it up again is to replace the current leadership.

Members of the city commission said that while they feel Sheddan cares for the community, certain recent events, which were left unspecified, have made it clear that he is not the right person for the position.

Remke specifically read out a list of the powers of the mayor as listed in the city charter, stating that the mayor has very little formal power over anything other than presiding over the city commission meetings, implying that Sheddan had perhaps abused the power of the mayor's office in some way, although again no particular events were brought up as reasoning.

The citizens of St. Marks also created a recall petition to completely remove Sheddan from the commission, which contained a list of grievances that the community had with the mayor. This included times where they say he shouted at citizens who came to speak at meetings, times where they say he publicly humiliated those who disagreed with him, as well as an instance where he tried to use his position as mayor to get special treatment in the form of a reserved parking space outside of Bo Lynn's grocery. This petition, which as of the meeting had only existed for around a day and a half, had already gathered 43 signatures of St. Mark's 268 total registered voters.

Some citizens also expressed concern about rumors that Sheddan was going to try and fire City Manager Zoe Mansfield at the meeting.

Neither Sheddan nor Mansfield were present, so

Turn to Page 9



Paul Sheddan

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Student of the Week


Hope Sandgren – 2nd grader at Shadeville Elementary

Principal: Timothy Wheeler

Achievements/Reason for Nomination: Hope's teacher Ms. Reeves about Hope: "She contributes 100% and more to everything she does and lends a helping hand to others. Hope is a very friendly, pleasant, conscientious student. She has great leadership abilities and strives for perfection. Hope is respectful to staff, teachers and displays kindness to all. Outside of school Hope enjoys dancing, riding her bike, and spending time with family & friends."

We are VERY proud to recognize Hope Sandgren as the Shadeville Elementary School - student of the week.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.




Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park

Purpletop

By LYNN ARTZ, SANDY TEDDER and DAVID RODDENBERRY

Purpletop (*Tridens flavus*) is a perennial bunch grass with striking reddish-purple seedheads in late summer and fall. The tall erect stems are topped with wispy clusters of delicate branchlets bearing reddish-purple grain-like flowers that hold their color for weeks. This native grows 3-5 feet tall and 1-3 feet wide in sandy soil in sun to part shade. Purpletop is a larval food for at least half a dozen moths, skippers, and butterflies. Sometimes called grease grass, its oily seedheads provide an autumn feast for birds and mammals. This salt-tolerant grass is deer resistant and often grows along roadside ditches. A few plants pair well with yellow wildflowers. Dramatic when massed, it also provides structure to a wildflower meadow. Purpletop volunteers are adding color now to the meadow at Sopchoppy Depot Park.




This salt-tolerant grass often grows along roadside ditches.

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.
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St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church
3609 Coastal Highway Crawfordville

Fall Craft Fair

Bake Sale and Cheese Ball Orders
Saturday, November 18th
9am-3pm
Tables Are \$15.00 Each
Free to Shoppers

Call Nickey for more info.
850-926-9750
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We'll have something for Everyone



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SCAN ME for an electronic edition of this



The Wakulla Sun

The Less Fortunate Still Matters Foundation
Serving Wakulla

Is Partnering with Wakulla County Giving Hands

Chicken Dinner For a Donation
Stuff The Truck Toy Drive

Bring an unwrapped toy

November 18th, 2023
10:30am – 3pm
Mack's Country Meat
1285 Spring Creek Hwy



4-H youth inspire with art and broadcasting

Special to The Sun

Youth members Caden Gruebel and Laretta Compton represented Wakulla 4-H in St. Augustine at the 2023 Keep Florida Beautiful annual meeting. The Wakulla 4-H Teen Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) was recognized for their collaboration with Keep Wakulla County Beautiful as “Outstanding Partnership of the Year” during the state awards luncheon. This award was the culmination of a year-long effort that began as a 4-H Community Pride Grant project called “Let’s Clean Wakulla Together.” Youth wrote a small seed grant to fund their idea of engaging the community in environmental preservation through clean up and anti-littering efforts. Through their work on the project, youth learned how



Tammie Naison, Keep Wakulla County Beautiful director; Laretta Compton, 4-H member; Lesley Cushman, KWCB board member; Caden Gruebel, 4-H member; Steve Cushman, KWCB board member; Rachel Pienta, 4-H agent.

to plan an effort from start to finish. Youth also visited a radio recording studio to learn and apply interviewing skills in creating two podcast episodes.

The project, including the two podcast recordings and a collaboration with local artist Rachell

Mathis to create three original art designs, led to the adoption of one design as the 2023 International Coastal Clean Up shirt design for Wakulla’s annual effort in September. Wakulla 4-H youth invited 4-H members from counties around the Big Bend to

join them for this year’s International Coastal Clean Up. Youth from Gadsden, Leon, and Jefferson counties joined Wakulla in the Coastal Clean Up activities. Together, they collected the most cigarette butts in the annual competition along with gather-

ing bags of trash along the Wakulla County coastline. The day ended with a tour of the Gulf Specimen Marine Lab in Panacea, where the youth learned more about the various types of marine life that benefited from their cleaning effort. Project leader Caden Gruebel said, “Environmental awareness is a very important concern in today’s society, and the world needs more people to make an effort to keep the planet healthy, safe, and prosperous.”

This 4-H project was made possible with support of the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners, Keep Wakulla County Beautiful, Wakulla County Sheriff’s Office Emergency Management team, Doug Apple and WAVE 94, Rachell Mathis, Gulf Specimen Marine Lab, and the Florida 4-H Foundation.

The Institute of Food

and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) is an Equal Opportunity Institution authorized to provide research, educational information, and other services only to individuals and institutions that function with non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions, or affiliations. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Florida, IFAS, Florida A&M University Cooperative Extension Program, and Boards of County Commissioners Cooperating.

For more information about Wakulla County Extension programs and 4-H, please visit the Crawfordville office at 84 Cedar Avenue or online at <https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/wakulla/>.

KWCB receives President’s Circle Award

Special to The Sun

In a gathering at St. Augustine, Keep America Beautiful affiliates from throughout the state, environmental enthusiasts, and experts came together for the Keep Florida Beautiful Annual Conference. The conference serves as a platform for the exchange of ideas, strategies, and innovations aimed at addressing the pressing environmental challenges facing our fragile environment.

This year’s conference was particularly signif-

icant as it culminated in a prestigious awards ceremony, recognizing the outstanding efforts and achievements of individuals and organizations dedicated to environmental conservation and sustainability.

Wakulla County was represented by board members Steve Cushman, Lesley Cushman, and Loyd Childree, Executive Director Tammie Nason, 4-H Community Emergency Response Team youth Caden Gruebel and Laretta Compton, and 4-H Extension Agent Dr. Rachel

Pienta.

The 4-H CERT youth developed a project with a goal of promoting community pride and anti-litter awareness. They enlisted the help of local artist, Rachell Mathis, to develop signs that would send a message and catch people’s eye by incorporating color and animals. Keep Wakulla County Beautiful partnered to assist the teens in their mission. For their concern and determination to make a difference, the group was awarded the Outstanding Partnership

Award by Keep Florida Beautiful.

Keep Wakulla County Beautiful received the President’s Circle Award from Keep America Beautiful Regional Director, Mallory Coffey. The President’s Circle Award recognizes exemplary performance by certified affiliates of creating clean, green, and beautiful communities. KWCB Executive Director, Tammie Nason, was recognized by Keep Florida Beautiful for 5 years of service in her position.

The conference featured thought-provoking

presentations from Esther Wagner with Keep South Carolina Beautiful discussing Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, and Maggie Winchester with the Ocean Conservancy on empowering youth & businesses to stop plastic pollution in their communities.

The conference concluded with a collective commitment to action, emphasizing the need for collaboration at local, state, and national levels. Attendees pledged to implement the lessons learned during the con-

ference in their respective communities and organizations.

The Keep Florida Beautiful Conference and Awards Ceremony served as a powerful reminder that, in the face of unprecedented environmental challenges, collective efforts and innovative solutions are essential for creating a sustainable and resilient future. KWCB was honored to be recognized and to be a part of a beautiful partnership with the youth, who are realizing that actions have consequences and they see our environment being impacted by those actions.

Laura Lawhon earns distinction

Special to The News

Florida School Boards Association (FSBA) is proud to recognize Laura Lawhon, Wakulla County School Board member, as their newest Certified Board Member (CBM).

To earn the initial distinction of a CBM, members must complete 96 hours of training in three different content areas: Leadership, Advocacy, and Knowledge.

“I am proud to recognize Laura as a Certified Board Member,” FSBA Leadership Services Director, Tina Pinkoson stated. “Since her election



School Board member
Laura Lawhon

in 2022 Laura has shown a willingness and desire to learn.

The Certified Board Member (CBM) Distinction is one of several professional development programs offered by the

Florida School Boards Association to ensure board members obtain well-rounded and thorough understanding of his or her policy-making job responsibilities.

The Florida School Boards Association is the professional association for school boards in Florida. The mission of FSBA is to increase student achievement through the development of effective school board leadership and advocacy for public education.

“Throughout the program, I gained valuable insights and skills that will undoubtedly enhance

my ability to contribute to our community in a more informed and effective manner,” Lawhon said. “The knowledge and expertise I acquired in areas such as governance, leadership, and educational policy will be instrumental in my role as a board member.

“As I move forward, I am eager to put my newly acquired knowledge into action to serve our community even better. I am committed to making a positive impact, ensuring that our schools and educational institutions continue to thrive,” Lawhon said.



OYSTER & MULLET FEST IN SOPCHOPPY

Sopchoppy held its annual Oyster & Mullet Fest on Saturday, and Josh Lawhon enjoyed some oysters and shrimp from Oyster Boss, above. It wasn’t all about eating, there was time for other fun too, like swinging at the playground, below, with Lucas Miller, 8, Ian Miller, 8, and Frankie White, 5. (Photos by Lynda Kinsey)



Dare to dream

Kaelynn Fontenot, Wakulla Middle School art student is the winner of the Sopchoppy Lions Club’s 2023 ‘Dare to Dream’ peace poster contest! Kaelynn received a \$50 cash prize and her poster will be entered into the District 35 Peace Poster

contest competition. She was recognized and congratulated by school Principal Simon Nelson, Lions Christy Holland, Arlene Vause and her art teacher, Rhiana Tucker. The peace poster contest is an annual project of Lions Club International and middle school age students from all over the world are encouraged to enter. A different theme is

selected for every year and students may enter with a picture or essay. The Sopchoppy Lions Club boasts several district and state contest winners since introduction of the project by Lion Marshall Cato, a devoted club member. For more information about the contest and other Lions Club projects, contact a club member or call 850-509-3199/962-2210.

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

Thank you for support of food drive

Editor, The Sun:

We wanted to give a huge thank you to all who donated to our Big Food event. We fed 509 families with household numbers of 1,904. We also fed the Wakulla Senior Center and the Wakulla Fire Department.

Wakulla, y'all truly don't know how awesome y'all are! The prices ranged from \$20 to \$1,000!

Mack's Country Meats, y'all worked so hard to help make this happen as well! Thank you!

Thank you to all the volunteers who help make the event possible.

Also thank you to Farm Share, Second Harvest, Pepsi, and krispy Kreme, as well as the community for donating toward the non-meats.

We look forward to working with wakulla to help better our community!

Here are the names of the ones who would give name or business to the meat fund for

our big food event on Nov. 4th:

Mack's Meats, Dirty Beach Cleaning, Anytime Electric, Derek Borders, Christina, Mr & Mrs Whaley, Jeff from Shell Island, Amy at Capital City Bank, Patel, Mike's Feed Store, Bobby Maralie, Kenny Kenzy, Rachel Pienta, Nicky Hair Therapy, Callaway, Shari, Michelle Stege, Lee, Righteous Ink, Momma J Tattoo, Sam Arcure, The Dunns, Ward Waff, Joel Singletary, The Shack, Joyce Padgett, Aseden's Heart, Dura Door, Body Tek, Heather Harris, Kristi Olah, Howard Jackson, Victoria Stewart, DJ & Gabe Tointigh, Collectable Arms, Fred Nichols, Wakulla Rotary Club, BW Grill, First Baptist Ochlocknee Bay, Kenny Donner, Freddy Kilgore, Brooke Mohr, Crystal Johnson, Crawfordville Animal Hospital, Coastal Roofing, Lara Swafford, Jamie Rozer, Jaqueline Field, Pat Cerwin, and Kelly Byrd.

Casey Kimbrell

Something on your mind?

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



County budget shouldn't include tax error

Editor, The Sun:

I was very happy to see Mr. De La Paz's letter "\$307 Million tax error is not a shortfall," Letter to Editor) put in a succinct manner that hopefully many can understand. He is exactly right and I felt the same way upon reading the news on one of Wakulla Citizens Facebook page. I read all the clamor about taxes being raised and even PM'ed the administrator that all the worry about taxes increasing was misplaced because SURELY the county agencies would not spend money they DO NOT actually have. They would do what any of us would do, recalculate our INCORRECT budget to reflect reality and then move on from there.

But, alas, government agencies and their intrepid managers see extra money like a shark sees blood and dive straight for the funds, but, like an AI generated pot of gold, it's just an illusion. The danger for us taxpayers is if the agencies INCLUDE this illusion in their budgets they will no doubt scream about a BUDGET CUT next year and thus the clarification call for a tax increase will fill the air.

Perhaps if we look at this situation from an average citizen perspective it will help. Thus, if I purchased a Pick 4 lottery ticket every week from a guy named Ed at the store and one week Ed checked my ticket and said

I had won \$307,000,000 and I could collect the money from a lady named Lisa in three days I would be ecstatic! I would go home and make a list of all the things I wanted to buy and create a BUDGET for me and my family to live to enjoy.

When I went to see Lisa after the three days she told me that Ed had made an ERROR and that 40 other people had also won the \$307 million. I would still win the money but it would be much less. Now, would I continue to buy all the items that I had planned on and stay with my windfall budget?

Maybe I'm expecting too much from our county budget administrators to use the common sense most of us were born with but I, much like most of you, understand the concept of "Living within our Means." It is an age-old practice that actually works and provides financial security. Spending money that is not really there is a recipe for fiscal disaster.

Removing the error and operating on what would be a normal year operational budget should not cause any undue hardship or require emptying our "reserves."

Let us all hope our local government acts responsibly. Amen

Tim Caldwell
Panacea

On the Horizon

Calendar of events for the week of Nov. 16

Thursday, November 16

- The groundbreaking ceremony for the new first responder communications tower will be held at the Wakulla County Sheriff's office at 11 a.m.
- Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards will be held at Wakulla Springs Lodge beginning at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$40 each.
- The Wakulla County Cancer Support Group meets in the Education Center of the Crawfordville United Methodist Church at 7 p.m. This group meeting is for men and women, regardless of the type of cancer. Spouses, caregivers, and friends are welcome. For more information, call 850-926-6050.
- Rotary Club of Wakulla meets at TCC Wakulla at 8:30 a.m.
- The VFW Auxiliary Bingo Night will be held at 7 p.m. at 475 Arran Road in Crawfordville, every Thursday. There will be concessions and raffles.
- Yoga with Nellie, Yin yoga at 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Classes are \$12, packages available at New Posh on 3079 Crawfordville Hwy. RSVP to newposh3079@gmail.com or text/call at (850) 528-5838.

to newposh3079@gmail.com or text/call at (850) 528-5838.

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

Friday, November 17

- The Wakulla War Eagles host the second round of the playoffs against Florida High 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 18

- Sopchoppy Opry, featuring Walkers Crossing, will be held at the historic Sopchoppy High School auditorium beginning at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15.
- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton has a fall craft fair at the church from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Small Business Saturday will be held in Azalea Park in Crawfordville from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and will feature the annual Friends-giving Food Truck Cookoff.

- 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 20

- The Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners meets at 5 p.m. in the commission chambers.
- Thanksgiving break for Wakulla County Schools begins. Students and teachers return on Nov. 27th.
- The Wakulla Respite Program is available weekly for anyone with memory impairment at no cost from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lake Ellen Baptist Church.
- Yoga with Nellie, Restorative yoga at 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Classes are \$12, packages available at New Posh on 3079 Crawfordville Hwy. RSVP to newposh3079@gmail.com or text/call at (850) 528-5838.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

Tuesday, November 21

- The Wakulla County Parks Advisory Committee will hold a public meeting at 4 p.m. in the Wakulla County community center.
- Sopchoppy community dinner is held every week at the Towles House at 6:30 p.m.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.
- Yoga with Nellie, Restorative yoga at 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Classes are \$12, packages available at New Posh on 3079 Crawfordville Hwy. RSVP to newposh3079@gmail.com or text/call at (850) 528-5838.

Wednesday, November 22

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

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

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- More local content on the environment and local businesses

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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!"



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

◀ Question of The Week ▶

– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

Polled at Barns Spirits' Chamber After-Hours event:

What is your favorite type of liquor?



TONYA HOBBY
Health Officer

My favorite is a wine, a Moscato, or a sweet wine."



NOLEN W. NSETT
North Florida Payroll

"Tito's Vodka."



JEANIE BOOTH
Career Source

"The Ole Smoky, it's a pecan whiskey."



NEIL BRANCH
Auto Pros of Crawfordville

"Vodka, cold!"



TESIA STATEN
Asst. Branch Manager at Woodville

El spoloñ Blanco Tequila. I prefer it in a margarita."

COMMUNITY NEWS

Wakulla Station News

By **VERNA BROCK**

Rain is promised, and we are all holding our breaths, hoping for a good drenching. The weather prognosticators say we should have a solid three days of showers, after a month of zero precipitation. I don't know about you, but my yard is absolutely crispy-crunchy. Let it rain!

As I wrote before, we have officially entered the busy season. No matter your preference, I wager you can find something to whet your interest. The traffic safety committee met on Tuesday, and I am always very interested in plans for improving Wakulla County's traffic flow and safety. You should rest assured, knowing many different entities are dedicated to making our drive time both safer and more efficient. Kudos to the Florida

Highway Patrol, the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office, the Wakulla County BOCC and Road Department, Florida Department of Transportation and citizen partners for all the great work they are doing. If you have any traffic concerns or suggestions, reach out to any of the folks listed. I promise, your ideas will be welcome.

When I served on the School Board, we often joked that Wakulla County is the Parade Capital of the World. Seriously, the county averages one parade a month, which is not a bad thing. So get ready folks! Parade season is also upon us, and one of my favorites is the Christmas Parade in Panacea. Be sure to make plans for a night-time parade this December.

I encourage you to check out one of Woodville's best-kept secrets. Every

second Sunday, the Woodville United Methodist Church hosts amazing musical performances, followed by a delicious fellowship supper. This past week Ed and I enjoyed performances by Darryl and David Langston, as well as the rest of their gospel group. If you appreciate old-timey, roots gospel and great fellowship, you NEED to come out next month on Sunday, Dec. 14th, at 6 p.m.! The special guests are traveling from Alabama, and are favorites with members. Be sure to put the date on your schedule right now.

Sadly, I was unable to participate in Wakulla County's Veteran's Day celebrations, due to a pulled muscle in my back. I have a talent for over-doing things, and that Friday was no exception. It would be helpful if my body could let me know to stop, BEFORE I injure myself. Oh, well, experience indicates that's probably not going to happen.

Please keep Pastor Steve Montgomery in your prayers, as he continues to recover from his knee surgery. Like so many things, progress is often two steps forward, one step back. He is doing well over all, but prayer is always appreciated.

Please lift Clem Bunker, and her daughter Katie, in your prayers, as they both continue to recover from illness. Ms. Thelma Watts has returned home, following a stint of rehab. I think her favorite thing about being home is being with her little dog, Jazzie. As a pet lover myself, I can certainly relate.

Please continue to keep baby Bennie Mott in your prayers, as well as baby Sebastian Mosely-Bennett. Both little boys are growing as they fight what can be life-threatening conditions. Our prayers make a difference, and are deeply felt and appreciated by their families.

Sheriff's Report

This report is for activity Nov. 3-9:

SATURDAY, NOV. 4

- Deputy Jake Scott responded to Taylor Street in Panacea in reference to a stolen golf cart. The owner left the keys in the cart overnight and when she checked the following morning the golf cart was gone. A search of the local area was conducted, and the golf cart was found submerged in Hotdog Lake. The golfcart was returned to the owner minus the seat that was floating in the middle of the lake. She estimated the damage to the golf cart at \$500. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

- Deputy Jake Scott responded to Dickson Bay Road in reference to a vehicle burglary. The victim listed several items that were taken from his SUV during the previous night. A pink Parker compound bow and miscellaneous items with value of \$300 were taken. The vehicle was reported to have been left unlocked overnight. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

investigation.

- Deputy Austin Rivers conducted a traffic stop at Ball Court for a vehicle failing stop at a posted stop sign. The driver, Cedrick Randall, was found not to have a valid driver's license. He was arrested and transported to jail without further incident.

- Deputy Anthony Paul conducted a traffic stop in front of Walmart for a seatbelt violation. During the stop, Rodrick Catrett and Jason Cartrett were arrested for possession of meth, THC wax, and drug paraphernalia. They were transported to jail without incident.

- A traffic stop was conducted on vehicle for not having a tag displayed. The driver, Nolan Messer, was discovered to not have a valid license. Further investigation revealed Messer was also in possession of methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia. He was arrested and transported to the Wakulla County Jail. Deputy Todd Kent investigated.

SUNDAY, NOV. 5

- A traffic stop was conducted on a vehicle for speeding in the area of Kinsey Road. The driver, Ashley Czernis, was discovered to not have a valid license. Further investigation revealed Czernis also had cocaine, a firearm, and drug paraphernalia in her possession. Czernis was placed under arrest and transported to jail without incident. Deputy Dakota Haddock investigated.

MONDAY, NOV. 6

- Kellie Renee Talbot reported the theft of blueprints from a new construction home jobsite. Talbot said she and her husband are currently building a home on their property and this is the second incident where someone has stolen the blueprints. Talbot estimates the cost to replace the blueprints at \$50-\$100 for a copy. The originals will cost upwards of \$2,000. Talbot has installed game cameras around the property, and further evidence may be provided to deputies at a later date.

TUESDAY, NOV. 7

- Demita Kelly reported her 2010

Acura stolen. Kelly had been away from her home for a few days and when she returned home her vehicle was missing. Kelly states she has both sets of keys and did not loan the vehicle out. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Matt Hinson investigated.

- Kaitlyn Zarate reported the theft of two air conditioning units from a construction site. A vehicle has been identified as potentially being involved and pictures were provided to deputies. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Kendrick Gavin investigated.

- Robert Burke was arrested after passing the last point of sales at Ace Hardware with stolen merchandise. Deputies were able to review the surveillance video which captured this incident. Burke was apprehended in the area of Myra Jean's and secured for transport to the Wakulla County Jail without incident. Deputy Kory Smith investigated.

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



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Call (850) 962-8019 to get started.



BUTTS FOR BENNIE

Families and friends gathered to hold a fundraiser for Bennie Mott's medical bills on Saturday, Nov. 11 at the home of Dylan Miller. Miller, center, donated a shotgun to raffle off

as well (won by Judy Mandell). He is pictured with Justin Harrell and Kenny Kinsey. They raised more than \$3,000 to help Mathew and Brooklyn Mott, Bennie's parents. There was a big screen TV set up outside and the children had games and jumped in a bouncy house. (Photo by Lynda Kinsey)

Outdoors

outdoor sports

HOME ON THE RANGE

First guns for Christmas



By MARJ LAW

Christmas music is in the air already!

“Christmas is coming/ We’re looking to have fun/If you’re planning to surprise your wife/ Never buy a gun.”

And the moral of this song is: keeping your wife safe is good, and your heart is in the right place. But buying her a gun as a surprise is a bad idea.

Guns are very personal. There’s no one-size-fits-all in handguns. What fits you and your hand may not fit hers. The weight of the gun may be fine for you; not for her.

You find the recoil light. She may find it heavy. Is racking the slide easy for you? Maybe not for her.

Any two people have different needs when it comes to selecting a handgun. This is why you never buy a handgun for another person (besides buying for another is against the law, anyway).

So, the gun isn’t going to be a surprise. However, a gun may be just what you and your mature wife want so that she can protect herself and so that she can enjoy herself at the range.

First of all, what does a mature woman usually think to ask me when considering a new gun?

- This person wants:
- Small and concealable for purse, pocket, or body wear,
 - Very little recoil,
 - An easy-to-rack slide,
 - A gun that isn’t too heavy,
 - A gun that holds as

many rounds as possible

- One that’s easy to load, and
- One that has a built-in safety.

Here’s my opinion, based on working with a lot of mature men, women, and newbies at the range.

First, I’m skipping .22s because most men feel a .22 is not sufficient for self-defense. If a person cannot handle anything else, then a .22 is better than a sword, but most of the handguns I’m going to discuss can be handled by most people, even with arthritic hands.

I’m also skipping the .25s and the .32s. These guns have a bit more power than the .22s, but their ammunition is harder to find and is quite a lot more expensive.

Now, Joe and I have different opinions on best guns for mature people, and newbies. I asked him about his favorite picks. The web site, Pew Pew, has opinions, too. Their information, specifically on appendix carry for 9mm handguns, is updated as of October, 2023. I’ll pick the top 2 guns from each of us.

Joe likes the Taurus 942 .22 magnum revolver. Revolvers are quite simple to use. Stick a round in each chamber, point and shoot. The 942 holds 8 rounds, which is more than most revolvers. And the magnum has more stopping power than a .22LR round.

There is no slide to rack and recoil is light. Price is around the \$350 range.

On the negative side: it’s heavy at 25 ounces. It’s wide at 1.34 inches. It’s 6.6 inches long. I’d carry it, but wouldn’t lug it in my purse.

Finally, those .22 magnum rounds cost more than 9mm or .380 rounds. This matters, because you need to practice shooting, and keep it up over time. This can get expensive.

Next on Joe’s list is the Sig Sauer P365 X Macro.



What’s good about the 365? This 9mm gun has a light(fish) recoil and its magazine holds a whopping 17 rounds.

Trigger pull is light and short. However, racking the slide is not light, so I wouldn’t suggest this gun for a newbie or someone with limited strength.

Joe’s gun has no safety, but you can order a 365 X Macro with a safety. The 365 X Macro weighs 21.5 ounces: still too heavy for a purse, but fine for appendix carry.

The 365 X Macro runs around \$750-\$800ish.

Negatives, in my opinion, are that the gun is somewhat large (too big for my purse), and the slide is not easy enough to manipulate.

Those are Joe’s top two concealable handguns for the mature person or a newbie.

Next, I looked up October 2023s updated version on Pew Pew to see what they like for appendix carry.

They also like the Sig P365 9mm handgun. Unlike Joes P365 X Macro, this 365 has a shorter grip and holds just 10 rounds. It is 5.8 inches long, 3.1 inches high and weighs 17.8 ounces. That’s about 4 ounces less than the 365 X Macro.

The Sig 365 X Macro

is large for a purse, but the standard Sig 365 is doable, and fine for appendix carry. Racking the slide may be too difficult for a mature person.

Bottom line, it’s fine for appendix and purse carry. The 9mm may be too much gun to handle in both slide and recoil. It runs around \$500.

Next, Pew Pew likes the Glock 43X. This is also a 9mm handgun. It holds 10 rounds and is 6.5 inches long and 1.1 inches wide. It is fine to carry concealed and at 17.8 ounces, it can fit into a purse. The grip is comfortable for a small hand.

On the negative side, trigger pull is somewhat stiff and harder to pull and the gun has a snappy recoil.

The Glock 43X runs about \$485.

Finally, I’ll chime in with my own favorites.

For a micro compact purse gun, I like my Sig Sauer P238. It’s a .380. The slide is easy to rack, the trigger is light and the flush magazine holds 7 rounds. It has a manual safety on the frame.

This small gun is 5.5” long and weighs in at only 15.2 ounces. Even though it’s an all-metal gun, it fits nicely in the purse.

The only negative I’d say about this Sig is that

the recoil is fairly firm. That’s because the gun is so small, it doesn’t have much mass to absorb the kick.

The Sig has been accurate and is totally reliable. If you can find one, the cost can be \$650ish.

The easiest .380 I’ve ever tried is the Smith & Wesson M&P .380 Shield EZ. There are several versions of the Shield, so be sure you look at the one that says M&P .380 Shield EZ.

This .380 EZ is a bit larger and heavier than the Sig P238. It is 6.7” long and weighs 18.5 ounces. It’s bigger than the Sig, but you can fit it in a carry purse.

You load the EZ like you would many 22s in that you pull down a button on the magazine and drop in your 8 rounds. Easy.

You’ll be surprised and pleased at how easy it is to rack the slide. There’s a reason Smith & Wesson calls this gun the EZ. I’m trying to think of a negative or two for the EZ, but can’t do it.

Price is in the \$450-\$550 range.

Because I’m writing this article, I get to add in a third handgun and that is the Smith & Wesson Equalizer. This is a 9mm handgun.

It goes in with other easy-to-use guns because it has a nice, light trigger. The slide is easy to rack. Recoil is light. The magazine holds 10 rounds. It’s the easiest 9mm handgun I’ve yet discovered. Its closest runner-up is the S&W 9mm Shield EZ, but I prefer the Equalizer.

Both the S&W .380 Shield EZ and the S&W 9mm Equalizer have grip safeties. I like this feature. The gun will not fire unless your hand is high and firm on the grip.

Price is around \$450ish.

If you and your wife agree she needs and wants a handgun for Christmas, check out these guns. Many ranges rent out their handguns. This gives you and her a chance to feel the guns for yourselves, so that you’ll know which one works the best for her. Remember, places that rent out guns have guns that are well-broken-in, so they will be easier to manipulate than one right out of the box.

If a friend has any of these handguns, see if you can go to the range and try it out. Trying before she buys is the best way to find out the gun that works the best for her.

No matter how much you love your wife, don’t buy a gun for her. Let her discover the one she likes the best and finds the easiest to use.

Planning on going to the Wakulla County Sheriff’s Office range? The range will be closed some of both November and December for remodeling and training. Call the range or check the website to make sure they’re open when you want to visit.

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

WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO



PIGFISH
(*Orthopristes chrysoptera*)

Pigfish are named for the grunting sound they make by rubbing the teeth in their throat together when caught. By night, pigfish use their throat teeth to grind up shellfish and other food. They are found warmer temperate regions along the east coast. They prefer bays and canals with mud bottoms to search out their diets of amphipods, mollusks, crabs and shrimp. Their maximum size is 19” and 2-3lbs although they are usually caught when under 1lb as bait fish. They live 2-3 years.

Eukarya, Animalia, Chordata, Actinopterygii, Perciformes, Haemulidae



Retired Wakulla Springs State Park Ranger Bob Thompson, on his weekly wildlife survey at the park last week, snapped this photo of a common gallinule and a watery reflection.

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a peek into life on and under the water

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Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

Nov. 16 - Nov. 22



Tide charts by tides4fishing.com



Best fishing days this month November 13-27

Thursday 16	
Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
7:02AM	10:29AM
5:40PM	8:27PM
Moon Illumination 11%	
Friday 17	
Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
7:03AM	11:27AM
5:39PM	9:33PM
Moon Illumination 19%	
Saturday 18	
Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
7:04AM	12:17PM
5:39PM	10:42PM
Moon Illumination 28%	
Sunday 19	
Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
7:05AM	1:00PM
5:38PM	11:51PM
Moon Illumination 39%	
Monday 20	
Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
7:06AM	1:38PM
5:38PM	-----
Moon Illumination 50%	
Tuesday 21	
Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
7:07AM	2:11PM
5:38PM	12:57AM
Moon Illumination 62%	
Wednesday 22	
Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
7:07AM	2:42PM
5:37PM	2:03AM
Moon Illumination 73%	

For tides at the following points add Dog Island Listings:

	High Tide	Low Tide
Carrabelle	28 Min.	25 Min.
Apalachicola	1 Hr., 13 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	2:24 am ▲ 3.8 ft	9:52 am ▼ -0.6 ft	4:35 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	9:23 pm ▼ 1.7 ft
Fr	3:03 am ▲ 3.8 ft	10:42 am ▼ -0.5 ft	5:28 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	10:10 pm ▼ 1.7 ft
Sa	3:50 am ▲ 3.6 ft	11:39 am ▼ -0.2 ft	6:28 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	11:11 pm ▼ 1.8 ft
Su	4:51 am ▲ 3.3 ft	12:44 pm ▼ 0.0 ft	7:35 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	
Mo	12:37 am ▲ 1.7 ft	6:19 am ▲ 3.0 ft	1:54 pm ▼ 0.3 ft	8:40 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
Tu	2:18 am ▲ 1.4 ft	8:20 am ▲ 2.8 ft	3:03 pm ▼ 0.6 ft	9:34 pm ▲ 3.0 ft
We	3:45 am ▼ 0.9 ft	10:03 am ▲ 2.9 ft	4:04 pm ▼ 0.8 ft	10:19 pm ▲ 3.2 ft

City of St. Marks

Th	3:00 am ▲ 3.6 ft	10:56 am ▼ -0.6 ft	5:11 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	10:27 pm ▼ 1.5 ft
Fr	3:39 am ▲ 3.5 ft	11:46 am ▼ -0.4 ft	6:04 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	11:14 pm ▼ 1.6 ft
Sa	4:26 am ▲ 3.4 ft	12:43 pm ▼ -0.2 ft	7:04 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	
Su	12:15 am ▲ 1.6 ft	5:27 am ▲ 3.1 ft	1:48 pm ▼ 0.0 ft	8:11 pm ▲ 2.6 ft
Mo	1:41 am ▼ 1.6 ft	6:55 am ▲ 2.8 ft	2:58 pm ▼ 0.3 ft	9:16 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
Tu	3:22 am ▼ 1.3 ft	8:56 am ▲ 2.6 ft	4:07 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	10:10 pm ▲ 2.8 ft
We	4:49 am ▼ 0.8 ft	10:39 am ▲ 2.7 ft	5:08 pm ▼ 0.7 ft	10:55 pm ▲ 3.0 ft

Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	2:41 am ▲ 3.9 ft	10:16 am ▼ -0.6 ft	5:04 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	9:44 pm ▼ 1.8 ft
Fr	3:20 am ▲ 3.8 ft	11:08 am ▼ -0.5 ft	6:00 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	10:32 pm ▼ 1.9 ft
Sa	4:06 am ▲ 3.6 ft	12:07 pm ▼ -0.3 ft	7:04 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	11:36 pm ▼ 2.0 ft
Su	5:06 am ▲ 3.3 ft	1:14 pm ▼ 0.0 ft	8:14 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	
Mo	1:06 am ▼ 1.9 ft	6:33 am ▲ 3.0 ft	2:24 pm ▼ 0.2 ft	9:17 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
Tu	2:50 am ▼ 1.6 ft	8:40 am ▲ 2.8 ft	3:32 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	10:07 pm ▲ 3.1 ft
We	4:15 am ▼ 1.0 ft	10:25 am ▲ 2.9 ft	4:32 pm ▼ 0.7 ft	10:49 pm ▲ 3.3 ft

Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	2:16 am ▲ 2.9 ft	10:03 am ▼ -0.5 ft	4:27 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	9:34 pm ▼ 1.2 ft
Fr	2:55 am ▲ 2.8 ft	10:53 am ▼ -0.3 ft	5:20 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	10:21 pm ▼ 1.3 ft
Sa	3:42 am ▲ 2.5 ft	11:50 am ▼ -0.2 ft	6:20 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	11:22 pm ▼ 1.3 ft
Su	4:43 am ▲ 2.1 ft	12:55 pm ▼ 0.0 ft	7:27 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	
Mo	12:48 am ▼ 1.3 ft	6:11 am ▲ 2.8 ft	2:05 pm ▼ 0.2 ft	8:32 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
Tu	2:29 am ▼ 1.1 ft	8:12 am ▲ 2.1 ft	3:14 pm ▼ 0.4 ft	9:26 pm ▲ 3.0 ft
We	3:56 am ▼ 0.7 ft	9:55 am ▲ 2.2 ft	4:15 pm ▼ 0.6 ft	10:11 pm ▲ 3.4 ft

St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	2:15 am ▲ 3.0 ft	9:47 am ▼ -0.7 ft	4:57 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	9:09 pm ▼ 1.7 ft
Fr	2:55 am ▲ 3.0 ft	10:39 am ▼ -0.6 ft	6:00 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	9:50 pm ▼ 1.8 ft
Sa	3:41 am ▲ 2.9 ft	11:39 am ▼ -0.4 ft	7:13 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	10:50 pm ▼ 1.9 ft
Su	4:41 am ▲ 2.6 ft	12:49 pm ▼ -0.2 ft	8:28 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	
Mo	12:54 am ▼ 1.8 ft	6:12 am ▲ 2.3 ft	2:06 pm ▼ 0.1 ft	9:24 pm ▲ 2.2 ft
Tu	3:10 am ▼ 1.4 ft	8:17 am ▲ 2.1 ft	3:21 pm ▼ 0.3 ft	10:03 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
We	4:24 am ▼ 0.9 ft	10:09 am ▲ 2.2 ft	4:25 pm ▼ 0.6 ft	10:34 pm ▲ 2.4 ft

Dog Island West End

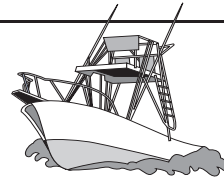
Th	2:32 am ▲ 2.7 ft	10:13 am ▼ -0.7 ft	5:44 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	9:22 pm ▼ 1.8 ft
Fr	3:10 am ▲ 2.7 ft	11:06 am ▼ -0.6 ft	6:47 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	10:16 pm ▼ 1.9 ft
Sa	3:56 am ▲ 2.5 ft	12:02 pm ▼ -0.4 ft	7:50 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	11:44 pm ▼ 1.9 ft
Su	4:53 am ▲ 2.3 ft	1:02 pm ▼ -0.1 ft	9:33 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	
Mo	1:49 am ▼ 1.7 ft	6:09 am ▲ 2.0 ft	2:13 pm ▼ 0.2 ft	9:55 pm ▲ 2.0 ft
Tu	3:48 am ▼ 1.3 ft	8:31 am ▲ 1.7 ft	3:24 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	10:15 pm ▲ 2.1 ft
We	4:53 am ▼ 0.8 ft	10:25 am ▲ 1.7 ft	4:28 pm ▼ 0.8 ft	10:36 pm ▲ 2.2 ft

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



Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports

By Carolyn Brown Treadon



Flotilla 12 would like to wish the veteran's in our area a belated thank you! We proudly have many veterans among our organization and are very thankful for their continued service to the Auxiliary.

This past week, we had members who represented the Auxiliary across north Florida and South Georgia.

Stephen Ellerin, a newer member to Flotilla 12, represented the Auxiliary in Thomas County where veterans were honored with a ceremony.

Member Bob Asztalos got to spend Veterans Day eve with 100 veterans, their families and supporters as the guest



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

speaker for the Soldier City Veterans Salute Dinner in St. Cloud.

Many of our other members attended local events as veterans or in support of our veterans.

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

Please contact us for more information about our safe boating classes or learning more about getting involved in the Auxiliary, check out our website at www.uscgaux.net follow us on FaceBook @ Apalachee Bay Flotilla 12 or con-

tact our Flotilla Commander Phil Hill at pnkhill2000@yahoo.com

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

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

BIRDING AT THE REFUGE

November at the refuge

By DON MORROW

It is November at St. Marks NWR. Cypress needles are turning a rich rust color and Fall migration is winding down. Garlands of yellow grape leaves hang from the trees and winged sumac has turned red. The Fall wildflower peak is over, but there are still some goldenrods to provide sustenance for the last of the migrating monarch butterflies and Gulf fritillaries. By the end of the month, as temperatures drop, butterflies will be scarce on the refuge.

Most of the Fall migrant birds bound for wintering grounds in the Caribbean or South America have passed through. BirdCast radar showed that over sixty-eight million birds crossed the refuge during this year's Fall migration, but nights with flights of hundreds

of thousands of birds are now over. There are still a few south-bound migrants. The last Yellow Warblers will come through early in the month and a few stragglers and late-migrating boreal forest nesting warblers will continue into mid-November.

This is the month to listen for Sandhill Cranes giving their ululating call on blue-sky days following cold fronts as they surf down the north wind. It is also always the best month to watch for geese. Snow Geese are the most common, but Greater White-fronted, Ross' and Canada are possible. A few Greater White-fronted Geese have already been reported at the refuge.

Ducks have already begun returning to the refuge. The Halloween survey showed 326 ducks of 11 species including both teal

species, Shoveler, pintail, wigeon, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, and our resident Wood Ducks. These are good results this early in the duck season. November will see the return of our deep winter ducks; Mallard, Black Duck, Canvasback, mergansers, Common Goldeneye and Bufflehead. Expect duck numbers at the refuge to triple over the next few weeks.

A lot will go on this month. Common Loons will return as Northern lakes begin to freeze. White Pelicans, huge birds with nine-foot wingspans, will slowly transit the refuge in great wheeling flocks, flashing white as they turn. Horned Grebes, and Ring-billed Gulls will arrive.

Many of the refuge's winter birds; phoebes, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Ruby-crowned

Kinglets, Swamp Sparrows, and House Wrens arrived in October, but their numbers will increase this month and the refuge will see the return of Cedar Waxwings, robins, and goldfinch. Shorebird numbers will spike as the main bulk of Dunlin arrive. By the end of the month, Dunlins will be the most common shorebird species at the refuge.

It is November at St. Marks NWR. Change is in the air. Bird diversity and numbers on the refuge are rapidly climbing up to their winter highs. There are still some warm days to come, but expect to enjoy a few cool, clear days this month.

It is high time you came down to the refuge.

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

Underwater Wakulla

By Rusty Miller

Diving season is starting to wind down.

I hope every veteran out there was given a big thank you for your service over the Veterans Day weekend. I certainly thank you.

Diving season is starting to wind down even for our residents here in Wakulla. The ocean temperature is dropping quickly as the Gulf Stream slowly moves further out away from the Gulf shoreline. The temperature is currently 70-72 degrees near shore. You still have a little bit of time left to get those last few dives in before it really drops to the low 60's and then a drysuit would be your best choice for diving.

Since the majority of the diving is done for the year you will put your gear in your dive bag for the next 4 to 5 months hoping that, when it's time to use it again, you might get lucky and the gear will work like it did when you stuffed it in your dive bag.

I have seen it all too often that the very same regulators and BC you used last season will not work properly, the second stage leaks when you attach it to the tank and your BC has a leak around the dump valve.

Two things happen if your regulators aren't stored properly:

The hoses are bent and not straight because you had them curled up in a regulator bag thinking they would stay clean from dust and bugs.

The second stage starts to leak slightly because the poppet seat got cut by the diaphragm spring pressure from not being used for several months.

Then you have your BC that can set without air and stored in your dive bag without being stored inflated, that will cause an issue with the dump valve(s). You can also have mold growing in the bladder if it is allowed to dry without being inflated.

The regulators need to be stored hanging up in order to let the hoses hang down and as straight as possible usually by the first stage. I would recommend getting special hangers that you can mount the BC and regulators connect by the yoke or DIN. You can get those on Amazon.

Now as far as the leaking of the second stage the only way to fix that is to get your regulators serviced so they will be ready in time for the start of the dive season.

Please don't wait until the day before you go diving to get them serviced because it will cost you an expedite charge.

Until then keep blowing bubbles,

Russell Miller #59999

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Do we crave God's presence?

By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

Are we, individually and as a church, truly experiencing God's presence?

Jesus said, "Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And

he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him" (John 14:21 ESV).

The Amplified Bible says, "I will make Myself real to him." Isn't this what we want – for Jesus to make Himself real to us?

Read the first part of the verse again. Do we truly love God? Do we desire to experience His presence in such a way that we're willing to obey His Word? What about the verses that speak about loving others?

Do we love God enough to forgive "seventy times seven" (Mat-

thew 18:22 AMP) when someone expresses a different political opinion time after time? Are we committed to loving others as Christ loves us, even when they infuriate or just plain bother us?

Or would we prefer to hold on to our grudges and forfeit a manifestation of God's presence?

Unrelenting animosity is rampant – sadly even in the Church. Doesn't it seem as if the enemy especially enjoys stirring up trouble among God's beloved? Bear in mind that the world can see how well (or badly) we're following

Jesus by the way we treat our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Can others clearly see whether you or I are Christ-followers? Or do we leave them wondering?

Jesus says, "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35 ESV). What would happen if we, the body of Christ, loved one another in our communities, on social media and within our churches so magnificently that those observing took notice?

What if we actually behaved in a Christ-like

way toward one another instead of just talking about it?

We could start by asking God to search our hearts to show us where we've failed in our relationships and humbly ask those we've offended to forgive us. As the Holy Spirit continues to reveal our imperfections, we'll also likely be compelled to offer grace to those who are also imperfect.

A great way to obey God and express our love for others is to pray for those we've been holding grudges against (and for those holding grudges against us) and

ask God how He wants to use us to meet their needs.

Let's obey God's Word. Let's stop letting our divisiveness and petty disagreements eat away at our relationships.

Most of all, let's truly experience God's presence – and allow Him to make Himself real to us as never before.

Sheryl H. Boldt is a sales executive for Wave 94 and author of the blog, www.TodayCanBeDifferent.net. Connect with her at SherylHBoldt.Wave94@gmail.com.

Light a lamp of healing

By **CHERYL CRUCE**

I used to be one of those who sought after the front-row parking, often circling the lot until a space became available. I had no ailment requiring accessible entrance into the store other than a desire to complete the task before me. Nonetheless, I found a time when illness had me searching for a favored spot. At that moment, I prayed, "Lord, when

I am strong again, remind me of the beauty of the back row."

Honestly, there is beauty in the back row. First, I can always find a parking spot away from the store. Second, the further away I am, the more steps I can add to my day. It is all about cardio and exercise. It allows me to clear my thoughts, and often, I see friends or family as I walk toward the store. However, the greatest reward is to be well and to have the ability to take those extra steps that so many people struggle to make.

The thing about struggling is that often, people do so in silence. Many illnesses are invisible to the human eye. For exam-

ple, a person with a weakened heart might look young and vital, yet their body needs to rest more regularly. It is the same with respiratory or blood conditions; you might never know they suffer unless told. Our eyes cannot always see autism or a seizure condition; even so, they do exist. Frequently, a person will be affected silently with a mental disorder where thoughts run rampant; often, they self-medicate, trying to calm their spirit.

In this season of Thanksgiving, those of us with good health have much to be thankful for. Equally so, we have a task laid before us. We are called to bring those who need healing to the Lord,

though we may never know the private battle some people face. One of the easiest-to-remember, most significant power-provoking scriptures of the Bible is "Brother and sisters, pray for us" (1 Thessalonians 5:25 NIV). Some situations may be blinded to our eyes, and we do not know how to pray. Still, when we pray to the Father, the Holy Spirit will lead us with wordless groanings (Romans 8:26-27).

There is a calling on the life of every believer to bring the hurting before the throne of God. Scripture teaches of a time when a blind beggar cried for mercy from the side of the road. When the crowds tried to silence the man, Jesus silenced the crowd,

asking for the man to be brought forward. Jesus showed mercy, restoring the blind man's sight. (Luke 18:35-42).

Prayer is a privilege that requires nothing more than faith and compassion. God desires to heal the broken-hearted and the wounded (Psalms 147:3). A beautiful phenomenon happens when we pray for others. It causes the light of God to shine within our own lives. If you light a lamp for someone else, it will also brighten your path (Buddha).

Light your lamp of prayer today. Pray for protection for those who drive the cars you walk past. As you travel, pray for peace within the homes, for

people experiencing homelessness on the side of the road, and for each other. Pray without ceasing; shine brightly on the path of another. Illuminate your world with God's healing grace.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

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

OUT TO PASTOR

The cookie monster has returned

By **JAMES SNYDER**

Sitting in my office working on some projects, I was suddenly surrounded by a familiar aroma. This surprised me because I had no idea what was happening.

That aroma was familiar, but I couldn't identify it.

I'm like that most of the time. My nose doesn't work quite like The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. I don't smell many things, and what I do smell I can't identify. On the other hand, my wife can smell something three days before it happens. How she does that, I don't know.

Thinking about what I was smelling, it did have some familiarity to it. I know I smelled this aroma before and

needed to find out what it was.

The more I sniffed, the stronger that aroma became. Then, I had a flash in my head. I recognized that aroma. The aroma coming from the kitchen was freshly baked cookies.

It's the time of the year when The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage spends a lot of time making cookies. You name the cookie, and she's making it. She can make cookies that I have not heard of before. That is her specialty.

I leaned back in my office chair, trying to figure out what to do next. It is the time of the year when she makes cookies, and I smelled that cookie aroma all morning. What is my next step?

Should I sneak out to the kitchen and see what she was doing?

If I do that, I am asking for trouble. Leaning back in my chair, I looked around my office and noticed one thing that could help. There was my coffee cup, and it was empty. All I needed to do was take my

cup to the kitchen for a refill. I think that might work.

With a very joyful demeanor, I picked up my cup and marched to the kitchen, expecting to see those cookies. I contemplated what cookies I would see, but there is nothing like seeing them in person.

As I entered the kitchen, my wife said, "And why are you coming into the kitchen?"

I'm not a gambler, but I knew I had to lay my cards on the table, or I would be in trouble.

"Oh, my dear," I said with a smile, "I'm here to get another cup of coffee."

Looking at me with one of her looks, she said, "So, you're not here for any cookies?"

"Cookies? I didn't know you were making cookies today."

"You couldn't smell those cookies?" she said with a snicker.

I had to divert her attention, so I complimented her, "This is the best coffee I've had in a long time. I just had to have another cup. Thank you so much for it."

Looking at me, she said, "If I give you a cookie, will you stay out of the kitchen for the rest of the day?"

I must confess I would do anything for a cookie. So I agreed to this, and she gave me a fresh cookie. I smiled at her and said, "Thank you so much."

Basking in the aroma of that cookie, I headed to my office. What could be better?

Munching on that cookie was the best thing I had done all morning. I don't know how she does it, but she makes the best cookies in the world.

I finished that cookie and tried not to think of any cookies anymore. I remembered that cookie was given to me with the provision I would not come into the kitchen that day. Why did I make such an agreement?

It was hard for me to return to work; I could only think of cookies. I don't care what cookie it is; if it comes from our kitchen, it is the best cookie in the world.

Something happened that I wasn't expecting.

My wife popped into my office with another cookie and said, "I gotta run across town to get something for my cookies. Here's another cookie if you promise not to come into the kitchen while I'm gone."

All I could see was the cookie in her hand. I nodded excitedly and took the cookie, and she left my office. It was a delight to have another cookie, and I munched on it rather slowly but enjoyably.

The cookie disappeared rather quickly, and my wife had been gone for at least half an hour, and all I could think of was cookies, cookies, cookies.

Getting up out of my chair, I slowly walked toward the kitchen. As you go into our kitchen on the right, a table connects with the kitchen sink. I noticed on that table piles of freshly baked cookies.

I thought of my agreement with her that I would not go into the kitchen, and I stood there, reached my arm around the corner, found several cookies, picked them up, and

returned to my office. I think I got away with some more cookies.

Not long after that, I heard The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage come into the house and go into the kitchen. Then I heard her say, "Oh, the cookie monster has returned."

I then knew I was in trouble.

A scripture verse came to my mind, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin" (James 4:17).

Ouch! I think I know what to do. Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, here I come.

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

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 Wednesday: Mass at 7:00 pm
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Obituaries

DEATH NOTICES

- **Helen Ann Harrison**, 66, of Crawfordville, died November 11, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com
- **Linda McCranie**, 67, of Crawfordville, died November 10, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com
- **Lois E. Swoboda**, 71, of Apalachicola, died November 12, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

- **James “Jim” Whittaker**, 86, of Crawfordville, died November 11, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com
- **Connie L. Zuchowski**, 68, of Crawfordville, died November 11, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

Westerlund

From Front Page

sentence.

Judge Smith took a short break before announcing his decision and came back and said he was “mindful” that, while Westerlund eventually took responsibility for Bramblett’s death, he initially told law enforcement that she had committed suicide.

Judge Smith ordered Westerlund to serve life in prison for the murder, serve 15 years for child neglect and to never have contact with his daughter, who is being raised by the Bramblett family.

During victim impact statements, Donnie Bramblett, who is a preacher in addition to being a Leon County deputy sheriff, said he was initially concerned about Westerlund when his daughter told him she met him at her job working at a liquor store where he came through the drive-thru every night. Bramblett said he worried

that Westerlund either had a drinking problem because of his daily visits to the liquor store or he was just really attracted to his daughter.

Bramblett recalled working an off-duty detail back in December 2020 at the library when Westerlund came up there to ask for Bramblett’s blessing to marry Chelsea. Bramblett asked why he wanted to marry her, and he said Westerlund didn’t have an answer. Noting that they had a child, Bramblett asked Westerlund if he just wanted to marry to avoid paying child support. He said Westerlund became surly and Bramblett withheld his blessing.

Bramblett said his daughter was planning to leave Westerlund at the time she was killed.

Bramblett said of Westerlund’s life that it’s in the hands of God and the judge. But where he’s going, Bramblett said, “There’s no air conditioning and the heat is set on high.”

After he finished speaking, a distraught Bramblett turned and walked out of the courtroom.

St. Marks

From Front Page

there was never action taken to fire her, but the city commission did stress that they had some problems with the way she was doing her job, but were willing to work it out with her rather than outright fire her.

The citizens at the meeting made it very clear they stood in support of Mansfield, and felt that it was unfair of the commission to consider firing her, but as Sheddan was not present to propose a motion, no action was taken in any direction at this time.

There were some concerns that her application of certain rules was inconsistent, particularly around building permits, but citizens felt that these accusations were for the most part baseless.

Many people, including Tim Roach, who spoke out about the water rate increases at previous meetings, thought that Mansfield had done a very good job

during her 23 years as city manager, citing her consistently flawless audits as evidence of her effectiveness, and that attempting to fire her now is unreasonable, especially since she’ll be retiring in a matter of months.

In other matters:

- Mayor Remke brought up a pole barn that was on a separate parcel of land from its adjacent house, both of which were owned by the same person. He suggested that the city adopt a Unity of Title, which would make it so that parcels of land that contain accessory structures could not be sold separate from the land that the main home is on. This way, it won’t be possible to separate accessory structures from a primary residence, and the sale of land won’t violate the city charter. They decided to discuss this further in a workshop prior to the December meeting.

- A citizen asked for a notice of city meetings to be regularly posted at the St. Marks post office, so that more citizens can be informed about when meetings are taking place.

Weekly Roundup: ‘Never again’

By JIM SAUNDERS
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — It was heart-wrenching.

As the Florida House began a special legislative session Monday, Holocaust survivor David Schaecter offered an invocation and told of being an 11-year-old boy watching his mother and two younger sisters get

gunned down by Nazis. “She was holding onto them and then was forced to walk downhill to the big mega-holes in the bottom of that hill,” said Schaecter, 94, a South Florida resident whose family was from Czechoslovakia. “And before they reached the holes, the machine guns shot all of them. And my brother and I watched that.”

“I urge you all to stand with me and view the world from my eyes as someone who watched marches and protests in Europe (that) led to gas chambers and mass graves. I’m here to tell you that our world needs a rude awakening. Demonstrations and radical protests progress quickly to hate crimes and violent anti-Semitism.”

Amid the backdrop of the war between Israel and Hamas, lawmakers

during the three-day special session sought to demonstrate support for Israel and Jewish residents of Florida.

That included passing resolutions in support of Israel and taking more-tangible steps such as approving money to help boost security at Jewish day schools and preschools. Lawmakers also passed a measure to expand state sanctions against Iran, a key backer of Hamas, the Palestinian militant group that attacked Israel on Oct. 7.

The security bill, for example, calls for providing \$15 million for such things as installing lighting, security cameras, fencing and shatter-resistant windows at Jewish day schools and preschools. Another \$10 million would go to “nonhardening security measures,” such as hiring security workers and training them on threat awareness, emergency procedures and first aid.

“We shouldn’t live in a world where we need these kinds of things,” House sponsor Randy Fine, R-Brevard County, said. “But we do live in a world where, unfortunately, anti-Semitism is rampant.”

But offering a glimpse of fierce debates hap-

pening elsewhere in the country and world, House Republicans and Democrats assailed a resolution proposed by Rep. Angie Nixon, D-Jacksonville, that would have called for an “immediate de-escalation and cease-fire” in the war between Israel and Hamas.

In an extraordinary move, dozens of House members turned their backs to Nixon and faced the front of the House chamber as she spoke near the end of the debate. Nixon said she wanted to protect Israeli and Palestinian “babies.”

“Continued attacks will only lead to more suffering and more death,” Nixon said. “We must take immediate steps to help those in danger right now. That means restoring resources and providing humanitarian aid, but we must prevent more casualties so that they’re actually around to get and benefit from that aid.”

But Rep. Hillary Cassel, a Dania Beach Democrat who converted to Judaism, said Hamas wants to “annihilate” Jews. She and other opponents of Nixon’s proposed resolution said a cease fire existed on Oct. 6, the day before the

attack, and that Hamas was to blame for the war.

“We are not dealing with rational people,” Cassel said. “We are not dealing with equality and equal sides of this issue. We are dealing with an absolute attempt to massacre an entire group of people, and we are fighting back.”

The House rejected Nixon’s proposal in a 104-2 vote.

RECOVERY EFFORT

When Hurricane Idalia hit on Aug. 30, it tore through parts of rural North Florida where farms and timber operations play a vital role in the economy.

Lawmakers during the special session passed a bill to provide additional aid to the agriculture industry and communities trying to rebound from the storm, which made landfall in Taylor County.

House sponsor Jason Shoaf, a Port St. Joe Republican who represents Taylor County, said the “bill is going to make a huge difference in our fiscally constrained rural counties. They cannot tax their way, they cannot fund-raise their way, there is no way for them to fund anything that comes up in the

normal course of business.”

Ernest Fulford, a farmer from Jefferson County who grows cotton, peanuts, soybeans and corn, said insurance doesn’t cover the more than \$500,000 in losses his farm suffered from Idalia.

“This will hopefully keep us, and many other farmers like me, in business,” Fulford said.

LIFTING THE CAP

Amid heavy demand for school vouchers for students with disabilities, lawmakers during the special session approved a bill to temporarily lift a cap on participation in a voucher program.

The bill focuses on the Family Empowerment Scholarship for Students with Unique Abilities program, which has been limited to nearly 41,000 children this school year. The bill would eliminate the cap this year and allow the Florida Department of Education and organizations that administer vouchers for the state to determine the maximum number of vouchers that will be available.

After this year, the program would go back to using a formula to

determine maximum capacity. That formula involves the overall number of “exceptional student education” students.

Senate sponsor Jay Collins, R-Tampa, pointed to a waiting list of roughly 8,900 students seeking vouchers in the program.

“As a parent of a unique-abilities child, there are a cavalcade of different things that you deal with. And making sure that we provide those opportunities to those parents, to those families, is unequivocally and unquestionably the right thing to do,” Collins said.

STORY OF THE WEEK: Florida lawmakers passed measures to show support for Israel and to help bolster security at Jewish day schools and preschools amid a rise in anti-Semitism.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: “Not a day goes by without me reliving the horrors of my childhood. And I am here to make sure that there is a meaning to this phrase called, ‘Never again.’” — Holocaust survivor David Schaecter speaking to the Florida House.

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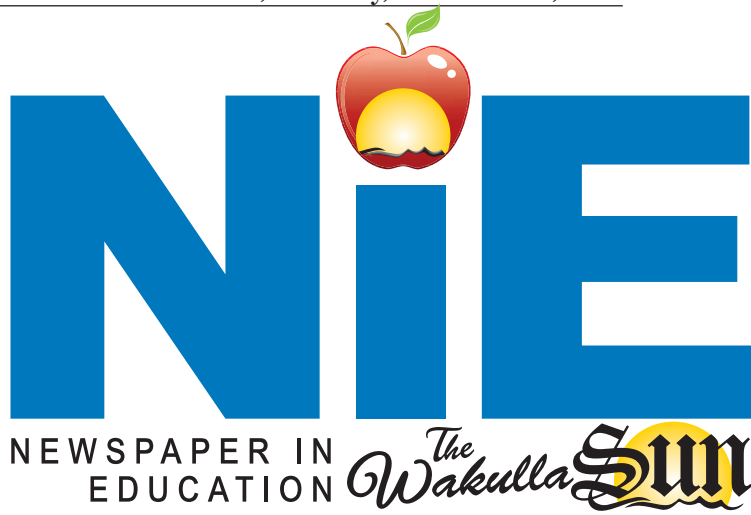
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USE THE NEWS

1. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND THE ELECTION

With artificial intelligence, or AI, technology becoming so advanced, it can be hard to know if what you're looking at online is real or fake. With a presidential election coming up, many people are worried that AI will be used to create fake images or videos of candidates, which would mislead voters. To help with this and to stop people from falling for misinformation, Meta (the company that owns Facebook and Instagram) is going to label political ads that use AI-created images. The labels will appear whenever a user clicks on an ad about any social issue, political candidate, or election that includes a realistic picture of a person or event made using AI. Still, some people say this isn't enough to keep people from using AI in damaging ways during the election. What do you think? Is it hard to tell what's real or what's made up online? How can you be sure what you're looking at is a real image, not altered or completely fake? Write down some ideas of ways you could figure it out. Then, share your ideas with your classmates.

2. BIG CAT CLASHES

Lots of animals have been affected by climate change in different ways, whether their habitats have shrunk or the foods they eat are less available. Cheetahs live in the grasslands of Africa and typically hunt their prey during the day. However, as temperatures rise, the large cats are hunting in the early morning and late evening. This means they're competing with nocturnal, or nighttime, hunters like lions

and leopards. If one of those big cats comes across a cheetah eating its prey, they try and take that food, and the much smaller cheetahs will walk away rather than fight for it. This could mean less food for the cheetahs and they may continue to have to change their behavior in order to survive. Cheetahs are the rarest big cat in Africa—they are considered endangered and there are less than 7,000 of them in the wild. From what you read, write a short summary that explains the main

point of the story, what caused it, and what the effect is.

3. ISLAND TIME

It's rare to find out that a new island has been discovered. It's even more rare to see that a new island has been created. An undersea volcano off the coast of Japan erupted in October, creating a new island out of ash and rock. It's about 328 feet wide, a little longer than a football field, and rises 66 feet above sea level. Experts don't expect the island to last very long, as

it's made of crumbly material that is easily washed away by waves. Look at photos of the new island as it was being formed. Then, draw a comic strip that shows the island's creation.

4. A DIVER'S DISCOVERY

A diver off the coast of Sardinia, an Italian island, spotted something metallic in some sea grass while exploring the Mediterranean Sea. What he unearthed turned out to be tens of thousands of coins that appear to be from the fourth century. When the diver spotted the coins, he alerted

Italy's culture ministry, who sent art protection and undersea archaeology divers to retrieve them. They haven't been counted yet, but the ministry estimates there are between 30,000 and 50,000 coins, and officials say they might be from a shipwreck. Write a story that summarizes the facts you learned here and draw a picture to go along with it.

5. MUSIC AWARDS

The nominees for the 66th Grammy Awards were announced recently, with female artists leading many of the major categories. In

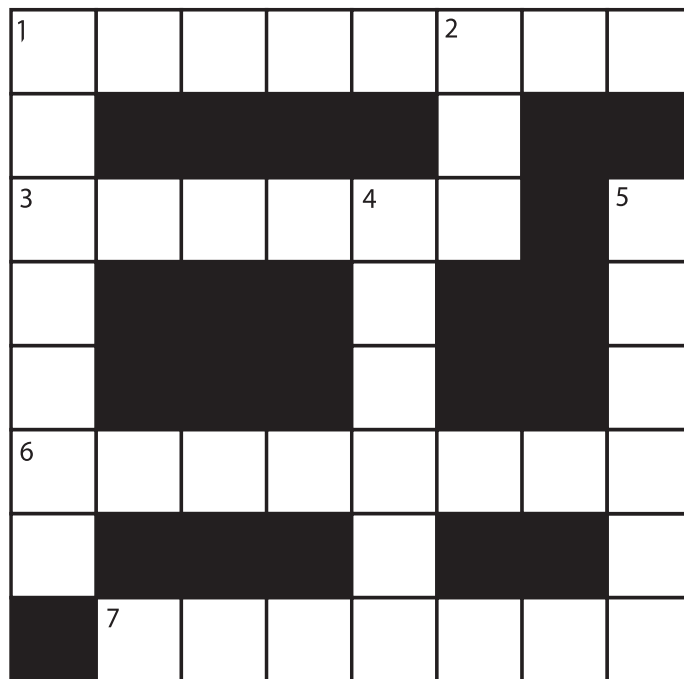
fact, for record and album of the year, there is only one male nominee. The soundtrack from the summer blockbuster "Barbie" earned 11 nominations, including four of the five nominations in the visual media song category. This year also marks the first time there will be an award for best pop dance recording, best African music performance, and best alternative jazz album. Try your hand at writing your own song! Start by outlining what your song will be about, what genre of music it would be, and what it will be called.



A CHILD BETWEEN THE AGES OF SIX AND 11 WHO IS A FREQUENT READER WILL READ AROUND THIS MANY BOOKS PER YEAR.

ANSWER: 44

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1. Looked over
3. Writer of a book
6. Great Plains state
7. Illustration

DOWN

1. Enjoying a book
2. Armed conflict
4. Navigation tool
5. Make or show a connection to

Answers: Across 1. Reviewed 3. Author 6. Nebraska 7. Picture Down 1. Reading 2. War 4. Octant 5. Relate

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1922: THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS MANDATORY VACCINATIONS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS.
- 1927: THE HOLLAND TUNNEL OPENS TO TRAFFIC AS THE FIRST HUDSON RIVER VEHICLE TUNNEL LINKING NEW JERSEY TO NEW YORK CITY.
- 2012: A TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE AFFECTS PARTS OF AUSTRALIA.



YOUTH

the period between childhood and adulthood

How they SAY that in...

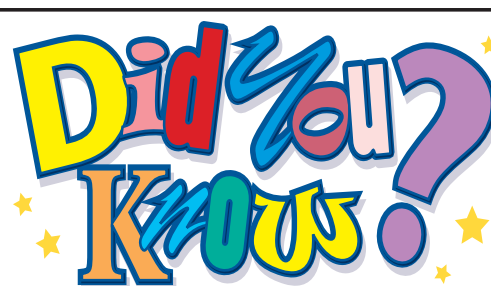
ENGLISH: Illustration

SPANISH: Dibujo

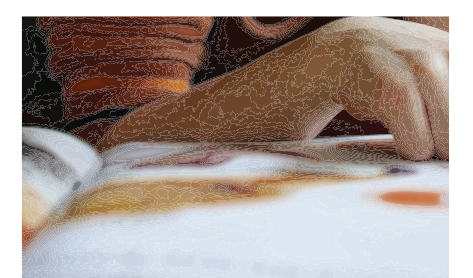
ITALIAN: Illustrazione

FRENCH: Illustration

GERMAN: Abbildung



READING HELPS TO STRENGTHEN THE BRAIN, EXPAND VOCABULARY AND IMPROVE LITERACY.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: CHILD READING A BOOK

TURKEY DAY WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- APPLE PIE
- BISCUITS
- BRINE
- CASSEROLE
- CIDER
- CORNBREAD
- CORNUCOPIA
- DINNER
- ENTERTAIN
- FAMILY
- FRIENDS
- FULL
- GRACIOUS
- GRATITUDE
- GRAVY
- GREEN BEANS
- HOLIDAY
- MEAL
- OVEN
- SOUP
- STUFFING
- THANKSGIVING
- TURKEY
- YAMS

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

CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. Beats per minute
4. Hindu deity
10. Polynesian garland of flowers
11. Not chained to
12. Metric ton
14. Tall, rounded vase
15. Musical composition
16. St. Francis of ___
18. Discover the location of
22. Compact group of mountains
23. Mend
24. Not current
26. Atomic #64
27. Young hawk
28. Or ___
30. Pouches
31. Southern Thailand isthmus
34. Mends with yarn
36. Downwinds
37. One of two equal parts of a divisible whole
39. Italian archaeological site

40. Cold appetizer
41. Yes
42. Peninsula
48. Of that
50. A way to divide
51. Relating to the physical senses
52. One who makes money
53. ___ Spumante (Italian wine)
54. Inconvenience (abbr.)
55. South Dakota
56. Snow sport
58. The products of human creativity
59. Change mind
60. Born of

CLUES DOWN

1. Similar to the color of a clear unclouded sky
2. Former name of Iran
3. Made smaller
4. Type of meter
5. Revolt
6. Killed with rocks

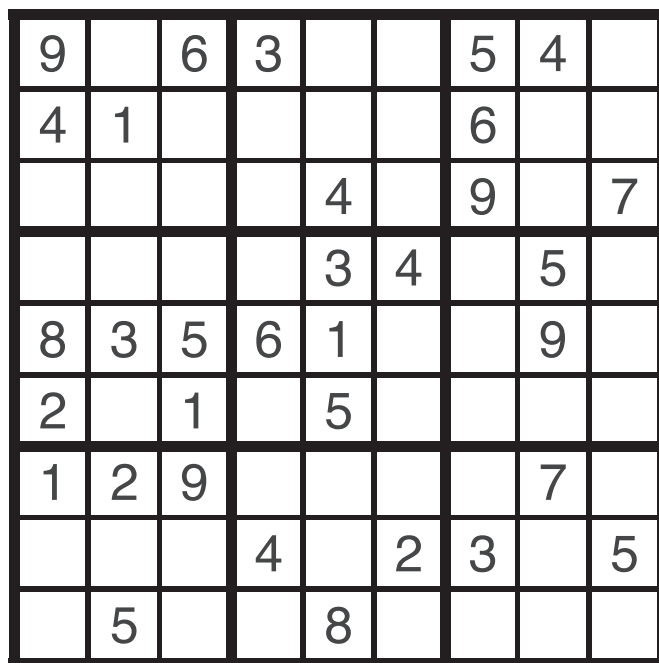
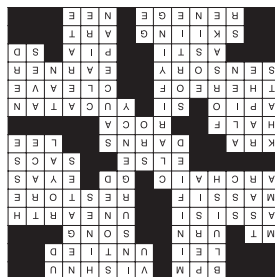
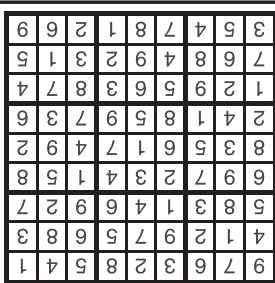
7. Gregory ___, US dancer
8. Nullifies
9. Home to the Flyers
12. Female parent
13. Pre-1917 Russian emperor
17. Outsourcing (abbr.)
19. Regal
20. Line
21. Hermann ___, author of "Siddhartha"
25. Clearing up
29. No seats available
31. Leaves of an Arabian shrub
32. Groove in organ or tissue
33. Not of this world
35. Cooking device
38. Forget
41. Operational flight
43. Actress Danes
44. Poke holes in
45. A way to discolor
46. Shouts of welcome or farewell
47. Pharrell's group
49. Red fluorescent dye
56. Jr.'s dad
57. Electronics firm

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to veganism.

A E N B S

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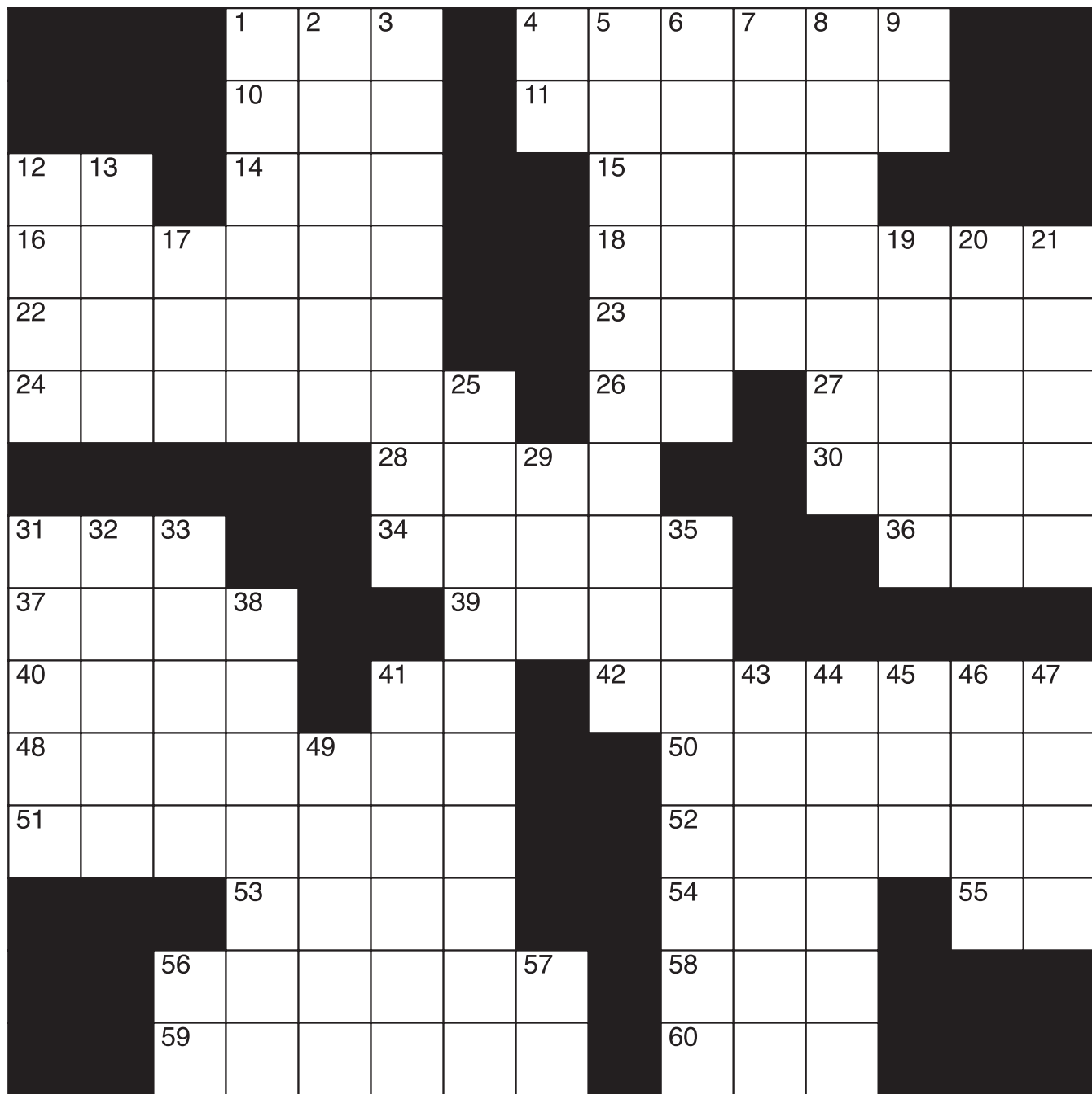
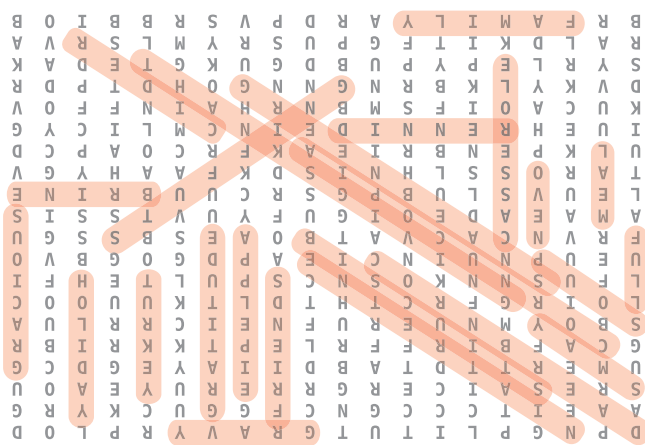


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Guess Who?

I am an actor born in Canada on November 12, 1980. I was a "Mickey Mouse Club" child actor and I also performed in an Elvis Presley tribute band as a kid. My most recent film has me playing a popular doll with blonde hair.

Answer: Ryan Gosling



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- Anuj Patel
 WHS class of '23



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Jace Estes signs FSU baseball scholarship

By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**
 Editor

Jace Estes, star baseball player for the Wakulla Christian School Saints, signed a baseball scholarship last week with Florida State University.

While several Wakulla baseball players have gotten scholarships to two-year junior colleges and transferred to play for FSU, Estes is the first to sign to go directly to FSU.

At a scholarship signing ceremony at the school on Thursday, Nov. 2, Wakulla Christian Coach Buddy Montague (SP?) credited the scholarship offer to Estes' "accumulation of many years of hard work and prayer."

He noted Estes excelled not only athletically, but academically as well.

"He works hard on the field, off the field, and in the classroom," Montague



Jace Estes signs his scholarship at a ceremony at Wakulla Christian on Thursday, Nov. 2

said.

Montague has coached Estes since he was at Riversprings Middle School, and the coach said he recognized Estes' special baseball talent 5 minutes after seeing him.

For the Saints, Estes played his freshman as shortstop and had no errors.

Last year, as a junior, Estes hit .458 and – as a pitcher – threw a fastball in excess of 90 mph.

Estes helped lead the Saints to their first-ever championship last year.

"Just remember," Coach Montague told Estes, his voice throbbing with emotion, "coach loves you... and if there's anything I can ever do for you..."

Wakulla War Eagle wrestling preview

By **WALT JACOBS**

Long before a plant reaches maturity and subsequently bears fruit, a seed must first be planted. Beneath the soil, hidden from view, a private process begins in solitude. It is a cycle that begins with breaking and ends in fruitfulness. While you may be able to count the number of seeds in a particular fruit, it is impossible to know how much fruit is in a seed. For the War Eagle wrestling team, there is reason for optimism, but only time will tell how fruitful this current crop of combatants will be.

Coach Will Pafford will begin this season with an abundance of wrestlers. Among them, 11 are returners from last year's starting lineup and 5 of those qualified for the FHSAA State

Tournament in 2023.

Last season, for the first time in Coach Pafford's career, the War Eagles did not win the District Championship. One could be tempted to say that the War Eagles were in a rebuilding year, but 8 wrestlers qualified for State last year. Only the 2013, 2019, and 2020 teams have qualified more wrestlers for state. With the re-emergence of Suwannee High as a state power, winning District 2 has not been nor will be an easy task, but it is one that many feel is well within the War Eagles' grasp.

Currently in Kabra's State Dual Team rankings, Suwannee is 5th, followed by Florida High at 6th and Wakulla at 11th. The War Eagles will begin their 2023-24 campaign at Wewahitchka High School as

the Gators host the season opening Jamboree on Friday, Nov. 17th.

Returning Starters from 2022-23:

- Anthony Fondo - Junior; Weight Class: 113 lbs; 2022-23 Record: 34-16; 2nd at Districts, 3rd at Regionals, DNP at State
- Troy Thaxton - Sophomore; 120 lbs; 2022-23 Record: 35-22; 3rd at Districts, DNP at Regionals

- David Culley - Senior; 126 lbs; 2022-23 Record: 30-16; 3rd at Districts, 2nd at Regionals, DNP at State
- Brady Jackson - Sophomore; 138 lbs; 2022-23 Record: 44-13, 1st at Districts, 3rd at Regionals, DNP at State
- Nate Jacobs - Junior; 152 lbs; 2022-23 Record: 44-17; 3rd at Districts, 2nd at Regionals, DNP at State

Led the team with 29

pins for the year

- Wyatt Brown - Sophomore; 170 lbs; 2022-23 Record: 19-25; 3rd at Districts, DNP at Regionals
- Blake Barodte - Sophomore; 182 lbs; 2022-23 Record: 16-26; 4th at Districts, DNP at Regionals
- Noah Vernon - Sophomore; 195 lbs; 2022-23 Record: 8-12; 3rd at Districts, DNP at Regionals
- Kohl Pippin - Senior; 220 lbs; 2022-23 Record: 33-11; 2nd at Districts, 2nd at Regionals, 8th at State
- Adleigh Caquimbo - Senior; 285 lbs; 2022-23 Record: 13-6; 1st at Districts, DNP at Regionals

Beyond the returning starters, Wakulla has an abundance of wrestlers, some of which have loads of experi-

ence and are looking to make an impact this season.

- Aiden Alvarez
- Trent Burnsed
- Addison Carter
- Bo deMontmollin

(FR)

- Jonah Hicks (FR)
- Bricyn Kennedy (SR)
- Cole Manning (FR)
- Matthew Thaxton

(FR)

- Austin Hill (SO)
- Brady Wilson (SR)
- Hayden Wilson (FR)
- Zachari Waldrop
- Trent Wells
- Connar Paarlberg

(FR)

- Aaron Robinson (SO)
- Keiland Carraway

(JR)

- Auston Ryals (JR)
- Lane Cole (JR)
- Nathan Sewell (JR)
- Gavin Mitchell (SO)
- Hayden Fringer (SR)
- Alex Akins (SO)
- Sultan Ellington (JR)
- Nathan Braverman

(SR)

- Aaron Caquimbo (SR)
- Kane Watford (FR)
- Caleb Thompson
- Kyle Manzi
- Clayton Manzi
- Gavin Mullins
- Reice Carraway

Coaching Staff: Will Pafford, Jon Sanchez, Nate Litowsky, Benny Litowsky, and Larry Reeves

Additionally, the Girls Wrestling team will be led by Coach Greg Bettis. The sole returner from the girls team is Senior Austin Brown, who placed 2nd in the District last season.

The Lady War Eagles roster will be bolstered by the addition of Julia Baggett, Bella Vernon, Savannah Nowak, Ruby Scott, Chloe Doskocil, Caitlyn Hall, and Hannah Hall.



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Second round of playoffs:

Friday, Nov. 17 at 7 p.m.

Wakulla War Eagles host the Florida High Seminoles at J.D. Jones Stadium.



Wakulla wallops Gadsden, 46-14

Second round of the playoffs will have the Florida High Seminoles come to town for an expected ‘war’

By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**
Editor

how they play against Wakulla’s receivers.

The Wakulla War Eagles got through the first round of the playoffs with a big win over the Gadsden Jaguars, 46-14.

“There is going to be so much on the field Friday night,” Klees said.

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Wakulla Head Coach Scott Klees said Gadsden was probably the biggest, most athletic team Wakulla has faced this year. The difference, Klees said, was depth. While Gadsden kept it close in the first half – it was 17-14 at halftime – Wakulla blew the game open in the second half.

Samron Brinson was named MVP for Player of the Week: he had two tackles on defense, and on offense he had six catches for 149 yards and three touchdowns.

Offensive Player of the Week was quarterback Haden Klees, who completed 17 of 26 passes for 298 yards and 5 touchdowns.

This week, the War Eagles will face a very good Florida High Seminoles team at home at J.D. Jones Stadium.

Defensive Player of the Week was Tanner Lanier, who had a blocked punt, caused a fumble, and had 11 tackles and a sack.

“In my opinion, I think these are the top 2 teams,” Klees said of the Wakulla-Florida High matchup. “I think the winner of this game will have a good chance to advance in the playoffs.”

The Special Teams Player of the Week was kicker Luis Quintonilla, who had a 32-yard field goal, had great kickoffs all night, and was perfect on extra points.

The War Eagles are the No. 2 seed in the region behind Walton County, which plays No. 4 seed Pensacola Catholic this week. Florida High is the No. 3 seed.


INJURY REPORT

Klees’ scouting report on Florida High is that they’re big, and they have a good running back.

Klees is hoping to have receiver Del Zanders back for the game against Florida High. “We need him,” he said.


“They’re good where we’re good,” Klees said. The Seminoles defensive backs are good, and it will be interesting to see

Last week marked the return of Bradley Kelly to the lineup. The running back got some game time in playing outside linebacker in passing situations to rush the quarterback.



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War Eagle receiver Samron Brinson snags a pass. He had three touchdown catches in the game.

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COACH Scott Klees

FROM THE COACH

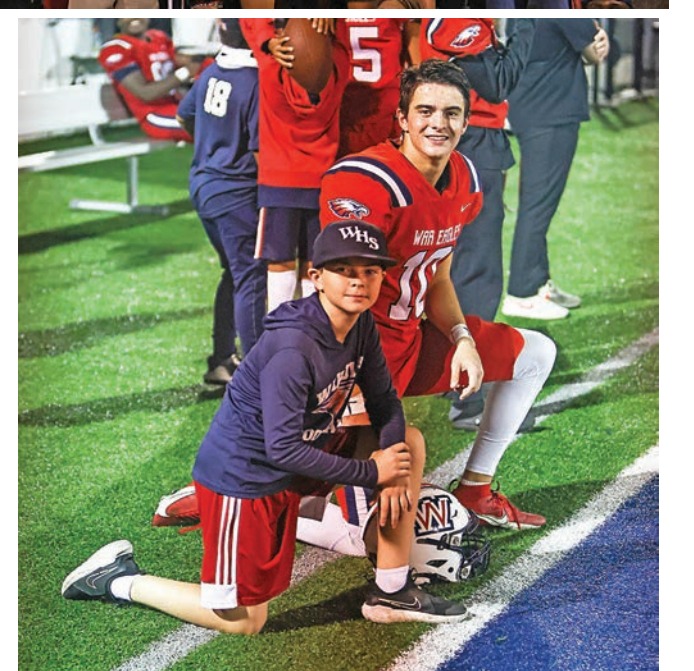
Last week: Big first round playoff win against Gadsden, “a tremendous team.”

Scouting report: Florida High is big and very talented, with some Division 1 commits. “They’re good where we’re good.”

Keys to victory: No turnovers – that’s the most important one. And to be the most physical team. If there’s no turnovers and you’re the most physical – that’s the key to winning.



The student section showing their spirit at the game, above, and quarterback Haden Klees, right, with little brother Brody late in the fourth quarter.




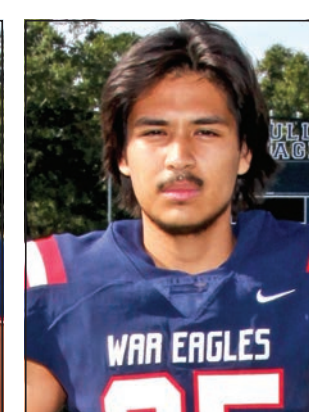




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