

War Eagles fall to Florida High in the playoffs
See Page 14

Wrestling Coach Will Pafford says it's his last year
See Page 13

The Wakulla Sun



Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Cloudy	AM Showers	Mostly Sunny
Hi: 63° Lo: 48° 46%	Hi: 64° Lo: 49° 38%	Hi: 70° Lo: 48° 12%
Sunrise 7:09 AM Sunset 5:38 PM	Sunrise 7:10 AM Sunset 5:37 PM	Sunrise 7:10 AM Sunset 5:37 PM

"It's a New Day"

Locally Owned & Operated

Our 2nd Year 47th Issue
Wednesday, November 22, 2023



\$1
One Section

Former deputy likely facing child porn charges

Arrested for sexual battery on a child, investigation indicates he was allegedly going to the dark web to access child porn

By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**
Editor

It appears former Wakulla deputy Kenneth Malphurs may be the subject of ongoing investigation dealing with him accessing child porn on the dark web. That conclusion is based on The Wakulla Sun going through the criminal investigation file on Malphurs current charges of lewd and lascivious sexual assault on a child younger than 12.

Malphurs was arrested on the lewd and lascivious charge a month ago and has been held without bond. (He is housed in the Franklin

County Jail because of his connection to the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office.) Malphurs was a former School Resource Officer and was transferred to corrections when the sexual assault investigation was opened. He was suspended by the sheriff's office when the case was being investigated and later fired by the sheriff's office after his arrest.

The Sun obtained the criminal investigation file through a public records request. The information is heavily redacted to protect the victim in the case.

But reading through the documents it be-



Kenneth Malphurs

comes apparent that detectives in the Criminal Investigation Division used a company called CyberCheck to back-track and "carve out" where Malphurs went on the internet and the

so-called "dark web."

In its report in March 2022, CyberCheck said there were "19 folders displaying dark web content carved from Kenneth Malphurs' online activity... The folder contained extreme images/video content including but not limited to child pornography, body mutilation, bestiality, murder, rape, torture, bondage, fetish, (and) various rope tying techniques."

There were 159 child porn images, according to the report. The estimated age of the children in the images is as young as 3.

The report also in-

dicated that Malphurs was accessing such data from the his home, the sheriff's office, adjacent to the sheriff's office annex, and at Wakulla Middle School when he was a school resource officer.

A rating of the severity of the child porn images ranked Malphurs' as High, based on sadistic/bestiality pictures showing a child being tied, bound, beaten, whipped or otherwise subject to something that implies pain."

It would appear that the child porn information is included in the criminal investigation on the sexual assault of the

child as it bolsters the case of his deviant sexual interest in children.

Images also accessed by Malphurs, according to the report, included videos of dogs being tortured.

The sheriff's office does not comment on ongoing investigations.

But Detective Ashley Hudson in testimony in open court at a bail hearing for Malphurs testified that there is another open investigation involving Malphurs.

Malphurs is being held without bond. Because of his connection to Wakulla law enforcement, he is in the Franklin County Jail.

New boats at Wakulla Springs



The Friends of Wakulla Springs, next to the Great Blue Heron, a hybrid boat and the newest addition to the fleet of tour boats at Wakulla Springs. Through the Florida State Parks Foundation, Wakulla Springs is replacing its tour boats with newer models, which had an official inaugural launch last Friday. (Photo by Legion Taylor)

CITY OF SOPCHOPPY

City reverses itself on radio tower for first responders

Vote of 4-1 to allow new radio tower for county communication system in residential area

By **LEGION TAYLOR**
Reporter

The Sopchoppy City Commission voted 4-1 last week to approve the construction of a 300-foot emergency communications tower at last week's meeting, after studies showed that the location at the corner of Park and Gulf streets is the only viable location.

At the meeting on Monday, Nov. 13, City Commissioner Fred McClendon voted against it, stating he felt he had a responsibility to represent the interest of the people who live near that location, and that they did not want the tower there.

The change of heart for other city commissioners came after many first responders, including EMTs and law enforcement officers, came to the meeting to stress the need for a new communications tower.

"I want everyone to understand that this system is broken," said Lt. Jeffrey Yarbrough, who serves as the Public Information Officer at the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office. Yarbrough gave examples of times where radio system failed to go through because of the poor coverage of the current system. He added that the tower needed to be constructed as soon as possible so that the safety of citizens and first responders alike isn't jeopardized.

Wakulla County Planning Director Somer Pell brought an analysis of the original site, as well as other potential sites, such as behind the old Mom's Restaurant near the center of town, but these sites all required expensive or time-consuming improvements before construction.

Mayor Lara Edwards, and city commissioners Michelle Harden, Roger McKenzie and Glenn Rudd

Turn to Page 9

GROUND BREAKING:
Wakulla County held a groundbreaking on the new radio communication system at the sheriff's office on Thursday. See Photos on Page 5

Food truck owner, fiancée charged with shoplifting

By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**
Editor

The owner of a popular Tallahassee food truck and his fiancée were recently arrested and charged with numerous counts of shoplifting for stealing supplies from the Crawfordville Walmart.

Dondrick Eaves and Quanesia Arnold of Big D BBQ in Tallahassee both face misdemeanor charges of theft for repeatedly going to Walmart and not scanning all the items in their shopping cart during numerous visits over several months.

According to the arrest warrants, the store's asset protection team called the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office to report that surveillance video showed the couple approach the



Quanesia Arnold

self-checkout and scan some, but not all items. Arnold used a credit card for the food truck to pay for some items, which led to her identification.

On Oct. 11, the couple allegedly did not scan bulk corn, whole chicken, charcoal, tartar sauce, buns and other items totaling \$129.78.

On Oct. 6, Eaves allegedly went into the store and picked up



Dondrick Eaves

items, but failed to scan and pay for rib-eye steaks and other grocery items valued at \$85.16.

There are numerous warrants for Eaves and Arnold for each visit to the store when it's alleged they stole items - a total of 19 arrest warrants.

According to the reports, on Oct. 12, a deputy at the store recognized Eaves as matching the descrip-

tion of the suspect in the thefts and deputies approaches Eaves as he left the store. The deputies told him they were working a string of retail thefts over the past several months.

Eaves reportedly made a spontaneous utterance of "I f****d up, you already know I did those."

Later, it was confirmed Eaves had unpaid merchandise in his shopping cart when deputies stopped him.

He was arrested and transported to the sheriff's office annex for interview. Photos from recent thefts were shown to him and he reportedly identified them as photos of himself. He allegedly admitted to the thefts and offered to pay for the stolen items.

He was then taken
Turn to Page 13

Correction

In a front page story in last week's issue, "City commission votes to remove Sheddan as mayor," referred to an allegation made at the city commission meeting that Paul Sheddan had tried to use his mayoral power to get a reserved parking space at the Bo Lynn's grocery store in St. Marks.

The owner of the store said that such a confrontation never happened. We regret the error.

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CCC1332583

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



Lisa Craze, CFC
Wakulla County Tax Collector

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



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




Student of the Week

Zoey Foskey – 2nd grader at Medart Elementary

Principal: Stan Ward

Achievements/Reason for Nomination: Zoey is a model student who exceeds all expectations. She is kind, a great listener, follows all school rules and helps others do the same. We are so thankful she's a Mustang!




STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.

Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park

Variableleaf & Narrowleaf Sunflowers

By LYNN ARTZ and SANDY TEDDER



Florida is home to over 20 native species of sunflower. Variableleaf sunflower (*Helianthus heterophyllus*) is still displaying its large yellow flowers along the south side of the pond at Sopchoppy Depot Park. Also called wetland sunflower, this long-lived perennial has few leaves on its stem and grows to 4' tall. It is found in the Florida panhandle and elsewhere in the southeast. The more common narrowleaf sunflower (*Helianthus angustifolius*) occurs throughout Florida and much of the southeastern U.S. in moist to wet areas. Also called swamp sunflower, this native grows 4-6' tall. If you've seen yellow, daisy-like blooms in the roadside swales of Wakulla County this fall, you've likely seen narrowleaf sunflowers. This species recently finished blooming at Sopchoppy Depot Park.

This is a repeat of a Flower of the Week column from November 2022.



SCAN ME for an electronic edition of this



Christmas for the Critters

Saturday, December 2, 2023
10 AM - 2 PM
in Hudson Park



Hosted by: Florida Wild Mammal Association

Craft vendors, Raffle items.
Decorate your own tree or buy one decorated.
Lots of decorations and fun for the whole family.

Don't miss out on our drawing! Tickets are ONLY \$5 each (suggested donation)



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Charter Review holds first of two public hearings

By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**
Editor

Three members of the public were at the Wakulla County Charter Review Commission's Public Hearing on Tuesday, Nov. 14, to express their support for a proposed amendment to protect native trees in new development.

That amendment is one of five proposals – the others deal with impact fees, panhandling on road rights-of-way, how often the charter should be reviewed, and reducing the density of RV parks.

The Charter Review Committee is set to hold a second public hearing on Tuesday, Nov. 28 at the community at 6 p.m. They will then hold a final meeting on Dec. 5 to review the proposals before submitting their work to the county commission. Whatever proposals are submitted to the county commission will be put on the November 2024 ballot

for voters to vote up or down on.

The five amendments and the current language, which is still being tweaked:

A. Shall the Charter of Wakulla County be amended to require the Board of County Commissioners to commission an independent review, by a professional consulting firm skilled in the area of impact fee studies, every 5 years. The purpose of this study is to determine if impact fees are warranted within Wakulla County and where impact fee funds should be allotted if impact fees are initiated through ordinance.

B. Shall the Charter of Wakulla County be amended to require all new development to preserve live oak trees, longleaf pines, hickories, maples, beech, cedars, magnolias, bald cypress, and southern red oak trees, measuring 12 inches in diameter at breast height in size, unless these trees are

located within the development footprint and no other reasonable configuration is possible.

C. Shall the Charter of Wakulla County be amended to require the Board of County Commissioners to adopt a public safety ordinance, with approved exemptions and designated penalties for violating such ordinance which specifically addresses interactions between citizens and motorists at medians, public right of ways, crosswalks, sidewalks, arterial roads, and other applicable public space.

D. Shall the Charter of Wakulla County be amended to require the Charter Review Commission to be appointed at a minimum of every six years.

E. Shall the Charter of Wakulla County be amended to require all new proposed RV parks be limited to a maximum density of 5 RV spaces per acre.

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



NOTICE OF PROPOSED TAX INCREASE

THE PREVIOUS NOTICE PLACED BY THE CITY OF ST.M ARKS HAS BEEN DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE TO BE IN VIOLATION OF THE LAW, N ECESSITATING THIS SECOND NOTICE.

The City of St.M ark h s tentatiø ly adopted a measure to increase its property tax ey .

Last y ar's property tax ey

A. Initially proposed tax ey . \$

B. Less tax eductions due to Value Adjustment Board and oth r assessment ch anges . \$

C. Actual property tax ey . \$

This y ar's proposed tax ey\$741

All concerned citizens are inv ted to attend a pub ic h aring on th tax i ncrease to b h ld on

Nov mb r 28
5 P M
at
P ort Leon Drie
St.M ark FL 3

A FINAL DECISION on th proposed tax increase and th b dge t will b made at th s h aring.

Nov. 22, 2023



The Wakulla Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting for the SOAR Store on the Wakulla High School campus back in October. (Photo by Lynda Kinsey)

SOAR Store opens at Wakulla High School

The store offers rewards for students positive behavior

By **LEGION TAYLOR**
Reporter

In order to combat the growing behavior problems in the school system, Wakulla High Librarian and Teacher Victoria Pope has created the "SOAR" program, which is designed to incentivize positive behavior in students in and out of school.

Pope said she wanted to "Develop something really positive for students," and that the program is her way of doing that.

SOAR is an acronym for "Successful, Optimistic, Accountable, and Respectful" – representing behaviors the program is meant to encourage.

Students are awarded "points" through the program, which they gain for being consistently on time to class, completing work on time, and avoiding disciplinary referrals. These points can then be redeemed at "The Nest" – the school's store – for things like snacks, gift cards, and other prizes. Students who consistently adhere to these

behaviors will also be given passes to get into some sporting events for free, though not football games.

"It is a way for you guys (students) to reinvest back in the school," said Pope, adding that and she hopes SOAR will serve to give everyone "good morale and boost the confidence in themselves and the school."

The program is still very new, and is certain to change as meetings are held monthly to discuss possible changes or improvements to the program.

Over time, it could become a core feature of Wakulla High's behavior management, if it lives up to the expectations of its creators.

The high school is also looking for donations to stock the store with items that students may be excited about. Pope asks that anyone interested make donations from the Amazon wish list or the donors choose site, stating, "No donation is too small! Our students and staff appreciate your support!"

BUDGET SUMMARY

City of St. Marks - Fiscal Year 2023-2024

THE PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ST. MARKS ARE 8% MORE THAN LAST YEAR'S TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES.

	GENERAL FUND	UTILITY FUND	TOTAL ALL FUNDS
Millage Rate Per \$1,000	6.0000		
ESTIMATED REVENUES:			
Taxes:			
Ad Valorem Tax	200,000	-	200,000
Franchise Fees	38,000	-	38,000
Utility Tax	47,000	-	47,000
Communications Service Tax	10,500	-	10,500
Licenses & Permits	1,600	-	1,600
Intergovernmental Revenue	42,350	-	42,350
Charges for Services	38,550	374,000	412,550
Interest income	-	1,000	1,000
Grant Revenue	50,000	-	50,000
TOTAL REVENUES	428,000	375,000	803,000
Carried Forward Balances	221,187	2,813,770	3,034,957
TOTAL REVENUES AND BALANCES	649,187	3,188,770	3,837,957
EXPENDITURES:			
General Government Services	350,500	-	350,500
Physical Environment	-	-	-
Transportation	-	-	-
Culture/Recreation	59,500	-	59,500
Other Nonoperating	3,000	-	3,000
Water/Sewer/Garbage Expenditures	-	391,000	391,000
Grant Expenditures	50,000	202,969	252,969
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	463,000	593,969	1,056,969
Fund Balances/Reserves/Net Assets	186,187	2,594,801	2,780,988
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND BALANCES	649,187	3,188,770	3,837,957

The tentative, adopted and/or final budgets are on file in the office of the above mentioned taxing authority as a public record.

Your local source for news.



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.”

Abortion will hurt the GOP next year

By **BILL COTTERELL**
City and State

Whenever the Democrats suffered one of their humiliating routs at the polls, the late U.S. Sen. Ernest Hollings of South Carolina would sometimes try to teach his party that “there is no education in the second kick of a mule.”

Well, OK then, how about the seventh kick?

How many whacks should it take for politicians to start strategically compromising even deeply held beliefs? It’s been a long time since Henry Clay blew his chance in 1840 by declaring, “I’d rather be right than president,” and got his wish. The operating principle of political campaigns today is more like the famous dictum of NFL coach Al Davis: “Just win, baby.”

Hollings tried to talk sense to the Democrats following such electoral debacles as the 1972 George McGovern campaign or Walter Mondale’s 1984 wipeout, but they pretty much persisted in waging the next race with the policies that lost them the last one. It was as if, in those days, they’d rather feel good about losing than do what it took to win.

But now, it’s the Democrats who just had a surprisingly good off-year election. And the Republicans seem intent on clinging stubbornly to a moral issue that voters have said, again and again, they favor the Democratic position on.

That issue is abortion. Never mind how you feel about the morality of ending a pregnancy or the legal wisdom of the U.S. Supreme Court, pro choice wins and right to life loses.

The high court ruling that last year turned abortion back to the states was a gift to Democrats. In fact, it’s about the only thing they’ve got going for them in 2024. And from the White House to state legislatures, Republican leaders have done all they can to dig in their heels on the wrong side.

Since the high court’s reversal, Florida and several other states have severely restricted abortion access. Gov. Ron DeSantis and Florida legislators – the Republicans in charge – opted to restrict that choice to the first six weeks of gestation, but a legal challenge is holding up the law.

There’s also a public-initiative petition campaign which, if it gets on the ballot next year, would amend our Constitution to enshrine abortion rights.

That’s what Ohio did last week, outvoting Republican efforts to thwart the public will. First, anti-abortion forces tried to raise the

bar for passing any constitutional amendment to 60% of public turnout. Ohioans rejected that, then approved the pro-choice constitutional amendment by a wide margin.

What was specially significant about the latter vote is that Ohio became the seventh state in which voters have rejected severe abortion restrictions. Yeah, but how often has the “pro-life” side won a statewide referendum? Never.

If a football team was 0-7 at this time of the season, the coaches would be thinking of making big changes – like finding new jobs.

Republicans, though, are stuck with what they’ve advocated for more than a half century. And there are some more abortion bills coming up in a few more states in 2024.

In addition to the rout in Ohio, the GOP lost both chambers of the legislature to the Democrats in Virginia, where Gov. Glenn Youngkin had promised new abortion limits if voters gave his party solid control. Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear, a Democrat, was re-elected over Republican Attorney General Daniel Cameron, who adhered to the GOP hard line on abortion.

The trend was a late question for Republican presidential contenders in their Miami debate.

DeSantis said anti-abortion forces “have been caught flat-footed on these referenda” around the country. Nikki Haley and U.S. Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina proclaimed themselves “pro-life,” but Haley said a nationwide ban is not possible because neither party will have 60 votes in the Senate, while Scott (who has since dropped out) said he’d like to draw the line at 15 weeks’ gestation.

Vivek Ramaswamy said Republicans should have had an alternative to offer voters when the pro-choice forces put their proposal on the ballot. Former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie said he likes leaving the decision to the states, because “I trust the people of this country.”

Abortion won’t decide the presidency or control of Congress next year. The economy, foreign wars, crime, immigration and inflation will. But it’s an important issue, especially for female voters and younger people, and the Republicans need to start learning before that mule kicks them again.

Bill Cotterell is a retired Capitol reporter for United Press International and the Tallahassee Democrat. He can be reached at bcotterell@cityandstatefl.com.

LETTERS FROM READERS

Wakulla Community Theater thanks supporters

Editor, The Sun:

Now that the dust has settled, The Wakulla Community Theater would like to shout out a very big “thank you” to a lot of different people and organizations for helping to make our relaunch such a success! Without the following, “GREASE!” would have not been the awesome show it was:

Jennifer Anderson, Nancy Barlow, Ashlee Barton (Nekkid Eye Photography), Judy Brown, Capital City Bank, Classic Customs, Alicia Crum, Rena Crum, Dave and Jennie Earle, Suzanne Edwards, Jean Dykes Family, Mallory Finuff, Becky Gast, Amy Geiger, Gulf Coast Lumber, Katy Hart, Della Hattery, Louis and Theresa Hernandez, Roberta Howell, Linda Sharon Hunter, Cindy Jones, Sarabeth Jones, Sharon Kerce, McIver Flooring, Jordan Miller, Mike Mock, Krissy Sanchez and the Wakulla High Theater, TCC Theater, Lamar Advertising, Linda Turner, Amelia Marcelja, Leisha McLaughlin, Elena Myhre, Kayden Parker, Kyla Parker, Sutton Parker, Lance Pigott, Pineapple AC2, Rock-ulla, Lynn Sapp, Mike Sherlock, Emily Strickland and the Wakul-

la High Art Club, Wakulla County School Board, Wakulla Middle School Theater, Wakulla News, Wakulla Springs, The Wakulla Sun, Jane Sutton, Billy and JoAnne Taylor, The Ark, The Millhouse, Janice Tomaini, and Connie Worrill.

Behind the scenes, we couldn’t have done it without, Laura Hudson, Taylor Whittle, Zoe Lanier, Tate Reynolds, Roberta Howell and Carol Wood. They spent many hours before and during the show working with our cast and making sure things went smoothly and professionally.

Thank you to our patrons – without your financial support – we could not have gotten the show “off the ground.”

And finally, thank you to all of you who came, sang along, laughed and cheered as the “Greasers” took us to an “Electrifyin’!” show!

Thank you for believing in us! We’re Back!!

**Nancy Commander
Lynne Rossow
Scott Rossow
Mina Sutton
Mary Katherine Westmark**

Something on your mind?

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

On the Horizon

Calendar of events for the week of Nov. 23

Thursday, November 23

• HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Friday, November 24

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

Saturday, November 25

• The Apalachee bay Coastal Christmas market will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 1448 Shell Point Road
• The St. Marks Community Market will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in St. Marks at 815 Port Leon Drive.
• The Wakulla Caregiver Support Group will meet at the Public Library at 10 a.m.
• Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

Monday, November 27

• The City of St. Marks is holding a special meeting on this year’s budget, which will be at 5:05 p.m. at the St. Marks City Hall.
• The Sopchoppy Lions Club meets at the Historic Sopchoppy School at 6:30 p.m.
• The Wakulla Respite Program is available weekly for anyone with memory impairment at no cost from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lake Ellen Baptist Church.
• Yoga with Nellie, Restorative yoga at 9:30

a.m. and 6 p.m. Classes are \$12, packages available at New Posh on 3079 Crawfordville Hwy. RSVP to newposh3079@gmail.com or text/call at (850) 528-5838.

• Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

Tuesday, November 28

• The Wakulla County Charter Review Commission is holding a public meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Wakulla 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 29

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

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

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

We would very much appreciate your contribution.

William Snowden
Editor & Publisher
The Wakulla Sun

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

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

“It’s A New Day!”

The Wakulla Sun



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



◀ Question of The Week ▶

– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

Polled at the Sopchoppy Outer & Mullet Festival :

What is your favorite pie for Thanksgiving??



MILLISSIA HARRELL
Sopchoppy Thrift Store

“ Lemon Meringue pie. Happy Thanksgiving everyone!”



LOUISE THIMAS
Retired

“Pecan, I have a thing for nuts.”



TRICIA COLLINS
Unoccupied

“I don’t like pie, I look forward to the turkey and cornbread dressing.”



LISA VINCE
Sopchoppy Homemakers

“I’m a coconut Custard pie kinda girl.”



EARNEST PRICE
Retired Georgia Pacific

“Sweet Potato pie. I make it myself, it was my mom’s recipe.”

Sheriff’s Report

This report is for activity Nov. 10-16:

SATURDAY, NOV. 11

FRIDAY, NOV. 10

• Jimmy Smith reported finding his bull shot in the head. Smith advised the bull was a registered Angus bull valued at \$10,000. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Norman De Guzman investigated.

• Jonathan Loyd reported his Yeti cooler being stolen off his front porch. Loyd stated his ring camera woke him; he was able to observe several juveniles take the cooler. After getting dressed Loyd exited his residence, locating the juveniles a short time later. Loyd was able to retrieve the cooler. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Norman De Guzman investigated.

• Jamie Koenig reported her residence had been broken into. Various personal items were reported as stolen. A possible suspect has been identified in this case. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Don Newsome investigated.

• David Fegreus reported an abandoned four-wheeler on the side of Casora Drive. The four-wheeler was found with the battery missing, the ignition switch removed and the VIN number scratched off. The four-wheeler was seized as all indicates it may be stolen but not yet to be reported. Deputy Matt Hinson investigated.

TUESDAY, NOV. 14

• Stephen Harper reported finding a bicycle in the ditch by his property. The bicycle was collected and placed

into property and evidence for safe keeping. Lt Gibby Gibson responded.

• Nancy Gordan reported fraudulent activity against her bank account. Gordan stated that, between Oct. 20 and Nov. 13, there were 50 \$250 unauthorized transactions from her bank account. Gordan’s bank has been notified of the issue. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Wade Wright investigated.

• Dustin Pennington reported a burglary to his boat. Taken were several miscellaneous items. Damage was also done to the boat. A possible suspect has been identified in this case. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Anthony Paul investigated.

THURSDAY, NOV. 16

• Frank Alan Neal reported being approached by an unknown subject in a side-by-side while dropping his son off to hunt. The subject wanted to know what Neal was doing in the area

due to recent burglaries in the area. After leaving, Neal flagged the man down and advised he lived in the area and was not a threat to anyone. The subject got upset with Neal and words were exchanged between the two. Deputies arrived and determined the unknown subject to be Robert Walker Crowson, who gave a different account of the incident between the two. This incident was documented for information only. Deputy Don Newsome responded.

• Albert Lee Hartsfield reported Jonathan Thomas O’Neal being on his property after being issued a trespass warning. O’Neal’s trespass warning was activated on July 11 for Hartsfield’s residence. Deputies arrived and O’Neal was still on the property. He was arrested and transported to the Wakulla County Jail Facility without incident. Deputy Matt Hinson investigated.

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



Groundbreaking held

Wakulla County held a groundbreaking on Thursday, Nov. 16 at the sheriff’s office on the new multi-million dollar radio system to aid communication between first responders. Triumph Gulf Coast is giving the county financial support for the system. (Photo by Legion Taylor)



Toy drive at Mack’s

The Less Fortunate Still Matters Foundation held a Stuff the Truck Toy Drive on Saturday, Nov. 18, at Mack’s Meats. There was also a chicken dinner for a donation. Among those participating were Desiree Chapman, Becky Whaley, Casey Kimbrell, Rick Melton, and Christell Wood. (Photo by Linda Ann McDonald)

ONE SHALLOW DIVE CAN WRECK A NECK. PERMANENTLY.

EACH YEAR, HUNDREDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE ARE PARALYZED FROM NECK AND SPINE INJURIES CAUSED BY DIVING HEAD FIRST INTO SHALLOW LAKES AND POOLS. DON’T LET KIDS DIVE IN—UNLESS YOU KNOW WHAT’S BELOW. CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE DIVING SAFETY TIPS. VISIT ORTHINFO.ORG/DIVINGSAFETY

CERVICAL SPINE RESEARCH SOCIETY
csrs.org

AMERICAN SPINAL INJURY ASSOCIATION
asia-spinalinjury.org

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS
orthoinfo.org

Outdoors

outdoor sports

HOME ON THE RANGE

Preparing for your new handgun



By MARJ LAW

“Are you Marj?” asks a woman lining up her buggy next to mine in Publix.

“Yes,” I respond. Since I don’t know her, she’s probably going to ask something about guns.

“Will you help me?” she asks.

“Sure. What do you want to know?”

“You keep writing about ‘doing my homework’ by looking up information on the internet. The problem is, where do I look? Are there any sites that you’ve found that talk honestly about handguns and that identify guns for those of us who are new or fairly new to the sport? I don’t need to hear about some huge man shooting a bear with a super-duper powerful gun. I need something that fits my small hand and bone structure. Something that doesn’t have a lot of recoil. Something easy to load. One with a slide I can rack. One with a trigger I can manage without pulling and pulling. One I can take apart and clean myself. I need to find a site or several sites that will talk honestly about handguns like these.

“Have you tried out any guns? Asked your friends? Do you have some idea of what you might want?”

“I’ve decided to stay with .380 and 9mm handguns because the ammunition is cheaper than the .25 and .32s. I plan to be at the Wakulla County Sheriff’s Office range practicing a lot, so I don’t want the more expensive ammunition.

“Right now, I’m interested in about six semi-automatic guns and would like someone to talk as objectively as possible about them. I’ve been to a couple local shops. I’ve even managed to shoot some of them at a range that rents guns. It’s kind of hard to remember how each shoots, though, when I leave the range. That’s why I’d like to find sites that discuss each gun. Do you know where to start looking?”

Of course, I do have my favorite sites.

“Try The Truth About Guns, Palmetto and Pew Pew for a start. Scooch, Hickock 45 and Honest Outlaw review guns and are on YouTube. You’re off to a great start: asking friends, shooting the guns you think you’ll like, and going to stores. Visiting these sites and places may help you narrow down your search.”

“OK. Once I make my selection, what do I do next? What else do I need? What do you put in this range bag thing you often talk about? And why do you suggest a separate bag for your gun?”

“Since you’ve already priced ammunition, you know you’ll need a lot of that. Let’s talk about what goes in the big range bag.

You can put in lots of things that you personally want, but “eyes” and “ears” are a must. You have to have eye and ear protection.

Find inexpensive ANSI-rated eyeglasses at your local gun, hardware, and department stores. These can be clear or tinted yellow or gray. These glasses will protect your eyes if a hot metal casing flies towards your face. You always want “eyes.”

The other “must” is “ears.” You must have ear protection. Since a lot of the old folks in my family go deaf early, I’m particularly protective of my hearing. Electronic ear muffs are great. They



muffle sudden loud noises like gun shots, but still allow you to hear people talking. Electronic muffs are more expensive than plain muffs, but you’ll have them a long time, so it’s worth the extra cost if you can swing it.

I also use the squish-in-your-ear cushions, along with the electronic muffs. I can still hear talking, but loud noises are greatly reduced. You don’t have to use both kinds, but this is my preference.”

“What are the best targets?” she wants to know.

“Since you’re new to shooting, I’d choose a big 10-inch Shoot-n-See type target.”

“I saw those in a shop, but they seem sort of expensive.”

“They are, and if you’re cutting down costs, you can even use paper plates. Just staple the plate to the backboard and shoot

that. However, I really like Shoot-n-See type targets which are black, but once your bullet hits, a splatter of color shows you exactly where you hit. It’s a great way to see where your shots land so you can either adjust your grip or your sights; whichever is needed.”

“Hmm.” She’s frowning. “Shooting isn’t cheap. Now you’re letting me know I have to have gun, ammunition, hearing and sight protection and targets. Am I going to have to buy anything else?”

“I’d spring for an UpLula. Semi-automatic handguns have magazines. You press each round into the magazine. A spring in the magazine pushes the rounds into the chamber. When you load your magazine, you’re pushing against this spring. As the spring is compressed, it takes more strength to put

in each round. The UpLula makes loading easy.”

“Are we done yet?” She seems overwhelmed.

“Just about. You can probably find these other items in your home.”

“Like what?”

“I’m sure you keep bandages and antibiotic cream. Find a small plastic box and make a mini first aid kit. Some wipes are good, too.”

“Yes, I can do that. What else?”

“A couple microfiber cloths. If you fold one and sew up a long and short side, you can make an eyeglass case so your new glasses won’t get scratched too easily.”

“Okay, but why do you need two of them?”

“Use the second one to wipe off the seating bench or the shooting bench. Or, if it’s really hot and muggy, you can use the other to wipe the sweat off your

forehead or off your slick hands. Microfiber cloths are handy, and you probably have several in your linen closet.”

“Yes, I’ve got a bunch of them. Is there anything else you put in your range bag?”

“Oh, sure. Always put in things that you like to have handy. I keep tissues, chap stick, a nailfile, a comb, a \$5 bill, a screwdriver, and a pen and paper.”

“Good!” she exclaims. “I’ve got those things at the house. When do you usually go to the range?”

Oh, and before I forget, I also wanted to ask: Why do you have a separate bag for your handgun?”

“You need a bag to move the gun to the shooting bench because you don’t bring a naked gun to the range. Guns must be cased or holstered. These smaller bags also allow room for your magazines and any tools you might need.”

Several of us are there at 10 on Wednesdays. You’re welcome to join us. However, during November and December, the (WCSO) range has times it will be closed for holidays, training, and remodeling. Check the range web site or call the range office to be sure they’re open.”

“Thanks!” she smiles. “Now, we’d better move or the ice cream will melt!”

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

BIRDING AT THE REFUGE

Birding biathlon

By DON MORROW

A seriously oversubscribed schedule this month left me with a single day to do two bird surveys: a 6 a.m. duck survey to catch the morning Wood Duck flight, which would be followed at 1 p.m. by a shorebird survey to coincide with an afternoon high tide. A Birding Biathlon was about to begin. It was going to be a long day.

The refuge gate opened at 6 a.m. I picked up Barred Owl and Virginia Rail on my way out to Stony Bayou 2. It was a dark night with a thick low fog layer and no moon. A brisk cold wind was blowing out of the north

There never was a sunrise. The dark gray night slowly morphed into a pale gray morning. Soras began to call at 6:30 a.m. and two female Wood Ducks squealed. There was no morning flight.

Over the years, I have run this survey route almost 200 times and I have a sense of where birds should be. I scanned for stray ducks mixed in with coots or feeding along the edge of the cattails as I drove down the levee. I noticed that small birds were flying north, migrant warblers, probably yellow-rumps, that had overshot the coast in the fog.

When I do a survey, I concentrate on my target group, but I am a birder so I also watch what is around. Birds were flitting in the brush along the levee; Swamp and Savannah Sparrows, House Wrens, and Common Yellowthroats. Scanning the horizon, I saw a



A rat snake with a phoebe it killed.

pair of eagles with their talons locked, cartwheeling through the sky.

Most of the ducks were on Mounds Pool 3 on both the North and South ends. Mostly Blue-winged Teal, but also Northern Pintail, Lesser Scaup, American Wigeon, Red-head, Green-winged Teal, Ruddy Duck, Gadwall, Canvasback, Mallard, Northern Shoveler, Ring-necked Duck, and a single Hooded Merganser. In total I had 589 ducks of fourteen species on the survey. This is a low duck number for November, but this does not always indicate a light winter season. Ducks are weather migrants and are often late if not pushed down by colder weather.

I finished the duck survey just after noon and swung around to rerun my route for the shorebird survey. As I drove down the Double Dikes trying to simultaneously unwrap a sandwich and not drive off the dike, I saw a flash of yellow. I hit the brakes, dropped the sandwich, and managed to get my binoculars on a Western Kingbird as it

flew. The sun finally came out, but only for an hour.

Driving around the far end of Stony Bayou, I saw something on a bare branch. A small gray rat snake was wrapped around an Eastern Phoebe, a migrant that winters at the refuge. The phoebe had a yellowish wash on its belly, indicating a young first-year bird. It was already dead and the snake was trying to eat it. However, this was a small snake that had gotten lucky. It was thin and only about eighteen inches long. It was having trouble with the larger bird.

A bird’s annual migration cycle has always been a dangerous business. Weather events and predation during the round-trip flight or on the wintering grounds in unfamiliar territory take a significant toll. This phoebe may have been raised north of the rat snake’s range and may have had no prior experience with this predator.

To the natural sources of danger, we have added collisions with buildings and towers, feral cats,

and pesticides. It is difficult to estimate total mortality, but in some years, it may approach fifty percent, most of which is human caused.

I found shorebirds on one of the old experimental ponds, on the salt flats and on the back edge of East River Pool, but over 70% of the shorebirds that I found on the refuge were concentrated on Tower Pond. In late morning on a low tide, I had two shorebirds there, an American Avocet and a Semipalmated Plover. Several hours later, at 3 p.m. on a high tide I had over 2,000 birds, mostly Dunlin.

Besides the Dunlin, there were hundreds of Willets, Western Sandpipers and Short-billed Dowitchers. There were smaller numbers of Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpipers, Semipalmated Plovers, Ruddy Turnstones, Marbled Godwits, Black-bellied Plovers, and avocets.

Checking other ponds and salt flats, I finished my shorebird survey by 4:30 p.m. and ended up with 2,879 shorebirds of fourteen species, which is right at the expected median number of shorebirds for a November survey. Sixty percent of the shorebirds were Dunlins.

My Birding Biathlon had taken ten and a half hours, starting in the dark and finishing late on a gloomy Fall afternoon. I logged 89 species for the day.

It was a good day of birding.

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



PINFISH

(*Logodon rhomboides*)

Pinfish have needle-sharp dorsal fins rays. They are the most abundant member of the porgy family living along the south east coasts. They live in habitats from shallow grass flats to deep holes, rocky outcroppings and wharf pillars. They swim in water from shallow intertidal flats to depths of 200ft and in a wide range of temps and salinities. Most active during the daytime, pinfish feed on plants detritus, worms, mollusks and crustaceans. They grow to 10” and are commonly used as bait fish, especially for catching grouper.

Eukarya, Animalia, Cordata, Actinopterygii, Siluriformes, Sparidae

Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratory
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Wakulla Diving Center
WAKULLADIVING.com 850 745-8208
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Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences

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Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

Nov. 23 - Nov. 29



Tide charts by tides4fishing.com



Best fishing days this month
November 23-27 • December 12-26

Thursday 23	
Sun rise/set 7:08AM 5:37PM	Moon rise/set 3:14PM 3:07AM
Moon Illumination 82%	
Friday 24	
Sun rise/set 7:09AM 5:37PM	Moon rise/set 3:46PM 4:12AM
Moon Illumination 90%	
Saturday 25	
Sun rise/set 7:10AM 5:37PM	Moon rise/set 4:21PM 5:17AM
Moon Illumination 96%	
Sunday 26	
Sun rise/set 7:11AM 5:36PM	Moon rise/set 5:01PM 6:24AM
Moon Illumination 99%	
Monday 27	
Sun rise/set 7:12AM 5:36PM	Moon rise/set 5:47PM 7:31AM
Moon Illumination 100%	
Tuesday 28	
Sun rise/set 7:12AM 5:36PM	Moon rise/set 6:37PM 8:35AM
Moon Illumination 99%	
Wednesday 29	
Sun rise/set 7:13AM 5:36PM	Moon rise/set 7:34PM 9:35AM
Moon Illumination 95%	

For tides at the following points add to Dog Island Listings:
 Carrabelle 28 Min. High Tide 25 Min. Low Tide
 Apalachicola 1 Hr., 53 Min. 2 Hrs., 38 Min.
 Cat Point 1 Hr., 13 Min. 2 Hrs., 31 Min.
 Lower Anchorage 1 Hr., 36 Min. 2 Hrs., 3 Min.
 West Pass 1 Hr., 26 Min. 2 Hrs., 39 Min.

St. Marks River Entrance

Th	4:51 am ▼ 0.3 ft	11:18 am ▲ 3.1 ft	4:56 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	10:58 pm ▲ 3.4 ft
Fr	5:45 am ▼ -0.2 ft	12:17 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	5:42 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	11:35 pm ▲ 3.6 ft
Sa	6:33 am ▼ -0.6 ft	1:09 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	6:23 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	
Su	12:10 am ▲ 3.7 ft	7:17 am ▼ -0.9 ft	1:55 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	7:00 pm ▼ 1.5 ft
Mo	12:44 am ▲ 3.7 ft	8:00 am ▼ -0.9 ft	2:38 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	7:36 pm ▼ 1.5 ft
Tu	1:17 am ▲ 3.7 ft	8:41 am ▼ -0.9 ft	3:18 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	8:10 pm ▼ 1.6 ft
We	1:51 am ▲ 3.7 ft	9:22 am ▼ -0.7 ft	3:58 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	8:45 pm ▼ 1.6 ft

City of St. Marks

Th	5:55 am ▼ 0.3 ft	11:54 am ▲ 2.9 ft	6:00 pm ▼ 0.9 ft	11:34 pm ▲ 3.2 ft
Fr	6:49 am ▼ -0.2 ft	12:53 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	6:46 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	
Sa	12:11 am ▲ 3.3 ft	7:37 am ▼ -0.6 ft	1:45 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	7:27 pm ▼ 1.2 ft
Su	12:46 am ▲ 3.4 ft	8:21 am ▼ -0.8 ft	2:31 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	8:04 pm ▼ 1.3 ft
Mo	1:20 am ▲ 3.5 ft	9:04 am ▼ -0.9 ft	3:14 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	8:40 pm ▼ 1.4 ft
Tu	1:53 am ▲ 3.5 ft	9:45 am ▼ -0.8 ft	3:54 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	9:14 pm ▼ 1.4 ft
We	2:27 am ▲ 3.4 ft	10:26 am ▼ -0.6 ft	4:34 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	9:49 pm ▼ 1.4 ft

Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	5:18 am ▼ 0.4 ft	11:39 am ▲ 3.1 ft	5:23 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	11:25 pm ▲ 3.5 ft
Fr	6:10 am ▼ -0.7 ft	12:38 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	6:07 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	11:59 pm ▲ 3.6 ft
Sa	6:56 am ▼ -0.6 ft	1:29 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	6:45 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	
Su	12:31 am ▲ 3.7 ft	7:40 am ▼ -0.9 ft	2:15 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	7:20 pm ▼ 1.6 ft
Mo	1:02 am ▲ 3.7 ft	8:23 am ▼ -1.0 ft	2:58 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	7:52 pm ▼ 1.7 ft
Tu	1:34 am ▲ 3.7 ft	9:04 am ▼ -1.0 ft	3:39 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	8:24 pm ▼ 1.7 ft
We	2:06 am ▲ 3.7 ft	9:45 am ▼ -0.8 ft	4:18 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	8:58 pm ▼ 1.7 ft

Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	5:02 am ▼ 0.2 ft	11:10 am ▲ 2.3 ft	5:07 pm ▼ 0.7 ft	10:50 pm ▲ 2.6 ft
Fr	5:56 am ▼ -0.2 ft	12:09 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	5:53 pm ▼ 0.9 ft	11:27 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
Sa	6:44 am ▼ -0.5 ft	1:01 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	6:34 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	
Su	12:02 am ▲ 2.8 ft	7:28 am ▼ -0.6 ft	1:47 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	7:11 pm ▼ 1.1 ft
Mo	12:36 am ▲ 2.8 ft	8:11 am ▼ -0.7 ft	2:30 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	7:47 pm ▼ 1.1 ft
Tu	1:09 am ▲ 2.8 ft	8:52 am ▼ -0.6 ft	3:10 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	8:21 pm ▼ 1.1 ft
We	1:43 am ▲ 2.7 ft	9:33 am ▼ -0.5 ft	3:50 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	8:56 pm ▼ 1.1 ft

St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	5:16 am ▼ 0.3 ft	11:31 am ▲ 2.3 ft	5:16 pm ▼ 0.8 ft	11:02 pm ▲ 2.6 ft
Fr	6:00 am ▼ -0.2 ft	12:35 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	5:59 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	11:30 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
Sa	6:39 am ▼ -0.7 ft	1:28 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	6:34 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	11:57 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
Su	7:18 am ▼ -0.9 ft	2:16 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	7:05 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	
Mo	12:27 am ▲ 2.9 ft	7:56 am ▼ -1.0 ft	3:00 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	7:33 pm ▼ 1.6 ft
Tu	12:59 am ▲ 3.0 ft	8:36 am ▼ -1.0 ft	3:42 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	8:00 pm ▼ 1.6 ft
We	1:34 am ▲ 2.9 ft	9:16 am ▼ -0.8 ft	4:23 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	8:28 pm ▼ 1.6 ft

Dog Island West End

Th	5:45 am ▼ 0.3 ft	12:02 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	5:30 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	11:01 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
Fr	6:28 am ▼ -0.2 ft	1:18 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	6:22 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	11:29 pm ▲ 2.4 ft
Sa	7:05 am ▼ -0.6 ft	2:13 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	7:01 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	
Su	12:02 am ▲ 2.5 ft	7:40 am ▼ -0.8 ft	3:01 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	7:31 pm ▼ 1.5 ft
Mo	12:37 am ▲ 2.6 ft	8:14 am ▼ -0.9 ft	3:46 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	7:57 pm ▼ 1.6 ft
Tu	1:13 am ▲ 2.6 ft	8:49 am ▼ -0.9 ft	4:28 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	8:21 pm ▼ 1.6 ft
We	1:48 am ▲ 2.6 ft	9:28 am ▼ -0.8 ft	5:06 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	8:45 pm ▼ 1.6 ft

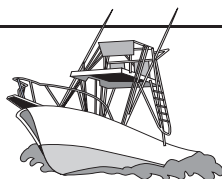
Best hunting and fishing based on solunar times. MAJOR feeding periods are 2 hours long, centered on the solunar time. MINOR feeding periods are only 1 hour long, again centered on the solunar time.

Thursday 23	
Minor Times 2:22AM	Major Times 7:59AM 8:23PM
Friday 24	
Minor Times 3:01PM	Major Times 8:48AM 9:12PM
Saturday 25	
Minor Times 4:32AM	Major Times 9:38AM 10:04PM
Sunday 26	
Minor Times 5:39AM	Major Times 10:30AM ---
Monday 27	
Minor Times 5:02PM	Major Times 11:25AM
Tuesday 28	
Minor Times 7:50AM	Major Times 11:54PM
5:52PM	12:22PM
Wednesday 29	
Minor Times 8:50AM	Major Times 12:51AM
6:49PM	1:19PM



Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports

By Carolyn Brown Treadon



Flotilla 12 would like to wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving! We hope that you all were able to be surrounded by those you cherish.

This past weekend, Flotilla 12 held our monthly meeting. In November we hold elections for our Flotilla Commander and Vice Commander. Please join us in congratulating our new 2024 leadership for Flotilla 12.

Jim Kenny was elected as our new Flotilla Commander-Elect. Mike Casey is our new Vice Flotilla Commander-Elect. They will be building their team over

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

the next several weeks. Both will assume their new positions on 1 January 2024.

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

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

Bay Flotilla 12 or contact our Flotilla Commander Phil Hill at pnkhill2000@yahoo.com

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

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

Underwater Wakulla

By Rusty Miller

End of the normal season.

Dive season isn't over completely. Here in North Florida we still go diving but not in the ocean much, there is a hard core ocean diving community here but for the average diver the ocean is getting too cold to dive.

I personally don't like the diving when the water temperature is below 68 degrees and in the winter here the ocean can get as low as 62 degrees.

It's time for most divers to start thinking about getting your dive gear serviced for next season diving. I have mentioned this several times in past articles and I will mention it again. Before you hang up that BCD and regulator set you should take it to the dive shop for service. Now is the best time to get your regulators serviced and tuned because you don't want to have issues when you hit the water next May like a free flowing regulator or one that has other issues and won't operate like they did this last season. Most good regulators will let you get away with going a couple of seasons diving without getting serviced but all it takes is one time when you have loaded your gear on the boat that you paid for and get to the dive site and hook it up to the tank only to find it leaks or has a free flow issue that you can't stop. If you have a spare set you might be able to dive unless that set hasn't been serviced in a long time and it doesn't work either. Don't be that diver.

Diving gear such as regulators are easily overlooked after the dive season is done, so you have rolled them up and place them in a regulator bag waiting for next year. First off please do not store your regulators in a regulator bag. Regulator bags are ONLY for traveling to the dive site and not for storage. I don't know how many regulators come into the shop for a long overdue service (like several years) only to take them out of the regulator bag and the hoses have a set curl in them that will not straighten out when you hold them by the first stage. The danger to using them in this condition is a possible leak or worse one or more might rupture while diving and cause a quick out of air emergency.

When you do store the regulators please store them hanging vertical. You can buy special hangers that you can hang the regulators and your BCD on. If you don't have the correct hanger you can make one using a standard wire hanger to hold the first stage by so the hoses can hang vertically down.

To insure that your regulators work perfectly for the next dive season please get them serviced every year to insure a great and safe diving season.

If you are going to get your regulators serviced please get them to the dive shop as soon as you can to insure they will be serviced and ready before your first dive. If you wait too long, then you won't have them ready before your first dive excursion.

Most dive shops get very busy servicing their equipment to have it ready for classes and rental and will not get yours done because you waited too long.

Keep the bubbles flowing.

Russell Miller #59999

Editor's Note: This is a repeat of a column from December of last year.

WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO

Retired Wakulla Springs State Park Ranger Bob Thompson, on his weekly wildlife survey at the park, recently snapped this photo of a white ibis in a tree overlooking the Wakulla River.



Thanking God for his amazing love



By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

What lies do we tell ourselves regarding our choices and the changes we need to make? How often do we choose to ignore one

of the most important facts in God's Word – that we've been set free from sin's dominion? This is, in fact, a fact! If we've trusted Christ as our Lord and Savior, sin has no power to control us.

Romans 8:2 (ESV) confirms this: "For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death."

God sent His own Son to die for us so we can be free from Satan's control.

Isn't this amazing news? If you're having

a difficult time coming up with things to jot down on your "things I'm grateful for" list, consider adding "God's love" at the top. Can you comprehend a more loving act than a perfectly holy God sending His own Son to be a sin offering for you and me? (verse 3). What have we done to deserve this kind of love?

Absolutely nothing.

Knowing this makes me want to thank God for His sacrifice (and grab hold of every bit of its meaning) more than ever.

What if the book of Romans became real to us? What if, during this Thanksgiving season, we did all we could to understand and appreciate God's sacrifice? Imagine holding to the truth of the book of Romans so tightly that all our choices reflected its truths and commands. By wholly committing to this quest, I'm convinced we could overcome the sinful behaviors we've struggled with for years.

Picture what it would mean if each of us resolved to honestly thank

God for His love. If we fully appreciated His Son's death and resurrection. How would it change our marriages? Our churches? Even our nation?

God's Word is true. It is a fact that Jesus died to set us free from the law of sin and death. Ask God to give you a greater understanding of what this means for you. Then act on it.

I don't fully understand what Jesus' death and resurrection have provided for me, but I'm determined to learn. And as I learn, especial-

ly during this Thanksgiving week, I will thank Him over and over again for His profound and generous love.

I'm also going to ask God to teach me how to live His precepts throughout my day, especially with my choices.

I hope you'll join me.

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.

A new beginning



By **CHERYL CRUCE**

The spring of my eighth-grade year taught me the valuable lesson of forgiveness. Spring fever had taken its place among the students, including me. When the bell finally rang to end our school day, everyone rushed out the door toward their respective yellow bus. We were required to walk across the field from our junior high school to the high school, where the

buses were waiting to be boarded.

Everyone was in a playful mood as the warm spring breezes stirred the air around us. Now, I am not about to confess any great sin. However, one of the coaches who escorted us that afternoon caught my attention quite sternly as he wrote my name in his pocket notepad. I still remember the embarrassment of the moment and the fear of the principal's office. It was a Friday afternoon; I would have the weekend to ponder going back to school on Monday morning.

That evening, I barely touched my food. After helping Mom clean the kitchen, I bathed and went straight to bed. The thought of being in trouble and having

to tell my parents had me tossing and turning all night. Saturday wasn't any better. My usual shopping trip with Mom fell silent, and afternoon wrestling matches on the TV with Dad were not the same. Finally, after another sleepless night, I confessed to the incident over Sunday breakfast. I was surprised at how quickly forgiveness came.

Isn't that the way of life: often, we will carry a burden so heavy that it will interrupt the joy of our lives. Because of the fear of punishment and disappointing my parents, I held onto the guilt, causing me to lose the moments we usually shared. My conscience was clear once I talked with them, and Sunday proved a much

better day. Desmond Tutu once said, "Forgiveness says you are given another chance to make a new beginning." That Sunday was my new beginning.

I have learned that new beginnings are incredible and that reconciliation is a sweet release when forgiveness comes. As we hold on to guilt and contemplate unforgiveness, we carry a heavy burden that interrupts our relationships. We are encouraged in scripture to acknowledge our faults to each other and pray for one another to be healed (James 5:16). Confession and forgiveness are the greatest healers of life. When we look to God for forgiveness, He does not hesitate to offer His grace; He remains faithful,

eagerly awaiting our return to Him (1 John 1:9).

Did you know forgiveness is two-fold? It has been said that forgiving someone is more about your relationship with God than with the person. We must be tenderhearted, forgiving one another even as Christ has forgiven us (Ephesians 4:32). I wonder how many times Jesus has cried from the cross, "Father, forgive them; they do not know what they are doing." When Peter asked the Lord about forgiving others, Jesus said to forgive seven times seventy. (Matthew 18:21-35).

Maybe the 50-year-old confession of an eighth grader seems like a minor incident; nonetheless, I learned

the danger of holding onto guilt instead of releasing it. I have learned to give grace, to receive grace, and to forgive myself. I have also discovered that forgiveness flows from Calvary seventy times seven (plus eternity), and our Heavenly Father is waiting to resume a new beginning with each of us.

Psalms 32:5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." And you forgave the guilt of my sin.

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

OUT TO PASTOR

I don't eat crow on holidays



By **JAMES SNYDER**

I enjoy the holiday season because of the food I get to eat. From Halloween to New Year's Day, the focus is food. Some of the best food of the whole year is during this time.

In true confession, throughout the rest of the year, I eat Crow almost every day. It is a diet developed by The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. It has taken some time for her to create such a diet for me, and she's done a marvelous job.

It took me quite a while to understand this diet of eating crow. But if I understand it correctly, it means admitting you're wrong and were not right about what you thought or a statement you made to others. That's quite a definition, and I'm not sure I understand it even today.

I must admit that throughout the year, I vehemently made statements that were not true. It's not how many true statements I make throughout the year but the false statements I make that matter.

Sometimes, we will be with a group of friends, and I'll be telling a story that happened recently, and then in the middle of that story, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will jump in and say, "No, it didn't happen that way." Then

she will correct my story, and I'm standing there eating crow.

Sometimes, eating crow is worth the situation you find yourself in. I don't always create chaos in my life, but I try to make the best of it when it does happen.

During this holiday season, I don't have time to eat Crow. All of the beautiful meals that are set before us have my attention all the way through.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I are a fantastic team. She loves to cook, and I love to eat. What better partnership can you have? All the crow I eat during the rest of the year is worth all the holiday meals at this time.

I must confess that The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is very careful how I eat Crow.

She rarely lets me do it in front of people. I may be telling some story, but she doesn't correct me when people are around.

On our way home from that gathering, she will begin the conversation by saying, "Soooo, is that really how that situation happened?"

Usually, I'm not sure what she's talking about, and I respond by saying, "What situation?"

Driving home from one of those meetings, she was quiet for a moment and then said something to the effect, "Well, did you get all the mistakes I made in that story I told?"

She told the story and twisted it so much that nothing was true, and I never recognized it. That made me think she could get away with

anything as far as I was concerned. Now, that's a different piece of crow to eat that I've never had before.

Thinking about that a verse of scripture came to mind. "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy" (Proverbs 28:13).

Probably the hardest thing I can do is to confess my sin and ask for

forgiveness. However, it is the best thing to do. Eating crow sometimes is worth it.

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

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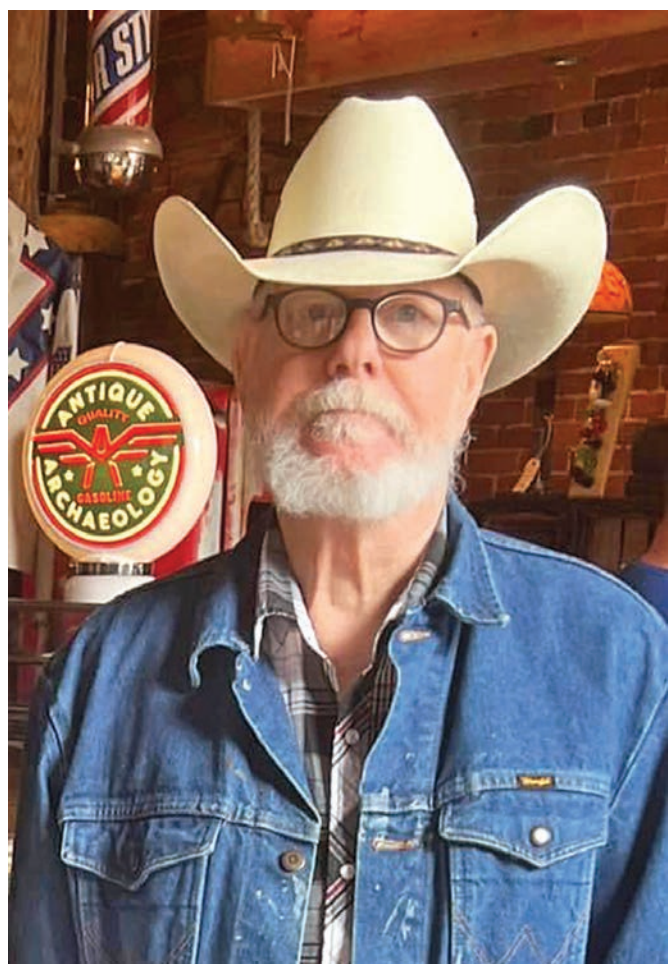
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Obituaries



David Ray Patterson

David Ray Patterson, age 72, entered into his final reward November 14, 2023 at Eden Springs nursing home.

David was a member of the Wakulla Church of Christ, a true Texas cowboy and avid jokester who wanted to put smiles on the faces of those around him. He was an accountant, farmer and construction worker. His prized job was husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Sandra Patterson.

He is survived by his daughter, Deidre (Steve) Walker, of Crawfordville, and son David Ray Patterson II, of Tallahassee; three grandsons, Richard Walker of Crawfordville, Joshua (Kalin) Walker of Lloyd, and Andrew Walker of Westerly, Rhode Island; and one great grandson Beckett.

He was the youngest of eight children preceded in death by parents David Brentson and Lula Mae Patterson; and siblings James, Luther, Clara Ann, Martha, Bettie Lou; and leaves behind a brother Billy (Merl) Patterson of Port Neches, Texas and a sister Patricia (Steve) Fontenot of Humble, Texas; and many nieces and nephews and friends.

Funeral Service will be held Saturday, November 25, 2023 at 10 a.m. at Wakulla Church of Christ.

Family Funeral Home at Harvey-Young Chapel is assisting the family with arrangements. 850-926-5919, www.familyfhc.com.

DEATH NOTICES

• **William Gordon Dean**, 64, of Sopchoppy, died November 19, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey-Young Chapel, 850-926-5919, www.familyfhc.com

• **Lawrence C. Ebersol**, of Sopchoppy, died November 15, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey-Young Chapel, 850-926-5919, www.familyfhc.com

Bethel to host program on Alzheimer's

Special to The Sun

November is Alzheimer's Awareness month, a time to heighten awareness about Alzheimer's disease and show support for 6.2 million Americans living with it.

On Sunday, Nov. 26, Bethel Outreach Ministries will host a presentation at 6 p.m. by Kristal Cooley, MSW Program Manager Alzheimer's Association of North Florida, on Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia.

Bethel Outreach Ministries is located at 1085 Sopchoppy Hwy.

For more information, contact Evangelist Glenda Simmons at (850) 528-5231 or Dr. Chinesta Smith at (850) 933-9221.

Sopchoppy

From Front Page

voted for the tower's proposed location. The city staff will change the zoning of the location, so that construction can begin in February, which is on schedule.

In other business:

• Two teachers from Wakulla High School, Joannette Colvin and Matt

Payne, were at the meeting to ask for a sponsorship for their annual Civil Rights tour. This tour educates students on the Civil Rights movement in the U.S., taking them to historic places such as Selma and Birmingham, Alabama. The commission unanimously voted to sponsor two students, fully covering their cost

to go on the trip, which totaled \$700 for both.

• Nathan Lewis came to ask the city for help removing two dead and diseased trees on Dixon Street, as they pose a hazard to the properties around them. The city commission said they would have someone look into it.

• The city commission decided to move the December regular meeting to Dec. 18, to avoid

scheduling conflicts.

• Seth Green, the public works director, asked that the city pay the other licensed water service technicians to check wells on the weekends, because he didn't want to shoulder the responsibility of doing it all on his own. The city commission decided that they would, and that they'd give each worker a raise to be in rotation for the job.

Shoplifting

From Front Page

to jail.

A short time later, Arnold reportedly arrived at the jail asking about Eaves. She was interviewed by deputies and told she was also a suspect in the retail thefts and shown photos from the store's

surveillance – and she allegedly admitted it was her in the photos.

She was not arrested at the time, but a warrant was later issued for her arrest for numerous theft charges.

Eaves was arrested on numerous warrants on Nov. 13.

Weekly Roundup: 'Perfect storm' in prisons

By RYAN DAILEY
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — With Florida facing a "perfect storm" of declining facilities and other woes in the state prison system, lawmakers this week were briefed on a report that pointed to a need to spend at least \$2.2 billion on repairs, retrofits and staffing.

The report was authored by the consulting firm KPMG, which was paid \$2 million by lawmakers to develop a "master plan" designed to improve the corrections system over a 20-year period. Leaking roofs, corroded doors, broken windows and crumbling stucco were among the facility problems identified in the report.

Florida is facing "a bit of a perfect storm," Jeff Goodale, a subcontractor who worked on the report, told the Senate Criminal and Civil Justice Appropriations Committee on Wednesday.

"Inevitably, at a certain point, these systems do get stressed to a point of crisis," Goodale, who works for HOK Architects, said.

A third of Florida's correctional facilities were in poor or critical condition, the report said. Compounding the problems with physical facilities are a projected increase in the state's prison population and ongoing staffing woes such as turnover and vacancies. The report outlined a turnover rate in the Department of Corrections of more than 26 percent during the fiscal year that ended in July, and said staff vacancy rates at some prisons are above 20 percent.

Senate Criminal and Civil Justice Appropria-

tions Chairwoman Jennifer Bradley, a Fleming Island Republican, indicated that the issues such as the ones raised in the reports have been plaguing the system for some time.

"We have asked for too long for DOC (Department of Corrections) to do too much with too little," said Bradley, whose North Florida district includes several prisons.

Bradley did, however, point to salary increases provided by the Legislature for correctional officers over the last few years as having helped address some staffing problems.

"But aging infrastructure, making sure we have enough beds to meet increasing projections remain big challenges. This roadmap is welcome by those in the trenches across this system," she added.

The master plan offered lawmakers three options to stabilize the system, which houses about 80,000 inmates and is projected to add another 43,000 prisoners over the next 20 years, according to KPMG.

The most expensive option, carrying a price tag of \$11.9 billion, would involve building three 4,800-bed prisons and two hospitals over the next two decades. A second option, at a cool \$9 billion, would make the changes in the most-expensive option, except that it would lead to building two prisons instead of three.

The \$2.2 billion proposal recommended building a 4,800-bed prison and two new hospitals — with a total of 900 beds — and reopening and adding beds at existing prison sites.

REQUEST DENIED

In a blow to one of Gov. Ron DeSantis' priorities from the 2023 legislative session, U.S. Supreme Court justices this week denied a request by the governor's administration that would have allowed enforcement of a state law aimed at preventing children from attending drag shows.

The law, dubbed by sponsors as the "Protection of Children Act," would prevent venues from admitting children to adult live performances. It was approved by lawmakers and the governor after the DeSantis administration cracked down on venues in South Florida and Central Florida where children attended drag shows.

The Supreme Court's move came after U.S. District Judge Gregory Presnell this summer issued a statewide preliminary injunction against the law, finding that it violated First Amendment rights. The ruling came in a lawsuit filed by the Orlando restaurant and bar Hamburger Mary's.

The DeSantis administration appealed Presnell's ruling to the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and also sought a partial stay that would have allowed the state to enforce the law against all venues in Florida — except Hamburger Mary's — while the legal battle continues to play out.

But the appeals court subsequently rejected the administration's request for a partial stay, and lawyers representing Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation Secretary Melanie Griffin took the case to the Supreme Court.

Griffin is a named de-

fendant in the case.

With the Supreme Court's denial of DeSantis' most recent request, the law remains effectively blocked from enforcement.

The decision did not give a full breakdown of the justices' positions, but it said Justices Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito and Neil Gorsuch would have granted the request for a stay. The document did include a brief explanation from conservative Justices Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett about their position on denying the stay.

Kavanaugh wrote, in part, that the case is an "imperfect vehicle for considering the general question of whether a district court may enjoin a government from enforcing a law against non-parties to the litigation."

DEREG DAYS

A slate of bills aimed at reducing regulations on public schools began moving forward Wednesday, as a key Florida Senate panel signed off on changes such as eliminating testing requirements for earning high-school diplomas.

The Senate Education Pre-K-12 Committee unanimously approved the bills (SPB 7000, SPB 7002 and SPB 7004), which are filed for the 2024 legislative session.

The bill that received the most public comment during the meeting was SPB 7004, which deals with issues such as assessments, accountability and school choice.

The measure, in part, would nix requirements that high-school students pass the state's standardized English-language arts exam in 10th grade and

pass the Algebra I end-of-course assessment to receive high-school diplomas. Under the current system, students also can satisfy the requirements by earning comparative scores on certain other standardized tests.

Several school superintendents, including Baker County Superintendent Sherrie Raulerson, voiced support for parts of the bills, such as the testing requirement changes.

"There are thousands of amazing students with good grades who are being impacted negatively because of the requirements that were passed for certain tests, despite their ability to demonstrate their academic ability over 13, 14 years of being in our classrooms," Raulerson told the Senate panel.

But the Foundation for Florida's Future, a group chaired by former Gov. Jeb Bush that has long been influential on education issues, raised concerns about some of the proposed changes.

"The foundation is committed to the goal of removing unnecessary, duplicative and outdated regulations on Florida's public schools, but we do not want to see Florida take a step backward," Nathan Hoffman, senior legislative director for the organization, said in a prepared statement.

STORY OF THE WEEK: Florida needs to spend at least \$2.2 billion on repairs, retrofits and staffing to address "immediate" needs in the state prison system, according to a new report.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "The hope is that there's the political will in this building to allocate the resources that we need to make sure that we have a prison system that's sustainable." Senate Criminal and Civil Justice Appropriations Committee Jennifer Bradley, R-Fleming Island

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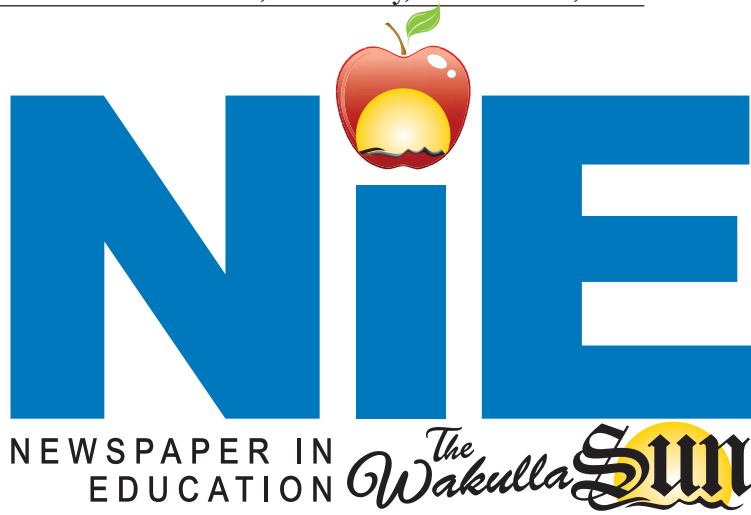
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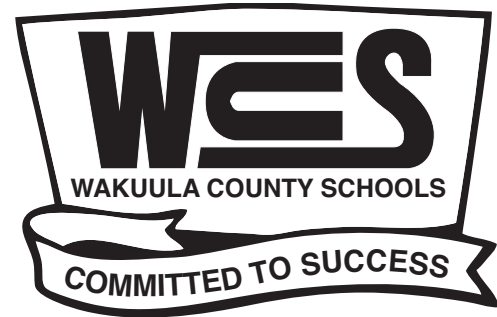
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USE THE NEWS

1. NEW MAPS FOR NORTH DAKOTA

With the 2024 election coming up in one year, North Dakota will have to redraw its voting district maps. A judge ruled that the maps the state redrew in 2021 minimize the voting impact of two Native American tribes in the state. The two tribes, the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians and the Spirit Lake Tribe, proposed their own plan for a single voting district that includes their two reservations. Voting districts are important because each district gets a representative in the House of Representatives. The tribes successfully argued that the districts they were in would overwhelm their votes, so they didn't have as fair an opportunity to choose their representative. Look up what voting district you live in and who your representative is. Write a short bio about them: what's their name, where are they from, what political party do they belong to, and how long have they been in Congress?

2. NEW HAMPSHIRE SAYS NO

The state of New Hampshire has been the site of the first presidential primary election since 1920. This year, the Democratic National Committee wanted to change the primary election calendar to make South Carolina the first state. However, New Hampshire announced last week that it will hold its presidential primary on January 23, keeping it the first one after the Iowa Caucus. Officials in the state point to a state law that requires it to hold the first primary election in the country each cycle, plus the Republi-

can calendar still puts New Hampshire first after Iowa. Because it's violating the Democratic National Committee's calendar, President Biden did not put his name on the ballot in the state for his reelection campaign. Look up the difference between a caucus, like Iowa has, and a primary election, like New Hampshire and South Carolina. Write a short summary of the differences and note what your state has.

3. SALTY STRUGGLES

A drought in the Midwest this summer caused problems for people whose drinking water comes from the Mississippi River. Because there was less rain, some of the thousands of tributaries, or small rivers that feed into a larger one, dried up. This let saltwater from the Gulf of Mexico take over part of the river. People in Louisiana, whose tap water comes from the Mississippi River, ended up taking salty showers and dealing with salty drinking water for months.

Look at a map of the United States and identify all the states that border the Mississippi River. Then, write a short paragraph about ways the river is important to the lives of people in those states.

4. MAGIC DIVE

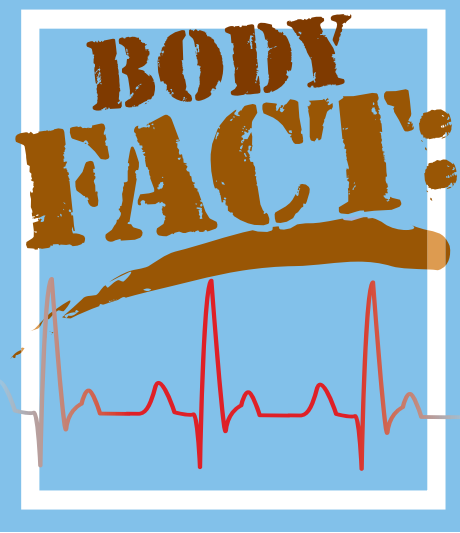
A teenage girl has set a Guinness World Record, combining two of her favorite things: scuba diving and magic tricks. The 13-year-old did 38 tricks in 3 minutes while under water, breaking the previous record of 20 tricks. She's gone on more than 30 ocean dives so far

and hopes to inspire people to take up scuba diving and keep the ocean clean and safe for all its plant and animal inhabitants. What are some of your favorite hobbies or activities? Look up if there are any world records associated with them and write down what you find. Share your discoveries with your class!

5. BLESSED PETS

Fewer babies are being born in Japan every year. Because of this, some people there are instead pouring love into their pets and treating them like

kids. This includes a traditional ceremony that's usually reserved for kids reaching the age of seven, five, or three years old. They're dressed in traditional kimonos and brought to a Shinto shrine for the mid-November ceremony. Many people are now celebrating the ceremony with their pets instead, dressing their dogs and cats of those ages in kimonos and taking them to a holy place called Dog-Cat Shrine, or Inuneko Jinja, to be blessed. Write a short summary of this story and draw a picture to go along with it!

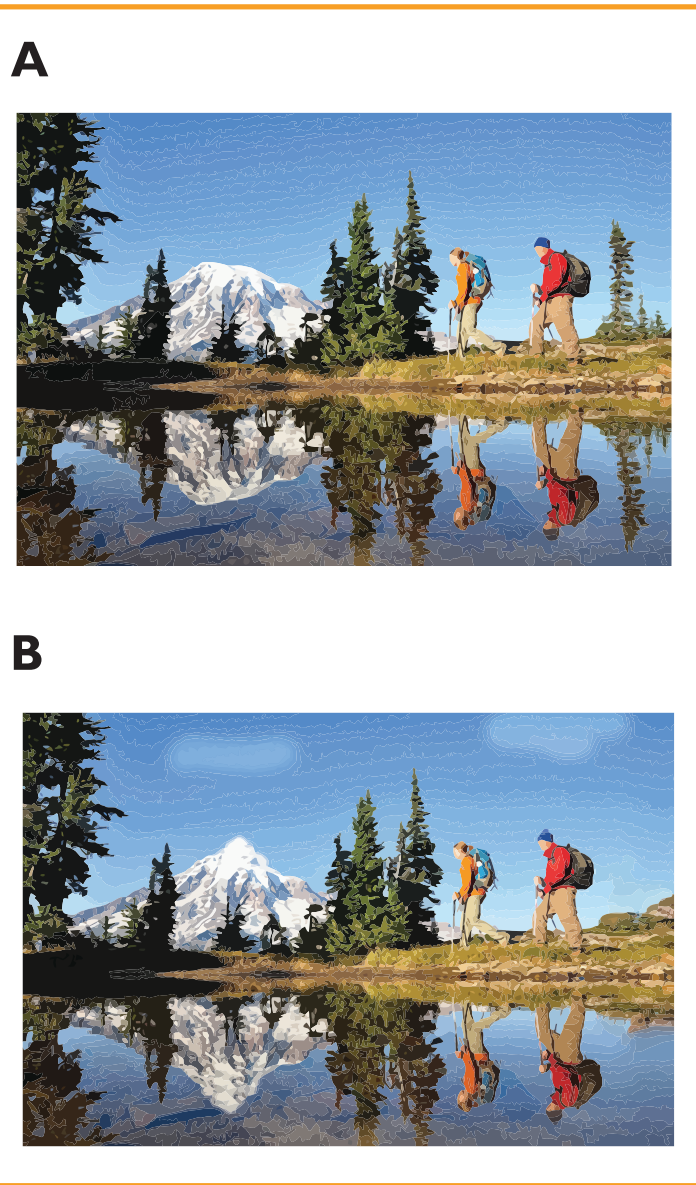


HIKING EXPOSES A PERSON TO PLENTY OF SUNSHINE, WHICH HELPS BOOST THE PRODUCTION OF THIS VITAMIN IN THE BODY.

ANSWER: VITAMIN D

What's the Difference?

There are four differences between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all?



Answers: 1. Clouds in sky 2. Mountain has a taller peak 3. Man's hat has pom-pom 4. Missing tree on right

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1874: THE UNITED STATES GREENBACK PARTY IS ESTABLISHED AS A POLITICAL PARTY MADE UP OF MOSTLY FARMERS.
- 1915: ALBERT EINSTEIN PRESENTS THE FIELD EQUATIONS OF GENERAL RELATIVITY TO THE PRUSSIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.
- 1984: MUSICIANS RECORD "DO THEY KNOW IT'S CHRISTMAS?" FOR FAMINE RELIEF.

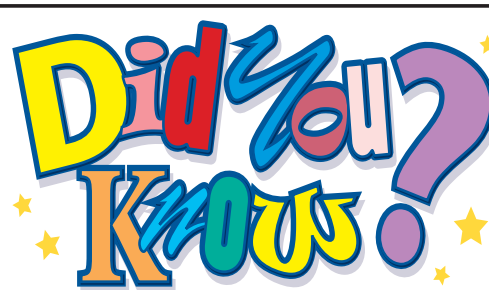


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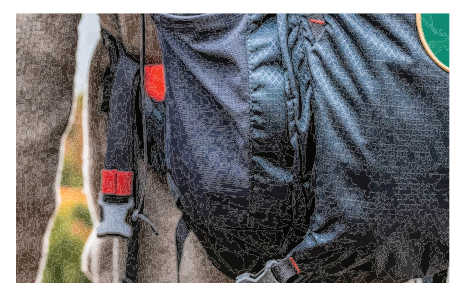
sparsely inhabited rural areas



- ENGLISH:** Hike
- SPANISH:** Caminata
- ITALIAN:** Escursione
- FRENCH:** Randonnée
- GERMAN:** Wanderung



HIKING BECAME A LEISURE ACTIVITY IN EUROPE IN THE 1700S. BEFORE THEN, WALKING WAS ASSOCIATED WITH POVERTY.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: HIKING BACKPACK

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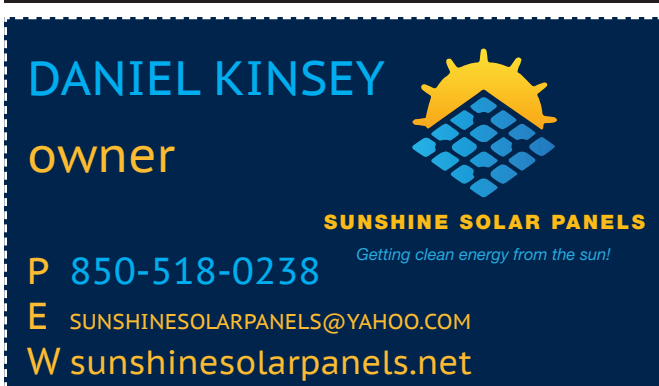
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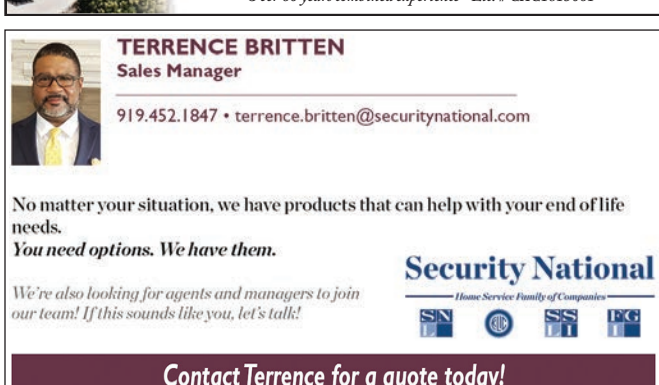
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Chamber Business Excellence Awards



David Pienta was named Volunteer of the Year. His work with the sheriff's office and Rotary Club were cited.



Petra Shuff accepts the award for PAWS of Wakulla in the Non-profit category.



Bhaveshri and Niraj Patel of Barns Spirits won in the Consumer category.

The annual awards ceremony and dinner honoring local businesses was held Thursday, Nov. 16, at Wakulla Springs Lodge. (Photos by Lynda Kinsey)



Jason and Jessica Revell of Revell Electric won in the Trade category.



Traci B. Cash, CPA, won in the Professional category.



Amy Geiger accepts the award for Capital City Bank in the Service category.

Wakulla Wrestling Coach Will Pafford will retire after this year

By WALT JACOBS
Special to The Sun

After over a decade of leading the Wakulla wrestling program, last week Coach Will Pafford informed his team that this would be his last season as the War Eagles Head Coach. Nate Jacobs, a junior on the team said, "It was the last thing I expected to hear because he has done it so long." Jacobs continued, "Coach Paff has been coaching me since I was 9 years old. I'll miss him next season, but we all know why he made this decision and we completely understand it."

When a coach is as young and successful as Pafford is, it's not often that you see them walk away from competing in their prime. When asked "Why now?" Pafford simply replied, "Family." He elaborated, "I have a very active little boy and girl and I'm missing so much of their activities and life. Being gone almost 26 Saturdays a year coaching wrestling makes it very difficult to be there for all the important moments."

When asked if he could foresee a time where he would be on the mat leading kids as a head coach again, Pafford replied, "It all depends on my kids and what paths they decide to go with. If either of them pursues wrestling full time, I could definitely get back into it. At the moment, my 7-year-old son wants to focus on baseball and soccer. As much as I would love for him to wrestle, I want him to decide what he loves doing and then focus on that. We will see what that is down the road."

Coach Pafford began his coaching career at Lincoln High School, his alma mater, where he served four years as an



War Eagle Wrestling Head Coach Will Pafford

assistant. He followed that up with a one year stint as an assistant at Florida High. In 2011, he became the Head wrestling coach at Wakulla High School.

Regarding Pafford's accomplishments, Shannon Smith, who has been a leading figure in Wakulla County wrestling, said: "When our program was losing a coach and we were struggling to find one that could take us to the next level, Coach Pafford was a Godsend... Wakulla had been known for producing good wrestlers, but Coach Pafford took us to the next level by making more complete teams that were dominant from top to bottom."

On the mat, Pafford has compiled a 210-39 record in dual meets. Over the course of his illustrious career, it became commonplace for Coach Pafford to qualify eight or more wrestlers for the FHSAA State Championship each year. During his tenure he has coached one individual state champion and 31 state placers. Since the inception of the FHSAA State Dual Tournament in 2018, Wakulla has been a two-time State Runner-Up under Pafford's leadership. Pafford has also been named the NFWFOA Coach of the Year four times (2017-2020); the Tallahassee Democrat Big-Bend

Coach of the Year four times (2012, 2017-19); and the National Wrestling Coaches Association (Florida Chapter) Coach of the Year in 2019.

One of the fondest memories of his career came in 2019. Pafford said, "Clay High School was our rival. They would kill us at duals and every tournament. We hung a sign in the wrestling room that said Beat Clay. We would end our team breakdown with Beat Clay. We were always

chasing them. Then all of a sudden we beat them. After we beat them, I wouldn't let the kids celebrate on the mat. I took the kids outside and we had this moment. We cried and we celebrated. It was one of those moments where we finally beat them."

On November 17th, Coach Pafford made the first stop of his farewell tour at Wewahitchka High as the Gators hosted the season opening Jamboree. Afterwards,

Pafford gave his thoughts on the team and their performance. "Numbers, numbers, numbers. We are blessed with a huge coaching staff that can train wrestlers at a high level. We have an enormous team with almost 55 wrestlers. The Jamboree is an awesome event for our team because we get to shake off the dust. The team wrestled very well overall and competed

against some great competition."

If Wakulla's performance at Wewa is any indication of how the rest of the season is going to go, then Coach Will Pafford's final season should be a spectacular one. The War Eagle's will travel to Gainesville on Dec. 2nd to compete in The Bobcat Round Robin Tournament at Buchholz High School.

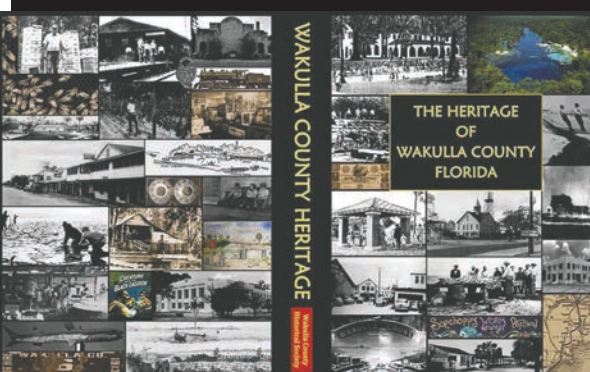
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SPORTS

Wakulla tripped up by Florida High

The War Eagle season end with a 42-28 loss to the Seminoles in the second round of the playoffs

By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**
Editor

The Wakulla War Eagles stumbled in their playoff run on Friday night, falling to the Florida High Seminoles, 42-28.

“First, we didn’t tackle well and then we didn’t have the ball – we only touched the ball once in the first quarter,” said Wakulla Head Coach Scott Klees. The War Eagles fumbled on their first two drives, he noted. “We fell behind” early and couldn’t catch up.

At one point the War Eagles were down 27-7 but fought back to get within 6 points – 26-21 – but couldn’t stop the Seminole offense.

“We started playing better at the end,” Klees said. “But we just couldn’t catch up.”

“It just wasn’t our night,” Klees said. “Things didn’t go our way.”

He noted there’s a few windows when teams have a chance to make a run – and this year, he felt, was Wakulla’s opportunity to make a run.

“I don’t want to take anything away from them – Florida High is a very, very good football team,” he said.

Klees said he was very proud of this year’s War Eagle football team. “Most of the time, you hope your team learns life lessons from coaches,” he said. “The interesting thing about his team, I think I learned more from them than they did from me.”

Klees said he was “rooting so hard for them” to go deeper in the playoffs. “I did not want it to end for anything.”

Of this team, he said, “They were driven to be good.”

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Quarterback Haden Klees was named MVP for the week. He went 22 of 35 passing for 244 yards and a touchdown; and rushed 12 times for 19 yards and two touchdowns.

Offensive Player of the Week was running back Jeremiah Thomas had 8 carries for 51 yards, and also had 2 catches for 32 yards and a touchdown.

Defensive Player of the Week was Tanner Lanier, who had 9 tackles, a sack, and caused a fumble

The Special Teams Player of the Week was

returner Samron Brinson, who had a 95-yard kickoff return for a touchdown.

GAME RECAP

Wakulla won the coin toss and elected to defer to the second half. Florida High took the opening kickoff, starting the drive at their own 18. On the first play, a run to the Wakulla 20. Third and goal from the 3, the Seminoles score on a short pass in the flat. Extra point good. Florida High has an early 7-0 lead over Wakulla.

On their opening drive, the War Eagles penetrate to the Seminole 35 and go for it on 4th and 5 - ball is fumbled, recovered by Seminoles.

Short pass for Florida High turns into a big gain, plus a personal foul at the end of the run for tackle out of bounds puts ball at the Wakulla 20. Florida High kicks a 29-yard field goal to add to lead. It’s 10-0 Seminoles lead Wakulla.

Samron Brinson has 95-yard kickoff return to put Wakulla on the board. Extra point is good. Florida High 10, Wakulla 7 with 4:09 left in 1Q.

Kickoff is muffed by Florida High recovered by Wakulla at the 20. Facing 4th and 13 at 23, pass falls incomplete, Florida High takes over on downs.

First play of 2Q: 45 yard touchdown run and the Seminole lead is extended to 17-7 over Wakulla.

Nehemiah Chandler returns kickoff to the Florida High 26. A pass dropped at the 10 is ruled a fumble recovered by Seminoles.

A 55 yard TD pass puts Florida High up 24-7. Wakulla was forced to punt on their next drive and the Seminoles kicker nailed a 50-yard field goal to go up 27-7.

The War Eagles fought back and Haden Klees scored on a 3-yard run before halftime to cut the lead to 27-14.

Wakulla takes second half kickoff, starts at 20, drives the field: first and goal at 7. QB Haden Klees has his second rushing touchdown of the game. Florida High 27, Wakulla 21 with 7:43 left in 3Q.

The Seminoles came back with a 30-yard touchdown passto makes it 34-21.

Another War Eagle



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PHOTOS BY KEN FIELDS

War Eagle quarterback Haden Klees, above, leaps after crossing the goal line. He rushed for two touchdowns in the game and threw for another. Below, Samron Brinson returns a kickoff 95-yards for the War Eagles.

drive down the field with 1st and goal at the 9. Touchdown pass to Jeremiah Thomas. Extra point cuts Florida High lead 34-28 with 8:34 left in 4Q.

Florida High drives the field, scores on 15 yard pass, go for 2 and get it to go up 42-28 over Wakulla with 5:33 left.

The War Eagles had two more possessions but they could not score. Florida High ended up with the last possession of the game – and ran out the clock.

Final: Florida High 42, Wakulla 28.



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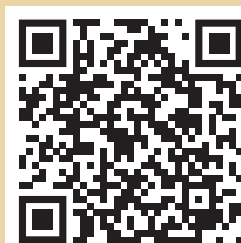


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