

Navy SEAL comes home
See Page 3

NAVY SEALS CREED

The SEAL is a symbol of honor and sacrifice. He is a member of a brotherhood of men who have been trained to the highest level of physical and mental endurance. He is a warrior who is always ready to defend his country and his fellow SEALs. He is a man of courage and honor who is always ready to sacrifice for his country and his fellow SEALs.

The Wakulla Sun

WAKULLA WeatherSTEM
Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mostly Cloudy	Thunderstorms	Thunderstorms
Hi: 64° Lo: 53° 22%	Hi: 72° Lo: 65° 90%	Hi: 73° Lo: 65° 92%
Sunrise 7:14 AM Sunset 5:36 PM	Sunrise 7:15 AM Sunset 5:36 PM	Sunrise 7:16 AM Sunset 5:36 PM



\$1
One Section

"It's a New Day"

Locally Owned & Operated

Our 2nd Year 48th Issue
Thursday, November 30, 2023

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING



Some 600 Thanksgiving meals were served on Wednesday, the day before Thanksgiving – about half the meals were taken to Panama for distribution. Seen are Peggy McLaughlin, Lois Cook and Megan Curlee scooping up food for plates. Much of the food served was donated by Niraj Patel as well as the Rotary Club of Wakulla. (Photo by Lynda Kinsey)

CITY OF ST. MARKS

City has to re-do its tax notices because of typos

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

The St. Marks City Commission held a special budget meeting this week to pass resolutions to correct some problems with budget advertisements than ran in September.

A quorum of city commissioners was present on Monday, Nov. 27, to pass the measures: Mayor Steve Remke, and city commissioners Sharon Rudd and Paula Bell. (Bell was sick, so instead of sitting at the dais, she sat in the back of the meeting room.)

Apparently, the original ads did not use the words "Notice of Tax Increase" and ran afoul of the state Department of Revenue.

The city also re-ran its budget summary, and it's not exactly clear why the budget numbers in the September ads are different from the numbers in the ads that ran in The Sun last week.

For example, the September ad states: "The proposed operating budget expenditures for the City of St. Marks are 18% more than last year's total operating expenditures." The newest ad says the expenditures are 8% more.

The city commission found numbers in its old resolutions that had commas instead of decimals, and that may have led to the differences.

"We'll get to the bottom of it," Mayor Remke said.

Completing the Great Loop

Local sailor Jerry Griffin returns from maritime route around eastern U.S.

By LEGION TAYLOR
Reporter

After nearly nine months underway, Wakulla resident Jerry Griffin has returned home, completing the Great Loop.

The Great Loop is an extensive 5,250-mile route that encircles the eastern United States, going around the length of Florida, north to the Hudson River and Erie Canal, through the Great Lakes, then down through the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico. Around 150 people complete the Loop each year, making the group of people who do the loop successfully rather exclusive.

Griffin himself says "It's a unique trip, for sure."

Griffin set out from Wakulla on Feb. 13, and officially returned on Nov. 6, taking 9 months to complete the trip on his 1894 Mainship Mark III, a 34 foot trawler. He maintained a YouTube channel as well as a Facebook page, under the username "We Live" – which is the name of his boat – documenting his journey almost daily, as he made his way around the Loop.

He spent the first hundred days traveling from Florida to New York, journeying through the Keys and off the coast of Miami before ending up in Hudson Bay, in the shadow of the Statue of Liberty.

"I never believed one day I'd be on my own boat in Key West and a couple of months later I'd be in the bay of New York City," Griffin says. Later, he also said



Wakulla resident Jerry Griffin on the bow of his boat, 'We Live,' with a pennant that denotes his completion of the Great Loop.

that seeing the Statue of Liberty from his boat was likely the highest point on his trip, as it was a lifelong goal of his.

Griffin also stated that his trip up through the Atlantic was beautiful, even on the days where the water was rough.

At points, including off the coast of South Carolina, his engine ran hot and his raw water pump was leaking badly, which delayed

him in Charleston for a few days. These delays, whether due to much-needed repairs or poor weather, peppered his trip, adding up to extra weeks of waiting at anchorages all over the eastern U.S.

At one point, he was stuck in the same area of the Loop near the entrance to Lake Erie for almost a month, as the locks (apparatuses that control the entrance to

many major waterways) that Griffin needed to pass through to continue on his trip were not open further down the route, forcing him to stay put.

While most of the rest of his trip went well, he ran aground once in Ohio in mid-August, due to an outdated GPS system. A wall of stone was submerged in 15 feet of water, but the Garmin

Man gets 4 years in prison for vehicular homicide

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

A man from Clermont with illegal drugs in his system crashed and rolled a car while traveling in Wakulla County back on New Year's Day 2020. A 17-year-old girl, also from Clermont and also with drugs in her system, was killed in the rollover crash.

At a hearing on Nov. 16, the man, Tommy Piper Jr., entered a plea of no contest to vehicular homicide, a second degree felony punishable by up to 15 years in state prison, and was sentenced to 4 years in prison, followed by 5 years probation.

Wakulla Circuit Court Judge Layne Smith initially expressed reservations about accepting the plea after talking to the girl's grandmother.

But Piper's attorney, Joe Bodiford, explained the defense's assertion that the drug test administered 9 hours after the crash by the Florida Highway Patrol was sloppily done. It showed methamphetamine in Piper's system, but the defense would have contended it was residual meth from use days earlier and that he was not under the influence at the time of the crash. The defense would have argued at trial that he fell asleep while driving or that he was an animal in the road that caused the crash, and a jury may have gone along with that. Still, the defense acknowledged that "Drowsy driving is impaired driving" and could still be charged as vehicular homicide.

The grandmother of McKenzie Wyatt, the girl killed in the crash, was at the hearing via Zoom and complained that Piper did not call for help for her granddaughter.

The judge told the grandmother that, given the circumstances, the plea deal was "the best it's gonna get," and "This, I think, is the best we could do."

The grandmother could be heard sobbing on the Zoom connection.

The case was handled by Wakulla Chief Prosecutor Andrew Deneen.

Piper was adjudicated guilty and ordered to serve 4 years in prison with credit for 1,186 days served, to be followed by 5 years probation and conditions that include 200 hours community service, court costs and fines of \$1,565 and a 3-year driver license revocation.



Tommy Piper Jr.

Turn to Page 3

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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

Gilly Bagwell – 1st grader at Riversink Elementary

Principal: Catherine Cutchen

Achievements/Reason for Nomination: Gilly Bagwell, a bright young individual, currently attends 1st grade in Mrs. Temple's Class. At Riversink, Gilly truly shines like a beam of sunshine. Not only does she excel academically, holding impressive grades, but she also surpasses expectations when it comes to displaying good citizenship. Gilly's enthusiasm for reading is evident as she gleefully engages in a game called "I Have... Who Has?" During recess, she finds great pleasure from playing alongside her friends. At home, Gilly cherishes moments shared with her brother Galen and sister Giai. Indulging in her love for water, she has set herself a goal of exhibiting flawless diving technique while leaping off the Wakulla Springs high dive. Gilly was specifically selected for her outgoing nature and her unwavering kindness, which she consistently demonstrates.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.



Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park

Orange coneflower

By LYNN ARTZ, SANDY TEDDER and DAVID RODDENBERRY



Orange coneflower (*Rudbeckia fulgida*) graces the entrance to Sopchoppy Depot Park because of its long blooming season. The charming yellow-orange flowers are still on display now. This carefree perennial grows 1-3 feet tall, attracts native bees, and is a larval host for the silvery checkerspot butterfly. Orange coneflower is related to black-eyed susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*) but is far less common in Florida. Whereas black-eyed susan occurs nearly statewide, orange coneflower is native to just a few central panhandle counties. Unfortunately, most nurseries carry the cultivar *Rudbeckia fulgida* 'Goldstrum' instead of the native wildflower. Changes growers make to the size, shape, or color of a native flower can make it harder for native pollinators to find and obtain nectar and pollen. Experts advise planting true natives for this reason.

Orange coneflower is native to a few panhandle counties.



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Christmas OPEN HOUSE

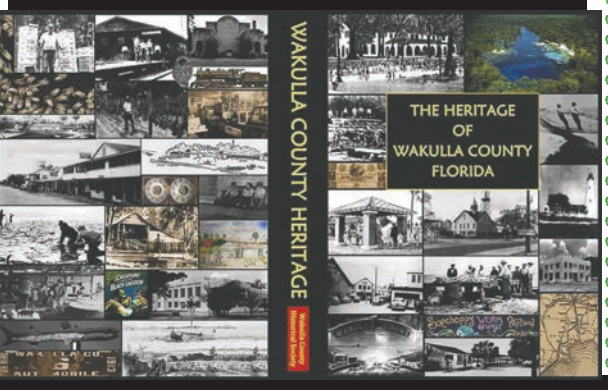
Wakulla County Historical Society
Cordially invites you to our
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE
December 2, 2023, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
24 High Drive, Crawfordville, FL 32327

The Gift Shop is Open! Filled with items made by local artisans. The late Fran Mathis' Seine Fishing artwork is featured on our ornament. Come and see our exhibits in the Museum, enjoy some homemade goodies and visit with friends.



Raffle Drawing for Two Quilts. \$1.00 or six for \$5.00. Donated by Diane Curlee and Cheryl Blose.

The 2023 Edition of The Heritage of Wakulla County is now available.



This is the 2023 edition of the previously published 2009 book, a compilation of family stories and genealogies, historical stories, entertaining personal accounts, plus 640+ black and white photos of the people and life in Wakulla County. 352 pages with a glossy photo collage hardbound cover, as shown. The price of the 2023 edition is \$50.00, plus tax (and shipping, if applicable).



SCAN ME for an electronic edition of this

The Wakulla Sun

The Wakulla Sun

FOLLOW THE SUN.
Your local source for news.

Wakulla embraces the Peanut Butter Challenge

By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**
Editor

Wakulla Community Accepts the Peanut Butter Challenge!

Crawfordville, FL - The Wakulla County Extension team and the 4-H youth development program once again challenged the local community to accept the annual Peanut Butter Challenge. This year, 4-H member Josie Counce asked community members to join her in the effort to collect peanut butter. The community took the challenge to heart, donating the most peanut butter ever given by Wakulla since participation began in 2012. In 2023, Wakulla County peanut butter donations increased by 92% over the prior year, translating

into an additional 773 pounds collected, for a total of 892 jars which equaled 1,612 pounds. Wakulla County placed third in total peanut butter collected out of 50 participating counties.

Why does the Extension office lead a peanut butter drive each year? University of Florida Extension partners with the Florida Peanut Federation and the Florida Peanut Producers to help place this nutrient dense, shelf stable food in communities where it is most needed. Counties that collect peanut butter are eligible for a match of jars, doubling the impact of their collection effort.

Florida is a major peanut producing state. Florida ranks third nationwide in peanut production (2022). The peanut industry contributed \$147

million to the state economy in 2022. Florida harvested 142,000 acres of peanuts in 2022, producing 554 million pounds of peanuts in 2022. The bulk of this production comes out of the Suwannee Valley and the Panhandle, and southward to just below Marion County.

In Wakulla County, the annual Peanut Butter Challenge benefits local food pantries and other efforts that feed local citizens. Peanut butter is supplied to local schools to go home in backpacks, to organizations that provide local community food aid, placed around the county in Blessing Boxes, and distributed to other organizations such as the Wakulla Senior Citizens' Center.

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/>.

Library News – Nov. 30

November 30th

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

December 1st

- Quilting Guild 9:30 am

December 2nd

- No Programs Today

December 3rd

- No Programs Today

December 4th

- No Programs Today

December 5th

- Crafting Group 9:30 am
- Book Bunch 10 am
- CTST 11 am
- Lego Club 4 pm
- Wakulla Democratic Executive Committee 6 pm

December 6th

- Book Babies 10am

- Garden Club Board Meeting 1 pm
- Snacks & Backpacks 3pm
- Knitting Group 4pm

Santa's mailbox is up until December 18th at the Wakulla Courthouse and there is also a mailbox inside the library.

Upcoming Holiday Closings

- December 22nd and 25th for Christmas

Save the Date Events

- Saturday December 16th Holiday Storytime with Sheriff Miller
- Tuesday December 19th at the Community Center Holiday Animal Safari with Animal Tales

After Navy career, David Sellers returns to Wakulla

Special to The Sun

David J. Sellers, Chief Warrant Officer, United States Navy Veteran, Naval Special Warfare, recently retired from USN and moved back home to Crawfordville with his family after over 22 years.

David graduated from WHS in 1999, enlisting in the USN while in High School. His wife, Evelyn, Navy Veteran, (met on USS Kearsarge), Evelyn deployed, stationed in Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom; 3 boys, Gabriel, Jonathan, Alejandro. Gabe graduated 2022 in VA, Jonathan graduated WHS this year, Alex will graduate WHS next year. David's very happy parents are Adrian & Diana Sellers.

Deployments include Persian Gulf Shock and Awe, Operation Iraqi Freedom (Saddam was found December 2003). Operation Enduring Freedom. Hurricane Katrina 2005, Humanitarian Aide, USS Harry S. Truman, Hurricane Harvey 2017, Humanitarian Aide, USS Arlington, Naval Warfare College. Naval Instructor. Assigned to Pre-commission the USS New York (Its bow contains 7.5 tons of World Trade Center Steel) plank owner, Commissioned the USS New York in New York City November 2009. Recruited to Naval Special Warfare SEALs & SWCC, headed programs; Homeland Security, ICE Teams, seized drug boats. Spe-



David Sellers

cial Boat Teams SEALs, Combatant Crafts. Deployed to Yemen.

Thank you to my wife; honor, commitment...her deployment on the homefront as I was away so much...

A special gratitude goes out to all veterans and their families, mine did, their parents did...World War conflicts. My wife's three siblings all in the military...serving, thankful for this country....and all that came before. Thank you, two words with so much gratitude.

God Bless America.

David J. Sellers
Chief Warrant Officer USN Retired

Florida Farm Bureau gives grant to WEC Pre-K

Special to The Sun

A grant from Florida Farm Bureau will support a special learning experience for a group of students at WEC Pre-K. The grant has been awarded for the 2023-24 academic year under Farm Bureau's statewide, competitive Ag in the Classroom Program.

Michelle Pitts a teacher at Wakulla Education Center's Pre-K, earned the \$240 in funding by submitting a successful application for a project involving ordering a new border for the garden so the Pre-K can pull up the rotten wood. Mrs. Pitts also plans to order a Mud Kitchen for the outside classroom.

Farm Bureau Mini-Grants are offered annually to certified classroom

teachers who serve young people in Kindergarten through 12th grade. The grants are intended to help promote a better understanding of contemporary agriculture among students and teachers. Many successful projects supported by the program include innovative interdisciplinary approaches to social studies, mathematics, language arts, physical science and natural resource management.

Florida Farm Bureau has awarded mini-grants totaling over \$30,000 to teachers across the state for the 2023-2024 academic year. For more information about the Florida Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom program, contact Michele Curts at Michele.Curts@ffbf.org.

Code Enforcement Openings

Special to The Sun

Are you interested in serving on the Wakulla County Code Enforcement Board?

Wakulla County is currently seeking two citizens who have a willingness to serve as members on the Code Enforcement Board to fill two vacant positions.

These positions will be for two alternate members. The membership of the Code Enforcement Board shall be residents of the County; and, whenever possible, consist of an architect, a business person, an engineer, a general contractor, a subcontractor, a realtor, and another citizen. The alternate mem-

bers would have the responsibility of being present, when called upon, at Code Enforcement meetings beginning in 2024. These meetings typically occur on the fourth Tuesday of every other month at 5:30 p.m.

Citizens wishing to serve as a member should submit a cover letter explaining their interest in serving and provide a resume or other statement of relevant experience which includes the person's name, address, telephone number, and email address no later than Monday, Dec. 18. Please email your information to Jackson Kittrell at jkittrell@mywakulla.com or by fax to 850-926-1528.

Great Loop

From Front Page

on its map, and that caused him to collide with it, damaging his hull and propeller, forcing Griffin to get it taken to a nearby marina to have it repaired, adding yet another delay to a trip that was already taking much longer than expected.

He cited this when asked what the lowest point on the trip was, a far cry from the heights of the Hudson Bay.

Griffin's trip after running aground went much smoother, despite some initial rough water around the coast of Michigan, he says that Lake Michigan itself was calm and relaxing, a nice change as he made his way down to Chicago, starting the southward trip down toward the Mighty Mississippi - which he reached on October 7th.

After that, it was smooth boating, taking only a month to make it from the Mississippi back home, where Griffin "Crossed his Wake" and completed the Great loop

Palaver Tree presents Harold Pinter's 'Caretaker'



The Caretaker, written by Harold Pinter, directed by Gary Brame, performed by Jim McMurtry, Collin Johnson and Caleb Goodman, will have four shows only at The Palaver Tree Theater. Thursday, Nov. 30 at 8 p.m. in a pay-what-you-can performance; on Friday, Dec. 1 at 8 p.m., and two performances on Saturday, Dec. 2 with a matinee at 2 p.m. and a final show at 8 p.m. Besides the Thursday show, tickets are \$15 at the door or online at www.PalaverTreeTheater.org. (Photo by Gerald Brown)

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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.”

Trump trials should be televised for all to see

By **BILL COTTERELL**
City and State

Donald Trump has finally said something almost everybody agrees with — except for a few guys whose opinions are the only ones that really matter.

Reckless, purposely provocative rhetoric is a mainstay of Trump's comeback campaign. He may horrify about half the voters, who wouldn't vote for him at gunpoint, and delight the other half, many of whom share a cult-like devotion to him, but being outrageous is his schtick.

Last week his lawyers signaled his acceptance of video cameras in the Washington courtroom where Trump will be tried for inciting the Jan. 6 riots at the U.S. Capitol. That's a reversal, though hardly a surprise, as Trump previously took no position on televising his trials.

Unfortunately, federal rules generally prohibit cameras in courtrooms. Despite Trump's agreement, and entreaties by news organizations, the prosecutors are not interested in televising this unprecedented, extremely important case. The U.S. Supreme Court could change that, if it weren't so mired in its own hide-bound tradition.

Trump's trial in Atlanta, on state charges of trying to put up a bogus slate of Georgia electors, will be broadcast. The rules in many states, including Florida, permit cameras in courts, unlike the stuck-in-the-fifties feds.

Times and technology have changed. A half-century ago, TV cameras were bigger than a large suitcase, and were rolled around on tall tripods, with light and sound equipment that took up a few feet of surrounding space. Now, broadcast-quality video can be made on a cell phone, and even though the networks would use equipment more sophisticated than what's in your pocket, camera are unobtrusive.

Reporters are ordered to keep their seats and maintain a judicial decorum — no live stand-ups in the center aisle, no sidelines interviews or zooming in on the judge at moments of high drama. This isn't a football game.

There are channels like Court TV that jump between two or three trials a day, offering live testimony and legal analysis. If it gets too showbiz, the plug can be pulled. The court could even impose a 30-second delay and have a single cable feed to a nearby press room, where all the media could down-

Turn to Page 5

LETTERS FROM READERS

Another plea for kids who need beds

Editor, The Sun:

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

If you know a child who does not have their own bed, we want to help. The Rotary Club of Wakulla has partnered with Sleep in Heavenly Peace and will be conducting a bed building event on December 2nd at 9 a.m.

Sherrif Jared Miller and the WCSO have generously provided their parking lot as the location for this event.

These beds will be constructed and delivered at no cost to fami-

lies in Wakulla who have applied through the SHP website.

Please go to shpbeds.org/apply/ and fill out the simple one-page form. You can refer a family who many not be aware of this program.

If you are unable to fill out the form online please contact SHP Tallahassee Chapter President at 844-432-2337 extension 5707. Your information will be kept confidential.

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

NO KID SHOULD SLEEP ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN.

Steve Sanabria

Rotary Club of Wakulla

Something on your mind?

Email Letters to the Editor to editor@thewakallasun.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. 30

Thursday, November 30

- “The Caretaker,” a play by Harold Pinter, begins its run at Palaver Tree Theater at 8 p.m. Thursday is “Pay what you can” night.
- The Rotary Club of Wakulla County meets at the TCC Wakulla Center at 8:30 a.m. every Thursday.
- Gentle Yoga at 9 a.m. and Yin Yoga at 6 p.m. with Zoe every Thursday. Classes are \$12, at New Posh on 3079 Crawfordville Hwy. RSVP to newposh3079@gmail.com or text/call at (850) 528-5838.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. every Thursday at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

Friday, December 1

- Palaver Tree Theater is performing “The Caretaker” at 8 p.m., tickets are \$15 at the door.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and 8 p.m. every Friday at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

Saturday, December 2

- Keep Wakulla County Beautiful will hold a River Clean-up at Upper Bridge on Shadeville Road, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.
- Christmas for the Critters hosted by the Florida Wild Mammal Association will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Hudson Park and will feature craft vendors as well as a raffle.

- Christmas in Panacea will be held from 3 to 6 p.m., with Santa arriving at 4 p.m. and staying until 5:30 p.m.
- Palaver Tree Theater is performing “The Caretaker” at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., tickets are \$15 at the door.
- Wakulla County Historical Society holds an open house from 1 to 4 p.m., at the museum, 24 High Dr. in Crawfordville
- The Panacea Community Garden Farmer's Market will be held from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in Panacea.
- 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, December 4

- Panacea Waterfronts holds its Christmas Bingo night at Posey's Steamroom, with dinner starting at 5:30 and bingo starting at 6:15 p.m.
- The Wakulla County Planning Commission meets at 6 p.m. in the commission chambers.
- 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, December 5

- The Wakulla County Charter Review Commission meets at 6 p.m. in the Wakulla Community Center.
- Sopchoppy community dinner is held every week at the Towles House at 6:30 p.m.
- Sopchoppy community dinner is held every week at the Towles House at 6:30 p.m.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 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, December 6

- Muffins with Moms Prenatal Support Group meets at 9 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 10 a.m. at the Wakulla County Health Department. Contact Liz Neighbors at 850-888-6078 or elizabeth.neighbors@flhealth.gov for more information.
- Wakulla County Coalition for Youth meets at 12:30 p.m. at the health department.
- 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.

“It's A New Day!”

The Wakulla Sun



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Sales & Marketing: Lynda Kinsey

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



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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.

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

Your contributions will equip our newsroom to better serve you and all our readers.

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- More reporters on the street
- 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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Send it to Florida Press Foundation at 336 East College Avenue, Suite 304, Tallahassee FL 32301

◀ Question of The Week ▶

– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

Polled at the Community Thanksgiving in Hudson Park:

What is your favorite Thanksgiving dish?



JENNIFER GRIMSLEY
Medical Assistant

**The dressing
Absolutely the
dressing'**



PEGGY MCLAUGHLIN
Rec. Park

**"My daughter's
corn casserole."**



MEGAN CURLEE
Accountant

**"My sister's
banana pudding."**



TRE CURLEE
Concrete cutter

**"Green bean
casserole! My
favorite part is the
fried onions."**



PAM POSEY
Dept. of Education

**Corn bread
dressing
My
mom's was my
favorite."**

Wakulla Station News

By **VERNA BROCK**

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving with friends and family. In a world that often seems dark and threatening, there is also much for which we can give thanks.

Among those things, I am grateful for Pastor Steve's healing from knee surgery. I am grateful for baby Sebastian Mosely-Bennett's arrival home for good. Yes, he will need frequent visits to Shands to monitor his progress, but he is now officially able to call Crawfordville his home. I am also grateful David Hinson is on the mend after a visit to the Emergency Room and surgery. Please continue to pray for them all, as well as our nation.

This Saturday, Dec. 2, will be the annual Christmas Bazaar at Wakulla United Methodist Church. Held in the Social Hall from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Bazaar will culminate with the drawing for the ladies' much-coveted quilt and two matching pillows.

Coming up this Sunday, Dec. 3, is a special first Sunday occasion. We will have service at 11:15 a.m. (instead of the regular 10 a.m. service) with Communion to allow Pastor Steve and Woodville United Methodist Church members to join us for a holiday celebration dinner with all the fixins. Please plan to join us for great fellowship and feasting.

Like many of you, I was looking forward to having family for Thanksgiving dinner, including Alan, up from Pinellas County for a few days. So many of our collective celebrations revolve around sharing gratitude for our many blessings, both material and spiritual. What memories do you have, when thinking about your blessings?

When I think of Thanksgiving, my thoughts always begin with my earliest awareness of the day, as a first grade pupil at Thunder Bay Elementary School in Alpena, Michigan.

By mid-November all the beautiful fall foliage was beginning to fade.

The lengthening nights had moved from frost to flurries to actual sticking snow. Inside the classroom, cozy and warm, the air was scented with hundreds of sack lunches of apples, bananas and peanut butter sandwiches.

Each child heard the story of merciful Indians sharing their bounty with near-starving Pilgrims for the first time. The inaugural Thanksgiving to God for His gifts would be commemorated in our homes in a few days and we excitedly looked forward to the occasion.

Turning our attention to fashioning black and white construction paper into Pilgrim hats with gold buckles, we learned of Little Goody Two Shoes and Miles Standish. We turned dozens of brightly colored paper feathers into turkeys and Indian headdresses. Every day we colored sheets of leaves and Pilgrims, all to be carried home to our parents, clutched in our hands the Wednesday before the anticipated long weekend of feasting and gratitude.

Subsequent years celebrations were repeated variations on these

themes, but it always seemed a truer Thanksgiving was had when shared with others. Whether with friends or family, the holiday seemed more meaningful when we broke bread with neighbors or relatives.

The year my family joined the Coast Guardsmen at the mess hall at the Muskegon Light Station on Lake Michigan was one of the best, as we shared traditional delicacies from all corners of the nation. Later in life, my family shared the hosting rotation of celebration with grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins every year in Florida. With growing maturity came a deepening appreciation of the true meaning of Thanksgiving.

I have come to remember fondly the first Thanksgiving my husband and I prepared, and hosted, as newlyweds, still attending FSU and facing exams, we couldn't travel to our respective families. Instead, we invited two friends similarly marooned in Tallahassee to join us for dinner and football.

May we never fail to celebrate the gifts we have, and give to those who have not. Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Sheriff's Report

This report is for activity Nov. 17-23:

FRIDAY, NOV. 17

• Deputy Heather Will responded to Circle K in Medart in reference to two white males taking alcoholic beverages from the store without paying for them. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

SATURDAY, NOV. 18

• Hunter Chapman reported the theft of copper wiring from his property. Two possible suspects have been identified. Road Patrol deputies will be conducting follow-up investigations on this case.

• Deputies responded to Sopchoppy Highway in reference to a disturbance. Phillip Rosier found Kelvin Robbins in his backyard and told him to leave. Robbins refused and brandished a knife. Rosier armed himself with a stick and hit Robbins in the face. Robbins was arrested for aggravated assault and transported to the Wakulla County Jail. Deputy Austin Rivers investigated.

SUNDAY, NOV. 19

• Mary McKenzie reported leaving her wallet in a shopping cart. The wallet was later recovered and turned over to Loss Prevention at Walmart. Deputy Anthony Paul attempted to contact McKenzie to return the missing wallet. The wallet was placed into property and evidence for safekeeping until it can be returned.

• Deputy Heather Will responded to Walmart in reference to a retail theft that occurred the previous night. On Nov. 18, two females entered the store, selected items, and filled their cart. The pair attempted to push the cart out of the store without paying. When they were approached by store employees, they left the cart full of items and fled the store. The stolen merchandise was valued at \$468.67. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

MONDAY, NOV. 20

• April Dawkins reported a theft at

Dollar General in Wakulla Station. Dawkins advised a female and a male filled bags with food and left the store without paying. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Don Newsome investigated.

TUESDAY, NOV. 21

• Bert Cadwell reported unknown and unauthorized purchases made on his bank account. The activity took place in Leon County. Cadwell reported the loss of \$450 to Sams Club. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Norman De Guzman investigated.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 22

• Walmart Asset Protection employees reported a male and a female leave the store without paying for items. The couple left without paying for 55 items totaling \$207.81. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Matt Hinson investigated.

• An employee with Endless Point Oyster Company reported a theft. The complainant arrived this morning and discovered miscellaneous items and tools missing. They also advised the items had an approximate value of

\$840. Deputy Dakota Haddock investigated.

• Deputy Jake Scott conducted a traffic stop for passing on a double yellow line. Upon stopping, Bobby Ross exited the vehicle with his hands on his head and met Scott at the rear of the car. Ross was found to have 10 prior DWLSR convictions. Drug paraphernalia was seen in an open compartment in the vehicle. The tag attached to the vehicle was from an RV. Ross was transported to the Wakulla County Jail without further incident.

THURSDAY, NOV. 23

• Ashley Mattox reported that she woke up and discovered her golf cart missing. An affidavit for prosecution was signed. A short time later Leon County Sheriff's Office located the golf cart in their county. The golf cart was turned over to Mattox, however she still wished to pursue charges. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Dakota Haddock investigated.

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

Cotterell: Trump trials on TV

From Opinion Page

load video.

The executive and legislative branches do it all the time.

The Justice Department has three basic reasons for the ban on televising trials: (A) We've always done it this way, (B) We don't want to change and (C) you can't make us.

But what great harm would befall the country, if we could see the trial?

If the judiciary fears a bold new precedent in doing something state courts have done for decades, it

could make this a one-time exception. There has never been a president like Trump, never been legal entanglements like he's produced — four criminal cases with 91 counts, plus a New York civil action — and there's never been a defendant running for president while on trial.

Trump's behavior in the New York civil trial, calling the judge a partisan hack and the state attorney general a deranged racist, prompted a gag order. His motion to admit cameras to the Washington federal trial showed the same belligerent bluster. The former re-

ality show star clearly wants his act on TV.

In a motion seeking to televise the whole show, Trump's lawyers wrote, "In sum, President Trump absolutely agrees — and, in fact, demands — that these proceedings should be fully televised so that the American public can see first hand that this case, just like others, is nothing more than a dreamt-up, unconstitutional charade that should never be allowed to happen again."

But it could backfire. Television exposed Sen. Joe McCarthy as a thug whose anti-communist crusade was a sham. Cameras brought us the truths of the Wa-

tergate hearings and the Iran-Contra inquiry, as well as several House and Senate hearings today. TV could amplify Trump's lying, or show him to be Joe McCarthy in an expensive suit.

That Trump would love to turn the calm, contemplative air of the courtroom into something like a pro-wrestling spectacle — or a Trump campaign rally — is regrettable, but no reason to keep the cameras out.

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

Outdoors

outdoor sports

HOME ON THE RANGE

Differences of opinion



By MARJ LAW

On Saturday, we were glued to the television watching FSU Seminoles playing the Florida Gators. In The Swamp, no less.

Since I graduated from FSU, you know who I wanted to win. Joe used to live in mid-Florida. He says he roots for FSU, but I think he has a sneaking preference for those Gators. We both knew we were right (and I won't rub it in by reminding you who did win...).

Doesn't matter. We all have differences of opinion. Take handguns.

After I met Joe, a man was at a dinner party with us. He asked me: "Did you teach Joe everything he knows about guns?"

He asked this with a straight face, so I flattered myself that this was an honest question.

"Well, no," I had to answer. "I've been shooting for 5 years. Joe's shot with some of the men in his family since he was a boy and he shot in the Navy. But that doesn't mean I don't have some valid opinions. And sometimes Joe is just plain wrong, wrong, wrong."

That was 8 years ago. Know what? I still consider some of Joe's assertions to be outdated.

Let's talk about .38 revolvers. A lot of guys buy them for their women because they "will never jam," and they have great "take down power." Even Joe, knowing how I feel about those .38s says he likes them because yes, they are reliable. He likes

the snub-nose version, too, saying it is very accurate. And last, he says that for him, it is easily controllable and he compares the recoil to that of a 9mm handgun.

Do you believe such balderdash? We'll start with the phrase "never jam." The .38 has a cylinder that turns. C'mon. Anything that moves can be made not to move. For instance, if a bit of chewing gum wrapper or other debris insinuates itself somewhere around the cylinder, it can stop the cylinder from rotating freely. Naturally, if the cylinder only moves partway, individual chambers won't align with the barrel. Age, grease gunk, debris... All these things can wreak havoc with the timing of the cylinder's turn. Good luck making that shot!

And the .38 is controllable? Sure. It's controllable for Joe. He has huge bones and lots of military training. But you take Newbie, a person with arthritis, a small-boned or a mature person and have any one of them shoot the Chief's Special .38. Warn them, of course, that they'll have to have a very firm grip and be ready for a harsh recoil.

After that shot, put a 9mm Smith & Wesson Equalizer in their hands and ask them to shoot.

They'll look like they just struck gold. Sure, Joe's size and training make the .38 easy to shoot. But Newbie? Mature person? Small person?

No. They'll take the 9mm Equalizer in a Wakulla minute. It has a ton less recoil and a nice, soft shoot.

And yes, both handguns can foul if dirty with debris. The fix? Keep your guns clean and in good holsters.

Do .38s have more take down power? Well, that's debatable. Yes, some people believe the .38 has more take down power than a 9mm. But which gun is really most effective?



You get 5 shots with that .38 Chief's Special. And how many shots in the magazine of the Equalizer? Let's see. The gun comes with a magazine that holds 10, another magazine that holds 13 and one that holds 15 rounds. If Mr. Bad is coming at you, and you aim and miss a couple shots, wouldn't you prefer knowing you have 15 rounds to protect your family? 15 rounds is take down power to me.

Never jam? Take down power? Skip the .38 and go for the 9mm handgun.

Next, Joe prefers 1911 guns. The famous John Moses Browning designed this pistol. When? In 1911. That's a long time ago. The 1911 was then a .45-caliber gun and is still known for its single-action trigger, safety mounted on the frame, smooth and crisp trigger, short recoil system and single stack magazine, usually holding 8 to 10 rounds. It is made of metal and is a hammer gun.

Let's talk about that safety on the hammer fired 1911s: Joe was taught in the Navy. While pulling the gun from its holster, Joe's thumb slides down the frame, disengaging the safety. He thinks anyone can learn how to put

disengaging the safety into their muscle memory.

No. Just no.

You take a mature lady who has made a dozen trips to the range with her gun. Yes, she's pretty familiar with it now. But when Mr. Bad breaks down her door, is she going to remember to flip down the safety? No.

Then I ask Joe what is the reasoning for a safety.

He says that back in the military, on a 1911 hammer fired gun, the safety helps avoiding accidental discharge when taking in and out of the holster. It avoids accidental discharge when dropped. A safety prevents accidental discharge when climbing in and out of the car.

While all that may be true, striker-fired guns have safeties too. However, they have other types of safeties. For instance, you might have a grip safety or a couple kinds of trigger safeties. Your striker-fired gun with a grip safety will only shoot if you have a firm hold on the grip. This means a really firm grip. Crawling out of your car or having something lean on the grip in your purse won't set it off.

A trigger safety is an additional lever beside the trigger. Unless both the trigger safety and the

trigger are depressed together, that gun won't fire.

Another trigger safety is a long or hard trigger pull. If the trigger pull is long, a short tug will not be sufficient to let the gun fire. If the trigger has a hard pull, again, pulling that trigger will have to be an intentional move. It can't happen accidentally.

Grip and trigger safeties mean that if you ever have to shoot in self-defense, you will not have to remember to disengage the safety. Safeties? I like those built-in safeties you find on striker fired guns.

Another point of friendly disagreement is the UpLula. The UpLula makes loading a magazine easy. Joe says I should learn to load with my thumbs.

"Back in the Navy," Joe says, "Master Gunner's Mate Extra Strong Thumbs taught us to load the magazines by ourselves. No cheating assists."

Well, back then in the Navy, the guys learning were young and strong. I don't have any need to prove myself, and am only too happy to use an UpLula. Somehow, the UpLula is able to push against the magazine's spring so you can drop in your rounds easily. Push in those rounds yourself?

Heck, you might break a nail. Do it the easy way with your UpLula.

I maintain that some guns, particularly 1911s, are difficult to break down.

"As often as you take down your gun, it's meaningless to use this as criteria for choosing a handgun," Joe says.

Well, he says that now, but when I first began shooting, he had me cleaning my gun after each range session.

Have you ever tried to take down a 45 caliber 1911? It comes with a special wrench you put at the muzzle of the gun. It takes a whole lot of oomph to turn that thing. And that's just the beginning.

My nice striker fired guns have takedown levers on the frames. You lock back the slide, push the lever down and guide the slide off the frame. Doesn't require strength or any special tool. Easy. I like easy.

So, Joe is partial to 1911 hammer fired guns for their superior triggers, accuracy, and reliability. I prefer striker fired guns for their simplicity as well as their accuracy and reliability. That's what I want in a gun.

"Do you really?" asks Joe. "What about your Sig Sauer P238? Seems to me the P238 is a miniature 1911 hammer fired gun? H'm?"

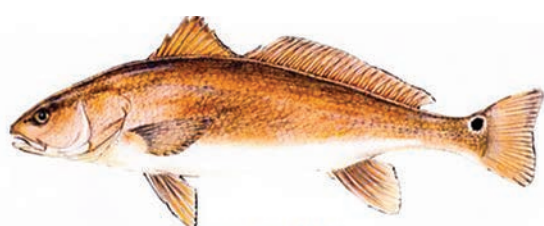
Okay. He's got me there. I do like this tiny Sig that shoots accurately and fits in my purse.

"Well, yes, but..." I sputter. "What about your Sig Sauer P320? It's a striker fired gun and you really like it!"

What can I say? Joe mostly prefers hammer fired guns and the Gators. I mostly prefer striker fired guns and the Seminoles.

We're both right.

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



RED DRUM
(*Sciaenops ocellatus*)

If it hits like a freight train, and tries to wrap your line around the pilings, it's probably a Redfish. Otherwise known as Red Drum, they have a beautiful coppery color with one tail. Rarely a fish may have two or none. Young grow in estuaries, feeding on crustaceans, small fish and mollusks for 4 years before migrating nearshore. During the Aug-Nov spawning, they move into brackish and tannin stained inshore waters. There they turn into the rich bronze they get their name from. Red drum can be killed by a cold snap in shallow waters. They can reach 4 ft.

Eukarya, Animalia, Cordata, Actinopterygii, Perciformes, Sciaenidae



WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO



Retired Wakulla Springs State Park Ranger Bob Thompson, on his weekly wildlife survey at the park last week, snapped this photo of a turkey vulture and black vulture sharing a limb.

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 2784 COASTAL HWY., CRAWFORDVILLE

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a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences

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Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

Nov. 30 - Dec. 6



Tide charts by tides4fishing.com



Best fishing days this month December 12-26

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. High Tide, 2 Hrs., 38 Min. Low Tide; Cat Point 1 Hr., 13 Min. High Tide, 2 Hrs., 31 Min. Low Tide; Lower Anchorage 1 Hr., 36 Min. High Tide, 2 Hrs., 3 Min. Low Tide; West Pass 1 Hr., 26 Min. High Tide, 2 Hrs., 39 Min. Low Tide.

St. Marks River Entrance

Th	2:26 am ▲ 3.6 ft	10:02 am ▼ -0.4 ft	4:38 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	9:23 pm ▼ 1.6 ft
Fr	3:02 am ▲ 3.4 ft	10:42 am ▼ -0.2 ft	5:20 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	10:06 pm ▼ 1.6 ft
Sa	3:41 am ▲ 3.2 ft	11:24 am ▼ 0.1 ft	6:07 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	10:57 pm ▼ 1.6 ft
Su	4:28 am ▲ 2.9 ft	12:11 pm ▼ 0.4 ft	7:00 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	
Mo	12:06 am ▲ 1.6 ft	5:30 am ▲ 2.6 ft	1:03 pm ▼ 0.7 ft	7:57 pm ▲ 2.5 ft
Tu	1:32 am ▲ 1.5 ft	7:03 am ▲ 2.3 ft	2:01 pm ▼ 0.9 ft	8:51 pm ▲ 2.6 ft
We	2:58 am ▼ 1.2 ft	8:55 am ▲ 2.3 ft	3:00 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	9:37 pm ▲ 2.7 ft

City of St. Marks

Th	3:02 am ▲ 3.3 ft	11:06 am ▼ -0.4 ft	5:14 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	10:27 pm ▼ 1.4 ft
Fr	3:38 am ▲ 3.2 ft	11:46 am ▼ -0.1 ft	5:56 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	11:09 pm ▼ 1.4 ft
Sa	4:17 am ▲ 2.9 ft	12:28 pm ▼ 0.1 ft	6:43 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	
Su	12:01 am ▼ 1.5 ft	5:04 am ▲ 2.7 ft	1:15 pm ▼ 0.4 ft	7:36 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
Mo	1:10 am ▼ 1.4 ft	6:06 am ▲ 2.4 ft	2:07 pm ▼ 0.6 ft	8:33 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
Tu	2:36 am ▼ 1.3 ft	7:39 am ▲ 2.2 ft	3:05 pm ▼ 0.8 ft	9:27 pm ▲ 2.4 ft
We	4:02 am ▼ 1.1 ft	9:31 am ▲ 2.1 ft	4:04 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	10:13 pm ▲ 2.5 ft

Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	2:40 am ▲ 3.6 ft	10:26 am ▼ -0.6 ft	4:58 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	9:34 pm ▼ 1.7 ft
Fr	3:17 am ▲ 3.4 ft	11:07 am ▼ -0.4 ft	5:39 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	10:17 pm ▼ 1.7 ft
Sa	3:57 am ▲ 3.2 ft	11:49 am ▼ -0.1 ft	6:25 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	11:10 pm ▼ 1.6 ft
Su	4:44 am ▲ 3.0 ft	12:35 pm ▼ 0.2 ft	7:14 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	
Mo	12:19 am ▼ 1.6 ft	5:46 am ▲ 2.7 ft	1:25 pm ▼ 0.4 ft	8:07 pm ▲ 2.6 ft
Tu	1:42 am ▼ 1.4 ft	7:16 am ▲ 2.4 ft	2:18 pm ▼ 0.7 ft	8:58 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
We	3:08 am ▼ 1.1 ft	9:05 am ▲ 2.3 ft	3:13 pm ▼ 0.9 ft	9:44 pm ▲ 2.8 ft

Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	2:18 am ▲ 2.7 ft	10:13 am ▼ -0.3 ft	4:30 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	9:34 pm ▼ 1.1 ft
Fr	2:54 am ▲ 2.2 ft	10:53 am ▼ -0.1 ft	5:12 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	10:16 pm ▼ 1.2 ft
Sa	3:33 am ▲ 2.4 ft	11:35 am ▼ 0.1 ft	5:59 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	11:08 pm ▼ 1.2 ft
Su	4:20 am ▲ 2.2 ft	12:22 pm ▼ 0.3 ft	6:52 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	
Mo	12:17 am ▼ 1.2 ft	5:22 am ▲ 1.9 ft	1:14 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	7:49 pm ▲ 1.9 ft
Tu	1:43 am ▼ 1.1 ft	6:55 am ▲ 1.7 ft	2:12 pm ▼ 0.6 ft	8:43 pm ▲ 1.9 ft
We	3:09 am ▼ 0.9 ft	8:47 am ▲ 1.7 ft	3:11 pm ▼ 0.8 ft	9:29 pm ▲ 2.0 ft

St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	2:13 am ▲ 2.9 ft	9:59 am ▼ -0.7 ft	5:05 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	9:02 pm ▼ 1.6 ft
Fr	2:56 am ▲ 2.7 ft	10:43 am ▼ -0.4 ft	5:50 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	9:45 pm ▼ 1.5 ft
Sa	3:42 am ▲ 2.5 ft	11:30 am ▼ -0.2 ft	6:37 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	10:47 pm ▼ 1.5 ft
Su	4:37 am ▲ 2.3 ft	12:21 pm ▼ 0.1 ft	7:26 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	
Mo	12:22 am ▼ 1.4 ft	5:48 am ▲ 2.0 ft	1:16 pm ▼ 0.3 ft	8:14 pm ▲ 1.9 ft
Tu	2:18 am ▼ 1.2 ft	7:24 am ▲ 1.8 ft	2:16 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	8:57 pm ▲ 2.0 ft
We	3:40 am ▼ 0.9 ft	9:09 am ▲ 1.7 ft	3:16 pm ▼ 0.7 ft	9:34 pm ▲ 2.1 ft

Dog Island West End

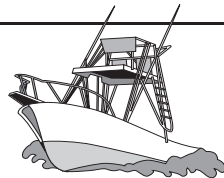
Th	2:24 am ▲ 2.5 ft	10:10 am ▼ -0.7 ft	5:42 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	9:14 pm ▼ 1.6 ft
Fr	3:02 am ▲ 2.4 ft	10:55 am ▼ -0.5 ft	6:21 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	10:01 pm ▼ 1.6 ft
Sa	3:44 am ▲ 2.2 ft	11:38 am ▼ -0.3 ft	7:12 pm ▲ 1.7 ft	11:15 pm ▼ 1.6 ft
Su	4:30 am ▲ 2.0 ft	12:20 pm ▼ 0.0 ft	8:30 pm ▲ 1.6 ft	
Mo	12:32 am ▼ 1.5 ft	5:23 am ▲ 1.7 ft	1:04 pm ▼ 0.2 ft	9:01 pm ▲ 1.7 ft
Tu	2:36 am ▼ 1.3 ft	6:39 am ▲ 1.5 ft	1:58 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	9:19 pm ▲ 1.7 ft
We	3:54 am ▼ 0.9 ft	8:01 am ▲ 1.4 ft	2:57 pm ▼ 0.7 ft	9:38 pm ▲ 1.8 ft

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



Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports

By Carolyn Brown Treadon



The air temperatures in our area are starting to drop and that means the water temperatures are also dropping.

Current water temperatures in the St. Marks River area are about 67* F. According to the American Boating Association, in water between 60-70 degrees, exhaustion or unconsciousness can set in within 2-7 hours.

It is important to remember to dress for the water temperature, not just the air temperature. Wearing a life jacket increasing your chances of survival if you do find yourself overboard. The shock of falling into cold water can induce paralysis in arms and legs, swim failure can occur during prolonged exposure. A life jacket can keep you afloat when your body cannot. It can also help you conserve

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

energy can add a layer of insulation. A bright colored life jacket makes you much easier to spot by those looking for you.

If you do fall overboard, wet clothing will draw out your body heat much faster. It is good practice to have a set of dry clothing should you need to change.

U.S. Coast Guard boat crews wear hypothermia protective equipment at a water temp of 60°F or

less. If they are being proactive, we need to take this risk seriously ourselves! You can check the current water temperature with a quick internet search before you head out for a day on the water.

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 pnkhill12000@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

The eastern springs.

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving this past Thursday. It got me to thinking of this year and all the diving and new students I have had the privilege to take diving to new discoveries for themselves. In January we did all our open water classes in the various springs within 2 hours of Crawfordville. I would generally take my students to the Blue Grotto and Devils Den outside of Williston, what I call the eastern springs.

If you haven't dived Blue Grotto you should at least try it once. I will probably not take any more open water students there because the entrance fee went from \$32 to \$54 per diver, that is outrageous because it hasn't really changed since last year. However if you haven't been you should go once.

Our second open water dive was done in the Devils Den just a few miles east on 27 from Blue Grotto. The Devils Den is a very unique type of spring. It is what they consider an underground spring, however it is not without sunlight. What makes it so appealing is you have to climb down a long staircase, the first few stairs are stone that goes into the second set made of aluminum to the sunken platform, then wide steps into the spring basin. You then look up to a big opening to see sunlight coming through the ceiling of the cavern. If you get there on a cool winter morning you can walk around the platform at the ground level to see steam coming out of the hole that looks like a smoking caldron. The cost per diver is \$38.

Around April, I would start taking students to the westside springs in and around Ponce de Leon.

Vortex springs and Morrison Springs. The water in the westside springs is about 4 degrees colder than the eastside springs and believe me you can tell the difference. We generally do our first day of diving in Morrison Springs as long as the water is clear. So far this year it has remained crystal clear this whole year. You need to call the Walton County Parks and Recreation before you go to make sure its at least a 3 or better. If they say it's a 1 then don't go because it will be pretty bad visibility. As of Oct. 28, it was perfect.

The second day of diving is done in Vortex Springs, literally 10 miles south on 81 from Morrison Springs. The entrance for divers at Morrison is free but the entrance for Vortex is \$25 per diver - it has maintained that fee for the last 10 years. It has a great dive shop and it has changing rooms. The spring basin has all sorts of stuff to see but get there when they open or you might not get a close parking spot. They do have an abundance of picnic tables to set up your gear on.

All in all it has been a great year for diving. That's what I love about Florida because you can dive all year long.

Keep making bubbles.

Russell Miller #59999

FWC Law Enforcement Report

From FWC

This report represents some events the FWC handled Oct. 27_ Nov. 2 in the North Central Region. (There were no cases reported for Wakulla County or the Northwest Region.)

BAY COUNTY

Officers N. Basford and Brady were on patrol in St. Andrews Bay when they observed a vessel returning from fishing. The vessel was stopped to conduct a resource inspection. During the inspection, an undersized triggerfish was located. One of the occupants on the vessel stated it was

their fish. A citation was issued for possession of undersized triggerfish.

Officers N. Basford and Brady were on patrol in St. Andrews Bay when they observed a vessel returning from fishing. The vessel was stopped to conduct a resource inspection. During the inspection, three red grouper were located. The season for red grouper is closed. Two of the occupants on the vessel stated the fish were theirs. A citation was issued to both individuals for possession of red grouper during closed season.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Officer Hartzog was conducting night patrol on East Bay and observed an individual throwing a cast net along the shoreline and harvesting shrimp. Officer Hartzog stopped the individual to conduct a resource inspection. During the inspection, Officer Hartzog observed the subject to be in possession of several pounds of wild shrimp harvested in a prohibited area. The individual was identified as a commercial angler who had multiple previous violations. The officer addressed the violation appropriately.

JACKSON COUNTY

Officer J. Carr saw a truck with a light being shown out of the passenger side window illuminating a farm field. He conducted a traffic stop and found two subjects with three loaded rifles. Both subjects were charged with night hunting.

Officer H. Forehand was on patrol conducting resource and boating safety inspections at a local boat ramp. While checking the safety equipment of one vessel he found a five-foot alligator that had been shot hidden in a dry box. He also found a rifle in the dry box. The subject was charged with illegal take of an alligator.

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When you'd rather skip Christmas this year



By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

Losing someone you love is incredibly hard. And now the holidays are upon you. That empty chair, with all its memories and sentiment, now

seems to be the largest piece of furniture in your home.

I'm so sorry for your loss. I'm awed at the depth you loved your always-could-depend-on dad, energetic-and-inquisitive child, best-buddy sibling or I-can't-live-without-him (or -her) spouse. Unfortunately, this love makes facing the holidays all the harder.

Tasks, any tasks, especially holiday-related ones, feel overwhelming. You try not to allow your sadness to dampen the spirits of those around

you, especially those who share your grief, but many days you fail.

You appreciate the friends who want to be there for you, who want to ease your pain – and don't have a clue what to say. This includes me. What words can I offer to help you through this painful, "most wonderful time of the year"?

I know some of you personally. Others, I learn about your pain in emails and on social media. Thank you for reminding me to be patient with you. I know everyone grieves in different

ways and for different lengths of time. I'm desperate to lighten your sadness, but I fear my feeble words will sound glib and only add to your sorrow.

So I'm praying for God to show me how to be there for you. And when that's not possible, how I can pray for you. I'm asking God what to do and how to pray when you can't stop crying, when you're tempted to scream out of anger and exhaustion – and when you actually do.

Would it help if I also prayed for you to experi-

ence God's presence and provision as described in Psalm 23:1 (AMPC)? "The LORD is my Shepherd [to feed, guide, and shield me], I shall not lack."

As I pray, I will trust that our compassionate, sympathetic and ever-present Shepherd will help you make it through each day. That you'll experience God's compassion as He provides for all your needs. I will also pray that your heavenly Father will continue to guide you with the wisdom needed each and every day.

And finally, I will trust that at the end of every long, long day, you'll be able to sleep, sensing His protection over you.

God bless you, dear friend. Please let me (and everyone who loves you) know how we can be there for you – not just during this holiday season, but for as long as you need us.

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 random act of kindness



By **CHERYL CRUCE**

So many thoughts were running through my mind as I was interrupted by an older gentleman standing behind me in the checkout lane. Lifting his hand, he showed me three bracelets and asked that I choose the one I wanted. He had given away more than 500 colorful bracelets over the past year and only had a few left. I chose

the red one.

I was a stranger to him, but he showed me a random act of kindness that changed the course of my day. I hugged his neck and thanked him for the kind gesture as his smile warmed my spirit. I do not know his name, where he came from, or where he was going. I only know for a moment he was present in my life, and I am grateful.

I enjoy this time of year: the gift-giving, the cheer, and the random acts of kindness we share. In December, our homes are brightened with decorations, and our schedules are filled with charitable events. There is a look of innocence in the children's eyes when they see

the red-clad elf promising a visit on Christmas morning. Likewise, there is something special about looking for the perfect gift for the one you love and seeing their face light up with excitement.

However, in the joy of the season, some people are hurting. They have experienced the recent loss of a loved one. Not every child will receive the 'perfect' gift; not every person will be warm, feel safe, or be fed. Life is not perfect; people need random acts of kindness to fill in the empty spaces of life. We are a people dearly loved by God and have been chosen to be holy. As holy people, we are called to clothe ourselves with compas-

sion and kindness toward others (Colossians 3:12). We are taught how our kindness to one another shows kindness to our Lord.

Jesus shares the parable of a great King who thanked the people for their compassion. The king said they had visited him when he was sick and imprisoned. The people had provided food, clothing, and shelter when he was in need. The people could not remember such a time and questioned their king. The king answered them, saying, "I tell you the truth. Anything you did for my people here; you also did for me" (Matthew 25:31-40).

There was a man who had spent his life beg-

ging for money because of his disability. When the Disciples John and Peter saw him, they did not offer him silver or gold but healing (Acts 3). Maybe we are not called to heal the paralytic, but hunger is crippling. When the grocery store offers a Bogo, buy one for yourself and give the free one to your neighborhood food bank. Donate to your local shelter if you have outgrown your winter coat. Nursing homes are filled with lonely people looking for a friend. Be a friend! After all, loving the King's people is loving the King.

The red stretchy bracelet I received in the checkout line has no monetary value. However, it is priceless

because a stranger took the time to see me and to offer me a blessing. Take the time today to see the needs of others. We may not have silver and gold, but we have random acts of kindness to offer the people of the King.

Hebrews 13:1-2 Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. 2 Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers; by so doing, some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.

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

OUT TO PASTOR

Another turkey in the oven



By **JAMES SNYDER**

What would Thanksgiving be without a turkey? I read somewhere that over 45 million turkeys are purchased during the Thanksgiving holiday. I'm unsure if that's correct, but I believe it comes close to the mark.

Thanksgiving is always my favorite time because the focus of Thanksgiving is food. Nobody loves food more than I do. I am always anxious for our Thanksgiving dinner to come.

This year I had a bit of apprehension before Thanksgiving. The kitchen is just next to the living room, and I was in the living room taking a little snooze, and just as I was waking up, I heard from the kitchen, "I'm going to put that turkey in the oven today."

I didn't hear the conversation leading up to that phrase, but it was a little troublesome. Am I in trouble? What did I do to get in this kind of trouble?

My goal for the day was to find out why she would stuff me in the oven. Then, maybe I can figure out how to avoid that kind of an encounter.

Throughout the years, I know I have been somewhat of a turkey. I'm not exactly sure what that means, but it has been referred to me quite often by The Gracious Mistress

of the Parsonage.

Nevertheless, I will play this out as best I can, and if I end up in the oven, so be it.

Cautiously, I got up and tiptoed out to the kitchen, and looking at my wife, I said, "Is there anything I can do to help you?"

Looking at me suspiciously, she asked, "What did you have in mind?"

"Anything," I said, "that would help you getting our turkey ready for Thanksgiving."

Looking at me for a moment she burst out laughing. Then she said something that has troubled me to this very day. "You want one turkey to help another turkey?"

Slowly, I went back into the living room and set up my chair to ponder what had just happened. I then heard from the kitchen, "Yes, he said that." Then, there was a burst of laughter. I wished I knew who she was talking to.

It's easy to get down about something, particularly if you don't have all the facts. I often hear

somebody say something and misinterpret it because I don't hear everything they say. That can get a person like me into trouble.

I can't recall all the times I got in trouble with The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage because I didn't hear everything she said. She often tells me, "I know, my dear, you can hear but can't listen."

She's right on that one. It has cost me a lot down the years not being able to listen. I can hear words, but sometimes I misinterpret them to mean something altogether different and what they mean.

That was a little over a week ago, and we had a wonderful Thanksgiving with the family. The turkey on the table was very delicious. I don't think I've had a better turkey all my life.

Cautiously, as I took a bite of that turkey, I glanced over at The Gracious Mistress of the

Parsonage. I was trying to find out a clue as to what I heard on the telephone this past week. She was paying me no attention and just enjoying the family around the table.

The next day, after it was all over and all the family had gone home, I sat in the living room relaxing and watching a little TV. On my mind was that turkey we had yesterday. Then, a thought just got a hold of me at that time.

I thought that the center of our Thanksgiving dinner was the turkey. Everybody was talking about the turkey and how delicious it was. That got me thinking about my situation.

If the Thanksgiving turkey is the center of our family get-together, perhaps when my wife refers to me as a turkey, it means I'm the center of our family. That never occurred to me before. I didn't want to test it with The Gracious Mistress of

the Parsonage, I thought better.

Sometimes, what you don't hear can be a blessing.

Thinking about this later that day I was reminded of what Jesus said. "If any man have ears to hear, let him hear. And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given" (Mark 4:23-24).

I have an obligation to listen to what I am hearing. This has a degree of

obedience that is important in my Christian life. I will be held accountable to what I am hearing. That means it is important to hear everything. If I miss a word I could get the whole thing wrong which would have consequences in my life..

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamesnsnyder51@gmail.com, website www.jamesnsnyderministries.com.

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Obituaries

DEATH NOTICES

- **Paula M. Arico**, 69, of Tallahassee, died November 23, 2023.
- **Roberta O. Evans**, 81 of Crawfordville, died Nov. 21, 2023.
- **Francis “Frank” Eugene Johnson Jr.**, 72, of Tallahassee/Monticello, died November 20, 2023.
- **Greg Belmar Moss**, 72, of Tallahassee, died November 23, 2023.

Deaths reported by Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

Prayer Walk to be held On Dec. 2

Special to The Sun

A Prayer Walk will be held on Saturday, Dec. 2, that will begin at Hudson Park at 10 a.m. with the end point at River of Life Church. Total walk is 3.4 miles, according to organizer Paul Beeman. “We will have a half way point at Ming tree parking lot at 1.5 miles for those who can’t make full walk.” The event starts with Prayer at Hudson Park at 10 a.m., ending with prayer at River of Life parking lot at 12:30 p.m. There will be a shuttle van running folks back

to cars. Wakulla County Sheriff’s Office will have a marked car following marchers and a medical person will be walking as well. No one under 12. “So far we have about 25 walkers from three churches,” Beeman said. It is a Community Christian event. “We hope to have 4 a year in different parts of the county,” he said. “We will be carrying Banners as well and praying of our country as we march for Jesus Christ!”

BEREAVEMENT COLUMN

Unsettling trends



By TRACY RENEE LEE

Since Covid, I have seen an abnormal climb in cremations at my funeral home. Before 2020, Caucasian cremation rates at my funeral home were at 20%. Over three years, we have seen our cremation market for Caucasians, increase to 95%. What has become alarming is that African Americans are now entering that trend.

The African-American community has traditionally fought off the flight toward cremation. Now that they are jumping in, I have asked them what their motivators are. Without fail, they respond that it is economically driven.

Most unprepared families in America must select cremation options because burial expenses have exceeded their financial reach. This is not exactly newsworthy. However, it is startling that families who have prepared in advance are

opting out of burial and choosing cremation. The reason they state is because they need the coverage within their burial or life insurance policies to pay down accumulated debt.

This is a sad place to be financially. Families are having to prioritize essentials over preferences and comforts. As a youngster, I remember when inflation was devastating the American economy and crushing the American family.

When I was in high school, President Carter was in the White House, and mortgage rates were well over 20%. My poor father worked himself to death, trying to make ends meet. Gasoline was around \$5 per gallon, a quick hot jump from \$0.25 per gallon, where gasoline had started when he began his crazy economic policies.

President Carter regulated a nationwide highway and interstate speed limit of 55 mph to lower gasoline consumption. I’m not so sure that the lower speed limit improved gasoline consumption ratios, but it sure cut down on long-distance travel.

He imposed addition-

al gasoline restrictions, and we could only buy gasoline on certain days of the week. Lines at the pump would extend for miles down the road. My brother and I would rush home after school, take whichever vehicles were eligible to qualify for gasoline that particular day, and wait in line to fill up while our parents toiled at multiple jobs. We would do our homework while sitting in line. In the end, my dad’s construction company was crushed under the economic policies of the Carter administration, and we were forced into poverty and homelessness.

Additionally, President Carter suggested that Americans turn down their thermostats and wear a sweater or two during the cold winter months to save on energy consumption. My family lived in the Intermountain West at that time. Honestly, two or even three sweaters weren’t enough to keep you warm. I can’t even begin to imagine how senior citizens survived.

Anyone younger than the baby boomers has yet to realize the potential nightmare heading our way. As Covid hysteria began to sub-

side, our American government had already started flooding our economy with so much worthless money and aid that it became more lucrative for the unemployed to remain so. It remains nearly impossible to get anyone under 50 years old to understand that their dignity and freedom are worth more than their unrealistic high dreams of the perfectibility of human society through utopian schemes.

As we enter the holiday season, I see negative economic indicators. Not only are cremations on the rise, but hopelessness overwhelms many of my clients. I hear the fear in their words concerning their futures. I see children dropping out of college or not even seeking higher education opportunities.

I notice that thermostats are set on colder temperatures, and blankets, sweaters, and jackets are covering family members as I visit their homes to call for their decedents. I see parents walking down the highway to get to grocery stores. And sadly, I see homelessness overflowing into the country. These are not good signs.

I worry about politics

and economics here and abroad. I worry about the world at large because when funeral service is affected economically, and when families are forced to inter their family members in ways that are foreign, uncomfortable, or unsettling to them, society is headed for a hopeless meltdown.

I hope that we will find the strength to overcome the economic and governmental oppressions of our time as our great-grandparents did during the early World Wars and Great Depression. I hope that the recent revelations of academia across our nation’s campuses will revolutionize and activate parents and benefactors to withdraw their financial support of such anti-American concepts.

I pray that America can turn around and recover from her follies before the world reaches a central breaking point. If we can do that, we can save the world. We should be able to save the earth and its inhabitants from economic collapse, another world war, slavery, barbarism, and potential annihilation.

No matter what your beliefs are, I invite you to join me in prayer

as we enter this holiday season and beg for guidance and protection from a power greater and purer than our own. Pray for a remission of past sins and follies, and divine enlightenment to turn our hearts toward serving one another with honesty and purity in our actions and thoughts. I fear there is nothing else that can save us from ourselves other than divine intervention. I hope beyond expression that there actually is divine intervention and that it remains available to us.

Cremation is on the rise, but that is the least of my problematic worries. The fall of freedom cries out to me, and I do not know how to save it.

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

This is the time of year when water usage determines sewer bills

Special to The Sun

Residential Sewer Billing is based on water usage. Now is the TIME to CONSERVE water and SAVE MONEY on your Sewer Bill over the Next YEAR!

Wakulla County utilizes the winter months average method for sewer billing. With this method, the amount billed for sewer each month is the average of the actual number of gallons

used during December, January, and February.

This typically is beneficial for customers who use more water during the summer months than they do during the winter months.

Important notes about your winter months average:

- Pay attention to when your water meter is read – your December bill will generally have some November usage. Start conserving now!

• Take time during these months to review actual water usage – if it seems high – LOOK for leaks and repair them immediately!

• Talquin water customers will see your new sewer winter months average on your April 2024 bill.

• Sopchoppy and PAWs water customers will see new sewer winter months average on your March 2024 bill.

Did You Know....

• A running toilet can add up to 200 gallons of water usage per day.

• A faucet that leaks one drop per second can waste 17 gallons per day.

• The base rate for sewer is \$39.04. This includes the first 2,000 gallons of water usage. Each additional 1,000 gallons is \$5.86. (rate schedule as of 11/8/2023)

Editor’s Note: Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, there is no Weekly Roundup by News Service of Florida on news of state government. That column will return next week.

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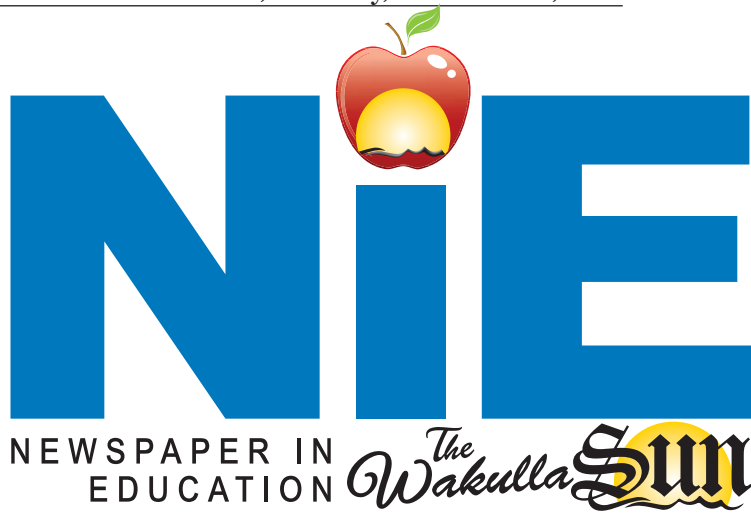
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USE THE NEWS

1. SCHOOL LUNCH SUCCESS STORY

The national school lunch program provides healthy meals to millions of students every day in schools across America. Run by the U.S. government, the program offers free or low-cost meals to students whose families cannot afford to pay full price. The program helps more than 30-million students a year, and a movie star who once benefited from it is now telling her story to help fight hunger in America. Star actress Scarlett Johansson has revealed how she was helped by the program as a child as part of her efforts today to support the Feeding America program. “My family relied on public assistance, and the meals I ate at school were part of the free school lunch program – which provides free breakfast and lunch to students from low-income families,” Johansson wrote in an internet post for the organization. “These meals fueled my involvement in theater and the arts as a child, which fostered my love for acting.” Celebrities often offer public support of programs that help people. In the newspaper or online, find and closely read a story about a celebrity who is doing this. Use what you read to write a paragraph explaining how the celebrity’s support helps the efforts of the program. Share and discuss as a class.

2. WHAT A GIFT!

The winter holiday season is a time of giving. People give gifts to children, family and friends, or make donations to organizations that do good in the community, or volunteer their time to help others. In a small town in the eastern state of New Hampshire a man who lived a quiet life gave his town a gift when he died this year — and it shocked and surprised his neighbors. Geoffrey Holt made it a point not to stand out in the town of Hinsdale, which has just 4,000 residents in the southwestern corner of the state. He lived in a trailer park. He was a retired teacher who later worked in a grain mill. He owned a car but never used it, preferring to get around on an orange riding lawnmower. But when he died at age 82 in June, he revealed there was a whole lot more to him than his appearance, the Washington Post newspaper reported. He left his town \$3.8-MILLION that he had earned through careful investments. He had no children of his own and wanted to do something good for others. He asked that the town use the money for education, recreation, health and culture programs. If you could give a big gift of money to

an organization, what type of group would you choose? In the newspaper or online, find and closely read a story about a group that deserves support for the way it helps people. Write a short editorial explaining what the group does and why it deserves support.

3. ANIMATION SCARE

Animated movies are popular with kids and families all over the world. They are made in a variety of ways, but all string together single images and present them quickly to create a sense of movement. Some of these images are painted by hand, others generated by computers and still others created by molding clay figures of characters and presenting them in different poses. This last approach is called “claymation,” and it requires very special skills. It also requires a lot of clay, which is similar to children’s Play-Doh. Fans of one of the most popular claymation projects got a scare this month when it was re-

ported that the makers of the “Wallace and Gromit” movies might run out of clay because their supplier had gone out of business. That could put future “Wallace and Gromit” movies at risk, the British newspaper The Telegraph reported. Not so, said the Aardman Animations company that makes the films that tell stories about an inventor and his pet dog. “Absolutely no need to worry,” the studio said in a statement. The studio has “high levels of existing stocks of modeling clay to service current and future productions,” it said. Aardman is working on a full-length “Wallace and Gromit” movie to be released next year and previously has created four short movies and a second full-length film. Animated movies are popular with kids and families. In the newspaper or online, find and study stories or ads involving an animated movie you would like to see. Use what you read to write a letter to a friend, inviting the friend to see the movie and tell-

ing him or her why you think it would be fun to see.

4. BIRD DINOSAUR

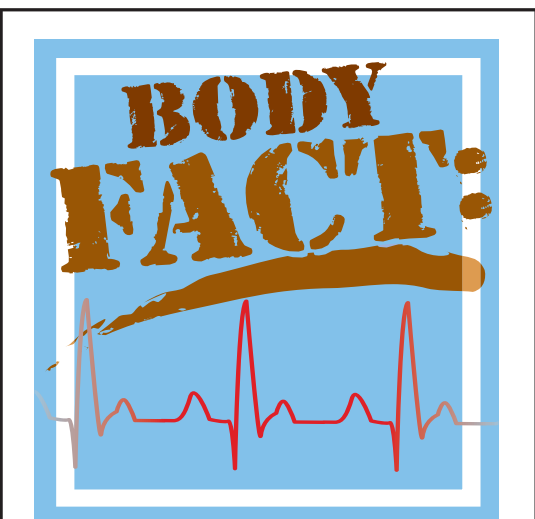
In recent years, scientists have learned that dinosaurs were ancient ancestors of today’s birds — and some even had feathers! Fossil discoveries have shown that modern birds descended from dinosaurs known as theropods, a group that included the ferocious Tyrannosaurus rex. A new discovery in the Asian nation of Mongolia has further confirmed the connection between dinosaurs and birds. A fossil of a new species has shown that dinosaurs not only looked like modern birds; they may have behaved like birds as well. The fossil was discovered in a sleeping position with its head and long neck curled over its limbs and its tail wrapped around its body, CNN News reported. The position is similar to that of some species of modern birds when they are sleeping. “We’ve all seen ducks sleeping with their heads tucked under their wings,” said one

dinosaur expert. “And then you see this little dinosaur with the exact same sleeping posture.” Scientists gave the new species a fierce name: *Jaculinykus yaruui*. “*Jaculus*” was a mythical dragon, and “*onykus*” means “claw” in the ancient Greek language. Fossil discoveries often make news. In the newspaper or online, find and closely read a story about a recent fossil discovery. Use what you read to draw a series of comic strips showing how the fossil was discovered and why the discovery is important.

5. A LAKE IN A DESERT

Death Valley is one of the hottest and driest places on Earth. In the summer, temperatures soar as high as 130 degrees on some days, and the sun bakes the desert soil as hard as a rock. This fall, however, a new and unusual attraction is drawing people to Death Valley National Park on the border between the states of California and Nevada in the American West. A lake has formed in an area

known as Badwater Basin as a result of heavy rains last summer from Tropical Storm Hilary. The basin is the lowest place in North America with an area almost 300 feet below sea level, the New York Times newspaper reported. When Hilary dumped more than a year’s worth of rain in a matter of days, water rushed down from surrounding mountains and formed a lake in the basin almost overnight. The rains caused heavy damage to roads and forced the national park to close for nearly two months. When it reopened in October, tourists flocked from around the country to see water in the middle of a desert. Death Valley is the largest national park in the lower United States and covers an area as big as the entire state of Connecticut. Unusual weather often is in the news. In the newspaper or online, find and closely read a story about an unusual weather event. Use what you read to write a letter to the editor, describing how the weather affected people, wildlife or the environment.



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

ANSWER: VITAMIN D

How they SAY that in...

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

What’s the Difference?

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

A



B



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.



BACKCOUNTRY

sparsely inhabited rural areas



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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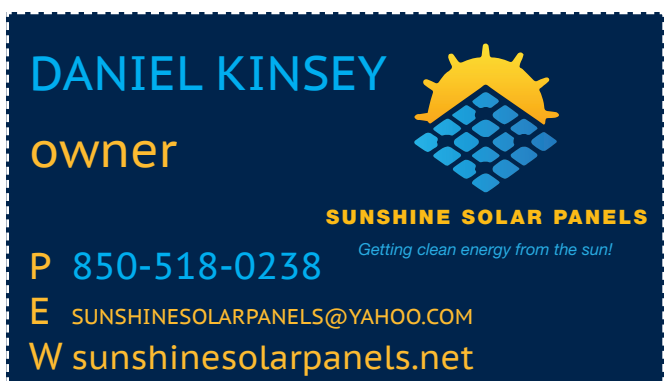
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FSU's Jordan Travis will travel to Charlotte to support teammates

By **BOB FERRANTE**
Editor/The Osceola

Jordan Travis has played his last game at Florida State, but he continues to make an impact with his smile, support and advice.

The injured quarterback made the trip to Gainesville and hung out with FSU teammates pregame while also catching up with Tate Rodemaker and others after the 24-15 win. Coach Mike Norvell also confirmed on Sunday that the Seminoles plan on having Travis in Charlotte at the ACC title game on Saturday.

"He's so supportive of our players because he loves them so much," Norvell said on a Zoom to discuss the upcoming game against Louisville. "And for him being there last night, for him coming out to practice this past week, he's there to encourage support, be there for his brothers just like his brothers have been there for him. He's a special man."

"I'm just grateful for all that he's done. I'm grateful for his continued investment, plan on him being there this Saturday and continue to have that posi-



tive presence for his teammates and just for forever grateful for what he's done for this program, but he's continuing to make his impact."

Norvell said after Saturday's game that Travis had recorded a video for the Seminoles to watch before they played Florida. While it may not seem necessary for a video to fire up a team before a rivalry game, it was clear Travis' message resonated with his teammates.

"Hearing the video, it gave me the chills," running back Trey Benson said. "I almost cried. That's my dog. That's one of my best friends. Seeing that video, it just gave the team a little motivation. That's what we needed."

Rodemaker said it was "awesome to have him out here with us pregame," and he later connected with Travis after FSU's 24-15 win.

Quarterback Jordan Travis takes a snap against Miami on Nov. 11. He suffered a season-ending injury the following week against North Alabama, but was at last week's game in Gainesville against the Florida Gators. (Photo by Ken Fields)

Camp Gordon Johnston to feature exhibit on Pearl Harbor

Special to The Sun

In honor of the Anniversary of Pearl Harbor, Camp Gordon Johnston is presenting an exhibit commemorating this dark day in America's history.

World War II came home for the United States on December 7, 1941, when the naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan attacked the U.S. Western Fleet at the American base Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt called it "a date which will live in infamy."

Learn about those that planned the attack, the sole Japanese POW taken, and the heroic efforts by Doris Miller of the USS West Virginia to shoot down attacking Japanese planes. This attack resulted in the declaration of war with Japan and the U.S. entering World War II.

Luckily, the Pacific

Fleet's aircraft carriers were at sea on that day, and escaped damage to fight later. "Remember Pearl Harbor" became the rallying cry of Americans as they enlisted by the thousands and built up the immense industrial effort needed to achieve victory in 1945.

A second special exhibit for this month will reflect on what Christmas was like during the war. Americans had to learn to do with less

during the years they were fully engaged in fighting World War II. That had a significant impact on every aspect of American life including how Christmas was celebrated.

Americans were encouraged to make their own toys and decorations, and commercially made gifts emphasized materials that were not needed for war, including cloth, paper and wood.

For example the

popular Lionel Train toys were converted to cardboard and people learned how to cook and bake with corn syrup once sugar became scarce. Learn more about how rationing changed toys, food and even decorations during the war.

These two exhibits will open Tuesday, Nov. 28 and be on display until Dec. 30.

The museum is located in Carrabelle, directly across from Carra-

belle Public Beach Park at 1873 Hwy. 98 West. For more information, contact Camp Gordon Johnston Museum at (850) 697-8575 or museum@campgordon-johnston.com. Funded in part by the Franklin County Tourist Development Council.

The museum is open every Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and there is no charge for admission.

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