



\$1 One Section

Locally Owned & Operated  
Our 2nd Year 48th Issue  
Thursday, December 7, 2023

# 20 bunk beds built for kids

Rotary and Realtors work with Sleep in Heavenly Peace to provide beds

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN  
Editor

The Rotary Club of Wakulla and the Wakulla Chapter of the Tallahassee Board of Realtors did a bed build on Saturday morning under the auspices of Sleep in Heavenly Peace and built 20 bunk beds for Wakulla kids who don't have beds.

(Full disclosure: I am the president of the Rotary Club this year.)

The build was originally supposed to be held in the parking lot at the sheriff's office, but inclement weather forced the build to be moved to the extension office's livestock pavilion.

About 100 volunteers took part in building the bunk beds - which are constructed of lumber - 1x4s, 2x4s, 2x6s - cut down to size, sanded, drilled, headboards assembled and branded with the "SHP" logo. Then the parts are delivered to homes and assembled.

The delivery included mattresses, pillows and bed linens - everything needed for a bed.

Steve Sanabria, Rotary Club's sergeant-at-arms, noted that Sleep in Heavenly Peace had done the builds for so long that the group had it down to an "idiot-proof" process. Volunteers who had never handled power tools jumped in to get the



PHOTO BY CHRIS RUSSELL

Some of the Rotarians who participated in the build, above, with John Cousins, with his hand raised, of Sleep in Heavenly Peace.

beds built.

John Cousins, chapter president of Sleep in Heavenly Peace, noted that work began around 9:15 a.m. and the first bed was delivered in Crawfordville before 11 a.m.

Cousins showed a picture of two little girls happily smiling in their bunk beds.

Rotarian Kris Calloway did that first delivery and said it was a great experience: Two little girls living with their grandma had been sharing a twin bed. He and a crew delivered and assembled the bed and the girls were happily arguing over who got the top bunk.

Twelve beds were delivered. The others are

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PHOTO FROM JOE MORGAN

Rotarian Joe Morgan after setting up a bunk bed.



PHOTO FROM MEGAN SMITH

A kid gives a thumbs up to his new bed.

# Harvey trucks are closed to public

A popular destination for tourists, the family has closed its collection of old vehicles without explanation

By LEGION TAYLOR  
Reporter

Recently the Harvey trucks were roped off, with signs that read "No Trespassing" posted in front of them.

These trucks have been a symbol of Wakulla County for years, as well as a popular spot for photographers and tourists to stop on their way through the county. The trucks were placed there by longtime Wakulla resident Pat Harvey, arranged in a semi-circle in chronological order, where the trucks have been sitting there ever since.

The Harvey family did not want to disclose their reason for closing the Trucks to the public.



No trespassing signs at the Harvey trucks in Medart.

# Dollar General wins slip-and-fall negligence lawsuit

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN  
Editor

After a two-day civil trial last week, a jury returned with a verdict of no damages for a man suing Dollar General for a slip-and-fall he suffered at the store on Spring Creek Highway back in March 2021.

Kevin Murphy claimed he went into the store to shop and used the restroom, but slipped and was injured because of water on the floor.

Murphy, represented by the Morgan & Morgan law firm, was asking for more than \$1.67 million because of injuries.

But the store manager testified that he had checked the store's bathrooms around 8 a.m. and there was no water on the floor. Surveillance video from that day show the manager picking up something off the floor of one of the bathrooms, and he told jurors that he kept the bathrooms fastidious. Murphy was the first person to use a restroom around 8:45 a.m., according to the manager and the surveillance video.

Murphy came out of the bathroom and told the manager he had fallen because of water on the floor. The manager did an incident report, but Murphy did not apparently report severe injuries at the time.

Murphy had some existing medical conditions, such as carpal tunnel syndrome that he claimed was exacerbated by the fall. He also claimed injuries to his elbow, a torn rotator cuff in his shoulder, herniated discs in his neck. He had surgery for some of those problems and had amassed some \$49,000 in medical bills.

In seeking damages, Murphy's attorneys asked for the medical bills, plus future medical bills estimated at \$159,000; non-economic damages

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# CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK



Despite inclement weather, the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office held its annual Christmas in the Park on Friday night, and Santa and Mrs. Claus came in from the North Pole for a special visit. Santa heard the wishes of 200 children and they were each given a toy for Christmas. Meals were also provided by the Sheriff's office to everyone who attended. Sheriff Jared Miller, above, with 'Team Santa' Aidye Rigdon, 11; Kinsley Lowery, 8; Caroline Lowery, 4; Payton Rigdon, 7; and Waylon Lowery, 11. At right, Brooklyn Williams, 5, talks to Santa about her new toy and what she would like for Christmas. (Photos by Lynda Kinsey)



# Corrections

- Last week's front page clue-in to U.S. Navy veteran David Sellers' return to Wakulla was headlined "Navy SEAL returns home." Sellers trained with SEAL teams, was a SEAL tech and engineering officer, but was not a SEAL.

- In a front-page story on a Wakulla sailor who sailed the Great Loop had a typo in the year of the boat's construction: It was 1984, not 1894.

- Because of a production error when laying out Page 3, the story "Wakulla embraces the Peanut Butter Challenge" had the wrong byline: the story was written by 4-H Director Rachel Pienta.

We regret the errors.

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*Lisa Craze, CFC*  
Wakulla County Tax Collector

**Florida SAMPLE**  
Live the Dream

**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)

**FLORIDA DECAL**  
Y12345


**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

**Joe Edwards – 5th grader at Crawfordville Elementary**

Principal: Alena Crawford

**Achievements/Reason for Nomination:** Joe Edwards is a Fifth-grade student here at Crawfordville Elementary School. Joe is a standout student who made A honor roll all last school year, as well as came in second for reading the most words in the school with 4,422,538 words read. He is a natural leader and a positive role model for others in the school. Outside of school, Joe loves to play baseball and recently participated in the Battle Ball which is a fundraiser that raises money for families in need. Joe goes out of his way to help others and is always challenging himself to meet new goals. We are excited to see what all Joe accomplishes this school year!



**STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.**

## Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park

### Elliott's Aster

By LYNN ARTZ, SANDY TEDDER and DAVID RODDENBERRY



Elliott's aster has masses of fragrant flowers.

One of the last asters to bloom in the fall, Elliott's aster (*Symphotrichum elliotii*) is a wonderful wildflower for attracting butterflies, bees, and other pollinators. Masses of fragrant flowers with light, pinkish lavender petals and yellow centers adorn the tall plants. Each flower is more than 1 inch across. Elliott's aster typically grows to about 4 feet tall and 2-3 feet wide and spreads to form dense stands. This long-lived perennial does best in full sun and moist to wet soil. Elliott's aster occurs in most of Florida in sunny roadside ditches, swamps, and marshes. It is one of 14 native *Symphotrichum* asters occurring in Wakulla County. Elliott's aster has just finished blooming at the west end of the pond at Sopchoppy Depot Park.



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*The Wakulla Sun*

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# Historical Society holds its annual Open House



The Historical Society held its Open House on Saturday. Volunteers include David Perry, David and Marty Cofey, Brent Thurmond, Rita Sparkman and Sherry Colvin.



One of the Historical Society's accomplishments in the reissue of "The Heritage of Wakulla County," now on sale at the museum. (Photos by Lynda Ann McDonald)

## Joanne Larson is school employee of the year

### Staff Report

Joanne Larson, a paraprofessional at Riversprings Middle School working with Exceptional Student Education, has been named the Wakulla Schools Employee of the Year.

Larson has been at Riversprings for four years.

RMS Principal Joshua Sandgren wrote of Larson: "Joanne has a calling in her life and that calling is working with young people."

Outside the classroom, Larson volunteers with Special Olympics as a bowling coach.



Superintendent Bobby Pearce with Joanne Larson.

## Medart School of Music offers winter recitals

### Special to The Sun

The Medart School of Music will be having their Winter recitals on Saturday, Dec. 9, at the Ochlockonee Bay United Methodist Church located at 2780 Surf Road. There will be performances at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Come enjoy a variety of music performed on a variety of instruments by these young musicians!

Students performing at the 11 a.m. recital include Dylan Hamel, Rayna Hamel, Alexis Porter, Gunner Roe, Ariel Roe, Fabiola Larregui, Isabella Larregui, Lulu Fenenbock, Logan Hand, Michael Albanese, Elizabeth Albanese, Brooks Baker, Madalyn Carraway, Isabella Laughlin, Joe Miller, Liam Miller, Gabi Morales, Ella Yost, Isabella Maskell, Kara Maskell, Emily Lloyd, Zoe Norris, Teddy Herb,

Jace Perez and Yentl Thoreen.

Students performing at the 2 p.m. recital include Sabian Jett, Isaiah Laughton, Eliana Howard, Lauretta Compton, Emily Chen, Latesha Monroe, Ryan Ladwig, Laila Francis, Addison Wells, Lily Bridges, Gary Diskerud, Blaiden Ward, Brooklyn Ruggless, Brooks Loper, Chandler Bechtel, Makayla Bechtel, Ariel Revell, Rosario Reyes and Walker Elrod.

Other students who attend the Medart School of Music include Logan Bramblett, Ruari Robinson, McKenna Sanders, Carter Dunn, Nina Fox, Bryson Sanders, Riley Solano, Kaylee Keays, Joey Rickards, Marina Barber, Ava Lucas and Marlene Meeks.

At the Medart School of Music we offer lessons in piano, voice, woodwinds, brass, percussion, violin, guitar and ukulele.

## On the Horizon

### Calendar of events for the week of December 7

#### Thursday, December 7

- Joy-Filled Christmas, a free event for special-needs students in Wakulla will be held at the Wakulla Springs Lodge from 6 to 8 p.m.
- Palaver Tree Theater is holding "A Seat at the Table" event at 6:30 p.m.
- Wakulla County Soil & Water Conservation Board meets at the extension office at 5 p.m.
- The Big Banana Car will be in the Winn Dixie parking lot from 10 a.m. until dark for rides and or photos.
- The VFW Auxiliary Bingo Night will be held at 7 p.m. at 475 Arran Road in Crawfordville, every Thursday. There are concessions and raffles.
- 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 8

- Christmas in Panacea will be held from 5:30 to 8 p.m., with Santa arriving at 5:30 p.m. and staying until 6:45 p.m.
- The Big Banana Car will be in the Winn Dixie parking lot from 10 a.m. until dark for rides and or photos.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and 8 p.m. every Friday at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

#### Saturday, December 9

- The Christmas in Sopchoppy celebration will be held from 1 to 7 p.m. at the Sopchoppy Depot Park.
- The Chill Spot presents the Battle for Bennie car show and chili dinner at 3123 Spring Creek Hwy. at 4 p.m. Car registration is \$20, Chili is \$10 per bowl. All proceeds go to helping Bennie Mott, who has been diagnosed with Medulloblastoma.
- Palaver Tree Theater is holding the "A Real Mother For Ya" music festival, doors open at 3:30 p.m., music goes from 4 to 10 p.m., tickets are \$15 online and at the door.
- The Sopchoppy Opry will hold their Christmas show, starting at 7 p.m. at the historic Sopchoppy High School Auditorium. Tickets are \$15.
- 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 11

- The Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners meet at 5 p.m. in the commission chambers. A workshop on recreational facilities will be held at 3:30 p.m. before the regular meeting.
- Crawfordville Woman's Club monthly meeting is the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at 64 Ochlockonee St., in Crawfordville. Call (850)566-5727 for more information.
- The Wakulla Respite Program is available weekly for anyone with memory impairment at no cost from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lake Ellen Baptist Church.

#### Tuesday, December 12

- Wakulla Wrestling has a dual meet against Bay High at 6:30 p.m. at Wakulla High, tickets are \$5 through GoFan.
- 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 13

- A line dance class is held at 1 p.m. at the Wakulla Senior Center every Wednesday.
- Wakulla County Coalition for Youth meets at 12:30 p.m. at the health department.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.
- Gentle Yoga and Stretching Class, every Wednesday, 11 a.m. Wakulla Community Center. Bring a mat. Come early to sign in. Chair Yoga participants welcome. \$2 per class.

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## PUBLIC NOTICES:

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



### Public Notice:

The Wakulla Soil and Water Conservation Board meeting has been rescheduled to Thurs., Dec. 7 at 5pm, in Room 2 of the Wakulla Extension Bldg. The group's regular meeting time is the second Thurs. of each month.

Dec. 7, 2023

# 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.”

## Swapping free speech for right-wing votes

By **BILL COTTERELL**  
City and State

As a graduate of Harvard Law School, Gov. Ron DeSantis is presumed to have more than a passing grasp of the Bill of Rights, particularly the First Amendment.

But as a politician, trying to woo the rabble of the Republican base away from a former president who uses terms like “vermin” and “enemy of the people” in his standard stump speech, DeSantis needs to constantly one-up the all-time tough guy of presidential campaign history. And if that means occasionally stomping all over the free speech and assembly rights of his critics, Florida taxpayers will pay lawyers to defend the governor’s constitutionally questionable actions in court.

Just this month, for instance, U.S. District Judge Mark Walker ordered the state to pay more than \$372,000 to lawyers for three University of Florida political science experts. Professors Sharon Austin, Michael McDonald and Daniel Smith had sued in 2021 because they had been ordered by the university not to testify for the plaintiffs in a lawsuit challenging changes the DeSantis-dominated Legislature had made in Florida’s election laws.

The UF administration reasoned that whatever the value of information the professors might present, having three of its employees testify on behalf of people suing the state would not endear the Gainesville campus to the governor and Republican legislative leaders who appropriate money for state agencies. It’s the same personnel-management principle that Mafia bosses use to show foot soldiers why they shouldn’t flip on the family.

But that pesky ol’ Constitution says the government can’t intimidate witnesses – go figure. So DeSantis got another legal rebuke from Walker, who slaps him around like Moe used to whack Larry and Curly in those old Three Stooges dramas.

The U.S. Supreme Court recently refused to let the state enforce its ban on drag shows when children are present. A court challenge is still pending against the law, which doesn’t mention drag specifically but says the state can prosecute joints that allow children in audiences of sexually explicit entertainment.

A guy in a sequined gown, with a big wig and inch-long eyelashes, may not be quite the same freedom fighter as Thomas Paine penning revolutionary tracts in colonial times or Martin Luther King Jr. speaking out against the Vietnam War in the ‘60s. But the government has to have a damned good reason for stifling such expression – and political convenience isn’t

good enough.

That’s what Republican presidential candidate DeSantis is doing with his attack on “woke.” Letting a few vocal parent groups remove books from school libraries, forbidding “diversity, equity and inclusion” policies on campus and – most recently – banning controversial and unpopular organizations from state schools are sure crowd pleasers at a GOP rally. Devaluing the First Amendment seems a small price for stifling disagreeable protests and making a momentary gain in the GOP presidential primaries.

Backed by the American Civil Liberties Union, a pro-Palestinian student group is suing Florida officials, including DeSantis, contending their freedom of speech and lawful assembly has been violated by state efforts to banish their organization from the State University System. On Oct. 24, Chancellor Ray Rodrigues ordered Students for Justice in Palestine disbanded on campuses.

“We’re not going to use state tax dollars to fund jihad,” DeSantis said in a recent Republican presidential debate.

Of course not. No one is suggesting that organizations, or individual speakers, advocating terrorism or hatred should be a regular part of campus life, like a fraternity or Young Democrats. But exiling an organization, rather than forbidding violent or disruptive acts by individuals, runs afoul of constitutional rights.

It’s easy to pick on the most hated people in town, and politicians will always seek out the easiest target – whether it’s Gov. George Wallace shouting, “Segregation today, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever” at his Alabama inauguration in 1963 or Trump offering to post bond if one of his followers beat up a heckler. Political courage was Florida Gov. LeRoy Collins standing for peaceful integration and obedience of federal law in the 1950s, not DeSantis removing state attorneys to bolster his law-and-order bona fides.

We’ve seen a lot of leaders seize upon widespread fear or prejudice and ride roughshod over the rights of people who were powerless and hated. There was the whole Reconstruction era, the Palmer Raids of 1919-20, U.S. Sen. Joe McCarthy’s Red Scare witch-hunt of the 1950s. Demagogues can always draw a crowd and advance their own political careers.

Sometimes it works for a while, but it never ends well.

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

## LETTERS FROM READERS

### Wakulla needs TDS treatment center

Editor, The Sun:

We all recognize the importance of mental health here in Wakulla. Unfortunately, there remains a tiny minority of individuals that remain affected, some severely, by TDS or Trump Derangement Syndrome. As was witnessed by the recent diatribe published on Nov. 30 by Mr. Cotterell entitled “Trump trials should be televised for all to see.” I believe it is in the interest of the common good of Wakulla County citizens that a TDS Treatment Center be funded and operated by Wakulla County employees and volunteers to assist these unfortunate individuals who are addicted to hallucinogenics like CNN, DNC, Generic MSM, SPLC, BLM, OSF, LGBTQ2, etc., etc.

As with any narcotic the side effects often produce bizarre behavior and exclamations like “non-binary, birther people, incursion and mostly peaceful protests” when trying to describe confused individuals, mothers, actual peaceful protests and riots. Another obvious trait of people afflicted with TDS is their abhorrence of law and order and by extension, law enforcement. TDS sufferers are drawn to groups like ‘Antifa’ who glo-

rify chaos and violence leading to social disorder and collapse. Of course we, the bearers of rational thought and conservative beliefs and iron-clad support of President Donald J. Trump (45) believe that treatment for TDS offers the best recourse to provide help for these pitiful individuals and help relieve their mental distress.

A variety of treatment options are available. Clinical trials have proven the benefits of reading 1. U.S. Constitution, particularly the First and Second Amendments, 2. The Bible, 3. History of Socialism and Communism and their consistently tragic failures, 4. Jan. 6 protest security footage recently released to the public, 5. History of third world Banana Republic countries’ charging political rivals with bogus crimes and the history of America’s MAGA movement and how it changed the world and the climate for the better.

It is time we acted on this devastating mental illness and find the resources to fund and operate our own TDS Treatment Center and provide help to people like Mr. Cotterell before it is too late.

**Tim Caldwell**  
Panacea

### 4-H Pride Project is senior center prom

Editor, The Sun:

We are writing to you today to bring attention to an initiative taken by the 4-H Youth Senior Citizens Prom Committee. Our dedicated group of young individuals has decided to organize a Pride Project for the upcoming “Dash into the ‘50s” Senior Citizen Prom on Feb. 14. In order to make this event a grand success, we are in need of in-kind donors, donations, sponsors and volunteers.

The Senior Citizen Prom is a one-of-a-kind event that brings joy and happiness to our elderly community members. It provides them with an opportunity to relive their youth and enjoy an evening filled with music, dancing and camaraderie. This year’s theme is “Dash into the 50’s,” aiming to recreate the vibrant atmosphere of that era.

To ensure that this event becomes a memorable experience for our senior citizens, we are seeking support from generous individuals and businesses within our community. In-kind donations such as decorations reminiscent of the 1950s era would greatly contribute towards creating an authentic ambiance. We kindly request local businesses or individuals who may have access to vintage items like jukeboxes, record players or classic cars from that period to consider lending them for this special occasion.

Furthermore, financial contributions from sponsors would be immensely helpful in covering various expenses associated with organizing such an event such as refreshments

and decorations.

Volunteers are also crucial in ensuring smooth operations during the prom night. We encourage enthusiastic individuals who are passionate about giving back to their community to come forward and offer their time and skills.

By supporting the 4-H Youth Senior Citizens Prom Committee in their Pride Project, we can collectively make a positive impact on the lives of our senior citizens. We believe it is essential that we show our appreciation for the contributions they have made throughout their lives by creating an enjoyable afternoon where they can let loose and have fun.

We urge all members of our community to consider how they can contribute towards this noble cause. Whether it be through in-kind donations, financial support or volunteering your time, every effort counts. Together, let us make this year’s “Dash into the 50s” Senior Citizen Prom an unforgettable experience for our beloved seniors.

For further information on how you can get involved or make a contribution, please contact Ms. Amanda amandakm0408@yahoo.com, Mr. Lewis at (850) 661-0593 or Ms. Rachel at The Wakulla County Extension office at (850) 926-3931. We look forward to your support in making this event a resounding success.

**Vanessa, Caden, Jenniffer, Lauretta, Bonnie, Wyatt**  
4-H youth Senior Citizens Prom Committee

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William Snowden  
Editor & Publisher  
The Wakulla Sun

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*“It’s A New Day!”*

The Wakulla Sun



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## ◀ Question of The Week ▶

– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

Polled at the Sheriff's Office Christmas in the Park:

# What do you like best about Christmas?



**OLIVIA SALADINO**  
Age 6

**All the decorations and making cookies.”**



**KAYLA BOHANAN**  
Age 10

**“Getting presents and spending time with family.”**



**CLAYTON BOOK**  
Age 5

**“Getting toys and opening the presents.”**



**GRACIE RICHARDSON**  
Age 6

**“That I get to see all of my family.”**



**PAYTON RICHARDSON**  
Age 8

**Spending time with family and decorating the Christmas tree.”**

## Buckhorn News

By **ETHEL SKIPPER**

Aging is a promise – some people in the 80s and 90s still find joy and happiness.

They retain their memories. Let me say they know what day of the week, and the color of their shoes. They don't have youthful energy, don't sit all day,

but get up and walk around, talk to family and friends.

You might have to ask them what their name is or where they live – that is a part of growing old.

Sing your favorite song. Pray your daily prayer. It is a blessing to get older each day that you are alive. It adds another number to your getting old.

Some people stay sharp. Retain your memories. It's all right to ask something again.

Run, swim, play a little ball. Keep your energy and enjoy life deeply!

We wish a happy birthday to Charity Paschal, Andrew Grimsley on Dec. 8. Reggie Boulware, Tavoris on Dec. 17. Bruce Simmons, Shannon Howell Rosier on Dec. 18. Deacon Willie Fred Skipper Sr. on Dec. 23. Kevin Hines on Dec. 27. Fellis Hines on Dec. 31.

The Skipper Temple Church of Christ will have its annual December birthday month rally. Christmas is around the corner. We welcome you to fellowship with us. Fellowship time is 11 a.m. on Dec. 10.

Our prayers and concern goes out to all the sick and shut-in, those in the hospital and nursing home, prison, homeless, all in need of help everywhere.

## Wakulla Station News

By **VERNA BROCK**

I hope everyone fared well during the weekend rains. We got more than 11 inches of rain at our house, but were very thankful for the relatively warm temps.

Daughter Emma and I braved the inclement weather to shop the early bird sale at the annual Market Days benefit for the Tallahassee Museum. It was fun to see old friends there, while Christmas shopping some favorite vendors. I will admit to being ready to escape the drenching rain for the dry environs of my car.

Once back in the county, I went straight to the Christmas Bazaar at the Wakulla United Methodist Church. Many thanks to the brave souls who came out to shop this annual event. It is always a good way to find handcrafted gifts and ornaments for the holidays. I was tickled pink to win the drawing for this year's quilt and matching pillows! After donating for years in hopes of acquiring a quilt created with love and dedication, I was completely flabbergasted to hear my name called out.

The congregation celebrated Com-

munion this past Sunday, followed by a delicious holiday dinner on the grounds. We were joined by several members of the Woodville U.M.C., which is also pastored by Pastor Steve Montgomery. The food was bountiful, and the fellowship, precious.

Speaking of the Woodville U.M.C., this coming Sunday is the vaunted Second Sunday Sing. The Church will host a talented musical group at 6 p.m., followed by a yummy supper in the social hall. I tell people this is the best kept secret in Woodville, except it really isn't a secret! I hope you will join us for a really wonderful evening of great music, food and

fellowship.

Prayers are requested for Thelma Watts; Bennie Mott; my friends Kitty and Jim Wollenberger who have lost their only child, Tyler; my dear friend and former colleague Cathy Echeveria, whose beloved husband Jason died unexpectedly 10 days ago; and Jim Lannon.

About this whole college football playoff deal: Ed pointed out to me, if FSU had been chosen to play instead of Alabama, there would have been no SEC team in the running. Kinda makes you go, “Hmmm.”

Oh, well...it's just a game, right?

## Sheriff's Report

This report is for activity Nov. 24-30:

### **SATURDAY, NOV. 25**

• Timothy Banks reported his residence filled up with smoke from an unknown source. After investigating, Banks discovered the ceiling burning around the fireplace and chimney. The cause was a previous fire from the previous night. Banks got most of his property out but not all and the house was a total loss. Fire Rescue responded and the fire appears to be accidental. Deputy Norman De Guzman investigated.

### **MONDAY, NOV. 27**

• Kristin Dixon reported someone entered her home and stole some crys-

tals valued at approximately \$150. Dixon alleged someone entered her room and took the key from a drawer located by her bed and stole items from her safe while she was sleeping. Deputy Zac Monroe investigated.

• William Mullinax reported his 2015 Harley Davidson stolen. Mullinax stated he allowed the suspect to take the bike on August 2, 2023 and pay him within the next couple of days. To this date, William has not had contact with the suspect. The motorcycle was entered into NCIC/FCIC as stolen. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Edwin Grove investigated.

• Chad Carraway was arrested for driving while license suspended or revoked with knowledge after a traffic stop was conducted on the vehicle, he was driving was observed to have an

obstructed tag. The tag was blocked by an air compressor which was on a rack in the trailer hitch. Carraway has five prior convictions. Carraway was arrested and transported to the Wakulla County Jail. Deputy Jake Scott investigated.

### **WEDNESDAY, NOV. 29**

• Ashley Winkler reported she left a \$120 deposit on Facebook Marketplace to purchase a Bassett Hound from a suspect. As of this date she has not been able to locate or contact the suspect after posting the deposit. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Kory Smith investigated.

### **THURSDAY, NOV. 30**

• Julie Beachler reported her identity was stolen. Beachler was given the Identify Theft packet on how to report this incident to Social Security and the

three credit reporting agencies. Deputy James Cooper investigated.

• Sue Jester reported her black in color, 2020 Jeep Compass was stolen from the Wakulla Moose Lodge in Panacea. Jester arrived to the Lodge on or about 7 p.m. and stated she left the doors unlocked with the key fob inside the vehicle. Jester's husband left at around 11:30 p.m. in a separate vehicle and noticed Jester's Jeep was still in the parking lot. At midnight, Jester went to leave and noticed the vehicle was gone. The vehicle was entered into NCIC / FCIC as stolen. No video surveillance cameras are mounted in the front of the Moose Lodge, therefore it is unknown who took the vehicle at this time. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Matt Hinson investigated.

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

## Hot Tamale releases 'I Wanna Be a Turtle' song for kids

Special to The Sun

Craig Reeder and Adrian Fogelin, who make music as the local duo Hot Tamale have been using their musical talents to support environmental causes for many years and have just produced an educational music video titled “I Wanna Be a Turtle” designed for kids, and big folks too.

“We want kids to bond with sea turtles as a way of luring them toward the natural sciences, and then, as they get older, understanding the critical need for environmental conservation,” says Reeder, who produced the upbeat video featuring turtles in the wild as well as festive scenes from turtle releases carried out on the beaches of the Big Bend by the Gulf Specimen Marine Lab located in Panacea.

“Kids will be amazed watching sea

turtles swim and dive and skitter across the sand,” says Fogelin. “And maybe they'll get to the next turtle release being done by this wonderful organization located right here in our own back yard.”

As a former educator and an award-winning author of middle grade novels, she knows the power of getting kids excited about things like science at an early age. “The images and music will definitely speak to kids—and who doesn't want to be a turtle?”

The video was produced with the help and support of the Gulf Specimen Marine Lab and has been shared with a number of schools and nature conservancy organizations.

Initial feedback has been positive says Reeder, who proudly shared this quote from Jessica Swindall, the director of the Florida Coastal Conservancy:



**Adrian Fogelin and Craig Reeder perform as Hot Tamale.**

“Oh my goodness, this is WONDERFUL! We'll be delighted to share it with our guests and students, they will love

it.”

To view the video on YouTube. Search: I Wanna Be a Turtle by Hot Tamale.” The video is also available at Vimeo.com. The duo hopes people will share the video, and feel free to sing along.

Hot Tamale is an acoustic duo based in Tallahassee with deep roots in Wakulla County. Folks in Wakulla have seen them at the Sopchoppy Worm Gruntin' Festival, the Palaver Tree Theater, at the St. Marks NWR, Wakulla Springs, the Gulf Specimen Marine Lab, at yearly performances for the students at Crawfordville Elementary School, and most recently at the Oyster & Mullet Festival in Sopchoppy.

More information about Hot Tamale is available on their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/hottamalemusic>

# Outdoors

outdoor sports

## HOME ON THE RANGE

### A super hero wannabe



By MARJ LAW

Wasn't there a time when you wanted to be a super hero?

Joe wanted to be Superman. Superman was a popular television show when Joe was growing up.

I was going to be the Lone Ranger. He sure could twirl that gun as he slid it into his holster.

We both thought just maybe, one day, we would be able to do something really good.

One young man, Elisjsha Dicken, was named a super hero. Only 22 years old, Elisjsha saw a man shooting shoppers at an Indiana mall. He pulled out his 9mm Glock and, from 40 yards away, neutralized the man who had already killed three people and injured two more.

"I will say his actions were nothing short of heroic. He engaged the gunman from quite a distance with a handgun," Greenwood Police Chief James Ison said. "[He] was very tactically sound as he moved to close in on the suspect, he was also motioning for people to exit behind him. He has no police training and no military background."

And that's what inspired a local Wakulla County man, Sam, to consider purchasing his first gun.

"One person has the potential to save so

many lives," he marveled to Joe and me. "I bet if I just showed him my gun, he'd have run away."

And that would put Sam into deep trouble too.

Sam, along with other potential do-gooders, should consider that it might be better not to own a gun at all.

Yes, in Florida, we have the right to own and even wear a gun on our person or carry one in a purse (if we are of age and unless we are a convicted felon).

However, your gun must be hidden from sight. That means your shirt or jacket must cover it. If your shirt is tight and someone can see the outline of your gun, that's called "imprinting." You are not allowed to wear a gun in such a way that it imprints.

Sam thought that if he turned sideways, displaying his gun, then the shooter might leave the area. And, if that didn't work, he planned to pull his gun from the holster, waving it so the bad guy would see it and run away.

In either case, Sam could be in trouble.

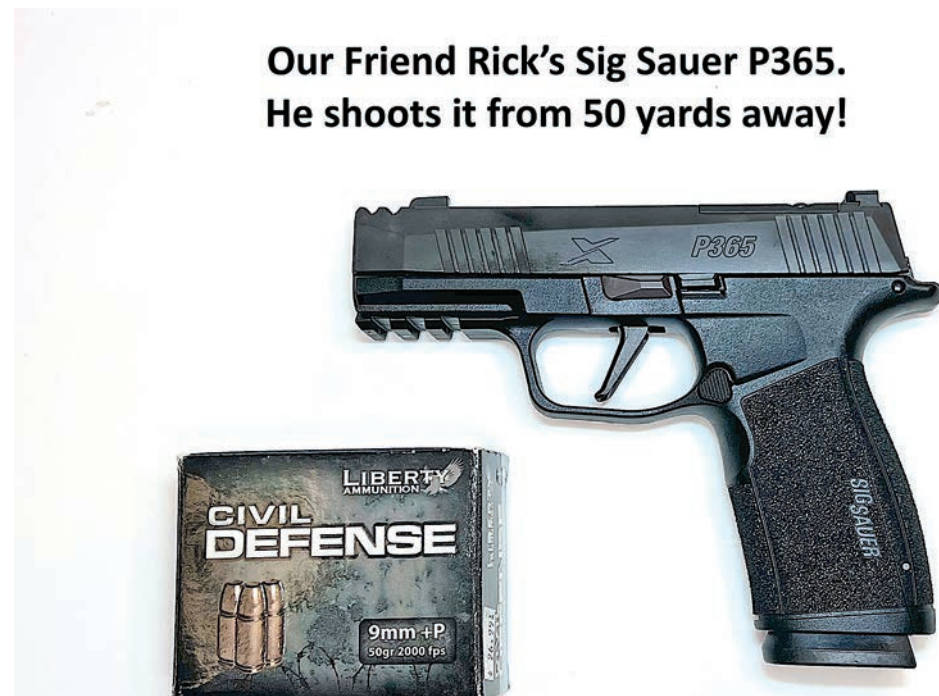
Sam could be arrested for displaying his gun, or for allowing the gun to be imprinted beneath his shirt. He could also be arrested for waving his gun. This is called "brandishing."

Sam, in wanting to be a good guy, could be arrested for what is called the "public display of a firearm."

Maybe Sam still has that childhood wish to be a super hero. But maybe, this wish is going to get him into more trouble than he can stand.

"Do you know the four major rules of gun safety?" Joe asks Sam.

"Umm," Sam is thinking. "Why don't you remind me?" he asks Joe.



Our Friend Rick's Sig Sauer P365. He shoots it from 50 yards away!

Defensive Load: When your life is on the line...

Joe tells him: "The four major rules of gun safety are:

- Point your gun in a safe direction,
- Always consider your gun loaded,
- Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot, and
- Be sure of your target and what is beyond it.

Let's take pointing your gun in a safe direction," he begins. "As you draw from your holster, is there any chance your finger on the trigger could squeeze it before you intended? You might end up shooting the shopper beside you before you train your gun on Mr. Bad.

"Next, are you showing or waving your gun with the intention of scaring Mr. Bad away? All guns should be treated as if they are loaded. You don't get any get-out-of-jail free card if you say your gun isn't loaded and that you just planned to scare the bad guy. You see, all guns are considered loaded. You could be arrested for brandishing your gun. Even worse, someone could shoot you, thinking you are an aggressor carrying an

armed gun.

"Rule 3 is that you have to keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to fire. It would be easy, in a moment of stress, to slide that trigger finger onto the trigger as you draw your Glock from the holster. Especially if the Glock has a light trigger, you might fire the gun 'way before you mean to.

"And you must be sure of your target. What about the other people at the mall? Who is behind Mr. Bad, and could your shot accidentally hit that person? Could the angle of your shot possibly hit another innocent bystander?"

"Anyone who shoots must be aware of these big four rules. Staying within these rules helps us to have a safer environment."

"I'm not sure I'll remember all that," says Sam dubiously. Then I bring up some more thoughts for him to consider.

For instance: how long will it take before Sam is proficient enough to hit his target? And at what distance? You'd be surprised to learn how long it takes to become accurate at hitting an 8-inch

target at 7.5 yards. And will Sam hit that target every time? Should he even chance this shot, or would Mr. Bad turn and take him down as Sam tried to aim again?

It's obvious that Elisjsha Dicken is an excellent shot. And he was shooting from 40 yards away. Most people don't even practice at such a distance. I don't. At what distance can Sam know he will hit his target and only the target? If the distance is long, will the power of his gun keep the bullet flying straight, or will it experience some drop due to gravity? Will Sam know exactly how to aim to compensate for this drop?

And what ammunition is Sam using? The powder behind the bullet, and its weight and configuration can make a difference in drop as well.

Again, the ammunition? Some ammunition is better for practice. Some is meant for defense. Defensive ammunition is more likely to neutralize the threat.

How long will it take for Sam to learn how to shoot amidst all those shoppers, so that he

doesn't endanger any of them? Especially at a distance. Our friend Rick, who is a 27-year-old young man and an excellent shot, can hit small targets with his Sig Sauer P365 at 50 yards. I've never accomplished that. And avoid accidentally hitting another shopper? I'd never consider my shooting accurate enough for that, and I've shot every week for a decade.

How long does it take Sam, or anyone else, to remember these big four rules, and to practice often enough to become super proficient with a handgun? How many people ever become as proficient as Elisjsha?

Outside of the mall shooting questions, how long will it take Sam to learn how to handle his gun safely? To keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction? To keep the gun pointed away from people? How long will it take Sam to learn how to load his gun, and then how to fieldstrip it so that he can clean it?

"Do you know when you can use your gun against another person?" asks Joe.

"Umm," starts Sam. "When he's stealing stuff from my property?"

"No," says Joe firmly. "You can only use your gun if you are afraid for your life, or afraid for someone else's life. A gun isn't to stop a thief, to settle an argument, or to scare someone away. Fear for life is the only reason to draw your gun."

Sam thinks for a moment.

"I'm not so sure I need a handgun," he says. "That's an awful lot to remember."

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



DWARF or PYGMY SEA HORSE (*Hippocampus zosterae*)

The smallest of seahorse species lives in sea grass flats especially where eelgrass grows. Their color is usually unpatterned tan, but can be black to bright green. This seahorse was severely affected by the BP Gulf oil spill because its favored habitat where the population was greatest, was directly in the path of the oil. Its numbers are uncertain but it is becoming rare and may be in trouble. We can hope as the gulf, survivors from our area will repopulate the more western damaged habitats.

Eukaryota, Animalia, Chordata, Actinopterygii, Gasterosteiformes, Syngnathidae



## WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO

Retired Wakulla Springs State Park Ranger Bob Thompson didn't do his weekly wildlife survey at the park last week because of weather. But the week before, he snapped this photo of a Double-crested Cormorant drying its wings.

**HUGE SELECTION**  
 MASKS, FINS & SNORKELS,  
 CYLINDERS, REGULATORS, COMPUTERS,  
 SPEARFISHING SUPPLIES, WETSUITS,  
 AIRLINE HOOKAHS (SURFACE SUPPLIED AIR),  
 BC SYSTEMS, CAMERAS & HOUSINGS,  
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**Wakulla Diving Center**  
 WAKULLADIVING.com 850 745-8208  
 2784 COASTAL HWY., CRAWFORDVILLE

FOLLOW THE SUN.

# Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences



## 24/7 PRIORITY ON-WATER ASSISTANCE

ARE YOU A MEMBER? SEA TOW BIG BEND \ 850-984-3456 \ seatow.com



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### Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

Dec. 7 - Dec. 13



Tide charts by tides4fishing.com



Best fishing days this month  
December 12-26

Thursday 7	
Sun rise/set	7:19AM / 5:36PM
Moon rise/set	2:07AM / 2:11PM
Moon Illumination	29%
Friday 8	
Sun rise/set	7:20AM / 5:36PM
Moon rise/set	3:02AM / 2:39PM
Moon Illumination	21%
Saturday 9	
Sun rise/set	7:21AM / 5:36PM
Moon rise/set	3:59AM / 3:09PM
Moon Illumination	13%
Sunday 10	
Sun rise/set	7:22AM / 5:37PM
Moon rise/set	4:59AM / 3:44PM
Moon Illumination	7%
Monday 11	
Sun rise/set	7:23AM / 5:37PM
Moon rise/set	6:03AM / 4:25PM
Moon Illumination	3%
Tuesday 12	
Sun rise/set	7:23AM / 5:37PM
Moon rise/set	7:10AM / 5:16PM
Moon Illumination	0%
Wednesday 13	
Sun rise/set	7:24AM / 5:37PM
Moon rise/set	8:16AM / 6:14PM
Moon Illumination	0%

For tides at the following points add 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	4:05 am ▼ 0.8 ft	10:20 am ▲ 2.4 ft	3:54 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	10:14 pm ▲ 2.8 ft
Fr	4:57 am ▼ 0.4 ft	11:21 am ▲ 2.6 ft	4:41 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	10:47 pm ▲ 3.1 ft
Sa	5:41 am ▼ 0.9 ft	12:11 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	5:23 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	11:17 pm ▲ 3.2 ft
Su	6:21 am ▼ -0.4 ft	12:57 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	6:02 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	11:48 pm ▲ 3.2 ft
Mo	7:01 am ▼ -0.7 ft	1:39 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	6:40 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	
Tu	7:20 am ▲ 3.4 ft	7:41 am ▼ -0.9 ft	2:22 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	7:17 pm ▼ 1.5 ft
We	7:56 am ▲ 3.5 ft	8:23 am ▼ -1.1 ft	3:04 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	7:55 pm ▼ 1.5 ft

#### City of St. Marks

Th	5:09 am ▼ 0.7 ft	10:56 am ▲ 2.2 ft	4:58 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	10:50 pm ▲ 2.6 ft
Fr	6:01 am ▼ 0.3 ft	11:57 am ▲ 2.4 ft	5:45 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	11:23 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
Sa	6:45 am ▼ 0.0 ft	12:47 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	6:27 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	11:53 pm ▲ 2.8 ft
Su	7:25 am ▼ -0.4 ft	1:33 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	7:06 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	
Mo	8:05 am ▼ -0.6 ft	2:15 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	7:44 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	
Tu	8:45 am ▲ 3.1 ft	2:58 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	8:21 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	
We	9:27 am ▲ 3.3 ft	3:40 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	8:59 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	

#### Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	4:18 am ▼ 0.7 ft	10:32 am ▲ 2.4 ft	4:05 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	10:23 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
Fr	5:12 am ▼ 0.3 ft	11:35 am ▲ 2.6 ft	4:52 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	10:58 pm ▲ 3.1 ft
Sa	5:58 am ▼ -0.1 ft	12:28 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	5:36 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	11:31 pm ▲ 3.2 ft
Su	6:41 am ▼ -0.5 ft	1:15 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	6:17 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	
Mo	7:24 am ▼ -0.8 ft	2:00 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	7:00 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	
Tu	8:04 am ▼ -1.0 ft	2:44 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	7:36 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	
We	8:47 am ▲ 3.6 ft	3:29 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	8:16 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	

#### Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	4:16 am ▼ 0.6 ft	10:12 am ▲ 1.8 ft	4:05 pm ▼ 0.9 ft	10:06 pm ▲ 2.1 ft
Fr	5:08 am ▼ 0.3 ft	11:13 am ▲ 2.0 ft	4:52 pm ▼ 0.9 ft	10:39 pm ▲ 2.2 ft
Sa	5:52 am ▼ 0.0 ft	12:03 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	5:34 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	11:09 pm ▲ 2.4 ft
Su	6:32 am ▼ -0.3 ft	12:49 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	6:13 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	11:40 pm ▲ 2.4 ft
Mo	7:12 am ▼ -0.5 ft	1:31 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	6:51 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	
Tu	7:52 am ▲ 2.1 ft	7:52 am ▼ -0.7 ft	2:14 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	7:28 pm ▼ 1.1 ft
We	8:34 am ▲ 2.6 ft	8:34 am ▼ -0.8 ft	2:56 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	8:06 pm ▼ 1.1 ft

#### St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	4:34 am ▼ 0.5 ft	10:34 am ▲ 1.8 ft	4:09 pm ▼ 0.9 ft	10:06 pm ▲ 2.2 ft
Fr	5:14 am ▼ 0.1 ft	11:37 am ▲ 1.9 ft	4:54 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	10:35 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
Sa	5:48 am ▼ -0.2 ft	12:26 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	5:32 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	11:03 pm ▲ 2.4 ft
Su	6:20 am ▼ -0.5 ft	1:09 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	6:05 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	11:32 pm ▲ 2.5 ft
Mo	6:54 am ▼ -0.8 ft	1:51 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	6:37 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	
Tu	7:31 am ▲ 2.7 ft	2:34 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	7:09 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	
We	8:12 am ▲ 2.8 ft	3:19 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	7:43 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	

#### Dog Island West End

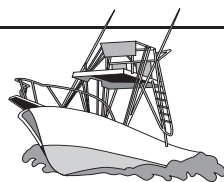
Th	4:46 am ▼ 0.6 ft	10:35 am ▲ 1.4 ft	3:53 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	10:01 pm ▲ 1.9 ft
Fr	5:31 am ▼ 0.2 ft	12:04 pm ▲ 1.5 ft	4:51 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	10:28 pm ▲ 2.0 ft
Sa	6:09 am ▼ -0.2 ft	1:13 pm ▲ 1.7 ft	5:50 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	10:59 pm ▲ 2.1 ft
Su	6:45 am ▼ -0.6 ft	2:01 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	6:35 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	11:35 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
Mo	7:20 am ▼ -0.9 ft	2:46 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	7:09 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	
Tu	8:04 am ▲ 2.4 ft	3:31 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	7:40 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	
We	8:36 am ▲ 2.5 ft	4:17 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	8:11 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	

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



## Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports

By Carolyn Brown Treadon



The following information comes from Paul Barnard, from US Coast Guard Heartland. Paul is a Recreational Boating Safety Specialist for the Coast Guard's Eighth District. He wrote the following article. Included is part one of two.

The Florida Panhandle is part of my territory. The recent kayak capsizing off the Panhandle has a lot of people thinking about and discussing safety. For what it's worth, I am also an avid kayak fisher.

Let me take a moment to share a few thoughts with you. Wear a life jacket. I prefer an inherently bouyant PFD for big water. Everyone should expect to capsize or go overboard at some point. Everyone should practice self-rescue (capsize/re-right/reentry) in a safe environment with a buddy or two present. Do this in the gear that you will wear while fishing. It's very different doing this

### 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

with layered wet winter clothing.

Use the buddy system. Have reliable means of communication. Cell phones should be kept in a waterproof pouch in a PFD pocket. I have layers of communication when I operate on big water or remote water. A PLB fits nicely in a PFD pocket or clipped to a belt. Some PFDs even have handheld VHF radio pockets.

When you capsize, you only have what you have on you or what you have access to. I carry

an emergency ditch kit that stays out on deck in a floating waterproof bag or box.

File a float plan with a pic of your kayak. A float plan will tell where you are launching, where you intend to go, how long you anticipate being gone, who is with you and what kind of gear you'll have on board.

Thanks to Sherrie, we will always remember safe boating is no accident. Check back next week for part two!

Please contact us for more information about our safe boating classes or learning more about getting involved in the Auxiliary, check out our website at [www.uscgaux.net](http://www.uscgaux.net) follow us on Facebook @ Apalachee Bay Flotilla 12 or contact our Flotilla Commander Phil Hill at [pnkhill2000@yahoo.com](mailto:pnkhill2000@yahoo.com)

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

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

## Underwater Wakulla

By Rusty Miller

It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas.

As of the writing of this article, we only have 21 days before Christmas so in the "Olden days" back when manual transmissions where a standard and automatic transmissions where special order on new automobiles. When the only big mail order was JC Penny and Sears Roebuck and you had to have your order in before Thanksgiving to get it just before Christmas Day.

You ask, what's this have to do with scuba diving? Well just like diving you could only get any equipment like regulators, tank harness (pre-BCD) weights and weight belts from a box store called a scuba dive shop. But you could not just walk in and buy your equipment unless you had what was called a "C-card" - your certification card. You couldn't even get your tanks filled without it. There were few charter boats along the coast that would even take divers out because they didn't understand what the sport was all about. So we had to make do with what was available and from there it became a very big industry.

The equipment that we used was very primitive by today's standards and not as reliable as today's equipment and because of the vast improvements in the equipment we have lost touch with several of the lifesaving skills that we would learn then versus now.

Over the next couple of articles I will go through what skills that aren't taught to new students unless it's an old timer like me that at least want to demonstrate them in the pool. A couple of the old skills require practice and repetition for them to be of any life saving use. If these skills are done wrong you will find yourself in a very dangerous situation very quickly.

I want to talk about the first skill that a lot of newer instructors almost never if ever teach to students mainly because they have never been taught themselves. It used to be the main out-of-air skill because this was taught when I got my first C-card as a 10 year old through the YMCA back in the '60s, it's called buddy breathing. When we where taught to buddy breathe we where using state of the art downstream double-hose regulators. They were the type that the Navy divers would use so the dive industry adopted the same regulators.

I'm not going to go into details about how they worked but let's say if you were looking up or on your back they didn't work very well. Now for the buddy breathing skill on those types of regulators it was sketchy at best and you had to be able to perform it without panicking otherwise one or both of you would die.

You would need to use this skill when you ran out of air in your cylinder. Did I mention that we didn't have SPG's like now, we had a "J valve." It was part of the tank valve and had a heavy type of wire that ran down the left side of the tank and when you took your last breath you would reach down and pull it down and suddenly you would have 500 psi of air to make your way to the surface. If you were lucky and the tank was filled with the valve in the correct position.

I'll finish up the buddy breathing skill in next week's article. Until then keep making bubbles.

Russell Miller #59999

## FWC Law Enforcement Report

From FWC

LEVY COUNTY

This report represents some events the FWC handled Nov. 3-9 in the North Central Region. (There were no cases reported for Wakulla County or the Northwest Region.)

COLUMBIA COUNTY

- Lieutenant Kiss and Senior Officer Yates responded to a call regarding a subject who shot himself in the foot. The officers interviewed the victim who said he was walking to his house after hunting and shot the instep of his right foot with a rifle. The wound was minor and treated by medical staff at the hospital. Lieutenant Kiss, Officer Yates and Investigator Dasher went to the scene of the incident to investigate.

- During crossbow season, Officer Carroll received a report about a hunter who had shot a deer with a rifle and then left the area. When the officer arrived on scene, she discovered a dead antlered deer. The officer identified a subject and arranged an interview. The subject confessed to killing the antlered deer with a rifle and then leaving it. Officer Carroll charged the subject with taking deer by illegal method, willful and wanton waste of wildlife, and antler point regulations violation.

MADISON COUNTY

- Officer Vazquez responded to three shots fired after the legal shooting time. The officer arrived in the area

and observed a vehicle exit a farm field. He followed the vehicle to a nearby residence. As he pulled up to the residence, he observed a dead antlerless deer on the vehicle's tailgate. The subject was interviewed and admitted to shooting it after legal shooting hours. The subject was charged with taking antlerless deer after legal shooting hours and issued warnings for no hunting license and failure to log a harvested deer prior to moving it.

SUWANNEE COUNTY

- Lt. McDonald was at a deer processor when he observed a subject with an antlered deer that did not meeting antler point regulations for the deer management unit it was harvested in. It was also discovered the

subject had not logged the harvested deer prior to moving it. The subject was cited accordingly.

TAYLOR COUNTY

- Officers Clark, Rowe, Troiano, Williamson, and Recruiter Moble attended the annual Taylor County Forest Festival at Forest Capital Museum State Park. Officers brought numerous trucks and boats to display for the approximately 1,200 elementary and middle school kids who attended. Officers Clark, Troiano, and Williamson assisted in showing the kids how to fish with a rod and reel. Officer Rowe and Recruiter Moble showed the kids different mounted animals and talked about conservation, hunting and fishing.

# When insecurities sabotage our relationships

By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

Do you suffer from low self-esteem? Do you pine for the pat on the back from your boss and the applause from your peers that never hap-

pens? You hide it well, but you're worn out from constantly repenting for being so beastly jealous.

Or perhaps you struggle with another type of performance-related behavior. Maybe you're ambitious – sometimes to a fault. You always have to be the best. So much so that you have a hard time celebrating others' success, especially when you don't see results for all your hard work.

How have your insecurities or high-performance attitudes affected your relationships?

In years past, I found

myself in both scenarios. Some days I still struggle with these feelings.

If this message resonates with you, will you join me in asking God to show us when we need to take our focus off ourselves so we can properly love the people in our lives? Not just those we "compete" with, but with everyone we interact with.

I appreciate how John 13:34 (ESV) addresses this: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one

another."

Imagine loving others – as Christ loves us.

Loving others on this level would help us participate in life in a healthy, Christlike way. It would change our relationships at work, diminish our mean-spirited competitiveness and, as we consider how much God loves us, lessen our insecurities.

Consider what would happen if we applied this week's verse in all our relationships. For instance, if I treated my husband, Bert, with John 13:34 in mind, it

would change my marriage.

When we, as God's beloved children, no longer act as if life is all about us, we begin to see others and their needs in a clearer light. We begin to see ourselves in a clearer light too. When we love others as Christ loves us, we become different people. More confident. Less selfish. More humble.

Our witness (the way we live in front of those who are watching us) is no longer compromised when we behave – and love – like the One Who loves us magnificently.

For the rest of this Christmas season and into the new year, rather than comparing ourselves to others or seeing our co-workers or family members as rivals, let's, as God's dearly loved children, forsake our insecurities and selfish ambitions – and watch how it changes our relationships.

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

## We are His

By **CHERYL CRUCE**

One early morning, my siblings and I ran through the dew-drenched woods, chasing each other in a harmless game of tag. My downfall happened when I looked back for only a moment to see where they were. As I turned back around, I ran face-first into the web of a banana spider. I remember the feeling as it wrapped around

my face and upper torso. I also recall the crackling sound as its golden threads engulfed my head and began snapping next to my ears. Then there was the vision as that monstrous eight-legged creature landed on my cheek.

I can still feel the shivers as I invaded his personal space, and he invaded mine. The swatting, jumping, and screaming cries that came from my 10-year-old self were in perfect harmony with the laughter of my brothers and sisters on that cool autumn morning. This single incident became the beginning of my arachnophobia.

Fast forward six years, and I am the proud owner of a 1967 Volkswagen

and an employee of the "Freezette," a local ice cream/hamburger diner in my hometown. Driving home in the evenings, my lights repeatedly caught the site of an emerald-green gem shining in the middle of the dirt road. Curiosity got the best of me one night, and I slowed to a snail's pace. I opened my door and leaned out near the ground only to come face-to-face with another eight-legged creature. I carried a few bruises from that incident as I clumsily pulled myself into the car.

My arachnophobic experiences taught me two essential lessons. First, never look back. As a child, I knew to watch where I was going and not run aimless-

ly through the woods. Scripture also teaches us not to be foolish. Once we place our hands on the plow, we cannot look back (Luke 9:62). Nonetheless, like children caught in a game, we lose sight of our path and discover dangers beyond our control.

So often, we become entangled in the snares of the world, fighting against what we cannot see, powers and rulers of darkness that come from spiritual places (Ephesians 6:12). The Apostle Peter writes that the enemy is like a roaring lion stalking its prey, ready to attack and devour the innocent (1 Peter 5:8). However, God's greatest desire is to become the lamp for our feet, lighting our

path (Psalm 119), thereby helping us avoid the raging lions.

Secondly, pretty is not always pleasant. We can grasp God's blessings or reach for the things that leave us battered and bruised. Danger can be disguised as beautiful. Who knew the eyes of a spider could be such an alluring shade of green? Did you know free will can entice us away from God's will? When we want to be accepted by the crowd, we join harmful activities, hurtful conversations, etc.; we take our eyes off the path of God. We reach for the emerald, and we grab the enemy.

Even so, the enemy does not own us. Like the merchant who found the great pearl and sold

all he had to purchase it, the Lord has paid a great price for each of us (Matthew 13:45-46). God will exchange our emerald for a pearl when we seek His righteousness. There is no bondage He cannot break because the spirit that lives within us is greater than the spirit of the world (1 John 4:4). We are His!

2 Timothy 2:22 Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

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

### OUT TO PASTOR

## Ain't nothing better than a PB&J

By **JAMES SNYDER**

I'm not sure what happened to my closely guarded diet during these recent holidays, but I won't ask. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has been so busy cooking and preparing food that she didn't have time to oversee my diet.

As usual, I used this time for my benefit and delighted myself with all the food. And believe me, the food was delicious.

One thing I like about holiday eating is that you can always go for seconds and if careful, thirds.

As the family is around the table and the chatter continues, I can sneak another portion of that delicious turkey. There is no way I can have too much turkey. From one turkey to another, I can only say, "Gobble, gobble, gobble."

Another benefit of these holiday meals is the leftovers. Sometimes, it has been my experience that leftovers are more delicious than the original. I'm unsure if it's The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage's culinary skill or just the quality of the food. The second time around is a winner. The third time around is not too bad, either.

In our house, the planning of the holiday meals begins in late summer. Our shelves are stocked with all kinds of food for the holidays. We have

a special refrigerator in the garage stuffed with all sorts of things for the holiday.

If I had to choose which food I enjoyed the most during these holidays, I would be in trouble. Or maybe I could say, like my uncle used to say, "It's what I'm eating at the time."

I must say that the pie selection is right up at the top of the best part of the meal. There were all kinds of pies: pumpkin pie, apple pie, lemon meringue pie, and those were just the pies I saw and ate. My plan is, if I eat only one slice at a time, I may not be caught.

The week following our Thanksgiving dinner, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I sat in the living room relaxing. I looked at her and said, "When is our next Thanksgiving dinner?"

Looking at me with one of her looks, she said, "When I find the next turkey." And then she stared at me until I was just slightly uncomfortable.

About a week after our Thanksgiving dinner, The

Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage planned to spend the day shopping for Christmas presents. I was instructed to get my lunch for that day.

When lunchtime came, I opened the refrigerator and looked at all the delicious food. I was trying to figure out which I would pick first. No matter which one I choose, it would definitely be delicious.

Then I had one of those "Whaaaat" moments. I saw something in the refrigerator I had not thought about for a long time – a jar of grape jelly.

I knew the cupboard beside the refrigerator had several jars of peanut butter. What came to me at that moment was a PB&J sandwich. For those under 50, that is a Peanut Butter and Jelly sandwich.

There ain't nothing better in this whole wide world than a PB&J sandwich. As a kid, that was my favorite lunch I took

to school every day. And it doesn't matter what the jelly is, grape, strawberry, blueberry, it's all rather delicious.

Looking behind me to ensure the way was clear and that The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage had not come home early, I set out to fix my favorite sandwich.

Don't get me wrong here; turkey is a wonderful sandwich. But it doesn't compete with this PB&J sandwich I was about to indulge in.

I don't know who invented peanut butter, but they have greatly served humanity. Then, adding jelly to peanut butter sandwiches is another brilliant accomplishment. Quickly, I put together my PB&J sandwich, got a fresh cup of coffee, and then went to the kitchen table to celebrate my lunch. After finishing that sandwich, I was very much tempted to go for sandwich number two. What would be wrong

with that?

If The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage knows what I had for lunch, how would I explain it to her? Keeping it a secret is my number one agenda.

Munching on my PB&J sandwich, I remembered what David said. "Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart" (Psalm 37:4).

I love food, but my greatest joy is in the Lord. As I focus on Him in my daily activities, I begin to understand the import-

ant desires of my heart. It's amazing how God surprised me with something that really made my life happy. The finer things in life aren't everything. Sometimes it's the simple things that make me truly happy.

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

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# Obituaries

## DEATH NOTICES

- **Neal F. Eichholz**, 86, of Crawfordville, died December 1, 2023
- **Joan Barbara Holt**, 85, of Crawfordville, died November 29, 2023
- **James “Jim” F. McCormick**, 74, of Crawfordville, died December 1, 2023.
- **Tyson Lyn Scott**, 34, of Crawfordville, died November 27, 2023.

- **John J. Simpson**, 51, of Crawfordville, died December 3, 2023.
- **Shari L. Stahler**, 74, of Eastpoint, died November 29, 2023.

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

## BEREAVEMENT COLUMN

# Funeral myths – gold teeth and metal implants



By **TRACY RENEE LEE**

On several occasions, clients have asked me to harvest their loved ones gold teeth or metal

implants prior to burial or cremation. This is not something that I do. In fact, I am unaware of any funeral directors who would consider such an act as ethical.

In the state of Texas, it is illegal for a funeral director or embalmer to mutilate a deceased human body. Indeed, in my opinion, pulling out the teeth of a decedent or cutting into their bodies to retrieve metal hips or knees would fall

under an act of mutilation.

When client families request such items from within the bodies of their deceased loved ones, I politely suggest to them that they hire the services of their dentist or surgeon to excise the requested items. To date, I have never had a family member follow through with such an act.

I also had a decedent, when he was setting up

his pre-need, tell me that he wanted me to excise his gold teeth and give them to his son. I politely informed him that I was not a licensed dentist and that his dentist would need to come to the funeral home to perform the harvest of his teeth. Once he checked out the expense of hiring his dentist to carry out his request, he realized that the cost would far outweigh any funds his

son might receive by selling his teeth to the local jeweler for scrap gold. It turned out to be extremely cost-prohibitive.

If you have items within the bodies of your deceased loved ones that you would like harvested prior to burial or cremation, it might be a good idea to research the cost of post-mortem surgery against the anticipated return of selling.

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

## Weekly Roundup: ‘Perfect storm’ in prisons

By **DARA KAM and RYAN DAILEY**  
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — yped as “The Great Red State vs. Blue State” debate, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and California Gov. Gavin Newsom squabbled Thursday night in what could presage a future presidential showdown between leaders from opposite ends of the country and the ideological spectrum.

DeSantis, a Republican whose 2024 White House bid has failed to gain traction against former President Donald Trump, and Newsom, a Democrat who is purported to have his own presidential ambitions, spent more than 90 minutes clashing over records and policies.

Fox News host Sean Hannity, who moderated the event, set the table with topics such as crime, economics and education, giving DeSantis an opportunity to compare and contrast Florida’s successes with what he called California’s failures.

Hurling accusations of bullying and lying, Newsom and DeSantis often spoke over each other and became unintelligible as they jabbed about “culture wars,” their states’ reputations

and how they responded to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The governors landed some punches, but neither emerged a clear victor.

Sparring over immigration policy, Newsom accused DeSantis of “trolling folks” and “trying to find migrants to play political games, trying to get some news and attention so you can out-Trump Trump.”

“And by the way, how’s that going for you, Ron?” Newsom said. “You’re down 41 points in your own home state.”

DeSantis, meanwhile, attacked California’s crime rate and homelessness problem and called his Golden State counterpart “slick” and “slippery.”

DeSantis also used the national spotlight to swipe at President Joe Biden, saying the 81-year-old Democrat is “in decline.”

“Yes, it’s a danger to the country. He has no business running for president. And, you know, Gavin Newsom agrees with that. He won’t say that, that’s why he’s running his shadow campaign,” DeSantis said.

### NO SHIELD FOR COPS

Marsy’s Law, a 2018 constitutional amend-

ment designed to protect crime victims’ rights, “does not explicitly” protect the identities of police officers or other people, according to a unanimous ruling this week by the Florida Supreme Court.

The case involved a dispute about releasing the names of Tallahassee police officers who were involved in separate use-of-force incidents in which they were threatened.

An appeals court this year sided with the officers, who argued that they were victims and that their identities should be shielded under the amendment. The officers were represented by the Florida Police Benevolent Association.

But news organizations and the City of Tallahassee contended, in part, that the police officers’ names should not be shielded from the public because they were not acting as individual “persons” when the incidents occurred.

Thursday’s 27-page decision, authored by Justice John Couriel, found that the law “does not secure a victim’s right to unanimity.”

“We conclude that Marsy’s Law does not guarantee to a victim the categorical right to withhold his or her name from disclosure,” Couriel wrote.

Among the rights for crime victims that Marsy’s Law put into the Constitution was

the right to “prevent the disclosure of information of records that could be used to locate or harass the victim or the victim’s family, or which could disclose confidential or privileged information of the victim.”

Couriel wrote that those rights do not include concealment of a victim’s name upon his or her request — rejecting the officers’ arguments. Couriel interpreted Marsy’s law to shield only information that could be used to locate or harass a victim.

“Fairly read, the text does no such thing. For it is one thing to identify a person and another altogether to locate or harass him or her,” he wrote.

Reactions to the decision ranged from disappointment to celebration.

Jennifer Fennell, a spokeswoman for the group Marsy’s Law for Florida, said the justices’ “ruling that this be applied very generally to all crime victims is disappointing, especially as they recognize in this same ruling that certain categories of victims have the right to prevent the public disclosure of their names.”

But attorney Mark Caramanica, whose firm Thomas & LoCicero represents the news organizations, said in a statement that the ruling is “a win for government transparency.”

“The court applied

a common sense approach to interpreting Marsy’s Law that reins in overzealous applications that hide newsworthy information from the public,” Caramanica said.

### CALLING FOR ACTION

Writing that many Floridians are “almost dangerously naive” about the magnitude of illegal immigration, a statewide grand jury issued a series of recommendations.

The grand-jury report, posted Monday on the Florida Supreme Court website, includes calling for further attempts to crack down on businesses that hire undocumented immigrants, probing non-government organizations and collecting fees on transfers of money from Florida to other countries.

The grand jury was impaneled at DeSantis’ request last year.

“We learned that, if anything, many Floridians are (just as we were before undertaking this inquiry) almost dangerously naive and unaware of the true magnitude and malevolence of the illegal immigration industry,” the grand jury said in the report. “What we discovered has been at varying times sobering, upsetting, depressing, and the cause of significant outrage.”

The report also called

for addressing issues related to licensing general contractors, essentially pointing to loopholes that allow contractors to pass the buck on verifying employees’ legal status.

Recommendations also included a crackdown on what are known as “remittances,” or money sent by immigrants in the U.S. to other countries. It said remittances can be linked to criminal activities, such as money laundering and human smuggling.

The panel recommended that Florida collect a fee on transactions involving money leaving the state and going to other countries.

**STORY OF THE WEEK:** A 2018 constitutional amendment designed to bolster victims’ rights “does not explicitly” shield the identities of police officers — or any other people — from disclosure, the Florida Supreme Court ruled in a major decision on Thursday.

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:** “I’m disappointed, absolutely, but not just for police officers. I’m disappointed for all victims. But, listen, the Supreme Court, they know what they’re doing. They found that it didn’t specify for victims, not just for police officers.” — John Kazanjian, president of the Florida Police Benevolent Association.

## Dollar General lawsuit

From Front Page

amounting to \$288,000; plus \$1.1 million for pain and suffering for the rest of his life.

The theory of the case was that Dollar General employees had been negligent in leaving a hazard, such as a slippery substance on the floor, that could cause injury.

Dollar General’s attorney, in closing, told jurors that Murphy’s case left more questions than answers.

“The way he fell doesn’t make sense,” the Dollar General lawyer said, adding that it was odd that Murphy took photos of the bathroom immediately after the fall, asked the manager to do an incident report but never showed him the photos of water on the floor, “went to a doctor within three days and already had an attorney.”

During the testimony of the store manager, he said he thought it odd a complaint of water on the floor when he’d just checked the bathrooms. If he had seen something on the floor, he would have cleaned it, he said.

Asked by a Dollar General attorney, “Is it possible Mr. Murphy caused that spill?”

The manager answered: “It’s most likely.”

The jury deliberated for a couple of hours before returning its verdict.

The case was presided over by Wakulla Circuit Judge Layne Smith.

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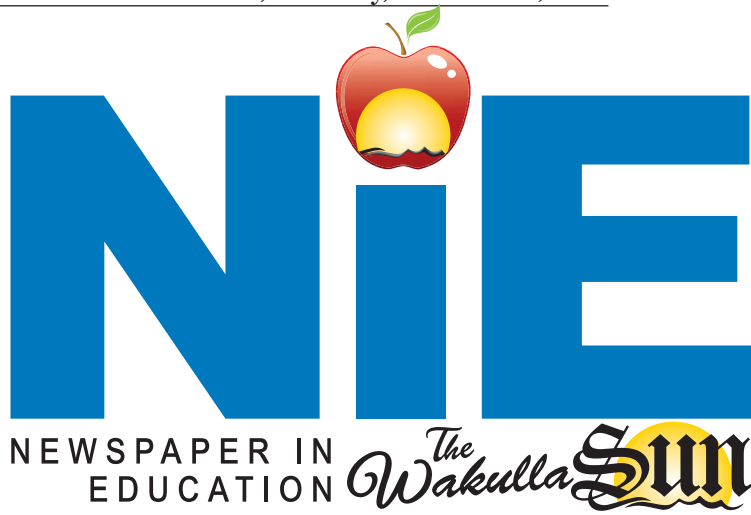
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## USE THE NEWS

### 1. WHITE HOUSE HOLIDAY

The December holiday season is a time of Magic, Wonder and Joy for children and families across America. And that is the spirit First Lady Jill Biden wanted to create when she planned this year's holiday decorations for the White House in Washington, DC. The White House is known as "the People's House," because it is both the home and the office of the President. It is also a place where the people of America can share celebrations of important events. The winter holidays are one of those events, and the White House has gone all out to make visitors feel the excitement of the season. People arriving through the East Colonnade are greeted by cheerful depictions of holiday sweets, twinkling lights and candy cane columns. The official White House gingerbread house honors the 200th anniversary of the "Night Before Christmas" children's story and a nearly life-size version of Santa's sleigh and reindeer soar across the ceiling in Cross Hall. "It is a time for our senses to awaken," Jill Biden writes in the guide to the display — and her staff and volunteers did everything to make that happen. Families and communities across America put up decorations to celebrate the winter holidays. In the newspaper or online, find and study photos of holiday displays in your community or elsewhere. Make a list of adjectives and adverbs that describe the displays. Use your words to write a poem about "Christmas Decorations." Read your poem aloud to the class.

### 2. WHAT A HOT SHOT!

Half-court shots in basketball make news when they come at the end of games and give a team a last-second win. In the town of Parker, Colorado, they made news in a different way this fall, when a 17-year-old high school senior made NINE of them in a row to set a new world record. And Maddison Neale did it on her lunch break between classes at her high school! Neale broke the record of eight half-court shots in a row set in 2020 by a male player in China. Neale started practicing to break the Guinness World Record last year, after undergoing surgery for an ankle injury that kept her from playing basketball for a few months, UPI News reported. She now wants to set more basketball records, including the most half-court shots in a minute, the most three pointers in 30 seconds and the most three pointers in one minute. Teen and pre-teen ath-

letes often make news by doing unusual things in sports. In the newspaper or online, find and closely read a story about a young athlete who has done something special. Use what you read to write a short sports column telling what kinds of skills and personal qualities the athlete needed to achieve success.

### 3. NEW PLANET SYSTEM

Exoplanets are planets that orbit around stars outside the Earth's solar system. There may be millions of them in outer space, and scientists have just discovered an interesting one relatively close to Earth. Using two different satellites designed to study far-away planets, astronomers have found a rare family of six planets orbiting a star about 100 light-years from Earth. (A light-year is the distance light would travel in 365 days at a speed of 186,000 miles per second.) Scientists discovered the family of plan-

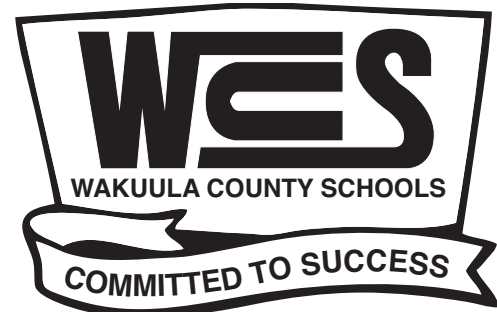
ets using data collected by satellites operated by America's NASA space agency and the European Space Agency, CNN News reports. The discovery could help scientists learn how planets form in space, according to a study published in the science journal Nature. Scientists discover exoplanets when they observe the brightness of far-away stars growing dim from time to time. The dimming indicates the existence of a planet crossing between the star and Earth. Compared to planets in our solar system, the new discoveries are larger than Earth but smaller than Neptune, the giant planet that is the eighth and most distant major planet orbiting our sun. The new planet family orbits its star faster than planets in our solar system, with the closest planet taking just over nine Earth days to complete its orbit. NASA and other space agencies are constantly making new discoveries. In the newspaper or online, find and closely read a sto-

ry about a recent space discovery. Use what you read to write a letter to another student, describing what has been discovered, how it was discovered and why it is important to scientists.

### 4. NAME THAT PET

For people who get a pet, one of the most popular things to do is choosing a name. And what names do Americans like best? For the last 11 years, an online pet organization called Rover has been keeping track of names Americans like most. The group's 2023 list has just been released, and there are some surprising and not-so-surprising choices. For dogs, the top names were Charlie for males and Luna for females. Luna was also the top name for female cats, with Oliver taking the honor for male cats. The choice of Charlie for male dogs made history in the Rover survey. Charlie took over first place from Max, which had held the top spot for 10 straight years. Max finished second in this year's list. In addition to listing the most popular

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pet names, Rover tracks unusual names that are trending up over the last year. The trending names for cats included Choco, Fuzz, Munch, Luffy and Maizey. The trending names for dogs included Minnow, Smokey, Estrella, Wednesday and Kelce. Kelce happens to be the last name of Travis Kelce, the football star who is dating singer Taylor Swift. What name would you choose if you got a new dog, cat or other pet? In the newspaper or online, find and study ads and photos of animals that would make good pets. Choose one you like and come up with a name for it, based on its looks and personality. Explain your choice to the class.

### 5. AIR TRAVEL RECORD

Every year, the Sunday after Thanksgiving is the busiest day for airplane travel, because people need to get back to school or jobs after spending a long weekend away. This year, a record number of people flew in airplanes on that day, according to the national Transportation

Security Administration, which handles airport screenings for safety. The TSA announced that it screened more than 2.9-million passengers at the end of the Thanksgiving weekend, the most in the history of the federal agency. That number was 10 percent more than the Sunday after Thanksgiving last year, when the TSA screened about 2.6-million people. Before this year's Sunday after Thanksgiving, the busiest day in TSA history was June 30 this year, when nearly 2.9-million passengers were screened. Despite worries that fewer people might fly this year, eight of the 10 busiest screening days in TSA history have come in 2023, the Washington Post newspaper reported. During the holiday season, many families travel to see family or friends. Many fly in airplanes, but others choose other methods of transportation. Search the newspaper or Internet for examples of different methods of travel. Make a list of different kinds. For each, write one advantage and one disadvantage of that method.



THERE ARE MORE THAN 3,000 VARIETIES OF THIS FRUIT WORLDWIDE.

ANSWER: PEARS

### Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-10. The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right. The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

	1		13
	0	2	9
5	5		18
15	6	19	

8	5	5
2	0	7
6	1	3

Solution

### Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

R E P A R T T A

Answer: Pear tart

### THIS DAY IN...



### HISTORY

- 1962: WORKERS AT FOUR NYC NEWSPAPERS BEGIN A STRIKE THAT ULTIMATELY LASTS FOR 114 DAYS.
- 1990: THE GALILEO SPACECRAFT FLIES PAST EARTH FOR THE FIRST TIME.
- 2013: METALLICA PERFORMS A SHOW IN ANTARCTICA, MAKING THEM THE FIRST BAND TO PERFORM ON ALL SEVEN CONTINENTS.



### MATURE

fully developed

### How they SAY that in...

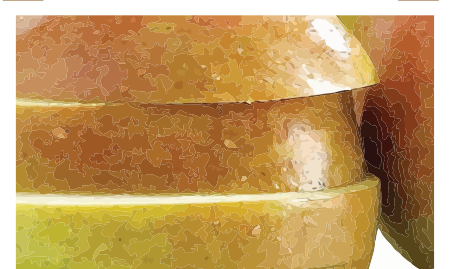
- ENGLISH:** Sweet
- SPANISH:** Dulce
- ITALIAN:** Dolce
- FRENCH:** Sucré
- GERMAN:** Süß



PEARS ARE ONE OF THE FEW FRUITS THAT HAVE AN EXTENSIVE HISTORY, DATING BACK TO AROUND 1,000 B.C.



### GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: PEARS

# DECK THE HALLS WORD SEARCH

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

## WORDS

- ANGEL
- BELLS
- BOUGH
- CHRISTMAS TREE
- DECORATE
- DISPLAY
- FIREPLACE
- GARLAND
- HOLLY
- INFLATABLE
- MANTEL
- MENORAH
- MISTLETOE
- NUTCRACKER
- ORNAMENTS
- POINSETTIA
- SANTA
- SLEIGH
- SNOWMAN
- STAND
- STOCKINGS
- STRINGED LIGHTS
- WINDOW
- WREATH

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

## CROSSWORD

### CLUES ACROSS

- Spiritual leaders
- Salt
- Fortified wine
- Edible mollusk
- It begins with them
- A way to compare
- Governmentt lawyer
- Back parts
- 8th month (abbr.)
- Very willing
- \_\_\_ ex machina
- Satisfies
- Quebec river
- A doctrine
- Popular pickup truck
- Dekagram
- Naturally occurring solid material
- Company officer
- Villains
- Cricket frogs
- German founder of psychology
- Endured
- A female domestic
- A “place” to avoid
- Cigarette (slang)
- Canadian politician Josephine
- French ballet/acting dynasty

- Employee stock ownership plan
- Belonging to the bottom
- Sound
- Yankees’ slugger Judge
- Dickens character
- More wise
- Flash memory card
- Exposing human vice or folly to ridicule
- Atomic #79
- Longtime Braves pitcher Julio
- Humor
- Shawl
- Preliminary assessment of patients

### CLUES DOWN

- Animal disease
- Commercial
- Craft supply
- Storage units
- Investment vehicle
- Colorado Heisman winner
- In a way, sank
- Post-birth brain damage (abbr.)
- Lay about
- Intestinal
- The opposite of yes

- Caused to be loved
- Messianic in Islamic eschatology
- Showing since conviction
- Not safe
- The number above the line in a fraction
- Yard invader
- Pouch
- Swedish krona
- Start anew
- While white or yellow flower
- Fourteen
- Graphical user interface
- Up-to-date on the news
- Campaigns
- Touch softly
- “Boardwalk Empire” actress Gretchen
- Violent seizure of property
- One who supports the Pope
- Anxiety
- Body fluid
- Phony person
- Title of respect
- Chilean city
- City in central Japan
- Silk garment
- Draw from
- Automobile
- Man
- Legal bigwig (abbr.)

## WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to holiday baking.

# G E R N G I

--	--	--	--	--	--

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## Guess Who?

I am an actor born in California on December 7, 1966. I was a rodeo champion before becoming an actor, following in the footsteps of my dad. I am best known for work in popular movies like “Red Dawn” and “The Outsiders.”

Answer: C. Thomas Howell  
 Answer: Ginger

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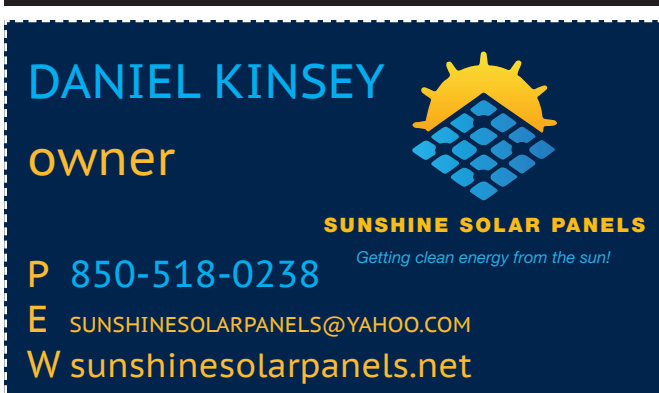
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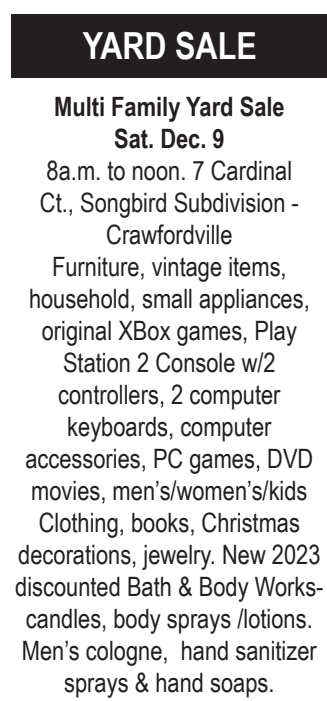
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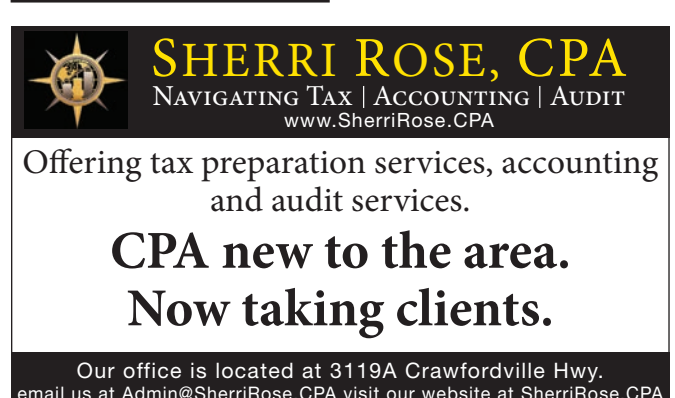
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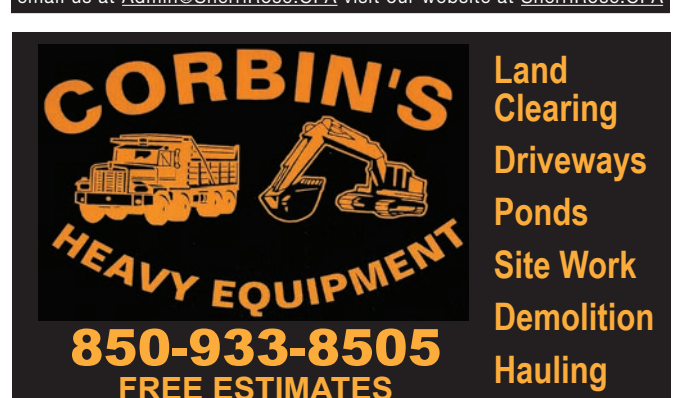
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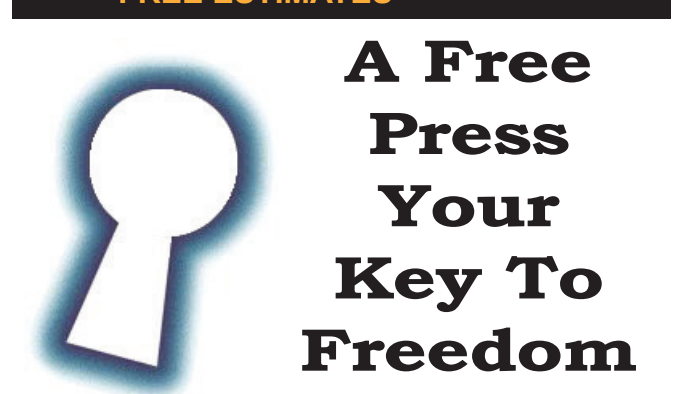
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# SPORTS

## 13-0, conference champion FSU left out of playoffs

By **BOB FERRANTE**  
Editor/The Osceola

A perfect regular season. A dominating defensive performance to win the ACC title.

But not good enough for the College Football Playoff.

Florida State (13-0) is stunningly out of the four-team CFP field, the first unbeaten Power 5 conference champion in 25 years of creating college football championship games or playoff fields to be left in the dark. Instead, the top 4 — Michigan, Washington, Texas and Alabama — will face off for the 2023 title.

FSU finishes at No. 5.

It would appear that the injury to FSU quarterback Jordan Travis and how the offense looked the last few weeks paired with Alabama's win over Georgia in the SEC Championship Saturday was enough to move for the committee to move the Crimson Tide ahead of the Seminoles.

"I am disgusted and infuriated with the committee's decision today to have what was earned on the field taken away because a small group of people decided they knew better than the results of the games," FSU coach Mike Norvell said. "What is the point of playing games? Do you tell players it is okay to quit if someone goes down? Do you not play a senior on Senior Day for fear of injury? Where is the motivation to schedule challenging non-conference games? We are not only an undefeated P5 conference champion, but we also played two P5 non-conference games away from home and won both of them. I don't understand how we are supposed to think this is an acceptable way to evaluate a team."

While much of the ESPN panel was in support of the CFP committee's decision, analyst Booger McFarland spoke out against the decision in a major way.

"This is a travesty to our sport," McFarland said on the broadcast.

The Seminoles campaigned for a spot in CFP, with Norvell, assistant coaches and players offering their opinions in the moments after the 16-6 win over Louisville on Saturday night.

In Norvell's case, it was tough to fathom that this



FSU's Jared Verse and the defensive line played stout in the 16-6 win in the ACC Championship against Louisville. But the College Football Playoff committee put in Texas and Alabama ahead of FSU, which dropped to No. 5.

was even a discussion. But it was chaos rooted in Alabama's win over Georgia in the SEC title game, which prompted debate about the five teams for four remaining spots.

FSU will instead play in the Orange Bowl against Georgia (12-1) on Dec. 30 on at 4 p.m. (ESPN).

### WAR EAGLE WRESTLING

## Wilson and Wakulla Rock at Round Robin

By **WALT JACOBS**  
Special to The Sun

University of Iowa wrestling Coach Tom Brands once said, "The only thing you deserve is what you earn." In all of sports, Wrestling is the ultimate meritocracy. On every high school team, there are only 14 weight classes. To make the Varsity team, the contenders in each weight class must vie for their spot in a wrestle off.

The rules are simple: two competitors stand in the center of a 28 foot circle, then shake hands, and battle.

Popular opinion does not matter. Social status has no bearing. When the match has concluded, there is a winner and a loser. The winner gets their hand raised and experiences what Jim McKay described as "the thrill of victory," while the loser

becomes acquainted with "the agony of defeat." What lies ahead for the loser is up to them. Persevere or Surrender, those are the only options.

Wakulla Senior 106 pounder Brady Wilson, who has been wrestling since middle school, chose to embrace the grind and persevere. Brady's performance on Saturday at Buchholz High's Bobcat Round Robin in Gainesville prompted Coach Will Pafford to say it was a "highlight of the weekend."

When asked, why did Brady's performance stand out? Pafford replied, "It was his first career varsity start as a Senior."

"Brady has stayed faithful to the program," Pafford added, "working hard and being patient, while waiting for his shot at starting. Once he got his opportunity, he capitalized on it going 4-1 this weekend."

Along with Wilson, the War Eagles racked up

victory after victory. From the Seniors on the team, like David Culley (4-1), Bricyn Kennedy (4-1), Kohl Pippin (3-1) and Adleigh Caquimbo (4-0), to the Freshman, like Matthew Thaxton (4-1) and Kane Watford (2-1), who were baptized in the fire of a varsity tournament for the very first time, the team had, by Pafford's estimation, "a great day of competition."

As for the Lady War Eagle wrestling team, they traveled to Florida High to compete in the Cam Brown Classic. Team Captain Austin Brown and Savannah Nowak lead the way for the girls with both wrestlers going 3-0 on the day. Freshman Julia Baggett and Chloe Dorskocil both went 2-1 in their respective weight classes.

Next the War Eagles travel to Hernando High School to compete in the Kiwanis Invitational on Dec. 8th and 9th.

## 20 bunk beds built for kids



### From Front Page

in storage to be delivered for Wakulla families.

If you are in need of a bed, or know of a family who is, go to [shpbds.org/apply](http://shpbds.org/apply) and fill out the one-page form. If you are unable to fill out the form online, contact SHP Tallahassee Chapter at 844-432-2337 ext. 5707. Your information will be kept confidential.

Rotarians were moved by the project and the experience of delivering beds to kids. In a group text of club members, Rotarian Angie Bozeman texted: "I know we see everyone come together during Rotary events but today felt different. It was something truly greater. I appreciate all the hard work everyone put in today."

"I feel the exact same way," Rotarian Joe Morgan answered. "This is huge!"

"This is (by) far the best thing I have done as a Rotarian," Niraj Patel texted. "Just blessed."

"This was the best!" Heather Bryan texted. "The true meaning of people of action. Way to go guys!"

Rotary donated money for the construction of the beds, as did Tallahassee Board of Realtors. Rotarian Valerie Russell and husband Chris also donated \$1,000 towards the project.



Above, Steve Sanabria of Rotary and John Cousins of Sleep in Heavenly Peace address the volunteers. At left, different stations where volunteers go through the process of cutting, sanding, drilling and assembling beds.

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At Hanvey-Young Chapel

**850-926-5919**  
3106 Crawfordville Hwy., Crawfordville, FL 32327



Join us for **Christmas in Sopchoppy**  
**Saturday, December 9**  
**1pm to 7pm**

Vendors in the Park from 1 to 6pm  
Food Trucks 1 to 7pm  
Christmas Music  
Kids Activities from 4pm to 6pm  
Santa Arrives at 4pm  
Tree Lighting at 6pm  
Golf Cart (Side by Side) Parade at 6:30pm

Home or Business Christmas Decoration Contest

Visit Discover Sopchoppy on 