



The Wakulla Sun

WAKULLA WeatherSTEM
 Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Hi: 64° Lo: 45° 2% Sunrise 7:25 AM Sunset 5:38 PM	Hi: 65° Lo: 49° 24% Sunrise 7:25 AM Sunset 5:39 PM	Hi: 67° Lo: 53° 66% Sunrise 7:26 AM Sunset 5:39 PM



\$1
One Section

"It's a New Day"

Locally Owned & Operated

Our 2nd Year 49th Issue
Thursday, December 14, 2023

Charter Review finishes

The commission dissolves after passing its final report with 5 proposals

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

The Wakulla County Charter Review Committee finished its work last week and passed out a final report with five proposed amendments to the county charter.

Two of those may run afoul of state preemption laws and will likely not appear on the ballot in November: one proposal was to limit RV parks to a maximum of five units per acre; another proposal, which drew the most support from citizens, was to protect certain native trees that are 12 inches or larger.

Even after hearing from the CRC's attorney Mark Logan of the law firm Sniffen & Spellman that the two proposals wouldn't pass muster, the committee members decided to leave the items in the report to make county commissioners aware of the issues.

Logan noted that state law prohibits holding a referendum on land development orders. That would not preclude the county commission from passing ordinances amending its regulations.

The amendment to preserve native trees was especially popular with the public – more than a dozen citizens showed up at public hearings and the final



Members of the Charter Review Committee after passing their final report and voting to dissolve. They acknowledged that two of the proposals they submitted are likely to be kicked out after review by the county commission for violating state preemption.

meeting of the CRC to speak on it. (While a dozen isn't a lot, the prior year's meetings were notably low on citizens attending to speak on anything.)

It is expected that County Attorney Heather Encinosa will advise county commissioners to determine the tree and RV proposals are null after subjecting them to legal review.

The other three proposals to come out of the committee:

- Shall the Charter of Wakulla County be amended to require, beginning January of 2025 and at least every five years thereafter, that the Board of County

Commissioners commission an independent review by a professional consulting firm skilled in the area of impact fee studies. The purpose of the study is to determine if impact fees are warranted within Wakulla County and where impact fee funds should be allotted if impact fees are initiated through ordinance.

- Shall the Charter of Wakulla County be amended to require the Board of County Commissioners to adopt a public safety ordinance, with approved exemptions and designated penalties for violating such ordinance which specifically addresses

interactions between citizens and motorists at medians, public right of ways, crosswalks, sidewalks, arterial roads and other applicable public space.

- Shall the Charter of Wakulla County be amended to require the Charter Review Commission mto be appointed every six years with the next Charter Review Commission to be appointed not later than July 1, 2029 and every six years thereafter.

After voting to accept the final report, the CRC voted to dissolve itself.

The final report is to be transmitted to the county commission before Dec. 13 for review.

Wellhead ordinance goes to county commission

Planning board approves a change sought by water companies to reduce setback

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

The Wakulla County Planning Commission voted last week to recommend that the county's regulations on wellhead protection be amended to reduce a development buffer from 300 feet to 100 feet after representatives from local water companies said the buffer would create difficulties.

The ordinance proposes a 1,000-foot buffer from wellheads for any toxic or hazardous substances, and 300-foot development buffer.

The planning commission meeting on Monday, Dec. 4, was attended by representatives of Talquin Electric, City of Sopchoppy, and the Panacea Area Water System – three of the primary water providers in Wakulla County.

John Hallas of Talquin told planning commissioners that the 300-foot buffer on development would mean the wellhouse building would have to be away from the well. He also noted that it would basically require a 10-acre parcel to put in a well, and they are extremely difficult to find.

Walt Dickson of PAWS noted a proposed location for a new wellhead in Medart is within 275-feet of the elementary school. It was noted as well that two of the Panacea wells are more than 50 years old.

Remembrance service at Family Funeral Home

Staff Report

A Big Bend Hospice Tree of Remembrance service will be held on Thursday, Dec. 14, at Family Funeral Home Harvey-Young Chapel from 5 to 6 p.m.

Tree ornaments will be available to buy in memory of loved ones.

Pastor BB Barwick will speak, and there will be music by Pastor Barwick and group from Panacea Full Gospel, Kathy Lawhon and group from Crawfordville First Baptist, Brody Castle from Lake Ellen Baptist, a group from Sopchoppy Southern Baptist, Lori White from River of Life, Laura Hudson, and Tom Roberts and Kimberly Crum.

Food will be available.

Wakulla Sands Golf Club

The renovated golf course is expected to open in summer 2024

By LEGION TAYLOR
Reporter

Construction and development of the Wakulla Sands golf course is progressing steadily towards a summer 2024 opening, under the leadership of Superintendent Shane Bass.

Bass has been working on golf courses for about 30 years, almost all of his professional life. He started out in his hometown of Titusville, working on the golf carts at a PGA course, and continued into the maintenance side of things while taking classes at FSU, and he's done it ever since.

He worked in Tallahassee for many years, most notably on the Hilaman and Jake Gaither courses. He also did work on the Glen Arven course in Thomasville, Georgia, as well as helping to build the St. James Bay course in Carrabelle in 2000-2001. While he stayed there for nine years, Bass says that he "Always just wanted to come back to this area... This opportunity opened



Wakulla Sands Superintendent Shane Bass

up, and thought it was a good place to end my career."

"The opportunity just worked out, I actually owned a house in Monticello... we just happened to have sold it, it just worked out to the benefit of everybody that I could head this way."

He joined the course in May 2023, after the previous manager moved on, but just before serious reconstruction efforts had started, and has already almost

completed the project.

Under Bass' management, the course has been completely reconstructed and remodeled, improving upon the previous design.

The county purchased the golf course in October 2021 as a means to get rid of up to 1.2 million gallons of treated wastewater from its Otter Creek Treatment Plant.

Before the county bought it, an RV park had been built on top

of the driving range and most of the first hole of the course, so in order to make the acquired land a fully functional course, a complete redesign was necessary.

"We've basically put 18 holes where 17 holes were before," Bass said.

Each of the greens has had the grass changed out, so that it will not only look better for players, but also so that the reclaimed water that the county sprays the

Turn to Page 3

Dead body found in Panacea, no foul play suspected

Staff Report

A man's body was discovered in a ditch in Panacea on Tuesday, Dec. 5.

The Wakulla County Sheriff's Office released a statement that read: WCSO responded to reports of a deceased individual in the area of Alapaha Avenue in Panacea. Multiple deputies along with investigators and Florida Highway Patrol units responded to the scene.

WCSO does not typically comment on death investigations publicly unless there is a public safety need or the public's assistance is needed with regards to the investigation.

Please know that the investigation has not revealed any evidence of foul play at this point and there is no continuing danger to the public at large.

Editor's Note

• Last week's front page story on the bunk beds built for kids without beds by the Rotary Club and Realtors should have also credited Cone Distributing for making a financial contribution to the project.

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Lisa Craze, CFC
 Wakulla County Tax Collector

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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 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

Daisy Sparkman – Crawfordville Elementary

Principal: Alena Crawford

Achievements/Reason for Nomination:
 Daisy is a strong inquisitive Scholar here at Crawfordville Elementary School. No matter if it's reading one hundred books before December, getting to gymnastics, or playing with her cousins, once Daisy sets her mind to something, there is no stopping her. Daisy's personality is infectious, and her wit is unparalleled. When she is not reading books, cracking jokes, or playing with her cousins, she guides others with a grin. Ms. Hand, her teacher, says "she is honored to have the privilege of teaching Daisy this year."



STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.

Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park

Coral honeysuckle

By LYNN ARTZ, SANDY TEDDER and DAVID RODDENBERRY



Coral honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*) is a wonderful native vine for beautifying fences and attracting wildlife. After displaying a profusion of tubular, red flowers with yellow throats early in the season, coral honeysuckle continues to bloom for much of the year. The flowers attract hummingbirds, hummingbird-like moths, butterflies, bumblebees, and other pollinators. The attractive bright-red, berry-like fruits that follow the blooms entice numerous birds. Older vines have papery, straw-colored exfoliating bark. The paired semi-evergreen leaves feed the caterpillars of spring azure butterflies and snowberry clearwing moths. This twining vine performs best in full sun and dry soil on a fence, trellis, or arbor. At Sopchoppy Depot Park, coral honeysuckle adorns the wrought iron fence at the park entrance and along Rose Street.

Coral honeysuckle attracts hummingbirds and butterflies.



SCAN ME for an electronic edition of this

The Wakulla Sun

Recent ribbon-cuttings



Wakulla Investment Properties is now Harvey-Lentz Realty Group.



The Shack – a Coffee Boutique in St. Marks.



30 Palms Event Venue in St. Marks.

Sopchoppy School will celebrate 100 years in March

By **COLEMAN WELLS**
Of Wakulla High School

It's a milestone worth celebrating as the Historic Sopchoppy High School prepares to commemorate its 100th birthday in March 2024. This cherished institution holds a special place in the hearts of both its alumni and the local community, having played a pivotal role in the educational and cultural history of Wakulla County.

Constructed at a cost of \$9,500 by the skilled hands of Guy Winthrop, Sopchoppy High School proudly holds the distinction of being the first high school in Wakulla County. However, the journey to its establishment was a community effort. Mrs. Edmonia Stansbury took the reins and organized fundraisers that rallied the community to contribute



towards the construction costs, ensuring the school's accreditation.

The City of Sopchoppy's citizens and the School Board also chipped in, solidifying their commitment to education and the future of their community. As Wakulla County continued to grow during the 1930s, two additional buildings were added

to the school campus, a testament to the institution's commitment to keeping pace with progress.

In 1996, Sopchoppy High School closed its doors to students, teachers, and staff, as they transitioned to Medart Elementary. However, the school's legacy did not fade away. The building quickly found a new

purpose, becoming a thriving center for the community. The Wakulla Community Theater and the Sopchoppy Opry became tenants, hosting major events that breathed life into the historic halls. Notably, the Opry played a vital role in generating revenue to support the ongoing restoration of the school's iconic buildings.

As the centennial celebration approaches, we look forward to sharing first-hand experiences from former students who walked the halls of Sopchoppy High School. Their stories will provide invaluable insight into the profound impact this school and its community have had on the rich tapestry of Wakulla County's history. Mark your calendars for March 2024, as Sopchoppy High School stands ready to mark a century of education, culture, and community spirit.

WCT presents check to Wakulla High School

Special to The Sun

Wakulla Community Theater is fortunate to be able to give back to our community. One way to help in our home town has been to donate money to Wakulla High School's Theater Troupe #5036. Pictured are Wakulla Community Theater directors Mina Sutton and Nancy Commander presenting a check to WHS Theater teacher Krissy Sanchez. Hopefully this will be a help to our local group.



Golf course

From Front Page

course with will have an extra layer of filtration before it reaches the water table again.

"It's a good way to get rid of the wastewater because the plant will take up a lot of those nutrients that are left in that water and use it to help the grass grow," he said. This ensures that the reclaimed water is reintroduced in the healthiest and most effective way possible.

In order to ensure that the course doesn't become saturated with that reclaimed water, they've installed Rapid Infiltration Basins, or RIBs for short. That way, if the course gets several inches of rain as it did last week, or too much water is sent that way, the water can be diverted away from the course, keeping it nice and playable.

These RIBs constitute 9 acres of the course's full 130-acre area scattered around the course, and are

surrounded by low-flow irrigation heads, allowing reclaimed water to be pumped directly into them, rather than onto the course, if necessary.

The course has already begun to disperse the reclaimed water, currently spraying around 750,000 gallons each day onto the course, before it's even completed.

Bass estimates that by the end of December 2024, the course will be dispersing 1.2 million gallons each day.

The major construction is mostly complete, with only a few greens left to sod, and those are supposed to take only a few more days, weather permitting.

The golf course will hopefully be open in the summer of 2024, after more sod is laid in the spring. The course will not be membership-exclusive, but rather open to everyone, although the fee schedule hasn't been worked out just yet.

"It'll be a great home course for the high school teams to play and hopefully something they can be proud of," Bass said.

On the Horizon

Calendar of events for the week of December 14

Thursday, December 14

- St. Marks City Commission meets at the St. Marks City Hall at 6 p.m.
- Big Bend Hospice will hold their 3rd annual Hospice Tree of Remembrance ceremony from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at Family Funeral Home on Crawfordville Highway.
- 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.

p.m.

- The Sopchoppy City Council meets at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.
- The American Legion Post 114 will be meeting at the Wakulla County Public Library at 6:30 p.m.
- The Wakulla Respite Program is available weekly for anyone with memory impairment at no cost from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lake Ellen Baptist Church.
- Yoga with Nellie, Restorative yoga at 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Classes are \$12, packages available at New Posh on 3079 Crawfordville Hwy. RSVP to newposh3079@gmail.com or text/call at (850) 528-5838.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

Tuesday, December 19

Friday, December 15

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

Saturday, December 16

- Small Business Saturday will have its 6th Annual Christmas Market Extravaganza in Hudson Park from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- The St. Marks golf cart Christmas Parade will be held at 7 p.m., with floats lining up at 6:30 p.m.
- Wakulla Giving Hands will have their Gifts from the North Pole event at the Wakulla Senior Center from 12:30 to 3 p.m. Gifts will be given out for free, and kids can see Santa and the Grinch.
- 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 18

- The Wakulla County School Board meets in the school administration building at 5:45

- 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 20

- 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 Stetching 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.



NOTICE OF WORKSHOP

St. Mark City Hall
Commission Chambers

Port Leon Drive | St. Mark, Florida 32351

Notice is hereby given that the City Commission of the City of St. Mark, Florida, pursuant to Section 2 of the City's Charter, has called a special meeting for Thursday, December 14, 2023 at 5:00 pm, to hold an ordinance development workshop.

All interested members of the public are hereby invited to attend the workshop on Thursday, December 14, 2023 at 5:00 pm.

Workshop items for discussion:

Proposed changes to the City's Code of Ordinances to authorize accessory structures only on parcels of property sharing unity of title with primary use parcels; and Any other related matters raised by the Commissioners. For additional information please call the City of St. Mark at 904-323-3333

Dec. 14, 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.”

LETTERS FROM READERS

Not a fan of Bill Cotterell's column

Editor, The Sun:

Bill Snowden,

As a longtime fan of a very fair editor, Mr. Bill Snowden, I have to ask, are you trying to lose subscribers to your great newspaper, the Wakulla Sun. As for me, it would take far more than the misguided ramblings of a Mr. Bill Cotterell in your last two Opinions column. I was completely surprised that no one responded replied with a counterattack in this week's paper of Thursday, December 7th, 2023 which happens to be Pearl Harbor Day.

I don't have a lot to say about Mr. Cotterell except I don't understand his opinion. First it was a hit piece on Trump, now another on Ron DeSantis who dealt the Governor of California a severe blow to reality in the encounter of late. I don't understand why he has such a negative opinion of either Trump or DeSantis. Did he not forget all the others that he seems to present as upstanding individuals such as Hillary Clinton, Joe Biden & son, one just be-

ing indicted and the other headed for impeachment.

What we have under DeSantis and earlier from Trump is a pledge of support for law enforcement, control of illegal immigration, a robust economy and so forth. I have to say however, that feces, needles on our street corners, murders and mayhem at businesses and tent cities of the homeless in such formerly great cities as San Francisco, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Chicago et al do not appeal to me in the least. I can only assume that those items are what appeals to Mr. Cotterell. Try as he might to promote that sort of liberal lenient policy, it's falling on mostly deaf ears in Wakulla County. He might try Tallahassee. He'll get a much better reception there.

Bill Catalina
Crawfordville

Editor's Note: We received quite a few responses from people who didn't appreciate the Bill Cotterell columns, so maybe we'll take a break from them.

Thanks for The Wakulla Sun

Editor, The Sun:

We are so grateful... Thank you for putting David in the newspaper of this wonderful county he grew up in, Wakulla County. ("After Navy career, David Sellers returns to Wakulla," Nov. 30 edition)

Thank you for having this newspaper... our heartbeat for here, our community we hold so dear. our family grows up in Wakulla.... and is family forever....family.... At Hardees we sit there and have our Wakulla Sun.... I dont know how else to say it.... At Hardees talking to Jean (Dykes) she'd say when I go home I will sit in my easy chair and read about the goings on in my home town, and I love to read about our history.... She said I read both newspapers, but I am particular about Bill and Lynda.... I remember saying to Jean how much my family loved reading the article in the Wakulla Sun about

you Jean... She said Lynda is such a sweetheart... I loved talking to her. she cares so much about everything I had to say and her work. I loved talking to Lynda. For me I enjoyed so much listening to Jean talk. She had that way of making every word count and you feel important. I miss hearing her voice.

We can go anywhere, Panacea, Sopchoppy, and we're always home.... I know a lot of folks feel the same way because we talk about it.... So many people hold such appreciation for all the hard work everyone does at The Wakulla Sun...

Oh, whoever takes the pictures is awesome. We were talking about that at the last Optimist Club meeting this month....such great pictures....

Diana Sellers
Crawfordville

Shell Point seawall needs county attention

Editor, The Sun:

An open letter to the Wakulla County Commissioners:

Dear commissioners:

Like the rest of our neighbors at Paradise Village of Shell Point, I am quite concerned about the deterioration of our seawall and am more than a little displeased by the County's refusal to assist with this essential need.

I have done some research and have learned that the County receives more than \$300,000 per year in property taxes from Paradise Village of Shell Point (the highest tax rate per square foot in Wakulla County) but spends very little on the Village's needs. We do our own roads, our own landscaping, our own traffic control, etc. Essentially, about the only thing special the Village receives in return for our taxes is the repair of an occasional pot hole in the main road and occasional law enforcement assistance.

Meanwhile, the county is going all out to assist St. Marks with their sewage problems, spent \$1.6 million to purchase Wildwood Golf Course in response to wastewater problems, and has spent untold amounts on other projects such as the attempt to save the airport in Panacea and even approving a not-so-popular pickleball court just a few miles from Shell Point. All of which have been

made possible by the taxes paid by citizens of Shell Point Village.

I understand that our Board of Directors attempted to obtain the county's help with our seawall, agreed to all requirements, and was even given assurance we would be helped, only to be followed by an outright refusal to even consider doing so.

What will be the county's reaction when the Village becomes uninhabitable and the County no longer receives our hundreds of thousands of dollars in taxes as well as the money we spend at stores, gas stations, entertainment facilities, and our ever ready assistance to charitable activities?

It would seem that the county has much to gain by assisting in the repair/replacement of the seawall that is essential to the continued existence of the residential community known at Paradise Village and much to lose by their refusal to do so.

I can assure you that we, the residents of Paradise Village, will cooperate fully with the County in this essential effort and assist in any way we can. We are far less concerned about the technicalities than we are about protecting our homes, our investments, and our way of life.

Thank you for your attention to this letter. We shall look forward to your positive response.

Kathleen Lamarche
Shell Point

No to military aircraft at Panacea airport

Editor, The Sun:

Re: Panacea Int'l Airport (PIA)

While PIA has been quiet for a few weeks, I thought this would be a good time to demonstrate good will and glad tidings to the Wakulla Board of County Commissioners and their elite volunteer airport manager. Not!

For quite some time, residents and neighbors have complained of the heavy-hand management of the "volunteer" management of PIA and the absolute lack of oversight and action by the BOCC.

Chief among the complaints was permitting military aircraft to conduct "training" utilizing the vaunted facilities of the Panacea Int'l Airport, particularly the CV-22 Osprey. Residents and neighbors, on Surf Rd, lodged many legitimate complaints which fell on the deaf ears of the BOCC. Volunteer management even stated, on this publication, that it was un-American to not have military aircraft utilizing PIA. How dare we? The original terms of the Trust and Deed for the airport restricted the size of aircraft utilizing PIA. However, the BOCC chooses to ig-

nore their commitments. I suppose they view Washington, D.C. as a role model.

Now, we have full knowledge that the entire fleet of Ospreys, both in the U.S. and Japan have been grounded due to a fatal accident recently. While this accident is tragic, let it be a reminder to the BOCC of whose best interests must be served. Not themselves, not the volunteer management but the vast array of residents and taxpayers who merely want the BOCC to abide by the Terms of the original Trust. We don't want to subsidize someone else's toys and we don't want noisy, unsuitable aircraft disturbing our peace.

Will the BOCC finally listen or are they waiting for a similar event to occur?

Robert Franco
Ochlockonee Bay

Attachments include a letter from Air Force Special Operations Command about the November "mishap" with a CV-22B in Japan which led to the death of eight Air Commandos.

Something on your mind?

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

"It's A New Day!"

The Wakulla Sun



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William Snowden
Editor & Publisher
The Wakulla Sun

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◀ Question of The Week ▶

– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

Pb led at 0 Y-ful Christmas at Wakulla Spring Ld g :

What's your favorite thing about Christmas?



ELIZABETH GOBLE

Family
and **D**us?"



SHELBY MOSLEY

"I like to see
Santa and feed
the reindeer
carrots."



MICHAEL MOSLEY

"Toys and
food."



SAM DONAWAY

"I get
candy."



AVA SLOTTER

Santa."

Wakulla Station News

By **VERNA BROCK**

How many folks saw the Banana Mobile tooling through Crawfordville last Thursday? I did, and it was very eye-catching.

In the front seat of the very bright yellow vehicle was a gentleman wearing a pith helmet. Behind him were four more people, all seated in a queue, lined up, following the curve of the giant banana.

Spotted anywhere else driving down a state road, and I would have thought it was an escapee from the North Florida Fair. But there it was,

like any other mode of transportation, with the wind blowing through the passengers hair. It looked like fun!

Last week Ed and I, as well as a large contingent of Wakulla County, attended the winter concert at Shadeville Elementary School. It was standing room only, well before the concert was scheduled to begin.

Thanks to the efforts of Mrs. Spindler, music teacher extraordinaire, the third through fifth grade classes presented vocal and instrumental entertainment for our lis-

tening pleasure. Mr. Spindler is the band teacher at Riversprings Middle School, and Wakulla County is incredibly fortunate to have such dedicated and talented music teachers!

Many thanks to all of our teachers for the terrific work they do teaching and inspiring our children. Here's hoping they have a restful and happy holiday break, returning to school full of enthusiasm for the new year!

The Crawfordville Women's Club hosted a "fun" fundraiser this past weekend. It was designed to provide Christmas gifts for children in the county, as well as raise funds for deserving graduating seniors. Attendees enjoyed a delicious lunch and fashion show presented by Chico's

of Tallahassee.

The show was well attended, the fashions beautiful, the models sassy, and the camaraderie outstanding! Many thanks to all of the sponsors, organizers, participants and attendees for making the event so successful.

Many thanks for your prayers on behalf of Thelma Watts, Jim Lannon, Bennie Mott, Cathy Burnsed Echeveria, and all those dealing with loss and sadness during the holidays.

Please remember to pray for our country, as well as Ukraine and the Middle East. How sad the Holy Land is being rent asunder even as we celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace.

Sheriff's Report

This report is for activity Dec. 1-7:

FRIDAY, DEC. 1

- Aaron Lee was observed by the clerk taking several items without purchase from the Kangaroo gas station in Medart. Lee was observed outside and detained. The items taken were found shoved in his pockets. During the search a small baggie of cocaine was also discovered. Lee was placed under arrest for retail theft and possession of cocaine, and transported to the jail. Deputy Anthony Paul investigated.

- Robert Combs was arrested for possession of a gun while under an injunction after he admitted to having one in his glovebox during a traffic stop. Combs had an active court order prohibiting him from possessing a firearm. Combs was subsequently arrested and transported to the Wakulla County Jail. Deputy Heather Will investigated.

SATURDAY, DEC. 2

- Ethan Price was arrested for DUI after he had called the Sheriff's Office for assistance because he was driving while high. Prior to having contact

with him per his request for help, Price crashed the vehicle he was driving. Price was checked by Wakulla County Fire Rescue personnel, cleared, and subsequently arrested for driving under the influence. Deputy Heather Will investigated.

SUNDAY, DEC. 3

- Jamie Koenig reported someone entering her residence through a window and taking to metal signs valued at \$40. Koenig as able to provide a possible suspect in this case. Wakulla County Crime Scene investigators responded to assist with processing the scene for evidence. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Don Newsom investigated.

- Jasmine Miller was arrested for DUI after the vehicle she was driving was observed going off the roadway while driving. WCSO received a call of a reckless vehicle prior to the stop. Deputies observed Miller to be visibly intoxicated. After field sobriety exercises Miller was arrested for DUI as well as child neglect due to having a juvenile in the vehicle with her at the time of the traffic stop. Deputy Jake Scott Anthony Paul and Heather Will

investigated.

TUESDAY, DEC. 5

- Tammy Vaillancourt reported the theft of a car hauler trailer. Vaillancourt stated the trailer was taken in the middle of the night while she was asleep. Vaillancourt was able to provide two possible suspects in this case. Vaillancourt wished to pursue charges for the theft and signed an Affidavit for Prosecution. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Matt Hinson investigated.

- Jessica Lee Massey reported her car being broken into. The door lock was busted out and the window trimming removed. The vehicle battery was also removed from the car. Digital images were taken of the damage to the vehicle. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Matt Hinson investigated.

- Julian Damron reported being attacked by a group of juveniles at a home in the Gardens. The group attacked him twice and at one point he reported being struck with a hammer. Images were taken of his injuries. The group of juveniles fled the scene prior to deputies arrival, but they have been identified. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy James Cooper investigated.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 6

- Michael Willimas was stopped on Belin Court for failure to obey a posted stop sign. It was discovered Williams had an ID card only, with five prior convictions for driving while license suspended or revoked (DWLSR). Williams was subsequently placed under arrest for DWLSR and transported to the Wakulla County Jail. Deputy Anthony Paul investigated.

- A traffic stop was conducted on Mitchell Wardrup's vehicle after he was observed driving recklessly. During the stop, it was determined Wardrup did not possess a valid driver's license and was in possession of THC concentrates. Wardrup was arrested for DWLSR and possession of THC concentrates and transported to the Wakulla County Jail. Deputy Anthony Paul investigated.

THURSDAY, DEC. 7

- A traffic stop was conducted on a vehicle for a traffic light violation. The driver Brandon Monzon was discovered not to have ever been issued a valid license in the US. Monzon was placed under arrest and transported to the jail for driving without a license.

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

War Eagle wrestlers place 4th at Kiwanis Invitational

By **WALT JACOBS**
Special to The Sun

Mount Everest is the tallest mountain in the world above sea level. Reaching its summit is a daunting and challenging task. The climb and the successful ascent to its pinnacle has become a symbol of high achievement. To reach the top, a climber must go through acclimatization, which is the process of becoming accustomed to a new climate or to new conditions and increases the climber's chances of success.

This season the Wakulla wrestling team is going through a process of acclimatization of their own.

To better equip his wrestlers, Coach Will Pafford has tried, in his words "To get the team matches that will be similar to the state tournament. My number one goal as a coach is to try and get my wrestlers matches that will meet their needs."

On December 8th and 9th, the War Eagles participated in the 42nd Annual Kiwanis Invitational hosted by Hernando High School in Brooksville.

This tournament is regarded by some as one of the toughest in Florida and features an abundance of top-tier competitors. Several state qualifiers were present, and many were state placers from various classifications.

As a team, Wakulla finished 4th out

of 34 teams, behind Zephyrhills Christian, Brandon, and Heritage. Individually, the War Eagles had five wrestlers place in the tournament. Matthew Thaxton placed 5th at 106, Troy Thaxton placed 2nd at 132, Brady Jackson placed 6th at 144, Aaron Robinson placed 2nd at 150 pounds and Nate Jacobs placed 6th at 157.

A highlight at Kiwanis for Coach Pafford was Aaron Robinson. Aaron had 3 pins and a decision on the weekend. Among those he pinned was Jean Benavidez in the quarterfinal. Significantly, Benavidez, from McKeel Academy, placed 8th in last year's FHSAA State tournament.

The Lady War Eagles traveled to

Panama City over the weekend, to compete in the Inaugural Buccaneers Winter Classic. Wakulla placed 4th as a team.

Individually, the girls placed as follows: McKenna Bettis-6th, Bella Vernon-4th, Chloe Doskocil-3rd, Julia Baggett-4th, Austin Brown-2nd, Caitlyn Hall-3rd, Hannah Hall-4th, Savannah Nowak-1st, and Ruby Scott-4th.

Coach Pafford highlighted Savannah Nowak's performance over the weekend, saying: "Savannah has pinned every wrestler this season and is sitting at 7-0, all by pin."

On December 22nd, the War Eagles will travel to Fort Walton Beach to compete in The Beast of the Beach.

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Outdoors

outdoor sports

HOME ON THE RANGE



By MARJ LAW

Off to the children's house for the holidays!

You're staying for a week. How are you going to keep your new handgun away from all the children?

Years ago, I took my two sons to my parents' house. I was worried about what they would find.

"They won't touch my things," reassured Dad.

"Hah." Maybe he hadn't been around kids in a very long time! My youngest boy, Christopher, had "magotty" hands! He got into everything!

Pretty soon, Christopher, who was about 4, said: "Grampie gots guns!"

Of course, I knew my parents had no guns.

"No, Christopher," I said firmly. "They have no guns."

"Yeth, they do!" Christopher nodded his head emphatically. "Day do! I will thow you!"

And he led me upstairs to show how he could stand on a stool and unlock Dad's clothing cabinet. He moved aside a bunch of white shirts to show me...

"Thee? Thee? They do gots guns!" he cried triumphantly.

"You're right, Christopher, but come downstairs."

We clomped down the stairs.

"Dad," I admonished, "You need to put your rifles in a secure place.

A place the children can't get to."

"They won't touch my stuff. And how do you know I have any guns?"

"Christopher found them in your closet. You need to put them away so that no children can be accidentally hurt."

So that day, Dad took his rifles to his office which was a mile away.

At home, you can keep your handgun in a locked office or in a closet with a lockable door. You might have a big safe bolted to a bureau. You might have a safe buried in a closet which is attached between the studs.

This is fine when at home, but how about traveling?

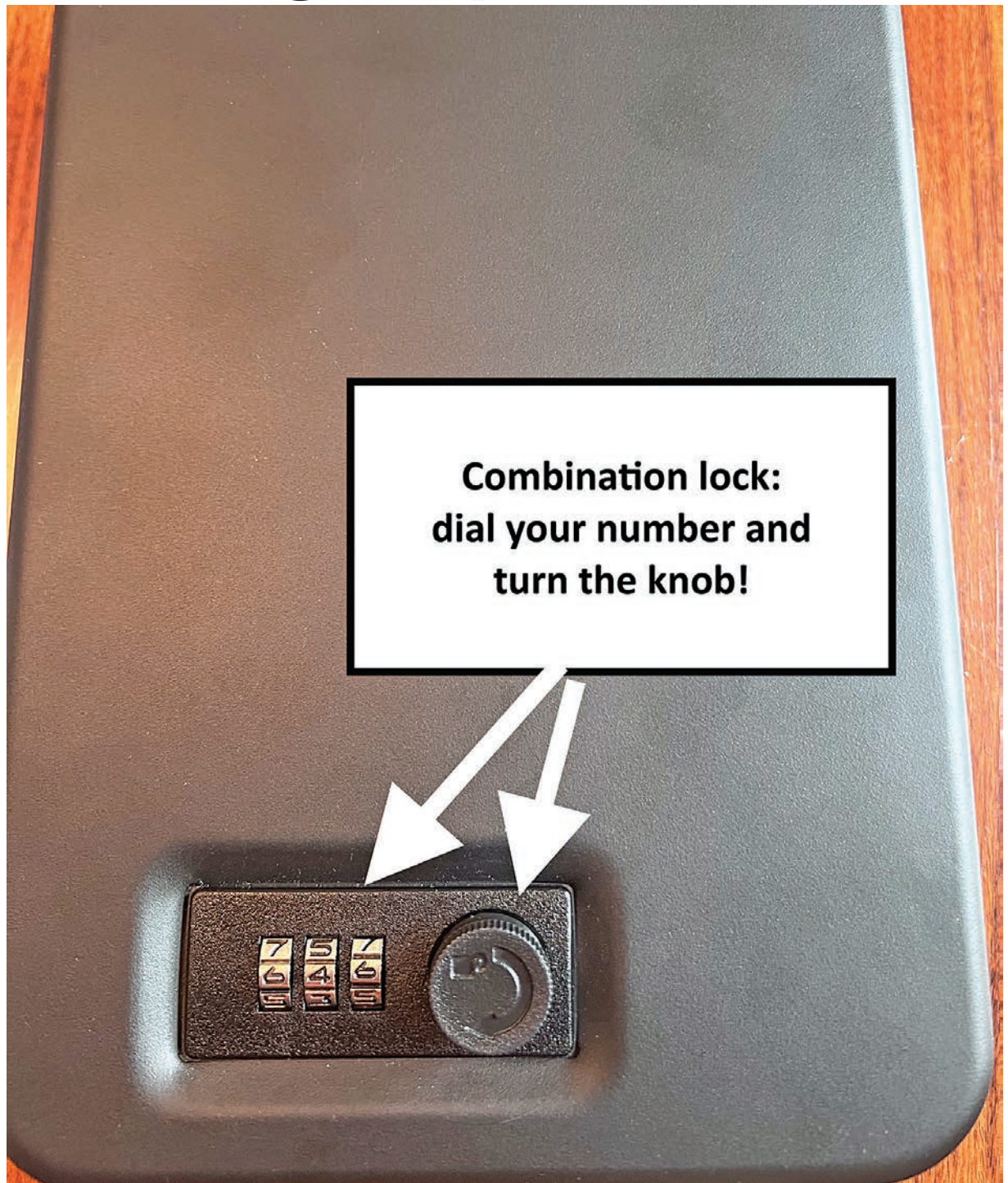
Now, when traveling to my own grandchildren's home, I have to make sure they won't be able to get their hands on certain things. How do you travel to a relative's home with small guns, jewelry, pills, or cash?

If you only have a gun to make safe, you can use a trigger lock. This gizmo fits inside the trigger guard. It can be unlocked by key or by combination. On the positive side, a trigger lock is portable, inexpensive, and doesn't require a cabinet or a case. On the negative side, the keys tend to be the same size as other keys, and the lock can be picked. They can be drilled through and they can be pried with a screwdriver. When loading, the lock can accidentally push against the trigger, firing the gun.

Another gun lock is the cable lock. On a semi-automatic gun, slide the cable into the ejection port and though the magazine well. Push it into the lock, and turn the key

Another small lock I considered is a portable

Locking it up



gun safe. The gun safe can be made of steel. It can have a combination lock, a biometric lock, or a key lock.

A key lock is pretty basic. Just insert your key into the metal box and lock it. These locked boxes come in many sizes. Since I'm afraid of losing the key, or of adding its weight to my bunch of keys on the keychain, it didn't seem like the right lock for me.

Another consideration is a combination lock on a small metal safe. All you have to do is choose a combina-

tion you will remember (hopefully!). Should you forget, many of these locks have keys as a backup measure. Forget your combination? No probs! Just use your key!

You can also find what they call a biometric locking safe. Here you can press a finger, or in some cases, up to four different fingers on the pad, and the lock will recognize you.

OK, I originally thought this would be a great idea. I purchased a good-sized box that would hold jewelry, pills, cash and my small Sig Sauer P238. I read

the directions and set the lock to recognize my index finger.

I pressed my finger on the pad. Turned the knob! What? The lock didn't work? I replaced my index finger. This time it worked. Trouble is, laying my finger on the pad worked about six times out of 10. If I needed to get at my gun right away, how many times would I have to put my finger on the lock? Sometimes it took using the key to open this safe. The older biometric safes were often very sensitive to dirt, grime, placement and sweat. Good thing they

have back-up keys!

I've heard that biometric safes have been improved greatly since then.

However, I chose the combination locking box for this particular journey. At about 9 x 6 x 2, it's big enough for the Sig Sauer P238, a few dollars, an extra pair of earrings, and blood pressure pills.

Which item did I need the most?!!

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

WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO



GAFFTOSAIL SALTWATER CATFISH
(*Bagre marinus*)

With painfully sharp spines on its fins, salt water catfish can grow to 1ft and 2lbs. They are bottom feeder using whisker-like barbells to aggressively locate food. Females lay 50 or so pea sized eggs which males pick up and hold them in their mouths until hatching. The growing babies then use their father's mouth as a home. He does not eat during this month long period, but once his appetite is triggered he will not hesitate to eat his own offspring. The bones of this catfish are sold in curio shops as the 'crucifix' bone.

Eukarya, Animalia, Chordata, Actinopterygii, Siluriformes, Ariidae

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www.gulfspecimen.org

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2784 COASTAL HWY., CRAWFORDVILLE

Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences



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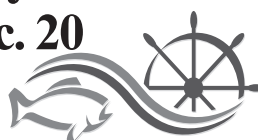


Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

Dec. 14 - Dec. 20



Tide charts by
tides4fishing.com



First Dec. 19 Full Dec. 26 Last Jan. 3 New Dec. 12

Best fishing days this month
December 12-26

Thursday 14	
Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
7:24AM	9:18AM
5:38PM	7:21PM
Moon Illumination 3%	
Friday 15	
Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
7:25AM	10:12AM
5:38PM	8:31PM
Moon Illumination 8%	
Saturday 16	
Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
7:26AM	10:59AM
5:38PM	9:42PM
Moon Illumination 16%	
Sunday 17	
Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
7:26AM	11:39AM
5:39PM	10:50PM
Moon Illumination 25%	
Monday 18	
Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
7:27AM	12:13PM
5:39PM	11:56PM
Moon Illumination 35%	
Tuesday 19	
Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
7:27AM	12:45PM
5:40PM	---
Moon Illumination 47%	
Wednesday 20	
Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
7:28AM	1:16PM
5:40PM	1:00AM
Moon Illumination 58%	

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

St. Marks River Entrance

Th	1:36 am ▲ 3.7 ft	9:05 am ▼ -1.1 ft	3:46 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	8:36 pm ▼ 1.4 ft
Fr	2:19 am ▲ 3.6 ft	9:49 am ▼ -0.8 ft	4:28 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	9:21 pm ▼ 1.3 ft
Sa	3:06 am ▲ 3.6 ft	10:34 am ▼ -0.8 ft	5:11 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	10:13 pm ▼ 1.3 ft
Su	3:59 am ▲ 3.4 ft	11:21 am ▼ -0.5 ft	5:56 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	11:15 pm ▼ 1.2 ft
Mo	5:03 am ▲ 3.0 ft	12:11 pm ▼ 0.0 ft	6:43 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	
Tu	12:32 am ▼ 1.0 ft	6:27 am ▲ 2.4 ft	1:06 pm ▼ 0.4 ft	7:32 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
We	2:00 am ▼ 0.7 ft	8:17 am ▲ 2.4 ft	2:05 pm ▼ 0.9 ft	8:24 pm ▲ 2.9 ft

City of St. Marks

Th	2:12 am ▲ 3.4 ft	10:09 am ▼ -0.9 ft	4:22 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	9:40 pm ▼ 1.3 ft
Fr	2:55 am ▲ 3.4 ft	10:53 am ▼ -0.9 ft	5:04 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	10:25 pm ▼ 1.2 ft
Sa	3:42 am ▲ 3.4 ft	11:38 am ▼ -0.7 ft	5:47 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	11:17 pm ▼ 1.2 ft
Su	4:35 am ▲ 3.1 ft	12:25 pm ▼ -0.4 ft	6:32 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	
Mo	12:19 am ▼ 1.1 ft	5:39 am ▲ 2.8 ft	1:15 pm ▼ 0.0 ft	7:19 pm ▲ 2.6 ft
Tu	1:36 am ▼ 0.9 ft	7:03 am ▲ 2.4 ft	2:10 pm ▼ 0.4 ft	8:08 pm ▲ 2.6 ft
We	3:04 am ▼ 0.6 ft	8:53 am ▲ 2.2 ft	3:09 pm ▼ 0.8 ft	9:00 pm ▲ 2.7 ft

Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	1:55 am ▲ 3.6 ft	9:32 am ▼ -1.2 ft	4:13 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	9:00 pm ▼ 1.5 ft
Fr	2:39 am ▲ 3.6 ft	10:18 am ▼ -1.2 ft	4:59 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	9:47 pm ▼ 1.5 ft
Sa	3:27 am ▲ 3.6 ft	11:04 am ▼ -1.0 ft	5:45 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	10:42 pm ▼ 1.4 ft
Su	4:21 am ▲ 3.4 ft	11:52 am ▼ -0.7 ft	6:31 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	11:47 pm ▼ 1.3 ft
Mo	5:24 am ▲ 3.0 ft	12:42 pm ▼ -0.3 ft	7:19 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	
Tu	1:03 am ▼ 1.0 ft	6:47 am ▲ 2.6 ft	1:35 pm ▼ 0.2 ft	8:08 pm ▲ 2.8 ft
We	2:28 am ▼ 0.7 ft	8:32 am ▲ 2.4 ft	2:32 pm ▼ 0.7 ft	8:58 pm ▲ 2.9 ft

Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	1:28 am ▲ 2.7 ft	9:16 am ▼ -0.8 ft	3:38 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	8:47 pm ▼ 1.0 ft
Fr	2:11 am ▲ 2.8 ft	10:00 am ▼ -0.8 ft	4:20 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	9:32 pm ▼ 1.0 ft
Sa	2:58 am ▲ 2.4 ft	10:45 am ▼ -0.6 ft	5:03 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	10:24 pm ▼ 0.9 ft
Su	3:51 am ▲ 2.5 ft	11:32 am ▼ -0.4 ft	5:48 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	11:26 pm ▼ 0.9 ft
Mo	4:55 am ▲ 2.3 ft	12:22 pm ▼ 0.0 ft	6:35 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	
Tu	12:43 am ▼ 1.0 ft	6:19 am ▲ 2.0 ft	1:17 pm ▼ 0.3 ft	7:24 pm ▲ 2.1 ft
We	2:11 am ▼ 0.5 ft	8:09 am ▲ 1.8 ft	2:16 pm ▼ 0.6 ft	8:16 pm ▲ 2.2 ft

St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	1:20 am ▲ 2.8 ft	8:58 am ▼ -1.2 ft	4:07 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	8:23 pm ▼ 1.5 ft
Fr	2:05 am ▲ 2.9 ft	9:46 am ▼ -1.1 ft	4:56 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	9:11 pm ▼ 1.5 ft
Sa	2:56 am ▲ 2.8 ft	10:36 am ▼ -1.0 ft	5:45 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	10:11 pm ▼ 1.4 ft
Su	3:54 am ▲ 2.6 ft	11:29 am ▼ -0.7 ft	6:31 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	11:28 pm ▼ 1.2 ft
Mo	5:04 am ▲ 2.3 ft	12:23 pm ▼ -0.3 ft	7:16 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	
Tu	1:01 am ▼ 1.0 ft	6:33 am ▲ 1.9 ft	1:22 pm ▼ 0.1 ft	7:59 pm ▲ 2.0 ft
We	2:35 am ▼ 0.6 ft	8:23 am ▲ 1.7 ft	2:25 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	8:41 pm ▲ 2.1 ft

Dog Island West End

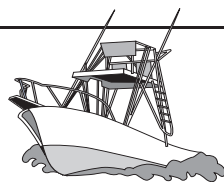
Th	1:40 am ▲ 2.5 ft	9:20 am ▼ -1.2 ft	5:00 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	8:47 pm ▼ 1.5 ft
Fr	2:24 am ▲ 2.5 ft	10:10 am ▼ -1.1 ft	5:40 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	9:39 pm ▼ 1.5 ft
Sa	3:14 am ▲ 2.4 ft	11:00 am ▼ -0.9 ft	6:19 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	10:56 pm ▼ 1.4 ft
Su	4:11 am ▲ 2.2 ft	11:48 am ▼ -0.6 ft	6:59 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	
Mo	12:13 am ▼ 1.2 ft	5:14 am ▲ 1.9 ft	12:34 pm ▼ -0.2 ft	7:41 pm ▲ 1.8 ft
Tu	1:42 am ▼ 0.9 ft	6:33 am ▲ 1.5 ft	1:22 pm ▼ 0.2 ft	8:20 pm ▲ 1.8 ft
We	3:12 am ▼ 0.5 ft	8:53 am ▲ 1.3 ft	2:17 pm ▼ 0.7 ft	8:55 pm ▲ 1.9 ft

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



Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports

By Carolyn Brown Treadon



The 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 two 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...

Our pedal drive systems are very reliable, but we should have tools to tighten parts of our fin drive or parts of our pedal drive like the cranks or the pedals. I know most of us with pedal drives take a paddle, but padding a heavily laden large pedal yak is a challenge even in good conditions. Paddle yakkers should have a back-up paddle.

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

Watch the weather. Look up the MARINE weather forecast and the real-time National Data Buoy Center conditions. Check the weather radar before and during the trip.

Choose the right kayak for the job. A big box store open cockpit sit inside kayak like the one involved in this incident is the wrong kayak for big water fishing. Closed hull sit on top kayaks are the best choice for offshore and big water angling. While few kayakers choose open cock-

pit, bulkheaded, purpose-built touring and surf kayaks with foam and or flotation, they are sea worthy enough for the task.

Prepare not for where you intend to be, but for where the forces of nature may place you when things go wrong. You may be planning on fishing the outer bar, but if things go wrong, you may find yourself much further offshore.

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

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

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

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

Underwater Wakulla

By Rusty Miller

Several skills that are not really being taught much by instructors anymore.

Last week I mentioned there were several skills that are not really being taught much by instructors anymore. It's not that these skills are bad but do to equipment development they less common to the diver than in the past. Kind of like the manual transmission I spoke about in the last article, you just don't see them much anymore.

Lets talk about buddy breathing, some of the younger instructors get this term confused with alternate air source breathing. They are two entirely different skill sets. I will try to explain this so you can see and understand the difference. Remember that buddy breathing is a skill that needs to be practiced over and over until it is second nature to you.

I first learned the technique of buddy breathing using the old double hose regulators, for those of you that have only seen the double hose regulators in old diving movies or television shows, or read about them on the internet let me explain quickly how they operate. When they were first invented they had a big round first stage that attached to the tank valve with a similar type of system we have today. The two big 2-inch hoses came out of each side of the regulator and were joined to a big mouth piece with a type of bite piece to hold with your teeth. It was a very uncomfortable thing to have in your mouth but as you used it you got more use to it.

In the right hose the air would constantly flow while the left side had a one way valve for the exhaust breath. So if you removed the mouth piece out of your mouth it would continue to free flow air.

Now that you have a better idea of the system you learned the buddy breathing skill. When your buddy ran out of air and you have air in your tank he/she would come to you and signal in a cutting motion across their neck letting you know they were out of air, you would have them facing you and you would then take two breaths from your regulator and grab your mouthpiece with both hands (one on the right side and one on the left side) and roll it out of your mouth into theirs. They would take two breaths and you would roll it back into your mouth. During the buddy breathing while the regulator was out of your mouth you would exhale tiny bubbles like you do now when every the regulator is out of your mouth.

You did this while swimming to the surface at a quick but safe pace. Normally you would have to pull your J valve wire down because at that point you were down to 500 psi worth of air.

It's a little easier with today's regulators because you only have a single hose that you can hold while holding your buddies BCD to swim to the surface. Since we have an octopus we can let our buddy take it and not have to worry about trying to share the same regulator.

I still demonstrate the buddy breathing system to my students just so they can see alternatives in an emergency.

Next week I'll clear it up a little more and tell you about other near forgotten skills we no longer teach.

Keep making bubbles.

Russell Miller #59999

FWC Law Enforcement Report

From FWC

This report represents some events the FWC handled Nov. 10-16 in the Northwest Region. (There were no cases reported for Wakulla County.)

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Officers Hartzog and Forbes were on patrol at Little St. Marks River and observed a vessel anchored with two individuals on board fishing. The officers stopped the vessel to conduct a resource and boating safety inspection. During the inspection, the individuals were observed to be in possession of five undersized black drum and one individual's fishing license was suspended. The officers addressed

the violation appropriately.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Officers L. Glover and K. Matthews received an anonymous tip about an antlered deer harvested in the Aucilla Wildlife Management Area not meeting antler point regulations. Officers Glover and Matthews responded to the area and discovered a vehicle matching the description. Upon conducting a resource inspection, an antlered deer not meeting antler point regulations was found field dressed and the antlers were placed behind a dog box. A citation for not meeting Aucilla WMA antler point regulations was issued.

LEON COUNTY

Officer L. Glover received a complaint regarding a subject shooting multiple antlerless deer. Officer Glover arrived on scene and the subject had already left the area. Officer Glover located a treestand and collected evidence including spent shell casings. Five days later Officer Glover received an anonymous tip that a subject shot another antlerless deer in the same area. Officer Glover, Senior Officer B. Johnson, and Officer Specialist W. Brookes responded and talked with several neighbors who directed them to a subject who hunts the area. The officers interviewed the subject at his residence and the suspect admitted to

harvesting two antlered and three antlerless deer. More evidence was collected at the subject's residence and charges will be direct filed with the state attorney's office for taking antlerless deer during closed season and not complying with regulations to log and report harvested deer.

Officer L. Glover received an anonymous tip referencing a convicted felon harvesting an antlerless deer with a .22 rifle. Officer L. Glover and Senior Officer B. Johnson drove to the subject's residence to conduct an interview. The subject was interviewed and admitted to harvesting an antlerless deer with a .22 rifle. Charges will be direct filed with the state attorney's office.

Prepare to see ‘that’ family member this holiday



By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

You love your family. But truth be told, you're just not excited about seeing one or two members at your next holiday

get-together.

There's nothing horribly wrong with them. They just rub you the wrong way. Perhaps they're a bit too critical. Or they're always bragging how great their life, their spouse or their job is.

Paul tells us in Ephesians 4:1-2 "to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love."

Our hearts long to live out our Christian walk in

a manner worthy of our calling. But with some people, we quickly hit the some-people-are-really-hard-to-bear wall.

What if, this holiday season, we take an intentional step toward the Ephesians 4 calling? Realizing, we too, may be hard to bear at times, let's humbly choose to bear our most challenging family members by preparing for their visit. Beginning today, let's start praying for them during the days or weeks before we see them.

We can pray for their

wellbeing. For them to experience God's love. For God to intervene in their immediate families. And for God to bless them.

We can ask God to give us a compassionate heart toward them. To help us pray for them with the same compassion and understanding we want others to pray for us. We may never know how much they need our prayers.

Once they arrive, let's spend a little time with them. Ask how they're doing and listen to their

answers. This way, we'll know better how to continue to pray for them throughout the new year.

Praying and loving in this way could be the very thing we need to help us get to the next phase in our relationships – and in our Christian walk. When we realize how much God loves us (imperfect as we are) it changes us. We become more humble. Our hearts are softened in the relationship areas we've allowed ourselves to become hardened. We respond more patient-

ly to other's imperfect ways.

Praying for them may not change our family members, but it will change our attitude about our holiday get-togethers as we fulfill our calling as ambassadors (representatives) of our Savior, the Prince of Peace.

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

The Christmas parade



By **CHERYL CRUCE**

It was early December, and we had been shopping that day to celebrate my birthday. As we began to travel homeward, we had the good fortune of driving through a small, festive community celebrating Christmas. Booths were set up with food vendors, homemade gifts for sale, and Carolers singing the songs of the season. To top off the day,

there was an evening parade. With cups of hot chocolate and extra blankets for warmth, we settled down in a grassy area to watch the parade pass by.

I enjoyed seeing the excitement of my children as each float passed by. Santa Claus, Christmas trees, colorful lights, and the season's wonder captivated their imaginations. At one point in the parade, a horse went by with a red light on his nose. In unison, my little ones exclaimed, "Rudolph, look, it's Rudolph." And the parade ended.

As I strapped them into their car seats, they said, "Mommy, that was so nice of them to give you a parade for your birthday." They thought

the whole parade was to celebrate me. Oh! The innocence of childhood. It would be better if we could hold onto that throughout our lives. When Jesus said, "As such is the Kingdom of God," referring to the children, He told us how we should be: innocent and pure, trusting without hesitation.

As we celebrate this Christmas with our bright lights and decorated trees, let us remember the innocence of a child born into poverty. A King whose family did not have a tree to hang a star, yet Heaven displayed the brightest star ever to shine. It lit up the darkness and warmed a tiny stable as a mother nursed her newborn child.

Let us remember there were no pretty packages under a Christmas tree. However, angels would sing, shepherds would bow, and wisemen would follow the star to the greatest gift ever given. A young mother would cradle her child; a father would stand watch over his new family, and the Son of God would cry out with the voice of an infant. The One who spoke all things into existence would cry with the purity of a child.

As we look at the scene of the manger, trying to imagine the wonder of it all, our thoughts drift toward wisemen captivated by the star's beauty. Nonetheless, the star would not satisfy the hunger within their spirit. They would trav-

el two years through the elements of the world to find their Savior.

The beauty of the angels announcing the birth of Jesus had to be overwhelming for the shepherds. Yet they gathered their emotions and sought out the humble birth. Finding Mary with her baby, they told her all they had seen, and then they left, sharing the good news through the village of Bethlehem.

This holiday season lets us remember the innocence of childhood, where we trust without hesitation. Let us be wise men (women) traveling through whatever it takes to find the presence of our Lord. Let us be the shepherds, willing to seek out the

message we have heard and then take the message to those within our villages. Let us embrace the glory of heaven. The message is still changing the lives of all who embrace the truth of the humble manger and the King who rose from the stable of Bethlehem.

Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

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

OUT TO PASTOR

From roast turkey to reindeer



By **JAMES SNYDER**

Nothing is more confusing than being in the middle of two holidays. I have just finished Thanksgiving, and now Christmas is before me. Each year, it gets more difficult to adjust to the next holiday. It's hard for me to keep up.

For months, the focus was on that roast turkey for Thanksgiving. And boy, was it a delicious roast turkey. I have a hard time comparing this year's roast turkey to last year's because I always love the one I'm eating at the time. And I cannot go back in time to last year's turkey. That turkey has been digested a long time ago.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I were sitting in the living room, resting from all the activity during the season and watching TV. I think she outdid herself this year because everything seemed to be perfect. Everybody in the family complimented her on the Thanksgiving dinner.

It will be challenging for her to outdo the Thanksgiving dinner at the Christmas dinner. But I know she's up for the challenge.

I began complimenting her on this year's roast turkey and telling her how much I loved it. I wasn't lying because I did like the turkey this year. Not only the turkey we had on Thanksgiving

Day but also all the leftover turkey we had the following week. Nothing is better than leftovers, as far as I'm concerned.

We had enough leftovers at Thanksgiving dinner to serve dinner every day for the next week. I ain't complaining.

Sitting in the living room, I looked at The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and asked, "Are you planning to make roast reindeer for Christmas?"

She just scowled at me and did not answer. I wasn't going to give up.

"After all," I said, "your roast turkey this year was absolutely supreme. The best you've ever done. I bet you could do a great job roasting a reindeer this year."

Looking at me, she said, "Do you want to get off Santa's naughty list this year?"

I did not know what to say because I did not know if she was joking or what. Being on Santa's naughty list in our house is a very dangerous position. For some reason, The Gracious Mistress of

the Parsonage has a connection with Santa Claus. I'm not sure what that connection is, and I'm not in a position where I can ask.

I was quiet for a few minutes, then cleared my throat, and looking at The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, I asked, "How did I get on Santa's naughty list this year?"

Staring at me, she said, "Do you really want me to tell you?"

The question that burned in my heart was, what did I do to get on Santa's naughty list? I knew I would be in more trouble if I asked her to tell me. So, I thought about another angle.

"Can you tell me," I asked as soberly as possible, "how I can get off Santa's naughty list?"

She stared at the TV for a moment and did not seem to hear what I was saying. I briefly thought, should I repeat myself? In the past, repeating myself has gotten me into more trouble than it was worth.

Finally, she turned, looked at me for a few moments and then said, "Do you really want to know how to get off of Santa's naughty list?"

Looking at her, I smiled gently and said, "If getting off Santa's naughty list makes you happy, then that's exactly what I want to do." I finished with a big smile on my face.

"Well," she said rather thoughtfully, "maybe if this week you take me thrift store shopping I might be able to think about it and figure it out for you."

That caught me by surprise. That would be the last thing in the world that I would ever want to do. Spending a whole day going from one thrift store to another is not my idea of having fun.

"And," she said, "if in our thrift store shopping we find a reindeer, you can buy it, and I will roast it for you."

I never know if she is joking or setting me up. I had to think about that

for some time, not knowing the proper answer.

Finally, I sighed deeply and said, "OK, my dear, I'll be glad to take you thrift store shopping anytime this week. And, I'll be glad to purchase that reindeer when you find it." I tried to smile back at her, but it was very difficult to find an appropriate smile in my inventory.

"Ha, ha, ha," she laughed very heartily.

"What's so funny?" I asked.

"Oh my dear," she laughed, "you just got off of Santa's naughty list. Congratulations."

Later that day, as I was considering this, I was reminded of what Amos said, "Can two walk together, except they are agreed?" (Amos 3:3).

Sometimes, life is better when two people agree. It may be difficult to come to an agreement, but the rewards are worth the effort.

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

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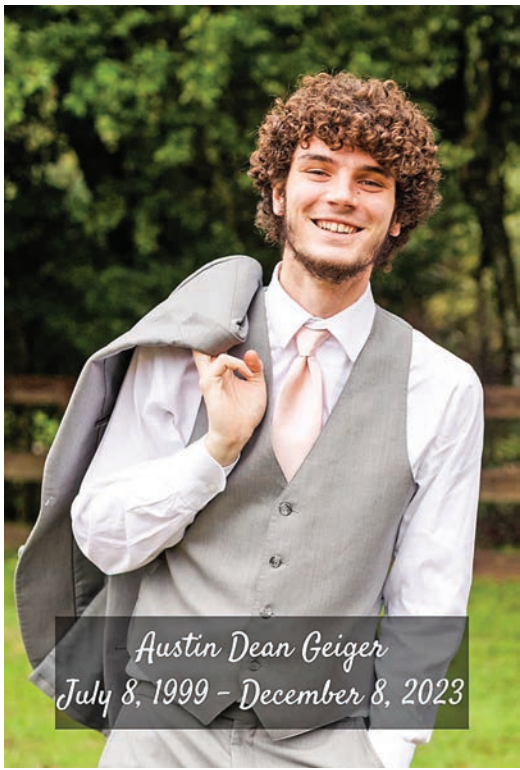
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Obituaries



Austin Dean Geiger
July 8, 1999 – December 8, 2023

Austin Dean Geiger

Austin Dean Geiger, age 24, of Crawfordville, passed away on Friday, December 8, 2023.

He was born July 8, 1999, in Tallahassee. He leaves a huge hole in the hearts of his family and friends who will miss him dearly. Austin was a vibrant soul who touched so many with his kindness and generosity. As a free spirit, he embraced life, leaving a legacy of love that will forever resonate in our hearts. Austin had a special gift of not only seeing the good in people but bringing out the best in them as well. He was an avid lover of the outdoors and spent much of his time enjoying the serene beauty God created. Austin had a love of music, which was

an expression of his emotions and individuality. Austin was a standout athlete and could do just about anything he set his mind to. He had a brilliant mind that led him to his creative side which included painting and glassblowing.

Austin graduated from the Wakulla County School System in 2017. Austin will be missed, and his absence will be deeply felt by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Austin is survived by his parents, Sam and Amy Geiger, his brother, Brandon Geiger (Amanda), nephew Asher Geiger, grandparents Bernie and Lynne Parrish and Ray and Lauren Geiger.

He was predeceased by his grandparents, Frank and Joye

Singletery, along with his dog Blu Geiger, who brought immeasurable joy and unwavering loyalty throughout life's journey.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Wakulla County 4-H Program at 84 Cedar Ave., Crawfordville-FL 32327. Checks payable to Wakulla 4-H-UF.

A Celebration of Austin's Life will be held Thursday, December 14, 2023 at 11 a.m. at 3-Y Ranch in Crawfordville. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service.

Skip and Trey Young, along with Paula and Kimberly are assisting the family with arrangements. 850-926-5919, www.familyfhc.com

DEATH NOTICES

• **Theodore "Ted" Joseph Cash**, 53, of Panacea, died December 5, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **Shirley Mae Evans**, 80, of Woodville, died December 8, 2023. Family Funeral

Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **Betty Carol "B.C." Parker**, of Crawfordville, died December 4, 2023. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

Weekly Roundup: Gearing up for session

By **RYAN DAILEY**
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — As the start of the 2024 legislative session nears, Gov. Ron DeSantis and Senate President Kathleen Passidomo this week rolled out high-profile proposals.

DeSantis on Tuesday released his proposed "Focus on Florida's Future" budget, which lawmakers will use as a starting point as they negotiate a spending plan for the fiscal year that will start July 1.

The governor's \$114.4 billion proposed budget would be a decrease from the state's \$119.1 billion spending plan in the current year.

DeSantis touted the proposal as "respecting the taxpayers of this state."

"We are living within our means. We are even paying back expenses. We're reducing the size of government. We're cutting taxes. We're eliminating more of our state debt. Yet, we also have record investment for education, record support for infrastructure, support for environmental restoration," the governor said during an appearance in Marco Island.

The governor wants to boost spending to \$27.8 billion for the Florida Education Finance Program, which is the main funding formula for public schools

and voucher programs. The increase would represent a \$175 bump to per-student funding in public schools over the current year. DeSantis also called for a \$200 million increase, to a total of \$1.2 billion, for raising educator pay.

DeSantis also wants to provide \$1.1 billion in tax breaks, including holding six sales-tax "holidays" on such things as back-to-school items. The governor also is seeking \$5 million to continue funding a controversial program that has transported undocumented immigrants to Massachusetts and California.

Republican legislative leaders praised the proposed budget, which came a little more than a month before the Jan. 9 start of the 2024 session.

"I thought the governor had a lot of really important things there, things that we can be supportive of, and we'll work through the details," House Speaker Paul Renner, R-Palm Coast, said.

Senate Minority Leader, Lauren Book, D-Davie, said the package offers "hope" that people, rather than the insurance industry, will be prioritized. But she expressed concerns that it would cut jobs, slash funding for arts and culture and direct money toward "unnecessary litigation."

DeSantis' proposal includes \$14.5 billion for transportation projects, with \$630 million eyed for the second year of a \$7 billion program dubbed "Moving Forward Florida." The program is aimed at speeding 20 projects across the state.

The exclusion of Florida State University's undefeated football team from the college football playoffs also has caught the attention of DeSantis and other state leaders. The governor is recommending lawmakers set aside \$1 million for potential legal expenses related to the Seminoles being left out of the four-team playoff system.

WHAT'S UP, DOCS?

Passidomo, R-Naples, debuted a wide-ranging package that seeks to expand access to health care, with a focus on increasing the number of doctors in Florida.

The plan calls for spending nearly \$900 million to, among other things, shift patients away from emergency rooms, offset hospitals' training costs and help doctors pay off education debt.

Saying the plan includes "very creative concepts that will help address the workforce needs," Passidomo pointed to projected population growth as she spoke to reporters Thursday.

"As you know, about 1,000 people a day move to the state of Florida, many of them are older. Everybody needs health care. In Florida today, we do not have enough health-care personnel to take care of the Floridians that are living here," Passidomo said. "And so our whole goal is, how do we grow our health-care system in Florida, our workforce, and that's how we started."

As an example of proposals to expand the health-care workforce, the package includes making it easier for foreign-trained physicians to practice in Florida.

It also would expand loan-repayment assistance for doctors and dentists who remain in the state after graduating. Recipients of the assistance would have to commit to serving Medicaid patients and providing volunteer services.

The plan does not include expanding Medicaid eligibility for Floridians, something Democrats have long sought — and Republicans have long rejected.

"That (expanding Medicaid) is just a talking point. Everybody's gonna get seen. We just want to make sure they get the quality — efficient, effective and economical," Passidomo said.

House Minority Leader Fentrice Driskell, D-Tampa, called the

plan disappointing.

"Every Floridian deserves the freedom to be healthy, prosperous and safe, and that certainly includes the ability to have access to high-quality, affordable health care," Driskell told reporters. "And in Florida, that necessarily means Medicaid expansion. For our Republican colleagues to refer to it as simply 'a talking point that wouldn't do anything' is utterly unserious."

MORTAL DANGER?

Higher-education continues to be a hotbed of controversy in Florida, and on Wednesday the American Association of University Professors released a report criticizing "political interference" in the higher-education system.

The 53-page report focused on measures approved by the Legislature and DeSantis during the past several years, actions taken by higher-education officials and an effort by conservatives to remake New College of Florida.

For example, the report took issue with several laws signed by DeSantis in 2022, including a law that made changes to tenure reviews for faculty members and required universities to periodically change accreditors.

In a concluding

part of the report, the committee wrote that shared governance in Florida's university system "stands in mortal danger" because of "legislative and governing board interference in fundamental matters of curricula and faculty status, including tenure," that the group said should be under the purview of faculty.

STORY OF THE WEEK: Gov. Ron DeSantis on Tuesday pitched a \$114.4 billion budget for next fiscal year that includes a variety of tax cuts and spending on such things as teacher salary increases and police recruitment bonuses.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "We have more students graduating from medical schools in Florida than we have residency slots. That makes no sense. So then they have to leave the state. The minute they leave the state, they meet somebody, they get married, and then they don't come back." — Senate President Kathleen Passidomo, R-Naples.



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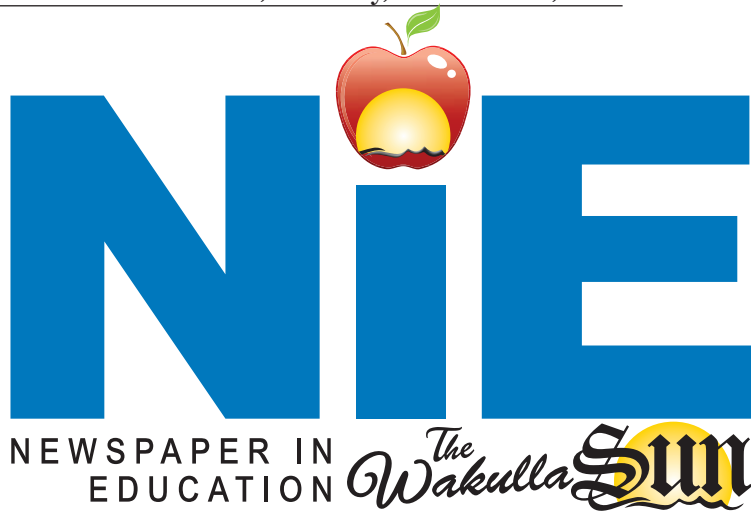
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USE THE NEWS

1. WARMING UP TURTLES

Sea turtles live in warm climates close to the equator, where the waters they swim in are nice in warm. For 52 sea turtles in New England, the waters got too cold, and the turtles experienced “cold stun.” Turtles are cold-blooded, which means their bodies adapt to the temperature of their surroundings instead of maintaining a consistent body temperature like we do. When the water gets too cold, the turtles’ blood circulation system slows down and they’re unable to swim properly. These turtles were flown from the New England Aquarium in Massachusetts to sea turtle rehabilitation facilities in Florida to warm back up before they’ll be returned to their natural habitat. Look up other animals that are cold-blooded and write down other characteristics they have in common. Where do they live? Do cold-blooded animals only live in warm climates?

2. LEMONADE TROUBLE

Fast-casual restaurant Panera Bread is again facing trouble for its “Charged Lemonade,” a highly caffeinated lemonade drink. The family of a 46-year-old man is suing Panera because he died after drinking the lemonade. He usually avoided caffeine because of a medical condition, but his family says he drank the Charged Lemonade because it wasn’t advertised as an energy drink, so he didn’t realize it had so much caffeine. Think about how important advertising and labels are in making decisions about everything from what you buy to what you eat and drink. Find an advertisement in a newspaper, magazine, or online and read all

the text. What did you learn about the product or service it’s selling? Why do you think it’s important to have clear information on an advertisement? Write down your answers.

3. FALSE ALARM

Jamaal Bowman, a member of the House of Representatives from New York, is in trouble after falsely setting off a fire alarm in a House office building. He was caught on video pulling the fire alarm when his party was stalling for time to review a proposal from the opposing party that was shared just before it was set to be voted on. He was accused of trying to delay the vote,

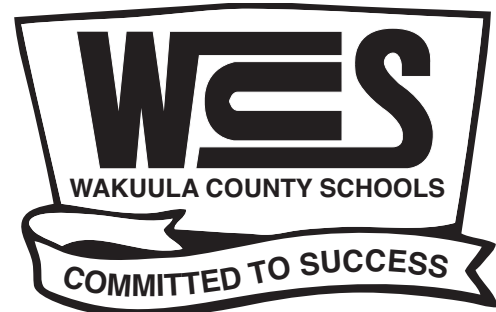
but he said that he didn’t do it to cause a delay, he was trying to open a door that wouldn’t open and mistakenly pulled the alarm. He was charged with a false fire alarm crime and agreed to pay a \$1,000 fine. Then, the rest of the House of Representatives voted to censure him, which basically means being publicly reprimanded and is one step below being expelled from Congress. Whether Jamaal Bowman meant to pull the fire alarm to delay the vote or was only trying to open a locked door, do you think he should face consequences for his actions? Do you think it’s fair that he faces both legal consequences

and consequences at his workplace, where the event took place? Why or why not? Share your answers with your classmates.

4. WORD OF THE YEAR

Every year, the Oxford University Press, which publishes the Oxford English Dictionary, chooses a Word of the Year based on a word that’s attracted interest over the last 12 months. Previous winners have been “podcast” in 2005, “gif” in 2012, and the crying-laughing emoji in 2015. This year’s nominees were “Swiftie,” “prompt,” “situationship,” and the winner: Rizz. The term, which is popular with Gen Z and Gen Alpha, is short for charisma and

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originally comes from Black culture before it was popularized on TikTok. What word would you choose if you were going to pick your own Word of the Year? Look up or write your own definition based on how you use the word and share your word picks and definitions with your classmates.

5. THE WHITE CONTINENT

An iceberg the size of a small city that broke off from Antarctica is heading northward to warmer waters where it will eventually melt. It’s the largest iceberg in the world right now at about 1,500 square miles wide, about the size of Rhode Island, and 1,300 feet thick, about the same as

the height of the Empire State Building in New York. It broke off the Antarctic continent in 1986 but has been in the Weddell Sea, south of South America, ever since. Then, it began moving again in 2020, heading out to sea in the Southern Ocean. It’ll eventually break down into smaller pieces and melt into the ocean. Look at a map or globe and find Antarctica, which is surrounded by the Southern Ocean. Then, look up some facts about Antarctica: What is the temperature like there? What kind of animals live there? What is the land like? (Hint: It’s actually home to the largest desert on earth!) Write a paragraph about what you’ve learned.

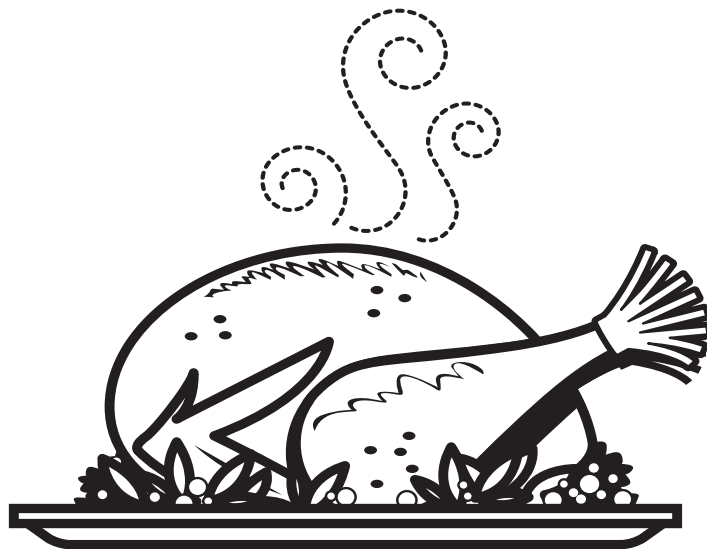


THIS FOOD IS OFTEN THE MAIN COURSE AT HOLIDAY MEALS.

ANSWER: TURKEY

Creative Coloring

Celebrate holiday cooking. Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



THIS DAY IN...



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- 1901: GUGLIELMO MARCONI TRANSMITS THE FIRST TRANSATLANTIC RADIO SIGNAL.
- 1946: THE UNITED NATIONS EMERGENCY FUND (UNICEF) IS ESTABLISHED.
- 1972: APOLLO 17 BECOMES THE SIXTH AND FINAL APOLLO MISSION TO LAND ON THE MOON.



MENU

a list of dishes available in a restaurant

How they SAY that in...

- ENGLISH:** Dinner
- SPANISH:** Cena
- ITALIAN:** Cena
- FRENCH:** Dîner
- GERMAN:** Abendessen

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GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: LATES

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

WORDS

- ACTIVITIES
- ARRIVAL
- BARTENDER
- BEVERAGES
- CHAFING DISHES
- CHARGERS
- ENTERTAIN
- FOOD
- GIFT
- GUEST LIST
- HOME
- HOSTING
- INVITE
- ITINERARY
- MENU
- MUSIC
- OVERNIGHT
- PARTY
- PLANNING
- PLAYLIST
- RECEPTION
- RSVP
- VALET

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

CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. Mimic
4. Payroll firm
7. Perform in a play
10. Opine: __ philo-
sophical
11. Crony
12. Political action com-
mittee
13. 1991 Wimbledon
winner
15. Affirmative
16. Exclamation of
disgust
19. Action of connecting
21. A way to calm
23. Especially fine or
decorative clothing
24. Walked proudly
25. Group of people re-
lated through male heir
26. Supplemented with
difficulty
27. Soft touch
30. Erases
34. Spanish river
35. A princess can detect
it
36. Clouds of gas
41. A way to get through
45. Part of a book
46. Southwestern US
state

47. Fields where rice is
grown
50. Area in Ghana
54. Sayings
55. Involve deeply
56. Compels to act
57. "Ignore all rules"
59. Indoor entertain-
ment space
60. Born of
61. Back muscle
62. Sea dweller
63. Tools that resemble
an axe
64. Prefix denoting class
or kind
65. Tooth caregiver

CLUES DOWN

1. Inspiring
2. Put into a box
3. Breathes out
4. Pacify
5. Patriotic society for
women
6. Fell down
7. Clothing
8. Dishwasher detergent
brand
9. Former French republic
13. Single lens reflex

14. Men's fashion acces-
sory
17. Consumed
18. Marry
20. __ up: intensifies
22. Body of water
27. People of southern
Benin
28. Decorate a cake with
frosting
29. Snag
31. Yearly tonnage
(abbr.)
32. Records brain activi-
ty (abbr.)
33. Car mechanics group
37. Brought up to snuff
38. __ faire: Economic
approach
39. Phil __, former CIA
40. Affixed
41. Period of adoles-
cence
42. Substance
43. Danced
44. Baked without its
shell
47. Parts per billion
(abbr.)
48. Satisfaction
49. Balkans river
51. Christmas carols
52. Partner to tonic
53. "The Godfather"
character Johnny
58. Swiss river

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to holiday decorating.

N G L E A

--	--	--	--	--

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!
Here's How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Guess Who?

I am an actress born in New York on December 12, 1970. I began my career as a child model and eventually segued into acting. I've been in films with Robert DeNiro, David Bowie, Tom Cruise, and Jennifer Aniston. Much of my work has garnered critical acclaim.

Answer: Angel
 Answer: Jennifer Connelly

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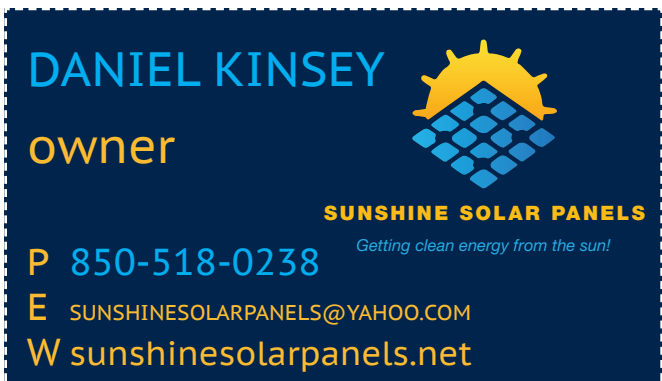
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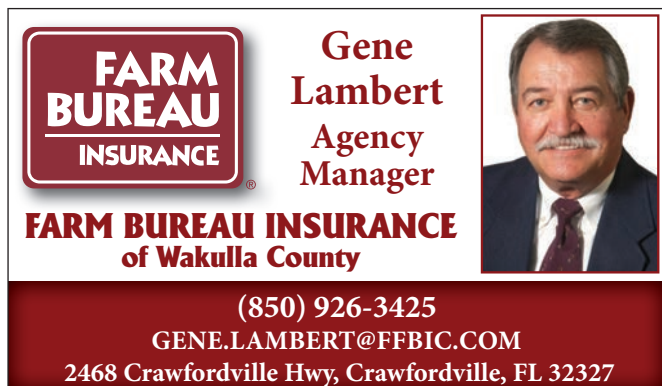
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NOTICE TO CREDITORS
TWS NTC JOHN CLEVELAND RAGSDALE JR.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION CASE NO. 23-CP-120

IN RE: ESTATE OF JOHN CLEVELAND RAGSDALE, JR., Deceased.

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The Administration of the estate of John Cleveland Ragsdale, Jr., deceased, whose date of death was July 16, 2023, and whose social security number is XXX-XX-5404, is pending in the Circuit Court for Wakulla County, Florida, Probate Division, the mailing address of which is 3056 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, FL 32327. The estate is testate and the date of the decedent's Will is November 10, 2021. The names and addresses of the personal representative and personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:

Any interested person on whom a copy of the notice of administration is served must object to the validity of the will (or any codicil), qualifications of the personal representative, venue, or jurisdiction of the court, by filing a petition or other pleading requesting relief in accordance with the Florida Probate Rules, WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THE NOTICE ON THE OBJECTING PERSON, OR THOSE OBJECTIONS ARE FOREVER BARRED.

Any person entitled to exempt property is required to file a petition for determination of exempt property WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW OR THE RIGHT TO EXEMPT PROPERTY IS DEEMED WAIVED. Any person entitled to elective share is required to file an election to take elective share WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

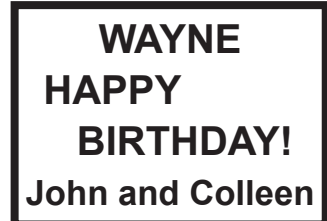
NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is December 14, 2023.

Personal Representative:
Janice Lee Ragsdale
140 Barbara Trail
Social Circle, GA 30025

Attorney for Personal Representative:
JOHN Y. ROBERTS
2879 MADISON STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 1544
MARIANNA, FLORIDA 32447
(850) 526-3865
LORDIA BAR NO. 0496871
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Dec. 14, 21, 2023



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CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Christmas in Panacea was held on Friday night



Clockwise from top: Sheriff Jared Miller leads the parade driven by Lt. Jeffrey Yarbrough; Jack Rudloe, founder of Gulf Specimen Marine Lab, with a fiberglass sea turtle; a snow machine generates festive 'snow' to celebrate the season.

PHOTOS BY GERALD BROWN



Christmas in Sopchoppy was held on Saturday



Clockwise from top: Sopchoppy Mayor Lara Edwards presides over the lighting of the Christmas tree; a festively decorated Flamingo (FaLaLaLa-Mingo) in the golf cart parade; Santa arrives in Sopchoppy by fire truck.

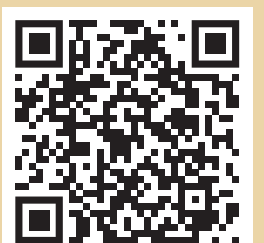
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JOY-filled Christmas celebrated at Wakulla Springs



Santa visits with Frankie Wallace with his mom Sloan Wallace with JOY-filled founder Mary Wallace in the background, her daughter Sara kneeling in foreground.



A table for decorating ornaments at the event for special needs kids on Thursday at Wakulla Springs Lodge.



Elf Andrea Lee with the mascot 'Joy' and Jordan Lee.



Mary Wallace with Trey Eichler and Mary and Steve Eichler.



Michael and Shelby Mosley eating Christmas cookies.

PHOTOS BY LINDA ANN McDONALD

Holiday Gift Shopping Guide

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Join us on Thursday, December 14, 2023 Between 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. for our

3rd Annual Hospice Tree of Remembrance ceremony.

Losing family & friends, can be hard for many families During the holidays; we would like to share this time with you. There will be ornaments available to purchase In memory of your loved ones.

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