LETTERS TO Santa
and holiday greetings
Se tin

The Wakulla Sun

"It's a New Day"

$1
Two Sections

Locally Owned & Operated

Our 2nd Year 50th Issue
Thursday, December 21, 2023

WAKULLA WeatherSTEM
Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Partly Cloudy	Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
Hi: 65° Lo: 43° 4%	Hi: 65° Lo: 50° 8%	Hi: 69° Lo: 55° 11%
Sunrise 7:29 AM	Sunrise 7:29 AM	Sunrise 7:30 AM
Sunset 5:41 PM	Sunset 5:42 PM	Sunset 5:42 PM

Threatening neighbors

Shell Point man arrested armed with guns after making threats

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

A 48-year-old Shell Point man was arrested on Saturday, Dec. 16, after he allegedly made numerous threats to neighbors and was behaving erratically.

Deputies were called Saturday morning to Shell Point after neighbors of Matthew Williams heard him making threats and yelling strange things over the past several days.

According to the probable cause report obtained by the Sun, one neighbor on Sandpiper Lane called deputies after Williams began yelling at him for unknown reasons, then went into his house and then stepped out on the balcony armed with a handgun and pointed his finger at the neighbor saying, "I'm coming to get you... and everyone else out to get me."

While two deputies were on-scene interviewing neighbors, Williams was reportedly seen by deputies "walking down the outside staircase of his residence. (Deputies) observed that (Williams) had a camouflage jacket draped over his shoulder, covering his right arm and right side of his body," according to the report.

Deputies approached (Williams) as he reached the bottom of the stairs. Due to the reports of him being armed with a handgun, "we ordered (Williams) at gun point to walk toward us with his hands up. Initially, (he) ignored commands to put his hands over his head and continued to walk toward our position. Additional commands were given for (Williams) to put his hands up and get down on the ground. (Willliams) lifted his right hand throwing his jacket to the ground at which point we observed a black long gun with a sling over his right arm. (He) gripped the weapon with both hands and moved as if he was about to shoulder the weapon. (Deputies) both gave additional verbal commands for him to drop the weapon. After several commands (Williams) dropped the weapon. We gave additional verbal commands for (Williams) to get on the ground. He stated, 'I ain't getting on the ground.' (He) refused to get on the ground," the report says.

Shell Point resident Matthew Williams was arrested on Saturday.

"At this point we were approximately 25 feet from (Williams). (Deputies) began closing the distance as (he) had his hands up refusing to get on the ground. As we got close to him, (Williams)dropped to his knees however stated he was not getting on the ground. Deputy Will covered him at gun point and I reached for his right arm forcing him to the ground. I handcuffed his right arm, pulled it behind his back and ordered him to put his left arm behind his back. He refused and as I tried to pull his left arm behind his back he resisted my efforts. I placed my Taser against his back and ordered him again to put his hand behind his back, telling him he was about to get Tased. He finally complied and was handcuffed."

According to the report, Williams was armed with a .45 caliber pistol in his waistband with nine rounds in the magazine, including one in the chamber. He also had 11 rounds in his pocket.

He was also carrying a .22 in his pocket loaded with nine rounds including one in the chamber.

The long gun was a 12-gauge semiautomat-

Turn to Page 9

Wakulla schools garner another 'A' grade

By RICHARD MYHRE
Wakulla Schools

Last week the Florida Department of Education released district and school grades for the 2022-23 school year which validated the success and hard work of the entire Wakulla County School District.

Per legislative action, the district and school grades for last year were to be limited to a fixed number of A, B, C, D, and F schools to be in proportion with the number of schools receiving those grades previous year.

Essentially, not every school could even earn an A, and to further complicate matters, DOE did not tell district officials what level of performance was to be an A until the scores were released. Additionally, this level of performance was made to be different at each instructional level (elementary, middle, high). Regardless, through the dedication of Wakulla's teachers and staff, the district outperformed other districts across the state and regained an A rating with the district finishing tied for the 9th highest performing district in the state out of 67.

At the school level, Wakulla High School regained its A status in a year which required high schools to attain substantially more points than in years past in order to be ranked an A. After the release of assessment scores in June, and the previously released graduation rates which ranked Wakulla at 2nd in the state, the district had been hopeful that WHS would be recognized as an A as all metrics were pointing to that level of success.

Both Riversprings Middle School and Wakulla Middle School improved their scores from the previous year, but the requirements for middle schools were raised as well, thus, both schools finished as a B. The district is extremely proud of the improvements at RMS as they earned a score which in years past was an A, and all expectations were for them to be awarded that rating for their efforts. Their entire staff is to commended for their accomplishment, and the future is looking bright for the Bears!

Elementary schools were held to the same score requirements to be an A, which meant Riversink Elementary and Shadeville Elementary earned A ratings while Crawfordville Elementary and Medart Elementary earned B's. The B rating for Medart Elementary was their first grade higher than a C since 2015 and is the culmination of tremendous efforts by the entire Mustang team! Current progress monitoring at Medart this year is also encouraging for this success to continue and possible even improve again.

Wakulla's distinction of all traditional schools earning an A or B puts us in limited group of only six public school districts across the state to have such have high levels of excellence across the board and speaks to the collective value that Wakulla County places on the education of our children.

Extreme Christmas lights

Jerry Boler goes all out for the light display at his home in Songbird

By LEGION TAYLOR
Reporter

Jerry Boler has yet again set up a magnificent Christmas light display in front of his home at 6 Cardinal Ct. in Songbird, complete with a radio station and a photo booth where anyone can come and get pictures with Santa, the Grinch, or Olaf the snowman.

Boler began putting up these large displays in 2013, when his grandson, who was 4 at the time, told him "Papaw, you need a Christmas tree bigger than your house." He took that advice to heart, so he and his grandson built a frame out of wood, planted it in his yard, decorating it with Christmas lights and a star on top.

The large tree and the glowing reindeer he set up got him put in a tabloid for all the impressive displays around Leon and Wakulla counties, but he didn't stop there. He learned how to link the light displays to music from friends who also had large Christmas displays, and set up his own radio station (FM 88.5) so that people could come by and listen to music while they watched the light show.

Over time, Boler decided to add more than just light displays, putting up a Penguin roller coaster and a toy train in his yard as well.

The display includes actors hired to be characters such as Santa and the Grinch for photos.

Each year, the display grows and improves, all in the hope that it'll make even more people happy. This year, the addition was to be a large Ferris wheel, but due to weather and his own sickness, he has had some trouble getting it assembled. Next year he plans to reconstruct and improve the roller coaster, increasing its size and grandeur from what it is this year.

Turn to Page 9

Tallahassee man killed in crash on Sand Lake Road

Staff Report

A 57-year-old Tallahassee man was killed in a one-car crash on Monday, Dec. 18, on Sand Lake Road near U.S. Highway 98, according to the Florida Highway Patrol.

The man's truck was traveling east on Sand Lake Road approaching a right-hand curve. For unknown reasons, the vehicle failed to navigate the curve and collided with a tree. The driver was pronounced deceased on scene by Wakulla County EMS at 7:26 a.m. FHP was assisted on scene by Wakulla County Sheriff's Department.

FHP does not release the names of people involved in crashes citing the agency's interpretation of Marsy's Law, the constitutional amendment intended to protect victims of crime.

Correction

• A story last week on the upcoming 100th anniversary of Sopchoppy School had the wrong date for the celebration. The correct date is April 13, 2024 – the same day as the Worm Gruntin' Festival.

We regret the error.

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Student of the Week

Makayla Bennight – 6th grader at Wakulla Middle School

Principal: Simeon Nelson

Achievements/Reason for Nomination:
Makayla is an excellent student and always has a smile on her face. She is kind to everyone and is pleasant to be around. She plays soccer at WMS, and she plays clarinet in the WMS Band. Makayla says she doesn't have a favorite subject; she likes all of them and being around her friends. Outside of school, some of Makayla's favorite things are the colors teal and black. She likes to eat at Crafty Crab and Olive Garden. She also enjoys playing with her two-year-old little brother and making crafts.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.

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Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park

Sweetgum

Sweetgum trees can live for 75 years.

By LYNN ARTZ, SANDY TEDDER and DAVID RODDENBERRY

Sweetgum trees (Liquidambar styraciflua) are striking in late fall when their star-shaped leaves persist in vibrant shades of red, purple, burgundy, orange, and yellow. These native trees can grow taller than 75 feet and live for 75 years. Once immensely popular, sweetgums may annoy when their spiky brown gumballs litter the ground in winter. A surrounding bed of mulch or habitat for wildlife remedies this concern. Gumballs on the tree lure finches, nuthatches, and chickadees with two seeds in each of many chambers. Sweetgum leaves feed the caterpillars of the beautiful luna, imperial, and hickory horned devil or regal moths. Sweetgums grow in the wooded area at Sopchoppy Depot Park. Though not among the 130 species planted within the last 5 years, they contribute to the 189 native plant species inhabiting the park.

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The Wakulla Sun

Recent ribbon-cuttings

St. Marks Coastal Cove, owned by the Hines family, held a ribbon cutting on Dec. 7.

Sweet Magnolia Inn, owned by the Hines family, held a ribbon cutting on Dec. 7.

The Chamber held a Mix and Mingle at Wakulla Springs Lodge on Dec. 14. Among the attendees were Sheriff Jared Miller, Shannon and Randy Merritt, and Mary Wallace.

Wakulla County Tax Collectors Office

SPECIALTY TAGS

$20 - $30 additional to cost of tag.

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

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

KWCB's River Cleanup on the Wakulla River

By TAMMIE NASON
Of Keep Wakulla County Beautiful

In a heartening display of community spirit and environmental commitment, Keep Wakulla County Beautiful (KWCB) in partnership with American Rivers conducted their 5th Annual River Cleanup on December 9th, 2023. This year's event, headquartered at the Lower Bridge Boat Ramp along the picturesque Wakulla River, brought together volunteers and organizations determined to preserve the county's natural beauty.

With each passing year, the impact of this annual initiative becomes increasingly apparent, as the quantity of debris collected has steadily decreased, demonstrating the positive effects of ongoing conservation efforts.

Amidst the dedicated cleanup activities, a moment of urgency and community support unfolded when volunteers, alongside a Wakulla County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) deputy, encountered a family in need of assistance. While navigating the river on kayaks, the mother and child experienced an overturned kayak. The swift response and readiness of the cleanup group ensured that immediate aid was provided, reinforcing the vital role of community vigilance and readiness in such scenarios.

"We are immensely grateful for the quick response and support of our volunteers and the WCSO deputy during this unexpected incident. It underscores the importance of not only preserving our rivers but also looking out for the safety and well-being of all enjoying these natural spaces," remarked Tammie Nason, Executive Director of Keep Wakulla County Beautiful.

Moreover, the success of the event was also indebted to the generous support of volunteers and the contributions of Expand-a-craft, whose involvement significantly contributed to the smooth execution and success of the cleanup initiative.

The collective effort and dedication showcased by the volunteers, local organizations, and the collaborative partnership between Keep Wakulla County Beautiful and American Rivers underscored the significance of community-driven environmental initiatives in safeguarding the county's waterways.

As the 5th Annual KWCB River Cleanup concludes, the event stands as a testament to the shared commitment toward environmental stewardship and the unwavering dedication of the community in preserving Wakulla County's natural treasures.

For information on future events or ways to participate in conservation efforts, visit kwcb.org or contact keepwakullabeautiful@gmail.com.

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Linville graduates from Middle Georgia State

Caitlynn Linville, a 4 year college soccer athlete, graduated on Dec. 6, 2023 from Middle Georgia State University with a Bachelor's degree in Rehabilitative Sciences. She wishes to pursue a Master's degree in the future in Biomedical Sciences or go to PA School.

Congratulations Caitlynn for all the hard work.

The Wakulla Sun
FOLLOW THE SUN.

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.

FLORIDA PUBLIC NOTICES
WWW.FLORIDAPUBLICNOTICES.COM

The Wakulla Sun

NOTICE OF PROPOSED TAX INCREASE

THE PREVIOUS NOTICE PLACED BY THE CITY OF ST. MARKS HAS BEEN DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE TO BE IN VIOLATION OF THE LAW, NECESSITATING THIS SECOND NOTICE.

The City of St.Mark has tentatively adopted a measure to increase its property tax levy.

Last year's property tax levy

A. Initially proposed tax levy. $

B. Less tax reductions due to Value Adjustment Board and other assessment changes. $

C. Actual property tax levy. $

This year's proposed tax levy. $

All concerned citizens are invited to attend a public hearing on the tax increase to be held on

December 28, 2023

at 10:00 AM

at

St.Marks Port Leon Drive

St.Marks FL 32355

A FINAL DECISION on the proposed tax increase and the budget will be made at this hearing.

Dec. 21, 2023

BUDGET SUMMARY

City of St. Marks - Fiscal Year 2023-2024

THE PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ST. MARKS ARE 18% MORE THAN LAST YEAR'S TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES.

		GENERAL FUND	UTILITY FUND	TOTAL ALL FUNDS
Millage Rate Per $1,000	**6.0000**			
ESTIMATED REVENUES:				
Taxes:				
Ad Valorem Tax		**225,000**	-	**225,000**
Franchise Fees		43,000	-	43,000
Utility Tax		56,000	-	56,000
Communications Service Tax		12,000	-	12,000
Licenses & Permits		1,600	-	1,600
Intergovernmental Revenue		41,900	-	41,900
Charges for Services		33,500	535,000	568,500
Interest income		2,000	8,000	10,000
Grant Revenue		325,716	-	325,716
TOTAL REVENUES		740,716	543,000	1,283,716
Carried Forward Balances		553,936	2,461,863	3,015,799
TOTAL REVENUES AND BALANCES		**1,294,652**	**3,004,863**	**4,299,515**
EXPENDITURES:				
General Government Services		351 ,000	-	351 ,000
Physical Environment		-	-	-
Transportation		-	-	-
Culture/Recreation		64,000	-	64,000
Other Nonoperating		-	-	-
Water/Sewer/Garbage Expenditures		-	543,000	543,000
Grant Expenditures		325,716	-	325,716
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		740,716	543,000	1,283,716
Fund Balances/Reserves/Net Assets		553,936	2,461,863	3,015,799
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND BALANCES		**1,294,652**	**3,004,863**	**4,299,515**

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

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 R OM READERS

After first year on the school board...

Editor, The Sun:

Good Afternoon Bill:

As my first year on the Wakulla County School Board has come to an end, I want to take the time to give appreciation for all of the support that I have received.

• I want to thank my fellow board members (Melisa Taylor, Cale Langston, Josh Brown, Laura Lawhon) for their patience and guidance.

• I want to show my appreciation to the Administrators in the county for always fielding my calls and helping resolve issues, no matter how big or small.

• Thank you to all of our AMAZING teachers, bus drivers, support staff, and volunteers as you are shaping the future of our county, state, and country.

• A special thank you to all of our wonderful parents who have entrusted me to make decisions that will help shape their children(s) future.

• I realize that I have not always been the most popular board member; however, I believe that I have made the best decisions for our students, parents, teachers, and staff.. I will continue to make the best "informed" decisions that I can for the betterment of our District.

• I want to thank the community for their unwavering support. Many of you have been there to pick me up when I was down, give me encouraging words, and just kept reminding me to keep doing what is right.

• Lastly, I want show my appreciation for my family, especially, my wife (Tayna) and kids (Gage, Joe, Easton, and Taylyn) for their support and understanding when I am pulled away for different reasons.

Now, on to Year #2!

May God Bless You. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Warmest Regards,

Edward "Eddie" Hand, BSHA
School Board Member - District 1

Rather have bears than development

Editor, The Sun:

"Please, please drive carefully! About 6:30 this evening, Jack and I were on Hwy 319 in Crawfordville on the way to Publix, and an oncoming car turned left just a few yards in front of me and stopped, completely blocking my lane. I braked hard and barely avoided hitting it. A little further up the road, a bear ran up a steep bank on the right shoulder, entering the road and crossing directly in front of me. I hit the brakes a second before I hit the bear. He kept running, and I don't know how badly he was hurt. My car is damaged but drivable and we are okay. There was no way to avoid him. With a lot more traffic on the roads, and more and more animals displaced by uncontrolled development, it's very dangerous driving, day or night. Please, please be careful!!!"

Those are the words that Jane Brand posted on her Facebook page on December 12th.

The unfortunate bear that we smashed into came bolting out of one of the remaining strips of forested land in the midst of the Crawfordville's cluttered carscape. It's only a matter of time before the woods are scraped away. The property is adorned with Wakulla County's Planning and Zoning change signs, so the bear will have no place to hide. Some people reading Jane's post that will immediately cry that there are too many bears: I say there are too many developers, contractors, speculators and realtors that are tearing our county to shreds. Bear in mind that bears mind their own business. Omnivorous they are, but mostly they go about their lives eating berries, fruits, sedges, insects, leaves and grass. So what's a bear to do when their natural foods and cover are bulldozed away to make way for new subdivisions?

Likely they return to their familiar habitats, but instead of finding their normal food, they raid the garbage cans filled with delectables and make a mess. But their mess is nothing compared to unbearable disarray that our four county commissioners have made by granting endless comp plan revisions for subdivisions.

Without planning or traffic studies, and wiping their feet on the comprehensive plan, they have created a nightmare of car crashes and death. Not a day goes by that you don't hear the wail of sirens and see the flashing blue and red lights headed for wrecks. Look around as you drive by, the roadsides are littered with road kill death: deer, possums, raccoons, otters, birds, smashed turtles, crushed snakes and alligators.

Some people say there are too many bears and demand that FWC should open hunting season on them again. I say NO! I much prefer the big furry creatures that are happy eating a fish or honeycomb or two, over avaricious land speculators and realtors. They will never be satisfied and will always want more and more and more. County Commissioners Quincee Messersmith, Ralph Thomas, Fred Nichols and Mike Kemp, with your insatiable greed and rising taxes that impact your neighbors, you have become unbearable! Come election time, you have to go and take your developer county manager and attorney with you. Only the beleaguered Chuck Hess who consistently votes against all your misdeeds should remain.

Jack Rudloe
President
Gulf Specimen Marine Lab

Marj Law's column is service to community

Editor, The Sun:

Dear Mr. Snowden,

As a regular reader of the Wakulla Sun, I have found myself looking forward to the writings of Marj Law. I met her some months ago at the sheriff's gun range. Her writing is clear and feels like she is sitting across from the reader at a dining room table. She is dedicated to the safe use of firearms for recreation and self-defense. There is an emphasis on women and others who are new to Firearms.

Women are usually smaller and have smaller hands and less and arm strength. Women find many firearms too heavy, difficult to chamber a cartridge and the firearms have an uncomfortable rough recoil. People need a proper firearm that fits their hand and arm strength. They will then practice and develop the skills necessary to use it safely.

When shooting a firearm, it must always fire when needed and never fire accidentally. Fumbling with an unfamiliar safety or an empty chamber is a formula for disaster when you need it most. Practice and developing skills are necessary for safe ownership and use of a firearm. Annie Oakley taught 15,000 women how to shoot and wished to teach many more. She and Marj believe that self defense should be done safely, effectively and very well.

Perhaps Marj Law's efforts and insight should be shared with other community papers similar to the Wakulla Sun. You and Marj should continue to keep up the good work and service to the community. She is a real asset to Wakulla county.

Respectfully,

Gregory Rawling
Delray Beach

Thanks to staff at Walmart

Editor, The Sun:

The Coastal Community Association of Gulf County Elves wanted to give a shout out to the wonderful hospitality and helpfulness of the staff at the Crawfordville Walmart during our shopping spree for the Gulf County Sheriff's Office Toy Drive. The elves traveled two hours from Port St. Joe to buy presents for over 100 children in Gulf County to ensure that there would be presents under their trees.

For the past 5 years the elves have made the trek to Crawfordville because of the great staff at Walmart. They have always welcomed our crew of 10 ladies blocking up the aisles, asking "Where is the slime," and taking over two hours to check out with the cashiers. This year we filled 16 buggies.

We wanted to thank Delores, a manager, and the cashiers, Alyson, and Stephanie, who never lost their sense of humor and their efficiency as they checked out our mass of toys, clothes, and shoes. The on-floor stocking staff was great too, answering our questions and pointing us in the right direction. We even got customers involved with our searches.

This year the Gulf County Sheriff's Office will be supplying over 325 deserving children in Gulf County with gifts under their trees. We are so blessed to be a part of this endeavor and so appreciate the Walmart staff for joining us in this project....

Gulf County Elves

The Gulf County Elves at the Crawfordville Walmart, filling buggies with gifts.

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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We would very much appreciate your contribution.

William Snowden
Editor & Publisher
The Wakulla Sun

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

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

< Question of The Week >

– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

Pb led at the Chamber After Hu rs Mix r at The Ld g at Wakulla Spring :

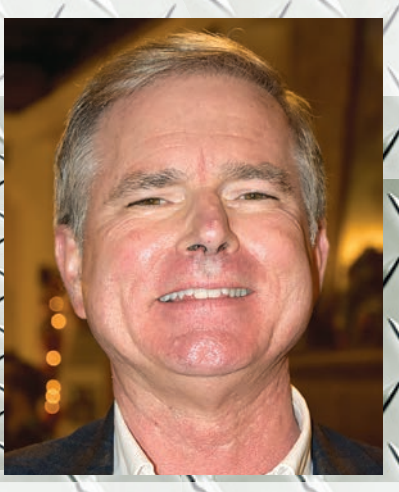
What is your favorite Christmas movie?

BRITTANY MUNGER
Sherri Ro e CPA

"M y f av ite one as kid was The Santa Clause with Tim Allen."

RANDY MERRITT
Eng neer

"A Christmas Sto y, h ands dw n!"



KEVIN VAUGHN
HUB International Insurance

"H m e Aln e, then I wu ld say The Hb iday."

CHRIS RUSSELL
Wo king f o the tax p ay rs

"I t's A Wn derful Life, i t's the best, I lv it."

RAY O HNSON
Wakulla Sheriff's Office

"I hav sm any Rudb ph as a kids mv e but tradition allw e watch it every y ar."

Wakulla Station News

By VERNA BROCK

I don't know 'bout y'all, but my place has finally seen the summer drought quenched. I am not complaining, mind you. This will keep us in good standing, water-wise, for a while. Fingers crossed for pretty weather this coming Christmas weekend. I feel like we've earned it, considering the past three weekends!

Interesting story. Roughly two weeks ago, Ed was surprised by a sheriff's deputy knocking on the front door. Even more surprising was the reason: he wanted to know if we were missing three cows. Apparently, several folks had called to report three cows ambling through downtown Wakulla Station. Mercifully, they were NOT our cows. We don't have any cows.

Eventually the three amigos were reunited with their rightful owner, and all was well. Except Mr. George Dock had set up the Nativity scene on the front lawn of the Wakulla United Methodist Church, complete with a bale or two of fresh hay. Now, you can guess what happened next. Those ol' cows found that hay and enjoyed every morsel!

Not to worry folks. The trampled Nativity has been repaired (thank you, George!), and returned to its rightful spot in front of the Church. No hay this time. We have had deer, bears, a few hogs, and now cows grace the Church property, and it just goes to show, you can never predict what you might see in the neighborhood.

Speaking of the Nativity, the Wakulla U.M.C. will celebrate Christmas Eve at its regularly scheduled 10 a.m. service this Sunday. It is a rare occurance to have Christmas Eve or Christmas fall on a Sunday, so this year we will celebrate the birth of our Savior in the morning, without the customary candlelight service in the evening. Please join us for worship and fellowship.

Please keep the family of Bill Thornton in your prayers, as he passed away suddenly last week. He is the father of Sue Thornton Austin and Michael Thornton, husband to Mary Jane Thornton, and grandfather to six grandsons. He and Ms. Thornton celebrated 71 years of wedded bliss this past year, and are dedicated Christians. He was vigorous for all of his 92 years, traveling extensively with family throughout his life.

Thelma Watts covets our prayers, as she continues rehab. Baby Bennie Mott needs our prayers as well, as he undergoes more treatment for his cancer. Remember the grieving, the sad, the sick and those in war-torn countries, simply trying to survive impossible situations. God grant this world peace. We need it now more than ever.

I hope everyone has a blessed Christmas and a very prosperous New Year.

Sheriff's Report

This report is for activity Dec. 8-14:

FRIDAY, DEC. 8

• Jessica Flowers was arrested after she stuck another female in the face. The two had been arguing at the Dollar store when Flowers physically attacked the victim. Flowers was located by deputies and arrested for battery. Deputy Dylan Causseaux investigated.

SATURDAY, DEC. 9

• Deputy Ernesto Trujillo observed a Red GMC Truck speeding and swerving over the centerline on Crawfordville Highway near the Leon County line. Deputy Trujillo conducted a traffic stop and made contact with the driver John McDonald who appeared to be highly intoxicated. McDonald refused to participate in sobriety field exercises and was subsequently arrested for DUI.

SUNDAY, DEC. 10

• Deputies received a call regarding a battery at Dux Bar. Upon arrival security officers advised they had asked Emily Hamilton to leave the bar due to her being aggressive with other patrons, Hamilton was also accused of striking both security officers before the deputies arrived. After a brief investigation deputies arrested Hamilton. While being cuffed Hamilton attempted several times to strike and kick at the deputies, Hamilton eventually complied after she was Tasered by deputies on scene. Deputies Norman De Guzman and Ernesto Trujillo investigated.

MONDAY, DEC. 11

• Deputy Jake Scott conducted a traffic stop on County Line Road, and the driver, Brent Lawhon was determined to not possess a valid driver's license and to have multiple prior convictions for Driving While License Suspended or Revoked (DWLSR). Upon further investigation, Brent was found to be a convicted felon and a firearm was located in the vehicle. Brent was arrested for DWLSR and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Upon entry into the Wakulla County Jail a search of Brent's person was conducted by jail staff. During this search Brent Lawhon was also found to be in possession of methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia. He was subsequently charged along with introduction of contraband into a controlled facility.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13

• Carrie Anderson reported her wallet being stolen from her friend's vehicle while they were inside Winn-Dixie. Carrie stated after shopping she returned to the vehicle and the wallet containing her Social Security card and Florida Driver's License was missing. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Dustin Matthews investigated.

• An employee with Winn Dixie reported an unknown black male suspect attempting to pass a counterfeit $100 bill. After the cashier alerted the office associate, the suspect left the store in a silver Honda SUV which was parked in the rear of the store. The fake currency was seized and submitted into evidence. 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.

On the Horizon

Calendar of events for the week of December 21

Thursday, December 21

• The Wakulla County Cancer Support Group meets in the Education Center of the Crawfordville United Methodist Church at 7 p.m. This group meeting is for men and women, regardless of the type of cancer. Spouses, caregivers, and friends are welcome. For more information, call 850-926-6050.
• Rotary Club of Wakulla meets at TCC Wakulla at 8:30 a.m.
• The VFW Auxiliary Bingo Night will be held at 7 p.m. at 475 Arran Road in Crawfordville, every Thursday. There 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 22

• Palaver Tree Theater hosts "Christmas with Aaron & Friends" a Holiday concert, tickets are $25 on Eventbrite
• Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and 8 p.m. every Friday at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

Saturday, December 23

• The St. Marks Community Market will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in St. Marks at 815 Port Leon Drive.
• The Wakulla County Historical Society Museum and Gift Shop will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., for last minute
• 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 25

• MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Tuesday, December 26

• 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 27

• A line dance class is held at 1 p.m. at the Wakulla Senior Center every Wednesday.
• 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.

Library News – Dec. 21

December 21st
• Creative Writing 10 am
• Veteran's Meetup 11am
• Pregnancy Loss Support Group 6:30pm
• Wakulla Amateur Radio Club
December 22nd
• Closed
December 23rd
• Closed
December 24th
• Closed
December 25th
• Closed
December 26th
• No Children's Programs today
December 27th
• No Children's Programs today
• Knitting Group 4pm

Santa's mailbox will be coming down the morning of December 18th.

Save the Date Events
• February 3rd-Friends of the Library Mardi Gras celebration at the community center.

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The Wakulla Sun
Subscribe & Save.
Call (850) 962-8019 to get started.

Outdoors

outdoor sports

HOME ON THE RANGE

Unsure of your safety? Know your gun

By MARJ LAW

We've all read about people shooting their handguns to protect themselves and to protect others. How would you know if you could shoot accurately at a certain distance? How would you know how far your semi-automatic handgun could shoot.

First, of course, you'd have to learn to shoot accurately. That means practice. Shooting is like any other sport, whether swimming, golfing, or playing tennis. There's no way around it. If you want to hit the x-ring of your target, you have to practice.

Newbies to the range want to know how to align their sights. USA Carry describes sight alignment: "Sight alignment is the relationship of the front and rear sights. Simply, the eye must be lined up with the Front and Rear Sights and the sights positioned so that the alignment is correct. Proper sight alignment of the two sights means that the TOP of the Front Sight is vertically centered in the NOTCH of the Rear Sight, so that there is an equal amount of white space on either side of the Front Sight post. It also means that the TOP of the Front Sight is LEVEL horizontally with the TOP of the Rear Sight."

Some sights are more difficult to see than others. A black U or V-shaped sight in the rear may be harder to see than a couple white dot sights. If you have trouble aligning your sights because the rear ones are black and don't stand out, you can paint white nail polish into that U or V-shaped rear sight.

Once you have the front and rear sights aligned, the x-ring sits on the front sight dot or ramp. Where? Now, that's up to your gun. Depending on the specific handgun, the x-ring may sit directly on top of your front sight, or it may be directly beneath your front sight. So, how do know which way your front sight sits? This is called your sight picture.

Here is where a shooting rest comes in handy. Strap your gun onto it so the gun doesn't move. Hold the gun with the same tension you usually would use to shoot. Align front and back sights. Then shoot and inspect where you've hit the target. This will let you know where exactly you'll place your front sight when you aim. From then on, you'll practice. After a while, your arms will fall into muscle memory, and you'll become better and better at knocking out that x-ring.

Now that you have some muscle memory, at what distance should you be practicing to shoot?

According to Gun Zone, "For self-defense purposes, handguns can be considered effective within a range of about 7-25 yards, as most confrontations occur at close distances. Yes, different calibers can significantly impact shooting range. Larger calibers generally have more power and longer effective ranges compared to smaller calibers."

When you visit the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office range, you'll notice that targets are set up in four positions. The first position is about 7.5 yards away and the second about 15 yards, the third at 25 and the fourth at 50 yards away. Since most encounters occur about 20 feet away, the first target position is a good place to practice.

But can you shoot your 9mm semi-automatic at 50 yards?

Yes, however... Since encounters are most likely to happen around 7.5 yards, proficiency at 50 yards is less likely to be productive.

Our friend, Rick, can shoot his Sig Sauer P365 all the way to that 50-yard target. He's had loads of practice with this handgun. Lots and lots of practice. And it's pretty cool that he has this ability, but still, in most confrontations, that 7.5-yard target is what deserves the most practice.

Now that you've acquired some muscle memory at the 7.5-yard distance, what type of ammunition is good?

Basically, the 115-grain 9mm Luger round is great for practice, and is less expensive than other rounds. If you want to get prissy about it though, my Equalizer shoots a bit more accurately with 124-grain rounds. Some guns may even do better with 147-grain rounds. I still buy the least expensive rounds for practice. If you know of a reputable company, reloads are even cheaper, but you do need to know your reloader.

What ammunition to choose for defense?

Well, here is where the more expensive ammunition comes in. There are many types of ammunition for self-defense. Some have a hollow point. Some are called +P or even +P+. These loads may be too hot for your gun and may damage it. You have to read your manual to know what kind of defensive load your gun can handle.

So, the type of ammunition, your sight picture, and practice make a difference when you're trying to shoot accurately. What else makes a difference?

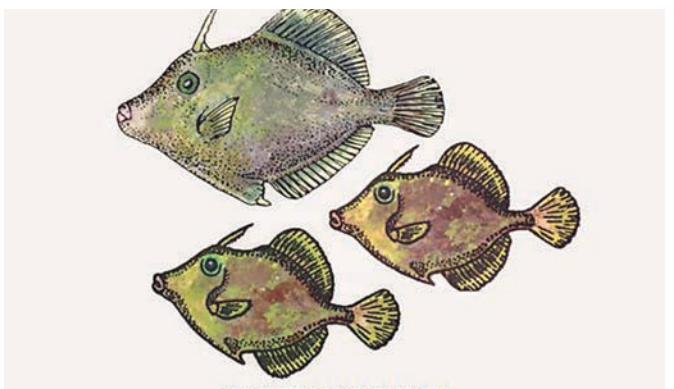
Barrel length makes a difference. Velocity of the ammunition improves with the length of the barrel, so if you're looking for self-defense, barrel length should be a strong consideration. If it's going in your purse, though, you'll have to give up some accuracy for the shorter barrel.

When your handgun is used primarily for self-defense, you need to have practiced enough to understand your sight alignment with this particular handgun. You'll want to practice target shooting your gun with target loads, and then you'll need to know how your gun reacts when you've loaded the hotter, self-defense loads.

To protect your life, know your gun and your ammunition. Practice.

And then, practice some more.

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



GREEN FILEFISH
(Stephanolepis hispidus)
Fishermen named this fish for the sandpapery skin using it to strike matches. The fish has a trigger like mechanism on its dorsal spine that makes it spring erect when they are threatened. This fish lives in in sargassum (seaweed) beds where it eats tiny marine invertebrates. Juveniles often inhabit floating sargassum weed rafts. It grows to about 14" and is often eaten by dolphins and larger fish.
Eukarya Animalia Cordata Osteichthyes
Tetraodontiformes Monacanthidae
Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratory
www.gulfspecimen.org

BIRDING AT THE REFUGE

Mid-December duck survey

By DON MORROW

I did my mid-December duck survey yesterday. It was a grim gray early winter day, cold and windy. Duck numbers and duck diversity were markedly down. December should be the peak of duck season and by mid-December there are usually nineteen species and almost two thousand ducks on the interior ponds and nearshore waters within the survey area. I recorded only 556 ducks representing fourteen species. There were no pintails and this is the first winter that I can remember with no American Black Ducks.

The reason for this seems to be the effect of recent weather on the feeding strategy of one group of ducks. We have had biblical levels of rain recently and St. Marks has been inundated. Water levels are up on all the pools.

Comparing the survey numbers with the long-term median numbers for each species showed that almost all the refuge's missing ducks are dabbling ducks; teal, pintails, mallards, and redheads. In winter these ducks feed by grazing in shallow water. They are the ducks that you see with tail feathers pointed skyward as they dunk their heads underwater to feed on vegetation. When the water gets too deep, they cannot reach their food.

Many of our wintering ducks are dabblers. Green-winged Teal are usually the most numerous freshwater duck at the refuge in winter. They are also the smallest dabbling duck and therefore are affected most by increased water depth. Green-winged Teal numbers are down by 95% and account for half of the missing ducks. The missing dabblers have scattered to newly flooded areas that are shallow enough to allow them to feed. The Redheads have simply moved offshore to feed on seagrasses.

American Wigeon numbers are light, but have not been affected as much. Compared to other dabbling ducks, wigeon are more able to graze on floating leafed vegetation. They also feed with coots and diving ducks, eating vegetation brought to the surface by those species.

St. Marks diving ducks; scaup, mergansers and buffleheads, are primarily hunting fish, amphibians, insects, and crustaceans. They can feed in deeper water and their numbers on the survey were within their normal range for December.

This winter, St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge does not have the duck numbers that we have come to expect. Refuge staff are working to lower water levels, but there is more rain in the forecast. It is likely that duck populations at St. Marks will not recover prior to February when ducks begin to return north. However, there are still hundreds of ducks out there, along with wintering shorebirds and waders. Come down to the refuge and see what we have.

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

FOLLOW THE SUN.

Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences

Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

Dec. 21 - Dec. 27

Tide charts by tides4fishing.com

	First	Full	Last	New
	Jan. 17	Dec. 26	Jan. 3	Jan. 11

Best fishing days this month

December 12–26, January 11-25

For tides at the following points add to 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	3:25 am ▼ 0.2 ft	10:01 am ▲ 2.4 ft	3:07 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	9:16 pm ▲ 3.0 ft
Fr	4:36 am ▼ -0.2 ft	11:21 am ▲ 2.6 ft	4:09 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	10:07 pm ▲ 3.1 ft
Sa	5:34 am ▼ -0.6 ft	12:21 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	5:05 pm ▼ 1.6 ft	10:56 pm ▲ 3.2 ft
Su	6:25 am ▼ -0.9 ft	1:10 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	5:55 pm ▼ 1.6 ft	11:42 pm ▲ 3.3 ft
Mo	7:11 am ▼ -1.0 ft	1:52 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	6:39 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	
Tu	12:25 am ▲ 3.4 ft	7:54 am ▼ -1.1 ft	2:30 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	7:20 pm ▼ 1.4 ft
We	1:06 am ▲ 3.4 ft	8:33 am ▼ -1.0 ft	3:05 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	7:59 pm ▼ 1.3 ft

City of St. Marks

Th	4:29 am ▼ 0.2 ft	10:37 am ▲ 2.2 ft	4:11 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	9:52 pm ▲ 2.8 ft
Fr	5:40 am ▼ -0.2 ft	11:57 am ▲ 2.4 ft	5:13 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	10:43 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
Sa	6:38 am ▼ -0.6 ft	12:57 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	6:09 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	11:32 pm ▲ 3.0 ft
Su	7:29 am ▼ -0.8 ft	1:46 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	6:59 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	
Mo	12:18 am ▲ 3.1 ft	8:15 am ▼ -0.9 ft	2:28 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	7:43 pm ▼ 1.4 ft
Tu	1:01 am ▲ 3.1 ft	8:58 am ▼ -1.0 ft	3:06 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	8:24 pm ▼ 1.3 ft
We	1:42 am ▲ 3.2 ft	9:37 am ▼ -0.9 ft	3:41 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	9:03 pm ▼ 1.2 ft

Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	3:49 am ▼ 0.2 ft	10:16 am ▲ 2.3 ft	3:32 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	9:47 pm ▲ 3.0 ft
Fr	4:58 am ▼ -0.3 ft	11:38 am ▲ 2.5 ft	4:31 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	10:34 pm ▲ 3.1 ft
Sa	5:57 am ▼ -0.7 ft	12:41 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	5:26 pm ▼ 1.6 ft	11:18 pm ▲ 3.2 ft
Su	6:48 am ▼ -1.0 ft	1:32 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	6:14 pm ▼ 1.6 ft	
Mo	12:01 am ▲ 3.3 ft	7:35 am ▼ -1.1 ft	2:15 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	6:57 pm ▼ 1.6 ft
Tu	12:42 am ▲ 3.3 ft	8:18 am ▼ -1.2 ft	2:54 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	7:37 pm ▼ 1.6 ft
We	1:21 am ▲ 3.3 ft	8:59 am ▼ -1.1 ft	3:30 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	8:15 pm ▼ 1.5 ft

Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	3:36 am ▼ 0.2 ft	9:53 am ▲ 1.8 ft	3:18 pm ▼ 0.9 ft	9:08 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
Fr	4:47 am ▼ -0.2 ft	11:13 am ▲ 1.9 ft	4:20 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	9:59 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
Sa	5:45 am ▼ -0.5 ft	12:13 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	5:16 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	10:48 pm ▲ 2.4 ft
Su	6:36 am ▼ -0.7 ft	1:02 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	6:06 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	11:34 pm ▲ 2.5 ft
Mo	7:22 am ▼ -0.8 ft	1:44 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	6:50 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	
Tu	12:17 am ▲ 2.5 ft	8:05 am ▼ -0.8 ft	2:22 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	7:31 pm ▼ 1.0 ft
We	12:58 am ▲ 2.5 ft	8:44 am ▼ -0.7 ft	2:57 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	8:10 pm ▼ 0.9 ft

St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	3:51 am ▼ 0.1 ft	10:16 am ▲ 1.7 ft	3:32 pm ▼ 0.9 ft	9:23 pm ▲ 2.2 ft
Fr	4:52 am ▼ -0.4 ft	11:47 am ▲ 1.9 ft	4:34 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	10:03 pm ▲ 2.4 ft
Sa	5:42 am ▼ -0.8 ft	12:54 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	5:26 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	10:43 pm ▲ 2.5 ft
Su	6:28 am ▼ -1.0 ft	1:46 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	6:09 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	11:23 pm ▲ 2.6 ft
Mo	7:10 am ▼ -1.2 ft	2:29 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	6:44 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	
Tu	12:02 am ▲ 2.6 ft	7:50 am ▼ -1.2 ft	3:06 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	7:16 pm ▼ 1.5 ft
We	12:43 am ▲ 2.6 ft	8:29 am ▼ -1.1 ft	3:40 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	7:48 pm ▼ 1.4 ft

Dog Island West End

Th	4:19 am ▼ 0.1 ft	10:56 am ▲ 1.3 ft	3:18 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	9:27 pm ▲ 2.0 ft
Fr	5:18 am ▼ -0.4 ft	12:53 pm ▲ 1.5 ft	4:22 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	10:00 pm ▲ 2.1 ft
Sa	6:10 am ▼ -0.7 ft	1:59 pm ▲ 1.7 ft	5:39 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	10:37 pm ▲ 2.2 ft
Su	6:53 am ▼ -0.9 ft	2:45 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	6:37 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	11:18 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
Mo	7:30 am ▼ -1.1 ft	3:24 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	7:13 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	
Tu	12:05 am ▲ 2.3 ft	8:05 am ▼ -1.1 ft	3:58 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	7:42 pm ▼ 1.4 ft
We	12:51 am ▲ 2.3 ft	8:40 am ▼ -1.1 ft	4:27 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	8:10 pm ▼ 1.4 ft

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

Thursday 21	
Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
7:28AM 5:40PM	1:47PM 2:04AM
Moon Illumination 69%	

Friday 22	
Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
7:29AM 5:41PM	2:20PM 3:07AM
Moon Illumination 79%	

Saturday 23	
Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
7:29AM 5:41PM	2:58PM 4:12AM
Moon Illumination 87%	

Sunday 24	
Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
7:30AM 5:42PM	3:40PM 5:17AM
Moon Illumination 93%	

Monday 25	
Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
7:30AM 5:43PM	4:28PM 6:21AM
Moon Illumination 98%	

Tuesday 26	
Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
7:31AM 5:43PM	5:22PM 7:22AM
Moon Illumination 100%	

Wednesday 27	
Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set
7:31AM 5:44PM	6:19PM 8:17AM
Moon Illumination 100%	

Thursday 21	
Minor Times	Major Times
1:19AM 1:02PM	6:44AM 7:08PM

Friday 22	
Minor Times	Major Times
2:22AM 1:35PM	7:32AM 7:57PM

Saturday 23	
Minor Times	Major Times
3:27AM 2:13PM	8:22AM 8:49PM

Sunday 24	
Minor Times	Major Times
4:32AM 2:55PM	9:15AM 9:43PM

Monday 25	
Minor Times	Major Times
5:36AM 3:43PM	10:11AM 10:39PM

Tuesday 26	
Minor Times	Major Times
6:37AM 4:37PM	11:07AM ----

Wednesday 27	
Minor Times	Major Times
7:32AM 5:34PM	11:35PM 12:03PM

Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports

By Carolyn Brown Treadon

The members of Flotilla 12 wish all of you a very special holiday season! In the sprit of the holidays, we wanted to share with you a story about how the Coast Guard helps bring the Christmas Spirit to Chicago every year.

As the story is told, Herman Schuenemann was the captain of the original Christmas Ship. He came to Chicago from Michigan for more than 30 years with fresh evergreens and wreaths for the holiday season during the late 1800s and early 1900s. On Nov. 23, 1912, Captain Schuenemann was at the helm of the fabled Christmas Ship, the Rouse Simmons. On that day while transiting from Michigan, Captain Schuenemann and the Rouse Simmons was lost in a storm and sank with a crew of 16 between Kewaunee and Two Rivers, Wisconsin.

As was reported by the Chicago Sun Times, "There are some unmistakable sensory hallmarks of the annual "Christmas Ship" event at Navy Pier. The cold air brushing against your face.

The "thwack" of Christmas trees landing on the ground after sliding off the U.S. Coast Guard cutter Mackinaw. And the rich smell of pine. There's also the "warm" feeling of helping others at the 24th event Saturday, Dec. 2.

Many community organizations, including the Auxiliary, work to offload the trees and deliver them to needy families throughout Chicago and the surrounding areas. The Christmas trees are purchased through donations, which can be submitted through christmaship.org. Ada S. McKinley Community Services works with other nonprofits to identify recipients.

The annual event, held at Navy Pier, continues the legacy of the Captain Schuenemann and the Rouse Simmons, as it had become a part of their family tradition to purchase their trees from the schooner. The Mackinaw opens for tours following the unloading of the trees. This year, the ship arrived at Navy Pier on Dec. 1, with 1,200 trees that were donated to families in need.

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 pnkkhill2000@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.

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

FWC Law Enforcement Report

From FWC

This report represents some events the FWC handled Nov. 24-30 in the Northwest Region. (There were no cases reported for Wakulla County.)

FRANKLIN COUNTY

• Officers Hartzog and Forbes were on patrol at Big Bay when they observed several individuals duck hunting after legal shooting hours. The officers conducted a resource inspection and discovered one of the subjects was duck hunting without a federal duck stamp. The officers addressed the violations appropriately.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

• Officers L. Glover and M. McLeod were patrolling on a rural county road and observed occupants of a vehicle shining a spotlight out the passenger side window. The vehicle was stopped and after a brief interview, two subjects admitted to looking for deer. Two loaded rifles were found in the front seat of the vehicle. Citations were issued for attempting to take deer at night.

LEON COUNTY

• Senior Officer B. Johnson was off duty in a store when he overheard a subject talking about field dressing an antlered deer and three antlerless deer and was going to take them to the processer in the morning. Johnson observed fresh deer blood and hair on the subject's pants and shoes. Johnson left the store and wrote the subject's vehicle tag down. Officer Johnson and Lt. G. Louque drove to the subject's residence to conduct a resource inspection and interview. While at the subject's residence, they observed evidence of a deer in the bed of a vehicle parked at the residence. The subject confirmed field dressing an antlered deer hit by a vehicle and admitted to field dressing three antlerless deer for another subject who had harvested them with a rifle. Johnson and Louque drove to the other subject's residence to conduct an interview. The second subject admitted to harvesting three antlerless deer with a rifle during a closed season. Charges will be filed with the state attorney's office.

OFFSHORE PATROL

While conducting vessel patrol in federal waters south of Franklin County, Officers Hartzog and Forbes observed a recreational fishing vessel with several individuals on board fishing. The officers conducted a resource inspection and observed the individuals to be in possession of out-of-season red grouper, multiple undersized hogfish, and undersized gray triggerfish. The officers documented the violation and forwarded details of the violation to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Underwater Wakulla

By Rusty Miller

A skill that is not taught at all.

I would like to start off by wishing everyone a blessed Christmas and to be safe on your holiday travels. I hope everyone will remember the real reason for Christmas but the toys are fun too.

The last couple of articles have dealt with scuba skills that are not taught much especially with younger instructors, so today I would like to talk about a skill that is not taught at all and the main reason is it is not taught is because of a piece of the equipment that we call our weight invigorated BCD.

I do have to admit that I don't teach this skill anymore but a small aspect of it during my pool class and in open water at the springs. This skill would be taught in every pool class for many years before they came up with integrated weight systems on the BCD. If you haven't guessed it by know it's called "Ditch and Don." It was usually taught near the end of the pool session and made into a form of a game for the students in the deep end of the pool.

I still try to teach a form of it in the shallow end but I will explain that in a little while. So what we would have the students do in the deep end would be to do their giant stride with the equipment on. Once in the water we would submerge to the bottom, one there I would demonstrate the skill by removing my BCD and tank then place them in front of me while breathing on the regulator. I would then demonstrate how to put the BCD and tank back on my back while keeping the regulator in my mouth and breathing normally.

I would then have each student (one at a time) do that same skill several times. I would never have them take off their weight belts during this skill.

Oh did I mention weight belts, yes, that is what we used for several decades of diving before integrated BC's. Once the student was comfortable with that part of the skill then I would have them remove the equipment again and added taking off the weight belt and laying it across their lap so it was keeping them on the bottom of the pool. I would then have them place the belt on the bottom beside them and have them slowly swim to the surface while blowing tiny bubbles to equalize their lungs.

Before I would have them swim to the surface I would do that myself and then I would swim back down to the bottom and demonstrate how to (Don) put on their gear.

I would put the regulator in my mouth and purge it then I would put on the weight belt to make it easier to stay on the bottom. I would put my BCD and tank back on and get it tightened back up and then have them repeat that same skill one at a time.

We would repeat that until they felt comfortable and could put their equipment on with out looking for the buckles.

Next week I will continue with this skill set of ditch and don to it's final conclusion. Until then keep making bubbles.

Merry Christmas

Russell Miller #59999

Let's 'fall on our knees' this Christmas

By SHERYL H. BOLDT

As a little girl, I spent delightful moments singing about the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

I gazed at our small nativity scene. I loved looking at all the characters gathered devotedly around the newborn child: Mary and Joseph, the angels, the shepherds, the wise men – even the animals.

The scene was warm, sweet and serene. As much as I could comprehend at that young age, I knew it was a holy scene. I didn't understand (and probably never will fully understand) Who that baby boy truly was. But in my little girl way, I knew Jesus was a very special baby. I loved that baby.

As I grew, so did my understanding of why that tiny, precious child was so special. And so did my love for Who that baby was – and is. In my now grown-up way, I see and love Jesus as the King of kings, Almighty God, Lord and Savior. Whenever I hear the glorious words "Fall on your knees" in "O Holy Night," I want to do just that. My heart overflows with the desire to worship my King.

During this Christmas season, I seek to enter an even deeper, more worshipful relationship with the One Who left the glories of heaven to be born and live among us.

If you'd like to join me, let's begin by looking at Psalm 95:6 (ESV) and practice its message: "Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!"

Have you ever wondered how different our lives would be if we simply decided to worship God? Truly worshiped Him. From the heart.

How would our lives change if we made worship part of our daily quiet time? What would happen if our first response to every circumstance, good or bad, was to revere God, acknowledging His power and compassion?

Rather than allowing our thoughts to be consumed with what we'll be getting (or did get) for Christmas, what if we took deliberate steps to get to know Jesus and the wonders of His person? Who He is. The way He thinks. His marvelous ways.

What if we took the time (and made the effort) to truly discover what Christmas is all about? And what if, during this Christmas season and into the new year, every day that we spend time praising our Lord and Maker …

… we end up loving Him a little bit more?

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 constant that remains

By CHERYL CRUCE

It is Christmas. Afghans decorate couches and recliners for warmth as fireplaces push back the cold. Children are excited about the jolly ole elf who magically delivers the best toys underneath the Christmas tree.

As a child, I remember watching my Mom put together a silver Christmas tree, each limb fitted into place and decorated with red balls. As a final touch, a red, green, yellow, and blue light rotated beneath the tree, reflecting the colors of the season. Butterflies would churn in my stomach as I awaited the magical morning when the gifts would appear. I am amazed at how quickly my childhood passed by.

The silver Christmas tree with a rotating light remains an essential decoration for the holiday. It is a childhood memory I have held onto. Nevertheless, the meaning of Christmas has changed. I no longer look for Santa and his reindeer. Through the years, I have seen the excitement in my children's eyes as they tried to sleep. My heart misses tucking them in on Christmas Eve. Yet, I find great joy in watching them share the Christmas magic with my grandchildren.

So goes the seasons of life; they pass by so quickly. The holidays create a mixed bag of emotions. My blessings stand against a backdrop of longing for what once was. I am not alone in this. Many find this time of year difficult. I would love one more Christmas with my children underfoot as I prepare a festive dinner. I wish for their giggles and antics of yesterday. There is also a longing for those who have gone before me. I miss the scent of Mom's cotillion cologne and sawdust on Dad's work shirt. I miss going home. Even so, without today, I would miss the blessings of my grown children and my grandchildren.

As a people of faith, we can rejoice today, looking forward to tomorrow, when all longing will cease. In the scripture, we learn of a time when King David and Bathsheba lost a child. King David knew he could not bring his son back to this world; David's response to his grief was to prepare his heart for the day when all longing would end (2 Samuel 12:14-3).

In this lies our hope as well, the preparation of our hearts. We celebrate Christmas with a tree, gifts, and good cheer. However, the most incredible gift given was laid in a manger made of stone. King David could not bring his son back to life, yet generations later, a son would be born, bringing eternal life to all who believed. When we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we celebrate the end of all longing. We celebrate a kingdom where all sadness and grief subside. We observe an eternal life where the hope, peace, joy, and love of advent are endless. Christmas is a time of preparing our hearts to meet those who have gone before us.

How blessed we are to know that Jesus, the baby born at Christmas, grew to be a man spending the last three years of His life teaching the Kingdom of God. Jesus knew joy and happiness. He knew grief, pain, and longing. He also knew victory. Through His life, death, and resurrection, we are given the keys to eternal life, where all longing will cease. I pray that we reflect on yesterday, embrace today, and look forward to tomorrow, the truth of our faith, for that is the constant that remains every Christmas season.

Isaiah 9:6 For us, a child is born, 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

Cultivating the fine art of listening

By JAMES SNYDER

If confession is good for the soul, I must confess here, I have not been successful at everything in my life. Oh yes, there are a few things I have been successful at, which I won't mention right now. But many things I have failed to succeed at.

One thing I have failed to succeed at, even though I have tried all my life, is listening.

My ears work, and I can hear many things, but it's listening when I fail.

My first experience in this area of listening was when I met The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. At that time, we were students at a Bible Institute studying for the ministry.

We met in September, and we had become a couple by January.

One night, we were traveling with a group, and she casually asked, "Wouldn't it be nice to get married?"

Having failed in woman-an-ology and thinking it was just a casual question, I said, "It sure would be nice to get married." I thought that was all there was.

The next day, in the school halls, everybody congratulated me, and for the life of me, I did not know what they were talking about. I just thought I passed a test for the first time.

Later, I realized they congratulated me on my engagement to get married. I was the last one to know.

Sure, I heard what she said, but I wasn't listening to what she said. I have learned through life that there's a big difference between hearing and listening.

Not long after that incident, we married and have been blissfully married for over 53 years.

As a husband, I had to learn many things, and I wasn't very successful.

I assumed when your wife asks a question, she is asking to get an answer. It took me a long time to realize that was never the case.

Early in our marriage, she said, "Correct me if I'm wrong…" Then, she explained the situation from her perspective.

Thinking she was asking for my evaluation, I usually would do what she asked and correct her.

The first time I did this, I was not prepared for the outcome.

Looking at me, she graciously said, "If I want your opinion, I will ask for it."

I thought that's what she asked for. I was only doing what I thought she said.

It took me a long time to understand her meaning when she said, "Correct me if I'm wrong." And believe me, I paid a heavy price for learning that too slowly. I only wish I would have known it earlier in our marriage.

Early in our marriage, I was busy correcting her when she asked to be corrected.

That's when I began to understand that hearing and listening are two different occupations. I can hear everything she is saying, but I'm not listening to what she is saying. I'm not quite sure how to connect these two things.

Finally, I began to understand what she meant. When she said, "Correct me if I'm wrong," she was not asking for a correction but something completely different. She wanted to hear from me, "My dear, you are absolutely correct."

I remember the first time I responded to her in like fashion. I still see the smile she had on her face when I said it. It was then I realized what she was looking for. She was not looking for my opinion but rather for my approval.

I began to understand what people meant when they said, "A happy wife is a happy family."

It is like the old joke about Abraham Lincoln and his wife. Lincoln's wife came to him and said, "Abe, does this dress make me look fat?" Fortunately, Honest Abe understood hearing and listening.

Throughout life, I have met many people obsessed with always being right. No matter what they are doing, they want to be recognized as doing it right.

Even though I'm still trying to develop a learning curve in this area, I have learned that my happiest days are not when I am right. I used to think they were, but I have graduated to a different understanding.

Recently, I noticed that The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has used the phrase, "Correct me if I'm wrong," more times than I've ever heard her say that. I'm not sure if it's intentional, but at my level of understanding, I'm going to accept it and say to her every time, "Oh, my dear, you are absolutely correct."

The smile on her face when I say that is very satisfying and worth my effort. I must make a choice in life: her smile or my being right. At my level of experience, I always choose the former.

She asks some other questions that I'm working on, and hopefully, I will accomplish my goal before I die. I will need to learn how to connect my ears with my brain. That will be my challenge for the New Year.

While thinking about this recently I remembered a very wonderful verse in the New Testament. "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: (James 1:19).

I need to cultivate the fine art of listening. That simply means that I'm going to be slow to speak and only speak when I have thought through what I am hearing.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamessnyder51@gmail.com, website www.jamessnyderministries.com.

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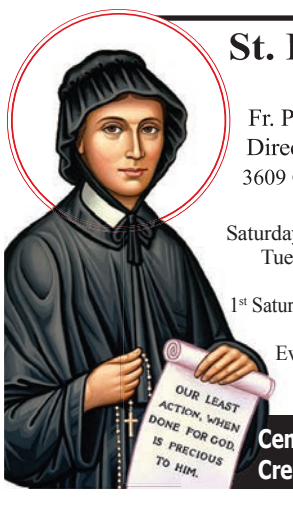

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Obituaries

DEATH NOTICES

• **Mavis Cravey,** 77, of Crawfordville, died December 12, 2023.
Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **Clifford G. Partlow Sr.,** 80, of Tallahassee, died December 9, 2023.
Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **James Lynn Payne,** 82, of Tallahassee, died December 14, 2023.
Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **William Swain,** 89, of Crawfordville, died December 14, 2023.
Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **Jeremy Jonathan "Jerry" Wattendorf,** 52 of Tallahassee, died December 12, 2023.
Family Funeral Home at Harvey-Young Chapel, 850-926-5919, www.familyfhc.com

Neighbors

From Front Page

ic shotgun. It was loaded with seven shells. He was also carrying a smaller magazine for the shotgun loaded with six shells.

After deputies took Williams into custody, interviews with other area residents indicated he had been making threats and walking up and down the street armed. He had also reportedly walked up and down the street using binoculars to look into neighbor's homes and yelling that he was coming to get them.

Williams was arrested for two counts of aggravated assault as well as resisting arrest with violence for refusing to get on the ground when ordered by deputies, and refusing to put his arm behind his back while armed with loaded firearms.

While being transported to the jail, Williams reportedly told deputies he had more guns in his house and believed deputies were in on the conspiracy to get him, according to the report. He also claimed he was leaving his house to go hunting – though deputies noted he was dressed in shorts and T-shirt and flip-flops.

In October, Williams had been charged with False Imprisonment but the charges were dropped by the state attorney's office in November.

Lights

From Front Page

large inflatable snowman in his driveway, to encourage people to get out of their cars and see the display up close. That spiraled into taking "Ten thousand pictures each Christmas" as more and more people wanted photos with them and their kids in front of his light display.

To make this easier, he bought a small photo booth, and has hired actors to be characters such as Santa and the Grinch, allowing visitors to take pictures with them entirely free of charge.

Boler has seen people from all over the country and even international visitors stop by his display on their way through the county, and is even talking with ABC about doing a possible interview sometime soon.

Boler says he "Does it for the kids, the parents who bring the kids, and anyone who just likes looking at Christmas lights."

He expressed that this is supposed to be a season of giving, and this display lets him give thousands of people a little bit more happiness each year, and that seeing people smile at his display is exactly why he does this every holiday season.

Weekly Roundup: Conflicts in the courts

By RYAN DAILEY
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — Legal fights over two controversial laws backed by Gov. Ron DeSantis were in focus in the courts this week, with a new lawsuit filed and a trial in another case kicking off in Tallahassee.

A federal judge on Wednesday heard testimony from the mother of a transgender girl in a constitutional challenge to a law (SB 254) that, in part, barred doctors from approving puberty blockers and hormone therapy for treatment of minors with gender dysphoria.

The mother, a St. Johns County resident identified by the pseudonym Jane Doe, testified that it would be "devastating" if the child could not get treatment.

"It would force her to be someone that she's not," Jane Doe said of a potential denial of treatment.

Jane Doe, a plaintiff in the case, said her 12-year-old daughter was identified as a male at birth but was diagnosed by a pediatrician with gender dysphoria at age 4. The girl has not started treatment with puberty blockers but has received care from endocrinologists as the family prepares for such a step.

The law at issue in the case also mandated that only physicians — not nurse practitioners — are allowed to approve hormone therapy, and it banned the use of telehealth for new prescriptions.

Thomas Redburn, an attorney representing the plaintiffs, accused the state of "invidious discrimination" against transgender people. He said, for example, the state has not barred puberty blockers and hormone therapy to treat other types of conditions.

"The state has singled out transgender people for disparate treatment without any adequate justification," Redburn said.

The state's lawyers, however, have argued that the plaintiffs will not be able to prove that the restrictions were motivated by "animus" toward transgender people.

Mohammad Jazil, an attorney for the state, contended during opening arguments Wednesday that the "state has every right to dictate some of the norms for medical treatment" for gender dysphoria.

The trial, which also deals with challenges to rules approved by the Florida Board of Medicine and Florida Board of Osteopathic Medicine, is expected to end next week.

TUSSLE OVER TITLES

Also on Wednesday, three Florida teachers launched a federal legal challenge alleging a new state law restricting titles and pronouns at schools unconstitutionally discriminates against transgender and nonbinary educators.

The case focuses on a part of a 2023 law that says a school employee "may not provide to a student his or her preferred personal title or pronouns if such preferred personal title or pronouns do not correspond to his or her sex."

The plaintiffs are transgender teachers in Hillsborough and Lee counties and a nonbinary teacher who was fired by Florida Virtual School in October after refusing to drop the title "Mx." and the pronouns "they/them."

Attorneys representing the teachers are arguing that the law discriminates against school employees and contractors on the basis of sex and violates the employees' First Amendment rights and civil rights laws.

"Florida has stigmatized plaintiffs, threatened their psychological well-being, upended the respect that is owed to them as educators and that is necessary for a safe workplace and functioning classroom, and put their professions and families' well-being on the line. Florida's statute must give way to the Constitution and laws of the United States and must not be enforced," the plaintiffs' lawyers wrote in the 61–page complaint.

Named as defendants are state Education Commissioner Manny Diaz, the Department of Education, the State Board of Education and its seven members, other state education officials and the school boards in Lee and Hillsborough counties.

DeSantis criticized the use of people's preferred pronouns in schools before signing the bill that the challenge stems from in May.

"We never did this through all of human history until like, what, two weeks ago? Now this is something, they're having third-graders declare pronouns? We're not doing the pronoun Olympics in Florida. It's not happening here," DeSantis said.

DeSantis' office and the Department of Education did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the lawsuit.

The three teachers have also filed discrimination complaints with federal labor officials.

RESTART REQUIRED

The state university system's Board of Governors on Thursday required Florida Atlantic University to restart its search for a president, as the board plans to revamp rules about schools' searches for leaders.

Restarting the FAU search means the school will be under an interim leader potentially well into next year, as search processes typically take months — and FAU won't be able to relaunch a search until at least late January.

The school's search for a new leader was halted in July at the direction of state university system Chancellor Ray Rodrigues, who raised concerns that aspects of the search may have violated state law and Board of Governors regulations.

Rodrigues subsequently ordered an investigation by the board's inspector general, the results of which were reviewed by the board on Thursday.

A report about the investigation took issue with the use of an anonymous survey to rank candidates, questionnaires that asked candidates about their sexuality, "withholding" of certain information to the search committee and questions about whether the search complied with Board of Governors rules.

Board of Governors member Alan Levine, who also served on the FAU Presidential Search Committee, characterized the process as flawed and supported rebooting it despite the initial search yielding three finalists.

"I don't impugn the motives of anybody that was on that search committee. But the reality is that the process didn't work right. And even if it produced good candidates, that could be fruit from a poison tree. And it's not something that we should ever entertain," Levine said.

Meanwhile, members of the Board of Governors will consider changing rules about universities' presidential search and selection processes. Board of Governors Chairman Brian Lamb said rules could stand to be "more granular" in guidance to schools.

As part of the potential changes, board members discussed possibly barring chairs of university trustee boards from also serving as chairs of presidential search committees.

The potential changes are expected to be considered during a Jan. 24 Board of Governors meeting. Members of the board on Thursday decided to delay allowing FAU to restart its search until the rules are updated.

STORY OF THE WEEK: With the mother of a transgender girl testifying that it would be "devastating" if the child could not get treatment, a federal judge Wednesday began a trial in a constitutional challenge to Florida restrictions on such things as puberty blockers and hormone therapy for transgender people.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "The bottom line is, Florida is wonderful because we have a Legislature and a Department of Education that is very much in favor of parents having more empowerment, more flexibility. But that very much makes things more challenging." — John Kirtley, chairman of the scholarship-funding organization Step Up for Students, on the state's recent massive expansion of school-voucher programs.

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USE THE NEWS

1. LONG(HORNED) DELAY

Travelers in New Jersey were delayed last week when something very unusual was on the train tracks. A long-horned bull got loose from a fenced-in lot and started walking down the tracks during the busy morning commute. Trains were delayed for 45 minutes while Newark Police caught it. He was taken to a sanctuary, where he was named Ricardo. Ricardo will live the rest of his life being taken care of at the sanctuary. Using the facts you read here, write a version of this story from the perspective of Ricardo the long-horned bull. Include illustrations to go with it!

2. RETIREMENT AGE

Dozens of members of Congress have announced they will retire from the House of Representatives and not run to keep their seats in the 2024 presidential election. A big topic of conversation in recent years has been the age of Congresspeople. While more young people are beginning to be elected to Congress, the average age of voting members in the House is just under 58 years old and in the Senate is about 65 years old. But the average age of the United States' population is about 39 years old. Of course, that includes kids, who aren't eligible to be elected to Congress! But many think that since Congress is, on average, older than the population, the laws and policies they pass aren't always in line with how many Americans think. Do you think age is a factor in how well someone is able to do their job? What are some ways being older can help someone be better at their job? What about some ways that being young is beneficial? Write down your ideas.

3. PRINCE WINS FOR PRIVACY

In the United Kingdom, across the Atlantic Ocean, Prince Harry won an important lawsuit against a British tabloid. Tabloids are newspapers that publish entertainment stories that are often exaggerated or untrue, usually about celebrities. The prince sued a tabloid publisher for hacking his cell phone between 2004 and 2009. Prince Harry has said that the way tabloid reporters harassed him and intruded on his life was a major reason why he and his wife, American celebrity Meghan Markle, left Britain in 2020. The judge in the case sided with the prince and the media company will have to pay a fine to Harry as a result. Think about why some ways of gathering information aren't allowed because it's an invasion of privacy, or it takes away from a person's right to be away from public attention. Why do you think privacy is important to protect? Write down some of your ideas and share them with your classmates.

4. SELF-DRIVING SAFETY

Self-driving cars might seem like something out of a cartoon set in the future, but they are a reality for some—and they're being looked at closely by safety officials in the US. Car company Tesla, which is famous for making self-driving cars and electric cars, now has to fix 2 million of its cars. Tesla cars have a feature called Autopilot that allows the car to steer, speed up, and brake by itself. Officials in the US now want Tesla to do more to make sure that drivers are still paying attention to the road while this feature is on. As a result, Tesla is wirelessly updating its cars to have alerts that tell drivers to keep their hands on the wheel and keep their eyes on the road. Using the facts you read here, write a summary of this story.

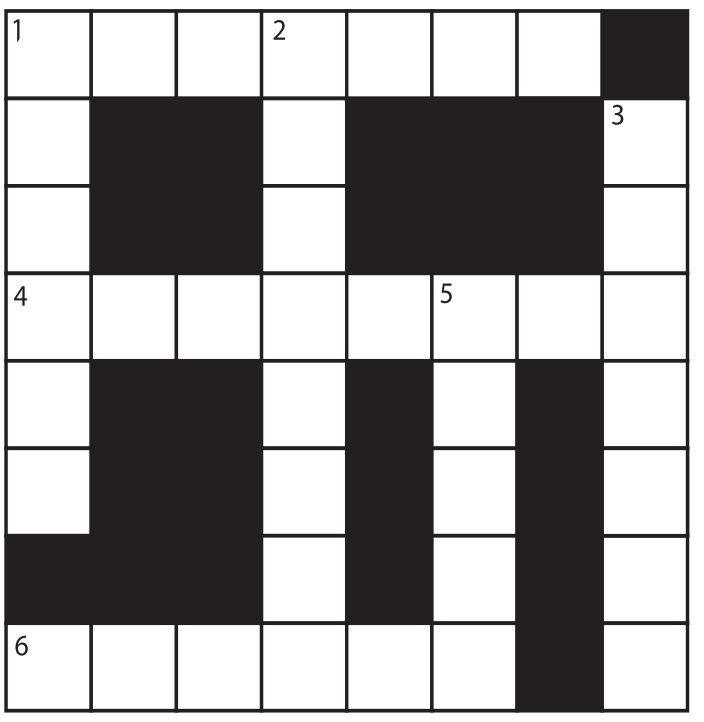
5. CHRISTMAS TREE SURPRISE

A family in Kentucky got a live Christmas tree this year and found there was something extra hiding between the branches. A baby owl was living in the tree and was found by a carpet cleaner who was doing work in the family's home four days after they brought the tree in. The owl was released into the family's backyard. It's not the first time an owl has been rescued from a Christmas tree: In 2020, a tiny owl now nicknamed Rocky was found in the famous Rockefeller Center Christmas tree and taken to a wildlife sanctuary. Write your own story about a Christmas owl living in a festive tree!

THE 'RIGHTING REFLEX' IS A BALANCING SYSTEM THAT THIS ANIMAL HAS THAT ENABLES IT TO LAND THE RIGHT WAY UP.

ANSWER: CAT

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS
1. Afraid
4. One who mimics
6. Jump on

DOWN
1. Cat
2. Hold back
3. Vibrating sound
5. Test flavor

Answers:
Across
1. Fearful 4. Imitator 6. Pounce
Down
1. Feline 2. Restrain 3. Purring 5. Taste

THIS DAY IN... HISTORY

- **1946:** "IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE" PREMIERES TO MIXED REVIEWS AT THE GLOBE THEATRE IN NEW YORK.
- **1951:** THE EBR-1 IN ARCO, IDAHO, IS THE FIRST NUCLEAR POWER PLANT TO GENERATE ELECTRICITY.
- **1985:** POPE JOHN PAUL II ANNOUNCES THE INSTITUTION OF WORLD YOUTH DAY.

New Word

HAIRBALL

a ball of hair that collects in an animal's stomach

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Arch

SPANISH: Arco

ITALIAN: Arco

FRENCH: Arche

GERMAN: Bogen

Did You Know?

DESPITE CATS APPEARING TO BE LONERS WHO REQUIRE LITTLE INTERACTION WITH THEIR OWNERS, THEY STILL NEED VETERINARY CARE.

GET THE PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: CAT'S FACE

WINTER WONDERS WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

BLANKET
BLIZZARD
BRISK
BUNDLE
DOWNHILL
FROZEN
HAZARD
HEAVY
ICECAP
ICE SKATING
LAKE
MITTENS
MOUNTAIN
NOR'EASTER
PARKA
SCARF
SKIING
SLED
SLIPPERY
SNOWMAN
TEMPERATURE
WINTRY
WOODBURNING
WOOLEN

CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS
1. Droops
5. Subatomic particle
10. Not in danger
14. Nursemaid
15. Black band worn in mourning
16. Long song in opera
17. Edible seed of a Philippine tree
18. Chicago political family
19. Pursues pleasure from one place to another
20. Appetizer
22. Hill (Celtic)
23. Simple shoe
24. Songs to one you love
27. Secret activities
30. Upset
31. Popular hot drink
32. Body art (slang)
35. Fired
37. Blood relation
38. Identical
39. Porticos
40. Partner to cheese
41. Type of sword
42. Enough (archaic)
43. Surface layer of ground
44. Cotton fabric woven like satin
45. Choose for a post
46. Father
47. Tell on
48. Indian title of respect
49. Fonts
52. Fencing sword
55. Mock
56. Vaccine developer
60. Atmosphere surrounding a person or place
61. Marten with a short tail
63. Chinese temple
64. Invests in little enterprises
65. Popular cut of meat
66. Charity
67. Iron-containing compound
68. River in Northern Europe
69. One point east of southeast

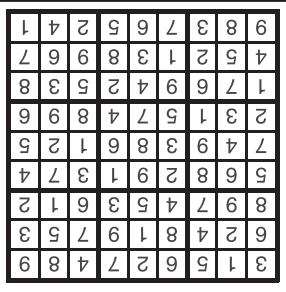
CLUES DOWN
1. Exhausts
2. Genus of fish related to gars
3. Impudent behavior
4. Adherents to Islam
5. They come after A
6. Spoke
7. Room to receive guests
8. About opera
9. End-blown flute
10. Heroic tales
11. Member of a Semitic people
12. Dog's name
13. Opposite of west
21. Political divisions in ancient Greece
23. Ocean
25. Cool!
26. Young woman about to enter society
27. One from central Caucasus
28. Indian city
29. A way to serve ice cream
32. Emaciation
33. Escort aircraft carrier
34. Italian city
36. Mythical settler of Kansas
37. Unhappy
38. High schoolers' test
40. Measured in pace
41. Satisfies
43. Gullible person
44. Enclosed space
46. Substance used to color something
47. Shirt type
49. Discover by investigation
50. __-Castell, makers of pens
51. Semitic Sun god
52. Grads wear one
53. French river
54. Part of a cap
57. Digestive fluid
58. Metrical foot
59. Body part
61. Very fast airplane
62. Supplement with difficulty

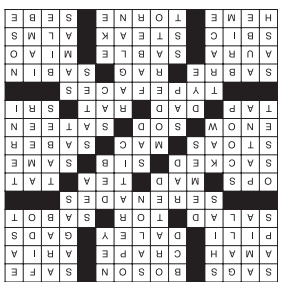
1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	8	9	■	10	11	12	13
14				■	15					■	16			
17				■	18					■	19			
20				21	■	22			■	23				
■	■	■	24		25				26			■	■	■
27	28	29	■	30			■	31			■	32	33	34
35			36			■	37			■	38			
39					■	40			■	41				
42				■	43			■	44					
45			■	46			■	47			■	48		
■	■	■	49				50				51	■	■	■
52	53	54			■	55			■	56		57	58	59
60				■	61				62	■	63			
64				■	65					■	66			
67				■	68					■	69			

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to entertaining.

T F E B U F





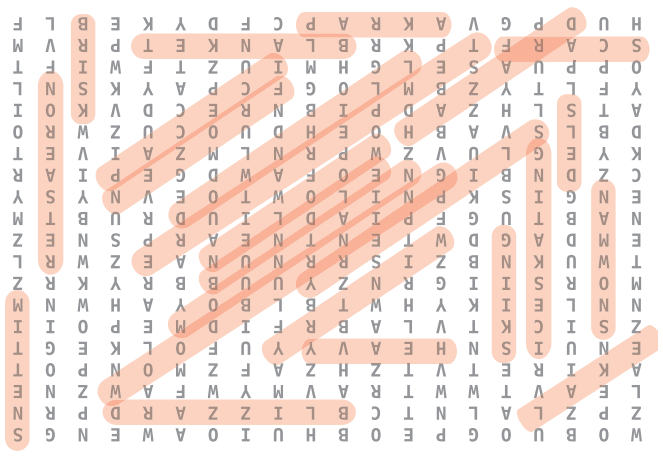
3					7			
6	2				9	7		
	9		4				1	
		8	2					
	4				6	1	2	
		1		7			9	
1	7				2	5	3	
	5		1	3			6	
				6	5	2	4	1

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 a magician and escape artist born in New York on December 19, 1967. Despite objections from my parents, I chose being a professional magician over going to college. I broke the record for being on TV more hours than any other magician.

Answer: Buffet *Answer: Criss Angel*



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Dec. 14, 21, 2023

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The Wakulla County Property Appraiser Office is seeking qualified applicants for a full-time Field Appraiser I. See www.mywakulla.com for position responsibilities and qualifications.

Salary will range from $30K-$40K commensurate with experience. To apply, send a Wakulla County employment application to Human Resources via e-mail to HumanResources@mywakulla.com. Veteran's preference will be given to qualified applicants. Wakulla County is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Advertisement will remain open until position is filled.

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
LORIDA BAR NO. 0496871
Robertslawfirmservice@gmail.com

Dec. 14, 21, 2023

WAYNE
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John and Colleen

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SCAN ME for an electronic edition of The Wakulla Sun

WAKULLA HIGH WRESTLING

War Eagles soar over tornadoes

By WALT JACOBS
Special to The Sun

Eagles are made for soaring. With a wingspan of over seven feet, an eagle can rise to realms rarely reached and ascend to heights the earthbound can only dream of. When storms develop, instead of taking shelter as others do, the eagle flies into the storm, using the intense winds to rise above it.

On December 12th, the Bay High Tornadoes blew into town for a wrestling dual. The War Eagles did what eagles do. They soared. Wakulla began the dual with a pin by freshman Caleb Thompson. Before the night was over, Wakulla had nine pins, one tech fall, and two wins by forfeit, bringing the final score to 71-12.

Coach Will Pafford commented, "The Bay dual was awesome, with the kids wrestling very well in all three areas. It was great seeing all the past alumni. We had over 25 former wrestlers in the stands."

Results of the Bay Dual:

106: Brady Wilson (Wak) p. Uriah Collier (0:28); 113: Matthew Thaxton (Wak) p. Caleb Spikes (0:19); 120 Caleb Thompson (Wak) p. Aiden Davis (1:10) 126: Zachari Wardrup (Wak) p. Devin Vasquez (4:16); 132: Bricyn Kennedy (Wak) p. Camdyn Havel (0:59); 138: David Culley (Wak) p. Jaylen Bennett (5:59); 144: David Drake (Bay) p. Aaron Robinson (5:26); 150: Brady Jackson (Wak) tf. Kristian Rodriguez (20-5; 3:32); 157: Nate Jacobs (Wak) p. Deven Bradshaw (2:57); 165: Kane Watford (Wak) fft.; 175: Shaun Sandidge (Bay) p. Nathan Braverman (3:29); 190: Noah Vernon (Wak) fft.; 215: Kohl Pippin (Wak) p. Ethan Needham (1:28); 285: Aaron Caquimbo (Wak) p. James Branch (1:08) Exhibition: Bella Vernon (Wak) p. Bay (4:50); McKenna Bettis (Wak) p. Bay (1:35)

The following day, Wakulla traveled to Orange Park for the Raider Duals. There, the War Eagle's continued their dominance by going 5-0 on the day. While every Wakulla wrestler excelled, one of the highlights of the contest was freshman Matthew Thaxton. Thaxton pinned Westside's Jacob Jackson who is currently ranked #20 in Class 2A. Coach Pafford remarked, "The Raider Duals was awesome. We got our first tournament win of the season in dominant fashion."

Results of the Raider Duals:

Wakulla v Menedez 63-18; Wakulla v Orange Park 65-12; Wakulla v Gainesville 77-0; Wakulla v Florida School of the Deaf and Blind 66-18; Wakulla v Westside 66-12

Next, the War Eagle's travel to Ft. Walton Beach on Dec. 22nd to compete in The Beast of the Beach.

Gift from the North Pole assists 300 people at event

Story & Photos By
LINDA ANN McDONALD
Correspondent

Wakulla Giving Hands partnered with the Less Fortunate Still Matters Foundation and Mack's Country Meats to provide A Gift from The North Pole to families in Wakulla County on Saturday, Dec. 16, at the Wakulla Senior Citizens Center.

A Gift from The North Pole included toys and books for children, clothes and personal hygiene items as well as music, dancing, popcorn, and snocones were also included for approximately 300 people who did not let the weekend's bad weather hinder their holiday fun.

The Less Fortunate Matters is an organization servicing Leon, Gadsden, and Taylor counties.

John L. Lewis, of Wakulla Giving Hands, said, "This is a great event to volunteer, it is the smiles and the joy of the people during the holidays that makes it so great; I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas."

Also visiting the event was Santa, the Grinch and Olaf from the movie "Frozen." Wakulla's DJ Butch provided music and created a dance off contest between Olaf and the Grinch for the enjoyment of the crowd. Popcorn was provided by All Fun and Games.

Lov-lee, Giovanni and Winter Hardin with Olaf from Frozen.

Quinton McQueen volunteered at the event with his son Jakoda McQueen and said, "I feel a sense of peace because of the joy in my heart to see all the children happy. It shows Wakulla has a lot of connections and the love that is being shown today is the love of giving back to the Community."

Darren Wood said, "The turnout is good, we are trying our best to help everybody. We want the kids to have something they necessarily would not of received on Christmas, something to make them smile because that is what Christmas is all about. Showing the children how the County cares is also an example to them to give and help and volunteer to help those in need."

Casey Kimbrell, Director of Wakulla Giving Hands said, "Thank you to all of Wakulla and the businesses of Wakulla and to all who volunteered their services and made this holiday extra bright and to make the smiles of children and adults possible." She added: "Everyone is Wakulla is so generous, it feels very warm to help all the families that need help; you can't do this event all by yourself. If it was not for the community coming together to donate their time and effort, it could never be possible. Clothes came from everywhere, it took hours to complete the task of clothes, we had 400-500 bags of clothes, and we were slammed with toys, Wakulla showed up and showed out for sure."

The even was scheduled to be held at the Wakulla County Rec Park but due to inclement weather, it was moved to the Wakulla County Senior Citizens Center.

Lara Edwards, Director of the Center said, "We are glad to open our doors and help with the event indoors; it is great thing to help children and anyone in Wakulla County in need."

Clothes giveaway: Kelsey Fruggiero, Nikyla Fruggiero, Dorothy Cardin and Miley Cardin.

Volunteers with popcorn from All Fun and Games Vironshay Walker and Zaniyah Gavin.

Braxton Stewart and Allen Gonseth.

Julianna, Aubrey, Brian and Brandy Ledford with a new bike.

Opening on Code Enforcement Board

Special to The Sun

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

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

These positions will be for two alternate members. The membership of the Code Enforcement Board shall be residents of the County; and, whenever possible, consist of an architect, a business person, an engineer, a general contractor, a subcontractor, a realtor, and another citizen. The alternate members would have the responsibility of being present, when called upon, at Code Enforcement meetings beginning in 2024. These meetings typically occur on the fourth Tuesday of every other month at 5:30 p.m.

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

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Big Bend Hospice Tree Of Remembrance Service at Family Funeral

Family Funeral Home held a Tree of Remembrance Service on Thursday, Dec. 14 at Harvey-Young Chapel. A number of different performers sang Christmas carols, including Laura Hudson; Kathy Lawhon and friends from Crawfordville First Baptist; Lori White from River of Life; Brody Castle from Lake Ellen Baptist; Pastor B.B. Barwick and friends from Panacea Full Gospel; and the event was closed out by Tom Roberts, Kimberly Crum and Katie Taff. (Photos by William Snowden)

B.B. Barwick and friends from Panacea Full Gospel sing Christmas carols.

Brody Castle of River of Life on the piano.

Kimberly Crum, Katie Taff and Tom Roberts perform at the Harvey-Young Chapel on Thursday.

Gingerbread House contest donation to Operation Santa

Entries in the gingerbread house contest at Capital City Bank lead to a donation of $300 to Operation Santa. On Monday, Mary Wallace of Capital City Home Loan presented a check to Denise Colangelo of Operation Santa along with Heather Ryback of Ryback Realty. Eleven businesses participated, including Wakulla Springs Lodge, Zaxbys, Donkeys, Assini's, Sign Gypsys, Barns Spirits, Rybak Realty, and Capital City Home Loan. The winner for 2023 was Waypoint Realty with a beach-themed gingerbread house. (Photo by Legion Taylor)

Holiday Gift & Shopping Guide
Shop Local Wakulla
SHOP SMALL

Did you know?
When you shop with local merchants more of your money stays closer to home; supporting your local parks, recreation centers, libraries and other things that make this community a great place to live. Shopping local can stimulate and help restore a poor economy!

Local ownership means that important decisions are made locally by people who live in the community and who will feel the impacts of those decisions.

Your dollars spent in locally owned businesses have three times the impact on your community as dollars spent at national chains. When shopping locally, you simultaneously create jobs, fund more services through sales tax, invest in neighborhood improvement and promote community development. Locally owned businesses create more jobs locally and, in some sectors, provide better wages and benefits. Shop local and keep your local dollars circulating in your home town!

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Body Treatments
Gift Certificates
Gift Shopping Hours until December 22nd, 2023!
Mondays and Fridays from 4pm until 6pm and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30am until 1:30pm.
Come on in and check out our stuff!
Gifts, stocking stuffers, Himalayan Salt Lamps and Himalayan Salt Bath by Saltability, Simply Earth Essential Oils and Products, Tuel Skincare and Holiday Skin Care Packages, Candles, Diffusers, Soaps, Christmas Crafts.
MM43237

Section B

LETTERS TO Santa and holiday greetings

Here are some of the Letters to Santa received this year in the Courthouse mailbox. Thanks to Santa's elves for sharing.

Dear Santa

I would like a furby, and a puppy. play time stuff animal. Hockey pool table My own PHONE!

I've Been a really good girl this year

Lucille Johnson

Dear Santa Noah Fields

1 i Relly Need a Guitar Cord Bad
2 i Would Like a Micr Phone with
3 A Fountin Pen (well Dont ask)
4 Call of Duty Wwll
5 VR head set so i can talk to My Freinds
6 a Phone Just Because :)

Thank You!!

Dec. 1, 2023

Dear Santa Claus,

I have been outstanding. Every day I do my best at school. Would you please bring me a fingerling, watch, and a bitzee Digital pet? Sincerely, Harper

© Stephanie Trapp

Dear, Santa

I would like a iphone 13 and squishmallows and purses and a Blankets and shoes and fake nails and pandora bracelet and bracelets and fake rings.

Love

Alexis.R

Name: Roslyn Lee RAL Date:

LETTER TO SANTA

Dear Santa,

My name is Roslyn Lee I am 7 years old I have been a Litte mean and nice to till Ruby I love her so much.

1. Fire tablet
2. camera
3. slime
4. Barbie remote
5. Barbie 2 in 1 chelsea camper
6. Elmers all star kit
7. Mini verses
8. chelsea doll tiki hut
9. light up pop tubes
10. squishy peeled bananas

11. candy
- candy canes
2.
3.

Love, Roslyne Lee

thank You

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Santa

I would like a pink or purple tablet. and a paw patrol + dance game for PS4.

Melinda

4 years old

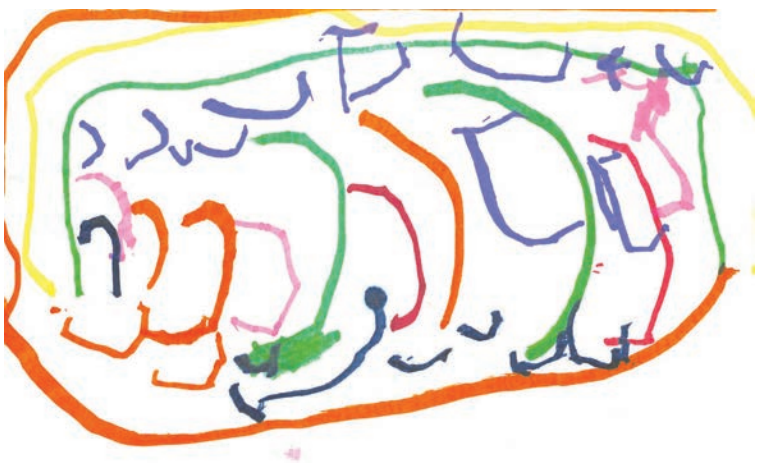
Dec 1, 2023

Dear Santa Claus,

I have been amazing. Why you ask well I helped my friend Isreal he is the best Would you please bring me phone, a new back pack, and a new water battle?

Sincerely, Addy

© Stephanie Trapp



Dear Santa,

I think I have been really good this year So have my Sisters and my good friends. What I would Please like this year is the 12 Pack of Posca Markers. And also a wall art Collage Kit with flowers or lots of colors on it please.

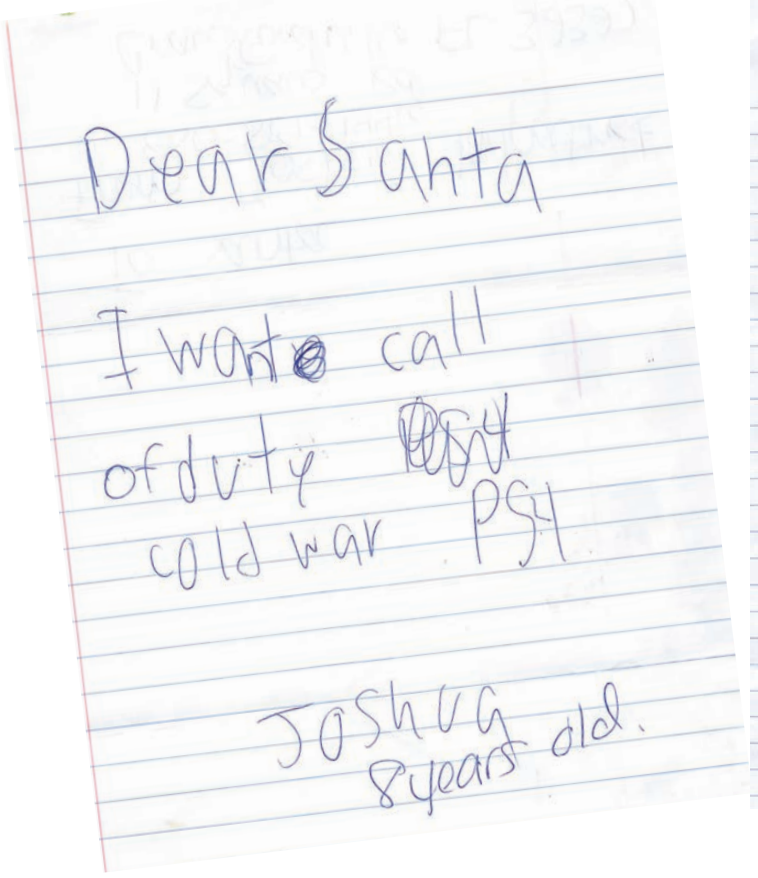
Thank you

P.S (make sure the elves come and ginger-bread man)

Please write back

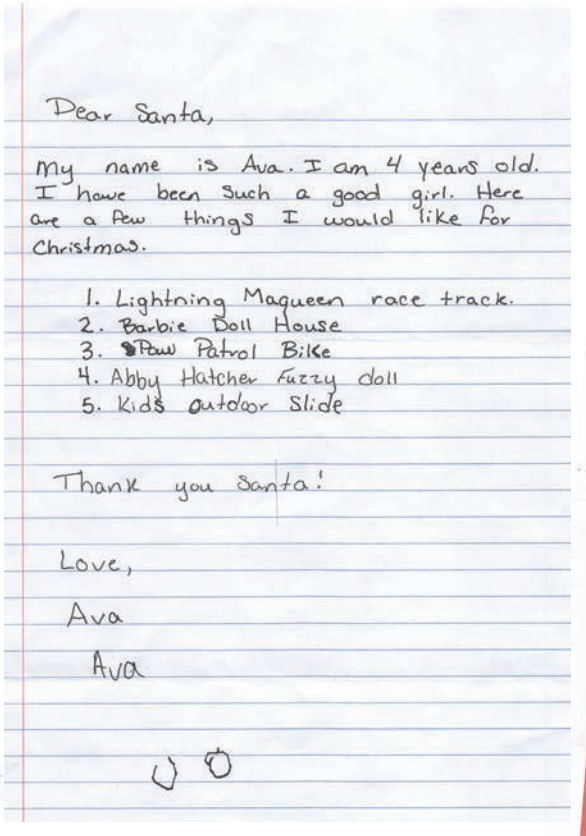
from

-Makena


Dear Santa

I want call of duty cold war PS4

Joshua 8 years old.


Dear Santa,

My name is Ava. I am 4 years old. I have been such a good girl. Here are a few things I would like for Christmas.

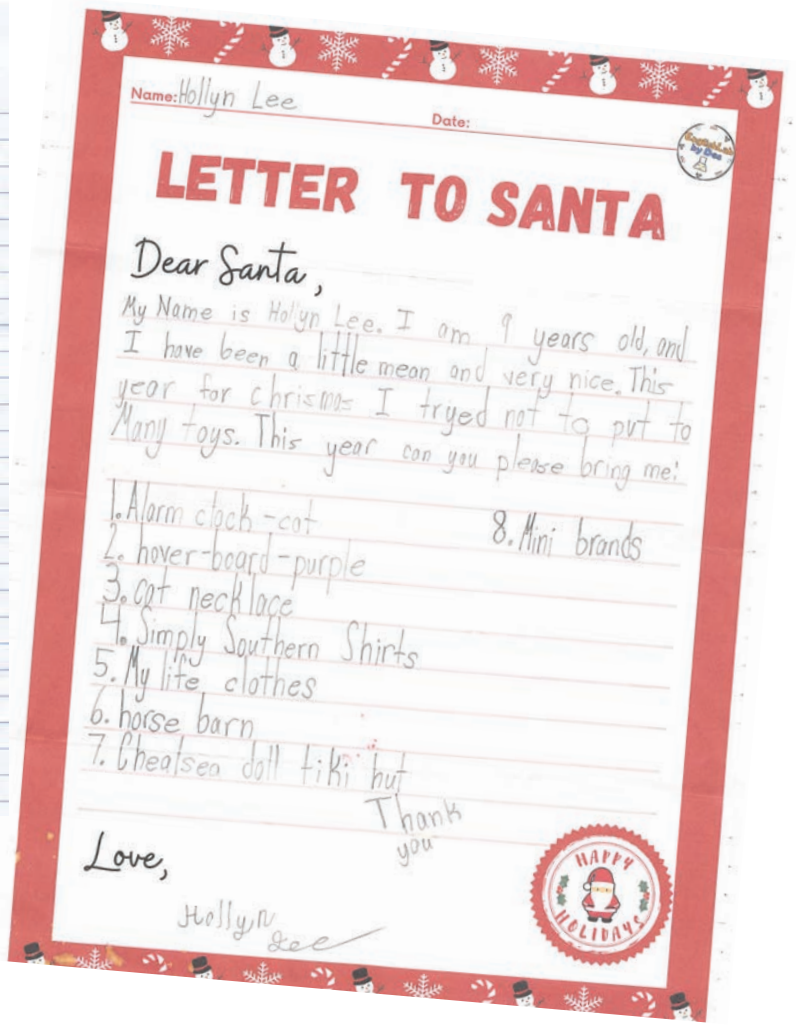
1. Lightning Magueen race track.
2. Barbie Doll House
3. Paw Patrol Bike
4. Abby Hatcher Fuzzy doll
5. Kids outdoor Slide

Thank you Santa!

Love,

Ava

Ava


Name: Hollyn Lee Date:

LETTER TO SANTA

Dear Santa,

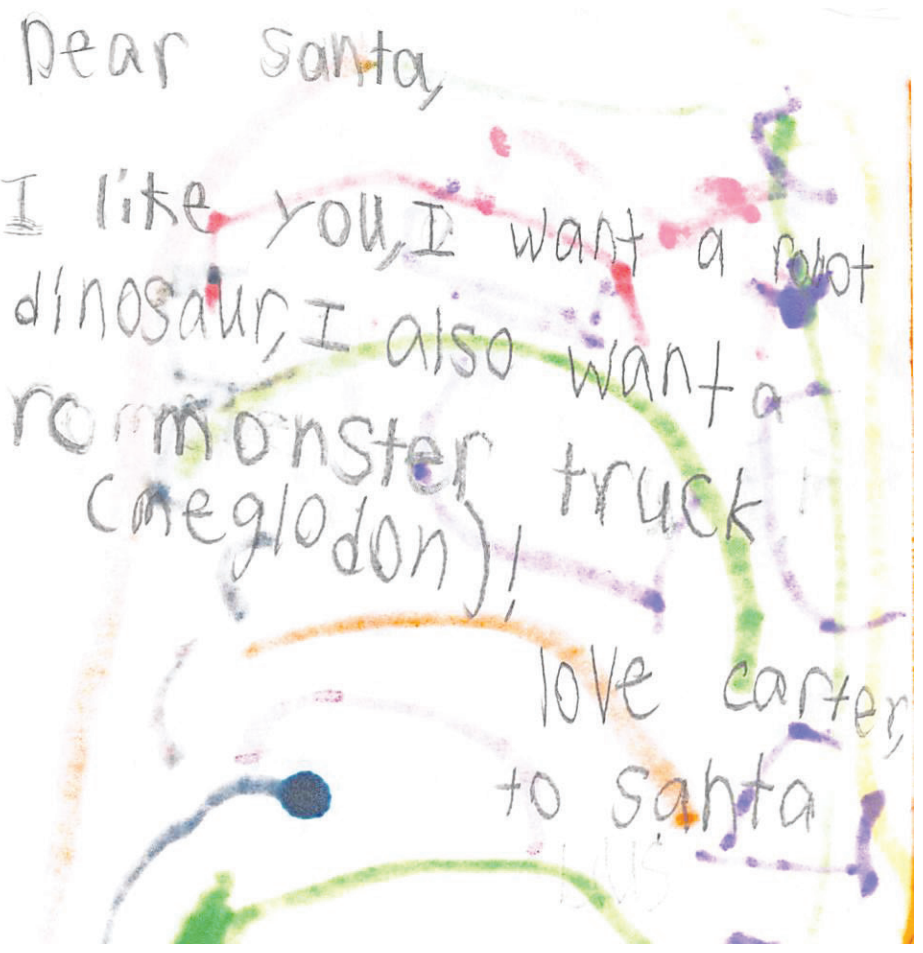
My Name is Hollyn Lee. I am 9 years old, and I have been a little mean and very nice. This year for christmas I tryed not to put to Many toys. This year can you please bring me:

1. Alarm clock - cat
2. hover-board - purple
3. cat necklace
4. Simply Southern Shirts
5. My lite clothes
6. horse barn
7. Cheatsea doll Tiki hut
8. Mini brands

Thank you

Love,

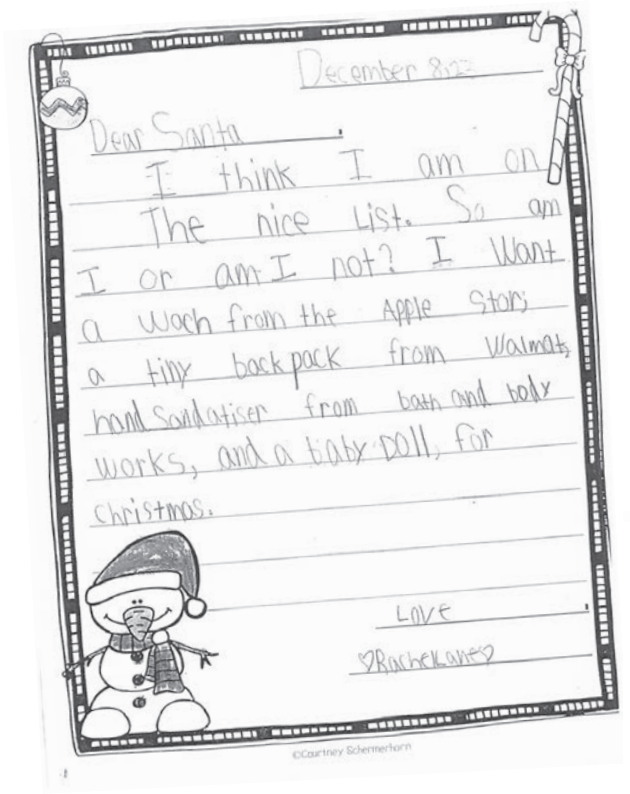
Hollyn Lee


Dear Santa,

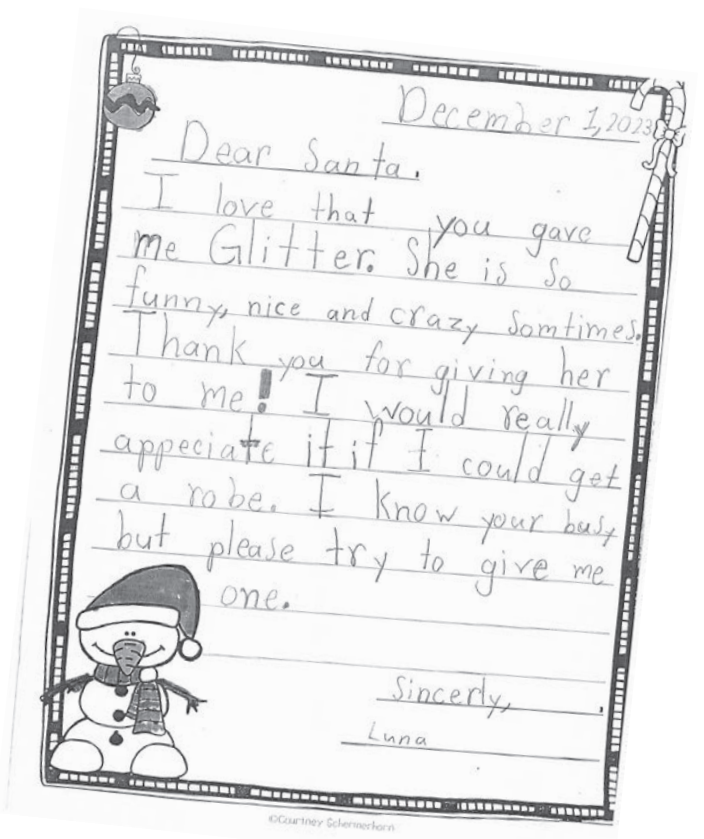
I like you, I want a robot dinosaur, I also want a rommonster truck (megalodon)!

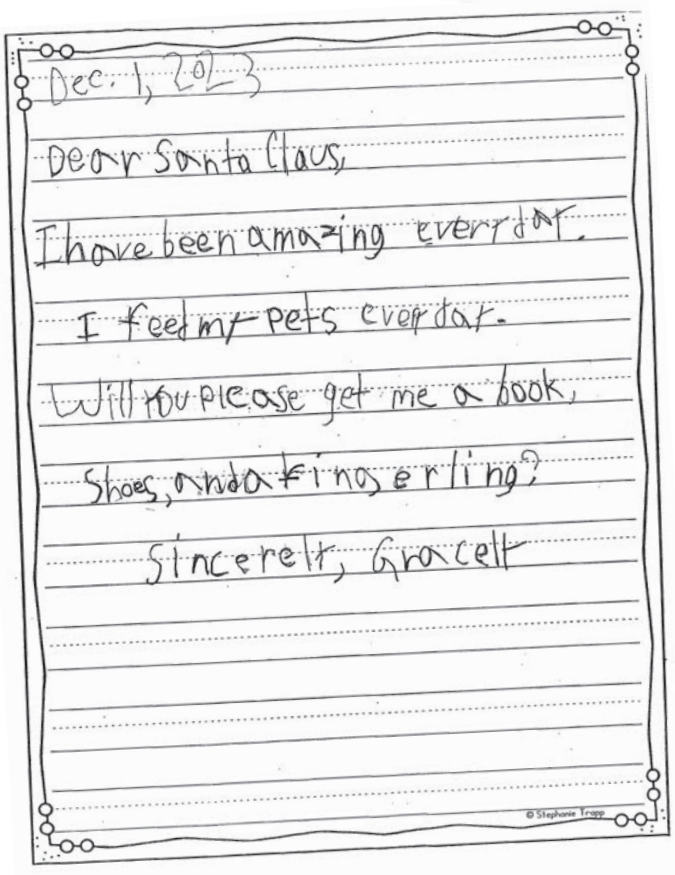
love carter

to santa


December 8th
Dear Santa,
I think I am on The nice List. So am I or am I not? I Want a Watch from the Apple Store, a tiny backpack from Walmart, hand Sanitizer from bath and body works, and a baby doll, for Christmas.
Love,
♡Rachel Jones♡
©Courtney Schermerhorn

DEAR SANTA,
My name is NYomi.
I am 7 years old
This year I have been
Naughty Nice
(I can explain)
For Christmas I would like:
1. Robot
2. Baby Alive
3. Panda Robot
4. Craft
5. Pretend Kitchen Stuff
Thank you Santa!
From NYomi.
Homemade CRAFTYMADEEASY


December 1, 2023
Dear Santa,
I love that you gave me Glitter. She is so funny, nice and crazy Somtimes. Thank you for giving her to me! I would really appeciate it if I could get a robe. I know your busy but please try to give me one.
Sincerly,
Luna
©Courtney Schermerhorn


Dec. 1, 2023
Dear Santa Claus,
I have been amazing everyday.
I feed my pets everyday.
Will you please get me a book,
Shoes, and a fingerling?
Sincerely, Gracelt
© Stephanie Trapp

Fixed For SANTA
SANTA
Repaired For Mrs. CLAUS
MRS CLAUS
RUDOLPH
Wrecked by RUDOLPH
We Wish You A Merry Christmas ... And A Happy New Year!
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SHOP Local THIS Christmas
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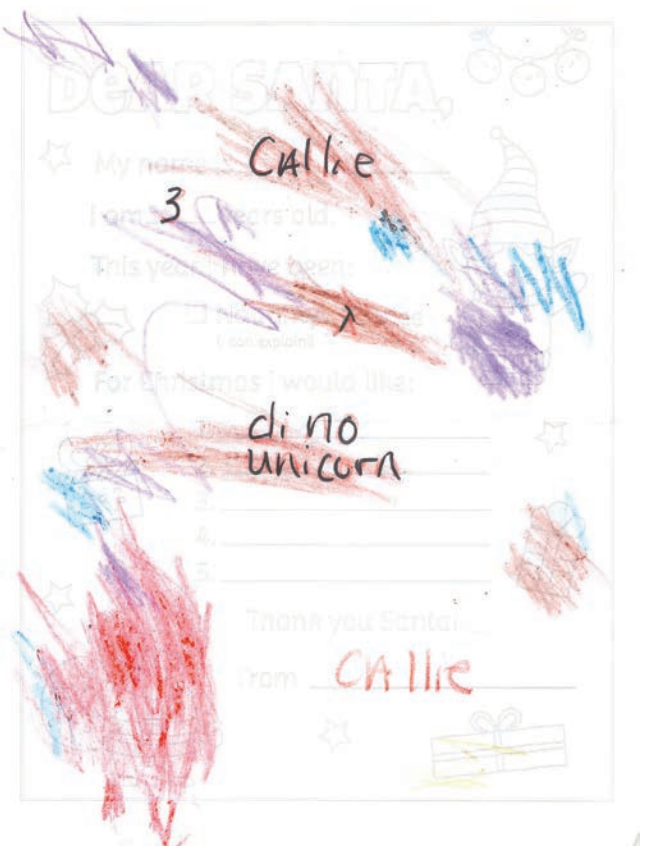
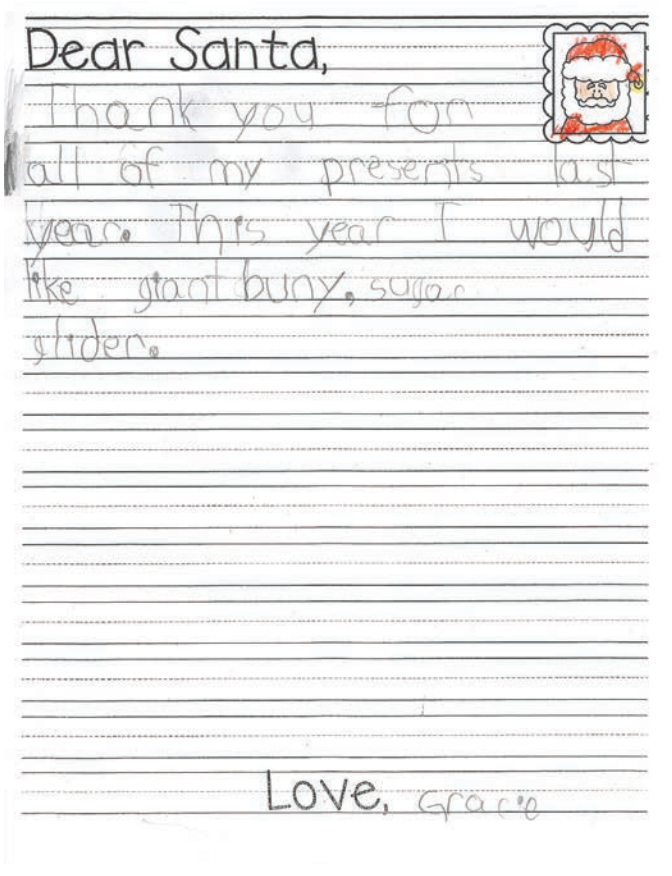
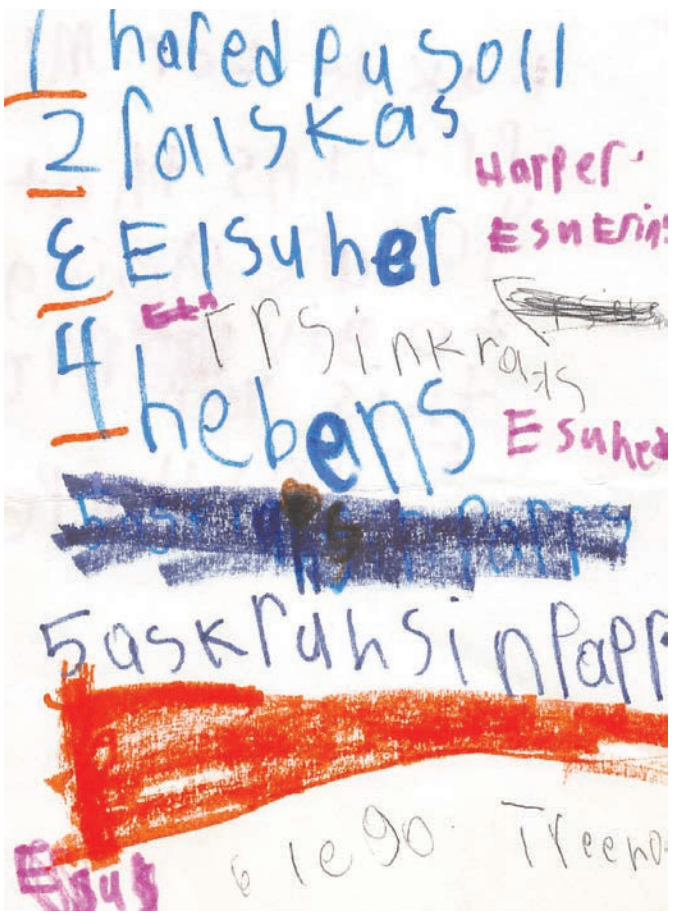
COAST CRAWFORDVILLE
Front Row Left to Right: Austin Camarena, Edward Wint, Lee Lewis, Joe Childs, Amanda Slayton, & Josh Lawhon
Back Row Left to Right: Anna Paul, Peyton Bishop, Merle Robb, Adam Gray, & Sarah King
3361 Crawfordville Hwy., Crawfordville 9850-926-5559 Mon.-Fri. 7AM-6PM • Sat. 7:30AM-5PM

Merry Christmas
and
Happy Holidays
from the Wakulla County School Board
Robert Pearce, Cale Langston, Melisa Taylor, Laura Lawhon,
Joshua Brown, Eddie Hand


DEAR SANTA,
Callie
3
dino
unicorn
Thank you Santa!
From Callie


Dear Santa,
Thank you for all of my presents last year. This year I would like giant bunny, sugar glider.
Love, Grace

Bonnie
THE LIFE COACH
MERRY
Christmas
Wishing Everyone a Joyful Holiday Season!
850-570-8271



Dear Santa,

For Christmas, I wish for:

- Chef dog Toy.
- Hatchamal Cat.
- Roller Skates
- Dog house with Kitchen
- Brand new scooter

I will be sure to leave out cookies and milk along with carrots for your reindeer.

Love,
HARPER

Dec 1, 2023

Dear Santa Claus,

I have been the best!

Every day I do my best at School. Would you please bring me a halo AlienRocket launcher, a cat plushie, and a Red Crab?

Sincerely, Oscar

Dear Santa,

I would like a Cry baby house, a minnie mouse purse, and a squish mellow.

I have been such a good girl.

Love,
Lohdon T.

Stan and the gang wish you a
Very Merry Christmas,
Happy New Year and God Bless

Thank You for 28 Years

We look forward to seeing you all soon!

Riverside Cafe ON THE RIVER
850 925-5668

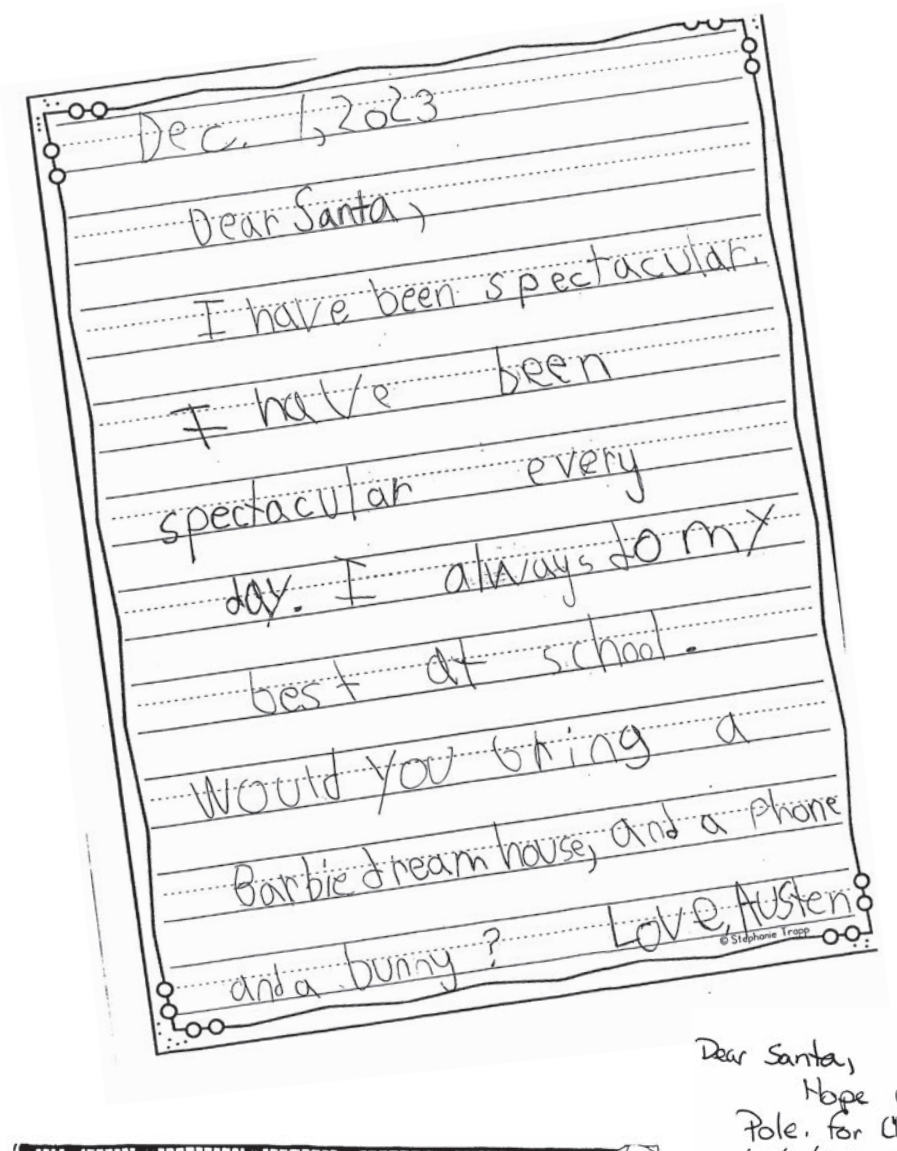
St. Marks
Any further south and you're all wet!

Come see us!
We'll be here during the holidays while you're on vacation.
Serving all your favorites from 11:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
(weather permitting)

Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year!

Lisa Craze and Staff
Wakulla County Tax Collector's Office

Lisa Craze, CFC
Wakulla County Tax Collector


Dec. 1, 2023

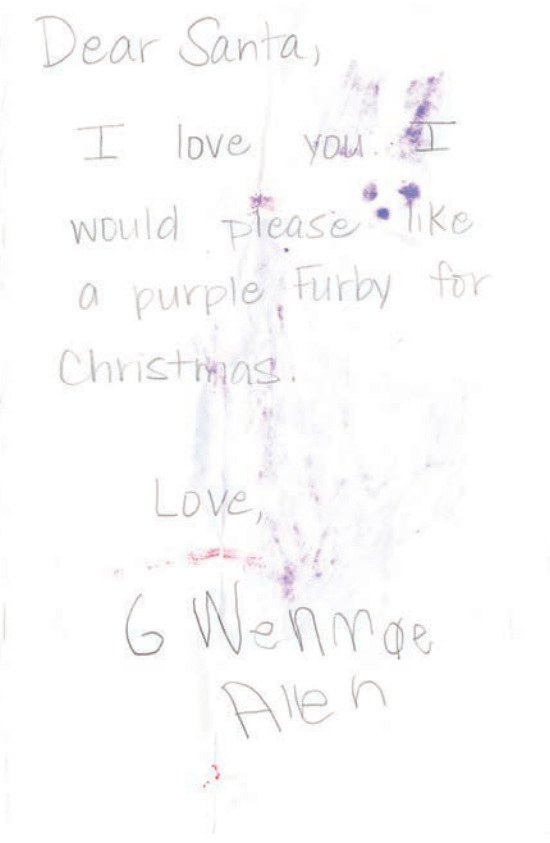
Dear Santa,

I have been spectacular. I have been spectacular every day. I always do my best at school.

Would you bring a Barbie dream house, and a phone and a bunny?

Love, Austen

©Stephanie Trapp

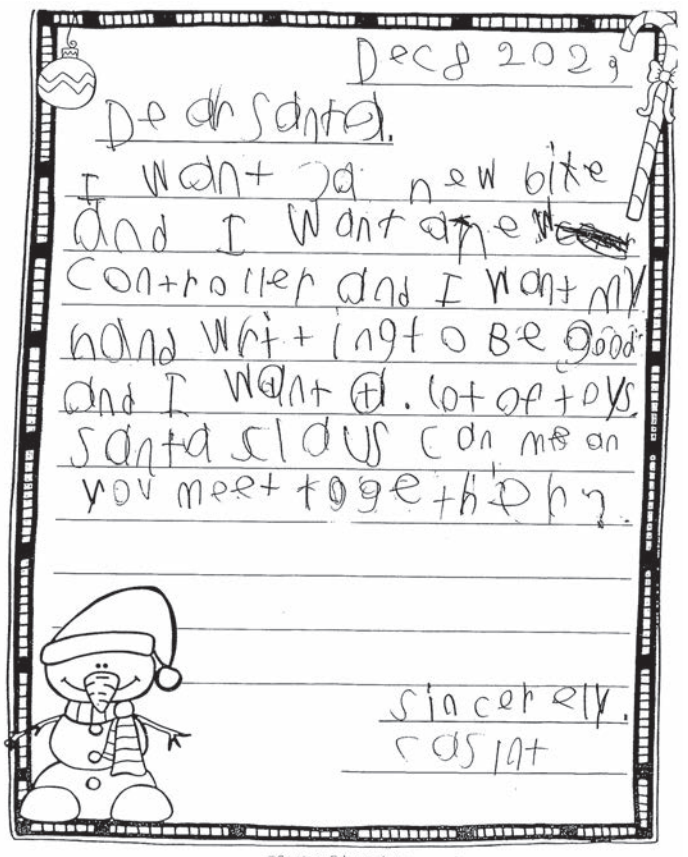

Dear Santa,

I love you. I would please like a purple Furby for Christmas.

Love,

6 Wenmoe

Allen


Dec 8 2023

Dear santa.

I want a new bike and I want a new controller and I want my hand writing to be good and I want a lot of toys. santa claus can we an you meet together?

Sincerely,

Kaylat

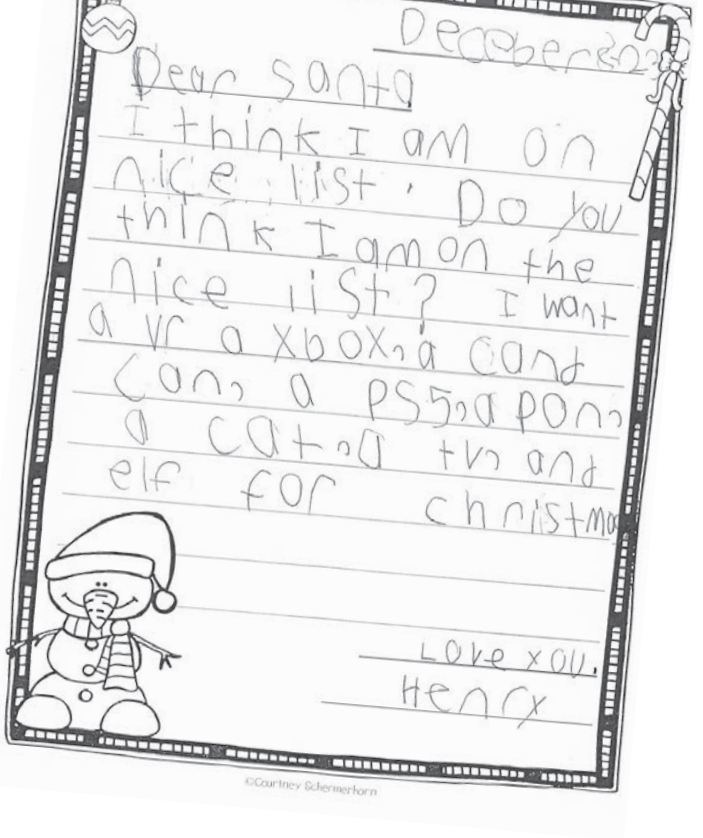
©Courtney Schermerhorn

Dear Santa,

Hope you are well in the North Pole. for Christmas I would like a Princess doll house, a princess nail polish kit and a playdough ice cream steand. Please say hito Rudolph and give him a kiss for me

love,

Elizabeth


December 20

Dear santa

I think I am on nice list. Do you think I am on the nice list? I want a vr a xbox a card con a ps5 a pon a cat a tv and elf for christmas

Love you.

Henry

©Courtney Schermerhorn

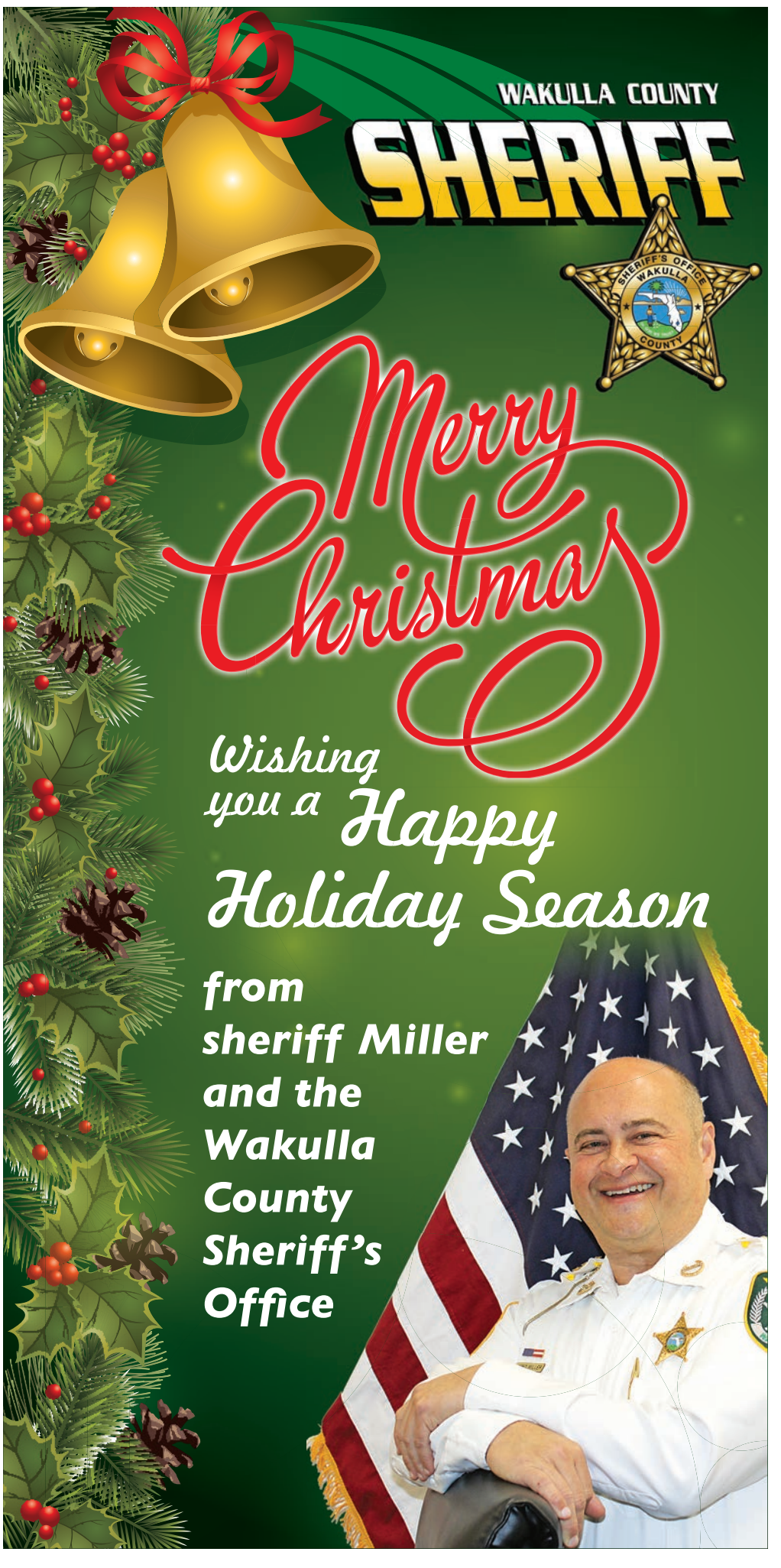
Dear Santa,

This year I'd like...

- Robot
- Pet (turtle)
- transformer
- Christmas hat
- cool car (you know what i like)
- peppa pig boat
- pet shark
- ninja turtles costume

I have been a good, sweet, boy! Sometimes it's hard because I'm only 2! Thanks Santa!

Austin Jansson



Jesus is the Reason for the season!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Mike's Feed Store Family!

Thank you for your friendship and support.

Our current store address is 28 McCallister Road 850-926-4677
www.mikesfeedstore.com / Find us on facebook / twitter / instagram
facebook.com/mikesfeeds • twitter.com/mikesfeedstore • instagram.com/mikesfeedstore

Thanx for supporting your locally owned and operated business

Merry Christmas

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2219 Crawfordville Hwy., Crawfordville, FL 32327

wakulla SIGN company
wishes you a very
Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year!

SCAN ME for electronic editions of The Wakulla Sun

To All A Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year!

Wishing you the gift of love, the gift of peace and the gift of happiness during this time of Celebration

WAKULLA COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS OFFICE

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Family

Funeral Home & Cremation Services
At Harvey-Young Chapel

Thank you for your confidence and trust.

Merry Christmas!

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSOURI SYNOD

SUNDAY SERVICE... 10:17a.m.
MID WEEK ADVENT SERVICE
7:00p.m. Dec. 6, 13 & Dec. 20
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDELIGHT SERVICE
Dec. 24 - 7:00p.m.

850-926-7808 • 3254 Coastal Hwy., Crawfordville
In Medart Across from Wakulla High School

MERRY Christmas AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

From your Wakulla County Constitutional Officers

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Your local source for news.

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The Wakulla Sun

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CRAWFORDVILLE, FL 32327

Merry CHRISTMAS
and Happy New Year!

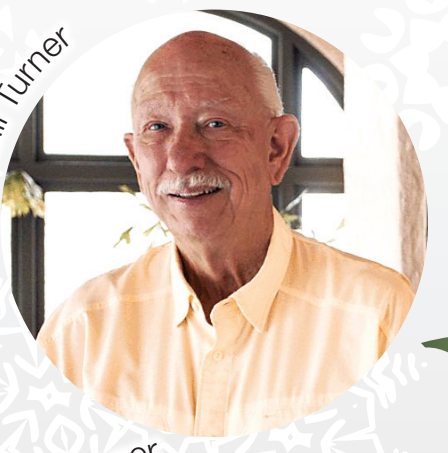
Lynn Cole - Broker

David Hoover

Jared Parramore

Christine Marlow

Jane Robinson

Bill Turner


Karen Ward

Sherri Parsons

Lisa Council

Lydia Wessinger

Kelsey Short

Jenny Petrandis

Mariah Elliott