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Chris Savary

Hes been the 'Voice of the War Eagles' for the past 10 years

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

Chris Savary loves football – especially Wakulla War Eagle football. And his enthusiasm is on full display during his weekly radio broadcasts of the Wakulla football games.

Savary has been the "Voice of the War Eagles" since the 2013 season. He does the play-by-play on the Friday night games and partner Craig Revell does the color analysis on WAVE 94.1.

The two have a love of Wakulla football that goes back to their high school days at Wakulla – Revell was quarterback, Savary was an offensive lineman. Their senior year, 1993-94, the War Eagles under



Chris Savary at the press box at J.D. Jones Stadium.

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Small newspaper preview images with headlines: Robyn Hurst remembered, Hertz, Looney to return for retrial, St. Marks to raise sewer rates 75% on residents, Charter review discusses spring protection

Small newspaper preview images with headlines: Auditions for Musical GREASE, Brad Harvey pleads to charges, Two drownings in separate incidents on July 4th

Small newspaper preview images with headlines: Election suit over after 3 years, Fired Chiles coach may join War Eagle coaching staff

Brad Harvey pleads to charges

The former property appraiser is charged with embezzling money from the office; he will be sentenced in September



Brad Harvey

Election suit over after 3 years

Appeals court rules for Ed Brimmer in lawsuit over 2020 property appraiser in which Cady Sparkman lost by 3 votes



Ed Brimmer

St. Marks to raise sewer rates 75% on residents

By WILLIAM BROWDER Editor. Members of their community that they are facing financial difficulties...

Two drownings in separate incidents on July 4th

A man died while scuba diving a child drowned in a home pool



Kevin Pettis

Fired Chiles coach may join War Eagle coaching staff

Kevin Pettis, who was recently fired as head coach of the War Eagle football team...

Prepare for hurricane season with your pets

By **JOANN SANDERS**

Hurricanes pose a real threat for Wakulla County during the six-month long Atlantic hurricane season, which runs from June 1 until November 30. Just last month, Hurricane Idalia made history by being the first major storm to track through Apalachee Bay. Anxiety was high as she spun toward Wakulla's coastline before finally veering east and making landfall near Keaton Beach as a Category 3 storm. Idalia came way too close for comfort and was a timely reminder for us all to make sure we're ready for such a major natural disaster. If you haven't done so al-

ready, now is the time to make an emergency plan for your family. And because pets are family too, you should always include them in your plans!

Job No. 1 is making sure your pets are microchipped and/or wearing a collar with ID tags. When pets have the proper identification, it is a simple matter for anyone who finds them to contact you.

If you have to evacuate your home, **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR ANIMALS BEHIND.**

According to floridadisaster.org, it is unlikely your pets would survive on their own, and if by some chance they do, you may not be able to find



them when you return.

Remember, finding shelter for your pets in the midst of a disaster will prove to be difficult, if not impossible, so it is imperative that you plan ahead.

Indeed, "the time to repair the roof is when the

sun is shining."

Do not wait until a storm is knocking at your door to make preparations. Animal shelters will be overburdened caring for the animals they already have, so call ahead to find pet-friendly hotels or boarding facilities.

You can also check with friends and relatives who live outside the danger zone to see if they may be able to offer refuge until the storm passes.

If at all possible, it is best for pets to stay with their families during

an evacuation event, so make sure you have enough supplies on hand to care for them for at least two weeks. Your pet disaster supply kit should include:

- Medications and medical records (stored in a waterproof container) and a first aid kit.

- Leashes, harnesses, and/or carriers to transport pets safely and ensure that your animals cannot escape.

- A photo of you and your pet(s) – in the event you are separated from your pet, having an updated photo will help to prove ownership.

- Food, water, bowls, cat litter/pan, and can opener.

- Special toys and bedding, if you have room.

Keep in mind that just like you, your pets will feel the stress of an evacuation. Natural disasters are very disruptive and wreak havoc on familiar routines. Give lots of love and attention during this time, and exercise patience with them as they weather the storm with you.

For more information on disaster preparedness, please visit the website floridadisaster.org. Wakulla Animal Services can be reached at 850-926-0902.

Joann Sanders is a volunteer for Wakulla Animal Services.

Where will your retirement money come from?



By **BRIAN ENGLISH**

What workers anticipate in terms of retirement income sources may differ considerably from what retirees actually experience. For many people, retirement income may come from a variety of sources.

Here's a quick review of the six main sources:

SOCIAL SECURITY

Social Security is the government-administered retirement income program.

Workers become eligible after paying Social Security taxes for 10 years. Benefits are based on each worker's 35 highest earning years.

If there are fewer than 35 years of earnings, non-earning years are averaged in as zero.

In 2022, the average monthly benefit was estimated at \$1,625.12

PERSONAL SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS

Personal savings and investments outside of retirement plans can provide in-

come during retirement.

Retirees often prefer to go for investments that offer monthly guaranteed income over potential returns.

INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNT

Traditional IRAs have been around since 1974. Contributions you make to a traditional IRA may be fully or partially deductible, depending on your individual circumstances.

In most circumstances, once you reach age 73, you must begin taking required minimum distributions from a Traditional Individual Retirement Account (IRA).

Withdrawals from Traditional IRAs are taxed as ordinary income and, if taken before age 59½, may be subject to a 10% federal income tax penalty.

You may continue to contribute to a Traditional IRA past age 70½ as long as you meet the earned-income requirement.

Roth IRAs were created in 1997. Roth IRA contributions cannot be made by taxpayers with high incomes.

To qualify for the tax-free and penalty-free withdrawal of earnings, Roth IRA distributions must meet a five-year holding requirement and occur after age 59½.

Tax-free and pen-

alty-free withdrawals also can be taken under certain other circumstances, including as a result of the owner's death.

The original Roth IRA owner is not required to take minimum annual withdrawals.

DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLANS

Many workers are eligible to participate in a defined-contribution plan such as a 401(k), 403(b), or 457 plan.

Eligible workers can set aside a portion of their pre-tax income into an account, which then accumulates, tax-deferred.

In most circumstances, you must begin taking required minimum distributions from your 401(k) or other defined contribution plan in the year you turn 73.

Withdrawals from your 401(k) or other defined contribution plans are taxed as ordinary income, and if taken before age 59½, may be subject to a 10% federal income tax penalty.

DEFINED BENEFIT PLANS

Defined benefit plans are "traditional" pensions—employer-sponsored plans under which benefits, rather than contributions, are defined.

Benefits are normally based on factors

such as salary history and duration of employment.

The number of traditional pension plans has dropped dramatically during the past 30 years.³

CONTINUED EMPLOYMENT

In a recent survey, 71% of workers stated that they planned to keep working in retirement. In contrast, only 31% of retirees reported that continued employment was a major or minor source of retirement income.⁴

EXPECTED VS. ACTUAL SOURCES OF INCOME IN RETIREMENT

What workers anticipate in terms of retirement income sources may differ considerably from what retirees actually experience.

1. SSA.gov, 2022
2. AARP.org, June 8, 2021
3. Investopedia.com, July 18, 2022
4. EBRI.org, 2022

Brian can be reached at (850) 926-7487.

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Scalloping? Look for sharks



By **AL HARTMAN**
The Old Pro

Hope all is well with you. Looks like summer is hanging on at its best.

The fishing is still the same, go early or go late to fish the flats and shore line. Midday go up rivers and streams. Find a deep hole and drop a shrimp or grub and bounce it along the bottom. Some nice fish have been coming out of those holes.

Offshore, the deep colder waters are producing some good mixed variety. Grouper, seabass and trigger fish. The deeper holes you'll find Amberjack in numbers.

Don't look now but hunting season is cranking up. Dove first run starts Sept. 23 and runs till Oct. 15. Sept. 16 is Teal and Wood duck. It closes Sept. 20. Sept. 21 to 24 is Teal only. Go to MyFWC.com for bag limits and times. Rail season has already started along with Moorhens, and runs until Nov. 9. Canada goose first season started Sept. 2 and runs until Sept. 24.

We are so lucky with the hunting and fishing opportunities we have in Wakulla County. We have all sorts of freshwater fish and a wonderful bounty of game

to hunt. The deer herd continues to grow and with the regulations we have on them the Bucks are producing beautiful racks. The new regulations set a few years back increased the size limits on buck antlers and they produce larger racks.

I have had several great experiences hunting Wakulla management areas. One day I was hunting the St. Marks management area and I had to cross a narrow creek. It was just wide enough I couldn't step across it, and I didn't have waterproof boots, so I picked out a log a few feet away. I stepped on the log and it turned to be a moss covered gator about 8 feet long. What a surprise! And I got very wet, lol.

Thank goodness it didn't bother me as it scurried off.

Another time there I was with a friend during a bow hunt and we came across a rather large Boar hog. Well, my friend picked up a rock and threw it at the hog. It snorted and charged us. We quickly climbed a tree. He was about 350 to 400 pounds and didn't care for stones bouncing off him.

But the best part was he decided to take a nap at the bottom of the tree and kept us hanging on, very uncomfortably, for two hours before he decided to move on.

That's just a couple of things I think back on and I have so many more I'll share from time to time.

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PHOTO BY SAMANTHA KENNEDY, UF/IFAS WAKULLA COUNTY

A regular regimen of proper brushing, flossing, and rinsing can help keep teeth healthy and promote overall better health.

Healthy teeth, healthier body



By SAMANTHA KENNEDY

October is National Dental Hygiene Month. Maintaining good dental hygiene is not only essential for a bright smile but also for overall health. Poor oral health can lead to various dental issues, including cavities, gum disease, and even other health problems throughout the body. Fortunately, there are several simple yet effective ways to ensure your teeth and gums stay healthy.

The cornerstone of any effective dental hygiene routine is regular brushing. Dentists recommend brushing your teeth at least twice a day, ideally in the morning and before bedtime. Use a soft-bristle toothbrush and fluoride toothpaste to remove plaque, food particles, and bacteria from your teeth and gums. Brushing not only keeps your breath fresh but also prevents the buildup of harmful

plaque that can lead to cavities and gum disease.

Be sure to brush properly for the most benefit. Hold the toothbrush at a 45-degree angle to your gums and use gentle circular motions to clean all surfaces of your teeth. Do not forget to brush your tongue as well to remove bacteria that can cause bad breath.

While brushing is crucial, it cannot reach all the areas between your teeth and along the gumline. That is where flossing comes in. Dental floss helps remove trapped food particles and plaque from these hard-to-reach places. Make it a habit to floss at least once a day, ideally before bedtime. Use a gentle back-and-forth motion and be careful not to snap the floss against your gums, as this can cause injury.

If traditional flossing is challenging, consider using floss picks or interdental brushes, which can be more convenient and just as effective.

Mouthwash and antiseptic rinses can be valuable additions to your dental hygiene routine. These products can help kill bacteria, reduce plaque buildup, and fresh-

en your breath. Look for mouthwashes and rinses that contain fluoride for added protection against tooth decay.

Please keep in mind, however, that mouthwash is not an adequate substitute for proper brushing. It's essential to use these products as a complement to, not a replacement for, regular brushing and flossing. Rinses should be swished around your mouth for the recommended time on the label and then spit out. Avoid swallowing them, as they may contain ingredients that are not meant to be ingested.

What you eat can significantly impact your dental health. A diet rich in sugary and acidic foods can contribute to tooth decay and gum disease. Limit your consumption of candies, soda, and other sugary snacks, and opt for healthier alternatives like fruits, vegetables, and whole grains.

Calcium-rich foods like dairy products, leafy greens, and almonds can help strengthen your teeth. Drinking plenty of water throughout the day also aids in rinsing away food particles

and maintaining optimal saliva production, which is crucial for neutralizing acids and protecting your teeth.

Even with a diligent home dental care routine, regular visits to the dentist are crucial for maintaining good dental hygiene. Dentists can detect early signs of dental issues and provide professional cleanings to remove stubborn plaque and tartar. Aim to see the dentist at least every six months or as recommended by your oral healthcare provider. These visits can prevent minor issues from turning into major dental problems and ensure your smile stays healthy and bright.

Maintaining good dental hygiene is not a difficult task, but it requires consistency and diligence. A healthy smile goes beyond aesthetics; it is an essential part of overall well-being. So, make dental hygiene a priority in your daily routine, and enjoy the benefits of a beautiful and healthy smile for years to come.

For more information, please contact Samantha Kennedy at (850) 926-3931.

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Chris Savary

From Front Page

legendary coach J.D. Jones, made it back to the playoffs after a 10 year drought, but lost in the first round to Crestview.

Jones had won two state championships in the 1980s, and was inducted into the Florida High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame and the Florida Athletic Coaches Hall of Fame.

Savary says he remembers lessons learned from Coach Jones that he still carries with him today. One of those is about giving people second chances.

“As a junior, I was going to quit,” Savary says. “I’d turned in my equipment and everything.” But Savary changed his mind. “Coach Jones let me back on the team.”

Savary estimates he played 13 seconds as a junior. After being given a second chance, as a senior he played in every game.

He says he wasn’t the kind of player who was going to make a difference in winning or losing, he says, a smallish lineman and second string line-backer.

“He probably never thinks about it,” Savary says of Jones. But it’s stuck with me and allowed me to give other people a second chance when it’s deserved.”

Savary also fondly remembers working with offensive line coach Chris Tomaini, who helped him with his footwork and leverage. “If it wasn’t for Coach Tomaini working with me – he was really my biggest supporter,” Savary says. “I was able to play my position very well.”

And, he adds, “I’m still friends with him to this day.”

In his day job, Savary is a Wakulla

County deputy sheriff, currently assigned as a courthouse bailiff. He started with the sheriff’s office in 1998 as a corrections officer and later was a road deputy. He moved over to criminal investigations for a time, then was over road patrol as a captain. After that he served as the agency’s public information officer before being moved to the courthouse.

In 2007, he attended the prestigious FBI law enforcement academy in Quantico, Va. A four-month training that only about 2% of law enforcement officers get to attend.

He is appreciative to Sheriff Jared Miller for giving him the time to do the radio broadcasts of the games.

Savary, 47, is married to Ashley Savary, who is market president for Centennial Bank’s Wakulla operations. The couple were high school sweethearts, he says.

He went into the U.S. Army for a three-year stint after high school, and come home and got a job at the sheriff’s office while he was trying to figure out what he wanted to do. He and Ashley married after



that, in 2003, and well celebrate their 20th anniversary in November.

“She’s been a much better wife than I’ve been a husband,” he says. “She gives up Friday nights with me” so he can be on the radio. And she’s his biggest fan: Times he’s thought about quitting the broadcasts, she has encouraged him to stay.

“She’s such a cool girl,” he says of his wife.

Another big fan is his mom, Evelyn Savary. “She calls me after every game and gives me a critique.”

His one regret is that his father, Leonard, didn’t live to hear him on the radio. “I started doing it a year or two after my dad died. He would have really liked it.”

He remembers being a kid and listening to the radio broadcasts of FSU games with his dad, hearing sportscaster Gene

Deckerhoff – some of which Savary acknowledges he incorporates into his broadcasts.

One of his fondest memories as “Voice of the War Eagles” is when he was asked by Superintendent of Schools Bobby Pearce to broadcast and MC the drive-thru graduation for high school seniors during Covid.

“I sound so passionate because it’s football and it’s Wakulla football, but I can’t really bring that passion to other things,” he says, but that graduation was different, he adds.

In addition to football games, Savary also broadcasts the youth league super bowl and the annual Riversprings vs. Wakulla Middle game. Last year, he broadcast the Lady War Eagles run in the softball playoffs along

with baseball coach Keith Anderson. And he’s hoping to add more sports – especially women’s sports – to bring to the community.

Of the football games, he says football Head Coach Scott Klees is a big supporter of the broadcasts. He says Klees considers Savary and Revell as part of the coaching staff and includes them in everything – the pregame meal, the travel, team meetings.

Klees also joins Savary for the weekly War Eagle Report program, sponsored by Centennial Bank. “Our radio broadcast would not be as successful without his support,” Savary says.

And, of course, Savary appreciates being given the platform by WAVE 94 and the station’s general manager Doug Apple.



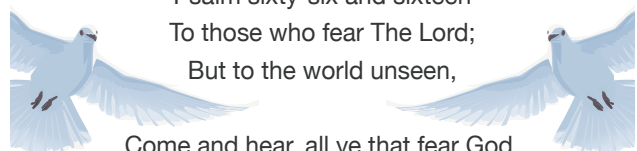
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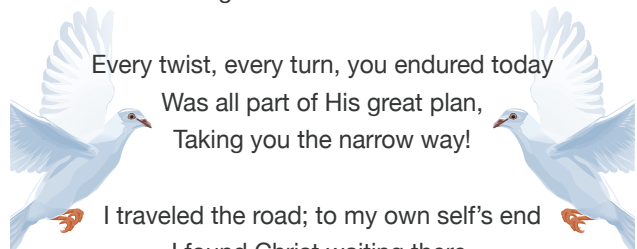
HE WROTE MY PLAN OF SALVATION

Psalm sixty-six and sixteen
To those who fear The Lord;
But to the world unseen,



Come and hear, all ye that fear God,
And I will declare what He hath done for my soul.

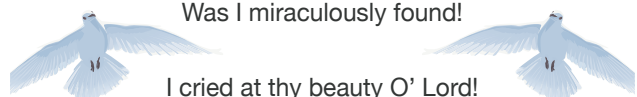
He wrote my plan of salvation,
Long before I would know!



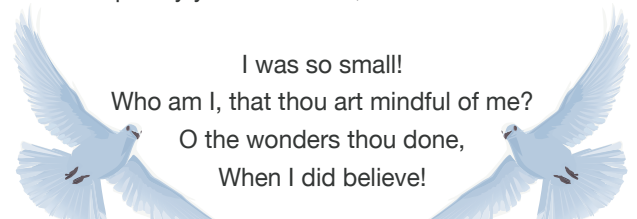
Every twist, every turn, you endured today
Was all part of His great plan,
Taking you the narrow way!

I traveled the road; to my own self’s end
I found Christ waiting there,
To gather me in,

The hauntings from the past, tried to take their stand
but had no ground!
For by God’s love,
Was I miraculously found!



I cried at thy beauty O’ Lord!
As I soaked in thy holy presence,
Completely yielded with all, awe and reverence!



I was so small!
Who am I, that thou art mindful of me?
O the wonders thou done,
When I did believe!

The time of my salvation;
Was perfectly, written therein;
When I was blinded to me,
Then I saw Him!

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Be aware of changes in the law on driving golf carts



By **JARED MILLER**
Wakulla Sheriff

From the desk of Sheriff Miller,

Golf carts have become increasingly popular in Wakulla County over the last 10 years or so.

Currently Wakulla County has a total of four designated golf cart communities throughout the county, with a handful of other private neighborhoods which also

allow their use.

I wanted to take time this month to write about the law that governs golf cart use and some recent changes to this law made by the legislature.

First and foremost, it is important for everyone to know where golf carts can legally be driven on the roadway.

In Wakulla those places are limited to designated golf cart communities such as Shell Point or Panacea, or a private neighborhood roadway such as River Plantation.

There is a statutory process set by the legislature that citizens must go through to obtain

a designation as a golf cart community. Within those designated areas golf carts are only allowed on the locally maintained "side roads" not on a main thoroughfare such as Coastal Highway (unless crossing it).

Beyond that Golf carts are not legally allowed to be driven on a public roadway.

It has become quite common for citizens in many of our neighborhoods to utilize golf carts to travel within the neighborhood.

While I am not going to make it a priority for deputies to cite such drivers, please understand that you may be

cited, and you certainly are putting yourself in a negative position if you were to be involved in some sort of accident.

Please know that nowhere in the county, golf cart community or otherwise, is it legal to drive a golf cart on a main/state roadway or a road that exceeds a posted speed limit of 35 mph.

Lastly, a fact that often gets overlooked by those who are using a golf cart in a designated community is that there are some statutory requirements to do so.

Golf carts are supposed to have a flag which is visible

from both ends of the cart, and are not to exceed 15 mph.

Additionally, if a golf cart is legally to be driven at night it much have both headlights and rear lights.

The one major change the Florida Legislature added to the rules this year is the requirement that drivers under the age of 18 possess at least a valid learners permit, and those over 18 have at least an ID card.

Prior to this change those 14 years of age and older could legally do so, this is no longer the case.

I want to encourage anyone who routinely drives a

golf cart or who is interested in utilizing a golf cart within Wakulla County to go read Florida Statue 316.212 or call and speak with Lt. Yarbrough at 850-745-7186 for more information.

Please make sure that you are enjoying your golf cart in a safe and legal way to avoid possible problems.

As always, if I or anyone in my administration can be of any help, please feel free to call us, 850-745-7100 911 for emergencies.

Your Sheriff,
Jared F. Miller

Jared Miller is sheriff of Wakulla County.

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Dynamite comes in small packages



By **ERIK LOVSTRAND**

Just about everyone has heard this old expression “dynamite comes in small packages.” It is usually invoked in reference to someone of small stature who punches up in weight class. Well buddy, if you have ever unwittingly disturbed a yellow jacket nest, you know the true meaning behind that saying. I have personally gathered a significant amount of data on this topic over the years, to the point that I have developed a new Law Of Nature which should be included in every outdoor enthusiast’s training manual. More about this later.

Yellow jackets and baldfaced hornets belong to the insect family Vespidae. While larger than other species of yellow jackets, baldfaced

hornets are more closely related to yellow jackets than to other hornets.

Most people associate hornets with spherical paper nests usually built in the open and hanging from a tree branch. Baldfaced hornets do this, however, the two other yellow jacket species in Florida typically make their nests below ground, with one or many openings. On occasion though, they will make a nest above ground, as seen in this article’s accompanying photo.

Another example of this that I once witnessed was a massive nest in the crown of a cabbage palm. It completely encircled the trunk like a large doughnut about two feet below the fronds and extended upward into the frond bases. Overall, it was about 4 feet high and 3 feet wide.

Being social insects, yellow jackets have a fascinating life history. Multiple queens are produced each fall and fertilized by drones (males) before dispersing on solitary missions to create a new colony next spring. After overwintering in a protected



Yellowjackets typically nest in the ground but occasionally in the open, as with this large nest under the eave of a house in Apalachicola.

PHOTO BY ERIK LOVSTRAND

place, she emerges and gets to work. Chewing wood fibers into a pulpy mass, she builds a small paper nest that contains a small comb of cells where she lays eggs for the first generation of workers (all infertile females). Upon hatching, the workers take over the tasks of building, gathering food resources, rearing brood and defending the colony. The queen’s sole duty now is to lay more eggs. In the fall of that first year, new queens typically leave the nest and

the old queen dies. Upon her death, the colony’s social structure begins to breakdown and all remaining occupants eventually die out. On rare occasions, some of the young fertile queens may take up housekeeping in the existing nest structure and continue to enlarge it. Usually though, the old nest is totally abandoned to the elements. Now, back to what I have learned from my unfortunate penchant to collect data on yellow jackets.

Lovstrand’s Law Of

Nature: The number of stings you will be dealt upon disturbing a yellow jacket colony is inversely proportional to the rate at which you put distance between yourself and said colony.

1st Corollary To Lovstrand’s Law Of Nature: The time between pain of the first sting and the brain’s capacity to activate your flight reflex, plus the wasted time bouncing off trees and climbing over any other persons in your flight path, diminishes in an addi-

tive fashion, the rate at which distance between yourself and the colony can be achieved.

2nd Corollary To Lovstrand’s Law Of Nature: The rate at which you put distance between yourself and a disturbed yellow jacket colony is also directly proportional to the number of stings you have been dealt during previous interactions with angry yellow jackets.

Fortunately, the most stings I have ever received during a single incident was 13. It’s funny how numbers like that stick in your head but it really was quite a memorable experience. Did I mention, unlike honeybees, yellow jackets have no barb on their stinger and will cling to you, stinging until they exhaust their venom supply? Perhaps tucking this tidbit into the recesses of your brain will somehow add an extra shot of adrenaline to your rate of escape and save you a few stings. It works for me.

Erik Lovstrand is a UF/IFAS regional Sea Grant agent in Wakulla, Franklin and Gulf counties.

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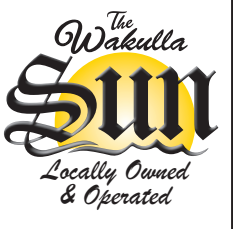
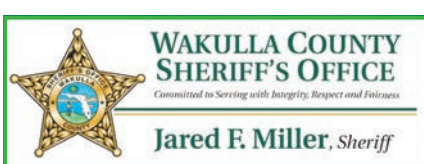
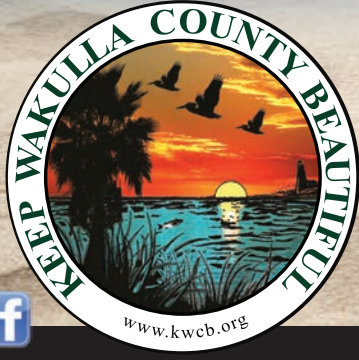
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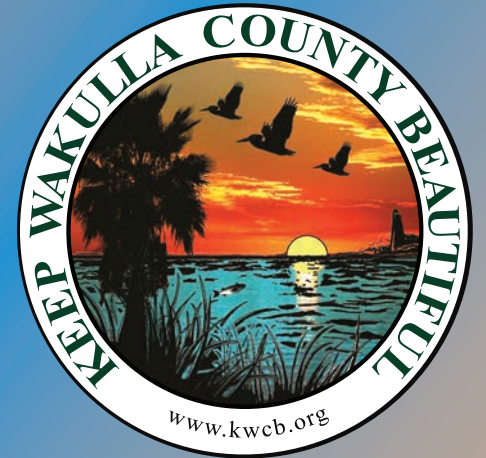
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On the Horizon

The monthly calendar of events

Monday, October 2

- The Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners meets at 5 p.m. in the commission chambers.
- The Wakulla Respite Program is available for anyone with memory impairment at no cost from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lake Ellen Baptist Church every Monday.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. every Monday at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

Tuesday, October 3

- The Wakulla County Charter Review commission meets at 6 p.m. in the Wakulla county community center
- Sopchoppy community dinner is held every week at the Towles House at 6:30 p.m.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.
- Flow Yoga at 6 p.m. with Nellie, every Tuesday.

Wednesday, October 4

- Muffins with Moms Prenatal Support Group meets at 9 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 10 a.m. at the Wakulla County Health Department. Contact Liz Neighbors at 850-888-6078 or elizabeth.neighbors@flhealth.gov for more information.
- A Line Dance class is held at 1 p.m. at the Wakulla Senior Center every Wednesday.
- Wakulla County Coalition for Youth meets at 12:30 p.m. at the public library.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.
- Gentle Yoga and Stretching Class, every Wednesday, 11 a.m. Wakulla Community Center. Bring a mat. Come early to sign in. Chair Yoga participants welcome. \$2 per class.

Thursday, October 5

- The Wakulla County Tourist Development Council meets at 2 p.m. in the Wakulla County Community Center.

- 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.
- The Rotary Club of Wakulla County meets at the TCC Wakulla Center at 8:30 a.m. every Thursday.
- Gentle Yoga at 9 a.m. and Yin Yoga at 6 p.m. with Zoe every Thursday. Classes are \$12, at New Posh on 3079 Crawfordville Hwy. RSVP to newposh3079@gmail.com or text/call at (850) 528-5838.

- Music Bingo, first Thursday each Month, at 30 Palms in St. Marks. Proceeds benefit the Florida Wild Mammal Association.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. every Thursday at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

Friday, October 6

- The Wakulla War Eagles play St. John Paul II at J.D. Jones Stadium at 7 p.m.
- The Hudson Park reopening ceremony will be held at 10 a.m. at Hudson Park
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and 8 p.m. every Friday at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonees St.

Saturday, October 7

- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. every Saturday at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.
- The Panacea Community Garden Farmer's Market will be August 5th from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Downtown Panacea.
- The Wakulla Caregiver Support Group will meet at the Wakulla County Public Library at 10 a.m.

Monday, October 9

- The Wakulla County Planning Commission meets at 6 p.m. in the commission chambers.
- The Wakulla County School Board meets in the school administration building at 5:45 p.m.
- The Sopchoppy City Council meets at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.
- Gentle yoga at 9 a.m. and Restorative Yoga at 6 p.m. with Zoe, every Monday at New Posh on 3079 Crawfordville Hwy. RSVP to newposh3079@gmail.com or text/call at (850) 528-5838.

Thursday, October 12

- St. Marks City Commis-

sion meets at the St. Marks City Hall at 6 p.m.

Friday, October 13

- The Wakulla War Eagles play the Taylor County Bulldogs at J.D. Jones Stadium at 7 p.m. in a district game.
- A workshop on how to run for political office hosted by the supervisor of elections office will be held from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the St. Marks room of the Wakulla Community center

Saturday, October 14

- The Wakulla County Historical Society will hold its annual meeting at the old courthouse at 23 High Drive in Crawfordville, starting at 12:30 p.m.
- The Sopchoppy Community market will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 34 Rose Street
- The Outdoor Wakulla Living Festival will take place at Hudson Park from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Monday, October 16

- The Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners meets at 5 p.m. in the commission chambers.

- The American Legion Post 114 will be meeting at the Wakulla County Public Library at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 17

- The Wakulla County Charter Review Commission meets at 6 p.m. in the St. Marks Room at the community center.

Thursday, October 19

- 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.

Friday, October 20

- The Wakulla War Eagles travel to Tallahassee to play the North Florida Christian Eagles at 7 p.m.

Saturday, October 21

- The St. Marks community market will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 815 Port Leon Drive
- 1st Annual Breast Cancer

Awareness Walk will take place from 9 to 10 a.m. in Azalea Park

Monday, October 23

- The Sopchoppy Lions Club meets the 4th Monday at the Historic Sopchoppy School at 6:30 p.m.

Friday, October 27

- The regular season concludes with the Wakulla War Eagles travel to Live Oak to play the Suwannee Bulldogs in a district game at 7 p.m.

Saturday, October 28

- The St. Marks Brew Fest will be held in St. Marks from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The arts and crafts market is free to all, the Brew Fest itself is from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and requires a ticket which can be purchased online for \$30.
- The Monarch Butterfly Festival will be held at the St. Marks Refuge visitor center from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- 8th Annual Trick or Treat Story Walk will be held in Azalea and Hudson Parks from 5:30 to 8:30.



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CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Bay Area humorist
- 5. Hurt
- 10. Icelandic poems
- 14. A taro corm
- 15. Metaphorical use of a word
- 16. It fears the hammer
- 17. Excessively quaint (British)

- 18. Laid-back California county
- 19. Cook in a microwave oven
- 20. Not late
- 22. Go from one place to another
- 23. Peoples living in the Congo
- 24. Popular pasta

- 27. Available engine power (abbr.)
- 30. Popular musician Charles
- 31. Angry
- 32. Spelling is one type
- 35. One who makes a living
- 37. Indicates location

- 38. Imperial Chinese dynasty
- 39. Small water buffalo
- 40. Hungarian city
- 41. Fabric
- 42. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 43. Precursor to the EU
- 44. Philly footballers
- 45. Female sibling
- 46. "When Harry Met Sally" actress
- 47. Magnetic tape of high quality
- 48. Insecticide
- 49. Apparatus to record and transmit
- 52. Some is considered "dog"
- 55. Israeli city ___ Aviv
- 56. Fencing sword
- 60. Ottoman military title
- 61. Wise people
- 63. Cold wind
- 64. Popular type of shoe
- 65. Administrative district
- 66. A way to reveal
- 67. Cooked meat cut into small pieces

- 68. Actress Zellweger
 - 69. Romanian city
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Small town in Portugal
 - 2. Site of famed Ethiopian battle
 - 3. German river
 - 4. Christmas carols
 - 5. Cash machine
 - 6. Rough and uneven
 - 7. Rumanian round dance
 - 8. Widespread occurrence of disease
 - 9. A place to relax
 - 10. Feeling of listlessness
 - 11. Coat or smear a substance
 - 12. Wild mango
 - 13. Brews
 - 21. Belgian city
 - 23. Confined condition (abbr.)
 - 25. Swiss river
 - 26. Small amount
 - 27. Part of buildings
 - 28. Vietnamese capital
 - 29. Sailboats
 - 32. Shelter
 - 33. Terminated
 - 34. Discharge

- 36. Snag
- 37. Partner to cheese
- 38. A container for coffee
- 40. Spend time dully
- 41. Satisfies
- 43. Snakelike fish
- 44. Consume
- 46. Type of student
- 47. Erase
- 49. Instruct
- 50. Girl's given name
- 51. Jewish spiritual leader
- 52. "To ___ his own"
- 53. North-central Indian city
- 54. Greek alphabet characters
- 57. Weapon
- 58. Amounts of time
- 59. American Nobel physicist vital to MRIs
- 61. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 62. Witness

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FROM THE PROPERTY APPRAISER'S OFFICE

Catastrophic property damage



By ED BRIMNER

God recently blessed Wakulla County! Hurricane Idalia did not significantly impact us.

As our neighboring counties work to recover from significant hurricane property damage, I thought this would be a good time to discuss laws concerning catastrophic property damage.

What is a Catastrophic Event? A Catastrophic Event is “an event of misfortune or calamity that renders one or more residential improvements uninhabitable. The term does not include an event caused, directly or indirectly, by the property owner with the intent to damage or destroy the residential improvement.” Catastrophic events may be caused by weather or non-weather events. In other words, if your home burns due to a lightning strike or electrical short, that is a catastrophic event.

(However, if someone pours gasoline on the floor and strikes a match, this is arson and not a catastrophic event).

• In 2005, the state legislature took action to protect your homestead cap when a property owner was repairing or replacing a home which suffered hurricane damage in 2004. The new structure could be rebuilt to a maximum of 110% of its original square footage without the new construction or repairs increasing the homestead's assessed value.

• In 2006, the state legislatures broadened the protection to structures damaged or destroyed by any misfortune or calamity, as long as the repairs or rebuild started within three years from the January 1st following the catastrophic event.

• This year the state legislatures again broadened the law to allow a partial refund of property taxes for residential improvements rendered uninhabitable for at least

30 days due to a catastrophic event that occurs in 2023.

Following a catastrophic event, a homeowner may be eligible for a refund of a portion of property taxes paid (for the year in which the catastrophic event occurred) if the property was uninhabitable for at least 30 days. Uninhabitable is defined in statutes as the loss of use and occupancy of a residential improvement for the purpose for which it was constructed resulting from damage to or destruction of the residential improvement which was caused by a catastrophic event. If your home was damaged but you were able to live in the home while repairs are made, you are not eligible for any refund of property taxes.

There are lots of details surrounding this law change. The refund is for residential improvement only. Statutes explicitly states, “a residential improvement does not include

a structure that is not essential to the use and occupancy of the residential dwelling or house, including, but not limited to, a detached utility building, detached carport, detached garage, bulkhead, fence, or swimming pool, and does not include land.” More information can be found at floridarevenue.com.

Hopefully, you will never need to take advantage of a refund due to a catastrophic event. However, if something happens, this office stands ready to help you claim any refund you are entitled to. Our customer service staff is available to answer questions at (850) 926-0500. You can also visit the Property Appraiser's website www.MyWakullaPA.com or visit us on our Facebook page.

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Ed Brimmer is Wakulla County Property Appraiser.

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Life along Newport Road

Chapter 4 of Elizabeth F. Smith's historical book

LIFE ALONG THE NEWPORT ROAD by Elizabeth F. Smith. Originally published by The Magnolia Monthly Press in 1972.

Chapter Four

From Magnolia, where one road branched to the northwest to Tallahassee and the other continued straight north to Chaires, planters lived in a semiwild tangle of swamps with the higher ground plowed to cotton. The St. Marks River, along which the road was built, is wilder and narrower near Newport than it is at the county line. There it widens until a sawmill was operated on it south of Natural Bridge by a man named McBride, and a century later some of the logs could be seen in the bottom of the river.

Seen from the river the western bank where Magnolia was located (which had a gristmill of its own) is so low it is impossible to visualize a town of 40 houses with a dock for ships of any size at all. As the river extends northward into Leon County, the shores are a little higher, but not much. In turn the water is shallower and a paddle hits rock down about 4 feet. This area, now about 12 miles north of St. Marks, has some rocky extensions jutting up from either bank, though still hidden under a dense growth. Here in 1828 on the west bank was the community of Rock Haven about which almost nothing is known. It probably did not last as long as Magnolia, though one can catch a reference to it from time to time.

Here we reach the line between Leon and Wakulla counties which became separate entities in 1843 when the busy merchants in Newport and St. Marks found it inconvenient to take the mule tram up to Tallahassee every time they had a deed to record. But the line is not a straight east-west one. East of the mule tram it dips southward for several miles and then turns straight east to the Jefferson County line. Dr. Francis Arlie Rhodes of Tallahassee while working on his doctorate at the University of Florida, came across some material that indicated there was a great deal of litigation over the line in 1843. It appeared that Benjamin Byrd, who owned so



West Florida Seminary Cadet Corps, circa 1880s. Cadets from the school fought at the Battle of Natural Bridge in March 1865 against Union troops who landed at the St. Marks Lighthouse and intended to cross at Natural Bridge.

PHOTO FROM FLORIDA ARCHIVES

much land around Magnolia and also on Lake Miccosukee, was interested in having his land lie in one county or the other, without crossing the line. However, since his two separate pieces of land were at least 10 miles apart, a line was drawn slightly south of Natural Bridge without touching either one. To have filed papers at two different courthouses over one cow pasture was too much trouble, and Benjamin Byrd was a busy man, as well as influential.

It is not very far above the county line that the St. Marks River disappears beneath the ground for half a mile, then reappears again, though much narrower, and angles eastward for several miles into Jefferson County before coming back into Leon County. By the time it reaches Chaires it is a trickle. Its fame far surpasses its length.

On the plank road near the line is Rhodes Springs, previously known as Johnson's Springs for the man who owned the property. Sometime shortly after World War I when Samuel T. Rhodes, a turpentine of some means, bought the springs, it was renamed for the Rhodes family who built a bathhouse there, and many of the residents of nearby Woodville, or living on the plank road, spent hot summer Sunday afternoons bathing in the springs and picnicking on the banks. The water is deep and clear.

A dirt road led to Woodville, five miles to the west, which was located on the Tallahassee Railroad. Until 1882 Woodville was known as Hodgson's Distillery for Richard W.B. Hodgson, a turpentine man who shipped his naval stores on the railroad and was a trustee of the first public school in Wood-

ville which was founded in 1856 as Hickory Grove Academy and has been in continuous use ever since simply as the Woodville Elementary School. About 32 years after the school's start, Woodville had its name changed from Hodgson's Distillery, though turpentine went on for another 70 years. (Today Alonzo Register of Tallahassee still turpentine near Woodville, one of the last of a vanishing breed.) The name Woodville came from an old story that the railroad, when it converted to stream, piled enough wood in the tender to reach Woodville, where it had to refuel to reach either Tallahassee or St. Marks, whichever direction it was headed.

The people who lived between Woodville and Natural Bridge had the choice of either the railroad or the plank road to send out their cotton, and until the Civil War most of it converged on St. Marks and went out by water.

The people who lived east of Woodville toward the plank road at the river included the McDaniels, the Halls, the Pages, and the Faircloths. Mrs. Ida Laing of Woodville, who died in the fall of 1971, used to listen to the stories told about the Natural Bridge and the people who lived in the farming areas around it. She remembered the Hall family homesteading near Natural Bridge and though the old dwellings have long since tumbled down, their location can still be determined by the pear, plum, and crepe myrtle trees flowering around them in the spring air. Some of the earliest houses were built of logs and Mrs. Laing recalls that some of these houses, long since abandoned, were used by her father, J. R. French (who married Mary Hall) when he sheared his sheep. A

man named Adams had lived in the house and near it was a large sulphur springs. Across the river and about a mile south of the Natural Bridge on the east bank was a Seminole village, Mrs. Laing was told. The Indians would appear from time to time in the village of Rock Haven in the early 1830s, but never caused any trouble. The large sulphur hole was called Seminole Springs, but there were others bubbling up in the swamps and even in the river itself. At this point rocks and a swift current made the river nearly impassable, but despite the hazards, people used waterways for nearly all their travel before the Civil War. In Florida's Territorial papers, a request was made of the Army Engineers to cut a canal thru the rock formation at Natural Bridge, and one actually was, but it clogged up so swiftly with fallen branches that boats seldom got through it. It was not the last attempt, for in the early 1900's a man named Howard Waters also dug a ditch thru which logs could be floated, but the rocks and the rapids made logging almost as difficult as boating.

Ida never went down the river in a boat because her father "had an opinion" about people going down the river when the current was too swift for them to get back up. Still, many people rowed up the river to get sulphur water and carry it home in barrels. There was also a spring the color of iron with water that tasted the same.

In the early 1900's the plank road could still be seen, the ends of the timber being of random widths and worn by the passage of wagons through the decades. Mrs. Laing had an Aunt Mahalia who owned a male slave named Rube Nick. When he was freed

after the war he continued to live with the family. A man in those days did not get to own his homestead, ranging from 120 to 160 acres, until he "proved it" by living on it for five years and raising crops and livestock.

(The plank road was undertaken by the Florida and Georgia Plank Road Company organized by Daniel Ladd and others in the summer of 1850 and applied to the General Assembly for a charter. It was operated as a joint stock venture and was supposed to run from Newport to the Georgia line. The company had to complete 20 miles in 3 years and the state gave the company two rods on each side of the road plus the use of all timber along the right-of-way. The road only got as far as Chaires in 1853 when discussion of a railroad east and west across north Florida discouraged any further laying of the planks northward from Chaires toward Thomasville.)

Mrs. Laing's maternal grandfather was Lewin Franklin Hall, son of Lewis Hall and Marie Faircloth. Her maternal grandmother was the daughter of Will and Elizabeth Moore who, like most of the residents around Natural Bridge, came from North Carolina.

One of the earliest pioneers near Natural Bridge was William David McDaniel, who was born in Scotland in 1809, came to Georgia, and then to Leon County where for years he served at the Woodville Primitive Baptist Church and died in 1891. He took to heart the Bible's injunction to be fruitful and multiply, for he had 16 children by two wives and his children were witnesses to the skirmish known as the Battle of Natural Bridge when Yankee sol-

diers came up from the St. Marks lighthouse on the east bank of the St. Marks River and crossed the Natural Bridge to do battle with a group of teenage boys and Home Guard units while the state government was trying to scrounge soldiers from other posts around the state to keep the largely Negro troops from taking the capital. Research by Dr. Jerrell Shofner of F.S.U. for his monograph on Newport's leading merchant Daniel Ladd, indicates that Tallahassee was not the target for the troops, but merely the destruction of the iron works in Newport and the stored bales of cotton which were being held by many planters until the end of the war, some of it necessitated by the fact that it couldn't be shipped thru the northern blockade. Ladd owned the iron works which was used in casting machinery for running many of the grist and lumber mills in Middle Florida, while his steamboat, the SPRAY, was manned by a crew of 54 men to defend the coast of the upper gulf, and if necessary, to run the blockade.

Several of Rev. McDaniel's daughters were on the "battlefield" after the rout of the Yankees at Natural Bridge and saw a half dozen Negro soldiers in blue uniforms half submerged in a pond. They had been captured and shot in the back by Confederate soldiers for their part in the battle. According to Susan Bradford Eppes, women and other non-combatants from Tallahassee, came down to explore the battlefield for a week after the war, to see if they could find anything (sewing kits, for instance, which were carried by soldiers) of value or simply as a souvenir of this last Confederate victory. The war ended about six weeks later.

One man from Woodville who was to remember it the rest of his life was Benjamin Franklin Page, married to Pastor McDaniel's daughter, Nannie. Ben's father, M. D. Page, came down from Hookerton, NC to Leon County in 1847. Ben served in Company C, 5th Florida Regiment, under Captain William Bloxham, training at Six Mile Pond near Bel Aire and fought in the first major battle of the Civil War, as well as the first southern victory at

Turn to Next Page



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Wakulla County Historical Society invites you to our Quilt Show to be held at the historic Wakulla County Courthouse, 23 High Drive, Crawfordville, FL.

On display will be vintage quilts created by local artisans including quilts made by our ancestors as well as newer designs. The show will begin at 2:00 p.m. and conclude at 5:00 p.m. Available for purchase are tickets for two quilts (see below). The cost of the tickets will be 1 for \$1 or 6 for \$5. The drawing will be held at our Annual Christmas Open House in December. You may visit the Wakulla County Historical Society Museum Thursday-Friday, 10 – 4 p.m. or Sat. 10 – 2 p.m. to purchase these tickets in advance. These quilts were created by Diane Curlee and Cheryl Blose and have been generously donated for this event. All proceeds will be used to support the Wakulla County Historical Society. Call Arlene at 850-962-2210 to display your quilt.



Newport Road

From Previous Page

Manassas (Bull Run). Hlater fought at Fredericksburg and Antietam (Sharpsburg) and Gettysburg and had two fingers smashed. Until they were amputated in a field hospital, he kept his smashed hand in some running water. He was “imprisoned” in a building of the Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary, and then went to a federal prison at Ft. Delaware in Chesapeake Bay where he stayed until September 1864, when he was exchanged. General Grant not long afterward stopped the exchanges because many southern men went right back to fight. Grant knew that if he did not exchange the South would soon run out of manpower, while the North would continue to find new recruits among immigrants pouring into the country from Europe, particularly the Germans and the Irish. After the war, Ben Page became Woodville’s unofficial doctor.

A post-Civil War group of Woodville veterans called themselves Camp Lamar for one of their old colonels

and wore red and black cockades held together by a pin of crossed hands. At encampments they wore the red side and at funerals of veterans they work the black side.

Another man who lived near Natural Bridge on the plank road was Weld Hamlin, son of John Hamlin of Magnolia and Port Leon. Weld was named for his Uncle Weld who died in Magnolia in 1829. The second Weld was born in 1830 and in 1852 married Celia Barrow of Tallahassee. Of John’s six children, he was probably the best educated, because he went up to Maine, where the Hamlin’s originated, to attend school while living with his Uncle Franklin Ladd, a portrait painter and brother of Daniel Ladd who owned the iron works in Newport. This Maine upbringing of Weld’s may have prompted his desertion during the Civil War, for he went into Gamble’s Artillery and deserted, living out much of the war in Gum Swamp south of the Pinhooks where his wife brought him food from time to time. After the war Weld was

a turpentine near Natural Bridge, having many Negro workers. Once one of the went after Weld with a puller and Weld shot him in the stomach. The man collapsed on the ground and Weld went to get him some water. But it was already too late and the man died before Weld got back with it.

Another man who moved up the plank road from Magnolia was James Skipper. The first James had been a merchant and druggist in Newport and his son of the same name was a cooper and a merchant. He is buried in the Skipper cemetery near Chaires. During the Civil War, James Skipper served as substitute for Samuel P. Chaires of Verdura, going into Capt. Gamble’s light Artillery, the same unit in which Weld Hamlin had served. Their two homes on the plank road were only several miles apart (that is, Skipper and Chaires, tho the Hamlin home was only a short distance further south) and James probably longed to get into the fight because he had lost his wife and two children in the 1850’s, probably to yellow fever. James was born in 1822. (It is pos-

sible here that James W. Skipper was only one man, not father and son.) Skipper was killed during the war and Samuel Chaires then had to serve for his substitute. Samuel was sent to Baldwin to keep the Union troops from coming west from Jacksonville (which they occupied at four different times during the war) and fought at Olustee (or Ocean Pond) to stop their expedition. Then when the Yankees landed at the St. Marks lighthouse and headed up to Natural Bridge, he was sent back to fight a battle virtually in the backyard of Verdura, after which he went back to Baldwin although the war was nearly over.

Meanwhile people along the plank road kept marrying among each other, McDaniel’s and Hamlin’s and Hall’s and Skipper’s and Blocker’s and Barrows’ and Rhodes’s and others into the third and fourth generations. (To be continued)

The Wakulla County Historical Society Museum is in the Old Jail at 24 High Drive in Crawfordville. Our gift shop offers locally handcrafted items and books by local authors.



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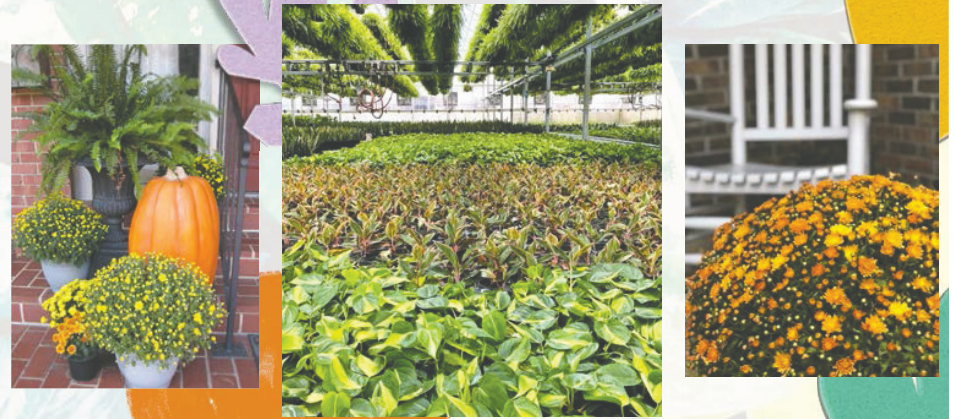
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