



See Page 14

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Cloudy	Thunderstorms	Mostly Cloudy
Hi: 63° Lo: 53° 78%	Hi: 73° Lo: 41° 94%	Hi: 55° Lo: 36° 6%
Sunrise 7:34 AM Sunset 5:56 PM	Sunrise 7:34 AM Sunset 5:56 PM	Sunrise 7:34 AM Sunset 5:57 PM



\$1
One Section

"It's a New Day"

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Our 3rd Year 2nd Issue
Thursday, January 11, 2024

Tree protection eyed

County commission will look at 'incentives' for developers to stop clear cutting

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

County commissioners said they would consider tree protection ordinance after half a dozen members of the Charter Review Committee appeared at last week's meeting to implore them to look at the issue.

The CRC's report, approved by county commissioners at their meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 2, initially had five items – two of which, including tree protection, were pre-empted by state law prohibiting planning regulations being approved by referendum. (The county commission could pass such an ordinance, but such regulations could not be enacted by referendum.)

Even knowing the tree protection issue would be pre-empted, CRC members said the matter was important enough to leave in their report to draw attention of county commissioners.

Basically, the initial proposal by CRC listed species of native trees, such as live oaks, that at a certain size would be protected from being cut by developers – unless there was no other way to adjust the footprint of a building.

The issue, as several members of the CRC told commissioners, is developers clearcutting property instead of leaving large native trees.

Initially, County Commissioner Chuck Hess expressed his support for tree protections, and asked other commissioners if they had the appetite for it. Commissioners Ralph Thomas and Fred Nichols both answered "No."

Thomas explained that he was opposed to a blanket prohibition on cutting and suggested he would consider something that would incentivize saving large native trees.

Hess made a motion to have Planning Director Somer Pell draft an ordinance to do that – incentivize saving trees – and it was seconded by County Commissioner Mike Kemp and passed unanimously.

Kemp said he supported incentives, adding that "I don't want a situation where somebody wants to cut down a tree (on their property) that's 8 to 10 inches (in diameter) and they have to go get a permit."

Several members of the CRC appeared at the hearing, including Lynn Artz, a former county commissioner herself, who pushed the

tree protection issue at Charter Review. She said the issue was of "deep concern to many people" – especially new developments that were being clearcut.

David Damon, who also served on the CRC, expressed his frustration with state preemption preventing citizens from addressing local concerns. He expressed his opposition to clearcutting of property and said it should be a priority to "preserve some of these old trees."

Andrew Riddle, who served on CRC and is currently chair of the Planning Commission, was one of only two votes against the tree protection at charter review. His view at the time was that it was not an appropriate issue for the charter, but said he had changed his view insofar as clearcutting is increasingly becoming an issue.

Two other CRC members spoke on the issue – CRC Chair Chris Russell and member Bret Hammond. CRC member Walt Dickson was also at the meeting but did not speak.

Hess made a motion to pursue an ordinance to protect native trees, it was seconded by Kemp and unanimously approved in a 5-0 vote.

CITY OF ST. MARKS

New member appointed to city commission

By LEGION TAYLOR
Reporter

An emergency meeting in St. Marks last week saw the appointment of John Gunter to the city commission by a 4-0 vote.

The opening on the city commission was prompted by the resignation of Dan Albers, who submitted his resignation last week following the recent loss of his wife.

At the emergency meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 3, Mayor Steve Remke asked citizens at the meeting who was interested in filling the seat and Gunter and Corey Ingram raised their hands. Both were asked about their general views by city commissioners



John Gunter is sworn-in as City Manager Zoe Mansfield holds the Bible.

Turn to Page 3

Man charged with Shell Point threats found dead

Matthew Williams had been missing, his body found in Tallahassee after apparent suicide

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

A man charged with threatening his Shell Point neighbors was reportedly found dead in Tallahassee of an apparent suicide, according to sources close to the matter.

An intense manhunt had been underway for Williams as of Friday when his court-ordered GPS monitor stopped sending a signal. Law enforcement went to Williams' Woodville home and he wasn't there.

Williams was arrested on Dec. 16 after neighbors on Sandpiper Lane in Shell Point were threatened and he came out of his house armed with a shotgun and two pistols while deputies were there.



Matthew Williams

Turn to Page 3

Fight over souvenirs

Family of late UCF Coach Gene McDowell's family in a battle over trophies

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

The widow of Coach Gene McDowell, who was head football coach at the University of Central Florida from 1985 to 1997, was in county court last week asking that some of her late husband's trophies and scrapbook be returned to her.

Margaret McDowell told the court that one of the coach's cousins, Kenneth Edwards of Crawfordville had been given the memorabilia for safekeeping but now refuses to return it.

For his part, Edwards, who told the court that he is the family historian who has many treasured family items, has submitted text messages from McDowell's son Blake that he contends show that he bought the trophies.

At the hearing on Wednesday, Jan. 3 before County Judge Brian Miller, the items under dispute were ordered turned over to the clerk's office for safekeeping in the vault until he makes a final decision on who should the items.

The items include the Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year trophy presented to McDowell in 1990; his Most Valuable Player award from 1962 when he played football at Florida State University; and a scrapbook started by McDowell's mother that covered his football career from when he was playing high school ball



University of Central Florida Coach Gene McDowell, who passed away in 2021.

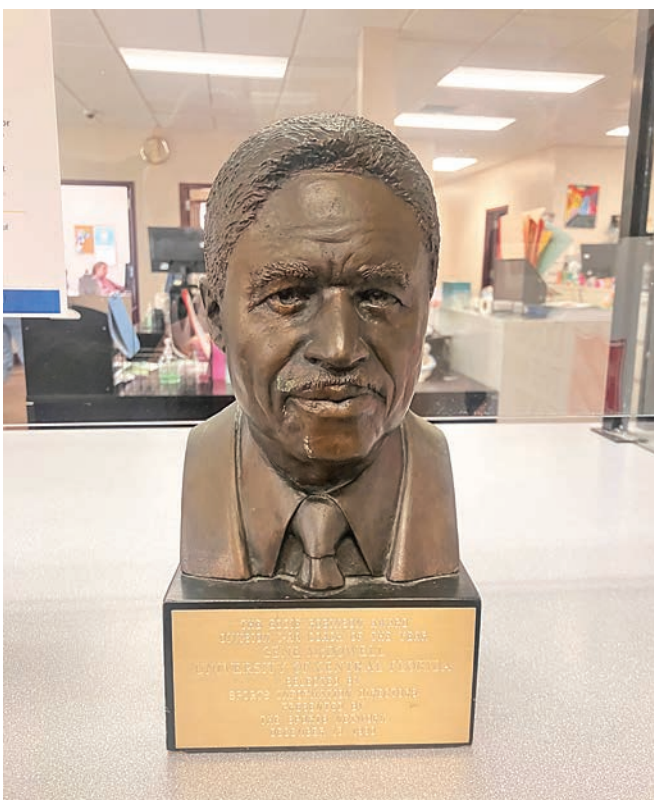
in Georgia.

McDowell, who lived in Quincy, died of leukemia in 2021. He was inducted into the UCF Hall of Fame in November.

At the hearing, Margaret McDowell said the items were given to Edwards for safekeeping in 2019 after a series of thefts in the McDowell home.

Blake McDowell, who appeared via Zoom, said "things were going missing" because of some of the people he was hanging around at the time. Edwards claims in his response to the lawsuit that he wanted the items preserved so he paid. "And paid and paid," he added, claiming he paid Blake and Ms. McDowell hundreds of dollars.

The case is still pending. Judge Miller is scheduled to hold a final hearing next month.



McDowell won the Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year award in 1990, above. The trophy and other memorabilia are subject of a lawsuit between the coach's widow and a cousin. The items were ordered held by the Clerk of Courts by County Judge Brian Miller until he decides who the items rightfully belong to.

Restitution of \$4,350 ordered for Tarpine gate

Andrew Curles rammed the gate in July and was charged with felony criminal mischief

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

A Panacea man was ordered to pay \$4,350 to replace one of the gates at Tarpine after he rammed it with his truck on July 21.

Andrew Curles, 25, had been sentenced back in September to 3 years of probation for the felony criminal mischief, but the restitution amount was put off until a hearing on Thursday, Jan. 4, when members of the Tarpine Homeowners Association presented estimates to replace the damaged gate.

In security video presented at the hearing, Curles can be seen pulling up to the Surf Gate in a truck, then getting out and pushing on the gate arms, then he gets back in to the truck and rams it.

Testimony at the hearing from a couple of local welders was that it would cost more to repair the gate than just replace it. Wakulla Circuit Judge Layne Smith ordered Curles to pay \$4,350 to fix the gate.

Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park Cabbage palm

By LYNN ARTZ, SANDY TEDDER
and DAVID RODDENBERRY



Cabbage palms at Sopchoppy Depot Park predate the park.

Cabbage palm (*Sabal palmetto*) is Florida's state tree. It is not a true tree, however. It is more closely related to grasses. In spring, fragrant clusters of tiny white flowers attract bees. The small black fruits are covered by wildlife. Fronds support bird nests and feed monk skipper caterpillars. Yellow bats roost in dead fronds. Let dead fronds fall naturally. Cabbage palms have a rounded canopy atop an unbranched trunk 1-2 feet in diameter and 40-80 feet tall. The fronds approach 10 feet in length with curved, fan-shaped palm leaves. The bud of immature leaves is edible with a cabbage-like flavor. Removing it, however, kills the palm. The natural range of sabal palm in Wakulla County is near the coast and rivers. Cabbage palms at Sopchoppy Depot Park predate the park..

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Lisa Craze, CFC
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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.
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Supervisor of Elections to offer \$1,200 scholarships

Special to The Sun

Wakulla County Supervisor of Elections Joe Morgan, through the Florida Supervisor of Elections (FSE), is proud to offer Florida college and university students the opportunity to apply for one of three \$1,200 scholarships.

“With a new year upon us, I am thrilled to work with Supervisors of

Elections across the state to provide students with this scholarship opportunity,” Morgan said. “I am hoping we can help a student in Wakulla achieve their educational goals”.

Eligible students must be enrolled as a full-time junior or senior studying political science, public or business administration, or journalism/mass communications and be registered to

vote in Florida. Applications are due March 8, 2024, and must be submitted to the Supervisor of Elections of the county in which the student is registered to vote.

Each county reviews their locally submitted applications, and then chooses one student to forward to the FSE scholarship committee for consideration.

For more information and to download the scholarship application, visit our website www.WakullaVotes.gov or contact our office by phone at 850-926-7575, weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

“We encourage all eligible students to apply for this scholarship opportunity, and we fully support our proud Wakulla County college student community,” said Morgan.

Woman's Club holds fashion show fundraiser

By NANCY FLOYD RICHARDSON
Special to The Sun

In mid-December, the Crawfordville Woman's Club introduced a new fundraiser to Wakulla County: the Chico's Fashion Show. With a Christmas theme and décor, the sold-out event featured models, a delicious lunch, fun door prizes, and a live auction. Proceeds will support the Club's signature causes of providing holiday gifts to Riversink Elementary School students in need, sponsoring two college scholarships for Wakulla High School seniors through the Inez Walker Scholarship, and partnering with other community service organizations for projects.

Gold Sponsors for the event were Welch Land Development, Frances Casey Lowe, P.A., Capital City Bank, BlueWater Realty Group, Fla-BizCo, Mattie Farnsworth, Miss Penny, Cindy Blackstock, Elise and Parrish Barwick, and The Lodge at Wakulla Springs.

With the help of Brenda Hildenbrand and Genia Mayfield from Chico's, the models were the stars of the event. Lesa Evans, Sharol Brown, Sherry Dudley, Quincee Messersmith, Sue Tabaka-Kritzeck, Brenda

PHOTOS BY NANCY FLOYD RICHARDSON



Wilhelmina Morrison models an outfit at the fashion show.

Whaley, and Wilhelmina Morrison modeled current fashions from Chico's as Hildenbrand narrated.

Live Auction items included a Coach purse, an overnight stay at The Lodge at Wakulla Springs, tickets to an FSU basketball game, and a weekend trip to a cabin. The Club also appreciates the Silver Sponsors who provided chance drawings for the event: Dr. Adrienne Hill, The Kast Net, Bethany



Event Chair Nita Burke and Event Co-Chair Pat Langford began planning the fundraiser back in the spring.

Lassiter from Dazzles Hair Studio, Riverside Cafe on The River, Terry Hague, Coastal 28 Athletics, Ms. Maria's Grooming, Vicky Freeman from Polished Effects Salon, LC Aesthetics Skincare, Misty Greene, The Black Cat Apothecary, Tanbooteez Tanning Salon, Dairy Queen, and David Harvey and Associates. Additional community supporters who helped with the event were The Flower Pot Florist, Posey's Steamroom, and Zaxby's.

Event Chair and Secretary Nita Burke and Event Co-Chair and Treasurer Pat Langford led the 2023 Fashion Show Committee. Other committee members included Auction and Kitchen Organizer Elise Barwick, President Sue Tabaka-Kritzeck, Vice President Nancy Day Speigner, and Emcee Nancy Floyd Richardson. Others CWC Members pitched in to help throughout the event.

Founded in 1949, the CWC has provided decades of sisterhood, service, and leadership, taking a grassroots approach with hands-on projects that provide local impact.

The CWC Clubhouse is located behind Hudson Park at 64 Ochlockonee Street in Crawfordville.

Shell Point man

From Front Page

After a first appearance on Dec. 17 before Wakulla Circuit Judge Layne Smith, Williams was released from the Wakulla County Jail on his own recognizance. He was taken back into custody after Wakulla Chief Prosecutor Andrew Deneen filed a motion for pretrial detention – and several Shell Point residents spoke at the hearing saying they did not feel safe with Williams out.

Judge Smith ordered Williams held pending a mental health evaluation. After completing that, Williams was out before Christmas on pretrial release with conditions that he wear a GPS monitor, stay at his

home in Woodville and not go to Shell Point or have any contact with those residents.

By Friday, Jan. 5, Williams' bond was revoked when the GPS stopped working and he couldn't be found. The Wakulla and Leon sheriff's office were looking for Williams, as was the U.S. Marshal's Office.

Williams had appeared in court a few days earlier for a Risk Protection Order – or “red flag” hearing – to seize firearms from Williams, besides the ones he was arrested with. Numerous guns were reportedly seized by the sheriff's office, and Williams reportedly acted erratic at the hearing, according to observers.

When Williams was arrested in Shell Point after threatening his neighbors, deputies saw him come out of his house armed with a 12 gauge “bulldog” shotgun, a .45 pistol in his waistband, and a .22 pistol in his pocket.

St. Marks

From Front Page

– Paula Bell, Sharon Rudd and Paul Sheddian.

Gunter was introduced as a marine biologist and ecologist who has lived in St. Marks for years, and has owned several small businesses throughout the course of his life. He made it clear that he loves Wakulla County, and chose to stay here after his home was damaged during Hurricane Michael, and wants to see its spirit preserved as it continues to grow and develop. Gunter was also asked about his views on whether government should be small or large, and he expressed his views that a delicate balance had to be struck between the two, as both have their merits.

Gunter will hold the seat on the county commission until the next city election – qualifying to run for city commission is set for June.

Ingram is a property developer who has lived in Wakulla since 2021, and in St. Marks since 2022. His primary concern is ensuring that development in St. Marks is done responsibly, as he comes from an area in Georgia that suffers from overdevelopment. When asked what he meant by responsible, Ingram said “Development that doesn't outpace infrastructure.” He added that includes things like water, sewer, and roads, which developments can often overuse.

Ingram has a lot of experience in zoning and construction, which he felt might be useful. He also stated that he plans on running for a seat on the city commission regardless of whether or not he is appointed.

Briefs

• Tree planting at rec park on Jan. 19

In honor of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs' 100th anniversary, each county in Florida is planting two county-specific trees, paid for by Duke Energy. Wakulla's trees will be planted on Friday, Jan. 19, at 11 a.m. at the Rec Park.

This event is separate from the Wakulla Garden Club's annual tree giveaway, which will be held on Saturday, Jan. 20th.

• Memoir writing class at library Jan. 17

A new memoir writing class with published author Kitty Culklin begins on Wednesday, Jan. 17, at 10 a.m. at the Public Library. It's free and it's fun.

Bring your notebook and pen.

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.



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ORDINANCE NO. 2024- 01

THE CITY OF ST. MARKS FLORIDA

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ST. MARKS, FLORIDA: AMENDING ARTICLE VII OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE OF THE CITY OF ST. MARKS, ENTITLED “ACCESSORY STRUCTURES AND USES”; SPECIFICALLY AMENDING SECTIONS 7.00.00 ENTITLED “PURPOSE” AND 7.01.00 ENTITLED “ACCESSORY STRUCTURES” TO PROVIDE PARCEL OWNERSHIP REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ACCESSORY STRUCTURES; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

First Reading: January 11, 2023 at 6:00 pm

Second Reading February 8, 2023 at 6:00 pm

The City of St. Marks located at 788 Port Leon Drive, 9 AM to 4:30 PM T/F: Phone (850) 925-6224. Interested parties may inspect the ordinance at 788 Port Leon Drive and be heard at the meeting. Persons needing special access considerations should call the City Office at least 24 hours before the date for scheduling purposes. The Board Office may be contacted at (850) 925-6224

Jan. 11, 2024

Opinions

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

LETTERS FROM READERS

Airport letter draws responses

Don't let critics destroy airport

Editor, The Sun:

It's despicable to destroy public infrastructure out of spite and ignorance. In last week's Sun Ms. LaHart falsely claimed that Tarpine residents were Wakulla County Airport's primary users. (Letter to the Editor, Dec. 28th issue: "Make airport users pay for the airport" by Val LaHart.) Private outside pilots, medical evacuation first responders, and military training personnel make up the vast majority of users. Ms LaHart claimed Tarpine users were not paying their way, yet Tarpine owners are assessed for having an airport amenity.

The disaster relief alone beginning the day after Hurricane Michael was worth Wakulla County's \$4,500 annual budget for the airport. Life saving emergency medical evacuation from Wakulla County Airport is worth at least a hundred times Wakulla County's \$4,500 annual budget. And \$4,500 is a pittance for military air/sea rescue training from our airport.

Ms. LaHart and Mr. Franco both purchased their homes with full knowledge of the nearby airport but they now cry because airplanes actually use the Wakulla County Airport.

Mr. Franco complains that a certain military aircraft comes to the airport, yet that aircraft only comes to Wakulla for less than a half an hour once or twice a year. Wakulla County Airport is a public use airfield open to private, public, and military operations. We should not unpatriotically deny military use.

Mr. Catalina was trespassed from the Wakulla County Airport for endangering lives and property of others by among other things illegally flying a drone over the runway.

A few disgruntled unhappy critics should not destroy the work of others.

Ted Recker
Tarpine

Airport is an asset for all

Editor, The Sun:

In response to Val LaHart's continued airport criticism in last week's Wakulla Sun, I was dumbfounded by her tactics in yet another attempt to "stir the pot" with incorrect accusations. Government's primary responsibility is that of protecting Citizens and that is EXACTLY what the Wakulla airport does, along with many other ancillary benefits to the Citizens of Wakulla and the State of Florida.

We in Wakulla were thankfully spared the truly devastating effects of Hurricane Michael (Cat5). Points West were relentlessly leveled to the ground. The day after landfall, multiple military helicopters landed at Wakulla airport and staged disaster relief supplies for expedited delivery. What value should be placed on the ability to quickly and safely provide disaster relief and recovery?

More to the point, hurricane Idalia (CAT4) was heading directly for Ochlockonee Bay and Panacea. Just prior to landfall Idalia took a hard right turn, sadly devastating our neighbors to the East. I shudder to think what would have happened if not for that merciful (for Wakulla) last minute turn. Obviously, had Idalia struck Wakulla, the airport would have been an absolutely critical resource for the disaster relief and recovery that would have been so vital in saving lives here. That's not hyperbole; it's undeniable that airports are crucial for saving lives, especially after natural disasters. I'm afraid it's just a matter of

time before Wakulla becomes the victim of a major hurricane, we need to be prepared and the airport is tremendous mitigation infrastructure.

In addition, helicopter medical evacuations are common, with many patients coming from Franklin County in addition to Wakulla County. Military Special Operations Squadrons also utilize the airport to hone their skills in order to protect not only the Citizens of Wakulla, but our entire Nation.

Ms LaHart complains about a \$30.79 electric bill and proclaims more than \$900 per month is spent on the airport. The truth is the total airport budget for FY 23/24 is a whopping \$4,500 and no, that's not a typo. So, \$4,500 divided by 12 leaves Wakulla with a budget busting \$375 per month! The current Wakulla total budget for FY 23/24 is \$273,569,142, which means the total airport budget represents 0.000016 of Wakulla's total budget. For a little more perspective, Wakulla's budget for the BoCC Attorney and legal expenses alone (no Constitutional offices) is \$362,268. That's more than 80 times the airport budget.

I think it's fair to say that if it were not for the efforts of many dedicated supporters, the airport property would have been gobbled up long ago and developed into yet another RV park or residential subdivision.

Ian Thomas
Panacea

Airport sounds like a bargain

Editor, The Sun:

In reading "Make Airport users Pay for the Airport" last week, it struck me as odd that a \$900 per month county cost for an airport could even be a "thing" in contention.

Heck, my car payment is a little over \$1,100! I am not a pilot or fly in small planes, but I was a mechanic for Delta. I certainly don't want my taxes wasted. But I do know a heck of a bargain when I see one. I don't

care who uses the airport as long as it is open to all.

Quibbling over \$900 takes the focus off the massive boondoggles going on all over the county.

As my Dad used to say "Son, don't be a stepping on them quarters to pick up pennies."

I'd like to know the rest of the story.

Edward Lingelbach
Yellowbird2165@icloud.com

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.

On the Horizon

Calendar of events for the week of January 11

Thursday, January 11

- St. Marks City Commission meets at the St. Marks City Hall at 6 p.m.
- Wakulla Wonderful will hold a planning meeting at 7 p.m. at the Wakulla County Extension Office.
- 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, January 12

- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and 8

p.m. every Friday at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

Saturday, January 13

- The Wakulla High School Theater will hold their benefit yard sale at Palaver Tree Theater from 8 a.m. to noon.
- The Sopchoppy community market will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Depot Park.
- 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, January 15

- Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Holiday – banks, schools and government offices will be closed.
- MLK Observance, hosted by the Wakulla Christian Coalition, will be held at the courthouse memorial at 9 a.m. That will be fol-

lowed by breakfast at Palaver Tree Theater on Shadeville Road.

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

Tuesday, January 16

- Sarracenia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society has their monthly meeting, at 6:30 p.m. at the Wakulla County Public Library.
- The Board of County Commissioners meets at 5 p.m. in the commission chambers.
- The School Board meets in the school administration building at 5:45 p.m.

- Sopchoppy community dinner is held every week at the Towles House at 6:30 p.m.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.
- Yoga with Nellie, Restorative yoga at 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Classes are \$12, packages available at New Posh on 3079 Crawfordville Hwy. RSVP to newposh3079@gmail.com or text/call at (850) 528-5838.

Wednesday, January 17

- The Wakulla County Audit Committee meets at 10 a.m. in the County Commissioners Administrative Conference Room.
- The Industrial Development Authority meets at 4 p.m. in the County Commissioners Administrative Conference Room.
- 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 Stretching Class, every Wednesday, 11 a.m. Wakulla Community Center. Bring a mat. Come early to sign in. Chair Yoga participants welcome. \$2 per class.

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William Snowden
Editor & Publisher
The Wakulla Sun

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"It's A New Day!"

The Wakulla Sun








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◀ Question of The Week ▶

– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

Polled at the Wakulla Senior Center:

What did you do for fun as a kid?



FLETCHER HARRELL
Retired Insurance Agent

In the 90's we would roll tireshoot berries through reeds, and we used tin cans for a ball and some old board as a bat."



MARY KELLY
Retired Wakulla Senior Center

We would play hopscotch and marbles. We would make tom walkers (stilts) and walk on them."



JOHNNY COGGINS
Retired FSU

Super X Grocery would sponsor us as a team and we would play baseball. We would also play football?"



LLOYD RANSOM
Retired City of Tallahassee

Neighborhood kids in Sopchoppy would get together and play team sports and go fishing."



MICHAEL K.B. AGOT
Retired USPS

Hang out with friends, go fishing or sneaking into a picture show. I also liked to play pool?"

Buckhorn News

By **ETHEL SKIPPER**

Now that the holidays are behind us we can enter into the new year. Everyone I asked "How was your Christmas?" had a good answer.

At our house, Christmas was, as usual, celebrated with plenty of food plus some to share with others. Everyone shared their many blessings and

even the times that weren't so good.

As we go into 2024, let us have great faith in the things we hope for.

Willie Skipper celebrated his 96th birthday with family and friends on Dec. 23 at home grounds with an old fashioned mullet fish fry – and all the good side dishes to make an outside fellowship day very enjoyable. The one question that was asked over and over

again was "How did you make it to 96 years and still be able to do the things you do?" Every answer was different, but he gave God the credit. And his family.

The spirit of the Christmas season was shown in many ways. You have it and show it: Patrick Rosier and his family brought the community together with a Christmas fellowship dinner and an old time new year's breakfast.

It was a special gift to have his oldest sister, Ezelle Rosier from Seattle.

Family is strength, trust, laughter, joy, blessing and love.

We want to appreciate Mrs. Teresa D. Rosier for lighting up Surf Road with your lights and decoration.

We wish a happy birthday to Colleen Mitchell on Jan. 11, Glenda Simmons on Jan. 16, Willie M. Stevens on Jan. 7, and Vera Gavin on Jan. 11.

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

Wakulla Station News

By **VERNA BROCK**

Here we are, over a week into the new year, and it is already shaping up to be a humdinger! I hope everyone had a happy New Year's Day, full of family and fellowship. At my house, we celebrated with the traditional fare which also happens to be my favorite meal. Lots of blackeyed peas, collard greens, cornbread, Bradley's sausage, rice and tomato gravy...YUM! Trust me, I eat it more than once a year.

It has been lovely to have all four of

my children home for the holidays, and to spend a little down time with the grandchildren. Harrison is particularly fond of cooking and baking, so Ed and I spent last Friday evening baking with him, and his sister Harper. They made three loaves of whole wheat bread from scratch, and it was delicious. I think Harrison was less than impressed by the "wheatiness" of the bread, but enjoyed the process.

Now that we are in a new year, lots of events are being planned. Foremost among them is Wakulla Wonderful,

which will be celebrated on Saturday, March 9th. Today (Thursday, Jan. 11) there will be several activities at the Wakulla Extension Office, 84 Cedar Ave. in Crawfordville, with food trucks from 5 to 6 p.m. There will be an information session starting at 7 for any vendors, groups and individuals interested in participating in the festivities with Wakulla Wonderful.

I encourage any Wakulla crafters, makers, producers and organizations to stop by the Extension Office this Thursday afternoon/evening to learn how they can celebrate and support the amazing place we call home.

Speaking of 4-H, they are in the

middle of a month-long food drive for Wakulla County and its "blessing boxes." I know you've seen these colorful, small food closets around the county, and the food drive is to collect items that can help keep them full. Non-perishable goods like rice, pasta, canned goods, etc., are needed

Please keep the family and friends of Jim Lannon in your prayers. He passed away last week, after a short battle with cancer. Also, please keep Thelma Watts, and Elmer Longest, in your prayers, as they recover from hospitalization. The family of Bill Thornton continues to mourn his loss, and covets your prayers.

Sheriff's Report

This report is for activity Dec. 29 to Jan. 4:

SATURDAY, DEC. 30

- Deputies responded to the Stop-N-Save on Bloxham Cutoff in reference to the front window being busted out. Once on scene it was determined someone had attempted to burglarize the store. Wakulla County CSI members responded to the scene to assist with the investigation. Estimated damage to the business was \$2,000. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

- Lt. David Pienta responded to Charlie-R Lane in reference to a theft. Contact was made with Johnny and Amy Raker. Amy stated she left to go to Tallahassee around 2 p.m. to watch the FSU game with Johnny. Amy noted several items were missing including tools, registration to two vehicles, and a will. Amy was able to provide a possible suspect in this case. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

SUNDAY, DEC. 31

- Deputy Heather Will conducted a vehicle stop in the 2600 block of Crawfordville Hwy. The driver, Aaron Key, was found to have a suspended driver's

license with multiple prior convictions for driving while license suspended or revoked. Key was subsequently arrested for DWLSR. A search of his vehicle during the investigation found Key was allegedly in possession of methamphetamine for which he was charged as well.

- Sgt. Edward Webb responded to Dux in reference to a traffic crash. Webb made contact with a very drunk Matthew Vearil and the bouncer. Vearil had backed into the bouncer's vehicle. Vearil was not happy he would have to wait for Florida Highway Patrol and went back inside. Vearil reportedly made rude, aggressive, drunken statements to the bouncer and multiple patrons. While Sgt. Webb was attempting to interview witnesses and a trooper from FHP was investigating the crash in the parking lot, Vearil became more belligerent and was eventually arrested for disorderly intoxication by Sgt. Webb. Additionally at the conclusion of their investigation Matthew was charged by FHP with DUI.

MONDAY, JAN. 1

- Deputy Dustin Matthews responded to Shar-Mel-Re Lane, in reference to the complainant's car being keyed. Upon arrival, Deputy Matthews made contact with Ronda Sapp, who advised

on Saturday her daughter told her it looked like someone had keyed her car. Sapp advised she did not think about it until today when she noticed a scratch from the front headlight all the way down the side of the vehicle. Possible video footage of the suspect may be available. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

TUESDAY, JAN. 2

- Deputy Ernesto Trujillo responded to Centennial Bank in reference to a fraud complaint. Upon arrival Deputy Trujillo made contact with a bank employee. The employee advised two white females came through the drive-thru and use a stolen license to get money out of a customer's account. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 3

- Sara Pouncey woke up and discovered her vehicle had been burglarized during the night. She noted she was missing a \$20 bill and miscellaneous change. Due to the recent rainfall, there were no visible fingerprints or footprints left at the scene. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Todd Kent investigated.

- Deputy Jake Scott stopped a vehicle on Tiger Hammock Road. The driver, Travis Carter, was found not to have a valid license. A check revealed

Carter to have multiple prior convictions for DWLSR. He was arrested by Deputy Scott and transported to the Wakulla County Jail.

THURSDAY, JAN. 4

- Stephanie Lesley was in the national forest hunting. Lesley was traveling on FH309 when she noticed smoke coming from her vehicle. Lesley exited the vehicle, and it was soon fully engulfed. The vehicle was deemed a total loss. No foul play is suspected. Wakulla County Fire Rescue also responded to the scene.

- Asset Protection staff at Walmart reported he was reviewing video surveillance from Jan. 2 and observed a theft. The employee stated an unknown black male entered the store on the Pharmacy side at approximately 1:15 p.m. and walked to the electronics section of the store. The male can be seen on the video loading a Vizio Sound Board and two Samsung Soundbars into a shopping cart. The male then proceeded to exit the store through the Pharmacy entrance past all points of sale, without paying for the items. The male exited the parking lot in a silver sedan, possibly a Lexus or BMW. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Don Newsome investigated.

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

Library News

Library News January 11th- January 17th:

January 11th

- Creative Writing 10am
- Homeschool History 12:30pm
- Manga Club 5pm
- Friends of the Library 6pm

January 12th

- Quilting Guild 9:30 am

January 13th

- Closed for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Day

January 14th

- Closed

January 15th

- American Legion Post Executive Committee Meeting 5:30pm

- American Legion 6:30pm

January 16th

- Book Bunch 10am
- Postpartum Support Group 1pm
- Lego Club 4pm
- Florida Sarracenia Chapter of the Native Plant Society 6:30pm
- Pregnancy Support Group 6:30pm

January 17th

- Book Babies 10am
- Memoir Writing Class Start Up 10am

- Snacks & Backpacks 3pm
- Knitting Group 4pm

Upcoming Holiday Closings

- February 17th for President's Day

Save the Date Events

- February 3rd-Friends of the Library Mardi Gras celebration at the community center.
- March 2nd Spring Open House with community partners. Dr Seuss themed.

Outdoors

outdoor sports

HOME ON THE RANGE

The older shooter and how to cope, Part 3



By MARJ LAW

We've discussed how to make shooting easier for the mature shooter. Sad truth is, as we age we lose muscle strength and range of motion, our eyesight changes, arthritis sets in... But we still want to target shoot! We still want to be able to defend ourselves! What can make a difference so that shooting is easier for us?

In the last two issues of The Wakulla Sun, we talked about the Marine saying: "Improvise, adapt, overcome." This philosophy works well with choosing and handling our guns.

Many things can make a difference including having handguns with: low recoil, comfortable weight and length, easy-to-rack slides, easy loading, easy-to-see sights, easy trigger pull, and having comfortable grips. The Sun keeps back issues if you'd like to review these articles.

Let's consider other issues that will help ease your shooting life.

No matter what kind of gun you have, it will have to be cleaned. Dirty guns with lots of shooting residue can fail. Big problem? You bet! When you have to defend your life, you want to be certain your gun is in top shape.

Will you be able to "fieldstrip" your gun so that you can clean it?

Joe has a couple 1911-style handguns. John Moses Browning, born in 1855, engineered the 1911s and they have been widely used for around 100 years. Widely used? Yes. Easy to take down to clean? No. Would Joe give up his 1911s for easier to clean guns? No. Would I purchase a 1911? No. Too much work.

Cleaning a .380 caliber or 9mm handgun? Some have notches in slide and frame that have to be aligned before taking the slide off the frame. When perfectly aligned, a pin connecting the two can be pushed out. This is not as simple as it seems. Again, perfect alignment can be too exacting. Too much work.

You don't have to be old or decrepit to appreciate a gun that's easy to fieldstrip. Many new guns have "take down" levers. Lock the slide back, then flip the take down lever and pull the slide off the gun. Easy. I like easy. Now you can clean your gun. So, before you buy, find out how easily the gun comes apart.

Some kinds of ammunition are harder to shoot than others. Defensive loads give a much harder recoil, such as the hollow-point, +P, or +P+. Also, remember to check your manual because not all guns can handle these rounds.

Practice acquiring muscle memory with target loads instead. (It doesn't hurt that target loads are cheaper.) Put in defensive rounds when you are carrying



An S&W M&P .380 that is easy to fieldstrip

for your safety, but use the less expensive target loads when you're at the range trying to pick out the x-ring.

How do you expect to carry your gun? How have you been carrying it?

Physical ramifications of age may dictate how you carry. If you've been carrying the gun at your waist on your dominant hip side, you may want to rethink this.

Shoulders with problems may make it too difficult to pull your gun straight up from its holster. Instead, cross-drawing may be easier on you. Of course, there's a learning curve here. Practice drawing in this new position with an empty gun so you won't accidentally hit the person next to you.

Another choice is to wear a shoulder holster and draw from it. Again, it's time to practice this new position

for your safety and for the safety of others.

Finally, I'd like to talk about vision.

Have you noticed that mature people often wear glasses? Most articles I've read suggest that you should shoot looking at your target with both eyes. If your eyes usually need assistance, your eye doc can make up prescription glasses for shooting. Even better, ask for glasses with a light-yellow tint on them. This tint somehow improves definition of what you're viewing. Truthfully, I squeeze one eye shut while shooting. It works for me. Try looking straight on and try squeezing one eye shut. Whatever works best for you. So long as you don't squeeze both eyes shut. (ahem)

Massad Ayoob, on the Wilson Combat YouTube channel, discusses tips for the older shooter and has tips for

those who wear bifocal lenses.

First, Massad shows how a person with bifocals will look at the front sight. The reading plane of bifocals is the lower part of the glasses. In order to see that front sight, one has to look through this bottom part of the glasses. This makes the shooter have to lean backwards and the resulting position now puts the shooter off balance as well.

To correct this problem, Massad suggests visiting an optician and asking the optician to switch the two parts of the glasses so that the reading portion is on top. This way, the top of the lens is on the same plane as the front sight.

Of course, when you want to read a book or newspaper, you'll now be reading from the top of your glasses, which will tilt your head downward. Is this too awkward?

Alternately, can you afford to keep your original glasses and buy another pair with the switched lenses just for practice at the range? And if you do have 2 pair, which will you be wearing if you are ever in the position of being afraid for your life? Will muscle memory from range practice place your bullet correctly?

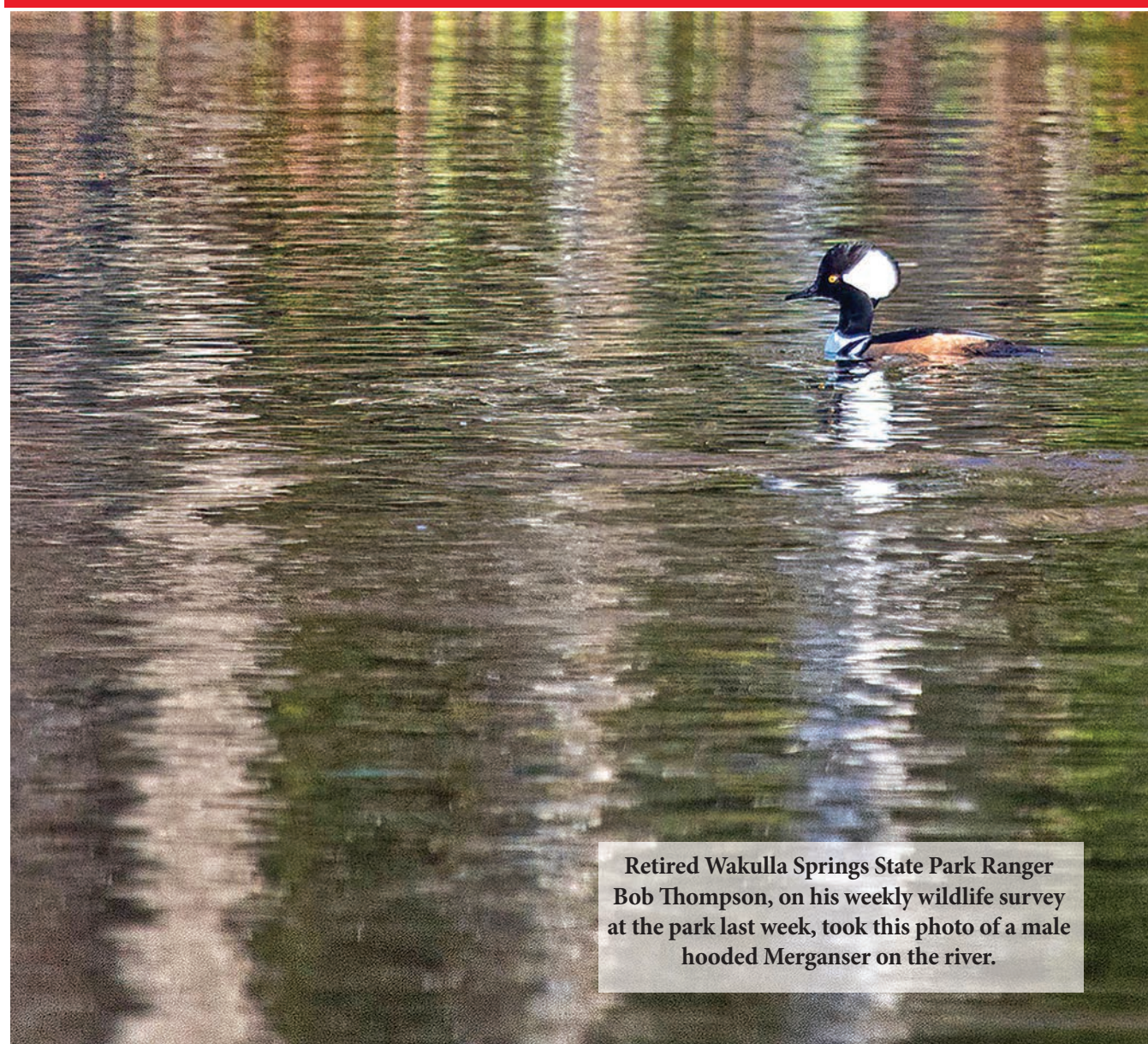
I'm on the fence on this one, but it's worth considering if I ever need to wear bifocals.

If you are fortunate enough to become an old person, shooting may be a sport where you'll have to learn to improvise, adapt, and overcome to adjust to your physical needs.

With a little creativity, it's never too late.

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

WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO



Retired Wakulla Springs State Park Ranger Bob Thompson, on his weekly wildlife survey at the park last week, took this photo of a male hooded Merganser on the river.



HONEYCOMB COWFISH
(*Acanthostracion polygonus*)

The scales of this fish fuse together to create an armor, and the two horns over its eyes. It feeds on marine invertebrates such as shrimp, sponges or tunicates. They live in shallow clear water reefs and grow up to 10" long. Little is known about their reproduction. Each males has two females in a polygamous family group. They are considered a delicacy in the Caribbean but they can cause ciguatera poisoning by eating and concentrating the toxins of dinoflagellates resulting in serious illness in humans.



Eukarya, Animalia, Cordata, Actinopterygi, Tetraodontiformes, Ostraciidae,

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www.gulfspecimen.org

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a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences

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Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

Jan. 11 - Jan. 17

Tide charts by tides4fishing.com

Best fishing days this month
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.

Day	Sun rise/set	Moon rise/set	Moon Illumination
Thursday 11	7:34AM / 5:55PM	7:59AM / 6:11PM	0%
Friday 12	7:33AM / 5:56PM	8:50AM / 7:24PM	1%
Saturday 13	7:33AM / 5:56PM	9:35AM / 8:36PM	6%
Sunday 14	7:33AM / 5:57PM	10:12AM / 9:46PM	12%
Monday 15	7:33AM / 5:58PM	10:46AM / 10:52PM	21%
Tuesday 16	7:33AM / 5:59PM	11:18AM / 11:57PM	31%
Wednesday 17	7:33AM / 6:00PM	11:49AM	43%

Point	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We
St. Marks River Entrance	12:51 am ▲ 3.4 ft	1:40 am ▲ 3.6 ft	2:28 am ▲ 3.6 ft	3:18 am ▲ 3.5 ft	4:12 am ▲ 3.2 ft	5:12 am ▲ 2.8 ft	12:14 am ▼ 0.2 ft
	8:18 am ▼ -1.5 ft	8:58 am ▼ -1.2 ft	9:37 am ▼ -1.2 ft	10:15 am ▼ -0.9 ft	10:51 am ▼ -0.4 ft	11:26 am ▼ 0.2 ft	6:25 am ▲ 2.4 ft
City of St. Marks	1:27 am ▲ 3.2 ft	2:16 am ▲ 3.3 ft	3:04 am ▲ 3.4 ft	3:54 am ▲ 3.3 ft	4:48 am ▲ 3.0 ft	12:14 am ▼ 0.3 ft	1:18 am ▼ 0.1 ft
	9:22 am ▼ -1.3 ft	10:02 am ▼ -1.3 ft	10:41 am ▼ -1.1 ft	11:19 am ▼ -0.8 ft	11:55 am ▼ -0.4 ft	5:48 am ▼ 2.6 ft	7:01 am ▲ 2.2 ft
Shell Point, Spring Creek	1:09 am ▲ 3.4 ft	1:59 am ▲ 3.6 ft	2:49 am ▲ 3.6 ft	3:41 am ▲ 3.5 ft	4:34 am ▲ 3.2 ft	5:33 am ▲ 2.9 ft	12:42 am ▼ 0.1 ft
	8:44 am ▼ -1.5 ft	9:26 am ▼ -1.5 ft	10:07 am ▼ -1.4 ft	10:45 am ▼ -1.1 ft	11:22 am ▼ -0.6 ft	11:58 am ▼ -0.1 ft	6:43 am ▲ 2.4 ft
Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay	12:43 am ▲ 2.6 ft	1:32 am ▲ 2.7 ft	2:20 am ▲ 2.6 ft	3:10 am ▲ 2.6 ft	4:04 am ▲ 2.4 ft	5:04 am ▲ 2.1 ft	12:25 am ▼ 0.1 ft
	8:29 am ▼ -1.1 ft	9:09 am ▼ -1.1 ft	9:48 am ▼ -0.9 ft	10:26 am ▼ -0.6 ft	11:02 am ▼ -0.3 ft	11:37 am ▼ 0.1 ft	6:17 am ▲ 1.8 ft
St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.	12:28 am ▲ 2.6 ft	1:20 am ▲ 2.7 ft	2:14 am ▲ 2.7 ft	3:12 am ▲ 2.6 ft	4:13 am ▲ 2.4 ft	5:21 am ▲ 2.1 ft	12:35 am ▼ 0.1 ft
	8:10 am ▼ -1.4 ft	8:55 am ▼ -1.4 ft	9:39 am ▼ -1.3 ft	10:22 am ▼ -1.0 ft	11:03 am ▼ -0.6 ft	11:43 am ▼ -0.1 ft	6:39 am ▲ 1.7 ft
Dog Island West End	12:45 am ▲ 2.4 ft	1:39 am ▲ 2.4 ft	2:32 am ▲ 2.4 ft	3:29 am ▲ 2.2 ft	4:29 am ▲ 1.9 ft	12:02 am ▼ 0.4 ft	1:06 am ▼ 0.1 ft
	8:32 am ▼ -1.5 ft	9:15 am ▼ -1.4 ft	9:59 am ▼ -1.2 ft	10:42 am ▼ -0.9 ft	11:21 am ▼ -0.4 ft	5:31 am ▼ 1.6 ft	6:47 am ▲ 1.2 ft

Day	Minor Times	Major Times
Thursday 11	7:14AM / 5:26PM	11:17PM / 11:48AM
Friday 12	8:05AM / 6:39PM	12:19AM / 12:50PM
Saturday 13	8:50AM / 7:51PM	1:19AM / 1:47PM
Sunday 14	9:27AM / 9:01PM	2:14AM / 2:40PM
Monday 15	10:01AM / 10:07PM	3:05AM / 3:30PM
Tuesday 16	10:33AM / 11:12PM	3:54AM / 4:18PM
Wednesday 17	11:04AM / ---	4:42AM / 5:06PM

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.



From left, Jim Kenny and Mike Casey swearing in; Mary Grant receiving award; and Wade Olson receiving award.

Underwater Wakulla

By Rusty Miller

The off season.

By the time this article comes out we will have almost hit the middle of January. Most if not all the reef species will be closed to fishing and spearfishing. So this begs a question: What do we do for the next three to four months? I have some suggestions. While you have this downtime my first suggestion is spend more time with your family. Then my other suggestions are get your regulators and BCD serviced so you will be ready to hit the water when the fishing season opens.

Another suggestion is get more education and training in diving. Most diving accidents are because open water divers go beyond the limits of their original open water training. I fully understand the excitement after you get your basic open water training and certification, but don't let that take you in to a dangerous situation that you're not trained for. One example I can give is what is called an overhead environment. Basically it's when you're diving in a spring that has a cave system and you go into the opening or cavern. If you have done this, you might say to yourself that I'm not going very far into the cavern let alone the actual cave that's connected to it. The problem is you find yourself a little further than you planned and when you turn around to leave you realize the entrance has been silted up by your kicking and now you're a statistic. About 90% of cave deaths are open water divers who are not trained for it.

Another area of dive training is advanced diver. This training will teach you to understand what pressure can do as you go deeper into the water column. An advanced trained diver is taught the dangers of the deeper water from 60 feet to 130 feet. You learn a small part of decompression diving and what you need to do if you go longer at the deeper depth than your dive tables and or computer say to. The other area of training is the use of a Nitrox mixture like 32% and 36%. This means that instead of breathing normal air that has the 21% oxygen to breathing gas with 32% or 36% of oxygen. A good example is if you are on a spearfishing trip with your friends and they have standard air and 32% Nitrox and you grab a 32% tank you'll jump in the water and see a big gag grouper. You go and spear it and just before you go into uncontrollable convulsions your last look at your depth gauge says 135 feet. You basically drowned if your dive buddy is too far away from you. Standard air the maximum depth is 218 feet, the maximum depth on 32% is 130 feet.

This brings me to my last suggested training that is a diving rescue course. Let's use the last example of diving to deep on Nitrox32. If your dive buddy does go into convulsions and passes out without the regulator in their mouth, rather than panicking and trying to bring them to the surface too fast causing even more issues, you will know the correct technique to bring them to the surface increasing their chance of survival. A dive rescue certification gives you the techniques to assist a fellow diver who is in distress. You will learn CPR, O2 use, and diving first aid. You will learn how to help a panicked or near panicked diver at the surface and underwater. In the classroom you will learn the legal aspect as well as dealing with the family of the diver you save or not. You have to remember that if you're not trained in certain situations then you don't try to help because you could become the second victim.

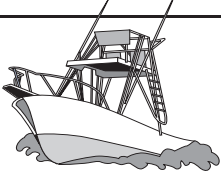
Keep making bubbles.
Russell Miller #59999

Editor's Note: This is a repeat of a column that originally appeared in January 2023.



Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports

By Carolyn Brown Treadon



The following was submitted by our Immediate Past Flotilla Commander Phil Hill.

Flotilla 12 held its holiday party on Friday, Dec. 29th at the Wakulla Lodge restaurant. The party included the Change of Watch for the flotilla. Both Jim Kenny and Mike Casey were sworn in as the newly elected leaders of the flotilla.

The event started with the "missing man ceremony." This is a remembrance of military men and women that did not return home after deployment.

To honor our veterans, the flotilla collected needed items for distribution at Veteran's Village.

Challenge coins were awarded to flotilla staff officers by the outgoing

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

Flotilla Commander to recognize their contributions to the Flotilla's success over the last couple of years. Individual awards were also handed out to members along with a unit award for the flotilla.

A short history of the USCG Auxiliary and Flotilla 12 was shared with family members attend-

ing the event. The party made for an enjoyable evening at the lodge.

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

Please contact us for more information about our safe boating classes or learning more about getting involved in the Auxiliary, check out our

website at www.uscgaux.net. Follow us on Facebook @ Apalachee Bay Flotilla 12 or contact our Flotilla Commander Phil Hill at pnkhill2000@yahoo.com

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

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

FWC Law Enforcement Report

From FWC

This report represents some events the FWC handled Dec. 22-28 in the Northwest Region. (No cases were reported in Wakulla County)

FRANKLIN COUNTY

• Officer Hartzog was patrolling on Highway 98 and observed a commercial angler throwing

a cast net along the shoreline. Officer Hartzog stopped the angler to conduct a resource inspection. During the inspection, the angler was observed to be in possession of multiple undersized red drum and over his daily bag limit. The officer addressed the violations appropriately.

• Officer Hartzog was conducting patrol at Is-

land View Park and observed a subject fishing from a pier. Officer Hartzog stopped the subject to conduct a resource inspection. During the inspection, the subject was observed to be in possession of an undersized red drum. The officer addressed the violation appropriately.

HOLMES COUNTY

• Officer M. Homan responded to a report of an individual possibly taking over the seasonal bag limit of antlerless deer and not submitting a harvest report. Officer Homan investigated, and the subject admitted to taking four antlerless deer this hunting season and not completing any harvest reports. He was cited accordingly.

Father, teach us how to love



By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

Have you become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal? You may have without realizing it.

1 Corinthians 13:1 (ESV) says, “If I speak in

the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.”

How many of us want to spend time with a noisy gong? Even a minute of this obtrusive noise would make us want to run away. Think how it would affect us if we had to be around a clanging cymbal constantly throughout our week.

How often do we inflict our “loud” (thoughtless, unkind) behavior on others? Can we see ourselves in any of the following scenarios?

“Can’t you go any

faster?” you practically scream at the slow-moving driver ahead of you.

Gong!

“I refuse to clap. I thought for sure I was going to win,” you think as you watch someone take home the coveted award or position you’ve worked so hard for.

Clang!

“Did you hear about Denise? She’s back in rehab. She’s such a loser,” a coworker says which sparks a lively conversation that quickly spreads through the office.

Gong! Clang! Gong! Clang!

This is the opposite of what love sounds like. How have we allowed our thoughtlessness to lead us to behave in such unloving ways? Perhaps we’ve fended for ourselves for so long, looking out for number one, that we’ve gotten sidetracked. We’ve lost perspective on what living as a child of a loving God is supposed to “sound” like.

Suppose we resolve to make our love sound better.

What if we commit to obey God’s truth and stop letting our emotions control us? What would

happen if we finally took responsibility for the way we behave?

Is it possible in the new year to love the way Scripture defines love? Yes!

If we allow the Holy Spirit to search our hearts and minds, He’ll show us where we fall short and enable us to love in a way that honors Him. For the next several weeks, we’ll discuss 1 Corinthians 13. As we discover how we’re called to love those around us, perhaps we’ll also get a clearer glimpse of our Heavenly Father’s heart for others – and

for us.

Let’s pray: Father, teach us how to love. Help us choose to love others even when our emotions tell us to do otherwise. I pray that as we grow in our understanding of what real love is, our behavior toward others will become a beautiful sound in Your ears. Amen.

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.

What makes a hero



By **CHERYL CRUCE**

When I was young, several caped heroes entertained us on the old black and white television that was the center of our home. Superman and Mighty Mouse flew across our screen with supernatural powers, saving some distressed damsel. Batman and Robin were the caped crusaders fighting crime and bringing justice for the innocent.

These make-believe heroes were part of a bygone era that captivated the imagination of many children.

As make-believe and caped heroes fall into the pages of time, we gain the wisdom needed to recognize the actions of a true hero. Heroes are not fictional characters created for entertainment but individuals who, in one way or another, impact our lives for the better. Often, heroes are those who are a constant presence in our everyday lives.

My hero, Dad, often worked two or three jobs to keep the house warm and food on the table. Yet, with his busy schedule, he still managed to have a memorable time with each of his

children. He built boats and taught us how to fish. He built campers and showed us the magic of campfires and the beauty of creation. Daddy stood 10 feet tall in the eyes of his little girl.

Mom, a hero in her own right, busied herself with a household of children, managing chores, calming arguments, and filling our lives with special events. She kept us together, moving in one direction, pouring her heart into every aspect of our lives, including the family pets. I will never forget her late-night prayer, “Lord, please don’t let this little one die in my hands,” as she performed CPR on a bottled-fed kitten. My kitten lived a long, hap-

py life, and Mom was definitely hero material.

Heroes! Recently, while walking, I witnessed an older man and his wife struggle to put a heavy device in their car. Suddenly, the man stumbled backward, losing his balance. He was sure to fall beneath the weight of his load when a stranger stepped forward to catch the man and steady the situation. “Great save!” I exclaimed, and the stranger replied, “Not all heroes wear a cape.” There is a lot of truth to his words.

Heroes are ordinary people who step up and make a difference in the lives of those around them. Our soldiers on foreign shores, firefighters, law enforcement,

and first responders do not wear capes, yet they keep us safe by repeatedly running into danger. Our medical personnel give up sleep to care for the sick, while our teachers often give a much-needed warm hug to a child living in a cold and distant world. None of these heroic people wear a cape, but all serve selflessly.

In the teachings of Jesus, we are all called to serve, to be a hero, as we find our purpose in Him, following His ways (Mark 8:34), with the understanding that giving is a greater blessing than receiving (Acts 20:35). When we serve, our acts should not be done selfishly but with a humble heart full of love. (Galatians 5:13). Be a hero for someone

today.

Heroism is not difficult to find. It is often a simple act of prayer to the Father on behalf of another. It is a kind word that heals a broken heart or a steady hand, giving courage to one’s ability to succeed. Heroism is treating others how we wish to be treated (Matthew 7:12). When we do simple acts of kindness, we find healing within.

1 John 3:18: “Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.”

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

OUT TO PASTOR

What’s new about a new year



By **JAMES SNYDER**

On New Year’s Eve, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I were celebrating in our living room with some hot apple cider.

We wanted to end the year together. At our age, with so many children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, that’s a tough agenda. We love all our family, but sometimes it is just good to be by ourselves.

As we were sipping our hot apple cider, we heard the roar of firecrackers around our neighborhood. We listened to it and chuckled as we leaned back in our chairs, enjoying the time together.

I must confess that this past year was filled with all kinds of things. It is hard to define what a “thing” is these days. Time, however, has a way of bouncing along without any indication of stopping.

As we were coming to the end of our hot apple cider, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage looked over at me and said, “Happy New Year.” How she said it caused me to believe she was anticipating a “New Year.”

Even though it’s another year, I still am who I am, so I looked at her and said very seriously, “What’s so new about this coming New Year?”

I surprised her, and she did not understand what I was saying. She looked at me and said, “Well, it will be 2024 and not 2023. I’m sure you can see how that’s new?”

I took a deep sip of my hot apple cider, looked at her and said, “I’ve looked at the calendar for the year 2024 and all of the months are the same as they were in 2023. Every month has the same seven week days and each of those days have 24 hours. What in the world is new about that?”

She looked at me as though I was a bit crazy, and I must say, she is never wrong.

Of course, she did know how to respond to my question.

“Maybe, just maybe this New Year will be the year that you get a little bit mature.”

I was a little confused because I didn’t quite know what she was talking about. I thought about what she said and responded, “I’m as mature as I ever want to be.”

I couldn’t help but think of the time we went out to a restaurant to celebrate my last birthday. As we finished our meal, she looked at me and said, “So, how does it feel to be old?”

Without thinking, which is my MO, I

reached across the table, took hold of her upper arm, gently squeezed it, looked at her, and said, “Old is feeling just fine.”

As I remember that incident, she wasn’t laughing.

Then, I did one of the dumbest things I have done throughout my life. I looked at her and said, “What do you think I need to do to improve my maturity?”

I think she set me up for that question.

“Well,” she said with one of her infamous grins, “maybe you could improve your listening ability this New Year. You just don’t listen when I say things and I have to repeat them over and over again.”

“What did you say?” I asked.

“That’s exactly what I mean. You may hear what I’m saying but you don’t listen to what I am saying. Maybe this year you could practice listening a little more.”

I almost asked, but I didn’t, what she would recommend that I do to practice listening. I’m sure she had an agenda there.

She was not finished.

“Also, you could improve your memory. You forget so many things and I have to remind you of them all the time. May-

be you could do something to improve that part of your maturity.”

Those two things would take up my whole year, and I would have no time to do anything else. I was so afraid she would have a number three on her list.

Then it came, “And thirdly, maybe you could do something about your snoring at night. You snore so loud every night that sometimes it wakes me up.”

I’m not sure how I can do all three things in one year, but that was the recommendation from The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

As I sat in my chair sipping some hot apple cider, I thought about these things, and then, she had something else to say.

“And there’s another thing you could do,” she said with a very serious perspective in her voice, “you could tell me some things I need to do to improve my maturity.”

That caught me by

surprise, I didn’t see it coming. How I respond to her statement will determine how happy my life will be in this next New Year.

I just looked at her, smiled, and said, “My dear, you are the most perfect person I know, and I could never think of anything that you need to do that would improve your maturity.”

She just looked at me and smiled.

It’s not very often that I get out of a mess, but I think I got out of this one. Let’s see how long this lasts.

Thinking on this, I thought of Ecclesiastes 1:9, “The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.”

What more can be said?

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamesnyder51@gmail.com, website www.jamesnyderministries.com.

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Obituaries

DEATH NOTICES

• **Gary Carnell Allen**, 62, of Tallahassee, died January 6, 2024. Family Funeral Home at Harvey-Young Chapel, 850-926-5919, www.familyfhc.com

• **Nathaniel Spencer Arnold**, 42, of Tallahassee, died January 1, 2024. Family Funeral Home at Harvey-Young Chapel, 850-926-5919, www.familyfhc.com

• **Louis Gibson Sr.**, 91, of Crawfordville, died January 3, 2024. Family Funeral Home at Harvey-Young Chapel, 850-926-5919, www.familyfhc.com

• **Penny L. Neff**, 50, of Crawfordville, died January 3, 2024. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel, 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **Tony Gary Strickland**, 85, of Crawfordville, died January 1, 2024. Family Funeral Home at Harvey-Young Chapel, 850-926-5919, www.familyfhc.com

BEREAVEMENT COLUMN

Bible in hand



By TRACY RENEE LEE

I directed a service this week for a man who had served his community and his church for his entire life. He had

also served my funeral home numerous times, and we will greatly miss him.

His funeral service was unique in that the Pastor for his service was his brother.

During Pastor Stanmore's words of comfort to the congregation, he shared that poignant moment when he found his brother, Michael.

Michael was a single man who lived alone but served his community daily. After not

being able to make contact with Michael, Pastor and Sister Stanmore decided to go over to his home. They found Michael dead in his living room.

Pastor Stanmore's description of that moment was beautiful. As he entered his brother's home, Michael was sitting on his couch with his hand stretched out in front of him. In his hand he held an open book; his Bible.

Michael, true to his

life's practice, passed from this life into the presence of his Lord and Savior while reading and studying the Word of God.

As I listened to Pastor Stanmore, I wondered how he could recount this story without breaking down into tears.

He loved his brother, but he knew that his brother was happy on the other side of life.

As I listened, I remembered a quote that

I had recently heard. "We live to die and we die to live." (Russel M Nelson) Michael lived his life serving his community in the name and example of Christ.

His death, although felt deeply by those left behind to remember him, will enrich those whom he will now serve.

His genuine desire to love and serve will be a great asset in the work on the other side of the veil.

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

Weekly Roundup: Battle for the ballot

By RYAN DAILEY
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — Advocates for abortion access scored a win Friday, as supporters of a proposed constitutional amendment designed to protect abortion rights submitted enough valid petition signatures to get on the November ballot.

Friday's development was a key step in what could become the year's biggest political battle, as the state Supreme Court would still need to sign off on the ballot initiative's wording — while state Attorney General Ashley Moody is fighting to keep the measure off of the ballot.

The Florida Division of Elections website Friday morning showed that 910,946 valid signatures had been tallied for the proposal, surpassing the needed 891,523 signatures to qualify for the ballot.

Floridians Protecting Freedom, the political committee that sponsored the proposal, said getting enough signatures represented a "huge milestone for abortion access" in the state.

Lauren Brenzel, campaign director for the committee, pointed to reaching the petition goal as an indicator of support for abortion rights.

"The fact that we launched our campaign only eight months ago,

and that we've already reached our petition goal, speaks to the unprecedented support and momentum that there is to get politicians out of our private lives and healthcare decisions," Brenzel said during a press conference Friday.

The political committee launched the ballot initiative in response to the Legislature and Gov. Ron DeSantis last year approving a measure that restricted abortions to six weeks of pregnancy — which opponents have asserted amounts to a de facto ban on the procedures.

The six-week restriction, however, is contingent on the outcome of a legal battle about a 15-week abortion limit that DeSantis and lawmakers passed in 2022. The 15-week case is pending at the Florida Supreme Court.

The proposed constitutional amendment also comes after the U.S. Supreme Court in 2022 overturned the landmark Roe v. Wade decision on abortion, putting the matter in states' hands.

Meanwhile, the ballot initiative will face scrutiny from the state Supreme Court, which is tasked with approving the summary and title that voters would see when they go to the polls. Moody and other opponents are urging justices to block the measure, arguing that

it is misleading to voters. Moody, in part, has raised concerns about the measure's use of the term "viability," arguing that the term can have multiple meanings.

The court has scheduled a Feb. 7 hearing on the abortion initiative.

ABORTION WAIVER REJECTED

In a decision that could impact future requests by minors to have abortions without notifying and getting consent from a parent, an appeals court this week rejected a minor's attempt to obtain such a waiver.

The waiver sought by the minor, identified by the pseudonym Jane Doe, would have allowed for an abortion despite a parental notification and consent requirement in state law.

Wednesday's ruling by a three-judge panel of the 1st District court of Appeal marked the second time in less than three weeks that a similar request has been denied. But this week's ruling appeared to be a first of its kind, with the appeals court saying it did not have legal jurisdiction to decide the case — and dismissing it.

The appeals court said the case lacked a necessary "justiciable controversy" because it did not have an "adverse party." Such an adverse party could have been

a parent or guardian of the minor.

"This appeal comes to us with only the minor's interests presented to the court," said the ruling, written by Judge Lori Rowe and joined by Judges Thomas Winokur and Brad Thomas. "And without representation of the interests of the parents — the parties whose rights are directly implicated under the parental notification and consent law. Indeed, the appeal comes to us with no appellee (a respondent in an appellate case) at all. Under these circumstances, there is no justiciable controversy for us to adjudicate."

Also included in the decision was an acknowledgement by Rowe that the ruling departed from how courts have handled the cases in the past.

"We recognize that our court and other district courts have exercised appellate jurisdiction to consider many appeals from circuit court rulings denying judicial waivers ...," Rowe wrote. "Even so, none of Florida's district courts have addressed in a written opinion our jurisdiction to exercise appellate judicial power in cases arising under the judicial waiver statute or whether such cases present justiciable controversies."

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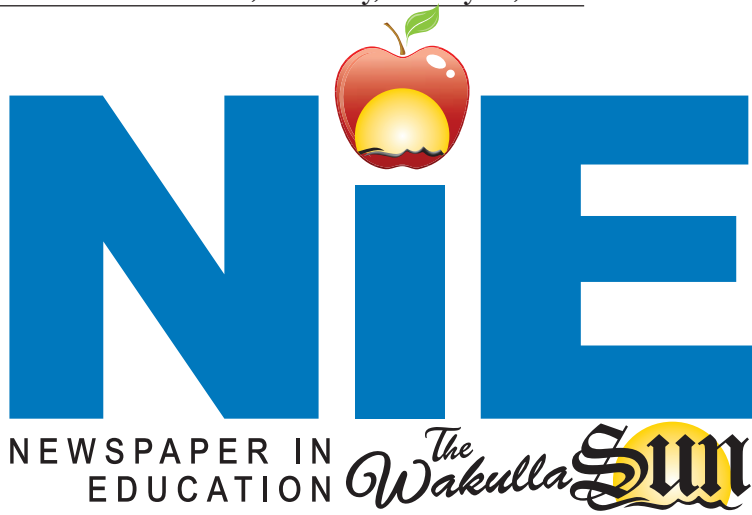
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USE THE NEWS

1. HAPPY NEW YEAR

Millions of people tune in every New Year's Eve to watch a giant, sparkling crystal ball descend at midnight to mark the moment the year changes. But in towns across the country, other objects are used for the year-end ritual. Mount Olive, North Carolina, drops a giant pickle in honor of the Mount Olive Pickle Company. Mobile, Alabama, uses a 600-pound MoonPie, a s'mores-like treat popular in the South. In the laid-back beach town of Folly Beach, South Carolina, they use a giant flip-flop shoe, while Temecula, California, has lit-up grapes to symbolize its location among the state's many vineyards. What item would you use on New Year's Eve that symbolizes your life, family, or community? Draw what it would look like and write a description of why you chose that item.

2. SNAIL MAIL

When you mail something with the U.S. Postal Service, you expect it will be delivered soon after. But what if something you sent took a whole lifetime to arrive? That was the case with a letter mailed to an Illinois couple in 1943. It was lost at the post office for 80 years — likely because the sender had written the street but not the house number — before a worker found it and decided to track down family members of the original recipients. It finally made it to a relative who lived in Portland, Oregon, thanks to that postal worker's efforts. Write your own letter as if it's going to be delivered to a family member decades from now. What kind of things would you want to tell them about you and your life? What about the community you live in?

3. READING REWRITE

New York schools

have fallen behind the rest of the country when it comes to teaching reading. Last year, fewer than half of the third graders in the state scored well on state reading tests. Now, New York's governor is trying to fix it by changing the way reading is taught in schools. Teachers will be re-trained on the "science of reading," helping them understand new ways of teaching children to sound out words, understand their meaning, and expand their vocabulary. This is different from previous ways, like teaching chil-

dren to guess words using pictures for clues. Experts say that way doesn't teach enough understanding of phonics, or the way sounds represent letters or groups of letters. Why do you think it's important to understand how to read? Studies say children who don't learn how to read well are more likely to drop out of school later on—why do you think that is? What are some ways that reading in the classroom could be more fun, so kids are more likely to want to do it? Write down some of your answers and share

them with your classmates.

4. PUMPKIN PROBLEM

A woman in Florida is suing Hershey's because one of their products doesn't look the way it's pictured on the wrapper. Reese's Peanut Butter Pumpkins are a specialty Reese's Cup sold every year around Halloween. The wrapper shows a chocolate pumpkin with a cutout jack-o-lantern face on it, but the product inside is just the pumpkin-shaped peanut butter filling covered in chocolate without the face detail. A Florida woman has filed

a lawsuit against Hershey's, the maker of Reese's products, calling it false representation of their product. She said she was misled by the packaging and wouldn't have bought the pumpkins if she knew they didn't have the jack-o-lantern face on them. Write a summary of this story, using facts you read here.

5. MUSIC MAVEN

Taylor Swift has broken another record with her music. In the past two years, she's released her old albums that she's re-recorded, labeled "Taylor's Version," which include new bonus

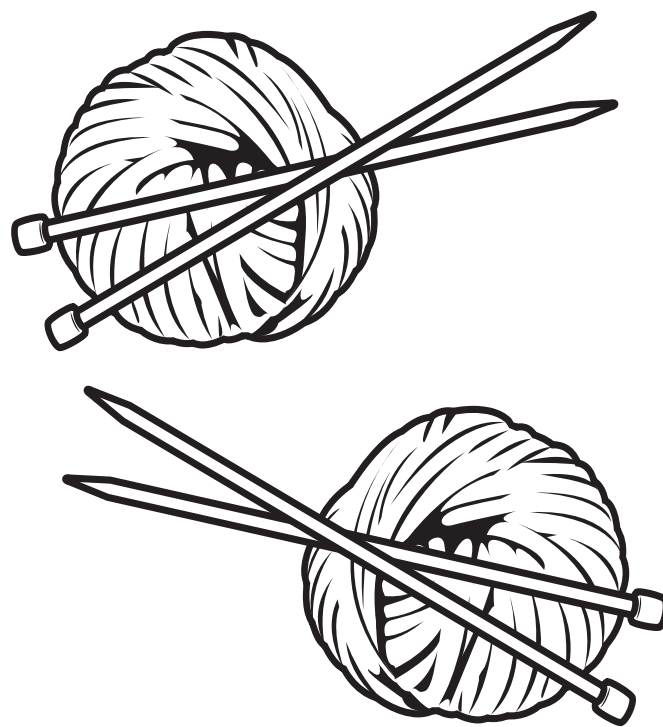
songs. They've been so popular, she's now been at number 1 on Billboard's music charts 68 times from 13 albums. She's now appeared at number 1 more than any other solo artist, beating out Elvis Presley for the top spot. The Beatles are the only act to have been at number 1 more times at 132. Her latest rerelease, "1989 (Taylor's Version)," has been streamed more than one billion times in the United States alone. If you could interview Taylor Swift about her music, write five questions you would ask her.



Creative Coloring

Celebrate hobbies.

Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1430: PHILIP THE GOOD ESTABLISHES THE ORDER OF THE GOLDEN FLEECE, THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS ORDER OF CHIVALRY.
- 1812: THE FIRST STEAMBOAT ON THE OHIO RIVER OR THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER ARRIVES IN NEW ORLEANS.
- 1920: THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES TAKES EFFECT, ENDING WORLD WAR ONE FOR ALL COMBATANT NATIONS EXCEPT THE UNITED STATES.



THIS TYPE OF ACTIVITY ALLOWS THE BRAIN TO KEEP WORKING BUT ALSO RELAX IN A MEANINGFUL WAY.

ANSWER: HOBBY

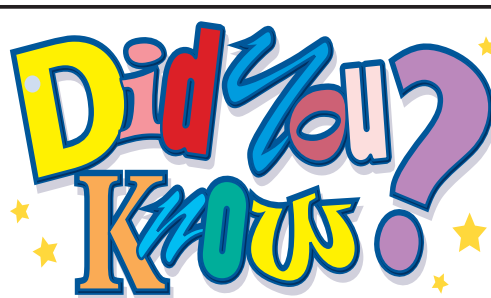


RECREATION

activity enjoyed when not working



- ENGLISH:** Hobby
- SPANISH:** Hobby
- ITALIAN:** Hobby
- FRENCH:** Passe-temps
- GERMAN:** Hobby



COLLECTING IS A POPULAR ACTIVITY IN NORTH AMERICA. PEOPLE COLLECT COINS, VIDEO GAMES, BOOKS, COMIC BOOKS, AND RECORDS.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: ART SUPPLIES

COMPUTER TERMS WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- APPLE
- APPLICATION
- BACKUP
- COMPUTER
- DESKTOP
- EJECT
- FILES
- HARD DRIVE
- INPUT
- INTELLIGENCE
- KEYBOARD
- LAPTOP
- MEMORY
- MOTHERBOARD
- OFFICE
- OUTPUT
- PERSONAL
- PREFERENCES
- REBOOT
- SLUGGISH
- SOFTWARE
- SPAM
- STARTUP
- TRASH

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

CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

- Defensive nuclear weapon
- Moved back and forth
- One-time coach of the Cowboys
- Last letter
- Cause to become less intense
- Genus of tree bugs
- Body art
- Romance novelist
- Be filled with love for
- City
- Make vivid
- Horses
- Mauna __, Hawaiian volcano
- Atomic #18
- Shortly
- A type of prejudice
- Whirls
- Six
- Old world, new
- __ Hess, oil company
- Talk
- Not off
- Begets
- Cars need them
- Computing architecture (abbr.)
- Of I
- Journalist, activist Wells

CLUES DOWN

- Indigenous people of Mexico
- Dietary supplement
- Having a particular sheen or luster
- Views
- Academic Bill of Rights
- Automobile
- When you anticipate arriving
- Beef or chicken intestine
- Conspiracy
- Blood disorder

- Long-time NBAer Shawn
- Time zone
- US, Latin America, Canada belong to
- Upton Sinclair novel
- What a cow does
- Cavalry-sword
- Ancient Greek war galley
- Stars
- Rebukes
- Billion year periods
- Some are in a bottle
- Tears down
- Lethal dose
- Humorists
- Midwestern US state (abbr.)
- Frameworks
- Rocker Billy
- More thin
- Dog
- Habitual repetitions
- State of fuss
- Uneasy
- Chemical compounds
- More cognizant of reality
- A place to build
- Exclamation that denotes disgust
- Supplement with difficulty
- Very slick
- Hill or rocky peak

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
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65						66							67	
68						69							70	

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to computer cleanup.

R E S E A

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

H	S	S		R	E	R	E	S	E	H	H	
E	G		L	I	O	C	S		E	N	E	H
N	I	N	S	T		N	O	L	I	I	R	P
V	O	I	L	I	E	S		E	G	O	M	
S	V	I	O									
R	E	I										
R	V	D										
I	A											
N	O	N	V									
S	N	O	I									
I	W											
S	T	H	E									
V	S	V	N									
O	P											

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

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 singer born in England on January 12, 1993. I planned to become an English teacher, but tried out for "The X Factor" as a solo artist. I was ultimately paired with other singers to form a very successful boy band before moving on to a solo career.

Answer: Erase
 Answer: Zayn Malik

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

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WAKULLA HIGH WRESTLING

War Eagles come up short at district duals

By WALT JACOBS
Special to The Sun

On Friday January 5th in Lynn Haven, Mosley High School hosted the FHSAA 1A District 2 Dual Championship.

Wakulla, Suwannee, Florida High and Liberty County squared off to see who would prevail in a clash of titans. To give you an idea of just how strong this district is, Kabra Wrestling has 27 wrestlers from 1A District 2 listed in its statewide rankings. Only one other district has more with 31. To reach the 1A Region 1 Duals and continue their quest for a State Championship, Wakulla would need to be one of the top two teams in the district. In the opening round, The War Eagles fell to Suwannee 47-24 but hoped to rebound against Florida High in Round 2. The War Eagles gave a valiant effort but came up short in a close contest 38-33. Wakulla went on to defeat Liberty County in the final dual of the tournament 60-21.

This year the 1A District 2 Duals were incorporated into the Panhandle Championship, which is a much larger tournament, featuring teams from Oklahoma, Tennessee, Georgia and of course Florida. Wakulla continued wrestling on Friday defeating Milton 75-6 and Wewahitchka 67-9. On Saturday, the War Eagles continued their winning ways with victories over Mosley 47-30, and Gulf Breeze 46-36 thereby securing an overall 5th place finish in the Panhandle Championship.

RESULTS FROM THE FHSAA 1A DISTRICT 2 DUALS

Wakulla vs Suwannee

106 - Eli Jolicoeur (Suwannee) over Kyle Manzi (Wakulla) Fall (0:53) 113 - Topher Pearson (Suwannee) over Matthew Thaxton (Wakulla) TF 17-1 120 - Justin Contreras (Suwannee) over Caleb Thompson (Wakulla) Fall (0:51) 126 - Rylan Milian (Suwannee) over Zachari Wardrup (Wakulla) Fall (1:18) 132 - David Culley (Wakulla) over Jayden James (Suwannee) Fall (0:58) 138



- Bricyn Kennedy (Wakulla) over Jonathan Gonzalez (Suwannee) Fall (1:15) 144 - Aaron Robinson (Wakulla) over Christian Socarras (Suwannee) Fall (0:36) 150 - Austin McKinney (Suwannee) over Clayton Manzi (Wakulla) Fall (0:21) 157 - Marshall White (Suwannee) over Nate Jacobs (Wakulla) Dec 4-2 165 - Benjamin Lewis (Suwannee) over Kane Watford (Wakulla) Fall (1:32)

175 - Torynn Johns (Suwannee) over Hayden Fringer (Wakulla) Fall (5:08) 190 - Clay Starling (Suwannee) over Blake Barodte (Wakulla) SV-1 8-6 215 - Kohl Pippin (Wakulla) over Sam Ballard (Suwannee) Dec 4-0 285 - Aaron Caquimbo (Wakulla) over Holden Corbin (Suwannee) Dec 1-0

Wakulla vs Florida High

106 - Malik Leonard (Florida High) over Kyle Manzi (Wakulla) Fall (3:55) 113 - Matthew Thaxton (Wakulla) over Mike Watters (Florida High) Fall (0:35) 120 - Jasper Croom (Florida High) over Caleb Thompson (Wakulla) Fall (1:06) 126 - Reis Suskey (Florida High) over Zachari Wardrup (Wakulla) Fall (4:42) 132 - Sterling Hollingsworth (Florida High) over Bricyn Kennedy (Wakulla) Dec 6-5 138 - David Culley (Wakulla) over Teagan Olson (Florida High) Fall (2:53) 144 - Brady Jackson (Wakulla) over Terence Hinson (Florida High) Fall (3:19) 150 - Aaron Robinson (Wakulla) over Jacob Payne (Florida High) Fall (0:12) 157 - Nate Jacobs (Wakulla) win by forfeit 165 - Nicholas Roeder (Florida High) over Kane Watford (Wakulla) Maj 14-2 175 - Xander Hawkes (Florida High) over Nathan Braverman (Wakulla) Fall (1:11) 190 - Jordan Haigler (Florida High) over Noah Vernon (Wakulla) Major 9-0 215 - Colin Bishop (Florida High) over Kohl Pippin (Wakulla) Dec 9-3 285 - Aaron Caquimbo (Wakulla) over Christian Ajose-Adeogun (Florida High) Dec 13-7.

Wakulla vs Liberty County

106 - Thiago Finuff (Liberty County) over Kyle Manzi (Wakulla) Fall (1:23) 113 - Matthew Thaxton (Wakulla) over George Faulk (Liberty County) Fall (0:34) 120 - Caleb Thompson (Wakulla) over John Bwembya (Liberty County) Fall (3:25) 126 - Keaton Ellis (Liberty County) over Zachari Wardrup (Wakulla) Fall (1:07) 132 - Bricyn Kennedy (Wakulla) over Jacob Wade (Liberty County) Fall (1:11) 138 - Hunter Brown (Liberty County) over Jonah Hicks (Wakulla) Fall (2:33) 144 - Brady Jackson (Wakulla) won by forfeit 150 - Josh Mercer Liberty County over Aaron Robinson (Wakulla) SV-1 8-6 157 - Nate Jacobs (Wakulla) win by forfeit 165 - Kane Watford (Wakulla) won by forfeit 175 - Wyatt Brown (Wakulla) won by forfeit 190 - Noah Vernon (Wakulla) won by forfeit 215 - Blake Barodte (Wakulla) won by forfeit 285 - Adleigh Caquimbo (Wakulla) over Thor Eikeland (Liberty County) Fall.



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Year in Review in sports photos

War Eagles on a winning streak



Wakulla Sun sports photographer Ken Fields got a great sequence of photos in the Sept. 14th issue of War Eagle receiver Samron Brinson laying out for a touchdown catch against the Munroe Bobcats. After an undefeated season, the War Eagles made it to the second round of the playoffs where they couldn't overcome Florida High.



Homecoming King Samron Brinson and Homecoming Queen Isabella Taff, who was crowned Miss Wakulla just weeks earlier. Photo by Gerald Brown



War Eagles soccer are district champs again

The Wakulla War Eagles boys soccer team beat the Bay County Tornados 2-0 in a playoff game on Tuesday, Jan. 31, on a foggy night at J.D. Jones Stadium. The War Eagles scored goals by Chase Linville and Braeden Paul.

The War Eagles then hosted South Walton on Thursday, Feb. 2 for the district championship and won 1-0 on a goal by Paul. (Photo by Riddhi Patel)



BASEBALL PLAY AT THE PLATE

War Eagles win season opener

The Wakulla War Eagles kicked off the new baseball season with an 11-0 win over the Godby Cougars on Tuesday, Feb. 21. The season opener was

also notable for senior Colby Zinser signing his scholarship with Lagrange College after the game. (Photo by Ken Fields)

Three Wakulla wrestlers place at state



Connor Brown
PHOTOS BY WALT JACOBS



Jae Thaxton with Coach Pafford



Kohl Pippin

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