

Wakulla County Candidates Contributions & Expenditures

See Page 13



"It's a New Day"

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Our 4th Year 4th Issue
Thursday, February 1, 2024



Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
Hi: 63° Lo: 43° 6%	Hi: 67° Lo: 43° 8%	Hi: 68° Lo: 56° 85%
Sunrise 7:27 AM Sunset 6:14 PM	Sunrise 7:27 AM Sunset 6:15 PM	Sunrise 7:26 AM Sunset 6:16 PM



\$1
One Section

Beginning of end of St. Marks?

A petition is circulating among residents to dissolve the city citing high taxes

By **LEGION TAYLOR**
Reporter

A petition has been mailed out to the citizens in St. Marks that calls for the dissolution of the city government.

The petition, circulated by St. Marks resident Robert Gee, comes with a letter that makes the case for the city's dissolution, citing issues like the high property taxes compared to the rest of the county and the increased sewer, water, and garbage bills.

St. Marks city government has faced a financial crisis this year, driven in large part by the cost of operating its sewer system. The city commission has been warned by its accountant that it could face bankruptcy in a couple of years if nothing is done – so city commissioners did a steep increase in utility rates, which created considerable discontent among residents.

Commissioner Paul Sheddian, who was mayor when the rate increase was implemented, said that he's doing research on the issues mentioned, and that while he doesn't know if this is the right direction for the city, he does feel that it's worth discussing.

The letter, which was intended to be mailed to St. Marks voters on the 22nd, draws comparisons between St. Marks and Sopchoppy as well as Panacea.

"If you look around the county, Panacea had a population of 735 people in 2020 and was unincorporated," the letter states. "Their residents paid no city taxes, but have all the same benefits we enjoy as well as lower water, sewer, and garbage bills."

It also brings up the higher property tax rates within the city of St. Marks, asking "Why would someone move to



A view of City Hall in St. Marks.

St. Marks when the tax on a \$100,000 property is \$600 more than anywhere else in the county, even including Sopchoppy... because they have never imposed a property tax there."

Properties within St. Marks are taxed of 6 mills per \$1,000 of value by the city government – in addition to tax levies by Wakulla County government, the school board, and water management district.

The letter clearly states its position that the best solution to bring down the cost of living for the residents of St. Marks is to dissolve the city. It also states that all the services that the citizens currently enjoy would be taken care of by the county, just without the added expense of city taxes.

The letter also states that in the event that the city government be dis-

solved, the water and sewer would be taken care of via a St. Marks Area Water and Sewer Agency, similar to how it's done in Panacea. Though, the Panacea Area Water System was formed from a privately held water company, and it's unclear whether or not the same could be done with the water in St. Marks, as the city government owns that system.

Something similar happened with the town of Hastings, Florida, in 2017. The citizens there voted to dissolve the city and its government over increased taxes and utility rates, and the county government there took over the city's property, assets, and liabilities.

In Hastings, water rates did go down after the city was dissolved, but that is only because the county government decided not to impose a special taxing district or utility surcharge in that area,

meaning the rates in St. Marks might or might not go down should the city government be dissolved.

When contacted and asked to further explain his stance, Gee said he had not been pleased with the St. Marks government for over 20 years. He added that the city government impedes the process of construction by adding an extra layer of bureaucracy, and that the city "has no business trying to operate a utility."

Charles McMurry, a former city attorney for St. Marks, is also in favor of the petition. McMurry expressed concerns that the city government of St. Marks didn't really accomplish anything for the people, and that all the services it provides could be provided by the county, as everyone in St. Marks is still paying Wakulla County taxes as well as city taxes.

"As residents, we don't need anything from the city and should not have to pay taxes simply to support a poorly run, semi-insolvent government entity," McMurry said. "Life would go on as before and we would have more money in our pockets to spend.... it's a win-win for all."

Should the petition receive enough signatures (10 percent of the population of St. Marks), it would require that the city commission enact ordinance to dissolve St. Marks, which the citizens could then vote on.

The vote would be held either on the next general election day or in a special election, which the city commission would decide.

Mayor Steve Remke declined to comment on the situation, electing to wait for the general meeting in February.

Food giveaway in Panacea



Volunteer Dan Wagner, above, prepares to hand out frozen chicken; volunteer Becky Whaley with County Administrator David Edwards, Senior Center Director Lara Edwards, and Joy Strickland.

Story & Photos By
LINDA ANN McDONALD
Correspondent

Wakulla Giving Hands held a food giveaway in Panacea on Saturday, Jan. 27, at Bayside Plaza.

It was the non-profit organization's first event outside of Crawfordville.

Partnering with Second Harvest and Mack's Country Meats to provide an abundance of food, Wakulla County Sheriff's Office Road Crew and Cub Scouts to assist with distribution and a host of volunteers, Panacea was provided access to free food and resources to aid those who need assistance or just a helping hand to make it to the end of the week.

Becky Whaley, assisting the event, said, "I oversee feeding the

(senior citizens), so I partnered with Second Harvest, Wakulla Senior Center and Wakulla Giving Hands to help more often. I used to help feed the seniors at the Senior Center once a year, now we are distributing every other Wednesday.

"A lot of the seniors don't want you to know that the once-a-month \$800 check they're getting is just not cutting it anymore," Whaley added. "My goal is to continue to work with Second Harvest and everyone here today to keep feeding our Senior Citizens and provide a full-time pantry."

County Administrator David Edwards and Wakulla Senior Center Director Lara Edwards were at the event in support.

President of Wakulla Giving Hand Casey Kimbrell said, "At

the end of the day, I am tired but my heart is huge and it is our Giving Hands that keeps our hearts going and our missions moving. This organization gives me something to live for and I truly believe this is my calling and I have an enormous sense of self fulfillment." Kimbrell shared as the organization is growing, so are our sponsors; we are officially partners with Pepsi products now."

Wakulla Giving Hands consists of President Kimbrell, Vice President Richard Melton and Treasurer Christell Wood.

Interested sponsors or anyone interested information can contact Wakulla Giving Hands on Facebook or Kimbrell at 850-661-0605, Melton at 850-688-0719, or Wood at 850-321-7961.

WRESTLING

War Eagles repeat as champs at Wakulla Invitational

By **WALT JACOBS**
Special to The Sun

Coach Will Pafford and the War Eagles hosted their annual Wakulla FCA Invitational wrestling tournament on Jan. 26th and 27th. You would have to go back to 2016, when Wakulla placed 3rd, to find the last time that the War Eagles did not place 1st at their home tournament.

This year 13 teams gathered at the Nest to battle for the belt. When the final tally was taken, Wakulla was at the top of the heap again with 333 points and the strap in hand. Class 2A Middleburg was a distant 2nd with 206.5 points, followed by district rival Florida High, Episcopal of Jacksonville, and Dothan to round out the top 5.

Individually, Wakulla had five champions in Matthew Thaxton at 113, Bricyn Kennedy at 132, Brady Jackson at 138, Aaron Robinson at 144, and Adleigh Caquimbo at 285. Others placing were Brady Wilson (2nd), Caleb Thomsson (7th), Troy Thaxton 2nd, David Culley (4th), Jonah Hicks (4th), Nate Jacobs (4th), Auston Ryals (5th), Gavin Mitchell (5th), Kane Watford (3rd), Wyatt Brown (4th), Blake Barodte (2nd), Kohl Pippin (2nd), and Aaron Caquimbo (4th).

"It has been a tough season," said Coach Will Pafford. "To get two tournament wins in a row and

Turn to Page 3



Matthew Thaxton of Wakulla working against Nathan Harvey of Middleburg.

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Student of the Week

Bradley McGuffey – 8th grader at Riversprings Middle

Principal: Josh Sandgren

Achievements/Reason for Nomination: Bradley McGuffey is an 8th grader at Riversprings Middle School. Bradley made 2nd chair All-State and is categorized as being the 2nd best, middle school clarinet player in the State of Florida. Bradley enjoys playing the clarinet in his free time and is a member of the youth group at Sopchoppy Baptist Church. Bradley's favorite part about being at RMS is the band. RMS is a better school because of students like Bradley! Go Bears!




STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.

Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park

Needle palm

By LYNN ARTZ, DAVID RODDENBERRY, and SANDY TEDDER



Needle palm (*Rhapidophyllum hystrix*) is a shrubby fan palm that grows to 6' tall and wide. Its large palmate leaves emerge from a short, thick trunk with black needle-like spines. This dense, slow-growing evergreen is native to coastal states in the southeast, typically in moist to wet areas. However, needle palm can tolerate a range of soils from wet to dry and grows in both sunny and shady locations. Needle palms provide shelter for wildlife. Females produce fuzzy red fruits that feed bears and other mammals. Increasingly uncommon in the wild due to habitat loss and illegal collection, the future of this beautiful native may depend on its popularity as a landscape plant. In 2022, needle palms were planted at the entrance to Sopchoppy Depot Park and in the northeast garden.



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Lisa Craze, CFC
 Wakulla County Tax Collector

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Zeta Phi Beta celebrates Founders Day

**Photo & Story By
LINDA ANN McDONALD
Correspondent**

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated Geographical Area 1 celebrated the 104th anniversary of Founders' Day at the Wakulla County Community Center on Saturday, Jan. 20.

The catered event opened with the Presiding Officer and Area 1 Coordinator Cassundra Lynn Thomas, along with Chapter President Novella Franklin, Dr. Jacquelyn McMillan, and Dr. Sonya Jackson extending a generous warm welcome and prayer invocation to those attended. Area 1 encompasses Escambia County to Madison County.

First Vice President Carlotta Patterson and Chrissy Ervin of Publications shared, "Zeta Phi Beta is focused on principles, scholarship, service, sisterhood and finer womanhood; we volunteer in Wakulla County by providing Blessing Boxes of food, volunteering within the FRESH back to school events, assisting with food drives, and providing community service whenever a need is identified."

Wakulla County Commissioner Quincee Messersmith attended the event and recognized the sorority's tremendous impact on Wakulla County made possible by the selfless acts of service



Members of the sorority's Wakulla Chapter: Vivian Wilson, Carlotta Patterson, Chrissy Ervin, Novella Franklin, C. Lynn Thomas, Danyell Conner, Sonya Jackson, and Kim Hinson.

associated with Eden Springs Rehabilitation Center and the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office.

Messersmith attended the event donning a royal blue and white dress reflecting the colors of the sorority's identity.

Living a healthy lifestyle, personal wellness and mental health were topics of discussion at the event as well.

Cassundra Lynn Thomas said in her welcome speech, "I am glad to be here again. It is no secret the flame of love is in all things. When I think of Novella L. Franklin, you mean so much to a lot of people. Since opening this Chapter I have seen the blessings that you chose to give: to instill loyalty and com-

mitment, to the blessings given and the blessings received in your own lives."

When addressing the Founders, the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority shared, "The Founders instructed us by teaching us vision, mission, and a plan. Where our start came from, without them, there will be no us."

The Z-HOPE Presentation was presented by Mrs. Kenny Manning of Be a Hero to Our Heroes, Inc./ F.R.E.S.H. Back to School Outreach Ministry.

"Thank you and we appreciate the interest and support of Wakulla County and we pray God continues to bless this vision," Manning said.

The Trailblazers of

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority website shared the following information:

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority would be remiss not to pay homage to the first women who believed in the need for a new and different type of Greek-lettered organization and acted upon that need. To these women, Zeta was more than an organization – it was a movement. This belief system reflected, at its core, the desire to provide true service, embrace scholarship, set a standard for Sisterly Love, and define the noble concept of Finer Womanhood. This belief has sustained and encouraged Zetas worldwide to hold fast to the ideals initiated and developed

by its earliest members.

The Founders of Zeta were strong, principled coeds who possessed a great deal of modesty, strength of character, and pride in academic achievement. They are a worthy foundation upon which to base our illustrious Sorority.

Arizona Cleaver Stemons: Arizona Cleaver was the first president of the Alpha Chapter and the first national president of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority. She completed her graduate and post-graduate studies in social work and was responsible for chartering numerous undergraduate and graduate chapters throughout the United States.

Pearl Anna Neal: After graduating from Howard

University's Conservatory of Music, Founder Neal continued her studies at the Julliard School of Music. In 1938, she was the first black woman in New York to earn a master's degree in music from Columbia University. An extremely accomplished musician, Founder Neal taught music in North Carolina public schools and served as a director of seniors majoring in music at Teachers College in Winston Salem, NC.

Myrtle Tyler Faithful: Myrtle Tyler was the second national president of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority and blood sister to Viola Tyler. High school mathematics and English teacher, Founder Tyler was an active member of the Alpha Zeta Chapter in Baltimore, Maryland.

Viola Tyler Goings: Viola Tyler graduated from Howard University with a teaching degree and a major in mathematics. She taught school in Ohio for many years and was always active in community affairs.

Fannie Pettie Watts: Fannie Pettie graduated from Howard University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in education and taught junior and senior high schools in Savannah, Georgia. She was credited with organizing two additional Zeta chapters and had active membership in the Delta Alpha Zeta Chapter.

Wakulla Wonderful is a celebration of county's founding, March 9th

**By RACHEL PIENTA
4-H Director**

The Wakulla Wonderful event is back! On Saturday, March 9, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Wakulla 4-H invites the Board of County Commissioners, all elected county officials, our business community and all citizens to join Wakulla 4-H at the Wakulla County Courthouse square on High Road for a celebration of Wakulla's founding and community history.

Weather permitting, the celebration will be in the closed road and parking lot areas.

Wakulla 4-H, along with community partners, invites everyone to come to this free birthday celebration that celebrates the history of Wakulla County. The 2024 event will feature a historical timeline, tours of the old county jail and old courthouse, vendors, live music, a birthday cake, food trucks, and an interactive "Passport to Wakulla Adventures" activity for the first 100 youth on the day of the event. Walkers who complete the 32 mile Walk Across Wakulla Challenge will be recognized at the event with a race-style medal! Register here: <https://bit.ly/2024WAWRegis->

tration.

History of the Event

In 2019, 4-H led the first ever and now annual celebration of Wakulla County's birthday, the day the county was founded, March 11, 1843. The first celebration was held on the courthouse lawn, with live music, a food vendor, birthday cake, and a proclamation reading by 4-H members.

Our plans for 2020 expanded to a street festival behind the courthouse. Plans were canceled by Covid two days before the event. In 2021, we celebrated Wakulla Wonderful with the Walk Across Wakulla program and a proclamation reading at the county commission meeting. In 2022, we brought back the street festival birthday party and incorporated Walk Across Wakulla into the festivities leading up to and during the event. Thank you to everyone who helped to make 2023 the best year yet!

4-H and Wakulla Wonderful: Ways to be Involved

How will 4-H be involved? 4-H are the hosts of the event. Youth are actively involved in planning and will have the opportunity to do

one or more of the following roles:

1- be part of a 4-H booth/display about their club;

2 - read a section of the Proclamation on stage during the event;

3 - play another role on stage as emcees;

4 - dress in costume that represents a specific time period and play a role with the history walk timeline OR be an event host at an assigned station.

181 Years of Wonderful: Celebrating Wakulla's History

Wakulla County has a rich and extensive history dating back 12,000+ years! Wakulla County was formed on March 11, 1843 by an act of the Florida Legislature as the 23rd county of Florida. In recognition of Wakulla's history, Wakulla 4-H will ask the Board of County Commissioners to declare March 10-16, 2024 as Wakulla Wonderful Week in Wakulla County.

Wakulla Wonderful Week seeks to send a message of recognition and celebration of Wakulla's 181st birthday. This week will allow time to reflect on the wonderful county we live in and the benefits we have living here. Wakulla 4-H serves the

purpose of educating our citizens and youth, inspiring growth in everyone and pledging our heads to clearer thinking, our hearts to greater loyalty, our hands to larger service, and our health to better living so that our citizens can make Wakulla County even more wonderful.

The event on March 9th will feature live music, historical tours and an illustrated history walk, vendors, and more. "Walk Across Wakulla" participants will be recognized during the event.

Special thanks is due to all the Wakulla Wonderful partners, volunteers, and committee members. This event would not be possible without support from the Wakulla Sun, the Wakulla Library, Friends of the Library, Wakulla County Sheriff's Office, Lamar Advertising, the Wakulla County Historical Society, the Wakulla County Chamber of Commerce, UF/IFAS Wakulla County Extension, the Wakulla County Clerk of Court, Rockulla, Visit Wakulla, and the Wakulla Board of County Commissioners.

This year a Friday night celebration at Hudson Park has been added! 4-H youth members decided they wanted to walk the last mile

of Walk Across Wakulla together and have invited the community to join them at Hudson Park on Friday March 8, 2024 from 4 to 8 pm. The free event features live music from the Hot Tamale band and food trucks will be on site with food to purchase. The last mile walk will start at 6 PM!

How to Get Involved
Community and civic organizations are invited to participate in the celebration. Please contact Dr. Rachel Pienta at 850-926-3931 or r.pienta@ufl.edu for registration information.

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Opportunity Institution authorized to provide research, educational information, and other services only to individuals and institutions that function with non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions, or affiliations. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Florida, IFAS, Florida A&M University Cooperative Extension Program, and Boards of County Commissioners Cooperating.

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.



WAKULLA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD PRE-QUALIFICATION NOTICE

The School Board of Wakulla County is requesting Proposals for Pre-Qualifying for Construction Services for Wakulla County School Board projects for the 2024 year. Pre-Qualification packets are available at the School Board Office.

**WAKULLA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD/
FACILITIES OFFICE**
126 High Drive
Crawfordville, Florida 32327
Telephone Number: 850-926-0065

Interested parties may pick up packets between the hours of 8:00a.m. and 4:00p.m. Monday through Friday.

Completed packets and a Public Entity Crime Statement must be returned to the office of Robert Pearce, Superintendent, Wakulla County School Board, 69 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida 32327, Attention: Michael Barwick by 2:00p.m.

February 22, 2024.

There will be a pre-qualification meeting at 2:00 p.m. February 15, 2024 in the Wakulla County School Boardroom.

Jarf eb

War Eagles are champs

From Front Page

to win in our home gym was nice. The kids wrestled good, and I am proud of them. We are gearing up for the end of the season."

The Lady War Eagles also competed over the weekend at Lincoln High

in the 2024 Lady Trojan tournament where Julia Baggett placed 3rd, Caitlyn Hall placed 4th and Senior Austin Brown placed 3rd.

As a team, Wakulla placed 7th out of 10 teams competing. Regarding the girls performance, Coach

Pafford said, "The girls wrestled well and had a great weekend with all three placing."

On Feb. 2nd and 3rd Wakulla will be competing in the Clay Rotary tournament at Clay High.



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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.”

Prepare now for the upcoming Presidential primary



By JOE MORGAN
Elections supervisor

Joe Morgan, Supervisor of Elections for Wakulla County, announces the start of the 2024 Election Cycle with the Presidential Preference Primary Election on March 19, 2024. What is the Presidential Preference Primary (PPP)? This election is part of the presidential nominating process for Florida's two major political parties. Voters registered

in either of these major political parties go the polls and choose their preferred candidate by secret ballot. Out of all the candidates, the voter is choosing the candidate they want to represent their party on the general election ballot in November. It's important to note that Florida's presidential preference primary isn't a direct election; that is, voters do not select the party's nominee directly. Voters will be voting for a particular candidate (the "preference"), and based on the results of the vote, the state party will award delegates and these delegates vote to formally select a candidate as the presidential nominee at the national conven-

tion. The 2024 Republican National Convention will be held in the City of Milwaukee in July of 2024. The 2024 Democratic National Convention will be held in Chicago in August of 2024. For this upcoming March 19th election, only one of Florida's two major parties has more than one candidate and that is the Republican Party. Therefore, the only party participating in this Florida Presidential Preference Primary is the Republican Party. So, what does that mean? Since Florida is a closed-primary state, you must be registered as a Republican to be eligible to vote in the Presidential Preference Primary on March 19th. Eligible voters

can vote by mail, by voting early, or by voting at the polls on Election Day. Why Should I Vote in the PPP? Primaries and caucuses are how we choose who runs for president. The person that earns the most votes and support from all the primaries and caucuses goes on to become the party's nominee in the general election. Turnout is usually low in these primaries, which means voters leave the choice of presidential nominees to a smaller percentage of their citizens. "In 2020, the voter turnout in Wakulla County was only 26.85% and, in 2016, only 45.67% of the eligible voters in Wakulla County turned out to vote," said Supervisor

Morgan. How do I get Election Ready? Make sure you are properly registered to vote. Visit the Supervisor of Election's website and click on the "CHECK MY STATUS" icon. This will show your name, address, party affiliation and where your polling place is.

"Since Wakulla County schools will be on spring break during this election, consider requesting a vote by mail ballot if you will be out of town," said Supervisor Morgan.

Here are some important dates to keep in mind so you don't miss your chance to vote!

• **FEBRUARY 20** deadline to register to vote or update your party affiliation for the

March 19th election.

• **MARCH 9-16** Early Voting is open in our two locations, Riversink Fire Station, and the Supervisor of Election's Main Office. Voting hours are from 8am-6pm.

• **MARCH 7** Last Day to request a ballot to be mailed to you.

• **MARCH 19** Election Day at your polling site from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Voters with questions are encouraged to contact the Supervisor of Elections Office by email at wakullacountysoe@wakullavotes.gov, or by phone at 850-926-7575, weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Joe Morgan is Wakulla County's Supervisor of Elections.

LETTERS FROM READERS

In response to retraction of photo

Editor, The Sun:

This is my response to your retraction of my mistake. The photo was not misrepresented. It was an unintentional mistake. If it was indeed from 2013, I still have it listed as 2017. However, as I told you on the phone, I had dumped them all into a folder titled "Airport Photos 2017."

When I went back to use it later in 2017, the date of use changed from 2013 to 2017 and the 2013 date disappeared forever. It's automatic with my old and simple program called MS Digital Image Suite.

Thank you,

Bill Catalina
Crawfordville

Editor's Note on pedestrian death

We received an email from a reader requesting a correction on a front page story about the pedestrian killed on Bloxham Cutoff: the reader, who lives near the site of the accident, said the person killed was a flag man with a crew doing installation work along the road right-of-way and the van came off the road and hit

the worker. "Your article makes it sound like he was just walking down the hwy when he was actually working," the reader wrote.

Consider this a correction. To be clear, the story relied on information released by the Florida Highway Patrol in its fatality report.

On the Horizon

Calendar of events for the week of February 1

Thursday, February 1

- Rotary Club of Wakulla meets at TCC Wakulla at 8:30 a.m.
- The VFW Auxiliary Bingo Night will be held at 7 p.m. at 475 Arran Road in Crawfordville, every Thursday. There are concessions and raffles.
- Gentle Yoga at 9 a.m. and Yin Yoga at 6 p.m. with Zoe every Thursday. Classes are \$12, at New Posh on 3079 Crawfordville Hwy. RSVP to newposh3079@gmail.com or text/call at (850) 528-5838.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. every Thursday at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

Friday, February 2

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

Saturday, February 3

- Mardi Gras, sponsored by Friends of the Library, will be held at the community center from 6-9 p.m. with live music and a cash bar. Tickets are \$50 each.
- The Panacea Community Garden Farmer's Market will be held from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in Panacea.
- The WHO (Wildlife, Heritage, and Outdoors) festival will be held at the St. Marks Wildlife Refuge from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- 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, February 5

- The Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners meets at 5 p.m. in the commission chambers.
- The Library Advisory Board will hold a

public meeting at 10 a.m. at the Wakulla County Public Library

- 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, February 6

- 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, February 7

- 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.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.
- Gentle Yoga and Stetching Class, every Wednesday, 11 a.m. Wakulla Community Center. Bring a mat. Come early to sign in. Chair Yoga participants welcome. \$2 per class.

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You can support The Wakulla Sun with a tax-deductible donation to help us cover the stories that matter to you.

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- More local news about our community
- More local content on the environment and local businesses

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We would very much appreciate your contribution.

William Snowden
Editor & Publisher
The Wakulla Sun

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

"It's A New Day!"

The Wakulla Sun

Editor/Publisher: William Snowden <small>editor@thewakullasun.com</small>	Reporter: Legion Taylor <small>reporter@thewakullasun.com</small>	Production Manager/IT: Eric Stanton <small>estanton@thewakullasun.com</small>	Circulation: Krystal Sheppard <small>circulation@thewakullasun.com</small>	Sales & Marketing: Lynda Kinsey <small>lkinsey@thewakullasun.com</small>
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◀ Question of The Week ▶

– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

Polled at the Chamber's Ribbon Cutting for Panacea Motel: What do you like about Panacea?



DALLAS MARSHALL
Panacea RV Park

I like the slow pace of living here. No traffic on 98 at night, it all seems to go through Sopchoppy."



ELLEN VAN TASSEL
Retired from FedEx

The people, we've got really good people here."



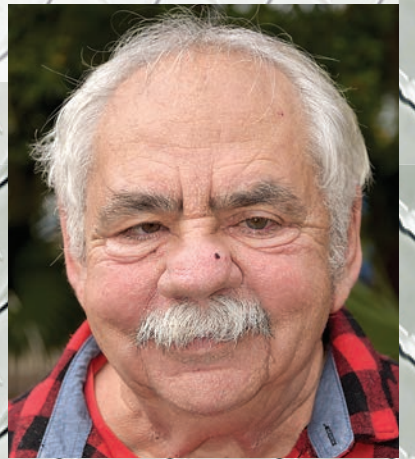
RONDA CONNETT
Air B&B owner

I'm in nature here, so I love everything about it. I love seeing this (Panacea Motel) come alive again."



LEE HALL
Owner Panacea Motel

"I love the wild beaches, the marshes, the wildlife. It's like no other Florida coastal area."



CK RUDLOE
Gulf Specimen Marine Lab

Panacea is a magical place. I like the sea monster the best!"

Buckhorn News

By **ETHEL SKIPPER**

Some days ago, I was on an interview. The first question I was asked was, "Tell us about yourself." I didn't know where to begin.

I am Ethel Mae Rosier Skipper. I live in Sopchoppy and have been

here all my life. I have traveled half-way around the world. I have been married over 70 years and my family make life worth living.

Then I was asked about Sopchoppy. Sopchoppy means dark water. It is the most beautiful river in the land. You have have to live here to know

all the wonderful things about Sopchoppy. On each Tuesday night of the week there is a community dinner at 6:30, free to the public. It is a good time to fellowship with old friends and meet new people.

We wish a happy birthday to Bernard Ross on Feb. 14; Timothy Beard on Feb. 14; Kellen Johnson on Feb. 17; Ella Andrews on Feb. 17; Patrick

Rosier on Feb. 21; and Dionte Gavin on Feb. 22.

Let us keep in our prayers Isaiah Hines Sr. He has been in the hospital. Betty Green, Mother Mila Hills, Alberta Hines and all the sick and shut-in, those in the hospital, nursing home, prison, the homeless, and all in need of prayer. Let us pray for each other.

Wakulla Station News

By **VERNA BROCK**

I want to report that Hidalgo, the Galicenos horse, continues to recover in Gainesville. Despite the devastating nature of his injury, his progress is encouraging. Your prayers are much appreciated.

I was delighted to serve as the time keeper for the Shadeville Elementary School Brain Brawl last week. Sponsored by the Coastal Optimist Club, this annual event is held at each of the Elementary and Middle Schools. Believe

me when I tell you, fifth graders are pretty darn smart! It is always so much fun to participate, as well as a learning experience.

JoAnn Daniels, Jan Holtman and I joined school sponsor Ms. McCord in the running of the competition, and the students did a masterful job of answering questions while under the gun of a stopwatch. Both teams shone, with the lead traded back and forth, right up to the finish line.

Team A finally prevailed, with Miles McClure scoring the most points during

the contest. His teammates, Kate Weaver, Maxx McCarty, Kadence Wilson and Mason Warner truly demonstrated the meaning of teamwork. Team B gave them stiff opposition, with Isabelle Scott, Parker Larson, Liam Helton, Tristan Childer, and Anabelle Stanley making the contest a heated race. Congratulations to each of these young contestants for a job well done, as well as to the teachers and parents who helped prepare them. Kudos all around!

I was really happy to see the showers over the weekend. We had a thunderstorm on Saturday afternoon, which naturally inspired all four of our dogs to seek refuge in Ed's lap. Considering

only one one of them is an actual lap-dog, it made for an overflowing recliner.

Speaking of the Optimists, we were pleased to welcome Property Appraiser Ed Brimmer as our guest speaker last week. Always a fount of information, Mr. Brimmer answered our many questions concerning tax rolls, Homestead Exemptions, zoning and land use designations, and much more. I highly recommend you seek out him and his knowledgeable staff if you have any concerns about your property taxes.

At our next meeting (Thursday, Feb. 1st, at Myra Jean's at noon) we will welcome Trevor Lilburn, the new editor of the Wakulla News. Please join us for lunch, and get to know Trevor better.

Library News

Library News Feb. 1- 7:

February 1st

- Registration opened all day for "Introduction to Coding using Scratch for Kids"
- Creative Writing 10am

- Math Night 5:30pm
- February 2nd
- Quilting Guild 9:30 am
- February 3rd**
- No Programs
- February 4th**
- Closed

February 5th

- Library Advisory Board 10am

February 6th

- Book Bunch 10am
- Lego Club 4pm
- Wakulla Democratic Executive Committee 6pm

February 7th

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

- Garden Club Board Meeting 1pm
- Knitting Group 4pm

Upcoming Holiday Closings

- February 17th for President's Day

Save the Date Events

- March 2nd Spring Open House with community partners. Dr Seuss themed.

Sheriff's Report

This report is for activity Jan. 19 to 25:

FRIDAY, JAN. 19

- Deputy Kory Smith responded to Paulette Drive in reference to a stolen vehicle complaint. Upon arrival Deputy Smith made contact with Heather Baumeister, who advised when she woke up this morning her 2017 Nissan Altima was missing from her driveway. Baumeister advised the vehicle was last seen the night before. Later in the day Leon County Sheriff's Office advised they had recovered the vehicle there. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

- Mary Margaret Purvis reported her car being broken into. Purvis advised the only thing taken was some old keys, an emergency window breaker, and a can of mace. All items had an estimated value of \$20. Mary decided not to pursue charges and just requested this incident be documented.

SATURDAY, JAN. 20

- Deputy Ernesto Trujillo responded to Ace High Lane in reference to a possible criminal mischief. Upon arrival Deputy Trujillo made contact with Jimmy Johnson, who advised he and his brother have property adjacent to each other their father had left them. Johnson advised there is an old Star-

flight Coachman van abandoned on his property and someone had busted the window out of it. He advised his brother might have been responsible for the damage. Deputy Trujillo was unable to identify the registered owner of the van at this time. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

- Lt. David Pienta responded to Walmart in reference to a previous retail theft. Upon arrival Lt. Pienta made contact with Asset Protection staff advised he had video surveillance of a male subject taking a bicycle on Jan. 16 and passing the last point of sale without paying. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

SUNDAY, JAN. 21

- Daniel Lee Bolinger reported his wife Rosemary Rogers Bolinger went to Walgreens in Crawfordville on Saturday to pick-up medication. He stated today his wife noticed her Cole Haan black leather purse was missing. Walgreens did not have the purse and was unable to locate it upon request by Bolinger. He stated he checked his bank account and notice an unauthorized charge for \$9.38 pending. The purse contained a wallet, iPhone 14, bank card, Florida Driver License, Social Security Card, Health Insurance Card and a pharmacy card. Total estimated value of the items stolen is \$1,300. Walgreens

staff advised that video footage may be available at a later date. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Matt Hinson investigated.

MONDAY, JAN. 22

- Melissa Spiers, an employee with Pigott's Asphalt, reported a fraud. Spiers stated several unauthorized accounts had been opened using the business owner's personal information. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Zac Larang-Monroe investigated.

- Deputy Austin Rivers conducted a traffic stop in the area of 35 Mike Stewart Dr. for faulty equipment. The driver, Walt Porter was found to not have a valid driver's license and to have been deemed an habitual offender. Porter was placed under arrest for driving while license suspended or revoked (DWLSR) and transported to the Wakulla County Jail without incident.

TUESDAY, JAN. 23

- A traffic stop was conducted on a vehicle for an expired tag. The driver was identified as John Linthicum. Further investigation revealed Linthicum had cocaine and synthetic marijuana in his possession. Linthicum was placed under arrest and transported to the jail facility. Deputy Heather Will investigated.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 24

- Deputy Jake Scott responded to Springwood Boulevard and made contact with Joseph Wright, who stated his neighbor, Joseph Wilson shot a paintball gun several times at his home, allegedly nearly striking his child on the face. Wilson was ultimately placed under arrest for criminal mischief and firing a deadly missile at or in dwelling.

THURSDAY, JAN. 25

- Deputy Ernesto Trujillo responded to Port Leon Drive in reference to a stolen trailer complaint. Upon arrival Deputy Trujillo made contact with John Cook, who advised sometime in the past 10 days someone had stolen his homemade trailer that he leaves on a vacant lot. Cook valued the trailer at \$1,200.00. This case has been forwarded to detectives for further investigation.

- Deputy James Cooper responded to the front lobby of the Sheriff's Office in reference to a walk-in complaint. Upon arrival Deputy Cooper made contact with Shawnie Harrell, who advised someone had made three unauthorized charges on her Amazon account. Ms. Harrell advised the charges totaled \$256.02. This case has been forwarded to detectives for further investigation.

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

Outdoors

outdoor sports

HOME ON THE RANGE

Three full-size 9mm handguns



By MARJ LAW

Jack wants Joe to shoot his Kimber 1911 Stainless II. He knows Joe has a Heckler and Koch (H&K) P30L and a Sig Sauer P226. These three handguns are similar in size, and they are all 9mm.

Of course, Jack has the Kimber. Seems like most guys practically genuflect to the Great Gun Fairy when they hear the name: Kimber. Jack is out to prove his Kimber to be the better gun.

Maybe. Maybe not.

So, one pretty nice day, Jack brings his Kimber to the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office range. He asks Joe to shoot all three guns because he wants the comparison to be completed by one person so that the comparison has to do with the gun itself and not the shooter.

Joe is always up for testing guns. These three are all full-size handguns. The H&K is 7.7 inches, and the Sig Sauer is 7.7 inches. The Kimber is 8.7 inches. I wouldn't carry any of these because of their size and weight, but as self-defense guns at home or in the car? We'll soon see!

Usually, the longer the barrel, the more accurately you shoot. In this case, the H&K and the Sig Sauer both have barrels of 4.4 inches. The Kimber's barrel is 5.03 inches. The longer barrel gives it great accuracy

and reduces recoil while increasing velocity.

Think of a football quarterback. Notice how he twists the football as he releases it. The barrel of your gun has rifling. Rifling is the scoring you see inside the barrel that twists the bullet. The longer the barrel, the more twist. That's why a longer barrel can help with accuracy. Right here, you might decide to give the Kimber a slight edge.

And usually, the gun with the greater mass can be more accurate. Here, weight of the guns comes into play.

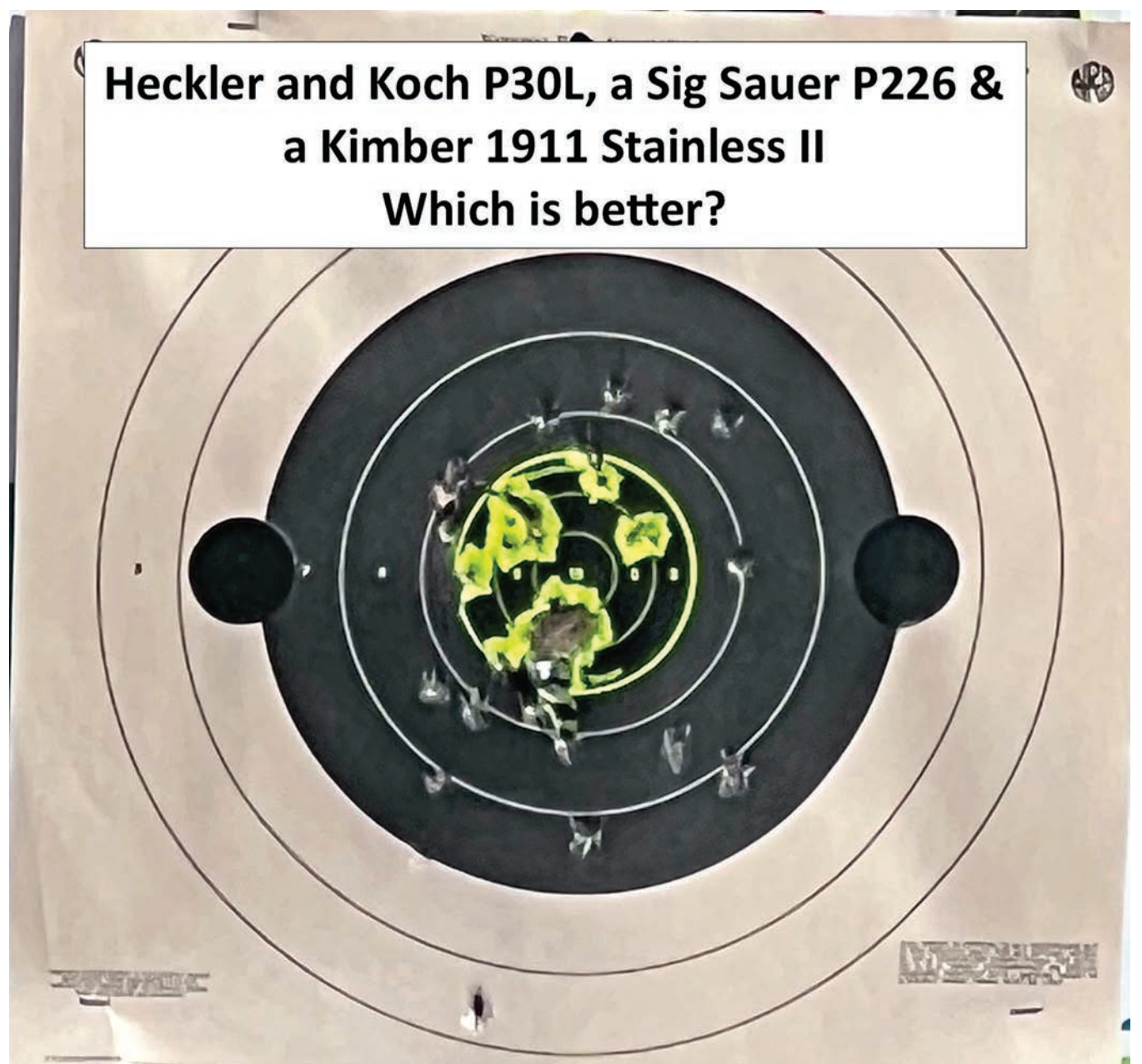
While the H&K weighs in at 24.2 ounces, the Sig Sauer is significantly heavier at 34 ounces. The Kimber, though, is heavier than the others at 38 ounces: all without magazines inside. The mass of the gun reduces recoil, while helping to keep your grip steadier. Looks like the Kimber has an edge here too.

The reason why the H&K is so much lighter, while about the same size as the Sig, is that its frame is polymer and a stainless-steel slide. The Sig Sauer has an alloy (metal) frame and a stainless slide. It also has aluminum grips. The all-metal gun weighs a lot more than the polymer H&K.

The Kimber is a stainless gun, like the Sig. However, remember that it is longer than either of the other handguns by about an inch. This accounts for the weight advantage.

Overall length, barrel length and weight can make a difference as to how accurately you shoot. These are generalities, but there are other considerations to how well you shoot a particular gun.

Going back to the weight of a gun, will your arms and wrists get tired when you practice for an hour or so? In this case, a



lighter gun will serve you better because you know you'll need practice.

How hard will it be to pull the trigger on your gun? Does an edge of the trigger dig into your index finger? Do you have to squeeze and squeeze that trigger before the gun finally goes off?

At home, Joe and I measure trigger pull on a digital Lyman scale. Trigger pull weight comes in pounds and ounces. The more pounds, the harder the trigger pull.

The H&K and the Sig are both double action (DA) and single action (SA) guns. Double action means the trigger first cocks and then releases the hammer. These are the two actions. The act of firing causes the slide to fly back towards you, and this cocks the hammer for the second shot.

Now that the hammer is already cocked, the trigger only has one job, and that is to release the hammer. Because now the trigger only has one job, it is easier to pull the trigger.

The H&K's first shot is in double action. Trigger pull is about 8.6 pounds. The second shot, where the hammer is already cocked, has only about a 4.5-pound trigger pull. The Sig's first shot carries about a 10.6-pound trigger pull, while its second shot comes in at about 4 pounds.

Since the Kimber is a 1911-style gun, it is single action only. Trigger pull is quite light at 5.5 pounds.

When looking for a handgun, go to a range that rents guns. Find the one you think you'd like and see if its weight and

trigger pull are something you can manage.

Personally, I find any trigger pull over 6.5 pounds to be more than I want in a gun. This is all individual choice; there is no right or wrong. It all depends on your body frame and your likes.

How many rounds does your magazine carry? Can you find magazines that hold more rounds for your particular gun?

The H&K's flush magazine holds 15 rounds. The Sig's magazine holds 15 as well. But the Kimber holds 9 rounds. What is your comfort level? If Mr. Bad is coming at you, how many rounds do you want in your gun?

And cost. Cost is almost always a factor in choosing a gun. Looking on the computer, according to True Gun val-

ue, the H&K runs about \$740, the Kimber around \$950. I had a difficult time trying to research the Sig, but saw a range of value from \$860 to \$1,000. How much cost do you want to manage?

This day, at the WCSO range, Joe shoots all three handguns. Here's the target.

All three guns shoot very well at 7 yards. Joe likes them all and can manage the weight and trigger pulls with no difficulty.

But Jack? Jack still knows that his Kimber is the very best.

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

BIRDING AT THE REFUGE

Duck numbers are down this year

By DON MORROW

The calendar shows that we are a month past the winter solstice, but winter at St. Marks is inconsistent and episodic. It comes in waves following frontal passages.

Last week I was crunching through frost, as I walked along the levees at first light. Today it will be in the upper 70s.

This is an odd winter down here along the Gulf Coast. Winter duck numbers are lower than I have seen in my 40 years of birding the refuge. We have only a third of the ducks that should be here in January.

North American duck populations show long-term increases and decreases over time due to factors such as local weather conditions during the breeding season. We are currently at a low ebb duck numbers.

Some species, like Mallards are down; oth-

ers like Gadwall are up. While this likely has some minor effect on refuge numbers, other factors are responsible for the current dearth of ducks.

Ducks are notorious weather migrants, whose migratory behavior is strongly influenced by local weather conditions. Unseasonably warm weather in the north earlier in the fall led to ice-free conditions. Mid-latitude waterfowl surveys in December showed that many ducks just did not migrate and this has depressed wintering duck populations across the South.

Adding to this, high water levels on the refuge's interior ponds from December's historically heavy rains have scattered the dabbling ducks that were just beginning to arrive.

Most of the more common wintering ducks on the refuge's interior ponds, are dabblers,

plant-eating ducks like teal, pintail, and Mallard. High water levels prevent them from reaching submerged vegetation.

Dabbling duck species on the interior ponds show the sharpest declines from seasonal norms at St. Marks. There are only a small fraction of the Green-winged Teal that should be here. They are usually the most common duck in January. Northern Pintail and Mallard are mostly absent. However, survey numbers are also down for critter-eating diving duck species like scaup, Bufflehead and Common Goldeneye. They swim after their prey and are not affected by high water levels.

The severe winter storms in mid-January have pushed a handful of Mallards, Northern Pintails, and a few American Black Ducks down, but it is late in the season and by February, ducks begin

to move north in stages on their way back to their breeding grounds.

This duck season does not have time to recover from the combined effects of delayed migration and high pool levels. The current duck population levels at the refuge are probably as high as they are going to get.

Winter is one of my favorite seasons at the refuge, but along the Gulf Coast, it is short and fleeting.

Already maples have begun to bloom, Red-shouldered Hawks are calling to stake their territories and it is time to begin watching for the first early migrants, Purple Martins and Northern Parulas.

There's more to winter at the refuge than ducks. Come down and see.

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



PINFISH

(*Logodon rhomboides*)

Pinfish have needle-sharp dorsal fins rays. They are the most abundant member of the porgy family living along the south east coasts. They live in habitats from shallow grass flats to deep holes, rocky outcroppings and wharf pillars. They swim in water from shallow intertidal flats to depths of 200ft and in a wide range of temps and salinities. Most active during the daytime, pinfish feed on plants detritus, worms, mollusks and crustaceans. They grow to 10" and are commonly used as bait fish, especially for catching grouper.

Eukarya, Animalia, Cordata, Actinopterygii, Siluriformes, Sparidae

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Thursday 1	
Sun rise/set 7:27AM 6:13PM	Moon rise/set ----- 11:05AM
Moon Illumination 64%	
Friday 2	
Sun rise/set 7:26AM 6:14PM	Moon rise/set 12:31AM 11:35AM
Moon Illumination 55%	
Saturday 3	
Sun rise/set 7:26AM 6:15PM	Moon rise/set 1:29AM 12:09PM
Moon Illumination 45%	
Sunday 4	
Sun rise/set 7:25AM 6:15PM	Moon rise/set 2:31AM 12:49PM
Moon Illumination 35%	
Monday 5	
Sun rise/set 7:24AM 6:16PM	Moon rise/set 3:35AM 1:39PM
Moon Illumination 25%	
Tuesday 6	
Sun rise/set 7:24AM 6:17PM	Moon rise/set 4:39AM 2:37PM
Moon Illumination 16%	
Wednesday 7	
Sun rise/set 7:23AM 6:18PM	Moon rise/set 5:41AM 3:45PM
Moon Illumination 9%	

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.	

Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

Feb. 1 - Feb. 7



Tide charts by tides4fishing.com



Best fishing days this month February 9-24

St. Marks River Entrance

Th	5:46 am ▲ 2.3 ft	11:19 am ▼ 0.7 ft	5:27 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	
Fr	12:43 am ▼ 0.3 ft	7:01 am ▲ 2.0 ft	11:57 am ▼ 1.1 ft	5:56 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
Sa	2:00 am ▼ 0.2 ft	8:51 am ▲ 1.9 ft	12:52 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	6:38 pm ▲ 2.6 ft
Su	3:28 am ▼ 0.0 ft	10:46 am ▲ 2.1 ft	2:19 pm ▼ 1.8 ft	7:49 pm ▲ 2.6 ft
Mo	4:46 am ▼ -0.4 ft	11:59 am ▲ 2.4 ft	4:04 pm ▼ 1.9 ft	9:33 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
Tu	5:46 am ▼ -0.8 ft	12:47 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	5:24 pm ▼ 1.8 ft	10:58 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
We	6:37 am ▼ -1.1 ft	1:27 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	6:20 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	

City of St. Marks

Th	12:50 am ▼ 0.3 ft	6:22 am ▲ 2.1 ft	12:23 pm ▼ 0.6 ft	6:03 pm ▲ 2.6 ft
Fr	1:47 am ▼ 0.3 ft	7:37 am ▲ 1.9 ft	1:01 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	6:32 pm ▲ 2.5 ft
Sa	3:04 am ▼ 0.2 ft	9:27 am ▲ 1.8 ft	1:56 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	7:14 pm ▲ 2.4 ft
Su	4:32 am ▼ 0.0 ft	11:22 am ▲ 2.0 ft	3:23 pm ▼ 1.6 ft	8:25 pm ▲ 2.4 ft
Mo	5:50 am ▼ -0.3 ft	12:35 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	5:08 pm ▼ 1.7 ft	10:09 pm ▲ 2.5 ft
Tu	6:50 am ▼ -0.7 ft	1:23 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	6:28 pm ▼ 1.6 ft	11:34 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
We	7:41 am ▼ -1.0 ft	2:03 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	7:24 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	

Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	12:06 am ▼ 0.2 ft	6:10 am ▲ 2.3 ft	11:49 am ▼ 0.6 ft	5:56 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
Fr	1:00 am ▼ 0.1 ft	7:20 am ▲ 2.1 ft	12:25 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	6:25 pm ▲ 2.8 ft
Sa	2:10 am ▼ 0.1 ft	8:58 am ▲ 1.9 ft	1:14 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	7:07 pm ▲ 2.8 ft
Su	3:37 am ▼ -0.1 ft	10:47 am ▲ 2.0 ft	2:25 pm ▼ 1.7 ft	8:11 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
Mo	5:00 am ▼ -0.4 ft	12:07 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	3:57 pm ▼ 1.8 ft	9:43 pm ▲ 2.8 ft
Tu	6:07 am ▼ -0.8 ft	1:01 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	5:23 pm ▼ 1.8 ft	11:10 pm ▲ 3.0 ft
We	7:00 am ▼ -1.1 ft	1:44 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	6:30 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	

Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	5:38 am ▲ 1.7 ft	11:30 am ▼ 0.5 ft	5:19 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	
Fr	12:54 am ▼ 0.2 ft	6:53 am ▲ 1.5 ft	12:08 pm ▼ 0.8 ft	5:48 pm ▲ 2.0 ft
Sa	2:11 am ▼ 0.1 ft	8:43 am ▲ 1.4 ft	1:03 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	6:30 pm ▲ 1.9 ft
Su	3:39 am ▼ 0.0 ft	10:38 am ▲ 1.6 ft	2:30 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	7:41 pm ▲ 1.9 ft
Mo	4:57 am ▼ -0.3 ft	11:51 am ▲ 1.8 ft	4:15 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	9:25 pm ▲ 2.0 ft
Tu	5:57 am ▼ -0.6 ft	12:39 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	5:35 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	10:50 pm ▲ 2.2 ft
We	6:48 am ▼ -0.8 ft	1:19 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	6:31 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	11:53 pm ▲ 2.4 ft

St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	12:00 am ▼ 0.1 ft	6:14 am ▲ 1.6 ft	11:36 am ▼ 0.6 ft	5:52 pm ▲ 2.1 ft
Fr	12:55 am ▼ 0.0 ft	7:28 am ▲ 1.4 ft	12:04 pm ▼ 0.9 ft	6:23 pm ▲ 2.0 ft
Sa	2:04 am ▼ -0.1 ft	9:14 am ▲ 1.4 ft	12:36 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	7:04 pm ▲ 2.0 ft
Su	3:25 am ▼ -0.3 ft	8:02 pm ▲ 2.0 ft		
Mo	4:40 am ▼ -0.5 ft	12:57 pm ▲ 1.7 ft	3:56 pm ▼ 1.6 ft	9:17 pm ▲ 2.1 ft
Tu	5:41 am ▼ -0.8 ft	1:31 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	5:22 pm ▼ 1.6 ft	10:30 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
We	6:32 am ▼ -1.1 ft	1:59 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	6:16 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	11:35 pm ▲ 2.5 ft

Dog Island West End

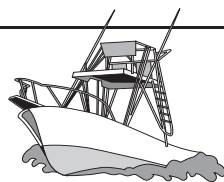
Th	12:16 am ▼ 0.1 ft	6:14 am ▲ 1.3 ft	11:42 am ▼ 0.6 ft	5:58 pm ▲ 1.8 ft
Fr	1:09 am ▼ 0.0 ft	7:41 am ▲ 1.1 ft	11:54 am ▼ 0.9 ft	6:23 pm ▲ 1.8 ft
Sa	2:19 am ▼ -0.2 ft	7:00 pm ▲ 1.8 ft		
Su	3:38 am ▼ -0.4 ft	8:12 pm ▲ 1.9 ft		
Mo	4:56 am ▼ -0.6 ft	9:26 pm ▲ 2.0 ft		
Tu	6:07 am ▼ -0.9 ft	2:48 pm ▲ 1.7 ft	5:36 pm ▼ 1.6 ft	10:32 pm ▲ 2.1 ft
We	6:59 am ▼ -1.1 ft	2:56 pm ▲ 1.7 ft	6:49 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	11:41 pm ▲ 2.2 ft

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



Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports

By Carolyn Brown Treadon



This following information comes from Bob Currie, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Recreational Boating Safety Specialist, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Station Galveston Flotilla. Last week we shared details of the accident. This week, the article provides an analysis on what went well in this situation and lessons learned.

What went right...Although this could have happened to anyone, the outcome could have been much worse. Several things came together to help make this a successful rescue. First, the boat was equipped with proper personal flotation devices (life jackets) for everyone on board.

Second, there was a VHF marine radio aboard and someone who knew how to use it. Third, there was a 45-foot US Coast Guard rapid response boat and crew who responded quickly to the mayday call. Fourth, the crew stayed together with their capsized boat and waited for help. Finally,

Boating Emergencies

Coast Guard Station
Panama City (850) 234-4228

Coast Guard Station
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Coast Guard Auxiliary
Apalachee Bay (Flotilla 12) (850) 942-7500
or (850) 284-1166

by setting the anchor the boat didn't drift into the active shipping lane, and also the anchor line helped keep the boat afloat by holding the bow in a position that trapped air in the bow. Things often don't go well when persons abandon their overturned boat and try to swim to shore (or in this case, to the jetty). The boat crew did everything right in this case. They were prepared for an emergency, and they executed their part well.

The boat is not sitting on the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico where it sank. Instead, a local sea towing company responded

immediately, and was able to right the capsized boat, pump the water out, and tow it to a marina for repairs.

The lessons are clear here:

- Have life jackets for every person aboard and wear them.
- Have a VHF marine radio aboard and know how to use it.
- Keep a cool head when an emergency does happen, and stay with the boat if it capsizes.
- If the capsized hull will support you, climb on it.
- Set your anchor whenever you become disabled.

• Subscribe to a towing service.

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

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

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

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

Underwater Wakulla

By Rusty Miller

First open water and rescue class of 2024

I just finished the first open water and rescue class of 2024. We did them at Morrison Springs Park in Walton County.

My divemaster and I arrived at Morrison on Saturday morning at 8:45 a.m. We did a walk around of the area to get a look at the water to check the clarity and visibility. It was very cloudy skies so it was hard to tell the visibility from the dock.

Just a side note, Walton County has done a lot of work at the park particularly the walk ways to the areas of the spring. They did a fantastic job and it looks great for now at least until folks come in and mess it up like they do the restrooms. The county had to put port-o-potties in because of some idiot who likes to spread human feces art all over the walls and floors making it a bio-hazard.

The students for the open water portion arrived around 9:30 a.m. We unloaded all the gear in the pavilion on a couple of picnic tables. I did the briefing and told the students what skills they will accomplish on the first of two dives that day. We all got our gear on and headed down to the spring basin. I forgot to mention that the water is 68 degrees year round, now with the outside air temperature of 45 degrees you might think the water would feel warm, you would be wrong.

You might think when you have a wetsuit on (in my case a 5mm thick) that it would be OK. The issue with wetsuits is the water slowly makes its way your body. Remember your skin is very warm in the wetsuit so the 68 degree water is about 30 degrees colder as it SLOWLY climbs up your body. When the water finally reaches the middle of your back it will trigger what I call the Urination Effect, at that moment you get a warm sense satisfaction but it is short lived. The good news is when there is a thin layer of water that stays against your body it will warm up and help fight the outside cold water. The wetsuit is designed to circulate the layer of water or recycle it over again until the suit's thermal capacity is gone and you start to get cold again.

We did the first dive and the students did very well on their skills and we went on a little swim around the springs until they started getting visibly cold and we ended the dive. We took a quick surface interval and did our second dive of the day to finish out the skills requirement. As for the spring clarity it was not good. When we had that round of bad storms the river backed up so bad that it forced mucky water into the cave system so the spring was boiling out brown mucky water. We still enjoyed about 10 foot visibility. Ill tell you about the rescues class next week.

Keep making bubbles.

Russell Miller #59999

WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO

Retired Wakulla Springs State Park Ranger Bob Thompson, on his weekly wildlife survey at the park last week, snapped this photo of Great Blue Heron flying over the river.



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Do you know any ENPs?



By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

Years ago, when I was a private caregiver for the elderly, family members would often interview me to see if I was the right person

for the job. When I'd answer their questions regarding my training, I often said, "I'm not a CNA (certified nursing assistant), or an RN (registered nurse). I'm an ANP."

I paused to allow them to search their memory before I finally solved the riddle: "A nice person." They chuckled as I pointed to my nametag: Sheryl H. Boldt, ANP.

To be honest, my nametag was more of an icebreaker than a true testimony of my personality. If it wasn't for the work of God in

my heart and His kindness toward me, I would be a NANP (not a nice person).

Are you an ANP or a NANP? If you need help in the "kindness" department, you're not alone.

This week, as we continue to work our way through 1 Corinthians 13:4, one challenge per week, we'll discuss the second challenge listed in verse 4: kindness. "Love is patient and kind..." (ESV).

In some cases, acting in a caring and considerate way can indeed be

challenging. To exhibit a genuinely kind response when we feel anything but kind takes effort. It's worth the effort, though, because a world without kindness would be a dreadfully mean world.

Thankfully, kindness is contagious.

When we see the flight attendant respond charitably to a rude passenger, it motivates us. Even witnessing something as simple as a scene in a movie in which someone offers food to a homeless person affects us.

In the same way, our

kind acts influence others.

As God's kindness draws us to Him, so our kindness (a reflection of God's nature) can draw people to us. Kindness – or lack of kindness – can change the atmosphere in marriages, our homes, and our communities.

By the way, while many still consider me an ANP, I must humbly admit that I know several ENPs (even nicer people)!

Let's pray: Heavenly Father, help us reflect Your loving kindness

more and more in the midst of today's increasingly unkind culture. May we respond with Your love when we see a person in need in our homes and our communities. As we serve one another, let us experience the joy that kindness brings – and be forever changed by it.

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.

Repurposed for Him



By **CHERYL CRUCE**

One can find many treasures in small country stores owned by the locals. Several pieces of furniture throughout my home were ready for the trash bin. Stained from years of use, chipped corners and weakened wood scarred these relics. Nonetheless, something transpired with the different pieces that caught my attention.

The eyes of a local art-

ist saw what I could not. The wood, marred by time, transformed with her touch. Great care was taken to remove the layers of old stain or paint. Her hands sanded and smoothed the scarred edges, preparing them for fresh paint. Then she grabbed her artist brushes to paint landscapes of marshes, water cranes, and shorelines. Through her talent, she has refurbished many items considered a loss.

The Prophet Jeremiah had first-hand experience in watching an artist at work. Standing outside the Potter's house, he watched the master at work. The vessel being created became marred, losing its shape. The potter did not become angry, dis-

carding his work. On the contrary, he continued reshaping the piece on the wheel until it became another pitcher that seemed best to him. Like clay in the potter's hand, we are in the hands of the Lord (Jeremiah 18:1-5).

Like old pieces of furniture, our lives are filled with scars and chipped corners that make up who we are. Triumphs and downfalls, successes and losses, plague us all. Some choices are of our own doing, while others are beyond our control. Each of these moments shapes our personalities into who we are. However, regardless of our scars, we can become repurposed when we become pliable in the potter's hands.

It is the "pliability" that troubles us. Often, we want to climb down from the potter's wheel before we are ready because reshaping becomes a painful process, even though it is necessary. Without the completed process, we become a new wine poured into an old wineskin; the new wine will burst the old wineskin (Matthew 9:16-17). Being pliable may be painful, but it is better than spilling the wine.

No man was ever born to live in brokenness, to be spilled out and considered a waste. We were not created in a darkened world. God created light on the first day of creation (Genesis 1:2) because light is needed for life. When Jesus walked the earth,

He said, "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12). Then Jesus taught the disciples that we are the light of the world, and we are to let our light shine (Matthew 5:14) and we are not to be hidden. The pliability in the potter's hands will illuminate our lives, allowing our light to shine before others.

When we walk in the image of God, we are walking in our purpose; our light is shining. We are not to be conformed to the darkness of this world but transformed by renewing our hearts and minds to the truth and light of God's word (Romans 12:2). His truth says we are more than conquerors through Him who loves us (Romans 8:37-39). The world may teach

us that we are nothing more than discarded furniture, yet our Father restores us, giving us a new heart and spirit (Ezekiel 36:26). He is removing our broken pieces and recreating us for His Kingdom. Therefore, as painful as it may be, staying on the potter's wheel will become our greatest victory as we are repurposed for the Lord.

Philippians 1:6–And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

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

OUT TO PASTOR

The key to life is forgetting the right things



By **JAMES SNYDER**

The thing that has concerned me as I have aged was about forgetting things. How could I remember everything when I was crowding my brain with all kinds of new things?

In this regard, there is no comparison between The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and myself. I have a problem remembering, and her problem is forgetting. She can't forget anything. She remembers things that I don't think ever happened. How she does that is above my pay scale.

My concern has always been that I would forget things I needed to remember and it would cause a lot of difficulty in my relationships. My biggest concern is forgetting the names of people, especially relatives. I can never figure out why some people have such weird names, hard to remember.

Thinking about this, something came to mind. When I was younger, I forgot a lot of things but all that forgetting did not keep me from growing older. In fact, I forgot some stuff on purpose just to get out of some jam. My aging had nothing to do with my forgetting.

I began to think that forgetting may result from something other

than getting old. Maybe forgetting is a way of dealing with some of the issues of life.

In thinking about this, I have concluded that the key to a good life is knowing what to forget and what to remember. If I can master this, I will not have any problems.

I've been trying to develop the art of forgetting in my life. If I know what to forget, my life will be better.

Number one on my list of not forgetting is The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. That is the hard one. I must remember all of the right things regarding her and forget all the other things.

When we started our matrimonial journey, I had no idea about this. My idea was to get along, just go along. That works with some people, but it doesn't seem to work with me.

I have to make a list of things to forget and then a list of things to remember.

The list of things to

remember is pretty long, including her birthday, our anniversary, our children's birthdays and their anniversaries, and our grandchildren's birthdays. Along with that list are the names of all of those people.

If I had charge of things, which I don't, I would tattoo the names of our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren on their foreheads along with their birthday. That sure would help me a lot.

Another thing on the list to remember was everything she said to me. I can't tell you how many times she has asked, "Don't you remember what I said yesterday?"

Now, the problem with that question is that she said so much yesterday it is tough for me to remember anything she said yesterday.

My list of things to remember gets longer every year.

But the things to forget could be even longer. I sometimes get the two

lists confused, and boy, do I get into trouble.

It boils down to this. I must always remember every time she is right. But then I also must forget every time she is wrong.

I must keep alert when we are with some friends because somewhere along the conversation, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will say, "My dear, do you remember...?" When that happens, I know that my sanity is on the line.

Or, another question would be, "My dear, remember our vacation last year?" Sometimes, I do have a little bit of a memory, but not often. With a great smile, I will respond by saying, "Oh yes I do. It was the best planned vacation we ever had."

I'm all right for the rest of the evening if I can get away with that. Because she really doesn't want me to tell about the vacation just to go along with her idea of that vaca-

tion. If I could remember something about our vacation last year, it would be an unusual episode of whose clock is ticking.

The biggest challenge I have is to forget every time she is wrong. I don't know what it is about me, but these things I can never forget. She's not wrong often, but when she is, I take great delight in that. I can't reveal my delight to her in any fashion, but it's there.

Maybe I cannot forget them, but I am developing the discipline not to bring them up in any conversation. Sometimes, I want to bring one up just to take advantage of a situation, but thinking of that, I really do love living.

Knowing what to forget and what to remember has been an important key in my life. The big problem here is that I have a hard time choosing what to remember

and what to forget.

I couldn't help but think of what the Apostle Paul said in Philippians 3:13-15,

"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Forgetting the right things makes room for me to remember the right things. If I'm going to press forward in my life I must forget some things in the past.

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

• **Stanley Clark Dennis**, 90, of Crawfordville, died January 23, 2024. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **Sandra Kaye Lynch**, 68, of Crawfordville, died January 28, 2024. Family Funeral Home at Harvey-Young Chapel, 850-926-5919, www.familyfhc.com

• **Annie Strickland McAlpin**, 82, of Crawfordville, died January 27, 2024. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **Harold Loyd Smith**, 80, of Crawfordville, died January 25, 2024. Family Funeral Home at Harvey-Young Chapel

6th annual Jubel Bissonnette Poker Run set for March 9

Special to The Sun

Please mark your calendars for the 6th Annual Memorial Poker Run “Remembering Jubel, Run for Hospice” event to be held on Saturday, March 9, 2024. This event is sponsored by the Wakulla Free Riders, in memory of Jubel Bissonnette.

Wakulla Free Riders, Jubel’s wife Sandy, and a host of dedicated volunteers and businesses in Wakulla County are honored to raise money for Big Bend Hospice to remember their friend and fellow Free Rider, Jubel. The Free Riders and community hope to exceed last year’s proceeds.

The first bike leaves Dux at 11:30 with additional stops at Ouzts in Newport, Las Brazas Restaurant in Woodville, Hobbit Southside, returning to Wakulla Free Riders Clubhouse (45 Allen Harvey St.) for dinner at 5:00. Cars are also welcome! Event donation jars are available throughout Wakulla county.

The poker run is \$10 per hand. Cards can be purchased at each stop or at the clubhouse. Prizes include \$100 for best hand, \$25 for worst hand and a 50/50 and raffle.

Food is provided again this year by Hamacknockers and music by classic Southern rock band Electric Mayhem.

Church Briefs

••Workshop on caring for loved ones with dementia

A free workshop will be offered on behavioral skills training and hospice services in caring for loved ones with dementia at Mount Olive Primitive Baptist Church #2 on Saturday, Feb. 3. Key topics at the workshop will be

- Caregiver skills building and self-care
- Relaxation and calming prayer
- Dementia prevention strategies
- Spiritual, emotional and physical benefits of hospice care
- Advanced care planning for loved

ones with dementia

The event will be held at the church, located at 8 Spring Creek Highway, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Due to space limitations, up to 50 people can be accommodated. RSVP to Tomeka Norton-Brown at tnnorton@fsu.edu or call 866-778-2724 to register.

Presenters include Elder Sam Hayes of Mount Olive; Lenny Marshall, director of diversity, equity and inclusion at Big Bend Hospice; Tomeka Norton-Brown, ACTS2 Project Coordinator, and Robert Glueckauf, ACTS2 Project Director.

All proceeds from the event go to Big Bend Hospice in Wakulla County. For more information, please contact Bryan at (850) 694-2789, Rick at (850) 661-3817, or Sandy at (850) 510-8942.

Weekly Roundup: Social media in the crosshairs

By **RYAN DAILEY**
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — The Florida House this week passed a bill that would prevent minors under age 16 from having social media accounts — but Gov. Ron DeSantis indicated he might want to see some changes.

House Speaker Paul Renner, a Palm Coast Republican who has made the bill a top priority, and other supporters say social media harms children’s mental health and can be used by sexual predators to communicate with minors.

“This is about protecting children from addictive technology and what we know harms them,” Renner told House members after the bill passed Wednesday in a 106-13 vote. “And what the social-media platforms know. For years, they have known this and they have failed to act. By your vote today, we have done so.”

The measure (HB 1) would prevent minors under 16 from creating accounts and would require social-media platforms to terminate existing accounts that are “reasonably known” by the platforms to be held by people younger than 16. It also would allow

parents to request that minors’ accounts be terminated.

Platforms would be required to use independent organizations to conduct age verifications when new accounts are created and would require denial of accounts for people who do not verify their ages.

Opponents have argued the bill would take away the rights of parents to determine whether their children use social media. Also, they have contended that the bill would violate the First Amendment.

During an appearance Friday in Kissimmee about an unrelated issue, DeSantis also pointed to concerns about legal issues with the proposal.

“I am sympathetic, as a parent, to what is going on with our youth,” DeSantis said. “But I also understand that to just say that someone who is 15 just cannot have it no matter what, even if the parent consents, that may create some legal issues.”

DeSantis said the bill “likely is going to evolve” in the Legislature. “We’ll see if we get a product that is going to be good, but I am concerned about the breadth of it,” he said.

Senate President

Kathleen Passidomo, R-Naples, on Thursday backed the proposal and said the Senate would start moving forward with it.

“I support the concept, I support the bill,” Passidomo told reporters. “The speaker is so passionate about the issue. My conversations with him, you know he has two little kids, and his concerns are valid. So we’re going to take up the bill. I don’t know if members (senators) are going to suggest proposed changes. If they do, I’m certainly going to discuss it with the speaker. It’s his initiative, and I support it fully.”

It was not immediately clear when Senate committees would take up the issue, though it could come after the Senate addresses budget issues next week.

GUARD ON THE GO?

The Florida State Guard, revived by DeSantis in 2022, could operate outside Florida and be called into service anytime he “deemed necessary,” under a bill that started moving forward this week in the House.

The State Guard was initially set up during World War II to replace Florida National Guard

members who were deployed abroad. It became inactive in 1947, before being brought back two years ago.

The State Guard was expanded from up to 400 members to 1,500 members last year. Lawmakers also increased its funding from \$10 million to \$107.6 million, including covering the costs of five aircraft and boats.

On Thursday, the House Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee voted 11-3 to support a bill (HB 1551) that would remove part of a law that keeps the State Guard’s activities only in the state.

Bill sponsor Mike Giallombardo, R-Cape Coral, described the bill’s proposed changes, which also include lessening training requirements, as “technical.”

The bill would clarify that the State Guard can be deployed to other states under an existing Emergency Management Assistance Compact, which lets states share resources during natural and man-made disasters.

Rep. Dan Daley, a Coral Springs Democrat who voted against the bill, said there is a “year-after-year creep” in the size and duties of the State

Guard.

“The Florida State Guard was sold to the Legislature with one thing in mind, to be an auxiliary, to be a support system, to direct traffic, to do things that national guardsmen, who are already overworked and understaffed, do,” Daley said.

The governor’s office in June issued a news release announcing the State Guard’s first graduating class of more than 100 members. DeSantis has requested an additional \$57 million for the State Guard next fiscal year.

WHAT’S THE PLAN?

The House and Senate on Friday released initial budget proposals for the 2024-2025 fiscal year that topped \$115 billion. They will tinker with the proposals next week and ultimately negotiate a final spending plan before the legislative session ends in March.

The Senate, for example, wants to spend \$100 million a year for 30 years on prison construction and infrastructure-repair projects. Meanwhile, lawmakers don’t appear to be ready to give DeSantis as much money as he wants for tourism marketing and an

economic-development program known as the Job Growth Grant Fund.

House Speaker Paul Renner, appearing Wednesday before the state university system’s Board of Governors, pointed to a “pretty tight” budget as the state moves beyond “never-ending revenues and money coming down from the federal government” during the COVID-19 pandemic.

STORY OF THE WEEK: The Florida House passed a bill that would prevent minors under age 16 from having social media accounts — but the measure drew questions from Gov. Ron DeSantis.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: “My hope is that, through this license plate and through this road, his music and his books and his families and his hotels and everything else, that he will continue to inspire us to see the good side and live life like a song.” — Savannah Buffett, daughter of the late Jimmy Buffett, on proposals that would name a stretch of highway for the singer and create a “Margaritaville” specialty license plate.

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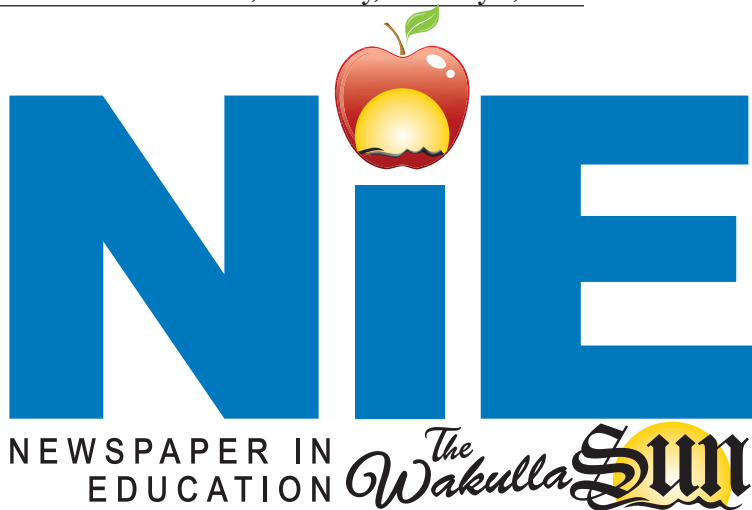
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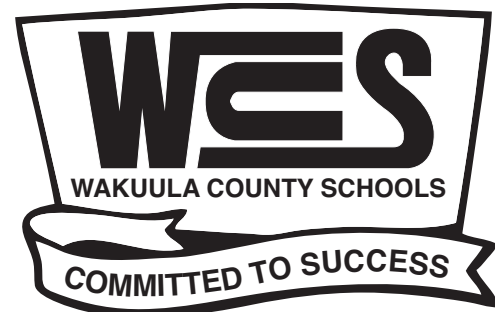
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USE THE NEWS

1. "I VOTED"

When people all across the United States vote, they usually get a sticker that says "I voted" to show that they've participated in the election. In New Hampshire's primary elections, where people vote for which candidate they want to represent the Republican or Democratic parties in the presidential election this November, the "I voted" stickers were designed by fourth grade students. Three designs were chosen in a design contest that took place for the first time this year. More than 1,000 fourth graders submitted designs and judges looked at things like creativity, inclusion, and a focus on symbols or ideas specific to New Hampshire when picking the three winners. Now it's your turn! Design a round sticker that includes the words "I voted" and represents your home state.

2. HOT WATER

A professor of chemistry found herself in "hot water" recently when she suggested that the perfect cup of tea requires lemon juice and a unique ingredient: salt. She says the sodium in salt helps tea not taste bitter. In the United Kingdom, people thought it was a ridiculous idea. Tea is the most popular beverage in the world after water and in the United Kingdom, it's an important part of the culture. Residents there consume about 100 million cups of tea a day. Most people there keep it very simple, pouring very hot water over single tea bag in a mug. Some add a splash of milk or a little bit of sugar, but that's all. Even the U.S. Embassy in London released a statement, lightheartedly saying that adding salt to tea was not U.S. policy and the idea was "unthinkable." For Americans, it's hard to imagine having such strong opinions about tea, but what if someone suggested a crazy way to eat or drink something iconic to our country? Write down examples of classic American foods that you can

think of. Would you have an open mind if someone from another country suggested a better way to enjoy them? Write down what you would say in that situation.

3. RECORD SETTER

The women's basketball coach at Stanford University in California has set a new record. Tara VanDerveer has now become the winningest coach of all time for college basketball with 1,203 winning games. She was celebrated by former star players, other prominent basketball coaches, and even former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice at the record-breaking game. She started as

a head coach at the age of 24 and continued for 45 years before reaching this milestone. Tara has helped bring women's college basketball into the spotlight during her career. Write a summary of this story, including at least five facts in your write-up.

4. SELFIES IN THE ANIMAL KINGDOM

A photographer trained two rats to take pictures of themselves and learned something about the rodents. He wondered why so many people take photos of their lives and share the pictures online, like on social media. To answer the question, he taught two rats by giving them treats when they pressed a

button that snapped their photo. The rats could immediately see their pictures on a screen, too. They quickly learned to press the button and kept doing it, even when the treats didn't come as frequently. The photographer made the connection with the way humans look at social media, where the "treat" is notifications like likes and follows, and seeing things and people we like on our newsfeeds. Do you like taking pictures of yourself or your world? Why do you think that is? Write a paragraph, listing some things you like taking pictures of and why that is.

5. WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Actor and former wrestling superstar Dwayne Johnson

will finally have the legal rights to his own famous nickname, "The Rock." Dwayne, who you might know as the voice of Maui in Disney's "Moana" movie, was a pro wrestler with the World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) before he moved into acting. He got his nickname, The Rock, from his father, Rocky Johnson, who was the first Black champion in WWE history. Until now, the WWE owned the rights to the name The Rock, which is why the organization's head got credit as executive producer in some of Dwayne's films. Now, Dwayne has made a deal with the WWE to get the rights to the trademark of his own nickname. That means he can make money from the name when it's

used on products, for example. Dwayne Johnson's nickname is an important part of his identity as a performer, both in wrestling and in movies, and his nickname is different from most people's because it's almost like a brand name. Do you have a nickname or know someone that does? Do you think that it would be important to them to be able to use that nickname whenever they want? Now think about a company: Why would it be important for a company to keep other people from using their same name? Putting those two ideas together, write a paragraph explaining why you think it was important for Dwayne Johnson to get the legal rights to his nickname, "The Rock."

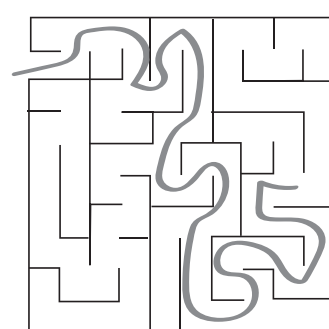
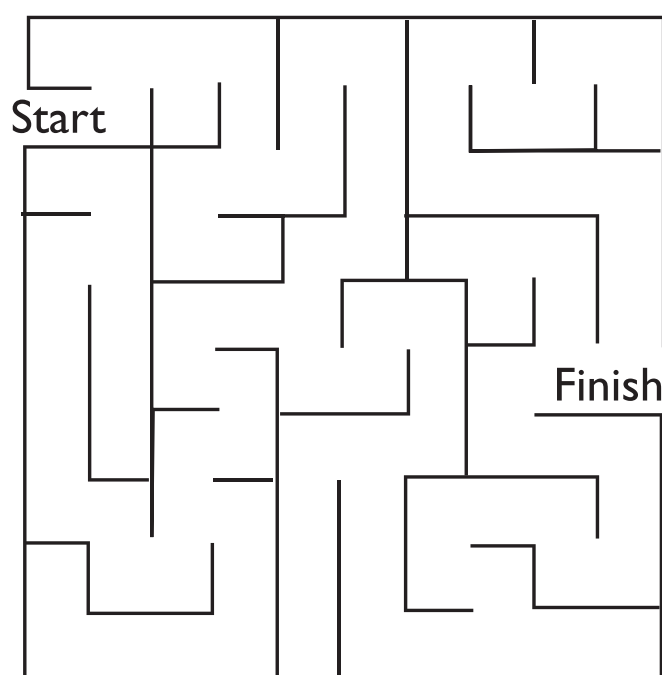


ONE OF THE MORE POPULAR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS PEOPLE MAKE INCLUDES DOING THIS, WHICH INVOLVES SORTING ITEMS.

ANSWER: GETTING ORGANIZED

Maze Craze

Can you find your way through the maze?



THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1624: SIR THOMAS WARNER FOUNDS THE FIRST BRITISH COLONY IN THE CARIBBEAN.
- 1813: "PRIDE AND PREJUDICE" IS FIRST PUBLISHED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.
- 1986: THE SPACE SHUTTLE "CHALLENGER" EXPLODES AFTER LIFT-OFF. ALL ASTRONAUTS ON BOARD PERISH.



CULL

select from a large quantity

How they SAY that in...

- ENGLISH:** Neat
- SPANISH:** Aseado
- ITALIAN:** Ordinato
- FRENCH:** Bien rangé
- GERMAN:** Ordentlich



BY GETTING ORGANIZED, PEOPLE ARE BOUND TO FEEL LESS STRESSED BECAUSE THINGS IN A HOME OR OFFICE ARE MORE ORDERLY.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: CLOTHES IN CLOSET

HOT BREAKFAST WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- BAGEL
- BISCUITS
- BREAKFAST
- BRUNCH
- BUTTER
- CEREAL
- CREPES
- CROISSANT
- EGGS
- ENGLISH MUFFIN
- FRENCH TOAST
- FRIED
- GRAVY
- GRITS
- HASH
- MORNING
- MUFFINS
- OATMEAL
- PANCAKES
- POACHED
- POTATOES
- SCRAMBLED
- TOAST
- WAFFLES

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

CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. One point south of due east
4. Coagulated blood
8. Fortifying ditch
10. Devotee of Hinduism
11. Trunk of a tree
12. Bank note
13. Capital of Guam
15. Study again
16. Covered with hoarfrost
17. Opening
18. Legendary Rolling Stone
21. Stray
22. Computer storing system
23. Signal
24. Pitching statistic
25. Human being
26. Malaysian isthmus
27. The “Blonde Bombshell”
34. A gland
35. Bluish greens

CLUES DOWN

1. A way to board
2. Get down
3. Highly seasoned sausage
4. First day of month
5. Eurasian shrubs
6. The organ that bears the ovules of a flower
7. Small lake
9. Belief

10. Sunrooms
12. Metric weight unit
14. Vasopressin
15. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
17. One-time family room staple
19. Got back together
20. Anger
23. Sang merrily
24. Sea eagle
25. Military men
26. Kilo yard (abbr.)
27. Found in the sea
28. Protects from weather
29. Type of medicine
30. City along the Rhine
31. Animal disease
32. Martini ingredients
33. Get away
34. Lack of disunity
36. One-time European Commission officer

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to breakfast.

ATTODES

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

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

Guess Who?

I am an actor born in California on February 9, 1987. I made my first TV appearance in an episode of “The Sopranos.” I rose to prominence on “Friday Night Lights” and I was propelled to fame after a string of high-profile roles, including the antagonist in Marvel’s “Black Panther.”

Answer: *Toasted* Answer: *Michael B. Jordan*

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TWS 02/17/2024 sale LEGAL NOTICE
 Notice is given pursuant to Florida Self-Storage Facility Act, Florida Statutes, Chapter 83, Part IV, that ABC Storage will hold a sale by sealed bid on Saturday, Feb. 17, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. at 3743 Crawfordville Hwy, Crawfordville, FL 32327, of the contents of Mini-Warehouse containing personal property of DAN DEVELLEZ. Before the sale date of Saturday, Feb. 17, 2024 by 12:00 noon. The owners may redeem their property by payment of the outstanding balance and costs by contacting ABC Storage at (850) 508-5177, or by paying in person at the warehouse location.
 Published January 25, February 1, 2024



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Contributions & Expenditures

Candidates who have filed as of Jan. 29:

Sheriff

- Armand Reyes – \$0.
- Jared Miller – \$0.

Property Appraiser

- Ed Brimmer – \$0.

Tax Collector

- Lisa Craze – \$0.

Supervisor of Elections

- Joe Morgan – monetary \$100.00, in-kind \$34.67, expenditures \$0.00

Superintendent of Schools

- Rick Myhre – monetary \$1,700.00, in-kind \$122.21, expenditures \$591.00
- Matt Payne – monetary \$200.00, in-kind \$0.00, expenditures \$35.40
- Ricky Strickland – monetary \$100.00, in-kind \$0.00, expenditures

- \$100.00
- **County Commission District 3**
- Mike Kemp – monetary \$4,900.00, in-kind \$0.00, expenditures \$0.00
- Valerie Russell – \$0

County Commission District 5

- Josh Lawhon – monetary \$11,200.00, in-kind \$400.00, expenditures \$396.91

Schoolboard District 2

- Angie Nichols – monetary \$240.00, in-kind \$0.00, expenditures \$27.95
- June Davis – \$0.

Schoolboard District 4

- Josh Brown – \$0.
- Camden Smit – monetary \$10,000.00, in-kind \$0.00, expenditures \$2,947.67

County Commission, district 3

MIKE KEMP

Q3 2023 REPORT CONTRIBUTIONS

- 9/29/2023: 319 Restaurant LLC, Crawfordville, Business, Check, \$250.00
- Total Contributions \$250.00
- Expenditures: \$0.

Q4 2023 REPORT CONTRIBUTIONS

- 10/31/2023: Timothy Marshall, Crawfordville, Auto Body, Check, \$500.00
- 10/31/2023: Arthur Freeman, Crawfordville, Auto Body, Check, \$500.00
- 11/1/2023: University Collision Center Tallahassee, Check \$1,000.00
- 11/4/2023: William T Poole, Crawfordville, Retired LEO, Check \$150.00
- 11/9/2023: San Marcos Mexican Grill & Cantina LLC, Crawfordville, Business, Check \$1,000.00
- 12/16/2023: Tops of Tallahassee Inc DBA Tops Rental, Panacea, Business, Check \$500.00
- 12/16/2023: J & L Land Lease LLC, Havana, Business, Check \$500.00
- 12/20/2023: Michael Harrison, Crawfordville, Bail Bondsman, Check \$500.00
- Total Contributions \$4,650.00
- Expenditures: \$0.

VALERIE RUSSELL

NO REPORT YET.

County Commission, district 5

JOSH LAWHON

Q4 2023 REPORT CONTRIBUTIONS

- 12/11/2023: Todd G Welch, Crawfordville, Land Clearing Company, Check \$500.00
- 12/11/2023: David F. Harvey and Associates, Crawfordville, Consulting-Firm, Check \$500.00
- 12/20/2023: Lisa D Porter, Sopchoppy, Individual, Check \$100.00
- 12/20/2023: Wicked Oyster Company LLC, Sopchoppy, Business, Check \$100.00
- 12/21/2023: Coastwise Realty, Inc., Crawfordville, Real Estate Agency, Check \$500.00
- 12/13/2023: White Rose Construction LLC, Crawfordville, Business, Check \$1,000.00
- 12/13/2023: Golden Properties & Investment, Crawfordville, Real Estate Agency, Check \$500.00
- 12/7/2023: Julie Gaby, Crawfordville, Individual, Check \$1,000.00
- 12/7/2023: Emmett Clarence Ferrell, III, Crawfordville, Self-Employed, Check \$350.00
- 12/7/2023: Melinda H Young, Tallahassee, Individual, Check \$1,000.00
- 12/5/2023: Christopher Lee, Craw-

- fordville, Investigator, Check \$150.00
- 12/7/2023: Jackie Lawhon, Sopchoppy, Relative -Aunt, Check \$200.00
- 12/7/2023: Christine S Dodson, Crawfordville, Individual, Check \$500.00
- 12/7/2023: William F Versiga, Crawfordville, Individual, Check \$100.00
- 12/7/2023: Richard David Miller, Crawfordville, Fence andDeckBuilder, Check \$200.00
- 12/7/2023: Wildwood Country Club LLC, Crawfordville, Business, Check \$200.00
- 12/7/2023: Marc Sandberg, ***Protected Voter***, Restaurant Owner, Check \$250.00
- 12/7/2023: Gaby Construction, Inc, Crawfordville, Business, Construction-Company, Check \$500.00
- 12/7/2023: Keith Key Heating & Air, Inc, Crawfordville, Business, Check \$250.00
- 12/7/2023: Brooks Concrete, Panacea, Business, Check \$300.00
- 12/7/2023: Jaworski Concrete Inc, Crawfordville, Business, Check \$500.00
- 12/7/2023: Southern Construction Co., Crawfordville, Business, Check \$500.00
- 12/7/2023: Cassie E Johnson, Crawfordville, Individual, Check \$250.00
- 12/7/2023: William D Davis, Crawfordville, Individual, Check \$100.00
- 12/7/2023: Glenda Porter, Sopchoppy, Individual, Check \$200.00
- 12/7/2023: Willie Moore, Crawfordville, Individual, Check \$100.00
- 12/7/2023: Mike Watkins, Crawfordville, Individual, Money Order \$500.00
- 12/7/2023: Beth Taff, ***Protected Voter***, Individual, Check \$100.00
- 12/7/2023: Sunshine Bay Properties, LLC, Panacea, Business, Check \$250.00
- 10/30/2023: Joshua M Lawhon, Candidate to Themselves, Check \$100.00
- 12/4/2023: Joshua M Lawhon, Candidate to Themselves, Check \$400.00
- Total Contributions \$11,200.00

IN-KIND

- 12/7/2023: Kast Net, Crawfordville, RestaurantOwner, Food, \$400.00
- Total In-Kind Contributions \$400.00

EXPENDITURES

- 12/2/2023: Sam's Club, Tallahassee, Food and supplies for Campaign Kick-off Reception, \$234.13
- 12/6/2023: HAPPY DIY SHOP - Signs by Bri, Crawfordville, Campaign Banner, \$79.07
- 12/6/2023: Walmart, Crawfordville, Food and Supplies for Campaign Kickoff Reception, \$83.71
- Total Expenditures \$396.91

School board, district 2

JUNE DAVIS

NO REPORT YET.

ANGIE NICHOLS

Q3 2023 REPORT CONTRIBUTIONS

- 9/27/2023: Angie Nichols, Candidate to Themselves, Check \$200.00
- Total Contributions \$200.00
- Expenditures \$0

Q4 2023 REPORT CONTRIBUTIONS

- 10/22/2023: Wanda Causseaux,

- Tallahassee, Individual Check \$20.00
- 10/22/2023: P.Roy Crum, ***Protected Voter***, Individual, Cash \$20.00
- Total Contributions \$40.

EXPENDITURES

- 12/19/2023: Amazing Business Solutions, Crawfordville, Copies for ballots, \$27.95

School board, district 4

Total Expenditures \$27.95

JOSH BROWN

NO REPORT YET.

CAMDEN SMIT

Q4 2023 REPORT CONTRIBUTIONS

- 11/2/2023: Camden Collins Smit, Candidate to Themselves, Loan \$10,000.00
- Total Contributions \$10,000.00

EXPENDITURES

- 11/20/2023: Wakulla Supervisor of Election, Petitions, \$24.00
- 11/21/2023: Wakulla County Supervisor of Elections, Petitions \$0.90
- 11/28/2023: Camden Collins Smit, Reimbursement, \$821.45
- 11/9/2023: Amazing Mail Solutions, Crawfordville, Shirts and signs, \$353.25
- 11/30/2023: Amazing Mail Solutions, Shirts and banner, \$440.75
- 12/14/2023: Camden Collins Smit, Reimbursement, \$266.91
- 12/19/2023: Amazing Mail Solutions, Signs, \$768.63
- 12/1/2023: Happy DIY Shop, Crawfordville, Palm Cards \$271.78
- Total Expenditures \$2,947.67

Superintendent of Schools

RICH MYHRE

Q3 2023 REPORT CONTRIBUTIONS

- 7/28/2023: Andrea Carter, Crawfordville, Individual, Check \$500.00
- 8/7/2023: Judy Myhre, Crawfordville, Individual, Check \$1,000.00
- 7/7/2023: Richard Myhre, Candidate to Themselves, Loan \$200.00
- Total Contributions \$1,700.00

EXPENDITURES

- 9/25/2023: Amazing Business Solution, Crawfordville, copies and paper cutting, \$23.65
- 8/10/2023: Rotary International of Wakulla County, table for Rotary Club Boots and Bingo, \$500.00
- 7/12/2023: Prime Meridian Bank Main Street Checks, Crawfordville, Withdrawal by PMB for paper checks for account, \$17.35
- 9/1/2023: University of Florida 4-H 84 Cedar Ave., Crawfordville, 4-H Sponsorship, \$50.00
- Total Expenditures \$591.00

Q4 2023 REPORT IN-KIND

- 2/8/2023: Elena Myhre, Crawfordville, Marketing, Website services and maintenance, \$112.00
- 12/12/2023: Elena Myhre, Copies, \$10.21
- Total In-Kind Contributions \$122.21

EXPENDITURES

- 9/25/2023: Amazing Business Solution, Crawfordville, copies and paper cutting, \$23.65
- 8/10/2023: Rotary International of Wakulla County, table for Rotary Club Boots and Bingo, \$500.00
- 7/12/2023: Prime Meridian Bank Main Street Checks, Crawfordville, Withdrawal by PMB for paper checks for account, \$17.35
- 9/1/2023: University of Florida 4-H 84 Cedar Ave., Crawfordville, 4-H Sponsorship, \$50.00
- Total Expenditures \$591.00

SCOTT MATTHEW PAYNE JR.

Q4 2023 REPORT CONTRIBUTIONS

- 11/20/2023: Scott M Payne Jr, Crawfordville, Candidate to Themselves, Loan \$200.00
- Total Contributions \$200.00

EXPENDITURES

- 11/20/2023: Ameris Bank, Purchasing of campaign checks, \$35.40
- Total Expenditures \$35.40

RICKY STRICKLAND

Q4 2023 REPORT CONTRIBUTIONS

- 12/11/2023: Ricky strickland, Crawfordville, Candidate to Themselves, Check \$100.00
- Total Contributions \$100.00

EXPENDITURES

- 12/15/2023: Ricky Strickland, Candidate withdrawal, Reimbursements \$100.00
- Total Expenditures \$100.00

Editor's Note: After withdrawing from the race, Strickland has since re-filed as a candidate.

Supervisor of Elections

JOE MORGAN

Q4 2023 REPORT CONTRIBUTIONS

- 11/28/2023: Joseph R Morgan, Crawfordville, Candidate to Themselves, Loan \$100.00
- Total Contributions \$100.00

IN-KIND

- 12/28/2023: Joseph R Morgan, Candidate to Themselves, Copies of petition forms, \$34.67
- Total In-Kind Contributions \$34.67

Other candidates who have filed to run but whose names do not appear did not have financial contributions or expenditures during the reporting period.

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Devynn was born and raised here and knows Wakulla County like the back of her hand. In her free time she enjoys hanging out with family, friends, her puppy Rex, reading romance/crime novels and listening to crime podcasts.

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