

## Wildlife, Heritage Outdoors festival



See Page 3

# The Wakulla Sun



Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy
Hi: 67° Lo: 48° 8%	Hi: 70° Lo: 57° 8%	Hi: 71° Lo: 61° 36%
Sunrise 7:23 AM Sunset 6:20 PM	Sunrise 7:22 AM Sunset 6:21 PM	Sunrise 7:21 AM Sunset 6:22 PM

\$1  
One Section

"It's a New Day"

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Our 4th Year 5th Issue  
Thursday, February 8, 2024

# \$2.4M shortfall eyed

New hires frozen as county looks at dealing with budget hole

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN  
Editor

The county audit committee met last week to discuss the county's financial status facing a \$2.4 million budget shortfall because of the mistaken overvaluation of a lot in Lake Ellen for \$307 million.

The error by the property appraiser's office was caught by Tax Collector Lisa Craze just as she was about to mail out tax bills – too late to correct the budgets for county government and school board.

(The Wakulla County School Board faced a hole in its budget of some \$1.7 million. Superintendent of Schools Bobby Pearce said this week that the State of

Florida had done recalculations and would cover most of the shortfall. The district would still face a \$600,000 hole from its tax levy for capital outlay. He said the district would be able to deal with that shortfall by other means.)

Anticipating a larger budget this year, county commissioners had approved nine new positions at the sheriff's office – most of them road deputies – as well as additional firefighters. Those positions were immediately frozen by commissioners when they realized they faced a major hole in their budget.

But Sheriff Jared Miller has made clear he still needs some of the positions immediately to meet requirements of state laws.

At the meeting of the au-

dit committee on Wednesday, Clerk of Courts Greg James and County Administrator David Edwards noted that holding off on hiring new deputies would save \$900,000 this year – and the same amount for holding off hiring new firefighters.

"That leaves about a \$600,000 deficit," the clerk noted.

Property Appraiser Ed Brimmer reported that property values in the county, as of Jan. 16, were up to \$2.187 billion, over last year's \$2.046 billion – an increase of some \$142 million.

What that would translate into for tax revenues next year was not immediately calculated at the meeting.

It was noted that the problem

Turn to Page 9

## CONSTRUCTION GROWTH

# Record number of permits, COs issued in 2023

Staff Report

Information from the county Planning and Community Development office shows that more housing building permits and certificates of occupancy were issued last year than ever before in Wakulla County.

Last year there were 549 building permits issued. In 2022, there were 470. In 2021, 507 building permits. In 2020, there were 482 permits. In 2019, 330 were issued. In both 2017 and '18, there were fewer than 300 permits issued annually.

Last year there were 469 COs issued, a slight increase from 2022 when 466 were issued. In 2021 there were 460 COs issued. In 2020, there were 415. In the years prior, there were fewer than 300 per year.

## STATE LEGISLATURE

# Bill to make it harder to raise taxes backed

News Service of Florida

The Florida House continued moving forward Wednesday with a bill that could make it harder for cities and counties to approve property-tax increases.

The House Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee voted 10-4 to approve the bill (HB 1195), sponsored by Rep. Sam Garrison, R-Fleming Island. The bill would require two-thirds votes by city, county and special district governing boards to approve increases in millage rates, which represent dollars assessed per \$1,000 in property value. Garrison said voters have indicated that a "broad bipartisan consensus" should be needed to increase taxes.

The Florida League of Cities opposed the bill Wednesday, while a lobbyist for the Florida Association of Counties expressed concerns about it. Garrison's bill also was approved last week by the House Ways & Means Committee. The Senate Community Affairs Committee last week approved the Senate version (SB 1322).

## LAW ENFORCEMENT

# Report of crashed aircraft turns out to be false

Staff Report

Last week, first responders were searching an area between Sopchoppy and Smith Creek after the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office received a call from Tyndall Air Force Base that a signal had been picked up indicating a plane had crashed in the area.

The report turned out to be unsubstantiated. Sheriff's Public Information Officer Jeff Yarbrough said the call came in around 3:45 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 29 about the plane crash. Deputies, firefighters, state troopers and wildlife officers searched the area but could find no downed plane in the area.

Yarbrough said the sheriff's office contacted the Federal Aviation Administration in Tallahassee about the report and were told FAA had seen no plane go down in the area.

There was a smoke plume from a prescribed burn in the area that was investigated, but no airplane. After an hour on scene, deputies turned the matter over to Fish and Wildlife Conservation officers and the Florida Highway Patrol.

# Valentine's Festival this Saturday

Staff Report

The annual Rotary Valentine's Festival kicks off the local festival season on Saturday with a parade at 10 a.m. followed by vendors and entertainment in Hudson Park. It's the 25th year of the festival.

## LAISSEZ LE BON TEMPS ROULER (LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL)



A big crowd was on hand Saturday night for the Friends of the Library's annual Mardi Gras fundraiser at the community center. It featured jambalaya from

Harry's in Tallahassee, lots of masks, and swing and jazz music by the Thursday Music Club, above. More photos on Page 3. (Photo by William Snowden)

# Trophies given to widow

Judge orders UCF Coach Gene McDowell's widow to get memorabilia

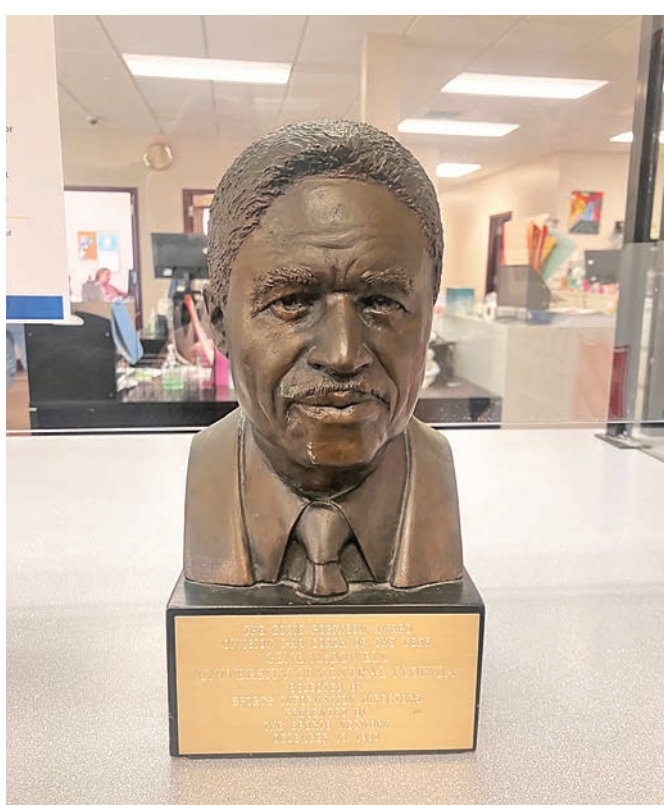
By WILLIAM SNOWDEN  
Editor

A family dispute over who rightfully should possess prized trophies of late coach Gene McDowell – a nephew who claimed to have bought the memorabilia from the coach's son, or the coach's widow – was decided with the items being awarded to Peggy McDowell, his widow.

Gene McDowell was a star linebacker for the Florida State Seminoles in the early 1960s and later went on to coach football at the University of Central Florida. One trophy under dispute was his MVP trophy as an FSU player in 1962, and the Eddie Robinson award as the top college football coach in Division 1-AA (now known as the Football Championship Subdivision), which McDowell received in 1990. There was also a football scrapbook that started with him playing ball in Georgia as a kid.

McDowell died in Quincy in January 2021 from leukemia.

At the trial on Friday morning, Feb. 2, before Wakulla County Judge



The Eddie Robinson award is presented annually to the top college football coach in Division 1-AA. This is the trophy won by late UCF Coach Gene McDowell in 1990.



Brian Miller, McDowell's widow Peggy asked the court to order those items returned to her.

The trophies and scrapbook had been sold to McDowell's cousin, Kenneth Edwards, who admired the coach and collected memorabilia from his career. The items were sold to him in 2019 by McDowell's son Blake to support a drug habit.

At an earlier hearing, Blake McDowell testified that the items were given to Edwards for safekeeping because the people around the house, related to his drug use, were taking the coach's things and selling them. (Coach McDowell was seriously ill at the time.)

Edwards, who lives in Wakulla County, told the court that he was not simply holding the items – he bought them and owned them.

After the coach was inducted into the UCF Hall of Fame, Edwards was in talks with the university to donate the Eddie Robinson trophy to the school.

Edwards' wife, Janessa, gave tearful testimony that her husband was

Turn to Page 9

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Lisa Craze, CFC  
 Wakulla County Tax Collector

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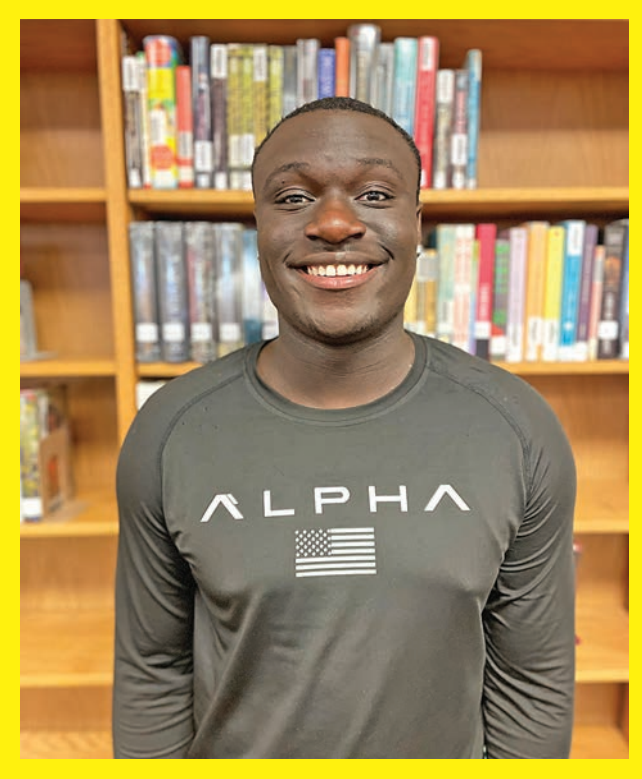
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# Student of the Week

## Herschel Blackmon – 12th grader at Wakulla High School

Principal: Michele Falk

**Achievements/Reason for Nomination:** Herschel Blackmon is Wakulla High School's Student of the Week. Herschel is a Senior at Wakulla High School and the son of Camilla Sailor. Herschel is an outstanding student athlete. He is a member of the War Eagle football, weightlifting, and track teams. He hopes after high school to attend Florida State University with the ultimate goal of graduating from the prestigious FSU Law School. Ms. Maddi, Herschel's favorite teacher, says "Herschel always has a smile on his face and genuinely cares about others." Wakulla High School is proud to have Herschel Blackmon represent them as an outstanding student.




STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.

## Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park

### Carolina jessamine

By LYNN ARTZ, DAVID RODDENBERRY, and SANDY TEDDER




The cheerful canary-yellow blooms of Carolina jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*) signal that winter's end is near. The fragrant trumpet-shaped flowers attract hummingbirds, large native bees, and butterflies. This twining evergreen vine grows 10-20 feet long and blooms best in full sun on arbors and fences. Otherwise, it will climb high into trees seeking sun or form a mounded groundcover of tangled stems. The brown fruit capsules feed warblers, grosbeaks, cardinals, mockingbirds, titmice, chickadees, and thrashers. This carefree vine is flammable, however, and should not be planted next to a house. Neither should it be planted near honeybee hives or near livestock as all parts are poisonous. Deer seem unaffected but typically avoid it. This lovely native vine is growing on several pavilion columns at Sopchoppy Depot Park.



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**KEEPING YOU INFORMED**

Last week, all property owners who had an exemption in 2023, should have received an Automatic Renewal card.



**YOU GOT MAIL**

Please review and confirm that the exemption(s) are correct for 2024. If nothing has changed, no action is necessary. We will continue the exemption on your property.

If something has changed as of January 1, 2024, please return this card to let us know. This would include the following:  
 \*Property was not your permanent residence on January 1, 2024  
 \*Property was rented on January 1, 2024  
 \*Owner has remarried / \*Owner is deceased

If you are unsure whether you still qualify for the exemption, give us a call!



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# Friends of Library hold annual Mardi Gras celebration



Sheriff Jared Miller, in crown and cape as King of the Mardi Gras, with library director Linda Oaks. Back of the cape embroidered with 'King Jared the Great.'



The crowd at the community center on Saturday night.



Friends get a picture in the photo booth



Shirley Howard in a mask.



Frank and Quincee Messersmith dancing.

PHOTOS BY WILLIAM SNOWDEN

# Wildlife Heritage Outdoors festival held at refuge on Saturday



Kids learning to shoot a bow and arrow.

PHOTOS BY GERALD BROWN




Lexy and Liam Halpin with Thunder, Phoenix, and Storm Clinton roasting marshmallows on a campfire at the Wildlife Festival on Saturday.



Fishing and casting lessons for little ones, left, and Hot Tamale with BlueGill Bill, above.

**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.



WWW.FLORIDAPUBLICNOTICES.COM

# War Eagles place 6th at Clay Rotary

By WALT JACOBS  
Special to The Sun

On Friday and Saturday, Feb. 2nd and 3rd, before a capacity crowd, 38 teams from all over Florida gathered at Clay High to test their mettle in what some consider to be one of the toughest wrestling tournaments in the state.

With an abundance of highly ranked wrestlers competing, this certainly could be considered a preview of the degree of difficulty that can be expected at the FHSAA state championship in three weeks. Although they were without two of their starters, Coach Will Pafford's War Eagles were able to attain a respectable 6th place finish as a team. Individually, Wakulla had four wrestlers place in the top six of their respective weight classes.




Matthew Thaxton (Wakulla) vs Bryce Potak (Menendez)

Matthew Thaxton placed 5th at 113, Bricyn Kennedy placed 5th at 132, and Brady Jackson placed 6th at 138 pounds. At 106 lbs., Brady Wilson secured 3rd place over Bu-

chholz's Gabriel Ramos, currently ranked 18th in 3A. On the girl's side, Caitlin Hall placed 4th for the Lady War Eagles. The War Eagles will spend the upcoming week

preparing for the FHSAA 1A District 2 championship. The event will be held at Florida High on Feb. 15th and wrestling will begin at 11 a.m.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024- 01



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

First Reading: February 8, 2024 at 6:00 pm  
 Second Reading March 14, 2024 at 6:00 pm

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

Feb. 8, 2024

# Opinions

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

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

## Next historical program on highway patrol

Special to The Sun

On Tuesday, Feb. 13, the Wakulla County Historical Society invites you to join us for a program on the History of the Florida Highway Patrol with featured speaker Barrie Glover.

The program will begin at 4:30 p.m. at the Wakulla County Public Library, 4330 Crawfordville Highway. The public is invited and there is no charge for the event.

In 1964, Barrie along with J.D. Turner, John Pigott, Chuck Deal, Hardy Revell, Cecil Nichols, Bobby Posey, James Taylor, and Benard Wilson formed the Highway Patrol Auxiliary in Wakulla County. Barrie served with the auxiliary for 53 years and will share this interesting history with us.

Barrie grew up in Crawfordville and went to school at Crawfordville High School. From high school, he served in the U.S. Navy for four years. After the Navy, he worked for a time and then enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and served four more years. After his service in the U.S. Air Force, he returned to Wakulla County and worked for Chuck Deal



PHOTO SPECIAL TO THE SUN  
Barrie Glover

at Coleman GMC.

In April 1969, Barrie and his family moved to Okinawa, Japan, where he worked for the Army with a security agency. After five years in Okinawa, Barrie and his family returned to Crawfordville, and he went to work for the Army Corps of Engineers for about eight years.

He then took a job with the Air Force CE-MIRT (Civil Engineering Maintenance Inspection and Repair Team) rebuilding diesel power plants all over the world.

In 1992, Barrie retired, and he started working on diesel engines for commercial fishing boats in his home mechanic shop.

From 1980 until

2017, Barrie worked with the Florida American Legion Boys State as a counselor. Fun fact: the Florida American Legion Boys State even named one of their cities after Barrie, it's called "Glover City."

Barrie has been married to Betty Joyce Glover for 67 years. They have three children, Rodney (Wanda), Angela (Jim) and Kenny (Amy). They have five grandchildren, Brock, Landon, Kaitlin, Matthew, and Garrett, and two great-grandchildren, Arliss and Carly.

Barrie said, "I travelled around most of the world, but I always come back to Wakulla County."

For more information call 850-926-1110.

### LETTERS FROM READERS

## Airport issues stem from commissioners

Editor, The Sun:

The 11 Jan publication of this esteemed community newspaper had two letters negating Val Le Hart's opine of the status of PIA. The attempt to ridicule and minimize Miss Val's certainly was not chivalrous nor reflected any decent code of conduct from gentlemen.

One letter stated that Panacea Int'l Airstrip was a bargain. Well, if its such a bargain, why is Tarpine requesting subsidies? Why should I subsidy toys if its such a bargain? I doubt a rational answer is forthcoming.

Another letter, cloaked in patriotic zeal, stated it was unpatriotic not to desire military aircraft, exceeding the weight limits delineated in the Trust, near PIA. The inference was that PIA is strategically critical to the welfare of the nation thus aircraft, which have been grounded, must be allowed to utilize PIA. This letter was my personal favorite since it reeked of a "Karen" putting pencil to paper because of sheer emotion as exhibited by a lack of critical-thought. Memo to the "Karen", engage rational thought and explain how does an Osprey comply with the Trust's requirement of light aircraft? The Osprey empty weight is 31,818 pounds. Its prop has a diameter of 38 feet. The thrust is the same as a CH-47 Chinook helicopter. As of the end of 2023, the Osprey has tragically suffered 13 crashes with 32 fatalities.

And finally, with logic acquired from either Mad magazine or from the

kindergarten primer "See Spot Run", the write states I knew there was a strategic international airstrip of significant traffic accommodating all who could abuse the 2,590 foot grass strip. Yes, I knew there was an airstrip for recreational aircraft. My neighbors and I truly enjoy the aircraft who comply with the 6,000 pound weight rule. The hang gliders and single-engine aircraft are wonderful. There is little noise pollution, it's wonderful to see these compliant aircraft soar. We did not foresee the county allowing a rogue volunteer to exceed their authority and "invite" aircraft violating the Trust's limit. We, also, did not expect the "bargain airstrip" to request a special taxing district so the few can be subsidized by the many.

All this can be quickly resolved. There is little need for neighbors to tussle. The angst is generated by the Board of County Commissioners. The BOCC could easily put this to rest by responsibly and correctly supervising the volunteers to abide by the limits delineated by the Trust.

The BOCC is solely to blame for the ill-will. They won't do their job. If the BOCC won't or can't abide by the Trust, its time to return PIA back to the Trust.

Remember this when we vote. This body of minor league politicians have violated the trust and confidence of Wakulla County.

Robert Franco  
Ochlockonee Bay

## Something on your mind?

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

# On the Horizon

## Calendar of events for the week of February 1

### Thursday, February 8

- St. Marks City Commission meets at the St. Marks City Hall at 6 p.m.
- 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 9

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

### Saturday, February 10

- The 25th Annual Rotary Valentine's Day Festival begins with a parade at 10 a.m. and then features vendors and entertainment in Hudson Park.
- The Sopchoppy community market will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Depot Park.
- The Wakulla Caregiver Support Group will meet at the Public Library at 10 a.m.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

### Monday, February 12

- Wakulla Planning Commission meets at 6 p.m. in the commission chambers.
- The Sopchoppy City Commission meets at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.
- Crawfordville Woman's Club monthly meeting is the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at 64 Ochlockonee St., in Crawfordville. Call (850)566-5727

### Tuesday, February 13

- FAT TUESDAY
- Wakulla Historical Society presents Barrie Glover speaking on the history of the Highway Patrol at the public library beginning at 4:30 p.m.
- Sopchoppy community dinner is held every week at the Towles House at 6:30 p.m.

for more information.

- 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.
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### Wednesday, February 14

- VALENTINE'S DAY
- ASH WEDNESDAY
- 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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William Snowden  
Editor & Publisher  
The Wakulla Sun

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*"It's A New Day!"*

# The Wakulla Sun

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Wakulla Sun, 12 Arran Road, Crawfordville FL 32327.

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In County - \$35/yr. - \$20/6 mo. Out of County - \$50/yr. - \$30/6 mo.  
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## ◀ Question of The Week ▶

– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

Polled at the Crawfordville Quick Stop:

# What is the best compliment you have received?



**LYNN WELCH**  
Ace Hardware – Crawfordville

**“The best came from my two daughters, that I was a good mom.”**



**TAMMI COX**  
Quick Stop #

**The staff at a welding shop I worked at complimented on how well I fit in, said I was just like one of the guys.”**



**BRANDON INGRAM**  
Corrections Officer

**The best would be how well I’m dressed.”**



**HN FARRELL**  
Retired A-1 Pressure Cleaning

**“Actually, my wife said that I have a big heart.”**



**TOM TRICE**  
Retired

**Good job, and that I have a heart of gold.”**

## Wakulla Station News

By **VERNA BROCK**

I hope everyone weathered the storm over the weekend, especially on Sunday. Glad for the rain, but wow! So many tornado warnings here and across South Georgia. We came through fine, but holding our breath as family members were driving across Georgia, through the storm, eventually arriving safely in Wakulla.

Next Sunday, Feb. 11, there will be the monthly Second Sunday Sing at the Woodville United Methodist Church, at 6 p.m., followed by a delicious supper and fellowship. Everyone is welcome, and I hope to see you there!

Please keep Thelma Watts in your prayers as she continues to improve; Pam Adams also needs our

prayers as she recovers from a badly sprained ankle and wrist.

the Lenten season in anticipation of an ever triumphant Easter.

For many of us, the death of “11”, Coach Mike Martin, marked the end of an era and a legend. Please keep his family in your prayers during this sorrowful time. His unfailing decency, kindness, and faithfulness will be missed, but never forgotten.

Ash Wednesday services will be held on February 14th, which is also Valentine’s Day (of course!). Please join us at the Wakulla United Methodist Church at 6 p.m. as we begin

We continue to plan for several fun and educational events in March. The Battle of Natural Bridge will be held in Woodville, March 1st through the 3rd; Wakulla Wonderful will be the following Saturday, March 9th, in Crawfordville; and on March 16th the Woodville Founder’s Day Festival will celebrate the amazing, unique history of North Florida.

Put these special events on your calendar now!

## Wakulla High students inspired by linemen’s visit

Special to The Sun

In an inspiring visit to Wakulla High School, linemen Justin Johnson and George Peddie from the City of Tallahassee left a lasting impact on the 14 Wakulla High students who came to meet them.

Providing an honest depiction of the lineman career and its

requirements, these linemen went above and beyond by offering valuable life advice to all the students, whether they aspired to pursue a career in this field or any other path they choose.

The event, organized by Mr. Paul Parker, aimed to introduce students to the linemen profession and shed light on potential career

opportunities. And it did not disappoint.

Mr. Johnson and Mr. Peddie, spared no detail in describing the profession, including salary and benefits, and openly shared their personal experiences working with the city. By doing so, they helped the students gain a realistic understanding of what it takes to become a lineman.

Furthermore, the linemen provided invaluable advice to the students on staying on the right track and maintaining a clean driver’s license, as these factors were highlighted as essential prerequisites for a successful career in this field.

Throughout the visit, the students exhibited exceptional attentiveness and respect,

which was reciprocated by the linemen. The mutual appreciation was evident as the students took the initiative to thank the visitors and shook their hands when they arrived and left.

Speaking about the event, Mr. Parker expressed his pride in Justin Johnson and George Peddie for their exceptional represen-

tation of the organization. Their dedication to providing an honest portrayal of the lineman career and their commitment to helping shape the future generation was commendable.

Wakulla High School is thankful to have presentations which undoubtedly left a lasting mark on our War Eagles.

## Sheriff’s Report

This report is for activity Jan. 26 to Feb. 1:

### FRIDAY, JAN. 26

- Christopher Phelps reported a burglary to a home under construction. Taken from inside of the home was an assortment of electrical breakers valued at approximately \$1,500. Wakulla County CSI responded to the scene to assist with the investigation. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Zac Monroe investigated.

- A traffic stop was conducted on a vehicle for a stop sign violation. The driver, Margaret Rowe, was discovered to not have a valid driver’s license with several priors. Rowe was also found to be in possession of methamphetamine, marijuana, synthetic marijuana, and drug paraphernalia. Rowe was placed under arrest and transported to the jail facility. Deputy Todd Kent investigated.

- Deputy Donald Newsome was conduct-

ing a security check at Dux after closing and discovered a vehicle with the driver door hanging open, with Logan Harrell passed out behind the wheel. Deputy Newsome conducted a check of the tag via dispatch and was advised it was stolen out of Tallahassee. Once awakened, Harrell exited the vehicle and began approaching Deputy Newsome in an aggressive manner. Deputy Newsome ordered Harrell to turn around, but he refused. Harrell was given several more verbal commands – Logan then complied and was detained. Along with the stolen tag, the vehicle was also determined to be stolen out of Tallahassee. A stolen Ruger handgun was located under the driver seat, which was determined to be stolen out of Wakulla County in 1999. Upon a search of Logan’s person, 2.3 grams of cocaine/fentanyl was located. Harrell was subsequently arrested for possession of cocaine, possession

of a stolen vehicle, and possession of a stolen handgun.

### SATURDAY, JAN. 27

- Deputy Austin Rivers responded to several locations in an attempt to locate Apple AirPods, which Jessica Sullivan stated were stolen from her daughter. Sullivan was providing locations for the AirPods via Find My iPhone app. Deputy Rivers was unable to locate the AirPods during the work shift and this case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

### SUNDAY, JAN. 28

- Deputy Donald Newsome conducted a traffic stop for faulty equipment. Ashley Bowen was identified as the driver. Bowen was found to not have a valid driver’s license and multiple prior convictions. Bowen was placed under arrest for driving while license suspended or revoked (DWLSR) and transported to the Wakulla

County Jail.

### MONDAY, JAN. 29

- Deputy James Williams responded to Jensen Lane in reference to a possible stolen vehicle complaint. Upon arrival Deputy Williams made contact with Michael Clanahan, who advised he allowed the suspect to borrow his vehicle to go to the store earlier today and they still had not returned it. Clanahan advised he has tried to contact them but they had not responded. He advised this has happened in the past and he wanted to pursue charges. Around 1 a.m., Clanahan made contact with the sheriff’s office and advised the suspect had returned the vehicle. This case is still under investigation by deputies.

### TUESDAY, JAN. 30

- Roger Derl McKenzie reported the theft of two decorative crabs from the Hutton’s Seafood stand. It is unknown who may have taken them. Video surveillance was captured of the incident and turned in to evidence.

This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Matt Hinson investigated.

### WEDNESDAY, JAN. 31

- Kelly Ballard reported someone entering her unlocked vehicle and stealing a knife and handmade blanket. Ballard advised her neighbor had video footage of a male subject looking into her window. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Zac Monroe responded.

### THURSDAY, FEB. 1

- Fred Bradford Jr reported the theft of his golf cart. Bradford was able to provide a possi-

ble suspect in this case. An affidavit for prosecution was signed. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Edwin Grove investigated.

- Deputies responded to Dux Liquors in reference to an intoxicated patron. Once on scene contact was made with Jalessa Hicks, who was extremely intoxicated and acting out. During this incident Deputy Zac Munroe was shoved in the chest by Hicks. Hicks was placed under arrest and transported to the jail facility.

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

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# Outdoors

outdoor sports

## HOME ON THE RANGE

### The .38 vs. the 9mm handgun



By MARJ LAW

I don't often write about revolvers. That's because I'm not fond of them for people who are new to shooting. Which is not to say they are "bad" guns.

True, husbands like the idea of the .38 revolver. They say it will "never jam" and it has "great take down power." This is why you'll see a lot of women with .38s. Husbands decide this will be best, so this is what their wives receive.

But you won't see their wives practicing at the range. They'll go once, maybe twice, but shooting a .38 isn't nice, especially if you're a fined-boned and/or mature person.

So, what's with my attitude about .38s?

They kick. They don't hold many rounds. The trigger is heavy. The small ones? They kick harder, still hold few rounds and often have even harder trigger pulls.

• Here's the story about recoil with the .38.

"Does it kick?" quavers a new shooter, showing me her new bright pink lightweight purse-size .38.

"Like a mule with a bad temper," I think, but don't say it. After all, Hubby bought her the gun. I'm feeling sorry for her already.

She notices I haven't replied. She's begin-

ning to worry.

"But it's such a small gun! It fits in my purse and doesn't weigh much. So, it won't have much kick." She's worried about my silence. "Will it?"

Yikes.

Unfortunately, size and weight matter a lot. The mass of a gun can absorb some of its recoil.

That cute little lightweight purse size revolver doesn't have mass to absorb recoil. The smaller and lighter? The more recoil it packs. She's going to have to hold on tight.

With the harsh recoil, the muzzle of the gun will rise with each shot. When the muzzle rises, she's got to bring it back down to regain her sights on the target. This takes time. If she's in a life-threatening situation, she'll not even a small amount. She'll want the muzzle to stay on target. The .38 won't. She needs a gun with less recoil.

• Recoil with the semi-automatic.

Most semi-automatic 9mm handguns have much less recoil than the .38s. Just ask at your local gun store. I like the Smith & Wessons, the Glocks, or the Sig Sauers. Other companies do well too.

• Now, let's talk about trigger pull on the revolver.

I don't like that heavy trigger pull. I don't like to having to squeeze and squeeze. Too much work.

Joe reminds me: "Marj, you can manually cock the hammer."

Yes, you can. Just pull back that hammer and now the trigger is much easier.

However, when Mr. Bad breaks your door down and is racing at you swinging a baseball bat, will you remember

Snubby S&W Chief's Special



- 5 rounds
- 11.4 pounds
- DA trigger pull

S&W Equalizer



- 15 Rounds
- 5.1 pounds
- trigger pull

to cock the hammer first? Or do you just want to point and shoot and stop the threat immediately?

"Well, now, Marj, no one is forced to cock the hammer first. Just point and shoot."

OK. So go to the range and practice that awful trigger pull so you'll be ready if you ever need it. Let's be honest now. Will we see you at the range? Maybe once.

A hard, long trigger pull can be advantageous if you're a policeman. If you're in a potentially hazardous situation, the difficulty of squeezing the trigger makes for a very deliberate action. No accidental shooting.

But when someone has broken into your home with that baseball bat, you don't have time to deliberate over shooting. You know for certain this guy is planning to harm you. You aren't drilled like the policeman. You don't want the heavy trigger pull.

• Trigger pull on a semi-automatic.

Once you've jacked the slide of the semi, in many semis can run

from 4-6.5 pounds. Now you can carry your loaded gun and be ready to shoot if necessary.

Remember that double action revolver? Here, you've got 8-12 pounds for your trigger pull. Does this sound like a lot more? It is. Try it. Again and again.

• Number of rounds. Let's talk about the number of rounds in the .38.

Almost all .38s have the capacity to hold six rounds. The snubnose revolvers generally hold five rounds. If you're somewhat new to shooting, will six rounds be sufficient to stop the threat if someone is coming at you with intent to kill? Plenty of semi-automatic handguns come with capacities of 15 or more. Do we want to be limited to six shots?

• "It has great take-down power."

What, six rounds versus 15 rounds? Let's see now... If your life is ever threatened, would you want six rounds or 15 rounds in your gun? I'd consider 15 rounds to have greater "take down power."

• The revolver will

"never jam."

True. That's if the gum wrapper, lint, or piece of Kleenex in your pocket or purse hasn't stuck in the cylinder. Or if the timing of the cylinder has been breached. Yes, it probably won't jam. But "never" is a long time. Both revolver and semi-automatics in a pocket or purse can be fouled by trash.

• Let's talk loading in both revolver and semi-automatics.

I'll totally agree that placing six rounds into the chambers of a .38 is easy. Push them one at a time into the chambers and you're done.

You do have to push your 15 or so rounds in the magazine of a semi-automatic. The UpLula is a device that makes loading very easy, and it doesn't cost much. Get the UpLula.

• Learning curve.

"The learning curve is too great." I've found every single newbie has mastered dropping rounds into magazines. And if the spring in the magazine is strong, they use the UpLula.

Racking the slide is necessary with semi-automatics. A

whole lot of the newer handguns, say from Smith & Wesson, Sig Sauer and Glock for example, have addressed the concerns of easy loading, easy slide to rack, easy trigger pulls, and light kick.

• Safeties for both guns?

The revolver doesn't need a safety. It's not going to fire accidentally. It's going to take a really hard squeeze to set it off.

Many semi-automatics have built-in safeties, like the trigger safety and the grip safety, so you don't even have to worry about releasing a safety if you need to shoot in a split second.

Joe likes a safety. He was trained in the service as a young man. Well, Newbie at 45 or so doesn't want to have the extra job of remembering to release the safety in a time of crisis, so the grip and trigger safeties relieve Newbie of having to worry about whether the safety is on or not.

• Summing up the .38 versus a 9mm handgun.

It may appear at first glance that the .38 revolver may be easier to manage than the semi-automatic 9mm handgun. But let me say again of the 38s... They kick. They don't hold many rounds, and the trigger is heavy.

I've watched newbies at the Wakulla County Sheriff Office range for over 12 years. The ones who practice regularly own semi-automatic handguns.

Guess that "learning curve" thing hasn't bothered them!

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

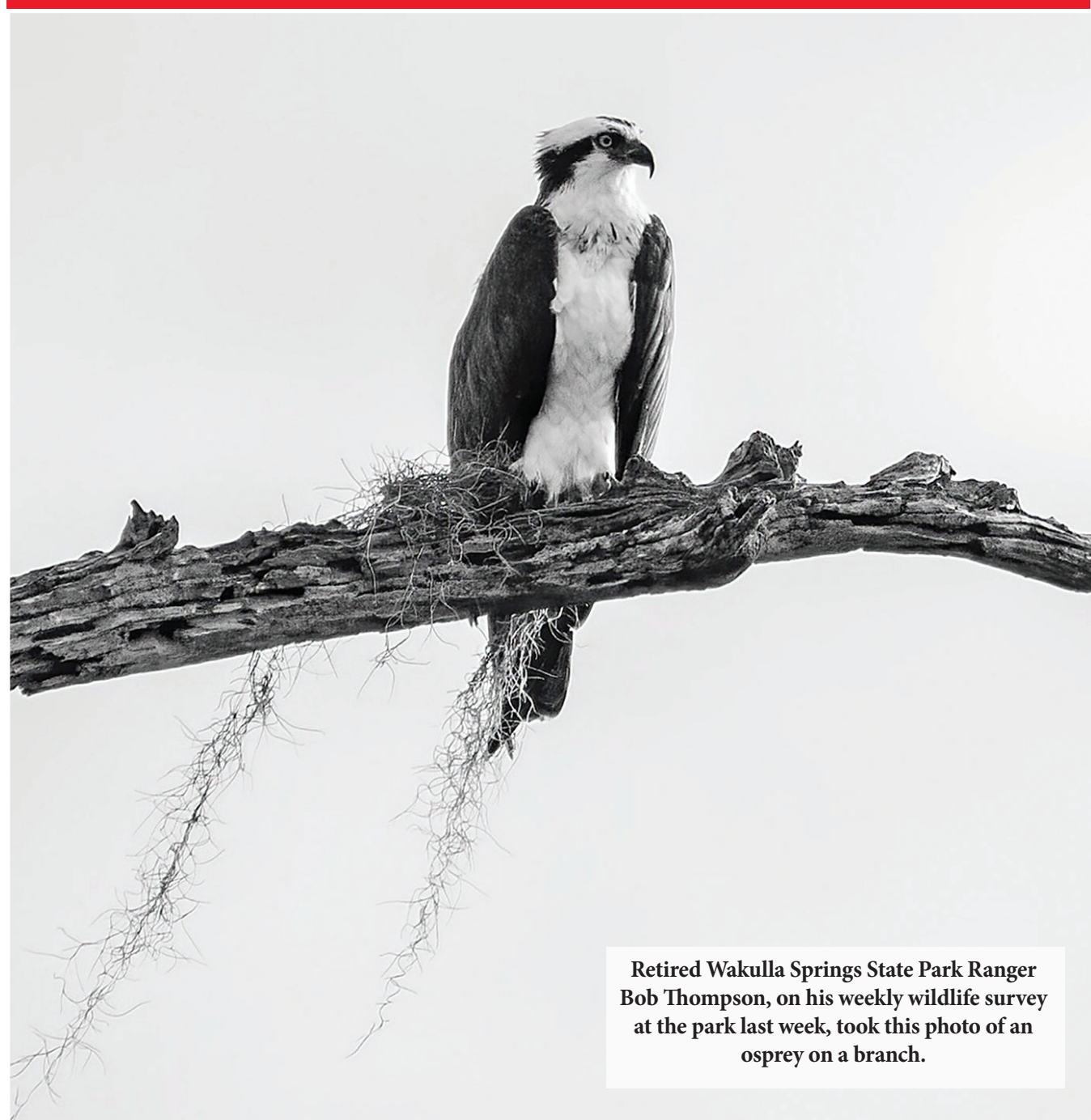
## WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO



RED DRUM  
(*Sciaenops ocellatus*)

If it hits like a freight train, and tries to wrap your line around the pilings, it's probably a Redfish. Otherwise known as Red Drum, they have a beautiful coppery color with one tail. Rarely a fish may have two or none. Young grow in estuaries, feeding on crustaceans, small fish and mollusks for 4 years before migrating nearshore. During the Aug-Nov spawning, they move into brackish and tannin stained inshore waters. There they turn into the rich bronze they get their name from. Red drum can be killed by a cold snap in shallow waters. They can reach 4 ft.

Eukarya, Animalia, Cordata, Actinopterygii, Perciformes, Sciaenidae



Retired Wakulla Springs State Park Ranger Bob Thompson, on his weekly wildlife survey at the park last week, took this photo of an osprey on a branch.

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# Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences

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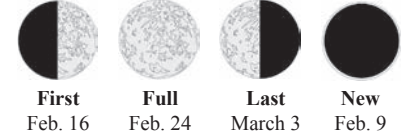
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### Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

Feb. 8 - Feb. 14



Tid charts by tides4fishing.com



Best fishing days this month February 9-24

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

#### St. Marks River Entrance

Table with tide data for St. Marks River Entrance from Thursday to Wednesday.

#### City of St. Marks

Table with tide data for City of St. Marks from Thursday to Wednesday.

#### Shell Point, Spring Creek

Table with tide data for Shell Point, Spring Creek from Thursday to Wednesday.

#### Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Table with tide data for Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay from Thursday to Wednesday.

#### St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Table with tide data for St. Teresa, Turkey Pt. from Thursday to Wednesday.

#### Dog Island West End

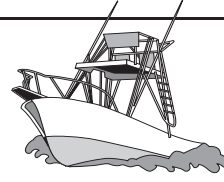
Table with tide data for Dog Island West End from Thursday to Wednesday.

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



### Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports

By Carolyn Brown Treadon



This following is from our new Flotilla Vice Commander Mike Casey:

I'm honored to introduce myself as the new Vice Flotilla Commander for Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 081 01 02, Apalachee Bay, Florida. I'm from Tallahassee originally, and some of my ancestors lived along the St. Marks River in the early 1800s.

My vision for the future of our flotilla is to work with our Flotilla Commander to increase our presence by expanding our recreational boating safety and public affairs programs. I am very pleased to work with our new Flotilla Commander, and dedicated flotilla officers and members to promote all auxiliary policy and programs within our flotilla, and to foster growth

Boating Emergencies contact information for Coast Guard Station Panama City, Coast Guard Station Yankeetown, and Coast Guard Auxiliary Apalachee Bay (Flotilla 12).

in membership in the Coast Guard Regulars, Reserves, and Auxiliary. We are also looking for good candidates (ages 17 to 22) for the Coast Guard Academy.

As Vice Flotilla Commander, I'm committed to work with our Flotilla Commander to ensure that our flotilla, in support of the United States Coast Guard, continues to provide the highest

level of service to our country and to our communities.

Very Respectfully, Mike

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

Please contact us for more information about our safe boating classes or learning more about

getting involved in the Auxiliary, check out our website at www.uscgaux.net follow us on FaceBook @ Apalachee Bay Flotilla 12 or contact our Flotilla Commander Phil Hill at pnkkhill2000@yahoo.com

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

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

### Underwater Wakulla

By Rusty Miller

Open water and rescue class continued.

My open water students dived on Sunday to finish their certification along with my dive master candidate. I had a brand new certified diver come to the springs with the rescue students and my assistant instructor. The assistant instructor and I had a quick briefing on what skills she would be training the rescue students to do. She had done a very thorough job going through the standards and procedures that NAUI has given. NAUI also give the instructor leeway to teach other ways as long as it basically meets their standard.

After our briefing it was time for the students to start with my assistant instructor. She briefed them on the skills that they were going to accomplish for the dives and then she went over the required skills they will be doing. I have to say I am very proud of what my AI has accomplished over the last 3 years of being her instructor. I personally think she will make a better instructor than me. I certainly don't want to forget about the newly certified diver that I invited to go diving with me at the springs, she was a bit nervous but I assured her she would be safe and have a great time diving.

I observed the rescue class begin their skills at the surface and then me and my new dive buddy slowly descended to the platform at about 15 feet. She was having some trouble getting her ears cleared but after a couple of tries she was able to continue to the platform. I had her perform a couple of the basic skills so she would feel comfortable and then we swam over to the rescue class to watch how they were progressing on the newly acquired skills.

We then went around the spring basin before we surfaced for about 30 minutes to get warmed up a little. After she surfaced I watched the rescue class until it was time for them to take a surface break and warm up. While on the surface I went over what I observed with my AI and give her some pointers to help her out as they progressed through the rest of the dives.

After my dive buddy felt comfortable we got geared up and proceeded to do our next dive. This dive I was loaned by my DM in training and we decided that we would proceed to the spring boil, that is where the spring at the cave entrance pushes all the water out into the main spring. What made this dive different was two weeks before when we had those really bad storms come through it rained so much that the river had backed up so bad into the spring and cave system that the spring was spewing out brown water and made the visibility of the spring s not as clear as it normally is. It was quite awesome to descend down through the brown water and then into the clear water in the bowl at below the cave entrance. My DM and dive buddy met me there and my dive buddies eyes were very calm and excited to be there. We surfaced and she was so excited and she thanked me many times for diving with her and showing her the wonders of diving. My AI finished the rescue at the beach and I am very proud of what she has accomplished and allowing me to guide her through it.

Until the next article, keep making bubbles.

Russell Miller #59999

### FWC Law Enforcement Report

#### From FWC

This report represents some events the FWC handled Jan. 12-18 in the Northwest Region. (No cases were reported in Wakulla County)

#### BAY COUNTY

Senior Officer N. Basford has been investigating the destruction of multiple gopher tortoise burrows at a construction site. After collecting permits, documenting evidence, and speaking with the state attorney's office, the officer is charging the owner of the construction company with attempting to take a threatened species. The tortoises will be captured and relocated to an authorized agent.

#### CALHOUN COUNTY

Officers T. Scott and E. Meade located an area along the Apalachicola River that was baited with corn. The following morn-

ing the officers conducted surveillance on the area and saw three subjects calling and shooting ducks. The subjects were cited for taking ducks over bait.

#### GULF COUNTY

Officers Gerber and Lipford received information about individuals possibly shooting dove near a highway. They arrived on scene and found the area was baited and also discovered bag limit and license violations. The appropriate action was taken to address the violations.

#### SANTA ROSA COUNTY

While on patrol in the Blackwater State Forest, Officers Mullins and Brown observed a group of about 40 off-road vehicles operating in the area. The officers went to an area known for off roading and encountered about 25 vehi-

cles illegally operating off trail. The officers spoke with the trail ride leaders and all vehicle operators. The group was educated about forest rules and regulations and directed to use only named or numbered roads in the forest and appropriate citations were issued.

While on patrol Officers Brown and Mullins encountered a group partying on a sand bar in Blackwater State Forest. The group had numerous violations including litter, alcohol, and vehicles off trail. Each subject was issued multiple citations. The subjects were directed to clean up and remove prohibited items from the area.

Officer Lewis was on patrol in Blackwater Wildlife Management Area when he heard a shot west of his location. The officer checked a hunter near the location of the shot and the hunter advised he shot a deer but was unable to

locate it. The hunter described the deer as being an antlered deer with six to eight points. The officer helped locate the deer, which did not meet antler point regulations for that deer management unit. The subject was issued a notice to appear citation for the violation.

Officers Bower and Roberson were on patrol when they observed a vehicle operating a light in a field commonly known to have deer. The officers stopped the vehicle and approached the two subjects. When asked if they had any guns, they said no. The officers got permission to look inside the vehicle and found a loaded shotgun. Upon further investigation, the officers discovered the operator of the vehicle was a convicted felon. Both the driver and passenger were charged with night hunting gun and light, and the driver was arrested for possession of firearm by a convicted felon.

# When we envy to the point of sinning



By SHERYL H. BOLDT

"You have no idea how much it hurts to be separated from your child!" I snapped. Due to my (then) constant battle with anorexia nervosa, I was no longer able to care for my small children. I would've given anything to have my children return home to me after only a few short hours of school. Looking back, I still remember the shocked expression on my friend's face. I regret the way I spoke to her. Unfortunately, this isn't my only regret from those unbearable years when I

felt cheated out of raising my children. "It's not fair!" I often raged during that period of my life, erupting with the worst kind of jealousy. It was natural to want my children to be with me, but my emotions were out of control. "Why doesn't God answer my prayers like He does for others?" I'd scream in my empty apartment. Have you ever envied so much that your thoughts and actions became an ongoing sin issue? This week, in our progressive goal of medi-

tating on and obeying 1 Corinthians 13, we'll focus on overcoming the sin of envy (verse 4): "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy..." (ESV). Is there something in your life right now that causes you to be envious to the point of sinning? Perhaps a prayer request that seems to go unanswered while others' requests are granted? What if, every day for the rest of the Month of Love, each time we catch ourselves feeling jealous or envious, we stopped and thanked God for His love for us, His plan for

us, His perfect timing for us? What if we chose to trust our compassionate heavenly Father, knowing He hasn't forgotten about us, then praised Him for His faithfulness? What if we thanked God for all the times He has blessed us? Taking another step forward in overcoming sinful envy, in honor of Valentine's Day, let's also remember how much God loves the people we envy. Let's pray: Heavenly Father, show us how our jealousy looks through Your eyes. Reveal to us

how our envious ways hurt You, hurt us, and hurt our relationships. Remind us how much You love the people we envy and to trust Your sovereign plan, not only for ourselves, but for them as well. Fill us so full of Your presence that we'll no longer be ruled by our emotions but by Your love. Amen. Sheryl H. Boldt is a sales executive for Wave 94 and author of the blog, [www.TodayCanBeDifferent.net](http://www.TodayCanBeDifferent.net). Connect with her at [SherylHBoldt.Wave94@gmail.com](mailto:SherylHBoldt.Wave94@gmail.com).

# Your gifts matter



By CHERYL CRUCE

Some of my greatest lessons of faith have been taught with the simplest of beginnings, such as the wheelchair found abandoned on the side of the highway. When the owner could not be found, the chair was brought to the local church, cleaned up, and loaned out when needed. Over time, the congregation began to see a need within the community for different types of medical equipment. They set aside a room and began collecting various walkers, chairs, bedside tables, etc. As overseer of this ministry, I was fortunate enough to witness many of its blessings. However, none were as beautiful as when I met the Vietnam veteran at the area gas station. He pulled beside me in his flatbed diesel as I filled my truck with gas. I noticed as he climbed down from his seat that he was an amputee above the knee. I also saw the change of expression as he looked over the bed of his truck. Something wasn't right. This man's brother had loaded his wheelchair onto the bed but failed

to secure it properly. As I offered to help, he handed me \$50 and asked if I could get him a cup of coffee and pay for his gas with what remained. I was thankful for the opportunity. Returning with his coffee, I mentioned the ministry and said I would bring him a replacement chair if he waited in the parking lot. There had been a recent donation of a brand-new chair that might meet his needs. I was right; the chair was made for him. We sat in the parking lot a while longer and shared our stories. He talked a lot about the war, the loss of friends, and his thankfulness that he returned home, wounded but alive. I spoke of the com-

munity, the ministry, and how God had brought us to meet that day. Then we strapped his new chair down, said our goodbyes, and went our separate ways without exchanging names. Our names did not seem necessary. Yet, what was important was how one man found an abandoned wheelchair on the side of the road and blessed another man who lost his chair five years later on the side of the road. What may have seemed insignificant initially became significant to many, including the Vietnam veteran. The abandoned wheelchair has taught

me two lessons in ministry. First, God does not ask for more than we can give. The humble widow gave pennies in the parable, while the prideful man boasted of his extravagant giving. Jesus said the widow had given more than the pompous man (Mark 12:41-44) because her gift was of the heart. The tiniest mustard seed will grow into the grandest tree of the garden, and life will gather to it (Matthew 13:31-32). In the same way, when we humble ourselves before the Lord, our simplest gifts will bring life to others. The second lesson is this: we may never see the results of our labor, but it will bear fruit. The finder of the origi-

nal chair never knew of the veteran he had ultimately blessed. However, the works of our Lord are like that. The word of the Lord will accomplish what He has set out to do. (Isaiah 55:11). The faith of the early church and the apostles' actions are still mighty even though they do not see the results. Therefore, let today be the day God does great things through you. When we put God first in our lives. He will direct our steps, making our efforts successful (Proverbs 3:6). Cheryl Mixon-Cruce is Pastor of Ochlockonee Bay United Methodist Church and Sopchoppy United Methodist Church.

### OUT TO PASTOR

# Making decisions is the hardest part of my life



By JAMES SNYDER

"Then I smile because I don't know what I am getting into. She has been making supper for me for over 53 years, and I have no complaints as of today. Her decision about supper is always okay with me. Of course, there are those times when she asks me that question, and sometimes I will respond by saying, "Anything but broccoli." I need to be careful in this area because she is a vegetable aficionado in the strictest sense of the word. If it's a vegetable, it's on her menu, and it's not even open for a decision. I always wrestle with decisions, and by now, I should have perfected my decision-making skills. Just when I think I have, some decision comes before me that I have difficulty dealing with. The other day, for example, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was baking pies for some family get-together. I could smell them all the

way back to my office. She came to my office, looked in, and asked, "Would you like a piece of pie?" That's not even in the decision category. So I answered, "Of course I do." "Okay," she said, "which pie would you like? You can only have one piece." I asked her about the pies she was baking, and she said, "I have Apple pie, lemon meringue pie, peach pie, coconut cream pie, and chocolate pie. You can only have one piece, so which one?" That is not a decision-making venue. There is no way I can decide on one pie over five pieces of pie. No matter which pie I pick, I'm gonna love it, but I'm also going to wonder about the other pies that she has. After all these years, I can't deal with that kind of decision-making process. Pondering on that decision-making process, I

looked at her and said, "I'm not sure which one I want; what would you recommend?" Looking at me with a sly little grin, she said, "I'm not sure which one I would pick. They're all very delicious and so it doesn't matter which one you pick." That's the problem with making a decision. When you make a decision, you eliminate everything else. If I decide on the pie that I'm going to eat at the time, it eliminates all the other pies that are on the table. How can anybody handle that kind of decision-making process? As she was ready to leave my office, I stopped her and said, "I'll take any pie you choose for me and bring it here." Then I smiled. I waited. And waited. And waited. She never came back with any pie for me. I had no idea what was wrong. Finally, my nerves got the best of me, and I

walked into the kitchen to find out what was happening. There she was, sitting down at the table, eating a nice piece of pie. I looked at her. She looked back and smiled. Then I asked her, "So, where's my pie?" She looked at me, laughed, and said, "Since you could not make up your mind when I asked you, I just thought you didn't want any pie." Then she laughed some more. I did not think that was funny, I walked over to the pies and carefully looked at them. Each one had its own aroma and I loved each one. Looking at them, I was trying to figure out which pie I would choose to eat. Making decisions is very hard to do, at least for me especially when it comes to choosing my pie. No matter which pie I choose, I would love it,

but then I would wonder about the pies I did not choose. Life has its ups and downs. When I have to make a decision about anything, a Bible verse comes to mind. Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." When I trust my understanding, I always fail in some degree. When I accept the fact that I don't know everything, I then turn my trust to the Lord. Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail [jamesnyder51@gmail.com](mailto:jamesnyder51@gmail.com), website [www.jamesnyderministries.com](http://www.jamesnyderministries.com).

If it were not for decisions, my life would be perfect. After all these years, I still wrestle with decision-making. I admit that I often don't make good decisions. I'm not sure, so don't repeat this, but I think The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage knows this and uses it to her advantage. How? I don't know. She is the primary source behind my decision-making. I hate choosing one thing over another when both things are good. That's a bad part of life if you ask me. Why can't everything be easy? Driving across town, I must decide whether to turn right or left. That's not much of a decision-making process because I know where I'm going. If I make the right decisions while driving, I will get to where I need to be. So, making decisions can be a real challenge for me. For example, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will ask me what I want for supper. I have not even had lunch yet, and now I am backed into a corner and have to make a decision about supper. Usually, I respond by saying, "Whatever you would like to make for supper will be okay with

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# Obituaries

## DEATH NOTICES

• **Donna Snow**, 76, of Tallahassee, died January 30, 2024. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **James “Jimmy” Bevis Miller**, 77, of Crawfordville, died February 2, 2024. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

## Weekly Roundup: We are the champions

By **RYAN DAILEY**  
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — Gov. Ron DeSantis is back home in Florida after dropping out of the presidential race, but he nailed two courthouse victories this week — including a win in his high-profile court clash with the state’s most famous mouse.

U.S. District Judge Allen Winsor on Wednesday dismissed a lawsuit alleging that the state unconstitutionally retaliated against Walt Disney Parks and Resorts because of the company’s opposition to a controversial education law.

Disney officials in 2022 objected to a new state law that restricted instruction about sexual orientation and gender identity in schools. The lawsuit, filed last year, alleged that the state retaliated against Disney with a “relentless campaign to weaponize government power” against the company.

In a 17-page ruling, Winsor wrote that the entertainment giant did not have legal standing to pursue the lawsuit against DeSantis and state Commerce Secretary J. Alex Kelly, citing legal precedents preventing First Amendment retaliation claims against “facially constitutional” laws.

Winsor also rejected claims against the Central Florida Tourism

Oversight District, created by the Legislature last year to largely govern an area that includes Disney’s Central Florida properties.

The judge, in part, said that the disputed laws do not mention Disney and that their effects would go beyond Disney.

“The laws are directed at a special development district in which Disney operates,” Winsor wrote. “But as Disney acknowledges, it is not the district’s only landowner, and other landowners within the district are affected by the same laws.”

DeSantis’ office celebrated the ruling, with the governor’s spokesman Jeremy Redfern saying that the days of Disney “being placed above the law are long gone.”

“The federal court’s decision made it clear that Gov. DeSantis was correct: Disney is still just one of many corporations in the state, and they do not have a right to their own special government,” Redfern said. “In short — as long predicted, case dismissed.”

Disney quickly launched an appeal on Thursday. While the federal lawsuit was tossed out, Disney and the Central Florida Tourism Oversight District continue to battle in a separate case in Orange County circuit court.

Also on Wednesday, a federal judge refused to issue injunctions sought

by pro-Palestinian student groups in First Amendment lawsuits against the state amid the war between Israel and Hamas.

The groups Students for Justice in Palestine at the University of Florida and Students for Justice in Palestine at the University of South Florida launched the lawsuits after state university system Chancellor Ray Rodrigues in October issued a “deactivation order” about the groups.

Rodrigues in the memo sought to link the organizations to the National Students for Justice in Palestine, and pointed to a state law that makes it a crime to provide material support to designated foreign terrorist organizations.

Chief U.S. District Judge Mark Walker ruled that the students hadn’t shown that their speech had been chilled or that they faced imminent punishment. Walker’s ruling noted, in part, that the groups are continuing to meet and speak out.

### WORKING 9 TO 5

The Florida House this week passed one of the 2024 legislative session’s most controversial bills, as members of the Republican-dominated chamber agreed to loosen work restrictions for 16- and 17-year-olds.

The measure (HB 49) would eliminate a de-

cadec-old restriction on 16- and 17-year-olds working more than eight hours when school is scheduled the next day. It also would eliminate a restriction on 16- and 17-year-olds working more than 30 hours during a week when school is in session.

Bill sponsor Linda Chaney, R-St. Pete Beach, said the bill would give teens a choice to work up to 40 hours a week and that 24 other states have adopted similar measures.

The bill “simply creates opportunity and choice, most likely for those who are already working beyond 30 hours with a side hustle, working under the table through jobs with no benefits or protections,” Chaney said.

But Democrats said the bill, which is backed by groups such as the Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association, would hinder students’ education. They also said, in part, it is intended to use children to address labor shortages, including shortages of immigrant workers.

“What we’re doing here is creating a cheap workforce for big business,” Rep. Robin Bartleman, D-Weston, said.

Democrats unsuccessfully proposed a series of amendments, such as proposals that would have required rest breaks every five hours for workers under

18 and required that employers provide to parents a list of their children’s duties and wages.

The Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee this week approved a version of the bill (SB 1596) that would not go as far as the House proposal. For example, the Senate plan would not eliminate the prohibition on working more than 30 hours in a week when school is in session.

Senate President Kathleen Passidomo, R-Naples, expressed support Thursday for the Senate’s approach.

“We want to allow students, our kids that want to work to do that,” Passidomo said. “Our number one priority is to make sure they don’t sacrifice their education time. And that they have parental consent. Real parental consent. Not the fake ones where they (teens) write them themselves.”

### CH-CH-CH-CHANGES

House Speaker Paul Renner this week said lawmakers will revise a bill aimed at keeping children off social media, as state leaders prepare to try to fend off expected legal challenges.

The House overwhelmingly passed the bill (HB 1) last week, but DeSantis later raised legal concerns about the “breadth” of the measure. The bill, in part,

would prevent minors under 16 from creating social media accounts.

“We’re working very, very closely with the Senate, very closely with the governor’s team to get to a bill that will be upheld by the courts,” Renner, R-Palm Coast, told reporters Thursday evening. “We’re very mindful of all the legal challenges that will be raised and could be raised. But we do believe from the input we’ve been getting that our bill is in a unique position, that this is a better effort than previous state efforts (in other parts of the country). And with that, we have some confidence that we will succeed once a challenge is brought.”

### STORY OF THE WEEK:

In a win for Gov. Ron DeSantis, a federal judge Wednesday dismissed a lawsuit alleging that the state unconstitutionally retaliated against Walt Disney Parks and Resorts because of the company’s opposition to a controversial education law.

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

“You need meat, OK. And we’re going to have meat in Florida. ... We’re not going to have fake meat. Like that doesn’t work.” — Gov. Ron DeSantis, expressing support for an effort to prevent lab-grown meat from being made or sold in Florida.

## \$2.4M shortfall

### From Front Page

of the budget hole would not be solved until the county’s millage or value increase equalled \$2.4 million.

Brandy King, the county financial officer, noted that the original budget estimate was \$17.64 million. At the

Feb. 20 meeting, county commissioners will vote for a budget amendment with projected actual revenues of \$15.5 million.

On the expense side, the freeze on hiring for new positions — in addition to deputies and firefighters — extends to any new positions with-

in county government, such as new park employees. (It still allows for hiring to replace staff.)

The county’s \$30 million loan to cover current sewer projects was also discussed. The county took out the loan to cover projects that are being paid for by state grant — but the state pays reimbursements, so the county

has to front the costs.

Clerk Greg James reported that the county has paid back \$9 million of the \$30 million.

He also noted that the county has invested the loan and is receiving some income off the money but not quite enough to cover the interest on the loan.

“We’re borrowing the money almost for nothing, (but) not quite,”

James said.

Edwards expressed concern about having the cash flow to keep the various septic-to-sewer and wastewater treatment plant expansion projects going.

James noted that the county could seek a loan against what it has paid back — in other words, it could get another \$9 million against the repayment of the loan.

The audit committee is chaired by Commission Chair Quincee Messersmith and consists of constitutional officers. Brimmer was at the meeting, as was Supervisor of Elections Joe Morgan. Tax Collector Lisa Craze was out of town. Sheriff Jared Miller sent a representative.

The committee plans to meet again in March.

## Trophies

### From Front Page

spending money they didn’t have to buy the memorabilia from Blake — an effort to try to keep it in the family.

But Judge Miller, in

announcing his ruling, noted that text messages submitted as evidence between Blake McDowell and Edwards indicated a concern from Blake that if the items weren’t returned

the two could be “locked up for dealing in stolen property.”

The judge found the items belonged to the coach, they were not Blake’s to sell, and ordered them returned to Peggy McDowell.

There were a couple of high profile coaches

in the courtroom for the trial: FSU Hall of Fame coaches Mickey Andrews and Jim Gladden, friends of McDowell’s, who were there to testify as character witnesses for Peggy McDowell. They were not called to testify.



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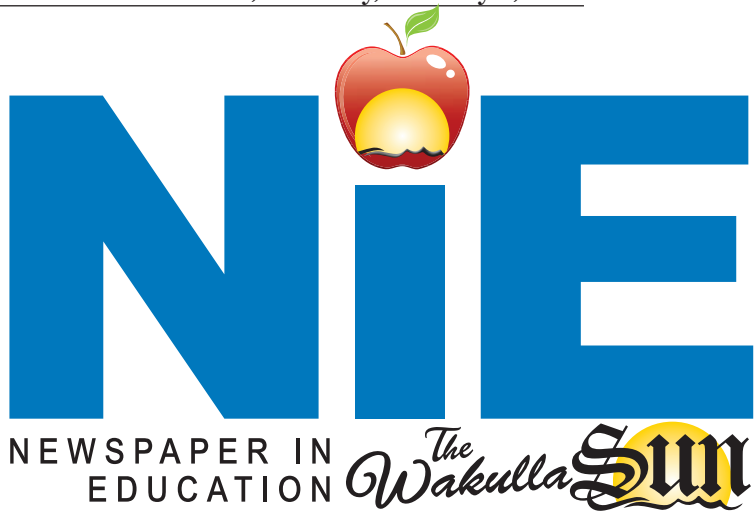
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## USE THE NEWS

### 1. BRINGING BACK ANCIENT EGYPT

The pyramids of Giza are one of the most popular destinations in the world. There are three of them: the Great Pyramid, the Pyramid of Khafre, and the Pyramid of Menkaure. They were built around 4,500 years ago as tombs for the pharaohs, or rulers, of Ancient Egypt. Part of the Pyramid of Menkaure was originally covered in granite blocks, but most of them have since come off and the bumpy limestone walls are what the pyramids are known for today. The Egyptian government announced a plan last week to study the granite and put it back on the pyramid, and many people were upset at the idea. Many experts believe the pyramid was left unfinished after King Menkaure died, so adding the granite blocks wouldn't be restoring the pyramid to its original look, it would be finishing what the Ancient Egyptians started and wouldn't be true to history. Write a summary of this story, including at least five facts that you learned.

### 2. DOG YEARS

A new study compared how long dogs of different breeds live on average. The researchers studied almost 600,000 dogs of 150 different breeds. They found that smaller dogs with long snouts live the longest, and female dogs live slightly longer than male ones. The study was done in Britain, so the results might be different in other countries. Differences in behavior, lifestyle, diet, and where they live can all affect how long a dog lives, too. The study is a first step in helping dogs live longer by finding breeds that need the most attention. Do you, someone in your family, or your friends have a dog? Write down five facts

about a dog in your life, like what it eats and how it acts, and draw a picture to go with it! (If you don't know any dogs, pick another animal that you know.)

### 3. PIGEON PRISONER

After eight months in jail, a pigeon in India was finally released. The pigeon was found in Mumbai, India, in May. It had rings on its legs with symbols that looked like they might be Chinese letters or words. Indian police thought it could be a way of the Chinese government spying on India and put the bird in an animal hospital. They finally learned

it was a racing bird from Taiwan, an island off the coast of China. It had made its way to India, and after being under police watch for eight months, it was released last week. Write a short story from the perspective of the pigeon and draw at least one picture to illustrate it.

### 4. TAKING OUT THE TRASH

For the first time in almost 100 years, garbage collectors in New York City will change the way they do their jobs. In most towns and cities in the United States, people wheel trash bins to the curb for garbage trucks to pick up,

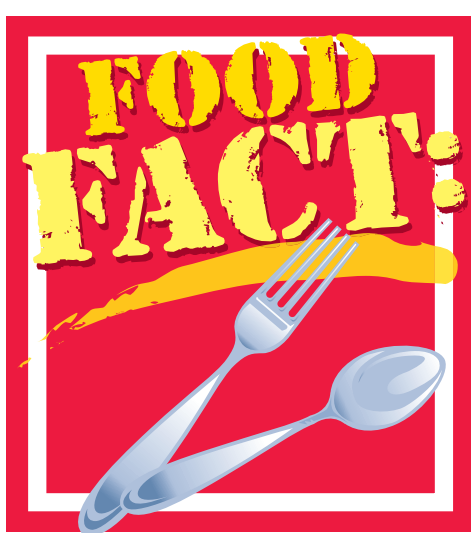
sometimes by hand and sometimes with a mechanical arm attached to the truck. But in New York, there are so many people in such a small area, there's too much trash to collect in bins, so people pile their trash bags on the streets and garbage collectors throw the bags into the back of their trucks by hand. Now, a new garbage truck the city is trying out will use a big arm to empty extra-large trash containers—a size between a regular trash bin and a dumpster. This will keep bags off the street, which is cleaner, less smelly, and better looking for the city. Trash collection isn't something we think about much, but it's very import-

ant. Without it, garbage would pile up and cause all sorts of problems! Write a thank you letter to the trash collectors in your area, including ways that what they do makes life in your town or city better.

### 5. RIVER OF RAIN

California has gotten lots of rain recently from an unusual weather system. An atmospheric river has caused flooding and fallen trees in most of the state. Many important roads in the state had to be closed because of the rain and floods. So what is an atmospheric river? It's a long, narrow area in the sky—similar to a river on the ground—that carries water vapor.

They move water vapor from the tropics to land, where it comes down in the form of rain or snow. A well-known atmospheric river is named the "Pineapple Express," and it carries rain from Hawaii to the west coast of the United States. Atmospheric rivers happen around the world, but in the United States, they mostly affect the west coast. About 30 percent to 50 percent of rain on the west coast comes from just a few atmospheric rivers. Using what you know about rain and what you've learned here about atmospheric rivers, write a paragraph explaining what atmospheric rivers are, as if you were explaining them to a friend.



THIS INGREDIENT HELPS MANY FOODS TO RISE DURING THE BAKING PROCESS.

ANSWER: BAKING POWDER

### Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-20. The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right. The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

	0	12	22
6		8	34
15	7		26
31	27	24	

4	7	15
8	20	9
12	0	10

Solution

### Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

FTIS LFORU

Answer: Sift flour

### THIS DAY IN...



### HISTORY

- 1807: NAPOLEON DEFEATS THE COALITION FORCES AT THE BATTLE OF EYLAU.
- 1910: THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA IS INCORPORATED BY WILLIAM D. BOYCE.
- 1960: THE HOLLYWOOD WALK OF FAME IS FOUNDED.



### FOLD

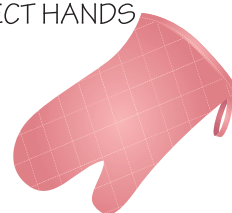
mix in an ingredient gently with another ingredient

### How they SAY that in...

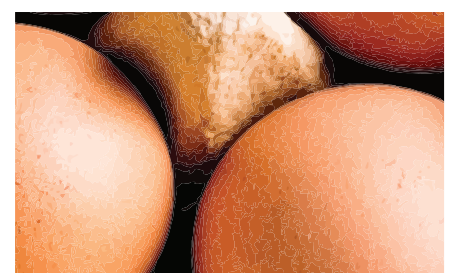
- ENGLISH:** Cake
- SPANISH:** Pastel
- ITALIAN:** Torta
- FRENCH:** Gâteau
- GERMAN:** Kuchen



OVEN MITTS ARE USEFUL SAFETY EQUIPMENT WHILE BAKING. THEY PROTECT HANDS FROM HOT PANS.



### GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: EGGS

# SWEETHEARTS WORD SEARCH

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

## WORDS

- BOUQUET
- BOYFRIEND
- CARDS
- CELEBRATE
- CHOCOLATES
- DATE
- DINNER
- ENAMORED
- FEBRUARY
- GESTURE
- GIFTS
- GIRLFRIEND
- HEART
- JEWELRY
- LOVE
- LOVING
- MOVIES
- PROPOSAL
- RED
- RELATIONSHIP
- ROMANTIC
- ROSES
- SPOUSE
- VALENTINE

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

## CROSSWORD

### CLUES ACROSS

1. Gene type
5. Persian male given name
10. Type of protection
12. Cloud
14. One who returns to life
16. Gym class
18. General's assistant (abbr.)
19. Baby's dining accessory
20. Enchantress
22. Prefix denoting "in a"
23. Spiritual leader
25. Cavities
26. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
27. Foot (Latin)
28. Sweet potato
30. Pharaoh of Lower Egypt
31. Land
33. More inquisitive
35. Dog breed: \_\_\_ Apso
37. Stood up
38. Direct and uninhibited
40. Authorless
41. Blocking type of drug (abbr.)
42. Retrospective analysis (abbr.)
44. Root mean square (abbr.)

45. Macaws
48. Actress Remini
50. Polynesian wrapped skirt
52. City of Angels hoops team (abbr.)
53. Fitzgerald and Baker are two
55. Bowling alley must-have
56. A way to cool down
57. Ethnic group in Asia
58. A way to alter
63. Set of five
65. Removes from the record
66. Dummies
67. Set period in office

### CLUES DOWN

1. DC Comics superhero
2. Brew
3. Play
4. Single-celled animals
5. Rough to the touch
6. Small island (British)
7. Often noted alongside cons
8. Preparation of root-stock
9. Atomic #44
10. Egyptian unit of capacity
11. About secretary
13. Particular groups
15. Poke fun at
17. Make certain that something occurs
18. Financial term
21. Justify
23. Arbiter
24. 007's creato
27. Czech name for Prague
29. Groans
32. American time
34. No seats available
35. \_\_\_ Stahl, journalist
36. Cleft lip
39. Talk incessantly
40. Expresses atomic and molecular weights (abbr.)
43. A part of a river where the current is very fast
44. Curdled milk
46. Running competitions
47. A team's best pitcher
49. Carthaginian explorer
51. World-renowned city
54. Most common Japanese surname
59. The bill in a restaurant
60. They \_\_\_
61. City of Angels football team (abbr.)
62. Distinctive practice
64. One quintillion bytes

## WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to Valentine's Day.

S L O E V

--	--	--	--	--

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

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## Guess Who?

I am a singer born in Toronto, Canada on February 16, 1990. I used to anonymously upload my music to YouTube, but I am now a three-time Grammy-winner. I was the first artist to simultaneously hold the top three positions on the Billboard Hot R&B Songs chart.

Answer: Loves

Answer: The Weeknd

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## LIENS

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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*Welcomes*

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A 6th generation Floridian, who grew up in Wakulla County, who has a passion for real estate. Being a 4th generation realtor, Michael fell in love with working in real estate. Michael thrives working in a competitive environment, and is always eager to take on new challenges and push new limits in his career.

Michael loves the outdoors and is an active sportsman. Spending his spare time hunting and fishing in beautiful North Florida, Michael has great knowledge of the land, waterways, and resources. Michael believes in building a strong relationship with his clients, and has a deep understanding of the market. Whether you are a first time homebuyer or an experienced investor, Michael is dedicated to delivering personalized and successful real estate experiences.

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# Wakulla Art Gallery

A SMALL PRIVATE GALLERY

51 Coastal Hwy. Panacea FL 32346  
At the Bridge 850-559-3336

**Art Exhibit**  
**I TRADED IN FOR LEGS**  
**Coming Soon**

Art is only available for purchase when on display.

**EXHIBIT ART**

Reaching the top  
Beach Mermaid  
Taking a dip  
What time is it  
I traded in for legs  
For you  
From Tide Creek

(Is asked to be left until showing is over, preferred.)

**GALLERY ART**

The girl in the red dress  
Mermaid Revelation  
Fish  
Guitar  
The Bear  
Mermaid with Seahorse  
Over Ochlockonee Bay

AVG cost per item for opening show is \$1.4K

**Open Every Saturday**



**February 10th – March 23rd, 2024**

*Celebrate  
with Your  
Loved Ones* at



a Special *Valentine's Buffet Dinner*  
and Live Music

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH AT 5:30 P.M. CHILDREN'S MENU AVAILABLE 10 & UNDER

*Fun Starts  
Wednesday*

*Feb 14 at 5:30 pm*

FULL BAR at Wildwood

Buffet: Prime Rib Carving station,  
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Live Music: 5:30PM Allie & Salty



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By The Bay*  
for Valentines Day

*Wednesday  
"Valentine's Day"  
February 14  
from 11am - 9pm*

Regular hours:  
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FULL MENU WITH  
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