

# Rotary Valentines Festival



See Page 13

# The Wakulla Sun



Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Hi: 70° Lo: 48° 7%	Hi: 68° Lo: 54° 54%	Hi: 62° Lo: 42° 54%
Sunrise 7:17 AM Sunset 6:26 PM	Sunrise 7:16 AM Sunset 6:26 PM	Sunrise 7:15 AM Sunset 6:27 PM



\$1  
One Section

"It's a New Day"

Locally Owned & Operated

Our 4th Year 7th Issue  
Thursday, February 15, 2024

## NATIONAL SIGNING DAY



# 5 War Eagles sign

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN  
Editor

Five Wakulla football players signed scholarships on Wednesday, National Signing Day.

They include Marcus Gardner with Lagrange College; Leon Washington with Florida Atlantic University; Haden Klees with Samford; Samron Brinson with Edward Waters University, and

Herschel Blackmon with Lagrange.

In addition, Nehemiah Chandler signed with Georgia Tech in an early signing in December. While he had already signed, Chandler sat near the day's other signees in the War Eagle Cafe and Head Coach Scott Klees touted Chandler as a "shutdown corner."

Marcus Gardner was praised by Klees as a 2-year starter at

outside linebacker, and a play against the Suwannee Bulldogs was recalled in which Gardner shut down a play on 3rd and 10 to seal the win for Wakulla.

Leon Washington was praised by Klees for putting "his family ahead of everything" and being "one heck of a football player."

When it came to talking about his own son, quarterback Haden

Turn to Page 6



Five War Eagle football players signed scholarships on Wednesday, clockwise from top left: Marcus Gardner signed with Lagrange College; Leon Washington signed with Florida Atlantic; Haden Klees signed with Samford; Herschel Blackmon signed with Lagrange; and Samron Brinson signed with Edward Waters U.

# Clearcutting complaints

Complaints at the Retreat lead builder D.R. Horton to stop the practice

By LEGION TAYLOR  
Reporter

In the Retreat at Wakulla, a new subdivision under construction off of Martin Luther King Memorial Boulevard, a Homeowner's Association (HOA) has taken a stand against development company D.R. Horton's method of clear-cutting lots.

The HOA, which was formed by Travis Perez and Culpepper Construction, the original developers of the subdivision, has a clause in its agreement that states, "Whenever possible a natural buffer shall exist between adjacent houses." While this doesn't protect plants that are in the lots where houses are to be built, it keeps some of the greenery alive, or at least it's supposed to.

After D.R. Horton began purchasing lots for development in the subdivision, the company started its routine of cutting down the flora to make room for the planned homes, unaware of the clause



A home at the Retreat at Wakulla with a clearcut lot next door.

in the HOA agreement, which caused the residents of the few homes that the previous builders had completed to call Culpepper and the HOA to complain.

One resident, who asked not to be identified, said: "We called... just trying to reach out to say, 'Hey, have you seen what they're doing?'"

The HOA then reached out to D.R. Horton to

draw attention to the clause in the agreement

After only a few days of back-and-forth between the HOA and the construction companies, Horton relented - and agreed to save the buffers that had not already been cut and promising to replant the ones that had.

The residents of the neighborhood are satisfied with the conclusion, as their buffers will be

left alone.

One resident, who had a buffer beside her home cut, was contacted by Horton, which promised to replant the buffer with native shrubbery, as well as sending out a professional landscaper to make sure it was up to par.

Susan Jones, the head of the HOA, was reached about the event but declined to comment.

## ST. MARKS

# Dissolution of city comes up, but no action is taken

By LEGION TAYLOR  
Reporter

Attorney Charles McMurry attended the St. Marks City Commission meeting last week to present his viewpoint about the city's dissolution directly to the commission.

This comes only two weeks after a petition was sent out to residents of St. Marks which called for dissolving the city. The petition and an attached letter, penned by Robert Gee and McMurry, makes the case that the people of St. Marks would enjoy lower taxes and utility costs if the city were to be dissolved, citing examples such as Sopchoppy's tax rates and Panacea's water system to back up the claims.

At the meeting, McMurry said the taxes and utility rates had increased more than the surrounding county, and that he didn't see the benefits that he felt should be there. Other citizens expressed concerns that the dissolution of the city might make things more expensive and make services such as road grading slower. No action was taken by the commissioners, and so far nothing has come of the petition that McMurry and Gee mailed out.

In other matters before the city commission:

- Zoe Mansfield and Ethel Jefferson, the City manager and Administrative Assistant, respectively, are retiring on September 30th, at the end of the fiscal year. The city commission tasked attorney Bill Garner with writing up a job description so a search to fill the City Manager position could be completed before Mansfield and Jefferson leave. Only a job description for the City Manager position is being made, because the Administrative Assistant is hired by the City Manager, not the city commission.

- Shadrach Hines of the Waterfronts committee was at the meeting to talk about upcoming events in St. Marks. The next event will be on February 24th, and will be a chili cookoff and a community market. Also in the works is the Fourth of July celebration, which Hines is hoping will be on par with Sopchoppy's annual fireworks display, provided that they reach their donation goal of \$8,000. Forms to donate will be made available soon.

- A buyer has reached out to the city about buying the old refinery, so they may convert it into a place to manufacture building materials. Before the city government can do their due diligence and get the land appraised and evaluated, a resolution allowing such actions must be passed by the city commission, which it was unanimously.

- An insurance invoice has been sent to COAST Charter School after city commissioners decided to stop paying for the school's insurance out of the city budget.

- The Community Reinvestment Act that St. Marks was under has been moved to an inactive list, meaning the city won't pay its filing fee anymore. It was made inactive because the city has never grown large enough to benefit from it. The CRA can be reactivated if such growth occurs.

- The last pieces of playground equipment that the city government purchased have been shipped and are en route to St. Marks after a few month delay.

- There will be a Flash 12K and 6K race in St. Marks on the railtrail on Feb. 17th at 8 a.m.

- A Sea to Sea race will be held on the 22nd from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. where over 100 people will be coming over from St. Augustine to walk, bike, and paddleboat around the city and its environs. The Sea to Sea Expedition Race across Florida is an adventure racing event that takes participants on a multi-day journey from the Gulf of Mexico on the west coast of Florida to the Atlantic Ocean on the east coast.

- Wakulla Street will be surveyed, to make sure there's a concrete definition of where property lines are and where encroachments have happened.

# Celebrating Black History this weekend

Staff Report

The Wakulla County Christian Coalition is hosting three events for this weekend's African American Heritage Celebration.

The first event is the Arthur Lee Andrews Scholarship Gala "Celebrating Achievers in Medicine" at the community center on Friday, followed by a Parade in Hudson Park on Saturday, and a Read-in at Palaver Tree Theater on Sunday. See the group's ad on Page 14 for more details.

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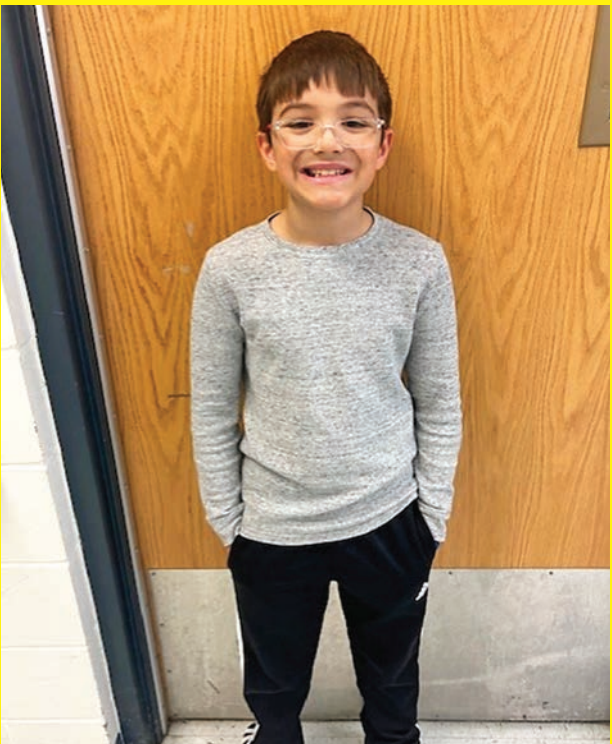
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# Student of the Week

**Emerson Cook – 3rd grader at Crawfordville Elementary**

Principal: Alena Crawford

**Achievements/Reason for Nomination:** Emerson is a third-grade student here at Crawfordville Elementary School. Emerson is a wonderful student and a leader in the classroom. This past nine weeks he was on the honor roll, met his AR goal, and was super citizen. Along with being an amazing student, Emerson is also a great friend to his peers. He is always willing to help a friend in need.




STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.

## Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park

### White wood violet

By LYNN ARTZ, DAVID RODDENBERRY, and SANDY TEDDER



Common blue violets (*Viola sororia*) are ground-hugging, perennial wildflowers with green heart-shaped leaves and nodding flowers that are usually purple. However, white color forms occur as can be seen in the northeast garden at Sopchoppy Depot Park. Commonly called white wood violet, the five rounded petals of this form are white to mostly white, except for violet lines on the lower petal. The two side petals have tufts of white hairs inside. The early blooming flowers have few visitors but support specialized bees. Like all violets, the leaves feed the caterpillars of fritillary butterflies. Upland gamebirds and small mammals occasionally eat the seeds. White wood violets prefer moist, rich soils in dappled sunlight. Other local species of white violets prefer wetlands and have different shaped leaves.



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*The Wakulla Sun*

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*The Wakulla Sun*

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# Moose Lodge visited by VIPs from Moose International



Special to The Sun

On Thursday, Feb. 1, the Wakulla County Moose Lodge 2510 in Panacea was honored to welcome Sandy and Harry Johnston from Moose International.

Sandy currently serves as a member of the Moose International Board of Directors. Sandy was the first female to be elected to the board in 133 years of existence.

Harry is a Past Supreme Governor, and he is also the Chairman of the Mooseheart Board of Directors. (Mooseheart is our child city and Moosehaven is our home for our Seniors)

Also in attendance was Roy Rawlings our Territory Manager, Quincy Messersmith from the Wakulla County Commissioners office accompanied by her husband Frank.

Tom Mallon and Danny Harrell from Wakulla Sheriff's Office were presented with two boxes of Tommy Moose stuffed dolls. These dolls are used to be given to children that have been traumatized in accidents or other traumatizing events.

The Sheriff's Office was also presented with 27 gift certificates for Officers to attend steak dinners courtesy of the Wakulla Moose Lodge.

Gloria Rowley, Roy Rawlings, Sandy and Harry Johnston.

## Shadeville Elementary holds Brain Brawl

Special to The Sun

Shadeville Elementary School hosted its yearly Brain Brawl Competition on Friday, Jan. 26th.

Two teams of four players and two alternates participated in the competition. Two students were chosen from each of the five fifth grade classes of Shadeville Educators: Kerry Adams, Suzie McCord (Brain Brawl Sponsor), Kaylee Meyers, Brittany Muse, and Cary Wallis (Brain Brawl Sponsor).

The Red Team consisted of Miles McClure (Captain), Kate Weaver, Maxx McCarty, Kaydence Wilson, and Mason Warner. The

Green Team consisted of Isabelle Scott (Captain), Parker Larson, Liam Herron, Triston Childer, and Anabelle Stanley.

The teams prepared for the competition throughout December and throughout January. They were quizzed on subjects that included: current events, History, Geography, Literature, and Pop Culture.

The red team dominated the competition, earning the win and having the title as the highest scoring team, by earning 234 points in the first round and 178 points in the second round for a total of 412 points. The green team came in second place by earning 46 points in round one and 112



The winning Red Team at the Shadeville Brain Brawl.

points in round two for a total score of 158 points. Miles McClure (Cap-

tain) of the Red team was the MVP of the competition, earning the

title of highest overall scorer by putting up 132 points.

Isabelle Scott (Captain) of the Green team scored the most points for her team by putting up a total of 60 points.

The Brain Brawl is sponsored by the Coastal Optimist Club in effort to provide challenging educational experiences for local youth. Optimist members Jo Ann Daniels, Verna Brock, served as moderator and timekeeper. Mrs. Suzie McCord was the score keeper for the competition.

All the students involved put a tremendous amount of effort into studying and practicing for the competition. They represented Shadeville and their families proudly.

## 4-H visits the Capitol to learn about legislative process

By RACHEL PIENTA  
Special to The Sun

A delegation of 4-H youth and chaperones traveled to Tallahassee to learn about the legislative process on Tuesday, February 6.

Youth were greeted at the State Capitol by Florida Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services Wilton Simpson. 4-H members Bonnie Christal, Jenniffer Masters, Vanessa Elderkin, Caden Gruebel, Jace Perez, Helena Skipper, Ryder Tapp, Gentry Turner, Lakelyn Turner, Mason Turner, Cory Wilson, Ellianna Wilson participated in the annual 4-H Day at the Capitol with 1,000 4-H delegates from around the state.

The day's itinerary included tours of the House and Senate Chambers. In the House of Representatives' Chamber, youth



4-H'ers who visited the Capitol included Bonnie Christal, Jenniffer Masters, Vanessa Elderkin, Caden Gruebel, Jace Perez, Helena Skipper, Ryder Tapp, Gentry Turner, Lakelyn Turner, Mason Turner, Cory Wilson, Ellianna Wilson.

were greeted by State Rep. Allison Tant, who spoke briefly about the impact of 4-H across the state.

In the Senate Chambers, 4-H youth were led through a mock legislative exercise and were able to use the voting machines to cast a vote on the Senate Chamber floor.

The delegation members were able to experience

the view from the 22nd floor of the Capitol Building and toured the Old Capitol Museum.

4-H Day at the Capitol is one of several programs that teach youth about active citizenship and the legislative process. Youth ages 13 to 18 are invited to participate in the statewide virtual 4-H club "Leap into Legislature" this spring, starting Febru-

ary 26.

The virtual club will prepare 4-H members for the Florida 4-H Legislature experience, a one-week summer camp where high school age youth are immersed in learning about government. The virtual club will guide youth through learning about citizenship, the three branches of government, how a bill becomes a law, civil

discourse, understanding self and others, and other related life skills including communication.

Not a 4-H member yet? 4-H agent Dr. Rachel Pienta says, "There is still time to have a great 4-H experience this spring. Membership is only \$20 and opens the door to many robust 4-H experiences."

High school age 4-H members are eligible to participate in 4-H Legislature this summer. The Florida 4-H Legislature program provides an opportunity for teen 4-H members to have a "learn by doing" experience in state government each summer.

During this event, 4-H'ers will serve as Florida 4-H senators, representatives, lobbyists, media correspondents, Lt. Governor, or Governor in a "mock" style experience. 4-H

participants will get to experience what it takes for laws to be considered and passed or vetoed in a model legislative session at the Florida State Capitol. The program is a one-week residential "camp" in Tallahassee. The purpose of Florida 4-H Legislature is to provide an experience that prepares 4-H members for leadership in the American democratic process. Each participant learns, practices, and defends the theory and process of representing citizens and making public policy. Wakulla 4-H has limited scholarships available to help 4-H members participate in this program. Youth must be enrolled in 4-H to apply for a scholarship.

For more information, reach out to the Wakulla Extension office at 850-926-3931 or contact Dr. Pienta at r.pienta@ufl.edu.

## Boys War Eagle soccer team is headed to regional finals

By DAVID ALFORD  
Special to The Sun

The Wakulla High School boys varsity soccer team is on a historic run to the regional finals on Wednesday.

Wakulla entered the regional play offs seeded 8 out of 8. They beat the No. 1 ranked Bay High School which was heavily favored to go on to the state championship.

Friday, the underdog War Eagles beat Bishop Kenny 2-0 to punch their ticket to the final against South Walton on Wednesday.

Wakulla hasn't been to the regional finals since 2015-16. If they win, they will move on to the Final Four for the state and it will be the farthest our soccer team has ever been in school history.

This season has been a Cinderella story for the War Eagles as they've over come adversity after a heart-breaking loss in districts that almost knocked them out of the regional playoffs.



Wakulla High School captain Noah Alford celebrates the War Eagles' 2-0 victory over Bishop Kenny.

# 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.”

## First bylines and other things



By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**  
 Editor

Someone recently shared with me a post about a young reporter on the site My First Byline:

“My first-ever byline was for my college newspaper, The Hilltop, in 2015. But my first story outside of campus reporting was a feature I wrote for The Wakulla News during one of my first trips home from college. My good friend’s dad was its editor-in-chief and graciously assigned me stories while I was home for the holidays and eager to get clips. For my first story, I previewed the opening of a local theater that had been closed for many years and detailed the arts scene in a small community in Florida’s panhandle. The piece made the front page of the paper and gave me one of those ‘maybe I can do this’ feelings about journalism that will always make it really meaningful for me.”

That was posted by Maya King. She was

a good friend of my youngest daughter in high school and Maya took the opportunity to write for me at the News. Maya is now a reporter for the New York Times.

- I recently learned of the death of local historian Mays Leroy Gray – author of numerous books and articles on Wakulla’s past.

Gray was very involved in the Wakulla County Historical Society.

We will have an article about him in an upcoming issue.

Of note as well, we received an obituary this week for former Supervisor of Elections Sherida Crum Leffert.

She oversaw numerous elections – going back to the old days when the supervisor’s office was in the courthouse and people gathered on the courthouse grounds on election night to hear the results.

The last election she oversaw was a doozy – the 2008 which required a recount in two races: then-Sheriff David Harvey won re-election by 48 votes over challenger Charlie Creel and Lynn Artz won a race for county commission by eight votes over Jim Stokley.

Conspiracy theories abounded because a Tallahassee TV station (which wasn’t at the supervisor’s office on election night) announced Creel as the winner –

before the ballots from Sopchoppy arrived to be counted. The votes from Sopchoppy put Harvey over the top for his ninth term, but there were unfounded rumors of ballot-stuffing at the precinct.

The local election garnered statewide attention – some of it unfortunate and wrong.

- We sent out emails to subscribers a couple of weeks ago to create an account to access the website, thewakullasun.com.

We’ve heard very few complaints. But if you are a subscriber and have any problem with your online account, call us for help at (850) 962-8019.

If you haven’t received an email from us, be sure to check your spam.

- Last thing: Wakulla Wonderful, the celebration of the county’s founding, is set for March 9 on the courthouse square. There will be food and fun and history.

Vendors are welcome. 4-H Director Rachel Pienta told me her goal is to have 100 vendors there. After I picked my jaw up from the floor, she said, basically, you have to have big goals.

To register, <https://forms.office.com/r/JY-fhnXezax>

*William Snowden is editor and publisher.*

## LETTERS FROM READERS

### No shortfall with impact fees

**Editor, The Sun:**

The juxtaposition of the two articles (side by side) on the front page of The Wakulla Sun is at once, curious and ironic. The first article “\$2.4M shortfall eyed” opines on the fiscal dilemma thrust upon our helpless county administration by means of an error by our intrepid Tax Appraiser and how the largest impact will be absorbed by our safety departments. The second article “Record number of permits, COs issued in 2023” lays out the building bonanza we all are suffering through. Now, think back to how many times our builder friendly BOCC rejected the impact fee proposals put forth by citizens and Commissioner Hess. The last of many, many excuses from my recollection was that it would not be effective due to the limited ways

impact fee revenues could be spent. Then (and this is the real clincher) they expounded on examples of acceptable expenditures being POLICE & FIRE departments! If there were even a modest impact fee assessment on new development based on square footage this entire “shortfall” would be covered.

It seems like this entire matter of the “budget error” is being manipulated to justify a large tax increase upon the citizens of Wakulla County. Impact fees are way overdue and would serve a great purpose in lessening the IMPACT of development (including raised taxes) on the citizens of the county. We deserve better from our elected officials and the county administration.

**Tim Caldwell**  
 Panacea

### Reflecting on the foreign teacher issue

**Editor, The Sun:**

Reviewing the Wakulla Sun’s Year in Review for 2023, I was bemused by the reprint of the school board voting against H-1B bias teachers (foreigners) recruitment.

I would imagine the public’s negative view was emotional and void of facts while the opposing school board members (knuckle-draggers) failed to engage in critical-thinking, thus allowing emotions to sway their vote. Gee, thanks for nothing.

As a property taxpayer, I find little advocacy on local boards, particularly school boards. However, this proposal made sense. As Americans, we have a dearth of teachers in the sciences and math. These are universal disciplines. 12 x 11 has the same result in the Philippines as it does in Jacksonville. Water boils at the same temperature in Djibouti (yes, its a real country) as it does in Wakulla County. So, what’s the issue?

Oh, yes. Of course. I can just hear it “These would-be teachers are not Americans and they don’t know anything

about our system of governance or what its like to be an American.” Allow me to point out that most Americans don’t know U.S. geography unless there is a sports team associated with the area. Most Americans have little to zero appreciation of civics and know more about Taylor Swift than the illegal immigration disaster. In my travels, I find most not-Americans know more about the U.S. than most of our countrymen. In fact, most Americans’ foreign exposure is little more than some all-inclusive resort in Cancun and rarely leave the property. C’mon now, can I get an amen?

Property taxpayers are in desperate need of advocacy and yearn for good ideas to be efficient with our precious resources. Having guest teachers, excelling at universal disciplines, seems to be a step in that direction to fill the void.

Mr. Brown (current school board member), thank you for attempting an innovative approach and not being a knuckle-dragger.

**Robert Franco**  
 Ochlockonee Bay

## On the Horizon

### Calendar of events for the week of February 15

#### Thursday, February 15

- 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](mailto: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 16

- Annual Arthur Lee Andrews Scholarship gala will be held at the Wakulla Community center, starting at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$40. For tickets, go to <http://tinyurl.com/wccschol>

arship and purchase tickets.

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

#### Saturday, February 17

- African American Heritage Parade and celebration starting in Hudson park at 10 a.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.

#### Sunday, February 18

- African-American Read-in will be held at 2 p.m. at Palaver Tree theater.

#### Monday, February 19

- PRESIDENT’S DAY – Banks and some government offices will be closed.
- 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](mailto: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 20

- The Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners meets at 5 p.m. in the commission chambers. A workshop is set for 3 p.m. to discuss opioid settlement funds.
- The Wakulla County School Board meets in the school administration building at 5:45 p.m.
- Sarracenia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society presents a free talk by Kent Wimmer on Sentinel Landscapes and their benefits for threatened and endangered species at the Wakulla County Public Library at 6:30 p.m. with refreshments at 6pm. For Zoom link email: [Sarracenia.nps@gmail.com](mailto:Sarracenia.nps@gmail.com).

com.

• Wakulla Giving hands will hold a cooking demo at the Wakulla Senior Center in Crawfordville, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Fresh vegetables will be given out to those who attend.

- 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](mailto:newposh3079@gmail.com) or text/call at (850) 528-5838.

#### Wednesday, February 21

- A line dance class is held at 1 p.m. at the Wakulla Senior Center every Wednesday.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.
- Gentle Yoga and Stretching Class, every Wednesday, 11 a.m. Wakulla Community Center. Bring a mat. Come early to sign in. Chair Yoga participants welcome. \$2 per class.

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William Snowden  
 Editor & Publisher  
 The Wakulla Sun

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

“It’s A New Day!”

# The Wakulla Sun







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## < Question of The Week >

– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

### Polled at the Rotary Valentine Festival: What is a memorable gift you have given or received?



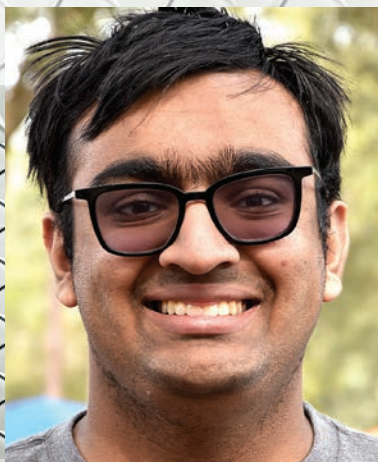
**GIBB JONES**  
Lions Club Member

**I** gave my wife a large box of chocolates and our 3 year-old son, Bren, ate it all. He had so much energy and running around after all that sugar.”



**DONNA**  
Canada

**M**y husband prepared a Valentine’s meal, dressed in a suit, and surprised me.”



**ANUJ PATEL**  
Publix Student

**G**ood ol’ chocolate! Back when I was in elementary school, I gave my teacher some chocolates and then I asked her if I could have a piece.”



**DAVID SHEPARD**  
Retired Century Link

**“I gave Linda a heavy duty shovel with a big red bow and she loved it.”**



**MILLIE PIGOTT**  
Retired & blessed

**“We went out to eat, we took our son Scott with us, who was around 2ish... He just was not going to cooperate, we ended up just going home and ate corned beef hash.”**

## Wakulla Station News

By **VERNA BROCK**

Congratulations to Jack and Karah Ladd on the arrival of their baby boy, Phoenix Augustus Crawford Ladd! Jack is a former pastor of the Wakulla United Methodist Church, and we rejoice with him, Karah, and their families as they welcome little Fenny home.

Please keep Faye Sweeney in your

prayers following an accident. She is doing well, but sustained a bump on her head. Also in need of prayers is Pam Adams, still recovering from a sprained ankle and wrist; Debra Giles, sister of Cindy Blackstock; Mel Pope undergoing treatment at the Mayo Clinic; Joyce Hinson’s brother Kim; Diane O’Neill, recovering from a bad cold; Lisa Mobley, experiencing an autoimmune disorder flare; and Ms. Thelma Watts who

continues to recover from several health issues.

Happy birthday wishes to both Mr. Justin Smith and Izabel Hernandez this month!

Parade season is picking up momentum, with two parades this month. The Valentine’s Day Parade this past Saturday was a huge success, as always.

This Friday night is the Wakulla County Christian Coalition’s annual scholarship gala/fundraiser at 6

p.m. at the Community Center (tickets are \$40 each). This will honor Authur Lee Andrews, the only soldier killed from Wakulla County, during the Vietnam conflict.

On Saturday there will be the African American Heritage Parade, starting at 10 a.m. in Crawfordville. Among the parade performers will be the Omega Lamplighters from Tallahassee, Studio 88 Dance Academy students and Tiger Rock martial arts teams. On Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m. there is the African American Reading Chain (a nationwide event) at the Palaver Tree Theater.

## Buckhorn News

By **ETHEL SKIPPER**

Suffering is a part of life.

Many people come to Christ because of suffering or afflictions of one kind or another. People believe that once they turn their life over to the Lord all their suffering will be over.

We have comforts. The Lord said, I’ll never forsake you or leave you. In the beginning of Adam’s sin, that sickness, suffering, even death came upon the human race. God’s people have always suffered.

In fact, suffering because of righteousness is evidence of the genuineness of your devotion to Christ. For this reason, problems in your life

may be a sign that you are pleasing God and are faithful to Him.

When one can suffer and remain faithful to Christ, you will be considered blessed.

Let’s look at the great men who suffered: Joseph suffered at the hand of his brothers. He was sold into slavery.

David suffered at the hand of King Saul. Although David suffered because of his own doing, he asked for forgiveness and God granted it to him. David was a man after God’s own heart.

Job, who was blameless and upright, feared God and shunned evil. The test of Job’s faith was the reason he allowed Satan to afflict him.

Don’t be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering as though some strange thing happened unto you. But rejoice that you participate in the suffering of Christ so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or a thief or any other kind of evildoing. However, if you suffer as a Christian, praise God.

Romans 5:3, “We also rejoice in our suffering.” Paul lists suffering as one of the blessing of our salvation in Christ.

When we think of the word, suffering refers to all kinds of trials that may come in our lives. Such things as the pressures of financial or physical needs, sorrow, sickness, persecution, mistreatment or loneliness. I know that sometimes we

may feel all alone and that’s where faith comes in – whatever we are going through, we must do whatever we can to help ourselves do the possible and look for God to do the impossible.

Skipper Temple Church will observe its Black History program on Sunday, Feb. 18 at 11 a.m. Speakers will be Deacon Willie F. Skipper Jr. and Deacon Larry Bell. We welcome you to come and fellowship with us.

Our prayer and concern goes out to 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 world leaders everywhere..

## Sheriff’s Report

This report is for activity Feb. 2 to Feb. 8:

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

- Deputy Arturo Cordoba responded to possible burglary complaint, located on Acorn Road. Upon arrival Deputy Cordoba made contact with Kimberly and Arron Lambers. Kimberly advised when came home they found an unidentified female in the residence taking a shower. Kimberly advised they did not know the female or how she got into the residence. Deputy Cordoba then made contact with the unidentified female who refused to identify herself at first but later she advised her name was Wendy Shields. Shields was placed under arrest and while searching her, prior to arrest, Shields was found in possession of methamphetamine. Shields was transported to the Wakulla County Jail without incident.
- 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 Cephus Greene, who advised while trying to file his taxes he was informed another person had claimed his residence for a tax credit. Greene was informed on how to report tax fraud and was issued a pamphlet. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

- Lo Van Nguyen reported her res-

idence was on fire. Upon arrival of fire rescue, it was determined the fire was out. Deputies arrived and determined the dog kennel located on the south side of the residence was a total loss. The fire started from heat lamps which were plugged into a drop cord using an outside receptacle. The fire caused damage to the stucco siding, however, did not burn through the plywood. The damage is estimated at \$15,000.

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5

- Deputy Jake Scott responded to Kensington Court and made contact with Wayne Howard Jr., who stated he discovered his grapple attachment stolen from a job site on this date. Wayne valued the grapple at \$5,500. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.
- A Public Works employee located a phone on the side of Arran Road. The phone was collected and placed into property and evidence for safe keeping.
- Two unknown suspects at Walmart passed the last point of sale with unpaid merchandise. The suspects took \$300.88 worth of merchandise. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.
- A traffic stop was conducted on a vehicle for faulty equipment. The driver Deneqwa Jackson did not have a valid license, with multiple prior convictions for driving while license suspended or revoked (DWL-SR). Jackson was placed under arrest and transported to the jail facility. Deputy Todd Kent investigated.

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

- Deputy Heather Will responded to the front lobby of the Sheriff’s Office and made contact with Dennis Franklin, who stated an unknown person has been withdrawing funds from his bank account without authorization. Deputy Will also responded to the financial institution where Dennis deposits his Federal Reserve Notes but was advised a subpoena would be needed to retrieve video of the suspect making withdrawals. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.
- Cameron Harris reported a theft from his residence. Harris advised he was missing medication, miscellaneous jewelry and antique car parts. Harris valued all missing items at approximately \$3,500. Harris was able to provide a possible suspect in this case. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Dakota Had-dock investigated.

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

- Theresa Marlene Meeks reported checking her credit score and finding a hit on her credit which lowered it drastically. Further investigation revealed a utility bill charge for \$738 to Reliant Energy in Houston, Texas. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Matt Hinson investigated.
- Karen Marie Bennight reported two unknown subjects jumping her fence and taking a bicycle from her yard. This incident was captured on video surveillance. The bicycle is valued at \$110. This case has been

sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Matt Hinson investigated.

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8

- Deputies responded to the area of Sharman Circle in reference to a female repeatedly calling 911 and yelling/cursing at sheriff’s office dispatchers. Upon arrival the female was located on the side of Woodville Highway in front of Savannah’s Restaurant. The female refused to identify herself but was still on the phone with dispatch. Dispatch advised she had called 911 a total number of 10 times. The female was later identified at Leann Baker. Subsequently Baker was placed under arrest and transported to the Wakulla County Jail for misuse of the 911 emergency system. Deputy Dustin Matthews investigated.

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

## FOLLOW THE SUN.



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# Outdoors

outdoor sports

## HOME ON THE RANGE

### The humble UpLula



By MARJ LAW

You got that semi-automatic handgun you wanted for Christmas, and now it's warm enough to visit the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office range to see how well it shoots (or how well you shoot it)!

So, you thoroughly fieldstripped your new handgun and cleaned off all the excess packing grease and oil. You added both grease and oil on places required by your owner's manual. Now that the gun is put back together, you think it's a good idea to preload all the magazines which came with the gun.

This is good practice whenever you do it. Just remember to unload your gun and keep the ammunition and filled magazines in a separate box from the gun when you transport it, unless you have a "concealed carry" permit. Also, these two boxes need to be located in an unoccupied place in your car, like your trunk, when you are traveling from one place to another. Even when you do have your "concealed carry," when traveling to other states, pack both in separate locked containers in the unoccupied area of the vehicle (usually the trunk).

About that magazine loading...

It is harder than you thought, isn't it?

Sure, you can press that first round with your thumb into the

magazine quite easily. The second round isn't too bad, either. The third and fourth are manageable, too.

But the following rounds?

Whew! They are harder and harder to push in the mag. Why?

There's a spring in the magazine. When you put the first round in, you're pushing against the spring: depressing it. The more rounds you add, the more you're squishing that spring. Compressing the spring a little for the first couple rounds isn't much work, but think of how much effort it will take when you compress it at 10 rounds or so. Many many new semi-automatic handguns hold 15 or even 20 rounds. Or more. You want to have an easier way to load those magazines.

And don't even imagine how much that hurts your uncle's arthritic thumbs. He is trying to help you, and he's having an awful time. Ow ow ow.

So run right down to your local gun store and buy an UpLula. It might have a slightly different name, but the people in the shop will know exactly what you mean.

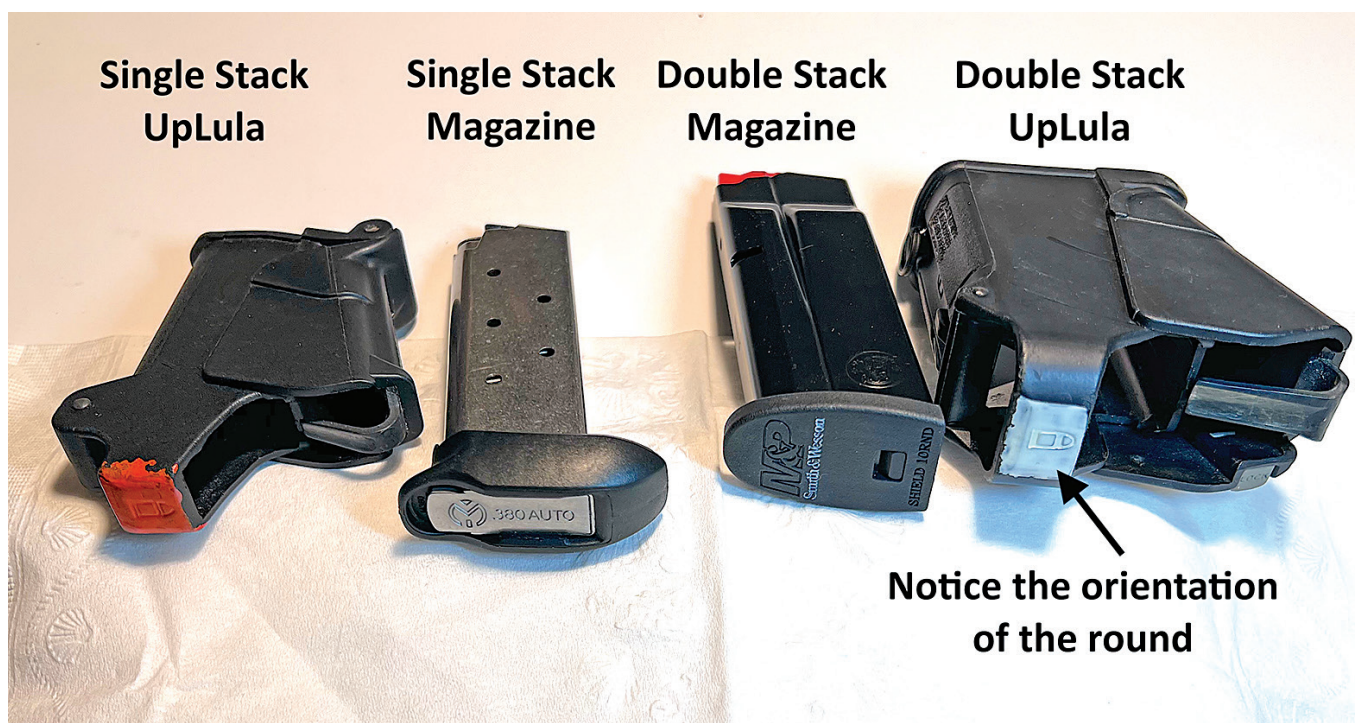
An UpLula makes your shooting life so much easier.

"No," says Joe. "Don't do it. I was in the Navy and Master Sargent Strongthumbs said you load it using your thumbs only. That's the way I learned and that's the way I do it today."

For goodness sake. He's such a hard... Um, well, he's an inflexible person.

Try it yourself. Is loading every round easy? Or are you gritting your teeth and pushing hard, hard, hard to get the 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th rounds into the magazine?

Spend the \$35-\$50 and gift yourself the



Notice the orientation of the round

UpLula.

It's the best thing since sliced bread.

Don't pooh-pooh the thought. Imagine your 5-year-old presenting you a peanut butter sandwich with bread he cut himself. He had to hack it with a table knife because you never let him near the sharp ones! And you should see how the rest of the loaf looks! Ha! Ah, the wonders of Wonder Bread.

So, I'm not exaggerating when I compare the UpLula to sliced bread. Loading magazines will be ever so much easier and your thumbs will thank you big time.

First, notice whether your gun has a single or a double stack magazine. This makes a difference because there are UpLulas for both the single and the double stack mags. Just ask for the correct one if you're not certain. If you own more than one gun having double-stack magazines, the same UpLula will work for both.

You may notice that your gun came with a loader. In my opinion, the UpLula works better than almost every loader that comes packed with your gun. Spend the money for the UpLula and make life easier.

Let's talk about how it works.

Place the magazine on a flat surface. Take the UpLula with your dominant hand and hold it above the mag. How will you know in which direction to hold it? There's a picture of a round on top of the UpLula. Turn the UpLula in the same direction that you would have pushed the round had you not used the UpLula.

Is the UpLula hovering above the mag in the correct direction?

Now squeeze the UpLula. Notice it squeezes from front to back. Squeeze all the way. Keep it squeezed. Don't worry. It's not hard.

Bring the UpLula down over the mag until you notice that you've pushed down the top of the spring called the follower. This allows

room for the first round to enter the magazine. Taking your non-dominant hand, move one round down the slide of the UpLula and then your round will move to the follower.

At this point, loosen your squeeze on the UpLula. The round will now be in place in the magazine. You are ready for the next round. Unsqueeze.

Let's do it again. Bring the UpLula above the mag. Squeeze the UpLula. Push down over the mag. Drop in your round. Let go of the squeeze. Lift the UpLula up off the mag.

- Squeeze.
- Down.
- Insert.
- Unsqueeze.
- Up.

Notice your thumbs

feel just fine.

Whether you have a single stack or a double stack magazine, there's an UpLula for either one.

Don't listen to Master Sargent Strongthumbs when he declares there's only one right way to load a magazine. You're not a 19-year-old young man.

You're an adult who understands the repercussions of overtaxing your thumb joints. An adult who wants to waste no time loading your magazine.

An adult who wants to get to the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office range!

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

## 5 War Eagles sign

From Front Page

He broke the record for touchdown catches."

Linebacker Herschel Blackmon had 10 sacks this season for a career total of 24. Klees praised Blackmon's mindset and said, "He's determined to make something of himself."

Klees, who has been head coach at Wakulla for 22 years, praised Wakulla fans for knowing foot-

ball, and said the sport is a community-thing in Wakulla.

He thanked parents, school administration, district staff, guidance staff, and the booster club. He personally thanked Superintendent Bobby Pearce, Wakulla High School principal Michele Falk ("she's more competitive than anyone") and his assistant coaches.



SHEEPSHEAD

(*Archosargus probatocephalus*)

A handsome black and white fish with a hard mouth and both incisor like and grinding teeth for crushing prey. Sheepshead are found wherever there is an abundance of crustaceans, barnacles, mussels and oysters. They are often caught by fishermen in brackish waters, preferring temperatures >60° to 65°F. Sheepshead are wary and are known to gently nibble all the bait off a hook with the large protruding teeth. They can grow to a length of about 30" and weight up to 20-25 lbs (the average is 5-15 lbs).

Eukarya, Animalia, Chordata, Actinopterygii, Siluriformes, Sparidae

Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratory  
www.gulfspecimen.org

## WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO

Retired Wakulla Springs State Park Ranger Bob Thompson, on his weekly wildlife survey at the park last week, took this photo of a roseate spoonbill flying over the river.



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Local writers share their experiences

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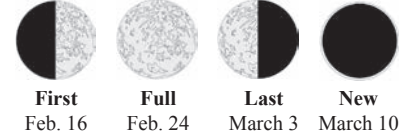


### Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

Feb. 15 - Feb. 21



Tide charts by  
tides4fishing.com



Best fishing days this month  
February 9-24

<b>Thursday 15</b>	
Sun rise/set 7:16AM 6:24PM	Moon rise/set 10:57AM -----
Moon Illumination 38%	
<b>Friday 16</b>	
Sun rise/set 7:15AM 6:25PM	Moon rise/set 11:37AM 1:02AM
Moon Illumination 49%	
<b>Saturday 17</b>	
Sun rise/set 7:15AM 6:26PM	Moon rise/set 12:20PM 2:07AM
Moon Illumination 59%	
<b>Sunday 18</b>	
Sun rise/set 7:14AM 6:27PM	Moon rise/set 1:10PM 3:10AM
Moon Illumination 69%	
<b>Monday 19</b>	
Sun rise/set 7:13AM 6:28PM	Moon rise/set 2:05PM 4:07AM
Moon Illumination 78%	
<b>Tuesday 20</b>	
Sun rise/set 7:12AM 6:28PM	Moon rise/set 3:02PM 4:59AM
Moon Illumination 86%	
<b>Wednesday 21</b>	
Sun rise/set 7:11AM 6:29PM	Moon rise/set 4:01PM 5:44AM
Moon Illumination 92%	

For tides at the following points add to Dog Island Listings:

	High Tide	Low Tide
Carrabelle	28 Min.	25 Min.
Apalachicola	1 Hr., 53 Min.	2 Hrs., 38 Min.
Cat Point	1 Hr., 13 Min.	2 Hrs., 31 Min.
Lower Anchorage	1 Hr., 36 Min.	2 Hrs., 3 Min.
West Pass	1 Hr., 26 Min.	2 Hrs., 39 Min.

#### St. Marks River Entrance

Th	6:16 am ▲ 2.3 ft	11:07 am ▼ 1.1 ft	5:08 pm ▲ 3.2 ft
Fr	12:59 am ▼ -0.2 ft	7:51 am ▲ 1.9 ft	11:30 am ▼ 1.5 ft
Sa	2:31 am ▼ -0.1 ft	6:23 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	
Su	4:10 am ▼ -0.2 ft	8:03 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	
Mo	5:25 am ▼ -0.4 ft	12:39 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	4:23 pm ▼ 2.0 ft
Tu	6:18 am ▼ -0.5 ft	1:02 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	5:45 pm ▼ 1.6 ft
We	6:58 am ▼ -0.6 ft	1:25 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	6:33 pm ▼ 1.3 ft

#### City of St. Marks

Th	12:54 am ▼ -0.3 ft	6:52 am ▲ 2.1 ft	12:11 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	5:44 pm ▲ 3.0 ft
Fr	2:03 am ▼ -0.2 ft	8:27 am ▲ 1.7 ft	12:34 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	6:15 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
Sa	3:35 am ▼ -0.1 ft	6:59 pm ▲ 2.7 ft		
Su	5:14 am ▼ -0.2 ft	8:39 pm ▲ 2.4 ft		
Mo	6:29 am ▼ -0.3 ft	1:15 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	5:27 pm ▼ 1.8 ft	11:06 pm ▲ 2.5 ft
Tu	7:22 am ▼ -0.4 ft	1:38 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	6:49 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	
We	12:19 am ▲ 2.7 ft	8:02 am ▼ -0.5 ft	2:01 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	7:37 pm ▼ 1.2 ft

#### Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	12:16 am ▼ -0.4 ft	6:32 am ▲ 2.4 ft	11:43 am ▼ 0.9 ft	5:46 pm ▲ 3.3 ft
Fr	1:19 am ▼ -0.2 ft	7:52 am ▲ 1.9 ft	12:11 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	6:17 pm ▲ 3.1 ft
Sa	2:39 am ▼ -0.2 ft	9:48 am ▲ 1.9 ft	12:45 pm ▼ 1.7 ft	7:00 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
Su	4:13 am ▼ -0.2 ft	11:54 am ▲ 2.0 ft	1:54 pm ▼ 2.0 ft	8:27 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
Mo	5:34 am ▼ -0.4 ft	12:52 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	4:22 pm ▼ 2.0 ft	10:42 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
Tu	6:34 am ▼ -0.5 ft	1:24 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	6:06 pm ▼ 1.8 ft	
We	12:00 am ▲ 2.8 ft	7:20 am ▼ -0.6 ft	1:51 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	6:59 pm ▼ 1.5 ft

#### Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	12:01 am ▼ -0.2 ft	6:08 am ▲ 1.7 ft	11:18 am ▼ 0.8 ft	5:00 pm ▲ 2.4 ft
Fr	1:10 am ▼ -0.2 ft	7:43 am ▲ 1.4 ft	11:41 am ▼ 1.1 ft	5:31 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
Sa	2:42 am ▼ -0.1 ft	6:15 pm ▲ 2.1 ft		
Su	4:21 am ▼ -0.1 ft	7:55 pm ▲ 2.0 ft		
Mo	5:36 am ▼ -0.3 ft	12:31 pm ▲ 1.7 ft	4:34 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	10:22 pm ▲ 2.0 ft
Tu	6:29 am ▼ -0.4 ft	12:54 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	5:56 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	11:35 pm ▲ 2.1 ft
We	7:09 am ▼ -0.4 ft	1:17 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	6:44 pm ▼ 0.9 ft	

#### St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	12:03 am ▼ -0.5 ft	6:35 am ▲ 1.8 ft	11:28 am ▼ 0.9 ft	5:32 pm ▲ 2.5 ft
Fr	1:09 am ▼ -0.5 ft	8:10 am ▲ 1.5 ft	11:45 am ▼ 1.2 ft	6:08 pm ▲ 2.4 ft
Sa	2:29 am ▼ -0.5 ft	6:55 pm ▲ 2.3 ft		
Su	3:59 am ▼ -0.5 ft	8:13 pm ▲ 2.2 ft		
Mo	5:16 am ▼ -0.6 ft	2:03 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	5:08 pm ▼ 1.7 ft	9:55 pm ▲ 2.1 ft
Tu	6:15 am ▼ -0.6 ft	2:07 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	6:11 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	11:15 pm ▲ 2.2 ft
We	7:00 am ▼ -0.7 ft	2:16 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	6:51 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	

#### Dog Island West End

Th	12:30 am ▼ -0.4 ft	6:53 am ▲ 1.3 ft	11:34 am ▼ 0.9 ft	5:42 pm ▲ 2.1 ft
Fr	1:33 am ▼ -0.4 ft	8:10 am ▲ 2.1 ft		
Sa	2:54 am ▼ -0.4 ft	6:47 pm ▲ 2.0 ft		
Su	4:18 am ▼ -0.4 ft	8:09 pm ▲ 1.9 ft		
Mo	5:40 am ▼ -0.5 ft	9:37 pm ▲ 1.9 ft		
Tu	6:38 am ▼ -0.5 ft	3:02 pm ▲ 1.6 ft	6:44 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	10:47 pm ▲ 2.0 ft
We	7:18 am ▼ -0.6 ft	2:59 pm ▲ 1.6 ft	7:14 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	11:56 pm ▲ 2.0 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.



Above, Tim Ashley and Jim Kenny at the Wildlife Heritage Outdoors festival at the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge on Feb. 3. At right, auxiliary members at the festival.



## Underwater Wakulla

By Rusty Miller

### A couple of dive sites offshore in Panama City

In this article I would like to cover a couple of dive sites off shore in Panama City Beach. Unless you are diving in a dry suit then you haven't had the chance to go in the big water yet. Currently the water temperature in PCB is 59 degrees so that requires a dry suit or a semi-dry suit.

I got a report from a boat captain friend of mine that on January 30th there was a new reef that was sunk in 135 feet of water about 12-14 miles off shore of PCB. It is the 239ft artificial reef the cargo ship "Deep Stem." Based on the sounding pictures that were sent to me it seems to have settled on the bottom upright. The cargo deck is probably at a depth of around 80 feet and the upper bridge looks to be a depth of 60 feet.

This dive is strictly for advanced certified or higher. I would not recommend using nitrox unless you can get mixed 26-28%. Remember nitrox is not for deep dives. You can use 32% as long as you don't go below 130 feet, but because it is so tempting to go to the bottom to check out the whole boat I would stick with standard air.

I can't wait for the water to warm up so I can take my dive masters to go dive it and then do a couple of advanced dive classes on it.

There's not really any background on the ship but it will last longer than the fiberglass hulled El Derado that was in the same area. I was privileged enough when they sunk the El Derado right after one of the hurricanes. It was used as an offshore gambling boat in the Bahamas but was bought by a gazillionaire in PCB who was having it refitted for his personal boat.

Unfortunately, while it was dry-docked being retrofitted I believe it was Hurricane Michael that the storm surge floated the boat over the highway onto the Gulf Coast campus. When a large fiberglass boat gets set on its hull it will break the main spar and destroy any chance it has to be seaworthy.

It was a great dive until the upper frame work gave way and it collapsed on itself. Now it's just a remnant of its former self and not a very good dive site anymore.

I really cant wait until the warmer water moves in to go diving in the water I love the most, the Gulf of Mexico.

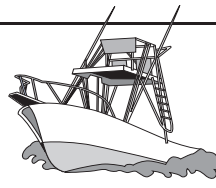
Remember to keep making bubbles.

Russell Miller #5999



## Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports

By Carolyn Brown Treadon



Last week, members of Flotilla 12 participated in the WHO Festival at the St Marks National Wildlife Refuge on Saturday, Feb. 3.

It is always a good time when we get to share information about the Auxiliary and safe boating. Throughout the day we visit with those in attendance.

The four traditional Auxiliary cornerstone missions are public education, operations, vessel examination, and fellowship. Participating in Public Affairs is a part of our public education mission. Annually, the Auxiliary public education program trains tens of thousands of boaters in seamanship, piloting,

**Boating Emergencies**

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Panama City ..... (850) 234-4228

Coast Guard Station  
Yankeetown ..... (352) 447-6900

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

rules of the road, and weather, among other topics.

Getting involved in our local community is a great opportunity to also engage in fellowship, make connections and share our knowledge on safe boating.

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.org](http://www.uscgaux.org).

net follow us on Facebook @ Apalachee Bay Flotilla 12 or contact our Flotilla Commander Phil Hill at [pnkhill2000@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.cgaux.org).*

## FWC Law Enforcement Report

From FWC

GULF COUNTY

• Master Officer M.

This report represents some events the FWC handled Jan. 19-25 in the Northwest Region. (No cases were reported in Wakulla County)

• Master Officers M. and H. Webb rescued four sea turtles in St. Joe Bay due to sub-freezing temperatures. The sea turtles will be rehabilitated and returned to the wild.

Webb responded to a marine mammal in distress at Salinas Park. When he arrived on scene, he noticed a nine-foot dolphin in the surf zone. He secured the area and contacted the stranding coordina-

tor for Gulf World. He waited for the responding personnel to arrive and then helped carry the dolphin onshore. Aid was rendered to the dolphin, and then it was loaded onto a transport vehicle for further treatment.



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# Will you be my Valentine, Mr. Candidate?



By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

If you're running for office and want me to be head over heels for you,

I think you should know that I'm very attracted to strength, good judgment and humility.

I love strong candidates who are sharp, decisive, and even formidable when necessary. And if you're also smart enough to seek wise counsel (especially from God) on a regular basis, I wouldn't be able to stop talking about you to all my friends.

I long for a candidate who's levelheaded, especially in the midst of

a crisis, one who understands what's important. My respect for you will grow each time you choose to do the right thing for the right reasons. My heart will swell with pride as you prove to be a man of your word.

You'll sweep me off my feet if you're willing to work with others in a bipartisan effort. But you'll break my heart every time you denigrate someone, especially when they disagree

with you.

I dream about a candidate who will keep me and those I love safe. I want you to "check the locks" so intruders can't get in and cause us harm.

You don't have to spoil me by spending money on a bunch of stuff I don't need. I'd rather have someone who cares about our financial future than about granting favors.

Finally, others will be sure to envy me if I find

a candidate who will actually listen when I tell him about the issues that matter to me – and won't forget how important I am to him. After all, I could have easily went with someone else.

Since I'm happily married to Bert, in lieu of giving you my heart, I'll give you my vote. Above all, I'll commit to praying for you to "be filled with the knowledge of [God's] will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding" (Colos-

sians 1:9).

Will you be my candidate?

(NOTE: I addressed this "Valentine" to male candidates who are running for office. However; I want the same traits for female candidates.)

*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.*

## He hears you in your silence



By **CHERYL CRUCE**

There were several times in my youth that Mom's illness required a hospital stay. When I was ten, her stay became an extended one due to her needing surgery. My Dad and older siblings did what was required to keep the house as normal as possible until she was well again. Hospitals differed in those days; children under twelve were not

allowed to visit the patients. It would be several weeks before I saw her again.

One Friday evening, Dad did not make the usual trip to the hospital. Instead, he and I went to an old home-site covered in overgrowth somewhere in the county. Grabbing the shovel, Dad began digging up different plants and bulbs while I placed them in the truck bed. We worked late into the night, planting our findings in our front yard. He wanted Mom to have a beautiful lawn to welcome her home.

I know this time in my life must have been painful, but I do not remember the pain, only the special memory of planting

the front yard. In retrospect, I know Dad had understood what I could not say, and he found a way to help me through the hurt—that evening spent with him kept me connected by allowing me to be a part of his gift to Mom.

There have been other moments in my life when I have felt disconnected, like that ten-year-old girl—moments when the chaos of this world shook my foundation. I have found my relationship with other believers beneficial in times of hurt. As people of faith, we are called to pray for one another so we can be healed. Scripture teaches there is power in the prayers of the righteous (James

5:16). The Prophet Samuel writes that it would be a sin against the Lord if we failed to pray for another (1 Samuel 12:23). Therefore, in moments of hurt I have reached out to find healing in the prayers of others.

However, unspoken requests are also a part of our relationship with God. Jesus had an unspoken request: quiet times with God. In Mark 1:35, we read that Jesus got up while it was still dark to go to a solitary place to be with the Father. People often crowded in on Jesus, wanting to be healed, and Jesus healed them. Then there were those moments when Jesus slipped away to be alone so He could pray

(Luke 5:15-16). We never read what His prayer consisted of, only that He prayed.

My Dad knew my hurt because he knew me, and he loved me. It is the same with our Heavenly Father. He knows us. He knows there are days when we have a voice, and we can request the prayers of the righteous. Yet God knows there will be days when we are silenced by hurt or fear; all we need is to be in His presence. On those days, He will steer us away from the crowds, touching us with His stillness.

The Lord understands every detail of our lives. He knows our thoughts, patterns, and words be-

fore we speak them. He understands our unspoken needs. The Psalmist writes that we are fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139). It does not matter where you are today, with a voice or without. He hears you. He is listening, even in the silence, to what you cannot speak. Reach out to the Father today. His greatest desire is to bring you healing.

Isaiah 65:24 Before they call, I will answer; while they are still speaking, I will hear.

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

### OUT TO PASTOR

## Idiots make me look good, so says the boss



By **JAMES SNYDER**

Often, I get agitated by people I call "idiots." I don't have an inclusive definition for what an idiot really is; I just use the word carelessly.

I'm not sure if it's just my age, but I don't remember so many idiots driving when I was younger.

Often, on some of these trips, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will be along. Some driver will do something rather stupid, cut in front of me, and I will utter, "What's wrong with that idiot?"

One time while driving, we had a conversation that went along the line of me asking The Gracious Mistress

of the Parsonage, "How do these idiots get a driver's license?"

Looking at me once, she said something to the effect, "Those idiots get a driver's license the same way you get yours."

I don't know what she meant by that, and I never asked her to explain.

Recently, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I spent the day traveling for some errands we had to do, and boy, the idiots were out in full force. Several times, we came close to having an accident. The fact that we got home safe was a real miracle.

During that drive, I was a little more agitated by these idiots than ever before. I just complained from one end to the other end about all these idiots and why they did so many stupid things.

At the height of my ranting, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said, "Instead of ranting about these

idiots, you should be thankful for them."

"What? Why would I ever be thankful for some idiot?" That was a strange remark even for her.

I saw the smile on her face, and I think I heard her chuckle, but I'm not quite sure about that. Then she said something even stranger. "Just think about it. All of these idiots on the road make you look good."

I had to stop and think about that one. I never thought of it like that, and it took me quite a while to process it.

As the silence lengthened, she then said, "If it wasn't for all of these idiots driving like they do, nobody would recognize what a wonderful driver you are. For that you should be thankful."

Sometimes, I think all of these idiots out there are a hazard to real life. But then, The

Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage had a point. These idiots make the rest of us look normal. Nobody would recognize how good we are in our driving skills if it wasn't for them.

Let me just say, "Thank you idiots."

Recently I ran across a Bible verse that trou-

bled me. It was Proverbs 26:4, "Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him."

To answer an idiot I have to come down to his level, which makes me an idiot. I have a higher standard to live by; it is the Word of God.

*Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamesnsnyder51@gmail.com, website www.jamesnsnyderministries.com.*

### tobe7encouraged faith column

Greetings Wakulla Citizens, I am honored to be writing this to all of us today. The Scripture I have here is about fearlessly trusting in our Father. The word "trust" is used very loosely in this world. BUT, when it comes to our heavenly Father, trust is a very very rock-solid action! As our faith grows in Him, our confidence in trusting Him does as well. Please, in our time read the full chapter of **Psalm 27**, we all will be blessed over and over.

**A Psalm of Fearless Trust in God.**

*AP salmof David*

27 The LORD is my light and my **salvation (deliverance)**; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the **defense (rock)** of my life; Whom shall I dread? <sup>2</sup> When evildoers came upon me to devour my flesh, My adversaries and my enemies, they stumbled and fell. <sup>3</sup> Though a **host (angel)** encamp against me, My heart will not fear; Though war arise against me, In *sp te* of this I shall be **confident (secure)**.

In **Psalm 37** it is written "The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear (adore/worship) Him, and rescues them". So, as it states in verse 3 that "host/angel" encamp against me, we are to trust that His angels are camping out around

us and are rescuing us as we are "worshipping/adoring" Him in our everyday lives. Not just on Sunday and Wednesday.

Those of us that read this that do not know Jesus as our LORD and Savior and want to... simply say out loud "Jesus, I am a sinner I know, but I am calling to you to be my LORD and Savior. I believe in Your death, burial, and resurrection. I am giving my life to you to serve you for the rest of my life, so take my life and do something with it. PRAISE GOD!! We NOW belong to Him!! The next step is to be water baptized so that our old self will be buried. It is important now to get involved in a Spirit filled full Gospel church and dive in and learn all about who you now are becoming. Congratulations my friend!

I hope this causes all of us to dive deeper in Him, Shalom,

Deb Quimby-Quackenbush

Visit my blog at [tobe7encouraged.blogspot.com/](http://tobe7encouraged.blogspot.com/) or my youtube channel by scanning the QR code below.



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 Tuesday and Thursday: Mass at 8:30 am  
 Wednesday: Mass at 7:00 pm  
 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday: Adoration and Confessions at 8:30 am  
 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday: Mass at 9:30 am  
 Every Saturday: Confessions at 4:30 pm  
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# Obituaries

## John J. Joubert Jr.

John J. Joubert Jr., 66, of Crawfordville, formerly of Ithaca, New York, unexpectedly passed away on Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at home.

John was born on February 13, 1957, in Victoria, Texas. The son of the late John J. Joubert Sr. and the late Jean Carol Joubert (English). He grew up as a dependent in the military service and settled in Ithaca, New York after his father's retirement. He attended Belle Sherman, Boynton and graduated from Ithaca High School. He re-

ceived a bachelors in science in Business Administration from William Woods University in Fulton, Missouri and a master's in counseling from Capella University.

John worked as a Production Supervisor at Transonic Systems in Ithaca, NY from 1986 until 1993. John was also a dedicated paramedic in Adair County, Missouri from 1993 to 2000. Most recently, he worked as a front desk associate at the Wakulla Lodge and Best Western in Crawfordville. In his spare time, John was an avid golfer and golf

instructor and was President of a Golf Class Clan in Ireland which brought unending cheer to his friends. He enjoyed gardening and volunteered as a poll deputy at the Wakulla County Board of Elections.

He is survived by his sister, Lisa Sprague of Avon Ohio; nephew Jonathon Sprague of Crestview; and niece Jenna Kenyon of Avon, Ohio.

The Internment service will be held in the summer of 2024 at Snyder Hill Cemetery in Ithaca, New York.



## Sherida Crum Leffert

Sherida Crum Leffert, 77, of Crawfordville passed away peacefully, after an extended illness.

Sherida was a native and lifetime resident of Wakulla County. Sherida worked at the Wakulla County School Board, before she was elected to the Wakulla County Supervisor of Elections, where she served for over 28 years. She enjoyed traveling and seeing new places. Sherida loved eating out and always enjoyed fish and shrimp. She was an active member of Lake Ellen Baptist Church before her health

declined and was a part of the Eastern Star.

She will be remembered by her children, Keisha Crum-Cannon (husband David), Derrick Crum; brother D.W. Sanders, brother-in-law Mike Crum and wife Colleen; sister-in-law Teresa Crum; seven grandchildren, Torie Kendall and husband Kody, Ansley Crum, George Eli Crum, Chris Crum, Georgeanna Cannon, Nola Cannon, and Bella Cannon; and four-great grandchildren, Baylor, Everett, Everly, and Hunter.

Sherida was predeceased by her husband and father to her

children, George Crum; husband Jay Leffert; brother Walter Sanders; and sister-in-law Shirley Crum Core.

The family will receive friends Sunday, February 18, from 4 to 6 p.m. at Family Funeral Home/Harvey Young Chapel. The Funeral Service will be Monday, February 19, at 11 a.m. at Lake Ellen Baptist Church with burial will follow at the church cemetery.

Skip & Trey Young are caring and assisting the Crum family with their arrangements. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com



## DEATH NOTICES

• **Edward Thomas Cartwright**, 90, of Crawfordville, died February 12, 2024.

• **Jared Ray Causseaux**, 49, of Crawfordville, died February 7, 2024.

• **Richard Carter Elliott**, 61, of Apalachicola, died February 6, 2024.

• **Robert Fetter**, 63, of Crawfordville, died February 6, 2024.

• **Johnny L. May**, of Crawfordville, died February 12, 2024.

• **Phyllis Ann Spears**, 74, of Crawfordville, died February 9, 2024.

• **John Todd Williams**, 63, of Crawfordville, died February 7, 2024.

Deaths reported by Family Funeral Home at Harvey-Young Chapel, 850-926-5919, www.familyfhc.com

## Weekly Roundup: Senate puts bills on the rocks

By **RYAN DAILEY**  
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — An effort to restrict what flags can be flown at schools and other public buildings flailed in the Florida Senate this week, after a key committee adjourned before members voted on the proposal.

The measure (SB 1120) would prohibit government agencies, public schools, colleges and universities from flying any flag that “represents a political viewpoint” including any “politically partisan, racial, sexual orientation and gender, or political ideology viewpoint.”

Debate surrounding the bill has focused heavily on the potential that it could bar LGBTQ pride flags at public buildings. Sen. Tina Polsky, D-Boca Raton, argued during Tuesday's meeting of the Governmental Oversight Committee that prohibitions listed in the bill involve groups of people, not inherently political viewpoints.

“Race, gender, sexual orientation, religion are not political unto themselves. So, we should be as inclusive as possible. Not exclusive,” Polsky said.

Polsky's comments, and those of numerous members of the public who opposed the bill, came hours after Gov. Ron DeSantis backed the measure.

DeSantis said he had not seen the bill but signaled that he would support it.

“If you take a position that, we're going to fly the American flag and the state of Florida flag, and that's it, it's not targeting anybody. It's basically saying that we're not going to get into this business of doing this. So I think that's totally fine,” the governor told reporters during an appearance in Orange City.

“I don't think you could say, you can fly any flag you want except one or two. Then I think that would be maybe content-based discrimination,” DeSantis added.

A Senate staff analysis of the measure questioned prohibiting flags that represent a “political viewpoint.” The analysis appeared to point to potential confusion about what would actually be prohibited.

“While the bill provides examples of what represents a ‘political viewpoint’ for purposes of the bill, it does not define the term. Similarly, while the bill clearly regulates governmental speech, which is not limited by First Amendment regulations, it is unclear where government speech (or that undertaken by a ‘governmental entity’) ends and private speech begins for purposes of this regulation,” the analysis said.

The bill is in jeopardy in the Senate midway through the legislative session after it stalled in the Governmental Oversight Committee

for the second time.

“The committee is not scheduled to meet again,” Katie Betta, a spokeswoman for Senate President Kathleen Passidomo, R-Naples, said in an email. “If a bill remains in a committee that is no longer meeting, it is procedurally very difficult for the issue to advance.”

### DOUBLE JEOPARDY?

Another Senate measure that has been among the most controversial of the 2024 session might be in trouble.

Passidomo on Wednesday raised questions about the fate of a proposal to protect historic monuments and memorials after several lawmakers voiced outrage over comments Tuesday by supporters of the bill.

Under the proposal (SB 1122), monuments and memorials on public property would be protected and people

and groups would have legal standing to file civil lawsuits over their removal or destruction by local officials. The measure also would direct courts to invalidate local ordinances on displacing memorials.

Passidomo said members of the Republican-controlled Senate Community Affairs Committee were still “upset” Wednesday morning because speakers supporting the bill cited a need to protect “white culture” and “white supremacy.”

The comments came as the committee passed the bill.

“There are problems with the bill,” Passidomo said. “More than that, there are problems in perceptions among our caucus, on all sides. So, I'm going to take that into consideration. I'm not going to bring a bill to the floor that is so abhorrent to everybody.”

Democrats on the committee walked out

before Tuesday's vote. Passidomo said that was because of the public comments, not the bill.

Sen. Jennifer Bradley, a Fleming Island Republican who serves on the committee, called the public comments “vile” and “bigoted” and said they were almost enough to cause her to flip her vote and oppose the bill.

“You are the reason I'm vacillating on whether or not to even vote yes, because it looks like I endorse your hatred,” Bradley told the speakers. “And I do not.”

During an appearance last week in Jacksonville, DeSantis said he was “100 percent against removing monuments.”

Both of the Senate bills that appear to be on the rocks — the measure restricting flags and the proposal about monuments — are sponsored by

Fort Myers Republican Jonathan Martin. Martin argued during Tuesday's hearing on the monuments bill that his proposal and intentions have been mischaracterized as protecting the Confederacy.

### STORY OF THE WEEK:

A key Senate committee failed to advance a proposal that would restrict what flags can be flown at schools and other buildings, putting the bill in jeopardy hours after Gov. Ron DeSantis voiced support for it.

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

“People in Florida aren't stupid. I mean, they can figure this out.” — Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Carlos Muniz, during oral arguments Wednesday about a proposed constitutional amendment that would protect abortion rights.

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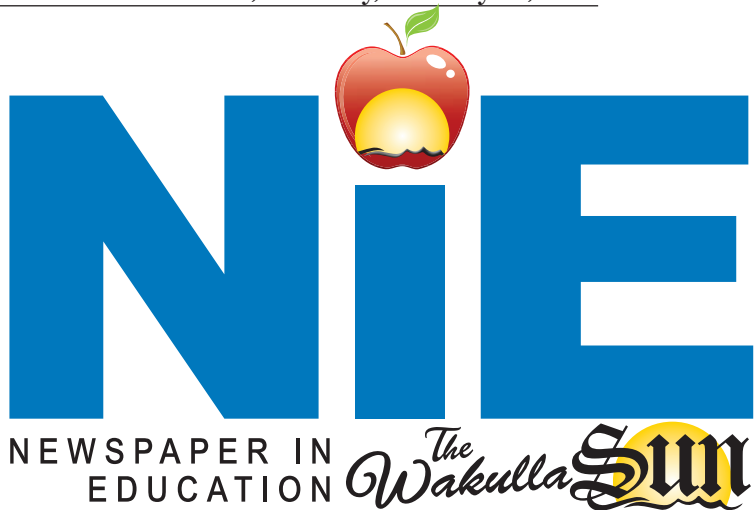
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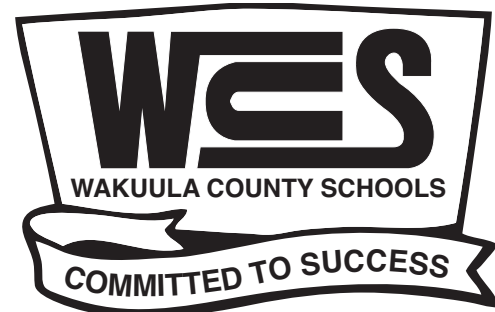
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## USE THE NEWS

### 1. GROUNDHOG DAY

February brings a few winter holidays in the United States, including Valentine's Day on the 14th and usually Mardi Gras, the Tuesday before the Christian season of Lent begins as the lead-up to Easter. But one of the most unusual is Groundhog Day, which happens on February 2. It started as a superstition in the Pennsylvania Dutch community that if a groundhog comes out of its burrow on that day and sees its shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter. If it doesn't see its shadow, spring will come early that year. The groundhog of honor is named Punxsutawney Phil after the Pennsylvania town that holds an official ceremony every year. To explain how Punxsutawney Phil has been making weather predictions for more than 100 years, the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club said they gave him an "elixir of life" to keep him alive — though they didn't give it to his wife, Phyllis. TikTok users found this out and turned the idea into a crowd-sourced musical, writing and duet-ing songs about Phil and Phyllis' love story. Now it's your turn! Write your own story-book, comic strip, or scene from a play about Punxsutawney Phil and his wife, Phyllis.

### 2. HEARTBREAKER PIZZA

With Valentine's Day coming up and love all around, Pizza Hut unveiled a new item: break-up pizzas. From February 6 to 14, pizza lovers in Miami, Chicago, and New York City can order a free "Goodbye Pie" topped with spicy honey to be delivered to their boyfriend or girlfriend. The

special website set up for the break-up pizzas even includes a break-up excuse generator with funny reasons like "the president called and he needs my help with president stuff," "I'm the heir to a throne of a faraway land and I must go save my kingdom from impending evil," and the simple "my dog doesn't like you." Write your own silly break-up excuses to go along with Pizza Hut's examples. Then share your favorite ones with your classmates.

### 3. REUNION DINNER

Two billion people

around the world celebrated the first day of the Chinese New Year on February 10. The holiday is also called Lunar New Year or Spring New Year. Festivities begin with the "Reunion Dinner," where family members share special foods that all have important meanings. Dumplings and spring rolls represent wealth and good fortune; long noodles represent a long life; and whole chickens represents family togetherness. The whole meal has eight or nine dishes because the number eight represents wealth and nine represents good luck. Think of

your favorite meal. What could each of the foods in that meal represent? Write down each item, what you think it could represent, and why.

### 4. MORE THAN HEAT

Evaporation happens when a liquid heats up enough to turn into a gas. Or, that's what scientists previously thought was the only way evaporation happened. However, researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) recently discovered a new way by accident. Water they were using in an experiment was evaporating more quickly than it should've based on heat. Af-

ter many experiments, they discovered that light was responsible—and heat wasn't needed at all. They tested different colors of light and found that green light evaporated water three times faster than other colors. Why do you think this could be? Think about a rainbow and where the color green falls on it. Write down your ideas of what you think could make green light more effective than another color, like red or violet, and discuss your ideas with your classmates.

### 5. NAP TIME

The way animals sleep can be very different from the way we as humans

sleep. For example, dolphins turn off one side of their brain at a time, allowing them to sleep while continuing to swim. A recent study found that chinstrap penguins have a very unique way of sleeping. Instead of sleeping in one long stretch, they take thousands of "micro-naps," each a few seconds long, throughout the day. This is probably a way for them to protect their eggs from predators while also resting. Researchers figured this out by fitting fourteen penguins with devices that tracked their brain activity and saw they took up to 10,000 tiny naps a day.

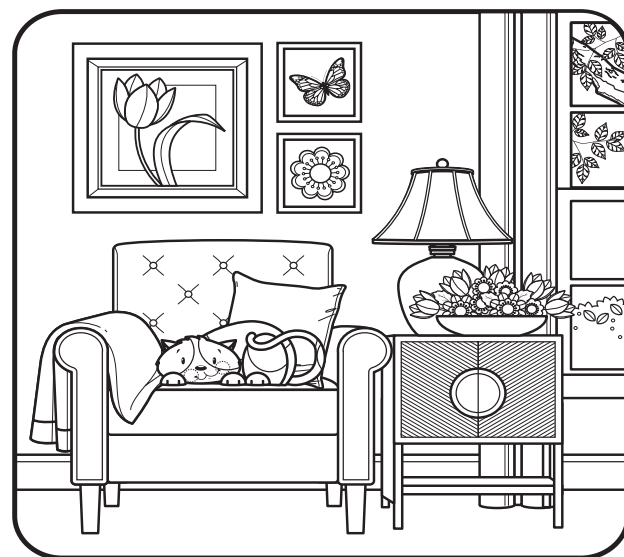


IT IS BELIEVED THAT CATS DEVELOPED THIS BEHAVIOR TO COMMUNICATE WITH PEOPLE.

ANSWER: PURRING

### Creative Coloring

Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



### Double Word Puzzle

Unscramble the cat words to reveal the sentence.

TLAI [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
1 2

WSAP [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
5

UPENOC [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
8 7 6 4

KIREHSWS [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
3

[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
1 2 3 4 5 6 2 1 7 2 8

Answers: Tail, Paws, Pounce, Whiskers. Take a cat nap.

### THIS DAY IN...



### HISTORY

- 1855: MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY IS ESTABLISHED.
- 1909: THE NAACP IS FOUNDED.
- 1915: THE FIRST STONE OF THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL IS PUT INTO PLACE IN WASHINGTON, DC.



### LITTER

a group of young animals born to an animal at one time

How they SAY that in...

**ENGLISH:** Fur

**SPANISH:** Pelo

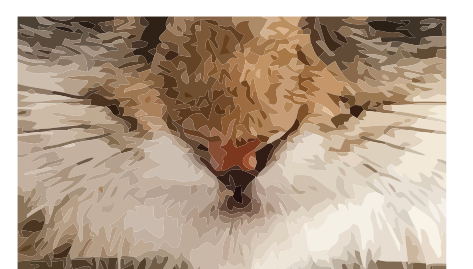
**ITALIAN:** Pelliccia

**FRENCH:** Pelage

**GERMAN:** Fell



THE THICK, SOFT PADS ON CATS' PAWS ALLOW THEM TO SNEAK UP ON THEIR PREY BY WALKING VERY QUIETLY.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: CAT FACE

# TIE THE KNOT WORD SEARCH

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

## WORDS

- BAND
- BETROTHED
- BOUQUET
- BRIDESMAID
- BUFFET
- CELEBRATION
- CENTERPIECES
- CEREMONY
- CHURCH
- COUPLE
- DANCING
- DINNER
- FESTIVITIES
- GUESTS
- HAPPINESS
- INVITATION
- LIMOUSINE
- MARRIAGE
- OFFICIANT
- RECEPTION
- RINGS
- SEATING
- VOW
- WEDDING

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

## CROSSWORD

### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Golf scores
- 5. Shock therapy
- 8. Ballplayer's tool
- 11. Quench one's thirst
- 13. Female relatives of American war vets (abbr.)
- 14. Every one of two or more things
- 15. Member of Muslim people
- 16. Play
- 17. Type of cheese
- 18. Type of lounge chair
- 20. \_\_\_ King Cole, musician
- 21. Fellows
- 22. North, Central and South
- 25. In an early way
- 30. Foes
- 31. Georgia rockers
- 32. Cryptocurrency
- 33. Narrow path along a slope
- 38. Disallow
- 41. Joyousness
- 43. Inaccessible
- 45. Evoke emotions
- 47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea

- 49. Boston Celtic punk rockers (abbr.)
- 50. Sword
- 55. Actor Idris
- 56. Affirmative (slang)
- 57. Afflicted
- 59. One point north of northeast
- 60. Born of
- 61. Arabic name
- 62. Traumatic brain injury (abbr.)
- 63. Extremity
- 64. Post

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Pacific Standard Time
- 2. Protruding ridge on nematodes
- 3. Indian king
- 4. Type of milk
- 5. One who brings home the bacon
- 6. More comprehensible
- 7. Connected with sense of touch
- 8. Red mineral
- 9. Breezed through
- 10. Therefore
- 12. Supplement with difficulty
- 14. Early kingdom of Syria
- 19. Satisfy
- 23. They confuse doctors (abbr.)
- 24. Brass instrument
- 25. Domesticated animal
- 26. Ribonucleic acid
- 27. Snakelike fish
- 28. Woman (French)
- 29. Economical-minded aircraft
- 34. When you hope to get somewhere
- 35. Tease
- 36. Actress Gretchen
- 37. Midway between northeast and east
- 39. Inoffensive
- 40. Yellowish cotton cloth
- 41. Consume
- 42. Does not tell the truth
- 44. Improved something
- 45. Spiritual leader
- 46. Abba \_\_\_, Israeli politician
- 47. Fix
- 48. Evergreen tree genus
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Prejudice
- 53. Major C. European river
- 54. Long, narrow strap
- 58. Male parent

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

## WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to breakfast.

### SOCKO


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

G	N	E	S		O	N	E		I	V	G
V	I	R	V		E	N		N	G	E	N
G	E	T	I		A		A		V	B	E
M	A	R	V		S	H	O		G	O	N
S	T	R	V		I	L	A		N	N	
N	O	I	L		T		N		V	E	
S	W	M	E		R						
S	O	V	T		L						
N	E	T			S						
H	O	V	E		V						
L	V	E			L						

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

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 actress/singer from California born on February 20, 2003. I gained early fame for an acting role based on an American Girl book series. I released my debut single in 2021, and won a Grammy for Best New Artist the following year.

Answer: Olivia Rodrigo

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

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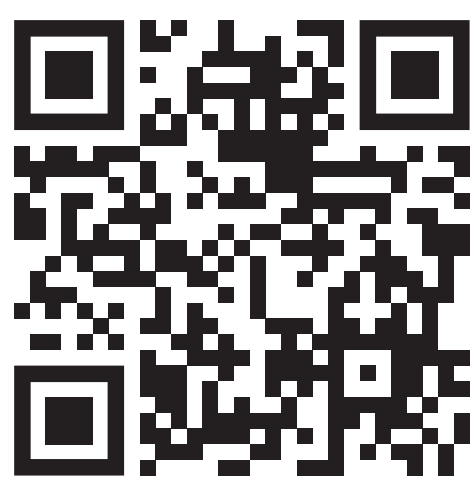
  
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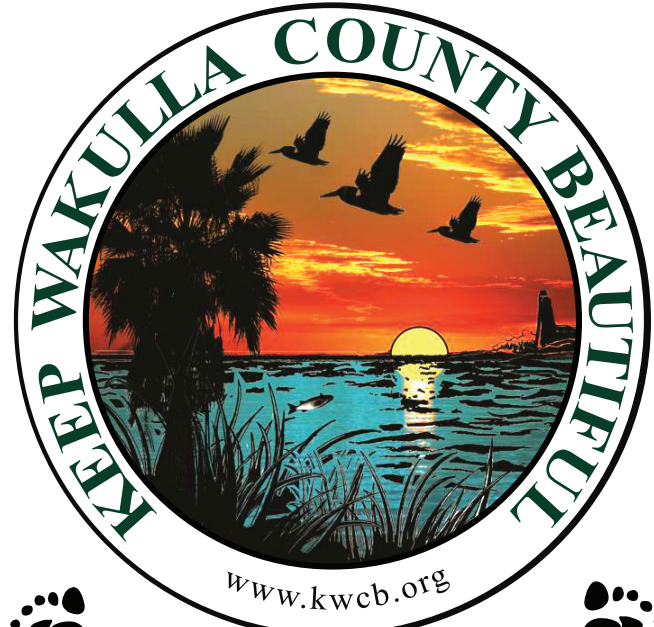
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# Rotary's 25th annual Valentine's Day Festival & Parade



Some of the Rotarians at the festival.



Some participants in the parade, from top down: Girl Scouts; the Wakulla High School drama troupe; dancers from Studio 88.

Clockwise from top: sheriff's color guard; 4-H members; Miss Wakulla and Jr. Miss.

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