

## 4-H Senior Prom



See Page 14



Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mostly Sunny	AM Showers	Sunny
Hi: 69° Lo: 58° 52%	Hi: 76° Lo: 47° 49%	Hi: 69° Lo: 43° 3%
Sunrise 7:11 AM Sunset 6:31 PM	Sunrise 7:10 AM Sunset 6:32 PM	Sunrise 7:09 AM Sunset 6:32 PM



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Our 4th Year 8th Issue  
Thursday, February 22, 2024

### ARTHUR LEE ANDERSON SCHOLARSHIP GALA



PHOTO BY WILLIAM SNOWDEN

Celebrated at the banquet were Wakulla natives Dr. Carol Broxton, RN Vanessa Allen Dickey, RN Stephanie Jackson-Sanders, Dr. NaQuita Jackson Nelson, and keynote speaker Dr. Krystal Franklin. Pharmacist Rita Louise Hughes was unable to attend.

# Black history

Christian coalition honors achievement in medicine at gala; other weekend events

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN  
Editor

The Wakulla County Christian's annual Arthur Lee Andrews' scholarship gala was packed on Saturday night at the community center, with an estimated 160 guests in attendance for the event to honor local women achievers working in medicine.

Dr. Krystal Franklin, a medical doctor and owner of a surgical center in Las Cruces, New Mexico, noted the rarity of black doctors and especially black surgeons.

She is the daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Eddie Franklin Sr. She graduated from the University of Pennsylvania trained in Occupational Medicine and Interventional Pain Management. She completed her internship and residency training in general surgery at Columbia University's College of Physicians & Surgeons, and the University of Medicine &



PHOTO BY GERALD BROWN

Spectators braved the light rain on Saturday for the parade.

Dentistry of New Jersey.

Chandra Godwin, one of the hosts of the evening, recounted growing up with Dr. Franklin and said she grew up to be what she

wanted to be.

Robert Manning of the Christian Coalition told a story of coaching Franklin in softball – the only game he was tossed from as a

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### GRAND JURY

## Two indicted for first-degree murder in separate cases

Jacob Robison charged with killing infant in July 2023; Richard Bishop charged with killing inmate at WCI

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN  
Editor

A Wakulla County grand jury was empaneled recently and returned indictments for first degree murder in two cases: one is against Jacob Robison, who is accused of killing an infant back in July 2023; and Richard E. Bishop for killing an inmate at Wakulla Correctional Institute.

The grand jury came back with the indictments at the end of January.

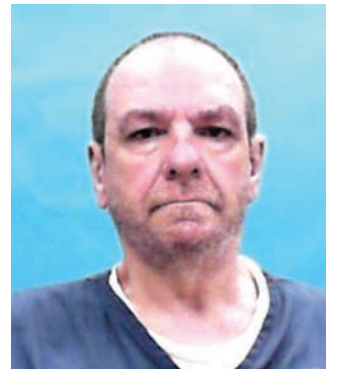
Robison is charged with first degree murder for the death of a 1-year-old child under his care back on July 12, 2023. According to the indictment, Robison, 23, is charged with killing the child by "blunt force trauma and/or brain bleed, and the killing was perpetrated from or with a premeditated design or intent." He is also charged with aggravated child abuse for battery on the child.

Robison and the baby's mother were living in a shed behind her mother's house with the baby and Robison's 2-year-old child. The mother went to work and later received texts that the baby had fallen off the bed. When the mother got home from work she found the baby unresponsive,

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Jacob Robison



Richard Bishop

### SOPCHOPPY

## Water rates may increase - inside and outside the city

By LEGION TAYLOR  
Reporter

Dyana Stewart from the Florida Rural Water Association presented the Sopchoppy city commission with a rate study, laying out the options for future rate increases to users inside and outside the city.

The current base rate is \$16 for consumers within the city, and \$22 for those outside, a 37.5% difference. The city commission has been looking into changing this rate both to pay for needed improvements to the water system and in response to a Senate bill that would ban gaps between costs for inside and outside consumers, such as the 37.5% gap that exists now.

The first scenario had been presented at an earlier meeting, and would mean rates of \$21.12 for users inside the city and \$26.40 for those outside, an overall increase in the rates, but a decrease in the percentage gap between them to about 25%.

The second scenario eliminates that gap com-

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# Deputy's lawsuit dismissed

Robert Standeford sued sheriff's office claiming he was a whistleblower

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN  
Editor

Former Wakulla deputy sheriff Robert Standeford's whistleblower lawsuit was dismissed last week.

Standeford had claimed in his 2021 lawsuit against the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office that he had made verbal and written complaints to his supervisors about his mistreatment and school safety issues. He claimed that because of his whistleblowing, he was moved from a position at Youth and Community Services to a school resource officer – which Standeford claimed in his lawsuit was a demotion as punishment.

In a 9-page order issued on Friday, Feb. 16, Wakulla Circuit Judge Layne Smith granted summary judgment to the sheriff's office and found that the dismissal of Standeford by Sheriff



Former Wakulla deputy Robert Standeford

Jared Miller was warranted both by Standeford lying in a trial and his lies about his military service – either of which was grounds for termination.

(Standeford was given the option to resign rather than be terminated.)

Additionally, the state attorney's office under then-Chief Prosecutor Brian Miller had written a Giglio memo on Standeford after filing felony perjury charges on him. A Giglio memo notes a law enforcement officer's

lack of credibility as a witness for past lies. The judge in his order noted the Giglio memo on Standeford "compromises his ability to serve as a deputy sheriff."

Standeford attorney Marie Mattox argued at a recent hearing her client's treatment was notably different from how the sheriff's office handled Deputy Colton Sheridan, who resigned after an internal affairs investigation found he lied about justifications for traffic stops and arrests.

(The Sun wrote about Deputy Sheridan in a front-page story, "Questions about deputy" on Oct. 19, 2023.)

Judge Smith noted in his order that both deputies were investigated for untruthfulness, but "the court rejects the argument that because the sheriff did not fire Deputy (Sheridan) for lying, he cannot fire another deputy for lying.

Two wrongs do not make a right."

The sheriff's office began investigating Standeford after then-Undersheriff Billy Jones received a complaint from a member of the public that Standeford was claiming he was a Marine. Jones had been under the impression that Standeford had served in the Marine Corps and initiated an internal affairs investigation.

In March 2021, when Standeford was informed of the investigation and suspended with pay, as an inventory of equipment and personal effects from his patrol vehicle was being done, a Certificate of Honor was found for "Robert Standeford United States Marines."

Standeford told internal affairs that he was not a Marine and denied telling others he was a Marine.

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# Student of the Week

## Ethan Wright – 8th grader at Wakulla Middle


Principal: Simeon Nelson

**Achievements/Reason for Nomination:** Ethan is a model middle school student. He is polite and well-mannered. He is fully engaged and participates in class discussions. Ethan is a positive role model for behavior and expectations. He is well-liked by all his peers and teachers.

Ethan's passion is soccer. He played on the WMS team this year. He also plays with a travel league outside of school.

WMS is pleased have Ethan as one of our amazing Wildcats! Keep up the good work. We are proud of you!


STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.



## Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park

### Flatwoods plum

By LYNN ARTZ, DAVID RODDENBERRY, and SANDY TEDDER



Flatwoods plum (*Prunus umbellata*) delights with its spectacular late-winter flower display. For about a month, this small deciduous tree is covered with a cloud of showy white flower clusters. Bees pollinate the early blooming 5-petaled flowers that are important for native bees and are one of the first nectar sources for early spring butterflies. In summer and fall, flatwoods plum bears small, tart purple fruits that are attractive to wildlife. While edible, the fruit is best used for jelly. Also called hog plum, this beautiful native grows 12-20 feet tall and wide in medium to dry, well-drained soil in full to part sun. It will live for 30-40 years in a good site. Several flatwoods plums are blooming now at the south end of Sopchoppy Depot Park.



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# 2 juveniles arrested after shooting school bus with air rifles

Special to The Sun

The Wakulla County Sheriff's Office arrested two juveniles, ages 11 and 15, for shooting into an occupied conveyance and criminal mischief following the shooting of a school bus.

On Thursday, Feb. 15, Wakulla County District School bus 31 had two of its windows shattered when it was twice fired upon by pellet/BB guns. The bus was shot as it was transporting students home from Shadeville Elementary School while traveling in an easterly direction on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Boulevard in the area of Graham Trail. No children were seriously injured. The shooting was reported to the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office, Wakulla Fire Rescue, and Wakulla County District Schools. Personnel from each of those entities immediately responded to the scene.

Wakulla County Fire Rescue evaluated the bus driver and students. There was a minor leg injury to one of the children as a result of glass debris. Thereafter, Wakulla County District Schools arranged for alternate transportation for the children who had been riding the bus. Deputies saturated the area in an effort to ascertain the origin of the projectiles that shattered the two windows of the school bus.

Within minutes, deputies and detectives located two juveniles in the area. The juveniles were subsequently interviewed and admitted to shooting the air rifles which had shot the bus windows. Detectives recovered the two air rifles which had been hidden in a wooded area next to a residence. One was a BB gun and one was a pellet gun.

The juveniles were arrested and transported to the Wakulla County Jail.



PHOTO BY WILLIAM SNOWDEN

School transportation personnel and sheriff's deputies with the school bus that windows shot on Thursday afternoon. One child was injured by broken glass.

## Wakulla wrestlers place 2nd at District tournament

Lady War Eagle Julia Baggett was one match from qualifying for state in girls tournament

By WALT JACOBS  
Special to The Sun

Florida High's Bob Albertson gymnasium was the site of the 2024 FHSAA 1A District 2 Championships. At the forefront of most every wrestler's mind is one thing...Advance.

Nate Jacobs, a junior at Wakulla High School, said "Of course you would like to win a District championship, that's a goal, but that is just something extra. You want to advance and come out of each tournament healthy. The main goal is to make it to state, and once you've made it to state anything is possible."

Coach Will Pafford commented, "The boys had a great day qualifying all 14 wrestlers to the regional tournament with everyone placing third or higher. Brackets look great for this upcoming regional



Wakulla boys wrestling team, above; Julia Baggett, left, was one match from qualifying for state.



tournament."

In the team race at districts, Suwannee High placed 1st, fol-

lowed by Wakulla at 2nd and Florida High at 3rd.

**FHSAA 1A District 2**

Ryals 3rd; 165-Kane Watford 3rd; 175-Wyatt Brown 3rd; 190-Blake Barodte 3rd; 215-Kohl Pippin 3rd; 285-Adleigh Caquimbo 2nd

### FHSAA Girls 1A Region 1 Championship

The Lady War Eagles also competed over the weekend at the FHSAA 1A Region 1 tournament held at Chiles High. Coach Pafford proudly stated, "The girls had an awesome tournament with Julia Baggett coming one match away from qualifying for state."

"Austin Brown and Caitlin Hall had great tournaments and both had two wins."

When asked to give her thoughts on her daughter Julia's performance, Michele Falk, WHS Principal and proud mother glowingly exclaimed, "I think Julia surprised some people

with her performance at regionals. Losing in the blood round exceeded her expectations, but left her wanting more!"

Falk added, "It was a great experience for her as a freshman and now she knows what it is going to take to make it to state in the future!"

On the future of girls wrestling at Wakulla, Falk confidently said, "I think the future is bright for girls wrestling at WHS. We lost two seniors but have some young talent coming up from the middle schools. Austin Brown's leadership will be missed."

Both Brown and Hall concluded their high school wrestling careers on Saturday, but when the time comes to reflect on the formative years of girls wrestling at Wakulla, Brown, Hall, Baggett, and 2020 state qualifier Jaden Arrizola will certainly be considered the pioneers and founding members.

## Water rates

From Front Page

lpletely, equalizing costs inside and outside of Sopchoppy. It suggests updating the rate to \$25.65 for everyone, which would mean that the rate wouldn't need to be changed again later should the Senate bill pass. Scenario 3 maintains the same gap, increasing the cost inside to \$19.20 and the cost outside to \$26.40, leaving the existing gap of 37.5% in place.

The city commissioners deliberated over the issue, agreeing that the gap should be decreased, but unsure of whether to get rid of the gap altogether and use Scenario 2 or go with Scenario 1 first and then go to Sce-

nario 2 later, so that the increases are taken in steps, therefore making it an easier transition for Sopchoppy residents who would see the biggest increase.

Sopchoppy City Attorney Dan Cox said that it might be best to go straight to Scenario 2, and "rip the Band-Aid off."

City commissioners decided to advertise equalizing costs for all customers, giving the public a chance to respond to it, before moving ahead with actually increasing the rates.

In other news:

• Wade Brown of Edwin Brown & Associates

was at the meeting to request a capacity letter for a 49-unit development in Crawfordville, which would need to be attached to Sopchoppy's water system. The letter needed information about whether getting the development attached to the water would be possible, and if so when that could occur, so that it could be delivered to the Wakulla County Planning Commission for approval. Attorney Cox said that, yes, the development could be put on Sopchoppy's water, but that it would be possible in November 2025 at the earliest, once Phase 1 of developments were completed. The letter will be written to include that condition before it can be approved.

• The first reading of the capacity fee ordinance was made, and the ordinance would apply a \$7,900 one-time fee to all new connections to the water system.

• Superintendent Pearce spoke with Vice Mayor Roger McKenzie about transferring the old Sopchoppy School to the city, rather than selling it to the highest bidder. Both the Sopchoppy Opry and the Wakulla Community Theater utilize the old gym, and could potentially generate enough revenue to maintain it, but the city commissioners wanted to hold a workshop on it before outright agreeing, to make sure their eventual decision is as educated as possible.

## Indictments

From Front Page

blue, and covered in bruises. She rushed to take the baby to the hospital, stopping at a Dollar General where she saw two Wakulla County sheriff's deputies and asked for help. The two deputies tried to render lifesaving aid but the baby did not respond.

A few months earlier, in April, Robison had been charged with child abuse and battery after striking the mother of his child when they were arguing about getting a divorce. Robison was holding the child when he allegedly grabbed the woman by the throat, she pushed him

off and allegedly struck him while grabbing for the child.

Robison was indicted for first-degree murder and aggravated child abuse by great bodily harm.

The other murder indictment was for Richard Bishop, who is charged with murdering another inmate at Wakulla Correctional Institute.

Information on the case is difficult to come by as Bishop, who is serving 20 years in prison for second degree murder, has not been served with the indictment. According to the state attorney's office, Bishop allegedly murdered the inmate

after identifying him as a sex offender.

Two other men were indicted by the grand jury - Neimus Green and Paul Searfoss - both charged with sexual battery on a child under 12.

Wakulla Chief Prosecutor Andrew Deneen said he sought a grand

jury indictment on the two men because under a new state law the crime of sexual battery on a child is a capital offense.

Though the state is not seeking the death penalty in those cases, Deneen said he went to the grand jury in an abundance of caution.

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## 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.



### TWS PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF PROPOSED DECLARATION OF INACTIVE STATUS OF THE CITY OF ST. MARKS REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Notice is given that the City of St. Marks Redevelopment Agency (District), a dependent special district organized and operating pursuant to Chapter 163, Part III, Florida Statutes, has become inactive within the meaning of Section 163.3756, Florida Statutes, requiring the Florida Department of Commerce (Florida Commerce) to declare the District inactive. The District is located in Wakulla County, Florida, within the municipal boundaries of the City of St. Marks.

Any objections to this Notice must be filed pursuant to Chapter 120, Florida Statutes, within twenty-one (21) days after the date of publication. For the required contents of a petition challenging agency action, refer to Rules 28-106.104, 28-106.201, and 28-106.301, Florida Administrative Code. A petition is filed when it is received by the:

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FloridaCommerce Will declare the District inactive if twenty-one (21) days elapses from the publication date of this Notice and no administrative appeals are filed. Section 163.3756(3), Florida Statutes, provides that a community redevelopment agency (CRA) that is declared inactive may expend funds from the redevelopment trust fund only as necessary to service outstanding bond debt and the CRA may not expend other funds in the absence of an ordinance of the local governing body that created the CRA consenting to the expenditure of such funds. Section 189.062(5), Florida Statutes, provides that once a special district is declared inactive, it may not collect taxes, fees, or assessments unless the declaration is: (i) withdrawn or revoked by FloridaCommerce or (ii) invalidated in proceedings initiated by the District.

February 22, 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.”

## How we got here: The start of The Wakulla Sun



By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**  
Editor

**To commemorate the second anniversary of The Wakulla Sun, this is a repeat of the column from the first issue on Feb. 24, 2022, about how the newspaper got started:**

I didn't set out to start a newspaper, but I didn't like the changes that the corporate owner intended to make with the newspaper I had been with for 26 years.

First came the staff reductions: two positions were cut, including an inside sales person/receptionist who had been with the paper for 5 years.

Then came the loss of local control – ads and pages would no longer be built at the newspaper but at a “hub” out of state. The design of pages would now be a template for cookie-cutter design for the dozens of newspapers being built.

Three times I offered to buy the newspaper – I wanted to keep it a local, community paper. Three times I was told no.

So I turned in my resignation before Christmas with no idea what I was going to do next.

On a Monday after the hol-

idays, the first person I told I was leaving and why asked if I had thought about starting my own newspaper. I proceeded to tell him all the reasons that wouldn't work. The worst of it was that I felt I needed to resign from all the organizations I was involved in – Rotary Club, where I had been appointed president a second time to fill the term of the former president who stepped down for personal reasons; plus Big Bend Hospice's local advisory board, and the Wakulla Wonderful committee planning the celebration of Wakulla County's founding. To me, the prospect of giving up that community involvement was heartbreaking but I felt I needed to walk away from it.

I told other people, they gave me the same response: Why don't you start your own paper? I told them why it wouldn't work. By Thursday of that week, I was telling yet another person why I couldn't and something reached a tipping point. True, there would be very significant hurdles to overcome. You'd be starting from nothing and trying to assemble all the systems and processes to generate a paper.

But these were solveable problems.

(I'm not using any names in this, but the first person I told and the person who made me wonder if maybe it could work are next-door neighbors with each other. In a conversation over the fence, the two of them actually worked out their roles in the story.)

When I got home that evening, I told Meredith, my wife, that I was thinking about starting a newspaper. She was hesitant. She was fully supportive of buying an es-

tablished newspaper – but starting a new one?

But it was better than some of my earlier ideas, one of which was to go to racing school.

“To do what?” she asked.

“Be a race driver.”

(Long silence. Throat clearing, then:) “Have you thought of anything else?”

Though I wasn't fully committed to it, I began to think of what would need to happen to start a new business.

I began to tell people I was thinking about starting a paper. The reaction was always supportive. People were excited.

And what really pushed it over the line were those people who offered financial support. I didn't take it, but the fact that people were willing to put up money to back the paper made me believe that it really could work.

(Soon, we will be set up to accept tax-deductible donations to support community journalism through the Florida Community News Fund, a 501(c)3 operated by the Florida Press Foundation.)

In private conversations, the other members of the newspaper staff – salesperson Lynda Kinsey and graphic artist Eric Stanton – said if I started a paper, they would join. We began referring to it as “our” paper.

They both submitted their resignations to come here. And I want to acknowledge what a giant leap of faith that was for both of them – Lynda had been with that newspaper for 33 years, Eric for nearly 20. Both gave up a steady paycheck and benefits to step out into this venture. I believe both did it because they are sincerely committed to com-

munity journalism, and what a local newspaper is supposed to be.

I have thanked both of them for jumping off this cliff with me.

I want to thank Meredith for her support of this venture.

There's a lot of other people to thank – everyone I talked to in the community who offered support and encouragement.

Thanks to the advertisers in this issue.

Thanks to Al Pasini, a good friend and Rotarian, who was the official first subscriber to The Wakulla Sun. Thanks to all of you who have subscribed.

Thanks to Riddhi for joining us. And Jessi.

Thanks to the columnists who contributed.

Thanks to those people who helped us get the business started.

And thank you to our readers. Without you, none of this means anything.

We hope to earn your trust and keep it. Though we will inevitably make mistakes, we will own up to them and correct the record.

This is your newspaper.

It is local. It is sold, designed and built by local people.

If you have a problem or a news tip or just want to chat, call me. We don't have landlines yet, but my cell phone is (850) 566-2232. Or stop by the office, 12 Arran Road.

### Just a couple of things I want to add:

- I signed a lease for the office on Feb. 1 and we put out the first issue of The Sun three weeks later, Feb. 24. I'm proud of that.
- First copy was bought by

Becky Whaley – who came flying up to the office once she heard the papers had been delivered.

- We started the Monthly in April 2022 with Leonard Tartt on the cover. The “little paper” is delivered once a month to every home in Wakulla County – that's a press run of 15,000.

- Last year we started the Gulf Coast Breeze, our visitors guide to Wakulla County, with 54 glossy pages. The magazine is distributed throughout the region and, according to the people who work the visitors desk at the Tallahassee International Airport, the second most popular guide there – after the state's Visit Florida magazine.

- Riddhi Patel is no longer our reporter, though she has agreed to do some freelance work. Legion Taylor is doing reporting nowadays. And we welcome back Linda Ann McDonald, who was a stringer for me for years at the News, is back in Wakulla and writing again.

Over these past couple of years, there has been a lot of support for this newspaper – thank you to the dozens of people who have offered financial support for the newspaper through the Florida Press Foundation. One person has donated more than \$6,000 to support The Sun over the past two years.

Thank you to our advertisers who have supported us.

And thanks to our readers. We will work to continue to earn your trust.

*William Snowden is the editor and publisher of The Wakulla Sun.*

## On the Horizon

### Calendar of events for the week of February 22

#### Thursday, February 22

- 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 23

- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and

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

#### Saturday, February 24

- Wakulla Giving Hands is hosting a food giveaway at the Wakulla Community Center, starting at 9 a.m. until supplies are gone.
- A benefit fish fry will be held in Hudson Park from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Proceeds will go to a local man, Rod, and his wife, to support them through Rod's medical issues.
- St. Marks hosts a community market every fourth Saturday of the month at 815 Leon Port Drive from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.
- Apalachee Beekeeper's Association presents an intro to Beekeeping at the Wakulla County Extension office with check-in at 8 a.m. and the course being from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registration costs \$75 for an adult,

and \$45 for any additional family members.

- The University of Florida Extension Office is hosting a cheese making class at the Panacea Community Center from 9 a.m. to noon. Registration is \$25 per person.
- Palaver Tree Theater is hosting a Randall Closson and Friends Concert at 6:30 p.m., with tickets \$10 online and \$15 at the door.
- 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 26

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

Ochlockonee St.

#### Tuesday, February 27

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

#### Wednesday, February 28

- 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.

## SUPPORT COMMUNITY JOURNALISM

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- More local news about our community
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William Snowden  
Editor & Publisher  
The Wakulla Sun

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*“It's A New Day!”*

# The Wakulla Sun







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## ◀ Question of The Week ▶

– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

### Polled at the African American Heritage Celebration: What is an accomplishment in life that you thought you would never achieve?



**TAMIKA PETERSON**  
Family Law – Case Manager

**I got on an airplane for the first time, I conquered my fear and flew to Las Vegas.**



**PERCY JOHNSON**  
Territory Sales Manager, Auto Zone

**Being a leader of people. When I was younger I didn't think I would ever do that. With age brings wisdom, and you get to share your knowledge.**



**ARDRIA THOMAS JOHNSON**  
Rural USPS Carrier

**Being a single parent and raising three accomplished children, all while being a full time parent and employee. I never accepted any aid, but I had family.**



**KENNY MANNING**  
Christian Coalition  
Ex nt Coordinator

**Me being in outreach! I have always liked being in the background. I never thought I would be a spokesperson.**



**KRYSTAL A. FRANKLIN, M.D., M.B.A.**

**“Being a black doctor and female surgeon from Sopchoppy, Florida. I am privileged to be honored by my family and community.”**

## Wakulla Station News

By **VERNA BROCK**

Recently, I have had enough free time to visit a couple of the newer businesses in Crawfordville. I found, to my delight, The Tie Dye Butterfly to be right up my alley. It is a combination gift shop, art gallery, full of fun furniture and more!

The proprietor, Cothee Tomani, has woven many different threads together to create a one of a kind tapestry of interesting items. She has plants, garden art, jewelry, crafts, candles... you name it and I think she might just have it in her store. Stop by when you have some extra time, and check it out. She's located at the "Y", where Crawfordville Highway veers off to the east and becomes Shadeville Road. You can't miss it!

I also got to visit the pet store, right between the used appliance store and

the Blackcat Apothecary. If you're in the market for a pet snake, snake or bird, this is the place for you. There are dozens of aquarium fish and supplies, a beautiful calico kitten, hamsters, and even a few lizards. They also carry a wide assortment of pet supplies, including toys and fashion accessories. The folks working there are very attentive, answering all of my questions about their variety of pets for sale.

Despite inclement weather, Ed and I joined the hardy souls who ventured forth to partake in the African American History Parade on Saturday, Feb. 17th. As usual, Ed drove his truck, tricked out with signs supporting Wakulla Beekeepers. It is always fun to hand out honey straws to the crowd!

The following day, I joined a large

group as we enjoyed participating in the African American Reading Chain event at Palaver Tree Theater. We were graced by the presence of Dr. Joe Ann Burgess who spent 10 years researching and writing "The Odyssey Of Burt High School"; Farah L. Donaldson, currently a Wakulla High School teacher and author working on his third children's book; Arria Haigler, a young author who is publishing her book of short stories; and Cynecia Welch, author of the poetic children's book, "Keep Living".

All of this would be reason enough to come out in the dreary weather. But we were treated to history lessons from folks like Robert Manning, Ms. Jenny Jones, Officer Ray Johnson, and many, many others. It was cold outside, but the atmosphere inside was warm and enthusiastic.

As is our habit, members of the Wakulla United Methodist Church try to visit a different restaurant af-

ter Sunday morning service. This past Sunday we finally made it to the Driftwood Restaurant in Woodville. Once known as the Seineyard, the place has been under new ownership for a while. I am happy to report, the service was outstanding, and the food was incredible. The serving sizes were more than generous, and cooked to perfection. If you're looking for a good place to find great food and fellowship, look no further!

Please keep Mr. Nick Grant, brother in law of Mary Jo Dowling, in your prayers as he awaits tests results; Mr. Mel Pope is recovering from surgery and continues to need our prayers, as does Ms. Thelma Watts, and Ms. Deborah Giles.

Good luck to all the participants in Wakulla County's Odyssey of the Mind Competition this coming weekend. This is the first round of presentations, and successful teams will have an opportunity to compete in Orlando.

## Buckhorn News

By **ETHEL SKIPPER**

The God-blessed life is a life that God blesses for those who hear, believe and obey Him.

When we read about the Beatitudes, those eight sayings of Jesus in which he pronounced blessings. Jesus set forth truths for living as citizens of the Kingdom of God, which is also the Kingdom of Christ and the Kingdom of Heaven. For believers in Christ this is a spiritual kingdom, whereas we have righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. This is the God-blessed life of which Jesus preached and taught.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit

for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

I am so blessed, two Sundays past I was coming from church, just as I parked the car and got out to go inside my house, I heard what sounded like a train overhead. I looked around and didn't see anything – but by the time I got in the house, the fence was torn down, one of the big oak trees had fallen. I knew that was a blessing over my head – someone was looking out for me.

We congratulate all of our local

African American achievers in the medical field who were recognized at the 2024 Arthur Lee Anderson Memorial Scholarship Gala on February 16, 2024.

One of the names of God is Jehovah Rapha (Exodus 15:26), which means "the God who heals." What a blessing that we have local women who have excelled in Medicine and they honor God as the foundation for their success.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Krystal A. Franklin, represents the best of our community and we hope that she will have many years of success and bring healing to our community spiritually and physically. It is always encouraging to see that our children can get a solid foundation in Wakulla and with the help of God can flourish anywhere in the world.

We also congratulate Vanessa Allen Bell, RN from Sopchoppy, Dr. NaQuita Jackson Nelson, Stephanie Jackson-Sanders, Dr. Carol Broxton, Pharmacist, and Rita Louise Hughes, Pharmacist, all from Wakulla County. Healing is a part of God's character and one way that He reveals Himself to us. 3 John 3:1-2 says, "Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well."

Let us continue to pray for world leaders, those who are sick, shut-in, those in the hospital, nursing home, prison, the homeless, and all in need of prayer. Let us pray for world leaders everywhere..



## Moose mystery theater held

The Moose Lodge in Panacea held its 'Mooseland Murder Mystery' production last weekend, with a cast that included, above, Ryanna Seascrest, Tina Twirler, Forgetmenot, Starr Lite, Simon Sez, Stella Kutz, Earl Costode, Lucy Cox, Ellie Mae Shucker, Luna Notella Lies Sumac, Magical Mabel, Clara Voyant, Roseanne Barstool, Gale Storm, and "Mac" Mac-Millian. At right, Elvis with his fans. (Photos by Gerald Brown)



## Standeford

From Front Page

Investigators interviewed six other deputies who worked with Standeford who said he told them he was a Marine.

Internal affairs also became aware of Standeford's testimony at an administrative hearing – Michael Grasso vs. St. Marks Stone Crab Festival over access of a service animal to a festival – in which Standeford falsely testified he had been overseas working with Muslims, had responded to the 9/11 terrorist attack, suffered from PTSD because of his 9/11 assignment, had instructed Marine Corps and Army personnel on protected nuclear weapons, and had a service dog to assist with his PTSD.

In April 2021, a probable cause affidavit was submitted to the state attorney's office for felony perjury for Standeford's testimony at the Grasso hearing. The state filed charges against Standeford but ultimately dropped them after the trial court found that Standeford's "statements, while false, were not sufficiently material to support a conviction for perjury."

In his lawsuit, Standeford claimed he was retaliated against because he reported problems with a lack of adequate weapons for school resource officers, and was then involuntarily transferred.

The sheriff argued that the transfer was purely lateral, that Standeford voluntarily resigned, and there is no connection with any report of problems by Standeford.

Judge Smith signed the order on Feb. 14.



# Outdoors

outdoor sports

## HOME ON THE RANGE

### A .380 as a defensive handgun?



By MARJ LAW

Gunslingers of old, whether in Western movies or in history, didn't carry puny little handguns.

Can you imagine Clint Eastwood as Dirty Harry, pulling out a micro compact .380 and saying: "Please, if you don't mind, sir. Would you make my day?"

Ha. No, Dirty Harry carried a Model 29 Smith & Wesson in 44 Magnum. It had a heavy 83/8 inch barrel. What a cannon!

And Steve McQueen in Wanted Dead or Alive carried a Mare's Leg, which was a pistol made from a cut down lever action rifle. Pretty impressive.

How about the blunderbuss carried by stagecoach drivers? How frightening were they with their flared muzzles?

These guns were big and loud and packed a mighty wallop. Shoot a bad guy with one of these and he's going down, down, down.

Unless, of course, you missed. When your smoke cleared, how long would it take you to aim and shoot again? And, while your shooting arm is recovering from the pain of recoil and you're moving the muzzle back on Mr. Bad, his friend is

pointing another cannon smack at you.

Certainly, heavy caliber rounds can do a lot of damage. But, when your life comes into question, is the bigger gun the better gun?

Jeremy Stafford in Guns and Ammo writes: "Based on my experience responding to calls as a police officer, I believe that all handgun rounds struggle to be effective at immediately stopping a human threat. It is widely accepted among the gunfighting community that more than one hit will likely be required to make that person a threat no more. If you go out into the world recognizing this, then emphasis must be placed on a fast, accurate second shot."

So, if you're an average sized person, carrying a handgun to defend your life, do you want to carry a larger caliber weapon? Or a smaller caliber one?

Will you be able to shoot it once and then shoot a second time right away? And if there's another Mr. Bad coming at you, can you regain your sights and your strength and shoot a third or fourth time?

Stafford goes on to clarify: "For many shooters, especially older or smaller shooters, the felt recoil of the 9mm is disruptive and sometimes prohibitive to follow with an effective second shot. It also can be problematic for practice sessions, as well. Without adequate practice, people who struggle to manage the recoil of a 9mm pistol may not hit the target at all, rendering the 'use the more effec-



tive caliber' argument moot."

Yes, Stafford is talking about a 9mm handgun: not a large caliber .45 or a .357. Yet, for most people, the recoil of that first shot will throw the shooter's aim off the target. He will then have to re-aim to re-acquire his sight picture, which can lose him precious seconds as his target shoots back at him. This is why the second shot is so important. And the third. And the fourth. Particularly if there are several potential threats.

Because of its design, the Sig 365-380 has low recoil. Instead of a blowback design, the locked-breech design of the P365-380 means that the recoil spring does not need to be as strong. What this means for those with limited hand strength is that the .380's slide is easier to rack.

So, which shall you

carry? The softer and more-controllable shooting .380 or the 9mm handgun that has ballistic superiority?

It all depends on which caliber is the best one for you. If you practice and have no problem shooting the 9mm handgun continuously while staying on target as well, then that one is the best for you.

If you do not practice with any regularity, if you have limited hand strength, and if you have difficulty in regaining your sight picture after the recoil of shooting, then the smaller caliber will work for you.

Sig's slogan for the P365-380 is "less recoil, more control." While this is important for those with strength or hand difficulties, it's also important for those who simply want to be more accurate.

And what about the transition of moving

from target to target?

Stafford continues: "The lighter recoil also allowed the new-ish shooters transition more quickly from target to target during multi-threat drills. Transitions are a skill that many of us neglect training to develop, but to the new shooter deciding to arm themselves in the wake of the current crime spike, transitioning effectively is a comforting ability."

Another factor to consider is number of rounds in your magazine. Many of the newer .380s can hold more rounds in their magazines than their higher caliber counterparts. Will you feel more secure if your handgun holds 12 rounds versus eight? Check to see how many rounds the gun you're looking to buy can hold.

Old movies have shown us that when it comes to handguns, bigger is better. But

what is really better for you? Yes, you may be able to shoot a large caliber gun, but can you shoot it reliably and many times accurately?

Do you have limited hand strength? Do you want a gun with less recoil? Do you want your gun to hold plenty of rounds? Will your gun be pleasant enough to shoot that you'll take it to the range for practice often?

Yes, in movies, bigger is more dramatic. Bigger guns look tougher and more manly.

Let's get real. There's only one Clint Eastwood, one John Wayne and one Steve McQueen.

They are not you. Find out what's best for you.

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



SILVER PERCH  
(*Bairdiella chrysoura*)

Silver perch or "yellow tails" are one of the smaller members of the drum family. Rarely reaching 10" and 1pnd, they spawn in shallow, saline bays and inshore areas May-September after migrating from offshore. Silver perch eat smaller fish, worms and crustaceans. The silver perch can be distinguished from the unrelated white perch by the dark stripes that line the sides. It can be distinguished from the sand seatrout by its lack of prominent canine teeth and by its chin pores. Silver perch can live from 2-6 years as adults.

Eukarya, Animalia, Cordata, Actinopterygii, Perciformes, Sciaenidae



## 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 juvenile Yellow Crowned Night Heron.

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# Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences

SEA TOW

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**Thursday 22**

Sun rise/set  
7:10AM  
6:30PM

Moon rise/set  
4:59PM  
6:22AM

Moon Illumination 96%

**Friday 23**

Sun rise/set  
7:09AM  
6:31PM

Moon rise/set  
5:56PM  
6:55AM

Moon Illumination 99%

**Saturday 24**

Sun rise/set  
7:08AM  
6:31PM

Moon rise/set  
6:50PM  
7:25AM

Moon Illumination 100%

**Sunday 25**

Sun rise/set  
7:07AM  
6:32PM

Moon rise/set  
7:44PM  
7:51AM

Moon Illumination 99%

**Monday 26**

Sun rise/set  
7:06AM  
6:33PM

Moon rise/set  
8:36PM  
8:16AM

Moon Illumination 97%

**Tuesday 27**

Sun rise/set  
7:05AM  
6:34PM

Moon rise/set  
9:30PM  
8:42AM

Moon Illumination 92%

**Wednesday 28**

Sun rise/set  
7:04AM  
6:34PM

Moon rise/set  
10:24PM  
9:08AM

Moon Illumination 86%

### Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

Feb. 22 - Feb. 28

GO FISH!

Tide charts by  
tides4fishing.com

First Feb. 16   Full Feb. 24   Last March 3   New March 10

**Best fishing days this month**  
February 22-24 • March 10-25

**Thursday 22**

Minor Times  
5:37AM  
4:14PM

Major Times  
10:23AM  
---

**Friday 23**

Minor Times  
6:10AM  
5:11PM

Major Times  
10:46PM  
11:08AM

**Saturday 24**

Minor Times  
6:40AM  
6:05PM

Major Times  
11:29PM  
11:49AM

**Sunday 25**

Minor Times  
7:06AM  
6:59PM

Major Times  
12:09AM  
12:29PM

**Monday 26**

Minor Times  
7:31AM  
7:51PM

Major Times  
12:48PM  
1:08PM

**Tuesday 27**

Minor Times  
7:57AM  
8:45PM

Major Times  
1:27AM  
1:47PM

**Wednesday 28**

Minor Times  
8:23AM  
9:39PM

Major Times  
2:07AM  
2:27PM

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				City of St. Marks				Shell Point, Spring Creek						
Th	12:31 am ▲ 3.0 ft	7:31 am ▼ -0.6 ft	1:49 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	7:11 pm ▼ 0.9 ft	Th	1:07 am ▲ 2.8 ft	8:35 am ▼ -0.5 ft	2:25 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	8:15 pm ▼ 0.8 ft	Th	12:51 am ▲ 3.0 ft	7:57 am ▼ -0.7 ft	2:16 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	7:37 pm ▼ 1.2 ft
Fr	1:09 am ▲ 3.2 ft	7:58 am ▼ -0.5 ft	2:12 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	7:46 pm ▼ 0.6 ft	Fr	1:45 am ▲ 2.9 ft	9:02 am ▼ -0.5 ft	2:48 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	8:50 pm ▼ 0.6 ft	Fr	1:31 am ▲ 3.1 ft	8:28 am ▼ -0.6 ft	2:39 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	8:12 pm ▼ 0.9 ft
Sa	1:43 am ▲ 3.2 ft	8:21 am ▼ -0.4 ft	2:35 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	8:20 pm ▼ 0.4 ft	Sa	2:19 am ▲ 3.0 ft	9:25 am ▼ -0.4 ft	3:11 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	9:24 pm ▼ 0.3 ft	Sa	2:07 am ▲ 3.2 ft	8:54 am ▼ -0.5 ft	3:01 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	8:44 pm ▼ 0.6 ft
Su	2:15 am ▲ 3.2 ft	8:41 am ▼ -0.3 ft	2:55 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	8:52 pm ▼ 0.2 ft	Su	2:51 am ▲ 3.0 ft	9:45 am ▼ -0.3 ft	3:31 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	9:56 pm ▼ 0.2 ft	Su	2:40 am ▲ 3.2 ft	9:16 am ▼ -0.3 ft	3:21 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	9:15 pm ▼ 0.4 ft
Mo	2:47 am ▲ 3.2 ft	9:00 am ▼ -0.1 ft	3:14 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	9:23 pm ▼ 0.0 ft	Mo	3:23 am ▲ 3.0 ft	10:04 am ▼ -0.1 ft	3:50 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	10:27 pm ▼ 0.0 ft	Mo	3:13 am ▲ 3.2 ft	9:36 am ▼ -0.1 ft	3:39 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	9:45 pm ▼ 0.2 ft
Tu	3:20 am ▲ 3.1 ft	9:21 am ▼ 0.0 ft	3:32 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	9:55 pm ▼ -0.1 ft	Tu	3:56 am ▲ 2.9 ft	10:25 am ▼ 0.0 ft	4:08 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	10:59 pm ▼ -0.1 ft	Tu	3:47 am ▲ 3.1 ft	9:54 am ▼ 0.1 ft	3:56 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	10:16 pm ▼ 0.0 ft
We	3:56 am ▲ 3.0 ft	9:43 am ▼ 0.3 ft	3:50 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	10:28 pm ▼ -0.1 ft	We	4:32 am ▲ 2.8 ft	10:47 am ▼ 0.3 ft	4:26 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	11:32 pm ▼ -0.1 ft	We	4:23 am ▲ 3.0 ft	10:15 am ▼ 0.4 ft	4:14 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	10:49 pm ▼ -0.1 ft

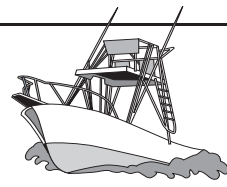
Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay				St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.				Dog Island West End						
Th	12:23 am ▲ 2.3 ft	7:42 am ▼ -0.4 ft	1:41 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	7:22 pm ▼ 0.7 ft	Th	12:13 am ▲ 2.3 ft	7:36 am ▼ -0.6 ft	2:25 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	7:23 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	Th	7:50 am ▼ -0.6 ft	3:04 pm ▲ 1.6 ft	7:39 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	
Fr	1:01 am ▲ 2.4 ft	8:09 am ▼ -0.4 ft	2:04 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	7:57 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	Fr	12:59 am ▲ 2.4 ft	8:05 am ▼ -0.5 ft	2:35 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	7:54 pm ▼ 0.8 ft	Fr	12:54 am ▲ 2.0 ft	8:17 am ▼ -0.5 ft	3:10 pm ▲ 1.7 ft	8:05 pm ▼ 0.8 ft
Sa	1:35 am ▲ 2.4 ft	8:32 am ▼ -0.3 ft	2:27 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	8:31 pm ▼ 0.3 ft	Sa	1:39 am ▲ 2.4 ft	8:31 am ▼ -0.4 ft	2:47 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	8:24 pm ▼ 0.6 ft	Sa	1:40 am ▲ 2.1 ft	8:42 am ▼ -0.4 ft	3:17 pm ▲ 1.7 ft	8:32 pm ▼ 0.6 ft
Su	2:07 am ▲ 2.4 ft	8:52 am ▼ -0.2 ft	2:47 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	9:03 pm ▼ 0.1 ft	Su	2:17 am ▲ 2.4 ft	8:54 am ▼ -0.2 ft	3:02 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	8:56 pm ▼ 0.3 ft	Su	2:22 am ▲ 2.1 ft	9:07 am ▼ -0.3 ft	3:28 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	9:03 pm ▼ 0.4 ft
Mo	2:39 am ▲ 2.4 ft	9:11 am ▼ -0.1 ft	3:06 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	9:34 pm ▼ 0.0 ft	Mo	2:55 am ▲ 2.3 ft	9:16 am ▼ -0.1 ft	3:20 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	9:27 pm ▼ 0.1 ft	Mo	3:03 am ▲ 2.1 ft	9:31 am ▼ -0.1 ft	3:43 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	9:37 pm ▼ 0.2 ft
Tu	3:12 am ▲ 2.2 ft	9:32 am ▼ 0.0 ft	3:24 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	10:06 pm ▼ 0.0 ft	Tu	3:34 am ▲ 2.3 ft	9:39 am ▼ 0.2 ft	3:40 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	10:00 pm ▼ 0.0 ft	Tu	3:46 am ▲ 2.0 ft	9:56 am ▼ 0.2 ft	4:01 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	10:15 pm ▼ 0.1 ft
We	3:48 am ▲ 2.2 ft	9:54 am ▼ 0.2 ft	3:42 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	10:39 pm ▼ -0.1 ft	We	4:15 am ▲ 2.2 ft	10:02 am ▼ 0.4 ft	4:02 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	10:35 pm ▼ -0.1 ft	We	4:30 am ▲ 1.9 ft	10:20 am ▼ 0.5 ft	4:20 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	10:54 pm ▼ -0.1 ft

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



## Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports

By Carolyn Brown Treadon



The following information was shared by Scott Hausmanm. It comes from a story that was published in Soundings Magazine.

The importance of filing a float plan cannot be overstated. The story states that, “An unidentified man was rescued after his skiff overturned off the coast of Maine, thanks in part to a Facebook post where he had shared his approximate whereabouts. In the post, the man had informed friends and family that he was going sailing on his skiff to inspect property damage from the recent January storms.”

When the boater did not return when expected, family called emergency responders to ask for assistance. Due to the float plan, they were able to localize search

**Boating Emergencies**

Coast Guard Station  
Panama City ..... (850) 234-4228

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

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

or ..... (850) 284-1166

efforts and ask for assistance from those in the area. Another boater relayed information that was helpful in narrowing down the area even more.

The USCG states that, “A Float Plan is equally effective for the owner of a 10 foot kayak or flat-bottom skiff as it is for a 48-foot express cruiser, or a 90 foot sport-fishing vessel or luxury yacht.” It is a

also recommended that you include a photo of your vessel with your float plan.

You can download a float plan from <https://uscgboating.org/recreational-boaters/float-plan.php>

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](http://www.uscgaux.net) follow us on Facebook @ Apalachee Bay Flotilla 12 or contact our Flotilla Commander Phil Hill at [pnkhill12000@yahoo.com](mailto:pnkhill12000@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).*

## Underwater Wakulla

By Rusty Miller

### First open water class of 2023.

We just had our first open water class this past weekend at Vortex Springs in Ponce De Leon. If you're new to Crawfordville or the surrounding area and have not heard of Vortex Springs then you're missing one of the jewels of north Florida springs. It's what I have referred to as one of the west side springs, meaning you are headed towards Pensacola in order to get there.

It is a nice place to relax and take in some really beautiful north Florida wildlife. I would recommend you to look on the internet and their website to get all the information for a fun weekend.

We arrived at Vortex at 9 a.m. EST (8 a.m. central) and the temperature was a balmy 35 degrees with winds about 19-20mph which made it a bit colder with a high of about 40 degrees.

We got all the students registered at the dive shop and then my assistant instructor took them to the edge of the spring basin to give them the briefing on what was planned for today's diving skills. Did I mention it was cold?

After the briefing it was time to get our wetsuits on and our equipment set up. Normally I have the students do the 450 yard snorkel swim but with the wind cutting through a wet wetsuit I decided to wait until the next day when it was supposed to be a bit warmer and far less windy.

Once we all had our equipment on and we were ready to head to the water. Believe it or not, the 68 degree water seemed warmer to the touch especially when it's 35 and blowing cold air around.

While my assistant instructor was watching the students go through their skills on the underwater platform, I was working with a couple of my rescue diver students to get them certified for their rescue card. We went through various rescue scenarios and after a while we completed what was left on the skills.

After they were done I moved over to watch the open water students finish the first part of their skills. We surfaced but did not get out of the water yet. After about 10 minutes we submerged and then they completed the second set of skills.

Then the time came to get out of the water – did I mention it was cold?

We hurriedly got out of the water and made it back up the hill to our staging area. We got the equipment disassembled and everyone got some dry clothes on then we loaded up the trucks.

After the debriefing the one thing everyone agreed on was that it was cold.

We still had one more day of diving to do at Vortex springs. After looking at the forecast for Sunday, my assistant instructor suggested we meet a little later in the morning so the temperature wouldn't be as low as it was Saturday morning. I said OK and that we would meet at 9:30 a.m. central time (10:30 a.m. EST) because the forecast was supposed to be around 50-55 degrees with a high of 72 degrees.

I will let you know if the weather forecast was true and how the Sunday dive went in next week's article.

Until then keep making bubbles.

*Editor's Note: Rusty Miller is away. This is a repeat of a column from February 2023.*

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# Our boasting hurts us and others

By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

“We just closed on our million-dollar home. Our children will be going to the best schools in the country, of course ...”

I’ve never heard anyone say these exact words, but we’ve all heard similar remarks, especially at family or class reunions. It’s no fun being around a boastful person. I don’t even like being around myself when I hear myself bragging. It’s so unbecoming.

What does our bragging say about us? When we feel the need to prove our worth by esteeming ourselves above others, we not only display our lack of love and respect for them, we also reveal a

lack of love and respect for ourselves.

This week, as we tackle 1 Corinthians 13:4’s final challenge: “Love does not ... boast; it is not arrogant” (ESV), perhaps we can minimize our temptation to brag by understanding God’s love. If we feel secure in Him, we won’t have to reach for validation from others – or ourselves. If we practice loving others with God’s love, then perhaps they wouldn’t feel the need to boast.

In fact, when we’re boastful and arrogant,

we become so self-focused we can’t see and recognize others’ accomplishments. Or we see their accomplishments as threats to our “importance.” Both are detrimental to our relationships and our spiritual growth. Choosing to applaud another’s success rather than tooting our own horns is another way we can display genuine, godly love.

As we wrap up our discussion on 1 Corinthians 13:4, let’s look at this verse in its entirety once again: “Love is

patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant.” Which characteristic do you struggle with the most today? Patience? Kindness? Jealousy? Arrogance?

Would you consider going to your heavenly Father, acknowledging your weakness, and asking for grace to do better? Let’s do this together now:

Heavenly Father, we want to love others with the same love with which You love us. We want to love magnanimously! Please help

us in the areas where we’re weak. When we’re tempted to be impatient, unkind, jealous and arrogant, help us instead to be longsuffering, caring, content and humble. May we feel so secure in Your love that we behave as Your dearly loved children.

*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.*

## The rearview mirror

By **CHERYL CRUCE**

It was the summer of my 16th year when my Mother discovered a 1967 Volkswagen abandoned under an old oak tree. Before I knew it, Mom was speaking with the owner of the VW. They agreed on a selling price of \$200. He would repair the brakes and drive it to our home on Saturday.

Once it was parked

in our garage, Mom and I worked feverishly to clean the interior and remove the oak stains from the outside. When it was ready, my brother purchased several cans of Sunshine Yellow spray paint. Taping off intricate areas, he magically transformed that once abandoned Volkswagen into my first car.

It had no air conditioner but sported an AM radio and a dimmer switch in the floorboard. It was as basic as possible, especially compared to the cars of today. Nevertheless, my Volkswagen represented a new freedom in life.

With my newfound freedom, I began to test

the boundaries and responsibilities of growing up. My car allowed me to ride around on Saturdays and go home for lunch breaks during the school week. Once, while returning to school, a flat tire left me stranded. As I contemplated my long walk, I saw my Dad pulling up in my rearview mirror. How did he know?

I learned a valuable lesson that year, and it is this. Irrespective of the length of my tested boundaries, my parents always had their eyes on me. It was a time before cell phones, GPS, and 360 tracking. Even so, regardless of where I was, Mom and Dad always knew what I was

doing, if I was safe, or needed their help. The adage, “They have eyes in the back of their head,” held a substantial truth in our home: I miss their watchful eyes.

Still, with the ripe old age of wisdom, I realize I continue to have watchful eyes caring for me. I have enjoyed the freedom of stretching my wings. I have tested the boundaries of this world, finding myself in the hurt and disappointment of my decisions. Yet when I discovered myself broken down on the side of life’s road, I also discovered my Heavenly Father patiently waiting in my rearview mirror to rescue me.

Our lives are no

different than the life of the Prodigal Son. He had everything he would ever need, just as you and I. A loving family, good food, and a warm bed to rest in at night. Yet his spirit was restless. He wanted to test his boundaries and reach beyond the security of his home. He took his inheritance and walked into a world of anguish. When he found himself keeping company with swine, he made the decision to return to his father’s embrace (Luke 15:11-31).

I believe if Heaven had a front porch, our Heavenly Father would be standing there watching over us even as we stretch the limits of our free will. We

cannot hide from His love. He has witnessed the pain and scars of our tested boundaries because His eyes have remained on us. He longs for our decision to return Him. There He is, waiting on Heaven’s front porch, desiring nothing more than to welcome us home.

Jeremiah 24:7 NIV I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the Lord. They will be my people, and I will be their God, for they will return to me with all their heart.

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

### OUT TO PASTOR

## Who doesn’t like baloney?

By **JAMES SNYDER**

When I was young, my favorite sandwich was the baloney sandwich. Sometimes, with cheese and other things, but most importantly, baloney. I can’t imagine what my childhood would have been like without those bologna sandwiches. Until I went to school, I thought my mother had invented the baloney sandwich.

My mother even prepared bologna sandwiches for my school lunch. Just about every boy in my class had baloney sandwiches for their lunch. I remember we would trade around and eat each other’s baloney sandwiches. If there was a sandwich contest, nobody really won because the baloney sandwich is a reward in itself. It’s hard to find a better lunch.

It’s been a long time since I’ve had a simple baloney sandwich for lunch. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is a culinary expert

specializing in making delicious meals. The simple baloney sandwich would not necessarily be on her menu.

Sometimes, the simple things in life are the best things.

We were talking about something the other night. I’m not sure if it was politics or sports, but I expressed my opinion as clearly as possible. When I was through, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage just looked at me momentarily and said, “You do know that you’re full of baloney?”

At that point, I didn’t know if she was complimenting or criticizing me. From my point of view, baloney would be a high compliment. I did not pursue that then, but just let it go. An important lesson I have learned is that there are times just to let things go. This was one of those times.

Last week, I thought about pulling a little prank on her. I don’t know what I was thinking but I waited until she was in her craft room. I walked in and began looking around. Believe me, there is a lot to look at, and I’m not sure what I was looking at.

“What are you doing in here? Are you looking for something?”

Looking at her with a serious glare, I said, “I

was just thinking that maybe I could come and help you organize your craft room. I have a lot of ideas of how you can make this a better organized craft room.”

The fact that I was in the craft room was a project in itself. If I ever went in there alone, I probably would get lost and never be found until she came into the craft room herself. If there ever is a time when I seem to disappear, just look in her craft room.

I then began to tell her some of the things I would do to help reorganize her craft room.

She just sat there staring at me with one of “her stares,” and just let me go on talking.

When I finished, I looked at her, smiled, and said, “So, what do you think?”

“What do I think?” responded The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. “Let me tell you what I think. I think you are full of baloney. I do not need any help organizing my craft room, especially from you.”

I graciously left the craft room smiling and headed for my easy chair to enjoy my prank.

For me to reorganize her craft room would’ve been so far over the moon that I was starting to think I really was full of baloney.

A few days later, I was working in my office, and she stepped in for a moment and began looking all around at my bookshelves. For a few moments, all she did was look around at my books. Then she said, “I think I can help you reorganize your office here.”

At that point, I didn’t really know what to say because I did not need any help reorganizing my books. I looked at her and said, “Do you think I’m full of baloney?”

She laughed at me and said, “Yes, I do think you’re full of baloney.” And then she left the office laughing and went back into the kitchen.

It’s amazing that we both live in our own worlds. Her craft room is at one end of the house, and my office and library are at the other end of the house, and the twain never shall meet.

I had to think about that for some time because, after 53 years of marital bliss, we have never had a major conflict. Oh yes, there is the Apple Fritter and broccoli issue that still continues. But that’s about as bad as it ever got.

I wouldn’t say this to her, but I’m kind of thinking that might it might be that my balo-

ney is one of the secrets of our good marriage. After all, what else is there?

The best celebration we could ever have, in my opinion, is a bologna sandwich lunch. That would make my day, but I’m not sure she could handle all that baloney. Then, of course, she’s handled me for 53 years. If she can handle that much baloney, she can handle anything.

I then thought of a verse of scripture on this subject. “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” (Amos 3:3).

Thinking of this, it occurred to me how important agreeing really is in all relationships. Yes, there are certain things to disagree about. But, the key is what do we really agree about. Those things we agree on will establish a relationship of unity.

*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.*

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# Obituaries

## DEATH NOTICES

• **John Roland Dabney Sr.**, 86, of Woodville, died February 13, 2024. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

## Weekly Roundup: Senate puts bills on the rocks

By **RYAN DAILEY**  
News Service of Florida

Amid concerns about the constitutionality of a bill that would restrict the use of social media by minors in Florida, a key Senate panel this week backed changes to the measure that one supporter said are “about the features” of the platforms.

Members of the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee revamped a bill (HB 1) that has been a major priority of House Speaker Paul Renner, R-Palm Coast, after questions about the proposal have surfaced — including from Gov. Ron DeSantis.

The House overwhelmingly passed the initial version of the bill last month. It would prevent children under 16 from creating accounts on at least some social-media platforms; require platforms to terminate existing accounts that they know or have “reason to believe” are held by minors younger than 16; and allow parents to request that minors’ accounts be terminated.

The newly revised version does not change the basic components, and Renner supported tweaks to the bill that were backed in the Senate this week.

Changes to the bill adopted by the Senate committee Thursday included adding criteria for determining which platforms would be subject to the restrictions. The criteria would include issues related to algorithms, “addictive features” and allowing users to view the content or activities of other users.

“I believe that we have to do something to protect our kids,” Sen. Rosalind Osgood, D-Fort Lauderdale, said before the committee voted 12-5 to back the bill. “I believe we were wrong to just turn our kids over to

social media.”

As an example, the criteria approved Thursday would include platforms that have “10 percent or more of daily active users younger than 16 years of age spending, on average, 2 hours per day on the online forum, website, or application.”

Senate bill sponsor Erin Grall, R-Vero Beach, said she didn’t know how many platforms could be affected by the proposal. But she said the bill is “content neutral” and focuses on the features of platforms.

“It is about the features,” Grall said. “It is the way the features are deployed to monetize our children and make them addicts.”

Tech industry organizations and First Amendment groups have fought the social-media restrictions, arguing that they would censor speech and be unconstitutional. DeSantis also has raised concerns about the constitutionality of restrictions.

Meanwhile, as Republicans have stressed the importance of parental rights in recent years on a litany of other issues, multiple GOP lawmakers on the Senate panel raised similar concerns about the bill.

Sen. Jay Collins, R-Tampa, and Sen. Jay Trumbull, R-Panama City, voted for the bill Thursday but said they were struggling with the possibility of infringing on the rights of parents to make decisions.

### PAY HIKE QUESTIONED

Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee this week appeared to want to pump the brakes on a proposal that would boost the pay of future governors, state Cabinet members and judges.

The committee voted unanimously to position

a House bill (HB 5007) that includes the salary issue for upcoming budget negotiations.

But several senators voiced opposition to raising the pay of the governor, lieutenant governor, Cabinet members and appellate, circuit and county judges to amounts on par or similar to state Supreme Court justices starting in the 2027-2028 fiscal year.

“If it comes out like this, I would just be a hard ‘no’ on the floor,” Sen. Blaise Ingoglia, R-Spring Hill, told his fellow members of the panel.

Ingoglia also said the proposal could lead to executive pay higher than the current \$251,414 a year of state Supreme Court justices. Under the House proposal, the governor’s pay would be at least even with Supreme Court justices.

DeSantis reported receiving \$141,400 in 2022 as part of his annual financial-disclosure report released last June.

Under the bill, the lieutenant governor, attorney general, agriculture commissioner and state chief financial officer would see their salaries set at 95 percent of the governor’s annual pay. District court of appeal judges would be paid at least 90 percent of the Supreme Court salary rate, with circuit-judge pay set at least 80 percent and county-judge pay at least 75 percent.

Meanwhile Thursday, some senators said the House proposal should include a study of the pay of lawmakers, who get paid about \$30,000 a year and per-diem amounts, with relatively little change since 2010.

“I believe that there’s a study by gov.com that

says the persistently low salaries of state legislators often discourages citizens from serving in public office, especially as lawmakers face heavier workloads and greater demands on their time,” said Sen. Bobby Powell, a West Palm Beach Democrat who is leaving the Senate this year and is running for a Palm Beach County Commission seat.

### BOOK FEES BACKED

DeSantis on Thursday supported a House proposal that he said is designed to limit “bad-faith objections” to school-library books and instructional materials.

The issue of school-book scrutiny has been a political battleground in Florida in recent years. The Legislature and DeSantis since 2022 have approved measures that eased the process for people to object to books and other materials.

A House bill (HB 7025) includes imposing \$100 “processing” fees for unsuccessful book objections. The proposed fees would apply to people who do “not have a student enrolled in the school where the material is located” and have “unsuccessfully objected to five materials during the calendar year.”

The governor also appeared to endorse the part of the bill that would exempt from the potential fees parents of students in schools where books face objections.

“If you have a kid in school, OK. But if you’re somebody who doesn’t have a kid in schools and you’re going to object to 100 books — no, I don’t think that that’s appropriate,” DeSantis said.

The bill, which also deals with other edu-

cation issues, is positioned to go before the full House after getting approval from three panels.

**STORY OF THE WEEK:** The Florida Senate on Thursday revamped a bill aimed at keeping children under age 16 off social media, as a debate continued about the proposal’s constitutionality and whether it would infringe on parental rights.

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:** “I’ve watched everybody else get an increase, and I was happy for them. But at some point, my gas goes up too. My light bill went up. My water went up. My insurance on my house went up. The cost to be a legislator outweighs, at some point, it outweighs the benefit.” — Sen. Bobby Powell, D-West Palm Beach, on state lawmakers’ \$30,000 annual salary.

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### tobe7encouraged faith column

## Encouraging each other in our walk with God...

Greetings Wakulla Citizens,

This is exciting stuff to chat about “encouraging one another.” I am honored to share this with you and myself as well.

Hebrews 3:13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.

Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Ephesians 4:29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

He speaks many times in His Word about “enduring to the end” (Matthew 24:13, 10:22, Colossians 1:22-23, Mark 13:13). All of us have at one time or another in our lives been involved in a job, sport, or event that if we had not been “encouraged” we would have failed at it or not gone through with it at all, right?? So, His Word says in Romans 10:13 for “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Thank God for this...right?! BUT how many times have we been drawn to “act” on something our “heart” desires us to do and were afraid to do so? Asking Jesus to be our LORD and Savior is ABSOLUTELY AWESOME!! BUT! What happens when we leave the place where this all happened? HMMMM! I know I have absolutely fallen on my face many times!! Thank God He never gave up on me!!

We, my friends, ARE to be encouraged in His Words not ours therefore we are able in and through Him to “encourage” others to “endure to the end”! The Words we speak then later turn into “actions”! WOOOOHOOO! Change has manifested! He IS the Priesthood of our confession, His Words, not ours. His Words are the ONLY way to be changed and to change situations!

The next time we have an issue, or a friend has an issue, or you hear an issue on the news or podcast we might listen to...let us look to Him and proclaim what He says about it, get Him involved. Bring His Word in on it, let us cast our care to Him my friends, then expect to see the change. Wooohooo!! Exciting stuff!! Let’s go and proclaim His Words and expect to see Him do His thing...

For those of us that do not know Jesus as our LORD and Savior...confess out loud this prayer, “Lord Jesus Christ, I believe that You are the Son of God, and the only way to God, that You died on the cross for my sins, and rose again from the dead. I am sorry for sins I have done, I turn away from all of them now, I turn to You Lord Jesus, for mercy and forgiveness. I trust You to forgive me now and by faith I open my heart to You, and I receive You as my personal Savior, I now confess You as my Lord. I have now done what You require, and I trust You, that You will do what only You can do. That You will save me, give me eternal life, and make me a child of God and I thank You for it. In the name of Jesus, I pray this in Faith, amen!

PRAISE GOD!! We NOW belong to Him!! The next step is to be water baptized (1 Peter 3:21, 1 Corinthians 6:11) 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 article causes each one of us that reads this to go deeper in our relationship with our Creator... Father God, our Savior, and Holy Spirit.

Shalom,

Deb Quimby-Quackenbush

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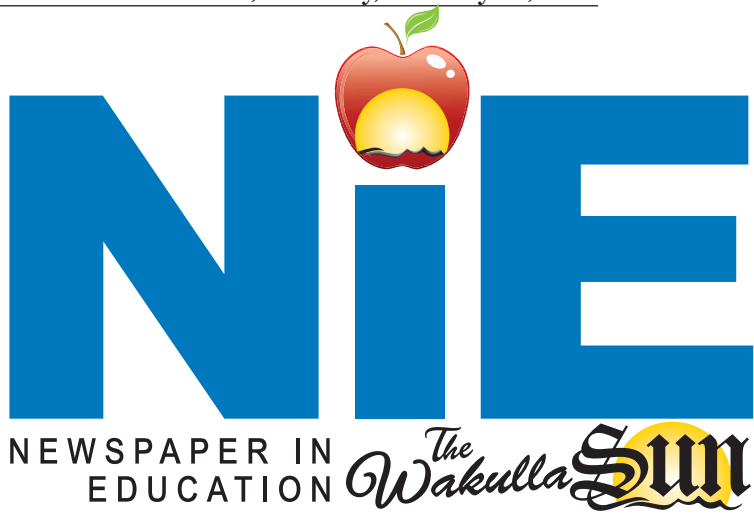


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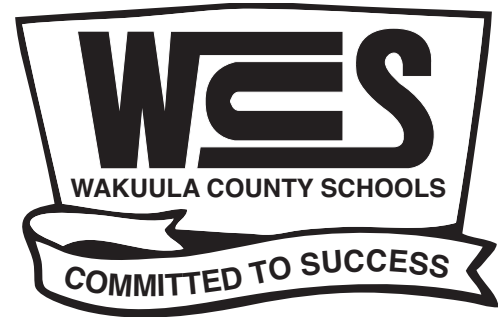


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## USE THE NEWS

### 1. A NEW MOON LANDING

For the first time, a company – not a government agency – successfully launched a moon lander into space. Intuitive Machines is the company that built the spacecraft, which took off from Florida’s Kennedy Space Center last week. Space X’s Falcon 9 rocket carried the moon lander into space, where it will spend a week in space before trying to land on the moon’s surface. If it does, the lander, which is named Odysseus, will be the first moon landing for the United States in more than 50 years. Write a summary of this story including at least five facts you learned about Odysseus.

### 2. FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February is Black History Month in the United States. It started as a week-long celebration all the way back in the early 1900s because Black history and the accomplishments of Black people weren’t included in history books or taught in schools, so very few people knew about them. The week was extended into a month in 1976 by President Gerald Ford. Today, it honors Black people throughout US history, from enslaved people in the early days of the country to civil rights leaders in the 1950s and 1960s to former President Barack Obama, the first African American president of the United States. Choose a Black person who is important in U.S. history. Research about them and write a short biography that tells who they are and what they did for the country.

### 3. SPECIES-SAVING ACT TURNS 50

The Endangered Species Act, which lists animals that need to be protected because they’re at risk of going extinct, is now 50 years old. The act was passed in 1973 to create a list of animals and plants that are threatened with extinction. Harming any animal or plant species that’s on the list is illegal. The act passed unanimously in the U.S. Senate when it was introduced, which means no senator voted against it, and passed by a huge majority in the House of Representatives with

345 representatives voting in favor of it and only 4 voting against it. Why is it important to save species who are in danger of extinction? Write at least five sentences about this topic.

### 4. YOSEMITE’S FIREFALL

A very special natural phenomenon is currently happening in Yosemite National Park in California. Every year in mid- or late February, Horsetail Fall becomes the park’s star attraction. During sunset, if the conditions are

just right, the light hits the seasonal waterfall at just the right angle to make it glow like it’s on fire. This event, called the “Firefall,” only happens if there was enough snow the previous winter and warm enough temperatures during February to melt that snow to create the waterfall. During colder and dryer years, the waterfall doesn’t form at all. It also has to be a clear and cloudless day with bright sunshine when the sun begins to set. It only happens during February because the sun has to hit the falls from a certain angle, and February

is when the sun is at the right spot in the sky. In order to have a chance to see the Firefall, visitors have to hike 1.5 miles each way into that part of the park. If conditions are right and the Firefall is visible, it only lasts for about 3 minutes. Write a short summary about the Firefall and list what conditions are needed for it to take place.

### 5. DIAMOND HUNTING

At another park a few states away, a visitor left with a very special souvenir. Crater of Diamonds State Park in Arkansas is the only place in the

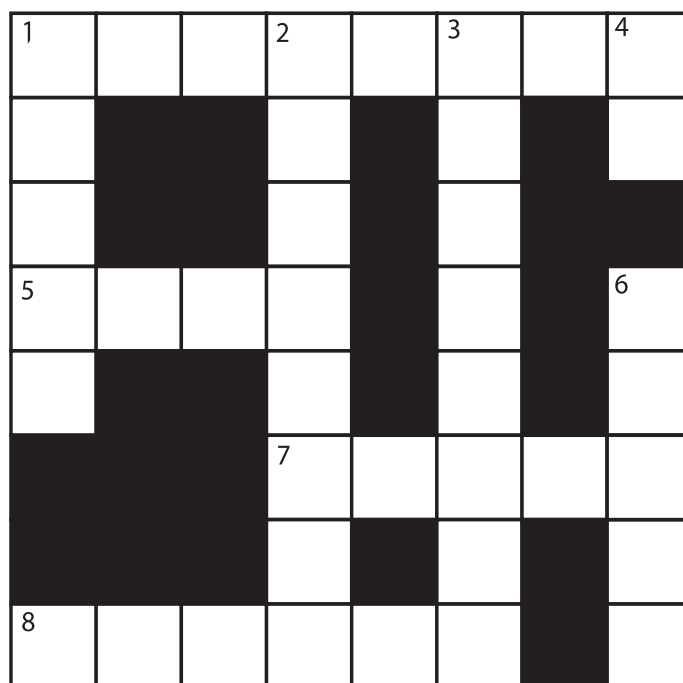
world where visitors can look for diamonds from their original source—a volcano that here forms the crater the park is named after—and take home what they find. A visitor from Paris rented a diamond hunting kit and searched through the muddy park to see what he could find. He ended up unearthing a 7.46-carat brown diamond, the eighth largest diamond since the park was created in 1972! Write a story from the perspective of the visitor who found the large diamond in the park. Draw at least one picture to go along with it.



THIS FATTY FOOD CAN HELP BIRDS MAINTAIN A HEALTHY WEIGHT DURING WINTER.

ANSWER: SUET

### Crossword Puzzle



#### ACROSS

- 1. Natural illumination
- 5. White bird
- 7. Determine from evidence
- 8. Dispenses seeds

#### DOWN

- 1. Plant’s units of reproduction
- 2. Cuddly bird
- 3. Push past limits
- 4. Trademark (abbr.)
- 6. Winged animals

Answers:  
 Across  
 1. Sunlight 5. Dove 7. Infer 8. Feeder  
 Down  
 1. Seeds 2. Lovebird 3. Go too far 4. TM 6. Birds

### THIS DAY IN...



### HISTORY

- 1878: INVENTOR THOMAS EDISON PATENTS THE PHONOGRAPH.
- 1942: NEARLY 250 JAPANESE WARPLANES ATTACK THE CITY OF DARWIN, AUSTRALIA.
- 2002: NASA’S MARS ODYSSEY SPACE PROBE BEGINS TO MAP THE SURFACE OF MARS.



### AVIAN

relating to birds

### How they SAY that in...

**ENGLISH:** Nest

**SPANISH:** Nido

**ITALIAN:** Nido

**FRENCH:** Nid

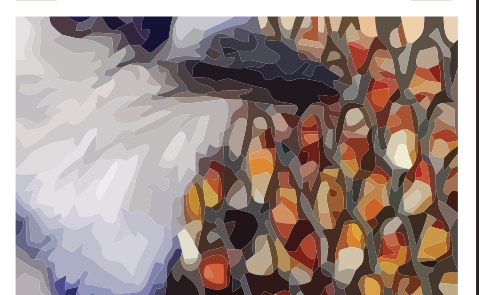
**GERMAN:** Nest



SOME HISTORIANS ASSERT THAT BIRD FEEDING TRACES ITS ORIGINS ALL THE WAY BACK TO A SIXTH CENTURY MONK.



### GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: BIRD AT FEEDER



# BREAKFAST WORD SEARCH

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

## WORDS

- BACON
- BAGELS
- BIALYS
- CEREAL
- COFFEE
- COTTAGE CHEESE
- CREPES
- CROISSANT
- FRENCH TOAST
- GRANOLA
- HAM
- HASHBROWNS
- MUFFINS
- OATMEAL
- OMELET
- PANCAKES
- PARFAIT
- SAUSAGE
- SCRAMBLED
- SMOOTHIE
- TEA
- WAFFLES
- YOGURT

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

## CROSSWORD

### CLUES ACROSS

1. Ancient Persian city
5. Spindles
11. Stake
12. Retrain
16. Close by
17. Commercial
18. One who publicly announces
19. American ballplayer
24. Junior's father
25. Go up or climb
26. Concern
27. When you hope to get there
28. Iacocca and Oswald are two
29. Plant of the lily family
30. Male college organization
31. National capital
33. Raccoonlike animal
34. Symbols of fertility
38. Astronomy unit
39. Series of ridges in anatomy
40. Hebrew leader
43. A portent of good or evil
44. Supreme goddess
45. Gelatinous substance
49. Engage in a contest

### CLUES DOWN

50. Famed ballplayer Ruth
51. Pledge
53. - \_\_, denotes past
54. Revival
56. Spanish surname
58. Gold
59. Elsa's sister
60. Workplace
63. Large quantity of something
64. Engraved
65. Discount
1. Shoe
2. Disquiet
3. Posture
4. Large nests
5. Soviet "Second Symphony" composer
6. Joins two pipes of different diameter
7. Exist
8. Overdose
9. Pleat of fabric
10. Predict the future
13. Burgeoning technology
14. Having made a valid will
15. Having no fixed course
20. \_\_ route
21. Lethal dose
22. Indian musical pattern of notes
23. Athlete
27. Geological times
29. Atomic #21
30. In support of
31. Brew
32. Certificate of insurance
33. Taxi
34. Type of saying
35. For cigars
36. Phil \_\_, former CIA
37. Local area network
38. Gym class
40. Philippine Island
41. Not great or bad
42. Eastern part of NY state
44. Gov't lawyers
45. Constructions
46. Former British gold coin
47. Unkeyed
48. Rechristen
50. Threaten persistently
51. Southeast
52. Cools your home
54. Removes the leaves
55. Regretted
57. Thus
61. Relief organization (abbr.)
62. Exclamation of surprise

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								65			

## WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to getting married.

CRTIEE

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

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

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

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 born in California on February 20, 2003. I started out on television in a series based on the "American Girl" books. I moved on to Disney television, and later released my debut single about driving past a former flame's house.

ANSWER: Kaitlynn Carter

ANSWER: Olivia Rodrigo

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
A	V	I	S	A	G	E	L	E	H	H	T	I	I	D	C	N	O	R	P	N
L	A	T	N	S	A	U	S	A	G	E	L	E	H	H	T	I	I	D	C	N
C	M	T	R	K	W	N	U	C	D	L	U	I	A	P	I	O	R	P	N	
R	C	K	S	E	L	F	F	A	W	M	L	S	S	A	A	P	I	S	R	
C	B	O	W	A	S	Y	L	A	I	B	H	L	F	I	D	W	E	A	L	
F	E	G	T	U	O	E	T	U	U	B	N	R	P	F	O	K	S	E	W	
E	S	R	E	N	M	T	R	H	R	T	A	Y	O	S	A	K	E	A	H	
R	G	T	E	L	A	T	H	O	M	P	L	L	N	C	N	I	I	E	K	
F	W	N	C	A	I	S	W	C	S	Y	S	D	N	O	B	M	S	L	R	
W	A	H	T	U	L	N	S	M	N	N	N	A	F	P	K	E	U	T	W	
D	F	L	R	N	S	S	O	I	I	E	P	K	E	M	E	D	E	I	B	
G	P	F	O	B	H	O	E	F	O	P	R	M	D	H	I	L	E	N	O	
P	D	H	D	N	T	H	F	E	B	R	K	F	C	F	E	O	I	A	R	
N	A	T	R	H	A	U	W	A	F	O	C	E	O	M	A	O	T	N	D	
M	I	U	I	H	M	R	G	R	H	F	G	C	O	G	O	M	M	B	K	
A	Y	E	S	B	S	E	G	F	L	A	O	R	K	T	E	Y	P	F	P	
B	O	B	E	E	L	K	L	R	T	C	F	C	Y	A	O	E	S	N	M	
I	G	A	P	S	Y	I	L	T	W	N	L	B	L	P	E	H	F	Y	I	
F	U	C	E	A	C	O	O	Y	O	S	S	R	K	M	M	H	M	O	E	
Y	R	O	R	R	E	C	F	C	H	K	D	E	L	B	M	A	R	C	S	
O	T	N	C	Y	D	T	H	D	T	O	A	K	B	I	D	O	H	U	C	



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## LOST

LOST PRESCRIPTION SUN GLASSES IN HARD LEATHER CASE!  
 Lost at Senior Center Valentines Prom near the classic cars. If found please return to senior center or to Bonnie at animal shelter. Cash reward!!!

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**DRIFTWOOD**  
 Located at 143 Silver Lake Rd. Sopchoppy FL 32358  
 In the County of Wakulla  
 Intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporation of the Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida.  
 Published on February 22, 2024



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# Read-In was held Sunday at Palaver Tree

**Story & Photos by LINDA ANN McDONALD**

The African American Read-In was held on Sunday, Feb. 18, at the Palaver Tree Theater.

The event wrapped up a weekend long celebration of African American Heritage in Wakulla County. Wakulla County Christian Coalition hosted the event.

Local authors Arria Haigler, Farrah Donaldson, Cynecia Welch and Dr. JoeAnn Burgess offered formal talks sharing personal inspiration and behind the scenes back stories regarding their work.

"I got into writing as a book reader," said Farrah Donaldson, an English and Social Sciences teacher for Wakulla High School. "I have always had an active imagination, so I wanted to put it down on paper. I love my high school students, but I really love the small kids; I wanted to branch off and write for them."

Donaldson is the author of the book "What Will LaRay Do Today?" LaRay is Farrah's middle name.

Arria Haigler, author of "The House on Grape Grove," said, "I am very excited to be here, I have always loved the arts, and I love writing books."

"The House on Grape Grove" is a curated anthology of stories by young, Black women authors – and yes, all of

the authors do happen to be me at various different ages throughout my life. It is 100 percent independent and written by me. My book has jokes about the Jheri curl, jokes about goths, jokes about the impending doom faced by the dying planet, because why cry when you can laugh, right? That's my philosophy, and I guarantee you'll find something to laugh at, either in my Halloween horror stories or the touch-your-heart holiday reads."

"Keep Going" by author Cynecia Welch was inspired by, she shared, "my children and discussions with them of why parents have to go to work; parents need to earn money to afford the activities that you enjoy."

"I am dedicating my book to the time spent in Jackson County, Florida, this is where we did things like canning peaches and doing what real country people do, how we learned the country way of life, the communal care growing up in the country."

Dr. JoeAnn Burgess, retired nurse and Director of Nursing, shared her stories of going to school in the early days alongside the pot-belly stove, walking 6 miles to school and the teacher had to get wood and water and start a fire before school started.

"I need to write this history, we need to share this with our



**Top, authors at the Read-In: Arria Hagler, Dr. JoeAnn Mallory Burgess, Cynecia Welch, Farrah Donaldson. At right, Amaya Smalls picking out free books.**

children, get this history documented."

Two of Dr. Burgess' books were donated to the Library of Congress when recognized by the publishing company for their historic value.

Burgess shared with the audience, "I don't care how tired you are after working two jobs, you must read to the children."

Verna Brock, former Wakulla School Board member and retired librarian, gave a very passionate speech on reading to children, the freedom of speech and literacy. Brock, who has dyslexia and learned to compensate for it at an early age. Brock's mother also said, "My mother is not depending on the



school system to teach me that it is HER job."

Avid reader Da'Sha Rich shared information on Afrofuturism which is taking black struggle and turning

it into a future, that it teaches you the importance of taking history and writing it down.

"It takes a while to become an avid reader, you have to first find

something you love; try audio books, the narratives are great," said Rich.

Kendyl Powell, a 9-year-old reader who attends Hartsfield Elementary in Tallahassee shared his report in school on equal rights and education.

Pastor Damon Rich shared "Part of a social status study for black boys and in order to predict how many prisons to build, they look at the kids not picking up reading by the 3rd and 4th grade." He also said, "My stepfather was very adamant about me being an avid reader."

Robert Manning said, "With a focus on minority kids, there is a misconception once you send the kids to school it is up to them to teach the kids to read. It is up to the parents, what the kids see is what they will become."

Cynecia Welch, "Keep Going" is available at cynecia.com and books by Haigler and Donaldson are available on Amazon.com.

## Black history

**From Front Page**

coach after Franklin slugged a ball deep and rounded third headed home even as he told her to stop. "She had power, she had an arm, but she was not fleet of foot," Manning recounted to the laughter of the crowd. Franklin hurdled the catcher and was called out as a violation of the rules, which prompted Manning to argue the call with the umpire and get tossed.

Other honorees in-

cluded:

- Dr. Carol Broxton, a pharmacist, recalled growing up on Rehwinkel Road with family members nearby. "The blessing of growing up in Wakulla County, surrounded by love."

- Vanessa Allen Dickey is an RN with Enhabit Home Health and Hospice. She is from Sopchoppy.

- Rita Louise Hughes, pharmacist, who was unable to attend.

- NaQuita Jackson Nelson is an assistant professor at Florida

A&M's School of Nursing. She retired from the U.S. Air Force as Chief Nurse Executive after 22 years of service.

- Stephanie Jackson-Sanders is an RN working as a travel nurse. She grew in Wakulla County, raised by her mother the late Rosa Jackson. She is a 1994 graduate of Wakulla High School.




A view of the crowd at the gala at the community center.




Above and below: at Saturday's parade.





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**YOU GOT MAIL**

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

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

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**TAKE A STAND AGAINST LITTER AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

Safety meeting and sign in @ 8am  
Lunch following the event  
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# 4-H project celebrates Senior Prom



Senior Citizens at the Prom.



A 1932 Plymouth PB Roadster, owned by Rick Clevenger, in front of the event's banner.



Four classic cars were parked outside of the Senior center for attendees to take photos with. The Blue, Silver, and Black cars are owned by Rick Clevenger, while the orange Studebaker is owned by Christine Parkinson.



Attendees line up to be served dishes reminiscent of the 1950s by youth in the local 4-H Club.

Story & Photos by LEGION TAYLOR



Attendees line up for free blood pressure tests and gift bags from the Wakulla Health Department.

The local 4-H youth put on a Senior Prom at the Wakulla Senior Center on Wednesday, Feb. 14 – the culmination of five months of hard work. The prom's theme was "Dash into the '50s" and featured decorations, food, and even classic cars from the era.

The Prom was the 4-H's community pride project, a yearly endeavor that challenges members to go above and beyond with their community service. The idea was first developed in September, and has been the club's biggest focus since then. "I thought of my grandparents, and wanted to do something nice for them and the community," said 4-H President Vanessa Elderkin.

Elderkin also says that the biggest challenge the club faced was trying to unify everyone's ideas into a single cohesive vision that could be carried out. "I could see this becoming an annual event," said senior center Director Lara Edwards. "And we haven't even started making milkshakes yet!"



## SPRING WEDDING EXPO AT THE LODGE AT SHERLOCK SPRINGS

Sunday, March 3, 2024 from 1:00 – 4:00 pm

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St. Patrick's Day Festival  
Saturday, March 16, 2024**

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Forms and information on our facebook  
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