



See Page 3

Wrestlers go to state

The Wakulla Sun



Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mostly Sunny	Cloudy	Thunderstorms
Hi: 78° Lo: 57° 99% Sunrise 6:56 AM Sunset 6:41 PM	Hi: 76° Lo: 64° 52% Sunrise 6:55 AM Sunset 6:42 PM	Hi: 74° Lo: 59° 92% Sunrise 6:53 AM Sunset 6:42 PM



\$1
One Section

"It's a New Day"

Locally Owned & Operated

Our 3rd Year 10th Issue
Thursday, March 7, 2024

Food insecurity

The extension office hosted a conference on Friday about feeding the hungry

By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**
Editor

Wakulla County Extension Office hosted a summit on Friday, March 1 on food insecurity in Wakulla.

Featured speaker was Libby Simmons, director of development for Second Harvest of the Big Bend, which covers 16 counties, including Wakulla.

Simmons shared statistics on Wakulla, noting as of 2021, there was a 7% poverty rate in Wakulla, below the state average of 12%. The rate for the Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) for Wakulla was 30%, the state average is around 33%. The ALICE figures basically represents the working poor – who earn pay above the poverty line but still face issues



Libby Simmons, director of development for Second Harvest of the Big Bend, talks to attendees about poverty and food insecurity in Wakulla County.

with costs for housing, child care, food, transportation, health care and other things.

As of 2021, Wakulla's population was 33,144 with 11,266 households

with a median household income of \$72,941. (The state average household income is \$63,062.)

Among those attending the event were several volunteers who over-

see numerous local food drives who shared their concerns about local food insecurity – including that the working poor often are unable to

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School bus wreck on Wednesday; no injuries reported

By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**
Editor

A Wakulla County school bus was involved in a crash Wednesday morning around 8:15 a.m. There were 16 students on the bus at the time, but no injuries were reported.

Pat Jones, the school district's director of transportation, said the bus was turning off Crawfordville Highway onto Taff Drive, where Myra Jean's and Amazing Mail are located, and hit an SUV at the intersection.

The bus driver was charged in the accident, according to Jones.

Jones said it was a blessing that no one was hurt. "We can fix buses, but we can't fix people," Jones said.

Wakulla teen killed in motorcycle crash in Leon County

Staff Report

An 18-year-old Crawfordville teenager was killed in a vehicle crash on Monday, Feb. 26 around 8 p.m., according to the Florida Highway Patrol.

The teen was riding a motorcycle southbound on U.S. Highway 319 in Leon County around 8 p.m. For reasons unknown, the motorcycle collided with the back of a pickup truck between the intersections of L.L. Wallace Road and Oak Ridge Road.

The teen was wearing a helmet. He was pronounced dead on scene, according to FHP.

The 62-year-old driver of the truck suffered serious injuries and was transported to the hospital by Emergency Medical Services.

In addition to EMS, FHP was assisted at the scene by Leon County Sheriff's Office and Tallahassee Fire Department.

BATTLE OF NATURAL BRIDGE



A big crowd was on hand Saturday for the annual reenactment of the Battle of Natural Bridge, where Confederate forces repelled Union troops in 1865 as they

tried to cross the St. Marks River at Natural Bridge, keeping Tallahassee the only uncaptured capital east of the Mississippi. (Photo by Gerald Brown)

Wakulla Wonderful is Saturday

Staff Report

The annual celebration of the founding of Wakulla County – Wakulla Wonderful – is Saturday, March 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the courthouse square. There will be vendors, music and food trucks.

At 10 a.m., 4-H youth will read Wakulla Wonderful proclamation. At noon, there will be birthday cake.

CANDIDATE ANNOUNCEMENT

Ralph Thomas seeks re-election to commission

By **RALPH THOMAS**
Candidate

Wakulla County Commissioner Ralph Thomas has officially filed for re-election, pledging to continue his dedicated service to the community. With a proven track record of achievements since November 2012, Commissioner Thomas is committed to continue building a prosperous future for Wakulla County.

Commissioner Ralph Thomas is a committed public servant, focusing on the needs and safety of the residents of Wakulla County. Since taking office in November 2012, he has tirelessly worked to enhance the quality of life in the county through various initiatives and

accomplishments. Some of his notable achievements include:

1. Protected Groundwater and Natural Resources: Commissioner Thomas has prioritized the protection of Wakulla County's groundwater and natural resources. The County successfully achieved Advanced Wastewater Treatment standards on the County's Wastewater Treatment Plant, a feat unmatched in Florida's rural counties. By eliminating hundreds of septic tanks and connecting them to the county wastewater treatment plant, these efforts ensure the safe disposal of wastewater and greatly reduces the nitrogen that enters the aquifer. He was part of the



Ralph Thomas

purchase of a previously private County Golf Course and integrated it into a state-of-the-art Aquifer Recharge Facility,

further enhancing the county's ability to dispose of clean treated wastewater. He is committed to continue

The Wakulla Sun offers all candidates the opportunity to announce for elected office, to tell voters why they're running, the issues that are important to them, and any pertinent biographical information.

eliminating septic tanks and connecting private homes to public sewer, where feasible.

2. Enhanced Public Safety: Commissioner Thomas understands the importance of public safety in ensuring the well-being of the community. In 2017, his efforts in the Florida Legislature helped secure a Legislative Appropriation to build a fully equipped and functional Fire and EMS Facility, providing the necessary resources for first responders to effectively

respond to emergencies. This includes new fire trucks and ambulances, ensuring the safety and well-being of the residents of Wakulla County.

3. Federal and State Advocacy: His advocacy with the County Lobbyists and Congressman Dunn, Representative Shoaf and Senator Simon secured \$3 million in Federal funding and \$3.24 million in State funding for the construction of a new Emergency Operations

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Student of the Week

Marleigh Manges – Kindergartner at Medart Elementary

Principal: Stan Ward

Achievements/Reason for Nomination:
Marleigh is a great student! She does her best in every aspect of school. She's a good friend to everyone and is such a wonderful role model. Marleigh is such a joy to have in class, she always has a smile on her face and gives the sweetest hugs. Keep working hard, Marleigh, you have a bright future ahead of you!




STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.

Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park

Walter's Viburnum

By LYNN ARTZ, DAVID RODDENBERRY, and SANDY TEDDER



Walter's viburnum (*Viburnum obovatum*) is an evergreen shrub with showy clusters of tiny, white flowers in late winter that offer early food for bees. Small red fruit turn black when mature and attract birds and other wild-life. The dense foliage provides shelter and nesting habitat. Small dark green leaves feed spring azure butterfly caterpillars. This lovely native grows 10-20' tall and nearly as wide in full-to-part sun in moist-to-dry soil. It often has multiple trunks and sends up suckers to form a thicket. Walter's viburnum makes an excellent border/screening plant. Named varieties (cultivars) are available but the true native is preferred for genetic diversity and benefit to pollinators. Walter's viburnum are among the evergreen borders at Sopchoppy Depot Park. Those in the northern gardens were thinned recently for park visibility.



SCAN ME for an electronic edition of *The Wakulla Sun*

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Lisa Craze, CFC
Wakulla County Tax Collector

FLORIDA STATE PARKS SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATE RELEASED: OCTOBER 2021



The revenue collected annually from the sale of the Florida State Parks specialty license plate will be distributed to the Florida State Parks Foundation, a Florida nonprofit, for their efforts to preserve, protect, sustain, and grow Florida state parks.

Floridians interested in purchasing one of the many specialty license plates offered in Florida are encouraged to visit their local tax collector or license plate agency. A complete list of Florida's specialty license plates can be found on the department's website.

Wakulla wrestlers compete at state championship

By **WALT JACOBS**
Special to The Sun

Everyone hopes for a storybook ending. In fantasies, the villain is always defeated, wrongs are righted, dreams are fulfilled, the hero gets the girl, then rides off into the sunset to live happily ever after.

Wakulla Coach Will Pafford and his posse of coaches and wrestlers rode into the Silver Spurs arena in Kissimmee with a steely gaze and firm resolve, determined to apprehend the elusive prize that they have been doggedly pursuing for months. Pafford was followed by a cavalcade of family and friends to cheer on the War Eagles in their pursuit of championship glory.

Matthew Thaxton was up first for Wakulla, where he faced off with Somerset's Jake Austin. Austin, the eventual champion at 113, won by technical fall 16-0.

Next, 126 pounder Troy Thaxton lost 7-5 in a close match with Nevan Hayes of Zephyrhills Christian.

At 138, Brady Jackson seized what would be the only Wakulla win in round one with a come from behind 12-9 decision over Jacob Reber of McKeel Academy. Jackson and Reber went back and forth until Jackson finally

took the lead for good with 59 seconds left in the match.

Aaron Robinson, like Thaxton, was faced with an exceedingly difficult first round matchup and lost by pinfall to top ranked Michael Kersey, the eventual champion at 144.

At 150, Nate Jacobs lost a close decision 4-2 to Bryan Picallo, one of several highly touted wrestlers from Cardinal Gibbons. Auston Ryals lost by pinfall to Hernando's Shaw Garrett.

Subsequently, Kohl Pippin lost to Russell Fickett of Mount Dora by pin at 215 and Adleigh Caquimbo fell to Hudson's Gavyn Uribes at 285.

In the quarter finals and round 1 of the consolations, the War Eagles again recorded only one win, which eliminated all but two Wakulla wrestlers from the tournament.

The sole win belonged to Aaron Robinson whose 48 second pin over Zackery Wells of Avon Park advanced him to the next round.

Although, sophomore Brady Jackson's loss by pinfall in the quarterfinals to 7th grade wrestling prodigy and eventual champion Asher Bacon of First Baptist Naples would send him to the consolation side of the bracket, he too would remain in medal contention.

In round 2 of the



Wakulla's Brady Jackson has his hand raised in victory. He would finish in 6th place for 138 pounds.

consolations, Jackson secured a spot on the podium with a 3-1 decision over Jefferson Sr.'s Marco Gandy.

Later, Weeki Wachee's Ricky Bowermaster won 6-2 over Robinson, consequently eliminating him from competition.

From there, Jackson would be the last man standing for the War Eagles. In Round 3, Jackson notched another win against familiar district opponent Liberty County's

Hunter Brown. The 13-0 major over Brown advanced him to the consolation semifinals, where he would face Malikai Badillo of Mater Lakes Academy. Badillo won by major decision 9-0.

The loss placed Jackson in a match to contend for 5th place versus 3rd ranked Dominic Fouché of Clearwater Central Catholic. It would be Jackson's last match of the tournament and Pafford's last match as Wakulla's

head coach.

Fouché pinned Jackson at the two-minute mark, but Brady's performance throughout the tournament was enough to proudly take 6th place at 138 lbs.

When the match concluded, Pafford, with a contemplative expression on his face, remained seated for as long as he could. It was only 12 seconds, but it seemed much longer.

No doubt, a million memories inundated his thoughts as he sat

in the War Eagles corner for the last time. Teary eyed, Pafford exited the arena doors, he was met in the lobby by family and friends who embraced him, one by one, and expressed their support and gratitude.

The next day, Coach Pafford commented, "The boys competed hard this weekend. Brady coming from behind to win his match to become a state placer was an amazing moment."

"The team should be very proud of everything they have accomplished this year," the coach said. "It has been an honor leading this team the last 13 years. Thank you to every current/former wrestler and parent. Other than that, all I know is I love Wakulla High School and War Eagle wrestling."

In a perfect wrestling story, the team would win every dual and every tournament, every wrestler would qualify for state and win, and the beloved head coach would end his career with a championship.

In wrestling, as in life, you rarely get everything you want, but at least in this story Pafford gets the girl and a beautiful family to live happily ever after with and that is more than enough.

KWCB, U.S. Forest Service hold forest cleanup

By **TAMMIE NASON**
Of KWCB

In a remarkable display of community spirit, 94 volunteers and local leaders collaborated with Keep Wakulla County Beautiful and the U.S. Forest Service to clean up the Apalachicola National Forest on Saturday, March 2. The annual event, supported by the U.S. Forestry Service, marked the kickoff for Keep America Beautiful's Great American Cleanup.

Identifying 40 sites with excessive litter or illegal dumping, the volunteers collected two dumpsters full of debris, ranging from tires and furniture to appliances and more. The Leaders Against Litter initiative, involving community leaders like Commissioner Mike Kemp, Commissioner Chuck Hess, KWCB Board member and Supervisor of Elections Joe Morgan, Property Appraiser Ed Brimmer, County Admin-



KWCB volunteers cleaning up trash in the Apalachicola National Forest on Saturday.

istrator David Edwards, and Sopchoppy Mayor Lara Edwards, aimed to raise awareness about Florida's litter problem, emphasizing civic responsibility.

Tammie Nason, the Executive Director of KWCB, highlighted the significance of the initiative: "Keeping Florida beautiful is a civic responsibility that rests equally on all our shoulders," she stated.

The cleanup effort contributes to Keep America Beautiful's Greater Amer-

ican Cleanup Pledge, striving to reduce litter by 25% across 25,000 communities by July 4, 2026, the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The focus is on grassroots community service projects engaging volunteers, businesses, and civic leaders.

The Apalachicola National Forest, spanning 573,521 acres, hosts diverse wildlife, including Florida black bears, eagles, and endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers. The cleanup aims

to protect this fragile environment from the direct and indirect consequences of litter.

Litter poses risks to both wildlife and the ecosystem, with toxins affecting soil and water, injuries to wildlife, and increased fire hazards. The community's vigilance is encouraged, with

a request to report any litter sites or dumping to the Wakulla Ranger District.

The success of the cleanup is attributed to the support of Wakulla County, WastePro's donation of dumpsters, and the dedication of volunteers.

"We are so fortunate to have the beauty of

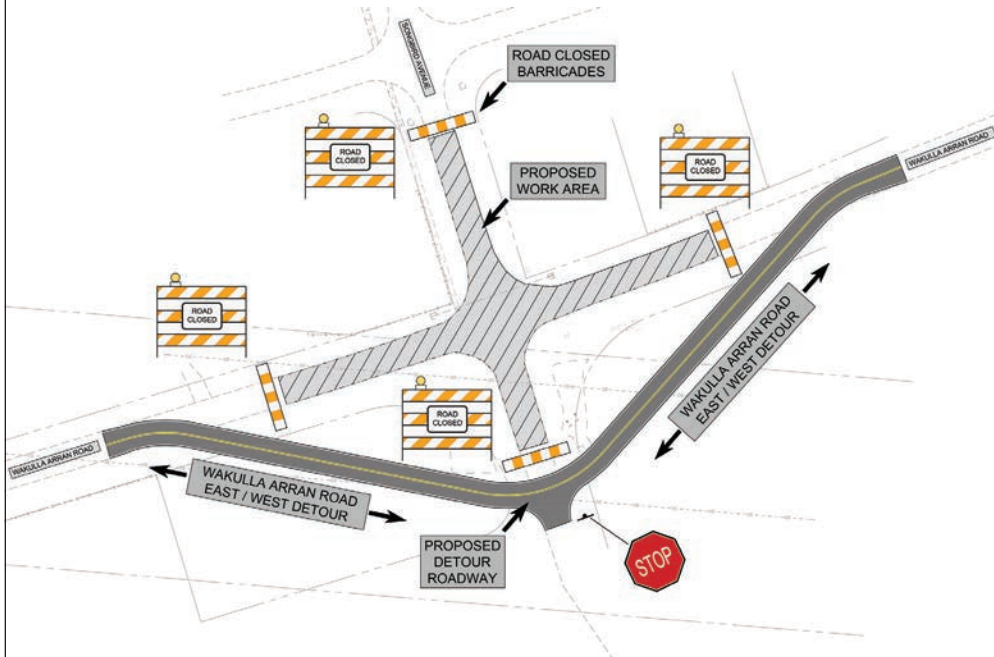
the forest and its wildlife right here and accessible to us," said Nason. "It is such a shame that not everyone respects our fragile environment." The call to action remains for everyone to play their part in preserving the natural treasures that surround us.

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.



TRAFFIC ADVISORY Upcoming Intersection Closure - Songbird Avenue and Wakulla Arran Road Intersection



This is a preliminary notice regarding the proposed closure of the intersection of Songbird Avenue and Wakulla Arran Road. This intersection will be closed for the construction of a roadway. Please see the map below for the proposed construction project. At this time, the road will remain open until construction starts. The anticipated start date for this project is **March 14, 2024**. This project is expected to be fully completed 120 calendar days from the project commencement date. This notice will be notified of any changes to the tentative schedule.

Residents of the Songbird Avenue area are encouraged to attend this public meeting regarding the project on **Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.** at the Wakulla County Community Center, Crawfordville Road, 318 Shadyville Road

March 7, 2024

Classes of '68, '69 plan photo

Staff Report

All alumnus of Wakulla High School's original classes of 1968 and '69 are invited to take part in a photo at the school on March 22 at 4 p.m.

With plans underway to demolish and renovate the old part of the school in the coming year, the classes of '68 and '69 want to memorialize their connection to the school. The original Wakulla High

School was built in 1967 to facilitate integration. The old part of the school is the front – the office, gym and old cafeteria.

For the photo, which is being taken during spring break when no students are on campus, it is expected that some of the faculty members from the era will be on hand – including J. Harold Thurmond, Judy Myhre and retired superintendent William Payne. For questions, contact David Miller, 850-567-5405.

Food insecure From Front Page

attend the typical food distribution, which are often held on weekdays during working hours and have people lining up hours in advance.

Extension Director Samantha Kennedy had attendees break out into focus groups to discuss different scenarios related to food insecurity.

The biggest takeaway was the group wants to meet again for further discussion on the issue.

It was also noted that the Wakulla County Health Department is developing an Amazon-style locker system on its campus that, working with Second Harvest of the Big Bend, would be able to provide 24/7 food distribution.

The locker is expected to be open on May 31.

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.”

Program set on history of wildlife conservation law enforcement

Special to The Sun

Local author J. Kent Thompson will be speaking at the Wakulla County Historical Society meeting on Tuesday, March 12, 4:30 PM at the Wakulla County Public Library, 4330 Crawfordville Hwy. This program was originally scheduled for January, but was rescheduled due to a severe weather warning. His topic will be the History of Florida Fisheries and Conservation Law Enforcement. An emphasis will be the early 1900s and the passage of fishery laws leading to the creation of agencies to enforce them.

Thompson is a graduate of Florida State University with a B.A. in History. After a 37-year career with the Florida Marine Patrol and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commis-



J. Kent Thompson

sion he began to write about his experiences protecting the state's natural resources. His books focus on North Florida and its rich history.

He has written about Florida's fishing history, the "Forgotten Coast" of North Florida, local Tallahassee history and the surrounding areas. He has a seven book fictional series called "Marine Patrol Tales" relating the experiences of a North Florida maritime law en-

forcement officer. He has also written a seafood cookbook that includes some of the best recipes an aspiring seafood cook could find. A barbecue pit master, he recently chronicled his journey around the South on an 11 state, 10,000-mile bucket list trip to all the old barbecue pits that still cook food low and slow over wood fires. His books are available from his publisher at Lulu.com, the Wakulla County Historical Society Museum Gift Shop, and various businesses around the coast. They are available online from Amazon or Barnes and Nobles. Signed copies of his books will be available after his presentation.

For more information, please call 850-926-1110, or visit the Historical Society at 24 High Drive, Crawfordville.

Historical society to hold yard sale

Editor, The Sun:

Interested historical society members who have lightly used articles of reusable value to sell, are requested to contact us regarding donation for our Wakulla Wonderful Benefit Yard Sale on Saturday, March 9, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Old Jail Museum. All items will be considered an

unconditional donation to the museum and will not be returned to the owner.

All items should be brought to the museum on Thursday, March 7th so we may evaluate items. We will not accept furniture or heavy items.

Debbie Jay

Wakulla County Historical Society

LETTERS FROM READERS

Wakulla Christian PTO thanks sponsors

Editor, The Sun:

The PTO of Wakulla Christian School's would like to thank the sponsors of its Denim & Diamonds Gala held last week. The event raised more than \$11,000.

Visionary sponsors: Wakulla Realty, Josh & Brittany Gray, Logan Roofing, Keith Key Heating & Air, Harbor Point Vacation Rentals, Trulight Consulting, and Lawhon Frams.

Crusader: Mad Money Drywall, Frick Family, and Rachel Wheeler.

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Friend: Jenny & Marcos Ferrero, Jowers Auto Service, Corathers Construction LLC.

Thank you for your support.

Wakulla Christian PTO

Monkey-breeding facility poses threat

Editor, The Sun:

I am writing regarding the proposed macaque-breeding facility in my hometown of Bainbridge Georgia. "Project Liberty" causes concerns because the daily volume of bio-hazardous wastes that would be generated is enormous from over 30,000 animals. We are worried about the possible chemical and biological impacts to the health of our region's citizens, and to our air, groundwater (aka the huge S.W. GA/N. FL underground aquifer), the Flint River, soil, livestock and farming operations. The Flint flows to Lake Seminole on into the Apalachicola River then the Gulf. We are worried about interspecies virus transfers to human populations. You already know this area is

a hurricane- and tornado-prone area that would seriously challenge the company's ability to safely confine 30,000 such animals during storm events. Thus, there is a great risk of having an invasive species not just in Decatur County but in all of this area. Yes, your backyard! Central Florida is already experiencing this. I ask that you help in the fight by contacting your local, state, and U.S. government officials, join the Facebook community forum, "No Monkey Breeding Bainbridge, GA!", and visit STANDUPBAINBRIDGEGA.COM

By the way, my mother still lives in Bainbridge. My sister and her sons and grandchildren still live there.

Gary Sullivan
Dahlonega, Ga.

Something on your mind?

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

On the Horizon

Calendar of events for the week of March 7

Thursday, March 7

- A public information meeting on the Songbird intersection improvements will be held at the Wakulla Community Center starting at 6:30 p.m.
- The first Windows 10 training class will be held at the Wakulla County Public Library from 9:30 a.m. to noon.
- 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, March 8

- The Walk Across Wakulla Last Mile event will be held at Hudson Park at 5:30 p.m. as a part of the Wakulla Wonderful celebration that will be held Saturday. There will be food trucks, live music, and a one mile walk that evening.
- Palaver Tree Theater hosts Womanly Genius, featuring music and art celebrating National Women's Day, at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 online or \$15 at the door.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and 8 p.m. every Friday at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

Saturday, March 9

- Wakulla Wonderful, a celebration of Wakulla's 181st birthday, will be held at the Wakulla County Courthouse from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be vendors, music, and food trucks.
- 6th annual memorial poker run for Jubel, a fundraiser for Big Bend Hospice, starts at Dux at 11:30 a.m.

- The Sopchoppy community market will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Depot Park.
- Wakulla Giving Hands is holding a farm share/food giveaway at Woodville First Baptist Church at 9500 Woodville Highway.
- 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, March 11

- The Wakulla County School Board meets in the school administration building at 5:45 p.m.
- The Wakulla County Planning Commission meets in the commission meeting room at 6 p.m.
- The Sopchoppy City Commission meets at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.
- Crawfordville Woman's Club monthly meeting is the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at 64 Ochlockonee St., in Crawfordville. Call (850)566-5727 for more information.
- 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, March 12

- A second harvest nutrition class will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Wakulla Senior Center, with fresh veggies to take home.
- 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, March 13

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

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

By donating, you help us keep citizens informed, hold officials accountable and cover the most important topics in our community.

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- More local content on the environment and local businesses

A little bit goes a long way. With your help, we can keep the presses running through hard times.

We would very much appreciate your contribution.

William Snowden
Editor & Publisher
The Wakulla Sun

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We accept donations by card or check. If by check, payment must be made to the Florida Press Foundation and write in the check memo line that you want the donation to go to The Wakulla Sun.

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

"It's A New Day!"

The Wakulla Sun

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◀ Question of The Week ▶

– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

Polled at the Quick Stop, Crawfordville: March 8th is International Women's Day. Who is a woman you admire and why?



ROSEMARY FOSTER
Retired

“Loretta Lynn. My hat goes off to her, she’s a legacy.”



CAROLINE EICHMILLER
Nurse

“My mom, Vicki Eichmiller. She’s strong and beautiful and has instilled her strengths in me. She is my role model.”



BARRY RICKS
Retired Veteran

“Condoleezza Rice. She is intelligent and very professional, she exemplifies the strengths and integrity one should have when in power. And of course my mom.”



SH MARTINA
Supervisor, Conoco Phillips

“Harriet Tubman, she was a courageous leader.”



CAROLYN WEBSTER
Retired

“Maya Angelou, she had a lot of spiritual knowledge.”

Buckhorn News

By **ETHEL SKIPPER**

Walk in fellowship with God. Christians are called to fellowship with God and other believers.

If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his son cleanseth us from all sin.

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (John 1:9)

As believers in Christ, we should make time to live our lives honestly to make sure we are walking in the light.

The Bible which is the word is the mirror into which we should look and as we do we must be sure that we are pressing toward complete conformity to the examples established for us by God and Jesus Christ.

Being a Christian means following

Jesus Christ’s example daily. Our lives can be faithful reflections of his truth and righteousness.

We might ask ourselves how do we do this? or how can we live a life dedicated to him?

We need to confess and acknowledge that doing it ourselves is impossible without the presence of the Lord daily in our lives to keep us from falling into temptation.

We also need to trust that God’s love for us is so great that He has provided everything we need.

As believers in Christ, we are redeemed from sin and sinning, so we

can shine the light of God’s love to others who need to know Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Happy birthday to Joey Rosier, March 2; Bobbery Rosier, March 5; Alberta Hines, March 24; Drake Green Jr., March 26.

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.

Wakulla Station News

By **VERNA BROCK**

It looks like spring has arrived early, but beware! We old-timers know she can be fickle, and usually gives winter an extra swipe at us just before Easter. But the woods and fields all around us are sporting beautiful colors, filling out with translucent green leaves and delicate blooms.

My winter blooms are fading, but I don’t think I have EVER seen Lorop-

etalum more glorious than this year. Everywhere I go, the fringey fuchsia shrubs are practically screaming, “Look at me!” Yellow Jessamyn is strung all through the branches of roadside trees and bushes, and red-buds are doing their thing. Be sure to take a drive around the countryside and see the Lord’s canvas before we’re deep into Summer’s swelter and the blossoms are gone.

This coming Saturday is Wakul-

la Wonderful, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and vendors will be out all along High Drive, in front of the Wakulla County Chamber of Commerce and behind the Courthouse. Be sure to check it out!

As I write this, we’re just 12 days out from the Woodville Founders day Festival. As always, it will be at the Woodville Recreation Park, on Saturday, March 16th, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Over 40 vendors have signed up to participate, and the entertainment is off the chain! Theater With A Mission will be there, Union and Con-

federate reenactors, Ernest and Sarah Toole, blacksmith Mike “Murph” Murphy, a heritage Galicenos heritage breed horse, a half-scale model of a Confederate submarine, native drummers and dancers, and much more!

Please continue to pray for Clem Bunker, who is recovering from a broken ankle and femur. Also in need of prayer is Ms. Norma Woodcock, Thelma Watts, the young family of Cassie Reese whose husband passed away unexpectedly, Pam Adam’s grandson John Peter, and Deborah Giles as she undergoes treatment for cancer.

Sheriff’s Report

This report is for activities Feb. 23rd to 29th:

FRIDAY, FEB. 23

• Deputy Heather Will met with Diane Hamilton, who explained she met with an independent contractor who came to her house to look at her AC unit. The contractor advised the AC unit needs to be repaired. Hamilton paid the contractor \$2,300 in cash for labor and parts. The contractor provided her with the receipt for the payment. She has tried multiple times to set up an appointment with them to complete the maintenance for her air conditioning unit. Anytime he responds to her he always has an excuse. Hamilton has asked him to return the money in which he has not done. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

SATURDAY, FEB. 24

• Deputy Anthony Paul went to Lynn Circle in reference to a trespass. Investigation revealed Joshua Dowden was trespassing after warning. Additionally, upon contact, Dowden was also found in possession of methamphetamine and parapherna-

lia. He was arrested for trespass after warning, possession of methamphetamine, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

• Lt. David Pienta arrested Nathaniel Bailey for DUI after a work truck Bailey was driving was observed driving recklessly. Bailey failed field sobriety exercises. Nathaniel Bailey was arrested for DUI and transported to the Wakulla County Jail.

• Charles Weston was cooking chicken when he noticed a lot of smoke coming from the kitchen. Weston removed a pot from the home and cut off the main breaker. There was no actual fire just minor smoke damage to the ceiling and microwave. Deputy Dakota Haddock investigated.

SUNDAY, FEB. 25

• Deputy Don Newsome responded to the sheriff’s office and made contact with Alisa Johnson, who stated she was contacted via text by who she thought was a friend with a proposition to invest in bitcoin. She invested and before she would get a return on her investment, she had to continue sending money. Johnson then realized she was being

scammed. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

• Sgt. Eddie Webb made contact with several individuals in the front lobby of the sheriff’s office. Contact was made with Ryan Connell and his mother, Melissa Connell, who were in a verbal altercation. Ryan began yelling at Melissa hindering Sgt. Webb’s investigation. Ryan was given multiple commands to calm down. Ryan became irate and took an aggressive posture towards Sgt. Webb. Ryan made the statement: “I will beat your a--” and “I will kill you.” Due to Ryan’s posture and statement, Sgt. Webb attempted to place Ryan in handcuffs. Ryan began actively resisting and was escorted to the ground to gain compliance. Ryan was eventually secured in handcuffs without further incident.

MONDAY, FEB. 26

• Deputies responded to 49 Liberty Road in reference to a possible structure fire. Prior to arrival Wakulla Fire Rescue arrived on scene and extinguished the fire. The fire appeared to have started in the kitchen as a grease fire. Damage to the home

was estimated between \$10,000 to \$15,000.

• Deputy Kory Smith responded to the front lobby of the sheriff’s office in reference to a walk-in complaint. The deputy made contact with Paul Zarza, who advised he had spoken with someone who was representing themselves as an employee at Enterprise Car Rental. Zarza said he sent them over \$500 worth of gift cards to rent a vehicle. Zarza said the money was never applied to his account. This case has been forwarded to detectives for further investigation.

TUESDAY, FEB. 27

• Lt. Brent Sanders responded to the front lobby in reference to a walk-in complaint of animal cruelty. Contact was made with Brittany Smith who said her horse was shot multiple times with a pellet gun. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 28

• Leroy Schoonover reported someone attempted to break into his shed. Schoonover was able to provide a possible suspect in this case. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Dakota Haddock investigated.

• Deputy Don Newsome responded to Bob Miller Road in reference to Chris Pandolfi observing two people on his property via his surveillance cameras, which has numerous “No trespassing” signs posted. It was determined Alexander Freeman and Jessica Sorenson were still on the property and had removed a chain from across the road to enter the property. The chain was bearing a “No trespassing” sign. Both subjects admitted they knew they were not supposed to be on the property. Freeman and Sorenson were placed under arrest and transported to the Wakulla

County Jail.

THURSDAY, FEB. 29

• Nicole Snyder reported fraudulent activity on her bank account. Snyder discovered she had three unauthorized checks pending totaling almost \$6,000. However, the bank was able to freeze the account and Synder is not currently out of any funds. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Edwin Grove investigated.

Please report suspicious or illegal activity at 850-745-7100, or call 911 for emergencies.

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YOUR NEWSPAPER

PEOPLE SERVING PEOPLE

Outdoors

outdoor sports

HOME ON THE RANGE

Learning from friends



By MARJ LAW

Joe and I are generally at the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office range on Wednesdays around 10 in the morning. When it becomes Florida hot and muggy, we'll show up closer to 9:30. We stick to this time because our friends and new shooters know to meet us then.

It's more fun to shoot with friends. We share information about handguns and we often share each other's guns as well. This is a fun learning experience. I like to see different features on different guns. Usually, friends offer their guns for us to shoot.

Our friend, Greg, brings a Bursa Thunder this particular Wednesday. His Bursa is a compact 9mm handgun.

"What made you interested in this Bursa?" I ask, having shot a Bursa sometime in the very distant past.

"I like its features," he states.

"And what are they?" I ask.

"I like that when you throw the safety," and he shows me a manual safety, "the hammer drops down and is prevented from firing. Throwing the safety de-cocks the hammer." He demonstrates by moving the safety lever and I watch the hammer drop.

"What else do you like?" I wonder.

"I like the load indicator on the top of the

slide.

When you pick it up from a drawer (or anywhere), you can slide your finger over the top of the gun and you'll find out instantly whether or not it is loaded. A lot of people keep their handguns next to them in a nightstand. Is the gun loaded? With a quick swipe over the slide, you'll know right away."

The next gun Greg lets me shoot is his compact Kimber Ultra Crimson Carry .45. It has a 3-inch bull barrel. When it's a "bull barrel," it's a super thick heavy barrel. This can reduce vibration, and improve accuracy and reduce muzzle rise.

But still, it's a short-barreled .45. I bet it's going to kick hard, hard, hard.

"I don't find the recoil difficult," Greg explains. "It feels about the same as my compact 9mm Bursa."

I look at Greg. He's a tall man with big bones. He doesn't find the recoil to be any more difficult to manage than he does his Bursa, but I have my doubts. In my experience, those short-barreled .45s pack a wallop.

"Would you like to shoot it?" he asks.

"Sure!"

He grabs a magazine and starts loading it for me. After about four rounds, it's taking a lot of strength, even for him, to push in those last few rounds.

"Would you like to try my UpLula?" I ask.

"I've never used one," he says but he's game to try.

"Place the UpLula over the magazine. Now, squeeze the UpLula and, still squeezing, push it down over the magazine. Plop a round onto the ramp. Now, unsqueeze the UpLula and the round will remain in the magazine. Bring it up over the mag, and then you do it all over

again until the magazine is full."

He plops in a round, and then another. There's a big smile on his face.

"I need to get one of these!" he says excitedly as he finishes loading.

"You can get one for your single-stack magazines, and another for your double-stack mags," I suggest. "They're about \$50, more or less, but they are well worth it."

Now he hands me his Kimber. I realize a lot of guys practically genuflect when they hear the name Kimber, but I'm more concerned about caliber and size than the name.

Planting my feet, gripping hard, and letting my breath out, I shoot.

Blam!

Egad. Ow. Ow.

He grins down. "Go ahead! Shoot some more!"

Is there any choice? Shooting once and then once again, I put the gun down.

"How did you like it?" he asks. "Would you like

to finish the magazine? Isn't it about the same as shooting the 9mm Bursa?"

Looking up at him, I say: "Maybe for you, with your big bones. For me, it's got a heck of a kick!"

Turning away from him, I shake out my aching shooting wrist. Turning back, I say: "You were interested in .380 carry guns. We brought three here for you to try: the Sig Sauer P238, the Smith & Wesson Shield .380 EZ, and the Ruger Security .380. Let's see which one you like the best."

Since Greg had expressed wanting a very small .380, the first one we give him to try is the micro compact Sig Sauer P238. Since he has large hands, we put a magazine in that allows for extra pinky room, so he'll have no "pinky dangle." It holds eight rounds: the same as the flush-mount magazine.

He aims.

Blam! He turns and looks at us.

"Not bad. It's really



Ruger Security 380 Compact



Smith & Wesson 380 Shield EZ Compact



Sig Sauer P238 Micro Compact

small, and I still hit the target!"

Next, we hand him the Ruger Security .380. It's not as small as the Sig. At about an inch longer than the Sig, it's a compact instead of a micro-compact gun.

This handgun came with both the 10 and the 15-round magazines. We put in the 15 round mag because it gives him a bit more grip room.

He hits the target a few more times.

"That's good," he comments.

Last, Greg shoots the Smith & Wesson .380 Shield EZ.

Right off the bat, he likes loading the EZ, because it loads like many .22 handguns. You pull down a button on the magazine and plop in the rounds. It's much easier than pushing your thumbs against the magazine spring; where each round requires more strength as the spring compresses more and more.

He aims and shoots.

Blam!

"I don't see anything.

Where'd he hit the target?" I ask Joe.

"Marj, Greg knocked out the X-ring!"

I look again. Sure enough, there's no X-ring left. And that was his very first shot with the EZ!

Greg has a big smile on his face.

"Which of the three .380 handguns do you like the best?" I ask, guessing the response.

He shoots them all well, but he does shoot the Smith & Wesson Shield EZ the best. That does it for him.

"I like the way it loads, and I sure like the way it shoots," he says.

"So, if the Great Gun Fairy were to drop down and say that she will give you one of these three handguns, which will it be?" I ask.

"No question. I'll take the Smith & Wesson EZ. But first, I'm going to get a couple UpLulas!"

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

BIRDING AT THE REFUGE

March birding at the refuge

By DON MORROW

I had been away on a Texas birding trip and went down to St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge to check on things. A lot has happened in my absence. The water levels at the Double Bridges, pushed to historic highs by the heavy winter rains, have finally dropped. Viburnum is in full bloom there and yellow catkins hang from the recently bare branches of the oaks. Red maples, scattered among the oaks, sport their bright scarlet winged seeds. Dewberry and spiderwort are in flower along the edge of the road.

We are three weeks away from the Vernal Equinox, but spring is already underway at the refuge.

The cusp of Spring is a transitional time. Seasons are never completely distinct down here

along the Gulf coast. Bald Eagles are feeding young and Ospreys are carrying nesting material.

In early March there is a noticeable lull in the pace of life. Bird diversity and numbers at the refuge are down as our resident winter birds leave before returning spring migrants begin coming through. There are still a few stray phoebes, House Wrens and Hermit Thrushes on the refuge and ducks, never plentiful this winter, are dwindling rapidly. However, the winter season is winding down.

March brings renewed life. Blue flag iris and rain lilies will appear and white waterlilies will begin to open on the refuge's interior ponds. This is the month for leaf out, when we see how many different shades of green there are in the world. As the weather warms,

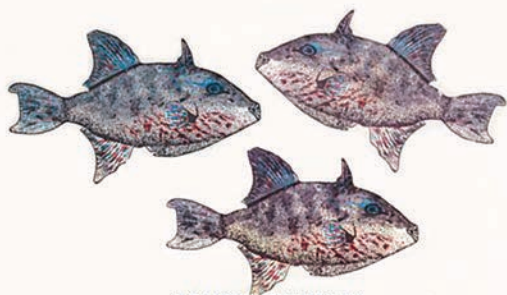
dragonfly nymphs will metamorphose into darners, pennants and pondhawks. The butterfly year will begin as skippers, satyrs, sulphurs, and swallowtails emerge from their cocoons. Late in the month the early morning skies will be filled with loons heading for the Great Lakes and Canada.

We will see the first waves of returning and transiting migrants. Around 2 million birds will migrate through the refuge in March, mostly in the last two weeks of the month. The refuge's shorebird population will begin its seasonal drop as wintering Dunlin head North. As shorebird numbers slowly decrease the mix of shorebirds will shift as South American migrants like Pectoral and Stilt Sandpipers stop in at the refuge to feed before continuing to the arctic coast.

The nights will be filled with the piercing calls of newly-returned Chuck-wills-widows. In the hammocks along the Double Bridges, Yellow-throated and Red-eyed Vireos will call from the treetops, Louisiana Waterthrush and Hooded Warbler will hunt along the surface and, in between, Northern Parulas and Summer Tanagers will search for newly emerged caterpillars. Thistles blooming on the levees will provide nectar for Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, hungry after a long trans-Gulf flight.

It was a strange winter season at St. Marks. It's time for it to end and for a new season to begin. Come down to the refuge. Things are about to get really interesting.

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



TRIGGERFISH
(*Balistes capriscus*)

This fish has a sharp dorsal spine that springs up when threatened. Triggerfish hunt by spraying water at sand to expose prey. Their hard jaws bite holes in shells. They bite the eyestalks off lobsters, devour their legs until the lobster are helpless and then finish them off. They mate when water is >70F. They guard the nest until the fry hatch in 2 days. Fry live in floating sargassum beds. Trigger fish are important commercial fishes growing to 30" and living 13 years.

Eukarya, Animalia, Cordata, Tetraodontiformes, Balistidae



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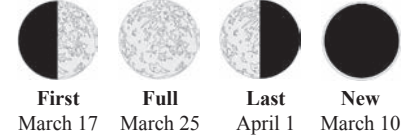


Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

March 7 - March 13



Tides charts by tides4fishing.com



Best fishing days this month
March 10-25

Thursday 7	
Sun rise/set 6:55AM 6:40PM	Moon rise/set 5:12AM 3:44PM
Moon Illumination 12%	
Friday 8	
Sun rise/set 6:53AM 6:40PM	Moon rise/set 5:56AM 4:56PM
Moon Illumination 5%	
Saturday 9	
Sun rise/set 6:52AM 6:41PM	Moon rise/set 6:34AM 6:08PM
Moon Illumination 1%	
Sunday 10	
Sun rise/set 6:51AM 6:42PM	Moon rise/set 7:10AM 7:19PM
Moon Illumination 0%	
Monday 11	
Sun rise/set 6:50AM 6:42PM	Moon rise/set 7:43AM 8:28PM
Moon Illumination 2%	
Tuesday 12	
Sun rise/set 6:49AM 6:43PM	Moon rise/set 8:17AM 9:37PM
Moon Illumination 7%	
Wednesday 13	
Sun rise/set 6:48AM 6:44PM	Moon rise/set 8:52AM 10:47PM
Moon Illumination 14%	

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

St. Marks River Entrance

Th	6:15 am ▼ -0.9 ft	12:58 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	6:13 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	
Fr	12:01 am ▲ 3.4 ft	6:58 am ▼ -1.0 ft	1:28 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	6:59 pm ▼ 0.8 ft
Sa	12:57 am ▲ 3.7 ft	7:37 am ▼ -0.9 ft	1:56 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	7:42 pm ▼ 0.3 ft
Su	2:48 am ▲ 3.8 ft	9:13 am ▼ -0.6 ft	3:22 pm ▲ 3.5 ft	9:25 pm ▼ -0.2 ft
Mo	3:37 am ▲ 3.7 ft	9:45 am ▼ -0.2 ft	3:46 pm ▲ 3.6 ft	10:07 pm ▼ -0.6 ft
Tu	4:25 am ▲ 3.5 ft	10:14 am ▼ 0.3 ft	4:10 pm ▲ 3.7 ft	10:50 pm ▼ -0.7 ft
We	5:13 am ▲ 3.2 ft	10:40 am ▼ 0.7 ft	4:32 pm ▲ 3.7 ft	11:36 pm ▼ -0.7 ft

City of St. Marks

Th	7:19 am ▼ -0.8 ft	1:34 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	7:17 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	
Fr	12:37 am ▲ 3.1 ft	8:02 am ▼ -0.9 ft	2:04 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	8:03 pm ▼ 0.7 ft
Sa	1:33 am ▲ 3.4 ft	8:41 am ▼ -0.8 ft	2:32 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	8:46 pm ▼ 0.2 ft
Su	3:24 am ▲ 3.5 ft	10:17 am ▼ -0.6 ft	3:58 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	10:29 pm ▼ -0.2 ft
Mo	4:13 am ▲ 3.5 ft	10:49 am ▼ -0.2 ft	4:22 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	11:11 pm ▼ -0.5 ft
Tu	5:01 am ▲ 3.3 ft	11:18 am ▼ 0.2 ft	4:46 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	11:54 pm ▼ -0.7 ft
We	5:49 am ▲ 3.0 ft	11:44 am ▼ 0.7 ft	5:08 pm ▲ 3.5 ft	

Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	6:39 am ▼ -0.8 ft	1:16 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	6:26 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	
Fr	12:19 am ▲ 3.4 ft	7:24 am ▼ -0.9 ft	1:48 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	7:18 pm ▼ 0.9 ft
Sa	1:16 am ▲ 3.7 ft	8:04 am ▼ -0.9 ft	2:18 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	8:04 pm ▼ 0.3 ft
Su	3:07 am ▲ 3.8 ft	9:40 am ▼ -0.6 ft	3:46 pm ▲ 3.5 ft	9:48 pm ▼ -0.2 ft
Mo	3:57 am ▲ 3.8 ft	10:13 am ▼ -0.2 ft	4:12 pm ▲ 3.7 ft	10:32 pm ▼ -0.5 ft
Tu	4:45 am ▲ 3.7 ft	10:43 am ▼ 0.2 ft	4:38 pm ▲ 3.8 ft	11:16 pm ▼ -0.7 ft
We	5:33 am ▲ 3.4 ft	11:10 am ▼ 0.7 ft	5:03 pm ▲ 3.8 ft	

Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	6:26 am ▼ -0.7 ft	12:50 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	6:24 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	11:53 pm ▲ 2.5 ft
Fr	7:09 am ▼ -0.7 ft	1:20 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	7:10 pm ▼ 0.6 ft	
Sa	12:49 am ▲ 2.7 ft	7:48 am ▼ -0.7 ft	1:48 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	7:53 pm ▼ 0.2 ft
Su	2:40 am ▲ 2.8 ft	9:24 am ▼ -0.5 ft	3:14 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	9:36 pm ▼ -0.2 ft
Mo	3:29 am ▲ 2.8 ft	9:56 am ▼ -0.2 ft	3:38 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	10:18 pm ▼ -0.4 ft
Tu	4:17 am ▲ 2.6 ft	10:25 am ▼ 0.2 ft	4:02 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	11:01 pm ▼ -0.5 ft
We	5:05 am ▲ 2.4 ft	10:51 am ▼ 0.5 ft	4:24 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	11:47 pm ▼ -0.5 ft

St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	6:16 am ▼ -0.8 ft	1:26 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	6:19 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	11:42 pm ▲ 2.6 ft
Fr	7:00 am ▼ -0.8 ft	1:44 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	7:01 pm ▼ 0.9 ft	
Sa	12:43 am ▲ 2.8 ft	7:40 am ▼ -0.7 ft	2:03 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	7:42 pm ▼ 0.5 ft
Su	2:39 am ▲ 2.8 ft	9:16 am ▼ -0.5 ft	3:24 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	9:24 pm ▼ 0.0 ft
Mo	3:34 am ▲ 2.8 ft	9:51 am ▼ -0.1 ft	3:47 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	10:08 pm ▼ -0.4 ft
Tu	4:29 am ▲ 2.7 ft	10:23 am ▼ 0.3 ft	4:12 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	10:54 pm ▼ -0.6 ft
We	5:24 am ▲ 2.5 ft	10:53 am ▼ 0.7 ft	4:39 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	11:41 pm ▼ -0.7 ft

Dog Island West End

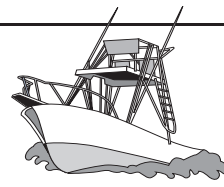
Th	6:42 am ▼ -0.7 ft	2:06 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	6:48 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	11:48 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
Fr	7:25 am ▼ -0.7 ft	2:16 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	7:27 pm ▼ 0.9 ft	
Sa	1:00 am ▲ 2.4 ft	8:03 am ▼ -0.6 ft	2:31 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	8:05 pm ▼ 0.4 ft
Su	3:01 am ▲ 2.4 ft	9:38 am ▼ -0.3 ft	3:49 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	9:46 pm ▼ 0.0 ft
Mo	3:58 am ▲ 2.4 ft	10:12 am ▼ 0.1 ft	4:10 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	10:31 pm ▼ -0.3 ft
Tu	4:56 am ▲ 2.3 ft	10:44 am ▼ 0.5 ft	4:34 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	11:19 pm ▼ -0.5 ft
We	5:51 am ▲ 2.1 ft	11:14 am ▼ 0.8 ft	4:59 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	

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



Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports

By Carolyn Brown Treadon



This following information comes from Paul Barnard with U.S. Coast Guard Heartland Safe Boating.

Most of us are familiar with the old fire extinguisher "Type" language. "Type B:C Size I," for example. Extinguishers of current manufacture will add "Classification 10:B or 10:B-C" (Image 4) as an example, to the label. They retain the "Type" language as well. Model year 2018 and newer boats must have extinguishers with the "Classification" language on the label. Boats manufactured prior to 2018 may still use the "Type" only extinguishers, provided that they are not expired or are current on service/inspection, and they are in good and serviceable condition. As a note, there are very few of the "Type" only extinguishers still in service.

The number 10 above refers to the size of the extinguisher, and the letters B and C refer to the class of fire the extinguisher is designed to extinguish. By running an internet search on "Classes of fires A, B, C" you can learn more about that.

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

Here's some good news! If your boat was previously required to carry an extinguisher or extinguishers, it still is. The number of required fire extinguishers hasn't changed either.

That's the short and simple of it. If you are still in doubt about whether you are in compliance with the new regulations, here are a couple of things you can do:

*Read the FAQ's here: Fire Extinguishers Requirements for the Recreational Boater FAQ (uscgboating.org)

If you have an old extinguisher that you aren't sure about, don't be afraid to use it for training. Remember PASS. Pull the pin, Aim, Squeeze the handle and Sweep at the base of the

fire. You'll probably want to buy a new one before you use the old one for training.

When you go to the store to buy a new one, please know what you are buying. Take it out of the box and look. Read the label. Check the gauge too. I bought one a few years back that gauge showed as discharged! Rechargeable/Serviceable extinguishers (the ones that don't have a date on the bottom and have "After Use: Recharge" on the label) will require annual service/inspection at an NFPA certified technician. That service will cost about what it costs to buy a new extinguisher. A disposable extinguisher need only be inspected by the

boater to ensure it's not expired, and in good and serviceable condition. We recommend that boaters do this prior to each trip.

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

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

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

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

Underwater Wakulla

By Rusty Miller

Are you ready?

I continue on my last article "Are you ready?" and this week I will talk about two pieces of equipment that goes without any maintenance for too long or over several dive seasons and that is (1) your regulators and (2) your buoyancy control device, or BCD.

Let's look at your BCD first: We generally take it for granted that it will work every time we use it, and it generally does but all it takes is that one dive that you will need it to work and then it fails usually in a small and aggravating way.

You go to inflate it and it starts to leak around the hose seal at the top of the relief valve. Usually it will hold enough air but there are times I have seen them leak enough to be aggravating to say the least.

The other failure I have seen is the inflator button will be hard to press or when you press it the button will stick open and over inflate the BC so the relief valve opens up and you have to disconnect the low pressure hose to stop it. This type of failure can be the most dangerous kind if you are at-depth and you need to add a little air. If you panic and can't stop the air flow you might find yourself on a chamber ride for decompression sickness.

Most divers don't know how to fix the inflator and shouldn't try to, it needs to be taken to a qualified dive shop technician to fix or replace.

The number one piece of equipment that can cause the biggest issues are regulators. I have written several articles on the importance of having them serviced every year. It's not so much using them that can degrade their seals but the fact of not using them and letting them sit around without being used for long periods of time.

When you are using them the seals are operating inside and will stay pliable but when they sit the seals will get stiff and harden to the point of failure that when you do finally pressurize them they start leaking.

If you don't use them much in a year's time and they are sitting then you need to take them to a dive shop that has a technician who is certified on that brand of regulators and has the correct service kits for that brand.

Too many times I have seen people take in their regulators to a shop that does not sell that brand of regulators and the shop technician says they can work on them. That is a big no-no. Now if the shop says they can send them to a company that is qualified to service them then you should feel comfortable to let them do that.

I hope you have gotten at least out of this article that, just as you regularly service your car or truck, you should have your dive equipment serviced at least once a year so they can last you a very long time. Until next week keep making bubbles.

Russell Miller #59999

WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO

Local photographer Perry Dissmore shared this photo taken this past weekend at the St. Marks Lighthouse of a pelican and dolphin playing together in the water.



Your local source for news.

Cold fronts can destroy relationships



By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

How devastating would it be if you discovered you'd accidentally recorded a conversation with your spouse, child or neighbor that didn't show you at your best?

How quickly would you try to delete that recording?

If you're like most of us, you might discover things about yourself you wish weren't true, such as how loud you get when someone disagrees with you. Or how often you cut people off when they bore you.

How much worse would you feel if the next day your pastor preached on 1 Corinthians 13?

Rude behavior runs completely contrary to what 1 Corinthians 13 teaches. 1 Corinthians 13:5 (ESV) says, "[Love

is not] rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful."

Rudeness undermines our relationships at work, in our communities, in our churches – and, most often, in our homes. Just as the temperature drops when a cold front moves into our area, so does the warmth of a relationship drop, degree by degree, when we practice rudeness. If we want to rekindle the flames, we must stop excusing our offensive behavior and take action to correct it.

What would happen if we gave God permission to show us ...

- Each time we interrupted someone because we felt like our words were more worthy than theirs?
- Each time we seized the remote because our viewing choices seemed better than our spouse's?
- Each time we didn't take time to listen to our coworkers because we were too busy?
- Each time we "snark" someone on social media because we didn't agree with their opinion?

Rudeness can be hard to overcome, especially when it's ingrained in our personalities. But as we confess it as sin and ask God to help us change, we'll move in the right direction.

Even when we don't communicate perfectly, we can celebrate the times we get it right. Rather than becoming discouraged when we mess up, let's repent to God and the person we've treated rudely and vow to try again. Every time. Even if this means every hour – or every five minutes.

The more we take control of our rudeness, the nicer we'll become. Then our words and actions will not only make God-honoring recordings, but our lives will allow others to see our Savior at work in us.

We'll continue our discussion about 1 Corinthians 13:5 next time.

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.

Spring cleaning



By **CHERYL CRUCE**

I must admit spring fever has hit pretty hard this year. Whether at the office or home and deep into the task of spring cleaning, I find myself longing to be outside in the bright sunshine. The sunny days and March breezes just beyond my window are enough to tease the most focused souls.

As a child, I was al-

ways the student staring out the window, wishing for the beach and a fishing pole. Or maybe those March winds that would carry our homemade kites soaring high above the Gulf waters. My oldest brother always made the best kites.

Even now, as an adult, I still stare out the window, knowing that a kite is resting on my truck's back seat. It is not only a workday that needs to be accomplished. At home, I have started the spring cleaning that used to be assigned to our Mother. She taught us to empty closets, sort clothing, restack storage boxes, and dust everything. Cushions and pillows

were to sunbathe as the chores were completed.

Despite everything that needs to be accomplished, my mind often wanders from spring cleaning to thoughts of running away and being a kid again. At the moment, I have a guest room filled with the debris of three empty closets. The closets have been reorganized, and the leftovers are packaged and ready to be donated to a thrift store. As I sorted through my belongings, deciding what to keep and what to give away, I began to wonder about the clutter in my soul. What should I hold on to, and what should I let go of?

In 1 Peter 5:7, I am reassured that I can let

go my worry and anxiety to God because He cares for me. I know that when I entrust my life to Him, He will guide me in all that I do (Psalm 37:5).

I take comfort in the promise of Jesus to leave His peace with those who trust in Him (John 14:27), but at times, fear and worry still creep in. I find myself concerned about the well-being of my loved ones, illnesses, making the wrong decisions, and the hurtful words of others. Some challenges are difficult to overcome, but I find solace in knowing that God is with me every step of the way.

I will hold onto the knowledge that arguments and wrongful

opinions can be defeated when I rely on the Word of God (2 Corinthians 10:5). Those harsh words or opinions that say I am not good enough have no place in my spiritual being. I will remember that when I rely on the teachings of the Bible, I can overcome any arguments or opinions that are wrongfully stated. Negative words that bring me down have no power over me because I know that I am strong enough to conquer all obstacles with the help of God. No one can make me doubt my faith or the love that God has for me. I am not living my life to please others but to do good and serve my Lord (Ephesians 6:6).

Maybe we can all put spring fever off a little longer and make time for some much-needed spiritual (spring) cleaning. We all have closets full of things slowing down our relationship with God and others. Our world will be a much better place when we do.

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit to sustain me. Psalm 51:10&12

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

OUT TO PASTOR

Dancing the critter/bug shuffle



By **JAMES SNYDER**

I must confess that I do have a liking for critters of all kinds. I enjoy feeding them out on the back porch, and boy, do they come hungry for their treats.

Two cats born in our garage are still hanging around. They come morning, noon, and night for their treats. In the morning, they like to come and have me scratch their head. I'm not sure what that has to do with anything, but I'm willing to scratch their head if that's what they want.

Unlike me, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is not very fond of critters of any nature. The only critter she likes is Yours Truly. I guess I'm enough of a critter to satisfy any longings like that. I hope she doesn't try to scratch my head.

When she goes to the door and opens it, the cats run in like they are crazy. As soon as they see that it's her, they turn around and

race outside as fast as possible.

For me, it's fun to watch all these critters gather around as though they were friends.

We have about five cats, four raccoons, two possums, and lately, our newest critters are chickens from our neighbor next door.

For some reason, these chickens have found the kitty food on our porch and like coming over and enjoy a snack. I enjoy watching them dance around on the porch, eating the snacks.

Also, the cats are sitting on the rocking chairs on the porch and over these chickens as they come for their daily treats.

If The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage sees these chickens, she immediately opens the door and chases them away. She will often throw water at them to keep them from returning.

Obviously, they're not that frightened of her and return on a regular schedule. To them it's Treats over Fear.

Out on the porch, we also have a bunch of birds, and at times hummingbirds. We have a lot of wasps and bees flying around. Then we have ants galore. Somehow, they found the

bowl of kitty food and try to come as often as they can. The biggest obstacle, of course, is The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

A few years ago, we had foxes that came in the evening, but I haven't seen them for a while.

And then we have lizards. For some reason, they came to our back porch and moved in. They act like they own the place and do all kinds of lizardly things, much to the chagrin of The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

I've heard a rumor about some black bear in our neighborhood. It would be a delight some night to see a black bear coming on our back porch eating some kitty treats. Of course, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage would have an absolute meltdown if that ever happened.

One morning, I was in the bathroom getting ready for the day when I noticed in the shower a little lizard. He climbed halfway up the wall and just stared at me. I think he thought I was the intruder.

I stared back, talked to him a little bit, and told him to be careful of the other person in the house. He just stared at me and blinked his eyes.

I had forgotten that

incident, and later in the day, as we were drinking coffee together, I happened to remember it. I looked at my wife and said, "I had a special visitor in the bathroom this morning."

She stared at me and said, "Who was that special visitor?"

I laughed very heartily and said, "That visitor was Henry."

Looking rather strange and confused, she said, "Who is Henry?"

"Ah, my dear, it was a lizard. I just call him Henry because we're friends."

"In your bathroom?" She gasped.

With that, she jumped up and ran to the bathroom looking for Henry. I could hear her frantically calling his name for well over an hour. Finally, it grew silent, and she came out from the bathroom and sat down.

"Well," I said with a smile, "did you meet my friend Henry?"

Scowling at me, she said, "I flushed your friend down the toilet."

I didn't know if I should have a memorial service for Henry or not. I'm pretty sure The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage would not show up at that service.

I'm patiently waiting for the next Henry to show up in my bath-


room. Maybe the next time, I won't tell The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Or, perhaps I should catch one of those lizards, put it in her bathroom, and see what happens.

It might be a memorial service for me.

With that in mind, I thought of an important Bible verse. "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth" (Genesis 1:26).

From God's perspective, we who have been created in His image and likeness, have a responsibility to care for the animals God has created. He has authorized us to care for them in obedience to His Word.

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



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Obituaries

DEATH NOTICES

• **Dwight Lee Dickinson**, 65, of Crawfordville, died March 1, 2024. Family Funeral Home at Harvey-Young Chapel, 850-926-5159, www.familyfhc.com

• **Patrick Edenfield**, 57, died February 8, 2024. No services. Interred at National Cemetery in Tallahassee.

• **George A. Every Jr.**, 59, of Panacea, died February 28, 2024. Family Funeral Home at Harvey-Young Chapel, 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **Shirley Fitch**, 88, of Crawfordville, died February 29, 2024. Family Funeral Home at Harvey-Young Chapel, 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **Teresa F. Hoffman**, 79, of Sopchoppy, died February 27, 2024. Family Funeral Home at Harvey-Young Chapel, 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **Trenton “Trent” Kage Stuart Lee**, 18, of Crawfordville, died February 26, 2024. Family Funeral Home at Harvey-Young Chapel, 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

• **Kate Diane Starling**, 77, of Crawfordville, died February 28, 2024. Family Funeral Home at Harvey-Young Chapel, 850-926-5919, www.familyfhc.com

• **Maudie Swagart**, 77, of Crawfordville, died February 29, 2024. Family Funeral Home at Harvey-Young Chapel, 850-926-5919, www.familyfhc.com

Weekly Roundup: The end is in sight

By **RYAN DAILEY**
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — With just days left in the 2024 legislative session, House and Senate budget negotiators are trying to bring a spending plan in for a landing while bills are hurtling toward the finish line.

Some big-ticket budget items have been agreed upon, such as \$28.4 billion to fund Florida's public schools and a \$200 million boost to a pot of money aimed at furthering efforts to increase teacher salaries.

As the second-to-last week of the regularly scheduled session came to a close, unresolved issues started getting “bumped” to each chamber's budget chiefs, marking the next phase of the negotiation process.

A conference committee sent unresolved health and human services issues to Senate Appropriations Chairman Doug Broxson, R-Gulf Breeze, and House Appropriations Chairman Tom Leek, R-Ormond Beach, for further negotiations. Unresolved issues in other areas of the budget also went to Broxson and Leek by Thursday.

House Health Care Appropriations Chairman Rep. Sam Garrison, R-Fleming Island, said the health- and human-services conference committee broke off talks, at least in part, because the Senate did not make an offer about funding lawmaker-proposed projects.

“Without the member projects on the Senate side, you can't negotiate against yourself,” Garrison said. “I do mean that everything is relative. So, in order to have a complete holistic negotiation process, we've got to be able to have everything in play.”

House and Senate budget leaders also

came close to finalizing a spending plan for the state prison system that includes providing about \$100 million for repairing Florida's aging correctional institutions and building new housing units at prisons.

The Senate originally proposed issuing bonds and spending \$100 million annually over the next 30 years, for a total of \$3 billion, to build prisons and repair infrastructure.

House leaders, however, balked at taking on debt for new prisons.

“We just didn't have an appetite to bond,” House Justice Appropriations Chairman Chuck Brannan, R-Macclenny, told reporters Wednesday afternoon.

Under the proposal, total spending on the state Department of Corrections — which houses roughly 90,000 inmates — would top \$3.5 billion in the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

A budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, which will start July 1, needs to be finished Tuesday for the legislative session to end as scheduled on March 8. That is because of a required 72-hour “cooling off” period before lawmakers can vote on the budget.

WRAPPING IT UP

In the race to the finish line, numerous bills were on the cusp of passing. Policies such as college tuition breaks for high-school dropouts and a ban on cultivated meat received approval from one chamber, setting up a deluge of proposals that could get final passage next week.

For example, senators on Thursday voted 26-10 to pass a measure (SB 1084) that, in part, would ban the sale of what Gov. Ron DeSantis has described as “fake” meat.

Under the bill, the sale and manufacture of cultivated meat, which often is called lab-grown meat, would be prohibited in the Sunshine State.

Bill sponsor Jay Collins, R-Tampa, said research over time might show cultivated meat is viable, but right now “there's no guarantee of safety for the consumer.”

“We believe that our beef grows from a cow on the ground that eats grass, generates beef when we slaughter it. Same thing with pigs, same thing with chickens,” Collins, chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, said. “This (cultivated meat) is a product grown in the lab.”

But Sen. Tina Polsky, D-Boca Raton, pointed to cultivated meat as an “emerging industry” that has drawn interest from Israel and China, and argued that the ban will result in technology companies deciding against locating in Florida.

“The cultivated meat industry is in its infancy, but it's clear that it could become an important part of meeting an increasing demand for protein as a world-wide population grows and certainly it is in this state,” Polsky said.

A House version of the bill (HB 1071) is ready for consideration by the full chamber.

The Senate also approved a measure that would provide tuition and fee waivers for students who have dropped

out of high school and pursue diplomas and workforce credentials at state colleges.

The measure (SB 7032), which needs House approval before it could go to the governor's desk, would establish what would be known as the Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education, or GATE, program within the state Department of Education.

Bill sponsor Erin Grall, R-Vero Beach, characterized the bill as a way to give second chances to high-school dropouts.

PUT THE ‘AI’ IN DISCLAIMER

With the 2024 presidential elections looming later this year, lawmakers on Friday passed a measure that would require disclaimers on political advertisements that are created using generative artificial intelligence.

Senators on Friday voted 32-0 to give final passage to a House bill (HB 919), putting it in a position to go to Gov. Ron DeSantis' desk. The House passed the measure in a 104-8 vote earlier this week.

Under the bill, political ads that contain “images, video, audio, graphics, or other digital content” created using artificial intelligence would have to include a disclaimer that reads: “Created in whole or in part with the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI).”

The measure also

would create a first-degree misdemeanor for violations. Penalties would be applied to people who pay for, sponsor or approve advertisements that use AI without including such disclaimers.

The proposal also seeks to direct the Florida Elections Commission to craft rules that would allow for expedited hearings related to complaints regarding violations of the bill.

STORY OF THE WEEK: Negotiations on a new state budget

started to move into the next phase Wednesday, with unresolved issues being sent to House and Senate budget chiefs.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: “We must acknowledge that pushing the unhouseed out of sight isn't a solution. It is a failed attempt to sweep a societal problem under the rug.” — Rep. LaVon Bracy Davis, D-Coee, on a measure (HB 1365) passed by the House Friday that would prevent homeless people from sleeping in public.

BRIAN C. ENGLISH

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tobe7encouraged faith column The Resurrected One...

Greetings Wakulla Citizens! As I began to write this morning a whole new topic was placed in my heart. He wants to discuss “The Resurrected One.” Hmm, who could this be?? It sure is not a bunny!

As Easter approaches, our hearts should prepare for the celebration of “what” was done, FINISHED on the Cross before He was Resurrected. Jesus, The WORD, was born of a virgin, Mary, as flesh and blood. This had to be done due to what Adam allowed to happen in the Garden of Eden. **Genesis 3:6** When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took some of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband with her, and he ate.

Adam was beside Eve when the serpent was talking to her, convincing her to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil which LORD God, not God, commanded Adam not to. **Genesis 2:16**The Lord God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may freely eat; **17**but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not **18**eat, for on the day that you eat from it you will certainly die.”

Adam could have stopped his wife from eating the apple! BUT!! Adam also should have kicked the serpent out of the Garden! They were told by God to fill the earth and “subdue” it! God, not LORD God, told Adam and Eve these instructions before their bodies were created, they were spirit not flesh at that time. **Genesis 1:2**So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. **28**God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and

fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that ¹⁸moves on the earth.”

Well... we definitely know they did not obey! Sin and death now came onto the scene that never was there! Disobedience, being a rebel brings sin and death! The relationship Adam had with God our Father was no more, that relationship was “dead”! In chapter 3 of Genesis is the sentencing of their actions by LORD God. Chapter 3 is what Jesus came to “OVER-COME”!

This will be continued in the next issue; we hope this blesses you!

Shalom,
Deb Quimby-Quackenbush

If you do not know Jesus and want to, He says in His Word **Romans 10:13**for “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Say this to Him out loud “Jesus, I am a sinner I know, I repent and turn away from all that I did as a sinner, I renounce their hold on me. I believe in faith God sent You to become my sin, on the Cross, to cleanse me from them and now make me new. I believe You died and rose on the 3rd day so that I may live and become Your Righteousness. By God's Grace I am now Born Again. WOOO-HHHOOOO!! Welcome to the family! Now the next step is to be water baptized and find a Spirit filled full Gospel church family. Your life just got EXCITING!!!

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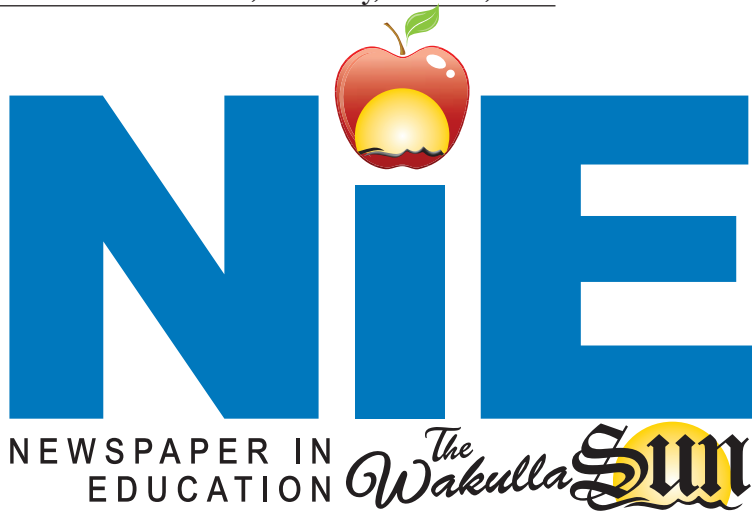
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USE THE NEWS

1. CHOCOLATE FACTORY MELTDOWN

Kids in Scotland were very disappointed when a Willy Wonka-themed event turned out to be not what they expected. The event was supposed to be an “immersive experience,” which means it was supposed to feel like you were stepping into the world of Willy Wonka’s chocolate factory. However, when parents showed up with their kids, the event was at a large warehouse that was barely decorated. Even the actors were very disappointed in the event and felt bad for the people who bought tickets. Some parents even called the police about it. Think about how you would feel to be excited about something and it turns out to not be what you expect. How would you handle that situation? Write a short paragraph about what emotions you would feel and what actions you would take.

2. HATCH WATCH

People around the world are tuning in to an online feed to wait for three bald eagle chicks to hatch from their eggs in the Southern California mountains. The eggs were laid in late January and protected by their mother, Jackie, including during a winter snowstorm when she sat on the eggs for almost three days without a break to keep them warm. A charity called Friends of Big Bear Valley, where the nest is located, installed a camera in 2015 to check on the bald eagles and any eggs they might have each year. Look up facts about birds and the process they go through when they lay their eggs and wait for them to hatch. Then, write a summary of what you learned and compare it to Jackie the bald eagle and her nest.

3. BIRTHDAY

BOOKS

To honor the 120th birthday of Theodor Geisel, better known as the author Dr. Seuss, the company in charge of his books and the publishing company that makes them are giving away 10,000 copies of “The Cat in the Hat” to babies born March 2 this year. Each book will have a personalized message for the child about their birthday. Make your own Dr. Seuss-style story about a crazy character in a colorful world, just like his books! Write a rhyming story about your own character and draw a picture

to go along with it.

4. LEAP YEAR

You probably noticed that you had an extra day of February last week—the month that usually has 28 days gets an extra one every four years. But why? The reason it’s added is because our year doesn’t quite line up with the Earth’s orbit around the sun. It takes the Earth just a little bit longer to orbit the sun than our 365-day year. In fact, there’s an extra 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 56 seconds that the Earth is still finishing its orbit. That extra time has to be accounted for

or eventually, our calendar would be totally out of sync with the seasons we expect.

We use the Gregorian Calendar, which was introduced by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582 and created the Leap Day as we know it. But did you know Leap Day doesn’t happen every four years? This is where it gets complicated: Leap years don’t happen in years that are divisible by 100 unless it’s also divisible by 400. That means there was a leap year in 2000 because 2000 can be divided by 400. However, there won’t be a leap year in 2100, even though that would fall on the four year cycle, because

2100 can be divided evenly by 100 but not 400. That’s a lot of math! Write a summary about Leap Day, including five facts you learned here, and what would happen if we didn’t have it.

5. HOLY MONTH BEGINS

While we use the Gregorian Calendar, other cultures and religions use different calendars—you may remember talking about Chinese New Year or the Lunar New Year in early February, even though our New Year takes place on January 1. For people who practice the religion of Islam, March 10 marks the start of Ramadan, the ninth

month of their lunar calendar. Ramadan is a very important month for Muslims, or people who practice the religion of Islam. Healthy adults and children over 14 fast, meaning they don’t eat or drink anything from sunrise to sunset—this is meant to develop empathy for those who don’t have access to food and water and awareness and gratitude for everything the person has. The month ends April 9 with a big celebration called Eid al-Fitr, or the “festival of breaking the fast.” Write a summary of Ramadan and what you learned about it, including at least five facts.



THIS PART OF THE BODY STORES IMPORTANT NUTRIENTS. THAT MAKES IT A HIGHLY NUTRITIOUS FOOD.

ANSWER: LIVER

Math Blocks

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

2		19	27
	8		26
9	10		33
26	24	36	

14	10	9
3	8	15
19	9	2

Solution

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

RUTNOITNI CFSAT

Answer: Nutrition facts

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1769: MOZART DEPARTS ITALY AFTER THE LAST OF HIS THREE TOURS THERE.
- 1837: THE CITY OF CHICAGO IS INCORPORATED.
- 1913: THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR IS FORMED.



MINERAL

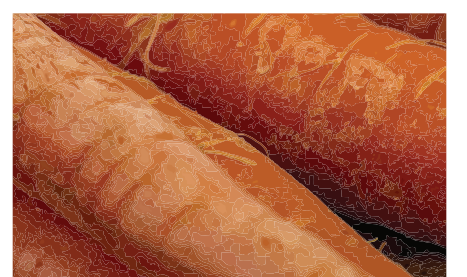
a solid inorganic substance of natural occurrence

How they SAY that in...

- ENGLISH:** Nutrient
- SPANISH:** Nutriente
- ITALIAN:** Sostanza nutriente
- FRENCH:** Nutriment
- GERMAN:** Nährstoff



NUTRITION IS THE PROCESS OF OBTAINING FOOD NECESSARY FOR HEALTH AND GROWTH.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: CARROTS

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Black Shoe Squid recording studio opens

By **LEGION TAYLOR**
Reporter

Steven Brown, a U.S. Navy veteran, actor, and musician, has recently opened Black Shoe Squid Studio, a recording studio for musicians and voice actors alike.

Brown has been acting and playing music all his life, having grown up with both parents as musicians. His professional career in music began in 1993, right after he got out of active duty in the Navy, and his career in acting started in 2007 with stage shows in Branson, Missouri, where he lived at the time.

Brown also does voice acting and voiceover work, which he began in 2015.

He moved to Wakul-

la in February 2022, and has been doing live music gigs at venues around the area, while putting his studio together.

“It’s in my blood,” he says. “Both sides of my family, almost everyone played an instrument or sang. I had no choice but to have an appreciation for music.”

Over the course of his career, Brown has written more than 50 songs, and recorded 66 songs across six albums. He’s also performed in more than 50 acting roles in film, television, live theater, and commercials.

The studio is in a barn-workshop behind his house. “I built it all myself,” he says, “with no construction experience... Hanging the doors, that was the hard



Steven Brown in his recording studio.

part.”

It’s designed to create as quiet an environment as possible, to ensure that recordings aren’t full of background

noise.

The name of the studio, Black Shoe Squid, is derived from his 16 years in the Navy, both active duty and the re-

serves.

“In the Navy, we had nicknames for all the different jobs and groups. Sailors were called ‘Black Shoes.’

From other branches of the military, their nickname for all Navy people was ‘Squids.’. Therefore I was a ‘Black Shoe Squid.’”

His studio is mostly for recording music as well as lines for voice-over roles, but it also includes a green screen for video auditions for acting roles.

Brown offers acting and voice acting lessons at his studio, and students can use the equipment there to do auditions, practice being on camera, or to record their voice to better train for voice acting roles.

He can be contacted at 850-888-0411, at his email manager@stevenbrown.org, and on his website, stevenbrown.org.

More than 100 attend Friends of Wakulla Springs

By **SUE DAMON**
Special to The Sun

The Friends of Wakulla Springs held its annual meeting on Sunday, March 3rd with over 100 Friends in attendance.

The event was held in the historic terrace of the Lodge at Wakulla Springs.

All Friends members were invited. The event included a free entrance to the park, a complimentary lunch, and a boat tour. The guest speaker was Jack Rudloe from the Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratory.

Rudloe spoke about his 60-plus years of working to protect various sea turtles and his work with commercial fishermen and other environmental groups.

There were congratulatory remarks and appreciation of the volunteers who contributed to the Friends’ mission. Attendees engaged in lively conversations, discovering the various reasons that drew them to the Springs and ultimately motivated them to join the Friends. It was a beautiful day on the river and Friends saw mother alligators with their babies, manatees, and a lot of bird life.

In 2023, the Friends of Wakulla Springs achieved significant milestones, including the installation of an ADA Playground through 97 volunteer hours, saving \$20,000, and garnering support from various entities.

The organization suc-



cessfully hosted a double-header event featuring “Trunk or Treat” and a triple movie screening on a newly acquired outdoor projection screen.

Another highlight was the dedication ceremony of the hybrid-electric boat Great Blue Heron, funded by the Florida State Parks Foundation.

Additionally, the Friends conducted a fruitful Vintage Lodge Dining Chair Fundraiser, raising substantial funds. These endeavors reflect the Friends’ dedication to community engagement, park enhancement, and resource mobilization for Wakulla Springs State Park.

The Friends of Wakul-

Jack Rudloe, founder of Gulf Specimen Marine Lab, was guest speaker at the Friends of Wakulla Springs’ annual meeting.

la Springs, Inc. is the official Citizen Support Organization (CSO), a private, non-profit partner supporting the educational, interpretive, and historical and scientific research responsibilities of Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park.

Friends of Wakulla Springs (FOWS) State Park is an organization of volunteers committed to the preservation of the park with the largest and deepest freshwater spring in the world for the enjoyment of park visitors for generations to come. Please visit <https://wakullasprings.org/> to see how you can become a member of the Friends.

Liberty County Judge Kenneth Hosford resigns

News Service of Florida

The state Judicial Qualifications Commission said last week that a North Florida judge has resigned, ending a case about alleged misconduct.

The commission, which investigates accusations against judges and makes disciplinary recommendations to the Florida Supreme Court, said in a filing that it

was dismissing charges against Liberty County Judge Kenneth Hosford.

“The basis for the dismissal is Judge Hosford’s resignation from the Liberty County Court effective at 5:00 p.m. on February 29, 2024, which has been received and accepted by the Governor, and his agreement to not to serve as a senior judge or hold any future judicial office,” the filing at the Supreme Court

said.

An investigative panel of the commission and Hosford last year reached a proposed agreement that would have led to a 30-day suspension for the judge and a public reprimand.

The proposed agreement stemmed from a discussion between Hosford and an assistant state attorney after a hearing held on Zoom.

The investigative pan-

el, in a filing at the Supreme Court, said Hosford addressed “concerns over the prosecutor’s decision to decline to file charges in a theft case where Judge Hosford had, just the day before, personally approved an arrest warrant for the accused. During the Zoom meeting, while addressing his displeasure with the way the prosecutor had declined to prosecute the case, Judge

Hosford also admits to having provided investigative advice to the detective investigating the crime, including suggesting to the detective that he might get a search warrant to obtain more evidence of the crime.”

The Florida Public Defender Association and the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers expressed concerns about the proposed agreement, and the in-

vestigative panel said in December it had started an inquiry into new allegations of misconduct by the judge.

The filing Thursday, Feb. 29, said the additional inquiry had been completed, though it did not provide details about the findings.

The Supreme Court has ultimate authority about disciplining judges.

Ralph Thomas

From Front Page

Center.

4. Construction will soon begin for a new maintenance facility for Sheriff’s Department vehicles, further enhancing the county’s ability to handle emergency situations and support law enforcement operations.

5. \$4.6 million in State funding was secured from Governor DeSantis and the Legislature for a new County Library facility.

6. Secured \$11 million in Funding for a First Responder Communications System: Recognizing the crucial role of first responders in ensuring public safety, he spent several years lobbying the Florida Legislature to secure funding. On November 4, 2022 those efforts paid off when Wakul-

la County successfully obtained \$11 million in funding from Triumph Gulf Coast. Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation that administers funds recovered for economic damages from the 2010 BP oil spill. This funding has enabled the installation of a state-of-the-art communications system for first responders, empowering them to effectively and efficiently respond to emergencies and protect the community.

7. Kept businesses and the County open during Covid while encouraging citizens to be educated, safe and responsible while making their own decisions regarding their personal safety. Commissioner Thomas has played a pivotal role in keeping Wakulla County

a desirable community to live and work in. His efforts have attracted new businesses to the area, creating job opportunities and contributing to the economic growth of the county. By fostering a business-friendly environment, Commissioner Thomas has helped create a vibrant and prosperous community for residents. He strives for a day when our children do not have to move elsewhere to obtain a career and sufficient income to support a family.

8. Extracurricular Service:

a. Commissioner Thomas served as President of the Florida Association of Counties, a prestigious position that takes three years to reach, one year in the position and a fifth year on the Executive Board as the Past President. During his term, he represented Wakulla

County’s interests at the state level and worked collaboratively with other county commissioners to advocate for policies that benefit all counties in Florida with an emphasis of preserving home rule and fighting State pre-emptions and unfunded mandates.

b. Chairman of the Small County Coalition: Commissioner Thomas demonstrated his leadership skills by serving as Chairman of the Small County Coalition for 2 1/2 years. In this role, he advocated for the unique needs and challenges faced by small counties and worked toward finding solutions that promote their growth and development and protection.

c. Commissioner Thomas has served as Chairman of the Wakulla Tourist Development Council since 2012. Under his leadership, the

council has successfully increased revenue from \$85K annually in 2012 to \$325K in the current budget year, promoted tourism and attracted visitors to Wakulla County, boosting the local economy and supporting businesses in the tourism sector.

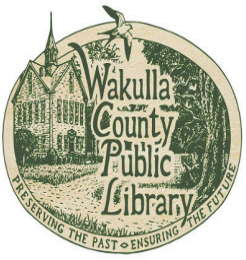
d. Chairman of the Value Adjustment Board for 10 years. In this role, he ensured fair and equitable property assessments, providing an essential service to the residents of Wakulla County.

e. Since 2012, Commissioner Thomas has served as the BOCC Liaison to the Wakulla Chamber of Commerce. Through this role, he has fostered a strong partnership between the county government and the local business community, promoting economic growth and collaboration.

f. Commissioner Thom-

as served as Trustee, Vice Chairman, and Chairman of the Florida Association of Counties Trust, the County’s Liability Insurance pool. In these roles, he worked diligently to ensure that the County’s liability risks were effectively managed, providing protection and financial security for the County and its residents.

Prior to his local Public Service, Commissioner Ralph Thomas spent 12 years in the U.S. Navy where he served as a Sonar Technician and a Chief Electronics Technician. He has dedicated his life to public service while also maintaining full time employment as a Mortgage Loan Officer for the past 25 years. By seeking re-election, he aims to continue his work in building a safe, clean, prosperous, and sustainable future for Wakulla County.



**TECHNOLOGY CLASS SCHEDULE
Spring 2024**

TO REGISTER: Call (850) 539-2844

Windows Refresh

This class is intended for new users and/or those who wish a refresh of Windows. Knowledge of the keyboard and mouse are recommended. This class will begin with the Windows interface and how to navigate and optimize the Windows menu. Next you will learn how to use the Microsoft Edge browser to find information and save to your Favorites or to your Reading List. Discover how to you can save time using Copy and Paste when creating documents and many other shortcuts. Understand how to save files in File Explorer. **Note:** In this class, we will be using Windows 10 PCs. If you have a Windows 11 laptop and wish to join us you are welcome to do so. You will be able to follow along.

LOCATIONS, DATES & TIME:

Wakulla County Public Library, 4330 Crawfordville Hwy, Crawfordville, FL

DATES: Thursdays - Mar 7, 14, 21, 28, Apr 4, 8

TIME: 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM

Get to Know your iPhone

Have you recently purchased your first iPhone? Or perhaps recently upgraded to a new iPhone? This course is for iPhone users and/or individuals who wish to learn new or refresh their iPhone skills. This course covers all the basics of using your iPhone to its maximum potential and will allow students to feel at ease and productive with the latest iOS. *This class is a progression. It is important that you attend each class if possible.*

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Wakulla County Public Library, 4330 Crawfordville Hwy, Crawfordville, FL

DATES: Thursdays - Apr 11, 18, 25

TIME: 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM

Classes are **FREE** and open to the public. Seats are subject to availability. Please arrive promptly. Children are **NOT** allowed.

Happy Birthday Wakulla County!



As We Anticipate the Celebration
of Wakulla County's 181st Birthday
Saturday, March 9, 2024
at 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

the Courthouse Lawn, along High Street
23 High Drive and extending to
our other historical surroundings.
I would love to take this opportunity to hear
from persons who have the most Birthday
candles in our county, and invite you to come
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Please contact
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Looking Forward to Hearing from you as we
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the Great Reasons we all
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