

See Page 3

Optimist essay contest



Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Hi: 79° Lo: 59° 9%	Hi: 80° Lo: 65° 21%	Hi: 78° Lo: 65° 44%
Sunrise 7:48 AM Sunset 7:45 PM	Sunrise 7:46 AM Sunset 7:46 PM	Sunrise 7:45 AM Sunset 7:47 PM



\$1 One Section

"It's a New Day"

Locally Owned & Operated

Our 3rd Year 11th Issue Thursday, March 14, 2024

Highway 319

Complaints about the slow pace of construction prompt BOCC questions

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN Editor

Wakulla County commissioners heard from the chief road engineer on the U.S. Highway 319 expansion over concerns about the slow pace of work.

At their meeting on Monday, March 4, commissioners said there had been complaints from citizens about lack of work on the project, and they expressed concern about the unfinished road construction site being a hazard to motorists.

Gabriela Corbin, the engineer for the project, acknowledged that the expansion of 319 started 4 years ago for a projected cost of \$25 million and in 25% behind schedule.

She did say the contractor, Anderson Co-



DOT officials acknowledged that the \$25 million expansion of U.S. Highway 319 is behind schedule and won't be finished on time.

lumbia, had incurred some problems during the project, such as Covid, personnel shortage, and supply-side issues, but said the contractor is behind schedule and will run out of time at the end of May.

She anticipated that there will be negotiations with the contractor to add time and money to the project for additional work to be done at the new Whiddon Lake Road intersection would likely extend the project's com-

pletion date to sometime in late summer – August, say.

County Administrator David Edwards asked if the contract with the state provides for liqui-

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Audit committee sees positive future

An additional \$600,000 in fiscal constrained county payment will likely cover deficit – if approved

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN Editor

The county audit committee met last week and discussed the possibility that Wakulla County will receive some \$600,000 more than was budgeted for fiscally constrained county payment from the state.

The money is in the legislative budget and must be approved by Gov. Ron DeSantis.

The additional money, if approved, would fill the remaining budget hole of a \$2.4 million shortfall created when the property appraiser's office mistakenly assessed a vacant lot in Lake Ellen Estates at \$307 million. The mistake was not caught until Tax Collector Lisa Craze prepared to send out tax bills – by that time, the county and the Wakulla County School Board had already approved their budgets. (The school district faced a \$1.6 million shortfall, and went to the state to request help to cover the deficit.)

The county's shortfall has meant delays in the planned hiring of nine new deputies at the sheriff's office, and nine new firefighters at Fire Rescue, plus other new county positions.

Property Appraiser Ed Brimner said the additional money was due to his office's efforts to file Tangible Personal Property reports. While the state exempts the first \$25,000 from taxes, Brimner's staff has been pursuing the filings from small

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DUCKS UNLIMITED BANQUET



The big Ducks Unlimited Banquet on Saturday night at 3Y Ranch was sold out – with more than 700 people in attendance and reportedly raising more than

\$100,000. Guns were auctioned, as well as artworks and even a lab puppy that raised more than \$2,100. (Photo by Gerald Brown)

State budgets money for gas station land

Staff Report

The state budget includes \$3.7 million for Conservation Florida to buy 224 acres at the intersection of U.S. 319 and Bloxham Cutoff, the site of a planned 16-pump gas station, car wash and convenience store located over the underground Chip's Hole Cavern to flows to Wakulla Springs.

If Gov. Ron DeSantis signs off on the money, it would put an end to a long-running environmental controversy in Wakulla County.

Southwest Georgia Oil would do a land swap with St. Joe and build the gas station on the south side of the intersection where there are no known underground caves.

The 224-acre parcel, purchased from St. Joe, could be converted into a park by the county.

It was in January 2023 that divers with the Wakulla Karst Plain Project finally linked Chip's Hole as a direct conduit to Wakulla Springs.

Hundreds of people from around the state turned out at a county commission meeting in sweltering heat in August 2023 to object to plans to build the gas station on the property. The county postponed the meeting citing the possibility of a property sale.

Mobile Response Team

Apalachee Center provides crisis intervention in an effort to de-escalate scenarios

By LEGION TAYLOR Candidate

The Apalachee Center's Mobile Response Teams have been working with the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office in order to better assist people in moments of crisis.

At its founding in 1948, the Apalachee Center served the residents of Leon County, but has now grown to cover eight counties, including Wakulla. After the Passage of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act by the Florida Legislature, funds were allocated for the creation of Mobile Response Teams, to better respond to mental health crises



Sheriff's Community Outreach Coordinator David Conn, Wakulla MRT counselor Regina McQueen, and Major Anthony Curles of Road Patrol.

NEED HELP? Talk to the sheriff's office non-emergency line is (850) 745-7100.

across the state.

MRT is an on-demand crisis intervention service, which can quickly

respond to individuals who require assistance. When someone calls the Apalachee Center's

phone number 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays, a counselor at the local

Turn to Page 9

Classes of '68, '69 plan photo at school

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.



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Student of the Week

Ashley Waters – 5th grader at Riversink Elementary

Principal: Catherine Cutchen

Achievements/Reason for Nomination: Ashley Waters is a remarkable Otter with outstanding achievements. She maintains a perfect 4.0 GPA and is known for her exceptional citizenship. Beyond academics, Ashley finds joy in participating in the FSU circus where she impressively spins plates with skill. She also dedicates her time to the Odyssey of the Mind Club and is eagerly looking forward to the upcoming state competition. In addition to her intellectual pursuits, Ashley is an enthusiastic horseback rider and finds relaxation in activities such as drawing and fishing during her leisure time. Riversink is lucky to have such an amazing young lady as part of our Otter family!

STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.



Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park

Lyreleaf sage

By LYNN ARTZ, DAVID RODDENBERRY, and SANDY TEDDER



The foot-tall flower spikes of lyreleaf sage (*Salvia lyrata*) delight in late winter. Whorls of pale blue to violet, 1-inch tubular flowers on square, leafless stems attract bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Each flower's lower lip makes an excellent landing pad. When a bee lands, the two flower stamens tip downward, dousing it with pollen. The rest of the year, the attractive, green tinged with purple, lyre-shaped leaves hug the ground. Lyreleaf sage makes a lovely evergreen groundcover that can be mowed and walked on. Use it to replace lawn, or mix with turf grass or other ground covers, in part shade to full sun in medium-moist soil. At Sopchoppy Depot Park, lyreleaf sage is being planted as a ground cover around redring milkweeds that were planted last fall.

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Wakulla County Tax Collectors Office
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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.

PROPERTY APPRAISER WAKULLA ESTD 1843

LOOKING FOR A SPEAKER FOR YOUR NEXT GROUP OR ORGANIZATION MEETING?



Your property appraiser is available to speak on property assessments, leadership, community issues and more!
Call our office at 850-926-0500 to schedule.

Ed Brimmer, CFA
Wakulla County Property Appraiser



Susan Vickers named county employee of the quarter

Susan Vickers, a senior planner in Wakulla County Planning and Community Development Department, was named the county's employee of the quarter. Vickers was praised by Assistant County

Administrator Somer Pell at the county commission meeting on Monday, March 5, for her hard work, and for being "the utmost pleasure to work with." Pell presented Vickers with a plaque. One

perk of of being employee of the quarter is it comes with 8 hours of time off. County commissioners and other planning employees joined Vickers for a photo. (Photo by William Snowden)

Songbird plans discussed

County commissioners hosted a public meeting on Songbird intersection improvements on Thursday, March 7, at the Wakulla County Community Center.

Project details were shared on improvements to the Crawfordville Highway/Songbird Avenue intersection and aroundabout to be located at the Songbird Avenue/Wakulla Arran Road intersection.

Speaking at the meeting were Pat Jones, representing Wakulla County School Board Transportation, County Administrator David Edwards, Justin Ford of Dewberry Engineering, Morris Pigott of Pigott Asphalt and Site-Work, and Mike King, county Road and Bridge Director. Also attending were Somer Pell, Assistant Director of Planning and Community Development and county commissioners Quince Messersmith, Mike Kemp and Fred Nichols.

This will be the third roundabout constructed in Wakulla County, the others being at Cajal Posey Road and East Ivan Road.

Adding a right turn lane and resurfacing 319 in this area with crosswalks and pedestrian signals was discussed at the meeting as well.

– Linda Ann McDonald

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.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Wakulla County Code Enforcement Board will hold a **Public Hearing On March 26, 2024 at 5:30pm** in the Commission Chambers, 29 Arran Rd., Crawfordville, FL 32327.

Interested parties are invited to attend and participate.

Persons with a disability needing a special accommodation should contact the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners Administration Office at least two (2) days prior to the meeting at (850) 926-0919; Hearing & Voice Impaired at 1-800-955-8771; or email at ADARrequest@mywakulla.com.

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

March 14, 2024



Optimist essay contest

Special to The Sun Perry, Adrian Blas and Katrina Perry.

Wakulla High School Student Kaylie Kosec, right, took first place in the Optimist Club Essay Contest. Kaylie, a ninth grader, won \$100 for her essay. The topic for this year was "Optimism: How it connects us." Colt Smith from Riversprings Middle School won second place and received \$75. The rest of the winners were all from Riversprings Middle. Receiving the third place award with \$50 was Alexa Weaver Ella Zak took fourth place in the contest and received \$25. The judges awarded three Honorable Mention prizes for \$10 to Jacob

The most important aspect for scoring the essays was how well the student focused on the topic and emphasized connectivity. The first place winner of the contest qualifies for the next level of competition. Kaylie Kosec's essay will be entered in the North Florida District Competition in April.

The Optimist Club thanks all the students who participated and especially their teachers who made it possible for them to compete.

The Coastal Optimist Club's motto is "Friend of Youth" and the club promotes competitions



that reward students for academic achievement.

Besides the Essay Contest, students who like to give speeches can also enter the Oratorical contest. The theme

is "How to Change the World with Optimism."

For information go to www.optimist.org or email danielsj@rocket-mail.com.

Lawsuit against sheriff dismissed

By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**
Editor

A lawsuit filed back in 2020 against the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office claiming a deputy was negligent in failing to properly investigate an alleged shooting was dismissed last week.

Citizen Keith Cardin filed the lawsuit against the sheriff's office back in December 2020 claiming that the sheriff's office was negligent when a sheriff's deputy did nothing to help him – and allegedly sat in his patrol vehicle while a neighbor fired shots from an AR-15 in Cardin's direction.

Wakulla Circuit Judge Layne Smith signed a 5-page order granting summary judgment to the sheriff's office finding that there is "no governmental tort liability for action or inaction of government

officials or employees carrying out discretionary governmental functions" – such as the discretion given to law enforcement officers.

The judge's order gave a different account of events than Cardin's: "Sergeant Parfitt arrived on scene approximately 6 minutes after (Cardin) called 911. He spoke with (Cardin), who was uninjured, before leaving the property to investigate the source of the gunshots, where he spoke to the shooters and determined they were shooting into the ground and not in the direction of (Cardin)."

Cardin's lawsuit claims the whole matter, which happened on Feb. 3, 2018, began when a neighbor's pit bull came onto his property, growling and snapping, and he fired a shot from a .45 handgun into a tree near the dog and the dog left.

Deputy Stephen Parfitt responded to the call, but the lawsuit claimed the deputy was more interested in asking questions of Cardin's friend, only identified as "Mike." An Animal Control Officer went to the neighbor's house to talk to him about the dog; the animal control officer requested Deputy Parfitt talk to the dog owner.

According to the lawsuit, as the deputy was leaving, he took out mace and pointed it at Cardin and "Mike" and shook it several times.

After the deputy and animal control left the neighbor's house, someone from the neighbor's property allegedly came onto Cardin's property and began shooting at AR-15 in the direction of Cardin and his guest.

They took cover and called 911.

The lawsuit claimed that Parfitt returned

and sat in his patrol vehicle and took no action.

Cardin yelled at the neighbor that he would start shooting back if he didn't stop firing in their direction. They then made their way to Parfitt's vehicle and asked if he was aware of the shooting. He allegedly pointed at the computer screen in his vehicle and said, "Yeah, I'm reading about it."

Cardin reportedly asked the deputy why he was sitting in his patrol vehicle when he was being shot at by a semi-automatic rifle. He claimed Parfitt responded: "It sounds like a small caliber."

What caliber does it need to be to get help? Cardin said he responded.

Cardin was represented in the lawsuit by Tallahassee attorney Marie Mattox.

ADVERTISEMENT TO BID

WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA

Public Announcement Requesting Bids from Pre-Qualified General Contractors.

Bids are requested from pre-qualified general contractors by H2Engineering, Inc. on behalf of Wakulla County Schools.

H2E PROE CT No.: 23-145

WCS BID NO.: 23/24-02

PROE CT NAME: Riversprings Middle School AHU Replacement

BID DATE: Thursday, April 11, 2024

TIME: 11:00 a.m.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

1. Scope: One for one replacement of 2 DX split system air handling units and associated condensing units with new owner furnished contractor installed dx split system air handling units and condensing units. One system serves the Admin area and one system serves a classroom wing. New 6' tall chain link fence will house the new condensing units. Controls modification as required for new units. Minimal electrical work will be required for the one for one replacement of the units. Code minimum commissioning will be required.

2. The entity responsible for all aspects of project management:

H2Engineering, Inc.

114 East 5th Avenue

Tallahassee, Florida 32303

Phone: (850) 224-7922

Fax (850) 224-5876

3. Bids will only be accepted from General Contractors pre-qualified for this project.

4. All questions or requests for written interpretation or correction **MUST be in writing no later than Wednesday, April 10, 2024.** Direct all inquiries to the H2Engineering Project Manager: Mark Poindexter, PE. Email: mpoindexter@h2engineering.com

5. Sealed bids must be received at the Wakulla County School Board administration building, 69 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida 32327, **no later than 11:00 a.m. local time, on Thursday, April 11, 2024.** Bids must be clearly marked with project name, project number and bid number on the outside envelope. Submittals received after deadline will not be considered.

6. Bids must be submitted in full accordance with the requirements of the drawings, specifications, bidding conditions and contractual conditions, which may be obtained by contacting the H2Engineering project manager.

7. Drawings are available in digital format or can be printed at Seminole Blueprint.

In the event the Contract is awarded to the Bidder, Bidder shall, within eight (8) Owner business days after the award by the Owner of the Contract shall furnish the required Performance and Payment Bonds; failing to do such, Bidder shall forfeit their bid guarantee as liquidated damages. The Performance and Payment Bonds shall be secured from any agency of a surety or insurance company, which agency shall have an established place of business in the State of Florida and be duly licensed to conduct business there.

The Owner reserves the right to waive irregularities and/or informalities in any Bid and to reject any or all Bids in whole or part, with or without cause, and/or accept the Bid that in its judgment will be for the best interest of the School Board of Wakulla County, Florida.

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
69 ARRAN ROAD CRAWFORDVILLE, FLORIDA 32327

ROBERT PEARCE,
SUPERINTENDENT

March 14, 2024

Opinions

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Weekly Roundup: And... that's a wrap!

By **RYAN DAILEY**
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE —The 2024 session came to a close on time, with lawmakers approving a \$117.46 billion spending plan to finalize a session that the Senate president touted as targeting “kitchen-table issues” and the House speaker said “addressed the real needs of Floridians.”

During the last week of the 60-day session, lawmakers also passed measures that would allow volunteer chaplains in schools, outlaw euphoria-inducing hemp products and ban lab-grown meat.

Some of the measures that made it through the finish line in the waning days of session drew impassioned debates.

For example, the bill authorizing school districts to craft policies about chaplains (HB 931) set off a discussion that dealt in part with the separation of church and state.

“It seems like every year we keep chipping away at the separation of church and state. And I have to tell you, many of you are quite religious,” Sen. Tina Polsky, D-Boca Raton, argued Thursday. “And you use that to guide your voting and your principles and your bill proposals — and that’s fine. But the minute that you try to put your religion upon other people, that’s when it becomes a problem.”

Sen. Danny Burgess, a Zephyrhills Republican, contended that volunteer chaplains could help students in situations where issues could not be addressed by school counselors.

“I believe that sometimes the issue is with the soul, and not of the mind. And that’s why I believe that this is a good option for our students in this day and age,” Burgess said.

The Senate approved the bill in a 28-12 vote along party lines.

A discussion about a prohibition against cultivated meat, which Gov. Ron DeSantis has called “fake” meat, took on a more cosmic tone.

Rep. Dean Black, R-Jacksonville, said Wednesday it’s fine to develop “Moon meat” for astronauts, but cattle-men like himself won’t advocate for it.

But Rep. Christine Hunchofsky, D-Parkland, argued that the measure would ultimately be bad for business.

“I think it will deter future manufacturers from coming to Florida because they don’t know what day of the week that the Legislature will be OK with them being in the state of Florida,” Hunchofsky said.

Debate about banning certain hemp products has focused in part on a multibillion-dollar industry that could be jeopardized by the proposed restriction. The House and Senate on Wednesday gave final approval to the measure (SB 1698), which targets cannabinoids in hemp products that can create euphoric effects.

Rep. Hillary Cassel, D-Dania Beach, noted that the products targeted by the bill would still be allowed to be sold by the state’s licensed medical-marijuana operators.

“Let’s be very clear. This drug will still be available, and it will still be sold in Florida,” Cassel argued Wednesday. “If this product is so bad you wanna ban it, then ban it. But that’s not what we’re doing. We’re choosing which doors you buy from.”

House bill sponsor Tommy Gregory, R-Lakewood Ranch, acknowledged that his proposal is designed to eliminate intoxicating hemp products offered at retail stores.

“Today is a day of reckoning” for the manufacturers and retailers of the products, he said before the House passed the measure. “They can’t use a loophole to manufacture a recreational drug.”

CHA-CHING

Lawmakers on Friday gave final approval to the one responsibility they must follow through on each year — passing an annual state spending plan.

The \$117.46 billion state budget,

down from the current year’s \$119.1 billion budget, will go to DeSantis for approval. DeSantis in December proposed a \$114.4 billion budget, and legislative leaders in January discussed a need to tighten spending.

The budget approved Friday includes a 3 percent pay raise for state employees, with additional increases at the Agency for Health Care Administration and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and for agents who protect DeSantis and his family.

The budget also included a \$1.8 billion increase in the Florida Education Finance Program, the key funding source for public schools, and an 8 percent increase in Medicaid funding for nursing homes. No tuition increases for state college and university students were included in the spending plan.

Overall state spending will be higher than the \$117.46 billion in the budget because of separate legislation.

Renner and Passidomo boasted of the Legislature’s accomplishments as they prepared to end two-year terms leading the House and Senate.

“Again and again, we have looked at the real needs of real Floridians and delivered time and time again because of the men and women behind me who chose collaboration over competition,” Renner said after the session formally ended.

Passidomo in a statement touted the state’s budgets for the last two years.

“Instead of spending all of (what) we have, we are paying down debt, setting aside historic reserves, and providing for meaningful tax relief, so Floridians can keep more of their hard-earned money,” the Senate president said.

But House Minority Leader Fentrice Driskell, D-Tampa, described this year’s session as being about “missed opportunities.”

RESTRICTIONS REJECTED

In a rare instance of a federal ap-

peals court in Florida siding against DeSantis, a three-judge panel of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rejected restrictions that Republican lawmakers placed on addressing race-related issues in workplace training.

The restrictions were part of a controversial 2022 law that DeSantis dubbed the “Stop WOKE Act.” The law also included similar restrictions on classroom instruction.

The workplace-training part of the law listed eight race-related concepts and said that a required training program or other activity that “espouses, promotes, advances, inculcates, or compels such individual (an employee) to believe any of the following concepts constitutes discrimination based on race, color, sex, or national origin.”

The appeals court ruled that the restrictions violated First Amendment rights.

“This is not the first era in which Americans have held widely divergent views on important areas of morality, ethics, law and public policy,” the 22-page opinion said. “And it is not the first time that these disagreements have seemed so important, and their airing so dangerous, that something had to be done. But now, as before, the First Amendment keeps the government from putting its thumb on the scale.”

STORY OF THE WEEK: After a flurry of last-minute votes on bills, Florida lawmakers Friday passed a \$117.46 billion state budget and ended the 2024 legislative session.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: “I think they can make it on the Moon and export it on Mars, and it’s fine to have Martian meat as well. If you go to the Moon, if you go to Mars, you should be allowed to get it there. But you sure as heck shouldn’t be able to get it anywhere in this country, and sure as heck not here in Florida.” — Rep. Dean Black, R-Jacksonville, on a proposal to ban lab-grown meat

On the Horizon

Calendar of events for the week of March 14

Thursday, March 14

- St. Marks City Commission meets at the St. Marks City Hall at 6 p.m.
- The Wakulla County Cancer Support Group meets in the Education Center of the Crawfordville United Methodist Church at 7 p.m. This group meeting is for men and women, regardless of the type of cancer. Spouses, caregivers, and friends are welcome. For more information, call 850-926-6050.
- The second 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 the public library at 8:30 a.m. (Different location because TCC Wakulla is closed for spring break)
- 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 15

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

Saturday, March 16

- The annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade & Festival will be held beginning at 10 a.m. in Crawfordville, with festivities in Hudson Park afterward.
- Wakulla Giving Hands is holding a benefit cornhole tournament at The Chill Spot, 3123 Spring Creek Highway. Registration opens at

2:30 p.m. at \$20 per person and the tournament starts at 3:30 p.m.

- Palaver Tree Theater hosts the Pine Tree Church Music Fest from 2 to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$10 online or \$15 at the door.
- The Wakulla Caregiver Support Group will meet at the Public Library at 10 a.m.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

Monday, March 18

- The American Legion Post 114 will be meeting at the Wakulla County Public Library at 6:30 p.m.
- The Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners meets at 5 p.m. in the commission chambers.
- 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 19

- The Sarracenia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society is meeting at the Wakulla County Community Center at 6:30 p.m.
- 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 20

- 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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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.

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“It’s A New Day!”

The Wakulla Sun



Editor/Publisher: William Snowden
Reporter: Legion Taylor
Production Manager/IT: Eric Stanton
Circulation: Krystal Sheppard
Sales & Marketing: Lynda Kinsey

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/@TheWakullaSun

TWITTER: www.twitter.com/@TheWakullaSun

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Jessi Smith

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◀ Question of The Week ▶

– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

Polled at the Crawfordville Quick Stop:

Daylight Saving Time! For or against?



JEANNIE HALLSTROM
Retired – DHSMV

I'm for it, I have always liked that I have more daylight in the evening to work in my yard and my plants."



TONY BARTELL
Publicist

Horrible! I had to go to work yesterday at 5 a.m. and one clock said 3 a.m. when I got up, which it was 4 a.m., with the change. Monday was a horrible day."



LAWRENCE MCMILLIAN
Retired-City of Tallahassee

I like the Daylight Saving Time. I can cut grass after work and do things around the house outside."



MARY KELLY
Retired Wakulla Senior Center

"I don't really like it, I didn't want to get up this morning"



BRIAN BISHOP
GM Quality Insulation

Well, I kind of like it! You have time to go fishing in the evening"

Wakulla Station News

By **VERNA BROCK**

This past Saturday, Wakulla Wonderful was cancelled due to dangerous inclement weather. My heart goes out to everyone involved, having had the necessity of cancelling events that I have worked on. Personally, I was looking forward to celebrating the county's history and its people once again. I guess all we can do is say, "Next year!"

Now, the push is on for the Wood-

ville Founders Day Festival this coming Saturday (March 16th). The VFD is working hard to have a rousing success, with over 50 vendors signed up, offering all manner of arts, crafts, goods and food from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

There will be a host of historical presenters, including Theater With A Mission, blacksmith Mike "Murphy" Murphy, Ms. Judith Stricklin from the Tallahassee Museum, Dr. Richard Blaney and one of his amazing heri-

tage breed horses, Finley's Brigade, the Colored Troops, Southern Fire native drummers & dancers and so much more. Please add us to your calendar, and join us in praying for beautiful weather for this event!

Sunday evening, Ed and I joined our friends at the Woodville UMC to enjoy a fantastic hour of gospel music presented by the Harper Family Trio from Moultrie, Georgia. Afterwards, we joined in the fellowship hall for a delicious supper of corned beef and cabbage in honor of St. Patrick's Day. The food was great, the company even better, and you can share in this every second Sunday of the month. Every-

one is welcome!

While there, I had the great pleasure of seeing my dear friend Joan Hendrix. It has been awhile, but Joan never changes. She is just as beautiful, inside and out, as she has ever been. We agreed, we are going to set a lunch date to catch up on where life is going now.

Please continue to keep Clem Bunker, Thelma Watts, Faye Sweeney, the Butler family, and Norma Woodcock in your prayers. Also, please remember to pray for the conflicts in the Middle East and Ukraine. Peace is always a worthy request.

Sheriff's Report

This report is for activities March 1 to 7:

FRIDAY, MARCH 1

- Phoenix Bruner reported his vehicle being on fire. Bruner advised he was moving the vehicle to the back yard when it started smoking. After a brief smoke, the vehicle became engulfed in flames. Bruner contacted WCSO Communications and reported this incident. The unknown year blue Ford Explorer was a total loss. Deputy Shayne Broxie responded.

- A traffic stop was conducted on a vehicle for front headlight out. After making contact with the operator Tyler Rae Walker, it was discovered his driver's license was suspended at the time of stop. During contact, Walker admitted to knowing his license was suspended. Tyler was subsequently

arrested for driving while license suspended or revoked (DWLSR) with knowledge and transported to WCSO Jail Facility without incident. Deputy Norman De Guzman investigated.

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

- A traffic crash occurred which resulted in damage occurring to mailboxes at multiple locations in the area of Frank Jones, Emmitt Whaley, and Lawhon Mill roads. A boat was also located on the dirt portion of Lawhon Mill which was part of the investigation. Florida Highway Patrol arrived on scene and worked the crash. A short while later, it was determined that some of the damages may have been intentional, making this a possible criminal mischief. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

- Deputy Dustin Matthews responded to the

above location in reference to found property. Upon arrival, Shane Desguin handed him a black with tan grip Sig Sauer magazine. Desguin said he found the magazine on the side of Crawfordville Highway near the Circle K. The magazine was turned in as found property.

SUNDAY, MARCH 3

- Deputies James Williams and Kory Smith responded to several addresses in the Lake Ellen area in reference to damaged mailboxes. Multiple residences had their mailboxes destroyed or pulled out of the ground. Possible suspects in this case have been identified. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

MONDAY, MARCH 4

- Steve Byrd reported being scammed out of \$1,388. Byrd stated

he paid the money for repairs on his camper, but the work was never done. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Zac Monroe investigated.

- Angie Childers reported someone taking a sign from her yard and destroying a bracket. Childers valued the sign and bracket at approximately \$165. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Dakota Haddock investigated.

TUESDAY, MARCH 5

- An employee with Promise Land Ministries reported another employee taking miscellaneous items from the thrift store. Contact was made with the suspect, who stated he bought and paid for the items in question. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Edwin Grove investigated.

- Darwin Ferguson reported paying for tree

removal from a company identified as Meraiki Solar. Ferguson paid the company \$4,000, but they never did the work. Ferguson stated he wanted his money back, but the company has since deposited the check and will not refund the money. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Dakota Haddock investigated.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

- Deputies responded to Rocky's in reference to two males arguing in the parking lot. Upon arrival deputies made contact with Rollin Gates and Jason Pack. Gates, who is a taxi driver, advised he picked up Pack at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital and originally asked to be driven to the Circle K on Crawfordville Highway. Gates advised while en route that Pack changed his destination to Rocky's. Gates advised after arriving at the store Pack refused

to pay him for the fare. Pack advised the hospital was supposed to give him a "voucher" for the taxi ride. After verifying with the hospital there was no voucher, Pack was placed under arrest and transported to the Wakulla County Jail. Deputy Edwin Grove investigated.

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

- Deputy Dustin Matthews responded to Kings Road in reference to vehicle burglary. Upon arrival Deputy Matthews contacted the complainant Kerry Fontenot who stated his vehicle was broken into during the night. The complainant also stated his wallet and keys were missing from the center console. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

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

War Eagles are 6-1 after 3 weeks of play

By **KEITH ANDERSON**
Baseball coach

The War Eagles won in walkoff fashion on Feb. 27th. Trailing 3-0 until the 6th, the War Eagles finally got the offense going to tie it up a 3-3.

In the 7th inning, the War Eagles loaded up the bases with 2 outs and Garrett Veltkamp fought off several pitches with 2 strikes before delivering the game winning hit up the middle.

Leaston Spears fought through a tough 1st inning to give the War Eagles 4 innings of work holding the line for Jesse Nazworth who threw 2 shutout innings giving up 1 hit and striking

out 3.

Will Chipman came in to shut the door in the 7th needing only 9 pitches to put the game away and get the win. Michael Hurley paced the offense with 2 hits.

Parker Lawhon, Brady Crum, Garrett Veltkamp, and Sam Bruce all had a hit a piece.

- On Feb. 29th, the War Eagles hosted district foe Taylor County. The War Eagles gathered 6 hits against a hard throwing lefty to win 3-0.

Will Chipman started on the mound throwing 4 2/3 innings, scattering 3 hits, striking out 4 and only walking one in the winning effort. Gavin Estep came in relief to

throw 2 1/3 innings of shutout baseball giving up no hits and walking 1 while striking out one and receiving a save on the night.

Senior Catcher Brady Crum led the offense with a 2-3 night. Parker Lawhon, Michael Hurley, Joseph Pierini, and Gavin Estep each had a hit a piece. The War Eagles ran the bases aggressively with 10 Stolen bases on the night. Parker Lawhon had 3, Brady Crum, Joe Reyes, and Michael Hurley each had 2 stolen bases, and Joseph Pierini had 1.

On March 6th, the War Eagles hosted a strong Lincoln High team losing 12-4 for their first defeat

this year. Leaston Spears had another strong start on the mound before giving way into the 4th inning after a botched rundown and an error resulted in 4 runs for the trojans that should have been another shutout inning.

Jesse Nazworth, Hayden Wright, Garrett Veltkamp, Ryan Newberry, Connor Nazworth, and Gavin Gautreau all relieved from the bullpen. Despite the strong hitting and pitching performance from Lincoln, Wakulla banged out 8 hits to Lincoln's 10. Michael Hurley and Owen Klees each had 2 hits on the night, both with a double and a single.

Hayden Klees, Josiah Pierini, Brady Crum, and Sam Bruce each had singles.

On Friday, March 8th, the War Eagles traveled to Leon where they would be tied at 4-4 and go into extra innings to preserve the win 6-4 in the comeback victory.

Starting pitcher Gavin Estep had another fine outing for the War Eagles pitching through some early adversity down 3-0 once again, but managing to throw 4.2 innings scattering 6 hits, only giving up 2 earned runs and striking out five coming out of the game with the score tied at 3. Will Chipman came on in relief to throw 3.1 shutout

inning giving up 3 hits, striking out three and walking none.

Parker Lawhon and Haden Klees both notched 2 hits. Klees had the big blow with the go-ahead run in the 8th inning. Brady Crum cemented the lead with an RBI single also in the 8th. Michael Hurley continued with his hot bat adding a hit and a timely sacrifice bunt.

Josiah Pierini and Sam Bruce also chipped in a single and Gavin Gautreau had a double in the affair.

The War Eagles improve to 6-1 and will travel to Brookwood and host Suwannee in the upcoming week.

Outdoors

outdoor sports

HOME ON THE RANGE

.380s – which shoots best?



By MARJ LAW

Is it a cinch to rack the slide?
Is it a cinch to load the mag?
Does the target boost your pride?
Does the recoil make you gag?

These are four main concerns Newbie has when purchasing a new handgun. Newbie wants a gun that has more power than a .22, but has less recoil than a 9mm. The .380 is generally somewhere between the two.

The .380 are normally easier to manage. This is great for all those with minimal shoulder, hand, and arm strength.

Today we're going to discuss some merits of the Smith & Wesson .380 Shield EZ, the Sig Sauer 365 .380 and the Ruger Security .380. Right is the Ruger, middle high target is the Sig .380, and the left is the S&W .380 EZ.

Joe shot three rounds on each target and so did I. Notice that all six rounds on the Ruger right target have formed two tight groups; one group of two on the bullseye and the other four at about 10 o'clock. Two of the rounds have hit at the same place. You can see that one hole is larger where two rounds overlapped.

Not bad, huh? You'll want your defensive gun to shoot well at about 20 feet. These

targets are set at 21 feet. Few of us have a home with rooms or halls longer than 21 feet, so we want to be accurate at this distance.

Let's look at the middle target. This is the new Sig Sauer 365 .380. Five of the shots made the target. Who knows where the sixth went? There are no tight groupings here. Does this make you turn away?

A huge difference in these handguns is that this Sig has a much shorter grip and is smaller than the others. This makes it more concealable, but if your hand doesn't get a nice firm grip, you may not shoot as well as you'd like. The difference may be rectified with the longer 12-round magazine, which does not come with the gun. You have to order the longer magazine separately.

I bet the extended grip caused by the 12-round magazine may make up for a better showing. However, five rounds still hit the target. This ought to be sufficient to stop a threat coming at you.

The target on the left shows the six rounds from the Smith & Wesson .380 Shield EZ. Notice the grouping of three rounds right near the bullseye and two more about 10 o'clock. The last round is at about 5:30. All of these rounds will hit the critical mass of a person breaking into your house and coming at you.

Does this mean the Smith & Wesson is a better handgun?

No. All three handguns hit the critical mass which is inside the 8-inch targets. That speaks well for all of them. But how do they shoot? How is the trig-



Smith & Wesson .380 Shield EZ Compact
Tight Groups!
8-Round Magazine

Sig Sauer 365 .380 Micro Compact
Very Concealable!
10-Round Magazine

Ruger Security .380 Compact
Tight Groups
10 & 15-Round Magazines

ger pull? How long is the trigger pull travel? How much recoil will you get? How difficult is it to rack the slide?

We rate these issues on a 1-5 scale, giving a 1 to the easiest possible to a 5 meaning it is hard or difficult.

The Ruger has the longest grip since we put in its 15-round magazine. Joe has big hands and all his four fingers have a secure grasp. Although I have small hands, this gives me a secure hold as well. The Ruger has the highest score for grip. It comes with the shorter 10-round magazine as well.

This Ruger has a light trigger pull, but the travel of the trigger is longer than we expected.

Recoil is a 1.5-2, and ease of racking the slide is a 1. It's really easy to rack the slide.

Summing up the Ruger, it's good for large hands (and small), and it shoots very smoothly. It holds a lot of rounds; coming with both the 10 and the 15-round magazines. Recoil is

light. Racking the slide is simple, trigger pull is light and grip is solid. We like it.

Next is the Sig Sauer 365 .380. This handgun has the smallest grip of the three, so we might not have had as good a hold on the grip as we would if we'd had the 12-round versus the 10-round magazine that comes with the gun.

The Sig, mind you, with only the 10-round magazine has a bit more recoil, but not much. We both give it a 2, versus the 1.5-2 of the Ruger.

The Sig is a micro-compact handgun, while the Ruger is compact. I like the smaller size of the Sig. I would prefer the 12-round magazine, which would give a stronger grip and holds two more rounds. Trigger is somewhat harder and longer than the Ruger's. Slide rack is a solid 2, versus the 1 of the Ruger.

But this is not to say you should get the Ruger instead of the Sig.

Trigger travel is shorter than the Ruger's. Recoil is about the same as the Ruger's.

Groupings were not so tight as the Ruger's, but the rounds hit the target.

I firmly believe this Sig would beat out the Ruger if it had that 12-round longer magazine. Besides, I just prefer the smaller size of the gun.

Now, the Smith & Wesson M&P .380 Shield EZ does seem to be the easiest gun to manage.

Trigger pull and trigger pull travel are quite light. Recoil is light as well. Grip is longish to give better grip, but it only holds eight rounds. I find the grip a bit wide from front to back, making it a bit large for me.

Loading a magazine? Well, the UpLula has made most .380s and 9s very easy to load. However, the Smith & Wesson .380 Shield EZ has a magazine with a button. Push down the button, just like you would a .22, and it is EZ to load. Mostly.

After about four rounds, you feel the resistance of the magazine's spring. Your

pushing thumb will have a dent in it where you're pushing the button. For me, it means after those first four rounds, I end up using the UpLula anyway.

Racking the slide is very easy and light.

Finally, which is best?

I like the Ruger for its 15-round magazine which comes with the gun (along with the 10). Joe likes the 15-round mag for the longer grip.

The slide racks easily and recoil is light.

I like the Sig for its very small and concealable size. It's the smallest of the three handguns. It's not quite so easy to shoot as the Ruger, but it is still light in trigger, kick, and ease of racking the slide.

I like the Smith & Wesson M&P .380 Shield EZ because Smith & Wesson has learned to make handguns easy to use. From easy loading to easy trigger and light recoil to easy racking the slide. Yes, this is an EZ handgun.

Coming from the box, the S&W holds 8 rounds, the Sig holds 10, and the Ruger comes with 10 and 15-round magazines.

All three handguns have light recoil, light triggers and easy-to-rack slides.

Which is better?

It's hard to decide, but I prefer the micro compact size of the Sig.

Joe has big hands and he likes the Ruger.

A girlfriend prefers the Smith & Wesson because she says it's so easy to use.

It all depends which works best for you.

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



WEAKFISH
(*Cynoscin arenarius*)

Sometimes known as white trout or sea trout, weakfish are named for their tender mouths which easily pull free from a hook. They are soft hitters and often the only indication that they are on the line is a light bump. Adults are found primarily inshore remaining in bays and inlets during the warm months and then moving to deeper water offshore during the winter. They are a small fish, reaching about 10-12" and less than 1 pd. They feed on small fish, shrimp, crabs, and squid. To avoid confusion with similar species, look for yellow color inside their mouth.

Eukarya, Animalia, Cordata, Actinopterygii, Perciformes, Sciaenidae



WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO



Local photographer Perry Dissmore shared this photo shot at the refuge of an alligator sunning on a log and his reflection in the water.

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a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences



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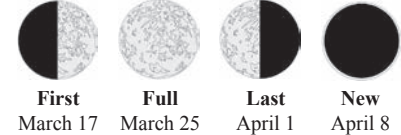


Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

March 14 - March 20



Tide charts by
tides4fishing.com



Best fishing days this month
March 10-25

Thursday 14	
Sun rise/set 7:46AM 7:44PM	Moon rise/set 10:31AM ---
Moon Illumination 23%	
Friday 15	
Sun rise/set 7:45AM 7:45PM	Moon rise/set 11:15AM 12:55AM
Moon Illumination 33%	
Saturday 16	
Sun rise/set 7:44AM 7:46PM	Moon rise/set 12:04PM 2:01AM
Moon Illumination 43%	
Sunday 17	
Sun rise/set 7:43AM 7:46PM	Moon rise/set 12:58PM 3:02AM
Moon Illumination 53%	
Monday 18	
Sun rise/set 7:42AM 7:47PM	Moon rise/set 1:56PM 3:56AM
Moon Illumination 63%	
Tuesday 19	
Sun rise/set 7:40AM 7:47PM	Moon rise/set 2:55PM 4:43AM
Moon Illumination 72%	
Wednesday 20	
Sun rise/set 7:39AM 7:48PM	Moon rise/set 3:53PM 5:24AM
Moon Illumination 81%	

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

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

St. Marks River Entrance

Th	6:05 am ▲ 2.8 ft	11:03 am ▼ 1.1 ft	4:55 pm ▲ 3.7 ft	
Fr	12:27 am ▼ -0.5 ft	7:05 am ▲ 2.3 ft	11:22 am ▼ 1.5 ft	5:19 pm ▲ 3.5 ft
Sa	1:31 am ▼ -0.2 ft	8:35 am ▲ 2.0 ft	11:36 am ▼ 1.8 ft	5:47 pm ▲ 3.3 ft
Su	3:03 am ▼ 0.1 ft	6:24 pm ▲ 2.9 ft		
Mo	4:51 am ▼ 0.2 ft	7:57 pm ▲ 2.6 ft		
Tu	6:07 am ▼ 0.1 ft	1:15 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	5:37 pm ▼ 2.0 ft	11:35 pm ▲ 2.6 ft
We	6:57 am ▼ 0.0 ft	1:32 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	6:45 pm ▼ 1.6 ft	

City of St. Marks

Th	12:40 am ▼ -0.6 ft	6:41 am ▲ 2.6 ft	12:07 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	5:31 pm ▲ 3.4 ft
Fr	1:31 am ▼ -0.4 ft	7:41 am ▲ 2.1 ft	12:26 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	5:55 pm ▲ 3.3 ft
Sa	2:35 am ▼ -0.2 ft	9:11 am ▲ 1.8 ft	12:40 pm ▼ 1.6 ft	6:23 pm ▲ 3.0 ft
Su	4:07 am ▼ 0.1 ft	7:00 pm ▲ 2.7 ft		
Mo	5:55 am ▼ 0.2 ft	8:33 pm ▲ 2.4 ft		
Tu	7:11 am ▼ 0.1 ft	1:51 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	6:41 pm ▼ 1.8 ft	
We	12:11 am ▲ 2.4 ft	8:01 am ▲ 2.4 ft	2:08 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	7:49 pm ▼ 1.4 ft

Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	12:01 am ▼ -0.7 ft	6:23 am ▲ 3.0 ft	11:35 am ▼ 1.1 ft	5:28 pm ▲ 3.7 ft
Fr	12:51 am ▼ -0.6 ft	7:19 am ▲ 2.6 ft	12:00 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	5:54 pm ▲ 3.6 ft
Sa	1:50 am ▼ -0.3 ft	8:31 am ▲ 2.2 ft	12:24 pm ▼ 1.7 ft	6:24 pm ▲ 3.3 ft
Su	3:08 am ▼ 0.0 ft	10:25 am ▲ 2.0 ft	12:54 pm ▼ 1.9 ft	7:03 pm ▲ 3.0 ft
Mo	4:46 am ▼ 0.2 ft	8:35 pm ▲ 2.7 ft		
Tu	6:10 am ▼ 0.1 ft	1:18 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	5:38 pm ▼ 2.1 ft	11:45 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
We	7:08 am ▼ 0.0 ft	1:45 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	7:05 pm ▼ 1.7 ft	

Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	5:57 am ▲ 2.1 ft	11:14 am ▼ 0.8 ft	4:47 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	
Fr	12:38 am ▼ -0.4 ft	6:57 am ▲ 1.7 ft	11:33 am ▼ 1.1 ft	5:11 pm ▲ 2.6 ft
Sa	1:42 am ▼ -0.1 ft	8:27 am ▲ 1.5 ft	11:47 am ▼ 1.3 ft	5:39 pm ▲ 2.5 ft
Su	3:14 am ▼ 0.1 ft	6:16 pm ▲ 2.2 ft		
Mo	5:02 am ▼ 0.1 ft	7:49 pm ▲ 1.9 ft		
Tu	6:18 am ▼ 0.1 ft	1:07 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	5:48 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	11:27 pm ▲ 2.0 ft
We	7:08 am ▼ 0.0 ft	1:24 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	6:56 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	

St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	6:22 am ▲ 2.2 ft	11:18 am ▼ 1.1 ft	5:08 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	
Fr	12:33 am ▼ -0.7 ft	7:28 am ▲ 1.9 ft	11:37 am ▼ 1.4 ft	5:40 pm ▲ 2.8 ft
Sa	1:33 am ▼ -0.5 ft	9:02 am ▲ 1.7 ft	11:35 am ▼ 1.6 ft	6:15 pm ▲ 2.6 ft
Su	2:53 am ▼ -0.2 ft	7:05 pm ▲ 2.4 ft		
Mo	4:32 am ▼ -0.1 ft	8:48 pm ▲ 2.2 ft		
Tu	5:57 am ▼ -0.1 ft	2:21 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	6:23 pm ▼ 1.7 ft	11:03 pm ▲ 2.1 ft
We	6:54 am ▼ -0.1 ft	2:18 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	7:10 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	

Dog Island West End

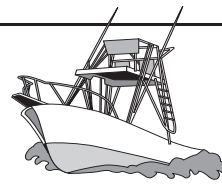
Th	12:08 am ▼ -0.5 ft	6:46 am ▲ 1.8 ft	11:38 am ▼ 1.2 ft	5:26 pm ▲ 2.4 ft
Fr	12:57 am ▼ -0.5 ft	7:54 am ▲ 1.6 ft	11:49 am ▼ 1.4 ft	5:54 pm ▲ 2.4 ft
Sa	1:52 am ▼ -0.3 ft	6:23 pm ▲ 2.3 ft		
Su	3:08 am ▼ -0.1 ft	6:56 pm ▲ 2.1 ft		
Mo	4:43 am ▼ 0.0 ft	8:12 pm ▲ 1.9 ft		
Tu	6:10 am ▼ 0.0 ft	3:22 pm ▲ 1.7 ft	6:58 pm ▼ 1.7 ft	10:32 pm ▲ 1.9 ft
We	7:14 am ▼ 0.0 ft	3:00 pm ▲ 1.7 ft	7:37 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	11:52 pm ▲ 1.9 ft

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



Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports

By Carolyn Brown Treadon



This following information comes from Jim McGraw with U.S. Coast Guard Heartland Safe Boating. "A boat is a hole in the water into which you pour money."

While not all boats are expensive to own and maintain, money is a constraint on most recreational boating. While the high-tech signaling devices such as a 406 MHz personal locator beacon (PLB) are highly effective, they may cost more than a boat owner is willing to spend. Let's talk about the low-cost signaling equipment that can make a life-saving difference in many accidents.

Many commercial passenger vessels (depending on size, number of pax, and location) are required to equip every passenger personal flotation device (PFD) with four kinds of gear to increase the likelihood of finding persons in the water (PIW). None of these are expensive and all can make a life-saving difference in some situations:

Bright color - A PFD in a bright color such as yellow or orange can make a PIW much easier to see in daytime. A black, navy blue, or charcoal PFD may look

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

cool out of the water... but they are essentially invisible when in the water. Many inflatable PFDs have a fashionable outer cover that reveals a brightly colored bladder when inflated.

Reflective Tape - Last summer I participated in Man Overboard (MOB) recovery drills at night for the first time. I was shocked at how very difficult it was to see a human sized target in the water in the dark. When our Oscar (rescue dummy) was equipped with reflective tape, the difference in visibility was quite dramatic!

Whistle - A whistle is a powerful way to be findable! Our voices tire quickly. A whistle is easy to use and can often be heard long before a person can be seen. The best whistles are plastic rather than metal (to

prevent freezing to lips in cold weather) and are pea-less, as the pea often causes poor performance when the whistle is flooded with water.

Light - A light can absolutely be lifesaving in PIW situations at night! There are a variety of lights designed for attachment to PFDs. Some of these lights will activate automatically upon immersion in water. Many of these lights will be marked with a USCG approval statement. That approval is not required for recreational boats, but you may desire that approval.

Every time U.S. Coast Guard small boat crews get underway, each crew member is carrying all of the above (and more, such as a knife and PLB) on their person!

Every year there are numerous deaths from

persons going into the water from small vessels near shore. In these cases a brightly colored PFD, with reflective tape, a whistle, and light can be the difference between life and death.

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.

Class for several FSU students.

I just finished a class for several Florida State students, they did very well. We decided to go to the Vortex Springs because Morrison springs was at a clarity of 5 - which is extremely muddy. The They signed in and got their bands. I'm in the final stages of certifying a new Dive Master to help me with future classes. I currently have a fully certified dive master and she does a great job in helping me teach my classes.

I am working to get both of my DMs their instructor certification sometime this summer. So my DM gave the before-dive briefing and then we all geared up and started that walk down the hill to the spring. I still can't get used to the slow filling of cold water going from my ankles to my neck. We descended to about 12 feet and my DM starts the skills with them. I am observing the students and I noticed that one of them is shivering a lot.

When you are cold enough to shiver like that then its almost impossible to do simple tasks under water. The DM noticed also and he immediately took him to the surface then I noticed that his wetsuit had large pockets where it wasn't fitting very snug. I surfaced with the other students and sent them and my DM back to the bottom to work on their skills. I swam the very cold student over to the steps and had him get out of the water and change into some dry clothes.

I then went back to the students and they did a great job doing their required skills. We then took them on a swim on the bottom of the springs until their air was down to about 1800psi, we then surfaced and swam to the steps and excited the water for about a half hour surface interval. We changed our tanks out and then got back into the water.

The young man stayed out because he was still a little cold. After we surfaced I changed into warm clothes. I took him into the dive shop to try on a smaller wetsuit and it fit a lot better.

The next day we met at the vortex dive shop to sign in. He picked up the wetsuit and we put our gear together then entered the water. I had my DM take the rest of the students through the rest of the bottom skills while I worked to bring up the young man to the skills of the rest of the students.

Unfortunately, he was not able to finish at that time but he will join us on the next open water class to finish out his certification. The other students were able to finish their skills for their certification.

My DM did a great job with the students in the open water, all he needs to do now is finish his last open water with me then I can sign off his DM certification. Then his work begins towards his instructor certification.

Until next week keep making bubbles.

Russell Miller #59999

FWC Law Enforcement Report

From FWC

This report represents some events the FWC handled Feb. 9-15 in the Northwest Region. (No cases were reported in Wakulla County)

GADSDEN COUNTY

• Officer L. Glover was investigating a possible trespass on private property and

encountered a subject who stated he had killed an antlered deer earlier that morning. Upon further inspection, he found the subject had harvested a deer that did not meet antler point regulations and had not filled out a harvest log. Officer Glover issued a warning for not filling out a harvest log and a citation for taking antlered deer not meeting antler point

regulations.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

• Officer Specialist W. Brookes and Officer L. Glover were on patrol in the Aucilla Wildlife Management Area and found a vehicle parked in a secluded area and believed individuals associated with the vehicle were digging for artifacts. Officer Glover contacted Lieutenant

G. Louque for assistance with locating the subjects. One subject was observed walking back to the vehicle covered in dirt. Officer Glover found another subject digging for artifacts. The subject that walked back to the vehicle had chert and two stone artifacts. The subjects were arrested and transported to the Jefferson County Jail.



Your local source for news.

Allowing others to merge onto our 'highway'

By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

A highway sign tells me to merge because my lane is ending. As soon as possible, I do.

Then, where the lane ends, I see that several drivers who were be-

hind me before I merged are stuck. I see their blinkers, but I refuse to let them in. I merged on time. I have the right to ignore them (and in a way, punish them) for waiting until the last minute to merge. They should have merged sooner – behind me. I justify my selfish attitude by believing I'm a more righteous driver. Can you relate?

As we continue studying, bit by bit, the love chapter in 1 Corinthians 13, let's practice this week's challenge: "[Love] does not insist on its own way" (1 Cor-

inthians 13:5 ESV). The Amplified Bible, Classic Edition adds "does not insist on its own rights."

This week, let's ask God to help us yield our agenda and rights to His purposes. Our best model, of course, is Jesus. He never exerted His rights while living on earth, even though He had every right to do so. His death at Calvary is the best example of this.

When we put the needs of others ahead of our own, we demonstrate God's love. Sadly, we notice people disre-

garding our needs and rights much quicker than we notice ourselves failing to consider theirs.

For instance, as a sales rep for Wave 94, how often do I help a coworker succeed (even another salesperson) or pray for a competitor to prosper (including another radio station)? How would it change our relationships if we saved the last piece of pie for someone else? Or graciously allowed people to express their opinions, especially when we disagree?

Playing on my open-

ing, what would happen if we'd allow people to "merge" onto our busy schedule by offering help when needed?

How would it change our mood on a crowded interstate if we allowed someone to merge late – and smiled while doing it? We just might be extending grace to a driver who learned his wife has cancer or to a stressed single mom who simply missed seeing the earlier merge sign.

What would it cost us to give up our "rights" just once this week? How much would we

gain?

Let's pray:

Lord Jesus, thank You for modeling true sacrificial love. Help us live in such a way that we don't always insist on our own way or rights. Teach us how to prioritize others' needs, especially when we feel too busy to care. Amen.

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.

Together we can move mountains

By **CHERYL CRUCE**

For as long as I can remember, I have had a job to do. As a child, my responsibility was drying the dishes after supper. I wish I had a proverbial nickel for every time I left the silverware untouched. Something about all those forks, spoons, and knives seemed too daunting.

As I grew, so did my duties of helping with the household chores.

It was the same with my siblings.

We all had tasks to complete, and we all started by standing on an old wash pot at the draining board. I remember thinking how unfair it was to have so many everyday jobs; however, now I understand the reason behind the unfairness. Our parents were teaching us what it meant to be a family. All of us were an essential part of a team that kept us moving like a well-oiled machine. Our duties taught us responsibility, to pull our weight, and to be team players.

As a team, we worked together, encouraging each other to do our best. When the work was done, we discov-

ered time for outside activities, board games, or other forms of entertainment. Through the years, we have grown and moved on with new responsibilities. We have faced mountains and obstacles with that foundation of oneness. We have accomplished many things because we have shouldered life together.

What would our world look like if we realized how unity promotes growth? There was a time in the history of humanity when people walked in unity, speaking one language. They began to build a great city with a tower to reach the heavens. The Lord said nothing was impossible for the people because they were of one voice (Gene-

sis 11:1-9). Today, if we spoke the language of togetherness, we could drastically change our world.

Helen Keller's statement, "Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much," holds a lot of truth. Consider this: what would happen if our churches spoke one language today? What if we genuinely became our Lord's head, hands, and feet, walking a path of faith in unity? What if we were the Body of Christ, seeing each other in the image of God? We would begin to see hearts changed and brokenness healed.

Christ makes everything possible as we unite as one in Him. Together, we are as strong as the three cord strands

woven as one. We are not easily broken. When two or more are working, we will find a greater return on our labor. When trouble comes our way, we can lift each other up. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12).

Jesus knew the power of two or more joined together in ministry. Jesus sent the disciples forth in ministry in pairs for two reasons: first, they would have a witness to the work they were doing, and second, they could encourage each other in ministry. Jesus told them to take nothing for their journey except their staff. All they needed for success was their faith and each other (Mark 6:7-13).

When I was a child standing on the wash pot, my sister knew how

to make me successful. She washed the silverware first to get "the daunting" out of the way. Truthfully, life is full of overwhelming, daunting tasks, mountains we cannot move alone. As children of God, we are encouraged to reach out to each other for help or to be a help. Together, the mountains can and will move.

Psalms 133:1&3b How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! For there, the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.

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

OUT TO PASTOR

Why does Monday have to follow Sunday?

By **JAMES SNYDER**

The older I get, the more I wake up not knowing what day it is. That is particularly true on Mondays.

My favorite day of the week is Sunday. I enjoy attending church, fellowshiping with other Christians, and, of course, the Sunday worship services. I enjoy Sunday morning and evening like no other time of the week.

Since I became a Christian about 65 years ago, I have only missed a Sunday service when I was sick or had some emergency. Sunday is the most important day of the week for me, and it has been for years. I don't see it changing anytime soon.

As much as I love Sunday, I can't say the same about Monday. Sunday is filled with joy and, rejoicing and delightful fellowship. I get up each Sunday morning with great expectations. Monday is a different story, filled

with gloom, doom, and a "What day is it?" mentality.

When I wake up on Monday morning, I often don't remember what day it is. Monday is the kind of day that I can't remember anything that I've done for the week because I haven't done anything for the week yet. I often forget it's the first day of the week. Confusion seems to be my partner.

Tuesday is not so bad because I can somehow remember the day, some of the things I did on Monday, and my plans for the rest of the week. But on Monday, I have to start the week all over again, and who has the energy to do that?

I understand that Saturday is the day we prepare for Sunday. I get that, and I do it every week. There should be some kind of law making Monday a day to recover from Sunday's activities and prepare for the week ahead.

Often, I'll wake up on Monday morning, look at The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, and say very soberly, "What day is it?"

Usually, she looks at me and says sarcastically, "I don't know; check your calendar."

By Wednesday, I will

be in my regular work mode and get up every morning eager to start working on my weekly plans.

I've had a thought along this line. Sometimes, I'm going to sleep all day on Monday, get up Tuesday morning, and see if I remember what day it is. That might help me understand all this nonsense I wallow in every week.

I need to be very careful along this line. For example, if The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage knew I got up on Monday morning not knowing what my plans were for the day, she may make those plans for me. Believe me; she knows how to plan out every minute of every day.

That's one reason I need a calendar to schedule my plans for the week. It doesn't matter if I finish all those plans or not. It only matters that The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage sees I have scheduled work for myself.

The problem is that on Monday morning, when I get up, I'm not even sure what day it is, and there is a certain danger that The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage may come to my rescue.

The problem is that

since my retirement, I have moved my office out of the church and into our home. When my office was in the church, I could get up Monday morning and say, "I gotta get to the church office and get started on my work for the week." I then could figure out what I was going to do for the day and the week ahead of me. That worked for many years.

I must say, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has taken advantage of this weakness of mine. On a Monday morning, when I get up and shuffle out to the kitchen, she greets me by saying, "What plans do you have for today?"

At that time, I usually mumble and confess that I don't know. Then she says, "That's good because we need to go across town and pick up a few things." Where she got the "we," I don't know.

After hearing this for a few years, I discovered she was talking about a whole day of shopping. Who knew?

Maybe I could plan better for Monday if I didn't get so excited about Sunday. Perhaps I could have some things on my "to-do list" that would occupy me for the whole day.

Of course, even if I have such a list on Monday morning when I get up, I sometimes can't even remember my name.

It will be a shocking Monday when I get up very lucid, remember my name, and have a plan for the day all in my head. I don't think The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage would recognize me that day.

In all of my frustration, I was reminded of Philippians 4:6 – "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

My frustration only brings stress into my life. Each day, I need to discipline myself to give the elements of my life over to God. Only He can sort out my life in a way that glorifies Him. Learning to pray for everything solves my problems.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamessnyder51@gmail.com, website www.jamessnyderministries.com.

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Obituaries

DEATH NOTICES

• **Virginia Lee Osgood**, 72, of Crawfordville, died March 10, 2024. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel, 850-926-5919, www.familyfhc.com

• **Shirley Mae Porter West**, 75, of Crawfordville, died March 7, 2024. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

Mobile Response Team

From Front Page

Apalachee Center clinic in that county will immediately respond, speaking to the caller over the phone and attempting to de-escalate the crisis.

If needed, counselors can also respond in person within 60 minutes of receiving the call, to provide the best help possible for individuals who need it.

If an individual calls outside of those hours, there is always someone on call in Apalachee's Central Receiving Facility to respond to calls, so support is always available for those who need it.

The sheriff's office has partnered with the Apalachee Center and MRTs so that when responding to calls, emer-

gency or otherwise, officers have trained professionals to rely on to help de-escalate dangerous scenarios and make effective mental health evaluations to determine whether or not a Baker Act should be conducted.

"You're combining the officers with the counselors because the officer on scene is making sure the environment's safe... while trying to determine this person's needs," said David Conn, community outreach coordinator at the sheriff's office. "With an MRT counselor there, the officer has someone to help make that decision over to a trained specialist... He can move forward with a professional's recommendation."

MRT also offers a way

for an individual who needs help to get it without needing to call the police department.

"It helps with the de-escalation," said Regina McQueen, the MRT counselor for Wakulla. "When they see the uniform coming, some people have fear of that authority... You don't always see an officer come to your door."

By giving an alternative to the police department, some situations can be more effectively defused, preventing something like a Baker Act – the involuntary commitment of someone for mental health issues for up to 72 hours – from being needed.

Between 2021 and 2023, Baker Acts conducted by sheriff's deputies decreased from 220

per year to 177, a change of 43 over the course of two years.

While it is too early yet to accurately measure the impact of the MRTs on this statistic, what can be measured is the impact of that decrease on the sheriff's office.

According to Major Anthony Curles of the Road Patrol Division, each Baker Act investigation an officer conducts can take up to four hours, from responding to the call to writing the report. Decreasing the number of Baker Acts carried out frees up deputies to get back out on the road and continue to keep Wakulla County safe.

The Apalachee Center's Helpline number is (800) 342-0774, and the sheriff's office non-emergency line is (850) 745-7100.

Church Briefs

• Mount Olive Primitive Baptist #2 offers 'Growth Phases'

Foundation Phase teaches the believer how to build their life properly on the foundation of the person of Jesus Christ and His finished work on the cross. There is the pattern of sound teaching in the Bible that the blueprint for spiritual development.

Growth phases provide the Biblical teachings in a step-by-step format to follow to be established in your relationship to Jesus and His purpose for your life.

The classes are offered at Mount Olive Primitive Baptist #2 on Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

The church is located at 8 Spring Creek Hwy, Crawfordville. For more information, call (850) 926-3645.

tobe7encouraged faith column The Blood of The Lamb...

Greetings Wakulla Citizens! Let's dive into this life changing encouragement. Last week we spoke of Jesus coming to "overcome" what Adam and Eve had committed in the Garden. To "overcome" means to "defeat (another) in competition or conflict. This is exactly what Jesus, LORD God did, FINISHED!, on the Cross for us! Jesus destroyed the curse that Adam and Eve caused on us and all the earth through their disobedience! Jesus gave us our authority back through His blood!

Jesus on the Cross Finished it ALL! We could chat about many many circumstances that are finished because of the "Lamb on the Cross." The focus today is the Christian that causes satan to be afraid! WOOHHOOOO!! The fear of death was finished on the Cross by the "Blood of the LAMB"!

The Christian satan is afraid of is the Christian that lives by and proclaims this Scripture "Revelation 12: 11 And they overcame him(satan) because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death". You see Jesus took the sting out of dying! Because of His blood He shed for us we may live forever! Our spirits, our true beings never die, we either choose Heaven or Hell as our destination! You see when we are apart from God this is "death," because He is life and gives life. As it mentions in Deuteronomy 30:15-20. Therefore, the fear of death is gone forever! What is the opposite of fear? LOVE! Love casts out ALL FEAR! Satan hates this! 1 John 4: 18 "There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love". Thank You Jesus!! Thank You God for Your Grace by which we are redeemed! God loves us that much!!

Now it is up to us to choose God and His ways or not. God gave us our own will to make that decision. Through every decision we make we have accountability in that very decision. We either keep our authority He has given to us, or we give it to the evil one to use against us. We make that decision! Deuteronomy 30: 15-20 "See, I have placed before you today life and happiness, and death and adversity, in that I am commanding you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways and to keep His commandments,

His statutes, and His judgments, so that you may live and become numerous, and that the Lord your God may bless you in the land where you are entering to take possession of it. 17 But if your heart turns away and you will not obey, but allow yourself to be led astray and you worship other gods and serve them, 18 I declare to you today that you will certainly perish. You will not prolong your days in the land where you are crossing the Jordan to enter and take possession of it. 19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have placed before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, 20 by loving the Lord your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding close to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days, so that you may live in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them."

Proverbs 18: 21 "Death and life are in the power of the tongue. And those who love it will eat its fruit."

We hope this blesses you and causes you to dive deeper in Him,

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. WOOHHOOOO!! 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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Audit committee

From Front Page

businesses because, as Brimmer told the committee, "The state essentially pays taxes for Wakulla County on that first \$25,000."

County Administrator David Edwards told the committee that it was

time to move forward with the new hires – and that by April things could be set in motion, acknowledging that it would take time to advertise and fill the positions.

Clerk of Courts Greg James urged caution, advising the committee to look at the April

numbers – which would represent a half-a-year's financials – before moving forward.

The biggest problem is that the shortfall is not a one-time issue since the money was to be spent on new personnel, which is a recurring expense.

It is expected when the committee meets in April that the projected taxable property values will

begin to come into clear focus and may well cover the recurring costs.

The audit committee is chaired by County Commission Chair Quincee Messersmith and is made up of county constitutional officers: Brimmer, James, Craze, and Supervisor of Elections Joe Morgan and Sheriff Jared Miller.

Highway 319

From Front Page

dated damages for breach of contract for failing to finish the project on time.

Corbin said the contract does provide for \$10,000 a day penalty for not finishing the project on time – but again stressed that the penalty was unlikely to be invoked until the fall.

Greg Slay, executive director of the Capitol Region Transportation Planning Agency, which recommends road projects in the area, told members of the the Wakulla Rotary

Club recently that he had been told the 319 expansion would be completed by Oct. 1.

Slay also noted that the portion of the highway from the Wakulla-Leon county line north is in the pipeline for four-laning.

The portion of the project from Wal-Mart to Wakulla Arran Road (where McDonalds is located) would be the next phase through Crawfordville, but right-of-way has not been purchased through that section.



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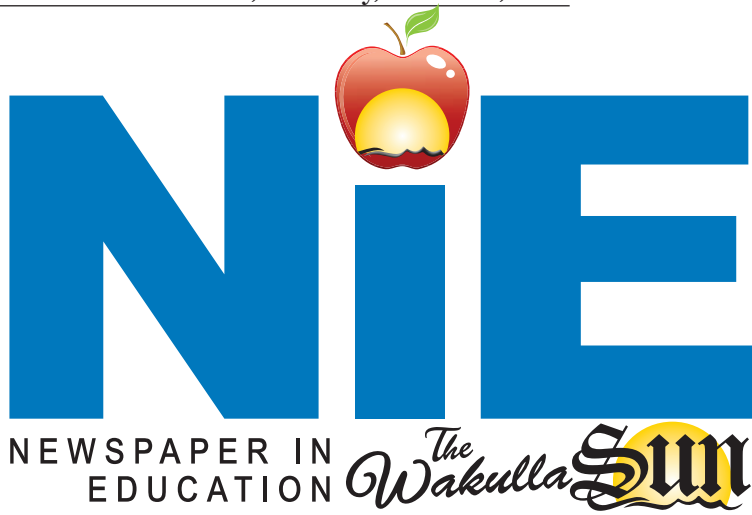
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USE THE NEWS

1. HEATING UP

The last nine months have broken records for the hottest of each ever recorded. February was an average of 56.37 degrees Fahrenheit, breaking the record set in 2016 by about one-eighth of a degree. The temperatures of the world's oceans are also breaking records. In February, temperature of the surface of the water has broken the record set in August 2023 and is still rising. The El Niño weather pattern, which happens every few years and brings heat from the ocean into the atmosphere, is partially to blame for the higher temperatures. However, climate scientists are still worried about how high the temperatures rose, even with the El Niño going on. Did you notice the weather being warmer than usual this February? While you may have enjoyed more time outside or not having to bundle up in warm coats as much, why could a warmer winter be a bad thing? Write down at least three reasons you can think of why this could be a problem. Then, share your answers with your classmates.

2. SOLO SAILOR

Cole Brauer recently became the first American woman to race nonstop around the world by herself on a sailboat. The journey took 130 days to cover 30,000 miles and ended in Spain. She was part of a competition called the Global Solo Challenge, where sixteen sailors from ten countries sailed around the world. The competition allowed different kinds of boats and adjusted when each participant started based on what kind of boat they were using. Cole was the only woman and the youngest person in the competition. More than half the competitors dropped out of the four-month-long race so far. Fewer than 200 people have successfully sailed around the world alone. Think

about the different challenges someone would face sailing alone for so long, between physical challenges of managing a boat to mental challenges like being lonely without people to talk to except for phone calls and video chats. Then, write down five questions you would ask Cole about her journey if you had the opportunity to interview her.

3. YOUNGEST CHESS WHIZ

An 8-year-old chess player recently became the youngest person to beat a grandmaster in classical chess. Grandmaster is the high-

est title a person can achieve in chess and there are only about 2,000 grandmasters ever named by the world chess organization. Ashwath Kaushik, who is 8 years and 11 months old, beat 37-year-old Jacek Stopa in an international chess competition and became the only person younger than 9 years old to win against a grandmaster – the previous record-holder was 5 months older than Ashwath is now. Ashwath spends at least 2 hours each day after school and most of his weekends practicing chess and learning from experts. Write a summary of this

story, including at least five facts you learned.

4. ELECTRIC FISH FIND

A scientist who was studying a type of electric fish called the elephantnose fish, discovered how they use electricity to understand the world around them. The fish can send and receive weak electrical signals in the water. The scientist studying them noticed the fish would arrange themselves in a very specific way in their tanks, floating in a group together. The scientist figured out that by hanging out in a group, the fish were creating an electrical network in the water that was

bigger than any one fish could create by itself. This way, the group of fish would all be able to sense changes in the water around them, like if a predator fish was approaching, because they were all touching the same electrical network. These fish work together to do more than they could do on their own. How can that idea relate to humans? Write down an example where working together can lead to better results than what a person can do on their own.

5. LAKE ON THE MOVE

Winds in California were so strong recently, they actually moved an en-

tire lake! The 30- to 50-mile-per-hour winds were part of a storm that was moving across California and Nevada. Over three days, the winds blew across California's Death Valley National Park, where there's a temporary lake called Lake Manly. The lake forms when there's enough rain and this February, the lake was six miles long, three miles wide, and one foot deep. The wind caused the shallow lake to move two miles north, but by the end of the week, it had slowly drifted back to its original location. Write a summary of this story, including at least five facts you learned.

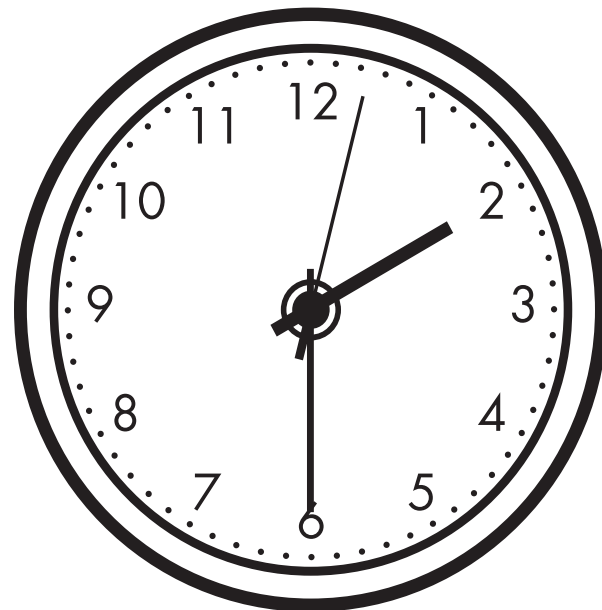


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ANSWER: TRUE

Creative Coloring

Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



Double Word Puzzle

Unscramble the words to reveal the sentence.

CCLKO
9

MTEI
7

UHORS
10 11 12 2 1

DHGTALIY
8 5 3 4 6

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

10 11 12 2

Answers: Clock, Time, Hours, Daylight, Spring ahead one hour.

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1820: MAINE IS ADMITTED AS THE TWENTY-THIRD U.S. STATE.
- 1917: TSAR NICHOLAS II OF RUSSIA ABDICATES THE RUSSIAN THRONE, ENDING THE 304-YEAR ROMANOV DYNASTY.
- 2019: AROUND 1.4 MILLION YOUNG PEOPLE IN 123 COUNTRIES GO ON STRIKE TO PROTEST CLIMATE CHANGE.



ADJUST

to alter or move something



- ENGLISH:** Time
- SPANISH:** Tiempo
- ITALIAN:** Tempo
- FRENCH:** Temps
- GERMAN:** Zeit



IN EACH OF THE TIME ZONES WHERE DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME IS OBSERVED, PEOPLE MOVE THE CLOCK AT 2 A.M. LOCAL TIME.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: SUNRISE ON A FARM

LYME DISEASE WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- BITE
- BLACK-LEGGED
- BULLSEYE
- DEER
- DIAGNOSTIC
- DOG
- FEVER
- HOST
- ILLNESS
- INFECTION
- JOINTS
- LYME DISEASE
- NYMPH
- PAIN
- PARASITE
- PATHOGEN
- PREVENTION
- RASH
- RESPONSE
- SPIROCHETE
- SPREAD
- STIFFNESS
- SYMPTOMS
- TICK

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

CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. Island nation
7. Platforms
13. Project plan
14. French fishing port
16. South Dakota
17. Oakland's baseball team
19. Military policeman
20. Ornamental stone
22. Garland
23. Process that produces ammonia
25. Mousses
26. Music notation "dal"
28. Fail to win
29. Peyton's little brother
30. Not near
31. Some cars still need it
33. Lizard genus
34. An idiot (Brit.)
36. Postponed
38. African country
40. Gazes unpleasantly
41. In a way, traveled
43. Ukraine's capital
44. Appropriate
45. Dash
47. Twitch
48. Swiss river
51. Data file with computer animations
53. City in S. Korea
55. Particular region

56. They have eyes and noses
58. Tear
59. Large Madagascar lemur
60. Not out
61. Ornamental saddle covering
64. A driver's license is one
65. Latin term for charity
67. Rechristens
69. Objects from an earlier time
70. Hindu male religious teachers

CLUES DOWN

1. Used as a weapon
2. Yukon Territory
3. Makes a map of
4. An established ceremony prescribed by a religion
5. Unnilhexium
6. Merchant
7. Playing the field
8. Folk singer DiFranco
9. Something to scratch
10. Mexican agave
11. Equal to one quintillion bytes
12. Session
13. North American people
15. Ranches
18. Electroencephalograph
21. A type of compound
24. Avenue
26. High schoolers' test
27. A type of meal
30. Gradually disappeared
32. Ancient Frankish law code
35. Popular pickup truck
37. Buzzing insect
38. Deal illegally
39. Lying in the same plane
42. Obstruct
43. Related
46. Challenge aggressively
47. Nocturnal hoofed animals
49. Bird's nests
50. Forays
52. ___ B. de Mille, filmmaker
54. Title of respect
55. One-time name of Vietnam
57. Self-immolation by fire ritual
59. Private school in New York
62. Political action committee
63. A way to fashion
66. Email reply
68. "The Great Lake State"

	1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12	
13								14						15
16			17					18					19	
20		21				22				23		24		
25					26				27		28			
29				30					31		32		33	
		34	35						36		37			
38	39									40				
41					42				43					
44				45		46			47			48	49	50
51				52		53		54				55		
56				57		58					59			
60			61		62				63				64	
65		66							67			68		
	69								70					

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to Lyme disease.

K T C I

--	--	--	--

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

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

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

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

Guess Who?

I am an actress born on April 13, 1980, in Georgia. I studied theater at the University of Evansville in Indiana. I am best known for my role on the soap opera "All My Children" and for playing a detective on "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit."

Answer: Tick Answer: Kelli Giddish

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

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Published on March 14, 2024


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TONYA HOBBY

• **How long has the program been in place and how long have you been involved?**

• **Program Description:**

The Florida Department of Health (DOH) was established by the Florida Legislature in 1996, however public health has its roots in Florida dating back to 1888 with the creation of the Florida State Board of Health.

In 2007, the first-ever State Surgeon General was established to spearhead the efforts of DOH, thereby designating a health officer to oversee all matters of public health. The Surgeon General's role is to be the state's leading advocate for wellness and disease prevention. The State Surgeon General, who serves as the State Health Officer and is directly appointed by Florida's Governor and confirmed by the Florida Senate. DOH has four deputy secretaries that oversee all of its business and programmatic operations.

DOH comprises a state health office (central office) in Tallahassee, with statewide responsibilities; Florida's 67 county health departments (CHD); 8 Children's Medical Services (CMS) area offices; 12 Medical

Quality Assurance (MQA) regional offices; 9 Disability Determinations regional offices; and 3 public health laboratories.

Facilities for the 67 CHDs are provided through partnerships with local county governments. These county health departments have a total of 255 sites throughout the state, providing a variety of services, and ranging from small to large in location size.

The Florida Department of Health in Wakulla A.K.A. Wakulla County Health Department was established in the early 90's. We have continued to increase public health programs at the local level in Environmental Health, Community Health, Women Health, Epidemiology, Dental Care, Women, Infants and Children, Healthy Start and many more.

As the Health Officer of Florida Department of Health, I feel it is important to meet people where they are in our community and to work in partnership with every agency and community member to make a better Wakulla County.

• **Personal Bio.**

Mrs. Hobby has served with the Florida Department of Health since 2000 and assumed her current role as the Administrator for Florida Department of Health in Wakulla and Taylor Counties in 2021. Prior to her most recent position as Administrator, Tonya served as Assistant Administrator from 2014 -2021. In the 21 years of service with the Department of Health, Tonya has held several other positions including a Community Health Manager, as well as a Tobacco Prevention Specialist with Tobacco Prevention and a Family Support Worker with Healthy Families and Healthy Start.

She currently serves on the Wakulla Extension Board of Directors, Healthy Start Board of Directors, Wakulla Transportation Disadvantage Board and Big Bend AHEC Board Directors. She is an active member of Wakulla County Community Task Force, Wakulla Domestic Abuse Task Force, Keep Wakulla Beautiful, and Shared Services. She served as past President, Vice President and Treasurer of the Wakulla County Coalition for Youth and continues to be an active member.

Mrs. Hobby received her undergraduate degree from Liberty University in Psychology and a Master of Arts in Human Services Counseling in Addiction and Re-

covery in 2016. In 2018, Tonya was chosen to be a participant of and successfully graduated from the Public Health Leadership program offered through the University of South Florida in 2019.

She strives to articulate the vision and mission of the Florida Department of Health to employees and community members. Her goals for the institution are to lead the way to healthier counties in which she serves, to create a climate that encourages and promotes employee excellence, and to address the public health needs of the community stakeholders through strategic planning. Her professional philosophy is to meet people where they are in the workplace and the community. She makes it her duty as an Administrator to lead by example as well as to provide staff with the tools and training to represent the FDOH in a positive and professional manner in the community.

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12:00-12:45-Wakulla School of Music,
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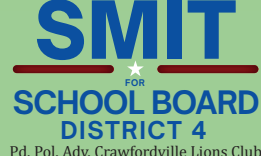
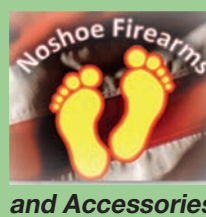
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