

Car donated to
WHS program

See Page 3



The Wakulla Sun



Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Hi: 74° Lo: 59° 82% Sunrise 7:39 AM Sunset 7:50 PM	Hi: 71° Lo: 59° 88% Sunrise 7:38 AM Sunset 7:50 PM	Hi: 73° Lo: 52° 41% Sunrise 7:37 AM Sunset 7:51 PM



\$1
One Section

"It's a New Day"

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Our 3rd Year 12th Issue
Thursday, March 21, 2024

Read Like A Hero

Edward Clark dresses like a superhero and reads to kids

By LEGION TAYLOR
Reporter

"Read like a hero," a literacy program started by Edward Clark, paid a visit to Happy Time daycare last week, teaching kids to read with the help of iconic superheroes.

The program, which Clark started in 2020, focuses on helping preschool children get more engaged and enthusiastic about reading, by bringing the characters in some of their favorite books to life. In addition to reading stories aloud, Clark also does things like sight word review, phonics flashcards, and letter identification, to help kids to read on their own. Other than going to daycares such as Happy Time, which he does monthly, he also con-



Edward Clark dressed as Spider-Man reading to children at Happy Time on Thursday.

sistently pays visits to Tallahassee First Steps Prep.

Clark is a South Florida native, who grew up in Pompano Beach, and attended MarjoryS-

toneman Douglas High School, graduating in 2002. From there, he attended undergraduate at Talladega College, graduating in 2007 with a Bachelor's in sociology.

After graduating, he started a career in Law enforcement with the Talladega Sheriff's office, before becoming a federal law enforcement

Turn to Page 5

Senior center lawsuit settles

Three former employees, released when R.H. Carter was fired, reach settlement with insurance company

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN
Editor

Three former employees of the Wakulla Senior Citizens Center who claimed they were wrongfully terminated back in 2020 after R.H. Carter was fired as executive director of the center reached a settlement agreement, court records show.

Court records indicate the three former employees – Sheryl Smythe, Alissa Anthony and Trina Thomas – were in mediation and filed a notice that a resolution had been reached. The case had been set to go to trial in August.

The settlement was apparently reached with the center's insurance company. Members of the current center's board of directors were unaware of the settlement when contacted by The Sun.

Terms of the settlement agreement were not released.

The three employees were fired or quit back in 2020 after then-director R.H. Carter was terminated by the board for insubordination.

Smythe, who was director of business affairs for the center, claimed status as a whistleblower for reporting "unlawful employment activities" and claimed she was subject to retaliation. The lawsuit claimed that Smythe alleged age and disability discrimination and retaliation against Carter – who was 79 at the time and, according to the lawsuit, had cancer.

Carter died in December 2022.

Trina Thomas was administrative assistant for Carter and resigned shortly after Carter was fired. In the lawsuit, she also claimed status as a whistleblower for reporting age and disability discrimination against Carter. "After Mr. Carter was fired," the lawsuit states, Thomas "was constructively discharged thereafter as no reasonable person would have remained in the employment of this employer under these circumstances."

The lawsuit also notes that Thomas was served with a no trespass order on July 10 because she was no longer employed there.

It doesn't note that surveillance video recorded the employees returning to the center near midnight ostensibly to retrieve personal items. Since they were let in by a then-employee with a key, the state attorney's office refused to prosecute them for any sort of burglary charge.

Alissa Anthony was also an administrative assistant at the center and claimed she was subject to retaliation for reporting the alleged discrimination against Carter. She resigned July 6, after the firing, claiming "no reasonable person would have remained in the employment of this employer under these circumstances," according to the lawsuit.

Issues between Carter and the board of directors as it was constituted in 2020 began with a couple of board members expressing concern about the lack of an annual audit of the non-profit's finances.

In June 2020, the board tried to work out a transition plan with Carter, seeking to have him work with and train a new director who would take over in 2021. Carter bristled at that, and went to the newspaper claiming the board was trying to force him out and had effectively fired him. He had a public notice run in June that included qualifications for the executive director position.

Board members at that time said that hadn't been what they wanted – they were seeking a transition and succession for a new director and a celebration of Carter's time at the center.

A statement released by then-Board of Directors Jackie Lawhon praised Carter and called him "a living legend" in Wakulla both because of his service to the senior center as well as Wakulla County Schools.

But the following week, on July 2, relations between the board and Carter had disintegrated to the point that the board called an emergency meeting at the old courthouse and Carter was fired.

Boardmember Denise Colangelo was named as interim director. She reportedly fired Smythe at the senior center later that day at a meeting with staff.

Al Pasini was later hired as director of the center and set about trying to untangle the center's finances.

Since then, the board of mostly new members has straightened the center's finances and had regular annual audits. This past year, Lara Edwards was hired as executive director of the center.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE & FESTIVAL



State Sen. Corey Simon came down from Tallahassee to serve as grand marshal of the Lions Club's 21st annual St. Patrick's Day Parade and Festival. The senator

was, appropriately, tossing out small FSU footballs to the crowd. More photos of the festivities on Page 13. (Photo by Gerald Brown)

GrowFL honors SunBlest

Crawfordville plant nursery named one of 50 Companies to Watch

Staff Report

SunBlest Nurseries in Crawfordville was recently honored as one of 50 companies selected as the 13th Annual GrowFL Florida Companies to Watch Honorees.

The awards program, now in its 13th year, honors impressive second-stage companies from throughout the state for developing valuable products and services, creating quality jobs, enriching communities, and broadening new industries throughout Florida.

In February, this honor was celebrated in Orlando at the HardRock Cafe and SunBlest CEO Caleb Van Wingerden accepted his award.

The 13th Annual GrowFL Florida Companies to Watch awards celebration is brought

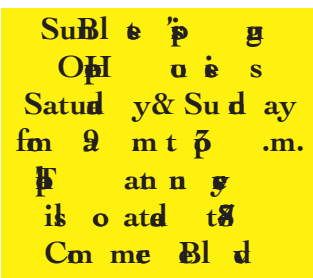


SunBlest CEO Caleb Van Wingerden with award

to you by Duke Energy and Nperspective CFO & Strategic Services, in association with the Edward Lowe Foundation.

"GrowFL Florida Companies to Watch was designed to celebrate the spirit of entrepreneurship and to shine a spot-

light on the deserving second-stage businesses in our state," said Jennifer Taylor, president and CEO of GrowFL. "Second-stage companies are the lifeblood of our economy, creating jobs and fueling prosperity. This diverse group, spanning 20 different counties, representing 18 industries, and with 32% of them being woman, veteran, or minority-owned, proves Florida is a place where entrepreneurs can thrive. We look forward to celebrating their success for years to come."





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SPECIALTY TAGS
\$20 - \$30 additional to cost of tag.

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.

Student of the Week

Bristol Beam – 7th grader at Riversprings Middle

Principal: Josh Sandgren

Achievements/Reason for Nomination:
Bristol Beam is a 7th grader at Riversprings Middle School. Bristol is an active member of RMS and an avid sports player. She is a lady bear Soccer player, and she is the starting pitcher for the Bear's Softball team. She also plays on the North Florida Glory Organization travel softball team. In her free-time, Bristol enjoys going to softball and fishing tournaments. Bristol is a hard-working student keeping up her grades. Bristol's favorite part about being at RMS is playing sports and the teachers and administration. RMS is a better school because of students like Bristol! Go Bears!




STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.

Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park

Zephyr lily

By LYNN ARTZ, DAVID RODDENBERRY, and SANDY TEDDER



In late winter, after a rain, you might spot a swath of stunning Zephyr lilies (Zephyranthes atamasca) along a low roadside. Also called rain lilies, the solitary white flowers (sometimes tinged with pink) are about a foot high. The funnel-shaped flowers with bright yellow stamens attract pollinators. After flowering, these perennial bulbs quickly go dormant. Individual bulbs are short-lived, but colonies can persist for years.

Occurring naturally in moist flatwoods, wet meadows, and floodplains, Zephyr lilies grow in full sun to part shade in rich, moist soil. Also called Atamasco lilies, they can be purchased from native nurseries. Never dig bulbs from the wild as the species is threatened in Florida. A couple of these lovely native lilies are blooming now near the pond edge at Sopchoppy Depot Park.



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

THURSDAY, MARCH 21 2024

A JOY-FILLED EASTER



Meet The Easter Bunny, Decorate a Cookie and Enjoy an Easter Craft
Event takes place from 6pm-8pm
SCAN ME
Located at 550 Wakulla Park Dr, Crawfordville FL 32327
The Lodge at Wakulla Springs
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The Wakulla Sun

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Kraft Nissan donates car to WHS automotive program

Kraft Nissan recently made a generous donation to the Wakulla High School Automotive program by providing an EV car for students to work on and learn from. This donation will allow students to gain hands-on experience with cutting-edge technology in the automotive industry.

The Kraft Nissan car will give students the opportunity to learn about the inner workings of newer technology vehicles capabilities, as well as the importance of

sustainable transportation. This hands-on experience will not only prepare students for careers in the automotive industry, but also help them understand the importance of environmental sustainability.

“We are thrilled to have the support of Kraft Nissan in providing this car for our students to work on,” said the automotive program teacher. “This donation will allow our students to gain valuable experience with the latest technology in

the industry, and we are grateful for the opportunity to expand our curriculum.” Kraft Nissan’s donation is a testament to their commitment to education and the community. By providing this car to the Wakulla High School Automotive program, they are helping to prepare the next generation of automotive professionals with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in a rapidly evolving industry. (Provided by Sally Wheeler)

Meeting on changes to BMAP set for March 22

Special to The Sun

Wakulla County Health Department is hosting an informative meeting regarding the Wakulla Springs Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) changes coming to Wakulla County.

The meeting will be held Friday, March 22, from 1 to 3 p.m. in the health department conference room with Bill Gibson, environmental manager over Wakulla, Jefferson, Taylor, and Madison counties will be hosting the meeting.

Meeting Highlights are as follows:

- The state Department of Environmental Protection setting an effective date for requiring all repairs and modification permits to be nitrogen-reducing septic systems. This would only effect properties located within the Priority Focus Area of Wakulla’s BMAP.

- All lots, regardless of size, would be required to upgrade when applying for repair or modification permits. They set a tentative date of April 1, 2024, to start enforcing the new requirements.

- Wakulla County is getting more grant money to assist homeowners who are upgrading their existing OSTDS to a nitrogen -reducing system, but that money is not available currently, it should be soon.

DOH-Wakulla is located at 48 Oak Street, Crawfordville, FL 32327.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to our office.

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.



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: Rie rsprings 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 sgt em air handling units and associated condensing units with new owner furnished contractor installed dx split sgt em air handling units and condensing units. One sgt em sere s the Admin area and one sgt em sere s 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 Ave nue
 - 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 Poindek er, PE. Email: mpoindex er@h2engineering.com
5. Sealed bids must be receie d at the Wak lla County School Board administration building, 69 Arran Road, Crawfordv lle, Florida 32327, **no later than 11:00 a.m. local time, on Thursday, April 11, 2024.** Bids must be clearly mar d with project name, project number and bid number on the outside ene lope. Submittals receie d 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 aailable in digital format or can be printed at Seminole Blueprint.

In the ee nt 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 Payn ent Bonds; failing to do such, Bidder shall forfeit their bid guarantee as liquidated damages. The Performance and Payn ent Bonds shall be secured from any agency of a surety or insurance company, which agency shall hae an established place of business in the State of Florida and be duly licensed to conduct business there.

The Owner reseve s the right to waie 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 Wak lla County, Florida.

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

March 21, 2024

Wakulla High celebrates literacy, resiliency

By VICTORIA POPE
Wakulla Schools

Wakulla High School is thrilled to share the highlights of its successful participation with Florida Department of Education’s Celebrate Literacy Week in conjunction with the Panhandle Area Education Consortium’s STAR (Soaring to Achieve Resiliency) Week. From January 22-26.

WHS was buzzing with activities aimed at promoting literacy and resilience among our students. This week-long event, dedicated to celebrating literacy and fostering resilience, was a resounding success, highlighting the dedication of our students and staff to personal growth and academic excellence.

On Monday, students took part in a DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) session. They watched a book talk video created by our Media Specialist, Ms. Pope, who shared the graphic novel Vern, Custodian of the Universe by Tyrell Waiters. Additionally, the Junior Optimists (JOI) launched a personal hygiene collection campaign for the Wakulla High School Angel Closet.

Tuesday was dedicated to promoting positive relationships. Volunteer students from JOI, SOAR, and NHS visited all Wakulla County elementary schools to read to younger students. This initiative aimed to foster a love for reading and encourage empathy among all Wakulla County students.



Wakulla High staff wear green to promote positivity and mental health.

On Wednesday, the school community came together to promote positivity and mental health. Students, faculty, and staff were encouraged to wear GREEN shirts or hoodies with positive, school-appropriate messages. This created an atmosphere of encouragement and support throughout the day.

Thursday was an exciting day as Ms. Pope hosted Graphic Artist and Author Tyrell Waiters via a Zoom Author’s visit. Mr. Waiters, the author of Vern, Custodian of the Universe, and a Florida native, engaged with about one hundred students in a Q&A style session. Students gained valuable encouragement and insights into writing and illustrating graphic novels. Freshman Hunter Rentz, a budding artist writing his own graphic novel, was particularly thrilled to speak to a published author and gain insider details about the creative and publishing process.

Friday marked the last day to donate personal hygiene items for the collection campaign. JOI would like to extend their gratitude to all members of the War Eagle community who contributed generously and supported our mission of making a positive impact on campus.

Wakulla High School’s STAR Literacy Week 2024 was a resounding success. By celebrating literacy and resiliency, our students and staff

proved their dedication to personal growth and academic excellence. We would like to express our gratitude to Mrs. Paterson, the Junior Optimists, Ms. Pope, and Author Tyrell Waiters for their invaluable contributions in making this week memorable. Together, we have shown that literacy and resilience are the cornerstones of success.

Go War Eagles!



Are You Interested in Serving as a Member on the Wakulla County Program for Public Information?

Wakulla County is currently seeking three (3) citizens who have a willingness to serve as a member on the Program for Public Information.

With the assistance of the Florida Department of Emergency Management and Silver Jack ets, Wakulla County is participating in the development of a Multi-Jurisdictional Program for Public Information in collaboration with the City of St. Mark, City of Tallahassee, and Leon County. The objective of this committee is to develop public outreach materials and create awareness of flood hazards and related topics within our communities. Additionally, the development and implementation of this program will afford the County with additional CRS credits aiding to improve the County’s CRS rating. This in turn reduces the overall cost of flood insurance to individuals in our community.

In addition to County staff, at least half of the membership of this committee shall be made up of stakeholders in the County. Eligible members may include: residents of the floodplain, emergency/disaster responders (e.g. Red Cross, Salvation Army), utility companies, Chamber of Commerce or business organization, trade associations of builders or contractors, environmental organizations, insurance agencies, or major employers.

These positions are on a volunteer basis only. The meeting frequency for the Program for Public Information is estimated to be two (2) meetings per year. Citizens wishing to serve as a member should submit a cover letter explaining their interest in serving and provide a resume or other statement of relevant experience, which includes the person’s name, address, telephone number, and email address, no later than Monday, April 22. Please email your information to Ashley Rowland-Yost at aryost@myakul.com or by fax at 08 9 3.

March 20



Leave Nothing But Your Footprints

The Wakulla Sun FOLLOW THE SUN.

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: Everybody's a winner

By **RYAN DAILEY**
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE —Closing the book on a legal fight that drew national attention, the state and attorneys for a group of parents, educators and students reached a settlement in a battle over a 2022 law that restricts instruction about gender identity and sexual orientation in schools.

The settlement, which came after months of talks, seeks to draw a distinction between preventing “classroom instruction” about gender identity and sexual orientation and other school contexts in which the subjects might come up.

Both sides agreeing to the settlement essentially claimed the development as victories, with Gov. Ron DeSantis' office calling it a “major win” and LGBTQ-advocacy group Equality Florida describing it as “historic.”

The dispute has revolved around the controversial law that supporters formally named the “Parental Rights in Education” law but opponents labeled the “don't say gay” measure.

The initial law passed in 2022 prevented instruction on gender identity and sexual orientation in kindergarten through third grade and required that such instruction be “age-appropriate ... in accordance with state academic standards” in older grades.

The Republican-controlled Legislature and DeSantis went further last year by approving a bill to broaden the prohibition to pre-kindergarten through eighth grade.

The eight-page settlement quoted documents filed earlier in the case, including one that said typical “class participation and schoolwork are not ‘instruction,’ even if a student chooses to address sexual orientation or gender identity.”

The agreement also said the state would advise that a legal recital addressing many key issues “sets forth considered positions the state of Florida has taken in court about the scope and meaning of the statute and shall encourage the school districts to send a copy of this agreement to the principals of the schools within their respective districts.”

The plaintiffs agreed to drop the case, contingent on the state Department of Education providing copies of the settlement and the recitals to each school board in the state, according to the document.

In announcing the settlement Monday, DeSantis' office called it a “major win against the activists who sought to stop Florida's efforts to keep radical gender and sexual ideology out of the classrooms of public-school children in kindergarten through third grade (5- to 9-year-olds).”

Meanwhile, Equality Florida also touted the settlement.

“This agreement successfully dismantles the most harmful impacts of the law, ensuring it cannot be wielded as a tool of discrimination against LGBTQ+ students, educators, and families,” Equality Florida said in a news release.

IMMIGRATION BILLS SIGNED

DeSantis on Friday continued signing some of the first wave of measures from the 2024 legislative session that have arrived on his desk, visiting the Polk County sheriff's office and speaking behind a placard that read “stop illegal immigration.”

The governor put ink on three immigration-related bills that seek to crack down on the use of what are known as “community” identification cards, strengthen criminal penalties for people who previous-

ly have been deported and stiffen punishments for repeatedly driving without licenses.

Community ID cards, which typically are issued by non-profit organizations or other non-governmental groups, cannot be used for purposes such as driving or voting but are intended to serve as an alternative form of identification.

The measure targeting such identifications (HB 1451) will prevent counties and municipalities from accepting community IDs if the cards were issued by groups that have provided such identification to people who are in the country illegally.

The bill builds on a measure approved last year that prohibited local governments from providing money for issuing identification cards to undocumented immigrants.

DeSantis referred to the cards as “rogue identifications.” But during legislative debate about the bill last week, Democrats defended their use as an essential tool connecting vulnerable Floridians to needed resources.

During the appearance Friday in Polk County, DeSantis also signed a bill (SB 1036) that will increase criminal penalties for immigrants who are arrested for felonies after illegally re-entering the U.S. following deportation for earlier crimes. Also, he signed a measure (HB 1589) that will increase penalties for driving without a valid license more than once.

“In the state of Florida, if you have been deported and you come to this state, and enter our state and you're here illegally, and you commit crimes, we are throwing the book at you,” DeSantis said about the bill dealing with previously deported people.

FRESH INK

While it shouldn't come as a surprise, DeSantis on Friday also confirmed that he intends to put his John Hancock on the Legislature's final product of a measure that seeks to keep young people off of social media.

“We really want our kids to not just be wedded to a handful of social media apps,” DeSantis said during the Polk County appearance. “I don't think, ultimately, that's something that is going to be healthy for our society as our kids grow up.”

After vetoing an earlier version, the governor made clear he will sign the bill (HB 3) that would prevent children under age 16 from opening social-media accounts. The revamped version of the bill, however, would allow parents to give consent for 14- and 15-year-olds to have accounts. Children under 14 could not open accounts.

“I think that that's a good balance there that's being struck,” said DeSantis.

STORY OF THE WEEK: The state and attorneys for students, parents and teachers have settled a battle about a 2022 Florida law that restricts instruction about gender identity and sexual orientation in schools.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: “To begin with, this legislation is completely unnecessary. In Florida or any other state, killing any animal in a legitimate act of self-defense is already permissible under common law.” — The South Florida Wildlands Association, urging members to ask Gov. Ron DeSantis to veto a measure (HB 87) that would allow people to kill bears when they believe it is necessary to avoid a threat of death or serious injury.

On the Horizon

Calendar of events for the week of March 21

Thursday, March 21

- Joy-Filled Easter, an event for the special needs community in Wakulla, will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Wakulla Springs Lodge.
- The third Windows 10 training class will be held at the Wakulla County Public Library from 9:30 a.m. to noon.
- 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 22

- Wakulla County Health Department is hosting a meeting regarding the Wakulla Springs Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) changes coming to Wakulla County from 1 to 3 p.m. in the health department conference room.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and 8 p.m. every Friday at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

Saturday, March 23

- SunBlest's spring Open House is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The plant nursery is located at 874 Commerce Blvd.
- Small Business Saturday of Wakulla will be in Hudson Park from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., with an Easter Egg Hunt from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- St. Marks hosts a community market every fourth Saturday of the month at 815 Leon Port Drive from 9 a.m. until 1

p.m.

- The Wakulla Caregiver Support Group will meet at the Public Library at 10 a.m.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

Sunday, March 24

- SunBlest's spring Open House is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The plant nursery is located at 874 Commerce Blvd.

Monday, March 25

- The American Legion Post 114 will be meeting at the Wakulla County Public Library at 6:30 p.m.
- 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 26

- 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 27

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

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

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 - More local content on the environment and local businesses
- A little bit goes a long way. With your help, we can keep the presses running through hard times.

We would very much appreciate your contribution.

William Snowden
Editor & Publisher
The Wakulla Sun

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

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

"It's A New Day!"

The Wakulla Sun



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To subscribe call (850)962-8019.



◀ Question of The Week ▶

– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

Polled at the Crawfordville Lions Club St. Patty's Day Festival & Parade:

Do you believe in luck?



QUINCEE MESSERSMITH
County Commissioner

“Yes, and rainbows and a pot of gold. I do wear a horseshoe necklace.”



AMY DREXLER
End Of The Rainbow Events

“I pray, this is something I can't do on my own. God gives me all the luck I need.”



BILLY HAYNIE
Quality Lawn & Tractor

“Being positive brings me luck, along with money.”



CAROLYN MANN
Financial Advisor

“No, I don't believe in luck. I believe in God's will, I need to be aligned with Him. But I do believe in wearing green on St. Patty's Day.”



EDWARD CLARK
Contract Specialist

“I do believe to a certain extent. If you haven't confidence in self, you are twice defeated in the race of life. With confidence you have already won even before you started – it's a quote by Marcus Garvey.”

Wakulla Station News

By **VERNA BROCK**

What a marvelous Saturday we had for the Woodville Founders Day Festival. After two years of Covid restrictions, and two years of abysmal weather, this past Saturday was perfection itself.

After a week of uncertainty and drama, due to the repaving of the parking lot at the park, the day dawned shrouded in fog. By 9 a.m., as the event opened to the public, all that was left of the fog was dew upon the grass. Vendors had their tents pitched, and historical presenters were ready to share their knowledge. Blue skies and (very) warm temperatures prevailed throughout the day, allowing for a successful Festival.

Many thanks to Family Funeral Home, for once again providing canopy tents to offer shelter from the elements. Whether rain, or shine, the tents always give comfort to grateful performers and presenters. The Colored Troops and Southern Fire Drummers and Dancers put them to

good use.

Thanks also to Finley's Brigade, which has never missed a single Founders Day, as well as the ever faithful Theatre With A Mission performers. Both groups gave us great entertainment and education.

TWAM, based at Mission San Luis, performed the 15th Century one-act play, “El Muerte.” The comedy tells the story of El Capitan, his beautiful younger sister, and her suitor who doesn't quite measure up to the Captain's high standards. Many hijinks ensue, culminating in a happy ending for all.

Gratitude to Jack Cowart of Bainbridge, who shared his 1/2 scale model of the Confederate Hunley Submarine used during the Civil War. It is a very impressive achievement.

Mike “Murph” Murphy, blacksmith extraordinaire, practiced his craft and shared stories of “the iron life” with visitors to his tent. I was lucky enough to score a traditional triangle “dinner bell” for my kitchen porch! Ms. Judith Stricklin, who is a fixture at Pioneer

Days at the Tallahassee Museum, set up in the shade and showed children of all ages the magic of turning cream into sweet butter. Her display of butter churns down through the ages was fascinating.

To all the creative, hardworking vendors and cooks, you made our day! Without your participation, it just wouldn't be the same. When all was said and done, the WVFD made over \$1,600 to help purchase equipment and gear to better protect our community, and our dragon slayers.

A special word of thanks to Leon County Commissioner Chris Caban. The assistance he and his office gave the Woodville Volunteer Fire Department was invaluable to the success of our event. Not to mention having him man a booth to meet and greet with his Woodville constituents. Too often, Woodville seems like the proverbial “red-headed stepchild” to Tallahassee. It was great to see his genuine interest in our little piece of North Florida and its challenges.

I hope everyone had a good St. Paddy's Day, with lots of wearin' o the green, corned beef and cabbage!

Believe it or not, next Sunday is

Palm Sunday, and the next is Easter. Where has the time flown? March 28th is Maundy Thursday, with a 6 p.m. service at the Wakulla United Methodist Church. Easter morning there will be a Sunrise service at 7:15 a.m. at the Wakulla church, followed by a service at 11:15 a.m. at the Woodville United Methodist Church. The Woodville Church is also hosting its annual Easter Egg Hunt the Saturday before Easter.

Sunblest Nurseries, on Commerce Boulevard, is having its annual Spring Open House this coming Saturday and Sunday, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. both days. There are always a variety of food trucks and vendors there, as well as greenhouses full of perennial and annual plants to purchase. Normally closed to the public, this event allows gardeners to shop and see the giant greenhouses in action.

Please continue to pray for Thelma Watts, Norma Woodcock, Deborah Giles and Clem Bunker. All four ladies are recovering from illness or injury, and appreciate your prayerful support.

Buckhorn News

By **ETHEL SKIPPER**

Experiencing the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, Paul tells about the post resurrection appearance by Jesus on several different occasions.

The first appearance was to Mary Magdalene shortly after the resurrection – early on Sunday morning.

The second was to two disciples walking on the road to Emmaus about seven miles from Jerusalem.

Another appearance was to seven

of Jesus' disciples at the Sea of Galilee, about 80 miles north of Jerusalem.

Each appearance of Jesus reinforced the reliability of the historical account of his resurrection in the Gospel and reminds us that on the cross, Jesus defeated sin and death.

Many churches will observe the resurrection on Easter Sunday. It brings us closer to the rising of Jesus and what he did for us.

The Buckhorn community will

host the Mills, Allen, Rosier and Simmons Family Reunion in Sopchoppy July 5-July 7 – returning home where our family roots began. Hotel information, room rates, guaranteed until June 1 at Best Western and Magnuson Wildwood Inn.

On Sunday at Skipper Temple Community Church will be the annual Men's Day program at 3 p.m. Speaker will be Pastor Christ Whitehead. Everyone is welcome.

The Fifth Sunday Union Meeting of the West Florida Diocese will be held

at the Woodville Church of Christ Written in Heaven. Pastor Elder Steven Jackson.

The service will begin on Thursday, March 28 at 7:30 p.m.; Friday, March 29 at 7:30, and conclude on Saturday, March 30 will service at 11:30 a.m. On Sunday, March 31, an Easter sunrise service is set.

Prayers and concern goes out to all the sick, shut-in, those in the hospital, nursing home, prison, the homeless, and all in need of prayer. Let us pray for world leaders and all those in need of help.

Read Like a Hero

From **Front Page**

-officer in 2013. He received his master's degree from Walden University in 2016, and in 2022 was promoted with a federal agency in Tallahassee, transferring to Crawfordville.

“I've always struggled with reading growing up,” Clark said, “What helped me when I was growing up was my second grade teacher Mrs. Beltram. She gave me

comic books, and that led to me loving comics first and foremost, and loving reading... I decided to make an activity through delivery of a service, going to different centers, providing educational content with one of my biggest struggles. I read to the kids, because they love reading. I believe the impact of seeing a different hero every time engages them to want to learn even more.”

He also goes beyond the basics, and does social emotional learning (SEL) activities as well. The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL), one of the leading organizations behind the SEL movement, states that SEL is “the process through which all young people and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals, feel

and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions.”

By incorporating interactivity into his storytelling, Clark can help students learn to interact with the world around them, and with others.

Clark can be contacted at PartyheroClark@gmail.com, at his phone at 954-303-1220, or on Facebook and Instagram @HeroClark.

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A Free Press Your Key To Freedom

The **Wakulla Sun**

Outdoors

outdoor sports

HOME ON THE RANGE

How bad can it be? How to prevent it?



By MARJ LAW

“Huh,” he muses from the shooting bench beside me. “Huh.”

He steps back and asks: “Do you have a small dowel?”

I rummaged through my range bag, locate one, and hand it to him.

“What’s going on?” I wonder.

“Seems like I have an obstruction in the barrel of my .45 Kimber.” He points the muzzle down-range. He plunges the dowel into the barrel.

Out pops a warped and split-open casing.

“Wow! I’ve never seen anything like that!”

“Somehow a 9mm round got in with the .45s. See how the firing of this round caused the casing to expand and break open?” He hands me the spent casing.

“Did it harm the barrel of your Kimber?” I’m worried for him.

He pulls a flashlight and aims it down the barrel.

“I don’t see anything, do you?” He hands me the Kimber and the light.

I inspect it really carefully, but the rifling looks fine, and the barrel is shiny all the way down.

“That is the most amazing thing,” I tell him. “May I use it for an article? Other shooters can find this really instructive.”

The wrong round? It happened before. Twice more, that Joe and I have seen.

A friend loaded .40 S&W rounds into a .45.

Now, in the previous case, the 9mm round was much smaller than the .45 handgun would be able to handle. Because the 9 was so much smaller, the extractor was unable to grab the edge of the casing, and thus pop it out of the ejection port. Since the extractor wasn’t able to do this, the 9mm round did go into the barrel.

This time, when the .40 round went into the .45, it was ejected by the extractor. The size of the .40 is so close to the .45 that the ejector was able to grab the casing and pull it out of the gun.

Joe was watching. For some reason, he noticed the casing on the ground. The casing was split.

Joe picked it up and handed it to our shooter friend.

“What made the casing split?” our friend asked.

Joe looked at the back of the casing.

“It’s a .40 S&W round. You are shooting a .45. You are fortunate that the broken casing didn’t rupture more and send fragments flying. It’s fortunate, too, that you have on good safety glasses, protecting your eyes.”

And wouldn’t you know, but another week at the range, a friend calls me over.

“The rounds won’t stay in the magazine!” she exclaims. “They keep popping out, as soon as I put them in!”

I reach for my UpLula. Sure enough, the rounds pop out as fast as I try to load them.

“Wait a minute.” I put down the UpLula, and inspect the rounds. Then I look at her handgun. The reason the rounds pop out is that they are .22s and the magazine and handgun is a .380. I should have checked the gun and magazine first.

“Oh, my goodness,”



9mm casing that lodged in a .45 ACP handgun barrel

she is relieved to find the answer so easily. “I was shooting both my .22 and my .380 today. Guess I got the boxes of ammo mixed up.”

This could be a serious problem. When you have an incorrect round, according to Ron Spomer Outdoors: “Pressures can rise when the bullet, already moving at substantial velocity, suddenly slams into the rifling, which acts like a brake. This creates a dramatic and potentially dangerous spike in pressure.”

In our first case, the casing did indeed expand, causing it to lodge inside the barrel. When we were looking down the barrel once he popped the casing out, we wanted to see that the rifling hadn’t been harmed. The Kimber .45 is a mighty fine handgun, and no one wants to see it damaged.

Spomer goes on to say: “Firing the wrong caliber out of your gun could result in serious injury to yourself or someone standing nearby. Guns fired with the wrong caliber can seri-

ously damage the user’s hands and face.”

Yes, in the second incident, the shooter and those standing near may have been hurt by fragments of the casing.

How do we avoid such situations?

According to NSSF, we can “form the habit of examining every cartridge you put into your gun. Never use damaged or substandard ammunition – the money you save is not worth the risk of possible injury or a ruined gun.”

People I shoot with want to try out mostly .380s and 9mm handguns. The casings have almost precisely the same diameter, but have different lengths. How do we avoid using the wrong ammo?

Joe strongly suggests putting guns with like ammo on the shooting bench; not shooting two different caliber handguns at the same time. Shoot the .380s, pack them up and then shoot the 9s.

Truthfully, I don’t always do this. But what helps me keep things straight is using French

white nail polish. Usually, the base of your magazine has information impressed into it. For example, my Ruger Security-380 has the word Ruger and the logo for the Ruger company deeply etched into magazine base.

I swipe on the French white, allowing it to settle into the grooves of the markings. Then, with an acetone wet cloth, I wipe off the excess, so only the white in the grooves shows. The side of the mag also has the words “380 Auto” imprinted on it.

The gun itself has places for its logo (what company doesn’t want to advertise?), and the name of the gun itself. Again, use the French white polish. Since now both magazine and gun are clearly marked, you can match them up easily.

I’m concerned that .380 and 9mm rounds are so similar in size. Yes, I’ve marked the magazines and the handguns, but what if a 9mm round somehow got misplaced into the box of .380s? Perhaps

you drop a round, put it on the shooting bench, and pick it up to load it in the magazine.

Which is it: the 9 or the .380?

The only way I know to be sure is to do as NSSF has suggested: “form the habit of examining every cartridge you put into your gun.”

You can avoid using old, damaged, or incorrect rounds in your handgun.

Shoot only one caliber gun at a time, match gun and magazine with French white nail polish, and inspect all rounds as you pop them into your magazines.

You might think seasoned shooters would want to hide their mistakes.

Not true! They will be the very first to help us avoid anything that could be potentially damaging to ourselves, bystanders and to our handguns.

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



WHITING
(*Menticirrhus americanus*)

Locally called ground mullet, whiting are a medium-sized croaker reaching to 16” and 2.5lbs. Whiting can tolerate a wide range of conditions (temps 46°-86°F and varying salinities.) Whiting are bottom-dwellers, roving shallow sandy areas for worms, shrimps, crabs, amphipods and small fishes. They locate their prey with the help of a single, rigid chin barbell. They have no swim bladder so they cannot make the distinctive croaking or drumming sound of the others croakers. People often catch them in the surf zone.

Eukarya, Animalia, Cordata, Actinopterygii, Perciformes, Sciaenidae

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WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO

Retired Wakulla Springs State Park Ranger Bob Thompson, back on his weekly wildlife survey at the park, shared this photo of a Great Egret along the river’s edge.



Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences



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Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

March 21 - March 27



Tide charts by
tides4fishing.com



Best fishing days this month
March 10-25

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	12:41 am ▲ 2.8 ft	7:32 am ▼ 0.0 ft	1:52 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	7:25 pm ▼ 1.1 ft
Fr	1:24 am ▲ 3.0 ft	8:01 am ▼ 0.1 ft	2:13 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	7:59 pm ▼ 0.4 ft
Sa	2:00 am ▲ 3.2 ft	8:24 am ▼ 0.1 ft	2:34 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	8:31 pm ▼ 0.4 ft
Su	2:33 am ▲ 3.2 ft	8:45 am ▼ 0.2 ft	2:54 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	9:02 pm ▼ 0.1 ft
Mo	3:05 am ▲ 3.3 ft	9:04 am ▼ 0.3 ft	3:13 pm ▲ 3.5 ft	9:32 pm ▼ -0.1 ft
Tu	3:36 am ▲ 3.3 ft	9:24 am ▼ 0.4 ft	3:30 pm ▲ 3.6 ft	10:01 pm ▼ -0.2 ft
We	4:10 am ▲ 3.2 ft	9:46 am ▼ 0.6 ft	3:47 pm ▲ 3.6 ft	10:31 pm ▼ -0.3 ft

City of St. Marks

Th	1:17 am ▲ 2.6 ft	8:36 am ▼ 0.0 ft	2:28 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	8:29 pm ▼ 1.0 ft
Fr	2:00 am ▲ 2.8 ft	9:05 am ▼ 0.0 ft	2:49 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	9:03 pm ▼ 0.7 ft
Sa	2:36 am ▲ 2.9 ft	9:28 am ▼ 0.1 ft	3:10 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	9:35 pm ▼ 0.3 ft
Su	3:09 am ▲ 3.0 ft	9:49 am ▼ 0.2 ft	3:30 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	10:06 pm ▼ 0.1 ft
Mo	3:41 am ▲ 3.0 ft	10:08 am ▼ 0.3 ft	3:49 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	10:36 pm ▼ -0.1 ft
Tu	4:12 am ▲ 3.0 ft	10:28 am ▼ 0.4 ft	4:06 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	11:05 pm ▼ -0.2 ft
We	4:46 am ▲ 3.0 ft	10:50 am ▼ 0.5 ft	4:23 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	11:35 pm ▼ -0.3 ft

Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	12:57 am ▲ 2.9 ft	7:50 am ▼ -0.1 ft	2:10 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	7:48 pm ▼ 1.3 ft
Fr	1:44 am ▲ 3.1 ft	8:24 am ▼ -0.1 ft	2:33 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	8:23 pm ▼ 0.9 ft
Sa	2:22 am ▲ 3.2 ft	8:52 am ▼ 0.0 ft	2:55 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	8:55 pm ▼ 0.6 ft
Su	2:57 am ▲ 3.3 ft	9:16 am ▼ 0.2 ft	3:15 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	9:25 pm ▼ 0.3 ft
Mo	3:30 am ▲ 3.4 ft	9:37 am ▼ 0.4 ft	3:34 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	9:54 pm ▼ 0.0 ft
Tu	4:03 am ▲ 3.4 ft	9:56 am ▼ 0.6 ft	3:50 pm ▲ 3.5 ft	10:22 pm ▼ -0.1 ft
We	4:37 am ▲ 3.3 ft	10:16 am ▼ 0.8 ft	4:07 pm ▲ 3.5 ft	10:51 pm ▼ -0.3 ft

Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	12:33 am ▲ 2.1 ft	7:43 am ▼ 0.0 ft	1:44 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	7:36 pm ▼ 0.8 ft
Fr	1:16 am ▲ 2.3 ft	8:12 am ▼ 0.0 ft	2:05 pm ▲ 2.3 ft	8:10 pm ▼ 0.5 ft
Sa	1:52 am ▲ 2.4 ft	8:35 am ▼ 0.1 ft	2:26 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	8:42 pm ▼ 0.3 ft
Su	2:25 am ▲ 2.4 ft	8:56 am ▼ 0.2 ft	2:46 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	9:13 pm ▼ 0.1 ft
Mo	2:57 am ▲ 2.5 ft	9:15 am ▼ 0.2 ft	3:05 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	9:43 pm ▼ -0.1 ft
Tu	3:28 am ▲ 2.5 ft	9:35 am ▼ 0.3 ft	3:22 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	10:12 pm ▼ -0.2 ft
We	4:02 am ▲ 2.4 ft	9:57 am ▼ 0.4 ft	3:39 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	10:42 pm ▼ -0.2 ft

St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	12:25 am ▲ 2.3 ft	7:35 am ▼ -0.1 ft	2:22 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	7:43 pm ▼ 1.1 ft
Fr	1:18 am ▲ 2.4 ft	8:06 am ▼ 0.0 ft	2:29 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	8:12 pm ▼ 0.8 ft
Sa	2:00 am ▲ 2.5 ft	8:32 am ▼ 0.1 ft	2:39 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	8:39 pm ▼ 0.5 ft
Su	2:37 am ▲ 2.5 ft	8:54 am ▼ 0.3 ft	2:51 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	9:05 pm ▼ 0.3 ft
Mo	3:12 am ▲ 2.5 ft	9:16 am ▼ 0.4 ft	3:07 pm ▲ 2.5 ft	9:31 pm ▼ 0.0 ft
Tu	3:48 am ▲ 2.5 ft	9:37 am ▼ 0.6 ft	3:25 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	9:59 pm ▼ -0.1 ft
We	4:24 am ▲ 2.5 ft	10:00 am ▼ 0.8 ft	3:46 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	10:29 pm ▼ -0.3 ft

Dog Island West End

Th	7:55 am ▲ 0.0 ft	2:57 pm ▲ 1.7 ft	8:03 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	
Fr	1:04 am ▲ 2.0 ft	8:25 am ▼ 0.0 ft	2:58 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	8:26 pm ▼ 0.9 ft
Sa	2:00 am ▲ 2.1 ft	8:50 am ▼ 0.1 ft	3:02 pm ▲ 1.9 ft	8:49 pm ▼ 0.6 ft
Su	2:44 am ▲ 2.2 ft	9:12 am ▼ 0.3 ft	3:11 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	9:13 pm ▼ 0.3 ft
Mo	3:25 am ▲ 2.2 ft	9:34 am ▼ 0.4 ft	3:25 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	9:40 pm ▼ 0.1 ft
Tu	4:05 am ▲ 2.2 ft	9:55 am ▼ 0.6 ft	3:43 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	10:10 pm ▼ -0.1 ft
We	4:46 am ▲ 2.2 ft	10:18 am ▼ 0.9 ft	4:04 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	10:43 pm ▼ -0.2 ft

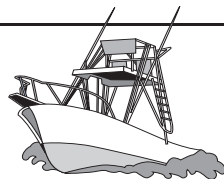
Best hunting and fishing based on solunar times. MAJOR feeding periods are 2 hours long, centered on the solunar time. MINOR feeding periods are only 1 hour long, again centered on the solunar time.

Thursday 21	
Minor Times 5:13AM 4:05PM	Major Times 12:06AM 10:28PM
Friday 22	
Minor Times 5:43AM 5:00PM	Major Times 10:49AM ---
Saturday 23	
Minor Times 6:10AM 5:54PM	Major Times 11:09PM 11:29AM
Sunday 24	
Minor Times 6:36AM 6:47PM	Major Times 11:48PM 12:08PM
Monday 25	
Minor Times 7:01AM 7:39PM	Major Times 12:27AM 12:47PM
Tuesday 26	
Minor Times 7:26AM 8:34PM	Major Times 1:06AM 1:26PM
Wednesday 27	
Minor Times 7:54AM 9:30PM	Major Times 1:47AM 2:08PM



Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports

By Carolyn Brown Treadon



This following information comes from Jim McGraw with U.S. Coast Guard Heartland Safe Boating. Daylight-Saving Time has arrived....

The beginning of Daylight-Saving Time is an excellent cue to give our inflatable personal flotation devices (PFD) some attention. Inflatable PFDs are remarkable tools that allow us to COMFORTABLY wear a PFD when underway or near the water. However, they require regular maintenance.

The specific details of "regular maintenance" vary by brand and model. If you are like me, attempting to find the original owner's manual for a product in my home is often futile. Fortunately, there are at least three ways to find the manufacturer's instructions for an inflatable PFD:

- Refer to the original paper owner's manual.
- Find a copy of the owner's manual on the internet.
- Open the cover of the PFD and look for

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

the instructions printed on waterproof synthetic paper. (see photo)

Having the person who typically wears the inflatable PFD perform the maintenance is an excellent way to increase the user's familiarity with their PFD.

Generally, the maintenance involves:

- Inspecting the exterior including all straps and buckles.
- Inspecting the bladder.
- Inspecting the inflation device to verify that it is ready to operate. The details of this vary greatly between models.
- Performing a leak

test by inflating the bladder firmly through the oral inflation tube and checking the bladder several hours later for softness, which indicates a leak.

- Deflating, folding, and securing the bladder and cover as the manufacturer specifies.

Make yourself a reminder on your calendar to repeat this maintenance at the interval recommended by the manufacturer. A little time invested in this maintenance will make it more likely that your inflatable PFD will perform when you need it!

Go have fun... safely!

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 pnkhill12000@yahoo.com

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

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.

FWC Law Enforcement Report

From FWC

This report represents some events the FWC handled Feb. 16-22 in the Northwest Region. (No cases were reported in Wakulla County)

FRANKLIN COUNTY

- Officer Hartzog observed a vessel with two individuals on board throwing a cast net outside of Eastpoint Channel. A short time later, the two individuals began motoring back to the shore and Officer Hartzog stopped them to conduct a resource inspection. One of the individuals advised they did not possess any fish.

Officer Hartzog observed oyster shell scattered on the bow of the vessel. An inspection of coolers onboard revealed a large quantity of wild oysters. Officer Hartzog interviewed the subjects and they advised the oysters were harvested from Eastpoint Channel and Cat Point area of the Apalachicola Bay system, which is currently closed to recreational and commercial oyster harvest. Also, a large percentage of the oysters harvested were undersized. Violations were cited accordingly.

GULF COUNTY

- Officers Gerber and Butts were on patrol near the Apalachicola River Wildlife and Environmental Area when they heard dogs barking in an area where hunting dogs are not permitted. They located the dogs and the two individuals responsible. The appropriate enforcement action was taken.

SANTA ROSA COUNTY

- While on patrol, Officer Mullins received a tip from a hunter about vehicles destroying public land. The officer located a broken-down vehicle covered in mud. He tracked down other

vehicles and found them doing donuts off a forest road. Each subject was issued several citations. The subjects were directed to remove their broken vehicle upon leaving the forest.

- While on patrol, Officer Mullins observed a vehicle and two subjects searching for deer and possibly night hunting. The officer monitored their actions and conducted a check on the individuals. Upon contact, a loaded shotgun was discovered. The subjects were issued open container alcohol citations and notice to appear citations for illegal night hunting.

Underwater Wakulla

By Rusty Miller

Other area wrecks to dive.

In this article I would like to tell you about one of the shipwrecks that are off of Panama City Beach. It's a bit further than most dive charters will go but it's still within a couple hours by a fast boat and a great dive.

The wreck is probably one of the best known as it was sunk during World War II in our part of the Gulf by a German submarine. It's a fascinating story because you wouldn't think that there would be any German submarines this far or this close in American waters. You would be surprised that this one particular U-boat went all the way up to the mouth of the Mississippi River and was able to sink three more ships after the Mica.

Let me give you some dimensions and depth of the Mica. The HMS Empire Mica was a 465-foot long British tanker used in World War II and built in 1941; it carried fuel for the Royal Air Force.

On June 29th, 1942 it was torpedoed by a German U-boat and sank 21 miles due south of Florida's Cape San Blas in 110 feet of water. The Coast Guard bombed the stern and bridge to reduce threat to navigation.

Let's talk about this wreck and the circumstances around her demise. This comes from the USA Today network. Written by Ed Offley the News Herald.

It was midnight on Monday, June 29, 1942 off Cape San Blas in the Gulf of Mexico as the British oil tanker Empire Mica sailed East for Key West and the Florida straits. It would then head up the east coast to New York and join a convoy headed for the British Isles. She was outbound from Baytown, Texas, with a cargo of 12,000 tons of highly flammable vaporizing oil (heating oil). The Empire Mica was a new addition to the British merchant fleet; she was a seasoned veteran of the maritime struggle between the Allies and Nazi Germany. This struggle would end shortly after the Mica headed to the Florida straits. A type IXU U-boat U-67 was busily scanning the Gulf with their powerful Zeiss binoculars.

They quickly realized the shadow they kept seeing was actually a large oil tanker on a converging course. The captain called for battle stations and for the next hour and 35 minutes, U-67 shadowed the British tanker as it continued towards the waters of Apalachicola. The Empire Mica was three quarters of a nautical mile away, when he called out "Los!" (Release) and two steam driven G7a torpedoes raced out from two of the four torpedo tubes. The Mica was hit; twin blasts ripped the hull and ignited the 12,000 tons of vaporizing oil. A massive fireball engulfed the tanker and rose into the sky where it was seen by civilians on the shore from Cape San Blas to Apalachicola. Thirty-three of the crew died, and 13 survivors were rescued by the Coast Guard.

Over the years we have dove the Empire Mica but the hurricanes and tropical storms have done severe damage to the wreck and now there are just remnants left that you can still dive but the real danger is all the thousands of yards of fishing line that have gotten tangled and left causing entanglement issues if you're not careful.

I believe that one of the huge propellers was salvaged and sits at the entrance of the restaurant Captain Anderson's. Keep making bubbles and dive safe. Russell Miller NAUI #59999

Note: This column originally ran in March 2023.

I love the way God loves us

By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

May I ask you some personal questions? Friend to friend? How is sin affecting your perception of God's love for

you? How is your sin affecting your Christian journey?

And now another: Why is it so easy to see and judge others for missing the mark while glossing over our own missteps?

When we downplay or justify our sinful actions, we risk missing some important things: the opportunity to experience God's love; the opportunity to repent and change; and – most importantly – the chance to live holy lives before a holy God.

Have you considered that the more we dismiss our sin, the more we minimize God's love and Jesus' sacrifice at Calvary? Let's see what happens when we read Galatians 2:20 (ESV) out loud:

"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

Let's read Galatians 2:20 again, this time

making it even more personal. (Pause as necessary to fully appreciate the meaning and intent.)

"I, (your name), have been crucified with Christ. I nail my will to the cross. It's no longer I who live, but Christ Who lives in me. From now on, I, (your name), put my complete faith in Jesus, the Son of God, Who loved me, (your name), so much that He died an excruciatingly painful death – on my behalf."

The more we comprehend how much Jesus

loves us and acknowledge the price He paid for our sins, the more we can see sin for what it is: evil, destructive and foolish. Only the greatest act of love could rescue us from it.

God's love for us is so great that we struggle to fully understand the depth of emotion and sacrificial commitment that drove Jesus to die for mankind. Especially for people (us!) who consistently rebel – and then minimize our actions.

Is it possible to under-

stand a love so giving? A love so tenderhearted that it can completely penetrate our hearts?

A love so powerful that it enables us to recognize and repent of our sin and resolve to turn in a new direction?

I love the way our heavenly Father loves us. Don't you?

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.

Always there

By **CHERYL CRUCE**

"In his book 'The Sea,' John Banville wrote, 'The past beats inside of me like a second heart.' This quote resonates with me because I have many memories that are close to my heart. Sometimes, the most essential memories play across my mind like a movie reel, and I find myself smiling for no apparent reason. However, these memories are not

just a source of happiness for me. They also serve as valuable lessons that I carry into my present life. Today, my Junior Girl Scout Troop is a part of the memories that beat inside my second heart.

It was my fourth-grade year, and my Brownie uniform was neatly packed into Mom's cedar chest, where all her keepsakes went. I had moved up to a Junior Scout with a new green uniform and sash that awaited badges to be earned. Our promotion ceremony was all I had hoped for. As I looked into a mirror surrounded by flowers and recited my pledge, I saw my Mom smiling at me.

As Mom and I rode

home that day, she told me how proud she was of me. She was proud of my young accomplishments and looking forward to the future badges she would help me earn. Oh, what I would give to relive that moment and truly appreciate her words and the touch of her hand on mine. I was the last of her seven children, and time was pressing upon her. It meant something to her for me to gain my independence even though she was missing my dependence on her.

We are taught to be self-sufficient and to rely on ourselves, but in matters of faith, we are called to depend on God. When the Israelites fled Egypt, their survival depended on their trust

in God, from the parting of the Red Sea to the Jordan River. We often read of how God carried His people through their journey. He provided them food, drink, and protection during their forty years of wilderness travel; neither their clothing nor sandals wore out (Deuteronomy 29:5). Nevertheless, the Children of Israel fell into trouble when they failed to rely upon the Lord.

In the scriptures, we can find many examples of people who completely trust God. Queen Esther sought God's help when she was called upon to save her people. Similarly, Elijah's reliance on God was evident when he emerged victorious against the prophets of

Baal on Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18). Furthermore, Jesus emphasized the importance of growing in faith and placing our trust in the Heavenly Father, which He taught to His disciples.

As I look back on my early memories, I now see how my mom guided me through the different stages of life. Some transitions were easy, like moving from Brownie to Junior Girl Scout. However, others were more difficult, like teaching me how to drive or watching the last of her children move away from home. Yet, she never complained. She was there, always loving, always caring, and always guiding me.

Likewise, Our Heavenly Father is always

there for us, showing His love, always caring, and always guiding. While He never promised an easy life, we can navigate the road ahead with His help. As we grow in faith, we can look back and see how He has been with us, guiding us with the touch of His hand upon ours.

Isaiah 41:10: "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

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

OUT TO PASTOR

Touch my coffee and you die

By **JAMES SNYDER**

Recently, illegitimate aliens of the worst kind have invaded our house illegally.

It came to a head just the other day when we were sitting down to lunch, and The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage had a lovely bowl of tomato soup. I forgot what I was eating because all the attention went to her bowl.

As I was eating my lunch, I glanced over at her bowl of tomato soup. The top of it was covered with little black dots of some sort. Looking at it, I asked her, "Oh, my dear, what kind of soup are you eating today?"

She looked down at her soup, and her world came to a crashing end. She jumped up and yelled, but I had no idea what was happening.

Looking at her soup again, I noticed that those little black dots were swimming around in it. As I looked closely, I noticed they were the tiniest little bugs I had

ever seen, but there they were, swimming cheerfully in her soup.

Being the affectionate husband I am, I laughed uncontrollably as I pointed to her soup. "You do make the best soup in town." And then I laughed some more.

Looking at her, I noticed she was not laughing. She was doing the opposite of laughing, so I had to calm down just a bit.

I don't believe in karma. I think it's a bunch of knucklehead idiocy. But in my experience, I have had things come back on me in a very alarming way. I wasn't thinking of that as I was making fun of The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and her bug-infected tomato soup.

That was just the beginning. From then on, the bugs were everywhere in our house. Whenever I saw a bug, I would look at The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and say, "Do you want this one for your tomato soup?"

For some reason, I'm not sure why, she didn't find any of that very funny.

But things were about to change.

Those bugs flew around my head, and one landed on my nose. Not thinking, which is my MO, I smacked that

bug with my right hand as hard as possible. Of course, I did not consider that the bug was as small as it was, and it was on my nose. I'm unsure if I hurt the bug, but my nose began to bleed.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage caught me and said with a little smirk, "Are you having fun playing with your little bug friends?"

I wouldn't say this out loud in her presence, but I deserved that.

The next incident was a bunch of those bugs flying up my nose. I sneezed 17 times, and the bugs went everywhere in the room.

Laughing at me again, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said, "The next time you sneeze cover your nose and mouth with your hand." I think she was having a giggle attack at the time.

Later that afternoon, the bugs were still flying all around. As I sat in my easy chair drinking coffee, I noticed bugs flying around my coffee.

I grabbed my coffee and shouted to those illegitimate aliens, "Touch my coffee and you die!"

I'm OK if they spoil the tomato soup, but my coffee is an entirely different situation.

Something about my coffee prohibits these illegitimate aliens from drinking it.

For example, the cats on the porch are allowed to look in our house, but they're not allowed to be in our house. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has some idea that they have fleas and other things. But if they're not allowed in, what gives these bugs the right to enter our house? Do they have permission from The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage?

To take control of the coffee in my cup is a severe malfunction of what is right. Therefore, there must be consequences to that kind of activity.

I saw these little bugs flying around everywhere I walked in our house. Something has to be done to deal with this major calamity in our house.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage noticed that I was getting somewhat agitated by these bugs. No matter what we did in the house, they were still there.

Towards suppertime, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage looked at me and said, "Why don't we go out for supper tonight and celebrate a bug free zone?"

I know my wife is

right all the time, and this time, she was more than right, so I was all in with her on this.

A little later, I thought of a Bible verse along this line. James 3:5, "Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!"

Sometimes I don't realize how important such little things are. Looking back on my life, I remember some small events that turned into big events.

The biggest distractions in my life are the little things we sometimes ignore.

Sometimes just a few words can cause a big problem, which can last for a long time and cause a big problem. Say one wrong word and the problems begin.

No matter how big a fire is, it always starts with a small flame.

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

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Worship 11 a.m.
Bible Study Wed. 6 p.m.

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Fr. Paul Raj, HGN • Dcn. Dave Harris
Director of Music & Choir - Jeff Cook
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Tuesday and Thursday: Mass at 8:30 am.
Wednesday: Mass at 7:00 pm
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Obituaries

DEATH NOTICES

• **Mary Posey**, 90, of Medart, died March 17, 2024. Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

Sheriff's Report

This report is for activities March 8 to 14:

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

• Gary Congers reported his vacant home had been burglarized and items taken. Congers stated his home had been burglarized between September 2023 to January 2024. Congers stated multiple paintings and books had been stolen. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Edwin Grove investigated.

• Inmate Jason Pack was arrested for criminal mischief. Pack purposely destroyed three jail issued tablets while incarcerated in the Wakulla County Jail. Deputy Edwin Grove investigated.

• Deputy Todd Kent responded to the Dollar General store in Sopchoppy and made contact with Cecilia McClain, who stated a white female failed to scan all her items while at self-checkout and then departed the store with \$89 in unpaid merchandise. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

• Deputy Heather Will conducted a traffic stop for faulty equipment on Old Magnolia Road. The passenger, Misty Hollingsworth, was determined to be in possession of 3.3 grams methamphetamine and arrested. Hollingsworth was transported to the Wakulla County Jail.

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

• Deputy Nick Gray responded to Tractor Supply in reference to a retail theft and made contact with the store clerk, Kaylee Dewitt, who stated two unknown individuals entered the store, cut the security cable from a chainsaw, and fled the store with the chainsaw. The saw was valued at \$620. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

• A traffic stop was conducted on a vehicle for faulty equipment. The driver Andriea Miller was discovered not to have a valid license. During the stop the passenger Clareae' Miller became irate and struck Deputy Zac Munroe in the face. Clareae' was arrested for bat-

tery on Law Enforcement Officer and also charged with resisting arrest. Andriea was issued a traffic citation for driving while license suspended or revoked (DWLSR).

• Victor Padran-Carrean reported the home he is currently renovating had been burglarized. The walls had been sprayed painted with vulgar language and sheet-rock had been damaged. Crime Scene responded and processed the scene. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Dakota Haddock investigated.

• Deputy Nick Gray stopped to investigate a suspicious vehicle at Hudson Park and discovered the driver, Chris Freeman, was in possession of crack cocaine and paraphernalia. Freeman was subsequently arrested for possession of paraphernalia and cocaine.

TUESDAY, MARCH 12

• Deputies responded to 4 Allen St. in reference to Dwayne Reed actively knocking on the victim's front door with a hammer. Upon arrival, deputies observed Reed at the address yelling and asking to pray for him. During the investigation, Reed was found to

have an active Trespass Warning for this residence. Deputies placed Reed under arrest for Trespass After Warning. During a search of Reed post-arrest, deputies found a small clear bag that contained a white crystalized substance later determined to be Fentanyl, for which he was also charged. Deputy William Montgomery investigated.

• Deputies responded to Mike's Marine in Panacea after employees noticed the fence surrounding the boat yard had been cut. Taken were multiple GPS units from several boats. The electronics were valued at approximately \$15,000. Detectives and WCSO CSI responded to the scene to assist with the investigation. This case has been forwarded to detectives for further

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

investigation.

THURSDAY, MARCH 14

• Deputy Don New-some responded to Raker Lane and made contact with Garland Landers regarding a stolen vehicle complaint. Landers stated a suspect had taken his vehicle without authorization and the

vehicle was now missing. Landers was able to provide a possible suspect. 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.

tobe7encouraged faith column He LOVES us this much...

Greetings Wakulla citizens! Our Father LOVES us so much He GAVE us a Way out from death, hell, and the grave! When everyone celebrates Easter Sunday, the magnitude of what was FINISHED on that Cross is absent. What I mean by this is WE are Resurrected with Him! WOOOHH-HOOOOO!!! Our faith must be in what Jesus did for US on the Cross through His birth, Crucifixion then His Resurrection on the 3rd day! To "Overcome" we must have faith in what His Blood and Water is able to do in and for us! He LOVED us that much!

Where this started is when we were first thought of by our Father in Heaven! We were created in Him long long before the earth was ever created! Our Father wanted a Family He could and would LOVE! Ephesians 1: ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before ⁵ Him. In love ⁶ He predestined us to adoption as sons and daughters through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁷ to the praise of the glory of His grace, with which He favored us in the Beloved.

Romans 8: ²⁹ For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters; ³⁰ and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

He then decided to Create us in the natural. Once He created all the vegetation and animals, They, (Genesis 1:²⁶ Then God said, "Let Us make mankind in Our image, according to Our likeness;) Father, the WORD, and the Holy Spirit then created Adam and Eve's spirit in the earth in Their image. Genesis 1:²⁷ So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

In Genesis 2, LORD God then took the spirit of man out of the dirt and Created his physical body and breathed lives into him. Genesis 2:⁷ Then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living ⁸ person.

Let us not forget his helpmate, Eve. God took from the man's body that in which He placed within him when He first Created their spirits. Genesis 2:²¹ So the Lord God caused

a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. ²² And the Lord God ²³ fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. The human race had begun. Then the curse was caused, therefore the cause for the WORD to become Flesh was created therefore the "Resurrected One" FINISHED IT! Death, hell, and the grave has no effect on His Children that endure to the end!!! Praise be to our God, LORD God, and Holy Spirit!!! WOOOHH-HOOOOO!!!! 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 ¹² when faced with death.

1 Peter ^{1:3} Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

We hope this blesses you and causes you to hunger for more of 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. WOOOHHHOOOOO!! Welcome to the family! Your life just got EXCITING!!! The next step is to be water baptized (1 Peter 3:21, 1 Corinthians 6:11) so that our old self will be buried. It is important now to get involved in a Spirit filled full Gospel church and dive in and learn all about who you now are becoming. Congratulations my friend!

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Prayer

Saturday, March 30th, 2024
From 10:00 til 11:30 AM

LOCATION:

Wakulla County Community Center
In the Crawfordville Room

God invites you to come!

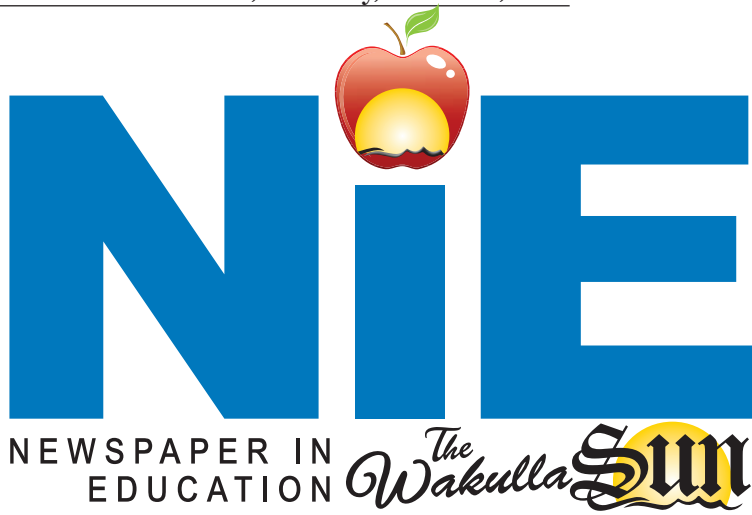
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USE THE NEWS

1. PENGUINS PROPERTY STOLEN

Fans of the Pittsburgh Penguins were looking forward to receiving bobblehead figurines of former star player Jaromir Jagr, but the giveaway will no longer happen at the upcoming game against the San Jose Sharks. The reason? The entire shipment of bobbleheads was stolen! The team is working with police to figure out what happened to the shipment of thousands of figurines. Jagr has the second most points in the National Hockey League's history over the course of his career with 1,921 and helped the Penguins win the league's championship Stanley Cup in 1991 and 1992. He will attend the game where his bobbleheads were meant to be given out to all the fans in attendance. Write a short fiction story or comic strip about the bobbleheads being stolen and what could happen to the thief.

2. READING AND WRITING REDO

About 14 years ago, public schools in the United States no longer had to teach students cursive handwriting. They felt the script-like writing was becoming unnecessary and students would be better off focusing on computer skills, like typing on a keyboard. However, 23 states have changed their mind on the topic, making teaching cursive a requirement again in elementary schools. Research has shown that penmanship or handwriting skills are important to development and academic success – writing by hand helps with memorizing and staying focused on a topic, and cursive is meant as a faster way of writing. Do you know how to read cursive writing or how to write it yourself? Do you think it's a good

thing for students to have to learn? Write at least three ideas of why you think it is or isn't a good requirement. Then, share your answers with your classmates and think about all the different ideas!

3. REPORTERS OF ALL AGES

Time Magazine has a section of their website called Time For Kids, which reports on current events in short stories for kindergarteners through sixth graders. They also hire kid reporters! Since 2000, they've

picked kids from all over the country who have wanted to learn what it's like to be a reporter, and they get the chance to interview celebrities and politicians for real news stories on the website. To apply, kid reporters need to write a news article with quotes from an interview and share why they want to be a TFK Kid Reporter, and they must be under 13 years old. If you were going to apply to be a TFK Kid Reporter, who would you interview for your news story? Write down who it would be and at

least five questions you would ask them in order to write your story.

4. NO DRIVER NEEDED

There's been lots of news about self-driving cars in the last few years, but it's slowly becoming a more common sight in Los Angeles, California. Fifty self-driving "robotaxis" were released in the city last week, run by a company called Waymo. Their main competitor, Cruise, isn't allowed to operate in California anymore after one of their self-driving cars injured a pedestrian last year.

Both Cruise and Waymo's cars have been accused of getting in the way of emergency vehicles and blocking public buses from their routes. Other people are worried about the cars taking away jobs from taxi drivers. Write a summary that includes at least five facts about the new self-driving cars in Los Angeles.

5. STARSHIP TAKES OFF

A rocket called Starship was launched into space as a test last week, making history as it traveled halfway around the Earth. This type of rock-

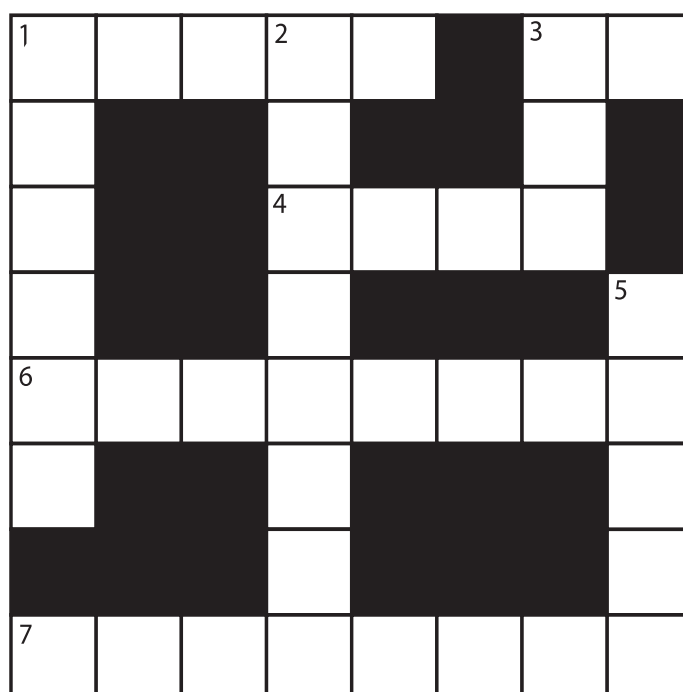
et, which was built by Elon Musk's company SpaceX, will eventually take NASA astronauts back to the moon. It wasn't meant to make it around the Earth, but Starship was the biggest and most powerful rocket to ever fly, standing as tall as a 40-story building. SpaceX lost communication with the rocket 49 minutes after it launched and the company said it had broken up on re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere and probably fell into the Indian Ocean. Write a story about the rocket launch and draw a picture to go along with it.



THIS PROCESS OF PRESERVING FOOD AT AN EXTREMELY LOW TEMPERATURE WITH COLD, CIRCULATING AIR CAN KEEP IT FRESH LONGER.

ANSWER: FLASH-FREEZING

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1. New; not old
3. Internet technology (abbr.)
4. To seep out
6. The first time
7. They keep items frozen

DOWN

1. Having turned into ice
2. Waste produced by rotten item
3. Frozen water
5. Units or articles

Answers:
Across
1. Fresh 3. IT 4. Ooze 6. Earliest 7. Freezers
Down
1. Frozen 2. Spoilage 3. Ice 5. Items

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1854: THE REPUBLICAN PARTY OF THE UNITED STATES IS ESTABLISHED.
- 1923: THE ARTS CLUB OF CHICAGO HOSTS THE OPENING OF PABLO PICASSO'S FIRST UNITED STATES SHOWING.
- 2015: A SOLAR ECLIPSE, SUPERMOON AND EQUINOX ALL OCCUR ON THE SAME DAY.



PRESERVE

to maintain something in its original state

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Cold

SPANISH: Frío

ITALIAN: Freddo

FRENCH: Froid

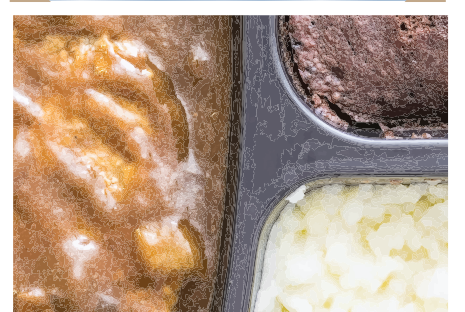
GERMAN: Kalt



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GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: FROZEN TV DINNER

LOTS OF LAUGHS WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- APRIL FOOLS
- BELLY
- BRAY
- BRIGHT
- CAKLE
- CHEEKS
- CHUCKLE
- COMEDIAN
- COMEDY
- CONTAGIOUS
- CRYING
- FUNNY
- GIGGLES
- HAHA
- HICCUP
- JOKING
- LAUGH
- LOL
- MOOD
- POSITIVE
- RELIEF
- SMILE
- SNICKER
- SNORT

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

CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. Midway between south and southeast
4. For each
7. Airborne (abbr.)
10. Photographs
11. They ___
12. It's important in respiration (abbr.)
13. Monetary unit
15. Cool!
16. A son of Jacob
19. Cut off
21. Devour
23. Agent of one's downfall
24. Best
25. Network of nerves
26. Partner to "oohs"
27. Origins
30. Sewing utensil
34. Alias
35. Swiss river
36. Greek mythological figure
41. Type of whiskey
45. Lay to rest
46. "Rule, Britannia" composer
47. Select jury
50. Feeling
54. Action regarded as morally wrong

55. Makes angry
56. Act incorrectly
57. Defensive nuclear weapon
59. Class of escort aircraft carrier
60. To what degree
61. Buzzing insect
62. The human foot
63. "The Leftovers" actress Dowd
64. A place to stay
65. Sun up in New York

CLUES DOWN

1. An involuntary muscular contraction
2. Earnest
3. Cuts out surgically
4. Can't move
5. Baseball stat
6. British soldier
7. Traditional medicine plants
8. Political party controlled by managers
9. Hebrew prophet
13. Supporter
14. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
17. Liberty Mutual mascot
18. Georgia rockers
20. A place where building is done
22. Large, deep-bodied fish
27. Clothing retailer
28. Supplement with difficulty
29. Annoy constantly
31. Founder of Babism
32. Indigenous person in parts of Asia
33. Sea eagle
37. Leave behind
38. Time of day
39. Colorless crystal-line compound
40. They lay out course requirements
41. A diamond has three
42. Algerian coastal city
43. Remove cover
44. Rechristened
47. Distinctive practice
48. Defunct phone company
49. Turkish officer of high rank
51. Eliminate from the body
52. Witness
53. Soviet Socialist Republic
58. Founding Father Franklin

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to laughter.

M C C I O

--	--	--	--	--

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Guess Who?

I am a football coach born on February 16, 1952 in Tennessee. I played tight end in college for Wesleyan University. I've coached a number of teams, but led one NFL team to victory at the Super Bowl six times.

Answer: Comic Answer: Bill Belichick

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Jeeps in the parade down Crawfordville Highway; at right, a leprechaun from Eden Springs in the parade.
PHOTOS BY GERALD BROWN



Shriners along the parade route.



Face painting.



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- APRIL 12, 2024 DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION SUBMISSION
- APRIL 19, 2024 NOTICE OF AWARDS
- MAY 13, 2024 FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED



Lawyer withdraws in murder case

By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**
Editor

Joe Bodiford, the defense attorney for Stuart Mauney, who faces a charge of murder, filed a motion with the court to withdraw representation – saying there was a conflict between him and Mauney. Citing client confidentiality, Bodiford did not disclose the nature of the conflict, but said he could no longer represent Mauney.

At a hearing on March 6 before Wakulla Circuit Judge Layne Smith, Mauney said he had no money left to hire an attorney and that Bodiford's withdrawal would be a hardship. At the same time, Mauney also complained to the court

about Bodiford, saying the lawyer did not communicate with him or respond to messages.

Mauney had been set to go to trial on second-degree murder charges on April 15. If convicted, he could face life in prison.

Judge Smith granted the attorney's motion to withdraw and set a hearing date in April to see if Mauney has hired private counsel or wishes to apply for a public defender.

Mauney was charged in February 2022 with the December 2021 murder of a man in the Purify Bay Road area.

Mauney was released on \$500,000 bond.

The victim's family invoked Marsy's Law, the



Stuart Mauney

constitutional amendment intended to protect crime victims, so the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office never released the victim's name.

The Wakulla Sun searched obituaries from the time of the death and identified the murder victim as Tim-

othy Wayne Blyth, 52, who was killed while scouting a hunting area on refuge lands. He was a U.S. Marine veteran who served two tours overseas and received numerous medals.

According to the arrest report, witnesses reported Mauney in the area with his two standard Poodles and described him as argumentative. He got into an argument as he was walking down the road with his dogs after one person suggested he wear orange because there was a mobility hunt going on. At the kiosk where hunters note their deer harvests, Mauney got into an argument with a man matching Blyth's description.

The sheriff's office received a 911 call after a man driving on Purify Bay Road found a body in the road. The victim had been shot multiple times.

Mauney's poodles were running around the site loose when deputies arrived. Mauney's wife arrived and collected the dogs. She reportedly told deputies the dogs had escaped from their Jack Crum Road home about a mile away and that her husband had not been at the location.

After developing leads, detectives searched Mauney's home and found bloodstained boots that matched prints at the scene, as well as bloodstained jeans. The tire tracks

of Mauney's Ford F150 matched tire tracks at the scene.

But a 9mm handgun Mauney reportedly owned was missing from the home.

At the crime scene, officers found four 9mm spent casings and the victim's phone about 40 yards away from the body. The last photo on the victim's phone was of Mauney's F150 showing the tag.

Back in October, Mauney asked the court if his bow and arrows could be returned to him so that he could hunt during bow season. (As a condition of bond, he is not allowed to possess a gun.) Judge Smith denied the request.

BASEBALL

War Eagles are 8-1



By **KEITH ANDERSON**
Baseball Coach

The War Eagles traveled to Brookwood in Thomasville on Thursday March 15. The War Eagles won the 5 inning affair 15-0 to improve to 7-1 on the season and are currently ranked No. 7 in the 4A state poll.

Leaston Spears was the starter and received the win going 2 2/3 in-

nings striking out two in his shutout performance. Josiah Pierini led the offense with 2 hits and 3 RBIs.

Joe Reyes had a 3 RBI day adding a single. Brady Crum had a 2 run double off the top of the left center wall. Will Chipman also had a double off the right field wall. Gavin Gautreau added a double and an RBI. Parker Lawhon had a triple. Owen Klees had a single with an RBI.

On Friday, March 15, the War Eagles hosted district rival Suwannee County. It was a showdown of the No. 7 and No. 8 ranked 4A teams in the state. The War Eagles did not disappoint

with a 7-0 shutout.

Three War Eagles combined in the 1 hitter. Starter Gavin Estep threw 3 and a third innings striking out 4 getting the win. Jesse Nazworth came in the game in a huge spot to stop a bulldog rally with men in scoring position striking out the two batters in that inning. Will Chipman came on in the 7th to strike out the side to secure the victory.

Parker Lawhon, Haden Klees, and Sam Bruce had multiple hits an accounted for 4 RBIs and 3 runs scored. Brady Crum, Owen Klees, and Gavin Estep all had a hit a piece.

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