



\$1
One Section

The Wakulla Sun

"It's a New Day"

Locally Owned
& Operated

Our 3rd Year 17th Issue
Thursday, April 25, 2024



Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy
Hi: 82° Lo: 59° 7%	Hi: 81° Lo: 66° 7%	Hi: 81° Lo: 66° 5%
Sunrise 6:59AM Sunset 8:11 PM	Sunrise 6:58 AM Sunset 8:12 PM	Sunrise 6:57 AM Sunset 8:12 PM

Nurse sharks move



Cypress Rudloe and Hunter Eichler with nurse sharks at Gulf Specimen Marine Lab. Some of the nurse sharks at the lab had grown too large for Gulf Specimen's tanks and were moved to the New York Aquarium.

Gulf Specimen's sharks are now residents of the New York Aquarium

Story & Photos By
LEGION TAYLOR
Reporter

Gulf Specimen Marine Lab recently transferred three nurse sharks to the New York Aquarium located in New York City.

These nurse sharks were originally from the Florida Keys, and had been transferred to Gulf Specimen from Key West Aquarium in 2012, which had run out of room to keep them comfortably.

But these sharks kept growing since their transfer, and had grown to about 12 feet long, too large for their tank at Gulf Specimen.

Staff at Gulf Specimen reached out to other aquariums in the country via a list server which allows them to communicate with a large number of other institutions, offering to donate these



three nurse sharks so long as the receiving aquarium would provide the transportation.

New York Aquarium was the first to reach out, and they arranged transportation for the sharks through Living Exhibits, which is a company that specializes in the transportation of sea life.

In order to keep these sharks healthy on their journey, they were moved in specialized trucks

with large tanks, which were filled with nearly 2,000 gallons of water, and rigged with their own oxygen, filtration, and monitoring systems. This transfer cost Gulf Specimen nothing, as New York Aquarium paid for the entire process.

"I'm very proud of Hunter (Eichler, Aquarist and AmeriCorps site supervisor at the lab) and the AmeriCorps staff and all the staff here at Gulf

Specimen, they did a fantastic job," said Cypress Rudloe, Executive Director at Gulf Specimen. "One of the main things we care about is the health of our animals... Although those sharks were in a very safe and healthy environment for their size, we wanted to make sure they have the best life possible. At the end of the day I hate losing them, but I'd rather see them in a better environment where they're happier."

"It's definitely the biggest transfer we've ever done," said Eichler. "We've done small sharks in the past, and we do biological supplies, so we ship small fish and invertebrates almost every day. But this was the biggest sea life transfer that we've ever completed."

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Drowning reported in St. Marks

Staff Report

A drowning was reported Saturday in St. Marks.

The victim was reported as a white male, 30 years old, from Gadsden County.

Reportedly, nearby boaters saw the man fall into the water near the lighthouse. He was pulled from the water and taken to the lighthouse boat ramp.

According to the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office, an emergency call was received before 8 a.m.

Some good Samaritans brought the victim to the dock and emergency responders attempted CPR, but the victim died, according to the sheriff's office.

Two lawsuits against county are settled

One lawsuit challenged the bid awarded for county's new radio system for first responders

By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**
Editor

Wakulla County recently settled two pending lawsuits: one was filed by Williams Communication challenging the decision last year to award the bid to construct a new radio system to Motorola Solutions.

The case had been set for trial beginning in June before Wakulla Circuit Judge Layne Smith.

In its lawsuit, Williams claimed that Motorola's bid for the \$17 million radio system did not meet the bid specifications: "Motorola omitted key coverage data from its proposal to the county and misrepresented its compliance with the (Request For Proposal) requirements... in order to reduce system infrastructure costs, utilize a noncompliant radio configuration, and deviate from the industry standards for reliability imposed by the county's RFP."

It's not clear at this time what the terms for the settlement were.

The money for the radio system is coming from a grant of BP money from Triumph Gulf Coast.

The county's current radio system has gaps in service – such as the Smith Creek area – and often does not work in metal buildings or building with metal roofs, such as Walmart. The new system is supposed to correct those problems.

An attorney for Williams appeared at the March 4 county commission to urge commissioners not to approve a \$545,000 payment for replacement of the 911 system, warning that a lawsuit is pending.

A few days later, the parties reached a settlement that was ultimately approved by county commissioners.

In another lawsuit, former employee Christy Stringer vs. Wakulla County, had been set to go to trial on March 25 but settled a week before. County commissioners approved a settlement in an executive session on April 1.

The terms of that settlement are not available at this time.

That lawsuit had survived a county motion to dismiss a couple of weeks before settlement was reached.

Stringer worked as Procurement Coordinator in 2022 claimed in her lawsuit that she was wrongfully terminated and subjected to a hostile work environment as a county employee by County Administrator David Edwards and other staff.

In its motion to dismiss, the county claimed that Stringer had inappropriately sought access to the county check-writing function of the county financial system and the administration met with Stringer and gave her the option to resign or be terminated.

She resigned from the county in April 2022. Tallahassee attorney Marie Mattox filed the lawsuit against the county on behalf of Stringer in August 2022.

Sol Eclectica art is open

Artist Rachell Mathis sells her work at festivals, Small Business Saturday

Story & Photos By
LINDA ANN McDONALD
Correspondent

Sol Eclectica is a new local Wakulla County inspired art business owned by Rachell Mathis of Sopchoppy.

Mathis is locally known for her Annual Art Contest award in 2018 for her contribution to the Worm Grunting Festival T-shirt. Mathis' worm art was again on the town on T-shirts everywhere in 2023 with a different charismatic worm T-shirt graphic.

The word Eclectica is one who uses a method or approach that is composed of elements drawn from various sources: one who uses an eclectic method or approach.

"All of my work is a little different, different creative processes and styles," explains Mathis. "This approach gives me



Local artist Rachell Mathis, right, and her 'Wakulla Woman' painting, above, of a woman paddling on the Wakulla River.

more freedom as an artist and I am not stuck doing one thing, I am not obligated to one thing, it is



freedom art."

"Sol" translated from Spanish is the word "sun."

"The sun incorporates some light in my work, be it the sun or moon, light bounces off something in the picture," she says. "The sun is also representative of Jesus's light, I wouldn't know I had the talent I do without the light of Jesus to show me. I incorporate the light of Jesus in all my paintings."

Mathis also works for Wakulla County Parks and Recreation – you can see her working outside at numerous county parks.

"I draw inspiration from working at the parks, I am lucky to work at Mashes Sands Beach, Dickerson Bay for instance, I have scenery within my own county to create beau-

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Lisa Craze, CFC
Wakulla County Tax Collector

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Every day, the State Wildflower license tag touches thousands of residents and visitors through environmental education on social media and the Florida Wildflower Foundation website. It funds university students performing valuable research, makes possible grants for public places, and much, much more.

When you purchase and renew the State Wildflower license tag, an annual \$15 specialty tag fee is collected and given to the Florida Wildflower Foundation to fund work for wildflowers and wildlife throughout the state.




Student of the Week

Avery Roberts – 2nd grader at Shadeville Elementary

Principal: Tim Wheeler

Achievements/Reason for Nomination: Avery Roberts exemplifies the meaning of being a warrior student. Her determination and drive push her to stand out above her peers. She accomplishes every task with a positive attitude and is always willing to help those around her. Avery is trustworthy and responsible in every aspect of her life. She is a great example of what it means to be a Shadeville warrior.



STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.

Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park

Oakleaf hydrangea

By LYNN ARTZ, DAVID RODDENBERRY, and SANDY TEDDER



Oakleaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*) is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub prized for its beautiful late spring blooms, fall foliage, and winter bark. The large fragrant flower clusters gradually fade from creamy white to rosy pink. Attractive dry, papery flowerheads persist into fall when the large leathery dark green leaves turn red, bronze, and purple. Larger stems have cinnamon-tan peeling bark. Striking as a specimen shrub or when massed, oakleaf hydrangea typically grows 4-6 feet tall. An understory shrub with north Florida the southern end of its range, oakleaf hydrangea prefers part shade, with morning sun and afternoon shade ideal. It grows best in rich, moist, well-drained soil. The flowers attract bumble bees, syrphid flies, and butterflies. Oakleaf hydrangeas are blooming now at the north edge of the wooded swale at Sopchoppy Depot Park.



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The Wakulla Sun

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Sopchoppy School celebrates 100 years on April 13



Rhonda Bright, Callie Quigg and Sarah Strickland.



1929 Graduate Eloise Kemp Strickland and 1932 Graduate George Strickland have a room in the school named after them. Their grandson Brandon Strickland, wife Melissa and family pose for a photo in front of the dedication plaque.

Photos provided by Callie Quigg



School yearbooks from 1947 to 1967 were on display.

Library News

By LINDA OAKS

Library News April 25th-May 1

April 25th

iPhone Class 9:30am
Creative Writing 10am
The Farm and Gardens HOA 7pm

April 26th

Quilting Guild 9:30 am

April 27th

Wakulla Football and Cheer Assoc 9am

April 28th

Closed

April 29th

Closed

April 30th

Book Bunch 10am
The Park HOA 6pm

April 24th

Book Babies 10am
Snacks & Backpacks 3pm
Knitters 4pm
3D Printing for Kids 4:30pm

Upcoming Holiday Closings

Saturday, May 25th for Memorial Day

Stephen Smith Regatta this weekend

Special to The Sun

For the past 50 years, the Stephen C. Smith Memorial Regatta (www.smithregatta.com) has been held at Shell Point Beach for the benefit of the American Cancer Society in memory of Stephen Smith, a local sailor who died from a rare form of leukemia at the age of 29.

This year, April 26-April 28, this home-grown family-friendly event is beginning a second half-century, after setting and exceeding an audacious fundraising goal of \$50,000 last year. We raised \$60,000! Come sail, watch, eat

lunch at the Regatta grill and participate in the Sunday afternoon live auction!

The windsurfing fleet will be competing in multiple races Saturday and a long-distance race Sunday morning. Catamarans and one design day sailors, and small and large (22 feet and over) monohulls will race over their own courses on Saturday. The public is invited to view the races on Saturday and Sunday. Eat your lunch on the beach – food will be available for purchase at the Regatta Grille!

Thousands of dollars' worth of donated items, from jewelry to sailboats

will be auctioned at approximately 2 pm on Sunday afternoon.

Thanks to our MANY wonderful supporters and volunteers, over the last 50 years the Stephen C. Smith Memorial Regatta Foundation, Inc. contributed over \$560,000 to the ACS, most of which stayed in Wakulla, Leon, Jefferson, Gadsden, Madison, Taylor and other Big Bend Counties, providing services to our area residents.

Can't make the Regatta but would still like to help? Then donate directly by going to <http://www.smithregatta.com/donate>

Sol Eclectica

From Front Page

to create beautiful work, I mean, it's already there!"

Mathis is also active within Wakulla's community, this summer she will be painting with the Wakulla County UF/IFAS summer camp. In addition to sharing her talent with 4-H summer campers, Mathis donated a portion of her Wakulla Worm Grunting poster art to Wakulla Giving Hands, a local food charity. "Every sale from posters will continue, even after the Worm Grunting Festival is over," said Mathis.

Rachell Mathis incorporates Wakulla Springs in her art titled "Wakulla Woman." This painting has a mysterious woman paddling down the Wakulla River. Mathis said, "This one represents the Wakulla Springs River, I imagine what it would have looked like 200 years ago."

Mathis also illumi-

nates Sopchoppy's small businesses by incorporating them into her art as well.

"I stopped by Petal Wings Garden Center in Sopchoppy to enjoy the tranquil butterfly sanctuary, the artwork was inspired by the beautiful Monarch butterflies (business owner) Sonia has given life and refuge to."

"When I paint something personal for someone, I take the time to pray over the task and ask for guidance before each piece of work. You're not just getting a piece of art, you're getting a piece of my soul. Each piece is unique for each person, but I always pray a blessing for you in each painting I create," says Mathis.

"My favorites are when I get to go crazy with every color on the spectrum and put it all into one picture. I also want to mention my colleague, Leila Creech. Leila was the one who pushed me and coached me through

the entire process of building my business; she has been paramount to Sol Eclectica. She would ask me at least twice a week, "did you get your LLC yet? You need to do that!", said Rachell of her friend.

Rachell shared, "I love my Sopchoppy, I adore Sopchoppy, and I'll do anything for Sopchoppy. When it is all said and done, at the end of the day, I want to make my sweet grandma Myra Mathis happy."

Sol Eclectica is comprised of fantasy art, natural landscapes, native wildlife and fun charismatic characters, all representative of something special and dear to me." Sol Eclectica has a Facebook page and can be found at Small Business Saturday in Crawfordville and the upcoming Blue Crab Festival in May in Panacea. Mathis also takes special requests.

"I appreciate the support the members of the Wakulla Community has provided me by each piece of art."

Medart School of Music to hold spring recital

Special to The Sun

The Medart School of Music will be having their Spring recitals on April 27 at the Panacea First Baptist Church located at 38 Otter Lake Road. There will be performances at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Come enjoy a variety of music performed on a variety of instruments by these young musicians!

Students performing at the 11 a.m. recital include, Gunner Roe, Ariel Roe, Fabiola Larregui, Isabella Larregui, Lulu Fenenbock, Logan Hand, Laila Francis, Isabella Laughlin, Kaylee Keays, Joe Miller, Liam Miller, Gabi Morales, Ella Yost, Jace Perez, Brooks Loper, Emily Chen, Yentl Thoreen, Nina Fox, Brooklyn Ruggless, Ava Lucas and Walker Roberts.

Students performing at the 2 p.m. recital include Sabian Jett, Isaiah Laughton, Eliana Howard, Laurretta

Compton, Latesha Monroe, Addison Wells, Lily Bridges, Conor Bridges, Gary Diskerud, Blaiden Ward, Makayla Bechtel, Ariel Revell, Elizabeth Albanese, Ruari Robinson, Brooks Baker, Easton Rundles and Riley Solano.

Other students who attend the Medart School of Music include Dylan Hamel, Rayna Hamel, Logan Bramblett, Alexis Porter, McKenna Sanders, Carter Dunn, Teddy Herb, Rosario Reyes, Ryan Ladwig, Madalyn Carraway, Alayna Vickers, Brayden Barlar, Zander Sweatt, Morghan Courson, Raelyn Prentiss, Wyatt Prentiss, Kylee Campbell, Evan Brown, Marlene Meeks, Martha Coggins, Amber Albanese and Kenny Hughes.

At the Medart School of Music we offer lessons for ages 4 to adult Monday through Saturday in piano, organ, voice, woodwinds, brass, percussion, violin, guitar and ukulele.

Sharks

From Front Page

Visitors will notice, however, that the nurse shark display is still the home of four nurse sharks, younger and much smaller than the three who have gone to live in New York. These sharks were originally residents of a casino in Alabama, which bought them for a display in the lobby, only to discover that they grow much faster and larger than anyone at the casino expected.

Rather than euthanizing them, the casino reached out to Gulf Specimen, which happily accepted the transfer. The New York Aquarium is using

these nurse sharks in a new exhibit about the Hudson Canyon, an environment off the coast where these nurse sharks are a native species, where they'll be in a much larger tank with other species from the area.

There are plans for expansions at Gulf Specimen, which include larger tanks for larger species that call local waters home, such as Bonnet Head Sharks and Cow Nose Rays.

"We want to get a lot larger tanks that can hold the bigger sea life that's found in our area, just so we can teach people about them," Eichler said. "And so we can take in animals that need a home, animals that need rescue or rehabilitation, we want to have as big a facility as we can manage to be able to do that."

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.



INVITATION TO BID

Allstate Construction, Inc.

(CGC1518758), the Construction Manager, will receive sealed bid

proposals from pre-qualified subcontractors for Wakulla County School Board Sopchoppy School Renovations and Repairs,

Sopchoppy, Florida, for the following work:

02A – Asbestos Abatement

06A – Carpentry

08A – Windows

08B – Doors, Frames & Hardware

09A – Plaster Repairs

09B – Wood Flooring

09C – Painting

23A – HVAC

26A – Electrical

Subcontractor Bid proposals will be received until 2:00pm Eastern Time on May 3, 2024, at Allstate Construction, Inc., 5718 Tower Road, Tallahassee, FL 32303.

Bid Proposal documents are available from Allstate Construction, Inc.

Email: jwright@allstateconstruction.com Phone: 850-514-1004

Allstate Construction, Inc. reserves the right to waive any irregularities and/or reject any and all Bid Proposals.

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.”

LETTERSFR OMR EADERS

Mays Leroy Gray has passed

Editor, The Sun:

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Mays Leroy Gray on January 14 at the age of 94.

Mays was born in 1929 in Tallahassee to Lonnie Mays Gray and Betty Elizabeth Smith Gray. He was a fifth generation Floridian. He grew up in the Springhill Road area of Tallahassee, working alongside his father on the family farm and cutting timber for his father's timber business. He graduated from Leon High School in 1946, then attended Lively Technical School where he studied architectural drafting. This launched his dream of becoming an architect. Mays served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War and also four years in the Air Force Reserves. After his service, Mays returned to Tallahassee and worked for a number of architectural firms until he obtained his Florida Architectural License in 1963. In 1964, he opened his own architectural firm in Tallahassee where he practiced for 33 years. He designed more than 500 major building projects in North Flor-

ida.

After his retirement, Mays was able to pursue his fascination with reading, researching and writing about the history of the Big Bend area of Florida. He wrote 104 historical articles which were published in local periodicals and newspapers. He also authored and published five books and has donated many of his books to the Historical Society to raise funds. His books are available at the WCHS Museum. He has also donated to the Historical Society all of his architectural plans and files from his business as well as all of his articles and research. We have them housed at the Historic Sopchoppy High School.

Mays was a founding member of the Wakulla County Historical Society and served as President from 1993 through 1995. He was a member of East Hill Baptist Church and a lifetime member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards.

Wakulla County Historical Society

Throw the bums out, every single one

Editor, The Sun:

There is a proliferation of an unsettling trend amongst our elected officials.

Beginning with the federales (Washington DC), the Supreme Court (SCOTUS) has told Mr Biden that he does not have the authority or power to transfer debt from one individual to a host of others. Hint- White House calls it “loan forgiveness”. Yet, Brandon (Biden) seems intent to give the Supreme Court the middle finger and disregard SCOTUS’ proper role as per the Constitution. Regardless of the White House’s reasons of pandering for votes, the bottom line is that only Congress has that authority and it has not been delegated to the Executive Branch.

Why does Brandon and VP Kneepads believe they can ignore the Constitution when they swore an oath to uphold it?

Think it’s only DC? Wrong. Our very own Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) must think Washington is a very good example because

Wakulla County agreed to provisions and restrictions of the Trust which provided for the grass airstrip between Panacea and Ochlockonee Bay. Yet, the current BOCC seems intent to disregard their commitment to adhere to the provisions and provide another middle finger, courtesy of local government, to any agreement. Why? Because they feel like it.

What happened to owning up to one’s commitments and promises? What ever happened to honoring a hand-shake? Why should I be responsible for a student loan debt when no one asked my opinion about it? Nor did anyone consult you or I about the worthiness of a dead-end college major. What’s next- forgiveness of car loans or mortgages? Will the BOCC continue to violate their agreement in their quest for a Panacea International Airstrip?

Elections have consequences. Let’s throw all the bums out, every single one.

Robert Franco
Ochlockonee Bay

On the Horizon

Calendar of events for the week of April 25

Thursday, April 25

- The Wakulla County Cancer Support Group meets in the Education Center of the Crawfordville United Methodist Church at 7 p.m. This group meeting is for men and women, regardless of the type of cancer. Spouses, caregivers, and friends are welcome. For more information, call 850-926-6050.
- The second “Get to know your iPhone” tech class will be held at the Wakulla County Public Library from 9:30 a.m. to noon.
- Rotary Club meets at TCC Wakulla at 8:30 a.m.
- The VFW Auxiliary Bingo Night will be held at 7 p.m. at 475 Arran Road in Crawfordville, every Thursday. There are concessions and raffles.
- Gentle Yoga at 9 a.m. and Yin Yoga at 6 p.m. with Zoe every Thursday. Classes are \$12, at New Posh on 3079 Crawfordville Hwy. RSVP to newposh3079@gmail.com or text/call at (850) 528-5838.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. every Thursday at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

Friday, April 26

- The Ribs and Butts Fundraiser will start having orders available for pick-

up at 2 p.m. at English Financial at 139 Council Moore Road. This fundraiser will benefit Sleep in Heavenly Peace and other local charities.

- Rock the Dock fishing tournament weekend begins from 6 to 8 p.m. in Woolley Park in Panacea.
- Day one of the 51st Annual Stephen C. Smith Memorial Regatta will be held at Shell Point Beach from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and 8 p.m. every Friday at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

Saturday, April 27

- The Florida Department of Health in Wakulla County is hosting the 2nd Annual Family Fun Day event on Saturday April 27, at Hudson Park from 9 a.m. to noon. The purpose of this event is to support National Minority Health Month by raising awareness of the importance of healthy living and community wellness. Various vendors from around the area will be participating, including community organizations, clubs, and non-profit organizations. Vendors will also be providing educational and interactive activities for the whole family
- Household Hazardous Waste Day will be held from 8 a.m. to 12 noon at

the Wakulla Community Center.

- Rock the Dock fishing tournament will be held from 2 to 6 p.m. in Woolley Park in Panacea.
- 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.
- Day two of the 51st Annual Stephen C. Smith Memorial Regatta will be held at Shell Point Beach from 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- The Sopchoppy Opry, featuring the Easy Company Band, will hold a performance at the old Sopchoppy Highschool, starting at 7 p.m.
- Palaver Tree Theater is hosting “Camo and Karaoke,” a 25+ event, from 7 to 11 p.m.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. every Saturday at, 54 Ochlockonee St.
- The Wakulla Caregiver Support Group will meet at the Wakulla County Public Library at 10 a.m. every Saturday.

Sunday, April 28

- Rock the Dock fishing tournament will be held from 12 to 4 p.m. in Woolley Park in Panacea.
- Day three of the 51st Annual Stephen C. Smith Memorial Regatta will be held at Shell Point Beach from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Monday, April 29

- 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, April 30

- 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 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, May 1st

- 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 54 Ochlockonee St.
- Gentle Yoga and Stetching Class, every Wednesday, 11 a.m. Wakulla Community Center. Bring a mat. Come early to sign in. Chair Yoga participants welcome. \$2 per class.

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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!”





Editor/Publisher:
William Snowden
editor@thewakullasun.com



Reporter:
Legion Taylor
reporter@thewakullasun.com



Production Manager/IT:
Eric Stanton
estanton@thewakullasun.com



Circulation:
Krystal Sheppard
circulation@thewakullasun.com



Sales & Marketing:
Lynda Kinsey
lkinsey@thewakullasun.com

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/@TheWakullaSun

TWITTER: www.twitter.com/@TheWakullaSun

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◀ Question of The Week ▶

– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

Polled at the Chill Spot Chamber After Hours Event:

When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?



LEONARD DONALDSON
Retired

“I wanted to go to college, but went into the army instead and I retired from the Army.”



MIKE ODOM
Boat Captain

“President of the United States. I think that came from watching the Watergate Trials with my Grandma.”



CALVIN RICHARDSON
Retired Trade Show Industry

“A Fireman! My dad was a Fireman and I loved big red trucks.”



JESSE WALTZ
American Exterior Cleaning

“A marine Biologist, I went to Gulf Specimen Marine Lab a lot when I was younger, we take my 3 year old there now.”



PETRA SHUFF
Retired

“I wanted to be an interpreter at the UN.”

Buckhorn News

By **ETHEL SKIPPER**

Christians can live victoriously and confidently in Christ.

1 John 5:4 Whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world, and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

John's instructions for success as a believer in Christ he calls overcoming the world. He talks of familiar themes such as love, truth, and having much faith in believing Jesus Christ who came in human flesh.

These truths form the foundation for a victorious Christian life.

We can obey the commandments of God, and be confident God will hear our prayers and live victorious over the world.

Living a victorious Christian life in this evil world is now and has always been a challenge. Therefore, let us continually encourage and help other brothers and sisters in Christ to live a victorious life for Christ in this age.

Macedonia Community Church of Christ W.I.H. will celebrate its annual Mother Mary E. Green Day.

Mother Green was the church's leading woman as a mother to every-

one. She was a midwife and doctor for the community of Buckhorn and Sopchoppy. She still is remembered by many people.

The service will be on Sunday, April 28 at 11 a.m. Speaker will be Bishop Alfred Nelson. Everyone is welcome.

The Northwest Florida Diocese District Meeting of the Church of Christ Written in Heaven will be held April 24-28 in Quincy at the Shilo Church of Christ W.I.H. Nightly services at 7:30 p.m. Sunday school at 10 a.m., fellowship at 11:30 a.m.

Skipper Temple Church of Christ invites you to our services on Sat-

urday, May 11. Program will be for Mother Vera Gavin. Speaker will be Pastor Janiet Clary.

On Sunday, May 12, we will be honoring all mothers on their special day. Speaker will be Evangelist Shirley Morris. Special tribute to the youngest mother, oldest mother, and mother with the most great-grandchildren.

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 each other and love one another.

Wakulla Station News

By **VERNA BROCK**

I hope everyone has been able to partake in some of the many Earth Day activities being offered all this past week. Growing from a single day in 1970, Earth Day began from concerns about the changing climate, superfund pollution sites and increasing cancer clusters. It now encompasses more than a week of education, awareness and activism. Remember, a small commitment can make a big difference when we all work together.

I have heard nothing but praise and enthusiasm for the celebration of the arts held at Wakulla High School this past weekend. Congratulations to students at every level for sharing their creativity, talent and artistic skills. To the teachers who pro-

vide inspiration and leadership to our musicians, performers and artists, we thank and salute you! Our school system is so blessed to have your dedicated service to our children.

I'm happy to report Ms. Clem Bunker is growing stronger every day. Norma Woodcock is doing well following her recent illness, as is Leah Pearson and Thelma Watts. Please keep each of these admirable women in your prayers. Mr. Jimmy Gainey, Mr. Cary Hart, and Ms. Deborah Giles also need our prayers as they deal with health issues. I have the sad task of reporting the death of Sondra Martin, after a brief illness. Please hold her family close in prayer as they mourn a beloved member of the family.

This coming Saturday, April 27th,

there will be a church garage sale at the Wakulla United Methodist Church, on the bike trail. If you would like to participate and make a little money, you are invited to join in. The sale will begin at 8 a.m., and go until 2 p.m.. If you don't own a table, the church has a few tables they can provide, for a \$20 donation per table. All proceeds go directly to support the monthly Food Pantry at the church. Even though prices are beginning to come down, it continues to take more funds to provide the same amount of groceries as before the Pandemic. Come out, find a bargain or two, make some cash and help this vital ministry continue.

The Olin/General Dynamics annual family picnic was this past weekend, and was held at the SMP campground. The campground is an amazing resource for employees, situated as it is on the beautiful Wakulla River. Johnston's Meats, out of Mon-

ticello, catered the event, serving up delicious grilled sausage, hamburger and hot dogs, with all the traditional sides and fixin's. They had their distinctive, old-fashioned Rolling Store there too.

You may have spotted the Rolling Store around Wakulla County, as they offer the same great beef, sausage, pork, and so much more for sale a couple times a month. They proudly raise and slaughter their own meats, and you just can't beat the quality!

There were face painters and entertainers from BJ's Party house, along with bounce houses and lots of games for the kids. A sketch artist was doing fun, interpretative portraits of anyone wanting a piece of original art, and a DJ kept the beats coming. Thanks also to the school system for providing a shuttle bus from the plant to the campground. Participants got to catch up with old friends, teammates and their families while having a great day with perfect weather.

Sheriff's Report

This report is for activities April 12-18:

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

• A victim reported being defrauded out of nearly \$5,000 after answering an ad on Craigslist. The victim exchanged emails with a subject named "Dave," who stated the gold bars were inherited by his girlfriend "Angie." Angie showed up to Capital City Bank in Crawfordville and met with the victim, who then exchanged cash for three gold bars. A friend of the victim from Georgia told him the bars were fake. The victim has been trying to contact "Angie" but has not been able to reach her after the exchange. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Matt Hinson investigated.

• James Warren Green reported the grass at the Macedonia Community Church being damaged.

It appeared to have been caused by a skid steer. Local crews have been in the area and possible used the church parking area to stage their equipment. Green estimated the cost to replace the sod at \$800. Deputy William Bennett investigated.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

• George Edward Kellett reported getting notified by Bank of America that someone had attempted to secure a credit card in his name. Kellett does not bank with Bank of America and didn't authorize the use of his personal information to gain credit. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Norman De Guzman investigated.

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

• Tony Lynn Roberts reported the theft of a 1994 Mazda 2300 truck.

The truck is two-tone in color with the front cab being green and the bed being reddish orange in color. Roberts was doing repair work on the vehicle at his residence for the owner at the time it was stolen. The vehicle information was inside the truck and it didn't have a current tag nor registration. Vehicle was unable to be entered into NCIC/FCIC due to the owner not having any information on the vehicle. Roberts was able to provide a possible suspect in the case. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Matt Hinson investigated.

MONDAY, APRIL 15

• Deputy Heather Will conducted a traffic stop for an expired tag and discovered the driver, Ross Mathews, had a suspended driver's license with multiple priors. Mathews was arrested and transported to the Wakulla County Jail.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16

• Olan Thornton reported the theft of an Amazon package. Thornton advised an email was sent on April 12 stating the package was delivered, however it was not. Thornton waited over the weekend, but the package never arrived. Deputy Zac Monroe investigated.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18

• Emily Pichard reported her Apple iPhone 15 Pro Max stolen. Pichard stated while at work inside Subway at Walmart, she went to the restroom near the front customer service desk. Pichard advised she accidentally left the phone in the restroom. When Pichard returned to restroom, it was no longer there. Pichard was able to access the Find My Phone app and located the iPhone pinging at a residence in Crawfordville. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Matt Hinson investigated.

• Damon Barto Corley reported the theft of his boat motor. Corley was mowing his yard and noticed the motor was missing from his boat. Corley last saw the motor attached to his boat three weeks ago. The motor was described as a 20hp Mercury, black

in color and valued at \$500. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Shayne Broxie investigated.

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

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Outdoors

outdoor sports

HOME ON THE RANGE

Thoughts on a good grip, Part 2



By MARJ LAW

Last week, we discussed a few thoughts on what makes a good grip. These fundamentals are based on an article I read on Guns & Ammo by Richard Nance. While reading, I'm thinking: "Yes, exactly! Couldn't have said it better!" but also wondering "What does he mean by that?" So, after discussing each paragraph with Joe, I'm taking Nance's article and writing it without long sentences and big words.

We started by describing how to keep our grip high, and to put the web of thumb and forefinger snugly into the tang or beavertail. We discussed bore line, aligning the gun with our forearm, and avoiding "limp-wristing." Internalizing these ideas when shooting helps us to keep down the recoil and to shoot more accurately. Isn't it easier to shoot without having the gun kick too much? Isn't it more fun to whack holes in the center x-ring of our target?

Before, we were talking about things to remember with our dominant hand. But wait! There's another hand! We want both hands on the grip!

Again, we want to minimize that dreaded recoil. How we use our non-dominant hand can make a difference too. One way we figure this out is to make sure the heels of our palms meet on the grip. Now that they

are together, it's time to cant that non-dominant hand forward so that our non-dominant thumb points towards the target. Remember, keep the heels together.

Is our dominant hand gripping high in the tang? Is our dominant forearm aligned with the gun?

With heels of hands together and thumbs pointing to the target, it's time to lock both wrists firmly. How?

With heels of hands together, our dominant hand is going to be locked when we apply pressure to the front and back of the grip: sort of like squeezing pliers. Squeeze firmly. Now our dominant hand is locked.

Our non-dominant hand?

That guy is responsible for squeezing the grip side to side. The grip is now firmly squeezed front to back and side to side and our hands are completely surrounding the grip.

So, how hard do we squeeze to lock our grip?

Nance's response is to grip somewhere between "Grip your pistol as if you were giving a firm handshake" and "Grip it as hard as you can." Nance's advice is to "Think of your grip as more than a firm handshake but less than a death grip." If our grip is too firm, we're likely to become tired and wobble. A wobbly grip isn't going to do much for accuracy when shooting.

Since our hands are holding the grip firmly, what are our arms going to do?

Again, there is more than one school of thought here.

Nance discusses his early training in police shooting. "I was taught to extend my arms fully." But now he thinks differently. So, try it. But again, first make sure your gun is empty.

Then, when pointing your gun in a safe direc-



tion and extending your arms fully, what will take the brunt of the recoil? Your shoulders do. As you shoot and as your shoulders are impacted by the recoil, your arms and the handgun will rise because your shoulders are acting like hinges. When your arms rise from the recoil, your gun is no longer pointed at the target. What good is that?

Instead, Nance cautions us to bend our elbows slightly. This allows the "forces of recoil to direct the gun more horizontally." Now, we experience less muzzle rise.

There's a sweet spot for each person somewhere between extending arms fully and bending them somewhat. It's a spot we all have to discover for ourselves.

Now, as we raise our arms toward the target, our non-dominant

hand should be about as high as our lower chest. Remembering to keep the heels of our hands together, we wrap the fingers of our off hand around our dominant hand. When we do this, the off hand's index finger rests at the bottom of the trigger guard. That off hand finger's second knuckle rests against the second knuckle of the dominant hand's middle finger's second knuckle.

As our arms extend, our off hand's wrist cants forward as the grip tightens. We find out that if we cant our off hand wrist too far forward, we might lose contact of the heels of our hands. This is one way to know how far forward our arms should be. Keeping contact of the heels of our hands while extending our arms makes for the best recoil management.

Finally, our dominant hand's thumb applies pressure to the base of the non dominant thumb. Then, when you extend your arms to fire, you can apply pressure all around the grip. Front to back and side to side; the grip will be firm and secure.

Nance sums up: "While there are bound to be nuances to one's grip based on hand size, physicality and even personal preference, there's a reason the best shooters in the world adhere to these basic concepts. They work. A proper grip results in faster and more accurate rounds on target. That's the goal whether you're competing for a title or competing for your life."

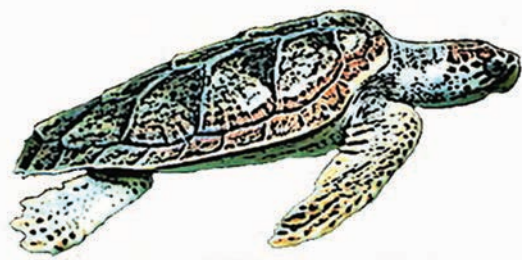
Pick up your handgun. Check once more to make sure the gun is empty. Now, grip your gun and extend your arms.

Is your dominant hand

high in the tang of your gun? Is your forearm aligned with the gun? Do the heels of your hands stay together as you extend your arms? Does your dominant thumb press firmly against your non dominant one? Are your wrists locked when you apply pressure front to back and side to side?

If you haven't purchased a gun yet, first make sure the gun you want to "see" has no rounds in either the chamber or the magazine. Then grip the gun and extend your arms. If you can answer "yes" to the questions above, you are one step on the way to find a gun that fits your hands.

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



LOGGERHEAD SEA TURTLE
(*Caretta caretta*)

The loggerhead turtle spends its early life in the sargassum seaweed bed hiding from predators like moray eels and crabs while hunting smaller creatures. Baby turtles concentrate magnetite in their brains forming a navigation "compass". Adults eat jellyfish, sponges, corals, bivalves and gastropods. Females will fight and chase other females away from good feeding areas. Loggerheads can be stunned by cold and must migrate to warmer water or risk death. Florida has 20,000 sea turtle nests, more than anywhere else.

Eukaryria, Anamalia, Chordata, Reptilia, Testunides, Cheloniidae



Leave Nothing
But Your Footprints

WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO

At his weekly wildlife survey at Wakulla Springs last week, retired park ranger Bob Thompson snapped this shot of an anhinga that caught a bream from the river.



Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences



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Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

April 25 - May 1



Tide charts by tides4fishing.com



Best fishing days this month
May 7-23

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	4:02 am ▲ 3.3 ft	9:16 am ▼ 1.2 ft	3:09 pm ▲ 3.8 ft	10:14 pm ▼ -0.5 ft
Fr	4:40 am ▲ 3.2 ft	9:45 am ▼ 1.3 ft	3:33 pm ▲ 3.9 ft	10:50 pm ▼ -0.5 ft
Sa	5:23 am ▲ 3.1 ft	10:16 am ▼ 1.5 ft	4:01 pm ▲ 3.9 ft	11:31 pm ▼ -0.4 ft
Su	6:12 am ▲ 2.9 ft	10:52 am ▼ 1.7 ft	4:36 pm ▲ 3.8 ft	
Mo	12:21 am ▲ 2.9 ft	7:14 am ▲ 2.8 ft	11:37 am ▼ 1.9 ft	5:18 pm ▲ 3.7 ft
Tu	1:24 am ▼ -0.1 ft	8:31 am ▲ 2.7 ft	12:42 pm ▼ 2.1 ft	6:16 pm ▲ 3.4 ft
We	2:38 am ▼ 0.0 ft	9:54 am ▲ 2.8 ft	2:24 pm ▼ 2.1 ft	7:51 pm ▲ 3.1 ft

City of St. Marks

Th	4:38 am ▲ 3.1 ft	10:20 am ▼ 1.1 ft	3:45 pm ▲ 3.5 ft	11:18 pm ▼ -0.4 ft
Fr	5:16 am ▲ 3.0 ft	10:49 am ▼ 1.2 ft	4:09 pm ▲ 3.6 ft	11:54 pm ▼ -0.4 ft
Sa	5:59 am ▲ 2.9 ft	11:20 am ▼ 1.3 ft	4:37 pm ▲ 3.6 ft	
Su	12:35 am ▼ -0.4 ft	6:48 am ▲ 2.7 ft	11:56 am ▼ 1.5 ft	5:12 pm ▲ 3.6 ft
Mo	1:25 am ▼ -0.3 ft	7:50 am ▲ 2.6 ft	12:41 pm ▼ 1.7 ft	5:54 pm ▲ 3.4 ft
Tu	2:28 am ▼ -0.1 ft	9:07 am ▲ 2.5 ft	1:46 pm ▼ 1.9 ft	6:52 pm ▲ 3.1 ft
We	3:42 am ▼ 0.0 ft	10:30 am ▲ 2.6 ft	3:28 pm ▼ 1.9 ft	8:27 pm ▲ 2.8 ft

Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	4:28 am ▲ 3.4 ft	9:42 am ▼ 1.4 ft	3:24 pm ▲ 3.8 ft	10:34 pm ▼ -0.4 ft
Fr	5:07 am ▲ 3.3 ft	10:08 am ▼ 1.6 ft	3:49 pm ▲ 3.9 ft	11:09 pm ▼ -0.3 ft
Sa	5:50 am ▲ 3.2 ft	10:38 am ▼ 1.7 ft	4:18 pm ▲ 3.9 ft	11:51 pm ▼ -0.3 ft
Su	6:39 am ▲ 3.0 ft	11:13 am ▼ 1.9 ft	4:52 pm ▲ 3.8 ft	
Mo	12:42 am ▼ -0.2 ft	7:42 am ▲ 2.8 ft	11:58 am ▼ 2.0 ft	5:35 pm ▲ 3.7 ft
Tu	1:47 am ▼ 0.0 ft	9:01 am ▲ 2.7 ft	1:04 pm ▼ 2.2 ft	6:32 pm ▲ 3.4 ft
We	3:04 am ▼ 0.2 ft	10:22 am ▲ 2.8 ft	2:48 pm ▼ 2.2 ft	8:10 pm ▲ 3.1 ft

Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	3:54 am ▲ 2.5 ft	9:27 am ▼ 0.8 ft	3:01 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	10:25 pm ▼ -0.3 ft
Fr	4:32 am ▲ 2.4 ft	9:56 am ▼ 0.9 ft	3:25 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	11:01 pm ▼ -0.3 ft
Sa	5:15 am ▲ 2.3 ft	10:27 am ▼ 1.1 ft	3:53 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	11:42 pm ▼ -0.3 ft
Su	6:04 am ▲ 2.2 ft	11:03 am ▼ 1.2 ft	4:28 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	
Mo	12:32 am ▼ -0.2 ft	7:06 am ▲ 2.1 ft	11:48 am ▼ 1.4 ft	5:10 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
Tu	1:35 am ▼ -0.1 ft	8:23 am ▲ 2.0 ft	12:53 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	6:08 pm ▲ 2.5 ft
We	2:49 am ▼ 0.0 ft	9:46 am ▲ 2.1 ft	2:35 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	7:43 pm ▲ 2.3 ft

St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	4:16 am ▲ 2.6 ft	9:21 am ▼ 1.4 ft	2:58 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	10:05 pm ▼ -0.4 ft
Fr	4:57 am ▲ 2.5 ft	9:47 am ▼ 1.5 ft	3:25 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	10:42 pm ▼ -0.4 ft
Sa	5:44 am ▲ 2.4 ft	10:14 am ▼ 1.7 ft	3:56 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	11:26 pm ▼ -0.4 ft
Su	6:40 am ▲ 2.3 ft	10:43 am ▼ 1.8 ft	4:30 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	
Mo	12:19 am ▼ -0.3 ft	7:52 am ▲ 2.2 ft	11:16 am ▼ 2.0 ft	5:11 pm ▲ 2.8 ft
Tu	1:24 am ▼ -0.2 ft	9:27 am ▲ 2.2 ft	12:11 pm ▼ 2.1 ft	6:09 pm ▲ 2.6 ft
We	2:43 am ▼ 0.0 ft	10:52 am ▲ 2.3 ft	3:07 pm ▼ 2.1 ft	7:54 pm ▲ 2.4 ft

Dog Island West End

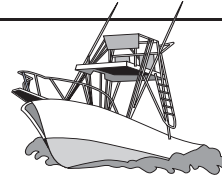
Th	4:50 am ▲ 2.4 ft	9:43 am ▼ 1.5 ft	3:15 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	10:21 pm ▼ -0.4 ft
Fr	5:34 am ▲ 2.3 ft	10:05 am ▼ 1.6 ft	3:42 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	11:03 pm ▼ -0.4 ft
Sa	6:20 am ▲ 2.2 ft	10:29 am ▼ 1.8 ft	4:12 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	11:52 pm ▼ -0.4 ft
Su	7:13 am ▲ 2.1 ft	10:54 am ▼ 1.9 ft	4:47 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	
Mo	12:44 am ▼ -0.3 ft	8:53 am ▲ 2.0 ft	11:35 am ▼ 1.9 ft	5:29 pm ▲ 2.5 ft
Tu	1:42 am ▼ -0.1 ft	10:24 am ▲ 2.4 ft		
We	2:54 am ▼ 0.1 ft	11:26 am ▲ 2.1 ft	3:32 pm ▼ 1.9 ft	8:00 pm ▲ 2.1 ft

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



Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports

By Carolyn Brown Treadon



Flotilla 12 will hold a Ramp Day on Saturday, May 25th at the Fort in St. Marks where we will provide free vessel safety checks. These safety checks are a way to assess if a boat is seaworthy and ensures that the necessary boating safety equipment are accessible and in working order.

In the Auxiliary, a mantra of our organization is that "boating safety is every person's responsibility," and the boating community is no exception. Boat operators are responsible for the safety of their occupants on board and safe navigation.

In vessel examinations, Auxiliary examiners ensure that boat operators possess, at minimum, one life jacket for every member on board. It is important to note that children 13 years and younger must wear a life jacket at all times while on a vessel. Further, it is essential that all vessels 16 feet or longer carry signal flares. It is important that the expiration date has not passed. Air horns and whistles are

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

mandatory for signaling purposes. Boat owners/operators should be in possession of boat registration documents while on board. Finally, it is very important that all vessels have FL/GA Registration numbers on the side of the boat. A fire extinguisher is a required safety feature. Requirements depend on the size and type of vessel you own.

In reference to sea worthiness, it is important to ensure that your boat has fully functioning navigation lights. You may not plan to operate your boat at night, but you never know when or how quickly fog conditions may develop. It is also important to start your engine pri-

or to launching your vessel. Nothing is more challenging than a boat with no power or control, floating in the middle of a channel or body of water.

The above information is a just a sample of what takes place when a boat Vessel Inspection is conducted. Additional information can be obtained by contacting US Coast Guard Auxiliary, Florida Fish and Wildlife, or accessing the web. There numerous publications regarding boating safety and regulations.

Remember, as a Coast Guard Operations Training Officer once told me, when on the water, "We don't have to go out, but we

have to come back." Smooth Sailing and Safe Boating!

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

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.

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 Jim Kenny at jimc809@gmail.com.

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.cgau.org.

Underwater Wakulla

By Rusty Miller

Becoming a safe diver.

As a scuba diving instructor it is my responsibility and obligation to train my students in the open water class to recognize the dangers that they may encounter as they scuba dive in any body of water. With that being said even with my 5 decades of scuba diving I cannot give every scenario that can happen to new and experienced divers.

When I teach my students I try to give them real and practical information that will help them in their diving and to be as safe as they possibly can be. Therefore, I plan to teach them "Zero Accidents" from the first day in class. When my students want to continue their education then they will already have the Zero Accidents mentality. If a person comes to me for a refresher course, Nitrox course, and/or advanced course they will learn about the Zero Accident mentality that I have.

The next one I would like to touch on is "Reduce Common Diving Risks."

The first step in reducing the diving risk is Self Rescue. That may seem like a selfish way to look at rescue diving but you have to know how to keep yourself from becoming a victim too. That means that if you find yourself in a situation that you need to help someone else you will need to do a few steps to calm yourself down before you do anything for someone else.

1. Stop! Access the situation
2. Breathe! Calm your own breathing down
3. THINK! Look around the area that you and the diver in distress are in to make sure there are no hazards I.E. fishing lines, parts of fishing nets.
4. Breathe! This step will help you to look more intensely at the situation to make sure you are not going beyond your training.
5. ACT! Do what you have been trained to do for the other diver.

In a rescue class you will be trained in greater details on each of these self rescue techniques.

Remember that we should always have a Zero Accident goal every time we hit the water to go diving. That means that while scuba diving is a very fun and exciting sport you have to be aware of your equipment, your surroundings, and your general wellbeing.

The final one I want to touch on is "Legal and Ethical issues."

I'm not going to go into a lot of details on this one but I will give you some idea of what can be involved if you find yourself having to make that rescue decision.

1. Liability. Anyone can be sued for anything.
2. Negligence. Issues that must be proven
3. Standard of care and duty. NEVER exceed your training.
4. Assumption of risks and your actions. Your actions in a rescue
5. Insurance and the Good Samaritan law. On the insurance, unless you work for some type of agency that would have a type of liability insurance on you it probably is a moot point. The Good Samaritan law is this: *hort of dedicating yourself to achieving NAUI Worldwide membership and becoming a diving leader, as a volunteer you may be protected in your rescue actions by the legal concept of "the Good Samaritan." Many jurisdictions recognize in their law that unselfishly helping a stranger in distress is a worthwhile activity for which one should suffer no harm.

FWC Law Enforcement Report

From FWC

This report represents some events the FWC handled April 5 to 11 in the Northwest Region. (No cases were reported in Wakulla County)

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Officer Hartzog was on patrol at Patton Drive in Eastpoint and observed an individual fishing from a paddleboard on the south side of the Eastpoint channel. Officer Hartzog

observed the individual exit the paddleboard and begin harvesting large clusters of wild oysters from the channel's edge and putting them on the bow of his paddleboard. The subject paddled back across the channel and when the officer approached to conduct a resource inspection, the subject began discarding the wild oysters back into the water. Officer Hartzog instructed the individual to stop discarding the oysters and then detained the

individual. The officer advised the individual he had observed him harvesting unculled wild oysters from a prohibited area. Additionally, the Apalachicola Bay system is closed to recreational and commercial oyster harvest per Executive Order. The subject also did not possess a current salt-water fishing license or any safety equipment on his paddleboard. The violations were cited accordingly.

OKALOOSA COUNTY

Investigator Pifer was on patrol in the Eglin Wildlife Management Area when he inspected an individual returning to the check station who was participating in a special opportunity hunt. The individual had harvested an antlered deer that did not meet the minimum antler point regulations. The subject was issued a citation for the violation.

Restoring the one who has hit rock bottom



By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

Her neighbors wanted nothing to do with her – except as a source of delicious gossip.

Shame reigned in the woman's heart. Judgment reigned in her neighbors'. Then ... Jesus entered the scene.

John 4:7-42 tells us the same crowd that had previously condemned the woman's way of life later thanked her for telling them about Jesus. From one disgraced woman arose a ministry that impacted an entire community.

This week, we'll focus on the final section of 1 Corinthians 13:6 (ESV):

"[Love] does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth."

As we discussed last week, God calls us to rise above the temptation to gossip when people make devastating choices that ruin their lives and relationships. It's especially easy to fall into this trap when it involves someone we don't particularly like. But when we choose to behave this way, we further the decay of our country, our community and even our churches.

Wouldn't it be better if, when we hear about

people who have blown it, we looked for ways to bring God's truth into their situations? We could start by admitting (to ourselves and to God) that we, too, have made poor choices. Then, we could seek ways to help those who are struggling to overcome or live with the consequences they're experiencing.

We could let them know how others have been there for us during our times of struggle and offer to attend an AA meeting or other appropriate support group with them. We

could also invite them to church and share a meal afterward. Let's ask God to show us meaningful ways to get involved and then step out in faith to do what He tells us.

This year's National Day of Prayer (May 2) theme is "Lift Up the Word, Light Up the World." Let's live and behave in a way that reflects God's Light to the world (Matthew 5:14). May our choices glorify our heavenly Father and be a light to those who are in darkness. The joy we experience while helping restore people's

lives far outweighs the fun of relishing in their downfall, even when – especially when – we help someone we previously scorned.

Recalling our opening story, how do you think the woman started her day the morning after she met Jesus? How would 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.

Everybody knew. The woman had been married five times. To add to her scandalous reputation, the man she was now living with wasn't her husband.

Born into His family



By **CHERYL CRUCE**

warned that the sun's brilliance would blind us if we looked up. Our solar project was two pieces of paper with a tiny pinhole in one. The two were to be held slightly apart, the pinhole being the upper portion. As the eclipse happened, we could see the event's shadow on the underneath paper.

With my lack of understanding, mine did not work, and I missed everything.

With our recent eclipse, there were conspiracies about how the totality would follow a path of recent storms in the Midwest. Others believed catalytic earthquakes would rock our world.

Additional thoughts lead to the Days of Jonah and his three days

in the belly of a great fish. Jesus referred to this scripture, speaking of His resurrection from the grave (Matthew 12:38-42). Many believed April 8, 2024, would be the resurrection of the church.

I chose to miss the 2024 eclipse. On the day of its appearance, I didn't consider the events or the conspiracies.

Nevertheless, I did not miss the wonder of creation. On the prescribed date, instead of watching the sky, I sat with three of my grandchildren, watching the labor and delivery doors of the Women's Pavilion. I saw the amazement in their eyes as they awaited the arrival of their baby sister, MaryBelle. I watched as

their eyes filled up with tears when they heard she was perfect in every way.

I compare the two events because both contain the beauty of creation. The solar eclipse reminds us of God's hand controlling the heavens. It is not a time to instill fear but to witness of His greatness.

The heavens and the highest of heavens belong to God. The Earth and all it contains are His (Deuteronomy 10:14). He has made us rulers, placing all things under our feet (Psalm 8:6). Yet, he has given us free will to choose faith in His words or fear of the enemy.

Our world did not end on April 8, 2024. For my family, a new

life was born on this day. We were given another day to embrace love, life, and faith.

At the birth of MaryBelle, I watched the hearts of three siblings experience the greatest of emotions as they finally met the one they already loved. The hospital room was not darkened by celestial events but was illuminated by God's gift of life.

We can all experience God's gift of life through our faith. When we accept Jesus as our Lord, we start to breathe in the breath of life that God offers us.

Instead of fearing the uncertainties of life and the theories of man, we begin to embrace God's gift of new life.

Just as a family ea-

gerly awaits the birth of a child, the Heavenly Father patiently waits for our birth into His family. We become a child cradled in the palm of His hand as He illuminates our lives with the greatest love of His heart.

John 1:12-13 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

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

OUT TO PASTOR

And then an angel floated by



By **JAMES SNYDER**

and doing something, but this time, she was down, and I won't mention what she was doing.

It seemed to pass, and at that time, I was not affected. I very smugly thought that I was the only one who survived all of that "Bug Squatting" scenario.

Then, the unmentionable happened. It was a Friday night, and I had my first episode of diarrhea. It came and went rather quickly, and I had no other health problems. I didn't have any sick stomach or even a headache. I thought I had escaped that problem.

Then Saturday morning started. All day long, I had diarrhea and spent most of my time in the bathroom. I didn't know what I was going to do, but I didn't have any other symptoms, at least at that time.

I was afraid we would have to cancel the Sunday morning service, and I hate doing that with a passion.

By early afternoon on Saturday, I was fine. I didn't feel sick anywhere and had no further problems – at least, that's what I thought.

The plans were to go through Sunday just as planned.

At about 5 a.m. Sunday, before I woke up, I had an episode that made

me race to the bathroom and caused some alarm. However, it was over in a moment, and there were no residues left in my body.

The best thing to do was to keep this a secret, especially from The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

We got up Sunday morning as usual and got ready, and at the right time, we left for our church service at the assisted living facility that we minister to. Everything was going fine. As we drove, I took various sips of my coffee and felt great.

The service began as usual at 10 o'clock. We sang some hymns, and then it came time for me to preach the sermon.

For a variety of reasons, I sit in a chair behind a table as I preach. There is just a small group of people around me, so that makes a better situation.

It's good I was sitting down because if I had not been, I would have been in serious trouble.

As I began the sermon, I began to feel a little funny. And I don't mean laughing funny. It was a weird kind of funny like I've never had before.

It wasn't long before everything became rather hazy for me. I became somewhat dizzy and

couldn't speak as I usually do.

Then it happened. Right before me, an Angel floated by, waving her hand. After that, I'm not quite sure what happened. I do know that one of the nurses came to take my blood pressure and found that it had dropped.

The recourse was to take me by ambulance to the hospital. At the time, I wasn't quite sure what was happening.

Before I knew it, I was ushered into the hospital to the intensive care unit surrounded by medical professionals.

Pretty soon, I became a little more conscious of my surroundings and began to realize that I was in the hospital and everybody's attention was focused on me. At the time I didn't know if I should start preaching or start telling a joke.

The nurses left, and another nurse came in, and I knew exactly what she was there for. I greeted her by saying, "Hello, Nurse Dracula." She then stuck my arm with needles and began to suck my blood out as fast as she could. It took her several times to find the right vein to get the blood she needed. I was suspicious about that. I just assumed she was getting even at me calling

her Nurse Dracula.

I spent the rest of the day in the hospital. They put me in the third-floor room where my daughter is the head nurse.

They went through all their medical processes, even a CAT scan, and found nothing wrong with me. I did have the bug, whatever that bug is, and I did have a light infection that caused me to cough and sneeze quite a bit.

I learned one valuable lesson from this adventure. When somebody gets the bug, never assume that I won't. Don't laugh at the ones who do because those "Bug Squatters" heard me laughing and got their revenge on me.

A verse of scripture came to mind. "And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise" (Luke 6:31).

This is the goal of my life.

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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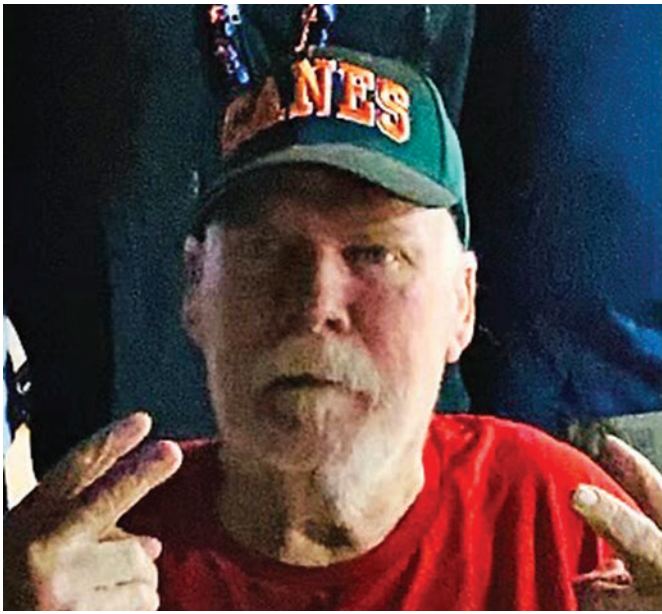
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Obituaries



Robert C. 'Bobby' Yontz

Robert Charles "Bobby" Yontz, 68, of Fort Lauderdale passed away on April 17, 2024, in Tallahassee. His loving family was by his side.

Bobby is a native of Fort Lauderdale. He moved to Crawfordville in November of 2023. He retired from the City of Fort Lauderdale as a heavy equipment operator crew chief. He was of Christian faith, and he enjoyed all family events and get-togethers. He also enjoyed fishing, football, camping and cooking. He loved to buy a round of drinks at the bar.

He is survived by his daughter, Candice Resta (Joey); brother, Clayton

Yontz; sister, Jean Gallo; nephew, Danny Gallo; nieces, Casey Yontz (Jany), Cara Yontz, Christine Yontz (Chris), Lisa Knight (Chadwick) and Tina Gallo; and two grandchildren, Joseph and Jett.

There will be a Celebration of Bobby's Life on Saturday, April 27, 2024 at 1 p.m. at Family Funeral Home-Harvey Young Chapel. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service. His final resting place will be at the Rose Hill Cemetery in Kissimmee, Florida.

Skip and Trey Young, along with Paula and Kimberly are assisting the family with arrangements, 850-926-5919, www.familyfhc.com.

DEATH NOTICES

• **Timothy Jay "Tim" Tatum**, of Crawfordville, died April 15, 2024. Family Funeral Home at Harvey-Young Chapel, 850-926-5919, www.familyfhc.com

• **Josephine McMillan Langston**, 86, of Sopchoppy, died April 18, 2024. Family Funeral Home at Harvey-Young Chapel, 850-926-5919, www.familyfhc.com

• **Sandra Martin**, 57, of Sopchoppy, died April 18, 2024. Family Funeral Home at Harvey-Young Chapel, 850-926-5919, www.familyfhc.com

Weekly Roundup: Farewell to a Florida statesman

By **RYAN DAILEY**
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE – Florida is in mourning this week following the death of former U.S. senator and two-term Florida governor Bob Graham, one of the state's most beloved politicians. Hailed by a former president as "a consummate public servant," Graham died Tuesday at age 87.

An announcement by Graham's family underscored his status as one of most-popular figures in Florida politics over the past half-century.

"While he valued his opportunities to represent others in public office, the jobs Bob Graham most loved were those he spent working alongside everyday Floridians," the announcement said. "His more than 400 workdays, in occupations ranging from construction to hospitality, created wonderful friendships across the state and forever changed his perspective on Florida and his approach to public service."

The statement was posted by Graham's daughter, former U.S. Rep. Gwen Graham, who is now an assistant secretary of education in the Biden Administration.

Graham will lie in state at the Historic Capitol Museum in Tallahassee on Friday, April 26. A private graveside service is expected later in the day at Oakland Cemetery, which is just west of the governor's mansion.

Graham kicked off his career in politics

as the president of Miami High's student body and went on to serve as chancellor of the student honor court at the University of Florida before graduating from Harvard Law School.

He was elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 1966.

After representing part of Miami-Dade County in the state Senate, Graham was first elected governor in 1978, winning a Democratic runoff and then easily defeating Republican Jack Eckerd in the general election. In 1986, Graham defeated Republican U.S. Sen. Paula Hawkins and went on to serve three terms in Washington.

Politicians from both sides of the aisle mourned Graham's death.

Graham was a "colleague, friend, and devoted Floridian whose nearly 50 years of service to his beloved home state and to our country have made America a safer and stronger nation," President Joe Biden said in a statement.

Former President Barack Obama also remembered Graham as a "champion of the environment." Obama appointed Graham as co-chair of the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling.

"Bob Graham was a friend and a consummate public servant," Obama said. "As a governor, senator, and legislator, he spent decades fighting for the people of Florida."

Gov. Ron DeSantis on Wednesday announced that flags would be lowered to half-staff during the day at all local and

state buildings, installations, and grounds throughout Florida until the day of Graham's interment.

"So, we mourn the passing of Bob Graham. He was a great Floridian. He's served this state with honor and integrity and really made a great contribution," DeSantis said while at a bill signing event in Hialeah Gardens.

SCHOOL CHANGES BACKED

Florida's public school students of all ages are in line to get lessons about the history of communism and could get programs and services from volunteer chaplains, under bills signed by DeSantis this week.

The change that will go into effect first will involve chaplains being allowed on campuses, under a bill signed Thursday.

Under the measure (HB 931), school districts and charter schools could choose to craft policies allowing chaplains to provide "support, services, and programs" as long as certain requirements are met.

For example, written parental consent would be required for students to participate and the policies would have to describe the services that would be provided. School districts that participate would have to publish on their web sites lists of the volunteer chaplains and their religious affiliations.

Speaking at a high school in Osceola County alongside Republican allies and a local pastor,

the governor touted the measure (HB 931) as bolstering existing resources that could help students with their mental health.

"It used to be, I mean, when education in the United States first started, every school was a religious school. That was just part of it. Public schools were religious schools. There's been things that have been done over the years that veered away from that original intent," DeSantis said.

But the measure has faced opposition from the American Civil Liberties Union, which maintains that such efforts are an unconstitutional violation of the separation of church and state.

"Allowing chaplains in public schools violates students' and families' right to religious freedom. And, because chaplains are typically not trained or certified to provide educational or counseling services to youth, students are likely to receive inadequate mental health support that, in some cases, may be harmful," the ACLU said in a March post on its website.

The measure will go into effect on July 1.

On Wednesday, the governor signed a measure (SB 1264) that will lead to the history of communism being taught in grades as low as kindergarten. The lessons will be added to required instruction in public schools starting in the 2026-27 school year.

"We're going to tell the truth about the evils of communism," DeSantis said.

STORY OF THE WEEK: Bob Graham, a two-term Florida governor who went on to serve in the U.S. Senate and was known for his work days across the state, died Tuesday at age 87, his family announced.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "He was committed to education and to the environment, con-

tinuing work that he'd begun as governor to support public schools and universities, and to protect the water supply, wetlands, and wildlife of Florida's iconic Everglades." — President Joe Biden, on the death of former U.S. senator and two-term Florida governor Bob Graham.

tobe7encouraged faith column Seeing beyond my nose...

Greetings Wakulla citizens! Thank you for your time! This week I have noticed people that crossed paths with me. Some I know, others I do not. The ones I know shared pretty heavy stuff with me. The ones I do not know, it was the way they looked that got my attention.

The premise of this column is "Intercessory Prayer." It is not by "chance" the people that cross paths with us. If I, myself, are able along with willing to see beyond my own nose, I will see what God is showing me. You see, as I encountered these people, my "flesh" had an opinion of their actions (the ones I know and shared with me) and my "flesh" had an opinion of how they looked (the ones I did not know). You see, if I would have allowed my "flesh" this liberty, I would be in disobedience because I would be judging these people! Like I never did this?! Holy Spire immediately checked me and convicted my heart! I continually have to hold my thoughts captive and KICK THEM OUT! "2 Corinthians 10: 5 We are destroying arguments and all arrogance raised against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ."

In this way God is able to use me and YOU to glorify His Kingdom and bring people to Christ. Prayer is and should be our first action to help people instead of being critical and judgmental. 1 Timothy 2:1-6 First of all, then, I urge that requests, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made in behalf of all people, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. 3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who wants all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time. To intercede for people simply means to plead on another's behalf, to act as mediator in a dispute, to pass between; to intervene.

This is what Jesus does for us, Believers, every single day He wills us! **Romans 8: 34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, but rather, was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.**

Let us remember what Scripture says concerning the lost, Luke 10:2 **And He was saying to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.** Let us pray together Luke 10:2 over the lost, that God sends the right people across their paths and that they have eyes to see and ears to hear Gods direction for their lives.

We hope this message blesses you!

Deb Quimby-Quackenbush
tobe7encouraged@gmail.com

If you do not know Jesus and want to, say this out loud... **Romans 10: 13 for "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." "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. I now give you my life and live for You! By God's Grace I am now Born Again.** WOO-HHHOOOO!! 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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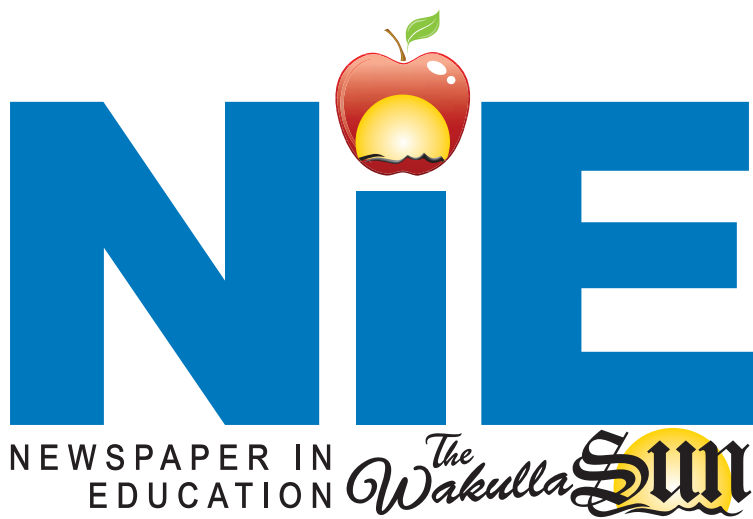
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USE THE NEWS

1. STICKER SHOCK

One man got a big surprise when he returned to the United States from a trip to Europe and saw his cell phone bill. He had gone to a local store for the phone company before the trip to tell them about his travel plans, but his phone still wasn't set up right for international travel and he was charged \$143,000 for the data his phone used overseas! He called his phone company who said the charges were not a mistake and he'd have to pay them, so he hired a lawyer and shared his story with local news networks. After the story reached the news, the phone company changed their mind and didn't make him pay the very large bill. Write a summary of the events in this story in the order they happened.

2. CHARACTER IN REAL LIFE

Mariska Hargitay is the star of "Law and Order: Special Victim's Unit," where she plays a police captain for the New York Police Department who helps investigate crimes. However, when she was filming an episode in New York City recently, a young girl saw her badge and mistook her for a real police officer. She asked Mariska for help finding her mom, who she'd gotten separated from while playing in a nearby park. The TV star stopped the show's filming to help reunite the girl with her mom. Would you know what to do if you were separated from a parent or guardian in a public place? Write down what you know to do and not to do in that situation and share what you wrote with your teacher or another trusted adult to see what you might do

differently.

3. BREAKING INTO THE OLYMPICS

When the Olympics kick off in Paris this summer, a new sport will make its first appearing in the games: breaking, otherwise known as breakdancing. The style of dance started in the Bronx neighborhood of New York City in the 1970s with the rise of hip-hop music. It involves acrobatic moves like spinning on your head or freezing in crazy, upside-down positions. People who participate in

breaking are called B-Boys and B-Girls – two of each will represent the United States in Paris this year. There will be two events, one for men and one for women, and they'll be scored by judges similar to gymnastics and diving. One of the B-Girls representing the U.S., Sunny Choi, has shared that people have questioned whether breaking is really a sport, but she says it requires a lot of athletic and artistic skill like gymnastics and figure skating, two Olympic sports that people love to watch. What is your defi-

inition of a sport? What makes one activity a sport compared to another? Write down your own definition and share with your classmates to see how your answers might be the same or different.

4. PLASTIC CRABS

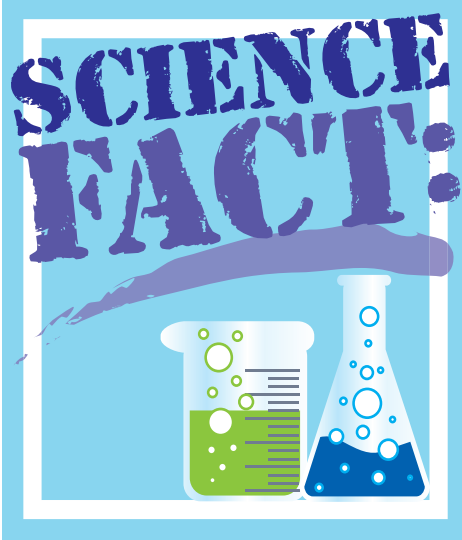
Plastic is everywhere on our planet, from the bottom of the ocean to the highest mountain peaks. Pollution from plastic is a big problem for the environment, but one animal has found a way to use plastic to its advantage. Hermit crabs have soft bodies, so they wear large seashells on their

backs to help protect them from predators. However, a recent study showed hermit crabs all over the world wearing plastic trash instead of shells. That's one way to recycle! Draw a comic strip about a hermit crab finding plastic trash to use as its protective armor.

5. HEAT CAN HURT

A new study shows that many more people got sick last year from being in hot temperatures than in the years before. Last year had the hottest summer since people started keeping records of the weather,

and states in the South were affected the most. The area of the country that includes Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas had the most heat-related emergency room visits. Heat illnesses can include sunburns, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke, which is when the body can't cool itself down and the body temperature rises like when you have a fever. Write down creative ways you can think of to stay safely cool in the summer months, like staying inside where there's air conditioning or staying in the shade when you're outside.



THIS COMMON OUTDOOR PLANT CAN HELP PREVENT SOIL EROSION, MAKE A HOME LOOK NICE, AND CLEAN THE AIR.

ANSWER: GRASS

What's the Difference?

There are four differences between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all?



Answers: 1. Dog rolling in grass 2. Flower in blue flower pot 3. Missing plant on cart 4. Tree has an extra branch

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- **1803:** THOUSANDS OF METEOR FRAGMENTS FALL FROM THE SKIES OF L'AIGLE, FRANCE. THIS CONVINCES SCIENTISTS THAT METEORS EXIST.
- **1900:** FIRES CONSUME THE CANADIAN CITIES OF OTTAWA AND HULL, DESTROYING THEM IN 12 HOURS.
- **1954:** THE FIRST CLINICAL TRIALS OF JONAS SALK'S POLIO VACCINE BEGIN.



LAWN

an area of short, mown grass in a yard

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Mow

SPANISH: Cortar

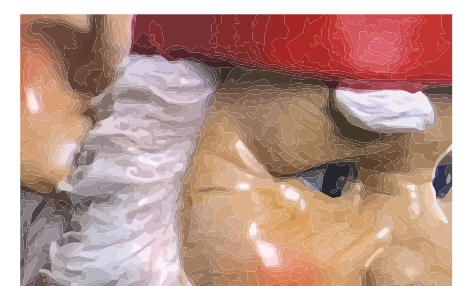
ITALIAN: Falciaie

FRENCH: Tondre

GERMAN: Mähen



CENTRE COURT AT WIMBLEDON IN ENGLAND IS THE MOST EXPENSIVE LAWN IN THE WORLD. THIS TENNIS COURT REQUIRES A LOT OF UPKEEP.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: GARDEN GNOME

LAWN & GARDEN WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- AMEND
- BLOOMING
- BORDER
- COMPOST
- CUT
- DRAINAGE
- DROUGHT
- EDGE
- FERTILIZE
- GARDEN
- GREEN
- HEALTHY
- INSECTS
- LANDSCAPING
- LAWN
- MOSSY
- MULCH
- POLLINATOR
- PRUNE
- SCENT
- SHRUBS
- SUNLIGHT
- TRIMMING
- WEEDS

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

CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. Excessively theatrical actors
5. Footwear
10. A way to disfigure
14. Exchange rate
15. Hawaiian wreaths
16. North-central Indian city
17. Bungle
18. Extremely angry
19. A short note of what's owed
20. Criminal organization
22. Mimic
23. Try to grab
24. U.S.-born individuals
27. Some are covert
30. Order of the British Empire
31. Don't know when yet
32. Payment (abbr.)
35. Winged angelic being
37. Variety of Chinese
38. A way to be anxious
39. Famed wrestler Hulk
40. Partner to cheese
41. Slang for sergeant
42. Canadian flyers
43. Actress Ryan
44. Highly unpleasant vapor
45. Body part
46. Halfway

47. Cool!
48. Consume
49. Salts
52. Upper bract of a floret of grass
55. Housepet
56. Cavalry-sword
60. Symbol of a nation
61. Frocks
63. Used to carry food
64. Portuguese folk song
65. Sharp mountain ridge
66. Ireland
67. Where golfers begin
68. Greek mythological sorceress
69. Fluid suspensions

CLUES DOWN

1. "Mad Men" leading man
2. Water (Spanish)
3. Annoy
4. Bulgarian capital
5. Japanese title
6. Capital of Zimbabwe
7. Giraffe
8. A mixture of substances
9. Midway between south and southeast
10. Staffs
11. Turkish title
12. Type of acid
13. Thin, flat strip of wood
21. Russian river
23. Ribonucleic acid
25. Partner to flow
26. Airborne (abbr.)
27. Earthy pigment
28. Genus of earless seals
29. "Key to the Highway" bluesman
32. By or in itself
33. Hot fluid below the earth's surface
34. Partner to trick
36. British Air Aces
37. Ammunition
38. Supervises flying
40. Health care for the aged
41. Flanks
43. Millimeters
44. Where wrestlers perform
46. Not around
47. Flightless bird
49. Bell-shaped flowers of the lily family
50. Expressed concern for
51. Satisfies
52. Flew off!
53. Wings
54. Load a ship
57. Vigor
58. British title
59. Whiskeys
61. ___ Adams: founding father
62. Body of water

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

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to gardens.

W R E T A

--	--	--	--

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

S	T	O	S	V	E	O	E	M	S	E	E	T
B	H	I	E	J	E	H	U	S	O	O	V	J
A	V	V	I	S	T	R	H	V	S	D	V	T
H	E	R	V	S	C	A	V	L	E	V	H	A
I	V	S	V	V	O	T	T	I	S			
I	V	S	V	V	O	T	T	I	S			
Y	R	S	V	V	O	T	T	I	S			
3	9	V	S	V	V	O	T	T	I	S		
3	9	V	S	V	V	O	T	T	I	S		
I	W	A	S	E	E	B	O	S	S	D	O	
H	O	V	E	R	H	U	S	O	O	V	J	
T	I	H	O	S	T	R	H	V	S	D	V	T
V	B	D	V	S	C	A	V	L	E	V	H	A
L	U	V	M	S	N	V	O	T	T	I	S	

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

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

Guess Who?

I am an actress born in Texas on April 25, 1969. I made my big screen debut in the film "Empire Records" in 1994. I am widely known for a number of films, including one movie musical and another in which I played a famous movie star from yesteryear, a role that earned me an Academy Award.

Answer: Water Answer: Renee Zellweger

A	V	A	S	E	E	B	O	S	S	D	O	
L	U	V	M	S	N	V	O	T	T	I	S	
I	W	A	S	E	E	B	O	S	S	D	O	
H	O	V	E	R	H	U	S	O	O	V	J	
T	I	H	O	S	T	R	H	V	S	D	V	T
V	B	D	V	S	C	A	V	L	E	V	H	A
L	U	V	M	S	N	V	O	T	T	I	S	
I	V	S	V	V	O	T	T	I	S			
Y	R	S	V	V	O	T	T	I	S			
3	9	V	S	V	V	O	T	T	I	S		
3	9	V	S	V	V	O	T	T	I	S		
I	W	A	S	E	E	B	O	S	S	D	O	
H	O	V	E	R	H	U	S	O	O	V	J	
T	I	H	O	S	T	R	H	V	S	D	V	T
V	B	D	V	S	C	A	V	L	E	V	H	A
L	U	V	M	S	N	V	O	T	T	I	S	

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NOTICE OF ACTION

0404-0425 TWS NOA
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR WAKULLA, FLORIDA
GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION
CASE NO.: 2022DR137

JESSICA LANE,
PETITIONER,
AND
ROBERT LANE,
RESPONDENT.

NOTICE OF ACTION - MODIFY PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES SUPPLEMENTAL PETITION TO MODIFY PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

TO: JESSICA LANE, 90 Harry Morrison Rd. Crawfordville FL 32327. YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action for **DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE WITH CHILDREN** has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Robert Lane, whose address is 47A Dispenette Dr. Crawfordville FL 32327, on or before **APRIL 26, 2024** (30 days from Date of First Publication of this Notice) and file the original with the clerk of this court at 3056 Crawfordville Hwy. Crawfordville FL 32327 before service on Petitioner immediately thereafter. **If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.**

Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents upon request. You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. (You may file Designation of Current Mailing and E-Mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed or e-mailed to the addresses on record at the clerk's office.

WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanction's, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court this **March 26, 2024.**

{{County Court Seal}}

Greg James
As Clerk of the Circuit Court
By: /s/ Jessica Peak
As Deputy Clerk

Published April 4, 11, 18, 25, 2024

Sports

BASEBALL

War Eagles ranked No. 5 in state with 18-3-1 record



By **KEITH ANDERSON**
Baseball Coach

The War Eagle baseball team, ranked #5 in the state in 4A, entered last week with 15-3-1 record.

On Tuesday, April 16, WHS hosted Blountstown. The

War Eagles won the game by mercy rule 19-0.

Ryan Newberry started on the mound receiving the win throwing 2 innings of no hit shutout baseball. Hayden Wright preserved the no-hitter with a shutout inning also.

The War Eagle bats were hot. Michael Hurley was 3-3, Brady Crum was 2-2, and Josiah Pierini was 2-2. The big blow came in the second inning when the War

Eagles scored 14 runs.

Two War Eagle hitters, Josiah Pierini and Jed Hoffman each had a grand slam homerun in the same inning. Sam Bruce, Will Chipman, Owen Klees, Josh Merrill all had a hit a piece.

On Thursday, April 18, The War Eagles hosted highly ranked North Florida Christian. The War Eagles had a 2-2 tie in 10 innings earlier in the year so this proved to be a good ballgame.

Starting pitcher Gavin Estep threw a gem, scattering 8 hits and 1 earned run in 6 innings of work. Jesse Nazworth came on in the 7th to get the save throwing a shutout inning.

The War Eagles jumped out to score 4 runs in the first and never looked back. Leadoff/Centerfielder Parker Lawhon had a big night making several nice defensive plays, leading WHS on offense going 2-4 and stealing 2 bases.

Brady Crum, Sam Bruce, Gavin Gautreau, and Josiah each had a hit in the pitcher's duel. Michael Hurley and Jed Hoffman each had an RBI.

On Friday, April 19th, the War Eagles traveled to Florida High and completed the 3-game sweep for the week winning 10-4.

Starter Leaston Spears threw 4 strong innings giving up 1 hit and 0 earned runs to receive the win.

Lefthander Will Chipman came on in relief to pitch the last 3 innings giving up 1 hit and striking out 3.

Haden Klees had a big night at the plate going 3-4 with 2 doubles and 3 RBIs. Parker Lawhon was 2-4 with 2 RBI's. Josiah Pierini was 2-3. Michael Hurley added a double and Joe Reyes had a single.

The War Eagles go into the last week of the season with a record of 18-3-1.

SOFTBALL

Wakulla defeats Lincoln 8-2 on Thursday



Coach Sally Wheeler talks to her team.



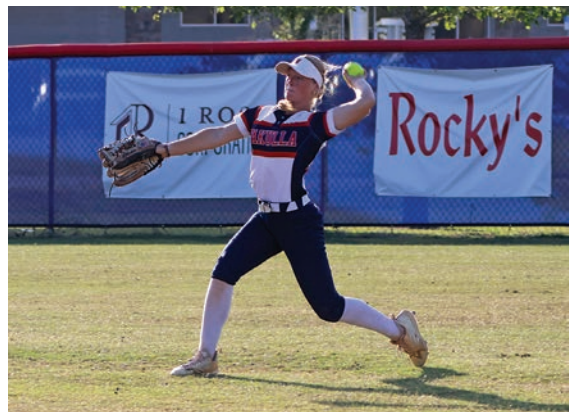
Softball team celebrates a moment.



Abbigail Lawhon secures the out for Wakulla.



Pitcher Aislin Hunter.



Jayci Mapes throws the ball to the infield.

PHOTOS BY
PERRY
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Semi Formal

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'ANYTHING GOES' AT SENIOR CENTER



PHOTO BY KRISSY SANCHEZ

Wakulla High School students from the cast of 'Anything Goes' at the senior center.

By **KRISSY SANCHEZ**
WHS Theatre Teacher

Wakulla High School theatre students visited the Wakulla Senior Center on Thursday, April 18 to share with them some pieces from their upcoming production of "Anything Goes."

Senior Isabella Taff sang the opening number "I Get a Kick Out of You" as well as the hilarious duet "Friendship" with freshman Logan Hand.

Seniors Riley Carraway and Lynley Kendrick also impressed the crowd with not only their song "De-Lovely" but also with the ballroom dance routine that accompanied it.

Following their performance the four students as well as six others who accompanied them in costume and in character took time to visit with those in attendance, taking pictures, talking about the show and listening to stories of what the performances reminded them of.

The production takes place at Wakulla High School on May 3 and 4 at 6:30 p.m. and May 5 at 2:30 p.m. The show features approximately 50 students in the performances and behind the scenes.

The program is funded completely by ticket sales so please make plans to support these students and this program. Tickets can be purchased at the door or in advance via the troupe's Facebook page.



PHOTO BY GERALD BROWN

Logan Hand and Isabella Taff perform for seniors on Thursday, April 18.



PHOTO BY GERALD BROWN

Wakulla High School theatre students at the senior center.



PHOTO BY GERALD BROWN

Leon Francis and Lloyd Ranson pose with WHS Drama teacher Krissy Sanchez.



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2023 Annual Report
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	2020	2021	2022	2023	Change from 2020 to 2023
Parcel Count	25,327	25,548	25,841	26,281	+954
Homesteads Totals	8,972	9,297	9,596	9,970	+998
AG Classifications	2,726	2,531	2,240	2,303	-423
TPP Accounts	778	774	788	1259	+481
Deeds Processed	3,036	4,087	3,463	3,072	+
Avg selling price of a new 1,700 sf home	\$253,100	\$265,900 +5% From 2020	\$317,000 +16% from 2021	\$339,700 +7% from 2022	\$86,600 +34% from 2020

- According to the Building Department, in 2023 we added 455 new site-built homes.
- A homestead exemption filed for a home bought in 2020 saves you \$950 in 2024
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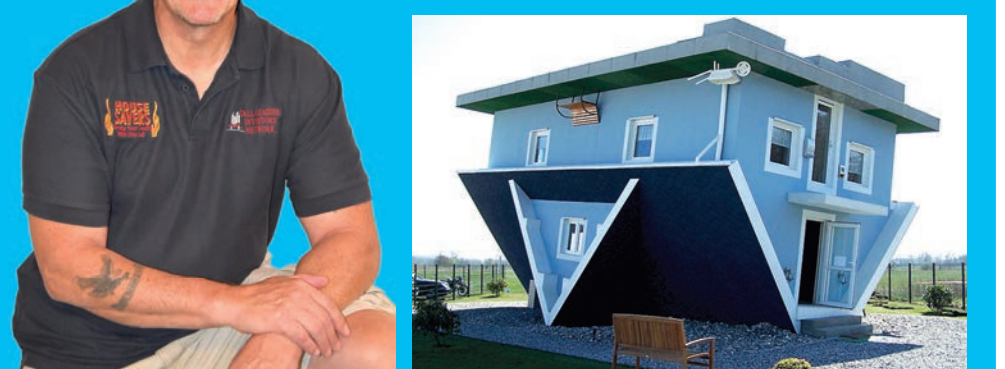
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