

Delinquent taxes are in this issue

The Wakulla Sun



Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Partly Cloudy	Thunderstorms	Mostly Sunny
Hi: 88° Lo: 74° 45%	Hi: 84° Lo: 62° 68%	Hi: 82° Lo: 59° 4%
Sunrise 6:47AM Sunset 8:20 PM	Sunrise 6:46 AM Sunset 8:21 PM	Sunrise 6:46 AM Sunset 8:21 PM



\$1
Two Sections

"It's a New Day"

Locally Owned & Operated

Our 3rd Year 19th Issue
Thursday, May 9, 2024

Fire in Shell Point



A fire in one of the townhomes on Beatty Taff Drive in Shell Point on Wednesday, May 1. At left, the view of the fire from the bay side. The fire reportedly began started from a generator on the porch. A man reportedly suffered minor burns, while other family members evacuated safely. (Photos by Mark Wallheiser/Special to The Sun)

Program on GF&A at depot on May 14

Historical Society to hear presentation on railroads and history of Sopchoppy Depot



FILE PHOTO BY RIDDHI PATEL

The Sopchoppy Depot, restored as a museum, is the last surviving depot on the GF&A Railroad.

By ARLENE VAUSE
Wakulla Historical Society

The Wakulla County Historical Society invites you to our program on the GF&A Railroad to be held on Tuesday, May 14, at 4:30 p.m. at the Sopchoppy Depot located on Rose Street in Sopchoppy.

A tour of the Sopchoppy Depot Museum will be provided by Nelson Martin followed by a presentation on the railroad by Neal Meadows, Ed.D.

Dr. Neal Meadows, Principal at Meadows Consulting, holds an Educational Doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of West Florida and has over 36 years of experience conducting project evaluations, guiding program improvement, providing professional development, and developing products in a broad scope of education and human services programs.



Model railroader Neil Meadows will speak

He has many hobbies but the one in the forefront these days is model railroading. He first started in 1977 with an HO-Scale layout. He traveled to many model-railroad shows with friends and enjoyed the hobby. In 1985 Hurricane Kate blew a large oak tree on his garage and demolished it and everything inside, including all the trains, buildings, and layout. After that, he decided to change to N-Scale and move onward. After moving to Tallahassee, he joined the Big Bend Model Railroad Association in 2006. The N-Scale group has been very active building their traveling layout and now the T-Trak modules. The HO-Scale and O-Scale guys now have T-Trak modules as well.

Neal has been really interested in the history of the hobby as well as railroad history. He co-writes the club newsletter "The Lantern" each month adding articles about a variety of railroad history. He also serves as club treasurer.

The presentation will focus on the Georgia, Florida, and Alabama Railroad (GF&A) which ran from Richland, Georgia to Carrabelle, Florida. It was founded in 1895 as a logging railroad, the Georgia Pine Railway.

The northern and southern ends of the railroad have been abandoned, but the section from Cuthbert, Georgia, to Tallahassee remains in use by various railroads.

The content will describe the tumultuous happenings between the ends of the railroad over the years.

Nelson Martin moved to Sopchoppy in 1972. His father was teaching at FSU in 1970 and they went exploring and fishing and discovered Sopchoppy. Nelson graduated from the University of Texas with a degree in anthropology and an interest in history.

In Sopchoppy, the old-timers on the loafer's bench were a wealth of stories of the roaring '20s and the railroad era. Nelson says it was hard to believe that the dilapidated old building downtown had been a railroad station.

In 1993, it was about to be bulldozed and Nelson led an effort to purchase and restore it. A federal grant paid for the purchase and restoration and it was given to the City of Sopchoppy.

The restored depot is now a museum of local history focusing on the railroad history and the ways people made a living in Sopchoppy in the past.

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

Going on Honor Flight

David Pienta was a Guardian for veterans on the visit to Washington last week

By DAVID PIENTA
Special to The Sun

I grew up as an Air Force brat. My dad served twenty-six years in the Air Force as a Communications Operator. My dad served in Vietnam and Desert Storm. So naturally, veterans have a special place in my heart. Honor Flight is a program to fly veterans to Washington DC to see their monuments and memorials. Veterans either select a Guardian to bring with them or one is assigned from those that apply. Guardians help the veteran with anything they need from guiding them to where they need to be to pushing a wheelchair. At its inception in 2005, this program mainly focused on World War II veterans.

I had applied twice before this year. In 2023, I saw a documentary done by WCOT on Johnny Linton, a Marine. I was beyond moved. I contacted Johnny and we instantly became friends. I decided to apply for a third time, hoping this time I would be selected. I was excited to find out I was selected to go as a Guardian this year!

I attended veteran/guardian orientation on April 20th. Staff began to go over statistics for the veterans who would be on our flight.

This flight had four Korean War veterans and the rest were Vietnam vet-



David Pienta with Vietnam veterans Jim McShane and Dennis Murhpy.

erans. However, the crowd erupted with applause and a standing ovation when they announced a 104-year-old World War II veteran Joseph Williams from Wakulla County was in attendance and would be on our flight.

April 27th was flight day. All participants had to be at the airport by 5 a.m. After a 3:45 a.m. wake-up call, it was off to the Flightline Hangar. We arrived and were given our credentials and assigned our veterans. I was a rare Guardian, assigned to two veterans. Each participant was assigned to one of three teams: red, white, or blue. I put on my Guardian



Pienta with Joseph Williams, a 104-year World World II veteran from Wakulla County.

Turn to Page 5

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Wakulla County Tax Collectors Office


SPECIALTY TAGS
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Lisa Craze, CFC
Wakulla County Tax Collector

ENACTED: June 8, 1999

The annual use fees shall be distributed to Bike Florida, Inc., up to 25 percent of which shall be used for marketing and promotion of the "Share the Road" concept and license plate. The remaining funds shall be divided equally between Bike Florida, Inc., and the Florida Bicycle Association, Inc., to be used for: Education, Training, bicycle safety and more.



FLORIDA IBIKE
www.ShareTheRoad.org

Student of the Week


Olivia Guess – 5th grader at Riversink Elementary

Principal: Catherine Cutchen

Achievements/Reason for Nomination: Olivia shines brightly as an exceptional Otter at Riversink. She is a diligent student with a stellar GPA and a role model for good citizenship. In her leisure time, Olivia enjoys playing soccer for Wakulla United and engaging in lively family game nights with her neighbor. She is a standout in PE, showcasing her skills as the reigning champion in Box Hockey and Pumpkin Ball. Olivia's achievements extend beyond sports, as she also emerged victorious in the 4-H speech contest and led her team to victory as captain of the Brain Brawl team.

One of Olivia's most cherished memories at Riversink was when she was sorted into Ehohi house during the inaugural House Meeting. She treasures the moments spent with her friends at Riversink. It has been a pleasure to witness Olivia's growth and development from kindergarten to 5th grade. She embodies the qualities we admire in our students, and we are proud to have her as a part of our school community.


STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.



Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park

Redring milkweed

By LYNN ARTZ, DAVID RODDENBERRY, and SANDY TEDDER



In early summer, redring milkweed (*Asclepias variegata*) displays its stunning snowball-like clusters of 15-30 small white flowers, each with a vibrant red-purple ring at the base. The fragrant flowers produce abundant nectar attracting butterflies, long-tongued bees, flies, and wasps. Adult monarchs will feed on the nectar but redring milkweed is not an important food plant for monarch caterpillars. The leaves may feed the caterpillars of tussock moths. Like most milkweeds, the stems have a milky white sap and the roots are deep, helping the plants survive fires and droughts. Found in open woodlands and wood edges, redring milkweed prefers part sun and dry soil. It grows to 1-3 feet tall and wide. Planted last fall in Sopchoppy Depot Park, a dozen redring milkweed are massed at the wood's eastern edge.



SCAN ME for an electronic edition of

The Wakulla Sun

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1/2 Back Page \$300

4-H Speech contest held in Wakulla

By **LINDA ANN McDONALD**
Correspondent

4-H District III Public Speaking Contest was held May 4th at the Wakulla County Extension Office in Crawfordville. Participants in the contest are winners from their respective school located in Leon, Jefferson, Gadsden, Franklin Wakulla, Liberty, and Gulf counties.

Winners from Wakulla include 4/5th grade speaker, Daniel Class, who won an Honorable Mention Award with "Bullying" and 6th grade speaker, Jace Perez, who won second place sharing his "The Time Machine" speech.

Formerly known as the 4-H Tropicana Public Speaking Program, the objectives of the 4-H Public Speaking program, available to all 4th, 5th and 6th grade students, is to recognize the necessity of obtaining as much of the available information on a given topic as possible, care-



Wakulla's Jace Perez won second place in 6th grade category. He spoke on 'The Time Machine'.

fully organize material to be presented in a timed, orderly and thorough speech, develop a pleasing personal appearance before an audience, acquire the ability to speak convincingly in public, express ideas effectively, and develop confidence and poise.

Overall winners were Kami Poloronis from

Franklin County in the 4th/5th grade competition; and Peyton Evans

from Leon County in the 6th grade. Wakulla County Judge Christian Cierzniewski said, "Everyone did absolutely fantastic; it was a close competition. Jace Perez had wonderful creativity and the way he told his story definitely made an impact."

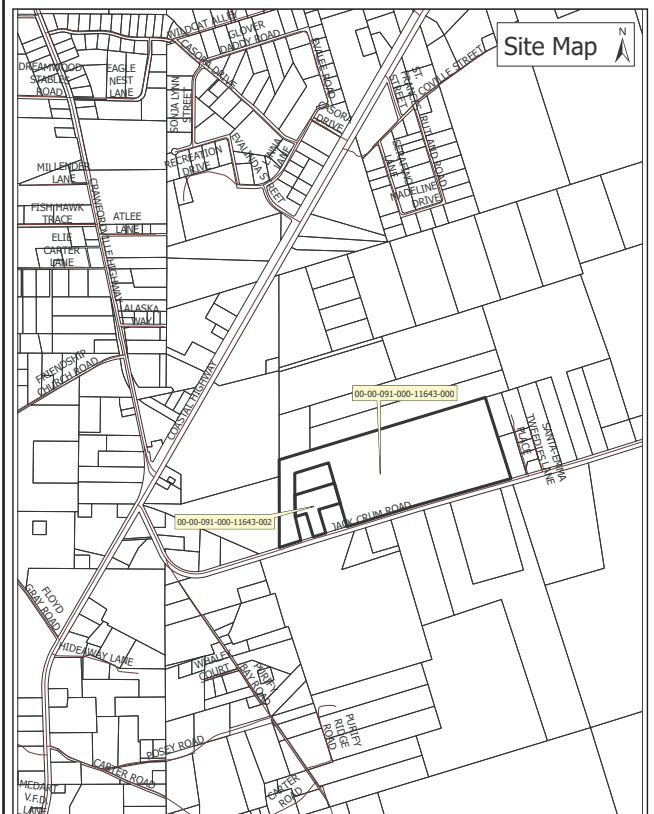
Marcus Boston, facilitator of the event and leader from Leon County said, "This was the next level competition for the kids and this is a great opportunity for them to enhance their public speaking skills; the competition was close and next level is District."

All speakers received a 4-H medallion and a certificate of participation, winners won cash prizes.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING AN APPLICATION FOR SHORT FORM PLAT

The Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners will hold a public hearing to consider the proposed application for short form plat approval described below. A Public Hearing is scheduled before the **Board of County Commissioners on Monday, May 20, 2024, at 5:00 P.M. unless otherwise noted below or as time permits.** All public hearings will be held at the County Commission Chambers located west of the County Courthouse at 29 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida 32327. Interested parties are invited to attend and present testimony.



1. Application for Short Form Plat Approval:SF24-01

Applicants: Lisa G. Hodgson, Henry G. Gray, Miriam L. Gray, Laymon Gray, Ronald Hayden Gray, II, and Nicholas C. Gray

Proposal: create 4-lot residential subdivision – Gray's Estates

Tax ID Numbers: 00-00-091-000-11643-000 and 00-00-091-000-11643-002

Existing FLU Map: Agriculture (FLUE Policy 1.2.3)

Current Zoning: AG (Section 5-25, LDC)

FEMA Flood Info: "X" & "A" zones on Panel 0380E

Parcel size: 97.58+/- acres

Location: north side of Jack Crum Road, east of Wakulla High School

Hearing Required: BOCC. Monday, May 20, 2024 @ 5:00 PM

If an individual wishes to submit documents or other materials related to a matter before the Board of County Commissioners for consideration by the Board of County Commissioners at a public meeting, they are strongly encouraged to submit copies of all such documents or other materials to the Wakulla County Office of Planning and Community Development at least 3 days prior to the date of the meeting so that they can be provided to the Board of County Commissioners. If an individual wishes to bring documents or other materials for consideration by the Board of County Commissioners that were not previously provided to the Wakulla County Office of Planning and Community Development in accordance with the preceding sentence, they must bring at least ten (10) copies of each such document to the meeting.

Copies of applications, draft ordinances, and any related public record files may be viewed at the County Planning Department located at 11 Bream Fountain Road, Crawfordville, FL 32327, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM M-F; Phone (850) 926-3695. Any person desiring to appeal a decision of a County Board must ensure a verbatim transcript or copy is made of the testimony and exhibits presented at said hearings. Persons with a disability needing a special accommodation should contact the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners Administration Office at least two (2) days prior to the meeting at (850) 926-0919; Hearing and Voice Impaired at 1-800-955-8771; or email at ADARrequest@mywakulla.com.

May 9, 2024

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.

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF WAKULLA COUNTY ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING:

EVENT: School Board Meeting
DATE: Monday, May 20, 2024
TIME: 5:45 pm
PLACE: School Board Room, 69 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida
PURPOSE: Monthly School Board Meeting

For further information please contact:
Superintendent's Office
Wakulla County Schools
Post Office Box 100, 69 Arran Rd
Crawfordville, Florida 32326
850-926-0065

May 2, 2024



Notice of Public Meeting:

****Correction****

The Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners has scheduled a Public Meeting of the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee on May 16, 2024, at 10:00 AM in the Wakulla County Fire and Rescue conference room at 318 Trice Lane in Crawfordville, FL. Interested parties are invited to attend and participate.

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

May 9, 2024

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING ADOPTION OF A LARGE-SCALE MAP AMENDMENT TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FUTURE LAND USE MAP

The Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners proposes to consider the following application and/or adopt the following by ordinance and has scheduled a Public Hearing before the **Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners on Monday, May 20, 2024, beginning at 5:00 PM,** or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard. All public hearings will be held at the County Commission Chambers located west of the County Courthouse at 29 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida 32327. Interested parties are invited to attend and present testimony.



AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING, REVISING, AND REPLACING IDENTIFIED PORTIONS OF THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP AS ADOPTED BY ORDINANCE NUMBER 2018-23, AS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ON JUNE 18, 2018, AS AMENDED; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY AND FOR FILING; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

1. Application for Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment: CPM24-02

Applicant: Pafford Properties & Construction, LLC

Agent: Edwin Brown & Associates, Inc./Wade Brown

Proposal: Adoption of Amendment to Future Land Use Designation

Tax ID Number: 07-3S-01W-000-04313-000

Existing FLU Map: Rural 2 (FLUE Policy 1.2.5)

Proposed FLU Map: Rural 3 (FLUE Policy 1.2.6)

Current Zoning: AG (Section 5-25, LDC)

FEMA Flood Info: "X" zone on Panel 0250E

Parcel size: 31.50+/- acres

Location: west side of Crawfordville Highway, abutting the northern boundary of Golden Gate Forest Subdivision

Hearings Required: BOCC. Monday, May 20, 2024 @ 5:00 PM

Copies of applications, draft ordinances, and any related public record files may be viewed at the County Planning Department located at 11 Bream Fountain Road, Crawfordville, FL 32327, 8 AM to 4:30 PM M/F; Phone (850) 926-3695. Any person desiring to appeal a decision of a County Board must ensure a verbatim transcript or copy is made of the testimony and exhibits presented at said hearings. Persons with a disability needing a special accommodation should contact the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners Administration Office at least two (2) days prior to the meeting at (850) 926-0919; Hearing and Voice Impaired at 1-800-955-8771; or email at ADARrequest@mywakulla.com.

May 9, 2024

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Wakulla County Code Enforcement Board will hold a **Public Hearing On May 28, 2024 at 5:30pm** in the Commission Chambers, 29 Arran Rd., Crawfordville, FL 32327.

Interested parties are invited to attend and participate.

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

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

May 9, 2024

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Board of County Commissioners propose to consider the following and adopt by ordinance. A Public Hearing is scheduled regarding the following before the **Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners on Monday, May 20, 2024, beginning at 5:00 PM, unless otherwise noted below or as time permits.** All public hearings will be held at the County Commission Chambers located west of the County Courthouse at 29 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida 32327. Interested parties are invited to attend and present testimony.

Application for Comprehensive Plan Text Amendment: CP24-04

Applicant: Wakulla County

Proposal: Consider adoption of an ordinance creating Policy 7.6, Future Land Use Element of the Comprehensive Plan

Hearings Required: Board of County Commissioners: Monday, May 20, 2024 @ 5:00 PM.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA, CREATING POLICY 7.6 OF THE FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT OF THE WAKULLA COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AS ADOPTED BY ORDINANCE NO. 18-24, AS AMENDED; PROVIDING FOR APPLICABILITY AND EFFECT; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY AND FOR FILING; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

If an individual wishes to submit documents or other materials related to a matter before the Board of County Commissioners for consideration by the Board of County Commissioners at a public meeting, they are strongly encouraged to submit copies of all such documents or other materials to the Wakulla County Office of Planning and Community Development at least 3 days prior to the date of the meeting so that they can be provided to the Board Members. If an individual wishes to bring documents or other materials for consideration by the Board of County Commissioners that were not previously provided to the Wakulla County Office of Planning and Community Development in accordance with the preceding sentence, they must bring at least ten (10) copies of each such document to the meeting.

Copies of applications, draft ordinances, and any related public record files may be viewed at the County Planning Department located at 11 Bream Fountain Road, Crawfordville, FL 32327, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM M-F; Phone (850) 926-3695. Any person desiring to appeal a decision of a County Board must ensure a verbatim transcript or copy is made of the testimony and exhibits presented at said hearings. Persons with a disability needing a special accommodation should contact the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners Administration Office at least two (2) days prior to the meeting at (850) 926-0919; Hearing and Voice Impaired at 1-800-955-8771; or email at ADARrequest@mywakulla.com.

May 9, 2024

Opinions

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

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

LETTERS FROM READERS

Winners of Wiggle Worm Fun Run; thanks to sponsors

Editor, The Sun:

The Wiggle Worm Fun Run officially kicked off the 22nd Annual Sopchoppy Worm Gruntin’ Festival on Saturday, April 13. Over 300 runners came out for the family-friendly event, either running or walking the 1.4 mile distance through historic downtown Sopchoppy. Each runner received a race t-shirt with artwork by local artist Casey McSweeney (if early registered), a fuzzy worm necklace, and a custom hand-painted 2024 Worm Gruntin’ Festival rock. Participants included locals from Sopchoppy, Panacea, and Crawfordville, and folks from all over the country, including Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Illinois, Georgia, and all parts of Florida.

Awards were given to the first three women, first three men, first three girls aged 12 and under, and the first three boys aged 12 and

under to cross the finish line. This year’s winners were:

- Women:**
 1st Place: Isabella Laughton of Panacea
 2nd Place: Emmalee Anutson of Crawfordville
 3rd Place: Kaylee Sanders of Sopchoppy
- Men:**
 1st Place: Henry Lewis of Crawfordville
 2nd Place: Andrew Nix of Crawfordville
 3rd Place: Leonardo Canete, of Tallahassee and Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Girls Aged 12 and Under:**
 1st Place: Gracie Kauffman, 11, of Tallahassee
 2nd Place: Adelaide Sivyver, 6, of Sopchoppy
 3rd Place: Brynn Strutz, 6, of Sopchoppy
- Boys Aged 12 and Under:**
 1st Place: Titus Sivyver, 12, of

St. Augustine

- 2nd Place: Brady Strutz, 12, of Sopchoppy
 3rd Place: Beau May, 12, of Tallahassee
- The men and women all received custom-made insulated tumblers by Cheri Cook of Silly Fancy, and the boys and girls received Worm Gruntin’ medals. The crowd enjoyed refreshments of fruit and water donated by Winn-Dixie of Crawfordville, and giveaways from Civic Brewing Company and Sopchoppy Bakehouse & Coffee Company, located in downtown Sopchoppy, as well as bags of organic gummy worms! Thanks also to Becky Falvello, owner of Repose Bed and Breakfast in downtown Sopchoppy, for providing “worm desserts” for the runners after the race! Thanks to Capital Health Plan for donating bags for the runners’ T-shirts.

I would like to include a special

thank you to all the volunteers who came out early Saturday morning to lend a helping hand to the Fun Run, including Lindy Westmark, Jay Westmark, Pollie Lawhon, Lori Lawhon, Michele Calloway, Jason Westmark, Megan Fogleman, Shea Harrington, Haleigh Cordoba, Kru Howard, Kinley Lawhon, and Jayci Mapes. You were key in helping the race run smoothly for all involved!

Thank you also to our community sponsors, including Capital City Bank, Centennial Bank, Coastwise Realty, Inc., Family Funeral Home, Great Southern Demolition, Gulf Coast Lumber & Supply, Inc., Gulf Winds Credit Union, Prime Meridian Bank, Trident Restaurant, and Waypoint Properties. We couldn’t have done it without your support!

Mary Katherine Westmark
 Race Director

Problem with Kids Corner

Editor, The Sun:

Please rethink your Kid’s Corner “What’s the Difference?” puzzle. Wakulla Sun, April 25 puzzle shows two black and white photos stating there are four differences to be detected. The photo is out of focus in places and we are tasked with finding four differences.

One difference revealed in the answers states there is a difference of “a flower in the blue pot.” There is NO COLOR! Another clue advised “missing plant on cart.” Where is the cart???

I know you can provide better

than this, please?

Susan Sentman

Editor: Sorry. You’re right about the color. We download a color Kids Corner feature but the page is printed in black & white. Not to send you to our website, but every page of the e-edition is in color and you can see the blue pot there. While the page did print a little dark, the cart is visible at the elbow of the gardener and a plant is missing.

Still, your point is taken: We need to be more aware of when a color feature is on a black & white page.

American Legion repairs flagpole

Editor, The Sun:

On Monday, May 6 at 8 a.m., a few members of American Legion Post 114 were at Eden Springs Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Wakulla to make adjustments and repairs to the (Eden Springs) flagpole so that the Center can once again raise the National Colors. Talquin Electric also assisted in this project by providing the bucket truck and operator.

The flag pole restoration project is part of a larger plan to let the veterans who are residents,

whether short- or long- term, know that we are here to support them. Those plans include visitations to those who desire the camaraderie of fellow veterans.

There will be a flag raising ceremony at the center on Memorial Day, following the annual Wakulla County’s Memorial Day Ceremony at the Courthouse. Tentatively, the time for the flag raising ceremony will be at 12 noon. The public is invited.

Sincerely,

Roxann Dressel
 Commander
 American Legion Post 114

On the Horizon

Calendar of events for the week of May 9

Thursday, May 9

- St. Marks City Commission meets at City Hall at 6 p.m.
- The Republican Women’s Club meets at the Seineyard at Wildwood at noon.
- 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.
- 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, May 10

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

Saturday, May 11

- Florida Wild Mammal Association is holding their Meet the Critters event in Hudson Park from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- The Sopchoppy Community Market will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Sopchoppy Depot Park
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. every Saturday at, 54 Ochlockonee St.
- The Wakulla Caregiver Support Group meets at the Wakulla County Public Library at 10 a.m. every second Saturday.

Sunday, May 12

- MOTHER’S DAY

Monday, May 13

- The Sopchoppy City Commission meets at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.
- The Wakulla County School Board meets in the school administration building at 5:45 p.m.
- Wakulla County Planning Commission meets at 6 p.m. in the commission chambers.
- Crawfordville Woman’s Club monthly meeting is the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at 64 Ochlockonee St., in Crawfordville. Call (850)566-5727 for more information.
- The American Legion Post 114 will be meeting at the Wakulla County Public Library at 6:30 p.m.
- Yoga with Nellie, Restorative yoga at 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Classes are \$12, packages available at New Posh on 3079 Crawfordville Hwy. RSVP to newposh3079@gmail.com or text/call at (850) 528-5838.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

Tuesday, May 14

- The Wakulla County Historical Society is presenting a program on the GF&A Railroad at 4:30 p.m. at the Sopchoppy Depot located on Rose Street.
- 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 15

- The Wakulla County Health Department is holding a blood drive from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Health Department office on Oak Street.
- 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 Stretching Class, every Wednesday, 11 a.m. Wakulla Community Center. Bring a mat. Come early to sign in. Chair Yoga participants welcome. \$2 per class.

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William Snowden
 Editor & Publisher
 The Wakulla Sun

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“It’s A New Day!”

The Wakulla Sun





Editor/Publisher: William Snowden <small>editor@thewakullasun.com</small>	Reporter: Legion Taylor <small>reporter@thewakullasun.com</small>	Production Manager/IT: Eric Stanton <small>estanton@thewakullasun.com</small>	Circulation: Krystal Sheppard <small>circulation@thewakullasun.com</small>	Sales & Marketing: Lynda Kinsey <small>lkinsey@thewakullasun.com</small>
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– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

Polled at Team Cone's Ribs & Butts Fundraiser at English Financial:

What is your favorite barbecue sauce?



JEFF HESS
Team Cone

**“Sweet Baby Ray’s!
If I fire up the grill
and don’t have any
Sweet Baby Ray’s,
I may as well not
have any meat.”**



MIKE GUARINO
Graphic Design-Team Cone

**“We buy
Sweet Baby
Ray’s all the
time.”**



DONALD BUIE
Area Sales Manager-Team Cone

**“I don’t do a
barbecue sauce.
If the meat is
seasoned right,
you don’t need
barbecue sauce.”**



STEVE VERHAGE AKA SANTA
Team Cone

**“Sweet Baby
Ray’s.”**



KENNY KINSEY
Team Cone

**“JB’s
Sopchoppy
Hot Sauce. It’s
an everything
sauce.”**

Sopchoppy News

By DJ BUTCH

In this article I want to talk about the Historic Sopchoppy School built in 1924 and land. We just had a 100 years celebration! By the way it is on the National Register of Historic Places.

My mother went to high school at the historic school. I went to elementary school there and my son went to preK before they shut it down.

My grandfather built a Florida room on his house in Sopchoppy using windows from the school that the school was throwing away.

The nature trail is what we called the patch of land beside the school and granny’s house. When I was in elementary this was an amazing enchanted garden. This land contained all kinds of different colored flowers.

It had a trail right through the middle. On one side of the trail was a bridge. I use to walk through it everyday to go to school and when I got out of school. A lot of other Sopchoppy kids did too. My grandmother was the babysitter for a whole lot of Sopchoppy kids.

My grandmothers on both sides of my family lived on both sides of this land. Granny Emma on one side and Granny Rachel on the other. The nature trail was beautiful. I was told that back in the day it was where they grew the vegetables for the school lunch. But when I was in school it was an amazing flower and tree paradise. It was been overgrown and neglected for a while. The flowers are still there. It just needs some love.

The historic gym was built in 1935.

The school and old gym are built out of limestone. This school and land is special. It is our history. I’ve heard rumors of them tearing down the newer gym and pre-K buildings. The land was also surveyed recently too. I don’t see what is wrong with a solid brick gym. I certainly don’t understand why the gym and land isn’t being used by the community or something productive. I hear the school board owns it. I have heard that the City of Sopchoppy could possibly get it. It appears that I never really get a clear answer as to the future of our sacred school and land. I do know that developers have made bids above market value to attempt to buy it and build. When I got word of this I spoke at a city board meeting to let commissioners know and understand the history of this property. How special and important it is to our history. This is also one reason I ran for commissioner. I wanted to

protect our beautiful Sopchoppy. It won’t be easy living if they continue to cut all the trees down and build subdivisions.

We have a beautiful charm here in Sopchoppy. We are surrounded by rivers, plants, flowers, trees, white squirrels, woodpeckers and so much more wildlife and beauty! We must protect Sopchoppy. That school property means a lot to our locals. It could be used for many great things. Look at how well the Opry and theatre have done. The old gym is beautiful and is a revenue source for the city. It hosts weddings, birthdays and so many other great events. We must protect ALL of this beautiful land. Not just some of it.

It is a sacred place. I don’t have the money to fight this but I do have a pen and a voice. I hope someone cares and hears my cries. Save Sopchoppy! Save our historic school and our nature trail.

Buckhorn News

By ETHEL SKIPPER

The Holy Spirit within us produces faith, meekness, temperance, love, joy, peace, longsuffering, goodness, gentleness – against such there is no law.

Love as much as you want to, have as much joy as one desires. According as God’s divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain

unto life and godliness through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue, the nine virtues.

The fruit of the spirit, these moral strengths are of greatest importance when no one but God is observing our character and behavior.

If we have faith, meekness and temperance when only God is watching, we will also have these strengths when others are watching and our

living will glorify God and be beneficial to those whose lives we touch.

All nine of the virtues which are the fruit of the spirit are needed for truly Christlike living.

Skipper Temple Church of Christ invites you to our services on Saturday, May 11 at 2 p.m. Program will be for Mother Vera Gavin. We invite all family and friends to come out and join in the fellowship. Speaker will be Pastor Janet Clary from Tallahassee.

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 help everywhere.

Wakulla Station News

By VERNA BROCK

I can’t believe the school year is drawing to a close in little more than two weeks. Seems like it was just beginning yesterday. Now, seniors are preparing with anticipation to turn toward their futures, to move into the next chapter of their lives with joy and excitement. Students of all ages, from every grade, are eagerly awaiting a few weeks off from the “grind” of education. Teachers are hanging on by their fingertips while students fairly vibrate with exhilaration.

I remember how, as a child, I looked forward to summer, which stretched into weeks of long days and star-spangled nights. It seemed as if summer vacation would be endless days of sleeping late and lolling in the shade. It did not include days spent in front of the television or on a device. And, we were NEVER bored!

Be sure to keep your eyes open for children walking, scooting, bike-riding and playing along Wakulla’s byways and highways. There will be more of them out there during the summer. Some will even continue

to catch school buses for summer school.

Congrats to Mr. and Mrs. Spender, two of Wakulla’s premier music/band teachers, for an outstanding Spring Concert at Riversprings Middle School last weekend. Mr. Spender shepherds a Beginning Band, Concert Band, Symphonic Band and a Jazz Band. All of them perform amazingly and enthusiastically! Be very proud of these students and their music teachers. Then Mr. Spender turned around and escorted them all to Universal Studios the next day! Don’t you wish you could join the Band?

This coming Sunday evening, Woodville UMC hosts its monthly Second Sunday Sing and Supper at 6 p.m. I highly recommend you join them for this long-time tradition... you will not regret it!

Lorrie Gallamore has returned from a life-long dream trip to Italy, and it was everything she hoped it would be. Don’t be jealous!

Pam Adams’ brother, Scott Causey, is in need of our prayers, as is Sarah Kane, Jimmy Gainey, Janet Collomy, Mike Harrison, and the family of Larry Lee. Mr. Lee has died after a long life of service to the Lord as a pastor and missionary.

Honor Flight

From Front Page

shirt and proceeded to my team’s table to find my two veterans. I found Jim McShane and Dennis Murphy, both served in Vietnam. Both men immediately began telling stories of serving.

Mission BBQ and a host of Honor Flight volunteers served the participants breakfast. I took a break from the stories after breakfast when I spotted Mr. Williams entering the hangar. I greeted Mr. Williams and told him I too live in Wakulla County and it was a true honor to meet him and thanked him for his service. He smiled and reached out his warm hand that made my day.

We began boarding the flight at 6 a.m. We arrived at Baltimore International Airport to a water cannon salute from the airport fire department. Upon entering the airport, we were greeted

by students of the U.S. Naval Academy, passenger and other civilians.

To Tallahassee City Commissioner Curtis Richardson’s surprise, his daughter (a USNA Midshipman) was there to greet the veterans and surprise her dad.

We then loaded onto three large buses for the hour-long ride to the World War I Memorial. Upon arrival, we were greeted by an active-duty U.S. Marine Corps Color Guard. All participants gathered for a group picture and a wreath ceremony. The color guard presented the colors for the National Anthem, followed by the reading of a speech given at the end of World War II. After the group activity, we were given 45 minutes to explore the memorial and the surrounding area.

We grabbed a sack lunch while boarding the bus to proceed to the Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Korean War Memorial. It started to rain on us as I accompanied

my two veterans to the Vietnam Wall.

The next stop was Marine Corps Memorial. The memorial is a statue of the second raising of the U.S. flag on Iwo Jima in World War II. After 30 minutes, it was back on the bus to head into Arlington National Cemetery for the changing of the guard.

We boarded our buses to head to the last stop, the U.S. Air Force Memorial. Comprised in-part by three metal spires the go up to 405 feet above sea level, it is designed to mimic the Bomb Burst maneuver by the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds. Participants also got to take pictures with an 8-foot-tall honor guard statue. The grounds of the Air Force Memorial give a wonderful view of the Washington, D.C. skyline. The memorial is also in the flight path of 9/11 flight 77. We could see where the Pentagon was struck and rebuilt, along with the Pentagon Memorial.

After 20 minutes, we boarded the buses for our ride to Baltimore Inter-

national Airport.

Half-way home, the interior lights came on and we heard “mail call, mail call, mail call” over the intercom. Just like they did in days of war, staff passed out envelopes for each veteran, filled with letters and cards from family members, the Mayor of Tallahassee, City Commissioners, Congressmen, school children... Many were moved to tears.

We arrived in Tallahassee at 10:28 p.m. (slightly late) to another water cannon salute by the Tallahassee Fire Department airport station. We pulled in front of the hangar to a sea of red, white and blue, camera flashes, banners, signs... Many veterans were shocked to see this was for them. Many were moved to tears.

It is a long day and an emotional day. But it is worth every single second. The smile on the faces of these veterans filled me joy that cannot be described. I was so moved, I have already applied to go again next year.

Outdoors

outdoor sports

HOME ON THE RANGE

The Springfield Ronin, the Sig Sauer 229 or M11-A1



By MARJ LAW

It's Joe's birthday. What does he want?

Oh. You guessed. Another gun. Another hammer-fired gun. Specifically, he wants the Sig Sauer 229 which is also called the M11-A1. Now, remember, Joe and I have had a friendly running competition about which is better: the striker-fired gun or the hammer-fired gun.

"1911s have the best triggers and they are hammer guns," Joe maintains.

Well, a good trigger isn't everything. And plenty of striker-fired guns have very nice triggers.

But, even though I took him to the dark side (hey Joe, what about that Sig Sauer 320 you like so much? Hmm?), Joe wants that Sig 229. After all, it's the compact version of the Sig 226. He has the Sig 226 already.

The 226 is lonely. We want to keep the family together, right?

Joe reminds me that the 226 has a great grip for his big hands. He says it's accurate. It has a smooth trigger with a short reset for rapid firing. And it holds 17 rounds. The 229 comes with three 15-round magazines.

So we just happen to be nosing around one of our local gun stores. What do we see? And just before Joe's birth-

day?

There it is. The Sig Sauer 229. He wants it.

Ho hum. Another hammer gun.

Joe and I have made a deal. If one of us wants to purchase a gun, we have to give up one that we already have. This way we save money and we don't stockpile.

Once we decide which handgun we are willing to give up, we strike a deal with the owner of the gun shop. We give him our gun and some money, and we get the new Sig.

Happy birthday to Joe!

The Wakulla County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) range has been closed for training recently, and we missed a couple of our usual Wednesday morning practices. Since we missed our range time, we somehow manage to find our way to another local gun shop.

"You want this," says the owner, and places a gun in front of me.

"It's a hammer-fired gun," I think. "Why is he showing this to me? I like striker-fired guns!"

I pick it up. It's a 9mm. I like 9mm handguns.

It's slim. Nice.

Heavy. My hand sinks firmly into the beaver-tail. Now it feels like part of my hand.

Wow. A slim grip safety. Doesn't make the grip seem fatter.

Fiber optic orange front sight. You can really see this sight.

And then I look at the muzzle.

"Joe, you got to see this heavy barrel! I bet this thing hardly moves in your hand when you fire; it's such a sturdy barrel. See? It's much thicker than the barrel on any these other handguns."

I hand the Springfield Ronin to Joe.

"It fits my small hand perfectly," I whisper in



awe.

Joe grins. "It's a hammer-fired gun," he says smugly. "Are you saying you want a hammer-fired gun? And did you know this is a scaled-down version of the 1911s?"

A 1911? I don't care for them. However, I drop the magazine and yank the slide. Whoops! It slips right backwards. I pull the trigger.

Oh, no. It's the shortest, lightest trigger of any gun I've ever shot. Wow.

"Hammer gun," Joe gloats in my ear. "So, which gun are we going to give up to get this one?"

We decide. Just like we did with Joe's birthday Sig Sauer 229, we make a deal with the owner. We hand over one of our (cleaned) guns and some cash. The gun store owner is happy and we're happy.

Then, on Saturday, we meet Tam at the WCSO range. Tam's a newbie. She has come out a handful of times. I watch her shoot her semi-automatics. She plants her feet. She remembers not to cross her thumbs behind the slide. She aims.

Blam! Blam! Blam! Every shot hits the

8-inch target. I'm impressed.

She comes over to me. "What are you shooting?" she wonders.

"We're comparing the Sig Sauer 229 and the Springfield Ronin. They are both 9mm guns. Would you like to compare them with us?"

"Sure!" She's game. Since she has been doing so well and has remembered range safety rules, I'm confident she will have no trouble shooting these new handguns.

These guns are similar in that they are both compact. While Ronin weighs 30.4 ounces unloaded, Sig weighs 29.6 ounces.

Ronin's barrel is 4.25 inches and Sig's is 3.9.

Ronin's length is 7.9 inches and Sig's is 7.1.

Ronin's height is 5.5 inches and Sig's is 5.4 inches.

So, Ronin is a little longer, has a longer barrel, is a smidge taller and is slightly heavier.

A major difference is that Ronin is much sleeker at 1.18 inches wide, and Sig is 1.5 inches.

Ronin comes with a 9-round magazine and Sig comes with three 15-round mags.

Ronin is single action

Sig Sauer 229 or M11-A1

29.6 oz
15 rounds
3.9" barrel

Springfield Ronin

30.4 oz
9 rounds
4.25" barrel

Lyman Digital Trigger Pull Gauge

He finds the slide easy to rack, and gives it a 1.

Overall, Joe is shooting the Sig with greater ease and more accurately than Tam and I do. Again, I'd say this is because the grip is really too wide for us with our small hands.

And the wind is probably blowing just as Tam and I shoot.

The Ronin is much easier for Tam and me. Trigger pull is light and has practically no travel. Kick is a 2, instead of 3 for the Sig.

Ronin's slide is easier for us. We give it a 1.

We both prefer the smaller grip, and that is probably why we both get bullseyes with the Ronin.

Joe agrees with us in that he likes the trigger pull and the short travel. He finds the kick to be easy too. Racking the slide is very easy for him as well.

Joe doesn't like the grip as well as Tam and I do. It's a bit too narrow for him. This is probably why he isn't shooting tight groups, although all rounds hit the target.

We've all come to the opinion that while both guns are easy shooters, grip seems to make a difference in accuracy.

When Joe and I return home at night, we weigh trigger pull on both guns using the Lyman Digital Trigger Pull Gauge.

This Ronin's trigger pull is 4.12 pounds, and the Sig is 5.5 pounds (in Single Action). Easy.

Joe and I are happy with having traded guns to get the Springfield Ronin and the Sig Sauer 229.

"They're both hammer guns," says Joe with great satisfaction.

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

BIRDING AT THE REFUGE

May birding at the refuge

By DON MORROW

It is early May at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. Wild Rose is blooming and dragonflies are swarming along the levees. Chuck-wills-widows calling loudly in the night, give way to singing Marsh Wrens as the sun rises. Our breeding birds are already consumed by territorial defense and nesting as the refuge slides inexorably into summer.

Spring migration is mostly over. There are still a few boreal forest-nesting songbirds and arctic-bound shorebirds moving through, but their numbers have peaked and are dropping.

Ah, but April! Always the big month for Spring migration, this year saw almost six million shorebirds, ducks, sparrows, vireos, waders, flycatchers, warblers, orioles, thrushes, tanagers, and grosbeaks

transit the refuge.

There was a notably strong April migration this year. These birds launched from Caribbean islands, South America, and the Yucatan peninsula directed by a primal urge to head north to their breeding grounds. The random chance of winds and storm fronts pushed some of them towards St. Marks. A few were bound for the refuge and stopped here. Most just glanced down in the darkness as they passed over. Others landed here to feed before continuing their journey. Perhaps another million birds will move through before Spring migration ends in June.

Each day in April is different. St. Marks saw four big pulses of migrant songbirds over the month and one big pulse of ducks. Shorebirds tend to move through more steadily.

April weather was

favorable for transiting songbirds and, yet, the refuge still saw 24 warbler species drop in. Some, like Cerulean, Kentucky, Yellow and Magnolia were scarce, but others like Palm, Black-and-white & Northern Parula came through in large numbers.

By April, most of our over-wintering ducks are gone. April always sees a spike of migrant Blue-winged Teal and Northern Shovelers at the refuge. Last month, 160 teal and 72 shovelers came through on one day in mid-month. The shovelers are now gone; the teal, which winter as far south as Brazil, will continue to trickle through into June.

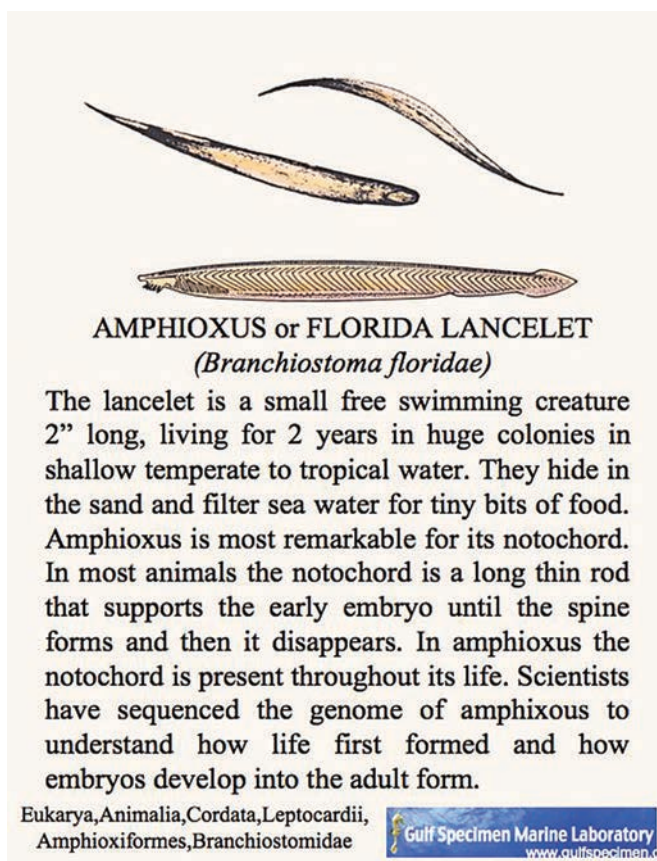
This was a robust year for shorebird migration. Thirty-two species of shorebirds were reported, including Piping and American Golden Plovers; Solitary, Stilt, Baird's, Pectoral and

White-rumped Sandpipers and Wilson's Phalarope. Shorebird numbers have dropped by over 50% from their February peak. They will continue to drop as the remaining late migrants finish moving through from South America.

Birds are still moving, but you should come down to the refuge soon if you want to catch the last few Spring migrants.

Even if you don't, there is still a lot to see at the refuge. Beautyberry and Partridge Pea are about to flower. Otter kits will soon start following their mothers on foraging trips. Bobwhites are calling in the morning from the flatwoods and the eternal miracle of morning sunlight playing across the marshes is happening daily.

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



AMPHIOXUS or FLORIDA LANCELET
(*Branchiostoma floridae*)

The lancelet is a small free swimming creature 2" long, living for 2 years in huge colonies in shallow temperate to tropical water. They hide in the sand and filter sea water for tiny bits of food. Amphioxus is most remarkable for its notochord. In most animals the notochord is a long thin rod that supports the early embryo until the spine forms and then it disappears. In amphioxus the notochord is present throughout its life. Scientists have sequenced the genome of amphioxus to understand how life first formed and how embryos develop into the adult form.

Eukarya, Animalia, Cordata, Leptocardii, Amphioxiformes, Branchiostomidae

Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratory
www.gulf-specimen.com



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a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences



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Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

May 9 - May 15



Tide charts by tides4fishing.com



Best fishing days this month
May 7-23

Thursday 9	
Sun rise/set 6:46AM 8:20PM	Moon rise/set 7:41AM 10:29PM
Moon Illumination 3%	
Friday 10	
Sun rise/set 6:45AM 8:20PM	Moon rise/set 8:33AM 11:33PM
Moon Illumination 7%	
Saturday 11	
Sun rise/set 6:45AM 8:21PM	Moon rise/set 9:31AM -----
Moon Illumination 14%	
Sunday 12	
Sun rise/set 6:44AM 8:21PM	Moon rise/set 10:31AM 12:29AM
Moon Illumination 22%	
Monday 13	
Sun rise/set 6:43AM 8:22PM	Moon rise/set 11:33AM 1:17AM
Moon Illumination 31%	
Tuesday 14	
Sun rise/set 6:43AM 8:23PM	Moon rise/set 12:33PM 1:57AM
Moon Illumination 40%	
Wednesday 15	
Sun rise/set 6:42AM 8:23PM	Moon rise/set 1:30PM 2:30AM
Moon Illumination 50%	

For tides at the following points add to Dog Island Listings:
 Carrabelle High Tide 28 Min. Low Tide 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	4:18 am ▲ 3.4 ft	9:12 am ▼ 1.6 ft	3:00 pm ▲ 4.2 ft	10:27 pm ▼ -0.9 ft
Fr	5:03 am ▲ 3.2 ft	9:43 am ▼ 1.7 ft	3:31 pm ▲ 4.1 ft	11:11 pm ▼ -0.6 ft
Sa	5:49 am ▲ 2.9 ft	10:14 am ▼ 1.8 ft	4:04 pm ▲ 4.0 ft	11:57 pm ▼ -0.3 ft
Su	6:38 am ▲ 2.7 ft	10:48 am ▼ 1.9 ft	4:39 pm ▲ 3.7 ft	
Mo	7:26 am ▲ 2.5 ft	11:25 am ▼ 2.0 ft	5:18 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	
Tu	8:14 am ▲ 2.3 ft	12:06 pm ▼ 2.1 ft	5:58 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	
We	9:02 am ▲ 2.1 ft	12:45 pm ▼ 2.2 ft	6:38 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	

City of St. Marks

Th	4:54 am ▲ 3.2 ft	10:16 am ▼ 1.4 ft	3:36 pm ▲ 3.9 ft	11:31 pm ▼ -0.8 ft
Fr	5:39 am ▲ 2.9 ft	10:47 am ▼ 1.6 ft	4:07 pm ▲ 3.8 ft	
Sa	6:25 am ▲ 2.7 ft	11:21 am ▼ 1.7 ft	4:40 pm ▲ 3.7 ft	
Su	7:14 am ▲ 2.5 ft	12:00 pm ▼ 1.8 ft	5:15 pm ▲ 3.5 ft	
Mo	8:02 am ▲ 2.3 ft	12:42 pm ▼ 1.9 ft	5:54 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	
Tu	8:50 am ▲ 2.1 ft	1:23 pm ▼ 2.0 ft	6:34 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	
We	9:38 am ▲ 1.9 ft	2:04 pm ▼ 2.1 ft	7:14 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	

Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	4:35 am ▲ 3.5 ft	9:31 am ▼ 1.8 ft	3:16 pm ▲ 4.2 ft	10:45 pm ▼ -0.9 ft
Fr	5:19 am ▲ 3.1 ft	10:01 am ▼ 1.9 ft	3:48 pm ▲ 4.1 ft	11:30 pm ▼ -0.7 ft
Sa	6:04 am ▲ 2.9 ft	10:33 am ▼ 2.0 ft	4:22 pm ▲ 4.0 ft	
Su	6:51 am ▲ 2.7 ft	11:09 am ▼ 2.1 ft	4:58 pm ▲ 3.8 ft	
Mo	7:38 am ▲ 2.5 ft	11:49 am ▼ 2.2 ft	5:39 pm ▲ 3.5 ft	
Tu	8:26 am ▲ 2.3 ft	12:29 pm ▼ 2.3 ft	6:20 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	
We	9:14 am ▲ 2.1 ft	1:10 pm ▼ 2.4 ft	7:02 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	

Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	4:10 am ▲ 2.6 ft	9:23 am ▼ 1.2 ft	2:52 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	10:38 pm ▼ -0.6 ft
Fr	4:55 am ▲ 2.4 ft	9:54 am ▼ 1.3 ft	3:23 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	11:22 pm ▼ -0.5 ft
Sa	5:41 am ▲ 2.2 ft	10:25 am ▼ 1.4 ft	3:56 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	
Su	6:28 am ▲ 2.0 ft	10:59 am ▼ 1.5 ft	4:31 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	
Mo	7:16 am ▲ 1.8 ft	11:37 am ▼ 1.6 ft	5:07 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	
Tu	8:04 am ▲ 1.6 ft	12:18 pm ▼ 1.7 ft	5:44 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	
We	8:52 am ▲ 1.4 ft	1:00 pm ▼ 1.8 ft	6:22 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	

St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	4:35 am ▲ 2.7 ft	9:06 am ▼ 1.8 ft	2:40 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	10:17 pm ▼ -0.8 ft
Fr	5:25 am ▲ 2.5 ft	9:33 am ▼ 1.9 ft	3:16 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	11:03 pm ▼ -0.7 ft
Sa	6:17 am ▲ 2.3 ft	10:01 am ▼ 2.0 ft	3:56 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	11:52 pm ▼ -0.4 ft
Su	7:14 am ▲ 2.2 ft	10:31 am ▼ 2.1 ft	4:40 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	
Mo	8:02 am ▲ 2.0 ft	11:06 am ▼ 2.2 ft	5:28 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	
Tu	8:50 am ▲ 1.8 ft	11:45 am ▼ 2.3 ft	6:14 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	
We	9:38 am ▲ 1.6 ft	12:27 pm ▼ 2.4 ft	7:02 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	

Dog Island West End

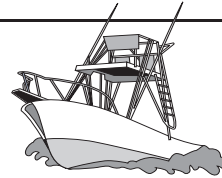
Th	5:20 am ▲ 2.4 ft	9:33 am ▼ 1.8 ft	2:59 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	10:34 pm ▼ -0.7 ft
Fr	6:07 am ▲ 2.3 ft	9:59 am ▼ 1.9 ft	3:34 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	11:20 pm ▼ -0.5 ft
Sa	6:52 am ▲ 2.2 ft	10:25 am ▼ 2.0 ft	4:12 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	
Su	7:38 am ▲ 2.0 ft	11:00 am ▼ 2.1 ft	4:52 pm ▲ 2.6 ft	
Mo	8:26 am ▲ 1.8 ft	11:40 am ▼ 2.2 ft	5:37 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	
Tu	9:14 am ▲ 1.6 ft	12:23 pm ▼ 2.3 ft	6:22 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	
We	10:02 am ▲ 1.4 ft	1:09 pm ▼ 2.4 ft	7:08 pm ▲ 2.0 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



National Safe Boating Week is fast approaching. It kicks off on May 17th with Wear Your Life Jacket to Work Day!

Join the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, District 8 Coastal Region in promoting water safety by wearing your life jacket to work this May 17th! Let's make a splash and raise awareness about the importance of wearing life jackets. Whether you're working from an office, home, or out in the field, your life jacket is a statement that safety comes first!

Snap a pic in your life jacket and share it with us! Use the hashtags #LifeJacket2Work #USCGAux and let's see your style!

Remember, a life jacket not only saves lives but shows you're serious about safety. Let's float the message far and wide! Check back next week for National Safe Boating Week tips.

Thanks to Sherrie, we

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

Wear Your Life Jacket at Work Day

May 17, 2024



#safeboating

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.uscgaux.org.

Underwater Wakulla

By Rusty Miller

Aging and diving.

In the next few weeks I would like to talk about the subject of aging and diving. Now that I'm within a couple years of 70 I have started to look back on my diving career and I have noticed some things that I never would have seen when I was younger. I would like to share them with you on this journey. So sit back, get a fresh cup of coffee and enjoy.

Here's a little history on my start to this journey. In the early 1960s there was a weekly TV show on called "Sea Hunt", the main character was named Mike Nelson (Lloyd Bridges) who retired from the U.S. Navy as a munitions or demolition diver. He worked as a marine diver for the California marine laboratory. He would take on many contracts, government and private. He was also a scuba diving instructor for the California diving club, for a 12 year old boy from Georgia. It was a fascinating world.

So that's where I got the scuba diving bug from. My parents thought I was crazy. I had a paper route and I sold the Grit newspaper too. I saved up the \$50 I needed to take my first diving class at the YMCA. It was a 6 month long class two nights a week from 5 to 10 p.m. You ask why did it take six months - well, the equipment was primitive by today's standards and we had to learn how to make our own scuba harness that held the tank to our backs using 2-inch wide stiff nylon straps. We also had to make our weight belts out of the same material. There were no dive shops that had BCs - just mask, fins, snorkels and tanks - 72 cubic feet steel tanks.

The only classroom lessons were very basic physics of pressurized gas and some talk of never hold your breath always breathe kind of stuff. About 90% of the lessons were in the pool. You need to know that the regulators we used were a double hose, meaning there was no real second stage regulator. The two hoses came together in a mouthpiece, on one side of the mouthpiece had a one-way valve that would send the exhaust out of the top of the first stage connected to the tank, the other side of the mouthpiece was where the air would flow continuously as you breathe. It was not an on-demand valve that the modern regulators would have.

In the pool part of the class we would work on one skill each pool session until it was second nature and natural for us to do with out thinking about it.

Some of the skills came easy but there were a few of them that where a high degree of difficulty.

Remember I said we used 72's, we would literally drain every last breath from them during each class and most classes we each used two tanks.

The tank valve on the tanks back then had what was called a "J" valve. It had a stainless steel rod about 3/16ths in diameter with a hoop in the end and would follow the tank down the right side and the top of the rod was connected to a lever on the side of the valve.

If it was filled correctly then when the tank pressure was 500psi it would have a spring loaded pin block the air hole and you pull the stainless steel rod down to rotate the pin away from the hole to give you air to get back to the surface.

More to follow next week.

Russell Miller NAUI #59999

WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO



Retired Wakulla Springs State Park Ranger Bob Thompson on his weekly wildlife survey at the park, shared this photo of a Black-crowned Night Heron. He said, 'I haven't seen one at Wakulla Springs in years!'

Forgiving our parents

By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

We've all heard stories from those who say their parents messed up their lives. While some stories are horrific, others are typical – albeit distressing

– reflections of dysfunctional families.

I have no doubt my children love me. Yet I cringe at what they might share regarding the times I behaved in less-than-loving ways. Nevertheless, I can honestly say to each one of them, "I have always loved you. Imperfectly, yes. But always."

I have no doubt my mom and dad would say the same thing if they were still alive. Wouldn't you to your children?

Being a good parent, especially a single one, is one of the most challenging roles there is.

As much as we wished we'd been perfect parents or had perfect parents, I know only one perfect Parent. Let's ask our heavenly Father to help us forgive our moms and dads, even if they've already died.

I realize some of you were abused as a child. I'm not minimizing this in any way. You have much to work through, and I pray you've found a good counselor to guide you to healing and a place of eventual forgiveness.

For the rest of us – those whose parents weren't abusive but made

their share of mistakes while we were growing up – what if we simply accepted that they are (or were) just as imperfect as we are now, as parents ourselves?

What would happen if we saw our parents as people who suffered their own hurts and their own unmet needs? Our parents probably have already beaten themselves up and wished they'd been a whole lot closer to perfect.

This brings us to Ephesians 4:32 (ESV): "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving

one another, as God in Christ forgave you." Isn't this what we hope our children will do for us?

If you're a child of an imperfect, yet a sincerely caring parent, what would you like to say to your mom, dad, or both? If you are one of those imperfect parents, yet sincerely tried to be a good mom or dad, what would you like to say to your children? Why not take the time to have these conversations soon?

While we're on the subject, let's also forgive ourselves for not being the flawless parent we hoped

to be. Bitterness and guilt keep us in bondage to our past. Mercy and grace will set us on the road toward healing – and help break the dysfunctional cycle.

On a personal note, with Mother's Day and Father's Day in mind, I love you and miss you, Mom and Dad – mistakes and all.

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.

Faith, hope and love

By **CHERYL CRUCE**

I marvel at how simple life seemed during my youth. Mom worked fulltime and cared for five school-aged children with extracurricular activities. Dad worked fulltime at a local sawmill. Also adding to his schedule was a part-time job at another mill in town. Repairs and yard work were his responsibilities around the home. These tasks

must have carried the weight of their time. However, they still managed to create a family life of togetherness and outdoor activities.

Looking back, I know it must have sometimes seemed chaotic for them, yet our lives flowed with a rhythm of laughter and great joy.

Fast forward to today, I was privileged to raise four exceptional children who are now successful individuals with their own families. Their growing years were filled with school, sports, social events, and life. I often think of the chaos of those days trying to balance a schedule and wondering how I ever made it work. When speaking with my now adult chil-

dren, they look back, only remembering a rhythm of laughter and great joy.

A third generation of children is now being raised. And the question has risen, "Mom, how did you and Dad balance everything?" They are in the middle of a busy life of family, work, school, and extracurricular activities. The cycle continues while watching their young ones grow. My only words of wisdom are to enjoy the moments now and find the love that will carry them through the years. Life will find a balance of good over evil when God is honored.

Ecclesiastes 3 speaks of a balancing of life. There is a time for every activity under the heav-

ens. Planting is balanced with the harvest, life with death, weeping with laughter, mourning with dancing, and so on. Though, I must admit there are days when the scales are tipped a little on the troubled side. When those days come, I try to remember that my faith is not by sight or feelings but by the knowledge that God has never left nor forsaken me.

The scripture encourages us to remember that we are God's people, chosen and set aside. When God divided the world, He gave the nations an angel to guard over them. However, He protected Israel (Deuteronomy 32:7-9), and today, He remains the watchful eye over

those who have hope in Him. Knowing this helps to smooth the edges of life when our days seem out of balance. I am not sure where I would be in the chaotic state of this world if my hope were not set in God.

Mostly, I have found this balance in life. That is not to say that tomorrow will not have its trials, for problems come to us all. Honestly, I am sure there were days when my parents struggled to maintain a home of happy children without the regular fights of growing up. I don't remember the hard times of raising children or the hectic schedules. I only remember the joy and laughter of those days. I know that one day, this same pattern

will fall on the lives of the generation I raised and their children.

In time, we will all discover that the key to life and its balance is this; That our lives are weighed with faith and hope and that we allow love to become the scale on which we are measured. In doing this, we will find healing in our yesterday and hope in our future.

1 Corinthians 13:13 And now these three remain faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.

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

OUT TO PASTOR

Dancing in my pajamas

By **JAMES SNYDER**

After two and a half weeks of being sick with many days in bed, I have come to appreciate what some people go through when they have a severe sickness. My sickness wasn't that devastating. It just sucked the energy out of me and caused me a lot of coughing and sneezing.

I barely had enough energy to get out of bed, walk to the living room, and sit in my easy chair for my morning cup of coffee. I paused for a few moments to catch my breath after that strenuous trip.

Because of my sickness, I had to go to the bathroom at least five times during the day. I had to run to the bathroom and slowly walk back to my easy chair, which took a lot of energy.

I do remember my grandmother's home in the mountains of Pennsylvania. They didn't have indoor plumbing and used an outhouse

in their backyard. Who knows what an outhouse is today?

If you had to go to the bathroom at night, she put something out in the hallway, which she called a "potty pot." I was thinking about that the other day and almost asked The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage if that would be a good idea during my sickness.

After considering that idea, I had enough energy to erase it from my mind and just race back and forth during those potty trips.

During this time, I never left the house, I didn't have enough energy to change out of my pajamas and get into my pants. I've never been in my pajamas for so long, but of course, I didn't realize what I was doing at the time.

Once, when I had to get up from the easy chair and run back to the bathroom, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage looked at me and said, "Is that your pajama dance?"

I had no time to stop and respond, or serious consequences would occur.

When I got back from the bathroom and passed the kitchen area, I could see The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage smiling. I wanted to respond to

her, but at the time, I didn't have the energy. I could either respond to her or make it to my easy chair. I took the latter.

Those bathroom trips aren't fun by any stretch of the imagination, and believe me; my imagination was stretched to its limit.

I'm not sure how many pajama dances I did during my sickness, and I'm not sure if I have perfected them yet. I did what was necessary to get through the situation.

I perfected a "Woody Waltz" but didn't have the energy to explain it to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Maybe one day I could enter the "Dancing with the Star-Blazers."

One thing I remember during that time is that I could not remember what day of the week it was. I didn't know when I got up in the morning if it was morning, afternoon, or evening. I had to rely upon The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage to tell me what time it was and where in the world I was.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage brought me breakfast, and by the time I ate the last crumb, I didn't remember if it was breakfast, lunch, or dinner. I couldn't remember

anything, so I thought of something. It's a wonder I had the energy to think of anything then, but I did.

With my trouble remembering, how did I know what I was eating? Could it be, and I thought about this, that without my knowing it, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage snuck a piece of broccoli onto my plate?

The more I thought about it, the more confused I got. Certainly, she could not sneak a slice of broccoli when I was in good health, but maybe this was an opportunity she'd been looking for.

I thought about this, and my wife asked, "What are you thinking about?"

I knew I could not tell her exactly what I was thinking, so I said, "I'm just thinking about what I had for lunch this afternoon."

What worried me was that she giggled one of those mysterious giggles when I said that. I did not know what to think about that.

If I ask her about that, she could say, "Ha ha, I got you with that one."

That was the last thing I want to hear before bed that night.

Not long after that, my memory improved and returned to normal.

I was happy about that. I noticed every time The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage brought me a plate of food, she was giggling. I was tempted to ask her what she was giggling about, but I just wasn't going to give her the opportunity to tell me.

In my devotions this morning I read, "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness" (Isaiah 41:10).

Thinking about this verse I was reminded how sickness brings a state of fear in my life. That fear tricks me into thinking I am all alone in this situation. This verse reminds me that God is with me. When I trust my problem to the Lord He is faithful and gets me through it victoriously.

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Director of Music & Choir - Jeff Cook
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1st Saturday: Adoration and Confessions at 8:30 am
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Obituaries



Terry Wilson Land

Terry Wilson Land, 81, of Crawfordville, passed away peacefully, on May 1, 2024. His loving family was by his side.

Terry was a Florida Highway Trooper for 29 years. He served his country in the U.S. Army. He was a dedicated member of Lake Ellen Baptist Church where he served as Treasurer, Sunday School Teacher and Deacon; he also served as Lay Renewal Coordinator for many years.

He enjoyed spending time with family and friends at his cabin in Blairsville, Georgia. Terry was a devoted family man who adored time with his grand-

children and great-grandchildren.

Terry leaves behind his wife of 63 years, Jeannette Land; sons Tracy Land (Tracey) and Darrel Land (Tan-ya); grandchildren, Jenna Mesa (Robert), Amanda Riveron (Jon), Heather Jenkins (Aaron), Ben Land (Kelsey), Chase Land, Tyler Land, Caleb Land, and Hannah Land; great-grandchildren Tommy, Derek, Joshua, Caleb, and Henry Mesa, Kiley and Maverick Riveron, Kate, Ezra and Grey Jenkins and Barrett Land; also his cousin April Roberts.

He was predeceased by his parents Carl and Louise Land.

Funeral Services were held Monday, May 6, 2024, at 11 a.m. at Lake Ellen Baptist Church. Family received friends one hour prior to the service.

His Final Resting Place will be at West Sopchoppy Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Lake Ellen Baptist Church, 4495 Crawfordville Hwy., Crawfordville FL 32327, 850-926-5265 and/or Big Bend Hospice, bigbendhospice.org, 850-878-5310.

Skip and Trey Young, along with Paula and Kimberly are assisting and caring for the family. 850-926-5919, Familyfhc.com.

DEATH NOTICES

• **Ronald Ray Crutchfield**, 66, of Panacea, died May 4, 2024.

• **John L. Hay Jr.**, 70, of Crawfordville, died April 30, 2024.

• **Donald Eugene Pace**, 88, of Sopchoppy, died May 6, 2024.

• **Rufus Clayborn "Clay" Parsons Jr.**, 88, of Crawfordville, died May 2, 2024.

• **Charles Seth "Chuck" Scott**, 75, of Crawfordville, died April 22, 2024.

Family Funeral Home at Harvey Young Chapel. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

tobe7encouraged faith column Seek...You will find!

Greetings Wakulla citizens! Thank you for your time! All of us I'm sure have heard the phrase "Seek and you will find," BUT!, how many of us have or does do it? This "phrase" is in **Matthew 7:7 "Ask, and it will be given to**

you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. Any one of us that has a need or desire, from desiring a closer relationship with our LORD and Savior to health, finances, or a relationship with someone God has the answer! For those of us that are His, He knows the desires of our hearts! The good, bad and the ugly! **1 Chronicles 28:9 "As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind; for the Lord searches all hearts, and understands every intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever.**

I have discovered for myself as I grow in Christ, my wants, attitude, and desires have changed! Pride was my issue!! God has changed me because I seek Him CONSTANTLY!! I must or I will fall on my face! I really don't like the person I used to be!!! As I "Seek Him," I am reading His Words, putting Them in my spirit, mind, will and emotions! As long as I spend time with Him, I am forever changed! Thank God! As I put His WORD in me, a HUGE blessing occurs! **His WORD is healing to all my flesh, Proverbs 4:22!!**

Jesus knows the world is a rough and hard place to live in! His own people are the ones that called for His Crucifixion! For Him to be killed! I'd say He knows how rough it is here on earth! This is why He says to always keep His Word in front of us! **Proverbs 4:20-21 My son, pay attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. 21 They are not to escape from your sight; Keep them in the midst of your heart.** As we "seek" Him daily, the stresses of life are still there BUT!, it is smooth sailing because He changes us, the way we think and react! We begin to lean on Him and His ways! **Proverbs 8:17 "I love those who love me; And those who diligently seek me will find me.**

All that we are begins in FAITH! How are we able to say that we are saved by His Grace and not believe in Him and His

ways? **Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those**

who seek Him. As we "seek" Him, He opens the mysteries of His WORD to us so that His Truth will live in us and through us! The only way to know this to be true is by doing it! What God will do for one of His children, He will do for all His children! **Romans 2:11 (NIV) "For God does not show favoritism.** If all of us study and press into Him, He shows no favoritism. We cannot expect Him to show Himself in our lives the same way as someone who presses into Him if we are unwilling to do the same...seek Him diligently in faith!

We hope this blesses you and causes you to seek Him daily!

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. WOOHH-HOOOO!! 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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Weekly Roundup: Abortion restrictions take hold

By **RYAN DAILEY**
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE – A new six-week restriction on abortion took effect this week, representing a seismic shift in abortion access for Floridians.

Meanwhile, Florida health-care regulators Thursday released emergency rules related to treating medical conditions that pose dangers to the lives of pregnant women or unborn children.

The law went into effect Wednesday, severely limiting abortion access to abortion for women in the state and across the Southeast.

"It's been pretty chaotic," Michelle Quesada, a spokeswoman for Planned Parenthood of South, East, and North Florida, told The News Service of Florida on Monday.

Planned Parenthood clinics were "packed" in the days leading up to the six-week limit, Quesada said. While providers rushed to see as many patients as possible before Wednesday, abortion-rights supporters also were bolstering efforts to help women travel out-of-state to obtain the procedure.

The Republican-controlled Legislature and Gov. Ron DeSantis in 2023 approved the six-week limit, building on a 2022 law that banned abortions after 15 weeks. The Florida Supreme Court recently upheld the 2022 law, also clearing the way for the six-week limit to take effect.

The limitation means that the closest place for

women in Florida to get abortions will be at least a day's travel by car.

Palm Beach County-based organization Emergency Medical Assistance, or EMA, has felt the pressure as it seeks to provide financial aid and other services to women seeking abortions. Funds are used to cover the costs of flights, hotels, transportation and meals, said Jessica Hatem, executive director of EMA.

"This is kind of a we're-all-holding-our-breath moment that we're in," Hatem said. "It's going to be a huge lift. No one should have to leave their community to obtain an abortion, but it's not as if people's needs are going to go unmet."

The 2023 law was titled the "Heartbeat Protection Act" because supporters said a fetal heartbeat can be detected at about six weeks.

Lawmakers also have provided money to centers across the state that offer services to pregnant women and try to prevent abortions.

"We are able to embrace them and help them," Grazie Christie, medical director of the Pregnancy Help Centers of the Archdiocese of Miami, told The News Service. "Many times, all they need really is support, like the spiritual, psychological, and loving support of someone who says, 'It's hard, but we are here for you, and we can help you.'"

Opponents of the six-week limit hope it will help galvanize support for a ballot proposal this November aimed at putting abortion rights in

the state Constitution.

ROLLING OUT RULES

The state Agency for Health Care Administration published two rules Thursday that apply to hospitals and abortion clinics.

Regulators focused on certain medical conditions that might occur after six weeks of pregnancy and "can present an immediate danger to the health, safety and welfare of women and unborn children in hospitals and abortion clinics," according to the rules.

Those conditions are "premature rupture of membranes," commonly known as a pregnant woman's water breaking prematurely; situations when prematurely ruptured membranes cause doctors to induce births and babies die; ectopic pregnancies; and treatment of what are known as trophoblastic tumors.

The rules involve record-keeping and reporting about the treatments. One of the rules requires hospitals to have written policies and procedures about maintaining records related to treating the conditions. It also includes directives about what must be included in policies.

As an example, both rules say that it "does not constitute an abortion" if doctors try to induce live births and babies die because of prematurely ruptured membranes. Similarly, treatment of ectopic pregnancies and trophoblastic tumors – which can form during "abnormal pregnancies" – will not be considered

abortions. The hospital rule would require doctors to document such treatments in patients' medical records.

The law's opponents have contended that the six-week limit will threaten the health of women who might have a variety of medical conditions but are unable to obtain abortions.

The rules published Thursday in the Florida Administrative Register pushed back against opponents, citing "disinformation."

"The Agency (for Health Care Administration) finds there is an immediate danger to the health, safety, and welfare of pregnant women and babies due to a deeply dishonest scare campaign and disinformation being perpetuated by the media, the Biden Administration, and advocacy groups to misrepresent the Heartbeat Protection Act (the six-week law) and the state's efforts to protect life, moms, and families," the rules said.

STORY OF THE WEEK: A law preventing abortions after six weeks of pregnancy went into effect Wednesday, as abortion providers grappled with the changes and the state published new emergency rules for hospitals and clinics.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "These laws really hurt women, especially women who have no means, but even women who have means, it affects negatively." — Daniel Noah Sacks, a Palm Beach County-based obstetrician and gynecologist.

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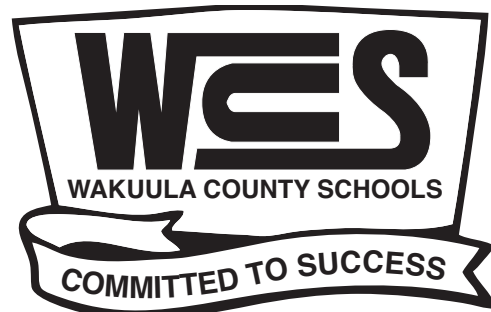
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USE THE NEWS

1. METEOR SHOWER

A meteor shower that happens every year in early May reached its peak last weekend. Meteors are pieces of comets that broke apart. When they enter the earth's atmosphere, they glow and look like they have bright, fiery tails behind them – this is because the resistance from the air as they fall creates heat. This meteor shower is made up of pieces of Halley's Comet, and it will be visible in the night sky until May 27. However, last Sunday had 10 to 30 meteors visible per hour in the Northern Hemisphere. Write a summary of this story, using 3 to 5 facts you learned, and draw a picture of a meteor or shooting star to go with it.

2. CELEBRATING THE GODDESS OF THE SEA

Thousands of people on the island of Taiwan gathered together last week to celebrate Mazu, the Goddess of the Sea. People join the noisy, colorful parade for a pilgrimage, or journey, where they carry Mazu statues through the streets. There are dance performances, fireworks, bright lights and colorful lanterns, the sound of gongs and pop songs, and the smell of incense. Shop owners and people who live along the route set up stands and offer the pilgrims food and drinks on their way. Those who carry the statue of Mazu decided what route the goddess wants to take or where she wants to stop on the way to the temple that is her final destination. The pilgrimages used to be mainly older people from rural villages, but now, more young people have taken more of an interest and joined in the celebrations. Draw pictures of what

you imagine the celebrations to honor Mazu in Taiwan look like, using details from the story to guide you.

3. ZEBRA ON THE LOOSE

Four zebras escaped a trailer into a rural neighborhood in Washington while they were being driven to Montana. Three were quickly found, but one is still on the loose in the state. Officials closed local trails at a nature area to keep people away and hopefully make it easier to capture her. The

owner runs a petting zoo in Montana and had bought the zebras in Washington to bring them to the zoo. Several people stopped to help gather them when they escaped, including horse trainers and a rodeo clown. Write a story or draw a comic strip from the perspective of the escaped zebra, using facts from the summary in your story.

4. ANIMAL DOCTOR

An orangutan named Rakus surprised scientists

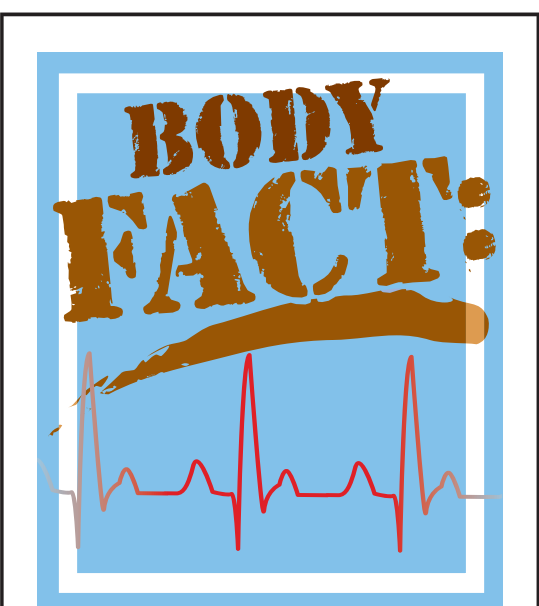
who were studying him in the wild. He had an injury on his cheek and he used a plant to treat it. The plant is used by people to treat pain and swelling. Rakus the orangutan chewed up the plant, used his fingers to put some of the juices onto his injury, and then covered the wound with the piece of the plant like a bandage. Scientists found that a month later, Rakus' wound was fully healed. Because Rakus put the plant on his injury and no where else on his body, scientists think he may have understood that the plant would help it

heal. People have seen other types of primates, like chimpanzees and apes, use plants as medicine, too. Are you surprised that other animals know how to use plants as medicine? Why or why not? Write down your reaction to this story and share with your classmates, listening to how their perspectives are different from or similar to yours.

5. STAR WARS DAY

Last Saturday, May 4th, was Star Wars Day, a play on the famous phrase from the movies, "may the force (or,

May the fourth) be with you." The informal holiday is celebrated by Star Wars fans as a day to watch the movies and some companies announce new Star Wars-related products or projects. Streaming service Disney+ used the day to share a new trailer for Star Wars: The Acolyte, a new TV show in the franchise. If you could create a holiday based on your favorite book, show, movie, or video game, what day would it be? What would you do to celebrate? Write a paragraph about your ideas for your new holiday.



THIS CURVED PART OF THE EYE BENDS LIGHT AND FOCUSES IT ON THE RETINA TO HELP A PERSON SEE CLEARLY.

ANSWER: LENS

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Tear

SPANISH: Lágrima

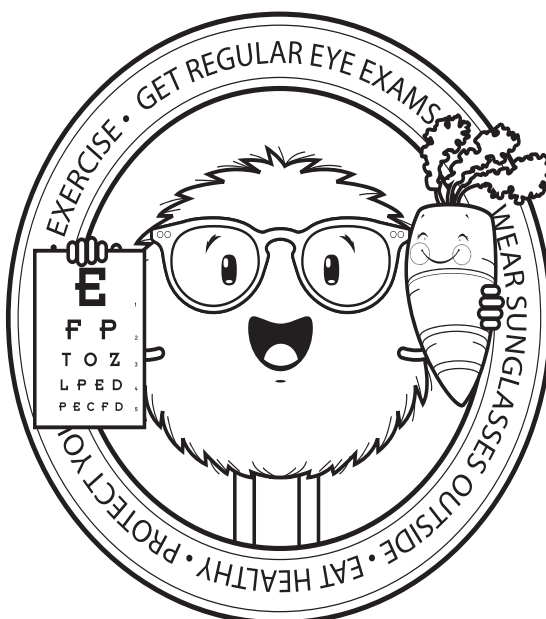
ITALIAN: Lacrima

FRENCH: Larme

GERMAN: Träne

Creative Coloring

Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



Double Word Puzzle

Unscramble the words to reveal the sentence.

EEY [] [] []
5 4 2

SOIINV [] [] [] [] []
8 6

EAXM [] [] [] []
3

NAOTCTCS [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
1 9 7

[] H [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 3 2 8 9

Answers: Eye, Vision, Exam, Contacts. The eyes see it.

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1774: MARIE ANTOINETTE AND LOUIS XVI BECOME THE QUEEN AND KING OF FRANCE.
- 1824: THE NATIONAL GALLERY IN LONDON OPENS TO THE PUBLIC.
- 1962: MARVEL COMICS PUBLISHES THE FIRST ISSUE OF "THE INCREDIBLE HULK."



HYPEROPIA

farsightedness, or an inability to see things clearly, especially if they are close to the eyes



20/20 VISION REFERS TO AN ABILITY TO SEE OBJECTS CLEARLY AT A DISTANCE MEASURED AT 20 FEET.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: CONTACT LENS CONTAINER

TASTY SALAD WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

BAR
 BEETS
 BUTTER
 CAESAR
 CELERY
 CHEESE
 CROUTONS
 CRUNCHY
 DIET
 DRESSING
 GARNISH
 GREENS
 ICEBERG
 OLIVES
 ONIONS
 RADISHES
 REFRESHING
 ROMAINE
 SALAD
 SPINACH
 TOMATOES
 TOPPING
 TOSSED

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

CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. It wakes you up
6. A place to sleep
9. Czech village
13. Appetizer
14. African country
15. Dark brown or black
16. Parent-teacher groups
17. Saturates
18. ESPN personality
- Kimes
19. Songs to a lover
21. Cavalry-sword
22. Begat
23. Patriotic women
24. Famed Princess
25. One who does not conform
28. Neither
29. Nigerian monetary unit
31. Body parts
33. Hit Dave Matthews
- Band song
36. Depicts with pencil
38. Make into leather without tannin
39. Plants grow from them
41. Alias
44. Fingers do it
45. More dried-up
46. Clod
48. Senior officer

49. A way to listen to music

51. The bill in a restaurant
52. Historic center of Artois region
54. Cyprinid fishes
56. Poisonous perennial plant
60. Scottish Loch
61. Heads
62. Extra seed-covering
63. Wings
64. Britpop band
65. Forearm bones
66. Small immature herring
67. Female sibling
68. Hymn

CLUES DOWN

1. Vipera
2. Not on time
3. Resembling a wing or wings
4. Tears down
5. Professional designation
6. Noise a sheep made
7. Type of lodge
8. Speak poorly of
9. Ties the knot again
10. Apron
11. Studied intensively
12. City in Finland

14. One who monitors
17. 18-year astronomical period
20. Trent Reznor's band
21. Takes to the sea
23. Split pulses
25. Valentine's Day color
26. Wyatt ___
27. Type of rail
29. One from the Big Apple
30. Asteroids
32. Made more sugary
34. Change in skin pigment
35. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
37. Koran chapters
40. A place to relax
42. Young woman ready for society life
43. Female horses
47. Half of Milli Vanilli
49. Icelandic poems
50. Indiana town
52. Golden peas
53. Closes tightly
55. It's mined in mountains
56. Cliff (Hawaii)
57. Ribosomal nucleic acid
58. Monetary unit
59. Primordial matter
61. TV station
65. Rise

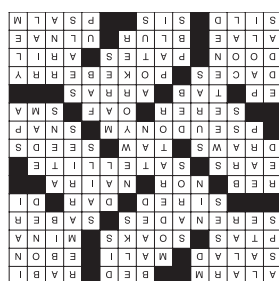
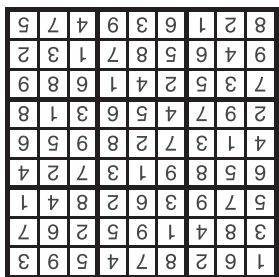
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14					15		
16					17						18		
19				20						21			
			22						23				24
25	26	27		28					29			30	
31			32		33		34						35
36				37		38				39			40
	41				42				43		44		
		45							46		47		48
49	50		51				52				53		
54		55				56					57	58	59
60					61						62		
63	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

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to salad.

T N R O C U O

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



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

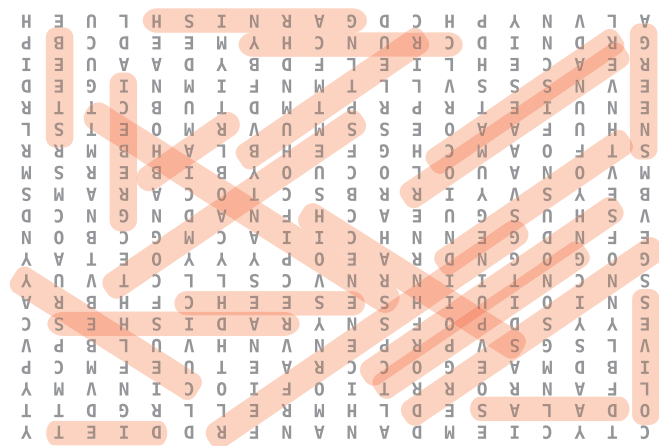
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Guess Who?

I am a comic actor born on May 10, 1978 in Ohio. I started acting at age 15 while attending a visual and performing arts school. I'm best known for many roles on Nickelodeon and later for my comic work on "Saturday Night Live."

Answer: Kenan Thompson

Answer: Crouton



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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF BILLY C. HUDSON, SR., DECEDENT

CASE NO. 2024-CP-000047

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of BILLY C. HUDSON, SR., deceased, whose date of death was December 15, 2023, is pending in the Circuit Court for Wakulla County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 3056 Crawfordville Hwy., Crawfordville, FL 32327. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is May 9, 2024.

Attorney for Personal Representative:	Personal Representative:
/s/ Michael A. Paasch	/s/ Lisa Hudson Ferguson
Michael A. Paasch	Lisa Hudson Ferguson
Attorney for Petitioner	2700 Braselton Hwy.
Florida Bar Number: 852805	Suite 10-218
DINSMORE & SHOHL LLP	Dacula, GA 30019
225 E. Robinson St., Suite 600	
Orlando, FL 32801	
Telephone: (407) 425-9044	
Fax: (407) 423-2016	
E-Mail: michael.paasch@dinsmore.com	
Secondary: nancy.darville@dinsmore.com	

May 9, 16, 2024

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Sports

BASEBALL

War Eagles beat Taylor but fall to Baker in district



By **KEITH ANDERSON**
Baseball Coach

The Wakulla High Varsity War Eagles baseball team entered the district tournament week with a 19-4-1 record and the No. 1 seed in the tourney.

On Tuesday, April 30 the War Eagles hosted Taylor County in the semi final matchup. Taylor County threw a tough lefty that limited Wakulla to two hits, but the War Eagles manufactured 4 runs to complete the shut-out 4-0 and moved to the district championship against Baker County on Thursday, May 2.

Gavin Estep was dominant in his performance against Tay-

lor throwing 6 and a third innings only giving up 1 hit and striking out 6. Lefty Will Chipman came in for the final two outs of the game after Estep had exhausted his pitch count in the 7th sitting down the last two hitters with a fly out and a ground out to end the game. Gavin Gautreau was 1-2 with an RBI single. Owen Klees was 1-2 and scored two runs. Haden Klees and Jed Hoffman also

got on base and each scored a run.

On Thursday May 2, the War Eagles hosted the Baker County Wildcats for the 4A District 2 Championship. The War Eagles fought to the end, but could not catch Baker County losing 9-5. The War Eagles out hit Baker County pounding out 10 hits, but it was not enough in the comeback effort. The War Eagles tied the game in the 2nd inning, but could not

ever gain the lead. The big damage came in the top of the 6th with some defensive miscues that led to a 4 run inning for Baker. The War Eagles fought back loading the bases in the sixth scoring three runs and then having men on in the 7th, but could not push them across. Haden Klees led the offense with 2 hits and 2 RBI's, Garrett Veltkamp had 2 RBI's and a double. Sam Bruce and Gavin Gautreau

also had two hits a piece. Parker Lawhon, Michael Hurley, and Brady Crum all added singles. Leaston Spears took the loss throwing 4 innings while competing hard. Jesse Nazworth and Will Chipman also threw in relief.

The War Eagles will be in first round of the playoffs with a record of 20-5-1 and will play on Wednesday, May 8th. Time, place, and opponent are yet to be determined.

Star Wars Day at the library for May the Fourth

By **LINDA ANN McDONALD**
Correspondent

Wakulla County Public Library hosted a Star Wars themed event for May the Fourth Be With You on Saturday.

With costumes encouraged, children and adults of all ages participated in activities such as Chewbacca Puppet Crafts, Storm Trooper Target Practice, Kessel Run, Mind Games and a meet and greet with Star Wars character Boba Fett.

Library Director Linda Oaks said, "This is

a great turn out and its great to see the community having fun and getting acquainted with the great services their library has to offer."

A Kessel Run was available for runners to test their speed on foot. Will Bartnik, Library Assistant manned the station.

"This is the only opportunity ever for kids to run in the library," said Bartnik.

The Storm Trooper Target Practice was a great opportunity to throw bean bags and hit a distanced target to

break apart into pieces. Marquetta Cowley and Linda Oaks headed the target practice event.

Guests to the event earned tokens after each station to be used to pay Star Wars character Boba Fett ransom to free famous prisoner Jedi Droid R2D2 after a meet and greet with Boba Fett who is known for his customized Mandalorian armor, deadly weaponry and silent demeanor.

Lauren Latham and Lisa Herron fed the hungry Jedi trainees with Jedi Snacks afterwards.



Kaitlyn Grace Dekle pays Boba Fett tokens to get R2D2 out of prison.

Sheriff's Report

This report is for activities April 26-May 2:

FRIDAY, APRIL 26

- Deputy Kory Smith responded to the Circle K on Bloxham Cutoff in reference to a gas drive-off. Upon arrival deputies made contact with a store employee who stated a white male driving a gray Ford pulling a boat pumped \$200 worth of gas and drove away without paying. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

- Sidsel Marianne Mcomie reported her purse missing. After investigation, she last saw her purse while she was pumping gas at Circle K at 319 and Songbird. Deputies responded to Circle K to watch surveillance video in efforts to figure out what may have happened to the purse. Deputies were able to observe two female suspects come from inside the store and the passenger is seen looking into Sidsel's vehicle. The passenger then alerts the driver of her intentions and proceeds to enter Sidsel's vehicle and remove her purse while she was pumping gas. Sidsel advised her purse contained several personal identifications and \$1,100 in cash. The security footage was submitted as evidence in this case. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Norman DeGuzman investigated.

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

- Deputy John Dill responded to H.H Strickland Road in reference to some missing firearms. Upon arrival Deputy Dill made contact with Harold (Hoppy) Strickland, who

said he was missing one shotgun, and two rifles. Strickland advised the guns originally belonged to his father and is not sure if another family member might have taken them. Strickland could not determine when the guns went missing. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

- David Defibaugh reported while shopping at the Dollar General Store, a female suspect approached him and advised that someone had been attempting to damage a vehicle of his. After hearing this statement, Defibaugh went to his storage unit where he keeps his truck stored. Upon his arrival, he was unsure of what was missing but he discovered someone had attempted to remove the axle from the truck. He was able to name a possible suspect in this case. Defibaugh estimated the cost to repair the damaged axle to be \$1,000. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Ernesto Trujillo investigated.

MONDAY, APRIL 29

- Walmart Asset Protection reported two individuals paying with counterfeit bills. The bills were collected and turned in for evidence. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

- Deanne Pope reported retail theft from Rocky's. Pope stated she wished to file charges and signed an affidavit for prosecution. Pope advised four female suspects left the store without paying for

several items. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Payden Surrette investigated.

- Deputy Heather Will responded to Old Woodville Highway and made contact with Gwendolyn Chapman, who discovered someone had withdrawn all the funds from her and her son's joint bank account. The son denied withdrawing the funds nor did he authorize any transactions. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

TUESDAY, APRIL 30

- Kelly Owen reported a package being delivered

to the wrong address. Owen stated her package was wrongly delivered to an address on W.F. Magers Road instead of her address. Owen spoke with the homeowner who denied having the package. Owen was able to verify through the postal service the address the package was delivered to. Owen signed an affidavit for prosecution. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Payden Surrette investigated.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

- Lt. David Pienta responded to Revadee Spears Road and made contact with Shelby Wil-

liams, who stated she arrived home and observed pry marks on the inner edge of an entry door to her residence. Williams stated no one entered her residence, but wished to report the incident.

THURSDAY, MAY 2

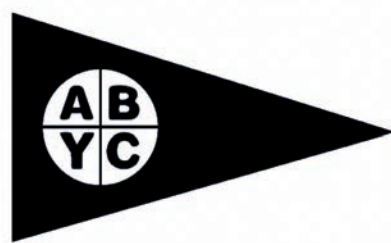
- While conducting a business check in the area of Publix, deputies noticed a female drive past the patrol vehicle not wearing a seatbelt. Upon turning around to make contact, the female pulled into the Patients First Clinic parking lot, exited the vehicle quickly and walked into Patients First. Patients First Staff later advised the driver

just walked in and asked for an ink pen. Deputies were able to make contact with the driver and identified her as Heather Marie Grant. After explaining the reason for the contact, deputies were able to determine Grant's driver license was suspended and the tag attached to the 2000 Mercury Cougar was not the proper tag. Grant was subsequently arrested and transported to the Wakulla County Jail without incident. Deputy Dustin Matthews investigated.

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

SUMMER CAMPS

Listings for Summer Camps will appear in the May 16 issue.



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WEEK 3 - JULY 8TH-12TH

8:30am - 4:30pm

Ages 6 -11

Non - members - \$220

Members - \$200

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New Miss Wakulla is crowned

Special to The Sun

Congratulations to our new 2024 Miss Wakulla County Queens!

On Saturday, April 27th, at the Wakulla High School Auditorium, Georgia Gumphrey was crowned the 2024 Miss Wakulla County.

Georgia is the daughter of Jennifer Swain and Edward Gumphrey. The contestants competed in the areas of scholastic and community achievement, short essay, personal interview, personal introduction, on-stage question, evening gown and an on-stage finalist question. Georgia also won Best Interview & Miss Congeniality. Along with being crowned Miss Wakulla County, Georgia has won a \$1,500 scholarship.

First Runner Up was Kathryn Taff, second

Runner Up was Emma Dykes. Vanessa Foreman won the Scholastic & Community Achievement Award.

2024 Junior Miss Wakulla is Chloe Thomas. She is the daughter of Jacob and Melissa Thomas.

Katie Lynn Wright won Miss Congeniality.

Anna High was crowned Young Miss Wakulla. She is the daughter of Jamie & Haley High.

Bay Sanders was crowned Little Miss Wakulla. Bay is the daughter of Jon and Krissy Sanchez and Garrett Sanders.

First Runner Up was McKinley Perry. Second Runner Up was Kinlee Mardis.

Paisley Thomas was crowned Tiny Miss Wakulla. She is the daughter of Jason and



Miss Wakulla Georgia Gumphrey, center, with Junior Miss Wakulla Chloe Thomas, Little Miss Wakulla Bay Sanders, Tiny Miss Wakulla Paisley Thomas and Young Miss Wakulla Anna High.

Chelsea Thomas. First Runner Up was Addison Morgan. Second Runner Up was June Wright.

Our new category People's Choice was voted on by attendees during the pageant by purchasing votes. Winners in this category were Miss Division Whitlee Harvey. Jr. Miss Division Katie Lynn Wright. Tiny, Little and Young Divisions Combined Winner is Alyrah Grace Nazworth.

With the installment of this new category, the committee was able to increase the amount of the scholarship awarded to Miss Wakulla from \$1,000 to \$1,500 and award \$250 to the Miss Division First Runner Up and \$150 to the Miss Division Second Runner Up.

Thank you to all our sponsors this year: Wakulla High Schools Theatre Troupe 5036, Bluewater Realty Group, Posey's Seafood Restaurant & Catering, Pin-

ey Palms, Rick Myhre for Superintendent of Wakulla County Schools, Camden Smit for School Board District 4, Laura Lawhon School Board Member District 5, Angie Nichols for School Board District 2, Jared Miller for Wakulla County Sheriff, June Davis for School Board District 2, Nicole Singleton - Independent Travel Planner & Advisor for Port Key Vacations, Hicks Heating and Air and DJ Butch. Special Thank You to our emcees Molly Jones-BoWell and Commissioner Quincee Messersmith and this year's judges.

If you would like to have Miss Wakulla County attend your event, please contact us at misswakullacounty@gmail.com, Sara Clark at 850-510-4897 or Susan Jones at 850-566-7584.

Night of Joy special needs prom is held

Story & Photos By LINDA ANN McDONALD

JOY-Filled Journeys hosted its Night of JOY Prom! on Saturday, May 4, at Wakulla Springs Lodge.

JOY-Filled Journeys is a non-profit giving to those with special needs in Wakulla County. The Night of JOY! Is an event to fill your night with joy and music.

JOY-filled Journeys founder Mary Wallace strives to ensure individuals are comfortable and safe to be themselves at her events.

"Every event keeps getting better, there are so many new faces and I still have ideas and plans to grow bigger!" says Wallace.

Wallace's daughter Sara, who has special needs herself, is credited with the new ideas of each event and is titled, "Executive Creative Director" of the corporation.

"This year we are honored again to participate with JOY-Filled Journeys and give back to our community," said Jesse Askew, of Wakulla Springs Lodge. "It is special to provide a beautiful venue as the Lodge of Wakulla Springs to the guests, they get the beautiful space to enjoy that they deserve."

Latisha Monroe, a special needs guest wearing a beautiful mint green dress said, "It feels good to be in my dress, it makes me feel pretty and I like the music and I get to dance with my dad."

To accessorize the guests' attire, Rockulla Music Emporium provided flowered corsages and boutonnieres for the guests as well as the DJ services pumping out the tunes for everyone to dance to.

To add to the fun, prizes were given away including a TV, Sounds Beats over the ear head-



Above: Anthony Roberts, Sheriff Jared Miller, Cullen Gallagher and April Alva; at right, Lastisha Monroe and sister Rachel Monroe.

phones, an electric scooter, mini polaroid camera, overnight stays at Wakulla Lodge, Wild Adventures tickets, Infiniti Con tickets, gift cards, and more.

Sisters Megan Martina and Marissa Isman

attended the event and said, "It's great for all of the kids to get together, dance, get their picture taken and just have fun."

Sheriff Jared Miller and the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office was present as well as the Florida Department of Health, Wakulla County Commissioner Quincee Messersmith, and Clerk of Courts Greg James. School Resource Officers were on the dance floor having a good time at the event too; it was special to the kids to interact with the familiar everyday faces of the officers.

"I am in love with my county and that Wakulla County loves the kids," Wallace said. "I want to thank each and every one who helped."

To contact Mary Wallace and JOY-Filled Journeys, call (850) 228-5667, visit their Facebook Page at JOY-Filled Journeys.



FLORIDA WILD MAMMAL ASSOCIATION

Presents

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2024

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10am-2pm

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Kids Activities

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REMINDER

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We send you informational documents such as the annual Notice of Proposed Property Taxes, also known as the TRIM (Truth in Millage), Homestead renewal notifications, and AG Classification notices. In addition, the Tax Collector also uses your address from our system to mail your tax bill.

Ed Brimner, CFA
Wakulla County
Property Appraiser

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