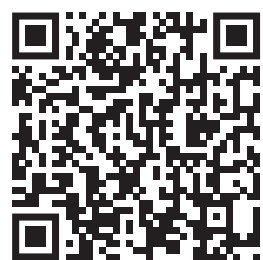


Enter your ballot online at
TheWakullaSun.com
to Participate in Choosing
Wakulla County's
FAVORITE Local Businesses!



**The People's
Choice 2024** Readers' Choice
Awards

The Wakulla
SUN



Cross Country excellence
See Page 13

The Wakulla
SUN

WAKULLA WeatherSTEM

Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Scattered Thunderstorms Hi: 90° Lo: 76° 55% Sunrise 6:38 AM Sunset 8:42 PM	Scattered Thunderstorms Hi: 91° Lo: 76° 53% Sunrise 6:38 AM Sunset 8:42 PM	PM Thunderstorms Hi: 91° Lo: 76° 49% Sunrise 6:39 AM Sunset 8:42 PM



\$1
One Section

"It's a New Day"

Locally Owned
& Operated

Our 3rd Year 26th Issue
Thursday, June 27, 2024

Stained glass for school

Riversink's library now has a stained glass picture of an otter, the school mascot, floating on his back reading a book

Story & Photos By
LEGION TAYLOR
Reporter

A stained glass window made by local artists Lou and Margy Callaghan was recently installed in the library at Riversink Elementary School.

Margy Callaghan is a retired teacher who worked at Riversink for nine years, starting when the school opened in 2008, and has been making stained glass art alongside her husband Lou for 45 years.

As part of a fundraiser for the school, she had made and donated a small stained glass window, which had been won by the school's principal at the time, Jackie High. Until Mrs. High retired, that window was displayed in the library.

When Mrs. High retired, she took the window home with her, which sparked plans between Callaghan and Riversink Librarian Katie Hart to get a full sized stained glass window installed.

"Ever since then I wanted something else back up there," Hart says. "I wanted something like that, the whole window."

"She bugged me for 10 years to do this window," says Margy Callaghan. "Finally, we were done with all of our projects, and I said 'I think it's time that we get that window done.'"

They eventually landed on the final design, which features an otter, the school's mascot, reading a book to encourage students to read.

It also incorporates cattails, which commonly grow along bodies of water



Katie Hart, Margy Callaghan, and Lou Callaghan, in front of the newly installed window at the Riversink Elementary School library.

and are growing out in front of the school. The window was made by the Callaghans in about two weeks, and was installed last week.

The stained glass window is made by cutting pieces of colored glass out of a larger sheet, and then fitting them into a cohesive design and

sealing the panels together with lead.

"It's the traditional leaded stained glass process," says Lou Callaghan. "Which goes back a thousand years, two thousand years, actually. Every piece is individual."

Before moving to Wakulla, the Callaghans lived in Tallahassee and St. Augustine, where they did private

work, as well as pieces for storefronts, restaurants, and churches.

"We have windows really all over the world," Margy Callaghan says. "We had a stained glass studio for 22 years in St. Augustine, and then we decided to get real jobs and I started teaching and he started building."

CANDIDATE ANNOUNCEMENT

Matt Payne runs for superintendent

Wakulla native, teacher at Wakulla High School, seeks change

By **MATT PAYNE**
Candidate

I am Matt Payne, candidate for Superintendent of Wakulla County Schools. As a Wakulla native and graduate, our school system holds a special place in my heart. I grew up roaming the hallowed halls of our schools and district office. Now as a teacher, I see areas of potential improvement for our school system. I was raised that you have two options when you see the opportunity for change. Option 1: Do nothing and accept the status quo. Option 2: Fight for and be the change you seek.

My educational journey began at Shadeville & Crawfordville Elementary Schools, followed by Wakulla Middle and Wakulla High, where I graduated in 2016. Pursuing higher education, I attended Florida State University, earning my bachelor's degree in Political



Matt Payne is running for Superintendent of Schools.

Science with a minor in Hospitality & Management in 2020, and later completing my Master of Public Administration in 2022.

Since 2021, I've had the privilege of teaching at my alma mater, Wakulla High.

Education runs deep in my family - my

grandmother, affectionately known as Meme or Mrs. Crum, dedicated 41 years to the school system, serving as a teacher at Shadeville Elementary for 22 years and 13 years as the Assistant Principal, before returning post-retirement to be a school bus driver for 6 years.

The Wakulla Sun offers candidates the opportunity to announce their candidacy, and tell voters the issues that are important to them.

Her husband, affectionately known as Paw, contributed many years in the maintenance department, even volunteering his time after retirement to work on lawn mowers, build playground equipment, and assist with a multitude of other school initiatives. I was his shadow, spending my formative years learning invaluable lessons by his side and spending many summer days helping improve our schools.

Additionally, my mom played a vital role in supporting education, working various jobs at the district office and COAST Charter school while I was growing up. When I say I grew up at the

Turn to Page 9

Report of deceased person in parking lot

Staff Report

Wakulla County Sheriff's deputies were at the Winn-Dixie parking lot on Wednesday around 4 p.m. investigating a death.

According to the sheriff's office, there was a report of a possibly deceased person in a car in the grocery store parking lot.

"Deputies have confirmed the individual is deceased," the sheriff's office reported. "Nothing at this point to indicate any sort of crime or public interest other than it occurred in the parking lot."

Because it's an active investigation, the sheriff's office could not comment further.



Deputies on scene investigating a report of a deceased person found in a car on Wednesday.

We Are Open...
 One Healing Hand LLC
 3295 Crawfordville Hwy.
 Suite 2
 Crawfordville, FL 32327

Accepting New Patients!
 850-745-8886
 30 years Exp. • 14 years in TM

Jorie Simmons
 ARNP



AIR-CON Of Wakulla
 Heating & Air

Serving Wakulla & Franklin Counties
 850-926-5592
 Sales & Service
 All Makes & Models

Carrier

Turn to the Experts



3232 Crawfordville Hwy., Crawfordville
 Owned & Operated by Gary Limbaugh Lic. # CAC1814304



View from the porch

Local photographer Neil Hostnick sent us this photo of a swallowtail butterfly feeding on a flower in his yard with a

note that it's the view from his porch. That's one way to stay out of the heat. (Photo by Neil Hostnick)

San Marcos Mexican Grill & Cantina

Lunch Specials Monday – Friday 11:00 – 3:00

850-962-8079
 INDOOR & PATIO SEATING
 DINE IN OR CARRY OUT

DOORDASH

We don't want ALL the Business – but we want YOUR Business

2000 Crawfordville Hwy.
 Across from Wal Mart
 Sun. – Thurs. 11-9
 Fri. and Sat. 11-10

Toasttab.com/SanMarcosCrawfordville

**Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park
 Butterflyweed**

By LYNN ARTZ, DAVID RODDENBERRY, and SANDY TEDDER



Butterflyweed (*Asclepias tuberosus*) displays bright orange to reddish flowers atop 1-2' tall, upright to reclining stems. This upland perennial thrives in full sun and dry sandy soil. Its nectar attracts butterflies and bees. However, most visitors cannot access its pollen. Large bees and wasps are the main pollinators. Also called orange milkweed, this native feeds the caterpillars of monarch, queen, and gray hairstreak butterflies and milkweed tussock moths. Its low glycoside content offers little protection from bird predation, however, so egg-laying monarchs prefer other milkweeds. If you find aphids, ants, spiders, and such on milkweeds, let them be. Monarch caterpillar survival is higher on milkweeds with many bugs. To address widespread OE infection in overwintering monarchs, remove and never plant tropical milkweed. Butterflyweed is blooming now in the north gardens at Sopchoppy Depot Park.

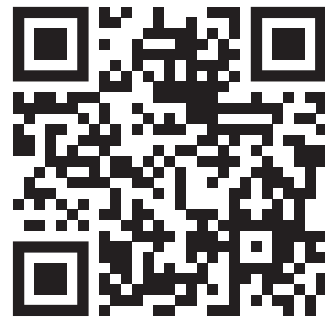
BLACKFOOT ROOFING & CONSTRUCTION

3152 Crawfordville Highway
 Crawfordville, FL 32327

(850) 251-9792
 www.blackfootroofing.com

SELECT ShingleMaster
 Veteran Owned Business
 VOB VERIFIED
 AtlasPRO+ SILVER LEVEL

CCC1332583



SCAN ME for an electronic edition of



HOUSE SAVERS LLC
 WE CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE AND YOUR CREDIT WITH ONE CALL

WE BUY HOUSES

850-792-5963




Wakulla County Tax Collectors Office

SPECIALTY TAGS
 \$15 - \$30 additional to cost of tag.

Lisa Craze, CFC
 Wakulla County Tax Collector

Established in 2008.

The primary funding source for Surfing's Evolution & Preservation Foundation is the Florida "Endless Summer" specialty license plate. The plate is one way to show support for the sport of surfing, as well as keeping Florida's beaches healthy and clean. So far, \$10,674,302.20 has been raised from sales of the Endless summer specialty license plate in Florida. The Foundation also supports Special Olympics Florida with its board sports programs, and a number of beach cleanup organizations, including local affiliates of Keep America Beautiful, which allows participation in annual events such as Earth Day and the International Coastal Cleanup.



Don't Walk Away & Ruin Your Credit!
 Let us help you solve your house burden.

Are you a homeowner in distress?
 Behind on your mortgage?
 Need to relocate quickly?
 Down Sizing?
 Job Transfer?
 Divorcing?
 Job Loss?

We can save your life and your credit with one phone call.
 We specialize in helping you solve your housing problem quickly.

Call 850-792-5963
 www.NorthFloridaHouseSavers.com



Wakulla County Administrator David Edwards addresses citizens about county infrastructure improvements at the community center on June 11.

Meeting on infrastructure held

Story & Photo By
LINDA ANN McDONALD
Correspondent

Wakulla County Administration recently hosted an infrastructure meeting to inform and educate the Wakulla community on infrastructure investments in relation to the grant funding and utilization of tax dollars to afford and sustain future upgrades to the county.

The meeting was held at the community center on June 11.

There is a \$303,978,804 total 5-year infrastructure investment through county departments such as Road and Bridge, Public Safety, Recreation Services, Facilities, Solid Waste, Emergency Communications, sep-

tic-to-sewer Wastewater Management and phases and the upcoming Wakulla Sands Golf course.

Wakulla County can look forward to road and bridge repairs, resurfacing, and replacements, improved sidewalks and 55 miles of improved trails, Fire Rescue staff and facility growth and ambulance availability. Improvements to recreation parks and irrigation systems, the support of Community Center Programs such as the growing popularity of pickleball, tai chi, Zumba were shared with the participants of the meeting.

Parks and Facilities Management shared the monetary breakdowns of beach, park and boat ramp and channel, and

facility investments. A total of \$4, 617,471.80 for the past 5 years have been allocated.

Future projects include Community Center Expansion and Ochlockonee Bay/Bald Point Navigational Markers. A new Emergency Operations Center and Public Safety Radio System as well as a new Wakulla County Public Library facility and Panacea Evacuation are on the horizon.

Grant funding roll out for septic-to-sewer and project phases and wastewater infrastructure funding and the highly anticipated Wakulla Sands Golf Course were discussed.

County Administrator David Edwards said, "The fiscal years 2019-2024 paved a way for

us to purchase 5-, 10-, and 15-year projects on the horizon that has allowed us to chase grant money to bring it all back to you, the citizens of Wakulla County. The money is not going to be saved, we are putting the grant dollars to work for the benefit of Wakulla County.

"If we don't use it, the money will be used elsewhere," Edwards said. He gave a shout out to his staff for the long hard hours put in to make all these improvements possible.

"We have a healthy steady growth rate of 1.9 -2.2% averaging 500 homes a year, we are going to see a downturn of development all over the county because we are running out of area to develop," Edwards said.

PUBLIC NOTICES:

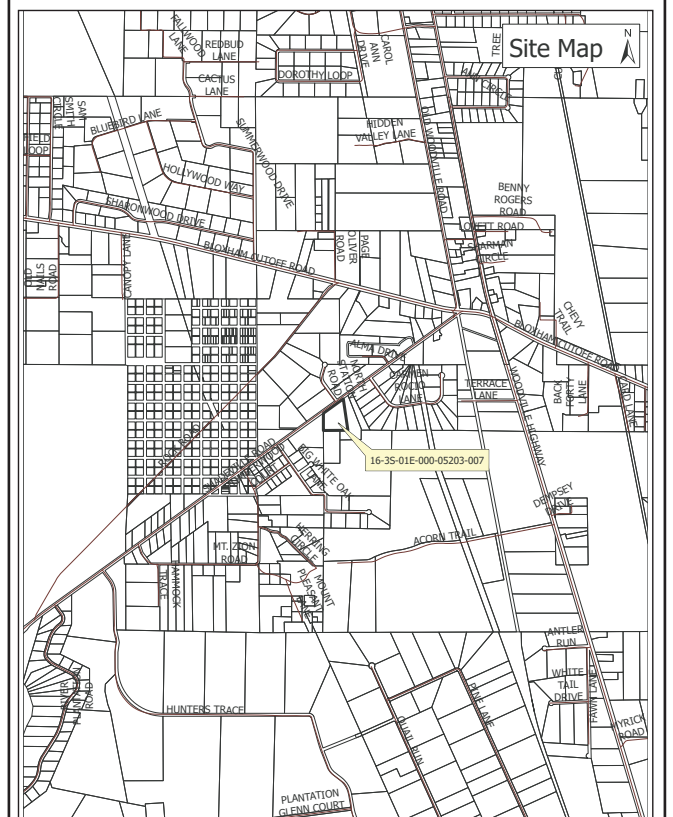
For our readers' convenience, The Wakulla Sun provides this Public Notice Section for all Public Notices not published in the Legal Notice section of the newspaper.



More Public Notices appear on Page 10

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS CONCERNING AN APPLICATION FOR CHANGE OF ZONING

The Wakulla County Planning Commission and Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners proposes to consider the following application and/or adopt the following by ordinance and has scheduled Public Hearings before the **Wakulla County Planning Commission on Monday, July 8, 2024, beginning at 6:00 P.M.** and before the **Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners on Monday, July 15, 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 AMENDING THE WAKULLA COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, ORDINANCE NO. 85-4, AS AMENDED; CHANGING THE ZONING DISTRICT CLASSIFICATION AND OFFICIAL ZONING ATLAS FROM AG TO RR-2 FOR PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A" TO THE ORDINANCE; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, IN CONFLICT HERewith; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

1. Application for Change of Zoning: R24-09

Applicant: Allison K. Causseaux
 Proposal: rezone from agricultural to rural residential
 Tax ID Numbers: 16-35-01E-000-05203-007
 Existing FLU Map: Rural 2 (FLUE Policy 1.2.5)
 Current Zoning: AG (Section 5-25, LDC)
 Proposed Zoning: RR-2 (Section 5-34, LDC)
 FEMA Flood Info: "0.2PCT" zone on Panel 0275E
 Parcel size: 5.11+/- acres
 Location: 2931 Shadeville Road, west of Carmen Rocio Subdivision

Hearings Required: Planning Commission: Monday, July 8, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

BOCC: Monday, July 15, 2024 @ 5:00 PM

If an individual wishes to submit documents or other materials related to a matter before the Planning Commission for consideration by the Planning Commission 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 Commission Members. If an individual wishes to bring documents or other materials for consideration by the Planning Commission 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 twelve (12) copies of each such document to the meeting.

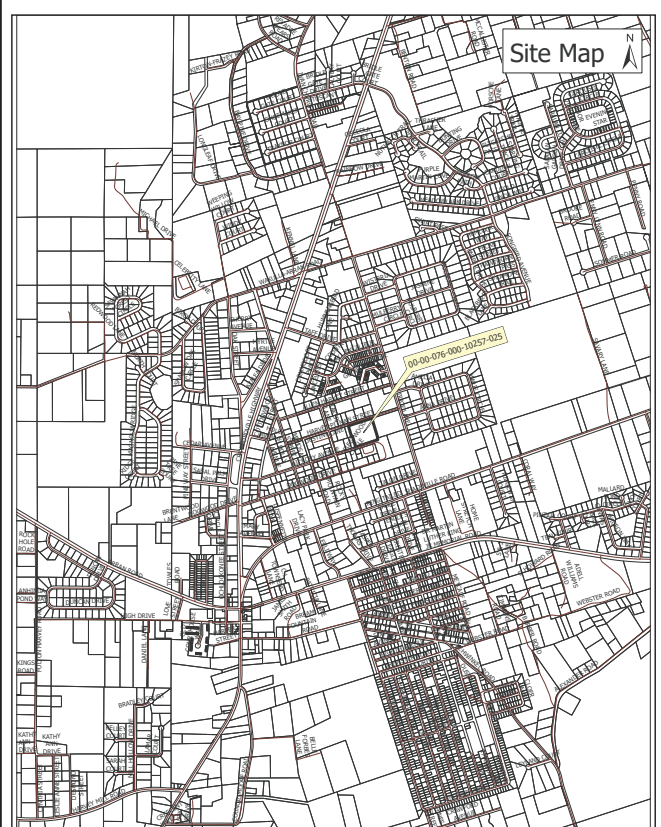
Copies of applications, draft ordinances, and any related public record files may be viewed at the County Planning Department located at 11 Bream Fountain Road, Crawfordville, FL 32327, 8 AM to 4:30 PM M/F; Phone (850) 926-3695. Any person desiring to appeal a decision of a County Board must ensure a 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 ADARquest@mywakulla.com.

June 27, 2024

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS CONCERNING A SMALL-SCALE MAP AMENDMENT TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FUTURE LAND USE MAP AND AN APPLICATION FOR CHANGE OF ZONING

The Wakulla County Planning Commission and Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners proposes to consider the following applications and/or adopt the following by ordinance and has scheduled Public Hearings before the **Wakulla County Planning Commission on Monday, July 8, 2024, beginning at 6:00 P.M.** and before the **Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners on Monday, July 15, 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



Proposed Zoning: HDR (Section 5-69, LDC)
 FEMA Flood Info: "X" zone on Panel 0250E
 Parcel size: 4.73+/- acres
 Location: 164 Hickory Avenue, between Raker Lane and Trice Lane

Hearings Required: Planning Commission: Monday, July 8, 2024 @ 6:00 PM
BOCC: Monday, July 15, 2024 @ 5:00 PM

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE WAKULLA COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, ORDINANCE NO. 85-4, AS AMENDED; CHANGING THE ZONING DISTRICT CLASSIFICATION AND OFFICIAL ZONING ATLAS FROM I-1 TO HDR FOR PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A" TO THE ORDINANCE; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, IN CONFLICT HERewith; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

2. Application for Change of Zoning: R24-08

Applicant: Golden Properties & Investments, LLC
 Agent: Edwin Brown & Associates, Inc./Wade Brown
 Proposal: rezone from light industrial to high density residential
 Tax ID Number: 00-00-076-000-10257-025
 Existing FLU Map: Urban Fringe (FLUE Policy 1.2.7)
 Proposed FLU Map: Urban Core (FLUE Policy 1.2.9)
 Current Zoning: I-1 (Section 5-41, LDC)
 Proposed Zoning: HDR (Section 5-69, LDC)
 FEMA Flood Info: "X" zone on Panel 0250E
 Parcel size: 4.73+/- acres
 Location: 164 Hickory Avenue, between Raker Lane and Trice Lane

Hearings Required: Planning Commission: Monday, July 8, 2024 @ 6:00 PM
BOCC: Monday, July 15, 2024 @ 5:00 PM

If an individual wishes to submit documents or other materials related to a matter before the Planning Commission for consideration by the Planning Commission 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 Commission Members. If an individual wishes to bring documents or other materials for consideration by the Planning Commission 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 twelve (12) 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 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 ADARquest@mywakulla.com.

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: CPM24-06

Applicant: Golden Properties & Investments, LLC
 Agent: Edwin Brown & Associates, Inc./Wade Brown
 Proposal: Adoption of Amendment to Future Land Use Designation - Small-Scale
 Tax ID Number: 00-00-076-000-10257-025
 Existing FLU Map: Urban Fringe (FLUE Policy 1.2.7)
 Proposed FLU Map: Urban Core (FLUE Policy 1.2.9)
 Current Zoning: I-1 (Section 5-41, LDC)

June 27, 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.”

KWCB is planting sea oats at Mashles Sands

By **TAMMIE NASON**
KWCB Director

On Saturday, June 15, Keep Wakulla County Beautiful (KWCB) spearheaded a significant environmental initiative at Mashles Sands, where members and volunteers planted 300 Sea Oats along the dunes. This project targeted areas where the Sea Oat population was either scarce or non-existent, aiming to bolster dune stabilization and combat coastal erosion.

The planting was made possible through a generous grant from the Surfing's Evolution & Preservation Foundation. Funding for such coastal projects largely comes from the sales of the “Endless Summer” license plates, which support environmental preservation efforts across the state.

In addition to the planting, KWCB installed informational signs to educate the public about the importance of Sea Oats in preventing coastal erosion and maintaining healthy dune systems. The signs also included reminders for visitors to stay off the dunes to protect the newly planted areas and allow them to thrive.

“We are thrilled with the turnout and the dedication of our volunteers,” said KWCB Executive Director Tammie Nason. “This project is a testament to what community efforts can achieve, and we hope to carry out more plantings in the future as we identify other vulnerable areas.”

The newly planted Sea Oats are expected to play a crucial role in stabilizing the dunes, reducing the impact of storms, and preserving the natural beauty of Mashles Sands. KWCB's ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship promises further initiatives to protect and enhance Florida's precious coastal ecosystems.

Tammie Nason is executive director of Keep Wakulla County Beautiful.



Volunteers Jim Cook, Steve Sanabria, Ann Reams, Christina Sanabria, Steve Cushman, Lesley Cushman, Fabiana Mercure, Andrew Mercure, Debbie Singletary, and Rachell Mathis.

Preserving Our Dunes: The Vital Role of Sea Oats

Welcome to our coastal sanctuary! Here, you'll find the resilient sea oats, a plant essential for the health and stability of our dunes. These hardy grasses play a crucial role in:

- **Erosion Control:** Their deep roots anchor the sand, preventing erosion and safeguarding our beaches.
- **Habitat Creation:** Sea oats provide shelter and food for diverse coastal wildlife.
- **Storm Protection:** They act as natural barriers, reducing the impact of storm surges and protecting inland areas.

Help Us Protect Them:

- **Stay Off the Dunes:** Walking on the dunes can damage the sea oats and weaken their protective function.
- **Respect the Plants:** Avoid picking or trampling the sea oats.

By preserving these plants, we ensure a healthier, more resilient coastline for future generations.



The informational sign posted to protect the newly planted sea oats in the dunes.



Rachell Mathis and Lesley Cushman.

On the Horizon

Calendar of events for the week of June 27

Thursday, June 27

- 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.
- Yin Yoga at 6 p.m. with Nellie 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 54 Ochlockonee St.
- The Rotary Club of Wakulla meets at TCC Wakulla at 8:30 a.m.

Friday, June 28

- The Wakulla County Sheriff's Office is holding its Youth and Community Outreach Golf Tournament at Southwood Golf Club in Tallahassee with registration starting at 8 a.m. and Tee-off at 9 a.m.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon

and 8 p.m. every Friday at 54 Ochlockonee St.

Saturday, June 29

- Sopchoppy Opry at the Historic Sopchoppy High School Auditorium featuring Unlimited Edition starting at 7 p.m. Individual show tickets are \$15 each.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. every Saturday at 54 Ochlockonee St.

Monday, July 1

- The Wakulla Respite Program will be available for anyone with memory impairment at no cost from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lake Ellen Baptist Church every Monday.
- Yoga 101 with Nellie at 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 54 Ochlockonee St.

Tuesday, July 2

- 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 Flow with Nellie at 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, July 3

- Muffins with Moms Prenatal Support Group will meet at 9 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 10 a.m. at the Wakulla County Health Department. Contact Liz Neighbors at 850-888-6078 or elizabeth.neighbors@flhealth.gov for more information.
- A line dance class is held at 1 p.m. at the Wakulla Senior Center every Wednesday.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon

and 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday at 54 Ochlockonee St.

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

UPCOMING

Thursday, July 4

- INDEPENDENCE DAY – Government offices and many businesses will be closed for the holiday.
- The City of Sopchoppy is holding its 50th annual Fourth of July Celebration with a parade downtown at 10 a.m. and the festival at Myron B. Hodge City Park beginning at 11 a.m. Fireworks will begin at dark.
- St. Marks is holding its Fourth of July Celebration from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at 815 Port Leon Drive. Fireworks will begin at dark, around 9 p.m.

SUPPORT COMMUNITY JOURNALISM

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

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

Your contributions will equip our newsroom to better serve you and all our readers.

That means:

- More reporters on the street
- More local news about our community
- More local content on the environment and local businesses

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

We would very much appreciate your contribution.

William Snowden
Editor & Publisher
The Wakulla Sun

Are donations tax deductible?

Yes, the Florida Press Foundation is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization with its principal place of business in Florida.

The Florida Press Foundation is registered to solicit charitable contributions in Florida. Financial and other information about the Florida Press Foundation's purpose, programs and activities can be obtained by visiting <https://floridapressfoundation.org> or by writing to Florida Press Foundation at 336 East College Avenue, Suite 304, Tallahassee FL 32301.

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

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

"It's A New Day!"

The Wakulla Sun

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

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/@TheWakullaSun
TWITTER: www.twitter.com/@TheWakullaSun

The Wakulla Sun, Copyright © 2023 is published weekly by Hot Water Publishing, 12 Arran Road, Crawfordville FL. Periodicals postage is pending at Crawfordville FL.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Wakulla Sun, 12 Arran Road, Crawfordville FL 32327.

Subscriptions to The Wakulla Sun
In County - \$35/yr. - \$20/6 mo. Out of County - \$50/yr. - \$30/6 mo.
Out of State - \$60/yr. - \$35/6 mo.
To subscribe call (850)962-8019.

DISTRIBUTOR
Jessi Smith

– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

Polled at Chamber After Hours event at Riverside Café:

What is your favorite seafood?



NIRAJ PATEL
Barn's Liquor

“Fried Gulf grouper, even better if it's Cajun style.”



RALPH THOMAS
Union Home Mortgage

“Grilled flounder, or blackened or fried. If I could only have one seafood for the rest of my life, that is what it would be.”



MAGGIE LAVALLE
Retired Waitress

“Shrimp, prepared every way. That's my favorite.”



MISSY GAINER
Body Tech

“Shrimp, but to be honest, I like every kind of seafood that is fresh and in season.”



TERRY CORDELL
Duke Energy

“I like grouper, snapper, shrimp...”

Wakulla Station News

By Verna Brock

The weather continues to be brutal, and I feel so sorry for anyone having to work outside. Wakulla County has so much road work being done, and those folks are literally cooking out there on the highways and byways of our community. Farmers, landscapers, construction workers and even home gardeners are having to plan how best to balance the work with health and safety. I fear this summer will only get worse as we get deeper into the “dog days” of the season. Be patient with

these hard working neighbors coping with the heat and humidity out there!

The Wakulla United Methodist Church is planning its annual “Christmas in July” yard sale to benefit our Food Pantry, and I'll be sharing the details of this fun event soon. Watch this space.

This past Sunday Eden, Harrison and Harper came over to help dig 'taters. But it quickly dwindled down to just Ed and Eden harvesting them. Harrison was certain he spied a black widow spider in the

foliage, and that put the quietus on THAT. Harper, on the other hand, came fully resolved to stay in the air conditioning! Discretion may truly be the better part of valor...

My prayer list continues to grow, and your faithful support is much appreciated by all those seeking comfort. Little Jordan Cooper continues to need our prayers as his doctors seek a diagnosis to better treat his condition. Both Cindy Blackstock and her sister Deborah Giles need our prayers as they deal with separate health issues. Mary Jo Dowling continues to heal, and it was wonderful to have her back in church this past Sunday.

Patti Moxley and her family con-

tinue to need our prayers, as does Becky Perkins, Thelma Watts, and the Berrigan family.

Please keep Kelly O'Neil and his family in your prayers. He lost his brother quite unexpectedly last week. Also in need of prayers is Crystal Rudd, who injured her back during a Father's Day party.

My friend and former colleague, Sharhonda Williams, has received a scary diagnosis, and will be undergoing some further tests to determine how best to proceed with treatment. Please lift her in your prayers, as well as her doctors.

I hope everyone has a happy and healthy week!

Sopchoppy News

By DJ Butch

Three seats are open for the Sopchoppy City Council. Candidates must live within Sopchoppy City Limits.

Anyone interested in seeking a seat on the Sopchoppy City Coun-

cil can obtain an information packet from the City Clerk's office, 105 Municipal Avenue, during normal business hours, Monday - Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Qualifying begins at noon, July 15th and ends at noon, July 25th.

Three seats on the council will be open for the 2024 election which will be held Nov. 5, 2024.

But anyway... enough of the politics! I saw that the blueberries are ready to pick. I love this time of year when you can go pick blueberries in your yard in Sopchoppy. I'm going to try to get a few and maybe cook something with them. Muffins are always delicious with fresh berries.

It has been sunny and hot most of

the past few days. Wednesday had an overcast and a short shower.

Take time to enjoy the weather. Enjoy nature! Take a walk, go fishing. It's good for the soul.

We live in the perfect place to enjoy the outdoors. Don't get caught up in everyday routines. Get some fresh air and enjoy life.

Easy living.... Remember! That is the Sopchoppy way.

Matt Payne

From Front Page

schools, it's not just a phrase - it's my reality. My aspirations to continue making Wakulla County the best place to call home and raise a family has been molded by the unwavering dedication of my family to the field of education. This deep-rooted connection fuels my passion to ensure that every student in our district receives the support, guidance, and opportunities they need to be successful.

Prior to becoming an educator, I worked for the State of Florida, the Florida Legislature, and various other side jobs. My dad, a skilled tile setter, instilled in me the essence of hard work and taught me many trades. I bring a wealth of experience to the table, and while I don't claim to have all the answers, I refuse to stop learning and growing, as a person and educator. As your Superintendent of Schools, I promise to bring unwavering dedication, resilience, and a steadfast commitment to overcoming obstacles, guaranteeing a brighter future for our district.

Amid recent questions about my age and administrative experience, I provide a transparent and honest answer. I started teaching at 22 and have since gained valuable experience managing diverse classrooms, overseeing tasks, and fostering student engagement while upholding educational standards. This hands-on experience directly applies to the role of Superintendent, where I will prioritize strong leadership and accountability. I am committed to upholding the utmost standards, refusing to settle for mediocrity and always striving for excellence.

As an educator, I've come to learn that continuously seeking knowledge is essential.

When we stop learning, we close ourselves off to fresh perspectives and become set in our ways. My decision to bypass the administrative

route stems from a desire to confront a system in dire need of repair. My hope is to examine a system that is deeply broken, identify every flaw, and work tirelessly to fix them. Our current system is trapped in routine, keeping us stuck in a cycle of repetition with the belief that “this is the way it's always been done.” Upon taking the oath of office, I am steadfast in my commitment to delivering the crucial change this county rightfully deserves.

After listening to parents, students, and community members, we can all agree that many of our issues are traced back to the employee shortage. My plan to address this involves cutting wasteful spending and redirecting those funds towards increasing salaries and benefits. Teachers, bus drivers, and paraprofessionals are leaving our district because their wages, after insurance costs are factored in, are inadequate, leading to a shortage of supervision. Consequently, we see an increase in discipline issues among these students, coupled with an increasing number of instances where students are found unsupervised.

The teacher shortage is a national issue with local solutions. The obvious and most direct approach is to raise teachers' salaries to the state mandated \$47,500 while simultaneously lowering their health insurance costs. From my own experience, I've witnessed teachers leaving due to one or both of these factors. Another practical solution, already successfully applied elsewhere, involves growing our own teachers. I will pilot a program to promote our paraprofessionals into certified classroom teaching roles. It's important that we create an atmosphere of growth for all - teachers, staff, and students alike.

Another chief complaint voiced by our community relates to transparency and communication - or rather, the lack thereof - from the school district. I am committed to promoting clear and effective communication in every aspect. Maintaining open

communication with our community is essential, as it's paramount that, as your Superintendent, I accurately represent the community's vision of a successful education system. If I fail in this regard, I'm not fulfilling my duty and it's imperative that I am promptly informed of any such lapses. Likewise, it is imperative to our success that the Superintendent maintain an open and effective relationship with the School Board. I am committed to setting aside all personal biases, and I will ensure that school board members do the same, thereby ensuring that our actions are always in the best interest of our children.

I believe in making the right decisions for the right reasons. This includes encouraging public discussions and promoting community forums where we can collaboratively brainstorm the most effective path forward. This is not my school district, it is ours. I will never refuse to hear someone's idea nor will I ever reject someone's idea because they are not my own. We have to work together to be successful. Excluding public input or inquiries regarding our intentions and justifications means we're neglecting the people who entrusted us with their votes. I promise to make decisions and provide rationales in the sunshine, the way public servants are supposed to.

Financial transparency will always be a priority. You deserve to know what is being bought with your tax dollars. I pledge to craft and deliver a well-rounded budget to the board, aiming to curtail unnecessary expenses while ensuring the community receives clear, accessible financial records detailing every expenditure and saving. Irresponsible spending thrives in the absence of accountability and I commit to full financial transparency.

It is our goal to ensure our students graduate high schools and become productive members of society. That's why I am committed to promoting a variety of pathways, including trades schools, college, the

workforce, and military avenues to equip them with the diverse skills and opportunities needed to thrive in their chosen paths. By offering a range of personalized pathways tailored to individual strengths and aspirations, we can empower each student to pursue their passions and make impactful contributions to their communities and beyond.

As a teacher, I've come to understand the importance of actively listening to my students to ensure my effectiveness as an educator. As your superintendent, I'll apply the same principle, always addressing your concerns and ensuring that you are heard. While I cannot guarantee to always say what you want to hear, I do promise to always give an honest answer.

In closing, I want to express my deep commitment to the students, parents, teachers, and community members of Wakulla County. As a native son of this district, education isn't just a profession for me - it's a calling deeply ingrained in my roots and upbringing.

I've walked the same hallways, sat in the very classroom I teach in, and learned from the same dedicated educators who shaped my life. Now, as a teacher and candidate for Superintendent of Wakulla County Schools, I stand ready to lead with integrity, passion, and a relentless drive for positive change.

But I can't do this alone. I need your support, your trust, and your vote in the upcoming primary election on August 20th. Together, we will fight for a brighter future for Wakulla County Schools - one where every student can thrive, where every teacher is valued, and where our community comes together to shape the leaders of tomorrow.

God Bless, Matt.

The Wakulla Sun is your local source for news.

Outdoors

outdoor sports

HOME ON THE RANGE

Lucky or lemon?



By MARJ LAW

County Sheriff's Office range every Wednesday morning. Wouldn't they love a gun that's easy to shoot, reliable and holds 20 rounds? Yes, and with that extra one in the chamber? Joe, it's a Sig!" Emphasis on Sig.

We're looking at a handgun that the Sig Sauer site says is: "loaded with premium features... has ambidextrous controls, interchangeable flat and curved triggers, fiber optic front and rear sights... the new P322 is the highest capacity, most advanced 22 pistol in its class."

Will you be lucky, or are you looking at a lemon?

Just like when you're purchasing a new car, you wonder the same thing: Will this new car/handgun be fantastic or will it be a huge and expensive disappointment? Does this question stop you from buying?

No. So, this day, we're at a gun shop.

"Hey, Joe!" I call. He breaks away from looking at long guns.

"It's that Sig we've been reading about! Remember? The write-ups have been super. This is a .22 that holds 20 rounds – 20 rounds!" I marvel.

Joe wanders over and looks at what I'm holding.

"With one in the chamber, that makes 21 rounds," Joe corrects me. He likes to be precise.

"Wouldn't this be the best training gun? It's a .22 and it's made by Sig. We like Sigs."

Joe knows what's coming.

"We help lots of newbies at the Wakulla

Yep. We gotta have it.

The P322 comes with not one but two 20-round magazines. Once you load them, you have 40 rounds ready to hit the target. It's compact, but bigger than I'd carry in my purse. I might carry it appendix style.

The P322 is 7 inches long, 5.5 inches high and 1.4-inches wide. On the face of it, 1.4-inch wide seems wider than most handguns, but a good reason for the width is that the controls are large and easy to reach.

The P322's barrel is 4-inches and is made of carbon steel. The P322's weight is only 17.1 ounces; mostly because the frame is polymer.

The P322 comes with two triggers. One is flat and the other is curved.

Yes, it has a safety, and you know I don't care for safeties, but in this case, I think a safety is a fine idea. This is because of the extremely light trigger pull. Keep the safety on until you're sure you want to pull the trigger.

And it's a hammer gun. Oh, yes, it looks like a striker-fired gun, but you can't see that it's a hammer gun until you take it apart.

When I look up information on handguns, I often turn to The Truth About Guns. Mostly because I usually agree with their assessments. So, Dan Zimmerman of TTAG says that Sig has built in "virtually every feature consumers look for in a semi-auto rimfire pistol these days. The one spec that will catch the most attention, though, is the P322's impressive 20 +1 standard magazine capacity that beats just about everything else out there. The P322 is a blowback operated, enclosed hammer, single action only pistol. And unlike many rimfire pistols, you can safely dry fire it as often as you like."

The P322 comes with its own sleeve to help load those 20 rounds. As Dan continues, "you'll probably only need the loader if you have reduced hand strength or very sensitive fingers."

He goes on to note that it's easy to dump rounds into the magazine, thus rendering a misaligned round. Misaligned rounds won't feed into the chamber, but he says "The good news

is that's a user error that you'll only make once."

Another source I like is Pew Pew. Sean Curtis gloats about the P322: "There's no recoil, your sights stay on target, the trigger is really good, and the ergonomics are great! The only thing that sucks about this gun is you very quickly find yourself having to reload, over and over again."

Yes, he likes the P322. "Box after box the P322 ran with remarkable reliability."

I look further. Kerith Cooper in the Gun Critic, raves about the P322 as well. "The .22LR caliber might seem modest to some, but in this pistol, it performs admirably. The accuracy is top-notch, with tight groupings achievable at typical pistol ranges. The trigger mechanism is crisp and responsive, providing a consistent shooting experience."

And fit in the hand? Cooper continues: "The P322 fits in my hand as if it was made for me. Its grip and balance are exceptional making it comfortable to shoot for hours without fatigue."

Luke C., on the Firearm Blog, sums up these sentiments. "For now, I think I can conclude that the P322 is shaping up to be one of the best rimfire

Sig Sauer P322



round only. If you push it down further, the rounds won't feed in the magazine straight. They'll tilt some. Push down a little too far, and you'll end up having to unload the magazine and start loading all over again. You'll need practice.

Chris Baker, in the Lucky Gunner finds "the slide stop does not work correctly. It *barely* locks the slide open. The slide will close if you just look at it funny. Or anytime you insert a loaded magazine." Also: "The slide doesn't always lock open after firing the last round."

Yes, we experienced these difficulties too. And, while both front and back sights are fiber optic, they are so tiny that it's hard to see them. The back sights are so far apart, it's challenging to space them equally on either side of the front sight.

Finding a new handgun can be tricky. While the one you're looking up may have many great reviews, it may also have some negative ones. Usually, the gun with a lot of positive reviews, especially from sites you find accurate, is exactly what they say it is.

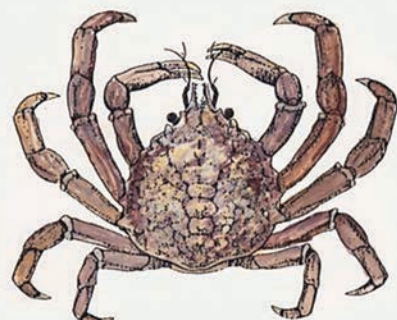
But sometimes, you're not so lucky. Is the gun a lemon?

As Baker notes: "Now, even with all of these problems, I'm still holding out hope that the Sig P322 could be a good pistol. Maybe not this specific P322. This one needs a lot of work. Maybe Sig will fix it for us."

That's the conclusion Joe and I have come to as well. The Sig P322 has many great features, but this particular gun has too many difficulties. For now, we're going to send it back to Sig.

When it comes back, who knows?

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



SPIDER CRAB

(*Libinia emarhinata* and *Libinia dubia*)

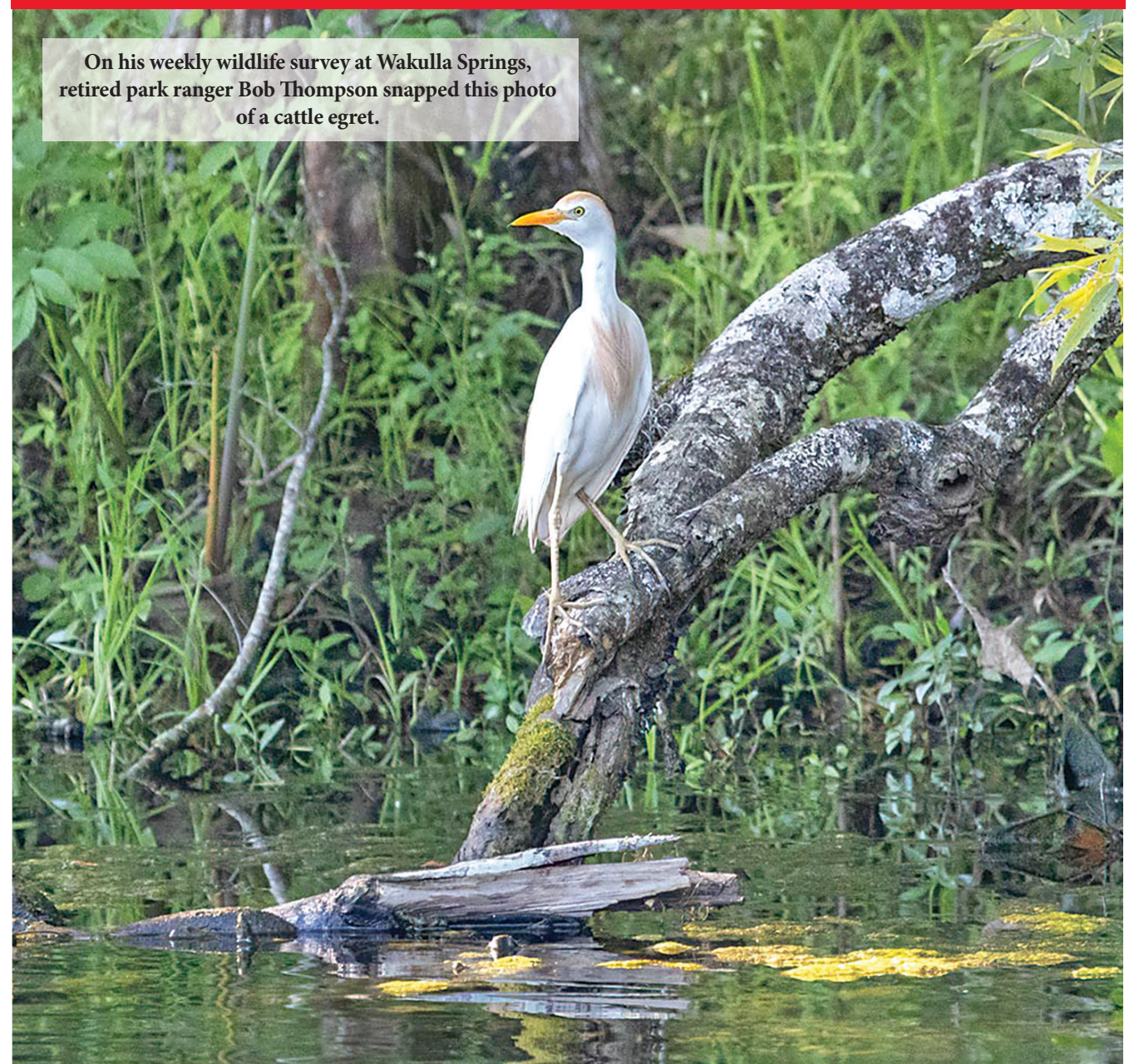
Two very similar crabs live in the same areas of the Atlantic coast. Emarhinata (shown) has 9 spines while dubia has 6. They have a 4" carapace. Both kinds of crabs are scavengers eating dead fish and they will attack and eat larger starfish and sea squirts. They prefer walking forward instead of sideways like most crabs. They live offshore in water up to 1300ft but cannot tolerate salinity fluctuations. Male spider crabs will aggressively defend females from predators while they carry eggs and during release of larvae. These crabs are slow moving and often have hydroids.

Eukarya, Animalia, Athropoda, Malacostracia, Decapoda, Epialtidae



WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO

On his weekly wildlife survey at Wakulla Springs, retired park ranger Bob Thompson snapped this photo of a cattle egret.



Wakulla Lawn Ranger Gene Darby
 850-251-9122 *Palm Tree Trimming*
Mowing
Edging - Trimming
Sidewalk/Driveways
Pressurewashing
Landscaping
Licensed & Insured
Great Prices - Great Work

Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences

SEA TOW

24/7 PRIORITY ON-WATER ASSISTANCE

ARE YOU A MEMBER? SEA TOW BIG BEND \ 850-984-3456 \ seatow.com



Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

June 27 - July 3



Tide charts by tides4fishing.com



Best fishing days this month July 5-21

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

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

St. Marks River Entrance

Th	12:39 am ▼ 0.0 ft	7:08 am ▲ 3.4 ft	12:50 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	6:42 pm ▲ 3.4 ft
Fr	1:22 am ▼ 1.0 ft	7:48 am ▲ 3.5 ft	2:05 pm ▼ 0.8 ft	8:05 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
Sa	2:09 am ▼ 1.0 ft	8:33 am ▲ 3.5 ft	3:28 pm ▼ 0.8 ft	9:48 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
Su	3:03 am ▼ 1.5 ft	9:24 am ▲ 3.5 ft	4:52 pm ▼ 0.4 ft	11:29 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
Mo	4:03 am ▼ 1.8 ft	10:20 am ▲ 3.6 ft	6:05 pm ▼ 0.1 ft	
Tu	12:49 am ▲ 2.9 ft	5:08 am ▼ 2.0 ft	11:19 am ▲ 3.8 ft	7:06 pm ▼ -0.3 ft
We	1:50 am ▲ 3.0 ft	6:11 am ▼ 2.1 ft	12:16 pm ▲ 3.9 ft	8:00 pm ▼ -0.5 ft

City of St. Marks

Th	1:43 am ▼ 0.0 ft	7:44 am ▲ 3.1 ft	1:54 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	7:18 pm ▲ 3.1 ft
Fr	2:26 am ▼ 0.4 ft	8:24 am ▲ 3.2 ft	3:09 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	8:41 pm ▲ 2.8 ft
Sa	3:13 am ▼ 0.9 ft	9:09 am ▲ 3.2 ft	4:32 pm ▼ 0.7 ft	10:24 pm ▲ 2.5 ft
Su	4:07 am ▼ 1.3 ft	10:00 am ▲ 3.3 ft	5:56 pm ▼ 0.4 ft	
Mo	12:05 am ▲ 2.5 ft	5:07 am ▼ 1.7 ft	10:56 am ▲ 3.4 ft	7:09 pm ▼ 0.0 ft
Tu	1:25 am ▲ 2.7 ft	6:12 am ▼ 1.9 ft	11:55 am ▲ 3.5 ft	8:10 pm ▼ -0.2 ft
We	2:26 am ▲ 2.8 ft	7:15 am ▼ 1.9 ft	12:52 pm ▲ 3.6 ft	9:04 pm ▼ -0.4 ft

Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	1:06 am ▼ 0.1 ft	7:40 am ▲ 3.4 ft	1:22 pm ▼ 1.5 ft	7:05 pm ▲ 3.3 ft
Fr	1:52 am ▼ 0.6 ft	8:23 am ▲ 3.4 ft	2:40 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	8:34 pm ▲ 3.0 ft
Sa	2:41 am ▼ 1.1 ft	9:09 am ▲ 3.5 ft	4:02 pm ▼ 0.8 ft	10:21 pm ▲ 2.8 ft
Su	3:36 am ▼ 1.6 ft	9:59 am ▲ 3.6 ft	5:20 pm ▼ 0.4 ft	11:57 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
Mo	4:36 am ▼ 1.9 ft	10:52 am ▲ 3.7 ft	6:28 pm ▼ 0.0 ft	
Tu	1:12 am ▲ 3.0 ft	5:37 am ▼ 2.2 ft	11:45 am ▲ 3.8 ft	7:26 pm ▼ -0.4 ft
We	2:10 am ▲ 3.1 ft	6:34 am ▼ 2.3 ft	12:36 pm ▲ 3.9 ft	8:17 pm ▼ -0.6 ft

Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	12:50 am ▼ 0.0 ft	7:00 am ▲ 2.5 ft	1:01 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	6:34 pm ▲ 2.5 ft
Fr	1:33 am ▼ 0.4 ft	7:40 am ▲ 2.5 ft	2:16 pm ▼ 0.8 ft	7:57 pm ▲ 2.2 ft
Sa	2:20 am ▼ 0.7 ft	8:25 am ▲ 2.6 ft	3:39 pm ▼ 0.6 ft	9:40 pm ▲ 2.0 ft
Su	3:14 am ▼ 1.1 ft	9:16 am ▲ 2.7 ft	5:03 pm ▼ 0.3 ft	11:21 pm ▲ 2.0 ft
Mo	4:14 am ▼ 1.3 ft	10:12 am ▲ 2.7 ft	6:16 pm ▼ 0.0 ft	
Tu	12:41 am ▲ 2.1 ft	5:19 am ▼ 1.5 ft	11:11 am ▲ 2.8 ft	7:17 pm ▼ -0.2 ft
We	1:42 am ▲ 2.2 ft	6:22 am ▼ 1.5 ft	12:08 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	8:11 pm ▼ -0.4 ft

St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	12:49 am ▼ 0.0 ft	7:38 am ▲ 2.7 ft	1:21 pm ▼ 1.4 ft	6:55 pm ▲ 2.6 ft
Fr	1:36 am ▼ 0.5 ft	8:14 am ▲ 2.7 ft	2:43 pm ▼ 1.1 ft	8:28 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
Sa	2:26 am ▼ 1.0 ft	8:52 am ▲ 2.8 ft	4:01 pm ▼ 0.7 ft	10:17 pm ▲ 2.2 ft
Su	3:23 am ▼ 1.4 ft	9:33 am ▲ 2.9 ft	5:11 pm ▼ 0.2 ft	
Mo	12:06 am ▲ 2.3 ft	4:25 am ▼ 1.8 ft	10:17 am ▲ 3.0 ft	6:11 pm ▼ -0.2 ft
Tu	1:33 am ▲ 2.4 ft	5:27 am ▼ 2.1 ft	11:03 am ▲ 3.1 ft	7:03 pm ▼ -0.4 ft
We	2:37 am ▲ 2.5 ft	6:20 am ▼ 2.2 ft	11:50 am ▲ 3.2 ft	7:52 pm ▼ -0.6 ft

Dog Island West End

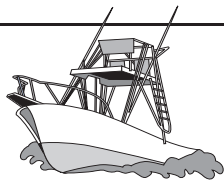
Th	1:02 am ▼ 0.2 ft	7:50 am ▲ 2.4 ft	1:56 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	7:06 pm ▲ 2.1 ft
Fr	1:42 am ▼ 0.7 ft	8:23 am ▲ 2.5 ft	3:15 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	8:53 pm ▲ 1.9 ft
Sa	2:22 am ▼ 1.1 ft	9:00 am ▲ 2.5 ft	4:28 pm ▼ 0.6 ft	11:08 pm ▲ 1.8 ft
Su	3:08 am ▼ 1.6 ft	9:39 am ▲ 2.6 ft	5:32 pm ▼ 0.2 ft	
Mo	1:27 am ▲ 2.0 ft	4:04 am ▼ 1.9 ft	10:19 am ▲ 2.7 ft	6:34 pm ▼ -0.1 ft
Tu	2:59 am ▲ 2.2 ft	5:10 am ▼ 2.1 ft	11:00 am ▲ 2.8 ft	7:28 pm ▼ -0.4 ft
We	3:49 am ▲ 2.3 ft	6:47 am ▼ 2.2 ft	11:45 am ▲ 2.9 ft	8:13 pm ▼ -0.5 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



The motto of the Coast Guard is Semper Paratus, always ready. The Hurricane season officially began 1 June and will conclude 30 November. With one named storm already impacting Mexico, we hope that you will see the effects of a storm in our area!

To help you navigate what preparedness means, think about what you would need to be safe if you did not have access to food, water or medicine for up to a week. Do you have enough water, non-perishable food (can opener too), medicines, pet supplies, cash, flashlights and batteries, hygiene items and toilet paper? If you or someone with you got hurt, do you have a first aid kit? Wipes for the bathroom and your hands will be needed so you do not waste water. If you have young children, be sure to have diapers, formula (if needed) and a special comfort toy/blanket. A dry change of clothing for each member of your family in a zip lock bag can be a welcome comfort if you are in flood

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

prone areas. While all of this may seem unnecessary, it is better to be prepared and not need the supplies that be without after a disaster.

It is also important to know the difference between a watch and a warning. According to NOAA, in a Hurricane Watch, hurricane conditions are possible within the specified coastal area. Because hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the hurricane watch is issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds.

In a Hurricane Warning, hurricane conditions are expected in the specified area of the warning. Because hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the hurricane warning is issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds.

For Tropical Storm Watches and Warnings, take these alerts seriously. Although Tropical Storms have lower wind speeds than hurricanes, they often bring life-threatening flooding and dangerous winds. Take precautions! To assess your risk,

visit NOAA at noaa.gov/hurricane-prep

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

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

Please contact us for more information about our safe boating classes or learning more about getting involved in the Auxiliary, check out our website at www.uscgaux.net follow us on Facebook @ Apalachee Bay Flotilla 12 or contact our Flotilla Commander Jim Kenny at jimc809@gmail.com .

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

Gage Pitman fishing tourney



Tournament volunteers before the final weigh-in.



Saltwater Xpress with Josh Revell winner inshore redfish.



Beau and his dad Blake handle and big red snapper with team Gulf Coast Flooring



Lee Chapin with a big red snapper and winner in offshore second year in a row.

PHOTOS BY GERALD BROWN

FWC Law Enforcement Report

From FWC News

This report represents some events the FWC handled June 7 to 13 in the Northwest Region. (No cases were reported for Wakulla County.)

ESCAMBIA COUNTY

• Officer Bower and Officer Mullins responded to information about least tern eggs being removed from a nest at Opal Beach. An investigation revealed a subject had collected 19 least tern eggs from several nests, wrapped them in a t-shirt, and brought them to the Sea Turtle Conserva-

tion Center on Navarre Beach. The subject stated she was familiar with the shorebird nesting season and was also familiar with the signage there to protect the shorebirds and their nests. An FWC shorebird biologist confirmed the eggs were from least terns. The subject was charged with taking and possessing a threatened species.

• Officer Bower and Lt. Corbin located a derelict vessel on waters of the state. The vessel was in approximately 2 to 3 feet of water, listing to its starboard side and was about 40 percent submerged

with water going into the cabin. The vessel had no outboard motor attached and no sails and was unable to be moved under its own power. The vessel owner was issued a notice to appear citation for storing a derelict vessel upon waters of the state.

GADSDEN COUNTY

• While patrolling the Chattahoochee boat ramp, Officer Hildebrand observed two individuals throwing a cast net from the bank. He watched them make multiple throws and place fish in a five-gallon bucket. Officer Hil-

debrand made contact with the subjects to conduct a resource inspection and found approximately 20 bream, three largemouth bass, one striped bass and one undersized flounder. It is unlawful to take freshwater gamefish with a cast net. The subjects were cited accordingly.

GULF COUNTY

• Officer Butts conducted a resource inspection on two individuals fishing at a local bridge and discovered an undersized red drum, spotted seatrout, and flounder. Appropriate action was taken.

Trusting God with our fears



By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

afraid. To make matters worse, you feel like you can't be honest about your feelings to your church friends.

But being afraid doesn't necessarily mean you're a weak Christian. Life is filled with challenges and reasons for anxiety and fear. Our faith isn't defined by whether we feel afraid but by what we do when we're afraid.

During a recent quiet time, I read Psalm 56:3 (ESV): "When I am afraid, I put my trust in you."

The words "When I

am" stood out to me. Though there are many verses in the Bible that encourage us not to fear, I appreciate that this verse addresses the times when we are afraid. Fear and anxiety are natural responses during a crisis or a stressful challenge – even for strong, Bible-believing Christians.

It would be unnatural not to be afraid when your spouse is talking about leaving, when you're about to be interviewed for a must-have job or when you find out your child has contract-

ed a life-threatening disease. Who wouldn't fear having to face a calculus final or worse, being bullied at school?

Admitting we're afraid isn't the same as confessing a lack of faith. On the contrary, recognizing our fear and being honest with God about our emotions help us admit how much we need Him. Sharing candidly with others about our fears frees us to ask for their prayers and support.

What is going on in your life that causes you to be afraid? What

would happen if, when you experience fear, you practice, practice, practice putting your trust and confidence in God as this week's verse instructs us to do?

Our heavenly Father understands our fears. He understands when we're stressed due to finances. He understands when we're weighed down because of a situation our loved one is facing. Putting our trust in Him takes the unbearable weight of our situation off our frail shoulders and places it directly onto His broad,

strong ones.

As we learn to rely on God's wisdom, power and goodness, we can face life with courage and peace. Thankfully, He doesn't limit how often we can go to Him and say, "Father, I'm afraid. Help me put my trust in You."

Sheryl H. Boldt is a sales executive for Wave 94 and author of the blog, www.TodayCanBeDifferent.net. Connect with her at SherylHBoldt.Wave94@gmail.com.

Our transformation



By **CHERYL CRUCE**

he nailed each perfectly cut board into place. He wasn't alone in his endeavors; Mom was close by, doing her share of the work. Ultimately, the old bus would receive a fresh coat of forest green paint and become a first-class motor home, perfect for future family camping trips.

It was the same way with the boat that carried the family over the waves of the Gulf of Mexico to the flats, where the fish were always biting. One day, he towed in the fiberglass hull of a boat and parked it in the backyard. In the evenings, he and Mom worked tirelessly on the new project. Bench seats, a captain's chair, and two cots underneath the bow were

added. Once the cosmetics were finished, Dad began to work on the mechanics to make it seaworthy. When he started painting (a sea-foam green this time), we knew the project was nearing completion.

I cannot begin to tell you how many things sold as junk were transformed under Daddy's skill. Dad had a way of seeing the bigger picture and the possibilities in the most fragmented pieces. He was never one to scrap a project; he had a knack for seeing it through. Somehow, he could see what the rest of the world could not. What he saw became a labor of love, and we waited eagerly for the finished product.

In the same way, the

Heavenly Father eagerly anticipates the final outcome of our lives. The world often makes us feel like we are worthless and useless, but to our Lord, we are His creation, intended for good works in Christ (Ephesians 2:10). Through Christ, our story has a different ending, even if we are affected by the challenges of this world. We were created in the image of our Father, and he desires to restore that image.

C.S. Lewis once said, "You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending."

Looking at the life of the Apostle Paul, we realize that we are not without hope. We just

need a new ending. The Apostle Paul was known as Saul the Tyrant before his transformation. He persecuted the church, witnessed the stoning of Stephen, and was on his way to arrest others who believed in Jesus' resurrection. However, on the road to Damascus, the Lord called him to a new purpose (Acts 7-9). Even though Paul's past could not be altered, his conversion to faith through love changed his ending.

Often in life, we will struggle. However, the transformative power of love and faith is at work in us. Just as the old bus and boat were shaped into something beautiful and purposeful, we, too, are being

molded by the hands of a great craftsman.

We are not discarded or worthless but rather cherished and guided by the loving hands of our Creator. We all have a unique purpose waiting to unfold. We only need to learn to trust the process and witness the beauty of our transformation in the hands of our Father.

2 Corinthians 5:17
Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

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

OUT TO PASTOR

Did you see my key?



By **JAMES SNYDER**

about. Usually, when she asks a question, I have been in Lala land for so long that I couldn't bring my thoughts together.

I looked back at her and said, "Oh, my dear, what key are you talking about?"

Looking into her purse, you will find she has a key to everything. I refuse to ramble through those keys because I might find a key she has for me. Of course, if I had seen that key, it might have solved a lot of my problems, or it might not have.

Responding to me, she said, "You know, the key to my car."

"You mean to your Sissy Van?"

I could hear her grit her teeth as she stared at me with one of "those stares."

"I had my key yesterday and I cannot find it today. Have you seen it?"

If I had seen her keys, this would've been a great opportunity for me. I could use them as a bargaining chip to get something for myself. Oh, how I wished I knew where that key was. Imagine what I could get for it.

"I'm sorry," I said reluctantly, "I have not seen your key anywhere."

On occasion, I have driven her Sissy Van, but it's been well over a year since I did. I tried to think of where those keys might be, and I searched a few places, but as always, I came up empty; what I wouldn't give to be able to find that key.

That's the way life is for me. I have an opportunity before me, but I just don't have the resources to seize it.

I hadn't seen her key for so long that I didn't even know what it looked like. But that didn't keep me from looking around because finding those keys would have been a treasure.

One thing about The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, when she starts something she never stops until she finishes it. Most of the time, it drives me crazy, which, according to her, is a very short drive.

If I don't find something I need at the time, I just quit looking, knowing that when I least expect it and when I'm not looking for it, I will find it. That's happened to me so many times I can't recall.

A friend used to say, "If you have something, you usually don't need it, and when you need something, you usual-

ly don't have it." That seems to be the rule in my life as far back as I can remember.

With The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, she must have it right then and there when she needs something. "Now" is her favorite word.

Trying to console her, I said, "If you just make up your mind that you don't need your keys right now, because you do have a spare key, you sooner or later will find it when you least expect it. That's just the way life is."

I can remember a dozen things I lost, and no matter how hard I looked for them, I could never find them. Then, I found them when I gave up and started something else and just assumed they were gone forever.

It was the next day, and I had forgotten about her lost key. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came to me and said, "Well, I found my key." She said it as though she was rubbing it in my face.

"Where did you find it?" I asked, curious to find out where it had been all this time.

Looking at me a little nervously, she said, "I found it in my purse." She paused for a moment and then contin-

ued, "There's a little pocket in front of one of my other pockets in my purse. I always forget that it's there, and I never looked until today."

I was happy for her and congratulated her on finding her lost key. The key was not lost; she had just forgotten where she had put it.

In my Bible reading today I read a very important verse. "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10).

There was a time when I was lost spiritually and didn't know it. The whole reason for Jesus to come into this world was for lost people just like me. At the time I thought I was fine, but then God interrupted my life and showed me I was indeed lost. It is through Jesus that I found my way back to God.

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

God Is Real
SPRINGS OF HOPE
CHURCH
Springsofhope.us

JESUS IS KING
SUN 10:15a.m.
WED 7:00 p.m.

Where Love Abounds & Church Becomes Family

850-556-0320
850-926-4065

2028 Bloxham Cutoff Rd.

Sopchoppy United Methodist Church

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11 a.m.
Bible Study Wed. 6 p.m.

Pastor Cheryl Mixon-Cruce 850-962-2511

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
Catholic Church

Fr. Paul Raj, HGN • Dcn. Dave Harris
Director of Music & Choir - Jeff Cook
3609 Coastal Hwy. Crawfordville FL 32327
850 745-8359

Saturday Mass 5:00 pm • Sunday Mass 11:00 am
Tuesday and Thursday: Mass at 8:30 am
Wednesday: Mass at 7:00 pm
1st Saturday: Adoration and Confessions at 8:30 am
1st Saturday: Mass at 9:30 am
Every Saturday: Confessions at 4:30 pm
Live Streaming - Sundays
Facebook - Seas Parish

Cemetery lots and **850-509-7630**
Creman spaces available. 850-745-8359
or the Church Office at:

FIRST PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF CRAWFORDVILLE

5 Crescent Way, Crawfordville, FL
(850) 926-4889

SERVICES:
Sunday School 10:30 am
Morning Worship 11:30 am
Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:30 pm

<https://www.fpccupci.org>

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSOURI SYNOD

SUNDAY SERVICE...
10:17a.m.

850-926-7808 • 3254 Coastal Hwy., Crawfordville
In Medart Across from Wakulla High School

Obituaries



Mike Beatty

Mike Beatty, 71, of Crawfordville, passed away on June 15, 2024. My dad was like a tortoise, hard working, honest, and with a single minded ability to stick to a routine. His schedule changed for no person, weather pattern, illness, desperate plea, or reason. He woke up every morning at 2:30 for work. He did not have to do this, it was completely voluntary and to the chagrin of all his poor slingers stuck meeting him well before the sun even had a chance to shine. He would work his tail off every day and when he came home, the radio was on and he had 15 minutes to feed the cow before she started bel-

lowing. 30 minutes later, the whole kitchen was taken over for feeding his puppies even if someone was in there actively cooking. The next two hours were spent rigorously putzing around and drinking beers while listening to his radio at deafening volumes. 6:30 was the start of dinner so of course he disappeared to take off his boots, go to the bathroom, fill the dogs water bowl, and do a million other tasks that couldn't possibly have been done at any other point. Halfway through dinner it was time to let the dogs out to "Run! Play! Do what dogs do! Dig holes!!" Bed by 7:30. Rinse and repeat!

On the rare occasions he could be convinced to take a vacation, he had a blast. He loved eating, going to the beach, eating, pretending to fish, eating, taking the dogs for sunset runs, eating, using his hat and sunglasses to cover up the fact he had fallen asleep in chairs, and of course good meals with friends and family.

His favorite activities involved sitting out in his garden drinking whatever beer was on sale that week at Winn-Dixie, taking the dogs for a ride in any vehicle that wasn't his so he didn't have to clean out the hair, complaining about people not doing laundry correctly, staging revolts at work about safety meetings, and leaving every single door/gate/windows he passed by wide open.

He is survived by his 6 dogs, Benjamin, Emma,

Alex, Slinky, Elsa, and Lark, Molly the cow, and Llola the llama. Oh, and I guess his human family too. He took his radio with him, since no one appreciated his taste and frequency in loud music.

My mom had 19 months of peace up in Heaven without him and he showed up to see her on June 15, impressively only one day late for their wedding anniversary. I know both of them are looking down on me, upset that I'm not rolling out of bed until 7:30 AM when their days would be half over by then.

Everyone that has reached out to me after hearing of his passing has said the same thing. He was a Good Guy. He worked so hard, he gave his all, he was always there to help a friend or customer in need, and he was so funny. He always made you laugh. Even when he drove you crazy sometimes, his positivity and ability to just keep trucking along was admirable and contagious. He just couldn't imagine things not working out in the end, so he didn't and went wholeheartedly into each new day.

In lieu of flowers, please either send a donation to Wakulla Animal Services where his soul mate, Jackie, was adopted from or Florida Wild Mammal Association which took over his home life and property for the past 29 years.

DEATH NOTICES

• **Doris Mae Ferrell**, 96, of Crawfordville, died June 22, 2024.

• **Deborah Faye Goodwin**, 64 of Crawfordville, died June 20, 2024.

• **Elizabeth Ann Hickman**, 91 of Crawfordville, died

June 22, 2024.

• **Emily Frances Myers**, 86, of Lake Placid, died June 20, 2024.

• **Brenda Qualls**, 68, of Panacea, died June 23, 2024.

• **William Everett Roberts**, 77, of St. Marks, died

June 23, 2024.

• **Paul E. Robinson**, 71, of Alligator Point, died June 23, 2024.

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

Weekly Roundup: Hitting the jackpot

By **RYAN DAILEY**
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE – Justices on the U.S. Supreme Court handed a major win to the Seminole Tribe of Florida this week, refusing to put the kibosh on a 30-year, multibillion-dollar deal that gave the tribe control of sports betting throughout the state.

As is customary, the court did not give reasons for declining to weigh in on a challenge filed by two pari-mutuel companies.

But the decision keeps in the Seminoles' hands control of online sports betting, which was included in a 2021 deal signed by Gov. Ron DeSantis and Seminole Tribe of Florida Chairman Marcellus Osceola Jr. and approved by the Legislature.

The agreement, known as a compact, is likely to bring big money to the state. Under the compact, the Seminoles agreed to pay Florida about \$20 billion, including \$2.5 billion over the first five years.

"It means members of the Seminole Tribe and all Floridians can count on a bright future made possible by the compact," spokesman Gary Bitner said in an email.

Experts are projecting that the Supreme Court decision could cement the tribe's control of sports betting indefinitely.

"For the foreseeable future, the status quo will remain in place, for at least several years, if not 30," Daniel Wallach, an attorney who specializes in online gambling, told The News Service of Florida.

The case was focused on a "hub-and-spoke" system in the deal allowing the Seminoles to accept bets anywhere in the state, with the wagers run through servers on tribal land. The deal said bets "using a mobile app or other electronic device shall be deemed to be exclusively conducted by the tribe."

U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, whose agency oversees tribal gambling, allowed the deal to go into effect.

Lawyers for the pari-mutuel companies West Flagler Associates and Bonita-Fort Myers Corp. filed a federal lawsuit challenging her decision, arguing that the compact violates a federal law known as the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, or IGRA, because it authorizes gambling off tribal lands.

A federal district judge agreed with the pari-mutuel companies in 2021, but a three-judge panel of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia in June reversed her ruling. The companies in February filed a petition seeking review at the Supreme Court after the full appellate court refused to reconsider the panel's decision.

BRIDGING THE GAP

Legislative leaders are following through on a promise they made to state workers last week to keep afloat about 200 jobs after DeSantis vetoed more than \$56 million from part of the state budget that pays for "legislative support services."

The vetoes scrapped funding for joint legislative offices used to pay for such things as the Office of Economic & Demographic Research, the Old Capitol Museum, the Office of Program Policy Analysis & Demographic Research, joint legislative committees, the Florida Channel, and lobbyist registration services.

House Speaker Paul Renner, R-Palm Coast, and Senate President Kathleen Passidomo, R-Naples, plan to use what's known as "rainy day reserve" money to keep the jobs going.

The legislative leaders on Monday issued a joint memo saying they intend to tap into the funds as a temporary solution.

"While the final resolution of this matter may require an act of the Legislature at a future date, we have determined that use of the Legislature's rainy day reserve funding can temporarily bridge the gap," the leaders wrote. "Florida law provides strong protections to ensure continuity of operations in our three independent, co-equal branches of government."

The House has an "available balance" of about \$105.9 million in "discretionary" funds, and the Senate has about \$88.7 million, according to information on the state's Transparency Florida website. But some of that money is already earmarked for other uses, said Katie Betta, a spokeswoman for Passidomo.

"Portions of the reserve funding have been dedicated to ongoing initiatives to improve security and promote public access in the Senate Office Building and areas of the Florida Capitol," Betta told The News Service of Florida.

Sen. Jason Pizzo, a Sunny Isles Beach Democrat who will take over as minority leader after the November elections, said Passidomo will ensure that the roughly 200 employees affected by the vetoes

are protected.

"I think Kathleen Passidomo is gonna make sure those people get paid and salaries are paid," Pizzo said in a phone interview, adding that he thinks "she's gonna try to do it in a very diplomatic, quiet but not clandestine or nefarious way."

RAISING THE RATES

While saying Florida's insurance market is improving, the Citizens Property Insurance Corp. Board of Governors on Wednesday backed a proposal that would lead to customers across the state seeing double-digit rate increases in 2025.

The proposal, in part, would lead to an average 13.5 percent rate increase for the most-common type of Citizens policy, known as homeowners' "multi-peril" coverage. Condominium-unit owners would see an average 14.2 percent increase.

Across all personal lines of insurance — a category that includes policies for homeowners, condominium-unit owners, renters and mobile homes — the average increase would be 14 percent.

The proposal will go to the state Office of In-

urance Regulation for review and potential approval. Actual increases for customers would vary based on factors such as where properties are located. A state law will cap increases at 14 percent for primary residences and 50 percent for non-primary residences, such as second homes.

STORY OF THE WEEK: In a major win for the Seminole Tribe, the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday refused to

upend a 30-year, multibillion-dollar deal giving the tribe control of sports betting throughout Florida.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "If we were not planning on investing in Florida, then you would not see these campaign offices opening, you would not see the hiring of staff." — Democratic National Committee Chairman Jaime Harrison on efforts to re-elect President Joe Biden.

BRIAN C. ENGLISH

Financial Products / Services
Investments
Life Insurance
DROP Rollovers
401(k) Rollovers
926-7487

ChFC®
HIGHEST STANDARD
OF KNOWLEDGE & TRUST

Chartered
Financial Consultant®

CASL
The Chartered Advisor for Senior Living® (CASL®) designation is issued by The American College after acquiring specialized knowledge on advanced retirement and estate planning strategies.

RICP®
RETIREMENT
INCOME
CERTIFIED
PROFESSIONAL®

Securities products and advisory services offered through Park Avenue Securities LLC (PAS), member FINRA, SIPC. Guardian, its subsidiaries, agents and employees do not provide tax, legal or accounting advice. Not affiliated with the Florida Retirement System. 2015-6207 R.N.P. 5/17

A-AAA **HARRISON** *We've Moved*

BAIL BONDS

850-926-2299

Franklin County 850-670-3333

Locally Owned & Operated by Mike Harrison Since 1995
3039 Crawfordville Highway DOWNTOWN CRAWFORDVILLE
www.wakullabailbonds.com

WAKULLA
LOVES JESUS!

AND JESUS
LOVES WAVE 94!

☺ (HOPEFULLY)

MAKE YOUR DAY
BETTER WITH
WAVE 94.1 FM
850-926-8000

HELP COMMUNITY JOURNALISM
MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO
SUPPORT THE WAKULLA SUN THROUGH
THE FLORIDA PRESS FOUNDATION.



Your donation will help keep
the presses running.

Sheriff's Report

This report is for activity June 14-20:

FRIDAY, JUNE 14

• Mozell Barnes reported fraudulent activity on her bank account. Barnes stated \$231.02 was charged to pay a City of Tallahassee water bill. Barnes did not authorize this transaction. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Dakota Haddock investigated.

SATURDAY, JUNE 15

• Deputies responded to an address in Wakulla Gardens in reference to locating a stolen vehicle. The vehicle was stolen the night previous out of Tallahassee. TPD had been actively tracking the vehicle via OnStar. The vehicle was located

prior to it being entered into NCIC/FCIC as stolen. The owner of the vehicle did not want the vehicle impounded and it was released back to her at the scene. Deputy Zac Monroe investigated.

• Two unknown subjects entered the Publix Liquor store at 2343 Crawfordville Highway and took alcohol. One subject distracted the clerk while the other subject took the merchandise without purchase. The total amount of alcohol was approximately \$300. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

• Deputy Payton Surette responded to Walmart and made contact with the Asset Protection Manager, who was present with suspect Minerva Barndt, who was apprehend-

ed prior to leaving the store with merchandise which was not paid for. Barndt was issued a Notice to Appear in Court for Retail Theft and released from the scene.

SUNDAY, JUNE 16

• Deputy Don New-some responded to Goodwill and made contact with a Goodwill employee who stated Madison Scrogam passed the last point of sale with several items without paying. Scrogam was still on scene and in possession of the items. Scrogam was placed under arrest for retail theft and transported to the Wakulla County Jail.

MONDAY, JUNE 17

• John Wallace Howerton reported arriving to his restoration property in Wakulla County today and finding his air conditioning

unit missing. Howerton advised the unit was cut out from its original platform. Howerton could only provide deputies with the make (Haul Amana) and advised it was a 3-ton unit valued at \$3,500. Howerton could not provide a serial number at the time of the report. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Norman De Guzman investigated.

TUESDAY, JUNE 18

A Walmart employee reported an unknown male subject walk out the general merchandise exit and passing the last point of sales without paying for several items. This incident was captured on security cameras which were reviewed by Walmart Asset Protection and deputies upon reporting. The unknown male could be seen exiting the Walmart with a

cart full of merchandise and getting into a white Ford Expedition leaving the store area. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Matt Hinson investigated.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19

• Deputy Nick Gray responded to the Dollar General located at 1885 Crawfordville Hwy. and made contact with an employee who stated an unknown person entered the store and stole two bags of charcoal and charcoal lighter, totaling \$20. This case has been sent to detectives for further

investigation.

THURSDAY, JUNE 20

• Deputy Don New-some responded to Timberwood Court and made contact with Chelsea Carter, who stated the previous tenants stole several items upon vacating the residence, totaling \$5,315. The previous tenants also caused approximately \$2,500 in damage to the residence. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

Report suspicious or illegal activity at 850-745-7100 or call 911 for emergencies.

PUBLIC NOTICES:

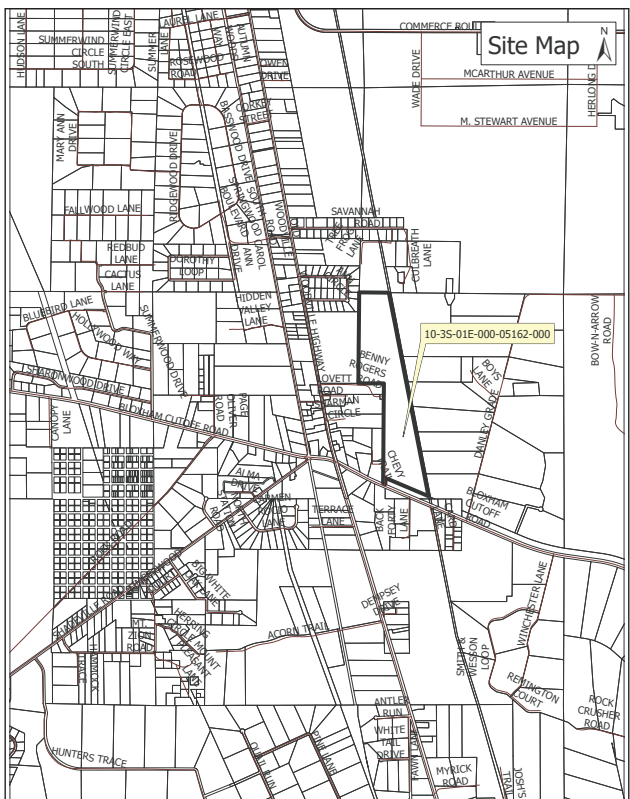
For our readers' convenience, The Wakulla Sun provides this Public Notice Section for all Public Notices not published in the Legal Notice section of the newspaper.



More Public Notices appear on Page 3

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING AN APPLICATION FOR PRELIMINARY PLAT

The Wakulla County Planning Commission proposes to consider the following application. A Public Hearing is scheduled regarding the following before the **Planning Commission on Monday, July 8, 2024, beginning at 6:00 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 Preliminary Plat Approval: PP24-03
 Applicants: Golden Construction Company, Inc. and Pafford Properties & Construction, LLC
 Agent: Edwin Brown & Associates, Inc./Wade Brown
 Proposal: create 42-lot residential subdivision – Preserve at Wakulla Station Phase II
 Tax ID Numbers: 10-3S-01E-000-05162-000
 Existing FLU Map: Rural 2 (FLUE Policy 1.2.5)
 Current Zoning: RR-2 (Section 5-34, LDC)
 FEMA Flood Info: "X" & "0.2PCT" zones on Panel 0275E
 Parcel size: 97.87 +/- acres
 Location: Wakulla Station area, north side of Bloxham Cut-off Road, east of Woodville Highway, abutting the eastern boundary of Preserve at Wakulla Station Subdivision

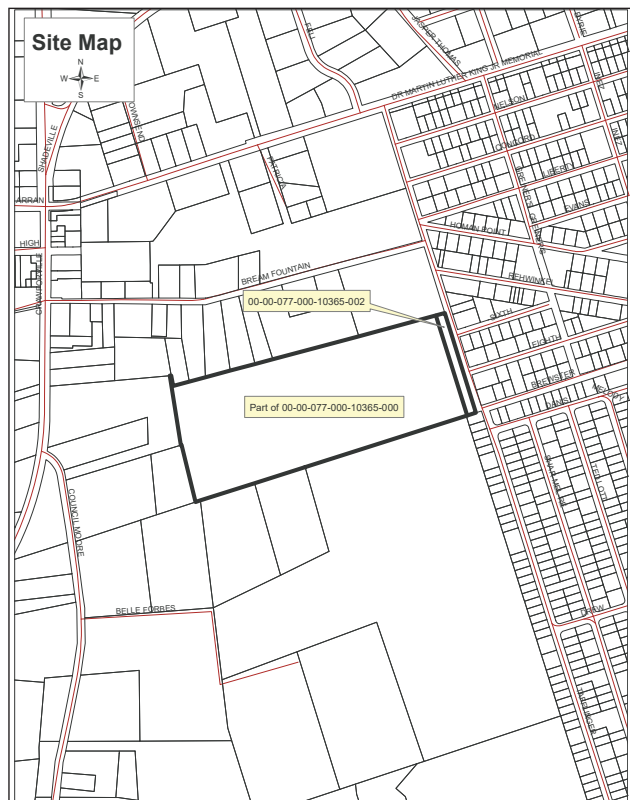
Hearing Required: Planning Commission: Monday, July 8, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

If an individual wishes to submit documents or other materials related to a matter before the Planning Commission for consideration by the Planning Commission 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 Commission Members. If an individual wishes to bring documents or other materials for consideration by the Planning Commission 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 twelve (12) 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 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.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING AN APPLICATION FOR PRELIMINARY PLAT

The Wakulla County Planning Commission proposes to consider the following request for a time extension of a previously approved Preliminary Plat and has scheduled a Public Hearing before the **Wakulla County Planning Commission on Monday, July 8, 2024, beginning at 6:00 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 Preliminary Plat Approval: PP22-05
 Applicant: 68V Misting Springs (FL) 2023, LLC
 Agent: Urban Catalyst Consultants, Inc./Sean Marston
 Proposal: time extension on a 228-lot residential subdivision – Misting Springs
 Tax ID Number: part of 00-00-077-000-10365-000 & 00-00-077-000-10365-002
 Existing FLU Map: Urban Core (FLUE Policy 1.2.9)
 Current Zoning: PUD (Section 5-50, LDC)
 FEMA Flood Info: "A" zone on Panel 0250E
 Parcel Size: 36-74 +/- acres
 Location: east side of Crawfordville Highway, north of Council Moore Road

Hearings Required: Planning Commission: Monday, July 8, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

If an individual wishes to submit documents or other materials related to a matter before the Planning Commission for consideration by the Planning Commission 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 Commission Members. If an individual wishes to bring documents or other materials for consideration by the Planning Commission 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 twelve (12) 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 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.

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

WAKULLA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS INVITATION TO BID 2024-49 WAKULLA GARDENS PHASE V AND PHASE VII CONSTRUCTION

ADVERTISEMENT BEGIN DATE:

JUNE 27, 2024

RELEASE DATE: JUNE 27, 2024

BIDS DUE TO BOCC:

JULY 30, 2024 @ 3:00 P.M.

Sealed bids will be received at the office of the Board of County Commissioners, 3093 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, FL 32327; until 3:00 P.M., Local Time, on **July 30, 2024** at which time the bids will be opened and read aloud. Bids received after said time will be returned unopened.

The principal feature of this procurement by the County is known as: **WAKULLA GARDENS PHASE V AND PHASE VII CONSTRUCTION**. The specifications of this procurement are stated in ITB 2024-49.

A **mandatory pre-bid conference** is scheduled for **July 9, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. EST. The meeting will be held at the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners Administration Office, 3093 Crawfordville Hwy., Crawfordville, FL 32327. The meeting is MANDATORY for all contractors who plan to submit bids.** Attendees must sign in at the pre-bid conference in order to be authorized to bid on the project. **All question(s) asked at the pre-bid meeting will not be formally addressed via addendum unless provided to the County in writing.**

The ITB and any addenda issued will be posted to the County's Website at www.mywakulla.com or can be obtained by contacting the County Procurement Office at 850-926-0919 or ptaylor@mywakulla.com.

A person or affiliate who has been placed on the convicted Respondent list following a conviction for a public entity crime may not submit a bid on a contract to provide any goods or services to a public entity, may not submit a bid on a contract with a public entity for the construction or repair of a public building or public work, may not submit bids on leases of real property to a public entity, may not be awarded or perform work as a contractor, supplier, subcontractor, or consultant under a contract with any public entity, and may not transact business with any public entity in excess of the threshold amount provided in Section 287.017, Florida Statutes, for CATEGORY TWO (\$35,000) for a period of 36 months from the date of being placed on the convicted Respondent list.

The Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners reserves the right to waive informalities in any bid; reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part; re-bid a project, in whole or in part; and to accept a proposal that in its judgment is the lowest and best bid of a responsible bidder. In accepting a bid, Wakulla County may award a contract based only on the base bid, the base bid plus all alternates, or the base bid plus any alternates which Wakulla County selects, with all decisions being made based upon what Wakulla County believes to be the best interests of its residents, in the reasonable exercise of its discretion. Wakulla County further reserves the right to increase or decrease quantities as may be required to meet the needs of Wakulla County, at the unit price which was bid. Wakulla County does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, marital status and disability/handicapped status in employment or provision of service.

Wakulla County is an Equal Opportunity Employer
MBE/WBE businesses are encouraged to participate
Wakulla County strictly enforces open and fair competition

ADA – Special Accommodations: Any person requiring accommodations by the County due to a disability should call the Purchasing Office at 850-926-0919 at least five (5) days prior to any pre-response conference, response opening, or meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the County Purchasing Office by the Florida Relay Service, which can be reached at 1-800-955-8771 (TDD).

GREAT OUTDOORS WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- ANIMAL
- BACKPACKING
- BOATING
- BREEZE
- CANOE
- CLIMBING
- CYCLING
- FISHING
- HORSEBACK
- JOGGING
- KAYAK
- LAKE
- MOUNTAIN
- NATURE
- PHOTOGRAPHY
- RECREATION
- RUNNING
- SAILING
- SKY
- SPORTS
- SUNSHINE
- SURF
- TOURISM
- TRAILS

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

CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. Volunteer school groups
5. Cash machine
8. Title of various Muslim rulers
12. Indian hand clash cymbals
14. Scarf
15. Easily manageable
16. Cry
18. Financial term
19. Reactive structure in organic chemistry (abbr.)
20. Clean out a riverbed
21. Seaport (abbr.)
22. English seascape painter
23. Bring back again
26. Subtracted from
30. Related on the mother's side
31. Mooches
32. Commotion
33. Boer War general
34. Silklike nylon fabric
39. CNN's founder
42. Sarcastic in a bitter way
44. Minute reproductive unit
46. Nourishment

47. Large predatory tropical fish
49. Small, rich sponge cake
50. Drink a small amount
51. Golfer Rodriguez
56. Norse personification of old age
57. Large flightless bird
58. Capsized
59. Convicted American spy
60. Music genre
61. Makes tractors
62. Undergo cell disintegration
63. Patti Hearst's captors
64. Self

CLUES DOWN

1. Post-traumatic stress disorder
2. Goat-like mammal
3. Swiss river
4. Slithered
5. Humiliate
6. Tumbled
7. Popular alcoholic drink
8. Small round hole in a leather cloth
9. Fertilizer

10. State of affairs that seems deliberately contrary
11. Count on
13. One who discriminates against
17. New Hampshire city
24. One who cares for teeth
25. Sent off
26. Mutual savings bank
27. Initial public offering
28. Denial
29. Northeastern institution of higher learning (abbr.)
35. A doctrine
36. Consumed
37. Trent Reznor's band
38. Perform in a movie
40. Schoolhouse implements
41. Mathematical term
42. Man who behaves dishonorably
43. Expression of regret
44. Martens
45. Approval
47. Pleasantly warm
48. The Eurasian hoopoe
49. NBAer Bradley
52. Engineering organization
53. Horsefly
54. Type of sandwich
55. A day in the middle of the month

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to the great outdoors.

WFRSLEO

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

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

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

Guess Who?

I am an entrepreneur born in South Africa on June 28, 1971. I attended the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, where I studied economics and physics. I am an engineer who became a billionaire with my many innovative projects.

Answer: Flowers
Answer: Elon Musk

CLASSIFIEDS MARKET

HOME OF THE \$5 CLASSIFIED AD
UP TO 20 WORDS

CLASSIFIED AD
ADD WORDS FOR 25¢ PER WORD

DISPLAY ADS \$5 PER COL INCH

Please call The Wakulla Sun at 850-962-8019 email classifieds@thewakullasun.com

SERVICES

Good Fences... All of your fencing needs and more...
Good Neighbors LLC
Licensed & Insured
COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL
WOOD • VINYL • CHAIN LINK • ALUMINUM
(850) 926-9455
GoodFencesGoodNeighbors.com
LE@GoodFencesGoodNeighbors.com

CORBIN'S
HEAVY EQUIPMENT
Land Clearing
Driveways
Ponds
Site Work
Demolition
Hauling
850-933-8505
FREE ESTIMATES

FOR SALE

1993 Jeep Wrangler Sahara.
Original engine - 6 cylinder,
softop, tan color.
Runs great - \$13,000.
David Perry 850-545-5028 or
706-455-0385.

SERVICES

CRUM'S HOME DETAIL
Chris Crum
HANDYMAN & PRESSURE
WASHING SERVICES
Crawfordville & surrounding areas
850-694-4832

LEATHER REPAIR / REFURBISH
850-766-4562
John Allcorn Leather
Bags, Belts, Holsters
Some work on Shoes and tack
Also - Custom Products

PAT GREEN'S LAWN SERVICE

WE DO IT ALL!
20+ Years Experience
850528-2371 or 850926-7461
TREE TRIMMING,
TRACTOR WORK AND
LAWN MAINTENANCE
• LAND CLEARING
• LANDSCAPING
• IRRIGATION
• SOD • MULCHING
• BUSH HOGGING
• DRIVEWAYS
• CULVERTS INSTALLATION
• ROAD MILLINGS
FREE QUOTES!
Call us for all your outdoor projects!
Locally Owned and Operated
Licensed and Insured



A Wakulla Wild Animal Rescue
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP?
We always need donations of these items:
• Bleach • Pedigree wet & dry dog food
• Paper towels • Fruit cocktail • Friskies wet & dry cat food
• Birdseed & nuts
Florida Wild Mammal Association
198 Edgar Poole Road
Crawfordville, FL 32327
FWMA.org
363-2351

HELP WANTED

Ms Maria's Grooming LLC
PET GROOMING & BATHING
Well Established Award Winning Local Business is **NOW HIRING!**
GROOMER & BATHER
Apply at
2500-A Crawfordville Hwy. Crawfordville
850519-1994
26 Years of Experience
PetGroomingByMaria

A & W SERVICES
AIR CONDITIONING REFRIGERATION & HEAT
Commercial • Residential • Fast and Reliable Scheduling
A & W Services Heating & Air is The Authority on HVAC Repairs, Maintenance, Installation and Upgrades!
(850) 504-6053
1221 Commercial Park Drive G-3 Tallahassee, FL 32303
Over 60 years combined experience • Lic. # CAC1815061

Fletcher's Cooling and Heating LLC
Keep it Cool!
CAC#1822950
- Free Estimates - SameDay Service
- Maintenance Plans - All Makes and Models
- Quality Pricing - Excellent Service
850-510-0140

20Years Experience Certified Arborist
TRIMMING TIMBERS
TREE REMOVAL & STUMP GRINDING
Ben Burns FREE Estimates
850.591.8351 Licensed & Insured

Spears Engines & Tires
Est. 1978
Spring Special
Mention this ad - Get 10% OFF Mower Blades
• Small Engine Repair • Automotive Repairs
• Tire Sales & Service • Carport & Portable Building Sales
850-926-2338
3211 Crawfordville Hwy. 32327 U-HAUL

PAT GREEN'S LAWN SERVICE
WE DO IT ALL!
20+ Years Experience
850528-2371 or 850926-7461
TREE TRIMMING,
TRACTOR WORK AND
LAWN MAINTENANCE
• LAND CLEARING
• LANDSCAPING
• IRRIGATION
• SOD • MULCHING
• BUSH HOGGING
• DRIVEWAYS
• CULVERTS INSTALLATION
• ROAD MILLINGS
FREE QUOTES!
Call us for all your outdoor projects!
Locally Owned and Operated
Licensed and Insured

Big Bend Hospice
your hometown hospice licensed since 1983
Big Bend Hospice is seeking direct patient care volunteers to provide companionship and respite services in Wakulla County.
If you are interested in learning more, please contact Kara Walker at (850) 878-5310.

Massages, Facials, Body Treatments
info@SunraysSpa.com
Easy Online Scheduling
www.SunraysSpa.com
2655-A Crawfordville Hwy. Crawfordville FL 32327
Sunrays Spa **850-745-6422**
Relax Revive Rejuvenate Follow us on f MM43237

Licensed & Insured **30+ YEARS EXPERIENCE**
FORGOTTEN COAST TRACTOR SERVICE LLC
Travis Clayton
850.273.9101
text or call
Skid Steer Mowing Land Clearing
Concrete Removal Grading
Demolition Driveways



Wakulla Realty
"Specializing in Wakulla County"
Sonya Hall Broker
(850) 926-5084
Sonya@wakullarealty.com
Real Estate Sales Listings & Rental Management
Karen Williams Broker Associate
(850) 567-8279
Karen@wakullarealty.com
10 Cedar Avenue, Crawfordville PO Box 535, Crawfordville FL 32326
WAKULLAREALTY.COM

AAA **Critter Ridder 24/7**
Dead or Alive Animal Removal
24 Hour Emergency Service
Shay Roberts
Licensed and Insured
Check us out on facebook! (850) 321-4178 (850) 528-1404

Harbor Point Realty
www.harborpointrealty.com
Mobile: 850-519-2292
susan@harborpointrealty.com
www.susanschatzman.com
Susan Schatzman Broker Associate
734 Shadeville Road
Crawfordville FL 32327

FARM BUREAU INSURANCE
Gene Lambert Agency Manager
FARM BUREAU INSURANCE of Wakulla County
(850) 926-3425
GENE.LAMBERT@FFBIC.COM
2468 Crawfordville Hwy, Crawfordville, FL 32327

Gerald Brown Photography
• Licensed Drone Operator
• Beach Portraits
• Special Occasions
• Events
Follow me on Instagram: **850-545-4281**
GeraldBrownPhoto.com
GeraldBrownPhoto@gmail.com

Southern Maid Cleaning Service
850-212-2908
Servicing the surrounding area Since 2017
• Licensed • Owner operated • Serving Surrounding Counties

Bill Webster, Attorney
General Law Practice
49 Years Experience
Since 1975
By Appointment Only
850-443-5901

Bonnie THE LIFE COACH
BonnietheLifeCoach.com
Bonnie Holub
Certified Life Coach
850-570-8271
Follow Bonnie's Monthly Advice Column
BonnieTheLifeCoach.com/ask-bonnie
Bonnie@BonnietheLifeCoach.com

• Fill Sand & Topsoil
• Rock • Road Base
• Land Clearing
• Driveways
• Culverts
• Ponds

HARVEY & SONS ENTERPRISES
Locally Owned & Operated by Shawn Harvey
Debris Removal
22 YEARS EXPERIENCE
850-661-4194

You can now subscribe to The Sun online!
To receive our Weekly Newspaper please visit www.thewakullasun.com and click on the subscribe today button or scan the QR code Here. →



Cross Country team – consistent excellence

By **BILL BASSETT**
Special to The Sun

Perhaps one of the best kept secrets here in Wakulla has been the consistent excellence put together by the Wakulla High School Cross Country team. If you didn't know – it's been a truly remarkable run!

While the cross-country season takes place during the fall, it's a year-long endeavor to be consistently great. You may have seen these dedicated boys and girls, running the trails down by the school near highway 319 – putting in the work. On any given week they log 20 – 40 miles as they practice their craft.

Over the past several years, the WHS XC (Cross Country) team has put together a string of victories and accomplishments that would give any sports team a reason to boast. While you won't hear it from their lips, rest assured it is on the minds of those they compete against. The path to achieving great results starts with solid coaching. Wakulla High Coach Mike Martin and his wife Melissa ("Coach Mel") have been guiding the team for several seasons. They are dedicated, caring leaders who volunteer their time to develop their student athletes on and off the trail. The results speak for themselves.

This past (2023) season, there were 12 girls on the team. In 11 races they placed 1st place 4 times; placed 2nd at two races; and 3rd at one race. They were District Champions, 5th at the Regional Meet, and advanced to the State Championship Meet for the third straight year. Six girls traveled to Huntsville, Alabama to compete at the Garmin Running Lane Championship meet.

There were 8 boys on the 2023 team. In 11 races they placed 1st once, 2nd once, 3rd once, 4th place at two races and 5th at one race. They competed at the District Meet and placed 6th, which advanced them to the Regional Meet. This was the third time since 2017 the boys advanced out of districts. The team just missed qualifying for the State Finals, but their top runner qualified individually to compete at the State Meet. Four boys traveled to Huntsville to compete at the Garmin Running Lane Championship meet.

These student athletes also excelled in the class room, with 15 of 20 runners achieving a 3.5 GPA or higher. As for their leader, Coach Martin is not one to take credit for these successes. He praises the athletes' effort and performance; along with his wife's assistance and unwavering support; and the WHS XC Boosters, parents, strength and condi-



Coach Mike Martin and the Wakulla High School Boys and Girls Cross Country team.

ments. Certainly the good folks of Wakulla County, the school, parents, and coaches past and present have a right to be proud.

2023 WHS Boys Cross Country

- Alex Marshall (Sr): Academic Award
- Andrew Nix (Sr): Captain; Garmin RL Championship; Coaches Award; Academic Award.
- Emil Bendeck (Jr): Garmin RL Championship; Academic Award.
- Steven Dandridge (Jr): Garmin RL Championship; Academic Award.
- Henry Lewis (So): State Qualifier; Garmin RL Championship, Academic Award; Boys Team MVP.
- Aaron Anderson (Fr): Dean Blumenthal (Fr): Most Improved Award.
- Logan Hand (Fr): Academic Award.

2023 WHS Girls Cross Country

- Analecia Ferrell (Sr): State Team; Garmin RL Championship.
- Liliana Lewis (Sr): Captain; Garmin RL Championship; Academic Award.
- Taylor Pfeifer (Sr): State Team; Garmin RL Championship; Academic Award.
- Kaylee Sanders (Sr): State Team; Garmin RL Championship; Coaches Award.
- Lana Hawkins (Jr): State Team; Garmin RL Championship; Academic Award.
- Isabella Laughton (Jr): State Team; Garmin RL Championship; Academic Award; Girls Team MVP.
- Danielle Malphurs (Jr): State Team; Garmin RL Championship; Academic Award.
- Kyrin Hand (So): Academic Award
- Aubrey Reck (So): Academic Award
- Sami Rodriguez (So): Emmalee Knutson (Fr): State Team; Academic Award.
- London Waymon (Fr): Academic Award; Most Improved Award.

Paul Hoover 5K held Saturday



Start of the race, held at Wakulla Springs.



Winner Henry Lewis, 16, with a time of 16:30



Winner Isabella Laughton, 16, with a time of 21:18

5K PHOTOS BY PERRY DISSMORE



Race directors Mike Atkinson, Mike Martin

tioning coach (Cale Langston); and others who volunteer their time. Coach Martin would let you know he's just following the path of the legendary coach that came before him: Paul Hoover.

Paul Hoover's love of running brought him to Wakulla High School in 2006, where he coached the cross country and track teams. At the time, the cross-country team had just 15 runners. Paul shared his passion for running with anyone who would lace up a pair of shoes. Often, Coach Hoover would provide those shoes himself. His dedication and mentorship was a magnet that drew in young adults. Paul believed "kids didn't care how much you knew, until they knew how much you cared." Paul

Hoover cared, and his kids knew it.

Through the years, Paul Hoover touched the lives of the hundreds of kids he mentored, coached, encouraged and loved. Hoover set the standard for his teams and the program flourished. Under Hoover, the WHS cross-country team grew to 40 athletes a year and became a formidable force. There were many program firsts including: District Championships, qualifying for Regional meets, and a string of consecutive, post season appearances. Under Hoover's guidance, several athletes signed with post-secondary institutions based on the strength of their cross-country and track and field performances.

The War Eagles

current coach knows you can follow a legend, but never replace one. Paul Hoover was indeed a legend. He was a special person and an extraordinary leader who motivated and guided others by his example. Those around the program today would confirm that's precisely what Coach Mike Martin and his wife (Coach Mel) are doing. They are continuing the legacy set by Coach Hoover; guiding their teams down the trails and tracks; inspiring runners to be a great teammate while chasing their goals and personal records; and

motivating their student athletes to be their best on and off the field.

This Saturday, June 22nd, the Paul Hoover Memorial Freedom Run 5K & Extra Mile Run/Walk 2024 will take place from 8-11 AM at Wakulla Springs State Park. The race was inspired by Coach Hoover and continues as the main fundraiser for the WHS Cross Country team. Monies raised go right back to the cross-country program.

Below is a list of this past year's Wakulla High Cross Country Team and some of their accomplish-

READ THE ROAD.

AND YOU WON'T NEED AS MANY NEW PARTS.

MOTORCYCLE CRASHES DON'T ALWAYS INVOLVE ANOTHER VEHICLE. SLICK SURFACES AND ROAD DEBRIS CAN LEAD TO BROKEN BIKES, AND BROKEN BONES. RIDE AT A SPEED THAT GIVES YOU TIME TO REACT. CHECK OUR WEBSITE BELOW FOR MORE CYCLE SAFETY TIPS.

ORTHOPAEDIC
TRAUMA
ASSOCIATION
ota.org

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS
orthoinfo.org

VISIT ORTHOINFO.ORG/CYCLESAFETY

DRIVE

YOUR

CAREER FORWARD

Join us to learn more about becoming a school bus driver.

90 days Attendance Bonus = \$1,250

We pay for CDL Driver Training

11th
JULY

6:30 PM - 7:30 PM
 Bus Transportation Office
 331 Arran Road

For more information, contact Mrs. Pat Jones at (850) 926-7550

Apply Now: <https://www.wakullaschooldistrict.org/employment>

Salute to Our Veterans event held Friday, Saturday

**Story & Photos By
LINDA ANN McDONALD
Correspondent**

A Salute to our Veterans event was held at the Wakulla County Community Center on both Friday, June 21 and Saturday, June 22, to provide services such as medical, dental, eye care, veterans services, counseling, financial literacy, haircuts, music and more. The event was hosted by Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary Post 4538 and was open to all Veterans and their families.

Winston Murphy, Wakulla County's Veterans Services Officer, said, "We have been trying to do this event for a long time, we finally had a meeting with the VFW and the American Legion Post and Ms. Cindy Goodwin from A Time To Change Counseling Services and we made it happen, we are thankful for the volunteers who put in a lot of effort and time who made this happen."

"This event just shows Veterans that we do care, you are a priority, and we want to make sure we support you in your needs, your surviving spouses needs and your children's needs. There are a lot of Veterans themselves who are losing their houses because they couldn't pay their bills due to financial issues and through services, we were able to provide them with 3,000 to 4,000 dollars a year which will help sustain them for the rest of their lives.", says Winston.

Winston shared, "There is an overwhelming joy everyday just having that interaction with vets during all eras of war and listen-

ing to the stories they tell of the suffering they endured as well as the good stories of serving our country, these guys paved the way for our freedom and this is my form of giving back to them."

At the event, First Florida Credit Union provided Financial Literacy presentations on financial education and a seminar on life, family and money balance while preparing for retirement as well as investment services. Dee Dee Rudd Financial Advisor and Keith Manze, Community Relations Specialist provided their financial services for the event.

A Time For Change Counseling Services provided group counseling services at the event while Albrey Sorrell provided informative literature for event visitors to read.

Wakulla County Property Appraiser Ed Brimner provided homestead exemption information for Veterans. "I have helped three people so far today and I feel very successful, if I help only one person, I know I made a difference in someone's life."

Recent cosmetology school graduate Jae Coburn donated her time and skills to serve Veterans by offering free haircuts.

Florida Department of Health in Wakulla County provided health and dental information and Wakulla County EMS/Fire Rescue were present at the event as well.

Joseph Davis, Don Norris and Rich Fox were visiting at the event and said, "This is a great event and we are really enjoying all the community support; we hope they do this again next year."



Wakulla Veteran Service Officer Winston Murphy



Mike and Charlotte Thrift with 'Bambi'



Albrey Sorrell of A Time for Change Counseling.



Joseph Davis, Don Norris, Rich Fox hanging out.



Greeters at the entry: Herbert Vann, Gregory Printy and Norman Peak.



**Habitat
for Humanity®**

Re-Store
850-926-4544
940 Shadeville Rd.



**A Wakulla
Wild Animal
Rescue
WOULD
YOU LIKE
TO HELP?**

We always need donations of these items:

- Bleach
- Paper towels
- Fruit cocktail
- Birdseed & nuts
- Pedigree wet & dry dog food
- Friskies wet & dry cat food
- Dawn dish liquid

**Florida Wild
Mammal
Association**

198 Edgar Poole Road
Crawfordville, FL 32327
FWMA.org
363-2351

THE CITY OF SOPCHOPPY PRESENTS

JULY 4, 2024

THE 50TH ANNUAL FOURTH of JULY CELEBRATION

10:00 Bill Stephens Americana Parade	4:30 Mr. Legg's & Raffle Contest
11:00 Myron B. Hodge City Park Opens	5:00 Frank Jones Band
12:00 Opening Ceremonies	6:30 DJ Butch
12:30 Landon Owens	7:30 Luke Martin
1:45 Josh Norman	Dark Fireworks!
3:00 Madden Metcalf	

NO COOLERS, GRILLS, OR ALCOHOL (850)962-4611 ENTRY: \$2 DONATION

Sponsored by:

WAKULLA REALTY, SONYA HALL	ROCKY'S
KEITH KEY HEATING & AIR, INC.	DUKE ENERGY DEWBERRY
ROOT 319 HYDRA ENGINEERING	BASKERVILLE-DONOVAN
RICK MYHRE FOR SUPERINTENDENT	HANDY MANDY'S CLEANING
<small>PAID BY RICK MYHRE, REPUBLICAN, FOR SUPERINTENDENT OF WAKULLA COUNTY SCHOOLS</small>	
FAMILY FUNERAL HOME	THE WAKULLA SUN
MATT PAYNE FOR SUPERINTENDENT	3Y OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT
<small>PAID BY MATT PAYNE, REPUBLICAN, FOR SUPERINTENDENT OF WAKULLA COUNTY SCHOOLS</small>	
THURMAN RODDENBERRY & ASSOCIATES, INC.	
ST. JAMES BAY GOLF RESORT	