

RE-ELECT THE ONE YOU CAN TRUST

- ✓ PROTECT OUR FIRST RESPONDERS
- ✓ PROTECT OUR TAX DOLLARS
- ✓ PROTECT OUR WAY OF LIFE



Mike KEMP
WAKULLA COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 3

✓ VOTE REPUBLICAN

EARLY VOTING AUG. 10-17TH
VOTE IN PERSON AUG. 20TH






Political Advertisement Paid For and Approved By Mike Kemp, Republican for Wakulla County Commission, District 3



WAKULLA WeatherSTEM

Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		
Scattered Thunderstorms Hi: 88° Lo: 76° 57% Sunrise 6:49 AM Sunset 8:38 PM	Scattered Thunderstorms Hi: 88° Lo: 77° 45% Sunrise 6:49 AM Sunset 8:38 PM	Thunderstorms Hi: 88° Lo: 76° 62% Sunrise 6:49 AM Sunset 8:37 PM

96852 36013 0 **\$1 One Section** *"It's a New Day"* *Locally Owned & Operated* **Our 3rd Year 29th Issue Thursday, July 18, 2024**

Candidates appear at forum

By **LEGION TAYLOR**
Reporter

The first of three political forums was held last week, with candidates for property appraiser and sheriff coming out to answer questions about themselves and their campaigns.

The forum, sponsored by The Wakulla Sun, was held Tuesday, July 9 at the public library.

The candidates for property appraiser are incumbent Ed Brimmer and former Property Appraiser Donnie Sparkman.

When asked why he was coming out of retirement, Sparkman listed a few reasons. One of those reasons, he says, was the \$300 million error in the tax roll.

"I've never seen in my 20-some years (working in the property appraiser's office) a mistake as large as was made," Sparkman said.



There were some testy exchanges between Sheriff Jared Miller and challenger Army Reyes at last week's forum.

He also mentioned the letters that the Department of Revenue issued in 2022 and 2023,

which found "selective reappraisal" – otherwise known as sales chasing, where properties

that have been sold have their values changed significantly, while other unsold properties don't

have the same criteria applied to them.

Sparkman said while he was property apprais-

er he never had these same issues, and that by getting a few more people to look over the tax rolls these mistakes could be prevented.

Brimmer responded, stating that the reason these mistakes happened is because there wasn't a system in place to check over every single item. He also added that the \$300 million error was caught quick enough that the county was able to adjust its budget and didn't actually cost any money, it was just very inconvenient and embarrassing for him and his office.

"I assure you there are multiple layers of oversight to prevent it from happening again," Brimmer said. "No single person now will be able to make a change without someone else being part of the process."

Brimmer's statement on the DOR letters is on page 4. (It was released

Turn to Page 3

CANDIDATE ANNOUNCEMENT

Donnie Sparkman running for property appraiser

He's coming out of retirement as appraiser to seek another term in office

By **DONNIE SPARKMAN**
Candidate

Donnie Sparkman, a seasoned professional with over 47 years of property experience and a proud Vietnam veteran, has officially announced his candidacy for Property Appraiser.

With a deep understanding of property values and a commitment to fairness and transparency, Sparkman aims to bring a wealth of knowledge and experience back to the office. There is currently a lack of experienced professionals in the Property Appraiser's

Office, which has led to inaccuracies and inefficiencies. Just within the last two years, the Wakulla County Property Appraiser's Office has received two advisory letters due to selective appraisals.

Under the leadership of Sparkman, who previously served as the Property Appraiser of Wakulla County, the office was deemed a model for other small counties. With Sparkman's extensive background, he is confident that he can bring back the necessary expertise to improve the accuracy and fairness of property



Donnie Sparkman

appraisals in our community.

Before retiring in January 2017, Sparkman served 23 years as a surveyor, three years as the Planning and Zoning Director of Wakulla and worked 20+ years in the Property Appraiser's Office with 10 of those years serving as the Property Appraiser of Wakulla County. Experience matters.

Sparkman is also a Vietnam veteran, having served his country with distinction in the 199th Light Infantry Brigade. His dedication to service is a family

tradition; all three of his sons served in the Iraqi War, highlighting the family's strong commitment to their country and community.

It is quite apparent that the current office lacks the experience and knowledge required to make the best decisions possible for the citizens of Wakulla County. Sparkman believes that the people of our community deserve an appraiser who will listen to their concerns and work tirelessly to address them accurately and appropriately. Sparkman's commitment to service is a family

Turn to Page 9

RE-ELECT  **JARED Miller**



SHERIFF MillerforSheriff.com **Keep Wakulla Safe**

— Political advertisement paid for by Jared Miller, Republican, for Wakulla County Sheriff —

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

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



New firetruck
 Wakulla County's new firetruck was officially put on the line last week with a ceremonial push-in to the fire station on Friday at the sta-

tion on Trice Lane. Along with county Fire Rescue personnel were state Sen. Corey Simon and aides from Rep. Jason Shoaf's office, along with four county commissioners. The truck is now in service. (Photo by Legion Taylor)

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
Cardinal flower

By LYNN ARTZ, DAVID RODDENBERRY, and SANDY TEDDER



Cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) is a stunning aquatic wildflower. Its brilliant scarlet flowers stand out from afar. Each showy flower has three spreading lower petals and two upper petals that unite into a tube at the base. Cardinal flower depends on hummingbirds for pollination as most insects cannot navigate the long tubular flowers. The nectar attracts swallowtail butterflies. Bumblebees steal nectar through slits in the tube. Cardinal flower occurs naturally in swamps and ponds and along streams and rivers. It can be grown in moist-to-wet, humus soil that never dries out. In the southern US, it grows best in filtered sunlight and afternoon shade. Cardinal flower is a short-lived perennial that reseeds itself. Some plants die after flowering. Cardinal flower is blooming now in the swale 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



Our children! Our Schools!
 Our Future!

Vote
JUNE DAVIS
WAKULLA COUNTY
SCHOOL BOARD
DISTRICT #2



JUNE DAVIS

- Committed to supporting our children, our parents, our teachers and staff.

- Dedicated to Wakulla County.
 - Friendly. Devoted.

Paid for and approved by June Davis, for Wakulla County School Board, District 2

Wakulla County Tax Collectors Office
SPECIALTY TAGS
\$15 - \$30 additional to cost of tag.
 Lisa Craze, CFC
 Wakulla County Tax Collector

EXPLORE OFF-ROAD FLORIDA LICENSE PLATE IS NOW AVAILABLE
 Annual use fees from sales of the plate will be distributed to qualified nonprofit organizations that protect and preserve Florida's natural off-road habitat; educate Floridians about responsible use of the off-road environment; support civilian volunteer programs that promote the use of off-road vehicles to assist law enforcement in situations such as search and rescue; support organized cleanups, trail maintenance, and restoration; or preserve Florida's off-road culture.

Forum

From Front Page

after the Sun's deadline last week and so was not in the July 11 newspaper.)

Brad Harvey, who embezzled more than \$200,000 from the property appraiser's office and was sent to state prison for 12 1/2 years, was brought up at the forum. Sparkman said that Harvey was already working at the Property Appraiser's Office before Sparkman was elected, and that the tax roll he was producing was satisfactory both due to his experience and the experience of the staff who worked alongside him in the office.

"What he was doing... He wasn't doing it while I was property appraiser," Sparkman said. "I know that."

Brimner said that while Sparkman didn't hire Harvey, he did help get him promoted and overlooked issues prior to Harvey's election to property appraiser that could have shown something was up.

"I think that it was the culture of the office that bred Mr. Harvey... When he became the property appraiser he just continued the same culture," Brimner said. "The office is more than just putting out tax rolls, the office is protecting the money of the citizens of Wakulla County."

Brimner was asked about a contract his office had entered into with Vision, a Computer Assessment Mass Appraisal system (CAMA), which had to be abandoned in favor of a contract with GSA, another software company. Brimner said that he wanted field appraisers to be able to take an iPad into the field, but when contractors from Vision were supposed to come in and convert the old system into the new, they were unable to, so that contract had to be abandoned and a new one entered into. Brimner said that the conversion cost the county \$50,000, but it was well worth it.

"I think you were advised by qualified employees and personnel not to go to that first system," Sparkman responded. "Two other counties, I think, in the state tried and were not able to convert... If other counties' property appraiser's offices were having problems with them, you don't want to go there."

Brimner said he was advised to go with GSA at first, but that at the time GSA didn't have a

field appraiser app that he was looking for.

"There were multiple counties in Florida that had used Vision, they just hadn't made the transition from the old CAMA system we were using," Brimner said.

The candidates were also asked about any specific initiatives they had in mind to educate property owners about their rights.

Brimner discussed his efforts to reach out to the public, particularly about his efforts to educate homeowners about their eligibility for homestead exemptions, which reduce the amount that homeowners pay in property taxes. He added that his office was reaching out to homeowners directly as well as holding events to achieve this end.

Sparkman talked about how he used to write articles for local publications, as well as communicating with and educating Realtors associations as well as homeowners.

SHERIFF'S RACE

The candidates for Sheriff are Incumbent Jared Miller and Army Reyes.

Sheriff Miller has been in Law enforcement since 1993, and he listed some accomplishments such as getting Wakulla County accredited before many other rural counties in Florida.

Reyes was a medic in the military, before becoming a neurosurgical physician's assistant for a while, and then transitioned into a career in law enforcement in 2000 in New York state.

After introductions, Reyes was asked about comments he had made at a previous event about having deputies trained as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), the questions involved things like whether or not deputies would be removed from their positions if they did not pass EMT school, and if a medical director position would be added to supervise the new EMT deputies. Reyes stated that he wouldn't fire deputies if they could not pass EMT school, but that having deputies trained to render basic life support is a necessity. Reyes also said that he would be giving part of his salary back to pay for the improved training, and it wouldn't cost the deputies anything.

Sheriff Miller responded that the EMT training would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars and asked if the EMT deputies



Property appraiser candidates Ed Brimner and Donnie Sparkman at the forum.

would respond to crime scenes by giving medical aid first or by responding to the crime itself as the deputies do now. Miller also brought up that having deputies trained to render medical aid would disrupt the work of the county's Fire Rescue department.

"You stated in the last debate that New York does that (train deputies as EMTs), we've contacted New York, we've got your personnel file, and they do not do that, that's not true, none of them are EMT certified," Miller said.

Reyes fired back by saying that he understands the cost of EMT training, but that not everyone would be going through the training and he would be covering the brunt of it by giving his salary back.

"My biggest fear is you've got the southern area of Crawfordville, St. Marks, Panacea, Sopchoppy, where you've got an aging population," Reyes said.

Miller was asked about deputies who had been given Giglio memos, which is where the state attorney has determined that a particular officer has a history of lying and is no longer a reliable witness in court. In particular, one deputy had been lying about serving in the military, as well as about other things while under oath, and he was fired from the sheriff's office. Another deputy, who was the subject of an internal affairs investigation for questionable traffic stops, was let go.

Reyes brought up that another deputy at the sheriff's office had been fired for "inappropriate dealings with a minor" which caused Miller to immediately fire back.

"Yeah, we put 'em in jail. What do you want me to do?" Miller says, "He's arrested and in jail, still."

"That was under your watch," Reyes said. "He

should have been vetted better."

Miller brought up that a few donations to Reyes' campaign were from people who were either charged or convicted of a crime, including a small donation from a man facing murder charges in Wakulla. Reyes responded that he took those donations in good faith, as neither of those people had been convicted with a crime at the time they donated to his campaign. "I am not a judge, I am not a jury," Reyes said.

Reyes was then asked about the difference between managing sworn-in officers and civilian staff at the sheriff's office. He commended the current staff at the sheriff's office, but admitted he didn't know who works for the sheriff's office, and he doesn't know the number of deputies, civilian staff, or administrative staff.

Miller countered that Reyes has been trying to run for sheriff since 2016, and that during the time since then he should have done research to know these details so that he's better prepared for the job.

Miller was asked about strategies to retain deputies, and he brought up that Wakulla is a fiscally constrained county according to Florida law. What this means is that a 1 mill tax levy brings in less than \$5 million in tax revenue. Miller noted that it makes hiring and retaining deputies more difficult.

Reyes said he believed the sheriff's office was a "mushroom department" – top heavy with overpaid brass – which was the root of some of the financial issues. He also mentioned that Sheriff Miller had previously said the county was "cash-strapped" at the Palaver Tree candidate forums.

Reyes was then asked about initiatives to build trust between the community and the sheriff's

department. He talked about the rate of growth in Wakulla, citing the hundreds of building permits that had been approved in the county over the last couple of years.

"We need to be able to actually talk to the public," Reyes said. "One person at a time, one problem at a time."

Miller said when he took office in 2016 there was very little relationship between the sheriff's office and the community, and that he and his staff have worked to build up that relationship.

"If you look, I'm at every event on every weekend, every night, I'm somewhere at an event," Miller said. "Community engagement is what keeps us going in Wakulla County."

Miller was asked about strategies for dealing with the drug epidemic, and he talked about the multi-jurisdictional drug task force which combines law enforcement agencies from around the region to better handle drug problems both in Wakulla and in other counties.

Reyes said that proactive policing is the best way to fight the drug problems in Wakulla, but that the sheriff's office doesn't have the manpower to do that adequately just yet. Reyes also brought up that he has a Drug Enforcement Administration certification from an introductory course.

Miller refuted these claims by stating that he and other officers go through similar training every week.

"That little three-hour certificate you've got, I've got 200 of them," Miller countered.

Reyes was asked about the efforts he would take to handle mental health crises that his deputies encounter in the field,

and he deferred to Miller, asking what Miller's deputies do when they respond to an individual in crisis, or if the deputies just Baker Act them, which means taking them to a mental health facility to be assessed to see if they're a danger to themselves or others.

Miller explained the contract his office has with Northwest Florida Health and with the Apalachee Center, which give the deputies a hotline they can call to get the distressed persons in contact with a trained mental health professional immediately, without needing to Baker Act them.

Miller was also asked about the youth outreach programs that his office participates in, and he discussed the Law Enforcement Against Drugs and Violence (LEAD) that effectively replaces DARE and SAVE to educate elementary school students about the dangers of drugs, as well as the Citizen's Academy, the Explorer's program, and the Teen Driver Challenge.

Reyes commended the sheriff's office on its outreach programs, and stated that he would add a partnership with Mothers Against Drunk Driving as well as continuing existing programs.

When asked about strategies for crime prevention, Reyes said that the most important thing is to get more deputies out on the road.

Miller responded by saying that he's done his best to get as many deputies on the road as possible, but because Wakulla is fiscally constrained, it's difficult to find the money to pay for additional deputies.

"We're doing the best we can with what we have," Miller said.

Miller was asked about efforts to protect the schools, and he noted the sheriff's department has provided for more deputies as School Resource Officers and the school board-funded Guardians to be put in every school to better protect students and staff.

Reyes said he liked the Guardian program and that every school has an SRO, and that he wants to work with the schools to get a grant for electronic passes and locks so that the front doors are the only ways into the schools.

WAKULLA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD INVITATION TO BID

TO: ALL BIDDERS
THE WAKULLA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD INVITES YOU TO SUBMIT A BID ON THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED ITEMS:

BID NUMBER: WCSB # 2024/25-02

ITEMS TO PURCHASE: Propane Gas
SEALED BIDS SHALL BE RECEIVED BY THE WAKULLA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD UNTIL: August 6, 2024 @ 10:30 AM

ALL BIDS RECEIVED SHALL BE OPENED AND READ ALOUD PUBLICLY, AT THE WAKULLA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, 69 ARRAN ROAD, CRAWFORDVILLE, FLORIDA, ON: August 6, 2024 @ 10:30 AM

THE BIDS SHALL BE CONSIDERED BY THE WAKULLA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD DURING THEIR REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING ON: August 19, 2024 @ 5:45PM

THE SCHOOL BOARD RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS OR PORTIONS THEREOF.

BID FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM:

WAKULLA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
379 ARRAN ROAD CRAWFORDVILLE, FL 32327
ALL BIDS SHOULD BE SEALED AND CLEARLY MARKED ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE ENVELOPE:

THE ENVELOPE:
"SEALED BID, WCSB # 2024/25-02"

ALL BIDS SHOULD BE MAILED TO:
WAKULLA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
P.O. BOX 100
CRAWFORDVILLE, FL 32326-0100

July 18, 2024

WAKULLA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD INVITATION TO BID

TO: ALL BIDDERS
THE WAKULLA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD INVITES YOU TO SUBMIT A BID ON THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED ITEMS:

BID NUMBER: WCSB # 2024/25-01

ITEMS TO PURCHASE: Diesel and Unleaded Fuel
SEALED BIDS SHALL BE RECEIVED BY THE WAKULLA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD UNTIL: August 6, 2024 @ 10:00 AM ALL BIDS RECEIVED SHALL BE OPENED AND READ ALOUD PUBLICLY, AT THE WAKULLA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, 69 ARRAN ROAD, CRAWFORDVILLE, FLORIDA, ON: August 6, 2024 @ 10:00 AM THE BIDS SHALL BE CONSIDERED BY THE WAKULLA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD DURING THEIR REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING ON:

August 19, 2024 @ 5:45PM THE SCHOOL BOARD RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS OR PORTIONS THEREOF.

BID FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM:

WAKULLA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
379 ARRAN ROAD CRAWFORDVILLE, FL 32327
ALL BIDS SHOULD BE SEALED AND CLEARLY MARKED ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE ENVELOPE:

"SEALED BID, WCSB # 2024/25-01"

ALL BIDS SHOULD BE MAILED TO:
WAKULLA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
P.O. BOX 100
CRAWFORDVILLE, FL 32326-0100

July 18, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICES:

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



NOTICE OF WORKSHOP

St. Marks City Hall
Commission Chambers
788 Port Leon Drive | St. Marks, Florida 32355

Notice is hereby given that the City Commission of the City of St. Marks, Florida, pursuant to Section 12 of the City's Charter, has called a special meeting for Thursday, July 18, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., to hold a Budget Workshop.

All interested members or the public are hereby invited to attend the workshop on Thursday, July 18, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Workshop items of discussion:

• Budget Workshop Fiscal Year 2024-2025

For additional information please call the City of St. Marks at 850-925-6224.

July 18, 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.”

Brimner response to last week’s story on DOR letters

Dear Mr. Snowden,

Thank you for reaching out to this office concerning post-roll analyses. As you noted, the 2021 analyses showed this office met all standards. The 2022 analyses showed a larger increase in reported market values of recently sold properties than increases in properties that were not sold in 2022. This was followed in 2023 by an even larger spread in these values. These statistics were correct and correlated with changes this office was aware of and is addressing. For the short-term, there will be statistical anomalies as we transition from chasing statistics and focus on correctly assessing Wakulla County Properties.

A little background is necessary. When I was elected, I found garbage bags full of shredded materials. The prior property appraiser, Mr. Brad Harvey, and other employees spent the weekend prior to his arrest destroying evidence that might have been used by law enforce-

ment. This action deprived me of this office’s historical actions and required me to begin my term from ground zero. In addition, the prior chief appraiser retired, the chief tax roll officer quit, the prior mapping specialist sued to overturn the election, and employees actively challenged every action taken by me. My first year was spent building the infrastructure of an office and few changes were made in 2021 assessments, so statistics indicated everything was good. I began making correct assessments in 2022 and statistical anomalies began to show up.

Artificially low assessments for one property means another citizen must pay more to make up the difference. The practice of giving certain citizens unfair tax advantages hurts our most vulnerable citizens more than those who can afford to pay their fair share of taxes. This office is tasked with determining the market value of all Wakulla County Properties. I will continue to pursue

accurate market values in accordance with state statutes. Some unfair assessments I found follows:

In 2012, a property sold for \$1,008,400. This sale price is a good indication of market value. Mr. Donnie Sparkman assigned this property a market value of \$203,682; or 20% of the purchase price. By 2020, Mr. Sparkman, followed by Mr. Harvey, had increased the market value of this property \$220,732, a mere 8% increase despite inflation and increases in overall values throughout Wakulla County. Mr. Sparkman and Mr. Harvey had neglected to update property characteristics and costs over the years, forcing commissioners and school board members to increase the tax rates to raise the funds necessary to operate the county government and schools. By 2023, my office increased the market value to \$558,032, a 153% increase from 2020.

In 2013, another much smaller property sold for \$370,000.

Again, this sale price is a good indication of market value. The property appraiser’s office assigned this property a market value of \$195,112; or 53% of the purchase price. In 2020, the reported market value of this property decreased to \$187,351—a decrease despite inflation and increases in overall values throughout Wakulla County. Again, Mr. Sparkman and Mr. Harvey had neglected to update the property’s characteristics and costs over the years. By 2023, my office increased the market value to \$311,361, a 66% increase from 2020.

Other examples of undervalued properties from prior administrations are:

In 2012, a property sold for \$650,000 and Mr. Sparkman assessed it at \$259,855. In 2020, the market value was reported as \$329,890. By 2023, my office increased the market value to \$533,486.

In 2016, a property sold for \$1,969,500 and Mr. Sparkman assessed it for \$549,001.

By 2023, my office increased the market value to \$1,411,962.

There have been no Value Adjustment challenges to any of these 2023 values. The lack of Value Adjustment Board challenges indicates our values are correct and these property owners knew they were getting very advantageous assessments.

An recent example from my office on how we access property highlights the difference between Mr. Sparkman and me. A property that sold in 2023 for \$2,129,700 was I assessed it at \$1,632,834. This value subtracted out tangible personal property (TPP) from the sale as TPP is assessed separately.

The Florida Department of Revenue is well aware of the myriad of changes we are making and that these changes will result in honest and impartial assessments. They know our field evaluators have received updated training and are visiting every property in Wakulla County to update property characteristics. This will

take about 3 more years to complete.

I knew this office had many problems when I was elected. I also knew it would take more than a year to implement the changes required to correct errors made over the last couple of decades. We are making progress and this year’s post-roll analysis will reflect these improvements. Correctly assessing all properties allows our commissioners and school board to lower the millage rate on all properties and everyone pays their fair share of taxes required to operate this county. I remain committed to Honest and Impartial Assessments.

Again, thank you for allowing me to address these analyses.

Sincerely,
Ed Brimner, CFA

Ed Brimner is Wakulla County Property Appraiser and a candidate for re-election.

Editor’s Note: Candidate Donnie Sparkman was offered an opportunity to respond but has yet to send a response.

On the Horizon

Calendar of events for the week of July 18

Thursday, July 18

- Palaver Tree Theater is showing Tim Burton’s “Big Fish” at 8 p.m. 50% of proceeds go towards WHS’s Dramatis Personae Theater Group. \$15 a carload.
- The Wakulla County School Board is having a budget workshop in the school administration building at 2 p.m.
- The Wakulla County Affordable Housing Advisory Committee is holding a public meeting at 10 a.m. at the Fire Rescue Conference Room at 318 Trice Lane.
- Rotary Club of Wakulla meets every Thursday at TSC Wakulla at 8:30 a.m.
- The VFW Auxiliary Bingo Night will be held at 7 p.m. at 475 Arran Road in Crawfordville, every Thursday. There are concessions and raffles.
- 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.

Friday, July 19

- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon

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

Saturday, July 20

- FRESH Backpack Giveaway is at Panacea Plaza from 9 a.m. to noon.
- Palaver Tree Theater is hosting Chomp N Stomp Vol. 5 starting at 3 p.m.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. every Saturday at 54 Ochlockonee St.

Monday, July 22

- The Wakulla County School Board meets in the school administration building at 5:45 p.m.
- The Wakulla County Recreation Advisory Committee will hold a public meeting at 4 p.m. at the Wakulla County Community Center.
- 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.
- Gentle Yoga and Stretching Class, every

Monday, 11 a.m. Wakulla Community Center. Bring a mat. Come early to sign in. Chair Yoga participants welcome. \$2 per class.

- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. at 54 Ochlockonee St.

Tuesday, July 23

- The Wakulla County Code Enforcement Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the County Commission Chambers.
- The Tourist Development Council will hold a special meeting in the county commission conference room in the administration building at 9 a.m. to discuss repairs to the Wakulla Welcome Center in Panacea.
- 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 24

- 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.

UPCOMING Thursday, July 25

- Palaver Tree Theater is showing “Miracle on 34th Street at 8 p.m. 50% of proceeds go towards WHS’s Dramatis Personae Theater Group.

Friday, July 26

- The Wakulla County Senior Center is holding its Christmas in July Fundraiser from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Lodge at Wakulla Springs.

Tuesday, July 30

- The Wakulla Sun’s third candidate forum will be held at the Wakulla County Public Library at 6 p.m. for candidates for county commission seats.

GOT A QUESTION FOR CANDIDATES? Submit it to editor@thewakullasun.com.

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 editor@thewakullasun.com	Reporter: Legion Taylor reporter@thewakullasun.com	Production Manager/IT: Eric Stanton estanton@thewakullasun.com	Circulation: Krystal Sheppard circulation@thewakullasun.com	Sales & Marketing Lynda Kinsey lkinsey@thewakullasun.com
---	---	---	--	---

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/@TheWakullaSun


DISTRIBUTOR
Jessi Smith

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.



– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

Polled at the Crawfordville Quick Stop: What's best about living in Wakulla?



RICK PHILLIPS
Retired programmer

“The fishing! I have an old family property here and we catch speckled trout, cobia, mullet, sheephead, just all types of fish.”



TAZ HANCOCK
Cornerstone Tools

“I guess it would be the community. When you need support, the community is there for you.”



HEATHER SCOTT
4 Points Restaurant

“I like the small town vibe. Everyone knows everyone, it's like a big family.”



ALEX AKINS
Construction

“The fact that there are a lot of activities here. There's the state parks, the rivers, just lots to do. Also, all the southern hospitality.”



LAWRENCE MCMILLIAN
Retired City of Tallahassee

“I was born and raised here, it's just nice and peaceful and we have good people here.”

Buckhorn News

By ETHEL SKIPPER

We wish a happy birthday to Myles Grimmitt, July 9, Doria Grant on July 9, Isaiah Hines III on July 10, Briana Beard on July 11, wender Gavin on July 12, Elizabeth Clary on July 18, and Ruth Easter on July 22.

The Mills-Allen-Rosier-Simmons 2024 Family Reunion will be held in Sopchoppy at the historic gym with a meet and greet on Friday night with

family fellowship and entertainment featuring games and refreshments. A Saturday cookout was fun for everyone with a picnic. On Saturday night was the family banquet. On Sunday, worship at Mount Trial Primitive Baptist Church. Preacher was the Rev. Clayton Allen.

Rosier family and friends, we invite you to join us for a day of laughter, lore, praise and worship, and cherished family moments. Let's unite to honor the legacy of John and Char-

lotte Rosier and create new memories over a feast of home-cooked food that will be treasured for years to come.

We eagerly anticipate your presence on July 27 at noon at the historic Sopchoppy gymnasium, 159 Yellow Jacket Road in Sopchoppy.

On Sunday, July 28, at noon, will be worship service at Skipper Temple Church on Surf Road. Speaker will be Brother Patrick Rosier. Everyone is welcome.

Macedonia Community Church will host a community youth event

sponsored by the West Florida Diocese Church of Christ Written in Heaven. It is free to the community. There will be games, free food, wellness check, wellness workshop and much more. Saturday, July 20, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Our prayers and concern goes out to all the sick and shut-in, to those in need of help in all ways, those in the hospital, nursing home, prison, homeless. Paryer for world leaders and for peace everywhere and love everyone.

Sopchoppy News

By DJ BUTCH

Another Amazing Week in Sopchoppy!

McClendon's Auto Service in Sopchoppy has opened a new business, Mateah & Lexie's Book Nook. They have an assortment of children's picture books, kid's/teen's chapter books, men's/women's books, cookbooks, drawing books, games, and

puzzles.

Friday night I was the DJ for Low Tide Bar. It was a great night. Saturday I had a birthday party to DJ and then Saturday evening I was the DJ for the Franks Family Foundation Football Camp. Feleipe Franks was the star quarterback for the Florida Gators and then the Atlanta Falcons. His brother Jordan Franks

played for UCF in college and then several NFL teams. He even won a superbowl with the Chiefs. These two brothers are superstars! They come back home to Wakulla every year and put on an amazing football camp for our youth. It is absolutely amazing to see them inspiring our youth. Showing them that you can do it from a small town. They had several volunteer coaches and drills set up. They had sponsors like Lindy's chicken in Crawfordville that provided the kids dinner. They also had gift bags with

all kinds of cool stuff. I love to see County Boyz become successful and then give back. It really makes a difference in our community. The kids loved it and they worked hard. Our kids are our future!

Events like this are important. It shows the kids that dreams come true. It shows them how important it is to give back and inspire the next generation. Makes me proud and honored to be apart of such an amazing event. It's got me hyped up for football!

Wakulla Station News

By VERNA BROCK

I cannot believe we are more than halfway through the summer break! Students and teachers, soak up the good times now. Maybe the start of another school year will help usher in fall and cooler weather... Nah. We're doomed to living in a sauna for the next four months.

Harper attended Vacation Bible School last week at the Crawfordville United Methodist Church, and had a great time. They had 25 kids, and enjoyed learning Bible stories,

songs, and fellowshiping together. Many thanks to all the volunteers and staff for providing such an enriching experience.

Last Sunday Ed and I joined friends at the Woodville UMC for their Second Sunday Sing once again. The quartet included David and Daryl Langston on fiddle and bass viol, and the music was amazing. After the performance we walked the short distance to the fellowship hall and enjoyed a delicious supper provided by the good folks at the church. Next month there will

be a Bluegrass gospel group, and all are invited to join us for a good time full of good music and good food.

I am so happy to report that my friend Sharhonda Williams came through her surgery well, and want to thank each of you who offered prayers for her recovery. Also, it is with joy I report Clementine Bunker was able to attend church last Sunday. After falling and experiencing multiple breaks in her leg last February, Clem has been diligently rehabbing to get back up on her feet. Seeing her come into the church with her son Charlie was a reason for much celebration.

Please continue to lift Mary Jo

Dowling as she continues to mend from a serious bout of appendicitis, as well as Cindy Blackstock, her sister Deborah Giles, Becky Perkins, Emily McKuen who is seeking treatment at Shands in Gainesville, Thelma Watts, the family of Andy Sutton, and Kelly O'Neil, Crystal Rudd, Terry Allen, and our nation.

I know everyone agrees that the shocking events of Saturday afternoon were unacceptable. Now is the time for we as a nation to join in prayer, supporting all the victims of the horrible shootings in Pennsylvania. We must come together as one to seek peace and a return to sanity. Amen? AMEN!

Sheriff's Report

This report is for activity July 5 to 11:

FRIDAY, JULY 5

• Deputy Kory Smith responded to Bob Miller Road in reference to a fraud complaint. Upon arrival Deputy Smith made contact with Jeffrey Smith, who advised he mailed a check to First Call Truck Parts but when he checked his bank statement the check had been altered. Smith advised the check had been changed to an individual and cashed in Maryland. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

• Deputy Arturo Cordoba responded to the front lobby of the sheriff's office and made contact with Ralph Meadows, who advised on July 3 a white male jumped the fence to his residence on Crawford-

ville Highway and stole a mannequin. Meadows said the unknown male went back to the fence and handed the mannequin to an unknown white female.

• Deputy Kory Smith responded to the area of Bloxham Cutoff and U.S. Hwy. 98 in reference to a disturbance on the side of the road. The deputy observed a car pulling away from the scene and was able to stop the vehicle and make contact with the driver, Teresa Wilson. Deputy Smith determined she was under the influence. Wilson was placed under arrest and transported to the Wakulla County Jail.

SATURDAY, JULY 6

• Deputy James Williams responded to the front lobby of the sheriff's office and made contact with Lindsey Her-

man and Mary Finch. Herman advised she and Finch have a joint bank account at a local banking establishment. Herman noticed a suspicious check that had been written out of their account. They were able to provide a possible suspect in this case. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

• Antonio Johnson reported his kitchen on fire. He was able to get the fire out prior to Fire Rescue and deputies' arrival. The fire started when his cousin Christopher Dykes fell asleep while trying to cook. During the investigation, Dykes kept trying to enter the residence after being told by fire personnel to remain outside. After blatant disregard of directives given by Fire Rescue and deputies, Dykes was subsequently placed under arrest and transported to the Wakulla County Jail. Deputy Norman De

Guzman investigated.

SUNDAY, JULY 7

• Deputy Arturo Cordoba was contacted at Patrol Annex by Jane Warren, who had found a cell phone in front of her driveway while walking her dog. The phone was placed into safekeeping until the owner can be located.

MONDAY, JULY 8

• Kelsey Moore reported unauthorized charges on her bank account while she was incarcerated. Between April and July 2024 there were 19 unauthorized charges totaling \$163.54. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Dakota Haddock investigated.

• Ashley Duncan reported fraudulent activity on the Duncan Trucking business bank account. Duncan stated a check was forged by

an unknown person for over \$12,000. Duncan advised she did write a check for the same amount and check number to a local business, and not the suspect listed on the forged check. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

TUESDAY, JULY 9

• Deputy Nick Gray conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle being operated by George Blankinship. During the stop it was determined that Blankinship was in possession of marijuana and cocaine. Blankinship was arrested and transported to the jail.

• Deputy Heather Will responded to the road construction area at Bloxham Cutoff and U.S. Hwy. 319 due to reports of a vehicle failing to maintain a single lane and running over several traffic cones while construction workers were present. The ve-

hicle was stopped. The driver, Ruben Blair, was placed under arrest for DUI and transported to the Wakulla County Jail.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 11

• Travis Lee Schoonover was arrested after deputies responded to a home on Pixie Circle in reference to a fraud report. Schoonover was the complainant calling for another individual. Upon contact, deputies were advised of a commitment order for Schoonover. An attempt was made to arrest him, but he fled on foot from deputies. Deputies chased, and were able to subdue him after the deployment of a Taser. A search yielded meth and drug paraphernalia. Schoonover was secured and transported to Wakulla County Jail.

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

Outdoors

outdoor sports

HOME ON THE RANGE

What's wrong with my new gun?



By MARJ LAW

"This is going to be fun!" Karen brings Leslie to the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office range. This is Karen's third trip with her Ruger Mark IV, and she's feeling pretty experienced. Leslie has a new Browning Buckmark, and she has never shot before. Both are .22 caliber pistols.

"I've been breaking in my Mark IV," Karen tells Leslie. "New guns need to be 'broken in.' A breaking in period might be shooting about 200 rounds through the gun. I bet I've shot 120 rounds so far and today I plan to make it to 150!"

"I see you brought your hearing and eye protection," she continues. "And you remember the range rules posted on that large sign?"

Leslie nods emphatically.

"And you are sure about the meaning of 'hot' and 'cold'?" Karen asks.

Again, Leslie nods.

"OK. Are you ready?" Leslie nods, this time somewhat uncertainly.

"Now, remember. We are across the red line on the floor, and the range

is hot. Keep your finger off the trigger until you are pointing downrange at a target and are ready to shoot."

Leslie points the gun towards her target, her finger not on the trigger yet.

"Am I holding it right?" "Yes, your hands are holding just right. Take a breath, let it go slowly, then put your finger on the trigger and squeeze. Don't jerk your finger. Just squeeze it through."

Leslie takes a breath and lets it out. She puts her finger on the trigger and squeezes.

"What happened?" she asks as the gun fires, missing the target, and the casing sticks up straight from the ejection port.

"Oh. That's a stovepipe," says Karen, knowledgeably.

"Why did that happen?"

"Well, Leslie, you probably limp-wristed the gun. That means you didn't lock your wrists and have a firm grasp. I'll take out the casing and you can try again."

"OK. I'll hold it more tightly."

Leslie shoots again. But this time, the round doesn't fire. Karen takes the gun, pulls the bolt back, and the entire round flies out of the port.

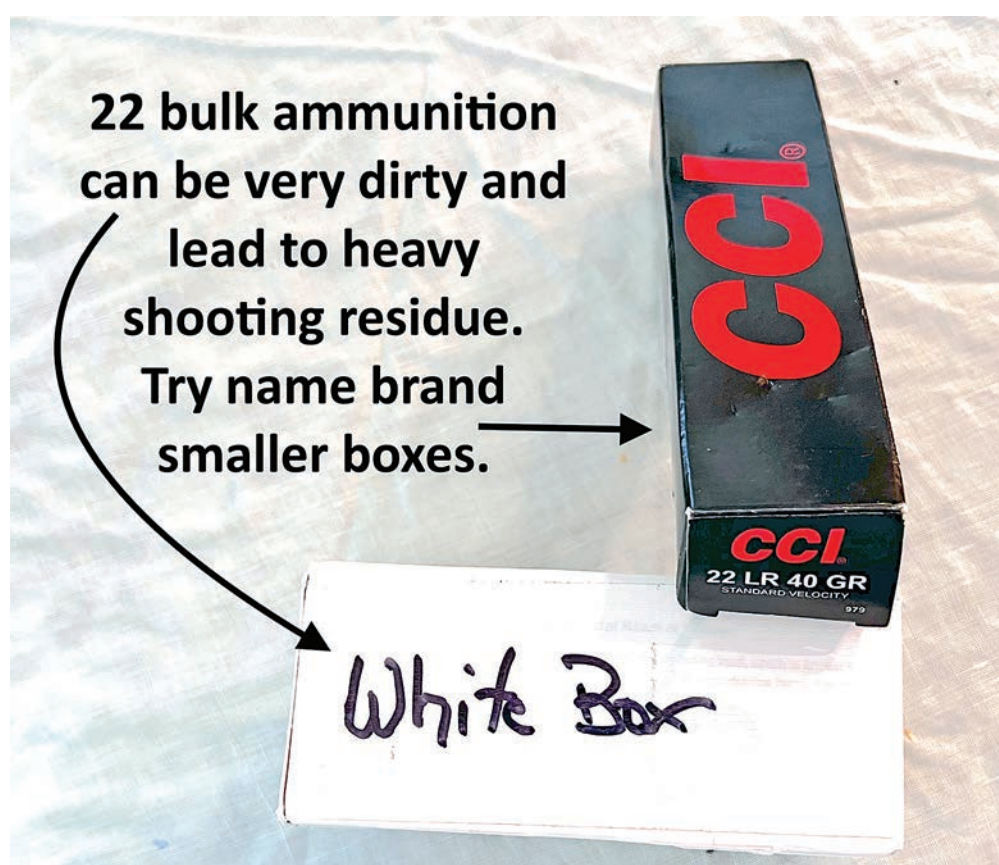
"What did I do?" Leslie asks fearfully.

Karen picks up the round that has fallen to the concrete floor. She inspects the back of it.

"Oh. You see this slight dimple?"

Leslie nods.

"This is a light strike.



The firing pin didn't hit the round solidly enough to ignite the primer. Try it again."

Lee squeezes the trigger and gets another stovepipe. She puts the gun down and asks: "Will you shoot it and show me what I'm doing wrong?"

Karen picks up the Buckmark with confidence. She takes a breath, lets it go, aims and pulls the trigger. The gun doesn't fire; it just makes a clicking noise. She pulls back the bolt. The round flies out of the port. Again, a small dimple shows on the back of the round.

Karen tries again. Again, the same result.

"Leslie," she begins. "Sometimes it happens. Sometimes you just get a defective gun. So, don't worry. All the major companies stand by their guns. Just send it back. They'll fix it and return it. No charge!"

Leslie isn't happy of course. She drops the magazine, pulls back the bolt to make sure there's nothing in the chamber, and places gun and magazine back in her brand-new pouch.

"Let me shoot off three magazines in my Mark IV. Then we'll go home and package up your gun," offers Karen.

Karen pops off a quick 10 rounds, hitting the target every time. She drops the magazine and

puts in the next one.

Pop! Pop! Pop! Pop! Pop!

This time, her gun makes that clicking noise and doesn't fire. The round flies out of the port when she pulls back the bolt. She picks it up and sees the faint indent where the firing pin hit.

"Was that a limp-wrist?" asks Leslie fearfully.

"No." Karen tries not to look insulted. "Musta been a fluke."

She aims and squeezes the trigger again. This time, the gun fires but the casing doesn't come out of the port. It just sticks up.

"Did your gun break?" asks Lee in wonder.

Karen is annoyed, but fortunately, Garry is nearby.

"Hey, Garry! Can you help me? My gun isn't working right."

"Sure. May I see it?" Karen hands him the Mark IV.

"It's practically new," she informs him. "I'm working on about 110 rounds through it. Just breaking it in!"

Garry drops the magazine and pulls back the bolt. He looks into the chamber. Then he puts the gun down.

"Can I see your ammunition?" he asks.

Karen hands him a white box. "I got a great deal by buying in bulk!" She is proud of herself for

figuring the big box was quite a lot less expensive than a lot of little boxes.

"And," she says happily, "I didn't let them sell me that plated stuff, either. I know my gun needs 22 LR ammunition!"

"Ah." Garry locks the bolt back.

"Look here," he says, showing Karen the chamber.

"Why, it's got mud in there!" she huffs. "How'd that happen? I haven't dropped it!"

"Well, Karen, .22 ammunition is notorious for leaving a lot of shooting residue in the gun. Lead round-nosed cartridges that you buy in bulk often tend to be a lesser quality than name-brand boxes of 100 rounds. I like plated CCI rounds for a .22."

"Don't you need LR bullets?"

"Yes, but you might like the LR rounds that are plated. They shoot cleaner."

"Oh. So, what if the gun is dirty inside? What's the big deal? Why doesn't it shoot right?"

"The .22s get fouled pretty easily. The built-up shooting residue slows the firing pin from hitting the casing's primer firmly, so the primer doesn't ignite. Then, when you pull back the bolt, the round flies out of the ejection port with a light dimple. Or you can get a

stovepipe. Residue on the rails of the bolt can slow down the bolt's action. When this happens, the slide doesn't move rearward far enough so that it can eject the casing. The casing then can't leave the ejection port and, instead, sticks up in the port."

"So, what do I do?" Karen wonders.

"You have to fieldstrip the gun and clean the insides."

"I have a snake. Great. I can run it through. But, what's fieldstrip?"

"Cleaning your gun is more than running a 'snake' through it. You need to take it apart, so you can clean all that residue out. That requires cleaning tools and solvent. Finally, you add a very light coat of lubricant on the bolt so it moves smoothly back and forth."

"But, Garry," asks Leslie. "My gun is brand new and it isn't working, either. What's wrong with it?"

"When you first read the manual and cleaned it, did you notice a lot of grease inside? Many guns are shipped with a rather heavy coating of preservative. This keeps the metal parts from rusting. It, like shooting residue, can keep the gun from firing properly. There may even be goop slowing the firing pin from moving forward. Every gun should be cleaned according to its manual before you shoot it."

"Then maybe my gun's OK." Leslie is relieved. "You're right. I didn't clean it," she admits.

"Karen, you and Leslie both have great handguns. Why don't we pick a day and learn how to fieldstrip, clean and lube them?"

Karen and Lee are happy to accept his help. "I didn't even read my manual," whispers Lee to Karen.

Karen didn't either, but she wasn't about to admit that to Lee.

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



WHITE FLAT CLAWED HERMIT CRAB

(*Pagurus pollicaris*)

This medium sized hermit crab can reach 2". It shares its shell with flatworms that eat debris (and sometimes baby crabs). This scavenger eats almost anything but normally feeds on diatoms. It can also filter feed tiny organisms from the water when food is scarce. The crab is found on the Atlantic coast from Canada to the Gulf. The crabs prefer shells with hydroids and avoid shells with holes or other damage. They congregate where predatory crown conch are hunting snails and wait to pick up choice shells left behind. They also swap shells with each other in elaborate rituals.

Eukarya, Animalia, Athropoda, Decapoda, Paguridae

Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratory
www.gulfspecimen.org

WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO



On his weekly wildlife survey at Wakulla Springs, retired park ranger Bob Thompson snapped this photo of a juvenile Red-breasted Merganser, with a note that "The only other Red-breasted Merganser that I have seen at Wakulla Springs was on Feb. 25, 2006."

**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

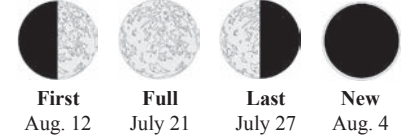


Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

July 18 - July 24



Tide charts by tides4fishing.com



Best fishing days this month July 5-21

For tides at the following points add to Dog Island Listings:
Carrabelle 28 Min. High Tide 25 Min. Low Tide
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	1:42 am ▲ 2.9 ft	6:00 am ▼ 2.2 ft	12:00 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	7:46 pm ▼ -0.1 ft
Fr	2:28 am ▲ 3.3 ft	6:58 am ▼ 2.1 ft	12:54 pm ▲ 4.0 ft	8:30 pm ▼ -0.6 ft
Sa	3:08 am ▲ 3.4 ft	7:48 am ▼ 1.9 ft	1:42 pm ▲ 4.2 ft	9:10 pm ▼ -0.7 ft
Su	3:44 am ▲ 3.4 ft	8:34 am ▼ 1.9 ft	2:29 pm ▲ 4.2 ft	9:48 pm ▼ -0.7 ft
Mo	4:17 am ▲ 3.5 ft	9:18 am ▼ 1.4 ft	3:15 pm ▲ 4.3 ft	10:24 pm ▼ -0.4 ft
Tu	4:48 am ▲ 3.5 ft	10:03 am ▼ 1.4 ft	4:02 pm ▲ 4.3 ft	10:59 pm ▼ -0.4 ft
We	5:18 am ▲ 3.6 ft	10:50 am ▼ 1.1 ft	4:52 pm ▲ 4.1 ft	11:33 pm ▼ 0.0 ft

City of St. Marks

Th	2:18 am ▲ 2.7 ft	7:04 am ▼ 2.0 ft	12:36 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	8:50 pm ▼ -0.1 ft
Fr	3:04 am ▲ 2.9 ft	8:02 am ▼ 2.0 ft	1:30 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	9:34 pm ▼ -0.4 ft
Sa	3:44 am ▲ 3.1 ft	8:52 am ▼ 1.9 ft	2:18 pm ▲ 3.7 ft	10:14 pm ▼ -0.6 ft
Su	4:20 am ▲ 3.1 ft	9:38 am ▼ 1.7 ft	3:05 pm ▲ 3.9 ft	10:52 pm ▼ -0.6 ft
Mo	4:53 am ▲ 3.2 ft	10:22 am ▼ 1.5 ft	3:51 pm ▲ 4.0 ft	11:28 pm ▼ -0.6 ft
Tu	5:24 am ▲ 3.3 ft	11:07 am ▼ 1.2 ft	4:38 pm ▲ 4.0 ft	12:03 pm ▼ -0.3 ft
We	5:54 am ▲ 3.3 ft	11:54 am ▼ 1.0 ft	5:28 pm ▲ 3.8 ft	12:44 pm ▼ 0.0 ft

Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	1:51 am ▲ 3.1 ft	6:16 am ▼ 2.2 ft	12:14 pm ▲ 3.7 ft	8:01 pm ▼ -0.2 ft
Fr	2:38 am ▲ 3.3 ft	7:12 am ▼ 2.1 ft	1:06 pm ▲ 3.9 ft	8:45 pm ▼ -0.5 ft
Sa	3:20 am ▲ 3.4 ft	8:01 am ▼ 2.1 ft	1:54 pm ▲ 4.1 ft	9:27 pm ▼ -0.6 ft
Su	3:59 am ▲ 3.5 ft	8:49 am ▼ 2.0 ft	2:41 pm ▲ 4.3 ft	10:07 pm ▼ -0.7 ft
Mo	4:35 am ▲ 3.6 ft	9:36 am ▼ 1.8 ft	3:28 pm ▲ 4.4 ft	10:45 pm ▼ -0.6 ft
Tu	5:10 am ▲ 3.6 ft	10:24 am ▼ 1.5 ft	4:17 pm ▲ 4.3 ft	11:21 pm ▼ -0.3 ft
We	5:42 am ▲ 3.7 ft	11:14 am ▼ 1.3 ft	5:08 pm ▲ 4.1 ft	11:57 pm ▼ 0.1 ft

Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	1:34 am ▲ 2.2 ft	6:11 am ▼ 1.6 ft	11:52 am ▲ 2.6 ft	7:57 pm ▼ -0.1 ft
Fr	2:20 am ▲ 2.3 ft	7:09 am ▼ 1.6 ft	12:46 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	8:41 pm ▼ -0.3 ft
Sa	3:00 am ▲ 2.5 ft	7:59 am ▼ 1.5 ft	1:34 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	9:21 pm ▼ -0.5 ft
Su	3:36 am ▲ 2.5 ft	8:45 am ▼ 1.4 ft	2:21 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	9:59 pm ▼ -0.5 ft
Mo	4:09 am ▲ 2.6 ft	9:29 am ▼ 1.2 ft	3:07 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	10:35 pm ▼ -0.5 ft
Tu	4:40 am ▲ 2.6 ft	10:14 am ▼ 1.0 ft	3:54 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	11:10 pm ▼ -0.3 ft
We	5:10 am ▲ 2.7 ft	11:01 am ▼ 0.8 ft	4:44 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	11:44 pm ▼ 0.0 ft

St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	2:14 am ▲ 2.4 ft	6:01 am ▼ 2.1 ft	11:34 am ▲ 3.0 ft	7:32 pm ▼ -0.2 ft
Fr	2:54 am ▲ 2.5 ft	6:50 am ▼ 2.1 ft	12:23 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	8:15 pm ▼ -0.4 ft
Sa	3:31 am ▲ 2.5 ft	7:34 am ▼ 2.1 ft	1:11 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	8:56 pm ▼ -0.5 ft
Su	4:05 am ▲ 2.6 ft	8:20 am ▼ 2.0 ft	2:02 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	9:38 pm ▼ -0.6 ft
Mo	4:37 am ▲ 2.6 ft	9:09 am ▼ 1.9 ft	2:54 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	10:19 pm ▼ -0.5 ft
Tu	5:07 am ▲ 2.7 ft	10:02 am ▼ 1.6 ft	3:50 pm ▲ 3.4 ft	10:59 pm ▼ -0.3 ft
We	5:37 am ▲ 2.8 ft	10:58 am ▼ 1.4 ft	4:49 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	11:39 pm ▼ 0.1 ft

Dog Island West End

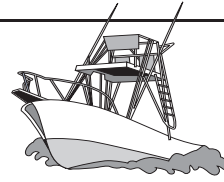
Th	3:40 am ▲ 2.3 ft	5:58 am ▼ 2.2 ft	11:29 am ▲ 2.8 ft	7:53 pm ▼ -0.3 ft
Fr	4:03 am ▲ 2.4 ft	7:28 am ▼ 2.2 ft	12:23 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	8:35 pm ▼ -0.5 ft
Sa	4:28 am ▲ 2.4 ft	8:13 am ▼ 2.1 ft	1:23 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	9:14 pm ▼ -0.6 ft
Su	4:53 am ▲ 2.5 ft	8:53 am ▼ 2.0 ft	2:19 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	9:54 pm ▼ -0.5 ft
Mo	5:17 am ▲ 2.5 ft	9:37 am ▼ 1.8 ft	3:13 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	10:36 pm ▼ -0.4 ft
Tu	5:39 am ▲ 2.5 ft	10:30 am ▼ 1.6 ft	4:09 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	11:18 pm ▼ -0.1 ft
We	6:02 am ▲ 2.5 ft	11:33 am ▼ 1.3 ft	5:09 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	11:57 pm ▼ 0.3 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



This past week brought many news stories of boaters being rescued. One critical element many boaters may not think about is having a proper ditch kit onboard should an emergency happen.

The following information comes from Paul Barnard with the US Coast Guard Heartland Safe Boating, who has been getting a lot of requests for information about ditch kits.

"I'll start by saying that there is no perfect ditch kit. A ditch kit will contain the three S's. Signaling, Safety and Survival items, and there's overlap in those categories. Your ditch kit should be tailored to the area that you operate in and the threats you face.

I seek out items that are lightweight, compact and if possible low cost. Those silver survival blankets are an example. For \$4 why not have one. They make a great visual search object, when balled up to about basketball size they have radar reflective properties,

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

then if you make it to shore, they may provide a measure of protection as well. They are pretty fragile, but because of their light weight, size and cost, why not?

I prefer a bag to a box. A bag can be opened just enough to reach in and grab what you need without fear of the other contents being washed out.

The Ditch Kit should be kept out on deck in a float free location rather than stowed away in a compartment that may become inaccessible during an emergency.

Here are some suggested items.

- Inshore/Near Shore

Ditch Kit: Floating waterproof box or bag, Aspirin or Ibuprofen, Bug spray, Cell phone in waterproof bag/case, Cordage, Electric SOS Distress Light, EPIRB / PLB, First aid supplies, Flares, Food and water, Glow sticks, Gorilla (or similar) Tape, Handheld waterproof VHF Radio, Lighter, Multi-tool, Orange Bandana, Sea Dye, Signal Mirror, Sun screen, Survival blanket (bright silver), Waterproof flashlight and a Whistle.

• Additional items for an off shore ditch kit include: Anti-Seasickness pills, Fishing gear, Sat Phone and Supplemental flotation devices.

Thanks to Sherrie, we will always remember safe boating is no accident. A ditch bag can be lifesaving!

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.

FWC Law Enforcement Report

From FWC News

This report represents some events the FWC handled June 21 to 27 in the Northwest Region. (No cases were reported for Wakulla County.)

FRANKLIN COUNTY

• Officers Hartzog and Forbes were conducting patrol on Apalachicola River near Abercrombie Boat Ramp and observed a vessel with fishing gear returning to the boat ramp. The officers stopped the vessel and conducted a resource inspection revealing a large amount of flathead catfish on the deck and in coolers. Officer Hartzog found several

indicators the fish were not harvested using rod and reel. Officer Hartzog searched the vessel and discovered a device capable of producing electrical shock in a stern compartment. The officer cited the violations appropriately for harvesting freshwater fish using an illegal method.

GULF COUNTY

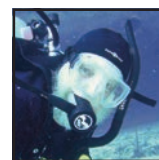
• Officer Hartzog observed a vessel with fishing gear on the Chipola River that was moored in Douglas Slough with two occupants on board. The officer stopped the vessel to conduct a resource and boating safety inspection. As the officer approached, the occupants began mov-

ing around in an abnormal manner attempting to conceal something. Upon inspection of the vessel, Officer Hartzog discovered a device on board capable of producing electric current sufficient to stun or shock freshwater fish. The officer interviewed the individuals and they admitted they were attempting to shock freshwater catfish. The officer cited the violations appropriately for possession of a device capable of producing electrical shock on the waters of the state.

SANTA ROSA COUNTY

• Officers Wilkenson and Burkhead in coordination with Santa

Rosa County Sheriff's Office, conducted an enforcement effort at Marques Bayou Boat Ramp. The Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office and the FWC have been receiving a high number of complaints regarding illegal activities at the boat ramp. Over the course of a day officers arrested two individuals and cited several other individuals for a variety of illegal activities including boating safety violations, fishing violations, and vessel registration violations. Arrests included driving while license suspended or revoked and a felony warrant for grand theft and criminal mischief.



Underwater Wakulla

By Gregg Stanton

Editor's Note: Gregg Stanton, who wrote this column for years, passed away last week at his home in Hawaii. To honor his memory, we are re-running the very first Underwater Wakulla column from Nov. 18, 2010.

Welcome to Underwater Wakulla.

We are indeed blessed with one of the best Florida environments: clean air and water, lush plant and animal populations, and relatively low human population density. Wakulla County has long been known for its beautiful trails, primitive waterways, abundant fishing offshore, and world renowned parks.

Less appreciated by us locally is the labyrinth of underground trails that snake down through Wakulla County and deliver millions of gallons of water to the coast. They too can be beautiful.

My name is Gregg Stanton. I, like many of you, came to this county with my wife many years ago. We have raised a family, completed careers, and in retirement, sought enjoyment in this aquatic wonderland. As a retired FSU Marine Biologist and teacher, I continue to instruct and support people in underwater activities such as spearfishing, photography, scuba diving, and speleology.

This year we expanded Wakulla Diving into a world class underwater support facility centrally located in Medart, near the coast and in the middle of cave country.

My son suggested I write a column that would bring our hidden underground and underwater world into the daylight.

I have been fortunate to have spent a considerable time underwater, from the Bay of Siam, Palau, Hawaii, Antarctica, Canada, and all across the continental USA, to the Bahamas and Caribbean Sea, and of course Florida.

I participated on research projects where we spent weeks living underwater or on boats, hiked to and dove remote jungle lakes, or under thick ice, and swam miles into caves using life support technology used by astronauts.

In the weeks that follow, perhaps we may share a different perspective about Wakulla County: an aquatic perspective that has brought and kept me a resident here these past 40 years.

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



Freedom from depression is possible ... even for you

By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

Have years of depression caused you to believe God no longer has a purpose for you? Are you convinced your dreams of success will never come

true? Do you fear you'll never have healthy relationships again?

I've been there. So depressed that I couldn't possibly envision God using me as a blogger and newspaper columnist. So disappointed in myself that I stopped believing I could accomplish any of the goals I'd set for myself. So needy that most of my friends found it hard to hang out with me.

Life became more and more overwhelming. Despite my years of emotional turmoil and suicide attempts, however, God never gave up on me –

hopelessly depressed, loser me.

God will never give up on you, either.

As I write this, I'm asking God to give me words to encourage you – words that will get you past this fearful, uncertain, hopeless moment. I want to assure you, based on Philippians 1:6 (AMPC), that you have a powerfully compassionate Father Who will never stop working in you.

"And I am convinced and sure of this very thing, that He Who began a good work in you will continue until the day of

Jesus Christ [right up to the time of His return], developing [that good work] and perfecting and bringing it to full completion in you."

God knows you. He knows your strengths, and He knows your weaknesses. At this very moment, while you're wondering if you have a reason to live, God is working in you. He wants you to experience success (spiritual and otherwise). To enjoy healthy relationships.

To laugh again.

Right now, this may seem more like a faraway

dream than a real possibility. It seemed that way to me too. I prayed and prayed for stability, but it didn't happen overnight. It took years. In time, however, as I got counseling and continued to cling to God's Word, I experienced small steps of victory. Eventually, I was free from depression and suicidal thoughts. (I've written several articles about this on my blog.)

God wants to give you stability by giving you purpose and significance. Spend time with Him. Read His Word as often as you can. And every

time your mind begins to race with despairing thoughts, remind yourself that God will never stop until He brings His work to full completion ... in you.

(If you're in a mental health crisis, dial 988 and speak to a trained counselor. This nationwide Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is available 24/7.)

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.

Finding hope for tomorrow

By **CHERYL CRUCE**

High school was a tough time for me. My best friend, who had graduated the year before, passed away in a car accident, and my brother was diagnosed with terminal cancer. On top of that, my mom received the devastating news that she was going blind. I used to sit on the bathroom counter, watching her put on

makeup. I wondered how you could see one day and be blind the next. I prayed for her and my brother while grieving the loss of my friend. It was a lot for a teenager to handle.

Forty-six years later, I realized those difficult years passed, and my faith was strengthened through them. I wish I could explain why bad things happen to good people, but it rains on the just and the unjust. God causes the sun to rise in the good and the evil (Matthew 5:45).

Job was considered a just man, yet he suffered overwhelming losses. Still, despite facing immense suffering, Job never wavered in his faith in the Lord. The Book of Job teaches

us to hope in life's darkest moments because hope restores the soul.

God did not withhold the hand of evil from Job any more than he withheld evil from His Son, Jesus. Throughout scripture, we see the suffering of the heroes of faith and their courage to persevere. Their suffering caused them to endure incredible trials, which built their character, and their character gained hope beyond their circumstances.

Hope is a tangible force that drives us forward beyond current circumstances (Romans 5:3-5). When hope gains wings in man's soul, nothing can diminish man's faith. Hope and faith interlock with each other.

In those high school moments when I was trying to find myself, God was teaching me to see Him. Over the years, I have survived many trials, and with each trial, my faith has grown stronger. My brother lost the battle with cancer, living six years beyond his prognosis. He became a spiritual inspiration to many during those six years because his hope was in God.

Mom eventually lost her sight. One day, she could see, and the next day, she could not. However, I believe she could see things of a heavenly nature. We do entertain angels unaware (Hebrews 13:2).

I don't know where life has led you or the

difficulty of your situation, but I know there is hope. God is with you; He will never leave you, and God will never forget about you. The Lord is always close by.

Trials come to us all; that is the nature of the world in which we live. The nature of the spiritual world is learning to open our eyes to see God in the good and the bad. The Psalmist teaches us to question our soul and to put our trust in the Heavenly Father, praising Him in all things (Psalm 42:5).

Honestly, if we do not give up on doing good, in time, we, too, will see God's hand guiding us safely (Galatians 6:9) through the trials of this world.

Let us be encouraged

in hope. In those moments when we feel like giving up, remember that as long as we have His breath of life, He has not given up on us.

Talk to your Heavenly Father today. Give Him your pain, disappointments, and grief, and allow Him to give you hope for tomorrow.

James 1:12: Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

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

OUT TO PASTOR

Age is just a number... or is it?

By **JAMES SNYDER**

Recently, one of our granddaughters reached the magical age of 16 and was applying for her driver's license.

When I learned of that, it brought back so many memories of my own. I remember when I turned 16 and was going for my driver's license. What a day that was.

I can't remember how long ago that was. I don't have a calendar in front of me.

The time leading up to my 16th birthday was exciting because I couldn't wait to turn 16 and get behind the wheel. That was the great goal of my life as a teenager. At 16, my life would change, and it did.

When I reached 16, my next goal was 21 because I would be an official adult, and my parents couldn't tell me what to do.

I'm not sure what happened, but I never really became the of-

ficial adult I dreamed about. I just became older.

Some people attach great significance to age. I remember my grandfather saying, "Son, age is just a number. Don't you worry about it."

Grandfathers can't be wrong, or can they?

It's been hard keeping up with my age because it changes every year. Why does my birthday have to come so often? There was a time when I couldn't wait for my birthday. It was like it took five years for my birthday to come.

Now, my birthday comes every other month. How old am I really? Honestly, I don't want to know.

Several years ago, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I celebrated birthdays at a restaurant. Her birthday is two days after mine.

As we ate our birthday dinner, she looked at me and said, "So, my dear, how does old feel?"

Without even thinking, which is my MO, I reached across the table, grabbed her arm, started squeezing it, and said, "It feels rather nice."

Well, there went my birthday present.

One day this past

week, I was searching through my library for a book I wanted to read. As I was searching, I found my high school yearbook. I don't remember the last time I saw that book.

I pulled it out, took it to my seat, sat down and started looking through that album. I saw things I had long ago forgotten about.

As I looked at the photographs, I remembered some of my friends from way back then and wondered how they might look today.

Then, I came across a name I recognized: James Snyder. I recognized the name, but I did not recognize the picture. Who was that person there using my name?

I stared at that picture for a while and did not remember anything. There it was, a young boy with lots of hair and rather skinny. I was tempted to go to the mirror and check out what I looked like today, but then I declined. Why ruin a good thing?

When my grandfather said that age is just a matter of numbers, I was beginning to think he was way off his rocker. What I looked like in 1969 when I graduated high school is far from what I look today.

I tried to remember back in those days,

and some things came to me. I had a lot of fun playing baseball at school, and I did a lot of things that I wouldn't have the energy to do today.

One of the things I remember was how hard it was to go to sleep at night. My parents had a curfew at 10 o'clock at night, which is when we were supposed to be in bed sound asleep. I remember those times and how hard it was to sleep at 10 o'clock at night.

Now, right after supper, I look at The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and say, "Are you thinking what I'm thinking?"

She will laugh and nod her head. One of the things that we try to find an excuse to go to bed early, like right after supper.

I couldn't keep up with all the activities I did back then. Nowadays, when I get up in the morning, I walk to the living room and sit down, I need to rest for a moment because of all that activity. It doesn't take very much to get me tired.

Thinking about this the other day, I wondered what my life would be like if I had the energy today that I had 50 years ago. But the more I thought about it, the more I realized

that if I had that kind of energy today, I probably would be getting into trouble.

What I fail to remember about those days of endless energy is that it always got me into some kind of trouble.

Now that I'm old, I don't have the energy to get into trouble. When you think of it, that's a good thing. Getting old isn't as bad as I once thought.

As I pondered this I was reminded of what good, old Solomon said. "Say not thou, What is the cause that the former days were better than these? for thou dost not enquire wisely concerning this" (Ecclesiastes 7:10).

I may have some good things in my past, but my best day is today. I don't have any guarantee for tomorrow. All I can be sure of is today, so I need to make today the best day of my life.

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.

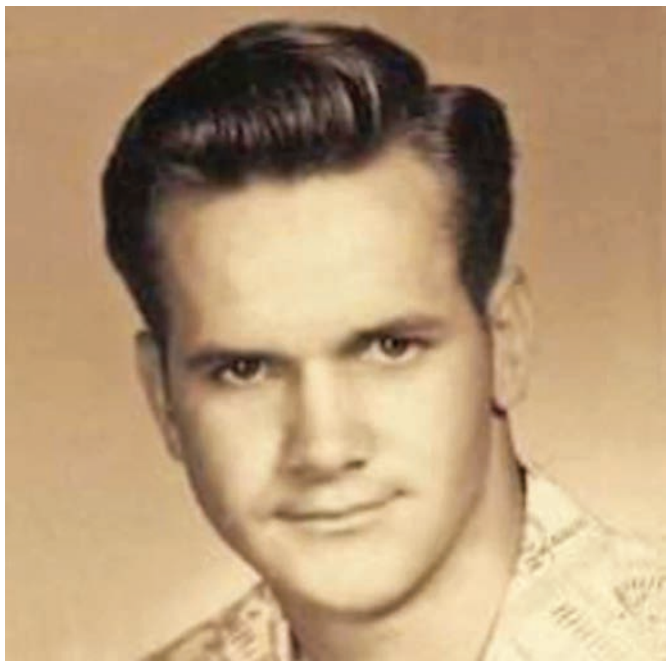
Sopchoppy United Methodist Church
 Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
 Worship 11 a.m.
 Bible Study Wed. 6 p.m.
 Pastor Cheryl Mixon-Cruce 850-962-2511

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**
Remain spaces available. 850-745-8359

FIRST PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF CRAWFORDVILLE
SERVICES:
 Sunday School 10:30 am
 Morning Worship 11:30 am
 Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:30 pm
 5 Crescent Way, Crawfordville, FL
(850) 926-4889
<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



Donald Pace

Donald Eugene Pace, 88, of Sopchoppy, passed away May 6, 2024, with his loving family at home.

Donald was a veteran of both the U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Air Force. He was employed with Computer Hardware/Customer Service. Donald was the founding member of the Sopchoppy Opera, loved music, enjoyed crafting with gourds, was a master gardener, a court mediator and a pilot. He loved his family, and his grandchildren held his heart.

He will be remembered by his wife of 65 years Rosalie Pace; children Crystal Pace Seley and husband Michael, and Alan Pace and wife Ana Cadena; brothers Lonnie Pace, Robert Pace and wife Connie, Jimmie Pace and wife Susie; grandchildren Tricia Weber and husband Michael, and Bradley Seley; and two great-grandchildren Mason Weber and Aubrie Weber.

Funeral Service will be held Friday, Aug. 16, 2024 at 11 a.m. at the Tallahassee National Cemetery.

Skip & Trey Young along with Paula and Kimberly are assisting the family with their arrangements. 850-926-5919 Familyfhc.com

DEATH NOTICES

• **Randy Lee Elliott**, 71, of Crawfordville, died July 12, 2024.

• **Tony L. Hale**, 62, of Crawfordville, died July 15, 2024.

• **Shirley Belinda Parramore**, 75, of Crawfordville, died July 8, 2024.

• **David Ryan Peddie**, 31, of Crawfordville, died July 12, 2024.

• **Mary Jane Wilhite**, 73, of Crawfordville, died July 13, 2024.

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

Gregg Ramsey Stanton

Gregg Ramsey Stanton was born in Needham, Massachusetts on August 29, 1947. He was the second of four boys (Laird W., Gregg R., Frank G. and Keith N. Stanton) born to Ruth (Jori) Guttersen Stanton and Frank Goodnow Stanton, an Air Force officer.

Gregg grew up living around the world from Greenland to Spain to Ohio to Thailand to Hawai'i. He met his wife Ann (nee Rosenau) in Honolulu while in high school and married her on the beach on the Big Island three years later. After earning bachelor's degrees the couple traveled around the U.S., finally settling in Florida. Gregg worked for Aquatic Sciences in Boca Raton, Florida and then the Harbor Branch Foundation in Ft. Pierce, Florida, before completing his master's degree in biology at Florida State University in 1979.

In 1982 Gregg and Ann had a son, Eric McNally Stanton. Having a son meant it was time to build a house. Gregg, however, could not build a typical house, he had to build an underground house with a swimming pool on one side and underwater windows looking into the living room. In 1988, they had a daughter, Nicole Elaine Stanton. Ann worked in Tallahassee and raised the kids while Gregg was off on projects or teaching classes. The family did manage to go off to Alaska with him on a car camping trip one summer and out on their

sailboat, the Olapa, where the kids learned to dive using surface-supplied gear.

Scuba diving has been central to Gregg's life since he began diving while in Hawai'i in 1963. He learned to teach diving while a member of the Pearl Divers Club and was certified by the National Association of Underwater Instructors (NAUI) in 1965. In 1974 he attended the Scientist-In-The-Sea Program (SITS), a collaborative program with the U.S. Navy to teach new scientists advanced diving skills, including saturation diving. Gregg went on to organize and run Scientist-In-The-Sea programs in 1976 and 2000.

In 1975 he turned his association with Florida State University into a Diving Coordinator position, and later into a Research Diving Officer position. The FSU Academic Diving Program became one of the most successful university programs in the country. He personally brought to fruition projects in the Antarctic, Palau, Banff (Canada) and many other locations, pushing the boundaries of scientific diving through affiliations with the International Association of Nitrox and Technical Divers (IANTD) and the American Academy of Underwater Scientists (AAUS). In 2014 AAUS honored Gregg with the Conrad Limbaugh Memorial Award for Scientific Diving Leadership for his role in dive safety and education. In 2000 he moved his diving program to the Panama City campus of

Florida State University, where he expanded his scope to teaching underwater crime scene investigation techniques.

Gregg retired from FSU in 2004 and immediately began building a program of technical and cave diving that became the Wakulla Diving Center. Students came from all over the world to learn rebreather systems and cave diving from Gregg. He wrote a popular column for the local newspaper called Underwater Wakulla for 12 years.

In 2019 Hawai'i called again and Gregg and Ann moved to Hawai'i Island for a busy second retirement, resurrecting an avocado orchard and building a new technical dive facility. The Covid pandemic and other health issues intervened. He was cared for at home by his wife of 56 years until his gentle death on July 11, 2024.

Gregg is survived by his wife Ann, son Eric, daughter Nicole (Zac) and two brothers, Frank (Evelyn) and Keith.

Comments on his life and condolences to the family can be made online at the Ballard Family Mortuary's website, www.ballardfamilymortuaries.com, Obituaries, Find your loved one, Tribute Book.

The family thanks all of Gregg's friends, former students, colleagues and well-wishers in advance for their kind thoughts and memories of this remarkable man.

Church Briefs

• Macedonia Community Church to hold Fun Day on July 20

You are cordially invited to attend and participate in our annual "Fun Day" to be held at the Macedonia Community Church of Sopchoppy, 1085 Sopchoppy Hwy. in Sopchoppy. The fun-filled day of activities will be held July 20th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The event will feature, games wellness checks, wellness workshops, wellness resources and food.

This is a "free" community event and you are encouraged to come and enjoy a day of fun with your family and friends.

We are hoping to see you there.

Bishop Alfred Nelson Sr., Presiding Bishop and Mother Bobbery Rosier, Event Coordinator for the West Florida Diocese Church of Christ Written In Heaven.

Donnie Sparkman

From Front Page

-ment to our community and his extensive experience in property appraisals make him the ideal candidate.

The people of the community work hard for what they have and deserve a knowledgeable and experienced leader.

Donnie Sparkman is that leader and would appreciate your support and vote on Aug. 20, 2024.

Weekly Roundup: Turning up the heat

By **JIM SAUNDERS**
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE – Coming out of the Independence Day holiday, things are heating up, and it's not just from the sun cooking the state.

Florida was thankfully a bystander as Hurricane Beryl, the first major storm of what is expected to be a hyperactive hurricane season, tore through the Caribbean before making landfall this week in Texas.

Meanwhile, with the Republican National Convention ready to start in Milwaukee, the wait continued for former President Donald Trump to name his running mate, with U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., in the mix.

Trump toyed with an anxious media during a rally Tuesday in Doral, at one point noting the reporters on hand: "I think they probably think I'm going to be announcing that Marco is going to be vice president, because that's a lot of press."

The heat also has been on at two state agencies that have been grappling with cyberattacks.

TRYING TO REBOOT

Funerals and insurance claims, among other things, have been affected after the Florida Department of Health's Vital Statistics System was hit with a cyberattack.

The health department "is coordinating with law enforcement and all relevant stakeholders" and is "working diligently to resolve the temporary outage" affecting the system, agency spokeswoman Jae Williams said in an email Tuesday.

The interruption created issues for people who need death certificates to process bank account changes, make insurance claims or seek updates to Social Security benefits. State health officials asked health-care facilities and physicians "to expedite hand-signed death certificates."

Also, the outage af-

ected birth certificates. County health departments have been able to issue copies of birth certificates for babies born before June 28, and such records were being manually processed for births on or after June 28.

The attack occurred about three months after a key Department of Juvenile Justice network was hit.

The agency confirmed this week that the network known as the Juvenile Justice Information System remained inaccessible for many contractors that handle most services for at-risk and troubled minors.

The system was up-and-running for agency employees.

"I think, in this situation, three months is too long," Aaron Ward, chief information security officer for iVenture Solutions, a Florida-based information-technology and cybersecurity compa-

ny, told The News Service of Florida. "Something is wrong. ... This is not a good look for Florida. This is not a good look for cybersecurity or IT professionals in general."

AN END ON THE LINES

Voting-rights groups said this week they won't appeal a federal-court ruling that upheld the constitutionality of changes to North Florida's Congressional District 5.

The decision came a month after a three-judge panel refused to reconsider a March 27 ruling that said the groups had not met a key test of showing that the Legislature acted with racial motivation in overhauling the district in 2022.

Groups such as Common Cause Florida and the Florida NAACP argued that the redistricting plan, which DeSantis pushed through the Legislature, was passed with

a discriminatory motive.

But in denying the request for a rehearing, the panel reiterated its view that the plaintiffs had not shown racial motivation by the Legislature.

"The impermissible racial motives outlined in this case are unacceptable, but the court chose not to act," Amy Keith, executive director of Common Cause Florida, said in a statement as the groups announced they would not appeal.

A separate challenge to the redistricting plan remains pending at the Florida Supreme Court.

STORY OF THE

WEEK: Will Sen. Marco Rubio be No. 2? The selection of former President Donald Trump's running mate could ripple through Florida politics. If Rubio is the choice, Gov. Ron DeSantis could ultimately get to pick a replacement.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "We just really need to make it through this year. Let these trees recover, and let's get a good harvest and something we can start building some momentum on." – Matt Joyner, CEO of Florida Citrus Mutual, on the end of the 2023-2024 growing season.

BRIAN C. ENGLISH

Financial Products / Services

Investments

Life Insurance

DROP Rollovers

401(k) Rollovers

926-7487



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.

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 EXP 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

94.1 WAVE 94

TAKE A TRIP WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- AIRPORT
- ALL-INCLUSIVE
- CRUISE
- DEPARTURE
- DESTINATION
- EMBARK
- HIGHWAY
- HOLIDAY
- HOTEL
- INTERNATIONAL
- ITINERARY
- LANDING
- LUGGAGE
- MEMORIES
- PACKING
- POSTCARD
- RELAXATION
- RESORT
- ROAD TRIP
- ROOM
- SIGHTS
- TAKE-OFF
- TRAIN
- VACATION

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

CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. Letter of the Greek alphabet
4. Cause to become entangled
10. Swiss river
11. Conversation
12. "Magnum" was one
14. Small integer
15. Christmas
16. Of a specific mountain region
18. Burrowing bugs
22. Of a symbol worthy of veneration
23. A type of syndrome
24. Cephalopod mollusks
26. Metric ton
27. Ornamental box
28. As quickly as can be done
30. "Hoop Dreams" subject Arthur
31. Old TV part
34. Extinct flightless birds
36. Former CIA
37. Successor
39. Archaic form of you
40. Within
41. Danny Hurley's

CLUES DOWN

1. A right conferred through legal means
2. American island state
3. Inflexibly entrenched
4. "Pollock" actor Harris
5. Foolish person
6. Follows a particular
7. Choose
8. Sunrooms
9. One hundred grams (abbr.)
12. A symptom of some physical hurt or disorder
13. South American hummingbird
17. "Girl Chopping Onions" painter
19. Wild dog
20. Units of land
21. Footwear
25. Possessing a constant temperature
29. Hormone that promotes water retention (abbr.)
31. Popular game
32. Pension (German)
33. Giant of industry
35. Inferred
38. One who revolves
41. Kept possession of
43. Loss of electricity
44. Stopped bottle
45. Everything
46. First to walk on the moon
47. Engrave
49. Female organs
56. Equal to 1,024 bytes (abbr.)
57. Northeast

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to vacations.

LAEXR

--	--	--	--	--

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 a country singer born in Georgia on July 17, 1976. I played with local bands since age 14 and gained greater recognition in 2014 when I was named "Entertainer of the Year" at the CMA Awards. I have many hit singles, and now I share my music knowledge as a judge on "American Idol."

Answer: Relax
 Answer: Luke Bryan

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... Good Neighbors LLC
All of your fencing needs and more...
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

Adult Diapers: Medium - 20ct./
Large - 18ct. pkg.; Latex Gloves
med./lg. 100ct./box ;
36"x36" Pads - 10ct pkg.
\$5. Per pkg./box
850-933-9162

HELP WANTED

The Wakulla Sun
The Wakulla Sun is seeking a reporter to cover local news events. Send resume to editor@thewakullasun.com.

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

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.

A&W AIR CONDITIONING SERVICES
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

RENTALS
CELEBRATING 37 YEARS

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

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

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 FL 32326
WAKULLAREALTY.COM

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

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

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

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



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

Gerald Brown Photography
• Licensed Drone Operator
• Beach Portraits
• Special Occasions
• Events
Follow me on Instagram: [GeraldBrownPhoto](https://www.instagram.com/GeraldBrownPhoto)
850-545-4281
GeraldBrownPhoto@gmail.com

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
• Debris Removal
• Land Clearing
• Ponds
HARVEY & SONS ENTERPRISES
Locally Owned & Operated by Shawn Harvey
Driveways & Culverts
22 YEARS EXPERIENCE
850-661-4194

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

KEEP WAKULLA COUNTY BEAUTIFUL
www.kwcb.org
Leave Nothing But Your Footprints

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.



Franks brothers hold free football camp



Jordan Franks shows some of the camp participants how to do a drill.

Story & Photos By
LINDA ANN McDONALD
Correspondent

Former Wakulla War Eagle football players Feleipe and Jordan Franks hosted their second annual football camp on Saturday at the War Eagle Football field.

More than 100 athletes signed up for the free camp and to enjoy athletics, football contests, a meal donated by Lindy's Chicken, and a draw string back pack souvenir to bring home memories of the event.

Both Franks brothers played for Wakulla High School with Jordan graduating in 2014 and Feleipe graduating in 2016.

Jordan played college ball with University of Central Florida and Feleipe played for University of Florida and later transferred to Arkansas.

Jordan recently ended his NFL career by winning a Super Bowl ring with the Kansas City Chiefs. Feleipe is currently a quarterback for the Atlanta Falcons.

"This opportunity shows Wakulla's youth that if you have a dream or goal, you can be whatever you want to be. As coaches, we want to be examples of leadership and we also want the parents to come watch their kids and enjoy family time," said Jordan.

Coach Rakwan Allen, varsity running back coach for Wakulla High School, said, "Our main goal is to give back to the kids and elevate them to their next level."

"This is all about the kids," Feleipe said. "We

are having events such as longball toss, fastest runner competition, we have gift cards to give away, but the main focus is sharing leadership, work ethic, pro-

ductivity, confidence and memories."

Ginger Franks, Jordan and Feleipe's mother and event registrar, said: "We as a foundation are proud to give

back to Wakulla and we are proud of the hard work that these kids will put in today and we are proud of Wakulla because Wakulla has a lot of good talent."

ALL PRO FENCE & DECK
Commercial, Residential, Decks, Gates & More
Locally Owned & Operated • 30 years experience • Licensed & Insured
Joey Olah 850-408-7709

Palaver Tree's **SIT IN OUTSIDE MOVIE**
Thursday, July 18 at 8pm \$15 / Carload
EWAN MCGREGOR ALBERT FINNEY BILLY CRUDUP JESSICA LANGE
A TIM BURTON FILM
BIG FISH
Palaver Tree Theater
59 Shadeville Rd, Crawfordville, FL 32327
50% of event proceeds go to the students of
WHS's Dramatis Personae Theater Troupe #5036
NOTE: In case of rain, screening will be held indoors
TICKETS: www.PalaverTreeTheater.org

MYHRE
★★★★★ for ★★★★★
SUPERINTENDENT OF WAKULLA SCHOOLS
RICKMYHRE.COM
Paid political advertisement by Richard Myhre. Republican candidate for Wakulla County Superintendent of Schools.

A Free Press Your Key To Freedom
Nolen Winsett
District Sales Manager
Nolen@SynchronHR.com
OFFICE 850-224-2439
MOBILE 850-688-2588
FAX 850-224-2449
TEXT 850-325-0787
2015 Centre Pointe Blvd, Ste 103
Tallahassee, FL 32308
SynchronHR.com

Scallop Season Is here July 1 - September 24
RMS Marine
SINCE 1985
FORMERLY AMS
Specializing in All of your Commercial Fishing, Crabbing & Scalloping Supplies
850-926-3114 • 800-726-3104
3026 Coastal Hwy, Crawfordville FL
RMSMarineSupply.com
If we don't have it... We can get it!

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

Losing Medicaid? Need Affordable Health Insurance?

Have you been dropped from Medicaid? DCF is reviewing all Medicaid qualifications. Make sure your information is up-to-date in your MyAccess account. <https://myflorida.com/accessflorida/> Check your mailbox for Medicaid notices.



Learn if you are eligible for a health plan with free or low monthly premiums through the Health Insurance Marketplace.



Make an appointment at BigBendAHEC.org or call us today at 850-224-1177. We work for you, not insurance! Our Navigators offer free unbiased help to consumers.

