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**WAKULLA WeatherSTEM**

Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Thunderstorms</b>	<b>Thunderstorms</b>	<b>Scattered Thunderstorms</b>
Hi: 87° Lo: 75° 65% Sunrise 6:52 AM Sunset 8:35 PM	Hi: 88° Lo: 76° 63% Sunrise 6:53 AM Sunset 8:34 PM	Hi: 88° Lo: 76° 58% Sunrise 6:53 AM Sunset 8:33 PM



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One Section

*"It's a New Day"*

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Our 3rd Year 30th Issue  
Thursday, July 25, 2024

# School candidates share views at forum

Story & Photos By  
**LEGION TAYLOR**  
Reporter

The Wakulla Sun's second political forum featured candidates for superintendent of schools and two school board seats discussing a variety of issues, including employee retention and the rising cost of health insurance.

The forum was held at the Wakulla County Public Library on Tuesday, July 16. (The final forum, with candidates for the contested county commission seat, incumbent Mike Kemp and challenger Valerie Russell, will be held at the library on July 30.)

The candidates Rick Myhre, Matt Payne, and Ricky Strickland are vying to replace Bobby Pearce, who is retiring, as superintendent of schools.

In his introduction, Myhre expressed that the safety of students is of utmost importance to him, as well as ensuring that the content in the classrooms is as good as it can be. He also mentioned how important it is to take care of teachers and staff so that they can serve the students as best they can. Myhre said he thinks God has given him talents that allow him to give back to the community, and he just wants to put those to work to make the students lives better.

Payne, who is 26, stated that his reason for running despite being so young is teachers are leaving Wakulla County due to inadequate compensation, which has created a teacher shortage. He also said teachers and staff leaving in large numbers is



Above, District 4 school board candidates incumbent Josh Brown and challenger Camden Smit, with candidates for District 2 Angie Nichols and June Davis at last week's forum. At right, candidates for superintendent of schools Rick Myhre, Matt Payne and Ricky Strickland.



degrading the quality of education in the classroom, and that a culture change is necessary to correct these issues.

"At my young age, I think it's gonna take my career to get us back to where we need to be."

Strickland said he wants to make sure the district's resources are used in the best way possible to support staff and students. He also brought up that teachers aren't getting all the support that they need, such as a quality benefits package, to make sure they want to stay in Wakulla County. Strickland said that the district needs to be more transparent about what they're doing, so that trust can be built between the district and the

community. The first question was on the rising health-care premiums and what the candidates plan to do to decrease the cost of health insurance for teachers.

Payne said his plan was to cut unnecessary administrative positions so that there'd be more money freed up to contribute to the health insurance.

"For me, that means we gotta look at administrators in that district office up there that has become very top-heavy and overstaffed," Payne said.

He said his plan is based around saving as much money as possible to put toward employee compensation and the contribution that the dis-

trict makes to employee health insurance.

Strickland said that teacher benefits and educational finance have been an issue in Wakulla for years.

"I could not afford to have full-coverage insurance as a classroom teacher and be able to pay my bills," Strickland said. "It pushed me out of the classroom, sadly."

He stressed that collective action was important to getting better funding and better rates, whether that's bargaining with the insurance companies or lawmakers at the Capitol, and that Wakulla needs a superintendent who will stand with those who are trying to take collective action to help the school district

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## SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP

# Plans for starting teacher pay to meet \$47,500 goal

Meeting also held with representatives from CHP to discuss 8.9% increase; school board vows to cover cost for employees

By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**  
Editor

At a budget workshop last week, school board members heard that the district appears on the verge of meeting the state-required starting teacher salary of \$47,500.

That means the district would be freed from state constraints to allow pay raises for veteran teachers.

Other budget recommendations include pay raises for all staff, including non-instructional personnel; and increasing the district's share of insurance to cover the proposed 8.9% increase from Capital Health Plan.

Overall, it means a proposed increase of \$2,000 to teachers and no cost of insurance increase.

"This is a really good year," said Assistant Superintendent Rick Myhre at the workshop held on Thursday, July 18.

School Board Chair Cale Langston added that "What's proposed here is nothing less than miraculous."

Myhre noted that of 340 teaching positions, all but seven are filled - representing a 98% rate. He commented that this year Wakulla is not facing a

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# Man to plea to battery on children

By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**  
Editor

A man charged with molesting several children in St. Marks back in 2016 will plea to lesser charges in a deal that will send him to prison for four years followed by 11 years of probation.

Kenny Carnivale, the man charged with having sexual contact with the children as a "family friend," will formally enter the plea next month and be sent off to prison. At a hearing on Friday, July 12, parents of the children voiced displeasure with the plea deal, calling the four year prison term a slap on the wrist.

One of the victims, now an adult, said he was "preyed upon" by Carnivale.

The parents and victim all expressed frustration that the criminal case, filed in 2017, was just being resolved. And they said they were pressured to

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View from the porch

Local photographer Neil Hostnick shared this photo of a caterpillar crawling upside-down on a plant leaf. Neil is staying out of the summer heat and on his front porch.

## Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park Bartram's rosegentian

By LYNN ARTZ, DAVID RODDENBERRY, and SANDY TEDDER



Bartram's rosegentian (*Sabatia decandra*) is an exquisite wetland wildflower with 10-12 dazzling pink petals. Each petal has at its base a canary-yellow point outlined in red. These meet to form a central starburst. The stunning blooms force cross-pollination by acting first as male flowers with long orange pollen-laden stamens dusting visitors. The flowers later become female as the stamens dry up and the central pollen-receptive stigma untwists and rises to a standing Y-shape. Also called Bartram's marsh-pink, these 2-foot-tall wildflowers grow in wet flatwoods and at the edge of sunny marshes. Four years ago, David Roddenberry rescued 3 plants that had been uprooted by vehicle incursion into a swale and brought them to Sopchoppy Depot Park. Though hard to grow, one plant survived and has flowered for 3 years.

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# Forum

## From Front Page

and the community. Strickland also said he wants to make a commitment to increase the contribution the school district makes to employee health insurance to be in line with the other community agencies such as the sheriff's office.

Myhre said all Americans need to recognize that Obamacare has been a disaster and that the best way to fix it is to vote Republican in the fall. He mentioned that the cost of healthcare has risen across the U.S. and has increased faster for the district than the budget has, making it more expensive on the teachers and staff. He also said the district needs to do more research and find out if other providers might have better plans or better prices, and that money should be allocated from the budget to contribute more to the employee health insurance.

The next question was along those same lines, asking the candidates if they'd commit to hiring new negotiators for the health insurance.

Strickland expressed that it isn't the negotiators that make health insurance costs so high, as most agencies in surrounding counties have similar insurance prices, it's that the district doesn't contribute enough to the cost of insurance and benefits package, and that the budget needs to be examined to put more money towards those contributions.

Myhre said he would want to work with the school board on what they want to see in a negotiator and then collaboratively pick someone who best serves the school district and the teachers.

Payne said he won't promise anything, but he thinks that finding new negotiators should always be considered, because it's the job of the superintendent and school board to do what's best for the staff and the students, and if finding a new negotiator will help reduce costs then it should be done.

The candidates were also asked about teacher raises and how they'd increase veteran teacher salary to better retain experienced teachers.

Myhre said because the starting teacher pay is still not at the state-mandated threshold of \$47,500, money cannot be put towards raises for other teachers who might have been there longer.

"Until we get there, our hands are tied," Myhre said, "But I think our hands are about to be untied very soon."

Payne made the point that he's the only candidate currently living on teacher salary, which is \$45,500 – some \$2,000 below what the state mandates. Payne also mentioned that Gov. DeSantis signed a \$1.25 billion allocation to raise teacher salaries, and that he wants to see 100% of Wakulla's share of that money go to the teachers, including going to veteran teachers once everyone is making the required amount.

Strickland said that once the county meets the required amount, money should absolutely be invested into the salaries of veteran teachers, so they'll stay here in the

county. He also said that the district needs those veteran teachers to both educate the students and help guide the new teachers through the early years of their career, so retaining them is paramount.

The next question was about what initiatives the candidates would introduce to attract and retain qualified teachers in Wakulla County.

Payne said that retaining teachers starts with their pay, their insurance, and having an administration that has their back. He says he wants to start that culture at the top, so that teachers know and trust that the administration in the county is actively supporting them.

Strickland said that pay and benefits are very important, but the support teachers receive is just as important. He added that when he was an elementary school teacher, he felt like the administration and principal were very supportive of him, but that not every teacher felt the same way, and that needs to change.

Myhre said that Wakulla wasn't the only county facing a recruitment or retention problem, but that still there was room for improvement. He added Wakulla County has a problem with its image, and that if the district were to highlight the work that the teachers are doing in the classroom it could bring people into the county.

The candidates were then asked about their stance on expanding technical and career programs, and which programs they would add.

Strickland said that the Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs in the district are already training hundreds of students and getting them certifications that they can use later in life. He said that these programs should be expanded in the middle schools as well as the high school, especially through grants like Triumph Gulf Coast which partially funded the new CTE building at Wakulla High.

Myhre spoke about a needs assessment that every district goes through, where the job needs are assessed and grants are awarded to each county based on how well their programs help fill the needs of their community. He mentioned Wakulla High has a variety of different programs which are often hard to find in smaller counties around the state.

Payne said that the CTE building behind the high school is immaculate, and that these programs are often what keeps some students coming to school. He spoke on how he grew up in a "blue-collar world," and how for many students college isn't something that interests them, so these CTE programs give them the skills and knowledge necessary to find a place in the workforce after high school. He also mentioned that he wanted to look into adding plumbing and masonry programs to the high school because of all the new construction in the county and the jobs that would open up.

The candidates were also asked about how they'd ensure that parents and community members had a voice in making the decisions that affect education.

Myhre said that while

the district and the schools are there for the kids, the parents and community was there for them before they were going to school, so they have to have a voice in the decision, especially the parents of students. He also said that he would like to bring God back into schools, and that he wasn't forcing it on anyone, but that parents should be able to decide if that's part of their child's education or not, without pushing it on anyone.

Payne said that to him, being open and having discussions is incredibly important, and that if anyone had an issue with a policy or some way he was trying to run things, they should come talk to him about it directly. He said that it is vitally important that the community be able to come together and have discussions to decide things, and that he would even be willing to assist efforts to change larger laws such as at the state level if that's what was deemed best.

Strickland said that we are lucky to live in a state where parents get some control over the content in classrooms, due in part to the parental bill of rights. He also said that he would like to see quarterly workshops with the community to discuss policies that are in place or could be in place, so that lengthy conversations can happen to better work out these issues.

For the last question, each candidate was asked about their long-term plans for the school district.

Payne said that he grew up in Wakulla County, he wants to live here all his life, and he wants to restore the schools back to where they were when he attended, not with inflated graduation rates as he put it, but where students are given a quality education and opportunities to be successful out in the world.

Strickland said that his vision is for qualified teachers who are supported by administrators working to give their students the best education possible. He also talked about how there needs to be more transparency at the district office, particularly around the budget and making it easier to understand, so that everyone can know exactly what their tax dollars are accomplishing.

Myhre said that he sees a future where parents have more choice over where their child goes to school, and because of that he wants to create opportunities to market Wakulla and its school as a place where parents feel their child is best served.

### SCHOOL BOARD

The candidates for school board are, for District 4, incumbent Josh Brown and challenger Camden Smit; and for District 2, Angie Nichols and June Davis.

Brown is a Wakulla native and a local business owner. He has two children who are enrolled in Wakulla County Schools.

Smit is running as someone who has an education background, experience working in the school district, and as a parent of students currently attending school in Wakulla County.

Nichols has 22 years of teaching experience both in Wakulla and nearby counties. She said that

the extreme insurance rates and stagnant pay drove her from the county, though she wants to return as a school board member.

Davis has been living in Wakulla County since 2009, and has been volunteering and helping out around the county since then. She said her son is going into 11th grade this fall, and she wants to step up from being a volunteer parent to help keep the school district strong and successful.

The first question was about health insurance and plans for reducing health care costs.

Smit said after doing some research, she found the contract that the school system has with Capital Health Plan isn't the root of the increased costs, it's the contribution the county makes that's driving the price up. She specifically stated Florida Virtual School pays for 80% of the cost of employees health insurance, while Wakulla County only pays 40%, and the school board members need to advocate for their employees and allocate more funds in the budget to cover health insurance.

Nichols said that one of her biggest concerns is health insurance, not just for teachers but for all county employees. She went on to say that because the health insurance contributions are so low, employees are leaving to seek employment elsewhere, leading to a worse shortage of teachers and other staff than there would be otherwise. She also brought up that the district budget is very confusing, and makes it incredibly difficult for anyone who isn't an accountant to understand it. She promised to work on making the budget easier to understand so that finding money to put towards the health insurance might be easier.

Davis admitted that she can't answer every question about the budget and future plans, but she promised that she will connect with the superintendent and other members of the board, so that she can learn how best to support the students and staff.

Brown explained that the school system is mandated by the governor to increase the base salary for teachers to \$47,500, and over the last four years the school board's main goal has been to get salaries up to that point before any more money is put towards contributions or other raises. Brown also stated he was confident that the salaries would reach the state required level this year, but that the money was still limited and any changes have to be made in steps.

Candidates were then asked about teacher raises, and Nichols said that once the new teachers were making \$47,500, veteran teachers need to be given raises in order to retain them. She said that she was one of the veteran teachers who had to leave the county, and that by raising the salary not only could those experienced teachers be incentivized to stay, other teachers could be brought back. She also said that she supports having more workshops and working to find money anywhere possible to put toward making Wakulla a district everyone wants to work in.

Davis stated that it was necessary for the

school board and superintendent to come together and discuss the budget, so that teachers can be compensated fairly and future steps up can be planned.

Brown said that either the school district can make more money or spend less in order to find the money to put towards these raises. He mentioned as well that Wakulla is going to get \$385,000 from the state this year, 100% of which will go to teachers, and the other money the district had saved is also going to be put towards teachers and staff.

Smit said that the current pay scale needs to be revamped, as it doesn't adequately compensate veteran teachers. She said that if that doesn't happen, veteran teachers are going to continue to leave for other jobs.

The candidates were then asked whether they would support a one-mill tax increase to raise additional funds for teacher salaries.

Davis said that she would support that additional millage if it were possible to implement.

Brown stated that he would support such an increase only if it were the only possible option left to raise those salaries. He said he wasn't sure that everything's been done to find the needed money, and until taxpayers can be certain that every other option has been exhausted they shouldn't have to pay any more in taxes.

Smit explained she had done some research and found that Wakulla is comparable to nearby counties in terms of millage rates, and that she would not want to raise that rate unless it was absolutely necessary.

Nichols was staunchly opposed to a tax increase, saying prices and taxes are already high enough. She said she believed that there was more money somewhere, and that it could be found with a little more digging, rather than by simply raising taxes.

The candidates were asked about their top priorities if elected.

Brown said that his biggest goal was getting the base teacher pay to \$47,500, but that he also wanted to make sure that teachers are getting the respect they deserve. He further explained that if the money was there, he would like to see a public relations position created, but that wouldn't happen until the teachers were being paid at least the state required amount.

Smit stated that deal-

## PUBLIC NOTICES:

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



More Public Notices appear on Page 12

### THE SCHOOL BOARD OF WAKULLA COUNTY ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING:

**EVENT:** School Board Meeting  
**DATE:** Monday, July 29, 2024  
**TIME:** 5:45 pm  
**PLACE:** School Board Room, 69 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida  
**PURPOSE:** Special School Board Meeting

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



# 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.”

## Questions on property appraiser’s statements

**Editor, The Sun:**

Re: “State questions Wakulla tax rolls” appearing in the Sun on July 11, and “Brimner response to last week’s story on DOR letters” that appeared in the Sun on July 18:

My name is James Burke and I have served as Assistant Property under the past four Property Appraisers and as a consultant to Ed Brimner, the current Property Appraiser. My duties from the time I began my employment with the Property Appraiser’s Office was primarily for the analysis and supervision of the production of the tax roll.

Prior to beginning my employment with

the office, I held a professional designation with American Society of Appraisers as Senior Appraiser specializing in property tax assessments.

I humbly submit the following statement in order to add some additional facts and shed more light on Mr. Brimner’s response to his practice of “selective reappraisal” as cited by the Department of Revenue.

Just a couple of observations:

1) Mr. Brimner notes the 2021 assessment roll met all standards. Mr. Brimner fails to inform the citizens the 2021 assessment roll was produced by the staff who were present upon his taking office and un-

der my supervision as a consultant to Mr. Brimner.

2) Mr. Brimner stated that, upon taking office he found bags of shredded materials in Mr. Harvey’s office (former Property Appraiser Brad Harvey, who was removed from office by Gov. DeSantis after his arrest on felony embezzlement charges). Mr. Brimner claimed the shredded materials deprived him of the historical record, which in turn required him to begin his “term from ground zero.”

In the following paragraphs of Mr. Brimner’s statement he makes reference to historical records dating back as far as 2012. This is an obvious contradiction

to his previous comments and serves to indict his own honesty and integrity.

In fact, the property ownership and appraisal data had been and was being recorded digitally.

In addition, in case of a fire or other catastrophe, this historical information was backed up daily to an in-house and off-site server. The data was stored on servers since the early 1990s and was completely intact.

Mr. Brimner’s assertion that he was deprived of historical records which required him to begin his term from ground zero is absurd and flatly disingenuous.

As stated in the opening sentence, having served as a consultant to Mr.

Brimner and the four previous Property Appraisers, including Mr. Donnie Sparkman, I, having held credentials as a professional appraiser and 40 years of experience and having worked with both candidates, find myself in somewhat of a unique position to make an informed choice in this election.

It is a matter of fact that Mr. Sparkman has vastly more experience in the office and served as Property Appraiser for nearly 10 years. Mr. Sparkman has served our country with distinction as a combat veteran, has served the citizens of Wakulla County with distinction for over 20 years, and is known by all who

know him, for his honesty and integrity. I unequivocally give my full support and endorsement to Mr. Donnie Sparkman. I pray this helps others as they make their decision for Property Appraiser.

Please remember to vote Aug. 20, as this election day will decide all of our local candidates.

Sincerely,  
James Burke

**Editor’s Note:**

The author of the letter served under property appraisers Ronnie Kilgore, Anne Ahrendt, Donnie Sparkman, Brad Harvey and Ed Brimner, and was Wakulla’s interim appraiser after Harvey’s removal from office.

## On the Horizon

### Calendar of events for the week of July 25

#### 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. Tickets are \$15 a carload.
- 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.

- The Wakulla County Public Library will be holding A Night at Hogwarts event starting at 6 p.m.
- The Wakulla County Senior Center is holding its Christmas in July Fundraiser from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Lodge at Wakulla Springs
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and 8 p.m. every Friday at 54 Ochlockonee St.

#### Saturday, July 27

- FRESH Backpack Giveaway is at Sopchoppy Depot Park 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 29

- The Wakulla County School Board is holding a special bud-

get meeting in the school administration building at 5:45 p.m.

- 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 30

- The Wakulla Sun’s third candidate forum will be held at the

Wakulla County Public Library at 6 p.m. for candidates for the only contested county commission seat – incumbent Mike Kemp and challenger Valerie Russell.

- 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 31

- 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.

#### Friday, July 26

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We would very much appreciate your contribution.

William Snowden  
Editor & Publisher  
The Wakulla Sun

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

“It’s A New Day!”

# The Wakulla Sun

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Wakulla Sun, 12 Arran Road, Crawfordville FL 32327.

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– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

# Polled at the Crawfordville Quick Stop: How do you celebrate your birthday?



**CAROL ALLEN**  
Stay-at-home grandma

**“I like to be pampered!”**



**BILLY SPENCE**  
Plumber

**“I don’t even like my birthdays, it means I’m another year older.”**



**JEREMIAH PAYNE**  
JPM Appliances & AC

**“Go out and have a nice Hibachi dinner with close family and friends.”**



**STACEY BENNETT**  
Walmart

**“Go fishing.”**



**JONATHAN MIXER**  
Welder

**“Read The Wakulla Sun newspaper.”**

## Sopchoppy News

By DJ BUTCH

Whatz up from Sopchoppy! I told my mother that I was writing the Sopchoppy News and she said, “I used to write that.” Say what! If that isn’t Sopchoppy – boy, I tell ya!

I guess it was meant to be. My mom wrote the Sopchoppy News and now I’m writing it. Ain’t God good!

I love writing. I love writing music

too. If you listen to my music then you know I love Sopchoppy. This opportunity was perfect!

I love to write about Sopchoppy. I’m also several generations Sopchoppy. My roots run deep. The real Sopchoppy knows. Some are my kinfolk even if they don’t claim me... haha. They know my grandfather! My mother, my grandmothers on both

sides and my grandmothers’s sisters! If you know these people then you’re Sopchoppy...

I love Sopchoppy and that is why I always say we must protect Sopchoppy. I was raised here and I watched how the Sopchoppy legends took care of one another. They helped each other and they were family regardless of blood. They helped one another and watched out for one another. They raised me and many others the right way. We must continue this.

Love thy neighbor. Wave at peo-

ple, show love and respect for one another. Look out for one another. Keep Sopchoppy clean. Sopchoppy is “easy living” and if we want it to stay that way then we got to make sure we protect it and continue the beautiful traditions of our ancestors.

Speaking of traditions, I went viral on TikTok grunting worms. I have 15 viral videos. Each video has over one million views. Two videos are over 7 million views. Follow DJ Butch on TikTok! I’m showing the world how Sopchoppy does it baby...

## Library News

Library News July 25th-July 31st

July 25th

- Summer Breakspot Free Meals for Kids 11am
- Trail Blazers 2pm

- Conservation Warriors 4pm
- Manga Club 5pm

July 26th

- A Night at Hogwarts 6pm

July 27th

- Wakulla County Youth Football/Cheer Assoc 9am

July 28th

- Closed

July 29th

- No Programs

July 30th

- No Children’s Programs
- Wakulla County Candidate Forum 6pm

July 31st

- No Children’s Programs
- Knitters 4pm

## Wakulla Station News

By VERNA BROCK

I don’t know about you, but I’ve been reveling in the last few days of afternoon showers.

Yes, it means more humidity. But it also drops the temps down to semi-bearable. Yes, it means you can watch the grass spring up right in front of you. But it also keeps flower and vegetable gardens alive without endlessly dragging hoses from pillar to post.

I hope this is a new weather pattern, reminiscent of “the good ‘ol days” of my youth in Florida. Once was, you could almost set your watch by the afternoon summer rains.

With the start of school on the not-so-distant horizon, school supply drives have begun. My good friends Robert and Kenny Manning have already begun bookbag distributions around the county, with the

Be A Hero to Our Heroes organization. They are on their third week, and will be in Sopchoppy this coming Saturday, July 27, at City Hall, from 9 a.m to noon. The final grand finale will be Aug. 3rd at the Wakulla Community Center. There will be vendors, free haircuts, food, clothing, well-check physicals, and more!

Should you miss these events, please contact the Mannings. They always reserve supplies/book bags just for that eventuality. And remember – everything is free to all comers. All for the glory to God!

Many thanks to everyone who supported the Wakulla United Methodist Church’s “Christmas in July.” They made over \$1,000 for the food pantry!

Please keep Pam Adams in your prayers, as well as Terry Allen, Becky Perkins, Emily Mc Kuen, Deborah Giles, and Mike Harrison in your prayers.

I’m so happy to report Cindy Blackstock is recuperating well, as well as Sharhonda Williams and Clem Bunker. Your prayers are more powerful than you know.



## Sopchoppy Opry this week

The Sopchoppy Opry will celebrate 24 years of great music July 27 in historic Sopchoppy School Auditorium! Featured guests for this musical tribute to legendary singer Patsy Cline will be Margo Anderson, Frank & Wendell Purvis and the ever-popular Encore II Band. Tickets are \$15 and may be reserved at 850-962-3711 or purchased at the door. Ticket office and Opry Cafe open at 5:30 pm on show date. Curtain time is 7 pm.

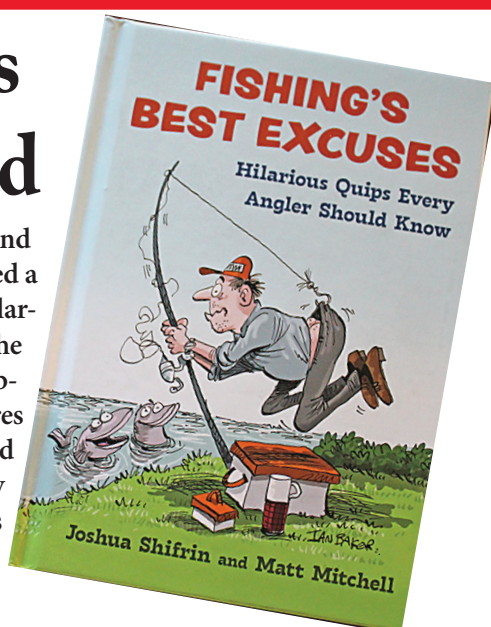
## PAWS Donation



Capital City Bank made a \$750 donation to animal group’s efforts. (Photo special to The Sun)

## Local author’s book published

Local author Matt Mitchell, son of Mark and Maureen Mitchell of Panacea, has published a book of humor, “Fishing’s Best Excuses: Hilarious Quips Every Angler Should Know.” The book, illustrated by Joshua Shifrin and published by Skyhorse Publishing, which features excuses such as “The GPS quit working” and “My beer was too warm and it threw off my concentration.” It also reveals that BOAT is an acronym for “Break Out Another Thousand.” Available on Amazon.



## Eddie Hand recognized

Florida School Boards Association (FSBA) is proud to recognize Eddie Hand, Wakulla County School Board member, as its newest Certified Board Member (CBM).

To earn the initial distinction of a CBM, members must complete 96 hours of training in three different content areas: Leadership, Advocacy, and Knowledge. Leadership Services Director, Tina Pinkoson stated. “Since his election in 2022, Eddie has shown a willingness and desire to learn.”

The Certified Board Member (CBM) Distinction is one of several professional development programs offered by the Florida School Boards Association to ensure board members obtain well-rounded and thorough understanding of his or her policy-making job responsibilities.

The Florida School Boards Association is the professional association for school boards in Florida. The mission of FSBA is to increase student achievement through the development of effective school board leadership and advocacy for public education.



# Outdoors

outdoor sports

## HOME ON THE RANGE

### Cleaning the Ruger Mark III or IV magazines



By MARJ LAW

I hadn't shot the Ruger Mark III in, well, maybe a couple years. It's a .22-caliber handgun; great for newbie users. The actual bullet size is .22 in diameter, but when we refer to the actual cartridge or gun, it's a .22 or .22 LR.

The Mark III is excellent for training new gun users because shooting gives practically no recoil. The crack when fired is not terribly loud. When Newbie doesn't have to worry about managing recoil or loud sounds, he/she can concentrate on shooting stance and grip.

Next week, Mary is coming to the range. Her husband has a 9mm Springfield Ronin. Since it has significantly more recoil than the .22, we'll start Mary on the .22 and work our way up to the 9.

At home, I drop the magazine and peer into the ejection port and chamber. Yay! Before I had put it away, I had cleaned it! That's what we ought to do, but do we always do it? Ahem. So, it's all clean and ready for a trip to the

range.

Since I hadn't shot this gun in quite some time, Joe and I went to the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office range to get the feel of it all over again.

The range is "hot." I take the Mark III out of its pouch, and then the magazine. I slide 10 rounds in the magazine with no problem.

I'm in my favorite stance, breathe, aim, and squeeze that trigger. Pop!

Right near the center of the target. Easy!

Squeeze again. Click! Wait, what happened? Stovepipe! The round is sitting straight up in the chamber! That's not right! I dump the magazine and pull back the bolt to release the round.

Back in goes the magazine. This time, I hear a satisfying pop as the bullet flies to the target. Ah, yes. Smooth and easy.

I squeeze the trigger again. Click! What? This time, the round is stuck at the bottom of the ramp.

Joe has been watching.

"That's a .22, and they're so bad about cleaning," he says. "Did you clean your gun?"

Huh. Well, sometimes I'm not so great about it, but this time, I knew it was pristine.

"Of course the gun is clean. Want to see?"

I hand him the gun, keeping the muzzle pointing down range.

He locks back the bolt and inspects the chamber and port.

"Yes, it's amazingly



#### Cleaning the 22 LR Mark III's magazine

clean. Especially for a .22!"

He's a little surprised. OK, I'm only a tiny bit insulted.

When something goes wrong, it's often shooter error. But this time, I've got a clean .22, it's a great gun, and it's easy to shoot.

I have an idea. I pull out a different magazine and load 10 rounds. Pop! Pop! Pop!

All rounds fire perfectly.

"Marj, you cleaned your gun," Joe begins, "but did you clean your magazine?"

Darn. These .22s are hard enough to clean. Now I have to clean the magazine too?

We return home, and Joe takes out that first magazine. He pulls down the loading button and shows me the inside of the top. You'd think someone put clay or hard mud in it.

Looks like we have to clean magazines as well. Especially .22s, which collect a lot of shooting residue inside the gun.

Yes, to clean this thing, Joe says we have to take it apart. Sigh.

Look at the bottom of the magazine. See that hole with the silver color at the bottom?

Take a sturdy metal pick about the size of the hole. Hold both hands over the bottom of the magazine, because you're about to release a spring which could fly around the room if you're not careful. Now, take your metal pick and push into the hole. You'll feel the bottom piece of the magazine (the magazine base pad) loosen. Keeping your hands caged over this piece, take your thumb and slide it towards its longer side.

Off it comes and the spring pops partially out. Good thing you have it caged. Now, pull it all the way out of the mag. It sort of sticks at the end, but pull it all the way out. The spring has a metal magazine base pad latch on one end.

Next, bring the follower button down to the

base of the magazine, where a larger hole allows it to come out. Last, the follower will slide out of the magazine tube.

Now you have the: magazine tube, follower, follower button, spring, base pad latch, and the base pad.

For cleaning: The top of the follower is pretty dirty, as is the inside top of the magazine. Take a long cotton swab with solvent and clean the inside of the magazine, paying close attention to the inside top. Taking a solvent-dipped rag, wipe down the outside of the mag, the follower, and the spring, as well. All clean!

Put it back together. Slide in the follower until its small hole lines up with the larger hole in the mag. Then, put the button in this opening. Now the button and the follower will slide upward. Install the spring carefully, as it may try to buckle.

Compress the spring to install the pad. Line up the base pad to slide

onto the base of the magazine tube. Push it, short side first, until the magazine base pad lines up with the hole. You'll feel a click as the base pad slides onto the magazine tube and aligns with that latch button.

This is all a bit of an effort.

"Why not just pull down on the follower button and take a Q-tip to swab out the first inch or so of the inside of the magazine, and the follower, too?" I ask Joe. "Isn't this the dirtiest part of the mag?"

"That will work for a fairly long while, but you've had the Mark III for years. When did you clean its magazines last?"

Well, like: never? "It has been a while," I admit.

"Ah, huh," he mutters under his breath.

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



ATLANTIC STINGRAY  
(*Dasyatis Sabina*)

Stringrays are best known for their whip-like tail armed with venomous spines. When threatened, they lash their tail to jab at the attacker. Poison from glands along the grooves on each side of the spines flows into the wounds. Stingrays are not aggressive and will swim quickly away if you shuffle your feet slowly forward when entering the water. They lie on the bottom almost covered in sand or mud. Here they forage for worms, small clams, and shrimp.

Eukarya, Animalia, Cordata, Elasmobranchiomorph, Rajiformes, Dasyatida



## BIRDING AT THE REFUGE

### Midsummer birding at the refuge

By DON MORROW

I pulled over and parked on the side of the road a few hundred yards before the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge gate. It was coming up on half past five on a starry moonless night. I got out of the car and stood listening in the darkness. Chuck-wills-widows have finally stopped calling, but I heard the whinnying call of an Eastern Screech Owl, close at first and then further off. A pair of coyotes howled plaintively in the middle distance. Otherwise, it was quiet.

I got back in the car and drove into the refuge. Out in the marshes frogs were calling. Later, coming up on first light as the stars faded and the sky gained color, I heard night herons coming into roost. The sharper calls

of the yellow-crowns stood out from the more common Black-Crowned Night-Herons.

It is midsummer at the refuge. The flowers of summer – wood sage, swamp hibiscus and partridge pea – are in bloom. Dragonflies are at their peak as darners, saddlebags, pennants and dragonlets are cruising over the marshes and along the levees. Whitetail bucks are in velvet and young Bobkittens are taking their first steps.

Red-winged Blackbirds and Willets are beginning to flock up. The first of the migrant sandpipers, Least, Pectoral, Solitary and Spotted, have started to pass through. It is time to watch for newly arrived Yellow Warblers along Lighthouse Road and Ospreys are beginning

to leave. The Ospreys will move down the peninsula and island hop to South America for the winter.

The breeding season at the refuge is not completely over. Wilson's Plover chicks are scurrying across the mudflats following their parents. Common Gallinules are raising their second broods on Headquarters Pond and Eastern Kingbirds are still feeding young fledglings.

In the swamps along the Double Bridges, Red-eyed Vireos and Red-bellied Woodpeckers are feeding on the fruit of Swamp Dogwood. Peppervine, Elderberry and Grape are just getting ripe. Look closely and you will notice that Yaupon, Virginia Creeper and Cabbage Palm are all covered with green fruits that will feed mi-

grant catbirds, tanagers, and orioles in the Fall.

July is tern time. Eight tern species may occur on the refuge this month: Black, Common, Forster's, Least, Gull-billed, Sandwich, Caspian and Royal. They represent a mix of breeding, over-summering and migrant species.

Life at St. Marks is always in a constant state of change as it follows an endlessly repeating annual cycle. Each cycle is subtly different, punctuated occasionally by the odd event like a razorbill incursion or a flamingo influx.

Come down to your refuge. It's about time you checked up on things.

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

**Wakulla Lawn Ranger**  
Gene Darby  
850-251-9122  
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Edging - Trimming  
Sidewalk/Driveways  
Pressurewashing  
Landscaping

**Licensed & Insured**  
**Great Prices - Great Work**

# FOLLOW THE SUN.



# Water Ways

a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences



## 24/7 PRIORITY ON-WATER ASSISTANCE

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



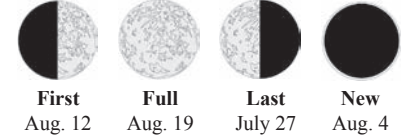
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### Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

July 25 - July 31



Tide charts by  
tides4fishing.com



Best fishing days this month  
August 4-19

Thursday 25	
Sun rise/set 6:51AM 8:34PM	Moon rise/set 11:42PM 11:22AM
Moon Illumination 78%	
Friday 26	
Sun rise/set 6:52AM 8:34PM	Moon rise/set ----- 12:27PM
Moon Illumination 68%	
Saturday 27	
Sun rise/set 6:53AM 8:33PM	Moon rise/set 12:13AM 1:34PM
Moon Illumination 57%	
Sunday 28	
Sun rise/set 6:53AM 8:33PM	Moon rise/set 12:48AM 2:40PM
Moon Illumination 46%	
Monday 29	
Sun rise/set 6:54AM 8:32PM	Moon rise/set 1:26AM 3:47PM
Moon Illumination 35%	
Tuesday 30	
Sun rise/set 6:54AM 8:31PM	Moon rise/set 2:09AM 4:53PM
Moon Illumination 25%	
Wednesday 31	
Sun rise/set 6:55AM 8:30PM	Moon rise/set 2:58AM 5:56PM
Moon Illumination 16%	

For tides at the following points add to Dog Island Listings:  
High Tide Low Tide  
Carrabelle 28 Min. 25 Min.  
Apalachicola 1 Hr., 53 Min. 2 Hrs., 38 Min.  
Cat Point 1 Hr., 13 Min. 2 Hrs., 31 Min.  
Lower Anchorage 1 Hr., 36 Min. 2 Hrs., 3 Min.  
West Pass 1 Hr., 26 Min. 2 Hrs., 39 Min.

#### St. Marks River Entrance

Th	5:47 am ▲ 3.6 ft	11:41 am ▼ 0.9 ft	5:45 pm ▲ 3.8 ft	
Fr	12:06 am ▼ 0.5 ft	6:16 am ▲ 3.7 ft	12:37 pm ▼ 0.7 ft	6:46 pm ▲ 3.3 ft
Sa	12:41 am ▼ 1.0 ft	6:48 am ▲ 3.7 ft	1:44 pm ▼ 0.6 ft	8:03 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
Su	1:17 am ▼ 1.5 ft	7:26 am ▲ 3.7 ft	3:04 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	9:44 pm ▲ 2.6 ft
Mo	2:01 am ▼ 1.9 ft	8:14 am ▲ 3.6 ft	4:35 pm ▼ 0.4 ft	11:35 pm ▲ 2.6 ft
Tu	3:03 am ▼ 2.2 ft	9:24 am ▲ 3.6 ft	5:58 pm ▼ 0.2 ft	
We	12:57 am ▲ 2.7 ft	4:28 am ▼ 2.4 ft	10:52 am ▲ 3.6 ft	7:03 pm ▼ 0.0 ft

#### City of St. Marks

Th	12:37 am ▼ 0.0 ft	6:23 am ▲ 3.4 ft	12:45 pm ▼ 0.8 ft	6:21 pm ▲ 3.5 ft
Fr	1:10 am ▼ 0.4 ft	6:52 am ▲ 3.4 ft	1:41 pm ▼ 0.6 ft	7:22 pm ▲ 3.1 ft
Sa	1:45 am ▼ 0.9 ft	7:24 am ▲ 3.4 ft	2:48 pm ▼ 0.6 ft	8:39 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
Su	2:21 am ▼ 1.4 ft	8:02 am ▲ 3.4 ft	4:08 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	10:20 pm ▲ 2.4 ft
Mo	3:05 am ▼ 1.8 ft	8:50 am ▲ 3.4 ft	5:39 pm ▼ 0.4 ft	
Tu	12:11 am ▲ 2.4 ft	4:07 am ▼ 2.0 ft	10:00 am ▲ 3.3 ft	7:02 pm ▼ 0.2 ft
We	1:33 am ▲ 2.5 ft	5:32 am ▼ 2.1 ft	11:28 am ▲ 3.3 ft	8:07 pm ▼ 0.0 ft

#### Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	6:14 am ▲ 3.7 ft	12:08 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	6:04 pm ▲ 3.8 ft	
Fr	12:32 am ▼ 0.6 ft	6:46 am ▲ 3.7 ft	1:07 pm ▼ 0.9 ft	7:09 pm ▲ 3.4 ft
Sa	1:08 am ▼ 1.1 ft	7:20 am ▲ 3.7 ft	2:16 pm ▼ 0.7 ft	8:30 pm ▲ 3.0 ft
Su	1:47 am ▼ 1.6 ft	7:59 am ▲ 3.7 ft	3:36 pm ▼ 0.6 ft	10:15 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
Mo	2:35 am ▼ 2.1 ft	8:50 am ▲ 3.7 ft	5:01 pm ▼ 0.3 ft	
Tu	12:01 am ▲ 2.8 ft	3:39 am ▼ 2.4 ft	10:01 am ▲ 3.6 ft	6:18 pm ▼ 0.1 ft
We	1:18 am ▲ 2.9 ft	5:03 am ▼ 2.5 ft	11:23 am ▲ 3.7 ft	7:21 pm ▼ -0.1 ft

#### Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	5:39 am ▲ 2.7 ft	11:52 am ▼ 0.6 ft	5:37 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	
Fr	12:17 am ▼ 0.4 ft	6:08 am ▲ 2.8 ft	12:48 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	6:38 pm ▲ 2.5 ft
Sa	12:52 am ▼ 1.1 ft	6:40 am ▲ 2.8 ft	1:55 pm ▼ 0.4 ft	7:55 pm ▲ 2.2 ft
Su	1:28 am ▼ 1.6 ft	7:18 am ▲ 2.8 ft	3:15 pm ▼ 0.3 ft	9:36 pm ▲ 1.9 ft
Mo	2:12 am ▼ 1.4 ft	8:06 am ▲ 2.7 ft	4:46 pm ▼ 0.3 ft	11:27 pm ▲ 1.9 ft
Tu	3:14 am ▼ 1.6 ft	9:16 am ▲ 2.7 ft	6:09 pm ▼ 0.1 ft	
We	12:49 am ▲ 2.0 ft	4:39 am ▼ 1.7 ft	10:44 am ▲ 2.7 ft	7:14 pm ▼ 0.0 ft

#### St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	6:06 am ▲ 2.9 ft	11:56 am ▼ 1.1 ft	5:52 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	
Fr	12:16 am ▼ 0.5 ft	6:36 am ▲ 2.9 ft	12:59 pm ▼ 0.8 ft	7:03 pm ▲ 2.6 ft
Sa	12:53 am ▼ 1.0 ft	7:08 am ▲ 3.0 ft	2:08 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	8:29 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
Su	1:30 am ▼ 1.5 ft	7:44 am ▲ 3.1 ft	3:25 pm ▼ 0.3 ft	10:24 pm ▲ 2.2 ft
Mo	2:08 am ▼ 1.9 ft	8:28 am ▲ 3.1 ft	4:45 pm ▼ 0.1 ft	
Tu	12:55 am ▲ 2.3 ft	3:05 am ▼ 2.2 ft	9:25 am ▲ 3.1 ft	5:58 pm ▼ -0.1 ft
We	2:27 am ▲ 2.4 ft	4:52 am ▼ 2.4 ft	10:33 am ▲ 3.1 ft	6:59 pm ▼ -0.2 ft

#### Dog Island West End

Th	6:24 am ▲ 2.6 ft	12:33 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	6:12 pm ▲ 2.4 ft	
Fr	12:32 am ▼ 0.7 ft	6:48 am ▲ 2.7 ft	1:31 pm ▼ 0.8 ft	7:20 pm ▲ 2.1 ft
Sa	1:02 am ▼ 1.2 ft	7:13 am ▲ 2.7 ft	2:38 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	9:21 pm ▲ 1.9 ft
Su	1:23 am ▼ 1.6 ft	7:44 am ▲ 2.8 ft	3:53 pm ▼ 0.3 ft	
Mo	8:26 am ▲ 2.8 ft	5:06 pm ▼ 0.1 ft		
Tu	9:27 am ▲ 2.8 ft	6:18 pm ▼ 0.0 ft		
We	10:29 am ▲ 2.8 ft	7:21 pm ▼ -0.1 ft		

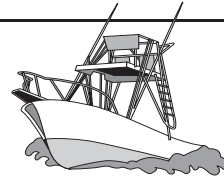
Best hunting and fishing based on solunar times. MAJOR feeding periods are 2 hours long, centered on the solunar time. MINOR feeding periods are only 1 hour long, again centered on the solunar time.

Thursday 25	
Minor Times 10:37AM 10:57PM	Major Times 3:57AM 4:21PM
Friday 26	
Minor Times -----	Major Times 4:45AM 5:10PM
Saturday 27	
Minor Times 11:28PM 12:49PM	Major Times 5:34AM 5:59PM
Sunday 28	
Minor Times 12:03AM 1:55PM	Major Times 6:25AM 6:51PM
Monday 29	
Minor Times 12:41AM 3:02PM	Major Times 7:18AM 7:45PM
Tuesday 30	
Minor Times 1:24AM 4:08PM	Major Times 8:13AM 8:42PM
Wednesday 31	
Minor Times 2:13AM 5:11PM	Major Times 9:11AM 9:40PM



## Coast Guard Auxiliary Reports

By Carolyn Brown Treadon



When using the VHF Radio, there is some important information to know.

Channel 16 is designated as the national distress, safety and calling frequency. All vessels should monitor this channel while underway.

The local Coast Guard Station will broadcast important information over this channel. This may involve a boater in distress, a hazard or a safety warning. They will either be securité, pan-pan, or may day.

Securité, (pronounced sea-cur-i-tay), is the safety signal. It is used to alert boaters to potential hazards or approaching inclement weather.

Pan pan, (pronounced pahn-pahn) is used to relay urgent information such as a person in the water or a boat has broken down in a dangerous area. This is used when the danger is not life threatening.

### 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

Other boaters are urged to keep a lookout and assist as they are able.

Mayday is urgent and eminent danger. This is only used when lives are at risk and immediate assistance is needed. This is what helped save Myla!

If you find yourself in need of help, there is procedure to use when making a distress call. Using channel 16 on the VHF radio, repeat the phrase three times, "pan pan, pan pan, pan pan." Identify your vessel by

registration, type and color of the boat. Identify who is on board and the emergency. Then release the mic and wait for a response.

Channel 16 is monitored at all times and should not be used for routine conversation. Understanding these different calls for help can assist you in getting the help you need or allow you to assist others.

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

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

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

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

## Underwater

By Chris Peters and Dr. William "Doc" Herrnkind Wakulla

Thank you, Gregg.

Florida State University's first and longest tenured Diving Safety Officer, Gregg R. Stanton trained in the Scientist in the Sea Program (SITS) under the tutelage of the U.S. Navy Captain George F. Bond, M.D., the father of saturation diving. Gregg performed numerous advanced subsea projects including manned undersea habitats. Subsequently, Gregg organized a SITS program at the FSU Coastal Marine Lab. Gregg was well known in the scientific diving community for his development of new technologies. He oversaw numerous international diving operations, and incorporated and trained a team in deep cave diving to capture rare primitive crustaceans. In the period the FSUCML had no coastal research vessel, Gregg was instrumental in acquiring the R/V Seminole, a 47-foot diesel-powered vessel that served FSU for decades of scientific diving. Through the 1980s and 1990s, Gregg supervised training, equipment and safety while enabling thousands of FSU faculty, staff, and students to explore the underwater world. In 2014, he was awarded the prestigious Conrad Limbaugh Prize by the American Academy of Underwater Sciences for his contributions to diving science.

In commemoration of the coming 50-year anniversary of the Florida State University's Academic Diving Program (ADP), we celebrate the life and outstanding service of Gregg R. Stanton while working as FSU's first Diving Safety Officer. Without Gregg, there would be no ADP.

By Chris Peters with help from Dr. William "Doc" Herrnkind



### WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO

Retired Wakulla Springs State Park Ranger Bob Thompson, on his weekly wildlife survey at the park last week, snapped this photo of a juvenile Yellow-crowned Night Heron in a very unusual stationery pose, with its head upside down, shading its head with its wing.



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## A gift we can give ourselves

By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

Are you in a good place in your relationship with your spouse, children, siblings and neighbors? Or do you make poor choices that affect these relationships? And are these same

bad decisions affecting your relationship with God?

Why do we give in to these behaviors, even when we wish we didn't? Is it because we don't take our addiction, lying or promiscuity seriously enough? We know we shouldn't commit a certain act, but we rationalize it away or bargain with ourselves, "Just one more time. Then I'll repent and never do it again."

But we do – over and over again. Eventually, regret and self-hate set in, and we plead for God's mercy. We hate ourselves

for abusing God's kindness, yet we continue our miserable downward spiral. And all the while, our relationships continue to suffer.

I have an idea for those of us who seriously want to experience genuine change – a gift we can give ourselves that could change our lives:

Find a core group of close friends who'll encourage, pray for and hold each other accountable while studying Romans 6 together. This endeavor may end up being such a positive experience that after a

while, you may rank it as the best gift you've ever given yourself.

During the next several weeks, let's see how much we can grow while meditating on Romans 6, a tremendous chapter that calls us to purity and holiness. And let's invite someone (or ourselves) to go on the journey with us. If we're transparent about the areas in which we struggle, we'll discover that accountability can be another fundamental tool in our arsenal.

Romans 6:2 (ESV) says, "How can we who died to sin still live in it?"

Isn't it time we stopped allowing sinful or bad habits to control us?

What do you think? Would you like to see how spending time in God's Word and practicing accountability with a small group could transform you and your life? Would you at least consider praying about it?

Meditating on God's Word and making ourselves accountable to an individual or a small group can be an effective way to break out of that downward spiral. Imagine how motivating it would be to celebrate

one another's victories, knowing that each measurable victory will bring us to a better place in our relationships with each other and with Christ ... including in our homes, our communities and our churches.

In a future column, I'll share practical guidelines on how to start and run an accountability group.

*Sheryl H. Boldt is a sales executive for Wave 94 and author of the blog, [www.TodayCanBeDifferent.net](http://www.TodayCanBeDifferent.net). Connect with her at [SherylHBoldt.Wave94@gmail.com](mailto:SherylHBoldt.Wave94@gmail.com).*

## Take heart

By **CHERYL CRUCE**

Many sentiments ran through the three-bedroom, one-bath house of my youth. Fights over who wore the favored pair of cut-off shorts last, the struggle of school mornings, and the revolving bathroom door were common occurrences. I am sure words were spoken with high emotions of every type in the crowded walls of

what we called home. Regardless, with the love of our parents, each day offered an opportunity to learn to trust in the security of their love.

Our mornings began with a huge pot of cheese grits and homemade biscuits. Our days ended with a warm kiss goodnight, and a gentle tuck in bed. When we moved from childhood to youth or teen years, the "tuck" was replaced, but the kiss remained. I know this sounds a little Hallmark-ish, yet it speaks volumes of how life was when the simplicity of childhood hid the struggles of the real world.

It's a curious thing about adulthood – it often takes a backward glance to truly appreci-

ate the simplicity and beauty of childhood. Back then, I never worried about the economy, the biting cold, or the stretch of a paycheck. Those were the concerns of my parents.

My world revolved around the anticipation of holidays like Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter, and the excitement of a new dress for church. Looking back, I find myself yearning for the innocence and simplicity of those days.

Greek philosopher Heraclitus said, "It is impossible to step into the same river twice." The second step into the river has a different current, and the river's bed shifts with the flow. Natural occurrences like flooding or fallen debris

aid in changing the river. The sand that was once beneath your feet has been swept downstream, and the new is present.

Thomas Wolfe's novel "You Can't Go Home Again" shares this sentiment, and as much as I once longed to outgrow my roots, I now desire to revisit them.

It is not revisiting home that I long for as much as it is letting go of the struggles of this world. The burdens of this world can be overwhelming at times, although they do not have to overtake us. Scripture teaches us to forget what is behind us and look forward to the vision God has set before us (Philippians 3:12-14). A backward glance often provides a false narra-

tive, skewing the vision of God's promises for His children.

God never promised an easy life, but He did promise to help us navigate the ups and downs. Imagine the joy we could experience if we chose to trust like we did when we were young, giving our worries to our Heavenly Father. We would discover true rest for our weary souls (Matthew 11:28-30). This world has a constantly changing rhythm. Yet, the love of the Father remains constant. We cannot add a single hour to our lives, change our past, or predict the future.

However, our Heavenly Father has promised to be faithful to us and meet our needs according to His riches in glory

(Luke 12:25-31).

So, let today be filled with peace and strength, knowing that we can trust in the love and care of our Heavenly Father. Let us embrace each day with faith, knowing that we can trust in His promises and find true rest for our weary souls. And let us embrace each other when the tides of this world change.

John 16:33: "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

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

### OUT TO PASTOR

## Ding-a-ling there goes spring

By **JAMES SNYDER**

In my life, time has a way of getting out of control. If I could control time, I would be a very happy dude. My one question in life is, where does time go? And, can I retrieve it?

The other night, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I sat in the living room watching a little TV.

I then heard a deep sigh from the other resident in the room. Looking over I said, "Is anything wrong?"

Looking back at me with one of "her looks," she said, "Why is it so hot?"

At first, I thought she was talking about me as a hot dude. But after thinking more about it, I concluded that I was not the hot dude she was talking about. She was talking about the weather.

Sighing very deeply she said, "I just can't stand all of this hot weather anymore."

She was born and

raised in New York, and when the weather gets over her age, she can hardly handle it. The weather was not too much over her age, but it was over her age.

I waved my hand at her and said, "Oh, my dear, we are in Florida."

Scowling at me, she said, "I know that, but it wasn't this hot the other week."

Chuckling on the inside, I responded, "Well, my dear, spring is over and summer is here. It's the climate change, silly."

I thought about that, and it's pretty interesting that things go as quickly as they do. Why can't spring stay with us just a little bit longer? Why can't summer be shortened a month or two?

Time does have a way of flying by quickly; if you don't pay attention, it will be gone before you know it.

Looking at me, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage replied, "I know spring is gone, I know summer is here, but why does it have to be so hot?"

Knowing her as well as I know her, I realized that was a rhetorical question. She wasn't asking me for any information and so, I wasn't going to volunteer any information whatsoever.

er. That's what usually gets me into trouble.

But I couldn't help but think about that myself. Lately, we've been having some very hot and humid days. It's been 100° or more almost every day. Some meteorologists are saying these are record hot days.

One thing about a hot day is that you can't do very much activity, especially outside. I was outside one day doing some things, and pretty soon, I could hardly breathe, and my energy had all but disappeared. I think it went inside.

I came in after that, got a nice glass of iced tea, and sat in my easy chair.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage looked at me and said, "So, why are you in the house?"

Without thinking, which is my usual MO, I replied, "It's just too hot outside for me."

"Oh," she said sarcastically, "so spring has disappeared?" And then she said, "Do you think it just might be summer?"

I hate it when what I say comes back to haunt me.

On the other hand, these hot days do have a cool element.

The Gracious Mis-

tress of the Parsonage came the other day and said, "I'm going shopping, would you like to come with me?"

Usually, I have no way of getting out of going shopping with her. But the heat spell has given me a good excuse. "Oh my dear," I said rather sadly, "I would love to but it's just too hot out there for me and I cannot handle all that heat. I'm so sorry."

Looking at me with one of her smiles, I knew what she was thinking. That was, I was using the heat spell to get out of going somewhere shopping with her. Although she loves shopping, it is certainly not one of my favorite activities.

As she went out the door, I said rather quickly, "Don't forget to get me some Klondike bars. I'm getting low on them."

Looking back at me as she walked through the door, she said, "Well, if you were with me I probably would remember."

When she left, I got a cup of coffee and went to my easy chair to sit and think about the morning. Sometimes, the most important thing in life is having a good excuse for not doing something.

When I think about

the seasons of the year, everyone has something good to say about it. And, everyone has something bad about it. I'm trying to learn to focus on the good aspects of a season. If I focus on the bad aspects, it just gets me down.

Every bad aspect has a good slant to it. My challenge is finding that good slant and using it for pleasure.

I thought of a verse in the Bible that addresses this. Psalm 31:14-15 - "But I trusted in thee, O Lord: I said, Thou art my God. My times are in thy hand: deliver me from the hand of mine enemies, and from them that persecute me."

No matter my circumstances, I can trust God for my time today, tomorrow and forever. Spring comes, Spring goes but nothing changes as far as God is concerned. I'm in His hands.

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# Obituaries



**Louis Andrew 'Andy' Sutton Jr.**

Louis Andrew "Andy" Sutton Jr., 62, of Crawfordville, passed away July 7, 2024, with his loving family beside him, his pride and joy.

Andy was born Feb. 13, 1962, in Houston, Texas to his parents Louis A. Sutton, Sr. and Jane Yancey Sutton. The family moved to Tallahassee, where Andy grew up and attended Kate Sullivan

and Frank Hartsfield Elementary Schools, Cobb Middle School and Lincoln High School. They moved to Wakulla County, and he attended and graduated from Wakulla High School, class of 1980.

Andy excelled in football and baseball during his school years and in his adult years enjoyed and was outstanding in softball and golf. But his favorite activity of all was that of a sportsman. If there was a fish to be caught, a deer to be harvested, a turkey to be stalked, Andy loved it!

Andy married the love of his life Wilhelmina "Mina" Love Morrison in 1985. They lived in Crawfordville their whole married life and were the proud parents of three beautiful daughters Amy, Amanda and Libby. Andy enjoyed spending time with his girls; whether it was watching them cheer, play softball or act on stage. He eagerly shared his love of the outdoors with his daughters.

Andy had a stern look but was a big teddy bear with a hilarious sense of humor; a jokester and loved to pull pranks on most anyone. He always said that when he was growing up, he had to keep working at a task, until he got it right. His parents were stern and wanted him to learn during these tasks, so Andy learned to study a problem until he knew it was right the first time. Andy had so much common sense; a creative artist and enjoyed planting and working in his garden.

During Andy's working years he made so many special friends. He was employed as a Mechanical Supervisor with Vause Mechanical, Council Brothers Plumbing and as a plumber with Leon County Schools.

He will be remembered by his wife of 39 years Mina Sutton; daughters Amy Parker and husband Kyle, Amanda Miller and husband Jordan, and Libby Sutton; grandchildren Easton, Kyla, Kayden, Kyndal and Sutton Parker and Forbes Miller; Andy's older siblings Patricia Robb and husband Merle, Lulu Sutton, and Yancey Sutton and wife Caroline; mother-in-law Wilhelmina Morrison; sister-in-law Sarabeth Jones and husband J.D.; brother-in-law Trey Morrison and wife Sherrill; and tons of cousins, nieces and nephews and he loved you all. Many friends that he loved like brothers and sisters...Andy loved big!

He was predeceased by his mother Jane Yancey Sutton, father Louis A. Sutton Sr., brother John L. Sutton, paternal grandparents Russell and Vera Sutton and maternal grandparents Malcolm and Annie Mae Yancey.

A Memorial Service was held Monday, July 15, 2024, at 10 a.m. at the Mysterious Waters Community Park.

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

## Weekly Roundup: Florida front and center

By **JIM TURNER**  
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE – Florida, at least the red side of it, was on full display this week in Milwaukee.

With Palm Beach resident Donald Trump formally getting the nomination to try to win back his old job, the nightly roster of speakers at the Republican National Convention was filled with Florida officials and residents. And stationed front and center of the stage was the Florida delegation.

"I think our state is featured prominently, not just at the convention but in the life of our party, in the country, because so much has gone right in our state," U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio said Thursday during a Republican Party of Florida breakfast.

Rubio, who was on a short list to become Trump's running mate, joked that it was a good thing Trump moved to Florida because otherwise the New York delegation would have been seated at the lip of the stage.

### MAKING A STATEMENT

A marathon meeting of

economists ended Monday with a revised "financial impact statement" that will appear on the November ballot with a proposed constitutional amendment on abortion rights.

Revising the statement spurred a contentious debate, with a state panel known as the Financial Impact Estimating Conference ultimately approving proposals pushed by representatives of Gov. Ron DeSantis and the Florida House. Those proposals included asserting that the amendment could lead to Medicaid-funded abortions and spur a wide range of costly lawsuits.

Panel member Amy Baker, coordinator of the Legislature's Office of Economic & Demographic Research, agreed that passage of the amendment would lead to lawsuits. But Baker, the panel's lone dissenter, objected to including issues such as the possibility of litigation leading to Medicaid-funded abortions.

"I would, personally, feel more comfortable if we just did it clean and crisp," Baker said. "We're not making a political statement here. We are

not trying to frighten people. There will be litigation costs."

But Chris Spencer, DeSantis' former long-time budget director, argued that "protracted" lawsuits would be inevitable if the amendment passes and that the proposals weren't "a political statement."

"I don't think it's anything other than we know litigation is going to occur," said Spencer, who was recently appointed as executive director of the State Board of Administration.

The Floridians Protecting Freedom political committee, which is leading efforts to pass the amendment, blasted the revised statement, with one leader accusing the panel of a "dirty trick to mislead voters."

DeSantis and other Republican leaders oppose the initiative, which will appear as Amendment 4 on the ballot. The proposed amendment says, in part, that no "law shall prohibit, penalize, delay, or restrict abortion before viability or when necessary to protect the patient's health, as determined by the patient's healthcare provider."

### BACK TO COURT

Employees faced a higher increase, the representatives said it was because of the difference in rich benefit plans and the demographics of single vs. family coverage.

School board member Melisa Taylor noted that, in the past, not all employees took health insurance, so there was a push for a salary in-

crease. Less than three months before the 2022 general election, DeSantis and other state officials sparked controversy by announcing voter-fraud charges against 20 convicted felons. This week, South Florida appeals courts revived charges against two of the felons.

Divided panels of the 3rd District Court of Appeal and the 4th District Court of Appeal upheld the statewide prosecutor's authority to pursue the cases against Ronald Miller and Terry Hubbard.

Circuit judges in Miami-Dade and Broward counties had dismissed the cases because they said the alleged voter-fraud crimes each occurred in one judicial circuit and that the statewide prosecutor only has jurisdiction in cases involving multiple circuits. The 3rd District panel rejected that argument, as it said voter-registration information had to go to the state Division of Elections in Leon County, which is in a different circuit.

The arrests in 2022 of Miller, Hubbard and the other felons drew heavy attention. DeSantis, who was re-elected in No-

### DEATH NOTICES

• **Harold N. Mounts, Jr., 92, of Crawfordville, died July 16, 2024.**

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

September 2022, and other Republicans have made a high-profile issue of trying to stop what they say is voter fraud.

Florida voters in 2018 approved a constitutional amendment aimed at restoring the rights of convicted felons who have completed terms of their sentences.

The 2018 amendment did not apply to people with convictions for murder or sex offenses. The state said the felons arrested in the voter-fraud case had such convictions, but they had been issued voter-identification cards by election officials.

### SASSE STEPS DOWN

In a surprise move, University of Florida President Ben Sasse on Thursday announced he will step down July 31 because of his wife's health.

"My wife Melissa's recent epilepsy diagnosis and a new batch of memory issues have been hard, but we're facing it together," Sasse said in a prepared statement. "Our two wonderful daughters

are in college, but our youngest is just turning 13. Gator Nation needs a president who can keep charging hard, Melissa deserves a husband who can pull his weight, and my kids need a dad who can be home many more nights."

Sasse, who two years ago left a Nebraska U.S. Senate seat to become the university's president, will move into a teaching role. The university's Board of Trustees will name an interim president and prepare to search for a new leader.

**STORY OF THE WEEK:** Florida politicians took center stage at the Republican National Convention.

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:** "We will probably try to borrow some of your great volunteers and manpower and ship them up to Georgia, North Carolina and these other places that are critical to the map." – James Blair, political director for the Trump campaign, to Florida Republican National Convention delegates.

## Teacher pay

From Front Page

-teacher shortage.

At the workshop, the school board also heard from Kevin Vaughn of HUB International Insurance, which brokers coverage, and representatives from CHP. It was

announced that insurance in the nine-county area was increasing from 8.4% to 9.8%, with the district seeing an 8.9% increase.

Asked why Wakulla County government was seeing an 8.4% increase while school district em-

crease.

That was echoed by school board member Josh Brown who said that the teachers union wanted more money for salary, not insurance.

A handful of teachers attended the workshop and were positive in their comments praising the school board for the informative meeting.

## Battery on children

From Front Page

accept the deal by the state attorney's office, though they didn't like it.

Wakulla Circuit Judge Layne Smith said he would sign off on the plea deal – even as he expressed a "heavy heart" about the family's frustration.

Judge Smith noted that the attorneys in the case – Wakulla Chief Prosecutor Andrew Deenen and defense attorney Joshua Zelman

were knowledgeable about the facts of the case and were familiar with the strengths and weaknesses of the case and the possible legal outcomes.

The father of some victims told the court, motioning at Carnivale, "The man deserves more than four years" in prison.

The mother of three of the children, who were 4, 6 and 13 years old at the time of the alleged abuse, wept, and said "The system is broken."

She wanted Carnivale designated as a sexual offender.

The older victim, now an adult, said he still felt embarrassment and trauma from being preyed upon. He said he felt the state attorney's office forced him to accept the plea deal, though he didn't support it.

Judge Smith explained that crime victims don't have to agree to a plea deal for it to move forward. The judge expressed sympathy to the young man for what he had been through.

The judge agreed to

accept the plea deal, which is set to be imposed on Aug. 15.

The deal calls for Carnivale to plea to lesser charges of aggravated battery, a second degree felony punishable by up to 15 years in prison, to be adjudicated guilty, serve 48 months in state prison followed by 11 years of probation with special conditions including that he have no contact with the victims, to undergo a psychosexual evaluation, have no internet access, and agree to warrantless searches of electronic devices.

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Notice under Fictitious Name Law, pursuant to Section 856.09, Florida Statutes. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, Iron Might Network, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of **OPTIMAL WEIGHT LOSS SOLUTIONS** Located at 2698 Crawfordville Hwy. Unit A, Crawfordville FL 32327 In the County of Wakulla Intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporation of the Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida.  
Published on July 25, 2024

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## NOTICE OF TAX FOR SCHOOL CAPITAL OUTLAY

The District School Board of Wakulla County will soon consider a measure to continue to impose a 1.500 mill property tax for the capital outlay projects listed herein.

This tax is in addition to the School Board’s proposed tax of 3.8620 mills for operating expenses and is proposed solely at the discretion of the School Board.

**THE PROPOSED COMBINED SCHOOL BOARD TAX INCREASE FOR BOTH OPERATING EXPENSES AND CAPITAL OUTLAY IS SHOWN IN THE ADJACENT NOTICE**

The capital outlay tax will generate approximately \$3,835,088.73 to be used for the following projects:

- CONSTRUCTION AND REMODELING
  - New Wakulla High School
- MAINTENANCE, RENOVATION, AND REPAIR
  - Reimbursement of the Maintenance, Renovation, and Repairs paid through the General Fund as permitted by Florida Statute
  - HVAC Replacement – Districtwide
- NEW AND REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT, COMPUTER AND DEVICE HARDWARE AND OPERATING SYSTEM SOFTWARE NECESSARY FOR GAINING ACCESS TO OR ENHANCING THE USE OF ELECTRONIC AND DIGITAL INSTRUCTIONAL CONTENT AND RESOURCES, AND ENTERPRISE RESOURCE SOFTWARE
  - Skyward enterprise resource software acquired via maintenance fee, including accompanying hosting maintenance fee
- PAYMENT OF PREMIUMS FOR PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE NECESSARY TO INSURE THE EDUCATIONAL AND ANCILLARY PLANTS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT
  - Insurance Premium on District Plant
- PAYMENT OF COSTS OF LEASING RELOCATABLE EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES
  - Leasing of portable classrooms at Wakulla High
- PAYMENT OF SALARIES AND BENEFITS
  - Salaries and benefits of school bus drivers
- CHARTER SCHOOL CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECTS PURSUANT TO S. 1013.64(2), F.S.
  - Renovation, Repair, and Maintenance of School Facilities

All concerned citizens are invited to a public hearing to be held on July 29, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. in the Board Room at the Wakulla County School Board Administrative Offices, 69 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida.

A DECISION on the proposed CAPITAL OUTLAY TAXES will be made at this hearing.

July 25, 2024

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED TAX INCREASE

The District School Board of Wakulla County has tentatively adopted a measure to increase its property tax levy.

**Last year’s property tax levy**

- A. Initially proposed tax levy            \$12,969,031
- B. Less tax reductions due to Value Adjustment Board and other assessment changes    \$ (916)
- C. Actual property tax levy            \$12,969,947

**This year’s proposed tax levy    \$ 14,280,379**

A portion of the tax levy is required under state law in order for the School Board to receive \$33,459,620 in state education grants.

The required portion has increased by 5.4 percent, and represents approximately six-tenths of the total proposed taxes.

The remainder of the taxes is proposed solely at the discretion of the School Board.

All concerned citizens are invited to a public hearing on the tax increase to be held on July 29, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. in the Board Room at the Wakulla County School Board Administrative Offices, 69 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida.

A DECISION on the proposed tax increase and the budget will be made at this hearing.

July 25, 2024

# 2024-2025 BUDGET SUMMARY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF WAKULLA COUNTY

**THE PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET EXPENDITURES OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF WAKULLA COUNTY ARE 2.5% MORE THAN LAST YEAR’S TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES**

PROPOSED MILLAGE LEVY		
REQUIRED LOCAL EFFORT (including Prior Period Adjustment Millage)	3.1140	0.7480
BASIC DISCRETIONARY CAPITAL OUTLAY	1.5000	5.3620

Revenues	GENERAL	SPECIAL REVENUE	CAPITAL PROJECTS	ENTERPRISE FUNDS	TOTAL ALL FUNDS
Federal	422,347.00	6,426,678.20			6,849,025.20
State Sources	39,850,242.00	36,244.00	1,024,878.62		40,911,364.62
Local Sources	10,853,333.00	229,848.30	9,400,463.80	112,000.00	20,595,645.10
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>51,125,922.00</b>	<b>6,692,770.50</b>	<b>10,425,342.42</b>	<b>112,000.00</b>	<b>68,356,034.92</b>
Transfers In	2,041,332.95	0.00	2,117,544.36		4,158,877.31
Other Financing Sources	20,000.00	0.00	9,054,004.79		9,074,004.79
FUND BALANCES - (July 1, 2024)	6,475,306.69	1,405,089.32	13,986,811.34	27,799.38	21,895,006.73
<b>TOTAL REVENUES AND BALANCES</b>	<b>59,662,561.64</b>	<b>8,097,859.82</b>	<b>35,583,702.91</b>	<b>139,799.38</b>	<b>103,483,923.75</b>
Expenditures					TOTAL ALL FUNDS
Instruction	31,324,465.54	2,785,160.15			34,109,625.69
Pupil Personnel Services	2,677,189.04	491,938.88			3,169,127.92
Instructional Media Services	434,876.90	79,612.00			514,488.90
Instructional & Curriculum Development Services	430,747.91	0.00			430,747.91
Instructional Staff Training	179,587.10	521,255.90			700,843.00
Instructional Related Technology	271,974.25	0.00			271,974.25
Board of Education	610,778.52	0.00			610,778.52
General Administration	434,458.21	165,738.03			600,196.24
School Administration	2,771,141.85	0.00			2,771,141.85
Facilities Acquisition Construction	303,163.43	0.00	20,907,655.94		21,210,819.37
Fiscal Services	510,256.99	0.00			510,256.99
Food Service	750.00	3,159,002.11			3,159,752.11
Central Services	835,109.53	4,700.00		112,000.00	951,809.53
Pupil Transportation Services	3,434,868.56	58,390.09			3,493,258.65
Operation of Plant	6,490,601.54	0.00			6,490,601.54
Maintenance of Plant	1,339,886.99	0.00			1,339,886.99
Administrative Technology Services	727,996.72	0.00			727,996.72
Community Services	5,000.00	0.00			5,000.00
Debt Services		0.00	1,461,887.88		1,461,887.88
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>52,782,853.08</b>	<b>7,265,797.16</b>	<b>22,369,543.82</b>	<b>112,000.00</b>	<b>82,530,194.06</b>
Transfers Out	0.00	0.00	4,158,877.31		4,158,877.31
FUND BALANCES - (June 30, 2025)	6,879,708.56	832,062.66	9,055,281.78	27,799.38	16,794,852.38
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES, TRANSFERS, &amp; BALANCES</b>	<b>59,662,561.64</b>	<b>8,097,859.82</b>	<b>35,583,702.91</b>	<b>139,799.38</b>	<b>103,483,923.75</b>

THE TENTATIVE, ADOPTED, AND/OR FINAL BUDGET ARE ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED TAXING AUTHORITY AS A PUBLIC RECORD.

July 25, 2024



# Chomp N Stomp held at Palaver Tree



PHOTOS BY GERALD BROWN



Headliners for the Saturday night event at Palaver Tree were the Bog Lilies, and other acts included Aura, the Dusty Gravelers, El Combo Machete, Douce Ambience, Wild Ginger and smooth jazz from the Aaron Hayden Band.



Palaver Tree's **SIT IN OUTSIDE MOVIE**  
 Christmas in July!!  
**Thursday July 25 8pm**  
**\$15 / Carload**  
 50 % of event proceeds go to the students of WHS's Dramatis Personae Theater Troupe #5036  
 Palaver Tree Theater  
 59 Shadeville Rd,  
 Crawfordville, FL 32327  
 NOTE:  
 In case of rain, screening will be held indoors  
**TICKETS: [www.PalaverTreeTheater.org](http://www.PalaverTreeTheater.org)**

**PROPERTY APPRAISER WAKULLA ESTD 1843**

## Property Tax Tip

Many home buyers are shocked when they receive the property tax bill the year after the purchase. Don't rely on the property taxes of the seller when purchasing a home. Florida law requires that we remove exemption and re-set to market value on January 1 following the purchase.

**Ed Brimmer, CFA**  
 Wakulla County  
 Property Appraiser



# Wakulla 4-H holds Teen Fitness camp



Teen Fitness Camp participants enjoy some healthy watermelon as part of the focus on healthy eating and fitness goals.

By **RACHEL PIENTA**  
4-H Director

This summer, Wakulla 4-H partnered with Sunchaser Fitness, the UF/IFAS Family Nutrition Program, the Wakulla County Coalition for Youth, and the Florida Center for Prevention Research at Florida State University to offer a new, teen-focused camp.

The new program, Wakulla 4-H Teen Fitness Camp, was offered for two weeks this summer, one week in June and one week in July.

The camp weeks focused on fitness and wellness for 10 middle and high school aged youth. Youth had the option to participate in one or both weeks and more than half the youth chose to return for the second week in July.

Sunchaser Fitness Coaches Rochelle Thayer and Brian Jones de-

signed fast-paced physical fitness activities with an emphasis on safety and proper form. Youth were encouraged to measure their personal progress against themselves over engaging in competitive comparison with other participants.

During each camp week, Family Nutrition Program (FNP) educator Amy Frazier imparted essential life skills to the campers, teaching the youth about label comparison for healthier choices and leading discussions on the nutritional benefits of various fruits and vegetables.

The FNP lessons emphasizing moderation, particularly in choosing sugary drinks and snacks, as a core educational objective. The FNP segments of camp including engaging games and activities that facilitated conversations on portion

control, the occasional treat approach, and strategies for balancing indulgences with healthier options.

Each lesson included hands-on activities, such as preparing nutritious fruit smoothies as alternatives to milkshakes.

Key takeaways for the students during the camp weeks included prioritizing water over sugary beverages and striving for predominantly whole foods in their diets to sustain energy and concentration throughout the day.

Prevention Training Specialist Karen Zak provided instruction as part of the Drug Free Communities Wakulla Support grant funding in partnership with the Wakulla County Coalition for Youth.

Zak's programming segments included interactive games and experiential learning

activities designed to help youth develop essential life skills needed to make positive decisions that support their health and wellness goals.

For more information about Wakulla County 4-H programs, visit the Crawfordville office at 84 Cedar Avenue or find them online on Facebook or at <https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/wakulla/4-h-youth-development/>. Reach the Extension by phone at 850-926-3931 or contact Dr. Pienta directly at [r.pienta@ufl.edu](mailto:r.pienta@ufl.edu).

Wakulla 4-H will hold an Open House event on Aug. 24 in collaboration with other Wakulla County Extension programs. The public is invited to attend this family-friendly free event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Extension office in Crawfordville. There will be food trucks on site with refreshments available for purchase.

# MYHRE

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**SUPERINTENDENT OF WAKULLA SCHOOLS**



**VOTE IN THE PRIMARY**

**EARLY VOTE: AUGUST 10-17, 2024 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM**

**ELECTION DAY: AUGUST 20, 2024 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM**

**Paid political advertisement by Richard Myhre. Republican candidate for Wakulla County Superintendent of Schools.**



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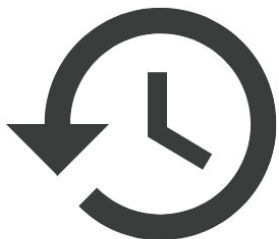
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