



# Wakulla County Property Appraiser

## Honest and Impartial Assessments

Paid by Ed Brimmer, Republican, for Wakulla County Property Appraiser

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

U.S. ARMY VETERAN

RE-ELECT **KEMP**

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



## Evening at Hogwarts

Page 13

# The Wakulla Sun

"It's a New Day"



Weather forecast from Wakulla High School

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Partly Cloudy	Isolated Thunderstorms	Scattered Thunderstorms
Hi: 94° Lo: 77° 37%	Hi: 92° Lo: 77° 36%	Hi: 91° Lo: 76° 51%
Sunrise 6:56 AM Sunset 8:30 PM	Sunrise 6:57 AM Sunset 8:29 PM	Sunrise 6:57 AM Sunset 8:28 PM



\$1 One Section

Locally Owned & Operated

Our 3rd Year 31st Issue  
Thursday, August 1, 2024

### SENIOR CENTER FUNDRAISER



## Lodge hosts murder mystery

The cast of suspects is interviewed, above, for the senior center's murder mystery fundraiser on Friday, July 26, at Wakulla Springs Lodge. To give away the ending: Cherry Bomb, right, also known as Beverly Jackson, did it, and is discussing it with friend Karen Parsons. A good time was had by all in support of a good cause. (Photos by Lynda Kinsey)



## The Wakulla Sun wins 5 awards

Staff Report

The Wakulla Sun won five awards at last week's Florida Press Association's media conference for Front Page Makeup, Reader Generated photo (by local photographer Neil Hostnick), Education News, In-Depth Reporting (Non-Investigative), and Breaking News.

The Education News award was for a story on the school board voting to reject hiring foreign teachers.

In-Depth Reporting was on a former deputy with the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office who was let go after an internal affairs investigation found he frequently made traffic stops without legitimate cause.

The Breaking News was on the \$307 million over-valuation of a vacant lot by the property appraiser's office that created budget problems for the county government and school board.



This photo by Neil Hostnick won an award from Florida Press for Reader-Generated Photo.

# District gets 'A' grade

By WILLIAM SNOWDEN Editor

- Wakulla Middle: Incomplete
- Wakulla High School: A
- COAST Charter School: D



School Superintendent Bobby Pearce

Wakulla County Schools is once again an 'A' district after the state Department of Education released grades last week.

Superintendent of Schools Bobby Pearce expressed how pleased he was with the grades.

"There are only 19 'A' districts in the state and we are in the 11th spot," he said.

Individual school grades:

- Crawfordville Elementary: B
- Medart Elementary: B
- Riversink Elementary: B
- Shadeville Elementary: A
- Riversprings Middle: B

While COAST is independent of the public school district, its grade is still included with the district.

Pearce, who is retiring as superintendent this year and was formerly a principal at Medart Elementary, praised the improvement at that school over the past year, noting the school earned a high B this year, 1 point from an A. "It's a big victory," Pearce said.

Riversink Elementary was also a high B, and Crawfordville was only 3 points from earning an A.

Pearce also noted that the state moved the goals of what's required to earn A grade, and the district still performed.

He also noted the district's 98% graduation rate - one of the highest in the state, and said it was largely due to the expanded career and technical

programs, which have an exam passage rate of 90%.

Those career and technical programs, Pearce said, "are keeping kids from dropping out" - those students who, in past years, may have left school to go in the workforce now are staying in to earn certification in programs where they can earn good money.

"I'm really pleased with everybody's work," Pearce said. "The teachers did a great job this year of providing consistent instruction."

He added: "The kids performed well."

He noted that, although people don't always agree with the way the state measures education, it's what the district has to go by.

### SOPCHOPPY

## Races set for city commission

By LEGION TAYLOR Reporter

Four candidates qualified to run for the three seats up this year on the Sopchoppy City Commission: Nathan Lewis, Robert Pilkington, Leonard Tartt and Mary Katherine Westmark.

Lewis is a former longtime city commissioner; Pilkington is a Realtor with Coast and Country Realty; Tartt was a former city commissioner who took over as the city's Public Works Director and recently retired; Westmark was an educator and one of the owners of the former Bay Leaf Market in Crawfordville.

Voters will select the candidate they'd like to see on the city commission the most, and the top three vote-getters will win the available seats.

The incumbents who are stepping down are Mayor Glenn Rudd, Vice Mayor Roger McKenzie, and Michele Harden.

Seats held by commissioners Lara Edwards and Fred McClendon will be on the ballot in 2026.

RE-ELECT **JARED Miller** SHERIFF

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View from the porch

Local photographer Neil Hostnick shared this photo of a swallowtail butterfly drinking nectar from a flower. Neil is staying out of the summer heat and on his front porch.

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## Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park Mohr's coneflower

By LYNN ARTZ, DAVID RODDENBERRY, and SANDY TEDDER



Mohr's coneflower (*Rudbeckia mohrii*) is a wetland wildflower found almost exclusively in the Florida panhandle. Like most black-eyed susans, it has bright yellow, daisy-like flowers with chocolate-colored centers. However, it is the only one to have grass-like leaves and a tall leafless (or nearly leafless) flower stalk. Also called grassy coneflower, this short-lived perennial grows to about 4 feet tall and blooms in late summer to fall. It is found in sunny open wetlands such as wet meadows and the edges of marshes and swamps, areas that are very wet to shallowly inundated during the summer rainy season. Mohr's coneflower attracts numerous pollinating insects such as butterflies, moths, bees, wasps, and flies. Small birds often harvest the seeds. Mohr's coneflower is blooming now in the pond at Sopchoppy Depot Park.

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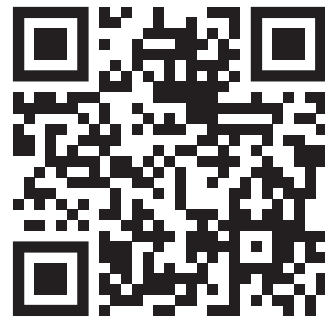
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Lisa Craze, CFC  
Wakulla County Tax Collector

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## School Briefs

### • WHS Career Academy Open House set for Aug. 12

Join us at Wakulla High School for an exciting look at our new state-of-the-art career academy building! Come learn about the amazing career and technical programs we have to offer our students at our CTE student and parent/guardian open house night! From culinary arts to engineer-

ing, there is something for everyone at Wakulla High School. This includes 16 programs offering industry certifications or licenses.

Don't miss this opportunity to explore our cutting-edge facilities and meet our dedicated staff who are committed to helping students succeed in their chosen career paths. Whether you're a student looking to jumpstart your future or a guardian wanting to support your child's education, this event is for you!

Mark your calendars for our Career Academy

Open House at Wakulla High School and discover all the ways we can help you reach your goals. We can't wait to show you all that our career academy has to offer. See you there on Aug. 12th, from 5 pm - 7 pm.

### • Bus routes in next issue of Sun

Bus routes for the upcoming school year will be published in next week's issue of The Wakulla Sun. First day of school is Monday, Aug. 12.



### Notice of Public Meeting:

The Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners has scheduled a Public Meeting of the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee on August 15, 2024, at 10:00 AM in the Wakulla County Fire and Rescue conference room at 318 Trice Lane in Crawfordville, FL. Interested parties are invited to attend and participate.

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

August 1, 2024



### Notice of Public Meeting:

The Wakulla County Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group is holding a Public Meeting on Tuesday, August 13, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. in the Wakulla County Community Center (Wakulla Room), 318 Shadeville Road, Crawfordville, FL, (850) 926-3695. Interested parties are invited to attend and participate.

#### Purpose of Meeting:

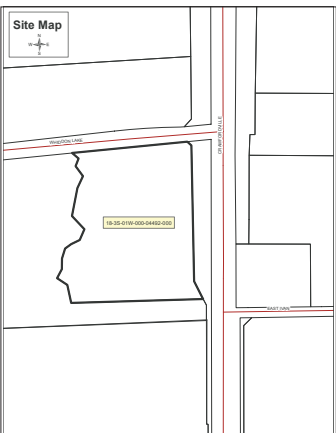
To discuss updates to the Local Mitigation Strategy, which is a comprehensive, coordinated planning document utilized to decrease the County's vulnerabilities to natural and man-made hazards.

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

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

August 1, 2024

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING AN APPLICATION FOR PRELIMINARY PLAT



The Wakulla County Planning Commission proposes to consider the following application. A Public Hearing is scheduled regarding the following before the **Planning Commission on Monday, August 12, 2024, beginning at 6:00 P.M., unless otherwise noted below or as time permits.**

All public hearings will be held at the County Commission Chambers located west of the County Courthouse at 29 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida 32327. Interested parties are invited to attend and present testimony.

#### 1. Application for Preliminary Plat Approval: PP24-04

Applicant: BP-CFL, LLC  
Agent: Edwin Brown & Associates, Inc./Wade Brown  
Proposal: create 3-lot commercial subdivision – Whiddon Lake Commercial Center  
Tax ID Number: 18-3S-01W-000-04492-000  
Existing FLU Map: Rural 2 (FLUE Policy 1.2.5)  
Current Zoning: C-2 (Section 5-38, LDC)  
FEMA Flood Info: "A" zone on Panel 0250E  
Parcel size: 4.82+/- acres  
Location: corner of Whiddon Lake Road and Crawfordville Highway

#### Hearing Required: Planning Commission: Monday, August 12, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

If an individual wishes to submit documents or other materials related to a matter before the Planning Commission for consideration by the Planning Commission at a public meeting, they are strongly encouraged to submit copies of all such documents or other materials to the Wakulla County Office of Planning and Community Development at least 3 days prior to the date of the meeting so that they can be provided to the Commission Members. If an individual wishes to bring documents or other materials for consideration by the Planning Commission that were not previously provided to the Wakulla County Office of Planning and Community Development in accordance with the preceding sentence, they must bring at least twelve (12) copies of each such document to the meeting.

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

August 1, 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.



More Public Notices appear on Pages 12, 13 and 14

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS CONCERNING AN APPLICATION FOR CHANGE OF ZONING

The Wakulla County Planning Commission and Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners proposes to consider the following application and/or adopt the following by ordinance and has scheduled Public Hearings before the **Wakulla County Planning Commission on Monday, August 12, 2024, beginning at 6:00 P.M.** and before the **Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners on Monday, August 19, 2024, beginning at 5:00 PM**, or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard. All public hearings will be held at the County Commission Chambers located west of the County Courthouse at 29 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida 32327. Interested parties are invited to attend and present testimony.



**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE WAKULLA COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, ORDINANCE NO. 85-4, AS AMENDED; CHANGING THE ZONING DISTRICT CLASSIFICATION AND OFFICIAL ZONING ATLAS FROM R-1 TO C-2 FOR PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A" TO THE ORDINANCE; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, IN CONFLICT HERewith; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

#### 1. Application for Change of Zoning: R24-10

Applicants: Jesse Rice and Tyler Rice  
Proposal: rezone from single-family residential to general commercial  
Tax ID Number: 25-5S-02W-046-03497-000  
Existing FLU Map: Urban Core (FLUE Policy 1.2.9)  
Current Zoning: R-1 (Section 5-30, LDC)  
Proposed Zoning: C-2 (Section 5-38, LDC)  
FEMA Flood Info: "AE" zone on Panel 0370E  
Parcel size: 0.516+/- acres  
Location: Mississippi Avenue, Lots 19-21 Aqua De Vida Subdivision

#### Hearings Required: Planning Commission: Monday, August 12, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

#### BOCC: Monday, August 19, 2024 @ 5:00 PM

If an individual wishes to submit documents or other materials related to a matter before the Planning Commission for consideration by the Planning Commission at a public meeting, they are strongly encouraged to submit copies of all such documents or other materials to the Wakulla County Office of Planning and Community Development at least 3 days prior to the date of the meeting so that they can be provided to the Commission Members. If an individual wishes to bring documents or other materials for consideration by the Planning Commission that were not previously provided to the Wakulla County Office of Planning and Community Development in accordance with the preceding sentence, they must bring at least twelve (12) copies of each such document to the meeting.

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

August 1, 2024

### Notice of Workshop City of Sopchoppy

The City Commission of the City of Sopchoppy will be holding a budget workshop on Wednesday, August 14, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. in the commission chambers located at City Hall, 105 Municipal Avenue, Sopchoppy, FL. The purpose of the workshop is to discuss/develop the 2024/25 fiscal year operating budgets.

Persons wishing to comment may do so in person at the workshop or by writing to the City Commission at P.O. Box 1219, Sopchoppy, Florida 32358. No formal actions will be taken at the workshop by the Commission.

If an individual decides to appeal any decision made by the commission with respect to this meeting, a verbatim transcript may be required. If so, the individual should make provision for a transcript to be made at the meeting. (RE: Florida Statute 286.0105). Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodation to participate in this meeting is asked to advise the city at least 48 hours before the meeting by contacting Ashley Schilling at the above address or 850-962-4611.

August 1, 2024

### THE SCHOOL BOARD OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA NOTICE OF INTENT TO CHANGE

**RULE CHAPTER AND TITLE:** School Board Policy 2.25 School Board Adopted Plans (Code of Student Conduct & Attendance Policies)

**PURPOSE AND EFFECT:** To reflect procedural clarity and legislative alignment.

**LEGAL AUTHORITY:** 1001.41, 1001.42, Florida Statutes

**LAWS IMPLEMENTED:** 1001.41, 1001.43 Florida Statutes

**ECONOMIC IMPACT:** None

**REVISION ORIGINATED BY:** Nicholas Weaver, Administrator of Student Conduct

**REVISION APPROVED BY:** Robert Pearce, Superintendent of Schools

**IF REQUESTED WITHIN TWENTY-ONE (21) DAYS OF THIS NOTICE, A HEARING WILL BE HELD -**

**TIME:** 5:45 p.m.

**PLACE:** Administrative Offices, Wakulla County School Board, 69 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida 32327

**DATE:** September 9, 2024

A COPY OF THE PROPOSED REVISION MAY BE OBTAINED AT COST FROM:

Wakulla County School Board, Post Office Box 100, 69 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida 32326-0100

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

August 1, 2024

### Bid Number: 22/23-03 WAKULLA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT AT RISK SERVICES

**Project Name:** WAKULLA HIGH SCHOOL ADDITIONS, REMODELING & RENOVATIONS

**Project Location:** 3237 COASTAL HWY, CRAWFORDVILLE, FLORIDA 32327

**Bid Number:** 22/23-03

The Wakulla County School Board, Department of Facilities and Construction, requests qualification statements from construction management at risk firms to provide services for this project. Construction budget estimate for this project is **\$75,000,000.00**. Construction start is TBA. Applicant must be a **licensed general contractor in the State of Florida** at the time of application. Further, if a corporation, the applicant must be registered by the Department of State, Division of Corporations, to operate in the State of Florida at the time of application.

The selection will be made in accordance with Section 287.055 Florida Statutes, the School Board Policies, SREF rules and procedures and criteria which may be obtained from [Michael Barwick](mailto:Michael.Barwick@wakulla.k12.fl.us) at the address and phone number below.

Firms interested in being considered for this project may attend a Pre-Request for Qualification meeting at the **Board Room at the Superintendent's Office on August 8, 2024 @ 3:00p.m.** Request for Qualification ("RFQ") Procedures may be picked up prior to meeting at the **Wakulla County School Board/Facilities Office from Donna Chatham located at 126 High Drive, Crawfordville, Florida 32327**. In addition, interested firms must submit a response containing the information required by the RFQ.

Submit 4 copies of your response to the Wakulla County School Board, [Robert Pearce, Superintendent, 69 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida 32327](mailto:Robert.Pearce@wakulla.k12.fl.us). Deadline date is **September 10, 2024 @ 2:00 p.m.** The results of this selection will be posted at the [Superintendent's Office 69 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida 32327](mailto:Superintendent@wakulla.k12.fl.us), during regular business hours starting **October 21, 2024**. Contract negotiation and award will proceed with the selected firm.

Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed in section 120.57(3), Florida Statutes or failure to post the bond or other security required by law within the time allowed for filing a bond shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under chapter 120, Florida Statutes.

August 1, 8, 15, 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.”

## Thanks for work on forums



By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**  
Editor

By the time you read this, we will have finished up our three candidate forums for this election season.

I want to thank the candidates for coming out and sharing their views with citizens. I appreciate every candidate who has put themselves out there as a candidate for office.

I've gotten a lot of good feedback from readers who said the forums were helpful in making up their minds in how they would cast

their vote.

(If you missed the forums in person, you can watch the recordings on YouTube on The Wakulla Sun channel.)

At the first forum back on July 9 we heard from candidates for property appraiser, incumbent Ed Brimmer and challenger-Donnie Sparkman. We then heard from candidates for Sheriff, incumbent Jared Miller and challenger Army Reyes.

The next forum, held July 16, featured candidates for superintendent of schools – Rick Myhre, Matt Payne and Ricky Strickland – and then candidates in the school board races: incumbent Josh Brown and challenger Camden Smit, and June Davis and Angie Nichols for the school board seat being vacated by retiring member Melisa Taylor.

We held a forum

this past Tuesday night with the only contested county commission race between incumbent Mike Kemp and challenger Valerie Russell. (The other two seats up this year drew only one candidate for each: Ralph Thomas will return to office without opposition, and Josh Lawhon will go into office taking the seat currently held by retiring commissioner Chuck Hess.)

Thanks to those citizens who attended, and to those readers who submitted questions.

I also want to thank Heather Bryan and Rachel Pienta for their help culling questions. David Pienta for his help with the sound, and Rockulla for loan of microphones.

*William Snowden is editor and publisher of The Wakulla Sun.*

## LETTERS FROM READERS

### Former opponent supports Sparkman

**Editor, The Sun:**

I ran against Donnie Sparkman in 2012,... I'm pulling for him now.

If Brimmer had spent less time politicking and more time on the job the citizenry entrusted to him,

we would not have had the problems from that office. Donnie knows what to do.

**L. James "Jim" Parham**  
Panacea

### Sheriff candidate Army Reyes is serious

**Editor, The Sun:**

I could kick myself for missing the two sheriff candidates' public interview by The Wakulla Sun, which staged it. I was glad to hear that it got a bit testy. It needed to be that way.

I just had Sheriff candidate Army Reyes at my home. I was very impressed with what he had to say & with the man in general. He takes life seriously. This gave me the opportunity to tell our potential Sheriff a lot of what I wanted to say. He was more than impressed with what I had to say and show him.

As many of you know, we have

had a lot of trouble at the public airport over the years. I wanted to ask Sheriff Miller why he never bothered to answer any of the three emails sent to him on June 6th., June 10th., and a group email to him, all five commissioners and administrator David Edwards on June 20th, 2017.

I got no return calls or emails from anyone mentioned above. My five commission meeting speeches were met with "Your three minutes are up, Mr. Catalina" and nothing else.

**Bill Catalina**  
Crawfordville

## On the Horizon

### Calendar of events for the week of August 1

#### Thursday, August 1

- 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, August 2

- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and 8 p.m. every Friday at 54 Ochlockonee

St.

#### Saturday, August 3

- A FRESH Backpack Giveaway will be held at the Wakulla Community Center from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- The Panacea Community Garden Farmer's Market will be held from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in Panacea.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. every Saturday at 54 Ochlockonee St.

#### Monday, August 5

- The Wakulla County Commission meets at 5 p.m. in the commission chambers.
- 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, August 6

- 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, August 7

- Muffins with Moms Prenatal Support Group meets at 9 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 10 a.m. at the Wakulla County Health Department. Contact Liz Neighbors at 850-888-6078 or elizabeth.neighbors@fl-health.gov for more information.
- A line dance class is held at 1 p.m. at the Wakulla Senior Center every Wednesday.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday at 54 Ochlockonee St.

*"It's A New Day!"*

# The Wakulla Sun

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- 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

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– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

## Polled at the Wakulla Senior Center’s 1940’s Murder Mystery Theater Dinner: Who is your favorite mid-century actor/actress?



**JAMES CRAIG**  
Gulf Winds Credit Union

“Clark Gable, he’s the only one I know – or maybe Steve McQueen. I’ve always been into cars too.”



**ANDRÉ ROSS**  
Gulf Winds Credit Union

“Lucy, she was the funniest.”



**RALEIGH COUNCIL**  
Retired Elevator Mechanic

“Marilyn Monroe, she was a blonde like my baby!”



**JOHN SHUFF**  
How do you spell retired?

“Clint Eastwood, during the age of the Westerns, Dan Blocker from Bonanza. Don Knotts was very funny.”



**JOHN ANDERSON**  
Retired Woodworker

“Groucho Marx and W.C. Fields.”

## Wakulla Station News

By **VERNA BROCK**

As we wrap up another summer, Ed and I have enjoyed spending time with our grandkids. In particular, I had a lovely visit to Wakulla Springs with Harrison and Harper last week. We managed to snag a trip on the river cruise, and the weather was perfect.

Among the many critters we saw was a bevy of manatees, with approximately 10 different individuals placidly swimming and enjoying themselves. There was one very small (relatively speaking) manatee that appeared to be a newborn, and a curious adolescent that approached the boat quite closely. The “new” never wears off when it comes to these magnificent

creatures!

We saw countless varieties of birds, including a number of baby chicks of the moorhens. Little more than black balls of fluff with bright red beaks, these tiny birds scurried across vegetation in the water. Following their mothers, they seemed to walk on the surface of the water the way you or I cross the road.

We spied ospreys, different varieties of herons, anhingas, ibis, and more as we traveled the river. The air was filled with the calls of birdsong in the early morning air as the mist quickly burned off. We spotted alligators of all sizes, some as big as logs, others just mere inches long, as well turtles sunning themselves on convenient logs. It was easy to imagine what this para-

dise was like hundreds of years ago, undisturbed as it is today.

As we returned to the docks we watched intrepid souls fling themselves into the dark depths of the spring, only to climb out and do it all over again. Afterwards, we indulged in ice cream and swimming until a threatening thunderstorm sent us packing for home. All in all, it was a great way to spend a morning.

I returned to the Lodge this past Saturday for a painting class with Sue Scott. She periodically teaches classes in the technique of Bob Ross, and this was my second one. The location is perfect for spending a day being creative, and I loved the camaraderie. I highly recommend it if you have any creative juices needing an outlet. And, I got an original Verna Brock artwork to take home!

This coming Sunday the Wakulla United Methodist Church will celebrate Communion at 10 a.m., followed by a covered dish dinner in the social hall. Everyone is invited to join us for a good time of fellowship and food. The following Sunday the Woodville UMC will host its Second Sunday Sing at 6 p.m., followed by a fellowship supper, and all are welcome to join in.

Please continue to lift Cindy Blackstock and her sister Deborah Giles in your prayers, as well as Angel Smith’s father, Wayne. Terry Allen, Emily McKuen, Becky Perkins, Thelma Watts and Mike Harrison continue to need our prayers also.

Happy birthday wishes go out to Faye Sweeney, Lorrie Gallamore, and Joyce Hinsonnn!

## Sheriff’s Report

This report is for activity July 19 to 25:

### FRIDAY, JULY 19

- Steven Fults reported someone tying the electronic gate open for the entrance of the Tarpine Subdivision. By doing this it caused damage to the operating system of the gate. A possible suspect has been identified. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Norman De Guzman responded.

- Barbara Scott reported the theft of a pellet rifle she was storing for safekeeping for a friend. Scott advised she last saw the pellet rifle about a month ago and it is no longer in the stored location. A possible suspect has been identified in this case. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation. Deputy Matt Hinson investigated.

### SATURDAY, JULY 20

- Deborah Noe of

Nichols & Son Seafood reported an unknown female taking 12 dozen mullet fillets valued at \$150. The female was there to purchase blue crabs and convinced employees to load the mullet along with her crabs into a black Chevrolet Equinox. The vehicle left traveling eastbound heading towards Crawfordville. The unknown female purchased the blue crab with cash therefore no debit card transaction took place. Nichols & Son advised they will be installing surveillance cameras in the coming days. This case has been sent to

detectives for further investigation. Deputy Shayne Broxie investigated.

### MONDAY, JULY 22

- Deputy Payton Surret responded to Renegade Road in reference to a reported theft. Upon arrival Deputy Surret was met by Leslie Morris who reported several tools valued at over \$10,000 were stolen from her residence. A possible suspect has been identified in this case. This case has been sent to detectives for further investigation.

### TUESDAY, JULY 23

- Deputy Heather Will observed a vehicle traveling on Spring Creek Highway without a rear bumper, and a traffic stop was initiated. The driver, Amonta Harris, immediately advised Deputy Will that he did not possess a driver’s license. Harris was subsequently arrested for driving while license suspended or revoked (DWLSR) and transported to the Wakulla County Jail.

- Deputy Dakota Haddock conducted a traffic stop for faulty equipment. A records

check revealed the driver, Christopher Knapp, had a driver’s license that had been suspended multiple times. An inventory search of the vehicle during the stop revealed drug paraphernalia and 1.9 grams of methamphetamine. Knapp was transported to the jail without incident and charged with DWLSR, possession of meth and possession of paraphernalia.

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

## Chinesta Skipper Smith publishes new book

Special to The Sun

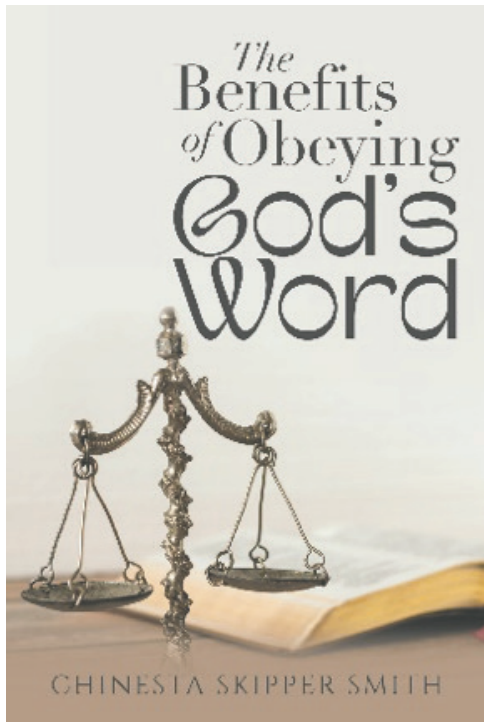
Seeking happiness, wisdom, direction, and truth for a blessed life? Wakulla author Chinesta Skipper Smith presents her latest book, “The Benefits of Obeying God’s Word” (published by Xlibris), which explores the transformative power of living according to God’s Word.

Drawing inspiration from the longest psalm in the Bible, Smith challenges

readers to lead principled, disciplined lives anchored in Scripture. Here, she explains how the Word can become activated in believers’ lives through the Holy Spirit. The author’s aim is to inspire believers to fall in love with God’s Word and experience the many benefits promised through his redeeming grace. Through personal anecdotes and biblical examples, she shares insights on how to cultivate a lifelong relationship of devotion.

“Reading the Word is great, but if you want to read it for more than information, my book will uncover some of the benefits that can lead to transformation in your life,” says Smith. “The Word will lead to an intimate relationship with the author of the Bible.”

Smith has been a teacher of the Word since 2000. As a graduate of Palm Beach Atlantic University and Jacksonville Theological Seminary, her goal is to lead others to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. She has lived in Florida with her husband and partner in Ministry for over 37 years, Elder Rodney N. Smith Sr. Her other publications include “A 40 Day Devotional of Truth & Grace with the Holy Spirit,” “A 40 Day Devotional of Prayer & Meditation with the Holy Spirit and “A 40 Day Devotional of Walking Worthy of Your Calling with the Holy Spirit.”



## Chamber luncheon held



Chamber members load their plates with food from San Marcos restaurant at the luncheon on Wednesday, July 25. Below,

MC Mary Wallace draws prizes with the help of Katie Taff, Heather Bryan and Megan Smith. (Photos by Lynda Kinsey)





# Outdoors

outdoor sports

## HOME ON THE RANGE

### An older or newer handgun?



By MARJ LAW

"Older handguns have stood the test of time," Joe tells me. "Yes, more modern guns have great features, but put a vintage hammer gun or a 1911 in my hands, and newer guns don't stand a chance."

He grins and adds: "Especially not striker-fired guns." Joe knows I prefer striker-fired versus hammer-fired. He thinks he knows best.

"OK," (because I know what I know), "pull out an old-fashioned hammer gun and we'll compare it to a modern striker-fired gun. You've got the older version of the Rock Island 1911 Compact and Greg will let you borrow his Star BM which is an older style handgun. They have barrels of about 3.5 inches. Your striker-fired Sig Sauer P365 X-Macro only has a 3.1 inch barrel, but I bet it will beat out the older ones, even with its shorter barrel."

"You're on." So, this Saturday we go out to the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office range with the three-handguns. We plan on shooting three rounds from each gun on three

separate targets. Now, none of these guns belong to me, so please don't have an expectation of multiple x-rings.

We're shooting 115-grain full metal jacket 9mm rounds at 8 inch targets with a distance of 21 feet. Joe goes first with the Star at the top one. Bang! Bang! Bang!

All three shots hit yellow circles on the target. Next, he picks up the Rock Island at bottom left. Again, three shots ring out.

What? What's this? Looks like one big hole.

Nah. Couldn't be. "Let's go 'cold' and look at this closely down-range," I suggest. Joe puts down the Rock Island. We yell "Cold!" even though we're the only ones at the pistol range.

Drat. Look here. He's got all three hits touching the x-ring. They're so close together, it looks like one wide hole. I'm getting worried we might not shoot the Sig better than this. We return to the shooting bench after yelling "Hot!"

Joe picks up the Sig. He shoots three rounds. Only two rounds hit the target.

Now it's my turn. I pick up the Star. Yikes. It's a heavy gun. I'm used to a much lighter gun with a polymer frame.

Drat. Only two of my shots hit the target. Oh, well.

Next, I pick up the Rock Island. This guy is even heavier. I get two on this target.

When it comes to the lighter-weight striker-fired Sig, all three of my rounds hit the target.



Yay!

But of course, Joe is might happy with his accurate shooting using the Rock Island. He likes Greg's Star pretty well, too.

He hasn't changed his mind at all about the old hammer guns and he prefers them. Although he still likes his Sig.

So, which gun is best? Those old-fashioned hammer guns or the more modern striker-fired guns?

Well, let's remember this is just a sampling by the two of us on a Saturday morning. We might shoot differently on a different day. We might have shot differently if it hadn't been so hot and humid. Who knows?

But neither of us have changed our minds about hammer versus striker-fired handguns. Let's think a little more about these three.

What do you like in a handgun?

Some people prefer the weight of an all-metal gun. The weight can help you to have a steady grip,

absorbing some of the recoil as the gun fires. The Star weighs 34 ounces. The Rock Island has a heavy bull barrel. It weighs 2.42 pounds. Again, this is good to help manage recoil. If you carry using a holster and like to wear your pants loose and low, well, the weight of either gun might drop your drawers the rest of the way...

The Sig weighs only 21.5 ounces: substantially less than the Star or the Rock Island. You're in much less danger of losing your pants wearing this one in a holster.

Even with the hefty weight of the Star and the Rock Island, both Joe and I feel the recoil on the Sig is lighter. Go figure.

The Star and Rock Island's barrels are about a half-inch longer than the Sig's. Better for accuracy. So now, these hammer guns have more weight and longer barrels. Are they better?

Ah, but the Star and the Rock only hold eight rounds in their magazines. The Sig holds 17.

strange because Joe has big hands and I have small ones. Now, on the hammer guns, you can change the grips. If you like something different than what comes with the gun, remove a few screws and put on new grips.

The Sig has cut-outs over the front of the barrel to release shooting gases and to reduce muzzle jump which should help in staying on target.

The Sig has a rail on the frame beneath the slide for a possible laser or light if you want to add one.

When it comes time to fieldstrip and clean your gun, the hammer guns need either a paper clip tool or a wrench for the bushing. This is a bother to me, and I graciously allow Joe to fieldstrip any hammer guns.

The Sig has a lever you push down to fieldstrip. Cleaning your gun isn't fun, and this Sig is easy to take down, making this chore simple and uncomplicated.

There isn't a lot of difference in our three targets on this Saturday (except for the way Joe shot the Rock Island). If you're comfortable with your accuracy and like a solid, heavy gun, then carrying an all-metal hammer gun in a sturdy holster may be best for you.

If you prefer a lighter handgun with a lot more rounds in the magazine and the ability to add several different peripherals, you may choose a striker-fired polymer gun.

Hm. Maybe I need another striker-fired handgun.

I sure won't compete with Joe and his Rock Island 1911 hammer gun.

It's all a matter of preference. Joe and I don't plan on changing our minds.

However, one of us is right.

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



CLOAK ANEMONE (*Calliactus tricolor*)

Often called hitchhiking anemone, it is pale olive to dark brown, 1-3" tall. Hermit crabs will actively search for empty shells with this anemone attached. Other crabs transfer anemone to bare shells. The anemone gives crabs camouflage and protection with stinging tentacles. The anemone gets a mobile home and scraps of food from crab feeding and digging.

Eukarya, Animalia, Cnidaria, Anthozoa, Actiniaria, Hormathiidae



## WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO



On his weekly wildlife survey at Wakulla Springs, retired park ranger Bob Thompson snapped this photo of an alligator bellowing. He adds there were two locations on the river where gators were bellowing, which studies show is used to communicate size and sex to other alligators.

# FOLLOW THE SUN.

## Wakulla Lawn Ranger

### Gene Darby

850-251-9122



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Sidewalk/Driveways  
Pressurewashing  
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# 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



Thursday 1	
Sun rise/set 6:56AM 8:30PM	Moon rise/set 3:54AM 6:52PM
Moon Illumination 9%	
Friday 2	
Sun rise/set 6:56AM 8:29PM	Moon rise/set 4:54AM 7:42PM
Moon Illumination 4%	
Saturday 3	
Sun rise/set 6:57AM 8:28PM	Moon rise/set 5:55AM 8:23PM
Moon Illumination 1%	
Sunday 4	
Sun rise/set 6:57AM 8:27PM	Moon rise/set 6:56AM 8:58PM
Moon Illumination 0%	
Monday 5	
Sun rise/set 6:58AM 8:27PM	Moon rise/set 7:55AM 9:29PM
Moon Illumination 1%	
Tuesday 6	
Sun rise/set 6:59AM 8:26PM	Moon rise/set 8:51AM 9:56PM
Moon Illumination 4%	
Wednesday 7	
Sun rise/set 6:59AM 8:25PM	Moon rise/set 9:46AM 10:22PM
Moon Illumination 9%	

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

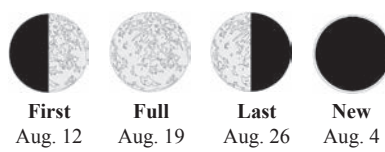
	High Tide	Low Tide
Carrabelle	28 Min.	25 Min.
Apalachicola	1 Hr., 53 Min.	2 Hrs., 38 Min.
Cat Point	1 Hr., 13 Min.	2 Hrs., 31 Min.
Lower Anchorage	1 Hr., 36 Min.	2 Hrs., 3 Min.
West Pass	1 Hr., 26 Min.	2 Hrs., 39 Min.

## Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac

August 1 - August 7

GO FISH!

Tide charts by tides4fishing.com



Best fishing days this month August 4-19

### St. Marks River Entrance

Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We
1:50 am ▲ 2.9 ft	2:29 am ▲ 3.1 ft	3:02 am ▲ 3.2 ft	3:32 am ▲ 3.3 ft	4:00 am ▲ 3.4 ft	4:26 am ▲ 3.4 ft	4:50 am ▲ 3.5 ft
5:53 am ▼ 2.3 ft	6:59 am ▼ 1.8 ft	7:51 am ▼ 1.8 ft	8:35 am ▼ 1.6 ft	9:15 am ▼ 1.4 ft	9:53 am ▼ 1.2 ft	10:29 am ▼ 1.1 ft
12:11 pm ▲ 3.7 ft	1:11 pm ▲ 3.9 ft	1:59 pm ▲ 4.0 ft	2:40 pm ▲ 4.0 ft	3:16 pm ▲ 4.0 ft	3:51 pm ▲ 4.0 ft	4:26 pm ▲ 3.8 ft
7:55 pm ▼ -0.2 ft	8:38 pm ▼ -0.2 ft	9:15 pm ▼ -0.2 ft	9:46 pm ▼ -0.1 ft	10:12 pm ▼ 0.0 ft	10:35 pm ▼ 0.0 ft	10:57 pm ▼ 0.4 ft

### City of St. Marks

Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We
2:26 am ▲ 2.7 ft	3:05 am ▲ 2.8 ft	3:38 am ▲ 2.9 ft	4:08 am ▲ 3.0 ft	4:36 am ▲ 3.1 ft	5:02 am ▲ 3.2 ft	5:26 am ▲ 3.2 ft
6:57 am ▼ 2.1 ft	8:03 am ▼ 1.9 ft	8:55 am ▼ 1.7 ft	9:39 am ▼ 1.5 ft	10:19 am ▼ 1.3 ft	10:57 am ▼ 1.1 ft	11:33 am ▼ 1.0 ft
12:47 pm ▲ 3.5 ft	1:47 pm ▲ 3.6 ft	2:35 pm ▲ 3.7 ft	3:16 pm ▲ 3.7 ft	3:52 pm ▲ 3.7 ft	4:27 pm ▲ 3.7 ft	5:02 pm ▲ 3.6 ft
8:59 pm ▼ -0.2 ft	9:42 pm ▼ -0.2 ft	10:19 pm ▼ -0.2 ft	10:50 pm ▼ -0.1 ft	11:16 pm ▼ 0.0 ft	11:39 pm ▼ 0.2 ft	

### Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We
2:10 am ▲ 3.1 ft	2:49 am ▲ 3.2 ft	3:22 am ▲ 3.3 ft	3:52 am ▲ 3.3 ft	4:19 am ▲ 3.4 ft	4:44 am ▲ 3.4 ft	5:07 am ▲ 3.5 ft
6:22 am ▼ 2.5 ft	7:23 am ▼ 2.3 ft	8:11 am ▼ 2.1 ft	8:52 am ▼ 1.9 ft	9:30 am ▼ 1.7 ft	10:07 am ▼ 1.5 ft	10:44 am ▼ 1.3 ft
12:32 pm ▲ 3.8 ft	1:27 pm ▲ 3.9 ft	2:13 pm ▲ 4.0 ft	2:52 pm ▲ 4.1 ft	3:29 pm ▲ 4.1 ft	4:05 pm ▲ 4.0 ft	4:41 pm ▲ 3.9 ft
8:12 pm ▼ -0.3 ft	8:56 pm ▼ -0.3 ft	9:34 pm ▼ -0.3 ft	10:06 pm ▼ -0.1 ft	10:34 pm ▼ 0.1 ft	10:58 pm ▼ 0.3 ft	11:20 pm ▼ 0.5 ft

### Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We
1:42 am ▲ 2.2 ft	2:21 am ▲ 2.3 ft	2:54 am ▲ 2.4 ft	3:24 am ▲ 2.4 ft	3:52 am ▲ 2.5 ft	4:18 am ▲ 2.6 ft	4:42 am ▲ 2.6 ft
6:04 am ▼ 1.7 ft	7:10 am ▼ 1.5 ft	8:02 am ▼ 1.3 ft	8:46 am ▼ 1.2 ft	9:26 am ▼ 1.0 ft	10:04 am ▼ 0.9 ft	10:40 am ▼ 0.8 ft
12:03 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	1:03 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	1:51 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	2:32 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	3:08 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	3:43 pm ▲ 3.0 ft	4:18 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
8:06 pm ▼ -0.1 ft	8:49 pm ▼ -0.2 ft	9:26 pm ▼ -0.1 ft	9:57 pm ▼ -0.1 ft	10:23 pm ▼ 0.0 ft	10:46 pm ▼ 0.2 ft	11:08 pm ▼ 0.3 ft

### St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We
3:05 am ▲ 2.5 ft	3:32 am ▲ 2.5 ft	3:53 am ▲ 2.5 ft	4:10 am ▲ 2.4 ft	4:25 am ▲ 2.5 ft	4:42 am ▲ 2.5 ft	5:00 am ▲ 2.6 ft
6:17 am ▼ 2.3 ft	7:13 am ▼ 2.2 ft	7:56 am ▼ 2.1 ft	8:35 am ▼ 1.9 ft	9:14 am ▼ 1.7 ft	9:54 am ▼ 1.5 ft	10:34 am ▼ 1.3 ft
11:41 am ▲ 3.1 ft	12:41 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	1:33 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	2:19 pm ▲ 3.3 ft	3:03 pm ▲ 3.2 ft	3:46 pm ▲ 3.1 ft	4:30 pm ▲ 3.0 ft
7:50 pm ▼ -0.3 ft	8:34 pm ▼ -0.3 ft	9:12 pm ▼ -0.2 ft	9:45 pm ▼ -0.1 ft	10:14 pm ▼ 0.1 ft	10:41 pm ▼ 0.3 ft	11:07 pm ▼ 0.5 ft

### Dog Island West End

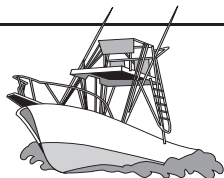
Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We
4:15 am ▲ 2.4 ft	4:20 am ▲ 2.4 ft	4:33 am ▲ 2.3 ft	4:47 am ▲ 2.3 ft	4:59 am ▲ 2.3 ft	5:11 am ▲ 2.4 ft	5:24 am ▲ 2.4 ft
6:52 am ▼ 2.3 ft	7:54 am ▼ 2.2 ft	8:28 am ▼ 2.0 ft	8:59 am ▼ 1.8 ft	9:31 am ▼ 1.7 ft	10:07 am ▼ 1.5 ft	10:49 am ▼ 1.3 ft
11:27 am ▲ 2.8 ft	12:29 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	1:30 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	2:22 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	3:08 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	3:52 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	4:37 pm ▲ 2.6 ft
8:09 pm ▼ -0.2 ft	8:47 pm ▼ -0.2 ft	9:20 pm ▼ -0.2 ft	9:51 pm ▼ -0.1 ft	10:21 pm ▼ 0.1 ft	10:50 pm ▼ 0.2 ft	11:19 pm ▼ 0.6 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



Thank you to Phil Hill for the following article and Phil Hill and Linda Olson for the images.

Flotilla 12 completed several complementary vessel exams on Saturday, July 27, at the St. Marks Public Boat Ramp. Five members were on hand for the event after preparing for the event over the past few weeks. The time and location were determined, and membership was encouraged to attend. Weather reports were monitored to ensure the correct gear was brought, water to have on hand, and the educational material to hand out to the public.

Before the event, those participating a “risk assessment” or GAR model which is a general assessment of risk form to measure the hazards of the mission. After evaluating the temperature and humidity, the group decided that ending the mission by noon would help mitigate issues such as heat injuries.

When auxiliaryists set

### 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



**Auxiliarists conduct a vessel safety check at the St. Marks Boat Ramp on Saturday.**

up for an event such as this, a lot goes into the pre-planning. All is done in the hopes of promoting safe boating. The Auxiliarists try to pass on nuggets of information that could help save

lives in the future.

Thank you to Mike, Wade, Linda, Steve, and Phil for volunteering their time for the mission. The time volunteered and information shared makes the public

just a little safer.

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](http://www.uscgaux.net) follow us on FaceBook @ Apalachee Bay Flotilla 12 or contact our Flotilla Commander Jim Kenny at [jimc809@gmail.com](mailto:jimc809@gmail.com)

*The Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed civilian volunteer component of the U.S. Coast Guard and supports the Coast Guard in nearly all mission areas. The Auxiliary was created by Congress in 1939. For more information, please visit [www.cgau.org](http://www.cgau.org).*

## Underwater Wakulla

By Trey Hutt

### Farewell to Gregg.

I first met Gregg Stanton about 25 years ago in a classroom at FSU. What struck me at first was, of all things, his voice. He had a measured tone that just drew me in, both calm and calming, like a professorial Mr. Rogers. He was charmingly rumped, which I came to learn was his natural state. In truth, I was somehow captivated, but I didn't quite know what to make of the man. I mean, who runs around with a full beard but no mustache? I had absolutely no idea the impact that he would have on my life. When I heard the news of his passing, it wasn't really surprising considering his condition, but it was still a shock, as if that makes any sense.

Our time together during the days at FSU and afterward at Wakulla Diving Center were joyous; it's the only word that seems to fit. Lots of diving, of course, but plenty of other times that were almost invariably some kind of adventure, whether large or small. I dubbed him “Papa Smurf,” a moniker that rang true among our little band of misfits, and he seemed genuinely pleased to wear it. You know how it was, he took everything in good humor.

As I look back and try to describe Gregg's impact, the words seem small, inadequate to the task. I have tremendous affection for him, and I respect him like no one else, save my own father. I recall once, early in our friendship, telling Gregg that had I met him a decade earlier that my life would likely have taken a very different direction. Gregg, as one would expect, simply replied with a grin, something to the effect that I could change paths any time I'd like, it just took some effort. As it turned out, the path I stayed on is pretty great, and enhanced greatly by having Gregg walk part of it with me.

I'm pretty sure that Gregg's hospitality knew no bounds, which must've driven Ann a little nuts. He was so giving of his time and energy, his knowledge and experience, his patience and wisdom. He was happy to share his dive gear, his boat, his sandwich, or even his home. He is the only person I have met that seemed utterly without ego, despite being a world-class instructor and a legend in the diving community. I was always awed by his humility and curiosity. He imparted knowledge in everything that he did.

As he taught me things about diving and became my friend, what took me so long to realize was that the sneaky son of a gun was teaching me so much more. He was like that, you know, quietly subversive. He taught me direct, simple lessons that went well beyond the pool or boat deck: Don't panic. Use the “Three OS Rule.” Plan well and be prepared. Meet people where they are. Be patient. There are no problems, only challenges. He was an absolute master in letting you learn from your mistakes without embarrassment. His simple truths have made me a better businessman, a better teacher, a better speaker. Certainly a better Dad. Very few days pass that I do not put to practical use a lesson taught me by such a brilliant man. As a mentor, he is absolutely without peer.

When I heard the sad news, it had been quite a while since I'd seen Gregg. Florida to Hawaii isn't a quick commute. While I have missed him since he left, I was so glad to know that he was back where he was happiest. Not too many people can pull that off. It made me wonder if I should have told him all this, but I've decided probably not. It always seemed that Gregg had a funny thing about praise... not in giving it, but receiving it. I think that he knew – most of it, anyway. Like all who knew him, I can't repay all his kindness, all his lessons, all the debt that I owe such fine man. I figure that he'd want us all to pay it forward, anyway, and I believe that will prove to be the real legacy of Gregg Stanton.

Ann, Nicole, and Eric, thank you for sharing him with all of us.

## FWC Law Enforcement Report

### From FWC News

This report represents some events the FWC handled July 5 to 11 in the Northwest Region.

#### WAKULLA COUNTY

- Officers Fernbach and M. McLeod observed a subject walking the bank off Bottoms Road in Panacea carrying a gig and a flashlight. The officers conducted a resource inspection and discovered the subject did not have a valid fishing license and had six gilled redbfish, ten undersized flounder, and one undersized sheepshead in a cooler. When questioned, the

individual claimed he didn't have any fish. The subject was arrested and taken to Wakulla County Jail charged with six misdemeanors and one noncriminal infraction.

#### HOLMES COUNTY

- Officers Fowler and Touchton were on patrol when they observed a vessel without navigational lights. The officers made contact with the vessel to conduct a resource and boating safety inspection. They observed the vessel tied to a saw-cut cypress log with flotation attached. A chainsaw and logging equipment was located within the vessel.

The vessel owner and operator admitted to unlawfully harvesting submerged timber without proper permitting or prior authorization. Charges were directly filed through the State Attorney's Office for various violations pertaining to the offense.

#### LEON COUNTY

- Officer B. Johnson II and Senior B. Johnson responded to a report of subjects selling blue crabs without licenses in a parking lot at a business. The officers arrived and observed two subjects selling blue crabs to the public from a vehicle and trailer. Upon

conducting a resource inspection, the subjects did not possess a valid retail license. One subject was cited for the violation.

#### LIBERTY COUNTY

- Officers L. Glover and B. Johnson II were on patrol conducting freshwater fishery inspections. The officers observed a subject throwing a cast net in a freshwater river and placing fish in a bucket. While conducting a resource inspection, the subject was found to possess freshwater gamefish. The subject was cited for the violation.



# Do you hate the ‘bed’ you made?



By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

How is your Christian walk going? Do you represent Christ well?

How well do you control your thoughts? Do you show honor to your spouse, your pesky neighbor – or that slow

driver?

Every hour – every minute – we delay in recognizing and repenting of whatever sin we’re guilty of, we move further away from the person Christ is calling us to be.

Charles Stanley said, “Our lives are shaped by our habits – the choices we make day by day.” Think about the sinful choices that have shaped your life. Have you “made your bed” but hate it?

Today we can start over and head in a different direction by making the choices we wish we were already living by.

Isn’t this great news?

In my last column, I mentioned how important an accountability partner or group can be in leaving our old life behind so we can grow spiritually. Going it alone is so much more difficult. We need someone in our corner who’s praying and encouraging us to choose God-honoring behavior.

The more we leave our old life behind, the more we’ll grow spiritually and the healthier our relationships will be.

In this week’s verse, baptism symbolically illustrates how a believer

dies to his or her sinful nature and rises to a brand-new life in Christ.

“We were buried therefore with [Christ] by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:4 ESV).

Newness of life! Does this sound like something you’d like to have?

This can be the season (your season!) when you find help to increasingly love God more than you love your sins. It can be a time of great spiritual

growth as you spend time with God daily, meditate on His Word and make yourself accountable to a trusted mentor or small group.

By God’s glorious and powerful grace, we can all experience victory and freedom from the shackles of sin. We can grow in our determination to faithfully obey our heavenly Father. We can finally believe – and experience – the today we’ve always dreamed of and be proud of the bed we’re making.

I hope that as we submit ourselves to God,

share Scriptures and pray with our accountability partner or group, we’ll experience deliverance from the bondage of sin and bad habits. And, when necessary, we can remind each other of God’s incredible forgiveness.

Let’s begin by walking in newness of life today.

*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.*

# Allow faith to grow



By **CHERYL CRUCE**

I never really thought much about faith when I was young. Sundays were set aside for Sunday School and church services. During the summer, our faith was enhanced with Vacation Bible School. We learned of Noah’s animals two by two, the crossing of the Red Sea, Daniel in the lion’s den, and the miracle of the fiery furnace.

Faith became a place we went to and the stories we heard.

Faith was also a place we lived. It provided a roof over our heads, a warm bed, and food on the table. I never considered the effort that turned the lights on at night or kept us supplied with the basic necessities of life. I never thought of the love two people shared that made faith possible. Our Dad worked two and sometimes three jobs to keep us comfortable. Our Mom joined him in the workforce to add to the monthly income. Somehow, throughout our growth, faith grew within us.

Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things un-

seen (Hebrews 11:1). Our parents’ tireless efforts and unwavering love were the evidence of hope and the unseen of faith. Throughout the day, we were clothed and fed. In the evening, we were sheltered against the darkness by the pull of a chain that dangled from a single lightbulb. Their sacrifices, often unnoticed by us as children, were expressions of their faith in a better future for our family.

Somehow, the trust I had as a child has permeated my life as an adult. The stories of Sunday School have become history lessons of faith that teach me to believe beyond the impossible. The Heroes of Faith were not mythical people (Hebrews 11) but

men and women who chose faith over the trials and circumstances before them. The Heroes of Faith knew God would always be there, sheltering them from the darkness of this world. The heroes learned to trust God as a child would trust a parent.

In Matthew 18:1-4, Jesus emphasized the importance of child-like faith in the Christian journey. He highlighted how a child’s innocence and simple faith pave the way to Heaven. Children’s unwavering faith, trust, ability to forgive, and lack of grudges are powerful examples. As adults, we often over-complicate life and lose sight of the fundamental truths.

Consider this: If hind-

sight is truly 20/20, then foresight can also be 20/20. The unwavering support of the Heavenly Father through Jesus serves as a powerful testament to His boundless love and grace. Not a day goes by without His care, and not a night passes without His watchful eye over us.

Our Heavenly Father is always attentive; he neither sleeps nor slumbers (Psalm 121:4). Just as He cares for the lilies of the field, He also keeps a watchful eye on each of us (Matthew 6:26-34).

Faith is a guiding light, illuminating our path and instilling hope in what we cannot see. We can find no greater comfort than trusting God to meet our needs, as He has many times

in the past. Faith in God helps us navigate life’s challenges with strength and confidence. We may not understand His plans, but we cannot deny His presence.

The hope is that we always hold on to our faith and that we, like children, understand we are never alone. God’s grace will guide us through every challenge, and His light will drive away the darkness when we allow faith to grow within us.

Philippians 4:19 And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

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

## OUT TO PASTOR

# Who is shadowing me?



By **JAMES SNYDER**

I’ve been bouncing back after a health hiatus and thought I was doing well. I still have some coughs and sneezes, but they are slowly diminishing. It’s good to get back on schedule again.

The other day, I had to get some gas for my vehicle. It’s been a long time since I put gas in that vehicle, and it was about time to get filled up. When I got to the gas station, I didn’t know if I needed to go to the bank and get a loan for my gas. Prices are ridiculous. When I first got my license, gas was 29 cents a gallon.

When I left that morning, I noticed a shadow on my left side as I was driving. I looked to the left, and saw nothing. I was sure there was something there because of the shadow.

Throughout the day, there was a scary shadow on my left side that I couldn’t identify.

I didn’t know if some-

body was following me and if they were, why?

Of course, thinking the way I do, it could be an angel following me to make sure I got back home safe.

When I got home, I told The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage that I believed an angel was shadowing me to make sure I didn’t get hurt.

She just looked at me, laughed and said, “What angel would waste his time with you?”

Without thinking, I responded, “Well, you did.”

She looked at me with one of “those stares” and I realized I had said that phrase out loud. That’s my problem. I cannot keep such phrases in my head.

Throughout the rest of the day, I had this shadow to the left of me. No matter where I went, there was this shadow. I could never make it out, I could never see it, and I didn’t know what it was.

After a while, something like this can work on your nerves. I don’t know what’s wrong. Maybe I’m losing it.

Throughout the day, I went about very carefully, not knowing who was shadowing me. I got very frustrated with this, not realizing what

in the world was going on.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage suggested that maybe it was old age catching up with me. Then, she laughed as she walked away.

I had a lot of places to go and was quite frustrated with this thing shadowing me.

Then, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage asked if I could go to Publix and pick up some groceries she needed for the day. Of course, I agreed and got ready to go.

Shadowing me as I walked to my vehicle was this “thing” that had been shadowing me all day. I was trying to think of how to eliminate this nonsense.

Maybe, just maybe, if I sneaked over to Publix and got an Apple Fritter, I would be able to solve this problem I was having. At least it’s an excuse to get an Apple Fritter.

I got my Apple Fritter and sat on a bench outside to eat it. That lousy shadow was with me while I was eating. I was very cautious because I did not want that shadow to get a bite of my Apple Fritter. That would have spelled tragedy in the worst sense of the word.

As I took the last bite

of the Apple Fritter, I turned to my left to find that person shadowing me, and there was nobody there. I was getting frustrated. Something had to be done.

On my way home, that shadow was still on my left side. I don’t know how that shadow could be there and not be seen. Something’s going on.

I had one final stop before I went home. I was going to get a haircut because it was that time of the month.

I went in and was seated. My barber got everything ready and then looked at me and said, “How did you get that little bit of peanut butter on your glasses?”

What? I removed my glasses, and sure enough, there was a little peanut butter spot on my left lens. I was a little excited because I had found my shadower.

He laughed, and I joined in the laughter, but underneath, I was as frustrated as I’ve ever been. All day long, this little bit of peanut butter had been shadowing me, and I had not noticed it until now.

When I got home, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage greeted me and asked me a simple question. “Have

you been shadowed this afternoon?”

I had to tell her, so I revealed that I had a little speck of peanut butter on my left lens.

She laughed and said, “I saw that this morning and wondered how soon it would be for you to realize what it really was.”

While I was pondering my blunder for the day and shadows, I was reminded of a verse in the Bible. “He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty” (Psalm 91:1).

To be associated with this shadow is the most important thing in the world. To know that I’m under the care of God gives me the courage to walk in faith. If I am under that shadow I am where God wants me to be and where God can use me for His purpose.

*Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamesnsnyder51@gmail.com, website www.jamesnsnyderministries.com.*

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# Sheriff's office partners with DISC Village for S2 program

By **CHUCK WHALEY**  
Wakulla Sheriff's Office

The Wakulla County Sheriff's Office has been successfully utilizing the Sustained Solutions (S2) Program for the last six months to bring finality to on-going disagreements, long-term nuisances, and other protracted situations.

To facilitate the provision of a sustained solution for persons with mental health needs or substance abuse problems, the WCSO partnered with the DISC Village Adult Deflection Program. Resultingly, negative law enforcement contacts with these persons have diminished and the trajectory of their lives have improved. The S2 Program was created by the WCSO, is unique to Wakulla County, and has been successful. The Adult Deflection Program also debuted in Wakulla County, and is being offered to other agencies.

Historically, neighbor disputes, nuisances, and situations involving mentally ill persons or substance abusers have been handled by deputy sheriffs as individual incidents. A complaint would be received and a deputy dispatched to address whatever was occurring. Deputies may resolve the matter for a

moment, but the activities can easily resume following the deputy's departure.

In Wakulla County, according to the National Incident Based Reporting System, there were 296 violent crimes, 1,094 property crimes, and 2,173 "other crimes" during 2023 – a decline from previous years. Beginning in 2017, the WCSO instituted improvements which resulted in a reduction in the number of serious crimes committed (murder, robbery, rape, burglary, theft, arson, aggravated assault and motor vehicle theft) and significantly improved clearance rates for those offenses. Serious crimes needed to be addressed as a priority, but those were not the majority of the WCSO's calls for service. According to the WCSO's case management database, the WCSO responded to 853 disturbances, 301 loud noise complaints, 177 mental health complaints, and 318 medical emergencies (some of which were intoxication or drug overdoses) during 2023.

On Jan. 5, 2024, the WCSO began the S2 Program to address repetitive disturbances, loud noise complaints, etc. involving the same persons, events or locations.

To implement the S2 Program, the WCSO developed a methodology for identifying on-going problems; created a means of case assignment; implemented a tracking mechanism for those cases; and publicized details of S2 arrests via social media as a deterrent. The examples below typify the types of sustained solutions which have been accomplished via the S2 Program.

• Between Dec. 27, 2019, and Jan. 16, 2024, deputies were dispatched over 33 times to the home of a 64-year-old woman who lived next door to a man. The woman lived alone, was partially paralyzed, suffered from grand mal seizures, and was afraid of dogs. The complaints were typically about the man playing loud music at night, sometimes while intoxicated, purposely taunting her, and allowing his dogs on her property. The situation never resolved; he would turn his music down but would play it loud again after deputies left, or collect his dogs and later let them return. Pursuant to the S2 Program, an arrest warrant was obtained on 03/20/2024, which charged the man with stalking. In the arrest warrant affidavit, each previous call was cited to

demonstrate the on-going nature of the situation. The complaints have now ceased.

• Between June 1, 2023, and April 4, 2024, deputies were repeatedly dispatched to a man's residence resulting in 14 CAD screen complaints, three incident reports, and a battery arrest. The underlying issue was that his dogs had gone onto his neighbor's property and killed their chickens and turkeys. One of his dogs was trapped on his neighbor's property and he responded by repeatedly playing loud music and turkey calls over a loudspeaker to annoy his neighbor. Pursuant to the S2 Program, an arrest warrant was obtained on 04/24/2024, which charged the man with stalking. In the arrest warrant affidavit, each previous call was cited to demonstrate the on-going nature of the situation. The complaints have now ceased.

On January 24, 2024, the WCSO partnered with the DISC Village Adult Deflection Program to facilitate the provision of a sustained solution for persons encountered with mental health needs or substance abuse problems. From January through June 2024, the WCSO made 41 referrals to the DISC Village Adult

## Obituaries

### DEATH NOTICES

• **Agatha Merle Harms Williams, 87, of Sopchoppy died July 16, 2024.**

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

Deflection Program. Once a referral is received, DISC Village conducts a comprehensive assessment and free resources are applied to address the underlying issues, such as medical, psychological, job seeking assistance, etc.

The examples below typify the types of sustained solutions which have been accomplished via the DISC Village Adult Deflection Program.

• On Feb. 12, 2024, a deputy came upon a vehicle parked on roadside occupied by an intoxicated unemployed combat veteran who suffered from PTSD. The deputy did not charge him with DUI; rather, he transported him to a facility under a Marchman Act and referred him to the DISC Village Adult Deflection Program. DISC Village subsequently assisted the man with his PTSD, addressed his abuse of alcohol, and facilitated his obtainment of full-time employment. The man has not had any subsequent negative law enforcement contacts.

• On March 8, 2024, a deputy responded to a

residence after an adult female's parents called concerned about her depression and consumption of alcohol following the death of her spouse. The deputy met with her, confirmed she was depressed, and referred her to the DISC Village Adult Deflection Program. DISC Village subsequently assessed her, provided her with chemical education, and facilitated free visits with a physician and a counselor. She has not had any subsequent negative law enforcement contacts.

The WCSO's S2 Program and partnership with the DISC Village Adult Deflection Program have been successful. It has brought about finality to on-going situations involving the same persons, events or locations; facilitated the mitigation of underlying issues; benefited persons with mental health and substance abuse needs; saved resources by eliminating the need for deputies to repeatedly return to address reoccurring issues; and improved the quality of services provided.

## Weekly Roundup: Jumping onboard

By **JIM TURNER**  
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE – After President Joe Biden announced he will not seek re-election, most Florida delegates to the upcoming Democratic National Convention quickly got on board with Vice President Kamala Harris — with hopes her candidacy will help down the ballot.

But Wednesday, Jen O'Malley Dillon, who is chairing Harris' presidential bid, released an overview that said the campaign will "play offense" in a series of battleground states. Florida wasn't on the list.

"We continue to focus on the Blue Wall states of Michigan, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania — and the Sun Belt states of North Carolina, Georgia, Arizona and Nevada, where the Vice President's advantages with young voters, Black voters, and Latino voters will be important to our multiple pathways to 270 electoral votes," the overview said.

Florida Democratic leaders contend the state remains "in play" as races become more competitive. They have an eye on erasing Republican supermajorities in the Legislature.

"Florida is not a red state. It has been a red-performing state," House Minority Leader Rep. Fentrice Driskell, D-Tampa, said in a conference call Thursday. "But what we know is that when there are strong candidates at the top of the ticket and when people believe that elections are competitive, they do show out and they come out and vote."

Florida Republicans gave the appearance of a shrug to this week's

Democratic excitement.

"If I had to pick someone, once Biden stepped down, I'd probably pick Harris to run against. I think her tenure as VP has been disastrous," Gov. Ron DeSantis said.

### NAME, IMAGE, CASH

Florida high school athletes can now start banking on their notoriety through endorsements and other kinds of deals.

While saying additional protections are needed, the State Board of Education on Wednesday ratified a plan approved last month by the Florida High School Athletic Association that will allow high school athletes to get paid through name, image and likeness, or "NIL," deals.

Craig Damon, executive director of the association, said NIL deals for high-school athletes would be similar to having after-school jobs. He said that is different from NIL deals for college athletes, where "you see student-athletes getting compensated for their name being on a roster."

"We don't foresee kids making hundreds of thousands or millions of dollars off this," Damon said. "However, there will be that 1 percent of elite athletes that possibly may have that opportunity. But for the majority of our student-athletes, it will be something local with a local business."

Board of Education Chairman Ben Gibson said the athletic association, which regulates high-school sports, must prioritize the protection of student-athletes, most of whom will be minors.

Board member Esther Byrd called for a

state registrar of participants in NIL deals to combat groups and "collectives" that seek to exploit student-athletes.

### BOOTING UP THE RULES

Attorney General Ashley Moody's office on Tuesday published three proposed rules to carry out a new law aimed at keeping kids off social-media platforms, including dealing with one of the most closely watched issues in the law: age verification.

The law, which will take effect Jan. 1, seeks to prevent children under age 16 from opening social-media accounts on at least some platforms — though it would allow parents to give consent for 14- and 15-year-olds to have accounts. Children under 14 could not open accounts.

One of the proposed rules, for example, would address parents who give consent for 14- and 15-year-old children to have access to social media platforms. It could allow online platforms to request names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of parents; contact the people whose names were provided by the children to seek information and confirmation; and "utilizing any commercially reasonable method regularly used by the government or business to verify" parents' identities and ages.

First Amendment and tech-industry groups have raised constitutional objections to the restrictions, setting the stage for a potential legal fight. As an example, the group NetChoice has pointed to age-ver-

ification requirements that it says will force people to "forfeit their anonymity."

### TEMP JOBS

Abrupt departures required two Florida universities this week to choose interim presidents: retired Pasco-Hernando State College President Tim Beard at Florida A&M University and former University of Florida President Kent Fuchs at UF.

Both appointments require approval from the state university system's Board of Governors. Beard was appointed after the resignation of FAMU President Larry Robinson, while Fuchs was tapped after the resignation of UF President Ben Sasse.

Meanwhile, Florida Atlantic University, which has had an interim president for nearly two years, on Wednesday marked the restart of its presidential search with a new 15-member committee that will be assisted by the Tennessee-based search firm Buffkin/Baker.

The FAU goal is to have a list of candidates by January.

**STORY OF THE WEEK:** Florida Democrats quickly supported Vice President Kamala Harris as she launched her presidential campaign.

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:** "I plan to lean into the job and enjoy it. And I believe that can become contagious for all of us. So, it'll be a year of fun, as well as hard work." — Kent Fuchs on returning to the University of Florida presidency on an interim basis.

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 A U V N I R R N D F G I K I F O C B B S  
 M I N R J T E F T G U D R E E D A C R A  
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## WORDS

- AMUSEMENTS
- ARCADE
- BAND
- CARNIVAL
- CAROUSEL
- CONCESSIONS
- CONTEST
- CORNDOG
- DANCING
- FAIR
- FERRIS WHEEL
- FIFTY-FIFTY
- FUNNEL CAKE
- GATE
- JAMBOREE
- LAUGHTER
- LEMONADE
- LIVESTOCK
- MERRIMENT
- PERFORMANCE
- POPCORN
- RIDES
- THRILLS
- TICKETS

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

## CROSSWORD

### CLUES ACROSS

1. Nasal mucus
5. Hairs on the back of a dog
11. Ones who build anew
14. Consume too much food
15. Praised
18. Provides weapons
19. Become less lively
21. Engine additive
23. Thought or suggestion
24. South Korean city
28. Midday rests
29. Expression of acidity or alkalinity
30. Group of rockers
32. Very fast airplane
33. One who is paid to do something
35. Buzzing insect
36. Monotheistic religion founder
39. Strong dark beer
41. Blood type
42. Square measures
44. Honorific titles in NW Semitic languages

### CLUES DOWN

1. No seats available
2. Russian river
3. A European river
4. Phrase
5. Idol
6. Keyboard key
7. Prefix indicating mutual
8. Kilometers per hour
9. Set an example
10. It's among the "Great" ones
12. VVV
13. Murdered
16. Icelandic poems
17. Seas
20. Famed cartoonist

22. Partner to "Ma"
25. Equal to one quintillion bytes
26. Speak incessantly
27. Disquiet
29. Parts per billion (abbr.)
31. Upper-class young woman (abbr.)
34. S. American plant
36. Monetary unit of Thailand
37. Regions
38. Baseball legend Yogi
40. Ancient Egyptian notion of spiritual part of humans
43. Fishing net
45. Tinseltown
48. MacBeth's wife was one
50. Took a spill
51. Adversary to pets
53. Town in Galilee
54. Secret racist society (slang)
55. About aviation
57. Longing or yearning
58. Hawaiian dish
59. Field force unit
61. Partner to "Pa"

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

## WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to a fair.

RRSIEF

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

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

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

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

## Guess Who?

I am a country singer born in Georgia on July 31, 1978. I started performing pop rock covers at local clubs as a teen before finding my country sound. I won a Grammy Award in 2013 for my album, which includes a tune called "Island Song" that has a reggae feel.

Answer: Ferris  
 Answer: Zac Brown

L	M	A	V	S	S	C	L	J	D	M	K	A	B	C	J	R	S	D	B	N	C	O	G	U	K	C	O	G	P	L	A	V	I	N	R	A	C	F	C	P	G	S	W	N	S	A	S	J	W	L	N	U	T	W	Y	I	Y	N	P	O	P	C	O	R	N	A	R	T	U	L	L	C	E	B	P	E	N	O	W	M	A	H	M	I	L	I	O	E	F	T	E	T	O	C	R	E	T	H	G	U	A	L	Y	U	B	D	U	K	A	A	V	T	Y	N	N	F	E	R	R	I	S	W	H	E	E	L	S	C	G	O	L	H	A	T	T	A	E	T	N	E	M	I	R	R	E	M	E	I	T	N	R	M	W	G	F	E	M	K	S	C	P	E	N	G	S	L	L	T	H	M	S	H	T	A	B	I	S	R	A	D	Y	J	D	U	N	E	A	P	R	E	A	C	G	H	M	O	F	T	O	C	D	B	N	A	W	I	D	U	W	I	F	M	R	F	O	L	B	Y	K	F	L	N	E	T	N	B	C	I	T	R	J	U	U	K	G	O	Y	C	T	H	R	E	A	K	H	O	V	N	R	O	K	A	L	S	Y	D	O	M	N	F	O	E	N	B	W	R	M	K	A	B	C	K	M	I	E	T	S	F	I	U	I	N	P	N	V	V	I	E	W	D	S	T	I	B	S	M	E	B	K	Y	W	F	T	Y	U	F	H	L	L	J	S	R	P	E	O	E	E	D	L	M	R	M	A	J	A	F	U	C	L	D	A	U	V	N	I	R	R	N	D	F	G	I	K	I	F	O	C	B	B	S	M	I	N	R	J	T	E	F	T	G	U	D	R	E	E	D	A	C	R	A	L	G	U	H	H	P	C	E	W	S	A	B	C	A	B	F	I	V	J	R
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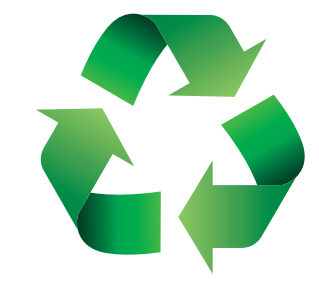
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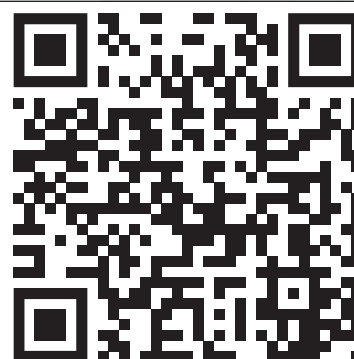
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## Opry's 24th anniversary

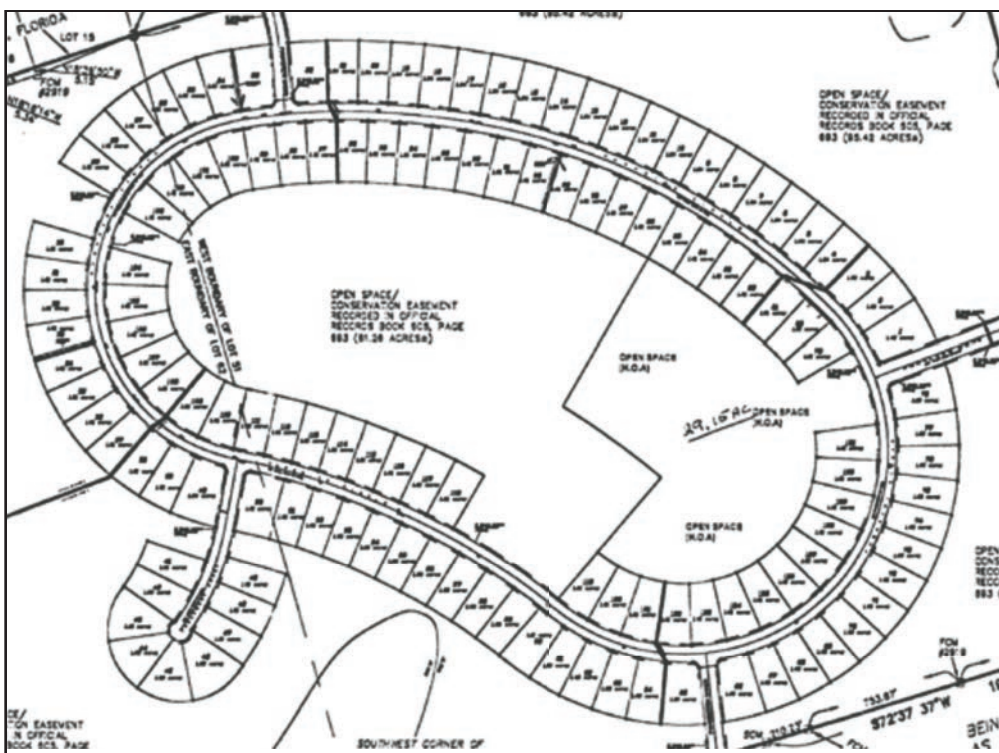
The Sopchoppy Opry celebrated 24 years of music on Saturday, July 27 in historic Sopchoppy School Auditorium! The sell-out crowd enjoyed a concert of Patsy Cline hits sung by the beautiful and talented Margo Anderson! The Purvis Brothers with the Encore Band provided the perfect musical accompaniment for the evening of great entertainment. The Opry has produced over 300 shows over the years featuring some of the area's most talented musicians and vocalist. 5 shows remain in the 2024 season. For more information call 850-962-3711 or visit the website [sopchoppy.com](http://sopchoppy.com).



### 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 Pages 3, 13, and 14



### **NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING AND HEARING TO APPROVE ASSESSMENT ROLL AND PROVIDE FOR COLLECTION OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS IN THE PARK SUBDIVISION MUNICIPAL SERVICES BENEFIT UNIT**

Notice is hereby given that the Board of County Commissioners of Wakulla County, Florida, will conduct a special meeting and public hearing to consider approval of the assessment roll for the special assessments imposed within The Park Subdivision Municipal Services Benefit Unit ("MSBU"), as shown above, to fund the capital costs of Broadband improvements for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2024, and to authorize collection of such assessments on the tax bill.

The special meeting and hearing will be held at 2:00 p.m. on September 9, 2024, in the Board of County Commission Chambers, 29 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida, for the purpose of receiving public comment on the assessments. All affected real property owners have a right to appear at the hearing and to file written objections with the County within 20 days of this notice. If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the hearing, such person will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be made. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation or an interpreter to participate in this proceeding should contact the Executive Assistant to the County Administrator at (850) 926-0919, at least two (2) business days prior to the date of the hearing.

The Broadband Improvements Assessments have been imposed to fund the installation of broadband facilities to provide access to high speed internet services within the MSBU. The Broadband Improvements Assessment for each parcel of property is based upon the number of buildable lots attributable to such parcel. The maximum annual assessment is \$187.70 per Lot.

A more specific description is set forth in the Initial Assessment Resolution (Resolution No. 2022-14). Copies of the Initial Assessment Resolution, Final Assessment Resolution (Resolution No. 2022-28), and the updated Assessment Roll are available for inspection at the Office of the County Administrator, 3093 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, Florida between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The assessments will be collected on the ad valorem tax bill to be mailed in November 2024, as authorized by Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes. The assessments will be collected over a period of 5 years, commencing with the tax bill mailed in November 2022. Failure to pay the assessments will cause a tax certificate to be issued against the real property which may result in a loss of title. Unless proper steps are initiated in a court of competent jurisdiction to secure relief within 20 days from the date of Board's action at the above hearing (including the method of apportionment, the rate of assessment and the imposition of assessments), such action shall be the final adjudication of the issues presented.

If you have any questions, please contact the County Administrator at (850) 926-0919, Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

August 1, 2024

## WAKULLA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Is announcing an amendment to its policy for serving meals to students under the National School Lunch (NSLP) / School Breakfast Programs (SBP) and the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for the 2024-25 school year.

**All students will be served Breakfast and Lunch at no charge at the following sites:**

- |                                 |                            |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Crawfordville Elementary School | Wakulla Education Center   |
| Medart Elementary School        | Wakulla Institute          |
| Riversink Elementary School     | Riversprings Middle School |
| Shadeville Elementary School    | Wakulla Middle School      |

For additional information please contact,  
Wakulla County School District Attention:  
Kathleen Newton, Food/Nutrition Supervisor  
69 Arran Road, Tallahassee, Florida, 32327  
850-926-0065 ext. 9521  
Kathleen.Newton@wcsb.us.

Wakulla County School District is also announcing an amendment to its policy for: Free and Reduced-Price Meals under the National School Lunch (NSLP) / School Breakfast Programs (SBP) at the following sites:

### Wakulla High School

Household size and income criteria will be used to determine eligibility. An application can be not approved unless it contains complete eligibility information. Once approved, meal benefits are good for an entire year. You need not notify the organization of changes in income and household size.

Application forms are being sent to all homes with a letter to parents or guardians. To apply for Free or Reduced-Price Meals, households must complete the application and return it to the school. Additional copies are available at the principal's office in each school. The information provided on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and may be verified at any time during the school year. Applications may be submitted at any time during the year.

Households that receive SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) or TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) are required to list on the application only the child's name, SNAP/TANF case number, and signature of adult household member.

Foster children will receive free benefits regardless of the child's personal income or the income of the household.

Households with children who are considered migrants, homeless, or runaway should contact the district liaison, Belinda Crowson (850)926-0065 Ext. 9909.

For the purpose of determining household size, deployed service members are considered a part of the household. Families should include the names of the deployed service members on their application. Report only that portion of the deployed service member's income made available to them or on their behalf to the family. Additionally, a housing allowance that is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative is not to be included as income.

All other households must provide the following information listed on the application:

- Total household income listed by gross amount received, type of income (e.g., wages, child support, etc.) and how often the income is received by each household member.
- Names of all household members – check the "no income" box if applicable; if household member is a child, list school name for each.
- Signature of an adult household member certifying the information provided is correct; and
- Social security number of the adult signing the application or the word "NONE" for this household member if he or she does not have a social security number.
- If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size changes, the school should be contacted. Children of parents or guardians who become unemployed should also contact the school.

If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size changes, the school should be contacted. Children of parents or guardians who become unemployed should also contact the school.

Under the provisions of the Free and Reduced-Price meal policy the Food/Nutrition Supervisor will review applications and determine eligibility. If a parent or guardian is dissatisfied with the ruling of the official, he or she may wish to discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis. If the parent wishes to make a formal appeal, he or she may make a request either orally or in writing to:

Kathleen Newton, Food/Nutrition Supervisor  
69 Arran Road, Tallahassee, Florida, 32327  
850-926-0065 ext. 9521  
Kathleen.Newton@wcsb.us.

Unless indicated otherwise on the application, the information on the Free and Reduced-Price Meal application may be used by the school system in determining eligibility for other educational programs.

### FLORIDA INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE MEALS

Effective from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025

FREE MEAL SCALE					
Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	19,578	1,632	816	753	377
2	26,572	2,215	1,108	1,022	511
3	33,566	2,798	1,399	1,291	646
4	40,560	3,380	1,690	1,560	780
5	47,554	3,963	1,982	1,829	915
6	54,548	4,546	2,273	2,098	1,049
7	61,542	5,129	2,565	2,367	1,184
8	68,536	5,712	2,856	2,636	1,318
For each additional family member, add	+6,994	+583	+292	+269	+135

REDUCED-PRICE MEAL SCALE					
Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	27,861	2,322	1,161	1,072	536
2	37,814	3,152	1,576	1,455	728
3	47,767	3,981	1,991	1,838	919
4	57,720	4,810	2,405	2,220	1,110
5	67,673	5,640	2,820	2,603	1,302
6	77,626	6,469	3,235	2,986	1,493
7	87,579	7,299	3,650	3,369	1,685
8	97,532	8,128	4,064	3,752	1,876
For each additional family member, add	+9,953	+830	+415	+383	+192

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

mail:	U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or	fax:	(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
		email:	<a href="mailto:program.intake@usda.gov">program.intake@usda.gov</a>

**This institution is an equal opportunity provider.**

Aug. 1, 2024



# A night at Hogwarts held at the library on Friday

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

Wakulla County Public Library hosted An Evening at Hogwarts on Friday, July 26th. The costumes encouraged Harry Potter themed event included fun activities for all ages.

For those new to the Harry Potter series, Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry is a fictional boarding school of magic for students aged 11 to 18, and is the primary setting for the first six books in J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series and serves as a major setting in the Wizarding World universe.

Visitors were provided a map of the school to guide them to activities such as the magic photo booth, Ancient Ruins, Divination and Fortune Telling, Forbidden Forest, Diagon Alley, Dumbledore's Office, Green House No. 3, Muggle Studies and ending the evening with treats in The Leaky Cauldron.

Visitors were asked to beware of Dementors who like to catch students out of bed at the university. Visitors were treated to a sno-cone at the end of the evening.

Lilly Rich assisted with the event by grad-



The event featured the office of Professor Dumbledore, above. The event is so popular that the line to get in, at right, stretched around the building.

ing Muggle studies.

"This is my first time at this event, and it is really cool," she said. "It is exciting and fun to see the kids interacting."

Library groups Trail Blazers, Adventure Seekers and Book Bunch completed owl crafts which were displayed in the event's Owlery.



Patricia Owens, Childrens Program Specialist, said, "This is really cool that all the children were able to display their crafts."

Dahlia Hunt, a Harry Potter enthusiast visiting the event said, "I love Harry Potter and I fell in love when I started reading books, I just finished my sixth book."

Rachel Madson, substitute teacher for Wakulla County's Shadeville Elementary, brought her husband and children Elena and Kent to the event.

"We love the library in general," she said. "This is like a second family to us, we like to see the staff at the library bringing a sense of community."

Her daughter Elena said, "It is having and fun and getting to see what Ms. Suzy (Bennett) is wearing and being with my family."

The volunteers responsible for managing the night's mischief included Desiree Gorman, Wren and Dana Harvey, Lisa Herron, Hunter Hurst, Andrew Riddle, and Cathy Sellers.

Resident House Elves included Will Bartnick, Suzy Bennett, Marquetta Cowley, Roxann Dressel, Lauren Hurst, Linda Oaks, Patrica Owens, and Rebecca Sahar.

## 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 Pages 3, 12, and 14



### **NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING AND HEARING TO APPROVE ASSESSMENT ROLL AND PROVIDE FOR COLLECTION OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS IN THE ELM RIDGE SUBDIVISION MUNICIPAL SERVICES BENEFIT UNIT**

Notice is hereby given that the Board of County Commissioners of Wakulla County, Florida, will conduct a special meeting and public hearing to consider approval of the assessment roll for the special assessments imposed within the Elm Ridge Subdivision Municipal Services Benefit Unit ("MSBU"), as shown above, to fund the capital costs of Broadband improvements for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2024, and to authorize collection of such assessments on the tax bill.

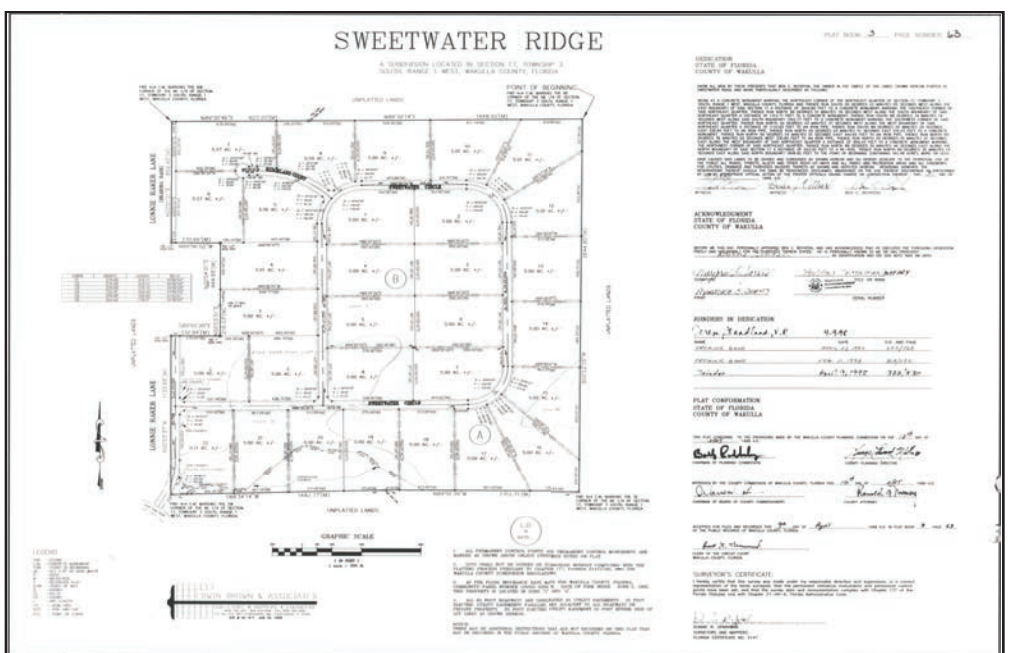
The special meeting and hearing will be held at 2:00 p.m. on September 9, 2024, in the Board of County Commission Chambers, 29 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida, for the purpose of receiving public comment on the assessments. All affected real property owners have a right to appear at the hearing and to file written objections with the County within 20 days of this notice. If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the hearing, such person will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be made. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation or an interpreter to participate in this proceeding should contact the Executive Assistant to the County Administrator at (850) 926-0919, at least two (2) business days prior to the date of the hearing.

The Broadband Improvements Assessments have been imposed to fund the installation of broadband facilities to provide access to high speed internet services within the MSBU. The Broadband Improvements Assessment for each parcel of property is based upon the number of buildable lots attributable to such parcel. The maximum annual assessment is \$905.32 per Lot.

A more specific description is set forth in the Initial Assessment Resolution (Resolution No. 2022-15). Copies of the Initial Assessment Resolution, Final Assessment Resolution (Resolution No. 2022-27), and the updated Assessment Roll are available for inspection at the Office of the County Administrator, 3093 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, Florida between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The assessments will be collected on the ad valorem tax bill to be mailed in November 2024, as authorized by Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes. The assessments will be collected over a period of 5 years, commencing with the tax bill mailed in November 2022. Failure to pay the assessments will cause a tax certificate to be issued against the real property which may result in a loss of title. Unless proper steps are initiated in a court of competent jurisdiction to secure relief within 20 days from the date of Board's action at the above hearing (including the method of apportionment, the rate of assessment and the imposition of assessments), such action shall be the final adjudication of the issues presented.

If you have any questions, please contact the County Administrator at (850) 926-0919, Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.



### **NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING AND HEARING TO APPROVE ASSESSMENT ROLL AND PROVIDE FOR COLLECTION OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS IN THE SWEETWATER RIDGE SUBDIVISION MUNICIPAL SERVICES BENEFIT UNIT**

Notice is hereby given that the Board of County Commissioners of Wakulla County, Florida, will conduct a special meeting and public hearing to consider approval of the assessment roll for the special assessments imposed within the Sweetwater Ridge Subdivision Municipal Services Benefit Unit ("MSBU"), as shown above, to fund the capital costs of Broadband improvements for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2024, and to authorize collection of such assessments on the tax bill.

The special meeting and hearing will be held at 2:00 p.m. on September 9, 2024, in the Board of County Commission Chambers, 29 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida, for the purpose of receiving public comment on the assessments. All affected real property owners have a right to appear at the hearing and to file written objections with the County within 20 days of this notice. If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the hearing, such person will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be made. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation or an interpreter to participate in this proceeding should contact the Executive Assistant to the County Administrator at (850) 926-0919, at least two (2) business days prior to the date of the hearing.

The Broadband Improvements Assessments have been imposed to fund the installation of broadband facilities to provide access to high speed internet services within the MSBU. The Broadband Improvements Assessment for each parcel of property is based upon the number of buildable lots attributable to such parcel. The maximum annual assessment is \$113.79 per Lot.

A more specific description is set forth in the Initial Assessment Resolution (Resolution No. 2021-51). Copies of the Initial Assessment Resolution, Final Assessment Resolution (Resolution No. 2021-62), and the updated Assessment Roll are available for inspection at the Office of the County Administrator, 3093 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, Florida between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The assessments will be collected on the ad valorem tax bill to be mailed in November 2024, as authorized by Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes. The assessments will be collected over a period of 5 years, commencing with the tax bill mailed in November 2021. Failure to pay the assessments will cause a tax certificate to be issued against the real property which may result in a loss of title. Unless proper steps are initiated in a court of competent jurisdiction to secure relief within 20 days from the date of Board's action at the above hearing (including the method of apportionment, the rate of assessment and the imposition of assessments), such action shall be the final adjudication of the issues presented.

If you have any questions, please contact the County Administrator at (850) 926-0919, Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.



# Sopchoppy discusses waiver on water connection fees

By **LEGION TAYLOR**  
Reporter

Sopchoppy City Commissioners debated whether or not to waive the recently increased water connection fee for a local family, who said the \$10,000 rate presented a hardship.

The issue came before city commissioners at their meeting on Monday, July 15.

The family members said they had recently been quoted earlier in the year for the hook-up fee being \$1,900, which was the price before the rate increase to \$10,000.

The family's pump on a well had recently gone out, so they needed their house to be connected to the water system but felt that because the house had been there for 40 years and they had already been quoted for \$1,900, they shouldn't have to pay the increased rate.

City commissioners generally agreed with the sentiment, but audience members raised the point that if a waiver is given here, there needs to be specific criteria codified so there's a rule to stick to when more people come to them with

similar issues.

After some deliberation, the city commissioners unanimously decided to let the residents pay the original fee they had been quoted, so long as they filled out all the necessary paperwork once criteria had been codified by the city attorney and city commissioners.

In other matters before the city commission:

- Representatives from Discover Sopchoppy were also present at the meeting to ask the city commissioners if they would like the group to spear-

head efforts to put an information kiosk at the trailhead near where Mom's Restaurant used to be, and the commissioners supported the idea.

- The city commissioners unanimously voted to sponsor the Wakulla Softball Association after some representatives attended the meeting to ask for their support.

- Plans for the new Well 7 are coming along, with a design that allows for much easier repair and inspection by incorporating multiple overflow tanks and booster pumps.

## RICK MYHRE for SUPERINTENDENT OF WAKULLA SCHOOLS



- ★ **2004 - 2009 Decorated U.S. Army Infantryman and Noncommissioned Officer**  
2 years of active combat experience  
Led over 500 successful missions
- ★ **2001 - 2004, 2009 - 2016 Wakulla County School District**  
Has worked as a substitute, paraprofessional, teacher, dean, assistant principal, and principal  
Worked in Elementary, Middle, and High school levels
- ★ **2016 - 2020 Executive Director of Just Read, Florida! Office (JRF!)**  
Lead Reading for the State of Florida  
Florida's national ranking rose from 9th to 4th in Grade 4 and from 36th to 20th in Grade 8
- ★ **2020 - 2022 Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction for the School District of Indian River County**  
Increased overall statewide ranking for district grade by 9 positions, and increased statewide ranking in many content areas
- ★ **Present Director of Instructional Data District Threat Management Coordinator and Safe School Specialist**

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

# Wakulla tax roll approved by state

By **ED BRIMNER**  
Property Appraiser

The Wakulla County Property Appraiser's Office is pleased to announce the Florida Department of Revenue approved our 2024 Tax Roll. This achievement highlights our dedication to fair, market-based property assessments.

In line with state regulations, we ensure that each property is appraised at full market value and all applicable exemptions are applied to determine the taxable value. The amount of tax owed is subsequently calculated based on the millage rates set by various local taxing authorities, including the Board of County Commissioners, Wakulla School Board, Northwest Florida Water Management District, and St. Marks City Council for residents in St. Marks.

With over 25,000 real estate parcels and more than 1,400 tangible property accounts, we strive to provide accurate market valuations as of January 1st each year. Proper valuation is crucial for fair taxation,

ensuring each property owner contributes equitably.

In August, each property owner will receive a Truth in Millage (TRIM) notice. We encourage everyone to review this notice carefully and report any discrepancies. This form also informs you concerning your exemptions. Addressing even minor errors on your TRIM notice could potentially save you significant amounts annually.

This approved tax roll is a testament to the hard work and diligence of every member of our team. We extend special gratitude to Jeff Stafford, our Chief Appraiser, and Robbie Owens, our Director of Tax Roll, for their exceptional efforts. We also thank the Department of Revenue for their thorough review and endorsement of our tax roll process.

For more information or to address any concerns, please visit our website at [www.mywakullapa.com](http://www.mywakullapa.com) or contact our office at 850-926-0500. Our staff is here to assist with any questions you may have.

# Kilpatrick reappointed to TSC board

Special to The Sun

Governor Ron DeSantis has announced the reappointment of Wakulla resident Jonathan Kilpatrick and Monte Stevens and the appointment of Monesia Brown to the Tallahassee State College District Board of Trustees.

Kilpatrick was originally appointed to the Board in 2014 and is currently serving as chair. He is the founder and CEO of Trulight LLC, specializing in technology strategy, regulatory compliance, and cyber security. Kilpatrick has spent more than 30 years of his career leading innovative technology solutions, previously serving as the Chief Information Officer for the City of Tallahassee. Kilpatrick is a Lieutenant Colonel in the Florida Air National Guard serving as a Cyber Systems Officer. He is currently

assigned to Joint Forces Headquarters in St. Augustine, Florida, where he serves as the cyber security advisor to Air National Guard State Staff. He also serves as the pastor of the First Baptist Church of St. Marks.

"I am deeply grateful for the Governor's confidence in me," said Kilpatrick. "I look forward to continuing the exceptional work at Tallahassee State College alongside my colleagues and am excited to welcome Trustee Brown to our Board."

Stevens is a Partner at The Southern Group.

Monesia "Mone" Brown is Vice President of Government Relations for North Highland, a global consultancy firm based out of Atlanta.

Trustees are appointed to four-year terms. Appointments are subject to confirmation by the Florida Senate.



More Public Notices appear on Pages 3, 12, and 13

## NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING AND HEARING TO REIMPOSE AND PROVIDE FOR COLLECTION OF SOLID WASTE SERVICE ASSESSMENTS

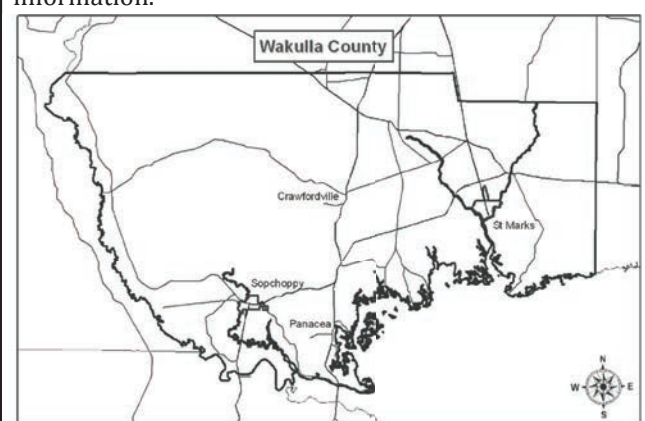
Notice is hereby given that the Board of County Commissioners of Wakulla County, Florida will conduct a special meeting and public hearing to consider the continued imposition of annual solid waste service assessments for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2024, and future fiscal years to fund the cost of solid waste management, collection, and disposal services, facilities and programs provided to certain improved residential properties located within the unincorporated areas of the County and within the City of Sopchoppy and to authorize collection of such assessments on the tax bill.

The special meeting and hearing will be held at 2:00 p.m. on September 9, 2024, in the Commission Chambers, 29 Arran Road Crawfordville, Florida, for the purpose of receiving public comment on the proposed assessments. All affected property owners have a right to appear at the hearing and to file written objections with the Board within 20 days of this notice. If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the hearing, such person will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be made. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation or an interpreter to participate in this proceeding should contact the Executive Assistant to the County Administrator at (850) 926-0919, at least two (2) business days prior to the date of the hearing.

The assessments will be computed by multiplying the number of dwelling units on each parcel of residential property by the rate of assessment. The rate of assessment for the upcoming fiscal year shall be \$204.00 per dwelling unit. Copies of the Ordinance, the Initial Assessment Resolution for Solid Waste Services, the Final Assessment Resolution for Solid Waste Services, the Preliminary Rate Resolution, and the updated assessment roll showing the amount of the assessment to be imposed against each parcel of property are available for inspection at the office of the County Administrator, 3093 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, Florida.

The assessments will be collected on the ad valorem tax bill to be mailed in November 2024, as authorized by section 197.3632, Florida Statutes. Failure to pay the assessments will cause a tax certificate to be issued against the property which may result in a loss of title. Unless proper steps are initiated in a court of competent jurisdiction to secure relief within 20 days from the date of County's action at the above hearing (including the method of apportionment, the rate of assessment and the imposition of assessments), such action shall be the final adjudication of the issues presented.

If you have any questions, please contact the office of the County Administrator at (850)926-0919, Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or visit our website at [www.mywakulla.com](http://www.mywakulla.com) for additional information.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA August 1, 2024

## NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING AND HEARING TO REIMPOSE AND PROVIDE FOR COLLECTION OF FIRE PROTECTION SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS

Notice is hereby given that the Board of County Commissioners of Wakulla County, Florida will conduct a special meeting and public hearing to consider the continued imposition of annual fire protection special assessments for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2024, and future fiscal years to fund the provision of fire protection services within the boundaries of the Wakulla County Municipal Service Benefit Unit for Fire Protection Services, which includes all of the unincorporated areas of the County and the incorporated areas of the cities of St. Marks and Sopchoppy, and to authorize collection of such assessment on the tax bill.

The special meeting and hearing will be held at 2:00 p.m. on September 9, 2024, in the Board of County Commission Chambers, 29 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida, for the purpose of receiving public comment on the proposed assessments. All affected property owners have a right to appear at the hearing and to file written objections with the County within 20 days of this notice. If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board of County Commissioners with respect to any matter considered at the hearing, such person will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be made. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation or an interpreter to participate in this proceeding should contact the Executive Assistant to the County Administrator at (850) 926-0919, at least two (2) business days prior to the date of the hearing.

The assessment for each parcel of property will be based upon each parcel's classification and the total number of billing units attributed to that parcel. The following table reflects the proposed fire protection assessment rate schedule.

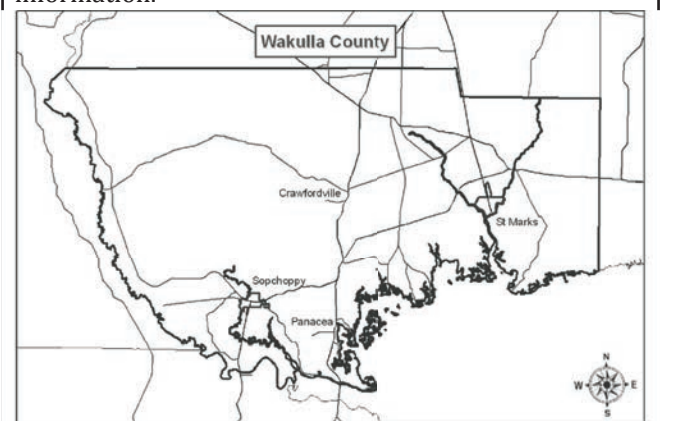
### FIRE PROTECTION ASSESSMENTS

Residential Property Use Category	Rate Per Dwelling Unit
Residential	\$248.00
Non-Residential Property Use Categories	Rate Per Square Foot
Commercial	\$0.20
Industrial/Warehouse	\$0.02
Institutional	\$0.23
Vacant Land Property Use Category	Rate Per Acre
Vacant Property	\$1.44

Copies of the Ordinance, the Amended and Restated Initial Assessment Resolution for Fire Protection Services, the Amended and Restated Final Assessment Resolution for Fire Protection Services, the Preliminary Rate Resolution, and the updated Fire Protection Assessment Roll are available for inspection at the Office of the County Administrator, 3093 Crawfordville Highway, Crawfordville, Florida.

The assessments will be collected on the ad valorem tax bill to be mailed in November 2024, as authorized by section 197.3632, Florida Statutes. Failure to pay the assessments will cause a tax certificate to be issued against the property which may result in a loss of title. Unless proper steps are initiated in a court of competent jurisdiction to secure relief within 20 days from the date of County's action at the above hearing (including the method of apportionment, the rate of assessment and the imposition of assessments), such action shall be the final adjudication of the issues presented.

If you have any questions, please contact the office of the County Administrator at (850)926-0919, Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or visit our website at [www.mywakulla.com](http://www.mywakulla.com) for additional information.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA August 1, 2024