



\$1
One Section

Locally Owned & Operated

Our 3rd Year 49th Issue
Thursday, December 5, 2024

Chamber Business Excellence

Sponsored by Talquin Electric Cooperative, the 20th annual award ceremony was held Nov. 21 at Wakulla Springs Lodge



Community Impact Award went to Amy Geiger, posed with Talquin manager Tracy Bensley and Talquin board member David Miller.



The Trade category went to Logan Roofing.

PHOTOS BY LYNDA KINSEY



Non-profit was Capital Area Healthy Start Coalition.



Professional category was presented to the Florida Department of Health Wakulla.



Consumer Business was a tie between Lodge at Wakulla Springs, left, and Wild Ox Coffee, right.



Service Business was presented to Ovid Solutions..

Hertz-Looney death penalty case returns

Sentenced to death in 1999 for a 1997 double murder, the two men return for resentencing this week

By **WILLIAM SNOWDEN**
Editor

Guerry Wayne Hertz and Jason Looney, convicted of a double murder of a Crawfordville couple after a home invasion in 1997 and sentenced to death in 1999, will face resentencing in the coming week.

The case has been pending for years with back-and-forth changes in court decisions and Florida law.

Since the conviction, the U.S. Supreme Court found that Florida's death penalty statute was inadequate because it failed to have jurors make a unanimous finding that aggravating factors exist that would

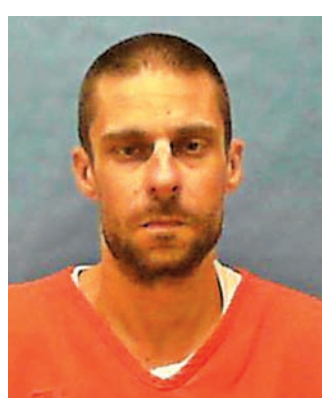
qualify the defendant for the death penalty.

The Florida Supreme Court weighed in that a unanimous jury recommendation for death is required. After a change in justices, the new Supreme Court contended that decision was wrong. Prompted by Parkland school shooter Nikolas Cruz not getting a 12-0 recommendation for death, the state Legislature weighed in during the recent lawmaking session and set the bar at an 8-4 jury recommendation for death.

The case had been set to go forward last year, but defense attorneys for Hertz and Looney filed motions at the Supreme Court on the



Guerry Wayne Hertz



Jason Looney

eve of the resentencing requesting an emergency stay on grounds that the case should not be moving forward under the 8-4 standard for a jury recommendation for death. Ultimately, the court did not rule sending the matter back to the trial court.

Wakulla Circuit Judge Layne Smith is presiding over the resentencing. Jury selection is set to get underway beginning Friday, Dec. 6. Attorneys are anticipating the case will take less than a full week. (The guilty verdict on the men stands;

the only issue is whether the jury determines there are aggravating factors to warrant the death penalty or not.)

In 1999, Hertz and Looney were found guilty of the 1997 murders of Melanie King and Keith Spears. By a vote of 10-2, the jury recommended death, which was ordered by the court. Hertz and Looney have been on death row since 1999.

(A third man involved in the murders, Jimmy Dempsey, testified against Hertz and Looney at the trial in exchange for a sentence of life in prison.)

Assistant State Attorney Eddie Evans, who is heading the prosecution

of Hertz and Looney, was the second chair back in 1999, working with then-State Attorney Willie Meggs.

On July 26, 1997, Hertz, Looney, and Dempsey were bored and walking around looking for a way to get to Tallahassee. A woman who lived approximately 500 yards from the Spears-King home said that, at approximately 2 a.m., Hertz came to her home requesting to use her telephone because "his truck had broken down." She refused and the three men resumed their walk up the road towards the home of King and Spears.

Acting as a decoy,
Turn to Page 3

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Student of the Week

Noah Morey- 8th grader at Riversprings Middle

Principal: Josh Sandgren

Achievements/Reason for Nomination: Noah Morey is an eighth grader at Riversprings Middle School. He is a member of the RMS Symphonic and Jazz band playing the trumpet and percussion. He is an active member of Odyssey of the Mind and SWAT. Noah is also on the FCA leadership team. When not at school, Noah attends Northwoods Baptist church. His top two hobbies are woodworking and putting together Lego models. His favorite part of RMS is the teachers, and without them he would not be excelling in his tough classes. Noah is the definition of a RMS Bear.



STUDENT OF THE WEEK FEATURES A DIFFERENT SCHOOL EACH WEEK.

Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park

Muhly grass

By LYNN ARTZ, DAVID RODDENBERRY, and SANDY TEDDER



Muhly grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*) may be our most beautiful native grass. In a stunning fall display, its wispy pink plumes seem to float above the foliage like a purplish-pink haze. This long-lived ornamental grows in dense clumps with thin green leaves 2-3 feet tall. The taller flower stalks have delicate 12-18-inch panicles bearing many tiny pink to purplish-red flowers. The gorgeous color persists until ripening seeds turn the plumes tan. Small birds eat the seeds. This hardy plant is drought tolerant and deer resistant. It tolerates salty wind, occasional salt spray, and occasional brief inundation by storm surge. Dead stalks can be removed in winter, but the grass need not be cut back. Fertilizer can be detrimental. Muhly grass is blooming now in the northern gardens at Sopchoppy Depot Park.

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Christmas OPEN HOUSE
2024 Ornament by Fran Mathis
SATURDAY DECEMBER 7TH 1-4 PM
WAKULLA COUNTY MUSEUM AT THE HISTORIC JAIL 24 HIGH DRIVE
Featuring
Book signing with local author Diane Swearingen
Live performance by local musician Sammy Tedder
Our gift shop featuring local artisans and our annual ornaments

The Edge of the Devil's Hammock
RIVER OBSCURA: SECRETS OF A BLACKWATER RIVER
A Nature Film by LARRY TEDDER

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https://www.facebook.com/wakullahistory/

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Lisa Craze, CFC
Wakulla County Tax Collector

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Free Thanksgiving dinner served

The 4th Annual Community Thanksgiving Meals by sisters Lois Cook and Megan Curlee and a group of volunteers was held in Hudson Park on Wednesday, Nov. 27. Along with about 20 volunteers and various donations from the community, the sisters gathered and prepared nearly 700 meals at Grace Baptist Church. Everyone was welcome to stop in and pick up a meal of turkey, ham, mashed potatoes and gravy,

and green beans and a dinner roll. Some 275 of the meals were distributed in Panacea. When asked how they spend their Thanksgiving Day, sister Morgan Curlee said: "We spend the day with nearly 30 family members and they do all the cooking because we are so exhausted." Seen here at the Hudson Park Pavilion are Stacie Stanfill, Kim Brantley, Star Parker, Lois Cook, and Megan Curlee. (Photo by Lynda Kinsey)



PHOTOS BY GERALD BROWN

TAC President Terraca Jones presented a \$2,000 check to Buckhorn Masonic Lodge #354 Secretary Anthony Donaldson.

Free turkey giveaway is held

Special to The Sun

The Tallahassee Alumnae Chapter (TAC) of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. proudly partnered with the Buckhorn Masonic Lodge #354 for their annual Thanksgiving Turkey Give-Away on Sunday, Nov. 24th, at the Palaver Tree in Crawfordville. This collaborative effort brought holiday cheer to local families in need.

TAC President Terraca Jones presented a \$2,000 check to Buckhorn Masonic Lodge #354 Secretary Anthony Donaldson, solidifying the sorority's commitment to community service. The generous donation enabled the Lodge to distribute 85 turkeys and provide Thanksgiving meals for 35 families in Wakulla County.

"This partnership underscores our shared dedication to making a tangible impact in Wakulla County, which is one of our service areas," said TAC President Terraca Jones. "We are honored to join forces with Buckhorn Masonic Lodge to bring joy and support to families during the holiday season."

The Buckhorn Masonic Lodge expressed its gratitude for the sorority's support, highlighting the positive outcome of their collaboration. "This partnership made a real difference in the lives of many families. We couldn't have done it without the support of TAC," said Anthony Donaldson and



Handing out free turkeys to the community.

Nathaniel Jackson Jr.

The event not only met a critical need but also fostered a sense of unity and gratitude, embodying the true spirit of Thanksgiving. Both organizations look forward to continuing their shared mission of service in the years to come.

The event's success was a result of collaborative planning and coordination by TAC's Wakulla County Service Area Captains Beverly Johnson and Naquita Nelson, alongside Buckhorn Masonic Lodge members Anthony Donaldson and Nathaniel Jackson, Jr. Their teamwork ensured the seamless execution of this community initiative.



Brent Thurmond of Panacea Chocolates.



Photographer Mark Wallheiser with his work.

Coastal Market held

Several thousand people did not let the cold stop them from holiday shopping and came out to the Coastal Christmas shopping event Saturday, Nov. 30th held at the Apalachee Bay firehouse in Shell Point. Fifty vendors set up and displayed their wares, most items were handcrafted by an area artist. Food vendors were on site for hungry visitors and guitarists sang and strummed to set a festive mood. (Photos by Lynda Kinsey)



Pauline Nash of The Infinity Nook.

Hertz-Looney case

From Front Page

Dempsey and Hertz knocked on the front door and asked if they could use a telephone. King gave them a cordless telephone and Dempsey pretended to make a call. When Dempsey started to hand the phone back to King, Hertz forced his way into the home at gunpoint.

Looney entered after him and targeted Spears with his rifle. King and Spears were forced face down on their bed after being bound and gagged with duct tape. The three defendants stole various items including a television, a VCR, furniture, jewelry, CDs, and \$1,500 cash. They loaded the stolen goods into the victims' two vehicles.

Hertz and Looney decided that they could not leave witnesses and then informed Dempsey of their plan. Dempsey testified that Hertz and Looney poured gasoline throughout the house, after which all three men went back to the bedroom armed. King told the defendants that she would "rather die being burnt up than shot."

She then stated, "Please, God, don't shoot me in the head." Hertz replied, "Sorry, can't do that," before he started firing his firearm. Looney started firing and was followed by Dempsey. Both King and Spears died as a result of the gunshot wounds.

After the shootings, the house was set afire. Looney drove away in the victims' Ford Mustang with Dempsey as a passenger, while Hertz drove the victims' white Ford Ranger.

Testimony was given by two Tallahassee Walmart employees that the three men showed off their new vehicles, a black Ford Mustang and a white Ford Ranger, after making a purchase at approximately 5 a.m. The employees' testimony was corroborated by a Walmart receipt for clothes that was found in the Mustang.

Hertz, Looney, and Dempsey then drove to Daytona Beach where they were involved in a shootout after a police pursuit. Looney and Dempsey abandoned the Mustang and were arrested as they were fleeing the scene. Hertz suffered a gunshot wound to the head and paid \$100 for a cab-ride to his aunt's St. Augustine home. Hertz was arrested that day and police discovered Spears' 9mm gun in Hertz's bag.

The bodies of Spears and King were both severely burned, but the medical examiner testified that both deaths were caused by gunshot wounds due to a lack of soot in the victims' trachea, indicating that they were already dead when the fire started.

Big Bend Hospice opening thrift store

Special to The Sun

In January 2025, Big Bend Hospice will open the Oak Tree Treasures thrift store at the Moon Plaza Shopping Center, 3260 Mahan Drive, to support the compassionate care provided by Big Bend Hospice to their patients and families. There are three ways the community can make this mission a success – shop, donate, and/or volunteer.

Shoppers will enjoy discovering unique finds with the knowledge they are supporting Big Bend Hospice while it serves the public. They can also donate their own gently used items to Oak Tree Treasures beginning November 9th. For drop off locations visit the website at <https://bigbendhospice.org/oak-tree-treasures/>

In order to make this venture work, volunteers are needed. Big Bend Hospice is starting to build their team to perform a variety of tasks, including donation intake, sorting, display and merchandizing. To volunteer, go to the above website to access the volunteer application.

For more information or questions, call Katie Mandell, Volunteer Department Manager, at 850-878-5310, or email her at kmandell@bigbendhospice.org.

PUBLIC NOTICES:

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



THE SCHOOL BOARD OF WAKULLA COUNTY ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING:

EVENT: School Board Meeting
DATE: Monday, December 16, 2024
TIME: 5:45 pm
PLACE: School Board Room, 69 Arran Road, Crawfordville, Florida
PURPOSE: Monthly School Board Meeting

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

Opinions

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

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

LETTERS FROM READERS

Flying lifesavers trying to base in Wakulla but...

Editor, The Sun:

Can you help our “Call to Action” for Wakulla and Franklin County Citizens?

Sudden serious life threatening events happen unexpectedly, time then becomes critical for survival. Having the immediate availability of Medical Helicopter Air Transport crewed with Critical Care Advanced Life Support Professionals can literally be the difference between life and death. AirMethods LLC (www.airmethods.com) would like to establish a staffed base of operations here in Wakulla and want to start flying by the end of the year. What an amazing opportunity!

Unfortunately, Wakulla Government is uncertain they can move quickly enough to accommodate AirMethods’ request to be operational by the end of the year due to all too common governmental bureaucracy. Please consider showing your support and respectfully request our Commissioners kindly

instruct Administration to get this life safety issue “flying” without delay by presenting an agenda item at the next meeting (and last of the year) on Monday, Dec. 9th, at 5 p.m. Mark your calendar and attend is best if you can. The county commission chambers are at 29 Arran Road Crawfordville. (At the rear of the Tax Collectors office behind the Courthouse.) If you cannot attend, please take a moment to email and/or call commissioners:

- Fred Nichols fnichols@mywakulla.com 850-694-5345
- Valerie Russell vrussell@mywakulla.com 850-759-2347
- Josh Lawhon jmlawhon@mywakulla.com 850-688-4591
- Ralph Thomas rthomas@mywakulla.com 850-597-3858
- Quincee Messersmith qmessersmith@mywakulla.com 850-508-7774

Steven Fults
“Re-Engaged” Citizen

Thank you, Chuck Hess, for 8 years of service as a commissioner

Editor, The Sun:

With the conclusion of this year’s election, most of the focus is on the newly elected officials. However, Wakulla County is losing an excellent and dedicated public servant in former County Commissioner Chuck Hess.

Dr. Hess devoted his 8 years on the Commission to balancing growth and development with environmental protection. Oftentimes, Chuck was on the losing side of the vote, many times as the sole vote in opposition to sprawl or unnecessary land use or zoning changes. He was also a key proponent to reinstitute impact fees that could help offset costs to taxpayers of development – even as the commission as a whole did not support that effort.

First and foremost, Dr. Hess was a champion for groundwater and springs protection. As a scientist, he understands the direct connection to land use and impacts to Wakulla Springs and our groundwater (a.k.a. drinking water). He looked for ways to prevent more pollution into the groundwater to protect all sinks and springs. As a Commissioner, he was highly knowledgeable but continued to absorb new information, following the data and science. He recognized the world-class gem that is Wakul-

la Springs and how vast its underground connections from every direction in the county.

To better balance development, Dr. Hess understood the need to update the county’s 30-year-old springs protection policies. These outdated policies pre-date current knowledge of the underground system and still need to be modernized. However, Dr. Hess also led the charge to put new policies in place to protect groundwater and Wakulla Springs from proposed gas stations – a step in the right direction. He was also instrumental in stopping a gas station from being put right on top of the cave system leading to Wakulla Springs.

Being a commissioner can be a thankless job. Especially, as the oftentimes lone voice speaking up for balance and responsible growth. So, thank you, Commissioner Hess, for your 8 years of hard work, dedication to the county, the environment and our groundwater and springs. I hope the two new county commissioners can find ways to strike that balance that Commissioner Hess strived for, especially when it comes to groundwater protection including championing a needed new springs ordinance.

Chad Hanson
Former Planning Commissioner

Something on your mind?

Email Letters to the Editor to editor@thewakullasun.com; or mail it or drop it by the office at 12 Arran Road, Crawfordville FL 32327.

Library News

By LINDA OAKS

Library News December 5th-11th

Thursday, December 5th

- Future Pathways 2:30pm
- Math Night 5:30pm

Friday, December 6th

- Quilting Guild 9:30am
- Holiday Story Time with Sheriff Miller 5:30pm

Saturday, December 7th

- No Programs

Sunday, December 8th

- Closed

Monday, December 9th

- American Legion Post 114 Exec Committee 5:30p,

Tuesday, December 10th

- Book Bunch 10am
- Second Harvest Nutrition Class 10am

- CTST 11am
- Historical Society 4pm
- Tobacco Free Florida 5:30pm
- Holiday Safari with Animal Tales AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER 6:30pm

Wednesday, December 11th

- Book Babies 10am
- Wakulla County Garden Club noon
- Knitters 4pm

On the Horizon:

Calendar of events for the week of December 5

Thursday, December 5

- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. every Thursday at 54 Ochlockonee St.

Friday, December 6

- Storytime with Sheriff Jared Miller in which he reads Christmas stories to children will be held at the public library at 9:30 a.m.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon at 8 p.m. every Friday at 54 Ochlockonee St.

Saturday, December 7

- Wakulla County Historical Society holds its annual Open House at the museum from 1 to 4 p.m. Items are available for purchase in the gift shop, musician Sam-

my Tedder will perform, and author Diane Swearingen will be signing copies of her book.

- Wakulla Giving Hands holds its Christmas Wishes Come True at the Sopchoppy gym from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be free clothing, toys and more inside the gym.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. every Saturday at 54 Ochlockonee St.

Monday, December 9

- 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, December 10

- 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, December 11

- A line dance class is held at 1 p.m. at the Wakulla Senior Center every Wednesday.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday at 54 Ochlockonee St.

UPCOMING

Saturday, December 14

- Wakulla Christian Coalition Christmas Festival will be held at Palaver Tree Theater on Shadeville Road will feature a car show at 2 p.m. and vendors from 4 to 8 p.m.

SUPPORT COMMUNITY JOURNALISM

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

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

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

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

“It’s A New Day!”

The Wakulla Sun



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– Compiled by Lynda Kinsey

Polled at the Community Thanksgiving Meals by the Sisters:

What are you most thankful for this Thanksgiving?



AARON HAYDEN
Musician

“My wife, my daughters, and God’s favor on my life.”



WILLIE NORTON
Retired

“Life, family and friends, and the love of God.”



JENNIFER GRIMSLEY
Medical Assistant

“My relationship with Christ and for my family.”



TED DAVIS
Retired Engineer

“I’m thankful God gave me 39 years with my son.”



JASON GRIMSLEY
Construction

“I’m thankful for Jesus Christ my Savior. He has blessed me with a wonderful family, my health, my job, a roof over my head...”

Wakulla Station News

By Verna Brock

Brrrrr! Welcome, at long last, to winter here in North Florida. Lots of plants have been brought in to avoid the frost or covered with old sheets and blankets in anticipation of the frigid nights of the last few evenings. As I write this, predictions of a low temperature of 25 degrees on Wednesday morning have me already shivering! It is certainly good weather for cozying up with loved ones, hot beverages and bowls of piping hot chili or soup.

I am always flummoxed at how a girl who spent years living in Michigan and New Jersey can be so COLD in Florida! Apparently I am never satisfied. It is either too hot and humid, or too cold for comfort. When preparing

for Thanksgiving, I was, in the words of my Michigan landlady, “sweating bullets.” The temperature highs hovered around 80 degrees the entire week before and during Thanksgiving. Abracadabra, by Sunday the lows were hitting the low- and mid-30s! I suspect part of the issue is Florida seldom gives us any time to acclimate to our roller coaster weather changes. By the time I adjust, we’ll be facing temps back in the 70s or more.

The next month will be filled with every kind of fun and fellowship. This coming Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. is the annual Christmas Bazaar for the Wakulla United Methodist Church. Hosted by the ladies of the church, there will be baked goods, and beauti-

ful crafts for sale. There is also a quilt being raffled, and the drawing will occur at 1 p.m. Be sure to stop in and check it out! Funds raised help with projects around the church, as well as donations made to the Wakulla Pregnancy Help Center, Refuge House, Wakulla Senior Citizens, the Christmas shoebox program sponsored by Samaritan’s Purse, among many worthy causes.

Next Sunday is Second Sunday Sing at the Woodville UMC at 6 p.m., followed by a fellowship supper in the social hall. Great music, great food, and wonderful fellowship, all free and open to the public.

There will be a Holiday potluck dinner at the Wakulla UMC on Sunday, Dec. 15th, directly after the 10 a.m. service. Please plan on joining us for

a delicious meal! There will also be a joint Christmas Eve Communion Service with Wakulla and Woodville, at the Woodville UMC. More details to follow.

I know I always ask you, dear readers, to lift folks in your prayers. This week I want to tell you one of our prayers was answered. Linda Whitney was able to visit here, from Central Florida, for Thanksgiving. She came to church and shared she is doing well, and thanked everyone for their prayers. Among those who continue to need our prayerful support are Sammie Pruitt, Deborah Diles, Anna Lee Grant, Pastor Tommy Stone, Molly Claire Stephens, and Clem Bunker. Please remember the family and friends of Jan Girven, who died last week after a long fight with cancer.

Sheriff’s Report

This report is for activity Nov. 22-29. There were 1,037 total calls for service during the week.

FRIDAY, NOV. 22

- Deputy Irvin responded to 53 Songbird Ave. (Enhanced Care) in reference to an alarm. The front lobby door to the business was located ajar. The business was cleared and the keyholder responded. No missing items were located and there were no signs of forced entry.

SATURDAY, NOV. 23

- A resident on Dans Drive called in reference to his neighbor peeking in his windows and walking on his property. Deputy Kitrell investigated.

- Deputies responded to a residence on Fallwood Lane in reference to three squatters occupying the residence since January. Lt. Spence investigated.

- Deputy Kitrell and Deputy Buckhalt conducted a traffic stop for an expired tag in the Walmart parking lot. Subsequently, the driver, Malinda Ann Ragan, was arrested for possession of synthetic cannabinoid and was transported to the Wakulla County Detention Facility.

ity.

- Deputy Kittrell and Deputy Buckhalt responded to Walmart for a retail theft. Contact was made with asset protection who had Fadama Uriarte Mercure in their office. Mercure passed the last point of sale with \$427.64 of unpaid merchandise. Mercure was given a notice to appear for petit theft.

SUNDAY, NOV. 24

- Deputy Dill responded to Publix in reference to an employee finding a \$100 bill on the floor of the store. The bill was logged into property/evidence for safekeeping.

- Deputies responded to the area of Tiger Hammock Road and Shadeville Road in reference to a disabled vehicle. Contact was made with the driver and a white Nissan Rogue. The vehicle sustained front end damage from striking a deer. Lt. Spence investigated.

- Deputy Buckhalt responded to a residence on Yuma Street in reference to a burglary. Complainant and her husband reported they arrived at the residence today in an effort to clear out her deceased mother’s property, but upon arrival they observed the back door to the

property ajar and unlocked. Upon entry, they discovered the residence was rummaged through and multiple items were missing. Crime Scene responded and processed the scene. The case has been forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.

MONDAY, NOV. 25

- Deputy Dill and Deputy Irvin responded to a residence on Hines Street in reference to neighbors arguing about throwing items onto each other’s yards.

- Deputy Godwin assisted Franklin County Sheriff’s Office with a possible stolen vehicle which fled into our county. The vehicle was located at Triangle Petro. During a search of the vehicle, a firearm was located. The firearm was placed into property and evidence for safekeeping. The vehicle was turned over to the registered owner. Investigation continuing by the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office.

- Deputy Godwin responded to a residence on Yellow Jacket Avenue in Sopchoppy for a theft report. The resident reported ordering a phone from Xfinity, but never received it.

TUESDAY, NOV. 26

- Deputy De Guzman and Wakulla County Fire Rescue respond-

ed to a vehicle fire on Old Woodville Highway. Upon arrival Deputy De Guzman observed a moped smoking. WCFR extinguished the fire, and the result was a total loss.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 27

- Deputy Cordoba responded to the Circle K at Songbird and Crawfordville Highway and made contact with a citizen who reported her iPhone was taken from the store by an unknown white male. The case has been forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.

- Deputy Irvin responded to a residence on Dr. MLK Jr Memorial Road in reference to an agency assist. Upon arrival, contact was made with an Animal Control Officer in reference to them taking possession of dogs. ACO located two dogs on the property without proper nutrition and one of the animals was located with a chain wrapped around its leg. ACO was unable to make contact with the animal’s owners on scene. The animals were removed from the property without incident. Investigation ongoing.

THURSDAY, NOV. 28

- Deputy Bennett responded to a residence on Curtis Mill Road in reference to a stolen rid-

ing lawn mower. Complainant advised he parked his Cub-Cadet riding lawnmower on the edge of his property on Nov. 22, and when he went to retrieve it; it was missing. The lawnmower is valued at \$1,000. Case was forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.

FRIDAY, NOV. 29

- Deputy Rivers responded to a residence on Springdale Drive and made contact with a complainant reporting two unknown males broke into his vehicle during the night. The incident was captured on video. Case has been forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division.

- Deputy Sullivan conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle on Lonnie Raker Lane. During the traffic stop Deputy Sullivan reportedly observed narcotics in plain view while speaking with the driver, Evan Poston Wiley, and passenger Courtney Ann Whiteside. Deputy Sullivan seized approximately 8.2 grams of fentanyl, and 9.9 grams of methamphetamine. Whiteside also had a warrant out of Leon County. Wiley was taken into custody on Trafficking in Fentanyl 4 grams or More, Possession of Methamphetamine Under 14 grams, and Possession and Or

Use Drug Equipment. In addition to the out of county warrant, Whiteside was taken into custody on Drug Equipment Possess and Or Use as well. Both individuals were transported to the Wakulla County Detention Facility.

- Deputy Rivers performed a traffic stop on a 150cc moped for operating a moped on a sidewalk along Coastal Highway. Deputy Rivers made contact with the driver, John Edward Ward, who was found to be driving a motor vehicle while never being issued a Florida Driver License or motorcycle endorsement with the tag attached not assigned. All VINs on the moped were altered or scratched off and it was unable to determine if the moped was stolen. The vehicle was seized and transported to the sheriff’s office impound yard. Ward was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle without a driver’s license, operating a motorcycle without a motorcycle endorsement, possessing motor vehicle with altered numbers, and tag attached not assigned. Ward was transported to the Wakulla County Detention Facility.

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

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The Wakulla Sun

Outdoors

outdoor sports

HOME ON THE RANGE

Defense for Christmas



By MARJ LAW

“You’re going off to work in another state,” Big Daddy Tom is privately talking with his granddaughter Emma, who is 24 years old. “We won’t be around to protect you anymore. So, I’m giving you a gun for Christmas. I don’t ever want you to be a victim; I want you to know how to safeguard yourself.”

“But, Big Daddy,” Emma is surprised. “You never let me touch your guns before. You said that guns are dangerous, and you always keep them locked up.”

Big Daddy winces. “They are dangerous. And they’re a pile of responsibility. That’s why I keep them in the safe. Today, we’re going to the Wakulla County Sheriff’s Office range. It’s a safe place to learn. A deputy is always there to help and people who visit the range pay attention to rules that keep them safe.”

“Are the rules the same everywhere?” wonders Emma.

“Four rules apply no matter where you are,” Big Daddy is firm.

“The first is to always,

and I mean always, point your gun in a safe direction.

The second is to treat every gun as if it is loaded. And I mean even your own handgun. Even when you’re certain you’ve unloaded it.

Number three is to keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot. It’s all too easy to press that trigger even when you don’t intend to.

And the fourth is to be sure of your target and what is behind it. Bullets can travel a far distance.”

“Sure thing, Big Daddy. I can remember four rules,” says Emma.

“I’m going to ask you to repeat these four rules every day before you leave, Emma.”

“I think I can remember four rules,” Emma is confident.

“These are what I call the Big Four. But there are other things to keep in mind and remember, too. Like you should always have ear and eye protection. You only get one set of eyes and ears, and you need to protect them every time you shoot a gun. I’m going to buy you safety glasses and ear muffs before we go to the range.”

“Also, for your protection and everyone around you, you have to abide by the terms ‘hot’ and ‘cold.’ Hot is when you can touch and load your gun. Cold is when you step back from your gun and do not handle it or any ammunition you bring. These terms are necessary to know because when you go downrange you want to know you are safe to put up targets because no one

touches a gun.”

“You’re going to need to practice regularly,” Big Daddy continues. “But never go to a range alone, and never drink alcohol before you go to the range. Don’t let anyone else touch your gun, either. Keep it locked up, just like I do. People are naturally curious and you can’t let them accidentally hurt themselves or you.”

“It’s beginning to sound like a lot of rules,” Emma tells him.

“Well, darlin’, I might just think on more. But you memorize these, and you’re well on your way to learning to be safe with a handgun.”

Soon after their discussion, Big Daddy and Emma visit the WCSO range.

The pistol range is “hot” and they bring the gun pouch to the shooting bench.

“This here is a .38,” Big Daddy explains as he takes the revolver out of its bag. “See how I’m careful to keep the muzzle pointing downrange, even when taking it out of the bag? You remember the rules? What number is this?”

“That’s easy.” Emma’s got the answer. “Rule number one is to keep the

Smith & Wesson Chief Special Model 36, 38 Special



Holds 5 in the cylinder

1.3” Wide
19.5 Ounces

muzzle pointed in a safe direction.”

“Good girl!” Big Daddy shows her how to load each round into the cylinder. “All you need to do with this gun is to point and shoot.”

He teaches her how to hold the gun and how to have a secure stance.

“Now, when I aim the .38, what do I need to remember?” he questions her.

“That’s rule number three! Even though I’m aiming, my finger is off the trigger until I actually plan to shoot. And I’ve treated the gun like it is loaded, even before you put in ammunition. And last, the high berm behind the targets helps me know that no bullet will continue and hit anything except the berm.”

Big Daddy nods. “Now, you can shoot at the target. Take a breath, let it out and shoot.”

Emma aims, breathes, and lets it out. She pulls the trigger but nothing happens. She puts the gun down.

“What’s wrong?” she asks Big Daddy.

He picks up the gun and aims. Blam! He hits the target.

“You just have to pull the trigger harder.”

Emma tries again. Nothing.

“Drat!” She shuffles her feet, aims, and pulls the trigger again.

Blam! Emma’s hands fly up in the air.

“That’s hard!” She is dismayed and shakes her hand. “It’s hard to pull the trigger and the kick is so strong!”

“Keep at it, Emma. Practice is what you need.”

“Let me watch you now, Big Daddy. I’ll sit right here on the bench and watch you.”

“I’m getting the feeling you don’t like this,” says Big Daddy. “And if you have a gun, you’ve got to practice. What’ll it take for you to like a gun?”

“Well, Big Daddy, I do appreciate your showing me how to shoot,” says Emma, “but I was hoping for a gun that is easier to shoot. This one has a long and hard trigger pull and a lot of recoil. Just shooting the one time is painful. It’s heavy for its size and it doesn’t hold very many rounds. I’m afraid I might miss if someone came at me, and I’d only have a few rounds left. And it looks kinda fat to carry in my purse.”

Big Daddy is disap-

pointed. “I never thought of the 38 as difficult to shoot before. But then, I am a big guy and you’re so petite. What say we look at some other handguns that might work for you?”

They agreed to return to the range in a week. Then, Big Daddy would round up some of his friends’ guns to see what would be a better fit for Emma.

“The .38 is a rock solid handgun,” he tells Emma. “But it’s not a good gun for you.”

“So long as it doesn’t rain, a few of us who practice regularly on Wednesday mornings will bring handguns to the WCSO range around 10 a.m. If you’d like to see them, we’d love to have you join us. Look for the next article on several handguns that many people find easier to shoot. They will include a: Taurus 942 22 Magnum revolver, Sig Sauer P238 380, Smith & Wesson 380 EZ, and a Sig Sauer 365 9mm and a Smith & Wesson Equalizer: which is also a 9mm handgun.

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



PIGFISH
(*Orthopristes chrysoptera*)

Pigfish are named for the grunting sound they make by rubbing the teeth in their throat together when caught. By night, pigfish use their throat teeth to grind up shellfish and other food. They are found warmer temperate regions along the east coast. They prefer bays and canals with mud bottoms to search out their diets of amphipods, mollusks, crabs and shrimp. Their maximum size is 19” and 2-3lbs although they are usually caught when under 1lb as bait fish. They live 2-3 years.

Eukarya, Animalia, Chordata, Actinopterygii, Perciformes, Haemulidae



WEEKLY WILDLIFE PHOTO



On his weekly survey of Wakulla Springs, retired park ranger Bob Thompson shared this photo of a juvenile Yellow Crowned Night Heron.

Wakulla Lawn Ranger
Gene Darby
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a peek into life on and under the water

Local writers share their experiences



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Thursday 5
Sun rise/set: 7:19AM 5:36PM
Moon rise/set: 11:15AM 9:48PM
Moon Illumination 20%

Friday 6
Sun rise/set: 7:19AM 5:36PM
Moon rise/set: 11:53AM 10:53PM
Moon Illumination 29%

Saturday 7
Sun rise/set: 7:20AM 5:36PM
Moon rise/set: 12:27PM 11:57PM
Moon Illumination 40%

Sunday 8
Sun rise/set: 7:21AM 5:36PM
Moon rise/set: 12:59PM
Moon Illumination 51%

Monday 9
Sun rise/set: 7:21AM 5:37PM
Moon rise/set: 1:30PM 1:01AM
Moon Illumination 62%

Tuesday 10
Sun rise/set: 7:22AM 5:37PM
Moon rise/set: 2:01PM 2:06AM
Moon Illumination 73%

Wednesday 11
Sun rise/set: 7:23AM 5:37PM
Moon rise/set: 2:35PM 3:13AM
Moon Illumination 83%

Gulf Coast Weekly Almanac
Dec. 5 - Dec. 11

High Tide: Carrabelle 28 Min., Apalachicola 1 Hr., 53 Min., Cat Point 1 Hr., 13 Min., Lower Anchorage 1 Hr., 36 Min., West Pass 1 Hr., 26 Min.

Low Tide: 25 Min., 2 Hrs., 38 Min., 2 Hrs., 31 Min., 2 Hrs., 3 Min., 2 Hrs., 39 Min.

Best fishing days this month: December 1-15, 30, 31

St. Marks River Entrance

Th	3:15 am ▲ 3.5 ft	10:44 am ▼ -0.5 ft	5:26 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	10:29 pm ▼ 1.5 ft
Fr	4:06 am ▲ 3.0 ft	11:31 am ▼ -0.3 ft	6:15 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	11:32 pm ▼ 1.4 ft
Sa	5:10 am ▲ 3.0 ft	12:25 pm ▼ 0.0 ft	7:06 pm ▲ 2.9 ft	
Su	12:51 am ▼ 1.2 ft	6:37 am ▲ 2.7 ft	1:24 pm ▼ 0.4 ft	7:58 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
Mo	2:17 am ▼ 0.3 ft	8:26 am ▲ 2.6 ft	2:27 pm ▼ 0.7 ft	8:49 pm ▲ 3.0 ft
Tu	3:35 am ▼ 0.8 ft	10:05 am ▲ 2.7 ft	3:30 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	9:37 pm ▲ 3.2 ft
We	4:41 am ▼ -0.3 ft	11:22 am ▲ 2.9 ft	4:29 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	10:24 pm ▲ 3.4 ft

City of St. Marks

Th	3:51 am ▲ 3.2 ft	11:48 am ▼ -0.4 ft	6:02 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	11:33 pm ▼ 1.3 ft
Fr	4:42 am ▲ 2.7 ft	12:35 pm ▼ -0.3 ft	6:51 pm ▲ 2.7 ft	
Sa	12:36 am ▼ 1.3 ft	5:46 am ▲ 2.8 ft	1:29 pm ▼ 0.0 ft	7:42 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
Su	1:55 am ▼ 1.1 ft	7:13 am ▲ 2.5 ft	2:28 pm ▼ 0.3 ft	8:34 pm ▲ 2.7 ft
Mo	3:21 am ▼ 0.7 ft	9:02 am ▲ 2.4 ft	3:31 pm ▼ 0.7 ft	9:25 pm ▲ 2.8 ft
Tu	4:39 am ▼ 0.3 ft	10:41 am ▲ 2.5 ft	4:34 pm ▼ 0.9 ft	10:13 pm ▲ 3.0 ft
We	5:45 am ▼ -0.2 ft	11:58 am ▲ 2.7 ft	5:33 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	11:00 pm ▲ 3.1 ft

Shell Point, Spring Creek

Th	3:31 am ▲ 3.4 ft	11:12 am ▼ -0.6 ft	5:59 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	10:50 pm ▼ 1.6 ft
Fr	4:22 am ▲ 3.3 ft	12:00 pm ▼ -0.4 ft	6:48 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	11:56 pm ▼ 1.5 ft
Sa	5:26 am ▲ 3.0 ft	12:53 pm ▼ -0.1 ft	7:39 pm ▲ 2.8 ft	
Su	1:16 am ▼ 1.3 ft	6:53 am ▲ 2.7 ft	1:50 pm ▼ 0.3 ft	8:29 pm ▲ 2.9 ft
Mo	2:42 am ▼ 0.9 ft	8:44 am ▲ 2.5 ft	2:50 pm ▼ 0.7 ft	9:18 pm ▲ 3.0 ft
Tu	3:59 am ▼ 0.3 ft	10:24 am ▲ 2.6 ft	3:51 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	10:03 pm ▲ 3.2 ft
We	5:05 am ▼ -0.3 ft	11:42 am ▲ 2.8 ft	4:48 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	10:47 pm ▲ 3.4 ft

Alligator Point, Ochlockonee Bay

Th	3:07 am ▲ 2.6 ft	10:55 am ▼ -0.4 ft	5:18 pm ▲ 2.2 ft	10:40 pm ▼ 1.1 ft
Fr	3:58 am ▲ 2.5 ft	11:42 am ▼ -0.2 ft	6:07 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	11:43 pm ▼ 1.0 ft
Sa	5:02 am ▲ 2.3 ft	12:36 pm ▼ 0.6 ft	6:58 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	
Su	1:02 am ▼ 1.2 ft	6:29 am ▲ 2.0 ft	1:35 pm ▼ 0.3 ft	7:50 pm ▲ 2.2 ft
Mo	2:28 am ▼ 0.6 ft	8:18 am ▲ 1.9 ft	2:38 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	8:41 pm ▲ 2.3 ft
Tu	3:46 am ▼ 0.2 ft	9:57 am ▲ 2.0 ft	3:41 pm ▼ 0.8 ft	9:29 pm ▲ 2.4 ft
We	4:52 am ▼ -0.2 ft	11:14 am ▲ 2.2 ft	4:40 pm ▼ 0.9 ft	10:16 pm ▲ 2.5 ft

St. Teresa, Turkey Pt.

Th	3:06 am ▲ 2.6 ft	10:47 am ▼ -0.6 ft	6:00 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	10:20 pm ▼ 1.5 ft
Fr	3:59 am ▲ 2.5 ft	11:38 am ▼ -0.5 ft	6:51 pm ▲ 2.0 ft	11:38 pm ▼ 1.4 ft
Sa	5:07 am ▲ 2.2 ft	12:35 pm ▼ -0.2 ft	7:39 pm ▲ 2.1 ft	
Su	1:18 am ▼ 1.2 ft	6:41 am ▲ 2.0 ft	1:37 pm ▼ 0.2 ft	8:23 pm ▲ 2.1 ft
Mo	2:52 am ▼ 0.8 ft	8:33 am ▲ 1.8 ft	2:43 pm ▼ 0.5 ft	9:03 pm ▲ 2.2 ft
Tu	4:02 am ▼ 0.2 ft	10:19 am ▲ 1.9 ft	3:48 pm ▼ 0.9 ft	9:40 pm ▲ 2.4 ft
We	4:57 am ▼ -0.3 ft	11:43 am ▲ 2.1 ft	4:45 pm ▼ 1.2 ft	10:17 pm ▲ 2.5 ft

Dog Island West End

Th	3:18 am ▲ 2.3 ft	11:08 am ▼ -0.6 ft	6:31 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	10:57 pm ▼ 1.6 ft
Fr	4:12 am ▲ 2.2 ft	11:54 am ▼ -0.4 ft	7:19 pm ▲ 1.8 ft	
Sa	12:16 am ▼ 1.1 ft	5:15 am ▲ 1.9 ft	12:42 pm ▼ -0.1 ft	8:06 pm ▲ 1.8 ft
Su	1:53 am ▼ 1.5 ft	6:40 am ▲ 1.6 ft	1:36 pm ▼ 0.3 ft	8:44 pm ▲ 1.9 ft
Mo	3:23 am ▼ 0.7 ft	8:59 am ▲ 1.4 ft	2:39 pm ▼ 0.7 ft	9:15 pm ▲ 2.0 ft
Tu	4:27 am ▼ 0.2 ft	10:50 am ▲ 1.5 ft	3:43 pm ▼ 1.0 ft	9:46 pm ▲ 2.1 ft
We	5:24 am ▼ -0.4 ft	12:38 pm ▲ 1.7 ft	4:49 pm ▼ 1.3 ft	10:19 pm ▲ 2.3 ft

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

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: As we finish leftovers from our Thanksgiving meal and focus on the upcoming holiday season, it is easy to forget about another historical period for our nation. This will be the first year that there are no living survivors for the Battleship Arizona to remember the events that occurred on December 7th, 1941. Lou Conter died this year on April 2nd at the age of 102. He is reported to be the last survivor of the USS Arizona. He was just 20 years old at the time of the attack, and helped rescue other members of the crew. He retired from the Navy in 1967. There is still one ship afloat that fought at Pearl Harbor. The USCG Rodger B Taney was moored at pier 6 Honolulu Harbor. She left the pier

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

during the attack and fired her anti-aircraft guns at incoming waves of attacking planes. The USCG Taney went on to serve during World War II, Korea, and Vietnam and was decommissioned December 6th, 1986. She can now be found at the Baltimore Inner Harbor as part of the Historic Ships of Baltimore Collection. As you scurry around getting prepared for your

learn more about vessel safety checks, please contact Steve Hults, Staff Officer for Vessel Examinations at steve.hults@uscgaux.net. Please contact us for more information about our safe boating classes or learning more about getting involved in the Auxiliary, check out our website at www.uscgaux.net follow us on Facebook @ Apalachee Bay Flotilla 12 or contact our Flotilla Commander Jim Kenny at jimc809@gmail.com. The Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed civilian volunteer component of the U.S. Coast Guard and supports the Coast Guard in nearly all mission areas. The Auxiliary was created by Congress in 1939. For more information, please visit www.cgaux.org.

Underwater Wakulla

By Gregg Stanton

Gregg Stanton's Underwater Wakulla columns have been compiled on The Wakulla Sun's website. The columns range from 2010-2022. Many of these columns were published in The Wakulla News and then in The Wakulla Sun when the staff decided it was time to leave due to the incoming corporation. There were weeks that Gregg did not write the column and there will be a designation of the author in that case before the column. I hope you enjoy my father's adventures as much as I did. - Eric Stanton

Breathe we must. December 2, 2010

When we inhale, we consume a gas that has 20 percent oxygen diluted in the balance (80 percent) nitrogen. We breathe this gas we call air from a seemingly abundant supply we call the atmosphere at a pressure of 15 pounds per square inch (psi). To live underwater, I must still breathe. I have four choices from which to get this breathable gas: hold my breath from the surface, breathe compressed gas from a hose, breathe from a recirculating bag, or breathe from a compressed gas cylinder. Breath-holding is a time-honored skill dating back to pre-history that has a two to four minute limited application, permitting a brief glimpse into a cavern, but never to penetrate. Several centuries ago, salvage of wrecks relied upon breath-holding divers until an engineer began sending air down to his underwater bell. Pumps soon improved the delivery and the hose became vehicle. Today, if you are a commercial diver, you probably dive on a hose. But to penetrate the aquifer, hoses just get snagged, limiting access. Over 150 years ago, a university professor walked about his classroom breathing on a recirculating loop that took his exhaled gas and reconditioned it before returning it to him to re-breathe. Closed Circuit Rebreathers (CCR) technology was soon applied to mine rescue, underwater diving and eventually space. Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus (SCUBA) was developed after World War II by Jaques Cousteau and others using a high pressure cylinder and a petroleum regulator to provide breathing gas underwater. While much less efficient, SCUBA diving became the basis of recreational diving, with limited success in our aquifer. While one day I may have the luxury of breathing from the water like the fish, to penetrate the aquifer today, I need something that I can breathe for, say, half a day. What we breathe underwater is not the same as what we breathe above the water. Pressure changes the mix the deeper we dive. Rebreathers provide the ideal mixmaster creating ideal breathing mixtures for each depth. Astronauts and technical divers now use Rebreathers because they have an abundant gas supply, something we require when visiting our aquifer.

FWC Law Enforcement Report

From FWC News

This report represents some events the FWC handled Nov. 8-14 in the Northwest Region. (There were no cases reported for Wakulla County.)

BAY COUNTY

- Officer Specialist Alsobrooks and K-9 Officer Coker were conducting surveillance on a baited area at Econfina Wildlife Management Area. They had evidence of an individual hunting over bait in the WMA. The individual was bringing in bags of corn and acorns. He also removed all the branches from the tree he was hunting from so he could use his climbing stand. He was issued multiple ci-

tations and a warning.

- Senior Officer Palmer and Officer Specialist Alsobrooks were conducting a boating safety inspection at Cherokee Landing. The individual operating the vessel had an active out-of-state warrant with full extradition. He was arrested and booked into the Bay County Jail.

ESCAMBIA COUNTY

- Officer Bower was on patrol and received information from Officer Lugg that a subject was illegally spearfishing at the jetty. Officer Bower located the subject who was spearfishing and discovered he possessed one sheepshead. Other people in the area had already informed him

that fishing in the area was prohibited. The subject was charged with spearfishing within 100 yards of a jetty and for failing to display a dive flag.

GULF COUNTY

Master Officer M. Webb was working derelict vessels in storm affected areas. He observed a vessel with two subjects on board fishing close to shore. A resource inspection revealed the captain was in possession of six spotted seatrout, all of which were undersized. A citation was issued for the violation.

COMMUNITY POLICING: SANTA ROSA COUNTY

- Officer Brown conducted a hunter safety course, educating over 20 students about safe hunting practices. The course covered hunting laws and regulations, hunting seasons, hunting methods, reporting requirements, and licensing and permits. Officer Brown ensured all participants gained a comprehensive understanding of these subjects. In addition, he addressed numerous questions from the students and provided valuable instruction about responsible hunting practices, wildlife conservation, and safety, with the goal of promoting a safe hunting experience.

Editor's Note: This was the third Underwater Wakulla column written by Gregg Stanton back in 2010.

Do you need help when praying for your spouse?

By **SHERYL H. BOLDT**

Have you begun praying for your husband or wife and gotten sidetracked into telling God all the ways they irritate

you? Before you know it, rather than standing in the gap for your spouse, you're sitting in judgment against them. Each time I "pray" this way, my heart for Bert becomes less soft and warm and more hard and cold. I feel less and less united with him.

Yet, the message of Mark 10:8-9 (ESV) is clear: "And the two shall become one flesh." So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined

together, let not man separate."

In marriage, a man and a woman – two people – become a single unit. The most closely-knit team possible. The ultimate dream team.

"Yeah, right," you say. "Not in my marriage."

And I would answer, "Not in mine either, some of the time. Actually, a lot of the time."

Yet when I subtly change the way I pray for Bert, I'm able to return to the one-flesh feeling.

When my prayers for him head south, I add the words "my husband" to my prayers.

"Father, Bert is staying later and later at the office. It makes me so mad!" becomes, "Father, Bert is staying later and later at the office. Please help my husband know how much I love him."

Strangely enough, whenever I talk to God about Bert and use the phrase "my husband," I soften a little on the inside. The Holy Spirit will often shift my prayer in

a more compassionate direction, causing me to bond with him.

Using these two words can be especially important when our spouse is going through a season of weakness or is in the midst of a trial. There's something beautifully unifying when we intercede for our husband or wife this way. Beautiful in the way God transforms our feelings about our spouse. Unifying in the way God knits our spirit with our husband or wife's spirit.

I'm thankful for God's gentle correction about whom I'm praying for. He reminds me that I'm praying for ... my husband. A part of me. A part of my flesh.

Because what therefore God has joined together, let not man ... let not me ... separate.

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.

The banquet table

By **CHERYL CRUCE**

Much of my childhood was centered around the family table built by our Dad. The size and rectangle shape allowed for an easy serving of ten people. Dad topped the table with a laminate, half in red and the other in white. Then, he purchased red and white chairs to complete his creation.

Deep in my memory, I can still see the images of my family gathered

around simplistic settings of Melmac dishes and mason jar glasses filled with sweet tea.

Mom always knew how to prepare meals that our family would enjoy, even me, the pickiest eater.

I remember waking up as a child to the smell of biscuits and cheese grits for breakfast. Lunch was usually a mix of leftovers, with laughter filling the air as we hurried to clean our plates and return to the outdoor adventures. Rice and homemade bread were the main staples for dinner, bringing us all together at the table.

The table was more than just a place to nourish our bodies; it was the heart of our home. Our parents would dis-

cuss family matters, the needs of our neighbors, and current world events. As children, we shared stories about the ballgame in the field behind the house and the forts we were building. Time seemed to move more slowly in those days. Eye contact was essential, and our conversations were filled with kindness.

It has been said, "A strong family has well-worn seats at the dinner table" (author unknown). Our lives could use a healthy dose of well-worn seats. In today's fast-paced world, our schedules are so crowded that it often feels impossible to sit down together, leaving us longing for the warmth and connection that once filled our fam-

ily tables.

As a tax collector, Matthew experienced a transformative moment when he chose to follow Jesus. In celebration of this new path, he threw a lavish banquet and invited his friends, eager to introduce them to the One who had changed his life. As Jesus arrived at the table, He brought a message of healing and redemption, offering hope to those often marginalized by society.

Jesus often shared meals with others, including the miracle of feeding a multitude with five loaves and two fish (Matthew 14:13-21). He dined with Mary and Martha in Bethany (Luke 10:38-42) and celebrated the Last Supper with His disciples before the crucifixion (Matthew

26:17-30).

After His resurrection, He guided the disciples to catch fish after a night of failure and greeted them onshore with bread and fish for breakfast (John 21).

With each meal served by Jesus, strength and healing came to those who would receive.

Nevertheless, no meal would compare to the breaking of bread and pouring of wine that would become our Holy Communion. This table set by our Lord would be our ultimate healing table, representing our salvation in the Bread of Life and the redemptive power of His blood spilled from Calvary.

When was the last time you gathered around the Lord's table, where your redemption

flows freely? Are the dining chairs less worn these days? Isn't it time we clear off the tables of our lives and come together again as a family, both physically and spiritually? Our Heavenly Father has prepared a banquet table for all of us, and He is awaiting our presence.

1 Corinthians 10:16-17 The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

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

OUT TO PASTOR

Another turkey on the table

By **JAMES SNYDER**

It was a Monday morning, and I was busy starting my week by organizing my schedule and some of my projects.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came to my door, looked in, and said, "Are you ready for the week?"

I don't recall her ever asking me that question, but I looked at her and said, "Well, I'm trying to work through my to-do list for the week."

"You do know what week it is," she said with a friendly smirk.

I was a little confused because I didn't know what she was getting after. As far as I'm concerned, a week is a week.

Then she responded, "This week is Thanksgiving. Are you ready for our family Thanksgiving dinner?"

It caught me slightly surprised, and I just looked at her and said, "Oh, my. I completely forgot that this was Thanksgiving week."

She laughed and walked out of my office and back to the kitchen, where she prepared for the family's Thanksgiving dinner.

I sat back in my chair and thought about this briefly. I could not believe that it was Thanksgiving again. Didn't we celebrate it last year? I thought for a moment and remembered that we did, and we had a wonderful time as we gathered around the family table.

Now, another Thanksgiving. We have Abraham Lincoln to thank for this national holiday, and I'm grateful. I have no problem with having such a holiday in the kind of world that we live in today. It is very hard to find anybody who is thankful

for anything.

As I was thinking about it, I realized that time goes quickly. We celebrated Thanksgiving only 52 weeks ago. I am trying to remember those days, and I would have to check my calendar to see what happened during those days. But time flies by.

It's not so much that time flies by as forgetting what's happening.

I can get up at the beginning of the week and start on Monday, and before I know it, it's Friday, and I've got to close shop. I guess I need to blame my age for that.

I remember that, as a teenager, time was so slow. I couldn't get it to speed up and get on the way. I was in 10th grade and couldn't wait to get to 12th grade in order to graduate. I'm unsure, but somebody snuck in two 11th grades without me knowing it.

If I could see forward as clearly as I see backward,

it would truly change the way I live. But it doesn't work that way.

I am ready for another turkey on the table this year. I don't have to look back and think about the turkey on the table last year because I can't eat that one. The one I can eat is the one that's going to be on the table.

Some of the best things about Thanksgiving for me are, of course, the turkey, but there is the pumpkin pie. Whoever came up with that idea of a pumpkin pie, I would just like to shake their hand and thank them for all the good times I had on Thanksgiving with pumpkin pie.

One of the good things about Thanksgiving is that I can eat and get away with it. If I had one piece of pumpkin pie, I would say, "Could I have another piece of pumpkin pie?" And because it's a Thanksgiving dinner, nobody can say no, not even The Gracious Mistress of

the Parsonage.

When I asked that question, she looked at me with one of "her looks" and carefully shook her head in the negative position, but that's about all she could do. That's the one thing I love about Thanksgiving. I can get away with it.

I can't think of anything around the Thanksgiving table that I don't like. The food is magnificent. And the pies are just wonderful.

My goal around the table is to ensure that the pumpkin pie vanishes without The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage knowing it's happening.

While eating the first bite of my first pumpkin pie, I will lift my fork in the air and say, "I want to thank The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage for such a wonderful menu today." Everybody around the table will

shout, "Yes." And that solves a lot of my difficulties on Thanksgiving. Pass on the pumpkin pie.

As I was thinking about Thanksgiving, I couldn't help but think of Colossians 3:17: "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."

A thankful heart is a heart that pleases God. I want to please God every day no matter what it costs me. The best way to thank God is to be thankful for all my family and friends. Some of those may not be here next Thanksgiving.

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

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Obituaries

DEATH NOTICES

• **Daniel Mac-Ray Lamarche Sr.**, 48, of Crawfordville, died Nov. 26, 2024.

• **Richard Stanley Zadrozny**, 83, of Crawfordville, died Nov. 24, 2024.

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

Senators start filing bills for 2025 session

By **JIM TURNER**
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE – State senators are off to a quick start filing bills as they gear up for the 2025 legislative session, which begins March 4.

Senate President Ben Albritton, R-Wauchula, and House Speaker Daniel Perez, R-Miami, officially took over as leaders of their respective chambers for the next two years during an organizational session last week.

House and Senate committees will meet in parts of December, January and February to start sifting through proposals in the lead-up to the 60-day session.

Bills filed so far for consideration during the 2025 session include:

— A measure (SB 48) aimed at closing loop-

holes used in condo foreclosure auctions.

— A proposal (SB 58) that would amend boating laws and add the death of an “unborn child” to the definition “vessel homicide” through reckless boat operations that cause injury to the mother.

— A bill (SB 46) that would establish a list of programs and degrees a nonpublic, religious postsecondary educational institution may offer to be exempt from state licensure.

— A proposal (SB 56) seeking to prohibit the injection, release, or dispersion of chemicals or an apparatus into the atmosphere “for the express purpose of affecting the temperature, the weather, or the intensity of sunlight.”

The measures filed in the past week by Sens.

Ileana Garcia, R-Miami, Ana Maria Rodriguez, R-Doral, and Jonathan Martin, R-Fort Myers, aren’t the first bills that were filed for the upcoming session that begins March 4.

In August, senators were able to start filing bills that seek payments for people who suffered injuries and damages because of actions of state and local government agencies.

The proposals, known as “claim” bills, are needed, at least in part, because of a state sovereign-immunity law that generally limits the amounts of money government agencies can be forced to pay in lawsuits to \$200,000 or \$300,000, depending on how many people are involved. Claim bills allow payments that are higher than the limits.

State lawmakers filed 1,902 bills, memorials or resolutions — including duplicate proposals filed by the House and Senate — for the 2024 legislative session, which ended in March. Gov. Ron DeSantis signed 299 of the measures into law and vetoed 14 bills. The bill totals don’t include thousands of funding requests legislators put forward for local projects, services and organizations.

Unlike their Senate counterparts, state representatives are limited to filing seven stand-alone bills.

Perez earlier this month revamped the House bill-filing process, saying House members “seemed to have been under the mistaken impression that their bills would automatically appear on a committee

session” over the past two years.

“Going forward, if you wish a chair to consider hearing your bill, you will be required to ask the chair in writing to place your bill on the agenda. Your request must also include information on your anticipated Senate companion bill. Please note that while sending a letter will be a procedural prerequisite to a bill being placed on an agenda, it will not be, by itself, sufficient. Members will be expected to work their bills and fully engage not only with the chairs but with the members of the committee,” Perez wrote in a Nov. 13 memo.

Perez also created a new process for bills to be analyzed by staff members, which he said is aimed at improving “readability, usefulness,

and interactivity.”

The revised procedure “will present new challenges for our staff both in adapting our current practices and in integrating the new technological features into their work,” Perez wrote in a Nov. 15 memo to members. “But we believe the outcome will be worth it. We hope this new bill analysis will enhance our understanding of issues and better prepare us to make the decisions that the people of Florida have elected us to make.”

Editor’s Note: There was no Weekly Round-up of state news this week because of the Thanksgiving holiday. That feature will return next week.

Capital City Bank donates \$5,000 to local groups

Special to The Sun

During the 2024 grant cycle, the Capital City Bank Group (CCBG) Foundation reinvested \$5,000 into the Wakulla County community, awarding grants to Florida Wild Mammal Association, Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratories, Panacea Waterfronts Florida Partnership and Paws of Wakulla.

The donations provided by the CCBG Foundation help nonprofits carry on the mission of the Foundation to enhance the quality of life for countless local citizens in the areas where we do business.

“Enriching the quality of life in the communities we serve is the primary



Capital City Bank’s Amy Geiger presents a check to Gulf Specimen Marine Lab’s Cypress and Jack Rudloe.

mission of the Capital City Bank Group Foundation and a calling our bankers are proud to share,” said Amy Geiger, Capital City Bank president of Wakulla County. “Whether by way of dollars pledged annually by the Capital City Bank Group Foundation or through the individual efforts of our associates to donate their time and talents, Capital City Bankers are deeply invested in making a meaningful difference in the places we call home.”

The CCBG Foundation – a nonprofit organization created in 1983 by Capital City Bank Group, Inc. – is designed to build strong communities by enhancing the

quality of life in communities where Capital City does business. The Foundation provides grants to nonprofits, charitable organizations and institutions exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The mission of the CCBG Foundation is to invest in initiatives that benefit local communities. Most of the funds are distributed to specific areas of focus, includ-

ing: arts/culture, children/youth services, economic/community development, education, health/sciences and human services.

For a complete list of the 2024 approved grants, please go to www.ccbg.com/ccbg-foundation.org. To learn more about the Capital City Bank Group Foundation, visit www.ccbg-foundation.org.

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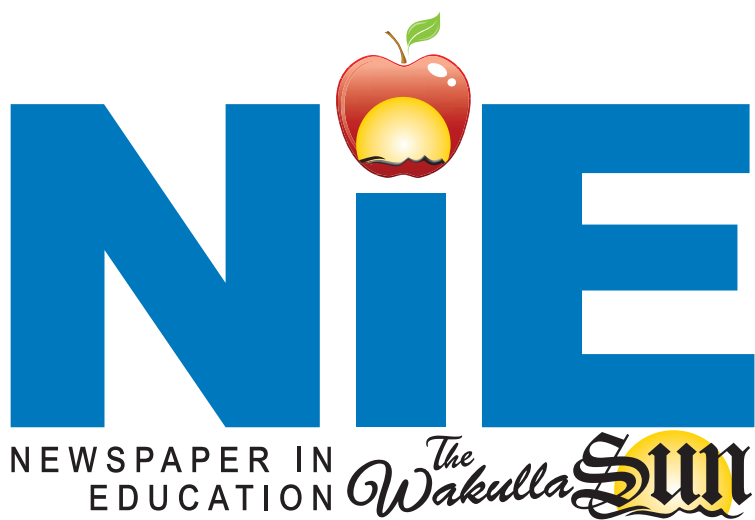
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USE THE NEWS

1. TACKLING THE GREAT LOOP

Peter Frank, a 23-year-old adventurer, is paddling a 6,000-mile journey called the Great Loop in a canoe. He started in Michigan in June and has reached Maryland, but he still has a long way to go. The Great Loop is a water route that includes rivers, lakes, and coastlines in the U.S. and Canada. Peter's trip is his way of celebrating life after surviving a serious car accident when he was younger. He uses a blog to share his journey and raise money for food, like rotisserie chicken, through donations. Along the way, he camps outdoors, makes his own clothes, and carries gadgets to stay connected. He's even writing about his adventures to help other travelers. Peter says the journey isn't easy. He paddles up to 10 hours a day and carries all his supplies in his canoe. But he loves exploring and sees this trip as a way to give thanks for being alive. He hopes to finish the loop by next November before winter freezes the lakes. For Peter, this adventure is about more than travel – it's about discovering who he is and enjoying the simple things in life. Using resources in your classroom, look up a section of the Great Loop route, like rivers, lakes, and other landmarks. Write a summary of what you found in at least 5 sentences.

2. A BIG WIN FOR PUGS

A pug named Vito made history by becoming the first pug to win Best in Show at the National Dog Show! The 2-year-old dog beat nearly 2,000 other dogs from over 200 breeds during the competition, which aired on Thanksgiving after the Macy's Parade. Vito, described by judges as "everything a pug should be," impressed everyone with his adorable looks, great movement, and confident attitude. His handler, Michael Scott, said Vito seemed to know he was a winner. Vito's owner, Carolyn Koch from North Carolina, was thrilled to win a cash prize and bragging rights. Before winning Best in Show, Vito won the toy group, which includes small but super-charismatic dogs. Vito has also won other big prizes,

like Best of Breed at the Westminster Dog Show earlier this year. Vito wasn't the only superstar. The second-place winner was a Welsh terrier named Verde, and the finalists included other amazing dogs like a giant schnauzer and a Lhasa Apso. The National Dog Show has been around since 1879 and has aired on TV since 2002, bringing millions of viewers a closer look at some of the world's most amazing dogs. If you were judging a dog show, what qualities would you look for? Write down as many as you can think of that are important for a dog to have. Then, share your answers with your classmates and see what different ideas you all came up with.

3. MAP IT

Alice Hudson, a librarian who loved maps, helped the New York Public Library build one of the

world's biggest map collections. She passed away at 77. Alice started working with maps in the 1970s and became the head of the library's map division in 1981. Under her leadership, the collection grew to over 400,000 maps and 24,000 atlases. Alice believed maps weren't just for finding places – they told stories about history, geography, and culture. She made the collection easier to use, helped uncover historic African American sites in New York, and even worked to digitize maps for the future. She faced challenges, like when rare maps were stolen from the library, but her passion for maps never faded. Alice also taught map librarianship and inspired students with her work. Her efforts won her awards and respect in her field. Her motto? "Without geography, you're nowhere." Alice's love for maps made history easier to see and un-

derstand for everyone. Think about maps you've used in classroom lessons. What can a map tell you other than the geographic location of a place? Write a list of different things you can learn from a map, then draw your own map of something familiar to you, like your school, your house, or your town.

4. FOLLOWING THE FOOTSTEPS

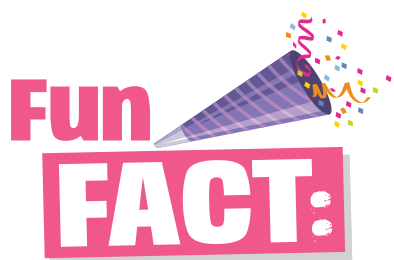
Scientists have discovered ancient footprints in Kenya that show two different human ancestors lived near each other about 1.5 million years ago. These footprints were left by two species: Homo erectus and Paranthropus boisei. The prints were found near Lake Turkana and suggest that these two species may have seen each other and even interacted. The footprints are important because they were left at the same time, which gives scientists a clear picture of when these species existed together. The

footprints show that Homo erectus walked like modern humans, while Paranthropus boisei walked differently, with a more mobile big toe. This discovery helps scientists understand how early humans evolved to walk on two feet, showing there were different ways this might have happened over time. Imagine you are a scientist who just discovered these ancient footprints. Draw your own version of what the footprints might have looked like, based on what you've learned about the two species. Then, write a paragraph of 3-5 sentences explaining your drawing and the similarities and differences you're showing.

5. MOTORCYCLE MARY

Mary McGee, a pioneering female racer, passed away at 87, just a day before the release of a documentary about her life called Motorcycle Mary. McGee was a trailblazer in both auto and motor-

cycle racing. In 1975, she became the first person, man or woman, to complete the tough Baja 500 race in Mexico by herself. Her achievements in motorsports inspired many, especially women, and she was known for her kindness and mentorship. McGee made history by being the first woman to race motorcycles in the U.S. and the first to get major sponsorships. She was also inducted into the AMA Motorcycle Hall of Fame in 2018. The documentary about her, produced by famous racer Lewis Hamilton, was shown at the Tribeca Festival and released on ESPN's YouTube channel. McGee's legacy as a racing pioneer will continue to inspire future generations. Mary McGee was known for mentoring younger racers. Write at least 5 sentences about why you think mentorship is important, especially in fields where people might face obstacles or feel like outsiders.



This popular party decoration was created in 1824 by Michael Faraday during experiments with various gases.

Answer: Balloon



English: Surprise
Spanish: Sorprender
Italian: Sorprendere
French: Surprendre
German: Jmdn eiskalt erwischen

Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-20. The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right. The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

2	14		24
	5		22
6		15	22
18	20	30	

15	1	6
7	5	10
8	14	2

Solution

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

H R T W O A R Y A T P

Answer: Throw a party

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

DECEMBER

6

1492: After exploring Cuba for gold, Christopher Columbus lands on an island he names Hispaniola.

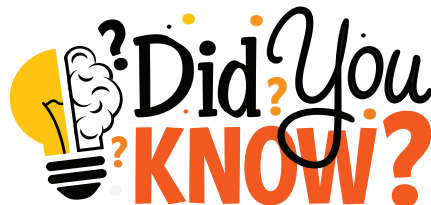
1790: The U.S. Congress moves from New York City to Philadelphia.

2006: NASA reveals photos that suggest liquid water is present on Mars.

NEW WORD

BASH

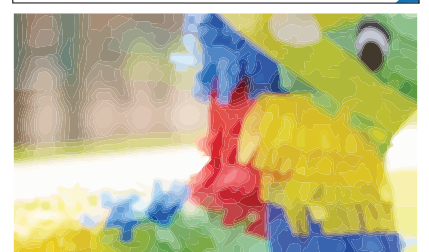
a party or social event



In 1796, Amelia Simmons invented the cupcake and also wrote the first published American cookbook. Cupcakes have been a staple of many celebrations ever since.



Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Pinata

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA - PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF KYLA LOVE PARKER, DECEASED

PROBATE DEVISION
File No. 2024-167CP

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The Administration of the estate of Kyla Love Parker, deceased, whose date of death was August 20, 2024, is pending in the Circuit Court for Wakulla County, Florida, Probate Division, the mailing address of which is Greg James, Clerk of Court, Attention: Probate Division, 3056 Crawfordville Hwy, Crawfordville, Florida 32327. The estate is intestate. The names and addresses of the co-personal representatives and personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

Any interested person on whom a copy of the notice of administration is served must object to the validity of the will (or any codicil), qualifications of the personal representative, venue, or jurisdiction of the court, by filing a petition or other pleading requesting relief in accordance with the Florida Probate Rules, WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THE NOTICE ON THE OBJECTING PERSON, OR THOSE OBJECTIONS ARE FOREVER BARRED.

Any person entitled to exempt property is required to file a petition for determination of exempt property WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW OR THE RIGHT TO EXEMPT PROPERTY IS DEEMED WAIVED. Any person entitled to elective share is required to file an election to take elective share WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW.

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

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

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

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

The date of first publication of this notice is December 5, 2024.

Attorneys for Co-Personal Representatives: Co-Personal Representatives:

FUQUA & MILTON, P.A.
By: **s/ A. Clay Milton**
A. CLAY MILTON
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cmilton@fmc.legal
H. MATTHEW FUQUA
Florida Bar No. 0451101
mfuqua@fmc.legal
4450 Lafayette Street (32446)
Post Office Box 1508
Marianna, Florida 32447
Telephone: (850) 526-2263

s/ Amy Parker
AMY PARKER,
102 Eagles Ridge Drive
Crawfordville, Florida 32327

s/ Kyle Parker
KYLE PARKER
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WRESTLING

Lady War Eagles at Flagler

By **WALT JACOBS**
Correspondent

The Wakulla High School Lady War Eagles wrestling team opened their season at the Annual Flagler Rotary Girls Invitational in Palm Coast. The prestigious tournament featured an abundance of top ranked wrestlers and is widely considered to be one the toughest tournaments in the state of Florida.

One could hardly imagine a tougher opponent than the one Emma Riggs had in her very first varsity match. She faced the returning state champ Joslyn Johnson of Flagler Palm Coast who, going into the match, was ranked No. 2 in the state and No. 5 in the nation at 105. Johnson pinned Riggs in the first period. Undeterred by the setback, Riggs rebounded in round 1 of the consolation bracket by pinning Bailee Bucich of University High in 48 seconds. In round 2, Riggs faced Juliana Mills of Flagler Palm Coast. Riggs wrestled tough before falling late in the first period.

At 135 lbs., 11th ranked sophomore Julia Baggett faced No. 16 Alondra Santana-Perez of Hernando. Baggett dominated the contest and led 10-5 going into the third and final period, but an untimely lat drop attempt went awry and resulted in Santana-Perez securing the pinfall. Baggett bounced back bravely in her next bout with a pin over St. Augustine's

PHOTO OF THE WEEK
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Dalilah Schmidt midway through the second period. In her next match, she continued her winning ways with yet another pin over #23 Malia Rezac of Sunlake. In the consolation semifinals, Baggett faced off with No. 23 (in 130) Ceajah Brown of Freedom. Julia gave a valiant effort but Brown prevailed with a 15-0 tech fall.

Highly touted freshman Kendal Haynie's varsity debut pitted her against Mariah Mills from Flagler Palm Coast. Mills, a senior, is ranked No. 1 in Florida and No. 18 nationally. Halfway through the first period, with Mills up 6-1, Haynie frightened the Flagler faithful when she put the hometown hero on her back. Haynie ended up losing the match 16-6, but she rebounded fiercely in the consolation bracket. In dominant fashion, she proceeded to pin Freedom's Angelica Gonza-

lez-Nunez in 20 seconds, No. 21 Natalie Sanchez of Winter Springs in 55 seconds and Toni Silcox of Middleburg in 1:21. In the consolation semifinals, Haynie majored No. 4 Julia Brocato of Sunlake 12-0. Subsequently, Haynie pinned No. 19 Yhoalibeth Ruiz of Freedom in 2:48 to secure third place in the 110 pound bracket. Haynie's performance moved her up in the rankings to No. 5 in the state. When asked to sum up her first varsity tournament experience, Kendal replied "(It was) so much fun! It wasn't just going to the tournament that was fun, but the people I saw and the girls that I have never wrestled before was a brand new experience for me. I can't wait for the next tournament and many more to come!"

On the team's performance, Coach Benny Litowsky said, "The la-

dies wrestled well. We had Emma Riggs grab a win in her first ever high school tournament. Julia Baggett fought back after a tough loss in the opening round, (and) wrestled a terrific tournament. Kendal Haynie, our freshman phenom, wrestled a hard fought match against the No. 1 ranked girl, a returning state champ. She was in the match the whole time, just missing the mark as time expired. She then went on a tear, with 4 pins and a major decision on her way back to a true third place finish at this premier tournament."

Next the Lady War Eagles will compete in the Let Freedom Ring Girls IBT in Orlando on Dec. 7th. The boy's varsity wrestling team will open their season at home against Middleburg on Thursday Dec. 5th. The preliminaries will begin at 6:30 and the dual will start at 7 p.m.

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WRESTLER of the WEEK



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WEEK



KENDALL HAYNIE

Kendall was 5-1 at Flagler (4 pins and a Major decision). "Her tenacity and grit, wrestling back after a first round loss, proves her mettle, and we are excited to see where she will go in the weeks to come!" said Coach Benny Litowsky.

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