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## Lewis McCartha

He is committed to making an impact on the community through volunteering

By **LINDA ANN McDONALD**  
 Correspondent

Unpaid volunteers are often the glue that holds a community together. Volunteering allows you to connect to your community and make it a better place. Even helping with the smallest tasks can make a real difference to the lives of people, animals, and organizations in need. The best-known impact of volunteering is the impact on the community.

Lewis McCartha is not just a volunteer in the community of Wakulla County, he is a volunteer with an agenda, a motive, a strong personal desire to make a difference in the lives of the residents of Wakulla County, especially the children.

"In 2014, I got involved in Cub Scouts Pack 5, Crawfordville for



Lewis McCartha

Turn to Page 7

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# Roth IRA for kids



By **BRIAN ENGLISH**

Small business owners may find it challenging to find ways to provide additional benefits to their children who work for the company.

One often overlooked choice is including a Roth individual retirement account (IRA) as part of their compensation, a strategy that offers the potential to benefit both the children and the business.

Small businesses play a significant role in labor markets. They employ 61.7 million Americans, 46.4 percent of all private-sector employees.

Over the period from 1995 to the present, small businesses have been responsible for generating 17.3 million net new jobs, which accounts for an impressive 62.7 percent of all jobs created since 1995.<sup>1</sup>

## THE BASICS OF A ROTH IRA

A Roth IRA is a tax-advantaged investment account that allows individuals to contribute after-tax income.

Unlike in traditional IRAs, contributions to a Roth IRA are not tax deductible, as their advantage lies in the tax-free growth potential and tax-free withdrawals in retirement.

Roth IRA contributions are phased out for taxpayers with adjusted gross incomes (AGIs) above a certain amount.

To qualify for the tax-free and penalty-free withdrawal of earnings, Roth IRA

distributions must meet a five-year holding requirement and occur after age 59½.

Tax-free and penalty-free withdrawals can also be taken under certain other circumstances, such as the owner's death.

The original Roth IRA owner is not required to take minimum annual withdrawals.

## UTILIZING A ROTH IRA FOR COMPENSATION

To contribute to a Roth IRA, the working family member must have earned income.

This requirement creates a unique opportunity for small business owners to include their children as employees and compensate them accordingly.

In this scenario, the fact that the child is likely in a very low tax bracket is an advantage, meaning that a smaller percentage is paid up front.

## BUILDING A FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

Not everyone knows that Roth IRA funds can be used for various purposes before the age of 59½, such as purchasing a first home, covering educational expenses, and even paying medical costs.

Consistent contributions from a young age can accumulate into a substantial account. Imagine that a child starts working at 8 and continues until 16, and the small business contributes to a Roth IRA.

Upon reaching adulthood, the child could have a sizable sum saved for milestones such as purchasing a house or funding a college education.

## SEEDING FINANCIAL SUCCESS

Although the ini-

tial contributions may seem small, the long-term benefits of including a Roth IRA in a child's compensation package are significant.

It not only establishes a solid financial foundation but also instills valuable lessons about saving, investing, and preparing for the future.

By involving a financial professional, parents can ensure that their children receive guidance as they transition into adulthood.

## PREPARING FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Managing money for the next generation has gained considerable attention in recent years. As businesses and families prepare their financial legacies, strategies such as including a Roth IRA in compensation packages are becoming increasingly popular.

By working with a financial professional, families can navigate the complexities of wealth management. If you own a small business, including a Roth IRA in your children's compensation package could be a game-changer. With the potential for tax-free growth and a range of permitted uses, this strategy can provide numerous benefits and potentially greater financial success.

1. Advocacy.sba.gov, March 7, 2023

**Brian can be reached at (850) 926-7487.**

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# The Old Pro: We've got to step up



By **AL HARTMAN**  
The Old Pro

Hello and hope you had a Happy Valentines Day!

Most of the hunting seasons have closed for this year and the fishing is getting a little better, weather permitting.

But there is something we really need to look into. We have a problem in the State of Florida: We have a large population of a bunch of invasive species from mammals to

reptiles. From the largest snakes in the world to the largest rodent in the world, the Capybara.

We even have cobras sneaking around in south Florida.

But two of the invasive critters are causing big problems. One is the feral hogs. Farm Journal has listed Florida as the third largest population in the U.S. behind Texas and Georgia. They are causing widespread damage to acres of crops and land mass. They are destroying farmers crops and U.S. land mass to the price of \$3.6 billion a year.

A small group of hogs can wipe out an acre of crops over night.

They also tear up residential yards, state and recreational parks. They can be hunt-



A coyote.

ed year round, day or night, on private property – with permission of course.

Some Florida state game management areas have special feral pig seasons too!

As hunters we can

help that problem by reducing their numbers. Some trappers set for them all year long. It's a great way for filling the freezer or donating to charities to feed the hungry.

Problem number two

is the coyotes. Have you noticed the turkey population has dwindled? I saw a publication by the state Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission last week that they have seen a decrease in turkeys statewide. Where I live there are virtually no turkeys left. I haven't seen or heard one here in the past couple of years.

The big killers of turkeys statewide are coyotes and raccoons. Given the opportunity, they both will kill turkeys, but they can wipe out a whole population eating the eggs in the nesting season which is not to far off. We hunters can help reduce the loss of eggs and hatched chick kills. They also can be hunted day and night year round on private

lands.

Coyotes also kill dogs, cats, chickens, deer and farmer's young livestock. That's why you see donkeys roaming the fields with cattle. Donkeys will chase and even kill coyotes.

So if we hunters spend a little of our spare time hunting these killers, we help ourselves, farmers, livestock and wildlife.

Let's get out there!

I want to thank all of you who invited me to hunt with you this year. I've been writing and informing you for over 45 years.

Happy Hunting and Fishing, and take a young'un.

*Al Hartman can be contacted at redmanldpg@aol.com.*



The Sun Monthly Neighbor is published monthly by The Wakulla Sun at 12 Arran Road, Crawfordville FL 32327. Periodicals postage paid at 12 Arran Rd., Crawfordville FL 32326-2017.

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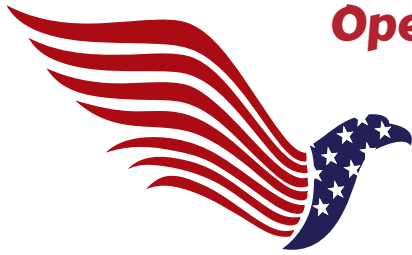
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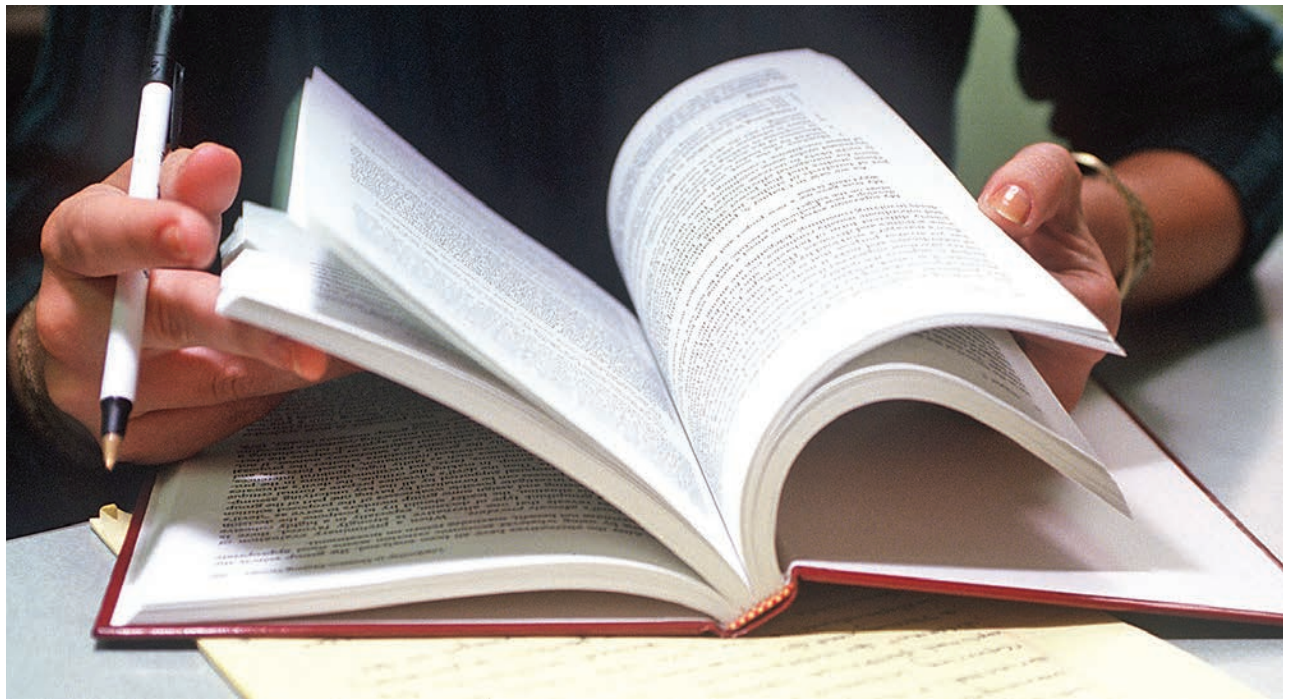


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If you were enrolled in higher education or skill development courses over the last year, you may be eligible to receive the Lifetime Learning Credit.

# The Lifetime Learning Credit



By **SAMANTHA KENNEDY**  
 Extension Director

It's that time again...tax time! As we all prepare our returns for the current tax season, we may be looking for credits that can help us possibly reduce our tax liability.

The Lifetime Learning Credit is a tax credit offered by the United States federal government to help taxpayers offset the costs associated with higher education and certain skill development courses.

Unlike some other education tax credits, the Lifetime Learning Credit is available for an unlimited number of years and is not restricted to undergraduate students. It is intended to support individuals

pursuing post-secondary education, including graduate and professional degree programs, as well as courses to acquire or improve job skills.

Some of the key features of the Lifetime Learning Credit include:

**Credit amount.**

The Lifetime Learning Credit allows eligible taxpayers to claim a tax credit of up to \$2,000 per tax return. The credit amount is calculated as 20% of the first \$10,000 of qualified education expenses paid for all eligible students.

**Eligible expenses.** Qualified education expenses for the Lifetime Learning Credit include tuition, fees, and required course materials that are necessary for enrollment or attendance at an eligible educational institution. However, expenses for room and board, transportation, and non-essential supplies are generally not eligible for the credit.

**Income limits.**

The Lifetime Learning Credit begins to phase out for taxpayers with modified adjusted gross incomes (MAGI) above certain thresholds. For the current tax year, the phase-out range starts at \$80,000-\$90,000 for single filers and \$160,000-\$180,000 combined income for joint returns. Taxpayers with MAGI exceeding these thresholds may still be eligible for a reduced credit amount, depending on their specific circumstances.

**Non-refundable credit.**

It is important to note that the Lifetime Learning Credit is a non-refundable credit, meaning it can only be used to offset federal income tax liabilities. If the amount of the credit exceeds the taxpayer's tax liability, the excess credit cannot be refunded.

**Documentation and recordkeeping.**

Taxpayers claiming the Lifetime Learning Credit must maintain accurate records and docu-

mentation of their qualified education expenses, including receipts, invoices, and statements from the educational institution. Providing adequate documentation is essential to support the claim in case of an audit by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

Overall, the Lifetime Learning Credit provides valuable financial assistance to individuals pursuing higher education and skill development opportunities. By offsetting a portion of the expenses associated with post-secondary education, the credit helps make education more accessible and affordable for taxpayers across diverse backgrounds and life stages.

For more information about this and other available tax credits, please contact Samantha Kennedy, County Extension Director, at 850.926.3931.



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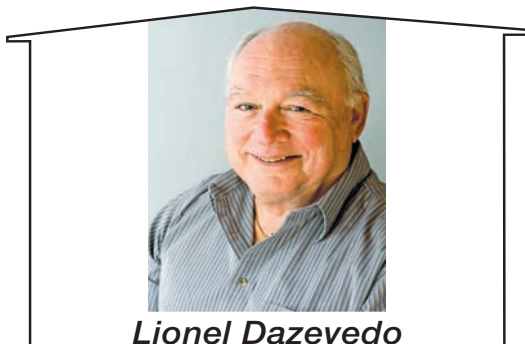
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# Who are you in real life?



By GREG GAST

Who am I?  
Self-concept is the basis that holds all the pieces of our personality together. It is the image we have of ourselves. It has been influenced by many forces, including our interactions with

important people in our lives. It is how we perceive our behaviors, abilities, and unique characteristics. Examples would be are you extroverted or introverted, your roles in life, such as a parent, sibling, friend, or partner. Your passions, hobbies, political parties, or sports are aspects of your personality. How you feel about your interactions with the world. Your self-concept is important because it affects your motivations, attitudes,

and behaviors. It affects how you about he person we think we are, whether we are competent or have self-worth. It is who you are if you were exactly as you wanted to be. Self-image refers to how you see yourself in this moment in time. Physical characteristics, personality traits, and social roles are all part of this. Self-esteem is about how much you like, accept, and value yourself. All of these contribute to your self-concept. It is affected by

several factors including how others see you, how you think you compare to others, and your role in society. Unfortunately, self-concept is not always aligned with reality. When it is it is said to be congruent. If there is a mismatch between how you see yourself (your self-image) and who you wish you were (your ideal self), your self-concept is incongruent. This incongruence can negatively affect self-esteem. Self-concept is often developed

through the stories we hear. The media, both mass media and social media play a role in self-concept development as well. Self-concept is not static, it can change. Our environment, people we interact with, even a medical diagnosis can change our self-concepts. Our self-concept impacts on how we respond to life. A well-developed self-concept helps us respond in ways that are more positive and beneficial for us. It does this by enabling us to

recognize our worth and keeps us from internalizing negative feedback from others. Let me know what you think...  
*Send your questions to Real Life Counseling, 3295 Crawfordville Hwy., suite #4, Crawfordville FL 32327 in care of Gregory E. Gast, MS, LMHC, NCC. Your name will be changed and the answer to your question will appear in an upcoming issue of The Wakulla Sun Monthly.*

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# Lewis McCartha

## From Front Page

5 years and I was Den Leader for 3 years, I am a strong believer in community involvement and I want to make a difference in the county and I wanted to do it along side my kids," he says.

"I want my kids to be productive and to be a valued member of the community, through volunteering I can teach my kids the importance of community involvement, be the role model they need to see and I can be the same role model for other kids in the community at the same time," McCartha says.

"I want to be the image I want to project to my children and that is to be helpful, responsible, and to have a strong work ethic."

McCartha is currently involved in Wakulla

County/UF IFAS 4H Clubs such as home economics, life value skills including leadership, cooking club, sewing club, communication club, archery and shotgun marksmanship, chicken chain and community service project clubs.

"I wanted to provide children with more programs," he says. "Too many kids are running around without supervision because parents are working, they are left alone and to their own decisions; being active in the 4H clubs will teach kids to be self-supporting, self-sufficient and financially independent."

"I wish to see more frequent meetings with the 4H kids, we need more volunteers to make this happen."

Volunteering promotes community engagement. By actively

participating in volunteer activities, individuals become more connected to their communities.

"I am always wanting to do something bigger, so everyone sees me actively volunteering... but no one hears me; so the more I am present and active in the community, the louder my voice is heard," McCartha says.

"You can't say you want change in your community and not be a part of it!"

The Wakulla County Senior Citizens Dash into the '50s Senior Prom was a 4H service project hosted by McCartha and Co-Adult leader Amanda Gruebel held on St. Valentine's Day at the Wakulla County Senior Center.

"So much time and planning has been invested by these kids for this event, 16 weeks of meeting lasting an hour to 3 hours, hundreds of hours have gone

into this, the kids have proven their dedication and paid their due diligence, they gave up their nights and weekends to make this event happen for the seniors," he says. "We worked Wakulla's Small Business Saturdays to raise funds and we raised a little over \$2,100. We wanted to raise \$3,500, so instead we cut corners and scaled back some; we saw the com-

munity come out and help and we really appreciated it."

Volunteering is a powerful force that can transform communities and create positive change.

McCartha indicated he also has plans to run for local political office in the future.

McCartha moved to Wakulla County from Vero Beach in 2007 and has a son Cayle Rogers

and a daughter Vanessa Elderkin, both whom are 16 years old.

Currently, Cayle is a Wakulla Fire Cadet and part of the Sheriff's Explorer group and Vanessa is County President and District President for 4H and was active in ROTC in high school. McCartha is a volunteer parent with ROTC for his second year as well.

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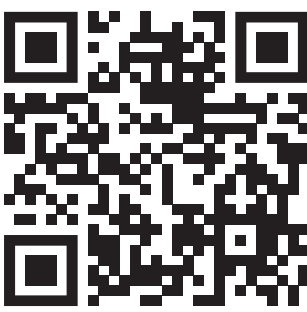
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## On the Horizon:

### The calendar of events for March

#### Friday, March 1

- Palaver Tree Theater is hosting Johanna Imhoff with Jashan Nagpal at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 online or \$15 at the door.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and 8 p.m. every Friday at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonees St.

#### Saturday, March 2

- The Apalachicola National Forest Cleanup will be held from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Hudson Park.
- The Battle of Natural Bridge Anniversary and Reenactment will be held at Natural Bridge Battlefield Historic State Park from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., with a skirmish on the battlefield at 3 p.m.
- The Panacea Community Garden Farmer's Market will be held from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in Panacea.
- Palaver Tree Theater hosts Folk n' Blues with Hot Tamale at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 online or \$15 at the door.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. every Saturday at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.
- The Wakulla Caregiver Support Group will meet at the Wakulla County Public Library at 10 a.m. every Saturday.

#### Sunday, March 3

- The Battle of Natural Bridge Anniversary and Reenactment will be held at Natural Bridge Battlefield Historic State Park from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with the battle reenactment taking place at 2:30 p.m.

#### Monday, March 4

- The Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners meets at 5 p.m. in the commission chambers.
- The Wakulla Respite Program is available for anyone with memory impairment at no cost from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lake Ellen Baptist Church every Monday.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. every Monday at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.
- Restorative yoga at 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. with Zoe, every Monday at New Posh, 3079 Crawfordville Hwy. RSVP to newposh3079@gmail.com or text/call at (850) 528-5838.

#### Tuesday, March 5

- 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 the

#### American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

- Flow Yoga at 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. with Nellie, every Tuesday at New Posh, 3079 Crawfordville Hwy. RSVP to newposh3079@gmail.com or text/call at (850) 528-5838.

#### Wednesday, March 6

- 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@flhealth.gov for more information.
- The Wakulla County Audit Committee is holding a public meeting at the County Commissioners Administrative Conference Room at 9 a.m.
- A line dance class is held at 1 p.m. at the Wakulla Senior Center every Wednesday.
- Wakulla County Coalition for Youth meets at 12:30 p.m. at the health department.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday at the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.
- Gentle Yoga and Stretching Class, every Wednesday, 11 a.m. Wakulla Community Center. Bring a mat. Come early to sign in. Chair Yoga participants welcome. \$2 per class.

#### Thursday, March 7

- A public information meeting on the Songbird intersection improvements will be held at the Wakulla Community Center starting at 6:30 p.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.
- The Rotary Club of Wakulla County meets at the TCC Wakulla Center at 8:30 a.m. every Thursday.
- Yin Yoga at 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. with Zoe 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 the American Legion, 54 Ochlockonee St.

#### Friday, March 8

- Palaver Tree Theater hosts Womanly Genius, featuring music and art celebrating National Women's Day, at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 online or \$15 at the door.

#### Saturday, March 9

- Wakulla Wonderful, a celebration of Wakulla's 181st birthday, will be held at the

#### Wakulla County Courthouse from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- The Sopchoppy community market will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Depot Park.

#### Monday, March 11

- The Sopchoppy City Commission meets at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.
- The Wakulla County School Board meets in the school administration building at 5:45 p.m.
- Crawfordville Woman's Club monthly meeting is the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at 64 Ochlockonee St., in Crawfordville. Call (850)566-5727 for more information.

#### Thursday, March 14

- St. Marks City Commission meets at the St. Marks City Hall at 6 p.m.
- The Wakulla County Cancer Support Group meets in the Education Center of the Crawfordville United Methodist Church at 7 p.m. This group meeting is for men and women, regardless of the type of cancer. Spouses, caregivers, and friends are welcome. For more information, call 850-926-6050.

#### Saturday, March 16

- The annual St. Patrick's Day

Parade & Festival will be held at 10 a.m. in Crawfordville, with festivities in Hudson Park afterward.

- Palaver Tree Theater hosts the Pine Tree Church Music Fest from 2 to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$10 online or \$15 at the door.

#### Monday, March 18

- The American Legion Post 114 will be meeting at the Wakulla County Public Library at 6:30 p.m.
- The Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners meets at 5 p.m. in the commission chambers.

#### Saturday, March 23

- Small Business Saturday of Wakulla will be in Hudson Park from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., with an Easter Egg Hunt from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- St. Marks hosts a community market every fourth Saturday of the month at 815 Leon Port Drive from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

#### Saturday, March 30

- The Panacea Beer and Oyster Festival will be held in Wooley Park from 12 to 4 p.m.

#### Sunday, March 31

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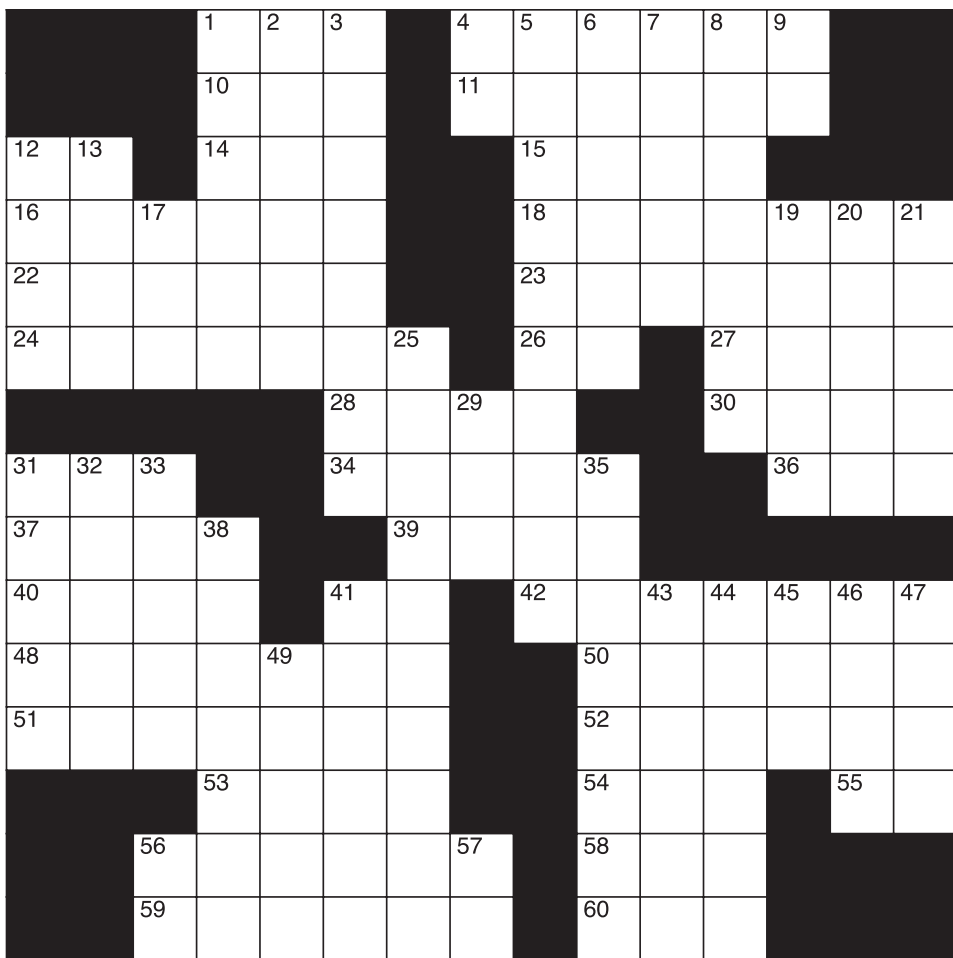


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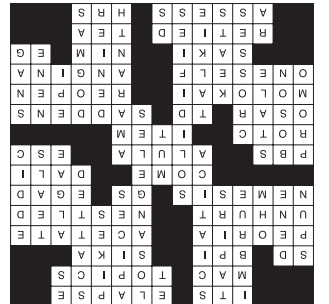
## CLUES

### ACROSS

- 1. Belonging to a thing
- 4. Pass or go by
- 10. Partner to cheese
- 11. Subjects
- 12. U.S. State (abbr.)
- 14. Bits per inch
- 15. Forest-dwelling deer
- 16. Illinois city
- 18. A salt or ester of acetic acid
- 22. Wholly unharmed
- 23. Cuddled
- 24. Bane
- 26. Global investment bank (abbr.)
- 27. Oh my gosh!
- 28. Arrive
- 30. Famed Spanish artist
- 31. Home of "Frontline"
- 34. Group of quill feathers
- 36. Keyboard key
- 37. Army training group
- 39. Detail
- 40. Pole with flat blade



- 41. Football play
- 42. Makes unhappy
- 48. Island in Hawaii
- 50. Back in business
- 51. Of an individual
- 52. Painful chest condition
- 53. Tropical American monkey
- 54. Matchstick game
- 55. For instance
- 56. Even again
- 58. Popular beverage
- 59. Evaluate
- 60. Time units (abbr.)
- 2. Nocturnal hoofed animals
- 3. Back condition
- 4. Popular movie alien
- 5. City of Angels
- 6. Peaks
- 7. Infantry weapons
- 8. Left
- 9. Atomic #99
- 12. Told a good yarn
- 13. Vale
- 17. Resistance unit
- 19. Aquatic plant
- 20. Bluish greens
- 21. About some Norse poems
- 25. Reinforces
- 29. Egyptian mythological goddess
- 31. Supportive material
- 32. Subatomic particle
- 33. Expired bread
- 35. Cereal grain
- 38. Goes against
- 41. Walkie \_\_
- 43. One who does not accept
- 44. Beliefs
- 45. Indicates near
- 46. Brazilian NBA star
- 47. Grab quickly
- 49. Romantic poet
- 56. College dorm worker
- 57. Set of data



## CLUES DOWN

- 1. Stain one's hands

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- Hobbit Hogies Southside
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# Parking issues at boat ramps in the county



By **JARED MILLER**  
Wakulla Sheriff

From the Desk of Sheriff Miller:

Spring is almost here, though this year it seems that Mother Nature can't make up her mind what season it is.

With spring and warmer weather comes an opportunity to get out and enjoy some of the many outdoor activities there are in our wonderful county.

One of the more

popular activities in Wakulla enjoying our ample access to rivers and the Gulf via boating. I wanted to take some time this month to discuss an issue that comes up every year in the spring and summer around this topic and that is boat parking.

Currently there are about five popularly used county maintained public boat ramps in Wakulla, along with others maintained by the City of St. Marks, and Sopchoppy.

Specifically, the boat ramps at Lower Bridge, St. Marks, Shell Point, and Mashers Sands are some of the most popular places for people to utilize for boating during the warmer months of the year.

However with each of these particular locations, there is also limited space available for those who wish to use them. Every year parking becomes a significant problem at these areas.

Often times patrons to these boat ramps solve this issue by parking outside of the designated areas, along the roadside, or on private property.

While I certainly understand the frustration with the parking difficulties, and the desire to get your car parked and get out on the water. Parking your vehicle outside of the designated spaces puts you at risk for potential consequences.

Parking on the shoulder of the roadway is a violation of state law and may

result in a traffic citation being issued to the registered owner of the vehicle.

Likewise any vehicle that is parked, where part of the vehicle or trailer is in any way still in the roadway is a violation.

In this scenario the owner may not only be ticketed but have their vehicle towed at their expense. It's important to know that this includes designated bike paths, such as the one at Mashers Sands as well. Additionally it is not uncommon for would-be boaters who cannot find an official parking spot to pull onto a nearby seemingly unoccupied private property. Parking on private property without the permission of the property owner

may also result in the offending vehicle and trailer being towed at the owners expense.

Lastly, parking within the designated parking lots, but doing so in a way that impedes or blocks traffic to other users, may result in the offending vehicle being towed.

It should be noted that in the scenarios listed above the decision to tow or not tow a vehicle, is based on the safety of others using the roadway, owners request etc., not in an effort to punish any individual.

Over the past several years Wakulla County has dedicated quite a bit of resources into improving the boat ramps and parking areas providing better access to Wakulla County's wa-

terways. With that improvement has come an increased interest in them from both residents and nonresidents.

This is certainly a positive for our county over all, improving both quality of life for residents and helping our local economy.

However, it's important for everyone to know the rules and avoid any potential problems. If you wish to use one of our public boat ramps, be sure to arrive early and utilize a designated parking spot.

As always if there is anyway I or my staff can help you please don't hesitate to call. 850-745-7100, or call 911 for emergencies.

*Jared Miller is sheriff of Wakulla County.*

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Last week, all property owners who had an exemption in 2023, should have received an Automatic Renewal card.

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Please review and confirm that the exemption(s) are correct for 2024.  
**If nothing has changed, no action is necessary.**  
We will continue the exemption on your property.

If something has changed as of January 1, 2024, please return this card to let us know.  
**This would include the following:**

- \*Property was not your permanent residence on January 1, 2024
- \*Property was rented on January 1, 2024
- \*Owner has remarried / \*Owner is deceased

**If you are unsure whether you still qualify for the exemption, give us a call!**

**Wakulla County Tax Collectors Office**

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*Lisa Craze, CFC*  
Wakulla County Tax Collector

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# The St. Marks River towns

By Elizabeth F. Smith, published in the Magnolia Monthly in 1964

## Chapter Three

Apparently the town of St. Marks did not profit from the decline of Magnolia.

According to an article in the July 1876 issue of the Semitropical Magazine, St. Marks, in expectation of having the railroad and the resultant prosperity, laid out new streets, built some fine residences, planted fine gardens and set out shade trees to add to its attractions.

“But,” says the article, “the railroad company held the cards and St. Marks saw with dismay the iron horse dash across the river seeking cheap government land to retail in costly town lots.”

Thus “Port Leon was born with the sole advantage of being three miles nearer New York.”

We can readily believe that only getting 10 acres of land in the vicinity of the old fort, instead of the 100 acres asked for, was the chief reason the railroad company extended its line down the river.\* That it expected to build a town and profit from selling land to settlers is indicated by the following advertisement appearing in the Pensacola Gazette of December 21, 1839:

### SALE OF LOTS IN PORT LEON

On Monday, January 13, 1840, will be offered for sale, at auction, a part of the lots in Port Leon. This town is situated on Apalachie Bay, about 3 miles by the river, below St. Marks. It is handsomely located on the most elevated site on the bay, and with the exception of the ground near the bay, is beyond the influence of the highest tides.

The railroad from this point to Tallahassee, a distance of 24 miles, is now completed and in full operation. A wagon road equal in point of construction to any in the Southern country, has been constructed from Port Leon to the public road north and east of Port Leon. This road presents the nearest

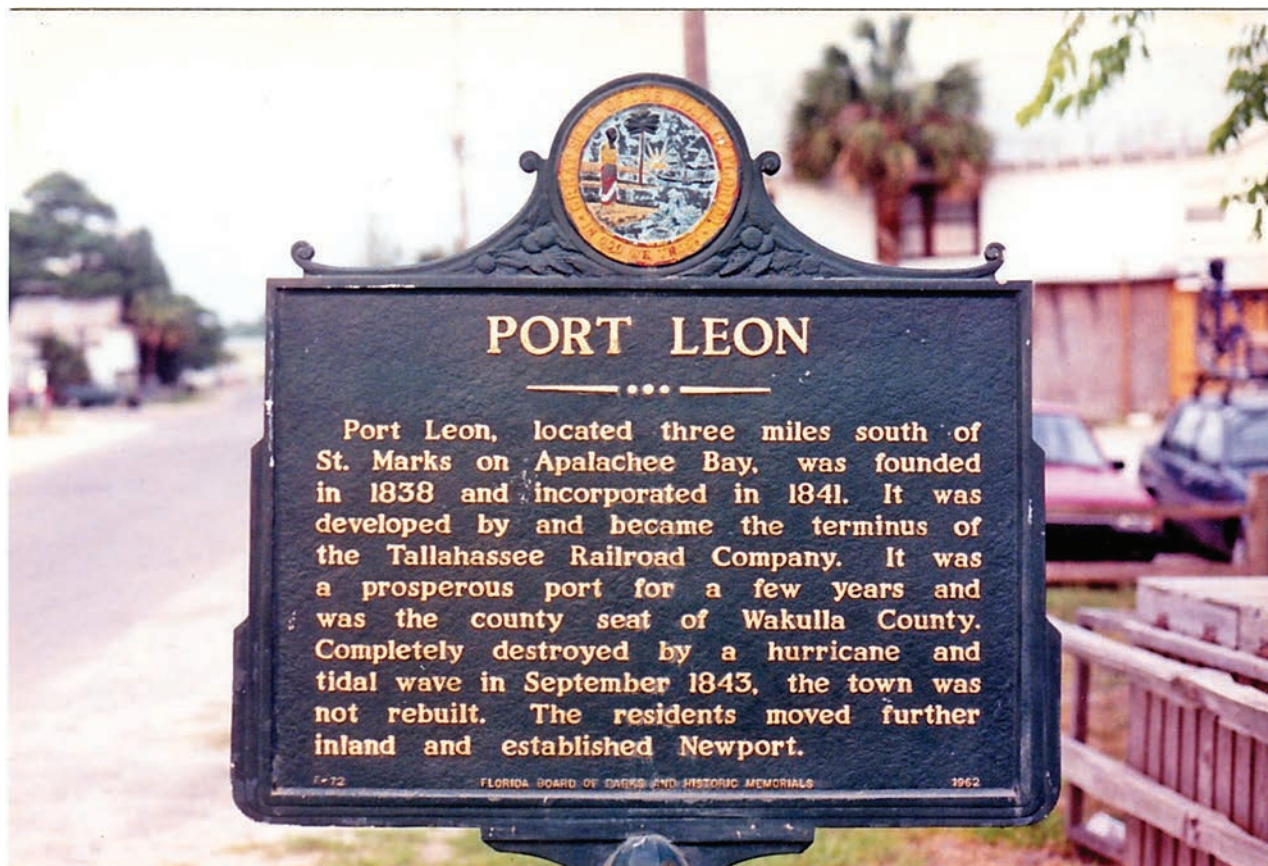


PHOTO BY TIM FILLMON/HISTORICAL MARKER DATABASE

and best route to market that now exists, to all the extensive and fertile district of country. Besides these facilities to commerce, it is proposed to engage as the state of the river will permit, one or more steamboats in running from Port Leon up the Suwannee and the streams emptying into it, both from the east and west bank as far as they are respectively navigable. Port Leon being the nearest shipping point to the Suwannee and its tributaries all the adjacent country to that river as far north as the county of Lowndes in Georgia, and as far east as the Alachua prairie on the Santa

Fe, can ship their produce and receive their supplies through this medium, at a cheaper rate and more promptness than through any other channel.

On the country lying north, east and west of Tallahassee, which is entirely dependent on this port for an outlet, it is unnecessary to say anything in commendation as it is known to be the largest and most productive body of good land in Florida, and already occupied by a wealthy and enterprising population. Several of the richest counties in South Georgia, also make this their shipping port. The great desideratum to a commercial people of

speedy communication with distant markets is secured to Port Leon, by the establishment of the Brunswick and Florida line of Steamboats and Stages to Charleston and Mobile. The land route terminating and steamboat line commencing on the Gulf of Mexico at this place. A few lots were sold in town last spring that they might be improved and be in readiness this winter for business. On all the water lots sold, spacious and permanent buildings are erected, some of which are finished, and all in rapid progress of completion.

The health of the place during the last summer has been

good, and it is believed will become the resort of the inhabitants of the interior during the summer months, as it has the full enjoyment of the sea breeze, and gives promise of exemption from the fevers of the country. (The town was nearly wiped out just a year later by a yellow fever epidemic. – Ed.) The crop of cotton in 1839 that will be shipped from this bay, will be between 30 and 40 thousand bales. The country tributary is yet in its infancy, and the constant increase of imports and exports may be safely relied on for many years to come. With these advantages, Port Leon cannot fail to

become in a short time a place of principal importance in Florida.

The advertisement was signed by T. R. Betton, secretary of the Tallahassee Railroad Company, which is sufficient proof that this corporation was the promoter of the new city where such roseate hopes were to be realized.

\*In the Tuesday, February 18, 1964 issue of The Tallahassee Democrat, a news article stated the State Cabinet released \$30,000 to Wakulla County for the purpose of buying up privately owned property around the site of Ft. St. Marks in preparation for a state historical monument. (So little have times changed, but prices have gone up.) The 1963 Florida Legislative Session voted a sum of \$100,000 towards creating the monument and an adjoining recreational park. Meanwhile, the Wakulla County Commissioners have cleared off the land and built an access road to the remains of the old Magnolia Cemetery two miles north of Newport.

**The Wakulla County Historical Society Museum is in the Old Jail at 24 High Drive in Crawfordville. Visit us online at [Wakulla-History.org](http://Wakulla-History.org).**



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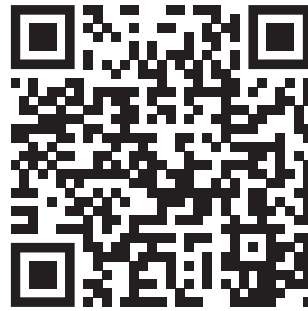
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tobe7encouraged faith column

Praying reminds Him of His Promises...

Greetings Wakulla Citizens,

Our exciting topic this month is "Prayer." Individual prayer not corporate prayer, that is for another time. Many of us think of "praying" as speaking to God as in the language our Bibles are written in. Most of us when asked to "pray" are like "huh, I don't know what to say." This is why "prayers" go unanswered for many of God's children. In Matthew 6:1-15 Jesus gives instructions of what to do and not to do. This is where Jesus tells us His way of "praying." This way we totally submit His Will over our will. He covers EVERYTHING!

So, we may be wondering why "pray" anymore?? Right? His Word says to "remind" Him of His own Words. Jesus IS the Priesthood of our "confession" of His Words (testimony) (Revelation 12:11). We are to confess out loud what His Promises to us, His children, are! 1John 5:14 This is the confidence which we have [a]before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him. Isaiah 43:26] "Put Me in remembrance, let us argue our case together; State your cause, that you may be proved right." This is our confession to our God, His very Words. We now have His undivided attention!! Wooooohooo!!

Here are a few of His Promises we are to proclaim;

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

1John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Psalms 37:4 Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

The more we pray "con-

fess" His Word out loud in and over our lives and into this world we live in, believe (Mark 11:22-23) in faith (Hebrews 11:1) what He says to be true...change WILL take place. Let us "stand" (Ephesians 6:10-11) for what we have faith in believing to come true! WOOOHOOOO! Praise GOD!

For those of us that do not know Jesus as our LORD and Savior...confess out loud this prayer, "Lord Jesus Christ, I believe that You are the Son of God, and the only way to God, that You died on the cross for my sins, and rose again from the dead. I am sorry for sins I have done, I turn away from all of them now, I turn to You Lord Jesus, for mercy and forgiveness. I trust You to forgive me now and by faith I open my heart to You, and I receive You as my personal Savior, I now confess You as my Lord. I have now done what You require, and I trust You, that You will do what only You can do. That You will save me, give me eternal life, and make me a child of God and I thank You for it. In the name of Jesus, I pray this in Faith, amen!

PRAISE GOD!! We NOW belong to Him!! The next step is to be water baptized (1 Peter 3:21, 1 Corinthians 6:11) so that our old self will be buried. It is important now to get involved in a Spirit filled full Gospel church and dive in and learn all about who you now are becoming. Congratulations my friend!

I hope this article causes each one of us that reads this to go deeper in our relationship with our Creator... Father God, our Savior, and Holy Spirit.

Shalom, Deb Quimby-Quackenbush

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Sponsored by the Crawfordville Lions Club

Hudson Park, Crawfordville

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