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VOL. 3, NO. 8 • AUGUST 2024

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## David Conn

He is community outreach at the sheriff's office, working with those who need help

By LEGION TAYLOR  
 Reporter

David Conn is the first Community Outreach Coordinator at the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office.

The position was created when Sheriff Jared Miller entered a partnership with Northwest Florida Health in an effort to better help those in the community who are dealing with substance abuse or mental health issues.

"There was no set position here where you could call and just talk to someone and they would try to work with you," Conn says. "Someone would always try to help you but there was no one that that was what they did."

Currently, 11 counties in Florida have Community Outreach Coordinators, all of which are the first in



David Conn at the sheriff's office.

Turn to Page 7

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I strive to help each property owner claim every available tax exemption to keep their taxes as low as legally possible. Your property taxes support public education, law enforcement, fire safety, street maintenance, parks and recreation, and more. We study property sales and appraise your property accordingly. Determining a fair and equitable value of every property is the only role of this office in the taxing process.

If there is anything I can do to help you, your family, or your business, please reach out. I work for you, each citizen of Wakulla County, and am privileged to have the responsibility to assist you any way I can.

I am humbly asking for your vote on Aug 20<sup>th</sup>.



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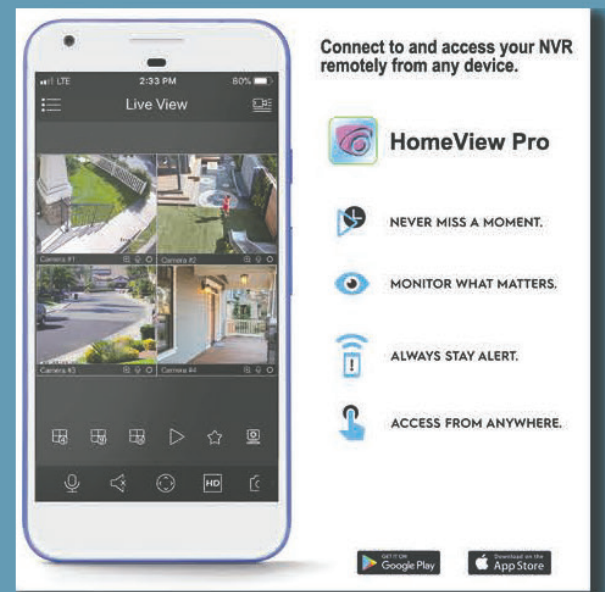
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Starting a new school year can be stressful for kids. Help them have a smoother start to the year by re-establishing routines and creating a supportive environment.

## Preparing kids mentally for the new school year



By **SAMANTHA KENNEDY**  
Extension Director

As summer draws to a close, parents and children alike feel the anticipation of a new school year.

While the back-to-school season often brings excitement, it can also induce anxiety and stress for children transitioning from the carefree days of summer to the structured environment of a classroom. Preparing kids mentally for this transition is crucial to ensure they start the year with confidence and enthusiasm.

Here are some strategies that parents can employ to help their children get ready for the new academic year.

One of the most effective ways to prepare children mentally is by gradually re-establishing school routines. During summer, chil-

dren often have more flexible schedules, so it is important to slowly reintroduce regular bedtimes and wake-up times. This adjustment helps regulate their internal clocks and reduces the shock of early mornings once school begins.

In the days leading up to school, parents can also encourage reading or educational activities at specific times to simulate a school day schedule.

Engaging children in discussions about the upcoming school year can alleviate anxiety and set a positive tone. Parents should talk with their kids about what they are looking forward to and any concerns they might have. Discussing goals for the year can also be motivating, whether they involve academic achievements, making new friends, or participating in extracurricular activities. Helping children set realistic and attainable goals gives them a sense of purpose and direction.

It is natural for children to feel anxious about returning to school, especially if they are transitioning to

a new grade, school, or environment. Parents can help by validating these feelings and reassuring their children that it is normal to be nervous. Encouraging open conversations about worries and providing support can help reduce anxiety.

Practicing relaxation techniques, such as deep breathing or mindfulness exercises, can also be beneficial in managing stress.

A supportive home environment plays a crucial role in a child's academic success. Parents can create a dedicated homework space that is free from distractions and equipped with necessary supplies. Establishing a routine for homework and study time can help children focus and develop good study habits.

Additionally, celebrating achievements, no matter how small, can boost a child's confidence and reinforce a love for learning.

Social interactions are a vital part of school life, and building strong friendships can enhance a child's school experience. Parents can arrange play-

dates or social gatherings with classmates before school starts to help their children reconnect with friends or make new ones.

Encouraging participation in group activities or team sports can also improve social skills and foster a sense of belonging.

For children who are particularly anxious about starting at a new school, visiting the school before the first day can be incredibly helpful. Familiarizing them with the school's layout, meeting teachers, and locating classrooms and other important areas can make the environment feel less intimidating.

Preparing kids mentally for the school year involves more than just buying new supplies and clothes.

With the right support and preparation, the transition back to school can be a positive and rewarding experience for children and parents alike.

For more information about a smooth back-to-school transition, please call Samantha Kennedy at 850-926-3931.



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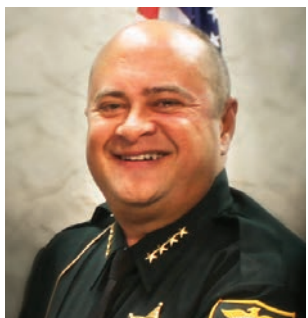
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# Mobile app has useful info



By **JARED MILLER**  
Wakulla Sheriff

In today's world now more than ever, effective communication with the public is key for law enforcement agencies. As Sheriff, my deputies and I could not do our jobs effectively without the great partnership we have developed with the citizens and organizations of Wakulla County.

As Sheriff, my goal as always been to be as open and easy to communicate with as possible. With this in mind, and to keep up with an ever-evolving communication landscape, the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office recently released the WCSO mobile app.

One of the issues we had in mind while developing our app was hurricanes. This month I would like to talk to you about the WCSO mobile app and how it can be utilized to help citizens with preparing for and responding to hurricanes.

The Wakulla County Sheriff's Office mobile app provides quite a few features that are useful for storm response. An entire section of the app is dedicated to information for citizens to help plan and prepare an emergency plan.

Included in this section is information on what to do with your pets, information on assisting with family members who may have special needs, and what to include in a disaster preparedness kit. This is all useful information that anyone who lives in our part of the country needs to be aware of, as hurricanes and major storms are a fact of life here.

There is also a button on our app which will allow us-

ers to report damage in the aftermath of any storm or disaster. This potentially will help aid any reporting citizen with receiving state and federal recovery assistance.

Perhaps the most unique and useful portion of our app with regards to hurricanes and natural disasters is our ability to put out up-to-date and real time information to citizens. There are features on the app which will show users the location of all active storm shelters in our area, with a map. Additionally, the WCSO mobile app has evacuation route information that can be updated in real time to show any potential road closures due to storms/disasters. We also have the ability through our app to send what are known as "push notifications." Using this feature the sheriff's office can send out information directly to those citizens who have downloaded our app. Outside of hurricanes this feature is most often utilized to notify users of road closures due to traffic crashes. However, push notifications have a great many more uses during and after a storm. Anyone who has lived through a storm in the past knows that you may be without power

for a prolonged period, and often you may be without TV or internet as well, both of which are many people's primary means of obtaining information. Utilizing push notifications and other features on the WCSO mobile app as long as you have cell phone services you can receive up to date information. This would include the status of the storm, any potential road closures or major damage issues, food/water distribution locations, and so on.

I encourage each of you to download the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office mobile app. It is free, and I know you'll love everything it has to offer. I am certainly excited to be able to offer this to our citizens, and I know that it will be a great resource for those who take the time to download it.

As always, my door is always open, please do not hesitate to call me or anyone at my office, can do anything for you. Call 850-745-7100, or 911 for emergencies.

Your Sheriff,  
Jared F. Miller

*Jared Miller is sheriff of Wakulla County.*

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# Words in real life



By GREG GAST

Words are very important. We forget sometimes how beautiful and dangerous words can be.

Words are important because we need them to communicate both ideals but emotions as well. Your words can change somebody's life. Whether we say them or write them, we can never forget the power that our words hold.

Don't use them frivolously or half-cocked. Your words resonate and you need to know that.

Be loving with your words. Be kind and generous. Be real and

be strong.

Someone out there needs to hear your words. Do you remember the I love you or the goodbyes? Do you remember feeling small or big because of something someone said to you?

Words are powerful that is why it is important to consider how positive and negative words will affect others and ourselves before we use them.

To truly understand how powerful words are, we must acknowledge what we are saying to ourselves.

What do we say to ourselves all day long? Do you walk by a mirror and insult yourself?

When you forget something, do you degrade yourself for that mistake?

Words matter, and we need to understand what they are. Are you critical of others in your thoughts,

or are you more critical of yourself?

When we are kind to ourselves and to others, it becomes the path to happiness.

Here is a list of words to consider as you travel on the road of life: Openness, simplicity, humor, compassion, creativity, courage, gratitude, fun, authenticity, and most of all love.

In actuality, the hard part is doing and using them daily to live a real genuine life.

Yes, we need to talk about things, particularly with important people in our lives.

But we shouldn't do this when we are upset, angry, or hurt, especially if we are on any substances, like alcohol.

We cannot control what others say or do to us, but we can learn to respond in loving ways.

Remember "To err is human but to forgive is divine."

Let me know what you think.....

Greg Gast is Real Life Counseling, 3295 Crawfordville Hwy., suite #4, Crawfordville FL 32327.

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# David Conn

## From Front Page

their respective counties to hold that position.

Conn's main goal is to work with people who come into the jail and try to find out if anything can be done to help them, most often in regards to substance abuse and mental health.

Within 24 hours of being arrested, everyone has the right to see a judge in what's known as a first appearance, which is done at 8:30 every morning over Zoom. Conn attends the hearings and reviews the inmates' information and about what charges they were brought in for to learn a bit more about them.

Once inmates are ready to work towards recovery, Conn helps puts them in contact with other services that can range from a scheduled phone call once or twice a week to a live-in facility, so that they have all the resources they need to make a permanent recovery.

"There's a lot of resources the community doesn't know about," Conn says. "I certainly had no idea there were so many – and a lot of them, depending on your financial situation, are free."

Conn is not a police officer or someone who's been sworn-in under oath, which he believes helps when he's speaking to people, particularly those with substance abuse issues. Sometimes, those he's trying to help are distrustful or afraid of law enforcement, so by not being an officer he can better connect with and assist those who are in need.

"I couldn't arrest you any more than you could arrest me," Conn says.

He's also available to speak with the families of those who have been arrested or incarcerated, to provide them support or answer any questions they might have.

Conn isn't solely focused on helping those who are already incarcerated, however. He also speaks to members of the community who reach out for help, to put them in contact with

different groups that can get them the help they need.

Partially, this involves contacting people who weren't arrested but had law enforcement called on them because of the issues they were experiencing. Conn's goal is to get them relevant information so they can get the assistance they need.

He also participates in different ini-

tiatives around the community. One major area of concern is combatting the drug crisis, which has involved groups like the sheriff's office, the Health Department, and Board of County Commissioners.

These efforts include giveaways of Narcan, an emergency overdose treatment, to try and reduce the number of life-threatening overdoses in and around the county.



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<input type="radio"/> Keith Gross	REP
<input type="radio"/> Rick Scott	REP
<b>REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS, DISTRICT 2</b> (Vote for One)	
<input type="radio"/> Neal Dunn	REP
<input type="radio"/> Rhonda Woodward	REP
<b>SHERIFF</b>	
<b>UNIVERSAL PRIMARY CONTEST</b> (Vote for One)	
<input type="radio"/> Jared Miller	REP
<input type="radio"/> Armand "Army" Reyes	REP
<b>PROPERTY APPRAISER</b>	
<b>UNIVERSAL PRIMARY CONTEST</b> (Vote for One)	
<input type="radio"/> Ed Brimmer	REP
<input type="radio"/> Donnie Sparkman	REP
<b>SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS</b>	
<b>UNIVERSAL PRIMARY CONTEST</b> (Vote for One)	
<input type="radio"/> Rick Myhre	REP
<input type="radio"/> Matt Payne	REP
<input type="radio"/> Ricky Strickland	REP
<b>BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 3</b>	
<b>UNIVERSAL PRIMARY CONTEST</b> (Vote for One)	
<input type="radio"/> Mike Kemp	REP
<input type="radio"/> Valerie Russell	REP
<b>SCHOOL BOARD, DISTRICT 2</b> (Vote for One)	
<input type="radio"/> June Davis	
<input type="radio"/> Angie Nichols	
<b>SCHOOL BOARD, DISTRICT 4</b> (Vote for One)	
<input type="radio"/> Josh Brown	
<input type="radio"/> Camden Smit	

DEMOCRATIC PARTY For Voters Registered with the Democratic Party (DEM)	
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<input type="radio"/> Rod Joseph	DEM
<input type="radio"/> Debbie Mucarsel-Powell	DEM
<input type="radio"/> Brian Rush	DEM
<b>STATE SENATOR, DISTRICT 3</b> (Vote for One)	
<input type="radio"/> Kimblin NeSmith	DEM
<input type="radio"/> Daryl Parks	DEM
<b>SHERIFF</b>	
<b>UNIVERSAL PRIMARY CONTEST</b> (Vote for One)	
<input type="radio"/> Jared Miller	REP
<input type="radio"/> Armand "Army" Reyes	REP
<b>PROPERTY APPRAISER</b>	
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<input type="radio"/> Donnie Sparkman	REP
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<input type="radio"/> Armand "Army" Reyes	REP
<b>PROPERTY APPRAISER</b>	
<b>UNIVERSAL PRIMARY CONTEST</b> (Vote for One)	
<input type="radio"/> Ed Brimmer	REP
<input type="radio"/> Donnie Sparkman	REP
<b>SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS</b>	
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<input type="radio"/> Ricky Strickland	REP
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## WHAT IS A UNIVERSAL PRIMARY CONTEST?

When candidates for an office are all affiliated with one party, and they face no opposition in the General Election, the winner of that office will be determined in the Primary. This allows all qualified voters, regardless of party affiliation, to vote. This is known as a "Universal Primary Contest."

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## On the Horizon

### The calendar of events for August

#### Thursday, August 1

- 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 TSC Wakulla Center at 8:30 a.m. on Thursdays.
- Yin Yoga at 6 p.m. with Nellie every Thursday. Classes are \$12, at New Posh on 3079 Crawfordville Hwy. RSVP to newposh3079@gmail.com or text/call at (850) 528-5838.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. every Thursday at 54 Ochlockonee St.

#### Friday, August 2

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

#### Saturday, August 3

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

#### Monday, August 5

- The Wakulla County Commission meets at 5 p.m. in the commission chambers.
- The Wakulla Respite Program 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 54 Ochlockonee St.
- 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.

#### Tuesday, August 6

- Sopchoppy community dinner is held every week

at the Towles House at 6:30 p.m.

- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. at 54 Ochlockonee St.
- Yoga Flow with Nellie at 6 p.m. Classes are \$12, packages available at New Posh on 3079 Crawfordville Hwy. RSVP to newposh3079@gmail.com or text/call at (850) 528-5838.

#### Wednesday, August 7

- Muffins with Moms Prenatal Support Group meets at 9 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 10 a.m. at the Wakulla County Health Department. Contact Liz Neighbors at 850-888-6078 or elizabeth.neighbors@flhealth.gov for more information.
- A line dance class is held at 1 p.m. at the Wakulla Senior Center every Wednesday.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday at 54 Ochlockonee St.
- Gentle Yoga and Stetching 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, August 8

- St. Marks City Commission meets at the St. Marks City Hall at 6 p.m.

#### Saturday, August 10

- Early voting for the primary election starts at 8 a.m. and continues through Aug. 17.
- The Wakulla Caregiver Support Group will meet at the Wakulla County Public Library at 10 a.m. every second Saturday of the month.
- The Sopchoppy Community Market will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Sopchoppy Depot Park.

#### Monday, August 12

- First day of school for students of Wakulla Public Schools.
- The Wakulla County Planning Commission will hold a public meeting at 6 p.m. in the county com-

mission chambers.

- The Sopchoppy City Commission meets at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.
- 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.
- The Wakulla Caregiver Support Group will meet at Lake Ellen Baptist Church at 9:30 a.m every second Monday of the month.

#### Thursday, August 15

- 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.

#### Friday, August 16

- War Eagle football has a

preseason game at Madison at 7:30 p.m.

#### Saturday, August 17

- NoFlo PoFolk III, a music festival, will be held from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Palaver Tree Theater.
- Early voting for the primary election ends at 6 p.m.

#### Monday, August 19

- The Wakulla County Commission meets at 5 p.m. in the commission chambers.
- The Wakulla County School Board meets in the school administration building at 5:45 p.m.
- The American Legion Post 114 will be meeting at the Wakulla County Public Library at 6:30 p.m every third Monday of the month.

#### Tuesday, August 20

- Election Day – precincts will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

#### Friday, August 23

- War Eagle football season kicks off with a home opener against Port St. Joe at J.D. Jones Stadium at 7 p.m.

#### Saturday, August 24

- 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.

#### Tuesday, August 27

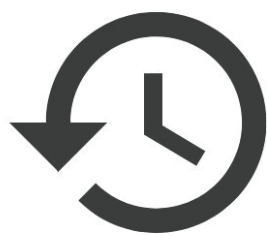
- The Wakulla County Code Enforcement Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the County Commission Chambers.

#### Friday, August 30

- War Eagle football travels to Taylor County for a rivalry game that kicks off at 7:30 p.m.

#### Saturday, August 31

- The Sopchoppy Opry will perform at 7 p.m. at the old Sopchoppy High School auditorium at 164 Yellow Jacket Avenue.



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# CROSSWORD

## CLUES ACROSS

1. A way to pick up
5. Presents
10. Type of guitar
14. Actor Idris
15. A citizen of Iran
16. Creative
17. Harness
18. Weight unit
19. You better call him
20. Utterly devoted
22. Male cat
23. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
24. Risk-taker
27. A team's best pitcher
30. Cool!
31. Women's \_\_\_ movement
32. Georgia rockers
35. Step-shaped recess
37. The princess could detect its presence
38. Type of truck
39. Butterhead

- lettuces
40. Angry people see it
41. Lines where two fabrics are sewn together
42. Soviet city
43. Carpet
44. Traveled all over
45. Thin, straight bar
46. Body art (slang)
47. Congressman (abbr.)
48. No seats available
49. Breaks apart
52. Arabic name
55. Ballplayer's tool
56. Type of sword
60. Baseball team
61. Upper bract of grass floret
63. Italian Seaport
64. Ancient Syrian city
65. Shoelace tube
66. The Miami mascot is one
67. South American nation

68. Popular video game "Max \_\_\_"
69. Body part

## CLUES DOWN

1. German courtesy title
2. Ancient Greek City
3. Ancient Hebrew calendar month
4. Long-legged frog family
5. Photo
6. Delivered a speech
7. Lute in classical

- Indian music
8. Decorated
9. Take a seat
10. Belonging to a bottom layer
11. Member of a Semitic people
12. Part of a ticket
13. Defunct Guinean money
21. Challenges
23. Popular BBQ food
25. Subway dweller
26. By way of
27. Shady garden alcove
28. Egyptian city

29. Partner to "flowed"
32. Widens
33. Old Eurasian wheat
34. Act incorrectly
36. European pipeline
37. Al Bundy's wife
38. Ocean
40. Root eaten as a vegetable
41. Sound units
43. Style of music
44. A way to drench
46. Hot beverage
47. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
49. Rumanian city
50. Urge to action
51. Vaccine developer
52. Canadian law enforcers
53. Wings
54. "Perry Mason" actor Raymond
57. Small fry
58. \_\_\_ Clapton, musician
59. Take a chance
61. Bland food
62. Consumed

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

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1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21		22				23				
			24		25				26					
27	28	29		30				31			32	33	34	
35			36				37				38			
39					40					41				
42				43					44					
45				46				47				48		
			49				50				51			
52	53	54				55				56		57	58	59
60					61				62		63			
64					65						66			
67					68						69			

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

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# Look at those monthly memberships



By **BRIAN ENGLISH**

In the last few years, we've become accustomed to many convenient services, many offered via subscriptions. Now, in the old days, if you had a few magazines or newspapers stacked up, you might not pay to continue your service. Today's subscriptions typically offer autopay, which is convenient and quickly forgotten

for many. C&R Research reports that the average American spends \$219 per month on subscriptions for things like streaming services, news websites, and even regular deliveries of our most of ten-used goods, such as beans or pet food.<sup>1</sup> There is also increasing evidence that these subscriptions are getting out of hand for some households. Many find themselves with an unclear idea of how much they are spending on their services, in many cases underestimating the amounts by upwards of \$100 per month.<sup>2</sup> Some have even forgotten they were subscribed to a service. As many as 42 percent of

households have some ongoing autopayment happening for a service they are no longer using.<sup>2</sup> As we all know, these fees can add up quickly and become an unnecessary drain. Some of them are for things like streaming services; you subscribe to see the big new movie or series and keep it going even though you're done with the show. Others are less straightforward. For example, you may have signed up for premium rideshare or restaurant and grocery delivery services that are no longer necessary or may not merit the extra expense. While you might be able to track these

extra expenses with a quick review of your checking account and credit card statements, there are also a number of apps that can help you review these payments and even help you cancel them all at once. One of the nice things about subscription culture is that turning them off can be easy and doesn't need to be goodbye

forever. Unsurprisingly, the services make it fairly easy to turn your subscriptions on and off, as needed, so there's no reason not to take advantage.

1. cbsnews.com, December 26, 2023
2. cnbc.com, September 6, 2022

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

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# Life and death of Magnolia

A manuscript found in the Wakulla Historical Society archives, attributed to Elizabeth F. Smith

The town of Magnolia on the St. Marks River in Middle Florida was founded July 4, 1827, by four brothers from Augusta, Maine named John, George, Nathaniel, and Weld Hamlin. This quartet of Yankees had come down to New Orleans by sailing vessel with their father, Theophilus Hamlin, a hotel and tavern keeper, in 1816, looking for land to subdivide and sell in lots along the Mississippi River. They remained in the South when their father returned to Augusta to operate the Kennebec Tavern.

The brothers went to Liberty County, Mississippi, and lived there for a decade, but came to Tallahassee shortly after it was proposed as the capital of the new Territory of Florida in 1824. They remained for several years and finally purchased a townsite near a sulphur springs about 13 miles north of the river's mouth. Two dirt roads were hacked through the pine forests to Magnolia, one from Tallahassee and one from Lake Miccosukee by way of Chaires.

To protect the townspeople from the Seminole Indians at a tense period in Indian and white relations, a stockade of vertically set logs was erected around Magnolia. In 1829 Gov. William Duval visited the town on a trip down to the fort near St. Marks and commended the Hamlins for their enterprise. The same year a third road was built to Magnolia from Monticello in Jefferson County by way of Waccissa by James Scott, and the first bridge ever to be built across the St. Marks was composed of rough-hewn timbers about a half mile above the town. This road continued westward to Wakulla Springs, Fisher's Mill and Ft. Braden.

In 1829 also, the youngest of the brothers, Weld Hamlin, died and was buried in the town cemetery. His is the oldest recorded tombstone in Wakulla County. The brothers advertised their town lots for sale in Tallahassee, Pensacola, and Augusta newspapers and in the fall of that year a shipload of prominent citizens from Augusta came to see the town. Many of them owned mills along the Kennebec River in Maine and wanted to have a dependable source of cotton for their spinning machines as well as a market for their manufactured products.

One of this band of men was Joseph Ladd, husband of Mary Jane

Hamlin and brother-in-law of the remaining trio. Joseph Ladd had owned a fulling mill on the Kennebec River and a farm, and he sold his property to finance his trip as well as to take care of his wife and 10 children he had left in Augusta. Several of the men besides Joseph bought lots and stayed in Magnolia, but most of them sailed back to Maine, a distance of 2,000 miles around the Florida peninsula and past the treacherous shoals of Cape Hatteras in North Carolina.

There was a weekly newspaper published throughout 1829 in Magnolia by Augustus Steele, known as THE MAGNOLIA ADVERTISER. Since it was begun late in 1828 and ceased publishing early in 1830 it lasted only shortly over a year. Most of its information was gleaned from other newspapers which came by sailing vessel into Apalachee Bay. Its columns mentioned ships in port and those preparing to leave.

There were about a dozen other merchants in Magnolia, nearly all of them buying, pressing and forwarding cotton to northern mills. Besides the Hamlins, the largest merchant was Benjamin Byrd of Miccosukee. Byrd later became Florida's first Treasurer when it achieved statehood in 1845. Robert Larkins and L.W. Burnet each ran a dry goods store, and E. Kline had a drugstore. John W. Argyle, Edward Seixas, William Haskins, William Burgess, David Burley, and Augustus Steele were cotton commission merchants. Some of these men also had ownership

or part ownership in the ships that came up the river.

Despite the claims that ships drawing 11 feet of water could reach Magnolia, sea captains soon discovered that the ads for Magnolia had exaggerated its accessibility. An obstruction in the river not far above the fort of St. Marks prevented any but the smallest vessels from reaching Magnolia, and that only at high tide. The obstruction was known as the Devil's Elbow. Consequently, many of the ships anchored at a deep spot in the bay known as the Spanish Hole and lighted their cargoes up the river in shallow draft flatboats. Meanwhile the newspaper reminded people that they were not allowed to cut trees into the water south of Magnolia, and they were requested not to dump the entrails of slaughtered livestock into the main street of the community.

The leading citizens of Magnolia were prominent in politics, backing Joseph White for the U.S. House and excoriating Territorial Gov. Richard K. Call, an enemy of Joseph White. They also wrote many letters to Washington, for a customs port, for dredging of the river by the Army engineers, for help against the Indians, and for a lighthouse. The lighthouse was built in 1830-31 and soared to 70 feet, located on the open bay near the Spanish Hole and about three miles from the juncture of the St. Marks and Wakulla rivers where the old Spanish fort was located. Although sailors claimed that its kerosene lamps were too dim to

be seen far out at sea, it was a better indication of the channel into the St. Marks River than blind chance.

At the same time Magnolia also became a customs port, but many captains coming up to the town complained that the customs man was seldom there. Furthermore, St. Marks was attempting to provide competition to Magnolia. When Magnolia was first founded, St. Marks was only a collection of rude houses thrown up around the fort, but when it realized Magnolia was getting most of the cotton export trade, it moved two miles up from the fort to another site and laid out streets and sold lots for a town. It advertised in the Tallahassee paper that its advantages included being nearer to open water while Magnolia claimed its upriver position was safer from storms.

Meanwhile Magnolia acquired a hotel built and operated by Thomas Cunningham, who offered a bar serving "the choicest wines and liquors," and John Hamlin built a saw and grist mill. David McBride built a sawmill on the east bank of the river and some logs from his mill were seen in the river bottom for many years afterward.

To accommodate the business in Magnolia, a Merchants and Planters Bank of Magnolia was chartered in 1832 by the Legislative Council in Tallahassee with an authorized capital of \$200,000. The bank failed in less than two years but money printed by the bank turned up in faraway places for 135 years, worth more

to collectors than it ever was to its bearers at the time. When the Central Bank of Florida tried to sue the Magnolia Bank for \$10,000 in 1834, the marshal could not find a respondent.

In 1833 Joseph Ladd's wife and five of his children came to Magnolia from Maine. Among them was his 16-year-old son, Daniel, who went to work in the cotton factorage business for his uncles where he acquired a knowledge of trade that was to make him in 20 years the richest man on the St. Marks River and one of the richest in Middle Florida.

By this time Magnolia had about 40 houses, a post office, a Masonic Hall, and 300 people. Articles about the cotton port appeared in New York and Philadelphia newspapers, all of them encouraging people to migrate to this southern lotus land and become rich. Seldom was anything ever mentioned about storms or "the fevers" which people thought came from the damp odor emanating from swamps. Postal receipts began slowly to fall off and the Hamlins were in debt for \$10,000 because of their too rapid expansion of warehouses and credit. In 1835 came the biggest shock of all. The United States Supreme Court denied that the federal government ever owned the land between the St. Marks and Apalachicola rivers known as the Forbes Purchase. This piece of land had been granted by the Seminole Indians to the Panton, Leslie Trading Company and its successor, the John Forbes and Company during Flor-

ida's British period between 1763-83 for payment of debts owed them before the United States acquired the territory during the second Spanish period, 1783-1821. The Spanish Governor of West Florida confirmed the grants. Colin Mitchell, a Havana merchant claiming U.S. citizenship, acquired title to the grant and Congress enacted a law in 1828 providing for judicial settlement of all unsettled lands claims resulting from the 1821 acquisition of the territory.

Little did the Hamlin brothers of Maine know what was in store for them when they ventured southward in search of trade. The Superior Court of Middle Florida invalidated the claim in 1830 and Mitchell appealed the case to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In March 1835, the high court reversed the lower court decision and Mitchell gained title to 1,200,000 acres of land including the entire towns of Magnolia and Apalachicola. The company was involved in court for a generation and people were still clearing land titles in the late 1850s.

That same year a Scot in Tallahassee by the name of Alexander Campbell informed some New York creditors of the Hamlin family that the brothers were in trouble and the sheriff of Leon County rode down the dirt road to Magnolia and closed their places of business. Infuriated at this turn of affairs the brothers plotted revenge against Campbell and tried to figure some way

Continued on Page 15



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## Re-Elect

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for Wakulla County  
School Board District 4

Vote August 20th



Political ad paid for by Josh Brown for Wakulla Co. School Board District 4.

# The Old Pro: Even the fish don't like the heat



By **AL HARTMAN**  
The Old Pro

If you are fishing get out early or go late! This has been a super hot summer and it's not gong to get any better til fall.

Even the fish don't like it. Get there at daybreak and you will find fish feeding. A good choice of bait like live minnows of shrimp is a good choice. For some ex-

citing fun, top popper lures that make a good splash is fun. Also a jig topped with a plastic worm works well using a popper float.

By late morning the redfish and seatrout have gone up river or up streams to find deeper cooler water. So you need to go up stream and

locate them or go fish offshore and fish the rocks and reefs.

Remember if you are reef fishing you need a reef permit now.

The state Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will start the 2024 annual python hunt with total prizes \$25,000. It opens Aug. 9 and

runs until the 18th. Last year over 1,000 hunters signed up. People from 32 states, Canada and Latvia where there.

You can hunt anytime, year round in the Everglades.

The FWC estimates more than 20,000 pythons have been captured since the invasion be-

gan. A 17-footer was caught June 26 last month. The record caught so far is 22 feet long a couple of months ago.

Get out and enjoy the Florida outdoors.

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

## Life and death of Magnolia

From Page 12

to have him challenge one of them to a duel so they could name the choice of weapons. George, the only unmarried brother, was the logical person for the task.

Going to the capital, which had less than 1,000 people and only one principal street, George was walking down the wooden sidewalk when he chanced upon Campbell. He flogged the man with his riding crop and Campbell was forced to challenge him. The code duello in Territorial Florida was a remnant of the Spanish period and George accepted the challenge and chose pistols for the match. Unbeknown to his wife, Campbell left church one day to practice with his weapon. With his seconds he met George Hamlin on the Georgia border near Mannington's wayside tavern and George killed him with his first bullet.

Only a month later Joseph Ladd bought up all the property of his brothers and soon thereafter died from yellow fever. His tombstone is the second oldest one in Wakulla County and a larger, more imposing commemorative monument was erected to his memory in

the Winthrop Street Cemetery in Augusta, Maine.

George Hamlin, regretting that his brothers had urged him to fight with Campbell, took a sailing vessel to Key West where he died a year later.

Most of the Forbes Purchase was acquired by the Apalachicola Land Company of which Gov. Richard Call was a partner. In 1836 the company built a mule tram from Tallahassee to St. Marks, by-passing Magnolia. Although the tram was a rude affair with stringers laid across a shifting bed of sand, it managed to carry 50,000 bales of cotton to St. Marks a year and spell the decline of the cotton factorage business in Magnolia. Ships no longer came up the river, postal receipts fell off in Magnolia ever further, and merchants sold their stock and left the town.

People dispossessed by the Apalachicola Land Company moved their houses to other places, most of them northward toward Chaires or down to St. Marks. Joseph Ladd's widow returned with her children to Maine except for Daniel, who was so busy making money he decided to stay in Florida. Nathaniel Hamlin went to New Orleans and started a new cotton

export business, but his two children went to Maine and married there.

In 1839 the Tallahassee Railroad extended its tracks on a wooden bridge across the river from St. Marks for three miles to a site which it developed nearer the open bay, calling it Port Leon. This cut off sailing vessels entirely from coming upriver and the few remaining people in Magnolia left there and bought lots in the new town. Daniel Ladd bought the most expensive one on the waterfront and

raised his buildings on pilings. The town was surrounded by a fence and did a brisk business with sailors and soldiers coming in to fight in the Second Seminole War. Most of them dallied in the town's dramshops before getting on the train to go northward to Ft. Stansberry near Wakulla Springs and Ft. Lawson near Magnolia. John Hamlin also went in business in Port Leon but had his nephew take charge of his legal affairs.

In 1843 the Legislative Council in Tallahassee divided Leon County, carving Wakulla County out

of the southern portion, and naming Port Leon as the new county seat. Before a courthouse could be built the town was wiped out by a hurricane and tidal wave and the survivors moved back up the river and founded the town of New Port two miles south of Magnolia. Until John Hamlin or Daniel Ladd had any buildings erected in New Port they offered storage in their old warehouses in Magnolia.

Nathaniel Hamlin returned to Florida and died in Newport in 1848. John Hamlin died there in 1868, and Daniel Ladd in 1874. People were buried in

the Magnolia Cemetery until 1869 and 14 legible tombstones stand in grotesque positions in the scrub. Some rotting log buildings could still be seen in the 1890s but since then the town has disappeared, the pine trees and vines growing over the land. Only the ghosts remain.

**The Wakulla County Historical Society Museum is in the Old Jail at 24 High Drive in Crawfordville. We are open to the public on Thursdays and Fridays, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.**

### tobe7encouraged faith column Is God on our back burner?

Greetings Wakulla citizens! Thank you for your interest in this column. A great question to ask ourselves is that, do we have God simmering in the background waiting for us to need Him, is God on our back burner? This question is directed to Believers, those of us that believe in the death, burial, and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The premise of this column is how important is God to us? How involved is God in our everyday mundane lives? Do we spend time with Him only when there is nothing else to do? Do we take Him on vacation with us? To work with us? To the gas station? You get the point. I hope you guys have the same mindset as we do...WE DO NOT WANT TO BE THAT KIND OF CHRISTIAN!!

We have a glorious story to share with you concerning this very topic. We hope this excites every reader to the point that it will cause all of us to do the same in all we do and go! That this very act will become a habit for all of us! God will LOVE this! A couple of weeks ago my Moms phone died. We went to get her a new cell phone, just a simple flip phone, talk and text only. We bought the phone and away we went. The next day she tried to read the directions, she isn't a computer person, the words were so small you could not read them even with a lot of light and her reading lenses!! She went back to the store and asked for help, she said he couldn't read it either! But

he knew what to do, unfortunately he couldn't show my Mom in the book so she could go back herself to follow the directions. Time to return it. The phone she really likes and that died on her is a Jitterbug phone. I joke about the Jitterbug phones being junk with her, but the other phone wasn't so great either!! Off to the other store to buy the phone she wants. We get there, before we get out of the car, I ask God for His favor in this, concerning her phone and please show us where and who to see. We go in and immediately see the phones she wants in the color she wants. I go to find a salesperson and the one God wanted us to find came around the corner. She said they would be able to do everything we needed in the color my Mom wanted. Off to the counter we went. The salesperson was unable to do the connection, so she went to look for the other person God wanted to use in this. The salesperson went to a couple of different people to do what we needed, nope! God said next! Here came the right person God wanted! Genuinely a nice young man. We had to pay first; he got all the info he needed to start the money process. He was at the register, the young lady was to his right watching, he seemed to have an issue. I started paying closer attention, they were trying to talk quietly in code, and I heard her ask him "free?." Forgetting what I asked God in the car not too long ago, I said

"free? Yea right." He said he had to consult management about this. It was several minutes, and he returned with a very puzzled look on his face and the other salesperson asked if it was free. Now know this, at that time this store did not have one sales promotion for this phone!! No deal on this phone by the manufacturer at all!! This phone is \$79.99 retail and IT WAS FREE TO US!! WOOHHOO!!! The look on both of their faces was of total surprise!! I was able to witness to both of them what God just did for my Mom and me!! We found out they both are Believers! This miracle was not just for us! It was for the two people God chose to help us!! Remember, I asked for His favor in the situation, not just for us! The next blessing is the return of her phone. I called the night before concerning the return of our phones, he said it would cost \$50.00 to restock it. NOPE!! Not only did it not cost \$50, but he also just totally deleted the sale as if it never existed and handed me the receipt with kindness!

Also, if any of you read last month's monthly publication, Larry's PSA... IS NOW 1!! From 37 to 1!!! Let us all now remove God from our "back burner" to being totally the Director of our lives! He desires to be with us! Let us now put Him where He belongs.... FIRST!! **Matthew 6:33 But [a]seek first [b]His kingdom and**

**His righteousness, and all these things will be [c] added to you.**

May this cause you to seek Him more, Deb Quimby-Quackenbush [tobe7encouraged@gmail.com](mailto:tobe7encouraged@gmail.com)

If you do not know Jesus and want to, say this out loud and believe...

**John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His [a]only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. Romans 10: 13 for "EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED." "Jesus, I am a sinner I know, I repent and turn away from all that I did as a sinner, I renounce their hold on me. I believe in faith God sent You to become my sin, on the Cross, to cleanse me from them and now make me new. I believe You died and rose on the 3rd day so that I may live and become Your Righteousness. I now give you my life and live for You! By God's Grace I am now Born Again. WOOHHOO!!!** Welcome to the family! Your life just got EXCITING!!! 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!

**Bonnie**  
THE LIFE COACH

BonnietheLifeCoach.com  
**Bonnie Holub**  
Certified Life Coach  
850-570-8271  
Follow Bonnie's Monthly Advice Column  
BonnieTheLifeCoach.com/ask-bonnie  
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# AUGUST WORKSHOP

## What Baby Boomers Need To Know About Medicare

### Savvy Medicare Planning for Boomers Workshop

**Presenters/Financial Advisors:**  
**BRIAN ENGLISH and JORDAN LEE**

#### Baby Boomers are asking:

- What does Medicare cover?
- How do the four parts of Medicare work together?
- When do I have to enroll in Medicare?
- How does Medicare work with the insurance I've already got?
- What can I expect to pay for my healthcare down the line?

#### In this presentation, you'll learn:

- What Medicare is, who is eligible for it, and how you get it?
- Who needs to enroll in Medicare and when?
- The two ways to have Medicare— and how to choose?
- What Medicare costs, and how to mitigate those costs through private insurance?
- How to start planning for future healthcare costs?

Attend if you are: • Age 60 and over. • Concerned about retirement health care expenses. • Recently retired, or planning to retire soon. • You want to understand how to begin making important Medicare decisions.

Don't miss this valuable workshop designed especially for baby boomers. Seating is limited.

**Call today to reserve a spot for you and your friends.**

**Tuesday,**  
**AUG. 27TH**

**5:30PM – 6:30PM**

**RSVP by Thursday, Aug. 22nd**



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