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## Linda Oaks

Wakulla Public Library's director, 'Library Linda,' is passionate about her community

By LINDA ANN McDONALD  
 Correspondent

Public libraries in the United States play an essential role in providing safe, accessible, and 100% free educational resource centers for every member in communities across the country. At a library, it doesn't matter how much money you make, because every resource there is free of charge, including books, internet access, and educational and professional training programs. Individuals and families, no matter their socioeconomic status, can count on their libraries to provide them with the resources they need to succeed and the answers to important questions they can't otherwise find.

Linda Oaks, Director of Library Services, has lived in Wakulla



Wakulla Public Library Director Linda Oaks

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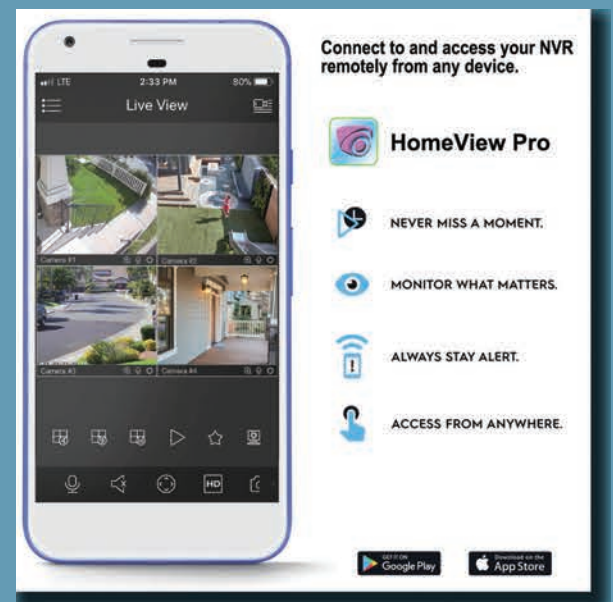
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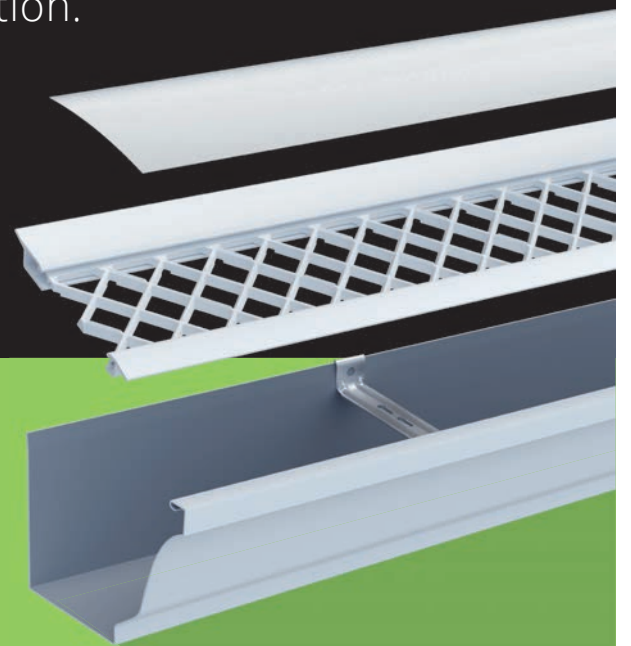
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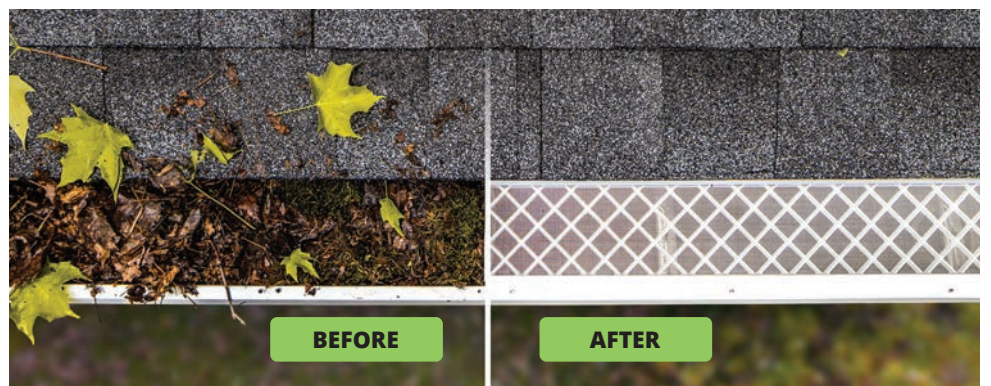
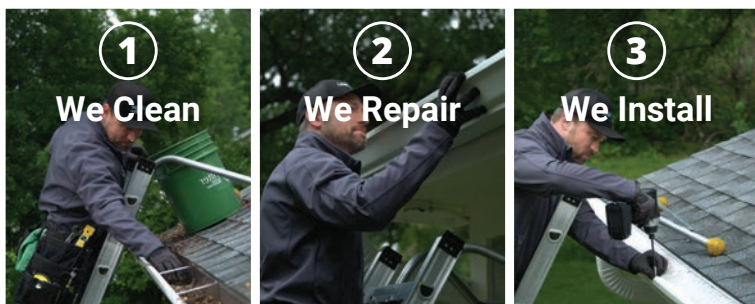
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Good mental health is an important part of good overall health. Routine mental health screenings can help healthcare providers diagnose depression and other mental illnesses early and improve the quality of life for their patients.

## Need for mental health screenings



By **SAMANTHA KENNEDY**  
 Extension Director

In recent years, the spotlight on mental health has illuminated a pressing issue: the necessity of regular screening for depression and other mental illnesses. As awareness grows, it becomes increasingly clear that identifying and addressing mental health issues early can have profound impacts on overall well-being and societal health.

Depression and other mental health conditions are not only widespread but also insidious. The World Health Organization estimates that over 280 million people globally suffer from depression, making it a leading cause of disability. Yet, despite its prevalence, mental illness remains shrouded in stigma, which often prevents individuals from seeking help until their conditions become severe.

Screening plays a

pivotal role in changing this narrative. Early detection through routine screenings allows healthcare providers to identify mental health conditions before they escalate, facilitating timely intervention. This proactive approach can significantly improve the quality of life for individuals by providing access to appropriate treatment and support services.

The importance of regular mental health screenings is underscored by the fact that many people with depression or anxiety do not display obvious symptoms or may not recognize their symptoms as part of a broader issue. According to a recent study published in JAMA Psychiatry, up to 50% of individuals with depression are not identified by primary care physicians during routine visits, highlighting the gap that regular, standardized screenings could fill. (JAMA is the Journal of the American Medical Association.)

Furthermore, mental health conditions often co-occur with other health issues, complicating treatment and recovery. For example, untreated depression can exacerbate chronic conditions like diabetes and heart disease,

leading to a cycle of deteriorating health. By integrating mental health screenings into regular health check-ups, doctors can offer a more comprehensive approach to patient care, addressing both physical and mental health needs simultaneously.

The benefits of mental health screening extend beyond individual well-being. From a societal perspective, early intervention can reduce healthcare costs by minimizing the need for more intensive treatments required for advanced conditions. Additionally, it can improve productivity and quality of life, contributing to a healthier, more engaged workforce.

To implement effective screening programs, collaboration between healthcare providers, policymakers, and community organizations is essential. Public health campaigns can play a vital role in reducing stigma and encouraging individuals to participate in regular mental health screenings. Healthcare systems must also ensure that screenings are accessible and that follow-up care is available for those who test positive for mental health conditions.

Schools, workplaces, and community centers are ideal settings for integrating mental health screenings. Schools can incorporate mental health education and screening into their health programs, helping students develop coping strategies and access support early. Workplaces can offer screening as part of employee wellness programs, fostering a supportive environment and enhancing overall productivity.

In conclusion, the importance of screening for depression and other mental illnesses cannot be overstated. By embracing early detection and intervention, we can make significant strides toward improving mental health outcomes, reducing the burden of mental illness on individuals and society, and fostering a culture of support and understanding. Investing in mental health screening today paves the way for a healthier and more resilient future for all.

For more information on this and other mental health related topics, please contact Samantha Kennedy at 850-926-3931.

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# Reserve Unit provides services from volunteers



By **JARED MILLER**  
Wakulla Sheriff

From the Desk of Sheriff Miller:

If you were to take a poll of the community and ask about the functions of the Sheriff's Office, I'm sure you would get a wide range of answers.

Most people know that Road Patrol Deputies patrol the streets answering calls and enforcing laws, and that our Detectives spend their days investigating various crimes which have been committed.

One of the areas that is often unknown by the public is the role the WCSO Reserve Unit plays

at the Sheriff's Office and within our community. It's safe to say that the Sheriff's Office and our role in the community would be very different without this group of dedicated individuals working here.

For those that may not know what the Reserve Unit is, it is an all-volunteer unit of the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office. The WCSO Reserve Unit contains both volunteers who are sworn deputies as well as nonsworn Sheriff's Safety Officers. The WCSO Reserve Unit regularly assists with almost every function of the Sheriff's Office completely free to the citizens of Wakulla County, all the while working other jobs in their private lives.

Reserve Deputies can often be found assisting our Road Patrol Division to add extra manpower during active times, or when we have

manpower shortages. They also assist with our Civil and Warrants Division with serving court paperwork and are an invaluable asset during major storms in our county.

However, perhaps the greatest services the WCSO Reserve Unit provides to our county is the work they do with the many parades and festivals Wakulla County has.

Almost every community event held in Wakulla County with exception of a small few require either general security, traffic control or both. As much as possible these events are staffed by members of the reserve unit. This is done at no cost to the community at large. Almost without fail when you see a Sheriff's Office member at a parade or festival, they are their unpaid and volunteering their time to serve our commu-

nity.

Over the course of a year reserve members donate thousands of hours in service to our county. This is certainly a labor of love, because, as mentioned earlier, most of our members have fulltime jobs, they work in addition to their volunteer hours.

Please know we are always

on the look out for new members who wish to serve our community through the reserve unit. If you have prior experience as a sworn law enforcement officer being a Reserve Deputy allows you a way to maintain your law enforcement standards and keep your training

up to date.

If you or someone you know may be interested in becoming a Reserve Deputy or volunteering as a Sheriff's Safety Officer, please contact Lt. Yarbrough at 850-745-7186 or [jyarbrough@weso.org](mailto:jyarbrough@weso.org).

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# Real life memories



By GREG GAST

What is memory? Memory is the faculty by which the brain encodes, stores, and retrieves information. It is a record of experience that guides future ac-

tion. Memory encompasses the facts and experiential details that people consciously call to mind as well as the ingrained knowledge that surfaces without effort or even awareness.

Memory's role is allowing people to understand, navigate, and make predictions about the world, personal memories provide the foundation for a rich sense of oneself and one's life. And give rise to ex-

periences such as nostalgia.

In ancient times the ability to memorize was a prized skill. Whole cultures were passed down though the centuries by those who remembered stories, legends, history and laws.

Today the internet has made memorization irrelevant. What we don't remember, we think we can always look up.

We have abandoned requiring students to memo-

size poems, famous speeches, multiplication table and all sort of academic materials.

Here are some reasons that we should strive to improve our ability to remember.

1. Memorization is a discipline of the mind much needed in an age when so many minds are lazy, distracted, have little to think about or think sloppily.

2. You can't always "Google it." Not everything of

importance is on the web.

3. Memorization creates the repertoire of what we think about. To be an expert in any field requires knowledge that you already have. Nobody can think in a vacuum of information.

4. Understanding is nourished by the information we hold in our working memory as you think. Without knowledge, we have a mind of mush. We think with the

ideas held in working memory which is stored in our brains.

5. Memory develops learning and memory schema that promote improved ability to learn. The more you remember the more you learn.

Let know what you think.

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

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# Linda Oaks

## From Front Page

County her whole life. She is passionate about both her community and the services provided by her library. Oaks also serves her community as the secretary of the Rotary Club of Wakulla, helping with Wakulla Chamber of Commerce programs and Leadership programs. Oaks has volunteered with Wakulla Emergency Management and earned the nickname "Library Linda."

"The mission of the Wakulla County Public Library is to enhance the lives of its residents by providing easy access to information and materials that meet the educational, informational and cultural needs of current and potential library users," Oaks says. "The Public Library offers a wide variety of materials, programs, technology, and facilities to Wakulla County citizens. It provides easy access to books, videos, DVDs, audio books, public access computers, software, and internet resources

to meet the information needs of its current and potential users. The library also offers a variety of programs for children, adults and families, and makes available meeting room space to numerous groups and organizations. Children's programming includes weekly classes targeting babies, toddlers and older students."

"Our library is unique; we have a billboard sized Humpty Dumpty in front of the library and we have many animals that make the library a learning space about animals that folks love," she says. "The staff manage the upkeep of all the animals. Inside we have a large fish tank that was donated to the library years ago, a dwarf hamster named Hamlet, two zebra finches named Romeo and Juliet, two guinea pigs Hemingway and Poe, and a dwarf rabbit named Cinnabon. Families can enjoy seeing the animals in the glass windows of the director's office and the catalogers office."

Also unique to the Wakulla County Public Library are its trademark resident chickens.

"The chickens have become a staple in front of the library," Oaks says. "If any visitors to the library witness anything annoying the chickens, we get a phone call. We love that the community looks out for them to protect them. Anyone can come in and purchase meal worms to feed the chickens as a snack for 50 cents which supports the chicken fund for feed and upkeep. We will continue to have chickens because the community seems to love them as much as we do."

"The library encourages the love of reading with our weekly children's programs with singing, crafts and reading. Our spring open house which is Dr. Seuss themed, saw over 300 citizens this past year, and our summer programs over the summer was very well attended. Our Star Wars Night was a huge success and we saw many Jedis. Harry Potter night was our biggest attendance at the facility with over 800

citizens, our fall open house Pirate-themed event was over 500 citizens. We love and enjoy seeing families and citizens come enjoy our programs that the staff and Friends of the Library put a lot of work into."

Oaks and Senior Library Assistant Roxanne Dressel recently attended the Association of Rural and Small Libraries event in Springfield, Massachusetts. The conference was focused on small populations, small staff and rural communication. Ideas the team brought back with them include High School Spirit Week where the library staff will dress like Wakulla High School's themed spirit week. Themes include soccer moms and barbecue dads, magical memories and character day, golden glitz and glamour-dress to impress and War Eagle Spirit Day.

"I also learned an idea to do paint chip poetry," she says. "I also learned ideas on starting a teen book club and a teen writing club... a possible crotchet crafters group. I also learned the importance of community partnerships and we are blessed that we have great community partner relationships! Most importantly I learned that we are doing great things and got to network with like-minded librarians to float ideas off of."

Community involvement is paramount for Wakulla County Public Library.

"The library loves to be out in the com-

munity," she says. "We have overseen the story boards that are around Azalea Park. The children's staff is over picking the titles and switching the story pages out. The children's staff have gone to Wakulla High School for library card sign ups and also visited several daycares to read to the children. We will be getting our mobile library started back up later this year; we will complete a survey to see where the community would like to have it and the time of day and we will do our best to accommodate the results of the survey."

With the fall season comes a favorite holiday to many, Halloween. Library Linda's favorite event is the Trick or Treat Story Walk, even though it is not physical held at the library, but rather at Hudson Park in Crawfordville.

"This event was my brainchild 9 years ago and it grows in attendance every year," she says. "We have all our community partners out and thousands of community members participating. We even bring visitors from outside Wakulla County for this event. There is nothing like seeing all the families dressed in costumes and how all the kids love seeing their library friends outside of the library. This event brings so much joy to everyone and it is the highlight of the year for me. The support we receive for this event is unbelievable and I want to take this opportunity to thank all the community partners that

make this event so successful."

Exciting plans for the library are on the horizon.

"We are at the beginning stages of the planning process for the new library. The library will be constructed on the community center property off Trice Lane and Shadeville Highway. I am blessed to be able to have input in the planning process so that we meet all the needs of the community. There will be updated technology which we will be implementing within the next few months, a telehealth room and community rooms for meetings."

Oaks finished with "We get to have fun and be educational at the same time. It is not often you hear of a library that is not a quiet library, we are not a 'shhhhhh' library. The citizens who come into the library seem to enjoy the fact it is not you typical everyone be quiet sanctuary. While we do not allow speaker phone calls in the public areas, we have a lot of children's programs that allow families to come into a facility and feel welcomed."

Wakulla County Public Library is located at 4330 Crawfordville Highway in Crawfordville. The Friends of the Wakulla County Public Library is a volunteer group supporting the youth activities of the library. Anyone can sign up to be a Friend of the Wakulla County Public Library. The Friends of WCPL host the Annual Event Mardi Gras Fundraiser Ball.

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**tobe7encouraged faith column**

## Loving Jesus is Being Obedient to His Word

Greetings Wakulla citizens! Thank you for taking the time to read this, may it bless you! What God has put on my heart is us "loving" Jesus. Sure, those of us that are Born Again say that we "love" Him. Many of us have been in relationships with someone that has said the "L" word, BUT!, there never was any outward evidence of this said "love"! Then, finally you kicked him/her to the curb! You also know that there are blood related families that also do not show love when in fact they will say the "L" word to each other, "Father, Mother, children and so forth. Let us dive in to find out exactly what God say's concerning this "LOVE" for Jesus. Straight to the Source. Alright, there are several Scriptures that plainly speak of loving Jesus along with the EVIDENCE of this fact of loving Jesus. His Word also speaks of God being Love. Hmmm, "love" I would have to say is pretty darn important to the Trinity! In **John 14**, key verses are :15 "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments". The Word "love" there means the "Agapao" love which is "to love." We are "to love" God. :21 "He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will disclose Myself to him." The Word "love" in this verse also is "Agapao", "to love." :23 "Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and make Our abode with him". The Word "abode" here is "abide," They will live with YOU!! This is how They, our Father, Savior, and Holy Spirit "show" They "love" you and !!!

Then in chapter 15 of **John** in verse 10, He says "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments, and I abide in His love". The Word "keep" here is "to watch over." We are "to watch over" His commandments, guard them! They are precious! In the Scripture thus far is all in red in the Bible, which means Jesus is the One speaking these Words! So, He speaks that if we will "love" Him, His Father will then "love" us, right? Jesus said this. Well, in **1 John 4:18** His Word mentions that "perfect love" casts out all fear. He says, "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love." When you search for the Hidden Treasure of His Word in this verse, He actually says, "There is no "terror" in love, but "complete" love casts out fear, because fear involves "correction" and the one who "frightens" is not perfected in love." Ask yourself who is it that "frightens"? Exactly!! Satan is so FULL of hate and jealousy for YOU! God loves you; He created you and Me in His very own image and satan HATES this and YOU!! Why bring him up? Well, Jesus said if we "love" Him we will obey His commandments. satan does not want you to want to obey Jesus! Satan wants you to be in sin always because he knows what will happen to you if you do! Thank God for the Holy Spirit!! He will remind us that we need to repent and turn away from the sin we did and get back to being in God's will and protection from the enemy! As halloween and the elections are approaching how will you "show" Jesus you "love Him"? Remember everything that is against the knowledge of God IS SIN! You can try and reason things out, you can try to twist God's Word so that you are not going against Him in what you do. Ask yourself, would your Father, Savior and Holy Spirit celebrate halloween? Unfortunately, the churches have brought it to Him in the brick-and-mortar churches! Trunk or treat ring a bell? It is time for the Church (His people) to WAKE UP!! We cannot serve 2 masters! **Matthew 6:24** "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

What about this election being focused on the taking of unborn lives? Would your Father, Savior, and Holy Spirit vote to amend the state's constitution to make it a "right" for women to abort their babies that God has given life to? Or abortion AT ALL?! I know this is a sensitive topic! God WOULD help these Mother's and Father's! Why aren't people with deep pockets offering to create places to help these parents?! **Hagee Ministries** has the PERFECT EXAMPLE of what this state and ALL states could do for these troubled individuals and the innocent lives, "Sanctuary of Hope"!! They ARE NOT CHARGED ANY MONEY! All it takes is money and God to get it started in Florida! Florida has money!! God is not the focus in our homes and has not been for many decades!! This is why this is happening! People do not realize the purpose in which we are created! I will end with this, **Proverbs 6:16-19** "There are six things which the LORD hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: 17 "Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood,". You can go and read the next 2 verses yourselves. These babies are innocent! Free of any sinful act!! Let us help these Parents to be and pray God will touch someone to get this financially started! If you do not know Jesus and want to, say this out loud and believe...

**Romans 10:** "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 believe in faith that God sent You to be my sin on the Cross, to cleanse me from all my sin and now make me new. I believe You died and rose on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. Your next step is to be water baptized (1 Peter 3:21, 1 Corinthians 6:11) CONGRATULATIONS! If you do not have a church home, we meet every Sunday at 11:00 and Wednesday at 6:00. We do not have a separate children's church; they are welcome though. Reach out at [tobe7encouragedinfo@gmail.com](mailto:tobe7encouragedinfo@gmail.com). As we grow, we will move to larger venues.

God loves you,  
Deb Quimby-Quackenbush

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# Welcome Joni Bradwell **THE Barber Shoppe at ROSE ALLEY**

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## On the Horizon

### The calendar of events for October

#### Tuesday, Oct. 1

- 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, Oct. 2

- 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.
- Wakulla County Coalition for Youth meets at the Wakulla Public Library at 12:30 p.m.
- A line dance class is held at 1 p.m. at the Wakulla Senior Center every Wednesday.
- 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.
- Alcoholics Anonymous

meets at noon and 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday at 54 Ochlockonee St.

#### Thursday, Oct. 3

- 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, Oct. 4

- War Eagle football: The War Eagles travel to Tallahassee to take on St. John Paul II at 7 p.m.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at noon and 8 p.m. every Friday at 54 Ochlockonee St.

#### Saturday, Oct. 5

- 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, Oct. 7

- The Wakulla County Commission meets at 5 p.m. in the commission chambers.
- The Wakulla County School Board meets in the district office at 5:45 p.m. 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, Oct. 8

- Wakulla Historical Society presents a reunion of coaches at 5 p.m. and a panel discussion at 6 p.m. at the Wakulla High School gym. Coaches include David Miller J.D. Jones, Randy Anderson, Diane Eakin, Frances Knight and others.

#### Wednesday, Oct. 9

- something.

#### Thursday, Oct. 10

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

#### Friday, Oct. 11

- War Eagle football: The War Eagles host the Godby Cougars at J.D. Jones Stadium beginning at 7 p.m.
- Ochlockonee Bay UMC, 2780 Surf Road, will hold a soup dinner with homemade soups, salad, dessert, and beverage, from 5 to 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10.

#### Saturday, Oct. 12

- 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, Oct. 14

- The Wakulla Planning Commission meets at 6 p.m. in the commission chambers.
- The Sopchoppy City

Commission meets at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.

- The Wakulla Caregiver Support Group meets at Lake Ellen Baptist Church at 9:30 a.m. every second Monday of the month.
- The American Legion Post 114 meets at the Wakulla County Public Library at 6:30 p.m. every third Monday of the month.

- 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.

#### Tuesday, Oct. 15

- Wakulla Historical Society holds its annual banquet at the the Shrine Club, 4141 Crawfordville Hwy. Featured speaker will be Allen Gerrell with a presentation on the Wakulla Coastal Salt Works. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6. Meal is being catered by Sonny's. Cost is \$20.

#### Thursday, Oct. 17

- Chamber of Commerce After Hours Networking will be at Barn's Spirits from 5:30 to 7:30 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.

#### Friday, Oct. 18

- War Eagle football: The War Eagles host South Walton at J.D. Jones Stadium beginning at 7 p.m..

#### Friday, Oct. 25

- War Eagle football: The War Eagles travel to Macclenny to take on Baker County

#### Saturday, Oct. 26

- Annual Trick or Treat Story Walk, presented by the Wakulla Public Library, will be held at Hudson Park from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- The Sopchoppy Opry will feature Dennis 'Moonshine' Rader with South Bound starting at 7 p.m. at the old Sopchoppy High School. Tickets are \$15.

#### Thursday, Oct. 31

- HAPPY HALLOWEEN!



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# Understanding money market funds



By **BRIAN ENGLISH**

A money market fund, not to be confused with a money market account, is a type of mutual fund that invests in instruments like cash equivalents and short-term debt-based securities, which can

also include U.S. Treasury Bonds.<sup>1</sup>

### SAFETY FIRST

These funds are designed to be easily accessible and are often considered cash equivalents. Their primary role in a portfolio is to preserve capital while maintaining liquidity.

Financial professionals use them as a place to hold cash for an investor or as a place to “park cash” temporarily while they evaluate new investments.

In fact, the core value of money market funds lies in their stability and liquidity, making them one place where investors can build an emergency fund.<sup>2</sup>

### ASSET VALUE

Money held in money market funds is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other government agency.

Money market funds seek to pre-

serve the value of your investment at \$1.00 a share. However, it is possible to lose money by investing in a money market fund.

Money market mutual funds are sold by prospectus. Please consider the charges, risks, expenses, and investment objectives carefully before investing.

A prospectus containing this and other information about the investment company can be obtained from

your financial professional.

Read it carefully before you invest or send money.

### PRESERVING CAPITAL

Money market funds can play a role in an investor’s portfolio by providing a high-liquidity, low-risk investment choice that is designed to preserve capital. They can play a central role in managing an investment portfolio.<sup>2</sup>

1. Medicare.gov, 2023

2. Medicare.gov, 2023

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

*Securities and investment advisory services offered through Osaic Wealth, Inc. member FINRA/SIPC. Osaic Wealth is separately owned and other entities and/or marketing names, products or services referenced here are independent of Osaic Wealth. Osaic Wealth does not provide tax or legal advice.*

## Wakulla County Sample Ballot

<p><b>PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT</b> (Vote for 1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Donald J. Trump JD Vance REP</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Kamala D. Harris Tim Walz DEM</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Chase Oliver Mike ter Maat LPF</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Claudie De la Cruz Karina Garcia PSL</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Randall Terry Stephen Broden CPF</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Peter Sonski Lauren Onak ASP</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Jill Stein Rudolph Ware GRE</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Write-in</p>	<p><b>FIRST DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL</b></p> <p>Shall Judge Stephanie Ray of the First District Court of Appeal be retained in office? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p> <p>Shall Judge Bradford L. Thomas of the First District Court of Appeal be retained in office? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p> <p>Shall Judge M. Kemmerly Thomas of the First District Court of Appeal be retained in office? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p><b>No. 3 Constitutional Amendment Article X, Section 29</b></p> <p><b>Adult Personal Use of Marijuana</b></p> <p>Allows adults 21 years or older to possess, purchase, or use marijuana products and marijuana accessories for non-medical personal consumption by smoking, ingestion, or otherwise; allows Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers, and other state licensed entities, to acquire, cultivate, process, manufacture, sell, and distribute such products and accessories. Applies to Florida law; does not change, or immunize violations of, federal law. Establishes possession limits for personal use. Allows consistent legislation. Defines terms. Provides effective date.</p> <p>The amendment’s financial impact primarily comes from expected sales tax collections. If legal today, sales of non-medical marijuana would be subject to sales tax and would remain so if voters approve this amendment. Based on other states’ experiences, expected retail sales of non-medical marijuana would generate at least \$195.6 million annually in state and local sales tax revenues once the retail market is fully operational, although the timing of this occurring is unclear. Under current law, the existing statutory framework for medical marijuana is repealed six months after the effective date of this amendment which affects how this amendment will be implemented. A new regulatory structure for both medical and nonmedical use of marijuana will be needed. Its design cannot be fully known until the legislature acts; however, regulatory costs will probably be offset by regulatory fees. Other potential costs and savings cannot be predicted. <b>THIS PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT IS ESTIMATED TO HAVE A NET POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE STATE BUDGET. THIS IMPACT MAY RESULT IN GENERATING ADDITIONAL REVENUE OR AN INCREASE IN GOVERNMENT SERVICES.</b></p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p>abortion and fewer live births per year in Florida. The increase in abortions could be even greater if the amendment invalidates laws requiring parental consent before minors undergo abortions and those ensuring only licensed physicians perform abortions. There is also uncertainty about whether the amendment will require the state to subsidize abortions with public funds. Litigation to resolve those and other uncertainties will result in additional costs to the state government and state courts that will negatively impact the state budget. An increase in abortions may negatively affect the growth of state and local revenues over time. Because the fiscal impact of increased abortions on state and local revenues and costs cannot be estimated with precision, the total impact of the proposed amendment is indeterminate. <b>THE FINANCIAL IMPACT OF THIS AMENDMENT CANNOT BE DETERMINED DUE TO AMBIGUITIES AND UNCERTAINTIES SURROUNDING THE AMENDMENT’S IMPACT.</b></p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p><b>Wakulla County Ordinance No. 2024-16</b></p> <p><b>CHARTER AMENDMENT REQUIRING STUDY BY CONSULTING FIRM TO DETERMINE IF IMPACT FEES SHOULD BE IMPOSED</b></p> <p>Shall the Charter of Wakulla County be amended to require, beginning January of 2025 and every five years thereafter, that the Board of County Commissioners commission an independent review by a professional consulting firm skilled in the area of impact fee studies? The purpose of this study is to determine if impact fees are warranted within Wakulla County and where impact fee funds should be allotted if impact fees are initiated through ordinance.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>
<p><b>UNITED STATES SENATOR</b> (Vote for 1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Rick Scott REP</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Debbie Mucarsel-Powell DEM</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Feena Bonoan LPF</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Tuan TQ Nguyen NPA</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Ben Everidge NPA</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Write-in</p>	<p><b>SOPCHOPPY CITY COMMISSIONER</b> (Vote for 3)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Nathan Lewis</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Robert Pilkington</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Leonard Tartt</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Mary Katherine Westmark</p> <p><i>Only voters residing in the City of Sopchoppy will vote in this contest.</i></p> <p><b>No. 1 Constitutional Amendment Article IX, Section 4 and Article XII</b></p> <p><b>Partisan Election of Members of District School Boards</b></p> <p>Proposing amendments to the State Constitution to require members of a district school board to be elected in a partisan election rather than a nonpartisan election and to specify that the amendment only applies to elections held on or after the November 2026 general election. However, partisan primary elections may occur before the 2026 general election for purposes of nominating political party candidates to that office for placement on the 2026 general election ballot.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p><b>No. 5 Constitutional Amendment Article VII, Section 6 and Article XII</b></p> <p><b>Annual Adjustments to the Value of Certain Homestead Exemptions</b></p> <p>Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to require an annual adjustment for inflation to the value of current or future homestead exemptions that apply solely to levies other than school district levies and for which every person who has legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner, or another person legally or naturally dependent upon the owner is eligible. This amendment takes effect January 1, 2025.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p><b>No. 6 Constitutional Amendment Article VI, Section 7</b></p> <p><b>Repeal of Public Campaign Financing Requirement</b></p> <p>Proposing the repeal of the provision in the State Constitution which requires public financing for campaigns of candidates for elective statewide office who agree to campaign spending limits.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p><b>Wakulla County Ordinance No. 2024-17</b></p> <p><b>CHARTER AMENDMENT REQUIRING ADOPTION OF COUNTY ORDINANCE REGULATING PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICLE INTERACTIONS SUCH AS PANHANDLING</b></p> <p>Shall the Charter of Wakulla County be amended to require the Board of County Commissioners to adopt an ordinance, with approved exemptions and designated penalties for violations, to regulate and attempt to mitigate dangerous interactions between pedestrians and motorists, such as panhandling or non-permitted solicitations, at medians, public right of ways, crosswalks, sidewalks, arterial roads, and other applicable public spaces?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>
<p><b>REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS, DIST 2</b> (Vote for 1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Neal Dunn REP</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yen Bailey DEM</p>	<p><b>No. 2 Constitutional Amendment Article I, Section 28</b></p> <p><b>Right to Fish and Hunt</b></p> <p>Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to preserve forever fishing and hunting, including by the use of traditional methods, as a public right and preferred means of responsibly managing and controlling fish and wildlife. Specifies that the amendment does not limit the authority granted to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission under Section 9 of Article IV of the State Constitution.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p><b>No. 4 Constitutional Amendment Article I, New Section</b></p> <p><b>Amendment to Limit Government Interference with Abortion</b></p> <p>No law shall prohibit, penalize, delay, or restrict abortion before viability or when necessary to protect the patient’s health, as determined by the patient’s healthcare provider. This amendment does not change the Legislature’s constitutional authority to require notification to a parent or guardian before a minor has an abortion.</p> <p>The proposed amendment would result in significantly more</p>	<p><b>Wakulla County Ordinance No. 2024-18</b></p> <p><b>CHARTER AMENDMENT REQUIRING CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION CONVENE EVERY SIX YEARS INSTEAD OF EVERY EIGHT YEARS</b></p> <p>Shall the Charter of Wakulla County be amended to require the Charter Review Commission be convened every six years, rather than every eight years as currently required, with the next Charter Review Commission to be appointed not later than July 1, 2029, and every six years thereafter? The Charter Review Commission consists of fifteen County electors who review and present recommendations for amendment, revision or repeal of the Wakulla County Charter.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>	
<p><b>STATE SENATOR, DIST 3</b> (Vote for 1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Corey Simon REP</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Daryl Parks DEM</p>	<p><b>JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT</b></p> <p>Shall Judge Renatha Francis of the Supreme Court be retained in office? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p> <p>Shall Judge Meredith Sasso of the Supreme Court be retained in office? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p><b>Wakulla County Ordinance No. 2024-19</b></p> <p><b>CHARTER AMENDMENT REQUIRING CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION CONVENE EVERY SIX YEARS INSTEAD OF EVERY EIGHT YEARS</b></p> <p>Shall the Charter of Wakulla County be amended to require the Charter Review Commission be convened every six years, rather than every eight years as currently required, with the next Charter Review Commission to be appointed not later than July 1, 2029, and every six years thereafter? The Charter Review Commission consists of fifteen County electors who review and present recommendations for amendment, revision or repeal of the Wakulla County Charter.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p><b>Wakulla County Ordinance No. 2024-20</b></p> <p><b>CHARTER AMENDMENT REQUIRING STUDY BY CONSULTING FIRM TO DETERMINE IF IMPACT FEES SHOULD BE IMPOSED</b></p> <p>Shall the Charter of Wakulla County be amended to require, beginning January of 2025 and every five years thereafter, that the Board of County Commissioners commission an independent review by a professional consulting firm skilled in the area of impact fee studies? The purpose of this study is to determine if impact fees are warranted within Wakulla County and where impact fee funds should be allotted if impact fees are initiated through ordinance.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>	
<p><b>STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DIST 7</b> (Vote for 1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Jason Shoaf REP</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Kenny Beasley DEM</p>	<p><b>Important Dates!</b></p> <p>Last Day to Register.....OCT 7</p> <p>Last Day to request a mail ballot.....OCT 24</p> <p>Early Voting.....OCT 21-NOV 2</p> <p>Election Day.....NOV 5</p>	<p><b>Wakulla County Supervisor of Elections</b></p> <p><b>We Be People</b></p>	<p><b>Visit us online to make sure you are ELECTION READY!</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.WakullaVotes.gov">www.WakullaVotes.gov</a></p>	

# The murder of John Hogue

By Elizabeth Smith. Originally published in the November 1963 issue of the Magnolia Monthly.

The most colorful, as well as the most despised, era of Wakulla county's past was the days of Reconstruction following the Civil War, from 1866 to 1870. H. Clay Crawford's account of this time when scallawags and carpetbaggers from the North administered the affairs of the county, goes as follows:

During Reconstruction days those who manipulated county affairs to suit themselves and their pockets were H. L. Henderson, County Judge and Generalissimo of the Court House; John Hogue, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Jim Gaskins, Postmaster; Martin Reynolds, Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, and Bob Alexander, Deputy to the whole gang.

No county in Florida, or under the circle of the Sun, had a more corrupt set of officials. The good people of Wakulla County were easy victims of such a mob. County Scrip was issued behind closed doors in the Clerk's office by the Chairman...attested by John Hogue... under the Seal of said Court, in volumes: as much and in such denominations as they could dispose of in Tallahassee and elsewhere for money, whiskey, goods or anything of value they could get for it and at any price.

One of the boldest outrages ever perpetrated upon an innocent people was the collection of double or excessive taxes, which was done by the use of an extra and probate book, which...was never filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, or with the Comptroller at Tallahassee.

A fight of large proportions took place between the Wakullans and the carpetbaggers during this time. Mr. Crawford continued, "At a Republican mass meeting, Rupert Charles, a white Republican, then Custom House officer at St. Marks, was Chairman, Otis Fairbanks, Hogue, Goode, other white Republicans...and a few white Democrats, who had assembled from Curiosity and who occupied the rear of the Court House, were present.

After a bitter speech by Otis Fairbanks, who used invectives of the vilest kind against the Democrats, the Democrats present called for Mr. Causseaux, an old veteran...to reply to Fairbanks. This privilege

was denied him by the Chairman, which caused excitement to run high and someone shouted to Fairbanks that he lied. This caused a stampede; more than five hundred people trying to get to the door and down the stairs.

C.K. Miller was the Sheriff and was in front of the crowd, calling on everybody to help him. No one paid any attention to him and in the great scramble in descending the stairs, walking sticks, umbrellas and in one or two instances pocketknives were used...

A picket fence enclosed the public well and staves were pulled out to club the scallawags. Eventually men melted off into the dark. No one was killed but not until the next day did two men regain consciousness.

John Hogue, Clerk of the Court, was the Southerner no other Southerner could understand. He had gone over to "the other side." The book, "Soldiers of Florida" lists a John Hogue as fighting for the Confederacy. Crawford adds, "(He) was a man of fine physique, handsome and intelligent" but was "a desperate character and a dangerous man in the community. The writer refrains from saying more of this man except as to his tragic death."

Many years later this story was told again by Lawrence Raker and Lawrence Council as it was handed down to them by their parents. (Both men have since passed away, in 1957 and 1962 respectively). Mr. Council stated that the Ku Klux Klan was organized in the county during this period and that it was composed of five members. No one except those that were members knew who was in the Klan, but there were five men of a certainty. Mr. Council states that his father, John Council, even on his deathbed, would not name the members. Mr. Raker said that he had been told these five men were committed to killing Hogue. Each was on duty at certain times waiting for the opportunity. Symbolically a gun was loaded this way: the first man put in the powder, the second put in the wadding, the third put in the shot, the fourth put wadding on the shot, and the fifth put the caps on. Then they drew straws to see

## The Clerks of Court of Wakulla County

### Name of Clerk/Date Service Began

- Brent X. Thurmond 1/07/1997
- J. Harold Thurmond 1/03/1989
- Beatrice Dugger 6/23/1988
- Carlton Tucker 1/02/1973
- Moody Pearce 1/08/1957
- Gilbert J. Langston 1/07/1941
- L. L. Pararo 1/04/1921
- J. M. Towles 1/07/1913
- H. N. Walker 1/05/1909
- J. M. Towles 1/03/1901
- John J. Harrell 12/30/1892
- Joseph W. Duval 12/08/1888
- George R. Smith 3/16/1887
- Nat R. Walker 1/25/1878
- James W. Smith Sr. 10/27/1873
- John H. Hogue 2/09/1871**
- W. W. Walker 8/14/1868
- David Lewis 10/29/1863
- Herndon L. Henderson 10/31/1857
- John C. Mound 10/27/1855
- T. J. M. Richardson 11/01/1853
- William W. Mound 3/11/1851
- Charles Ingram 2/22/1850
- George L. Bryant 1/20/1847
- A. R. Alexander 6/30/1846
- Joseph Woodruff 12/27/1845
- Amos M. Alexander 4/16/1843

who went on duty first. The man who had to do the watch first had to draw a straw of a certain length agreed upon ahead of time. The straws were than put in a loaf of bread and no one but the person drawing that one of a specific length knew who had to do the job. But everyone else expected him to perform his duty. And so it was that for days thereafter each man did his time waiting to catch Hogue off-guard. One evening he was

sitting on his couch with his wife before an open window at his home when a shot rang out and he slumped to the floor. The only words he said, according to Crawford's account, were "I've long expected this."

There was much excitement in Crawfordville and Wakulla County after Hogue's murder, and to quote Arch Morrison, "There were many dry eyes in the county that night."

There is a footnote added to the story, for another man was killed too.

Lawrence Council stated that his father once told him that he was driving back to Crawfordville from Tallahassee and on the road into town he passed a man who stopped him and said, "John, I suppose you know Henderson is dead." Henderson, one of the carpetbaggers, was not dead, because John saw him later when he arrived in Crawfordville, sitting on his front porch reading a newspaper.

He went on about his business and the next day someone came to tell him that Henderson had been murdered

some hours before. He had been shot through the throat. The man who was supposed to do the job and done it...one day late.

Of the Reconstruction group, Judge Henderson, after Hogue was killed through an open window, weatherboarded his windows to the top sash and another used heavy blankets for curtains. Jim Gaskins was carried away by a federal marshal for robbing the post office and became paralyzed while serving in a federal prison. He was pardoned by the President and came back to Florida, but not to Wakulla County.

Bob Alexander, the deputy, went back to farming but died later of fever.

Reynolds also died and soon the days of Reconstruction began to face in memory.

**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.**



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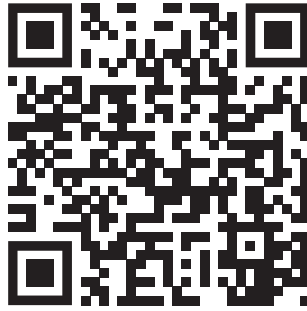


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## HOME COUNTRY

# Freezing in this weather?



By SLIM RANDLES

“Mavis, dear, is that coffee HOT this morning?”

“Sure is, Windy.”

“Well then, slaver a bunch of it in a cup and flop it down here in front of a freezin’ guy, would you? Thanks, Hon.”

“Freezing, Windy?”

“Ain’t the first time, Doc, but they never seem any easier as I get older.”

“You want to come in for a checkup later?”

“Naw, just need to get warm, you know. Used to it at my age.”

Steve set his cup down and looked at his old pard, Windy Wilson, camp cook and mule packer extraordinaire. “Don’t know how you can get cold on a summer morning like this.”

“It’s the air tempa-choor, Steve. You recomlect that time you ‘n me was up in the high country and got caught in a snow-storm ...”

“And our slickers and jackets were

back in camp? Sure I remember that. I thought about how to get that horse into my bedroll that night, ‘cuz he was cold, too.”

“And you ‘member how good that Dutch oven cobbler tasted once we got the circle-lationaries goin’ again?”

“You betcha, Windy.”

“Okay ... okay ... I’ll do it,” mumbled Doc. “Somebody has to. Windy, we’ve known each other a long time, right?”

“Sure have.”

“And do you really think a temperature of 90 degrees outside will make a guy cold? Cause it’s going to be 90 later on. Even the fish in Lewis Creek are sweating.”

“No Doc. I don’t look at it that way. Sure, it’s already hot and it’s a-gonna get hotter, you bet. But that’s where friends come in.”

We all turned to stare at Windy.

“See, a friend is a guy who tells you it’s the opporsit so’s you can start your day cooled off a bit. You know ... think SNOW!”

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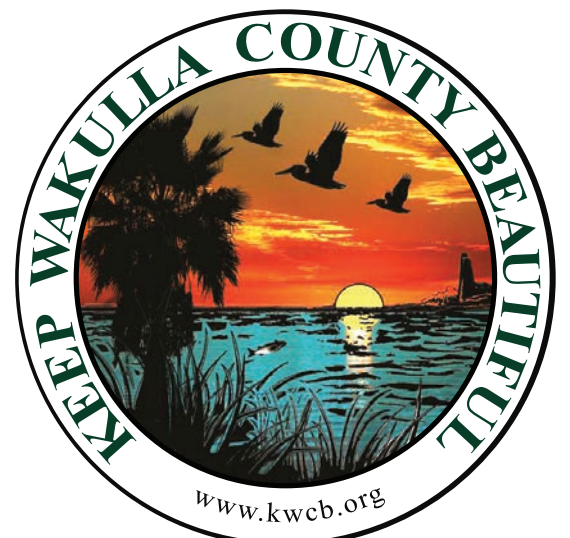
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William Snowden  
Editor & Publisher  
The Wakulla Sun



# Leave Nothing But Your Footprints

# The Old Pro



By AL HARTMAN  
The Old Pro

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Federal fishery has opened recreational Red Snapper season, weekends only, Sept. 1 and runs until Nov. 30.

They also opened Snook season starting Sept. 1 and closes Nov. 30.

See FWC for size and limits.

Speaking of flying, Teal and Wood Duck season starts Sept. 21 through

Sept. 25. Only two of the six ducks can be Wood Ducks.

Teal only season is Sept. 26 through Dec. 1.

Regular duck season starts Nov. 23 through Dec. 1. It reopens Dec. 7 and closes Jan. 26.

Canada Goose Sept. 7 to 29. Then Dec. 1 to Jan. 30.

There have been changes in small game hunting. Grey Squirrels can be hunted year round now with a daily

limit of 15.

Quail, Bobcat and Otter can be now taken with just about anything that shoots a projectile. I mean anything except a RPG! Look it up on FWC.com.

Happy Hunting an Fishing.

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

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**Robyn Hurst remembered**  
Page 14  
"It's a New Day"  
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**Auditions for Musical GREASE**  
Page 3  
"It's a New Day"  
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**Chomp n Stomp held at Palaver Tree**  
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"It's a New Day"  
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### Hertz, Looney to return for retrial

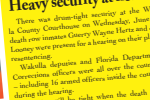
The two were found guilty of the Spears-King murders 25 years ago, will have a re-do of the death penalty phase of their trial.

**By WILLIAM BROWDER**  
Editor

The re-arresting of Quincy Wayne Hertz and Jason Looney on Oct. 11, 2023, after they had been released from prison over 25 years ago, has caused a stir in the legal community. The only issue to be decided is whether the state can retry the two for the 1998 murders of Robert Spears and John King. At the time, Hertz and Looney were found guilty of first-degree murder by a jury verdict. The case was retried in 2002, with the jury recommending death, which was not



Quincy Wayne Hertz



Jason Looney

The state attorney general, Brad Harvey, announced that the two would be retried for the 1998 murders of Robert Spears and John King. The retrial is set for next month.

By WILLIAM BROWDER

### Brad Harvey pleads to charges

The former property appraiser is charged with embezzling money from the office; he will be sentenced in September.

**By WILLIAM BROWDER**  
Editor

Former Wakulla Property Appraiser Brad Harvey has been indicted by the grand jury on charges of embezzling money from the office. The charges are related to the 2020 election. Harvey is accused of embezzling \$100,000 from the office. He is currently on bond and will be sentenced in September.



Brad Harvey

Harvey, 47, was indicted on charges of embezzling \$100,000 from the office. He is currently on bond and will be sentenced in September.

**Charter review discusses spring protection**

Members of the Charter Review Committee met at a meeting last week at the community center.

**SOCIOPHY POETRY OF JULY**

Independent Day celebration in Tallahassee starts with a parade, includes music and vendors, and concludes with a fireworks display.

**Fired Chiles coach may join War Eagle coaching staff**

Kevin Pettis and son Trey might join coaches at Wakulla High by WILLIAM BROWDER

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